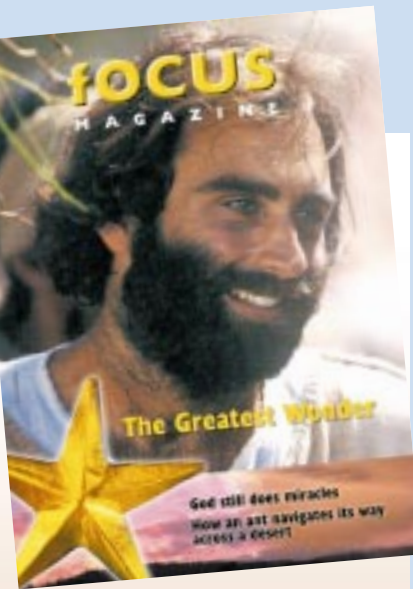


MESSENGER

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



Stanborough School wins Award

On 26 October, in competition with other excellent schools, Stanborough won the top award from the *Watford Times* – and occupied the whole of the front page of this Midlands-based tabloid.

'Stanborough School provides a varied and well balanced curriculum and challenges

pupils to reach their maximum potential,' enthused the newspaper's leader writer. 'The atmosphere in the school is friendly and provides the opportunity for boys and girls to gain social confidence. . . . Forty different nationalities are represented in the school; its catchment area covers the globe from Canada to Argentina, France to

Hong Kong. . . . All tutors speak at least two languages, which helps foster mutual understanding. . . .'

This is the first time an Adventist school has been given the Continuity in Education Award. It arrived just a week too late to be highlighted at the annual Speech Night.

Introduce the Prince of Peace to your neighbourhood . . .

. . . He may not be known there!

December's FOCUS contains . . .

- The latest on Mike Stickland's story – by Mike Stickland!
- How every ant contains a compass – and who put it there.
- The story of how the BBC lost the battle on the Victoria Line.
- An introduction to Jesus and the Good News He brings.

FOCUS still costs only 20p, the same price it was twenty years ago.

Order in quantity through your PM Secretary or directly from the Adventist Book Centre on (01476) 539900.

GIVE OUT THE GOSPEL!

Speech Night

by Judy Fox

October 18 marked the fifty-second Stanborough Secondary School Speech Night. Principal Mr S. Rivers gave his welcome to a packed auditorium. He began by reprising the Inspector's Report which, following the full inspection last summer by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI), praised Stanborough for its capable teaching and for the positive attitudes of its pupils. The school was commended for producing standards of achievement above those that might be expected in relation to pupils' ages and abilities, and for consistently good performance in public exams. This year GCSE A to C results were as follows: 63% Chemistry, 66% Maths, 67% Physical Education, 75% English, 77% Office Applications, almost 90% for Business Studies, Biology and Religious Studies, nearly 100% for French and English Literature, and 100% for Physics. Of the Y10 students taking Maths GCSE a year early all achieved B or above. A-level students did well with one, Joanna Poddar, gaining entry to Homerton College, Cambridge.

The Inspection also acknowledged the school's 'provision of a firm spiritual, moral, social and cultural foundation for its pupils'. The Boarding School leadership was praised as an asset to the School.

The guest speaker was old Stanboroughian Peter Balderstone, who now lectures at Newbold College. His theme was heroes and their qualities of Involvement, Intensity and Integrity. From Mr Balderstone's personal heroes – his father and England's sporting hero David Beckham – he



School principal Mr Stephen Rivers. Photo: John Butters

suggested a hero for the world: the Master of our School, the Lord Jesus.

Special awards this year went to PTA member Mrs Casal for her involvement in and contribution to fundraising, and to Mrs Chiverton-Hunt for her hard work in the library. Daniel Cowley, who spent seven years at Stanborough in both the Primary and Secondary Schools, was awarded the Fletcher Cup for past pupils who have achieved excellence in spite of difficulties. Despite suffering from meningitis as a baby, which left him with lifelong kidney and dermatological complications, Daniel studied at the University of West England, gaining a degree as a Registered General Nurse and is now working at the Bristol Infirmary.



Satellite evangelism to be broadcast from Britain

by John Surridge, Communication director, BUC

On Thursday 1 November two directors of the Adventist Media Centre in California visited the BUC office in order to discuss plans for a major new satellite series which will be broadcast from England in August 2003. Warren Judd, Chief Executive Officer of Adventist Media Productions, and Stew Harty, CEO of 'Faith for Today', joined pastors and administrators from the British Union Conference and the Trans-European Division for preliminary discussions intended to lay the foundations for the satellite series. Pastor Dalbert Elias, who was heavily involved in the NET '98 series, said, 'I'm really excited at the prospect of Dwight producing another set of programmes, especially one being broadcast from here, and one which is going to be targeted at secular people. But we need to make

sure that we are prepared for the event. Over the next year or so we need to be making friends and contacts with the secular, post-modern people around us – our neighbours or our work colleagues perhaps – so that we have a pool of contacts to invite.'

Dr Richard De Lisser spoke of the excellent community work already being done by members of the Stoke Newington church and commented, 'Any resources or programmes which will help my church meet the needs of the community around it and help to bring the message of salvation to those people, will be greatly appreciated. The Life Development concept seems to have a lot to offer and I'm looking forward to hearing more about how it can serve the Church.'

