

# Messenger

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

26 May 2006 • Volume 111 • 12

## NEC Ordination

by Frederick Mapp, NEC Communication secretary, and Yvonne Weekes.

On Sabbath 22 April seven senior licensed ministers were ordained to the Gospel ministry at a Special North England Conference Day of Fellowship. Pastor Selburn Fray, host district pastor of our Wolverhampton Oxford Street and Great Bricklin Street churches, beamed with delight as he welcomed over 2,000 people who had travelled from far and near to attend the event at the Wolverhampton Civic Hall. Dressed in their spring Sabbath finery, this multicultural mix had come to demonstrate their affection, appreciation and support for Pastors Graham Allcock, Gary Gordon, Alan Hush, Felix Jack, Richard Jackson, Kevin Johns and Cedric Vine, with their wives and children.

Special guests included, among others, Dr Patrick Allen, president of the West Indies Union Conference, and mentor of Richard Jackson; Pastor Llewellyn Edwards, president of the Scottish Mission, and mentor of Graham Allcock; Pastor Cecil Perry, president of the British Union; Pastor Eric Lowe, Executive secretary of the British Union Conference; Pastor Alan Hodges, Ministerial secretary, British Union Conference; Pastor Don McFarlane, Field secretary of the Trans-European Division; Pastor Edson Augustus, district pastor St Vincent and the Grenadines, and mentor of Kevin Johns; Pastor Peter Kerr, president of the Turks and Caicos Mission.

The morning services of worship and fellowship beautifully set the stage for a memorable afternoon ordination service.

Dr and Mrs Gupta's encouraging testimony told how God used Sister Gupta's consistent Christian lifestyle to reach her husband and other family members and bring them from a strong Hindu background to serve the Risen Christ.

Young Jeharna South, who dedicated her singing to God at a special service in her home church Pendeford on Sabbath afternoon 4 March, created the right receptive mood for Dr Patrick Allen's sermon with a passionate and interpretative rendition of 'De La Rosa'.

Dr Allen addressed the day's theme, 'Called to Serve', and reminded the congregation in general, and the ordinands in particular, that when we are called to serve

- \* We should be prepared to be 'minutemen';
- \* We are set apart for, and given a particular work to do;
- \* Trials, troubles and tribulations are not just possible, they are inevitable;
- \* There may be fire and flood but God uses fire and flood to purify, motivate and encourage;
- \* We have a divine cosmic Companion who will always be with us.

The congregation will long remember his closing thought: 'You are called to serve God. Serve him even through flood and fire. Don't give up! Don't fall out! Don't drop out!'

'The work that God has called you to do is extremely special,' Pastor Don McFarlane told the ordinands in his ordination sermon. Speaking from 1 Timothy 4:9-16, he reminded them that 'the Gospel ministry is very challenging; it brings a fair share of despair, discouragement and unfair criticism.'

On behalf of the newly-ordained ministers (and their families) Pastor Richard Jackson responded with an expression of gratitude to the spouses, children, relatives, administrators, institutions, colleagues, and congre-

gations who have encouraged, motivated and supported them along the way. Speaking from Jeremiah 31:1-5, he confessed that: 'It is a comfort to serve an all-knowing and understanding Father, who can see far down the road ahead of us.'

'Be not afraid of their faces!' On this day of ordination, we see only the glory of the task that lies before us. We celebrate the coming together of we pastors and members, for the building of the kingdom of God on earth. But God knows that down the road, there will be "faces".

'God knows there will at times during our ministry be angry faces and anxious faces; there will be doubting and indifferent faces; there will be frowning faces and puffed-up faces; there will be selfish faces and even raging faces. But we are also assured that God will send us an abundance of support as well. He will send us bright and shining faces, eager and anxious faces, quiet and saintly faces, to encourage us along the way. So we will not fear.'

Ordination not only marked a milestone in the growth and development of the ordinands, it also climaxed an eventful week for the Gordons. Sister Andrea Gordon was safely delivered of Hannah May (the newest addition to the NEC pastoral family) on Sabbath evening 15 April.

This wonderful spring Sabbath of fellowship, worship, and new beginnings was well received by those who attended. From the comments received, the consensus seems to be one of appreciation for 'a well planned and executed programme.'







## What does 'postmodern' mean anyway?

Sujoya Paul interviews Reinder Bruinsma at Newbold College

### 'Suddenly, it is fashionable to talk about God!'

Tell us a little about yourself.

I'm from the Netherlands and have worked in various jobs throughout the world, including Holland, USA, West Africa and the UK. I'm back now in the Netherlands and my current job is Union President there. I also enjoy teaching from time to time, which has brought me to Newbold this year to lead a two-week intensive course.

#### You gave a public lecture during your stay. What was that about?

I looked at the way the Adventist Church has dealt with non-Adventist Christians throughout history. We do not live in a vacuum; our Church came out of other Churches. Often there is an ambivalence since on the one hand we like to be separate and this has led to a considerable degree of isolationism. On the other hand there are others who believe sincerely in the same Jesus Christ. There are many areas where we can co-operate.

#### What is your two-week intensive programme about?

It is titled *Approaches to the Modern Mind* and deals with the prevailing postmodern mentality particularly found in the West.

#### How would you define postmodernism?

If you are postmodern, you no longer think in absolutes; you have your truth and I have mine. You are happy to agree and that brings an enormous amount of relativity.

#### What are the implications of postmodernism?

Postmodern people find it very difficult to commit to things, e.g. marriage is viewed with a wait and see attitude. There is great suspicion of institutional religion. They ask how meaningful are these Churches, and are they just perpetuating traditions?

