

NORTH AMERICAN
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**The Church
Mourns
A Great Loss**

**C. L. Brooks
1923-1989**

COVER STORY

LIFE SKETCH

On June 8, 1923, in Wilson, North Carolina, Charles was born to Albert L. and Eva Mae Brooks. He was no ordinary baby! At an early age his mental agility was displayed as he accomplished feats uncommon to peers.

Charles began his education ahead of schedule when he was permitted to walk the country roads of Bertie County with the live-in teacher who feared traveling alone. He sat in class as a five-year-old, and was able to grasp information which allowed him to move through the grades quickly. It was in this setting that his musical ability was apparent. His first solo was "Just a Little Brook Am I." Elementary and college training was all accomplished in Christian schools—except for two years spent at Howard University in Washington, D.C. It was at Howard that his scholastic ability was awarded the Phi Beta Kappa key. He received his M.A. from the Washington Theological Seminary, where he was graduated with honors.

Being a man of many talents, Charles found it difficult to choose a career. However, after assisting his granddad in presenting Bible studies—as well as our prominent evangelists in their crusades—it was not difficult for him to find his way. His first pastorate was in Philadelphia. The membership tripled, bringing about a fulfilled need to purchase a church.

After approximately three years, his educational background was responsible for the call to fill a vacancy at Pine Forge Academy where he served as principal and history professor. A girls' dorm was constructed, a new bus purchased, and accreditation granted. During the many choir tours he was affectionately given the name, "The Pine Forge Choir," by the students. Shortly after he moved on to direct the departments of Education and Sabbath School for the Allegheny Conference. In an effort to obtain the best educators, he sought meaningful benefits for them. Some of the best educators were obtained and the Education Department became a model for other conferences.

During his tenure as director of the Southern Union Sabbath School and Religious Liberty departments, he formed an association of lawyers and judges—an organization that exists this day as a functioning body.

Since 1975, when Charles was called to the General Conference, it has been his aim to develop a corp of dedicated Sabbath School teachers. "To be used by God," he accepted the challenge of going "into all the world." This effort has taken him to virtually every corner of the world.

In spite of all these accomplishments, he is best remembered for his music. He loved to sing music which spoke to the heart. His mellow tones and unique interpretation of hymns allowed listeners to focus on the Advent message and the hope in Christ's soon return. Charles dreamed of directing a mass choir someday. His albums are heard on radio stations throughout the United States.

In spite of all these accomplishments, he is best remembered for his music.

The completion of the *Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal* was a major focus during these last three years. Like Hezekiah, Charles prayed for a few more years just to complete this project. He often spoke of the inspiration he received after the Hymnal Committee had met and sung together old and new songs of Zion. The GC Department of Church Music, which he directed, came into existence as a result of the completion of the hymnal.

Charles's final days were spent in preparation of music for the 1990 Indianapolis General Conference Session.

Although physical problems had plagued him for the past 12 years, this year was especially unkind. On Sabbath, December 23, 1989, he was mercifully delivered from further discomfort and slipped quietly and with dignity to his rest—after Sabbath School. His family and friends will miss him dearly.

Parents	Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Brooks
Brother	Paul A. Brooks and Wife Marie
Sister	Ollie Mae Cheatham and Elder Oliver
Brother	Victor L. and Wife Sandra
Spouse	Gladycy Taylor Brooks
Daughter	Jacqueline and Dr. James Winston
Son	Dr. A. Dennis and Wife Chantal
Son	C. Jeffrey and Wife Marcye

4 nieces, 6 nephews, 7 grandchildren, dozens of cousins, and many other relatives and friends.

PUBLISHER'S PAGE

"AN ENDANGERED SPECIES"

Secretary of Health and Human Services, Louis W. Sullivan issued a report to the press recently indicating that the existence of the African-American male is threatened in the United States. The report reveals shocking facts and statistics which verify Sullivan's dismal pronouncement. In Washington, D.C., for example, there were a record 372 murders in 1988 of which 351 of the victims were Black; 235 of that number or 63% of this city's homicides were Black males, ages 15 to 34. During the year 1987, the latest period for which figures were available, 534 of the 1,672 murders victims in New York City were young black males.

The United States government and African-American sociologists agree that virtually every official index—mortality, health, income, education and marital status reveals that African-American men make up one of the most troubled segments of American society.

Secretary Sullivan maintains that the federal government must take a stronger role in reversing these trends. He is quoted as saying that he does not think it is an exaggeration to suggest that the African-American male is a species in danger and in trouble.

Sadly, but inevitably, what affects society spills over into the church. We find the number of African-American males in the pews of Black congregations to be few and dwindling. They are outnumbered at least 3:1 by their female counterparts. Growing absenteeism has led many Christian women to either search outside the church for male companionship or remain, in some cases, frustratingly single.



Pastor Kevin Jenkins

This phenomena in turn affects the leadership in the African-American church as young Black males find fewer positive role models of Christian leadership.

Without question, the effective evangelism of this population is limited. The question we ask should not be what society can do, rather what will the church do to save the African-American male. Christians, namely Seventh-day Adventists, have the solutions in the form of the Gospel to solving the crisis of endangerment among African-American males and must rise to the occasion.

Indeed, the most effective cure for the African-American male is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Though fully aware that Black activists would vehemently challenge this premise, claiming that Christianity has not only condoned the enslavement of the Black male, but at best only provides a docile and passive solution to problems which go beyond religion and are clearly sociological in nature.

In actuality however, Christianity, when properly understood and proclaimed can only elevate and strengthen the character of every man, particularly the victimized African-American male.

Jesus Christ had a religion which attracted men of various backgrounds. Throughout his ministry, men were drawn to this Prophet of Galilee. In the feeding of the 5,000 and on another occasion the 4,000, Scripture records that these numbers represented only men. Women and children were not counted (Matt. 14:21, 15:38). Even after Pentecost, 4,000 men believed (Acts 4:4). Early in His ministry, Christ chose twelve rugged men whom he called disciples and infused with a philosophy which made them heroes of the ancient world. Among them were fisherman, revolutionaries, tax collectors—after all, Jesus was himself a carpenter. Men of this caliber were considered the strong of society. Zacchaeus, for example, a tax collector, was a prominent figure in Jericho who very much admired the life and philosophy of Jesus Christ and Scripture describes what extreme measures he used in order to meet our Lord (Luke 19:1-10). Their encounter made an indelible impression on the man, Zacchaeus. These are but a few of the countless examples of the effect Jesus and his Gospel had on men.

Jesus didn't try to pacify men or diminish their strength. He worked to effectively channel it. The miracle of the Gospel is that it was not only successful in transforming the power inherent in these men

but of also ennobling their characters.

It can do the same today. Seventh-day Adventists in particular can play a unique role in the restoration of the African-American male. The Black man needs salvation (spiritual), but he also needs to be educated (mental) and should be taught to care for his health (physical). These are elements which will help him become a viable force with marketable skills which will work together to prepare him to make a worthwhile, influential contribution in an admittedly difficult world (social).

Our message is a holistic one which when properly preached impacts on the spiritual, mental, physical, and social aspects of humanity. It is a message with answers to the myriad of problems that bombard the African-American male. It is only this holistic Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Seventh-day Adventist perspective which can meet the imperative of this endangered species—the African-American male. It is with this realization that we embrace the challenge and go forward to rescue those who are perishing—the African-American male.

