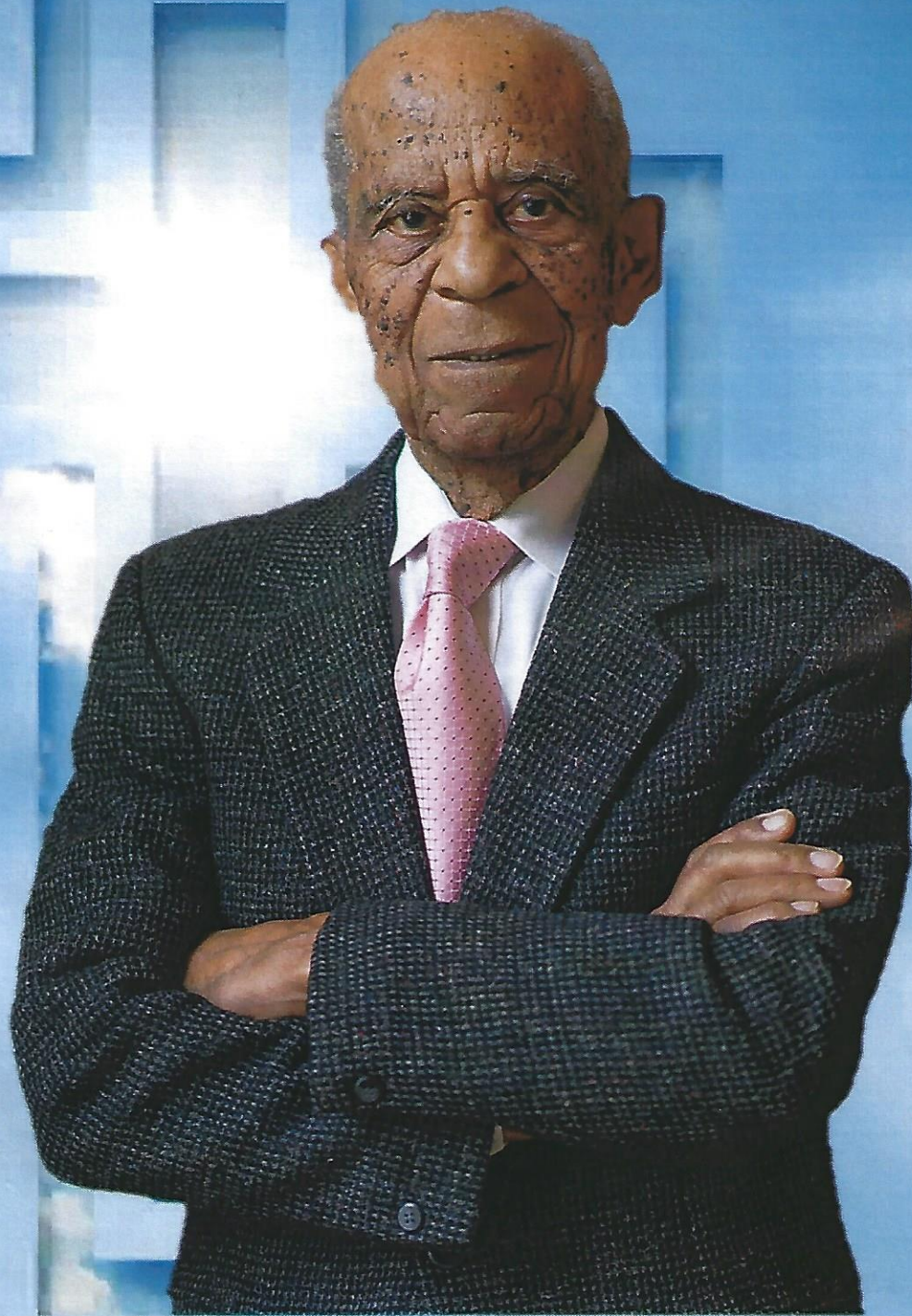


A Blessed Life



Frederick Nathan Crowe

November 19, 1914—November 29, 2018

The Order

A Tribute to

(November 19, 19

Riverside Seventh

800 Youngs Lane

Tuesday, Decem

Dr. Roy

Pastor Chris

Prelude

Chad Hammonds

Musician

Processional (Clergy & Family)

Prayer of Comfort

Pastor Chris Marshall

Associate Pastor, Riverside SD Church

OT Scripture Reading: *Psalm 23*

Chaplain Washington Johnson

Asst. Director, Adventist Chaplaincy Ministry

NT Scripture Reading: *John 14:1-3*

Elder Benjamin Jones

President, South Central Conference of SDA

Musical Selection

Dr. Janice Johnson Browne

Acknowledgements

Mrs. Paula Major

Obituary (read silently)

