

NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL

VOICE

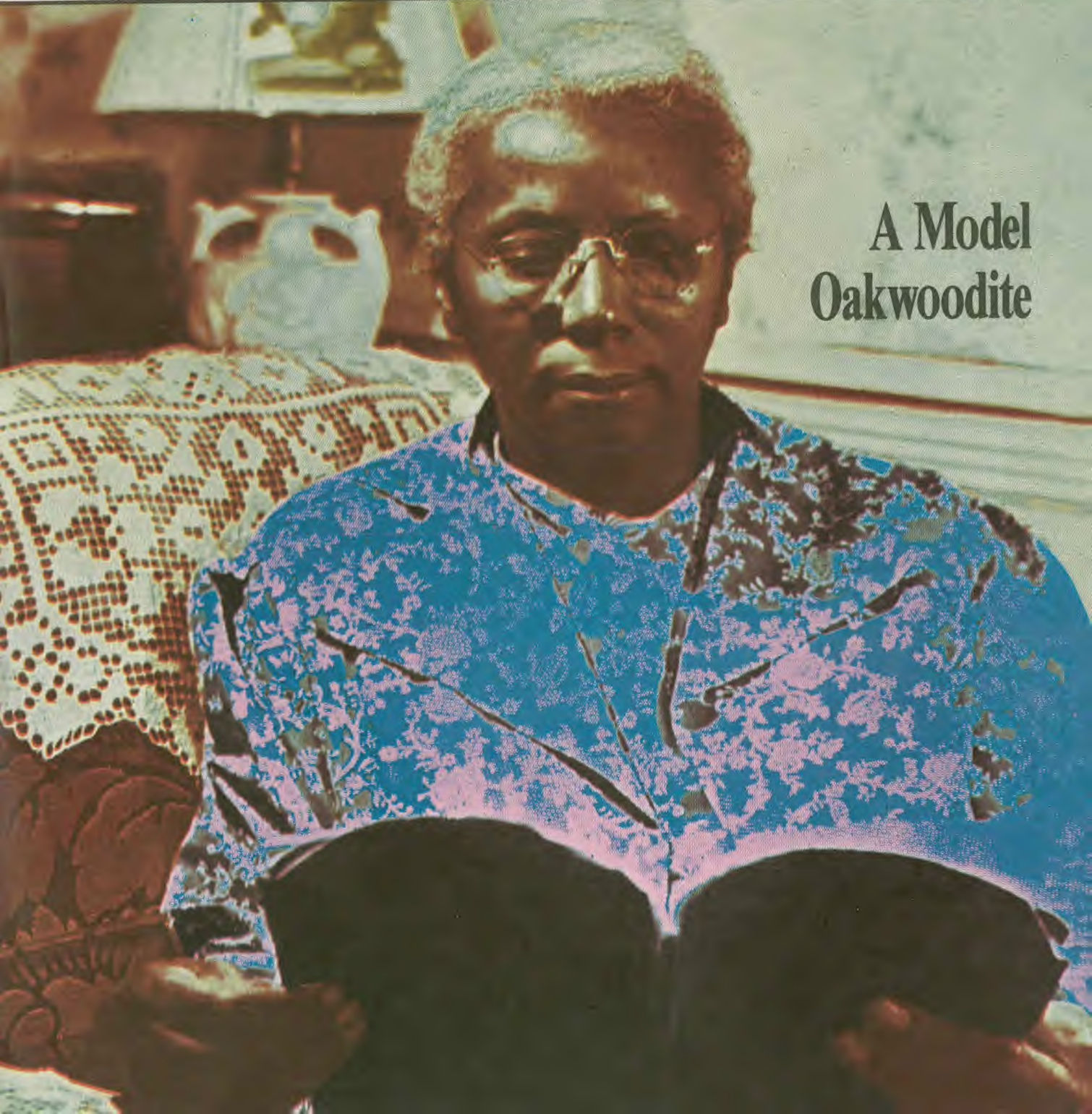


OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCES OF
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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A Model
Oakwoodite

COVER STORY



Mother Cunningham.

UNFORGETTABLE "MOTHER CUNNINGHAM"

Who is the most unforgettable character you've ever met or known? If you were to ask a previous generation of Oakwood College students and faculty members that question, the answer almost invariably would be: Mrs. Eugenia Isabella Cunningham—better known as "Mother Cunningham!"

We might search for a lifetime and never find words to adequately describe the matchless maternal love, the Christlike dignity and nobility of character of the person we knew as Mother Cunningham. Especially for the benefit of the younger generation, who did not have the privilege of knowing her as some of us did, her story should be retold often.

It was just like Mother Cunningham to have written her own obituary. In it, she tells the following story:

"In the year 1878, on January 31, I was born near Stoneville, Mississippi, which for years was held as a strategic point for holding back the levee floods that would cover miles of land with what was called 'high water'.

"My mother passed when I was five years of age, leaving me with a father, grandmother and an aunt to care for me, along with two other children.

"My father was anxious for us to have better school privileges, as well as association, so he moved us to Natchez, Mississippi. My sister and brother attended what was known as Woods Academy, while I attended public school for elementary training.

"Later, I found a job in a home caring for a well-to-do family. I traveled with them to Birmingham, Alabama, where I

embraced the Adventist faith. Being desirous of helping others, I came to Oakwood on November 12, 1912, to take a course in Bible training. Not longer after being here, I was asked to head the orphanage, and next I was called to be the matron of the Oakwood Manual Training School, as it was then known. I gladly accepted and threw my all into my work.

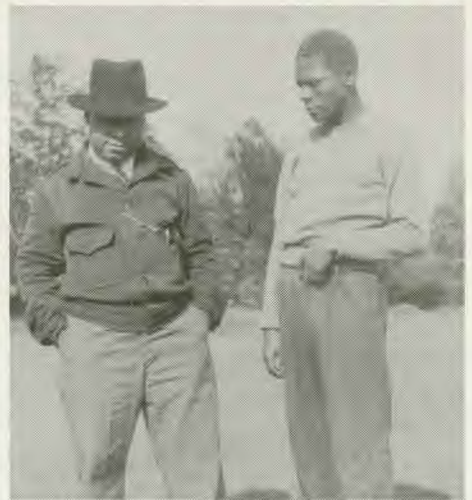
"I was married May 26, 1917, to Lewey Cunningham. On a snowy evening, January 3, 1919, our son, Charles Coleman Cunningham was born. Charles became very ill with a throat ailment. I nursed him day and night, and the school doctor treated him; but the baby's condition grew critical on his first birthday early in January. Lewey helped me nurse Charles, and he contracted the disease Charles had. Lewey Cunningham died in Butler Hall on January 26, 1920.

"My grief at that time was unassuaged, but I felt that in all good time God's plan for Charles and me would be revealed.

"After my husband passed, besides my work in the laundry, I was asked to be preceptress (dean). I did all I could to build the lives of the young people with ideals of correct manhood and womanhood. After serving in the laundry, other posts were filled in the store, dining room and post office. Several years ago I returned from active service, but I am still counseling youth who come to this campus year after year. Work here has brought joy unspeakable."

Since Sister Cunningham did not have the opportunity for great formal learning, you may wonder how she acquired such rich appreciations, wide cultural knowledge and precise speech. The answer may be found in her autobiography, **Make Bright the Memories**. She worked eleven years for a Mrs. Rosalie Quitman Duncan, a person of some wealth living in Natchez, Mississippi. Of that experience, Sister Cunningham said:

"The Duncans were people of culture and refinement. They were the stabilizing influence of my young life. I found that there were many worthwhile things in the world that I could enjoy vicariously. My life was starved for beauty, and when Mrs. Duncan traveled abroad, she would return and relate to me step by step the places she had seen and visited. She rightly believed that she could infuse into my confined life something of the cultural, and an appreciation for the beautiful. None ever enjoyed more than I her story



N. E. Ashby, (left), with student during Mother Cunninghams tenure.

of travel in the Holy Land. Through her eyes I saw the Sea of Galilee and the holy mountains."

As Mother Cunningham had been exposed to culture and refinement, she sought to impart these admirable traits to the students who came to Oakwood. Sister Cunningham did not accept silly behavior, misconduct or semi-literate speech as amusing trifles to be laughed at. She regarded such lapses as serious faults that needed to be corrected. She insisted that students should act and speak as if they are being well educated, and she would not hesitate to stop a student abruptly; then firmly, but kindly, she would show the student "a more excellent way." Many of her contemporary faculty colleagues at Oakwood—Doctors O.B. Edwards, Eva B. Dykes, Elders C.E. Mosley and C.T. Richards and others—used the same method of guidance and counseling.

