

MESSENGER

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland



VOP Bible work – alive and kicking!

by Mike Stickland, principal

Yes, the VOP Bible School is very much alive and kicking! True, we adopted a broader name with Adventist Discovery Centre, but under that umbrella the VOP is still very active and very productive. So, too, are the Health Education Centre (HEC) and the Discover Bible School (DBS).

Sabbath 18 September is officially listed as VOP Rally Day. There is another big event taking place on that day that may distract from this important promotion, so we need you to know that we are still in the thick of the action in pressing forward with the evangelistic message of the Church. We still contribute to the preparation of more than sixty people for baptism every year! Praise God for this vital work!

The continuity of the total ministry of the Adventist Discovery

Centre relies on the goodwill and faithful generosity of members. We rely on each church providing an adventurous offering, and on individual members putting aside coins week by week in the VOP savings boxes. We depend on 40 per cent of what we need in 1999 coming from you in this way.



The bad news is that in 1999 the direct donations we have received from members and friends have diminished by £1,000 a month over the last year. Perhaps because of the huge humanitarian projects occupying our minds, members have chosen to invest offerings elsewhere, and we would not wish to criticize that motivation. We do, however, face the real possibility that our budget will be £12,000 short by the end of this year as a result.

Elsewhere in this MESSENGER you will find a fuller report of the work of the ADC. Please take time to read it. But please also consider the plight of the Centre if funds do not arrive, and the possibility of the severe cutting back of our ministry that this may precipitate.

(Full report on pages 4, 5.)

Seventh-day Adventists . . .



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18 SEPTEMBER – VOP RALLY DAY



and Temperance

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

What's in a word?

Traditionally, Temperance has been associated and equated with abstinence from alcohol use in its many forms. While the word Temperance does contain the idea of sobriety, it is its sense of soberness which more closely catches its meaning. Being sober-minded is a way of life. It suggests that the individual so described is one who demonstrates self-control in all things.

The founders of Seventh-day Adventism were sober-minded even before there was an organized Church teaching Temperance as one of its tenets of faith. Understandably so. They lived in an age of social and moral reform that called for a serious approach to life. Not least, they expected the imminent return of Jesus and the close of Earth's history. What more sobering event could they contemplate?

In formulating the doctrinal position of the fledgling Church it was readily seen that Temperance was very much a Bible-based subject, consequently it received the same attention as any of the other messages of good news found in the Bible.

We should note that, coming from different religious backgrounds, a few of the founders did not always display the balance that did justice to a theology of health. Some of the participants in the 'Millerite' movement believed that it was necessary for a person to be both physically and spiritually perfect before Christ returned. There was, therefore, an element of compulsion to healthy living which tended to turn people away from the sober-minded life rather than to attract them to it. Strains of the former persist to the present time.

Growing awareness

In spite of their materialistic approach to life, many people are prepared today to concede that certain healthful practices can lower a wide variety of health risks, and provide a quality-of-life factor which has been missing for so long. Witness the growing interest in leisure and recreational activities worldwide, and the large sums of money spent on these areas of interest.

Against this backdrop, sober-mindedness is coming back into focus as the realities of ill-health, poverty, and war strike ever closer to home. Thinking of their health, many people are asking, 'What must I do to be saved?' Even non-Christians have the pessimistic view that the present age is the last: they expect asteroids to impact; earthquakes to occur; volcanoes to erupt; or a fate-sealing nuclear holocaust to take place. These are sobering issues likely to produce sober-minded people and, for God's people, the Second Advent still exerts the most powerful influence. We certainly do not have to apologize for being sober-minded!

Set apart for a holy use

Far from apologizing, we have much to be thankful for. The meaning of Temperance as sober-mindedness is best realized as we contemplate its purpose in our lives. We reach sublime heights of understanding in the concept of the body as a temple for the Holy Spirit, as addressed in the writings of the apostle Paul.¹

How we treat sacred buildings is of utmost importance. It follows naturally that how we treat our bodies is of equal importance and will have visible results. Temperance is part of the fruit of the Spirit,² so lack of sober-mindedness may indicate an even greater lack.

It is the substance of John's aspiration for the early Church members that soul and body attain the same continued growth,³ a thought that J. B. Phillips translates so well in the words of 1 Thessalonians 4:7, 'The calling of God is not to impurity but to the most thorough purity, and anyone who makes light of the matter is not making light of a man's ruling but of God's command. It is not for nothing that the Spirit God gives us is called the Holy Spirit.'

Temples are the interface between

the sacred and the profane worlds. They are places where God meets with His people. This suggests that body temples have something to mediate. Unfortunately, we do not live in an ideal world, but even with our present limitations we can and must have that inner radiance and joy that bespeaks the presence of God.

One of the most beautiful people I have ever met is an Adventist young lady whose face was grossly disfigured as a result of a gas container explosion and subsequent fire. She proved, as others may also, that a handicap need not be a barrier to effective communication about the love of Christ. In fact, handicap may prove to be a powerful witness to God's abiding presence. In any case, problems currently besetting us will not be present in our resurrection bodies. It is surely a joy for us to know that one day soon everything will be different for us.⁴

It is surely a joy for us to know that one day soon everything will be different for us.⁴

Temperate by nature

I believe that we sober-minded have more 'going for us' than those not so blessed. The hearts of the sober-minded do not have to fail them for fear;⁵ they do not have

to be overcome by the anxieties of this world, nor do they have to worry about whether they will have food and drink, or clothing.⁶ While the sober-minded are not guaranteed complete freedom from problems, in Psalm 27, verse 5 they are given assurances beyond their immediate concerns.

Clearly Temperance must become part of our nature. Ellen G. White amplifies the thought with this statement: 'The law of temperance must control the life of every Christian. God is to be in all our thoughts; His glory is ever to be kept in view. We must break away from every influence that would captivate our thoughts and lead us from God. We are under sacred obligations to God so to govern our bodies and rule our appetites and passions that

they will not lead us away from purity and holiness, or take our minds from the work that God requires us to do.' *Counsels on Health*, page 42.

Susannah Wesley, mother of the founder of Methodism, put it simply in a letter to her son, 'Whatever weakens your reason, impairs the tenderness of your conscience, obscures your sense of God, decreases the strength and authority of your mind over your body – that thing is wrong, however innocent it may be in itself.'

I am constantly surprised, in the light of the above, as I visit churches and find that people still expect to be told what to eat or drink or how to behave. It seems that we have a long way to go before we are sober-minded or temperate by *nature*! However much some may regret it, the day of the big stick has long since gone. The role of the Temperance department is not to make individual choices but to provide the information on the basis of which choices are made.

Learning for life

Experiential learning is the most effective method of learning. There is increasingly more scientific and clinical evidence that the temperate lifestyle as followed by Seventh-day Adventists is advantageous to health. Over one hundred and fifty studies worldwide use Seventh-day Adventists for direct research or as control groups for comparison with other groups being studied.

Is this the time to be liberal in our view of health? Clearly not – the eyes of the world are on us. Should we abstain from alcohol and non-prescription drugs, should we be concerned about exercise and what we eat and drink? You are not going to catch me on these questions, you will have to answer them for yourself! Suffice it to say, the sober-minded do not need to have the questions answered for them. As for the rest, let me quote a phrase from a popular advertisement: 'Go on, do it, deep down you know it makes sense.' The rewards are out of this world!⁷

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¹Romans 12:1, 2; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17; 6:12-20; 2 Corinthians 6:16-18. ²Peter 1:6. ³John 2. ⁴1 John 3:1-3. ⁵cf. Luke 21:26. ⁶cf. Matthew 6:25-32. ⁷Revelation 2:7.

Are you a born again bonehead?

It's official! I'm a 'Born Again Bonehead'! And, before there are too many cracks, I'd better tell you that the likelihood is that you are one, too! We have it on the authority of A. N. Wilson, writing in London's *Evening Standard*, 13 August. How do we qualify for such a title? We are critical of evolution and do not regard the six-day Creation account as 'a myth'. OK?

And who, you may be asking, is A. N. Wilson? Reacting against a Christian background, Wilson has been, for some years, a crusading atheist. He has written a book attacking the historicity of Christ. In addition, jumping on the bandwagon just as it has ground to a halt (thanks to the discovery of certain biblical manuscripts,¹) he has published a book against the authenticity of most of the New Testament.

Wilson is a journalist, not a scholar. This makes him more readable but less reliable. Indeed, his *Evening Standard* piece on 'Born Again Boneheads' is by no means four-square factual. It was John Milton in *Paradise Lost*, says Wilson, who first suggested 'that all the species on earth were created in one go'. Christian theology, he continues, 'has always taught the truth of evolution' since 'the third or fourth centuries'.

More irksome, even, than Wilson's disregard for the facts, is his tone. Built into the ridicule he levels at Creationist Christians, is the rather bold assumption that if you disagree with the conventional wisdom you are stupid (a 'bonehead') and, *ipso facto*, not to be tolerated in a civilized society.²

Remember McCarthyism? It was an extreme right-wing political stance prevalent in the USA of the 1950s characterized by intense anti-Communism and a tendency to destroy the employment prospects of all manner of people by labeling them 'Communist'. Whether or not the allegation was supported by fact was not the point. The purpose of the exercise was to suppress opposition.

McCarthyism enjoyed its period of success, of course, because it took advantage of a latent social paranoia and sought to blow it to the proportions of a national psychosis. When this aim is achieved *any* minority can be the victim.

Is it possible that today we are suffering from McCarthyism-in-reverse, with the liberals as the witch-hunters?

A. N. Wilson's angry article was written because the author had just discovered that, not only did biblical Creationists exist in the USA, but they were – perish the thought! – taken seriously. Just about anyone who has the guts to risk offending fashionable sensibilities can expect to incur the wrath of the trendy across a whole range of issues.

From time to time, when I have spoken in a Sabbath morning service, I am invited to participate in AYS. When this happened recently I found a quiet place after lunch to do some preparatory Bible study. The study didn't get done – because of an interesting discussion among a group of young people taking place within earshot. My attention was grabbed when one youth called another 'a Neanderthal moron'. (Well, I suppose it makes a change from 'Born Again Bonehead'!) I decided to keep a low profile until I had ascertained exactly what opinion a young person had to hold to qualify as 'a Neanderthal moron'. I didn't have long to wait. The expression

was repeated with the word *homophobic* interjected between 'Neanderthal' and 'moron'.

For readers unused to this terminology, permit me to explain that *homophobic* is used to describe someone opposed to homosexual practices. One of the ground rules in a Politically Correct (PC) discussion is that once someone has been called *homophobic* he doesn't have a politically correct leg to stand on. McCarthyism-in-reverse, you see. The unnerving new orthodoxy substitutes *homophobic* for *Communist* in the stereotypical question, 'Are you or have you ever been a Communist?'

Most of the young people in the discussion group were, I later learned, engaged in one form or another of further or higher education. As the discussion continued it began to emerge that one faction had taken its Christianity to college and, assuming it to be intellectually inferior to PC orthodoxy, made a straight switch. The other faction, by contrast, was holding PC orthodoxy in tension with the demands of Scripture. The young man who had attracted the name-calling had, it turned out, expressed the view that he would be attending College Y instead of College X because College X tolerated homosexual practices on campus.

