The Executive Committee of the South England Conference has appointed Pastor Humphrey Walters as the new SEC president. Pastor Walters was elected as SEC Executive secretary at the November 1996 Conference Session in Bournemouth. Since then he has been actively involved in leading and shaping the vision of the South England Conference, most recently serving as special assistant to the president with responsibilities for Strategic Development, Church Growth, and LIFE development. Pastor Walters is married to Ava, and they have four children: Constance, Christian, James and John.

Pastor Walters replaces Pastor Don McFarlane, a president who, for the past fourteen years, has led the Conference with sophistication, poise, and skill. Pastor McFarlane began his term of office on 10 July 1991 after six years serving as Executive secretary of the British Union. When he assumed the role of president, the SEC had already established a positive reputation among the various fields of the Trans-European Division. However, two years into his term the finances of the Conference had become precarious, largely due to loans being given to churches to procure places of worship, the high cost of the rental of properties for pastors, especially in London and surrounding areas, and second mortgages being given to workers.

Decisive action was necessary to stabilise the finances of the Conference and secure the future of its work. With the astute financial leadership of Conference treasurer Victor Pilmoor, and the brave actions of the Executive Committee, a strategy was put into place that has led to what is considered today the strongest financial unit in the Trans-European Division. In 1993 over three-quarters of a million pounds was wrapped up in second mortgages. The corresponding figure today is less than £100,000. Loans for church buildings are now taken out directly with banks or from the BUC Revolving Fund, though underwritten by the Conference.

Pastor McFarlane went on to speak enthusiastically about two recent further developments. ‘One of my greatest thrills is to see how church-planting has taken off in the SEC,’ he said. ‘In the past five years 21 new congregations have been planted in the Conference. ‘Another development that has brought me a certain degree of satisfaction is the response of churches to the aims and objectives of LIFE development,’ he continued. ‘This programme is designed to bring about a sea-change in the attitude of members towards doing church. It is an effort to help members accept people for whom they are and lead them gradually into a relationship with Christ. It also encourages members to befriend people in their community as a basis to leading them to Christ.’ As a result of his election at the General Conference Session in St Louis this summer, Pastor McFarlane will serve as a Field Secretary, with special responsibility for Global Mission, Mission Awareness and Stewardship, at the Trans-European Division office in St Albans.
Do you want to study in style? by Sujoy Paul Bullock

D  you like the thought of spending five days in idyllic surroundings during a warm English summer? How about a holiday that teaches you skills in dealing with the daily problems you face in work, family and church? Twenty-one people combined these two in July and enjoyed the beautiful setting of Newbold College campus while attending an intensive Christian Counselling course – Level I. They hailed from a variety of countries, backgrounds and nationalities, with ages ranging from 18 to early 60s.

Lucia Hall, Director of the Institute of Christian Counselling, said: ‘The course was challenging yet exciting; it was a really great group to work with.’ According to one student, Jennifer Phelan, who would encourage others to do the course without reserve: ‘It’s very useful and so very important for anyone. You don’t have to be a counsellor to benefit from the course. My husband and I were really impressed with it.’ This course is essential for anyone who deals with people, whether they hold a church position, have a family, work in a social environment or just lead a normal, busy life.

Don’t worry if you missed your chance of a working holiday; you have the opportunity to take the course at a much more leisurely pace, from September onwards. Two courses are available, running on Sundays by the Advent Centre and Tuesday evenings at the Newbold. You can fit this Hughly reward- ing and practical course into your schedule by attending sessions twice. Twenty-two places are available on a first-come-first-serve basis, so sign up before it’s too late!

Josie-Marie Pernot would love to hear from anyone who is interested. Call her on 01344 407419 or email jpernot@newbold.ac.uk.

