

*NORTH AMERICAN*  
**Regional Voice**



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

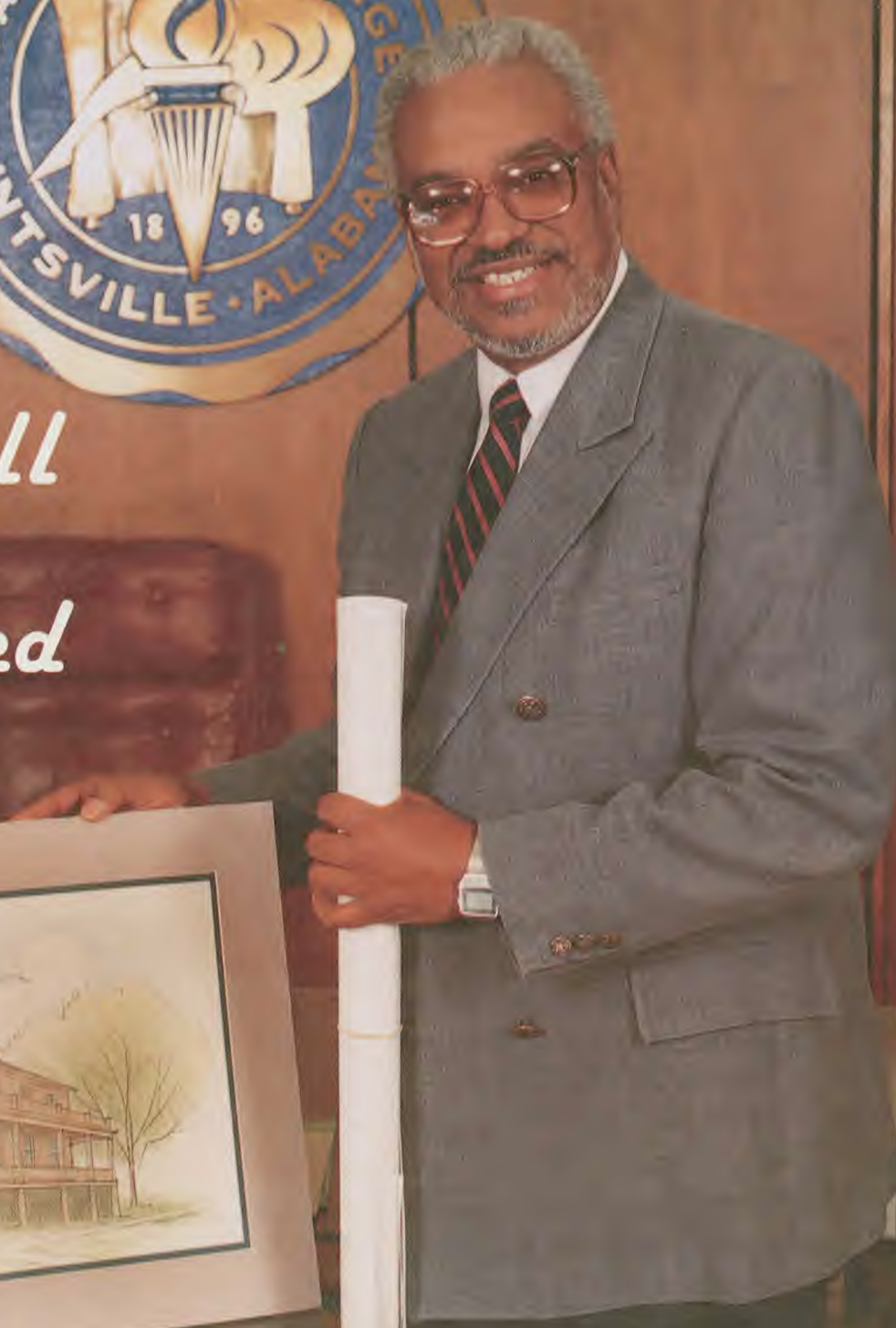
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*Fast Hall  
to be  
Renovated*



HUNTSVILLE OAKWOOD COLLEGE  
1896



## PUBLISHER'S PAGE

### OAKWOOD COLLEGE ALUMNI HOMECOMING

It happened! Where? Oakwood College Campus and the Von Braun Civic Center, Huntsville, Ala., March 31—April 3, 1988. According to the security office of the VBCC, nearly 11,000 dedicated alumni and friends attended the 21st Annual Oakwood College Alumni homecoming which used as its theme: "Challenges, Changes, Commitments."

A dream, a burden and a prayer became a reality for the Oakwood College National Alumni Association and the Oakwood College Alumni Affairs Office as their staff members united together to sponsor this strategic event. It does not seem fitting to use this space to write of special features (they were outstanding): golf tournaments; basketball tournaments; 5th Annual Fun/Run Walk; Black Educator's Conference; Black Nurse's Conference; Antique Auto Show; Rhyne Medical Symposium, etc.

All those individuals who chaired these important events certainly deserve our praise for their contributions toward the success of the Homecoming. It will give a concise account of what Jesus Christ wrought in our midst.

On Thursday afternoon delegates from all over the United States and Canada began registering at Blake Center. Thursday night and United Negro College Fund (UNCF) Banquet was held with Kaye Rafko, Miss America '88, and Freda Payne as special guest. Friday night at the Oakwood College Church, the Oakwood College Alumni Homecoming officially opened with a very inspiring message given by Dr. Jessie Mary Godley Bradley, Educational Consultant for the state of Connecticut. As Dr. Bradley opened our Homecoming, we knew we were in for something special. Excitement! The very atmosphere was charged with excitement from the opening welcome.

The Sabbath School program was meticulously planned by Carolyn Monk. After our illustrious president of the National Alumni Association, Elder Lee Pascal, introduced our 11 o'clock speaker Elder O. J. McKinney, Ministerial Director of Southern Union of Seventh-day Adventists, we were all lead by the Holy Spirit into a spiritual reformation.

So mighty was the move of God that

people who worked for the convention facilities became genuinely interested in what was taking place. The spiritual atmosphere of the gathering will long be remembered. The Awards Program Sabbath afternoon was highlighted by the Alumna of the year, Eardell J. Rashford, the Alumnus of the year, Joseph Hinson, the President's Awards honoree, Wilbert Mays and Parent of the Year, Mrs. Alberta Culan. This gracious woman was, with her husband, responsible for sending all of their offspring except one to Oakwood College. All of her 20 grandchildren have attended church school.

Other persons honored at the awards ceremony were: Rozena Crawford, Allegheny East Conference Certificate of Merit Honoree; Martha Lewis, Allegheny West Certificate of Merit Honoree; Mrs. Joan Robinson, Central States Conference Merit Honoree; Charles Woods, Lake Region Conference Certificate of Merit Honoree; Frances K. Jackson, Certificate of Merit Honoree, Pacific Union; Elder John B. Harris, Northeastern Conference Certificate of Merit Honoree; Elder Joseph Louis Follette Sr., South Atlantic Conference Certificate of Merit; Richard S. Norman, South Central Conference Certificate of Merit Honoree; Elder Matthew Green, Certificate of Merit Honoree for Southeastern Conference; Elder Charles E. Bradford, 1988 Recipient of the Message Magazine Excellence Award; Natelka E. Burrell, 1988 Message Magazine Excellence Award.

The senior class of 1988 gave the vesper with Chaplain Ray Leftridge, giving a concise and power-packed devotional, which was a proper closing to the awards program and the Sabbath.

Sabbath evening was climaxed by the Presidential Gala with our former college president, Dr. Calvin B. Rock (currently Vice-president, General Conference of SDA) taking us down memory's lane with respect to Black Higher Christian Education, thus challenging us to do mighty exploits for God at Oakwood College. To God be the glory, great things He has done. See you next year!!!

S. Haywood Cox

### CONGREGATIONALISM IN ADVENTISM!

"Independent Ministries Within the Seventh-day Adventist Church"

Many are witnessing a movement within the Seventh-day Adventist Church that is congregational in nature. This trend, however, is not new. It has been in

existence and is merely a recurrence of events that will increase as we near the end of time. Among these events is the rise in independent ministries.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is governed by a representative form of government. This recognizes that authority in the church rests in the church membership, with executive responsibility delegated to representative bodies and officers for the governing of the church. The independent form of church policy that makes the local church congregation supreme and final within its own domain is usually referred to as congregationalism.