This is where I asked the tentative question, 'What does College Y do?' College Y, I was told, asks all incoming students to sign a document which covers the standards for which College Y stands. These standards include a stance against drugs, smoking, alcohol and sexual activities hetero or homo. Aspirant students who do not wish to uphold these standards refuse to sign, and take themselves off, presumably, to one of colleges A to X and, possibly, Z.

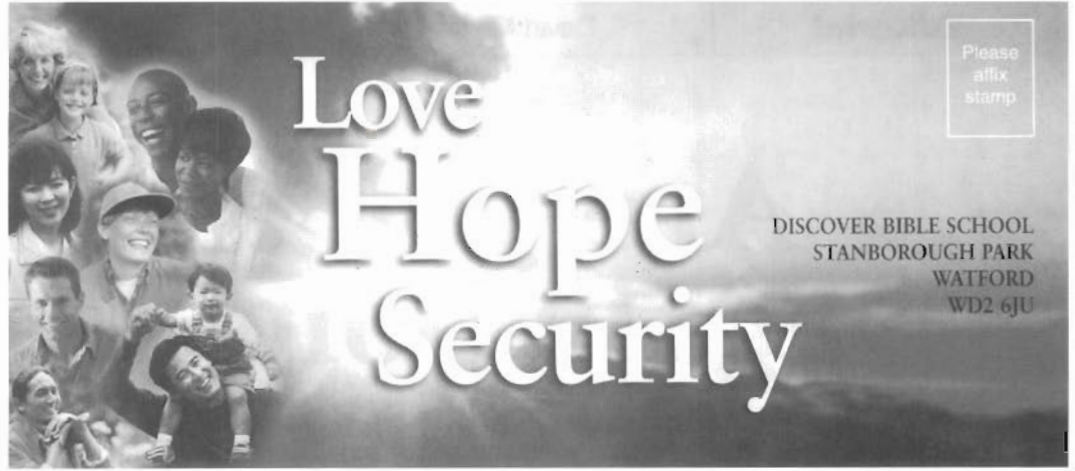
By now a calmer atmosphere prevailed in the discussion, and other (not always PC) voices were given a chance. A young undergraduate had a copy of *Adventist Review*, 27 May, to hand and quoted from an article called 'Straight Talk'. She was struck by the 'balance' of the article. While quoting the Bible's condemnation of the homosexual lifestyle³ – and, indeed, all forms of immorality – it stressed that the God who hated the sin loved the sinner. Further, that God's offer of pardon, reconciliation and new birth was made to all repentant sinners.

Then, in a mature, PC-free discussion, the two factions in that group of young people dissolved into one as they abandoned all efforts to make individuals outcasts on the basis of their opinion or sexual orientation, upheld the ideal of celibacy for homosexuals and unmarried heterosexuals seeking baptism or church membership, and marvelled at the power of the Gospel to transform and make new.

Let's be wary of this fashionable intolerance I have called McCarthyism-in-reverse. Whatever they are saying on television or in the newspapers or in the lecture hall, none of these media lays claim to divine inspiration. The Bible does. If adherence to that truth makes me a 'Born Again Bonehead' I can live with that. You, too?

¹Marshall, *Experiencing the Power of the Word* (Autumn House, 1999), pages 62-64. ²Dr Colin Mitchell, who has a first degree from Oxford and a PhD from Cambridge – not a 'bonehead' – has just published *Creationism Revisited* with Autumn House. This is probably the best defence of Creationism written so far.

³Genesis 19:5-8; Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26, 27.



**A report from MIKE STICKLAND, principal,
for VOP Rally Day, 18 September**

Lessons from a VOP pupil

Yes, I'm a VOP pupil too! It has been two years since I took over as principal when Pastor Fretson Taylor retired, but I am still learning. Please allow me to share some of the lessons that have come my way doing this fascinating and rewarding ministry.

Lesson One: The work of the Bible School (both VOP and DBS) is a work of patience and prayer.

We tend to want instant results because we live in a fast-food, quick-fit society. Yet the work of God requires much more patience than that. Occasionally we come across someone who has a dramatic turn-around, but generally our students take years rather than weeks to make their decisions.

We tend to look only for the immediate response from VOP card distribution. Fretson can tell you a wonderful story about a card distributed in 1955, that was lost inside a piano until 1980. But then it was found, and the lady concerned enrolled in our Bible courses. Today in the Chiswick church you will still find that lady worshipping and serving! Be patient and be persistent with your card distribution. Only God knows when He can make use of it.

Lesson Two: The work of the Bible School produces networking.

When we set the VOP ball rolling, there is no guessing what networks of contacts the Lord will bring from it. Every student is invited to send in names of friends who might also like to enrol. In turn, those new contacts are invited to do the same. Before long a whole network of contacts can arise from one card being dropped through a letterbox. I once counted such a network reaching

thirteen people in Hull, and another reaching twenty-three inmates in a Scottish prison.

But VOP and DBS ministry also stimulates another network. Left to ourselves, all we can offer our students is contact by correspondence. We need the networking of members and ministers to visit and nurture those contacts if ever we are to bridge the gap and bring them to our church. This is a very serious matter, and we find that in some towns we do not get the co-operation the students deserve. I believe every church should ask, 'Who is going to take responsibility in our area to visit and nurture Bible contacts?' If the minister's timetable does not permit this, then the congregation needs to appoint others who have time and transportation to do it.

Lesson Three: The work of the ADC 'refreshes the parts other ministries cannot reach'.

I am thinking here of two main categories of work that local churches and pastors cannot achieve. I am thinking of all those thousands in our country who live remote from an Adventist church. The VOP and DBS work can reach people whom local evangelistic crusades cannot reach.

But I am thinking equally of the many hundreds of men and women we serve who are at present inmates in HM prisons.

● Three inmates in a Scottish prison have been changed so much by their Bible study that our

pastor is now allowed a 'chapel visit' every month. They come together and study and pray with him for an hour.

● One inmate in Merseyside gave his heart to the Lord and was brought in custody to the Liverpool church last year where he was baptized. He now rejoices in the network of Adventist friends who correspond with him.

● Another inmate in Wiltshire was so impressed with our Digging Up the Past course, that he arranged with the chaplain to hold a weekly study group for other inmates. Twelve men are now keenly following the lessons.

● Down at Portland, Dorset, Pastors Roy Chisholm, K. C. Henry and L. H. Hill visited to baptize a student. His testimony was so strong that we now have a cluster of others diligently following various courses.

Lesson Four: The work of the Bible School consists in a ministry of prayer and letters.

Perhaps that is a statement of the obvious, for we are a correspondence school. We seek to nurture our correspondence students by inviting their questions and requests for prayer. Every morning in the BUC worship we bring these requests to God. We also write to encourage and support those students, which stimulates a flow of compassion and empathy that is appreciated and vital to our creating a sense of confidence and caring.

In return we

receive the most wonderful testimonies about what God has done as a result of the Bible courses. Here are a few samples:

● Mr K. Evangelous: 'I have increased my knowledge about God's word. I've realized that God's word is the true gospel. I feel closer to Jesus and only through him can I be saved and have eternal life. Jesus brings me great joy that he is returning to earth again soon. I have enjoyed the Discover course very much. I believe the seventh-day Sabbath is correct and should be observed.'

● D. Stokes: 'These lessons (DUP) have increased my confidence in the reliability of the Bible because they have proved that the Lord Jesus was a real person and not someone made up in a story.'

● Mrs Tate: 'These lessons are quite inspirational and have helped me to understand the scriptures and have a better knowledge of the Bible. I still have a long way to go but I am trying to read every day.'

Lesson Five: The work of the ADC relies on the whole church.

We're not soloists, here at the Adventist Discovery Centre. This work is not something we can do in isolation from you. If you are not with us, we will fail. This is true in four ways:

● Firstly, we rely on your financial involvement. The BUC funds approximately 60% of our operating budget, and we must leave it to prayer and providence that the balance will come from churches, members and friends by way of offerings and donations. In an act of confidence in your faithfulness, we set a budget for 1999 (relating realistically to past performance) that looked for £12,000 in offer-



ings from the churches, and £30,000 in donations from members and friends. At the mid-point of the year the latter is approximately £6,000 down on target, so we appeal to you to reconsider us prayerfully.

● Secondly, we rely on the churches for promotion of our courses. Some 40% of our applications come via card distribution. The churches made a massive effort last year with the DBS promotion and with NET '98 in view, but this year many churches are still 'on holiday', and we can see it in reduced applications for our courses.

● Thirdly, we rely on members and ministers to make personal contact with students. I have already mentioned this above, but if you really want to take this work forward then you should be aware of the various systems we have to help. For instance,

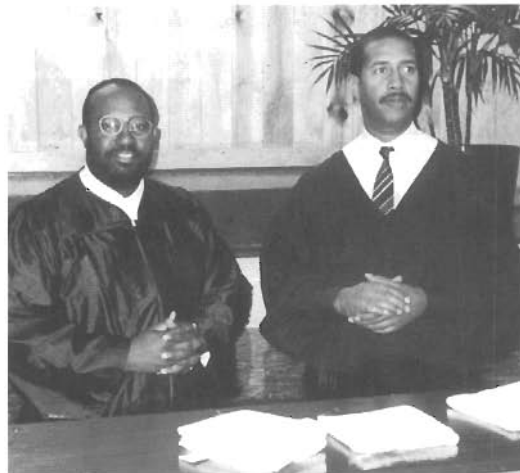
- Do you know how the DBS60 method works?
- Do you know about our Group Tutor scheme?
- Do you have an official VOP Visitor registered for your church?

● Finally, we rely on your prayers. We need 'prayer warriors' who will remember the ADC staff on a daily basis, and who will pray for specific students and their needs. Without prayer and the grace of God in this place and on our work, we labour in vain. If you would like to receive regular prayer bulletins, please let us know.

Conclusion:

There is another advertising slogan I like to borrow – the one about your 'flexible friend'. Take a close look at the witness of your church in its community. Then take another look at the VOP, HEC and DBS work offered by the Adventist Discovery Centre. Our commitment is to be as flexible as we can. We will co-operate with you and will seek to provide some form of Bible study support that suits your congregation. There should be no reason why your congregation, no matter how large or small, cannot find a formula with us by which we can press this work forward. We're waiting to hear from you.

Huddersfield Victory Crusade



Dr K. Mulzac and Pastor Desmond Rafferty in the baptismal pool

The persistence of a determined Personal Ministries leader and Ingathering local agent led to Huddersfield's first 'Victory Celebration Crusade'

headed by speaker Dr Kenneth Mulzac from Oakwood College in Alabama. He ministered to the many friends, family and neighbours of the Huddersfield church from 24 July until 7 August, with his wife Belynda and children Breanda and Karla. Topics ranged from the love of God to the Sabbath question. 'Leave, cleave and weave' and 'Dr Mulzac, I can't feel it' were two of his memorable sermons.

Belynda, a recording artiste in the US, ministered in song many of the tracks on her current CD. Their friend and nursing professional Mrs Nancy Carter brought the Health Awareness spot to us. Special thanks are extended to the Barnsley and Oldham churches for their support in singing and attendance.

Sabbath the 7th was a high day for all as a shortened Sabbath school allowed the baptismal service to be conducted in the usual divine service spot. Candidates were Mrs Joyce O'Hara, Sydney Donaldson, George Matheson and Geoff Bampfield, who received the right hand of fellowship. The evening service ended with a parting address from Dr Mulzac, a mini-concert, including much congregational singing, and special items and favourites from Sister Mulzac. We are thankful to God for the safe return of the Mulzac family and Mrs Carter to the US, plus the spiritual uplift we have gained. Huddersfield will continue to spread the Gospel and reach out to its wider community as we eagerly await our Lord's return.

