Newbold welcomes new principal

by Sonja Lind

On 5 August Newbold College’s new principal walked into his office. Dr David Penner, alumnus of Newbold, was thrilled to return to the place where his student days were ‘an important part of [his] life.’ He commented, ‘I think it’s really exciting to come back to Newbold.’ Dr Penner has many connections with Newbold and Europe. He met his French wife, Josée-Marie, while they were both students at Newbold, and they married in Bracknell. Two of their three daughters were born in Reading and Windsor. The family lived in France before moving to the USA. Now they have returned to England, and Dr Penner could not be happier. He brings twenty-seven years of experience with him to the College. He has served as a teacher and an administrator, teaching and serving as principal in both secondary and undergraduate schools throughout the USA. At the university level, he has had positions such as dean, university registrar and vice-president. About his many years of academic work, Dr Penner said, ‘Discovery and imagination have always been a big part of my life.’ His personal education includes a Bachelor’s degree in History from Newbold College, and a Master’s degree in History and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Educational Administration from Andrews University. Apart from his intellectual pursuits, Dr Penner enjoys books, music and art. He also likes to travel, and has visited several parts of the world with his family, including the United States, Brazil and many European countries. His family includes three daughters, two sons-in-law and three granddaughters. Elizabeth, their youngest daughter, will graduate from Newbold in May 2003, while her sister Roxana, a Newbold graduate, is married and lives in Cambridge. Estrella, the oldest daughter, is also married and works as a physical therapist in Michigan, USA. Dr Penner also has parents and siblings who live in Binfield, as well as more relatives throughout England and Europe. Dr Penner enjoys teamwork and finds it to be productive. ‘The most exciting projects I have been involved in,’ he said, ‘are those involving teamwork. A team can create something far better than individuals working separately.’ The staff at Newbold College certainly look forward to working as a team with Dr Penner in the coming years. Dr John Baildam, director of Academic Affairs, said, ‘I’ve no doubt that his experience will be of a tremendous benefit to the College.’

That sinking feeling!

by Mike Stickland, principal, Adventist Discovery Centre

Even if you have never watched the film, you know the story of the Titanic. I still have images in my mind from the original black-and-white film. I’ve not watched the recent blockbuster version, but the melody from the soundtrack, once heard, is hard to dislodge. What had not occurred to me is that the makers of the recent version had two distinct purposes. Firstly, they intended to make a huge amount of money. Secondly, it has been suggested, they intended to convey a message. The message is represented subliminally by the sinking ship and by the haunting words of the Celine Dion song.

The whole world, it seems, has wondered after the film, and in the process people have been taken in by the message. It doesn’t take a genius to figure it out. The Christian Gospel is the ship. ‘Wake up and realize that everything your parents trusted in is gone,’ is the message. ‘Break free, for you must find your own way to survive!’ Can you see that people who have, even subconsciously, taken this philosophy on board will not come to the tent to hear our evangelist preach what they have already dismissed?

Let me, if you’ll excuse the pun, take another tack. The Bible Society sends out a newsletter called “The Bible in Transmission”, continued on page 2
Entheogens: ‘generating the god within’

This term describes Christian, Cannabis, peyote, ‘magic’ mushrooms (however defined). The drugs are seen as a path to within themselves for a ‘spiritual’ experience.

Entheogens are used by a variety of groups.

One view is that entheogens bring about a new level of consciousness.

When it comes to your meeting place, there is no need to be the hands of others.

The Lord makes clear that pencils are not victims of our upbringing.

He expressed his victim status in lines of poetry that I would hesitate to read aloud.

He was a personable and good at a fast repartee, but did not live up to the expectations.

She did well at school, but not quite as well as they would have expected.

He was a good boy and a good kid.

The message of the Bible is that we may triumph over evil – and over the messed up circumstances, or we can choose to rise above our messed up circumstances. Taking the line of least resistance waps personalities over time and leads their own, not infrequently, into dependence on illegal chemicals, the necessity for which, in turn, provides a motive for crime.