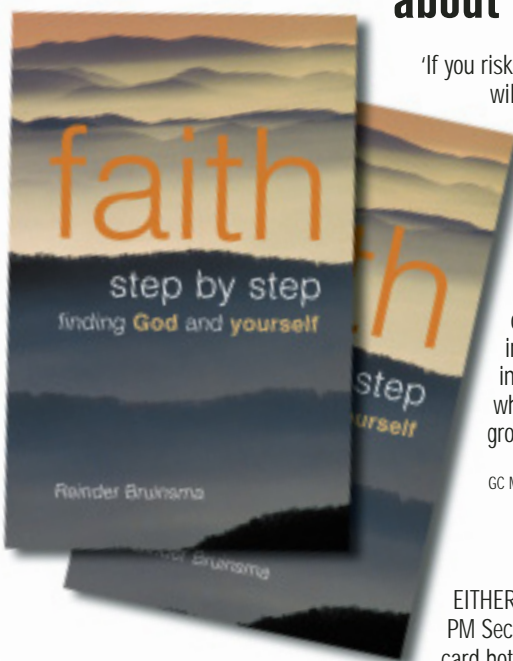
#### What angle do you take in your classes to this modern phenomenon?

I paint the origin of postmodernism, giving the philosophical background. Mass disillusionment was caused by the two world wars, the horrors of Auschwitz and the empty promises of Marxism. I try to profile a postmodern person and identify how the Church should approach them, i.e. focusing on the local fellowship rather than the General Conference as a whole.

#### Are there any advantages to postmodernism?

It gives us many positive opportunities since postmoderns are very spiritual people, though not in the traditional sense, i.e. they believe in the New Age and Angels, etc. It is no longer taboo to speak about religion with friends; it is even fashionable to talk about God! The challenge is how the Church can formulate its message to make it relevant. We shouldn't talk so much about 'truth', but how it makes a difference in our lives.

## What the General Conference says about this book:



'If you risk reading this book you will be stimulated in your thinking, energised in your spiritual growth and more deeply committed to a growing relationship with your God. Reinder Bruinsma has once again provided innovative spiritual insights for his readers which give them solid ground under their feet.'

James A. Cress  
GC Ministerial Association secretary

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## Healthwise

with Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

### Air Traffic Control

Around 5.2 million people in the UK suffer the effects of asthma, with only 20% of the 3M or so adults affected believing their condition is under control. Support for their view comes from the asthma charities who state that asthma symptoms have an unnecessary impact on the lives of those concerned.

Asthma is a condition affecting the airways, with the small tubes of the lungs becoming sensitive and inflamed. Various irritants contribute to the condition making the tubes narrower. Thus it becomes harder to breathe. The muscles controlling

the breathing tighten, and the inflamed linings of the airways start to swell and produce sticky mucus or phlegm.

The symptoms of asthma include, along with the tightening of the chest, wheezing or whistling noises, coughing, and of course difficulty in breathing. An asthma attack may come on suddenly or happen gradually.

Researchers seeking the cause of asthma have cited a number of possible triggers: flu illness early in life; exposure to industrial and/or domestic cleaning agents; vehicle exhaust fumes; nitrogen trichloride (the by-product of pool chlorine, sweat and urine) in indoor pools; antibiotic use early

in life; tobacco smoke; house-dust mites; mould spores; pollen; and pets. All have been implicated at some time.

Asthma has limited the quality of children's lives according to a recent survey. About 85% of 17,340 children surveyed for Asthma UK and the BBC1's *Blue Peter* programme said they experienced asthma problems during the day, while 45% had had sleep problems associated with their condition.

Many of the children are equipped with preventer inhalers and reliever inhalers, with about 20% of the children surveyed reporting using the latter about 9 times a week (more than 3 times

the recommended amount).

It is estimated that approximately 500,000 people cannot be adequately treated with existing medications, which if used properly, should give the majority of sufferers good airway control, and thus minimise the effects of the condition. Avoiding, as far as possible, the hazardous triggers of asthma should make for optimal air traffic control and bring a much-needed quality of life factor.



# Of Fanny's and Annie's attitude

David Marshall

A doctor's negligence resulted in the blindness of Fanny Crosby when she was six weeks old. You knew that? Of course you did. You also, perhaps, know her as the author of the hymn 'To God be the glory':

But what impresses me far more than the thousand hymns she wrote as an adult, was one verse Fanny wrote when she was 8. She wrote it, apparently, after living through a period when (totally understandably) she had been feeling sorry for herself and peering through sightless eyes at a dark future:

*O what a happy soul am I!  
Although I cannot see,  
I am resolved that in this world  
Contented I will be;  
How many blessings I enjoy  
That other people don't!  
To weep and sigh because I'm blind,  
I cannot, and I won't.*

That verse, in my estimation, puts Fanny streets ahead of all the critics who pick at her simple, earnest style, and all the Biggest Shots and Highest Honchos of the contemporary music scene.

She said to herself, 'OK. I'm blind. That's a given. But I have a choice, nevertheless: a choice of attitude.'

Fanny chose to view her disability as a challenge to be overcome. And she overcame it. Better than that. It is probable that she achieved more than she would have as a sighted person. It has been suggested that blindness was the grain of grit that produced Fanny's pearl.

An unusual, isolated instance, you think?

Let me introduce you to Annie. Was she a hymn writer? No. She was an accomplished, well-educated lady who was a member of the Adventist church in which I spent the first two decades of my life.

Annie's father, a poor farmer, had raised a family in our community in the decades before the National Health Service. Hence, when her little brother threw a sharp scissor into her eye, the first response of the family was not to call a doctor. Five days after the accident, when my mother called at the farm, young Annie was in deep distress and had still not been taken to hospital. My mother was a quietly determined – and, at that stage, young – woman,

and she took Annie in hand. Inside an hour Annie had been taken by rail and river to the region's major hospital. Brilliant surgeons were, nevertheless, unable to prevent Annie's loss of sight in both eyes.

