



Some Facts Concerning Your Church History

By the Secretary, North American Colored Department

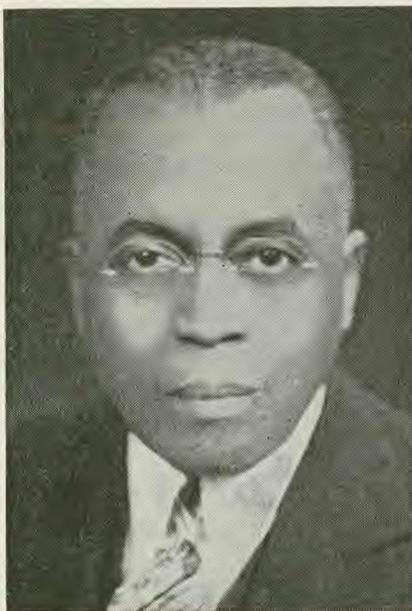
As we review the rise and progress of the Advent message among Negro Seventh-day Adventists, we can truly say that "we have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."—*Life Sketches*, p. 196.

It affords me much pleasure to submit to our readers a few facts regarding the history of our work in this country, where, as far as facts have been unearthed, the first seed was sown in Kentucky, in 1871, by Silas Osborne (white), himself a Kentuckian who had accepted the views of Seventh-day Adventists in Iowa. He was not a minister but had great ability to speak upon the prophecies of the Bible. He was frequently addressed by those not of the faith as the Reverend Osborne.

The first Seventh-day Adventist colored church in all the world was organized at Edgefield Junction, Tennessee, 1883. The donations secured through the Sabbath school on the first Sabbath amounted to twenty-five cents. The believers erected a building at the cost of \$300. The tithe paid in one year by its fifty members amounted to \$50.

A colored believer, A. Barry, who had received the message through reading the *Signs* and was later licensed to preach, brought out a company in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1889.

It was in the year 1895 that the



George Edward Peters

missionary boat *The Morning Star*, manned by Mrs. White's son, James Edson White, and W. O. Palmer, became known as the "Morning Star" in the lives of hundreds of colored people along the Mississippi River. This missionary venture was financed by the sale throughout our denominational ranks of the book *Gospel Primer*, familiar to every Seventh-day Adventist child of the day.

Mrs. White issued many testimonies concerning the need of work on behalf of the colored race. All her writings have been impartial con-

cerning the colored race. She was truly God's messenger, inspired from above—a great leader of the Advent body. Every member of the church should acquaint himself with the writings of her many books, especially the volumes known as *Testimonies to the Church*.

In the year 1895 a school was established near Huntsville, Alabama. It was known as Oakwood Industrial Institute, established by the General Conference. The purpose of this school was to train workers for the cause of God. It grew to a junior college, and in 1943 was recognized as a senior college, issuing the B. A. degree.

It was in the year 1909 that the colored believers, numbering one thousand, were organized by the General Conference with the title "The Negro Department of Seventh-day Adventists." In 1918 the late W. H. Green was elected the first Negro secretary of the department. After the sudden death of Elder Green in the spring of 1929, G. E. Peters was elected to fill his place. At the General Conference in 1930, G. E. Peters tendered his resignation, having expressed an earnest desire to continue his active evangelism. He was then appointed to the work in New York City. That same year F. L. Peterson was elected secretary of the Negro Department. In 1934 Elder Peterson published his book, *The Hope of the Race*. It has found its way into thousands of homes. In

1955 the *Message Magazine* was issued for circulation principally among the colored race. L. B. Reynolds became the first Negro editor of the *Message Magazine*. He was elected to that responsibility in the year 1945. For many years treatment rooms were operated on Youngs Lane, Nashville, Tennessee, by the late Mrs. Druillard. This was turned over to the General Conference in 1936 and operated on a larger scale. The new building, with its equipment, valued at more than half a million dollars, was dedicated in September, 1948. Dr. J. M. Cox is the present medical director.

The title of colored Seventh-day Adventists in North America for the past three years, 1946-1949 inclusive, amounted to \$3,489,025.25. The total missions offerings for the same period amounted to \$1,486,226.38.

During the last thirty-nine years the membership has grown from one thousand to twenty-four thousand. Of this number 6,689 were baptized during the last three years.

There are 178 ministers employed—ordained and licensed—beside forty lady workers known as Bible instructors. One hundred and thirty-two teachers are employed in our intermediate and high schools; 297 colporteurs are engaged in the distribution of our literature.

C. M. Kinney, the first Negro to be ordained to the Seventh-day Adventist ministry, is still alive at the age of 96.

At present there are five organized conferences and two organized missions fully staffed with officers and workers. Our work on the Pacific Coast still retains the department organization.

The present secretary of the Colored Department of the General Conference was elected in 1941. He is also editor of THE NORTH AMERICAN INFORMANT.

Through the years great and important events have followed one another in quick succession. There have been many innovations. We face changed conditions and new responsibilities. The task before us is great, and its accomplishment calls for men with wisdom and strength.

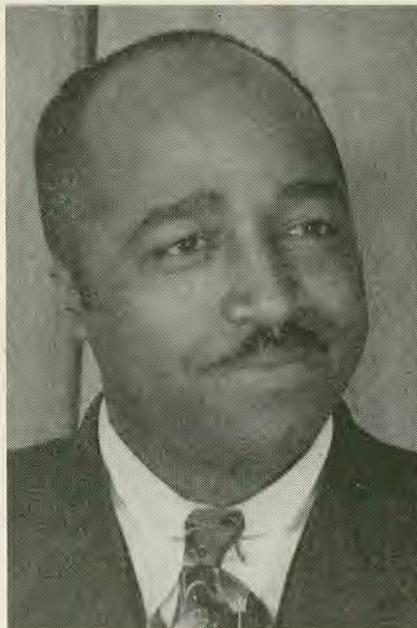
We need greater vision, undaunted courage, and boundless faith. Our ministry needs to be baptized anew with the spirit and power from on high for the winning of souls.

Our believers must be imbued with the spirit of sacrifice, of service, such as has never been witnessed since the day of Pentecost. The outlook before us is fraught with danger and difficulty, but it is bright with promise. The same mighty Captain who has led us on during past years is still our leader. Therefore, victory is sure.

His admonition is, "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." G. E. P.

ALLEGHENY

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Allegheny Conference Progression

THE third annual camp meeting of the Allegheny Conference proved to be a meeting of great spiritual blessings. Especially noticeable was the good work accomplished in the

book display building by the Bible House.

Great improvements were made over the first two camp meetings, when a book tent was used; however, for the third annual session we were able to move into a newly constructed camp display building which provided display rooms for the Book and Bible House, the local office, and the Dorcas Federation.

The building is of concrete block construction and has an over-all length of seventy-five feet. It is thirty feet deep, and gives adequate space for each of the departments working in it. To aid the conference in its work of construction, one thousand dollars was appropriated by the Review and Herald and one thousand dollars was donated from the Dorcas Federation of the Allegheny Conference.

Those attending the meeting purchased three thousand dollars' worth of our truth-filled literature; also, hundreds of people visited, and made purchases from, the Dorcas Federation in their section of the building.

It was quite evident that the Lord was with us at our third annual camp meeting.

H. T. SAULTER, *Manager,*
Allegheny Book and Bible House.

Junior Camp Successful

FOR the second year in succession the Allegheny and the Northeastern conferences joined hands in the sponsorship of a Junior camp. The camp was held on the Allegheny Conference campground among the

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