

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

Messenger

Newbold Graduation: A Question of Commitment

by Margaret Whidden and Velda Cox

Fifty-two students received degrees from Newbold College on Sunday 19 May. They represented twenty-four countries, including nations from across Europe and places far beyond – Canada, Egypt, Jamaica, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania and the USA. The main speaker for Graduation weekend, Dr Jan Paulsen, is a Norwegian. President of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, he is also a former principal of Newbold College.

The 2002 Class Motto, 'Quo Vadis?' (Where are you going?) was interpreted and expanded upon in diverse ways by the various speakers who addressed the graduating students and their families and friends during



his dreams are focused on later becoming a pilot and a 'flying missionary'. Pastor Gavin Anthony, president of the Iceland Conference, received an MA degree in Leadership, along with Pastor Llewellyn Edwards, recently-appointed president of the Scottish Mission, and Pastor Humphrey Walters, secretary of the South England Conference. Llewellyn refers to the experience of taking the course as 'fun, inspirational, humbling, painful' (perhaps not in that order), while Humphrey says, 'This has been a wonderful journey of learning and discovery.' Newbold's bursar, Mrs Judith Vucic, was one of two women to receive the MA in

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Above: Dr Jan Paulsen. Left: David James was given a special commendation for his work with young people in the community. Right: SEC Executive secretary Pastor Humphrey Walters with Loretta Johns and Karen Graham. Below: Hats in the air! The graduates of 2002 – about half were receiving an MA in leadership.

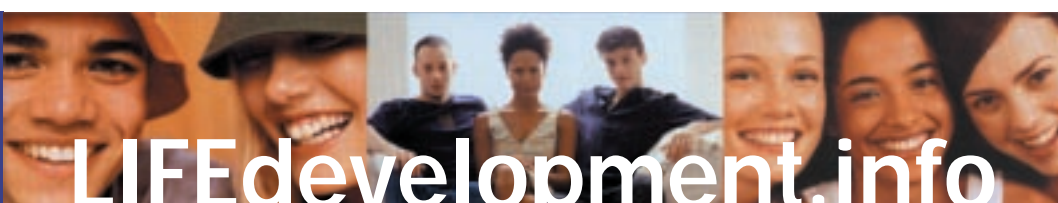


the services and ceremonies of 17-19 May.

Dr Paulsen's Sabbath sermon pointed his listeners to 'compassion, forgiveness and love' as being essential ingredients of humility, the kind of humility that leads to acceptance before God and acceptance of one another. 'Each should build up the other, rather than please herself or himself,' he said. In his address to the graduates on Sunday, the GC president emphasised that living with flaws is very much part of life.

As always, Graduation weekend was about celebrations – marked by music and flowers and friendly reunions. Benign weather came like added congratulations. Among those graduates who are British or who call Britain their home, David James, who received a Columbia Union College BS degree in Management, was given a special commendation for his work with young people in the local community and for his contribution to the spiritual life of the College. David plans to be a social worker, although





LIFEdevelopment.info We Need Power!

by Pastor Alan Hodges, LIFEdevelopment.info co-ordinator, BUC

The greatest need of Seventh-day Adventists today is the need of spiritual power. Whatever form of evangelism we use to fulfil our commission of taking the Gospel to the world, it will fail unless we have the power that only God can give.

The tremendous challenge of LIFEdevelopment.info also depends upon every Adventist being empowered by the Holy Spirit. So often, like the disciples after the crucifixion, we are timid and afraid, but when the Holy Spirit comes upon us we gain a courage that no power can resist.

How can we obtain this power, which will enable us to reach secular men and women who make up the major proportion of the population of Britain and Ireland?

1. We need to **pray** for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon us.
2. There needs to be **unity** among us. We cannot permit discord in the family or in the church if we wish the power of God's Holy Spirit to be upon us.

3. We need the **right motives**. Sometimes we seek the right things with the wrong motives. The Holy Spirit exalts Christ, not us.

4. We must have a **hatred for sin**. It was because Jesus hated sin and loved righteousness that God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. We are to abhor that which is evil (Rom. 12:9) and to abstain from even the 'appearance of evil' (1 Thess. 5:22).

5. We must have a spirit of **obedience** (Acts 5:32).

6. We must have **faith** (Gal. 3:14). We receive this promised power through believing. Unbelief hinders our receiving of the Holy Spirit.

It is our privilege to go forth in the power of the Spirit and to live in that power. What results we would see if every Adventist in Britain and Ireland were empowered by God's Spirit. There would be no limit to our usefulness. Our churches would be filled and new ones would be organised. Let's 'Get Connected', first to the Holy Spirit and then to secular people in our community.

Healthwise

Sandwich Men (and Women)

Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

The Earl of Sandwich (1718-1792) would no doubt be pleased to know that his dietary arrangements to avoid leaving the gaming tables are still a topic of interest. As a growth industry the sandwich is a popular fast food choice for investment.

It used to be thought that British Rail had a monopoly on dated sandwiches since they used to crop up with great frequency in jokes about railway stations. Now there is a new contender for that monopoly. Enter the US army – quite literally!

Armies, famed for marching on their stomachs, have an interest in food and its preservation. Iron rations have proved to be just that – iron – since a variety of foods are packaged as dry blocks or chunks awaiting only rehydration in order to make them palatable. The trouble with that is twofold: the need for a good supply of water; and

the time to prepare the meals in mess tins, etc. Water is fairly easily obtainable, but finding time is another matter.