CHRISTINE MOSES

Round and About

Portsmouth: more baptisms

Following a baptism at the end of last year and another near the beginning of this year, two more precious souls joined the Portsmouth church family on Sabbath 7 August. Ardrine Edwards had been sending two of her children to the Adventurer Club for nearly two years and had attended church occasionally herself. After a series of Bible studies, she decided it was time to take God seriously and made her decision to start attending church and be baptized. Her influence has already had a positive impact on her children, and all four of them have indicated that they would like to follow their mother's example at a later date.

Ellie Thompson has been searching for God all her life and at times this has led her down many different paths. She has been a landlady to one of our members for about three years and there have been many interesting discus-



Left to right: Bryan Calhoun (elder), Ardrine Edwards and Ellie Thompson (candidates); Pastor Terry Messenger.

sions. She attended many of the NET '98 meetings and loved the series so much that she took home the tapes to view again and to show to her friends and neighbours. At the beginning of this year she had her 19-year-old nephew come to stay with her and she telephoned the pastor and suggested he might be interested in studying the Bible. Studies commenced, but the nephew shortly moved away. Ellie was enjoying the studies so much that she insisted they must continue. She was concerned that she could not find God until one day at the end of a particular study she exclaimed, 'At last I've come home!'

York generosity

The generosity of the York people on 21 April towards Kosova-Albania was more than could have been anticipated. After a call to the local radio station from our minister Roger Neal, and phone calls to the local hospital and a large hotel in York made by Dawn and Maurice Franks, we were given numerous sheets, blankets, clothing, duvets and toys, all of which enabled us to fill two transit vans. The minister later arrived with eighteen boxes of new shoes to fit toddlers through to junior sizes. As we put on our coats to return home, a knock on the door revealed two ladies, who, after a brief talk with the minister, expressed an interest in having Bible studies.

MARGARET CLEE

NET '98 baptism

Nottingham Central took part in The NeXt Millennium seminar and a number of contacts were made. Recently two precious souls were added to the church. Valerie Davis (second left) and Beverly King are rejoicing in the Lord with the support of Central members. The guest speaker for the NET '98 baptism was NEC president Pastor Egerton Francis (left). Also seen in the picture is Pastor Curtis Murphy.

MARVIN PATTERSON

PASTOR TERRY MESSENGER





The Alpha Initiative – too good to miss

by Isobel Webster*

Nicky Gumble is not an Adventist. An Anglican, he is part of the pastoral team at a church called Holy Trinity, across the road from Harrods. If you have not heard of him, you have probably heard of his work, because he leads the Alpha Initiative, and even if you did not pay much attention, you will certainly have seen billboards and posters advertising the Alpha course in basic Christianity. Holy Trinity funds the advertising for the Alpha campaign, but the course is not specifically Anglican. It consists of a series of video presentations, very simply prepared, in which Nicky Gumble clearly explains the basic Gospel in an easy-listening style. A workbook provides discussion questions, and the main emphasis of the programme is to provide a forum for discussion aimed at those searching for answers to the meaning of life.

Holy Trinity Brompton – their offer to you

The course is deliberately non-denominational, so that any group of Christians can feel comfortable using it to share their love of Jesus with friends and neighbours. *And here is the point to which we need to pay close attention:* every year, in September, Holy Trinity church funds a nationwide advertising project worth over a million pounds, with a free phone number for people to call to find out where the nearest Alpha Course is being run. *And if your church's name is on their register, they will gladly send people to your course. They do not mind which Christian group brings souls to Christ; they do not mind who provides the follow-up teaching; they do not mind who*

baptizes those souls into membership.

These videos can be used in your church, and are an excellent way to use the NET '98 equipment many of us now have access to; they are also perfect for using at home in your own living room. Wherever; your venue can go on the national register and benefit from a nationwide advertising campaign which is happening anyway.

Compromise?

Adventists must never compromise with other denominations regarding their distinctive doctrines. 'That is why', says Nicky Gumble, 'we do not expect you to use our follow-up video series. You will want to do your own further Bible teaching. Every church group will feel that way.'

Holy Trinity hosted a luncheon and interview period recently, and invited Adventist representatives, among others, to visit and find out how the Alpha course could help our churches to grow. The graciousness and open-mindedness extended towards us at this time is something from which we can only benefit, whatever the future may hold. Certainly to be associated with such a respected Christian event as Alpha must improve our image within our local communities: Holy Trinity know enough about Adventists not to regard us as a dangerous non-Christian sect and, through them, we can help other neighbourhood churches to trust us, too. Anyone who is familiar with the Alpha course and then sees it advertised on your church notice board will immediately know that Adventists are a 'safe', Gospel-orientated, lively, witnessing Church. And anyone coming to a knowledge of the love of God in an Adventist venue will almost certainly turn to his or her hosts to learn more of the Bible.

Tried and tested

Having heard of Alpha, the

pastor and two members of Lincoln church went along when it was run at Lincoln Cathedral. Realizing the tremendous potential of the course, we held it as a follow-up to the NET '98 programme in January of this year. Not beginning it in September meant we missed out on the free advertising; nevertheless we have a baptism coming up as a result. This year we will plan it to coincide with Holy Trinity's advertising campaign. Interestingly, Nicky Gumble informed us that 98% of Alpha attendees come by personal invitation – the advertising is simply to make them feel more comfortable when their friend or neighbour invites them along. As you can imagine, the fact that a huge billboard in the middle of your town has already made the Alpha course known to your neighbour or workmate would make it easier for you to suggest they come along to your church.

Caution

The course is for non-Christians, or brand new Christians, or those who are wondering. People who have had the privilege of walking with the Lord for a long time should only go on an Alpha Course if they take a non-Christian with them. The reason for this is clear: if you've been a Christian for a while, it's hard for you to understand what it is like *not* to be one in this present day. So you do not understand what questions need to be debated. You will hear Nicky Gumble's words on a completely different level from someone hearing the Gospel for the first time, and the discussion you may want to become involved in will probably not touch them where they need it to, even if you *think* you know exactly what they need. We found this to be true in Lincoln. We also found that Alpha can work well with a very small group; years ago, when Holy

Trinity began it, they had small groups too. Now they have more than a thousand on each course. It grows naturally.

Think about it!

I do not suggest that Alpha is the answer to all our evangelistic needs; simply that it is a very economical outreach programme which does not need someone with campaign-style gifts to run it. The pastor does not have to do it – you can run it yourself at home if you want. And it is not a programme of which we need to be afraid. Nothing is said with which we intrinsically disagree. If you feel that an emphasis is placed where we might not place it, or not enough emphasis is put somewhere else, then Nicky Gumble says, 'That is what the discussion time is for, and your follow-up teaching programme. That is your chance to place the emphasis where you think it should be.' Statistically, the programme has proved most successful when used exactly as it is, leaving any change of emphasis to the discussion period.

If you have not already done so, why not consider adding Alpha to your church's outreach programme? Make sure your venue is on Holy Trinity's register. Someone right near your church is searching for Jesus – make sure that if they ring that free phone number, they are sent to *you* to find Him.

**Isobel Webster is a Newbold ministerial graduate actively involved with her husband in evangelistic and pastoral work in Lincoln. She would be interested to hear, either directly or through the MESSENGER, from anyone who has used the Alpha course in their church. Ministers should ring (0171) 581 8255 to register, and for more information.*



Left to right: Pastor Gordon Smith, Helen Brunton, Andy McKie (Irvine elder), Deborah Clarke, Pastor Eric Lowe, Maggie Robertson, Dr Martin Clee (East Kilbride elder).

Scottish victory

Irvine church was filled to capacity on 26 June when we met together to share the first baptism in Irvine since the new church was opened just over two years ago.

Since there is no baptistery in the church, a temporary structure was designed and built and was waiting for its trial run on that warm, sunny Sabbath morning.

Helen Brunton and Deborah Clarke, mother and daughter, began the Discover correspondence course some months ago, responding positively to an invitation from their mother and grandmother Mrs Tina Troup, a member of our church in Irvine. They came along to the showing of the NET '98 videos in Mrs Troup's home and soon after made a decision to commit themselves to Christ

through the waters of baptism.

Maggie Robertson also enrolled in the Discover course last year. She came along to the NET '98 meetings in East Kilbride and what she heard echoed what she had already found in her personal studies. She had wanted to be baptized by immersion for some time and her desire came to fruition when she followed the example of her Saviour and was baptized.

After the baptism, conducted by the writer, Helen and Debbie were accepted into the fellowship of the Irvine church. Maggie will be accepted into the East Kilbride church. Thanks go to all who worked hard behind the scenes to make this day a great success.

PASTOR GORDON SMITH

Through many dangers

Would you like to hear of a zealous wife's eagerness for her husband to know God? Four years of correspondence resulted in Rezzie coming from the Philippines to marry Roland Hirst. This was in 1997, and Roland was in no way interested in knowing God. Slowly and patiently Rezzie tried to explain the Scriptures but Roland argued, and only when Pastor Paul Haworth visited them in their home to give Bible studies did Roland begin to see the light. Roland's readiness to bring his wife to church – and sit through the services after working the night shift at a local bakery – made the York church aware that here was someone special. The trials these two young people have been through during their thirty months of marriage left us wondering – would he, or wouldn't he, trust in the God who was, by His Holy Spirit, pleading with him? A full-term baby was stillborn in 1998, and their newly-furnished home was ruined by the floods in Malton

in March 1999. *In spite of all this*, Roland surrendered his heart to Jesus and we rejoiced as we witnessed his baptism on 3 July at our lovely church in York. Roger Neal, our minister since January, took over the Bible studies when Pastor Paul Haworth left, and it was a great day as both ministers joined the members of York, and many friends from neighbouring churches, for a banquet lunch and tea. Roland's family joined us in fellowship. Please remember Rezzie and Roland as they walk the Christian pathway together.

MARGARET CLEE



The man from Ballymoney who loves to Ingather!

When someone mentions Easter what comes into your mind? For me, believe it or not, it's Ingathering, which usually takes place around Easter time. This year we celebrated Easter right in the middle of the Irish Mission's allocated two-week collecting period.

This comes to mind because I know that for those two weeks my husband David, who loves Ingathering with a passion, will be out there collecting every hour God sends, and this year was no exception.

We have a BT advert: 'It's good to talk'. David Dickie, from the Coleraine church, has his own wording of the advert: 'It's good to walk' – and preferably with a collecting tin in hand!

David works full-time in a job that involves him being on his feet all day so he is well used to walking. However, he booked three days' annual leave so that he could go out collecting during the day, calling on shopkeepers and business people in various local towns. A typical day started with a late breakfast (9am), out collecting, home for lunch, out collecting, home for tea, out collecting. People gave generously and he was well received by all, including one businessman who gave this year for the first time, having been called on in previous years and refusing. In his home town of Ballymoney (which has about fifty-six shops and businesses) David collected £189.41.

During this two-week period another two days' leave was required by David to childmind our two children (7 and 9) while I had to go to work (I work full-days, part-time). Did this inconvenience David in any way? No! Our two children accompanied him in the car and he drove around doing a country run for a couple of hours with further collecting – nothing like doing two jobs at one time. Well, isn't that what us women do normally? (Sorry!)

