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**"We Have Seen His Star..."**

Matthew 2:2

## COVER STORY



Dr. E. T. Mimms, pastor of Bethel S.D.A. Church, Brooklyn, New York.

### “WISE MEN STILL FOLLOW THE STAR”

Dr. Edgar T. Mimms

“Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem, in Judea, during the reign of King Herod at about the time some astrologers from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, “where is the new born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in far-off eastern lands, and have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:1, 2 (Living Bible).

On December 25 the Christian world will again celebrate the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Students of God’s word and of the physical geography of Palestine are well aware of the fact that this is not the actual date of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem of Judea. The definite date is not known. It is also known that this great event did not occur in the month of December, but the Church decreed this date as the anniversary of this pivotal point in history.

The date, however, is not important, but the event is—for the angels used the heavens as their stage to announce to the world that God acted on man’s behalf.

Luke records that representatives, ministering spirits, flew in on a mission from the headquarters of the universe with good news, an announcement that would affect the world.

The words of the angels that night was an interruption of the processes of

history and the news bulletin states that God had sent His only begotten Son to redeem the world from sin.

“That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village, guarding their sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared among them and the landscape shone bright with the glory of the Lord. They were badly frightened, but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!!!” he said. “I bring you the most joyful news ever announced, and it is for everyone!!! The Saviour—Yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem!! How will you recognize Him? You will find a baby wrapped in a blanket, lying in a manger.” Luke 21:8-12 (Living Bible).

This was the most important news bulletin ever to come to the sons of men. The Creator who has no end or beginning, the one who made man in his own image, the one who wrestled with Jacob that eventful night, the one who was a pillar of cloud by day and a fire by night, was born.

There were advanced notices of the birth of Jesus, but those who had been given the responsibility of publishing the news of the promised Messiah were so prejudiced that all signs were muted.

There were no doctors, not even a mid-wife. Born of a virgin (a likely story, they thought). No delivery room, no sterile instruments, no forceps were needed, for the Holy Spirit was in charge of this holy affair. Nestled in the arms of His early mother, a member of the Godhead, the King of Glory slept.

Jesus had been born before the three wise men started on their journey. They fought the desert winds, they walked up and down the Judean hills, braving one mountain after another, following the star as an obedient son following a trusted father, as Isaac followed Abraham.

These wise men, skilled in the sciences and philosophy and religion, “were upright men who studied the indications of Providence in nature, and who were honored for their integrity and wisdom . . . As these magi studied the starry heavens, and sought to fathom the mystery hidden in their bright paths, they beheld the glory of the Creator. Seeking clearer knowledge, they turned to the Hebrew Scriptures . . . They belonged to a large and influential class that included men of noble birth and comprised much of the wealth of learning of their nation.

“The wise men had seen a mysterious light in the heavens upon that night when the glory of God flooded the hills of Bethlehem. As the light faded, a luminous star appeared and lingered in the sky. It was not a fixed star nor a planet, and the phenomenon excited the keenest interest. That star was a DISTANT COMPANY OF SHINING ANGELS, but of this the wise men were ignorant. Yet they were impressed that the STAR was of special import to them. They consulted priests and philosophers . . . they searched the scrolls of the ancient records . . . through dreams they were instructed to go in search of the newborn Prince.” *Desire of Ages*, p. 60.

Some have suggested that they came from the country of Balaam; which was possibly “the Sajur Valley between Aleppo and Carchemish, a short distance from the Euphrates.”—*SDA Bible Commentary*, Vol. 5, p. 288. The wise men were approximately 400 miles from Bethlehem the night Christ was born.

“It was necessary to journey by night to keep the star in view. So their trip to see the newborn King could have taken more than a month. At every pause for rest they searched the prophecies; and the conviction deepened that they were divinely guided. While they had the star before them as an outward sign, they had also the inward evidence of the Holy Spirit, which was impressing their hearts and inspiring them with hope. The journey, though long, was a happy one for them.”—*Ibid.* p. 60. Like Abraham, they went out, not knowing where they went, Heb. 11:18. They followed the star “which was a company of shining angels.” Angels are “ministering spirits, sent forth to minister unto them who shall be heirs of salvation,” Heb. 1:14. So these men were guided by the Holy Spirit who is the director of the heavenly intelligences.

“At Bethlehem they found no royal guard to protect the newborn King. None of the world’s honored men were in attendance. Jesus was cradled in a manger”—*Ibid.* p. 63. The Creator of heaven and earth enters the world He created in a stable with the animals He created.

“When they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary, His mother, and fell down and worshipped Him.” Beneath the lowly guise of Jesus, they recognized the

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## PUBLISHER'S PAGE

### TO STRENGTHEN THE BLACK WORK—LET'S SQUARE UP WITH GOD!

When we were students at Oakwood College, the late F. L. Peterson often spoke of having 'seen the windows of heaven open' and blessings poured out upon him, his family and the church because he kept 'squared up' with the Lord by paying a faithful tithe. My personal experiences along this line have taught me in verity that heaven's windows really do open and God sends immeasurable blessings to us when we are faithful in returning our tithes to His storehouse.

One of the many experiences that I vividly recall happened when our little girl, Bonita, was just three years of age. Our family had eaten the last few beans and bits of cornbread that we had left in the cupboard with no thought of where breakfast would be found, since the paycheck was late in coming from the office. After supper we drove our car to church to see the school's closing program that the children were going to give. The needle indicated that the gasoline tank was almost empty, but we went on in faith.

At the close of the program, the teacher asked if we would carry her home, a distance of approximately twenty miles. We graciously consented and headed for her house. We were praying that we would make the trip. When we finally got there, our teacher got out of the car, gave us a dollar and jokingly said: 'here, put some gas in your car or you will never make it home.' I do not know if she realized how true her statement really was. We thanked her and 'coasted to the gas station on the fumes,' rejoicing and praising the Lord for opening heaven's windows to help us get home that night.

When we reached our house we noticed the front screen door ajar. Bonita ran before us and discovered a large box of food that my mother had sent by railway express all the way from Indiana. We found a lot of goodies—canned foods, fresh fruits, dried foods, milk, cereals, crackers. I cannot remember all of the nice foods that we found. Tears of gratitude filled our eyes.

The windows of heaven were still opening and the blessings were still falling upon us. I said to the family, as we gave thanks to God, "It really pays to serve the Lord and also to keep squared up with Him and His church."

Dear friends, when we keep squared up with God and every member returns a faithful tithe to Him from week to week or from month to month, whichever the case may be, we will come to a full realization of the blessings that will come to us individually and as a church body. This will help to strengthen the work among this largest minority group of the church in America.

My union officers had just finished lecturing to me concerning monies that we had spent for evangelism and church buildings for the conference. "Where will the funds come from?" they said. Like an immediate answer from heaven, the door opened and my secretary handed to me a letter from a dear friend and his wife which contained a check for \$37,500. In his letter he said that the money was to be used for church buildings in the conference. He later sent another check for \$15,000 to help with church buildings. My heart was so filled with gratitude to God and to my friends that I could not speak for a few moments. The church buildings were and are still so badly needed in our fields. There are many mission stories that I could tell that have happened here in the southern field. The windows of heaven had opened once again. It really pays to serve the Lord and also to keep squared up with Him and His church.

E. G. White states in 4T:474, "The majority of professed Christians part with their means with great reluctance. Many of them do not give one twentieth of their income to God, and many give far less than that; while there is a large class who rob God of the little tithe, and others who will give only the tithe. If all the tithes of our people flowed into the treasury of the Lord as they should, such blessings would be received that gifts and offerings for sacred purposes would be multiplied tenfold, and thus the channel between God and man would be kept open."

She also states on page 475: "If all, both rich and poor, would bring their tithes into the storehouse, there would be a sufficient supply of means to release the cause from financial embarrassment and to nobly carry forward the

missionary work in its various departments. God calls upon those who believe the truth to render to Him the things that are His. Those who have thought that to withhold from God is gain will eventually experience His curse as the result of their robbery of the Lord. Let everyone review his past life and see if any unpaid, unredeemed pledges have been neglected, and then make extra exertions to pay 'uttermost farthing,' for we must all meet and abide the final issue of a tribunal where nothing will stand the test but integrity and veracity."

Of times a member who feels himself or herself pressed for money succumbs to the use of the tithe for building funds, school funds, poor funds, or whatever the pressing need of the moment may be. Ellen White again says in 9T: 248-250: "I am bidden to tell them that they are making a mistake in applying the tithe to various objects which though good in themselves, are not the object to which the Lord has said that the tithe should be applied. God will judge for these things . . . a great mistake is made when the tithe is drawn from the object for which it is to be used—the support of the ministers. There should be today in the field one hundred well-qualified laborers where now there is but one . . . God has not changed; the tithe is still to be used for the support of the ministry."

Interestingly enough, the Black membership as a whole has faithfully returned the tithe to the Lord's storehouse. We have supported the organization through the years. The first record of tithe that was paid by the Black membership was in 1900—the membership was 50 and the tithe receipts was \$50, or one dollar per person. By 1914 there were 2,414 members in the church and the tithe receipts for that year amounted to \$16,323.02. Thirty years later, when the Regional Conferences were organized, the membership stood at 19,008 and the tithe from our people had climbed to \$1,098,743.59. At the close of 1979 the records showed the membership in the Black churches in America to be 120,000 with a total tithe of \$26,487,184.17. This tithe paid during 1979 was larger than that paid by any division outside of North America. We must marvel at this faithfulness that is found among our people, especially so when we reflect on the 'last hired and the first fired' concept that is often ex-

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*Dr. and Mrs. C. A. Dent.*

## **DR. C. A. DENT: A CITADEL OF COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION** **Part II**

A week later, after completing his medical training, Dr. Carl A. Dent married Lavetta Lucas. His wife is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Lucas of Phoenix, Arizona. Dr. Dent met Miss Lucas during his freshman year at Loma Linda University. She was a nursing student at Los Angeles County General Hospital. They began to correspond and soon developed a friendship.

While a nursing student, Miss Lucas became a victim of the polio epidemic in 1934. She remembers feeling a pain in her right arm and stiffness in her neck. The pain kept recurring, but she refused to go to the nurse because she wanted to complete the state boards for nursing.

Even while taking the examination she found it very painful trying to write. As soon as the test was finished she was hospitalized, where she remained for seven or eight months. Later she was moved to a nursing home. During this time Carl Dent would come and visit Lavetta and her two friends—Christine Hodette and Alma Claiborne.

Alma was a Seventh-day Adventist and many of the young people from her church would come and visit her. The medical students from Loma Linda would also visit. Lavetta and Christine were quite impressed by the young people and began to take Bible studies. In 1936, after much study, Lavetta decided to take her stand. She was baptized by Elder P. G. Rogers of Wadsworth SDA Church in Los Angeles, California.

