

# MESSENGER

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

## PASTORS' MEETINGS: How to reach secular people

by John Arthur, Publishing director, Trans-European Division

**D**eBron, the Netherlands' largest Christian residential centre, was the venue for a European Pastors' Council arranged by the TED Ministerial Association. Delegates and spouses – more than 900 – travelled from all over Europe and beyond. One pastor from England even undertook a return trip of 500 miles by bicycle!

Peter Roennfeldt, organizer-in-chief of the five-day event from 11-16 September, stated that the focus was on several factors which related to the spiritual strength and vitality of the Church. Day 1 was

much inspiration during the plenary and workshop sessions, only to be overwhelmed by disbelief and sorrow as CNN images from New York and Washington were flashed onto a giant screen regularly,



Dr Gifford Ramie of Newbold College.



Pastors Robert and Richard Vine.



A plenary (complete) session of the Ministerial Council.

### RUSSELL BURRILL:

'Jesus' passion for the lost made church people feel uncomfortable. It is more comfortable to sit in a church pew than to call at doors.'

'During our early days, local churches cared for themselves, thus leaving the pastors to evangelize.'

### HAMILTON WILLIAMS:

'Ezekiel was assigned to the worst district in the country — the valley of dry bones!'

dedicated to personal relationship with Jesus Christ and the enhancement of professional pastoral skills. Day 2 dealt with the development of healthy churches, while Day 3 was directed to more effective evangelism and church planting. Sabbath meetings on Day 4 provided fresh insights into meaningful, God-glorifying worship.

Three hours before the opening of the council came news of the horrific events in the USA. Obviously, the thoughts of all delegates were directed towards the thousands of grieving relatives of those whose lives came to such an abrupt end. Special prayers were not only offered at the opening meeting but during the early morning moments for meditation, and throughout each day of the gathering. Attendees experienced

watching during intervals and at the end of each day's programme by a majority of the delegates.

Right at the outset, Bertil Wiklander, the TED president, emphasized that 'Growing Together' was the theme of the Division's strategic plan. 'An ongoing process of growth must be experienced by each field, each church, and each individual,' he stated. This theme was well amplified through an attractively-printed 69-page booklet which was distributed to all the delegates. Wiklander also highlighted the TED mission statement, which is 'to help our fields achieve substantial, long-term growth by providing exceptional service and witness'. At the end of his presentation a newly-produced TED video was

*Continued on page 8*



## Paul Lee song causes record hits on website

On Friday 21 September the BUC website received a record number of visitors. Over 560 visits were recorded in one twenty-four-hour period. The average number of visits to the website during September has been just over 200 a day and, according to BUC Communication director and webmaster John Surridge, the spectacular increase was down to a number of factors. 'One item which really caught people's interest was a new song which we put on the website in a number of different formats,'

he said. 'Written jointly by Paul Lee and Ken Burton, the song entitled *Growing Together* was used as the theme song for the Euro Pastors' Council in DeBron, Holland, where it went down very well with the international audience of nearly 900 pastors and other Church workers. Following its success in Holland, Paul Lee and Ken Burton agreed to allow us to promote the song on the BUC website so that it could be used in Adventist churches throughout the UK and Ireland. Over the weekend of 21-23 September the song was downloaded around 140 times – hopefully it was also sung in a number of our churches.'

In addition to the song, the BUC website has also expanded its 'gallery' section recently. Altogether, more than 1,500 images are available on the site, covering events such as Camp Meetings, the National Teens' Day, The Stanborough Press Open Day, and the Euro Pastors' Council. 'Promotion of the new "gallery" images in the BUC's weekly email news-

letter, *BUC News*, could also have contributed to the record number of hits,' said Pastor Surridge.

The BUC website is located at: [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk) and anyone with email facilities can join the over 1,000 people who already receive free weekly copies of *BUC News*. Simply send your name and email address to: [bucnews@adventist.org.uk](mailto:bucnews@adventist.org.uk).



### NEWBOLD COLLEGE

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### MAIDENHEAD CHURCH

From 1 December services will be held at St Joseph's Centre, Cookham Road, Maidenhead (a few yards up the road from present meeting place). Sabbath School 10am, divine service 11.15am. All enquiries to (01344) 421 800. M. WOOD



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# The Peace of the Potter

In one of those years, like this one, when there was war – *jihad, intifada*, whatever they were calling it – I stood on a hill outside Hebron. I was watching an old Arab potter at work, and had one foot in his shop and one foot outside. I could hear death-dealing machine-gun fire below. From the hills there was the occasional crack of rifle fire.

Down in the town where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were buried, factions were fighting it out over some new Israeli apartment block which had been built in the wrong place. Town planning is high politics over there. People were fighting and dying, and siren-sounding ambulances were removing the blood-drenched human body parts.

From the conflict, I looked back to the potter. He worked intently at the wheel. The fast pace of his work knew no change and no delay. He was by no means oblivious to the conflict below him but it did not deflect him from his central purpose: producing vessels of every conceivable shape and size.

