

# MESSENGER

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

Pastor John Lomacang – with a song to sing and a story to tell.



## Open Day 2001

by Edward Johnson, ABC manager

**O**ur first visitors arrived at 7.15 and came from Wellingborough. They were closely followed by members of the Lincoln church, and from then on there was a steady flow of cars, minibuses and coaches.

The caterers who provided a snack area and a full restaurant service set up business in our canteen, while, outside, the children's fun area soon burst into life with happy voices filling the air around the slide and bouncy castle.

Church stalls run by members raising funds for their local churches overflowed with an abundance of goods for sale.

In the main building, members were busy seeking out the many bargains to be found in the book area and the food section, and GranoVita Health Food Company were giving out tasty samples.

Authors Pastor Richard Daly and Dr Albert Waite were both signing copies of their books.

At noon the programme commenced in the main marquee. The Sale Church Group began our programme by singing various songs from their CD, *Embrace*, which had been recorded to raise funds for a new church in Sale. The group was led by Dawn Bailey and consisted of a group of young people introduced by their local minister Pastor Rashford Hewitt.

When it was time for our main speaker, Pastor John Lomacang, to bring us a message in song and word, what a powerful message it turned out to be. Pastor John moved the crowd with his own life story and brought them to their feet with his ministry in song. Such was the demand for his CD, *Surrender*, that we sold out!

Dr Waite presented his new book, *Let the Earth Speak*, a brand new publication dealing with Creation in a very readable style, and the Syder Sisters brought us more music in their distinctive way.

The afternoon programme was brought to an end by Pastor John finishing his story – once again to a capacity audience with many people standing around the sides of the marquee to hear this powerful preacher with such a beautiful singing voice.

*Continued on pages 2 and 8*

The Sale Church Group – singing for a new church building.



Lisa Bond does the gold blocking.



Four Open Day regulars.



## OPEN DAY SNAPSHOTS



**Above:** Newbold graduates Owen and Samantha Owusu with their daughter Eleni. The Owus are based in Lincoln where Owen is a teacher of RE and History.



**Above:** Some buy books in quantity!



**Left:** GranoVita staff Nicola Eaton, Charles Bramble and Paul Eaton. **Above:** Press general manager Paul Hammond catches up with the Kapons. For many years the Kapons lived in the Lodge on Stanborough Park. Brother Kapon was Park groundsman and Sister Kapon, BUC receptionist. **Right:** The Syder Sisters had launched a new album.



## Healthwise

# Fasten your seat belts ...

Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

... and adjust your elastic stockings and wriggle your toes: we are about to take off. Please ensure that you have read the safety literature and the health warning on your airline ticket!

A good idea, in view of the fact that one in ten people on long-haul flights are at risk of experiencing a deep vein thrombosis (DVT). DVT or 'economy class syndrome' is the latest in a variety of concerns facing air travellers and is a condition associated with slow-flowing blood usually in the lower limbs. The blood forms a clot and wedges in the vein.

Sudden swelling in a leg might be the first sign, with pain, tenderness, or rise in skin temperature in the affected area. There may be no symptoms or some mild pain in the leg when the foot is flexed upwards.

DVT is enough of a problem that various health organizations have held seminars on it during recent months, and airline companies

are concerned with the rising incidence of legal actions, particularly as deaths have occurred as a result of the condition.

Although the DVTs are not directly life-threatening, one in three or four suffers the complication of a pulmonary embolism, in which part of the DVT breaks off and lodges in the lung, causing severe breathing difficulties, with one in ten of these people dying.

Travellers who smoke are at greater risk of DVT and most airlines ban smoking on flights. Alcohol also increases risk of DVT by causing a stickiness and clumping of the blood cells. A general lack of exercise leaves the individual with a poor circulation. Women who are pregnant or new mothers and women who use a contraceptive pill or are on HRT also have increased DVT risk.

The remedy lies in the observation of the risks: Having a regular exercise programme

and not smoking or drinking alcohol will offset any temporary period of inactivity, especially where the seating is so cramped that one can barely move at all. The general recommendation in addition is that passengers walk around the cabin occasionally. While being a good suggestion, one wonders if the ones giving the advice have ever travelled by air in economy class! There's more exercise to be gained from battling with food trolleys and other passengers!