We cannot deny the fact that for every independent ministry will be reasons for their existence. However, the validity of those reasons can be denied. Some common reasons are: the church has lost its sense of purpose and mission, the church is now Babylon, new ideas are not accepted by the organized body, dissatisfaction with leadership, no upward mobility and a need for independence. Never given as a reason, but be assured a driving motivation, is money.

To argue most of these reasons, the spirit of prophecy will be used. Although independent ministries within the Seventh-day Adventist Church "claim" belief in Ellen G. White as a prophetess, they do not realize that she had much to say about congregationalism.

In 1905 she wrote: "We cannot now step off the foundation that God has established. We cannot now enter into any new organization; for this would mean apostasy from the truth."

In 1908: "I am instructed to say to Seventh-day Adventists the world over, God has called us a people to be a peculiar treasure unto Himself. He has appointed that His church on earth shall stand perfectly united in the Spirit and counsel of the Lord of hosts to the end of time."

Further, she stated that the church is not to be broken up into independent groups. "Again I say, the Lord hath not spoken by any messenger who calls the church that keeps the commandments of God, Babylon. True, there are tares with the wheat; but Christ said He would send His angels to first gather the wheat into the garner. I know that the Lord loves His church. It is not to be disorganized or broken up into independent atoms. There is not the least consistency in this; there is not the least evidence that such a thing will be. Those who shall heed this false message and try to leaven others will be deceived and



preparped to receive advanced delusions, and they will come to nought.

There is in some of the members of the church, pride, self-sufficiency, stubborn unbelief, and a refusing to yield their ideas, although evidence may be piled upon evidence which makes the message to the Laodicean church applicable. But that will not blot out the church that it will not exist. Let both tares and wheat grow together until the harvest. Thus it is the angels that do the work of separation.

"I warn the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be careful how you receive every new notion and those who claim to have great light. The character of their work seems to be to accuse and to tear down."

In these references, the inspired author had much to say about congregationalism. Similarly today, a clarion call should be made to these ministries and the members associated with them, to realize that although they profess to believe in the spirit of prophecy; keep the seventh day Sabbath; use Sabbath School Quarterlies (published by the Seventh-day Adventist Church); 'use' the name Seventh-day Adventist; have an AYS department; participate in the ingathering campaign, they are not Seventh-day Adventists. By now righteous indignations may have turned to anger, but kindly re-examine the second reference. There the word apostasy - written under inspiration - denounces in no uncertain terms the error of your ways.

To fellow pastors and administrators who may sympathize with this deceptive movement, one simple question should be asked. How would you react to a member in your church who gathers to himself a following, organizes a church independent from the Seventh-day Adventist Church and becomes congregational in nature? The response to such a movement is quite obvious. Fellow pastors, congregations are looking for leadership. God is looking for ministers to be His undershepherds.

"If persons are as deserving of being separated from the church as Satan was of being cast out of heaven, they will have sympathizers. There is always a class who are more influenced by individuals than they are by the Spirit of God and sound principles; and, in their unconsecrated state, these are ever ready to take sides with wrong and give their pity and sympathy to the very ones who least deserve it. These sympathizers have a powerful influence with others; things are seen in a perverted light, great harm is done, and many souls are ruined."

# The Editor's Desk

## DORCAS DAY AT PARK HILL

Sabbath, March 5, was Dorcas Day at Park Hill SDA Adventist Church, Denver, Colo. The guest speaker, C. Dunbar Henri, Former Vice-president of the General Conference, presented a message concerning the cares of this world coming between man and God. He called those cares, "stuff." Elder Henri, now Ministerial Secretary of the South Atlantic Conference, served over 21 years in Africa.

Another special guest for Dorcas Day was Mrs. Hattie Anthony. Mrs. Anthony operates a center which feeds over 600 individuals a week. She has received two letters of recognition from the President of the United States. The first was received in 1983 in Tulsa, Okla., congratulating her for her work done in feeding the needy and an International

Award in 1985. Last April she received the Good Samaritan Award in Washington, D.C.

Ivory Chalmers  
Communication Secretary



Elder C. Dunbar Henri, Ministerial Secretary of South Atlantic Conference.

## SUNSET CALENDAR

	June 24	July 1	8	15
Boston, Mass.	8:25	8:25	8:23	8:19
New York City	8:34	8:34	8:32	8:29
Buffalo, N.Y.	8:58	8:58	8:56	8:52
Atlanta, Ga.	8:52	8:52	8:51	8:49
Miami, Fla.	8:16	8:16	8:16	8:14
Charlotte, N.C.	8:42	8:42	8:41	8:39
Birmingham, Ala.	8:01	8:01	8:00	7:58
Jackson, Miss.	8:11	8:12	8:11	8:09
Memphis, Tenn.	8:18	8:19	8:18	8:15
Louisville, Ky.	9:10	9:10	9:09	9:06
Detroit, Mich.	9:14	9:14	9:12	9:08
Chicago, Ill.	8:29	8:29	8:27	8:24
South Bend, Indiana	8:24	8:24	8:22	8:18
Minneapolis, Minn.	9:04	9:04	9:01	8:57
St. Louis, Mo.	8:29	8:29	8:28	8:25
Kansas City, Mo.	8:48	8:48	8:47	8:44
Denver, Co.	8:32	8:32	8:30	8:27
Little Rock, Ark.	8:26	8:26	8:25	8:23
Dallas, Texas	8:39	8:40	8:39	8:37
New Orleans, La.	8:05	8:05	8:05	8:03
Albuquerque, N.M.	8:24	8:24	8:23	8:21
Oklahoma City, Okla.	8:49	8:49	8:48	8:46

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



"In nine cases out of ten if the one reproved had been left under a sense of his wrongs, he might have been helped to see them and thereby have been reformed. But meddlesome, unsanctified sympathizers place altogether a wrong construction upon the motives of the reprove and the nature of the reproof given, and by sympathizing with the one reproved lead him to feel that he has been really abused; and his feelings rise up in rebellion against the one who has only done his duty. Those who faithfully discharge their unpleasant duties under a sense of their accountability to God will receive His blessing. God requires His servants to be always in earnest to do His will. In the apostle's charge to Timothy he exhorts him to "preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with long-suffering and doctrine."

Said the prophetess, "We had a hard struggle in establishing organization...But we knew that the Lord God of Israel was leading us, and guiding by His providence...God has blessed our united efforts...The system of organization has proved a grand success. As we have advanced, our system of organization has still proved effectual...Let none entertain the thought that we can dispense with organization. It has cost us much study and many prayers for wisdom, that we know God has answered to erect this structure. It has been built up by His direction, through much sacrifice and conflict. Let none of our brethren be so deceived as to attempt to tear it down.

If we see no necessity for harmonious action, and are disorderly, undisciplined and disorganized in our course of action, angels, who are thoroughly organized and move in perfect order, cannot work for us successfully. They turn away in grief, for they are not authorized to bless confusion, distraction and disorganization...Never, never will these heavenly messengers place their endorsement upon irregularity, disorganization and disorder. All these evils are the result of Satan's efforts to weaken our forces, to destroy our courage, and prevent successful action...

These devoted souls consider it a virtue to boast of their freedom to think and act independently. They will not take any man's say-so. They are amenable to no man. I was shown that it is Satan's special work to lead men to feel that it is God's order for them to strike out for themselves and choose their own course independent of their brethren."

The sincere desire of this author is that this article would be a vehicle upon which some innocent soul, some sincere seeker for truth, may find their way back into the fold of God, and once there - Don't you let nobody turn you around.

## ALLEGHENY EAST

### CHURCH OF THE ORANGES CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY

"You've shed a lot of sweat, blood and tears. You've made a lot of sacrifices to see this day...but, except the Lord build the house..." challenged Pastor Harold Lee, as he spoke to the capacity congregation during the tenth anniversary celebration of the SDA Church of the Oranges.

