Making Him Known
by Michael Sparrow,
Human Resources director, SEC

Approximately ninety pastors, Bible instructors, department directors and administrators met at Ashburnham Place, East Sussex for the biennial SEC ministerial retreat. As we chatted over supper on Monday 23 February, our first evening, little did we know how God was going to bless us during the next three days. In harmony with the theme, ‘Knowing Him and making Him known’, our guest speakers provided excellent information, much needed inspiration, and helpful hints on how we could be more effective in ministry.

Drs Ekkehardt Mueller and Gerhard Pfandl, from the Biblical Research Institute based at the General Conference, led us through topics of interest including ‘The Trinity in Adventism’, ‘The Remnant in Revelation’, ‘Marriage and Divorce’, ‘The Sanctuary Doctrine in Adventism’, and other current issues such as abortion and homosexuality. Pastor Samuel Telemaque from the Caribbean Union Conference, continued on page 2

continued on page 2
Stars in his eyes  
by David Marshall

Manchester member Charles Ngandwe could not believe it when he spoke to me.

Eight years earlier, when he was still a 15-year-old Zambian school boy he sang at camp meetings, Press Open Days and other church events. His signature song was ‘The King of the Mountain’. He was always a popular programme presenter Matthew Kelly. ‘He was encouraging to people, especially to those who are sensitive when he said, ‘But there’s no such thing as being a Christian pastor without an anointing for the job’,’ he explained.

Charles Ngandwe was obliged to feed his family by working as a Manchester taxi driver.

People once asked me after I’d viewed it. I replied by saying that I would have to think about it. ‘Is this film anything like the biblical account of the passion of Jesus, the viewer could easily miss the triumph and hope that the resurrection engenders was sadly missing.’

The doctors of the day were concerned ‘that bicycle face’ – (cyclist’s spine or cyclist’s stoop), then the bicycle became popular the tension acquired by keeping one’s eye on the road! – and ‘cyclist’s neuritis’ was noted! Cycling is a recognised remedy or preventive for all the things the medical profession feared.

The medical profession feared the impact of cycling on the human body. Royal Colleges is pressuring the government to have a reliable testing to deal with the problem of obesity. Ideas range from taxing high-fat foods to taxing exercise – ‘prescription’ for fitness – Professor Sir Graham Griffin of the Faculty of Public Health says this ‘increasingly sedentary lifestyle is blighting the health of the nation’. The NHS budget, costing around £5.2 Billion a year (£165 a second!). Much of the money allocated to patient care is being squandered on people who do not need it. Patients suffer one disease but are prescribed another.

Several of my colleagues and I were among a group of approximately 800 people who went to see Mel Gibson’s much talked about film. The Passion of the Christ, on Tuesday 9 March. The dimming of the lights signalled that the show was about to commence and a screening chairman welcomed the chatter of eager cinema goers and clergywomen as they waited momentarily for the first scene.

I was not totally prepared for what followed during the next two hours. I was somewhat daunted as I found myself having to control my emotions with two eyes of view two hours of relentless violence. The reviews I had read prior to watching the film referred to its violent nature but I had not anticipated the level of gratuitous violence that I saw.

The film opened with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. The grim and dirk that covered the face of Jesus as he prayed in the Garden bore no resemblance to the gospel account but I was willing nonetheless to accommodate that as poetic licence. What I was not willing to accomodate was the intensity of the violence that followed. As soon as Jesus was arrested the violence began and was unrelenting until he declared, ‘Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit.’ Of course, the gospel writers all wrote of the violence that Jesus experienced at the hands of his enemies but their account pales into insignificance when compared to the sadistic-masochistic version in the film. No human being could suffer as Jesus does in the film without dying several times.

It is clear from the level of violence in the film that the suffering of Jesus is viewed by the film’s maker as important, if not more important, than his death and that salvation has been secured not merely by the death of Jesus but also by his suffering. Anyone with even a limited knowledge of Catholic theology could easily detect its influence on the film. The medieval chants and related music which form the aural backdrop to the brutal scenes are another clear influence of the Catholic Church. There was also a short scene which the observant viewer would recognize as the origin of the Turin Shroud. Was there anything positive about the film? The answer is ‘Yes. The crucifix scene was realistic and conveyed in powerful imagery Jesus’ agony on the cross. Though bone-chilling to see, the effect of the masssive spines being driven into his hands and feet was not lost on me. That scene was fairly true to the biblical account. The flashbacks to Jesus’ life and teachings were also very effective, especially for one who has studied the gospels. This, in my opinion, was one of the redeeming features of the film. Another redeeming feature was the use of the language of ‘Jesus’ time. The Aramaic was enunciated eloquently and, though sub-titled, the linguistic film the only actable admiration.

