

S.D.A. ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN INTERRACIAL RELATIONS - 1934

INDUSTRY HAILS ADVANCED ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN  
INTER-RACIAL RELATIONS  
(1934)

An outstanding missionary achievement is to be credited to the Seventh-day Adventist denomination in their religious efforts among the Negroes of the South, during the past more than half century. The movement started in an unexpected manner by Mr. Silas Osborne, a Kentuckian by birth. He had removed to Iowa in 1851 and there accepted the views of Seventh-day Adventists. His enthusiasm caused him to write letters to his relatives at home in Kentucky and on the occasion of **his** visit to them some twenty years later, or in 1871, his brother had arranged a meeting and had him slated to address the gathering. He was reluctant to do this, laying no claims to the ministry or to the art of public speaking, but his objections were overruled and he took part, as was expected of him, and with undoubted success.

Thus the work was started in the South, first among the white people. Soon many of them from far and near; Kentucky, Missouri, Georgia, many other Southern States, even Texas interested in the education and religious life of the Southern Negro, initiated the commendable movement of teaching the faith to them.

Another notable figure in this work was Mr. James E. White of Chicago. He decided to devote his energies to religious gospel effort in some place destitute of proper leadership. On account of having received an appeal from his mother some two years previous, of the need of Christian work among the Southern Negroes he made plans to fill that need. Joined by a young man named W. O. Palmer, Battle Creek, Michigan, they decided upon Vicksburg, Mississippi as their starting point.

A boat suggested itself to them as practicable for both transportation to their destination as well as headquarters for them on arrival. A 72 ft. steamer was built in Michigan for this purpose. They Christened it "The Morning Star". In the Fall of 1894 they started going via Lake Michigan, the Illinois River and the Mississippi reaching Vicksburg early in the year 1895.

In addition to their missionary work Mr. White, who was a printer and publisher of experience, started the publication "Gospel Primer", designed to teaching the rudiments of reading as well as to minister to the religious needs of the people through simple Bible stories. The publication also helped to take care of the financial matters for their group which, with their wives, had grown to ten workers. This group did their work well in the secular and sacred education of the Southern Negro.

Parochial schools are in operation for the benefit of the children of the church. Some churches have ten grade academies and there is Oakwood Jr. College at Huntsville, Alabama. The farm on which this school is located comprises 896 acres.

The first Negro church of Seventh-day Adventists was organized at Edgefield Junction, Tennessee with a membership of ten. The first Sabbath offering was 24 cents. Now there are in excess of ten thousand believers and last year, 1933, the Negro constituency gave \$122,379.76 in tithes and \$89, 181.70 in mission offerings.

There are more than 200 ministers, teachers, doctors, and nurses regularly employed. There are 146 churches and 49 companies worshipping without church buildings.

The most recent contribution of the North American Negro Department of the Seventh-day Adventists toward the revival of true religion among colored people is the publishing of the book "Hope of the Race", by F. L. Peterson, present head of the General Conference Negro Department and the "Message Magazine, just off the press of the Southern Publishing Association, Nashville, Tennessee.

1934 marks the beginning of a new day along medical missionary lines for the colored people in re-opening of the Oakwood Sanitarium at Huntsville, Alabama, with Dr. L. L. Holness a graduate from the Loma Linda College of Medical Evangelists, as Superintendent.

*Master Copy*  
*Note corrections and additions*

NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1871 One of the first Seventh-day Adventists known to work in the South among the 4,000,000 colored people was Silas Osborn, in Kentucky.
- 1883 The first Seventh-day Adventist colored church in all the world was organized at Edgefield Junction, Tennessee. The donations on the first Sabbath were 29¢.
- 1889 A. Barry, a former slave who accepted the message through reading the "Review," brought out a company in Louisville, Kentucky.
- 1889 C. M. Kinney, today the oldest colored minister in the denomination, was sent to shepherd the Louisville flock. He died August 3, 1951.
- 1892 Fifty colored Seventh-day Adventists in the South paid a tithe of about \$50.00.
- 1895 The missionary boat, "The Morning Star," named by Sister White's son, James Edson White and W. O. Palmer, became the morning star in the lives of hundreds of colored people along the Mississippi River.
- This missionary venture was financed by the sale throughout our denominational ranks of the book, "Gospel Primer," familiar to every Seventh-day Adventist child of the day.
- Sister White issued many testimonies concerning the need of work on behalf of the colored race.
- 1885 The first church building erected for Seventh-day Adventist colored believers was reared at Edgefield, Tennessee at a cost of \$300.00.
- 1895 To train colored workers, the General Conference established, near Huntsville, Alabama, the Oakwood Training School.
- 1901 Anna Knight was sent to India as a missionary.
- 1902 T. H. Branch was sent to Rhodesia in East Africa as a missionary.
- 1909 With <sup>900</sup>2,000 Negro believers in North America, the Negro Department of the General Conference was organized.
- 1918 The first Negro to be elected Secretary of the Negro Department was W. H. Green.
- 1931 B. W. Abney was sent as a missionary to Southern Africa.
- 1934 The book, "Hope of the Race" appeared to find its way into thousands of colored homes. Author, F. L. Peterson.

- 1935 The "Message Magazine" was issued for circulation among the colored race.
- 1936 The first sanitarium for Negroes, the Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital, was opened at Nashville, Tennessee.
- 1940 206 churches in North America had a colored membership of 14,537.
- 1941 G. E. Peters was elected secretary of the Colored Department.
- 1942 Pacific Union Conference organized its first "Colored Department" under the leadership of F. L. Peterson.
- 1943 Oakwood Jr. College name changed to Oakwood College by regular action at the Autumn Council held at Takoma Park, D. C. It is now recognized as a full senior college.
- 1944 Voted to organize colored conferences in unions where the colored constituency is considered by the Union Conference Committee to be sufficiently large, and where the financial income and territory warrant. These colored conferences to be administered by colored officers and committees. These conferences will sustain the same relation to their respective union conferences as do the white conferences.
- 1945 (January 1) Colored conferences went into effect, as follows:
- Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
J. G. Dasent, President & Religious Liberty Secretary  
F. N. Crowe, Secretary-Treasurer  
Walter Kisack, Y. P. M. V. & Educational Secretaries  
J. E. Johnson, Home Missionary and S. S. Dept. Secretaries  
Virgil Gibbons, Publishing Dept. Secretary
- Northeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
L. H. Bland, President and Religious Liberty Secretary  
L. O. Irons, Secretary-Treasurer  
Jonathan Roache, Y.P.M.V. and Educational Secretaries  
Louis Preston, Publishing Dept. Secretary
- Allegheny Conference of Seventh-day Adventists  
J. H. Wagner, President & Religious Liberty Secretary  
J. L. Moran, Secretary-Treasurer and Book & Bible House Manager  
W. R. Robinson, Home Missionary & S. S. Dept. Secretaries  
M. A. Burgess, Y.P.M.V. & Educational Secretaries  
H. D. Warner, Publishing Dept. Secretary
- 1946 South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was organized.  
H. D. Singleton, President & Religious Liberty Secretary  
L. S. Follette, Secretary-Treasurer and Book & Bible House Manager  
F. H. Jenkins, Educational & Y.P.M.V. Secretaries  
N. G. Simons, Home Missionary & S. S. & Temperance Secretaries  
Richard Robinson, Publishing Dept. Secretary

1946 South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was organized.  
H. R. Murphy, President, Religious Liberty, S. S., H. M. & Temp. Sec.  
V. Lindsay, Secretary-Treasurer and Book & Bible House Manager  
F. B. Slater, Educational & Y.P.M.V. Secretaries  
W. E. Adams, Publishing Dept. Secretary

1946 The General Conference sent its first group of colored missionaries to Africa. The group consisted of Elders P. E. Giddings, C. D. Henri, and G. N. Banks and their families. Banks and Giddings families permanently returned in 1952 and 1955 respectively.

1947 Elder D. B. Simons and family sent to Sierra Leone, West Africa, where he served as evangelist. Permanently returned in 1950.

1950 Southwest Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventist was organized.  
W. W. Fordham, President, Rel. Lib., H. M., Rural Living Secretaries  
A. R. Carethers, Secretary-Treasurer, Book & Bible House Manager  
C. C. Cunningham, Educational, Y.P.M.V., Temperance, Civil Defense Sec.

G. E. Peters was elected the first Negro Field Secretary at the General Conference session.

1951 C. E. Moseley, Jr. was elected Associate Secretary of the Colored Department.

1951 The first missionary trip to Africa for the Colored Department was made by C. E. Moseley, Jr. from the General Conference.

1952 R. W. Simons and family accepted a call to be the first Secretary-Treasurer of the Liberian Mission.

1952 Central States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was organized.  
F. L. Bland, President  
H. T. Saulter, Secretary-Treasurer, Book & Bible House Manager and Press Relations Secretary  
J. H. Jones, Jr., Educational, Y.P.M.V., S. S., and War Service Sec.  
C. E. Bradford, H. M., Radio and Self-Supporting Institutions Sec.

1953 David Hughes and family joined the mission staff of the Liberian Mission.

1953 It was voted that C. E. Moseley, Jr. become head of the Colored Department and General Field Secretary upon the retirement of G. E. Peters.

1953 General Conference committee action approving integration in institutions of education and health. Voted at the time of pre-Autumn Council meetings.

1954 F. L. Peterson elected first Negro Associate Secretary of the General Conference and Secretary of the North American Colored Department at the General Conference session.

