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Musicians Honored During Afro— American Music Congress



C. L. Brooks of the General Conference of SDA; T. M. Kelley of Oakwood College; Roland M. Carter of Hampton University; Shelton E. Kilby III, minister of music for the S. C. Conference; Gail Murphy, minister of music, Longview Heights congregation, Memphis, Tenn.; Alma Blackmon, retirees from the music department of Oakwood College; Elanore Wright of Dayton, Ohio.

COVER STORY

CONGRESS OF AFRO-AMERICAN RELIGIOUS MUSIC—AN EXPERIENCE IN MUSICAL BLACKNESS

From the beginning of mankind, music has been an integral part of his existence. There appears to be a rhythm to every aspect of creation—day and night; winter, spring, summer, fall. It is no wonder that Black Americans have such a rich cultural heritage.

The second Congress of Afro-American Religious Music, held May 25-28 in Nashville, Tenn., was a celebration of that heritage. The congress, hosted by the Music Ministries Department of the South Central Conference and coordinated by Elder Shelton Kilby, department director, was held at the luxurious Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel. Musicians from across the country gathered to glean all that they could from the various seminars and programs presented.

Seminar facilitators included: Dr. William Augustus Jones, pastor of the Bethany Baptist Church in Brooklyn, N.Y.; Dr. Mellonee Burnim, professor of ethnomusicology at Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.; Dr. Roland Carter, chairman of the Music Department at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va.; Mr. Robert Holmes, a renowned jazz performer; Mr. Tony Shepperd, owner of Carrera Recording Studio in California; Mr. Mervyn Warren of "Take Six," nationally-known male acappella singing group; Dr. Benjamin F. Reaves, president of Oakwood College, Huntsville, Ala.; Elder C. L. Brooks of the General Conference Church Ministries Department, and Elder Shelton Kilby.

Elder J. W. McCoy, Executive Secretary for South Central Conference, opened the congress with a message entitled, "Send in the Choir." In it he expounded the point that before confronting the battles in life one should sing. He gave as an example the Biblical King Jehosaphat, who before a battle called for the singers.

Elder Walter Arties of the Breath of Life television ministry presented the various types of music used by the program. He made the point that the Negro spiritual is the only original American folklore, and that all that can should be done to preserve it.

THE BLACK CHURCH

What is the Black Church? Dr. William A.

Jones defined it as "that peculiar community of believers in Jesus Christ brought together in history by a combination of factors...their African rootage, their Blackness, their common affliction and their shared faith...It has been the vehicle of Black survival." Dr. Jones described the church as a religio-social phenomenon. The theory of "sainthood in isolation is a ...deviation from the faith. Although private prayer, personal meditation and introspection are essential to Christian growth and development...the Judeo-Christian tradition is corporate in its primary emphasis."

The Black Church is the most visible expression of this corporate philosophy. It is more than a religious institution. Begun as a result of disparity between Christian ethics and social policy, the Black church has always been the pulse of the Afro-American community. It is a carry-over from African culture—the concept of the together community or Koinonia.

African villages viewed life in terms of "Mutual obligation as opposed to individual rights...The sanctity of individual personality is inseparably related to the sanctity of the group" explained Jones. This way of thinking was brought with the enslaved Africans to America. Tribes were dismantled, families broken up, individuals speaking different languages were thrown together. The church became the families of these misplaced people. Dr. Jones explained that there were four basic things that bound them together:

blood, Blackness, bondage and the new birth.

The Black church continues today to be an extended family. Dr. W. E. B. Dubois wrote in *The Philadelphia Negro* "As a social group, the negro church may be said to have antiquated the negro family on American soil as a subsidy that has preserved, on the one hand, many of the family functions. Its tribal functions are shown in its religious activities...and general guiding and coordinating work. Its family functions are shown by the fact that the church is a center of social life and intercourse, acts as newspaper and intelligence bureau, is the center of amusements, indeed, is the world in which the negro moves and acts. So far reaching are these functions of the church that its organization is almost political." The African concept of community has remained constant.

Though regarded as mindless, slave did not merely accept the gospel as told to them by white missionaries or "puppet preachers" employed by the slave masters. Instead they gleaned the truths of salvation and formed such thoughts as, "Didn't my Lord deliver Daniel, then why not every man?"

The slaves began to have church services following the ones provided by the masters which was dramatically different. Dr. Benjamin Reaves described some of these differences in terms of culture, in a seminar entitled, "Black Liturgy."



Dr. William August Jones, pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in New York, addresses congress.

"Worship grows out of life," stated Reaves. "Differing geographical environments and differing historical experiences" are responsible for the way one worships. There is no one correct form of worship.

Music, preaching styles, delivery, duration of service and spontaneity are areas which define the differences in the Black Church. Whereas the White Church is time oriented, the Black Church is event oriented. There is a freedom of expression and a spontaneity in Black worship that does not exist in many White churches. This does not negate the fact that there is order.

Dr. Reaves interpreted worship as a personal experience that reaches its highest level in a corporate setting; again the concept of community. While personal expression is vital to one's Christian experience, a balance must be maintained in order to protect the corporate experience of worship. He gave as an example a woman who, during the minister's appeal, would walk up and down the aisle exclaiming her praises so loudly that the appeal could not be heard.

In terms of music in the corporate worship setting, Dr. Reaves admonished ministers of music to define the "comfort level," or level of tolerance for their particular church in order to maintain unity; unity being essential to worship. He also explained that one should not judge another's Christianity based on their own personal "comfort level."



Jackie Christopher makes presentation of outstanding musicians during Afro-American Congress.

Elder Shelton Kilby explained worship as communal. Music was created to worship God, so "if the music does not worship vertically, to God, or horizontally in bringing people together, it should not be sung in church."

Kilby also stated that "worship" poses the largest difficulty in worship. Because of an inherent dislike for oneself and culture, individuals seek to worship in a culture different from their own. "Don't lose your identity because somebody else is different," he said.

In talking about gospel music, Kilby gave standards by which to judge its use: a) Motive—Why do you want to sing this song? b) Function—Does it fit into this particular aspect of worship? c) Appropriateness—Is it appropriate for a particular time in the service? A song of celebration is not appropriate for a time of quiet meditation.

BLACK RELIGIOUS MUSIC

Many sociologists and anthropologists have argued about the ethnicity of the Negro. It has been said that there was no culture in Africa, therefore there could be no culture in Afro-Americana. Differences in culture and behavior were described as pathological.

Dr. Mellonee Burnim, in her lectures, on culture and what makes the musical tradition of the Black church uniquely African. She also illustrated with video and explained the rootage of Afro-American audio tape the linkages between different types of behavior and dress.

SPIRITUALS

The earliest form of Afro-American religious music was the folk spiritual. Started in the 1700's, the folk spiritual was born in the context of the invisible church. It developed when Blacks were not under the control of White missionaries and in their own services held in fields, gullies or wherever they could meet.

Three types of folk spirituals are: 1) Ring Shout, characterized by people joining hands in a circle; 2) Call-Response, characterized by repetition; and 3) Modified Hymns, introduced by Richard Allen.

Allen after leaving the established Methodist church because of discrimination, formed the African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.). He wrote his own hymnal in a style beneficial to Black worshippers and incorporated call-response in the hymns by adding a chorus to the standard four lines.

The arranged spiritual, started in 1870 with the Fisk Jubilee Singers, was created for the concert stage by George

White, a white choraleer. These spirituals, written in the White European tradition, were performed for primarily white audiences to raise funds for the college. GOSPEL

Dr. Burnim described gospel music as a post-war development. Transitional gospel songs were bridges to what is now known as traditional gospel. Three types of transitional gospel music are: Tinely, who changed the chord structure of hymns and was responsible for songs such as "Stand by Me," and "I'll Overcome Some Day"; Rural, which paralleled country blues and was usually sung by soloists; and Holiness/Pentecostal, the most spirited of the three and closely resembling the original folk spiritual.

