

Messenger

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Newbold College Awards Ceremony

by Helen Pearson, PRO

For fifty-nine years it's been called 'Newbold Graduation'. It sometimes used to be called, 'Adventist Ascot'. But this year, the end-of-year ceremony – the 60th since Newbold College moved to Binfield near Bracknell in 1946 – changed its name. The rise in the numbers of shorter courses offering certificates and diplomas in addition to degrees means that 'Awards Ceremony' is a more appropriate and more inclusive title.

When Newbold College moved to Binfield, near Bracknell, in 1946, from its two wartime homes in the Midlands, there were one hundred, mostly British students, and the College offered no state-recognised academic qualifications. Now, about 300 students from over 60 nationalities study on campus each year, and in this year's ceremony, the College awarded undergraduate and post-graduate degrees validated by the Open University, the University of Wales, and Andrews University. Forty-one students from twenty-three nationalities received degrees

in Biblical, Religious, Pastoral and Theological Studies, Behavioural Sciences, English, Humanities, Management and Accounting. Certificates in Christian Counselling and Christian-Muslim studies were also awarded. The speaker was Czech born theologian Dr Daniel Duda, now Education director at the Trans-European Division and still a part-time lecturer at the College. Daniel described how he came to Newbold in 1981 – the second Czech student ever to come from a country at that time 'behind the Iron Curtain' – and how his own daring

to dream and to pray brought him to Newbold and changed his life.

He concluded: 'Graduates of 2006: Because the future belongs to God, not everything is tied down, fixed, predicted, worked out. God is leaving a lot of it up to you. The future is God's surprise to be relished. So go ahead. Do not lose your convictions! Do not stop dreaming! And God will go with you.'

British Union president Pastor Cecil Perry charged the students: 'Don't make learning the end but the means to make the world a better place. Go out into the world to make a difference, for Newbold does make a difference.'

In the audience for the ceremony were Jack and Margaret Mahon who have retired to a house near the College after a lifetime of working in the ministry in the UK, Africa and the Middle East. Jack Mahon was a theological student at Newbold in 1946. 'When we came to Newbold

just after the War, lots of students were dressed in ex-army and ex-navy garb,' he said. 'At Graduation 1946, the men's suits and the women's white dresses were acquired with post-war clothing coupons. Bracknell had about 2,000 inhabitants: Bracknell High Street was just a double row of shops, a Co-op and a cinema. In those days, the College was called Newbold Missionary College. Although the word "missionary" has been dropped from the title, the aim of the College has not changed. The motto for the class of '46 was *Learning of Jesus*. If you talk to many of today's graduates, you will find that helping young people to grow in Christian faith is still what Newbold is about.'

In his report, the principal Dr David Penner celebrated Newbold's achievements over the last academic year and shared with the 400-strong audience some of Newbold's plans for the future. He talked about the recent success of the Humanities Department in being re-accredited by the Open University, and about the positive feedback for Newbold's staff and students offered by visiting academics during that process. As for the future, 'We have taken a fresh look at the founders' mission and dreams,' said Dr Penner, 'We have focused on continuing to make the College a place for learning, welcoming and gathering' – but in some new ways.'

New Courses

Newbold has listened to feedback from potential students who want to think about their faith and benefit from 'the Newbold experience' but may not be ready to commit themselves to a three or four year degree course.

Dr Penner announced new short courses for young people interested in making a difference in the world. The *Gap Year Experience* and the *Youth Leadership Course*. He also announced the inauguration of



Above, back row left to right: Joy Howe – Advanced Certificate in Christian Counselling, Terence Messenger – DMin – Andrews University, Orlando Holder – BDHons – University of Wales Lampeter, Rachel Cowe – Undergraduate Certificate in Christian – Muslim Studies, John Ferguson – DMin – Andrews University. Front Row: Gifford Rhamie – Lecturer in Pastoral Studies, Robert Pearce – Guest Lecturer, Behavioural Sciences, Valerie Bernard – Head of Department of Behavioural Sciences, Michael Pearson – Vice Principal, John Balldam – Director of Academic Affairs, Laurence Turner – Principal Lecturer in Old Testament. Not pictured: Ursula Lewis – Advanced Certificate in Christian Counselling (Distinction)

Left: The Graduation Class

Camporee – Special Day of Prayer 8 July

by Pastor Des G. Boldeau, BUC Youth director



This year our children and youth will be part of a 3,000-strong, Trans-European Division Pathfinder Camporee in Denmark.

Recognising the challenges of twenty-first-century living for our children and young people, the BUC has voted 8 July as a special day of prayer for the Camporee and its evangelistic thrust.

In all areas of our territory, Pathfinder work is growing. Recent research by the 'Valuegenesis' committee has confirmed that Pathfinders are more likely to remain faithful to the church and to God. With this in mind, we must seize every opportunity to bring them to the cross of Jesus.

As a guide to maximising the day of prayer on 8 July, we suggest you take up the following suggestions:

- Choose someone to pray for each area of major responsibility as detailed below, making sure to allow plenty of time for this precious opportunity for prayer.
- Invite the Pathfinders and their leaders to come to the front of the church so that the pastor and elders can surround them with blessings – and invite some of the young people themselves to lead out in these special prayers.

The Theme

For some Pathfinders, the theme, 'Back in Time – Discovering the roots of your faith', will be a defining moment in their faith journey, bringing with it a chance for them to consider accepting Christ as their saving Friend. Still others will see it as an opportunity to reaffirm their faith in the God of their parents.

Let us pray that young lives will be transformed by the presence of the Holy Spirit as he moves upon

the hearts of those attending the Camporee. Let us pray that they will catch an irresistible glimpse of Jesus through the ministry of the Camporee speakers and leaders, which will lead them to surrender their lives to Christ.

The Speaker

Pastor Granville Kent leads the Kellyville church in Sydney, Australia. He is an experienced and gifted youth minister.

The Date and Venue

26 July to 2 August. Stevninghus Scouts campsite in Klipleve near Aabrenraa, Denmark. These dates unfortunately coincide with the BUC Session, but the commitment was made some years ago. God will, nevertheless, minister to the minds of the young people through Pastor Kent and the campsite staff.

The Camporee Staff

A 'well-oiled machine' is what Pastor Paul Tompkins, TED Youth

director, is aiming for with his international volunteer staff, which includes all the Union Youth/Pathfinder directors within the territory.

The Activities

With over 60 activities on offer every day, every Pathfinder should find plenty of fun things to do, and the chance to learn a new skill – or two!

The Travelling

They'll be coming by air, ferry, coach and car. Please pray that all will arrive safely on site and return home with minimum 'wear and tear'! The logistics of this great 'movement' are awesome, so please pray for the local church club staff who will have the responsibility for the safety of our own one thousand Pathfinders and leaders as they use all modes of transport to be there!

The Praying

Pray, and pray again, for the safety and salvation of our children and youth as they get ready for, and take part in this Pathfinder Camporee in Denmark.

My personal thanks to everyone involved for your support. God bless you all.



Healthwise

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

Sweet and Sour

Since it was first marketed in the early 1970s *Aspartame* (brand name *Nutrasweet*) has attracted intense interest and controversy among nutritionists, a controversy which has not been settled by the *European Food Safety Authority* (EFSA), which has pronounced the sweetener safe.

Aspartame has been associated with brain tumour risk following research by the scientist Adrian Gross with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA investigation when *Aspartame* was introduced took issue with the producer's research data. It was alleged that G. D. Searle (the

manufacturer) and its subcontractor falsified the material sent in support of a product licence.

Rats dying during the research process were not dissected and replaced with other rats. Serious shortcomings were identified by the FDA in all 15 pivotal chronic toxicological tests. In spite of its ruling that *Aspartame* was not acceptably safe it was licensed by the incoming Reagan administration.

Between 1% and 10% of *Aspartame* users subsequently reported acute adverse effects: severe headaches, blurred vision, and occasionally epileptic-type seizures. A 1996 paper produced by John Olney (Washington University,

St Louis) reported that *Aspartame* use had been responsible for a particular type of brain tumour called *glioblastoma* in the US. He indicated that evidence of this had been found in the flawed rat studies but ignored.

With all the foregoing in mind, the neutral Ramazzini Foundation in Italy undertook a long-term feeding study of *Aspartame*. The study used 900 rats (400 in the original US study) and tested *Aspartame* at 5 dose levels plus *Aspartame*-free controls, and was published in 2005. In its conclusion the Ramazzini Foundation indicated a dose-related and statistically significant increase in the incidence of several types of tumour.

The story of *Aspartame* might have ended there, but the EFSA's expert advisory committee reviewed the Foundation Report and concluded that *Aspartame* is safe to use, and attributed the findings by the Foundation as attributable to other causes of inflammatory change.

Why? Possibly because the Chair of the EFSA's expert advisory committee is a paid consultant to the International Life Sciences Institute, a front for major food and chemical companies. The views on the sweetener *Aspartame* is sour through and through!



What makes a great lover?

David Marshall

Do the names Gregory Peck, Cary Grant and Jimmy Stewart mean anything to you?

