

# NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL

# VOICE



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

VOLUME 10

MARCH, 1988

NUMBER 1

## LIVE THE DREAM



*and keep the dream alive!*

## "I HAVE A DREAM!" DREAM! ARE WE LETTING IT FADE?

The late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., etched these words on the minds of people around the world: "...that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self evident; that all men are created equal.'...that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood...that one day even the state of Mississippi will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

"...That my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

"...That one day the state of Alabama...will be transformed into a situation where little black boys and little black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers.

"...That one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together."

This preacher of non-violence taught us to love our enemies and to do good to them which despitefully use us. He sought fairness for all people. He said to the white people of this land, "I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be." Love was the key! It still works, for this is what the Master taught over two thousand years ago. It was a demonstration of love that helped to change this world and universe.

Martin's dream was about social change, political change, economic

change, religious change. This is the dream for which he gave his life 20 years ago this year in Memphis, Tenn. But the dream still lingers on! Some religious leaders called it a social gospel. It was just the gospel of Jesus Christ. A dream is a fond hope or aspiration.

Before the dream, Blacks were compelled by law to attend segregated schools even in the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. Before the dream, Blacks were not allowed admittance in to white Seventh-day Adventist churches, hospitals or other facilities. Before the dream, Blacks were not allowed to eat in the cafeterias at the Review and Herald and Southern Publishing houses nor in Seventh-day Adventist-owned restaurants across the land. Before the dream, Blacks were not allowed positions of leadership in the conferences, although some churches were larger than some entire conferences. Before the dream, two levels of pay existed for the Black and White workers of the denomination. Before the dream, Blacks could not attend White-operated evangelistic crusades. Before the dream, faces of Black Americans could never be seen on the front cover of the Review and Herald, the denomination's weekly publication. Before the dream, Blacks were not permitted to know the total amount of monies that they were really putting into the work of the church. Before the dream, Blacks were not even permitted to attend a White-operated Seventh-day Adventist college.

But thank God for the dream!!! When Dr. Martin Luther King stood with Dr. Ralph D. Abernathy outside of E. E. Cleveland's tent in Montgomery, Ala., in 1954 and remarked that Cleveland was dealing in mass hypnosis as the audience viewed the pictures on the silver screen, we felt that the Baptists and the Seventh-day Adventists were in two separate worlds

struggling to make heaven their home. There were differences in doctrinal beliefs, but destiny placed us all in the same boat. "All men are created equal" is a Christian doctrine that must be addressed in this present world. by everyone who testifies of being a child of God. Many were seeing heaven through a glass, darkly. The glass had to be removed!! The dream must become a reality!!

It all began during slavery days when the forefathers sang "There's a better day a-coming" and I'm going to sit at the welcome table one of these days!" When slavery came to an end in 1863, the Seventh-day Adventist denomination was organized, but Blacks were not yet a part. When Blacks finally began to accept the teachings of the church, the wall that existed in the world could be found in the church also. But the church in the Black sector grew immensely to the extent that in 1909 when the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was born at Niagara Falls, N.Y., the church established a Colored department to direct the work among Blacks in America. When Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du bois had their debates on their outlooks and dreams of the future for Blacks, the church placed a Black attorney, W. H. Green, over this Colored department. They never gave an office to him from which to operate; he lived and operated out of his suitcase and finally died of exhaustion in 1929, the year of the Great Depression and the year when Marcus Garvey espoused his 'back to Africa' movement and Elder J. K. Humphrey, a Black Seventh-day Adventist preacher, dreamed of a Utopia Park where there would be hospitals, schools, orphan homes for children and senior citizens' homes for the aged. The Black leaders dreamed and requested positions of leadership in the conference offices



from which to direct a better way of life for their people here before they finally reached the Promised Land. They were told to 'be silent on the matter and to never mention it again until Jesus comes!'

But the dream was in the mind and the heart and by 1931, the youthful leaders who were attending the Huntsville School in Huntsville, Ala., pressed once again for training in leadership roles in the church. Some were sent home from school. However, those who were sent, later became the presidents and leaders of the conferences when they were organized.

When World War II came in the Forties, there arose the dream of Black leadership to direct the work in reaching the masses. Regional Conferences were organized in 1944 by the church, to let Blacks direct their own work rather than allow them to become a part of the established work. Some have said that this was the biggest mistake the church has ever made; from that point the work among Blacks took off at a rapid pace. The Black leaders were able to make bright their own memories. White workers lost their jobs when the conferences lost the Black dollars, but jobs were opened for Black youth and older ones alike. The membership moved from 17,000 then to nearly 180,000 today. And the membership among people of color around the world has also increased to the extent that today 84% of the world church is made up of people of color. The dream is being fulfilled!! The gospel is going to the ends of the earth.

When Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshal appealed the Brown vs. Topeka case in 1954 and won the decision for the NAACP, new dreams came into being. Schools were desegregated by law. The church waited until 1971 to follow the dream, when the government compelled the doors to be opened to Blacks in SDA schools. It was not until the Sixties that the



SDA colleges opened their doors, when the Hill-Burton funds became available.

When the Blacks sought to integrate the union conferences, the SDA media and other institutions, they were told to get their own. Then arose the cries for regional unions, which led to Blacks being placed into secretarial posts on the union levels. Regional conferences had taught a lesson in economics — there must be no further separation to siphon off more dollars. More doors were opened. More dreams were fulfilled. A kindred spirit has developed. Many strides toward freedom have been realized.

But the dream did not end, for by 1978 there arose the cry for regional unions because of a lack of mobility among the Black workers. "Thus far, and no farther" they were told. Blacks were added to the staffs of the colleges and schools. Blacks were given assistant posts at the general and union conference levels of the church, but, oddly enough, there must be a keeping of the eye on the prize, for little by little the positions are being closed that were once open to Blacks. The dream seems to be fading, although Black Seventh-day Adventist churches in the United States put 19.9% of the tithe into the church in the United States during 1987.

The Black membership of the church in the United States stands at 25% of the total. Nine thousand Black people are baptized yearly in the United States. Blacks are now being placed on the cover of the Review and Herald. Some 18 Blacks are now hired in meaningful positions at the Review and Herald Publishing House. But when the Black worker retires or leaves the General Conference, he/she is not being replaced by another Black. By 1990 at the General Conference session in Indianapolis, the number of North American Blacks who serve at the G.C. level will probably be only seven out of 600 or 700 employees. The dream must not fade!

This year the nation celebrated the birthday of Martin Luther King, the man whose dream changed not only the world, but also the Seventh-day Adventist church. Let us not lose the vision with watering down of the momentum and having the term "minority" include women. We know that they must not be left out. There must not be the watering down of the term "minority" with the including of other groups. In days gone by it meant "Black."

Let us not lose sight of the fact that in any organization when a group within the party contributes 19.9% of the income and

represents 25% of the membership, that group must have seats on the board and become a part of the decision-making body. Let us not get so divided within the ranks that we turn on each other. Let us turn toward each other. Let us never give up the dream all of God's people, white and black, rich and poor, American and foreigner in America, will one day be able to sit down together in the Kingdom of God as all of God's children. One day, every valley will be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. "I have a dream!"

## PUBLISHER'S PAGE



*E. E. Cleveland.*

### "TELL OLE PHARAOH"

The Hebrews were enslaved by the Egyptians for nearly 300 of the years that they were in Egypt. They were commanded by the God of Heaven to remember those years and the fact that He brought them out with a strong arm and mighty acts. In Deuteronomy 7:18-21, Moses uses this to reassure them amidst present and future danger. Passover is an annual reminder of the Exodus.

Black History Month is the Black man's Passover. It is for us an annual reminder of our former bondage and the divine intervention that made possible our exodus from this curse into the Canaan land of present privilege. During this month, February, we have celebrated those Black leaders who pressed against the bounds of circumscription, pressuring the system until it yielded. We celebrate those Whites without whose help none of the good things could or would have happened. So let us celebrate!

Let us celebrate the fact that the Black man is the only indigenous American. In plain language, the Black man of America is an American creation. At this late date, he is neither African, European nor Indian, but a combination of all three. You see, the African was brought here and enslaved. The rest is history. Sexual incursions from the White and Indian races over a period of 300 years has produced a new race of people — the American Black man. Others named him "Colored" and "Negro." The Black man named himself "Black," deliberately choosing to identify himself with Africar and Africans. Color-wise, the Black man spans the spectrum. He is toast-brown, ebony-black, milk-white and banana-yellow. So the term "Black" has nothing to do with color. Rather, it refers to those willing to identify, and those who share a commonality of experience. We didn't get to this continent first, but we are the only race here that can't "go back" anywhere! We are Afro-European, Afro-Indian, or Afro-Euro-Indian. We are the original "Rainbow Coalition." the only truly indigenous Americans. In a sense that no other race can sing it, we can sing "This is my country." Let us celebrate!

