

## Making Him Known

by Michael Sparrow,  
Human Resources director, SEC

Approximately ninety pastors, Bible instructors, departmental directors and administrators met at Ashburnham Place in East Sussex for the biennial SEC ministerial retreat. As we chatted over supper on Monday 23 February, our first evening, little did we know how God was going to bless us during the next three days.

In harmony with the theme, 'Knowing Him and making Him known', our guest speakers provided excellent infor-

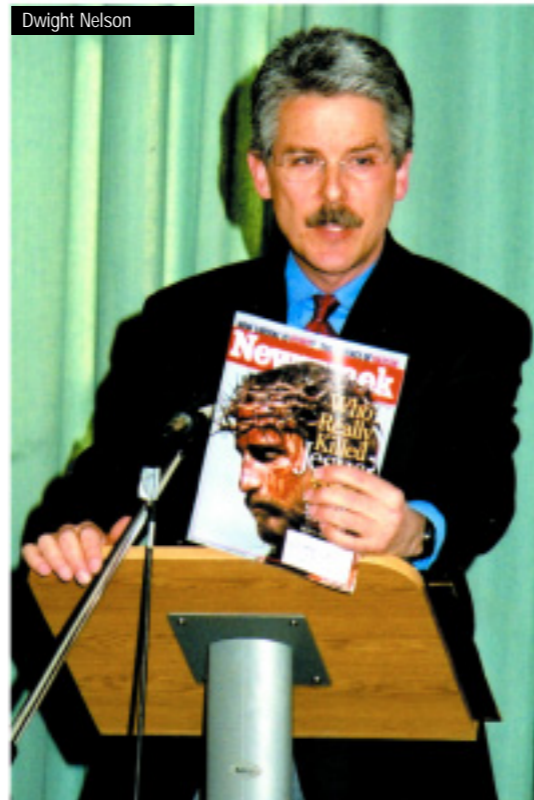
mation, much needed inspiration, and helpful hints on how we could be more effective in ministry. Drs Ekkehardt Mueller and Gerhard Pfandl, from the

Biblical Research Institute based at the General Conference, led us through topics of interest including 'The Trinity in Adventism', 'The Remnant in Revelation', 'Marriage and Divorce', 'The Sanctuary Doctrine in Adventism', and other current issues such as abortion and homosexuality. Pastor Samuel Telemaque from the Caribbean Union Conference

Continued on page 2



Dwight Nelson



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See page 2 for the full story on 'Stars in their Eyes'

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## Making Him Known

provided excellent material and seminars on how to train church members in lay evangelism, while Dr Norman Miles, president of the Lake Region Conference, challenged us with his sermons on how we might know Christ and share this knowledge with others.

Our guest speakers were ably supported by a number of local pastors and other workers who led in a variety of professional seminars, including urban evangelism, community outreach, dealing with the media and strengthening prayer meetings.

The occasion was graced by our Union president, Pastor C. R. Perry, who had to divide his time that week between the NEC and the SEC ministerial retreats. Pastor Perry, in a one-hour presentation to the workers, focused on major issues facing the Church internationally and nationally. Among his list of 'issues', the Union president cited lack of spirituality, congregationalism, globalisation, HIV and AIDS, doctrinal and theological schisms, and ethical issues such as abortion, euthanasia and genetic engineering.

### 'Wonderful opportunity to present Jesus'

On the final day the Holy Spirit did an amazing work among those present. One pastor was heard to say, 'This has been a touch of Pentecost.' Dwight Nelson, accompanied by Alan Hodges, joined us for the closing exercises of the event. Dwight had been invited to speak on the *Evidence*, a segment of the BUC strategy to reach secular Britain with the Gospel. From the very outset of his message it was evident that God had given Dr Nelson a special anointing for the occasion. He shared with the group the enormous challenge that the Church faces in preaching the Gospel, and set the imagination of ministers racing by declaring that the release of the film, *The Passion of the Christ*, provides Christendom, and the

Adventist Church in particular, with a wonderful opportunity to present Jesus as the Saviour of the world. With a clear and simple exposition of a few Bible passages, Dwight was used by the Holy Spirit to transport the minds of his listeners to heavenly places. At the conclusion of his message, all that was left to do, though it wasn't on the formal agenda, was to pray. Only those who were present can describe what happened during the next forty-five minutes as the spiritual leaders of the South England Conference knelt and prayed together. Men and women rose from their knees with moist eyes, an unprecedented sense of unity,

and a determination to go back to their churches or positions to do what they could under God to extend his kingdom.

'Two weeks ago I was considering resigning from ministry, but today's experience has helped me to realise that God can still use me.' These were the words of a minister as he responded to the miracle of the touch of God's power that we all felt at Ashburnham Place. Truly, it was a life-changing event, and one that will always be used in future to signal the start of an outpouring of God's Spirit on us as it was in the days of the apostles.

## Stars in his eyes

by David Marshall

Manchester member Charles Ngandwe could not believe it when he spoke to me.

Eight days before, it had been no more than a dream. At 9pm on the evening of Saturday 13 March it was a reality.

Charles had won the finals of television's *Stars in Their Eyes*, having attracted more than twice the number of votes of any other contestant.

Zambian-born Charles became known in Britain for his *basso profundo* voice some seven years ago. He sang at camp meetings, Press Open Days and other church events. His signature song was 'The King of who I am', interspersed with this and other Gospel songs, Charles would tell his story. The Zambian youth with the amazing voice – but all life's chips stacked against him. The remarkable providences by which God enabled him to receive a musical education in South Africa. His ambition to be an opera singer. His move to Britain.

The harsh reality in Britain, however, was that Charles Ngandwe was obliged to feed his family by working as a Manchester taxi driver.

But sooner or later someone would notice that amazing voice.

Late Saturday evening on 6 March Charles won the semi-finals of Matthew Kelly's 'Stars in Their Eyes' with his Paul Robeson song, 'Ol' man river'.

