

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

Messenger

Newbold welcomes new principal

by Sonja Lind

On 5 August Newbold College's new principal walked into his office. Dr David Penner, alumnus of Newbold, was thrilled to return to the place where his student days were 'an important part of [his] life.' He commented, 'I think it's really exciting to come back to Newbold.'

Dr Penner has many connections with Newbold and Europe. He met his French wife, Josée-Marie, while they were both students at Newbold, and they married in Bracknell. Two of their three daughters were born in Reading and Windsor. The family lived in France before moving to the USA. Now they have returned to England, and Dr Penner could not be happier.

He brings twenty-seven years of experience with him to the College. He has served as a teacher and an administrator, teaching and serving as principal in both secondary and undergraduate schools throughout the USA. At the university level, he has had

positions such as dean, university registrar and vice-president. About his many years of academic work, Dr Penner said, 'Discovery and imagination have always been a big part of my life.'

His personal education includes a Bachelor's degree in History from Newbold College, and a Master's degree in History and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Educational Administration from Andrews University. Apart from his intellectual pursuits, Dr Penner enjoys books, music and art. He also likes to travel, and has visited several parts of the world with his family, including the United States, Brazil and many European countries.

His family includes three daughters, two sons-in-law and three granddaughters. Elizabeth, their youngest daughter, will graduate from Newbold in May 2003, while her sister Roxana, a Newbold graduate, is



married and lives in Cambridge. Estrella, the oldest daughter, is also married and works as a physical therapist in Michigan, USA. Dr Penner also has parents and siblings who live in Binfield, as well as more relatives throughout England and Europe.

Dr Penner enjoys teamwork and finds it to be productive. 'The most exciting projects I have been involved

in,' he said, 'are those involving teamwork. A team can create something far better than individuals working separately.' The staff at Newbold College certainly look forward to working as a team with Dr Penner in the coming years. Dr John Baildam, director of Academic Affairs, said, 'I've no doubt that his experience will be of a tremendous benefit to the College.'

That sinking feeling!

by Mike Stickland, principal, Adventist Discovery Centre

Even if you have never watched the film, you know the story of the *Titanic*. I still have images in my mind from the original black-and-white film. I've not watched the recent blockbuster version, but the melody from the soundtrack, once heard, is hard to dislodge.

What had not occurred to me is that the makers of the recent version had two

distinct purposes. Firstly, they intended to make a huge amount of money. Secondly, it has been suggested, they intended to convey a message. The message is represented subliminally by the sinking ship and by the haunting words of the Celine Dion song.

The whole world, it seems, has wondered after the film, and in the process people have been taken in by the message. It doesn't take a genius to figure it out. The Christian Gospel is the ship. 'Wake up and realise that everything your parents trusted in is gone,' is the message. 'Break free, for you must find your own way to survive!'

Can you see that people who have, even subconsciously, taken this philosophy on board will not come to the tent to hear our evangelist preach what they have already dismissed?

Let me, if you'll excuse the pun, take another tack.

The Bible Society sends out a newsletter called 'The Bible in Transmission',

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That sinking feeling!

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and one paragraph in the 'Summer 2002' edition caught my eye. The editor writes, 'When NASA first started sending astronauts into space, they quickly discovered that ballpoint pens would not work in zero gravity. Twelve billion dollars and one decade later scientists finally developed a pen that can write in zero gravity, upside down, under water, on almost any surface including glass, and at temperatures ranging from below freezing to over 300°C. *The Russians, on the other hand, used a pencil!*'

I've got to say, that kind of cryptic irony appeals to my sense of humour! It also appeals to my sense of reality, for we've discovered that in many situations, old style evangelism doesn't work. So we expend a lot of money and energy to come up with new ideas.

When it comes to your meeting people who are not Christians and your seeking to help them, you will usually find they fall into one of four groups. ● Some are already persuaded and are just waiting for an invitation. ● Some want to be persuaded but have some big questions to resolve. ● Some are open to listening, but don't even know what the ques-

tions are yet. ● The majority, however, will simply not be interested. They are totally indifferent to anything we do and altogether happy with their own non-Christian worldview.

Put another way, people in the first three groups still respond to what we might call 'ballpoint pen evangelism', but more than 90% of the people will not. This arouses concerned prayer among us, and as a result, some are experimenting with 'café church', others with small groups, some with WebPages and the Internet, and now the BUC has launched *LIFEdevelopment.info* – designed to embrace both 'old' and 'new' evangelistic methods.

For some, *LIFEdevelopment.info* looks like just another attempt to replace the ball pen, and it's giving them a sinking feeling. Some find all the promotion and pressure objectionable because it seems to imply guilt and failure as if ordinary folk – witnessing 'pencil style' – don't count. Others feel disconcerted by the style and content of the 'new evangelism', because 'it just isn't church as we know it'. I can see some folk falling out all together!

Well, there's no need to sink, no need to feel a failure, and no need to feel guilty. There IS need to pray with one another and to be accommodating, taking up tools with which we feel comfortable while allowing others to use tools that suit

them. Some MUST try to reach the indifferent majority or we will fail to take the Gospel into ALL the world. There IS need for new strategies (visit www.gospelcom.net/guide/resources/strategy.php or contact me for a copy of 'Why do we need a

strategy to preach the Gospel?').