Thomas Dorsey is credited with creating traditional gospel music. Because of his diverse musical background, he was able to pull all three transitional gospel forms together into one sound. The center of traditional gospel music was Chicago, Ill., where noted singers such as Mahalia Jackson and Roberta Martin migrated to perform the Dorsey songs.

Gospel music moved out of the Black community with the advent of contemporary gospel. The Edwin Hawkins Singers' "O Happy Day," was the first contemporary gospel to cross over to a broad white audience.

The levels of appreciation of gospel music as given by Dr. Burnim illustrated that a non-culture bearer (non-Black)



Elanore Wright, composer, author, musician of Germantown, Ohio, receives award for service.

person primarily listens to the sound and beat of the music. A judgement should not be made about gospel simple because of this misrepresentation. A Black non-religious person views gospel as simply a cultural phenomenon; but a Black Christian appreciates the spiritual and cultural phenomenon and the music becomes a means of religious expression. "Excellence in teaching and spiritual anointing is what should be strived for in gospel music," stated Dr. Burnim.

BLACK CLASSICAL MUSIC

Dr. Rolan Carter, an accomplished arranger/composer, emphasized the need to train youth to be professional musicians. He stated, "Many people think trained eradicates the spirit." "This," he explained, "is untrue." Having a varied background balances a musician and enables him to bring to his craft a rightness which cannot be duplicated by another without such a background. Dr. Carter stated that spirituals and gospel music do not have a monopoly on the Holy Spirit and gave examples of anthems written by Black classical musicians such as John Work, Undine Moore and Nathaniel Dett.

Dett, who wrote "Listen to the Lambs," an anthem derived from a folk spiritual, wanted to establish an American school of music using the only original American music forms: the Negro spiritual and Indian music.

Dr. Carter suggested, because of the limited musical training available in public schools, that churches take responsibility for training individuals in all types of music. He also conducted the Congress of Afro-American Religious Music Mass Choir, which performed his arrangement of "Give Me Jesus" during the Sabbath morning services.

Elder C. L. Brooks spoke to the seminar attendees about the importance of correctly instructing children musically. A strong Christian character, a love for children and musicianship were some of the leader qualifications listed as necessary for teaching children.

Highlights of the Sabbath celebration included Praise Service, featuring Pastor Samuel Thomas of Lake Region Conference; a history of Black Adventism, given by Dr. C. E. Dudley, South Central Conference president and Elder N. G.

Simons, a former conference treasurer; special musical guests, The Oakwood College Church Singing Men and the First Church Choir from Huntsville, Ala.; a usical drama, directed by Keith Wood of Memphis, Tenn., a moving dramatization of the Great Controversy between Christ and Satan; and an awards ceremony honoring outstanding musicians: Mrs. Alma Blackmon, Elder C. L. Brooks, Dr. Roland Carter, Elder Marshall Kelly, Mrs. Gail Jones-Murphy and Ms. Eleanor Wright for their contributions to the music community.

In addition to the daily seminars, concerts took place on Friday and Saturday evenings, featuring the varied forms of Afro-American music discussed during the congress. Some of the participants included: The Singing Men of Nashville, Tenn., Dwayne and Gail Hamilton, Take Six, Gail Murphy and Co., and the Richard Smallwood Singers.

Elder Kilby and his staff are to be commended for presenting such an enriching, informative congress.

Deborah Wilson



Memphis-Longview Church presents pageant during congress—a Gail Murphy production.



The Editor's Desk

Black SDA Nurses

Two of the officers' names that were omitted in the article entitled "Association of Black SDA Nurses Organized" were Mrs. Gwendolyn Nicholas, president elect of New York City and Mrs. Frankie Cantrell, assistant treasurer of Huntsville, Ala. Persons who are interested in receiving further information concerning the organization should contact Mrs. Kathy Woodfork Bradley at 4055 Corolyn Drive, La Mesa, California 92041

SUNSET CALENDAR

	July 29	August 5	12	19
Boston, Mass.	8:07	7:59	7:50	7:40
New York City	8:17	8:09	8:00	7:49
Buffalo, N.Y.	8:40	8:31	8:22	8:11
Atlanta, Ga.	8:40	8:34	8:28	8:20
Miami, Fla.	8:09	8:04	7:59	7:53
Charlotte, N.C.	8:30	8:23	8:16	8:08
Birmingham, Ala.	7:50	7:44	7:37	7:29
Jackson, Miss.	8:01	7:55	7:49	7:41
Memphis, Tenn.	8:06	8:00	7:53	7:44
Louisville, Ky.	8:56	8:49	8:41	8:32
Detroit, Mich.	8:56	8:48	8:39	8:29
Chicago, Ill.	8:12	8:04	7:55	7:45
South Bend, Indiana	8:07	7:59	7:50	7:40
Minneapolis, Minn.	8:44	8:35	8:25	8:14
St. Louis, Mo.	8:15	8:07	7:59	7:50
Kansas City, Mo.	8:33	8:26	8:18	8:10
Denver, Co.	8:16	8:09	8:01	7:51
Little Rock, Ark.	8:14	8:08	8:01	7:53
Dallas, Texas	8:28	8:23	8:16	8:08
New Orleans, La.	7:56	7:51	7:44	7:38
Albuquerque, N.M.	8:12	8:06	7:59	7:51
Oklahoma City, Okla.	8:37	8:31	8:23	8:15

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

PUBLISHER'S PAGE



E. E. Cleveland.

SO NOW—WE KNOW!

Donald Regan's book about the Reagan presidency reveals that astrology is a major influence in the lives of the President and his wife. Of course, it is uncommon knowledge that several of our most respected presidents have dealt with psychics. Nor has this practice been limited to American heads of state. Indeed, psychic phenomena has now come center-stage and is gaining respectability with the passing of time. Thousands tremble in fear on the west coast when reminded of the dire predictions of a famous psychic—long dead. Must this new wave of emphasis on the supernatural be taken seriously? What does it all mean? Let's begin with astrology.

Astrology is a study of the sun, moon, planets and stars in an attempt to foretell future events on earth by them. This study is based on the belief that the heavenly bodies control the affairs of men, and that movement of these bodies can be used to predict the future. It is based on the belief that the earth is the center of the universe—around which all other heavenly bodies are revolving. Copernicus and Galileo proved this to be wrong. They early demonstrated what is now generally known, namely, that the earth is one of several planets revolving around one of many suns.

Among the predictions of astrologers is one that said that the earth would be destroyed by a flood in 1524 A.D. They reasoned that the planets gathering under the zodiacal sign of Pisces would cause this flood. Well, this is 1988 A.D., and no such flood has taken place. And, of course, there is Nostradamus. This astrologer and

physician published his astrological predictions in verse form in 1555 A.D. His prophecies are so vague and obscure that they may be bent to say anything. People on the west coast may rest in peace if the ramblings of this mystic is their only fear. Any geologist would know if a geographical fault existed and where. The good citizens living in the area would know what to expect, if not when. Significantly, no psychic has predicted *when*. One last look at Nostradamus. It is said that he predicted the rise of Hitler. The vague references cited could have referred to Napoleon Bonaparte, Kaiser Wilhelm or any other dictator. Is the world so hard-up for prophets that it must strain at such gnats and swallow such camels? Do we need such things with the writings of Ellen G. White around?

One American in five expresses belief in astrology. There are over 7,000 astrologers doing business in America—and it is big business. Americans spend 200 million dollars per year on astrology. Fifteen hundred newspapers carry regularly and print horoscope columns. On 2000 campuses of the educational institutions of the nation, a computer network provides horoscopes 24 hours a day. One president of New York City Board of Education has suggested that astrology may have something to do with child misbehavior in the classroom. This leads to the bizarre conclusion that a Taurus throwing erasers at an Aquarius may have cosmic reasons. We would laugh it all off as a bad joke, if it weren't so dangerous. And herein lies the danger: 1. It accounts for human behavior by shifting responsibility to planetary bodies. This is unfair to the stars. In this we slander the universe. Not even a star would want to take credit or blame for all that is happening here. We rob man of his decision-making capability. This is the key to all human satisfaction. It absolves man of all moral responsibility. If he is not responsible, then there is no judgment or compensation.