1954 C. E. Moseley, Jr. elected Associate Secretary of the Colored Department at the General Conference session.

1954 Name of department changed from "North American Colored Department" to "North American Regional Department."

1954 Elder E. E. Cleveland elected Associate Secretary of the Ministerial Department.

- MARK PAGE*
- ~~✓~~ 1955 Ruth Faye Smith sent to Gold Coast, Africa as a missionary teacher. Returned July 16, 1957 on extended furlough to continue studies.
  - ✓ 1955 Elder Douglas Tate and family were sent to Liberia as missionaries. Permanently returned January, 1957.
  - ✓ 1955 Elder & Mrs. Theodore W. Cantrell sent to Liberia as missionaries, he as principal-teacher at Konola Training School, she as nurse.
  - ✓ 1956 Elder M. T. Battle and family sent to Liberia where he is to serve as President of the Liberian Mission.
  - ✓ 1956 Elder C. D. Henri appointed conference evangelist for the West African Union.
  - ✓ 1957 Elder L. E. Daniels and family sent to Liberia to serve as secretary-treasurer of the Liberian Mission.
  - ✓ 1957 Johnny D. Johnson and wife sent to Liberia, both to teach in Konola Training School. *Academy.*
  - ✓ 1957 Elder W. R. Robinson and family sent to East Africa where he is to serve as president of the Uganda Mission in Kampala.
  - ✓ 1957 Gretel Graham sent to East Africa to serve as nurse in Ankole Hospital in Uganda.
  - ✓ 1957 R. W. Simons appointed secretary-treasurer of the East Nigerian Mission in Aba, East Nigeria.
  - ~~1957~~  
1958 Gloria Mackson sent to East Africa to teach at Ikizu Training School.
  - 1958 Elder C. D. Henri appointed president of the Ghana Mission in West Africa.
  - 1958 Elder C. E. Moseley, Jr. elected ~~first~~ Negro field secretary of the General Conference at General Conference session in Ohio.
  - ✓ 1959 M. T. Battle elected Home Missionary, Publicity, and Temperance Secretary for the West African Union.
  - ✓ 1959 L. E. Daniels elected president of the Liberian Mission.
  - ✓ 1959 T. W. Cantrell elected Secretary-treasurer of the Liberian Mission.



- ✓1954 September 29 - Ruth Faye Smith left for the Gold Coast, West Africa, as missionary-teacher at the Bekwai Training School.
- ✓1955 March 20 - Mr. and Mrs. Theodore W. Cantrell left New York to join workers in Liberia. He as principal-teacher at Konola Academy, she as nurse.
- ✓1955 December 9 - Elder and Mrs. Douglas Tate and daughter were sent to Liberia as missionaries.
- ✓1956 Elder C. D. Henri appointed Union Evangelist and Ministerial Secretary for the West African Union.
- ✓1956 July - Elder M. T. Battle and family were sent to Liberia. He to serve as president of the Liberian Mission.
- ✓1957 February - Elder and Mrs. William Robinson and their four children sailed for the mission field in East Africa. He to serve as president of the Uganda Mission.
- ✓1957 July 24 - Elder and Mrs. L. E. Daniels and their two sons sailed for Liberia, West Africa. He to fill the position of secretary-treasurer of the Liberian Mission.
- ✓1957 September 4 - Mr. and Mrs. Johnny D. Johnson and nephew, William L. Burns, left for Liberia, West Africa. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson to teach in the Konola Academy.
- ✓1957 R. W. Simons appointed secretary-treasurer of the East Nigerian Mission in Aba, East Nigeria.
- ✓1957 December 1 - Gloria Mackson sailed for East Africa. She has been called to teach homemaking at the Ikizu Training School.
- ✓1957 Gretel Graham sent to East Africa to serve as nurse in Ankole Hospital in Uganda.
- 1958 June - C. E. Moseley, Jr., elected field secretary of the General Conference.
- 1958 August 31 - Open House and dedication of Phillips Memorial Hospital for Negroes in Orlando, Florida.
- 1958 December 4 - Oakwood College accredited.
- 1959 ✓ M. T. Battle elected Home Missionary, Publicity, and Temperance Secretary for the West African Union.

- 1959 July 23 - Miss Celeste V. Lewis left for West Africa to serve as teacher in the Nigerian Training School.
- 1959 L. E. Daniels elected president of the Liberian Mission.
- 1959 T. W. Cantrell elected secretary-treasurer of the Liberian Mission.
- 1959 October 5 - Elder and Mrs. L. B. Mitchell left for West Africa. He to serve as director of the Bassa Mission in Liberia.
- 1959 October 22 - O. A. Troy, Sr., elected associate secretary of the Sabbath Department, General Conference.
- 1960 August 31 - Lois Raymond left New York for a teaching appointment at Konola Academy, Liberia, West Africa.
- 1961 J. M. Hammond and wife sent to Ghana, West Africa. He to teach General Science and Biology at Bekwai Training College.
- 1961 Caddie Evelyn Jackson was sent to Ile Ife Hospital, Nigeria, West Africa as a nurse.
- 1961 Dr. Samuel L. DeShay was sent to Ile Ife Hospital, West Nigeria.
- 1962 F. L. Peterson elected first Negro vice-president of the General Conference at the General Conference Session in San Francisco.
- 1962 H. D. Singleton elected secretary of the Regional Department at the General Conference Session.
- 1962 F. L. Bland elected associate secretary of the Regional Department at the General Conference Session.
- 1962 L. B. Reynolds elected associate secretary of the Sabbath School Department of the General Conference at the General Conference Session.
- 1962 September 3 - Carol A. Jones left by plane for the Gimbie Mission Hospital in Ethiopia to serve as a nurse.
- 1962 October 23 - Loretta Daniels departed from New York for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to work in our hospital there as an anesthetist.
- 1963 December 5 - Samuel Gooden and family departed for East Nigeria, West Africa. He to teach at the Nigerian Training College.
- 1964 January 23 - Owen A. Troy, Jr., and family left New York for Sierra Leone, West Africa. He to be treasurer of the Sierra Leone Mission.
- 1964 July 18 - P. E. Giddings departed for Ivory Coast, West Africa with family. He to serve as teacher in the Ivory Coast Training College.

- 1964 August 6 - Lindsay Thomas and wife departed for Ivory Coast, West Africa. He to serve as teacher in the Ivory Coast Training College.
- 1964 October 10 - Eula Gunther departed from New York to serve as teacher in Ghana, West Africa, at the Koforidua Day-Teacher Training College.
- 1966 June - F. L. Bland elected a General Vice-President of the General Conference at the 50th Session in Detroit, Michigan.
- 1966 June - H. D. Singleton elected an associate secretary of the General Conference and also reelected secretary of the Regional Department at the Session held in Detroit, Michigan.
- 1966 June - Detroit, Michigan - W. W. Fordham elected an associate secretary of the North American Regional Department.
- 1966 June - Detroit, Michigan - A. V. Pinkney was elected an associate secretary of the General Conference Temperance Department
- 1966 June - F. W. Hale was chosen president of Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama, at the 50th Session of the General Conference in Detroit, Michigan
- Allegheny Conference divided to East and West
- 1966 - R. W. Simons elected auditor of Southern California Conference.
- 1966 December -

- 1966 November 20 - Allegheny East Conference was organized with headquarters at Pine Forge, Pennsylvania  
W. A. Thompson, President  
Edward Dorsey  
D. L. Davis, M.V. and Lay Activities Secretary  
T. S. Barber, Publishing Secretary  
G. L. Anderson, Associate Publishing Secretary  
Claude Toombs, Associate Publishing Secretary  
C. L. Brooks, Educational and Sabbath School Secretary  
Book and Bible House and Stewardship to be filled later by conference committee
- 1966 R. W. Simons elected auditor of Southern California Conference.
- 1966 December - G. R. Earle elected president of Northeastern Conference following the death of R. T. Hudson.
- 1967 April - W. M. Starks was elected secretary of the General Conference Stewardship and Development Department.
- 1967 April 19 - D. B. Simons was elected president of Allegheny West Conference.
- 1967 May 5 - D. C. Keith departed for Sierra Leone to serve as the treasurer of the Sierra Leone Mission.
- 1967 July 17 - Herman Vanderberg and family left New York City for Liberia, West Africa, where he will serve as pastor-evangelist.
- 1967 August 19 - D. S. Williams accepted a call to the Trans-Africa Division. He to serve as secretary to the M.V. and Lay Activities departments.
- 1967 September 24 - J. A. Edgecombe was invited to pastor the Cleveland Temple Church in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.
- 1967 L. H. Davis invited to serve as Public Relations, Religious Liberty and Radio-TV Secretary by the Atlantic Union Conference.
- 1968 C. B. Rock elected associate secretary in the Southern Union Ministerial Association.
- 1968 March 5 - Ruby Delories Graves left New York City for West Nigeria to serve as a nurse at the Ile-Ife Hospital.
- 1968 Ted T. Jones was called to a mission assignment in Djakarta, Indonesia.
- 1968 September 19 - Harold L. Lee was called to the Caribbean Union Conference as the Stewardship Secretary.
- 1968 October 24 - Dr. G. N. Benson and family flew from New York City to Benghazi, Libya. He to serve at the Benghazi Adventist Hospital.