The Lord makes clear that pencils remain essential too! You can read about being effective pencils in Micah 6:6-8 and Zechariah 7:4-10. If you can't figure it out, write and ask me.



weekend

The PM department of the South England Conference organised a LIFEdevelopment weekend at Newbold. Fifty-three church members listened to lectures given by Dr Daniel Duda and Pastors David Cox and Aris Vontzalidis.

LAURA ELLIS

Healthwise

Entheogens

Now there's a word you don't hear very often! But you could hear a lot more about it in the future. From three Greek words meaning 'generating the god within' this term describes psychedelic drugs that enable a person to explore within themselves for a 'spiritual' experience.

Drugs have long been used to achieve ecstatic (literally *ex-static*, meaning loss of control) states to enter mystical, mind-expanding realms. Increasingly these drugs are being used by people who want to enhance their spiritual nature and to have one-to-one contact with the 'divine' (however defined). The drugs are seen as a path to fulfilment and are often described as 'sacramental' substances ingested in much the same setting as communion bread.

Psychedelic drugs as part of a religious service were and are common to primitive societies, many of whom retained the practice on becoming Christian. Cannabis, peyote, 'magic' mushrooms

and other potent herbal concoctions now often being referred to as 'Virgin Mary', 'St Paul', etc.

Westerners in search of shamanistic practices as part of a wider New Age quest are adopting these psychedelics as a way of experiencing their 'world connectedness' and contact with 'the god within'. This has led to entheogens being used as part of new 'church' services in many places in sophisticated society.

A survey of one of these groups, the *Uniao do Vegetal* Church of Brazil, showed that a large proportion of the membership had alcohol, depressive and anxiety disorders prior to initiation into the UDV. Psychedelics 'improved' their condition. Data from a variety of entheogen users say something about the origin of the experiences. They range from new beliefs in UFOs, past lives and spiritualistic phenomena to an increasing tendency to adopt Eastern religions and Native-American or shamanistic world-views and all believing that death is not the

end. They either believe in reincarnation or at least existence beyond this life. Experiences are purely subjective and based on what each individual feels is 'truth' or right for them, and are described as the 'Ultimate High'.

Religion and transpersonal psychology is united in encouraging such phenomena. Transpersonal psychology uses the spiritual emergence as part of the personal therapeutic process, and various religions incorporate the insights and practices of transpersonal psychology. So clearly we will hear more about entheogens in days to come.

Writer Anja Saunders, an entheogen experimenter, says, 'The search for the ultimate high involves dying and being reborn.' She is right, of course, but not in the sense that she means!



Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director



Rising above messed up circumstances

Were you one of a family, or were you an only child? Did your parents accept you or did they make you feel that you had to 'qualify' in order to be accepted?

How we are treated as children makes a big difference to the way we turn out. Background things impact on us in all sorts of ways – whether we think they do or not!

Case A. Two brothers were brought up together. The father always favoured one over the other. The other spent his life using every means at his disposal to attract the attention of those around him. In that way he became an embarrassment to everyone, not least himself.

Case B. One girl was the only child of proud parents. They wanted great things for her. She did well at school, but not quite as well as they would have liked. She was personable and good at a fast repartee, but did not live up to the preconceived persona invented for her. They found all sorts of subtle ways to demonstrate their dissatisfaction. In early adulthood she did not feel good about herself. There came a time when she adopted extreme legalistic views, occupied a moral high ground beyond everyone's reach – from which she fired missiles of disapproval at all comers.

Case C. One boy was the second of three brothers. His elder brother was bright. His younger brother was cute. And much of the time he hadn't a clue what or who *he* was. It seemed that every time he opened his mouth, either his elder or his younger brother talked him down. They decided what was to be watched on television, what games were to be played, and had a disproportionate influence on their parents. He was frustrated, feeling he had no control over his own environment. When he branched out from home he discovered that his decisions did have significance. He found a voice, and people who would listen to him. He learned, through experimentation that, by the clever use of argument, he could direct the lives of others. Through his late-date discovery of the power of the spoken word, he began to extend his influence ever more widely. The buzz he received from that experience led to a situation in which he ceased to take the trouble to question any of his own decisions or to run them by any socially-accepted norms. He became what we would call a control freak; he was a terror to his own children and a manipulator of all those who came within his sphere of influence.

Are we all just victims of our upbringing? Philip Larkin thought we were. Aware of the chasm of despair within himself and the messed up life that was his, he expressed his victim status in lines of poetry that I would hesitate to quote out loud. But Larkin was wrong. Many have proved him wrong. We need not be victims of our upbringing.

- Take Anthony Ashley Cooper. He was the son of selfish, cold and arrogant parents who had no time or love to spare for him, and were content to leave him to the tender mercies of self-centred servants who felt that, since his parents had excluded him, they could, too. AAC, who became Lord Shaftesbury, was one of the most effective social reformers of his century, doing much to make the lot of children – and adults – happier.

