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COVER STORY

OAKWOOD COLLEGE HOMECOMING WEEKEND DRAWS 1,500

THE EVENT - The Passover - the celebration of the freedom of the Jewish people after God led them from slavery in Egypt almost 4,000 years ago - is still celebrated by this people. It is the most observed of all Jewish holidays for it is a time of reflection, a time of thanksgiving, a time of worship, a time of giving, a time of fellowship among the people. It is known as Yom Kippur. While wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, the event came to be known as the day of At-One-Ment for there was still a gathering of all of the people for the cleansing of the entire body. After the coming of Christ, the Romans instituted a similar celebration and named it Easter. Among Catho-

lics and Protestants, Easter has become a cherished holiday when a celebration is supposed to reflect on the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It is held on a weekend during the month of March or April each year. It gives unquestionable proof of the Sabbath as the day of worship, for Easter always comes on Sunday, the day after the Sabbath in which Jesus had rested in the tomb.

Although the Seventh-day Adventist denomination still holds to the original Sabbath, as do the Jewish people, the spirit of coming together at Eastertime remains with them. Especially is this true among the North American Black membership of the church. The annual Alumni Homecoming celebration for Oakwood College is held each year in Huntsville. It has become a time when schoolmates, classmates and even those who have never attended the school come together for spiritual fellowship, reflective celebrations, and for strat-



Elder and Mrs. C. D. Henri.



Mrs. Juanita Jenkins, Rufus Kelly and mother Clara Mae.



Professor and Mrs. Willie Hucks of Texas.

WHO'S WHO ON THE FRONT COVER



Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Seard & Mr. & Mrs. Wilbert Daniels

Elder and Mrs. H. L. Cleveland - Elder and Mrs. Delbert Baker and family

Mrs. P. Smith, Mrs. Julia Goss Mathews and Mrs. Ruby Goss Cole

Presidents:

Bekel Heye - Eastern Africa Division
C. E. Bradford - North American Division
B. F. Reaves - Oakwood College
L. A. Paschal - National Oakwood Alumni Organization

Mrs. Etta M. Dudley
Mrs. Ruth Paschal
A. Wellington Clarke, Jr.

L. Brown, Elder and Mrs. Joe Henson and daughter Kena

Miss Chrissa Janel Earle, UNCF Queen - Oakwood

Miss Angela Brown

Miss Vernetta Brantley - Runner Up - UNCF Queen

Mrs. Florence Griffith Joyner
Gold Medalist - USA Olympics

Mrs. Mandy Martin

Mrs. Alean Middleton

Mrs. Dorothy Thongs
Mrs. Ruth Dean Wheeler

James Perkins, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Long and Family

Dr. Rosa Banks received award at farewell

Mrs. Dorothy Evans
Mrs. Virginia G. Gibson



The Goss sisters from Atlanta.

egy planning to help the school to continue the purpose for which it was founded in 1896.

The number has increased in an unbelievable manner over the past 20 years. From small beginnings during the days of the T. T. Fraziers, the F. H. Jenkins, the F. W. Hales to more than 15,000 today who come from all parts of the world. They come from across the United States and from more than 50 other nations around the world. The school was established to help the children of former slaves prepare themselves to meet the challenges that this life brings, and to help prepare them to share the message of God's love with those who have never heard these assurances.

HISTORY - When it first opened its doors, 16 students came to receive training. Some of these were not members of the Seventh-

day Adventist faith. Only 50 Blacks are numbered as being members in 1900. Because of the training that was given to these students, the Black membership in the North American Division has reached 187,000, and the people of color around the world constitute 85 percent of the total world membership. These are the people who return and bring their children and friends for the celebration in giving thanks to the Lord for His care and keeping. Those who have passed through these halls of learning have become preachers of righteousness, teachers who help to mold character, statesmen, business executives, scientists, physicians, dentists, attorneys; they serve in all walks of life. These represent the contributions that this school has made toward helping mankind.

THE EVENTS - Just as Passion weekend begins with the celebration of the Lord's Supper, the Oakwood Homecoming begins with a United Negro College Fund banquet, at which time outstanding leaders address the assembly; there is unforgettable fellowship, and a UNCF Queen or King is crowned for the college. Those in attendance this year for this 11th celebration were the Hon. Guy Hunt, governor of the state of Alabama; the Hon. Steve Hettinger, mayor for the city of Huntsville; the Hon. Ernest Kaufman, president of the Huntsville City Council; Mrs. Sylvia Joyner, the director for the UNCF for the Alabama area; and Elder Lee A. Paschal, the president of the Oakwood College National Alumni Association.

The United Negro College Fund program was designed to help the private Black college with its financial challenges, to enroll students and to keep its doors opened. There are 36 such institutions of which Oakwood is one and also receives an annual blessing. During 1988 the college re-



Florence Griffith Joyner, Gold Medalist for USA Olympic Team, Korea 1988.

ceived medals for the United States during the Olympics in Korea in 1988. Mrs. Joyner gave a very moving testimony of how through a God-fearing mother she was able to achieve many goals in life after being born and reared in the Watts community of Los Angeles.

The finale came with the crowning of Miss Chrissa Janel Earle, the daughter of Elder and Mrs. G. R. Earle, as UNCF queen for the year.

THE YEARS OF THE NINES - Each year the classes that graduated in the number of that year take charge of the services. At the Sabbath School Program Mrs. June Jacobs, Class of '59, served as the superintendent; and Mrs. Zeola Allston, Class of '49, taught the Sabbath School lesson. During the worship service, Elder Luther Palmer, Class of '49, and presently the president of the Lake Region Conference, gave the spoken word. Music was supplied by the Aeolians under the direction of Dr. Ricky Little. During the 11 o'clock service an offering of more than \$60,000 was given by those in attendance.

FINANCES - During this time of "integration" and opportunities to attend schools where the Black student was previously denied entrance (even in the Seventh-day Adventist schools) a goodly number of Blacks are not attending the Black colleges and universities. However, Oakwood does not lack for students. This year more than 1,200 students have come to receive their training. Some of the Black schools have had to close their doors because of a lack of financial support. The constituents of the Black conferences and churches are faithfully supporting the school. During 1989 the Regional conferences and churches in the United States will give \$1,730,154 for the operation of Oakwood College. An additional \$1,016,000 will be given by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. C. E. Bradford, whose mother was one of the original 16 students to attend Oakwood, is the chairman of the board of trustees for Oakwood and is also the president of the North American Division of the



Miss Chrissa Janel Earle, UNCF Queen, and first runner up, Miss Vernetta Brantley.

General Conference, whose membership numbers 727,561. In addition to the funds that are given by the church bodies, individual conferences support special projects for the school such as the restoration of East Hall, which is the last landmark that was built at the turn of the century. Thousands of dollars are also given each year for scholarships for the students.

Ofttimes the Black leadership is chided about the annual offering for the school, but in this area the members of the Black churches in America are giving strong support. It is hoped that when this offering is lifted in all of the churches in the month of August that the total figure will be over the \$300,000 mark.

PROGRAMS AT HOMECOMING - Fond memories of the vesper services always come into view during this meeting. Elder William T. Cox, Class of '79, was the speaker for Friday evening; and Corey Rowe-Mitchell, the chaplain for the Class of 1989, gave the vesper thought at the close of the Sabbath. During the awards program on Sabbath afternoon, presentations were made to Elder James P. Willis, Sr., Alumnus of the Year; Mrs. Angela Stovall, Alumna of the Year; Elder and Mrs. William Cheatham, the Parents of the Year, and the Message Magazine Award of Excellence was presented to Mrs. Inez Lang Booth and Elder Robert L. Woodfork. Special music programs and banquet gatherings along with various class reunions brought the weekend to a close. The Oakwood supporters boarded their buses, the planes, their automobiles, and went on their ways rejoicing as did the Jewish people at the close of the Feast of the Passover, to await another year for another memorable Homecoming.

POSTLUDE - "... and wherever we may be, we'll always be true to thee, our worthy and dear O.C." Support Oakwood with your special financial projects and your personal gifts. Remember the school in your wills; organize an alumni chapter in your church. Be an Oakwood supporter. Plan to come to the Homecoming Weekend in 1990.



Elder L. R. Palmer.

received \$567,000 from this organization. It will receive \$500,000 during the current year.