- 1968 December 2 - Walton Whaley was invited to Sierra Leone Mission as the Ministerial Association Secretary.
- 1969 January - Lawrence C. Jacobs invited to Southern Union as Assistant Auditor.
- 1969 April 1 - D. A. Walker invited to Columbia Union as Assistant Auditor.
- 1969 November - V. L. Roberts invited to the Southwestern Union on the Officer level, and also as Secretary of Sabbath School and Inner City departments.
- 1969 November 10 - W. J. Cleveland chosen as president of Southwest Region Conference.
- 1970 March 26 - C. D. Henri was elected president of the East African Union.
- 1970 June 4 - C. L. Brooks was elected Sabbath School and Religious Liberty Secretary for the Southern Union.
- 1970 June 12 - W. A. Thompson was elected Executive Secretary for the Columbia Union Conference.
- 1970 June - General Conference Session, Atlantic City, New Jersey. The following were elected to serve five years as General Conference leaders:
- F. L. Bland - World Vice-president
  - E. E. Cleveland - Associate Secretary, Ministerial Association
  - W. W. Fordham - Associate Secretary of the North American Regional Department.
  - C. E. Moseley - World Field Secretary
  - A. V. Pinkney - Associate Temperance Secretary
  - L. B. Reynolds - Associate Sabbath School Secretary
  - H. D. Singleton - North American Regional Department Secretary
  - W. M. Starks - World Secretary of Stewardship and Church Development Department
- 1970 June - General Conference Session, Atlantic City, New Jersey
- M. T. Battle was elected first black associate secretary of the General Conference Lay Activities Department
  - C. E. Bradford was elected first black full time Associate Secretary of the General Conference
  - G. J. Millet was elected first black associate secretary in the Education Department of the General Conference
- 1970 June 28 - Edward Dorsey was elected president of the Allegheny East Conference.
- 1970 July 6 - J. R. Wagner was elected president of the Lake Region Conference.

1971

Arthur L. Knight elected director of North Central Division of Christian Record Braille Foundation.

Major C. White elected associate secretary of Pacific Union Conference.

A. N. Brogden elected executive secretary of Atlantic Union Conference.

F. L. Jones elected executive secretary of Lake Union Conference.

W. S. Lee elected executive secretary of Central Union Conference.

W. S. Banfield elected associate secretary of Southern Union Conference.

L. H. Grant elected associate MV secretary of Columbia Union Conference, then promoted to secretary when opening was available.

Richard Barron elected Temperance secretary of Lake Union Conference after serving in same capacity in Northern California Conference several years.

Richard W. Simons - associate treasurer of Pacific Union Conference.

H. L. Cleveland elected president of Allegheny West Conference.

R. L. Woodfork elected president of South Atlantic Conference.

Phillip Giddings and family left for East African Union to serve as Educational Secretary.

D. L. Crowder elected president of Central States Conference replacing W. S. Lee.

C. D. Brooks elected field secretary of General Conference replacing C. E. Moseley.

November 17 - Anna Knight presented the Medallion of Merit Award, the highest recognition given by the General Conference for Extraordinary meritorious service to SDA education at Oakwood College.

October 4, the John C. Pitts family left for Masonga Leprosarium - he to serve as business manager.

Byron R. Spears joins Voice of Prophecy team as evangelist.

W. R. Robinson became editor of MESSAGE MAGAZINE succeeding G. J. Millet

1972

January 6 - Victory Lake Nursing Home in Hyde Park, New York, opened its doors, with George Pelote elected administrator

July 1, C. B. Rock assumed presidency of Oakwood College

Joseph P. Winston elected administrator of Riverside Hospital, Nashville, Tenn.

Scholarship funds for Black youth set up.

\$187,000 earmarked for inner-city programs.

- ✓1972 Clarence Thomas, III, and family left for Brazil - first Black missionaries to South America.
- C. Dunbar Henri was elected vice-president of General Conference
- R. H. Carter accepted appointment to Uganda, East Africa as president of that field.
- 1973 Eva B. Dykes library at Oakwood College dedicated.
- Natelkka Burrell , guest professor at Andrews University named to Andrews Hall of Fame
- R. W. Nelson elected associate secretary of Southern California Conference.
- 1974 New TV program for Blacks voted "Breath of Life series" under direction of Walter Arties, C. D. Brooks invited to be director-speaker.
- First seminar for Blacks writers at Oakwood College, Sept. 2-6.
- DeWitt S. Williams appointed assistant secretary of General Conference Department of Communication.
- Anita Johnson Mackey received honorary Doctor's degree at Andrews
- Oakwood College enrollment exceeds 1,000 mark.
- Robert L. Handy dormitory for boys at Pine Forge Academy opened its doors on May 19.
- 1975 Malcolm Phipps holds crusade in Vienna, Austria.
- Dr. John R. Ford elected to presidency of California State Board of Education.

NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT

OFFICE ADDRESS: Takoma Park, Washington 12, D.C.

OFFICERS:

Secretary: G. E. Peters

Assistant Secretary for Health Education: Geneva Bryan

ADVISORY COUNCIL:

General Conference Staff Members:

W. G. Turner

G. E. Peters

Geneva Bryan

Union Conference Presidents:

M. L. Rice, Atlantic Union

F. H. Robbins, Columbia Union

Jay J. Nethery, Lake Union

N. C. Wilson, Central Union

L. K. Dickson, Pacific Union

J. W. Turner, Southwestern Union

E. F. Hackman, Southern Union

Local Conference Presidents:

L. H. Bland, Northeastern Conference

J. G. Dasent, Lake Region Conference

J. H. Wagner, Allegheny Conference

Union Conference Secretaries for the Colored Department:

A. E. Webb, Central Union

H. D. Singleton, Southern Union

T. H. Coopwood, Southwestern Union

F. L. Peterson, Pacific Union

EDITOR, MESSAGE MAGAZINE

L. B. Reynolds

OAKWOOD COLLEGE:

J. L. Moran, President and Business Manager

L. E. Ford, Assistant Business Manager

RIVERSIDE SANITARIUM:

J. Mark Cox, M. D., Medical Director

H. D. Dobbins, Business Manager



FRE SPRING COUNCIL

April 8, 1944

7:30 P. M.

Prayer: Elder Spicer

J. L. McElhany

Previous to the last autumn council, the General Conference officers met with our Union Conference leaders and gave some preliminary study to the steps to be taken in creating some method or means whereby study could be given to the colored work or phases of its interest. As a result of that preliminary study, the officers and Union Presidents brought to the General Conference Committee the following recommendation:

"WE RECOMMEND to the Autumn Council that a meeting be held prior to, and in the same place as, the Spring Meeting of the General Conference Committee, for the purpose of studying the future development of our colored work in North America, and that the General Conference Committee be authorized to make all the necessary preparation and arrangements for this meeting, including the naming of those who shall be invited to attend, it being understood that there shall be representatives of our colored work invited. "

Following the Council the General Conference Committee designated the number to be invited from each Union Conference. A little later on it was agreed by the General Conference Committee to suggest to the Union to select a representative layman to sit with us in this session.

If I may be permitted to speak, personally, I am delighted to say that I have reasons for a deep and abiding interest in the welfare of our colored work. I come from an ancestry that for more than 300 years has been closely associated with colored people. For 34 years I have had direct and continuous administrative contacts with our colored churches and believers, and there has developed in my heart a deep interest in their welfare. I have never sensed more keenly, than I have at any time, the great need of our laying wise and adequate plans for the development of the work. I greatly rejoice over what has been accomplished in the growth and development of this work.

There is one thing I want to say to you, tonight, and that is we ought to frankly face it and admit that a Seventh-day Adventist regardless of race and color, face an antagonistic world. We are a very small layity. We can't do what larger and more influential denominations do. We are hated and despised by the world at large. I sometime think we deceive ourselves in thinking that we are popular in the world. Just let some little incident happen and every S.D.A. will be a marked man, hunted and persecuted. We are a small layity; our only help and hope is in God.

J. L. McElhany (cont.)

The thing for us to do is to get this work finished just as soon as we can and go to our eternal home where these racial conditions do not exist.

I am thankful in my soul for the council of the Spirit of Prophecy when followed, saves us from a lots of trouble. I pray that God will guide us in this meeting. May God speed the day when this message will be through and the Lord shall come. It will be a glorious thing when we can go to our eternal home. We will forget all the things that have troubled us in this world.

Whether the present plan should still operate or whether the work has grown to the place where something different should be adopted as a means of strengthening our Colored Department I do not know. Every self interest ought to be laid aside. I understand that in certain sections some brethren have already decided the presidents and officers. I think that this is only a rumor.

Should we continue to operate on the status quo? The greatest test of a man to lead is his ability to work with those who disagree. You must make it a rule to allow the brethren to make their opinions if they agree with you or not. We want you brethren to express yourselves; Whether we continue as we are or has the time come when we ought to proceed to organize conferences? If we should decide to organize conferences I do not feel that it could cover every Union in the North American field, as example the Northern Union. We don't want to undertake anything that will make us ashamed, I have known conferences to be organized with only 800 members which proved to be successful.

A. Wellington Clarke

Is there a necessity for a change or are you brethren forcing this upon us? Is it because of the widening extent of our work?

J. L. McElhany

No, this is nothing that has been forced upon the brethren. The General Conference has not come here with cut and dry answers. You might be waiting for us to hand out another sheet. We don't have it. We are anxious that the Lord will lead us in developing a plan that will be for the best interest of developing the work.

J. L. McElhany (cont.)

Were we to organize in a Union a colored conference what would be the relationship of that conference to the Union? It would be in the sisterhood of that Union conference. In the Southern Union where this plan is operating would the present plan be continued in addition to the organizing of colored conferences? I don't see how that would be possible. You would have a dual administration. We would not have two forms of organizations operating in the same field.

F. D. Dick

In the event of this organization would the boundaries of a colored conference be exactly the same as the local conference relationship to the Union Conference? Do we have any experience of such an organization?