Only one week later, on 13 March – with 144,628 votes – Charles won the finals.

'He wanted to be there for everybody,' said programme presenter Matthew Kelly. 'He was encouraging the other contestants like a father.'

I spoke to Charles when he came off the GMTV set on Monday morning 15 March. 'It still hasn't sunk in,' he said. 'Tell everyone thank you for voting for me.'



with Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

## Sideways Growth

Have you noticed that the Church is getting larger? Not only numerically! I was thinking, well, fatter. Dante, in his *Divine Comedy* was a bit less than sensitive when he said, 'But now the modern pastors are so plump/that they have need of one to prop them up/on this side, one on that, and one in front . . . !'

With spring in the air what better time to think of exercise? No doubt many excuses can be found to hold us back. When the velocipede and then the bicycle became popular the medical press and other news media anticipated the direst of consequences: *kyphosis bicyclistarum* (cyclist's spine or cyclist's stoop), bicycle hernia, bicycle heart, and cyclist's sore throat, to name a few.

The doctors of the day were concerned that 'bicycle face' –

the strained set look and incessant tension acquired by keeping one's eye on the road – and 'cyclist's neurosis' would set in. Now cycling is a recognised remedy or preventive for all the things the medical profession feared.

A Report by most of our medical Royal Colleges is pressing the government to have a national strategy to deal with the problem of obesity. Ideas range from taxing high-fat foods to getting more exercise. Professor Sian Griffiths of the Faculty of Public Health says: 'This increasingly sedentary lifestyle is habitual, but it also has to do with our environment. For example, some parents do not believe it is safe to let their children play outside so instead they are watching television. Part of the solution, which requires partnership at all levels, could be to introduce things like safe play

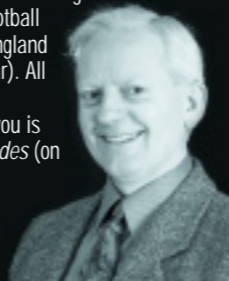
zones or set bicycle routes.'

Naturally, we have to find an energy outlet that meets our personal requirements and situation. Currently, fewer than two thirds of men and women meet the physical activity recommendations set by the Department of Health. There are more gyms and personal trainers around today than ever there were for those who are afraid to exercise in the open. The bookshelves are positively groaning under the weight of keep-fit books, and magazines are devoted to specific exercise regimes. So there is little excuse for inactivity. Since many of the programmes can be done at home they can also be slotted conveniently into one's busy schedule and so lower our health risks.

Diabetes, for example, now accounts for around 9% of the annual NHS budget, costing around £5.2 Billion

a year (£165 a second!). Much of the type 2 diabetes could be reduced with exercise as well as dietary measures. Heart disease and hypertension could also be reduced by a good exercise programme.

What with swimming, tennis and badminton, and all the above-named opportunities for exercise, we have never had it so good. It is down to our personal motivation and preferences (thousands are taking up rugby football since the England win last year). All I can say to encourage you is *ad velocipedes* (on your bike!).



with Don McFarlane\*



# The Passion of the Christ

Several of my colleagues and I were among a group of approximately 800 church leaders who were invited to view Mel Gibson's much talked about film, *The Passion of the Christ*, on Tuesday 9 March. The dimming of the lights signalled that the show was about to commence and a deafening silence replaced the chatter of eager clergymen and clergywomen as they waited momentarily for the first scene.

I was not totally prepared for what followed during the next two hours. At the end I was somewhat dazed as I sought to come to grips with my emotions after viewing two hours of relentless violence. The reviews I had read prior to watching the film referred to its violent nature but I had not anticipated the level of gratuitous violence that I saw.

The film opened with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. The grime and dirt that covered the face of Jesus as he prayed in the Garden bore no resemblance to the gospel account but I was willing nonetheless to accommodate that as poetic licence. What I was not willing to accommodate was the intensity of the violence that followed. As soon as Jesus was arrested the violence began and was unrelenting until he declared, 'Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.' Of course, the gospel writers all wrote of the violence that Jesus experienced at the hands of his enemies but their account pales into insignificance when compared to the sado-masochistic version in the film. No human being could suffer as Jesus does in the film without dying several times.

It is clear from the level of violence in the film that the suffering of Jesus is viewed by the film's maker as important, if not more important, than his death and that salvation has been secured not merely by the death of Jesus but also by his suffering. Anyone with even a limited knowledge of Catholic theology could easily detect its influence on the film. The medieval chants and related music which form the aural backdrop to the brutal scenes are another clear influence of the Catholic Church. There was also a short scene which the observant viewer would recognise as the origin of the Turin Shroud.

Was there anything positive about the film? The answer is Yes. The crucifixion scene was realistic and conveyed in powerful imagery Jesus' agony on the cross. Though bone-chilling to see, the effect of the massive spikes being driven into his hands and feet was not lost on me. That scene was fairly true to the biblical account. The flashbacks to Jesus' life and teachings were also very effective, especially for one who has studied the gospels. This, in my opinion, was one of the redeeming features of the film. Another redeeming feature was the use of the language of Jesus' time. The Aramaic was enunciated eloquently and, though sub-titled, the linguistic beauty of the film can only elicit admiration.

My biggest disappointment with the film, apart from the brutality and violence, was the downplaying of the resurrection. The sense of triumph and hope that the resurrection engenders was sadly missing. In fact, I will go further to say that unless one is familiar with the biblical account of the passion of Jesus, the viewer could easily miss the resurrection in the film.

'Would you encourage your members to watch the film?' was a question asked me after I'd viewed it. I replied by saying that I would not want my wife and children to see it and would not encourage church members to watch it, though I realise that many would want to see it.