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Welsh Jubilee Camp

It’s just an ordinary farmer’s field. Reasonably smooth, tree-fringed, bordered by the clear flowing River Usk, and sheep grazing – a delight in itself to an area devastated last year by foot and mouth. But twice a year it takes on an added dimension, when the Welsh Mission holds its family camps there. The extended Jubilee weekend this year was one of those occasions.

On the bridge and see the marquee-erected. Watch the tents going up – not forgetting the ‘sentry boxes’, which medieval monks would have readily referred to as the necessary? How the caravans are arriving. See and feel the ethos exchanged as dear old friends greet each other and new friends are welcomed.

There were around a hundred and twenty – of all ages, babies, teens, twerfies, families, singles – and from all parts of the British Isles as well as representatives from South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and the US. Local: An early morning group is gathering for a thought for the day. You can hear the songs on the clear morning air. ‘Be still and know that I am God’. There’s much visiting around the field – and beyond farays into the beautiful countryside. Up to the lookout, across the river, to the waterfalls, or a meal out in Brecon. Catch a rare glimpse of the red kite circling the field. It must be time for another songfest. Instrumentalists are heading to the marque to tune up. There’s plenty to hear, too.

Nineteen musicians with eight assist ed instruments and an excellent song leader means that the heavenly melodies are unforgettable. Listen as the campers sing a verse a capella and then, together with the full orchestra, bring the song to a climax.

Hear also the splashes in the river, as an intrepid water person takes a morning dip, the haunting melody of the musical saw on the night air in the camp concert, the bleating of sheep being shared – and a little light rain on the canvasses.

Feel the sunshine – lots of it this year. . . . the atmosphere in the marque at worship times . . . the kindnesses shared.

Smell the fresh morning air . . . diners cooking . . . wood smoke from the bonfire on the little strand at the water’s edge . . . sausages cooking.

See how Pastor Ken Clothing’s talks, so relevant, touched: things, that we wish we were things we can be sure of. The climax of Tuesday morning, we join in an affilia tion of the most important of all. Romans 8:38. ‘Nothing can separate us’. What an assurance to take with us as we pack up, take tents down, hitch up caravans and head for home.

Thank you to all those who by their presence helped to create this little oasis; those who walked, climbed, played or just sat in the sun and relaxed; those who led out in Sabbath school, in morning watch and the camp concert; those who played to us, sang to us, told us stories, kept the camp fire fuelled and burning, and those who did ‘sentry box’ duty.

Yes, most of the year is just an ordinary field, but it can hold unforgettable memories.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Exeter baptism

A baptism is always a joyous occasion when church members remember the time of their other rebirth in Jesus, and friends and relatives unite to celebrate. It was such a day in Exeter when Carlos Lewis stepped down into the baptismal water.

Carlos first came to Exeter church eighteen months ago from Trinidad, taking up employment with South Western Electricity Board on the computer system. The shy young man was made welcome by church members and continued to attend Sabbath services regularly. He received Bible instruction as he grew in faith, first from Pastor Rick Slann and later from Pastor Ken Clothier who baptised him.

When living in Sheffield Carlos had wished to be baptised twice over, along with his cousins, but a personal problem prevented him. Ten years later his mother and relatives from Sheffield were present to rejoice with him as he made his public profession of faith.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Rededication at Oxford

Few cities are more intimately associated with the history of Christianity in this country than Oxford. One has only to think of such names as Wycliffe, Cranmer, Ridley, Latimer, Tyndale, many of the translators of the King James Version of the Bible, and John and Charles Wesley, to name only the most eminent, to realise the impact this city has had.

It is surprising that there was no permanent Adventist presence here until 1957-8 when Pastor S. G. Hyde raised up the initial congregation, which was supplemented by a few incomers who were already Adventists, such as the present writer. Although a small building was purchased early on, it was poorly located and had numerous defects, and it was not until 1972 that a truly representative church building was dedicated.