Let us celebrate those Black men and women in our past who did so much to change the climate of our times: Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman. Douglass for his verbal thunder. Tubman for her matchless daring in leading Black fugitives north. W. E. B. Du bois for his advocacy of the unlimited potential of Blacks. Booker T. Washington for his emphasis on the dignity of labor and on Blacks acquiring land and goods. Richard Allen, as a champion of Black dignity, was vital to the cause. Martin Delaney and David Parker were most effective in the area of the written word. Thurgood Marshall for leading the dangerous fight in the courtrooms of the nation to change the laws that strengthened oppression. He continues to this day as a guardian of those liberties, as a justice of the Supreme Court of the nation. Adam Clayton Powell left his mark on the country as chairman of the Health, Education and Welfare Committee of the House of Representatives. The legislation that he sponsored represents our government at its humanitarian best. A. Philip Randolph will be remembered for his efforts in the field of labor and as the author of the plan for the march on Washington. And Martin Luther King for his non-violent confrontational approach to civil rights problems.

Black History Month must also salute those White allies who paid no small price

# The Editor's Desk

## Seven Ways to Send the Message

Message can be used to reach a wide variety of people. And its soul winning doctrinal schedule, which is repeated annually, guarantees that the major Adventist teachings will be covered each year. Here are some ways you could use MESSAGE.

1. Evangelistic follow-up: Revelation seminars, prison ministries, new believers, Ingathering contacts, pastors.
2. Literature racks: doctors' and dentists' waiting rooms, bus and train stations, laundromats, businesses.
3. Media contacts: people who responded to "Breath of Life," "Voice of Prophecy" or local radio/TV programs.
4. Work contacts: co-workers, supervisors, subordinates, business associates, sales representatives from other companies.
5. Community leaders: businessmen, civic leaders, educators.
6. Military personnel: someone you know or someone from your town.
7. Personal contacts: former church members, friends, relatives, neighbors, physicians, barbers, hairdressers.

## SUNSET CALENDAR

	March 28	April 1	8	15
Boston, Mass.	6:02	6:10	6:18	6:26
New York City	6:12	6:20	6:28	6:35
Buffalo, N.Y.	6:33	6:41	6:49	6:57
Atlanta, Ga.	6:53	6:58	7:03	7:08
Miami, Fla.	6:34	6:37	6:41	6:44
Charlotte, N.C.	6:39	6:45	6:51	6:56
Birmingham, Ala.	6:02	6:07	6:12	6:18
Jackson, Miss.	6:16	6:21	6:25	6:30
Memphis, Tenn.	6:16	6:21	6:27	6:33
Louisville, Ky.	6:59	7:06	7:12	7:19
Detroit, Mich.	6:51	6:59	7:07	7:14
Chicago, Ill.	6:08	6:16	6:23	6:31
South Bend, Indiana	7:03	7:10	7:18	7:26
Minneapolis, Minn.	6:32	6:41	6:49	6:58
St. Louis, Mo.	6:17	6:24	6:31	6:37
Kansas City, Mo.	6:35	6:42	6:49	6:55
Denver, Co.	6:17	6:24	6:31	6:38
Little Rock, Ark.	6:24	6:30	6:35	6:41
Dallas, Texas	6:42	6:47	6:52	6:57
New Orleans, La.	6:15	6:19	6:23	6:27
Albuquerque, N.M.	6:22	6:28	6:33	6:39
Oklahoma City, Okla.	6:46	6:52	6:57	7:03

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

for their support of Black freedom: We remember Abraham Lincoln for the Emancipation Proclamation; Thaddeus Stevens for his work in Congress to advance the cause of justice; Henry Ward Beecher, W. L. Garrison, Benezet, Weld and others for pounding the nation's conscience by speech and writ; Harry Truman for integrating the Armed Forces; Earl Warren for his grand work as chief justice of the Supreme Court; John F. Kennedy, Jimmy Carter and Lyndon Baines Johnson, who struck major blows for liberty and justice for Black people.

Then there were the martyrs, known and unknown, who gave their lives for the freedom of us all. These we salute. These we celebrate: Till, Reed, Evers, Chaney, Schwerner, Goodman, Liuzzo, King and others did not die in vain! Nor is this a complete roll of all who lived and died in the cause of human justice. There are thousands of the brave unknown who lost jobs, were chased off their property, intimidated in voting booths, but whose marching feet and bleeding bodies gave credibility to the witness of those of more familiar name and fame. To the thousands who fought and died in the Civil War, we pay special tribute

So, why Black History Month? The Jews have given us the answer. They know that anti-Semitism is still very much alive. And so they celebrate Passover to remind themselves of whence they came. And once a year, they make the world view the Holocaust, lest we forget the six million Jews who died under Hitler. They know that there are nations around them that would love to repeat the horror. Their annual dramatizations are an appeal to the conscience of the world that it must not happen again!

Similarly, Black people must understand that the forces of racial bigotry are still very much alive. And there are thousands of Americans who would like to see the "good old plantation days" depicted in *The Birth of a Nation*." Nor is the racism of the North and West a thing of the past. Remove the power of the federal government and the Supreme Court, and we could see shocking things here. And so, for all those deluded Blacks who find the past too painful to remember, and for those mistaken Whites who view positive change as concretized permanence, we need Black History Month, if for no better reason than that those who forget the past are likely to repeat it. For history has been to repeat itself, and there are still Pharaohs "who know not Joseph." E. E. Cleveland

## ALLEGHENY EAST

### 4TH STREET CHURCH HOLDS FASHION SHOW

On Dec. 19, 1987, a Holiday Fashion Show and Tea was held at the 4th Street SDA Church in Washington, D.C. The occasion was a result of Easy Steps to Sewing classes conducted by Fannie Simmons. Students of the class as well as other individuals modeled outfits costing approximately one quarter of garments found in stores.

The classes lasted for six weeks and is one of many outreach activities organized by the 4th Street Church.

Mrs. Mary Reaves  
Community Services Leader



*Community student prepares to cut her garment.*



*Mrs. Fannie Simmons, (forefront left) along with community students of the Easy Steps to Sewing Class.*



*Young models display clothing made by instructor Fannie Simmons during the class.*



*Tijiana Griffin models outfit she made during the sewing class.*

### GOLDEN AGE PAGEANT

December 13, 1987, the senior citizens of the Berea Temple Church in Baltimore, Md., proved that age is no deterrent to success. Fifteen ladies raised \$8,806.43 toward the purchase of a church van.

The affair was coordinated by Mrs. Kathryn Millings. Each contestant was encouraged to be creative in thinking of ways to raise money. Some gave trips; others sponsored dinners or sold candy and one sponsored a concert. The lady raising the highest amount of money would be crowned queen.

The pageant was held on a Sunday afternoon. Each beautifully-dressed potential queen entered the auditorium on

the arm on an escort. While seated at a head table surrounded by seasonal decorations, the contestants and other guests enjoyed a delicious repast and a brief program.

Then it was time for the countdown. Each contestant's name was called and the amount of money raised was announced. Mrs. Mary McCluny Hughes was crowned queen for reporting the sum of \$2,510. She received a dozen long-stemmed roses, a beautiful trophy and a sparkling tiara. Second-place winner was Mrs. Margaret Mitchell Buster, who reported \$1,660.25. Third-place winner was Mrs. Daisy Rodgers, who reported \$1,540.93. These two ladies received large trophies as a reward. The chair for the queen will be held by our queen for one year.

Other contestants were Thelma Bagby, Lucille Brown, Othello Fowlkes, Mary C. Jones, Margaret Macer, Evelyn Parker, Gladys Spell, Odelia Scott, Frances Tucker, Smithie Whitley, Naomi White and Eva Williams. Each contestant received an award for her hard work and sacrifice. Berea Temple and the pastor, Henry J. Fordham III, are proud to have such hard-working senior citizens on their roster.

Mary E. Smith is coordinator of the senior citizens' activities of Berea Temple.

Annie M. Johnson  
Communication Secretary

### ALLEGHENY EAST TEAM WINS NATIONAL BIBLE BOWL

Expressions of joy erupted in the sanctuary of the North Philadelphia Church, Philadelphia, Pa., on a Sabbath morning in December as Pastor J. Alfred Johnson II announced the North Church Bible Bowl team as the national champions. The national championship competition was held in Dallas, Tex.

