



## Avoiding the Flu

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention generally recommends that people at a high risk for complications from the flu should get a flu shot. That is a personal decision but knowing your health history and talking about your flu concerns with your primary care physician are very important.

People most at risk are:

- Children aged 6 months through 18 years of age
- Pregnant women
- People of any age with chronic medical conditions such as asthma or diabetes
- People who live or work in nursing homes or other long term care facilities
- Day care workers
- Healthcare workers
- Seniors

## Unity of a Different Kind.

Of special interest to retired denominational workers is what is happening around the field. Discussing these issues with you in this Newsletter is safe and far from the mainstream of potential reaction because you are retired. However, your current status does not preclude interest in the issues that consumed a major part of our lives as young members growing up and before becoming church workers and servants to the chosen people of God.

During the last quarter, General Conference President Elder Jan Paulsen, held a televised meeting with a select group of young people. In that meeting the subject of unity arose, as it seems the custom, whenever the president has meetings of this type with young people.

Predictably the usual commentary on the validity of Regional Conferences arose and the president, believing that our conferences have outlived their

usefulness, urged the assembled youth to pressure Regional Conference leaders to admit the day has come to unify with the white conferences and to begin taking steps to reach that goal. That subject among youth who have not lived the history of Black people in the USA and, having grown up in a desegregated society, always finds a positive response.



Let me say at the top of this discussion that the unity the president seeks does not require that Regional Conferences be dissolved. He does not need to encourage the dissolving of a conference to "show the world that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is together." He does not need to dissolve Regional Conferences for local

## this issue

Interesting Points **P.4**

Looking Back **P.6**

Avoiding Back Injuries **P.9**

Laugh Out Loud **P.10**

congregations in the same city even in different conferences to go across town or come across town to pool their efforts for a common goal.

How about an Adventist Community Life Center in all our major cities supported by all Adventist Churches in a given city without regard to conference affiliation? How about activities in those centers that enrich our members and project the non-threatening health principles of our Church to the communities that surround us all? How about the GC leadership encouraging that worthy objective instead of encouraging a “flower revolution” from our youth against their duly elected leaders? When the “world” sees us working together in that context they won’t see conference or congregation. What they will know is that Seventh-day Adventist people are together.

The failure to explain the validity and importance of our conferences beyond the usual race and proximity discussions by leadership of the recent past has left us venerable when our young people are faced with this issue. Historically, primarily because we have been taught or conditioned to think it so, whether intentionally and accidentally, consciously or unconsciously, we seem to believe that everybody else is better than we are.

Such conditioning or teaching whether conscious or unconscious makes us seem always on the hunt for validating association or alignment with others as the only

sure way to improve our lot in life. Other racial groups do not seem to desire this as intently as do black people, wherever they are found on God’s green earth. This seems crystal clear even in nations where black people are in the absolute majority whether inside or outside the Seventh-day Adventist faith community.



These issues in various forms usually heat up on the approaches of a General Conference Session year.”

During the Pastoral and Evangelism Council just ended at Oakwood University, our leadership called a special meeting of Black leaders in the NAD without regard for whether they served in a Regional Conference or not. At that meeting it was voiced that the appropriate leaders should take serious steps to address the issues raised in the meeting Elder Paulsen had with that select group of young people. Also discussed was the appropriate action to be taken by the leadership group to underscore the gravity of the direction taken and the method used by

the president. His actions seem to encourage what appears to some to be an insurrection among young people toward the leadership of our conferences.

These issues in various forms usually heat up on the approaches of a General Conference Session year. Representation from the Black American sector of the North American Division Church seems to be fading in certain key positions of the General Conference leadership corp. The reason seems to be more reflective of membership growth outside of the United States rather than race, and rightly so. Slow growth in the NAD among White American members and declining baptismal success from among the native Black American population are additional factors to consider. The result is a decreasing percentage representation at the General Conference level from Black and White people from the NAD. Subsequently there is an intensifying downward pressure on Regional Conferences from the majority group in this Division, as they themselves scramble for position and even mere representation at the General Conference Sessions going forward.