On 6 July 2002, a large number of members and former members together with a few previous pastors, assembled to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of that event. One of the latter, Pastor Paul Smith, preached the morning sermon, with two others, Pastors Michael Taylor and James Cuthell, in support.

After a well-prepared lunch, the writer, who is the only surviving char-acter member, reminisced on the history of the church with emphasis upon the previous building, which served to underline how blessed the present congregation is in the physical plant it possesses. There was also an act of re-dedication of the membership to the task of proclaiming the Gospel ‘til he come’, to quote the words carved upon the communion table.

R. P. FOSTER

SEC Stewardship weekend by Catherine Boldea

Over a hundred people attended the special retreat at the end of July organised by the Stewardship department of the South England Conference, at the High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, in Hertfordshire. The weekend, entitled ‘Stewardship a Way of Life’, explored the holistic nature of the concepts of stewardship and not just the monetary aspects that are often highlighted.

The principal guest speaker was Dr Paul Yeboah. He is currently Head of the Annuities department at the Central London church with Pastor David Cox. He has subsequently pastored in the Chiswick, West Kilburn, Wimbeldon, Crawley (no longer established), and Cambridge and Peterborough churches.

Dr Yeboah has a BA in Religion and an MA in Education, will take up the role of teacher in Pastoral Theology at Adventist College fifty per cent of the time. The remainder of her time will be spent setting up a mentoring programme for young women who are entering the ministry, speaking appointments and research for her current PhD studies.

First female pastor in SEC leaves for Australia by Catherine Boldeau

M iss Drene Somasundram, the first female to be employed as a minister in the South England Conference, has left for the sunny shores of Australia. For the past fourteen years Drene has worked in our Conference, beginning her ministry in the New Gallery Church (now known as the Central London church) with Pastor David Cox. She has subsequently pastored in the Chiswick, West Kilburn, Wimbeldon, Crawley (no longer established), and Cambridge and Peterborough churches.

Drene has been in a BA in Religion and an MA in Education, will take up the post of teacher in Pastoral Theology at Avondale College for the next five years.

Chiswick’s two days in one

International Day of Music and Baptism went out with a storm on 29 June. Songs and music were sung from countries all over the world, which included Costa Rica, Portugal, UK, Trinidad & Tobago, Martinique, Dominica & Curacao. Monet Lansiqueot blessed Chiswick with a special poem in her mother tongue, French, and Isolda Gracia and visiting friend sang a song in Portuguese. The message was spoken by Victor John who’s theme was about ‘Ministering and Music’.

The remainder of the day was blessed with five candidates who decided to give their lives to God. Sharron Alexander, 12, the youngest member of the church, was baptised first. Her grandmother, brother, family and school friends who read her favourite scripture, John 10:29-30, gathered while she was baptised in front of a large congregation that she was ready to give her life to Jesus. Stuart Browne, 15, was supported by his parents, grandparents, aunt and other family friends. His testimony was read by his mother. Valerie Clarke was the next candidate and her favourite song ‘Just as I am’, was sung. The final baptism for the day was that of 9 year old friend of Patricia Shirley as she witnessed her two young boys, Daniel, 9, and Louis, 6, giving their lives in God. Scripture readings were read by sister Cherish for Daniel and a family friend Marcia for Louis.

ANGELA DARE

Eric Lewis, secretary of the BUC, who spoke on the communication issues surrounding stewardship, Mr Val Pimlor, treasurer of the BUC, who spoke on Debt Management, and the writer who spoke on the merits of the Gift Aid programme.

Dr Brighton Kavah , Stewardship director, who organised this weekend would like to thank the stewardship committee for their support, and his secretary Mrs Vivienne Evers for her tremendous help.