A former educational supervisor, Elder L.A. Paschal, commenting about Sister Cunningham's straightforwardness, said that she was an example of a real teacher, because a good teacher is not one who tries to restrict teaching to the classroom. Teaching, whether positive or negative, is a process that goes on twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. A Greek philosopher once said, "Example is omnipotent." Sister Cunningham was not the kind of preceptress who merely told students to "do what I say." She lived what she taught, and provided the kind of role model that is sorely needed in today's schools, as well as the world at large.

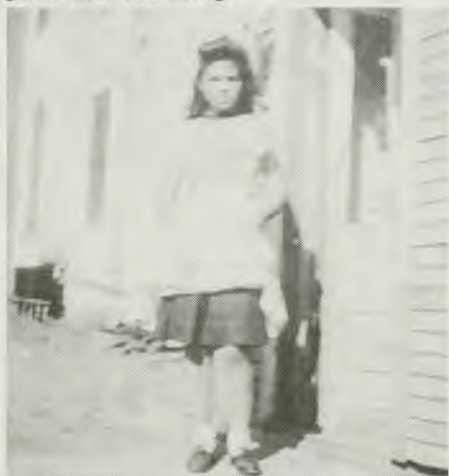
The late editor and author, Louis B. Reynolds, wrote the foreword to Mother Cunningham's autobiography, **Make**

Bright the Memories. In the foreword he had this to say:

"In every worthwhile institution there seems always to be a steadying personality, a far-seeing soul, one who has personal access to the scenes of the past, and who keeps the long-term goals of the present in up-to-date perspective. Such a figure is Mrs. Eugenia Isabella Cunningham, Oakwood's student and teacher, learner and counselor, daughter and matriarch, through forty-odd years of struggle against bitter but deeply human tendencies of resignation to things as they are . . .

"The matron at Oakwood while I (L.B. Reynolds) was a student, Mrs. Cunningham was always an exact person who felt it her mission to transfer that sensitivity to all of us who came under the spell of her discipline. This insistence that things be done well and right has held a steady rein on many of us who have pursued various careers in the world's life. Although her story is free of any attempt to glorify the role which she has played at Oakwood, it must be said that her contribution has been highly significant and far-reaching."

Because of her compassion and desire to help, Mother Cunningham often extended invitations to students to dine in her home, and many of them remembered this as a highlight of their college experience. With quietness and simplicity, she extended a helping hand to many, but never "sounded a trumpet" about all the good she was doing.



Ruth Dean Wheeler as an Oakwood student standing in front of the college store. Mother Cunningham was the store manager.

This writer recalls very vividly that he and his photographer room mate, A.R. Simons, had the high privilege of living in Old Mansion, an antebellum big house, at



Students that were in attendance at Oakwood when Mother Cunningham was a faculty member.

the time when Mother Cunningham lived there. It was a priceless experience in character training. At close-range observation, Mother Cunningham's life was just as consistently Christlike as when she appeared publicly.

The ever-widening influence of a saintly life can never be fully estimated this side of the eternal kingdom of God. When Mother Cunningham passed peacefully to her rest on Thursday, June 20, 1963, at Riverside Hospital, Elder L.B. Reynolds was called upon to give the eulogy.

Elder Reynolds made a number of memorable statements about Sister Cunningham.

"Just look and see," he said. "In many parts of the earth there are men and women—alumni of this institution (Oakwood College), some doctors, some nurses, some pastors, some teachers, some administrators, some missionaries, some editors, some literature sales people, some farmers, some housewives, some in military installations—who will say unhesitatingly that their lives have been made richer because at Oakwood they came to confide in Mother Cunningham . . .

"Born just twenty years after Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation set free the slaves, she faced a hard, interminable struggle toward the fulfillment of her dream. In a paraphrase of the words of Stephen Spender, she was born in the dark; she traveled a short while toward the light, and left the vivid air signed with her honor. . .

For Mother Cunningham, the Lord Jesus was no illustrious name buried in a book or tied in the graveclothes of a dead theology. He was for her no receding memory, but her 'refuge and strength' and always a 'very present help in trouble'.

"On this side of the grave, she was an exile, on that side she will be a citizen; on this side she was an orphan, on that side she will be a child of the Most High; on this side she was a captive, on that side she will find freedom in Christ; on this side she was disguised, unknown; on that side she will be disclosed and proclaimed as the daughter of God . . .

"We all share her assurance that no matter how long and tedious the night may seem, we shall meet again."

As the years come and go, let us resolve to keep alive the memory of Mother Cunningham, because her noble life is a deathless part of our heritage.

Compiled and submitted by James E. Dykes, freelance writer, former editor of MESSAGE MAGAZINE, former associate professor of English and communications, Oakwood College, Huntsville, AL.

REFERENCES:

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Reynolds, L.B., Foreword to *Make Bright the Memories*, Nashville, Tennessee: Southern Publishing Association, 1954, pp. 1, 2.

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; the mere mention of his name still evokes feelings of awe. This humble southern minister, born January 15, 1929, to Alberta and Martin Luther King, Sr., made the greatest contribution to the cause of human rights in the history of the nation.

Growing up in Atlanta, GA, Martin learned the meaning of prejudice at an early age, when a white playmate's parents would no longer allow them to play together. This bothered him. He couldn't understand why he was separated from his friend simply because of the color of his skin. Thus began a long and arduous search for an explanation of racial discrimination.



Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968



Always considered a mature and precocious child, Martin made friends with good books. His love of language was evidenced by his remarking once, "When I grow up, I'm gonna get me some big words."

In 1944, at the age of 15, Martin entered Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA. Upon graduation in 1948, he entered Crozer Theological Seminary, where he received a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1951. He then attended Boston University, where he pursued a doctorate in Systematic Theology.

It was here that Martin, through a mutual friend, met Coretta Scott, an attractive young woman attending the New England Conservatory of Music, preparing for a master's degree in voice.

Though uninterested in becoming a minister's wife, Martin was able to win Coretta's affections and they were married June 18, 1953.

These were happy times, Martin accepted the position as pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama. During this time he was awarded a Ph.D. from Boston University and the first of King's four children were born.

It was now 1955, the beginning of a journey that would last for over 12 years. Thrust into the nation's spotlight by the success of the Montgomery bus boycott, he would be designated the leader of the largest civil rights movement ever. During this time he would be elected president of the Southern Christian Leadership Con-

ference (SCLC), jailed over 120 times, beaten, stabbed, have his home bombed, receive the Nobel Peace Prize, become the moving force behind passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1964, be instrumental in resolving many of the Jim Crow laws existing in the south, earn the respect and admiration of Presidents and world leaders. Ultimately, he would give his life for the cause which consumed him.

Once while speaking at a rally, a white man in the audience came to the platform and assaulted Martin. Instead of retaliating, Martin explained that the purpose of the movement was to reveal persons, such as this man, to himself. It was no less than a miracle that a man could love in the midst of so much hatred.

Dr. King sought to change the thinking

of many Blacks during that period. He wanted them to realize that they should accept nothing less than equal treatment. "If we're going to make any progress," he explained, "we've got to squeeze the slave out of ourselves."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., crusader for justice, fought for the rights of humankind. He was a mighty dreamer, who believed that one day all men would be as one.

Nineteen years ago, cruel and vengeful men assassinated the man but not the dream. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., remains alive in the hearts and minds of Black Americans. He can never die.

On January 19, the United States will commemorate the birth of a man who, in the words of Victor Hugo, embodied, "an idea whose time has come." Because of this man, the nation, yea, the world will never be the same.

"Oppressed people cannot remain oppressed forever. The yearning for freedom eventually manifests itself, and that is what has happened to the American Negro. Something within has reminded him that it can be gained. Consciously or unconsciously, he has been caught up by the Zeitgeist, and with his black brothers of Africa, and his brown and yellow brothers of Asia, South America, and the Caribbean, the United States Negro is moving with a sense of great urgency toward the promised land of racial justice."

"Our capacity to deal creatively with shattered dreams is ultimately determined by our faith in God...However dismal and catastrophic may be present the circumstances, we know we are not alone."