The young Annie drew inspiration from the Fanny Crosby story. She proved that she was made of similar stuff to the hymn writer. Annie exercised her choice of attitude. Like Fanny, Annie took advantage of all the educational opportunities available to blind people. Her particular gift proved to be languages. Fanny Crosby married a musician, and Annie a linguist. It was noticeable that Annie was the best-educated, highest achiever in her family.

Part of Fanny Crosby's choice of attitude was a decision to build her life on faith. Annie did the same. God became her Rock. The strong faith she had in middle age, when I knew her, was one founded on experience. 'God has proved himself to me, over and over,' she would say. By contrast, her siblings wandered away from faith, though they always kept in touch with my family.

Not surprisingly Annie's favourite hymn was one written by Fanny Crosby. It began with the words, 'All the way my Saviour leads me/What have I to ask beside?' (*SDAH*, 516.) The conclusion of the first verse included the words Annie liked to repeat, 'For I know whate'er befall me/Jesus doeth all things well.'

I thought of Fanny and Annie when I finished reading Stephen Pollard's biography, *David Blunkett* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2005). Blunkett, likewise, made a major choice of attitude – and chose rightly – when he was very young. Like the two ladies, he achieved great things through the educational opportunities made available to him. In the 80s, still a relatively young man, he led Sheffield City Council. When Mr Blair came to power in 1997 he selected Blunkett for one of the offices of state. He served first as Education Secretary and then as Home Secretary. The massive mountain of documents had to be mastered by the blind Secretary of State, as by a sighted one. Some were recorded on tape, others provided in Braille. In the anxious weeks following 9/11 it was Blunkett's responsibility to originate the great raft of legislation related to home security necessitated by the War against Terrorism. That was Blunkett's finest hour. That it ended sadly, reflected the fact that, while making,

and sticking to, the same attitude choice as Fanny and Annie, David Blunkett rejected the strength on which they built their lives. Christianity changes lives from 'the inside out'. There are limits to the life-transforming power of political ideologies.

Though, arguably, Blunkett's story is not over yet. Neither is yours.

Whatever you are facing, you *do* have a choice: a choice of attitude. You can choose whether the adversities you face will make you *bitter* or *better*.

Those who choose *bitter* become losers, of little use to anyone, including themselves. Those who choose *better* first choose to become learners.

God does not cause your adversities. But, once they have happened, he may use them to get your attention. Those who choose 'better' rather than 'bitter', have a further choice available to them: to enlist the power of God to learn from life's challenges. God may use adversity to refine us, but never to ruin us.

Trainee pharaoh Moses, with Honours in Hieroglyphs, Logistics and Military Strategy, must have looked like both a failure and a fool when he was reduced to being a desert shepherd in the Sinai. But God used his forty years as a shepherd to prepare Moses to shepherd his people from slavery to nationhood.

During the forty years before his call from a burning bush, did Moses always understand God's scheme of things? Were there long periods when there was no voice from heaven? I think there were. But Moses had – and exercised – choice. He chose to build his life on faith.

At the end of his life he penned the 'Song of Moses' in which, using the third person, he traced God's leading during his forty years of adversity:

*'In a desert land he found him,  
in a barren and howling waste.  
He shielded him and cared for him;  
he guarded him as the apple of his eye. . . .  
The Lord alone led him.'*  
Deuteronomy 32:10-12, NIV.

That much was clear from the post-burning bush perspective. Each day of those forty lonely years Moses had exercised his choice – by faith – that the Lord 'doeth all things well'. And forty years on God called Moses to move from learner to liberator.

The longer I live, the more I am sure that life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we respond to what happens. In a word: ATTITUDE.





Senior elder M.L. Rodney, Angela Austin, Ange Thomas, Alexis Austin, Tendai Zowa, Zelika Rankin, Taurai Mazivanhanga, Personal Ministries director: Zoam Hlaba and Pastor Michael Mannix

## Chingford: Six Baptised

It was a Spirit-filled Sabbath afternoon on 23 March. Chingford church was blessed by the baptism of six people who had all participated in regular Bible study classes conducted by church elder Martin Luther Rodney and Pastor Michael Mannix. Pastor Mannix baptised the candidates at the John Loughborough School, giving words of encouragement through his sermon entitled 'Being led by the Spirit'.

An appeal was made, and five more people stood to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

R. BUNBURY AND N. NGARA

## God's daughters

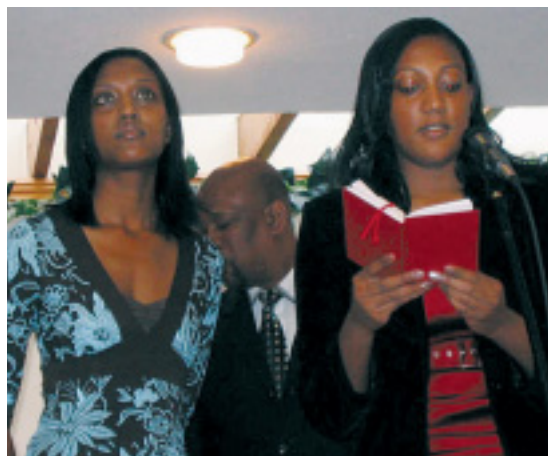
Claudine and Leanne Officer are sisters twice over. First they are the daughters of Alfred and Perron Officer, second they are daughters of God.

Rays of spring sunshine lit up that Sunday 23 April and the scent of spring flowers permeated the air. Family, relatives and friends graced the event with their presence and lent their voices in soulful gospel chorus and hymns.

The father of Claudine and Leanne lived up to his way with words in both his welcome and presentation. Prayer, Psalms and praise ascended to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in acknowledgement of their role in bringing Claudine and Leanne to this exciting and crucial point in their life's journey. Personal tributes varied in psalms, as read by Alannah and Priya friends of Claudine and Leanne, and songs in the voices of Paul and Iris, duet, and Darae, soloist; but the

pivotal moment in that variation was Reanne, the daughter of Leanne, Harmonica's tribute in 5 notes. It was more than wonderful. Claudine's son Sasha's tribute was simple and sweet, 'I am very proud of my mother today.'