At the recent NAD Yearend meeting one official reported in private conversation that there are fewer than 1 million White members in all of the 17 million that make up our World membership. To insure representation at the World membership table from that group, a new “Union of Churches” idea is becoming a reality.

Within the NAD the White conferences are beginning to tar-

get Special Assistance and Regional Capital Reversion, programs that advantage Black people, as ones that have out-lived their usefulness. They cry that because of changing demographics in their conferences they suddenly are or should be eligible for those funds or that the favor given to Regional Conferences from those funds should be adjusted downward. Ten years ago during the struggle to create the Adventist Regional



Conference Defined Benefits Retirement Plan a NAD leader remarked to one of our Regional Conference presidents that the White conferences would retaliate if we went forward with implementing the idea. He noted that Special Assistance and Regional Capital Reversion would be targeted for retaliation. It has taken ten years but it seems that NAD leader was a true prophet and that the day has come for that retaliation.

To target those funds

does not promote the unity the NAD/GC leadership says it seeks. Instead, that objective has the potential of doing irreparable damage to relationships already strained and frazzled by the current prolonged deep recession. It will raise again the prospect of creating the "Black Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America" (BACNA as coined by George Pearson current retiree, then local conference departmental director in the 1980's) so prominent in the late 1970's and early to mid 1980's. It was during that period that the push for Black Unions was strong and the closing and sale of black institutions was ripe. The issue was exacerbated when there was an absence of an equitable sharing with Black entities, of the wealth produced by those closings and sales.

These are some of the issues our current leaders are wrestling with and they do require serious prayer from retirees who know the landscape and who have battled in the heat of a day gone by. Historically our leaders in every generation seem inattentive to these issues in the years between General Conference Sessions. Suddenly the day is at hand and once again we seem a day late

and a dollar short. Other groups in our church usually put their plans into action long before the final 12 months before the Session.

Facing these issues requires Godly approaches from Godly men. Our leaders are Godly men. Let us pray that their approaches and the actions and solutions that they pursue will be permeated with the power of the Holy Ghost. Let us pray that the highest ideals of a Heaven bound people will rest rule and abide with all who are blessed to be involved with these weighty matters. And finally may their efforts and our prayers result in a people united in that which matters the most – a seat at the welcome table, a spot at the feet of Jesus around the great throne and, "a home up inna that Kingdom ain'ta that good news!"

Joseph W. McCoy  
Executive Director



### The Tips to Avoid Getting the Flu

1. Wash your hands with warm water and soap. Dry your hands with a paper towels and throw it away.
2. Don't touch your face. Germs are everywhere.... Doorknobs, counter tops, telephones, cell phones, etc.
3. Avoid people that are sick.
4. Cough into the fold of your elbow and teach other to do the same.
5. Don't share things that can spread germs like sodas, telephones, cups and especially eating utensils.
6. Stay rested and hydrated
7. Stay home if you are feeling sick. Listen to your body and stay home and get some rest.
8. Use common sense!

### If You Get the Flu

Stay home and take good care of yourself. Eat well (avoiding sugar) and drink plenty of fluids especially water. Over-the-counter medicines may be used to reduce fever, aches and pains. Read the ingredients and precautions carefully. Ask your pharmacist if you are hypertensive or a diabetic about the medicines that are safe for you.

### The Tips to Avoid Getting the Flu continued...

Call your doctor or pharmacist before taking any over-the-counter medications. Do not over dose. Don't take more than the recommended dosage.

Remember, the flu is a virus. That means antibiotics won't cure it. Do not take any unused antibiotics that you may have. As a matter of fact, always take all antibiotics when prescribed, even when you a feeling better.

### Stress, Depression and the Holidays

The Holiday season, which for most Americans begins with Thanksgiving and continues through New Year's Day? This season often brings unwelcome guests – stress and depression. The Holidays may place a heavy load of holiday demands on you and especially a strain on your finances. There are parties, shopping, baking, cleaning and entertaining to name a few. Stress and depression can ruin your holidays and hurt your health. Being realistic, planning ahead and seeking support can help one cope with stress and depression.

