Over 50% of all adults in the UK have access to the Internet and that figure is rising exponentially. So significant is the rise in demand for Internet access that Internet advertising has jumped by over 50%, with companies jostling for online locations and market share.

In a changing world, the demands made of each person change from one generation to another. The facts of the Gospel do not change; however, the methods of presentation must change for the Gospel to stand any chance of holding the attention of the twenty-first century mind.

From 1 June a new website will be available throughout the territory of the British Union. It invites the user to enter into a conversation on ten important aspects of the human experience. The areas include Love, Forgiveness, and Hope. But don’t take my word alone. See for yourself!

Summary
Watch more – 100 video clips from which to choose
Read more – Lots of articles to read and peruse
Related topics – Browse through a host of related topics
Comment – Share your comment on the content viewed or read
Meet People – Find groups of people in or close to your community.

Wish list or reality?
 Wouldn’t it be nice to introduce your friends to a place where their questions concerning God, lifestyle and commitment can be aired? A place where they can discover like-minded people in or close to their community, view material specially prepared to challenge the thought processes and the reasons for doing what we do.

‘Such a place doesn’t exist,’ I hear you say. Let me introduce you to the new LIFEdvelopment website.

It is a leading edge website that says quality with every click of your mouse.

Our modern lives seem to be driven by websites from train tickets to our weekly shopping experience; websites are now part of the modern way of living. So what is different and special about this website?

The site is fully navigable and has an intuitive feel, offering the visitor a variety of topics, extensive material for perusal, both visual and written. It is enhanced by a forum for dialogue and contact with discussion groups.

The new LD website is part of the social media advertising, allowing the Church to engage in a conversation with a wider and diverse audience.

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IMMUNITY (part 4)

IMMUNITY AND MENTAL WELL-BEING

An exciting new area of research in the field of health psychology looks at the link between mental health, stress, and the immune system. Some key findings from recent research include:

- A person who is more relaxed and less stressed tends to have a stronger immune system.
- Chronic stress can weaken the immune system and make a person more susceptible to illness.
- Social support can help reduce stress and improve immune function.

Some key takeaways from this research are:

- Prioritize self-care and stress management.
- Foster strong, supportive relationships.
- Seek professional help if needed.

By taking these steps, individuals can improve their mental health and boost their immune system.
Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life

A number of readers have requested that we reproduce the full text of the speech given by BUC president, Pastor Don McFarlane, in the debate at Durham University on Friday 27 April

This House believes that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

These were words spoken by Jesus himself when he was designing his listeners to understand the reason he was in the world. It is important first of all to establish the context in which Jesus spoke these words. He had just told his followers that he was going back to heaven and to his Father. He ended by saying, "You know the way to the place I am going, to which Thomas, one of his followers, said, "No, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

In reply, Jesus uttered the immortal words, "I am the way, the truth and the life." It is clear then, from the response of Jesus that he meant that he was the way to heaven. There is no complication regarding the word 'way' here. It is odd, which simply means a path or a road. (Jesus is saying, 'I am the path to heaven.') I am (the truth) (a way). "There is no greater truth than me." We all know that sometimes there is not much difference in the way they are used. However, 'way' usu-

ally refers to existence or being alive while 'truth' means a path or a road. (Jesus is saying, 'I am the path to heaven.') I am (the truth) (a way). 'There is no greater truth than me.' In other words, when you know me, there is no other idea, philosophy or teaching that is more important than I am and what I represent. I am also the Life (the absolute truth). It is an incredibly exclusive statement. There is no ambiguity in it.

First, Jesus is the only one of his kind. He is both human and divine. His physical entrance into the world defined human logic and went against what we know to be the principles of science. In Philippians 2:5-8, Paul says, "Christ, though he was ... he is the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross." (1995)

Jesus is the only one of his kind. He has conquered death and promises that same victory to those who are saved through him. No wonder he declared that he is 'THE LIFE'.

Second, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead helped his followers to understand that he was who he said he was. He had predicted both his death and resurrection. Someone famously referred to Jesus' resurrection from the dead as 'a conjuring trick with bones.' That was not the view of many of his contemporaries, who were present at his crucifixion and who were eyewitnesses of the resurrected Lord. Of all the great teachers and leaders of world religions, Jesus is the only one who rose from the dead. His bones are not in his tomb, for as was declared on that glorious Sunday morning, 'He is risen.' That Jesus was crucified is a matter of historical record, not only in Christian literature, but also in Roman and Jewish sources. That he was incorporated into our religion is supported by the statements of eyewitnesses - who were so sure of what they had seen that rather than deny it, they died under Roman torture and perished. He has conquered death and promises that same victory to those who are saved through him. No wonder he declared that he is 'THE LIFE'.

