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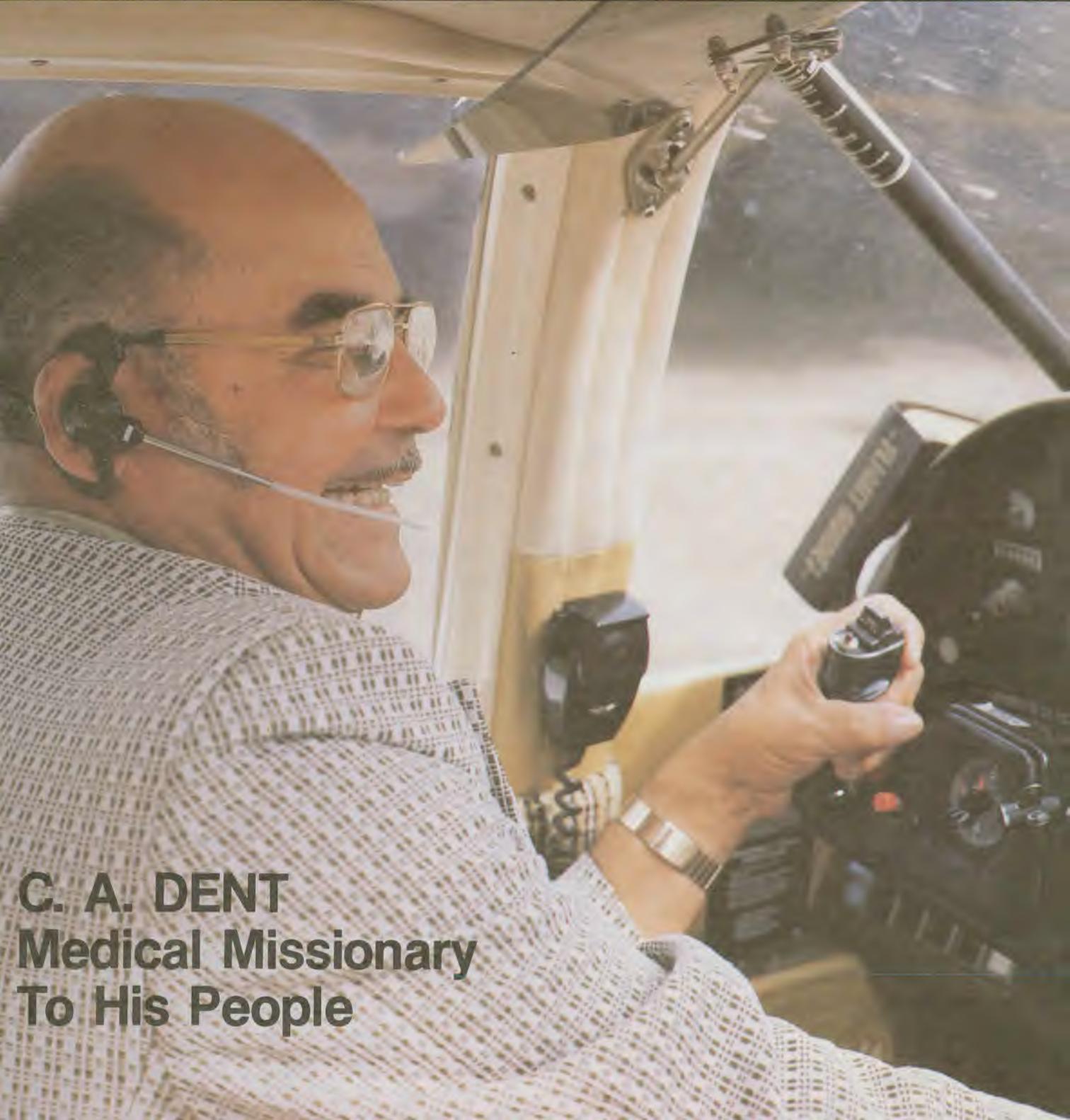


OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NORTH AMERICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCES OF
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

VOLUME 2

NOVEMBER 1980

NUMBER 11



C. A. DENT
Medical Missionary
To His People

COVER STORY



Carl A. Dent, M.D.