A taste of Heaven Report of the ABPA Day of Fellowship, 16 July by Audrey Balderstone

President Adventist Business and Professionals’ Association and ASI Europe

‘I must say that this Sabbath I had a taste of heaven, and when I looked down the garden and saw the flowers blooming, it made me more determined to be there on the great day of fellowship at the home of David and Audrey Balderstone, were Professionals’ Association day of fellowship at the Cing of Medicine has also experimented in idyllic surroundings during a warm summer. I must say that this Sabbath I had a taste of heaven, and when I looked down the garden and saw the flowers blooming, it made me more determined to be there on the great day of fellowship at the home of David and Audrey Balderstone, were Professionals’ Association day of fellowship at the Cing of Medicine has also experimented in idyllic surroundings during a warm summer.

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Camp Hill’s 50th Anniversary

by Dr Jacqueline Halliday-Bell

Camp Hill celebrated its 50th anniversary over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend 30 April-2 May. It was a blockbuster-packed, joyous and reflective weekend.

The Sabbath

The Sabbath school lesson, Jesus Man of Action – Man with a Mission, was led by a dozen dynamic young people. The divine service platform party included distinguished pastors and members past and present. Among them Pastor C. Murphy, who preached a thought-provoking sermon bearing the title of the weekend’s theme: ‘Nothing to fear except we forget’. Particularly moving was the certified acknowledgement of eleven committed individuals who had attended Camp Hill throughout the half century. The church sanctuary was packed to the rafters. A hot lunch was served to the half century. Members and their families were produced. The stocks were rapidly sold out. Kenneth Burt sent out a vote of thanks to the hard-working organizers and all who supported with cash, time and talent that was a memorable weekend.

The day a Rhythm & Blues Star came to Ipswich

As Paulette Banton compiled a milestone in her spiritual journey someone else was on a journey that day. Paulette Banton was brought up in a Christian home. She had been on her own spiritual quest from the age of twelve. Also present at the baptism was her best friend and ex-work colleague at BT’s research centre, who had become a Baptist pastor. During the service she testified that Paulette is a thinker, a fact-finding person who needs evidence for her faith, and it was only a matter of time before she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour.

Paulette found significant answers to her questions at the SEC camp meeting last year. Back home in Ipswich she asked semi-retired Pastor Paul Smith to study the Bible with her. When she felt that everything seemed to fit together and make sense she made her decision to be baptised and become part of the Ipswich church family.

The baptismal service was conducted and beautifully arranged by Pastor Smith. Local church pastor, David West, spoke of baptism in terms of loving commitment to a gracious friend in a marriage that not even death can break. Paulette chose the songs we sang and even the special item which our church choir ‘The Advent Singers’ sang.

After enjoying the service of praise and thanksgiving, Little Richard and his band slipped quietly away to their waiting limousine. The church family and friends remained for a lovely fellowship meal, and everyone rejoiced with Paulette and the angels of heaven.

Bessie’s royal party

On 5 July, at Hillybank Care Home, Bury, Lancashire, Bessie Goldstone, a long-time resident originally from Huddersfield church, celebrated her one hundredth birthday! Bessie had a ‘royal’ party. Not only did she receive a letter and a card from the Queen, and from the NEC officers, but a family from local pastor, Felix Jack, and a message from Pastor Deacon (NEC’s Minister) secretary.

Relatives, friends and members from Bolton, Bury and Huddersfield shared this unique and very happy occasion. The Mayor of Bury not only came but tremendously enjoyed the French cuisine prepared by our French/Algerian chef!

Run by Sister and Brother Hensman, Hillybank-Residential Nursing Home, where Bessie, and her deceased friend Sylvia Turtill, missionary nurse, lived for many years, has just completed twenty years of service in our local community. In early October a new annex caring for eighteen residents will be opened by the bank manager! We are also expecting the Mayor of Bury to attend the occasion.

An Open Afternoon and official opening is planned for 12 October, 2-5pm, with drinks (non-alcoholic, of course) available, and members and friends are very welcome to visit and chat at that time.

