

# North American Colored Department

By C. E. MOSELEY, JR., Secretary

I have the pleasure of presenting my first report to this general assembly. This report will take the nature of a brief historical survey of the broader aspects of developments within the department, and close with a statement on the high points of achievement during the quadrennial period.

It was in the year 1895 that Adventists began to evangelize America's largest minority. The beginning was simple, but it was also forthright; and a permanent stand for truth was quickly made. The steamboat *Morning Star* carried James White, Jr., and others down the Mississippi to the environs of old Vicksburg and Yazoo City. And the Americans of color in these areas "heard them gladly."

The believers in those original Mississippi towns are still anchored to the faith. They stand now as monuments to a monumental beginning. Today more than 31,000 from America's largest minority join the several hundred ministers, interns, and organizational officers in witnessing for the "commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."

The steamboat took its name, some say, from the "Star out of Jacob"—that "bright and morning star." To symbolize His name and His mission to earth, and indeed the mission of those aboard the boat, a large star carved from wood was prominently displayed at the front of the boat.

When the first permanent school for the new believers was established at Huntsville, Alabama, in 1895, that wooden star was later removed to its campus, to turn the eyes of the youth to Jesus, the Star of our perennial hope.

## Christian Education

Although it was not the very first institution to open its doors, the Oakwood Industrial School alone has survived the changes of those early years. Since its beginning Oakwood has given permanence and meaning to Christian education. From a small institution of industrial training on the elementary and secondary levels, it has grown to a sizable senior college, with course offerings in six major divisions.

Out from that college has gone more than 90 per cent of the ministers and officers of this department. Its teacher trainees have established and now operate four twelve-grade academies and ten junior academies, and elementary schools are conducted in nearly every important church center in America and in some areas overseas. These centers of education are pointing the youth of the church to "the bright and morning star," while "preparing them for the life of service which now is, and for that higher life and that wider service of the hereafter."

By the year 1909 the products of Oakwood College and the few recruits from the older Battle Creek College had so influenced our ethnic populace with the

gospel that it was possible to pull together the scattered churches into the beginnings of our present regional organizations.

The purpose for departmentalizing this segment of Adventism was to provide direction and guidance from the general level and to develop effective representation for the new venture. The results of this departmental organization have been rewarding in two directions.



C. E. Moseley, Jr.

First was the ushering in of an era of intense organized public evangelism, in which the departmental membership was raised from a few hundred believers to several thousand. And the second, which stems in part from the first, was that the greatly increased membership made necessary the expedient of a closer supervision on the union level; thus the union departmental secretary was created.

It followed as a corollary that the local regional conference should appear as soon as strength of numbers and finance demanded it. Since 1945, seven full-strength and fully manned regional conferences have been organized in the North American Division alone; two of which, namely, Southwest Region and Central States, have come to maturity within the quadrennial period. Since the organization of these regional conferences, an era of even greater evangelism has followed. The Central States Mission of 1947 has become the Central States Conference, and it had more than doubled its membership by December of 1953.

As early as 1909 the medical and health aspects of the faith were successfully promoted among us. Twenty-seven nurses

were graduated from the small sanitarium at Oakwood College up to the year 1921. In 1927 the Riverside Sanitarium was founded on the banks of the Cumberland, at Nashville, Tennessee. That institution has since developed into the modern Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital, which today is one of the institutions most widely known among us for its superior equipment and efficient staff and for the splendid services it renders. At Riverside a resumption of nurses' training has been made, even if on a limited but practical basis. Riverside is a precious gem in the areas of its operation, and its better contributions lie hopefully ahead.

## The Publishing Arm

A series of articles by Ellen G. White that appeared in the *Review* inspired the journey of the *Morning Star* into the deep south in 1895. By 1898 the *Gospel Herald*, which was edited and printed on the *Morning Star*, then anchored at Yazoo City, Mississippi, was reporting on the progress of the faith among the new believers. Thus it was that the publishing arm of the faith began its influential impact on colored Americans.

Up to 1934 the department shared the general denominational literature. Then came the *Message Magazine*; and with it came a new satisfaction to the reading public and a new avenue of influence for truth. The *Message Magazine* wins men to Christ, and that justifies its existence. But this magazine was recently rated as a *model* of form and fact in its field, and was listed in 1952 as "one of the 30 leading religious publications in America." This is the sort of achievement that elevates Adventist literature to that coveted position it deserves.

## Mission Services

In 1901 Miss Anna Knight was sent as a missionary to India. In 1902, T. H. Branch pioneered in East Africa and founded the renowned Malamulo Mission. B. W. Abney and family saw service in the South African Division from 1931 to 1938. But it was in the mid 1940's that three missionary families were sent to Liberia in West Africa. Lately the Richard Simons and the David Hughes families were added to our forces in the same country.

Under the favor of Heaven and the kindly patronage of the present Liberian Government, these missionaries are carrying on nobly for God. Our mission school at Konola, where the Giddingses preside, deserves particular mention in this report. Lately Konola is rapidly becoming the training center for the children of the governing families. Currently the president of the republic is sending four of his children to the school and occasionally lends his personal financial support to its operation.

## Department Growth

And what of the quadrennial period just ended? The high lights are these: Two new conferences—namely Southwest Region and Central States, have raised our total to seven; our member-

(Continued on page 312)

received more than a million dollars toward this institution.

**W. B. OCHS:** We turn next to the Southern Union. Elder V. G. Anderson is the president of this large union. In your union, Brother Anderson, you have the union Bible school, and I understand this has been in operation for three years now. How do you rate it as a soul-winning agency?