'Life Development is a name we have chosen to cover all the preparations and

follow-up work which will be built around the satellite programmes,' said Pastor Alan Hodges, Ministerial Association director for the BUC. 'We need to get across the idea that any truly effective form of evangelism involves people's whole lives. You can't

just run a quick campaign and expect cold contacts to get baptised.'

Pastor Miroslav Pujic, Communication director of TED and one of the originators of the Life Development concept said, 'It's early days yet. We need to do a lot of consultation with ministers and lay leaders in the Church. We want to work with these people because they are the ones who have the local expertise – they know what their secular friends and neighbours are really like.'

Warren Judd and Stew Harty with the BUC's Ministerial Association director Pastor Alan Hodges (centre).



Healthwise

Cannabis Calamity

Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

The cannabis laws are to be relaxed with cannabis now being labelled a category C drug rather than category B where it has been listed for some time. This means that it will no longer be an offence to carry the drug for one's own use.

Recategorisation is seen by many as a step towards the full legalisation of cannabis use, and the government is being urged by them to allow cannabis' unrestricted use by those who choose to use it. Cannabis users argue that it is safer than tobacco or alcohol and so should not be restricted at all since these other items are readily available. The new classification will put cannabis into the same group as mild amphetamines, tranquillisers, and anabolic steroids.

Cannabis has not been used to the same extent as tobacco or alcohol so there is insufficient evidence to show that it is less harmful. What evidence there is about cannabis shows that it is at least as harmful, and, in some respects, more harmful than either of these items.

Cannabis ● contains 50-70% more cancer-causing compounds than cigarette tobacco, with even higher concentrations in sidestream smoke; ● interferes with heart functions; ● disrupts mental activity; ● adversely affects lung functions; ● interferes with the immune system ● constituents

are stored in fat cells (the brain is particularly rich in these cells); ● adversely affects individual body cells and consequently body organs; ● interferes with the reproductive system and the production of sex hormones; ● retards learning; ● adversely affects memory; ● decreases motivation.

There is no scientific evidence, currently, that cannabis helps in any of the conditions such as MS for which it has been advocated by users. Some of the components of cannabis (cannabinoids) might prove to be of therapeutic value in the future when they have been isolated and proved through clinical trials. With over 400 chemical compounds and more than 60 cannabinoids, research will be an uphill task. Eventually, a situation might be arrived at similar to that of opium where heroin is classified as a category A drug but its derivative, morphine, is used therapeutically.

People who grow and smoke their own cannabis to alleviate their MS, asthma, or epilepsy symptoms might, one day, use these isolated cannabinoids in standardised doses to contribute to their well-being without having to suffer the adverse effects of cannabis smoking. The British Medical Association is campaigning for the decriminalisation of cannabis so that doctors will not be breaking the law by researching the effects of the various cannabinoids.

Unfortunately, many people have seen the BMA's advocacy as a move towards the total legalisation of cannabis. The media have deliberately confused the concepts of decriminalisation and legalisation and have pushed, in particular, for the latter. The Home Secretary, David Blunkett, says: 'I think that it is very important that people don't misunderstand. There is no intention by me, or by other ministers or the Prime Minister, that we legalise or decriminalise.' Sadly though, the wrong conclusions are being drawn, the wrong signals are being sent. The idea that police have 'more important' things to do suggests that cannabis is not a problem.

If there are few or no restrictions on cannabis use, will we be able to trust the judgement of our train drivers, pilots, judges or doctors, etc, to the same degree as before? Rather than relax, or cave in to the inevitable, we need to hold the line in the face of these changes. Choose to be and remain drug free.



Christmas Eve Miracle

Ed worked as a police reporter for *The Seattle Post*. At 7pm on Christmas Eve he felt 'an overwhelming impulse' (his words) to get up from his desk and get over to the city's skid row. He arrived just in time to knock a revolver from the hand of a man about to take his own life. Looking at the clock on the restaurant on the other side of the road, Ed noted that it was 7.05.

'I'm here to help you, Jack,' said Ed. 'Let's get some soup down you.'

The would-be suicide looked at Ed: 'You know me?' he asked. 'You called me Jack.'

'Let's talk,' said Ed.

'Don't want to,' said Jack. But he did. It all came tumbling out. His business had gone bust. The Receiver had taken possession. In an attempt to keep his family above the breadline he'd spent a week trying to sell motor accessories. He'd made 76 cents! His wife and children were at home keeping company with a mountain of unpaid bills, and with no prospect of food, let alone presents, for Christmas.

Ed stuffed two ten-dollar bills into Jack's top pocket without a word.

At the restaurant, before the soup arrived, Ed had a phone call from his editor: 'Get over to the Italian quarter. There's been a murder. . . .'

Ed decided to keep Jack Brent with him. There was no telling what Jack might do if he were left alone even though the gun had been removed. So Ed arrived at Seattle's most squalid slum district with Jack Brent following sullenly at his heels.

The night was a marrowbone freezer. In the most threadbare apartment of the meanest tenement of the most squalid district in town a large woman lay dead. She had *not* been murdered. She had dropped dead at her washtub from sheer exhaustion. Her five children clung to her husband in terror and hysteria.

Ed would never forget the misery in that husband's eyes.

Jack Brent noticed it, too. He lost the sullenness. Then he reached in his top pocket and pulled out the two ten-dollar bills Ed had given him. He handed them over to the sobbing husband.