The Church of the Oranges has a very impressive history. During the summer of 1977, a group of evangelistic-minded members from the Trinity Temple, Montclair and Morristown, N.J., churches organized a committee to establish a branch Sabbath School in the city of East Orange, N.J. By November of the same year, the branch Sabbath School had developed into a group large enough to begin the first SDA church in the city of East Orange.

The East Orange SDA Church, consisting of 55 members, was officially voted into the sisterhood of churches in the Allegheny East Conference on April 16, 1978. By December, the membership had

reached 122 and the reported tithe nearly \$70,000. The next milestone came at the end of 1980 when the tithe soared to more than \$86,500 and the membership to 176 persons.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church of East Orange, after several years of renting church facilities, closed title on its present church home on Oct. 28, 1982, and at the suggestion of Daisy Lindo, one of its members, changed its name to the Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Oranges, a name which it still bears.

Dec. 31, 1982, records show that the membership of the new Church of the Oranges had reached 282 and the tithes had surpassed the \$120,000 mark. Today the membership is more than 400.

The congregation has been led by five



*The official welcome to the Sabbath festivities given by Audrey Hinds-McDonald, M.D.*



*The future of the Church of Oranges looks assured as the little tots listen to the children's story told by Mrs. Madge Campbell.*



pastors during the 10-year history. They are: James Clements, Jr., who now serves as assistant church ministries director of the Columbia Union; Roy E. Brown, presently serving as executive secretary of the Southeastern Conference; Harold L.

Lee, pastor of Dupont Park SDA Church; John Glenn Roberts, pastor of the Metropolitan SDA Church in Hyattsville, Md., and presently John A. Trusty.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Oranges has the right chemistry for

growth. It has good leaders like Andrew A. McDonald and his wife, Audrey Hinds-McDonald; Jose Griffeth; Thelma Baker; Harper Esmond; Arlene Hutchinson and Earl Reid. It has very faithful members and it has a statement of mission. These elements along with the blessing of God have ensured and will continue to ensure the growth of the Church of the Oranges.

The festivities of Sabbath, April 24 ended with a panel discussion led by Pastor John Trusty. This discussion was of issues presently facing the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including the medical and moral issues of AIDS and surrogate motherhood.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Oranges has also given birth to a Spanish company of believers, numbering close to 50 persons.

John Trusty challenged his flock in these words: "Let us constantly seek to enrich the quality of our service. This means the strengthening of our various departments, the adding of new and essential goals and challenges, and the improving of our present facility to meet the needs of our community."

R. L. Booker



*Surrogate Motherhood - Implications for the Church, topic of panel discussion during the 10th Anniversary of the Church of the Oranges.*

## ALLEGHENY WEST



*Pathfinders prepare for parade.*



## ALLEGHENY WEST CONFERENCE PATHFINDER CAMPOREE

Nearly 200 Pathfinders from Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania came to Paint Creek State Park in Southern Ohio for Allegheny West Conference-wide Camporee.

The theme of the event, "Survival," was highlighted by a two-mile hike through nature, led by Euliss Bailey, General Pathfinder Coordinator, who pointed out wild, edible plants. The Pathfinders also visited the nearby Seven Caves Recreation Center.

The opening devotional message was given by Elder C. Richard Rogers, Youth Director for Allegheny West. He emphasized the most important truth as it relates to survival, the second coming of Christ.

Elder W. J. Lewis, Conference President, was the Sabbath morning speaker. Several young persons responded to an appeal for

those who were not church members to surrender their lives to Christ.

A highlight of the camporee was the grand parade through the park. Pathfinders dressed in full uniform with flags and banner, marched to the beat of drums and

passed out religious literature to the other recreational campers.

Park officials described the young campers as the best they've ever had. The Pathfinders look forward to the Columbia Union Friendship Camporee in 1989.



*John Preston, Pathfinder leader from Cleveland, OH, leads group in Sabbath School lesson.*



*Elder C. R. Rogers, Conference Secretary, Director of Adventist Youth and Captain of the Pathfinder camp.*



*Pathfinders from Dayton, OH, wait on Sabbath dinner.*



## CENTRAL STATES

### COMMUNITY GUEST DAY AT PARK HILL

Relatives of church members as well as members of the community and other churches were invited to be a part of Community Guest Day held at the Park Hill SDA Church, Denver, Colo.

Mrs. Sheri Brown of Shorter A.M.E. Church, Denver, Colo., was guest singer during the Sabbath services. Mrs. Brown presented a rendition of the song, "How Great Thou Art," after which she was presented with a plaque of appreciation by Sabbath School superintendent Erma Mallard.

The Testimonies, a singing group from the Community SDA Church, Denver, Colo., also provided music for the service.

### DEDICATION AT EMMANUEL CHURCH

The Emmanuel SDA Church of St. Joseph, Mo., recently held dedication services for their new church home. The former church, built under the leadership of Elder Robert L. Woodfork, was destroyed by fire. The present church building has 14 rooms, including a large kitchen and a large nursery. All new furniture in the nursery was donated by Mrs. Barbara Taylor and children, along with Elder and Mrs. Sherman Wilkinson, Sr., in memory of Elder Donald Taylor.

Elder Robert L. Woodfork, field representative for the General Conference and former pastor of Emmanuel, was guest speaker for the occasion. An ordination service was held in conjunction with the dedication, ordaining Sherman Wilkinson, Jr., and Gary Wilkinson, Sr., as local elders.

Elder Paul Monk, Jr., conference president; Elder Eugene Carter, conference secretary; and Elder Leroy Hampton, conference treasurer, were present for the dedication services as well as numerous guests from Wichita, Topeka, Leavenworth and Atchison, Kan. The Bethel SDA Adult Choir were musical guests.

Alicia Smith  
Communication Secretary.

"Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness." Psalms 150:2



The Testimonies perform for Community Guest Day.



Sabbath School Superintendent Erma Mallard presents plaque to Mrs. Sheri Brown.

### REAL TRUTH NEWSNOTES

The week of March 19-26 was Youth Week of Prayer at the Real Truth SDA Church, Kansas City, Mo. The theme was "Harvester—Reaping for 1990." There were different topics and speakers during the week. Local elders Lonnie Carr, Michael Hill, Michael Moss, Clarence Small, Wesley Thomas and Michael Taylor were speakers; as well as Elder G. H. Taylor, Jr., pastor of Real Truth; and Pastor Donald McPhaul of Beacon Light SDA Church, Kansas City, Mo. Special music was brought by the Bethel Youth Choir of Kansas City, Kan.; Theresa Robinson; Alekia Littlefield; Vicki Moss; Mr. and Mrs. Carr and others.

March 26 was Community Guest Day as well. Dinner was served for family, friends and guests. The AY Society and Personal Ministries Department went into the community to distribute food to the less fortunate.



(Left to Right) Ordainees Gary Wilkinson Sr. and Sherman Wilkinson Jr. kneel as dedication prayer is given by Elder R. L. Woodfork (2nd from right).



The following Sabbath, Real Truth, joined by the Park Memorial SDA Church, also of Kansas City, again went into the community with food and literature. The medical van was utilized as well, providing blood pressure screening.

Consequently, each Sabbath, the Real Truth and Park Memorial churches meet to prepare sack lunches, stamp literature and go into the community. Between 90 and 100 lunches are given out each week. The youth of both churches are active in this form of Christian outreach.

Mae Fields  
Communication Secretary

### PARK HILL HOLDS YOUTH WEEK OF PRAYER

Pastor Carl Maceo Bailey, Jr., was the speaker for Youth Week of Prayer at Park Hill SDA Church, Denver, Colo. Pastor Bailey is a graduate of Oakwood College and has pastored several churches in the Southwest Region Conference.

Ivory Chalmers  
Communication Secretary

### SHARON CHAPEL HOLDS "TOM THUMB" WEDDING

A wedding is always a festive occasion and children seem to add that finishing touch. So the Sharon Chapel members of Sedalia, Mo., sponsored a mock wedding ceremony for the "little" people.

Three-year-old Alicia Poole was the blushing bride, and five-year-old Matthew French was the groom. Other members of the wedding party included: Eric French, best man; Brianne Humphrey, flower girl;



Bridal party of mock wedding.



Darryl and Barbara Robinson sing for Week of Prayer at Park Hill.