The truth is—astrology is a form of spiritism and a form of demon control. In this age of the occult explosion, should not a people seek unto their God for guidance and grace?

The ancients considered the world as a living being: The sun and the moon being its two eyes, the earth its body, the ether its intellect and the sky its wings. Man was looked on as the world in miniature and it was thought that the movements of each corresponded with the other. Hence, the

system of astrology was born. That the head of our nation based even minor decisions on this pseudo-science is a frightening thought.

Still there is a broader field of occultism that concerns us here. Astrology is not even the tip of the iceberg. Demon worship, voodooism, ouija boards, the seance, fortune-telling and variety of eastern forms of mysticism now sweep the earth. The unseen spirits of the Apocalypse leap frog-like across the planet spreading their fog from the bottomless pit of demonology. We have had for over a century inspired writings from a 20th century prophet that predicted it all. "These persons overlook the testimony of scripture concerning the wonders wrought by Satan and his agents. It was by Satanic aid the Pharaoh's magicians were enabled to counterfeit the work of God. Paul testifies that before the second advent of Christ there will be a similar manifestation of satanic power." (Great Controversy, page 553) "But spiritualism which numbers its converts...by the millions; which has made its way into scientific circles, which has invaded churches and has found favor in legislative bodies...this mammoth deception is but a revival, in a new disguise, of the witchcraft condemned and prohibited of old." (Great Controversy, page 556)

These words were written by a frail little lady who died in 1915 A.D. This statement reads like a 1988 newspaper headline. So does much of what she has written.

After reading your Bible, check her out. Unlike Nostradamus, her writings are clear, precise—and inspired!

E. E. Cleveland

ALLEGHENY EAST

BRINKLOW STUDENT RECEIVES ROWAN SCHOLARSHIP

Thea Bandy of the Emmanuel Church in Brinklow, MD, is one of 50 Black students who received a \$4,000 scholarship from Project Excellence. This project was launched by Carl T. Rowan and supported by other Black journalists. Annually, Black honor roll students in the nation's capitol are selected for their excellence in learning and their usage of the English language.

Thea was notified that she was a finalist and was required to give a 3-1/2 minute speech, "Why I Am a Good Communicator." The speech was scheduled for a Sabbath. Thea prayerfully replied that she was a



Thea Bandy, recipient of Rowan Scholarship.

Seventh-day Adventist and could not attend. Separate arrangements were made, and Thea was allowed to give her speech to a Project Excellence member, Ms. Maureen Bunyan of a local television station.

Below is Thea's submission:

One Monday morning, my Spanish teacher asked the class to tell what they had done over the weekend. I anxiously awaited my turn, eager to share my weekend. Among other things, I told my class that I go to church every Saturday. After call, my teacher asked what denomination I was affiliated with. When I told her Seventh-day Adventist, she said, "What do your teachings mean to you?"

Seventh-day Adventism is different from other denominations in that we believe in three principles. First, we believe that that the seventh day is the Sabbath—the day we go to church. Second, we believe in the second coming of Christ, and, third, we have guidelines for eating and dressing.

Religion is an important and personal aspect of my life. It gives me guidelines for happy living, healthy eating and modest dressing. Religion helped me become the person that I am today by aiding me in developing my own morals and beliefs. Religion gives me something to believe in other than myself. I like my religion because even though guidelines are given, there is still room for personal decision. When in distress, I am

encouraged to seek the Bible. By having a religion, I feel like a complete person. Not like "something is missing that I can't put my finger on." What is important to me about my religion is that it is mine to keep forever. I have it! I am going to keep it...and use it wisely."

Ella L. Murphy
Communication Secretary
Brinklow Church

GOSPEL CHOIR HONORS FORMER DIRECTOR ON 48TH ANNIVERSARY

The Gospel choir of the Berea Temple Church of Baltimore, Md., was organized 48 years ago by David L. Johnson. The 50-voice choir made their first public appearance after a two-month rehearsal period in May, 1940.

Mr. Johnson was presented with a plaque honoring his faithfulness to the choir at a special anniversary ceremony emceed by Dr. Richard Gamble.

David served as director of the choir for 41 years until ill health caused him to resign. Since his illness, the choir has been directed by Martha Bell, Samuel Banks and Miriam Winder.

The choir with many new members is looking forward to its 50th anniversary.

Annie M. Johnson
Communication Secretary Baltimore-
Berea Temple Church



(Left to right) Mr. David L. Johnson and Annie Mathews Johnson during celebration of the Gospel Choir's 48th anniversary.

PRISON MINISTRY FEDERATION MINISTERS TO STATE HOSPITAL RESIDENTS

The Allegheny East Conference Prison Ministry Federation held its annual retreat at the Salvation Army's Ladore Lodge and Conference Center in Waymart, Penn.

In addition to the regular Allegheny East Conference members, those in attendance included visitors from the Northeastern Conference and Mr. and Mrs. Don Keiths from Minnesota, who came to share their prison ministry experiences.

The program schedule included the usual round of recreational activities plus the conducting of a Saturday afternoon worship service for the staff and residents of the nearby Farview State Hospital, an institution for the criminally insane.

This service was arranged and directed by Howard Brown, president of the New Jersey chapter of the Prison Ministry Federation.

The residents expressed their enthusiasm by joining in the song service conducted by Velma Lovelace of the Northeastern Conference. They even engaged in dialog with Elder C. L. Cheatham, Executive Secretary of the Allegheny East Conference, when he delivered his sermon.

A special letter of appreciation for this service was sent to Mr. Brown by Robert P. Andrews, Volunteer Resources Coordinator of the Farview State Hospital.

Tillman Mack Peck
Public Relations Director AEC Prison
Ministry Federation



Prison Ministry Federation activities included a nature walk. Sharon Green successfully crossed a stream on a fallen tree trunk.



Don Keith and his wife, Harriet, came all the way from Minnesota to share their experiences about prison ministry.



Rossi Bratten (third from left), Prison Ministry Federation President, makes final check of program before Divine Worship Service. Looking on is Don Keith from the Lake Union.

ALLEGHENY WEST

CENTRAL OHIO BUSINESS SERVICES ON RIGHT TRACK

Linda L. Sanders, president, owner and founder of Central Ohio Business Services, Inc. Columbus, OH, is living testimony that Christian principles, hard work and perseverance spell success in today's business world. Starting her own secretarial company seven years ago was not a difficult decision for Linda—her position with a major firm had ended, and she was tired of working for other people. Today, Central Ohio Business Services is one of the largest independent secretarial and temporary help firms in Columbus, but it was not easy getting to that point.

"For the first year, I was my only employee," explained Sanders. "I made sales in the morning, did the work in the afternoon and evening and delivered it to the customer the next day."

Sanders, recently selected as one of the 10 outstanding small business people in Columbus by the Greater Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce, said that she has always treated her customer's work as if she were doing it for herself. "I set very high standards for myself, and I know that if I am satisfied, my customers will be. It's the basic golden rule philosophy," stated Sanders.

This philosophy, combined with hard work and the determination to overcome whatever obstacles were placed before her, has proved to be the right formula for success. Central Ohio Business Services has grown dramatically from one full-time employee and sales of \$11,000 the first year to seven employees and sales of over \$1,000,000.

Sanders made the decision to get into the temporary personnel business in 1984 because the growth of her full service secretarial firm had been minimized by increased competition. "The increased competition was not only responsible for the slow growth of my firm but my profit margin was being eroded, because prices were being forced down while expenses were increasing," said Sanders. "I had to come up with some way of stopping this trend while remaining in the same type of business and temporary personnel fit the bill."