- Take Winston Churchill. His father, Lord Randolph Churchill, a chronically unstable politician, was diagnosed with syphilis twelve years prior to his death at the age of 46. From one of Britain's major public schools – to which he was despatched at an early age – Winston wrote piteous letters pleading for some attention from his socialite mother, regarded by her contemporaries as 'hard, imperious and, above all, self-indulgent'.¹ But Winston, despite failures and problems with depression, sent the English language and led the British nation into battle against the Third Reich.

- Take J. B. (Jack) Phillips. Though a brilliant scholar, he found that he could not live up to the expectations of his perfectionist father. To the end of his days Jack Phillips was victim of a resultant, recurring depression.

Nevertheless, as with Shaftesbury, Churchill, and a great many more, the flaw in Phillips's background became the irritant grain of sand that produced the pearl. Phillips used his grasp of Bible languages and his tremendous facility with contemporary English to do more to make the New Testament accessible than anyone else in the last hundred years.²

This morning I arrived at work to discover that my office – together with the offices of my proof reader and my secretary – had been subjected to an overnight break-in. The three double-glazed, plate-glass windows had been smashed into shards which had subsequently been trampled into the carpet, together with an amazing amount of mud, by a pair of large feet. The burglar had chosen to steal my secretary's computer – disregarding the proof reader's and mine – even though it would have had no commercial value. Taking away large quantities of evidence – each piece bagged separately – the detective said, 'Messed up parents! Messed up homes! Messed up kids!'

But everyone has a choice. We can choose to let our lives be messed up by our messed up circumstances, or we can choose to rise above our messed up circumstances. Taking the line of least resistance warps personalities over time and leads their owners, not infrequently, into dependence on illegal chemicals, the necessity for which, in turn, provides a motive for crime.

The message of the Bible is that we may triumph over evil – and over the handicaps we may have from our background, and over the googlies life may have bowled at us. Better still, the teaching of the Bible is that the hazards of life – the hard knocks, if you like – can be used by God to help refine our characters.

First up, it's a question of choice – *our* choice.

After decades of being a victim, Joseph said this to those who had caused his victim status, 'As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.' (Genesis 50:20, English Standard Version.)

Joseph was, without doubt, the victim of a dysfunctional home. Spoiled rotten by his father, he became an insufferable adolescent. His brothers' reaction was disproportionate. He was sold as a slave in a foreign land. In that land, trying to do the right thing, he became the victim of a gross injustice. In jail he helped fellow prisoners who, subsequent to their release, forgot all about him for years.

There were scores of times in Joseph's experience when he could have abandoned all hope and given up on God. He could have embraced his victim status and allowed it to define him. He didn't. He allowed God to *refine* him through his circumstances, and held on to trust.

By so doing he reached a point in his experience from which he could take an overview of his life and see the way the Lord had led him. But before he made his famous pronouncement about God bringing good out of circumstances men had meant for evil, Joseph had learned to trust God from the midst of his evil circumstances. And trust is the key.

Regardless of messed up backgrounds and messed up circumstances, God can bring out the best if we will only hold on.

Case A, case B and case C chose to be victims of dysfunctional home lives. Shaftesbury, Churchill and Phillips lived through equally dysfunctional childhoods, but emerged triumphant. Each made a conscious choice. At least two gave God credit for the victorious outcome.

References:

¹ Roy Jenkins, *The Chancellors: Lord Randolph Churchill* (McMillan, 1998), pages 11-36. ² J. B. Phillips, *The Price of Success: An Autobiography* (Hodder and Stoughton, 1984); Vera Phillips and Edwin Robertson, *The Wounded Healer* – J. B. Phillips (SPCK, 1984).



Top, Some of the Jubilee campers. Left, Pastor Martin Bell brought a friend along with him. Right, If you wondered why we didn't send any postcards . . .



Chiswick's two days in one

International Day of Music and Baptism went out with a storm on 29 June. Songs and music were sung from countries all over the world, which included Croatia, Portugal, UK, Trinidad & Tobago, Martinique, Dominica & Curacao. Monet Lansiqueot blessed Chiswick with a special poem in her mother tongue,

French, and Isobel Graca and visiting friend sang a song in Portuguese. The message was spoken by Victor John whose sermon was about 'Ministering and Music'.

The remainder of the day was blessed with five candidates who decided to give their lives to God. Shannon Alexander, 12, the youngest member of the Chiswick Gospel Choir, was baptised first. Her grandmother,

Welsh Jubilee Camp

It's just an ordinary farmer's field. Reasonably smooth, tree fringed, bordered by the clear flowing River Usk, and sheep grazing – a delight in itself to an area devastated last year by foot and mouth.

But twice a year it takes on an added dimension, when the Welsh Mission holds its family camps there. The extended Jubilee weekend this year was one of those occasions.

Stand on the bridge and see the marquee erected. Watch the tents going up – not forgetting the 'sentry boxes', which medieval monks would have neatly referred to as the necessarium! Now the caravans are arriving. See and feel the hugs exchanged as old friends greet each other and new friends are welcomed.

There were around a hundred and twenty of us – all ages, babies, teens, twenties, families, singles – and from

all parts of the British Isles as well as representatives from South Africa, New Zealand, Australia and the US.