They don't mean that much to me. I always get them confused. The best I can say is that one of those guys once gave an interview on British television. It was before, even, the rise of Michael Parkinson. But Parkinson's predecessor, whoever he was, asked Greg or Cary or Jimmy, whichever, the question, 'What makes a great lover?'

In those days you simply didn't ask stuff like that. You could see whichever struggling with his emotions. Perhaps he felt obliged to come up with some sort of answer because he had been typecast on screen. There might have been the temptation to come up with a lusty one-liner. If there was, he resisted it. This is what he said:

'A great lover is someone who can satisfy one woman all her life long, and who can be satisfied by one woman all his life long. A great lover is not someone who goes from woman to woman to woman. Any dog can do that.'

While I was scribbling that down in my notebook, he was talking about Christ as a necessary third party in his marriage. (Movie buffs will doubtless guess the name of whichever. Chances are, those three guys weren't *all* Christians.) If video had been invented in those years, I might have worked the remote and been in a position to give you the full quote, Christ's involvement and all. I've often thought that because the idea of Christ as a third party in a marriage has often come to mind.

Some years before John Logie Baird began his experiments using radio waves to transmit pictures, a young couple were compiling the guest list for their wedding. Far from wealthy, they experienced the usual agonies of soul as they decided whom they could and could not afford to invite: four sets of grandparents, two sets of parents, the inevitable aunts, uncles, siblings, cousins, friends, members of the communities in which both bride and groom had been raised. There had to be an end to it sometime, didn't there? No one was made of money, right?

Then one of them said, 'Would you consider inviting Jesus? Adding him to the guest list? Preparing a formal invitation for him, just as we did for all the others?'

They did.

He came. His disciples were also invited, and they came.

Cana is not far from Nazareth, so there could have been a family, social or business connection. Certainly Jesus' mother, Mary, was helping run the reception because she it was who made him aware that there was an embarrassing crisis *in re* the wine. It was not just awkward because it might show up the family as poor or cheapskate – bad enough! – but because the rabbis believed 'Without wine there is no joy.'

It was not only what it looked like. It was a matter of what it symbolised for the marriage that the wedding began.

So, when Jesus did what he did, it was not just to rescue a humble family from hurt, it was (symbolically) to rescue a young couple from a joyless marriage.

John's gospel is heavy with symbolism, so most commentators see the new wine that filled the six great stone water pots at Jesus' command as representing the Gospel of God's Grace.

Each water pot held between twenty and thirty gallons. Jesus created in the region of 180 gallons of wine that day! No matter how many people had been invited to a village wedding, they couldn't possibly have drunk 180 gallons! John wants us to understand that the grace that comes through Jesus is of a volume that there is enough and to spare for all. No need on earth can exhaust the grace of Christ.

The point of John's gospel is not to provide an account of things Jesus once did in Palestine, but of what Jesus still does today.

This is not just about how Jesus once turned water into wine, but about the miracle of grace that Jesus continues to perform today in the lives of men and women. It is not just about how he transformed a wedding but how he continues to transform marriages.

Marriage is not the wedding; neither is it the honeymoon. It is two very different personalities adapting to one another in real life, mundane surroundings and life-pressures.

It has been my great privilege to invite Jesus to be present at many weddings. Sadly I cannot ask him to be present in any marriage other than my own. That is the responsibility of the bride and groom – *both of them in concert*.

That is how great lovers are made and where great lovers come from.

God conducted the first wedding service, said that it was less than ideal that people should live alone and ordained a lifelong, one-flesh relationship.

By performing his first miracle at a wedding, and by his later teaching, Jesus reinforced the ideal of a lifelong, one-flesh relationship between a man and a woman. His miracle also symbolised the inexhaustible supply of God's grace *and* how the new wine of that grace can infuse and transform marriages.

Christ's great champion Paul used marriage as a metaphor of Christ's relationship with his Church. In his central marriage passage (Ephesians 5:21-33) Paul's use of the word 'submission' (verse 21 mutual submission; verse 22 submission of wives to husbands) has proved a distraction from the core motif of the passage: Christ's sacrifice of himself for his bride, the Church. That may be because we have given the word 'submission' all the baggage of being a doormat, being walked all over, when its actual meaning is *the willingness to yield*.

Asked what was causing the breakdown of so many marriages, a great Adventist preacher replied in one word: 'Selfishness.'

The huge water pots at the Cana wedding were

there for the water used in Jewish purification rituals. The transformation of that water into wine said that God was doing 'a new thing within the old Jewish system, bringing purification to Israel and the world in a whole new way.'¹

Within marriages, as in the lives of individuals, the Lord performs the miracle of transformation when human resources run out. When that happens, like Mary, we look to him. He says, 'Fill the water pots with water,' and, as at Cana, expects his servants to fill them 'to the brim' (John 2:7). The servants then drew from the enormous pots brimful with water and took some to the person in charge.

That was when they were found to be full of *new wine*. When human resources run out, we need actually to invite Jesus to become involved. After that we must persist, in faith.

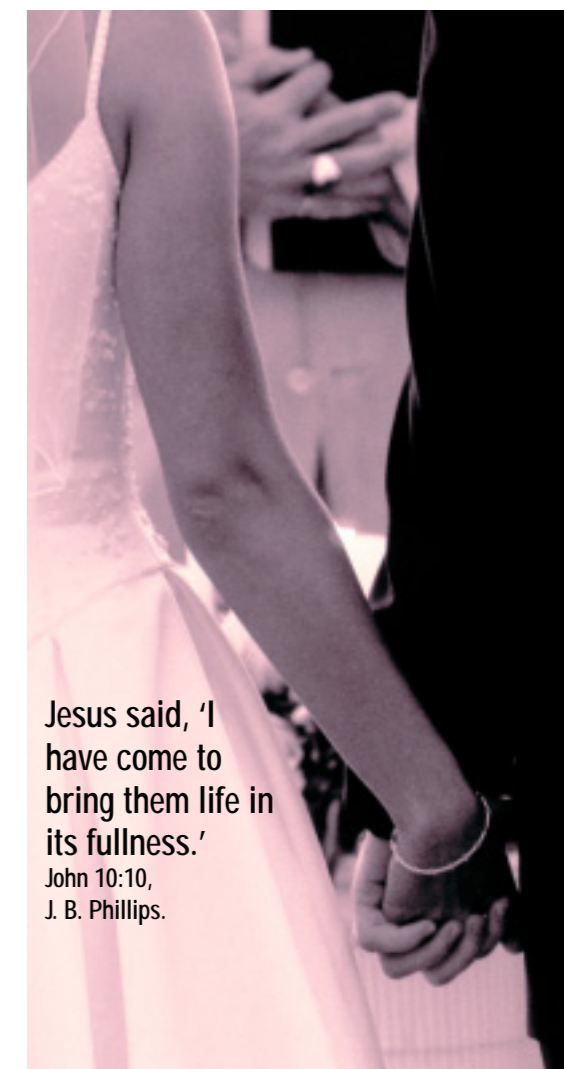
Then is when the Lord works the miracle.

What makes a great lover?

Well, the new wine represents grace, so you work it out.

Reference:

¹Tom Wright, *John For Everyone* part one (SPCK, 2002), page 22.



Jesus said, 'I have come to bring them life in its fullness.'

John 10:10,
J. B. Phillips.

The Mission *is* Possible!

by Richard de Lisser, PM and Sabbath School director, SEC

The mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to proclaim to all people the everlasting Gospel in the context of the Three Angels' messages of Revelation 14:6-12. The commission of Jesus Christ compels us to lead others to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour and to unite with his Church, and nurture them in preparation for his soon return. That's at the heart of the church's mission and is accomplished through preaching, teaching and healing ministries.

From its inception, the Church was intentional to articulate and practise its mission by communicating the message of the Gospel throughout the world. But have we lost our sense of mission here in the United Kingdom in the 21st century?

'When did our mission change from vision-driven to budget-driven?'

Apart from the mission story read in Sabbath School, where else is mission mentioned in our regular church services? In years gone by, our Sabbath School classes would end with the teacher marking the record cards recording the church's missionary activities. Today there are no such records kept and how can we manage or evaluate what we cannot measure?

To compound this, many churches no longer guard the Personal Ministries ten-minute spot as a time to promote the mission activity of the church. This time is usually allocated to other departments in the church to promote non-mission-

driven activities. Traditionally, the first Sabbath of the month was Personal Ministries Day. However, today many churches have only one or two of these a year.

Have we, as a Church in the UK, moved from being a mission-driven Church to a mission-striven Church? When did our mission change from being vision-driven to budget-driven? Is this lack of regular promotion and recorded activity the cause of our lack of significant growth?

During the world church session

in 2005, delegates voted seven specific areas of emphasis for the current quinquennium: spiritual growth, community involvement, personal witness, city outreach, church planting, evangelistic programming, and media ministry.

We cannot do 'business as usual' in the way we approach mission. Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures and approaches. The diminishing visibility of mission promotion in our churches has led us to a state of mission malaise.

