

MESSENGER

CHURCH PAPER FOR SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE BRITISH ISLES

VOLUME 85 NUMBER 24 5 DECEMBER 1980

JOHN LOUGHBOROUGH SCHOOL CIVIC OPENING

4 November 1980

by PASTOR W. J. ARTHUR, SECRETARY, BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE

'Seventh-day Adventists purchase and operate church schools not with the idea of assisting the government in times of financial crisis, laudable though this may be in the eyes of some, but primarily to add a missing link to the general concept of education,' stated Dr. Jan Paulsen, Secretary and Education director of the Northern Europe-West Africa Division, at the civic opening of the John Loughborough School in North London.

Dr. Paulsen continued by stating that there is no implied judgement against State schools, where the primary emphasis is on academic performance. 'Such intellectual achievements must be matched by the John Loughborough School, but education must not end at that point. There must be an approach which incorporates physical, social, and, most important, spiritual development. Strong men and women, who are masters and not slaves of circumstances; men and women with the courage of their convictions; men and women who will effectively serve

Lenney stated that many on the Borough's education committee had developed admiration of the Adventist's commitment to education since the purchase of the Tottenham premises.

The chairman of the School Board and president of the South England

now progressing so well that sometimes I am now able to sit in my office for a few minutes each day!' joked the busy Mr. Woolford, who in addition to an immensely heavy administrative load, has somehow found time to teach as many as twenty-five classes each week. In his estimation, a highlight of the school life is the singing at the assembly periods. 'No other school in the whole of London can sing choruses so lustily and with such conviction as the pupils of John Loughborough!' the Head maintained.

Appreciation was expressed to the teaching and ancillary staff who were all dedicated to the objectives of character as well as academic development, the stress in each classroom being consideration for others. A further glowing tribute was directed to parents, churchmembers and friends who had given so very sacrificially of their means, and indeed their time in preparing and improving educational facilities in Holcombe Road. Mr. Woolford also expressed the hope that the



Conference, Pastor Kenneth H. Gammon, stated that many blessings had already been experienced during the early days of the school. Continued goodwill between all parties was necessary in order for the institution to fulfil its purpose.

Mr. Orville Woolford, in his headmaster's report, mentioned that the school had opened on 21 April with fifty pupils. By 2 September, which marked the commencement of the first full school year, the intake had risen to almost three hundred. Some children travel each day from the other side of London, and in several cases parents have made private boarding arrangements so that their youngsters can attend this Christian establishment. 'We took in as many as we dared! Fortunately, we have been blessed with a smooth beginning; and things are

God, their country, and their community must constantly be the product of Adventist education.'

A plaque depicting the school coat of arms and motto was unveiled by Mr. A. Lenney, the Chief Education Officer of the Borough of Haringey, in the presence of civic and Church leaders, head-teachers from nearby schools, parents, and the school's three hundred pupils. In expressing personal good wishes for the continued success of the school, Mr.



alumni of the school would prove to be citizens of which the country would be proud.

Twelve prefects were presented with scrolls of recognition by Mrs. Maureen Luxton of the British Union Conference Education Department; and a charge for prefects to uphold the Christian standards of the John Loughborough School was

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presented by Mrs. Leila Reid, the senior mistress and wife of the South England Conference secretary.

During the memorable ceremony, a teachers' duet was rendered by Valerie Bernard and Rona Wood. The school choir sang 'Thanks be to God'; and nine-year-old Valerie Gage held the audience spellbound with her touching solo specially for 'Mums and Dads'.

Following proceedings was a reporter and photographer from the *NOW* magazine, who, along with others, were favourably impressed with what has been accomplished to date.

Under the guidance of the Master Educator, long may the spirit of our respected pioneer, John Loughborough, remain in evidence; and long may the motto of the school be remembered by pupils and staff alike – spiritual maturity; mental excellence; and physical well-being – SPIRITUS; MENS; CORPUS.