The special guest speaker for the banquet was Mrs. Florence Griffith Joyner of Los Angeles, Calif., who won five gold

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

In an editorial that was in the Regional Voice concerning the work among the Blacks of South Africa and especially the needs that are to be found at Bethel College, some of those who are in leadership became alarmed and challenged the report, which was an account given by a native of South Africa. Now comes an open response to these cries from Pastor Gibson Nkosi, the author of the first account that was given. Pastor Nkosi, a graduate of Oakwood College and who now lives in the United States of America, sends a letter as a follow-up to his first account. It reads thusly:

Dear Editors:

I want to thank the Lord of Hosts, God of Israel for allowing me to be in this democratic country that exercises constitutional rights of freedom of speech and press, etc. I wish to exercise these constitutional rights now to address issues relating to the plight of Bethel College (a school in South Africa).

I am a black South African who attended Bethel College from 1955 to 1958 and graduated with a ministerial certificate. I was ordained as minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1968. I served the church in that capacity with distinction for 15 years.

South Africa has only two high schools for the 30,000 Black SDA members. They are: (1) Cancele Secondary School in Transkei (a Bantustan), and (2) Maranatha Secondary School in Buphutswana (a Bantustan). (Bantustans are comparable to American Indian reservations).

The Black SDA members who are in big cities such as Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape-town, Durban, to name a few, have no SDA high school in their neighborhood to send their children to.

The 16,000 white SDA's have two high schools also. There is only one SDA institution of higher education that meets all the requirements for college status; and that is Heldeberg College (historically a "white only" institution until very recently). Bethel College is a college in name only. It is in fact a high school with ministerial and teacher training programs.

South African SDA Blacks have never been pleased with their third-class citizenship in their motherland. Higher Education is a major vehicle for effecting change. In 1981, under the auspices of a small SDA church, Atteridgeville, Mr. Thula Nkosi and I approached Oakwood College. Dr. C. B.



Rock, then president, visited Bethel College and the following things have since been accomplished: (1) The teacher training program, which had been discontinued by the Southern Union of SDA in the early 1960s, was reopened. (2) The ministerial program was upgraded to a theological department. (3) The library was modernized. (4) For the first time, Bethel had a piped-water system installed. (5) Bethel College became a concern of the General Conference of SDA. (6) Oakwood College has sent illustrious professors to help upgrade the academic standards of Bethel to meet the accreditation for a college. (7) Bethel College will soon be affiliated with Oakwood College so that its degrees may be recognized internationally.

May I take this opportunity to sincerely thank Oakwood College's board of trustees, administration, faculty and staff for their vision, dedication, sacrifice and love for Bethel College. I honestly believe that the impact Oakwood College has had and continues to have in the work of God in the U.S.A. will be replicated by Bethel College in Africa, particularly in the downtrodden Blacks of South Africa. I pray that the truth be told about the plight of SDA Blacks in South Africa.

Gibson Nkosi (Native of South Africa)

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Col 3:17

BLACK WORKERS MEETING

The Black conference workers of the Pacific Union met for three days at Soquel, Calif., to discuss ways to spread the Gospel more effectively in Black communities. Most of the ministers and Bible instructors who attended the Annual Black Workers' Meeting, held March 3-8, indicated by a vote that they thought a Black conference structure would be a reasonable alternative for the Black churches in the Pacific Union. A majority of the workers present also favored a Regional (Black) conference over the present system. Some, however, said they would prefer the present system provided it were modified to include some needed changes. No one voted for the present system the way it now stands.

The subject of Regional conferences versus the present system is not usually a part of the Black Workers' Meeting agenda. However, a year ago plans were made to make this a time when an in-depth study would be made.

After the vote was taken and it was clear that the majority favored a Regional conference structure, a steering committee was appointed to determine the financial feasibility of such a change and a survey to determine the desirability on the part of the Black constituents to accept a change.

Another major issue discussed at the Workers' Meeting was the problem of apostasies in the church. Elder John Collins, a consultant on the church ministries staff of the Pacific Union Conference, addressed

the subject of "backsliding" and gave instruction on how to close the "back door."

Other participants at the workers' meeting were Elder R. L. Woodfork, former associate secretary of the General Conference and Elder Delbert Baker, editor of the Message Magazine. A health presentation was made by Dr. Carl Dent of Nashville, Tenn.

The Black Workers' Meeting is coordinated by the Regional Department of the Pacific Union. Elder Earl Canson is the director.

AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT

On March 5-8, 1989, an official meeting of the black workers of the Pacific Union Conference was held at Soquel, Calif. At this meeting an in-depth discussion was held regarding the following:

a. The feasibility and desirability of organizing a black conference in the Pacific Union.

b. Continuing the present regional departmental system.

c. Continuing the present regional departmental system with some modifications.

After an in-depth discussion of the many issues pertinent to the subject matter, the majority of the fifty-seven (57) workers present voted in favor of the regional conference concept.

WEST COAST LEADERS MOVE TO ORGANIZE REGIONAL CONFERENCES

When Regional conferences were organized in the Seventh-day Adventist Church more than 40 years ago, the members who lived on the West Coast of the United States felt that this was not the best direction for them to enter into. Their attitude was, there must be complete integration as was directed by the leadership of the Pacific Union at the time. Ironically, the predominantly Black church was maintained, the Office of Black Affairs was maintained, the Black pastors were sent to serve in their "own" communities, and when too many Blacks became members of a predominantly white congregation, there was an exodus by the members and a giving of the churches to the "newcomers." However, there was still control of the millions of dollars that came from the Black members into the local and Pacific and North Pacific Union conferences.

The leadership in those days seemed to work in a signal way to strengthen the work of the church among its Black constituents. It appears that a wind of change has taken place with the rise of the present leadership

The Editor's Desk

HADLEY DONATES \$10,500 TO OAKWOOD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

President Albert L. Dudley, Sr., of Hadley Hospital in Washington, D.C., made a presentation of \$10,500 to Dr. B. F. Reaves, president of Oakwood College, which is to provide monies for scholarships for students in the nursing field willing to spend a summer in training at the hospital in Washington.

The program is designed as follows: (1) Each student should be between the junior and senior year at the college level; (2) The overall grade point average must be 3.0 or better; (3) Letters of recommendation from the department chairperson and major advisor of the student must be given; (4) This year the program will be between June 5 and Aug. 25; (5) Housing and daily meals are provided by Hadley Hospital; (6) A \$1,500 scholarship is provided to each student for the 12-week

program and must be used for tuition during the senior year at Oakwood College; (7) A total of \$300 will be provided in cash to the intern for incidental expenses during the 12-week internship; (8) Personal transportation to and from Washington, D.C., for the program will be the responsibility of the student; (9) A certificate of achievement will be presented to the intern at the conclusion of the program.

It should also be noted that the internship will be in the area of nursing and during the program each intern should expect exposure in the following areas: 1) hospital organization process, 2) department of nursing organization process, 3) participation in actual patient care delivery under the supervision of licensed personnel.

The program provides an excellent challenge for SDA youth.

SUNSET CALENDAR

	May 26	June 2	9	16
Boston, Mass.	8:09	8:15	8:20	8:23
New York City	8:14	8:24	8:29	8:32
Buffalo, N.Y.	8:42	8:48	8:52	8:56
Atlanta, Ga.	8:39	8:43	8:47	8:50
Miami, Fla.	8:05	8:08	8:11	8:14
Charlotte, N.C.	8:29	8:33	8:37	8:40
Birmingham, Ala.	7:48	7:52	7:56	7:59
Jackson, Miss.	7:59	8:03	8:07	8:09
Memphis, Tenn.	8:05	8:10	8:13	8:16
Louisville, Ky.	8:56	9:01	9:05	9:08
Detroit, Mich.	8:58	9:04	9:08	9:12
Chicago, Ill.	8:14	8:19	8:24	8:27
South Bend, Indiana	8:08	8:14	8:18	8:22
Minneapolis, Minn.	8:47	8:53	8:58	9:02
St. Louis, Mo.	8:15	8:20	8:24	8:27
Kansas City, Mo.	8:34	8:39	8:43	8:46
Denver, Co.	8:17	8:22	8:27	8:30
Little Rock, Ark.	8:13	8:17	8:21	8:24
Dallas, Texas	8:27	8:31	8:35	8:37
New Orleans, La.	7:53	7:57	8:00	8:03
Albuquerque, N.M.	8:11	8:16	8:19	8:22
Oklahoma City, Okla.	8:36	8:40	8:44	8:47

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

in the union under Elder Thomas J. Mostert, the president. Cutbacks have come for the Black worker; evangelism has come to an almost complete halt; regularly scheduled meetings for the Black worker to plan for the onward progress have been greatly reduced; a curbing has been seen in returning funds to support the Black churches and work in the area. An "invisible man" stance has seemingly become the posture. There appears to be a downplaying of the need for the Black as a part of the structure, although during 1988 the Blacks in the Pacific Union Conference had a membership of 19,748 and paid \$7,160,913 in tithe into the local conferences in that union. This does not include the monies that were given by the members for missions, Ingathering and other conference-sponsored programs, which is probably into the millions.