Chad Hammonds

Musician

Words of Comfort

Dr. Charles Bradford

Former Vice President, General Conference of SDA

Elder Isaac Lester

Former Pastor, Riverside Chapel SDA Church

Elder Benjamin Browne

Former President, South Central Conference of SDA

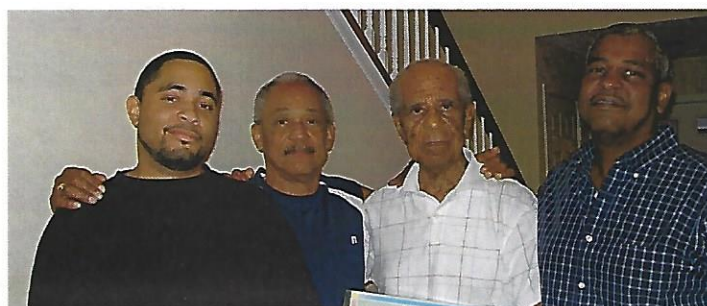
Elder Dana Edmond

Executive Director, Office of Regional Conference Ministries

Former President, South Central Conference of SDA

Musical Selection: *"It Is Well"*

Mrs. DaJuana Hammonds



† Ho

~ Seventh-day Adve

of Service

er Fred N. Crowe

(November 29, 2018)

ay Adventist Church
Nashville, Tennessee

11, 2018 ~ 7:00 PM.

iter, *Eulogist*
rshall, *Officiant*



Reflections

Elder Ternya Edwards
First Elder, Springfield First SDA Church

Elder Lorenzo Shephard
Youth Ministries Director, South Central Conference of SDA

Elder Alvin Kibble
Vice President, North American Division of SDA

Elder William Winston
President, South Atlantic Conference of SDA

Musical Selection:

Dr. Summer Wood
Principal, F. H. Jenkins Preparatory School

Reflections

Elder Phillip Palmer
Treasurer, Southwest Region Conference of SDA
Former Treasurer, South Central Conference of SDA

Elder Joseph McCoy
Executive Director, Regional Conference Retirement Plan
Former President, South Central Conference of SDA

Family Response/Reflections

Mr. Irving Vanderberg
Cousin

Musical Selection: "Precious Lord"

Mrs. Jennifer Fordham

Eulogy

Dr. Roy Gaiter
Pastor, Springfield First SDA Church

Benediction

Elder Benjamin Browne

Guard †
t Ministers of the Gospel ~



The Blessed Life of Fred N. Crowe

Frederick Nathan Crowe was born on November 19, 1914 in Modesto, California to Fred and Olivia Crowe. The family moved to Oakland, California where Fred and his sister, Winfred grew up. Olivia, a devout Christian, was determined that her son would receive a Christian education. She decided that he would be enrolled in Golden State Adventist Academy.

Fred, always an industrious person, got himself a paper route to help pay for his tuition. Fred would rise at four a.m. every day to deliver papers before going to school. He always stated this job was the reason that he slept in as an adult.

After completing Golden State Academy, Fred wanted to continue his education at Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama. He applied and was accepted at Oakwood. However, his family had no money for his tuition. Fred, being the determined type, caught a ride with friends down to Oakwood. This was not an easy trip as they had to at times sleep in the car since there were no hotels available due to Jim Crow laws. Arriving at Oakwood, Fred enrolled and asked if there was anything he could do to pay the tuition. He was told that there was an opening in the campus print shop. Prior to coming to Oakwood, Fred had taken a course in printing at Golden State Adventist Academy. As Fred stated many times, "God had provided a way." He worked in the printing shop during his entire time at Oakwood, not returning home until after his graduation.

Once Fred graduated from Oakwood, he enrolled at Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, Massachusetts. He would go on to join the school quartet and perform concerts at churches throughout the entire country. In 1939 Fred graduated from Atlantic Union College with a Bachelor of Divinity. After being ordained, Elder Crowe was called by the Indiana Conference to pastor a church in South Bend, Indiana. While pastoring in South Bend, he met a young man who was taking a class to become a Seventh-day Adventist. After completing the class, Elder Crowe would baptize this young man. In conversation the young man informed Elder Crowe that he intended to become a minister in the church, so that he could spread the message that changed his life. This young man's name was Charles Dudley.

In 1941, while working a revival in Gary, Indiana, Elder Crowe met Rosietta McNichols. They would go on to marry that same year. They had three sons; Donald, Ronald, and Robert.

In 1943, a conference was scheduled in Indianapolis, Indiana to address the issue of blacks holding no positions in any conference worldwide. The decision was made to form the first Black Conference in the denomination. Thus, Lake Region was the first Black Regional Conference in the world.