1. Regalia for the John Loughborough School Open Day. 2. Scene in a classroom of the John Loughborough School. 3. Dignitaries being shown round the school by headmaster, Mr. Orville Woolford. 4. Contented students. 5. Headmaster Mr. Woolford in front of the school. 6. The success of the school to date has depended very much on voluntary help from churchmembers in North London.

Photos: Pastor John Arthur



Let us in on the method of witnessing you have found most effective in your area. Write to TELL BRITAIN, Editor, The Stanborough Press Ltd., Alma Park, Grantham, Lincs., NG31 9SL.

FOLKESTONE

Pastor E. E. Hulbert reports, 'We are devoting the profits of most of our *Family Life* magazines sold in the Folkestone and Ashford areas to the East Kent Hospice Project. A building has been obtained in Canterbury for this purpose. The secretary of the project has written very appreciatively of our donations from the sale of *Family Life*, and we are also getting a good response. In the village where I live, I met a son of a former Adventist who used to sell *Present Truth* and *Good Health* as a boy in the Catford area.

'One of our elderly members is selling twelve copies of *Family Life* and wants, in the new year, to invite customers to the Bible study and prayer meeting we hold in her home on Wednesday afternoons. I hope we can increase the sale of *Family Life*. We are a small, mostly elderly group, so we cannot do a lot, but we are praying that God will bless what we can do, and that He will send us help to increase our witness. Please pray in the meantime that we shall be led of the Holy Spirit to use our present opportunities to best advantage.'

BEDFORD CENTRAL

Pastor Watson Southcott reports on behalf of his four churches - Bedford Central, Bedford Asian, Luton and Milton Keynes. VOP Jubilee cards are being systematically delivered. We are also using *Focus* magazines. *Confrontation* is being distributed house to house to those who will read it. A return visit in two to three weeks is arranged to see how it is going. Approximately fifty copies have been placed over two Sabbaths.

BEDFORD ASIAN. A hall has been booked for the Christmas period when Christian families in the Asian community will be invited in to share a meal with our members and listen to the presentation of SDA beliefs. This will extend over some

three days and will hopefully reach the approximately two hundred Christian Asians near our church who have no leader at the present time.

LUTON. Thousands of VOP cards have been distributed, and now in November the Jubilee cards are being pushed. The VOP courses have been advertised in the local press. Lay persons are busily engaged in giving several Bible studies, some being booked up virtually every night. Some decisions for baptism have resulted. The overall objective is to reach every home in the town with some seed of truth by the time of the Conference session.

MILTON KEYNES. A 5-day Plan was held earlier this year - small yet successful. The names of those wishing to take part in the next clinic are still coming in.

We had a booth at a local show when a mass of literature was given away, and a series in the local newspaper on 'What is a Seventh-day Adventist?'

Two short evangelistic campaigns have been held, but these have not been very successful, possibly due to the fact that Milton Keynes is a London overspill town and folk travel to London to work and do not want to come out at night.

Street witnessing - approval has been given to use Europe's largest indoor shopping centre, starting on 22 November. We are also sharing in the Centre's Christmas Carol Concert.

Plans are being made to sell magazines for a local charity. Hundreds of magazines have been given away, plus VOP cards. Produce from our Harvest Festival and toys at Christmas time go to the battered wives' refuge.

HOVE

Brother Collis of the Hove church has visited all nine clergymen in Shoreham-by-Sea, the small town where he resides, and presented each one with a copy of *Confrontation*. A few months later he followed this up with copies of *Daniel and the Revelation*. Six of the nine local clergy are now in regular receipt of *Ministry* magazine, are highly delighted with it, and look forward to receiving it each month. Brother Collis calls regularly on each minister and has 'a good chat'. The Methodist minister is studying Samuele Bacchiocchi's book *From Sabbath to Sunday*.