DR. C. A. DENT: A CITADEL OF COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION

In 1902 Dr. Lottie Isbel made the first attempt to establish a "colored" sanitarium in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Isbel's sanitarium faced many seemingly unconquerable obstacles and it soon closed.

Five years later, in 1907, Drs. D. C. Blake and Lottie Isbel Blake worked diligently to start the Rock City Sanitarium in Nashville. Once again the sanitarium collapsed. There was a desperate need for a "colored" sanitarium because blacks were not given medical attention in white sanitariums.

In 1910 Oakwood Training School, capturing the vision of Drs. B. E. Blake and Lottie Isbel Blake and heeding the counsel of Ellen G. White, established a nurses' training center and a "colored" sanitarium.

The Oakwood Sanitarium was in operation until 1923. With the closing of the sanitarium, the nurses' training course was also ended. The prospects of ever establishing a colored sanitarium appeared highly unlikely.

God had seen the pitfalls, the discouragements and the failures, but ultimately He had seen the triumph of Riverside Sanitarium. As He would so will, Nellie H. Druillard, a Scottish Seventh-day Adventist who had made a fortune in real estate, was recovering from an accident when she vowed to the Lord if He would heal her, she would build Him a hospital.

While resting in the hospital she came across a statement by E. G. White challenging the members to work among "colored" people. After reading that statement, she accepted the challenge.

After recovering from her injury, she went to Nashville and purchased property to build a "colored" sanitarium. When her intentions were made known, she was forced to give up her property.

Undaunted by the racism, she purchased property on the banks of the Cumberland River and aptly called it Riverside Sanitarium. In 1927 Riverside opened its doors. It offered rest, hydrotherapy, exercise and vegetarian diet in a peaceful setting.

Mrs. Druillard worked hard to forge Riverside into a model sanitarium. Two years before her death in 1937, she turned Riverside over to the General Conference. After her death the sanitarium was maintained through the dedicated efforts of Dr. T. R. M. Howard and Dr. H. E. Ford.

During these years of sacrifice and struggle, God had kept a watchful eye over the sanitarium. He was preparing a young physician, Dr. Carl Ashley Dent, who would dedicate his life to the upbuilding of Riverside Sanitarium.

Dr. Carl Dent was born in May of 1914 in St. Simon Island, Georgia, to Ernest and Josephine Dent. His mother, the former Josephine Green, was born in Green Landing, Mississippi. With the death of her mother, their family moved to Natchez, Mississippi. At age twenty she attended school on the Morning Star and became a Seventh-day Adventist. Years later her father joined the church.

She was influenced by Elder F. W. Halladay, superintendent of education for the Southern Missionary Society, to attend Oakwood Training School, where she took the nurses' training course. It was in 1908 at Oakwood where she met her future husband, Ernest Alton Dent, who was also taking the nursing course. After completing Oakwood in 1910, they were married.

Ernest Alton Dent was born in St. Simon Island, Georgia. His father, Samuel G. Dent, was a Baptist minister who later became a Seventh-day Adventist. Later, he contracted tuberculosis and went to the Oakwood Sanitarium. Soon afterwards he died.

Ernest Dent had a love for knowledge. He attended Atlanta Baptist College and completed his nurses training at Oak-

wood. He had dreams of being a doctor but he never reached his goal because he died of tuberculosis while still a young man.

After his death, his wife, Josephine Dent, took their three children, Ernest Jr. (at the age of eighteen he died of tuberculosis), Thelma and Carl and moved to Redlands, California, in search of a warmer climate and better opportunities.



Josephine Dent, the mother of Carl A. Dent.

Life in California

In 1917 Redlands was a sunny, picturesque town filled with orange groves. It had a population of 15,000. The Dents numbered among the four or five Black families in the town. They attended the only SDA church in the town and were actively involved.

Life was filled with hard work, challenges and fun. Josephine Dent worked as a domestic to provide for the family. At an early age she instilled within her children a sense of pride and commitment to excellence that made a lasting impression upon her children's lives.