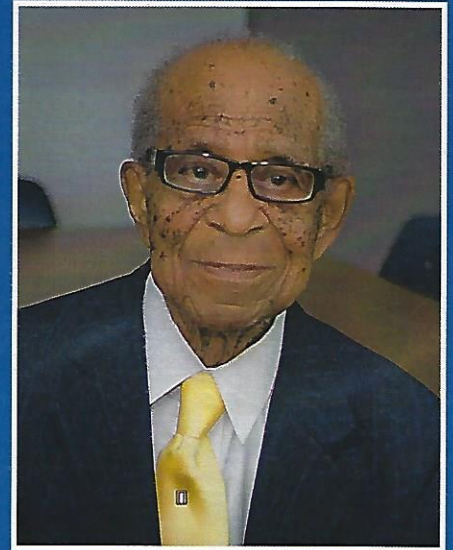
Elder Crowe, as one of the founders, was elected Secretary Treasurer. To ensure the success of Lake Region, all departmental heads and their spouses spent time visiting all the churches in the conference. Much of this time was spent working with pastors and congregations to address any issues that needed attention. As a result of that first Black Regional Conference, there are now nine Black Regional Conferences, and they have contributed to the rapid growth of the Adventist denomination.

In 1969, Elder Crowe left Chicago to pastor a church in Pueblo, Colorado, and later pastored a church in Kansas City, Kansas. While in Kansas City, Elder Crowe received a call from his close friend, Elder Dudley, requesting that he come to South Central to pastor Riverside Church. He would not turn down or pass up the opportunity to work with one of his dearest friends. Shortly after coming to South Central Mrs. Crowe passed away.

In 1980, Elder Crowe ended his tenure at Riverside to work in the conference office of South Central. He subsequently became Treasurer of South Central. He often talked about the joy he felt working shoulder to shoulder with his friend Elder Dudley. One of his greatest joys was seeing the completion of the state-of-the-art conference office building. During this time, he also met and married Dorothy Perry who also preceded him in death.

Elder Crowe received many awards including: Honorary Doctorate Degree from Faith College in Huntsville, Alabama. One of his greatest honors was going back to Lake Region Conference campground to attend the naming of the new Welcome Center -The Fred Crowe Welcome Center.

Elder Crowe died peacefully in his sleep November 29, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. He leaves behind to celebrate his life his son Ronald (Sharon) Crowe, Chicago, Illinois; grandchildren, Gina (Darnell) Richardson, Chicago, Illinois, Philip (Lauren) Crowe, Hermitage, Tennessee, Michelle Crowe, Nashville, Tennessee; great grandchildren, Izobelle Crowe, Phoenix Crowe, Sloan Richardson, Mya Derrick, Dominic Richardson, Sophia Crowe, Ethan Crowe; Nephew, Irvin (Carol) Vanderberg, Vallejo, California; a host of other relatives and friends.