We are commissioned, and have the *permission*, to actively engage in mission. Let us put mission back at the *heart* of the church, in our programme, in our planning, in our budgeting and in our activities. Let's make mission central in everything that we do as we

Tell Southern England.
This Mission *is* possible!

'Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures and approaches.'



Together we can

by Bert Smit, Executive-director, ADRA-UK

The business cards and promotional materials of ADRA-Australia carry the interesting slogan: 'Together we can'. What the Aussies exactly mean by it is not always clear, but it does capture the imagination. Just try to complete the sentence: 'Together we can make a difference', 'Together we can do it', 'Together we can overcome', to mention just a few ways in which to use the slogan.

The objectives of ADRA-UK are the reduction of poverty; promotion of social justice; and development of local partnerships that result in the empowerment of poor communities. This kind of development work takes time and is costly. Working together in partnership with others is thus critical to our work.

It is through partnership with the European Commission (EC) and the Department for International Development of the British

Government (DFID), that we have access to additional money to support our projects. Governments tend to fund large projects, so the potential benefit for the work we do is considerable.

ADRA-UK can provide match-funding through

the cash raised by the Annual Appeal and direct donations. As our local partners you can provide tremendous support for our work.

All our projects are implemented utilising the local ADRA offices (e.g. ADRA-Peru, ADRA-Madagascar). Such partnership produces greater results, as we are better able to co-ordinate our efforts and share the work between us. We can build on one another's strengths and provide a higher standard of assistance for the people for whom we are working. Local ADRA offices have a common interest in the work that we are doing.

Partnership is about mutual benefit, a way of best addressing the needs of poor people and communities around the world, and bringing the loving face of God to the world through our humanitarian activities.

Together we can!



Children of the Pacaycasa community in Ayacucho, Peru, making their rights known: 'We all have the right not to be mistreated'. A project of ADRA-UK in partnership with DFID and ADRA Peru.



The Power of Intercession

by Paul Haworth, Church Growth director, NEC

most amazing things have happened when someone was praying for me without my knowledge – for instance my attendance at Newbold College came about as a result of Heather talking to the Lord about it!

'Ask the Lord of the harvest'

To obey this command of our Lord Jesus, the Church Growth Department of the North England Conference has established a prayer intercessory ministry called 'East Window'. The title is taken from Daniel's habit of praying at the window (I know, he did not face east, but

west!) and our key text is from Isaiah 54:2-4: 'Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch out the curtains of your dwellings. Lengthen your cords, and strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the left . . . inherit the nations, and make desolate cities inhabited. Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; neither be disgraced.'

In many ways this is similar to Jesus telling his disciples to start first in Jerusalem, then Judea, then Samaria before they go to the ends of the earth. If you think for a moment about where you live, and or where your local church is situated and then move out (Jerusalem to Judaea or 'lengthen your cords') you may find yourself looking into your neighbours' homes, or into an area where there is no Adventist church. For myself, when I think to look to 'enlarge the place of your tent' I see the town of Sutton Coldfield (on the north-east side of Birmingham) with no Adventist church at all – but which has many Adventist members living in the area who attend elsewhere in the West Midlands.

Outside of the West Midlands this can be greatly multiplied. For example, in my previous pastoral district, Bradford is surrounded by the towns of Liversedge, Cleckheaton, Batley, Brighouse, Dewsbury, Ilkley, Keighley, Otley, etc. All these have significant populations who are waiting to hear the Adventist message. This article is not a call for anyone to rush out and go and start a church plant. That might be the content of another article. Right now may I ask you to commit to pray for church growth in our Conference; to ask you to become an intercessor with the King of the universe; 'to pray the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into the harvest' that these towns may be represented with Adventist congregations.

At the moment in the North England Conference we have over 140 people who are East Window intercessors, men and women who have dedicated themselves to pray that our dry and parched ground will flourish once again. If you would like to join their ranks and commit yourselves to pray for church growth, please contact, if you are in the NEC, the writer at the Church Growth department, North England Conference office, or in the SEC, Pastor A. Vontzaldis at the South England Conference office. We will then send you a welcome letter and an East Window bookmark and will keep in touch with you once a quarter.

Grandmas are lovely creatures. I was fortunate to know and love one [Lily Ann, a red-haired lady born of Irish parents], and then two when I married. My wife's grandma, Eva Gregory, was a devout Christian and Seventh-day Adventist – the difference between the two grandmas. Though my first grandma was a believer she didn't in all the years speak about her faith. In fact the only time she said something was when she called me a blasphemer and heretic with a swing of the hand which was meant to connect (because I didn't believe in God, and preferred the idea of evolution)!

Though I loved my grandma Lily, watching TV with her, enjoying her company and sharing her sweets, Eva was loved for different reasons, one of which was her commitment to pray for Heather, my wife, our children and myself. Every morning and evening she uplifted my family before the Lord. This meant a great deal to us and it resulted in many blessings from the Lord. However, she died in 1995 and so passed one who daily interceded for me.

Quite often our prayers are laden with our own concerns, our personal battles and problems. But the apostle Paul, writing to Timothy, urges 'that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone' (1 Tim 2:1, NIV). Intercession for others. . . . Hmm. The word 'intercession', William Barclay informs us, means 'to enter into a king's presence and to submit a petition to him.' (*The Daily Study Bible, The Letters to Timothy, Titus and Philemon*, page 58) In this case the king is the King of the universe and it is to him we go with the 'childlike confidence, in the assurance of ready access to God,' that 'characterizes the genuine Christian.' (*Seventh day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, page 293).

However humbling and awe-inspiring this concept is, Jesus has called on every Christian to enter into intercession with the Father. 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore to send out workers into his harvest field.' 'Ask him, make request, beseech – they all add up to the same thing; coming into his presence to talk to him, to intercede for others. I discovered that it is a very special thing to know that someone is praying for you. Of course, as we pray for the people in the harvest field they are not aware, but this does not limit the effect of prayer. In fact in my life, some of the



The land is parched.
The people are barren.
There is a famine of the Word.
People need 'living water'.
Our land must have the latter rain.
Prayer will make a difference!

Prayer Intercessory Ministry for Church Growth in the North England Conference.

Above is the front of the East Window bookmark

London Live What is it?

by Japhet de Oliveira, Youth director, SEC



A new kind of community is needed to engage a new kind of Christian. That is what *London Live* is designed to be

A young man races for the tube and makes it just in time to avoid the closing doors, colliding with the scent of 1,000 different body odours at the same time. He immediately



begins jockeying for position to attack the next vacant seat. The day begins. He is satisfied



in his job . . . satisfied in that it sounds important and pays well which allows him an active social life and the latest clothes. This is important as he has a lot of mates, although he knows few of them well.

The day hurries by with 'busyness' but it's hard to say what that is actually. He finishes work. The work day should have ended hours ago but

he's expected to stay late and do the time like everyone else. He walks past the gym on his way home and feels a hint of guilt having not attended in the last two months.

'Tomorrow,' he says to himself, and he carries on walking. He heats up a ready-made meal in the microwave and switches on the TV. The day ends.

London Live is a new kind of community. It is designed to engage the young man we heard about above. But how do you do that? How did Jesus do that? The Great Commission is clear – he told his followers simply to 'Go and tell' people. The problem is that the postmodern generation don't like to be told what to do or what to think. How are we then to engage and communicate the Gospel in a way that is effective?

Looking a little more at the way Jesus interacted with people in Scripture, we see that for those who had *not* heard about his life-saving ability, Jesus asked them to 'Come'. For the over-worked young adults in London, his call of 'Come, all those who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest' is a call worth taking note of. When he first called Peter and Andrew he said 'Come', when he first called Matthew at his tax collector's booth he said 'Come and follow me. Come and see for yourself. I'm not going to tell you what a difference I can make to your life; come and see!'

With this in mind, *London Live* wants to accomplish two things in order to engage our young friend above and people like him: to design an event that is attractive so people



will want to 'come and see', and to ensure people can see that Jesus makes a difference to people's lives without the need to ask. The Bible describes it as letting our light shine. To do this, we will be having a monthly praise and worship event in Oxford Street, Central London, which will be high quality in all aspects, passionate and challenging. It will be a place Christians can bring their friends without hesitation. You will not have to ask people if they are passionate followers of God, you will see it. You will not have to question if the life-changing message of Jesus Christ makes a difference in people's lives – you will see it.

Small groups are already running, introductory Christianity courses and Careers seminars will also be conducted at later dates this year to follow up and embed the Message in order to lead people from being attendees to disciples.

London Live began on 19 May at Regents Hall, Oxford Street at 7:30pm. If you would like to know more, please contact Murray at info@mylondonlive.com.

London Live Under way

Nicholas Thomson and Ndaba Mazibuko

'My son Solomon, the one whom God has chosen, is young and inexperienced. The task ahead of him is enormous, for the temple he will build is not for man but for the Lord himself.' (1 Chronicles 29:1.)

On 19 May a vision of a small group of young and inexperienced people came to fruition. The task they faced was enormous. An ongoing project like this had never been attempted in central London. The programme set out to bring glory to God through passion, connection and commitment.

Over thirty talented, passionate

and service-minded young Christians helped kick-start the first evening programme that attracted well over 200 people from in and around the heart of London. The night began with friends gathering in the café followed by praise, music, drama and a challenging message by Pastor Eddie Hypolite who spoke about 'The War on Indifference' and the need to make commitments to things that really matter.

London Live is an authentic community of young adults passionately seeking God's purpose, and challenging their faith to make a real

difference in central London, which involves a monthly contemporary praise and worship service. The Friday night event is not merely entertainment. It is a celebration of the other aspects of *London Live*. These include 'London Life Groups', that meet in homes, cafés or parks (or wherever they feel comfortable). This allows for the opportunity to get to know each other a little better and God a whole lot better. It also combines 'London Live Sport', where people can meet to socialise in a healthy environment (when the weather is right).

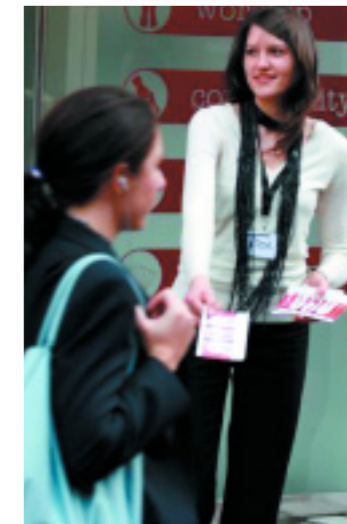
London Live also operates many different functional teams to ensure that a professional standard is reached and maintained. Included in this is the welcome, café, prayer,



music, technical, creative element and PR teams. Over the last few months, both the vision and reality of *London Live* has grown in an exciting manner that has led young people to commit to this cause.

'My sons and daughters of *London Live* are young and inexperienced and the task ahead of them is enormous, for the vision they are building is not for man's glory but for the Lord himself.'

Are you excited about what you have read? Would you like to be part of this vision? We hope to see you at our upcoming dates – 21 July and 25 August. The topics include 'Mission Made Possible' and 'Desperately Seeking'. For further details, please visit www.mylondonlive.com, or phone 07875 310972.



Annual Asian Day of Fellowship

The day was 13 May and the guest speaker that Sabbath morning was Pastor Michael Simpson. He gave a special message for all, and there was a great feeling of spiritual blessing throughout the day. Both the morning and afternoon programmes involved praise through songs and testimonies. People from far and wide attended: Oxford, Coventry, Walsall, Birmingham, Bedford, Manchester, India, Pakistan, and London. Not only did people get fed with delicious Asian food, but also with heavenly spiritual food. God was praised in song and experiences through many languages, including English, Punjabi and Urdu.

The next event being arranged will be in September, when a Young People's Song Competition will be held.

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John Loughborough School Leadership Appointments

The governors and headteacher wish to appoint a number of teachers for the Autumn Term 2006.

The school is a co-educational Seventh-day Adventist Christian Voluntary Aided School for students of all faiths between the ages of 11 and 16. The school's motto is 'SPIRITUS, MENS, CORPUS' indicating that students will be encouraged to aim at the great ideal of spiritual maturity, mental excellence and physical well being. As an integral part of its mission, the school seeks to be a 'Leading Edge Institution' for raising the achievement of all students within the goal of Education Inclusion, irrespective of social, economic, cultural, racial or religious backgrounds.

These posts provide opportunities for ambitious, innovative and enthusiastic Christian teachers to make their mark by contributing to a dynamic, improving and forward looking school. The successful candidates should have a track

record of effective leadership of curriculum areas, success in their subject specialism; commitment to the highest standards of learning and teaching; must subscribe to the values of the school, and will form part of the extended Leadership Team.

The successful candidates will form part of the extended Leadership Team.

| Post | Appointment Status | Scale |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| Director of Learning KS4 | Full Time | TLR 1b |
| Director of Learning KS3 | Full Time | TLR 1b |

Further details and application forms are available from:
Dr June Alexis, John Loughborough School, Holcombe Road,
Tottenham, London N17 9AD.

Telephone: 020 8808 7837. Fax: 020 8801 6719

Closing date: 12 noon Friday 30 June 2006. Interviews early July.



Pastor Roger Neil, Paul Taylor and Dr Monty White

Sceptics attack Darwin theories

Adventists in Shrewsbury spear-headed a conference in Darwin's home town, attacking the assumptions of evolution. Shrewsbury is the birthplace of Charles Darwin, and lectures were held directly opposite the glacial rock often said to be the inspiration for his interest in naturalism.

Church pastor Roger Neal invited Dr Monty White and his team, *Answers In Genesis*, for the second consecutive year to hold a three-part lecture in the town centre. About thirty members of the public were attracted to the talks, following the high profile debate between Intelligent Design theorists and Evolutionists that has been played out in the press and on the nation's TV screens.

The three lectures were entitled 'Creation or Evolution – who cares?', 'No Compromise', and 'Science and Spirituality in Education'. Speaker Paul Taylor, an ex-high school

science teacher, took the tenets of Evolution head on and presented the case for Creation as laid out in Genesis. He attacked the single focus of state school science teaching that allows children to form only one view of the world based on the evolutionary theory.

Pastor Neal said, 'There's a growing sense in Shrewsbury that a Creation exhibition should be held in the town leading up to Darwin's 200th birthday in 2009.'

The church members from Telford and South Wales attended and felt strengthened in their conviction that the Creation message was a rational scientific belief which underpins the entire Gospel of Christ.

A report covering the event appeared in the local papers, *The Shropshire Star* and *Shrewsbury Chronicle*. It highlighted the church's work and the main thrust of the Christian argument.

RICHARD DOWN

Queen knights Deputy Prime Minister

by Sharon Platt-McDonald

A prominent Seventh-day Adventist was among those honoured by the Queen in her 2006 New Year's Honours list. Sir Louis Hilton Straker, KCMG Deputy Prime Minister and Minister responsible for Transport, Works and Housing in St Vincent and the Grenadines, received his knighthood in the investiture ceremony which took place at the palace on Wednesday 24 May.

KCMG stands for Knight Commander of St Michael and Saint George and refers to a British order of Chivalry known as 'The Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael

and Saint George'. It is awarded to honour individuals who have rendered high-ranking or outstanding service in relation to Commonwealth or foreign nations.

On Sabbath 27 May Sir Louis attended the Brixton church for worship, accompanied by his wife Lady Lynda Straker and His Excellency Mr Cenio Lewis, High Commissioner for St Vincent and the Grenadines. Also in attendance was his father Louis Hilton Straker Senior, son Louis Hilton Straker II and his wife Latanya Straker and grandson Louis Hilton Straker III. It was moving and signifi-

A call to prayer – Sabbath 22 July 2006

by Pastor C. R. Perry, president, BUC



The sixth Quinquennial Session of the British Union Conference will be convened in York from 26 to 30 July 2006.

Approximately 600 delegates and members will be in attendance to review the achievements of the past five years and choose the administration for the new term.

Delegates will also be called upon to discuss and affirm a realistic Strategic Plan with aims to enhance the future development of the Union.

The importance of this upcoming session in York demands that we listen again to the voice of God calling his people to prayer at a critical moment in history.

'If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.' (2 Chronicles 7:14.)

Being confident that God is faithful to his promises, the British Union is asking that special prayers be said in all our churches on **Sabbath 22 July 2006**.

We are requesting that pastors and leaders set aside quality time in the

morning or evening services for interceding prayers.

- Let God's people pray individually and corporately that the Holy Spirit's power will be poured out on the delegates in session to do his will and not theirs.
- Let us pray for God's protecting care over those who travel to York University campus.
- Ask God to be the chief Guest overseeing the devotional and business sessions.
- Let our prayer burn with a holy passion to see wise plans made **To Tell the World**, especially our postmodern and secular society, that Jesus wants to save them.

Evangelism, including church nurture, will be the main priority in the plans going to the session. A special offering, personnel, time and financial resources will be needed to deliver our vision of a growing church.

On **Sabbath 29 July** a special offering will be taken up in the churches **for evangelism**. Members are encouraged to tag this offering 'Tell the World'. This offering will help fund special evangelistic projects in Conferences and Missions.

It is not coincidental but providential that this year marks 100 years of mission from this Union to other parts of the world. In celebration of this anniversary let us reflect on the crucial need of mission work in these Isles.

cant to see four generations of Adventists together for such an occasion.

In his introduction of these honoured guests, SEC president Pastor Humphrey Walters referred to biblical characters like Daniel and Joseph who walked in honour before God both publicly and privately. Sharing in the joy and pride that Sir Louis' achievement has brought to the Adventist Church, Pastor Walters stated: 'We need to uphold these men before the Lord that he may grant them the wisdom, courage and moral strength to lead with integrity as they pursue God's mission for their lives.'

In an inspirational address Sir Louis Straker recounted God's leading in his life and in his journey through politics. He declared with gratitude that 'God has blessed me beyond anything I could have asked or imagined'.

His professional career catapulted when he became the Vice-President of Chemical Bank in New York from 1976 to 1992. He returned to his homeland in 1993 and entered the world of politics in 1994 after successfully winning a seat as a member of Parliament. He became the Deputy Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 2001 and retains this position to date. Additionally in 2001 he occupied the position of Minister of Foreign

Affairs, Commerce and Trade until May 2005 when he was transferred to the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing in a cabinet reshuffle. In December 2005 he became Foreign Minister again.

Answering a question that many have asked him over the years he states: 'Many people ask me how an Adventist can be a politician and remain true to Christian values.' His answer is simple: 'Wherever I travel, wherever I go, no matter what the deliberation, no matter what the conference, I ensure that when the sun sets on Friday, business for me is closed. I take no call unless it is an emergency. All my colleagues and associates know what I stand for because I make my position clear.' He recounted an occasion when he was sitting among statesmen at a key political event and wine was being served in his company. Referring to Sir Louis, Fidel Castro pointed out to them, 'Non, non, Adventista,' indicating that no wine was to be served to the Deputy Prime Minister. This is indicative of the fact that even at that level Sir Louis is a testament of what Adventist stands for.

In his closing exhortation to the congregation Sir Louis had this to say: 'When I leave politics I want to have remained a good Adventist, for this world is not my home. We, like Abraham, are mindful of the country

from which we came, and can say we are strangers and pilgrims on our way to the heavenly Kingdom.'

Sharing in his recognition of Sir Louis' knighthood, His Excellency the High Commissioner for St Vincent and the Grenadines, Mr Lewes, gave his commendations for such an achievement and thanked the Brixton church for their gracious welcome.

The service was further enhanced by the excellent rendition of two songs of meditation by Lady Straker as she sang 'My heavenly Father Watches Over Me' and 'Ship Ahoy', accompanied by Normal Clarke on the organ.



Four generations of the Straker family, left to right, Sir Louis, his son, Louis Hilton Straker holding Louis Hilton Straker III and Sir Louis's father, Louis Hilton Burtram Straker Senior



Sir Louis Straker KCMG



Lady Straker

Water into Wine

'Enriching', 'brilliant', 'inspiring and revealing' were just some of the comments voiced by attendees at the marriage retreat held on 5-7 March in the beautiful grounds of the Wyboston Lakes Conference Centre.

Entitled 'Turning water into wine – a time of refreshment for married couples', the weekend programme was spiritually uplifting, inspirational and informative, with a comprehensive package of tips and tools for enhancing the marriage relationship.

An array of resources with relevant marriage material was used to engage discussion, and the numerous interactive exercises enabled couples to work together to explore the spiritual, emotional and physical

needs in the relationship.

Bernie and Karen Holford presented an engaging, facilitative approach to sensitive subject areas and set the scene which encouraged sharing in a safe and supportive environment.

We were truly blessed by the worship experience and prayer ministry led by Chris and Susanna Rogers.

Among the resources we received was an A-Z of fun ideas for married couples entitled 'Putting the Tingle back into Togetherness' written by Karen and Bernie Holford. This provided a plethora of advice to provide fun, humour, romance and sparkle to any relationship.

SHARON PLATT-MCDONALD

Church and school rejoice

On Sabbath 13 May Handsworth church was the venue that provided the evidence that church and school have a beautiful and successful relationship. Five candidates decided to give their lives to the Lord Jesus, and of the five, three were current students from the Harper Bell School in Birmingham. Delayney Francis, Charlene King and Justin Bishop joined John Marney and Donna Brown in the baptismal pool.

The three candidates from Harper Bell were aided in their decision by the weekly visits of Pastors Gordon (West Bromwich) and Jackson (Wolverhampton district) to the school. The pastors have new roles of preacher/teacher at the school as they offer Years 5 and 6 Religious Instruction. The pastors entertained the congregation with stories of how the children responded positively (and negatively!) to their instruction. The headteacher, Brother S. Senessie, was present to support the student candidates.

What was clear, apart from the working of the Holy Spirit, was the success of church integration into the school.

Walsall church/Camphill received Charlene into fellowship, West Bromwich welcomed Justin Bishop whose mother Gloria teaches at the school, and Handsworth received the other three candidates. Donna Brown had been attending the Handsworth church for some time before she decided to give her life to the Lord Jesus. The officiating ministers, Richard Jackson, Delroy Foster, R. Mackintosh (resident and senior minister of Handsworth), Gary Gordon, and Patricia Douglas made the baptismal service very special.

NOVA BANTON



Night prayer-walks and prayer vigils

by W. G. Dacres

As the lights softened in Leicester Central Adventist church the prayers ascended in what was deemed the second successful all-night prayer event in two years.

Nearly 200 members gathered on that 6 May evening in fervent prayer and adoration of the Lord. The event was organised by the pastor's wife, Prayer co-ordinator Jeanetta Liburd, and the theme was to direct the inward-looking supplicants' thoughts to God by finding and dwelling on ways to praise him. The vigil was aimed at anyone who disliked praying for sustained periods, people going through trials, and non-Christians.

'So often we bring a shopping list to God. Yet one of the important and neglected areas is praising him in prayer. Praising God takes the focus off what we are going through to God. How much we focus on him takes our mind off our own problems and lets God take over,' said Jeanetta. The vigil included testimonies, praise, and juice breaks.

Several Adventists told how God had helped them through prayer. Annually, 250 men in Britain develop breast cancer. Pastor Delroy Foster has been among them. The survival rates are similar to those for women. Pastor Foster has survived years after diagnosis on nothing other than an extreme change in diet and constant prayer. 'I trust in the Lord,' he said.

Each testimony was followed by intense prayer as lights were dimmed and the gentle murmur of anguished, earnest, needy and joyful prayers were heard around the sanctuary. These prayer sessions were followed by singing and over ten praise acts by expert musicians.

Preparation for the vigil had begun weeks before. Members were asked to pray and fast every Wednesday until sunset for two months. And other prayer groups, the Women's, Sabbath Dawn and the Wednesday night prayer groups, were asked to pray for the vigil. The prayer groups then asked the local community for their requests which the congregations could pray for on their behalf on the night.

First they prayer-walked through the deprived Highfields' district and their intentions were to break down the walls of indifference. Several groups prayed as they moved silently, sometimes with their eyes closed, all whispering to God. Moving through the community taking their lead from what they saw on 15 April. Drug addicts, hostels, refugees, children out alone and families having difficulties were the unwitting subjects of spiritual petitions as a precursor to 6 May. A prayer survey on 29 April brought 150 requests from Highfields' residents for personal prayer. The petitions read like a monument to the fallen in war on

the PowerPoint screened throughout the night.

Sheena: 'My Mum and Auntie died – help me to get over it'; Cyrielle: 'I lost my sister and I need strength'; Paul Stone: 'Get my own flat and help me stay out of trouble'; they ranged from world peace to general wellbeing. Many of the petitioners have begged that the church keep coming back not just for support but also for Bible study.

Mother and son, Alex and Roy, 8, met Elder Willma Bartlett over the Internet in a vegan chat room. A Namibian left southern Africa five years ago and is now thinking to join friends who run a vegan-based orphanage in Kenya.

'Willma asked me to come along so we did,' said Alex, who stayed for the entire vigil. Tousel hair Roy spontaneously joined the Children's choir after realising that the children were going to sing the same song that he had learnt in Church school. 'We sing the same songs at Mass,' he explained. Later he bedded down with a number of children nestled on airbeds at the back of the church. Nearly 60 people greeted the Sunday dawn for cooked breakfast and toast including late night passersby who came in after spotting the street sign outside the city church.

Central Adventist church is fast becoming a House of Prayer for the people of Leicester.

£1,000 raised for Children with terminal illness

On 23 April, twenty-three people from the age of 8 months to the most mature adult, took to the Stodmarsh Nature Reserve to raise funds for terminally ill children at Demelza Hospice Care for children. The twenty-three consisted mainly of members of the Canterbury church,

but also included friends of the members. The fund-raising walk, organised by the Community Ministries Leader Violet Ng, stretched from the Stodmarsh Nature Reserve on a beautiful and scenic natural route to Grove Ferry. It was an opportunity to absorb the

beauty of God's creation. But mainly it was an opportunity to show God's love to people who do not know about the love of God. The event raised £1,064 for the children at Demelza.

VIOLET NG



Left to right: Pascoalino De Oliveira, Damien Quane, Rafilise Vierira, Pastor Ashley Kongari, Tella Daiwoo, Joaos Vierira, Neiva Gaudenci O Morais, and Francisco De Silva.

Harvest in the West of Ireland

by Ashley Stanley Kongari

The day of harvest in the west of Ireland was very encouraging this year. Six candidates were baptised. On 20 May, Damien Quane, an Irishman from County Limerick, after a long search for truth, accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour and was born again. Along with him were four Brazilians, Joaos Batista Vierira, Rafilise Vierira, Pascoalino Alves De Oliveira, Neiva Gaudenci O Morais, and one from Mozambique, Tella Flomo Daiwoo. Francisco De Silva, the leader of the Brazilian congregation at Ballinsaloe, was given the credit for working hard and giving Bible studies to the Brazilians during the year.

Believers from all over the west of Ireland, comprising five congregations (Galway, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Longford, Ballinsaloe and Limerick), were present. The church at Galway was packed. Divine Inspiration Choir from Dublin church presented many songs during the service, and the pioneer pastor of the district, Pastor Don Vollmer, was also present. He told the story of how the church began in this district and expressed his happiness over seeing the church so full. The members were also happy to see him at the church.

The writer preached on the subject of greater involvement of the laymen in ministry, explaining that greater involvement always brings a greater harvest. D. L. Moody's principle, 'It is better to get ten men

to do the job than to do the job of ten,' was highlighted and this has proven to be a fact in this district. Jesus said, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few . . .' (Luke 10:2), and the writer called for the laypeople to get involved, to win more souls for Christ. To the baptismal candidates, he said, 'It is not enough to be baptised. It is also important to grow, become fruitful and win others to the fold of believers.'

After the baptism, the born again believers were formally welcomed into church fellowship, and Pastor Vollmer gave them a few words of counsel and blessed them with a word of prayer.

At the fellowship lunch there were different kinds of food at the table, and many nations were represented. It was a great occasion where people talked with one another and had wonderful fellowship together.



Pastor Ashley Kongari baptises Damien

The first Southern Asian fellowship

by John Varghese

Over the Bank Holiday weekend 27-29 May, people of Southern Asian origin from different parts of the United Kingdom and Europe came together in Manchester for worship and fellowship. During the Friday evening vespers Pastor O. P. Chackochen from the South England Conference challenged the congregation to move beyond doing the right thing to having a right relationship with the Lord.

The Sabbath morning saw more than 150 believers gathering together for a day of blessing. In addition to those from different parts of the UK there were visitors from as far away as France and Denmark. After a vibrant song service conducted by Mr and Mrs Babu John from Birmingham, the Sabbath School was led by Robert Joseph from Harlow and the lesson study by Alwin David from the Sutton Coldfield church. Pastor Mammen Mathew, from the Southern Asia

Division currently working at the South West India Union as director of the Adventist Training Centre, spoke during the divine service. He admonished the gathering to consolidate their relationship with the Lord.

After a sumptuous meal, the people were enthralled by musical items in different languages from the Sub-continent under the leadership of Sujan Kumar from Manchester, supported by Babu John, Joshua Benjamin from Liverpool, and guest artistes Mr Mukesh and Mr Charles. The entire afternoon service was co-ordinated by Naomi Watson from Solihull.

This was the first meeting of The Southern Asian Fellowship Europe and the whole programme was co-ordinated by John Varghese from Manchester, Prem Wilson from Bolton, and Mathew Daniel from Kent for International

Everlasting Gospel Ministry (IEGM).

The Southern Asia Fellowship-UK encompasses people from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka and they have met twice in Manchester, led by Pastor D. R. Watts, president of the Southern Asia Division, Dr K. J. Moses, Division secretary and Pastor L. C. Cooper, Vice-president General Conference, along with Pastor P. K. Daniel, the Southern Asia Division treasurer, once in Watford by Pastor T. P. Kurian from Southern Asia, and once in Chelmsford by Pastor A. Mohan Rao, and there is a similar meeting planned for 22 July 2006 in Sutton Coldfield under the leadership of Dr Boban Thomas. Tel 01213 552933. For further information on the activities of the fellowship contact Pastor O. P. Chackochen on 020 8446 8809 or 07748 417460, or John Varghese on 0161 868 0827 or 07952128869.



The truth about the Gospel of Judas

William G. Johnsson *

Does this 'gospel' shed light on the story of Jesus?

The release of the so-called Gospel of Judas by the National Geographic Society last month attracted widespread, often sensational, media coverage. It's time to set the record straight.

Writing about AD180, The Christian bishop of Lyon, Irenaeus, referred to a heretical writing known as the Gospel of Judas. That work, written in Greek around the middle of the second century, has never been found; however, a translation into Coptic (Egyptian) from the third or fourth century has come to light. This is the manuscript that the National Geographic Society published in English, with considerable hoopla.

I think most of those who rush to buy this book will feel a letdown. After handing over £14.99, you find that the actual Gospel of Judas is only 26 pages long and, because of gaps in the papyrus fragments, reads very poorly. Its ideas are largely incomprehensible, even with the footnotes provided.

The Gospel of Judas purports to provide sayings of Jesus given to Judas during the week leading up to his crucifixion. It turns on its head the role of Judas that we find in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Instead of Judas being the betrayer, he acts in obedience to the instructions of Jesus. Judas, in fact, is Jesus' favoured disciple, the only one of the twelve who truly understands him. In this scenario Jesus asks Judas to help him return to the kingdom by helping him abandon his mortal flesh. 'You will sacrifice the man that clothes me,' he tells Judas.

The Gospel of Judas depicts the world as the product of a lower, bloodthirsty deity, not the work of the higher, true God. Thus it rejects the biblical picture of creation and of Yahweh, the Creator, in favour of a radically different view of the cosmos and its origins.

These ideas come straight out of the biggest doctrinal challenge with which the early church had to contend – Gnosticism, a diffused blending of ideas from Christian, Jewish, Greek, and Roman thought. The New

Age movement in our times provides a rough comparison.

Gnosticism comes from the Greek word *gnosis*, which means 'knowledge'. The Gnostics claimed to have superior knowledge, and cast scorn on the teachings of the Bible as belonging to a foolish level of truth. They asserted that the disciples of Jesus were too stupid to comprehend his deep instruction, which he passed on in secret to those who were able to receive it. And in the Gospel of Judas the tables are turned as the 'villain' is revealed as the channel of Jesus' true teachings.

Drawing on ideas from Greek philosophy, the Gnostics held that the body was evil. Thus they denied that Jesus was truly God in the flesh. This is why the apostle John, writing late in the first century, warned against anyone who does not accept the truth of the Incarnation (1 John 4:2, 3), and continually stressed that genuine spiritual knowledge is not something new but that which 'you have heard from the beginning' (1 John 2:7, 24).

What light, then, does the Gospel of Judas shed on the story of Jesus? *Not one chink.*

The Gospel of Judas simply tells us what Gnostic mythology believed a century or later after Jesus' death. The only new wrinkle is the role this 'gospel' assigns to Judas Iscariot.

No Christian should feel in the least threatened by the 'revelation' brought to light in the Gospel of Judas. The four biblical gospels stand tall and unchallenged: they give us the story from those who actually saw and heard the Master.

The one aspect of the Gospel of Judas that bothers me is the part played by those involved in its publication. The gospel, which was supposedly found by an illiterate garlic farmer in a remote burial cave in Egypt, has an odour about it. Its history is murky, replete with smuggling and thievery. The eventual owners could not sell it for a profit because it was an illegally acquired antiquity, so they needed another plan.

'They lit upon the idea of selling the (publication rights). The National Geographic Society bit, hook, line and sinker to publish (on) the Easter season,' notes James Robinson, an expert in ancient Coptic texts. 'They sold the public a bill of goods.'

This feature first appeared as an editorial in *Adventist Review*, 18 May 2006.

* Dr William G. Johnsson, the Senior Editor of *AR*, is an authority of New Testament studies.

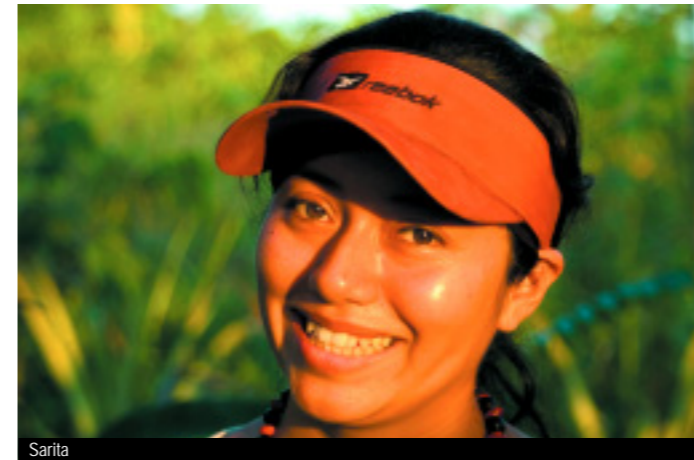
Have you renewed your *Adventist Review* subscription? *AR* is a weekly magazine published by the General Conference.

**Quoted in 'Decoding Judas' Gospel', *The Sun* [San Bernardino, Calif.], 14 April 2006.



Spiders and Snakes

by Bert Smit, Executive-director, ADRA-UK



Sarita



Children's health has improved because of access to clean water

This year will see the completion of the large project that ADRA-UK is co-financing with the European Commission in the Pucallpa district of Peru. The project's main objective is to help reduce poverty among the native population in the Ucayali region. For three years ADRA-UK and its local partner ADRA-Peru have worked with the Indian communities to help the gatherer-hunters to adopt new ways of generating income. In addition, clean water systems have been installed to help prevent water-carried diseases.

Sarita is a young Peruvian sanitation engineer who recently graduated from university in Lima. Instead of opting for a comfortable life in the city working at an engineering firm, she wanted to realise her dream and work for ADRA. Sarita now works with the Shipibo Indians in the

Ucayali river basin, one of the feed arms of the Amazon River, and spends her time travelling to the 64 communities that ADRA assist building water sanitation systems. This

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TV, no shops, no modern amenities at all. But there are plenty of spiders, insects and snakes. Sarita told me that she has to take a bath in the river before six when the snakes come out. At times she is out working in the communities on her own for weeks on end.

Sarita and others like her in many countries around the world are working in difficult circumstances because we ask them to be there. It is people like Sarita who help ADRA to make a difference. Your support is vital to our work. Please remember people on the front-line of our development and relief work.



JOIN THE STANBOROUGH TEAM!

Information Technology Assistant required for August 2006

Stanborough School in Watford, England, is part of the Seventh-day Adventist network of educational institutions around the globe. We are an independent, co-educational school with a strong and established academic tradition. Our Christian roots make the school welcoming to all faiths and pupils from around the world. Ideally located in over 40 acres of parkland and only 30 minutes from London.

What we offer: Good on-site accommodation; a friendly, Christian environment; monthly living allowance of £165; on the job training.

Qualifications we are looking for: Age range 20+; 2 years comprehensive knowledge in installation, configuration, support and administration of MS Windows 03 Server, XP Pro & Office 2003; a practical, well-organised and reliable person who is adaptable and capable of using initiative.

The job: providing day to day support to all users through technical support, applications, support, end-user training, and the IT Helpdesk; assisting in the planning, development and deployment of various desktop and IT network projects; assisting in the development of the IT department's strategic plans, and in the planning, development and support of disaster recovery procedures.

The position is offered on a temporary basis until mid-July 2007.

Contact: Send your CV to dhopa@spch.org, or write to Daniel Hopa, IT Manager, Stanborough School, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JT, England.

Telephone: 01923 673268.

Deadline for applications: 30 June 2006



cordially invites you to its annual

**Class of 2006
Thanksgiving Service**

Saturday 15 July 2006

Holloway Seventh-day Adventist church
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Pastor M. C. Murdoch (1909-2006) d. 12 April

Matthew Murdoch was born in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, on 3 May 1909 to John and Margaret. He was the ninth of 11 children, 10 of whom survived to work in many parts of the world, and he walked three miles to the village school each weekday after helping to milk the cows on the family farm. When he was 14 the family moved to Watford so that the children could attend college. Matthew graduated into the ministry when he was just 20, and served the church continuously until he retired. On graduating in 1929 he was sent to work in North Wales, where he met Ethel May Davies, and they were married in Rhyl in 1932. In Wales Matthew worked to organise and establish the church from converts attending A. F. Bird's evangelistic series. Soon after, he held meetings at Risca in South Wales, which were attended by over 500. At Abertillery, in 1933, the police had to be called to control the crowd of 1,200 trying to get into his meetings in the Drill Hall. But times were tough for a young minister in those Depression years. At a Conference in 1934 the BUC president approached T. H. Fielding and M. C. Murdoch, and said, 'You will go to West Africa, and you will go to East Africa as missionaries.' Matthew was ordained to the Gospel ministry in Salem Welsh Baptist Chapel, Cardiff, on 20 October 1934, and soon after, he and his wife of two years travelled to Mombasa via the Suez Canal, taking with them a Buick car bought from the mayor of Ebbw Vale. For nine years he was Mission superintendent in North West Kenya, where he established the educational work, as well as evangelism and medical services, at the Chekwai Mission. On a barren ten-acre plot they built a mission complex consisting of church, school, dormitories, dispensary and a house.

Bricks were made by hand and fired on the site. Water was collected from the roofs in the rainy season and stored. There was no electricity or telephone, and the roads were unmade tracks. They suffered bouts of malaria, and Ethel May had malaria so badly that she needed an urgent blood transfusion, but there were no blood banks. The doctor tested blood samples, including his own, by mixing them with one from Ethel May, and after viewing the results under a microscope, found that Matthew's was the best match, so a pint and a half of his blood saved her life! During the two years he worked in South West Kenya at Gendia Mission Megan was born at Kendu hospital. During the next seven years Matthew was District leader of the Johannesburg churches, and he also started a church school and built three churches. Returning to the UK, he worked in London, helping with evangelism in the Coliseum and Stoll theatres, and the New Gallery with Pastor George Vandeman. Next appointed president of the Welsh Mission, he was based in Cardiff for six years, during which time the membership, through evangelism, reached its highest level. Stanborough Park church followed for four years. Meetings were held in St Albans and a new church group was established there. After a period at Watford Town church he was called to

the Central London church, which he served for ten years, first at New Gallery and then Hampstead, where he was instrumental in buying and renovating the church building with the help of many enthusiastic members. At the same time he was minister at Wood Green, where the church building was replaced. Pastor Murdoch official retired in 1975, but that was not the end of the story! After returning, with his wife, daughter and son-in-law, to North Wales to be near the family, he was again in charge of the North Wales District for six months in 1981. He bought a chapel, St Andrews in the old village school at Ffynongroyw near Prestatyn, and led the mid-week prayer meetings and programmes on Sabbath afternoons during the 1990s. His wife died in 1989, but throughout his 'retirement' years he continued to preach, not only in Adventist churches but those of other denominations. His last sermon was preached in Gwynfa Chapel in the village of Pen-y-Ffordd where he lived. Ill health has prevented him from active ministry during the last few years, but he continued to supervise weeknight meetings at St Andrews and at Rhyl. Matthew was a careful handler of the often-difficult situations he met as a pastor and administrator, and he now awaits the call of the Life-giver on that bright resurrection morning, when we who were

associated with him will thank the Lord for the dedication of this man. Matthew died on 12 April, one of the heroes of the faith in Britain and in East and South Africa. The funeral took place at the Gwynfa Chapel, attended by members from the local Christian community happy to lend us their church for the occasion. Friends and fellow believers from across North Wales, Hampstead church, and ministers and friends from across Britain attended, as well as representatives from the TED and BUC, with several pastors and elders from the Welsh Mission. Pastor Richard Vine led the service, and Leslie Riskowitz, the husband of Matthew's daughter Megan, played a moving tribute on the piano. Great nephew Pastor Ian Sleeman reminded the congregation in a fitting eulogy of some wonderful incidents in the long life of this remarkable Christian gentleman and minister of God. The committal was at Rhyl cemetery, where he now rests with his wife Ethel May to await the glorious resurrection morning. To Megan, Leslie, and the Murdoch and Davies families we offer our condolences, and look forward to the day when we, together with all those who have been brought to Christ by Matthew, will meet again in heaven.

RICHARD L. VINE and
BRIAN P. PHILLIPS

New short courses at Newbold

'We'd like to take time to think about our faith and enjoy the Newbold experience. And we'd like to contribute to the work of the Church, but we're not sure we're ready to sign up for a three-year degree! That's what the first applicants for Newbold's newest courses are saying. The new courses in question will be offered from the beginning of the next academic year (2006-7) and are already proving popular.

The **Gap Year Experience** will combine a semester of anthropology, development and religion studies at Newbold with a six-month field placement through Adventist Volunteer Services (AVS) or the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). By including a study element with practical active service, 'this course

will help students build a mature world view, providing them with experiences that will be vital to any future career,' says course director and Dean of Students, Pastor Henrik Jorgensen.

The one year **Undergraduate Certificate in Theology (Youth Leadership)** is also a combination of class learning and practical experience. It is open to students from different types of educational backgrounds and, according to the Dr John Baildam, director of Academic Affairs, 'has been constructed so that qualified students completing the course will have covered the equivalent of level one of a Bachelor of Divinity Honours programme or will have credits to transfer into an American degree.'

This course is also open to students who don't have the qualifications to enter a regular degree programme but who want to improve their skills in working with



Pastor Roland Jean Fidelia (1932-2006) d. 14 May

It is with deep sadness that we announce the death of Pastor Roland Fidelia who passed away peacefully at home in Nicosia, Cyprus, after a brave fourteen-year struggle with cancer. His wife Valerie and daughter Claire were at his bedside and had been caring for him for the passed several months as his health gradually declined. Born in Mauritius on 21 August 1932 Roland was the first of four children. At 19 he began teaching at a secondary school near his home and later completed teacher training. However, he had always had a strong call to pastoral ministry so in 1962 he enrolled at Newbold, graduating in 1966 from the Theology and Teacher Training courses. During this time he met his wife Valerie, and they married in September 1963 and had their first child, Alain, a year later. Upon graduation Roland and his family set sail for Ivory Coast, West Africa, to start a ministry that has lasted 40 years. It was during his time in Togo that Roland was ordained, and served as teacher, pastor, district leader and mission president. From 1972-1979

Roland served the West African headquarters based in Accra, Ghana, as Publishing and Communication director. During this time Roland experienced over and over again the power of God. A Juju man tried repeatedly to harm him, but the man ended up admitting, 'Your God is stronger than mine. He is greater. I have handed back the power I bought from the devil.' During the 13 West Africa years the family was blessed with three more children, Gerry, Harvey and Claire. In 1979 Roland returned to England to serve his church for a further 13 years in the British Isles. He was British Union Conference Publishing leader for two periods in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and pastored a total of eight churches and companies in the London area. In 1992 he moved to the Middle East to serve as Press manager and president of the area comprising Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. In 1996 he joined the Church's Middle East headquarters based in Cyprus as Publishing, Communication and Stewardship director, a position he held until his retirement in 2001. But even after his retirement Roland continued to do what he loved the most, preaching and visiting, until just a few months before his death. He was always fit and loved sports. In his youth he boxed and played football, and he

was a lifetime supporter of Liverpool Football Club. Roland delighted in his whole family, including his six grandchildren whom he loved dearly, officiating at all the major family events: marriages, baby dedications and funerals. It was his dearest wish to officiate at Claire's wedding and the dedication of the baby Harvey and Sara are expecting, but sadly, it was not to be. A few months before his death, Roland and Valerie courageously

prepared the programme together for his funeral service. Pastor David Cox, ministerial secretary for the Adventist Church in the Middle East Region and leader of the church in Cyprus, presided over the service, which included some of Roland's favourite Bible passages and modern worship songs that he loved to sing. Church leaders flew in from Lebanon, Egypt and England to pay tribute to him. Pastor Kjell Aune, president of the Adventist Church in the Middle East declared that a great man of God had been laid to rest, having served the church faithfully for 35 years. He said, 'Roland will be remembered among his colleagues and friends as a man of joy, humour, and kindness – a real day brightener, with a twinkle in his eyes. One of his friends put it like this: "I am sure my life has been extended by all the endorphins he released during our work together." ' Pastor Cecil Perry, president of the Adventist Church in the British Isles, sent a formal tribute to Roland that was hand-carried to Cyprus by Pastor Alan Hodges, BUC ministerial secretary and a long-time friend of the family. Roland was laid to rest in the British cemetery in Nicosia. His has truly been a life lived to the full. The joy that he felt in serving God was clear for all to see. He died in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection and a family reunion on that great day. In lieu of flowers the family has requested donations to "The Cyprus Association of Cancer Patients and Friends", a local charity which supported the Fidelia family with palliative care through these final challenging months. Our thoughts and prayers at this time go out to Valerie; Alain, Carol and Charlotte; Gerry, Benjamin, Hannah and Ryan; Harvey, Sara, Lucy and Samuel, and to Claire. Also to Roland's brothers and sister in Mauritius, Australia and Canada.

ALEX ELMADJIAN, Middle East Union

Valerie and family would like to thank the many people who have sent cards, messages of sympathy and donations in the past few weeks.

Wedding

BOSTWICK-DOVE. The beautiful and traditional fourteenth-century church of St Michael stands open to the elements on the wild moors around Emley in West Yorkshire. It was to this church on the morning of 15 February that relatives and friends of Joanna Bostwick and Christopher Dove made their way. Joanna is the daughter of Pat and Michael Bostwick, and Christopher the son of Marcus and Anne Dove. The groom was ably supported by his best man Graham Annable and by usher Matthew Scholes. Guests had travelled from north and south to share in Joanna and Chris's joyful day. The bride was escorted up the aisle by her mother Pat. Her bridesmaids were sister Louisa, Abigail Murphy and Caroline Pace, and the marriage service was conducted by the Revd John Marsh. Pastor Robert Vine gave the address. He has known Joanna from childhood when he served as pastor in Barnsley and has recently served as Chris's pastor at Stanborough Park, Watford. The readings from Colossians 3:12-17 and Ephesians 3:14-19 were read by Alison Allen and Joanna's father Michael. In his address Pastor Vine gave some humorous anecdotes on the marriage relationship and stressed the need for the love of Jesus, communication and commitment to be central in day-to-day married life. During the signing of the register, Aleta Annable rendered a charming violin solo from the *Water Music Suite* by Handel. The reception was held at nearby Woolley Hall, where the guests enjoyed a delicious meal and very entertaining speeches. We wish Jo and Chris every happiness in their life together.

HAZEL SCHOLES

The Principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre acknowledges with sincere thanks a donation of £300 received in May from the Lancashire area.

Newbold makes economic sense for British and EU students

by Helen Pearson

'Education policy in the UK and the EU is positively affecting students' chances of coming to Newbold,' says director of Student Finance Simone Smit.

'Now that the British government has decided to increase tuition fees at British universities to £3,000 (maximum), the price of Newbold degrees has become much more competitive for British and EU students on Newbold's BD and Humanities courses.'

From 1 August 2006 the government has instituted a new system whereby the student can apply for a low-interest 'fees loan' of £3,000 to cover tuition fees. UK and EU students enrolling for particular UK degrees (BD and BACH) are eligible to apply for this loan.

'And that's not all,' says Simone. 'UK students in all degree courses are also eligible for a grant from the church. Baptised members of a British church can apply for a BUC grant of £1,250. So students receiving the loan and the grant will need to find only another £350 towards their tuition fees.'

'Wherever they go, students need

to pay for food, accommodation and other expenses, but when it comes to tuition, Newbold is looking more and more economical for British and EU students.

'But there's even more generosity for students from the UK. The British Union is particularly generous to aspiring Newbold students. It offers them a 25% grant towards their food and accommodation when they live on campus.'

'Of course, Newbold is not just offering a state accredited-education, it's offering a Christian education, a Seventh-day Adventist education. And the opportunity to make friends with young people from around the world – for life.'

'This choice is a no-brainer!' says Simone!

The maths of tuition fees at Newbold

Basic tuition fees – £4,600.

Student Loan – £3,000

BUC Grant – £1,250

Student to Pay – £350

For more details contact Simone Smit: ssmit@newbold.ac.uk or call her on 01344-407411

Praise for Newbold from Visiting Academics

Newbold College's Combined Humanities degree was revalidated for a further five years by the Open University on 11 May. Four visiting academics from the Universities of Hertfordshire, Sheffield, Surrey, and the Open University comprised the panel to review the programme leading to the BA Honours degree in Combined Humanities.

'Members of the group were very complimentary about the composition of the programme, the strength of the relationships between staff and students, the degree of creativity in the development of the programme, the clear collegiality within the team and in the College at large, the documentation prepared for the review, and the honesty and self-reflection which they had encountered during the visit,' says Dr John Baildam, director of Academic Affairs.

As part of Newbold's ongoing attempt to create flexible ways of studying and lifelong learning, the Open University also validated an

Undergraduate Certificate of Higher Education (one year) and an Undergraduate Diploma of Higher Education (two years). This means that students not wishing to complete the full degree programme in Humanities will be able to exit after one or two years with a recognised qualification.

One reason for the success of the degree, now in its 11th year, is the opportunity at Newbold to study an inter-disciplinary degree in English Literature, European History, and Complementary Studies in an unrivalled context. No other location in the Adventist world can provide such a prime environment for the study of the humanities. Within a stone's throw of the College the eighteenth-century poet, Alexander Pope, lived and wrote. London, less than an hour's train ride away, has provided the setting and inspiration for many of the world's most important events and revolutions in thought.

Students with a Newbold Humanities degree have entered a

<p1 Newbold Awards continued

Newbold in the City, to begin this autumn with a series of lectures



Top: Simone Smit.
Above: Margaret and Jack Mahon.

the summer for fourteen doctoral candidates, all ministers with churches to care for and broad pastoral training and experience, working towards the professional qualification, Doctor of Ministry. Some of the men went to Andrews to receive their awards, but three European pastors (now Doctors) John Ferguson, Aimo Helminen, and Terry Messenger received their awards at Newbold.

For further details on Newbold and its courses visit: www.newbold.ac.uk.

in London. The lectures will give students not able to come to the College a chance to taste the delights of theological education and receive a Licence in Theology.

Of course, offering degree courses in theology on campus continues to be a core Newbold activity. 'Newbold can now offer the "full suite" of theological education,' Dr Penner said, 'with courses leading to BA, MPhil and PhD degrees.'

For the first time this year, the graduation ceremony included awards to DMin candidates. Since 2002, Andrews University has run intensive courses at Newbold during

wide range of successful careers including international development and humanitarian work, marketing, librarianship, teaching, and theatre.

www.newbold.ac.uk/humanities/humanities
HELEN PEARSON

ASI Europe Convention services Sabbath 8 July 2006

Important notice!

Admission will be strictly by ticket only.

If you do not have a ticket please do not come in the hope of getting in. Sorry, but there will simply not be room!

ABC BOOK SALES

July

9 John Loughborough 10am-2pm

16 West Midlands 10am-2pm

Aug

6 John Loughborough 10am-2pm

Sept

3 Open Day

24 West Midlands 10am-2pm

Messenger

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Sunset

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

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| June 23 | 9.22 | 9.34 | 9.35 | 10.03 | 10.04 |
| 30 | 9.21 | 9.34 | 9.34 | 10.02 | 10.03 |
| July 7 | 9.18 | 9.30 | 9.30 | 9.58 | 9.59 |
| 14 | 9.13 | 9.25 | 9.24 | 9.50 | 9.52 |

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