Kevin L. Jenkins, Pastor
New Life SDA Church
Brooklyn, New York

BRITISH YOUTH BUILD CHURCH IN ZIMBABWE

In December 1989 a brand-new church was dedicated in Gwanda, Zimbabwe. Church dedications are not uncommon or unusual in themselves, but this opening performed by Pastor Ndlhovu, president, Zambesi Union Mission, was a dedication with a difference.

The 300-seater church located in the mushrooming Jahunda Township of Gwanda was built in just 16 1/2 days by 37 youth volunteers from Britain. The group included 28 men who worked just as hard as the 9 women!

Moses Msimanga, local pastor of the Gwanda Church declared that it was "a miracle in slow motion. If you missed what God had done the first day you could see the drama unfold the second day and the third, and so on for 16 1/2 days."

The Zimbabwe Youth project was the brain-child of Lester Parkinson, Church Ministries director, Zambesi Union Mission; Hymers Wilson, Youth Ministries director, South England Conference; and Theo Stewart Youth Ministries director, North British Conference. Planning began early in 1988 and involved raising funds toward the project.

Throughout North and South England young people energetically raised funds through a variety of sponsorship schemes; sponsored walks, runs, hymn-singing sessions, and parachute jumps to name a few. In one instance young people from Handsworth SDA Church, Birmingham, an area known for racial troubles and serious tensions between police and youth, washed the local police squad cars to raise funds for the project! Granose Foods Limited, a British SDA health food company, donated 96 kilos of vegetarian food for the meals of the volunteers.

British youth volunteers of diverse ethnic backgrounds all responded to the invitation to give one month of their time to help build the church. Some even gave up their jobs in order to make the trip. Only a handful were professional builders.

There was one time when it looked like the team was falling behind schedule with the building, but like angels from heaven a group of about fifty church members arrived from Bulawayo to give the man- and woman-power for a well-needed boost.

This brand new "miracle" church now stands, according to Pastor Parkinson, "as a testimony that Heaven continues to work in concert with human frailty to alleviate suffering and shortages."

It is the wish of all who were involved with the building of the church echoing the words found in the dedication service bulletin that this will be "an edifice that will forever be representative of His glorious name in this community," and that "this church be the colony of Heaven on earth."

Hymers A. Wilson
Youth Ministries and Communication
Director, South England Conference

DIRECTOR OF S.C.L.C. CHAPTER VISITS PUBLISHING CONVENTION

Sevell Brown, president of the Tampa, Florida chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was a guest of the Annual Publishing Council of the Regional Conferences of North American Division. Brown challenged the assembly to get involved with community projects that will bring hope and respite to many who are still living under down-trodden conditions. He is a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Tampa area and is a graduate of Atlantic Union College in Massachusetts.

If you are too busy to pray, you are too busy.

FAITH WINS OUT

Theodore Charles is the grandson of a Baptist minister. His wife, Delphine, is a second-generation Seventh-day Adventist. These facts caused Theodore to compare the beliefs of the two denominations. His heart was won to Adventism.

However, there was a problem. Theodore's job required him to work on Sabbath. He was torn between doing right and supporting his family. He was able to get a job at Mitchell Packaging, a Seventh-day Adventist owned firm. Now, there are no barriers to Ted's practicing his faith. Ted feels now that his family is whole.



Pastor Paul Anderson, Pottstown, right, stands with newly baptized member, Theodore Charles, his wife Delphine, and children: Theodore Jr., Christine, and Jocelyn.

SEASONED CITIZENS FOLLOW FOOTPRINTS

Forty-six "seasoned citizens" of the Allegheny East Conference recently traveled to New England to trace the Footprints of Adventist pioneers. There were members from Pine Forge, Coatesville; Philadelphia and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Petersburg, Virginia.

One of the highlights of their trip was Sabbath services in the historic Seventh-day Adventist Church in Washington, New Hampshire. The town and church, both namesakes of the Father of the US,

The Editor's Desk

C. L. Brooks Memorial Fund

Hear the beautiful music. See talented Seventh-day Adventist artists. Purchase videos of services celebrating the life of C. L. Brooks. Brooks sings several favorites as well. Pine Forge Academy meritorious students benefit from your tax-exempt contribution of \$25.00.

Address requests to:

C. L. Brooks Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 1492
Blue Bell, PA 19422

SUNSET CALENDAR

	March 30	April 6	13	20
Boston, Mass.	6:08	6:15	6:23	6:31
New York City	6:18	6:22	6:33	6:41
Buffalo, N.Y.	6:39	6:47	6:55	7:03
Atlanta, GA.	6:57	7:02	7:07	7:12
Miami, Fla.	6:36	6:40	6:43	6:46
Charlotte, N.C.	6:43	6:49	6:55	7:00
Birmingham, Ala.	6:06	6:11	6:16	6:21
Jackson, Miss.	6:19	6:24	6:29	6:34
Memphis, Tenn.	6:20	6:25	6:31	6:37
Louisville, Ky.	7:04	7:10	7:17	7:23
Detroit, Mich.	6:57	7:04	7:12	7:20
Chicago, Ill.	6:13	6:21	6:29	6:36
South Bend, Ind.	7:08	7:16	7:23	7:31
Minneapolis, Minn.	6:38	6:47	6:56	7:05
St. Louis, Mo.	6:22	6:29	6:35	6:42
Kansas City, Mo.	6:40	6:47	6:53	7:00
Denver, Co.	6:22	6:29	6:36	6:43
Little Rock, Ark.	6:28	6:34	6:39	6:45
Dallas, Texas	6:46	6:51	6:56	7:01
New Orleans, La.	6:18	6:22	6:26	6:30
Albuquerque, N.M.	6:26	6:32	6:37	6:43
Oklahoma City, Okla.	6:50	6:56	7:01	7:07

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

George Washington, share the site of the roots of Sabbath keeping.

On Sabbath, the visitors were privileged to have Elder Charles D. Brooks, General Field Secretary of the General Conference, as their speaker in the historic church. Prayer was offered by Elder W. W. Fordham, trip coordinator and president of the Allegheny East Conference Senior Citizens' Organization. The pulpit was the same one used by Mrs. E. G. White so many years ago.

Included in their itinerary of historic sites were Founders' Hall and the Village Church at Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts, and the birthplace of E. G. White in Gorham, Maine.

Geraldine Handy, President
Pine Forge Senior Citizens

EMMANUEL SDA CHURCH CONGREGATION CHALLENGED ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY DAY

On January 20 Pastor Melvyn E. Hayden of the Emmanuel SDA Church in Brinklow, Maryland, surrendered his pulpit to an able Adventist attorney for Religious Liberty Day. During the divine worship service Emmanuel's Religious Liberty Leader, Patricia Paige, Esq. told the members that he goal for the church was to have them sponsor subscriptions for Liberty Magazine to every legislator in the area. Paige said that lawmakers involved in matters concerning religious freedoms should have the opportunity to know the official position of the Adventist Church.

The message was delivered by Sherman Rodgers, Esq., Associate Professor of Law, Howard University Law School, Washington, D.C. Attorney Rodgers reminded those present of the atrocities which had taken place in the past when religions and governments tried to force their citizens to adhere to a particular belief. He pointed out that the misplaced desires to force worship on people in the United States during the Pilgrim era, and in Europe failed miserably. Not only did these experiments fail at making bad people good, but they also caused religious leaders themselves to become in essence bad people by persecuting those who would not follow the sanctioned religious practices of the day.

He who has not yet reached the opposite shore should not make fun of him who is drowning.



At a highway stop, Allegheny East Senior Citizens pose beneath beautiful autumn foliage.