Central Ohio Business Services operates out of two modern, well-equipped offices. One is located in the Worthington Ohio

Industrial Park, and the other in a major downtown Columbus office building. The downtown office was opened in 1985 in order to increase the flow of applicants for temporary positions. Sanders said that she had plenty of openings, but no one to fill them. "Our Worthington location is convenient only to those people in north Columbus and northern suburbs. My competition had offices downtown, and we were losing good people to them, because we were not accessibly by bus," Sanders said.

Sanders started C.O.B.S. with \$1,100 borrowed from a family member and minimal equipment. She chuckles when she relives the "old days." Things were so simple then—sell the client on your abilities, pick up the work, do it, deliver it and get paid. "Now I have to be concerned about the image my 200-plus temporaries are projecting in the marketplace, how to fill in for a temporary who has become ill on the job and many, many other things on a daily basis," she stated.

Despite her success, Sanders remains congenial and hard-working, often putting in 12- to 14-hour days. She also maintains her Christian ethics and demands the same things of her employees. "I know my success is because of God. I could not have done this alone," said the devout Seventh-day Adventist. "It is imperative that I recognize this fact every day. With Christ, what seemed impossible was made a reality by faith and acting upon his promises."

Linda L. Sanders, Christian, successful entrepreneur, wife, mother, grandmother, is certainly on the right track.

LAKE REGION



Workers of Lake Region Conference attend retreat in Indiana.

OFFICERS/WORKERS HOLD RETREAT

Elder Fred White, Ministerial Director for the Lake Region Conference, was asked by the officers of the conference to put together an Evangelism Retreat for the workers of the conference a few weeks ago. The three days spent in reports, plans and discussions on evangelism and togetherness for a finished work as presented by G. R. Earle, former President of the Northeastern Conference, W. W. Fordham, former conference administrator, pastor and evangelist who presently serves as the pastor for the Shiloh Church in Chicago, Ill., and C. E. Dudley, President of the South Central Conference, were the guest presenters. A good spirit of unity and brotherhood, as well as a challenge to get onward with a finished work, was felt throughout the group. Lake Region's best years still lie ahead. Pastors expressed their burdens for a greater soul-winning program in all of the churches during the remainder of this year. Elder L. R. Palmer, President, Elder R. C. Brown, Secretary, and Brother L. Stone led the body in a dedication and reconsecration service to help make ready a people to meet the Lord when He comes again.

R.C.B.



(Forefront, left to right) Eld—G. R. Earle, W. W. Fordham, L. R. Palmer, R. C. Brown, Fred White, C. E. Dudley.

GOLDEN AGERS HONORED AT CAPITOL CITY

During the morning worship service on June 11, the Golden Agers were honored at Capitol City Church in Indianapolis. Several Golden Agers participated in the service by announcing the opening song, reading the scripture, giving the morning prayer, conducting the worship in offerings. Phyllis Murrell, chairperson for the Senior Citizens' Committee, told the Golden Agers in an expression of love that they were more precious than gold. Also, that they have that special knowledge, wisdom and understanding that is attained with age alone. For some years now, the senior citizens at Capitol City Church have been referred to as Golden Agers.

Special music was provided by Peter O'Veilton of the city, Michael and Patricia Harris and Anthony Donatto of Capitol City. Each selection was dedicated to the Golden Agers. Charles Gray of Capitol City delivered the morning message. Gray, a retired educator, has served in many capacities at Capitol City. Presently he is an elder, and also a Golden Ager. The Senior Citizen Committee prepared and served dinner for the Golden Agers immediately following worship service in Fellowship Hall.

Charli Cartwright
Communication Secretary

ADVENTIST YOUTH WEEK OF PRAYER AT CAPITOL CITY

The Capitol City Adventist Youth Week of Prayer was held May 13-21. Dr. Lorenzo Grant, pastor of Breath of Life Church in Fort Washington, Md., was the guest speaker. Meetings were held nightly except Thursday evening. Rap sessions were held preceding each service for JAY's, Teens, Singles and Married Couples. The theme chosen for the Week of Prayer was "Just Say No." Dr. Grant interestingly wove this slogan throughout the meetings, encouraging the youth to be strong in their Christian convictions by saying no to temptation, depression, conformance, intemperance, etc. Michael Harris, AY leader, coordinated the nightly meetings, giving opportunity to all levels of the Adventist youth to participate nightly and on Sabbaths. At the close, Dr. Grant called for a rededication of youth and parents. As a result of the Week of Prayer, three youths gave their hearts to the Lord and will soon be baptized.

Charli Cartwright
Communication Secretary

AIDS WORKSHOP

Chapter I of the Indianapolis King's Daughters sponsored an AIDS Workshop on June 5 in Fellowship Hall at Capitol City Church in Indianapolis. Joanne Greer, Health Educator for the Marion County Health Department was the special guest speaker and facilitator. Ms. Greer spoke to a mixed audience of approximately 30, consisting of teenagers and adults. A video was shown entitled "Bryant's Letter" with messages from the U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. C. E. Koop. Handouts were provided with information for free anonymous antibody testing. Coordinators for the AIDS workshop were Myrna Hobbs, R.N., employed by the Veteran's Administration Medical Center and Phyllis Murrell, R.N., also employed by Veteran's Administration Medical Center and an active King's Daughter. Murrell, a member of Capitol City, stated, "It is essential that AIDS be controlled through education and healthy living habits. To know the facts about AIDS is the responsibility of everyone, and what you don't know can hurt you."

The group was very participatory during the question and answer period. Jerome L. Davis, pastor of Capitol City, stated the workshop provided much needed information. Refreshments were provided by Chapter I of King's Daughters following the workshop.

Charli Cartwright
Communication Secretary

NORTHEASTERN

CHILDREN'S DAY

The children of Jamaica SDA Church, Jamaica, N.Y., took full command of the services on Children's Day, May 14.

Dressed in colors which identified their respective Sabbath School departments, these young people demonstrated their love for God and their desire to serve Him.

Elease Narvaez of the Earliteen Department was the guest Sabbath School Superintendent in the Adult Sabbath School. Other participants in the program represented the Cradle Roll, Kindergarten, Primary and Junior/Earliteen Departments.

The Music Notes, Jamaica Church's 60-voice children's choir, sang during the 11:00 A.M. service. Special music was provided by Michelle and Dennis Langles, a brother and sister duo from the Pawtucket SDA Church in Providence, RI.

The first of two speakers was Keith Hurley, an eighth-grade student at I.S. 59 in Springfield Gardens, NY. He spoke on the importance of prayer.

Zenobia Londsedale, an eighth-grade student at the Linden School, Laurelton, NY, was the second speaker. Her message was entitled, "Not I But Christ."

The appeal song, "The Savior Is Waiting," was sung by Nicole Watts. Giana Thomas and Lisa Adolph, both age 11, were the hostesses of the afternoon program. Among the participants in the afternoon were twin sisters Nikieda and Nikiesha Kirkpatrick. They sang "Lord Prepare Me." These seven-year old girls were visiting Jamaica Church for the first time and eagerly shared their musical talent with the congregation.

Mrs. Doris Shorey interviewed about 15 children, asking them about their expectation of heaven. The activities that children hope to participate in vary, but all look forward to seeing Jesus.

Merle E. Thompson
Communication Secretary

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEEMED ESSENTIAL

Is a Christian education important to the development of Adventist youth in today's society?

A resounding yes was the answer on Education Day, April 30, 1988, at the Jamaica SDA Church, Jamaica, NY.

Throughout the day, parents were urged to seriously consider the importance of sending their children to SDA schools. This message was conveyed dramatically during the adult Sabbath School program in a skit entitled, "The Brighter Light."