Just then the coroner's assistant arrived with his van – and a box in which to take the dead woman's body away. Without being asked, Jack Brent ever so reverently helped to lift her body into it.

As Jack took his seat in Ed's car he said: 'I've got to get home. *Please – take me home*. I must have been crazy. I didn't know what misery was.'

Ed swung around to James Street and dropped Jack Brent off in front of a small white cottage. Jack hurried up the steps. Ed followed him slowly. He paused in the little hall and

watched through the open kitchen door. With eyes closed, Jack Brent was holding his wife as if he'd never let her go. Two little girls, about 3 and 5 years old, were each hugging one of their daddy's legs.

It was then that Mrs Brent noticed Ed. She moved out of her husband's arms, stepped into the hall and shut the door. 'He's been so worried and sick,' she said, her eyes filling with tears. 'Tonight when he wasn't home by seven o'clock, I knelt down and prayed God to please take care of him and to bring him home safely. And here he is.'

Ed realised then why the impulse to get to skid row had come to him at exactly 7. He was awed and humbled.

'His business went broke,' Mrs Brent said, 'but I'm not a bit worried. I've asked God to take care of that, too.'

Ed looked into Mrs Brent's calm eyes and thought, 'It was this woman's faith in God that sent me into this dismal night to bring her husband home to her.'

Ed said, 'I'm certain things will work out just as you want them to, Mrs Brent.' He told her to call him at the police station if she needed him, and then stepped onto the little porch. As the door closed behind him, Ed remembered that Jack had given the twenty dollars to the Italian husband. He turned back to the house. Father, Mother and the two little girls were kneeling at kitchen chairs, praying. Ed stood for a moment, and then tiptoeing to the table, put a few one-dollar bills on it and slipped out.

God did take care of Jack Brent's business. Today his line of motorcar accessories is known throughout the Pacific coast.

Back at the police station press room, Ed picked up the phone and called the city desk. 'About that murder, . . .' he began.

'Sorry, man,' said the city editor. 'There's no room for any other stories in the dummy. We've put the paper to bed.'

'No problem,' Ed said. 'There wasn't a story anyway.'



So what are your worries this Christmas season? Unemployment? Rejection? Loneliness? Or something really trivial?

You're blessed.

Hearts are breaking with grief in New York city and a thousand other places. In Afghanistan a hundred thousand children under the age of 5 will die before 1 March unless something is done. ADRA estimates that 7.5 million people are on the brink of starvation in that benighted country.

So what? So *give* something. Give it Gift Aid. Mark it ADRA-UK Afghan Refugee Appeal. Post it to ADRA-UK, Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ.

God so loved that He gave. That's the message of Christmas. So how much do *you* love?

Lord Mayor at Handsworth Centenary

by John Surridge

On Friday 26 October a service of praise and thanksgiving was held at the Handsworth church in Birmingham, to mark the centenary of Adventism in the West Midlands. A short history of the church was given by Pastor Jeff Nicholson, and various former ministers gave reminiscences of their memories and experiences. Pastor Bob Rodd told of the conversion of his father in 1898 and his later entry into Stanborough College and subsequently full-time ministry. He also spoke of his own ministry in Handsworth, its growth and relocation to Hutton Road in 1967. Other speakers included Pastors Alan Conroy, Don McFarlane and Egerton Francis. Pastor McFarlane, in the keynote address, reminded the attendees of their great days of growth and evangelism, and the six church plants that came out of Handsworth over the last thirty years. The service ended with a charge and a candle-lighting service led by Pastor Francis, who challenged the congregation to hold high the torch of light and truth and disseminate it like the light spreading through the Church.

On Sabbath a special Day of Fellowship was held at Aston University. There was standing room only during the divine service, which opened with the Lord Mayor of Birmingham bringing his congratulations for the achievement of the church over the last hundred years. Pastors Cecil Perry and Egerton Francis also gave their congratula-

tions. Pastor Randy Stafford from the United States gave the keynote address, and the Handsworth Youth Chorale, which was specially reconvened for the service, gave an outstanding performance.

The highlight of the afternoon service was an audiovisual presentation of the history of the Handsworth church over the last hundred years. It highlighted the first entry of the message into Birmingham in 1888, through the ministry of literature-evangelists, and went on to look at the pioneers Kellogg, Kress, Waggoner, Prescott, and Olsen, who all helped to support the emerging work. The public evangelism of S. G. Haughey and E. C. Andross led to the founding of the church in 1901 – the first purpose-built Seventh-day Adventist church in Britain.

Tribute was paid to prominent families which have served the local church, with the names Merchant, Hall, Bryan, Belton, Beavon, Fortune, Huse and many others being included. There was also a roll call of all the ministers who have served in Handsworth. The evening ended with a gospel concert featuring all the gospel groups and choirs which have come out of Handsworth over the last forty years, as well as other invited artists.

The weekend celebrations ended with a prayer breakfast in the church hall on Sunday morning at which Pastor Stafford gave his final address.



Pathfinders Petition No. 10

Forty-seven bleary-eyed Pathfinders met at 7.30am at Birmingham's New Street Station. They were off to London to present a petition to the Prime Minister, Tony Blair.

The Pathfinders wanted the

Government to know that Christian principles must be maintained and that homosexuality must *not* be promoted or taught in schools.

The petition was handed over at the door of No. 10 Downing Street at

2.30pm. There was a buzz of excitement as we walked up Downing Street, having submitted to the usual security checks.