During this time she was slowly recovering and by 1938 was able to walk with the use of braces. In time she recovered and was able to walk without braces, although she still suffered from weak muscles.

Her handicap in no way kept her from

realizing her dream. She returned to Los Angeles County General Hospital and completed her nursing course. In 1957 she received a B.A. in nursing from Madison College, Nashville, Tennessee. Since their marriage Mrs. Dent has always stood by her husband's side and provided him with loving support. Throughout the years she has worked with Dr. Dent to build Riverside.

### **FIRST BLACK INTERN**

In 1937 Dr. Dent applied for an internship at Los Angeles County General Hospital. At that time the county offered one of the best internships in the country. He was accepted in 1938 to intern at Los Angeles County and was ranked eighth on the list of interns. He was thrilled! Anxiously, he looked forward to his internship because he would get the opportunity of exploring every phase of medicine. It was quite an achievement, for since the opening of the hospital only one black physician had interned there, but he had been treated so badly that he was forced to leave. Dr. Dent would have to pick up the mantle and prove that blacks were capable of handling an internship at L. A. County.

His spirit was aroused when he realized he would be paving the way for black physicians to intern at L. A. County. His first challenge came when the medical director called him in after finding out that he had accepted a black intern. "We're not going to accept you," he stated. "Why, because I'm black?" replied Carl. "It would be like fitting a square peg in a round hole and every time I wanted to send you to a service, I couldn't send you. You would have too many restrictions tied to you. I couldn't do that. It would disrupt my whole organization!"

The medical director did give him a ray of hope. "I'll be honest with you," he said. "I'm a man who obeys orders and if my bosses tell me to take you and treat you like another intern, I'll do it."

With mixed emotions Carl left the office. Obstacles were nothing new to him. He remembered the trials that he had faced throughout his academic career and the way God had worked miracles on his behalf. The key to opening doors was through prayer, faith and action.

Immediately, he went downtown to see Judge Taplan. It seems he had established a friendship with the judge while working as a call boy at Loma

Linda Sanitarium. Court was in session when Carl entered, but when the judge saw him, he called a recess. An assistant was sent to escort Carl to the judge's chambers. The judge listened attentively Carl he explained his problem. Afterwards, Judge Taplan telephoned Betty Hill of the Women's Republican Political Club and explained the problem. After talking with Mrs. Hill, the judge assured Carl that everything would be taken care of.

Later in the week, when Carl met Mrs. Hill, she said, "We've been wanting to get someone at L. A. County. You're an answer to prayer. There's no doubt we'll get you in there." She introduced him to the highest ranking official in the county, the president of the board of Los Angeles County.

The president remarked candidly to Carl, "You're a minority. You have to fight for the things you want. I'm a Catholic and I've been discriminated against on the basis of my religion. It's alright. Go ahead and fight for what you want. We'll back you."

The president called all the supervisors together and persuaded them to back Carl. All five supervisors unanimously voted that Carl should be accepted as an intern at Los Angeles County Hospital.

The L. A. County supervisors told Mr. Gray and Dr. Berman to accept him as an intern and treat him like anyone else. Gray and Berman appeared to accept the recommendation but then worked covertly to stop Carl from accepting the internship.



*Dr. C. A. Dent conferring with a nurse.*

They went to Dr. Magan, dean of the Loma Linda Medical School, and asked him to "do what you can to see that Carl Dent doesn't accept this appointment!"

Dr. Magan called Carl into his office and said, "When you entered medical school, you signed a promise that if at any time the action of the student shall

be deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the school, that student may be expelled." Looking directly at Carl, he said, "Your actions are going to be prejudicial to the best interests of the school. The school has fought hard to get students into L. A. County. We don't want to lose that hospital."

"How would it injure the school?" Carl asked. "After all, the Board of Supervisors said I should go in there."

"It would injure the school as far as our teaching program is concerned. We will invoke this statement to which you agreed. We will expel you from school if you go to L. A. County."

"I was really floored!" says Carl. "I went to see my pastor, Elder P. G. Rogers of the Wadsworth church in Los Angeles and told him about the threat that I had received."

"Don't you back down," he said. "You leave it to me. I'll take care of it."

He explained the whole situation to the conference committee and warned, "If Magan goes through with this thing we will plaster it on every newspaper in southern California."

The White Memorial Hospital had already gotten itself into trouble. Someone had brought a black woman in labor to the hospital. She was turned down at the door while in labor. While they were rushing her to another hospital, she delivered in the ambulance. The newspapers had smeared the incident all over Los Angeles."

The adverse publicity had seriously damaged the reputation of the hospital and they wanted no more negative publicity. The committee made Dr. Magan withdraw the threat.

The committee told Elder Rogers the threat was withdrawn, but they warned him to "let Carl make up his mind" whether or not he would accept or reject the internship.

Elder Rogers met with Carl in the presence of a witness and informed him of the outcome of the meeting. "Carl, the threat is withdrawn. You can go ahead and take the internship." Then he added, "But if you think it will be prejudicial and not in the best interest of the school, you don't have to take it. The decision is yours and there are no threats hanging over your head."

"I'll take the internship," Carl replied, "because I think this will open the door for black interns." After he had made his decision, Elder Rogers remarked, "You better had accepted the internship. If you

had decided the other way, I wouldn't have had anything else to do with you."

Carl accepted the internship and completed his training at L. A. County, thus becoming the first black intern to do so. During those years he was treated with the utmost respect and never did the patients object to him treating them.

#### THE CHALLENGE— RIVERSIDE SANITARIUM

Through trial and tribulation God was preparing Dr. Dent for the upbuilding of Riverside Hospital. While still a medical student at Loma Linda University, he had agreed to go as a missionary doctor wherever he was needed. He thought his life would be spent in the jungles of Africa or the Andes Mountains in South America. He had considered the idea of going into a mining town near the Andes Mountains where a doctor was desperately needed.

He had decided he would accept the call, but as Providence would so rule, Dr. Harry Ford, Sr., of Riverside Sanitarium came to recruit doctors from Loma Linda to work at the sanitarium. Hearing of the needs of Riverside, Carl decided to take the offer where he could help his own people. He says, "the Lord had helped me so much that I had to turn my life back over to Him."



*A patient enjoying a visit from Dr. Dent.*

In 1940, after completing his internship, Dr. Dent and his family moved to Riverside Sanitarium in Nashville, Tennessee. When they arrived at Riverside the prospects seemed dismal. There were five little white frame buildings that comprised the sanitarium: the medical unit, the sanitarium unit, the office, the kitchen and the laboratory. The units were by no means fully equipped. The sanitarium

could not even afford electric buzzers for their patients, so cowbells were installed by the patients' beds. If they needed service, they would ring the cowbell.

Riverside was located in a rural setting. It was not an uncommon sight to be greeted by mules grazing in the field. A wagon transported five gallon water jugs to the sanitarium, which had only sulphur water that turned everything black, even the patients' fingernails. The water's taste was terrible and it had an awful odor, but the patients loved the sulphur baths.

The living conditions were inadequate. The Dents lived in a rented house in downtown Nashville, but were forced to leave because the heat was not working. They moved into one of the rooms in the medical building and remained there until they moved into a home. Dr. Dent was not deterred by this. He had a vision for Riverside.



*Dr. C. A. Dent at a medical recruitment session at Loma Linda.*

Soon after his arrival he was named medical director of the sanitarium. For his services he was paid \$31.00 a week and worked a twelve-hour shift. The sacrifices made by Dr. Dent and his wife in those early years were tremendous and their commitment to Riverside was admirable.

#### RETURNING TO CALIFORNIA

After four years he decided to return to California. There he established a medical practice in Santa Monica.

His practice was prospering. He was making money, yet he was unhappy.

His conscience plagued him. The thing that bothered him was that he was not doing as much as he could towards building up God's work. There was a lot of training that he could use to build up Riverside. He didn't feel he was giving the Lord a fair shake.

Once again Providence intervened. Adell Warren, business manager for Riverside Sanitarium, came to California seeking his assistance. The sanitarium was in need of a medical director to

replace Dr. J. Mark Cox, who wanted to return to the west coast to take a residency. They asked Dr. Dent to return to Riverside.

Dr. Dent carefully weighed the offer because he had received a call to Nigeria as a physician, but the call was blocked at the union level because they didn't have the salary for another doctor. After praying and discussing the offer with his wife, Dr. Dent decided to return to Riverside and make it his life's work.

### THE GOLDEN YEARS, 1950-1970

When Dr. Dent returned, Riverside was a different place. A new building had been built to accommodate the growing clientele of the black upper crust—doctors, lawyers, ministers and teachers. Riverside had progressed considerably.

The organization was restructured to allow the physicians to become independent of the medical staff and the sanitarium became better equipped to render quality medical treatment to its patients.

Riverside flourished. It was the stronghold of black Adventism. It was the mecca for many prominent and aspirant physicians. Dr. Dorothy Brown, Dr. Samuel DeShay, Dr. W. Hariston, Dr. L. Dixon, Dr. W. E. Coopwood, Dr. John R. Ford, Dr. Rayfield Lewis, Dr. Perez and Dr. A. P. Johnson were among the physicians who rendered their services to Riverside.

Riverside was a haven for black people all over the United States at a time when blacks were denied quality medical treatment at white institutions. Dr. Charles Drew, discoverer of blood plasma, was denied medical treatment at a white hospital and died as a result. Bessie Smith, a blues/jazz singer, died after being denied admittance to a white hospital. Lucy Byard was refused admittance into Washington Adventist Sanitarium and she too died. Her death paved the way for black conferences. Quality medical care for blacks was denied regardless of their status in life.

In 1951 a practical nursing school was started at Riverside. The need was great, for there were no white Seventh-day Adventist sanitariums that would train black nurses. Dr. Dent, along with the administration, worked hard to make it a quality school.

The first class consisted of five students who seemed quite unpromising. C. Higgs from California was direc-

tor of nursing for the school. She worked day and night tutoring students so they could pass their boards. Hard work paid off. They passed their boards. She started with the second class but returned to California before the year was complete.

The school was well respected. The students from Riverside could walk into any hospital in Nashville and be hired immediately. Riverside had established a reputation for producing students who were foremost in nursing care. Throughout the years Riverside Nursing School maintained a high standard of excellence until the early 1970's, when it was closed to accommodate Oakwood's Graduate Nursing Program. The merger proved unsuccessful because Oakwood did not send an adequate number of students.

Riverside was a rallying point for all black Seventh-day Adventists. It served as a haven of rest for retired workers and trained, competent black nurses and doctors provided quality medical care. Black leaders throughout North America sat on its board, implemented its policy, directed its progress and nurtured its growth. Outside of Oakwood, Riverside was the only institution that blacks could call their own.

