G
traduation Day was a
bit of a wash-out at Newbold.
Rain drizzled down almost all
day. Nevertheless, responding to
this challenge to optimism, the atmos-
phere inside Salisbury Hall on 30
September was far from damp, as local
civic dignitaries and friends of the College
from Church and community joined the
graduands and their teachers, families
and friends in celebrating the fact that a
group of students had come ‘This Far by
Faith’, as announced by the class motto.

The eighteen graduating students included
one receiving the degree of MA in Pastoral
Ministry through Andrews University and
one student who was being awarded
Newbold’s Diploma in Islamic Studies. Of
the other sixteen, seven were graduating
with British BA (Honours) degrees in
Biblical and Pastoral Studies, and nine
were receiving British BA (Honours)
degrees in Humanities.

The centennial-year graduating class
was, as always at Newbold, a multicul-
tural group, this year representing thirteen
nations: Bulgaria, Canada, Finland,
Ghana, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Norway,
Pakistan, South Korea, the United
Kingdom, the USA and Yugoslavia. Six of
the new graduates are from the UK. They
include class president Joelle Cooper,
class chaplain Melissa Hope and Mark
Castellino, Cynthia Knowlton, Delcina
Rodney, and Cynthia Straker. Nicholas
Resla, whose mother is English, and
Stephen Wilson, who is Irish, are two
others in the ‘parish’ of the MESSENGER.

Joelle Cooper has links with Newbold
that go back for almost its entire history;
her great-grandfather was among the first
‘Newbold’ students almost a hundred
years ago, when the College was located
in London. She is currently teaching in
California.

Of the other British graduates,
Melissa Hope (who divides her allegiance
between Norway and Britain), is working
as a student missionary in Stockholm and
looking after her young son (born just last
year), while her husband Ronny is study-
ing chiropractics. Melissa is modest about
her accomplishments, but says she found
her classes in history and theology very
enriching and that her most enduring
memory is of Seka Becejac’s organ
lessons. ‘She was able to make me play
the organ like an educated organist. If
music [as a degree course] were a choice
at Newbold I would definitely have done
that,’ she declares.

Cynthia Knowlton, who is looking for
employment locally, found the Newbold
experience spiritually rewarding. For
example, ‘One could not leave Dr
Pedersen’s lessons without having a
living, touching and learning experience of
the magnitude of God’s love’, she says.

Delcina Rodney is equally
enthusiastic about Newbold. ‘My time at
Newbold was plagued by illness,’ she
says, ‘due to a car accident I was
involved in during my first week of
classes. I almost didn’t make it. The only
reason I did is because of the support I
received from fellow students and staff
members. I want to thank them all from
the bottom of my heart.’ Delcina is
continuing at Newbold as a post-graduate
student in Pastoral Studies.

Cynthia Straker, who is warmly
spoken of by her classmates as ‘the
mother’ of the group, says she gained a
family while at Newbold and also
acquired ‘much knowledge from the inter-
cultural mix’. Cynthia is hoping to take up
a hospital chaplaincy post in the near
future.

Steve Wilson is currently working in
Albania. He writes that his involvement in
small-group ministry while at College
allowed him to ‘see life, God and
problems from a different perspective’
and helped him to complete his studies
at Newbold ‘even more enthusiastic than
when I arrived’.

Nicholas Resla found the choir tour
one of the great highlights’ of the College
year and enjoyed acting as its accompa-
nist. Nicholas plans to work for a time but
Continued on page 6
Certain events on the international stage are so important that they punctuate our whole lives. Anyone in their mid-50s would have vivid recollections of, for example, Colonel Nasser and the Suez crisis (1956), the Cuban Missile crisis when the world teetered to the edge of nuclear conflict (1962), the assassination of President John F. Kennedy (1963), the Americans putting a man on the moon (1969), and the disgrace of Richard Nixon (1974).

I strongly suspect that the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon will do more than punctuate our lives; they will actually change both the way we live and think. At the very least, the terrorist attacks will divide our lives into before 11 September 2001 and after 11 September 2001.

The content of my mail indicates that everyone needs to have their say on this one; the full range of views – on the terrorist strikes and the attack on Afghanistan – is represented in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Union; and there is a resurrection in progress to fit the contemporary crisis into the prophetic scheme of things.

Those involved in the scramble inevitably try to enlist the support of Ellen White. To my dogmatic friends I would respectfully point out that the quotations you have sent to me – reproduced on page 6 of Messenger 106/21 – are believed by the White Estate not to refer to the destruction of the twin towers.