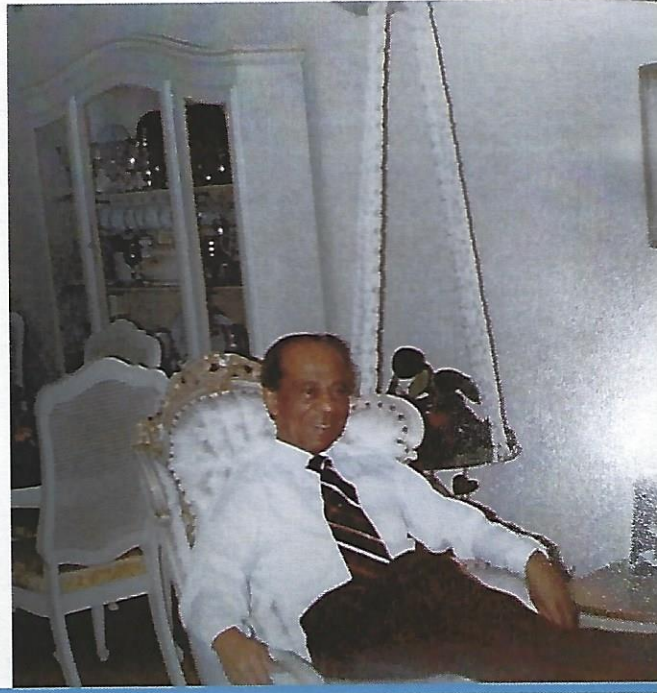
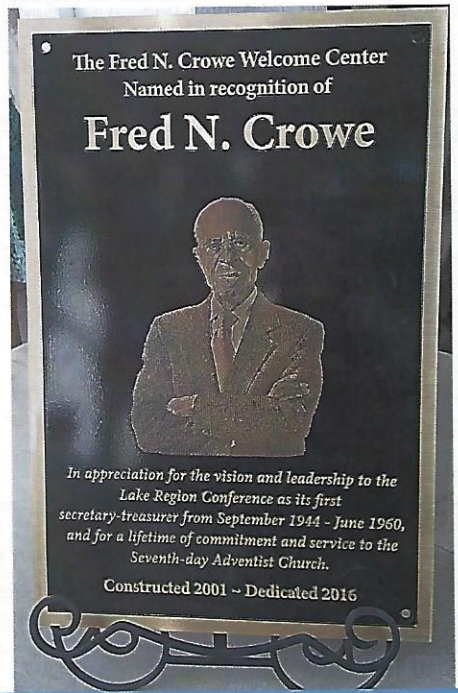
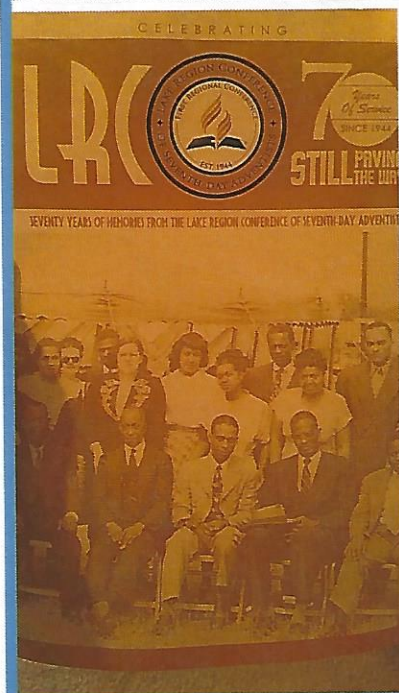
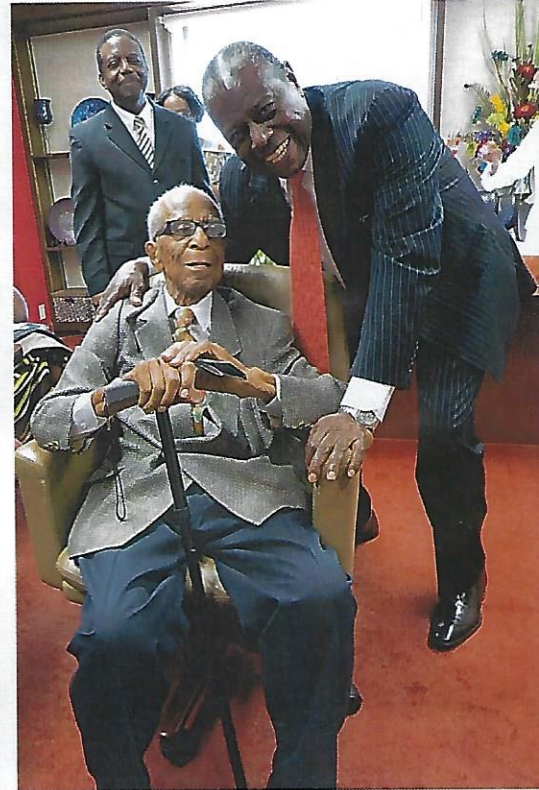