For some time we at Camp Hill had been collecting signatures for the retention of Clause 28. West Bromwich Pathfinders accompanied Camp Hill Pathfinders on their historic visit.

CLEM MORGAN, Pathfinder leader

New Beginnings at The Stanborough Press

At a recent meeting of The Stanborough Press Executive it was voted to accept the need for a Rationalisation programme in order for the Press to move forward in its

Mission – that of proclaiming the Message of a soon-coming Saviour. For well over a hundred years the Press has operated successfully as a full-blown publishing/printing facility.



Mayor Saddiqi with Dr Richard De Lisser

Outreach to the homeless

Stoke Newington church continued her outreach programme by opening a drop-in centre in her church hall to feed those who sleep rough in the area.

The Open Door Drop-In Centre, as it is aptly called, was launched by the Mayor of Hackney, Councillor Saleen Saddiqi. Among the attendees were our minister Dr Richard De Lisser, Pastor Sam Davis, director of Community Services, and Sister Clara Roche-Caton, Area 6c director of

Community Services. This project will be run by the Community Services department of our church and will be open every Wednesday. This was the brainchild of our Community Services leader, Eileen Lenton. Prior to its opening, extensive research and contacts were undertaken by her, as well as liaising with other organisations which offer similar services. The aim of the project is not only to feed the homeless, but to provide a recreational environment and to offer advice in many areas. Since its opening, an average of twenty people attend each Wednesday.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

100-hour labour of love

The nativity scene backdrop for Barnsley's Christmas outreach programme was made and quilted by Marion Rossiter. It took her over one hundred hours and

replaced the original backdrop designed by Jane Lawford and painted by Pathfinders fifteen years earlier.

NANCY COWIN



However, recent technological enhancements, together with current economic world conditions, have meant that if we are to remain competitive in today's market we must find other avenues to ensure that our operation remains viable, while at the same time meeting the needs of the Church in the proclamation of the Gospel.

To this end, therefore, as management, we are committed to a programme of change that will include a significantly greater degree of public awareness among the membership by, for example, making available additional ABC outlets in areas of greatest Adventist population density, publishing a wider variety of books at as low a cost as possible, and by increasing our market share in the wider Adventist world community. All of which can only be achieved by containing costs – particularly in the economically challenged countries.

This new emphasis, we believe, is the only way forward – and the challenge before us is one that, by God's grace, will be met. Unfortunately, these changes have caused pain to the Press family, which continues to hurt. But our God is a God of healing. We pray for those affected, and believe that God will continue to be with every individual and family affected by these changes.

We look forward with confidence, knowing that the Lord is guiding the programme. 2001 saw 39,339 people baptized in the Eastern Africa Division as a direct result of Stanborough Press books. Through the valued support of our staff, the enthusiastic loyalty of our church members, and the blessing of God, we look forward to the fulfilment in the British Isles of the prophecy, 'one thousand will soon be converted in a day, most of whom will trace their first convictions to the reading of our publications.' (*Evangelism*, page 693.)

PAUL HAMMOND, General manager

SOS! Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Linda Puchert, née Deeble, who went to school in Port Talbot in the mid-1960s and was last heard of in Germany, should get in touch with Mrs Shirley Vine on (01666) 829085.

CANNOCK church now meets at The Avon Business and Leisure Centre, Avon Road, Cannock.

Corrigenda
Please note that Leicester West church is on Narborough Road, not Harborough as stated in the Directory of Churches. Also, the book, *The Unlikely Hero* (MESSENGER 24, page 8) was written by Desmond Doss. Our apologies. Editor.



Australia, Singapore, Kiev, Dublin

It came at the end of what had been a particularly busy week. Ashley Martin, a native of Dublin, was not only getting to grips with a new job, he got married and then was baptised.

But it is a story that goes

back some eight months before, when he was travelling home from Australia. He had a stopover in Singapore for a few days before heading back to Ireland. He was walking out of his hotel to find a store to buy some refreshments when he stopped a young lady to ask for directions. And the rest, as they say, is history.

The young lady was Natasha, and she was on a work assignment from Kiev, Ukraine, where she worked as a translator. Natasha and Ashley got talking. Over the next few days they got to know one another. When each of them returned home they continued communicating on the phone and by email.

Ashley had an oppor-

tunity to go to Kiev and visit Natasha's home church, and over the next few months Natasha shared her faith with Ashley. Ashley wasn't a churchgoer at the time, but came from a Church of Ireland background. He had, when he was twelve, begun attending the Baptist church, and had one evening announced to his family that he was born again. Many years had passed and Ashley had pretty much stopped going to church. He had acquired a very good job with Dell and sought the good things in life, fitting for a man in his position. But soon he began to question the importance of the material things that he had gathered. He decided to quit Dell and so began the journey that took him first to Greece and then to Australia. Thus his journey home to Ireland and that

first contact with Natasha.

That brings us right up to 10 November when we had a special service of baptism in the afternoon. The members of the Dublin church came together once again to celebrate the decision that Ashley had taken. Also present were his mother, brother and a family friend. Ashley's brother Jason shared the Scripture reading from Romans 6, where Paul makes the comparison of baptism with Christ's death and resurrection. Ashley also shared his remarkable testimony with those who were present.