The genius behind the institution was Dr. Carl A. Dent, who worked incessantly to make Riverside a hospital that offered competent and compassionate medical care. In skill, commitment and dedication Dr. Dent is akin to the late J. H. Kellogg of Battle Creek Sanitarium. He travelled hundreds of miles from church to church and campmeeting to campmeeting treating thousands and urging them to come to Riverside.

He generously invested his strength, his energy, his life to keep alive the institution he loved. When others gave into discouragement, when the vision became dim to some, or others left in search of wealth and prestige, he remained and single-handedly built Riverside into a viable institution.

During these years he has served in a number of positions: medical director, president of the medical staff, vice president of the medical staff and member of the Riverside board.

Always a staunch supporter of the church, he has taken an active part as Sabbath school teacher, church board member, local elder, member of the General Conference, union and local conference committees. He also served

as medical secretary for the South Central Conference.

As strong believers in Christian education, Dr. and Mrs. Dent were instrumental in establishing the F. H. Jenkins Elementary School in Nashville. His life has been spent in the uplifting of humanity.

They are the proud parents of two lovely daughters: Cynthia Dent Rudolph, R.N., the wife of Clarence Rudolph, assistant health director for West Palm Beach, Florida; and Patricia Dent Mapp, a teacher at Anna Knight Elementary School, Huntsville, Alabama. The Dents have five grandchildren.

Next Month: Dr. C. A. Dent, A Citadel of Commitment and Dedication, Part III.

Stephanie Johnson

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## WISE MEN FOLLOW THE STAR

*Continued from page 2*

presence of divinity. They gave their hearts to Him as their Saviour and then poured out their gifts—gold and frankincense and myrrh." What a faith was theirs!! They did not come empty-handed. It was only natural that they would follow the contemporary practice of the gift of gold for a king. The frankincense focused attention on another aspect of His work in connection with the priestly function. The myrrh pointed to His sacrifice on the cross of Calvary for all mankind. The Babe in the manger was to be Prophet, Priest and King.

This Babe grew up to be a man. He was murdered on a cruel cross. Yes, God was murdered, buried and raised as the first fruit of those who one day will come forth from their sleeping beds, never to die again.

Yes, wise men still follow the Star that will lead to the kingdom of light. For He is the one that said, "Let there be light and there was light," Gen. 1:3. He is the light of the world: "he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life," John 8:12.

He is "the way, the truth and the life: No man cometh to the Father but by me," John 14:6.

He is that day star that will arise in our hearts, II Peter 1:21.

He is a light to them that sit in darkness, Luke 1:79.

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# The Editor's Desk



Ethelyn Robinson of Ontario, Canada, was in Hartford visiting her son, Lydon Dunn, and daughter-in-law, Mona Dunn, when the Reach Out for Better Living Crusade was launched. Mrs. Robinson, who had been a Baptist for 42 years, was invited by her daughter-in-law to the first night on July 6, 1980. This is Mrs. Robinson's testimony. "I attended the meetings for the six weeks and knew there must come a change in my life. I was baptized in the first baptism held under the tent. I feel good and I thank God that He spared my life to hear this message and I hope I can remain faithful to His ten commandments until He comes."

## SUNSET CALENDAR

	Dec.	19	26	Jan. 2	9
Boston, Mass	4:14	4:14	4:18	4:23	4:30
New York City	4:26	4:26	4:29	4:35	4:42
Buffalo, N.Y.	4:42	4:42	4:46	4:52	4:59
Atlanta, Ga.	5:32	5:32	5:36	5:41	5:47
Miami, Fla.	5:34	5:34	5:37	5:42	5:47
Charlotte, N.C.	5:14	5:14	5:18	5:23	5:29
Birmingham, Ala.	4:42	4:42	4:46	4:51	4:56
Jackson, Miss.	4:59	4:59	5:03	5:07	5:13
Memphis, Tenn.	4:51	4:51	4:55	5:00	5:06
Louisville, Ky.	5:25	5:25	5:29	5:34	5:41
Detroit, Mich.	5:03	5:03	5:07	5:13	5:20
Chicago, Ill.	4:22	4:22	4:26	4:31	4:38
South Bend, Indiana	5:17	5:17	5:21	5:26	5:33
Minneapolis, Minn.	4:33	4:33	4:37	4:43	4:50
St. Louis, Mo.	4:42	4:42	4:46	4:51	4:57
Kansas City, Mo.	4:58	4:58	5:02	5:07	5:14
Denver, Co.	4:38	4:38	4:41	4:47	4:53
Little Rock, Ark.	5:01	5:01	5:05	5:10	5:15
Dallas, Texas	5:24	5:24	5:28	5:33	5:38
New Orleans, La.	5:04	5:04	5:08	5:12	5:18
Albuquerque, N.M.	4:58	4:58	5:01	5:06	5:12
Oklahoma City, Okla.	5:21	5:21	5:24	5:29	5:35

Add one minute for each 13 miles west; subtract one minute for each 13 miles east.

## WISE MEN FOLLOW THE STAR

*Continued from page 6*

He is an everlasting light, Isaiah 60:19.

He is my light and my Salvation . . . He "is the strength of my life," Psalm 27:1.

The wise men followed the star and they were never the same. Their eyes beheld the divine Son of God. They recognized His divinity. They not only gave Him materialistic gifts, but "they gave their hearts to Him as their Saviour." Can we afford to do less? Wise men still follow the star—not just one week in the year but every day. Not all the gold in the world could ever pay for the great sacrifice on our behalf. We come and present the gold of a lovable and faithful character together with a ready and willing spirit to direct men's minds to the Star of Bethlehem. We may not be able, like the wise men, to bring offerings of expensive gifts, but the Lord does not require expressions of a material nature.

Augustus Toplady summed up the human position in the hymn, "Rock of Ages," when he wrote, "Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling." While we are devising gifts for our friends and children, please don't forget Jesus. The only currency that heaven would accept for our salvation is the blood of Jesus Christ. Our gold and silver can help to advance the cause of God but he wants the day star to arise in our hearts. His star can lead us to the New Jerusalem where over 100 million angels are and the reflection of that Light will be a sight to behold.

So don't be afraid, keep your eye on the star. "Fear not" is still good news from Bethlehem. It is the most effective tranquilizer for the tensions of this nerve-shattered age. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed upon the Star." Fear not, I'll be with you always.

Wise men still follow the star. "At His birth the Star had known Christ, and had guided the wise men to the manger where He lay."—Ibid. p. 770-771. Let's become wise men today and follow the star—take our gift of a surrendered life that He might be able to see the travail of His soul and be satisfied.

— 0 —

Rejoice evermore.

1 Thessalonians 5:16

# THE CONFERENCES IN ACTION



Tom McCraw, right, accepts presentation from Laurence Lucas, AY sponsor.

## McCRAW VISITS LINWOOD ADVENTIST YOUTH

Tom McCraw, first base and hitting coach for the Cleveland Indians baseball team, was a recent visitor at the Linwood Boulevard Temple Adventist youth meeting in Kansas City, Missouri.

McCraw, who has been in professional baseball since 1964 and played for the Chicago White Sox, was in town because of a series with the Kansas City Royals. McCraw accepted Adventism in 1975 and was baptized at the Oakwood College Church in Huntsville, Alabama, where he resides during the off-season. He is married to the former Marlene Cox, who is a nurse at Oakwood. They have two children, Brian and Marla.

Tom McCraw's experience and testimony since becoming an Adventist is especially inspirational to thousands of young people wherever he is asked to speak. His commitment not to work on the Sabbath was rewarded when he received his present position as one of the coaches for the Cleveland Indians. The owner of the Indians has provided the atmosphere for Tom to keep the Sabbath holy. His profession of faith is publicized at every home game of the Indians when he returns each Sunday to coach first base.

It was a pleasure having Tom McCraw inspire the Adventists at Linwood.

W. R. Wright, Jr.



S. Haywood Cox, conference president, welcomes workers.

## BI-ANNUAL WORKERS' MEETING HELD AT KANSAS CITY

The Bethel Church of Kansas City, Kansas, was the host for the Central States Workers' Meeting held September 21-23. Twice a year the pastors, Bible workers, teachers and office staff come together for spiritual refreshing and fellowship plus timely instruction.

In September Elder Robert Whitaker, pastor from Seattle, Washington, was the special guest. At the invitation of Elder Cox, conference president, Elder Whitaker presented the precise methods of a successful personal evangelism program for church laity. The personal evangelism concept was conducted by Whitaker in southern California at the Los Angeles 54th Street Church. He is now beginning the program at the church in Seattle. The concept involves the systematic training of all laity of the church into soul-winning emissaries, starting with church officers.

Elders Cox and Simons welcomed the workers to the semi-annual meeting. Elder W. S. Lee, Mid-America Union Conference secretary, presented the keynote address. Elder H. L. Thompson, union evangelist, conducted morning devotionals.

At the end of the workers' meeting the conference family was alerted that Elder J. A. Simons had accepted a call to be treasurer of the new South Atlantic Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Elder Cox acknowledged the faithful and dedicated service of Elder Simons to the Central States Conference over the past seven years. Prayer was offered for the success of the Simonses in their new field of labor and for the Lord's leading in the selection of a successor.

W. R. Wright, Jr.



The 1972 Riviera travel trailer donated to the Central State Conference.

## TRAVEL TRAILER DONATED TO CONFERENCE

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Morris of Wellington, Kansas, have donated a 1972 fully equipped Riviera Travel Trailer to Central States Conference. Notification of the gift was made at camp meeting time when President S. Haywood Cox made an appeal for tangible gifts for camp ground improvement.



Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Morris.

The Morrises, who recently moved to Wellington, Kansas, are members of the Grove Heights Church in Wichita, Kansas. They were living in Denver, Colorado, before their move to Wellington. Morris is a native of Wellington, which has a population of about 8,000. He is administrator of the Cedarview Nursing Home. Before coming to Kansas, Morris lived in Denver for 33 years. He was an Air Force medical technician and director of the City Manor Nursing Home, successively.

Mrs. Morris is an executive housekeeper for St. Lukes Hospital in Wellington. She held that same position at Mercy Hospital in Denver.

The Morrises have three adult children. Their youngest son, Robert, is a recent graduate of Loma Linda University in public health administration.

According to Cox, the travel trailer will be used for housing guests during camp meeting each year. The trailer has an estimated value of \$3,000.



## NATELKA BURRELL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Elder Larry Smart, director of development at Atlantic Union College, has asked for approval from Dr. Natelka Burrell for setting up a \$10,000, or basic, endowment fund in her name. This is the first scholarship fund to be set up at A.U.C. specifically for the benefit of black students.