The risk of DVT is, like so many other risks, relative. By taking all the appropriate measures it can be minimized.



# Licence to hate?

The English newspapers did not arrive at my hotel on Malta until 6.30pm each day. On 11 September I joined a larger-than-usual number of English tourists in search of their fix of newsprint. 'These are *today's* newspapers,' said the lady behind the counter. 'The thing in America will be in *tomorrow's*.'

Having been out in the sunshine all day, I asked, 'What *thing in America?*' Yesterday's news was fine by me.

In my room on floor 5 I managed to locate CNN. At first it appeared that they were showing clippings from one of those disaster movies of the nineties. As I listened to the commentary, it seemed that the anchor man was in shock. All kinds of people were wheeled in to give their reactions. Though none, at that stage, had any direct connection with the disaster they, too, were clearly in shock. Under the pictures of the destruction in New York was a rotating caption: NEWS BREAKING. Taking account of the time difference between where I was and 'ground zero', the events which had initiated the catastrophe were still only three hours old. And many of the images, though scenes of death, were marked 'live'.

Mistakenly, I stuck with CNN until bedtime. Why was that a mistake? As the scale of the disaster, and the tremendous loss of life sank into my subconscious, my overactive imagination kicked in. What did it was the image of the passenger jet actually impacting one of the twin towers. How had it been for those on board the hijacked passenger planes? How many of the 5,000-plus trapped in the crumbling towers had any realistic chance of survival? I decided to make the best of a sleepless night by making it a prayer vigil.

By the time we arrived home on Friday, the pronouncements of the politicians were filling the news headlines. We had shared the brokenness and grief of the many Americans who had been of our party in Malta, but their politicians – with the exception of the Mayor of New York – were talking about vengeance and winning a war.

The serious newspapers on Sunday 17 September contained articles which expressed fear that 'the most obscene criminal act of modern times' – planned, it appeared, over six or seven years – might lead to a disproportionate response. That reminded me of Alistair Cooke's comment on the warlike rhetoric of the politicians: 'If you kill a thousand mosquitoes, another thousand will appear tomorrow morning. We need to do something about the swamp.' John Humphreys wrote in *The Sunday Times*, 'When something like the attack on New York happens, the politicians may mouth their predictable rhetoric about war and victory, but we know it is just that – rhetoric. We know we can do nothing to stop the suicidal maniac from blowing himself up with an aeroplane, or in a pavement cafe, or releasing poison gas in a subway. ...'

*The Observer* reported on its front page that the British Prime Minister was acting as a brake on the US President; 'In sharp contrast to Bush's comments, Downing Street sources told *The Observer* that nothing is set in stone, and that hard evidence of a link between Osama bin Laden, other fundamentalist Islamic groups, and the World Trade Centre disaster must be provided before action can be taken.'

Every serious newspaper contained a profile of Osama bin Laden. In their speeches following the recall of Parliament on Friday 14 September, politicians had been keen to put distance between the atrocities and the religion of Islam. In the profiles of

bin Laden, however, a picture emerged of a man whose religion might well have been his driving force. Not the religion of the Koran, however, but a religion that had gone rotten and given him a licence to hate. This son of privilege had been born part of Saudi Arabia's obscenely wealthy upper class. He was the seventeenth of fifty children his father had had from several wives. He had been ignored or ridiculed by older brothers. When the Soviet Union had invaded Afghanistan in 1979 he had found his cause. His organization al-Qaeda had formed the hard core of the Islamic opposition to Soviet occupation. Using US aid, as well as his share of the family fortune, bin Laden had created the effective opposition which, after ten years, saw the Russians withdraw from Afghanistan.

Even during the years in which bin Laden had drawn sustenance from the United States, his ideology had represented a marriage between the theology of the first generation of Muslims in the seventh century AD and an overpowering hatred of the USA. Al-Qaeda ('the base') had recruiting offices in fifty countries. 'Bin Laden believes in the restoration of Islamic government, not on the pattern of the present Islamic regime in Iran, but through the replacement of all states and nationalities with the rule of the Caliph, who enjoys supreme authority as a direct successor of the prophet Muhammad. Presumably, that Caliph would be himself.' (*The Observer*)

In 1998 bin Laden had issued a *fatwa* against the US and, along with a number of Muslim clerics, had signed it.