It is reported that Elder Mostert, the union president, gathered some of the conference leaders together to discuss the proposition that had come forth from the Black leaders of the union, to wit, "...that we request that the denomination give serious study to the establishment of Regional conferences in the Pacific Union conferences rather than continue under the present circumstances as they exist now." The Black local conference leaders are William Allene, Southern California Conference; E. Mendinhall, South-eastern California Conference; David Taylor, Central California Conference; William Felder, Northern California Conference; and John Dayman, Nevada-Utah Conference.

Elder John E. Collins, the associate director for the Personal Ministries of the Pacific Union Conference, one of the proponents for the newly proposed direction, sums up the problem thusly: "The dilemma facing the integrated church can be summarized in four observations: (1) who will control; (2) should whites share power — if so, how much; (3) who will pay — should minorities win control through growth; and (4) summarizing, it's the power to make decisions and control money." Collins was threatened, so it has been said, with dismissal, for the position that he has stated. His privileges for traveling in the union have been curtailed.

Although they are on the West Coast, leaders across the North American Division are aware that Blacks, East and West, North and South, are all in the struggle together, even within the church. It should not be thought of as something that is new, for Black conferences existed in the Methodist denomination as far back as 1870, before the Seventh-day Adventist denomination turned its thoughts toward working to pre-

pare Blacks to be saved when the Lord returns.

If there is to be a strengthening of the work on the West Coast, great care should be given to a "unity among the believers."

ALLEGHENY EAST



Pastor Melvyn Hayden leads his congregation into shouts of "Jubilate" during Centennial celebration.

FIRST CHURCH CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

Too few people or institutions are privileged to celebrate a 100th birthday. But on Feb. 25, 1989, the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Washington, D.C., did just that.

Amid shouts of "Jubilate," Pastor Melvyn E. Hayden, Jr. led his congregation into a celebration that is scheduled to last a full year.

The celebration began on Friday evening, Feb. 24, with a communion service.

Early Sabbath morning, Elder Haywood T. Weatherford, pastor of the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Teaneck, N.J., spoke to the hearts of those in attendance at a "reflection" service.

Alvin M. Kibble, president of the Allegheny East Conference, highlighted the Sabbath School hour with a thought-provoking, challenging presentation of the Sabbath School lesson. Its topic was spiritualism and the occult, and God's specific instructions on how His people should deal with the last days' challenges presented by these kinds of false teachings.

During the divine worship service, a host of dignitaries and church leaders brought messages of welcome and commendation, including a representative from the office of the Hon. Marion Barry, Jr., mayor of the District of Columbia. Mayor Barry declared



Ruth E. Diggs was honored during the divine worship service for maintaining her membership in the First Church for 70 years.

Feb. 25, 1989, as First Church Day in the District of Columbia.

Elder Neal C. Wilson, president of the General Conference; Kenneth Mittleider, general vice president of the General Conference; and Ron Wisbey, president of the Columbia Union Conference, were also present.

The music was outstanding under the leadership of Sharon Osborne and Richard Duckett, both of whom directed the mass choir.

C. E. Bradford, president of the North American Division, gave the standing-room-only congregation reason to rejoice as he delivered the sermon, "The Second Time Around."

The highlight of the day was the reading of the history of the 100-year congregation. Following are highlights of that history.

"In 1886, Grover Cleveland was president; federal troops captured Geronimo; the Statue of Liberty was unveiled, and the first organized work by Adventists began in Washington, D.C. Elder Willard H. Saxy and his wife, Elder Charles Parmele and his sister Julia, along with a number of Bible instructor apprentices, opened a city mission. In the first three months they gave 297 Bible studies, gaining one convert. By 1888 there was a Sabbath School of 46, and regular meetings were held. Elder John Corliss conducted evening meetings with the brethren to instruct them in the duties of church membership. Believing the time had come for the perfection of organization, Elder Corliss formed the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Washington, D.C., on Sunday, Feb. 14, 1889, with 26 charter members. In the following week, elders Uriah Smith and Lycurgus McCoy and others from



Salena H. Kirby chaired the Centennial Committee.

Battle Creek, Mich., celebrated the ordinances with the new little flock.

"In March of the same year, leaders from Battle Creek planned the formation of the Atlantic Conference, which included the District of Columbia. Under the new arrangement, the mission closed and the Saxys left in August. The church membership was then 41. December 1890 was a special time for the First Church. Ellen G. White, whose prophetic gift and voluminous writings have been a source of encouragement and guidance to Advent believers everywhere, spent 10 days with them.

"Evangelism was the main thrust of the church, and elders J. S. Washburn and Charles L. Taylor conducted meetings in 1890, increasing church membership. In 1893, under the leadership of Elder Corliss, who had returned after a four-year absence, a small church was purchased from the Eastern Presbyterian Church. The congregation was interracial, and among its members was Rosetta Douglass Sprague, daughter of Frederick Douglass, who was no doubt influenced in some way by her father's witness of the falling of the stars and his belief that this event was a "harbinger of the coming of the Son of Man."

By the turn of the century the church was firmly established and involved in evangelism. In 1902, Elder J. S. Washburn and Elder Lewis Sheafe conducted evangelistic crusades, with Elder Washburn establishing the second Washington church, the Memorial Church. The General Conference moved to the Washington area from Battle Creek at this time, and the churches were assigned to the administration of the General Conference. By 1905 two additional churches had been formed, the Takoma Park and the People's Church, with Elder Sheafe as pastor. In 1909 they were made



Many of the ladies of First Church wore dresses of the period, 1885-1900.

part of the District of Columbia Conference, which had been operating from the Atlantic Union Conference.

"Over the next several years, church growth increased and the First Church continued its outreach activities. In 1916, while the nation was involved in World War I, Elder J. Marion Campbell was called to pastor the First Church. The membership grew as a new wave of evangelism in the northeast and southeast sections of the city took hold. The minister and congregation became more deeply involved in tract distribution and personal witness. Believing that Christian education was necessary, a church school was established in 1917 under the pastorate of Elder Frederick J. Seeney, and jointly operated with the Ephesus Church.

The school made a more substantial penetration into the life of the community. Many of the children enrolled were not affiliated with the church, and the church welfare program strengthened the tie with the neighborhood and the Washington public. Church growth continued, and in 1919 it was reported that "membership has doubled during the past three years."

"The next 30 years proved to be fruitful ones for the First Church. A banner Sabbath School was established and maintained. Ingathering goals were often reached and exceeded in a matter of weeks. By 1955, the small church on Eighth Street, N.E., had become greatly overcrowded, and the congregation under the leadership of Elder Wilmot Fordham purchased the property at 810 Shepherd Street, N.W. Guidance in the procurement of this property was provided by the building committee: Ethel Nell, chair-

person; Alexander Best, assistant chairperson; Louise Crowder; W. M. Fordham; Esther Hamilton; Juanita Jones; Walter Morgan; C. E. Moseley; Helen Norvell; Minor Oliver; Alma Scott; Glover Smith; Roy Stroman and Johnnie Willis. The official opening ceremonies were held June 5-7, 1957, with Elder Paul Cantrell as pastor. An extensive remodeling program was initiated by Elder John H. Wagner, Jr., the next pastor, and the cost of the building and renovation were fully met at dedication.

"Other ministers serving the First Church have been Elder Charles B. Atkinson, Elder Adolphus E. Webb, Elder Leslie J. Pryor, Elder Eric S. Dillett, Elder R. T. Hudson, Elder Luther R. Palmer, Elder John Collins, Elder Alfred R. Jones, Elder Edward L. Richardson, and currently Elder Melvyn E. Hayden, Jr. The church membership now stands at 1,100. Where there were one church and one conference in the area, there are now 33 churches and three conferences."

The weekend services ended with M. C. Van Putten, associate secretary of the North American Division, conducting a commitment service on Sabbath afternoon; and Henry Wright, executive secretary of the Columbia Union, conducting a prayer service on Sunday morning.

All the planning for the centennial celebration was done under the direction of the Centennial Committee. Salina Kirby served as chairperson and was assisted by Mary L. Hyde and Rufus Simpkins.