The writer conducted the service, preaching a sermon which reinforced the importance of baptism in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

DOUGLAS McCORMAC





Small Groups Training

by Isobel Webster

'The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented to me

by One who cannot err.' (*Evangelism*, page 115.) The Methodist small worship/study groups developed by John Wesley founded the Sabbath School system developed by the Adventist church. So the idea of meeting in small groups is not new – it has been God's plan all along. Otherwise, why did Jesus choose only twelve for His group? Wouldn't it have been much more effective to have had fifty for six months, and then another fifty? He sometimes preached to five thousand people, but that was not His chosen method of working. Jesus spent more than fifty per cent of His time just teaching the twelve, dedicated to them. He was creating a model. If He could just get them to do what He was doing, then He would have twelve where previously there was only one.

Such were the challenges presented by Pastor David Cox at the Small Groups Training Weekend held recently in the North England Conference, organised by our Church Growth director, Pastor

Paul Haworth. Over the weekend David and Paul presented training sessions, but also demonstrated small groups working. Even in the brief time spent together in small groups, the forty-five attendees were able to experience unexpected depths of Christian closeness.

From Acts 5:42, Romans 16:5, and other verses, we know that on a day-to-day basis the early Christian church was found in people's homes. And who led these house churches? Not apostles! Ordinary people.

And the people who attended this weekend represented every corner of the North England Conference. Ages ranging from early twenties to (much!) older, groups of church planters mixing with those from very traditional congregations, small churches, large churches, city churches, rural churches, church elders, pastors, quiet people, noisy people. . . .

So Small Groups are about community. They are not primarily for Bible Study, or prayer, or evangelism. They are for the building of Kingdom Community. They are a small number of people who meet together for

Bible study in order to grow in their relationship with God, to grow in their relationship with one another, and to reach out to share what they have with others. Such groups are holistic, because we grow best when we grow together. If you just have a group to witness, for example, you will not be as effective in witness as you would be if you do these other things as well. The New Testament does not separate them, each helps the other to happen. That this is the way forward for the spreading of the Gospel was shown in the example of the world's largest church in Seoul – and studies show that all the world's most vibrant, fastest-growing churches, including Adventist and regardless of denomination, have a high percentage of their membership involved in small groups.

David and Paul also brought worship and prayer to a very personal level for all those present at the weekend. The stimulation of the vision they brought for God's work, plus the worships they led, the small groups, and the fun of the whole weekend (including a wild social on Saturday night), climaxed in the commissioning prayer with which our time together ended. David's closing words as he taught us were:

'Through small group ministry, people who never saw themselves as more than church attenders and pastor-supporters, discover that they really are called as ministers for Jesus. And as we get involved with Jesus, and truly become His ministers, we will find that exciting, unprecedented things happen.

'It can happen, it will happen; the only question is, where will you be when it does?'

substantial work at local level for ADRA, and they both love to visit members of the church family.

It is not surprising that a full church gave them special greetings on their anniversary Sabbath and that their family organised a party of 60-plus guests in a beautiful hotel the following day.

There are many people, including myself, who would pay special tribute to Sylvia and Fred. Their friendship, loyalty, hospitality and sense of humour are greatly appreciated.

PASTOR MALCOLM TAYLOR



PASTOR TODD MURDOCH - d. 7 September. Thomas Todd Cochrane Murdoch was born on a farm in New Cumnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, on 25 September 1911. His parents Margaret Cochrane and John Lamont Murdoch, along with their ten children, became Adventists after a literature-evangelist stopped by the isolated farm in 1915 and gave the family Bible studies. After the family joined the church, education became very important. Todd's mother wanted her five sons to become ministers – four of them did. As a child, he developed a profound love for family and devotion to the Church. He also learned to farm under rather harsh conditions. These four things – education, family, church and farming – became the fabric of his life. At 17, while a ministerial student at Newbold College, Todd was appointed farm manager. His brother William was the principal and persuaded him to stay on the college farm even after graduation and his marriage to Jean McLaren. When war broke out in 1939, Todd, a conscientious objector, was required by the government to stay on the farm and grow as much food as possible for the war effort. The college itself at Newbold Revel was taken over by the Royal Air Force and the students moved to temporary quarters at Packwood Haugh. Todd was the only staff member to remain on college property during the war. He ran the farm with several Adventist young men who were also con-

scientious objectors, a few reluctant Italian prisoners of war who were detained in a nearby camp, and women who were called at this time to do things women had never done before. Todd started a little church in an old brick hen-house which was scrubbed and whitewashed. There were only a few scattered members. His daughter Jane remembers, 'Because there was almost no petrol, travelling was done by horse and buggy. We grew as much of our own food as we could; we cut the toes out of our shoes; and my mother made new clothing from old. One of my earliest memories is that of sitting on my father's knee in a bomb shelter. We went there many nights during the early part of the war. Once, a bomb fell right beside our garden and broke our windows – the crater is still there. The bombs were plentiful because we were, after all, living on an RAF facility. One night, Coventry, nine miles away, was bombed very badly. Several air raid shelters were buried under tons of debris. Hundreds of lives were lost – many shelters were never opened. The next day, Dad rode his bicycle into Coventry to check on the church members there. They were unharmed.' After the war Todd was invited to be farm manager at Kingsway College in Ontario, Canada. He sailed from England on the S. S. *Aquitania*'s last voyage in 1947. A few months into his first year at Kingsway College, he was offered the job of Vice-president and business manager at Canadian Union College. He served at CUC for eight years, where he