My biggest disappointment with the film, apart from the brutality and violence, was the downgrading of the resurrection, the scene of triumph and hope that the resurrection engenders was sadly missing. In fact, I will go further to say that one is familiar with the biblical account of the resurrection, the viewer could easily miss the resurrection in the film.

‘Would you encourage your members to watch the film?’ was a question asked me after I’d viewed it. I replied by saying that I would not want my wife and children to see it and would not encourage church members to watch it, though I realize that many would want to see it. Whatever and other church leaders think about the film, one thing is certain – it provides an unprecedented opportunity to present Jesus as he really is.

The editors of the Baptist, with Don McFarlane*

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The editors of the Baptist, with Don McFarlane*
Trumpet-playing trio: A great year

2003 proved to be a memorable year for brothers Phil, David and Robert Cooper, Stanborough Park church’s talented trumpet-playing trio.

The trio have regularly performed during service, Christmas services and with the church orchestra, and they also played at the London Day of Fellowship in the spring and at the SEC session in Portsmouth. In addition all three participated in a concert tour of Prague with a local brass band, and Phil (19) and David (16) also took part in a concert which was broadcast on Radio 2.

The musical career started with an initiative by their local education authority (Buckinghamshire) to encourage local children to take up playing musical instruments. Aware of his father’s trumping long neglected in the local church, then aged 8, thought that might be fun to learn to play. His brothers followed his example in turn. Phil and David have now achieved Grade 8 and are working towards their Dip slip, while younger brother (13) is catching them up fast having passed his Grade 7 exam.

The boys perform a wide range of music but their first love is jazz.

Three days of their musical activities centre around the Aylesbury Music Centre in their home town and the various youth bands. Phil and David play in the Aylesbury Youth Centre Dance Band which was the BBC Big Band Competition in 2003 and led to their performing in the concert by the winning band which was broadcast on Radio 2 in June.

Since then Robert has become a member of the band as well.

Despite so much time spent on musical activities Phil and David managed to find enough time to make 2003 a successful year academically as well as musically. Phil passed four A-levels and is currently enjoying a gap year while he earns some money to pay for his university course by working in the SEC Youth department. Phil achieved his A* and seven A grades. David is now embarking on his A-levels. He has achieved four A* and seven A grades at GCSE level. David is now working towards his dip slip. And Robert.

The boys enjoy their hobby despite the amount of time it involves. ‘It’s great fun,’ says Robert, summing up the views of all three. Fortunately, for the continued enjoyment of the congregations at Stanborough Park (and elsewhere) they have plans to relax from time to time and will continue to delight their audiences for some time to come. It only remains to be seen whether or not 2004 will prove to be an even more eventful year for Phil, David and Robert.

Auschwitz survivor speaks to Stanborough students

by Bjorn Karlman

Edith Kirby, a 75-year-old Auschwitz survivor, spoke publicly for the first time about her experiences of the Holocau to a group of Stanborough students on Monday 8 March. Ms Shepman, a Jewish Polish survivor, told 9 and 10 students at the school that she was originally forced into a Jewish ghetto by the Nazis in 1939. She said that she was taken in a train wagon to Auschwitz in September 1944. When she (the Nazis) saw old people they took them, she said, straight to the crematorium, she said as she remembered the horror of the camp.

Although she was in her mid-teens when she was taken to Auschwitz, Ms Shepman tried to conceal her age so that she was 18, blaming her small size on the lack of food that had been available to her, to escape the treatment at the time. At Auschwitz, she was taken to a cotton factory in Germany where she did forced labour until the end of the war. Ms Shepman and her sister were the only members of their family who survived the war. ‘The Nazis killed all my family,’ she said. ‘I still get nightmares of the Germans wanting to kill me.’

The Stanborough students and staff who were present as Ms Shepman related her experiences of the war asked several questions. In response to the question of whether she has ever visited Auschwitz in the time since the end of the war, Ms Shepman said, ‘Some people go, I can go... I’ve had enough.’ Ms Judy Fox, head of History at Stanborough, said that Ms Shepman’s visit to the school presented her students with an ‘incredibly lucky chance’, because of the difficulty in finding Holocaust survivors still living today. ‘Here our students have had a chance to have that very close association with a Holocaust survivor... and have their questions answered.’

‘Centurions’

The latest member of Cardiff community church to receive a telegram from Her Majesty the Queen for her centenary is Edna Craig-McCormack, who turned 100 on 31 October. She joined Sister

A church at Bournville

On Sabbath 17 January the Bournville branch Sabbath school joined the newly formed Bournville Seventh-day Adventist church. In May 1965 Fay Mondes (now Fay Salmon) decided there should be an Adventist presence in Bournville. With the guidance of Jim Haughton and the help of the Handsworth church and Pastor Roy Morgan and his team, a branch Sabbath school was set up. January 17 began with a Bournville welcome from Glenda Opias and Joseph Empawi. The young people, serving as ushers, were on hand with warm smiles. Our mother church, Handsworth, joined the celebrations at the Dame Elizabeth Technical College. Oscar Stewart, assisted by a panel of five, presented a stimulation and much of good cheer was the children’s Sabbath school on ‘The Whole Armour of God’. Brother Bushell and saxophonist Ivan Morgan were among the musicians who presented special items.