Robert L. Booker, Director
Communication Department



Alvin M. Kibble, Allegheny East Conference President, makes a point during his presentation of the Sabbath School lesson.

PASSING OF LEADERSHIP BRINGS PERSONNEL CHANGES

With the passing of the torch of leadership from Meade C. Van Putten, Sr. to Alvin M. Kibble as president of the Allegheny East Conference, several changes have come in departmental personnel.

Kibble served as vice president for ministerial affairs, church ministries director and personal ministries director.

Elder J. Alfred Johnson, pastor of the 1,300-member North Philadelphia Church, has been selected to be the director of personal ministries and community services. He has already assumed those responsibilities. Dr. A. R. Jones will direct all of his energies into the Family Life Department.

Elder R. L. Booker, who serves as the Sabbath School and communications director, was selected to be the church ministries director. He will continue carrying the other departments of Sabbath School and communications.

The mission of the Church Ministries Department is to unite conference departmental goals, objectives, specialties and personnel into a university of spiritual resources dedicated to the systematic training of every age group of church believers. They then can carry out the mission of the local church in its community.

The workers of Allegheny East Conference, along with their spouses and the members of the Allegheny East Conference Executive Committee, met at Columbia Union College to bid farewell to Meade C. Van Putten, who served for eight years as president of the conference. Van Putten accepted an invitation to become the associate secretary of the North American Division.



A. M. Kibble accepts symbolic torch of leadership from M. C. Van Putten as the new president of Allegheny East Conference. Van Putten now serves the North American Division as Associate Secretary. Looking on are Daphne Van Putten, wife of Meade C. Van Putten; Dr. Darla Adams, Van Putten's daughter and B. W. Mann (far right) treasurer of Allegheny East Conference.

In a symbolic gesture, Van Putten passed a golden torch to Kibble with the charge, "Carry the Torch High."

HADLEY HONORS COMMUNITY MINISTERS

To celebrate the contributions and sacrifices of ministers in the locality of Wards 6, 7 and 8 of Washington, D.C., Hadley Memorial Hospital hosted its Second Annual Clergy Day Breakfast. The program was well attended and gave the ministers present an opportunity to speak with members of the hospital staff and administration on how the churches and Hadley can best work together for the betterment of the neighborhood.

The program was inspired by the hospital's Community Advisory Board. This board is comprised of individuals who share an interest in the hospital and the community. Bishop Hugh Gray, local minister and community activist, is one of the founding members of the board. In a recent interview, he said, "This program helps to extend the hand of friendship to the community." Board President Winifred Freeman echoed these sentiments saying, "We want to expand the hospital network by informing the community of the services we provide. This program was a good way to begin this type of neighborhood outreach."

The program had as special guests Elder Charles E. Bradford, president of the North American Division of Seventh-day Advent-



Dr. Judy Fisher, Hon. Walter E. Fauntroy and Pres. Albert L. Dudley.



Dr. Calvin Rolark, Mrs. Winifred Freeman and President Dudley.



Elder C. E. Bradford and Hon. W. E. Fautroy.

ists and chairman of the board of Adventist Health Systems/US; Bernard Lee of the Mayor's Office for Religious Affairs; Ward 8 City Councilmember Wilhelmina Rolark; and president and founder of the United Black Fund, Dr. Calvin Rolark. Wintley Phipps, internationally known gospel artist and pastor of the Capitol Hill SDA Church here in Washington, performed for the assembly. The keynote speaker for the breakfast was the Hon. Walter E. Fautroy, D.C. member of Congress.

During the program remarks, Councilmember Rolark, a long-time hospital supporter, greeted the ministers present and reiterated solidarity with Hadley. Hospital President Albert L. Dudley explained that it was the desired goal of the hospital to work more closely with the community and that the program was the first step in that direction. Mr. Dudley took the opportunity to introduce Mr. Alonzo Bethea, chairman of the Hadley Development Steering Committee, who will be coordinating the hospital's Spring Health Fair scheduled for April 9.

Rep. Fautroy's message centered on need for belief in God and determination to overcome the problems of life. To illustrate this, he used examples of how he grew up in segregated America and now sits as the second ranking member of the House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs.

Dr. William Roundtree, former D.C. public school principal and Community Advisory Board member, was particularly pleased by Rep. Fautroy's message. He said, "Walter Fautroy was one of my students just as Reed Tuckson (commissioner of the D.C. Board of Health and last year's speaker) was. It is good to see that these men, products of the D.C. public school system, have grown to become responsible leaders."

Though this year's Clergy Day Breakfast is over, the actual work of making good the promises of community service is a continuing process. Pursuant to this, Hadley is renovating office space at the hospital of

physicians specializing in internal medicine, rheumatology, neurology, weight control and gastroenterology, to name a few. Concerning this, Mr. Dudley said, "Among the questions most frequently asked by members of the community is when will Hadley have offices for specialty physicians? This is something that we at Hadley have been working to provide our neighborhood and I am happy to announce that this will be available by late spring."

He continued, "Another item of community interest I am proud to announce is that beginning in April, Hadley will open its first satellite clinic in the Barry Farms apartments. This clinic will not only allow the hospital to expand neighborhood medical services, but it will also provide effective medical care for a growing part of our community. This program will be operated under the hospital's Family Health Service in conjunction with Dr. Judy Ann Fisher, founder of the Urban Living Institute of Barry Farms."

Mr. Dudley went on to say, "There are many ways Hadley can be effective in this community. This is where we make our start."

BEREA TEMPLE HOLDS SERVICES OF SPECIAL INTEREST

The Berea Temple Church of Baltimore, Md., makes it a practice to hold church services that will appeal to a wide cross section of its congregation. Recently, three such services were held.

In the first, friends and family came from as far away as California and Arizona to attend the "This Is Your Life Birthday Party" honoring Sabbath School teacher, Thelma

Reid. The congregation terms Thelma a gentle, kind and fervent worker who loves children. She has performed her teaching ministry with the little ones since 1952. Her service includes Vacation Bible School and church and camp meeting story teller.

This program was spearheaded by Mrs. Lucille Brown and was attended by Thelma's mother, Mrs. Angela Steward, and her sister, Mrs. Angela Wilson, both of Riverside, Calif., as well as family members from Tucson, Ariz.; New York City; Hartford, Conn.; and Los Angeles, Calif.

Following a musical program and a banquet, Mrs. Reid received a remembrance album compiled in her honor.

The second special day was an "Old Fashioned Down Home Sabbath Service." As Pastor H. J. Fordham III preached a sermon entitled "Going Home," he equated current times to revelations illustrated in the Bible. The illustrations included the destruction of Jerusalem, the great deception, the expected accusation of Sabbathkeepers and a description of Jesus' advent.

Musical selections intermingled with the sermon text kept the audience captivated. The service concluded with a musical appeal conducted by "The Brothers," a male chorus from Columbia Union College. Several accepted Christ.

The third program of note was the Youth Week of Prayer conducted by Pastor William Taliaferro of the Baltimore Liberty SDA Church. Taliaferro spent the week painting in his relaxed and unique style, clear word pictures of Jesus. His final message for the week was presented in two stages. The congregation meditated as Taliaferro sang, "I'll Say Yes, Lord" and then spoke of "The Fairy Tale of Easter."

Taliaferro's overall message to the youth was summed up in his statement "Youth are precious in God's sight and can indeed survive in today's world impacted by enormous vices; they need only "ASK."

Mrs. Bettye Brock
Communication Secretary

BRINKLOW CELEBRATES COMMUNITY GUESTS

Visitors to the Emmanuel Church in Brinklow, Md., on Community Guest Day received a unique Brinklow welcome. Their cordial greeting from the hostess included a carnation and a package of denominational reading material. During the worship services, a red carpet was rolled down the center aisle to the sound of a bugle fanfare.

Two honorees received community service awards from the church, presented by Sabbath School superintendent, Sandy Crank and first elder, Bert Reid.

Honored was Robert Hill of Sandy Spring, Md. He is the owner of a successful construction company. In return for God's blessings to him, he uses his good fortune to assist Blacks with home loans. His charitable spirit is felt by many, particularly the homebound. For many years, Mr. Hill has provided wheelchairs, recliner chairs and medicine for those in need, from his personal income. In addition, he donates large sums of money to community churches. He was similarly honored by Gov. Donald Shafer, who set aside April 23 as Robert Hill Day in Montgomery County, Md. Because of Hill's illness, the award was accepted by his nephew Wilmore Hill. Other family members were in attendance.