and Jean both completed the Bachelor of Theology programme. In 1955, after earning a Master of Religion degree at Andrews University, Todd accepted an offer to be president of Mountain View College on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines. While there, he developed a plan by which students could earn their way through school by growing food on individual plots of land and then selling their produce to the college cafeteria. These 'self help' gardens enabled many students to earn their way through school. The school prospered and grew from about 200 students to 1,500 under his leadership. After eight years at Mountain View College he became president of the North Philippine Union Mission. Some people give their lives in mission service. Todd found his life in mission service. He truly found his calling in the Philippines. Before his death, he requested that his funeral service be held in the Loma Linda Philippine Adventist church. When he was 60, Todd and Jean left the Philippines and he became a pastor. His church was in Victoria, British Columbia. The following year he became Education secretary for the Conference. Todd felt that his work in the Philippines was not finished and, while preparing to return for one more term, his wife Jean was killed in a car accident. Todd was badly hurt, and so, after forty-four years of service to the church, he was forced to retire. In 1975 Todd married Claudia Eyre Hart. She had been Jean's roommate in college and had been in the same gradu-

ating class as Todd at Newbold College in 1934. During retirement, he preached often and served on several conference committees and school boards. He and Claudia also travelled extensively. Twice they went to the Philippines. In 1993, Todd was guest speaker at the fortieth anniversary of the founding of Mountain View College. While working in the Philippines, Todd received many civic awards. He was especially proud to be honoured by the American Red Cross and the Boy Scouts of the Philippines. The Philippine government under President Marcos gave him an award for 'meritorious and outstanding service rendered in the field of agriculture'. In 1980, he was honoured as an Alumnus of Distinction by Andrews University. In 1990, as Baccalaureate speaker at Canadian Union College, he was given the Don Neufeld Medallion of Excellence award. Todd's funeral was held in the Loma Linda Philippine Adventist church on 11 September, the same fateful day as four planes were hijacked. Friends and relatives came together to celebrate Pastor Murdoch's long and well-lived life. He is survived by his wife, Claudia, brother Pastor Mathew Murdoch of North Wales fame, and his three children Jane, Malcolm, and Todd and his grandchildren. We look forward to seeing his lovely smile and twinkling eyes in the earth made new.

PASTOR IAN SLEEMAN, Todd's great-nephew

Diamonds for the Evers

It has been said that 'I will' or 'I do' is a life sentence. Fred and Sylvia Evers have completed sixty glorious years of this life sentence!

It was at a series of evangelistic meetings conducted by Pastor Jack Howard in the Regal Cinema, Colchester, that Sylvia noticed Fred – this handsome young man – 'across a crowded room'. (The meetings were well attended I'm informed!) Fred's mother introduced her son to this young lady. The relationship grew and their marriage took place in the Nonconformist church at which Sylvia's father was a lay preacher. Her mother did not give her blessing to the wedding of her 20-year-old daughter, believing that Fred, then 23, was not 'right' for her. How 'wrong' she was!

Sylvia was baptised at Stanborough Park church by Pastor Howard in 1938. It was not until after they were married, after the death of their first child and after the birth of two other children, that Fred was baptised by Pastor John Bayliss in the Norwich church.

Prior to his baptism Fred had served in the Police force and had expressed a keen interest in joining the RAF. Opposition to this led him to volunteer for the Commandos and he was sent for military duties to North Africa. In the years that followed the War, the Evers lived in Colchester. There the family increased by five: Joy, Cecilia, Philip, Richard and Louise. They became members of the Colchester church – Sylvia is now the only remaining founder member. Today she is both Conference and Local treasurer and church pianist, while Fred has only recently retired from church eldership for health reasons, but remains a regular Sabbath school teacher and an associate Sabbath school leader. His advice on church matters is always valuable. Sylvia does

BROOKES, Lilian Maud - d. 17 August. Many friends and family stood in the sunshine as we said our temporary farewells to a truly lovely Christian lady. To her family, Lilian, or Great Aunt Maud, was an example to all of Christian virtues and graciousness. She was a daughter of the Welsh Valleys, the eldest of seven. Soon after the end of World War I she and her father attended meetings conducted by Pastor O. M. Dorland. This was the start of a long love relationship with her Saviour. Lilian was baptised seventy-four years ago when aged 20 and later moved to Stanborough College. Her frail health was a barrier to becoming a Bible worker or a nurse but her communication talents did not go unnoticed. She became well known as the gentle lady who was the receptionist at Stanborough Hydro for many years. There she took many under her caring wing, encouraging, supporting, demonstrating her living faith. On retirement she moved to Manchester, Weston-super-Mare, and finally to Dibden near Southampton to be near her beloved brother Jackie and sister-in-law Frances. And it was in the same country churchyard, where we had laid Jackie to rest just a few months earlier, that we said our goodbyes to Lilian. We miss her gentle charm, her sense of humour and her love for everyone, characteristics which we all look forward to sharing again when 'God's day' opens a new era of grace and peace.

PASTOR B. R. ALEN

Lilian's family would like to thank all who sent cards and expressions of sympathy in their sad loss.