James Buchan's profile of bin Laden ended with this chilling paragraph: 'Arab observers say that the brutality is designed to provoke indiscriminate Western retaliation against Muslims and Muslim states. That is supposed, in turn, to break the two religious communities apart and inaugurate a war that will end, like the Crusades in the Middle Ages, with the humiliation of Christendom and the West.'

Regardless of the peace-praising passages of the Koran, the white-hot core of bin Laden's religion is hate. Be on your guard against anyone whose religion leads him to hate those of other faiths. Hatred is bad enough when it is expressed in words. Perhaps bin Laden has shown us what happens when, over a sustained period, a religion with hate at its heart totally possesses a man.

Christianity that does not have the Gospel of Jesus Christ at its heart – that identifies other groups in order to hate them – should be shunned like the devil, for it is a diabolical perversion of the faith.

In the light of such a hideous atrocity it is perhaps understandable that many Christians must be among the 90 per cent of the US population and 74 per cent of the UK population (MORI, 18 September) who want a reaction involving missiles and invading forces. The 'Blessed are the peacemakers' response does not come naturally to the human heart at times like these. But as events like this increase in frequency and ferocity they should make us pray more fervently for the coming of the Peacemaker. Even from a temporal standpoint we need also to recall that the clearing of the swamp is a more appropriate response than killing mosquitos. That becomes the Christian response when we recall – as bin Laden did *not* – that what we are killing are fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters. We do not have a licence to hate. We do not have a licence to kill. Our mandate – a tough assignment in these circumstances – is to love as Jesus loved!



## STATEMENT ON TERRORIST ATTACKS IN US

News of the devastating terrorist attacks on the United States broke in Europe on Tuesday afternoon. British Union Conference president Pastor Cecil R. Perry was travelling to Holland with other workers from the BUC when he was notified of the tragedy. Yesterday he issued the following statement and message to Church members in the United Kingdom and Ireland:

'The deadly attacks on the financial and military symbols of the United States of America, including the civilian population, have left us numb. It is shocking to know that wickedness could have reached such proportions. The British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists wishes to give its heartfelt sympathies to the hundreds of families who have lost loved ones in the triple tragedies, and to

those others who have been physically and psychologically hurt. We reject violence of every kind, and promote respect for human life. Wars and terrorism have no place in a civilized world.

'We request our members to pray for America and the people who have become victims of such terrorist activities. We pray that God will have let the rescuers find many more alive in the debris. Ask the God who cares to give the leaders wisdom to do what is right in these difficult circumstances. It is the Church's desire that hope in Christ's healing mercies will not elude the people of America. May many find comfort, and answers to the inexplicable, in God's promises to take full control of this world and vanquish the evil.'

## Clapton revival and baptism

It can only be described as a revival spectacular. Clapton church was the place to be from 4-11 August.

Pastor Louis Preston, visiting us from the USA, spiritually, mentally and physically blessed us. Our theme was *Faith-Fellowship-Forgiveness*. All this was made

possible, thanks to our resident pastor, V. Annette Johnson.

Pastor Preston delivered the message to us each night with love and passion. He touched on practical matters such as health issues and parenting. He also spoke on The Joy of Forgiveness, No Condemnation, and A Faith to Celebrate.

Clapton church was packed to the fullest each night, and members willingly gave up their seats for visitors. This revival spectacular ended with five precious souls giving their lives to Jesus through a baptism conducted by Pastor Johnson. The newly-baptized members were Ricardo 'Rico' Montaque, Rose Lindo, Yvonne Lindo, Cheryl Martin, and Tamique Harley.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



## Chelmsford Pathfinder Weekend 13-15 July

It was Friday the thirteenth, and things did not look good for our Pathfinder Camping weekend at Skreens Park at Roxwell, near Chelmsford. The rain was torrential and showed no sign of letting up. We were on the point of abandoning our adventure when the rain stopped and gave us the opportunity to set up camp and have a bite to eat.

In the morning, after a hearty breakfast, we were treated to a choral aerial display by the local House Martin display team. After an invigorating walk we got together for singing and a discussion on 'Who really was the Good Samaritan?'

The weather continued to improve throughout the day, and in the afternoon our campers had the opportunity to practise their track and trail skills while on a pleasant nature walk in the beautiful parkland.