## Some Interesting Points about Governance of the Regional Retirement Plan.

A small wave of questions have arisen from local church pastors who are concerned about the impact of President Paulsen's comments about unity and the recent action of the South African High Court. At question was the legality of the Southern African Union's (SAU) action to reorganize and realign the territories of some churches in two conferences under its jurisdiction. Such action was deemed to be illegal because it was taken without any actions affirming the same from the constituents of those conferences and churches. The High Court disagreed with those dissenting churches/conferences and affirmed the legitimacy of the action by the SAU. The issues are too deep for a full discussion in this Newsletter. I suggest that you read the news report in the October 21 issue of the Adventist Review.

Here are a few facts to consider in this matter:

1. The conferences and churches differ from what exists in the United States. In South Africa the churches and conferences have been strictly segregated and mandated by the now defunct South African Apartheid law.
2. Regional Conferences have always had an open membership.
3. The 2000 Acknowledgment and Release Agreement between the Regional Conferences and the NAD, in language that they drafted, makes clear that the Regional Retirement Plan is not governed by the North American Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church neither is it responsible for the solvency of the Fund.
4. Any proposed "unity" reorganization or realignment, which includes dissolving Regional Conferences without the consent of its constituencies, has some specific and very high hurdles to overcome. That is one reason why it is



believed by some that the GC president may be trying to "encourage" certain actions from our youth.

5. The Regional Conferences own the Fund. All nine Regional Conferences comprise the governing Board of the Retirement Fund through the president, secretary and treasurer plus the Executive Director of the Plan.

6. Future commitment to the Plan is vested in the officers of the Regional Conferences, the Executive Committees of those conferences and the constituencies that elect them. It seems encumbered on the concerned pastors and workers to ascertain the attitudes toward the Fund by those they elect to lead Regional Conferences

7. Those receiving benefits from the Regional Conference Plan, although primarily Black, have representation from other people groups in the United States. This includes some who are from the major people group.

8. An Investment Committee of the Board oversees and maintains vigilance over the fund. It is composed of nine members three of whom are lay members of our congregations and accomplished professionals in the financial investments arena.

## A Christmas Look at the Regional Conference Retirement Plan Financial Position

Christmas among Seventh-day Adventists has always been a subject of interest. If you want to start a good argument ask any one of us "What did Ellen White say about Christmas. Quickly fasten your seat belt because it is going to be a rough ride. It is a ride that we will not take in this Newsletter.

However, we want to acknowledge Christmas 2009 as one that bears witness to the fact that since last Christmas God has signally blessed our Retirement Fund. As of our last report, from the pen and voice of those who handle our fund, we have regained most of the ground lost as a result of the stock market crash and recession of 2007-2008. One clear reason is that the faithfulness of our members in tithes allowed the conferences to be faithful to their percentage of tithe commitments that is the major

source of benefits funding for the Plan. The investment earnings were down but the faithfulness of God's people was up to the challenge and today we stand strong only because of His faithfulness to us.

### A Quick Look at the plan.

1. Currently there are 261 employees receiving benefits
2. \$4 million + paid to retirees and beneficiaries in benefits during 2008
3. We are adding an averaging of approximately 25 new retirees per year
4. 42% of those receiving benefits are pastors. The rest are teachers and other retiring employees of the 9 Regional Conferences.

### Recognize the triggers:

- Relationships can cause turmoil or strains. Family misunderstandings and conflicts can intensify. On the other hand, facing the holiday without a loved one due to distance or military assignments, financial strains or disputes can place a gloomy cloud over the holidays.
- Finances are probably the number one strain placed on the holidays. Don't feel pressured to purchase expensive gifts. Plan ahead. Shop with lists including knowing in advance the amount that you intend to spend on each gift. Be realistic in your spending and don't charge if you can't pay the bill in thirty days.
- Physical demands often begin with cleaning the house or decorating for the holidays. Shopping, cooking, cleaning and decorating plan physical and mental demands on you. Plan ahead. Ask for help. Include all family members in the tasks to be performed. If you have guests, let them help whether it is making the bed, wrapping gifts or setting the table. Most importantly, get your rest.