NEWPORT

Sister Lyn Morris of Newport reports that some very interesting activities have taken place in her church during the last quarter. The members made thirty Community Services visits in the neighbourhood and were able to help twenty people. As they visited from house to house they have given away 100 of our magazines and were able to give ten shampoos and sets, and three perms to house-bound people. Taken together, 140 hours of Welfare service were reported for the third quarter.

ENROLLED IN THE BOOKS OF HEAVEN

Mr. D. Price was never baptized or voted into membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but he will surely be in the kingdom of heaven. But to begin at the beginning . . .

Failing health had interested Mr. Price in health products. In one of the packets supplied by Brother Goulstone he found an enrolment form for a health course, and went on to study Bible lessons as well. Brother Ron Davey subsequently visited him, and then I took over the interest and was able to arrange Bible studies which lasted for approximately one year. Mr. Price read *The Great Controversy* through at least three times, and was convinced of the truth, began keeping the Sabbath, and had for several weeks been paying a faithful tithe. On Friday 26 September when I visited him, he was not at all well, and told me he would be going into hospital the next week, and would let me know when he went in. Evidently he was not well enough to let me know, because I did not see him again. But before I left him, he said 'I have decided to join your Church,' and it was agreed that when he came out of hospital arrangements would be made for him to be accepted by vote because of his state of health. When I phoned the hospital a week later to find out if he had been admitted, as I could not get a reply at his home, I learned that he had fallen asleep in Jesus on Thursday, 2 October.

So although he did not, 'statistically speaking', become a member of the Church, we believe that we can rightfully speak of 'brother' Price, and can with confidence look forward to seeing him again on the resurrection day. He was a true Christian gentleman. At the baptism (no doubt separately reported by the Canterbury church) held in Folkestone on 18 October, members and friends stood for a moment of silence in memory of one whom they had never met, but for whom their prayers had often ascended. We thank God for another name enrolled in the books of heaven.

PASTOR EDGAR HULBERT

MESSANGER PHOTOGRAPHY

Appeals have been made from time to time for an improvement in the standard of photography submitted for publication in *MESSANGER*. The quality of the photographs published in our Church paper is still giving rise to criticism. Accordingly, with reluctance, the decision has been taken to refuse to print those photographs submitted that do not reach the minimum standard of acceptability. Copies of Brother Frank Blewitt's pamphlet 'Camera Techniques To Improve Your Photography' have already been sent out to many Communication secretaries. A copy of this helpful pamphlet will, in future, be sent out with all photographs returned as unsuitable for publication.

MAN ON THE STREET

'Say, could you spare just a couple of minutes? We're preparing a Christian radio broadcast for later tonight and . . .'

'Excuse me, but could you perhaps help us? We're interviewing young people to see what they think about . . .'

Many regular listeners to Adventist World Radio may have been surprised at the change in programme format during the first week in October. Adventist radio addicts will have noted the earlier switch of our main broadcasts from Lisbon to Radio Andorra, on the 49 metre band at a frequency of 6220 KZ. The introduction of the new 'Music of Faith' programmes – an hour of Christian music each evening interspersed with suitable comments – has been well received, and in fact over ten hours of broadcasting per week is now possible through the use of Andorra, compared with just an hour and a quarter from Lisbon.

But back to the format change. From 5–12 October AWR was celebrating its anniversary week, and it was decided to do something different. Each evening our recording team, armed with microphone and related gear, flagged down young people passing in front of our New Gallery Centre in Regent Street, London, and invited them to express their views on religion. These were then passed over the telephone wires to Andorra, in the Pyrenees, and broadcast the same evening. We had a few technical difficulties to surmount early in the week, but otherwise the experiment proved well worth while.

The variety of London's populace is incredible. It seemed that Britons were well in the minority. We talked to a Libyan couple on honeymoon; a Hindu from Uganda; a couple of Pakistani Moslems visiting for a few days; a Buddhist from an unspecified Eastern country; a lapsed Presbyterian from Ghana. Then there were the Europeans; Germans, Swedes, Frenchmen – in fact in a few cases language proved a real problem, with Christian sign language almost the order of the day!

