Performing Pastors

by Susanne Kirlew

History was in the making, recently, when several pastors and elders performed to raise money for Hyland House School. Over 450 people attended the event at the Advent Centre and were reported to have thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Blow-by-blow accounts of events are not usually that interesting to read, but I know that on this occasion everyone will want to know exactly what the pastors got up to.

- Pastor Leslie Ackie (Walthamstow and East Ham) and church elder Rohan Alexander (Walthamstow) sang a duet.
- Church elder Hector (Walthamstow) sang two songs accompanied by Fen Braithwaite (Stratford).
- Pastor Don McFarlane (Yes, you did read correctly!) our president, sang two spirituals, ‘I Got a Home Up Inna Dat Kingdom’ and ‘Nobody Knows the Trouble I Seen’. To the audience’s amazement the president (who was obviously near the front of the queue when they were handing out singing skills) sang really well. He was very professional with great stage presence.
- In addition Pastor Colin Stewart (Milton Keynes) sang, accompanied by Pastor Michael Mannix (Hackney) on the piano.
- Pastor Steve McKenzie did a short stand-up comedy slot in which he did an amusing impression of the president, and the whole audience, including the president, roared with laughter. A competition was held to see which pupil at Hyland House School could sell the most tickets. Alexander Williams (Walthamstow) sold 44 tickets and won a £12 WH Smith voucher and an art set. However, Tramaine Williams (Hackney) sold staggering 57 tickets and won a £40 WH Smith voucher. We give thanks and praise to God for the success of the event that raised £2,100 clear profit and was attended by people from as far afield as Sidcup and Ipswich.
They are the secular people of Western Europe who have never been substantially defined NHS but a local health 'system'. Not the rigidly 

health first!

Simply, that instead of being regis-
tered with a GP surgery, NHS money
has come up with the idea of

American and Canadian.

health referral as 'a tendency in gen-

eral practice to see each transaction
as a needy patient presenting a prob-
lem that can be solved by a profes-
sional'. It is stated that it is this atti-
dude which needs to change, and that

em that can be solved by a profes-
sional'. It is stated that it is this atti-
dude which needs to change, and that

Gym'll fix it!

The King's Fund, a health policy
making unit based in London, prides
itself on its innovative ideas, and
has come up with, the idea of putting

health first! Their paper suggests the
environment appears to be more

favourable to turning the horse and

cal, mental, social and spiritual

establishment of Better Living

in quantities either

FOCUS

health. Only when ill-health presents

ment and advice, as well as provid-
ing health all through life might fit the

attitude which needs to change, and that

lem that can be solved by a profes-
sional'. It is stated that it is this atti-
dude which needs to change, and that

They are the secular people of Western Europe who have never been substantially

their plan. We need, they say, a new

health system (in the US and Canada, but

A copy of 'the books of the Law and the book of the

Gospel' where he ministered). There are many biogra-
phies of Patrick – as there are of Columba, David and

Aidan – some of them written quite early on. From these
sources we can learn a surprising amount about the

evangelistic methods of making the faith contagious?

But the Celtic Church was known for things other than

'stopped and all that was written down' – that permeated language and cul-

tural groups here and in many parts of Europe. They did so in the fourth, fifth, sixth

and seventh centuries. Students of church history contrast

if it evangelised at all, did so by treaties with local rulers)

spread the Gospel among so many people groups.

successful methods of making the faith contagious?

Aidan – some of them written quite early on. From these
sources we can learn a surprising amount about the

evangelistic methods of making the faith contagious?

But the Celtic Church was known for things other than

'stopped and all that was written down' – that permeated language and cul-
tural groups here and in many parts of Europe. They did so in the fourth, fifth, sixth

and seventh centuries. Students of church history contrast

if it evangelised at all, did so by treaties with local rulers)

spread the Gospel among so many people groups.

successful methods of making the faith contagious?

But the Celtic Church was known for things other than

'stopped and all that was written down' – that permeated language and cul-
tural groups here and in many parts of Europe. They did so in the fourth, fifth, sixth

and seventh centuries. Students of church history contrast

if it evangelised at all, did so by treaties with local rulers)

spread the Gospel among so many people groups.

successful methods of making the faith contagious?

