Thursday afternoon and evening
Promptly at 2pm on Thursday 17 June, Pastor Egerton Francis, president of the North England Conference, stepped up to the microphone in the Grand Hall at the Spa, Scarborough, and welcomed the delegation to the 59th Conference Session, reminding us that it had been four and a half years since we had sat together there. ‘We look forward to a successful session, and good fellowship, over the next three days,’ he said.

After rousing affirmation of our conviction that ‘The Church’s One Foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord’, the delegation were led in prayer by Pastor Eric Lowe, Executive secretary of the British Union Conference. His prayer, and the hymn, reflected the tone of the entire opening day of this Session: central to all the business done is reliance on God, and praise and thanksgiving to him. In the Keynote Address, Dr Ralph G. Thompson, retired General Secretary of the General Conference, reminded us, ‘Doubts and fears don’t amount to a thing if we trust that something can be done. God will do such things in this Conference, that we will stand amazed! He does not lead his people where advance is impossible or retreat necessary, and when he says to go forward, he will make the way clear.’

Pastor Francis had earlier explained that prayer bands would meet throughout the duration of the Session, ‘that we can spend time asking for God’s guidance ... ensuring that all things are done according to his will.’

Pastor Cecil Perry, president of the British Union, welcomed the delegation.
A time of storm

with David Marshall

T he drive up England and across Scotland to Cairnryan had been long and tiring. Even laden down with a cargo of boots I had difficulty preventing the car from veering to starboard in consequence of a powerful side wind.

Arriving late at the arrival of the small P&O ferry, we were not expecting a boringly peaceful journey across the North Channel to Larnie. By no means.

Nearly two hours after the scheduled departure time, we were stowing the car and cargo among the bales and clambering up the steep steps to the cabin. The cabin, shared by all the passengers, was like a glass blister atop the small vessel. At one end was a counter and a shelf of snacks.

Louie Ryan was choppier but no more. I ordered and ate tea before we reached the open sea. I had, after all, crossed the Irish Sea, and was well aware that the seas are few scores of times with- out loss of –… or… appre- ciated – that the first Marshalls had almost certainly arrived by longboat on the east coast. The sea was in my blood.

On the south coast, a friend, whose father was a captain with the P&O line, was check- ing the shipping fore- cast and concluding that the company would not permit us to sail. As our ferry left Larne Bay, the Irish Sea, and the big, buffet- ing waves began to tip us and turn us, the captain – even the nanny – came too close to saying ‘I shouldn’t have started but, since I’ve started, I’ll finish’ for his passengers’ tastes.

Chairs opened up in the – amazingly deep – sea, and we were not only well- fed, but equally suddenly, it was carried up to the crest of a water mountain by a surge of power that we would not have suspected the sea was capable of possessing.

Worried stewardesses were handing out white paper bags. I knew what they were for, of course, but did they depend on the particular present- ing conditions? I meant that they were for joint/muscle aches/pains, or their acute or chronic effects; and there were no passen- gers’ tastes.

Chilling waves began to tip us and turn us, the captain – even the nanny – came too close to saying ‘I shouldn’t have started but, since I’ve started, I’ll finish’ for his passengers’ tastes.

So as we waited for the arrival of the small P&O ferry, we spotted a monument on the foreshore. It commem- orated the loss of 133 lives when, on its way to the port, the merchant vessel with the same name of the merchant vessel Terry was check- ed, due to the mysterious lack of direction, and said (in effect), ‘Don’t be afraid because I am.’

God invites us to give him our panic. In return he...
Friday morning session

Friday morning the delegation came to judgement via Pastor Cedric Vine’s report, he said, God’s judgement is a continuous process. God judges his people’s works, he said. There is mention in 2003; Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Marinder. Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches had begun to come into its own. From such intentionally planted churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethwick, and O十几 in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Asherel (Antonio), Pastor Alan Corby, and Bible Instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Widger, Mrs O. Mc...
Family Ministries
Pastor Cyneta Sweeney made the assumption that his Family Ministries report had been read by the delegation – and went straight to questions. The first question from the floor underlined the importance of personal training in Christian counselling for those involved in Family Ministries. Pastor Sweeney accepted the point and went on to provide details of Christian counselling courses which he, and many others, had taken at colleges of further education. Mrs. Ameta Killrun asked what plans were in place in what was described as a “sabbatical for both” the senior and junior Family Ministry teams. Pastor Sweeney had been in the position that his assumption that his first function was to lead young people to a deeper knowledge of Christ. Society had seen the disintegration of the family and the increasing number of single-parent families in both society and the church; Pastor Sweeney recommended the Rob Parsons book, “Caring for the Family” material and stressed the importance of using the two-parent Christian family model.

Sabbath School
At 2.45 Pastor Roy Morgan presented the report of the Sabbath School department. The printed report held by the delegates was a helpful and information-packed, question-and-answer format. Nevertheless, Pastor Morgan was able to add information to it and extract highlights from it. Why was the Sabbath School so important, he asked? It was the heart of the church. The fastest-growing conference in the US (Michigan) used Sabbath School as its instrument of growth. Sabbath School had been proven as the most effective means of reclaiming ex-Seventh-day Adventists. Pastor Sweeney had been asked to assume the role of Family Ministries director. Pastor Morgan, too, had been asked to implement plans to that effect. Pastor Morgan said, “Sabbath School teachers are pastors of their young people. They have a part in Sabbath School, divine service – as tomorrow they are the church of today. They should have a part in Sabbath School, divine service – as those who had no support in the local church. There were a number of small churches ‘where only a handful of members’ had been discussion at the previous session. Brother Burt had been who had not sought to impose his ideas upon congregations but had worked with congregations, seeking to complement and enhance existing evangelistic plans. He had given his departmental regard to strategic planning, preparation, Bible study, and personal contacts. The level of congregational involvement had varied from district to district. In some cases a major effort was required to encourage running campaigns than others. Pastor Sweeney responded to the view that this method of Bible studies and personal contacts. ‘What works best is when church members bring family and friends to a group meeting under the guidance of the pastor for a series of Bible and archaeology programmes. He had presented the series on Turkey and the Mediterranean. He had sought a way of reaching the indigenous population had been successful – in Halifax and Scarborough – church members had already established friendships and VCP contacts. Forty-five participants had begun small training in October 2003. There had been four further training weekends in the course of 2003 (one of which had been an advanced session), and two further sessions in June 2003. Alongside the participants, the pastors in three of these small groups had received training. Pastor Haworth stressed a quote from Evangelist page 125, in which Elder White had said, “It is necessary to hold and the other small-group leaders north of the border. The same sessions had been run in Scunthorpe, Manchester, Scarborough, Bradford, Corby, Sutton Coldfield and Sheffield. Again, the idea of this series was to equip the BCU to encourage members to meet friends with unchurched neighbours, work colleagues, etc., in an effort to bring them to the gospel of Christ.” The LB program was working up to the ‘mind the gap’ phase. Ken Burt (Came Hill) asked, “How did the Director of Indigenous Evangelism become the Director for Church Growth?” There had been discussion at the November 1999 session about the need for a director of indigenous evangelism. That had represented the will of the previous session. Brother Burt had hoped that it had not been abandoned because it was difficult. John Barron of the Fishtail Community church, Bury, stressed, “We shouldn’t have churches of 600 people; but small groups. . . . Go out and plant churches!” There was opposition.