And the British? Well, most nights we had just one – and a sceptical bunch they proved to be. Most of those approached were unwilling to be interviewed; they were 'too busy'. 'Sorry, I'm in a hurry' was the standard excuse.

But a few expressed their doubts frankly as they were interviewed. Two London nurses found faith difficult in their own confrontation with suffering; a young businessman had failed to come to grips with the idea of a personal God. And even the 'believers' seemed to echo the words of a Gospel incident: 'Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.'

But not all were hardened to the

Gospel. I think of the young Australian girl, on her last evening in Britain after three years' stay. She was flying home later that same night to rejoin her fiancé. A clergyman's daughter, she talked very simply about the change Jesus had made in her life, of the new hope she had found in Him and of the impact of conversion in her own experience. She was glad to testify of her faith, in a way that countless listeners would hear – and who knows, perhaps appreciate.

And listeners there certainly are. Every week we normally receive a dozen or more letters, from many parts of the world – and the volume is increasing steadily (eighty, in fact, have reached us in the last two weeks). Listen to some of their comments:

From Sweden: 'I have been lost from God for many years, but this summer something happened which made me feel like one of His children again. Since then I have read a lot in the Bible, and have found delight in listening to the words of God, both in the Bible and on the radio.'

St. Albans: 'I heard your programme, *Music of Faith*, today for the first time, and was pleasantly surprised. I was preparing to switch to another programme, because Bible-pushing programmes are a complete turn-off to me. I found *Music of Faith* with its moderate line very enjoyable, and will listen again in the future.'

Newark: 'I am a student at the local technical college helping to run the Christian Union there. I was very interested to hear the talk this morning on *Do all roads lead to God?* and would like to receive a script of the broadcast please. Please enrol me for your free study course on the *Life of Jesus*.'

Manchester: 'I would like to receive the 36 Bible lessons and the *Good Food Guides*, but I don't know how to pay for them. Do you supply free copies of a modern version of the Bible?'

Andover: 'I am a 17-year-old student, and enjoy listening to your broadcasts. I am not particularly religious, but find your weekly messages really thought-provoking.'

Lisbon: 'I have enjoyed reading your booklets *Steps to Christ* and *Your Adventist Neighbours*: they were really helpful in understanding the basic principles of Christianity and Seventh-day Adventists. Please send me a copy of *The Desire of Ages* advertised on this week's broadcast. I find great inspiration in tuning in each week to your programmes.'

Yes, God's Word proclaimed over the air waves will bear fruit. Each year there are those who find their way into the Church because they listened to an Adventist radio programme. This latest experiment has helped us to see the importance of live on-the-spot interviews, talking with people about their actual problems. Pray for the radio work, that God will open doors to hearts and homes through our broadcasts – and perhaps soon enable a wider presentation of truth in visual as well as audible form.

PASTOR M. L. ANTHONY
BUC Field secretary and radio speaker

STOKE NEWINGTON:

Friendship, Fellowship, Feasting

Sunday, 24 September, unfolded a memorable day filled with an atmosphere of thanksgiving as we at Stoke Newington expressed our gratitude to God.

A delightful Harvest luncheon was served, displaying the bounties of God's goodness. The thanksgiving feast was continued to its blessed conclusion by Pastor H. Kennedy, who linked, sealed and delivered a heart-warming message.

May God's blessing continue to yield both present and eternal fruition.

N. ALLEN, Communication secretary

SWINDON: Youth Activities

On 19 January a Youth Club was started at the Swindon church. Invitations were sent to the children who had attended the VBS last year, asking if they would like to join. Nineteen children came and most have been attending regularly since January. The children are encouraged to do crafts, such as leather work, fretwork, sewing, modelling and painting. A good sing-song is enjoyed at the beginning and end of each evening. A policeman came to the church and gave a talk on road safety and also showed a film. The club is run by Linda Johnson and Anita King.

