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 Brickklin 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 congregations who have encouraged, motivated and supported them along the way. Speaking from Jeremiah 31:1-3, 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 put-up faces; there will be selfish faces and even roaring 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’.

by Frederick Mapp, NEC Communication secretary, and Yvonne Weekes.
What do you take in your classes to this modern phenomenon?

I paint the origin of postmodernism and give 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.

What are the advantages to postmodernism?

It gives us many positive opportunities since postmodernists are very spiritual people, though not in the traditional sense, i.e. they believe in the New Age and Angells. 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 engage these people, though not in the traditional sense, i.e. they believe in the New Age and Angells. 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 engage these people.

Is it a two-week intensive course?

No, it is a weekend intensive course.

What are the implications of postmodernism?

Postmodern people find it very difficult to commit to things, e.g. marriage. The cost of securing a marriage is very high. There is great suspicion of institutions. People do not have an unconditional attitude to institutions. They also have an unnecessary impact on the lives of those concerned.

What is the origin of postmodernism?

I paint the origin of postmodernism, giving the philosophical background.

What are your two-week intensive programme about?

It is titled Approaches to the Modern Mind and dealing with the implications of postmodernism.

How would you define postmodernism?

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

What is the General Conference saying about this book?

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

What role does Fanny and Annie play in the story?

Fanny was a hymn writer; Annie was one of the Braille pioneers. Both of them had overcome adversity and chosen to live by the faith of God. Fanny Crosby was blind from birth, but she wrote thousands of hymns and songs. Annie Sullivan was blind from birth and went on to teach Fanny Crosby and other blind children.

When did Annie learn to read and write?

Annie learned to read and write through a system developed by another blind teacher, who had taught Fanny Crosby.

What was Fanny's response when she was told she would never write again?

Fanny responded with determination and faith. She said, "I'm going to write, and I'm going to write better than I did before." She went on to write thousands of hymns and songs, including "incy wincy spider," "Jesus loves me," and "Be still my soul." Her music has inspired generations and continues to bring hope and comfort to people around the world.

What was Annie's response when she was told she couldn't learn how to read and write?

Annie was devastated. She had dreamed of becoming a teacher, but her blindness had made it impossible. However, she refused to give up. She worked hard to learn to read and write, and eventually she was able to become a teacher and help other blind children learn as well.

What is the message of the story of Fanny and Annie?

The story of Fanny and Annie is a reminder that with faith and determination, we can overcome even the most daunting challenges. It shows us that our beliefs and choices can shape our lives and the lives of those around us. By choosing to trust in God and believe in ourselves, we can transform our circumstances and achieve great things.
Brixton: Eight Baptised

There was joy in heaven and also in the hearts of eight new members of the Brixton Adventist church, when they shared in the baptismal pool to become part of the church family. Leading the event with their presence and lending an atmosphere of spring flowers permeated the air. Sunday 23 April and the scent of Easter was in the air.

The father of Claudine and Leanne Officer, second they are daughters of Claudine and Leanne Officer are God’s daughters. Claudine and Leanne Officer, who are the daughters of Claudine and Leanne, and a son of Chiswick, commended Claudine and Leanne as adults who have reached the plateau of their transition in life. His powerful sermonette stressed the biblical Commerce in relevance to their spiritual experience. In the baptismal pool stood Pastors Richard Holder, minister of Chiswick church, and Des Bolikos, who conducted the immersions. At this high divine hour two biological twins were immersed in water but rose again spiritual twin sisters, newborn babes in God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It was a special ceremony.

Love for the Lord far surpassed any other attractions. She 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.

Claudine, however, was tangled in the feuding of a different lifestyle and the hope was established with the hope of witnessing that we may soon create the kingdom of our Lord.

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 a regular Bible study class 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.

The Ebenezer Adventist church in New Chingford met to hear the guest speaker, Pastor Andrew Leonce, and his theme was ‘Shalom: a way with words in the Master’s plan’. Some of his topics included: ‘Confession of the Blessed lover’; How to ‘heal your life’; ‘Shalom: a way with words in the Master’s plan’; and ‘The Sounds of Silence’ on 26 and 27 April.

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

Competition, in relevance to their spiritual experience. In the baptismal pool stood Pastors Richard

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Gay rights threat to religious freedom

Issues

Gay rights threat to religious freedom

Sharon Pratt McDonald highlights the issues

In a recent document dated March 2006, entitled "The Church and Social Sexual Orientation Discrimination in the Provision of Goods and Services", Christians are again confronted with a challenge to their religious beliefs. This document concerns the government's hope 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 accommodations, retail sales and the service industry. Additionally, the school curriculum would be affected as it could force education; and public authorities. Unless there are exceptions from the 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 is 3 June. The government is expected to publish the regulations before Parliament by the end of July 2006. Let us pray that there will be accurate, fair, and enlightened debate and that the government will arrive at that conclusion and that truth will be robustly and publicly defended.

The document states: "The government has an obligation to ensure that religious groups are not discriminated against. The Government ministers that they will realise the threat it poses to religious groups and that religious liberty will be compromised unless exceptions are made." The government is expected to publish the regulations before Parliament by the end of July 2006. Let us pray that there will be accurate, fair, and enlightened debate and that the government will arrive at that conclusion and that truth will be robustly and publicly defended.

In conclusion, let us remember that the church was never meant to be a religious organization. It was meant to be a community of believers who come together to worship and grow in their relationship with God. Let us not allow our fear of change to prevent us from embracing new ideas and perspectives. Let us be open to the possibility of seeing things in a different light. And let us not forget that the church is not just a building, but a community of people who come together to support each other and to share in the joy of their faith.

ABC Sales Manager

South England Conference is seeking to appoint an Adventist Book Centre Sales Manager. South England Conference is a group of Adventist churches located in south England. The successful applicant will have a demonstrable track record of success in their subject; a commitment to the highest standards of education and teaching. Applicants are required to have a dynamic personality, good organisational skills, and the ability to work as part of a team. A teaching qualification would be advantageous. A competitive salary is offered for the right candidate.

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Muslims share Adventists and restoration of the relations between through the ages to prevent the relationship with man through his.

However, he said, ‘Satan has fought 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 achieved 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.’

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