Attending elders at Northside dedication ceremonies, (left to right) B. T. Rice, Paul Turner, Clarence Hodges, E. F. Carter, J. Paul Monk, W. R. Robinson, James E. White, J. T. Layne and Dr. Dennis Brooks.



Northside congregation listens to comments made by Assistant Director State Department, Clarence Hodges.



and Kelsey Jackson, Bible bearer. Fifth-grader Karissa Marshall was the vocalist and Shawn Jackson the minister.

Proceeds from the program went towards church expense.

Alona Boggess-Caser  
Communication Secretary

### **NORTHSIDE'S NEW CHURCH SITE DEDICATED**

The Northside SDA Church, St. Louis, Mo., recently dedicated the site on which their new church structure is to be built. Central States Conference President J. Paul Monk; Executive Secretary Eugene Carter; Elder Clarence Hodges, U.S. assistant director of the State Department; Elder B. T. Rice, pastor of Northside; Pastor W. R. Robinson of Berean SDA Church, St. Louis; Pastor J. T. Layne of the First Cathedral Church of St. Louis; Pastor P. M. Turner of the Kinlock and Kirkwood, Mo., churches; and Pastor J. E. White of the Linwood SDA Church, Kansas City, Mo., were on hand for the festivities.

The dedication ceremony took place in two parts. There was a small ceremony at the actual church site in North St. Louis. There, the attending elders prayed and offered several inspirational messages. Elder B. T. Rice proclaimed it a new beginning for Northside. Dr. Dennis Brooks, chairman of the building committee, then unveiled the plans for the new complex.

The second part of the program took place at the current church building where Elder Monk presented the keynote message.

Michael Malone  
Correspondent



*Elder Henry Wright speaks to the thousands of youth assembled at the congress.*



*Mr. Roland Gresham of Nashville, TN, performs for the congress.*

## **NORTHEASTERN**

### **SABBATH SCHOOL GUEST DAY AT BRONX TEMPLE**

Sabbath School Guest Day was celebrated on April 9 at the Bronx Temple SDA Church in Bronx, N.Y. It began with the Sabbath School program led out by Mr. Calvin Anthony. Olga Walker, Jeaneth Hughes, Andrea Moore, and Mary Townsend provided music for the service. Elder Harold W. Baptiste, secretary for Northeastern Conference, delivered the divine worship message.

Kathleen Hughes  
Communication Secretary



*Jaime Jorge, one of the many talented youth who participated in the congress.*





*The Acosta family provides music during the Congress for Youth and Young Adults.*



*A member of the Shining Stars Pathfinder Club of Springfield, MS, prepares for parade.*



*Members of the Pine Forge Academy Choir.*

## CONGRESS OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Several thousand youth from all over New York, New England, and Bermuda converged on the Springfield, Massachusetts Civic Center for Atlantic Union's Congress of Youth and Young Adults, May 5-8.

Elder J. C. Hicks, Church Ministries Director for Atlantic Union, coordinated the weekend's events. Seminars dealing with the negative affects of rock music, drug and alcohol abuse; AIDS; Bible Bowl

contests, as well as a volleyball tournament were some of the activities. Elder Henry Wright, executive secretary of Columbia Union Conference, was the featured speaker during the Sabbath morning services. Other guest speakers included: Ron Halverson, Jr., and Frank Gonzalez of the Florida Conference, and Dr. Samuele Bacchiocchi of Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan.

Music also played an important role in the congress. The pine forge Academy Choir; Roland Greshman, noted guitarist;

the New England Youth Ensemble; Walter Arties of Breath of Life; the Atlantic Union College Choir, and keyboard master Ritchie Carbajal, were some of the musical guests present.

Northeastern Conference had the largest representation at the congress with over 300 delegates as well as hundreds of non-delegate attendees. Elder Trevor Baker, Director of Youth Ministries for Northeastern Conference, had the pleasure of presenting the Bible Bowl Championship plaque to one of his very own teams. The Faith SDA Church of Hartford, Connecticut, swept the competition, becoming the first place Bible Bowl team in the union.

## SPRINGFIELD GARDENS CELEBRATES YOUTH DAY

Pastor Kenneth Green of Niagara Falls, N.Y. recently conducted a Youth Week of Prayer at the Springfield Gardens SDA Church in Queens, N.Y. The week's theme was "Reaching New Horizons", and was followed by Youth Day on Sabbath.

The youth of the church were in charge of every aspect of the day's services. They could be seen leading out in the Sabbath School as teachers and during the divine worship hour. Pastor Fitzroy Jackson of Connecticut was the guest speaker for the morning and reminded the youth of their calling and obligation to God. Darlene Simmons and Annette Wilson were also special guests and provided music for the service.





Pastor Kenneth L. A. Green.

The afternoon program featured a skit and other various talents of the youth. The day concluded with a costume social.

Ketura Frederick  
Communication Secretary

## SOUTH CENTRAL

### OCTOGENARIAN HONORED IN CHATTANOOGA

Mrs. Flora Lee Hill, the oldest member of Orchard Park SDA Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., was honored by her seven children, 18 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren at a family reunion held March 5.

Mrs. Hill joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1928 and had been a faithful member for more than 60 years. A strong believer in Christian education, she sacrificed to see to it that each child was educated in the church school system.

Mrs. Hill's oldest son, Dr. Franklin S. Hill, and all of his own sons, are now serving in some sector of church ministry. Elder Frank S. Hill III, pastors in Houston, Tex.; Elder Byron K. Hill pastors in Richmond, Va.; Dr. Roland J. Hill pastors in Memphis, Tenn., and Mr. Haller Hill is manager of WOCG-FM, Oakwood College's radio station.

Another of Mrs. Hill's sons, Dr. Billy Hill, is a chemistry teacher at Pine Forge Academy, Pine Forge, Pa. Others of the children are faithful members of the church: Robert, Gladys, Peggy and Alfreda. Mrs. Hill's husband, Franklin Sidney Hill, Sr., passed away in 1974.

### FIRST CHURCH BURNS MORTGAGE

First Church of Huntsville, Ala., burned the mortgage on their church property and rededicated the church recently. This celebration marked the culmination of a series of progressive developments and achievements in the history of this church.

The main feature of the Friday evening program was a slide presentation on the church's history and development. The presentation was narrated by Mr. Harry Swinton.

The Act of Dedication and burning of the mortgage took place during the divine worship service on Sabbath morning, with Elder C. E. Dudley, conference president, officiating. Mossie McCall, First Church treasurer; and Elder F. Crowe, conference treasurer, burned the mortgage documents.

### PROVIDENCE PROVIDES ANOTHER MAID

"Now bands from Aram...had taken captive a young girl from Israel...She said to her mistress, 'If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria!' " 2 Kings 5:2, NIV

When the members of the Black Heritage Organization Day Committee of the 2052nd Communication Group at Keesler Air Force Base met to decide on a guest speaker for their Black History program, a 'maid of Israel' sat among them. While a number of dignitaries were being considered, such as: the Black Catholic priest of the Biloxi, Miss., Diocese; a lieutenant colonel base chaplain; the city's mayor; and a councilman, Mrs. Hazel C. Byrd, personal ministries leader for the Maranatha SDA Church in Gulfport, Miss., suggested an Adventist minister. Byrd's suggestion was not taken seriously at first, but eventually the preacher was sought out.

At a luncheon held at the NCO Club of Keesler Air Force Base, Pastor Vincent E. White, Sr., of the Maranatha Church presented a message with the theme "Shaping Tomorrow's Path Today."

In his opening remarks, White commended the group for its well-chosen theme, and indicated that "it expresses an eternal evolving challenge that has always demanded and shall continue to demand an urgent response." He suggested that "the opportunities and benefits that we enjoy today are due to someone in yesterday's history who responded to this challenge and dared to trod the unbeaten path toward their

tomorrow." He added that the multi-racial composition of his audience was a testimony to that fact. This became clearer as he delved into the early history of the U.S. Air Force, describing an era when it was "victimized by the pervading atmosphere of prejudicial perversion." Pastor White gave honor to those Black airmen who, despite the backdrop of their day, dared to dream about a tomorrow. He cited statistics and examples of the progress that Blacks are making in the Air Force and other areas of society, but with the understanding that this was not the end of the journey.