The fund is to be directed by the College Scholarship Committee and invested carefully so that it will yield a maximum return. Up to half of the income is to be used each year for the awarding of scholarships to worthy students. The rest of the annual income will be returned into the endowment fund to keep pace with inflation and ensure that the fund lasts during the years ahead.

Suggested guidelines for the scholarship fund stipulate that the recipient must be:

1. Afro-American (Black) or West Indian Negro,
2. a Seventh-day Adventist in good standing,
3. of good reputation, as attested to by former teachers or employers,
4. able to give evidence of good scholarship,
5. able to prove financial need.

It is felt that Dr. Burrell has many friends, some of whom will be interested in doing something in her name and will seize the opportunity to focus their interest and endeavors on that which will be of a permanent value to the Lord's work and will also perpetuate her memory.

Rose Carter

## PEOPLE IN TRANSITION

Charles Willis, formerly the assistant pastor of the City Temple Church in Detroit, Michigan, has been called to labor in the Evansville-Jeffersonville district in Indiana. He presented his farewell sermon to the City Temple congregation on August 23, 1980. In addition to his duties at City Temple, Willis served as pastor of the London Church in Milan, Michigan.

Prior to entering Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama, where he received his ministerial training from 1973 to

1976, Charles was employed by the federal government as a postal worker for six and one-half years.

He received a master of divinity degree from Andrews University in 1979 and was called to the ministry in August of that year.

He married Ruth Murdoch on November 26, 1972. The Willises have two daughters, Crystal and Sharon, ages six and five respectively.

The members of City Temple regret that the Willises must leave, but their prayers ascend as the Willises move on to a field of broader service.

Elsie Knox  
Communication Secretary

## LITTLE LAMBS PRESENT SACRED CONCERT

The Capitol City (Indianapolis) Little Lambs Choir, under the direction of Toni Simons, has presented the cantata, "Everyone Calls Him Sir," in church and around the city. Depicting the story of Naaman, the cantata has a very spiritual message. When the Little Lambs presented the cantata during the first week of the Lake Region Conference summer camp, they received encouraging words of acclamation from Elder Conrad Gill, Lake Region Conference youth director.

Diane M. Reed  
Communication Secretary

## GROWTH IN JEFFERSONVILLE

The Harrison Avenue Church in Jeffersonville, Indiana, has experienced a 60 percent growth in membership and attendance, due in part to the erection of a new church home. There were only three members in the Sabbath school when the former pastor, Morris Wren, arrived.

The membership growth was given a large boost when Ben Higgins of the Christ Gospel Tabernacle united with the church. His daughter and son were baptized following a summer crusade. Higgins has more than twenty years of experience as minister of the Christ Gospel Tabernacle. The Harrison Avenue members are excited and hopeful that the other members of his congregation will soon follow his noble example.

Because of city planning and urban renewal, the Jeffersonville congregation had been without a church home for several years. After meeting in various halls and city buildings, the members decided to build a church. R. C. Brown, executive secretary of the Lake Region Conference, gave notice of building requirements and acted as chief liaison for the project.

This small congregation took to the task of raising funds and contacting stray members. A heavy share of the actual construction work was handled by the members. Anna Logan, baptized by Elder Flagg when the church was



*Ben Higgins and daughter, extreme left, stand with other Harrison Avenue members in front of the new church.*

organized, donated a new piano and also choir pews costing over a thousand dollars.

Visitors now marvel at the beauty of the new edifice. The city planner and assistant to the mayor, Earl Summers, exclaimed, "This church is indeed a tribute to the community and a place of beauty in the city of Jeffersonville." C. D. Joseph, president of the Lake Region Conference, was the speaker at the opening services, at which time members of the community were given the opportunity to visit and learn of the faithful few who held fast to a hope that has now become a reality.

To God be the glory and great things He hath done!

Angela Miller  
Communication Secretary



The Starlite Tumbling Team performs at an Indianapolis shopping center mall.

## SUMMER RECREATION AT CAPITOL CITY

The young people of the Capitol City (Indianapolis) Church enjoyed a full summer of recreational activities, including softball, hiking, tumbling, and camping.

Joseph Robinson, general manager of the newly-formed Adventist Youth Sporting League, gave the youth an opportunity to enhance their skills with the A.Y.S.L. softball team. The team has 32 members, ages 7 to 14, and a coaching staff of seven. The team members matched their talents with other teams in the city and concluded the season with five wins and one loss.

The A.Y.S.L. plans to continue with winter sports. Plans are being made to expand the program to the federation level.

The Capitol City Pathfinders, under the direction of Jean Holcombe, took a 20-mile bike ride. Thirty-one Pathfinders rode the distance for fun and physical exercise. The bike ride was taken over

the Eagle Creek Bike Trail, where the young people could see and go through the grounds of the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

The development of tumbling skills has been a project of the church for some time. This summer the Starlite Tumbling Team, under the direction of Linda Kay Taylor, received billboard recognition as they gave three performances at one of Indiana's largest shopping center malls. The team has young people from ages four to fourteen and had performed at campmeeting, summer camps, basketball games and federation recreational programs.

The summer was concluded with a three-day camping trip to McCormick Creek State Park. Sixty-five members of the Pathfinder Club, along with members of other church organizations, communed with nature and fellowshiped together.

Capitol City is thankful for the dedicated leadership in these activities. Each of the summer recreational programs, along with the other learning experiences of the Vacation Bible School and the Little Lambs Choir, was a stepping stone to the goal of the church to develop the minds, bodies and souls of its young people.

Diane M. Reed  
Communication Secretary

## COUNTY FAIR

One of the most unique outreach programs of the Berean Church in South Bend, Indiana, takes place each summer at the St. Joseph County Fair. More than 100,000 people are in attendance at the fair and many of them stop by the temperance booth set up by the Berean Church.

Smoking Sam or Smoking Suzie is usually on display and countless pieces of literature on the harmful effects of tobacco and alcohol are distributed to the passersby. As a result of this witness, many individuals have signed up and attended the "Five-Day Plan to Stop Smoking."

"We are very pleased with the work of Jeanne Robinson and her Temperance Committee for the outstanding job they do year after year in witnessing to our community," states Pastor Jerome Davis, minister of the Berean Church.

Dorothy Davis  
Communication Secretary

## SISTERS MAKE SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION TO OAKWOOD COLLEGE

C. B. Rock, president of Oakwood College and former pastor of the City Temple Church, was in Detroit recently to accept \$1,000 in scholarship funds from the daughters of the late Edna C. Taylor.

The sisters contributed the funds in remembrance of their mother, who had been a student at Oakwood before it became a college. A plaque bearing her name and the names of her daughters (Virginia Price, June Fullwood, Jacquelyn Harris, Gloria Fisher, and Joyce Jones) will be displayed in the Eva B. Dykes library on the campus. Joyce Jones, a member of the Oakwood Alumni Association, and Gloria Fisher are the Carter family "branches" at City Temple.

At an early age, Mrs. Taylor joined the Adventist church as the result of the work of a colporteur, who sold books to her father, Robert S. Carter, in Atlanta, Georgia. The family later moved to Detroit, where Carter, a builder, drew the plans for and helped construct the Hartford Avenue Seventh-day Adventist Church (now City Temple). Carter was first elder at Hartford for several years during the early 1900's.

Upon accepting the funds, Elder Rock commented, "I commend all of you for this fine presentation. I sincerely hope that others who have roots at Oakwood will remember the college with similar gifts for scholarships or development. In behalf of those students who will benefit by this gift, I thank you again."

## WAUKEGAN BIDS FAREWELL TO ACADEMY STUDENT

On August 16, 1980, the Shalem Adventist Youth Association of Waukegan, Illinois, gave a going-away social for one of its young people, Rochelle Reese. Rochelle is in the eleventh grade at Broadview Academy in Lafox, Illinois.

Rochelle received various school supplies and money from the members. She also received a check from the AYA.

The Shalem Church believes in Christian education and endeavors to assist its young people who are interested in attending one of our schools.

M. Hanna Wright  
Communication Secretary

## MOUNT SINAI BURNS MORTGAGE

On Sabbath, September 13, 1980, the members of the Mount Sinai Church at Rochdale, New York, burned its mortgage and held a special dedicatory service.

This service held a special significance for members of the church who had labored tirelessly for this to become a reality since Evangelist Harold C. Brewer organized this little group of believers in 1975.

Participants in the program were Elder George R. Earle, president of the Northeastern Conference, who brought the eleven o'clock "Message by Word." Elder G. Earle and Pastor D. Smith conducted the mortgage burning ceremony. Elder Stennett Brooks, treasurer of the Northeastern Conference, led the offering of gratitude and Elder H. Baptiste, secretary of the Northeastern Conference, rendered the sermon of praise.

At six o'clock there was a festival of praise with several music groups and the Lebanon church choir participating. Elder R. McDonald was the master of ceremonies.

The vesper service began at 7:45 p.m. with the introduction of the speaker by Pastor D. Smith, followed with special music by D. Waite. Pastor M. Benjamin of the New Hempstead and Solid Rock churches brought the vesper sermonette and Elder K. Smith, chairman of the program and souvenir booklet, offered the prayer of blessing as the members sang "To God Be the Glory."

Dorothy Speight  
Communication Secretary



Pastor D. Smith, left, holds tray while S. H. Brooks, Northeastern Conference Treasurer burns mortgage. G. R. Earle, Conference President and Church Members look on.

## W.I.C. ALUMNI MEET

In a stirring address to the New York City Chapter of the West Indies College Alumni Association at the Hanson Place Seventh-day Adventist Church on Satur-

day, July 26, 1980, Pastor Roy Ashmead of the City Tabernacle in New York City posed three very important questions: (1) From whence have we come? (2) What have we done? and (3) Whither shall we go?

Commenting on these questions, Pastor Ashmead acknowledged that had it not been for W.I.C., he and scores of graduates, including doctors, nurses, administrators, theologians, teachers and secretaries would still be in the hills of Jamaica and other Caribbean territories leading relatively unproductive lives.

He saluted the college for the excellent work it is continuing to do and appealed to graduates who have further qualified and trained themselves in the United States to return to their alma mater and assist it in fulfilling its mission.

The W.I.C. alumnus then joined issue with his contemporaries who, having strayed from the cardinal Christian principles taught at the Mandeville school, now ask their former classmates, "Are you still in that thing?" The reference is clearly being made to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pastor Ashmead said his answer to this question is, "Yes, I'm glad to still be in that thing."

To prove, however, that the Adventist Church is not just "that thing," Pastor Ashmead gave a brief history of the Christian Church. He reviewed the lives of Martin Luther, John Wesley and others who have advanced the frontiers of truth. He also paid tribute to the Quakers, Baptists and Moravians for having preserved some of the tenets enshrined in Adventist doctrine.

