NEWBOLD NEWS by Sonja Lind

New principal's official inauguration

On Sunday 20 October 2002 Newbold College celebrated the official inauguration of Dr David Penner as principal. Pastor Orville Woolford, Education secretary for the Trans-European Division, said, “His particular qualities are matched to the needs of the College at this stage. There is a Newbold tapestry woven over time and weaving him in at this time is just what we need to strengthen the fabric.”

Newbold College was happy to welcome both church and local community. Guest and speakers included Councillor Shingle Fike, the Deputy Mayor of Blackwell Forest Borough Council; Pastor Don McFarlane, president of the South England Conference; Pastor Orville Woolford; Dr Michael Pearson, Newbold Vice-principal; Dr John Baldiam, Newbold director of Academic Affairs; and Mrs Lidija Godina, Chair of the Newbold Staff Forum, and Behavioural Sciences lecturer.

In his address, the new principal spoke to the audience on the goals of education – acceptance and celebration. Speaking of the ‘wobbliness of life’, he emphasised how “even in the wobbly spin of the earth, we may find a delight.” Dr Penner continued that education not only included celebration, but acceptance too. “Education should help us to learn and accept that life is a constant unveiling, that we do not have everything and that we may find a delight.”

Dr Penner embodied a cosmopolitan outlook. A fond traveller and an alumnus of Newbold, he graduated in 1972 with a Bachelor’s degree in History. Now, after serving twenty-seven years as both teacher and administrator throughout the United States, he has returned to Newbold with the support of his family. ‘I am delighted to be at Newbold College,’ he admitted. Although he has worked at the College for less than three months, the new principal has inspired trust in students, staff and others.

Black History Week

In mid-October 2002, Black History Week was celebrated – through song, food, poetry, film, literature and speech – on the campus of Newbold College. Valerie Bernard, head of the College’s Behavioural Sciences Department and one of the organisers of the occasion, explained, “Black History Week is all about the celebration at Newbold College of the contributions of African people and people of African descent to all forms of knowledge.”

The week’s events included a programme on black music by Mr Patrick Bernard, who teaches music at colleges and schools. He sang a number of spirituals that highlighted the struggles and triumphs of those suffering under slavery. There was also a showing of the film Ali by the Newbold Film Society, and Harlen Renaissance poetry readings at the student-led worship named The Gate. The College’s main display cabinet exhibited many African artefacts. The Newbold African Student Association hosted the evening programme on Saturday night that recognised the contribution of the African community. After the programme everyone enjoyed a variety of African cuisine. Later in the week, during a College assembly, Valerie Bernard talked about black history, highlighting the pain and the achievements experienced by a resilient group of people.

Feedback was glowing, so both Valerie and Dr Penny Mahon, Dean of Students, head of the Humanities Department and also one of the organisers, agreed to book it as an annual event. “It’s great that Newbold’s recognising Black History Week,” added African-American student Francesca Louis.

As an international college representing over sixty nationalities, Newbold is the ideal multicultural stage for such an event. “We’re just so diverse here,” said student Natasha Gunter. “I think that’s the best thing about Newbold – it helps you appreciate other cultures.”

Newbold principal Dr David Penner concluded, “I thoroughly enjoyed the special events associated with Black History Week at Newbold. It is encouraging to see and feel the openness and acceptance at the College for such an event.”
What we really need now is feedback – especially from non-Christians. The best chance we have of increasing the amount of feedback we receive is to get as many copies of the magazine ‘out there’ as possible. How? Here are a few suggestions:

You could leave the magazine or give it away...

...on the train, on the bus, at a local cafe, in phoneboxes, at the place where you work or in the street where you live.

Or you could take it with you to foosball matches or to the gym or maybe you could get permission to put a stand containing the magazines in a public place like a shopping centre, airport or bus station. You can give it out on the street or give it to visitors in your own home. It’s up to you. Wherever and however you distribute the magazine, pray that the Holy Spirit will bless where it lands.

Healthwise

When the chips are down!

Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

Acrylamide, a substance associated with removing impurities from drinking water, and used as part of glue, papermaking and cosmetic production, hit the headlines earlier this year. This chemical, known to cause cancer and nerve damage to rats, was found to be present in high quantities in some foods.

A Swedish study showed that starch-based foods cooked at temperatures above 120°C contained acrylamide in worrying amounts. These foods include potatoes, rice and cereals, and the higher the cooking temperature the higher the acrylamide in worrying amounts. These foods include potatoes, rice and cereals, and the higher the acrylamide in worrying amounts. These foods include potatoes, rice and cereals, and the higher the acrylamide in worrying amounts. These foods include potatoes, rice and cereals, and the higher the acrylamide in worrying amounts.