She would constantly remind them that they were "first class people from good stock." They didn't really understand the meaning of those words because they were the poorest kids on the block. Their playmates had fathers, bikes and toys. They had none of these things. They lived on the wrong side of the tracks. Yet, their mother's words left an indelible impression upon their young minds which made them strive for mastery.

Thrift, industry and detailed attention to their duties were some of the values instilled in them by their mother. As a

young boy, Carl would sell newspapers every Sunday. By the time he reached junior high school he was practically self-supporting.

He bought a bike and delivered milk rain or shine. Many times he would come in soaking wet, but the milk was delivered. By working he was able to buy his clothes, school supplies and meals at the school cafeteria for his sister and himself. This did much to lighten his mother's load.

Carl worked as a caddy for his mother's employer and soon became a caddy in demand because of his strict attention to detail and his diligence.

As a student young Carl possessed great intellectual ability. He was always an honor student. While in high school he became a life member of the California Scholarship Federation.

During his early teens he began to seriously consider his life's vocation. One teacher encouraged him to enter engineering because of his love for mathematics. After giving it serious thought and taking into consideration his religious beliefs, he decided to become a doctor.

He chose to enter medicine for two reasons: he could control his employment and not encounter Sabbath problems; and secondly, he lived near Loma Linda and on Sabbaths he would often listen to the doctors tell of their missionary experiences. After listening to their experiences, he knew he wanted to be a missionary doctor.



Carl Dent, at three years of age, sits on a horse with his sister.

College Days: Trials and Triumphs

The summer of Carl's junior and senior years in high school he pruned orange trees eight hours a day, five days a week, to earn money to enter college. When he entered Pacific Union College,

Angwin, California, in 1931 and until he graduated, Carl worked in the school cafeteria. He did all sorts of jobs in the kitchen—mopping the floors, cleaning table tops, carrying linens to the laundry, washing kettles and occasionally helping to cook.

During his freshman year Carl worked 40 to 50 hours a week for \$.25 a day. His hard work paid off. At the end of his freshman year his bill was paid in full. His work in no way affected his studies. He took eighteen hours each school term and still maintained a high academic standing. He was gifted with a photogenic mind. Carl could listen to his professor's lectures and on a test write verbatim what had been said. His intellectual prowess became the campus talk and soon he became recognized as a scholar on campus.

The summer after his freshman year he spent at Bluff Lake, California, as a cook boy. He helped prepare meals and wash clothes. Carl chopped weeds, swept floors and cleaned house. He lived in a tent and remembers "it being quite an exciting summer." On Sabbath he hitchhiked to San Bernardino and remained until the sun set.

In 1932 the Depression had affected the life of every American. Carl's sophomore year was accentuated with work, work and more work. He still maintained his job in the kitchen, but his wages were decreased from \$.25 to \$.22 an hour. Yet the expenses were the same. He took sixteen hours each term and maintained his high scholastic average.

During the summer after completing his sophomore year, Carl worked in an auto paint shop owned by Dennis Black, who later became a minister. By the end of the summer he had earned \$150, which enabled him to pay off his school bill and buy some clothes.

In his junior year Carl encountered a financial problem that changed the focus of his life and made him realize that God is able to work miracles. During this year he had to study less and work more. He was taking a three-year pre-medicine course, but had to drop back and take a two-year course. The business office took notice of his school bill and gave him less than a week's notice to pay his bill or leave school.

After receiving the notice, he put in a long distance call to his mother and explained his predicament. Mrs. Dent immediately enlisted the aid of her employ-

er. He sent a telegram asking that if he sent 50 dollars, would they let Carl graduate? During that same weekend Carl went down to Oakland, California, to see Mr. Ridgeway, who sent a note stating he would send 50 dollars toward Carl's bill.

The thing that really stood out in Carl's mind was a letter he received the Thursday night before the deadline. Carl realized that he was unable to meet this crisis without the Lord. During this time he did much weeping and praying. Although he did not know how he would get the money, he knew God would make a way.