Down in the valley the protagonists in the conflict took no account of the potter. Had they been aware of his work they would have considered it far less important than their conflict and their killing.

When the potter paused in his work, I engaged him in conversation. He shared his vision with me. His memory was long and he vocalized his perceptions of the past. As for the future, he looked forward to a time when his benign spirit would be shared by all the 'young hotheads' down in the valley. As he spoke of his wish for ethnic and religious groups to learn to live in peace side by side, I quizzed him about his political ideology. He had none! The ideals for which he stood would not, he admitted, win votes for any political party. The peaceful society for which he prayed would never be brought into being by politicians or diplomacy. The potter, you see, was a revolutionary. And the revolution he believed in was total. He believed in a revolution *within the individual*. Only as individuals were remoulded – totally, completely, from the inside – and as self was smashed could there be any hope for Hebron or anywhere else.

Looking back at my interview with the Hebron potter, I recall God's words to Jeremiah, "Go down to the potter's house, and there I shall tell you what I have to say." I went down to the potter's house, where I found him working at the wheel. Now and then a vessel he was making from the clay would be spoilt in his hands, and he would remould it into another vessel to his liking.' (Jeremiah 18:2-4, REB.) Both Isaiah and Paul saw God as the Potter and human beings as the clay in His hands. (Isaiah 64:8; Romans 9:21, REB.) Inspired by the picture of the potter, George C. Stebbins (1846-1945) wrote a hymn which begins with the words, 'Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way! Thou art the potter; I am the clay/Mould me and make me after Thy will/While I am waiting, yielded and still.'

Stebbins introduced into his hymn an idea implicit in both Isaiah and Paul. For spoilt vessels to be remoulded by the potter the clay must be yielding and workable. For humans to be

fashioned by the Master Potter there must be an acknowledgement that the Potter's will must prevail; that for a life to assume the shape and purpose God has in mind there must be trials and testings and a commitment to His 'absolute sway'!

Lack of co-operation with the divine Potter results in vessels that stay spoilt. For such lack of co-operation amounts to a refusal to take advantage of the only Power that can change and revolutionize.

Hence the activities down in the valley where young – and not so young – hotheads were seeking to achieve their objectives by means alien to the potter's vision. The potter cannot mould the clay if it is unyielding.

The next time I visited Hebron I was one of a party of pastors. I looked for the potter's workshop above the town. It was in ruins, demolished in the crossfire. And with it the potter's vision of peace.

Behind history's bloodletting and the antics of the politicians, are the agencies of the all-merciful Master Potter 'silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will'. – *Education*, page 173.

God seeks to shape lives. Through prophetic Scripture it is revealed that His hand controls the outline shapes of history and that the forces of history are used to bring about His ultimate purpose: the establishment of His eternal kingdom.

Meanwhile we sit in the crossfire. While some of us who work at the Pentagon are saved by absence from the vital place at the vital time, nine of us who worked in the twin towers perished. Most Daniels do not emerge from the lions' den intact – look at the fate of the majority of prophets and apostles! But amid the noise of battle and the dangers of crossfire, we are invited to fasten our minds on this: 'Above the distractions of the earth He sits enthroned; all things are open to His divine survey; and from His great calm and eternity' He orders that which is for our ultimate good. – *Ministry of Healing*, page 417.

From the banks of the River Kebar, Ezekiel saw a storm wind coming from the north. With the storm came a sight he could not understand: stabs of lightning, a heart of fire, a vast engine of complex technology. The scene was so complicated – there was so much going on – that it appeared to represent total confusion (Ezekiel chapter 1).

On the mud-flats of Babylon, Ezekiel the slave – moving mud at fifty buckets an hour – was finding life particularly confusing. The country from which he came had been flattened by a ferocious enemy. The very idea of 'home' was lost to him for ever. He was a thousand miles from the comfortable and familiar.

Suddenly, in the midst of the startling vision of lightning, fire and wheels, Ezekiel saw something and understood something that put everything else in its place: God was on His throne and God's hand was guiding the apparent confusion of the times.

Behind the confusion of today the Eternal One would have us catch a glimpse of Him on His throne and would have us understand that His hand is still on the wheel. Even now we may know the peace of the Potter.

## Healthwise

# Death by postcode

Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

We have known for years that household insurance is based on postcodes, but may have been unaware that the 'Grim Reaper' has had access to the same data!

The Office for National Statistics has recently published its report, *Geographic Variations in Health*, which shows that where you live can make a difference to your health and the way that you might die. Various factors are involved, ranging from access to services to the weather. Personal and population behaviours are still the prime deciding factors, whatever secondary circumstances are involved.

Illness of any kind is treated according to resources to hand. If these resources are not always available, or available only at a distance, they will affect the outcome. The report shows that the richest areas of the UK have the best range of resources, and that the Southeast of Britain has the widest range of resources and treatment options.