So the US military, after years of research, have now produced an item designated 'Meal, Ready-to-Eat' (MRE). What is more, it is reckoned to be virtually indestructible, well, for up to three years. This MRE is none other than a pre-packaged sandwich in a variety of flavours. It is pasteurised, and the water is sucked out by humectants to prevent moisture accumulating and bacteria forming. Apparently the soldiers (not noted for taste!) find the pepperoni and barbecue-chicken acceptable. It is planned to use the same process on other popular foods.

The news about MREs sounds like a logical move to overcome the catering problems of soldiers on the march, but some aspects of their introduction leave a nasty

taste in the mouth. A spokesperson involved with the MREs said that ingredients could be added which would keep the soldiers alert and able to function over extended periods without rest. If the MRE is used in this way soldiers could be manipulated to do their master's bidding whatever that might be. The use of mind-altering drugs is not new. Who knows what effects MREs would have if specially doctored and dropped over enemy lines?

The humble sandwich is poised for the big league. What direction will it take? The Earl of Sandwich might have regretted his invention if he had had sufficient foresight! It is time to get out the sandwich-boards again.



Magnetism!

A picture of a child in famine-stricken Africa is what gave Charles his first doubts about God. He chose to put faith in those doubts and built upon them.

By the time he shared his doubts with his friend Billy, Charles had reached a point at which he no longer believed in the reliability of Scripture. But it was that picture of a child that really haunted him. 'If there were a God,' he told himself, 'he would send rain to the famine-belt. Either he does not exist or if he does he's a monster.'

That was a serious conclusion to have made. You see, Charles was a minister!

Charles Templeton's friend Billy was a minister, too. Billy confronted his doubts and built on his faith. He decided that the Bible was trustworthy. After that he became involved in an evangelistic campaign in Los Angeles. That campaign proved to be the first in Billy's long career as a preacher. By the time he retired Billy Graham had spoken to more people about Christ than anyone else in the entire history of Christianity.

Billy's old friend Charles had a long career, too. After resigning from the ministry Charles Templeton became a crusading atheist.

In his 80s Charles Templeton was interviewed by Lee Strobel, a barrister and writer, who was preparing a book called *The Case for Faith*. In the course of the interview Strobel covered the various twists and turns of Templeton's career. Templeton made the case against God sound compelling. Suddenly Strobel altered the direction of the conversation by putting this question: 'And so how do you assess this Jesus?'

What a question to put to a crusading atheist!

Strobel watched Charles Templeton relax, climb down from his high horse and begin to smile. His whole body language softened. Clearly Templeton was comfortable now. The hard edge in his voice had dissolved when he replied, as if thinking out loud: 'Jesus was the greatest human being who has ever lived.' He was selecting his words with care: 'His ethical sense was unique. He was the wisest person that I've ever encountered in my life or in my readings.' He went on: 'His commitment was total and led to his own death, much to the detriment of the world. What could one say about him except that this was a form of greatness?'

Barrister-writer Strobel was amazed. 'You sound like you really care about Jesus,' he said.

After more than 50 years as a crusading atheist, Charles Templeton made this statement: 'Well, yes, Jesus is the most important thing in my life. . . .' After that he couldn't seem to find the right words. Then Templeton went on: 'I . . . I . . . I know it may sound strange, but I have to say . . . I adore him!'

What could the interviewer say? 'You say that with some emotion . . .' Strobel exclaimed.

'Well, yes,' Templeton replied. 'Everything good I know, everything decent I know, everything pure I know, I learned from Jesus. Yes . . . yes. And tough! Just look at Jesus. He castigated people. He was angry. People don't think of him that way, but they don't read the Bible. He had a righteous anger. He cared for the oppressed and exploited. There's no question that he had the highest moral standard, the least duplicity, the greatest compassion, of any human being in history. There have been many other wonderful people, but Jesus is Jesus.'

Strobel then asked, 'If Jesus is so wonderful then shouldn't the world copy him?'

'Oh, my goodness, yes!' replied Templeton. 'I have tried – and try as far as I can go – to act as I have believed he would act. That doesn't mean that I could read his mind, because of the most fascinating things about him was that he often did the opposite thing you'd expect –'

Charles Templeton cut himself off abruptly. There was a pause. It was as if he was deciding whether it was wise to go on.

'Uh . . . but . . . no,' he said awkwardly, 'he's the most . . .' Templeton

stopped; then started again. 'In my view,' he declared, 'Jesus is the most important human being who ever existed.'

At that point Charles Templeton said the words that his interviewer never expected to hear from him. 'And if I may put it this way,' he said, his voice shaking, 'I . . . miss . . . him!'

Tears bubbled from Templeton's eyes and ran down his cheeks. He bent downwards. His shoulders heaved as he wept.'

Years ago I taught a hard-bitten class of children who'd had it up to here with the Church. A colleague said they were 'Gospel-hardened'; but there was more to it than that. Though most were from Christian homes, those kids habitually swore, told dirty jokes (girls as well as boys) and made every attempt to outrage the Christian sensibilities of their teachers. Once a week I had the task of conducting a 40-minute worship for my class. The preparation of that worship talk involved me in as much creative thought over that one year than I've expended over many years as a preacher.

Those kids were spiritually hard-boiled. With the certainty that only adolescents can muster, they believed that they had seen right through the system and found it to be a sham. Their parents included a significant number of church workers: their parents had conducted too many political conversations in their hearing – and the results could hardly have been more damaging. It seemed that a wall of cynicism a mile high protected those kids from any exposure to every spiritual influence.