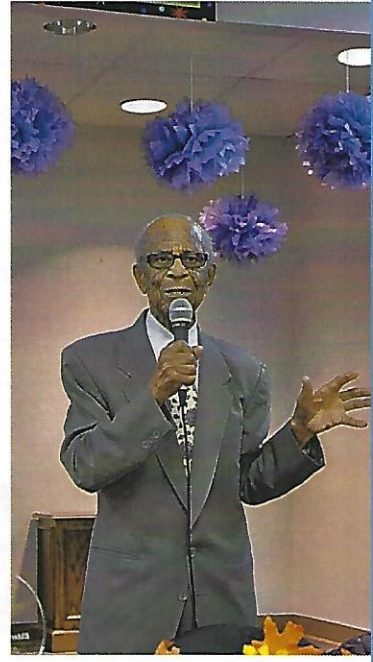
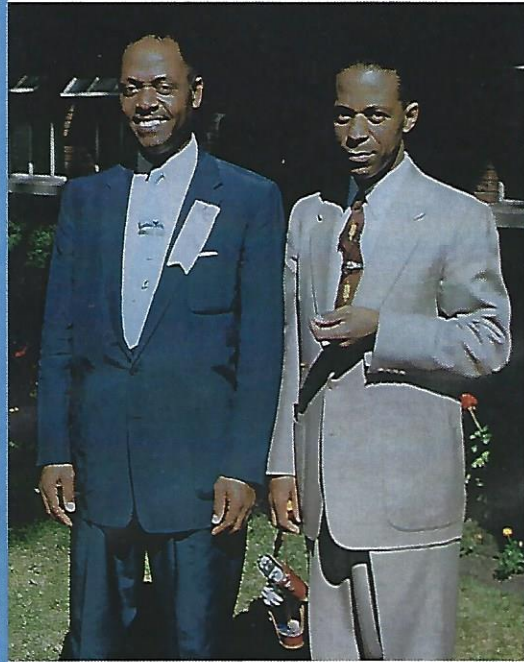
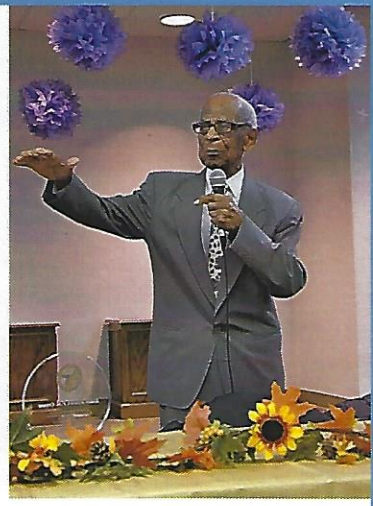
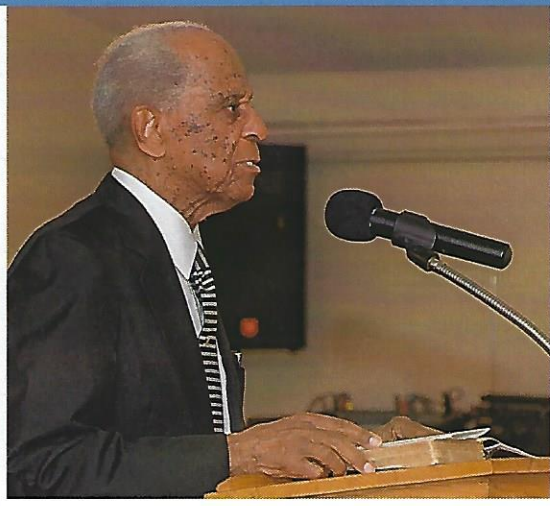
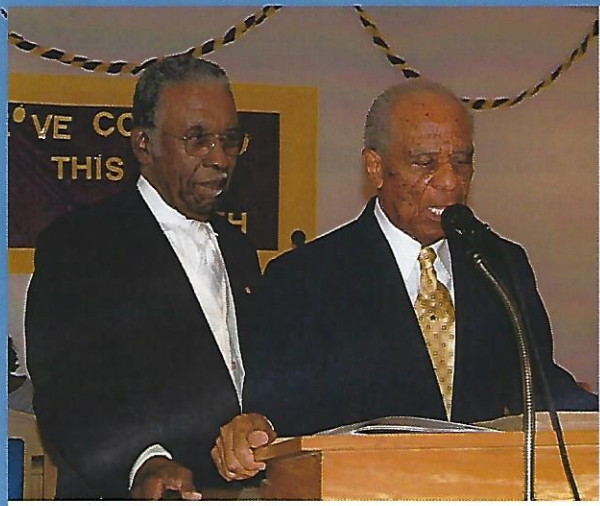
*Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand,
I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone,
Through the storm,
through the night,
Lead me on to the light,
Take my hand precious Lord,
lead me home.*

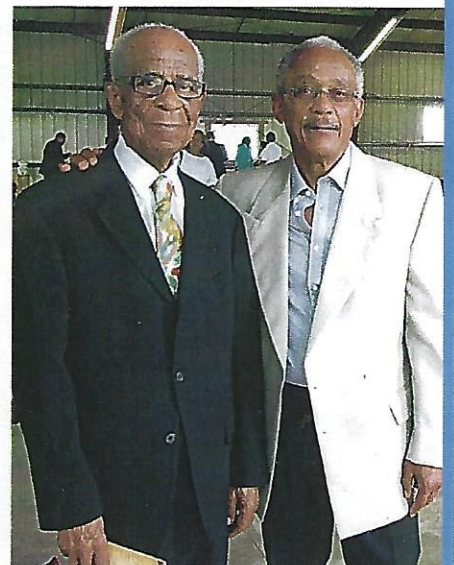
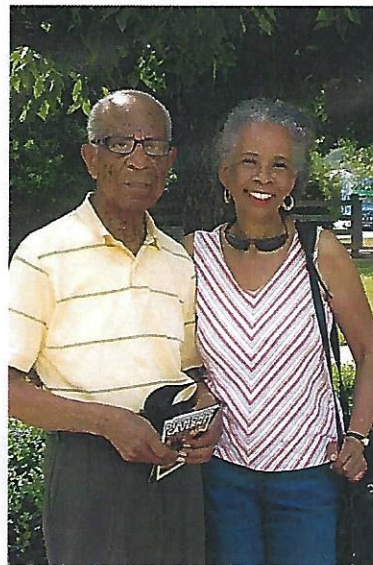
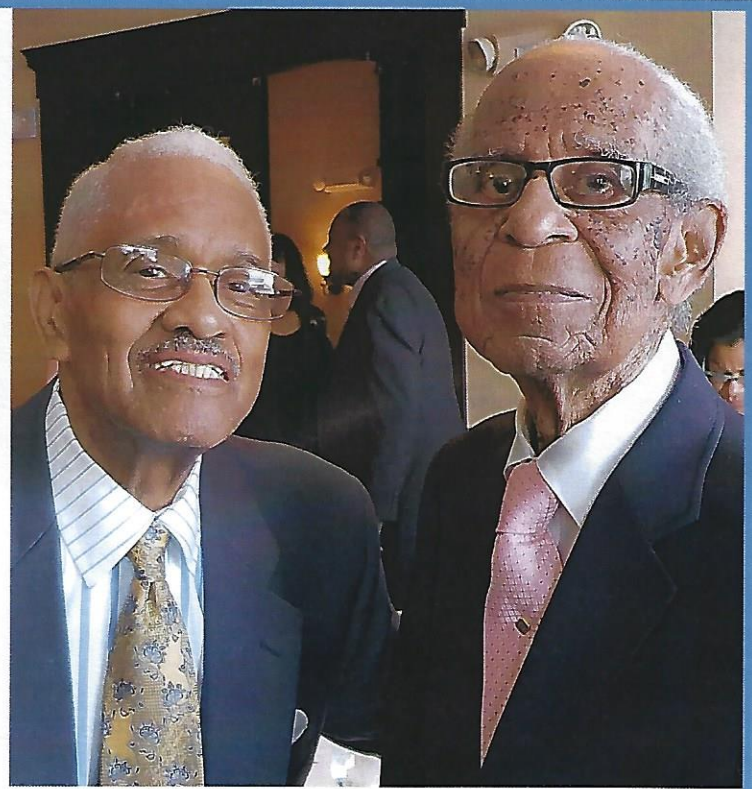
*When my way grows drear,
precious Lord linger near;
When my light is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall,
Take my hand precious Lord,
lead me home*