## The Regional Conference Retirement Plan

will begin its tenth year in 2010. Our first ten years have taken us through some turbulent economic waters. The recent near collapse of the world economic system presented us with additional pause for prayer. However, through it all the Lord has sustained the fund.

As with everyone in the market in 2007-08-09 we took our share of hits. But here we stand in the final quarter of 2009 and by the grace of God the ship still floats, the cause endures and



the beneficiaries of the Plan are happy.

Those who know our brief history know that our existence as a retirement plan was an act of God. Praise God He is still acting.

Check us out on the web @

[www.regionalministry.org](http://www.regionalministry.org)

## Looking Back

In the Christian context the title of this article may give some of us pause. The picture most have in mind is that of Lot's wife looking back at a city in flames. A city that was home and where lasting relationships had been formed over a period of time. Some of us preacher types describe her look back as one of longing for the former life and lamenting the fact of having to leave her beloved city and friends.

This look back is to recall the loss of some great names to the inevitable call to rest that lasts until the coming of the lord. The first is Elder E. Earl Cleveland whom we lost this past August 30, 2009. A man of boundless energy and intelligence, faith and trust in God of Biblical proportions during his crusades, and confidence in the speaking and practicing of his belief in the power of God will be sorely missed. His confidence that to some appeared arrogant was an asset that served him and us well during his legendary ministerial career. This is not to mention the thousands who found entry into the Seventh-day Adventist Church through his dynamic preaching.

He was eloquent and amazing in recounting the struggles of Black people both inside and outside the Adventist Church. He was captivating in trumpeting the importance of Oakwood University. I salute his memory in this newsletter because of his extraordinary through the years to affirm young pastors who may have been at odds with their conference administrations. On more than one occasion he went to them with words of affirmation and told them of their importance

to the success of the work he was trying to accomplish. Winning souls was infinitely more important to him than political disagreements and he let it be known.

We cannot add anything new to the Cleveland legend in this space but we can officially salute his extraordinary gift to us just one more time. Yes, his life and ministry have immeasurably blessed the readership of this Newsletter. For many of us preachers, he was the first minister to mimic until God revealed to us the unique strengths of our own preaching style.

So, for this final time we celebrate his life, mourn his loss and paraphrase in clear affirming tones the words of a former United States Senator that we know the work goes on, as the cause endures in us. The hope still lives and His truth will keep marching on.

### Another Look Back

On October 1, 2009 Dr. Gaines Roland Partridge went to his rest. He was one of our giants in Christian Adventist Education. He lived through the early days when Church School teachers were paid in part with fruits and vegetables from the gardens of the membership.

He was at Oakwood in the 1950's when Black young people were beginning to gain exposure to the finer things in life. His voice soared above all others when the quality of furnishings for the dormitories and student lounges came into question. He was clear with his instruction to students in educa-

tion that nothing less than the very best was expected of them or acceptable for the children they would teach.



One of his lasting instructions to the youth under the sphere of his influence was, "never speak disparagingly about yourself." Don't

talk about your deficiencies. When you discover them, just go to work and fix them. You gain nothing by



trumpeting your shortcomings and you do not gain stature in the eyes of others by downgrading yourself.

He refused to cower when facing the real height of the mountain of racial inequality or the thin air of difficulty awaiting those who dared to climb it when seeking acceptance for Black Students at Loma Linda University. He blazed that trail and refuse to complain about the heat until the work was done and Black students could walk that campus with confidence in their abilities and determination that the trivia of racial injustice would not disturb them, distract them nor deny them the right to attend any Adventist institution of Higher Education, even the great Loma Linda.

Dr. Partridge had a unique view of the progress of the work in our faith communities. Some years ago a few of us tried to get him to record his story on cassettes for reproduction and publication. We even gave him the voice-activated recorder and a supply of tapes designated the person to listen and reduce to writing his story but it was not to be. A giant hole in our story will forever remain unfilled because we were unable to accomplish that great feat.

So, we celebrate one last time the life of Dr. Gaines Roland Partridge, educator, humanitarian, and servant teacher, Christian.