Mrs. Joycelyn Johnson, Superintendent of Schools for Northeastern Conference, was the guest speaker at the 11:00 A.M. worship service. In her message, "Get Off the Track," Mrs. Johnson cited alarming academic dropout and failure statistics in the Black community. She challenged Black Adventist youth to get off the track of laziness and mediocrity and aim for academic and professional excellence.

Mrs. Miriam Greenaway was hostess of the afternoon program in which musical selections were rendered by youth of the Jamaica Church and the Lebanon SDA Church, Laurelton, NY.

Yemyaah Francis, an eighth-grade student of the Linden School, Laurelton, NY, recited the poem, "Babylon," which outlined the dangers of seeking worldly pleasures.

A discussion on whether Christian education is essential was led by Miss Glenda Yarde, Principal, Brooklyn Temple SDA Elementary School, Brooklyn, NY.

The Education Day program was planned by Mrs. Edna Grizzle, Education Secretary for Jamaica Church, and members of the education committee.

Miss Merle E. Thompson
Communication Secretary

LADIES' DAY AT BETTER LIVING MISSION

May 14th was Ladies' Day at the better Living Mission in the Bronx, NY. All ladies, both young and old, were given recognition for services rendered to the mission.

The highlight of the day was the morning's message which was delivered by Ms. Evelyn Harris of Trenton, NJ. Her subject was "When You Get What You Want, Will You Have What You Need?" This question gave parents much to think about as they work for the salvation of their children. A special feature was music presented by the Junior Choir.

The program was coordinated by Ms. Albertha Coley. Pastor Richard Bryant is the undershepherd at the mission.

Edna Farmer
Communication Secretary

YOUNG DEACONESSES PRESENTED AT BRONX CHURCH

Mrs. Nanette Darthard, head deaconess for the Bronx SDA Church in Bronx, NY, has been actively recruiting young women willing to be trained to serve as deaconesses in future years.

In March, eight young women were presented to the church as Deaconesses-in-Training. They were: Ernestine Graham, Elaine Watts, Patricia Harris, Diane Brown, Primrose Scott, Barbara Pogue, Kay Waters and Melody Herron.

The Deaconesses-in-Training will receive religious instruction in order to help them better understand the responsibilities of their office. It is hoped, by God's help, that at the end of their training they will have learned endurance, meekness and developed a genuine love for others.

Goals of the Deaconesses-in-Training are as follows: 1. To create a Christ-centered atmosphere in their individual lives, homes, church and committees. 2. Through prayer, fellowship, witnessing and studying the Word of God, they hope to win others to Christ. 3. To organize a buddy system designed to bridge the gap



Pastor Richard Bryant and participants on the Ladies' Day program at the Better Living Mission.



Mrs. Nanett Darthard, flanked by young deaconesses in training.

between the young and the elderly, to bring sunshine to the sick and shut-in.

These young deaconesses will minister to their elders by making phone calls, writing letters and cards, and running errands.

The charge to the Deaconesses-in-Training was presented by Mrs. Evelyn Guy, wife of Pastor John Guy.

Myrtle Pickett
Communication Secretary

VISITOR'S DAY AT BRONX CHURCH

The Bronx SDA Church of Bronx, NY, is privileged to have as its Sabbath School superintendent, Brenda Williams, former

secretary to Elder George Murphy, a former Sabbath School Director for Northeastern Conference.

Ms. Williams' experience in the Sabbath School work has more than adequately prepared her to assume the role of Sabbath School superintendent.

The Sabbath School has shown tremendous strides since the beginning of the year and has improved in missions and Sabbath School expense offerings and in lesson study. In addition, a Teacher's Training Course is underway and has an average attendance of 12 teachers weekly.

Williams and her team of officers worked untiringly to assure a successful Visitor's Day program, March 26. Ms. Jane

Palmer was in charge of the Sabbath School program.

Over 80 visitors joined the Bronx Church congregation to hear God's word preached by Calvin Watkins of the South Atlantic Conference. Pastor Watkins, a young, energetic evangelist, told visitors that the church is a hospital filled with sinners in need of a Savior.

The guests also had the opportunity to fellowship with church members after the service during the lunch prepared for them.

In the afternoon, Pastor Watkins spoke to the visitors about his experiences in South Africa. He reminded everyone of the freedom enjoyed in America and admonished all to pray for the freedom of Black individuals in South Africa.

Among the 69 visitors who complete visitor's registration card, 20 requested Bible studies, five a transfer of membership, and when the appeal was made, several stood for baptism.

The day's programs ended with a lively discussion. The visitors were made to see that the Adventist Church is a democratic institution where members could disagree without being disagreeable. As such in a spirit of Christian love and understanding, the following dilemmas that members face were addressed: 1. How should the church react to a single woman who becomes artificially inseminated, because she wants to experience motherhood? 2. Should SDA nurses who work on Sabbath be prevented from holding office in the church, since they are supposedly setting a bad example for new believers?

The day ended with a vesper thought by one of the youth of the church.

Myrtle Pickett
Communication Secretary

L. A. PASCHAL HONORED

Elder Lee Andrus Paschal, editor of the North American Regional Voice, received the Distinguished Alumni Service award during Oakwood College's graduation ceremonies in June.

Elder Paschal has served as president of the National Alumni Association of Oakwood College for over a decade. In those years Oakwood has experienced a tremendous growth in support and participation in their annual Homecoming celebration.

Congratulations!



Pastor Calvin Watkins, guest speaker for Visitor's Day at the Bronx Church.



Bronx Sabbath School Superintendent Ms. Brenda Williams addressed the congregation.



L. A. Paschal receives award at commencement.

SOUTH CENTRAL

PATTERSON TO CONDUCT TUPELO CRUSADE

Elder R. Peay, former associate secretary for the Southern Union Conference was to have conducted an evangelistic crusade in Tupelo, MS, this summer. However, he has accepted an invitation to serve as president of the South Atlantic Conference.

Elder Patterson, pastor of the Bethany SDA Church in Montgomery, AL, has been asked to conduct this crusade in place of Elder Peay. He has been blessed with bringing new congregations into being during his ministry and is anxious for outreach ministries.

Pastor Donnell Morgan and the literature evangelists under the direction of Elder Ben E. Cone Sr. have been working for the past year in the city and some 10 persons have already been baptized and are meeting weekly. Other interests have been found in the cities of Cornth, Okolona and other surrounding areas.

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES FOR EPHEBUS SENIOR ACADEMY

Plans are under way for Ephesus Junior Academy in Birmingham AL, to become Ephesus Senior Academy. Pastors and area congregations have united in planning and executing this project. The desire is to have a strong SDA church school in the Birmingham area, housing grades K-12.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held earlier this year with pastors and dignitaries taking part in turning the earth. Among those present were Elder C. E. Dudley, President, South Central Conference; Elder Nathaniel Higgs, Superintendent of Education, South Central; Dr. Richard Arrington, Birmingham's mayor; Mr. Charles A. Cline, architect; Pastors P. C. Vincent, Roy Rugless, Benjamin Jones, George Byars, Gaiter and William Freeman; Dr. Melvin Davis, school board chairman; Dr. William E. Lusain, principal, and Elder Jenkins.

Expansion plans include renovation of the present existing school building and the addition of facilities to accommodate students in the senior high school level with appropriate academic and religious activity.

A grand opening date has not yet been finalized, but it is hoped that the school will be in operation for the 1989 school year.

Winifred W. Varner



Dr. William Lusain, principal of the school; Ben Jones, pastor; Dr. Richard Arrington, mayor; Pastors P. Vincent, W. Freeman (builder for South Central Conference), George Byars, J. Grider, and Mr. Charles A. Cline (forefront, architect and speaker).



Harold Cleveland; Pastor John M. Brown III, and Mrs. Frances Savage.