In the November the school had something along the lines of a Week of Prayer. It is possible that they called it a 'Week of Spiritual Emphasis'. The decision was taken that there would be no special speaker; each class would have worship on its own – *each day!* I asked my colleagues what they planned on doing. 'Prepare a rota,' most said. 'A different class member to take the worship each day.'

How many class members volunteered to take worship in my form-room during that Week of Spiritual Emphasis? You're right! None!

That year – in the late 1960s – everything had to be 'relevant'. *Relevant* was the buzz word. Accordingly my preparation hours for preparing my week's worships in my top-deck flat behind Top Rank were spent exploring relevant topics: the War in Vietnam, Apartheid in South Africa, civil rights in the US, the status of women in society, abortion.

When the week began it occurred to me that one of my immediate challenges would be getting the class to sing. Perhaps if I asked them what they wanted to sing it would be sensible, I decided. I asked them. Their response was amazing. There was a consensus in favour of 'Beneath the Cross of Jesus.' On the first day they sang it with such gusto that it had two consequences: there were complaints about the noise from next door and I was provided with an alternative – and altogether more preferable – theme for the week's worships. We talked about Jesus every day and – by their request – sang the same hymn. At the end of the Friday worship period the class divided into prayer groups. Jesus had become a reality to them that week; and each class member felt the need to talk to him.

Jesus said, 'I, if I be lifted up, will draw all . . .'. And the magnetism of Jesus is powerful enough to dissolve all barriers and contrary attractions. Jesus is the most relevant issue there is. In the Person of Jesus is the solution to all and each of life's problems. The issues of time and eternity are resolved in him. Nothing – not even death itself – can separate us from his love.

Jesus is the perfect revelation of God. And, as I feel certain Charles Templeton will one day acknowledge, in God there is no unChristlikeness at all.

¹ This story is told by William Johnson at the beginning of the book *The Essential Jesus*. It was edited by Johnson in collaboration with Bryan W. Ball and is published by Pacific Press. Lee Strobel's book, *The Case for Faith*, was published by Zondervan.

Erdington: Double anniversary

by John Osei-Bempong

March 2, 2002 marked a momentous occasion in the history of the Erdington church. The members celebrated the fortieth anniversary of the church's opening on 3 March 1962, and the 50th anniversary of its being established in the Erdington area in 1952.

The occasion was well attended. There were special guests and visitors from around the country. We were fortunate to have in attendance the Deputy Lord Mayor of Birmingham, Councillor Theresa Stewart and her husband, Professor John Stewart. Mrs Stewart, in her speech, emphasised the need for a fervent development of community spirit in everything that we do in Erdington. Other special guests included our BUC president and his wife, Pastor and Mrs C. R. Perry, together with the NEC president, Pastor and Mrs E. R. Francis. Past and present pastors of Erdington also paid homage to the Erdington church. Among them were Pastor and Mrs C. D. Baildam, Pastor and Mrs M. Smart, Pastor and Mrs M. Watson, Pastor and Mrs L. P. Anderson, Pastor and Mrs

E. Lowe, Pastor and Mrs B. Pilmoor, Pastor M. Walker, and Pastor and Mrs P. Haworth.

Early history

The church grew out of the evangelistic campaign meetings held in the Birmingham Town Hall in 1942 by Pastor Lamont Murdoch, a well known evangelist at that time. The church was known then as the 'Central Church' because the pioneers, including Bernard Thompson, were holding meetings in hired halls in Birmingham city centre.

As a result of the difficulty in obtaining suitable halls for worship, the pioneers sought alternative accommodation in Erdington. At that time there was another group of worshippers who called themselves the 'Stonehouse Gang'. This group met in a hut on the Sutton New Road, by Erdington Six Ways, where the pioneers too had a small group of worshippers. The Stonehouse Gang folded up and the hall was placed on the market for sale. Our present senior elder, Brother Thompson, became aware of the

sale, got the support of the members and the NEC, and purchased the hall.

Securing suitable accommodation for worship made it possible for the Erdington group to amalgamate with our pioneers. The church, therefore, was formed and assumed the name of the Erdington Seventh-day Adventist church in May 1952.

Economic events in the Erdington area caught up with our members over the years. Ten years after the purchase of the hall on the Sutton New Road, Birmingham City Council gave a notification to our members to vacate the premises. The site had been earmarked for economic development. Unperturbed by this setback, Brother Thompson began making weekly trips to the Council's Housing and Property Department with a view to being allocated new premises. This paid off because his presence every week made life a little uncomfortable for the Council officials. In the end they had to give in to a determined man whose man hobby was 'the church'.

The present church

The church on Wood End Lane, near Erdington Six Ways, was built by Spooners of Hull Limited and was officially opened on 2 March 1962 with a membership of 65.

The church achieved its current position as a result of the dedicated work of all the ministers who have served it, and the resilience of its members and serving officers. Our present minister, Pastor Paul Haworth, has introduced to the church a style of worship which combines the use of new technology and a flavour from the NEC.

We share a keen and enthusiastic interest in helping a number of charitable causes. Every Christmas we take up a special Christmas Gift offertory and donate in excess of £300 towards good causes. Last year we broke our own record and donated £722 towards the national Afghan Appeal.

For a number of years we have also gone out at Christmas singing carols in the High Street of Erdington. These special Carol services have brought in over £300 each year to help finance our camp in North Wales for disabled young people.

When it comes to Ingathering, the church does its part. In 2001, for example, the members collected £4,405.74. Throughout the year, we are able to send around 250 handmade teddy bears to children in Eastern Europe and other parts of the world, through a kind and generous Erdington lady who supplies them, free of charge, to the Erdington church for distribution to children in need.