#### **One More Look Back**

On October 22, 2009 Pastor Reginald O. Robinson went to his rest in Los Angeles California. He was the pastor of the Valley Crossroads Seventh-day Adventist Church. No, he was not a retiree as

were the two preceding servants. He was an active pastor in the middle of the battle. Just a few weeks prior to his own death he traveled from California to Huntsville to mourn with all of us the passing of Elder Cleveland. It is just an unconfirmed feeling but he had to know that something was not working well in his own body, yet he came to stand with us.

He was affectionately known as "Reggie" and he truly loved the Adventist Church and the clergy that served it. He had a way of calling us "false prophets." I believe it was his way of telling us to be real when we stood in the pulpit and when we walked among the people.

For many years he was the associate speaker to Elder C.D. Brooks in the Breath of Life Television Ministry. Some of us affectionately called him "Baby Brooks" because of his close and dedicated ministry under Elder Brooks' leadership. We all knew and he proved it over and again that when it came to the work of the Lord he was not any ones baby. He was a fully equipped servant of the most high God.

So today we celebrate this one last time, the life of our friend and brother in the struggle. He left us all too soon and we miss him already.

# Things you should know about Christmas

Did you know that Christmas is the largest card-sending holiday in the United States? More than 1.9 billion cards are sent to family and friends every year -- one billion more than the 192 million cards given or sent on Valentine's Day, the nation's second largest card holiday.

Did you know that December 19th is the busiest mailing day of the year? The U.S. Postal Service delivers some 20 billion letters, packages and cards between Thanksgiving and Christmas, with December 19th seeing double the number of parcels than any other day of the year.

Did you know that as many as 30 million live (real) Christmas trees are sold every year in the United States? In 2004, live Christmas tree sales amounted to more than \$506 billion in revenue for America's 22,000 tree farms. The state leader in Christmas tree production is Oregon, with sales of \$143 million.

Did you know that for every live Christmas tree that is harvested, three seedlings are planted in its place?

Did you know that it takes an average of seven years for a Christmas tree to reach six feet tall? Some trees take as long as 15 years to grow to their harvesting height; others reach it in as little as four years.

Did you know that China is the leading manufacturer of artificial Christmas trees? According to

the U.S. Commerce Department, more than 80 percent of artificial trees are made in China.

Did you know that in 2005, Americans spent more money on Chinese-made Christmas ornaments (\$561 million) than on Christmas trees grown in the United States?



Did you know that the character of Santa Claus is based on two Christmas legends: Saint Nicholas and Father Christmas? Saint Nicholas was the patron saint of children, who generously gave gifts to poor and orphaned young ones. Father Christmas was the spirit of good tidings.

Did you know that Santa Claus arrived in the United States in the 18th century via the Dutch founders of New York City? The Dutch introduced America to their "Sinterklaas" festivities. Sinterklaas is the Dutch name for Saint Nicholas.

Did you know that the first recorded mention of Santa Claus in the United States was in 1773? The New York press reported a story about a "St. A Claus."

Did you know that the tradition of giving gifts for Christmas is rooted in the story of the wise men, who gave costly gifts to baby Jesus without the expectation of receiving anything in return?

Did you know that in 2008, with an economic recession in full swing, the nation is expected to spend significantly less on Christmas gifts than in 2007? 46% of Americans say they will spend "less" than in 2007, which is the highest negative response to this question in two decades.

Did you know that during the Black Friday shopping weekend (the Thursday through Sunday after Thanksgiving), consumer spending rose 7% over 2007, to a total of \$41 billion.

Did you know that American shoppers say they are planning to spend an average of \$431 on gifts for the holiday season, down from \$859 last year? During the Black Friday shopping weekend, the average person spent \$372.57.

Did you know that the Monday following Thanksgiving is referred to as Cyber Monday and is a time when many on-line retailers offer deep discounts? In 2008, 36% of consumers said they would spend half of their Christmas shopping budget or more on-line.



## Avoiding Back Injuries

Continuing with our focus on health, let's not forget the importance of avoiding back injuries. We are not as young as we use to be! We can't lift the amount of weight that we did at thirty years of age. We can be smart about a healthy back as we go into this holiday season!