In closing, Pastor White challenged his audience by stating: "today, each of us has been given a piece of the stuff that tomorrow is made of. And like a potter with clay in hand, we must shape, mold and fashion it into vessels that can be used by tomorrow's generation."

Following Pastor White's presentation, Kerri Richardson from Maranatha Church performed a solo. Ms. Elaine Barnes Maranatha's minister of music, provided music throughout the luncheon.

V. E. White &  
Daisy Jones

### BAPTIST SCHOLARSHIP FUND HELPS ADVENTIST STUDENT MISSIONARIES

"Never take a backward step!" These were the words of counsel that fell from the lips of the late Dr. John Lewis Powell, dean of the American Baptist Seminary in Nashville, Tenn. This was his forte throughout life as he instructed students and parishoners. His was a burden to build character, to tell of the saving grace of God wherever people could be found. He maintained a missionary spirit and sought to help people of all nationalities and in all walks of life.

Dr. and Mrs. Powell, the former Ruth-Marie Davidson, found their greatest joy in visiting and observing former students and graduates of the Theological Seminary in their various fields of labor. This gave them the opportunity for extensive travel to the Bahama Islands; Jamaica, W.I.; Nigeria, and Monrovia, Liberia, in Africa; and throughout the United States.

Upon Dr. Powell's passing, members of his congregation, Faith United Baptist Church, established a scholarship fund in his honor to help students in their missionary pursuits. In 1987, the fund was expanded to include graduated and student missionaries from Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala. The South





*Dr. John Lewis Powell.*

Central Conference matched the fund's contribution by \$1,000, which helped Dr. S. H. Cox, director of the Oakwood student missionary program, to send three such ambassadors to foreign service. They are currently serving in Japan, Korea and Thailand.

The South Central Conference has established a Dr. J. Lewis Powell Scholarship fund to continue the practice of helping these student missionaries.

### **SOUTH CENTRAL SEEKS TO HOUSE CONGREGATIONS**

During the 1930s and 40s, it was not uncommon for Black Seventh-day Adventist congregations to be housed in the homes of the members, in funeral parlors or store fronts. Some even worshipped in the buildings of other denominations from which their newly-baptized converts had come. Times have changed and this practice is no longer acceptable among many groups if they are to survive. The store-front concept helps to scatter the memberships, embarrasses the members and tends to belittle what the 'message' that is preached is all about.

When the General Conference Session was held in Dallas, Tex., during 1980, workers and members were challenged to enter into an all-out evangelistic crusade entitled "1,000 Days of Reaping." In 1985, the General Conference project was "Harvest '90." The South Central Conference leaders, pastors and members took

the challenge seriously and went forth to work. More than 40 to 50 new congregations have come into being since 1980.

However, when congregations are born, they must be housed if they are to continue as a part of the body. This became a problem that needed to be addressed. Where would the funds come from? The income of the Black church, per capita, was half that of its sister congregations in the White sector. They had no millionaires who could make contributions to help.

There were no funds to be received from the General Conference or the Union Conference; thus the local conference leaders were left to devise ways and means to care for their members.

From the Ohio River to the Gulf of Mexico, dark counties began to be lit. The same challenge, it was discovered, existed throughout the Regional Conferences across North America.

When the Black leaders came together, requests were made to the parent bodies



*New church building, Daphne, AL.*



*(Left to right) Mr. A. Spraggins, Elder J. Bell, and Mr. J. Lester stand in front of church building in Daphne, AL.*





*New Covenant Church building, Memphis, TN.*



*Newly purchased church in Bessemer, AL.*



*Pastor R. Allen (rear, right) and congregation in Paducah, KY.*

for assistance in caring for these 'newly-born babes.' None was forthcoming. There had been a great surge in the tithe income throughout the regional conference's churches. A suggestion was made to ask the higher bodies to return an equivalent of the tithe income from the new congregations to the conference to help to protect the 'investments' of funds put into the evangelistic thrusts that had proved profitable. This request was completely ignored. Chastisement was given about some of the plans that were implemented to meet the needs, but a goodly number of the congregations were housed with the assistance that regional conferences could give from their meager incomes.

In the South Central conferences, more than 90 new buildings have been constructed or purchased. Still, when the executive committee met in September of 1987, 17 congregations were out of doors. Another plan was instituted to help with the challenge, entitled 'Fifth Sabbath for Home Missions.' It involves requesting each member to contribute no less than \$5 in the months where there are five Sabbaths. The plan is slowly taking hold in the minds of the believers, especially those among the 'homeless.'

At one point, Mr. and Mrs. Rupright of Lafayette, Ind., donated some 13 to 15 buildings to help meet the need. They are no longer able to continue this practice, because of health and age. The conference continues to subsidize building programs for the congregations without church homes through annual contributions.

Mr. James Lester, a layman from Daphne, Ala., along with Mr. James Spraggins of Mobile and other members of this 25-member congregation, have sought, with some assistance from the conference, to construct a church building. Dr. Roland J. Hill and members of the New Covenant congregation in Memphis, Tenn., are serving as self contractors in the construction of their new building.

Pastor R. Broussard and local elder Aaron Wallace, along with the members of the Panama City, Fla., Church, have purchased a building from a Jehovah's Witness congregation. The same is true of Elder Lorenzo Shepherd and the Athens, Ala., congregation. Mr. James Edmond, lay pastor for the congregation in Harvest, Ala., reports they have built their own facility, which opened its doors in May. Pastor Washington Johnson, Jr., has led the Anniston, Ala., church in the purchase of a building from a Baptist congregation.



Pastor Milton Johnson and his newly-organized congregation have purchased land and constructed a new building in Brent, Ala. Elder J. A. Jones and a newly-organized congregation in Frayser, Tenn., have purchased a new building for this group. Despite this progress, the following congregations are still homeless: Sylvarena, Shaw and Grenada in Mississippi; Hartselle, Moulton, Union Springs and Wetumpka in Alabama; Kingsport in Tennessee; and Campbellsville in Kentucky. The congregations in Poplarville, Miss., and Dyersburg, Tenn., have literally died for the need of a place to worship.

C. E. Dudley, conference president, has made appeals to the Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) organization through Elder Conn Arnold, its executive secretary and director, for help. The prospects appear encouraging. He has also made appeals to Mr. Milton Murray, director for professional fund raising for the denomination, with encouraging responses.

With a burden to house all of God's children in a place of worship, Dudley feels that the Lord will make a way, somehow.

### ALCY STUDENTS SUPPORT EASTER SEALS

A total of 29 Alcy Junior Academy students in Memphis, Tenn., raised \$400 for Easter Seals during a recent campaign. A noted feature this year involved 19 Kindergarten students who participated in a "Hop-I-Ing" contest where each student obtained sponsors who contributed from two cents to five cents per hop for each minute they hopped. Courtney Edmond made 230 hops in two minutes! Melissa Mobley obtained the most sponsors, which enabled her to bring in \$55.

Each Alcy student and sponsor should be commended for helping contribute to this local community service project to benefit handicapped children. Charles D. Battles  
Principal

### 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.



Part of the group of Alcy students who participated in the Easter Seals project. (Left to right) Martin Eubanks, Sonia Hill, Melia Taylor, Haywood Carpenter, Keschelia Harris, Tara Seay and Damien Shorter.



Alcy Recorder Ensemble provides special music for Sabbath School during "Alcy Day" at Breath of Life.

### ALCY DAY AT BREATH OF LIFE

Students and faculty from the Alcy SDA Junior Academy in Memphis, Tenn., were featured recently during "Alcy Day" at the Breath of Life SDA Church in Memphis. Alcy Day has become an annual event at Breath of Life. Of the five supporting churches of the Alcy constituency, the Breath of Life Church sends the largest number of students — 55 this year.

The Sabbath School program featured the faculty of Alcy. They include: Charles

Battles, principal; Michael Tompkins, seventh and eighth grade teacher; Queen Robinson, fifth and sixth grade teacher; Lynne Middleton, third and fourth grade teacher; Jo-Ann Wade, first and second grade teacher; Jill Edmond, pre-K/Kindergarten teacher; and Brenda Renfroe, aide. Special music was provided by the Alcy Recorder Ensemble. Since it was Black History Month, the principal made a presentation highlighting noted Black Adventist pioneers.