PUBLISHER'S PAGE

"THE SIGNS CAME DOWN"

We have just finished celebrating the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The President of the United States, Ronald Reagan and the Congress made history in setting aside this day to commemorate him and especially what he stood for. In a sense, this salute to King is an acknowledgement of the Black American and his contribution to the life of the nation. The struggle has been long and hard. It is natural that the journey should climax in the coming of Martin King. No Black man in history did as much in so short a time to galvanize the nation to this new purpose. He was perfect for the part. He was a



E. E. Cleveland

minister, educator, philosopher, and family man. His oratorical talents were exceptional. King was made for these times.

Slavery in America was intended to be perpetual. But those who planned this forgot 4 things:

1. There is a God in heaven of whom it is said, "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the hands of wickedness, to undo heavy burdens and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke." (Isaiah 58:6) The Black man, without a Bible, sang, "There must be a God somewhere." He knew that with God on the throne, jubilee was just around the corner.
2. Those who would permanently enslave us forgot that all White folk do not favor slavery. The average White American has a constitution cultivated conscience. He has proclaimed that "all men are created equal." Civil rights leaders through the years have expanded the White man's definition of "men" to include Black folk. There is a conscience in White America to which we may appeal. Desmond Tu Tu of South Africa laments that in his country this is not so.
3. Those who would make slavery perpetual, forgot the Black man. You see, he is a *man* and no *man* will submit to enslavement forever. Russell Lowell said it, "When a blow is struck for freedom, there echoes across the earth's encrusted breast, a note of joy triumphant." And the slave - where'er he cowers feels his soul within him leap. "I know why a *caged bird* sings." He sings as a defense mechanism against despair. Listen to that same song from a free bird - and you will know the difference. Like all other men, the Black man wants to be free.
4. Those who hold slaves enslave

themselves. To keep a man down, you must get down there with him. The Romans conquered the Greeks militarily. The enslaved Greeks conquered the Romans culturally.

Now, Martin King's primary goal was to penetrate the American mentality with a fresh philosophy. He did it talking like Jesus and walking like Ghandi. It was a mysterious blend of rhetoric and risk. By this method he taught everybody something.

He convinced White America that the Black man was a human being. By providing a physical presence at voting booths, eating places, and in restricted housing areas, the Black man was asserting his humanity. This penetrated the White mentality, and the signs *came down*. *Secondly*, King convinced White America that the Black man was *serious*. Men and women risked their jobs and lives to march with him. Children and youth emptied schools to fill the streets and jails. *The signs came down*. *Thirdly*, King by his matchless rhetoric, convinced the nation that the Black man was legitimate. His 250 years of unrequited toil would be enough. But add to this the fact that he fought in every war, and served well at every level of national life - and the validity of his citizenship is assured. And so, the *signs came down*.

But King taught Black folk some very valuable lessons:

- 1) "Love is a moral force. Use it," he said.
- 2) "Suffering is redemptive and persuasive."
- 3) "It is our duty to disobey laws that were deliberately formed to demean and degrade."
- 4) "Fear is the greatest enemy of freedom."
- 5) "If the nation ceases to progress in civil rights, it will backslide."

The Black man learned these lessons well, and *the signs came down*.

While it is true that we have not reached "The Promised Land" of civil freedom, it is equally true that we have come *further, faster*, than any other race in history, given the odds. But we must move on. Some liberal Whites are tired of the issue, and comfortable Blacks plead for compromise. But the wise among us, Black and White will be found pressing constantly against the perimeter of human restraint, be it economic, social, or political. With hope toward God and faith in each other, "we shall overcome."

E. E. Cleveland

The Editor's Desk



Stewardship leader for the Bronx SDA church, Mrs. Margaret Brown.

STEWARDSHIP GRADUATION

Thirty-three members of the Bronx SDA Church received their diplomas October 4, 1986, after completing a stewardship course given under the direction of Ms. Margaret Brown, stewardship leader for the Bronx Church.

Assisting Ms. Brown and her staff was Ms. Hermalee McLean, whose consistent dedication was essential to the success of the course. She helped correct test papers weekly.

Ms. Brown challenged the graduates to apply what they had learned to their

Christian growth. Dr. Jennifer Huie provided a musical selection dedicated to the graduates. Mr. Clarence Tyson and Ms. McLean were given the honor of presenting the diplomas and gifts to each graduate. Pastor John F. Guy gave timely remarks.

Elder James Brown in his closing prayer commissioned the graduates to live what they had learned and in turn, share their experience with others.

Myrtle Pickett
Communications Secretary

SUNSET CALENDAR

	Feb. 27	Mar. 6	13	20
Boston, Mass.	5:31	5:40	5:48	5:56
New York City	5:42	5:51	5:59	6:07
Buffalo, N.Y.	6:01	6:10	6:19	6:27
Atlanta, Ga.	6:32	6:38	6:44	6:49
Miami, Fla.	6:21	6:25	6:29	6:32
Charlotte, N.C.	6:17	6:23	6:29	6:35
Birmingham, Ala.	5:42	5:48	5:53	5:58
Jackson, Miss.	5:57	6:02	6:07	6:12
Memphis, Tenn.	5:54	6:00	6:06	6:12
Louisville, Ky.	6:34	6:41	6:48	6:55
Detroit, Mich.	6:21	6:29	6:37	6:45
Chicago, Ill.	5:38	5:47	5:55	6:02
South Bend, Indiana	6:33	6:41	6:49	6:57
Minneapolis, Minn.	5:58	6:07	6:16	6:25
St. Louis, Mo.	5:51	5:59	6:06	6:12
Kansas City, Mo.	6:08	6:16	6:23	6:30
Denver, Co.	5:50	5:57	6:04	6:12
Little Rock, Ark.	6:03	6:09	6:15	6:20
Dallas, Texas	6:23	6:28	6:34	6:39
New Orleans, La.	5:58	6:03	6:07	6:12
Albuquerque, N.M.	6:00	6:06	6:12	6:18
Oklahoma City, Okla.	6:24	6:30	6:36	6:42

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

ALLEGHENY EAST

DRUG PREVENTION RETREAT SUCCESSFUL

Sabbath, December 13, 1986, an all day drug abuse prevention retreat took place at Takoma Academy, in Takoma Park, Maryland. The theme was *DRUG PREVENTION: A FAMILY AFFAIR*. Cosponsors of the retreat were the Allegheny East Conference Youth Department, Progressive Health Associates, Prepare Our Youth, Incorporated and Takoma Academy.

Progressive Health Associates (PHA) is a Washington, D.C. based health care consulting firm, specializing in family oriented health care services, medical communications and health promotion/disease prevention training programs.

The day began with registration followed by Sabbath School conducted by the Takoma Academy Bible Department. Dr. DeWitt Williams, Executive Director Narcotics Education, Inc., provided the sermon for the day. Families then participated in presentations and group discussions.

After lunch, Ronnie Vanderhorst of Prepare Our Youth, Inc., challenged the youth to remain drug free. Films, panel discussions featuring medical doctors from PHA, Rich Adams, editorial director of Channel 9 TV, and a drugmobile were the highlights of the afternoon.

The vesper thought was given by Dr. James Hammond, Chairman of the Social Science Department of Columbia Union College.

Every attendee agreed that the day was a blessing and that most such church-based efforts should be planned. Special thanks go to Dr. Karl Hammonds, President of PHA and the Metropolitan Washington Area Pathfinders clubs under the leadership of Charles Cason for spearheading this retreat and being of support for the day.

Elder D.L. Davis
Director of Youth Ministries

"A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work—Review and Herald, March 22, 1887."



From left to right: Mrs. Elynda Bedney, administrative secretary; Mr. Efrain Murillo, assistant treasurer; Mr. Kevin Mosby, treasurer; Mr. Samuel Darby, II, assistant headmaster; Mr. Bennie Mann, treasurer of Allegheny East Conference; Elder Conrad L. Gill, headmaster; Mr. Alvin Singleton, major contributor.

PINE FORGE ACQUIRES MOTOR COACH

After more than a decade of choir trips on yellow school buses and rented coaches, Pine Forge Academy has its own motor coach. The vehicle is a 49 passenger fully reconditioned MCI which was maintained by Kleins, a local bus company.