Back injuries are a main cause of health problems and these problems last forever. Ask yourself: What can I do to prevent hurting my back? It is going to be a rough ride. It is a ride that we will not take on this Newsletter.

- Don't lift by bending over. Lift an object using your legs, not your back. Bend your knees and keep your back straight. Keep the object close to your body.
- Wear a back (waist brace when you know ahead of time that you will be doing a lot of lifting.
- Never twist your back while lifting something.
- Don't sit for a long length of time. Get up often to stretch.
- Don't walk on slick or uneven areas when carrying something.
- Don't overdo it. If something is too hard to lift --- "don't pick it up!" Get help!
- Exercise often; being inactive can put you at an increased risk for back pain.

- Stretch daily. That is always an easy form of exercise.
- If you think you have thrown your back out, see a medical profes-



sional immediately. Get x-rays before making any decisions. Alternative therapies often have good resources for back injuries if it is a strain. Asking a friend that has had back problems previously is always a good place to begin.

Remember, it is easier to avoid back injuries than it is to correct them!

### Answer these questions honestly:

1. Are you often sad or gloomy?
2. Have you lost interest in friends or your favorite activities?
3. Have you turned into a couch potato?
4. Have you had any major life style changes like the loss of a job, a major move, and death in the family or a close personal friend?
5. Has there been a dramatic change in your income?

These are just a few issues that can trigger depression? Depression is a serious illness that has an effect on feelings, thoughts and actions. Many people think that depression is in the mind or the head or that you can just 'snap out of it.' There are many stages of depression. At its worst, depression can make you feel so desperate that you might have thoughts of death or suicide.



## Laugh Out Loud



### I THINK SANTA CLAUS IS A WOMAN

I hate to be the one to defy sacred myth, but I believe he's a she. Think about it. Christmas is a big, organized, warm, fuzzy, nurturing social deal, and I have a tough time believing a guy could possibly pull it all off!

For starters, the vast majority of men don't even think about selecting gifts until Christmas Eve. It's as if they are all frozen in some kind of Ebenezerian Time Warp until 3 p.m. on Dec. 24th, when they -- with amazing calm -- call other errant men and plan for a last-minute shopping spree.

Once at the mall, they always seem surprised to find only Ronco products, socket wrench sets, and mood rings left on the shelves. (You might think this would send them into a fit of panic and guilt, but my husband tells me it's an enormous relief because it lessens the 11th hour decision-making burden.) On this count alone, I'm convinced Santa is a woman. Surely, if he were a man, everyone in the universe would wake up Christmas morning to find a rotating musical Chia Pet under the tree, still in the bag.

Another problem for a he-Santa would be getting there. First of all, there would be no reindeer because they would all be dead, gutted and strapped on to the rear bumper of the sleigh amid wide-eyed, desperate claims that buck season had been extended. Blitzen's rack would already be on the way to the taxidermist.

Even if the male Santa DID have reindeer, he'd still have transportation problems because he would inevitably get lost up there in the snow and clouds and then refuse to stop and ask for directions. Add to this the fact that there would be unavoidable delays in the chimney, where the Bob Vila-like Santa would stop to inspect and repoint bricks in the flue. He would also need to check for carbon monoxide fumes in every gas fireplace, and get under every Christmas tree that is crooked to straighten it to a perfectly upright 90-degree angle.



## Other reasons why Santa can't possibly be a man:

- Men can't pack a bag.
- Men would rather be dead than caught wearing red velvet.
- Men would feel their masculinity is threatened...having to be seen with all those elves.
- Men don't answer their mail.
- Men would refuse to allow their physique to be described even in jest as anything remotely resembling a "bowlful of jelly."
- Men aren't interested in stockings unless somebody's wearing them.
- Having to do the Ho Ho Ho thing would seriously inhibit their ability to pick up women.



Finally, being responsible for Christmas would require a commitment.

I can buy the fact that other mythical holiday characters are men...

- Father Time shows up once a year unshaven and looking ominous. Definite guy.
- Cupid flies around carrying weapons.
- Uncle Sam is a politician who likes to point fingers.