ENDEAN, William Arthur - d. 16 August. The Redruth church was deeply saddened at the recent loss of Arthur, a faithful and devoted member of the church. Until the last two or three years, he enjoyed a very healthy life, and persevered with his driving for as long as he could. Marjorie Johns, another faithful member and friend of the family for many years, has been a tremendous help to Arthur and a very devoted friend. Arthur was born at Helston in 1914. He comes from a large family and, at the age of 17, he took up his career in farming. He married Ena in 1935, and al-

most thirty years later an Adventist colporteur visited the farm and must have introduced them to the Voice of Prophecy. As a result, Pastor Dennis Uffindell visited them both, and Ena was the first to make her decision and was baptised in 1963. Pastor Horace Pearce, who followed Pastor Uffindell into Cornwall, continued to visit and study with Arthur and it was on 28 September 1968 that he was also baptised and, with his dear wife, united in fellowship at the Redruth church. Following their retirement, they came to live in Helston once again. Among Arthur's interests and skills were sport and music. For many years he has been a member as a bass singer in several choirs and until the last few years belonged to the 'Helston Wesley Chapel Choir' and the 'Morlanow Singers'. One of his famous solos was 'How great Thou art', which was sung by the congregation at his funeral. Our church in Redruth was packed with some hundred people for his funeral service on 22 August. The service was taken by the writer who directed our thoughts to the assurance of the Resurrection: that in which our brother's faith was securely anchored. Arthur was laid to rest beside his wife Ena, who passed away twelve years ago, to await the 'Resurrection to Life' which the Lord Jesus promised. To Arthur's three daughters, Colleen, Cynthia and Ruth, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and Marjorie his loyal friend: we know you will miss him very much but remember, it will not be long before Jesus returns. Arthur was a genuine Christian man, always cheerful and full of fun. We shall all miss him, but we look forward to that glorious day when we shall meet again never to be parted.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER

DE JONGE, Walterine Louisa - d. 22 August. Walterine was born in 1924 into a family of four children in Guyana. She was married in 1950, and in 1953 she, along with her husband, emigrated to England where she was trained as a nurse. Sadly, the demands of family life forced her to give up her career at an early age. Later, in 1969, her husband predeceased her at the age of 48. With Bible study, her sincere

faith in God led her to accept the message of the Adventist Church and, in 1971, she was baptised. Sister De Jonge was of a sweet and quiet disposition and her first thoughts were for the needs of others. It was no surprise therefore that she became very much involved with the Community Services department. She would visit the patients in the British Home for the Incurables twice a week, ministering to them and always giving a word of encouragement. Sister De Jonge leaves to mourn five children: Janis, Fitzpatrick, Ivelaw, Ertha and Albert; two sisters and a brother, Katherine, Adena and Mortem; fourteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She will be greatly missed, not only by her family, relatives and friends, but by all those who came to know her, especially at the Brixton church. The funeral service was conducted by Dr E. L. Henry, Pastors J. Phillip and W. Albert.

JOAN REID

BERNARD, Estina, Hurberta - d. 9 September. On 6 December 1913, Estina was born to Mr and Mrs Hurbert Hill of Portland, Jamaica. After gaining her formal qualifications at the age of 21, Estina and her friend set off for St Thomas where they set up home together. Shortly after arriving in St Thomas, Estina attended an evangelistic campaign conducted by Pastor R. H. Robertson. She was baptised in 1939. The person who was going to play a prominent part in her life was also baptised at the same time. His name was John James Bernard. They were married in 1940 and blessed with five children: Jephthah, June, Susan, Jean and Merl. They committed their lives faithfully to the service of the Lord, and Estina involved herself in visiting other parishes to conduct Vacation Bible Schools, prayer meetings and also participated in the Sabbath school programmes. But the joy of her life was singing, and most Sabbaths would find her in the Morant Bay Choir. Estina and John eventually settled in England and began attending the Brixton church. As time progressed, the congregation in Brixton grew and others, along with Estina and her husband, were asked to form a new group in Peckham where she lived. Peckham gave

her the opportunity to use all her talents to their full potential. Often on a Sunday she would be seen going to Brixton church for choir practice. In 1969 she moved to Plumstead and it was not until a few years later that a company was formed there. Estina was one of the members who helped secure the property in which Plumstead are worshipping, and that was over eighteen years ago. She threw herself fully into the work of the Lord, occupying many roles including Community Services leader and head deaconess. Finally, the company became a church, and on Friday evenings the home of the Bernards was known as 'The Power House of Prayer'. Jesus will soon come and we will be reunited with our loved ones once again. She leaves behind five children, twenty-three grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren.

JACQUELINE BROASTER

WHITE, Ivan Michael - d. - September. On 17 September at Chelmsford church, the funeral took place of Ivan Michael White, 1934-2001. Ivan met his loving wife Erica while serving with the army in Germany. A keen and active member of the Chelmsford church, he was a lovely man with a great sense of humour and the firm belief that we are living in the last days. An early convert from Catholicism, he was a successful colporteur, getting Adventist books, etc, accepted into many bookshops and stores, including Selfridges. Ivan was a good salesman, having been involved at high level with Greenshield Stamps and Arab Sheikhs in London. He was a first-class table tennis player and keen motorcyclist, and enjoyed leaving the car at home and, with Erica on the pillion, riding off onto the open road and into the countryside. The funeral service was conducted jointly by Pastors Ron Davey, Paul Smith, Malcolm Taylor and Brother Paul Smith in a church full, not just of members, but of family friends and neighbours, all of whom will remember and greatly miss a gentle giant named Ivan White with love and affection. He was interred at his village church in Danbury with Pastors Malcolm Taylor and Mike Toy officiating. A. N. HILL



Kay Best opens the Resource Centre named after her.