The second honoree was Milton E. Harrod, a paramedic with the Prince George's Fire Dept., Bureau of Advanced Medical Services. He displayed heroism in rescuing a church member, Johanna Pitts, from a near-fatal automobile accident in June of 1986. Because of his extraordinary heroism, Johanna was able to return to Oakwood College and graduate.

Johanna's parents and several Prince George's firemen were on hand to witness the acceptance of this award.

Guest speaker for the occasion was Pastor Brian Carter of Paterson, N.J.

Special guests were honored further with a dinner at the home of Pastor St. Clare Phipps.

Yolanda Hoard
Assistant Communication Director

Unto thee, O God, do we give
thanks... Ps 75:1



(Left to right) Sara and John Pitts, Mrs. Raye Harrod holding Milton E. Harrod, Jr., Milton Harrod, Sandy Crank, Bert Reid, Lt. Col. John Proels, Sgt. William Terry, Major Ewell and Captain William King.

CENTRAL STATES

AGAPE NEWS

1989 promises to be a banner year for Agape SDA Church, University City, Mo. The entire church is enjoying an unusual malady — growing pains! Every department is experiencing the happy problem of more members than provisions. The Sabbath School Department quickly ran out of quarterlies. Not only were adult quarterlies desperately needed, but Spanish quarterlies and Easy English quarterlies were necessary, for Agape has become an international church. In the meantime the copiers were kept busy duplicating weekly lessons for those without books. Every possible room has been pressed into service as Sabbath School classrooms. The Superintendent reports many members volunteering to participate in the weekly programs.

Past Sabbath School programs have included a series on "Family Worship." In this series Livy Nwampa, a native of Nigeria, and his wife, Garyle, born in the eastern United States, shared their typical family worship which consists of songs and stories in both Ibo, Livy's native tongue, and English. The Nwampas told of their respective conversions and concluded by praying in Ibo and English.

A second Sabbath featured Elsa Whitfield, a native of Panama, and Jesus and Gloria, natives of Mexico. Elsa told of worshipping with her mother and her brothers and sisters under a large tree in her youth in Panama. The devout mother taught her children English using the writings of Ellen

White. The children were taught to close their days with a prayer on their lips so that if they should die during the night, the first words from their lips on Resurrection Day would be those words of praise. Gloria gave closing prayer in Spanish, translated by Elsa. A final object lesson in worship was presented by Pastor and Mrs. Pembleton with their children and neighbors, Judith Josiah-Martin and Ada and Ed Joyner. Pastor Pembleton and Mrs. Martin are natives of Antigua. Small wonder Sabbath School opening finds almost every member in place and on time.

After completing a successful Revelation Seminar, the Lay Activities Department under Marie Thomas is busily putting all old and new members to work. Initiating the church slogan, "Living the Light," Lay Activities is involving all departments in community outreach. A successful fruit program as well as a fruit pantry is making friends and contacts in the community. "Laymen Alive," a missionary group, meets weekly at the church. These Monday night meetings feature faith interaction; study and prayer; "Hands-On" training; and strategy sessions. Presently, the group is enjoying "The Caring Church," a dynamic laity film series. The department also plans a "Daniel Seminar," an expanded Spanish ministry, adult and youth educational programs and other exciting programs.

In addition, Agape's choir has almost outgrown the choir stand. For their holiday concert an additional platform had to be constructed. That performance, which included both sacred and traditional selections as well as selections from Handel's "Messiah," did include members of other area churches. However, Agape's own choir,

under the direction of Walter Young, is growing rapidly. Dedicated members practice three times weekly. The choir is also an active witnessing arm of the church. This month they will be joining with All Saints Episcopal Church in presenting a joint program featuring "The Seven Last Words of Jesus." The concert will be presented at the Agape and All Saints Church.

Even the deacons and deaconesses have been affected by growing pains. Their need for church supplies has greatly increased. Head Deaconess Lillie Fultz reports even additional towels for the Ordinance of Humility must be purchased.

Finally, near the close of the Sabbath, Agape's Adventist Youth often fill the fellowship hall. Many members have never left the church, bringing their dinners and enjoying the entire day. Adults and children come ready to repeat memory texts. Leader Patricia Andrews and able assistants present programs which are educational as well as entertaining, and address church issues and spiritual problems.

This increased activity is due to a tremendous increase in membership. Several members were added through the Revelation Seminar. Many transferred from other churches and conferences. Agape members are discovering that they can no longer consider themselves a small church, but they are determined to remember the many sacrifices made, the devotion and dedication of Park Avenue members and friends and to continue the spirit of the church built on love.

Anita L. Clay
Communications Secretary

WILL THERE BE ANY STARS IN MY CROWN

The question has been asked, "Will there be any stars in my crown?" All of us who make it into heaven will have at least one star and we are never too young to start witnessing. Shawn Jackson met 10-year-old Travis Laster (a neighbor) last summer and invited him to Sabbath School. Travis enjoyed it so much that he did not have to be invited more than once and refused to be called a visitor. He takes it upon himself to be ready each and every Sabbath morning, knocking on Shawn's door by 9 a.m.

Travis noticed one morning that everyone in Sabbath School owned a Bible, but he did not. He expressed his desire to have one, too. The very next week, Travis was presented with his own Bible by his teacher.

Travis has become an inspiration to the Sharon Chapel Church membership in



Travis Laster receives a new Bible from his Sabbath School teacher.

Sedalia, Mo. Since receiving his new Bible, Travis has become not only a member of the Pathfinder Club, but is also its treasurer. And, in less than two short weeks, he was able to recite very enthusiastically the 23rd Psalm, The Lord's Prayer, and the Books of the Old Testament.

Alona Boggess-Casey
Communication Secretary

PARK HILL CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The lower Sabbath School division of Park Hill SDA Church in Denver, Colo., gave special emphasis to Black History Month. Their theme was "Jesus and Me" and their topic was "Keeping Hope Alive." Each week during Sabbath School, a guest speaker came to encourage the youth to keep their hope alive. The speakers provided information on Black leaders who



Guest speakers from KWBI Christian Radio Station in Denver, speak to lower Sabbath School division.

aided the civil rights movement and emphasized the Black inventors, lawyers and doctors who attained success in spite of hardships. Giving back to the community was the main theme of the guest speakers who chose careers because they wanted to give back to their communities the success the Lord had given them.

Also during Black History Month, the Adventist Youth and Adventist Junior Youth presented a Black History program; the theme was "Freedom." Negro spirituals, narrations and poems were performed, focusing on the early Black pioneers involved in the Millerite movement. It was an excellent presentation.

Gwendolyn Walker
Communication Secretary

And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord...that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord, for his mercy endureth for ever. II Chron. 20:21



Denver's first black district attorney, Norm Early, speaks at AJY during Black History Month.



Mrs. Betty J. Thomas-Brantley.

BETTY J. THOMAS-BRANTLEY HONORED

Mrs. Betty J. Thomas-Brantley, a resident of University City, Mo., has recently completed the requirements to obtain the doctor of education degree in guidance and counseling. Her doctoral investigation is entitled: "The Relationship Between Self-Esteem and Academic Achievement in a Group of High, Medium, and Low Secondary Public High School Achievers."

Mrs. Brantley is currently serving as a guidance counselor and acting director of guidance services, Roosevelt High School, St. Louis Public Schools.

She obtained the bachelor of science degree in business education from Oakwood College, Huntsville, Ala.; the master's degree in guidance and counseling from the University of Missouri, St. Louis, Mo. She also attended International Graduate School and Andrews University for doctoral studies.

Mrs. Brantley is a member of the Northside SDA Church, St. Louis, Mo., where she has held numerous offices and has also presented Career Education Workshops.

She is the mother of Kenyatta (Ken) D. Brantley, a sophomore biology major at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich. Ken completed his freshman year at Oakwood College. He hopes to pursue a career in cardiology.

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Phil. 4:8

NORTHEASTERN



James Brown, a recipient of the Bronx Church Community Services Award.



(Left to right) Constance Tyson and Lorraine Watson, recipients of Community Service Awards.

COMMUNITY SERVICES CELEBRATED AT BRONX CHURCH

The Community Services Department, under the leadership of Mavis Blair, director for the past 10 years, led the church in a spirit-filled and informative day on Sabbath, Dec. 5, 1989.