Whatever I and other church leaders think about the film, one thing is certain – it provides an unprecedented opportunity to present Jesus as the Saviour of the world. The South England Conference commissioned a leaflet about the true meaning of the passion of Christ, which is being distributed by members outside cinemas after each screening of the film. The leaflet invites readers to apply for a Bible

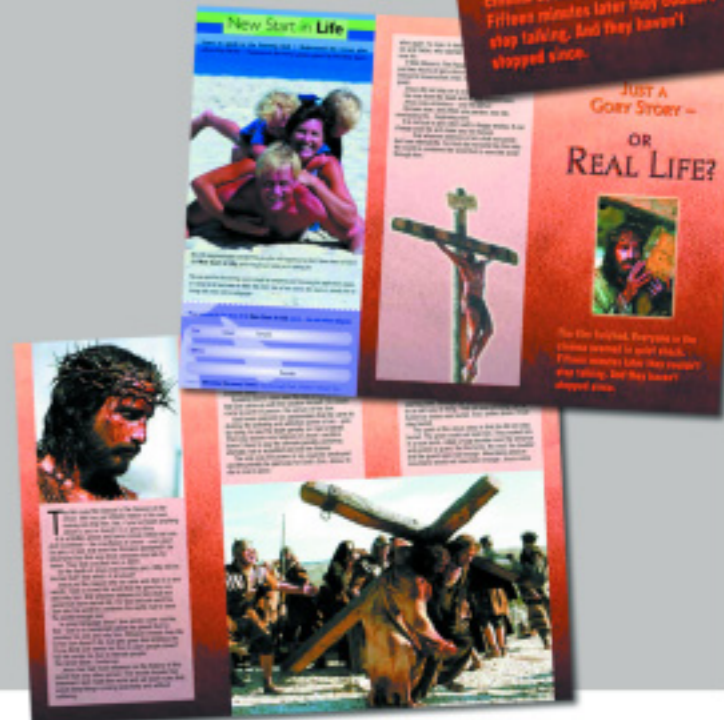
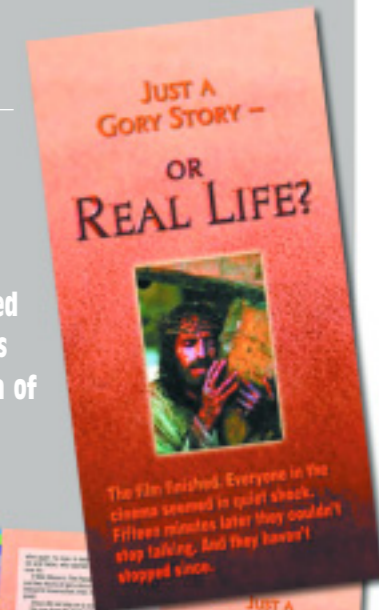
correspondence course that will help them to understand more about the passion of Jesus. Additionally, we have invited our pastors to open their churches on Easter Sunday and present a sermon on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus.

I concur with the words of the apostle Paul in Philippians 1:15-19 when he wrote: 'Some indeed preach Christ even out of envy and strife; and some also of goodwill: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, . . . but the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and I will rejoice.'

\* This is a guest editorial written by Pastor Don McFarlane, president of the South England Conference.

For more reviews of *The Passion of the Christ* see pages 6 and 7.

Half a million copies of this SEC-sponsored pamphlet have been distributed to congregations all over the British Isles. They are intended for distribution while Jesus is high on the attention agenda of the people.



'It provides an unprecedented opportunity to present Jesus as the Saviour of the world.'

# 50 Golden Years

Photo and article by PAUL KING

The Adventist church in Rope Walk, Ipswich, was filled with family and friends of Percy and Jean Gittens on Saturday 28 February to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The service was a tribute to them. The songs sung were all favourites of their children, and many of them paid tribute to their parents' love, caring and support during their lives.

Percy and Jean were married on 27 February 1954 at the King Street Adventist church in Barbados. They were married by Pastor M. G. Nemhard, who was the president of the East Caribbean Conference. Percy and Jean grew up in the St Joseph district of the island. In 1962 Percy decided to respond to the call from England, and set off across the Atlantic, to be followed two years later by Jean. They settled in Ipswich and started work, Percy running a bakery and Jean

working at Ipswich hospital. They joined the Ipswich church and became active there, holding various positions during the years. Percy has held the posts of Personal Ministries leader, deacon and Sabbath school leader. Jean is currently an elder and has also been involved in Sabbath School, Community Services and Women's Ministries. Ever since Jean came to Ipswich she has sat on various committees within the community, and last year was awarded the Mayor's 'Unsung Hero' award.

When asked what is the secret of a happy marriage, they responded by saying that it was co-operation in the relationship and never trying to overrule the other. The couple have 8 children, 18 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren, but their house is always open and they have cared for many children in the community who needed their support.



Percy and Jean have had many highs and lows during the years, but when asked what was the highlight they said that it was a year after they

were married when they accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and were baptised together.

# A church at Bournville

On Sabbath 17 January the Bournville branch Sabbath school became the Bournville Seventh-day Adventist church.

In May 1995 Fay Mendez (now Fay Salmon) decided there should be an Adventist presence in Bournville. With the guidance of Jim Haarhoff and the help of the Handsworth church and Pastor Roy Morgan and his team, a branch Sabbath school was set up.

January 17 began with a Bournville welcome from Glenda Opilas and Joseph Empawi. The

young people, serving as ushers, were on hand with warm smiles. Our mother church, Handsworth, joined the celebrations at The Dame Elizabeth Technical College.

Oscar Stewart, assisted by a panel of five, presented a stimulating lesson study. Just as exciting was the children's Sabbath school on 'the Whole Armour of God'. Pianist Brother Bushell and saxophonist Ivan Morgan were among the musicians who presented special items.

NEC officers Pastor Egerton Francis (president) and Marcus Dove (treasurer) were present, as was the NEC Sabbath School director Pastor Roy Morgan, who had given the first sermon on 18 May 1995.