If you read the whole of Psalm 91, you'll have no light in particular in regard to what is coming on New York, only that I know that one day the great buildings there will be thrown down by the turning and overturning of God's people. There is a realization that what is written in context is in one sense the beginning of Testimonies, volume 9 (published in 1909), has a more general application. Having reported that, however, I am reserving the right to think my own thoughts on the second.

I have no greater opportunity than now to devote more time to mass literature distribution. To sum it up, I let me apply with emphasis the South England Conference motto: ‘The Whole Church, Taking the Whole Gospel, to the Whole Community.’

Nothing can happen through us until it happens to us.

After the great nappy schism

One school of thought believes that classical music, and Mozart in particular, will boost the brain power of children right through to their early adult years. Scientists at Appalachian State University, in the other hand, say ‘We conclude that there is little evidence to support it.’

Dr Raj Persaud, Consultant Psychiatrist at London’s Maudsley Hospital, says that more grey matter is required to appreciate classical music. So listening to such music from an early age should help to develop the brain-cell networks. There seems to be some substance to his observation since Professor John J. Enkins of the University of London has shown that short bursts of Mozart’s Sonata K448 has been found useful in decreasing epileptic attacks. The high frequency sound is thought to: stimulate the brain into a more controlled pattern of behaviour, thus helping to stabilize the erratic firing of the neurons in the temporal lobes; help to produce relaxing endorphin, and lower blood pressure. The jury is still out on whether or not the beneficial claims can be substantiated. Meanwhile, schools in Florida are required by law to play classical music CDs; and school teacher Anne Savan, in her learning difficulties class at Abrience Boys Comprehensive School, is using classical music to calm her pupils. She has already found that previously inattentive boys are now able to be part of the school choir and are doing well in GCSEs.

None of these two points: we have only been able to write about these events since they happened. On the second: it is clear there has been a massive shift in Adventist opinion on war since 1939 – at least at grass roots level. In World War 1, Seventh-day Adventists in Britain were pacifists. Men of my father’s generation were obliged to stand before tribunals and defend their non-violent views. The basis of their views was the sixth commandment. Typically, they were asked, ‘What would you do if a German came to murder your wife and children?’ One characteristic Adventist told the judge, ‘I would do the same to the German as I would do to you, and if you want to know what that is, you’d better come and find out!’ Despite his bellicose tone, in common with most Adventists he was relieved of the necessity of serving in the armed forces and, instead, put on ‘essential work’.

There have been thoughtful letters. These I prefer. One person wrote, ‘Where was God when nine Adventists died in the twin towers?’ The writer quoted Psalm 91 as if it were a comprehensive insurance policy for Christians. That, incidentally, is how Satan interpreted that Psalm when he tempted Jesus (Matthew 4:6). The Psalmist’s long list of things God’s people need not fear should be seen against the background of the apostle Paul’s teaching (Romans 8:35 et seq): ‘In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.’ (Verses 37.) Notice, ‘In all these things’: we are not saved from them, we are saved in them. We are not saved from the floods or the fires; but the Lord our God is our closest Companion in them (Isaiah 43:2). When Jesus said, ‘I am with you always’ (Matthew 28:20), He made no exceptions.

One more thought in response to the ‘Where was God?’ question: More than 6,000 perished in the twin towers – God was not just with the Adventists! I’m sure He had many other faithful ones among those who perished.

Another question I have been asked is, ‘Why didn’t God intervene?’ The fact is, He probably did. Terrible as it was, you may be sure that Satan wanted a far worse tragedy on 11 September 2001. Any other answers holding back the winds of strife makes it clear that what was referred to was an event other than the Second Coming. 

Two things in particular have surprised me about your letters: the allegation that, despite the contents of Messegger volume 9, there is a revival in my country; he concluded. Let’s pray that the revival erupts here!

Have faith! One day a Rider on a white horse will appear. He will be followed by billions upon billions of angels. He will come to set every injustice and right every wrong. On His robe will be emblazoned: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.’ (Revelation 19:11-16.)

The end of the war is certain. But in the meantime there is terrorism and hatred and genocide and homicide and suicide. In that ‘meantime’ period let’s not be petty and crabby with one another. Let’s prepare for that revival. And let’s look forward to the day when Satan will be able to deceive the nations no more (Revelation 20:3).
Adventist layman made Moderator of Churches

On the evening of Sunday 7 October, members of the Barnsley church were joined by representatives of other Christian denominations to celebrate the induction of Brother Bill Cowin as the new Moderator of Churches Together in Central Barnsley. In his sermon, Brother Cowin said that his main aims would be the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and helping the people in the Barnsley area.

Brother Cowin, his wife Nancy and local pastor John Hines.

