2-2009

E.E. Cleveland Donates Priceless Collection

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Andrews University Receives a New “Front Door”

Groundbreaking for the new Andrews University entrance was held on Sept. 28, 2007, in conjunction with Alumni Homecoming Weekend, and two months later faculty, staff and students are beginning to drive on part of the new pavement!

The new entrance, according to the project summary, is designed for Andrews to “recapture its physical connection and visibility to the local community and provide a focal point for future campus development.” University administration has announced that the new road will be named J.N. Andrews Boulevard, as a daily reminder of the commitment to scholarship and service of this early Adventist pioneer whose name the university bears.

Niels-Erik Andreasen, president of Andrews University, comments, “The new entrance will give Andrews University the front door it has always needed. This entrance promises to be easy to find, attractive, safe for traffic and welcoming to all. It will help make Andrews a clearly visible part of our community and a welcoming destination for our neighbors, friends and campus community.”

Richard Scott, director of facilities management, is pleased with the progress to date, and with the construction quality. The project is on schedule and on budget. As expected, most work will be suspended during the winter months. The new entrance, approximately one block from the old entrance, is scheduled for completion just prior to graduation weekend in May. The funding is part of the $8.5 million gift given to the campus by William and Bonnie Colson in April 2007. John and Dede Howard also made significant contributions to the project.

E.E. Cleveland Donates Priceless Collection

On Nov. 8, 2007, the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University received a priceless collection of original materials from Adventist pioneer evangelist, E.E. Cleveland. Cleveland and his family personally came to the campus to present his personal papers to the Center at a luncheon in his honor. Nearly 100 faculty and friends of Andrews attended the luncheon, hosted by Heather Knight, provost, to express their appreciation. Merlin Burt, director of the Center, was on hand to accept the formal deed of the gift. That evening, Cleveland inspired a capacity crowd with his preaching in the Seminary Chapel.

The collection contains nearly 2,000 sermon manuscripts, hundreds of pictures, personal books, audio-visual materials, and other records of Cleveland’s ministry. Also included is his wedding Bible, signed by his father, with an inscription on how the couple met, got engaged, and married in 1943.

Clifford Jones, associate dean of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Semi-

nary, expressed his appreciation in the following words: “Elder Cleveland did not just redefine public evangelism. He did not just rewrite the book on public evangelism, for there was none to rewrite when he came along. Cleveland wrote the book on evangelism, doing so with skill and aplomb, and the thousands of pages of his personal papers which he is turning over to the Center for Adventist Research is a treasure trove beckoning to be plumbed by some astute doctoral students.”

According to Steven Norman, communication director for the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists who helped facilitate this donation, when Cleveland lost his wife of 60 years in 2003, he faced his own mortality and was determined to prepare a ministry continuity plan. This plan was to give his ministry the ability to speak a message of hope even after his death and instill ministers with a passion for evangelism. A fundamental part of that plan was to preserve his records. Cleveland chose to use the Center for Adventist Research at Andrews University, because it was under the auspices of the General Conference and this university that he became the first African-American Seventh-day Adventist minister to teach pastors around the globe, regardless of race. Cleveland loves ministers and wants his records to be available to graduate-level students around the world for their research, professional development and spiritual growth.