For the past two years the Lord has blessed us with four new members through our evangelical campaigns. Three of our members were baptised through the 'Living Waters' campaign in Summerfield Park in Birmingham. The fourth member was baptised after Pastor Haworth's presentations.



Left to right: Simon Facey, Hyacinth Facey, Thabo Mkwanzani, Nicole Rafferty (Birmingham), Mark Forrester (Nottingham), Lydia Rafferty, Dwane Facey

Youth still Ingather!

Six eager youth ventured out into Huddersfield on the first Sunday of Ingathering. Willingly, with tins, leaflets and permits, they wore a smile and felt the need to help others. Their dedication contributed to the Huddersfield total of £3,967. May God continue to bless young people across the country who value this important duty.

CHRISTINE MOSES

Note. At the beginning of the year NEC Ingathering co-ordinator Pastor Roy Morgan set an optimistic goal of £175,000. In the event a massive £180,636 was collected by the NEC churches. A total of £518,000 was collected nationally, by far the highest total for the last six years.



Above. Past and present pastors of Erdington with their wives plus the two presidents of the NEC and the BUC and their wives. From left to right: NEC president, Pastor and Mrs Francis, Pastor and Mrs Baildam, Pastor and Mrs Haworth, Pastor Lowe, Mrs Bell, Pastor and Mrs Anderson, Pastor Walker, Pastor and Mrs Pilmoor and BUC president, Pastor and Mrs Perry.

Below. Brother B. Thompson receiving a gift from Pastor Paul Haworth for his 50 years service as an Elder of Erdington Church. Behind Pastor Haworth are the two other Elders, left, Brother Grant and right, Brother Lewis. Looking on in the foreground is Mrs Thompson.



From publican to saint

As a local publican Patrick Hill was enjoying life. He felt he was helping people, especially those who came night after night to discuss their problems with the landlord. He became an agony uncle. It was only later that he realised that the more they drank the more problems they had, and that every day or night they repeated the same story. There was no way out.

It was only after a year or two that he started to have dreams that told him quite clearly that what he was doing with his life was wrong. He had a good income, guaranteed by a contract that would cost him heavily to break. His dreams continued to trouble him, then one night he dreamt that he should read Psalm 115. Next morning he told his wife, adding that he didn't think there were that many Psalms. She told him to get a Bible and check, so he started reading. Verses 4 and 5 stuck in his mind: 'Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not.'

This verse helped him make his decision; God was more important than money. He called his manager and told him that he was leaving the pub, but his wife was upset and did not agree. He was worried and couldn't sleep and started to lose weight. He wanted to go to a church, but where and which one?

Then he had another dream about a church on Mansfield Road. He knew Mansfield Road as he travelled it twice a week to go to the bank, and he thought, 'There is no church there.' It was six months before he found the church as he kept forgetting to look for it until he got home. Then one Saturday morning he found it and stopped to look. Patrick had a chat to a member and told him he would be back next week, but he never went. It was three weeks later before he plucked up

enough courage to go and it took him a long time to step through those doors. When he did, what a blessing he got. His worries were lifted. Then he had another dream that he should read Isaiah 14 and be baptised. He met with Pastor Patrick Herbert and told him his story.

Sabbath 23 April was the day he gave his life publicly to God. He says, 'I may have lost money but I have found God and I have never been so happy.' Following Patrick's public example three adults and five children responded to the appeal to give their lives to Jesus Christ.

ROGER ANSCOMBE, Chester Green

Young people baptised

Sabbath 29 December 2001 was a very special day for three of our young people. Families, friends, visitors and church members from the Stoke Newington church gathered to witness the baptism of Andrew Bulgin, Monique Browne-MacDonald and Nakeisha Aaron-Wallace. Dr Richard De Lisser, who conducted the baptism, stands on the left of the picture.

KATHY STEWART



Still the right hand!

by Clemency Mitchell

AIMS UK (Adventist International Medical Society) held their fourth annual Sabbath Day of Medical Fellowship on 11 May.

Two dozen members met at the Ellen G. White Research Centre again, by courtesy of the director Roland Karlman. The theme of the meeting was 'Medical missionary work, still the right hand of the Gospel?' The Sabbath school missions appeal set the scene, with a firsthand report from two student missionary volunteers just back from a project in Kenya, and we were touched to hear how difficult it can be for young people there to get a medical education. We were privileged to have the Sabbath school lesson led by neurosurgeon Chris Levy, and the sermon preached by Akhtar Injeeli, physician and pastor, who took an inspiring, fresh look at the Gospel Commission and the New Start programme.

In the afternoon forum we discussed the way forward, and made some important decisions about AIMS: as a result the AIMS UK website should soon be set up and also a database of AIMS members able to help churches with health evangelistic programmes. Later

in the year we hope that we will have an AIMS team available to visit churches with health ministries programmes, and in the long term, to help run residential New Start type programmes. We also talked about the possibility of helping an Adventist medical student in one of the developing countries.

In the evening Dr Karlman gave a talk about the effects of Ellen White's health vision of 1863 as reflected in the denominational publications of the time. The response then was enthusiastic. According to the letters in the *Review and Herald*, the newly-introduced health principles resulted in blessings both physical and spiritual. In fact their responses were very similar to those one hears from the guests of Adventist lifestyle programmes now. The meeting ended with a renewed enthusiasm for the future of AIMS UK and its potential for helping to fulfil the Gospel commission.