Rodgers then posed several thought-provoking questions to the congregation. Among them, "Do we as Seventh-day Adventists engage in our own brand of persecution towards those who do not believe as we do?" Another pointed question was, "Are we as individuals hastening or delaying Christ's return?" He stated that the word of God says that when the gospel is preached to all, then and only then, will Jesus return. This caused members to face the fact that if they were not involved in spreading the gospel, they were actually personally delaying our Lord's return.

Rodgers challenged those who have lost their first love to regain it. He also challenged them to commit themselves to telling the Black Community that there is hope in Christ.

CENTRAL STATES

IT KEEPS GETTING BETTER AND BETTER

The Bible Answer Crusade Radio program, aired every Sunday in the St. Louis, MO area, is a unique way of teaching whole Bible principles emphasizing good health, prophecy, and the family. They recently celebrated six years on the air with a weekend full of activity.

Elder Helvius Thompson of Compton, CA, reminded the congregation of the joys of Christian witnessing and reminded them of the necessity of individual soul preparation for crucial days ahead.

Other program highlights were: (1) an excellent array of musical presentations, featuring soloists from the area churches, the Adventist Chorale directed by Walter



Pastor-Evangelist Helvius Thompson of California, BAC Anniversary guest speaker.

Young of the Agape SDA Church in University City, MO, and enthusiastic congregational singing; (2) Vespers, Sabbath School, and Sabbath afternoon programs conducted by BAC team members; (3) enthusiastic financial participation by the audience and Central States Conference. The offering collected goes to further the witnessing broadcast work of the Bible Answer Crusade Radio Broadcast team.

Lucille B. Mitchell, BAC chairperson, thanked the congregations for encouraging the team in a tangible way.

Eileen M. Nelson
BAC Radio Broadcast Co-Host

INGATHERER OF THE YEAR

Mrs. Hilda Roofe was the top ingatherer at the Linwood SDA Church in Kansas City, MO. She raised over \$2,000.00, and does not believe that the old days of going out into the city to ingather are over.

Roofe came over to Kansas City from

Jamaica, West Indies, in 1969, partially because of her health. She worked here for about a year before she was joined by her husband, Vivian Roofe, and their sons. Their daughter, who was attending college in Jamaica, joined them later.

The Roofes are faithful workers in the church. Some have asked her how she collects so much money for ingathering while they get nothing. Mrs. Roofe's reply was, "You talk too much." She went on to explain that all she does is get a can and some books and stand on a corner, and people just drop the money in her can.

Rena C. Dixon
Communication Secretary

INVESTING IN JESUS

"Investing in Jesus" was the theme at the Kirkwood SDA Church in Kirkwood, MO's annual Investment Day. There was 93 percent participation during this year's campaign, raising a total of \$400.00 for investment. Investment leader, Mr. Carrell, was very pleased with all of the projects and the members' determination to trust the Lord to bless their efforts.

Carrell stated, "It was fantastic seeing so much active participation by the members. The real purpose is not so much to gather the money, which goes to a Christian cause; it was learning to trust God in all that we do."

The divine worship message was given by Carrell also. The whole point was that people invest in many things such as jobs, bank balances, cars, etc., but they don't really want to invest in Jesus.

Lee Carrell
Communication Secretary

HAPPENINGS AT PALACE OF PEACE

The Palace of Peace in Colorado Springs, CO, recently celebrated the baptism of several new members of the



Ron Clark and Desiree Ellis taking baptismal vows.

church. Desiree Ellis, in addition to dedicating herself, presented the life of her baby daughter Ashley Lorraine to the Lord. Ron Clark was also baptized. He joins his wife and family.

Baptism, as the best example of faith in action, was the thrust of a farewell message given by James Taylor, a member of Community Church in Denver, CO. He and his family have moved to Nebraska.

Claudette B. Clarke
Communication Secretary

NORTHEASTERN



Mr. Rowe presents Mr. & Mrs. James Taylor with a plaque from the members of Palace of Peace.

HEALTH AWARENESS

Over 130 persons braved the weather to attend a Health Fair sponsored by the Spring Valley New York SDA Church. A team of health professionals, along with counselors and a local law enforcement detective were on hand to guide the par-

ticipants through questions and listen to their health concerns.

Lectures on diabetes, cholesterol, sickle-cell anemia, dental care, AIDS, and other topics were presented. A musical program, samplings of health foods and a



Left to right: Elder James White, Elder E. F. Carter, Sister Hilda Roofe, and Elder Deroughrous Larry.



Volunteers at the Spring Valley Health Fair

full course meal were other activities that took place at the Fair.

Dr. Frank Babb, Health and Religious Temperance Leader and program coordinator, exclaimed, "Health concerns of the community will continue to be a key focus of the committee and will be conducted annually."

SPRING VALLEY DEDICATORY SERVICE

On Sabbath, January 20, the Spring Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church of Spring Valley, New York, in Rockland County, held its dedication service.

For several months the Church, under the direction of Pastor Carl Ware, had been actively involved in securing monies for the purchase of pews and new furniture. Consequently, on Wednesday, January 17, with God's help, new pews and furniture were installed in the church.

In his message entitled "Heroes," Pastor Ware reminded the congregation that one does not necessarily have to die to become a hero. One can become a hero by living a Christlike life.

Special music for the day was given by guest artists such as the Linden Cathedral Choir, Bonnie Johnson, and others. The memorable Sabbath ended with a musical program from the guest artists.

MOUNT VERNON PATHFINDER LEADER HONORED

Mrs. Miriam Murray, Pathfinder leader of the Mount Vernon SDA Church, Mount Vernon, N. Y., was honored on December 17th by the church's Pathfinders Parents Association for her dedicated services to the youth of the church.



Mrs. Miriam Murray responds to tributes.

Murray was honored at a dinner arranged by the Association whose leader is Mrs. Loretta Swaby.

Those paying tributes to Mrs. Murray included singers Marlon and Heather James, Vassell Williamson and Company, Ms. Cynthia Maddox and poet Mrs. Maizie Henry and Ms. Rebecca Riley a friend of Mrs. Murray's for more than 30 years. Ms. Riley spoke of Mrs. Murray's untiring and committed work with the Pathfinders over the many years. Besides her work with the Pathfinders, Mrs. Murray started the Voice of Youth Choir at the Mt. Vernon Church, and was its director for several years. She also served as A. Y. Leader and continues to be a supporter of the Youth Ministries.

Pathfinders dressed in their uniforms, gave a demonstration of some of the "fancy" drills they have learned under the leadership of Mrs. Murray.

In replying, Mrs. Murray thanked her family for their support and for making it possible for her to continue serving as Pathfinder Leader.

Winsome Dyer,
Communication Secretary.

BLACK WINS ELECTION

Millicent Huff, a Seventh-day Adventist, and a secretary of the Northeastern Conference Laymen's Federation became the first Black ever to appear on the ballot and to win the election for City Council seat in West Haven, Connecticut. This was truly a milestone for Blacks since prior to this time Blacks have not gotten beyond the party primaries.

Mrs. Huff has been a resident of Connecticut for over twenty years. She is a graduate of the University of New Hampshire, where she obtained a B.A. degree in Human Services. She is a former



Mrs. Millicent Huff.

school teacher, and has worked for the West Haven Police Department for over sixteen years. She is currently working with the mentally handicapped helping them to lead productive and independent lives.

Mrs. Huff is a member of several civic organizations, and is an active member of her church. She has raised four children, all of whom are college graduates. She is a hard worker, loves people and is determined to let her light shine as she serves as an elected public official for the next four years.