Another little story: while out collecting door to door on a small estate that took about an



David Dickie of Coleraine church

hour to do, David knocked on this particular door which was opened by a woman who last year gave him a £1 coin. (Last year being the first time she had heard of World-Wide Advent Missions.) On answering the door this year she recognized David, and the cause, and donated a £20 note!

David has been doing his territory over these last nine years. He likes to do a district, come home, count it and compare it to his previous years in that area. So nineteen regions collected and nineteen tins later he has the grand total of £1,545.50.

While I take this opportunity to give David a special mention for his excellent Ingathering total, I would like to thank ALL who went out collecting, gave personal donations or helped in any way, even those involved in the colossal paperwork, which is just as important.

We must remember that this is a massive outreach event and, while we recognize the help we can give and *will* give in financing the essential projects listed on the leaflet, we must always remember that for every contact made and every leaflet distributed we have witnessed for the Church and given individuals the opportunity to reply to the leaflets which invite them to find out MORE.

IRENE DICKIE

NEC Ministerial Retreat

The ministerial worker force of the NEC and their families met for a weekend of spiritual refreshment at Southport on 4-6 June. The weekend had the theme 'The Blessings of Ministry' and sought to challenge and re-envision the ministerial team of the NEC. Speakers included Pastor Egerton Francis (NEC president), Dr Daniel Duda (Newbold College lecturer), Pastor Cecil Perry (BUC president), Pastor Peter Roenfeldt (TED Ministerial secretary) and Pastor Doug Martin (NEC camp

meeting speaker). Each presentation was so riveting that they were *all* the highlight of the weekend! There was an excellent balance of different types of speakers who complemented each other. It was good to have the family members present with time for friendships to be deepened. The Agape meal, celebrating ministry through testimony and prayer, brought the whole NEC team together in a fitting closure of a high Sabbath.

PASTOR LLEWELLYN EDWARDS,
NEC Ministerial secretary

A Day of Fellowship for all people

... a report from Yorkshire

Let no one say that Days of Fellowship are organized by *Saga*. Pudsey, on 15 May, was certainly not just for the elderly. Some of them, indeed, wondered what had happened! We did begin in our customary way with a song service, singing hymns from the *SDA Hymnal*, chosen to suit a large group. Eugenia Moses of Huddersfield always gets the best from a congregation. Then, while the children and youth were in classes elsewhere, Pastor Llew Edwards, NEC secretary, presented a competent study. The key texts were projected onto a large screen and there was plenty of audience comment via a roving microphone.

The divine service soon began to take us away from things traditional. For once the rich tenor voice of Mansel Jones (platform party) was silent. He explained that these hymns were all new to him, but he was planning to learn them for next year. The singing was guided by a trio of Worship Leaders from Sheffield, supported by a backing group comprising a keyboard, guitars and drums.

Pastor Paul Haworth took the children's section in the service and, armed with no more than scissors, strips of newspaper, and slivers of sellotape, held the children enthralled with his conjurer's tricks. I was close enough to hear an astonished cry of, 'How did you do that?' However, young Charlene soon sussed it out, 'He twisted the paper!'

Another different feature was

the Prayer Garden when many came forward to have prayers said over them. Several people prayed, leading the congregation and the supplicants in their worship.

Our visiting preacher was Newbold's Dr Jeffrey Brown who delivered his sermon with great skill. Someone said, 'We were putty in his hands.'

The best description of the day can be heard in the solicited comments of a cross-section of the worshippers: Hazel said, 'An excellent sermon'; though she added: 'Too much music.' Leora exclaimed, 'The whole day left me on a high, and even my son (11) enjoyed it.' Dorothy felt, 'It was a bit too noisy'. And John wryly observed, 'The drummer showed a stamina only known to vegetarians.'

Let Fenton have the last word, 'The day was good, enjoyable, and enlightening, truly a day of fellowship.'

PASTOR JOHN HINES

Prison Ministries in Lowestoft

I first went to Blundeston prison a little over a year ago in response to a request to visit an Adventist inmate. It felt very claustrophobic when the various cell doors clanged behind me, but I soon felt at home talking to Peter (not his real name) from St Lucia, who had a very positive outlook on life – he felt that God had allowed him to

Conference for Marriage Savers

On Monday 16 August Robin Aitken of BBC Breakfast News filmed and reported on the first British Conference for the Marriage Saver organization at the Advent Centre in London. Mick McManus, a co-director of Marriage Savers, spoke about how his organization has helped to create Community Marriage Policies that have dramatically brought down the divorce rate in many US towns and cities.

Mick McManus was interviewed live on Channel 4 News on 16 August and BBC Breakfast television aired a feature based on his initial lecture in London on 17 August. *The Guardian* also ran a feature story on 16 August. *The Guardian* writer called a Marriage Saver in Kansas city, who confirmed that they had seen a 30% fall in divorce rate in the two years since the community implemented its marriage policy.

Speaking about the event, SEC Family Ministries director Bernie

Holford said, 'It is so exciting that Adventists can help to facilitate this important event. By God's grace this movement will help our churches and communities to enrich, and save, a lot of our marriages. Many members are heading over the precipice of divorce without anyone showing them how to avoid such a calamity. This conference (and the subsequent training sessions) has given us the tools to help not only our church but to offer a powerful help for our communities.'

Representatives attended the conference from Relate, and Anglican and Roman Catholic churches. Pastors G. Rhamie and N. Myrie gave good Adventist representation at the meeting. Contact Bernie Holford, at Bernie_Holford@Compuserve.com, or the SEC if you want to find out more about the Marriage Savers movement. Website: <http://MarriageSavers.org>.

be in prison for a purpose. He felt that he now had a closer walk with God, and that God was calling him to witness to other inmates.

While I was there, I made friends with the other chaplains (Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Baptist). They asked me if I had ever run an Alpha course. I said I had, and they wondered if I could help to run the twelve-week course, two hours a week. I thought hard (for about two seconds!) about whether I should take two hours from my week to bring the Gospel to lost men, and agreed to help.

So, in partnership with the other chaplains, we ran the course, finishing at Christmas 1998. I took my wife to the carol service in prison (I take her to all the best places), which was really uplifting. As a result of the course, four young men (three indigenous, one Afro-Caribbean) were baptized into Jesus Christ in March this year.

We gave presents of NeXt Millennium seminar Bibles to quite a few of the students, and about six of the inmates have seen most of Dwight Nelson's tapes. One of the young men (from Glasgow) who was baptized is now convinced about the Sabbath.

I am at present assisting with a follow-up seminar on relationships, designed by the Prison

Fellowship and Christian Prison Ministries. I lead out in turn with the other chaplains, and I am operating as a full member of the chaplaincy team. On average we have about fifteen inmates regularly attending sessions, and they range in experience from committed believers to seekers. As a result of these sessions, small groups run by inmates have sprung up in the cell blocks, with Peter foremost in promoting these.

This is a ministry that I did not seek, nor expect. It is a challenge working alongside ministers from other denominations, but I truly believe this is a Spirit-led ministry. I have never hidden who I am, where I come from, or what I believe – although in an ecumenical situation I have to wait until someone asks me who, what, where and why (the interesting thing is that this comes out naturally in conversation).

It is a joy to see young men suddenly realize for the first time in their lives that they are worth something; that they have a forever Friend who loves them no matter what. To see the Holy Spirit transforming lives as we watch is awe-inspiring and uplifting. I count it a privilege that God has allowed me to be part of His work in Blundeston.

PASTOR DAVID FOSTER



Danny 'Mr D' Reid



Paul Izod



Lydia Gallaher



Jonathan Edwards

Retreats Review

Since our last report, Retreats Unlimited has been very busy indeed!

From 30 April to 3 May we ran the ever-popular Filye Youth retreat jointly with Bryan (music) and Isobel (cook) Webster. NEC Youth director Steve Palmer was our padre for this 'sell-out' event. We made the most of the bank holiday weekend with a full

programme of indoor and outdoor events, including a look at the millennium bug, creation versus evolution, a social, the 'quattro' challenge, a visit to a bird reserve and the obligatory game of rounders on the beach!

Aberdaron's Advance Party from 25-27 June was an event with a difference this year as it was a Retreats Unlimited Youth Retreat

as well! More than forty of us enjoyed the sunny weather and Sabbath rest while spending the Sunday helping to get the Glan-yr-afon site ready for the summer season. Before we headed home, all the tents were up, hall painted and caravans cleaned – there was even time for sitting on the beach and a big game of football.

We have more retreats planned

for later this year and T-shirts are coming soon.

In the last week, our brand new website, hosted by Adventist Internet organization TAGnet, has gone live.

So check us out on www.retreatsunlimited.com for more details of future events.

GUDRUN AND
JOHN MIDDLEDITCH

Grantham bikers raise £928

Sixteen members and friends of the Grantham church cycled twenty-five miles around the beautiful Vale of Belvoir to raise money for the British Heart Foundation. The magnificent sum of £928.37 was collected in sponsorship money from less energetic members and friends! The team were later presented with certificates and T-shirts to mark the event.

The photograph shows (left to right) Natasha Cox, Stephen Warberry,

Jason Walker, Gregory Cox, Selwyn Davies, Stephen Marshall, Barry Mallinson, Tony Carnell (team leader), Elisabeth Carnell, Lee Gallaher, Lydia Gallaher, Paula Phillips, Paul Izod, Austin James, Felicity James, Kevin Cox. The photograph was taken before the event; some team members were not in a suitable condition to be photographed *after* the event!

KAREN SHELBOURN



Brixton: thirteen baptized

The Brixton membership keeps growing steadily. Within the past six months thirteen new saints have been added to the current Brixton membership. Four gave their lives to the Lord during the months of February and March: Lloyd Bradford, Linda McKindo, Geneva Reynolds and Delores Welsh. Camp meeting 1999 and another four saints were baptized into the fellowship: Ann Donaldson, Julinda Taylor, Sharney Loftas, and Daniella Francis. On Sunday 28 June Gertrude Arthurs, Monica Skeete, Norma Soma, Chinwe Nina Anababa and Alexia Brownie were the latest to become members of the Brixton church.