If you are practising, studying or retired from medicine, or a medically allied profession, and are interested in fellowship with other Adventists in medicine, or in serving the church in some sort of medical missionary outreach, do contact AIMS UK. Phone Clemency or Colin Mitchell on 01344 459787 or email colin.mitchell@talk21.com.

SEC recruits counselling co-ordinator

Trudy Young of the St Albans church has just started working for the SEC as a half-time counsellor and team co-ordinator for their counselling service based at the Advent Centre in London.

'I'm really excited by the challenge of this new job,' said Trudy. 'The SEC Counselling Service has been very close to my heart since it began. I'm looking forward to working with the very dedicated team of counsellors as we continue to develop this much needed and expanding service.'

'It is a source of encouragement to see how well our counselling service has developed and I am excited to have Trudy, a fine Christian lady, as co-ordinator for the service,' said Pastor Don McFarlane, SEC president.

Trudy has served as a counsellor for fifteen years and volunteer counsellor on the SEC Helpline and Counselling service for the last six years. The interview team consisted of Eulalee Marshall-Wiggan, a social worker from Willesden church, the writer and Pastor Humphrey Walters. They interviewed three other applicants for the post. 'We are both excited by

this appointment and a little disappointed that we could not recruit all the candidates as they demonstrated good counselling skills and commitment to Christian counselling,' said Bernie Holford, who, as SEC Family Ministries director, will be supervising Trudy's work.

If you would like to volunteer to work with the service, please contact the Family Ministries department at the SEC on 01923 232728 or email counselling@secadventist.org.uk. The SEC Counselling Service, 0845 741 3602, is a confidential service offering telephone and face-to-face counselling for anyone wishing to talk about a personal issue. PASTOR BERNIE HOLFORD



Look for the fire

by Roy Adams *

I handed my passport to him. He looked it over for a second; then he spoke. 'So you are *the man!*' he said, still looking down at the document.

It was November 2001, and I was standing at the Immigration counter at the Norman Manley International Airport in Kingston, Jamaica, at the commencement of a brief itinerary. *What sort of reaction is this?* I puzzled in my mind for a second. *Have the Jamaican authorities been looking for me?*

'What do you mean, sir?' I queried when it became clear he was talking to me. 'Do you know me?'

'Well, I don't know you,' he said, beaming slightly, 'but I recognise you from your picture in the *Adventist Review*.'

I was bowled over – to think that the very first person I was encountering on the island – and the immigration officer, to boot – was a Seventh-day Adventist. Brother Fitzgerald Gale is a member of the famous North Street church in Kingston, the nation's capital.

The incident served as a fitting symbol of the vibrancy of the church on this Caribbean island. Interviewed on *Smile, Jamaica* (TV Jamaica's equivalent of *Good Morning America*), I would later learn that a co-producer of the programme (Tricia Cameron) is an Adventist. At LOVE FM, the Christian radio station where I would show up for another interview immediately following the television appearance, the administrator (Derval Graham) and one announcer (Arnold Kelley) are Adventists, with another prominent lay Adventist (Aston Tai) a key member of the station's

board. Indeed, if you walked the city streets and country roads of this nation of 2.5 million, more than one in every ten would claim to be Seventh-day Adventist.¹ And if you mingled with our people, it wouldn't take long for you to sense an intensity in their approach to mission, a spirit of sacrifice in many places, a fire in the belly.

And Jamaica is far from being alone. When I hear eggheads taking it out on the church or right-wing malcontents tearing it to shreds, I want to say:

- Come with me to Engenheiro Coelho in Brazil and watch 900 young people of Brazil Adventist University – committed, serious, focused, – gathered for Friday evening vespers in the quiet setting of their rural campus. Stay with me through the Sabbath hours and witness 1,500 other students on the São Paulo campus of the same institution completely wrapped up in a sacred concert in the huge campus auditorium on Sabbath afternoon. Hear stories about how other students farm out in the surrounding *barrios* (areas), to spread the Word, and how parents of non-Adventist students come to the campus for weekly Bible studies organised by students.
- Come with me to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and observe three major public evangelistic efforts in progress simultaneously, each meeting place packed to the rafters.
- Come to Santiago, Chile, where lay evangelists are taking the Adventist message to sectors of the community typically ignored by the church: the police, the military, Arabs, Jews. What an emotional high to see all these people, many of

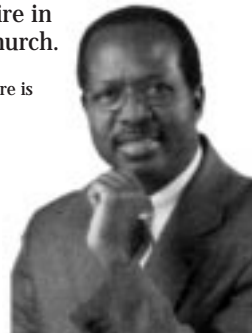
them not yet members, rubbing shoulders in an Adventist church, praising God together!

- Travel with me on the camp meeting circuit – in North America, in Australia, in the United Kingdom. Experience the warmth of God's people, their outpouring of love, their commitment.
- Come to Poland and see the fire in the eyes of young Adventists gathered on the shore of a little lake near the town of Choinice. Listen to their powerful testimonies. From the first crack of dawn I can hear them already singing in the big tent just outside my room. They'll be worshipping throughout the day and witnessing in the nearby towns. And as I prepare for bed the tent will still be alive, with many lingering in the afterglow.

No, I don't view the church through rose-coloured glasses. I'm fairly familiar with some of its failings. Worldliness bedevils us, and mischief is not unknown among us. But I bristle at the arrogance of those who're always whining, always finding fault, always pointing fingers. Here I choose to look beyond the dark underside to the fire in the belly of the Church.

¹ The official church figure is 1 in 14.