Commendations

Tops. Some of the Jubilee campers. Left, Pastor Martin Bell brought a friend along with him. Right, if you wondered why we didn’t send any posters...
Adventist scholars defend Jesus


Beginning on the evening of Friday 28 June, Belfast church was pleased to welcome Pastor David Cox and Paul Cleere to the church. The speakers have both hosted a weekend entitled ‘Developing Disciples’, as part of the Mission’s commitment to small group and regular training programme.

The topics were focused upon training members in small group ministry, compassion, Christian humility, which will in turn prepare the church to be a leader in the Mission to lead a healthier lifestyle.

As the new members were received into the church, that of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Bible and Johnson’s 'The Essential Jesus' thus refreshingly emerges as an effort to reassert the biblical debate and present the ‘complete biblical Jesus...historical Jesus and the Jesus of faith’ (page 15). It unabashedly sets out to do ‘the record straight’ (PC President’s Paper and the ‘Christ event’ and ‘Christ process’ without disturbing the difficult, critical questions. This noble aim is systematically championed by no fewer than twelve well-seasoned Adventist scholars.

Each chapter title is self-explanatory: The influence of Jesus, The Jesus of History, The Coming of Jesus, The Birth of Jesus, Jesus – Divinity Revealed in Humanity, The Works and Words of Jesus, The Miracles of Jesus, The Peace of Jesus, Jesus – Man for Others, Jesus and the World of Today, Jesus of Life and Jesus of Faith. The book is a fine example of what can be managed to avoid the word ‘love’, which for me indisputably defines the event of Jesus. Of course, there is no hostage of reference to the symbols of Jesus’ love as if the symbols are achievable solely through obedience – doing nothing. But is not the celebration of the exclusion to its source a bit like ‘having a craftsmanship of godliness but denying the power thereof’?

Notwithstanding, the Essential Jesus outstandingly eclipses its counterparts and namelake (by Crossan), not merely because Jesus is faithfully presented as scripture presents him and thereby stands up to scrutiny, but because he is not presented as someone I can trust. The volume is thoroughly engaging and at times eloquently wise. I therefore have no hesitation in recommending The Essential Jesus.

Available from the Adventist Book Center at £11.95. Phone 01476 539900 with credit card details.

Zion Singers

A Robing and a Robing Service was held in Pretoria on Sabbath 24 April. Visiting speakers for the day were Pastor John Hefner from Wolverhampton and Pastor Robert Mctosh from Handsworth. They reminded us of the importance of having God in our lives today ‘almost godless society’ and how music plays an important part of public worship. The day’s services were further enhanced by special music from a variety of choirs which included the KCS Choir, Charles Ngandwe, Ruby Dyer and the Zion Singers. On the day we had a brief history of how the Zion Singers began. The Zion Singers were formed in 1972. Pastor Perry Parks, the bridegroom’s uncle, officiated at the ceremony and led the singing and hymns of the church. As the bride and groom emerged, the Zion Singers performed a musical selection. It was great to see so much creativity and fellowship. The song that was performed was ‘Let there be light’. It was sung in a beautiful manner and all who heard could not fail to be impressed. Gradually they got to know each other and were united in marriage. The wedding took place on the 6th of May at Keswick United Methodist Church in Britain. The bridegroom and his bride were married by the Rev. Richard G. Styles as pastor of Keswick United Methodist Church. The wedding was a joyous occasion for all who attended. The church had just completed major repairs, improvements and redecoration, so it was looking at its best. Also church members had made great efforts in order to make the day a day to remember.

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Adventist attempts Channel swim
by John Surridge, BUC Communication director

At 4.40am on Thursday 1 August Samoan Adventist Iose Mataafa set out from the Kent coast in an attempt to be the first Samoan to swim the English Channel. Iose (57) is a member of the Inala Samoan Adventist church in Brisbane, Australia, and works for Sanitarium Foods. He was accompanied across the Channel by his support vessel, Viking Princess, which carried representatives of the Channel Swimming Association as well as his wife Kuani, his friend and church youth leader Tanu Sani, and two other crew members.