NORTH MISSISSIPPI HOLDS COMMUNITY SERVICE MEETING

Sixteen churches in the North Mississippi Community Services Federation met at the Ephesus SDA Church in Greenville, MS, for a special meeting during the month of March. The event was hosted by Pastor John M. Brown III and Mrs. Frances Savage, Federation President.

Keynote speaker for the day-long service was Elder Harold Cleveland of South Central Conference. He spoke for the divine worship hour as well as the afternoon program. Elder Cleveland urged members to be diligent in caring for the poor and disabled among them.

The crowning event of the day was the dedication of the new Community Serv-

ices Center at Ephesus. The building was renovated by church members who donated time and effort in refurbishing the dilapidated structure. The church plans to operate a full-scale aid center, and preparations are now under way to begin serving hot meals to the needy in the community.

CLASSIFIED AD

Employment opportunity for Adventist teacher experienced in regional work for September opening of the Elementary Department of Faith Academy, Vandiver, Ala. For further information or to apply, contact: Dr. J. Price Pearson, 2233 Arlington, Ave. So., Birmingham AL 35205 (205) 933-8126.

THREE CHURCHES OPENED IN EIGHT DAYS

It was a very exciting time in the South Central Conference from May 7-15 as three congregations opened the doors of their new church homes in Harvest, Brent and Athens, AL.

James Edmond, the lay pastor for the congregation in Harvest, AL, along with church members have literally spent the past few months in the construction of their building. This congregation of over 80 members, came into being about five years ago when students from Oakwood College and members from the First SDA Church in Huntsville, AL, began a series of meetings in the Harvest area. Edmond, a strong lay soul winner who had retired in that city, became the leader of the group. The first crusade, headed by S. J. Jackson, netted some 25 souls. The First SDA congregation advanced monies with which to purchase a small building for the newly organized group to worship. In less than four years, the group grew to over 80, the monies repaid and plans under way for the construction of a new facility. On Sabbath, May 7, the Harvest, AL, church family, along with many friends and well-wishers had an unforgettable church opening ceremony. H. L. Wright was the contractor and builder.



New church building at Harvest, Ala., James Edmond, pastor.

While still a student at Oakwood College, Milton Johnson, pastor of the Prattville, Brent and Wetumpka, AL, district went to Brent, AL, to do evangelistic work. Miss Ellen Anderson, an instructor at the college, expressed a burden to see a work developed in Brent, her home town. Mr. Lovonne Hawkins and his family had also returned to the city from Ohio and shared the same burden. Johnson and his family journeyed to the area each week during a four year period. Bible studies were given, evangelistic crusades conducted and funds raised for a building to house the small congregation. The city of Brent came out to wish the congregation well as they opened their facility. Well-wishers



Athen, Ala., celebrates new church opening.

included the city's mayor, pastors from nearby cities and conference leaders. City officials sent 10 police squad cars to lead the procession of members from the old to the new place of worship. The building was opened on May 14.

Lorenzo Shepherd, pastor of the Athens and Triana, AL, congregations took up residence as pastor in Athens about a year and a half ago. This 32-member congregation had grown under the leadership of Elders E. C. Ward, C. T. Richards and J. Edmond. In 1947 students from Oakwood College under the leadership of Elder C. E. Mosely journeyed to this city to conduct student evangelistic projects. A few individuals were baptized, but moved away as a result of having no church in which to



Ribbon cutting services at Brent, Ala., church opening.

worship. E. C. Ward's outreach program from Oakwood College finally led to the re-entering of this city and a rebuilding of the work once again. When Elder Shepherd became the resident pastor, his challenge was to secure a building for the flock. He found a building which had previously housed a Jehovah's Witness congregation. It was moved and renovated. The church opening was held on Sunday, May 15. Mr. Charles White, a layman from Huntsville, was a tremendous help in getting this project to its completion.

Ronsard Broussard, pastor of the Dothan, Ozark and Panama City district,

along with the members of the Panama City, FL, Church, have purchased a new facility which will be officially opened during July.

Michael Holland, an infiltrationist who worked in Campbellsville, KY, has led his 19-member group in the purchasing of a building in that city.



New church building at Brent, Ala.



Mrs. Ingrid Jones and student of bread-making project, Selma, Ala.

CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN THE ART OF BREAD-MAKING

Mrs. Ingrid Jones, church school teacher at Temple Gate Elementary School in Selma, AL, seeks to carry out the "blueprint" set forth for Christian education—training of not only head and heart, but also hand. As one of the manual projects for teaching in her school, Mrs. Jones has given the young students courses in bread-making. J. P. Purifoy, who has attended the school for a number of years, has become skilled in this art and has been able to earn a substantial portion of his tuition selling his product.

Elder Garfield Powell, the pastor states that they are planning to purchase additional land on which to construct a new school facility. Classes are presently being held in the rear of the church

building. A new approach to financing tuition has also been engaged in for the past two summers. Students sell Christian literature at the beginning of this season and usually earn enough money to continue their education for the remainder of the school year.



F. N. Crowe receives the doctorate degree from Faith College in Birmingham, Ala.

F. N. CROWE RECEIVES DOCTORATE

Elder F. N. Crowe, treasurer of the South Central Conference, was awarded an L.L.D. degree from Faith College in Birmingham, AL, in May. Also included in the ceremonies were: Mayor Richard Arrington of Birmingham; Professor Alfred Lee and Mrs. M. L. Hemingway, instructors from Oakwood College; Mr. A. Vanderhoist of Washington, D.C.; President A. L. Dudley of Hadley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C.; Elder Sandy Robinson, sales representative from the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, MD; Mrs. Edna Lett Williamson of New York City, and Miss A. Cherry of St. Petersburg, FL.

On this occasion, the college auditorium was named and dedicated in honor of Mayor Richard Arrington who was also one of the principal speakers during the services.

Faith College is a fully accredited liberal arts institution founded in 1976 by Dr. L. Williams. Dr. Williams has studied and served on the staffs of a goodly number of education institutions.

Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.



Doctorate degrees conferred on SDA leaders along with others.

BAPTISMAL SERVICE IS HELD DURING CAMPMEETING

Eleven persons were baptized during the South Central Conference campmeeting services this year. These dear souls have come from various sections of the conference and were given the rite by their pastors from various districts. Dr. F. S. Hill led out in the program that is held each year; Elder E. C. Wards, Director for Outreach Ministries gave the charge to the candidates while they waited in the pool. Among those baptized was a precious soul who had come from the Trans-Orange Conference at Johannesburg, South Africa. On hand for this ceremony was President M. P. Mawalea, the leader for the conference there. He was visiting the campmeeting while on tour of the Regional Conferences in America.



REVELATION SEMINARS PROVE TO BE FRUITFUL

Evangelism is a year around objective throughout the South Central Conference. Pastors and members are encouraged to conduct some type of soul-winning witness every quarter. During the spring quarter this year, Pastors Xavier Butler of Riverside Chapel in Nashville and A. S. Wagner III of Frankfort, Ky., led their members in all out Revelation Seminars. Butler

held his at the Cumberland Hall Hospital in Nashville (formerly the Riverside Hospital) while Wagner conducted his meetings at the campus of Kentucky State University in Frankfort.

These meetings were attended by people from all walks of life. Many expressed appreciation for the truths that they had learned from the week by week study of the Bible. Some sought their relatives and friends and brought them to enjoy the new-found truths as they are written in the Word.

At the close of the meetings between 15 to 25 persons were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist faith. Some were ministers of other faiths.



Butler issues diploma to the graduate of the seminar classes.



A. S. Wagner III conducts Revelation Seminar, baptizes 13 converts in Frankfort, Ky.

MAWALEA VISITS AMERICA

M. P. Mawalea, President of the Trans-Orange Conference in the Southern Union Conference Mission of South Africa, came to the United States for a first-hand observation of the operations of the work of the church in America. He has served as president for the Swaziland Conference in South Africa territory for more than 15 years and was recently invited to serve in his present post. He had never had the privilege of meeting with his brothers and sisters of the land where the message had



M. P. Mawalea and C. E. Dudley.

its birth, and for years, others from that part of the world had not done so. But through the blessing of God he was able to make the trip.