Elder Walton Rose and members, Sylacaqua/Pell City/Talladega district, Alabama.



J. A. Edgcombe, President.

During the divine worship hour the faculty served on the platform also. Music was provided by the school choir. Myrtharyn Powell, pre-K/K director, gave the children's story, and a special offering was lifted by the Alcy students. Elder Dana Edmond, pastor of Breath of Life, presented the morning message. A strong believer and supporter of Christian education, Pastor Edmond reinforced the importance of having every Seventh-day Adventist child enrolled in an SDA school.

The Breath of Life Church is to be commended for their continued support in the growth of Alcy. This special program was in addition to the regular Christian Education Day program where all five constituent churches met.

Charles D. Battle  
Principal

**CHURCHES COME TOGETHER FOR CONFERENCE PRESIDENT'S VISIT**

For a number of years, the president of South Central Conference, Elder C. E. Dudley, has made it a part of his responsibilities to visit every church within the conference each year. This could be accomplished when there were only 50 congregations or less. However, there are approximately 127 today and it has become virtually impossible for him to get to each one in a year's time.

The pastors in some of the districts have begun to bring the memberships in their districts together to meet, fellowship and

listen to the president as he brings the Sabbath message during these visits.

President Dudley continues in the visitation mode begun in his pastoral ministry serving local congregations. He enjoys seeing his conference constituency from week to week. His wife is constantly by his side and they maintain a love relationship with the people.

"I cannot know of their needs on a first-hand basis," Dudley states, "if I do not go to where they are. When I can see these needs, it is then that I know how to pray and work in their behalf."

The South Central conference membership is expected to reach 19,000 before the year ends.

**OAKWOOD COLLEGE RECONDITIONING PROGRAM**

Oakwood College Wellness Committee will host a Reconditioning Program on the campus in Huntsville, Ala., from July 17 to July 31, 1988. Do you need to lose weight, lower blood pressure, lower cholesterol level, improve exercise capacity, or learn how to handle stress? Then this program is for you.

For application or information, write to: Oakwood College Wellness Committee, Health Services, Oakwood College, Huntsville AL 35896, or call Dr. William Hicks (205) 533-5856.

**"And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full." I John 1:4**

**TRIENNIAL REPORT FOR SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE**

To the assembled delegates for this Third Triennial Session of the Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. WELCOME!

The theme for this session, "For Such a Time As This" carries a message of urgency that should permeate the hearts and minds of all who recognize the mission of the church. For the people of God in Bible times, the coming of Queen Esther to the kingdom was God's plan of bringing deliverance to a doomed nation. Today, 144 years after the disappointment of 1844, we find ourselves still marching around in this wilderness of sin, seeking to point men and women to Christ amidst the increased rate of crime, civil disobedience and open rebellion against God's law.

"The Advent Message to All the World," is not only the aim of the Youth department, but for the entire church. For this cause we were born; for this cause we were organized into a conference. Our mission is to preach good tidings unto the meek; to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all that mourn; to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of



praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called Trees of Righteousness. The planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified. Isaiah 61:1-3.

We rejoice over the accomplishments of the last three years, but as we view the vast territory yet to be conquered, we ask ourselves, Lord, who is sufficient for the task?

## Evangelism

Ellen G. White refers to evangelism as "the heart throb of the church." Any church or conference that fails to lead men and women to Christ daily, soon will wither like leaves on a vine and die. It has been our objective to baptize at least 1,000 persons per year. Even though we have not succeeded in reaching our goal, we will continue to train and equip pastors and laymen until, like Peter under the influence of the Holy Spirit, someone, somewhere in this conference will baptize 3,000 souls in one day.

## Souls Added During the Triennium: 1985-1987

1985..Baptisms..753..Prof of Faith..130	
1986..Baptisms..953..Prof. of Faith.. 72	
1987..Baptisms..659..Prof. of Faith...91	
Totals . . . . . 2,365 . . . . . 293	
GRAND TOTAL . . . . . 2,658	

## Campmeeting

Each year we have to turn down applications due to the large number of individuals who are desirous of attending for 10 days. For those who are able to attend, they have felt the presence of the Holy Spirit as we have endeavored to make Campmeeting a time for spiritual feasting, meditation, instruction and prayer. The most recent highlight was the "Breath of Life" telecast produced from our campground which has been aired around the nation. We look forward to another great Campmeeting, June 16-25.

## Elders and Head Deacons Retreat

We can thank God for the fine Christian lay leaders in our churches that hold up the hands of pastors weekly. Our hearts are uplifted and our spiritual batteries are charged as we listen from year to year to our elders deliver the Word. Heart-felt appreciation is also extended to deacons who seriously look after the needs of the church in a physical way. Each year the crowd gets bigger and bigger as we seek to train and give direction to these men who play such a vital role in our churches. I personally appreciate their dedication and

commitment to their local churches and to the conference.

## Church Growth

### Church Buildings

With a growing family, there is always the need for housing. There is a staggering number of our believers who are worshiping in rented quarters, faced weekly with a time limit of services held, and, in some instances, no services at all.

We have endeavored to give assistance to the purchasing or building of the following churches:

(1) Key West, Florida—Under the untiring efforts of Pastor W. Don Edwards and the members of the Southernmost SDA Church a new edifice stands erected to the worship of the living God.

(2) North Orlando, Florida—McCully Construction Company is constructing a church on Hiawasse Road, Orlando at a cost of \$350,000. Pastor Lewis Edwards and the members of the church have had a long, tough battle, but God has brought them through.

(3) Ft. Myers, Florida—The Peniel SDA Church (formerly Margaret Leah) under the leadership of Pastor Dennis George was able to purchase a church from our sister church in the Florida Conference at a cost of \$150,000. The membership has tripled and the saints can serve the Lord with gladness.

(4) Daytona Beach, Florida—For years we have been concerned about the church in this college town. Plans have been approved, the funds are in hand and in 1988 a new church home should be completed. We salute Pastor Roy Parham and the members of Mt. Calvary SDA Church.

(5) Miami, Florida—The Lebanon SDA Church has closed on a contract to purchase a church at a cost of \$195,000. This transaction was started under Pastor Edward Dorsey. Their new leader Pastor Brent Waldon will lead the congregation into their new church home.

(6) Hialeah, Florida—Pilgrims Spanish SDA Church purchased a church three years ago. They outgrew the facility and are now constructing a new church on the old site with a seating capacity of 600 plus. Pastor Charles Vento is the pastor.

(7) Tampa, Florida—Emmanuel Spanish SDA Church under the leadership of Pastor Julio Astacio purchased a house on the 1-1/2 acre site and have the privilege of worshipping at their convenience at a cost of \$125,000. They have plans to build a church in the future.

(8) Tallahassee, Florida—Maranatha SDA Church is now in the process of putting up a church. Tyrone Boyd is the pastor.

(9) Bainbridge, Florida—Ephesus SDA Church, a second church under the leadership of Pastor Tyrone Boyd, has submitted plans for a new church.

Churches on the drawing board to be built in the near future:

(1) Miami, Florida—Northside SDA Church at a cost of \$750,000. Willie Taylor serves as pastor.

(2) Miami, Florida—Perrine SDA Church at a cost of \$1,000,000. M. M. Young serves as pastor.

### Land Purchases:

- (1) Thonotosassa
- (2) St. Petersburg—All Nations
- (3) Delray Beach—Daughter of Zion
- (4) Ft. Lauderdale—Lighthouse Church

Mortgage  
The breathtaking experience was that of the group of Progress Village SDA Church, Tampa, Fla. They entered their new sanctuary one month and within three to four months were ready to burn the mortgage. "What hath God wrought?" Our thanks to Pastor Theus Young and the saints at the "Holy Ghost Headquarters" as they are known.