The guest speaker for the day was Pastor Ted T. Jones, communication and religious liberty director of Atlantic Union Conference. In his sermon, Pastor Jones explained that one should never be ashamed of being a Seventh-day Adventist and most important, one should know what they believe. He

challenged the community services workers to "Let your light so shine before God."

Ms. Blair gave special recognition to those workers committed to community service work. Persons like James Brown, Constance Tyson and Lorraine Watson were among those recognized for their services.

Ruby Sutherland, community services secretary, reported on the work of the Community Services Department. Lunch was prepared for all visitors.

Myrtle Pickett

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AT ELIM AND NEW LIFE

Jan. 7, officers from both the New Life and Elim SDA churches in Brooklyn, N.Y., marched into the auditorium of the Excelsior Elementary School to the tune of "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," for the ordination service of two elders and one deacon, and the installation of officers.

Ordained were Elder Winston Soleyn and Elder Winston Beckles. Elder Soleyn accepted the Adventist message 18 years ago and served as an elder for four years as well as in various other capacities in the church. He is married to Ermintrude Soleyn.

Elder Winston Beckles served as an elder for two years as well as head deacon for a number of years. Elder Beckles gave his heart to God over 20 years ago. He is married to Irene Beckles.

Mr. Jeremy Bernardo gave his heart to God four years ago. Faithful in service and devoted to duty, Bernardo qualified to be an ordained deacon, and with Mrs. Bernardo at his side, pledged to carry forward the work of the gospel.

The consecration address was given by Pastor E. J. Humphrey. Elder Humphrey also charged the elders and deacons to hold the mystery of their faith in a pure conscience and in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. The ordination service was conducted by both pastors Kevin L. Jenkins and E. J. Humphrey. All church officers were then called to re-dedicate and consecrate their lives in service.

Forming a circle with lighted candles, the evening ended with each officer determined to work as never before.

M. Ambrose
Communication Secretary

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with psalms. Ps. 95:2



Members of the Marriage Enrichment Club of the East New York Church.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT

The Marriage Enrichment Club of the East New York SDA Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., took their first biennial retreat. The site was the beautiful and romantic Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania. Thirty-eight couples made the trip to listen and share experiences with Pastor and Mrs. Walter Wright from Columbus, Ohio, who were the featured guests.

The East New York Church family has wholeheartedly embraced the philosophy of their pastor, Jesse Bevel Jr., which is that a marriage enrichment club can not only help good marriages to get better and marriages that are in trouble to receive the tools necessary for growth, but it can also be an evangelical instrument. Hence, each Seventh-day Adventist couple was asked to bring a non-Adventist couple. Half of the couples on the retreat were non-Adventists. One of the couples has already been baptized and three others are taking Bible studies.

The retreat was power packed as Pastor and Mrs. Wright presented information that enriched many marriages. Not only did individual marriages prosper, but as couples interacted in group activities, the club grew closer. Pastor Jesse Bevel Jr. has proven to East New York that if you can bring the family together you can bring the church together.

Juan M. Scott
Communications Secretary

LOVE DAY AT THE HEIGHTS

The Majestic Heights SDA Mission of Brooklyn, N.Y., celebrated love in a big way on Feb. 18.

Love Day began with a rousing Sabbath School service. The message to the church



Elder and Mrs. Walter Wright, facilitators at the Marriage Enrichment Retreat.

for the divine hour was entitled "God's Family on Earth," and was preached by Pastor David R. Willis. The atmosphere of love continued in the form of a tasty "Love Luncheon" for the congregation and the many visitors.

The afternoon program began with the weekly spotlight on Black History. The guest speaker was Ms. Fatima Saleem, social worker with the Human Resources Administration of New York. She spoke to the Adventist Youth Society on the importance of teaching children their heritage.

The afternoon program continued with a Christian music dedication program. David Worrell served as resident disc jockey. He opened up the request lines to the audience for dedication selections. Floyd Irving served as newscaster, updating the audience on the world's spiritual condition.

The evening segment of the program was presented by all the married couples of the church as they renewed their vows. Pastor Willis performed the ceremony that reunited them in holy matrimony. The church was blessed to have Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, who were celebrating 36 years of marriage.

Ms. Ingrid Clark
Communication Secretary

JAMAICA YOUTH ON THE MOVE

Pastor Colin Parkinson, former personal ministries director of the Guyana Conference, Guyana, South America, was the guest speaker at the Youth Week of Prayer held March 4-11 at the Jamaica SDA Church, Jamaica, N.Y. The theme of the week was "The Time Is Now."

Items of special music were provided by soloist Patrice Anthony and the following vocal groups: The King's Chapel Quartet, The Lindenaires, The Linden Ensemble, Orion, The Revelation Quartet, and The Three M's.

On Saturday, March 11, this week of spiritual emphasis was concluded with Youth Day. The Sabbath School lesson was conducted by Pastor Terrence Benjamin, assistant pastor of the New Haven SDA Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Prior to Pastor Parkinson's final sermon, "The Road to Superstardom," several presentations were made. Mrs. Dorrett Mars presented Pastor Parkinson and his wife, Marcia, with a plaque and a corsage, respectively, as tokens of appreciation for their service to the youth of Jamaica Church during this special week.

AYS Leader Raymond Mars presented trophies and certificates of recognition to deserving AYS members for their achievements during the first quarter of 1989. The recipients were: Marcia Campbell for reciting the most Morning Watch texts during the devotional period of each AYS meeting, Sandra Tomlinson, runner-up; June Boyce was named Youth of the Quarter, Jason Diggs, runner-up; and Daniel's Band was named the most active AYS band.

The Youth Day program was concluded with a play entitled "The Time Is Now," which was presented during the AYS hour.

NEW LIFE SABBATH SCHOOL COMMUNITY GUEST DAY

The Sabbath School Department of the New Life Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., held its first community guest day for the year on March 11.

Its theme was "Why Small Group Fellowship Is Important." The packed-to-capacity congregation was reminded by the superintendent, Mrs. Lennies Simon, of "when the natural networks of relationship gave people good support and kept alive a strong experience of community, but because of sin, these support structures have been broken down, but can be remedied, if we heed God's Word, which tells in John 13:34, 35 and Romans 13:8, about loving, sharing and caring for fellow brothers and sisters."

A well-known woman in the community, in the person of Ms. Marion Gayle, was honored during the service. She works for The Center for Law and Social Justice in Brooklyn, N.Y., and is involved with the National Black Child Development Institute and the Renaissance Lions International Child Care Inc. She is also a mother of three and grandmother of two.

Pastor Kevin L. Jenkins delivered the sermon for the divine hour, which was entitled "Don't Worry, I'll Fix It." He admonished the church that even though sometimes they feel alone, as if God is not keeping His promises, God is still there taking care of "everything."

The morning session was brought to a close when the entire congregation was invited to a well-prepared vegetarian lunch, in honor of visitors present.

BRONX TEMPLE NEWSNOTES

Approximately one year ago, the Bronx Temple SDA Church was given permission to conduct worship services at the Kingsbridge Armory, one of the city's many women's shelters. About 25 women from the shelter have been attending the weekly services. They have studied the Real Truth Bible Series, and received clothing, food and literature. The individuals responsible for the service are Elder Ewen Morris, Mr. Dozent Morris, Mr. James Simmons and Ms. Caroline Beckles.

Ms. Jane Gage has been hosting cooking classes in her home twice every month. Members of the South Bronx Mission are benefiting from the expertise of Sylvester Quainoo and his assistant, Hazel Smith.

Mrs. Kathleen Hughes
Communication Secretary

JAMAICA AYS CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During the month of February, the Adventist Youth Society (AYS) of Jamaica SDA Church, Jamaica, N.Y., celebrated Black History Month. AYS leader, Raymond Mars, and the AYS Executive Committee coordinated these programs which focused on Black heritage.

The first program, "Black Unity," examined the cultural differences that exist within the Black race, and stressed the need for unity in spite of diversity.

A panel discussion entitled "From the Outhouse to the White House — Have We Arrived?" was presented in two parts over a two-week period. These discussions addressed such issues as education, family life, self-esteem and racial pride. The panelists included Trevor Byfield, Joyce Cort, Devon Hines and Ann Taylor. Devon Shand and Wilbur Cort were the moderators. Mrs. Jovcelyn Johnson, superintendent of schools of the Northeastern Conference, was the guest panelist in the second discussion.

The final program of the month was a dramatic presentation, "Why Does the Caged Bird Sing?" performed by the Drama Club. The play depicted some of the hardships slaves endured on Southern plantations.