When the chips are down!

The usually sleep-sidee valleys and massive, rounded uplands of the Cebbigi mountains, renowned with mixed broad-leaved and coniferous forests, were made famous through Washington Irving’s short stories about the legendary Rip Van Winkle.

Rip, a hen-pecked husband, went to sleep, you may recall, on a sunny afternoon in a glaaxy glade in the Cebbigi Mountains, only to awaken twenty years later in a completely different world. During the two decades that he slept, his children had grown, married, and had children of their own. His wife and many of his friends had died.

More importantly, his country had fought and won the War of Independence.

Rip Van Winkle, who had gone to sleep a loyal subject of King George III, now found himself a citizen of a new nation, whose flag he had never seen before. Poor Rip was completely confused by his intrusion into the post-Revolution American scene. There was no familiar and comfortable niche into which he could fit – everything had changed.

How would the Adventist church delegates to the Leeds camp meeting in 1902 feel if they were rudely awakened from their dreams and brought face to face with the Adventist church of 2002?

What contrasts would be at the top of your list?

Well one thing would be something measuring against the backdrop of the tremendous cultural and technological changes of the past hundred years. They would at least recognise the organizational structure of their beloved church family!

For some years prior to 1902 the General Conference had been taking tentative steps towards greater de-centralisation of the church’s governance. At the General Conference session in 1901, following an appeal by Mrs White for a thorough re-organisation of the denominations’ administration, the delegates adopted six major organizational changes.

One of these included the organisation of Union conferences or Mission boards which were enlarged and strengthened by placing on them not only the presidents of local conferences, but also individuals who would represent the evangelistic, educational, medical and publishing interests of the work in that geographical area.

Consequently, the British church delegates at their camp meeting in August 1902, under the chairmanship of the GC president A. G. Daniels, agreed that the British Mission would follow suit. It would be reorganised as the British Union Conference with familiar sounding subsidiary units: North and South England Conferences and Irish, Scottish and Welsh Missions!

But if they recognised the structure they would certainly be struck by some stark contrasts.

Stark contrasts

One of the most obvious contrasts would be in the use and distribution of literature.

Our Rip Van Winkles would certainly be enthusiastic about the goals and aspirations of the General Conference to meet its anticipated circulation target of 500,000 per annum. However, given the key role that literature played in their evangelistic outreach endeavours they would find it difficult to comprehend a church of over 31,000 members with no literature-evangelistic and that struggles to sell 15,000 FOCUS magazines each issue.

By 1902 the British Union publishing house was already turning out 16,000 copies of Present Truth every week as well as a monthly evangelistic health magazine whose circulation rose to 50,000.

Another challenging contrast would be the de-institutionalisation of the church in the British Isles.

By 1902 the British Union had its own college, its publishing house, its health food industry and, in the following year, the Catherin Sanitarium. The health work included other clinics in Belfast and Leicestershire, and, from 1932, the St Andrews Hygiea. They saw ‘presence’ evangelism as a crucial element in establishing the credibility of their message. For some of them this approach would be quite different to what they could achieve in the institutionalised mission church. Perhaps this was the shock that caused them to reflect upon the history of the early church the seed might not have been in the same soil as they were then and remain one possible means to an end.

Shortly after 1902 our delegates were sending an ever increasing corps of British publicans to America in a personal return in power and glory. It would seem incredible to them that a hundred years later the fulfillment of the Gospel commission still appears as daunting as it did when they fell asleep. Of course this is one of the challenging features about anniversaries – some of their recollections are comforting and awe inspiring while others can be rather embarrassing.

As we pause a moment in this edition of the Messenger to mark the hundredth anniversary of the formation of the British Union Conference, along with our Rip Van Winkles of 1902, we can gain back across an amazing tapestry of God’s blessing and guidance, his reproof and discipline, and his patience and mercy. It is a humbling experience to reflect on the tremendous achievements of the past one hundred years as well as its faus pass. A reflection that should lead us to echo to the words of the apostle, “Who is sufficient for these things?”

However, written in clear bold letters across the canvas is the divine commitment: “He shall be exceeding fruitful in the land of Canaan... and shall be exceeding fruitful... and shall be exceeding fruitful... and shall be exceeding fruitful...”—in short: to be the doer of all the good works of the gospel commission. It is the word of the Lord: “Let us work and build...”