NIEF officers Pastor Egerton Francis (president) and Marcus Dowe (treasurer) were present, as was the NIEF Sabbath school director Pastor Roy Morgan, who gave the first sermon on 18 May 1995. Janice Britton told the Bournville story. The first elder was Ceci Woodburn and the first baptism – conducted by Pastor Morgan – was of Sister Paul, the mother of Bournville founder Sister Salmon. By the end of 1997 Pastors Morgan and Johnson had baptised 21. Regular visitors. Bournville became a haven for students. Pastor Francis spoke of the divine principles on which the Church is based. Brother Duke asked the Bournville members whether they upheld the core beliefs of the Church and they responded ‘We believe’. Pastor Paul Lockham supervised the signing of the roll of founder members and it was countersigned by Pastors Francis, MacIntosh, Appiah, Morgan and Lockham, and Brother Duke.

Catherine and J. Edenborough were married when they accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and were baptised together.

Percy and Jean have had many highs and lows during the years, but when asked what the highlight they said that it was a year after they were married when they accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and were baptised together.
DENNIS MITCHELL (1915-2004) 6 October was a day of sadness for the Adventist family. A wonderful elder who served in so many posts was named for the last time away. He was the oldest surviving member of the Adventist church. His funeral took place on Tuesday 12th October at 3 pm in the Adventist church hall In Stevenage. Several hundred people gathered to pay their respects to this humble and unassuming man who had been a life-long friend of the Adventist church. He had a warm heart and was well loved by all who knew him.

The film was not just about the violence. There is so much more that can be taken away from it. It is such a powerful story! I have been able to witness to people colleagues with whom I have been able to talk about the beauty of Christ. His beauty was present in the film.

I had read all there was to read about it before I went to see it. I had read all there was to read about it before I went to see it. I had read all there was to read about it before I went to see it.

The film will have been a success if, having watched it, people ask themselves the question: Why did Jesus die that terrible death? If we answer it well – and the Holy Spirit will assist – the film will have been a success.

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WANTED: Good children's stories
REWARD OFFERED!

John Arthur, Publishing Ministries director, Trans-European Division

There is a great need for the church to produce modern children’s storybooks. Therefore, the Trans-European Division Publishing Ministries department is launching a writing contest.

The denominational publishing houses throughout our Division have expressed interest in co-producing a volume comprising 20-25 character-building stories for children aged 6-11 years.

An award of US$50 will be paid for each story that is published.

Basically, we want to make the manuscripts available to our publishing houses at the lowest possible cost – especially those in the low-economy regions. Bearing in mind the secular climate in which we live, the initial book will need to appeal to families of non-Christian background. It will be sold by literature-evangelists with the aim of establishing good customer relationships. At a later stage, books of a religious nature will be introduced to those who are interested.

If you are a minister or children’s storyteller, let us have your best story by 30 April 2004. Send electronically to: johnar@ted-adventist.org. Alternatively, typed copies may be sent to: Writing Contest, Publishing Ministries Department, Trans-European Division, 119 St Peter’s Street, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3EY.

Pray that God will bless the production of this first volume in a range of new books that are being designed for today’s generation.

TED Writer’s Contest (Children’s Stories)

Objectives
1. To develop specialist writing skills among Adventists so as to widen the range of suitable publications for today’s generation of Europeans.
2. To produce a book at low cost as a range of manuscripts from many countries for use by Adventist publishing houses nearly within the Trans-European Division.

Guidelines
1. All manuscripts should incorporate original material, which has not previously been published.
2. Stories should contain between 800 and 1,000 words in the English language and be suitable for the 6-11 age group.
3. Each story should include a moral value which is common to the major religions of the world: (e.g. family values, patience, courage, respect, loyalty, faithfulness, right, discipline, and love for one’s needy, etc.)
4. Manuscripts must be submitted in electronic form (in word or difficult to Jarvis@ted-adventist.org).
5. The deadline for submission is 30 June 2004.

Selection Process
1. The TED Executive Committee will appoint an adjudication panel to select the 40 best stories for an initial volume for children.
2. The decisions of the TED adjudicating panel will be final.