But the Celtic Church was known for things other than

'stopped and all that was written down' – that permeated language and cul-
tural groups here and in many parts of Europe. They did so in the fourth, fifth, sixth

and seventh centuries. Students of church history contrast

if it evangelised at all, did so by treaties with local rulers)

spread the Gospel among so many people groups.

successful methods of making the faith contagious?

But the Celtic Church was known for things other than

'stopped and all that was written down' – that permeated language and cul-
tural groups here and in many parts of Europe. They did so in the fourth, fifth, sixth

and seventh centuries. Students of church history contrast

if it evangelised at all, did so by treaties with local rulers)

spread the Gospel among so many people groups.

successful methods of making the faith contagious?

But the Celtic Church was known for things other than

'stopped and all that was written down' – that permeated language and cul-
tural groups here and in many parts of Europe. They did so in the fourth, fifth, sixth

and seventh centuries. Students of church history contrast

if it evangelised at all, did so by treaties with local rulers)

spread the Gospel among so many people groups.

successful methods of making the faith contagious?

But the Celtic Church was known for things other than

'stopped and all that was written down' – that permeated language and cul-
tural groups here and in many parts of Europe. They did so in the fourth, fifth, sixth

and seventh centuries. Students of church history contrast

if it evangelised at all, did so by treaties with local rulers)

spread the Gospel among so many people groups.

successful methods of making the faith contagious?

But the Celtic Church was known for things other than

'stopped and all that was written down' – that permeated language and cul-
tural groups here and in many parts of Europe. They did so in the fourth, fifth, sixth

and seventh centuries. Students of church history contrast

if it evangelised at all, did so by treaties with local rulers)

spread the Gospel among so many people groups.

successful methods of making the faith contagious?

But the Celtic Church was known for things other than

'stopped and all that was written down' – that permeated language and cul-
tural groups here and in many parts of Europe. They did so in the fourth, fifth, sixth

and seventh centuries. Students of church history contrast

if it evangelised at all, did so by treaties with local rulers)

spread the Gospel among so many people groups.

successful methods of making the faith contagious?

But the Celtic Church was known for things other than

'stopped and all that was written down' – that permeated language and cul-
tural groups here and in many parts of Europe. They did so in the fourth, fifth, sixth

and seventh centuries. Students of church history contrast

if it evangelised at all, did so by treaties with local rulers)

spread the Gospel among so many people groups.
Manchester South: eight baptised

Angels in heaven rejoiced as the relatives, friends and members of Manchester South gathered to witness eight souls commit their lives to the Lord on Sabbath 28 February. The whole church rejoiced with the new members: Ada Boyle, Daphne Graham, Deanne Horon, Londelle Holley, Maureen Ibad, Alphonso Mbanza, Janet Milanzi, Pauline Sampa and Daniel Trueman as they were introduced to the congregation and welcomed as new members.

Pastor Richard Brooks carried out the baptism, which was the first for the new year. The majority of these new members received studies from our resident Bible worker, Brother A. A. Karbath.

Off to Botswana

On Sabbath 6 September, the Manchester South church family celebrated with Abel and Colleen Daman as they presented their son Betsho to God. Other family members were also present, but these special moments were tinged with a sadness as Abel’s father, and along with him came the Spirit of Prophecy to present God’s truths.

The couple who attended were encouraged and enriched.

JANICE SAVIZON

150 attend lay evangelism training by Pastor Aris Vontzalidis

Over the weekend of 22-24 February 2015, more than 150 members from about 50 churches attended a lay evangelism training event held at Stanborough Secondary School. Run by the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School departments of the South England Conference, the event included worship sessions, inspiring talks, and various practical workshops. The workshop subjects included: how to give Bible studies, how to prepare and lead a lay evangelistic series, door-to-door contact-making, effective small groups, purposeful Sabbath school classes, effective use of media, and community involvement. A group from the High Wycombe Sands church also gave an interesting presentation on their innovative evangelistic series entitled ‘Friends Haven’.

Participants had the opportunity to have their miracles awakened by an evening presentation on Saturday evening and to shed some of the calories gained from the delicious food which everyone enjoyed.