Canterbury Holiday Bible Club

Up to twenty-four children from the Canterbury area had great fun attending a Holiday Bible Club held at Broad Oak village hall in August. The theme for the week was Noah’s Ark, and the children enjoyed a variety of activities around the popular Bible story. Every day they listened to different stories involving animals, including ‘Daniel in the lions’ den’. They also had great fun learning new songs and playing games. During the craft sessions the challenge was to help the children design their own T-shirts; build an ark; and make clay and peg animals. The highlight of the week was when the local press came to take a photo of the children who proudly showed off the crafts that they had made.

Pastor Haworth had chosen to speak on Matthew 25, which he used to remind the congregation of their responsibility to the wider society. In his talk Pastor Haworth mentioned the work that the Adventist Church is doing in societies all around the world, through ADRA, Community Services, and Family Ministries. Commenting on the biblical text of the harvest, Pastor Haworth went on to speak about the Adventist emphasis on healthy living. This went down well with the Mayores who were herself a vegetarian.

Afterwards, the Mayor and Mayores, who had been given gifts of appreciation, said how much they had enjoyed the service. Pastor Haworth was able to have an informal talk with them and commented on how down-to-earth they both were. ‘There were no airs and graces, he said. ‘They were just a very nice ordinary couple.’

Ewoo campaign: twenty-nine baptized

by Andrew Beccai

There was a reversal of mission- ary fortunes this summer when Pastor A. L. Ewoo, a son of the Western coastal region of Ghana where Adventist missionaries began their work, came to London with a blistering revival-style evangelistic campaign resulting in the baptism of twenty-nine people.

The only difference was that Pastor Ewoo stayed for only four weeks. Nonetheless, his New Life in Christ Campaign at the Lister Community School, Plaistow, would have made Pastor Dudley J. Hall, superintendent of the Adventist missionary effort in the Gold Coast (Ghana) proud. Edward L. Sanford and G. K. Rudolph, first mis- sionaries to the Gold Coast, and George and Eva Kerr, medical missionaries who lost their two children in the mission field, would have known their efforts had not been in vain.

It was a very challenging campaign for the Ghanaian Adventist church as very few of its members live in the east of London, but with dedication and coordination about ninety people attended the campaign. One of the organizers observed, ‘If most of our members living in Plaistow were to do a vigorous visitation, we would have baptized about fifty people’. But he was thankful: ‘We thank God for the twenty-nine souls, and for the effort of the members who travelled far to support the campaign.’ An intensive follow-up will certainly see more people baptized.

Among those who were baptized were husband and wife Brother and Sister Ofori Akantewa, who were first to be immersed. Sister Alisha Akantewa revealed that she took the decision to be baptized first. ‘I told my husband about it and later he also decided to be baptized.’ A deacon, Brother Kofie, also expressed his joy: ‘I am so happy’, he said, ‘to see my wife and my son baptized. My wife attended the Adventist church when she was very young, but she stopped and I am glad that she has now given her life to Christ.’

The Ghanaian congregation itself felt the impact of the campaign. Most members admitted that Pastor Ewoo’s ‘scathing’ preaching had touched their lives. Some sought repentance. The first elder, Adjei Owusu, admitted in his appreciation speech to the evangelist, ‘Even if nobody had been baptized in this campaign, I know our church will never be the same.’ The local pastor’s blessed was his daughter was also baptized. ‘Gina’s baptism has brought a change into our home. There is joy in the family and her baptism has inspired her brother to do the same,’ he said.

Dr Ewoo, who is the ministerial secretary for the Africa Indian Ocean Division and speaker on Ghana Television, used Wednesday nights to conduct marriage seminars for the Chingford, the Ghanaian and the Horncastle Road churches at the John Laughton School.

Dr Ewoo plans to return next year.

Lord Mayor of Birmingham at Harvest service

At 4.30pm on Sabbath 13 October NEC Church Growth director Pastor Paul Haworth was the guest speaker for the Harvest Festival service at the Yardley church in Birmingham. In attendance were the Lord Mayor, Pastor and Lady Mayores of Birmingham, Jim and Ann Frances Workworth. The Lord Mayor read the Scripture reading from Matthew 25:31-46, a passage he had chosen to remind the congregation of their responsibility to the wider society. In his talk Pastor Haworth mentioned the work that the Adventist Church is doing in societies

Fun Learning at the Hampton Court Flower Show

This week the Hampton Court Flower Show was opened to the public with a special early-morning service in the grounds for members of the church community who had been invited to attend. The show was opened by Pastor Ron Edwards who said that the church had been involved in the show for many years and that it was a great link to community involvement. He also spoke about the church’s involvement in the London 2012 Olympic Games and the plans for the church to have a presence at the games. The show was opened by Pastor Ron Edwards who said that the church had been involved in the show for many years and that it was a great link to community involvement. He also spoke about the church’s involvement in the London 2012 Olympic Games and the plans for the church to have a presence at the games.