Blood groups also have a bearing on the onset and duration of illness, with people having blood group A (around 46 per cent of

the population) showing greater immunity to disease than people with other blood types. Genetics, too, sway personal susceptibilities.

High rainfall and cold winters have been linked to high death rates in a number of studies. Additionally, they have shown a link between cold weather and higher rates of stillbirth and infant mortality, and higher death rates from pneumonia and stroke. Heart disease death rates mirror the weather map, too, with death rates higher where the weather is worse.

Soft water, found mostly in the North and West, containing high quantities of minerals such as cadmium, lead, mercury and nickel, has been linked in a number of studies to high rates of heart disease. Radiation, both atmosphere and emission via radon gas emitted from granite, has been linked to higher cancer rates. One in twenty of the lung cancer cases in Devon and Cornwall is thought to be caused by seeping radon gas.

The pollution which used to claim thousands of city lives has been reduced by

various Clean Air Acts, but still remains a problem in most urban areas, with petro-chemical emissions being the likely cause of respiratory-illness deaths, allergic reactions and the rising incidence of asthma.

Personal pollution through smoking continues to exercise its toll, with studies showing a connection to class and geographical and economical area, the heaviest smokers being found in the North and East and Scotland. Diet-related illness has also been observed in the same areas, perhaps as a result of the type of food eaten and method of preparation. CJD rates are higher in the North due to the greater quantities of pies and burgers consumed there, made from less economical cuts of meat.

Clearly, we need to be taking whatever protective measures we can!



# 'BEST CAMP MEETING EVER'



Pastor Henry Wright.

**'Best camp meeting ever,' was the verdict of those who attended the North England Conference Camp Meeting in Southport.**

Over 750 people gathered on Monday 3 September at the Pontins Holiday Park near Liverpool, a figure which increased to approximately 1,500 by the weekend.

**Two speakers.** Some came for the preaching, some for the fellowship, others were uncertain, but all were introduced to Jesus under the banner of 'Let's talk Jesus'.

Pastors Henry Wright and John Lomacang exhibited a refreshing unity of spirit and purpose as they preached the story of Jesus. The messages were further reinforced as Pastor Lomacang's mellifluous tones re-echoed the story of Jesus in song.

Like a modern Paul and Timothy, in song and in the spoken word our guest speakers lifted up Jesus.

**Henry Wright.** Pastor Henry Wright will always be dear to the NEC. He was the speaker at the first two NEC Camp Meetings in Scarborough back in 1986 and 1987. So to welcome him this year was like a homecoming, a reunion with old friends. Mixed with this was the sweet experience of making new friends with

John and Angela Lomacang. 'Pastor Lomacang's professional, confident style and Christ-centred messages have made his meetings compelling to all. His warm manner draws his listeners into his messages, and his use of language, illustration and application makes them relevant to everyday life,' said one observer.

**Learning opportunities.** Camp Meeting also provided a wealth of learning opportunities. Workshops, health lectures and Bible studies enriched our daily experience. There were workshops on areas such as marriage relationships, women's ministries, vibrant personal ministries, young people in post-modern culture, and radio ministry, to name only a few. A first this year was a Debt Management seminar presented by Angela Purkiss, NEC assistant treasurer, who said, 'It was an opportunity to share the financial freedom that God desires for us.' One participant commented afterwards, 'It is reassuring to know that the church cares enough to discuss an old taboo and empower us with debt management solutions. Thank you.'

**Children and Youth.** While the adults were enjoying a spiritual feast, the many children on site were provided with a challenge of their own. Every day an army of volunteers catered for their needs with a variety of arts

**A report on the NEC Camp Meeting, 3-9 September**  
by Des Rafferty,  
NEC Communication sponsor, and  
Trevor Thomas



Photos: D. Rafferty

told of his experience as a child growing up without knowing his natural mother – abandoned and seemingly rejected – and how, over the years, the desire to be united grew stronger and stronger until, at last, guided by the hand of God, he had the pleasure of being reconciled with his mother. The greatest pleasure, however, was to witness *her* reconciliation with Jesus before she died. Now there is the hope of joy, endless joy, when they are reunited in

and crafts while the children expressed their love for, and hope in, Jesus.

Friday evening's singing of the theme song, 'More About Jesus I Would Know', was particularly memorable as over one thousand people gathered around the table of the Lord, reaching out for reassurance, yearning for forgiveness. They received their hearts' desire as they took the emblems, the bread and the wine.

**Sabbath celebration.** The Sabbath celebration proved to be a wonderful convocation with back-to-back preaching, singing that lifted us to the very courts of Heaven, and fellowship that no amount of money could ever buy. One member echoed the words of the hymn we know so well, 'Who can cheer the heart like Jesus, by His presence all divine.'

Pastor John Lomacang invited everyone to hear his testimony on Sabbath afternoon. In a concert-style programme he mingled his testimony with songs of deliverance and assurance. He

the Earth made new.