To climax this month of ethnic awareness and to maintain the spirit of unity at Jamaica Church, an "International Extravaganza" was held. At this social event, members represented their countries or states of origin by donning their native costumes or state banners, sharing their locale's history and singing folk songs and/or their national anthems. A banquet featuring international cuisine followed.

BOSTON'S VOICE OF HOPE REACHES NEW AUDIENCES

From the numerous phone calls and from the increasing number of visitors to the Berea Church in Boston, Mass., it is clear that their Voice of Hope radio program is reaching far outside the Boston Adventist community. Many are seeking truth, and Berea is pleased to have a part in sharing this truth.

One Sunday morning in November, Mr. Tom Gotchard, who is not an Adventist, heard the Voice of Hope program and a discussion about the great need for food donations for the needy. Alone in a hospital bed, Mr. Gotchard made a promise: "Lord, if you let me out of this hospital for Thanksgiving, I promise you I'll help Berea provide food for the needy."

Three minutes later, Mr. Gotchard's doctor walked in and announced that he could go home that very day. True to his word, Mr. Gotchard got on the phone to Pastor Bernard and that very week brought in a load of canned goods, juices and other foods, and later that week, 16 turkeys for Berea's Thanksgiving baskets. In all, 66 happy families benefited from the generosity of Tom Gotchard and caring members of the Berea Church.



Mrs. Myrtle Pickett.

VICTORY LAKE'S FORMER NURSING DIRECTOR HONORED

Mrs. Myrtle Pickett, former director of nursing at Victory Lake Nursing Center in Hyde Park, N.Y., was awarded the prestigious Commissioner's Recognition Award by Commissioner of Health David Axelrod, for her outstanding achievement in the New York State Department of Health.

Mrs. Pickett joined the health department staff in 1980, where she served as a hospital nursing services consultant. She was later promoted to the position of state training coordinator in 1986, and was responsible for developing and implementing a training program for all new surveyors in the department.

The training program received excellent ratings from the past three years by the federal government and will be integrated into their federal training program at a future date.

Mrs. Pickett's efforts have greatly contributed to improved patient care and to improvement in the surveillance and enforce-

ment activities of the office of Health Systems Management. Her positions and accomplishments with the department of health are a continuing source of pride for her former employer, Victory Lake Nursing Center and for the Adventist Church.
Joan McSweeney



Mr. Farrow, newly elected president of ACHCA, gives his acceptance speech.

NEW YORK CHAPTER OF ACHCA ELECTS FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, Robert C. Farrow was elected president of the New York State Chapter of the American College of Health Care Administrators (ACHCA). The installation was held at Kutsher's Country Club, Monticello, N.Y. The New York Chapter of ACHCA is the largest chapter in the United States, with a membership of approximately 540, and the election of Farrow is a historic one in that it is the first time in the 20-year history of the chapter that a Black has risen to this position.

Farrow is well qualified for the position. He is a certified administrator and a Fellow of the college. With a bachelor's degree in sociology, a master's degree in counselor education from New York University, another in public health/health administration from Columbia University, along with being a licensed nursing home administrator, and 18 years in nursing home administration, he brings a wealth of experience to the office of president of the New York Chapter of ACHCA.

Under his direction, the Victory Lake Nursing Center in Hyde Park, N.Y., where he presently serves as administrator, has

experienced significant progress, and similar progress is anticipated in the New York Chapter of ACHCA under his leadership.

In his inaugural message, Farrow vowed to work to have the chapter serve its members in a way that will enhance their growth in health care administration, and to involve all of the members in the work of the college, as together they continue to strengthen the chapter through the programs offered and in membership gain.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Farrow.

EAST NEW YORK HOLDS AWARDS BANQUET

The East New York Church in Brooklyn, under the leadership of Pastor Jesse Bevel, Jr., instituted an annual Awards Banquet. The event was planned under the auspices of the church Personal Ministries Department headed by Stephen Stewart. Honor was given to deserving hard-working members.

The program for the evening included music, comedy and a fashion show. The highlight was the awards ceremony consisting of seven categories: (1) King and Queen of Ingathering; (2) King or Queen of Supplementary Budget (Supplementary Budget is a method of budgeting in order not to tax members by the repetitive collection of funds.); (3) King or Queen of Message Magazine; (4) Top Soul Winner; (5) Revelation Seminar Teachers; (6) Bible Workers; (7) Outstanding Church Workers.

This extravaganza was not only geared toward recognizing the achievements of deserving members or providing a social setting, but also to encourage members to work harder. As a result, the East New York Church family has experienced tremendous growth, a total title increase of 38.5 percent and an increase of 36.1 percent in local funds.

Juan Scott
Communications Secretary

Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth. Ps. 57:5



Mr. McKenzie, King of Ingathering at East New York.



Ms. Eva Birkley, Queen of East New York's Ingathering Drive.

SOUTH CENTRAL



Deborah Dixon.

DEBORAH DIXON AWARDED FIRST PLACE IN 1988 SALES

Recently Deborah Dixon, literature evangelist in the South Central Conference, was driving from Aberdeen, Miss., back home to Shannon, Miss. (a 30-mile trip), after a day of canvassing. While traveling, she ran into a rainstorm that was so bad she could not see the road, which had no lights; it was in the country. She prayed for the Lord's guidance; He used a lightning flash to light up the sky to help her see her way home. On another occasion, just a few days later, she was traveling in cold, snowy weather when her car stopped for 1 1/2 hours. With no help in sight, she prayed and the Lord sent her way down the same road to the home of a customer who had just purchased the book "Desire of Ages" from her. This individual helped her get the car started and then prayed with her.

As a result of her faithful dedication and service, Ms. Dixon became the literature evangelist to have the highest deliveries for the year.

SOUTH CENTRAL A.B.C. SALES ON THE INCREASE

Through the years, the officers and executive committee of the conference have been encouraged to close the Adventist Book Center and direct business to other centers within the union conference. This idea has met with continuous resistance by the administration - it will not give the service to constituencies as is needed; it will put at least two people out of employment; it will cost the conference more money than what appears on the surface. The operation continues to struggle along, but the picture is beginning to look better.

Recently, Elder and Mrs. E. F. Brown, the new directors of the book center, reported that all accounts have been paid in full to all creditors with the exception of one, and that one is being cared for this month. Sales for a 12-month period in 1987-88 stood at \$252,081.87, whereas the improved picture shows the sales for a 10-month period at \$310,089.28. This is the Lord's doing.

The South Central Conference Book Center is equipped to service orders for any church across the North American Division as well as any of the memberships. A new book center facility is presently being built along with the new conference office in Nashville.

I will praise the name of God with a song. Ps 60:30

GEORGE EARLE AND ISAAC JOHNSON JOIN SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE WORKING STAFF

Elder George R. Earle, former president of the Northeastern Conference, and Elder Isaac J. Johnson, former stewardship director, trust services director, communications director and pastor in the South Central Conference, have been elected to serve as the field secretaries for the South Central Conference. They will assist the president in helping to train young pastors who come to the field in pastoral leadership; help to give counsel to congregations when problems arise; and seek to bring harmony and Christian guidance; and continue to share their years of Christian leadership in helping to strengthen the work of God throughout the conference.



Elder G. R. Earle.



Elder I. J. Johnson.

"A CHRISTMAS HEART"

"A Christmas Heart" was the theme for the annual Christmas program that was presented by the students of the Alcy SDA Junior Academy in Memphis, Tenn. A modern-day version of "no room in the inn" featured a family whose home burned to the ground on Christmas Eve. A concerned neighbor attempted to find housing for the family. After many attempts to relocate the family with "friends" who had numerous excuses why it was not convenient, one family was more than willing to take the family in. Thus the true meaning of Christmas was realized.

Appropriate Christmas carols and music reemphasized the theme of the program and the Christmas season. One of the highlights of the evening was the instrumental ensemble that featured the faculty of Alcy playing "Away in a Manger." Christmas would not be Christmas without the Alcy students singing the traditional rendition of "Emmanuel."

Charles D. Battles
Principal

PASTORS IN MEMPHIS AREA PLAN FOR CHURCH SCHOOL

The fellowship was meaningful when pastors of the Memphis, Tenn., area had lunch with the conference president to discuss the onward programs of the church in this area. Evangelism — expanding the work to reach more than one-half million Blacks in the area, and strengthening the church school program were topics that were discussed.

At one time, there was but one Black SDA church in the city; today congregations can be found in a number of areas — Longview, Breath of Life, Overton Park, New Covenant, Eads and Work of Life, with others in the planning stages.