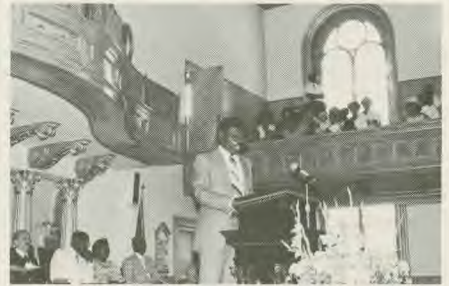
He pointed out instances in which the Roman Catholic Church had tried to adulterate the teachings of the Bible and illustrated his point by referring to the Catholic teachings on baptism, the state of the dead and the Sabbath.

Referring to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the speaker said that "God has raised it up to restore the total body of truth which had been preserved throughout the ages." He also said that the Adventist Church, having restored this body of truth, has now become the repository of all the truths believed by the apostles.

Earlier in the day, during Sabbath school, Hazel Barrow, an alumna now on the W.I.C. faculty, presented an illuminating and inspiring report on the work being done at her alma mater, the school's projection for the future, the



A crowded main sanctuary listens to Pastor Roy Ashmead deliver the midday message at the WIC 1980 anniversary celebration at Brooklyn's Hanson Place Church.



Pastor Roy Ashmead delivers the midday message at WIC anniversary celebration at Brooklyn's Hanson Place Church.

obstacles it faces in the pursuit of its God-directed mission and the crying need for additional qualified staff in several disciplines.

Music at the midday service was provided by the Oratorical Society of the Bethel Baptist Church under Choir Director Fleurange Cherensaut. Nell Jefferson played the piano for the group.

The M.V. hour belonged mainly to the children of the alumni, who thrilled the large gathering with inspirational singing, instrumental pieces and poetry reading. Playing leading roles in this section of the day's program were Canella Johnson, Howard Da Costa and Roy Ashmead, Jr.

At sunset a short devotional was conducted by Pastor Sebert Anderson of Brooklyn Temple. His talk was entitled, "Don't Part Here," and brought down the curtain on a day of Christian fellowship, fond reminiscences and spiritual uplifting.

Lloyd G. S. Goodridge

## PATHFINDERS DAY

The Gordon Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church, located in Coram, Long Island, New York, held its first Pathfinders Day on Sabbath, September 27, 1980, on the 30th anniversary of Seventh-day Adventist Pathfinder clubs.

Guests for the entire day were 40 members of the Spanish Manhattan Pathfinder Club, led by Master Guide Director Julio Cruz.

The presence of the Holy Spirit seemed to fill the church as the Pathfinders processional made its way into the sanctuary for the divine worship hour led by the Master Guide director of the Gordon Heights Pathfinders, Grace Allen, and the Master Guide director of the Spanish Manhattan Pathfinders. The flag ceremony was conducted jointly with the entire congregation participating.

Ismael Medina, one of our church school teachers, was the guest speaker. Medina held the attention of God's children by telling about the greatest Pathfinder, Jesus Christ.

At the end of the divine worship hour, all guests and their families were served a delicious lunch prepared by the Gordon Heights Pathfinders and their families. After lunch the Pathfinders took a short hike through the tree-lined paths near the church. Upon their return, Director Cruz set up a video-tape machine and showed tapes on the "Life of the Butterfly" and "Forgiveness."

The highlight of the day was the impressive candlelight induction ceremony in which both Pathfinder clubs participated. Nine persons from the Gordon Heights club and four from the Spanish Manhattan club were inducted. The inductees pledged to live up to the high Christian ideals of the Pathfinders Club.

Each then received a candle, which was lit from the Pathfinders Candle. The lighted candles are symbolic of the lives of the Pathfinders, lives that will shine until Jesus comes. Each new member received a membership card that identifies that person as a full-fledged member of the Pathfinders Club.

Following the induction service was a parade. The Pathfinders lined up in front of the church and, with colors flying, marched around the block singing songs of joy and praise. When the Pathfinders returned to the church fifteen minutes later, they stood proudly at attention for the vesper service, conducted by both Pathfinder directors, Grace Allen and Julio Cruz.

To climax a wonderful day, the Spanish Manhattan Pathfinders gave a drill performance that was executed with excellence and precision.

Refreshments were served and the

birthdays of two Pathfinders were recognized.

Elder James Spence  
Communication Secretary



*Shirley Baptiste presents "In Memoriam," a tribute to Linda Hyacinth Austin at CUC alumni 1980 anniversary celebration.*

## C.U.C. ALUMNI WEEKEND

The memory of the late Linda Hyacinth Austin, who was a veritable institution at Caribbean Union College for more than 50 years, ran like an invisible thread through the commemorative activities of the 1980 anniversary celebration of the New York Chapter of the C.U.C. Alumni Association. Miss Austin, who served with distinction in several capacities during her tenure at C.U.C., passed away on July 3, 1980.

The celebration began with vespers conducted by Northeastern Conference Secretary Harold Baptiste at Hanson Place Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brooklyn, New York, at 7:30 p.m. on August 22. About 300 alumni and guests heard Pastor Baptiste recall the contribution Miss Austin made to the quality of student vespers back at C.U.C. He also called to mind her particular talent for helping students when they needed her. Vespers, therefore, set the tone for a weekend of recollection, introspection and meditation.

Sabbath school the following day was highlighted by a lesson study conducted by Pastor Alvinus Bhola, who held the huge class in rapt attention as he examined the similarities between the lives of Job and Jesus.

At the beginning of the midday service, Shirley Baptiste, Pastor Baptiste's wife, chronicled Miss Austin's life in a

presentation entitled, "In Memoriam: Linda Hyacinth Austin, 1903-1980."

Adding a musical dimension to the day's activities was the rendition of "Zion Hear Her Watchman's Voices" by the alumni choir. The divine worship hour speaker was Pastor Lionel C. Phillips.

Taking as his topic, "Bad Luck, Good Luck or Divine Providence," Pastor Phillips told the alumni—hailing from New Jersey on the east coast to California on the west—that "everything under the sun is determined by divine providence." He debunked the concept of luck and chance and quoted from the life story of Joseph in Genesis 37 to illustrate that "when man thinks he is working against God, he's actually working for Him."

The C.U.C. alumnus then elicited a loud amen when he said that "Linda Austin didn't happen to be at C.U.C. by chance." He drew even greater amens when he added that God had placed her there to help people like himself to develop those characteristics necessary for meaningful Christian service.

Phillips also quoted from his experience at the Maracas Valley school to illustrate how Miss Austin's compassion and humanity made the difference between success and failure.

During vespers Dr. Weithers Roberts wrapped up the day's activities with a touching meditative piece, "The World Is Too Much With Us," an adaptation of William Wordsworth's famous poem. During the course of her presentation, Dr. Roberts called on the alumni to take a hard new look at their priorities to determine whether their talents and training could be used better in the islands of the Caribbean Sea than in the sea of materialism in America.

Asked to comment on Linda Austin's contribution to C.U.C., Vera Grant, an alumna and former president of the New York alumni chapter, said that "she dedicated her entire life to the education of Adventist youth and her church." This was amplified by Albert Pierre, himself an alumnus and now first elder of the Hanson Place Church, who said that "no other single person has made a greater contribution to Christian education at C.U.C. than did Miss Austin."

Lloyd G. S. Goodridge



Pastor D. Smith, left, and Pastor M. Benjamin kneeling in front of 31 newly baptized believers.

## COMMUNITY ACTION FOR CHRIST CRUSADE

"Mister, can you tell us what you're going to put here? Mister, is some kind of show coming here...will it be a rock and roll show? Hey mister, can children come?"

These and many more such questions were asked by the children and young adults as they watched the Community Action for Christ Crusade Team, under the leadership of Evangelist Doctor Smith, prepare the vacant lot on the corner of Beach 53rd Street and Beach Channel Drive for the "Big Tent."

For six weeks during the summer of 1980 something strange and very different happened in the Far Rockaway area and the residents will never be the same again.

The Bible says in Matthew 5:14 that "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." The Big Tent certainly served as a city that is set on a hill and Evangelist Doctor Smith, along with the crusade team, brought light in the midst of darkness in Far Rockaway.

We thank God for Evangelists Smith and Benjamin who have courage and faith. Under their leadership, a handful of saints went into the dark, smelly and debris-filled hallways of the apartment buildings along Beach Channel Drive and knocked on doors to personally invite the occupants to attend the nightly meetings under the Big Tent.

In spite of the many oppositions the team faced, by faith they moved forward. As the congregation sang the nightly theme song, "By His Word," new-found strength and courage seem to have been endowed to every member,

It all started on July 20, when the subject was "God's Cure for a Troubled World." There was a big crowd and much anxiety, since the community did not fully know what to expect. They all came. Winos, prostitutes, first-day Christians, five percenters, curiosity seekers and yes, Satan came nightly also. Others listened through raised windows as the evangelist's strong voice rang out over the loudspeakers.

One night during the first week there was a terrible storm and the Big Tent reeled and rocked, but Evangelist Smith never stopped giving God's message to the people that were now huddled in the center of the tent. It was during this time that Ms. Bartholomews, who had walked with a cane for two years, was healed and didn't need her cane to walk any more.

People praised the Lord nightly as the beautiful breeze from the ocean cooled the still, hot air left over from a very hot and humid day.

The second week started out with an excellent topic, "As the World Turns," on Sunday, July 27. During each evening friends, relatives, church members and visitors poured out to the city set on a hill to hear the messages of God proclaimed.

The third week's topic, "Are You Dead When You Die?" was another excellent message that captivated the entire audience. Beginning that week, food and clothing were distributed daily to the needy. Also, Vacation Bible School started with a daily children's recreational program under the direction of Judy Knight.

In the fourth and fifth weeks, the Holy Spirit continued to manifest His presence as night after night souls took their

stand for Jesus. Among those who took their stand was a young man named Keith who came intoxicated every night, but even through the intoxication the Holy Spirit spoke to his heart and he signed himself into the hospital for detoxification because he wanted to follow Jesus.

And there was Robert, the wino who came the very first night and each night thereafter. Like Keith, he was always inebriated and slumped over in his seat. We watched as the Holy Spirit worked upon his heart and each night he became a little less intoxicated until, finally, he was sober. He was given a suit of clothing and got a haircut. He stopped smoking and drinking and all rejoiced when he, along with Keith, went into the watery grave to come up in the newness of life.

The Sabbath of the fifth week featured the first baptism and, as a result of five big weeks of bringing light to a dark community, the Community Action for Christ Crusade Team baptized 31 people.