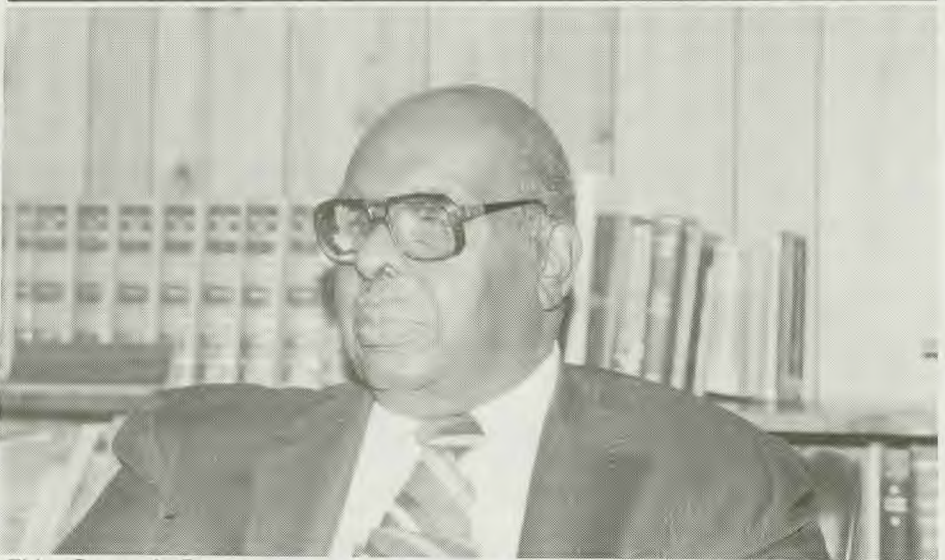
Elder Christopher Campbell, the team's coach, was instrumental in preparing the team for the competition. The foursome comprising the championship team were Todd Childs, team captain; Albert Bolden; Anthony Campbell, and Tina Ganges.

Bible Bowl involvement has become a new way for increasing numbers of young people to study the Bible and enjoy it. The next championship competition is scheduled for the summer of 1988 in California.

J. Alfred Johnson  
Correspondent



National Bible Bowl Champions for 1988, (left to right); Albert Bolden, Todd Childs, Christopher Campbell (coach), Anthony Campbell, and (seated) Tina Ganges.



Elder George L. Braxton.

### BRAXTON RETIRES

Elder George L. Braxton, the oldest pastor in Allegheny East Conference, recently retired from the West Philadelphia SDA Church in Pennsylvania.

During his tenure, Elder Braxton was instrumental in increasing the membership from 157 to more than 500. He also, along with the congregation, built a new sanctuary, purchased a new church bus, established a soup kitchen and remodeled the Southwest Philadelphia Church. He also helped organize the New Jerusalem French-speaking church.

Elder Braxton will be remembered at West for his determination to serve needy

individuals of the community.

Replacing Elder Braxton at West is Elder Samuel George Campbell, a native of Jamaica, W.I.

### NEWS NOTE

More than 100 voices were in concert the evening of Dec. 19, 1987. The Berean Temple Concert Choir, directed by Gloria J. Thompson and Lois E. Smith, included members of the Berea Temple SDA Church in Baltimore, Md., as well as neighboring friends, and was accompanied by the Baltimore Orchestra Ensemble.

Annie M. Johnson  
Communication Secretary

## ALLEGHENY WEST

### SOULWINNING, TRAINING TAKE FIRST PRIORITY

Three hundred church officers from northern Ohio and Pennsylvania were challenged to attempt greater ventures for God in 1988 during a meeting with conference officers and departmental directors in Cleveland's Southeast Church on January 10.

President Willie J. Lewis shared his concern for the need to develop ways to keep members in the church.

He explained, "In the last three years and nine months—1984 through September of 1987—2,330 members have been added to the church in the Allegheny West Conference. However, in that same period the church lost 2,274 members for various reasons, leaving a net gain of only 56 members!"

It is necessary to win, hold and train members for service for Christ, he added. That must be the objective of the Sabbath school and every other department in the church.

During the meeting, Lewis invited the officers to become members of the 1,000 Club for Christ, in which 1,000 members are each asked to lead one soul to Christ in 1988.

Conference Treasurer, D. C. Keith, said members need to be faithful in returning tithes and giving offerings.

Financial stability for the conference and the opportunity to increase efforts in evangelism, education, church building and other conference-sponsored activities, depend on the financial support of church members.

Keith encouraged the officers to lead out in promoting Christian stewardship. He reminded them of the need to set the 1988 title goal of \$3.5 million before church members.

### ALLEGHENY WEST PUBLISHING UPDATE '88

The first Literature Evangelist Rally for the year was held at the Central SDA Church in Columbus, Ohio. Newly-elected president of the Allegheny West Conference, Elder Willie J. Lewis, was the Sabbath morning speaker. Other conference officials present were Elder Carl R. Rogers, executive secretary, and Elder James O. Best, personal ministries director.

Literature evangelists traveled from Ohio and Pennsylvania to celebrate over

\$400,000 in sales and the baptism of 58 individuals in 1987, as a result of their efforts.

Elder Robert C. Lewis, publishing director, and Pastor Eddie G. Hall, associate director for the Columbia/Springfield,

Ohio area, as well as all conference officials and literature evangelists, look forward to greater accomplishments in 1988 under the direction of God, and they follow Allegheny West's motto, "Together we march as one."



*Elder W. J. Lewis, conference president, challenges literature evangelists during rally.*



*Conference treasurer D. C. Keith, (right), welcomes G. Paul Foster and Ruth Gore to Allegheny West.*

## NEW CONFERENCE WORKERS IN ALLEGHENY WEST

Allegheny West Conference welcomes Ruth Gore and G. Paul Foster to the treasury department.

Ms. Gore, a product of Christian education, graduated from Pine Forge Academy, Pine Forge, Pa., and Oakwood College, Huntsville, Ala. During matriculation at Pine Forge, the opportunity of working in the business office inspired Ms. Gore to major in business administration and accounting at Oakwood.

After graduation from college, Ms. Gore worked in the Oakwood College Industries Division as assistant accountant. She has also been employed by other companies in the Huntsville, Ala., and Philadelphia, Pa., area. She will serve as junior accountant in Allegheny West's treasury department.

"God prepares a man before He calls a man," so says Pastor G. Paul Foster, new accountant for Allegheny West.

Foster, a newlywed, comes from Southwest Region Conference. He served for almost four years as an infiltration pastor.

Pastor Foster graduated from Oakwood College, where he pursued a double major in accounting and theology while working in the accounting department of Oakwood College Industries. His college education also includes two years at Walla Walla College in College Place, Wash., where he was preparing for a career in engineering.

The problem-solving and computer skills learned at Walla Walla College, coupled with the accounting expertise and experience gained at Oakwood College, as well as the patience and perseverance acquired while serving as an infiltration pastor helped to prepare Pastor Foster for the responsibilities he now shoulders.

## ATTEND SOUL-WINNING RALLY

Seventh-day Adventists from the Cleveland, Ohio, area attended a lay soul-winning rally at the Glenville church on January 9.

Several hundred members came to be trained in personal soul winning, under the direction of J. O. Best, conference church ministries director, and guest instructor Murray Joiner, associate director of church ministries for the Southern Union.

As an added feature to help the lay soul winners share Bible truths, a Bible-marking plan was taught.



*Elder Murray Joiner, instructs participants in witnessing methods.*



*Students at the Lay Soulwinning Rally practice witnessing assignments.*



## CENTRAL STATES

### KIRKWOOD WELCOMES NEW PASTOR

Central States Conference President, J. Paul Monk Jr., recently presented Elder and Mrs. Paul Turner to the Kirkwood SDA Church, St. Louis, Mo., as the new appointees to the Kirkwood/Kinloch district.

Elder Turner, having completed a master's degree, is presently working toward a doctoral degree. Augmenting Pastor Turner's ministry is his wife Darlene. Elder and Mrs. Turner have a son, Albert Clay, and a daughter, Lynae.

Magnolia Harris  
Communication Secretary

### THE WITNESS OF A FRIEND

On January 9 the Kirkwood SDA Church, St. Louis, Mo., celebrated the baptism of Mr. Lambert W. Rusan. Mr. Rusan had attended the church two years prior as best man at church member Rollo Johnson's wedding, and at the urging of Johnson, he attended a Revelation seminar held at the church.