L. H. Christian

Yes, we have experienced this organization in Europe. It has worked very well. In Africa it was not as successful because of the scattered churches.

Note: Meeting adjourned

April 9, 1944

T. M. Fountain

I have been studying the Council at Jerusalem. The same situation as far as race is concerned is involved now. I believe that the S. D. A. movement is superior to any organization on the earth Baptist or Methodist. I do not think that we ought to compare this movement with Baptist or Methodist.

I was called to represent all the ministers in the City of Nashville to speak at a ministers' association. The chairman of the committee was a Baptist minister that knew something about the early work of our message. He was once interested in this message. He thought he would have been a better man if he had been an Adventist. I asked the church to pray for me. I spoke on better feeling between the races; also the difficulty that first came into the church. I presented the message. After the meeting Dr. Small, the leading Baptist, said "that he was pleased with the message and wanted me to present this message to his church. ~~The Seventh-day Adventist organization is superior to any organization on the face of the earth.~~ The man's message was good, but there was only one thing that I had against him, he ought to be a Baptist."

In regard to the colored conferences; I want to say here that the laymen's movement was born in Washington. Some of these same laymen told me that they were not in favor with colored conferences. Most of the laymen in our churches are not in favor with colored conferences. If there are those in favor with the conferences they are very few. I can't believe that anyone would like to be a president. I don't believe a word of it. None of our churches are in favor of pulling out.

(Referred to the three points on the agenda)

I don't believe anyone is in favor of the colored conferences here in this place. We have three propositions offered here. We don't want colored conferences.

G. E. Peters

What do they want?

T. M. Fountain

That we maintain Status quo. At this point, T. M. Fountain moved that we maintain status quo.

E. S. Dillett

Seconded Fountain's motion.

O. A. Troy

What is the Status quo?

M. A. Burgess

If we continue on Status quo, improvements should be considered.

A. Wellington Clarke

(Asked to read an address prepared by him.)

J. L. McElhany

To me it is wonderful to see that the colored have large churches, efficiently led and directed by colored men. We have some colored churches with more members than we have in some conferences. I think our colored men do a very good job. This gives me confidence in their being leaders. To say that a man could be a pastor of a 1000 members, but he couldn't direct a 1000 members if they were divided into conferences seems to me, to be inconsistent in reasoning.

This message has spread out into all the world and when this present war broke out, we found we had to turn the work over to the natives. We had to call our missionaries from some of these countries. It was for the sake of the believers. A native believer to be seen with a foreign man might be sentenced to death and made a marked man. We have had to turn our management over to the native workers, viz. So. Pacific, China, Philippines, Japan, Korea, and Manchuria. Wherever the native administration has taken over God is helping.

We must help those that are taking over responsibilities.

If I thought anybody was proposing a Conference organization that would drive a wedge between the races I would oppose it. I do feel anxious for us to develop every resource. We ought to develop every source of strength in our leadership and in our ministry. If a man could lead a large congregation, I do not see why he couldn't be a conference leader. We must keep together and maintain the spirit of council and helpfulness. Every great man has been looked upon as being dangerous. When we first organized churches peopled looked upon it as dangerous. Some people felt that it was wrong to have conferences. The same is true when we organized Y.P.M.V.

SPECIAL MEETINGS--COLORED DELEGATES

April 11, 1944

G. E. Peters

We shall need the guidance and direction from the General Brethren from time to time. This is a safeguard that all our colored leaders appreciate. I am certainly glad that this is here.

In the past year we baptized and added to the colored department over 1000 souls. We made our tabulations by writing to the conference treasurers and we are proud of our membership and financial report that we have submitted to you.

In coming to this meeting I had no set thing in mind of what form of organization ought to be voted. I had a clear conviction that we should not remain status quo. I wrote to the General Conference officers asking them to tell me what they had in mind to offer as a form of organization. They had counselled among themselves, but they could not be definite in their decisions. There is one thing that I am grateful for, and that is, we didn't come here as a group of workers to make demands. We were the invited guests of the General Conference to listen to what they had proposed.

This is not the same spirit that was in the 1930 meeting. I now feel confident that the time had not come in 1930 for this enlargement. There is a spirit of unity among the colored workers, now, that did not exist, then. We must be very careful in going back to our field of labor that we give the right setting to this thing. Don't present it so that our people will become over elated and stop everything else. I think we ought to be conservative in presenting the matter. We should remember, all the way through, this thing is to propell a greater evangelism. We ought to go back to our field and assume a more careful and humble attitude than ever. All eyes will be turned upon us. We ought to go to work, and work harder for souls and missions than we have ever done before.

I have asked Elder McElhany to come and speak a few words to us. We have always looked upon Elder McElhany as a God-fearing man, and one that stands for principle. We certainly appreciate his leadership and what he has done for us.

J. L. McElhany

I think you are all conscious of the fact that I have not had time to prepare a speech. I will have to talk to you from my heart. I am very glad indeed to have this opportunity to meet with you. When Brother Peters spoke to me about coming, I felt at once that it was the thing I would love to do.

J. L. McElhany

I think those of you who were here in the large committee meeting remember my speaking of the growth and development of the colored people; especially since 1930. From that time to the present, I have watched this work with great interest. I am here to tell you that I feel happy over the way things have developed in the colored department. I have recognized for sometime that there must be some forward steps made in providing for a greater enlargement and the growth of our work. I came to this meeting with an open mind. I didn't anytime try to fix in my mind any definite thing; only that I felt we ought to plan in such a way that we should see growth and advancement for the colored work. As I listened to the speeches and counsels of our brethren, it became very clear in my mind that the Lord was leading us in the right direction. I thank God for that. If there was anything that we needed, it was the encouragement in our hearts to see that the Lord was leading.

It is wonderful to know that when something is to be done, when some situation is to be mapped out, some way the Lord just works things around so that everything in the situation goes together. I have felt that the Lord has been here with us and helped us in working out these plans. It gives me great joy in my heart, for I realize that the Lord is leading.

I think you can see very definitely that the action taken concerning the conferences is going to create a situation that will call for careful study and planning. Just by way of illustrating: The Illinois Conference has always regarded the group of colored believers as an important part of their membership. When they are set off into a conference, it will create an adjustment in the affairs of the Illinois Conference. I know they recognize the importance of the colored believers. It will take the brethren a little time to make these adjustments.

I am also conscious of the fact that all over the field in the churches the members will be very anxious to know what was done. I think it is highly proper that you should acquaint them with what was done in the right manner. In doing this, I believe you can lead the churches to deeper consecration to the Lord. Help them to realize that the Lord is leading. Help them to maintain a courageous heart, and a spirit of patience. For example: One of the lay men here, told me we were wrong in planning for the conferences. He was especially concerned that some of the brethren would be carried away by their ambitions. I tried to help him to see that it is operating in other places and that it is working successfully. Furthermore the Lord was leading us in finding ways and means of greater advancement for the work. What are you going to do with men like this? The cooperation we receive from men like this, will largely be from the way you relate yourselves to the situation. I don't believe there are selfish ambitious men here. If anyone of you ever get in office you have a great surprise. If a man knows what leadership requires he will never run after it. The man that has it certainly has a large share of heartaches and troubles and problems to settle.

I think of the laymen who tried to attend the special pre-council meeting to which they were not invited. I told them that if it was a personal matter I could see them myself, but since this meeting was called

by the General Conference committee and they had made arrangements for this meeting, there was only one alternative for me. If they insisted on attending it, I would have to make a motion to adjourn and call a meeting of the General Conference Committee and they would decide if they could attend. There are times when we have to be firm.

At the meeting that was held in 1930 we reached certain conclusions that seemed to clarify the situation then. If the Lord give us fourteen more years to work in this world, I have no doubt the brethren will look back to this meeting held in Chicago and say that the Lord was with us in that thing, and the Lord was evidently leading.

I am hoping that as these new organizations take affect that we have the fullest cooperation and confidence of our laity. This is of inestimable value. I believe this new organization among the lay members ought to be put out of existence as soon as they go back. A lay members organization, such as this, was begun among the white people of New Jersey some years ago; but after we counselled with them they disbanded their organization.

Don't do anything that will discourage our lay members. I am going to help as many brethren as I have an opportunity to talk with. I believe the good Lord will help. Try to bring about a spirit of unity. Just as fast as the conferences ask for this commission, the General Conference will appoint the men that have been suggested and give council in these things. There are some enthusiastic people who will want the entire thing finished before next Sabbath. It will take time.

The primary purpose of existence of the church in the world is to win souls in the kingdom of God. I know you brethren will all feel that the greatest and highest privilege that can come to anyone is the winning of souls. The happiest hours that I have ever spent in this work was when I was an evangelist. I spent a number of years as an evangelist before I ever had even much to do with any of our churches. I have often felt that it was the best kind of experience that could have come to me. It is a wonderful experience.

I thank you for the privilege of talking with you and telling you a few of the things that were on my heart. I will be glad to work along and bring these things about in the most ordinary way.

G. E. Peters

We thank you very much for your remarks. We brethren have watched you very closely through your administration. We have come to realize in our hearts that you are a man of God and deeply interested in the colored work. We thank you for your patient and forbearance with us. We know we have made mistakes. Many times we have contributed to your headaches, but it was not done intentionally.

Bringing about this organization, we feel that we need experience. We need the experience of leaders like you to help us. It is our purpose to keep the objective in view. This new organization is not to push someone



to a great station. The object in view is to bring more souls in the true.

We thank you for your words again. We want to assure you that we want to give you the assurance of our loyalty.

