

THE NORTH AMERICAN

## INFORMANT

A BIMONTHLY REPORT OF THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL DEPARTMENT

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# SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE ADDS 32 BUILDINGS IN RIGOROUS FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM

South Atlantic Conference  
Building in Atlanta

By  
**FRANK L. JONES**  
*Secretary-Treasurer  
South Atlantic Conference*

The South Atlantic Conference undertook five years ago the task of building or purchasing representative churches in thirty-two cities of the conference. This is remarkable when one considers that there are one hundred churches and missions in the conference. At the close of 1968 South Atlantic had completed its five-year program of constructing or negotiating to house thirty-two congregations. Atlanta-Berean is the largest church, valued at \$500,000, with a seating capacity of 1,300. Miami-Bethany, with a seating capacity of more than 700, is the second largest church built during the period, and is valued at \$350,000.

Perhaps the most remarkable church built during this five-year (Continued on page 2)



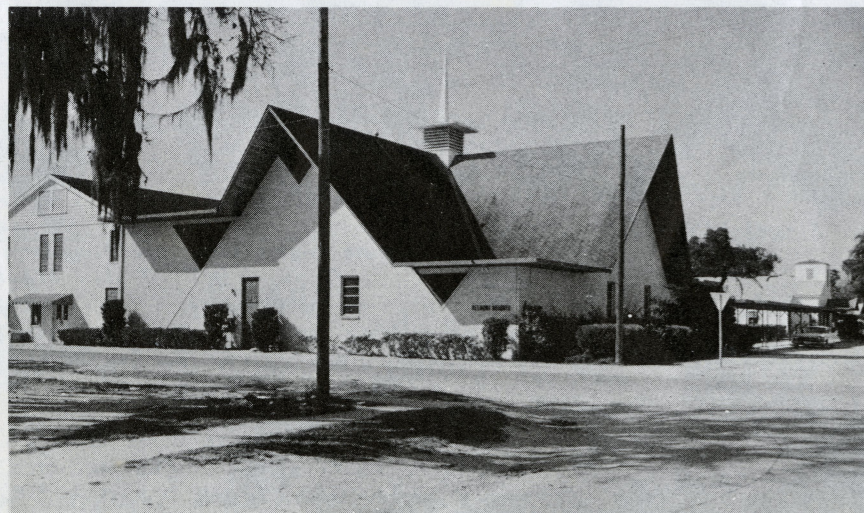
One of the first of the 32 churches built over the past five years in South Atlantic Conference is located at Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The building is air conditioned with a seating capacity to accommodate 500 members. The property is valued at \$125,000 and the pastor is J. P. Monk.



The new Shepherd Drive SDA church in Columbus, Georgia, is fully air conditioned. It seats 350 and is valued at \$100,000. Earl J. Lewis, pastor, supervised the construction.



The Athens, Georgia, church was dedicated free of debt in 1967. It took five years of sacrifice to make this dream come true. The church was built under the direction of F. R. Nealy.



The Tampa, Florida, congregation has experienced a miracle of God in the purchase of the above center. In the center is an air-conditioned church building only seven years old that seats 600. Three other buildings are attached, one a youth chapel. To assure ample parking, there are three parking lots. The value of the property is \$175,000; however, it was purchased for \$75,000.

span is the one in Blakely, Georgia. In 1932 the Advent message found its way into this small community, and four charter members became the nucleus of a church. The first edifice was built in 1935 under Elder J. B. Mallory's pastorate. In 1965 C. L. Cheatham, then pastor of the district, invited J. H. Wagner, the conference president, to visit Blakely. As a result of this visit \$1,000 was appropriated by the conference to build a new church. Elder Samuel Thomas urged the membership to build the new church along the highway. His suggestion was accepted. In December, 1963, the building was completed and the church celebrated its grand opening. The John R. Harris family gave the land, hence the cost of the project was reduced appreciably. The value of the building is \$10,000. The mortgage was burned in November of 1967. Today there are only thirty members in the Blakely church, but this is one of the top-performance churches in the conference. Over the years Blakely has remained in the upper-ten bracket for per capita tithing, with members turning in well over \$100 per capita each year. This church has purchased a welfare van to dispense aid to the needy and disaster-stricken. At the recent conference session held at Hawthorne, Florida, John R. Harris, the local elder of Blakely, was chosen to serve on the conference committee.