The acquisition of such a vehicle was seen as basic for safely transporting the Pine Forge Academy choir as it meets singing engagements across the country.

Many of the students and community have commented favorably on the appearance of the bus which is painted in green and white. On the front is the Pine Forge Falcon and covering the back window is the school's logo. Underneath the name of the school which is painted in bold green script on each side is the message "Where Excellence is no Accident".

Elder Gill, the headmaster, especially likes what is painted in black beneath the rear window. It is #1. "This is the first," he says. "There are more to come."

PINE FORGE ACADEMY GOES ON THE AIR

As a practical extension of the Journalism/Speech course taught at Pine Forge Academy, the students have begun actual production of a radio broadcast. The program is titled "FRIENDS" and is broadcast each Sunday at 2:15 p.m. on 1370 AM WPAZ. Broadcast begins Sunday, January 5, 1987.

The purpose of the broadcast is: 1) Evangelism, 2) Image building for Pine Forge Academy, and 3) Practical broadcast experience for the students. The students are responsible for developing and producing the programs. Many of them are based on the Cornerstone Sabbath School lessons. The first program is entitled *Mass Makeover* and deals with accepting yourself. Future programs will highlight student musical talent and feature interviews with community and denominational leaders.

Samuel Darby is the instructor. Conrad Gill, School Headmaster, sees this as just one of the many experiences to which Pine Forge Academy students should be exposed.

DRAMATIC PRETENDERS STRIKE AGAIN

Sabbath December 13, saw the West Philadelphia Church invaded by five homeless people who, seeking refuge from the cold, huddled together by the platform. There they found respite and some warmth. While warming their bones and arranging their belongings, they were visited by a few "Christians" who displayed their holiday generosity toward them by making token offers of assistance or showing genuine giving-hearted concern.

Members of Daniel's Band, one of the church Sabbath school classes, demonstrated how the heart can express its feelings toward the less fortunate. The contents were evident when one woman offered a pittance as she tripped-on to another store. Others gave just to be giving. The truly caring passersby were different; they wanted to share the love of God as well as meet a few obvious needs. What have you done for others this holiday season?

Mark Frog Harris
Communications Secretary

CENTRAL STATES

PALACE OF PEACE YEAR END NEWS WRAP UP

On December 6, the Palace of Peace SDA Church, Denver, CO, was treated to a musical concert. Byron Rowe performed several selections, as did The Sisters, consisting of Carletta and Michelle Bolden, Luvenia Richardson, and Karen Smith. The newly formed Youth choir and Ms. Campbell also appeared on the concert.



The newly formed Palace of Peace Youth Choir.

Palace of Peace Church presented its annual portrayal of Christ's birth, on December 20th, under the direction of Ms. Howard. Two churches in our district, Palace of Peace and Claremont in Pueblo, CO, were introduced to their new pastor, Rueben Roundtree and his wife Shirley, by Central States Executive Secretary, Elder E.F. Carter. A fellowship dinner was served after the worship services.

Shortly before, the churches bid farewell to their former pastor and his wife, Rodney and Linda Draggon, with a beautiful farewell social.



Elder E. F. Carter, foreground, introducing Pastor and Mrs. Rueben Roundtree.



Primary and Kindergarten classes perform for thirteenth Sabbath program.



Ms. Johnson recites adult memory verses for the thirteenth Sabbath program.

On Thirteenth Sabbath, the Primary, Kindergarten, and Adult classes performed for Sabbath School. Ms. Johnson represented the Adult Sabbath School Division and recited the memory verses for the past quarter.

With the new year arriving, the Palace of Peace Church presented their New Year program at sunset. There was special music, a testimony perior and a season of prayer.

Roy Morgan
Communications Secretary



Church Ministries Director, Dr. Nathaniel Miller, at the Philadelphia church in Des Moines, Iowa.

NEW CHURCH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR VISITS PHILADELPHIA CHURCH

On Sabbath, December 13, 1986, Elder Nathaniel Miller, new Church Ministries Director for the Central States Conference, delivered a dynamic message to the congregation of the Philadelphia SDA Church, Des Moines, Iowa. His sermon was entitled, "Loveth Thou Me More Than These". It challenged the members to put God first in their lives as they face this new year. This sermon admonishes the audience to adopt the Church Ministries 1987 theme, "Towards Harvest 90 With A Made Up Mind".

Sharon Tate
Communications Secretary

KALEIDOSCOPE OF ACTIVITIES AT PARK AVE. CHURCH

Dorcas leaders Minnie Simmons, and Elder and Mrs. Ernest White, of the Park Avenue SDA Church in St. Louis, MO, modeled their new Dorcas uniforms for the congregation on Dorcas Day. The church was filled to capacity with members, visitors, and friends, who came to hear the speaker, Minister Bryant Taylor, deliver a timely sermon entitled, "A Life of Service". This young aspiring minister, an Oakwood College graduate, captured the congregation's attention as he unfolded from the Bible, the Christian's role in God's service.

Edna Bosman, Personal Ministry Leader, coordinated a delightful program on Personal Ministries Day. Extra chairs were needed to accommodate the overflow of people present. The St. Louis Junior Academy choir were guests and favored the congregation with several selections, as well as the Junior Academy boys' group. An appeal was made for testimonies, and members and guests stood proudly to witness of God's blessings.

Communion and Officers' Installation were performed as 1987 church officers marched in holding lighted candles and singing, "This Little Light of Mine". After the communion service, Pastor E. Pembleton presented trophies to elected church officers for past and present years of service. A token of appreciation donated by the Park Avenue Church family was presented to the pastor by hospitality leader Clydia Johnson.

C. Daniels Johnson
Communications Secretary

LAKE REGION

The Trailblazers, a Pathfinders Club at the Shiloh Church in Chicago, closed out 1986 with a special Pathfinders' Day. This day, which was held in December, gave the pathfinders and their sponsors an opportunity to share with the Shiloh members and guests many of the activities that are a part of their weekly activities.

The Pathfinder Club was in charge of the divine worship service, Adventist Youth Service and also the evening's activities which were conducted in the Parish Hall located next to the Shiloh Church.

Please share with the Shiloh Trailblazers the story of their special day in this picture story.



Special music was performed on the violin by Todd Matthews, a member of the Pathfinder Club.



Guest speaker for the divine worship service during the Pathfinder Day was Anthony Lewis, pastor of the Conant Gardens church in Detroit.



Geraldine Lucas, a pathfinder club sponsor, holds a Bible as she tells a story during the childrens' chapel.



What would a pathfinder club be without the usual inspection. Here the Trailblazers are no exception.



Receiving the incentive award for Message Magazine subscriptions is Dr. C. D. Joseph, President of Lake Region Conference and Elder J. David Parker, Personal Ministries Director for the Conference. Presenting the award for the 2nd highest percentage gain are Elders Baker and Robinson of the Message staff.



Lake Region Conference was honored at the Evangelistic Council at Oakwood College for achieving the 2nd highest percentage gain in the nation for Message Magazine subscriptions during 1986. Pictured receiving some of the awards are Elder R. C. Brown, Conference Secretary and J. David Parker, Personal Ministries Director. Also, shown from left to right is Elder D. Baker, Editor of Message and Elder Sandy Robinson, Marketing Director for Message.

NORTHEASTERN

BABY OF-THE-YEAR CONTEST A \$5,000.00 SUCCESS!!!

The New York City A. Samuel Rashford Chapter of the Oakwood College Alumni Association staged another successful Baby-of-the-Year Contest, Nov. 1, 1986 at the Northeastern Conference Office Building. Proceeds in excess of \$5,000.00 were raised for the 1987 United Negro College Fund Drive and local scholarships.

Babies, parents, and sponsors in the contest included:

First place: Baby Samantha Bagby; Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Bagby; Sponsors, Mrs. Jeanette Lewis and Mrs. Lillian Bolden.

Second place: Baby Drew Alexander; Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Alexander; Sponsor, Ms. Ida Alexander.

Third Place: Baby Kristina Crutch; Mother, Mrs. Cynthia Nunez Crutch; Sponsor, Mrs. Edna Lett Williamson.

Fourth place: Chaely Bovell; Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edson Bovell; Sponsor, Mrs. Edna Lett Williamson.

Fifth place: Baby Kasheen Williams; Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Racquin Williams; Sponsor, Attorney Eardekk Rashford.