In the next place, Christianity stands alone of all the great religions in declaring that we are not saved by our works. Christianity declares that we cannot save ourselves by good works, though goodness is a virtue for which we must strive. We are saved by the sacrifice of Jesus, for in that sacrifice he paid the price for the salvation of us all.

The Christian understanding is that God created man perfect but gave him freedom of choice. In exercising that freedom, man disobeyed God and thus severed the close and life-maintaining relationship with him. The consequence of that disobedience was death. God demonstrated his love and his supreme sense of responsibility in saving his Son to purchase for us our disobedience. We could not and could not save ourselves. Man is saved by accepting the merits of Christ's sacrifice.

There is a Buddhist story that tells of a boy who is wandering in a mindless, careless living. This eventually led to his falling upon hard times. (Sound familiar?) He eventually returned home and was ordered by his father to work off the penalty for his misdeeds. Jesus told a similar story, but the ending was different. The boy was returned to his father, who kissed him, covered up his filthy clothes, showered him with love and made a feast to celebrate his return. Jesus' father represents our heavenly Father.

Then, we cannot ignore the fact that Jesus' teaching of those who heard him realised that here was someone special. He was not reliant on the ideas of others to teach. His teaching came from his own being. He was not influenced by moral authority, for he is not a moral teacher. He either is or is not. There is no compromise, accommodation and religious inclusiveness. Others appear to want to fuse by all religious waters, so to speak, and elect to serve several gods or a combination of gods, just to be on the safe side. This is wonderfully illustrated by the pop group quintessence in one of their songs: "Jesus, Buddha, Moses, Gauranga, Draw me deep in the sea of your love, Jesus, Buddha, Moses, Gauranga. Oh maya, oh maya, oh maya." The Roman Emperor, Septimius, had a similar view. He hedged his bets by having, in his private chapel, statues of defined emperors - Constantine, Orpheus and Jesus. So, if one didn't work, one of the others would!

The Christian faith, as I understand it, offers no alternative to Jesus as a means of salvation. Over two billion people in the world believe that Jesus is what he claimed to be - that he is God, that his death on the Cross was his sacrifice for the sins of the world - the sins of all people; that he rose from the dead and that he is coming back to this Earth as he said he would. Whoever accepts him as Lord and Saviour, regardless of class, culture, nationality or colour, is granted salvation. 'I am the way, the truth and the life,' declared Jesus. This is an incredibly exclusive statement. There is no ambiguity in it.

That there is one way to heaven is a matter of great comfort to me, and possibly to many others. Joseph Stowell in his book, The Trouble with Jesus, commenting on the religious scene in the first century AD, says, "Interestingly, the exclusiveness of Jesus as the only way became an issue of great comfort to me, and possibly to many others. That there is one way to heaven is a matter of great comfort to me, and possibly to many others.

Third, Jesus said, "Let us demonstrate Lead to God?" (Jesus, Buddha, Moses, Gauranga, Oh maya, oh maya, oh maya.) In his book, Lead to God? C. S. Lewis said that there is one mistake we can make - that is to say, 'I am ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God.' He went on to say, 'A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic . . . or else he would be the devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was and is the Son of God; or else a madman or something worse. You cannot put him for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him for making the claim to be God, or you can bow your head and call him Lord and God but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.'

Jesus' claim to be the Way, the Truth and the Life is among the many claims that mark him as different from Confucius, Zoroaster, Buddha or Mohammed. They had too much regard for their credibility to make such claims. C. S. Lewis was right: to make such claims, one has been made mad by God or God. No one, apparently, is suggesting that he was mad or bad. As we have seen, the compromise strategy "simply a great teacher" is not tenable because of his claims. That leaves us with: Jesus - THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE.
Adventist contributes to Black British History Oxford Companion

High Commissioner to Guyana, Edward Glover, among professors and writers, Baroness Lola Young of Hornsey, for the host for this event, who also acted as an advisory editor for the book, gave a keynote address, stating that this Oxford Companion gave black history a certain kind of legitimacy in the year of the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the Slave Trade in the British Empire. The Oxford Companion, was edited by Dr David Dalby, John Gilmore and Cecily Jones, scholars at the University of Warwick, who guided contributions from more than 100 specialists, aided by a highly esteeved team of advisers. Philip Herbert said, ‘It was a joy to see in microcosm, the team of contributors from multi-cultural Britain, meeting fellow writers for the first time to celebrate the launch of this Oxford Companion.’