The laymen are happy to have Mrs. Huff as a part of their team and they congratulate her on her position as West Haven's first Black Councilwoman.

Earl Pickett,
Public Relations Officer

COMMUNITY DINNER AT PIONEER MEMORIAL

For the past three years, the Community Services Department of the Pioneer Memorial SDA Church in Niagara Falls, New York, has sponsored a community



Community guests enjoy their meal at Pioneer Memorial.

dinner for needy individuals. Previously, this dinner had been solely supported by Pioneer's members. Due to widespread publicity of the dinner, this year the response from the public was outstanding. Donations were received from the Food Bank of Western New York, grocery stores, bakeries, and people in the community.

Earline Jones and Lucy Ward, Community Services leaders for 1989 and 1990 respectively, along with other volunteers served over 400 persons. Because of their work, Pioneer Memorial has become a familiar fixture in the community. A food pantry and soup kitchen has been in operation for over two years.

The Niagara Gazette, a local newspaper, was on hand to cover the dinner.

Ramona M. Sims,
Communication Secretary

LADIES' DAY

The New Rochelle Church recently celebrated Ladies' Day. The theme, "Christian Women In Action," was demonstrated by the ladies throughout the weekend under the leadership of chairperson Rosabel Martin.

The celebration commenced Friday evening with a Consecration Service coordinated by Gail Beale. The guest speaker, Henrietta Jackson of Ephesus Church in New York City gave a stirring sermonette detailing how Jesus counsels women. This was followed by a candle-light ceremony where the women of the church rededicated their lives to the service of God.



Dr. Susan Willoughby



Pastor Harry Williams delivers sermon.

On Sabbath morning the Senior Sabbath School, led out by Claire Wood, further emphasized the theme. The original skit, "Packing for Heaven," written by Edythe Karr (award-winning teacher from R. T. Hudson School) was ably performed by Phyllis Josey, Claire and Candace Wood, Gladys Jarratt, Ola McBride, along with Ephesian guests, Elza Searcy and Dariene Simmonds. Darlene also rendered two lovely vocal musical selections in keeping with the theme. A thrilling lesson study conducted by Joan Spencer set the tone for Divine Worship.

Divine Worship Service, with chairpersons, Beverly Anglin, Janice Burton, and Maureen Forbes, was enhanced by musical selections by the Ladies Chorale under the leadership of Daisy Thomas. The sermon, entitled "Stop Coping. Start Designing," was delivered by Dr. Susan Willoughby, a noted educator of Atlantic Union College. Dr. Willoughby exhorted women to take their rightful place in society by allowing God to direct their paths.

During an afternoon awards ceremony, directed by Arnita Reid and Genevieve Young, Martha Dawson, Uchechi Enyinna, Jenny Pyatt, Rosella Saunders and guest Evangelist Michel White were honored for their outstanding service to the church or community. This was followed by a panel composed of Sandra Herndon, Lisa Byers, Dr. Susan Willoughby, and Genevieve Young who explored the topic, "Career and Family: Can She Have It All?"

On Sunday a Musical Tea and Fashion Show, under the direction of Jenny Pyatt, ended to the celebration.

Claire S. Wood,
Communication Secretary

PRISON MINISTRIES' DAY AT LEBANON

Sabbath February 3, 1990 was Prison Ministries' day at the Lebanon Seventh-day Adventist Church in New York. Guest speaker was Pastor Harry Williams, United Prison Ministries Evangelist from South Carolina. He came on the invitation of Mr. Eugene Williams Lebanon's Personal Ministries Director.

The meetings took the form of a workshop, the first commencing early after the Sabbath began, when Pastor Williams elaborated on the subject "You can please God," using Hebrews 11:1-6 as his text for the evening. He gave many definitions to the word 'faith' some of which were:

1. Expecting something from God.
2. Believing that there is no impossibility with God.



Mrs. Patricia Langley delivers charge to prison ministry workers.

3. Believing God when no one else does.

4. Believing beyond reality.

A male quartet "The Horizons" from the Bronx Washington SDA Church was in attendance during the Divine Service. They gave renditions of "Rejoice the Lord is King," "Good news, chariots are coming," and "Searching the Scriptures." Pastor Williams encouraged his hearers not to be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. He told of his experience as a drug pusher, and of being in and out of prison 21 times in 20 years. He made mention of his conversion in prison after attending a Prison Ministries' meeting when one woman questioned if he knew that God loved him. On his release from prison, he studied for the ministry.

His activities now take him back behind prison bars as a minister catering to the spiritual needs of pushers and other criminals.

Among those in attendance was Patricia Langley, Bible Instructor with Northeastern Conference. She offered a special prayer on behalf of all prison ministry workers. "Taking Jesus behind bars" was the theme of Pastor Williams' message during the A.Y.S. period, during which time he encouraged the young people to become active participants in prison ministry.

Special music was rendered by Mr. Sydney Lofters, and a guitar selection presented by Mr. Michael Davis.

Lebanon is the only church in the Queens area that sponsors a Prison Ministry on a weekly basis.

R. Geo Thompson,
Correspondent.



William Golson (left) and John Davis (right), Publishing Department associates.



Elder C. E. Bradford (left) accepts a gift from conference administrators (l to r), H. W. Baptiste, L. B. Hampton, S. H. Brooks.

NORTHEASTERN CONFERENCE WORKERS' MEETING



Elder Bradford emphasizes a point during workers' meeting.



Workers' Banquet.



Elder Delbert Baker addresses workers.



Elder A. R. Goulbourne, Atlantic Union Executive Secretary gives remarks during banquet.



Mrs. Leola Allen, Small Book Coordinator for Northeastern Conference Publishing Department.



Elder Brooks tells of the outstanding work of the Publishing Department headed by Elder Clarence Richardson (right).

Winter Workers' meeting in Northeastern brought pastors, Bible workers, literature evangelists, and others together for a time of fellowship and renewal at Victory Lake in Hyde Park, N.Y. This year's featured guests were Elder C. E. Bradford, president of the North American Division, and Elder Delbert Baker, editor of *MES-SAGE Magazine*.

Elder Bradford presented the church's ministry for the 90's, explaining what he called the "Theology of Liberation." He spoke of nurturing one's culture. The conference honored Bradford on the occasion of his upcoming retirement.

Elder Baker expounded on the Spirit of Prophecy, it's authenticity, and the importance of its use in current times.

Elder Philip Follete, Atlantic Union president, as well as other union officials, were present and gave remarks.

During a banquet held for the workers, conference president S. Brooks commended the Publishing Department for over one million dollars in sales for 1989.



Fire fighters Timothy Renfroe and Gregory Mobley with Alcy students after program.

SOUTH CENTRAL

FIRE SAFETY AT ALCY

Two Seventh-day Adventist fire fighters participated in the annual Fire Prevention Month activities at the Alcy SDA Junior Academy in Memphis, Tennessee. Gregory Mobley, a parent of two Alcy students, Christopher—Grade 4 and Melissa—Grade 1; and Timothy Renfroe, husband of staff member Brenda Renfroe, Pre-K instructor, shared information concerning their career and fire safety tips during the weekly Friday assembly program.

Throughout the month, various class presentations and special programs per-

taining to fire safety in the home and school were presented to the Alcy students. The annual visit of the fire engine and fire fighters from Station 19 is always a highlight of the month. This year was no exception.

"Learn Not To Burn" will remain in the minds of the Alcy students for many months to come.

Charles D. Battles
Principal.

DR. MILDRED JOHNSON REJOICES WITH SOME OF THE FRUITS OF HER LABORS.