Janice Britton told the Bournville story. The first elder was Cecil Woodburn and the first baptism –

conducted by Pastor Morgan – was of Sister Paul, the mother of Bournville founder Sister Salmon. By the end of 1997 Pastors Morgan and Johnson had baptised 21. Regular door-to-door witnessing resulted in 6 further baptisms in 1998. By 2001 Bournville had 26 members and 36 regular visitors. Bournville became a haven for students.

Pastor Francis spoke of the divine principles on which the Church is based. Brother Dove asked the Bournville members whether they upheld the core beliefs of the Church and they responded 'We believe'. Pastor Paul Lockham supervised the signing of the roll of

founder members and it was countersigned by Pastors Francis, MacIntosh, Appiah, Morgan and Lockham, and Brother Dove.

Congratulations were received from Pastor Jeff Nicholson and his family, from Bible worker Sister I. Mardner, and former ministerial interns.

A nominating committee report was read out and voted, and a motion was accepted unanimously that Bournville be recommended to the sisterhood of churches at the 2008 session.

Pastor Francis challenged us to 'continue the mission of the Gospel', and Bournville head elder Jim Haarhoff said, 'We gladly take up the challenge.'

T. EDINBOROUGH

# Auschwitz survivor speaks to Stanborough students

by Bjorn Karlman

Lola Shepsman, a 75-year-old Auschwitz survivor, spoke publicly for the first time about her experience of the Holocaust to a group of Stanborough students on Monday 8 March. Ms Shepsman, a Jew of Polish origin, told Year 9 and 10 students at the school that she was originally forced into a Jewish ghetto by the Nazis in 1939. She said that she was taken in a train wagon to Auschwitz in September 1944.

'When they [the Nazis] saw old people they took them . . . straight into the crematorium,' she said as she remembered the horror of the camp.

Although she was in her mid-teens when she was taken to Auschwitz, Ms Shepsman tried to convince her captors that she was 18, blaming her small size on the lack of food that had been available to her. After spending a short time at Auschwitz, she was taken to a cotton factory in Germany where she did forced labour until the end of the war. Ms Shepsman and her sister were the only members of her family who survived the war. 'They [the Nazis] killed all my family,' she said. 'I still get nightmares of the Germans wanting to kill me.'

The Stanborough students and



staff who were present as Ms Shepsman related her experiences of the war asked several questions. In response to the question of whether she has ever visited Auschwitz in the time since the end of the war, Ms Shepsman said, 'Some people go. I can't go. . . I've had enough.'

Mrs Judy Fox, head of History at Stanborough, said that Ms Shepsman's visit to the school presented her students with 'an incredibly lucky chance', because of the difficulty in finding Holocaust survivors still living today. 'Here our students have had a chance to have that very close association [with a Holocaust survivor] . . . and have their questions answered.'

## 'Centurions'

The latest member of Cardiff community church to receive a telegram from Her Majesty the Queen for her centennial is Edna Craely-McCormack, who turned 100 on 31 October. She joined Sister

# Trumpet-playing trio: A great year

2003 proved to be a memorable year for brothers Phil, David and Robert Cooper, Stanborough Park church's talented trumpet-playing trio.

Apart from regular performances during divine service, Christmas services and with the church orchestra, they also played at the London Day of Fellowship in the spring and at the SEC session at Portsmouth. In addition all three participated in a concert tour of Prague with a local brass band, and Phil (19) and David (16) also took part in a concert which was broadcast on Radio 2.

The boys' musical career started with an initiative by their local education authority (Buckinghamshire) to encourage local children to take up playing musical instruments. Aware of his father's trumpet lying neglected in the loft Phil, then aged 8, thought that it might be fun to learn to play it. His brothers followed his example in turn. Phil and David have now achieved Grade 8 and are working towards their Diploma, while younger brother Robert (13) is catching them up fast having passed his Grade 7 exam.

The boys perform a wide range of music but their first love is jazz! These days their musical activities centre around the Aylesbury Music Centre in their home town and they play in its various youth bands. Phil and David play in the Aylesbury Youth Centre Dance Band which won the 'BBC Big Band Competition' in 2003 and led to their performing in the concert by the

winning band which was broadcast on Radio 2 in June. Since then Robert has become a member of the band as well.

Despite so much time spent on musical activities Phil and David managed to find enough time to make 2003 a successful year academically as well as musically. Phil passed four A-levels and is currently enjoying a gap year while he earns some money to pay for his university course by working in the SEC Youth department. Having achieved four A\* and seven A grades at GCSE level, David is now working towards his A-levels.

The boys enjoy their hobby despite the amount of time it involves. 'It's great fun,' says Robert, summing up the views of all three. Fortunately, for the continued enjoyment of the congregations at Stanborough Park (and elsewhere) they have no plans to retire from the musical stage and will continue to delight their audiences for some time to come.

It only remains to be seen whether or not 2004 will prove to be an even more eventful year for Phil, David and Robert.

JUNE COOMBS



Left: Pastor E. Francis, NEC president, countersigns the membership roll as Pastors MacIntosh and Appiah look on  
Below: Founder members of the new Bournville church



## Global Partnerships in Nursing\* Coventry, 12-16 July

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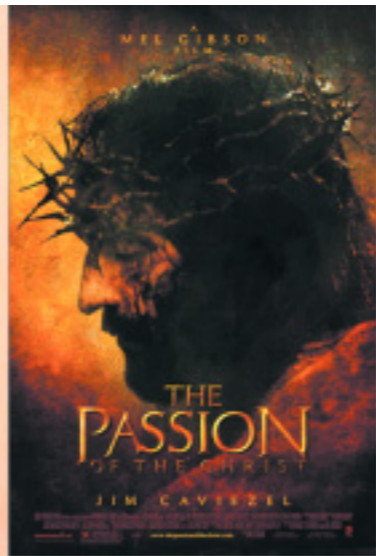
Conference Venue, Royal Court Hotel, Coventry

Contact us on the web for information and abstract submissions:  
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Conference co-ordinator: Dr Patricia Jones  
Global Partnerships in Nursing Project is sponsored by Loma Linda University Office of International Nursing, and the Department of Health Ministries, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.  
For a registration form contact Dawn Tompkins at Health Ministries Dept., BUC Office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ.  
Tel: 01923 672251.