**Song and Story.** A former member of the Heritage Singers, Pastor Lomacang's pedigree was evident. One church member, with all the passion and fervour he could muster, said, 'He really sings great.' Beside Pastor Lomacang (actually in the sound engineers' box) stood his British-born wife Angela, herself an accomplished sound engineer, their synchronized ministry having a profound effect on everyone. Many were moved to tears by the telling of his experience.

In the final evening meeting of the camp, one last appeal was made. Appeals throughout the week had not been laboured but were simple and extremely effective. Night after night men, women and children had come forward in large numbers after they had seen and heard Jesus. But the last night was different; in response to an invitation from Jesus eloquently expressed by His messenger Pastor Wright, some two hundred people filled the front of the auditorium in answer to Heaven's call.



Angela and John Lomacang.  
Photo: D. Rafferty

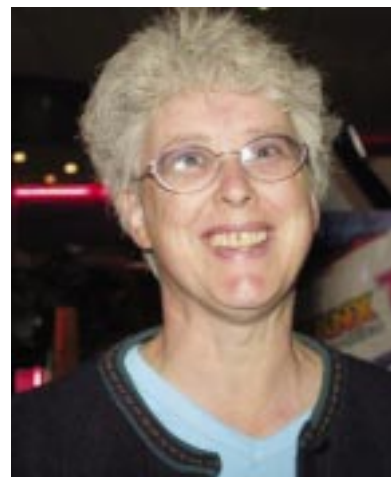
Pastor Egerton Francis, North England Conference president, said, 'I am delighted to know that our members and friends have supported this year's Camp Meeting. It shows

that the event is of spiritual value and importance and that it continues to excel year on year, this now being the best Camp Meeting ever. It furthermore indicates that when the

members come to Camp Meeting they love and enjoy the experience.'

The date for next year's Camp Meeting will be announced shortly.

Photos: J. Surridge



## Newport Investiture

Sabbath evening 14 July was an exciting time for Juniors and Pathfinders. Resplendent in spotless uniforms and ready to give of their best, they demonstrated what they had learned in the past year. The hymns were chosen by the youth, and the Scripture (John 3:16) was presented in Morse code by Estian Schoonraad.

Daniel, Luke and Joshua repeated the Adventure Law and Pledge, and Darren Hanson recited Psalm 23. The seniors gave a sketch depicting the controversy between Satan and Christians.

Following the investiture, a vote of thanks was given to Susan Hanson and Marrick Schoonraad by Helen Lockham, Pathfinder leader.

Six-year-old Luke Allman deserved a special honour for courageously taking his part in the programme with a black eye and a swollen jaw as the result of a fall from his bicycle.

**Awards were as follows:** Luke Allman, Daniel Hamblin – Sunbeam; Joshua Allman – Builder. In each of these two groups honours were earned: Bible 1, Bible 2, Art, Spotter, Fitness Fun, Media Critic, Swimming 1, Friends of Nature, Temperance, Road Safety and Wise Steward. Darren Hanson – Friend; David Hamblin – Companion; Estian Schoonraad, Robert Hanson – Rangers; Leandi Schoonraad – Voyager; Matthew Lockham – Wilderness Ranger and Guide. These earned the following honours between them: Braiding, Soapcraft, Dogs, Shrubs, Campcraft, Artisan Master, Naturalist Master, Mammals, Marine Mammals, and Small Mammals.

VERA MACHELL

## Greenwich Women's Ministries

On 9 June a packed Greenwich church was spellbound by a message presented by a young person, Shirley Grant. Her topic was 'A Woman with a Mission'.

JOYCE CERES

## Corrigendum

MESSINGER 106/20 page 8. Letter on church planting. For Paul Gray read Paula Gray. 'I have not had a sex change!' says Paula. EDITOR

## New Teens' club to start in Yeovil

Do you have any second-hand instruments – guitars, recorders, tambourines, etc? Also second-hand snooker table, table-tennis table or other leisure equipment suitable for a youth club? Please ring Dana or Leslie King, Yeovil, (01935) 429 307 or email: [Ldsqking@aol.com](mailto:Ldsqking@aol.com). Many thanks.

# CHURCH PLANTING BUZZ IN THE SEC

by Pastor D. W. McFarlane, president, South England Conference

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Greater London is rapidly becoming cosmopolitan in nature. Our established churches continue to be strong and active but the members of those churches are excited about the new churches and groups that are springing up in the metropolitan area.

Within the last twelve months we have seen the birth of a Bulgarian group and a Russian church (not yet organized), the planting of three more groups and churches where Ghanaians are in the majority, the establishment of a company in Ruislip, the organization of the Kennington Community Fellowship, and the Epsom Community Fellowship, the newest group to join this ever-growing list.

The Bulgarian group and the Russian church were formed recently. [We hope to receive reports from them in a future issue.] The Ghanaian work has been growing for a long time.