Any one of these individuals could pass the testosterone-screening test. But not St. Nick. Not a chance. As long as we have each other, good will, peace on earth, faith and Nat King Cole's version of "The Christmas Song," it probably makes little difference what gender Santa is.

I just wish she'd quit dressing like a guy!!!

It was the day after Christmas at a church in San Francisco. The pastor of the church was looking over the cradle when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from among the figures of the nativity set. Immediately he turned and went outside and saw a little boy with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus. So he walked up to the boy and said, "Well, where did you get Him, my fine friend?" The little boy replied, "I got him from the church." "And why did you take him?" The boy said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to the little Lord Jesus and I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas I would give him a ride around the block in it."

While working as a mall Santa, I had many children ask for electric trains. "If you get a train," I would tell each one, "you know your dad is going to want to play with it too. Is that okay?" The usual answer was a quick yes, but after I asked one boy this question, he became very quiet. Trying to move the conversation along, I asked what else he would like Santa to bring him. He promptly replied, "Another train."

Happy  
New  
Year



## Credits:

Editor

**Joseph W. McCoy**

Assistant Editor

**Elaine Alston**

3rd & 4th Quarter Edition

Layout and Design

**The Mark E. Ting Company**

[www.markappeal.com](http://www.markappeal.com)

## 2009 Retiree's

1 – John Grier – Teacher	South Atlantic	30 years
2 – Willie Ruth Robinson – Associate Pub. Dir.	South Atlantic	28 years
3 – Amos Bossous – Pastor	Southeastern	21.3 years
4 – Eulalee Fatoma – Administrative Secretary	Central States	18.3 years
5 – Grace Brown – Principal	South Central	8 years
6 – George Byars – Pastor	South Central	37.7 years
7 – Maple Jones – Teacher	South Central	29 years
8 – Clovis John – ABC (Brooklyn) Store	Northeastern	7.1 years
9 – Dianne Chunn – Teacher	South Atlantic	19.2 years
10 – Stanley Nickens – Teacher	Allegheny East	9.10 years
11 – Wesley Bruce – Pastor	Southeastern	31.8 years
12 – Robert Carter, Jr – Pastor	South Central	32.6 years
13 – Catherine Jackson – Teacher	South Atlantic	35.6 years
14 – Calvin Campbell – Teacher	South Atlantic	30.9 years
15 – Sheila Anthony – Teacher	Allegheny West	30 years
16 – Jane Cox – Teacher	Allegheny East	31 years
17 – Rochelle Fox – Administrative Secretary	Southeastern	19 years
18 – Celestine Peay – Administrative Secretary	Lake Region	39 years
19 – Roulton Roberts – Teacher	Northeastern	18.10 years
20 – Marcia Sackie – Teacher	Lake Region	15.11 years
21 – Veronica Shakes – Treasurer	Northeastern	27.1 years
22 – Myrna Alexander – Teacher	Southeastern	7 years
23 – Joseph Saint-Jean – Pastor	Northeastern	24.4 years
24 – Ida Middleton – Teacher	Allegheny East	24.10 years
25 – Job Fleurimond – Pastor	Southeastern	19.11 years
26 – Eulalee Martin – Teacher	Northeastern	16.10 years
27 – Benjamin Browne – President	South Central	41 years
28 – Raymond Saunders – Pastor	Southeastern	34.9 years
29 – Milton Brown – Principal	Allegheny East	43 years
30 - Joe Ellis – Pastor	Southwest	27.2 years
31 - Wilbert Tribble – Plant Service	Allegheny East	22.11 years
32 - Barbara McNealy – Principal	Southeastern	17 years
33 - Samuel Sampson – Pastor	Northeastern	33.8 years

### Retirees that have passed this year:

Henrietta Blanchard – Chicago, Illinois

Ruth Baker – Hobart, Indiana



## Regional Conference Retirement Plan

7000 Adventist Blvd  
Huntsville, AL 35816  
256.830.5002 ph  
256.830.5078 fax  
[www.regionalministry.org](http://www.regionalministry.org)



<http://www.twitter.com/orcm>



<http://www.facebook.com/regionalministry>