**Acknowledgement** The acting principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre acknowledges with sincere thanks a donation of £300 received in March from the Manchester area.

# MEL GIBSON'S FILM ABOUT THE PASSION



**THE EDITOR'S VIEW**

I had read all there was to read about it before I went to see it. There were two extremes in what I read. At one extreme were people who damned it as 'an expression of Mel Gibson's sado-masochism'. At the other extreme were people who hailed it as 'a great spiritual experience'. The tabloids – *The Daily Mail* in particular – had published impressive spreads in which they denounced the violence of *The Passion of the Christ* as 'pornographic'. The examples they gave seemed pretty convincing to me.

Those who had received the film as a great spiritual high, I decided, were all Americans and their testimonies were traceable to the publicity machine of Mel Gibson's Icon film company.

Hence, when I arrived for the preview I was decidedly apprehensive. I was the last of our group of six to arrive, and the others were looking worried. Or was that nervous? Fiona was particularly apprehensive. 'Ann of Green Gables is usually my limit,' she announced. I reflected that mine was *When Harry Met Sally* and wondered if that was adequate preparation for Mel Gibson's 18-cert film about the crucifixion.

As we sat in our high-backed seats waiting for the film to begin, I gave thanks silently for the fact that I was twice the age of each of the other five members of the party. I would, I decided, need all the detachment that my years could give me!

That was the only thought I had in advance of the feature that helped me to cope with the two-hour onslaught on my senses that followed.

When it was all over, mentally bruised and battered, I reflected that I had at least survived the experience. And I looked to see how the other members of the party had got on.

Sam was briskly collecting up her things and planning a swift exit – she had her children to pick up: she had taken it all in her stride.

Fiona stared straight ahead as if in shock and continued to do so for some minutes. I was almost afraid to look at Louise but, when I did so, it appeared – to say the least – that she had survived an emotional ordeal. John and Dave, I was later to discover, had perceived the film as a very positive experience. Susanna was the most positive of all. I was just glad it was over; but, at the same time, grateful that my young friends had made it possible for me to have the experience.

As I stumbled off in search of the car – that I was sure I had left in Orange Level Three – I had to decide what I had made of the film. I had more time than you might think to decide because I had, in fact, left the car in Yellow Level Three. But we can't blame Mel Gibson for that!

Had the film been a great spiritual experience? Definitely not. The fact that Jesus and the disciples spoke Aramaic and the Romans old Latin made us rely on the subtitles. There were a few spiritual insights made possible by flashbacks to Christ's life and ministry, but one big question screamed for an answer – WHY? – and didn't get one. The letters of Paul were written, arguably, in answer to that question, but the only answer proffered by the film was, 'Greater love has no man than this, that he lays down his life for his friends.'

So, if it was not a great spiritual high, was it merely a product of Mel Gibson's perceived 'sado-masochism'?

It's a judgement call. The scourgings and the crucifixion were graphically, grippingly portrayed. But there was no violence in the film that was not justified by the historical reality of crucifixion (a form of punishment that was abolished under Constantine as a death too inhumane).

It was violence made all the more difficult to cope with by the reflection that it actually happened to Jesus; and the film was a conscientious attempt to portray what had, in reality, been a twelve-hour ordeal.

Some critics had condemned the film as anti-Jewish. It was not. There was no stereotyping. The race that came out of it rather badly was the *human* race.

Twelve years ago Mel Gibson was, apparently, enabled to survive a great crisis in his life by his personal reflections on the passion of Jesus. The film represented his portrayal – a film director's portrayal – of the crucifixion. He was using his gifts to witness for the Saviour.

As such I believe that the film was legitimate. My bottom line is this. If it takes that amount of shock tactics to get Jesus to the top of today's attention agenda, then so be it.

Will I be recommending everyone to go and see it? *I'll be recommending no one to go and see it.* People must make up their own minds. But it may just reach some hard cases with the reality of the crucifixion who cannot be reached by any other means.

The film will have been a success if, having watched it, people ask 'WHY?' and do not stop asking until Christians give them a satisfactory answer.

The greatest weakness of the film is that, because it represents the out-growth of an ultra-RC's experience, it has a conservative RC's emphasis on torture, suffering and the image of a Christ on a cross writhing in agony. The resurrection is covered in a few seconds. Blink and you've missed it.

Mel Gibson has made a film about the torture and death of Jesus. The image it leaves behind is one of a writhing, crucified Christ.

The Christ event is good news, however, because the cross – like the tomb – is empty. We serve a risen Saviour. I hope Gibson's next film will be about the historical reality of the resurrection.

There is only one thing that is unpardonable about this film. It would be totally unpardonable if we did not take advantage of the outreach opportunity that it presents. We must provide an answer to the question: Why did Jesus die that terrible death? If we answer it well – and the Holy Spirit blesses – then the film will have served its purpose.

**LOUISE'S VIEW**

It has been a week now since I viewed *The Passion of the Christ*, and I still find myself reflecting on the images of my Saviour, my Jesus enduring what he did for me, for all humanity, not only on the cross but on the way to it. This was no sanitised account of the shameful trial and cross with all its savagery and indignity. As a believer I was deeply moved. What a wonderful Saviour is Jesus our Lord 'who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross' (Hebrews 12:2). The film concluded with that victorious moment when our risen, altogether lovely, nail-scarred Saviour filled the screen – I wanted to jump up and cheer!