The Tallahassee, Florida, church is another remarkable congregation. From a branch Sabbath school held under a big oak tree in 1924, this church got its start. It was not until 1944, under the leadership of F. H. Stevens, that the church found a building in which they could worship. H. L. Cleveland held a tent effort in Tallahassee in 1952 and built the membership to thirty-one. In 1959

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# THREE WHO SAW SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE GROW

By WARREN S. BANFIELD  
*President, South Atlantic Conference*

RECENTLY three veteran ministers of the South Atlantic Conference were discussing the rapid growth of the South Atlantic Conference. They could say with assurance, "We have seen South Atlantic grow."

F. S. Keitts has finished fifty-four years of service in this area. He began his ministry in 1914 as a pastor-evangelist and has pastored nearly every church of size in the conference. Well over 2,000 new members were added through his evangelistic ministry since 1914. Elder Keitts is presently residing in Tampa, Florida.

N. B. Smith finished Oakwood College in 1916 and entered pastor-evangelistic work in 1917 in this area. For fifty-one years he has labored in bringing men to Christ and building churches in which these people might worship. At present he is living in Greensboro, North Carolina, after pastoring the Charleston, South Carolina, district until the Seminary graduate arrived. In 1967 he baptized eight new members and led the congregation of Charleston in the purchase of an attractive new church building.

L. S. Follette came to the South Atlantic Conference area as pastor of the West Palm Beach, Florida, church in 1933. He labored successfully as pastor-evangelist until 1946, when the conference was organized. He was then chosen to serve as the first secretary-treasurer of the South Atlantic Conference. He served as treasurer for a total of fifteen years.

These three men have given an aggregate of 145 years of loyal service to the South Atlantic area, and under God they have added well over 4,000 members to the church. Scores of churches and schools were built under the leadership of these workers.

Yes, these veteran ministers have seen South Atlantic grow. They remember 1946, the year the conference was organized with 3,964 members. In just twenty-three years, we are over the 10,000 membership mark, and the chances are good that before 1969 is over we shall have a membership of 11,000.

If the record of the past few years is a good indication, we shall see a monumental growth in South Atlantic Conference during the next decade.



The attractive Blakely, Georgia, church was erected during the pastorate of C. L. Cheatham on land given by the J. R. Harris family. The church is located on Highway 363, south of Blakely, Georgia, and is valued at \$10,000.

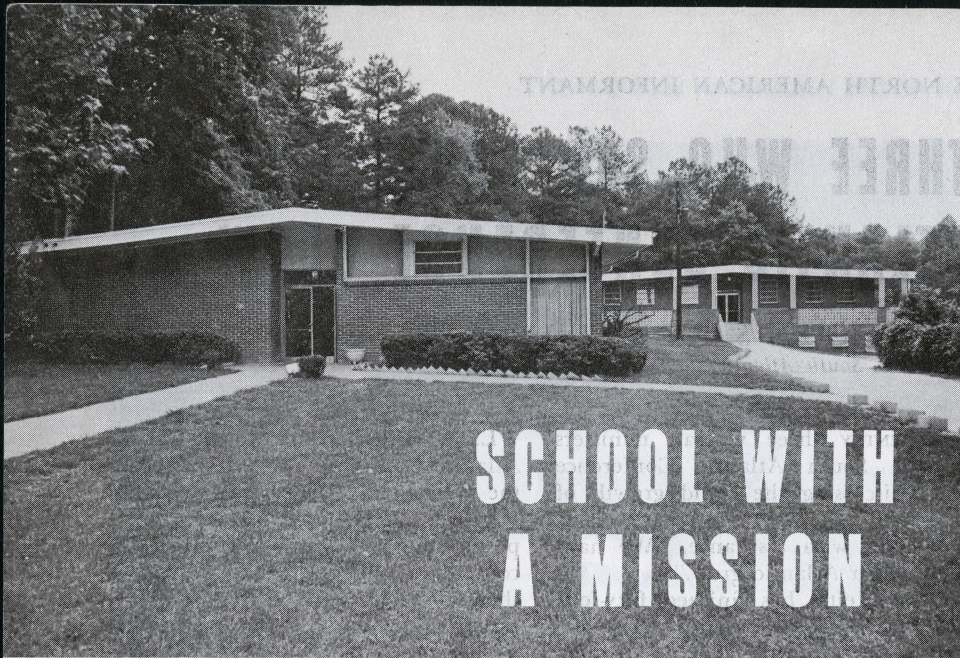
to seat one hundred for the unheard-of sum of \$8,000.