Pastor Des Boldeau, relative of Claudine and Leanne, and a son of Chiswick, commended Claudine and Leanne as adults who have reached the place of transition in their lives. His powerful sermonette stressed the transition process in relevance to their spiritual experience. In the baptismal pool stood Pastors Richard



Holder, minister of Chiswick church, and Des Boldeau, who conducted the immersions. At this high divine hour two biological sisters were immersed in water but rose again spiritual twin sisters, newborn babes in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It was a special ceremony.

LOUISE FRANCOIS

## Brixton: Eight Baptised

There was joy in heaven and also in the hearts of eight new members of Brixton church who pledged their allegiance to follow Christ in baptism on Sabbath 25 March. This happened on the heels of the Faith and Family Festival, an evangelistic event, held from 11-25 March.

A steady flow of friends and members streamed into the church at every meeting to hear the guest speaker, Pastor Earl Baldwin, preach about the experiences of the patriarchs of the Bible and the relevance of those experiences to our present situations.

Pastor Baldwin, born in Trinidad and Tobago, is currently the senior pastor of the Ebenezer Adventist church in New

York. He is a dynamic speaker and a Spirit-filled man of God. He has held numerous evangelistic events throughout the Caribbean and in the US.

Each night we were spiritually uplifted as he made the Bible plain. Some of his topics included: Confession of the Blessed Lover; How to enjoy life and still go to heaven, and What to do when prayer fails. He was supported in his ministry with singing from Neal Lalgée, a singing evangelist, Paulette Baldwin, his daughter, and the Brixton Praise team.

After the meetings, Christine Thomas came to the conclusion that there was nothing in the world that could keep her there. She said that her

love for the Lord far surpassed any other attractions. She is convinced that her desire to renew her vows to the Lord was divinely inspired. Her story was that a member of the church visited the hair salon where she worked to ask about hair products and she grasped the opportunity to enquire about the location of an Adventist church. She was directed to Brixton church where she attended the meetings and subsequently made her decision. She was encouraged by Sister K. Grant and the other Bible workers.

Christine, along with seven other candidates, Danny Barrett, Lillian Bailey, Patrina Agard-Hope, Samantha DeJonge, Page Reid, Rufus Berry and Kenoy Lindsay, was baptised by Pastor Hamilton Williams and Pastor Akakpo.

JOAN REID

## Stanborough School

by Dionne Whitehall, PRO

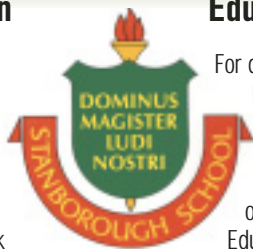
### In Theatre Production

Stanborough School was made proud when two of its Year 11 students wowed audiences in the theatre production 'The Sounds of Sirens' on 26 and 27 April.

In this play, created by Mark Grey and presented by the Agape Theatre Company, Claire portrayed Catherine Eddison, a sly nurse who was tangled in the feuding of a greedy family, while Yasmine played the family's younger daughter 'Shaz', who continually argued with her older sister.

Audiences were in high spirits from the humour and the food for thought embedded in the script, while the actors had fun spreading the Gospel to others.

Claire and Yasmine have shared their talents with Stanborough School for five years and will both graduate this year. Claire, a previous West End actress, will return to Stanborough School to pursue the International Baccalaureate Diploma, while Yasmine will continue with the performing arts.



### Education Day

For decades Stanborough students have been using their talents for God, and on Sabbath 29 April some of these talents were shared with the members of Fulham church. At this Education Day, Stanborough students and staff provided an exciting children's story, mission update, scripture reading and musical items before the sermon was delivered by Dr Keith Davidson, British Union Conference Education director.

We at Stanborough would love to fellowship with *your* church. Please contact us at [director@spsch.org](mailto:director@spsch.org) so that we may be involved in your services.



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Above, Brian addresses the evangelistic crowd. Left, Brian at 'the day job'.



## 'Hope for Tomorrow' Week Six

It is now week six of the special series of meetings being conducted by Brian Davison at the Stanborough Centre next to the BUC headquarters in Watford. Judging by similar approaches in past years the audience should have dropped alarmingly by this stage, but this is not the case with the 'Truth for Today - Hope for Tomorrow' campaign, as the lecture hall is still packed from week to week with about 40 neighbourhood friends and 80-90 church members. Particularly encouraging is the

number of young people present. For many of them it is the first time they have heard the beliefs of the church explained in a systematic way. The youth also participate with musical items, and tonight it was the turn of four Serbian young people now based in St Albans who harmonised beautifully in their rendering of 'I'd rather have Jesus'.

Episodes from the film *Jesus* are proving to be very popular, and Brian's weekly presentations seem to be having a twofold effect. For the non-members it is helping them to discover the relevance of the Bible in today's world; and in the case of church members it is reaffirming

their faith in the Adventist Message. The PowerPoint material acquired from the USA is certainly illuminating people's understanding of such themes as Salvation, the Second Coming, the Judgement, and the great prophecies of the Bible. Brian's campaign is one of 853 outreach projects being conducted globally by lay-persons who have been encouraged by Robert Folkenberg, the former GC president, who is now an evangelistic co-ordinator with the Carolina Conference. More information about this programme can be found on the following website: [www.global-evangelism.org](http://www.global-evangelism.org)

JOHN ARTHUR

## Dunstable dream comes true Clarendon Outreach

On Sabbath 11 February at 9:30am the doors of the Dunstable Adventist Community church swung open, bringing to fruition the 40-year-old dream of the Luton Adventist community, to establish an Adventist presence in the Dunstable area. The church housed at the St Augustine Church in Downside was established with the hope of bringing to this community the benefits of a different lifestyle and the hope of a loving Redeemer.