## The Growth of the Ghanaian work in Britain

by Dr E. Sackey

The political unrest, socio-economic instability and educational or academic uncertainties in the developing world have forced many people to migrate to the developed world to seek political asylum, work or education. Ghanaians are no exception to this group of people, and they have found themselves almost everywhere on the globe, including the United Kingdom.

### London Ghana Adventist Church

Included in the first wave of Ghanaian immigrants to Britain were very active Adventists from all walks of life. Unfortunately, most of these members received a rather cold welcome and were classified as perpetual visitors in the churches where they worshipped. Consequently, most of them, if not all, stopped attending church altogether.

In about 1965, six of them came together and started a prayer group, moving from house to house. They were Jacob Yaw Frempong, Yaw Bayim-Adornako, Opanin Peter Duah, Dr Paul Yeboah and Kwame Boakye. Soon others began to attend and, with time, the prayer group grew in number. In 1967 members from all over Britain – London, Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham – gathered in London for the very first formal meeting, at which time they adopted the name Bekwai Adventist Old Students' Association (BAOSA). The name was later changed to Ghana Adventist Union to accommodate the non-Bekwai members, and eventually changed again to Ghana Adventist Fellowship. Yaw Bayim-Adomako led the Fellowship for nine years (1978-1987).

During this time Nana Fred Kwaku Owusu joined the Fellowship and organized the choir, which in 1984 was invited to sing at the Balham church – their very first public performance. The choir was invited by the then SEC president Dr S. M. Reid to sing at the SEC Camp Meeting later that year. The

choir boosted the membership which increased to about seventy.

In January 1988, the leadership mantle was passed on to George S. Dadey, Jun, a quiet young man who had just finished Newbold College. At that time the Fellowship was meeting once a month. The introduction of the use of the *Church Manual* as the yardstick of the group brought a serious contention, which resulted in a split. More than half the membership left the group, leaving about thirty. But the following February, the Centenary Anniversary of Adventism in Ghana (which couldn't be celebrated in 1988 due to problems associated with the schism) was celebrated at the John Loughborough School, Holcombe Road, Tottenham, N17, with Dr Paul Yeboah from America as the guest speaker. That marked the turning point of the Fellowship. The following Sabbath, the membership doubled to about sixty once again. Soon the idea of getting organized into a church was born. The project was divided into three phases:

**Phase 1:** The Fellowship increased its meetings from once a month to twice a month. Gradually, the Fellowship was introduced to the higher organizations within Adventist circles through the invitation of departmental directors from the SEC, officers from the BUC like Pastor Don McFarlane (then BUC secretary), and also officers from the TED like Dr Jan Paulsen (then TED president).

**Phase 2:** In May 1990, the Fellowship increased its meetings from twice a month to every Sabbath. At this stage we intensified our afternoon Bible Studies (especially the *27 Fundamental Beliefs*) and prayer life. The focus was spiritual growth and so the theme 'Growing In Christ' was adopted with the theme song 'I'm Pressing On the Upward Way'. We were also invited to sing in many churches and sometimes to conduct afternoon programmes.

**Phase 3:** A delegation was

chosen and the leader, Brother Dadey, was asked to book an appointment to meet with Pastor Cecil Perry (then SEC president). In February 1991, we met with the president to present our request, which was taken to the Executive Committee for discussion. The reply was not favourable; the Executive Committee proposed that we should be organized into a Branch Sabbath School. This proposal was rejected outright, and our progress towards church organization reached stalemate until October that year when, at the BUC Session, Pastor C. R. Perry was elected BUC president and, subsequently, Pastor D. W. McFarlane became president of SEC.

Soon afterwards, the delegation was sent to meet the new president to congratulate him and to re-submit our request. Again it was taken to the Executive Committee and a smaller delegation was asked to appear before the Committee to explain our case. This time the Executive Committee agreed to organize the fellowship directly into a church. On Easter Sabbath, 18 April 1992, at the American church, Tottenham Court Road, London, Pastor McFarlane organized the Fellowship into the London Ghana Adventist church (the second overseas Ghanaian Adventist church – the first being New York's First Ghana church) with a membership of forty-one, amid a congregation of a little over 1,000 people. That afternoon, Pastor Cecil Perry preached at the baptismal service, when six more souls were added to the membership, making a total of forty-seven. Earlier on in December 1991, Pastor McFarlane had honoured his longstanding commitment to preach at the Ghana Day of Fellowship at the same venue, which attracted some seven hundred people.

Pastor George Okumu-Camera was appointed as our first church pastor from April 1992 to August 1997, when Dr Ebenezer Obodai Sackey (from the West African Union Mission) took over from him. In September 1998, Pastor George Sekyi Dadey, Jun, was formally called into the ministry as an associate pastor to assist Dr Sackey due to the growing member-

ship, which had reached about three hundred, with an average attendance of about four hundred.