* Dr Roy Adams is Associate editor of *Adventist Review* where this feature appeared as an editorial in January 2002. An annual subscription to *Adventist Review* costs £18.50.



Religious and Pastoral Studies Course at Newbold College

by Dr Erich Metzger

A new course will be offered by the Department of Theological Studies in conjunction with Behavioural Sciences, Humanities, Business Studies and Islamic Studies, beginning next semester. The course is intended particularly, though not exclusively, for those of the Adventist community who wish to benefit from a programme of continuing education. With this in mind, the college will now offer a wide selection of optional subjects for the more mature student with appropriate aca-

demical or professional experience. More specifically, it serves the interests of three categories of student: a) those in pastoral employment without formal education or insufficient academic background to enter a degree course; b) church officers and other interested lay members in local churches who wish to engage in further education; c) prospective degree students without adequate academic prerequisites who may choose appropriate modules to form an Access Year preparatory to the

BA degree in Biblical and Pastoral Studies. Consideration will also be given to mature students, in consultation with their respective Conferences or Unions, who may be contemplating working for the Church as Bible Workers. It is a non-validated Newbold College Certificate in Religious and Pastoral Studies (one semester) or Diploma in Religious and Pastoral Studies (two semesters). Modules can be selected in a variety of combinations to suit one's own personal

interests. Further information from the Department of Theological Studies or the Admissions Office at Newbold College. Visit our website: www.newbold.ac.uk.

Congratulations to Huguette Comerasamy on receiving a PhD in Education from the University of Surrey. We wish her well in her chosen career as she continues to give God the glory for her achievement. From family and friends both in the UK and Mauritius. Noelle Comerasamy



Adventist book:

'A ringing defence of Jesus'

by Pastor John Surridge, Communication director, BUC

On Monday 29 April former South Pacific Division president Dr Bryan Ball visited the British Union Conference office for the launch of a brand new book about Jesus.

Entitled *The Essential Jesus*, the book contains chapters written by twelve leading Adventist scholars, all combating specific aspects of the new wave of 'demythologising' which is spreading across the secular and Christian academic world. The *Essential Jesus* has been jointly edited by Dr Ball and *Adventist Review* editor Dr William Johnsson and, Dr Ball points out, is targeted at 'the thinking Adventist reader'.

Interestingly, the majority of the contributors are either British or have some connection with the British Union. There are chapters by former Newbold principals Dr Andrea Luxton and Dr Steven Thompson, Stanborough Press editor Dr

David Marshall, Newbold Head of Theology Dr Laurence Turner, and Dr Ball himself, who comes from the south-west of England and has served in a number of different capacities in the territory of the BUC, including president of the North England Conference and Head of Theology at Newbold College.

In addition, *The Essential Jesus* contains a chapter by General Conference president Dr Jan Paulsen, who lived in England for many years and served as Newbold College principal and Trans-European Division president.

'I believe that this book is of great significance, both for our own membership and for the wider non-Adventist community,' said Dr Ball at the book's British

launch. 'It draws attention to the person and work of Jesus in a well-researched and well-written manner, and it helps to dispel the ideal, still current in some Christian circles, that Adventists do not believe in Jesus. It is an Adventist response to the continuing

Jesus is under attack

'Jesus is under attack. As perhaps never before in Christian history, sceptics and liberal scholars seek to undermine and destroy the Gospel accounts. An important new book by twelve Adventist scholars, *The Essential Jesus* gives a ringing defence of the biblical Jesus and shows how he impacts life today.'

Adventist Review, North American Division Edition, May 2002, page 27.

attacks on the biblical Jesus in secular as well as liberal theological books being published today. We want to put into the hands of our members material which they can share with their friends and neighbours about what Adventists really believe about Jesus.'

Dr David Marshall's chapter in the book is entitled 'The Risen Jesus'. In an interview, Dr Marshall spoke of the impact that his extra studies into the subject had had on him personally. 'The truth of the resurrection of Christ impacted on my mind in a new way after researching the chapter,' he said, 'I found it tremendously exciting and have found that it has renewed my spiritual commitment.'

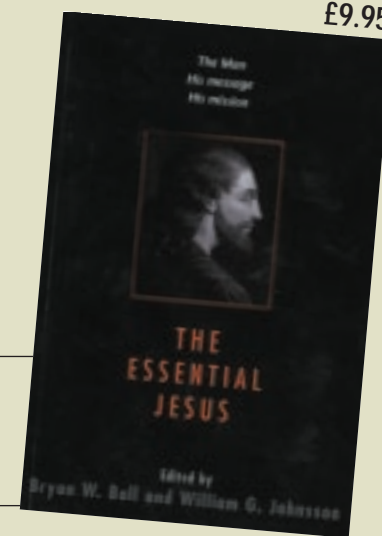
The Essential Jesus had its American launch on Wednesday 17 April before an audience of over 250 at the Spring Council of the General Conference. It was launched in Australia on 18 May when Professor Edwin Judge, Professor of Ancient Christian History at Macquarie University, Sydney, was the guest speaker. The book contains 299 pages and is now available from the ABC.

£9.95



Dr Bryan Ball, co-editor with William Johnsson of *The Essential Jesus*. Dr Ball visited the British Union Conference office and was interviewed on camera.

Available from the ABC, at The Stanborough Press Ltd, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincs. NG31 9SL. Tel. 01476 539900. £9.95.