Teenage speakers debut at Cardiff

A living faith was both the theme and order of the day when three young ladies made their speaking debut at Cardiff Yuth Day in June. Sisters Eila (18) and Elisa Alvarez (14) from Cardiff, and Chenelle Booth (19) from Milweden cast aside any initial nerves to deliver a powerful three-part sermon on the topic of faith. “They were accompanied on the platform by Anriane Hanan (8), also from Cardiff, who made the announcements.

The young speakers all attended Cardiff Community church and form part of the A’s Prayer Group and the resident singing group Chars. The day’s programme was punctuated with their musical offerings, and it was true to say that all who attended and took part – members and visitors alike – were truly blessed. Let us continue to pray for, and encourage our youth in their faithful endeavours as they continue their witness for Christ.

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Reading district minister, baptised the candidates. Allison Auako, a former Roman Catholic, embraced the Adventist message through studying with her husband Sam. Myfhys Sexy, formerly from the United Methodist Church, studied with Pastor Aaron Jury and was duly baptised (on the previous Sabbath) and her husband Joseph dedicated their twin-born child to God. Emmanuel Cudjoe had waited patiently for several months to enter the baptismal pool. Finally the day arrived and the whole family was there to celebrate with him. At the end of the service the candidates received their baptismal certificates together with a gift book set, a silver bowl, and a bouquet of flowers.

The Area 5 Youth Praise Team did a rousing song service and led out a rousing song service and led out the Area’s debut at various times throughout the service. There were two wonderful special items, the first by Wals (Voices for Christ), a group of young men from Whiteley church ranging in age from 12 to 13, who sang ‘I am ready to give my life’, and the second by ‘Voices’, a youth group from the Reading district who sang ‘Great is your mercy’.

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Reading Whitley baptism

May 28 was a day of rejoicing for Reading Whitley, when three precious souls joined the church. The baptism was held at Reading Central, which was packed to capacity with relatives and friends to witness this special occasion. Jojo Bonnie, a pastoral ministry student who is a member of Whitley, preached a wonderful sermon on Galatians 3:27 titled ‘The Doorway to New Life’. Pastor Everett Picart, Teenage speakers debut at Cardiff

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Filipino day of celebration
Sabbath 11 June was a magnificent day for the Filipino International Church based in Central London. Members and visitors were blessed by the morning service, and splendidly entertained by the afternoon and evening programme entitled ‘The Story of Filipinos: Then, Now and Tomorrow.’ To open, a singing group from FIC enthused the crowds with a collection of songs, and as the Sabbath drew to a close, the audience learned more about Filipino culture. A play that covered all areas of Filipino culture took place during the evening, introducing Filipino tradition through its fashion, traditional dance, wooing customs, food and language. The script emphasised the importance of family life. FIC members wowed the crowds, beautifully clad in native traditional Filipino attire as they paraded through an elegantly choreographed fashion show. The ‘Mantones de Seda’ dance, involving many of FIC’s youth, was also choreographed to perfection – showcasing the traditional Spanish choreography, erect and graceful. The audience, however, was kept well informed and educated, as all Tagalog/Filipino dialogues were translated on a screen.

Exeter baptism
It was a happy day on Exeter on 25 June when we witnessed a decision to follow Jesus. Cielo Giamoto, a nurse at the Exeter hospital, approached her pastor earlier in the year with a request for baptism. The wheels were set in motion and in her off-duty times she was busy with Bible study. The devil tried a few tricks here and there, but with the video machine, but with the Bible open in front of us we enjoyed some interesting discussions. On the big day, her fiancé Yuri was at her side. ‘It is a baptised member and is a nurse in Newcastle. It was interesting to hear Cielo’s story. As a Filipino, she will bring our young people a lot of encouragement and support, and in due course it will be full of joy for us here. The church has just had a change of leadership and this is her first baptism. We have only eighteen members and five years ago I would have told her to marry him. But now we are happy to have help from her and her friends. For many people in Exeter today is a very special day’. 