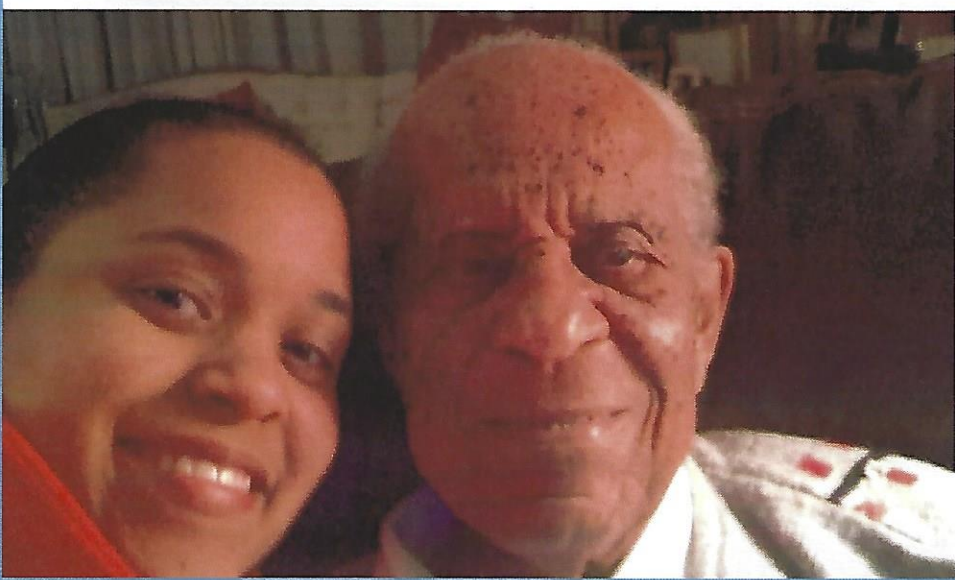
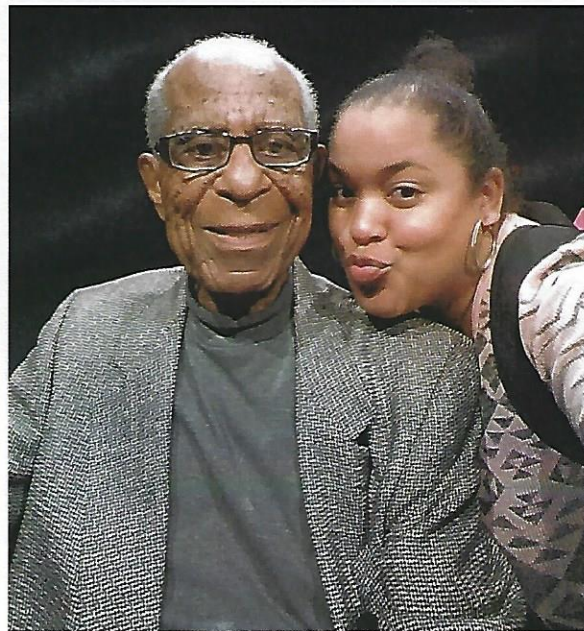
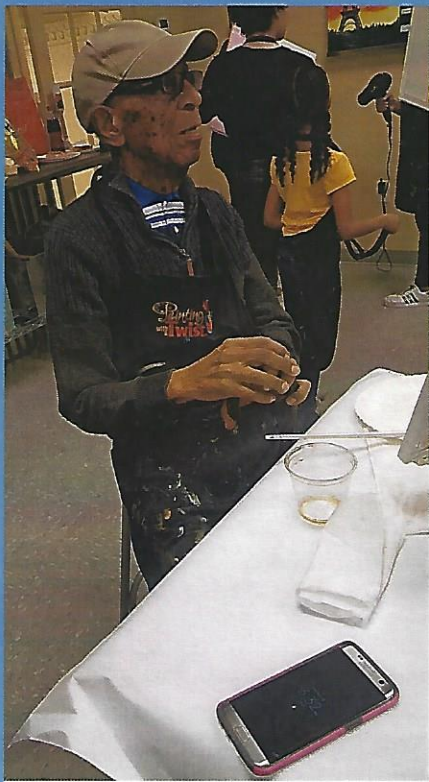
*When the darkness appears and
the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand:
Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord,
lead me home.*