F. L. Peterson

I think this is one of the most outstanding moves that have ever been made for us. I am not in the habit of criticizing Seventh-day Adventist for all the things they do that I don't like. All that I am and ever accomplished is because I depended on God. I am grateful for what is being done. The thing that has impressed me is the fine spirit in which this organizing of colored conferences has been done. I believe that it is going to have a wholesome affect on all our people throughout North America.

Whenever we used to say colored conferences many people thought we meant separation. I feel that it will be a very fine thing to give an explanation in the Review of this organization, so that our people will know that this is something that has been handed down by the General Conference to us. If this is done it will help us. They will understand that this is a General Conference idea..

I don't hand out many flowers. I would like to say that during the eleven years I was secretary of the department, and at times it seemed that we weren't going to get certain things; I have always felt I could go to Elder McElhaney and he would bring it about.

This organization will bring the young people courage and something to look forward to in the denomination. They can look forward to more than just teaching school.

I think this is a very fine thing that we have come to. I believe that this means we are going to finish the work. I was told never to mention conferences. Don't ever mention them! I am glad I didn't mention them. I am more than glad that it is now here.

M. A. Burgess

I realize through Elder Peters great things have been done for our department. He has also helped me to do what I have accomplished. At this time, I would like to have us show our appreciation for his leadership by rising.

DELEGATES STOOD FOR VOTE OF APPRECIATION

G. E. Peters

I thank you for your vote of appreciation. I have only made accomplishments through God. I do want you to remember, however, that if our people believe that we are divided on this thing, we will bring about a great deal of confusion.

April 12, 1944

Dr. Olsen, of the Home Study Institute, spoke concerning the Bible Home Study Plan.

RIVERSIDE SANITARIUM

Motion: O. A. Troy: "In each church ask the Medical Missionary Secretary, and those who do not have one, to elect a Medical Missionary secretary to represent Riverside each Sabbath in receiving donations.

Seconded: M. A. Burgess

April 13, 1944

MESSAGE MAGAZINE

<sup>R.</sup>  
E. Crawford--Circulation Manager of the Message Magazine.

Note: "As far as the single copies are concerned, the "Message Magazine" sells as much as "Life & Health," "Health" and Watchman put together."--R. E. Crawford

Finis

## T. H. Coopwood

There is no question that this is God's way and the only way in these last days.

I happen to have in my possession, at least in my pocket, a letter. This person is insisting that we continue with what we have. Two years ago a white brother said, "I don't see why the General Conference doesn't take over the colored work and run it." There are some of our group who look forward to conferences because of exalted places and authority. There may be some of the other group who don't want to be bothered with us. Perhaps this is the reason they would like to have colored conference to get rid of us.

We should come together like the disciples. They realized their trouble. There was strife among them. They put it away and all their difficulties and the HOLY SPIRIT came upon them. (Joel 2:15-17.

The colored conferences is not in my mind what we need. We need to get closer together and have a more cooperative spirit. We have now a form of organization to last until the Lord comes.

## Hooper

The laymen think that the head officials are not interested whether the colored receive a higher education. My son made application to P. U. C. They sent him the forms and he filled them out. After received the application at P. U. C., they must have decided the picture had stayed in the oven too long. Perhaps this racial difference is the thing that we are trying to solve. We are not asking for equal social opportunities. We want the same educational opportunities as the white.

I am positive that God will frown on us if we do not do the right thing. I am not here to apostatize. Let us have our colored conferences if we please. Perhaps our preachers haven't gotten a vision. They need a vision. I am helping to pass on to you this vision. Let us have the same success as the white people have in their conferences. There is nothing wrong with a colored brother being over a colored conference. He has the same kind of brain if the opportunity presents itself. I can't do anything unless I have an opportunity.

God loves me just as much as he loves a white person. We should unite together and finish the work. We are living in a time of the judgment and it should be our desire to finish the work quickly. Let us work together and put over this program. It CAN BE DONE. A colored conference can be managed by colored brethren.

## G. E. Peters

I am not in favor of maintaining a status quo form of organization. I haven't got wisdom enough to decide while on the floor the kind of organization that we should have. Any one person's ability is not sufficient to decide this matter. I have studied my people. I wrote the General Conference and mentioned that we should come with something definite in mind so that we could avoid confusion. I did this because I know my people from infancy. We ought to decide on a policy that spells progress and give it to our friends. This is a serious matter. I don't believe that this is a time for office seeking. The salvation of the 13,000,000 colored souls in the United States is at stake.

In 1930 I listened to more speeches against the progress of the colored people than we have had today. Fortunately the speakers today are sincere. We have confidence in them. In 1930 several of the men who fought against the advanced step of the colored work are not in the work today. Those same men were not bringing in souls. They were doing a very small work. They were not in touch with the Negro to a great extent. They thought if they would say something to the white folk, they would then be sure of a job for life. Everyone is present today, of those who stood for progress in 1930.

I am not a radical. I am not an agitator. Nothing is accomplished without God. Pardon my personal reference, but I have through the help of God brought in about 3,000 souls. In one meeting I baptized 145 without stopping. At the close of the meeting 250 souls were won to Christ. God has given me the ability to lead. I suppose that I have erected more churches than any of the brethren, but yet I am standing for progress TODAY.

I maintain that it stands out very clearly, if we continue to maintain the Status Quo form of organization, that we need something for the colored people in the Southwestern. This is shown very definitely. It is also quite evident that something new is needed where my good friend, Clarke, is located. For example, in the Southern New England Conference there are only 349 colored Adventists, this shows that something is needed to propell the work to our colored people.

What am I to say that we should have colored conferences? Whatever it is that takes to bring all classes of Negroes into this message, that is the thing that I am after. We must have a greater evangelism. It is not a matter to insure one's bread and butter as the years go by. We should have some organization that will give us a future. It is not a matter of simply pleasing public sentiment. That does not ring with God's people.

God gave Eldar Blunden a vision for his publishing department. LOOK how under this plan our colored men have advanced. This shows that colored people can lead. Today is a high day for our men in the publishing department. We can also look at Oakwood and see what God has done with colored leadership. We are proud of Oakwood.

I remembered how the colored people cried when they were taken out of the white church herein Chicago. Now the colored church is the largest we have in the Lake Union. It shows how God can bless under your own leadership.

G. E. Peters (cont.)

We should decide whether we should have a colored conference. It ought to be very carefully considered. I don't believe that we should try it in the whole field at the same time. I believe our people have leadership. We aren't ashamed of our progress. I don't believe that we should continue under the present plan of the Status Quo.

J. Gershom Dasent

A strong protest arose against the employing of a Negro Secretary for the colored work some years ago. I came to this country just about that time. The denomination decided to let us have a colored leader in the Department. We have had three colored leaders and God has blessed the work under their leadership. Oakwood is managed by a colored president. We have more students there than we have ever had before. We look at the "Message Magazine." God has set His stamp of approval upon it.

We are living in a time when the Negro is seeking for something more and better than political, economical, social and church affairs.

We shouldn't continue the Status Quo. What we should do is to take a stand for something different. We have tried everything save a colored conference. This shows that something should be done. If we have tried everything else why not try a colored conference?

In 1930 I stood against this very thing of a colored conference. I believe the time has come when we need something more than what we have. The greater work is in front of us. May the Lord give us wisdom and guidance that whatever decisions we arrive at, might be for the furtherance of His cause.

J. H. Williams

We have grown too large to be satisfied with so little. The present plan is far from being satisfactory. I am in favor of making a move that we have colored conferences, if we have the men to handle them. If the local Conference is not in favor of it, it would be just an ornament. It is quite true that something is needed where I am located.

E. S. Dillett

If we have twenty conferences it would not take care of the present issue that is confronting us. I am for progress. If you should organize a colored conference at this meeting and the majority ruled, I will be

## E. S. Dillett (cont.)

glad to go along with it and sell books and do the janitor work if it is necessary to make the conference set-up a success.

I am not a race man, even though I am in the race. I am against my race if my race is wrong. I love my brethren. Recently at the meeting held in Topeka the white brethren did not let me know that I was a Negro. We had a wonderful meeting. I have eaten dinner with my conference president, and sat between he and his wife. They were most cordial and did not let me know that I was colored. In St. Louis the Young People of my church go to the White church and have programs. We are made to feel at home.

I am anxious for my people.

(Mentioned the conditions and prejudice that exist in our colleges)  
We do not have a copy of the paper prepared by him and read at this time.)

## J. G. Thomas

I believe we have in the Southern Union the best plan for colored people. We have today a strong leadership among our workers. I don't believe there is a better fellowship anywhere than among the men in the Southern Union. We appreciate the spirit of cooperation that is manifested among us. We are headed to success.

When I came to this meeting I wondered what it was about; but since being here and noticing the sympathetic spirit of our general brethren, and that they do not think we are agitating for a separation, I am seeing this conference idea in a different light. They along with us are looking for a solution to the problem. I do realize one thing and that is there can be some help given to our work. We are not displeased or disgruntled. We are working together.

We do face one thing. In my evangelism, when we are dealing with the better class of colored people, we find that it is not our church doctrines that keep them from accepting this message; it is questions they ask concerning the position our men hold in the denomination. It is hard for us to explain our situation to them along that line. I have been against the colored conferences; but since I see the General Conference brethren, as plainly seen by all of us, in favor of revising and giving more responsible positions to us, and if this calls for organizing colored conferences I don't see anything wrong with it.

Personally, I don't want any administrative work. I don't think the conference idea is a dangerous one. If the conference plan should go through, we should go home and talk the matter over with our members in an enlightening manner. I believe we should help them to see this thing in the correct light.