Nominating Committee Report
Pastor Roy Morgan was chairing the session when, at 4.13pm, a partial report of the nominating committee came in. Pastor Paul Lockham was nominated as Executive secretary of the Conference.

From the floor, Dr. O. Myhvin, a delegate from Manchester South, spoke against the re-election of the same team. To this Pastor Bryan Webster responded, “If we have failed to reach goals in the past few years, it is because we have failed to get our backbones. It is wrong to say, ‘We don’t have a good leadership’ – when the problem has been that we are not good team players.” Another Manchester delegate responded: “This is a session. It’s all about administration, direction and strategic planning, and we must analyse the present nomination of officers/directors.” Pastor Sandy-Pearson (Newcastle) spoke in defence of Pastor Lockham. “Pastor Lockham has encouraged me much in my ministry,” he said. “Sixteen per cent growth [in NEC church membership for the quarter] is not a bad result . . . I would like to thank Pastor Lockham for his ministry.” Pastor C. R. Perry, Union president and then-chair of the nominating committee, explained for the benefit of the delegates who were new in the nomination process work.

Pastor Lockham’s re-election was accepted by a vast majority of the delegation. At 4.40, after minimal discussion, Mr. Morgan was accepted as Conference treasurer, Pastor Roy Morgan as director of the Personnel Ministries and Sabbath School departments; and Pastor Cyril Sweeney as director of Family Ministries and Community Services departments. At 5.30pm the delegates reverted to the discussion of church structures and the move to a new report. Pastor Haworth spoke positively of the success of the calls at Scunthorpe. Speaking of church plants in general, Pastor Lockham stated, “Where we enter areas in which a church already exists, the church plant is much more likely to succeed. It begins with a local person who has a vision – not in an office with a man who has a plan.”

The two of Sabbath School teachers took the form of a musical programme presented by Pastor Loraine Johnson and a powerful message from Pastor G. Ralph Thompson.

David Price
Jeanville added a quotation from Ellen Preach.' Victor Pilmoor felt that ‘a
invited him or her...’ Gary Gordon ‘Politeness and kindness: they have
around him’.

God-fearing person has an aura
apologise for the message’, ‘Love one
people to God’s Church?’

panel and the congregation was,

lesson study he shared discussion
gramme in upbeat fashion. For the

half full.

began, the main hall was less than

school in the impressive, Victorian

Big puddles had to be stepped over

at times, there was drenching rain.

had ‘Sunny’ over North Yorkshire for

Lively discussion

Sabbath Services

Lively discussion The five-day forecast for Scarborough had ‘Sunny’ over Yorkirty for Friday, Sabbath and Sunday; it was wrong! There were heavy clouds and, at times, there was drenching rain. Big puddles had to be stepped over by crowds on their way to Sabbath school in the impressive, Victorian Spa auditorium used for the whole of the session. Rooms used for committees during business sessions rang out with the sound of children’s Sabbath school classes by liam. However, when Sabbath school began, the main hall was less than half full.

Nothing daunted, Pastor Roy Morgan, re-elected NEC Sabbath School director, fronted the programme in upbeat fashion. For the lesson study he shared discussion leadership with Wakehamton minister Pastor Jakey Javanille. Discussion questions were put to the congregation and to a panel of experts on the platform, including Gary Gordon, Victor Pilmoor, Heather Haworth, Cedric Vine, Ken Williams and Malcolm Ellis. Patrick Baiguel provided the music for Sabbath school. Among the questions put to the panel and the congregation was, ‘What must the Church do to be mag- netic? What attribute would attract people to God’s Church?’

The answers from the floor included ‘Live out Christ’s life’, ‘Don’t apologise for the message’, ‘Love one another’, ‘By their fruits...’ and, ‘A God-fearing person has an aura around him’.

On the panel, Ken Williams, ‘Painfulness and kindness: they have pulling power’, Heather Haworth said, ‘When someone comes to Christ it is because a caring person has invited him or her...’ Gary Gordon said, ‘We must practise what we preach.’ Victor Pilmoor felt that ‘a people who can come together in unity are magnetic’.

to the panel discussion, Pastor Jeanville added a quotation from Ellen White: ‘If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tender-hearted and pious, there would be one hundred conver- sions to the truth where now there is only one.” (Biblomies, volume 9, page 189). There was a loud ‘amen’ from the congregation.

From the floor, newly re-elected president Pastor Egerton Francis said

that if he were to answer the question put to the congregation and panel in one word, the one word would be ‘love’.

Mid-service By 10.45 the auditorium was filling up. There was real depth in the enlarged congregation saying ‘Seeking the lost...’. Church Growth director Paul Haworth used the mid-service spot to talk about small-groups successes. He showed a video from Yorkshire Tri of a wedding at the (Adventist) Cottage Beck Café, Scorton, at which the entire congre- gation was unclothed. He spoke of a thriving small group in Alsager near Leek in Staffordshire. Barnsley’s Dr Simon Farmer had thirty-attending weekly meetings in Wakefield with his ‘Imaging Discoveries’ series: and a small group had, as a consequence, been started in Wakefield.