There were lots of positive comments after the event. One enthusiastic participant said, ‘I learned a lot about our Lord as I lived into the spirit of God that was there. I came away with hope. I’ve always wanted to take a leadership role in the church, and the weekend fuelled my desire and gave me tools with which to carry out this dream.’ Lenea went on, ‘I liked the creativity of the sessions and the encouragement to be creative. The Bible reading, the symbolic treasures, the cross, the single note chord . . . and I found that Lenea’s worship sessions had a lot of meaning because of the dialogue she presented alongwith it. I focussed my thoughts and made me think the words were even more.’

JAVAN STEPHEN

Week of revival

During last November, ‘Maileyah’ (a group of young people from Windsor Street congregation, Birmingham) held a glorious week of revival entitled, ‘The Midnight Cry’ at the Windsor Street church. The week signified a renewal of Christian voices and the call to be ready, and stay ready for Christ’s return.

Seven powerful lay-evangelists took up the challenge to preach on the important parable of the Ten Virgins and how it relates to our situation today. The lay-evangelists were Andrew Francis (Windsor Street), Len Stewart (Ladywood), Timothy Stephen (Windsor Street), Simon Berger (Newtown), Robert Jules (Windsor Street), Fred Evans (Southwest) and Pastor Gary Harrison (Kilmarnock).

Gary Harrison has travelled as a lay evangelist, holding camp meetings, lifting up the name of Jesus and helping to prepare for the soon return of our Saviour! At Windsor Street he continued to deepen the impression of the parable of the Ten Virgins with a great four-part sermon entitled ‘Why am I a Seventh-day Adventist?’

A vote of thanks goes especially to Pastor Delroy Foster for his support.

The week-long series included a ‘health spot’ on various nights, a Wednesday night anointing service, and a district-wide special day of fellowship held at St John’s church in Ladywood, culminating at Windsor Street church on the last Sunday. On Sabbath 22 February Windsor Street held a special ordination service for three new elders and two new deacons. The three elders were Leroy Grant, Timothy Stephen and Fred Evans. The two deacons were Keith Elliot and Rendford Gardiner. Pastor Jude Jeanie officiated.

The week-long series was attended by approximately 70 married couples, three or more deacons and 150 new members.

JANICE SAVIZON

Manchester: Marriage Enrichment

Immortality can be represented as the norm on TV. And the behaviour of church members can mirror what they view. Last summer our minister Pastor Richard Brooks decided that something must be done to address problems of this nature. Two questionnaires were drawn up, one for men, the other for women. The questions concerned spirituality, sexuality, children, relationship, health, trust, romance and the home.

The questionnaires were filled in and returned. The findings were collated and analysed. As a result Pastor Brooks designed a three-week seminar. It commenced on 15 February and targeted married and engaged couples of the Manchester South congregation. It was not a course to take. Anyone over 18 was at liberty to attend. Each week the seminar was attended by approximately 10 married couples, three or four engaged couples and a small number of dating couples.

The recommendation and nothing was held back. The three central issues turned out to be sex, finances and communication. Nothing was held back. The three central issues turned out to be sex, finances and communication. Nothing was held back. The three central issues turned out to be sex, finances and communication. Pastor Brooks used the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy to present God’s truths.

The couples who attended were encouraged and enriched.

JANICE SAVIZON

5000! – Remember Our Past

On the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Manchester World Mission Conference, 20,000 members from 120 churches gathered in the Manchester Indoor Arena to hear God’s message. The event was led by Pastors Joel and Richard Vine.

20,000! – Remember Our Past

On the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Manchester World Mission Conference, 20,000 members from 120 churches gathered in the Manchester Indoor Arena to hear God’s message. The event was led by Pastors Joel and Richard Vine.

Bradford baptism

On 20 March two young people dedicated their lives to Jesus in baptism at the Bradford church. The church was packed as over 130 friends, relatives (from as far away as Holland, Sweden, Wales and South England) and members witnessed the baptism of Lynette Alcock and Shaun Connell.

Shaun and Lynette’s favourite texts were read out, after which Graham Alcock (father of Lynette) gave a sermon on baptism by immersion. Bradford African choir excelled themselves with the singing of ‘Jesus is coming soon’, and while Pastor L. D. W. Southcott (Lynette’s grandfather) baptised Lynette and Shaun, the congregation sang ‘Amazing Grace’. Lynette said: ‘Having grown up in a Christian home I always knew that Jesus loved me, and I love him. I had been thinking of getting baptised for a long time, but I was not sure when I was going to do it. One day I decided to do it, and I decided to do it right now. I was not sure what I was doing, but I thought that I was a bit too young, but not recently, while on holiday in America, I decided to give my life over to God.’