Our evening meal of (meat-free) hot dogs and beans was supplemented by additional campfire culinary delights that included ember-baked potatoes, dough

twists on a stick, egg cooked in orange peel, and finally, Luke Marshall's favourite 'volcano eggs', all washed down with lashings of hot chocolate. Singing our camp song, 'It only takes a spark', around the campfire while watching a glorious sunset on the tree-lined horizon, seemed very appropriate.

On Sunday morning, after our early morning exercises and a trip to the site shop for souvenirs, we had arts and crafts (rope end whipping or peg dolls), followed by a brisk game of rounders. We enjoyed a good lunch, played football-cum-rugby, then before you could say Pied Wagtail (the Skreens Park emblem), it was time to pack up ready for home. It was hard to believe it was over so quickly.

Although things looked bleak at first, our one part-time and eleven full-time campers and staff had a busy weekend of walks and activities while we were well fortified for these rigours by an ample supply of excellent food.

CHELMSFORD PATHFINDERS

## Tottenham: Prayer and Fasting

With the promise of 2 Chronicles 7:14 in mind, the members of the Tottenham West Green Road church met on Sabbath 28 July for prayer and fasting. Under the Spirit-inspired leadership of the prayer ministry team, petitions were made using the A-C-T-S format: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication.

The programme was divided into four sessions: forgiveness for individual and corporate sins; healing of the sick and deliverance in the hour of temptation; daily bread and temporal prosperity; boldness through the Holy Spirit

to present the Gospel.

By laying hold of the divine promises, the saints made their petitions, giving praise to God through hymns and testimony.

We have our quota of critically ill members. Among them are one of our elders and two of our teenagers. The testimonies of God's healing providence and intervention in other lives came as an assurance of God's promise 'that the prayer of faith shall save the sick'.

The benefits derived from fasting are unique. One is emptied of self and filled with the divine presence of the Holy Spirit. The power of prayer has inestimable value.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

## Sam Davis leads Youth Day at Hove

Sabbath 5 May was Youth Day at Hove. Youth from many other churches as far away as Chelmsford came along and extra rows of chairs had to be provided as the morning progressed. Hove choir sang, 'Jesus, Thou joy of loving hearts'; Kenneth led in a prayer session; and Pastor Sam Davis, SEC Youth director, preached on the faithfulness of Joseph.

Following a fellowship lunch a drama group from Hounslow made a presentation, and a group went down to the Hove seafront to sing Gospel songs and hand out leaflets.

ANNE HOLDEN

## Bradford's Prayer Day

Pastor Hamilton Williams led the Bradford church in a day of prayer. Pastor Williams's style was forthright, and he questioned many of the accepted methods of prayer.

The point of the exercise was to develop a personal relationship with God. Some of the points that stood out were: • if we only pray to God when we hurt then He has to allow hurting to come into our lives; • we need to be physically comfortable while we pray; • when we can't sleep at night we should pray.

A. BLEVINS



## Prayer Warriors!

One of the most exciting events of the year so far was the Prayer Warriors' Conference which was held on 3-6 May. Talk about *power!* Approximately ninety people attended this year's conference. The event also attracted a number of young people from other denominations. Although Prayer Warriors was hosted by the NEC Youth department, youth from the SEC also attended.

Our guest leaders were a young couple from Apopka, Florida, Allan and Deirdre Martin. Their passion and zeal for God was definitely infectious! (Three months after the event, they still keep in touch with the youth on a regular basis.) The entire conference was based on 1 Chronicles 4:10, now famously known as the Prayer of Jabez. God used the couple to reach the lives

of our young people. However, the success of the prayer conference must also be attributed to the hard-working young people who led out in group discussions, Bible studies and prayer. Through their willingness to be used by the Holy Spirit, there is no doubt, lives were changed. You had to *be* there! The presence of the Holy Spirit was poured out in ways we could never have imagined! Some of those who attended accepted Christ for the very first time! A fire that is still burning three months on! Some realized for the very first time that *God is for real!* His Word is absolute truth! Even some who have been in the church all their lives had their first real personal encounter with the Living God during this prayer conference! Feedback from the parents has been incredible!