H.O.T. on Mission
It all started one AVS programme during a discussion and group dynamics session on spiritual gifts and talents. In a corner of the church a group of nurses and medical workers wondered how they could serve the community for Christ, not only with their spiritual gifts and talents, but also through their profession. It was then that they decided to become H.O.T. for God! Nurses and various non-medical personnel, members of the Filipino International church, were HOT members indeed on the Sundays of 12 June and 17 July. After orientation, a devotional and prayer, the Health Outreach Team members, clothed in their H.O.T. T-shirts and caps, carried out their medical mission, taking blood pressure and blood sugar levels for free in two of the most active and widely-attended Filipino festivals in the country, Barrio Fiesta Santa Miron (12 June), and Barrio Fiesta sa House or 17 July, were hotspots for people needing medical attention.

There are thousands upon thousands of Barrio Fiestas visitors every year, and with South Asians being three to five more likely to have diabetes, the Filipino International church’s medical mission team felt empowered and motivated to reach these people with our health message. 

Diamond wedding
Sabbath 6 August was a very special day for Ivy and Cyril Thompson, when they celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary at the home of their eldest son Ian and his wife Dawn at Grantham. Pastor R. S. Joyce, the North England Conference president at the time, married them on 6 August 1945 at the country chapel at New Earswick, near York. They first met at the Nottingham Adventist church. For many years they lived and worked in the Welford area and latterly Nottinghamshire. They now live at Lowham, near Nottingham, and attend the Newark Church when they are able. Their celebration was all the more joyous as it was shared with their grandchildren Olivia and her husband Ian, who were celebrating their fourth wedding anniversary, Ivy and Cyril have two sons, Ian and Philip, and a daughter, Christine, who lives in Australia. They are very grateful to God for all his leading and guiding and for his many blessings throughout their sixty years of marriage.

Mayor visits Wood Green Pathfinders
The Mayor of Haringey, Councillor Sheila Peacock, was invited by the Pathfinder leader Horace Blackburn and his team to visit the Wood Green Pathfinders on 26 February.

The Pathfinders performed a Flag Ceremonies and repainted the Pledge, Law and Motto, after which the Pathfinder leader gave the opening remarks. The Mayor was introduced and welcomed by Pastor Keith Boleau, pastor of Wood Green and Palmers churches.

In her speech the Mayor gave the Pathfinders an insight into her role. Councillor Peacock was elected as Mayor for the municipal year 2004-5, and she represents the Council at many events. She explained to the Pathfinders how she became Mayor, and told them that there are 133 languages spoken in Haringey.

She also told them that she was a teacher and taught in two schools in Tottenham. She then gave a little history of Haringey, the borough being formed in 1965 and made up of Tottenham, Wood Green and Hornsey.

As Mayor it is very difficult fitting in with family life, admitted Councillor Peacock, who was pleased to answer questions put to her by the Pathfinders, such as:

Does she make crucial decisions? Does she say no to any demands? How does she see a Christian’s role in society? The Mayor commended them for asking such interesting questions. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a copy of the book Adventist Home. Communication Department.
Flower Festival preview evening sold out

When we suggested raising the cost of tickets for the special Preview Evening for the Stratford-on-Avon church Flower Festival to £15 some people thought we would have a job to sell them. However, although the Festival was not until the weekend of 9-11 September all 150 tickets were sold within ten days - and there was a waiting list. The Mayor of Waltham, Dorothy Thornhill, officially opened the Festival and Father Dominica was the often-superior speaker. Sister Frances is now the joint Spirituality of All Saints, as Anglican religious community. She also founded Helen House, the first hospice in the world's first children's hospice. Last year she designated Douglas House, the first hospice for teenagers and young adults. Both Helen House and Douglas House will benefit from the profits of the Flower Festival this year.oungconstrued

West London Women's 'Experience the Power' campaign

Experience the Power, an evangelistic outreach programme hosted by the Adventist Church in West London, was launched on Sabbath 20 August at the Harrow Road Town Hall. Speaker for the programme was Walter Pearson. ‘Missionary for “Breath of Life” ministry’, one of a family of broadcasts airing at the Adventist Media Centre in North America. Its purpose is to present the ever-living Gospel of Jesus Christ with a contemporary, urban perspective to all age groups. Experience the Power is structured to be engaging and entertaining, but is also designed to draw these present closer to the Lord, and to invite firm commitment to Jesus Christ. Music for the event is professionally produced by a professional praise band and the programme is being filmed so that it can be televised later in the year.