ANNETTE LEWIS

Chelmsley Wood: revival campaign

In June we ran a four-week revival campaign. Our special speaker was NEC's Pastor Roy Morgan. Dr A. Espinet, Health and Temperance director of the NEC, presented a special Health Ministries spot. Two people were baptized: P. R. Thompson, who had grown up in the Chelmsley Wood congregation, and Elaine Walker who, after attending the meetings, received Bible studies prior to baptism.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

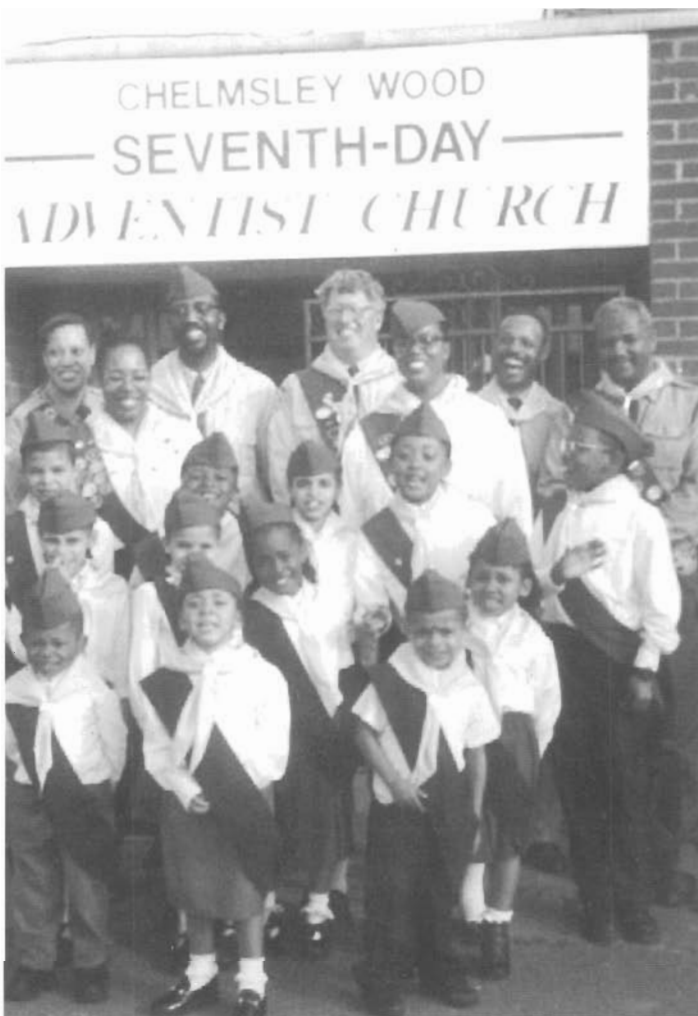
Chelmsley Wood Pathfinders

Chelmsley Wood's Adventurer/Pathfinder club was founded on 9 January 1998. By May 1998 we were ready for our first Investiture Day. Fifteen in total were invested, seven with honours. Mike Rossiter and Ken Burt presented the awards.

Come Harvest Festival time and the Adventurer/Pathfinder club took the lead in handing over the produce to neighbouring homes. On 26 December the club put on a special play to illustrate the meaning of Christ's incarnation.

Thus far this year the club has expanded and enjoyed, with other Adventurers/Pathfinders, a week-long camp.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Pastors Felix McPherson and Ellis Guthrie.

10 . . . 9 . . . 8 . . . 7 . . . 6 . . . Countdown!

As the world continues the countdown to the new millennium, the Peckham, Lewisham and Sydenham churches are busy preparing individuals for an even greater event of time - the return of Jesus Christ.

The Countdown Series - a joint effort between the three churches - began on 1 May. Meetings took place five nights a week with special Sabbath celebrations. As a local campaign our evangelists were none other than our own pastors, Felix McPherson and Ellis Guthrie.

The series culminated with eleven souls committing their lives to Christ through baptism. It was indeed a moving service. The church, full to capacity, rang out as angels joined musicians, members, friends and families 'in a song of sweet accord'. A freak downpour

of rain soon replaced a hot and sunny day, as candidates prepared themselves for public profession of their faith. But there was nothing to fear as this stood to remind us of God's promise in Ezekiel 34, 'There shall be showers of blessing.'

Amongst those baptized were Janet and Whitcliff, a young married couple who have been diligently searching for the truth, and Ben and Michael Dantzie, uncle and nephew, respectively.

The candidates (pictured) were: Ben Dantzie, Michael Clarke, Stephanie Lindo, Janet Blake, Kauzya Siwale, Michael Dantzie, Sandra Hamilton, Veronica Thomas, Rosalind Gazette, Whitcliff Blake, and Omar Newell (not pictured).

JACQUELENE GILL



Flight FINAL

'There is no class status on this flight. No amount of money can purchase tickets for this journey. Each ticket is issued from Mount Calvary, stamped with the blood of Jesus.' Brixton members, visitors and friends were spiritually uplifted during this 'Festival of Praise' presented by Maranatha Ministries from Trench Town, Jamaica, on Sabbath 10 July. Check-in time was 9.30am; our destination, The New Jerusalem.

Tickets are issued only to persons named in the Book of Life, are not transferable and cannot be refunded or cancelled. Praise be to God.

ANNETTE LEWIS

Holloway: 'Train up a child'

Sabbath 20 February was Pathfinders' Day at Holloway, and the theme for the day was 'Children Are Important'. Brother T. Harewood, a teacher for twenty-one years and now teaching at Theodore McCleary School, was the speaker for divine hour. His message was simple, but profound. He entitled his sermon, 'Train up a child'.

Brother Harewood appealed to parents about the way they are bringing up their children and the importance of taking church more seriously. He claimed that people had time for many things but little time for Christianity. He went on to stress the need for Pathfinder clubs as a means of helping children to become responsible individuals and future leaders in the Church and possibly the community.

In support of the sermon, the Pathfinders, through their presentation in Sabbath School and their play 'Wall of Jericho Coming Down' in the AYS programme, demonstrated the benefits to them, both spiritual and educational, in belonging to the Pathfinder Club.

JUNE M. ALEXIS

Health matters at Holloway

At Holloway church a whole week was devoted to promoting good health. Sister M. Hunter, the Health and Temperance leader, and her team planned a week's programme from Sabbath 27 February to 5 March. A number of speakers from the medical field and members of the Holloway church spoke on a variety of topics related to health, both mental and physical. The topics ranged from depression to diabetes.

In addition, on the Friday night the Family Life department gave presentations on such things as sibling rivalry and the interaction between family members.

The BUC's Pastor Hamilton Williams launched the programme with an effective sermon entitled 'Mind Over Matter' on Health and Temperance Day, Sabbath 27 February.

JUNE M. ALEXIS

Teams required for Radio Bible Challenge

Adventist Radio Milton Keynes is among a select number of community radio stations to be issued with a special broadcast licence by the Radio Authority to mark the new

millennium and will be on air from 19 December to 15 January 2000. As part of our millennium broadcasts we are appealing for mixed teams of four to join our Radio Bible Challenge Quiz to be hosted by Robert McKenzie from the Northampton church.

Programmes will be recorded at the Milton Keynes SDA church and will be aired on Sabbath afternoons. The format will consist of specialist questions to each team member, followed by a team general knowledge section. The winning team will receive the ARMK Bible Challenge trophy.

Is your church up to the challenge? There's only one way to find out. Why not form a team of the best 'Bible Brains' in your church and be a part of this unique broadcast? To obtain your Bible Challenge application form, please send £5 team entry fee (payable to Adventist Radio Milton Keynes) to: Bible Challenge Quiz, Adventist Radio Milton Keynes, 207 Oldbrook Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK6 2QB. Tel: (01908) 692391.

MIKE JOHNSON

Home at last

On Sabbath 1 May, Beryl and David Elliot publicly reaffirmed their desire to be part of the Exeter Seventh-day Adventist church. After several years away from the fellowship of the church in Chatham, the Elliots moved down to Tiverton in July 1997. The Holy Spirit led them to visit the church in King William Street, Exeter, where they were made to feel very welcome by the members. After attending the church for a number of months, Beryl and David felt they had found their spiritual home and requested that they be accepted by profession of faith. A special service was held, and Pastor Rick Slann preached from Luke 9:57-62, encouraging them not to look back to a painful past but to look forward in faith. Stella Jeffery presented them with a book and some flowers on behalf of the church.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Pastor Rick Slann with David and Beryl Elliot.



Young-at-heart

Fun, Food and Fellowship! A young people's get-together you might think, but, no – this was a gathering of the Young-at-Heart, the Over-50s annual holiday at Broomhill.

What a privilege it is to holiday with those of the same faith – singing and praising God together at the daily worships, eating the first-class food prepared by Peter and Miriam Chapman, and cream teas, etc, when on the organized coach trips to visit the beauty spots of glorious Devon. And the concert! Well, you would have had to be present to appreciate fully the fun that was had and the various talents that emerged at the concert given by volunteers from the group!

Surely this holiday is a taste of heaven, meeting old friends, making new ones and having a really good holiday, all in a Christian environment. Why not look forward to a real blessing by making the Over-50s holiday your first choice in the year 2000?

MAUREEN REES

Tens of thousands rejoice in Leamington

Tens of thousands of angels, along with a church that was full and overflowing, rejoiced at the baptism on Sabbath 3 July of Andrew and Anna Layland and Tristan Simmons in Leamington Spa.

The speaker for the day was Conrad Vine, the ADRA director for Azerbaijan, who had flown in specially for the big day. Conrad first met Tristan at university, and invited him to church. Since Tristan did not do much on a Saturday, he came along, and has been coming ever since; that is now more than six years ago. Conrad had promised that wherever he was in the world he would come to Tristan's baptism.

Anna had seen a sparkle in Tristan's eye, and a friendship grew that led to an engagement. Giving her life to Christ was just a natural part of the growth process.

Andrew had spent some time

travelling and working abroad, and after returning to the UK, knew that the one thing he really had to do was to give his life to Christ. It was at the Spring Brecon Camp that he approached his church elder and said, 'I think it is about time I was baptized. When can it take place?'

What a joy it was to sit around the impressive Leamington baptistery, and see these three people express their faith in Christ before what was perhaps the largest congregation Leamington has ever enjoyed. Please pray for the next baptism that has been planned for 9 October.

PASTOR ALAN CONROY

Andrew, Anna, Tristan and Pastor Conroy.





Nottingham Adventurers on the march

Adventurers and Pathfinders took part in street witnessing and marching to the Market Square. Nottingham Central's Adventurers are working with the Personal Ministries department by supporting evangelistic outreach projects.

MARVIN PATTERSON

Watford Town Children's Day

Sabbath 10 July was a very special day in the Watford Town calendar.

Over thirty children participated in the day's events. The speakers talked about how children and young people need to clear their minds of their everyday activities, to grow spiritually, in order to make it to heaven. Courtney (7), Lucian (10) and Michael (11) impressively delivered the message for the divine hour. Watford Town and Kingsbury & Wembley children took the AYS. This was based around the theme of learning to love people, despite our differences.

SANDRA GOLDING

Scottish Mission Family Camp

Having a camp on the West Coast of Scotland, even in the middle of summer, calls for much prayer and planning (as well as raincoats, wellies and woollen jumpers!). On 2 July over forty brave people headed to Port Ban campsite, near Kilberry, which was to be the site of the Scottish Mission's first annual Family Camp.

The campsite was by the beach, looking across the water to Islay and Jura. The accommodation was caravans – or tents for the daring!

During the week-long camp

each family had a turn at taking worship. A large variety of tools was used in these worships, from charades, to puppets, to puzzles, and drawing pictures.

Afternoon and evening activities included treasure hunts, table tennis, swimming, a sandcastle competition, playing pool, a bonfire, snorkelling, football, crafts, a 'Sensible' Evening, Bible Blockbusters, and lots of participation in the campsite's talent night.

The week was a huge success, a

Linda Bryan, Evonne Bauwens, Alison Howard.



Left to right: Front row – Patrick Sheehy, Steven Halmal, Bethany Holford, Nathan Holford, Joellyn Sheehy, Joel Holford. Back row – Cathy Halmal, Pastor David Neal, Katrina Walker.

Hemel Pathfinders back health principles

On 22 May after a year of hard work, the Hemel Hempstead church, full of members and friends, supported the Pathfinders as they were invested by Pastor David Neal. Joel Holford, Joellyn Sheehy and Nathan Holford were presented with their Busy Bee badge and certificate, and Steven Halmal, Patrick Sheehy, Bethany Holford and Cathy Halmal received their badge and certificate for completing the Friend course. They were also given

badges for various honours which they had completed throughout the year. Each Pathfinder and Adventurer told the church what they had done and learnt in order to be invested, and then beautifully presented a dramatization of the health principles in Daniel 1. Everyone in the Pathfinder club wishes Cathy Halmal (the Adventurer leader) all the best as she soon leaves to study abroad.