**V. G. ANDERSON:** It is the only union Bible school in North America. We have been running our union Bible school for three years now, and have enrolled more than three hundred thousand people in our courses. We have received word from seven thousand people saying that they believe in the Sabbath. We have hired nine full-time men to do nothing but follow up these interests.

The first year we baptized 178, the next year 374, and last year 810 from the Bible school. We expect that baptisms will total 1,600 this year. One man who is a church member wrote to the Bible school and wanted some enrollment cards. We sent him one thousand. He got up in Sunday school and said, "I have been studying the Bible, and I have a wonderful way to study the Bible. If any of you members want to find out, come and see me." And he has been handing out our enrollment cards. That is one way we have been able to get enrollments. We are getting up to twelve thousand every month entering the Bible school.

**W. B. OCHS:** Thank you for this report. In *THE REVIEW AND HERALD* reference has been made several times to the projector used in the Southern Union.

**V. G. ANDERSON:** Our lay members have 786 projectors in the Southern Union. In one month they reported 1,907 Bible studies with attendance of 8,164 during that one month.

**W. B. OCHS:** Your colporteurs seem to have had wonderful success, Brother Anderson. How is their work affecting this program of evangelism which you are sponsoring?

**V. G. ANDERSON:** Well, we've led the unions of the world so many years, we don't know when it began. The Southern Union has been selling more books than any union in the world. We delivered \$3,300,000 worth of our books in the last four years. In fact, we sold more than three unions put together here in North America during the last year. We feel that our colporteur work is one of the reasons why we had such wonderful baptisms down there. By the way, Elder Ochs, we baptized 11,000 people since we gave our report here four years ago.

**W. B. OCHS:** We have one more union conference. We turn to it last, not because it is least, but because in this union we are fortunate to have our General Conference session. As far as we know it has the largest membership of any union conference in the world. Elder C. L. Bauer is the president of this union. Brother Bauer, in your union you have a membership of approximately 60,000. What has been your increase since the last General Conference session? How many were baptized since that time?

**C. L. BAUER:** We baptized 12,500 members in the four years. That means that we baptized 25 per cent of our member-

ship. In our union, in the last four years, we have organized forty-one churches, and built thirty-three new churches. Besides that, we have held major efforts in all of our fields, and in one conference there were as many as twenty-three efforts going on at one time. We are also carrying on lay efforts in our field. We are using visual aids, and in one of our conferences to the north, in one field the pastor organized his laymen so that they were giving one hundred Bible studies every week. And after doing that for some time the evangelist for the conference was sent there, and in three weeks' time baptized seventy-two members.

**W. B. OCHS:** We are glad to hear this, Brother Bauer. What is your union's relationship to the support of the worldwide work?

**C. L. BAUER:** We have given to the General Conference for the world work in four years, \$25,889,746. And the mission offerings we gave besides this tithe, amounted to \$7,280,000, a total of \$33,170,000 that went to the General Conference for foreign work in these four years.

**W. B. OCHS:** Thank the Lord for the Pacific Union Conference. I wonder, Brother Bauer, if you would tell us a little about the educational program in your field, and its accomplishments.

**C. L. BAUER:** We believe in Christian education in our union. In the last four years we started thirty-seven new schools, and have built exactly the same number of new school buildings, besides adding on many rooms to the buildings we already have. In these buildings of elementary schools alone we have invested \$1,471,000, and improvements amounting to a quarter of a million dollars. We have 175 elementary schools, 475 teachers in the elementary division, and 10,500 pupils. In our 18 academies we have 300 teachers and 3,500 students. We also have two senior colleges. Our total investment in day academies in the Pacific Union is \$2,880,000; boarding academies, \$3,273,000; and colleges, \$4,622,000; making a total investment of \$10,776,000. Besides that, we are having to expand and build another boarding academy.

## North American Colored Department

(Continued from page 293)

ship has had an average advance of 1,100 per year, or from 26,526 to 31,078 for the four-year period. Tithes sprang from \$1,393,808.21 to \$2,027,592.49, and offerings to missions from \$574,141.99 to \$709,397.91. Within the period thirty new churches have been added and two more missionary families have sailed to strengthen our stakes in West Africa.

Other advancements have given much-needed strength to the organization from within, and thank God, the end is not yet. The last general assembly appropriately added to the department a general field secretary. This widened its usefulness appreciably. By autumn of the same year the services of an associate were secured. And at this point it becomes my regrettable duty to report also that adverse conditions of health have forced my predecessor into retirement. On June 30, 1953, George Edward Peters, after twelve years of creditable service in the general office and forty-five years of continual ministry, in which he endeared himself to believers and friends throughout the field, laid his responsibilities aside for a well-earned rest. We hail his presence at this session.

It is heart warming to report that the recently announced plan for "complete integration of all national groups within our institutions of health and education," has brightened the future tremendously. Moreover we envision a further implementation of the advancement made both on the home front and in our overseas services. Our great church must move ahead to its rightful place, *out front*, with every department working shoulder to shoulder, following the march of truth in Christ on to its glorious triumph. To this end we pledge our loyalty in men, means, and devotion.

I am glad to say our confidence in the movement and its leaders abounds, our courage is high, and our thanks to our God for His many mercies has become a never-ending song.



Larkin Hall, a popular meeting place where the large illuminated world globe slowly revolves on its axis. Behind it is the large book display.