**FIONA'S VIEW**

I did not really want to go and see this film as I can't stand even a little violence. I had read lots of reviews and the more I read the more nervous I was about going, but also the more I felt compelled to go. As the film started I took a deep breath and thought, 'Well, here we go.' I have never sobbed in a movie like I did in this one. Jesus went through all this and he would have still gone through it even if I were the only one. That thought really hit home and I felt a deep sense of repentance and such gratitude and love. There are a few scenes where they pan around the crowd, looking through Jesus' eyes, and it really struck me that all those people were jeering at him, whipping him, spitting at him, but as he looked on them he still loved them. To me it

was incomprehensible love! There are little flashbacks to memories of Jesus' time on earth; these are like oases within the violence and pain. But this movie is not just about the violence. There is so much more that can be taken away from it – it is such a powerful movie! Already I have been able to witness to work colleagues about it and through that have been able to tell them of Christ's love, his passion. At the end I sat stunned for a few moments, taking it all in. When I was finally able to leave my seat I sent a text message to a friend who wanted to know what I thought. Words just wouldn't come because there was so much going around in my mind so all I said was, 'Such love! To me that sums it up. I recommend and have already recommended that everyone go and see this movie. It will change your life forever!

**ZENIA'S VIEW**

Very moving. Helped me to realise how much Christ suffered, and I appreciate more now what he did for me. Watching the quite realistic depiction of the beating that Christ received, it struck me how he must have been close to giving up. He did not walk away, however, but rather endured the suffering. The film spoke to me of how deep is his love for me. Great suffering, to me, equals great love.

**PASTOR FERGUSON'S VIEW**

My immediate response at the conclusion of the film was to feel unable to speak for a while. I declined an invitation from a representative of *Premier Christian Radio* to say a few words into a microphone as I left the cinema, feeling moved at the impact the film had had in conveying to me the extent of the beating received by Jesus prior to his crucifixion and feeling deeply appreciative of what he suffered for me.

Further reflection on what I saw, specifically with its effectiveness towards conveying the same impact to a non-believer, has left me wondering. I really don't know what effect it might have, but I *do* think that judgement should be reserved. It is not for us as Christians to be able to say just how others will react to it, and to this end I am keen to hear the reaction of my brother (an agnostic) should he decide to view it.

I would encourage its viewing, despite its unquestionable dwelling on the violence of Christ's last hours, with the proviso that one of a nervous disposition should avoid it. If it only serves to deepen the appreciation of those who already believe, then it still has value since too often we drift on in sometimes wilful neglect of what our salvation actually cost.

'It would be well for us to spend a thoughtful hour each day in contemplation of the life of Christ. We should take it point by point, and let the imagination grasp each scene, especially the closing ones. As we thus dwell upon His great sacrifice for us, our confidence in Him will be more constant, our love will be quickened, and we shall be more deeply imbued with His Spirit.' *Desire of Ages*, page 83.



Pastor Bryan Webster, who is engaged in church planting in Scunthorpe, wrote a full-page review of the film for the *Scunthorpe Telegraph*. 'I would urge you to experience this story,' he says.

**DINAH MITCHELL (1915-2004)** d. 30 January. On 30 January Sister Dinah Mitchell died peacefully in Mahon Hall Private Nursing Home in Portadown where she had been nursed for the last seven years. She was the oldest surviving member of the former Portadown Adventist church. Her funeral took place on Sunday 1 February at the Seagoe cemetery in Portadown where her husband Tom, a gravedigger, was buried in 1986. As the oldest of ten children she had to take charge of the family's domestic affairs after her mother died at the birth of her tenth child. She became an Adventist through the influence of her aunt when the latter married her Uncle Jim. For a while Dinah lived with her aunt. Later, their relationship was maintained through the magazines her aunt sent her regularly. Dinah's understanding of and love for the Advent message grew and received its finishing touch when Sister Agnes Magee, the mother of the late Gordon Magee, came to her door during Ingathering time. The magazine she received in exchange for her gift reminded Dinah of her earlier interests in the Adventist teachings. She was baptised by Pastor Bill Frazer in the early 50s. Mrs Mitchell, as she was known, always felt free to share with others the blessings of her relationship with her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. One family friend remembers fondly the often exciting visits she had with Dinah because she was often able to explain Bible passages in her own special way. Dinah and Tom's marriage was blessed with two daughters. In later years three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren were added to the family circle. Dinah's daughters, Marlene Moffett and Joyce Best, together with the rest of the family, are now left to mourn their loss. They have the assurance that there will be a happy family reunion when the Lord Jesus will come with his angels to bring his children to their heavenly home. The funeral service was conducted by the writer in the presence of a large number of family, friends and church members.

MART DE GROOT

**GRACE LOUISE COATES (1909-2004)** d. 13 February. Grace was the youngest of six children born to Frank and Elizabeth Pope in Newport, South Wales. On leaving school at the age of 14 Grace went into domestic service and when she was 16 became a 'live-in maid' with the Williams family in Newport. Having an Adventist mother, Grace was brought up knowing and believing the Adventist message and was baptised in 1928 by Pastor O. M. Dorland at the Newport church. Seven years later Grace went to Watford to work at the Stanborough Sanatorium and it was while at the Park that she met and, in 1943, married William Coates, a widower with a young daughter, Mary, and their union was blessed with another daughter, Jennie. When Jennie was old enough for school Grace began work at Granose Foods on Stanborough Park and worked there until her retirement in 1969. On her retirement Grace and Will moved to Ashcott in Somerset but two years after Will's death in 1981, Grace moved to Hutton, Weston-super-Mare, to be near Jennie and her family. Grace liked to be busy and as well as keeping a vegetable garden until she was in her 80s she enjoyed knitting and crochet work and was a very capable seamstress until her eyes failed. At the age of 94, being unable to see and suffering a lot of pain from arthritis and a terminal illness, Grace decided the time had come to move from her bungalow in Hutton, and for the last six months of her life lived in Highcroft Nursing Home in Weston, where she was lovingly looked after and received a high standard of nursing care. Family and friends gathered to pay their respects and say their 'goodbyes' at Weston-super-Mare church, where a service giving comfort and hope was taken by Pastors Geoff Dennis and Islwyn Rees, followed by a committal service at Ebdon Road crematorium. Psalm 103 was read at the church by Alva Gallaher and Revelation 21:1-7 at the crematorium by Lee Gallaher. Grace, the most senior member at Weston, will long be remembered by all who knew her for