I believe that one of the best methods of presenting the Gospel is through the media available, said Dr Steve Thomas, pastor of the London and West London Districts and co-ordinator of the event. ‘By these last days, God is calling us to try new methods of reaching a dying world and I think we should test out these opportunities,’ he concluded.

Catherine Boldeo/ANR

Pulmonary Medicine

At the conference, the Southern African Theological Seminary (SATS) and the University of Pretoria’s Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMS) held the Second South African Pulmonary Medicine Congress. The main theme of the congress was ‘Pulmonary Medicine – The last frontier’. The congress was an opportunity for pulmonary medicine specialists, as well as pulmonary medicine registrars, to present and discuss their research and case studies.

The congress was attended by over 200 delegates from across Southern Africa, as well as international experts in the field. The programme included plenary sessions, workshops, and poster presentations. The plenary sessions covered a range of topics, including the diagnosis and management of pulmonary diseases, the role of imaging in pulmonary medicine, and the latest advances in lung transplantation.

ACW book sales

October 09 John Loughborough 10am-5pm
09 John Loughborough 10am-5pm
23 Sheffield Burngreave 10am-5pm
30 West Midlands 10am-5pm
November 09 John Loughborough 10am-5pm
23 Sheffield Burngreave 10am-5pm
30 West Midlands 10am-5pm

Saturday 30 September to 2 October at Highgate House, Crowthorne, North Hants RG9 4BN

This weekend will provide an opportunity for people to find more about the Adventist Church in Britain. The weekend will include a range of activities, including worship services, Bible studies, and seminars on a variety of topics. The weekend is open to all, and is free to attend. For more information, contact the Adventist History website: www.adventisthistory.org.uk/messenger

Moses archives now indexed by Google

Over the last few months approximately 700 editions of the Moses (early editions were known as the Missionary), dating from 1832 to 1895, have been placed on the Adventist History website. The work has been carried out in a collaborative project between the British Union Conference, the Ellen G. White Research Centre at Newbold College, and the Newbold College Library. The magazines have now been converted to Adobe Acrobat format and can be viewed at www.adventist.org.uk/messenger. They were indexed by Google, ensuring that researchers interested in the world can now search through the archives using a simple web browser.

Those who have not looked through these old magazines before will be fascinated by the wealth of information they contain. Dates, names, and pictures will be of interest to many family tree researchers, and information about how Adventist evangelists were engaged in evangelistic campaigns with emeritum. The magazines were aimed specifically at the community in St Paul’s where the British Central Church is located, and was held as excellent response. Many visitors came in out of the street, and average attendance was in the region of 150 on weekdays and over 250 at weekends. First Nembhard is originally from Jamaica. Turned down by Oxford, Hannah will study French, German, French, Classics and General Advanced level GCEs. They were in Latin, Biology, Business Studies, Geography, and Economics.

‘Students need to have a choice: Newcastle. The Mayor of Watford, Dorothy Thornhill, officially opened the Festival and Father Dominica was the often-superior speaker. Sister Frances was born in Scotland in 1942, and trained as a nurse at Great Ormond Street and the Middlesex Hospital in London. In 1986 she joined the Society of All Saints, as Anglican religious community. In 1982 Sister Frances founded Helen House, the world’s first children’s hospice. Last year she designated Douglas House, the first hospice for teenagers and young adults. Both Helen House and Douglas House will benefit from the profits of the Flower Festival this year.oungconstrued

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