C. L. Thomas and the small Hemingway, South Carolina, congregation took the Dublin plans and worked in faith to perform a second miracle. Today a monument of faith and works stands just outside the city limits of Hemingway, dedicated to the glory of God. On the date of the grand opening more than a year ago twelve new members were baptized.

The problem of adequate buildings for South Atlantic churches has been a major concern for many years. With the gradual change of the economy in the South and with the blessing of God upon the laymen and ministers who have evangelized the field, this picture has changed marvelously in the past five years.



Frederick S. Keitts, left; Napoleon B. Smith, center; and Lyle S. Follette, all veterans of South Atlantic, have participated in the unusual growth of the conference. Their combined years of service total 145 years, and they have added a total of 4,000 members to the church.



## SCHOOL WITH A MISSION

By **SAMUEL GOODEN**

*Educational and Missionary Volunteer Secretary  
South Atlantic Conference*

THE Berean Junior Academy of Atlanta, Georgia, is indeed a church school with a mission. This institution began in a small building more than sixty years ago on the southwest side of Atlanta. From this modest start the school grew and was patronized not only by Seventh-day Adventist families, but by many professional people of the community, who were able to see that the Seventh-day Adventist program of educating the head, the heart, and the hand was the truly complete education.

Afterward the school was conducted in the basement of the Adventist church on Ashby Street. In 1954, when J. H. Wagner became president of the South Atlantic Conference, his wife became principal of the school. Under her leadership and the strong support of the church officers, such as Henry W. Cantrell, Sr., now local elder of the church, funds were raised to purchase a beautiful lot on Westview Place in southwest Atlanta.

The first wing of the new academy building was erected in 1957. This was a welcome addition to the conference educational program. There were six classrooms, a principal's office, and adequate playground space. The school and conference office properties are joined together.

H. F. Barbour became principal in 1963, and immediately plans were prepared to raise funds for another wing that would put all classwork in one plant. Groundbreaking took place

in the spring of 1966, and the new wing was ready for occupancy at the beginning of the 1966-1967 school year.

The new wing is valued at \$100,000. It has four classrooms, a principal's office, a teachers' lounge, and a cafeteria-auditorium that will seat approximately 200 children for lunch or 300 audience style. This modern building was constructed by Jonathan Walker, a faithful layman of the Atlanta Berean church.

Berean Junior Academy has more than 400 students enrolled in the 1968-1969 school year. The fourteen-member teaching staff is well prepared to teach classes, and they believe in a well-rounded program. A number of the teachers are working toward the Master's degree in education.

Principal Barbour will soon receive his Master's degree in school administration. His present staff has given nearly seventy-five years of service to the church.

