



*The Seattle, Wash., church membership gather for this photo during Elder William Cleveland's pastorate.*

## COVER STORY

### BEGINNINGS OF THE WORK IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

The work of Seventh-day Adventists in the Pacific Northwestern part of the United States had its beginnings in the early 1920's when people from Central Europe began settling there. The Ochs', the Bietz', the Jesskie's, the Schmidt's, the Knittles', just to mention a few, were among the group. These families established large dairy and wheat farms as a livelihood, but reared their children to love and work for the development of the SDA Church which they loved.

The children of these pioneers later became the leaders of the denomination in many administrative roles—teachers, preachers, presidents, treasurers, etc. While living in Europe during the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, farming had been their way of life until the Bolshevik Revolution began in 1917, driving them to seek a better place in which to rear their children.

The work of the SDA denomination flourished in the states of Oregon and Washington and in British Columbia, Canada, but very few Blacks were to be found there although among Blacks who lived in the eastern part of the United States, the work was on an upswing. Some 17,000 members were in the church there.

Pastor William J. Cleveland, the first son of Brother and Sister W. J. Cleveland Sr. of Chattanooga, Tenn., had graduated from Oakwood Junior College in Huntsville, Ala., in the late 1930's and had begun his ministry in the states of Kentucky and Tennessee. He served at Paducah, Bowling Green and Lexington, Ky. Bowling Green was the city where the their oldest congregation for Blacks had been established in the 1880's. Cleveland and his new bride, Rita, were stalwart pioneers of the work in that area, and many blessings came to the work of the church there under his leadership. He became known as an outstanding preacher of righteousness having been instructed in the truths of the church by persons such as his father, a lay pioneer in the work at Chattanooga, Tenn., and in Decatur, Ala., by Miss Anna Knight, who served as a missionary to India for 16 years, by J. G. Thomas, a profound soul-winner who worked throughout the Southland and by many other "trailblazers."



*Elder and Mrs. William Cleveland with their children, located front and center.*

By 1945 his blessings in the work were brought to the attention of Elder Don Spellman, the president of the Washington Conference who had a burden to see the work of the church grow among the Blacks in the Pacific Northwest area where he was serving at the time. He extended a call to the Clevelands to come and pioneer the work among Blacks who lived there. A favorable response was given to this invitation, and they moved westward. It was commonplace for the Black ministers to move back and forth across the country to help establish new work in those days. When they arrived in Seattle in the fall of the year to take up this new challenge, it

was brought to the fore that there were three other "colored" congregations of other persuasions that were there and the city fathers took a posture that another was not needed. World War II had just ended and integration was the theme of the day. Notwithstanding the feeling of the leaders, Cleveland was bold to explain the concepts of the "outreach" ministry that the SDA denomination had to offer. This brought acceptance and support from the community for the work that he was entering into.

A few members were already living in the area who had come from the East to work in the shipyards during the war and

who had remained there. This little band began meetings in the home of Brother and Sister Fred Hurd for several months. This was a standard procedure for the establishment of the work among Blacks in all areas across the land. Finally a congregation of 15 charter members was organized, and this group continued to grow under the blessings of God until upwards of some 200 believers were in the church before the Clevelands were invited to serve the church in Dallas, Tex., in 1952. A church building had been purchased at 23rd Avenue and Spruce Street—the mission had been accomplished. The work was on a sound footing. After six years of

hard work in a city with only 28,000 Blacks, 200 or more were members of the SDA Church.

When Elder W. J. Cleveland accepted the call to work in Dallas, Tex., that had been extended by Elder W. W. Fordham, one of the first Black conference presidents to serve the denomination, Elder J. H. Lawrence, another outstanding soul-winner, came from Cleveland, Ohio, to build onto the good works that the Lord had used Cleveland to begin there. Elder Lawrence labored there until his retirement. Today, Elder Robert Whittaker has built a new house of worship for the people and the work continues to grow.

## PUBLISHER'S PAGE



*E. E. Cleveland.*



*Elder and Mrs. William Cleveland.*

### "OF BOOM AND BUST"

Economics is a complex subject—but because it impacts on all of us, some observations are in order. "Blue Monday" will long be remembered as the day of the great "decline" in the money markets of the world. One week later, the fall had not been arrested. In America, the richest nation in the world, experts grope for the answers. Certain reasons are obvious—others are not. The national debt, tax loopholes, excessive defense spending and refusal to raise taxes are among some of the obvious factors. Heavy investments by the oil-rich Arab states and Japan in United States' businesses and land are ominous in their potential.

If we survive "Blue Monday" and its aftermath without a world depression, it is clear that things will never be the same. Clearly, there is a crisis of confidence in the business community. This can lead to conservative policies that may curtail investments, production, hence the availability of goods and jobs. What we have seen happening to the poor and the farmers now threatens us all. The thousands of homeless people on our city streets is a natural consequence of "supply-side" economics. The "trickle down" is just too slow to reach the streets. Giant farm conglomerates are swallowing the small farmers whole. The record number of bank closings are all tell-tale signs that the "boom" was due to "bust."

In the coming economic "slow down" the very poor will feel it first. You see, there is a belt-tightening process now going on, and social programs are a target. Some suggest that Social Security will not go