CASBURN, Robert Daniel – d. 21 February. Born in Leeds in 1910, Dan was one of four sons born to Frank, a literature-evangelist, and his wife Elizabeth. The family moved to Wellingborough in 1914, and played a prominent part in the church for the rest of the century. The brothers served the church in various capacities, and Dan is remembered with great affection in the Northamptonshire district. He continued preaching and teaching the Sabbath school class well into his 80s. He married Florence Lily Sanders and they enjoyed a happy marriage until her death in 1988. Dan never failed to witness for the truths he loved, facing a tribunal in World War II in order to serve his country without compromising his belief in the sanctity of human life. He spent the war years on a farm. In retirement he became a gardener, respected by his employers and his neighbours, who enjoyed his outspoken, humorous, and often pungent turn of phrase. He feared no one, even tackling a burglar just before his 90th birthday. After that incident he was never his old self. On his last Sabbath, he came to church as usual and expressed his thankfulness for the good health he had always enjoyed. Five days later he died peacefully in his sleep, just a month short of his 92nd birthday. The funeral service was conducted by Pastor Alan Conroy, with tributes from the writer and one of Dan's nieces. The Friends' Meeting House where the funeral was held, was full of nieces and nephews, neighbours and friends from his village, as well as members of the Northampton, Kettering and Wellingborough churches. The last of the 'old timers', his passing leaves a sad gap in the Wellingborough church, and our sympathies go out to his surviving brother Tom as well as his other relatives. We look forward to the great reunion at the Second Advent of Jesus which was the centre of Dan's hope.

PASTOR ROY HULBERT

ELIAS, Eileen – d. 10 April. Eileen (née McGoldrick) died in Oregon, USA. She was born in Bradford and came into the Church with her mother, her brother Frank, and sisters Doreen and Betty, at about 10 years of age. Her father was baptised many years later. She was married to Douglas, and had four children, two of whom are still alive, and living in Oregon with their families. Eileen had lived in Oregon for many years, but on several occasions visited England with her sister Betty, staying in Halifax with her sister Doreen. She will be sadly missed by Doreen and Mansel and Betty and John of Texas, also by Jim and his family and Michael and his family. We hope to meet her again in the Earth made new.

DOREEN KINES

ANGER, Philip Dale – d. 23 April. We record with sadness the death of Philip Dale Anger of the Cwmbran company, who died on 23 April. Known as Philip by some and Dale by others, he was born in the village at the head of the Sirhowy Valley in 1941. He became associated with the Adventist Church through his sister Yvonne Cettel about twenty years ago. After studies given by the writer and Pastor L. A. D. Lane he was baptised and joined the Newport church and soon after joined the company at Cwmbran. The funeral service was conducted at Newport church by Pastor P. S. Lockham, assisted by Pastor A. Broome and the writer, followed by interment at St Woolos Cemetery Dale was a good defender of the faith and was not afraid to witness to those he worked with at the Girling Factor in Cwmbran or to his immediate family. He was a big man in every sense of the word. We cherish his memory as a brother in Christ. To his wife Barbara, daughter Kerina, sons Karl and Kevin and the other members of the family we relay our sympathy as members of a wider church family, firmly believing that we will meet him when Jesus returns.

DR. B. P. PHILLIPS
Mrs Barbara Anger and the family would like to thank all those who sent letters of sympathy and cards, together with gifts for ADRA which totalled £615.

We congratulate André Cettel on his award of a D.Phil in Social Anthropology from Oxford University. This is the fifth award of a Doctor of Philosophy degree to someone associated with the Ystrad Mynach church in the past ten years.
DR BRIAN P. PHILLIPS,
Welsh Mission president

'Mr ADRA' receives honour OFSTED inspectors praise John Loughborough

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada, announced that Meritorious Service decorations will be awarded to twenty-four individuals whose specific achievements have brought honour to Canada. The Meritorious Service Medal, civil division, was created by her Majesty the Queen to recognise a deed or activity performed in a highly professional manner or according to a very high standard that brings benefit or honour to Canada.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA-Canada) is delighted that Pastor John Maxwell Howard, founder and retired Executive director, is one of the recipients. He will be presented with this award in recognition of establishing ADRA-Canada and for his involvement with humanitarian aid since 1985. The official presentation ceremony will take place in Ottawa this coming September. British-born Pastor Howard was a Newbold graduate and the elder son of the late Pastor Jack Howard, a British evangelist and field leader.

In 1985, Howard founded ADRA-Canada, an organisation that offers long-term community development and humanitarian relief to disaster victims and disadvantaged communities in more than 120 countries around the world. Through Pastor Howard's dedicated service and expertise as its Executive director, ADRA-Canada has met the needs of millions of people in the developing world, implementing initiatives such as dental

clinics in the Dominican Republic, housing programmes in Mongolia and China, and water projects in Zimbabwe. Since ADRA-Canada's inception in 1985, this organisation has implemented approximately 1,400 projects in over 80 countries, a humanitarian effort worth over 36 million dollars.

Congratulatory letters have been received from all across Canada. The Right Honourable Joe Clark wrote, 'I would like to applaud the excellent work you have done through the Adventist Development and Relief Agency. Your commitment to improving the lives of the poor throughout the developing world has brought great honour to Canada.'

John Reynolds, Former Leader of the Opposition, said, 'It is with the greatest admiration that I would like to commend you personally for the extraordinary service you have offered, and the courage and strength of character you have displayed.'

Pastor Howard's commitment to improving the quality of life of the poor, the starving, and the destitute has left a lasting impact on communities worldwide. Even though he has retired, he is still known as 'Mr ADRA' as he continues to promote awareness and concern for the developing world. Pastor Howard states, 'Making a difference one life at a time,' is ADRA-Canada's motto. I truly believe the foundation of this phrase comes from individuals being willing to share a little part of themselves with someone else.'