Pastor Roy Morgan introduced a number of people who spoke about outreach among the laity. Pastor Patricia Douglas enthused about Cannock. Ian Sweeney had conducted the campaign there for which the laity had done the preparation. All had begun with a LETS in Walsall in 2001.

Dr Carl Fletcher was given the credit for re-introducing Revelation seminars into the NEC territory. Successful Revelation seminars had been conducted in Dudley and Northampton.

Even the Spa safety officer’s announcement had an evangelistic thrust. He invited the congregation to turn off all mobile phones, adding ‘The only messages you should be receiving here are from your Bible’.

Divine service BUC president Pastor C. R. Perry introduced the re-elected team for the North England Conference. Pastor Francis stood once again with his wife Cynthia. There was Mr Marcus Dowle with his wife Ann, and Pastor Paul Lockham with his wife Helen, a teacher. BUC executive secretary Pastor Eric Lowe petty for the Conference and the incoming admin- istration. In the praise session two groups sang – Uniited Praise and Heavenly Melodies. The last song in the Shroy language.

The Thursday evening keynote address, the Friday evening message and the divine service sermon were provided by Elder E. Ralph Thompson, once-vice president and for four terms secretary of the General Conference. The divine service sermon was structured around a sequence of sound bites. Among them were, ‘God did not originate sin, he originated a remedy for sin,’ ‘God did not make the devil. God made Lucifer, and Lucifer made a devil of himself’.

‘John 3:16 is a fulfilment of Genesis 3:15.’ ‘At the foot of the cross is the ground level.’ ‘He who had failed, Enoch, Moses and Elijah would have to come to earth again, to die. God was a great fish-tailer. Jesus could have failed. ‘Every doctrine we have is Christ-centred and Cross-centred.’ Jesus simplified up all the icons of social behaviour; he broke every norm, ‘When you become a Seventh-day Adventist you are saved to serve.’

Elder Thompson spoke of a ‘Book of Remembrance’ at the Parliament building in Ottawa – containing the names of all those who had given their lives for their country. He spoke of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Then he said, ‘In God’s book there is no unknown soldier. God remembers.’ ‘Don’t be angry if you think the Church overlooks you’, said Elder Thompson, ‘If the committee forgets, don’t let you get to it.’

Disconsouer is the devil’s chief
Perhaps with the incoming admin- istration in mind, Elder Thompson said, ‘Somebody will criticise.’ Then he added, ‘Beware when all men speak well of you.’ ‘Don’t let the criti- cism get you down!’ he affirmed. He had no more sound-bites. ‘A person who is educated but not converted is a menace to society,’ and ‘We don’t need to dilute the message: we need to be baptised with the Holy Ghost.’

In conclusion Elder Thompson stressed the need for three things: Urgency, Fervency and Emergency.

Don’t let it get to you.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2004-2008

President Pastor Egerton Francis, Executive Secretary Pastor Paul Lockham; Treasurer Mr Marcus Dove; Personal Ministries (1/2) Pastor Roy Morgan; Sabbath School (1/2) Pastor Roy Morgan; Family Ministries (1/2) Pastor Cyril Sewell; Community Services (1/2) Pastor Cyril Sewell; Youth (1) Mr Alan Hush; Pathfinders (1) Pastor Trevor Thomas. The remaining directorates/sponsorships to be appointed by the new executive committee: Church Growth (1/2); Communications (1/2); Nominating Committee Report

RECOMMENDATIONS COMMITTEE — BY AREA

Mr Donald MacKay, Carlisle; Mr Andrew West, Middlesbrough; Mr John Robson, Newcastle upon Tyne; Mr Alex Simen, South Shields; Mr Alwyn Lunn, Blackburn; Mr Wyattie Jayaw, Bolton; Dr Edward Wilson, Liverpool; Miss Jennifer Bailey, Manchester Central; Mrs Sandra Miller, Manchester Central; Mr Samuel Hanson, Manchester Longsight; Mrs Vivy Clarke, Manchester North; Mrs Monette Morris-Burrell, Manchester South; Mr Charles Morrison, Manchester South; Mr Winston Martis, Oldham; Mr Jim Ives, Preston; Miss Evadine Whynne, Preston; Mr Terry Kawarin, Sale; Mr Graham Kipko, Halifax; Mrs Thelma Allwood, Huddersfield; Mr Thabo Mxawan, Huddersfield; Miss Faye Brown, Leeds; Mr Wilson Herbert, Leeds; Miss Pamela Russell, Sheffield Broomhead; Miss Myrtle Tomos, Sheffield Broomhead; Mrs M Janes, Sheffield Carter Knowle; Mr Clint Wilson, Sheffield Carter Knowle; Mr Colin Hawken, Kyleby, Mrs Joy Barker, York; Mr Stephen Ham, Chesterfield; Mrs Olga Mac, Derby Chester Green; Mrs Pamela Burry, Derby Norton; Mr Len Eastwood, Grantham; Mr Douglas Sinclair, Grantham; Mr Nehemiah Marwa, Lincoln; Mr Mike Cleland, Lindsey, Long Eaton; Mr Glennord Harris, Nottingham Bulwell; Mrs Hyacinth Taylor, Nottingham Central; Mr Harry Wood, Nottingham Central; Mr William Beanish, Sutton in Ashfield; Mr William Ryley, B’ham Breath of Life, Mr Hilary Mitchell, B’ham Camp Hill; Mrs Maureen Morrison, B’ham Camp Hill; Mr Eric Simon, B’ham Camp Hill; Mrs Ethelrene Sinclaire, B’ham Camp Hill; Mrs Yvonne David, B’ham Cheylesley Wood, Pastor