They all met in one place while attending the church officers' meeting in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. None knew that the other was to be at the meeting, but it was a joyous fellowship as each spoke of how the Lord had used Dr. Mildred Johnson, the conference Bible Instructor, to lead

each of them into the 'truth.' One had been a former Methodist minister, another a lonely cowboy with his wife who had also joined under her leadership and another a community leader. Each had come from different walks of life but all have become members of the same church family through the ministry of Dr. Mildred P. Johnson of Birmingham, Alabama.

Dr. Johnson has served as a Bible Instructor for the conference for more than twenty-six years and hundreds of souls rejoice in the Lord because of her dedication.

Herald-Ledear Staff report.

ADVENTIST SOLOIST SINGS AT MAYORAL INAUGURATION

In October, 1988, Michele Cleveland was invited to sing at the inauguration ceremonies of Mayor Maynard Jackson. He had heard her sing at a special service at the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church in Atlanta. When the number was concluded, there was a standing ovation. In his opening remarks at the church, Mr. Jackson, the mayor-elect, invited her to sing at his upcoming inauguration. One year later, the invitation came and the appointment was kept. On January 1, 1990, Michele sang just before Mr. Jackson took the Oath of Office. She sang, "Upon This Rock." The swearing in was held at the Atlanta Civic Center with an audience of 5,000. In attendance was the governor of



Mr. Jesse Jackson stands with Michelle Cleveland during the inauguration of Maynard Jackson as Atlanta, Georgia mayor.



Mrs. Mildred Johnson, Bible Instructor of S.C.C. and converts (l to r): A. Williams, Jody Barnes, M. P. Johnson, Brother and Sister R. Hardison.

the state of Georgia, state, county, city officials, and Mr. Jesse Jackson.

The weekend of February 18, 1990, Michele traveled to London, England to give concerts there. Michele is a B. A. Graduate of Oakwood College, and the School of Vocal Pedagogy & Performance at Ohio State University with an M.Mus. degree. Presently, she teaches music in the Huntsville, Alabama public school system and directs the Oakwood College Church Chorale.

ALCY HOSTS PINE FORGE ACADEMY CHOIR

The ninety voice Pine Forge Academy Concert Choir from Pine Forge, Pennsylvania under the direction of Gwendolyn and Allen Foster climaxed their Southern tour in Memphis, Tennessee recently. The Alcy SDA Junior Academy was their host of the day. A special dinner was planned by the faculty and staff with Mrs. Naomi Dotson serving as coordinator.

The evening concert was held in the sanctuary of the Longview Heights SDA Church with all of the constituent churches in the area present. The evening concert featured three parts which included: hymns, anthems, and music of Black Americans which included gospel and Negro Spirituals.

Two students who are members of the choir are Memphians—Dawn and Jay Simons. Dawn is a 1987 graduate of Alcy. Four Alcy students are currently enrolled at Pine Forge Academy for the 1989/90 school year.

The choir members and their chaperones were housed in homes of the Mem-

phis constituency which include: Bethany, Breath of Life, Longview Heights, New Covenant and Word of Life. The choir members enjoyed the "Southern" hospitality extended to them by the faculty, students, members and Pine Forge Alumni who are currently residing in Memphis.

Charles D. Battles
Principal.

THE OLD COWBOY JOINS THE CHURCH

Some called him 'the ole cowboy' when he gave his many performances over the years and never did he dream that one day the Lord would take him from the saddle and put him in the literature ministry.

Mr. B. Hardison of White house, Tennessee, just north of Nashville left home a few years back to work with rodeos that carried him to many places and involved him in many things. One day when he had become low in spirit and funds, he found himself living in a shelter for the homeless and wondering what to do next and where to go. He had suffered broken legs and had to give up the shows for a spell.

One day while walking near a tent in Mobile, Alabama, he heard a voice saying "Talk to me," Talk to me." He entered the tent and found Evangelist E. E. Cleveland in the midst of one of his evangelistic crusades. He listened to the preaching of the word of God, responded to the invitation of the Holy Spirit and gave his heart to God. His life became completely changed; he found a lovely wife to marry then entered into the literature ministry. He has been witnessing for the Lord ever since. Today, he rejoices over the Lord's

using him to bring seven other persons to the "truth." He may have been a roaming 'cowboy' but he is back on the range with God now and firmly in the saddle.

TWO NEW CHURCH BUILDINGS DEDICATED TO THE LORD

Gadsden—New Church Building—"With God all things are possible." This has been the theme of the Ebenezer SDA Church under the leadership of Elder Washington Johnson, Jr.

In June, 1987, one year after entering the Gadsden/Anniston, Alabama district, the Gadsden Church began a major renovation program. The Pastor discovered a pink sign posted on the church doors. The sign read, "Condemned by the City of Gadsden." The church began to pray; services were held in the pastor's home until they were able to secure a place of worship—in the Catholic Church.

To renovate the church, according to several construction companies, would have cost more than \$100,000. This did not discourage the congregation, but rather encouraged them to pray more. The pastor became the contractor and his parents, Dr. Mildred Johnson, Conference Bible worker, and his father, Washington Johnson, Sr., who is an Elder in the congregation, became the co-contractors.

At first, it seemed to some that the church had taken on more than it could handle by taking on such a large task at one time. But time proved that all things are possible with God. Many merchants gave the church discounts on building materials. On July 1, 1989, the church was opened, and the theme was "With God, all things are possible." The church has a Medical Room with a R.N. on duty each



Brother and Sister R. Hardison (cowboy) of Mobile, Alabama, and C. E. Dudley.



Ebenezer Choir of Gadsden, Alabama.

Sabbath, a library, nursery, and fellowship hall, which was once the sanctuary.

The church has a rich history, Elder F. L. Peterson is responsible for officially starting the work in Gadsden, AL, when he gave a Bible Study to Mrs. Ellen Jones. A daughter-in-law, Mrs. Berth Jones, is still a member and worker.

Anniston—In 1976, the West Anniston Seventh-day Adventist Church, now the Mt. Olives SDA Church was established with a small congregation. Those who joined had no place to worship, but were faithful and believed in the third angel's message with an undying faith. The flame is still being kept alive under the leadership of Elder Washington Johnson, Jr.

The climb has been both difficult and a blessing to the people in the Anniston church. For 11 years, they worshipped in a Methodist Church.

In 1987, Elder Johnson received a call from a realtor in Anniston. She explained she had heard that his congregation needed a church and that there was one

for sale located on a hill overlooking the city of Anniston. Immediately after hanging up, he prayed a prayer of thanks, and within weeks, they walked into a new church home.

The church is located two miles from Fort McClellan and is often visited by Army personnel, and is only three blocks from the main highway. The church has a large lot to the right that gives the congregation room for expanding in the future.

Future plans include a church school that will educate the boys/girls of the congregation.

BIBLE INSTRUCTORS MEET AT OAKWOOD

Bible Instructors from across the North American division and the islands of the sea came together during the Annual Council on Evangelism that was held at Oakwood College recently. They exchanged ideas of how to win more souls for the Lord and to prepare them for His



Congressman Tom Bevils (D-Ala.) congratulates Pastor Washington Johnson on renovating the Gadsden, Alabama church and helping to improve the community.

coming. At times little thought is given of the value of these individuals who toil on the 'front lines' of battle to help in the building up of the work of God.