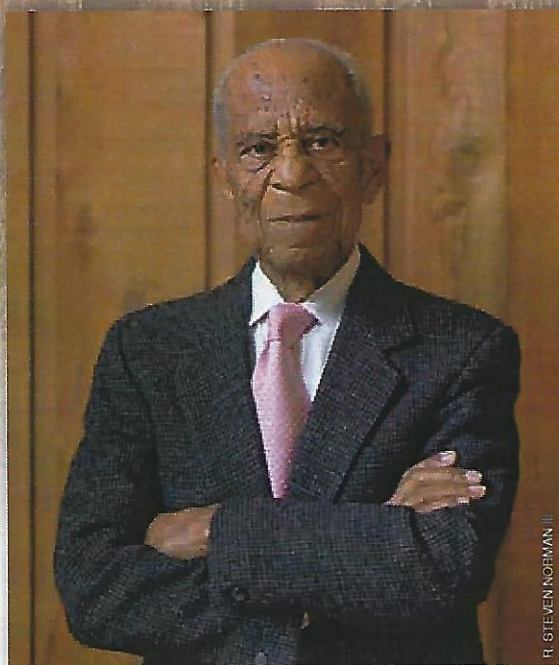
--- Thomas A. Dorsey











Fred N. Crowe at 100 years old

Fred N. Crowe: A Centenarian Reflects on Regional Conferences, Longevity

BY MARVIN L. ALLISON SR.

The 100-year-old man I was about to meet is a legend. As the front door of his home opened, a small statured man stood with a gentle, humble demeanor. He is Elder Fred N. Crowe. Crowe is the last of the first administrators of the regional conferences which were formed between 1944 and 1947.

He is in good health, has a keen mind, still drives around town, and is active in his local church. A dedicated husband, he lovingly cares for his wife, Dorothy.

This humble and gracious gentleman is a living, breathing exponent of history who explains the circumstances surrounding the formation of regional conferences as the last living eyewitness.

Historic Service

Crowe graduated from Atlantic Union Conference in 1939 and became a colporteur in the Greater New York Conference. Later that year he was called to the Indiana Conference where he was asked to serve as pastor/evangelist for two churches in Marion and Muncie, and a company in Richmond.

These were turbulent times in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the nation at large. When Crowe began his ministry, the nation was deeply segregated, and so was the world Church. Non-Whites were not given fair

assimilation into local conferences, had no voting power, job security, or administrative representation. During the 1944 Spring Council held at the Stephens Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, one of the agenda items was to address concerns that arose surrounding the death of Lucy Byard, a Black woman who died after being turned away from Washington Adventist Hospital. The Black leaders wanted the Church leaders to make a decision that would spell racial progress in the Church for the 17,000 Black members in the North American Division.

After much discussion about the best option, Elder J.J. Nethery, then president of the Lake Union, gave a strong speech in support of regional conferences. H.M. Blunden, secretary of the General Conference Publishing Department, then pointed to the success the Publishing Department was experiencing with Black leaders. With these two speeches, support coalesced and the recommendation for regional conferences was voted. The first regional conference was organized on September 26, 1944 in the Lake Union territory. It was the Lake Region Conference.

With the decision made, many expected and some predicted the newly formed 'colored' conference would fail within six months, and Blacks would return to the state conferences. The wider Adventist diaspora was also watching — some in anticipation of success and others of failure. But Crowe and many others knew that God's hand was in this movement, not just to benefit the Blacks in North America, but His world Church as well. "The Adventist work was flat-lining until the formation of regional conferences," Crowe notes, quoting Monte Sahlin, Adventist historian and researcher, "This action desegregated the Church, and did not segregate the Church," as some today claim. Until this action, the Church was segregated, even though we were in the same conferences. Black workers and members were systematically discriminated against. Crowe asserts that the organization of regional conferences was the "providence of God to heal a Church that was going down the wrong path."