KATRINA WALKER

time of relaxation and restoration, as well as a time for strengthening families and friendships, and being drawn closer to God.

Thanks to Mrs Moyra Rodd for all the work she did to organize the camp. And special thanks to God for the wonderful sunny weather that was given. The raincoats, wellies and woollen jumpers went home in almost mint condition. A week on the West Coast of Scotland and the group reluctantly left, sunburnt rather than windburnt or midgie-bitten, and already looking forward to next year's camp.

ALISON HOWARD

Through Angels' Eyes

With a cast nearing a hundred members, the Brixton Advent Youth department presented the finale of the Youth Federation Campaign 'The Truth is Out There' – a play written and produced by Nadia Prendergast, *Through Angels' Eyes*, at the Lewisham Theatre on Sabbath 17 July.

Through Angels' Eyes tells the story of two angels, their report to heaven on the devastating effect sin is having on Earth and its inhabitants – in their opinion is Earth worth saving? The acting from the Brixton members was very convincing, putting across a very serious message affecting our lives. The writer has represented all age groups to tell a story true to life.

ANNETTE LEWIS

Survey

In a survey of 5,000 non-churchgoers 27% listed the local library as the place they would go if they wanted to find out about the Christian faith – more than any other answer.

If a seeker went to your local library to find out about the beliefs, work and history of Seventh-day Adventists, what would he find? If you don't know, it might be worth checking.

Biblically Correct

by R. L. Sauls*

write this with trepidation. It's about sex. And it's not politically correct.

I When I was 11 I made a commitment to Jesus and was baptized into the rural Missionary Baptist Church, were most of my relatives were members. I entered puberty about the same time, hormones exploded, and I became very interested in sex. Few books were in our home – none about sex. Grown-ups did not talk about it – except when a group of men gathered in someone's yard to discuss how the crops were doing. Often they'd get around to telling smutty jokes and rehashing the sexual escapades of different men in the community. Some of the men bragged about their conquests and visits to prostitutes. My father wouldn't allow me to stay when the talk became too risqué.

Most of my sex education came from my older cousins. It could be summed up in one sentence: You did it any way you could whenever you had the opportunity. The male cousins my age experimented with each other. The older cousins boasted about their backseat conquests after taking a girl to a movie or a dance. When I was 13 one of my female cousins tried to seduce me. I ran from the house. My reasons for escaping, however, were not as noble as Joseph's. I was just very frightened. I took a lot of ribbing from my older cousins for not taking advantage of the opportunity.

I had a feeling that the Bible was against sex outside marriage, but I wasn't sure. I knew that the seventh commandment said, 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.' But that was for married people, said my older cousins. I wish someone had shown me what the Bible said. I was itching to have sex with a girl if it weren't against the Bible. Several times I tried to read the Bible through, but never got much beyond Genesis.

Surrounded by such a social climate and not knowing what the Bible had to say about sexual morality, it's a wonder I had not had sex before I got married. Either the angels or fear kept me from trying. We moved away when I was 14. I read several good books about sex from the high school library, learned to read the Bible with greater understanding, be-

came a Seventh-day Adventist, read a number of Ellen White's books and Dr Harold Shryock's book, *Happiness for Husbands and Wives*, and took a course entitled Marriage and the Family at Southern Adventist University (then Southern Missionary College). By that time my attitudes toward sexual behaviour had changed. I realized that my body was the temple of the Holy Spirit. Sex was reserved for marriage. I did not kiss Helen until we had dated for seven months and I was ready to ask her to marry me. We have been married forty-seven years. Other than learning that Jesus is my Saviour, marriage to Helen has been the best thing that ever happened to me.

I'm glad there was no gay pride movement when I reached puberty. Most of us had never heard the word 'homosexuality'. And 'gay' simply meant merry. If there had been a gay rights movement then, I'm afraid most of my young cousins might have thought they were homosexual or bisexual. And if that is what they had thought, that is what they would have become.

As a person 'thinketh in his heart, so is he' (Proverbs 23:7).

It seems to me that the gay rights movement has gone beyond a movement for legal rights. Those in the movement want to be proud of their homosexuality. They want to celebrate it. They want society to accept their alternative lifestyle as normal and desirable. They have been successful in getting some churches to defend it as acceptable Christian behaviour. Not wanting to offend, other churches have kept quiet about it.

In such a social environment, young people reaching puberty today must be as confused about homosexuality as I was about fornication in my early adolescence. It's time for the Seventh-day Adventist Church to make clear to its children and youth what the Bible says about sexual morality. It's time for our Bible scholars to develop Bible studies that treat the subject with the completeness it deserves. It seems to me, it's more important that our young people be biblically correct than that the church be politically correct.

**R. L. Sauls is a Professor of English and lives in Naples, Florida, USA. This article was first published in Adventist Review, 26 August.*

*It's time to make clear
what the Bible says
about sexual morality.*

CONCERT
in aid of Oxford Street Church Building Fund
at
WULFRUN HALL
Civic Centre, North Street, Wolverhampton
on Saturday 4 December at 7pm
(DOORS OPEN AT 6pm)
Special guest singer from America
Stephanie Johnson
plus lots of other artistes from London, Birmingham and
Wolverhampton

Tickets: £7 At the door: £8

Please contact Brother Douglas on (01902) 402979 or
Jennifer Munroe (0797) 4557083
or write: Box office, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, WV14 6RZ.

CHRIST IN THE PARK
Sunday 12 September 1999
A time of seeking for truth and peace of mind
Stanborough Park, St Albans Road, Watford

An Inspirational Concert featuring many
guest artists and speakers

Craft fair 11am
Children's theme park (free) 11am
International Food Fair 1pm
Concert 4.30-8pm
Entrance fee: £3 (children 13 and under enter free) Concessions

All proceeds to ADRA and NSPCC
*The last and largest Christian gathering in
Hertfordshire before the new millennium*

BECAUSE OF THE AREA 1 DAY OF FELLOWSHIP 18 SEPTEMBER

at the Oldway Mansion, Paignton, the churches in the area – including Torquay, Exeter and Plymouth – will be closed for the day.

PASTOR RICK SLANN

COMPANIONS. Please note correct address. COMPANIONS, 17 Kibble Green, Easthampstead, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 7QE. Tel: (01344) 421800.

RESIDENTIAL HOME in Garston open for Adventists. Please phone Mrs Rodricks on (01923) 662109. Employment vacancies for staff also.

WANTED. One set (volumes I and II) of *Conditionalist Faith of Our Fathers* by L. E. Froom: Washington, Review and Herald, 1966. Please contact P. R. Smith, (01473) 726096.

CONGRATULATIONS to Vivienne James, of the Grantham church, who has graduated with a First Class Honours in English and Education from Homerton College at Cambridge University.

Caravanning Fellowship

Flying the Fellowship Flag at the South England Conference Session at Portsmouth was just one of the three recent firsts for the members of the Camping and Caravanning Fellowship. Earlier, Pastor Eric Lowe, former chair, dedicated the flag.

At this year's SEC Camp Meeting the Fellowship held an important business meeting. We needed a new chairperson. In the past we have always had a pastor to lead out but, somehow, this time it had to be different. After a short deliberation we decided unanimously to ask Stephanie London-Drakes to be our first chair. She graciously accepted.

If you own a tent, trailer-tent, caravan or motor caravan, come and join our Fellowship. We need you and your family. Write, phone or fax: SDA Camping and Caravanning Fellowship, 86 Laxfield Way, Lowestoft, Suffolk. (01502) 513046. Or e-mail mdibble@Rocketmail.com. We will be happy to send you our information leaflet and application form.

A. J. RODERICK

East Kilbride

Congratulations to Dawn-Louise Clee on obtaining her BSc Honours degree in Dietetics at the University of Edinburgh.

MARGARET CLEE

Galway

May was a hyperactive month for Galway. On 8 May we hosted the eighty-strong orchestra from Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tennessee. The orchestra was on tour in Ireland and had already played in Killarney. Having performed in the Adventist church, the following day at noon the orchestra performed in Galway Cathedral. On Monday they played in Belfast before returning to the US. They attracted considerable publicity in Galway's *City Tribune*.

On 15 May visitors from Cork and Newmarket-on-Fergus joined us for a Bible Conference. Special music was provided by John McNamara, Galway's elder. The speakers were Pastor Cecil Perry, BUC president, Pastor Alan Hodges, Irish Mission president, Marcus Dove, BUC treasurer, and Pastor Phillip Rhodes of the Galway and Newmarket district.

From 17 to 21 May the Galway members were blessed by a stress management seminar conducted by the BUC's Pastor Richard Willis at Grianach House School. Pastor Willis analysed the physiological aspects of stress and gave advice on important stress-reduction techniques.

OLIVER MARTYN

Irvine

The Irvine church wishes to congratulate Christopher Baker on being awarded a Bachelor of Engineering in Electronic Engineering with Honours.

M. BAKER

Welsh Council on Alcohol

Vera Machell of the Newport church was present at a special conference convened at the University of Wales Conference Centre, Cardiff. Organized by the Churches Together in Wales and the Christian Fellowship for the Prevention of Alcohol and Drug Addiction, this conference was vital for educating the people of the principality on the dangers of the various kinds of addiction. Among the speakers were churchmen, politicians and top medical experts.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Wolverhampton

A ground-breaking ceremony was held at Wolverhampton's Oxford Street church on 25 July. Pastor Jude Jeanville welcomed church leaders, including Pastor Llewellyn Edwards of NEC, various civic dignitaries including Councillor Lawrence, representatives of the police, the local newspapers, community members and church members. Pastor Dalbir Masih said that the Conference sent their support and encouraged us to build in faith.

The whole congregation then assembled outside the sanctuary. Pastor Roy Morgan prepared the drill. On the count of three he began drilling! The work was under way!

JENNIFER MUMROE

Wolverhampton Great Brick-kiln Street church

The youth from Wolverhampton's Great Brick-kiln Street church and its Oxford Street church decided on an outreach programme in the town centre. It began with a song service. Shoppers stopped, listened and joined in. The Fellowship Choir sang a number of items and the Youth Choral told the community that they should 'Go to the Rock'. All Sounds – a group comprising 11-13-year-olds – gave their confident all. Many contacts were made.

JENNIFER MUMROE

Pendeford

The Pendeford (Wolverhampton) members thought it was going to be a Sabbath just like any other. It was not. When they arrived at the Dovecotes School and Community Centre to worship on 3 July they found themselves locked out! As the car park filled up, however, the members discovered that it was not as bad as at first it had seemed. They were greeted *outside* the church instead of *inside*. But it had not been planned that way. As the membership continued to wait outside, the discussion turned to a familiar theme: 'We need our own church building!'

The Pendeford congregation in Wolverhampton has rented a small section of Dovecotes School and Community Centre for eighteen years now. But it has been the dream of the membership to own a sanctuary of their own. The membership has grown; there are large numbers of young people and children. The facilities are no longer adequate. Planning has now begun in earnest and contact has been made with the Conference.

PAUL SOUTH

Grantham

Two members of the Grantham church, Kevin and Gregory Cox, both sixth formers at the local grammar school, organized a non-uniform day which raised the magnificent sum of £705 for the recent ADRA appeal for refugees in Kosovo. A photograph appeared in the *Grantham Journal* in which Kevin and Gregory were shown handing over the cheque to Grantham's Pastor Mick Smart who received the money on behalf of ADRA.