He received a letter from the General Conference and was quite surprised because he couldn't figure out who knew him there. When he opened the letter he found a check for \$10. It seems that a wealthy Chinese had read a story he wrote in the *Youth's Instructor* about the hardships he faced in school. The man was so impressed that he sent him a check for 100 Chinese dollars. When this total was converted to American currency, the sum came to \$10. Carl knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that God had heard and answered his prayers. When Monday came Carl had enough money to complete his education and the assurance that God is able to do more than he could ask or think. Carl completed his pre-medicine course and set his sights on medical school.

A Dream Realized

With bated breath Carl waited for acceptance into Loma Linda Medical School. To his surprise, he was one of the first students to be accepted in his class. He was excited by the prospects of realizing his dream, but silenced by the thought that he didn't have any money.

Carl immediately went to work as a call boy at Loma Linda Sanitarium. He ran errands, delivered messages and did whatever his supervisor instructed him to do. He worked for two months during the summer and earned enough to pay off his college debt.

With great fear and anticipation the day came to enter medical school, but he didn't have any money. Once again he prayed to the Lord and asked Him to open up the doors of heaven and pour him out a blessing.

School was scheduled to begin Sunday morning. On Saturday night he went to ask for the assistance of a wealthy

couple, Mr. and Mrs. James Finley. At about 8 p.m. that evening he met with the Finleys and told them of his great desire to become a doctor, his acceptance into medical school and his lack of finances. He asked if they could help him or if they knew of someone who could.

After Carl presented his case, he produced his report card with all A's. Mrs. Finley exclaimed, "Such nice grades!" She told him to return the next morning at ten o'clock. Sunday morning at the appointed time Carl came to the Finleys' home. After a brief conversation Mrs. Finley wrote him a check for \$350.

What an answer to prayer! He immediately went to Loma Linda University and registered as a medical student. Then he went to the student loan office and borrowed \$175. The money Mrs. Finley gave him, from the student loan office and working in the hospital lasted throughout his sophomore year.

At the end of his second year in medical school, he had a debt of \$100. He borrowed from every friend and relative he knew. The man that employed him to deliver milk gave him \$100 and he gathered \$35 from friends and relatives. He hitchhiked back to school and registered for the session. The session had ended and the regular school session was about to begin and he needed \$500. Once again he found himself penniless and as in times past he got on his knees and prayed for a miracle.

School was to begin Monday morning. Already it was Sunday, yet there he was without a cent. When his friend heard of his dire financial needs, it was suggested he apply for a job in the paint factory. Monday morning he talked to the owner of the factory. When he found out that he was a medical student, the owner suggested that Carl get a job in the hospital rather than the factory. He thanked the man for the advice and left discouraged and heartbroken.

One of the clerks in the registrar's office suggested he go see the chaplain, Dr. Worth, who might know of someone who could help him. Carl went to Dr. Worth and asked him to point him to someone who could help. He replied, "I don't know a soul. Half a dozen students are faced with the same problem. But don't be discouraged. The Lord isn't dead yet. Let's get down on our knees and pray." Carl got up and thanked him with tears in his eyes. He remembers,



Young Carl as he begins his medical profession.

"It was pretty hard to keep from crying because I was sure I was out of school."

He hitchhiked to Redlands and went to see Mrs. Wagner, a black SDA who had always taken a special interest in him. She had always wanted to help him in school, but she had lost all her money in the Depression. So Carl went back to see her and explained his situation to her. He borrowed her car and went to several wealthy people to see if they could help him, but even the wealthy were affected by the Depression.

He remembered as a boy he delivered papers to a Mrs. Shirk, a wealthy woman whom Mrs. Wagner worked for. So with fear and trembling he knocked on the door. The maid answered, and Carl asked to see Mrs. Shirk.

"Is she expecting you?" she asked.

"No, she's not expecting me, but I would like to see her."

The maid invited him in and lead him to the library. Mrs. Shirk, a portly woman, greeted Carl. He immediately began to introduce himself.

"I'm Carl Dent. I've just finished two years of medical training at Loma Linda University. It is time for me to start my third year but I don't have any money. I was wondering if possibly you could help me through medical school."

She looked at him and asked, "What kind of student are you?"

"A fairly good one," he responded.

"Who do you know that could give you a reference?"