Ida Alexander is the chapter's United Negro College Fund Dean and coordinated the Baby-of-the-Year Contest. Annually the A. Samuel Rashford Chapter contributes more than \$3,000.00 to the local UNCF campaign.

Edna Lett Williamson
President, A. S. Rashford Chapter
Oakwood College Alumni Ass'n.



Mother Angie Alexander and Baby Drew.



Mother Cynthia Crutch and Baby Kristina.



Janetta Bagby and Baby Samantha.



Mother Verne Covell and Baby Chaely.

STEWARDSHIP REVIVAL HELD AT EAST NY CHURCH

A five-day Stewardship Revival was held at the East New York SDA Church, Brooklyn, NY, from October 11-18, 1986. The church has a tremendous opportunity to be shown just how meaningful stewardship is to the Christian.

Pastor Hector Mouzon, Stewardship Director for Northeastern Conference,



Elder Hector Mouzon addresses the East NY congregation during Stewardship Revival.

outlined a plan of Systematic Benevolence, which consisted of an orderly, regular returning of tithe and offering to God. He explained it as a plan conceived and devised by God, and that by obeying His plan for the Christian, not only would an increase of faith be noted, but the heart channel would be open to Divine influence.

A faithful group of members exhibited a thirst for knowledge and attended the meetings each night. They had an opportunity to listen, ask questions, or discuss points in need of clarification. As a result of the revival, many signed covenants pledging a more sacrificial type of stewardship.

At the conclusion of the revival, Elder Mouson joined East New York members in an early Sunday morning breakfast. Members testified to God's glory.

Mitzie Reid
Communications Secretary

FLATBUSH CHURCH CELEBRATES ITS 14TH ANNIVERSARY

The Flatbush Church, Brooklyn, New York, held its 14th anniversary, December 12-14, 1986. The theme, "We've come this far by faith", was most appropriate when one examines the way God led in the establishing of the Flatbush Church.

The Church was the dream of one woman, Mrs. Beluah Patterson-Hawes, who had the vision to dream and the mind to build. Mrs. Hawes, a nurse by profession and endowed with missionary zeal, decided to work as an LE on a part-time basis. One day, while canvassing in her neighborhood, Shirley Haywood, a 9 year old girl, approached Mrs. Hawes and asked her to take her to summer school.

After thinking about Shirley's request, Mrs. Hawes decided to conduct a story hour every Sunday. The first story hour was held on July 27, 1969, with 7 children in attendance. Mrs. Hawes, along with her daughter, Julia Ann Williams, and Gladys



Pastor and Mrs. Robert Lister and family.

church building fund in anticipation of the Church owning its own property. In 1975, the property of the Avon Nursing Home was placed for sale. The property was purchased by the Church and it was decided that it was more feasible for a school than a church. As a result of that decision, the Flatbush School was organized. Today, it is a viable school with 250 students in attendance.

After 6 years of service, Elder Arthur was called to service another church and Pastor John F. Guy became the new minister. It was during Elder Guy's pastorate that a permanent place of worship was established. According to the church treasury records of April, 1979, the building fund had only \$18,000. Under the accelerated fund raising program administered by Pastor Guy, 3 years later the building fund balance was \$220,945. Pastor Guy was so determined to move into a permanent quarters, that he singlehandedly acted, with God alone giving him approval.

Like Gideon's army with a membership of 300, the people marched forward, God renewed their faith. A permanent church home was purchased and on July 31, 1982, a grand opening celebration was held.

In February, 1983, Pastor Guy passed the torch of leadership to Pastor Roy Hoyte. With his rich pastoral and administrative background, there came a unique organizational pattern which helped to make the church effective in spite of the short tenure of his pastorate.

In January, 1984, Pastor Hope Ashmeade was appointed the pastor. He began renovating the church. He began a fund to renovate the Hook and Hasting Pipe Organ, one of the rare organs remaining in the nation.

Pastor Robert Lister, the present minister, began his work in January, 1986. He has worked hard to build on the foundation laid by his predecessors. He has carried forth a progressive evangelistic and physical plant program. Last year, the organ was restored and dedicated during the anniversary celebration. Elder Lister is directing the renovation and refurbishing of the church to make it more conducive to SDA worship and liturgy. Today, the membership stands at nearly 500. A testimony to what one person can do if he totally surrenders his plan to God.

Luscombe Haywood, Carmen Phillips,
and Joyce Blackman,
Church Historians

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS RAISE FUNDS FOR ADOPTED CHILDREN

The students and teachers of the R.T. Hudson Elementary School, Bronx, New York, raised \$600.00 in December '86 to continue their support of two Indian chil-



Biji Yohannon (top) and Manju Victoria, Indian children adopted by the students of R. T. Huson Elementary School, in Bronx, N. Y.

dren adopted through the Quiet Hour radio broadcast three years ago.

The "adoptive parents" provide \$300.00 annually to cover the cost of a Christian education, food, and clothing, for an eleven year old boy, Biju Yohannon, and an eight year old girl, Manju Victoria.

Instead of exchanging Christmas gifts among themselves, students and teachers once again chose to donate this money in order to raise the necessary funds. During

Williams conducted the first story hours. As time went by, attendance increased and Mrs. Hawes felt impressed to hold meetings on Sabbaths rather than Sundays, knowing full well that the attendance could decrease. But, trusting God for a miracle, the change was effected.

So it was, after approximately 5 sessions, that the Sunday story hour was converted to Sabbath worship. Several of the members of the Bethel SDA Church, Brooklyn, NY, where Mrs. Hawes held membership, joined her in the endeavor.

The number attending the Sabbath meetings continued to increase, creating a need for larger accommodations. As providence would have it, an apartment in a building owned by Mrs. Hawes became vacant about that time, and there they met to worship.

The company continued to grow. The story hour was resumed on Sunday with 25 children in attendance. On January 30, 1971, a commercial building was obtained for worship, and the following month, with an average weekly attendance of 70, the group was formally organized as a mission. Pastor William Jones of the Bethel Church, and his associate, Pastor James Lamar were assigned to lead the mission.

Flatbush Mission Becomes A Church

In the fall of 1972, Flatbush Mission was formally organized into the Flatbush Church. The following year, Pastor Lionel Arthur became the minister. Pastor Arthur proved to be gifted in finance, church and school administration. He organized a

a special chapel program, given by Miss Erma Lofton and her fourth graders, the students marched quietly to the stage and placed colorfully wrapped gifts on the Christmas tree. This was truly an impressive sight!

It is hoped that the spirit of unselfishness demonstrated on December 18 will continue throughout the coming year.



Pastor Ralph Williams (left) prepares to baptize Mr. Brenton Steford (center); Elder R. Valeris assists.



Theresa Gill and student prepare to launch their boats.



Mrs. Gwendolyn Foster, health director for Message Magazine, addressing the Visitors Day congregation of the Bronx church.

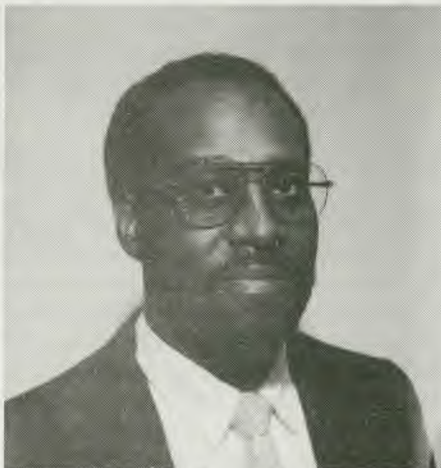
EVANGELISM '86 IN EAST NEW YORK

The East New York Church conducted an 'Old Fashioned Holy Ghost Revival' in Brooklyn, New York this summer from July 13th to August 30th, 1986. The site chosen for the crusade was a corner well-known for its scenery of drug abusers, prostitution, and alcoholism. The Holy Spirit directed the works of Evangelist Ralph L. Williams and a supportive staff consisting of: Elder O. Robinson, Oakwood College ministerial student; Michael Coleman; and church members, in an effort to convey a message of love of God.

Each night the sound of the theme song, "Lift Up Your Head, Redemption Draweth Nigh", could be heard within a quarter mile radius of the tent. As people passed, many requested prayer, counseling, financial help, and words of hope. Bible worker Linda Bell, of Bermuda, also labored daily to help win souls to Christ.

East New York SDA Church was blessed with 29 new converts as a result of the effort.