There were those who heard the message and were not able to leave their beds. One such person was a man who was taking Bible lessons from Kathleen Duncan, one of the Bible instructors. On Friday evening of the fifth week, Evangelist Smith and Ms. Duncan visited the man to pray for him. The sick man accepted Christ as his personal Saviour that evening. As Evangelist Smith gave the message on Sabbath morning, he informed the congregation that the man had died during the night.

The theme for the sixth and final week was "Knock Out Your Eye, Cut Off Your Hand." This week went too fast, even though everyone wanted it to last. The Rockaways had never heard these messages before. They heard how Jesus died for all sinners and their lives were affected.

Among those who believed were a mother and her eight children and a father of four children who wanted his family to join him in his decision to follow Jesus, but had made up his mind that whether or not they followed, he was going all the way. Old and young were affected and, as a result, 29 more souls were baptized at the end of the sixth week.

Dorothy Speight  
Communication Secretary



Participating in the ribbon-cutting ceremony are: O. J. McKinney (left), A. Reginald Eaves, Tina Peoples, Billy McKinny, H. D. Singleton, W. S. Banfield, Robert Patterson, R. B. Hairston, A. C. McClure, C. D. Henri, Yvonne Bankston, Jonathan Walker, M. T. Battle, E. W. Moore.

## A NEW OFFICE FOR SOUTH ATLANTIC

Sunday, September 21, 1980, is a day long to be remembered by the officers and staff of South Atlantic Conference. It was the day that ended the relocation of the office in Atlanta. During the 34-year history of the conference, the rapid growth from a membership of 3,600 to 21,000 necessitated the moving of the office, in the interest of space, four times. It is said that this fourth move to 294 Hightower Road, N.W., will be the last before the coming of the Lord.

The new office is located in a suburb of Atlanta, among three churches—the large Union Baptist church, Berean Seventh-day Adventist church, and Radcliffe Presbyterian church. The fact that it is also surrounded by residential homes, tall pine and oak trees (an earmark of this city), and one of Atlanta's most modern high schools—Fredrick Douglass—confirms the reality that it is located in the heart of a Black middle-class neighborhood. A number of community leaders had serious trepidation about a church administrative office building being placed in the neighborhood. Therefore, it will was a difficult task to get them to relent on their objections to the point where they would agree with the zoning board of Atlanta to give a special-use permit for the building. A number of restrictions were demanded by the zoning board in the areas of shrubbery, lighting, drainage and the like to protect real value and im-

age of the environs. The conference agreed to whatever was necessary to be added for protection and make the permit possible. Now that it is all over, the speeches reveal that everyone feels this structure has brought value and status to the vicinity.

May 21, 1979, was ground breaking. A number of leaders of the city, both political, religious and community were



Southern Union President A. C. McClure's (right) salute to South Atlantic President R. L. Woodfork evoked a standing ovation from the audience.

invited and took time to attend. Within a few days after all the legal and other hurdles were removed, the footing was dug, the foundation was laid and the building started up. Seventeen months later some of these same leaders, along with others, came back to celebrate. There was no champagne and caviar, but the guests were satisfied with fruit juice, peanuts and cake.

Among the special guests who attended the open house were: Marvin Arrington, city council president of Atlanta,



This portrait of President Woodfork was presented by the Boulevard Drive congregation.

who was also at the ground breaking; Yvonne Bankston, community leader and member of the zoning board of Atlanta; State Representative Billy McKinny; and Reginald Eaves, the former public safety commissioner of Atlanta, now Fulton County commissioner. After Dr. Eaves' speech, it was remarked that, based on the proficiency with which he wielded the sword of Bible passages, the conference should give him credentials and send him out to preach!

From the General, union and other local conferences were: C. D. Henri, W. S. Banfield (representing C. E. Bradford), M. T. Battle, R. W. Bates, A. C. McClure, H. F. Roll, T. W. Cantrell, Earl Moore, Dennis Keith, George Powell, O. W. Mackey, W. D. Sumpter, M. D. Gordon, C. E. Dudley and Gary Patterson. Nathaniel Miller read an original poem written for the occasion. Tina Peoples represented the National Bank of Georgia; Stephanie Johnson represented the North American Regional Voice and



Manager Olice Brown serves customers in the Adventist Book Center.

Linda Page, a correspondent of *Atlanta Daily World*, was present.

It was not long after the building started to take shape that people came to find out who was the contractor. Jonathan Walker, a member of Berean church, was not only the contractor as a businessman, but he was there on the job like other workmen. He would start no other jobs which were offered him until he handed over the keys to this



Mary Floyd answers an incoming call at her desk in the reception area.



A departmental director's office.

building to Robert Patterson, the treasurer of the conference. This half-million dollar project was the biggest single undertaking of his career. He intended it to be his showcase. Therefore, he left nothing to chance in the hands of any supervisor or foremen. He saw to every detail of the construction until the last paint brush was laid down by Clifton Mouzon.

What is more, Patterson said the building worked out on schedule both in time and finance. Any portion that went over cost was compensated by that which Walker kept under cost.

In Walker's speech on opening day to that packed reception hall (the rain drove us inside from the spacious parking lot), he said, "The greatest need of the Black community is the need of artisan-tradesmen who are capable carpenters, plumbers, electricians, brick layers and the like. A host of young people came along asking for work, but their only ability was unskilled labor."



The Chapelaires from the Maranatha church were among those providing music.

The entire west wing of the building houses the large Adventist Book and Health Food Center. This is the only one of its kind for many miles. The manager, Olice Brown, seems to be professional from the attractive manner in which he lays out the stock.

This meeting was historic in more ways than one. South Atlantic Conference has had four presidents during its entire history and the three which are alive were sharing the stage. H. D. Singleton, the first president, W. S. Banfield was the third, and R. L. Woodfork is the fourth. President number two, J. Wagner, is deceased.

A 31" x 41" portrait of Woodfork for the foyer of the conference office and a smaller one for his home, the work of Joe Hadley of Boulevard Drive church, were presented to Elder and Mrs. Woodfork by the church.

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## MISSIONARY ON FURLOUGH VISITS ATLANTA

Elder Clarence Thomas and his family spent October 15-17 conducting the morning devotion for the South Atlantic Conference office workers. Eight years ago he was pastor of the Boulevard Drive Church in Atlanta, from whence he accepted a mission appointment to Brazil, South America.

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Elder Thomas, in recounting his experiences in South America, said that they were rewarding ones. He is quite amused, however, when listening to his American counterparts talking about inflation being high. He wonders what would we would do if we had to live in Brazil with three-digit inflation. They live with an inflation rate that stays between 120-130 percent continually. He cannot understand how we complain about 12-13 percent inflation.

During his three morning devotions Elder Thomas gave some touching experiences of life in Brazil. He is on his way with his family to Zaire in Central Africa for his next mission tour after his furlough in December.

His son, Clarence IV, who is an extraordinarily talented musician, participated in a piano recital with the students of Mrs. Elita Gooden in Atlanta on Sunday, October 18. The audience was so thrilled with his renditions that they requested encores.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Church Officers Convention—  
November 15—Atlanta, Georgia  
November 22—Charlotte, North Carolina
- Ingathering Victory Day—  
November 22
- Sabbath School Workshop—  
December 5-6—Miami, Florida
- Stewardship Day—  
December 13
- Square-Up With God—  
December 1-31
- Youth Federation—  
November 29—Ft. Pierce, Florida  
Macon, Georgia

## NEWS NOTES

According to R. B. Hairston, secretary of South Atlantic Conference, the membership stands at 21,613. So far this year the clerks have reported 1,861 baptisms.

Superintendent of Schools S. E. Gooden reports an all time high enrollment of 1,645 K-10 for the school year 1980-81.

## DIGNIFIED HOUSING FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

Ground was broken on October 21 for a new 60-unit senior citizens residence in Cleveland, Mississippi. This will be the fourth housing project sponsored by South Central Conference.

The increasing number of senior citizens points out the growing need for quality housing for those nearing three score and ten years of age.

The South Central Village, a one-story cottage design complex, will provide 60 apartments. Each unit is to have one or two bedrooms with a living room/dining room and is to house citizens 62 years and older without regard to race or religion.

The welcome to the groundbreaking was given by Cleveland's mayor for eight years, Martin T. King, Jr., who stated, "he was happy that the Adventists had chosen Cleveland, Mississippi, as the location for South Central Village." The mayor also cited the need for adequate housing in the area.

Dr. C. E. Dudley, conference president, in his address on the occasion, gave statistical reports on housing needs and highlighted his speech with a brief report on the humanitarian work of the Adventist Church. He called the project "an extension of the hand of Jesus."

The village is to be owned by Better Living Services of Mississippi, Inc., a non-profit corporation sponsored by the South Central Conference. It is to be built by Major Associates, Inc., a Jackson, Mississippi, firm under President Cornelius Turner. Construction is to begin immediately with a completion date of August 1981. Turner says he will try to finish sooner, perhaps in May of that year.

South Central Village was designed by John Preston, a Nashville, Tennessee, architect. The design includes eight two-bedroom units especially prepared for the handicapped, with doors, halls, bathrooms and closets to accommodate wheelchairs.

The complex is to be situated on six acres of land at the corner of Christmas Avenue and Glascoe Street in Cleveland with space for residents who want to grow flowers or vegetables. The brick veneer structure will add architectural beauty to the neighborhood.

When asked what the church is to get



*John Preston, a Nashville architect, C. Turner with Major Associates, and Alean Robinson. Standing behind her is B. Gooden, Pastor W. Bussey and Elder I. J. Johnson, co-ordinator of the housing program.*



*Elder C. E. Dudley, president of South Central Conference, is seen standing on the backhoe that broke the ground for the 60-unit apartment complex. With him are Pastor W. Bussey, John Preston, Nashville architect, C. Turner with Major Associates and Bennie Gooden, manager of the project.*

out of the project, the housing coordinator, I. J. Johnson, replied, "the inner satisfaction of providing a needed service. As a non-profit group, the church organization gets no money. However, knowing that there is a need for well built, comfortable, economy housing, the church is happy to sponsor such."

The village will be financed by a direct federal loan under Section 202 of the Housing and Urban Renewal Development Program. It will provide federal rent subsidy for those who qualify.

The ground was broken by Alean Robinson, a senior citizen who celebrated her 80th birthday the following day. Instead of the traditional shovel, they used a backhoe. Mrs. Robinson said she had used the hand shovel many times, but this was the first time she had operated a backhoe. Helping her to dig with the backhoe was Charlie Ramsey.

Shirley Morris served as program coordinator and Pastor Willie Bussey served as master of ceremonies. Pastor Bussey provided the chairs and speaker's stand. Other local leaders who came for the occasion were Ajax Morris, real estate agent; Thomas Morris, attorney; and Yvonne Hughes, legal services.

