

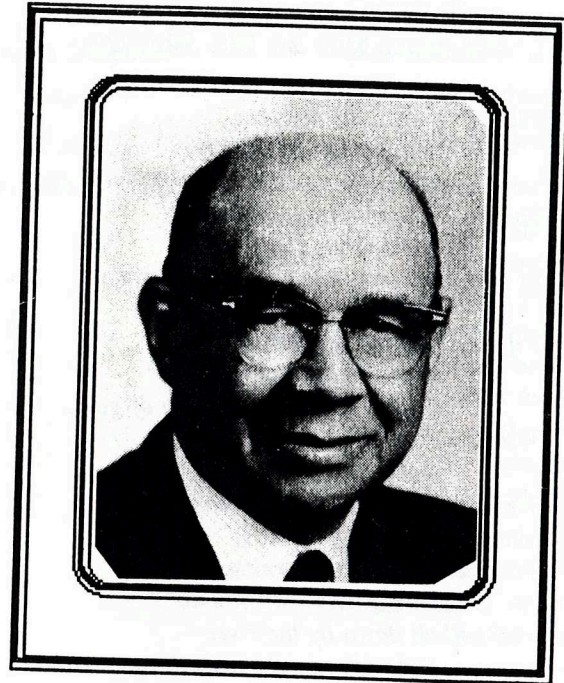
OAKWOOD COLLEGE ARCHIVES

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

**Elder William L. Cheatham, Sr.**

1899-1991



**"He Giveth His Beloved Sleep"**

Psalm 127:2

**Tuesday, September 24, 1991**

12 O'clock Noon

**PINE FORGE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH  
PINE FORGE, PENNSYLVANIA**

Pastor Stephen Richardson, Officiating

### **I'll Meet You In The Morning**

*I'll meet you in the morning  
In the sweet by and by,  
And exchange the old cross for a crown;  
There will be no disappointments,  
And nobody shall die  
In that land when life's sun goeth down.*

*I'll meet you in the morning  
At the end of the way  
On the streets of that city of gold.  
Where we all can be together  
And be happy forever,  
While the years of the ages shall roll.*

*I'll meet you in the morning  
With a "How do you do"?  
And will sit down by the river  
And with rapture acquaintance renew.  
You'll know me in the morning  
By the smile that I wear,  
In the city that is built foursquare.*

— Albert E. Brumley

## Order of Service

Moments of Meditation

Processional

Favorite Hymn: *"What a Fellowship"*

Reading the Sacred Scripture

The Prayer of Comfort

Special Music: *"In Bright Mansions"*

Acknowledgements and Resolutions

Remarks:

Special Music

Remarks:

Silent Reading of Life Sketch

A Medley of Music

Eulogy

Special Music: *"It Is Well With My Soul"*

The Benediction

The Recessional

Mr. Allen Foster, Organist

Clergy

Congregation

Mrs. Ruth M. Greene

Elder Paul Anderson

Pine Forge Academy Choir

Mrs. Corine Smith

Elder Alvin Kibble

Allegheny East Conference President

Elder St. Clare Phipps

Allegheny East Conference Ministerium

Elder W. W. Fordham

Sr. Citizens' Organization

Elder W. A. Thompson

Former President/Co-officer

Elder Wintley Phipps

Dr. Ronald Anderson

Ophthalmologist

Elder Neal C. Wilson

Former General Conference President

Elder Calvin B. Rock

General Conference Vice President

Organ Melodies: Mr. Allen Foster

Mrs. Gwendolyn Foster

Elder Charles D. Brooks

Mrs. Gwendolyn Foster

Elder Alvin M. Kibble

## ----- Life Sketch of Will

William Lee Cheatham, Sr., the son of William and Lydia Dixon Cheatham, was born in Belzoni, Mississippi, on August 25, 1899. He was the oldest of three sons. His two brothers, Leroy and James, preceded him in death.