Through the years the Berean Junior Academy has opened its doors to many students of the community who are not members of the church. This has provided a fruitful field for evangelism. In one city-wide evangelistic effort held by H. L. Cleveland, pastor of the church and the school board chairman for a number of years, 300 persons were baptized. A number of these people had their first contact with Seventh-day Adventists through the church school. In the professional

This lovely school building nestled among the trees on a large lot on Westview Place in southwest Atlanta had an enrollment of nearly 400 students in the school year 1967-1968. Henry F. Barbour serves as principal with 14 dedicated members on the staff. The watchword at Berean Junior Academy is "Quality Education."

and business community of Atlanta there are several lawyers, doctors, teachers, and businessmen who took their elementary and junior high school work at Berean Junior Academy.

In the city of Atlanta today there are nearly 1,300 baptized members and well over one hundred new members added every year to the church. Each year a number of these new members learn the doctrines of the church through the school.

During the summer months Berean conducts an eight-week program for underprivileged children called Headstart. In this vacation period teachers and assistants seek to enrich the education of these boys and girls whose lives are limited by the city environment.

Plans are now on the drawing board to add another wing that will



The Berean Junior Academy is a school with a heart. Every year for the past three summers the school has been opened for Headstart Program, where hundreds of boys and girls are given a cultural uplift. Mrs. Louise Watson helps while her assistant gives the children help with their lunch. Many of the teachers spend vacation time working with this program.

be used entirely for the high school. It will contain a modern library and science laboratory. The school will then be a fully accredited academy that can educate children from kindergarten through grade twelve. To meet this great dream of the future, \$200,000 is needed. We are certain that in the providence of God this will materialize and South Atlantic will have a fully accredited twelve-grade academy.

THE loyal members of the South Atlantic Conference believe in the world Ingathering program. At a workers' meeting held last year at the campground near Hawthorne, Florida, where the 1969 campaign was initiated, we were delighted to learn that twelve districts and fifty-six churches already were over the goal. The churches of Georgia were 90 per cent over the goal, South Carolina 89 per cent over, and North Carolina 85 per cent. Florida always begins its campaign on the first Sabbath of November. The entire South Atlantic Conference finished its goal on November 16, 1968.

The Tallahassee, Florida, district was the first to go over the top. Elder Mouzon called all six churches to Tallahassee for a district meeting Sabbath, July 27, 1968, and called for district reports. All six churches reported that their entire goals were in hand. This is the second year in succession that Tallahassee has led the way.

The Savannah district was the first large district to achieve the Ingathering victory goal for 1969. On Sabbath, October 5, 1968, the Savannah church turned in \$5,375 as its initial report. This is the first time in the history of this church that the goal was raised in one report. Mrs. Rosa Holmes, the top Ingathering solicitor in South Atlantic Conference, reported \$1,050.50 in her first report, also a new record. Mrs. Holmes has been a great source of inspiration to the Savannah church in its campaigns over the past twenty years. She has personally raised more than \$11,000 for missions. F. W. Parker, district pastor, visited Brunswick that same Sabbath afternoon and the treasurer presented to him a check covering the full Ingathering goal. Sunday morning he visited Ridgeland, South Carolina, the third church in his district, and received a check for their full goal in the 1969 Ingathering. This was a substantial Ingathering victory for the Savannah, Georgia, district.

The Winston-Salem district, under the leadership of L. R. Hastings, went over the goal also on October 5, 1968. The Greensboro and Charlotte churches followed in turn with the greatest Ingathering victories in the history of each church. Mrs. Daisy Jackson, lay activities leader, of Charlotte, personally led the way by soliciting more than \$500 in the campaign. Mrs. Jackson is second only

## SUPPORTING THE WORLD WORK THROUGH INGATHERING

By **JOSEPH T. HINSON**

*Lay Activities and Sabbath School Secretary  
South Atlantic Conference*

to Mrs. Holmes, of Savannah, in Ingathering achievement.

Our membership in the Atlanta Berean church saw a miracle of another sort in their campaign. For the first time an unusual Ingathering plan was presented by Pastor Dunbar Henri. There were no bands, no captains, and there was no strict plan of organization. Every member was given a personal goal to report on Sabbath, October 19, 1968. To everyone's amazement the plan worked marvelously, for \$15,000 was turned in with the first report. It is apparent that God's people are prepared and eager to do great things in South Atlantic as we see the signs fulfilling that point to the close of time.