### Churches Organized

Apopka, Florida: Oliver Mastrapa, pastor—Present Truth Spanish; Belleglade, Florida: Gerard Nozea, Pastor—Trinity Temple French; Boynton Beach, Florida: Amos Bossous, pastor—Bethanie French Church; Brandon, Florida: Joseph Harris, pastor—Mt. Giliad SDA Church; Ft. Lauderdale, Florida: David Long, pastor—Lighthouse SDA Church; Miami, Florida, M. M. Young, pastor—Coconut Grove SDA Church; Miami, Florida: Charles Vento, pastor—Country Gardens Spanish; Miami, Florida: Raul Cruz, pastor—Ephesus SDA Spanish Church; Miami, Florida: Nathanael Myrtill, pastor—Horeb French Church; Riviera Beach, Florida: Benjamin Browne, pastor—First SDA Church; St. Petersburg, Florida: Theus Young, pastor—All Nations SDA Church; Tampa, Florida: Jn-Claude Brutus, pastor—Beersheba French Church; W. Palm Beach, Florida: Gerard Nozea, pastor—Bethel French Church.

## Campground

Since the last triennium we were able to pay the remaining \$109,000 due South Atlantic Conference of the total indebtedness of \$409,000. Each year according to



the city code we have been wiring at least one row of cabins for safety purposes.

An engineering firm has completed the "topo" giving us the complete contour of the grounds. Drawings have been rendered by the architect for the complete overhaul of the premises. This will be a large undertaking financially, but we will begin to make the grounds and facilities practical for year-round uses.

### Personnel

With the expansion of the work, it becomes necessary to acquire additional staff and ministers to man the various posts.

#### Pastors Added During Triennium

Jean-Claude Alius—Miami—Jerusalem and Phila. French; Tyrone Boyd—Bainbridge, Quincy, Tallahassee; Amos Bossous—Boynton beach, Ft. Lauderdale—Sinai Fr.; Jackson Doggette—Miami/Bethany; Oliver Mastrapa—Apopka—Spanish (Evangelist); Antwoyn Mells—Brunswick, Waycross; Carl Walker—Avon Park; M. M. Young—Miami/-Coconut Grove, Perrine.

#### Lay Evangelists

Dr. Herman Mills, Willie Erwin.

### Office Building

Located at 180 N. Westmonte Drive in Altamonte Springs, Fla., is the lovely headquarters of the Southeastern Conference. Surrounded by hotels, Interstate 4, many eating places and nestled among other office buildings, each worker can enjoy the light and sunshine that beams its rays upon them. The office decor was carefully planned by Mrs. Connie Grove, designer. Everything is done in good taste, and it breathes an air of delightfulness. The property was purchased at a cost of \$525,000. It's your office—pay us a visit whenever you are in the city.

### Conference Finance

The injunction given to the Lord through Malachi the prophet to bring all the tithe into the storehouse is still apropos today. Due to the faithfulness of God's people through the years, we have seen the tithe increase from \$2,225,000 to over \$4,500,000. The mission giving continues to increase along with the conference-wide development offering. You will be able to review these figures in the reports from the treasurer and stewardship director.

### Religious Liberty

Many countries have written into their constitution provisions for freedom of speech

and assembly. If this is true, why is the constitution of the United States so exceptional? The difference is so small that it almost escapes you, but it is so great it tells you the whole story in just three words: "We the people." In America, we the people are in charge. The children, the praying Christians, the farmers and blue-collar workers—so goes the speech excerpted from the State of the Union address on Tuesday, Jan., 17, 1987, by President Ronald Reagan. We are already witnessing changes that prophecy predicted will infringe upon our individual rights. While we enjoy much freedom in this country, the wind of change will come. We must continue to champion the cause of Religious Liberty and see that Liberty Magazine reaches those who are in decision-making positions.

### Christian Education

Are all the children in? That is, in our Seventh-day Adventist schools? The launching of the Educational Enhancement Fund was with the idea of gaining support from \$3,000 members who would give \$5 per month to develop a financial base for scholarships and assistance for needy students. Unfortunately, we have not realized our dreams. I believe that the skeleton can take on flesh and the dream can become a reality to save our children.

### Youth

The Federations throughout the conference are well attended by the youth and the adults. Our young people express the joy of interacting with those from the various churches. It is encouraging to hear the Federation's presidents express a desire to make these gatherings not just social events but to place emphasis on witnessing. To our youth we can say, "Who knoweth that you have been called to the Kingdom for such a time as this?"

### Plans for the Future

In March of this year, a two-day meeting was called to deal with long-range strategic planning for the conference. Ad Hoc committees were established to do research on the following areas of the work: Dark County Evangelism; Educational Facilities; Senior Citizens; Conference-wide Development; District Alignments; Chemical Dependency; Lay Involvement; Church Buildings; Campground Enhancement; Church School Financing; Conference ABC; Literature Ministries; Haitian/Spanish Growth; Financial Stability Operations.

### Thank You

I wish to thank the constituency for the faith you had in me to select me as your spiritual leader over the last 7-1/2 years. Your prayers and personal support have meant much to me as I have had to grapple with difficult problems and make serious decisions. Like Solomon, I have had to petition the throne of grace continually asking not for silver and gold, musicians, maidservants, or chariots, but divine wisdom. To some, every decision may not have been right in their judgment, or perhaps they would have done it differently, but only the one at the front in the heat of the battle can understand or perhaps can see angles no one else can see. In spite of this, if mistakes were made, they were not intentional, just the result of a "frail human being." "To err is human, to forgive is DIVINE."

I would like to thank my Union President and his officers for the support in our Executive Committee meetings and Campmeeting, the entire staff of departmental men, the treasury department and our office secretaries who man the machines supplying information to the field, the lay evangelists, the stalwart literature evangelists, knocking on doors with the printed page, our dedicated teachers who train our children, all our pastors and Bible instructors who feed and nurture the flock. A big thanks to our physicians and nurses who assist at the campground and in local churches supporting our medical work.

Finally—much love and appreciation to my wife who has faithfully stood by my side in good times and bad to hold me up on my leaning side. To my dad who never forgets to present me before the Lord and encourage me to be faithful. As he approaches his 86th birthday in October, he is still the first elder in Deland, Fla., preaching over 40 years, "The King is soon to come."

As we look by faith for the return of our Lord, let us realize more than ever before God's purpose for our being here. I believe with all of my heart that it is "For such a time as this," we are called individually and collectively as a conference to move out in a united way to rescue the perishing, care for the dying and prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord. WE'RE HERE ON BUSINESS FOR THE KING. For this cause we were born.

GOD BLESS YOU!

J. A. Edgcombe  
President



## IN THE NEWS

### NORTH CENTRAL YOUTH FEDERATION

Adventist recording artist Wintley Phipps' concert highlighted the North Central Texas Youth Federation during April 8 and 9 in West Dallas. Providing the final event of the weekend, Phipps, who pastors in Washington, D.C., sang to an enthusiastic overflow crowd Saturday evening.

According to Spencer Anderson, youth federation president, "The Lord truly worked through all our activities, including securing an adequate facility to seat the nearly 2,000 persons in attendance."

Because Penuel SDA Church in West Dallas was the host, the federation was interested in obtaining the use of a large church nearby. "The pastor of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church was so impressed with Adventism and our youth work that he offered his sanctuary to us at no cost," Anderson said.

Other activities during the weekend included a presentation by Corea Ministries of Shreveport, La. Their program explored the subliminal messages in television, popular music, professional sports, etc., which undermine one's relationship with Christ and promote a mind-set for the non-spiritual. "I was especially impressed with what they had to say," explained one youth. "The demonstration they did on how easily our minds are influenced was fascinating."

Pastor James Black of the Lubbock, Tex., district was the divine worship speaker. The federation theme was "A Joyful Noise."

The fall federation is scheduled for October 8 in Tyler, Tex. The featured speaker will be Adventist doctor, Ben Carson, a pediatric neurologist who recently made national headlines for taking part in the successful separation of Siamese twins.

Donald Moy  
Correspondent

### OBITUARIES

**James Sherwood Beaman, Jr.**, was born to James S. Beaman, Sr. and Margaret Louise Beaman on June 17, 1944, in New York City, where he received his formal education. He attended Seattle Community College in Washington state while serving in the United States Army.

He married his childhood sweetheart, the former Pricilla Jenkins, and their happy home was enriched by three children. Many other youth received a warm welcome and endless hours of advice in the Beaman home. He was a tireless worker for the youth of his church and those in need.