"I know Mrs. Wagner, who works for you. Mr. Clement, my high school principal, and the dean of the medical school at Loma Linda."

Mrs. Shirk immediately sat down and began to call these people. She received a glowing report.

"My, those were some tremendous recommendations you received from them. I'll help you out." She loaned him \$550.

Once again God had performed another miracle for Carl! He immediately caught the bus back to school. The next day he was back in school with the rest of his class. During the next two years he faced financial difficulties, but he knew he could depend upon the Lord to make a way for him.

In 1938, after four years of intense study and financial problems, Carl Dent graduated from Loma Linda University. A dream realized!

Stephanie D. Johnson

Next month—Dr. C. A. Dent: A Citadel of Commitment and Dedication, Part 2.

PUBLISHER'S PAGE

TO STRENGTHEN THE BLACK WORK—EVANGELIZE

The Seventh-day Adventist Church came to the fore after the bitter disappointment of 1844 when people in many parts of the earth had looked for the physical, visible, literal return of Jesus Christ for His church. He did not come. After re-searching the Scriptures, many of the 'adventist' believers became deeply convinced that Jesus will still return for His church and only a message of preparation was sent to mankind at the 1844 expectation challenges. They strongly preached the three angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12. Judgment is going on; Babylon is fallen; do not worship the beast; these were the burdens.

To help make ready a people to meet the Lord, the commission of Matthew 28:19 and 20 was also pursued. "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel." The Adventist people did just that. In 1868 missionaries were sent to Europe to carry the messages of hope. In 1885 Australia was given the gospel. Missionaries also entered South Africa and Rhodesia during this year. By 1887 the 'truth' had reached the Scandinavian countries and then onward to the



Dr. and Mrs. C. A. Dent.

DR. C. A. DENT: A CITADEL OF COMMITMENT AND DEDICATION Part II

A week later, after completing his medical training, Dr. Carl A. Dent married Lavetta Lucas. His wife is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Lucas of Phoenix, Arizona. Dr. Dent met Miss Lucas during his freshman year at Loma Linda University. She was a nursing student at Los Angeles County General Hospital. They began to correspond and soon developed a friendship.

While a nursing student, Miss Lucas became a victim of the polio epidemic in 1934. She remembers feeling a pain in her right arm and stiffness in her neck. The pain kept recurring, but she refused to go to the nurse because she wanted to complete the state boards for nursing.

Even while taking the examination she found it very painful trying to write. As soon as the test was finished she was hospitalized, where she remained for seven or eight months. Later she was moved to a nursing home. During this time Carl Dent would come and visit Lavetta and her two friends—Christine Hodette and Alma Claiborne.

Alma was a Seventh-day Adventist and many of the young people from her church would come and visit her. The medical students from Loma Linda would also visit. Lavetta and Christine were quite impressed by the young people and began to take Bible studies. In 1936, after much study, Lavetta decided to take her stand. She was baptized by Elder P. G. Rogers of Wadsworth SDA Church in Los Angeles, California.

During this time she was slowly recovering and by 1938 was able to walk with the use of braces. In time she recovered and was able to walk without braces, although she still suffered from weak muscles.

Her handicap in no way kept her from

realizing her dream. She returned to Los Angeles County General Hospital and completed her nursing course. In 1957 she received a B.A. in nursing from Madison College, Nashville, Tennessee. Since their marriage Mrs. Dent has always stood by her husband's side and provided him with loving support. Throughout the years she has worked with Dr. Dent to build Riverside.

FIRST BLACK INTERN

In 1937 Dr. Dent applied for an internship at Los Angeles County General Hospital. At that time the county offered one of the best internships in the country. He was accepted in 1938 to intern at Los Angeles County and was ranked eighth on the list of interns. He was thrilled! Anxiously, he looked forward to his internship because he would get the opportunity of exploring every phase of medicine. It was quite an achievement, for since the opening of the hospital only one black physician had interned there, but he had been treated so badly that he was forced to leave. Dr. Dent would have to pick up the mantle and prove that blacks were capable of handling an internship at L. A. County.