A camp was held at the beginning of June at Lydiard Park, a few miles out of Swindon. It was organized by Mel Travena, Sven Ohman, and their wives. For worship on Friday evening, Sven gave a talk on how God sends angels to watch over and protect us. While Mel and Sven were travelling on the motorway to Swindon, a lorry went into the back of them and although the caravan they were towing was completely wrecked, not one of the four occupants of the car received a scratch. Sven had brought his accordion with him and everyone enjoyed singing, including the seven non-Adventist girls from the youth club.

It was lovely waking up Sabbath morning with the sun shining through the tents, and listening to the birds singing in the woods nearby. In the afternoon all the children and some of the adults went on a nature walk armed with matchboxes to see how many bits and pieces they could get into them. When they got back to the campsite each tent had to make a Bible story out of what had been collected. Tea was eaten round the campfire where some more singing was enjoyed. Mel demonstrated Smoking Sam and the children were very interested to see what one cigarette could do to their lungs and they all said that they were not going to smoke. Later in the evening a film called *Final Countdown* was shown.

On Sunday most of us were up before 6 am so that we could go to a nearby farm to watch the cows being milked. Although it rained on Sunday this didn't dampen our spirits, and we spent the time left with more singing, going on a treasure hunt, packing and cleaning up the field.

ANITA KING

DUDLEY HOUSE SCHOOL

News in Pictures

Photos: Ed. Barradine

1. Left to right, Del Deazle, Jason Clew and Sarah Dewey with collecting boxes. This year Dudley House School, Grantham — 75 children on roll — have collected £26 for Dr. Barnardos, £99 for National Children's Homes and £84 for World-Wide Advent Missions. 2. Ninety-seven-year-old Mr. Smith receives a birthday card and present from the children of Dudley House School. Gifts are distributed to the elderly at Harvest Festival, Christmas and Easter. 3. The participants of a 'Sponsored Sunflower Grow' which raised £234 for the Fellowship Trust which provides holidays for the severely disabled. Left to right, Justin Knight, Lance Coaten, Richard Mallinson, Julian Mallinson, Sophia Banham, Victoria Coaten, Philippa Wilson and Suzanna Wilson. 4. Teachers and parents get together to decorate Dudley House School every three years — saving much-needed funds. Left to right, Mr. J. Gwynn, Mrs. B. Clew, Mrs. M. Whiting and Mrs. E. Sutton.



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VOP: JUBILEE NEWS



Above: Barbara Bone hands over the new applications to Heather Thompson. **Left:** Theresa Maxfield deals with a bumper bundle of Jubilee mail.



Just a few days into November and Barbara Bone, the Voice of Prophecy Registrar, announced that she had received the first five applications from the advert appearing in the *Reader's Digest*. Each day more applications come in, both from the advert and the Jubilee cards. Most of the 175,000 Jubilee cards have now been given out to the churches throughout the Union, leaving only about 10,000 for any late orders.

Pray that the applications will continue to flow in, so that we will have a number of

interested Bible students enjoying the *Great Teachings of the Bible* course by the end of the year.

During the month of November British Rail offered a £1 day return ticket to all pensioners wanting to travel on the train during November. Two of the many thousands who responded were Pastor Matt Murdoch and his brother-in-law from North Wales, who, after spending the day in London, breezed into the VOP Bible School at 5.15 pm and announced that they had come to collect their VOP cards - 10,000 *Man for all Seasons*, 10,000 *Put Life into Your Living* and 550 *Jubilee* cards. When asked how they were going to transport these six heavy boxes of cards they replied, 'No problem. If you can take us to the station we will tie them up with a rope, borrow a trolley and load them on to the train. My son-in-law will collect us in his car at the other end.'

The last I saw of Pastor Murdoch he was disappearing round the corner with the last box of cards and his parting words, 'Thanks for your help, these cards will be distributed by Christmas.'

With that kind of enthusiasm I believe him.

