Death of Pastor Dalbert Elias

It was with a deep sense of shock that Seventh-day Adventists in Britain and Ireland received the news of the death of Pastor Dalbert Elias.

The warmth of Dalbert’s outgoing personality made him one of the most loved and popular Church leaders of his generation. He was known, and provoked the most enthusiastic of receptions, in all sectors of our diverse Church family.

The son of an evangelist-president, evangelistic outreach was at the forefront of Dalbert’s ministry. In the last decade Dalbert took the lead in the promotion of satellite evangelism (notably NET ‘98), and was in the vanguard of LIFE development. He was part of the steering group that launched the LIFE info magazine. For more than a generation he was at the cutting edge of technology and sought to harness each new medium to the cause of the Gospel.

Only in the last three months have most of us been aware that Dalbert was struggling with a major illness. All were shocked to hear that he had collapsed and lost consciousness while getting ready for church on Sabbath 1 July, and that he had passed away on Sunday 2 July.

Pastor Dalbert Elias’s funeral will be held at Stanborough Park church on Tuesday 18 July. The service will be conducted by Pastor Alan Hodges, with Pastors C. R. Perry, W. J. Arthur, Patrick Boyle and Ian Sleeman, all of whom were Dalbert’s close personal friends.

“Our condolences go to his family,” said Pastor Perry, the Union president. “In particular to his wife Pat, their sons Grant and Dean, his father Pastor K. A. Elias, and other close relatives.”

BUC Education director receives Governor of the Year Award

by John Surridge, Communication director, BUC

On Wednesday 5 July BUC Education director Dr Keith Davidson was announced as the London winner of the 2006 Department for Education and Science Award for Governor of the Year at the Teaching Awards ceremony held at the Banqueting House, Whitehall.

Over the last month the 2006 Teaching Awards ceremonies have been held at venues across England, Wales and Northern Ireland in order to recognise exceptionally talented head teachers, teachers, teaching assistants and school governors. Dr Davidson was given the award for the outstanding work he has done with the John Loughborough School in Tottenham. The following tribute is taken from the Teaching Awards website:

Keith is an inspirational school governor. For almost 21 years he has been the champion for the education of black and ethnic minority children in his borough. His vision has moved him to the cause of the Gospel.

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Unsurprisingly, Keith is no stranger to accolades, having been The Voice’s Educationalist of the Decade back in 1992, and two years before that presented with the Lignum Vitae award by the government of Trinidad. Utterly approachable, he makes everyone, especially students and staff, feel they can achieve. Above all he advances the fundamental role of education as the means to empower young people, helping them to realise their own potential and to use that knowledge in the service of others. Compassionate, visionary and transformational, Keith is a true beacon for education.

Speaking at the BUC office the morning after receiving his award, Dr Davidson was typically low key about it all. “I knew that I had been shortlisted but it was still a surprise when the award was given. Mainly I’m pleased for the way this reflects on Adventist schools and the standards that they are able to attain.”
Opening of the Brooks Library at Newbold School

It was a special day for Newbold School on Friday 30 June, as the new library was officially opened by the Mayor of Bracknell Forest and Fran Brooks. The room has been named ‘The Brooks Library’ in memory of the late head teacher, Mr Maurice Brooks, whose vision was to create a warm and inviting space for the children and teachers. The library is equipped with a range of modern facilities, including computers providing Internet access for complementing research and study.

The morning was made more memorable by the attendance of three previous Newbold head teachers – Sherard Wilson, Fran Brooks, and John Kitching – chosen originally by the late Mr. Brooks. We were also delighted by songs and poems, ably performed by pupils in the Reception and Year 3-4 classes.

It is planned that the library become a resource room and be equipped with twelve computers providing Internet access for complementing research and study.

We have been blessed and supported by numerous donations towards the library and with continued support can fully stock the resource room.

We thank all the staff at Newbold School for their dedication and efforts in promoting learning in the classroom. The morning was made more memorable by the attendance of three previous Newbold School head teachers, former pupils and parents. The service opened with the entire school singing the school song, ‘The Children’s Saviour’, chosen originally by the late Mr. Brooks. We were also delighted by songs and poems, ably performed by pupils in the Reception and Year 3-4 classes.

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First Swahili-speaking Adventist church in UK
by K. Harun Kuyenga
July 2003 saw the start of a small prayer group with a vision of growing to become a church. Four families captured this vision and started meeting for prayer in their various homes. These families extended an invitation to other Swahili-speaking families, the group started growing, and by God’s grace the first Sabbath meeting took place in January 2004 with 24 adults and 11 children meeting for worship.

The number has been growing ever since and now meetings are attended by an average of 75 worshippers every week. ‘Angaza’ has organised two evangelistic campaigns, two visitors’ Sabbaths, and one revival meeting, and these brought 20 new souls into the fold.

In January this year a request to be organised as a church was made to the South England Conference and we thank God that this was realised on Sabbath 1 July. The event took place in Reading, Berkshire, where Angaza is based, and more than 280 worshippers came to witness the event. During the programme Pastor Michael Moul, of Maranatha churches in London, dedicated four children to the Lord. SEC president Pastor Humphrey Walters preached and conducted the organisation ceremony. He spoke from Isaiah 6:1-8 and challenged members to accept the call and shine to the community. Other officiating ministers included SEC Executive secretary Pastor Victor Hulbert, Area Five co-ordinator Pastor David Sperring, SEC Church Clerk Mr Gideon Benjamin, Pastor Patrick Johnson, senior pastor at Newbold College church, and Pastor Branislav Mirilov, who is the Angaza guardian.

Pastor Walters tested Angaza members on their understanding of church teachings and what makes us different from other churches, and on completion he pronounced, ‘You have passed your test.’ We want to thank whole-heartedly everyone who came to support, witness, and rejoice with us on this memorable day. We seek your prayers that God will help Angaza grow. On behalf of Angaza I would like to extend our invitation to all who can, to join us at the Hexham Community Centre in Reading as we worship Sabbath after Sabbath. We have an evangelistic campaign planned for Sabbath 5 to Sabbath 26 August and all are welcome.

Golden Couple
Glen and Vernilla Sweeney have been married for 51 years! They were married on 12 June 1955 by Pastor Van Putin in the St John’s Seventh-day Adventist church in Antigua. When asked, ‘What advice would you give to young married couples?’ Glen replied, ‘Don’t try to be boss. Be equal partners and let God be Head of the marriage. And both partners must keep communicating.’

Glen and Vernilla are the parents of Pastors Cyril Sweeney and Ian Sweeney, and of Marion (who is married to Robert).

Galway: Unity in Diversity
Sabbath 10 June was a day of rejoicing in Galway church once again. Cornelius Teianu from Moldova, and Tanaka Melusi Mhaka from Zimbabwe went through the waters of baptism. This was the second harvest in the west of Ireland this year. Earlier, on Sabbath 20 May, six people were baptised. Eight people have been baptised so far this year in the district, and four more candidates are ready and will be baptised soon.

The church was filled with people from Limerick, Newmarket-on-Fergus, and Ballinasloe. Fungai Sakake led out in the service and Alice, from Moldova, sang a special song. There were also
Open Day 06

SPECIAL GUESTS FOR OUR CELEBRATION SERVICES

Sunday 3 September

DON C. SCHNEIDER
Vice-president of the General Conference and president of the North American Division

Mark and LaDonna Bunney
United Voices
Leeds Male Voice
Charles Ngandwe

COME! HELP US CELEBRATE!
It would not be the same without you!

Celebrating . . . 40th Anniversary of the re-location of The Stanborough Press to Grantham
COME AND JOIN US
The Stanborough Press
Alma Park, Grantham, Lincs, NG31 9SL
FOR A GREAT DAY OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP

many children in the church. Martha Kongari told the children’s story and then Pastor Ashley Kongari preached on the subject of diversity, highlighting the diversity of people and cultures that exist in the district. He pointed out that the changing trend in society was an important factor to consider in evangelism. “Considering the changing trend,” he said, “the best strategy of evangelism in the west of Ireland is ‘friendship evangelism’. He went on to encourage the congregation to reach out to friends and bring them into the fold of Christ. ‘If you are African, reach out to another African. If you are Irish, reach out to another Irish. But that should not be the limit of our mission field. In fact, anyone who is in need of Gospel is our mission field for you and me.”

Addressing the congregation, he emphasised that “we are united in diversity, in one spirit. We are all different but are parts of the same body, the body of Jesus Christ. After the service, Caroline and Mélusie were formally welcomed into the church by the believers. People had fellowship lunch after the service and left inspired to win souls for Christ.”

Ashley Stanley Kongari

Church for a ‘tough’ area
In March the Manor Newstart church plant project in the Manor Area of Sheffield commenced its fifth year. Four years ago the local church, Carterknowle, took a brave decision to give their blessing to an effort to establish a presence in a ‘tough’ part of the city – Manor. Under the Holy Spirit’s guidance, the local leadership with Pastor Des Rafferty ventured into this new area. With city regeneration being pumped into the area, the Carterknowle church’s decision was certainly of a higher order as they were injecting a Holy Ghost influence into that area.

Since then the Manor Project has gone from strength to strength, of course with some struggles, but by God’s grace they were able to and give thanks to him.

With essential financial assistance from the mother church, Carterknowle, and local funds and sacrifice by the Manor group members, they have been able to develop an essentially strong children’s ministry, as well as reaching and positively affecting the lives of adults and young families.

With words of encouragement from Pastor Roshford-Hewitt, along with a timely message from district Bible worker Collin Woodford, hearts were touched with a sense of gratitude for all that God was doing within and through the group.

With a special visit representing the conference from Marcus and Ann Dove and his words of exhortation, the service was followed by a fellowship meal in the special ‘Manor style’.

PASTOR A. RASHFORD HIGHT

Names have meanings
At Leicester Central’s first baptism in 2006 four sisters in Christ made public their new life in Jesus. The women, whose first names all have a meaning, spoke after their public immersion on why they became Christians.

Sheila (Sheila), 23, said, “We’re living in the last days and I want to prepare for his coming.” Spatiswe (Privileged) ‘Patty’, 22, had prepared herself for baptism last year after a friend encouraged her to return to church, while Sandisiwe (Content with what we have), 17, insisted that it was the right thing to do after the Holy Spirit talked to her. Sithangile (Happy to receive a gift from God), 13, confessed: “There is no life without God.” After having drifted away from Adventism in her youth,

GEORGE DICKIES

Reading Baptism
Pastor Everett Picart baptised Dina Oculi Patrick, Sarah Boucaud Patrick, Gwamaka Mwambogela and Theo Charles on 22 April at Reading Central church.

For Dina it was an extra special occasion, to be baptised on the day of her birthday with daughter Sarah, and to have her youngest daughter Mariame dedicated to the Lord at the same time. Sarah decided to commit her life to Christ when she responded to a baptismal appeal in 2005. It was while Sarah was receiving Bible studies from Pastor Picart that her mother Dina revealed her own desire to be baptised.

Spiritual guardians Caroline Richardson, Tessage Snga and Andre Disso accompanied the newly-baptised members during their formal welcome into the Reading Central and Reading Whitley churches.

The purpose of ‘Kidderminster Nights’ is to be a tool for bringing people near to God through a close worship experience, perhaps for the first time in their lives. It is then for others to open up their home study groups and invite people as they begin to respond. Great music and a wonderful message led at least 25 people to worship the Lord for the first time.

‘Kidderminster Nights’
If you didn’t get to Kidderminster Forest Glades on Saturday 18 March, you really missed a special night. The ‘Kidderminster Nights’ live concert worship experience was a resounding success with just over one hundred people of all ages attending. The event was well supported by various churches. There were also a significant number of people attending who don’t usually go to any kind of church. Many of them said they would bring more friends next time. In total we had about 80 visitors.

Guest speaker Richard Down, a school teacher and lay preacher from Bromyard, dealt very sensitively with the subject of suffering and why bad things seem to happen to innocent people. His talk was both challenging and thought-provoking, coming from his deep experience after losing his brother in a car crash.

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STEVE WINNITT
Dr Bruinsma on ‘Reducing Southern England’

by Jon Gendle

It’s hard to find a single reason to like Dr Reinier Bruinsma, but it’s easy to find many.

On meeting him, one is impressed by his smile; his Dutch accent is always appealing, like the TV narrative of science programmes we watched in our childhoods and of course his knowledge seems as deep as and alluring as the deepest ocean. He is a man in command of his subject, a message to convey, and an awareness of exactly what we need to know.

His talk on ‘Reducing Southern England’ addressed the issue of postmodernism. Yes, we’ve heard so much about this before, but we need to hear more and we need to know it again, over and over until interaction with the subject becomes second nature and discussion of postmodernism elicits an informed response rather than a furrowed brow or glazed eyes. This is the world in which we live. No matter how much we might yearn for a previous age, it will never return; this is the world in which we live and we are committed to knowing Jesus, unless we speak into their postmodern world.

Postmodernists believe in the absence of absolute truth, postmoderns just believe in cold, hard facts – or what we would just call objective truths to inform their worldview, as opposed to religious dogma. Postmodernists are much happier than their parents. Their outlook is much more tolerant of science to provide solutions to many of the problems of our world.

One could sense that Dr Bruinsma had stirred your interest as he began his talk speaking in tongues from our head elder Timothy Clairmont. Dr Bruinsma concluded with the recognition from our head elder Timothy Clairmont.

From Sabbath 27 May to Sunday 11 June a series of revival meetings was held at the Dagenham church on Sabbath and Sunday evenings at 7pm. The meetings were held in the under-16 team, said he was an ‘outstanding and gifted player’.

Baptism at Hanwell

May 20 was a happy day in the life of a very happy church in west London. Hanwell, with some 450 members, witnessed three more joining the family on a very Sabbath morning. Two of her daughters, Paula and Marion, had both left her hospital bed to be present. Then followed Sally Farren (18) from Watford whose friend Weyder Aguilar (Pastor Valder Aguilar’s son) first took her to church. Sally studied with Vaivene Vine prior to joining the Adventist Church from a Roman Catholic background. Sally met Weyder during the youth summer camp and they were just two friends.

Dr Rex Riches has emailed from the United States. The ‘first (recorded) Adventist baptism in Ireland’ was the burial of 18-year-old Josiah Prince at Meriden Estate several years ago. We deemed the filling of the pool a worthy use of scarce water during the drought. In spite of Hanwell’s limited water supply, the pool was full and the water was cold.

Seven baptised at Stanborough Park

Sabbath 24 June was a very happy day for Pastor Ian Sleeman of the family at Stanborough Park, Pastor Ian Sleeman, who is giving a series of talks on the Gospel of John, had over the past few months been teaching his flock about the life of the Eunuch.

The revival climax with the baptism of Kashina Claymont on the final Sabbath. That was the first ever baptism in Hanwell. Kashina has been very involved in music, communication and the AYS department.

The revival series ended with a presentation from Lead elder Timothy Clairmont.

Messaenger 7
Mayor joins prayer initiative by Maxine Donovan

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