Ron Dwayne, B’ham Erdington; Miss Claudine Jackson, B’ham Handsworth; Mr Mark Laman, B’ham Handsworth; Mr J James, Samuel, B’ham Handsworth; Mr Lois Tappe B’ham Handsworth; Mr Lenard Stewart, B’ham Ladywood; Mrs Donna Rose, B’ham Newton; Mr Wilfred Masih, B’ham Oak Hill Road; Mr Elmy Blake, B’ham Windsor Street; Mr Fred Evans, B’ham Windsor Street; Mr Stanley Farrell, B’ham Yardley; Mr Mark Taylor, Castle Vale; Mrs Yvette Saunders, Dudley; Mr Chaman Mal, Langley; Pastor Daril Masih, Ontaired minister; Mrs Charm Perry, Stetchwick; Mrs Sonia Parnall, Stafford; Mr Winstorfull Mulings, Tamworth; Mr Bradley Jones, Kinsall; Mr Brian Kerr West Bromwich; Mrs Violet Williams, Wolverton Bilston; Mr Lenos Lowe, Wolverton BGBK; Mr Miss Beverly Perry, Wolverton Wolverhampton; Mr S Novelette Blake, Wolverton Oxford Street; Mr Shirley Virgo, Wolverton Oxford Street; Mr Michael Laverman, Wolverton Pondere; Mr Miss Pearline Coke, Wolverton Wednesfield; Mr. Maureen Thompson, Wolverton Wednesfield; Mr Godwin Goutoum, Coventry Central, Mr. Miss Fidzivelie Sivako, Coventry Central, Miss Darline Myles, Coventry Greenley, Mrs Wendy Hopkins, Kettering, Mrs Suzanne Berry, Leamington Spa; Miss Wilma Bartlett, Leicester Central, Mrs Yvonne Chambers, Leicester Central, Mr D Rudolph J ohn, Leicester Camp Hill; Mr Dianter McLean, Leicester West; Mr Ralph Clark, Northampton, Mr Anna Morris, Northampton, Mr June Colyton, Nuneaton; Mr Raymond Angel, Worcester; Mr Zacharia Campbell, Conference Church, Doncaster; Pastor Alan Conroy, Retired minister.
Sunday Morning

Sunday morning saw the presentation of the following reports: Pathfinders and Adventurers, by Pastor Trevor Thomas; Women's Ministries, by Pastor Fred Mapp; Trust Services, by Pastor Neil Robertson; and Education, by Dr Keith Davidson.

Much was also said about monitoring pastors; the administration reminded us how the ministers and their committees worked to protect the church from within and outside. Credibility was established in the minds of the people, whether they are Christians, unchurched, opting for different beliefs, who consistently gave glory to God for all that has been achieved during the last four years. They acknowledged the work and dedication of all those involved in the ministry of the church.

Sunday Afternoon

Business Session

The final afternoon of the 59th Session is best summed up as a race! With time and the Scarborough tide waiting for no man, the delegation received many presentations from the various committees. First was a lengthy report from the Licences and Credentials committee, recommending the appointment of three hundred and eighty-seven lay preachers was passed.

The nominating committee followed immediately with a report on Youth and Pathfinder directors and the NEC executive committee. Mr Alan Hugh was nominated as youth director and Pastor Trevor Thomas as Pathfinder director. Both were duly adopted by the delegation. The following names were voted as the new NEC executive committee: President, Pastor Egerton Francis; Executive secretary, Pastor Paul Lockham; Treasurer, Mr Marcus Dove; Departmental director, Pastor Cyril Sweeney; Mr Solomon Senesse; District Pastors David March, Lawrence Johnson and Alexander Palmar; Mr Winston Brown; Handsworth, Area 5; Ms Georgia Windras, Breath of Life, 5; Mrs Joan Knight, Sheffield C.C.; Dr Rita Robson, Newport, 1; Mr Charles Morrison, Manchester South, 2; Mr Joseph Raye, Liverpool, 2; Mr Robert Makaya, Nottingham, 4; Mr Hilary Mitchell, Camp Hill, 5; Mr R. Pace.

The weighty matter of Volunteer Audited and Breaks was not, and dealt with the controversial issue of parentals. During the week, Dr Smith challenged Handsworth and its many visitors during one presentation urged us to forgive, that ‘it may be well with our souls’. He also allowed time during the session for the audience to express their feelings about their pastor’s work. A motion was agreed to make the recommendation to the Executive Committee to work within Charity Commission guidelines to be able to discipline pastors whose theologically belief differ significantly from those of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Ministerial Association secretary was quizzed regarding the comment in his report about pastors attending Willow Creek seminars on evangelism, as being a non-Adventist source of teaching (although the Jehovah’s Witnesses had several times been extolled as examples to follow in our evangelistic endeavours!).

Also of concern was the overwork of some pastors. It was explained that this would lessen as members, including elders, took on the concept of every member a minister. On that point, the Executive Committee has recommended that the Pathfinder director change to a full-time office, instead of the previous situation where he also carried a church.

The Trust Services Proposed by delegates, after he explained his free service of making wills for church members. He was asked if he attempted to influence the content of wills when bequests appeared to be lacking in Christian responsibility. Pastor Robertson explained that if he was bound by law not to intervene in any way, other than offering a pastoral word in such cases, ‘This caused no problem when requested, although of course any illegal requests could not be countersigned.

One comment Sister Handcock made regarding Women’s ministry was found by church growth time to be quite a stir on the floor. The time was not now 4pm, half an hour before the time for the close of the session. The delegation, after much clarification and with some reluctance, voted to forward the plans committee report to the incoming NEC executive and to keep the churches informed by sending copies of the said report.

The session clearly had to come to a close as the delegation’s present went into steep decline. With the recording of the written distribution of the stewardship and Asian co-ordinators’ report was the last item of business. By then the session was inquorate and could only move to pass all unfinished business to the incoming executive.

Pastor Egerton Francis, in his closing remarks, expressed thanks to the delegation, to those who had worked behind the scenes, and finally to Almighty God. His parting wish was that we would all work together so that the motto of the session would be achieved through the territory of the North England Conference.

The challenge before us is to go ‘Forward by His Spirit’.

Mr Alan Hugh, the newly elected Youth director.

Mr Trevor Thomas, Women’s Ministries director.