Another benefit of regional conferences is that Blacks now had voting representatives at the various levels of the Church. Before regional conferences, Black members and workers had no voice or vote above their local churches. After regional conferences were formed, their presidents along with selected laymen and workers, represented them on committees of the Union Conferences, North American Division, and the General Confer-

ence. Consequently, by 1954 Blacks had elected officials at every level of the Church, and the ability to influence the formation of policy.

Just a Servant

You would think that a servant legend with such firm resolve and historical significance would “Crowe” — pardon the pun — about his accomplishments. Nothing would be more out of character with this servant of God. Concerning his “legendary” status, he is humble, and seeks no praise for his longevity or life’s work. “I am just glad that God allowed me to be a part of the greatest thing the Adventist Church ever did,” he intones.

For several hours, this unassuming retired pastor, treasurer, and Church administrator spoke of challenging events in the Church’s history of segregation. He fondly reflected on the men and women who were integrally tied to the work, injecting humorous stories and serious discussions and difficult struggles they faced. He was even able to laugh at events that some would find offensive today. Ironically, Crowe did not see the Church’s practice of segregation as wickedness; he saw it as a sickness, a sickness that only God could heal — and that God did heal.

As the fledgling Lake Region Conference prepared to begin its work, Crowe became its first secretary-treasurer, much against his will. Charles E. Galley, who had been elected to the position, was at the time teaching at Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) in Huntsville, Alabama. When Galley could not begin his work for six months, Crowe was appointed acting treasurer, since he had studied religion and accounting while a student at Atlantic Union College. He had just been assigned a pastorate in Gary, Indiana, and desperately wanted to return to his church. “I made the brethren promise that once Galley arrived, I could go back to pastoring.”

But after five months, Galley informed J. Gershom Dasent, then Lake Region president, that he had decided to remain at Oakwood. Nethery suggested to Dasent that Crowe remain

secretary-treasurer since his work was exemplary. Charles Bradford, retired North American Division president, speaks fondly of Crowe and refers to him as “the dean of treasurers.”

After his service in the Lake Region Conference, Crowe pastored churches in Pueblo, Colorado; Kansas City, Kansas; and Riverside Chapel in Nashville, Tennessee, before be-

ond reason for his marvelous health and medication-free life. “Nothing that swims, crawls, eats, or flies has ever entered my system,” he notes with a smile. While not a vegan, he is a committed vegetarian since becoming an Adventist at age 12.

“I also believe everyone should have a merry heart, learn to laugh at themselves, and be happy about



Elder Crowe, former treasurer of the South Central Conference, listens as the late Elder Charles E. Dudley interviews James Herbert who built the Macie Herbert Memorial Church in Greenville, Alabama, in memory of his wife, and donated it to the South Central Conference. Dudley (left), James Herbert, Etta Dudley, and Fred Crowe.

ing elected to treasurer of the South Central Conference, a position he held from 1981 until he retired in 1993. Currently, he regularly attends First Church in Springfield, Tennessee, where he served as a local elder until a year or so ago.

God Preserves His Servant

Today, Crowe’s mental astuteness and health are remarkable as evidenced by his nuanced understanding of the current regional/state conference issue. When asked how he lived so long, he was quick to share reasons why. “The most important reason of all is the fifth commandment — the only commandment with a promise. God honored me,” he says emphatically, “for taking care of my mother and father when they were no longer able to care for themselves — just as the commandment has promised.”

But that’s not all. Crowe is a strong believer in the principles of health, and believes it to be the sec-

everything. Meanness and negativity is a great killer of life.” Crowe believes in a joy that is contagious. “It is not only just to have joy in your life, but bringing happiness to everybody is a main key as well. Smile at people,” he says smiling. “Help them to see joy and humor.” As he looks for the Lord’s return, Crowe’s prayer is that he will live to see Jesus’ appearance, but should he pass away, he has the assurance that all is well with his soul.

Crowe has been a Seventh-day Adventist for 88 years, and retired after more than 40 years of Church employment. It was an honor to spend a few hours listening to this legend of legends reflect on his life and the work of providential design. With a firm handshake and a friendly wave, Elder Crowe bade farewell.

Visit <http://www.scc-adventist.org/communication/> to hear excerpts from Elder Crowe’s interview. ✨

*Christians are Christ's jewels,
bought with an infinite price.
They are to shine brightly for Him,
shedding forth the light of His loveliness.
And ever they are to remember that all the luster
that Christian character possesses
is received from the Son of Righteousness*

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