KAREN SHELBOURN

Preston

Eight members from Preston collected £505 on behalf of the Kosovo refugees in one day at the Preston town centre. Mary Jeffers, Pastor Fred Mapp, Hubert Metcalfe, Adlin Brandy, Evelyn Whyte, M. Adams, M. Thompson and M. Grant were

those responsible. Their achievement was published in Preston's *Evening Post*.

M. E. JEAN-BAPTISTE

Dudley

It was time to come home for many past members of the Dudley church at their special Homecoming Day. Speakers for the day were former pastors of the Dudley church. They included Pastors Malcolm Watson, Volney Ham-Ying, Peter Sayers and Jeff Nicholson.

In the course of the day we were reminded how God had led us, thirty years ago, in the purchase of our present building on Himely Road, formerly an institute for the blind. We were also reminded of how the late Pastor D. A. Conroy had rescued church benches that were to be burned and had renovated them for use in the Dudley church – they are still in good use now!

It was a wonderful day for meeting old friends, looking at old photographs and reminiscing. The day ended with a joyful Evening of Praise with songs from Debbie Sayers, The Messengers, Charmaine Sawyers, the West Midland Male Voice Group, the Windsor Street Choir, Marie Jones, West Bromwich Youth Choir, and Dudley's own choir.

ELIZABETH IHEOMA

Smethwick

Smethwick's prayer band, in operation for well over two years, has seen some remarkable answers to prayer in the recent past. The idea of the one o'clock prayer band was initially promoted by the Sabbath School department. Adventists and non-Adventists are involved in prayer and stop whatever they're doing at 1pm in order to pray. At least 125 answers to prayer have been noted. At our homecoming day a school teacher – and member of the prayer band – shared his experience with us.

P. SWABY

Wednesfield

Sabbath 12 June marked a Children's Day at the Wednesfield church. It was a memorable day for the children at Wednesfield and from Handsworth who presented the programme.

SANDRA FRANCIS

Wednesfield witnessing

Wednesfield church has been very active in the ministry of soul-winning. A few of our members have devoted their time to going into the community to help those who are in need, whether the need is spiritual or physical. We believe that time not spent in spreading the end-time Gospel is time lost.

SANDRA FRANCIS

Wednesfield baptism

Two candidates from Wednesfield were baptized on 27 June. The service took place at the Oxford Street Wolverhampton church. The candidates were Maxwell Thompson and Mercylin Pryce, his mother-in-law. Friends and family were there to witness the special occasion.

SANDRA FRANCIS

Kettering

Pastor John Ferguson officiated at Kettering's annual awards ceremony for Adventurers and Pathfinders. Each group, beginning with the brave Busy Bees, reminded the congregation of its particular Law and Pledge, followed by each one of the ten commandments. There were

six Adventurers and four Pathfinders.

Having weathered that ordeal, the candidates came forward as their names and details of honours were announced, to receive appropriate cards and badges with smiles and handshakes from Pastor John, and a certificate from NEC Pathfinder director Mike Rossiter.

GAYE SHAW

NEC Teens Day

The first ever NEC-supported Teens Day was held at the Ladywood leisure centre, Birmingham. Inspired by London's teens initiative, the event was well prepared and well attended. There was not an empty chair in sight, plenty standing and none disappearing! Youth came from Manchester, Derby, Nottingham, Barnsley, Tamworth, Birmingham and coachloads from London. Speakers were Rachel Patrick and Matthew Gordon. In the afternoon, ways of gaining a closer and more productive relationship with Christ were tackled.

WENDY BUNNEY

Leeds

On 29 May the second Youth Day this year was held in the Leeds church. There were sketches in Sabbath school, and an inspiring sermon from BUC president Pastor C. R. Perry on the theme 'Power of the Holy Spirit'. He challenged the youth to be serious about their commitment and about the Church because God was depending upon them. Pastor Perry's afternoon theme – it followed a rousing song service – was 'liberty'.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Moss Side

The Moss Side and Pendleton congregations came together to share the second joint baptism of the year. Dr Eric Welsh, visiting from Loma Linda University, California, brought the youth revival series to a climax with a rousing sermon. During the afternoon programme a lay preachers' graduation service was presided over by Pastor Fred Mapp. Church elder G. Brown and his wife L. Brown, together with trainee church elder V. Fregene and C. Stephenson were presented with lay preachers' certificates.

The graduation service was followed by a baptismal service. Five candidates were immersed, four of whom came from Moss Side: Sellonetta Boyennett, Rupert Morgan, Sybil Watson, Carol Stephenson and Lawford Wright.

L. BROWN

Leamington

The Pathfinders and Adventurers make a major contribution to the Leamington Spa Mission and, we decided, deserved recognition. At a special investiture service the Adventurer Law was illustrated through various scriptures, and there were other examples of Christian life from an Adventurer's perspective. NEC Pathfinder director Mike Rossiter took the sermon and praised the children for their efforts.

ROBERT GLINTON

Romanian meetings

A series of meetings aimed at the Romanian population of Britain began on 4 September at 7.30pm at the Advent Centre, 39 Brendon Street, London W1. The two-week series will be in the Romanian language. Central to the series is Mark Finley's 'ACTS 2000' which comes via satellite from Bucharest in Romania.

PASTOR PHILIP LEENHOUWERS

RUSSELL, Violet Doris – d. 17 January. The oldest member of the Irvine church has passed peacefully away, aged 94. She was born in Chester and was a third generation Adventist. She came to the Lord when she was a young girl, Pastor Bob Rodd's father baptizing her in Southport. She had many stories to tell of days gone by. When she married she moved from Southport to Glasgow and was an active member in the Glasgow church. She used to thrill the members with her singing and was one of the first each year to collect her cans for Ingathering. She was welcomed back each year by many of the shopkeepers who looked out for her coming round. She was a lovely daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, mother-in-law and friend, and was known to many affectionately as 'Nana'. God blessed her with three daughters and five grandchildren. When her husband died she moved on her own down to Kilmarnock to be near to her daughters and on Sabbath mornings she would be found sitting in the front pew waiting to worship the Lord she loved. She liked writing letters to many people in different parts of the world and continued to do so until failing sight prevented her. We her daughters would like to thank all those who wrote to us, sent cards and flowers and attended her funeral. Special thanks to Pastor Gordon Smith who gave words of comfort and hope to us all.

MAVIS BAKER, MARION GALACKAS, LILLIAN MCKIE

REEVE, Jesse Lilly – d. 5 February. Sister Reeve was born in 1909 in the Rhondda, though she spent most of her life in the Kettering area. There she worked at the Weetabix factory before spending many years as a nanny. She did not marry until she was in her sixties, and her husband was a retired colporteur, Alfred Reeve. The few years they spent together were very happy ones. After Alfred died, Jesse moved to The Dell rest home in Suffolk, until her health forced a move to Northgate hospital in Great Yarmouth. Jesse belonged to a generation that stood up strongly for their beliefs, and her determination was seen throughout her 89 years. The funeral service on 19 February was conducted by Dr

Paul Smith and Pastor Ian Lorek, at The Dell church in Oulton Broad, and the committal followed at Kirkley cemetery. Jesse's nieces, Gwyneth Haynes and Ann Smith, along with step-daughter Audrey Lewis, were able to attend, although they all live a long distance away. We look forward to that great day when God will sweep away suffering and death, and usher in His kingdom.

PASTOR IAN LOREK

MORGAN, Daphne – d. 16 February. Sister Morgan came to England from Rosewell, Clarendon, in Jamaica in 1951. She happily accepted the Lord into her life in 1969 when she was baptized into the Huddersfield church on 15 March by Pastors D. Lowe and L. Antonio. A quiet, friendly and pleasant woman, with a husband and six children, she faithfully loved and served the Lord. She was the mother of Pastor Roy Morgan (NEC), Sister Thelma Njoku, Sandra, Eva, Sidmuth and Jackie. While on vacation in Jamaica, Daphne fell ill and died. Family members gathered in Jamaica where she was buried on 7 March at the family plot. Despite the sudden loss to her family and friends, we know that Daphne sleeps now until Jesus Christ comes again.

CHRISTINE MOSES

MCKAY, Alexanderina – d. 24 June. The Dundee church has suffered another sad loss in the death of Sister McKay. Although small in physical stature she was a stalwart in the faith and defended it at every opportunity. With her mother, Alex was introduced to the SDA Church in Sydney, Australia, whence they emigrated in 1948. For various reasons they decided to return to Dundee in 1972 when her mother was 102. She died two years later, which meant that Alex could devote more time to serving the Dundee church. However, after nine years with us she decided that she would like to live in Edinburgh, and she spent twelve happy years attending the Edinburgh church. When she reached 84 Alex felt the time had come to go into residential care and this brought her back to the Dundee area. Having improved during her stay there, the Social Services Department recommended that she move back into sheltered

housing. This she did and took on the marathon task of refurbishing. At the age of 89 Alex developed a terminal illness. We will never forget the wonderful witness she was to all the hospital staff. She was so positive in every aspect and said she was ready to go when the Lord called her. Her illness lasted six weeks, during which time she was constantly visited by her niece and family, who mostly came from the South of England to be with her, and also many of her church friends. Her passing was peaceful, with the great courage and dignity which she constantly displayed throughout her illness. A service of thanksgiving for her life was conducted in the church by Pastor David Spearing, who quoted some inspiring excerpts from conversations he had had with Alex which revealed her strong faith. All her close family and many church members attended the service and at the graveside. We will all miss her cheerful presence, but we rejoice in the promise of reunion in the near future which was her constant hope and declaration. Our sympathies go out to her family who mourn her passing.

N. S. MYLES

FRANCIS, Isaac – d. 25 July. Isaac was born in 1902. In his teens he joined the old MSM railways. Later he left for East Africa, where he joined the East African Railways and Harbours, Railway Division. On his retirement he had become a

Carriage and Wagon Inspector using his expertise in derailments. He worked in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. In 1926 he married Clara Dennis, and they made their home in Nairobi. He was blessed with two sons, Edwin and Daniel, and twin daughters, Annie Rose and Margaret. Daniel and Margaret predeceased him. He accepted the Seventh-day Adventist message in Nairobi in 1959, remaining a strong believer to his end. He was a faithful layman, enjoying attendance at regular services of the church, even after losing his sight. Though he lost his sight, however, he never lost sight of his Creator. He had regular family worship each evening. On his return to India in 1962, he went to Kodaikanal, serving as a caretaker of the mission property. In 1979 he went to Bangalore to live with his daughter Annie Rose and son-in-law Cecil Hammond. When Pastor and Mrs Hammond went to Poona and later to Ranipet, he stayed on with them. He breathed his last just two weeks short of his ninety-seventh birthday. He leaves behind his wife, son Edwin, daughter Annie Rose, ten grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren. His favourite Bible verse was Isaiah 41:10, 'Fear thou not: for I am with thee: be not dismayed: for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.'