"I didn't know what a true friend was until Rollo invited me to learn of Christ," said Rusan. "When I was in the world, I had no love for anyone. But now I have compassion for others as well as myself due to the Spirit of God!"

Lee Carrel  
Communication Secretary

### BETHESDA NEWS NOTES

Pastor and Mrs. Rodney W. Draggon dedicated their daughter, Alesia Marie to the Lord at the Bethesda Temple Church in Omaha, Neb., where they currently serve. Elder Eugene F. Carder, Secretary of Central States Conference, performed the dedicatory services.

During the past year Alesia has undergone major heart and kidney surgery.

Two of Bethesda's youth, Leonard Jackson and Lovely Stewart, were baptized recently by Pastor Rodney Draggon.

### YOUTH FEDERATION

The Great Plains Youth Federation of Central States Conference recently held their federation meeting in Omaha, Neb. The Sharon and Bethesda Churches of Omaha hosted the event.

Elder B. T. Rice of St. Louis, Mo., was the Friday evening speaker, and Elder J. Paul Monk Jr., President, Central States Conference, was the divine worship speaker on Sabbath.



Elder E. F. Carter, Central States Conference Secretary presents the daughter of Pastor and Mrs. R. Draggon in prayer.



Partial view of the Great Plains Adventist Youth Federation audience.

### BETHESDA CONGRATULATES THOMAS H. BENNETT

Mr. Thomas H. Bennett, a member of Bethesda SDA Church, Omaha, Neb., won the Eighth Circuit Bicentennial Essay Contest, a competition open to all law students in the region. The Eighth Circuit consists of 26 law schools in the states of Nebraska, Missouri, North and South Dakota.

Bennett is a senior at Creighton Law School in Omaha, Neb. and expects to graduate in May 1988. For winning the Eighth Circuit and placing among the regional winners in the national contest, Bennett received two sets of three volume constitutional law treatise (one of which he donated to the Creighton Law School library) and a check for three thousand dollars.

Despite success earned outside the church, Bennett counts his induction into the United Youth Federation Bible Bowl Hall of Fame in 1986 as his most treasured

accomplishment. He says, "Being recognized by the people of God is an unsurpassable honor, because I have spent my life in the church, and it is the love and prayer of its members which has sustained and inspired me."



Pastor Draggon reviews baptismal vows with candidates, (left to right), Loveloy Stewart and Leonard Jackson.

## NORTHEASTERN



Members of Bronx SDA Church Prison Ministry Team, display certificates.

### PRISON MINISTRY TEAM ACTIVITIES

January 16, the prison ministry team of the Bronx SDA Church, Bronx, N.Y. headed by Elder Frank Roberts, President of the Bronx-Manhattan Laymen's Federation, handed out certificates of appreciation to individuals who visit the Rikers Island Correctional Facility each week.

Members of the team include: Elder Roberts, Pickett and Streeter, Deacon and Mrs. Bradley, Deacon and Mrs. Anthony, Ms. Victoria DiRizzo, and Ms. Denise Smith. Mr. Billy Fonville, also a member of the team, heads a group from the Bronx Church and Better Living Mission.

### BUFFALO, N.Y. YOUTH PROVES THE POWER OF PRAYER

Sixteen year old Lyneve Marie Foster of Emmanuel Temple SDA Church in Buffalo, N.Y. bears testimony to the reality of the power of prayer. She is a student at City Honors High School in the Buffalo Public School System. About a year ago, when the time came for PSAT exams, Lyneve decided not to attend preparatory classes offered by her school on Saturdays. An attempt to prepare herself for the exam resulted in repeated trials on commercial versions of different sections of the PSAT placing Lyneve's score at about the 35th percentile. Anxiety began to set in.

Lyneve, a group of concerned young friends from the church and her parents decided that prayer was the key to the problem. While the group prayed, she continued to prepare herself. The results of the PSAT exam, when issued later, placed Lyneve's score in the upper 6 percent of eighty thousand Black high school students who took the exam in that sitting throughout the country.

On December 2, 1987, Lyneve was cited for excellence by the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Eugene Reville, and the

Buffalo Board of Education. At a brief county ceremony in the Board Room, she was given a Buffalo Public School Award of Excellence, along with other honor students.

Now a senior, Lyneve looks forward to attending college and majoring in psychology. She continues to be an active member of the Emmanuel Temple Church.

Willis Reed, pastor of the church expressed happiness at having young members who are putting God first.

Clara Reed,

### YEAR-END ACTIVITIES AT BROOKLYN FAITH

The Brooklyn Faith SDA Church, Brooklyn, N.Y. began the year with a triple celebration; love feast, ordination and communion services.

The love feast was held in the church's fellowship hall amidst brightly colored streamers and tablecloths and featured a variety of fruits and nuts.

In preparation for the next celebration, visitors and members gathered in the candlelit sanctuary, and church officers (women in white suits and men in dark suits) took their dedicatory vows. The ordination of four elders and three deacons followed by the communion service concluded the celebration. The Heavenly Messengers, Ms. Cortine and the church choir provided music for the services.

Rita Sterling  
Communication Secretary

### TRIBUTE GIVEN TO E. E. CLEVELAND

In 1965 through the evangelistic efforts of Dr. and Mrs. E. E. Cleveland, over 400 persons were baptized in a New York City crusade, and the Jamaica SDA Church, Jamaica, N.Y. was established. During the weekend of Oct. 10, 1987, the Jamaica Church honored the Clevelands for their numerous contributions to the SDA Church. Letters of congratulations were received from Elder P. S. Follett, president of Atlantic Union Conference, and Edward R. Koch, mayor of New York City.

Mrs. Rosalie Jones and the New Believers Chorus of the Ephesus SDA Church, New York, N.Y. were musical guests during Sabbath's divine worship service, as were soloists Linda Elliot and Jamaica's own Trevor Byfield.

A banquet was held the following Sunday with Elder Trevor Baker, youth ministries director of Northeastern Conference, serving as master of ceremonies. A biographical sketch, high-

lighting events from Dr. Cleveland's childhood to the present, interspersed with various musical renditions, composed the evening's program.

Among notable guests and speakers were Dr. George R. Earle, former president of Northeastern; Elder Harold W. Baptiste, conference executive secretary; Elder S. H. Brooks, conference treasurer, and Elder Arthur Morgan, conference Sabbath School director.

### SENIOR CITIZENS HONORED

At the end of 1987, Hanson Place SDA Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., honored their senior citizens. This annual event was initiated two years ago by the church clerks. Theme for the day was "Only What's Done for Christ Will Last."

Samuel Martin served as superintendent for the Sabbath School program, which began with a singspiration conducted by Percival Riley. The lesson study was conducted by Dr. G. O. Phillips Sr. Other participants on the program included Samuel Tate, Christine Demetrius, Laura Straker and Grace Warner.

In addition to the program, three persons were honored for their contributions to the church and their communities. They were Mrs. Vernelle Earle, who was lauded for her hard work on behalf of the senior citizens of Northeastern Conference, and Mrs. C. Anderson, for her foresight in alerting the nucleus of 250 members in search of a church home in 1963 of the availability of the building at 88 Hanson Place. The group purchased the building, resulting in the organization of the Hanson Place Church. Also awarded was Bertram Straker, whose leadership of the group in the early days kept them together and fostered growth. Plaques were presented to each honoree by Mrs. Maureen Tripp.

To set the tone for the morning's sermon, Carmella Johnson, through the medium of song, reminded the congregation that "Only What's Done for Christ Will Last." Elder Harold Baptiste, executive secretary of Northeastern Conference, was guest speaker for divine worship.

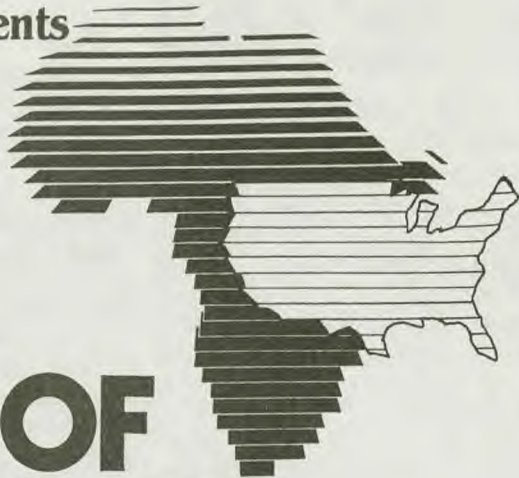
Other participants in the divine worship service were Elder George Earle, former president of Northeastern Conference; Elder Bertram Straker; Herman Robinson; Sidney Williams; Mrs. G. Harris; Mrs. M. Dillon, and Pastor Charles Tapp.