H. H. Wagner

I think it is a good thing to have opposition. There is opposition in our political government. Our general brethren want me to be honest and sincere. They want me to have enough foresight and vision to enter in any kind of plan that will promote the work among our people. We have some of the finest men working in the Columbia Union. I have done some evangelistic work in many places and God has blessed.

I believe we should adopt a plan that will be an advanced move for our people. In my recent effort held in Washington, D. C., a lady who was a member of one of the chain stores, cornered me and said, "We believe in the Sabbath and that it is the right day. We can't get around that, but you are a minister in your denomination and how far can you go beyond that? What else is offered the colored people?" It was hard for me to answer that. I offered some kind of weak excuse. We must realize that there are certain things that we can do that will make it easier to reach our better class of people. By organizing conferences it will give us a great advantage in reaching this type of people.

Referred to Vol. 9, pages 205, 207, 210.

When the Emancipation Proclamation was received through President Lincoln, it was through God's leadership. When the slave owners told the slaves that they were free, the slaves still wanted to stay with their masters. They didn't realize what the emancipation meant. I don't mean that we are in slavery; this illustrates that because we have a difference of opinion, it doesn't mean that we are not on the right course. We preach of the United States in prophecy and we can see that he came up just at the right time. God ordained the country by raising it up at that time. It was for people who were looking for freedom.

Whether we have conferences or not, the work will not advance as much until something new is started.

S. O. Cherry

I believe that we should give more power to the present plan that we have now. The Southern Union Plan is the best plan we have, but it is void of power. If our leaders had more executive power they would be happy.

T. M. Rowe

I believe that we have outgrown the Southern Union Plan. I believe the time has come for something different.

H. D. Dobbins

There is a motion before the house. I believe that we should form a committee to study which plan of organization we should operate under. Since we do not seem to want to remain under the status quo, I wonder if Elder Fountain will withdraw his motion.

T. M. Fountain:

I believe in progress, but our very attitude showed that we believed in the Status quo because we didn't do anything about the others. Whatever organization is selected, I assure you, that I will cooperate with it one hundred per cent. We have come here at great expense to the cause of God. We should get something started. If it will help any, I will withdraw that motion.

E. S. Dillett:

Withdraw the seconded.

H. D. Dobbins

I move that we appoint a committee to study the conference plan and bring back recommendations.

J. G. Dasant

Seconded the motion.

W. A. Spicer

I hope that this body will set its approval on the Conference plan.

J. J. Nethery

I believe that we should appoint a body that will look with favor on giving additional strength to the organization of our colored work and possibilities of local conferences. I believe in Local Conferences for our colored people. I believe in progress. I believe in a good strong organization which is not anything else, but good cooperation.



## J. J. Nethery (cont.)

I am serious about how we are getting along in this denomination. I think a number of things should be looked into and helped. We need a closer organization.

We organized into conferences when there were only 15,000 members. This was less than we have colored members now. It has worked. In 1880 we had 640 churches with 15,000. That meant an average of 24 members to a church. In those days we had 15,000 members and had 24 conferences. That was an average of 648 in each conference.

I don't think that we should think of 17,000 colored members and making 30 conferences. You can take your 17,000 members, or at least the membership in a few conferences, you could build a good conference with these members. If we take the membership in twenty churches, we probably would have about 2,200, and this little territory could be organized into a colored conference. A good man that knows how to manage a church with a large group, should make a good leader for a conference. A territory where there are three or four colored pastors we can use one as a President. We might have to pick another man from another field. By having a colored President, they will be able to save more souls in their territory.

I haven't any prejudice in my soul against the colored man. They accuse me of being a colored man. My wife knows I like to go to colored churches. We are all a related family. I believe this talk, of the organization trying to get rid of the colored people, ought to be stopped. This is not the truth. The Union brethren should be in favor of a colored conference under this arrangement. If we tried and failed, YOU WILL FORGIVE.

It may be that we cannot organize a colored conference in every Union. Why not start with one or two and with the help and council of the brethren we can see how it works and later on we can start in another Union.

I hope you will think kind of us for we believe in this proposition.

H. M. Blunden

We have had a great expansion in the Publishing Department. We have multiplied our leadership under this new plan. At Oakwood recently an institute was held, since it was a colored institute we turned the entire program over to the colored men. They assigned the program to the others. The General men and Union men took no part in the Council. Speaking frankly, it was a fine institute and fine instructions on salesmanship was given. It was just about the finest institute I have ever been to.

I don't see why this new conference set up couldn't work. The colored men in the Publishing Department are progressing. Of course, at first problems will be created but we can work it out.

The Committee was appointed to bring back the recommendations to the large body of delegates.

J. H. Wagner

Moved that the agenda be referred to this committee.

April 10, 1944

The Special Committee appointed for the Colored work brought back the following recommendations:

1. Advanced School in the North:

We recommend, 1. That a school be established in the North where advanced training can be given our colored youth; and,

2. That a commission be appointed to give study to this plan and report to the 1944 Autumn Council.

2. Sanitarium in the North:

We recommend, That a commission be appointed to give study to providing for the medical and nursing education needs of our colored constituency in the North, this commission to report at the earliest possible date.

3. Future of Riverside Sanitarium:

We recommend, That the commission on the Riverside Sanitarium be requested to further consider the work and future of that institution and endeavor to report during this Spring Council.

4. Publishing Work:

We recommend, 1. That the Southern Publishing Association secure a colored editor for the Message Magazine.

2. That plans be laid to establish a small periodical for the colored constituency, somewhat comparable to the Union Conference papers in size and style, which will carry church news and promotion material.

5. Conference Organization:

WHEREAS, The present development of our work among the colored people in North America has resulted, under the signal blessing of God, in the establishment of some 233 churches with some 17,000 members; and,

WHEREAS, It appears that a different plan of organization for our colored membership would bring further great advance in soul-winning endeavor; therefore

We recommend, 1. That in unions where the colored constituency is considered by the Union Conference Committee to be sufficiently large, and where the financial income and territory warrant, colored conferences be organized.

2. That these colored conferences be administered by colored officers and committees.
3. That in the organization of these conferences the present conference boundaries within each union need not be recognized.
4. That colored conferences sustain the same relation to their respective union conferences as do the white conferences.
5. That the General Conference Committee appoint three members of a commission to join with other members to be appointed by each Union Conference committee concerned, for a study of the colored work in the respective unions; these commissions to report to the respective union committees, and that in cases where it is found necessary for any union committee to request additional appropriations, organization of colored conferences be deferred until after the 1944 Autumn Council, in order to ascertain whether or not this will be possible.
6. That the 1930 plan of colored organization for the Southern States be adopted for all territories in North America with sufficient members, but where the constituency is not sufficiently large to warrant the organization of colored conferences.

N.B. These recommendations were submitted to the delegation at the April Spring Council, 1944, and were unanimously adopted.

Finis

The Meeting adjourned.

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY COLORED DELEGATES

April 11-13, 1944

Chicago, Ill.

G. E. Peters, Secretary  
NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPT.

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO STUDY WAYS  
TO STRENGTHEN THE COLORED WORK IN NORTH AMER-  
ICA                   \*\*\*                   APRIL, 1944

*Spring Council  
April 1944*

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO STUDY THE WAYS AND MEANS  
OF STRENGTHENING THE COLORED WORK IN NORTH AMERICA

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Organization

1. Status quo
2. Extend Southern plan to whole field
3. Organize conferences where the location and membership would make this possible.

Educational

1. Establish school in North of academic grade capable of development into a junior college
2. Foster development of primary schools

Medical

1. Establish medical institution in North with a view to training colored nurses
2. Continue to develop the medical work in the South

Literature

1. Colored editor
2. Church paper for colored churches

Departmental

1. Continue to train and develop field missionary secretaries to train colporteurs
2. Departmental leadership

*( Stratified organization )*

**SPECIAL ASSEMBLY COLORED DELEGATES**

**April 11-13, 1944**

**Chicago, Ill.**

**G. E. Peters, Secretary  
NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPT.**



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April 11, 1944

G. E. Peters

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In coming to this meeting I had no set thing in mind of what form of organization ought to be voted. I had a clear conviction that we should not remain status quo. I wrote to the General Conference officers asking them to tell me what they had in mind to offer as a form of organization. They had counselled among themselves, but they could not be definite in their decisions. There is one thing that I am grateful for, and that is, we didn't come here as a group of workers to make demands. We were the invited guests of the General Conference to listen to what they had proposed.

This is not the same spirit that was in the 1930 meeting. I now feel confident that the time had not come in 1930 for this enlargement. There is a spirit of unity among the colored workers, now, that did not exist, then. We must be very careful in going back to our field of labor that we give the right setting to this thing. Don't present it so that our people will become over elated and stop everything else. I think we ought to be conservative in presenting the matter. We should remember, all the way through, this thing is to propell a greater evangelism. We ought to go back to our field and assume a more careful and humble attitude than ever. All eyes will be turned upon us. We ought to go to work, and work harder for souls and missions than we have ever done before.

I have asked Elder McElhany to come and speak a few words to us. We have always looked upon Elder McElhany as a God-fearing man, and one that stands for principle. We certainly appreciate his leadership and what he has done for us.

J. L. McElhany

I think you are all conscious of the fact that I have not had time to prepare a speech. I will have to talk to you from my heart. I am very glad indeed to have this opportunity to meet with you. When Brother Peters spoke to me about coming, I felt at once that it was the thing I would love to do.