His spirit was aroused when he realized he would be paving the way for black physicians to intern at L. A. County. His first challenge came when the medical director called him in after finding out that he had accepted a black intern. "We're not going to accept you," he stated. "Why, because I'm black?" replied Carl. "It would be like fitting a square peg in a round hole and every time I wanted to send you to a service, I couldn't send you. You would have too many restrictions tied to you. I couldn't do that. It would disrupt my whole organization!"

The medical director did give him a ray of hope. "I'll be honest with you," he said. "I'm a man who obeys orders and if my bosses tell me to take you and treat you like another intern, I'll do it."

With mixed emotions Carl left the office. Obstacles were nothing new to him. He remembered the trials that he had faced throughout his academic career and the way God had worked miracles on his behalf. The key to opening doors was through prayer, faith and action.

Immediately, he went downtown to see Judge Taplan. It seems he had established a friendship with the judge while working as a call boy at Loma

Linda Sanitarium. Court was in session when Carl entered, but when the judge saw him, he called a recess. An assistant was sent to escort Carl to the judge's chambers. The judge listened attentively. Carl explained his problem. Afterwards, Judge Taplan telephoned Betty Hill of the Women's Republican Political Club and explained the problem. After talking with Mrs. Hill, the judge assured Carl that everything would be taken care of.

Later in the week, when Carl met Mrs. Hill, she said, "We've been wanting to get someone at L. A. County. You're an answer to prayer. There's no doubt we'll get you in there." She introduced him to the highest ranking official in the county, the president of the board of Los Angeles County.

The president remarked candidly to Carl, "You're a minority. You have to fight for the things you want. I'm a Catholic and I've been discriminated against on the basis of my religion. It's alright. Go ahead and fight for what you want. We'll back you."

The president called all the supervisors together and persuaded them to back Carl. All five supervisors unanimously voted that Carl should be accepted as an intern at Los Angeles County Hospital.

The L. A. County supervisors told Mr. Gray and Dr. Berman to accept him as an intern and treat him like anyone else. Gray and Berman appeared to accept the recommendation but then worked covertly to stop Carl from accepting the internship.



Dr. C. A. Dent conferring with a nurse.

They went to Dr. Magan, dean of the Loma Linda Medical School, and asked him to "do what you can to see that Carl Dent doesn't accept this appointment!"

Dr. Magan called Carl into his office and said, "When you entered medical school, you signed a promise that if at any time the action of the student shall

be deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the school, that student may be expelled." Looking directly at Carl, he said, "Your actions are going to be prejudicial to the best interests of the school. The school has fought hard to get students into L. A. County. We don't want to lose that hospital."

"How would it injure the school?" Carl asked. "After all, the Board of Supervisors said I should go in there."

"It would injure the school as far as our teaching program is concerned. We will invoke this statement to which you agreed. We will expel you from school if you go to L. A. County."

"I was really floored!" says Carl. "I went to see my pastor, Elder P. G. Rogers of the Wadsworth church in Los Angeles and told him about the threat that I had received."

"Don't you back down," he said. "You leave it to me. I'll take care of it."

He explained the whole situation to the conference committee and warned, "If Magan goes through with this thing we will plaster it on every newspaper in southern California."

The White Memorial Hospital had already gotten itself into trouble. Someone had brought a black woman in labor to the hospital. She was turned down at the door while in labor. While they were rushing her to another hospital, she delivered in the ambulance. The newspapers had smeared the incident all over Los Angeles."

The adverse publicity had seriously damaged the reputation of the hospital and they wanted no more negative publicity. The committee made Dr. Magan withdraw the threat.

The committee told Elder Rogers the threat was withdrawn, but they warned him to "let Carl make up his mind" whether or not he would accept or reject the internship.

Elder Rogers met with Carl in the presence of a witness and informed him of the outcome of the meeting. "Carl, the threat is withdrawn. You can go ahead and take the internship." Then he added, "But if you think it will be prejudicial and not in the best interest of the school, you don't have to take it. The decision is yours and there are no threats hanging over your head."

"I'll take the internship," Carl replied, "because I think this will open the door for black interns." After he had made his decision, Elder Rogers remarked, "You better had accepted the internship. If you

had decided the other way, I wouldn't have had anything else to do with you."