The time line of this volume encompasses key dates about events and information on individuals stretching from the second century AD to the twenty-first century. Individuals such as an African by the name of Quintus Lollius Urbicus who governed Roman Britain in AD138; Olaudah Equiano, a black Abolitionist, John Edmonstone, a freed captive from British Guiana, who taught Charles Darwin taxidermy; Samuel Eqiano, a black Abolitionist; John Edmonstone, a freed captive from British Guiana, who taught Charles Darwin taxidermy; Philip Quaque from the coast of Ghana, the first African to be ordained a priest in the Church of England in 1765; and the prodigy Philip Wheatley who became the first black woman to publish a book in Britain in 1773, are among some of the numerous revealing nuggets of information stored in this companion.

Philip Herbert was invited to contribute biographies on the lives of various classical musicians and composers from across the African Diaspora, including Samuel Coleridge Taylor, who was at one time revered internationally alongside his contemporaries such as Elgar and Charles Villiers Stanford. The composer/violist Le Chevalier de Saint Georges (c.1749-99) who gave fencing exhibitions in London for the Prince of Wales; Wilfred Attlee, famed for his husky-voiced piano performances; Eula Sowande, revered as a father figure and composer from Nigeria; and the singer Roland Hayes, to name a few. Philip said, “It was an inspiration to discover the astonishing achievements made by these musicians when there were so many challenges and obstacles placed in their way, which should show an example to us all.”

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

ASNA Respite & Training Weekend

With glorious sunshine and wonderful fresh air, sixty people gathered at the Pioneer Centre, Kidderminster for the sixth annual ASNA Respite Weekend.

The theme for the weekend ‘The path to true happiness’ ran throughout all the activities and workshops. Nigel Nichols presented the Sabbath morning workshop on ‘The Source of All Happiness’ from Romans 12:12a – ‘Be your happiness on your hope in Christ.’

Sharon Platt McDonald, recently appointed BUC Special Needs co-ordinator and Health Ministries director, presented an interesting and life-changing workshop on ‘Health and Happiness.’

This was followed by an opportunity for the delegates, all of whom have experience of living with disabilities and special needs, to contribute towards the development of the BUC Special Needs Ministries Strategic Plan led the BUC co-ordinator. Some very important points were raised by the delegates, such as the need for church audits to identify accessible churches and those meeting the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA); the need for disability awareness training and support for the new Special Needs co-ordinators recently appointed at the local level in the BUC; the need for local church deaf awareness, mobility and learning disability training; and access to qualified British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters at large Conference and Union events.

Other workshops during the weekend included ‘Preparing for Financial Happiness’ presented by Chudi Ugbomah and Deborah Harris. ‘Travel Young, ASNA!’ facilitated the ‘Carers Support Network group’; Sophia Nichols ran the ‘Inclusive children’s music workshop’ and ‘Siblings of disabled children and adult support group’.

Without the diligent and untried work of many of the volunteers and co-ordinators, this weekend would not have been possible. Volunteers supported children and adults with disabilities and special needs to access activities such as bowling, orienteering, big bounce experience and music workshops.

We would like to pay tribute to our volunteers and sponsors: SEC, AGRA UK, ASNA members and many supporters.

Other events and projects planned for 2007/8 are to support siblings of disabled children. Many young people have to provide help because a brother or sister has an illness or disability. This can range from helping with chores or caring directly for their sibling by spending time sitting with them or helping with their daily routines. These people are described as young carers and it is increasingly acknowledged that they need recognition and support like any other carer. Everybody’s family circumstances are different but the Carers National Association describes a younger carer as ‘anyone under the age of 18 whose life is in some way restricted because of the need to take responsibility for the care of a person who is ill or has a disability.’ These restrictions may include having their schooling affected, not being able to do day-to-day activities and being deprived of opportunities to see their friends.

In light of this need, ASNA is supporting a sibling’s water-sports day on the 3 June, and planning for a support and activity week in 2008.

Other projects include a feasibility study on the development of a respite residential and support centre for people with special needs and disability, continued local training days and working with the BUC to support local special needs co-ordinators.

The next weekend event in 2007 is the Carers weekend 21-23 September at Staverton Park Hotel, Northants.

For further details on any event or activity by the Adventist Special Needs Association, please call 0191 833359 and speak to Sophia Nichols (ASNA executive secretary) or Patricia Bayliss (ASNA administrator) or visit the ASNA website www.asna.info or send an email asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk. To support the work of ASNA, please send cheques payable to ASNA, 65 St Neils Avenue, Bournemouth, Dorset, UK 1060.

SOPHIA NICHOLLS

PRISON MINISTRIES

Prison Ministries is a deeply rewarding Christian service. There are a small number of churches and ministers in the North England Conference who are moved towards this ministry. In my role as Prison Ministries co-ordinator, my time is very limited. However, I am able to visit a number of prisons each year to present worship services. One of the Prison Ministry groups with which I work closely is at the Leeds church. This group has been provid-England Conference who are moved towards this ministry. In my role as Prison Ministries co-ordinator, my time is very limited. However, I am able to present worship services. One of the Prison Ministry groups with which I work closely is at the Leeds church. This group has been providing two Sunday services each month and two Bible studies each week for over two years now. It started in 2000 to a handful of inmates. Just before Christmas, I visited Leeds church and found a former inmate testifying both to the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ and to the support and friendship offered by the Prison Ministries group.