SEKAI NYAMBO



## Handsworth outreach

Pastor Hamilton Williams has brought Handsworth nearer to God with a special Prayer Weekend. The weekend concluded with a prayer breakfast attended by younger members as well as older ones.

Pastor Ian Sweeney followed the Prayer Weekend with his Ten Steps to Happiness series, and on Friday 8 June, eight souls made their commitment to God through baptism.

K. WILKS-LARMAN.

Photo: Everton Rooms





## SKYSCRAPERS IN NEW YORK by Ellen G. White

'We are living in the time of the end. The fast-fulfilling signs of the times declare that the coming of Christ is near at hand. The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually and surely being withdrawn from the earth . . . .

'The agencies of evil are combining their forces and consolidating. They are strengthening for the last great crisis. Great changes are soon to take place in our world, and the final movements will be rapid ones . . . .

'On one occasion, when in New York City, I was in the night season called upon to behold buildings rising storey after storey toward heaven. These buildings

were warranted to be fireproof, and they were erected to glorify their owners and builders. Higher and still higher these buildings rose, and in them the most costly material was used . . . .

'As these lofty buildings went up, the owners rejoiced with ambitious pride that they had money to use in gratifying self and provoking the envy of their neighbours. Much of the money that they thus invested had been obtained through exaction, through grinding down the poor . . . .

'The scene that next passed before me was an alarm of fire. Men looked at the lofty and supposedly fireproof buildings and said: "They are perfectly safe." But these buildings were consumed as if made

of pitch. The fire engines could do nothing to stay the destruction. The firemen were unable to operate the engines.'

Editor: This passage is taken from *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, pages 11-13. Together with *Life Sketches*, pages 410, 411, and *Testimony Treasures*, vol. 3, pages 282-285, this passage has been brought to my attention by readers. If we use these passages in connection with the catastrophe of 11 September, we should do so tactfully, having regard to the grief felt by so many. The context from which the passages are taken makes it clear that the author is dealing with the judgements of God.

## Planting a church in Bury

When Pastor Peter Jeynes was moved to Bury he found himself with a church building – but only two regular attenders.

To enable the church plant to send down roots, Pastor Peter has worked with a core group of attenders to identify the church with the immediate local community of Fishpool.

A series of community events has been organized around the church. An endeavour has also been made to find out what the community expects of its church and to implement the community's suggestions.

Over the summer holidays eight young people, with the pastor's co-operation, produced a newspaper, *Fishpool Times*. For this task they had training from Saiqa Choudhary, a reporter on *The Bury Times*.

In the community the young people met the local postmaster, a former Pakistani test cricketer, who became their major feature.

Pastor Peter's story was also told and an explanation provided as to why his church worships on Saturday.

Peter admits to having been executive editor but credits local young people, Saisha, Sammy, Nicola, Hannah, Kim and Lauren, as being sub-editors and reporters. Daniel was cartoonist, while Dominic was tea boy.

The young people, when last spotted, were hanging around the church asking when they could produce the next newspaper.

EDITOR

## Queen backs Vi Buchan's publishing venture

Violet Buchan of the Aberdeen church has published a book of poems entitled *The Pearl of Great Price*. Vi is donating all profits from sales to The Cancer Research Campaign, Scotland, who are the leading fundraisers for cancer research in Scotland. This year the campaign will be spending £11.5 million on various research projects.

Her Majesty the Queen, as Patron of the Cancer Research Campaign, has written a letter of encouragement to Vi. *Pearl of Great Price* should be available from W. J. Smith, Waterstones, CLC, Wesley Owen and Blackwells bookstores at £3 a copy. [VBuchan@btinternet.com](mailto:VBuchan@btinternet.com)

### NEW PRINCIPAL FOR NEWBOLD

The Newbold College Board is seeking to appoint a Principal to succeed Dr Andrea Luxton, who has accepted a call to Canadian Union University. Anyone wishing to apply, express an interest or suggest a candidate, is invited to contact Pastor Orville Woolford, Chairman of the Search Committee by 1 October. Tel. (01727) 860 331, fax (01727) 866 312; email: [71307.1432@compuserve.com](mailto:71307.1432@compuserve.com), from whom further particulars may also be obtained.