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” —Isaiah 6:8, 9

* This guest editorial is by Pastor Eric Lowe, Executive secretary of the British Union Conference.
Newsbreak

Brixton graduation

It was a great day at Brixton church on Sabbath 3 August, when the Education department under the leadership of Sister D. Delves held its first graduation ceremony for those who had undergone the Christian Counselling and/or Pastoral Care courses.

The event was attended by friends, family and well-wishers, who joined in honouring those who were awarded certificates for having attained the level of accreditation in either course.

The courses, which are recognised by the Association of Christian Counsellors, were made available to church members as well as to the community of large. Over sixty people responded to the challenge of the 21-hour contact time, which is part of the course requirement.

One graduate commented that the course was fulfilling socially, academically and spiritually and that it provided a good avenue for witness.

At the ceremony Amanda Timmerman gave a vivid rendition of Amazing Grace in honour of the graduate. Sharon Platt-McDonald gave special recognition and certificates to the Halls for outstanding teaching and encouragement.

Let God use you for his purpose,” were the final words to the graduates from Dr D. Welford.

The courses continue. [JAN REED]

Desert Detectives

When the golden leaves of autumn arrived, it only seemed like yesterday that Leamington Spa mission members were active and busy in various summer outreach programmes.

Starting in July, a group of eleven volunteers aged from 17 to 30 flew out to Croatia for ten days to deliver and support English classes at the request of Pastor Marian Personovic. Having heard of previous work by our youth in Hungary and wanting to reach out to his local community, Pastor Marian invited a team of people from Leamington church to his hometown of Bell Mainist. Split across three locations from the east to the west of Croatia, these volunteers delivered and managed over a hundred collective hours of English teaching to over fifty locals. Still suffering from the effects of the war, the Croatsians are positive people with much hope. Our contribution may have been a small one, but we helped to bring many of the students in our classes closer together through a common language – that of love. We bonded with young and old and were blessed by incredible hospitality in a country where many people have suffered in more ways than we can imagine. Having sworn much-needed seeds of good work in these communities, Pastor Marian and his team are now able to continue where we left them in July for serving the needs of their communities.

Just when everyone thought that was it, a second programme, the annual Adventist Holiday Club, commenced. For the third successive year the theme was Desert Detectives and was based around a team of detectives on the trail of the ‘Mighty Godsword’. Kids were given clues throughout the week-long holiday club in August and were challenged with finding the Mighty Godsword.

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NEC Adventurer/Pathfinder Rally Day in Leeds

Sabbath 21 September was a special day for the Adventurers and Pathfinders alike. Never before had the Pathfinder Rally Day been hosted by Leeds. The day was organised by Mike Roseller and the theme was ‘Healthy Living’. The children presented the Sabbath school programme with pride and confidence. The Lady Mayresse of Leeds was our special guest.

A procession of drums and marching, with flags (led high by both Adventures and Pathfinders, was followed by recitals of pledges, laws and songs. There were presentations made by K’ Spence, who did a stimulating talk on the mind. 

P.A.R.C.H.E.

(Pastoral Action in Residential Care Homes for the Elderly)

One year ago Eastbourne church was invited to participate in an outreach ministry to elderly residents at Hamtun Lodge; a local care home. Over the months members have presented regular Sabbath afternoon programmes to the residents and encouraged their participation. The project has been successful beyond our expectations. The residents now look forward to our visits and we ourselves feel privileged to be considered their friends.

It was therefore with great joy that we were able to present our harvest gifts to these lovely people and join in praise to the Lord of the Harvest for his abundant blessing.

Adventist Book Centre at the Advent Centre

3 Brandon Street, London, W1

will be open for business on the following Sundays:

17 November - 15 December
10am - 5pm

Ribbons, books, GIFT GUIDES & vegetarian foods are all available.
Dorothy Taylor was born in London on 6 May 1906. She comes from a seafaring family and recalls that her grandfather’s sailing ship was once becalmed for six days and was towed by the Eddystone at a voyage to Australia. Her earliest memory is of the funeral of her father when she was 3. She was then taken under the wing of her mother’s sister, and her aunt and uncle became second parents to her. She accompanied them to Australia when she was 8 and lived and studied in Melbourne.

In 1913 her own mother died in England, leaving younger sister Elsie alone in the world. Doris returned with her foster parents to collect Elsie. Because of the war they travelled via Cape Horn, sailing through the ice floes. The following year all four went to Australia until 1924 when they returned finally to England.

Later she moved to Manchester. Travelling to work on days she saw a poster offering meetings to be run by Pastor Jackson, a Canadian evangelist. Doris attended the meetings with her foster mother, and after several weeks they were both baptised in November 1932.