Award
1. A prize of payment of US$50 will be made to TED for each story which is published by any of our denominational publishing houses in TED by 31 December 2005.
2. The decisions of the TED adjudicating panel will be final.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>WHEN</th>
<th>WHERE</th>
<th>WHO</th>
<th>HOW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>London Youth day of Fellowship</td>
<td>17 April</td>
<td>Emmanuel Centre, 9-23 Marsham Street</td>
<td>Victor Aguayo, Sarah Barnet, Anthony Fuller, Emmanuel Dadey, Graham Powell, Enoch Ada.</td>
<td>Tel London Youth Federation on 07914 669029 or 0207 723 8146 for more information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASNA Resplete and Training weekend</td>
<td>22-24 April</td>
<td>Frontier Centre, Northampton</td>
<td>ASNA Training and Support</td>
<td>Tel: 01485 83199; email: <a href="mailto:asnamiperspectives@live.co.uk">asnamiperspectives@live.co.uk</a>. <a href="http://www.asna.org.uk">www.asna.org.uk</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBC New Lets Day of Fellowship</td>
<td>24 April</td>
<td>R. Morgan, NEC</td>
<td>Contact R. Morgan, NEC, 0115 960 6312.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parenting Training Day (Level 1 of 2)</td>
<td>25 April - 15 May</td>
<td>Advent Centre, London</td>
<td>Bernie and Karen Hollist</td>
<td>Tel: 020 7207 8322 or email your address <a href="mailto:guthrie@ted-adventist.org.uk">guthrie@ted-adventist.org.uk</a>. Book by 24/4 – £20 a family, plus £2 a child for child care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Divorce Care Ministry</td>
<td>1 May</td>
<td>Manchester Central church</td>
<td>Mandy Riches, Divorce care administrator</td>
<td>Tel Pastor C. Swannay at NEC on 0115 960 332.</td>
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<tr>
<td>AXIS spiritual retreat</td>
<td>30 April-3 May</td>
<td>CCF Cool Conf., Centre, Cambridge</td>
<td>BUCC</td>
<td>Tel:020 7207 8322 or email your address <a href="mailto:guthrie@ted-adventist.org.uk">guthrie@ted-adventist.org.uk</a>. Book by 24/4 – £20 a family, plus £2 a child for child care</td>
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<td>Lone Parents’ Family Day</td>
<td>15 May - 10, Limited spaces, Must be booked</td>
<td>Advent Centre, London</td>
<td>Bernie and Karen Hollist and Lone Parent Team</td>
<td>Tel:020 7207 8322 or email your address <a href="mailto:guthrie@ted-adventist.org.uk">guthrie@ted-adventist.org.uk</a>. Book by 24/4 – £20 a family, plus £2 a child for child care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Keeping the church family safe – Policy Planning day</td>
<td>16 May-16 May</td>
<td>Methodist church</td>
<td>Everyone working with children should attend</td>
<td>Tel Pastor C. Swannay at NEC on 0115 960 332.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Services Children's Bed Spring Meeting</td>
<td>16 May</td>
<td>St Andrews, Watford</td>
<td>Speaker: Sister E. Stapes, CS director</td>
<td>Bring packed lunch. Hot and cold drinks supplied. Contact Sister S. Swany, 01929 816.649.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Family Camp</td>
<td>16-23 May</td>
<td>Alkerton</td>
<td>Pastor Patrick Boyle</td>
<td>Tel Pastor C. Swannay at NEC on 0115 960 332.</td>
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SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT

Publishing Ministries

The Fifty-ninth Session of the NEC of Seventh-day Adventists will be held from Thursday 27 April to Sunday 30 April 2004 at the Spa Conference Centre, Scarborough. Pastor Paul S. Lockham, NEC Exec. Secretary.

TEACHER VACANCIES

TEC is looking for two teaching posts:

HEAD TEACHER – THOMAS McCLEARY SCHOOL, Nuneaton, Leamington

TEACHER – FLETWOOD SCHOOL, Pimlico, Cambridge

Applicants without a prior record and experience of teaching at Early Years, Key Stage 1 and/or Key Stage 2 are invited to apply.

Closing date for applications for both positions: 30 April 2004.

Please state the position for which you are applying.

ABC BOOK SALES

April | 20 Manchester South 10am-2pm | 10am-2pm
25 West Midlands 10am-2pm |
May | 10 John Longthorpe 10am-2pm | 10am-2pm
16 Nantwich Graduation 10am-2pm | 10am-2pm
23 West Midlands 10am-2pm |

MESSAGE

Volume 109/8 - 9 April 2004

EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL
COPY FOR NO. 10 - 14 April 2004
Docs should be sent to the Editor, Messengers, The Stanleybridge Press Limited, Atkins Farm, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG32 1BP. Tel: 01476 517 046. Fax: 01476 571 244.
Email: Ed.foomessenger@aad.com

ABC Sale line: 01476 539 930
Opening times: 10am – 1pm.

The transatlantic publisher, People’s Friend magazine, is prepared to allow us to use its 44-page format for the publication of Letters to the Editor of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Printed in Greater Manchester.

Website: www.messenger.seventhday.org.uk

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Trans-European Division Publishing Ministries

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