Mitzie Reid
Communications Secretary



Pastor Charles Creech, author of the "Model Boat Honor".

"TALL SHIPS" SAIL AT VICTORY LAKE

On the 4th of July, 1986, the tall ships sailed around the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. On the same day at Victory Lake Campground's swimming pool, a number of youth and adults gathered to sail their "tall ships", during camp-meeting.

The proud "skippers" were students of the model boat building class taught by Elder Charles E. Creech, the author of the Pathfinders honor on model boats. Twelve of the fifteen "skippers" completed the course and are eligible to receive the honor. Of the 12 graduates, 2 were girls and 2 were adults; Mrs. Theresa Gill and Mrs. Udell Darville.

The model boat honor is earned by completing 2 boats and passing a simple written test. The cost for both boats is under \$15.00. Pastor Creech has been working with the honor since 1972. After conducting feasibility studies in Washington, D.C. and Huntsville, Alabama, the General Conference accepted the requirements in 1977. The honor is now included in the 1980 edition of the A.Y. Honors Handbook, available at the Adventist Book Centers.

Elder Creech has stated a willingness to answer any questions one might have about model boats, how to train leaders and counselors, and the model boat honor. For a revised and updated edition of the model boat honor, address all correspondence to:

Pastor Charles E. Creech
Model Boats Honor
Northeastern Conference Youth Dept.
115-50 Merrick Blvd.
St. Albans, NY 11434

COMMUNITY GUEST DAY AT BRONX CHURCH

October 18, 1986, over fifty visitors celebrated the Sabbath along with the Bronx SDA Church, Bronx, New York, during their annual Community Guest Day Program.

The day's theme was "Health", and Mrs. Gwendolyn Foster, Health Director for Message Magazine and the Director of the Pine Forge Academy Choir, was the guest speaker.

Mrs. Foster directed the attention of the visitors to the fact that healthful living is a God-given responsibility, and it is up to all of us to keep our bodies healthy.

The services were greatly enhanced by the presence of the Pine Forge Academy Choir, who sang lustily to the glory of God. It was wonderful to have visitors experience the joy of seeing young people praising God in song instead of in the world giving honor to Satan.

After an enjoyable lunch, the visitors were invited to an afternoon program featuring our guest speaker. During this program, Mrs. Foster further elaborated on the use of water, sunshine, and fresh air as an important part of healthful living.

At the end of the day, members and visitors alike pledged their commitment to living a more healthful life by incorporating the instructions received.

Myrtle Pickett
Communications Secretary

SOUTH CENTRAL



Danielle Mounter.

TWELVE YEAR OLD ORGANIZES AND DIRECTS CHILDREN CHOR

One day before her 12th birthday, November 8, 1986, Danielle Mounter organized the children's choir at the Maranatha SDA Church, Montgomery, AL. Under direction, the choir made their debut performance on November 29, 1986.

The choir consists of 16 children between 5 & 13 years of age. They have developed a repertoire of 8 songs, their accompaniment is supplied by pre-recorded sound tracks.

Danielle is the daughter of the church's pastor, M.A. 'Bob' Mounter and his wife, Carolyn Lawrence-Mounter, a gifted soloist. Danielle has sung for her father's evangelistic crusades and her talents have been utilized during campmeeting, officers', and workers' meetings.

NEW HEIGHTS SDA CHURCH SOFTBALL TEAM WINS CHAMPIONSHIP

The men and women's division of the New Heights Federation won the softball championship for 1986. The most outstanding players for the year were: Elaine Allen, Alexis Young, Joyce Clay, Ernest Green, and Jackie Sorrell.

Congratulations are due to both fine coaches: Elders N.C. Smith and Eddie Hardin.



New Heights SDA Softball Team, '86 South Mississippi Federation Champs.



The Longview Heights SDA Sanctuary choir, Memphis, TN.



The Longview Heights SDA Children's choir, Memphis, TN.

CHURCH CHOIRS WIN CONTESTS AND SING PROLOGUE TO BROADWAY MUSICAL

On November 22, 1986, approximately 1000 people were in attendance at a Memphis, TN area choir contest. The

Longview Heights sanctuary and children choirs were among the 7 adult and 3 children choirs that participated and included "Now is the time" by Claude Jones, and "Trust the Lord" by Gayle Jones Murphy. During the sanctuary choir's rendition of "Trust the Lord", featuring Judy

Coleman Farmer as soloist, the audience gave them a standing ovation. The master of ceremonies said he hadn't seen anything like it before.

The sanctuary choir was awarded first place accompanied by a huge trophy and \$1,500. The children's choir received third place in their division—a trophy and \$100. Those in attendance have been inquiring about the Longview Church, which is always a positive plus.

The sanctuary was also accorded the honor to sing the prologue for the Broadway musical, "Mama I Want to Sing". The touring musical appeared in Memphis, November 25-30.

"The Lord has appointed the youth to be His helping hand.— Testimonies, vol. 7, p. 64."

MAGAZINE STREET CHURCH PARTICIPATES IN CONSUMER EXPO

The Adventist message was shared on a national level at the forty-ninth annual Minority Consumer Expo held October 17-19, 1986, at the Commonwealth Convention, Louisville, KY.

Through the effort of Mrs. Mary Minor Rowan, Public Relation Director for the Magazine Street Church, Louisville, KY. and staff members: Ms. Karen DeSha, Ms. Crista Lenston, Mrs. Lawana Leavell, Ms. Evadne Murphy, Ms. Rhonda Branch, Mr. Harold Henry, and the creative aptness of artist, Mrs. Walker Gee. Thousands of non-Adventists received invaluable information on health reform, adventist doctrine and education.

A tastefully decorated booth with a banner—"Your Friends, the Seventh-day Adventist", quickly drew the attention of many passersby. An Apple IIe computer was accessible to evaluate each person's current health lifestyle and give advice on how to change poor nutritional habits so that years could be added to their life expectancy. A color television with a video cassette recorded displayed sermonettes as well as highlights of musical selections given by the Magazine Street's young adult choir. In addition to this, food samples donated by Worthington Foods of Ohio were positively received by individuals who previously had never tasted non-meat products.

This was the fourth year that the Church has participated.

Mary Minor Rowan
Communications Secretary



The Masters' Club, (left to right)—Seated: M. Mullins, M. L. Patton, B. Howard-Vanlier, A. Bond, M. J. Hatfield, M. Haynes; Standing: Gwyn Brown, D. Grant, D. Wilson, F. Acklin, D. Readus, M. Ray, J. Barbee, J. Brown, H. Robinson, J. Harris, N. Marrison, H. Thomas.



Mrs. Gwyn Brown samples one of the dishes she prepared.



Pastor and Mrs. Russell Seay, Jr. enjoy the fellowship with members.

THE MASTER WORKERS CELEBRATE 54TH YEAR

The Master Workers' Club, the oldest service organization in the history of the Hillcrest SDA Church, Nashville, TN, hosted a gala affair during the month of December, 1986, in the auxiliary room of the church.

The Master Workers' Club was organized in 1932 under the leadership of Mrs. Eliza Beaden who now resides in a nursing home. Mrs. Beaden seeing the needs of the church felt that young ladies could do special things for the church.

Mrs. Beaden discussed the ideal with another member, Mrs. Sallie Wilson, and



Mrs. Lolita Cannon from Houston, TX, chats with her cousin Joyce Houser

they in turn decided to call a group of ladies together. The first gathering was held during the spring of that same year at the home of Mrs. O. Barnes. At that meeting, the club was given its name and a theme song, "Life Time is a Working Time". A secretary-treasurer was chosen and a chaplain was selected to serve. After the organization was fully developed, a motto was established, "We work to serve", and the aim, "To do all we can for the master".

Mrs. Marion Patton, one of the charter members of the Master Workers', is still active and has served as president of the club for several years. They have had 12 presidents during the club's 54 year history.

Even though the club was originally organized with the ladies of the church in mind, the club has two male members: Elder F.N. Crowe, treasurer of South Central, and James Brown, Sr., whose wife, the late Mary Brown, was an active member.

Because of the multiplicity of things that needed to be done in and around the church, the members, along with the ladies of the church, have raised thousands of dollars and have made major repairs on such items as; heating and air system, roofing, purchased furniture for the pastor's study, carpet for the church, church hymnals, a large church sign which is visible from one of the main highways in the city of Nashville, contributed numerous food baskets, provided financial assistance for Christian education, and many, many other projects.