## PATHFINDERS HOLD TEMPERANCE PARADE

On Sabbath, May 10, 1980, the Royal Ambassador Pathfinders Club of the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church on 1150 W. Woodrow Wilson Drive, Jackson, Mississippi, held a Pathfinders and Temperance Club parade. This was planned and organized by Director Ben F. Newsome.

The parade began at Grove Park Community Center and terminated at the Berean Church, lasting for an hour and fifteen minutes. The Jackson City Police Department provided superb police escort along the parade route, which was three and one-half miles. The parade itself covered three city blocks.

Enhancing the parade were numerous colorful, artistic and stimulating posters and banners with messages declaring a physical, social, mental and spiritual war against the illegitimate and harmful use of drugs and intemperance.

Many observers from churches within the South Mississippi Youth Federation joined in the parade. People came out of their homes and some inquired as to its meaning. Our involved and energetic youth passed out leaflets on temperance to the smiling onlookers.

After the parade ended, a Pathfinders temperance program was held at the church. The mayor of Jackson participated. Chief Edgar Bray of the Jackson Fire Department and Senator Henry Kirksey, one of the most outstanding black senators in Mississippi, were also present. Each gave a speech on temperance, better living and community involvement by the youth and Pathfinders of the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church. Each was given a plaque and a beautiful hardback book of the inspiring "Conflict of the Ages" series.

There were many temperance orators at the evening service. First prize for the best temperance speech in the Pathfinders division of the South Mississippi Youth Federation was awarded to John H. Moore of Jackson, Mississippi.

It has been said and rightly so, that when today's youth are rightly trained to carry the gospel message in our generation to all the world, they can be a great force for good. Remember that we are the Pathfinders strong, with a message to tell the world; we possess a truth that will set us free. King Jesus is coming



again for you and me. No one can better proclaim this saving truth to all the world than the Pathfinders of Seventh-day Adventist churches.

All church members should actively support our Pathfinders wherever they are.

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### December—Square Up With God Month

- 1-4 North American Regional Council of Evangelism
- 6 Lay Activities Day
- 7 Church Officers Meeting—Chattanooga
- 13 Stewardship Day
- 14 Church Officers Meeting—Montgomery, AL
- 21 Church Officers Meeting—Jackson, MS
- 27 Conference-wide Baptismal Day
- 28-31 North American Regional Publishing Department Institute—Orlando, FL

### January

- 4-6 Workers' Meeting
- 16-24 Stewardship Revival—Mobile, AL

## INVESTMENT CAN BE FUN!

Investment projects can be fun! More than 100 children from the north Nashville area surrounding the Hillcrest Seventh-day Adventist Church gathered in the church parking lot each Sunday evening in September for a skate party. The party was sponsored by the youth, earliteen, junior and children's Sabbath school divisions as an investment project. Students invested in outdoor skates which were rented to those who did not have skates. Punch, cupcakes, popcorn and freeze cups were sold.

Although raising money for investment was the primary objective of the project, three other reasons for selecting such an activity were: (1) as a neighborhood outreach project the Sabbath school sought to acquaint the children and young people in the neighborhood with the location of the church and wanted them to know there is a friendly church within walking distance of their homes; (2) to get to know the names and addresses of the youth in the neighborhood so that they

can be invited to other activities at Hillcrest church and (3) to provide wholesome recreation.

On the last Sunday a trophy was presented to the first place winner of the outdoor skate championship and beautiful ribbons were given to the second and third place winners. The trophy was donated by Elmer Freeman of the Freeman and Smith Construction Company, who is one of Hillcrest's members. One hundred dollars was raised.

Elder George I. Pearson is the pastor at Hillcrest. S. T. Smith is the superintendent of the children's division. Delores Smith served as coordinator of the investment project.



## WETUMPKA CHURCH ORGANIZED

Another new congregation was organized at Wetumpka, Alabama, on September 27, when Elder G. A. Byars and his teams of workers brought their summer's evangelistic crusade to a close. Some 25 members have made up this new group and helped to light another dark county in the state of Alabama.



Byars and the baptismal candidates, along with members from nearby churches walked through the streets of the city to their baptismal site. The services gave the old-time feeling as these precious souls were buried with their Lord in baptism in a river near the tent meeting.



## NEW DOCTOR MOVES INTO THE AREA

Dr. and Mrs. J. Abernathy have completed their assignment in the military and are now practicing medicine in Montgomery, Alabama. We welcome them to the field.



Alvin Johnson and Charles Simons recite all memory verses for the entire second quarter.



Juanita Jenkins welcomes interested Iranian student who visits the church at Memphis.

# NEWS NOTES

## SOUTH CENTRAL

Departing Treasurer D. A. Walker reports that progress is being made on the new church buildings in Greenville, Mississippi, and the West Haven church in Memphis, Tennessee. They both should be ready for occupancy before the year ends.

New congregations are to be organized in Wetumpka, Alabama, and Harvest, Alabama, in December, reports President C. E. Dudley.

Departmental leader Joseph McCoy reports that he is expecting most of South Central young people and many adults to attend the youth congress to be held in Detroit in May of 1981 because of the large number of youth congress projects now in operation, such as auto washings and aluminum can salvagings.

A new housing project sponsored by South Central Conference in Cleveland, Mississippi, is soon to begin construction. More to come later.

"We began our radio broadcasting this past Sunday in Hazelhurst, Mississippi, with a fifteen-minute program on station WMDC, 1220 on the AM dial and 100.9 on the FM dial. We are being heard each Sunday at 5:05 p.m. under the title, 'Moving Toward Daybreak.'" This note came from Pastor Garfield Powell.

## 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Booker T. Watts, Sr., of Louisville, Ky., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 29, 1980, in Stouffer's Louisville Inn, 120 W. Broadway, in Louisville.

Mr. Watts retired in 1973 as a production engineer of the Flinkote Company. Mrs. Watts, the former Alma Miller, retired in 1974 as a private-duty nurse.

The couple, married June 28, 1930, have eight children: Mrs. Imogene Churchill, Radcliff, Ky., Mr. Booker T. Watts, Jr., Mrs. Gayle Hurd, Mrs. Barbara Luckett, Mrs. Edna Lynum and Mrs.

Joyce Downs, all of Louisville, Mr. Norman Watts, Ekron, Ky., and Mrs. Alice Lyons, Lexington, Ky.; 23 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

## SOUTHWEST

### PATHFINDER JAMBOREE

Macedonia church in Monroe, Louisiana, hosted a district meeting and Pathfinder Jamboree August 23-24.

B. E. Wright, conference youth director, administered the spoken word. On Sabbath afternoon the Alexandria youth presented an excellent program during the AYS hour. Saturday night they fellowshiped together and reviewed slides from summer camp.

Sunday's recreational program consisted of Pathfinder drills, basketball, table tennis, softball and volleyball.

The Pathfinder Club, under the direction of Donald Givens, has made rapid strides. The club was organized in June and the membership is 20.

In one month the club had uniforms, back-packs and other items of equipment. How did they do it? The club purchased 200 copies of *Steps to Christ*, which they sold by going door-to-door.

Irene Merrell, Reporter

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*Continued from page 3*

perienced by my people. We marvel at this faithfulness when we realize that the income dollar is approximately half of

that of our brothers and sisters. We must marvel at this faithfulness in giving in as much as we know that job hunting becomes a real act of faith that my people must deal with when they begin to keep the Sabbath. But the Lord is still good to His people. I received a card from a friend the other day which said: "Praise the Lord anyhow!"

Although the Black churches in America paid \$26,487,184.17 in tithe last year, it should be noted, however, that all of this money did not remain with the local conferences. These dollars were shared by the conferences to help strengthen the work of the church at other levels. Twenty percent was sent for General Conference missions, eight percent was sent for the General Conference Retirement Fund, ten percent was sent to help operate the union conference, five percent was sent to help with operation of the colleges, and between three to five percent was sent for miscellaneous projects of the church elsewhere. Most of our sister conferences have more funds left after paying these percentages than the regional conferences had from the very beginning. W. R. Robinson, one of the former editors of *Message* magazine, has an expression which states: "Jesus will never come anywhere until the message has gone everywhere!" We will continue to do our part in helping to carry the good news of our Saviour's love to every living soul on planet earth. In working for others, the work of God will be strengthened where we are.

You have seen signs displayed on automobiles which read: "If you love Jesus, honk your horn!" I saw one the other day which read, "If you love Jesus, pay your tithe!" Square up with God! This is a good month in which to do it. If you do this, something good is going to happen to you.

"You can't beat my God giving, no matter how hard you try.

For just as sure that you are living, the Lord's in heaven on high.

The more that you give, the more He gives to you,

So keep on giving, you'll find it's really true, that

You can't beat my God giving, no matter how hard you try."

To strengthen the Black work, let us 'square up with God!'

C. E. Dudley, President  
South Central Conference

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## TODAY

## NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE



Dr. B. F. Reaves from the religion department of Oakwood College.

## ELDERS' AND DEACONS' RETREAT

If the work of the gospel is to be finished in this generation, there must be more workmen laboring in the vineyard of the Lord. The divine blueprint declares that "the laity must join hands with the gospel ministry and assume their rightful place by furnishing the kind of leadership needed today, as was done in the first century by the early church."

The book of Acts records the exploits of Phillip, the appointed deacon, and his confrontation with the Ethiopian eunuch. For the second year the elders and deacons met at the Lone Star Camp to share in wholesome fellowship and a weekend of spiritual emphasis. The invited guests were Dr. B. F. Reaves from the religion department of Oakwood College, who conducted sessions on sermon preparation, and Pastor Harry Williams, inner-city director, South Atlantic Conference, Atlanta. Pastor Williams related the story of his life, his conversion after being incarcerated 27 times and his remarkable call to the ministry. His presentations focused on prison ministry and the need for such labor in the penal institutions of the southwest.

Dr. Reaves expertly spoke on sermon preparation and the importance of the lay preacher to communicate the "Third Angel's Message" in a clear and concise manner.

Southwest Region employs 27 district pastors overseeing 65 churches and the need is for thorough preparation on the part of the local leadership to work in the absence of the district leader.

One hundred men were present on Sabbath morning and the discussions were so thought-provoking that even the casual observer was compelled to stay throughout the meeting.

The times demand well-prepared lay leadership, and the elders and deacons retreat offered such preparation to match the times. Elder J. C. Hicks, director of the lay activities department, anticipated a greater response next year because of the enthusiasm generated this year.

Doris Jones  
Reporter



The elders and deacons hiked over the Lone Star Camp Sabbath afternoon for recreation and felt refreshed.