PASTOR K. F. TAYLOR

HELPING THE HANDICAPPED

by Francis and Margaret Robertson

The Board Room in the BUC Offices, Stanborough Park, will doubtless have been the venue for a wide variety of meetings and discussions over the years. However, the company who assembled on Sunday, 28 September 1980, had not come to try to unravel the intricacies of doctrine or the fate of Church finances. The common interest which brought together about thirty parents, a doctor, ministers, teachers, nurses, and friends, could be summed up in the words 'Helping the Handicapped'.

Under the chairmanship of Pastor Martin Bell, BUC Community Services and Lay Activities director, the tone of our deliberations for the day was set in the opening devotional theme presented by Pastor Foster, BUC president.

During the remainder of the morning Ruth Blewitt, whose handicapped daughter is now seventeen, very honestly and graphically described the worries, fears, joys and satisfaction she and her family experienced while bringing up their 'special child'. Ruth provided us with a

vivid word picture of a young lady who, despite her impaired intellectual ability, has developed a loving, warm and outgoing personality.

Adventist parents of handicapped youngsters often face particular dilemmas as they seek to provide an upbringing for their families within our system of beliefs and values. At the same time, they rightly seek to use the help and advice available through workers employed by the various State and voluntary organizations.

After an enjoyable lunch in the canteen of Stanborough School, Pastor Bell and Francis Robertson began the afternoon by showing a selection of slides taken during the 'Handicapped Camp' held at Aberdaron, North Wales (8-14 July). This gave everyone a chance to meet the campers and to gain a much clearer picture of the variety of activities we enjoyed together.

Dr. D. Hertogs, a consultant paediatrician, introduced her session by showing a short film produced by the Spastics Society. In addition to discussing the role of medical care in the training and development of handicapped people, she stressed the guiding philosophies which can help parents and others who are involved in the assessment of mentally or physically handicapped youngsters, and planning their care programmes. In answering specific queries she also offered practical advice on the use, or misuse, of drugs in the management of over-activity and many other problems.

By design, the final session of the day developed into a very frank and open discussion of the Association's aims and activities. Points raised included the need for an increase in information about the Association made available to our churchmembers. In addition to using any opportunities for personal promotion in our own churches, members felt this would be helped by producing a regular newsletter.

Discussion turned to Camp and what may or may not be possible next year. In spite of low numbers - only six out of the nine booked actually came - this year's Camp was thoroughly enjoyed by both campers and staff. Everyone present agreed that if at all possible something similar should be provided in 1981. More campers would help finances, underlining the need for more publicity and where necessary, financial support for campers by their churches. Some parents may not yet realize that our programme caters for the individual needs of campers. In addition to personal helpers for each camper, nurses trained in both mental handicap and general nursing are on the staff. It would be a sad turn of event if such a beneficial form of Community Service were forced to founder on the principle of 'cost-effectiveness'. We are confident that through the exercise of prayer and Christian goodwill by all concerned, the problems in this area can be resolved in accordance with God's will.

NEWS in pictures



SCOTTISH YOUTH CAMP

These photographs have just arrived on the editorial desk. Since the event depicted occurred in the early summer we wondered whether it should come under 'News in Pictures' or 'Historical Feature' . . .

The Scottish Youth Camp was held at the Dykehed Centre at Port of Monpeith in Stirlingshire. The photograph above includes camp organizer, Pastor Bob Rodd (note where the finger is pointing) as well as camp counsellors Bruce Hertogs and Paul and Diana Winch. The picture on the right depicts a group preparing to go pony trekking. Below, three brave lads go canoeing on the Lake of Monpeith. Fred Mazzaferri was camp padre.



PERSONAL

AN IMPORTANT part of the designing of books, magazines, etc. of Uitgeverij 'Veritas' (Dutch publishing house) is still being done by others than ourselves. To improve the efficiency we would like to engage a man or woman for our studio. He/she will, together with the other studio employee, be responsible for the designing and lay-out work of our magazines and other projects. Advertisements and other evangelistic material will also have to be designed.