Shaun, who was brought up in the church, had wandered away but is greatly blessed by his grandmother, Vida Green (a founder of the Bradford church), who had had discussions about serious issues with him before she died a couple of years ago. Shaun writes: ‘At a time when my life was running on fumes, I saw hope in God’s promises. It has taken a while for me to see that God has never bounced a promised cheque. Promises. Delivered. Promises. Delivered. In times of personal crises, the Bank of Heaven is, and always will be, solvent.’

JOHN H. GILBRICK

Vincentian evening

Two hundred people, including the local Member of Parliament, attended a special evening to celebrate Vincentian culture put on by the High Wycombe Salvation Army. The evening, entitled, ‘The Midnight Cry’ at the Windsor Street congregation, Birmingham), held a glorious week of revival entitled, ‘The Midnight Cry’ at the Windsor Street church. The week

Week of revival

During last November, ‘Maileyah’ (a group of young people from Windsor Street congregation, Birmingham) held a glorious week of revival entitled, ‘The Midnight Cry’ at the Windsor Street church. The week

Week of revival

During last November, ‘Maileyah’ (a group of young people from Windsor Street congregation, Birmingham) held a glorious week of revival entitled, ‘The Midnight Cry’ at the Windsor Street church. The week
Christians and politics

Three recent speakers at Newbold College have discussed the relationship between faith and politics. ‘There is a desire among some members of the Newbold community to see that our Christian responsibility is lived out in the wider world,’ says Henriët Jongerius, Newbold’s chaplain. ‘We have a lot of work to do on campus and participated in various activities to express and develop this interest, but society politics is a way to encourage our students to open their eyes and see what is going on in the world.’

The plight of prisoners of conscience has been of particular interest to the Newbold community. Martin Done from Amnesty International spoke at a seminar and invited students to consider the events that have shaped the lives of such prisoners and the challenges involved in supporting them intelligently. During the seminar students had an opportunity to hear the Amnesty International Snowball campaign by gathering in the chapel to bid on a cake that was sold to help unjustly imprisoned prisoners. Members of staff and community members of Newbold Church also participated in the evening, encouraged by Dr Harry Leonard, former editor of the NNW’s Humanities department.

More recent visitors were John Prangley, trustee of the peace and justice organisation, Pax Christi, and Dr Andrew Bradstock, John Prangley’s predecessor, both of whom gave talks on the theme of the Snowball campaign and movement and outlined the biblical basis for involvement in the peace movement and justice issues.

Our Treasure

It was a joyful occasion when Jackie and Earl Ramsdell, who enjoyed the South England Conference, together with family and friends from Irfon and Watford, held Newbold College in witness of the baptism of their daughter, Katie, aged 14.

Following a series of Bible studies with Vivienne Vine, Katie publicly declared her desire to follow the Lord on Sabbath 27 March. Sister Vine was invited to tell the church that she and her husband Pastor Robert Vine had also looked after Earl before he met and married Jackie, and so were doubly encouraged to be instrumental in leading their first
cborn child to baptism.

Stepping back

Pastor Ray Morgan (Sabbath school leader, NEC) preached at Bungee church, Sheffield, for the Sabbath School. In his sermon, ‘Taking time to step back in order to move forward,’ he spoke about the history of the peace movement and needs of prisoners of conscience, ‘The wider world. We have a part in the trials of others,’ he said. ‘We have the right to remember how God has led us in setting up Sabbath school,’ he continued. ‘Sabbath school was first set up by James White in 1882 for young people.’ In this theme, Pastor Morgan Smith showed a video of the history of Sabbath school.

Darlington says goodbye

March 6 was a sad day in Darlington for Pastor White in 1882 for young people. The death of workman’s ministry to be present in the church. ‘That nice lady,’ she said. ‘She was always the place where the last short part of her life was spent. She was enjoying the challenge of getting to grips with a different education system and she enjoyed the work fulfilled to the event she had little life to enjoy it or see what she had done’ said six students.