At the moment, the London Ghana Adventist church worships at John Loughborough School, Tottenham, after having moved around places like Bethnal Green Community Centre, Plaistow Memorial Baptist Church and Highbury Grove School, Islington. In May 2001 the church purchased a property of their own, namely St Cedd's Anglican Church in Canning Town, Newham, for £350,000 (cash down). The property is currently awaiting refurbishment.

Due to the dispersal of the membership, the church was initially divided into nine small prayer groups – six in London: South East, South West, East, North, North East and North West; and three groups outside London: Slough, Reading and Bracknell. With time, it is hoped that most of these, if not all, groups will grow to become separate community/area-based churches. In the light of current developments, that vision is now gradually becoming a reality, for in addition to the London Ghana church there are now three more Ghanaian congregations in Britain, namely, South East London, Slough and South West London congregations (in order of their establishment).

### South East London Ghana Adventist church

In July 1997, the South East group conducted a mini-campaign at the Heathside and Lethbridge Community Hall, Blackheath Hill, London, SE10, their meeting place. Pastor George S. Dadey was the speaker for what turned out to be a very successful campaign. About thirty interests were obtained, and a serious follow-up was made. Unfortunately, most of the interests were lost because of the distance to the Central church in North London. It was at that time that the idea of starting another congregation in South East London was suggested, but it was vehemently opposed from all sides.

On 18 September 1998 an All London Day of Fellowship at the Royal Albert Hall, was an all-ticket event. Since tickets were also lim-

ited, the group decided to invite all their previous contacts for worship. The attendance was very encouraging and from that day they decided to worship separately from the mother church. It became a contentious issue, but eventually the church board agreed to organize them into a Branch Sabbath School, and Seth Obeng was asked to look after it with two assistants from the group itself – Lucy Owusu-Darkwah (who was the leader of the SE group at that time) and Johnny Addae-Peprah. Other members who helped with the establishment of the SE congregation were Pastor Owusu-Darkwah (now pastoring in Italy), J. K. Brew (the current first elder), Matilda Brew, Samuel Sarfo-Adu, Elfrieda Montford and Georgia Fiddimore.

In September 2000, Dr Ebenezer O. Sackey conducted 'The Miracle of Life and Health' evangelistic campaign in the SE at the Modern Mount Primary School, 100 Lewisham Road, SE13, after which ten souls were baptized.

On 27 January 2001 the group was officially organized into a church by Pastor McFarlane, SEC president, with thirty-nine members at the Plaistow Memorial Baptist Church. The membership has increased to about seventy, with an average attendance of about one hundred. Before the organization the SE group was worshipping at the New Charlton Community Centre, but soon afterwards they moved to Lucas Vale Primary School, Thornville Road (off Lewisham Way), SE14, where they still worship. There are also nine small groups currently operating within the church, and it is hoped that in the very near future some of these will also grow to become separate churches.

### Slough Ghana Adventist Congregation

In early 1998 the Lord gave the Ghanaian Adventist Ministerial Association, Reading, a remarkable idea of undertaking an evangelistic project in Slough that would eventually lead to the establishment of a Ghanaian Adventist church in Slough where Ghanaians from Slough, Bracknell, Reading, Ascot and the surrounding towns could worship. This was due partly to the long distance from the London Ghana church which was preventing some people from attending church, but mainly due to the large non-Adventist Ghanaian community in Slough, the target of the project. A Bible Study group was started in the house of Kwarne Acheampong, an Adventist, with about five members. The group basically went through our fundamental beliefs and soon grew to about twenty.

At the beginning of the new millennium, the Ministerial Association handed over the Slough Project to the London Ghana church to conduct an evangelistic

campaign in Slough. Pastors Ebenezer O. Sackey and George S. Dadey conducted the campaign in May 2000. On the last day of the campaign, ten people were baptized (although none from Slough itself). Yet when the appeal was made after the baptism, seven more people came forward to be prepared for the next baptism; among them was one person from Slough, namely, Mrs Florence Acheampong, the lady who had attended all the meetings.

Backslidden or missing Adventists and members who had difficulties attending church in London were contacted. The total number was forty-six. Of these seventeen were from Slough, five of them missing Adventists and the rest from the Bible study group. Fifteen active members from the London Central church living in Reading, Bracknell and Ascot joined the above prospective members to start the Slough Branch Sabbath School in June 2000 at the Hampshire Avenue Methodist Church in Slough. The initial average attendance was about 20-30, but this has more than doubled to about seventy within a year. The Slough congregation is due to be organized into a church on 8 December 2001, one and a half years after its establishment.