Thousands of homes have been visited and many Bible studies have been arranged as a result of Ingathering. Plans are being proposed by the conference lay activities secretary to

do a vast follow up of the interests generated during the Ingathering campaign. South Atlantic counts Ingathering as one of its blessed seasons of the yearly program. It gathers funds for missions and it gathers souls for the kingdom.

Ellen G. White spoke years ago of a vision she had of the San Francisco and Oakland churches in California in which they were represented as "beehives." Many lines of Christian effort were carried forward by the brethren and sisters there, including visiting the sick and destitute, finding homes for orphans and work for the unemployed, nursing the sick and teaching the truth from house to house, distributing literature, and conducting classes on healthful living and the care of the sick.

We like to think of this as a picture of our future South Atlantic churches. Our laymen enjoy working for God.

Mrs. Rosa Holmes, of the West Broad Street church of Savannah, Georgia, presents \$1,050.50 to Pastor F. W. Parker and the church treasurer, Mrs. R. Futch, as her first Ingathering report for 1969. Mrs. Holmes is the top Ingathering solicitor in the South Atlantic Conference. This is the second year in succession that she has raised more than \$1,000. Over the years she has personally raised more than \$11,000, and has been a great source of inspiration to the church.





## SOUTH ATLANTIC MEMBERSHIP NOW APPROACHING 10,500

By CALVIN B. ROCK

Ministerial Association Secretary, Southern Union Conference

For the South Atlantic Conference a membership of more than 10,000 appears natural. There have been exceptional preachers in the field whose converts have numbered in the thousands. Joseph H. Laurence, George E. Peters, John G. Thomas, Walter W. Fordham, E. Earl Cleveland, Eric C. Ward, Harold L. Cleveland, J. Malcolm Phipps, C. Dunbar Henri, and others have worked in the South Atlantic field through the years with remarkable success. But stabilizing the membership was not an easy task. Shortly after joining the church in South Atlantic many of these members moved to other parts of the nation. The result is that the membership rolls of churches in the North and in the West have increased as a result of migrations from South Atlantic.

This means that ministers and laity in South Atlantic have had to work doubly hard to maintain a yearly membership increase. At long last they have seen the membership pass the 10,000 figure and now move toward 10,500.

The membership of South Atlantic Conference at the close of 1968 was 10,381, a net gain of 909 members over the 1967 figure. There were 1,257 people baptized, or approximately one baptism for every eight members in the conference. Both ministers and laymen have joined hands in public evangelism to make this report possible.

Three pastors in South Atlantic baptized more than one hundred people in 1968. There were two ministers who came close to the century mark with baptisms of over ninety each. Approximately seven other min-

isters baptized close to fifty people during the past year. In the month of August alone there were 650 baptisms in the conference as a result

### DEATH OF ALMA L. TIBBS

Miss Alma L. Tibbs, a Bible instructor and teacher in denominational work for twenty-four years, died in Orlando, Florida, December 19, 1968, at the age of 73. She had been in ill health for several months.

Born in Washington, D.C., she attended the public schools of Washington, but she obtained her Bachelor's degree from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee.

She began work with the denomination in 1917 as a Bible instructor in the Kentucky Conference. From that assignment she went to the Indiana Conference to assist with various evangelistic programs, and remained in this field until 1924, when she accepted a call to the Southern New England Conference as Bible instructor. In 1934 she began work in Chicago, which included responsibilities at Shiloh Academy and the Hinsdale Sanitarium in addition to her work as Bible instructor. Other assignments were at Riverside Sanitarium, Oakwood College, the Iowa Conference, and the Allegheny Conference. Described by one administrator as "the most conscientious worker we ever had," Miss Tibbs has seen numerous people baptized into the church as a result of her Bible teaching.

Her influence on young people and older ones was profound. She died having done her part to substantially strengthen and move forward the cause of her Master and the church that she loved.