Lunch was prepared and served to the seniors and guests by the clerks, young adults and others.

Maureen O. Burke  
Communication Secretary

Department of Music Ministry of  
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Dr. Augustus Jones, *New York, NY*  
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Pastor Walter Arties, *Breath of Life*  
Mrs. Diana Poe, *Nashville, TN*  
Dr. Richard Simpson, *Tennessee State University*  
Tony Shepherd, *Riverside, CA*  
Elder Marshall Kelly, *Huntsville, AL*  
First Church Inspirational Choir, *Huntsville, Alabama*  
Elder Shelton Kilby, *South Central Conference*



For further information contact:  
THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC MINISTRY, Attention Mrs. Laurene Clare  
South Central Conference / 715 Young's Lane / P.O. Box 24936 / Nashville, TN 37202  
(615) 226-6500

## **SOUTH CENTRAL**

### **MARANATHA HEALTH SECRETARY ON THE MOVE!!**

Carrie Sanders, pediatric nurse practitioner, has formed committees of women who volunteer their services to the sick of the church and community. Mrs. Sanders is employed at the AME West Alabama Hospital in Northport, Ala. and has done demonstrations of infant and child CPR, as well as other emergency medical techniques.

Mrs. Sanders is very involved in church work as a cradle roll teacher, community service leader, Sabbath School counselor, musician for the Cherubim Children's Choir and a newly organized Young Adult Ensemble. She is married to Pastor Arthur L. Sanders, and they have two daughters, Paula and Pamela.

Johnnie M. Richards  
Communication Secretary

### **ADVENTIST BUSINESS OPENED IN TUSCALOOSA**

Olivia and Roger Willis of Tuscaloosa, Ala., recently celebrated the opening of a new store, Amber's Carpet and Supply Outlet. Members of the Tuscaloosa SDA Church were on hand for the grand opening and dedication ceremonies conducted by Pastor Milton Johnson. Mr. and Mrs. Willis have donated three rooms of carpet to the children's Sabbath School division.

The business is named after their only daughter Amber. They also have two sons, Tremayne and Randall.

Johnnie M. Richards  
Communication Secretary

### **IS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WORTH IT?**

It is often wondered what the end result will be of many years spent in a church school environment. The following is a personal testimony of Dr. Karla Montague-Brown of Nashville, Tenn., a product of the Alcy SDA Junior Academy, Memphis, Tenn.

We often hear the appeal to send our children to church school or to support Christian Education by giving liberal offerings. Sometimes we respond in a positive manner, yet at other times for various reasons, we do not. Some may feel that it does not matter whether we have a church school or not, or whether our children go to church school. We have been admonished that our children are to be

taught of the Lord and receive an all around christian education. What better way is there to insure that this education is received, than to have what is believed and taught in the home and at church reinforced in a school setting.

I cannot say for sure what difference there would be in my life had it not been for church school. However, I am grateful that Alcy was in existence when I was in grade school. I thank God and my parents that they had the wisdom, courage and faith to take advantage of the opportunity of providing me a christian education.

It was very difficult for anyone to be left out of activities at Alcy. One reason was because there was not a lot of students, so when things were done, all participated. When there was a class play, everyone was in it. When we wanted to play kickball or some other game, everyone was included.

The teachers in church school are a part of my fondest memories. Mrs. Minnie Branch, my teacher for grades one through four, will always be associated with Psalms 19:14, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, oh Lord, my strength and my redeemer," which was recited daily. Mr. Daniel Carruthers, my fifth and sixth grade teacher had us recite Psalms 51:10 each morning. Even now when I hear the song "He Lives," I'm reminded of church school and Mr. Carruthers. Mr. Fred Pullins really knew how to make learning fun. It was through the biology lessons received in his class that I decided in the seventh grade that I wanted to become a doctor. But one of the things that stands out in my mind most is how, in addition to his being my teacher, I considered him my friend.

Memories of Ms. Naomi Yates' class are also special, I was a senior at Alcy by then, and since there were only three of us in the eighth grade, we were very important members of the class.

Not only did I develop socially and spiritually, but academically as well. After completion of the eighth grade and being tested for public school, I scored very high because of the advanced curriculum of the church school. When asked what school I had attended previously, it was a delight to say a Seventh-day Adventist school.

Try church school for your children. You'll see a difference and will not regret it. It does cost, but it also pays."

Charles D. Battles  
Principal

### **ASSOCIATION OF BLACK SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST NURSES MEETING**

The Association of Black Seventh-day Adventist Nurses will hold its first meeting at Oakwood College, Huntsville, Ala., April 1, 1988.

The theme will be "Black Seventh-day Adventist Nurses: Past, Present, Future."

Lola Stewart, M.S., Associate Director of Nurses at Huntsville Hospital, will be the keynote speaker.

All Seventh-day Adventist nurses are welcome.

Edna Roache  
Secretary

### **SOUTH CENTRAL STILL MOVES AHEAD WITH BUILDING PROGRAMS**

"We must seek to house the congregations!" stated Dr. C. E. Dudley, president of South Central Conference as he spoke with Elder Conn Arnold, director of ASI Ministries of the General Conference and Brother Milton Murray, director of fundraising programs for the General Conference when they met in Washington a few weeks ago.

These brethren have promised to give their assistance and support in helping to house the 16 congregations that were still without church homes at that time: Anniston, Athens, Brent, Daphne, Hartselle, Moulton, Hurtsboro, Union Springs and Wetumpka, Alabama; Sylvarena, Poplarville, Shaw, Grenada, Mississippi; Frayser, South Memphis, Kingsport, Tennessee and Panama City, Florida. The Lord has blessed the programs of evangelism, Harvest Ninety and the One Thousand Days of Reaping. The people are accepting the truth for this time, but they will not stay with the organization if they are not properly housed. A cathedral is not needed, but just a place in which to worship the Lord.

We are grateful for the help that will come, but we must not sit idle and wait. We must be on the move. New buildings are being purchased or constructed in the following places at the present time.: Athens, Harvest, Daphne, Anniston, Alabama; New Covenant, Memphis and Frayser, Tennessee. A new conference office is under construction in Nashville as well as a new F. H. Jenkins School. A new school building is also being constructed in Birmingham, Ala.—the Ephesus Jr. Academy. South Central still moves ahead with the building programs as it anxiously waits the helping hands that are on the way.

## MOM TO BECOME NAVY CHAPLAIN

In a commissioning ceremony held during the month of February, Dorothy Jean King took the oath of office and received her commissioning document. This means that she is now an ensign in the United States Navy. More than that, as a chaplain candidate programs officer,



*Ensign Dorothy Jean King Chaplain of U. S. N.*

she is about a year's time away from being an active-duty chaplain. Chaplains occupy a very special role in the Navy ministry programs. According to Chaplain Henry Nixon Jr., "There is a dynamic need for Black ministers in the Navy." He went on further to add, "There is a dramatic need for women in the Navy Chaplain Corps."

King uniquely fits the need and will be of great value to the Navy once she finishes her studies at the Emmanuel School of Religion in Johnson City, Tenn. Ensign Dorothy King, Chaplain, USN, has been sponsored by the Methodist church, since females of the SDA Church have not been endorsed by the church at this time.

King grew up in Memphis, Tenn., and has longed to serve the needs of mankind. She worked as a chaplain in the hospital system in Memphis before moving to Kingsport, Tenn., where she and her family now reside.

## PROGRAM SET IN MOTION TO HAVE SOUTH CENTRAL PASTORS SERVE ON AFRICAN CONTINENT

Oft times, when positions of leadership are opened in the General Conference or in lands overseas, questions concerning the candidate's overseas service arise. Overseas service becomes a qualification for appointment. It is interesting to observe that fewer than 100 North Americans have been chosen to serve the church as overseas workers/missionaries since the work first began more than 100 years ago.

Because of the impasse that the Black worker has experienced in this area of service, the South Central Conference Executive Committee has sought to develop its own missionaries for overseas duties. The program is welcomed by the leadership in Africa: Elders Bekele Heye of Eastern African Division, J. Jacob Nortey of the Indian Ocean Division and W. S. Wakaba, president of the Southern Union Mission of South Africa.