Each year, the Master Workers' sponsor at least two projects. One project being a Women's Day Program. These programs have proven to be one of the most successful ventures that have ever been undertaken. Not only have substantial amounts of money been raised, but souls have been won to Christ.

This year the 23 member Master Workers' Club is under the capable leadership of Mrs. Barbara Howard-Vanlier. Barbara, through her love and dedication for people and especially the elderly, has established a care home in the country.

Delores Grant
Correspondent

1986 IN RETROSPECT

How rapidly the years seem, to come and go and 1986 was no exception. We are one year nearer to the "coming of the

Lord"! It won't be long! However we must never forget that as long as we are still on planet earth, we must continue to work to tell the message of God's saving love to all of mankind. And He ever leads every step of the way! In retrospect let us consider His leading during the year 1986.

The First Afro-American Music Congress under the direction of the minister of music for the conference, Elder Shelton Kilby, brought together people from every part of this division to study and to praise the Lord for their heritage and keepings. Music in the Black community has been the glue that has kept this people pressing on the upward way. From slavery to today's freedom we could not have made it.

There have been many types of music that have contributed to the endurance of the North American Black—Spirituals, gospel, hymns, Opera, blues, work songs, rock—All have played a part in the lives of Afro-Americans. The three-day congress was held in Nashville, Tennessee.

Pan-African Youth Congress that was held in Nairobi, Kenya was another first in many ways. Two divisions of the Seventh-day Adventist Denomination, East African and Indian Ocean Divisions under the leaderships of Presidents Heye and Norty along with the youth leaders of their divisions brought their youth from all across Africa to witness to the goodness of God and to challenge them to dedicate the days of their Youth to the service of God. Among those who came from other parts of the world field were more than 100 persons from the Regional Conferences in North America. These groups were led by the Youth Leaders, J. W. McCoy, Danny Davis, Treber Baker, D. Mendenhall along with their presidents, D. E. Dudley, and R. B. Hairston.

While in Africa the members from North America were again able to visit with Dr. and Mrs. C. A. Dent, Elder R. P. Stafford, Elder and Mrs. Ted Cantrell, all of whom are serving in Nairobi as missionaries from the division.

1986 Was a Year of Progress—During the year, the South Central Conference passed the 18,000 mark in memberships and the State of Kentucky had 1,000 members living in that state for the first time since the work began. The number of congregations reached the 126th group and Five New Congregations came into being.

1986 WAS A HOME COMING CELEBRATION FOR THE SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE—We celebrated our fortieth campmeeting during the year. A goodly number of the original "trailblazers"

joined with the meetings to tell the story of God's leadings. Among those in attendance were H. R. Murphy and his wife (the first president), W. W. Fordham and his wife (the second president), Mrs. F. L. Bland (wife of F. L. Bland, deceased, the third president), P. C. Winley, the first Book and Bible House manager, M. G. Cato, the second publishing director, E. F. Carter and E. T. Mimms, the first interns to be hired, R. C. Brown and C. E. Dudley, the third years interns to be hired and D. B. Reid, the last original member of the first executive committee besides H. R. Murphy.

	1946	1986
Membership	2,000	18,000
Congregations	39	126
Tith Income	150,000	4,300,000
Workers-Ministers	19	65
Church Schools	20	13

We thank the Lord for His leadings in the work through the years in this field.

Deaths—Our hearts were saddened with the passing of a number of our "saints" during the year. Among these who were taken from us were, Dr. Eva B. Dykes, one of the humblest but dynamic educators that the church has ever produced, Elder and Mrs. Vongoethe Lindsay, who served as the first secretary-treasurer for the conference in 1945, Pastor and Mrs. Ronald Berry, seminarians who had been assigned to the pastorate of the Columbus-Amory-West Point, Mississippi district—killed in an accident while returning to the school.

New Congregations—Five new congregations were organized during the year: Kingsport, Tennessee, the eastern most city in the conference had a new group of 31 members to begin a new congregation there this summer. Elder Shelton, Kilby, the minister of music for the conference was urged by brother and Mrs. J. L. Gudger of Greenville, Tennessee to come to that area and help establish the new congregation by conducting a tent meeting. This was done and the new group was born. This is a group that shows how the Lord would have His people to work together harmoniously in this multi-racial society.

Hurtsboro, Alabama had its beginning when Sister Sarah Smith accepted the truth after listening to George Vanderman in an "It is Written" crusade. When she returned to her hometown of Hurtsboro, she witnessed for the Lord and others became interested in the Seventh-day Adventist teachings of the Word of God. Pastor M. R. Mounter of Montgomery, Alabama conducted a tent meeting in the

city of 700 population during the summer and today over 60 members reside in the city of Hurtsboro. The mayor of the city was baptised during the meetings.

Athens, Alabama, a city to the West of Huntsville was entered with the "Message" in 1947 when ministerial students, L. E. Daniels, B. C. Cayton, R. C. Brown, H. L. Jones and C. E. Dudley, were sent by their ministerial instructor, C. E. Moseley on an evangelistic crusade to open new territories for the church. The meetings were successful for several persons were added to the faith, but no buildings were secured and the members were left unshepherded, thus scattered to many cities across the nation. E. C. Ward, the pastor of the Oakwood College church began a project of "Outreach Evangelism" about two or three years ago and re-entered Athens with another group of laymen and students—the work was revived. In November a new congregation was organized with over 46 members. Lorenzo Shepherd is the pastor.

Scottsboro and Stevenson, Alabama also became areas where E. C. Ward projected his "outreach" ministries from the College Church. Students and laymen were sent northward from the Huntsville area to preach the gospel. The people gladly accepted the teachings and on Sabbath, December 13, 1986 two new congregations were organized by C. E. Dudley, the president and F. S. Hill, the district pastor in these locations. These groups became the 125th and 126th congregations of the conference.

Joiner Joins the Union Staff—At the constituency meeting of the Southern Union Conference that was held in Knoxville, Tennessee during the month of March, 1986, M. E. Joiner of the South Central Conference was invited to serve as an associate director of the Church Ministries Department. The offices in which he served at the local level were filled by H. L. Cleveland and Shelton Kilby. Cleveland presently serves as the director for the Ministerial, Personal Ministries, Inner Cities, and Community Services Departments. Shelton Kilby serves as the director for the Music Ministries, Sabbath School and Communications Departments.

Minister of Other Faiths—Approximately sixty ministers of other faiths have accepted the message and joined the church in the South Central Conference. While visiting the annual workers meeting last January, Pastor Marcus Taylor, the pastor for two congregations with the United Methodist Church was led by the Lord to become a member of the Seventh-

day Adventist denomination. After his baptism into the faith by Xavier Butler, of the Riverside Chapel in Nashville, Pastor Taylor enrolled in the School of Adventist Ministries at Oakwood College in Huntsville and will return to serve at a post to be assigned with the South Central Conference. God's truth is marching onward.

Church Officers Meetings Held—Three inspiring Church Officers' meetings were held during the month of December at Meridan, Mississippi, Huntsville, Alabama and Louisville, Kentucky. These meetings were well attended by those officers who will be serving during the year 1987. The purpose of the meetings is to give instruction to the new officers who have been elected and to share with them the plans and objectives of the conference for the coming year.

One of the goals that was set for the year 1987 was to light every dark county within the territory, they have a baptismal service in every church every month during the year, to challenge every member to ask the Lord for one soul to his/her credit during the year, to reclaim as many former members as we possibly can and to read the Bible through and become rooted and established in the teachings and beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

South Central's Special Project for Oakwood—During the year of 1986, the South Central Conference members donated over fifteen thousand dollars to help refurbish some of the rooms in the Edwards Hall dormitory at Oakwood College. Money is still being received for this project. The purpose is to help make the college a place where loveliness keeps

house. The president, officers and members of the conference all share this burden.

OC GRADUATE SPONSORS SHOPPING SPREE

Lots of people have dreamed about a day in which they'd find themselves wisking through the aisles of their favorite supermarket filling their carts to overflowing with everything they need and want. Then, in this most wonderful of dreams, they have seen themselves making their way with bulging carts to the check-out counter where they see a fairy-godmother whose hands are loaded with case, and as the smiling clerk rings the total, the fairy-godmother pays the price—whatever it is. As the delirious shoppers prepare to leave the store another cheerful clerk steps forward to present them with a free fruit basket to make this unreal dream complete.