Carl accepted the internship and completed his training at L. A. County, thus becoming the first black intern to do so. During those years he was treated with the utmost respect and never did the patients object to him treating them.

THE CHALLENGE— RIVERSIDE SANITARIUM

Through trial and tribulation God was preparing Dr. Dent for the upbuilding of Riverside Hospital. While still a medical student at Loma Linda University, he had agreed to go as a missionary doctor wherever he was needed. He thought his life would be spent in the jungles of Africa or the Andes Mountains in South America. He had considered the idea of going into a mining town near the Andes Mountains where a doctor was desperately needed.

He had decided he would accept the call, but as Providence would so rule, Dr. Harry Ford, Sr., of Riverside Sanitarium came to recruit doctors from Loma Linda to work at the sanitarium. Hearing of the needs of Riverside, Carl decided to take the offer where he could help his own people. He says, "the Lord had helped me so much that I had to turn my life back over to Him."



A patient enjoying a visit from Dr. Dent.

In 1940, after completing his internship, Dr. Dent and his family moved to Riverside Sanitarium in Nashville, Tennessee. When they arrived at Riverside the prospects seemed dismal. There were five little white frame buildings that comprised the sanitarium: the medical unit, the sanitarium unit, the office, the kitchen and the laboratory. The units were by no means fully equipped. The sanitarium

could not even afford electric buzzers for their patients, so cowbells were installed by the patients' beds. If they needed service, they would ring the cowbell.

Riverside was located in a rural setting. It was not an uncommon sight to be greeted by mules grazing in the field. A wagon transported five gallon water jugs to the sanitarium, which had only sulphur water that turned everything black, even the patients' fingernails. The water's taste was terrible and it had an awful odor, but the patients loved the sulphur baths.

The living conditions were inadequate. The Dents lived in a rented house in downtown Nashville, but were forced to leave because the heat was not working. They moved into one of the rooms in the medical building and remained there until they moved into a home. Dr. Dent was not deterred by this. He had a vision for Riverside.



Dr. C. A. Dent at a medical recruitment session at Loma Linda.

Soon after his arrival he was named medical director of the sanitarium. For his services he was paid \$31.00 a week and worked a twelve-hour shift. The sacrifices made by Dr. Dent and his wife in those early years were tremendous and their commitment to Riverside was admirable.

RETURNING TO CALIFORNIA

After four years he decided to return to California. There he established a medical practice in Santa Monica.

His practice was prospering. He was making money, yet he was unhappy.

His conscience plagued him. The thing that bothered him was that he was not doing as much as he could towards building up God's work. There was a lot of training that he could use to build up Riverside. He didn't feel he was giving the Lord a fair shake.

Once again Providence intervened. Adell Warren, business manager for Riverside Sanitarium, came to California seeking his assistance. The sanitarium was in need of a medical director to

replace Dr. J. Mark Cox, who wanted to return to the west coast to take a residency. They asked Dr. Dent to return to Riverside.

Dr. Dent carefully weighed the offer because he had received a call to Nigeria as a physician, but the call was blocked at the union level because they didn't have the salary for another doctor. After praying and discussing the offer with his wife, Dr. Dent decided to return to Riverside and make it his life's work

THE GOLDEN YEARS, 1950-1970

When Dr. Dent returned, Riverside was a different place. A new building had been built to accommodate the growing clientele of the black upper crust—doctors, lawyers, ministers and teachers. Riverside had progressed considerably.

The organization was restructured to allow the physicians to become independent of the medical staff and the sanitarium became better equipped to render quality medical treatment to its patients.

Riverside flourished. It was the stronghold of black Adventism. It was the mecca for many prominent and aspirant physicians. Dr. Dorothy Brown, Dr. Samuel DeShay, Dr. W. Hariston, Dr. L. Dixon, Dr. W. E. Coopwood, Dr. John R. Ford, Dr. Rayfield Lewis, Dr. Perez and Dr. A. P. Johnson were among the physicians who rendered their services to Riverside.