In January 1933 Doris entered Newbold Missionary College in Paulton, near Rugby in Warwickshire. The principal was W. O. C. Murdoch. Doris was always keen to be a missionary, even turning up at college with her steamer trunk, for mission service was the deepest desire of her heart. However, in 1936 after graduation she began her career as a Bible worker in England.

While at Newbold, Doris met David Clarke whom she married on 6 May 1937. Her husband, Pastor Clarke died in 1955 and Doris returned to Newbold College, then in Watford and studied in Melbourne. In 1968 she returned to England.

Doris retired from the Bible work in the autumn of 1968 and almost immediately began another career as Welfare Leader. During her three years in the London Welfare Federation, which eventually embraced thirty-two churches ranging from Hove to Milton Keynes, she was often asked to preach during divine service at which she gave a Bible study and promoted the Welfare work. Doris encouraged volunteers to get involved in the movement, and during one day in 1972, prison visits and the provision of shower rooms and lunches for the homeless. She led the London Federation for eleven years before helping to form the Childern’s Community Services Federation and becoming its first vice-president.

In the late 70s she decided to retire from Federation leadership but was then asked to be the Welfare leader at Stanborough Park for the next few years. She is a great source of inspiration to fellow church members. Her Barbara Issacson, who now leads the Welfare Department at Stanborough, said: “I have great respect and affection for her because of her constant dedication and commitment to this work.”

In 1990 Doris was honoured for a lifetime of dedication to work in the community. Then 90 years old she was presented with a gold medal from the Church Community Services Federation.

Last year in May she was operated on for cancer. She lost a stone in weight and fifteen inches of bowel, but she was assured she’d have no further trouble with it. Since the operation her health has much improved and she can now have many of the foods she had to leave off before the operation. Over the years Doris has held many church offices including youth leader, head deaconess, ingathering agent and leader in the Sabbath school class. These days, at 98, although living in sheltered accommo- dation, she prepares all her own meals. She rises at 6.45 every Sabbath in order to catch her lift to church for Sabbath school. She is a very dedicated church worker. One of her joys is in seeing some of her ‘old girls’ from Newbold days back, and her mind is perfectly clear for recounting the events in her long and eventful life. Her eyesight might almost be called bionic as she says she can make out the leaves on trees a hundred yards away. And what is her motivation as she continues with past threescore years and ten? She says, ‘My strength comes from the Lord. God has shown his love and care for me in what he has done for me, and what he is still doing today. For this I praise God over and over again for the church members who are so kind.’

The story of the Quasrhiae family
by Frank Blewitt

Doris Clarke A long life of service
by Frank Blewitt

Alan has a minister the opportunity to baptise royalty, but that was the happy task of President Nkrumah’s secretary of state for education, at age 21 September when a princess from Ghana, Rebecca Quartey, the daughter of the King of Tano – with her husband Clinton, and daughter Candy, stopped in to baptise her. Clinton’s grand-grandfather was a Baptist, later turned Methodist. He was a headfisherman, a trade that was handed down to his son who became a lay preacher of the Methodist Church in Accra.

When Clinton was 5 his mother gave birth to twins. This turned his life upside down. In 1924 when his family moved to Accra.

A big city is a lonely place. However, in 1998 Doris was honoured for a lifetime of dedication to work in the community.

The following Sunday, Becky and Candy would leave him at home for the Inland Revenue, but owing to ill health lost her job and is still out of work.

Becky is a theatre nurse and currently works for the NHS at St Mary’s Hospital, Paddington. She is also a trained midwife. Although from a Methodist background she stopped attending church about a year ago she began looking for a church. Secretly she also studied Clinton’s Bible Study Guide. The Holy Spirit convinced her of the truth when she read about the Sabbath. She prayed and asked God to forgive her for not going to church in the past, and eventually all three requested baptism.

Through all these experiences, we have come to learn and trust in Jesus. We have also learned to depend on his Word, says Clinton.
Adventist sculptor helps launch London’s Black History Month
by John Surridge, Communication director, BUC

On Tuesday evening 1 October, Adventist sculptor Donald Brown unveiled four pieces of his work at an exhibition in City Hall, London, marking the launch of Black History Month. The exhibition of Afro-centric art was the main visual attraction at the event hosted by Mayor of London Ken Livingston.

Black History Month is a key educational and cultural programme in London’s calendar. In a speech to the several hundred invited guests Mr Livingston pointed out that collectively ethnic minorities now form a majority of London’s population and played a significant role in the cultural and economic development of the city. ‘Black History Month . . . is an opportunity to celebrate, the overlooked heritage of Black and Asian communities within society,’ he said.

