Two thousand delegates from the world church are meeting for the
General Conference Session at St Louis, USA, 29 June-9 July. As one
of thirteen world divisions, the Trans-European Division (TED) sent one hun-
dred delegates, based on our membership and the number of our organisa-
tions. The General Conference Session is the highest church authority among
Seventh-day Adventists, and meets to elect leaders of the General Conference
for 2005-2010, decide various matters relating to the beliefs and policies of the
world church, receive reports from various entities, and be built up in spiritual
fellowship. I would encourage all Adventists to continue to pray for this
important meeting so that God’s presence will be strongly felt and that his
will may rule in everything.

The TED prepared various reports concerning its work in the past five
years. There will be a live programme for the public on Saturday evening 2
July at 8.20, when the TED will present its report using a combination of video
and live presentation. The video was previewed by the TED Executive Com-
mittee on 17 May and will be made available to members after the session.
The following day, Sunday 3 July, my written report with more detailed infor-
mation will be printed by the Adventist Review. The staff of the Review have
informed us that they will have edited the report rather substantially in order to provide space for more photos. The full text will be available, however, on the TED website (www.ted-adventist.org).
The Division will also provide a booth in the exhibition hall, where visi-
tors may meet some of our delegates and receive an attractive booklet with
detailed information about our work. The delegates will be offered a special
gift: a genuine clay oil lamp made in Israel, which is part of TED territory. The
intention is to point to Jesus, the light of the world.
The closing programme on Saturday evening 9 July will be a Parade of
Nations involving about forty countries from the TED. This will provide a live
understanding of how many countries have been reached by the Advent mes-
sage and how many remain to be reached. In the Division office we look
forward to the opportunity of telling about the many things God has done in
our field. It is our primary wish to glorify God in our reports, because we are
doing his work.

Let me also take this opportunity to thank all of you – members, pastors
and leaders – for your continuing sup-
port of the Church in the TED; your
commitment to ministry, self-sacrifice
and faithfulness. The wonderful good
news of our growth in membership of
12% since the last session is in all
material respects a result of God’s
blessing being added to your faith
and work. May God bless you, all our
families, and His Church, in great
abundance. It is good to be part of the
family of God in the Trans-European
Division.

The pollen count is up, holiday traffic is at a standstill, the weather
could be better, but all this pales into insignificance alongside the
news that there are still people
in your neighbour-
hood who don’t yet know Jesus Christ!

You could take advantage of the lighter,
milder evenings to spread abroad a few pages
of light in your community.

To get hold of copies of FOCUS contact your local
PM secretary. To order copies of LIFE.info contact Faye
Weekes at the BUC on 01923 672251.
Essence of Woman
by Julia Smith, SEC Women’s Ministries director

A woman’s Ministries baptism took place at the SEC Essence of Woman Symposium at the Lewisham church on Sabbath 28 May involving six individuals, Peraclo Gordie, Clive Campbell, Matthew Daniel, Brenda Walcott, Janet Hadden and Dan Mitchutte-Sargent were baptised in front of a packed church.

Following a short but challenging message about decision and commitment by the speaker, Dr Rosa Banks, Associate secretary and director of Human Resources at the North American Division, the six candidates were immersed by Pastor Ellis Guthrie, the minister of Lewisham church.

In addition to the individuals baptised, twelve people made their commitment to be baptised in July; twenty-three requested Bible studies, and thirty requested special prayers. This was due to the strong influence of the Holy Spirit and the excellent presentations by Dr Banks, who utilised her deep expertise in teaching with her deep teaching perspective and understanding in delivering the word of God.

The symposium took place every evening of the week except Thursdays, with attendances exceeding 150, many coming straight from work to the meetings. What was unique about the symposium was that youth as well as older folks were there virtually every evening. Many young people made their decisions for Bible studies, and visits by Bible worker Brenda Rutherford, working tirelessly with Julia Smith and members of the Women’s Ministries Council, who planned the Symposium. Members of the Women’s Ministries Council were enthused and motivated by this first evangelistic Symposium, and plans are already under way for the 2006 Essence of Woman Symposium. At the beginning of the year the Council gave itself the title of tent of baptisms in 2005. We have achieved 60% of our goal and look forward to welcoming the whole of the SEC churches to bring many more souls to Jesus Christ through immersion in 2005.

The tenth anniversary of Women’s Ministries in the South England Conference.

CHARITY CONCERT
Sabbath evening 30 July

— well-known singer on the Hope Channel
Harris School
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Rugby, CV22 6EA

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Outreach in the Rugby area
600 tickets available:
Children (0-16): £5
Adults: £7.50
Make cheques out to Rugby SOA Church.
For further information:
EITHER telephone Sister Costa on 07915 358 092 or 01788 19194
OR email her on jh@blonrdso.ac.uk

OPEN DAY AT THE STANBROOKS PRESS LIMITED
4 September 2005

Special speaker
Terri Hopkins, author of AIM HIGH.
Also Ginger Church, well-known Christian author.
Bouncy castle too, and lots more!
Plan to be there!
It’s a great day out.

Evangelist Billy Graham took a lot of stick for visiting Russia during the Cold War. His conservative Christian constituency particularly resented the influence and respect with which he treated communist leaders like Kosygin and Brezhnev.

I guess they would have preferred if he had yielded and threatened them a bit!

In a TV interview one critic barked at Graham: ‘You have set the Church back fifty years!’

What could Graham say? He looked crestfallen, and responded: ‘I am deeply ashamed. I have been trying very hard to set the Church back two thousand years.’

Do you have the sort of Christianity that makes you hostile and angry? Or are you trying, like Billy Graham, to set Christianity back two thousand years — and restore the love and graciousness of the Founder among his twenty-first-century followers?

Sometimes love and graciousness seem to be in short supply. That is especially so among conservative Christians, and since advertisers are conservative Christians, it can be in short supply among us.

Why is that?

In order to feel ‘equal’, insecure people try to find ways to represent other people as morally ‘inferior’ and themselves as morally ‘superior’. The tactic is to divert attention from their own deplorable conduct by drawing attention to the perceived faults of others. Typically they will have half a dozen favourite things — and keep on smacking the skulls of the saints with them!

The Pharisees were brilliant at that in Christ’s day. The disciples were, too, in Paul’s day. But in every subsequent generation they had their equivalents. Why? Because insecurities are always with us. Why? Because sin is always with us. In my youth people were lambasting others from what they claim to be the moral high ground — because of their own.

It was easy to be in the fashion then, but not so easy to see the fashion as sin. Alienation and anger still seem to come naturally. Peacemakers, affirmers and encouragers need supernatural help.

Where do they get it? ‘The fruit of the Spirit is love...’ — and eight facets of love which, together, reap the benefits of the balanced life.

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Ordination at Scottish Mission Day of Fellowship
by Clifford Herman, Communication, Scottish Mission

St Albans: Passionate about Ldi

Following a series of training seminars and promotional events, LIFEdevelopment was officially recognised as the primary evangelistic approach of the St Albans church on Sabbath 7 May. To mark the launch a special two-hour programme replaced the usual morning church services, underlining the message that in today’s culture we sometimes need to do things differently.

One such difference is the use of music in worship, and the morning started with more than half an hour of praise and worship from the church’s praise team and band. Student missionary Matt Vincent gave the main presentation, entitled ‘Designed to Serve’. ‘Most of our neighbours are unchurched and secular,’ he said. ‘They are not interested in God or religion and the only way they will find out about Christ is through us.’

In the Dunfermline and Edinburgh districts, in September 2004 they were called to the pastorate of the East Kilbride, Glasgow and Irvine district of churches. During this time he was asked to be the Mission Communication sponsor.

Marcel Ghioalda was born in Bucharest, Romania, and after the regular twelve years of schooling, completed a technical diploma in measurement instruments. In 1994 he commenced his theological training at Heidelberg College, South Africa, and graduated in 1997. In the meantime, he met Claudette (who studied and graduated from the same college), they were married on the campus in 1997. In 1999 Claudette and Marcel joined the workforce in Scotland (in the Irvine and East Kilbride areas and in 2001 moved to the Dunfermline area. During the same time they were challenged to accept the responsibility of youth sponsorship in Scotland.

The day was highlighted by Dr Daniel Ouda from Newfield College, the speaker for the day. Pastor Cecil Perry, president of the BUC, conducting the Sabbath school lesson study; and Pastor Alan Hodges, ministerial secretary of the BUC, taking the ordination prayer.

In attendance, as well, were Marcel’s parents on their first visit to Scotland, along with a special South African contingent from the Hampstead and St Albans churches, who offered support and shared their music talent with the folks in Scotland.

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Adventist Resource Centre online

In early June Pastor Dalbert Elias, director of the Adventist Discovery Centre, launched a new facility which will enable church members to order a number of different evangelistic resources online. The Adventist Resource Centre website can be found at www.adventistresource.org.uk, and currently offers ADC cards, leaflets, DVDs and videos, and bulk orders for the LIFE.info magazine.

Speaking at the BUC office, Pastor Elias said: ‘Our aim with the Adventist Resource Centre is to provide a solution to shops where members can order resources to support their evangelistic work. Our focus is outward, providing outreach materials simply and quickly, direct to those who are able to use them. In time, the dream is to gather the best evangelistic resources from around the world and make them easily available and affordable. The dream also includes the provision for this new evangelistic facility to act as a two-way agent, exchanging views and experiences as to how these resources can be used successfully.’

Payment for the resource materials can be made online, using the same PayPal merchant service that is now used for the Church’s online donation system.

Hospitality Suite: Making visitors feel welcome

On 5 February, the Hospitality Suite was opened in Rockham, the idea of Interests Co-ordinator Stella Davis. I asked Stella what gave her the idea and support, and this is what she said:

‘I know what it means to feel isolated. In church. Having left Martinique for England – away from friends and family – it wasn’t easy. Just thinking about arriving at an unfamiliar church on a Sabbath morning felt like a desert experience! So, when asked to be the Interest Co-ordinator for my local church I was unsure what this would mean practically. It’s a relatively new office and so leaves plenty of scope for imagination and creativity. Certainly challenging, this is a position that can be difficult for the same people.

However, because of my experience as a visitor, I saw the role as pivotal in providing a live front of the church from the visitor’s perspective. It is not only about making visitors feel welcome, but provides a link whereby they can become a part of the body of Christ in terms of how they feel and not in terms of membership. I have found that the best way to do this is to provide a welcome in an informal forum to give time for interaction. In the suite, we have a design to enable church members to relax, ask questions informally and give any feedback. There is also opportunity for them to provide comments, details for follow-up. To date the feedback from our visitors has been very positive and a number of them are attending study groups in our church. We have encouraged our children and youth to be a part of this project, helping in directing visitors to the suite and giving out the refreshments and gifts.’

Our team has been richly blessed and we will continue to be creative for God as he leads us to adapt to the needs of our people in meeting them where they are, where we are.
Ana’s baptism

On Sabbath 14 May, Ana da Silva was baptised by our resident pastor, Ian Lorek, and officially welcomed into the Bournemouth church, after many years’ attendance. Ana was accompanied by her three nieces. One of them, Ana Gallagher, the wife of Dr Jon Gallagher currently working at the General Conference but who served for many years as South England Conference Executive secretary, flew all the way from America to be with her aunt. Ana was especially pleased, too, that her baptism shared the eighth anniversary of her dear sister’s passing, who was also a long-standing member of the church.

Brixton pioneers Home Office drug programme

The project was undertaken with two groups running simultaneously, led by specialist drug trainers brought in to deliver the training. A focus group of twenty individuals attended a comprehensive eight-week programme run by ACAPs Turning Point, a BME youth team. Julie Cameron facilitated this group. A larger group in the form of five plenary sessions involving the wider church community and was run by O’Neil Smith (an ex-trainer of Hope UK) and facilitated by the writer. An addition two to undertake a survey with young people who had a programme tailored to their needs. A pre- and post-sessional survey was led by Home Office officials who met with the focus group and members of the plenary group. A comparative analysis was undertaken to ascertain the level of learning gained by individuals during the project. The benefits were evident as both the learning and enjoyment was significant.

An action plan was devised at the end of the programme capturing the short-, medium- and long-term priorities. Guided by the above the way forward. This was a demonstrable act of commitment by the Brixton church to make drug awareness a part of its outreach and a recognition that relevant evangelism today requires a holistic approach.

Throughout the six-month period Dr Neil attended as the independent observer and evaluator. Data from and testimonials collected by the two co-ordinators and analysists from Dr Neil, a report was formulated which has now been presented to the Home Office. The preliminary report identified that the Brixton church that had not only met but scored highly on all five criteria. It is envisaged that following formal evaluation of the work of the Brixton church, Home Office will be advised to continue with similar initiatives in other parts of the UK.

Llandrindod ordination

A joyful time was had in the Llandrindod Wells church recently, when group of twenty-two and leader for Gernic was ordained as an elder by Dr Brian Phillips, or pastor and president of the Welsh Mission, and past president Pastor Peter Stearman. Our leader Dr Brian Phillips has in the last approximately fifteen years, it being the first Company to be established in the area. The occasion was joyfully welcomed by the church members and visitors.

65 Years of Marriage

Paster Newman and his wife Myrtle, who are well-known throughout the British church, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary this year. Pastor Newman preceded his fiancée to Nigeria, where he went to serve as a missionary at 19 years of age. He later married Myrtle in 1957, and they have three more than 60 years together. They have six children and thirteen grandchildren.

100th Birthday!

A member of Stornborough Park church celebrated his 100th birthday in style on Friday 15th February. Frank Winterford was treated to a party by the deacons, to which family members and friends were invited. At the event Brother Winterford reminisced. The 1940s were eventful for him. That was when he met Miss Margaret McKay, and when his sons Raymond and Alan were born. Sadly Raymond died after a car accident in 1962. Alan follows his mother’s artistic family and is a local artist. The couple have another son, John, who died in 1978. They divorced in 1978, Frank inherited the inventor’s gene from his family’s history and has worked in the computer business in Taiwan and Switzerland but has since returned home to Waftord.

When the Second World War broke out he lost his job but was offered a commission in the army, which he accepted. Meanwhile, he joined the De Havilland Aircraft Corporation then based at Leicestershire. About 1940 he came to live in Waftord and cycled to their factory in Hatfield. One day a German fighter plane shot at him, but Frank saved his life by diving into the ditch. His boss claimed he needed him, so he remained at De Havilland’s and never joined the army. After the war an Egyptian offered him work using his knowledge of French. That period was the happiest work experience.

In Paris 1952 Frank was baptised by Pastor A. K. Armstrong, but sadly cannot attend now because of his great age. His days are filled with reading and watching television, but a few years ago something very exciting happened on 19 March 2002, at the age of 96, Frank went up in G-AZOG with pilot Simon Weeks and actually flew the plane for part of the flight and landed it. What’s more, he has a certificate to prove it!

And what he says about life today he said, ‘Now throughout the world the countries look at each other and say, “What can we do to help the others?”’
Campolo on Adventist stand

From Tuesday to Friday, 10-13 May, the South England Conference and the Stanborough Press each ran stands at the Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown Park in Esher, Surrey. As well as featuring more than 350 exhibitors, the CRE offers nearly 100 free lectures on a wide range of subjects, including church sound systems, Christian storytelling, how to reach the sci-fi generation, and the law as it affects clergy and church workers.

Many members and pastors of the Adventist Church have attended the event, which is one of the largest commercial Christian exhibitions in the country. The SEC stand and display was organised by their Communication director, Catherine Boldeau. Unlike last year, when the Church exhibited under the name “South England Conference”, she said, “this year we simply had a sign over the stand marked “Seventh-day Adventists”. This change from a gentle to a more direct approach was met with mixed reactions. Some people simply looked at the sign above our exhibit and turned their heads in the opposite direction. Others showed a genuine interest in what we are and what we do. One of these was a trainee Anglican priest who knew about the firm stand that Adventists take on the Sabbath.

Sharing the stand with the SEC was ADRA-UK, who displayed a number of posters as well as T-shirts bearing the slogan ‘End World Poverty’. Dr Tony Campolo, renowned sociologist and religious advisor to US President Bill Clinton, made a personal visit to the stand because of his previous connection with ADRA International.

Once again this year SEC staff and volunteers promoted the new devotional gift books. Speaking at the CRE, Stanborough Press general manager Paul Hammond said, “The interest, especially in LIFEninfo was exciting.”

LIFEninfo magazine, handing out hundreds of copies to those passing by. LIFEninfo was also promoted on the Stanborough Press stand, together with a number of small devotional gift books. Speaking at the CRE, Stanborough Press general manager Paul Hammond said, “The interest, especially in LIFEninfo was exciting.”

A rebel baptised

After studying and training at Northern Caribbean University, Francine Gonzales gained a BSc and qualified as a nurse. Her studies even included a compulsory module on the books of Daniel and Revelation. During those years of study, Francine lived in a house full of Adventists who encouraged her to attend the local Adventist church. The rebel in her was not so sure. However, her enquiring mind led her to seek answers in the Bible. Arriving in this country on a one-year contract in January of this year, she sought out her nearest Adventist church, received instruction from the pastor, and then declared her love for Jesus by stepping into the waters of the Southampton baptistry in front of a church packed with her new friends.

DUDLEY HOUSE SCHOOL requires a class teacher for Years 5 and 6 commencing as soon as possible. The successful candidate will have the skills necessary to take responsibility for this age group and to teach effectively and with real enthusiasm, providing learning situations where children are motivated to their full potential. A full understanding of the British National Curriculum, including a working knowledge of the Literacy and Numeracy strategies, is necessary. A specialist in SEN is desirable but not essential. Please send in writing with a personal CV to Mrs P. Eastwood, Headteacher, Dudley House School, Dudley Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9AA.