Pastor Andrew Leonce - pastor of the three churches now existing in the Luton and Dunstable area - in his sermon to the fifty-five people in attendance, exhorted us to be a formidable force in the area. He also challenged us to be so dynamic in our witness that we may soon create the need for further church expansion in the community.

The congregation was informed of the diverse history of Dunstable, with Anglo-Saxon influence in its very name, and a Roman and medieval heritage, and was encouraged to become an indelible part of this rich history.

Greetings on the day were extended from the sister churches Luton Central and North by elders Claudius Munangati and Ronald Rennie respectively; Pastor Samuel Ouadjo, former president of the Ivory Coast Mission, who will be actively involved in the evangelistic work in the area, and Cathy Baldeau, Communication secretary of the South England Conference.

On 15 April Clarendon church put on an outreach event in Netherfield. 'Freebie' bags containing a whole range of literature, pens, keyfobs, etc. were handed out to some 250 people. Bryn Dixon (elder) and Danny Brady witnessed by singing and playing Country and Western Gospel music outside the church. They were joined by the local URC minister and some of his members. Inside, 'Mind the Gap' was presented by Pastor Melvyn Ellis, on the topic of Faith.

In six months Clarendon's small membership has distributed into the communities of Netherfield and surrounding areas 2,500 witnessing items.

Further outreach is planned in the form of concerts. Two groups from Nottingham Central church have promised to contribute the talents of their young musicians to assist us in our efforts, and have planned a programme by 'Spiritual Addiction,' and the Manver's Children's Gospel Choir. This concert will be held on Friday evening 23 June at 7.30pm.

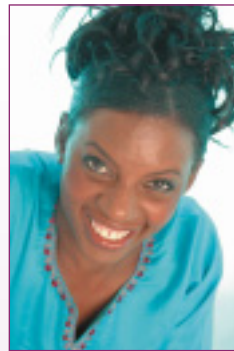
ANDREW STEPHENSON

ERIC HAND

## Amazing Facts

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Main speaker: Dr Jean Ross,  
director of evangelism  
Amazing Facts





# Gay rights threat to religious freedom

Sharon Platt-McDonald highlights the issues

In a recent document dated March 2006, entitled 'Getting Equal: Proposals to Outlaw Sexual Orientation Discrimination in the Provision of Goods and Services', Christians are again confronted with a challenge to their religious freedom.

Through this consultation document the Government hopes to start the debate that could result in the introduction of new laws to outlaw 'homophobic' discrimination.

The new sexual orientation regulations would, in effect, make 'homophobic' discrimination illegal in several key areas: the provision of goods, facilities and services; the selling or letting of premises; education; and public authorities.

The broad term, 'goods, facilities and services', would cover hotel or guesthouse accommodation, retail sales and the service industry. Additionally, the school curriculum would be affected as it could force the equal promotion of homosexuality and heterosexuality in schools. This would be a move which could prove to be just as controversial as the repeal of Section 28.

The proposed sexual orientation regulations would come under the category of civil, not criminal laws. As such they are relatively easy to use and activists could launch legal actions against their opponents with little difficulty.

These regulations would mean that it would be illegal to treat a homosexual differently when

providing any goods, facilities or services.

Unless there are exceptions from the regulations the following threats exists:

### Implications to religious freedom

- Churches meeting in public buildings or those receiving public funding could be open to litigation if they held to the Bible's teaching on moral sexual ethics
- Christian societies would be forced to admit practising homosexuals as members
- Organisers of a Church retreat, Christian Old People's Home or a Christian Bed and Breakfast would be breaking the law if they refuse a homosexual couple
- Gay groups could sue a Church for refusing to hire out its hall to them

### Implications for Schools/educational bodies

- Schools could be sued for not promoting gay rights in the curriculum
- Unions could be banned from meeting on school premises if a claim was to be made that their Christian Union was 'anti-gay'

It is clear that under the terms of the Civil Partnership Bill this new proposal will be given added strength.

As a Church we need to speak out firmly and politely against the laws (and proposed laws) of men which run contrary to the laws of God. Therefore, if you are concerned enough to write to your local MP about this impending legislation you may wish to do so and include points relating to biblical sexual morals and freedom of expression to follow the conviction of your religious beliefs.

It is clear that the new laws will benefit only a few people. In the 2001 census it was found that fewer than 0.2% of all households in England and Wales are headed by a same-sex couple.\* It seems unfair then that such sweeping new laws are being created for such a small number of people. This again is another device which seeks to destroy the place of marriage in society.

All six major world religions are opposed to homosexual practice. In 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 the Bible is clear that it is morally wrong. However it makes no criticism of the person who faces homosexual temptation but resists it. They are in the same predicament as any other sinner.

As Christians our response is to serve others in love and do good even to those who disagree with or oppose us. Yet we need to ensure that in so doing we are not compromising the Gospel or our Christian beliefs.

There is a vital need for exceptions in the proposed regulations to protect religious liberty and schools. The Equality Act 2006 provides reasonable exceptions to protect most of the major activities of religious groups. Unless parallel exceptions are included in the sexual orientation regulations, the Government would be indirectly discriminating against religious believers as they are proportionately more likely to believe that homosexual practice is wrong.

The deadline for the consultation document is 5 June 2006. The Government is expected to put the regulations before Parliament by the end of July 2006.

Let us pray that there will be accurate, fair, and extensive coverage in the media of Christian concerns and that truth will be robustly and publicly defended. We also pray that God will convict the hearts of Government ministers that they will realise the threat it poses to religious groups and that religious liberty will be protected.