## CHURCH DEDICATED IN BATON ROUGE

In 1936 an evangelistic meeting was held in the city of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, by Elder J. G. Dasent. A church was organized as a result. In 1947 Elder W. W. Fordham, serving as mission president, conducted a large scale evangelistic crusade and baptized more than 100 persons. In 1948 a church was built to adequately serve the members of the Berean congregation. Thirty-three years slipped away. The congregation outgrew its facilities and needed to build a new sanctuary.

April of this year was when the groundbreaking ceremony took place. September 13 was the grand opening, a dream come true. This edifice has the following features: a seating capacity of 538 for the main sanctuary, a spacious vestibule, a dressing room for the baptistery and pastor's study with a secretary's office, adequate Sabbath school rooms, an assembly room, air conditioning and wall to wall carpeting. The cost of this facility is \$284,000, but the building is valued at \$500,000.

This grand opening began with a farewell service at 8:30 on Sabbath morning in the old building. Pastor Pritchett and two of his local elders, Eugene Miller and Charles Wilson, led



Pastor Pritchett welcomes Tom Jasper, assistant to the governor of Louisiana, to his opening services.

out in this service.

Our scene changed when the police escort arrived to direct a caravan of approximately 25 cars to the new building for the "Ribbon-cutting Ceremony."

The Sabbath school superintendent's program was interesting with the conference Sabbath school director conducting the lesson study. Elder R. E. Barron of the General Conference Youth Department delivered the Spoken Word.

Among the other guests were: Tom Jasper, assistant to Governor Treen of Louisiana; Judge Williams, a representative from the secretary of the department of labor; Lela Withers, a representative from district attorney's office; Jack O'Neill, a representative from O'Neill's Music House, Inc.; conference representatives W. C. Jones, M. L. Baez, J. C. Hicks, J. Ford and a representative from the Southwestern Union, H. W. Kibble.

Music spiced the divine worship hour as the Berean host choir sang, followed by the Ephesus choir from New Orleans with Purnell Lewis as director.

For the afternoon, a tasty meal was served, the president spoke and music was presented by the Hammond choir with Jan Youngblood and Marshall Jackson directing. From the city, the Shiloh Baptist choir with soloist Henry Jones and other musicians made it a high day in Baton Rouge. Worshipers left with the conviction that the Lord had smiled upon the Berean church and all those who had come from far and near to this grand opening.

Doris Jones  
Reporter

# BLACK ADVENTISTS BUSINESS IN THE NEWS



Rhon Reid

## BUSINESSMAN RHON REID

On the eleventh floor of Parkway Towers, one of the towering buildings in downtown Nashville, Tennessee, Ronald C. Reid serves as operation officer of American Realty Management Associates (ARMA), an organization that is at present managing some 800 apartment units with a property value of nearly \$20,000,000 and a yearly cash flow of more than \$4,000,000.

In 1974 Thomas Tate, a CPA, was invited to audit the books of two apartment complexes sponsored by the South Central Conference. Three years later, after much thought and planning, Thomas Tate and Rhon Reid were given the job of managing a run-down 300-unit apartment complex. A transformation was soon seen and the news media spread the news of the "miraculous transformation." In the organization, Thomas Tate, the CPA, manages the books, and Rhon Reid manages the property. Important decisions are made jointly.

Ronald is a member of the New Light church in Nashville. Elder Henry Holt is the pastor.

Reid is a native of Springfield, Massachusetts. In 1963, he came to Nashville, Tennessee, and enrolled in the licensed practical nursing course that Riverside was conducting at that time. After completing the course, he worked at Meharry Hospital.

While working at Meharry, and ever anxious to improve his talents, Rhon attended the University of Minnesota where he studied in the extracorporeal circulation program and mastered the art of operating the heart-lung machine for open heart surgery.

In 1967 he accepted an invitation to join the Veterans Hospital staff to operate their heart-lung machine for open heart surgery. There he was asked to head the operation of the Diagnostic Catharization Laboratory.

With an inner urge for business enterprise, he became a partner in and part owner of a specialized long-haul freight system which sent trucks with special freight all over the United States.

In 1977 Rhon joined Thomas Tate to create American Realty Management Associates. At that time the Tennessee Village Apartments, a 300-unit complex owned by an insurance company, was in poor repair and rent was not being properly paid. In less than 90 days the property, under the scrutiny and expertise of ARMA, was transformed into an essentially lucrative enterprise. It now has a new look and payments are received promptly.

ARMA offers comprehensive "on-site" property management and maintenance services. Their professional and support personnel are highly trained to meet the diversified requirements of their clients.



The ARMA offices are located in the heart of downtown Nashville, Tennessee.

Thomas Tate, president of ARMA, has an Adventist background but is not now a member of the Adventist church. We trust that he soon will be. Washington Butler, an Adventist politician and businessman, is also a member of the team. He served as a consultant in developing the 134-unit complex for senior citizens soon to be constructed in Clarksville, Tennessee, and sponsored by South Central Conference.

Rhon sees Christian principles as paramount in any business venture. He is married to Clara Ellison Reid and has four children.

I. J. Johnson



Arma-managed apartment complex.

# IN THE NEWS

## ALUMNI CHAPTER "END OF SUMMER FROLIC" A SUCCESS

More than 100 members and friends of the New York Chapter of the Oakwood College Alumni Association enjoyed the annual "End of Summer Frolic" at the estate of Burt and Rose Knight Coley in Mt. Vernon, New York, on Sunday, September 14.

Food, fun and games were the order of the day and in abundance. Evelyn Lowe Mitchell coordinated the affair, assisted by members of the executive committee.

This "End of Summer Frolic" proved to be one of the highlights of the social calendar for the New York Chapter.



## MISS ALMA BLACKMON RECEIVES GIFT FROM AFRICA

Elder Charles E. Bradford, vice president of the General Conference, presents a copper picture to Alma Blackmon of Oakwood College as Dr. C. B. Rock looks on. The picture was sent

by one of the leaders from Africa who attended the General Conference sessions in Dallas, Texas, and heard the music given by the Aolieans music group from the college when they brought tears to the eyes of those in attendance. The group has been invited to visit Poland in 1981.

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## WILLIAMSON-PASCHAL TESTIMONIAL LUNCHEON SCHEDULED FOR APRIL

Elder Lee A. Paschal, national president of the Oakwood College Alumni Association, and Mrs. Edna Lett Williamson, secretary of the New York and national chapters, are to be honored in a testimonial luncheon on April 5, 1981, at Chateau Pelham. Both honorees have served the local and national chapters with dedication.

The New York Chapter is soliciting the friends of Oakwood College and our honorees to help make their testimonial journal our finest yet. For "ad" contracts, contact A. S. Rashford, president, or Gwendolyn Hickson Nicolas and Erma Parchment Brooks, who are serving as journal co-chairpersons.

Sylvia Kee Alexander, chairlady, is already working fervently to make this luncheon a "super" affair.

## O. C. ALUMNI SPONSOR BABY CONTEST

Alonzo Francois DuVall Wilson III, son of Annette-Davis Wilson and Alonzo Wilson, was the winner of the 1980 U. N. C. F. Baby Contest staged by the New York Oakwood College Alumni Association. Baby Wilson was responsible for \$806 and was awarded the first prize of a \$100 U. S. Savings Bond and a beautiful trophy from his sponsor, Edna Lett Williamson.

Second prize, a \$75 U. S. Savings Bond, went to Twanda Mapp.

Third prize, a \$50 U. S. Savings Bond, was won by Lee Andrus Paschal. Other babies in the contest were Steven Anthony, Derrick Bramble and Carlos Narcisse.

Yvonne Lester Peters coordinated the fashion show staged in connection with the baby contest. The alumni association raised \$1,800 from the affair.

## EVANSTON MEMBERS VISIT NURSING HOME

A group of members from the First Church in Evanston, Illinois, have been visiting the Ridgeville Nursing Home twice a month for about a year. They sing, pray and pass out tracts to the patients who join in the singing and request prayers.

Buda Ramsey spearheaded this program and has the support of Oliver Mar-



*Alonzo Francois DuVall Wilson III, 1st place winner*



*Twanda Mapp, 2nd prize winner.*



*Lee Andrus Paschal III, 3rd place winner*

tin to direct the group. He tells the patients of the wonderful love of God. Everyone listens attentively and looks forward to these visits.

Lula Johnson  
Communication Secretary

## UNITED IN HOLY WEDLOCK

Joyce Renee Simms and Melvin Neil Hill were united in marriage at a beautiful ceremony in the Grace Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist Church in Norristown, Pennsylvania, on Sunday, August 31, 1980.

Lauris Renee Britton and Theodore Roosevelt Nicholson spoke their wedding vows on August 9 at the Newburgh Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist Church in Newburgh, New York.



## OXLEY ELECTED NEW BUSINESS MANAGER

Donald R. Oxley, a former hospital administrator from California, was elected by the board of directors of Oakwood College to serve as the school's business manager. This post was left vacant when Adell Warren retired after serving 29 years in that office.

## MEDICAL/DENTAL RECRUITMENT AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY

The medical recruitment team of the South Central Conference joined with the Southern Union team in encouraging students from Howard University and the University of Maryland to consider service to the people of the Southland when they complete their training. Dr. C. A. Dent and Elder H. F. Roll spoke to the students of opportunities to be found throughout the area.



## IN THE NEWS

Elder Earl A. Canson, director of regional affairs for the Pacific Union Conference, and Elder Edward White, director of regional affairs for the North Pacific Union Conference, brought their working staffs together for a joint workers' meeting in San Jose, California. The pastors and workers reported over 1,300 baptisms thus far this year with many others in the valley of deci-



## COMPOSER OF "CITY OF LIGHT" STILL COMPOSING MUSIC

Walter Kissack sat in a moonlit room at Oakwood College a few years ago and wrote the lyrics and the words to the song, "That City of Light." Since that day this song has circled the globe and has been sung from generation to generation. Just a few days ago, the Voice of Prophecy group made a new arrangement of the song that is soon to be published by Chapel records. Elder Kissack was the first person to be elected to an office when the regional conferences were organized. He became the director of youth activities for the Lake Region Conference. His ministry inspired many of the youth in the Adventist church around the world. After serving the church successfully for a number of years, he returned to his

sion awaiting baptism. There is a burning desire among the workers on the west coast to see the message carried to every man's door so that Jesus can soon come. These brethren are giving good leadership for the work in this area of the country. Some of those who made presentations were Dr. J. Melancom, Dr. Robert Taylor, recent appointee to the post as director of the department of religion at Pacific Union College, Elder John Collins of the Pacific Union staff and Dr. C. E. Dudley, president of the South Central Conference.



native California, where he has retired and is still composing music, serves as a real estate agent and teaches at the University of California at Berkley. We salute a man of renown.



## THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE

### NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE The official organ of the North American Regional Conferences

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