LOUIS B. REYNOLDS

largely of seventeen major tent meetings.

Joseph T. Hinson, lay activities and Sabbath school secretary of the conference, launched into an effort with Julian L. Williams in Charlotte, North Carolina. He did the nightly preaching and teamed up with Elder Williams to study with, and finally baptize, 104 people. There were fears that the Ingathering would fall short with Elder Hinson away from the office for such a long period. But he remained in Charlotte for the tent meetings in the face of some major difficulties, and on November 18, the date the Ingathering campaign was opened, it was declared completed with a total of \$106,000 in hand. Seventy-five per cent of the churches in the conference had raised their 1969 Ingathering in one report. More than this, the South Atlantic Conference raised the largest number of subscriptions for the *Message Magazine* of any North American Regional conference. For this achievement Elder Hinson received for the conference a trophy from the Southern Publishing Association.

The successful evangelism in South Atlantic during 1968 is reflected in the tithe income of the conference, which reached \$853,000 at the end of 1968. This was a gain of \$120,000 over the 1967 total. The conference looks forward to a membership of close to 11,500 by the end of 1969 and a tithe income of \$1 million.

The ministers and the constituency of South Atlantic Conference have taken quite literally the command of Jesus to "Go" and "teach." It will be interesting to see the reports from this field at the close of 1969.

## BRIEF REPORTS FROM THE CONFERENCES

### New Chicago Shiloh Church

► THE congregation of Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist church, led by their pastor, S. D. Meyers, and the president of the conference, C. E. Bradford, together with local and visiting ministers, marched to their new church edifice for the first service on Thanksgiving Day.

The new building, with a seating capacity of 1,200, is appraised at \$700,000. Separate rooms for each Sabbath school division are available. The air conditioning, upholstered pews, and excellent acoustics make the new Shiloh church one of the finest in the North American Division.

The official opening week program was held January 18-25.

### Bermuda

► A RECENT change in leadership in the Bermuda Mission has brought Carlyle B. Skinner to the Bermuda Institute as principal. He was formerly a minister in Guyana, South America, and principal of the Davis Indian School in Guyana. Mrs. Skinner will teach foreign languages at the institute.

► W. L. LEWIS, formerly a pastor in St. Petersburg, Florida, is the new minister of the Hamilton, Bermuda, church. Gerald Wells, formerly pastor in the Northern California Conference, is the new pastor of the Southampton church.

### South Central

► THE South Central Conference winter workers' meeting was held in Nashville, Tennessee, December 16-18 and for the occasion the three Cleveland brothers conducted a workshop on evangelism. E. E. Cleveland is the associate secretary of the General Conference Ministerial Association; W. J. Cleveland is pastor of the New Orleans, Louisiana, church; and H. L. Cleveland is pastor of the Cleveland, Ohio (Glenville) church.

► DR. W. E. COOPWOOD was presented a plaque by the Murfreesboro church for outstanding service during the past five years. During this period souls were added to the church and a new building was constructed.

### Fire Damages Ephesus Church

► SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS everywhere were shocked when the news came that the historic Ephesus church of New York City had been gutted by fire on the night of January 8. The roof caved in, leaving the walls standing. Serious water damage was done to the furnishings on the main floor. The fire started near the third floor and faulty electric wiring is suspected to have been the cause. The report is that the members at Ephesus are rising to the challenge to rebuild.

The membership of Ephesus stands at more than 2,500. The congregation is presently meeting at a nearby Methodist church. S. A. Hutchins, minister of the church, has expressed the hope that worship can be resumed in the church within a few months.

### Oakwood Student Receives Yale Medical Scholarship

► EDWARD C. CARTWRIGHT, president of the 1968 senior class at Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama, has been awarded a four-year scholarship to Yale University School of Medicine.

President Frank W. Hale, Jr., of Oakwood College, was informed of the award by Yale University officials early in January. The \$16,000 scholarship (\$4,000 per year) is the result of keen competition. Ninety-four students from around the world were accepted in the freshman medical class at Yale this year.