EDWIN FRANCIS

Wedding

SMITH-POWELL. God was surely smiling down on 6 June. After nothing but endless rain, the wedding day dawned warm and sunny. They came from America, Denmark, Sweden and England to witness the marriage of Sonja Powell and Andrew Smith in the chapel of St George, Cirencester Royal Agricultural College. The radiant bride entered on the arm of her father Basil to the wedding march played by her Swedish cousin Vivianne. And in the beautiful floral setting created by the bride's aunt Eva the couple made their vows. The service was conducted by Jonathan Barrett, Swindon SDA church

pastor, and his wife Mary. The bridesmaids were Susan Selvage (best friend to the bride) and Amanda Powell (cousin to the bride). Missie (daughter of Sonja's cousin Ingrid) was the flower girl. The groom was ably assisted by David Selvage (his cousin) as best man, and his father Jim. The couple left the chapel through an arch of flowers held aloft by the guests, and great fun was had by all at the Danish reception. Sonja is Danish on her mother's side. We wish Sonja and Andrew all the best for their life together in Swindon.

SUSAN SELVAGE

Profile

RON AT THE PALACE

A Profile of Ron Kelly by Vera Machell

Ron Kelly was born on 12 June 1933 into a faithful Adventist family. He was baptized in July 1946, and attended Newbold College from 1949 to 1953 where he was a well-loved character and musician. He entered Church work as a literature-evangelist in 1958 after serving his country under the National Service Act at Watford Peace Memorial hospital.

Ron entered the literature ministry initially at Cwmbran. He married Joyce Morgan from the Newport church in March 1959 and they made their first home in Cheltenham. In 1960 they moved to work in Swansea, Cardiff and, eventually, Newport, where Ron retired in 1987.

Our brother was ordained as a church elder by Pastor K. A. Elias at Swansea in 1963, and has continued to serve as an elder in Cardiff and Newport.

As a literature-evangelist Ron worked mostly with small books and magazines and, with the help of Pastor W. J. Arthur, the national book scheme was developed, resulting in many hospitals and children's homes benefiting from books, including braille publications.

Ron's special musical talent has enhanced the quality of worship wherever he has worshipped. His Sabbath School teaching and lay preaching are also much appreciated.

This busy man, apart from caring for an invalid neighbour,

and a delicate wife, gives of his all to the work of temperance, serving on several committees such as the United Council on Alcohol and Drugs, Cardiff and District Council on Drugs as a trustee, the Cory trust, whose main purpose is to provide funds to the Welsh Council on Alcohol – the Adventist church benefiting from their small-grants scheme.

At present Ron is vice-chair of the Newport Temperance Society and a subscriber to the United Kingdom Alliance.

On 13 July, Her Majesty the Queen entertained Ron and Joyce at Buckingham Palace in recognition of Ron's work to warn young people of the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse.



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST WORLD CHURCH STATISTICS

Silver Spring, Maryland, USA – (ANR). The following statistics were released by the Office of Archives and Statistics, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists earlier this month. We thought you might find them interesting:

CHURCHES, COMPANIES, MEMBERSHIP, AND EMPLOYEES

Churches:
World: 44,888
Trans-European Division: 1,261

Companies:
World: 44,298
Trans-European Division: 158

Church Membership:
World: 10,163,414
Trans-European Division: 85,847

Total Accessions: 818,754
Baptisms: 789,619
Professions of Faith: 29,135
Ordained Ministers, Active: 13,432
Total Active Employees: 165,213

MISSION TO THE WORLD

Countries and areas of the world as recognized by the United Nations: 230

Countries and areas of the world in which Seventh-day Adventist work is established: 205

Languages used in Seventh-day Adventist publications and oral work: 748

Divisions: 12
Union Conferences and Missions: 90
Local Conferences and Missions: 483

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Total Schools: 5,590
Tertiary Institutions: 90
Worker Training Institutions: 36
Secondary Schools: 1,1014
Primary Schools: 4,450

Total Enrolment: 996,249
Tertiary Institutions: 60,632
Worker Training Institutions: 3,658
Secondary Schools: 208,486
Primary Schools: 723,473

Food Industries: 27

HEALTHCARE MINISTRY

Hospitals and Sanitariums: 162
Nursing Homes and Retirement Centres: 102
Clinics and Dispensaries: 361
Orphanages and Children's Homes: 25
Aeroplanes and Medical Launches: 5
Outpatient Visits: 9,299,792
Media Centres: 10

PUBLISHING WORK

Publishing Houses and Branches: 57
Literature-evangelists, Credentialed and Licensed: 7,584
Languages used in Publications: 272

SABBATH SCHOOLS

Sabbath Schools: 107,224
Sabbath School Membership: 11,785,918

CONTRIBUTIONS: 1998

Tithe:
World: US\$994,926,584
Trans-European Division: US\$28,104,017

Tithe Per Capita:
World: US\$108.86
Trans-European Division: US\$376.70

Sabbath School Mission Offerings:
World: US\$44,754,840
Trans-European Division: US\$1,881,654

Ingathering:
World: US\$11,906,376
Trans-European Division: US\$2,084,188

Total Tithe and Offerings:
World: US\$1,547,945,612
Trans-European Division: US\$36,436,892

Total Tithe and Offerings Per Capita:
World: US\$169.36
Trans-European Division: US\$488.39

ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY INTERNATIONAL (ADRA)

Countries and areas of the world where ADRA is involved: 121

Projects funded: 2,450
Beneficiaries of projects: 18,299,096
Value of total aid: US\$134,623,423

CHURCH GROWTH STATISTICS: 1994-1998

Accessions:

1994	629,710
1995	659,899
1996	719,679
1997	744,798
1998	818,754

Accessions per day:

1994	1,724.05
1995	1,806.70
1996	1,970.37
1997	2,039.15
1998	2,241.63

Accession rate (%):

1994	7.91
1995	7.87
1996	8.17
1997	8.01
1998	8.44

Growth rate (%):

1994	5.28
1995	5.13
1996	5.49
1997	4.38
1998	4.75

Ratio: population per each Seventh-day Adventist member (eg, in 1994 there was one SDA for every 669 people in the world):

1994	669
1995	647
1996	621
1997	602
1998	583

SYLVIA YTRBERG/ANN/ANR

Turkey earthquake survivors assisted by ADRA. As search teams continued to uncover bodies from the rubble after the 7.8 earthquake in Turkey on 17 August, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) initiated its disaster relief response to assist thousands of devastated survivors.

Immediately following the earth-

quake, ADRA volunteers in Turkey distributed food and clothing to survivors in Istanbul. The supplies were being stored at a warehouse in Istanbul for ADRA's six-year relief programme for 250 Iraqi refugees living in Turkey.

Thomas Petracek of ADRA-Germany arrived in Turkey to begin co-ordinating additional relief efforts with participating humanitarian organizations. Together, they will assess the most immediate needs of the survivors and their families in the area surrounding Izmit, the earthquake's epicentre.

'Izmit and Istanbul are getting a lot of relief attention from various organizations,' says Erich Lischek, ADRA-Germany director. 'ADRA is going to make sure that the smaller towns surrounding Izmit receive assistance. It is usually the smaller towns that get overlooked.'

ADRA's first priority will be to purchase food, clothing and hygiene items for those whose homes were destroyed. The international organization will be working through its Turkish liaison, Naval Captain Tanju Akbay, to obtain governmental assistance for its efforts.

ADRA has provided relief assistance for several other disasters in Turkey. In 1991-92, ADRA-Germany assisted the Kurdish refugees with relief supplies – a US\$1 million project funded by the German government and the European Union. In 1992, following an avalanche, ADRA-Germany sent new winter clothes, parkas and blankets, to those affected – aid valued at US\$100,000.

BETH SCHAEFER/ANN

Concerns remain for Adventists freed by court. Despite the freeing on 26 July of three Seventh-day Adventists in Cape Verde, concerns remain regarding a probable police appeal of the verdict.

The three Adventists, José Maria Monteiro Rodrigues, Jorge Adalberto Ramos Tavares, and Benvindo da Cruz Ramos, were declared innocent of all charges brought against them. Judge Dr Helena Barreto stated that 'the only crime which the three Adventists had committed, if that constitutes a crime, was to be Seventh-day Adventists.'

They had been imprisoned for over a year on charges of desecrating Catholic churches and had been subjected to a horrific ordeal.

'Our three brothers have spent twelve months in prison in very difficult circumstances,' reports Felix Monteiro, president of the Adventist church in the Cape Verde islands. 'They have been tortured by all kinds of methods, including electric shocks, to try to force them to confess to a crime that they had not committed, but God gave them strength and a great deal of courage to stay on the side of truth.'

The Adventist world church has supported the three members throughout their imprisonment and trial. Church leaders Julien Thombiano and Emmanuel Nlo Nlo travelled to Cape Verde to inves-

tigate the case and press for the release of the falsely-accused prisoners.

'After receiving news of the verdict, we sent a letter to the Cape Verde ambassador to thank the Justice department of his country for this courageous decision,' says John Graz, director of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty department at the Adventist Church World Headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland, USA. 'However, we have to be prepared for the possibility of the police appealing the verdict. We want to commend the Cape Verde judiciary for their commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and principles of justice and freedom.'

JONATHAN GALLAGHER/ANN

Adventist aid agency helps families rebuild. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is providing relief assistance to more than 10,000 displaced people and is working to reunite families separated by years of fighting in Sierra Leone, according to Prince Cummings, ADRA country director.

The recent peace agreement signed in Togo means a drastic increase in needs as relief agencies gain access to thousands of Sierra Leoneans who have been behind rebel lines for several months.

ADRA is assisting nearly 11,000 displaced people at the Waterloo Village camp, and is the lead agency at the camp, working with the United Nations World Food Programme, UNICEF, and other humanitarian agencies.

RICK KAJIURA/ANN

Pathfinder Camporee attracts 22,000. Adventist youth from around the world gathered in Wisconsin recently for the Fourth International Pathfinder Camporee. Participants from fifty countries joined together for activities centring on outdoor skills, education, and Bible knowledge.

Three years of planning and over US\$2 million brought 22,000 youth and 8,000 staff and volunteers to Wisconsin to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of Pathfinders. Pathfinder clubs provide safe fun and adventure for children and youths from the ages of 9-16.

A highlight of the Camporee was the assembly and launch of over 3,000 model aeroplanes. With this feat, the campers broke the world record for the number of model aeroplanes launched simultaneously. Other activities included aeroplane skydiving shows, trips to an aircraft museum, a parade against youth violence and drug use, and assisting an Adventist relief agency in packing boxes to aid Kosovan refugees.

HEATHER BRANNAN/ANN

Church historian dies. Dr C. Mervyn Maxwell, professor emeritus of church history at Andrews University, has died aged 74 following an extended illness. Mervyn was one of the sons of A. S. Maxwell. He was 11 when the family left Britain for the United States in 1936.

Dear friends, The YouthPAGES chatroom is now open.

You can participate in the chat by visiting: <http://www.youthpages.org/chat/>
Register for your username and password NOW. Currently, the chatroom is open EVERY FRIDAY, between the hours of 7pm and 11pm, Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). This is the time in London, England. You are all welcome to join us this Friday. There will be no specific topic this week, just an informal chat, giving you the opportunity to meet many people from around the world. See you there then. God Bless, Daren Bullock, YouthPAGES Sitemanager.

YouthPAGES

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We don't believe in miracles here – we rely on them!

MESSENGER

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EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

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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
E-mail: stanborg@cs.com

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SUNSET

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	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Sept 10	7.28	7.40	7.33	7.45	7.54
	17	7.12	7.24	7.17	7.27
		24	6.56	7.08	7.00
Oct 1	6.40	6.52	6.43	6.49	7.01

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