Ministerial director, Pastor Fred Mapp.

Sunday Morning saw the presentation of the following reports: Pathfinders and Adventurers, by Pastor Trevor Thomas; Women’s Ministries, by Pastor Fred Mapp; Trust Services, by Pastor Neil Robertson; and Education, by Dr Keith Davidson.

Much was also said about monitoring pastors; the administration reminded us how the ministers and their committees worked to protect the church from within and outside. Credibility was established in the minds of the people, whether they are Christians, unchurched, opting for different beliefs, who consistently gave glory to God for all that has been achieved during the last four years. They acknowledged the work and dedication of all those involved in the ministry of the church.

Sunday Afternoon

Business Session

The final afternoon of the 59th Session is best summed up as a race! With time and the Scarborough tide waiting for no man, the delegation received many presentations from the various committees. First was a lengthy report from the Licences and Credentials committee, recommending the appointment of three hundred and eighty-seven lay preachers was passed.

The nominating committee followed immediately with a report on Youth and Pathfinder directors and the NEC executive committee. Mr Alan Hugh was nominated as youth director and Pastor Trevor Thomas as Pathfinder director. Both were duly adopted by the delegation. The following names were voted as the new NEC executive committee: President, Pastor Egerton Francis; Executive secretary, Pastor Paul Lockham; Treasurer, Mr Marcus Dove; Departmental director, Pastor Cyril Sweeney; Mr Solomon Senesse; District Pastors David March, Lawrence Johnson and Alexander Palmar; Mr Winston Brown; Handsworth, Area 5; Ms Georgia Windras, Breath of Life, 5; Mrs Joan Knight, Sheffield C.C.; Dr Rita Robson, Newport, 1; Mr Charles Morrison, Manchester South, 2; Mr Joseph Raye, Liverpool, 2; Mr Robert Makaya, Nottingham, 4; Mr Hilary Mitchell, Camp Hill, 5; Mr R. Pace.

The weighty matter of Volunteer Audited and Breaks was not, and dealt with the controversial issue of parentals. During the week, Dr Smith challenged Handsworth and its many visitors during one presentation urged us to forgive, that ‘it may be well with our souls’. He also allowed time during the session for the audience to express their feelings about their pastor’s work. A motion was agreed to make the recommendation to the Executive Committee to work within Charity Commission guidelines to be able to discipline pastors whose theologically belief differ significantly from those of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Ministerial Association secretary was quizzed regarding the comment in his report about pastors attending Willow Creek seminars on evangelism, as being a non-Adventist source of teaching (although the Jehovah’s Witnesses had several times been extolled as examples to follow in our evangelistic endeavours!).

Also of concern was the overwork of some pastors. It was explained that this would lessen as members, including elders, took on the concept of every member a minister. On that point, the Executive Committee has recommended that the Pathfinder director change to a full-time office, instead of the previous situation where he also carried a church.

The Trust Services Proposed by delegates, after he explained his free service of making wills for church members. He was asked if he attempted to influence the content of wills when bequests appeared to be lacking in Christian responsibility. Pastor Robertson explained that if he was bound by law not to intervene in any way, other than offering a pastoral word in such cases, ‘This caused no problem when requested, although of course any illegal requests could not be countersigned.

One comment Sister Handcock made regarding Women’s ministry was found by church growth time to be quite a stir on the floor. The time was not now 4pm, half an hour before the time for the close of the session. The delegation, after much clarification and with some reluctance, voted to forward the plans committee report to the incoming NEC executive and to keep the churches informed by sending copies of the said report.

The session clearly had to come to a close as the delegation’s present went into steep decline. With the recording of the written distribution of the stewardship and Asian co-ordinators’ report was the last item of business. By then the session was inquorate and could only move to pass all unfinished business to the incoming executive.

Pastor Egerton Francis, in his closing remarks, expressed thanks to the delegation, to those who had worked behind the scenes, and finally to Almighty God. His parting wish was that we would all work together so that the motto of the session would be achieved through the territory of the North England Conference.

The challenge before us is to go ‘Forward by His Spirit’.

Mr Alan Hugh, the newly elected Youth director.

Mr Trevor Thomas, Women’s Ministries director.

Ministerial director, Pastor Fred Mapp.
Mission Accomplished
Report of the British group with Global Evangelism in Mauritius
31 by Audrey Balderstone

E

aquated, but elated, the British group returned from their Global Evangelism campaigns in Mauritius on Monday 21 June. A four-hour delay to the flight home did nothing to dispel the sense of joy and thanksgiving which was ours after a Sabbath filled with tears and laughter, joy and sorrow and, above all, praise to God for the fantastic experience of preaching the Gospel and having it received so warmly.

Of the eleven sites on Mauritius, eight were allocated to the British group and three to a group from Germany. In total 250 precious souls were baptised in eleven churches. Sabbath, and although these were mainly the results of Bible studies already given by the pastors, each ‘evangelist’, having been warmly adopted by his or her church, felt a keen sense of oneness with the candidates and members as they celebrated. This was heightened by the knowledge that the seeds sown during the eighteen sessions of the campaign would be reaped over the next months when the pastors study with those who have requested baptism as a direct result of the work of the teams. In each church these numbers exceeded thirty persons and the first baptisms will take place at the end of September.

The teams were incredibly impressed by the total dedication of the Mauritian church members and pastors, who worked diligently over many months in preparation for the campaigns, and who supported loyally every single night, welcoming visitors, and providing music, quizzes and a theme song, as well as setting up and dismantling equipment. Their work continues with the contacts made, which in every church number well over 100 persons – apart from those who have actually requested baptism.

Each evangelist was presented with a gift from ‘their’ congregation, and many were the other gifts pressed on them by the church members and visitors. At one church the ‘photo session’ lasted nearly two hours and a number learned what it felt like to be a celebrity as their signed books and autographed Bibles and hymn-books! The female preachers, having kissed their congregations on both cheeks at the end of the morning service, found themselves having to do it all over again, not only at the presentations of Bibles, special awards and baptismal candidates, but to the whole congregation after the end of the baptismal service in the afternoon. Those male preachers only had to kiss the ladies!