J. L. McElhany

I think those of you who were here in the large committee meeting remember my speaking of the growth and development of the colored people; especially since 1930. From that time to the present, I have watched this work with great interest. I am here to tell you that I feel happy over the way things have developed in the colored department. I have recognized for sometime that there must be some forward steps made in providing for a greater enlargement and the growth of our work. I came to this meeting with an open mind. I didn't anytime try to fix in my mind any definite thing; only that I felt we ought to plan in such a way that we should see growth and advancement for the colored work. As I listened to the speeches and counsels of our brethren, it became very clear in my mind that the Lord was leading us in the right direction. I thank God for that. If there was anything that we needed, it was the encouragement in our hearts to see that the Lord was leading.

It is wonderful to know that when something is to be done, when some situation is to be mapped out, some way the Lord just works things around so that everything in the situation goes together. I have felt that the Lord has been here with us and helped us in working out these plans. It gives me great joy in my heart, for I realize that the Lord is leading.

I think you can see very definitely that the action taken concerning the conferences is going to create a situation that will call for careful study and planning. Just by way of illustrating: The Illinois Conference has always regarded the group of colored believers as an important part of their membership. When they are set off into a conference, it will create an adjustment in the affairs of the Illinois Conference. I know they recognize the importance of the colored believers. It will take the brethren a little time to make these adjustments.

I am also conscious of the fact that all over the field in the churches the members will be very anxious to know what was done. I think it is highly proper that you should acquaint them with what was done in the right manner. In doing this, I believe you can lead the churches to deeper consecration to the Lord. Help them to realize that the Lord is leading. Help them to maintain a courageous heart, and a spirit of patience. For example: One of the lay men, here, told me we were wrong in planning for the conferences. He was especially concerned that some of the brethren would be carried away by their ambitions. I tried to help him to see that it is operating in other places and that it is working successfully. Furthermore the Lord was leading us in finding ways and means of greater advancement for the work. What are you going to do with men like this? The cooperation we receive from men like this, will largely be from the way you relate yourselves to the situation. I don't believe there are selfish ambitious men here. If anyone of you ever get in office you have a great surprise. If a man knows what leadership requires he will never run after it. The man that has it certainly has a large share of heartaches and troubles and problems to settle.

I think of the laymen who tried to attend the special pre-council meeting to which they were not invited. I told them that if it was a personal matter I could see them myself, but since this meeting was called

by the General Conference committee and they had made arrangements for this meeting, there was only one alternative for me. If they insisted on attending it, I would have to make a motion to adjourn and call a meeting of the General Conference Committee and they would decide if they could attend. There are times when we have to be firm.

At the meeting that was held in 1930 we reached certain conclusions that seemed to clarify the situation then. If the Lord give us fourteen more years to work in this world, I have no doubt the brethren will look back to this meeting held in Chicago and say that the Lord was with us in that thing, and the Lord was evidently leading.

I am hoping that as these new organizations take affect that we have the fullest cooperation and confidence of our laity. This is of inestimable value. I believe this new organization among the lay members ought to be put out of existence as soon as they go back. A lay members organization, such as this, was begun among the white people of New Jersey some years ago; but after we counselled with them they disbanded their organization.

Don't do anything that will discourage our lay members. I am going to help as many brethren as I have an opportunity to talk with. I believe the good Lord will help. Try to bring about a spirit of unity. Just as fast as the conferences ask for this commission, the General Conference will appoint the men that have been suggested and give council in these things. There are some enthusiastic people who will want the entire thing finished before next Sabbath. It will take time.

The primary purpose of existence of the church in the world is to win souls in the kingdom of God. I know you brethren will all feel that the greatest and highest privilege that can come to anyone is the winning of souls. The happiest hours that I have ever spent in this work was when I was an evangelist. I spent a number of years as an evangelist before I ever had even much to do with any of our churches. I have often felt that it was the best kind of experience that could have come to me. It is a wonderful experience.

I thank you for the privilege of talking with you and telling you a few of the things that were on my heart. I will be glad to work along and bring these things about in the most ordinary way.

G. E. Peters

We thank you very much for your remarks. We brethren have watched you very closely through your administration. We have come to realize in our hearts that you are a man of God and deeply interested in the colored work. We thank you for your patient and forbearance with us. We know we have made mistakes. Many times we have contributed to your headaches, but it was not done intentionally.

Bringing about this organization, we feel that we need experience. We need the experience of leaders like you to help us. It is our purpose to keep the objective in view. This new organization is not to push someone

OFFICERS NORTH AMERICAN COLORED

DEPARTMENT - 1945

. DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT - 1945

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COLORED DEPARTMENT

The fundamental reason for the advance step in the organization of colored conferences is rightfully set forth in the preamble of the recommendation that was adopted at the Spring Meeting held in Chicago, April 10, 1944:

"WHEREAS, The present development of our work among the colored people in North America has resulted, under the signal blessing of God, in the establishing of some 233 churches with some 17,000 members; and,

"WHEREAS, it appears that a different plan of organization of our colored membership would bring further great advance in soul-winning endeavor; therefore

"We recommend, 1. That in unions where the colored constituency is considered by the Union Conference Committee to be sufficiently large, and where the financial income and territory warrant, colored conferences be organized.

2. That these colored conferences be administered by colored officers and committees.

3. That in the organization of these conferences the present conference boundaries within each union need not be recognized.

4. That colored conferences sustain the same relation to their respective union conferences as do the white conferences."

Following the Spring Meeting several Union Conferences invited a commission from the officers of the General Conference to give study to the plan of going forward with the proposed organization. The Lake Union was first to lead out in this direction.

September 26, 1944, the colored churches of the Lake Union comprising 2,260 believers were organized into a conference taking the name, "Lake Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists". This new conference embraces the states of Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois. The officers of the conference

are: J. G. Dasent, President and Religious Liberty Secretary; F. N. Crowe, Secretary-Treasurer; Walter Kisack, Y. P. M. V. and Educational Secretary; J. E. Johnson, Home Missionary and Sabbath School Department Secretary; and Virgil Gibbons, Publishing Department Secretary.

This new conference which began its functions January 1 has a colored population of 800,000 souls, which must be warned with the message of a soon coming Saviour.

October 3 another colored conference was organized. This conference comprises the Atlantic Union territory (except Bermuda) and has taken the name "North Eastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists". In the new conference is the Ephesus Church of New York City with more than 1,000 members. There is a total of 15 churches with a membership of 2,200. L. H. Bland was elected President and Religious Liberty Secretary. He will also carry the Home Missionary Department for the present. L. O. Irons was elected Secretary-Treasurer; Jonathan Roache, Y.P.M.V. and Educational Secretary; and Louis Preston, Publishing Department Secretary.

The colored population of this conference numbers 1,106,000.

December 17 the Columbia Union Conference went forward with its new organization. This conference has 40 churches with some 3,800 believers and a colored population of 2,340,832. The conference includes the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. The name adopted was the "Allegheny Conference of Seventh-day Adventists". Officers of the conference are: J. H. Wagner, President and Religious Liberty Secretary; J. L. Moran, Secretary-Treasurer and Book and Bible House Manager; W. R. Robinson, Home Missionary and Sabbath School Department Secretary; M. A. Burgess, Y.P.M.V. and Educational Secretary; and H. D. Warner, Publishing Department Secretary.

These three conferences have been organized to meet present day conditions and to help in the speedy finishing of God's work on earth. Our colored workers and believers in North America are loyal and true to this Message. The tithe paid by our colored churches during the year 1943, amounted to \$686,853.11 and offering to missions, including Ingathering, was \$279,755.09. The report for 1944 will show a substantial increase in both tithe and offerings, which will prove helpful to the operation of our work both at home and abroad.

We must not neglect to state that the Southern Union Conference with a colored membership of 5,000 believers plan to go forward in the near future with an organization of two conferences in the eight states included in that territory, which has a colored population of 6,000,000.

We realize that the organizing of these conferences will not be without trials and difficulties. But with God at the helm, as the Omnipotent Captain these newly launched ships will sail on to victory.

The progress of the Message Magazine, now about nine years old, is another cause for much gratitude. This magazine is a monthly, full-message journal, the only periodical of its kind in the world. Its psychology is especially adapted to meet the spiritual needs of the 13,000,000 colored people of the United States. At present it is going to all colored Universities, Colleges, Academies, and newspaper editors. It is the ideal medium for making the primal contact with the wealthy families of our cities.

It is amazing to learn that by the end of November its circulation had reached 1,297,133 for the year; a gain of 500,000 over the previous year, which was also a record year. Since its origin nearly all the articles have been prepared by our colored ministers and workers.

At a recent meeting of the Southern Publishing Association Board, L. B. Reynolds, one of our colored ministers, was elected as Editor. In selecting this brother, the leaders of the Southern Publishing Association felt assured



of his qualification for this responsibility. Elder Reynolds entered upon his new duties January 1. It is also understood that he will give some time to the Riverside Sanitarium as Chaplain.

We are thankful to report that our work in North America is growing fast in membership. Figures for the first ten months of 1944 reveal that there have been more than 1,500 baptisms.

May we pledge ourselves to be faithful and true; and with all seriousness and assiduity address ourselves to the task before us this New Year. The task of being ready ourselves and that of making "ready a people prepared for the Lord."