PASTOR'S WIFE OPENS 'NATURE'S KITCHEN' IN SELMA, ALABAMA

What's cooking in Nature's Kitchen? Only foods containing low or no cholesterol, no caffeine and absolutely no animal fats, according to vegetarian Cynthia Powell, wife of Pastor Garfield Powell minister for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Selma, Alabama. Mrs. Powell operates the well-stocked health food store there. The shelves are lined with a variety of good things to eat that are also good for you—including kosher marshmallows and gelatin, pickles preserved in lemon juice, and other tasty treats at reasonable prices. NATURE'S KITCHEN also stocks non-animal substitutes for every kind of meat. "We even have substitutes for foot-long hot dogs and pizza," Mrs. Powell said. She plans to offer vegetarian cooking classes at the shop soon. Located in Gibsons Shopping Center in Selma, Alabama, NATURE'S KITCHEN is a new venture which brings blessings to the people of this city.

Sometimes on Sabbath, the entire SDA Church gathers here for a fellowship dinner. Recently, visitors to the store were Dr. and Mrs. G. R. Earle, field secretary of the South Central Conference along with Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Dudley, president of the conference.

'VISION' ON LAFAYETTE ST. CHANGES HIS LIFE

On October 10, 1977, Rev. Donell Morgan started kindergarten at age 25. Two years later he entered college. Today, Morgan is pastor of the Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tupelo, Mississippi.

"I was a grown man before I learned to read," Morgan said recently as he worked on renovations to the church building. "The Lord moved on my heart to come off the streets and do a work for Him. I could not read or write and felt I had wasted my life, but the Lord laid his hands on me."

Morgan's faith has not always be so strong. He grew up in the slums of New Orleans where his mother raised six kids on welfare. Morgan rarely went to school and finally dropped out in the third grade. He earned money to help his family by



Bible Instructors attend Council on Evangelism at Oakwood.

carrying groceries, caddying on the country club golf course and hustling money in the streets.

At age 12, he began sniffing glue and smoking marijuana. By age 15, he had graduated to angel dust, heroin and cocaine, and was pushing drugs and stealing cars to support his habit.

In 1969, he was caught and sentenced to 2 1/2 years in the Louisiana State Penitentiary. He came out a few months early in 1971 and immediately went back to his old way of life. Five years later, he said, he finally came to his senses when a friend invited him to church.

"I prayed and asked the Lord not to let me get strung out on drugs anymore," Morgan recalls.

He cleaned up his act, got a job as a taxi driver and used part of his paycheck to buy a \$5 Bible. Since he couldn't read even the simplest words, he would ask his passengers to pronounce them for him.

"Every time someone would get in the taxi, I would ask them just one word of Scripture," he said. "By the end of the day, I would have worked my way through the whole verse."

Morgan recalled one occasion, in 1977, when he asked a female passenger to pronounce the word "troubled" in St. John 14:1: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me."

Rather than just reading him one word, the passenger read him the entire scripture and quoted the next few verses. She helped him memorize them as they drove along.

As she stepped from the taxi on Lafayette Street in New Orleans, the woman told Morgan, "The Lord is going to guide you to someone who will help you learn to read. He has a work for you to do."

Morgan thanked her and drove off, but

about a block away, he turned the taxi around to go back and ask her to repeat the Scriptures one more time to be sure he had them right.

"When I went back to where I dropped her off there was no building there and the lady was gone," Morgan said, with a small shake of his head.

To scoffers who would say Morgan imagined this whole incident, he says, it doesn't matter.

"Even if it was a vision—which I am convinced it was not—the effect on me was the same," Morgan said. "God sent me a message. And it changed my life."

A few days later Morgan heard about Operation Mainstream, a program for adults who could not read. He entered the program on the kindergarten level, took his GED test in 1979 and entered Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama, later that year.

Married and with a family to support, Morgan worked and studied for seven years to get his degree in social work and theology.

He came to Tupelo in 1987 as ordained elder of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Although his church organization helps support him now, he had no help that first year in Tupelo.

Morgan's wife and four children stayed behind in Huntsville until he could get a job and place to live.

For several weeks he had no job and no home. While he searched for work, he slept in his car. He finally got a maintenance job at the Tupelo Airport and was able to rent a house owned by the airport authority.

Morgan immediately began holding Bible studies in homes and launched a ministry in the Tupelo city jail. In 1988, he participated in a Southern Bible Institute

Crusade which resulted in 15 people being baptized under his ministry. With this small congregation, he began looking for a church building.

The group is in the process of purchasing a building formerly owned by the Salvation Army where they have been holding services since September since 1988. The church building was headquarters for the Marine Corp. Toys for Tots program during this past Christmas season.

Walking through the church with paintbrush in hand Morgan talks about his goals for Maranatha.

They include opening a community day care center for single moms on welfare. These women would like to work, he said, but they can't afford to work because day care is so high that they make more money just being on welfare.

He also has plans for an after-school program for underprivileged children, a fund to help the elderly and needy with utility bills, and a community clearinghouse for free clothes, canned goods and other items to those who need them. An evening feeding program similar to the Salvation Army's noon lunch program is a long-term goal.

Morgan also is involved in his own personal campaign against drug abuse.

"Whenever I see a kid making the same mistakes I made, I tell them what happened to me. I don't brag about it. I don't romanticize it. I just tell it like it was," he said. "And I hope that they listen."

SOUTHEASTERN

FOUR CONGREGATIONS ORGANIZED

On December 23, 1989 the State of Florida had one of its coldest days in recorded history. It was an eventful day however, for Southeastern. Four French churches were organized in one afternoon throughout the conference. Naples, Orlando, Ft. Pierce, and Pompano were the cities blessed to raise up new lighthouses.

President J. M. Doggette, Treasurer, R. Patterson, Church Ministries Director, I. L. Harrell, and S. J. Jackson, Ministerial Director conducted the organizations.

This brings the number of churches to 87, and the membership to 15,038.

R. R. Brown

Little and often make much.

FAMILY LIFE COORDINATORS WORKSHOP

The Southeastern Conference Family Life Department, S. J. Jackson, Director assisted by his Secretary, Priscilla Bright presented a Family Life Coordinators Workshop at the Ramada Inn, Altamonte Springs, Florida.

The theme for the workshop was "Southeastern Conference Fighting for the Family."

The keynote address "Loving Relationships" was presented by M. E. Joiner, Family Life Director for the Southern Union Conference, and "Introduction to Personality" was directed by Ken and Helen Bryant of the Florida Conference. The topic had two phases—one on Friday evening and the other on Sabbath. It gave insight on understanding oneself as well as others.

Great Controversy, p. 508 states: "Satan is intruding his presence in every department of the household . . . breaking up families. . . ." In order to preserve the ties, the Sabbath hours were devoted to the following topics:

"Forgiveness and Unconditional Love"; "Family Worship"; "Singles and Single Parenting"; "Parenting with Love"; "Death, Dying and Grief Recovery"; and "Child Abuse in the Christian Family."

The curtain for this workshop was drawn by Elder S. J. Jackson who dealt with the "Family & Finance."

Representatives from the churches for this first workshop numbered approximately 50.



Elder Murray E. Joiner, Family Life Director, Southern Union Conference guest speaker for Family Life Seminar held at Ramada Inn, Altamonte Springs, Florida, Feb. 2-4, 1990.

The coordinators were given tools to work with in the local church with regards to various issues of the family as they arise. This first such venture will serve to equip the coordinators throughout the 87 churches to be more aware of situations and how to competently lend a helping hand to members of the family.