The participation in Global Evangelism of the British group came about as a result of the presentation by Pastor Bob Folk-enberg at the AGI Europe Convention in Barcelona last year. Audrey Balderstone and Brian Davison (president and vice-president of the Adventist Business and Professionals Association respectively) felt it would be wonderful to promote such an enterprise in this year of World Evangelism. Brian took on the role of co-ordinator for the group and worked tirelessly to ensure all went smoothly. An immense debt of gratitude is due to Brian for the success of the enterprise. Thanks are also due to the support team – Brian’s wife Cecilia, who ‘mothered’ the team and videoed them in action; Kathy Dalton, who worked with the children; Sabrina Chinegbagbu and Laurel Lyman who provided music; and Claudette Harris who was our nurse and provided general support.

For the younger members of the team, Andrew Evers, Enoch Adu, Daniel Thompson and Christopher Dove (3 Newbold students/1 prospective student), PowerPoint presentations were no challenge. It was a different matter for the mature members, Brian, Audrey, Lloyd Harris and Vivienne Vine, but by the end of the three weeks they were adept at importing or deleting words and images would flow so smoothly and be understood by the translator, and this often resulted inproved a huge challenge, as did fitting in two presentations for each Sabbath. Once the sermon was edited, it then needed to be practised so that words and images would flow smoothly and be understood by the translator, and this often resulted in grounds, lived and worked together happily for three weeks without any tension. But it shouldn’t have surprised us. God just answered the prayers of friends, relatives and church members here at home, and those which ascended from the group each morning and evening.

Our worships provided the powerhouse which sustained each of us and which knit us into a close family who supported and cared for each other. Never have we felt so inadequate, and never have we relied upon God so much. It was a thrilling experience to see how he worked with our inadequacies and how His Holy Spirit went before us, covered our mistakes, and spoke to our own hearts as much as to those whom he has called to his voice through us. All, without exception, found it a life-changing experience.

General Conference Leaders in Londonderry campaign

by Douglas McCormac and John Surridge

‘My Grandfather sailed from this river, the Foyle, to the United States at the time of the potato famine. We have returned to our roots to tell again the wondrous love of our Lord Jesus Christ.’ Such were the sentiments of former General Conference president Pastor Neil Wilson as he began his section of questions and answers in the Londonderry evangelistic campaign.

The three-week series entitled ‘The Revelation of Hope’, began on Sunday 16 May at two locations in Londonderry: the YMCA, Drumahoe, and the City Hotel, Waterside. The main speaker for the campaign was Pastor Ted Wilson, son of Pastor Neil Wilson and currently a General Conference vice-president. Also on the team was General Conference Health Ministries director Dr Peter Landless whose health lectures were well received. Dr Landless was no stranger to Northern Ireland as he came last year with Dr Alan Handysides for the Dublin day of fellowship at the Dunrum Methodist church. He was also a speaker at a major evangelistic campaign in Derry. Our prayers are with the team in Londonderry. As I write this I am reminded of the words of our Union president, Pastor Essi Perry. ‘God knows those in Derry who are his. The rock in Ireland may be dry and impermeable but God can, at a stroke, bring living water from it. Our Father says to his children, his servants, don’t be concerned about human calculation of success, but leave that to me.’

By the end of the three weeks the team had been invited to return to one church, and there were visitors at both locations. As the week progressed numbers rose. At the beginning of the campaign, pastors Neil and Ted Wilson, together with local pastor Anton Kapusi, were able to meet with the Mayor, the Chief of Police and the Secretary of the Catholic Church in Derry. On the Monday Pastor Don Vollner, formerly a pastor in the Irish Mission, and his wife joined the team. Don’s main contribution to the campaign was in music ministry. Reporting from his office in Banbridge, Irish Missional president Pastor Curtis Murphy said, ‘We were greatly encouraged to see that several visitors returned each evening and some had promised to join us on Sabbath. I believe that God has opened a window of opportunity for us in Ireland to share the everlasting Gospel in a fresh and invigorating way. Our prayers are with the team in Londonderry. As I write this I am reminded of the words of our Union president, Pastor Essi Perry. “God knows those in Derry who are his. The rock in Ireland may be dry and impermeable but God can, at a stroke, bring living water from it. Our Father says to his children, his servants, don’t be concerned about human calculation of success, but leave that to me.”

Baptism

We had a great celebration on Sabbath 5 June when our church in Londonderry grew by one member. Albert Shaker, originally from Jamaica, was baptised as the first fruit of the efforts of the local church team and the Revelation of Hope campaign. We believe this is just the beginning of a long-lasting campaign for reaching out to the communities on both sides of the River Foyle, to those who really long for Christ and salvation.

Pastor Anton Kapusi

Zimbabwe and the Philippines, as well as Ireland. The Dublin and Belfast young people made great music.

DOUG McCORMAC

Ted Wilson at Ireland Day of Fellowship

On Sabbath 22 May members and friends came from all over Ireland for the Dublin day of fellowship at the Dunrum Methodist church. High points of the day included the morning message from SEC president Pastor Don McFarlane, and musical contributions from Pastor Vollner of the Wedgwood team. The Sabbath school lesson was taught by Elder Ted Wilson, Vice-president of the General Conference. Elder Wilson was in Ireland as a main contribution to a major evangelistic campaign in Derry. The Irish Mission members include people from all over the globe who have come to live and work in Ireland. Chris Riley, currently working in Derry, organised an afternoon programme that included contributions from Poland, Romania,
Did you get a balloon?

‘Creative mission stories’ has been one of the goals of the Junior Sabbath School department of the Huddersfield church this year. With that theme in mind, the children were treated to a special story with the characters ‘Pang the brave’ and ‘Bom the balloon’. After the story, entitled ‘Pang the brave’ read to them in church, the children had a mission story with a difference. The story, entitled ‘Did you get a balloon?’, was written by Ellen G. White. 