The speaker at both services will be Dr Reinder Bruinsma, who had grown up on a French-speaking is an essential part of our family, holding a number of offices the worst year of her life. ’In order to move forward we must step backwards in reflection,’ she said. ‘That was the time it took eagle-eyed Pastor Morgan to baptise new life with Katie.

WINNER: FORREWIND

To the singing of Katie’s favourite hymn, ‘My Jesus, I Love Thee’, ten people, including some loved ones, brought their project with them. The cake alone raised £180. The luxurious experience French as spoken by the French; a result of the study and prayer together she got her grandad as the only members outside the bidding to pledge over £1,000 towards the project and this amount was matched by the appeal, was delighted by the done much of the organising of the event and was delighted by the success of the auction. ‘The next fundraising event will be a car wash,’ said Pastor Robert Vine.

The pieces of incredibly skillful wire art two model cars, a guitar, a globe and a working radio received enthusiastic bids and prompted students outside the bidding to pledge over sixty individual donations of £10. The Malawian project, to build a school for children too young to walk outside the bidding, was initiated by the Malawian Women’s Ministries team, to raise £8,000 to build a learning centre for orphans in AIDS orphanage.

On Thursday morning 18 March, it was dangerous to scratch your nose in Newbold College’s Salisbury Hall. Why? When the famous auctioneer, Dr Baildam, other wise known as director of Academic Studies, to raise over £1,600, in an auction to support Newbold Students’ Association’s latest project, a project, initiated by Malawian theologian, students, to raise £18,000 to build a learning centre for orphans in AIDS orphanage.

Central to the auction were five pieces of ‘wire art’ created by Malawian Charles Gumansia, a three-year old student. But the proceedings began with the auction of a school hall for children too young to walk outside the bidding. It went to the nearest distant район. It was initiated by the Malawian Women’s Ministries team, to raise £8,000 to build a learning centre for orphans in AIDS orphanage.

Darlington says goodbye

March 6 was a sad day in Darlington for Pastor White in 1882 for young people. The death of workman’s ministry to be present in the church. ‘That nice lady,’ she said. ‘She was always the place where the last short part of her life was spent. She was enjoying the challenge of getting to grips with a different education system and she enjoyed the work fulfilled to the event she had little life to enjoy it or see what she had done’ said six students.

The speaker at both services will be Dr Reinder Bruinsma, who had grown up on a French-speaking island in the South Pacific during the 1970s. For him, it was an ‘emotional and important time’ of the day he had. ‘It was a time of rare, totally splendid, open-mindedness.’ In 1972 Pastor White came to Newbold to read a double major in English and History and she completed the course with distinction. But she came away with more than a BA. In her last year she earned Edin Fudala, a Thaïs for the School of Divinity, at the University of Wales. ‘I got to know a French-speaking people, she said, ‘and I knew the language.’

But she was homesick when she saw the pic- ture. Stopped and called to me when her hus- band, Bernie and Karen Hodifor, assisted by Jolin and Devin focus, we got to work in practical terms. Being able to couple our experience of having greater intimacy can be achieved through understanding each other’s needs.

The Oldham three ‘stand up’

Date and time. Sabbath 21 February at 4pm in the Oldham Student’s church. Occasion, Baptism. Candidates, Rachel Brathwaite, John Taylor and Katie Kruger. Rachel went away to High Wycombe, obtained her degree and returned to Oldham before becoming her grandad as the only members of their family to ‘join the Adventist family of God at the church. As a member of the group ‘Befanla’ Rachel has always attended church but knew when it was right to take her stand. John, the ‘smallest person’ ever baptized by Pastor White, clearly understood and six months old what it meant to stand up for Jesus. ‘Unfortunately quiet but nonetheless determined, he joined his parents, aunt and grandma as a fourth-generation at Oldham church.

Oldham members have watched and nurtured Laurel until six months ago when at 14 years old he started to attend Manchester Central church. His mother is a regular at the Oldham keep-fit class at the church on Monday mornings; he is still ‘attached’ to Oldham. Laurel stood to join Manchester Central church. Pastor Robert Williams examined the candidates and gave the address. Pastor Michael Simpson conducted the inmersion.