Stanborough School's Best Resource Centre

by Deborah St Cyr

On Wednesday 7 November a brand new learning facility was opened at Stanborough Secondary School. The 'Best Learning Resource Centre' was named after Mrs Kay Best, who has served as accountant and receptionist at the school for more than twenty-five years. Following a programme of music, tributes and presentations in the school's assembly hall, Mrs Best officially opened the new Resource Centre at 10.45 am by cutting a red ribbon.

In the various speeches and comments which were made, both to the student body and to the smaller group which was taken into the Resource Centre itself, few could resist the obvious play on words contained in the name of the new facility. The Best Learning Resource Centre certainly is very good and will no doubt be of great benefit to students and staff alike, but the adjective 'best' really only applies properly to Mrs Kay Best, or 'Sister Best' as she is affectionately known. Over the years hundreds, if not thousands of students have been touched by Sister Best's love and concern. She has become a highly valued member of staff at Stanborough School and as a parent she provides a role model for all to follow. Mrs Best's husband, together with their three children, their spouses, and a number of grandchildren, were present for the opening ceremony.

One of Mrs Best's qualities, which was emphasised in a number of speeches, was her discipline. In an age when strict, but good and fair discipline is sometimes hard to come by, Mrs Best stands out as an example of good practice. Many of the students who spoke of her had obviously overstepped the mark with Mrs Best at some point in their past education, yet all were able to speak of her with affection and genuine love. Perhaps the naming of a component part of Stanborough School after her is symbolic of the way that the school embodies the values which Mrs Best stands for.

BUC representatives present for the opening ceremony included Pastor Cecil Perry (president), Mr Keith Davidson (Education director), Pastor Des Boldeau (Youth director), Pastor John Surridge (Communication director), and Mrs Jacquei Johnson (former Education secretary). Also in attendance were members of the Hertfordshire Schools Library Service as well as the now retired Mrs Audrey Powell, another well-loved receptionist and mother figure at Stanborough School.

O come, all ye faithful

It was a cold, crisp and clear winter's night last December when, for the second year running, a choir of Edmonton members (kindergarten to seniors) gathered excitedly under the giant Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square to sing carols and witness for the Lord. We believe there is no better time to witness for Jesus than a time of year when people are more receptive to listening to the Gospel. So we grasped the challenge!

Under the leadership of one of our exuberant singers, David McQueen, we raised our voices in praise to God as we sang carols and choruses. As the crowd grew, so did the singing as they sang with us. 'Who are you?' they enquired. 'You sound so beautiful.' 'We are Seventh-day Adventists', we replied, 'and we want you to know that Jesus is the *only* reason for the season.' And with this in our hearts, we sang and worshipped even better. It was cold, but we were warmed by the joy of witness, the love of God in our hearts, and the smiles on the faces of the surging crowds.

Some of our non-singing members mingled with those crowds, distributing festively-wrapped gifts – books like *Project Sunlight* and *My Little Journey* by June Strong. Each book contained the tract, *Your friends the Adventists*, so we knew that each recipient would learn something about our faith. There were not enough for everyone, and some went away with empty hands but hearts full of praise.

Two hours passed so quickly. We ended with *It only takes a spark to get a fire going*, and, person to person, we lit candles that had been passed out to the crowd, until we had a sea of twinkling stars! And from the smiles on everyone's faces, the interaction between strangers, and the warmth in our hearts, we knew we had proclaimed Jesus Christ – the spark had been lit. So we made our way home, dreaming about next year – *this* year – and how we could make our witness better.

And we can! **Why don't you join us under the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square on Wednesday, 19 December at 7.30pm?**

And once again we can proclaim Jesus, the real and only reason for the season! See you there!

For more information contact Kathi at: k.j.hyatt@talk21.com.

Funds from members build nine schools for Khadir Island

by Raafat Kamal, ADRA-UK director

As a result of the massive earthquake that hit India on 26 January 2001, ADRA-UK received a tremendous response to the appeal launched for the victims of Khadir Island. Your generosity and kindness enabled us to carry out the following:

- * construction of nine prefabricated schools that are earthquake-resistant, meeting the needs of 1,200 students
- * provision of furniture and school desks
- * provision of school kits for all 1,200 students

The nine schools were completed by the end of June 2001, built in time for the new academic year. Khadir Island was an area completely devastated by the earthquake and no schools were left standing. However, the sum total of £49,115 from our church members in the UK, as well as a contribution of £10,000 from the TED, has meant that the children of Khadir Island are now able to continue receiving the important gift of education. We in ADRA-UK consider this project complete. Thank you.



MESSENGER

Volume 106 Number 26 7 December 2001

EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

COPY FOR No. 2 – 7 January

Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700. Fax No: (01476) 577144. Email: EditorDNM@cs.com

ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900 Mon-Thurs only, 7.30 - 6pm.

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Printed by The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL.

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk

ISSN 0309-3654

SUNSET

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Dec 7	3.52	4.05	3.49	3.40	3.59
14	3.52	4.04	3.48	3.38	3.58
21	3.54	4.06	3.50	3.40	3.59
28	3.58	4.11	3.55	3.45	4.04

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Cost to member supplied in bulk to churches £6. Single copy subscription by post £13. Overseas airmail £27.50