[15] Kevin Glancy by Isabel Webster

In November 2003, Grimsby church had its first baptism in many years. Kevin Glancy, a young man, was baptised and voted into fellowship, and his wife Diane accepted by profession of faith. Kevin and Diane, from the Loch Lomond area of Scotland, have a fascinating story. Kevin had his moment of fame in the 80s when he sang ‘You are special’, a hit in the pop group Bronski Beat. At that time, his life included many of the ingredients associated with that scene. Years later he found himself, with Diane and their son Ruben, on holiday in Portugal. Their church meeting was a Seventh-day Adventist. In brief, they had Bible studies almost daily for the whole holiday and, on returning home to their home in Douglas, they telephoned local pastor Bryan Webster. Pastor Webster studied with them. So did their Barbadian landlord – by email! They believed everything they learned, and eventually were baptised and joined the church.

Kevin was then asked whether he had chosen to be baptised. When Kevin unexpectedly found himself in trouble with the police, he called his pastor. An offence from his Glasgow years, which he had thought conclusively dealt with, came back to haunt him in the form of two police officers on his doorstep, and court appearances in Glasgow newspapers. Soon people picked up the story of a famous name in trouble. When it began to seem that a jail term was possible, Pastor Webster turned to the Probation Service in Scunthorpe.

Cottage Beck café, a Seventh-day Adventist church company in Scunthorpe, has good relations with the Probation Service because of the café’s work in the local community, the Probation Service use it as a service provider: that means that when convicted individuals are sentenced to community service they can be assigned to work on one of Cottage Beck café’s projects. Pastor Webster’s request was that his contacts intervene on Kevin’s behalf, to request that his sentence be changed to community service hours at the café. Bryan was asked to write letters to the judge in Glasgow, explaining what he knew of Kevin’s character. The end of that story can be continued by way of a byline in the Express. ‘Pastor gets rock star off the hook!’ As a court in Glasgow cannot assign community service hours outside its jurisdiction, the judge simply asked Kevin, on his honour, to keep working for his church as his pastor had testified to his doing.

Kevin is a straight talker! When the police officers asked if he had done this, he replied: ‘I’ve been asked to sing at your church or any Christian venue, in the hope that others will be saved. It’s a church that has given me gifts work to spread the word. I’ve had a lot of trouble, but I’ve got through. I’ve been asked to share my story, to help others.’

Kevin Glancy

Revived College is seeking to appoint a lecturer in Business Studies/Accounting

Applications should contain a full curriculum vitae including details of qualifications and any professional experience. Only applications from EU nationals will be considered. The successful candidate will be required to work on a full-time basis and will be expected to commence in September 2004. The application form is available from the college website (www.faithrecords.org) or by contacting: Adverse Risk Management, 110 St Peter’s Street, St Albans, Herts. AL1 4YH. Telephone: 01727 843171. Fax: 01727 845978. The deadline for applications and CVs is 16 August 2004.

Adventist Risk Management, a service organisation belonging to the Adventist Church, has a vacancy for a highly motivated person to work at its St Albans office. The London Office of Adventist Risk Management serves 8 of the Church’s world divisions and the applicants have the opportunity to work alongside a friendly team. The London Office of Adventist Risk Management is one of the leading risk management companies in the UK and we are looking for a motivated, energetic, professional, who is able to communicate fluently in English and a second European language, preferably German, as well as good computer skills, and the ability to work in a large office environment. It is not essential that the successful applicant has experience of the insurance industry, but knowledge of the general principles involved is required. A good level of education achieved is required, although it is not essential that candidates have qualifications in business studies. You will be required to work with a small team to provide the day-to-day office support for our field service representatives. Salary, benefits and conditions are based on the Trans-European Division salary scale and working policy. Starting salary will be determined by the applicant’s experience and qualifications as well as the skills he/she can bring to the role. The position is based at the Adventist Risk Management office in St Albans and reports to the London Manager.

Revised College is seeking to appoint a lecturer in Business Studies/Accounting

Candidates should possess either an AAT or ACCA qualification, a relevant degree or significant experience. A good level of education is required, although it is not essential that candidates have qualifications in business studies. You will be required to work on the Trans-European Division salary scale and working policy. Starting salary will be determined by the applicant’s experience and qualifications as well as the skills he/she can bring to the role. The position is based at the Adventist Risk Management office in St Albans and reports to the London Manager.

Revived College is seeking to appoint a lecturer in Business Studies/Accounting

Candidates should possess either an AAT or ACCA qualification, a relevant degree or significant experience. A good level of education is required, although it is not essential that candidates have qualifications in business studies. You will be required to work on the Trans-European Division salary scale and working policy. Starting salary will be determined by the applicant’s experience and qualifications as well as the skills he/she can bring to the role. The position is based at the Adventist Risk Management office in St Albans and reports to the London Manager.

Revived College is seeking to appoint a secretary to the Business Development Manager (details above).

Candidates should possess either an AAT or ACCA qualification, a relevant degree or significant experience. A good level of education is required, although it is not essential that candidates have qualifications in business studies. You will be required to work on the Trans-European Division salary scale and working policy. Starting salary will be determined by the applicant’s experience and qualifications as well as the skills he/she can bring to the role. The position is based at the Adventist Risk Management office in St Albans and reports to the London Manager.

Revived College is seeking to appoint a secretary to the Business Development Manager (details above).

Candidates should possess either an AAT or ACCA qualification, a relevant degree or significant experience. A good level of education is required, although it is not essential that candidates have qualifications in business studies. You will be required to work on the Trans-European Division salary scale and working policy. Starting salary will be determined by the applicant’s experience and qualifications as well as the skills he/she can bring to the role. The position is based at the Adventist Risk Management office in St Albans and reports to the London Manager.
Recording of ‘Mind the Gap’

Filming of the ten programmes in ‘Mind the Gap’ series took place at Newbold College from 11 – 15 July. Pastor Dwight Nelson, who presented the Evidence series in March, was also the presenter of this series, which forms the third level of the LIFEdevelopment concept.

These programmes are part of a number of resources being made available to church members, and are designed to prepare postmodern people to receive the Gospel message. Further resources are being prepared, which will cover the doctrines of the Adventist Church, and these will form level four of the LIFEdevelopment concept under the title ‘Experiencing the Joy’.