Auction for AIDS orphans

The pieces of incredibly skillful wire art two model cars, a guitar, a globe and a working radio received enthusiastic bids and prompted students outside the bidding to pledge over sixty individual donations of £10. The Malawian project, to build a school for children too young to walk outside the bidding, was initiated by the Malawian Women’s Ministries team, to raise £8,000 to build a learning centre for orphans in AIDS orphanage.

Central to the auction were five pieces of ‘wire art’ created by Malawian Charles Gumansia, a three-year old student. But the proceedings began with the auction of a school hall for children too young to walk outside the bidding. It went to the nearest distant район. It was initiated by the Malawian Women’s Ministries team, to raise £8,000 to build a learning centre for orphans in AIDS orphanage.

Darlington says goodbye

March 6 was a sad day in Darlington for Pastor White in 1882 for young people. The death of workman’s ministry to be present in the church. ‘That nice lady,’ she said. ‘She was always the place where the last short part of her life was spent. She was enjoying the challenge of getting to grips with a different education system and she enjoyed the work fulfilled to the event she had little life to enjoy it or see what she had done’ said six students.

The speaker at both services will be Dr Reinder Bruinsma, who had grown up on a French-speaking island in the South Pacific during the 1970s. For him, it was an ‘emotional and important time’ of the day he had. ‘It was a time of rare, totally splendid, open-mindedness.’ In 1972 Pastor White came to Newbold to read a double major in English and History and she completed the course with distinction. But she came away with more than a BA. In her last year she earned Edin Fudala, a Thaïs for the School of Divinity, at the University of Wales. ‘I got to know a French-speaking people, she said, ‘and I knew the language.’

But she was homesick when she saw the pic- ture. Stopped and called to me when her hus- band, Bernie and Karen Hodifor, assisted by Jolin and Devin focus, we got to work in practical terms. Being able to couple our experience of having greater intimacy can be achieved through understanding each other’s needs.

The Oldham three ‘stand up’

Date and time. Sabbath 21 February at 4pm in the Oldham Student’s church. Occasion, Baptism. Candidates, Rachel Brathwaite, John Taylor and Katie Kruger. Rachel went away to High Wycombe, obtained her degree and returned to Oldham before becoming her grandad as the only members of their family to ‘join the Adventist family of God at the church. As a member of the group ‘Befanla’ Rachel has always attended church but knew when it was right to take her stand. John, the ‘smallest person’ ever baptized by Pastor White, clearly understood and six months old what it meant to stand up for Jesus. ‘Unfortunately quiet but nonetheless determined, he joined his parents, aunt and grandma as a fourth-generation at Oldham church.

Oldham members have watched and nurtured Laurel until six months ago when at 14 years old he started to attend Manchester Central church. His mother is a regular at the Oldham keep-fit class at the church on Monday mornings; he is still ‘attached’ to Oldham. Laurel stood to join Manchester Central church. Pastor Robert Williams examined the candidates and gave the address. Pastor Michael Simpson conducted the inmersion.

STAFF REQUIRED FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CAMP 4-11 JULY: have vacancies for carers, kitchen staff and a building team. For work to be done in a busy, beautiful environment, please contact: Mrs Jolly. 2 Shakespeare Street, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD1 2HF Tel: 020 8735 4500.

NEWBOLD GRADUATION 2016 – 15 APRIL TOWED IN 2004 IN A break with tradition, Newbold will hold an extra Graduation ceremony this year. Two services will be held, each with a maximum of numbers, families, friends and supporters to be present in the Church Centre. The College estimates that about 70 students will graduate.

The speaker at both services will be Dr Rinder Bruinma, president of the College, who delivered the seventh-day Adventists’ undergraduate ceremony. 11.30am: Undergraduate ceremony. 3pm: Postgraduate ceremony. For tickets and further information, please phone: 01923 461044. pdonovan@newbuld.ac.uk or email: newbuld@newbold.ac.uk or by post at Newbold College, Bredenbury, Hereford, HR4 4AN.

The Social Committee at Leominster church is inviting all to a Cultural Evening of Food and AID on 27 June to raise funds for our purchase and special items worn. Promotional items to a busy family event, please come along and share in this time.
Singles’ Conference
by Helen Pearson

Ministry to single people in the Seventh-day Adventist Church took a significant step forward at Newbold College on Sunday 28 March. About a hundred people came from all over the UK – from nearby Reading, from London, as well as from Birmingham and Glasgow. Their goals were summed up in the title of the conference: Making It Real. Or as Pastor Bernie Holford, co-director of Family Ministries for the South England Conference, described it: ‘To recognise the significance, importance and value of single people in the Church.’

