what the Bible says about it. Dr. Leslie Hardinge, retired but recently
president of the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary (Far East), drew upon the
rich blood symbolism of the atonement in the sanctuary services.

On Friday evening Elder J. Robert Spangler, editor of Ministry magazine,
appealed earnestly for the speedy fulfillment of the mission assigned the
Adventist church. His hearers responded with testimonies, prayers, and
renewed consecration.

Sabbath School the next morning was superintended by Elder D. A.
Dahlgren, president of Adventist Retired Workers. Elder R. G. Beck, president
of the Rwanda Union Mission, presented a well-illustrated mission report.
Dr. Gordon Hyde, editor of Adventist Perspectives at Southern College, led
out in the lesson study. During the worship service the speaker, Elder Joel
Tompkins, expressed his concerns regarding the responsibilities of educational
boards, administrators, and teachers for the parents and youth of the church
and for trends that are undermining faith today.

Dr. C. Mervyn Maxwell, of the Seminary Church History faculty,
discussed in the afternoon upon the problem of identity within the Seventh-
day Adventist church, stirring considerable appreciative discussion.

The agenda supper that closed the Sabbath was chaired by Dr. Jack
Blanco, chairman of the Religion Department at Southern College and
president of ATS. Elder Cyril Miller, president of the Southwestern Union,
then presented a telling analysis of trends that he has observed in the church.

The weekend concluded with a Sunday morning business session. For the
special benefit of overseas members and visitors, it was decided that the 1990
General Meeting would be coordinated with the General Conference Session
in Indianapolis.

Many who attended the weekend in Lincoln commented on the spirit
of united fellowship and spiritual concern that was fostered by the ministries
of Dr. Raymond Holm, director of Student Life at the Seminary, and by Dr.
Derek Morris, religion teacher at Southern College. Singing, morning prayer
sessions, and personal testimonies made the gathering a spiritual feast. As
one college administrator said, "It was just like camp meeting."

Why I'm Glad for the ATS

By Jacob J. Nortey, President
Africa-Indian Ocean Division

Not long ago I had a taste of good "old-time religion."

In response to an invitation from a friend, I attended the first General
Meeting of the Adventist Theological Society. I found a group made up of
Seventh-day Adventists from all walks of life. They spent many hours, from
Thursday night to Sunday morning, September 7-10, 1989, attending ses-
sions in the chapel of the Mid- America Union headquarters. I heard hearty
singing, the study of God's Word, discussions, prayer, and earnest testimonies.

The presentations, studies, and sermons directed attention to the Word
of God and the assurance of salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. The
atmosphere was pleasant and Spirit-filled. It reminded me of the time I had
first attended a Seventh-day Adventist meeting, thirty years before.

The Baden-Powell Memorial Hall in Ghana, that night thirty years
before, was packed. Every seat was taken and all the standing room was
jammed. The choir sang beautifully. The smiling ushers were dressed in
white.

Then as Evangelist Earl Cleveland presented his subject, "A Day When
Money Will Be Thrown in the Streets of Accra and No One Will Care to
Pick It Up," the crowded hall was hushed. We heard that God's prophecies
had been fulfilled to the letter. We saw the evangelist, holding his open Bible
in his left hand, point to it with his right hand and declare, "Brothers and
Sisters, this is the Word of the living God. It is the Bible. The basis of
Christian faith and doctrine is the Bible, the Bible alone."

That presentation thirty years ago was an answer to my prayers and
search. It led me to study further and to become a member of this "Thus
saith the Lord" denomination.
In harmony with that experience, this recent ATS weekend in Lincoln
brought me new confidence in the Word of God and a new assurance in the
salvation made possible through the blood of Jesus.

My joy in Lincoln was intensified by the fact that these days it's not
uncommon to meet so-called Christians who measure their scholarship by
the depth of their doubts about the plain teachings of the Bible. Many of
our young people leave Africa to take "higher studies" in the West, only to
return with their faith diminished. Some return doubting even if there is a
heaven.

But I was pleasantly surprised in Lincoln to find top scholars and
teachers from several Adventist institutions of higher learning expressing
confidence in the Word of God and in the blood of Christ. I was delighted,
too, to see the wide spectrum of people present, from North America and
overseas. Although different nationalities and races were present, there was
an impressive spirit of unity and love.

I was glad that in its quest to encourage sound conservative Bible
scholarship and interpretation, the ATS does not limit membership to
scholars. Too often, scholars isolate themselves as though they alone had the
answers. What we need rather is harmonious interaction and involvement
of every talent in order to carry out the global mission God has assigned this
church.

We "older Adventists" sometimes miss the refreshing spirit of earlier
years. In West Africa our people constantly remind us that this or that "is
not what happened during the time of Gibson, Clemonds, or Hyde." In
North America I have learned that some of our older brethren shed tears of
joy after hearing a plain-truth message.

The "old-time religion," with its trust in the Bible as the Word of God
and in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, is what God's people most need today.
Let's have more of it.

God bless the ATS.

THE POWER
OF THE WORD

The Keynote Message
By Francis Wernick
Former Vice President of the General Conference

"There is nothing so powerful as an idea whose time has
come."

I believe that this Adventist Theological Society is an idea
whose time has come. If guided aright, it may become a powerful
force and voice for good as it upholds our leaders and the great
truths of Scripture that were instrumental in bringing this
Seventh-day Adventist movement into being.

We have formed this society to support, to uphold, and to
proclaim the truths of Scripture that are so essential to the world
at this time in its history. The mission and message of the Seventh-
day Adventist church are outlined in Revelation 14, and our reason
for existence is based on the same prophetic passage.

More than 48 years ago, I heard Elder W. A. Spicer speak in the
Union College chapel. He began his sermon this way: "It's true, it's
true! This Adventist movement was born out of the prophecy of
Revelation 14." Elder Spicer went on to describe how God had called
Adventists to go into all the world with a special message to prepare
a people for the soon appearing of Christ. His sermon had a
profound effect upon us then, and this truth-filled message still
moves God's people today. It is the foundation of our beliefs. And
what we believe is critically important.

No organization can long exist or make an impact on the world
unless it knows what it believes and is passionately committed to
its beliefs. In a recent telecast, a specialist in philosophy was asked