ABC BOOK SALES	30 September	West Midland Centre	10am-2pm
		Newbold College	11am-4pm
	7 October	Brixton Church	10am-2pm

## Obituaries

WRIGHT, Neville Theophilus – d. 7 July. Brixton church was saddened to hear of the passing of one of its members. Brother Wright was born in Clarendon, Jamaica in 1930. He was the third of seven children born to the late Mally and Ivylyn Wright. In 1958 he migrated to London where he met his wife Hannah. They were blessed with three lovely children and, in time, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In 1944 Neville attended a crusade at the church and there he gave his life to Christ. He was baptized by Pastor James Phillip. Brother Wright quickly became an active member of the church, participating as a song service leader and a member of the choir. He was recently ordained as a deacon. Brother Wright will be remembered for his dedication to the church, his calm nature and warm smile, his punctuality and his willingness to do anything to help others. The funeral service was conducted by Dr E. L. Henry at the Brixton church. May God comfort his wife, their three children, sister Nellie, and brothers Harvey, Uriel and Carl, as well as other members of the family at this sad time.   
JOAN REID

WATTS, Violet – d. 7 August. Violet Ward was born in Cardiff in 1910. She had two brothers and two sisters. When she was young, her mother joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. After leaving school Violet studied shorthand and book-keeping and eventually took the Bible Instructor's course at Newbold Revel, having been baptized by Pastor O. M. Dorland during his presidency of the Welsh Mission (1924-1928). She worked in Wimbledon with Pastor Clifford Reeves. In Cardiff she had met Tudor Watts from Risca, near Newport. Tudor worked on Newbold's farm and later as a shoe repairer. They married in 1936 and were blessed with two daughters, Patricia and Marilyn. Then Tudor received a call to literature-evangelism. It was a life of great joy, but Violet's money-management skills were to prove essential to the young family. In the sixties they moved to Cambuslang in Scotland, where Tudor became Publishing department secretary for Scotland and Ireland – and finally to Watford with Tudor in charge of literature work in the SEC. In Watford, Vi worked at Granose Foods and was a member of the Dorcas society. She was an effective deaconess in the Park church and a beloved member of

the Senior Members' Group, encouraging the lonely and elderly from the local community. She enjoyed travel and often accompanied Tudor on his preaching appointments. In the last few years declining health has forced the couple to live in a local nursing home where they received wonderful care and personal attention. Sadly, not long before their 65th wedding anniversary, and two days before Tudor's 90th birthday, Violet passed to her rest. Pastors Robert Vine and Roy Burgess officiated at her funeral service on 16 August, and Valerie Fidelia sang Christina Rossetti's beautiful hymn, 'None Other Lamb'. Said Pastor Vine: 'Vi knew and loved God, the Lifegiver. And we believe that just as Jesus, during His ministry, gave life back to those who died, so will He again on the great day of His appearing. When He comes it is to wipe away all tears and to restore not just individual lives, but to put together whole families bereaved and broken apart by death. God loves Tudor and Pat and Marilyn and the whole family!   
BRONWEN ATKINSON

## Weddings

WIMBOW-MASON. On 27 August 2000 Karen Mason and Jon Wimbow celebrated their wedding at St Mary's Church in Old Hemel, Hertfordshire. The church service started at 2pm followed by a beautiful reception at the Thistle Hotel, St Albans. Karen was given away by her father Chris Mason and accompanied by three bridesmaids, Natasha and Gabielle Wynne and Anna Surridge, and a maid of honour, Lilla Skopek, all beautifully dressed in yellow and white. Jon's best man was Colin, his long-time friend whom he met through work. After the reception, Karen and Jon flew away for a three-week honeymoon in Sri Lanka and Maldives before returning to their home in Lemsford, Hertfordshire.   
SARAH MANNERS-JONES  
(Submitted 20 August 2001)

JONES-PILE. June 24 was the hottest day of the year. At the Advent Centre, family, church members and friends (some from as far afield as the Caribbean, South America and the USA) gathered to witness the wedding of Deborah Pile and Rodney Jones. Deborah and Rodney first met as pupils of the John Loughborough School

some years ago and caught up with each other again about two years ago at a concert. The groom was ably supported by best man Clive Shepherd. The procession began with the groomsmen and page-boys entering the church and doing a slow musical march up the aisle, followed by the bridesmaids and flower girls. The bride entered on the arm of her proud father