For ten families in Huntsville, Alabama, this impossible dream became a startling reality on December 22, 1986 at high noon. As television cameras rolled and lights glared, these fortunate people, surrounded by reporters, slowly and happily, but somewhat embarrassed by the sudden attention, made their choices of food and necessities that would make for a more Merry Christmas than they would have had otherwise.

It all began as the dream of a real life Godmother, Mrs. Alta Holder, a graduate of Oakwood College, Bible worker, business woman, host of a local radio program called "The Miracle Corner". Mrs. Holder states that she had received



Mrs. Alta Holder, Sponsor of the "Feed the Hungry" campaign and speaker on the "Miracle Corner" radio program, pays for groceries while TV camera rolls.



Mrs. Lucy Russell watches as a clerk rings up the total on the groceries she received free at the Blue Springs Village Winn Dixie store in Huntsville, AL.

many miracles in her life and that her life goal is to help others to understand and be beneficiaries of God's miraculous power.

For several months prior to this shopping spree Mrs. Holder could be seen nightly, seated just inside the entrance of the Winn Dixie Food Store in the Blue Spring Village Shopping Center in N.W. Huntsville. With the cooperation of manager, Jim Hill, Mrs. Holder, in her motherly manner, guided customers entering and leaving to give coins and cash to cover the expense of feeding needy families in her "Feed the Hungry Campaign", which began on October 26, 1986. In 1985, Mrs. Holder reports 75 people in 10 families were helped. The names of the individuals who were selected for the shopping spree were sent in to the radio broadcast by the listeners themselves or by relatives. The names were randomly selected and the "would be" shoppers were called at home. One shopper, Pearline Smith, said, "I was very surprised that I was selected!" Lucy Russell, another recipient chimed in "I feel good!" Mrs. Holder reports, "Some of the people shouted and some people cried when I called. I want to spread hope to the people." After the food was paid for fruit baskets prepared by Winn Dixie clerk, Chivalya Burwell, and were presented to each shopper. Manager Hill states, "I think it's a great thing! I was surprised at how well the people responded. Even small children pitched in money for the project."

Each shopper purchased between \$50 to \$120 in grocers on a day in which dreams came true.

IN THE NEWS



A. L. Dudley, president of Hadley Hospital, Washington D. C. and N. C. Wilson, president of the General Conference.

N. C. WILSON SPEAKS AT HADLEY HOSPITAL

Elder N. C. Wilson, the president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, spoke to the members of the community church during the worship services in November. Wilson spoke of the challenges that the church faces around the world, but also of how the Lord is helping the work to flourish and to grow inspite of the challenges. Elder Pedapoude, the pastor of this 100-member congregation told of the membership growth and of the plans to erect a new church plant on the hospital campus in the near future. Mr. Albert L. Dudley is the president of the hospital.

COUNCIL ON EVANGELISM STILL ALIVE AND WELL AFTER EIGHT YEARS

As it entered its eighth year, the Regional Council on Evangelism under the direction of the conference presidents, E. E.

Cleveland, E. C. Ward, and B. F. Reaves remains a source of inspiration for the growth and development of the work among the Regional Churches and members across the North American Division.

The meeting was held on Dec. 1-3 at Oakwood College. The preaching was inspiring, the lectures informative, the fellowship exciting, the instruction impressive and the experiences in soul-winning challenging. Since its beginning days, the membership of the Black churches in the division has soared to approximately \$50,000,000.00. The Black workers baptize approximately one third of the new members in the division each year and the annual membership increase for the division is approximately 60%.

The thrust for the days that lie ahead is once again "total evangelism" in North America, Inter-America, Africa and

HARRIS PINE MILLS SEEKS BANKRUPTCY

The Seventh-day Adventist owned Harris Pine Mills has been a blessing to thousands of youth in helping them to pay for their education while attending one of the denomination's academies and college. The economic crunch has OVERTAKEN this industry and the liabilities are exceeding the assets. This has given grave concerns by the board of directors. All of the plants across the country had to be closed, however, it is reported that some have resumed their operations as of this writing.

Harris Pine Mills, Inc., a Pendleton, Oregon firm since 1939, filed for bankruptcy under the provisions of Federal Bankruptcy Code Chapter 7 Friday, December 5.

Increasing competition and fragile economic environment were cited among contributing reasons for the closure and move for dissolution with the Federal District Court in Portland.

After the resignation of the Board of Directors, the Corporation of Stockholders named an interim board of three members - all in Maryland.

"Continuing negative net worth has made it impossible for us to compete effectively in the marketplace," explained Harold F. Otis, Jr., chairman of the new board. "Cash flow during the past several months has come more from timber than from finished product," Otis added.

Closure and layoffs affect employees in 26 branch plants in 15 states as well as the home office.

SOUP KITCHEN FEEDS OVER 100 EVERY WEEK

Each Sunday afternoon, City Tabernacle Church operates a soup kitchen out of the basement dining room in which approximately 160 men, with 5 to 10 women and children are fed.

This program is an extension of the Community Service Department's efforts to respond to the needs of the poor, homeless, and hungry.

Several volunteers from the church work and prepare food in order to make the program, which has existed for several months, a success.

LaMarr Renee
Communications Secretary

NEW APPOINTMENTS AT R.T. HUDSON SCHOOL

R. T. Hudson Elementary School is proud to announce the appointment of two long-term staff members to full-time teaching positions. Mrs. Ruth Nixon and Mrs. Grace Phipps were made the new first and second grade teachers respectively. Both are active members of the Ephesus SDA Church in New York City, one of three participating churches which regulate the school's operations.

Until their appointments, Mrs. Nixon was employed as music teacher and teacher's aide; Mrs. Phipps as school bookkeeper, teacher's aide, and sewing instructor.

Both women have three children, all of whom were raised in denominational schools. All of Ruth's children have graduated from college. Grace's eldest son graduated one month after she received her college degree in 1986.

Grace and Ruth pursued their degrees while holding full-time positions, and caring for their families. For Mrs. Nixon, the burden was especially great because of her husband's medical condition which demands her constant attention. Due to unexpected vacancies in the teaching staff, both were hired just two months after graduation.

Dedicated to the principles of Christian education, both Mrs. Nixon and Mrs. Phipps are very pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the education of the church's young people.

NORTH RETIRES

Lt. Col. James Jefferson North, Jr., better known as Jim, recently retired from 20 years of Air Force Service as a Seventh-day Adventist Chaplain with full military

honors at Beale Air Force Base in California.

Present at his retirement ceremony were Elders Harry Garlick, and Richard Schwartz, Ministerial Director of Northern California. North served for approximately five years in the Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama and was a blessing to the work of the church in that area.

PERRY LEAVES SOUTHERN

Olson Perry announced his resignation from WSMC radio station on the campus of Southern College at Collegedale, Tennessee to assume responsibilities as associate director of communications for the Southern Union. His new position as managing director of the Southern Tidings, the Union Monthly Journal, will involve various journalistic duties. As general manager of WSMC, Olson has been responsible for developing a consistent radio format, station awards and an increase in public financial support. Unfortunately, he is the last person of color to serve in a leadership role at the college.

THE REVIEW AND HERALD SEEKS TO MAKE INSTITUTION A MODEL

Elder Harold Otis, the manager of the Review and Herald Publishing Association of Hagerstown, Maryland brought together a number of Black leaders of the church on Dec. 9, 1986 and shared with them his plans to make the Review and Herald Publishing Association a model for the denomination in "race relations". Those in attendance for this meeting were, Herbert Doggett, deputy director for the Social Security Services, W. S. Banfield, director of the Human Relations Department of the General Conference, Mrs. Joyclyn Thomas, director of the office of Placement for Oakwood College, S. P. Ruff, Publishing director for the South Central Conference, Delber Baker, editor of the Message Magazine, Sandy Robinson, Circulation director for the Message Magazine, C. E. Dudley, president of the South Central Conference and the officers of the Publishing House.

Some of the goals and objectives that were set are (1) to hire at least 20 blacks by the end of the year 1987, to develop a training program for Black Youth to serve the church not just at the House but around the world, to seek qualified persons of color to serve in any area of the organization with encouragement for future growth and advancement in all levels of the organization.

THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE

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