Northampton is yet another church with a passion for prisoners. Their group, led by Angela Woodburn, has been impacting the lives of hundreds of inmates over the past ten years plus. Indeed, their elder testifies to the fact that he was once on the wrong side of the law and the prison bars. Following a recent artic-icle in the monthly Prison Ministry newsletter this group has now been invited to Sheffield Burngreave to present a programme titled ‘Families in Distress’ and to speak to the West Midlands Community Services organisation. It is one of the favourite songs for prisoners everywhere – I have visited it, ‘He’s got the whole world in his hands,’ and I cannot help but wonder at the mercy and grace of God who makes himself known both in the darkness of prison and in the darkness of a soul bound in the chains of sin. I am currently working on the next newsletter and am looking for articles from parents and spouses of those in prison. If you would like to contribute please ring Pastor Thomas on 0115 960 312.

MEDITATION DAY OF FELLOWSHIP

Sabbath 2 June

At St Mary Stoke Newington, New Church Rooms, Stoke Newington, Church Street, London N16 9ES.

Lay evangelist Mildred Robinson of North Caribbean Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, USVI.

Contact William Riley (principal co-ordinator MDF) – tel: 0121 241 7316; email: williamr@btinternet.com

www.asna.info
Pastor Ken Clothier retires – again! by Sheila Bell

Pastor Clothier retired from church ministry in 1997 and now, at age 77, he has retired again – this time from the management of Coniston House, Devon.

Twenty years ago, members of the Exeter and Torquay churches expressed a desire to establish a residential home somewhere in their area. When Pastor Clothier moved into the district a few years later, he caught the same vision and began to work on the project.

Devon has a magnificent coast-line and exquisite moorland, not to mention a very moderate climate, and it became apparent that those most interested in a home preferred to be near the sea. For obvious reasons they also preferred to live on the level, near shops and a railway station.

The search was on, from Sidmouth in a northerly direction to Dartmouth further south. Humanity speaking, it seemed ridiculous to talk about buying a property when no funds had been written into the church budgets for this purpose in either of the two churches. However, an impressive granite stone property built in 1901, in its own grounds, in Paignton, came on the market. It happened to be only 200 yards from the sea, and only a five-minute walk from shops and the railway station.

Pastor Clothier felt impressed to make a bid for the property with no real prospect of acquiring any cash. The bid he made was for £100,000 less than the asking price, and that was not done deliberately in the expectation of a refusal. The response from the vendor was, however, negative. Three wearisome years followed, traipsing from town to town, seeking out properties, either suitable to our requirements or with the right potential.

In the fulness of God’s time (a salutary lesson to most of us), several things happened simultaneously. The vendor of the property in Paignton that Pastor Clothier thought suited our needs best three years earlier, reduced his price to the seemingly ridiculous figure he had offered at the time; a torquay church member felt also in Jesus, bequeathing 50% of the money needed; the torquay church community agreed to make a generous donation, so Good Health Association (Scotland) and the British Union Conference agreed to make up the shortfall. Our time is not always God’s time! Six flats are currently occupied but two are still available. Pastor Clothier completed forty-five years of full-time ministry, but since then has supervised Coniston House on a voluntary basis for another ten years, working with his hands to help with building, plumbing, electrics, gardening and decorating – hundreds of hours of unpaid labour. He has no intention yet of stepping down from the pulpit, his parish covering most of the West Country where he still preaches most Sabbaths.

Victor Pilmoor, this week’s guest, Donovan Cleary, SDIA secretary, and Pastor Martin Bell from GHA and chaplain to the retired church workers, joined residents at Coniston House to express their appreciation to him on Wednesday 11 April.

‘And can it be . . .’

Sabbath 10 March was the final Communion service at Tottenham for 2007 and it held a special meaning. As a church we collectively remember Jesus God’s great sacrifice for us by breaking bread together and washing each other’s feet.

The morning was full of jubilant singing and praise. This continued into the food-washing ceremony, when both men and women lay as if their feet were washed. At that time we remembered the deed Jesus did for his disciples before their Last Supper.

Every Communion service is special for our deacons and deaconesses. The department provides the ideal environment for the remembrance of the miracle of our Last Supper. Bread was broken before the congregation and was distributed downstairs to those unable to climb the stairs into the sanctuary. The unfermented wine, which represented Jesus’ blood, was also shared throughout the congregation.

It was good that the Communion service was carried out in the most sacred of conditions. The atmosphere remained reverent throughout and special items were offered.

A very special service was brought to an end with the use of hymn 198 – ‘And Can It Be’, for Tottenham church was collectively granted an ‘rest in the Saviour’s blood’.

AMEN

Retired church workers meet at granoVita

On Sunday 22 April, sixty retired church workers converged on granoVita in Wellington. This was one of the first ‘get-togethers’ of retirees planned in various parts of the UK, giving opportunity for old colleagues and friends to meet up to socialize, share information, and share devotional time together.

Nigel Phillips, the manager of granoVita, and his team, made everyone very welcome and provided a sumptuous and delicious meal in one of the giant health food warehouses, surrounded by several million pounds worth of products ready for distribution to supermarkets throughout the UK.

One of the most successful and profitable food businesses in Germany and the UK, granoVita supports the Church where it can. Nigel Phillips told the retirees how they have been able to support the Adventist College in Tanzania by providing a new roof for the dormitory and have also constructed an administration building.

They have also provided the funds to feed 20,000 otherwise malnourished and starving children in Tanzania. In the UK they have supported Harper Bell School, fully equipping their gymnasium, and also Dudley House School. At Aberdeen they paid the cost of three new chalets on the Church campus and they have recently given £100,000 to support the Discovery Centre.

granoVita is also supporting the ‘Take Jesus’ campaign throughout Europe.

The retired workers, greatly heartened by what they had seen and heard, were further encouraged by Pastor John Arthur, who told us of his visit to Buckingham Palace where he was presented to the Queen. John received his DBE for services to humanity. A film, prepared by the BBC in honour of John and ADR’s, work, was screened for the group.

This was followed by a report from the BUC by Pastor Allan Hodges, its Ministerial director. Alan outlined the challenges facing the Church in an increasingly non-Christian and unbelieving culture. He told the group that in the last ten years the Church of England has lost 29% of its membership and surveys have shown that whereas 3 years ago 60% of people declared some belief in God, a more recent poll suggests that this figure has dropped to 35%. Despite this, the Adventist Church in the UK continues by all means to spread the Gospel message.

The day was concluded with a devotional period and drinks and cakes. It is hoped that these get-togethers for retired church workers will become regular events. The next one planned is in Carmarthen, Wales, on Sunday 17 June, and we are also planning another at Stanborough Park in the autumn.

News Break
Eleven baptised in Cardiff

On Sabbath afternoon 14 April eleven people were baptised in the Cardiff church. This is the largest baptism of recent times in the Welsh Mission and the Cardiff church was filled near to capacity with family members and friends. Each candidate had a unique story of how they came to find Jesus, and the process that led them to decide to be baptised. Pastor Sandy Pairman encouraged the church members to ensure that they too were always looking for opportunities to tell the story of what Jesus had done in their lives.

Newcastle baptises six

Sabbath 28 April was extra special for Newcastle church. Six people, all but one in their teens, were baptised. Between them they had a history of church attendance but no personal relationship with Jesus. The time to find their true identity in Him was the most important decision of their lives.

Peckham youth go make a difference

The generosity of Watford Observer readers towards needy children in an Indian orphanage has overwhelmed Garston resident, Kish Poddar. The founder of STOP International, who helps children in orphanages in southern India, Mr Poddar had promised the children their own watches as a special token of appreciation for helping to make his trip a success. He recently baptised six and was looking forward to helping his promise come true.

Watford people are generous

Watford Observer readers towards needy children in an Indian orphanage have overwhelmed Garston resident, Kish Poddar. The founder of STOP International, who helps children in orphanages in southern India, Mr Poddar had promised the children their own watches as a special token of appreciation for helping to make his trip a success. He recently baptised six and was looking forward to helping his promise come true.

Harwell's anniversary baptism

On 28 April Harwell church, situated in the west of London, was seventy-five years old. Church members past and present helped fill our pews to the maximum as we all came together to celebrate the occasion.

Sweet Fellowship at Redditch

On 28 April, towards the end of the hottest April since records began, the Redditch assembly held a day of fellowship. The modern town hall in the centre of Redditch, beaded with spring flowers, accommodated the visitors who included the Camp Hill senior choir, attenders from the Newbold church in the west Midlands and other visiting non-members. The usual church attendance was at least doubled and it gave us a chance to meet up with friends we had not seen for a while.

Major donation for new conference centre

by Helen Pearson, PRO

Generous gifts to Newbold this spring funded a new seminar and conference facilities at the College. This year, the family of a former Newbold principal and other American supporters knew as the Principal’s Council have given $30,000 to the College. The gifts from the family of Principal H. W. Smith, some of whom have been students at Newbold themselves, will be added to $18,000 from donors to the annual Newbold appeal. The money will be used to upgrade what is, at present, the Audio Visual Centre in Salisbury Hall – to be called ‘The Smith Centre’. The plan is to convert an upstairs wing of Salisbury Hall into a self-contained conference area to accommodate up to fifty people. The centre will incorporate two adjoining rooms which are now staff offices and, before the mid-70s, were library stack rooms. The College administration is planning an official opening in September for the new facilities.

February resulted in dozens of watches arriving from complete strangers, which he was able to take with him on his latest humanitarian visit last month. More arrived after he had left for India and he will take these with him on his next visit in July.

Making a world of difference

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SEC Elders’ Council
by Nana Sifa Twum, London-Ghana church

The president of the South England Conference, Pastor Humphrey Walters, has advised church elders to stand up and articulate what is supposed to be said, otherwise the Church will be spending time on less important issues than preparing souls for the kingdom.

Pastor Walters was addressing this year’s Elders’ Council and Bible Conference at the King’s Park Conference Centre in Northampton.

The three-day conference was attended by over two hundred church elders and some other church departmental leaders from the SEC territory.

The conference is organised annually by the SEC to equip leaders of the church with knowledge and leadership skills. The theme for the weekend was: ‘Excellence in Service’.

Participants at this year’s conference were taken through an inspiring exercise of identification and use of their respective spiritual gifts. Among the stimulating and educational topics discussed were the pastor-elder relationship, theological issues, management and problem solving, the church elder, and the Sabbath School, and what it means to be a Seventh-day Adventist in the twenty-first century.

Pastor Walters commended the organisation of the one hundred and thirtieth church in the Conference on that particular Sabbath, observing that much has been achieved in the past years in terms of spreading the Gospel in the Conference, but there is more to be done to accomplish that given task, adding that ‘The Lord has called us for a finished work’.

He noted that, ideally there should be at least one Adventist church to every twenty-five thousand souls of the population, a situation the church has not yet come near to attaining.

Pastor Walters therefore asked the elders vigourously and prayerfully to formulate strategies in line with the Conference’s ‘Go Tell’ programme to double their efforts to win more souls for the kingdom.

He suggested, ‘Let us identify the felt needs of the local communities and prayerfully meet them.’ He said that this will help the Church to make an impact in society and use one such platform to attract the Gospel to the people.

‘You cannot stand in sunshine without casting a shadow: in like manner, you cannot be in the church without casting an influence in the church and in your society,’ he noted.

The special guest speaker, Pastor Kwabena Donkor, an associate director of the Biblical Research Institute of the General Conference of the Church, encouraged the elders to teach their church members to be wary of suspicious groupings coming up in the Church with dangerous doctrines.

He said the devil is using many biblical texts to confuse ‘even the elect’ and some renowned members of the Church have unfortunately allowed themselves to be used to propagate false doctrines.

Dr Donkor observed that many avenues are being employed, including the use of science to lure people away from the truth. He therefore advised the elders prayerfully to study the Bible in order to be able to discern properly and also to be able to teach their members.

Other speakers included Mrs E. Staple of the SEC, Dr Daniel Duda of the Trans-European Division, Dr M. Hamilton, Mrs V. Evers, Pastors A. Vontzalidis and R. Hines.

The co-ordinators of the conference, Pastors Cecil Perry, Ministerial Association secretary and Richard de Lisser, Personal Ministries and Sabbath School director of SEC, expressed satisfaction with the great blessing the annual event had brought to the lives of participants and their respective churches over the years.

What is a drug? And how do we relate to individuals who are drug users? we asked.

Recently the Lewisham youth took part in a drama workshop and collaborated with our local council to raise drug awareness.

We enjoyed role plays, discussions, fun and games and all put together a drama piece showing the dangers of becoming involved with drugs.

The first week kicked off with interactive games, allowing us to work together in a creative manner.

In one game we were split into two teams and had to form a particular shape (for example, a dog or a clock) as the most imaginative and creative way, utilising all team members.

We also did role plays, portraying the views and opinions of different individuals affected by a young person’s drug abuse.

While we were working on this project, a group of adult members, including the AYS and youth club leaders, participated in an eight-week drug training programme, ending with sixteen individuals receiving certificates.

The main facilitator from the council, Eve, came to one of our workshops and did a small drug training session where we examined and discussed the drugs most affecting youth today, which we felt were alcohol, cannabis and cigarettes.

Finally we put together a short dramatisation entitled, ‘Just say No’ and presented it at the Albany Theatre in Deptford in front of a host of other organisations.

The writer filed the vital role of DJ, holding the show together with 'her' (mimed) music skills! Two of our youth, Joseph Aeti and Shada Chambers, designed artwork for the T-shirts which we all wore at the presentation.

It was at the General Conference held in Washington in 1909 that Elder W. J. Fitzgerald, president of the British Union Conference, announced that a new church had been built and dedicated in the city of Belfast. This church, built of corrugated iron, became known familiarly as Flancowne. It had been planned and building work carried out under the Presidency of Elder W. G. Richardson, though not without great anxiety.

The church was dedicated on the 19th November, 1908, at a service attended by many of the advocates of this work of building. The week before the dedication was held in Washington, the building site was cleared of the last vestiges of building materials through the courtesy of one of Hitler’s bombs. It is right in the heart of south Belfast, directly facing the main entrance to the Belfast City Hospital, one of Belfast’s major hospitals. It is also in the heart of the university district, only a few hundred metres from Queen’s University. Not only is it placed in this central location, but it is now in the heart of the most expensive part of the city.

Situated as we are, we are not a community church, and consequently our members travel to the church from a radius of around fifteen miles. In recent years we have benefited from visitors coming from all over Europe, Africa and as far away as the Philippines who now live in the Belfast area. However, not only have we welcomed visitors from abroad we have done our own fair share of exporting to many countries in the world. This is illustrated in our guest speaker, David McAllister, originally a valued Belfast church member, who now ministers in Australia.

David is a son of Ulster, having been born just outside Ballyhanichr around fifteen miles from Belfast. He began attending the church as a boy of 7 with his father, brothers and sister. Over the years David became a valued and active member in the church as Sabbath School teacher and talented preacher. After accepting a call to the ministry from Newfound College in 1995 and began his ministry in Crieff. He then accepted a call to minister in Australia, the home of his wife Jenny. David is currently the pastor of Para Vista SDA Church, the largest Adventist congregation in the city of Adelaide. He and Jenny have two sons, Luke (14) and Nathan (13). We are pleased that he has agreed to come and be our guest speaker on this special occasion and know that God will bless us through his ministry.

We have a special place in our hearts for all those who have ministered to us in Belfast over the past five decades. The list is long and rather than leave anyone out, we are glad that now a new day seems to be dawning for northern Ireland and we thank God that through the years he has remained faithful.

Not only are we taking this opportunity to look back over these years, but we also look to the many friends we have known and to the good times we’ve shared with those who used to live and worship with us in Belfast. Because we value these friendships, we would invite any who have a past association with the Belfast church to come and join in the celebrations on which we will be held on Sabbath 30 June 2007.

Those who would like more information may contact Pastor Adam Kough at the above address or email adam@adventist.ie. 

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BERYL HALL

Pastor J. David Newman

His funeral was held on 3 April in the Lowestoft Sabbath School teacher in the Yarmouth church and preached regularly. Finally, as he entered his 80s, he decided he must begin work again in the church. He left the church in 1980 and moved to the United Kingdom, where he started his own company in the food industry. His funeral was held in Lowestoft on 2 March.

EILEEN WALLER

Dorothy was born in Hull on 26 November 1910. She was the first child of Herbert and Edna Frow. Her twin sisters, Audrey and Betty, were born three years later. In 1933, Dorothy married Reg Penicott, and they went on to have four children, Miriam, Esther, Michael and David. A Christian education was very important to Dorothy and, in spite of her financial sacrifices, their children were all educated at Stanborough School.

RAYMOND EDWARD COOPER (1931-2006)

On 9 November the Second World War ended in Europe, and Harold returned to his office in Basingstoke. He was appointed to the Yarmouth church in 1953, and he served there until his retirement in 1980.

Cecilia Ellen Ramsay (1912-2007)

She was born in Edinburgh on 9 February 1912, and she was educated at the Ladies College of Edinburgh University. After her graduation, she worked for several years as a secretary before becoming a full-time church worker.

Henry Edwards (1878-1939)

He was the first white man to witness the baptism of the Savages in the Solomon Islands. He was later appointed to the Solomon Islands mission, where he served as a missionary for 20 years.

Jack Mahon and family wish to record their heartfelt thanks to the very many dear friends in many places who kindly sent loving messages to Margaret and the family during the time of Margaret's passing with many anecdotes of their friendship through the years. Please visit the family website: www.mahonfamily.co.uk

DAVID SWAIN

It is with a deep sense of sadness that the family of David Penicott and family record their heartfelt thanks to the very many dear friends in many places who kindly sent loving messages to David and the family during the time of David's passing with many anecdotes of their friendship through the years. Please visit the family website: www.mahonfamily.co.uk

DAVID PENICOTT

On 16 December in the way of doing one of the things that he loved doing in this world, singing in the choir and singing with the Adventists, Pastor Walter J. Newman passed away. Pastor Walter J. Newman was born in 1910 in London. He attended Newbold College when it was located in Rugby, and when he graduated from the ministerial course in 1936, he was assigned to work with an evangelistic team where his main work was distributing handbills. Tiring of that, he applied for mission service and in 1937 he departed for Nigeria to serve as a missionary. He would not find the bride of his dreams. Two Sabbaths before his return, he was invited to lunch at the local pastor's home.

May 1923, the first child of Herbert and Edna Frow. Her twin sisters, Audrey and Betty, were born three years later. Their family moved to Gwent, and they went on to have four children, Miriam, Esther, Michael and David. A Christian education was very important to Dorothy and, in spite of her financial sacrifices, their children were all educated at Stanborough School.

Dorothy and Reg and, in spite of the great financial sacrifice, their children were all educated at Stanborough School. In 1983 Dorothy and Reg retired to Northern Ireland, where they remained until the time of Dorothy's passing. They had four children, Miriam, Esther, Michael and David. Dorothy and Reg retired to Northern Ireland, where they remained until the time of Dorothy's passing. They had four children, Miriam, Esther, Michael and David.

A Christian education was very important to Dorothy and, in spite of her financial sacrifices, their children were all educated at Stanborough School.

CECELIA ELLEN RAMSAY (1912-2007) d. 31 January.

Livingston. He could also be counted on to use his practical skills to enhance church properties in need of repair. Ivor, who had served as Sec- retary of the American Mission in China for many years, passed away on 19 November 2007.

DOROTHY SWAIN (1923-2006) d. 18 December 1997.

It was a deep spiritual sorrow to the family when her beloved father, Reg Penicott, passed away in 1997. She was a member of the Stanborough School community and was well loved by her teachers and classmates. After her graduation from Stanborough School, she went on to study at Newbold College and was awarded a scholarship to pursue her studies in the United Kingdom. She then went on to work as a teacher in the United Kingdom and continued to serve in the church.

DOROTHY MAHON (1919-2007) d. 8 February.

She was the first white man to witness the baptism of the Savages in the Solomon Islands. He was later appointed to the Solomon Islands mission, where he served as a missionary for 20 years.

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ADVENTIST REVIEW editor
DR ROY ADAMS, guest speaker,
will be present for the launch of his once-in-a-lifetime book which he has chosen to publish with The Stanborough Press –
FROM THE HEART
Music from Oasys and Jennifer Phillips
Plenty of offers on food and books, and of course fun for the children

The John Loughborough Seventh-day Adventist School
Holcombe Road, Tottenham, London, N17 9AD
Headteacher: Dr June Alexis
Telephone: 020 8808 7637
Fax: 020 8801 6719

Teaching Staff
The governors and headteacher wish to appoint a number of teachers for the Autumn Term 2007.
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 and support workers to make their mark by contributing to a dynamic, improving and forward-looking school. The successful candidates should have a track record of success in their subject specialism or area of work, commitment to the highest standards of learning and teaching, and must subscribe to the values of the school.

We are seeking to appoint:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post</th>
<th>Appointment Status</th>
<th>Salary</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Headteacher</td>
<td>Full-Time</td>
<td>L4 – L9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum and Assessment</td>
<td>Full-Time</td>
<td>MPS + TLR 2c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of Science and Technology</td>
<td>Full-Time</td>
<td>MPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Technology Teacher</td>
<td>Full-Time</td>
<td>MPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male PE Teacher</td>
<td>Full-Time</td>
<td>MPS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT Technician</td>
<td>Full-Time</td>
<td>NJC 14 – 21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art Technician</td>
<td>Part-Time</td>
<td>NJC 14 – 21</td>
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Further details and application forms are available from: Headteacher at the above address.

Interviews week beginning 4 June 2007

Advent Youth Aid
(AYA) Fund raising events 2007
Fun and activity day: Sunday 1 July.
Time 10am onwards at East Park, Hickman Avenue, Wavertrehampton.
This will be part of the Pavilion of Hope Campaign. Includes Stroll-athon, Aerob-athon and Gym-athon. There will be fun for the family and friends, inflatables, stalls, food, fun activities and sports. Also Health MOT checks and sickle-cell screening by professionals.

Sing-a-thon: Sunday 8 July, East Park, Hickman Avenue, Wavertrehampton.
AYA Awards Presentation Ceremony:
16 November, at Bethel Convention Centre, Kevan Way, West Bromwich.

The events will help Adventist youth and others increase their community profile by raising money for sickle-cell charities, Pavilion of Hope Youth project and Diana Princess of Wales Children’s Hospital.

For Registration pack and sponsor forms contact Trevor Davis 07989 856810; Lorna Harris 07739 840947; email: ldharris_202@msn.com.