His visits would lead him to the North-eastern Conference where L. G. Newton is the president, to the South Central Conference where C. E. Dudley is president, to the Lake Region Conference where L. R. Palmer is president. He will also visit his African brothers in other parts of the continent—Andrews, Michigan State, Loma Linda, various institutions throughout the land, the G. C. headquarters. "Already," he states, "It has been a worthwhile trip."

Let us pray for the work in and throughout the continent of Africa. Mawalea has expressed interest in persons coming from America to teach methods of stewardship, concepts in evangelism and other skills that will help to do a stronger work for the Lord in that land.

Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his.

SOUTHEASTERN

"FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS"

The Third Triennial Session for the Southeastern Conference convened at Mt. Sinai SDA Church, Orlando, Fla., on May 15, 1988. The session began at 10:00 A. M. and 12½ hours later, when the benediction was said, the report was as follows: President—J. A. Edgecombe; Secretary—R. R. Brown; Treasurer—D. A. Walker; Undertreasurer—Eugene Mason; Communications—R. R. Brown; Personal Ministries Sabbath School—I. L. Harrell, Youth Ministries/Health and Temperance/NSO—W. L. Taylor; Education/Trust Services—O. H. Paul; Stewardship/Ministerial—S. J. Jackson; Publishing F.H.E.S.—J. L. Wells.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

District 1: Pastor Tyrone Boyd, Edward Smith, Vanessa Melton. District 2: Pastor Cleveland Mair, Robert Mike II, Ralph Williams. District 3: Pastor Theus Young, J. C. Johnson, B. W. Powell. District 4: Pastor W. C. Byrd, Flora Baptiste, Frances Albury. District 5: Pastor Jackson Doggette, Suzanne ARteaga, David McCalla. Teachers: Gilbert Cooper, Dolores Davis. French/Hispanic Representatives: Pastor Julio Astacio—Spanish, Pastor J. C. Brutus—French.

The 432 seated delegates were afforded an open and free discussion on any and every relevant topic, and thus the atmosphere was congenial and the business of God's church proceeded in an orderly fashion. It became apparent that one day was not enough to transact all the sensitive and important matters of this growing conference. However, because of the interest and concerted efforts of the delegates to give direction and be an integral part, time was not a major problem.

The devotional message was given by Elder E. E. Cleveland. It supported and underscored what was already addressed by the conference team as requests were made for fasting and praying. God's spirit permeated the meeting, and a spiritual tone prevailed in almost every transaction.

Each delegate received a session booklet, the proposed constitution and bylaws and the financial statements of three years, prior to their arrival. This gave the delegates forehand knowledge and reduced the number of redundant and unnecessary questions.

The proposed constitution and bylaws

adopted from the General Conference model occupied more time than any other single issue. The constituency established a first. The constitution reads that all officers, except that of the office of the president, must be filled by a constituency meeting called within 45 days after the departure of person filling the position.

Some of the highlights of the session were: 12 churches that were organized during the triennium and voted into the sisterhood of churches; the purchase of a conference office building, 180 Westmonte Drive, Altamonte Springs, Fla.; 2,658 persons added by baptism and profession of faith; the liquidation of debt to South Atlantic Conference for the campground; the establishment of a conference-wide senior graduation weekend in Orlando; a Layman's Rally weekend; almost 1 million dollars in sales by faithful literature evangelists, and a sizable tithe increase, to name just a few. With regards to administration, the Executive Committee was raised from 17 to 23, the number of laypersons from 7 to 10, two teachers from the denominational workers rank and two persons to represent the Spanish and French membership.

The one glaring aspect that never surfaced during the session was the plans and projections that the constituency anticipates in the upcoming Triennium.

Due to the lateness of the nominating committee's report and the other discussions, it was omitted, but the Executive Committee must be poised to give serious study to a future that will see the implementation of projects and evangelistic procedures that will glorify God.

The session profited from the presence of General Conference personnel: Elder R. L. Woodfork; the Southern Union Conference, Elders George Powell, Maurice Abbott, Allen Williamson, Dennis Ross and Elder E. E. Cleveland.

As the delegates melted away from where they had given time and energy in the assigned tasks, it was with satisfaction that God's work was on the move and with gratitude for being co-laborers in the task of reconciliation.

CALENDAR

July 10 - 25; Junior Camp: Aug. 31 - Sept. 2: Senior Camp; Sept. 9 - 11: Elder's and Deacon's Retreat; Sept. 16, 17: South Florida Youth Federation; Sept. 30 - Oct. 1: Layman's Rally.

OAKWOOD GRADUATE JOINS SOUTHEASTERN STAFF

Lawana Williams, a June, 1988 Oakwood College graduate with a B.S. in business management, has assumed the responsibility of accounting clerk with the Southeastern Conference.

Ms. Williams, a native of Thomasville, Ga., plans a career in the Treasury Department.



Lawanna Williams, 1988 O. C. graduate in business management.

COMMUNITY SERVICES AT WORK IN ELIM

The Elim SDA Church, St. Petersburg, Fla., operates a Community Services program every Saturday night. Bread and other food items are offered.

J. C. Johnson, Community Service leader, said, "Our Church has felt the need to extend a helping hand to individuals who have gone through a personal tragedy or those who may be temporarily down." He stated further that between 40 to 80 families are served weekly. In addition to the food, the church offers clothing and household items.

Elim SDA Church is not in competition with state or county agencies, but seeks to cooperate fully with them. To support this worthwhile project, someone has suggested that each church member give \$1 weekly and guarantees that God's blessing will multiply that meager dollar ten fold.

Joseph Harris, pastor of Elim, indicates other programs such as vegetarian cooking classes, health screenings, etc., will take place.



HOMEcoming AT MT. SINAI

"Welcome Home, Children" was the theme used to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Mt. Sinai Church of Orlando, Fla.

Pastor S. J. Jackson and members welcomed home old and new members, as well as a host of visiting friends, during the week of Feb., 29-March 5.

The uniqueness of this anniversary celebration was manifold: 1. To have for the first time a week nightly meetings with the following former pastors participating—Elders Ralph Franklin, Malcolm Phipps, Dunbar Henri, A. R. Gouldbourne, O. H. Paul, R. C. Parham and H. M. Wright. 2. Former pastor and associate pastor to present historical sketches of Mt. Sinai. 3. To raise funds to aid in the liquidation of the church's mortgage by 1990. 4. To

honor Elder and Mrs. O. H. Paul and family by mounting a bronze plaque on the church in memory of his dream, hard work and faithfulness in making the dream of a new church for Mt. Sinai a reality. 5. To continue the tradition of inviting Elder H. M. Wright, Secretary of Columbia Union to preach on the last Sabbath.

All the services were well attended. Additional blessing came through song. The faithfulness of the capable music department, headed by Mrs. Jacqueline C. Ross, contributed.

The anniversary activities ended on Sabbath evening, March 5, with a dinner/theatre. The Excelcians, an acting group from Mr. Sinai, presented a play entitled "Day of Decision."

A retrospective glance revealed that



Elder O. H. Paul, Director of Education/Religious Liberty, shakes hands with members from Ridge Area, Avon Park.

without the untiring support, the spiritual leadership of Pastor S. J. Jackson, visiting speakers, members, friends and visitors, the week which was well organized by the

Homecoming Committee, chaired by Lewis Johnson, could not have been the success that it was. Approximately \$15,000 was raised!



Antonio Assent, first elder of Mt. Sinai, makes presentation of brnze plaque inscribed on church building for Elder O. H. Paul, former pastor responsible for the church's construction.