### South West London Ghana congregation

After the organization of the South East London church, the members began active witnessing in the south of London. Soon, they were able to locate some missing members from South West London who were not part of the original South West prayer group of the Central church, that is, the London Ghana church. They also made some new contacts in the same area. With these two groups of people totalling about twenty, they started another small group in SW London, led by Seth Obeng. A three-week evangelistic campaign conducted by a four-member team, Pastors Ebenezer O. Sackey, George S. Dadey, Andrew Beccai and George Kumi, from 17 August to 1 September at St James's Church, 236 Mitcham Lane, West Streatham, London SW16, resulted in the baptism of nine souls. The SE London church board voted about fifteen members from the SW area to join the newly-baptized members to start a Branch Sabbath School in SW London. Surprisingly, thirty one adults and six children turned out at Elder Seth Obeng's house, 60 Lewin Road, Streatham Common, SW16, for worship on the first Sabbath, 8 September 2001. Thus, the South West London Ghana Branch Sabbath School, the youngest Ghanaian congregation in Britain, was born. It is our prayer that they'll soon find a worship place and that, just like the others, they'll also be organized into a church within the next two years

## SMALLER CHURCH PLANTS

### Kennington Community Fellowship

by Pastor Eddie Hypolite

Building community through fellowship (1 John 1:1-3) is the theme that drives Kennington Community Fellowship, the vision of the church and wider community growing together. We don't see ourselves as being radical, only realistic about how inner-city churches have to function in order for the ministry of the Church and the impact of our message to be relevant to everyday people.

### Epsom Community Fellowship

by Pastor Ashwin Somasundrum

Sabbath 15 September 2001 was a doubly special day. First, it marked the start of the weekly Sabbath services. Our special day was moulded around the theme of 'Jesus who changes lives' and included drama as part of the contemporary worship service. Second, it was the forty-fifth anniversary of Arthur and Marie Laming, two of our much-loved small-group members. After a gift presentation, Arthur shared the secret of a long and happy marriage – 'never disagree with the wife!'

The Epsom church plant was the brainchild of Pastor David Cox. Much credit should be given to him for his vision. I must also commend the core team: Beverly Koonjul, Janette Stewart, Adassa McKay and 'the Newbold Gang' for their commitment and hard work.

Last Christmas we invited the Mayor and Mayoress of Epsom to join us for some carol singing in the middle of the biggest shopping centre. We decided to collect money for the Mayor's charity at the same time. With an overall group of about thirty people singing and collecting, a wonderful time was had by all, especially the Mayor, who was very impressed that we collected £300 in under an hour. So impressed, in fact, that I now sit on his Charity Committee.

Though still in its infancy stages, those of us connected to the Epsom church plant are excited by the future. We have a base of between fifteen and twenty people, of which many are enjoying Bible studies. A baptism in the not too distant future is eagerly anticipated, possibly in the River Jordan as part of a Holy Land trip early next year. We solicit your prayers as we work towards becoming a fully-fledged church.

[Note. We hope to receive a report from the Ruislip company also in the near future.]

### Conclusion

Church planting has been a major theme of the SEC for the past three years. We are pleased to see an increasing emphasis on this important method for growth. Church planting has been proved time and time again as an effective means of spreading the Gospel. I believe that these eight new groups are a part of God's great plan to reach people of all races and tongues in London.

D. W. MCFARLANE

Photos: Cathy Anthony



Above: The Portuguese and Hispanic churches have been part of the London scene for more than a decade. Below: The Epsom Community Fellowship.



shown to demonstrate various approaches to growth which are being implemented in an attempt to communicate our message to an unprecedentedly-secular and materialistic society.

James Cress, secretary of the General Conference Ministerial Association, brought the first meeting to a close by accentuating the vital elements which contribute to spiritual growth: Bible study, prayer, fellowship, witnessing, and obedience to God's will.

The council was blessed with an array of extremely interesting speakers. For the Wednesday morning devotional study, Lawrence Turner, head of the Theology department at Newbold College, concentrated on three out of the seven parables of the Kingdom outlined in Matthew 13. He maintained that during the early stages of growth, wheat and weeds are hard to distinguish, and that it would be an act of agricultural sabotage to uproot the weeds too quickly. 'The only way to beat the enemy is to let the wheat and weeds complete their course, and for each of us to exercise patience,' he concluded.

The next plenary lecture was described by the speaker as the 'most difficult he had ever had to present in thirty-one years of ministry'. New Yorker Jon Paulien, New Testament professor at Andrews Theological Seminary, mentioned that he personally knew several of those who had probably been killed by the Trade Centre explosions, and he began by saying, 'Since it happened, my mind has not been able to focus on anything else.' Even with this dilemma, Dr Paulien proceeded to present an outstanding lecture on 'Eight Principles to Help Foster a Healthy Church'. One of these principles was that God loves variety. And because today's evangelistic climate has changed so much, it is essential for the Church to introduce a wider variety of approaches in order to reach the lost effectively.

**Congratulations . . .**  
to John Robert Dust of Stanborough Park church on obtaining his MA degree at Leicester University.

**Wanted:** *What Jesus Said* by H. M. S. Richards. Phone Elma Hayes, (01502) 677283.

ABC BOOK SALES		
Oct 13	Belfast church, NI	6-7pm
Oct 14	Manchester Pendleton	11-1pm
Oct 21	John Loughborough	10-2pm
Oct 27	Crieff church, Scotland	6-7pm
Oct 28	Glasgow church, Scotland	11-1pm
	West Midlands Centre	10-2pm

George Knight, another lecturer from Andrews, covered the topic, 'Adventist Identity and Pastoral Confidence'.

One of the major themes for the council was church planting. No doubt every delegate present would love to hire a large hall and present a serious of evangelistic lectures climaxing in a baptism. However, the current reality throughout most of Europe is that this method no longer works. Different tactics are called for a

fifty workshops were convened on a wide range of issues such as small-group ministry, preaching, prayer, reaching out to backsliders, youth work, door-to-door visitation, motivation, family life, spiritual gifts and ecumenical trends. Unfortunately, some speakers were prevented from attending because of the suspension of trans-Atlantic flights. Pastor Hamilton Williams gave a rousing sermon on the dry bones in Ezekiel's vision.

**GEORGE KNIGHT:**  
 'We won't experience burnout if we operate within our area of giftedness.'  
 'There are two catholic (universal) churches – the RCs and the SDAs!'  
 'Our job is not to worry about God's job, but to work faithfully where we are, to put our trust in Him – and let Him do the counting!'

post-Christian generation is to be reached with the Gospel. To this end, Russell Burrill, director of the North American Evangelism Institute and chair of the Christian Ministry department of Andrews University Seminary, gave several talks. 'God is passionate about reaching lost people, and we must share that passion,' was one of his many punchlines. Caring for existing Christians should not consume so many of the Church's resources. Most of the lost may not look like us, or speak like us, but we have to reach them. More of our time, talents and treasures must be devoted to prioritizing the harvest. In the 1870s there was an average of one new church planted for every two pastors. Today in North America 120 pastors are needed for the same result! Consequently, one does not need to be a rocket scientist to realize that major changes are called for if our mission is to be accomplished.

During the council more than

The welcoming of the Sabbath at Friday evening vesper service was a memorable experience. Richard Elofer, president of the Israel Field, together with seven other delegates from that region dressed in appropriate attire, portrayed a typically Jewish celebration of the Sabbath. Following the sound of a soprano saxophone, two candles were lit to signify the presence of God. Bread and wine were then consumed by the participants in harmony with Jewish custom (not connected with the communion service), and a special prayer was offered in Hebrew for the Creator God to manifest His presence on His holy day.

Another delightful feature of the council was the music. The words of hymns old and new were beamed onto three large screens, and those from many language groups joined in with full heart and voice. Each evening the theme was directed towards 'Cutting Edge Ministries', when testimonies and

visual presentations were given regarding some of the current outreach projects and experiments which are taking place. Lack of space will not permit more than the mention of church planting programmes in Greece which were reported on the Sabbath morning by Mission president Apostolis Maglis. For many years there were only six churches in the whole country, and enormous difficulties were experienced in connection with evangelism because of the negative influence of the Orthodox Church towards other religious persuasions. However, since 1997, seven more groups have been established. Delegates rejoiced over this good news, and the offering for the day was donated to a new church initiative at Zaharo in western Greece.

Dr Wiklander then continued his theme of church growth. Using a somewhat humorous but pertinent illustration, he referred to the English football team which won the World Cup in 1966 then did virtually nothing for the next thirty-five years other than bask in its former glory. Recently, however, the team had become much more focused (under Swedish management!) and a very notable victory had just been achieved on German soil. 'Is it possible,' questioned Wiklander, 'that our Church just thinks in terms of past performance rather than wholeheartedly addressing the challenges of today?'

During the final meeting Miroslav Pujic, TED Communication director, launched a new Life Development package consisting of videos, CDs, and printed materials specifically designed to reach secular people in a non-threatening manner. A prayer of reconsecration to God was offered by Pastor Cecil Perry, president of the British Union.

UPCOMING EVENTS				
EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
OPEN EVENING for prospective students for 2002-2003	15 October at 7pm	John Loughborough School Hall Holcombe Road N17 9AD	Talk by headteacher (7.30pm) Tour of school (7.40pm)	(020) 8808 7837 aphillip@hotmail.com
HANDSWORTH'S 100 YEARS CELEBRATION	26-27 October (Weekend Celebration)	26 October Handsworth church 27 October Aston University, Birmingham	Guest speaker: Randy Stafford, USA Also Pastors C. R. Perry and E. Francis	Pastor J. Nicholson (0121) 344 3672
PALMER SISTERS (USA) GOSPEL CONCERT	10 November	Church of God of Prophecy, Aberdeen Street, Birmingham	Mike Johnson No.7 Promotions	(01908) 692 391 or visit www.palmersisters.co.uk

All advertisements for upcoming events should be submitted in this format.

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**SUNSET**

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	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Oct 12	6.14	6.26	6.16	6.20	6.33
19	5.59	6.11	6.00	6.02	6.16
26	5.45	5.57	5.45	5.46	6.00
Nov 2	4.32	4.44	4.32	4.30	4.46

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