Iose swam for approximately twelve hours, never leaving the water or touching the boat, and took only brief breaks every hour or so for food and drinks. All seemed to be going well but when he was just one mile from the French coast Iose developed a shoulder injury which slowed his progress. In addition to the sea conditions charged and the captain and official observer (judged that the tides and current were too strong for him to complete the swim. Speaking from his caravan in Folkstone Iose said, “I could see the French coast and a lighthouse and I really wanted to get there, but I was ordered to stop. I suppose they were in a better position to judge the conditions than I was.”

London Adventist Chorale
in need of singers

Do you sing? Does the idea of travelling around the world and using your singing talents to share the Gospel with others appeal? Then we need to hear from you! The Chorale is looking for singers from all cultural backgrounds to join what is one of the flagship choirs of the global Adventist community.

We are particularly keen to recruit both tenor and bass groups, 1st and 2nd voice ranges; we also require sopranos, both 1st and 2nd ranges.

If you feel ready for a challenge and would like to see us, why not come to a choir rehearsal on a Sunday afternoon at the Advent Centre in London?

If you are interested please contact the Musical Director Miss Aleta King (01752) 591700. Aleta_king@yahoo.com

London Adventist Chorale performances

SEPTEMBER
14-15 Brixton AYS programme
21-23 Ford AYS programme

OCTOBER
12 St Mary Abbots, Kensington, 7pm
27 Lowther Broadway Theatre, 7pm (Black History Month)

NOVEMBER
17 Symphony Choir of Year, Royal Albert Hall (BBC television broadcast – date to be confirmed)

DECEMBER
14 L’Manor Restaurant (Oxford) evening
20 Spitalfields Festival, St Leonard’s Church, Shoreditch, London, 7pm

Iose has considerable experience of long-distance swimming. In April 1998 he swam eleven miles to an island off the Sunshine Coast. In a later attempt he swam twenty-four miles between Upolu and Savaii, in Samoa. In preparation for the Channel swim, the longest distance he has ever attempted, Iose took three months off work and trained in the colder waters off Sydney. The English Channel typically has water temperatures of around 15°C at this time of year and Iose didn’t find it a problem. “I only really felt cold when I got out of the water onto the boat and was standing in the wind,” he said.

When asked about his motivation for the swim, Iose mentioned a number of factors. Working for a health food company and the desire to promote a healthy way of life was one of them, but he was also raising funds through sponsorship for his local church. Pastor Ken Vogel, president of the South Queensland Conference says, “Iose is an active and loyal member of the Inala church. This church has need for land and a church where they can worship and evangelise. Iose has experience and interest in long-distance swimming. He has chosen to dedicate this to helping raise funds for his church.”

Iose also has a keen interest in ministering to young people. “I relish a challenge,” he said. “I want to show our young people that there are still challenges out there and they can make something of their lives if they really put their minds to it.”

Iose and Kuani plan to spend the next few weeks in England visiting Adventist churches, meeting fellow Adventists, and sightseeing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT WHEN WHERE WHO HOW
1st Advent presents Tha Gospel According to Kirk 7 September Regent Hall, 279 Oxford Street, London W1 Join us as we pay tribute to God through the music of Kirk Franklin. Special guest artists.

Ave 1 Family Camp 15-15 September Chapel Porth Pastor R. Clemow Phone 01752 774523

Lay Evangelistic Campaign 27 Sept -1 Oct 7:30 (not Thursdays) Beauty of Life Church Pastor Ken Vogel Phone 01752 591700

Youth Evangelistic Campaign 28 Sept - 2 Oct 7:15 (not Thursdays) Bridgen Church Pastor Glen Samuels Phone 01752 591700

All applications for upcoming events should be submitted in this format. Please do not send postcards.

Readers have a right to assume that all events advertised in this column are church-related. Please make the church connection clear with your submission.