Vivian Pile, followed closely by her chief bridesmaid and young sister Jasmine Pile. Officiating were Pastor K. C. Henry of the Chiswick church, where Rodney is a member, and Dr Richard De Lisser of the Stoke Newington church, where Deborah is a member. In his sermonette, Dr De Lisser brought humour and advice to the couple. Just before the exchange of vows, Rodney

gave Deborah her first surprise by singing a special love song to her. Lovely additional songs were provided by Antonia Francis, Caroline and Cheryl Stewart, Paula Bennett and the New Hope Singers – of which Rodney is a member. At the reception Pastor Steve Mackenzie of the New Life and Holcombe Road churches was the Master of Ceremonies for the

evening. Humorous stories and speeches kept the guests entertained, and the groom's father ended his speech by singing, 'Vaja con Dios Rodney'. The following day the happy pair flew off to Mexico on their honeymoon. On their return to England the couple will set up their home in Watford.   
F. R. SUTHERLAND

## Viv Llewellyn: Back to sea by David Marshall

What happens to pastors when they retire? They don't fade away, that's for sure!

When Pastor Llewellyn retired he was determined not to be like some retirees he'd heard of who'd stuck around in their former parishes to tell the new incumbents how things should be done! He determined to keep busy. With his wife Anne he ran a playgroup for the disadvantaged children of the district where the Southampton church is located. As a matter of fact they had been running it before Viv retired. Much of the money to run the operation came from Children in Need.

In March 2001, with great sadness, the Llewellyns were obliged to close the playgroup. The government subsidies towards free places in nursery schools had gradually made it redundant. The Llewellyns miss it, but before closure eventually came Viv had made some alternative – and very different – arrangements with regard to the use of his time. . . .

In common with other pastors – including Doug Sinclair and R. J. B. Willis – Viv first encountered Seventh-day Adventists while he was in the Navy. Somehow the scent of the sea did not leave his nostrils. He had been brought up with it; his father had been in the business of exporting coal from South Wales. And so it had seemed natural for Viv to join the Merchant Navy. In common with Doug Sinclair, he was part of the John Ellerman line and got his Second Mate's Ticket.

The last time Viv came ashore at Cardiff Bay – to become an Adventist and to marry Anne from the Cardiff church – he brought the love

of the sea with him. After his graduation from Newbold Viv was a fixture at the Oxwich Bay youth camps, introducing young people to knots, shells and the mysteries of the deep. He always carried a heaving line in the boot of his car in case he could assist some seaman coming ashore.

Viv's early ministry was in the West One postal district and on Stanborough Park. However, thereafter, many of his pastorates were within sound, scent and sometimes sight of the briny. His last and longest pastorate was at Southampton. He spent his days off on the Solent and Southampton Water. He lives within short walking distance of the Solent and knows when every major vessel is coming in to port.

It was therefore natural that, in looking for a ministry for his retirement, Viv should have looked out to sea.



Above: Viv and Anne Llewellyn.

Right: Viv with chaplains from the Mission to Seafarers.



What gave him the idea was when, about a year ago, two stewardesses came to church from the liner *Oriana*, both Adventists, and one a pastor's daughter. He learned that one per cent of the population of the Philippines is Seventh-day Adventist and that

many Filipinos make their living on board ship. Was it possible, he wondered, that many young people were being lost to the Church because they could make no contact with it when they came ashore in a foreign port? Viv began negotiations with the Mission to Seafarers.

The origin of the Mission to Seafarers goes back to 1835 when John Ashley, a Church of England clergyman, began visiting seamen on ships at anchor in the Bristol Channel. As he became aware of their isolation and need he gave up a secure living to minister to them. His work inspired similar ministries in other ports and, in 1856, it was decided that these should amalgamate under the name Mission to Seafarers. Two years later the society was in search of a logo. What do you suppose they chose? Put it this way, they got their idea from Revelation 14:6. Yes, you guessed it! Their logo is 'an angel flying in the midst of heaven having the eternal gospel to proclaim to every nation, tribe, language and people'.

Today Viv freely admits that the physical hardship, poor food and poor accommodation on board

visitor/chaplain who, along with many like him, receives a warm welcome on board many vessels in British waters. Mariners from overseas, says Viv, relish a contact with a Christian chaplain and an opportunity to talk about family and home and things of the Spirit.