\* Census 2001: National Report for England and Wales Part 2, ONS, 2004, Table UV93, page 70



## Appeal for video recordings of Vince Quinn

Bob Rodd

It hardly seems possible that Vince Quinn died five years ago. Hundreds will remember him from Aberdaron where he was one of the most popular staff members. He had a tremendous sense of humour, joy and desire to be of help. In fact, after attending Aberdaron for five years, he made his commitment to Jesus and was baptised there at one of the happiest baptisms that Aberdaron had witnessed.

Because he could not get Sabbath privileges at his work, he took the brave step of handing in his notice without having another job lined up. It was just after this that Pastor Martin Bell contacted him to see if he and Eleri would be willing to move to Scotland to direct the health programme. They both accepted this invitation willingly, and in the fifteen years Vince worked at Roundelwood he also made a tremendous impression for good on thousands of people who stayed there. Health clients who knew him still talk about him.

It is also interesting how he made his final deci-

sion to resign from his previous job. One day he was talking to a staff member who had brought a group of pupils for their swimming practice. The staff member pointed to one of the swimmers and said that if this girl was not so stupid in refusing to swim on Sabbath she could possibly swim for England. Vince told the staff member that the girl was doing absolutely the right thing in putting God first and it was something he should be doing. It was right after this that he gave in his notice and asked for baptism. Perhaps that girl will never know, this side of the Kingdom, how she influenced Vince, and it should be a lesson to all of those who profess to be Christians that they are a witness to the world. They are God's bible to many who do not read a Bible.

Vince's two children and wife still live in Crieff and attend the Crieff church. Amulree, who is now 15, gave the enclosed letter to the writer in the hope that she, and her brother Arran, can know more about their father by copying any video which those who attended

Aberdaron camps still have. This is the letter that Amulree wrote:

*'This year will be the fifth anniversary of our Dad, Vince Quinn's, death. Both Arran and I were very young when he died and sadly our memories of him are beginning to dim. He is missed very much by a lot of us, perhaps most by those of us who remember him from Aberdaron Family camp, where we are often told of the mischief he got up to. If any of you have any video recordings which include him, we ask that you would please contact us on 01764 681408 so that the precious memories you own could also be shared with us, his family. Thank you all, Amulree.'*



**CLIVE BLACKBURN (1919-2006) d. 30 March.** Clive was a Christian totally committed to the Adventist faith. Sincerity was the hallmark of his character and throughout his life devotion to his Lord and the Adventist cause took precedence over all else in his life. Clive was born to Adventist parents on 10 October 1919, and was educated at Stanborough School, after which he took over his father's shoe repairing business located on St Albans Road opposite the headquarters of our Church in Britain. It was a good business and Clive was a good workman. Many people entered his shop each day and Clive used every opportunity to witness for his Lord. A number of Adventist young men found employment in the business and at least two of those, including the writer, later became ministers. Clive married Amy Irene Ashley on 1 July 1956, and a year later their daughter Lorna Ruth was born. They also adopted two more children, John and Gillian. Lorna is married to Pastor Dale Arthur, and they work as a ministerial team in Canberra, Australia. Sadly, Clive's wife Amy died in July 1968. Although Clive owned a very fine business he believed fervently that his calling was in more direct Christian endeavour. For over twenty years, and until he could work no longer, he served as a literature-evangelist in the West Country and in his home county of Hertfordshire. When Clive called at homes he did more than sell books. He witnessed in both word and deed. Many received free literature and advice on healthful living. In other areas he helped provide ministers in Africa with books by Ellen White and sent donations in support of Adventist Frontier Missions. For many years his average ingathering total was between seven and eight hundred pounds. Clive had been a member of the Watford and Stanborough Park churches but in 2003, when his health was declining, he moved to live with his sister Alice, a member of the Grantham church. Alice and his daughter Lorna spent the last days of Clive's life constantly at his bedside. Clive loved his Lord and was a witness to many. His commitment in serving the cause he loved was an example to us all. There are many who will feel the sadness of loss at his passing: his brother Arnold and his family in Cornwall, the family of his late brother Cyril here in Grantham and especially his sister Alice and his daughter Lorna and family. All of us who have faith in the words of Jesus Christ will find comfort in his promise to come back, bringing with him a gift of a life that will never again experience sickness, sadness or death. The funeral service of Clive Blackburn was conducted by Pastor John Ferguson on 6 April in the Grantham church. Friends and church members from all over Britain attended, including representatives of The Stanborough Press, local Conferences and the British Union.

PASTOR R. H. SURRIDGE

**JANET KENDALL (1945-2006) d. 19 February.** The Bristol Lodge Causeway church family suffered a very sad loss when Janet Kendall died at the age of 61 following a brief illness. Janet came into the Lodge Causeway church with her husband Brian in 1970 following an evangelistic campaign conducted by Pastor Malcolm Taylor. She will be remembered as a warm-hearted, loveable Christian whose unpretentious manner won her many friends. During her later years she was employed as an accounts supervisor at the Renishaw precision engineering company in Wotton-under-Edge. The funeral service, held in a packed church on 2 March, was planned by Janet and Brian's three daughters, Rachel, Paula and Anna, and was jointly conducted by church elders Anthony King and Ruth Ohman and Pastor Brian Martin. Janet's nephew, David Taviner – a producer of BBC's 'Songs of Praise' – led the congregation in prayer, and Anthony King presented a vivid outline of her life. A notable feature of the service was the presence of about a hundred of Janet Kendall's family, friends and former work colleagues. A short service ensued at Westerleigh crematorium, south Gloucestershire. The Lodge Causeway membership extend their heartfelt condolences to Brian and family. We mourn Janet's loss in the comforting assurance of the day of Christ's soon appearing in glory to resurrect his sleeping children.