her love, friendship and the wonderful Christian spirit she exuded in her life and, not least, for the mischievous twinkle in her eyes. Grace was a wonderful Mum and Grandma and her passing will leave a big gap in the lives of her family. Sincere sympathy is extended to Jennie and Roger, Mary and Ralph, grandchildren Alva, Lee, Sylvia and John and their families. We believe, as did Grace, that our parting is temporary: we long for the day when Jesus comes and we see Grace's cheery smile again and there will be no more partings.

MAUREEN REES

**FRANK FRAZER (1922-2004)** d. 3 February. It is with heavy hearts that we report Frank's passing. The courage with which he bore his illness, his resignation to the Lord either healing him or taking him, and his burning vision of eternal life is, and always will be, an inspiration to his wife Edith, all the family and fellow church members. Frank was born in Banbridge, Northern Ireland, and lived with his parents on a farm until he married Edith on 5 February 1952. He was baptised in the Belfast City church on 7 January 1956. His brother Billy was an evangelist in the UK and Canada. Frank worked on his own farm until 1968 and then filled the post of farm manager at Newbold College in the same year, making a splendid contribution to its success. It was there that he showed great kindness to the students. He and Edith often had them over to meals in their home. After his retirement he moved to Rhyll church where he became head deacon, serving his church with loyalty and distinction. He was a Christian of great faith and a much-loved family man. All who knew him enjoyed his sharp sense of humour! He is survived by six children: five girls and a boy – two living in America, two in Scotland, one in the south of England and one in Wales (all dedicated church members), and fifteen grandchildren. Former minister of the Rhyll Adventist church, Kendall Down, arranged the funeral service, proclaimed the processional, offered the benediction and conducted the interment. Malcolm Turner, the elder of the Rhyll church, led out in prayer; son-in-law Willy Adolffson read the scripture; granddaughter Carina Frazer presented a poem and the writer officiated at the organ. In his moving tribute, Pastor John Ferguson spoke of Frank's wonderful role as husband, father and grandfather of a united, loving family. He recalled his Christian character and his loving approach to others. He also recalled the encouragement Frank had given him at Newbold with his compassion and moral support. The address was given by the president of the Welsh Mission, Dr Brian Phillips. In his comforting message he spoke of the steadfast faith that Frank had and his unshakeable belief in Christ as his Saviour. He emphasised the marvellous consolation that we will meet our loved ones again when there will be no more suffering and death. The family wishes to thank everyone for their sympathy, compassion and support during this very sad time.

LESLIE RISKOWITZ

Can you help? I need a copy of *Gospel Melodies*. Price and postage paid. A. Swain, 48 St Michael's Avenue, Gedling, Nottingham, NG4 3NN. Tel: 0115 9401 649.

The Irish Mission is looking for a Principal for the primary school in Galway beginning September 2004. The successful applicant will be a practising Seventh-day Adventist with a commitment to the Church's values and educational philosophy, expected to provide leadership in implementing the principles of faith and learning, ensuring that the curriculum provides the opportunity for all children in the school to achieve their full potential, and able to demonstrate experience in team leadership and good interpersonal skills. For further information contact the Education Director, BUC Offices, Stanborough Park, Garston, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ. Tel: 01923 672251 or contact Pastor Curtis Murphy on 028 4062 6361 or email [sdairland@aol.com](mailto:sdairland@aol.com). Closing date: 30 April.

## WANTED: Good children's stories REWARD OFFERED!

John Arthur, Publishing Ministries director, Trans-European Division

There is a great need for the church to produce modern children's storybooks. Therefore, the Trans-European Division Publishing Ministries department is launching a writing contest.

The denominational publishing houses throughout our Division have expressed interest in co-producing a volume comprising 20-25 character-building stories for children aged 6-11 years.

An award of US\$50 will be paid for each story that is published.

Basically, we want to make the manuscripts available to our publishing houses at the lowest possible cost – especially those in the low-economy regions.

Bearing in mind the secular climate in which we

live, the initial book will need to appeal to families of non-Christian background. It will be sold by literature-evangelists with the aim of establishing good customer relationships. At a later stage, books of a religious nature will be introduced to those who are interested.

If you are a minister or children's storyteller, let us have your best story by 30 April 2004. Send electronically to: [jarthur@ted-adventist.org](mailto:jarthur@ted-adventist.org). Alternatively, typed copies may be sent to: Writing Contest, Publishing Ministries Department, Trans-European Division, 119 St Peter's Street, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3EY.

Pray that God will bless the production of this first volume in a range of new books that are being designed for today's generation.

### TED Writer's Contest (Children's Stories)

#### Objectives

- To develop specialist writing skills among Adventists so as to widen the range of suitable publications for today's generation of Europeans.
- To initiate at low cost a range of manuscripts from many countries for use by Adventist publishing houses mainly within the Trans-European Division.

#### Guidelines

- All manuscripts should incorporate original material, which has not previously been published.
- Stories should contain between 800 and 1,000 words in the English language and be suitable for the 6-11 age group.
- Each story should relate to a moral value which is common to the major religions of the world (eg: honesty, patience, courage, respect towards others, tenacity, self-discipline, aid to the needy, etc.)
- Entrants can submit any number of stories.
- Manuscripts must be submitted in electronic form (ie: email or diskette) to [jarthur@ted-adventist.org](mailto:jarthur@ted-adventist.org).
- The deadline for submissions is 30 June 2004.