When the Alcy Junior Academy opened its doors to train the students of the churches in the area and surrounding territories, none ever dreamed that the plant would become too small to house the school, but under the leadership of Prof. Charles Battles of Los Angeles, Calif., the school has grown to a population of almost 200 students. A separate day care center is conducted at the Longview Church.

Study is being given to either expanding the present plant or purchasing another facility from one of the local Baptist congregations in the city. The Bethel Baptist Academy, which was constructed two decades ago, has a number of buildings that can



Riverside Chapel greets Pastor Cutler after 10 years.

serve the purpose. It also has a church building along with three dwellings and a number of church buses. However, prayerful study must be given as to how this million dollar plant can be secured for the school, but something must be done soon. The leaders are still seeking the Lord for guidance.



Elder and Mrs. X. Butler, Dr. L. R. Broomes.

BUTLER CELEBRATES TEN YEARS AT RIVERSIDE CHAPEL

The members of the Riverside Chapel in Nashville, Tenn., came together after the Sabbath on March 4 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of having Elder and Mrs. Xavier Butler as their pastor. "They must stay another 10 years" was the instruction that was given to the conference officials at the time of this celebration. Butler, a native of Washington, D.C., attended Oakwood and Union colleges, served in the Central States and Lake Region Conferences, at Oakwood

College and finally joined the South Central Conference staff 10 years ago and served as the pastor for this congregation during that time.

Under his tenure, the congregation has grown to overwhelming proportions; the membership has grown to be a church family ideally; the school program has been placed on a very firm footing and a new plant for the school has been erected. It would appear that "they have only just begun."

He has been asked to serve as the director of the Family Lifestyle Department for the conference, which deals with solutions to personal problems.

It appears that Pastor and Mrs. Butler's tenure demonstrates the meaning of "shepherding the flock and the carrying of the young lambs in his bosom." His members still love them dearly after 10 years of leadership.



Pastor and Mrs. Michael Holland thanking Mr. Smith for work.

INFILTRATION PAYS OFF IN CAMPBELLVILLE, KENTUCKY

The Infiltration Program for ministerial graduates as instituted by the South Central Conference a few years back is still proving to be meaningful. The program calls for a person to enter a dark county and develop

a plan for beginning a new work for the Seventh-day Adventist denomination in that area. Pastor and Mrs. Michael Holland, of Memphis, Tenn., accepted the challenge of going to Campbellsville, Ky., and following up on work that had begun under a layman of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. The membership grew, with approximately 20 believers meeting weekly.

These dear workers joined Pastor and Mrs. Holland in seeking to secure a house of worship in the city. An old abandoned automobile repair shop was secured and turned into a lovely house of worship for the Lord. March 11 was the opening day. Members and friends from across the conference came to help with the celebration of this "heaven-sent" blessing. The building contains a lovely sanctuary with carpet, padded pews, air conditioning, fellowship hall, kitchen, rest rooms, pastor's study and utility room. The one-acre plot of land has also been landscaped.

Pastor and Mrs. Holland have once again demonstrated the blessings that can come to ones who step out on the promises of God to begin a new work for Him in the earth.



Camp Bellsville, KY, church opening.

DR. E. E. CLEVELAND IS HONORED BY THE STATE OF ALABAMA

Five Blacks of the state of Alabama were inducted into its Afro-American Hall of Fame by Gov. Guy Hunt. This was done at a special ceremony held on March 5. This historical event is not to be left unnoticed, for since their emancipation in days gone by, this people have produced leaders who proved to be a blessing not only to the state but throughout the entire world.

All have heard of the Booker T. Washingtons, the George Washington Carvers, the Willie Mays, the Nat King Coles, the Joe Lewis Barrows, the A. G. Gastons, the Chappy James, the Martin Luther Kings and the R. D. Abernathys, but there are many more who have made contributions. Everyone cannot be named, but we must speak of the six who were honored at the time of the "Great Black Alabama Reunion." Awards



Dr. E. E. Cleveland, Governor Guy Hunt.



Dr. Katie Blanding, Mrs. Jessie Burrell, Homer McCall, Dr. E. E. Cleveland, Mrs. Johnnie Carr.



South Central Literature Evangelist Banquet.

were presented to Dr. A. G. Gaston, the Spirit of the Reunion Award; Homer Littlefield McCall of Huntsville, the Youth Award; Mrs. Barbara Danner of Macon County, the Arts Award for African Art; Dr. E. E. Cleveland of Oakwood College, Huntsville, the Religion Award; Mrs. Jessie Burrell of Bessemer, the First Civic Award; Mrs. Johnnie R. Carr of Montgomery, one of the leaders in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Civic Award; Dr. Katie Blanding, scientist at NASA Space Center in Huntsville, the Education Award.

The purpose of this annual gathering is to encourage Blacks of Alabama to return to help build a better state in which all of mankind can live.

Dr. E. E. Cleveland, who received the Religion Award, won distinction for giving religious instruction in cities, towns and counties all over the state for the past 30 to 40 years. He has shared his gifts with people from around the world, having worked for his church on every continent, teaching and helping to develop leaders for the church in many nations. He served at the world headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for almost a quarter of a century and later returned to his native Alabama to help develop the hearts, heads and hands of the students who attend his alma mater, Oakwood College, in Huntsville. It goes without saying that his lovely wife, Celia, has been by his side playing the supportive role as fellow worker in student development. A salute to a great leader who was born in Decatur, Ala.

MISSISSIPPI LITERATURE EVANGELISTS HOLD FIFTH ANNUAL BANQUET

They came from all over the state of Mississippi and from as far as Memphis, Tenn., and Dallas, Tex., and even New Orleans, La., to join in with the celebration. Elder Ben J. Cone, Sr., the director of the literature ministry for the state of Mississippi since 1972, had given the call to celebrate and they responded. Upwards of 25 literature evangelists and their families gathered the morning of Feb. 11 at the New Heights Church in Jackson to praise the Lord for His blessings upon their labor during 1988.

The Mississippi team had gone into Tupelo during the summer and laid the groundwork for a lovely evangelistic crusade that was conducted by Elder R. L. Patterson of Montgomery, Ala., and Pastor and Mrs. Donnell Morgan, an infiltrationist worker who had recently graduated from Oakwood College. Deborah Dixon and Robert Carter

had won the distinction of having the highest deliveries for the year in the state. These, along with each of the others, were given plaques and awards for their labors.

On hand for the celebrations were Dr. C. E. Dudley, president of the South Central Conference; the Gail Murphy Choral Group from Memphis, Tenn., who supplied the music for each of the services; Elder and Mrs. Stephen P. Ruff of Dallas, Tex.; Elder and Mrs. William Smith, the publishing director for the conference; Elder and Mrs. T. Smith, publishing director for the Southern Union; pastors R. V. Crawford and Eugene Anthony and their wives.

During 1988, the literature evangelists of the conference delivered more than \$300,000 worth of literature. Their goal for 1989 has been set at \$600,000, so states Elder William Smith.

will continue to serve the community during the summer months.

The building has been renovated and an extension is to be added which will place the value of the total plant at approximately \$400,000.

The facility that was in the Berean Church had become overcrowded for the almost 50 students and their teachers, Mrs. Judy Johnson and Mrs. R. McFarland.

On hand for the opening ceremonies were bankers, councilmen, county judges, YMCA representatives and conference officials.

The South Central Conference had built new church buildings for a number of years to house the congregations. Now emphasis is being directed toward school building projects.



E. E. Rogers School.

A NEW SCHOOL OPENED IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

On Sabbath afternoon, April 2, Elders Joseph I. Grider and Tommie L. Blevins, along with their memberships, came together for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the new E. E. Rogers School facility in Jackson, Miss. The plant had been purchased from the YMCA organization. It had been used as a recreational center for the people of that community, but had been closed some time ago. The members of the Berean Church under the leadership of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Newsome, members of the local congregation, made contact with the proper authorities and this three-acre plot of land was purchased from the city. It has a lovely building and swimming pool which

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:7

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115-50 Merrick Boulevard
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LOCAL CONFERENCE DIRECTORY

ALLEGHENY EAST, Alvin Kibble, President, Charles Cheatham, Secretary, B. W. Mann, Treasurer. Address: P.O. Box 266, Pine Forge, PA 19548. Telephone (215) 326-4610

ALLEGHENY WEST, Willie J. Lewis, President, Carl Rogers, Secretary, James Lewis, Treasurer. Address: 1339 E. Broad Street, Columbus, OH 43205 Telephone (614) 252-5271

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