ADRA-CANADA

From 4-8 March this year eleven inspectors from the government's Office for Standards in Education (OFSTED) visited the John Loughborough School in Tottenham. Prior to their visit the inspectors had spent time talking with parents, staff, and governors, to get their views on the strengths and weaknesses of the school. They spent a full week attending classes, inspecting facilities, and talking with students and administrators about the work of the school.

On 26 April the school passed the OFSTED inspection. The report showed that the inspectors had understood the cultural and social context in which the school operates, and in particular praised spiritual and moral standards. In addition the report highlighted the good teaching in 90% of the subjects, and the achievement of the school in raising the self-confidence and aspirations of the students.

In an interview, headteacher Edwena McFarquhar attributed the successes of the school to committed staff, a strong Christian ethos, and good support from parents. 'We are very pleased with the inspection report,' she said. 'The strengths of the staff have been highlighted, their hard work and commitment have been praised, and the spiritual emphasis has been recognised as a contributing factor to the achievements

of the school. This good report shows that faith schools, and particularly Adventist schools, can be beacons of excellence in the communities.'

John Loughborough obtained Grant Maintained Status in 1998, which was changed to Voluntary Aided Status in 1999. It currently has an enrolment of 307 students from 11 to 16. There are 26 teaching and 6 auxiliary staff.

EDUCATION DIRECTOR

THE JOHN LOUGHBOROUGH SCHOOL

is currently looking for a Teacher of Mathematics (CPS) for September 2002

Must be well qualified, committed and enthusiastic, a teacher of Key Stage 3 & 4, with sound knowledge of National Curriculum, and excellent classroom skills. Must be Adventist or sympathetic to the Church.

Application forms from Headteacher, John Loughborough School, Holcombe Road, Tottenham, London N17 9AD. Tel: 0208 808 7837. Fax: 0208 801 6719. Closing date for applications: 20 June.

Carers/kitchen staff required for Special Needs Camp, Aberdaron 7-14 July. Phone Joy Bussey 01923 461044 or email colinbussey@lineone.net.

Retirement flat for sale

Sheepcot Villa, Garston, Watford, Hertfordshire

A delightful, first-floor, two-bedroom flat with lounge/dining room, kitchen and bathroom. Excellent location, Church-owned Retirement Flat Complex.

Life-tenancy £89,000. 60%-90% refund when leaving the property.

For full details contact:

Pastor Martin Bell,
Good Health Association, Drummond Terrace, Crieff, Tayside, PH7 4AN.
Telephone: 01764 653806

Newbold Graduation from page 1

Leadership. Judith is Croatian, and was applauded energetically by her cosmopolitan Newbold 'family'.

About half of those graduating were receiving MA degrees in Leadership (Andrews). This is a new course, offered by Newbold College in association with the Campus Adventiste du Salève, Collonges, France. Pastor Jim Huzzey's emphasis, on Friday evening, was on the real functions of leadership. 'Leadership is about friendship,' he said. 'It is not only about achieving my goals . . . but about helping others to find and achieve theirs.' The leadership programme has proved very attractive to church employees. According to its director, Dr Michael Pearson, 'The strength of this course is that all the student assignments are focused on the full-time work which the participants do in the Church.'

This year also marked the first graduation of students who have taken three new Newbold MA degrees validated by the Open University (UK) – in Biblical Studies, Pastoral Studies and Theological Studies.

Juha Mikkonen (Finland), a ministerial intern in Wales, added to earlier academic successes by graduating with distinction from the Biblical Studies programme.

Three students graduated with a Diploma in Islamic Studies, a new course that aims to assist the Church in building bridges between Adventists and Muslims. Two students also graduated with an Andrews University MA in pastoral ministry.

Dr Laurence Turner, head of Newbold's Department of Theology, reflected on the rigours of following Christ. 'If we are on the road with Jesus', then, 'we will not be on the road to power, but powerlessness; not on the road to success, but on the road of service; not on the broad road of praise and popularity, but on the narrow road of confrontation and rejection. To a place where we would rather not go. Yet to a place where Jesus has been before us.'

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
Changes in the House Gospel Meetings	15 June, at 7.30pm	New Hope Centre, Stockport church	Pastor Ian Sweeney	0161 442 9606
'Da Plan' Rap, Riddim and Rhyme	22 June at 7.30pm	Montgomery Theatre, Surrey Street, Sheffield	SIANI & Teddy Bear	£6 adv. £7.50 at door. CLC 0114 272 4663, FAP 0208 318 2632
5-a-side Football	7 July	Forest Fields, Nottingham	Steve Palmer, NEC Youth department	0115 960 6312 email: NECSDA@cs.com
Lay Evangelists Training Seminar	12-18 August	Gorway Conference Centre, Walsall	Pastor J. Zachrisson, General Conference PM Dept.	0115 960 6312 admin@nec-sda-church.co.uk

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

Messenger

Volume 107 Number 12 14 June 2002

EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

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Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
June 14	9.19	9.31	9.31	10.00	10.01
21	9.22	9.34	9.34	10.03	10.04
28	9.22	9.34	9.34	10.03	10.04
July 5	9.19	9.32	9.32	9.59	10.01

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

ABC BOOK SALES 2002

July

14 John Loughborough 10am-2pm

ADDRESS CHANGE

Wood Green Church is now back at Northcott Avenue, N22 7DB