We are looking for someone who has much experience in this line and is of a creative mind. But he/she must also be able to work to discipline and according to a strict time schedule.

Applicants have to be of a positive Adventist attitude and interested in building up an important part of the work of the Church. Salaries are based on the national scale of the Union for Magazine Publishers.

Applications can be directed to the manager of the Dutch publishing house: Mr. R. Bruinsma, Postbus 287, 2400 AG Alphen aan den Rijn, Holland.

You are cordially invited to an
Evangelistic Programme/Concert
6 December

at
Luton SDA Church, North St.
(off Old Bedford Road)
5 - 10 pm

Special speaker: Pastor E. Lawrence

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PETE'S TRAVEL HAS MOVED. 5 per cent reductions on all Laker flights still available. Now from: Mr. P. Astleford, Glen Eyre Hall, Bassett, Southampton.

CONGRATULATIONS to Rosemary West, née Colledge, who, having attended the National Hospital College of Speech Therapists, has passed the Diploma examination and been accepted as a Licentiate of Speech Therapists.

to Gino Daurat who has recently been awarded the Diploma in Architecture.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT. The treasurer of the South England Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of £30 tithe from 'grateful'.

Accessions to the Church SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

DAGENHAM (October) Mr. and Mrs. H. Buchanan, Mrs. E. Fernandez, Mrs. C. Patterson, Miss A. Semper, Miss S. Semper, Miss D. Semper. **HOVE** (October) Miss S. Bartlett, Mrs. C. Hendricks. **READING** (October) Mr. G. Williams, Mr. G. Burke, Mr. M. Bent. **RICKMANSWORTH** (October) Mr. P. Plimmer. **TROWBRIDGE** (October) Miss I. Dawes.

RICKMANSWORTH COMPANY - NEW ADDRESS. Barn Lea Community Centre, Springwell Avenue, Mill End, Rickmansworth.

STOP PRESS MESSENGER readers will be pleased to learn that since we featured the Hayley West story on our front page, the amount she has collected for the Suffolk Scanner Appeal has risen to over £13,000.

Editor

FROM MINARET TO PULPIT— MAHON STYLE



Jack and Margaret Mahon.

It must be hard to come home after seven years of sunshine, peaches for breakfast and a parish stretching from Nicosia to Nairobi. Pastor Jack Mahon's vivid descriptions of precarious living in the Middle East are not to be missed. Gun-fire is uncomfortably close as he recalls the Syrian attack on Beirut in 1978; his subsequent removal to Cyprus and much, much more.

But the eyes still retain their sparkle and the Lancastrian humour is just as evident. In fact, as one Coventry member stage-whispered, 'He hasn't changed a bit, has he?' The same can be said of his wife, Margaret, who appears to have taken all these upheavals in her stride.

Talking to them both this week brought back memories of my own childhood in that area. Struggles with the language; bargain-hunting in bazaars and the spontaneity and warmth of the people. The years leading up to this experience were equally varied for the Mahons.

It was in 1949 that Jack Mahon graduated from Newbold's ministerial course and began his internship in Glasgow. He also commenced Bible studies with an attractive young lady called Margaret MacNicol who later became his wife. From Glasgow they joined Birmingham's Bradley campaign in 1952 and a year later accepted the challenge of departmental work in the North England Conference. 1954 saw the birth of Pastor Mahon's interests in the Youth, Temperance and Communication areas. A strong anti-smoking programme was pioneered under the direction of Pastor Charles Watson and the film *One in Twenty Thousand* was shown to an interested audience of Members of Parliament.

A call to the South England Conference in 1959 involved the Mahons in similar work and took in the successful Utrecht

Youth Congress of 1960. The next thirteen years saw departmental service in the North and South of England and pastoral work in Hull.