#### Selection Process

- The TED Executive Committee will appoint an adjudication panel to select the 40 best stories for an initial volume for children.
- This selection of stories will then be made available to denominational publishing houses throughout the Trans-European Division.
- The worldwide copyright for published stories will reside with the TED Publishing Ministries department.

#### Awards

- A one-off payment of US\$50 will be made by TED for each story which is published by any of our denominational publishing houses in TED by 31 December 2005.
- The decisions of the TED adjudicating panel will be final.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
London Youth day of fellowship 'Operation Bring One' The Passion of Christ	Sabbath 17 April, 9.30am	Emmanuel Centre, 9-23 Marsham Street, Westminster, SW1P 3DW	Victor Aquah, Sarah Itam, Anthony Fuller, Emmanuel Dadey, Wabnitta Powell, Enoch Adu.	Tel London Youth Federation on 07956 688923 or 0207 723 8146 for more information
ASNA Respite and Training weekend	22-24 April	Frontier Centre, Northampton	ASNA Training and Support	Tel: 01491 833395; email: <a href="mailto:asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk">asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk</a> , <a href="http://www.asna.co.uk">www.asna.co.uk</a> .
BIG New LETS Day of Fellowship	24 April		R. Morgan, NEC	Contact R. Morgan, NEC, 0115 960 6312.
Parenting Training Day (Level 1 of 2)	25 April, 10-5. Limited spaces. Must be booked/prepaid	Advent Centre, London	Bernie and Karen Holford Bring your own lunch or buy nearby.	Janet Guthrie, SEC on 01923 232728 or email your address <a href="mailto:jguthrie@secadventist.org.uk">jguthrie@secadventist.org.uk</a> . Book by 12/4 – £10 a family plus £2 a child for child care
Divorce Care Ministry	Sabbath 1 May (pm)	Manchester Central church	Merrily Richie, DivorceCare administrator	Tel Pastor C. Sweeney at NEC on 0115 9606 312
AXIS spiritual retreat	30 April-3 May	Cliff Coll Conf. Centre, Calver, Derbyshire	BUC	Tel Personal Ministries Department BUC 01923 672251 for details
Lone Parents' Family Day	16 May, 10-4. Limited spaces. Must be booked/prepaid	Advent Centre, London	Bernie and Karen Holford and Lone Parent Team	Janet Guthrie at SEC 01923 232728; <a href="mailto:jguthrie@secadventist.org.uk">jguthrie@secadventist.org.uk</a> . Book by 3/5: £3 a family inc. lunch + childcare
Keeping the church family safe – Policy Training day	Sunday 16 May 10am-1pm	Middlesbrough church	Everyone working with children should attend	Tel Pastor C. Sweeney at NEC on 0115 9606 312
Community Services Chilterns Fed Spring Meeting	Sunday 16 May	Stanborough Park, Watford	Speaker: Sister E. Staples, CS director	Bring packed lunch. Hot and cold drinks supplied. Contact S. Sealy, 01932 831646.
Spring Family Camp	16-23 May	Aberdaron	Pastor Patrick Boyle	Tel Pastor C. Sweeney at NEC on 0115 9606 312

Please submit advertisements in this format. Please make the church connection clear. For a complete list of upcoming events check out the database on the BUC website, [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk).

**SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT** NEC of Seventh-day Adventists. Notice is hereby given that the fifty-ninth Session of the NEC of Seventh-day Adventists will be held from Thursday 17 June to Sunday 20 June 2004 at The Spa Conference Centre, Scarborough.  
Pastor Paul S. Lockham, NEC Exec. Secretary

**Staff required for Special Needs Camp 4-11 July.** We have vacancies for carers, kitchen staff and a laundry co-ordinator. If you would like to work for a week in beautiful Aberdaron, please contact Joy Bussey, 2 Shakespeare Street, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD24 5HF, Tel: 01923 461044.

#### TEACHING VACANCIES

SEC is seeking to fill two teaching posts:  
**HEAD TEACHER – THEODORE McCLEARY SCHOOL, Dulwich, London.**

**TEACHER – FLETEWOOD SCHOOL, Plymouth, Cornwall.**

Applicants will have a good record and experience of teaching at Early Years, Key Stage 1 and 2, with a formal teaching qualification – and, for the position of **Head Teacher**, ten years' teaching experience, leadership qualities, be able to work with a team of teachers while showing initiative, and work to a financial budget. In both positions, applicants will have professional skills in planning and delivery of curriculum, be able to communicate effectively, work as part of a team, contributing to the development of the Christian ethos of the school. Salary and benefits according to denominational scale. Letters of application, together with CV, and the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to: The Human Resources Director, SEC, 25 St John's Road, Watford, Herts., WD17 1PZ, or email your CV to [msparrow@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:msparrow@secadventist.org.uk).

**Closing date for applications for both positions: 30 April 04.**

**Please state the position for which you are applying.**

### ABC BOOK SALES

<b>April</b>	18 Manchester South	10am-1pm
	25 West Midlands	10am-2pm
<b>May</b>	9 John Loughborough	10am-2pm
	16 Newbold Graduation	
	23 West Midlands	10am-2pm

### Messenger

Volume 109/8 – 9 April 2004

**EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL**

COPY FOR No. 10 – 14 April 2004

Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.

Fax No: (01476) 577144.

**Email: [Editordnm@mac.com](mailto:Editordnm@mac.com)**

ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900

Mon-Thurs only, 7.30 - 6pm.

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary.

Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Printed in Denmark.

Visit the BUC website at: [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk)

ISSN 0309-3654

### Sunset

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by the Science Research Council.

	Long	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Apr 9	7.48	8.00	7.54	8.08	8.16
16	8.00	8.12	8.07	8.22	8.30
23	8.11	8.23	8.19	8.36	8.43
30	8.23	8.35	8.32	8.51	8.56

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Cost to member supplied in bulk to churches £6.

Single copy subscription by post £13.

Overseas airmail £27.50