Riverside was a haven for black people all over the United States at a time when blacks were denied quality medical treatment at white institutions. Dr. Charles Drew, discoverer of blood plasma, was denied medical treatment at a white hospital and died as a result. Bessie Smith, a blues/jazz singer, died after being denied admittance to a white hospital. Lucy Byard was refused admittance into Washington Adventist Sanitarium and she too died. Her death paved the way for black conferences. Quality medical care for blacks was denied regardless of their status in life.

In 1951 a practical nursing school was started at Riverside. The need was great, for there were no white Seventh-day Adventist sanitariums that would train black nurses. Dr. Dent, along with the administration, worked hard to make it a quality school.

The first class consisted of five students who seemed quite unpromising. C. Higgs from California was direc-

tor of nursing for the school. She worked day and night tutoring students so they could pass their boards. Hard work paid off. They passed their boards. She started with the second class but returned to California before the year was complete.

The school was well respected. The students from Riverside could walk into any hospital in Nashville and be hired immediately. Riverside had established a reputation for producing students who were foremost in nursing care. Throughout the years Riverside Nursing School maintained a high standard of excellence until the early 1970's, when it was closed to accommodate Oakwood's Graduate Nursing Program. The merger proved unsuccessful because Oakwood did not send an adequate number of students.

Riverside was a rallying point for all black Seventh-day Adventists. It served as a haven of rest for retired workers and trained, competent black nurses and doctors provided quality medical care. Black leaders throughout North America sat on its board, implemented its policy, directed its progress and nurtured its growth. Outside of Oakwood, Riverside was the only institution that blacks could call their own.

The genius behind the institution was Dr. Carl A. Dent, who worked incessantly to make Riverside a hospital that offered competent and compassionate medical care. In skill, commitment and dedication Dr. Dent is akin to the late J. H. Kellogg of Battle Creek Sanitarium. He travelled hundreds of miles from church to church and campmeeting to campmeeting treating thousands and urging them to come to Riverside.

He generously invested his strength, his energy, his life to keep alive the institution he loved. When others gave into discouragement, when the vision became dim to some, or others left in search of wealth and prestige, he remained and single-handedly built Riverside into a viable institution.

During these years he has served in a number of positions: medical director, president of the medical staff, vice president of the medical staff and member of the Riverside board.

Always a staunch supporter of the church, he has taken an active part as Sabbath school teacher, church board member, local elder, member of the General Conference, union and local conference committees. He also served

as medical secretary for the South Central Conference.

As strong believers in Christian education, Dr. and Mrs. Dent were instrumental in establishing the F. H. Jenkins Elementary School in Nashville. His life has been spent in the uplifting of humanity.

They are the proud parents of two lovely daughters: Cynthia Dent Rudolph, R.N., the wife of Clarence Rudolph, assistant health director for West Palm Beach, Florida; and Patricia Dent Mapp, a teacher at Anna Knight Elementary School, Huntsville, Alabama. The Dents have five grandchildren.

Next Month: Dr. C. A. Dent, A Citadel of Commitment and Dedication, Part III.

Stephanie Johnson

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WISE MEN FOLLOW THE STAR

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presence of divinity. They gave their hearts to Him as their Saviour and then poured out their gifts—gold and frankincense and myrrh." What a faith was theirs!! They did not come empty-handed. It was only natural that they would follow the contemporary practice of the gift of gold for a king. The frankincense focused attention on another aspect of His work in connection with the priestly function. The myrrh pointed to His sacrifice on the cross of Calvary for all mankind. The Babe in the manger was to be Prophet, Priest and King.

This Babe grew up to be a man. He was murdered on a cruel cross. Yes, God was murdered, buried and raised as the first fruit of those who one day will come forth from their sleeping beds, never to die again.

Yes, wise men still follow the Star that will lead to the kingdom of light. For He is the one that said, "Let there be light and there was light," Gen. 1:3. He is the light of the world: "he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life," John 8:12.

He is "the way, the truth and the life: No man cometh to the Father but by me," John 14:6.

He is that day star that will arise in our hearts, II Peter 1:21.

He is a light to them that sit in darkness, Luke 1:79.

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