A ship visitor carries phone cards, supplies of local currency and a wealth of local information helpful to those who have never visited the port before. The charity runs a club and, in the club, it is possible for the chaplain to contact seafarers in a distressed state, to ascertain the reason for their distress and to help them towards a resolution.

Viv has kept his sense of humour, a great asset in the work he is now doing. He stresses that he does not set out to 'evangelize' the seafarers whom he meets but that nevertheless opportunities do present themselves. He has recently written articles for *Hampshire Life* and *Ships Monthly* on the work of the Mission to Seafarers. Along

with his wife Anne, Viv still misses the children – many from poor backgrounds – who attended the playgroup. But he feels he has found a one-to-one work in line with his call to ministry – and his call to the sea.

For the 150 years of its existence the Mission to Seafarers in Britain has been the only welfare safety net for many mariners. Viv has now become a voluntary ship

with his wife Anne, Viv still misses the children – many from poor backgrounds – who attended the playgroup. But he feels he has found a one-to-one work in line with his call to ministry – and his call to the sea.



## OPEN DAY 2001 Continued from page 2



**Above, left:** Dr Albert Waite signs copies of 'Let the Earth Speak'. **Above, centre:** Mary Hunter, centre, has been first to arrive at Open Day for many years with her husband Bill – although she comes from Newcastle! Bill died in the Spring. On the Sabbath before Open Day Mary mentioned to her friend Janice Breeze that this would be the first Open Day she had ever missed. 'Can't have that!' said Janice; and she drove Mary all the way to Grantham. **Right:** Stanborough Press Home Sales director Pastor Vernon Nambo has a new vision for the publishing work: to base literature distribution on the local congregation.



**Below:** Pastor Richard Daly of Gloucester signs copies of 'God's Little Book of Promises'. In addition to publishing this book with The Stanborough Press, Pastor Daly has had considerable success publishing with HarperCollins and Paternoster.



### MORE MISSING MEMBERS

The South England Conference is anxious to trace the whereabouts of the following members who were last heard of in the towns following their names:

Mrs G. Date (Bridgewater); Mrs M. Leach (Seaford); Mrs P. Charles (Milton Keynes); Mrs L. Peat-Brown (Sutton); Mrs A. Turner (Hythe).

If you know the whereabouts of any of these members please contact Pastor H. Walters, South England Conference Office, 25 St John's Road, Watford, Herts, WD17 1PZ. Phone (01923) 232 728. Thank you.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
PALMER SISTERS GOSPEL CONCERT	10 November	Church of God of Prophecy, Aberdeen Street, Birmingham	Mike Johnson No.7 Promotions	(01908) 692 391 or visit <a href="http://www.palmersisters.co.uk">www.palmersisters.co.uk</a>
HANDSWORTH'S 100 YEARS CELEBRATION	26-27 October	26 October Handsworth church 27 October Aston University, Birmingham	Guest speaker Randy Stafford, USA Various pastors who served at Handsworth	Debora Marner (0121) 554 6948 Karen Wilks-Larman (0121) 357 4905 email: <a href="mailto:Karen@wilks-larman.freeserve.co.uk">Karen@wilks-larman.freeserve.co.uk</a>

Anyone who has any items of interest that could be used to piece together the history of Handsworth church, please submit them to The Communication Secretary, Handsworth SDA Church, 98 Hutton Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B20 3RD, or email: [Karen@wilks-larman.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:Karen@wilks-larman.freeserve.co.uk).

All advertisements for upcoming events should be submitted in this format.

### Pastor G. D. Keough

If you have any memories of Pastor Keough, teacher at Newbold College, missionary to the Middle East, pastor of Stanborough Park, or any letters or other documents that you would be willing to share, please contact Mr David Trim, Newbold College, St Marks Road, Binfield, Berkshire, RG42 4AN. Mr Trim is gathering material for a biography and would be very grateful for any information you can give him.

## MESSENGER

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### SUNSET

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Sept 28	6.45	6.57	6.49	6.56	7.07
Oct 5	6.29	6.42	6.32	6.38	6.50
12	6.14	6.26	6.16	6.20	6.33
19	5.59	6.11	6.00	6.02	6.16

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