Keynote speaker for the event was Dr Bramwell Osula, professional in residence at the School of Leadership Studies at Regent University in Virginia, USA. Dr Osula challenged his audience to question the traditional, stratified view of society in which singles are defined primarily in relation to marriage, and to develop a liberated understanding of the power of singleness in church life and beyond. A discussion followed Dr Osula’s speech before participants separated into nine groups for workshops on various aspects of ‘singledom’: single parenting, woundedness, commitment, prayer and survival.

‘Single parents have lots of transferable skills and tremendous energy to bring to the life of the church,’ said Primary Mental Health worker Clare Constant Shields, who led the workshop on single parenting. ‘I don’t want to come but I felt that God had led me here on a road to discover the value of my singleness,’ said one participant.

Moving spirit and organiser for the conference was Adventist Sociologist Ms Valerie Bernard, head of Behavioural Science at Newbold. As a Christian sociologist, I believe I have a moral duty to see that my sociological research impacts on the ministry of the church. I am glad to see it creating dialogue on a variety of different levels.’

‘Val’s doctoral research on singleness combined with her personal experience of lone parenthood offered the participants a rich resource,’ said one observer.

After a brief concluding concert of singing and rap poetry, the participants dispersed, committed to organising more small events: seminars, workshops, conversations and agape feasts. ‘Inspiring, inspirational, enlightening, formative,’ said [el Codrington], a workshop presenter and electrical engineer from Reading Central church.

God’s car factory

Lachlan’s childhood was secular – no Sunday School, no religion – even Christmas was ‘about Santa’. His Christian aunt read him adventurous Bible stories and prayed for him when he was 6. At 12 he dated a Christian girl with impressive values and optimism.

At 17 he found his favourite teacher, a biologist, was a Christian. His example and reasons started Lachlan thinking there was probably a God. ‘But I thought maybe Fate or Superforce – not necessarily Jesus.’

At 18, with a great traineeship and social life, Lachlan couldn’t work out why he was dissatisfied and wanted more. A Friday night street preacher boomed, ‘Without God, your jigsaw will always be missing one piece.’ Lachlan thought he was right. He questioned an Adventist workmate, who invited him to a dinner party discussion about basic Christianity. It made sense. He asked questions that gradually caused ‘almost total change of world-view over two years’, and was baptised.

Looking back, he feels ‘like a car being made – someone built the chassis, another installed the engine, etc. The gospels engine wouldn’t fit without first meeting good Christians and hearing logical reasons for faith.’

Lachlan’s aim: ‘to move people one step along God’s assembly line.’

For precept: must be upon precept . . . line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little. Isaiah 28:10.

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>Diversity Core Ministry</td>
<td>30 Apr-3 May</td>
<td>Newbold Graduation</td>
<td>Pastor C. Sweeney at NEC on 0115 9606 312</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AXS spiritual retreat</td>
<td>16 May</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>BUC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Parent’s Family Day</td>
<td>16 May, 10-4</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>BGC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keeping the church family safe – Policy Training day</td>
<td>16 June 10am-1pm</td>
<td>Milton Keynes church</td>
<td>Pastor C. Sweeney at NEC on 0115 9606 312</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Services Children’s Fall Spring Meeting</td>
<td>16 June</td>
<td>Stanborough Park, Watford</td>
<td>Speaker: Sister E. Staple, CS director</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Family Camp</td>
<td>22-23 May</td>
<td>Alnwick</td>
<td>Pastor Patrick Boyle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Day of Fellowship</td>
<td>5 June</td>
<td>West Midlands</td>
<td>Elder J. Trelan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concert</td>
<td>19 June</td>
<td>The Golden Chords and Friends</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ABC BOOK SALES

April
25 West Midlands 10am-2pm
May
10 John Loughborough 10am-2pm
June
6-13 NEC Camp Meeting, Southport

MESSENGER

Volume 109/9 – 23 April 2004

EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL
COPY No. 11 – 28 April 2004

Lond Card Nott Edin Belf

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single copy subscription by post £13.

Readers in Germany, visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk