

Nec Youth Advance

by Gideon Kumi

First for Seventh-day Adventist youth worldwide, some 600 young adults came together over the Easter break to study Christian Apologetics. Meeting in the Paragon Hotel, Birmingham, the 'Advance' conference gave delegates opportunity to learn from workshops designed to enable them to reach secular people along with adherents of other faiths such as Islam and Judaism. There were also plenary sessions that focused on defending Adventist beliefs like the Sabbath, the state of the dead and the sanctuary doctrine.

Advance was the brainchild of Pastor Alan Hush, North England Conference Youth Ministries director. He said, 'We have found that our youth need strengthening in certain areas. One of the areas . . . is giving them back confidence in their own church and the core beliefs of their own faith.'

That was a vision that Andrew from Bolton found helpful. 'I have a lot of friends who are atheist whom I want to reach for God,' he stated. 'I don't feel equipped. I've come to gain some understanding and techniques and can go away prepared.'

Living in a society where the belief that God created man, or that the Earth was called into existence labels us fundamentalists, makes it hard for young people to stand up for what they believe in, for fear of standing out. Advance provided roughly 300 conference delegates, and by

the weekend over 600 attendees from across Europe and America, with the opportunity to challenge the secularist view. Top speakers such as Clifford R. Goldstein, editor of the Adult Sabbath School lessons, Randy Skeet, a church planter and evangelist, a youthful Jeffrey Rosario, and Jude Jeanville, Dean of Men at the University of the Southern Caribbean, Trinidad, were among the many to provide intellectual insight and counsel.

Andrea from South Wales attended the conference as someone who has been a church member for five years. 'However,' she says, 'I do feel the struggle to defend my faith'. Tamara, from the Leeds church, has recently graduated from university. 'I have to be here as I have a work to do,' she insists. 'I've been there three years and none of my friends has been reached.'

Pastor Hush believes that the conference was a success, noting that there was a thirst among the youth for the knowledge and expertise that the speakers brought to help them survive within the ever-increasing secular environment. Pastor Des Boldeau, Youth Ministries director for the BUC, was impressed with the balanced presentations. 'In the church we tend to have factions,' he said. 'I'm not experiencing that here. This encourages young people to think about the practical issues. For me that is a positive thing.'

As the first conference of its kind, Hope Channel-UK was present to film parts of the programme for a documentary on 'Advance'. This should be available on the web at www.hopetv.org.uk within the next two weeks and on satellite at a later date.



Cliff Goldstein



Jude Jeanville





with Jonathan Barrett

Pope to rehabilitate Luther

Nearly five centuries after being excommunicated by Pope Leo X, reformer Martin Luther is likely to be rehabilitated by the current Pope. Benedict XVI is expected to declare later this year that Luther was not a heretic who intended to split the church. The Vatican is also about to rehabilitate Galileo, who was accused of heresy for supporting Copernicus' heliocentric system, by erecting a statue in the Vatican gardens.

So, it has taken nearly five hundred years, but the Catholic Church is ready to change its mind! How long does it take us to admit we are wrong about someone? I can certainly think of some people of whom I had formed a slightly negative view without really knowing them. Once I got to know them, however, I was pleasantly surprised to find that my initial assessment was unfounded.

I am sure we have all experienced that. Some of us may have gone further than that and totally written someone off, even once we knew them. That may feel as though it is justified, as we have our own experience of them to go on. If they have done this and this and this, and said that and that and that, then we must be right to form a negative opinion of them.

Not necessarily. It could be that we are not seeing things as they really are. Consider this verse:

'You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgement on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgement do the same things.' Romans 2:1.

Jesus said something similar about seeing a splinter in someone

National CHIP Development Co-ordinator

As part of its continuing efforts in health evangelism, the BUC Health Ministries department is looking for an individual to help develop and promote the implementation of its new CHIP programme on a national basis. The role has been funded for two years.

Candidates will need to have a knowledge of CHIP and have a vibrant interest in promoting health evangelism in the British Isles. They will need to be computer literate and familiar with Microsoft Office. They will also need to be able to work on their own initiative from home and be able to travel to meetings at the BUC Office or other specified venues for meetings in the UK or overseas.

Remuneration: relevant to candidate experience – salary range provided on enquiry. Applications from any interested individuals would be welcome. Please contact us at:

British Isles Headquarters,
British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists,
Health Ministries Department,
Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ

Sharon Platt-McDonald
Health Ministries director/Special Needs co-ordinator

else's eye, while missing the great log in our own eye! At the time the Catholic Church was excommunicating Martin Luther, it was itself mired in corruption and had wandered far away from sound biblical teaching. The irony is, it was able to 'see' great wrong in Martin Luther, whereas, in reality, the church itself was in the wrong.

We may be perfectly correct in our negative assessment of people. However, before we rush to judge and condemn, it wouldn't hurt us to take a long, hard look at ourselves first. Let's hope it won't take us five hundred years to see things as they really are!

Thank you The principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre (VOP) acknowledges with sincere thanks the following donations: £40 from the Watford area and £300 from Preston, Lancashire, received in February/March.

SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Sixtieth Session of the North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held from Thursday 26 June to Sunday 29 June 2008 at The Spa Conference Centre, Scarborough.

PASTOR PAUL A. HAWORTH
NEC Executive Secretary

God, the sufferer

David Marshall



It doesn't do to channel-hop after 9pm. You're apt to see things you don't want to see and learn things you would rather not know.

A late-night documentary stated that for every publicised abduction like Madeleine McCann's there were thousands every year that received little or no publicity. The remainder of the documentary took the form of film footage illustrative of the existence of a global slave trade in children. After that I went to bed and tried to sleep, but, not surprisingly, couldn't.

In the ancient world no one did more to improve the lot of children than Jesus. In a thrice-repeated allusion to abuse he warned that it would be better for the abuser to experience deep-sea drowning with a millstone about his neck!

But the evil continues. And after nearly twelve months, little Madeleine, despite unprecedented publicity, has never been found. That makes me angry at a disturbingly fundamental level. In part, my anger is accounted for by frustration at a total inability to do anything to help. But there is more to it than that.

When photojournalists cover one of the mega bad-news stories, they contrive to have a single, solitary figure in the foreground of the picture. The figure adds poignancy to what, otherwise, would be images of gratuitous devastation.

Film footage exists of a mountain of corpses at the liberation of Auschwitz. It is being moved, a few cadavers at a time, by a mechanical digger. The footage was shown towards the end of a film I used in my teaching years. The emotional reaction of the class was evident, each year, at the point in the film when the camera panned out to include a still-alive-and-standing victim looking into the scene. Girls wept. Boys expressed outrage. Seeing the lone, sorrowing witness somehow brought it all home.

Statistics sanitise horrors of scale. But when we see the grieving figure stage right, the abstract statistic solidifies and the heap of cadavers becomes so many deaths of so many real people. Then we ask, 'Where is God? Doesn't he care?'

John wrote the fourth gospel to introduce the Greeks to the God revealed in Jesus. They, who believed that the gods were aloof, passionless and compassionless, were amazed by the God revealed by and in Jesus. The

story in John's eleventh chapter came as a particular shocker.

In John 11 the claims of Jesus are filled out to their fullest proportion. Jesus is the Source of the indestructible life of the resurrection. The resurrection, the triumph over death, is not confined to the distant future, but is here in the present embodied in Jesus. (Verses 25, 26.)

The part of the John 11 narrative that collided most violently with John's readers' expectations of God was in verses 33-35. The Greek word often translated 'deeply moved' (*embrimaomai*) means something far more than that. Unless we understand that, we don't understand why, two verses later, Jesus wept.

Check it out. The word translated 'deeply moved' is a word for a human emotion we do not usually associate with Jesus. It means 'anger', even 'rage'. It is possible that the most accurate translation is the one which says, 'He was outraged in spirit.'

John is telling us that when Jesus wept he was not in the state of uncontrollable grief but of inexpressible anger.

Jesus had no reason to grieve, since Lazarus was about to be resurrected. Some suggest that Jesus wept because he was saddened by the sham grief of the mourners. But Jesus was a Jew and familiar with the fact that Jewish communities showed solidarity in the face of the last enemy.

Others suggest that he was distressed by the faithlessness of Martha and Mary. That cannot be true. The faith of Martha in particular was heartening. Asked whether she believed that Jesus was the Resurrection and the Life, she replied, 'Yes, Lord. . . I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.' (Verse 27.) What a statement of faith!

The anger and grief of Jesus came from the same source. Right then, right there, the full weight of the world's wickedness that would crush the life out of him at Calvary became evident.

The rage of Jesus was rage at the tyranny of death. Death was the object of his wrath and, behind death, 'him that hath the power of death' and whom he had come to destroy.

John Calvin wrote that as Jesus advanced to the tomb of Lazarus he was 'as a champion who prepares for conflict'. He had come to terminate the reign of the terminator. It was

as if that stooping figure grieving in the foreground of every disaster had stopped stooping. Had stood to his full height. And in his face was the pent-up rage of the centuries.

As Hosea saw his wife become a harlot and felt his love trampled on again and again, he experienced a tiny reflection of the suffering of God over Israel's unfaithfulness.

Could it be that we experience outrage at the evils in the world – because God feels a far more profound rage?

Does God care? He is *omniscient*. He knows; he cares; *he even feels*. When a student missionary sees a leper, he is touched and genuinely sympathetic. Then, back in his room, he thinks about something else. He cannot suffer as the leper does, feeling not only physical sensation but also the loneliness and ostracism. But God can and does feel these things.

'Few give thought to the suffering that sin has caused our Creator. . . . As the "whole creation groans and travails in pain together" (Romans 8:22), the heart of the Infinite Father is pained in sympathy. Our world is a vast lazar-house, scene of misery that we dare not even allow our thoughts to dwell upon. Did we realise it as it is, the burden would be too terrible. *Yet God feels it all.*' Education, pp. 263-264.

When the grieving Man who mourns at our tragedies stands to his full height, there will be both tears and anger on his face. The love, anger and power that blended in the voice that cried, 'Lazarus, come out' will one day bring the myriads of Heaven to Earth – and bring the dead of Earth who are in Christ to life (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Not only then but right now, Christ is the Resurrection and the Life. Right now death is conquered; the Second Advent guaranteed.

The miracle of resurrection begins now. It culminates when the dead in Christ are resurrected. 'The last enemy to be destroyed is death. . . . For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable and the mortal with immortality. . . . then the saying that is written will come true, "Death has been swallowed up in victory".' (1 Corinthians 15:26, 53-55.)

Let's say with John 'Even so, come, Lord Jesus' – and put an end to our suffering, to the world's suffering – and to your own.



Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald RGN, RM, RHV, MSc,
Health Ministries director, BUC

Brain Health Series

Part six

THE STRESS IMPACT

'Do not keep your mind in an unrestful attitude; for this is detrimental to your health.' *Mind, Character, and Personality*, E. G. White.

• Current research shows that stress can dramatically increase the ability of chemicals to pass through the blood-brain barrier (BBB). This became evident during the Gulf War, when soldiers experienced significant stress. The Israeli soldiers took a drug to protect themselves from chemical and biological weapons. Normally, it should not have crossed the BBB, but scientists learned that the stress of war had somehow increased the permeability of the BBB. Nearly one quarter of the soldiers

complained of headaches, nausea, and dizziness – symptoms which occur only if the drug reaches the brain.

- A stress response is provoked by loud or sudden noises.
- Long-term over-secretion of stress hormones like cortisol adversely affects brain function,

especially memory. Excess cortisol can prevent the brain from laying down new memory pathways, or from accessing already existing memories.

- Stress also impacts on mental well-being and brain function. It can exacerbate a number of psychiatric disorders. A Yale University study looked at the effects of noise stress on brain function. Results indicate that stress impairs the cognitive function influencing dopamine, a key neurotransmitter that's involved in many brain disorders such as Parkinson's disease and even Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD).
- The level of noise at home or school can affect children's ability to learn. Comparing neighbourhoods, children living near airports or busy highways tend to have lower reading scores and develop language skills more slowly than

children from quieter neighbourhoods.

- Chronic low-level noise affects brain and behaviour and has an insidious effect on health and well-being.
- Psychiatric hospitalisations are higher in noisy communities.
- Dr Alice H. Suter, audiologist at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, found that impaired learning, bad moods, aggression, lack of concentration, fatigue and poor work performance can result from continual exposure to the stress of unpleasant noise.

Advice:

- Plan more 'quiet time' to enable you to pause and be still.
- In your quiet time ask God to fill you with his peace as you experience his presence.
- Relaxing in a calm environment allows you to de-stress, refresh your soul and replenish energy levels.
- Detox your mind by getting rid of negative thinking.
- Exercise daily.
- Get a prayer partner for support.

Good health!





Top: Sheffield Adventists speak out against gun and knife crime.

Above: the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Sheffield back the Adventist march against gun and knife crime and made speeches outside the Town Hall.

Left: a Pathfinder drum corps led the march through the three areas of Sheffield which have seen the most violent crime.

Below: the march culminated at the Town Hall. 'Street pastors and a mentoring scheme to help young people are part of the Burngreave New Deal,' said Pastor Rashford-Hewitt.



Burngreave Bouncing Back march

by Victor Hulbert

Burngreave Seventh-day Adventists took a lead in speaking out against gun and knife crime in Sheffield on Sabbath, 15 March. Last October the church provided support to the family of 16-year-old Jonathan Matondo who was gunned down in a nearby playground. That support has continued with the latest move being to demonstrate that people in the Burngreave area of the city are opposed to the minority who are involved in gun and knife crime.

A Pathfinder drum corps led the march of some 200 people through three areas of Burngreave that have been the scene of violent crime in the last year. Nine churches were involved as well as community workers, youth workers, council members and friends of Jonathan. Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt, pastor of the Adventist churches in Sheffield, organised the march in association with Burngreave Churches Together and other community groups. He strongly reflected the feelings of the community, stating, 'Burngreave is a safe multicultural place to live. The strength of response from the local community in supporting this march has clearly identified this.'

According to the *Sheffield Star* newspaper, the aim of the Burngreave Bouncing Back march was 'to help unite the community and encourage young people to make the right decisions'. Pastor Rashford-Hewitt was reported in the *Yorkshire Post* as saying that 'he hoped the move would change people's perceptions of the area and encourage young people to stay away from violent crime.' He was joined in the march by Reverend Dr Inderjit Bhogal, OBE, director of the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths' Forum.

The march climaxed outside Sheffield Town Hall where a very impressed Lord Mayor, Councillor Arthur Dunworth, commended the Pathfinders for their positive activity, encouraging young people to make better choices. He was also positive about the role that the churches and community workers are taking in making Sheffield a safer and better place.

Pastor Rashford-Hewitt believes the day has helped raise a sense of community identity in Burngreave but he sees the march as only part of a larger process. The police have suggested to Churches Together in Burngreave that there would be a positive place for 'street pastors' in their community. He is also involved in discussions to set up a mentoring scheme to assist young people, 'Burngreave New Deal'. In conjunction with Churches Together, the Council and other community groups, the church will continue to work on projects that will assist the reduction of guns and gangs across the city.

'The power of . . .' — West Midlands teens

Enthusiastic singing, a Saturday evening social and the excellent food all added to the joy of teenagers from the West Bromwich, Smethwick and Breath of Life churches in the West Midlands, who gathered together at the Bilberry Centre near Bromsgrove last weekend to discover 'The Power of . . .' Jesus Christ in their lives.

Guest speaker for the weekend was Pastor Des Boldeau, BUC Youth Ministries director, assisted by his wife Cathy. Despite being restricted on crutches with a broken leg, he presented three seminars, 'The Power of Dreams', 'The Power of Youth' and 'The Power of Potential', centred around the story of the life of Joseph in Genesis 37-43. Des encouraged the youth not only to dream about their future, but to put strategies into action so that their dreams 'can become reality'. Drawing on illustrations from the life of Dr Martin Luther King Jr, Colonel Sanders (the founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken) and, most importantly, Jesus Christ, he spoke to the hearts of the teenagers and he passionately pleaded with them to consecrate their lives to God.

In addition, Des was part of a panel who answered numerous and varied questions from the young people. The enquiring minds required answers regarding issues such as jewellery and the wearing of trousers, and, in terms of sexual relationships, 'How far is too far?' Teenage sexual relations was the hot topic of the interactive session, 'The Power of Sex – Can I touch you here?' Glenda Augustine, public health practitioner and a member of the West Bromwich church, led out in this part of the weekend together with Pastor Garry Gordon, weekend co-organiser and pastor of the three churches. Speaking about 'How far is too far?' Glenda stated that young people 'should know their boundaries and not be pressurised into engaging in sexual acts that they may regret later on.'

Another seminar presenter was Beulah Plunkett, lecturer in Psychology at the University of Birmingham. A lay preacher and member of the West Bromwich church, she spoke about the 'The Power of Self-concept' on Sabbath

Precedent set at Southall's baptism

On 22 March, initially, three people publicly gave their lives to Jesus and were baptised at the Southall church. Church family, visiting friends and relatives rejoiced as they witnessed sisters Siobhan and Masada Marks' decision to allow the Lord to guide their footsteps. The Marks are third generation Adventists and, in particular, their grandparents, Mr and Mrs Belingy, have been instrumental in their Bible studies.

The third candidate, Ganine Eshun, who has been attending Southall's newly formed branch, Northolt Community church, also decided to enter the baptistery. Pastor Everett Picart led the candidates into the baptismal water.

Pastor Picart then made a call from the baptistery for anyone who was not baptised to make a decision. Suddenly there was a joyful sound from the congregation as they witnessed Kingston Murray's triumphant march towards the front of the church. Kingston, who had



been attending Southall for some time, answered the call and entered the baptistery there and then. This set a precedent at Southall.

Shortly after, Isaiah Harriram heeded the call and was also baptised. His daughters read Isaiah 44 and his wife, Avril Harriram, sang, 'Thank You, Lord'.

An excellent exposition on the story of Philip and the Ethiopian was presented by Claude Alexander and

special music was performed by the Baldeo family and friends and relatives of Ms Eshun.

The candidates were examined, after which the song 'Never Give Up' was beautifully rendered by Ullanda Alexander.

A presentation was made to the newly baptised members who were then welcomed into Southall's church family.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Disappointment turned to joy

A Crieff teenager who found she was too young to join a mission trip to Romania turned her disappointment to joy for others. Talented musician Yvonne Bauwens decided, instead, to record her own and others' compositions and sell CD copies. Her generous gesture and strong determination raised £1,200 towards the mission's cost.

This selfless act was recognised at the Easter Weekend Three Missions Youth Retreat at Loch Lomond. One hundred and fifty Adventist youth from Scotland, Ireland and Wales witnessed TED Youth director, Paul Tompkins, present her with a special award. As part of the Centenary Adventist Youth celebrations the General Conference decided to recognise youth who had achieved something extraordinary.

Named after the World Church's first Youth director, Yvonne was one of two nominees in the Trans-European Division to receive the M. E. Kern Award. In the form of



an hourglass, the award represents the GC's theme of 'Time' – time for young people to be involved, time to get connected, time to use their talents. Pastor Tompkins said, 'Yvonne represents young people giving their talents for God.'

JOHN WILBY

afternoon and 'The Power of Study' during Sabbath School. Drawing on her vast experience in the field of

education, she promoted the concept of using school study skills to study the Word of God. The young people

were totally engaged during this session.

CATHY ANTHONY BOLDEAU

A taste of vegetarian dishes

What a wonderful six-week course we had at the Croscombe church. We were greeted at the door as

we arrived and offered a glass of juice. Because we were a small group, we soon chatted



and got to know one another. The evening started with a welcome, and we were shown a short educational documentary giving us insight into the nutritional/health values of the ingredients we would use that evening.

The team demonstrated four different dishes each week, ranging from a delicious spiced soup, quorn casserole, burgers, vegetable pie to pear/apricot slice, griddled pineapple and lemon puddle pudding, and many other exciting dishes.

As quickly as they finished the demonstration, the previously prepared, now cooked dish, was brought for us all to try. What wonderful organisational skills! A lot of preparation and planning before the evening was soon all brought together.

On the final night the table was prepared, we sat and were presented with the final four dishes of the evening. Music played, people chatted and we all went away feeling better for attending the course.

A big thank you to Martin, Elizabeth, Rita, Phillip, Sarah and others in the kitchen who cooked and washed our plates constantly, and also to Marcel who was in charge of DVD and music, and Richard who always greeted us with a smile.

We all look forward to the next sessions and will continue to explore the very healthy vegetarian way of life.

Many, many thanks from all who attended.

A VISITOR

Walthamstow Pathfinder Day with a difference

The Walthamstow Pathfinder Club from East London had an investiture day with a difference recently. They had the usual kind of day dedicated to Pathfinders but in addition they decided that they needed to add something extra. They wanted to do something that sent a message to the local community about the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Walthamstow Pathfinders organised a march through Walthamstow to raise awareness of the church. The whole thing was done very professionally with a police escort and plenty of chaperones for the young Pathfinders. Hundreds of the latest church information cards were given out (available from the BUC website in batches of

1,000 cards for only £20 including postage and packaging).

Now there is no point having a march without some kind of music, so the Brixton Pathfinder Drum Corps kindly came to assist with the event and led the march with some rousing renditions of popular Christian songs.

The Walthamstow Pathfinder Club is a fairly large one with a dedicated team of counsellors. The club also has a significant number of people doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award. This is an excellent award for young people as it teaches skills that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

SUSANNE KIRLEW



Chiswick children help Lesotho

A meal a day, a coat to wear and soap to wash with. These are some of the things that will be provided for more than thirty orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in the village of Popopo, Lesotho. They will have a slightly better future ahead of them thanks to the children of the Chiswick Adventist church. Together with friends and relatives, the children's Sabbath School there has raised £1,200 to support a small project in Lesotho, part of the outreach of the Maluti Adventist Hospital.

The aim of the 'Bruce Baisden Garden Project'* is to grow vegetables and maize in a community garden. Members of the community take turns to work in the field to help the children who are taught farming skills on the land itself. The produce is used to feed the children and the surplus is sold in the market. The overall objective of the project is both to ensure that the children have food but also, in the long run, to create a fund from the sale of produce that can cater for the OVC's other needs such as educational materials, warm clothes and hygiene items like soap.

ADRA-UK has helped to fund this small project, endorsed by ADRA Lesotho, adding a further grant of £800 towards it. The £2,000 grant will allow the small garden to operate for twelve months.

* In memory of Bruce Baisden, a very active fundraising member on this project, who died on 21 April 2007. He was also the head elder of Southall church.

WAYNE DAVIS



Job vacancy – Management Accountant

The Stanborough Press Limited, based in Grantham, Lincolnshire, is seeking to recruit a Management Accountant at its Grantham-based offices. Key responsibilities include the monthly preparation of management accounts, debtor and creditor control, monthly payroll and assisting the Financial Director in various aspects of the day-to-day accounting operation.

The successful applicant will be an individual motivated by a desire to spread the Gospel and will need to become fully conversant with Excel/Quattro Pro and have a working knowledge of year-end account preparation. It is also expected that the successful applicant will have a strong commitment to the ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Salary and allowances according to the denominational wage scale. Letter of application with current CV and addresses of two referees should be sent to: The Financial Director, Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Email: stanborg@aol.com.

Deadline: 6 May 2008.

Forward in faith at Aberdeen

by Sonja Eikum

Every single pew was filled to capacity at Aberdeen church on Sabbath 29 March to witness the baptism of three young men who stepped forward in faith. They were close friends Mwai Mkukuma, Kevin Sukati and Ian Kay. Pastor Brian McCormac set a spiritual tone when he spoke about 'What must I do to be saved?'

Ian has been attending Aberdeen church intermittently for the past couple of years. However, he has found his gift and is now a truly dedicated 'Man on a Mission'. Recently, while on a research trip to Zambia, he observed the tremendous work that Kitwe Women's Ministries and associated groups do. Among other things, they have set up feeding stations for families, an HIV Clinic and Mothers' Shelters. Ian was so impressed with the work of these dedicated women, and came back on such a spiritual high, that he is in the process of setting up a charity to help support causes like those in Zambia. In June he is

planning to cycle from Galway to Aberdeen to raise funds for the women's group in Zambia.

Kevin's baptism follows a move to Aberdeen nine years ago with his parents. He is a very committed member of the Pathfinder Club and his musical talent includes playing the saxophone. However, this was both a happy and sad occasion.



Because their visas have expired, Kevin and his mum will be leaving Aberdeen church and moving back to Africa to join his father.

During his baptismal classes, Mwai enjoyed challenging Pastor

McCormac and constantly questioned him about what they were studying. A committed member of the Pathfinder Club, he enjoys assisting in their fundraising events and is looking forward to Pathfinder

camporee this summer. All three express their appreciation to the Aberdeen members and their families for the utmost support they received in preparing for this day.

BUC CAMPOREE

It's official

This summer, the BUC Youth department will be hosting the biggest Pathfinder Camporee ever to take place in the history of the British Isles! More than 1,700 people have registered to attend, with many more joining the waiting list every week!

The Camporee will take place at Skreens Park Scout Campsite in Essex from 27 July to 3 August. Preparations are furiously underway to ensure everything is in place when the campsite gates open to admit the flood of young people and their club leaders and staff, all intent on a

week of full-on activity. There will be over forty different activities running every day, ranging from everything energetic such as abseiling, bungee sliding and cycling as well as more sedentary activities including crafting, rope-making and sign language sessions. An 'Impact' -type event is being arranged in the nearby town of Chelmsford providing the opportunity to witness to those living locally, as well as a market day to raise funds for a local charity.

We expect to have a staff of 150 to run the daily programme and to ensure that the Pathfinders have an exciting, fun and memorable time.

Pastor A. J. Grant from Central Coast Adventist School, Australia, will be the main speaker for the event and is planning a series of workshops around the Camporee theme of 'SOS – Serve Our

Saviour'. Among the dignitaries invited for the opening ceremony on Sunday 27 July are the Lord Mayor of Chelmsford, BUC president Don McFarlane and Paul Tompkins, TED Youth and Pathfinder director.

MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS OUT!

Leaders who have pre-registered their clubs should make sure that they submit correctly completed application forms and payments to their conference Pathfinder directors or mission Youth sponsors well before the deadline of 30 April. Any clubs missing this deadline will be placed on the waiting list.

Full details can be found on the Camporee website: www.bucpathfindercamporee.org.uk

Newbold College Annual Appeal 2008

About this time of the year, many churches give a special 'Newbold Offering'.

Here's why!

Newbold College is the senior college for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Northern Europe. It offers a variety of degrees and one-year courses. Most readers of *MESSENGER* will have benefited from the work of Newbold in one way or another. Some will have been to the College themselves as students or supported members of their family or their church as they studied there.

Many will have been members in churches led by pastors trained at Newbold. At some time everyone will have listened to a preacher or Sabbath School teacher who trained at Newbold. The **Annual Appeal** gives us all the chance to offer financial support to young people (and some older ones too!) who are taking time to grow in mind and spirit while they study at the College and who will, in their turn, enrich the church where we worship and fellowship every week.

There are a variety of ways we can do this: The Bridge Fund

As the pound sterling gets stronger and Christian education gets more expensive, aspiring students continue to face financial challenges. **The Bridge Fund** supports first-year students from the Trans-European Division who need help to get a foot on the educational ladder. Once here, many of them can earn the rest of their fees.

Business Alumni Student Scholarship Fund

This particular Scholarship Fund has grown fast during the last year. In a gesture of confidence in the future of Business courses, Newbold's own Business alumni, since their reunion in July 2007, have raised almost £20,000 to support future students of Business. Funds raised go to support gifted senior students, especially those seeking to use their skills to make a continuing contribution to business administration within the Church.

Sylvia's Garden

Many visitors to Newbold value Sylvia's Garden as one of the College's unique attractions. Last year, opening it to the public through the National Gardens Scheme brought over 400 visitors on campus to share in its delights and learn more about the College. Financing its renovation is an ongoing challenge and a favourite project for friends of the College.

Classroom upgrades in Murdoch Hall

Gifts from various sources have made possible the refurbishment of the Homiletics Centre in Murdoch Hall including the installation of new furniture and lighting and electrical points for laptop computers. Mobile audio-visual carts and video equipment to be used both in the Centre and other classrooms are enriching students' learning experience. The need for upgrades to other classrooms is ongoing.

Keough House – Men's Hall of Residence

In our latest phase of fundraising, we are looking to refurbish Keough House. This will involve a major upgrade of two corridors including flooring and furniture and a full refurbishment of the other corridors and lobbies.

Thank you, in advance, for your donations to Newbold College. Staff and students are always grateful for the ongoing support of alumni and friends. You can keep up to date with news of the College at the website: www.newbold.ac.uk.

Newbold College Annual Appeal 2008

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'Now is the Time' – Health Ministries in Wales

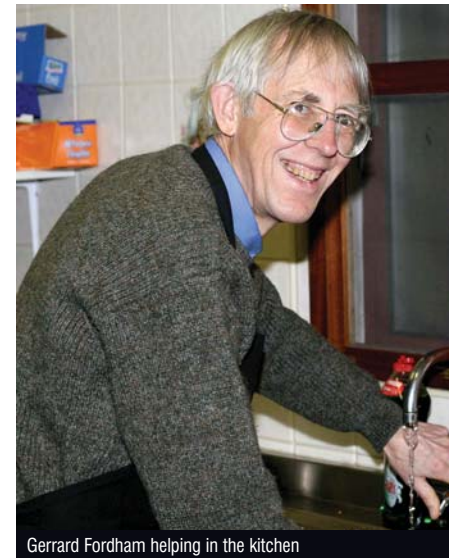


Sharon Platt-McDonald speaking at Hebron Hall

Over the Easter weekend approximately twenty people attended a Welsh Mission Health Retreat in the Hebron Hall Christian Centre, Dinas Powys, near Cardiff. The theme for the retreat was 'Now is the Time' and the guest speaker was BUC Health Ministries director, Sharon Platt-McDonald.

In her opening talk Sharon pointed out that the positive impact of an Adventist lifestyle has hit the headlines in the last few months, with articles appearing in the newspapers as well as on television. She also highlighted the interest that is now being shown by the scientific community. Although much of this interest has focused on the predominantly plant-based diet recommended by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, faith and hope also play their part. Sharon underlined this aspect of the Adventist lifestyle by liberally illustrating her talks with relevant quotations from the Bible.

The health retreat was organised by Welsh Mission Health Ministries sponsors Irving and Lil Saunders. In addition to their administrative duties, Irving and Lil, together with Gerrard Fordham from the Carmarthen church, also did



Gerrard Fordham helping in the kitchen

those who have attended. One lady with diabetes saw her blood sugar level drop from a dangerous to a relatively safe level, and several have lost weight.

Welsh Mission president Pastor John Surridge is fully behind Lil and Irving's Health Ministries strategy and has attended several of the events that they have organised. Speaking after the weekend he said, 'Health is an ideal topic for the church to promote at the moment. Everyone is interested in their own health and, especially since Jamie Oliver's TV series on healthy eating in schools, diet has become a major talking point. The supermarkets are getting involved as well with food labelling spelling out the nutritional value of



Welsh Mission Health Ministries sponsors Irving and Lil Saunders were presented with a certificate of appreciation by Welsh Mission president, Pastor John Surridge

the cooking. Other helpers included Evan and Lorna Green from the Newport church and Eric Lawrence from the North England Conference.

The retreat formed part of an overall Health Ministries strategy in the Welsh Mission to refocus the minds of church members on the benefits the Adventist lifestyle. Although Adventists have a wonderful heritage in the area of health, this is not always evident in the lifestyles of members. Over the last two months Lil and Irving Saunders, who are both healthcare professionals, have been running a MicroCHIP programme in the Port Talbot church. The weekly meetings have been well attended and the lectures, together with the healthy food, regular blood pressure checks and weigh-ins, have had a tangible impact on most of

their products, and we've never seen so much vegetarian food on display.

'The Adventist church was a major force in the anti-smoking movement,' he continued. 'That went mainstream and now we are seeing the same thing happen with other aspects of healthy living. It would be a terrible shame if our present Adventist church members, who are looked to for an example of how to lead a healthy lifestyle, were themselves to miss out on the great benefits that the traditional Adventist lifestyle has to offer.'

Note: Photos from the Health Ministries Retreat and the CHIP programme can be seen in the gallery section of the Welsh Mission website at: www.adventistwales.org.

JOHN SURRIDGE



CHIP graduates in the Port Talbot church



Olga Cockle at 100



Olga blows her candles out

Olga had one telegram from the Queen, another from the Minister of Pensions and a letter from Mary McAleese, president of the Republic of Ireland

Home member Olga Cockle celebrated her one-hundredth birthday on Sabbath 22 March.

The celebrations, organised by her minister Pastor Les Hill, involved Olga's extended family, her Adventist friends and an assortment of people from all over the world who owe a great debt of gratitude to Olga.

In her one hundred years Olga's life touched thousands of other lives and totally transformed some of them.

Olga, the daughter of a Church of Ireland clergyman, devoted her whole life to orphans.

Born in the West of Ireland, Olga became the matron of a Cork orphanage while she was still in her twenties.

Present for the big day, among many other one-time orphans whom Olga gave a new start in life, was Captain Freddie Cockle of Dublin.

Seventy-five years ago this friendly sea captain was a very vulnerable orphan in Matron Olga's care. Olga realised that Freddie's only chance of a successful life was outside the orphanage.

Accordingly, Olga prevailed upon her married sister, a medical doctor, to adopt Freddie. 'That was the making of me,' he told the writer. 'Tremendous opprobrium was attached to illegitimacy in the Ireland of the 30s. It attached to both the mother and the child. It was a stigma that stuck on both for life. Olga saved me from all that. If ever a body deserved to live to be a hundred, it is Olga . . .'

Another orphan who owed her life – in a literal sense – to Olga Cockle, was Vera Miller. As a newly born baby Vera was left to perish at the open orphanage window in winter by her mother. Vera's birth had been overseen by Olga. On the night in question a voice spoke to Olga, 'Go to

Vera.' Olga, though unnerved, ignored it the first time. The voice repeated the words. Olga left her room and found Baby Vera by the open window in time to save her life. But Vera's problems with her birth mother were not over. Vera, too, had to be found a home. The home Olga found for Vera was with Pastor and Mrs Leslie Watson. For part of Vera's young life her adopted mother, Mrs Dora Watson, was Preceptress at Newbold College. Vera was raised as an Adventist and became the means by which Olga herself embraced the faith.

Olga left Ireland in 1942 as a protest against her Government's neutrality in World War II. In England, Olga became a Matron for the Dr Barnardo's homes. She continued with Barnardo's for the rest of her working life.

Olga kept in touch with her various charges. When Vera gave birth to her first child, Olga joined Dora (Vera's adopted Mum) at Tom and Vera's home. Dora's biblical answers to Olga's many

questions about life and death were the beginning of the process by which Olga became a Seventh-day Adventist.

In her 90s Olga was determined to maintain her independence at home. That she did so for so long was due to the sterling help of Olga's Adventist friends Brenda Noakes and Patricia Ransom. Just two years ago Olga agreed to move to supervised accommodation when she found a home run by an Irish lady.

The Cockle family are very much intermarried with another 'Protestant ascendancy' family from Southern Ireland, the Shackletons. Among Olga's close relations present for her one-hundredth birthday were the surviving members of the family of Antarctic hero, Sir Ernest Shackleton. One of them was Sir Ernest's biographer, Jonathan Shackleton.

The BUC very appropriately gave Olga a vase of Galway crystal inscribed with her name and the occasion. Her Majesty the Queen had sent Olga a telegram. However, Mary McAleese, the president of the Irish Republic, had sent Olga a long, very warm personal letter – and a cheque for two thousand euros. Dual nationality has its advantages! The gifts Olga treasured most, though, were probably the words of Captain Freddie, Vera Miller and her many nephews and nieces.

Vera Miller is the wife of Tom Miller, the president of the Emerald Foundation.

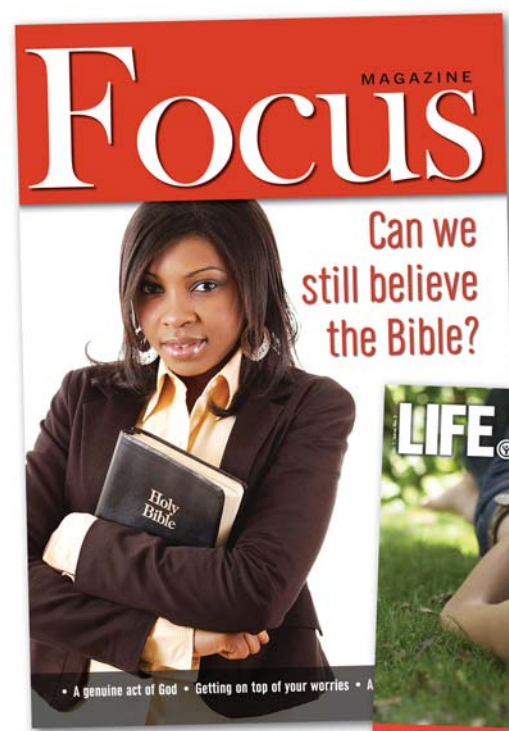

DAVID MARSHALL



MC Pastor Les Hill with Olga



Olga with her nephews and nieces from Ireland. Captain Freddie Cockle is third from the left

Find your Focus

FOCUS is one of the two outreach magazines published by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles. The other is *LIFE.info*. Every issue of *FOCUS* centres on one major Bible teaching. This issue explains in easy English why the Bible can be believed and how it gives meaning to life and hope for the future. It also outlines the Bible's recipe for dealing with the worries of life.

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From Kingston company to Kingston church

Sabbath 24 November 2007 was a joyful day for members of the Kingston company when they were formally organised as a church. The group was founded twelve years ago at Kingston-upon-Thames in Surrey by the first elder, David Ahwan, and a few other members. The membership has grown from strength to strength over the last few years. They were all initially a part of the Wimbledon International church and Arthur Campbell, who cares for Kingston and Mitcham, took over the leadership about five years ago.

The organisation ceremony was conducted by Pastor Paul Lockham, the SEC executive secretary. In his

address he told the congregation that the church is an assembly of God's people after reaching a certain stage in their growth, and a functioning part of the body of Christ. 'Christ is our Rock and it is only when the church takes him as its cornerstone will it stand,' he stated. Assisting Pastor Lockham was Godfrey Benjamin, the SEC church clerk.

Dr Greeta Wijeyesinghe, an elder from the Wimbledon church, also took an active part in the programme. She presented the lesson study during Sabbath School and conveyed greetings and warm wishes from Wimbledon (the

mother church) during the organisation ceremony. Several members from Wimbledon, Mitcham, Fulham and other neighbouring churches also attended the service.

After a fellowship lunch, there was an ordination service in the afternoon for two elders and a deacon. Malcolm Parr and Steve Hamilton were ordained as elders for Kingston and Mitcham respectively. Paul Nimok, a Kingston member, was ordained as a deacon.

Pastor Lockham shared some of the wonderful and interesting experiences he has had over the years in church ministry. He started his pastoral career at Wimbledon church

and went on to serve in different parts of the UK, including the Welsh and Irish missions. He was also the NEC executive secretary for a couple of years. 'If you allow God to touch your life and are willing to let him lead you, you will have an amazing experience. Our Daddy is a gracious, loving God.'

Arthur Campbell and members of the Kingston church would like to thank those who came together to make this a memorable occasion. Many thanks to all the preachers who have visited Kingston over the years and contributed to the development of the church.

LUCY KANU



Elders' Training Event

Professional Training for Local Church Elders
Sabbath 24 May 2008 from 3:30 to 7pm.
Brixton SDA church, Santley Street, Clapham, London, SW4 7QG.

All local church elders and spouses, plus laity leaders, are invited to participate in a dynamic training event hosted by the General Conference Ministerial Association to enhance the effectiveness of church leaders. This event is free of charge, no registration required.

For more information please contact Ricardo Bacchus at 301-680-6514 or at bacchusr@gc.adventist.org or Pastor Alan Hodges on 01923 672251 or at ahodges@adventist.org.uk.

Reading in the news

by Corinne Felix

Major renovation

The Reading Central church has undergone a magnificent change. Over the past six to seven weeks major renovation works were undertaken, including plastering and painting of the walls within the sanctuary, installation of a floor to house the pastor's vestry, installation of windows in the schoolroom and additional female toilets. The renovations were undertaken by contractor Brother Miroslav and his team in conjunction with Pastor Steve Thomas and church elder June Thompson, an accomplished interior designer.

This project, which has been on the drawing board for the past five years, has now come to fruition. In the interim the church family held its worship services at Reading University and on 8 March they returned to their

beautifully renovated sanctuary.

The change, as described by many members, both young and not so young, was; 'Wonderful!' 'Marvellous!' 'Great change.' 'Very warm.' 'Much brighter.' 'The colour of walls and chairs has made the church more welcoming.' 'Comfortable – no more hard chairs.'

Many members came together a week before the reopening of the church to assist in the clearing of rubble, cleaning and decorating. It was with pride and joy that this task was undertaken and completed.

Although this magnificent change has taken place, there is still the problem of accommodation. The church was packed beyond capacity on the day of reopening and rededication of the building. Whether it



was members from other churches visiting to celebrate with Reading Central, or new visitors, the challenge – although a good one – is there.

The dedicatory service was conducted by Pastor Steve Thomas and the theme surrounding the day was taken from 2 Chron. 6 and 7, a reflection on the dedicatory prayer offered by Solomon after the completion of the temple.

Baptism

To crown what was truly a 'high day in Israel', four precious souls dedicated their hearts and lives to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, through baptism. After the rededication of the church building and recommitment of the congregation to the service of Christ, the church family came together in a fellowship lunch which was a prelude to the wonderful experience about to take

place in the afternoon's programme.

These four souls, Robert Bezuidenhout, Trudy Duckering, Taciana Oakley and Paige Wilkinson, have been studying the Word of God over the past year with the Bible worker and elders of the church. Family members and friends celebrated and the church was packed to capacity once again.

In his sermon Pastor Thomas talked about the dedication of the paralytic's friends in bringing him to Christ for healing, and reiterated the importance of our call to teach and preach the Gospel, regardless of who we are or where we are from, for we are working together to bring people to Christ, side by side and step by step. He further stated that even though the friends met with disappointment, they were determined to try anything to get their friend through the crowd. Jesus rewarded the faith of the friends and the paralytic and healing took place.

Golden Wedding

Fifty golden roses, fifty years of golden memories, and fifty guests. These 'ingredients', gathered together in the Stanborough Centre on Sunday 9 March, were the perfect recipe for an afternoon filled with celebrations and memories for Peter and Jean Hinks. To the very day and date, this was their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Kish Poddar, friend and teacher at Stanborough Secondary School, had created a PowerPoint presentation of the fifty years Jean and Peter have spent together. After so long a time, it was inevitable that their parents and several friends were absent this day, but memories, and some photographs, still remain. Throughout the afternoon

Jean, Peter and friends recalled the goodness of God's love and leadership in their lives. Praise and thanksgiving played an important but spontaneous part in the proceedings.

Peter met Jean in Birmingham where they both attended the Camphill church. They married in 1958 and, two years later, Peter moved his little family to Newbold College, Bracknell, to take the Business Course. It was there that Jean, Peter and baby Adrian first met many of the people who have remained life-long friends.

From 1962 onwards Peter has worked as a director of finances at Granose Foods, the South England Conference, Stanborough Park, and the TED. Jean has always been nearby, working at Granose for fourteen years and at the TED offices for thirteen more. On first retiring, Jean

The Devil defeated

The war between Christ and Satan recently became very real for 'The Church', Enfield. The battle was at its fiercest the week prior to the baptism of Zoe Dust and Louis and Sarah Field. Satan targeted the baptismal candidates, the worship team, the congregation and the equipment. It was a hard-fought fight and we were left feeling battered, but God was the victor, and the baptism went ahead on 23 February at Suffolk Baptist Church in Enfield.

Before being baptised by Pastor Jon Gendle all three candidates were interviewed. Zoe, daughter of Graeme and Nina (and sister to Charlotte), told of her excitement at being baptised and her enjoyment in being part of the worship team and a member of 'KidzChurch'. Zoe plays an important role in the life of the church and is a real blessing to all.

It was Zoe's father, Graeme, who introduced Louis and Sarah to 'The Church'. It all began a few months ago when Louis asked Graeme what he did at St John Methodist Church on Saturday mornings (having seen his van outside), expecting Graeme to say he was working there. Instead he was told that Graeme was not working but worshipping, because that's where The Church meets! Louis was invited along and a few weeks later arrived with Sarah, his wife, and the following week with their two children, Ellie and Bonnie.

When interviewed at the baptism, Louis spoke of how God had helped him overcome his addictions, stating: 'Ten months earlier at this time of day I would have been drunk.' Both he and Sarah went on to say how they loved God, how he had changed their lives and how they just want to 'shine for him – leading others to find what we have found'. Louis is now a leading light in the 'Addicted2Life' ministry run by The Church.

The baptism was attended by more than seventy people, many of whom were non-Christians or non-Adventists. Tears flowed as the testimonies were given – tears of wonder and joy at what God had wrought in the lives of all three candidates.

JAN DUST



Pastor John Gendle baptises Zoe Dust, Louis Field and Sarah Field, assisted in the pool by Clive Atkins



Sisters in Christ

It was a very proud day for Philip and Toshi Walker when on 23 February their three daughters Shereen, aged 16, Whitney, aged 14, and Sabeeya, aged 12, all decided to give their lives to Christ. The baptism of these three beautiful girls was a fitting end to the joint revival campaign for the Oxford Street and GBK churches in Wolverhampton. Under the leadership of Pastor Fray, meetings were held over four weekends in February. We were blessed with words from Pastor Nicholson, Pastor Manombe, evangelist Gary Harrison and Pastor Augustus Lawrence.

For over a year Shereen, Whitney and Sabeeya received Bible studies from their father and church elder Mark Palmer as a way of preparing them to come to this decision. During that time they studied the fundamentals, prophecy, the second coming of Christ and the health message.

'Our father was our biggest influence. He encouraged and worked with us until we came to the decision ourselves,' said the girls.

The girls are already members of the Oxford Street Youth Choir and we know that God is going to use them in a big way in the future.

DONNA M. PALMER



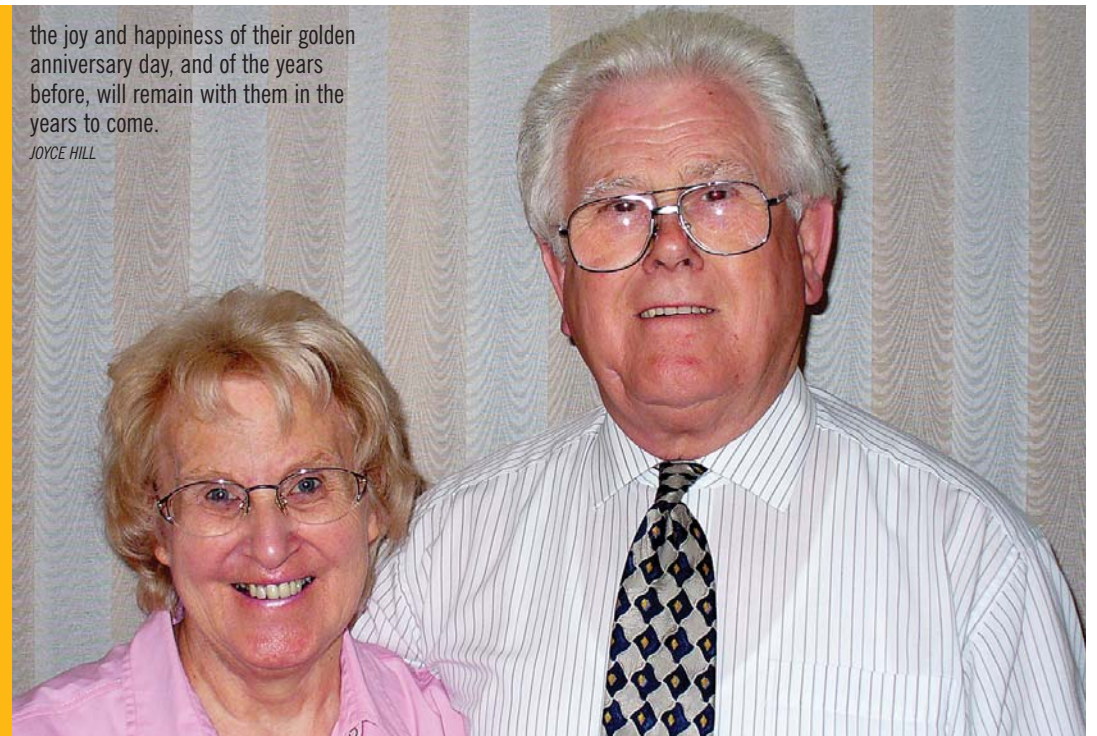
Before



After

the joy and happiness of their golden anniversary day, and of the years before, will remain with them in the years to come.

JOYCE HILL



Global warning

Eileen Irvine* gives her perspective on climate change

Whatever the apparent causes of global warming, Seventh-day Adventists need be in no doubt about the evil force behind it. Neither should we be ignorant of the part climate change will play as a catalyst in final events.

In *Great Controversy*, Ellen White, in chapter 31, 'The Coming Conflict' on pages 588-589, makes a number of statements on this issue: 'Satan works through the elements also to garner his harvest of unprepared souls. He has studied the secrets of the laboratories of nature, and he uses all his power to control the elements as far as God allows.' (Emphasis supplied.)

In this statement she makes it clear that it is Satan who is using his power to control the elements, in so far as God allows. 'In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, is Satan exercising his power. He sweeps away the ripening harvest, and famine and distress follow. He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence.' The language may be compressed and a little old fashioned, yet the message is bang up to date; we read and hear about these things every day.

Many of you will say these things have always happened. True. But E. G. White goes on to say: 'These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous. Destruction will be upon the inhabitants of the world. The beasts of the field will groan, and the earth will languish.' Yes, we have always seen these things happen and some may say that it only appears that they are happening more often now because we hear about them more. That may have been an argument a few years ago but it no longer holds up. We hear of the hottest, coldest, wettest, direst, fastest – ever on record; all records are being broken, and with great rapidity. No, there is no longer any argument; these things are becoming more frequent and more disastrous.

Don't be deceived simply because there seems to be a scientific explanation for these things. This does not mean that Satan is not behind them; scientific explanation serves Satan to disguise his role. Remember also that this is a process and that as long as the Earth remains there will be 'seed time and harvest, summer and winter'. These events will be neither universal nor total.

What, then, is Satan's purpose? Satan's primary purpose is to provide for himself cause to persecute Christ in the form of his people. *Great Controversy*, in this chapter, makes it clear that people will be led to believe that the disastrous consequences of climate change are brought on them because they have deserted God and are no longer in harmony with his will. As it was in the days of Ahab and Elijah, climate was the issue then, too. Ellen White continues: '... the great deceiver will persuade men that those who serve God are causing these evils. The class that have provoked the displeasure of Heaven will charge all their troubles upon the faithful few whom the Lord has sent to them with messages of warning and reproof. It will be declared that the nation is offending God by the violation of the Sunday-Sabbath, that this sin has brought calamities which will not cease until Sunday observance shall be strictly enforced, and that those who present the claims of the fourth commandment, thus destroying reverence for Sunday, are troublemakers of the nation, preventing its restoration to divine favour and temporal prosperity.' This is fulfilment of Revelation 12:17: 'And the dragon was enraged with the woman [true church], and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.'

Interestingly, the Vatican is in the forefront of condemning pollution of the environment as a mortal sin, as published in the Vatican's official newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano*, and reported recently in the media. The *Daily Mail* ran this article under the heading 'Recycle or go to hell?' It listed the new seven deadly sins

as those of drug abuse, genetic manipulation, morally dubious experimentation, environmental pollution, social inequalities and social injustice, causing poverty and accumulating excessive wealth at the expense of the common good of society. They have been put together by Bishop Gianfranco Girotti, who is in charge of the Apostolic Penitentiary, the Vatican department which led the confession refresher course for priests and which deals with the forgiveness of sins. Bishop Girotti, 70, said: 'The reference for sin is the violation of man's relationship with God and his fellow man. You offend God not only by stealing, blaspheming or coveting your neighbour's wife, but also by ruining the environment, carrying out morally debatable experiments or allowing genetic manipulations which alter DNA or compromise embryos.'

All this has merit but be careful, don't be deceived; this creates an apparent moral high ground. Some Seventh-day Adventists may not know these things and others may believe that the events regarding climate change and its purpose are going to happen at some time in the future. They fail to recognise that

they are actually happening now. By what we see happening today we can be confident that God's Word is proving true and reliable and that Ellen White was used as God's instrument to help prepare his people to stand in the final conflict.

Does all this mean that we should 'trash the planet'? Of course not! At creation man was given the guardianship of this planet. He was to be a good steward of all that God had given him. It has always been our responsibility to take care of what God has given us but never our responsibility to 'save the world' as many are currently suggesting we could. This planet has already been offered 'salvation' through the ministry of Christ, by his life, death and resurrection. When he returns he will bring an end to all the suffering sin has inflicted on all who live in this world. We should be in the forefront of recognising and drawing attention to the signs of the times. As we look forward to the soon coming climax of history, the return of Jesus Christ, let us, as Christ directed, watch and pray. We live in momentous times.

* Eileen Irvine is a member of the Belfast church.



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Tribute to FRED DUST (1927-2008)

d. 1 February

by Pastor Martin Anthony

It was with great sadness that church members in both Wales and the London area heard of the death of a greatly respected church leader and elder who had contributed strongly to the stability of the church over many years. Fred Dust, who had retired to Haverfordwest in West Wales in 1999 after a lifetime in North London, passed to his rest in Witherbush Hospital, Haverfordwest, after a short period of illness following major surgery.

Born in Enfield, Middlesex, in 1927, the second son in a family of six brothers and two sisters, Fred was baptised in the Holloway church on 11 September 1943, along with some twenty new believers from different parts of London, including Millie Taylor, whom he was later to marry in 1948. Because of Sabbath problems with work he took to window cleaning, following the example of the local elder, Brother Ellis, and this occupation served him well for over fifty years.

For the next twenty-six years, Fred and Millie together became actively involved in church life and witness. In the early 60s, Fred led out in a lay evangelistic series in the Howard Hall, Enfield, which resulted in the addition of five new believers to the church. Shortly afterwards their home was blessed with a son, Stephen, and Fred went on to serve as elder in the Edmonton church for well over twenty years.

Sadly, Millie died in 1976, after twenty-seven years of marriage, but he found renewed happiness in 1981 in his marriage to Valerie, whose husband, Pastor Geoffrey Munson, had been laid to rest after lengthy and fruitful service in several parts of

the British Union Conference. Fred and Valerie were also to enjoy some twenty-seven years of union.

When the Edmonton church outgrew its accommodation, Fred became the leader of the Waltham Abbey congregation, which proved a blessing to many scattered believers over a wide area and introduced some new ones into fellowship. Fred's was a warm, mellow personality that was a great asset both in his personal witness and in his platform work.

Fred was not only a strong church leader and lay preacher, but a caring father and counsellor who just loved to share his faith with others. Many were the contacts he made through his business. He loved children, too, and they loved to listen to his stories. As a fan of English cricket, he would occasionally visit the London Test matches, and on one such occasion, as he was queuing outside Lord's, an announcement came over the loudspeakers: 'The W. G. Grace gate is now open.' Fred announced to those around, 'The Grace gate has always been open.'

On their move down to south Wales, Fred and Valerie continued to be active in the church, this time, in the Carmarthen church, the furthest west in Wales. Fred continued his service as elder and lay preacher right up until his death. He made many friends in his neighbourhood, some of whom were able to attend his funeral, thereby achieving one of his wishes, that they would visit his church.

His own fervent belief in the blessed hope of eternal life at Christ's return sustained him when his health began to deteriorate last autumn. Mercifully he was spared from lengthy

and painful suffering, slipping away peacefully after spending the day with his family and pastoral friends.

As it was Fred's wish to return to Enfield to a family grave, services were held both in Carmarthen and in Enfield. On 6 March the Carmarthen church was filled to capacity for the service led by Pastor John Surridge, the Welsh Mission president, accompanied by Pastor Ed Sammons and the writer. From there Fred was taken to Enfield where, on 13 March, a similar service was held in the local Baptist church, a few hundred yards from where Valerie and Fred had lived for most of their years together. This service was conducted by the writer, with support from one of Fred's closest friends, Dennis Porter from Oxford, who painted a vivid picture of their years together in the Edmonton church and their continued friendship.

Following this service. Fred was laid to rest in the Lavender Hill cemetery, Enfield, where he awaits the call of his Life-giver and Redeemer.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife, Valerie, his sons Stephen, David and Kevin, daughter Mandy and five grandchildren, along with the wider family circle.

Truly, as Charles Spurgeon once stated, 'God buries his workman, but his work goes on.'

I would like to thank all those who supported him in his illness, with phone calls and cards, prayers and good wishes, and for their continued support of his family. Their generosity at the service in Carmarthen resulted in a donation of £250 for ADRA-UK.



Valerie Dust

WINIFRED ROSE BELLAMY (1915-2007)

d. 6 November. Having lived through ninety-two Guy Fawkes nights, Winifred Rose Bellamy (née Proudley) and called Winnie by her friends, died peacefully, where she was determined to remain until the last, at her home in the early hours of 6 November. Born in Bournemouth in May 1915, the sixth child of Alice and Andrew Proudley, she leaves her only remaining sibling, Ruth Rhodes, her much loved younger sister. Apart from a short stay in Watford during her youth, Winifred lived her entire life in Bournemouth and, since 1947, but a short walk from the Adventist church in Alma Road that she loved. It was as a child that she, together with her brothers and sisters, would walk with their mother some considerable distance each Sabbath morning to attend the little Adventist company that, in those days, met above the baker's on the corner of Alma Road and Charminster Road. In later years Winnie would play an active part in church life and was a keen collector when time came for Harvest Ingathering, spending many a rewarding Sunday morning in the company of Tom and Betty Farmer. Apart from her Lord, she greatly loved her family – two sons, daughters-in-law, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren – her garden and, over the years, her many pet animals, as Dad would jokingly say, 'Love me, love my dog!' Sadly, she was widowed from her beloved husband Richard in 1991 after forty-four very happy years together. As the years passed she became even more resolute that her home, with its many happy memories, was where she wished to be until the last, and remain she did. Her funeral, attended by close friends and neighbours, church members and family, was held on 15 November and conducted by Pastor Martin Anthony and Pastor Ian Lorek. PAUL BELLAMY

ANNIE THERESA PENNICOTT (1913-2007) d. 5 December. On 20 December the family and friends of Annie Theresa Pennicott gathered to celebrate her life. The officiating ministers were Pastors Gordon, Rafferty and Morgan. Pastor Rafferty encouraged everyone that we will see Annie again. 'Death is just a moment of time that we are separated,' he

said, 'but when we are reunited by our Lord and Saviour we will never be parted again.' Annie Theresa Pennicott (née Blake) was born in the district of Asia in the parish of Manchester, Jamaica, on 31 October 1913 to parents Isabella Munro and Michael Blake. She was the second eldest of four children – Willel, Rebekah and Adrian. As a young lady Annie used to work as a domestic in people's homes. These skills she learnt would prove helpful when she had her own home. In the early 30s Annie moved to the district of Redbury, where she met Harold Luther Pennicott in 1934. In 1937 they were married by Pastor Nation and in 1939 they were both baptised and joined the Jointwood Seventh-day Adventist church. As the church was far away, Annie and her husband started a branch Sabbath School in their home. Annie was always providing meals for visitors and loved having children in their home. Their first child was born in 1944; and they went on to have seven more children, six boys and two girls. In 1956 Harold left Jamaica for England. Annie did a good job in looking after her children for four years alone, and they all joined Harold in 1960. Like some Adventists who came to England from the Caribbean, they stopped attending church. Annie was always talking about church and was not content with her life until she started to go to Camp Hill church and renewed her love for the Lord. Her four youngest children accompanied her and, some time after, Harold attended too. In 1967 Annie, Harold and their four youngest children were baptised, and it was one of the happiest days of her life. Annie never went out to work but she had a home full of children and she was a childminder for many years. In 1973 Annie and Harold moved their membership to the West Bromwich church. In 1980 they bought their home in Edith Street, West Bromwich, so they could be nearer to the church they loved. Annie was a regular attendee at church right up until her 80s. She started to show signs of dementia in 2000. As time went on and her dementia increased, she received loving care from her husband and family. In 2005 Annie had to be moved to a nursing home. She and Harold, who himself was getting feeble, were now able to move to a different nursing home that could

accommodate them both. Most days Harold was able to walk down the corridor to see his wife, and at other times the staff or family would wheel Annie in her chair to his room. Harold passed away in October 2006. Annie and Harold were married for sixty-nine years. Annie was still able to interact with staff and family with a ready smile, touching and saying a few words. She died peacefully and with the assurance of Jesus' soon return when she will meet her loved ones again. The family will always be grateful for the prayers, visits and words of comfort in this time of separation from a loving mother.

RENWICK PENNICOTT (SON)

SYDNEY HATIPHA MAIS (1903-2007) d.

30 December. Sydney Mais came to England from Jamaica already an SDA. For a while, he remained away from the church until his wife introduced him to a colleague of hers, Sister Stoddart, who was an Adventist. He started to attend the Tubbs Road branch where he became a deacon and was a much-respected member. There he befriended Sister Ferguson who remained a long-standing friend. For his one hundredth birthday, Willesden church lovingly acknowledged him by presenting him gifts, but maybe the biggest acknowledgment came from the Queen who sent him a birthday card. Brother Mais was Willesden church's oldest and longest established member. In his later years, he attended the W.I.S.E project, a community club for the seniors where he was a buoyant player of dominoes. He was faithful to the church he attended regularly until three years ago when he became sick. Brother Mais died a peaceful death, sure of meeting his Redeemer Jesus Christ at his second coming. Brother Mais, who died at 104, is survived by his wife, his daughter Norma, two grandsons and one granddaughter. MICHELLE RONDOLF

EDITH VIOLET STEVENS (1917-2007) d.

1 December. Edith was born at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London. Contracting meningitis as a baby and surviving in spite of no antibiotics, she was left weak but, against all the odds, she survived to become quite a determined young lady. Her mother died when she was just 8 but her father fought to keep his

family together and run a business at the same time. Times were tough but there were happy memories and they 'did it'. Edith loved and respected her father for this. At 20 Edith married Sydney and was very happy. Sadly Sydney, then a soldier, was killed in Burma in 1943. This left Edith a war widow with three small children. Nevertheless, like her father before her, she determined to keep her family together. For this her 'three' have always been grateful. Edith tried to give them a happy childhood and did her best to get them a good education. She was proud of all her children's achievements. Voluntary work with the Red Cross and her love of dancing helped during this period. Then, following a campaign by Pastor Dennis Conroy at the Hove Town Hall, she renewed her faith in Jesus and became a member of the Hove church, becoming involved with teaching and as Sabbath School superintendent. Soon after joining the Hove congregation, Edith met Frank. They married, and so were added two more children, Debra and Mark. Even with all that this involved, Edith, after an operation, decided to take up nursing, becoming the oldest student nurse in the district. Edith was well known for the open-house hospitality on Sabbaths, which is still remembered by the students who have passed through. A number of these were at the funeral, with one sister even coming over especially from Zambia. Frank was really grateful for the support. Edith and Frank's business was hit by the last recession which resulted in a move to their little bungalow in Shoreham. Soon after, Edith had the first of a number of strokes which began a long decline in her health. Having promised not to let her go into care, Frank was, with God's help, able to nurse her and keep her at home. She was always so very grateful for this and grew even closer to Jesus. Always cheerful. At her funeral on 17 December at Worthing Crematorium Pastor Mel Trevena, who had come over especially from New Zealand, gave a moving tribute and pointed the mourners to the resurrection when Jesus comes. Our profound sympathies are with Frank, Edith's husband and nurse for many years, and her children, Michael, Julia, Jean, Debra and Mark. MEL TREVENA

LETTERS

SMOKING AND CANCER

Dear Editor,
Do you mind if I make a correction to an article in *MESSENGER* under the heading 'The Adventist Advantage'? In the paragraph about the Five-day Plan to Stop Smoking it reads: 'The first programme of its kind, pioneered at the New Gallery Centre.' It was actually pioneered in America by Dr McFarland and a minister whose name I believe was Folkenburg. One dealt with the medical aspect, and the other with the moral and spiritual. The General Conference produced a booklet for each person participating in the programme, and this was copyrighted.

I am pretty sure the two men who pioneered the programme visited the New Gallery and spoke about their programme. I don't think they actually ran a Five-day clinic at the New Gallery at that time. Where the programme really took off was in Cardiff where I was the pastor (about 1960). By this time it had become established in the USA and Australia. The *Rodericks* read about it in the Australian *Record* and at that time they were my church members in Cardiff. They put pressure on me to get the programme up and going over here. Ken Elias was the Welsh president and he invited

Bernard Kinman, who was the BUC Temperance leader, to lead out with the programme, together with a Dr Mera, one of our Cardiff members from Hungary. Howard Parkin was head of the Temperance department in the north, so he came down to Cardiff to see how the programme was run. We had the fullest co-operation from the Cardiff health authorities, who paid for all the advertising and gave us full use of their lecture hall free of charge.

The programme was so novel we had cameras present from the BBC and ITV, and several press men. In actual fact the reporter from the *S. Wales Echo* joined the course, successfully quit smoking and did a glowing report of the programme in his newspaper. One of the films we showed was entitled 'One in 20,000'. There was no actual proof in 1960 that smoking caused lung cancer. All we could claim was that one person in every 20,000 who smoked developed cancer. Round about 1962 the Royal College of Physicians produced a statement asserting that smoking did actually *cause* cancer, along with other problems.

We were running Five-day clinics about every six months, and for a long time were not allowed to infringe the copyright established by the General Conference. Eventually we were permitted to make a few adjustments.

PASTOR KEN CLOTHIER



Mission to make friends

The Leamington Spa Mission has recently started up a new pre-school club called 'Little Angels'. The group has developed from a mother and toddler group that has been running over the last three and a half years, also based at the church. Each Wednesday afternoon for two hours the church opens its doors to all children aged 3-5 to take part in activities such as arts, crafts, games and stories.

Little Angels is run by two church members, Gemma Proctor (who has been running the mother and toddler group) and Michelle Gulgeta. A third organiser is one of the parents who used to attend the church's toddler group. Gemma says: 'There came a point at which the children who progressed to pre-school age were no longer catered for by the toddler group and we spoke to their parents about how to continue to keep those families in touch. Little Angels is what evolved from that discussion.'

There are currently eleven children who attend this group on a weekly basis. Most of these children and their families are not Seventh-day Adventists.

BRENDA-LOUISE VINE

ABC BOOK SALES

April		
27	John Loughborough	10.30am-2pm
May		
11	Harper Bell	10.30am-2pm
ABC Shops		
Advent Centre, Sundays		10am-2pm
Watford BUC, 1 st & 3 rd Sunday		10am-2pm

Messenger

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Sunset

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	Lon	Card	Not	Edin	Bell
Apr 25	8.15	8.27	8.23	8.41	8.47
May 2	8.26	8.38	8.35	8.55	9.00
9	8.37	8.50	8.47	9.09	9.13
16	8.48	9.00	8.59	9.22	9.25

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New European Business degree at Newbold College

The teaching of Business Studies at Newbold began a new phase this week as the senior management team finalised the arrangements for the offering of a new European degree. From August 2008, Newbold will offer a BA Hons in Business Management through a franchise with the University of Wales, Lampeter, whose Department of Management and IT consistently ranks highly in leading surveys of higher education.

This means that, for the first time, students wishing

to study Business in an Adventist context in the UK are eligible for the same student loans they would receive at any other UK college or university. Students seeking a fast start to a career in not-for-profit organisations or in the commercial sector will have the opportunity to learn the core business skills in an internationally diverse learning environment – a vital preparation for work in the global economy.

'For the first time, Newbold can offer students of Business the opportunity to combine business skills with Christian principles and receive all the benefits of a European degree,' says Newbold's principal, Dr David Penner.

For further details
 email: admissions@newbold.ac.uk

For informal discussions contact:
 Marinko Markek, Chair, Department of Business Administration
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 John C. Crissey, Lecturer in Strategic Management and Marketing
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To apply contact the Admissions Office
 Telephone: 01344-407419/21
 email: admissions@newbold.ac



Left to right, seated: Dr John Balldam, director of Academic Affairs, Dr David Penner, principal, Ms Abigail Wright, senior accountant, Ms Berit Lisle, bursar and former chair, Department of Business Administration. Standing: John C. Crissey, lecturer in Strategic Management and Marketing, Marinko Markek, chair, Department of Business Administration.