PASTOR BRIAN MARTIN

**SANDRA ROSEMARY SWEENEY (1967-2006) d. 27 February.** Sandra was born in 1967 in Preston, Lancashire, the daughter of Mike and Myrtle Sweeney. She was one of seven children, and was brought up in the Fulwood area of Preston and attended Archbishop Temple High School where she studied hospitality. Her work included roles in the caring professions of nursing and childminding. Her funeral was one of celebration for her life. Sandra was a well respected person within her community, and the church was packed to capacity – a clear demonstration of how she had touched many lives. Among the tributes was a song from her only child, Cameron. Her sister Debbie made mention of the characteristics of her sister – bubbly, outgoing, sparkling personality, generosity and loyalty. Sandra showed remarkable courage in her fight through her illness and always remained cheerful and was a source of encouragement for others. She leaves behind her son, Cameron, three brothers, Steadman, Roan and Leon and three sisters Jean, Debbie and Michelle. The family would like to acknowledge friends and well wishers who, by their prayers, visits and words of comfort, have strengthened them during their bereavement. May we all strive to be ready to meet Jesus and look forward to being reunited once more with our dear sister Sandra.

JENNY JEFFERS

**WESLEY HILTON HAWES (1917-2006) d. 4 February.** Born and bred in the little village of Nordelph, near Downham Market, Wesley Hawes spent all his life there following in the footsteps of his father, as a farmer and an agricultural engineer. He was brought up in the Methodist tradition where he learned to love his Saviour and Lord through a profound study of the Scriptures and where a passion for church organ music was nurtured. There he also met the love of his life, Doris, who was to become his wife and lifelong partner for sixty-four years. At the age of 25, young Wesley was confined to his bed for a few weeks. During that time he discovered the book, *Daniel and Revelation*, as yet unopened, but purchased by his father from

a colporteur twenty-five years previously. An avid reader, and particularly interested in prophetic history, Wesley made contact with the Stanborough Press. This led to the founding of the small group of Seventh-day Adventists in the cathedral city of Ely who met each week in members' homes. Morning worship was at the Bowdens', and afternoon meetings were held at the home of Ivy and Reg Sindall. Wesley used to travel the eighteen miles from Nordelph on his motorbike, and later by car, when he was joined by his wife and young family. He was baptised at Norwich by Pastor George Roper approximately fifty-five years ago. For many years Sabbath meetings were held in the local British Legion Hall – an old Nissen hut! However, when the Ely Adventists were able to rent a small building for their sole use, Wesley purchased an organ for them. This he played to enhance the singing of the small but enthusiastic company of about twelve people who nevertheless could 'raise the roof' with their weekly praise and witness. Undaunted by the size of the congregation, Wesley invariably referred to the metric index of a hymn and selected an alternative tune from the many Methodist hymnals he carried, as well as introducing some of the anthems he had learned from his Chapel days. When the Ely Company disbanded in the 1980s through lack of members, the then new Hemel Hempstead church became the beneficiary of the Ely organ. Wesley's passion for organ music and hymns was infectious, as was his love and knowledge of the Scriptures, inspiring and encouraging those who may not have

studied at such a depth. Wesley lived all his life in a small village, but he held firm on his beliefs: his combine harvester rested on the seventh day... sometimes much to the concern of other farmers, who were also dependent on the weather conditions for their livelihood and anxious to harvest their crops at the right time! Wesley eventually retired at the age of 83. Until about a year before he died, he said that he enjoyed the blessings of excellent health, a growing family, and always took a great interest in world affairs. He also spent many an hour playing a pedal organ in his home. But Wesley also had his share of life's disappointments and problems, with members of his family having serious illnesses, including a son whose sight became severely impaired at the age of 40. Distressed though he must have been, he would say that 'in this life we cannot expect to be untouched by troubles', and point to the time when 'he will wipe away every tear'. This message of hope (Revelation 21:1-6) was included in Wesley's thanksgiving service held at the Downham Market Methodist Chapel, conducted by the local minister. The order of service, lovingly chosen by the family, also included some of Wesley's favourite hymns, and music by Bach. Wesley now rests in Nordelph cemetery, awaiting the call of the Lifegiver, and to be reunited with his wife Doris, and his children, Rita, Marcus, and Jane, and their families, to whom we extend our heartfelt sympathies. May they be comforted and encouraged by the strong faith of their loved one, and the One in whom he trusted.

MARGERY SINDALL

### ABC Sales Manager

**THE STANBOROUGH PRESS LIMITED** is seeking to appoint an Adventist Book Centre Sales Manager at its office in Grantham, Lincolnshire. Key responsibilities include the marketing of its UK sales portfolio which includes the oversight and hands-on management of new and existing products, its ABC outlets and its regular weekend book sales.

The successful applicant will have a proven marketing background preferably with a Marketing degree; experience with motivation of staff in a relatively small but challenging environment; strong analytical, verbal and written communication skills; and a strong commitment to the ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Salary and allowances according to denominational wage scale.

Letter of application with current CV and addresses of two referees should be sent to The Manager, Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Email: [stanborg@aol.com](mailto:stanborg@aol.com) **Deadline 5 June 2006.** Interviews will be held in June.

### The Personal Ministries Department of the South England Conference

is seeking to create a database of all SDA lawyers. If you are a solicitor, barrister, para-legal, legal secretary, notary public or law student, please send your contact details, including status, telephone number and email address to Dr Richard de Lisser at [rdelisser@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:rdelisser@secadventist.org.uk) by 31 May.

### The John Loughborough School seeks to appoint the following for beginning of Summer term 2006:

- Food Technology Teacher:* \* salary MPS
- Science Teacher:* part-time, MPS
- ICT Teacher:* part-time, MPS
- Learning Support Teacher:* MPS
- Learning Mentor:* NJC22 to 28
- History/PSHE Co-ordinator:* MPS+TLR 2c
- PE Teacher:* MPS
- Music:* part-time, MPS

\* All the above are full-time appointments except where stated otherwise.

Successful candidates will have a track record of success in their subject; commitment to the highest standards of learning and teaching; must subscribe to values of the school.