The best decision

On Sabbath 11 August Bristol Central was delighted to welcome a new family into their congregation and to witness the baptism of their eldest son, Prakash Pawar. His wife and two sons, had been attending our church for some months, having left Bangalore to make Bristol their new home. The family’s joy was made complete when their 13-year-old son Prakash entrusted his life to the Lord in baptism. Pastor Ron Edwards advised him that he had made the best decision in his life and the most lasting one. Prakash has blessed our church with his talent for playing the keyboard, and we look forward to his becoming more involved in our family.

Flower Power

Flower Power is something we associate with the 1960s but it is still very real today. Roundwood Heath Spa was host to Read William McMillan, MBE, in September. An International Floral Artist and Special Associate of the National Association of Floral Arrangement Societies, ‘Mac’, as he is affectionately known, has demonstrated flower arranging in every country in the world – from America to Afghanistan flowers cross all international barriers and bring joy and happiness. In desert and place they are even more valuable. Mac never charges a fee for his demonstrations, requesting instead that a donation be sent to a named charity. In this way he has raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for children’s charities all over the world, providing hospices, orphanages and treatment for children’s illnesses including cancer. Two years ago his work was recognized by the Queen of England when he was honored with an MBE. Although he is an international celebrity, the Rev Mac is also the minister of a Presbyterian church on the outskirts of Bristol, and always likes to be back home to take his Sunday service. Part of the art of flower demonstration is to tell a good story and Mac had his audience in stitches in the Adventist church hall in Crieff on Wednesday evening. He told them of how he was at an airport in America by a huge man, dressed completely in prison-like white, daisies in his hand and fringing his hat, who turned out to be a flower arranger on the same flight. Roundwood Heath Spa holds a Flower Arrangers’ Week every year and invites floral artists to demonstrate and lead out in workshops. Two years ago Alison Bradley from the Scottish TV ‘Beachwood Garden’ was the guest and last year we had with us Audrey Baidstorte of the Stannborough Park church, who is also the Assistant Editor of the Flower Arranger magazine. The Rev Mac gave a heart-warming presentation and demonstration when he reminded the large audience that there is much that is beautiful in this world, despite the ugliness of terrorism and international disputes.

Erdington baptism

On 16 June the members of the Erdington church received a wonderful blessing when Celia Dudley was baptized into the Adventist fellowship by our pastor, Paul Haworth. Sister Dudley accepted Christ as her personal Saviour as a result of the NET ‘99 Millennium of Prophecy satellite transmission from New York. For Erdington; the video series started 22 September 2000 and ended 3 December. Sister Dudley never missed a meeting. She faithfully attended all the series which were presented on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. She also received Bible studies from Pastor Haworth to underpin her faith and her understanding of the Scriptures.

Adventist Special Needs Association

The ASNA UK & Ire is an association established to support the spiritual, social and physical development of our members with special needs and disabilities. It also aims to support families, carers and professionals working within the field of special needs by providing resources, training and awareness programmes, family weekend breaks and special needs focus days. The ASNA is currently undertaking an extensive survey to establish the distribution and details of disabilities within church membership. The current practices of special needs ministries within Adventist churches, the needs of the members and leaders of the church. The results of this survey will help the association along with the church administration to provide an effective and appropriate service for the special needs church community. Please ask your local church elder, pastor or personal ministerial leaders for further details and questionnaires.

On 1 December at the Advent Centre, London, there will be a concert of music and drama to launch the ASNA.

There is also a family weekend planned for 22-24 March 2002 in Northamptonshire, where families can meet for mutual support. There will be theme-specific workshops for parents and carers. Children and adults with special needs are encouraged to attend. Arrangements will be made for their care.

The committee members of ASNA are themselves affected by special needs, or work as professionals with adults and children with disabilities. Committee members are Nicholas Reiss (chair); Pastors David Spearing, Curtis Murphy, Cyril Sweeney, Alan Mitchell, Brightown Kavaloh; Sophia Nichols (ASNA secretary); Glivia Robinson (treasurer), Karen Weeks (Support Services co-ordinator), Pauline Jervis (Special needs co-ordinator); and Jill Galloway (Special Needs co-ordinator).

We would like to hear from anyone interested in becoming a member of this association or becoming a civic member of one of the subcommittees mentioned above. For further details on the ASNA committee and further ASNA information, ASNA concert or family weekend break, please phone or email Sophia Nichols on: (01491) 833395; email: asna@special.finet.co.uk.