The centrepiece of Donald’s exhibition was a bonded bronze sculpture entitled ‘The Millennium Monument.’ It shows a man striding across the world, lifting up the continent of Africa along with America, Japan and Great Britain, representing the four corners of the earth and symbolising peace rising above war and terror, rebuilding where destruction has occurred, healing where suffering has brought pain, renewed belief when hope has gone.

Donald was brought up in Wolverhampton and discovered his artistic talents at the age of 14. In 1988 he graduated with a BA Honours degree in Fine Art Sculpture from Wolverhampton University. In the spring of 2003 the largest African-American owned art gallery in the United States will be opened in New Orleans and named ‘The Donald Brown International Art Gallery.’

In a video interview for ATN’s Adventist Newsline programme Donald cited his upbringing in a Seventh-day Adventist environment as one of the influences which has shaped his approach to art and sculpture today. ‘I try to create works of art that elevate, empower, educate and motivate people,’ he said. ‘My religious background certainly has an influence on my work.’ In a message to other aspiring artists and particularly young people, he added, ‘As a Seventh-day Adventist, if you stay focused there’s nothing you can’t achieve.’

Donald’s home church is Wolverhampton Oxford Street, though today with offices in New York and London, he is not able to attend as frequently as he once did. He lamented the fact that sculpture as an art form is not yet as acceptable in Adventist circles as it could be, but he looks forward to the day when the visual arts will be a powerful force in the witness of the Church.

Roy Adams
Interview

Friedhelm Klingeberg, editor of ADVENTECH, the German equivalent of MESSENGER, interviews

Dr Roy Adams, Associate editor of Adventist Review.

ADVENTECH: Editors of church papers, especially Adventist church papers, usually live and work under the prejudice of censorship. What can you say about this concerning the Adventist Review?

Dr Roy Adams: As an editor of the Adventist Review, I feel no sense of censorship. The administrators of the church, having expressed confidence in the editors by appointing us to our positions, have given us a free hand to determine the content of the magazine.

But isn’t it really difficult to combine the freedom of press with the sensibilities of the official paper for the world church? Where are the limits?

You have put your finger on something very important. Think of it this way. Though the Adventist Review is published as a church paper, it circulates beyond the Adventist context. We have evidence, for example, that it even makes its way from time to time into the Vatican. So although our primary audience is the Adventist church, we know that in reality the magazine travels much beyond the Adventist family. And common loyalty to this family is always a factor guiding us in what we choose to publish. No loyal member of a family rushes to wash that family’s dirty robes in public.

Another consideration is pastoral. From time to time negative news in the church may come to our attention. Our pastoral concern restrains us from rushing to get those things into print like the common press would do. You would understand our position better if you ever became the subject of one of these events. We do not hesitate to publish, however, if the development generates news beyond itself. Readers of the Review would remember our extensive coverage of recent painful events in the church, including the resignation of a president of the General Conference.

Often, however, it’s a judgement call. We must weigh every situation carefully, considering all the ramifications. Then we must make a decision on the basis of all the facts we know.

How would you describe the central purpose of your paper for the church?

Our intention is to build up the church, to strengthen the people of God, and to foster unity. We seek, moreover, to be a balanced, sober voice in the church, to guide and nurture our people in these difficult and confusing times.

What will stay - and what will change if you look at the future of the Adventist Review?

This is a difficult question to answer. Right now we consider that what we’re doing is what God wants us to do - although we’re never completely satisfied. We feel that we are always preserving a strong devotional and theological content in the magazine. We also think the editorial component is extremely important as a way of speaking to the church on matters of concern. Likewise, I think we’ll always retain the element of reader-interaction, especially in terms of letters to the Editor. We are constantly striving to tailor the magazine to the needs of a complex and changing church. But regardless of what stays and what changes, I hope we’ll always remain fully dependent on God, on His wise counsel and providence. That, we’re confident, will never change.

BUC receptional required

Responsibilities include normal reception duties, with some secretarial and data entry tasks. Candidates should be flexible, computer literate, willing to work as part of a team and committed to the mission of the Adventist church. Salary and terms of employment in keeping with denominational policies and are available on request. Send CV and request for applications to Pastor J. Broome, executive secretary, BUC, 83 Stanhope Road, Welwyn, Herts, AL6 8SF. Tel: 01707 372551. Email: adventist@buccom.org.uk

Closing date for applications: 30 November.

Sunset

Sunset

Sunset is a reprint of the largest popular science fiction magazine of the 20th century, LA Science Fiction, and is now an online science fiction magazine, with new and classic stories. Sunset online is available at sunsetonline.com. Sunset is available via subscription to ISF. Callers should contact 0155 372 555.