Further details/application forms from: Headteacher, John Loughborough School, Holcombe Road, Tottenham, London N17 9AD. Tel: 020 8808 7837.

**Closing date: 31 May.** Interviews in early June 2006.

### The Principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre

acknowledges with sincere thanks a donation of £300 received in February from the Manchester area; plus anonymous donations received during 'Connect One Million' £2, £5, £10, £15, £20, £20, £5, £30, £20, £40, £20, and a donation of £300 received in April from the Birmingham area.





## Student-led Spiritual *Timeout*

by Sujoya Paul Bullock

### *Timeout – What's your identity?*

was the week's theme, with two programmes being held most days. Moor Close Chapel was cosily arranged to bring a sense of community to the meetings. God's presence was invited and celebrated with new songs introduced and led by Risto, Kresho, Paul, Filip and a team of vocalists.

It was billed as a spiritual timeout but, for those who organised the event, it was not a break from hard work. As Geert Tap (Head of Spiritual

and Social Activities) put it: 'It's the first time it's been so intensive and student-led.'

New was an innovative Prayer Room, where students were able to sit quietly and meditate on God's purpose for them after each meeting. Rebecca Pedersen took the lead in this aspect, organising the resources to be borrowed from the SEC. Those who tried out the practical activities were impressed.

Speakers unpacked the theme of identity by asking penetrating ques-

tions which got under the 'fantastic masks' which we all seem to wear. 'Sometimes, the closest people to us know nothing about how we feel,' Paul King-Brown pointed out. The message was that God sees beyond the mask. The question is, what does he see in you?

Susie Lupon, School of English, said, 'I liked the way that different speakers explained Timeout. Each one was very good. It's a good thing for students to take a break and think about what Jesus can do in their lives.'

The talks struck different students in different ways, but each one had a unique message based on the same collective theme. With the story of Peter and Paul healing the lame man on their way to the temple, Janice de-Whyte urged students to receive from God but then give to those in need around them.

'I thought it was very impressive and motivating and that the speakers spoke with passion,' said Sabrina Floss, third-year English Literature student.

Search the Newbold Website for photos of this uplifting event.  
[www.newbold.ac.uk](http://www.newbold.ac.uk)

## Adventists and Muslims share perspectives

On 23 April Adventists and Muslims met together at the Islamic Centre of England, to share their particular perspectives on last day events, which included the second coming of Jesus and the final establishment of God's rule of peace and justice. This was a joint venture between the Global Centre for Adventist-Muslim Relations, Newbold College, UK, and the Shia Muslim community, whose main Centre is located in Maida Vale. Between 40 and 50 Adventists from Newbold College and the South England Conference attended the event.

Dr Jerald Whitehouse, director of the Global Centre, was the main speaker on behalf of the Adventist Church, and Sheikh Bahmanpour, head of the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Department of Islamic Studies at the Islamic College, Willesden, was the main Muslim speaker on behalf of the Islamic Centre of England. Oscar Osindo, of the Global Centre, and Sheikh Ali Al Hakim, researcher for the Islamic Centre of England, also presented on the topic.

Dr Whitehouse started his presentation with the entry of sin into the world, outlining how man lost the close association with God and yet at that time God laid his plan for the restoration of both peace and justice in the future. Dr Whitehouse illustrated how God planned to restore his relationship with man through his promise to Abraham to bless all nations through his descendants. However, he said, 'Satan has fought through the ages to prevent the restoration of the relations between God and his people. This has resulted



in a controversy that has led to injustice and conflict in our world down through the ages.' Dr Whitehouse then went on to show how God, through sending Jesus to this earth, demonstrated his self-sacrificing love for all of humankind, and through this his desire to restore the peace and harmony lost in the garden. 'God's plan for personal peace is offered to all men by giving a "new heart" experience to all those who seek him,' he said. 'Those who have this "new heart" need not fear the judgement and can look forward to spending eternity with God.'

Oscar Osindo followed with a presentation on the second coming of Jesus, showing that both Adventists and Muslims look forward to his coming and see it as the time when peace and justice will be restored.

Sheikh Bahmanpour started his presentation by noting the similar perspectives that Adventists and Muslims have on end-time events, and how both share the hope of the restoration of peace and justice at the second coming of Jesus. Sheikh

Bahmanpour went on to say that you cannot think of peace without justice. 'Those whose hearts are not with God, will never find peace,' he said. 'True peace should be inside the heart. That is where justice comes from. If there is no justice in society, then there is no peace of heart.'

Sheikh Ali Al Hakim spoke on how justice can be arrived at while on earth through study and application of Shariah Law.

In a world in which there is often confrontation rather than peace between communities of faith, it is refreshing to see people working together to build bridges of understanding,' said the writer, who worked with the Islamic Centre of England to bring about the event. 'I hope that many more similar events will take place between Adventists and Muslims in the future,' said Dr Whitehouse. 'Such events need to stand out as a voice against the too prevalent militant rhetoric that only increases tension and misunderstanding between faith traditions.'

VELDA COX

### ABC BOOK SALES

June		
12-18	SEC Camp Meeting	Prestatyn
	NEC Camp Meeting	Southport
July		
9	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
16	West Midlands	10am-2pm
August		
6	John Loughborough	10am-2pm

### Messenger

Volume 111 • 12 – 26 May 2006

EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

COPY FOR No. 14 – 5 June 2006

Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.

Fax No: (01476) 577144.

Email: [Editor@mac.com](mailto:Editor@mac.com)

ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900  
Mon-Thurs only, 8am-6pm.

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Printed in Denmark.

Visit the BUC website at: [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk)  
ISSN 0309-3654

### Sunset

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by the Science Research Council.

	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
May 26	9.01	9.13	9.13	9.38	9.40
Jun 2	9.09	9.22	9.21	9.48	9.50
9	9.16	9.28	9.28	9.56	9.57
16	9.20	9.32	9.33	10.01	10.02

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