### New Ministerial Interns for Central States

► GABE TAYLOR, JR., recent graduate of Andrews University, has joined the working force of the Central States Conference. He and his wife, the former Dorothy Smith, are now serving the members in the Sikeston-Charleston district of the conference. They have an infant daughter.

► THE new pastor of the Atchison, Kansas, and St. Joseph, Missouri, district is Harold Gaskins, a recent graduate of Oakwood College. Harold will serve in the conference for one year and then will continue his studies at Andrews University. He is married to the former Florestine Robinson, who is a teacher at the Beacon Light Elementary School in Kansas City, Missouri.

### Medical Missionaries

► DR. CARL A. DENT of Riverside Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee, left December 29, 1968, for Biafra, West Africa, to give three months' medical service in this war-torn country. He heads a team of doctors sent out by the Red Cross in cooperation with the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

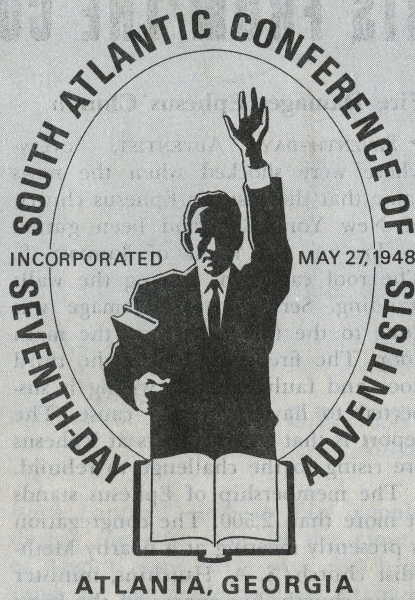
► DR. J. MARK COX, who has practiced surgery in Orlando, Florida, for several years, left January 6 for a three months' period of service in our Cameroun Mission Hospital located at Koza in the Republic of Cameroun.



Twenty-five members of the Cleveland, Ohio, Glenville Seventh-day Adventist church who raised \$100 or more in the 1969 Ingathering campaign. Harold L. Cleveland is the pastor of the Glenville church (second from left, back row), and James Davis is the lay activities leader.



Frank L. Jones, secretary-treasurer, has been with South Atlantic Conference since 1965.



NORTH CAROLINA • SOUTH CAROLINA • GEORGIA • FLORIDA



Warren S. Banfield, president and second-generation minister, has been in office since 1962.



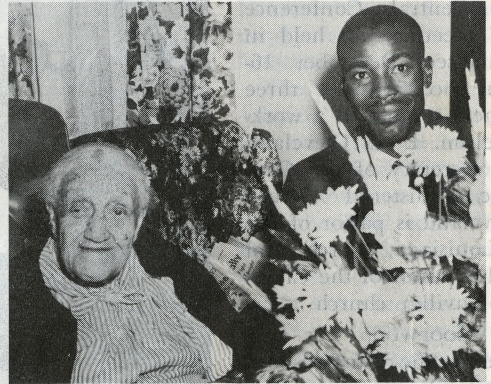
W. L. Crofton of Southern Publishing Association (center) presents W. S. Banfield (right) with *Message Trophy* for largest number of subscriptions received from any Regional conference. Observing is Joseph Hinson (left), lay activities leader of South Atlantic Conference.



Mrs. Charlie Mae Bush, with South Atlantic 21 years—almost from the beginning—is cashier-accountant in the treasury department. A graduate of Oakwood, she has served efficiently under three treasurers.



The Hermon Vanderbergs, who went from South Atlantic to mission appointment in Liberia. Their recent auto accident, in which Mrs. Vanderberg died, and Elder Vanderberg and Robin were injured, was the second tragedy involving representatives of the department.



Mrs. Willie Stone Bowman of Asheville, North Carolina, celebrated her 100th birthday August 27, 1968. Former President L. B. Johnson sent her a letter of congratulations. Shown with her is Pastor James Best.

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