Look! An early morning group is gathering for a thought for the day. You can hear the songs on the clear morning air: 'Be still and know that I am God'. There's much visiting around the field – and beyond forays into the beautiful countryside. Up to the lookout, along the river, to the waterfalls, or a meal out in Brecon. Catch a rare glimpse of the red kite circling the field. It must be time for another songfest. Instrumentalists are heading to the marquee to tune up.

There's plenty to hear, too. Nineteen musicians with eight assorted instruments and an excellent song leader means that the heavenly melodies are unforgettable. Listen as the campers sing a verse a capella and then, together with the full

orchestra, bring the song to a climax.

Hear also the splash in the river as an intrepid water person takes a morning dip, the haunting melody of the musical saw on the night air in the camp concert, the bleating of sheep being sheared – and a little light rain on the canvas.

Feel the sunshine – lots of it this year . . . the atmosphere in the marquee at worship times . . . the kindnesses shared.

Smell the fresh morning air . . . dinners cooking . . . wood smoke from the bonfire on the little strand at the water's edge . . . sausages cooking.

See how Martin Bell's worship talks, so relevant, touched hearts: things that we wish we knew to things we can be sure of. The climax of Tuesday morning, we join in an affirmation of the most important fact of all. Romans 8:38: 'Nothing can separate us.' What an assurance to take with us as we pack up, take tents down, hitch up caravans and head for home.

Thank you to all those who by their presence helped to create this little oasis; those who walked, climbed, played or just sat in the sun and relaxed; those who led out in Sabbath school, in morning watch and the camp concert; those who played to us, sang to us, told us stories, kept the camp fire fuelled and burning, and those who did 'sentry box' duty.

Yes, most of the year it is just an ordinary field, but it can hold unforgettable memories.

PEGGY MASON

Exeter baptism

A baptism is always a joyous occasion when church members remember the time of their own rebirth in Jesus, and friends and relatives unite to celebrate. It was such a day in Exeter when Carlos Lewis stepped down into the baptismal water.

Carlos first came to Exeter church eighteen months ago from Sheffield, taking up employment with South Western Electricity Board on the computer system.

The shy young man was made welcome by church members and continued to attend Sabbath services regularly. He received Bible instruction as he grew in faith, first from Pastor Rick Slann and later from Pastor Ken Clothier who baptised him.

When living in Sheffield Carlos had wished to be baptised aged 12, along with his cousins, but a personal problem prevented him. Ten years later his mother and relatives from Sheffield were present to rejoice with him as he made his public profession of faith.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



Left to right, Pastor Ron Clemow, Carlos Lewis and Pastor Ken Clothier

brother, family and school friends who read her favourite scripture, John 10:7-10, gathered while she witnessed that she was ready to give her life to Jesus. Stuart Browne, 15, was supported by his parents, grandparents, aunt and other family friends. His testimony was read by his mother. Valerie Clarke was the next candidate and her

favourite song, 'Just as I am', was sung. The final baptism for the day was a double celebration for Patricia Shirley as she witnessed her two young boys, Daniel, 9, and Louis, 6, giving their lives to God. Scripture readings were read by sister Cherish for Daniel and a family friend Marcia for Louis.

ANGELA DAIRE

assembled to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of that event. One of the latter, Pastor Paul Smith, preached the morning sermon, with two others, Pastors Michael Taylor and James Cuthell, in support.

After a well-prepared lunch, the writer, who is the only surviving charter member, reminisced on the history of the church with emphasis upon the previous building, which served to underline how blessed the present congregation is in the physical plant it possesses. There was also an act of re-dedication of the membership to the task of proclaiming the Gospel 'till he come', to quote the words carved upon the communion table.

D. S. PORTER

Top collector

The transition of World Wide Advent Missions to ADRA-UK did not deter Evadne Whyte from once more becoming the highest collector in Preston church, with a total of £1,583.

David Coke, Ingathering agent, asked her views on this year's collection. She stated that although many places refused because they had never heard of ADRA-UK and it took time to explain the change of name, God had once more given her the breath and strength to do her part!

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

SEC Stewardship weekend

by Catherine Boldeau

Over a hundred people attended the special retreat at the end of July organised by the Stewardship department of the South England Conference at the High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, in Hertfordshire. The weekend, entitled 'Stewardship a Way of Life', explored the holistic nature of the concepts of stewardship and not just the monetary aspects that are often highlighted.

It is surprising that there was no permanent Adventist presence here until 1957-8, when Pastor S. G. Hyde raised up the initial congregation, which was supplemented by a few incomers who were already Adventists, such as the present writer. Although a small building was purchased early on, it was poorly located and had numerous defects, and it was not until 1972 that a truly representative church building was dedicated.

On 6 July 2002, a large number of members and former members, together with a few previous pastors,



First female pastor in SEC leaves for Australia

by Catherine Boldeau

Miss Drene Somasundram, the first female to be employed as a minister in the South England Conference, has left for the sunny shores of Australia. For the past fourteen years Drene has worked in our Conference, beginning her ministry in the New Gallery church (now known as the Central London church) with Pastor David Cox. She has subsequently pastored in the Chiswick, West Kilburn, Wimbledon, Crawley (no longer established), and Cambridge and Peterborough churches.