Then in 1973 came opportunity for overseas work. Understandably, it took time for the Mahons to adjust to life in cosmopolitan Beirut. For Jack it meant a post as Youth and Temperance director at the Middle East Union Office, caring for such places as Turkey, Syria, Egypt and Iran. Temperance work is loudly applauded by Moslem officials and mosques became a regular venue for the 5-day Plan. Meanwhile, Margaret and daughters Shona and Fiona settled in Sabtieh, the Adventist 'Holy Row' of Beirut. To their credit they took lessons in Arabic; learned to bargain in downtown stores and 'experiment' with local food. The following year Margaret joined the Afro-Mideast Division Sabbath School department as secretary to Pastor Bekele Heye.

In 1976 Pastor Mahon was called to the same Division, caring for over 220,000 members. Now his work took him to the East African mission fields where many British workers had been pioneer missionaries. Trips to Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia became obvious highlights, with long journeys by Land Rover and mission plane. Ingenuity was often stretched, with bed sheets serving as cine screens in remote areas. The crowds flocked to our Temperance films and asked for more.

October 1978 saw the resumption of bitter fighting in Beirut, bringing the complete breakdown of all communications. Reluctantly the Division office withdrew to Cyprus from where it continues to operate.

Earlier this year Pastor and Mrs. Mahon left sunny Nicosia for a pastoral appointment in the Midlands. In true Coventrian style we welcomed them with a sunny September day on their first Sabbath and many warm handshakes. And, would you believe it, we've already held a 5-day clinic... probably the first of many. It's good to have you back!

MARY BARBER, *Communication secretary, Coventry*

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

The weekend of 3-5 October was Youth Fellowship Weekend and young people came from Southend, Eastbourne, Canterbury, Bournemouth, Bristol, Watford, and Reading to join in the programme. The theme was 'To Know - or to Know Him?'

On Friday evening there was a programme taken by Pastor Garth Anthony, who also took a full Sabbath morning programme, assisted by G. Anderson and D. Tressler. In the afternoon there was street witnessing led

by students from Newbold. The afternoon programme was taken by Pastor Martin Anthony, and in the evening we were shown a film entitled *Time to Run*. On Sunday morning we went ice-skating, and in the afternoon a concert was arranged. Our grateful thanks are extended to those who organized the weekend, and to all those who attended and made it such a success.

Currently, we are preparing for a new evangelistic campaign led by Louis Aguilar, which is due to start on 10 November. We pray for its success, along with those of Winchester and the Isle of Wight, led by Pastor Garth Anthony. Also starting are a series of house meetings in different parts of the area for the benefit of members and visitors.

We pray for God's blessing on all the work now in progress. J. M. PLUMMER

Canterbury Harvest Festival and Baptism

Canterbury's harvest festival was conducted by our former minister, Pastor Ron Davey of Bodmin. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers and greenery and arrayed with gifts of fruit and vegetables, later distributed to the aged. Following the morning service Paul René, aged 21, was baptized. Pastor Davey, who had studied with Paul, immersed him. Our present minister, Brother William Johnstone, welcomed him into fellowship. V. I. GRIDLEY

Hampstead Thanksgiving

Sister L. Powell, our Welfare leader, together with her team of helpers, was responsible for the tasteful display of fruit, vegetables and grain at the Hampstead harvest festival. Pastor V. C. J. Benefield directed our attention to the bountiful provision our Father has made for His children both here and in the New Earth. The proceeds were given to the needy, the sick and the lonely.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

SUNSET

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

	Lon'n	Car'f	Nott'm	Edin.	Bel't
Dec. 5	3.53	4.05	3.50	3.41	4.00
12	3.52	4.04	3.48	3.38	3.58
Dec. 19	3.53	4.05	3.49	3.39	3.59
26	3.57	4.09	3.53	3.43	4.03

MESSENGER

Volume 85 Number 24 5 December 1980

EDITOR: D. N. Marshall

Copy for No. 26 - 1 December

Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL.

Contributors are asked to take note that the Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary.

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTION as from January 1980 - £6 home and abroad.

Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Printed by The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL.