2005 marks the 25th anniversary of John Loughborough School founded in Tottenham in 1980 by the South England Conference. The founding headmaster, Pastor Orville Woolford, under whose energetic administration the school became an immediate success commanding headlines and editorials in national newspapers, pays tribute to the roles played by Maureen Luxton (then BUC Education director), Pastor Ken Gammon (then SEC president) and Dr Silburn Reid (then SEC Executive secretary) in the founding of the school.

Better Different, a collection of past pupils of the John Loughborough School, is helping organise the commemorative celebrations for the 25th anniversary. The first event, on 15 September at 4pm, will be hosted by Diane Abbott MP and held at the House of Commons. The second event, on 18 September, will be an official school reunion held at Lords Cricket Ground. That event will provide an insight into the background and achievements of the School and its many pupils over the last twenty-five years.

The 1980 intake was fifty pupils. By September 1981 it had risen to 300 students. The fact that the majority of JLS pupils are Afro-Caribbean has given the school a high media profile. It was also the reason why Ingrid Bergman’s award-winning final film, A Woman Called Golda, was partially filmed at the school.

The Adventist teachers at JLS teach Religious Education and Black and Caribbean History alongside the national curriculum. The school provides, writes Anthony Roberts of Better Different, an insight into and understanding of the problems faced by the children of the Adventist constituency and the wider society into the problems they face on a daily basis.

As a motto, ‘Better Different’ came from the founding headmaster Mr (now Pastor) Orville Woolford. Pastor Woolford was, and continues to be, seriously committed to JLS students and to the distinctive education for which JLS stands.

Details about the anniversary events can be found at the Better Different website www.betterdifferent.co.uk.

For interviews or further information please contact our PR press desk at Visiononline on 0207 647 8699 or 07944 476394 or email press@betterdifferent.co.uk. Better Different, ‘Better than Expectations, Different from the Stereotype’.
Confessions of a Creatorist

Adventist parents who send their children to secular schools don’t always know what they’re letting themselves in for.

Mine didn’t.


Among the most brilliant was my primary school headmaster who was also my teacher when I was aged 9 and until I was 12.

He was one of the warmest, most charismatic characters I have ever met. His name was Maurice White.

His son, Peter White, was my school friend.

On one occasion, with a half a dozen other boys, Peter White and I were caught in a serious mischief.

As was the custom then, we were caned on our backsides. The half dozen boys were whacked six times. ‘Because,’ said his father, ‘you are the headmaster’s son!’

To my surprise, I, too, was whacked six times. The headmaster’s explanatory remark I shall never forget.

“You’re getting six, Marshall, because you are a Seventh-day Adventist so you should know better!”

It still hurt it did, I thought, a sort of compliment.

All of which makes it all the more surprising what happened a month or two later.

In my estimation, the headmaster fell from grace big time!

We were analysing various ‘samples’ of flora and fauna we had collected on a nature walk.

The headmaster spoke of evolution over millions of years – and my Adventist conditioning was outraged!

Mine didn’t.

“Hey, sir!” yelled, in assembly you said “The Lord God made them all”!”

Was this the occasion for another six of the best? I would have preferred that to what happened.

It was a mega outburst!

I can’t remember precisely what he said, but I was given to understand that what was said in the classroom and what was said in assembly were two very different things. And, further, that no educator, no headmaster, no social worker could claim that the ‘Lord God made the heavens and the earth.’

At that moment I felt very ‘uneducated’.

Fifty years and I still believe that God created everything. But I do feel educated.

Do I jump up at big meetings to defend my views? No. I leave that to Professor John Walton of St Andrews University, Professor E. H. Andrews of London University, Dr Jean D’Aloisio, and Dr Albert White. I am also told that Dr Tim Standish of the Geoscience Institute does a brilliant job, as does Dr Monty White.

Why do I leave it to them? Because they are trained scientists of great eminence. My education was, mainly, non-scientific. I wouldn’t even understand the questions asked at a meeting, let alone be in position to provide answers.

You see the Day of the Mega Poutum permanantly fixed the schedule of my education. If scientific ‘faith’ was founded on Darwin’s evolutionary theory then science was not for me.

Not that I entirely lost touch with the sciences at the age of 10. When I exchanged the country school for the town school and began the long haul to GEC, I soon realised that the distilled essence of what I was required to believe on origins was this:

Life is an accident that came out of a Big Bang and a chance dance of chemicals. . . . Life forms have evolved ever since by the process of ‘natural selection’. Charles Darwin wrote it all down in The Origin of Species. . . . Oh, and what began with a Big Bang is likely to end with another Big Bang,

when some gun-hopping politician decides it’s time to make use of the nuclear stockpile. The ultimate result of natural selection: unnatural deslection.

Of course, most of my science teachers put it more convincingly than that, but they didn’t convince me. To them evolution was as absolute as gravity and they would entertain no questions.

However, somewhere I’d read ‘In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth’ and part of the great imperatives was to be: ‘Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea . . . .’ My faith was built on that.

It was hard that I also believed that the conventional wisdom of evolution was under attack. In between marching against the war in Vietnam and ‘demos’ against Apartheid, I attended the National Students’ Union that revealed evolution for the non-prophet theory that it was and is. The whole basic of natural selection was under attack.

After university, I taught at Stanborough School, where I taught English in the laboratories of R. W. A. Luedtv, P. H. Richards and L. H. Hill, the science taught in class did not conflict with what I was surrounded in and in church. Influenced by the arguments of Luedtv and Co. I started building up a drop-file on the Creation versus Evolution debate. The pronouncements of Professor Andrews particularly drew my attention: ‘It is possible to be both well-educated and at the same time open about such things as the origins of the universe.’

In the 1990s there was a positive eruption in Creatorist science. Anyone familiar with the work of Answers in Genesis – www.AnswersinGenesis. com – will be familiar with the arguments. In case you haven’t, Anglican clergyman Kevin Logan wrote Responding to the Challenge of Evolution in 2002.

More recently Ken Ham has published Why We Believe – The Power of Creation (Master Books). Creationism as soul-winning evangelism? To my knowledge Adventists have turned the issue on its head and found, at least, a way to attract an interested audience and the support of the entire Christian community.

Recently there have been meetings of Adventist scientists and Bible students in three consecutive summers – 2002, 2003, 2004 – on the whole origins business. Isn’t it time to share what we have found with an interested public? Or do I misunderstand the importance of the First Angel’s Message? Intelligent Design is catching on. It’s what we believe. Isn’t it time to get involved in the debate?

Fifty years on from my primary school pupilhood I’m still convinced that Time plus Matter plus Chance do not make a world. In a man-blighted creation I still see enough beauty to suggest an Artist and enough design to suggest a Designer. Outside the window of PrePress an assortment of blue tits, great tits, coal-tits and finches are finch- ing for peanuts and trying to get out. All that colour and variety! Did it evolve?

Isn’t it time to give a push and a shove to the Intelligent Design/Creationist School? Creatorist evangelism? Why try?

* All except two of the scientists named – Andrews and White – are, I’m proud to say, Seventh-day Adventists. Ed.
It’s addictive!
by Karen Heaney

‘It’s addictive,’ was the main response when staff members were asked why they keep working at Special Needs Camp. Some members of staff have been coming since the very first camp in 1978. Staff members range in age and occupation and many of them use their vacation time to work at Special Needs Camp. Despite their differences they all find camp addictive. I wanted to find out what the addiction was all about.

Special Needs Camp began on 10 July with the arrival of 25 campers and 45 staff. Located in the sleepy village of Aberthorn and surrounded by fields of baaring sheep, this camp is the perfect getaway from the busy life and a much-looked-forward-to event for most campers. The location itself was enough to get me hooked. Just a five-minute walk to the beach, winding country lanes and lots of fresh air.

By the time I arrived on Thursday afternoon most of the exciting events had already taken place. I had missed sports day, the sandcastle competition, the bouncy castle, the day trip to the Sea Zoo and trips to the village, but the highlight was still to come. Thursday night was the banquet and the campers were very excited about the evening events – giving me clues as to what their talent was going to be.

The evening began with a fabulous meal in a Toy Story-themed dining room. The decorations were excellent and the room was completely transformed. After we had eaten, the talent show commenced with a running version of “Shall we dance round the mountain when she comes”, led by Pastor Curtis Murphy. The campers and staff really put on a show and a good time was had by all. Those who wish to attend future events must contact the camp.

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Pastor in fund-raising abseil by Joe Hill

S tanborough Park church is increasingly enjoying the support of its female members. On Tuesday 5 September the church’s Women’s ‘Edifying’ Ministries group met in the hills above the church for an unforgettable fund-raising event. As part of the fund-raising activity the group held a ‘women-only’ fund-raising abseil.

The group’s objective was to raise as much money as possible for the church’s mission to the Albanian people. The fund-raising event, held on the 100-foot wall of the church, was both a challenge and a success. The group raised over £500 for the Albanian church, which is the foundation of the group’s being, and the reason for its success.

On happily completing the abseil, the group celebrated with a special meal at the church. The group is open to all women and is currently recruiting new members. For more information contact Pastor Murphy at the church.

Women’s ‘Edifying’ Ministries

Women’s Ministries Day at Reading Central Church, 2 July, saw the culmination of a series of healthy self-esteem workshops for women led by guest speaker Helen Fletcher, UK-born Mrs Fletcher, who obtained an MA in Social Work from the university of Alabama, USA, specialises in domestic violence in the African American community. She has received awards for her work which is dedicated to helping women from all backgrounds reach their full potential.

Mrs Fletcher’s sermon, ‘He came to set the captives free’, addressed the issue of domestic violence. She drew comparisons between biblical accounts of the ill treatment of the Israelites by Pharaoh and sexual abuse, and explained what church members can do to help liberate ‘silent’ victims of domestic violence.

The healthy self-esteem workshops were entitled ‘Girl Talk’ (bonding between women), ‘Who are we in God’s eyes?’ Positive Self-esteem and Building Healthy Relationships. Each one explored subjects that impact the lives of married and single women. Lessons were drawn from the lives and relationships of female Bible characters such as Esther, Ruth and Naomi, and Tziporah, Jan Abbey, Reading Central Church’s Women’s Ministries leader, said it was ‘fantastic to see the women when they first came and watch the relationship between them grow. Barriers came down as they self-esteem grew.’

Prince Jackson, who attended the workshops, said that they were ‘edifying and remarkable. There are qualities that we women have that are attractive to men. The workshop helped us to grow. Barriers come down as we self-esteem grows.’

Handsworth Wood African Fellowship

It is over a year since we began as a group of 20 people. Our regular attendance now is approximately 80.

In March we progressed to company status. In June we had our first campaign. God has provided us with an excellent location – at the Handsworth Wood Girls’ School – and a brilliant PA system. The theme of our campaign was ‘Living Without Fear’. Night after night the growth of the congregation reflected the impact that Dr S. K. Raymond was also pleased that at the practice sessions they were able to witness to one young man who did not come to the church but was advised that the rules of participation in the sports day were that individuals had to have attended church in the past month. He now attends voluntarily.

Celan Stewart, brother to Raymond, team manager and pastor of the Milton Keynes district of churches was excited over the win. ‘This is one of the best experiences I have had since leaving London. It was good to see two churches working so well together without anyickering or difficulties. I hope the team will keep practicing together throughout the year – this will not only be helpful for unity but also to assist many of us to change our sedentary lifestyles.’

The cup was won by Stratford church.
Stoke Newtoning: ‘Heroes and sheroes!’

Two members of the Stoke Newtoning church, Clarissa Rocke-Caton and Yvonne Louis, and the current directors, Rick and Yvonne, were two of the finalists chosen from 130 nominations received from fifteen various categories. The proceeds of this event were donated to the Sickie Cell Society, the charity that provides care and services to people affected by this disorder.

VERLEY VALENTINE (Brother Val) (1918-2005) – d. 5 March

Verley Valentine, a past president of the Jamaica Conference. He was in discussion with Pastor Leon Neve-Yves in 1976. He was an outstanding preacher and teacher, well known for his ability to convey the message clearly and effectively. He was a mentor and guide to many young people who came under his influence. He was a committed and dedicated church worker and served the Church in the capacity of the Jamaica conferences, to support the project there. A concert was held for the children in Romania. Eleven volunteers are now in Romania, Cambodia and possibly Tonga in which it has a project. We are working closely with the social services in each country in which it has a project. There is a strong need for volunteers to visit Romania this summer.

ICC by Slyja Rul, ICCC Public Relations officer

International Children’s Care (ICC), was started by Adventists and is run on a voluntary basis. ICC had a booth at the recent General Conference Session in St. Louis, and the current directors, Rick and Sharon Fleck, were interviewed on the Hope Channel on the final day. Faye Alcyn and Kent Fleck, who founded the charity in 1976, Rick Fleck in the Capita project in Cong. PROSLA, an Adventist Medical organisation has been in discussion with Pastor Leon Neve-Yves in 1976. He was an outstanding preacher and teacher, well known for his ability to convey the message clearly and effectively. He was a mentor and guide to many young people who came under his influence. He was a committed and dedicated church worker and served the Church in the capacity of the Jamaica conferences, to support the project there. A concert was held for the children in Romania. Eleven volunteers are now in Romania, Cambodia and possibly Tonga in which it has a project. We are working closely with the social services in each country in which it has a project. There is a strong need for volunteers to visit Romania this summer.

JOBB VACANCY AT ADRA-UK

ADRA-UK is seeking to appoint a Finance officer. Key responsibilities include preparing monthly financial reports, managing the financial management processes, financial compliance, and adherence to donor regulations and ADRA policies. Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates. The job is based at ADRA-UK’s office in North London. The closing date for applications is 28 October 2005. Interviews for suitable candidates will be held in November/December 2005.

SALARY will be according to the denominational wage scale. Job description is available on request (email director@adra.org.uk). The Hackney Gazette, The South England Conference, from Cornwall to Southend, was in discussion with Pastor Leon Neve-Yves in 1976. He was an outstanding preacher and teacher, well known for his ability to convey the message clearly and effectively. He was a mentor and guide to many young people who came under his influence. He was a committed and dedicated church worker and served the Church in the capacity of the Jamaica conferences, to support the project there. A concert was held for the children in Romania. Eleven volunteers are now in Romania, Cambodia and possibly Tonga in which it has a project. We are working closely with the social services in each country in which it has a project. There is a strong need for volunteers to visit Romania this summer.

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Establishing new churches
Reaching new people groups
Church Planters’ Exchange 2005

by David Cox, Personal Ministries director, BUC

‘Germany was great…!’

An early church experience of real fellowship, worship, teaching, prayer and togetherness. You could sense the moving of the Spirit of God. If “church” was like this each day of the week, we would move the world!

A time of spiritual enrichment, empowerment and enlargement: The Holy Spirit revealed to me once again how much work there is to be done and my need to be focused and driven. I cannot wait to implement all of the things I have learnt this week.

The highlight for me during the week was Friday evening – the Agape Feast and Lord’s Supper (which continued till midnight!). Also, Sabbath morning when we were called to pray for our different national friends by gathering around them and praying for them – the sense of laying hands upon them gave a sense of belonging, concern and care. You just felt the genuineness of it all.

The highlight for me was seeing all those young people (50+ under 16 years of age) going forward for prayer, committing themselves to serving Jesus.

These reflections on the experience of the International Church Planters’ Exchange held in Friedensau, Germany, 24-31 July, speak for the 120+ church members and pastors who attended the event from the British Union Conference.

They were among over 600 church planters from the UK, Holland, Germany, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Portugal, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Israel and the Czech Republic who met for prayer, praise and worship, inspiration, the learning of new skills (through 21 different workshop tracks) and the exchange of ideas and experiences in reaching people with the message of Jesus. Several non-Christian friends who attended left as Christians, having committed their lives to Christ during the week.

This year’s Exchange was one of three such international events being held this year in the Trans-European Division, with a combined attendance of over 1,000 pastors and members now involved in establishing new churches to reach new people groups. Considering that the first Church Planting training event just five years ago at Newbold College was attended by only 16 people, it appears that the Adventist Church in Europe is once again becoming a church planting movement.

Stratford Youth Baptism
‘IT’S NOW OR NEVER’ was Pastor C. Preston’s slogan for the youth revival meetings at Stratford, East London, in May. The meetings climaxed with the baptism of Barbara Gillin, Anthea Weekes and Nadipha Mbutcha by Pastor Richard Holder. Stratford – and heaven – rejoiced!

Milton Keynes church: Images of Praise
In association with MKC Productions, Milton Keynes church is pleased to announce a new and exciting evangelistic campaign, Images of Praise.

This series is designed to introduce our non-churched friends to Jesus Christ in a new and relevant way, featuring special guest speakers, music, questions and answers, plus health and lifestyle hints. Transmission starts on Saturday 3 September at 8pm and every Saturday until 1 October on Sky Channel 676.

So tell your family, friends and neighbours to watch Images of Praise on Sky Channel 676 for a life-changing experience. Images of Praise – coming to a TV near you!

For more information please contact Yvonne Hazelwood on 07985 218 271.