Drene, who has a BA in Religion and an MA in Education, will take up the post of teacher in Pastoral Theology at Avondale College fifty per cent of the time. The remainder of her time will be spent setting up a mentoring programme for young women who are entering the ministry, speaking appointments and research for her current PhD studies.

Eric Lowe, secretary of the BUC, who spoke on the communication issues surrounding stewardship, Mr Victor Pilmoor, treasurer of the BUC, who spoke on Debt Management, and the writer who spoke on the merits of the Gift Aid programme.

Dr Brighton Kavaloh, Stewardship director, who organised this weekend, would like to thank the stewardship committee for their support, and his secretary Mrs Vivienne Evers for her tremendous help.



Adventist scholars defend Jesus

A book review by Pastor Gifford C. A. Rhamie, lecturer, Newbold College

Johnsson, William G., Ball, Bryan W. (eds). *The Essential Jesus: The Man, His Message, His Mission*. Idaho: Pacific Press Publishing, 2002. 299 pages *

The *Essential Jesus*, edited by Bryan Ball and William Johnsson, is a book that is punctual for this time because it accomplishes more for its completeness than for its individual portrayals of Jesus. And nothing so distinguishes this more as when it is placed beside another book of the same title by John Dominic Crossan.

Crossan's *The Essential Jesus* is the product of a philosophy behind a project called *The Jesus Seminar*. This project seeks to get behind the gospels and determine sayings that are felt to be authentically attributed to Jesus under the arcane assumption that not all sayings of Jesus are legitimately historical. Any attempt, though, to tease out a 'historical Jesus' from within the gospels predictably yields a one-dimensional Jesus that is so unlike the multifaceted Jesus of scriptures. And Crossan's Jesus is no exception. His Jesus is an incomplete one.

Ball and Johnsson's *The Essential Jesus* thus refreshingly emerges as an attempt to redress the scholastic debate and present the 'complete biblical Jesus . . . the historical Jesus and the Jesus of faith' (page 15). It unabashedly sets out to put 'the record straight' (GC President's Preface) and realign the 'Christ event' and 'Christ process' without ducking the difficult, critical questions. This noble aim is systematically championed by no fewer than twelve well-seasoned Adventist scholars.

Each chapter title is self-explanatory: The Influence of Jesus, The Jesus of History, The Coming of Jesus Anticipated, The Birth of Jesus, Jesus – Divinity Revealed in Humanity, The Works and Words of Jesus, The Death of Jesus, The Risen Jesus, Jesus – Man for Others, Jesus and Ourselves, Jesus Priest and Coming King, The Victorious Jesus, and Jesus and the Great Commission. One or two

chapters presume an Adventist readership, some read best for a popular magazine audience, others for a reflective, enquiring one and still others for the more earnest theology student. Yet commendation must be made to each author for trying to condense his or her wealth of knowledge with constancy and regularity. There is a consistent effort on each part, for example, to close each essay with the common centring of personal faith followed by a recommended list of books for further reading.

What is remarkable is the continuity and unity of the volume. There is none of the anticipated duplication or unnecessary overlap of materials. Yet there is full complementarity between the contents of each chapter – whether of a biblical exegete, systematic theologian, historical theologian, or pastoral theologian. The chapter that perhaps best describes this continuity is Jan Paulsen's. Its (unwitting) feat is the sheer drawing together of ideas found in each chapter. This is nevertheless perhaps more revealing of a unifying, overarching Adventist worldview that prevails upon each author in spite of their diverse backgrounds than of a mystical telepathy between them.

The only quibble I might have is with a couple of chapters that purport to discuss the words and life of Jesus yet incredibly manage to avoid using the word 'love', which for me indis-



putably defines the event of Jesus. Of course, there is no shortage of references to the symbols of Jesus' love as if the symbols are achievable solely through obedience – *doing not being*. But is not the celebration of symbols to the exclusion of its source a bit like 'having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof'?

Notwithstanding, *The Essential Jesus* outstrips and eclipses its counterpart and namesake (by Crossan), not merely because Jesus is faithfully presented as scripture presents him and thereby stands up to scrutiny, but because he is roundly presented as someone I can trust. The volume is thoroughly engaging and at times eloquently awe-inspiring. I therefore have no hesitation in recommending *The Essential Jesus*.

* Available from the Adventist Book Centre at £9.95. Phone 01476 539900 with credit card details.

A lifetime of service

A profile of Pastor K. C. Henry by Catherine Boldeau, Communication co-ordinator, SEC



The South England Conference said a reluctant but fond farewell to two of its faithful workers, Pastor and Mrs K. C. Henry. For the past fifteen years, 'KC' and 'Auntie Vi', as they are affectionately known, have ministered in Britain, KC as a church administrator and pastor, and Vi as a teacher.

Pastor Henry began his ministry in 1963 as a ministerial intern in the West Jamaica Conference. Less than a year later he became a pastor/evangelist and for the next five years served in this capacity in that particular field. In 1969 he transferred to the Central Jamaica Conference and the following year was elected Youth/Education and Communication director of that Conference, a position he maintained until 1976.

In recognition of his gift in departmental and administrative work, he was appointed Conference secretary in June 1976, in addition to his role as Youth director. Having noticed how faithfully he worked during his period in the Central Jamaica Conference, the West Indies Union invited him to serve

as Youth and Education director in January 1981. Four years later he became the Associate Church Ministries and Communication director of the same Union.

In 1987 Pastor Henry received a call from the South England Conference to return to pastoral ministry in this part of the world. However, his years of administrative experience did not go unnoticed and two years later the British Union Conference elected him Church Ministries director. The Sabbath School department was added to his portfolio five years later. He continued in that role until 1996, when he returned to the South England Conference to be a church pastor again.

Mrs Violet Henry is a 'woman in her own right'. Throughout her working life she has focused on her love of teaching. She has taught extensively in both the West and Central Jamaica Conferences. On coming to England, she was firstly at the John Loughborough School, and has spent the last fourteen years working at Hyland House School in Walthamstow. SEC president Pastor Don McFarlane said of her, 'She is a pillar of strength to education in England.'

The South England Conference would like to thank both Pastor and Mrs Henry for their years of dedicated service to God in Britain. Their contribution as a pastoral team has done much for the members and children to whom they have ministered. We wish them God's richest blessings for a long and prosperous retirement.

Smethwick Prayer Band Day

On 29 June the Smethwick church combined a prayer band day with a Community Services day. Working in the community, we have experienced many answers to prayer. Hence it was appropriate that the two should be combined. Thanks to visitors from the community, from other churches and from Jamaica, we had a packed congregation.

P. SWABY

ABC BOOK SALES 2002		
September		
22	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
29	West Midlands	10am-2pm
October		
6	Newbold Primary School	

Musicians wanted for Adventist symphony orchestra

The Adventist Musicians Association (AMA) is hoping to form an International Adventist Symphony Orchestra in time for the first ever Adventist Prom Praise at Wembley Arena on 26 April 2003. AMA is calling for all grade 8 and above, or other experienced orchestral musicians, to get in touch. If you play strings, woodwind, brass, or percussion, to orchestral standard, AMA wants to hear from you. In order to register interest in this unique project you will need to contact AMA by 30 September 2002. In the first instance applicants should contact Chris Rogers. Phone: 07754-829078. E-mail: crogers@macunlimited.net. Further information about the Adventist Musicians Association can be seen on the AMA website at: www.ama-ted.net.

LIFEdevelopment.info weekend

Beginning on the evening of Friday 28 June, Belfast church was pleased to welcome Pastors David Cox and Paul Clee to the shores of Ireland. They hosted a weekend entitled 'Developing Disciples', as part of the Mission's commitment to a full and regular lay training programme.

The topics were to focus upon training members in small group ministry, contagious Christianity, which will in turn prepare the churches of the Mission to lead into the 'LIFEdevelopment initiative'. This initiative has been promoted among our churches to encourage every member to take a part in the ministry of friendship evangelism.

The highlights of the weekend were the special fellowship received by our visiting members from around the northern churches in the mission, the praise in worship to our Lord and King in all the services and in the special presentation by the youth on Sabbath evening.

A special mention must go to the deaconesses for their dedication to

providing the lovely food for the whole weekend.

Let us all pray for one another within our own groups, families and churches, that our ministry of small groups will grow and grow and grow, and that wherever and no matter how small, we will continue shining our little lights in our corners of this land for our Lord and Saviour.

FIONA MCKEE

Eight baptised at Hackney

Eight candidates were baptised on 22 June by Pastor Michael Mannix: a record on a single Sabbath for the Hackney church.

Those baptised were Beverley Hanson, Baden Wright, Naomi Marshall, Linus George, Nicholas Nelson, Jacqueline Shillingford, Thomas Shillingford and Chavez Shillingford (wife, husband and son). After the baptism Pastor Mannix made an appeal. Twenty pressed to the front.

DARELL PHILIP

Zion Singers

A Robing and Dedication Service was held in Preston on Sabbath 27 April. Visiting speakers for the day were Pastor Jude Jeanville from Wolverhampton and Pastor Rainford McIntosh from Handsworth. They reminded us of the importance of having God in our lives in today's 'almost godless society' and how music plays an important part of public worship.

The day's services were further enhanced by special music from a variety of groups which included GBK Sanctuary Choir, Charles Ngandwe, Ruby Dyer and the Zion Singers. Evadne Whyte gave a brief history of how the Zion Hill Singers became the Zion Singers. She reminisced about the early days when the group was first formed and used to meet for practice in one another's homes.

The robing ceremony commenced when a sponsor accompanied each individual member of the Zion Singers to the podium and dressed them in their robes. The choir was charged to remember that sacred music is to be Christ honouring and should testify praise to God. A prayer of dedication

was offered by Pastor Barry Stokes. One member commented on how inspiring the day's service had been as he had never witnessed a robing ceremony before.

Zion Singers, the Board and the congregation of Preston church wish to express sincere gratitude to all the guests and friends who attended this day of worship, fellowship and praise.

JENNY JEFFERS

ADRA worker receives honorary doctorate

ADRA worker and one-time Watford Town member Kenneth Hill received the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from Dalhousie University, Canada on 23 May. Dr Hill moved to Canada in 1967 after a period lecturing in physiotherapy at the Royal Hospital in Wolverhampton. In his retirement he has established a rehabilitation clinic for physically handicapped children in Kenya, raising funds in Canada. The rehabilitation facility is situated at Kendu Bay. Five thousand, three hundred patients with disabilities have been treated, and 1,200 health workers trained.

D. H. ARCHER

MURPHY-CLEWOW. The members of the Redruth church were truly delighted to hear Vikki was to marry Anthony. Vikki is the only daughter of Dawn and Dave Clewow and she has grown up in the church. Everyone feels she is 'their' Vikki too.

We have also got to know Anthony very well. He is the only son of Ken and Marie Murphy. A printer by trade, he is a fine, hard-working young man with a sunny disposition, always ready to help out whenever the need arises – especially such times as caravan cleaning days at Chapel Porth.

Vikki first met Anthony when he was visiting his sick grandfather in hospital and she was nursing him. Gradually they got to know each other and the romance blossomed.

The wedding day was Monday 6 May. Our church had just completed major repairs, improvements and redecoration, so it was looking at its best. Also church members had made great efforts to ensure the floral arrangements were as lovely as possible. The church was filled with relatives and friends, all sitting in quiet excitement and anticipation. Anthony looked relaxed as he sat with his best man Kevin Dunne, watching Vikki's two brothers, Timothy and Neil, as they ushered the guests to their places.

At last the bride arrived. David proudly walked up the aisle with his beloved daughter on his arm. The bridesmaids, Katherine and Claire, the two sisters of Anthony, followed. The service was a joyous occasion with the couple exchanging loving looks as they stood before Pastor Ron Clewow (uncle) and Pastor Mike Walker. Pastor Clewow's address was full of good advice and humour as he gave his guidelines for the couple's future life and happiness to come. He spoke in a quiet, down-to-earth manner and all who heard could not fail to be moved.

The service was followed by a reception at the Pervention Hotel. Afterwards, Vikki and Anthony flew off to their honeymoon in the Dominican Republic. We wish them God's bountiful blessings in their marriage. We are sure they will keep close to the Lord and walk in his ways always.

VALERIE ROWE

CREWS-ROSSITER. On Sunday 9 June family and friends gathered in St Mary's church, Barnsley for the wedding of Katie, younger daughter of Mike and Marian Rossiter, and Michael J. T. Crews.

Katie and Mike had met over the Internet and Mike's mother, sister, brother-in-law, nephew, niece, aunt and uncle had travelled from the USA and Canada to be present on this happy occasion.

The bride was preceded into the church by her four bridesmaids: elder sister Lauren Nehme and friends Helen Griffiths, Sarah Spangler and Olivia Toumazos. The best man was Mark Dukeshire from Canada and the usher Rabih Nehme. Katie, looking radiant, entered on the arm of her father.

Ian Wildey, vicar of St Mary's, officiated at the ceremony and told the families and friends of Katie and Mike that marriage is intended by God to be a creative relationship as his blessing enables husband and wife to love and support each other in good times and bad. For Christians it is also an invitation to share life together in the spirit of Jesus Christ. We were asked to express our support for Katie and Mike by continued prayers and encouragement.

Pastor Perry Parks, the bridegroom's uncle, read the collect for the day. Isobel Webster aptly read from the Song of Solomon, and Pastor Bryan Webster gave the sermon. Pastor Webster counselled Katie and Mike to make their marriage their ultimate concern – to choose each other.

The couple's love of music was evident during the service. The bridegroom's brother-in-law, Scott Wolfe, played beautiful cello pieces, while Sarah and Olivia sang a lovely song, 'One of Two'. The reception was held at the Fountain Inn, Ingbirchworth.

We wish Katie and Mike God's blessing for their future together.

HAZEL SCHOLDS

Stanborough School Bursar and Financial Administrator

A vacancy will exist for the above from 1 January 2003. The school is looking for an individual who is committed to the principles of Christian education and who has the appropriate accounting and business administration qualifications.

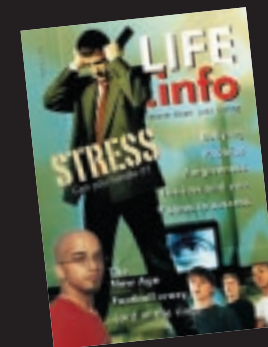
Interested applicants should respond immediately in writing, enclosing a copy of their CV to the BUC Executive Secretary, Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ. Closing date for applications: 30 September 2002.

SATAN says: Jesus is . . .

a myth irrelevant boring DEAD!

What do we say?

How will our neighbours find out that Satan is a liar, unless we tell them the truth about Jesus?



LIFE.info magazine

Could you write for LIFE.info? If you're interested in getting involved, contact the editor for more information:

Lee Gallaher, The Stanborough Press Ltd, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincs., NG31 9SL. Email: lee_lifeinfo@mac.com

Adventist attempts Channel swim

by John Surridge, BUC Communication director

At 4.40am on Thursday 1 August Samoan Adventist Iose Mataafa set out from the Kent coast in an attempt to be the first Samoan to swim the English Channel. Iose (57) is a member of the Inala Samoan Adventist church in Brisbane, Australia, and works for Sanitarium Foods. He was accompanied across the Channel by his support vessel, *Viking Princess*, which carried representatives of the Channel Swimming Association as well as his wife Kuani, his friend and church youth leader Tanu Sanft, and two other crew members.

Iose swam for approximately twelve hours, never leaving the water or touching the boat, and took only brief breaks every hour or so for food and drinks. All seemed to be going

well but when he was just one mile from the French coast Iose developed a shoulder injury which slowed his progress. In addition the sea conditions changed and the captain and official observer judged that the tides and current were too strong for him to complete the swim. Speaking from his caravan in Folkestone Iose said, 'I could see the French coast and a lighthouse and I really wanted to get there, but I was ordered to stop. I suppose they were in a better position to judge the conditions than I was.'

London Adventist Chorale performances

SEPTEMBER

- 14 Brixton AYS programme
- 21 Ilford AYS programme

OCTOBER

- 12 St Mary Abbot, Kensington, 7pm
- 27 Lewisham Broadway Theatre, 7pm (Black History Month)

NOVEMBER

- 17 Sainsbury Choir of year, Royal Albert Hall (BBC1 television broadcast – date to be confirmed.)

DECEMBER

- 16 L'Manoir Restaurant (Oxford) evening
- 20 Spitalfields Festival, St Leonard's Church, Shoreditch, London, 7pm



Left to right, Mrs Kuani Mataafa, Mr Iose Mataafa and Mr Tanu Sanft

Iose has considerable experience of long-distance swimming. In April 1998 he swam eleven miles to an island off the Sunshine Coast. In a later attempt he swam twenty-four miles between Opolu and Savaii, in Samoa. In preparation for the Channel swim, the longest distance he has ever attempted, Iose took three months off work and trained in the colder waters off Sydney. The English Channel typically has water temperatures of around 15°C at this time of year and Iose didn't find it a problem. 'I only really felt cold when I got out of the water onto the boat and was standing in the wind,' he said.

When asked about his motivation for the swim, Iose mentioned a number of factors. Working for a health food company and the desire to promote a healthy way of life was one of

them, but he was also raising funds through sponsorship for his local church. Pastor Ken Vogel, president of the South Queensland Conference says, 'Iose is an active and loyal member of the Inala church. This church has need for land and a church where they can worship and evangelise. Iose has experience and interest in long-distance swimming. He has chosen to dedicate this to helping raise funds for his church.'

Iose also has a keen interest in ministering to young people. 'I relish a challenge,' he said. 'I want to show our young people that there are still challenges out there and they can make something of their lives if they really put their minds to it.'

Iose and Kuani plan to spend the next few weeks in England visiting Adventist churches, meeting fellow Adventists, and sightseeing.

London Adventist Chorale in need of singers

Do you sing? Does the idea of travelling around the world and using your singing talents to share the Gospel with others appeal? Then we need to hear from you! The Chorale is looking for singers from all cultural backgrounds to join what is one of the flagship choirs of the global Adventist community.

We are particularly keen to recruit both tenor and bass groups, 1st and 2nd voice ranges; we also require sopranos, both 1st and 2nd ranges.

If you feel ready for a challenge and would like to see us, why not come to a choir rehearsal on a Sunday afternoon at the Advent Centre in London?

If you are interested please contact the Musical Director Miss Aleta King on 0781 3336410 or Aleta_king@yahoo.com

We also require an Administrator

The work is for four hours a week with a suitable remuneration. The ideal person will have relevant skills in the use of all Microsoft Office packages and have minute/note-taking skills.

Attendance at meetings with the General Manager will be required.

For further information and a detailed job description please contact: Musical Director, as above. CVs to 58 Grosvenor Avenue, North Harrow, Middlesex, HA2 7AN.

Deadline for applications: 30 September.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
Red Alert presents The Gospel According to Kirk	7 September 7.30pm	Regent Hall, 275 Oxford Street, London W1	Join us as we pay tribute to God through the music of Kirk Franklin. Special guest artistes.	Antonio Belgrave: 07887 812076; Greg Smith: 07779 340857; Maxine Chambers: 07811 356250. £6 in advance, £7 on the door
Area 1 Family Camp	13-15 September	Chapel Porth	Pastor R. Clemow	Phone: 01752 774523
Lay Evangelist Campaign	21 Sept - 5 Oct 7.30 (not Thursdays)	Breath of Life Church St Johns, Price Street, Smethwick	Lay Preacher: Brother Curtis Griffin	Pastor D. Masih 0121 5523298 or W. B. Riley 0121 2417318
Youth Evangelistic Campaign	28 Sept - 12 Oct 7.15 (not Thursdays)	Brixton Church	Pastor Glen Samuels	Julie Cameron 0794 9602595 or 020 72748283

All advertisements for upcoming events should be submitted in this format. Please do not send posters. Readers have a right to assume that all events advertised in this column are church-related. Please make the church connection clear with your submission.

Messenger

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Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Aug 30	7.52	8.04	7.59	8.13	8.21
Sept 6	7.36	7.48	7.42	7.55	8.03
13	7.20	7.33	7.26	7.36	7.46
20	7.04	7.16	7.09	7.18	7.28

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