George E. Peters, Secretary  
NORTH AMERICAN COLORED ~~MEET.~~

(Article for the Review and Herald)  
1945

March 27, 1946

STATISTICS OF THE COLORED DEPARTMENT

Membership of the Colored Department

General Conference, 1941	14,537
1944	17,891
1945	19,008

Tithe of the Colored Department

Dec. 1936 - Dec. 1940	\$1,112,189.52
1944	828,868.68
1945	964,515.73

Missions Offerings of Colored Department

Dec. 1936 - Dec. 1940	\$703,347.40
1944	321,196.30
1945	407,988.71

Statements Concerning Colored Department - 1945

Number of churches	234
Number of Ordained Ministers	68
Number of Licensed Ministers	61

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REGIONAL DEPARTMENT - HISTORICAL DATA

Heads of the Regional Department since it was organized in 1909

J. W. Christian	1909-1910
A. J. Haysmer	1910-1913
C. B. Stephenson	1914-1918
W. H. Green - First Colored Secretary	1918-1928
G. E. Peters	1929-1930
F. L. Peterson	1930-1941
G. E. Peters	1941-June 30, 1953
C. E. Moseley, Jr.	July 1, 1953-1954
F. L. Peterson	1954-1962
<i>H. D. Singleton</i>	1962-1975

Historical Data

Assistant Secretary - H.M., Educ., and M.V. (Southern Union) Miss Anna Knight	1912
New Organization of Colored Department	1929
Union Department Secretaries (Evangelistic)	1929
Assistant Publishing Secretary (local conferences)	1929
Missionary to South Africa - B. W. Abney	1930
First colored president of Oakwood College J. L. Moran	1934
Message Magazine (first publication)	1934
National Youth's Congress - Oakwood College	1934
<u>Hope of the Race</u> (published)	1934
Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital taken over by the General Conference	1935
Oakwood Jr. College raised to senior college status	1942
Reorganization of Colored Department	1944
First colored editor of the Message Magazine L. B. Reynolds	1944
First Regional Conference organized <i>began operating 11</i>	1945
A colored mission superintendent and two missionary families sent to Liberia, West Africa	1945
North American Informant (published)	1946
General Conference Field Secretary - G. E. Peters	1950
An Associate Secretary - General Conference <i>F. L. Peterson</i>	1954
An Associate Secretary in the Ministerial Dept. E. E. Cleveland	1954

are: J. G. Dasent, President and Religious Liberty Secretary; F. N. Crowe, Secretary-Treasurer; Walter Kisack, Y. P. M. V. and Educational Secretary; J. E. Johnson, Home Missionary and Sabbath School Department Secretary; and Virgil Gibbons, Publishing Department Secretary.

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Accredited by churches of:  
Potomac Conference:

ALEXANDRIA

Elder S. J. Barbour  
Wilton Whilholt

DANVILLE

Elder Joseph Cunningham  
Ida Jeffres

NEWPORT NEWS

Mr. C. L. Braxton  
Mrs. Margaret Clark  
Mrs. Sarah Lester  
Mrs. Signora Medley

NORFOLK, VA.

Mr. Willie Parks  
Mr. George Mason  
Mrs. D. Gardner  
Mr. William Battle

PETERSBURG

Miss Bessie Norman  
Mrs. Hortense Robinson

RICHMOND

Mrs. Rebecca James

STAUNTON

No delegates present

WASHINGTON EPHEBUS

Mrs. Ethel Peters  
Mr. T. J. Delaney  
Mr. M. L. Fields  
Mrs. Mildred Fountain  
Mrs. Jessie Wagner  
Mrs. Bessie Booker  
Mr. Joseph Davidson  
Mrs. Estelle Turner  
Mrs. Caldie Desmukes  
Mr. Benjamin Desmukes  
Mr. James Montgomery  
Mr. Shelton Kilby  
Miss Lucille Anderson

**MINUTES OF THE COLORED CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION MEETING**  
**For the Columbia Union Conference**  
**Held in the Ebenezer Church, 15th and Christian Streets, Philadelphia, Pa.**  
**December 17, 18, 1944**

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The first meeting was called to order at 9 A. M. December 17, 1944 by Elder F. H. Robbins, President of the Columbia Union Conference.

**OPENING SONG:** "Know Not the Time that He Cometh" No. 542 in the Church Hymnal, was sung by the congregation, and verses 1-16 of chapter 2 of Paul's epistle to the Philippian church was read by Elder E. D. Dick, Secretary of the General Conference.

Prayer was offered by Elder G. E. Peters.

Appropriate opening remarks were made by the Chairman.

**ORGANIZATION:**

By unanimous affirmative vote, Elder F. H. Robbins was chosen as chairman, and C. H. Kelly was chosen as secretary of the meeting.

The Chairman called on the secretary to read the call for this meeting as published in the Columbia Union VISITOR of December 7.

The Secretary also read the actions of the Spring Council in April 1944.

At the request of Elder F. H. Robbins, Elder E. D. Dick made a statement outlining the purpose of the meeting and discussing in detail the action of the General Conference calling for the organization of the Colored Conferences.

Remarks dealing with this subject were made by Elder G. E. Peters, and Elder H. T. Elliott of the General Conference.

**SEATING OF DELEGATES:**

Upon call of the roll of delegates, the following named persons were seated as delegates and the meeting was declared open for business:

Members of the General Conference Committee:

E. D. Dick  
H. T. Elliott  
G. E. Peters

Members of the Columbia Union Conference Committee:

F. H. Robbins  
C. H. Kelly  
C. P. Sorensen  
S. L. Clark  
J. C. Holland  
L. H. King  
H. J. Detwiler  
C. V. Leach

Columbia Union Conference Committee (Cont.)

M. E. Loewen  
W. B. Hill  
W. M. Robbins  
M. G. Conger  
J. P. Neff

Ordained and Licensed Colored Ministers Holding Credentials and Licenses:

Chesapeake Conference: L. H. Bland, W. L. Cheatham, Juanita Jones,  
Julia Cooper.

East Penna. Conference: F. L. Bland, R. L. Bradford, Paul Winley

New Jersey Conference: M. S. Banfield, J. R. Britt, E. I. Watson,  
Miss E. Mason.

Ohio Conference: J. H. Lawrence, F. C. Phipps, U. S. Willis,  
Alan Anderson, D. J. Dixon, Louis Brantley

Potomac Conference: I. A. Christian, T. M. Fountain, E. S. Dillett,  
W. R. Robinson, J. H. Lester, H. D. Warner,  
Mrs. Nell, Mrs. McDonald.

West Penna. Conference: Monroe A. Burgess, R. Buffin, Columbus McChristian,  
Miss L. Cherry.

West Va. Conference: W. A. Thompson.

Accredited by Churches of:  
Chesapeake Conference:

BALTIMORE BEREA

J. T. Buchanan  
J. Z. Cooper  
J. E. Roache  
Elizabeth Tillman  
Thelma Mainon  
Eunice Canady  
Hettie Jackson  
Blanche Russell  
Marcelena Johnson  
Venus Harris  
W. J. Ridley  
Lillie Peakes  
Many Waller  
Addison Pinkney  
Leslie Jones  
Blanche Williams  
Virgil Montgomery  
Mamie Swann  
Auman Beatty  
J. S. Green

Dayton  
Ephesus  
Alexandria  
Norfolk  
Newport News  
Danville  
Richmond  
Petersburg  
First Church Washington  
Pittsburgh 42  
Uniontown  
West Va. Conference

E. U. Carter  
T. M. Fountain  
D. J. Barbor  
Henry Parks  
J. H. Lester  
Joseph Cunningham  
John T. Scott  
W. R. Robinson  
Elder Dillett  
R. Ruffin  
M. A. Burgess  
J. L. Hague

At this time the meeting recessed to allow time for the large committee to meet for the nomination of the standing committees.

At 2:45 P. M. the meeting was called to order and the Committee on Nomination of the Standing Committees submitted its report as follows:

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Chairman

F. H. Robbins  
W. L. Cheatham  
E. S. Dillett  
Dr. Kimbrough  
M. S. Banfield  
M. A. Burgess  
Addison Pinkney  
W. R. Robinson  
Mrs. J. E. Barnett

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

Chairman

J. P. Neff  
E. U. Carter  
Ernest Williams  
C. H. Kelly  
J. H. Wagner

**CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES**

Chairman

H. T. Elliott  
F. H. Robbins  
President-Elect

**PLANS**

Chairman

G. E. Peters  
Charles Stewart  
L. H. Bland  
Titus Duncan  
F. L. Bland  
Joseph Parley  
A. A. Anderson  
Mrs. A. Bethel



Since "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers, " and

Whereas the supreme objective of the Allegheny Conference is to give the "Everlasting Gospel" to every colored person in the territory of the conference, and

Whereas, "Time is short, and our forces must be organized to do a larger work in order to reach our objective and complete the task."

We recommend that the Conference Committee develop such plans and inaugurate a type program based on the counsel of the Spirit of Prophecy, which will train and assign every member to some line of soul-winning service suitable to his talents.

EVENING SESSION 7:45 P. M.

The third meeting was called to order by the chairman, Elder F. H. Robbins at 7:45 P. M. and we were led by Prayer by Elder Leach, who invoked God's blessing on the newly organized conference and its officers in this tremendous task of Evangelism in the populous cities of the Columbia Union.

We sang one stanza of "Redeemed by the Blood of the Lamb."

The Committee on Credentials rendered a full report as follows through its secretary, J. H. Wagner, which was accepted by vote.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS AND LICENSES:

Your committee on Credentials and Licenses made the following recommendations:

For Ministerial Credentials:

M. S. Banfield  
F. L. Bland  
R. L. Bradford  
Monroe A. Burgess  
W. L. Cheatham  
E. S. Dillett  
F. M. Fountain  
J. H. Lawrence  
J. L. Moran (subject to his acceptance of call)  
F. C. Phipps  
W. R. Robinson  
W. A. Thompson  
J. H. Wanger  
U. S. Willis