"We would like to see some of our brothers and sisters from America come back to serve in the homeland, but we are told that you do not want to come!" Blacks from America are happy to be able to serve their brothers and sisters on the African continent. The South Central Conference seeks to change this image that has been given. Four pastors from the conference will be serving for one month in the three areas in Africa this year and each year to follow. It will prove to be a blessing for the onward progress of the work of the Lord and that of the SDA denomination.

## SOUTH CENTRAL ELECTS TWO FIELD SECRETARIES

Elder F. R. Earle, former president of the Northeastern Conference and Elder I. J. Johnson, former stewardship director for the South Central Conference, have been invited to serve as field secretaries for the South Central Conference, it was announced this week. These leaders of many years of experience will help with the guidance and training of younger workers who serve the church in this field as well as help with the counselling of pastors and members on problems that arise from time to time throughout the field. They well also be available for preaching engagements throughout the field and will serve as assistants to the president.

## BIRMINGHAM CONGREGATIONS UNITE TO BUILD A SCHOOL

For years the challenge of Christian Education has been before the members in the city of Birmingham, Ala. Teachers such as J. Price Pearson Sr., Mrs. E. Finley, Mrs. A. Joseph, Ezra Watts, Mrs. Bernice Pearson, Mrs. N. Joiner, Mrs. M. Watkins, Dr. A. Lussian, along with the pastors, have given blood, sweat and tears to help to train the minds of the children to become pillars in the kingdom of God.

The work in Birmingham began at the turn of the century when Black evangelists of the SDA denomination conducted tent efforts and baptized a goodly number of people. However, one of the doctrines that these taught was that all of the children should be taught of the Lord. They established the church school.

As the work grew, the one congregation grew to a number of additional congregations and each had its struggle to survive and to develop building programs in its own community. When the Ephesus Jr. Academy was purchased, much of the operating was left to the members of the mother church, Ephesus. However, on Sabbath, Jan. 9, 1988, all of the congregations and pastors in the area and in surrounding areas came together to join forces in the construction of a \$350,000 school facility which is to be opened by the fall of this year.

Dr. Henry M. Wright, secretary of the Columbia Union Conference, challenged the members to be mindful of the importance of training the minds of the children to become pillars in the temple of God when the kingdom comes. "These young minds must be sealed with the truths as they are found in the Word of God," Wright stated. Over \$150,000 was given and pledged on that day for this new



*Ephesus Jr. Academy Choir Supplies music for the services on United Education Day in B'ham.*

facility. The South Central Conference will donate \$75,000 for the program.

Children from the school offered special music for the services. Each pastor had words of cooperation, interest and support to give. Dr. C. E. Dudley, president, and Elder N. G. Higgs, superintendent of education, came from Nashville.

"I will contend with them that contend with Me and I will save their children!"

### **E. E. CLEVELAND HOLDS CRUSADE IN MONTGOMERY AFTER 34 YEARS**

Thirty-four years ago the city of Montgomery, Ala., was astir when E. E. Cleveland brought his entourage to the city for a city-wide crusade. The crusade which was to have lasted just eight weeks, continued for 22 weeks. Over 500 new members were added to the SDA Church and a new church building was erected. No one ever dreamed that the Lord would move in such a manner in this southern city, which was the home of the Confederacy during the Civil War.

Over 2,200 people attended the meetings nightly. The theater had to close its doors; the beer taverns closed their doors. People from all walks of life became a part of the new movement. Memories are still strong in the minds of the old-timers of the days when Cleveland spent that summer in Montgomery.

Last summer, Dr. and Mrs. Cleveland returned to the city to conduct a brief revival in the church for Pastors R. L. Patterson, M. A. Mounter and M. Johnson, who are pastors of churches in the city now. However, this meeting was also blessed with the power of the Lord, and over 111 additional persons were baptized into the church. The Sabbath services will

bring joy to the heart of any visitor these days. Souls are still interested and accepting the message of salvation as preached by His manservant, E. E. Cleveland. Although he has sought to retire, the fire still burns in his bones after 34 years.

### **BREATH OF LIFE TO BE FILMED IN BIRMINGHAM—EPHESUS**

The "Breath of Life" telecast, featuring Dr. C. D. Brooks and the associates R. Robinson, W. E. Arties and the quartet, is to be filmed for one of its productions at the Ephesus SDA Church in Birmingham, Ala., on Sabbath, April 23, 1988. The ten-year-old television ministries program of the SDA denomination is the one telecast that is being blessed through its ministry of evangelism and the upbuilding of the kingdom of Christ for the church.

Six new congregations have come into being since Brooks took his team to the field; thousands have been baptized and millions of tithe dollars have been added to the church's coffers. The programs are presently being seen on the Black Entertainment Network as well as local channels throughout the nation. A goodly number of crusades have been conducted in various nations to the south of us and in Africa.

### **SDA FROM GHANA HONORED IN MEMPHIS**

Mrs. Janet Fordjour, a native of Ghana, West Africa, was honored recently in Memphis as one of five Intercultural Women of Courage and presented a plaque for her service to the destitute and needy.

She was honored during a program held in the art gallery of Memphis State University sponsored by the Memphis

Council of International Visitors and the International Center of Greater Memphis.

A Member of the Longview Heights SDA Church, Mrs. Fordjour was recognized for her untiring efforts on behalf of the poor and needy as well as her hospitality towards foreign visitors to the city.

She was subsequently honored at a session of the Memphis City Council, where a resolution honoring her for her work for others was adopted after being given by City Councilwoman Minerva Johnican. She was also presented a Certificate of Appreciation by Shelby County Mayor William N. Morris Jr. for demonstrating "personal dedication and a high standard of citizenship."

Mrs. Fordjour is the wife of Dr. Isaac Fordjour, an oral surgeon and the mother of three sons. Her husband is one of the leaders in the prison ministry conducted for West Tennessee penal institutions and the youth pastor at Longview.

She was educated as a registered nurse in England and later married and moved to Memphis where she now assists her husband as office manager.

For her honors, she has been congratulated by Governor Ned McWherter and State Senator Stephen I. Cohen.

*South Central cont. on page 19*



*Pastor R. L. Patterson and some of the new converts in Montgomery last summer.*



*Mrs. Janet Fordjour.*

## SOUTHEASTERN

### A TRIBUTE TO ESTHER RAHMING

Esther Rahming retired after a 24-year career in the Federal Service. She is a graduate of Wilberforce University, Wilberforce, Ohio, and has taught in Pittsburg, Penn. She also worked at Riverside Hospital in Nashville, Tenn. It was in Tennessee that she met and married Harcord Rahming, and from Riverside, South Atlantic Conference sent them to Jacksonville, Fla., to teach at the Adventist Academy.

Esther served as a bookkeeper at Edward Waters College. In 1963 the Department of Labor hired her as a clerk typist, then as an audit clerk, assistant supervisor audit section, supervisor of a claims unit and Chief of Claims from which she retired.

Mrs. Rahming serves as treasurer of the Ephesus SDA Church in Jacksonville, Fla.  
Grayce Bateman

### PHARMACIST HONORED

Pharmacist I. I. Harris was recently honored by Pastor Herman Davis and members of the Ephesus SDA Church of Jacksonville, Fla., in recognition of service to the community. His business, Mervon's Pharmacy, is located between the church and the parsonage.

Elder R. R. Brown, Secretary of the Southeastern Conference, was guest speaker for the occasion.

Grayce Bateman

### STEWARDSHIP EMPHASIS IN JACKSONVILLE

Elder M. M. Young, former Stewardship Director for Southwest Region Conference, conducted a stewardship emphasis week in Jacksonville, Fla. Young now pastors in Miami, Fla.

Grayce Bateman

## SOUTHWEST REGION

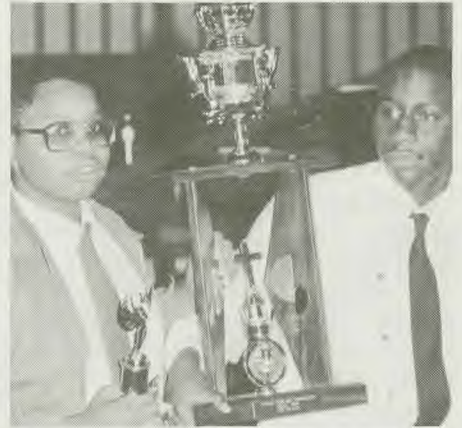
### NATIONAL BIBLE BOWL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The National Bible Bowl Championship was held at City Temple SDA Church in Dallas, Tex., Nov. 27 and 28, 1987. Participants were tested on various Biblical facts, quotations and historical events.