Antwoyn Mells, infiltration pastor, and graduates of the Real Truth Bible course.

REAL TRUTH GRADUATION AT MARANATHA

The Maranatha SDA Church of Waycross, Ga., held its first Real Truth Bible Course graduation exercises. Ten students finished the course and three (Peter Priest, Veronica Green and Gladys Milton) now attend the church regularly.

Infiltration worker, Pastor Antwoyn Mells and the church Personal Ministries Director Brooks are actively engaged in this ministry.

NORTH ORLANDO TO OPEN NEW CHURCH

The North Orlando SDA Church members will see the realization of their hopes shortly. Construction of their church began Jan., 1988.

The church will be built in two phases. Phase 1—the sanctuary which will cost \$325,000 and will seat approximately 350 persons, is now being built. Phase 2—the Fellowship Hall and classrooms which will be built later.

A formal opening is scheduled in July.



North Orlando SDA Church under construction. Opening scheduled for July, 1988.

OAKWOOD COLLEGE

NGOZI CROWNED QUEEN

The Oakwood Women's Club Coronation Committee presented its Fifth Biennial Debutante Coronation Banquet on Sunday, May 15, at the Huntsville-Marriott Hotel. Fifteen young ladies were presented, including five college freshmen, namely Zandra Armstrong, Sharlene Bailey, Tricia Forde, Ngozi Iheanacho and Shellie Wright. Each of the 15 raised money for scholarships ranging from \$200 to over \$3,000. Ngozi Iheanacho, daughter of Morris and Shirley Iheanacho, was crowned debutante queen, raising more than \$3,800. Nadine Washington, daughter of Donald and Carole



Winners of the Oakwood College Debutante Ball: (left to right) Nadine Washington, 1st runner-up; Ngozi Iheanacho, debutante queen, and Sharlene Bailey, 2nd runner-up.

Washington, was the second place winner, raising over \$2,000. Sharlene Bailey, daughter of Ornan and Shirley Bailey, was the third place winner, raising over \$1,800.

All the young ladies are to be congratulated for a job well done.

Lillian J. Green

REMEMBERING THE OAKWOOD OFFERING ON AUGUST 13, 1988

The Seventh-day Adventist College is a primary medium through which the church attempts to fulfill the great commission: "Go ye into all the world and Teach all nations..." (Matt. 28:19). Those who go must be prepared, and the preparation takes place at these institutions of higher learning. As a result, Oakwood College, an historically Black liberal arts Seventh-day Adventist Institution, founded in 1896, has as its fundamental purpose quality Christian education. Its mission embodies access to educational opportunity, academic excellence, and spiritual development for persons reflecting demographic, economic, cultural and educational diversity. Therefore, programs and activities are Christ-centered, designed to integrate faith and learning, encourage a vibrant spiritual experience, prepare individuals for the second coming of Christ and provide an atmosphere for appreciation of oneself and affirmation of cultural diversity. With its emphasis on excellence in career preparation, the institution continues to be "Today's College for Tomorrow's Leaders."

On Aug. 13, 1988, when the Oakwood Offering is taken, remember that your special gift to the college will be a gift also to the fulfilling of Christ's Commission to the Church.

Oakwood does not take you or your gift for granted.



The 1987 Oakwood Offering helped in the remodeling of several areas of the residence halls. Continuation of this special project towards its completion will depend greatly on what you do for the Oakwood Offering on Aug. 13, 1988.

Thank you for your never-failing support.

And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.

Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning...Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou has put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness.

IN THE NEWS

WALTER PAYTON TO HOST NCC PROGRAM ON TEENS IN THE EIGHTIES

Walter Payton, of National Football League fame, is the host of a special program on American teen produced by the Communication Commission of the National Council of Churches.

Mr. Payton, a star running back for the Chicago Bears for 13 years, has turned the tables on many of his fans and become their most avid fan. He now roots their cause as a formidable force with the Starlight Foundation, Make a Wish and a Chicago teen support organization, Better Boys Friends.

As the host of "Someone is Listening," Payton will introduce other listeners in church and community organizations which are moving to direct teens beyond negative crisis points into positive expressions of hope. The three critical areas of teenage dilemma and tragedy explored in this program are suicide, sexuality and social abuse which includes drugs, alcohol and gangs.

"Someone is Listening" attempts to probe the hearts and minds of young people as they speak from confusion and gradually grow towards clarity and celebration. Their stories unfold at a state-wide youth retreat in Lexington, KY, sponsored by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ); The Bridge Fellowship in Bowling Green, KY...A Seventh-day Adventist drug rehabilitation program and many other church and civic organizations.

This program is the first in an inter-faith series, "Promise of the Future." Please check local listings for the time and date in your area. Network Program Information Communication Commission National Council of Churches

OBITUARIES

Georgia Mae Battle Willis, born May 1, 1934 in Alma, Ga., was the oldest of four girls born to the late Leonard and Thelma Battle. During the beginning of World War II her father moved the family to Brunswick Ga., to find better employment and opportunities for them. There Georgia and her sisters attended public elementary schools.

Her mother died when she was 14 years of age. Pastor and Mrs. D. E. Davis took Georgia and her sisters to Savannah, Ga., attend church school. From Savannah she went to Huntsville, Ala. to attend Oakwood Academy and College where she was attracted to one known to many as "Pop" Willis.

Pastor James P. Willis and Georgia were married Sept. 5, 1954 by Elder C. T. Richards in Charlotte, N.C. Georgia joined her husband in the Delta area of Mississippi laboring in ministry for the Lord. For the next 33 years she was a faithful minister's wife.

Georgia was a lover of many things—for example, her love of music. She loved music so much that she took piano lessons under Mrs. Everyl Gibson until her death. However, her greatest loves were for her Lord, her children and her family. She was

always willing to be a part of the youth ministry of the church. She loved being a mother to her children and anyone associated with them. She was very faithful in keeping in touch, by phone or through a card, with members of both sides of her family. Above all, the thrill of her life was traveling by the side of her husband.

Georgia suffered her first heart attack in 1978 while employed at Chase Manhattan Bank. After triple-bypass surgery in 1979, she was on extended disability from her place of employment. Through the years she kept in close touch with her bank associates. They in turn have shown their love and affection for her in so many ways.

Georgia also sought in some way to inspire her children, nieces and nephews to achieve in life and commented with great satisfaction about their various successes. One of whom she spoke very highly was her nephew Sherman who independently worked and received his R.N. and B.S. degrees. Additionally, she was devoted to various organizations through her financial support and presence. One such group that she dedicated much time and effort to was the Samuel A. Rashford Alumni Association.

Although ailing physically for the past 10 years, Georgia never complained. Instead she gave to life all that she could offer and enjoyed every moment. She leaves to mourn her passing her husband, Pastor James P. Willis; her children: James P. II, Janice, Carnell, Dorothy, Carla, Herbert, Mary and Andrew; grandchildren: Carol Janae, Andrew, Anthony and Arkeisha; parents: Elder and Mrs. Hector Mouzon Sr; two sisters: Willie Dean Champen and Margaret Lee; mother-in-law: Sadie Willis; brothers-in-law; sisters-in-law; aunts; uncles; cousins; nieces; nephews, and a host of friends.

Edgar Bradley, born in 1917, was the first black photographer hired in 1963 to work in the Orlando Sentinel's newsroom. He was "the" photographer in terms of documenting black history.

Mr. Mitchell suffered a stroke in 1977 and had to retire. In 1982 he suffered a second stroke that left him blind. Though physically blind, Mr. Mitchell was able to see the truth and was baptized into the SDA Church by Elder S. J. Jackson, pastor of the Mt. Sinai church in Orlando. In 1988 Mr. Mitchell suffered a third stroke which led to his death.

Funeral services were held Sunday, March 9 at Mt. Sinai. He was 70 years of age.

THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE

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