Topics covered in ‘Mind the Gap’ Topics covered in the Evidence
1. Faith 1. Love
2. Bible 2. God
4. Who is Jesus? 4. Rest
5. Jesus, His Death and Resurrection 5. Forgiveness
6. Jesus’ Second Coming 6. Peace
10. Fellowship 10. Justice

The ten programmes in ‘Mind the Gap’ will be broadcast on the Hope Channel during the first two weeks of October. Watch for further announcements regarding the times of transmission. Videos/DVDs will be available in the autumn.

The Evidence series is available on 5 video tapes at £35 including postage and packing. DVDs (at the same price) will be available at the end of August. Order NOW to reserve your copy which will be sent automatically.

Don’t miss out. Order the recordings of Evidence now. Complete the order form, stating your choice of videos or DVDs. Make your cheque for £35 payable to: British Union Conference, and send to: LIFEdevelopment.info, BUC Office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ.

Use these resources to raise the interest of your secular friends in the Gospel and thereby have the opportunity of introducing them to the greatest friend anyone could have, Jesus Christ our Saviour.

God has your number

One morning I was praying and a phone number popped into my thoughts. I dismissed it as over-revving imagination. It returned. I wrote it down and finished praying.

The number bugged me half the morning. I scanned my address book but it wasn’t one I knew. Finally I decided to ring it, thinking I could always say, ‘Sorry, wrong number’.

‘Michelle speaking.’

‘Ah! Two years before, we had sat on the library steps at university, Michelle chain-smoking and firing questions about Christianity all through lunchtime. She’d invited me to her house later to talk more, but she felt scepticism and anger about some past experiences, and couldn’t seem to believe.

Now I identified myself and started the conversation by asking how she was.

‘Actually . . . dying. How are you?’

‘What? Are you joking?’ She was 23.

‘No. A freak disease. Actually, I’d love to talk to a Christian.’

I arranged to go over that day.

‘Good. Oh, but I’ve moved house. So, hey – how did you get my number?’

I told her.

‘God has my number . . .’

Weeks later, Michelle died a Christian, with gospel confidence of resurrection when Jesus returns.

Who is God saving today? Do you want to be involved?

‘I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.’ Psalm 32:8, NIV.

‘Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.’ Jeremiah 33:3, NKJV.

Belfast church building

The spacious Belfast church building will be fifty years old in 2007. The Belfast members invite all those who have been associated with the Belfast church, whether as pastors or laity, to make contact with Victor McCormac.

EITHER by email on: victor.mccormac@btopenworld.com

OR by post:

c/o 18 Woodbreda Avenue.
Sunsfield Road, Belfast, BT8 7JQ.

The aim is to make a lasting record of the church work in the city.

ABC BOOK SALES

August

John Longthropp 10am-2pm

- 6: Health Congress, Poland

West Midlands 10am-2pm

Sunset

Surely your faith could have won you anything you wished?

It’s true that faith is the evidence of things not seen, the conviction of things not perceived, the assurance of things not known. Hebrews 11:1.

Aren’t you the one who has everything you want? Aren’t you better off? Aren’t you a lot better off than the rich, their gold, their silver, their houses, their cars and their relationships? ‘Why, you foolish man, why do you desire to be rich?” James 3:14.

Look, you can’t get that out of your own head. We know you can’t. But you have faith. You’ve got faith in something other than yourself, haven’t you? You have faith in something that you can’t see or touch. That’s faith. That’s it.

Faith is the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1. That’s faith.

Aren’t you the one who has everything you want? Aren’t you better off? Aren’t you a lot better off than the rich, their gold, their silver, their houses, their cars and their relationships? ‘Why, you foolish man, why do you desire to be rich?” James 3:14.

Look, you can’t get that out of your own head. We know you can’t. But you have faith. You’ve got faith in something other than yourself, haven’t you? You have faith in something that you can’t see or touch. That’s faith. That’s it.

Faith is the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1. That’s faith.

Aren’t you the one who has everything you want? Aren’t you better off? Aren’t you a lot better off than the rich, their gold, their silver, their houses, their cars and their relationships? ‘Why, you foolish man, why do you desire to be rich?” James 3:14.

Look, you can’t get that out of your own head. We know you can’t. But you have faith. You’ve got faith in something other than yourself, haven’t you? You have faith in something that you can’t see or touch. That’s faith. That’s it.

Faith is the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1. That’s faith.

Aren’t you the one who has everything you want? Aren’t you better off? Aren’t you a lot better off than the rich, their gold, their silver, their houses, their cars and their relationships? ‘Why, you foolish man, why do you desire to be rich?” James 3:14.

Look, you can’t get that out of your own head. We know you can’t. But you have faith. You’ve got faith in something other than yourself, haven’t you? You have faith in something that you can’t see or touch. That’s faith. That’s it.

Faith is the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1. That’s faith.

Aren’t you the one who has everything you want? Aren’t you better off? Aren’t you a lot better off than the rich, their gold, their silver, their houses, their cars and their relationships? ‘Why, you foolish man, why do you desire to be rich?” James 3:14.

Look, you can’t get that out of your own head. We know you can’t. But you have faith. You’ve got faith in something other than yourself, haven’t you? You have faith in something that you can’t see or touch. That’s faith. That’s it.

Faith is the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1. That’s faith.

Aren’t you the one who has everything you want? Aren’t you better off? Aren’t you a lot better off than the rich, their gold, their silver, their houses, their cars and their relationships? ‘Why, you foolish man, why do you desire to be rich?” James 3:14.

Look, you can’t get that out of your own head. We know you can’t. But you have faith. You’ve got faith in something other than yourself, haven’t you? You have faith in something that you can’t see or touch. That’s faith. That’s it.

Faith is the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1. That’s faith.

Aren’t you the one who has everything you want? Aren’t you better off? Aren’t you a lot better off than the rich, their gold, their silver, their houses, their cars and their relationships? ‘Why, you foolish man, why do you desire to be rich?” James 3:14.

Look, you can’t get that out of your own head. We know you can’t. But you have faith. You’ve got faith in something other than yourself, haven’t you? You have faith in something that you can’t see or touch. That’s faith. That’s it.