He attended public elementary schools on his grandfather's farm near Silver City, Mississippi, and in Belzoni, and a Seventh-day Adventist school in Memphis, Tennessee, where his aunt was a teacher. His aunt, Alice Murphy, encouraged him to go to Oakwood Academy and Jr. College, after his parents passed away when William was only in his teens.

When he left Oakwood he went to Baltimore, Maryland and lived with DeWitt and Addison Pinkney's parents. He worked there for several years as a carpenter, a tailor, and on a ship that made trips from Baltimore and New York to the Hawaiian Islands; then, for 15 years as a butler and general manager for a prominent banking and political family.

During this time he met a lovely young lady named Laura Muir. They were married in 1922. From this union eight children, 2 daughters and 6 sons, were born. He was a devoted, caring father who provided for his family's physical, mental, and spiritual needs, seeing to it that the children were educated in Christian schools and colleges most of their lives and that they were prepared for a life of service to their God and their families.

While working on his last job in Baltimore, he decided that God wanted him to do more with his life. He, therefore, enrolled in the Seventh-day Adventist correspondence school then known as the Fireside Correspondence School and studied during his nonworking hours. He later attended Delaware State College. He served as first elder of the third Seventh-day Adventist Church (now Berea Temple) in Baltimore, Maryland for 15 years.

He was observed by the Chesapeake Conference as a dedicated elder with ministerial qualities and was called in 1937 to pastor the Delaware District of four churches: Cheswold, Dover, Millsboro and Wilmington. He later organized a fifth church at Milford. He pastored there for eight and one-half years and was then called to pastor Berea Temple in Baltimore, where he served for eight years.

## William Lee Cheatham, Sr. -----

When he entered the gospel ministry in the Delaware District, he received much encouragement and support from Elder J. H. Wagner, Sr., whom he had met at Oakwood and who had preceded him in the ministry. His deep concern was for the salvation of souls for the kingdom of God. Elder Cheatham held evangelistic efforts both at the churches and in tents, baptizing over 1,000 souls during his ministry.

In 1954 he was called to become president of the then Allegheny Conference and chairman of the Executive Committee. He also served on the Oakwood and Columbia Union College Boards. He was chairman of the Pine Forge Academy Board, and through the years he maintained a special commitment to the Academy and its progress. Under his direction and with God as his leader, the Conference grew from 33 churches and 7,000 members to 71 churches with 12,000 members. He served as president of the Conference for 13 years. At the end of his tenure he recommended that the field be divided into two conferences. After his retirement, he continued to serve as a pastor in the Allegheny East Conference serving churches in Chester and Coatesville, Pennsylvania, and in Wilmington, Delaware.

Known as a man of deep wisdom, compassion and foresight, he was constantly sought for counseling, guidance and encouragement and continued to do this even from his home until his health failed.

After a brief illness, Elder Cheatham passed away quietly at the age of 92 on September 19, 1991, at 6:05 p.m. at the Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, Maryland. His devoted wife and most of the children were with him during his final hour. Among his last words he spoke to his companion were, "I'll see you in the morning." He will be deeply missed, but we will meet him again soon at the return of our Lord and Saviour.

He leaves with beautiful memories his loving, devoted wife of sixty-nine years, Laura; his children: William Lee, Jr. and his wife, Pearl; Anna Belle and her husband, James Timpson; Oliver Edward and his wife, Ollie; Donald Dixon and his wife, Anne; Merle Elizabeth and her husband, Edward Ford; Charles Leo and his wife, Reather; Wilbert Augustus and his wife, Ida; and Wayman Wendell and his wife, Shelley; also 26 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, a host of other family members, fellow ministers and friends.

## Family Tribute

William Jr., *Adjudicator (retired), Social Security Administration*

I express my gratitude for a father who once took the time to make a trip to the city where I was living a wayward life to remind me that Jesus would never let me go. He told me that any disconnection from Jesus could come about only by my choice to let Jesus go. What a wonderful Dad.

Ann, *Teacher (retired), Allegheny Conference & Baltimore City Public School*

I am grateful for his love, understanding, and advice, and the fact that he cared so completely for his family.