Teams came from California, Nebraska, Mississippi, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Georgia, South Carolina, Florida and Ohio. The North Philadelphia team placed first with Berean Church from Jackson, Miss., coming in second and the Youngstown, Ohio team, third. Two individuals were inducted into the National Bible Bowl Hall of Fame 1987: Edwina Mattix, coordinator for the Southwest Bible Bowl and William Robinson of Pittsburgh, Penn.

Delbert W. Baker, editor of MESSAGE Magazine, was guest speaker for the occasion.

Doris Jones  
Youth Department



Members of second place team from Jackson, Mississippi.



Elder B. E. Wright, Southwest Region Conference Youth Ministries Director, presents trophies to the winning team from Philadelphia, Penn.



Northeastern and South Central Bible Bowl teams in competition.

**STAFF SECRETARY ATTAINS CPS RATING**

Gwen Ashley has been awarded the Certified Professional Secretary (CPS) rating by Professional Secretaries International (PSI) after passing the six-part, two-day certifying test. The examination, given by PSI since 1951, is acknowledged as the most distinguished merit recognition available to secretaries.

Miss Ashley is one of the few secretaries certified in the SDA denomination and the only one currently employed in Atlantic Union Conference. A career office professional, Ashley urges every secretary to set as a professional-development goal the attaining of the CPS rating.

**THE LOVING SCHOLARSHIP**

A scholarship fund for eligible students at Oakwood Elementary School was established at the First SDA Church in Huntsville, Ala., by the late Mary Bell Winston Loving of the Class of 1914 and her daughter Mrs. Jeanne Wilson. To date, 10 students have benefited from this scholarship, according to Mrs. Lola Stewart, a friend of the family who cared for Mrs. Loving for some time before her passing. The scholarship is in memory of Mrs. Loving's youngest daughter, Barbara Ann, a victim of Down's Syndrome.

Mrs. Loving was born in Atlanta, Ga., on Aug. 14, 1985, one year before the founding of Oakwood College. Her father was William H. Winston, a SDA minister from West Point, Ga.

Mary Bell was an excellent student. She was also a very fine Christian and dedicated wife, mother and teacher.

She obtained her early education in the Atlanta public school system and attended Atlanta University before transferring to Oakwood College. Mary Bell was the first church school teacher for the SDA school in Louisville, Ky. There she met Albert A. Loving, who became her husband for 61 years, 55 of which were spent in Chicago. In addition to their two daughters, they also had two sons—Albert and William.

The Lovings moved to Huntsville in 1973 and united with the First SDA Church. Elder Loving passed in 1977. Mrs. Loving remained faithful to the Lord and the church until the time of her passing in Oct., 1984.

**NEW APPOINTMENT AT CHRISTIAN RECORD**

On Oct. 23, 1987, Tom Lowe Jr. was voted by the Board of Trustees to become one of three administrative officers of the Christian Record Braille Foundation.

Born near Atlanta, Ga., Tom spent 20 years with the United States Air Force before beginning his career with Christian Record as a district representative in southern Kansas in 1972. He also served as an area director for seven years in the Columbia, Lake and Eastern Canada areas.

Currently Tom is Director of the Field and Camp Programs and is responsible for all field workers and summer camps for blind children. His intimate knowledge of the workings of Christian Record will be of great benefit in his responsibility as an officer.

He and his wife, Ann, have three grown children: Natasha, Anthony and Thyra.

**CHURCH MOVES AGAINST SUPPORT GROUP FOR HOMOSEXUALS**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Seventh-day Adventist Church has asked the United States District Court for the Central District of California to issue injunctions to prevent a support group for homosexuals from using the Church's name.

The church petitioned the court to enjoin Seventh-day Adventist Kinship International, Inc. from using the church's name in any of its activities, services, advertising and publications after SDA Kinship International refused to voluntarily cease using the church's name.

The church claims that under federal and state law it has trademarks in "Seventh-day Adventist," "Seventh-day Adventists," and "SDA."

Official Seventh-day Adventist Church standards classify homosexual and lesbian practices with adultery, sexual abuse of spouses and children and incest as "obvious perversions of God's original plan" for the proper association of the sexes. "The Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual" lists "homosexual practice and other perversions" as "grievous sins for which members shall be subject to church discipline," though local congregations are instructed to make "all possible

efforts" to restore erring members "to right paths."

Incorporated in 1863, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has more than 5,000,000 members in 190 countries, including more than 700,000 members in the United States and Canada.

SDA Kinship identifies itself as a "support group for Seventh-day Adventist (former or current) gay men and lesbians and their friends."

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**Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.** Philippians 4:4

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**REVIEW AND HERALD PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION REVIEWS GOALS AND PROGRESS**

When the Presidential Commission of the Review and Herald Publishing Association was established during 1987, one of its objectives was to help more Blacks of the church get jobs/positions at the house. When the group came together in February, it learned that progress had been made. The goal was to have 20 Black persons working at the Review and Herald by the end of the year. Here is a report of the standings as of February 14.

Gilbert Anderson, Marketing Representative; Nettie Anderson, Secretary, Public Relations/Research & Development; Delbert Baker, Editor, Message Magazine; Vernon Cartwright, Pressroom; Leander Cherry, Art Department; Wilham Cleveland Jr., Copy Editorial; Barbara Jackson Hall, Managing Editor, Cornerstone; Stanford Hannum, Lithographics; Arthur Humphrey, Assistant Producer, Harvest Media; Patricia Humphrey, Assistant Editor, Message Magazine; Dorothy Jones, Operations; Ron Pride, Art Department; Sandy Robinson, Marketing Representative; Carol B. Thomas, Secretary, Message Magazine; Clarence Thomas, Finance; Lynette Walker, Secretary, Operations Shipping; Robert Walton, Operations Shipping

It is interesting to note that only one Black has been hired at the Pacific Press Publishing Association in Idaho. Perhaps they will take a page out of the Review and Herald book. A presidential commission can be very helpful in race relations.

Positions that are presently available at the Review and Herald Publishing House are: (1) Lithographics Journeyman I (second shift), (2) Plant Services, grounds and (3) Plant Services, Journeyman I. Wages for these posts range from from \$7.00 to \$10.00 per hour.





*Josetta relaxes while surrounded by many of her favorite stuffed animals.*

*By Penny Pool/Advertiser Staff*

## **FACING DAUGHTER'S KIDNEY DISEASE IS TUSKEGEE MOTHER'S HARDEST TASK**

Sally Fussell, 39, is accustomed to hard times—she's seen plenty of them. But the toughest one yet was learning her daughter, Josetta, 2, has a potentially fatal kidney disease.

"I don't know whether it will cause her to die or be on the machine the rest of her life," she says.

In January, the Tuskegee mother of five noticed Josetta's urine was darker than normal; then she saw blood in it. At first physicians thought it was something simple that would clear up with antibiotics and time. But it did not.

The cute little 25-pounder began swelling, and Tuskegee pediatrician, Dr. Molly Walker, began investigating. She sent the child to the Renal Clinic at the Children's Hospital in Birmingham.

Doctors Edward Kohaut and Bryson Waldo diagnosed Josetta as having focal glomerulosclerosis menangioproliferative. The disease destroys the part of the body that filters the blood, Fussell says.

Fussell works part time at the Veterans Administration Medical Center, bringing home \$158.83 every two weeks. Since she began the job in September, she has used her year's leave time in taking Josetta to the doctor.

Fortunately, she took the job for the insurance coverage before Josetta became ill, but she needs more than insurance monies to pay for the expenses of treating Josetta.

The insurance does not pay for the medicine nor the cost of the trips to the hospital, and Fussell does not know how much it will pay, if anything, on charges like a \$77 ultrasound test or a \$128 renal sonogram. She says, "I need help, and I don't know how to get it. I know I need financial help for the bills."

Fussell's son, James Edward Fussell Jr., 18, is in the U.S. Marine Corps. He is paying for the car that gets her to work and to the Birmingham hospital. But even paying for the gas and oil is a problem. "When I first made the trip, I had \$10 to my name," Fussell said. "The word got around, and people helped me out."

She said she keeps a careful record of people's names and addresses, because

she plans to send cards to let people know how appreciative she is.

Right now, gas money is a problem, not to mention treatment costs. Depending on how Josie, as her mother calls her, does, dialysis treatment and, eventually, two kidney transplants may be necessary.

The disease is not hereditary, and the cause is unknown, said Kohaut. "It's rare in terms of diseases most children would get, not in terms of diseases we get at the Children's Hospital. It is the number one most common cause of renal failure in children," Kohaut said.