R. R. Brown.

SOUTHEASTERN FORGES AHEAD

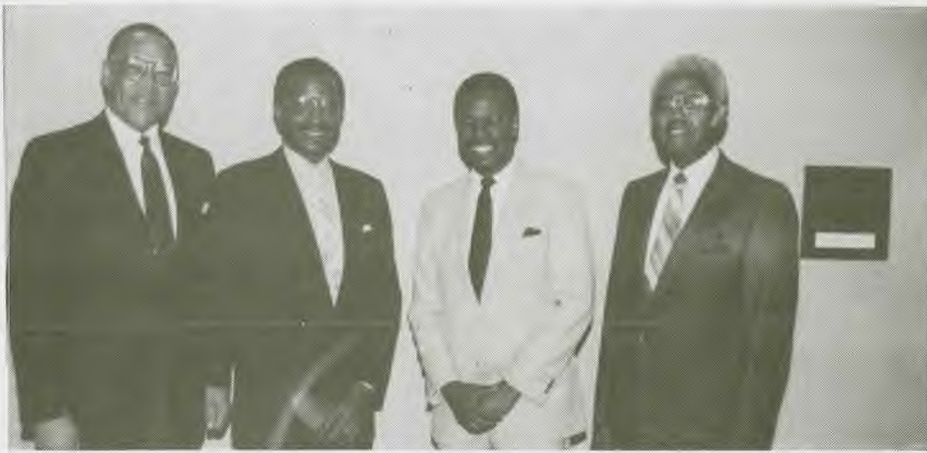
This decade will, when completed, thrust us, if God does not punctuate human existence, by His coming, into the 21st century.



Elder S. J. Jackson, Ministerial Secretary; J. M. Doggette, President, Southeastern; and Pastor Amos Bossous, Pastor of the Year award—129 baptisms.



Pastor Herman Davis, Miami-Bethany, receives plaque for highest tithe gain for 1989—\$91,000. He also ranked fourth in the nation for Message Magazine subscriptions.



J. M. Doggette, President, Southeastern; Dr. C. D. Joseph, pastor, Lake Region Conference; Elder H. W. Lee, Associate Director, Church Ministries, General Conference; R. L. Woodfork, former Secretary, General Conference, now retired.



Organization of the Mahanaim SDA French Church, Naples, Florida. Standing left to right: Bonard Jean-Marie, pastor of the Naples Church, and Elder I. L. Harrell, Director of Church Ministries Department, Southeastern Conference.

We live "in a grand and awful time, in an age on ages telling to be living in sublime." E. G. White said, "the final last movements will be rapid ones." The ministry in Southeastern Conference offered by the Administration, pastors, teachers, Bible Workers and Literature Evangelists, seems to be very conscious of that fact.

The changing world around gives a deeper perspective when viewed in the light of One who changes not. The ministry has therefore not changed nor yielded to a changing world, rather, the demands, of the nineties will be a time of prudence, in finance, outreach and every phase of ministry.

Southeastern is even aware of its unique position geographically. It sits as it were at the crossroads of the Americas. Diversity, one of the hallmarks of the church is evident. This is cause for alarm

in many areas, but in Southeastern it is a challenge. Three different language groups, persons of varied backgrounds and cultures, an economic struggle, world problems having their impact, a growing community membership-wise, housing for congregations, the education of boys and girls and situations daily demanding God's direct intervention comprise the composite picture.

The big picture is in focus. The determination is to finish the work in this area. It was with that in mind, that the goals and objectives for 1990 were set and information received to aid in the process.

A 10% increase in both souls and tithe and offerings is envisioned. The 15,000 plus membership must be 16,000 plus by the end of 1990 and the \$5,460,478.73 tithe must also show a gain to glorify God.

The Workers' Meeting held at the Al-

tamonte Springs Hilton & Towers, January 7-10 had as its special guests: Dr. Charles Joseph, Lake Region Conference who conducted devotional exercises and for the Awards Banquet. Elder R. L. Woodfork, former President of the South Atlantic Conference, before the division, and Field Secretary, General Conference now retired, gave three lectures on workers' relations and insightful information on pastoral procedures. Elder Harold Lee, Associate Director-Church Ministries, General Conference addressed the matters of Stewardship.

There were many highlights to this positive thrust for the nineties. One was the ministerial responsibility accepted by Amos Bossous of the Ft. Lauderdale/Pompano Beach, Florida French district who received the pastor of the year award with 129 baptisms. He demonstrated among other things, what is imperative, that pastors must feed and lead.

Outstanding citations were given for the following:

baptisms 50 and above: Amos Bossous—129, Keith Dennis—84, W. Don Edwards—78, and Benjamin Browne—52.

Tithe: Pastor Herman Davis—highest dollar gain \$91,000.00, and Pastor Michael Ross—highest per capita gain.

Message Magazine subscriptions: Miami/Bethany SDA Church ranked fourth in the nation for subscriptions. The Sarasota, Mt. Sinai, SDA Church ranked highest per capita in Southeastern

Churches organized: six-four in the French sector and two within the English sector.

The meeting ended with a full commitment on the part of each worker. President J.M. Doggette's request was that each worker forge ahead under God to give full proof of his/her ministry.

OAKWOOD COLLEGE

J. E. DYKES SCHOLARSHIP FUND ESTABLISHED

Everyone enjoys Alumni Homecoming, but should not forget the main purpose. The goal is to support the college and aid students in their quest for Christian higher education. Right now there is a chance to do this. Twenty percent (20%) of net proceeds from the Amazing Grace Celebration will go to Alumni Affairs to benefit the James Dykes Alumni Scholarship fund.

The patron's package (\$15.00), includes copies of two books: *The Cosmos Electric & Graffiti*, and admission to the Celebration.

The Oakwood Magazine made the following comment about *Graffiti & Grace*, recently published by Winston-Derek Publishers, Inc.:

This new book of poetry is arranged in three parts or segments. According to the author, "Graffiti" focuses on some seamy, mundane realities of our contemporary human condition, and provides a nexus or transitional middle ground between "Graffiti" and "Grace." And Grace purportedly points to a spiritual summit from which one might glimpse a better land, and may even reflect upon intimations of "immortality."

James E. Dykes taught Writing and English at Oakwood for 17 years and is currently a freelance writer.

This "special" event will take place April 14, 1990, at 7:30 p.m. in Parlors A&B of the VBCC.

Patrons should pre-pay for the package \$15.00. The package may be picked up at that time for those who pre-pay. Please make all checks payable to FOCUS. The mailing address is P.O. Box 148, Oakwood College Station, Huntsville, Alabama 35896.

IN THE NEWS

DRUGS & GANGS TOPIC OF LEEDS TEMPERANCE PROGRAM

"Drugs and Youth Gangs: Will We Let Them Take Over Our City" were the twin topics discussed in a Temperance program that teamed a gang expert, law officers, a gang leader and two young inmates as speakers Saturday, January 27, 1990 from 4-6 p.m. at the Emmanuel Seventh-day Adventist Church, in the small town of Leeds, outside Birmingham, Alabama.

Sgt. Rick Parker, bringing greetings from the Mayor and Chief of the Leeds Police Department, described a recent successful drug bust, and rival white and black gang fights that have taken place in Leeds. He said the best way to help reduce the problem is still to inform police about drug dealers and customers.

The program included two young inmates, Darlene and Lee, who went by their first names to protect their identity. Accompanied by a guard, they told how they got started with drugs, alcohol and wrong companions and how they ended in prison. Darlene said that, at one time, "Jack Daniels was my best friend," and how in a stupor one night she shot a man to death. She said the alcohol she constantly consumed killed her unborn baby, and described the embarrassment a woman feels in prison. Lee, the son of a bank vice president, said he had everything he could want but his father's attention, and sought to get it with the wrong crowd, becoming the best cat burglar around.