I admired his versatility. He knew how to do so many things well.

I appreciate the fact that after he prepared us for life, his thoughts turned to his grandchildren. "What are they doing in the church?", he asked. They should be working in the church." I know now why he was concerned. Following his suggestion, paid off.

I'll miss Dad sitting in his favorite chair at the window watching for us when we come to visit, then wanting to know why we have to go, when we leave. I'll see you soon, Dad, where there'll be no more good-byes.

Oliver, *Pastor, Dover & Harrington, Delaware*

To a father who shared his bread with his little children, saw that none of us went about with naked feet and looked kindly upon our mother. Who rose to labor in God's vineyard, trusted in prayer, and went to sleep in the bosom of the Almighty. Who said to our mother, "I'll see you in the morning".

Donald, *Systems Accountant & Financial Analyst (retired), Small Business Administration*

A good father is an important part of the memories his children cherish forever. Dad lived a good life and taught us how to live. We thank God for his example and for his many years with us. We shall always cherish our fond memories of him.

Merle Elizabeth, *Administrative Secretary, Allegheny East Conference*

Although money was not plentiful, Dad left a wonderful example of one that could be a good provider as well as be thrifty. He showed his love for us in countless ways. Often when I would approach him in the company of his colleagues, who already knew me, he would say "this is my youngest daughter".

He was concerned about devotion to God; and I cherish the memory of our Friday evening sunset worships when he would call us together to welcome in the Sabbath.

He was a great Dad, and I look forward to seeing him again!

Charles, *Executive Secretary, Allegheny East Conference*

The first picture that comes to mind about Dad is him posing beside, the old Berea Temple; Baltimore, Maryland in his hickory striped trousers and his swallowtail pulpit tails: Elegance!

"A pillar of strength....., tower of integrity, but as a family man. he was my fishing partner.

I Miss You Dad..., But I'll see you soon!

W. Augustus, *Vice President, Loma Linda University & Medical Center*

I have always been so proud to be his son. One always knew when he expected more of you; but you also knew he would help—that was Dad. He motivated and inspired me with statements such as, "Always do your best" "Not promises, but performance."

I will miss our "that's life" and "solve all problems" discussions. They were great. We had recommendations for the church at all levels; for the Soviet Government, Africa (and any other nation that dared to be on the evening news). And lots and lots of advice for Presidents Reagan and Bush. (I wonder why they never asked to meet with us.)

He could be very serious and also very funny. The discussions always included lots of laughter—the tear running, lose your breath kind. I miss that so much.

I'm also having a real tough time not seeing him looking out the front window when we arrive at home for a visit and hearing, "Laura, they're here."

But he also taught me the "Blessed Hope" which includes picking up where we left off with our joyous fellowship. Until then my heart will celebrate the wonderful memories.

Wendell, *Physician, Washington Adventist Hospital*

He was humble and proud - but not prideful.

He was master of his house yet loved by all within.

He was thrifty - yet generous - almost to a fault.

He walked with God and it made me tremble. But, through this I was able to see the possibility of even my establishing a close relationship with the Saviour.

He was my father. He was my friend. He was my looking glass to Christ - and he and my mother were a matched set.

### Interment

Interment will be at Limerick Garden  
of Memories, Limerick, Pennsylvania

### Pallbearers

(The sons of Elder W. L. Cheatham, Sr.)

William L. Cheatham, Jr.  
Charles L. Cheatham  
Oliver E. Cheatham  
W. Augustus Cheatham  
Donald D. Cheatham  
W. Wendell Cheatham

### Acknowledgements

The family gratefully acknowledges  
with deep appreciation the many calls, cards, telegrams,  
flowers, visits and other expressions of love and sympathy  
extended during our time of bereavement.

### Funeral Director

Warker & Troutman Funeral Home  
726 High Street

Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19464

OAKWOOD COLLEGE ARCHIVES

Loaned By \_\_\_\_\_  
Donated By Lona Nell Lea  
Date Received 2/24/92  
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