Photos (clockwise from top-left) HAZEL SCHOLES

Those who turned out to listen to Read Mac.

The Power family with Pastor Paul Edwards.
Ron and Lilian Ogborne's Diamond Wedding

On 22 September about 250 church members and friends from early days attended the Ogborne family’s 50th wedding anniversary at the Adventist Church in Arley, Hill, on Brittany 18 June on 14 June.

Baptised in 1937 and 1938 respectively, Ron and Lilian transferred their membership from British Standbawn Adventist Church to British Lodge Crescent in 1972, and have been married members ever since. Ron has a special gift; he made the pupil: "I still remember that morning's baptism not long before their church was bombed."

SANDERS, Ethel - d. 10 August. The burial service was at St Marks, Bodmin. Jack and Ethel were staunch Methodists until literature-evangelist Etric Jolliffe and Rich families (Mrs Rich being Ethel's sister), who in turn passed the truth of Lanlivery and became a teacher in the parish, where their twin daughters Anne and Margaret were born, moving to it when Jack retired from farming. Jack and Ethel were staunch Methodists until literature-evangelist Etric Jolliffe and Rich families (Mrs Rich being Ethel's sister), who in turn passed the truth of Lanlivery and became a teacher in the parish, where their twin daughters Anne and Margaret were born, moving to it when Jack retired from farming. 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What does ‘Country Life’ mean to you? For some it’s an expensive glossy magazine, mainly to be seen in waiting rooms. For others it’s a brand of butter, but for Adventists it should mean the best place to eat in central London.

What is Country Life? Country Life Restaurant has been serving healthy, appetizing, totally vegetarian food in central London for nearly twenty years. It was started at the New Gallery by a group of American Adventists who continue in the same spirit, aiming to help people to live healthier and happier lives, and to open the door to the Gospel. The original group of volunteers have long since been replaced by regular workers who continue in the same spirit.

On 1 September the Oxford baptism was started at the New Gallery by a group of workers who continue in the same spirit, but Oxford baptism continues to give general support. After the New Gallery was sold, Country Life needed to relocate, and three years ago, after much prayer and searching, it was reopened in Wardour Street on the edge of Soho, just across the road from the old site.

A unique mission field Country Life has a great and unique potential for missionary outreach. It is the only Adventist institution in the very centre of London. It is right in the heart of London’s West End, in Soho, a lively crowded district famous for its restaurants, pubs, clubs and entertainment. It is also a busy commercial centre with the headquarters of the British film industry. Crowded with workers, pleasure seekers and tourists, it’s at the edge of London’s theatreland and a stone’s throw from Piccadilly Circus, which Londoners like to think is the hub of the world. It’s an ideal place for a missionary presence and it’s difficult to think what missionary outreach other than a restaurant would reach so many people.

A warm welcome The Country Life team has much to offer church members. They would like to welcome more Adventists to the shop and restaurant, and to have them invite their friends to eat at the restaurant and join in their outreach activities. Do you or your friends need a new start in coping with health problems? The cookery courses, health lectures or personal lifestyle counselling (by appointment with the Country Life doctor) could be just the thing. Or would you like to bring them to a small, friendly, non-threatening Bible discussion group? They are planning a series of lectures and cookery programmes on Tuesday evenings. In addition, we have a regular weekly Bible discussion group on Wednesday evenings at 5.30. Do feel free to bring friends to any of these activities if they are within reach of where you live or work, but if possible let them know in advance if you are coming to lectures or cookery programmes, because space is limited. They have some good health books and cookery books, and even a Country Life cookery video.

To encourage you all to visit, they are introducing a 10% discount for church members on Sundays. They are also introducing a 50% senior citizens’ discount on Mondays.

Getting more involved Country Life can use more helpers. They would love to hear from anyone who has a few spare hours that they would enjoy volunteering regularly, or occasionally, either at Country Life, or at home with their computer. They sometimes need more regular staff too, so if you live in or near London and would like a fulfilling full-time or part-time job with like-minded Adventists, do let them know, as they are always interested in hearing from people who would like to work with them. Pay and conditions are standard for the catering industry, but the rewards are great and who knows how many will be in the Kingdom through the seeds that have been sown at Country Life?

How to get there The Country Life Restaurant and shop is about two minutes walk from Piccadilly Circus: go up Regent Street, turn right into Wardour Street, then left into Wardour Street, and Country Life is right in front of you.

Opening hours: Sunday to Thursday, 11.30am-10pm; Friday: 11.30am-7.30pm; 3-4 Wardour Street, London W1R 5BA. Tel: (0207) 434 2922.