The two inmates are part of Free By Choice, a team of about 40 carefully screened prisoners of the Alabama State Department of Corrections, who have spoken to over 250,000 people in schools, churches and civic organizations, plus radio audiences, about their experiences with drugs and what happened to them as a result of their choices. Their guard, Officer Clower described Alabama laws pertaining to possession, and startled the audience by saying that church members even could be held responsible if someone stashes some drugs in their church.

Diann Garrison, a youth worker and a concerned parent, spoke about street gangs, reasons why young people join these gangs, and what it takes to get out of their clutches. She made specially

pointed remarks directed at the need of parents to discipline and monitor their children. She also suggested getting involved in parent patrols at schools to curb youthful activity. She is President and Founder of Think for Yourself, a positive alternative organization for young people in the city of Birmingham.

The young gang leader said he joined because he was seeing make friends and relatives join and wanted to belong too inasmuch as he had nothing to do. He rose to leadership of a territory about half the size of Birmingham and said he used to think it was fun being shot at and shooting at rivals until he was almost killed one day at school by a bullet. He explained he is part of the gang for life unless he kills his parents, which he said he had no intention of doing.

Emcee for the evening was Winfield Burks, Temperance Director and Local Elder at the Emmanuel Seventh-day Adventist Church, who reminded the audience not to sid by idly as the world did when Jews were exterminated during the Holocaust. Pastor Willie Moore, welcomed several Adventist churches from surrounding cities, and some community guests from Leeds and Birmingham.

TERRELL WITNESSES IN MANCHESTER

"Launch out and open new areas for the Lord." This was the challenge that the president of the conference gave to his



Layman Charles Terrell and newly baptized members from Manchester, Tennessee.

members at the time of the church officers' meeting held in Huntsville a few weeks ago. It was rewarding to see Charles Terrell of Murfresboro, Tennessee come forward and present to the assembly a newly baptized couple whom the Lord has blessed and used him to accept the teachings of the word of God. The couple lives in Manchester, Tennessee, which is some thirty or forty miles east of Murfresboro. They are attending the church in Murfresboro. This could be the beginning of the lighting up of a new county in the South Central Conference

Mr. Charles Terrell is a graduate of Oakwood from a few years ago, but works as a dedicated lay minister for the church after his days of labor at his book bindery in Nashville. A goodly number of members are rejoicing in the 'truth' as a result of his labors.

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Nashville SDA leaders meet with the mayor of the city, Bill Boner.

MAYOR BONER INVITES SDA PASTORS TO LUNCH

Recently the pastors and leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist community in the Nashville, Tenn. area were invited to a mid-day luncheon with Mayor Bill Boner. Boner outlined for them a goodly number of programs and challenges that he is undertaking to help make the city a better place in which to live. He solicited the help of these and other religious leaders of the community in building good relations among all of the people for a better city.

MARIA BUTLER, A TEACHER OF INMATES

The jewelry a burglar stole from your home wasn't worth much, but is irreplaceable because of its sentimental value. The relative who was raped recently is having a difficult time adjusting. The murder of a very close friend is very distressing. Those who committed these crimes are behind bars now, and the only thought running through your mind is that they should stay there forever. But there is one—a teacher in the correctional services—who says you shouldn't lock

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Personality has the power to open many doors, but character must keep them open.

anyone up and throw away the key.

Maria H. Butler has worked with inmates for the past 15 years teaching them basic skills, with special emphasis on reading. "We start out with nonreaders," she says. "I mean, they just can't read at all and go up to post-high school."

Butler works at the Riverbend Maximum Security Institution (RMSI), a new facility in Nashville with a new program underway. RMSI's adult education program offers math, science, English, printing, woodwork, and commercial cleaning. The courses are there. "If he/she is really interested in receiving an education; we're going to help," she said. She says this is a chance for the inmates to develop their skills for professional use. The department wants to help them go as far as they want. Butler is striving for accreditation so that if an inmate leaves the system and wants to pursue his/her education, institutional officials can forward a "transcript to a university of the inmate's choice and it will be accepted without question." Those plans are a long way off, but when word gets out about the school's reputation, the inmates "will be more serious when they sign up for the program."

Ms. Butler has been with the department for 15 years. She started her job at the Tennessee Prison for Women, after relocating to Nashville with her family. She has worn the hats of correctional teacher in adult basic education, principal of McCall School for Women, and associate warden of treatment.

Besides working "late hours just to accommodate them (inmates)," Butler spends her spare time raising three children and working with the homeless at her church, the Riverside Chapel Seventh-day Adventist Church in Nashville. Maria's goals are to complete her masters degree and become warden someday. As she herself grows and develops professionally, some of the very ones whom we are tempted to write off as useless and unworthy will grow with her and find themselves and assume their roles as contributing members of society.

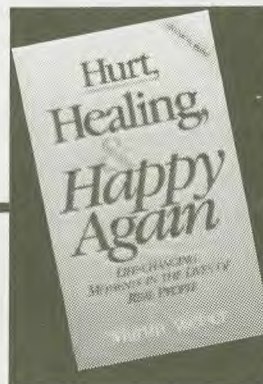
If there is righteousness in the heart there will be beauty in the character. If there be beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.

—Chinese Proverb

1990 BOOK FOR SHARING

by Martin Weber, from *It Is Written*

The short, personal stories in *Hurt, Healing, & Happy Again* are filled with triumph over the pain of death, disappointment, divorce, and loneliness. Martin Weber acquaints readers with God's plan to rid their lives of pain permanently. Share this encouraging book with your friends and neighbors today.



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The enemies a man makes by taking a decided stand generally have more respect for him than the friends he makes by being on the fence.

OBITUARY

ESTHER D. WALKER, MADISON TEACHER & CHURCH LEADER DIES

Berea, Kentucky—Esther D. Walker, a Madison County educator who was an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist church and other groups passed away at her home. She was 66.

Mrs. Walker who received an associate degree from Spaulding Business College in Mobile, Alabama formerly taught at Friendship Home Elementary School in Berea and also taught in Mississippi where she was born.

She had served as president of the Parent Teacher Association of Richmond High School for both the City Federation of Richmond and the Women's Club.

Mrs. Walker was a member of the Lima Drive SDA Church in Lexington, Kentucky and had served as a representative of the



Mrs. Esther Walker of Lexington, Kentucky.

church's Home, Health and Education Services for 15 years. She also had been superintendent of the Sabbath School for the adult's and children's divisions and served as a teacher. Walker was a member of the N.A.A.C.P. and lead in the fight for better housing for the people of the community for the past twenty years.

Lifting and Leaning

There are two kinds of people on earth today,
Just two kinds of people, no more, I say.
Not the good and the bad, for 'tis well understood
The good are half bad and the bad are half good.
Not the happy and sad, for the swiftly-flying years
Bring each man his laughter and each man his tears.
Not the rich and the poor, for to count a man's wealth
You must first know the state of his conscience and health.
Not the humble and proud, for in life's busy span
Who puts on vain airs is not counted a man.
No! the two kinds of people on earth I mean
Are the people who lift and the people who lean.
Wherever you go you will find the world's masses
Are ever divided in just these two classes.
And, strangely enough, you will find, too, I ween,
There is only one lifter to twenty who lean.
In which class are you? Are you easing the load
Of overtaxed lifters who toil down the road?
Or are you a leaner who lets others bear
Your portion of worry and labor and care?

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

A polite man is one who listens with interest to things he knows all about when they are told to him by a person who knows nothing about them.

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