"Some of the disease's victims go a year or two with the disease without needing dialysis or transplants, and others may go as long as 17 years. But Josetta has a particularly aggressive form of the disease," he said.

Looking to the future and the clouds it may bring, Fussell attempted to open an account at a Tuskegee bank in Josie's name for donations. "I had \$40, and a bank employee said I had to have \$100 to open an account. I just had the \$40, and the church gave me that. So what are you going to do? I've got to stay in control,

because Josie needs me," Fussell said. "I can't flip out!"

She receives no child support from her ex-husband, who fathered her three oldest children, or from the fathers of the two youngest children.

Fussell said she hates welfare, but calls the food stamps and rent subsidy she gets a blessing. "If I didn't believe in God and trust in God some way, I'd go stone crazy," she says. "She's a joyful little girl," Fussell says of her daughter, whose siblings are fiercely protective of her. John Wesley, 17, Alexander Devon, 15, and Timethiea Anneatte, a fourth-grader, tease Josetta, calling her "G. I. Joe."

"The big ones can handle themselves very well, but Josetta needs me, and if the truth be told, I need her. I wouldn't have anything without my kids," Fussell said, for the first time looking as if she were on the edge of tears.

Penny L Pool  
Advertiser Staff Writer  
Tuskegee, Ala.

*South Central cont. from page 14*

## FROM CHINABERRY TO A MAGNOLIA GROVE

Mother Carrie Johnson, who is almost 100 years of age, moved with her husband, Alex, from Columbia to Gulfport, Miss. The year was 1950. When in Columbia, Brother Watts gave a Sabbath School quartely to her, and from this kind Christian act, Mother Johnson learned that the seventh day was the Bible Sabbath which all Christians are to observe as a day of worship. The Johnsons began to conduct a Sabbath School in their home each week.

When these dear souls moved to Gulfport a few years later, Edward Jones, who lived in the Hansboro section of Gulfport, heard of a lady who "carried a Bible around all day on Saturday." He and his wife set out to find her, and it did not take him very long, for he found her seated under a chinaberry tree in the front yard of her home. She was teaching the neighborhood children the Sabbath School lessons and verses in the Bible.

Much of the surprise that came to Brother Jones when he saw her was that she was the same person that he had visited in Columbia, Miss. From this beginning the work of the SDA Church in the South Central Conference had its beginnings.

One day Sister Johnson began canvassing and came to the home of Marritue Walker and her mother who accepted one of her books for a donation



*Members of Gulfport join in a motorcade from their old church to their new building on opening day.*

toward the work in which she was engaged. Mrs. Walker discovered that the literature was a SDA publication and revealed that she had worked for a Seventh-day Adventist man who assured her that the Sabbath truths were the teachings of God's Word and that she should promise to obey and observe these truths when the opportunity presented itself. She stated that if she should ever meet someone who would rehearse these same teachings to her, she would become a member of the church. Mother Johnson had been sent from God. Mrs. Walker became one of her first converts.

Eventually, this study group grew to six and continued until a congregation of over 100 members can be found in Gulfport. Some of the pastors who came to strengthen the work were: L. G. Newton, R. C. Brown, H. L. Jones, J. P. Willis, E. Howard, S. H. Cox, G. I. Pearson, R. P. Stafford, M. R. Bernard, N. K. Miles, G. L. Byars, E. D. Jackson, W. O. Freeman, J. A. Jones and V. E. White, who is presently serving as the shepherd of the flock. The congregation worshiped in a small building

on Gulfport for a number of years, but on Sabbath, Jan. 23, 1988, the congregation officially moved into the new facility just a few blocks away. Pastors from a goodly number of the surrounding cities brought their congregations to help in the celebration: Pastor C. E. Monroe from Pensacola/Atmore; Pastor E. D. Jackson from Columbus, Ga., Pastor W. O. Freeman from Nashville, Tenn., and Elder D. Sellers from the bay area.

Some of the older members were Brother E. Clark, Brother E. Dove and family, Sister Daisy Jones and Pastor J. Barnes, a former Methodist minister. Dr. C. E. Dudley and wife came from Nashville, Tenn.

The work is on the move in Gulfport.



*Pastor Vincent White awards a plaque to Mother Carrie Johnson, the oldest member of the Gulfport church.*



*Pastor V.E. White and members cut ribbon to open their new facility in Gulfport, Mississippi.*

## CLASSIFIED AD

"RN's TIRED OF THE COLD?" The best opportunities under the sun can be found in Punta Gorda, Fla., near Ft. Meyer's gold coast. Medical Center Hospital, a 208-bed Sunbelt Hospital, has immediate openings in CCU, Med/Surg, OR, ER, and Chemical Dependency. Ask about our employment options and moving allowance. Contact Human Resources Director, P.O. Box 1309, Punta Gorda, FL (813) 637-2552.

## CLASSIFIED AD

Career Opportunity Fulltime, tenure-track teaching position is available in Atlantic Union College's newly accredited undergraduate Sociology/Social Work Department. Master of Social Work and 2 years experience required. Position to begin August 1988. Send resumes to: Dr. Susan Willoughby, chairman Department of Sociology and Social Work Atlantic Union College South Lancaster, MA 01561.

## CLASSIFIED AD

The Silver Anniversary for Northeastern Conference Education Coronation will be held Sunday June 12, 1988. All former participants from 1963-1985 are urged to contact: Mr. V. Bennett (212) 569-4800 Mr. J. Meriweather (718) 783-2085 All former debutantes will be honored.

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## CLASSIFIED AD

NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECH-SW FLA. Medical Center Hospital is seeking a Nuclear Medicine Technologist with CNMT or AART-N and Florida license eligible. Responsible for performing scanning and/or RIA procedures. Excellent salary (\$21,000-\$24,000) and benefits with moving allowance. Contact Human Resources Director, P.O. Box 1309, Punta Gorda, FL (813) 637-2552.

## OBITUARY

Mr. Lee Anders Batts Sr. was born Feb. 9, 1910 in Wilson, N.C. to the late Albert and Minnie E. Batts. He departed this life Nov. 18, 1987.

Elder Batts spent a part of his early childhood in Wilson, but later with his parents and sister Bessie, moved to Durham, N.C. where he completed elementary and high school. In 1936 he married the former Mary Crawford. To this union was born seven children: Elaine Edward, Dervie Williams, Albert and M. Lavonne of

N.Y.; Lee Anders Jr. and Joe Batts of Philadelphia, Pa., and Daymond of Durham, N.C.

Elder Batts led a devoted Christian life. Being raised in the Adventist faith, he was steadfast in his beliefs. As a member of the church, he held many offices such as: treasurer, Sabbath School superintendent, Sabbath School teacher, deacon, and served on the usher board. He was an ordained elder at the Emmanuel SDA Church in Durham for many years. Because of his illness, Elder Batts came to New York to be with his remaining family.

He leaves to mourn seven children; a sister, Mrs. Bessie Hastings and husband Lawrence Hastings Sr. of Hawthorne, Florida; 14 grandchildren; 8 nieces and nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.

## LEGAL NOTICE:

### SIXTH TRIENNIAL SESSION CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the sixth triennial session of the Central States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Chapel Oaks SDA Church, 6910 Riverview Ave., Kansas City, Kan., on Sunday, April 24, 1988, at 8:30 A.M. The purpose of the meeting shall be to elect officers and departmental directors for the conference, to consider and recommend amendments to the constitution and bylaws of the conference, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the session.

All regularly elected delegates from the various churches should be seated at that meeting.

J. Paul Monk Jr., President  
E. F. Carter, Secretary

### SIXTH TRIENNIAL SESSION CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE CORPORATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given for the sixth triennial session of the Central States Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists, to be held at the Chapel Oaks SDA Church, 6910 Riverview Ave., Kansas City, Kan., on Sunday, April 24, 1988, at 8:30 A.M. The purpose of the meeting shall be to elect officers and a Board of Directors for the corporation, to consider proposed bylaws for the corporation, and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the session.

J. Paul Monk Jr., President  
E. F. Carter, Secretary

## THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE

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The official organ of the North  
American Regional Conferences

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Published monthly by the supportive  
Regional Conferences of North America and  
printed by Papers, Inc.  
Milford, Indiana  
Subscription rate \$6.50 a year.

ALL MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION MUST BE  
CHANNELED THROUGH THE INSTITUTION OR  
CONFERENCE CORRESPONDENT.

Both old and new addresses should be given when a  
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Postmaster: Send all notices to Papers, Inc. Milford,  
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