James was employed as a community coordinator for the New York City Department of Sanitation, Lot Cleaning Division for 16 years and was well loved and respected by his co-workers.

He was baptized at the Ephesus SDA Church, New York City, in 1956 and served his God through participation in the Youth Choir, Sabbath School Department, as a youth elder and board member. Most significant of his work were the years spent as Pathfinder Director. With the help of good co-workers, he made the Ephesus Pathfinder Club a model that has lasted in the memories of many as a unique experience. He was the founder of the first drum corps in the Northeastern Conference, and it was during his years of leadership that the Ecstatistics, a gospel singing group, was formed. He was especially proud of the Ecstatistics, a group he personally managed for 16 years. Known in gospel circles as the sophisticated gentlemen of song, they were simply "the fellows" to him. Caravan Enterprises, a gospel management and booking agency, was formed to assist in the promotion of excellence in gospel music.

James was an executive board member of the Gospel Academy Association. He worked untiringly each year to ensure the success of the annual Gospel Academy Awards. He was also an associate of GTS Records and involved with Uptown Gospel Promotion. His dedication to gospel music was well known. His unswerving belief that God speaks to all men albeit in different ways was an underlying philosophy in his life. He will be missed in many places, for he was well-loved.

James began his wait for the call of the Life-giver on Jan. 22, 1988. He leaves to live on, his wife, Pricilla; one son, Kendall; two daughters, Lasandra and Cristina; a sister, Delores Greene; a brother, Robert Beaman; his mother-in-law, Mrs. Susie Jenkins; a brother-in-law, Arnold Greene; Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Goodine, Sr. and Jr., uncle, aunt and cousin-in-law respectively; and a host of other relatives and friends.

**Julia Louise Breach**, born in Society Hills, S.C., March 4, 1902, died in Huntsville, Ala., March 28, 1988.

In 1923 Mrs. Breach became a Seventh-day Adventist and remained faithful until her death.

After 52 years as a member of the Shiloh SDA Church in Charleston, S.C., Mrs. Breach moved to Huntsville, and joined the Oakwood College SDA Church.

She leaves to mourn two sisters, one brother, three sons, three daughters and their spouses, grandchildren and many relatives and friends.

**Jackie August**, wife of Mr. Mark August, newspaper reporter for the Fort Worth Star in Fort Worth, Tex., died suddenly at the emergency room in a hospital in that city. Jackie was a native of New Orleans, La.

**Theorode Durham**, former worker at Riverside Hospital, passed away on Monday, April 26 in Nashville, Tenn., after a long illness. He was born in Marrianna, Ark., and later married the late Louise Williams Durham. Both became literature evangelists in the Southwest Region Conference before joining the staff at Riverside during the late 1950s. He worked at the hospital until his retirement.

**Ella Lee Miller** lived from May 20, 1906, to February 14, 1988. She grew up in a large family of more than a dozen brothers and sisters, close to Kinston, N.C.

She married Charles S. Miller in 1928, and they joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1936. This led them to colporteur work, and later to evangelism. Mrs. Miller was known for her successful efforts as a Bible instructor and social worker.

She was a faithful Bible student, and this came through as she taught elementary school and gave seminars on soul-winning. All the while, she lived as a loving wife, devoted mother and compassionate friend. One of her final duties, before retirement at Oakwood College, was to serve as a hostess/counselor to the student body.

She is survived by her husband, Charles, seven of her sisters, her son and daughter, six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends.

**Louis Eugene Johnson** was born of Robert and Eugenia Johnson on March 1, 1909, in Steele, N.D.

Professor Louis E. Johnson was a man who touched many with his genius, and who unselfishly served his church and community.



In 1931, L. E. Johnson graduated from Emmanuel Missionary College, which is now Andrews University. His curriculum included studies at Loma Linda University Medical School in California, Northwestern University in Illinois and Atlanta University where in 1944 he received a master's degree in chemistry.

On Aug. 11, 1935, he married Margaret Booker of Washington, D.C. On their wedding day they were involved in a tragic car and train accident in which he lost his beloved mother. His cousin, Richard Ford, was also involved in that accident.

In 1935, Mr. Johnson accepted a call to Oakwood College. He taught chemistry, physics and mathematics. He operated a print shop and supervised maintenance of the college campus grounds. As the enrollment grew and the classes increased, he found that most of his time was consumed by laboratory sessions and new curricular offerings, which left little or no time for the print shop or the lawn maintenance job.

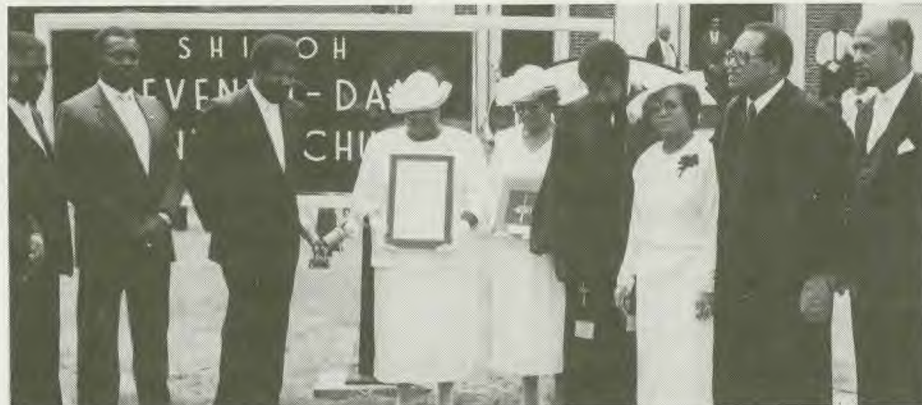
Mr. Johnson was an exceptional instructor, having inherited that gift from his mother, Eugenia Rollins Johnson. He was a brilliant teacher and conversationalist, spontaneous in creative analogy. He loved people, sports, music and ideas. Some would say he was an idealist. Professor Johnson would include in writing his examinations, thought-provoking bonus questions as well as humorous ones such as, "What did we breathe before Joseph Priestly discovered Oxygen?" "When was the War of 1812 fought?" and "Who was buried in Grant's Tomb?" Professor Johnson always got a kick out of his student's responses.

During the late 30s and early 40s, Professor Johnson energized and popular-

ized the teaching of chemistry at Oakwood College and helped to organize the baccalaureate degree program in chemistry. This degree program was the deciding factor in influencing Doctor Cooper (who served the department for 36 years) to attend Oakwood College instead of Tuskegee Institute, even though Dr. George Washington Carver was teaching at Tuskegee at the time. He left Oakwood College in 1945 to work at a Mallory Plant in Indianapolis, Ind.

On Nov. 21, 1959, he married Margaret Lee Smith Powell of Detroit, Mich. Louis Eugene Johnson was an excellent chemist and demonstrated his skill in various areas such as the production and manufacturing of pesticides, detergents, perfumes, deodorants and household products. In his lifetime endeavors, he patented a design for skid-fee automobile brakes, which have recently become incorporated in the higher-priced automobiles. These are just a few of Professor Johnson's enterprises.

He leaves to cherish his memory and mourn his passing: one loving sister, Helen Robertine Johnson Downing; a daughter of the first union, Alake Johnson-Ford (nee Helen Elizabeth) of Washington, D.C.; a son, William Thurston Johnson of Scottsdale, Ariz., who is married to Lenor Boulin Johnson; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; seven nieces and nephews; four step-children of the second union, Margaret Mathis-Morgan and Manning Smith, Jr., both of Detroit, Mich.; Herbert W. Powell of White Plains, N.Y.; and Olinda Powell Savage of Huntsville, Ala.; 11 step-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren; also a host of other relatives and friends.



*The Shiloh SDA Church in Springfield, MA, recently dedicated their new church sign. Participating in the service was (left to right) State Representative Raymond Jordan, Elder Talbot, Ms. Vivian Bolden, Ms. Gertrude Adler, Pastor and Mrs. David Glover, Elder H. Mouzon, conference Stewardship Director, and Elder J. C. Hicks, Atlantic Union Conference Church Ministries Director.*

## THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL VOICE

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