

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

Messenger

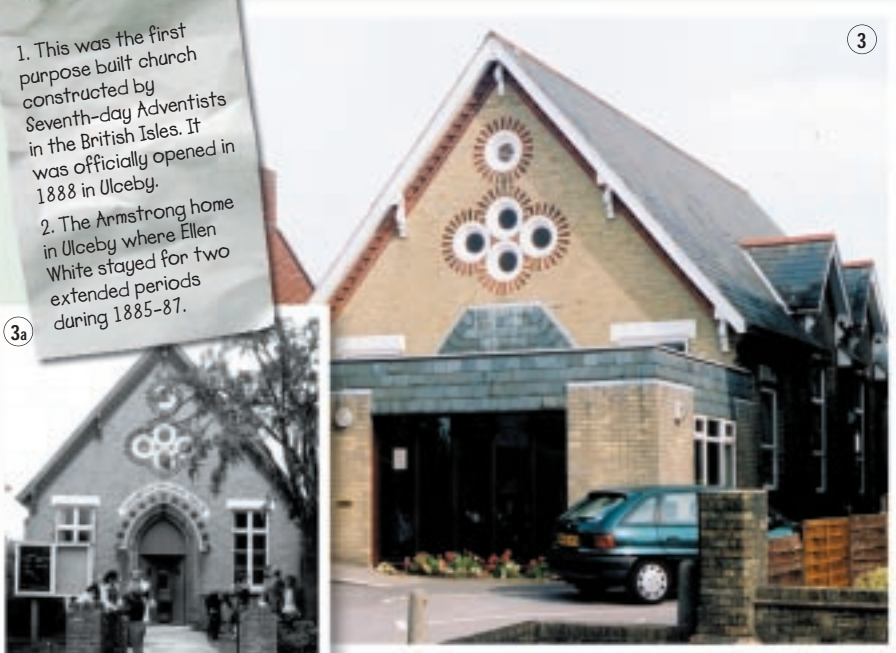
The Challenge of our Second Century

Barry Alen

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1. This was the first purpose built church constructed by Seventh-day Adventists in the British Isles. It was officially opened in 1888 in Ulceby.
2. The Armstrong home in Ulceby where Ellen White stayed for two extended periods during 1885-87.

3a



Pastor Cecil R. Perry, president, BUC, marks the one hundredth birthday of the British Union by a stocktake on the past and a glimpse into a future which he hopes will be interrupted by the second coming of Jesus.

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Barry Alen

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3. The Southampton church building was purchased in 1891 (see No 3a) but evangelism in Southampton was begun by John Loughborough and William Ings in 1878-79.
4. The gate to the historic city of Southampton.
5. A section of the walls of ancient Southampton.

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The Challenge of our Second Century
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There was a lot of Christian history in the British Isles before Seventh-day Adventists came here. The Lollards, Anabaptists, Puritans, Presbyterians, Sabbatarian Baptists and the Methodists are but a few of the religious movements in whose tradition we stand.

When William Ings introduced the views of Seventh-day Adventists in 1878 to the Southampton community the inhabitants were already entrenched in the predominant religious views of the times. Ings went from house to house scattering tracts and other religious papers.

The story so far

That same year, J. N. Loughborough was sent as a missionary to this country by the General Conference. He conducted a series of lectures and tent meetings in the summer. His own home in Shirley was used for Sabbath worship.

► Southampton

William Ings, who was born in Morde, Dorset, laid the groundwork on which the efforts of Loughborough built a good foundation for the establishment of the Southampton Adventist church.

When our movement grew out of Millerism in the 1840s, it was fired by a passion to prepare the world for the soon coming of Jesus Christ. Ings and Loughborough brought that

passion to Britain.

In 1880 the first baptism of Seventh-day Adventists in England took place. Elder Loughborough baptised six. Twenty-nine were baptised by 2 July 1881.

► Grimsby

At Grimsby the first Adventist church was organised in 1884. The evangelistic work began here with the distribution of tracts by A. A. John. Under his ministry thirty-five souls accepted the teachings of the church.

► Ulceby

The first Adventist church to be built in the British Isles was in the village of Ulceby, just south of the River Humber. There, A. A. John had baptised twenty-three since he had begun evangelising there in 1883. The church building was completed in 1888. The village was the setting for an open-air debate between representatives of the Lord's Day Observance Society, and the Anglican and Methodist communions versus J. N. Loughborough and GC president G. I. Butler. The Adventists won and many baptisms resulted.

► 1902: The British Union

By 1902 the work of the church in the British Isles was sufficiently developed, leading to the organisation of the British Union Conference.

It was hard-going in the early years of the church; enough was there to discourage the evangelists: religious

discrimination, scepticism and class prejudice. The tent meetings were not always successful, and our pioneers were often discouraged by meagre results.

Ellen White's stay

H. W. Armstrong, son of an illustrious Ulceby family, when reminiscing about the early days, called the period 'The Day of Small Things'. He spoke especially of the period when the headquarters of the Church was in Grimsby; and of 1885-87 when, for two extended periods, Ellen White was based in Ulceby and Grimsby. The Armstrong home in Ulceby where she lived still stands, as does the headquarters building in Heneage Road, Grimsby.

Adventist history portrays a church engaged in both spiritual and social forms of outreach. From an early stage education was to play an essential role in the training of workers for ministry. The Good Health ministry, the publishing work and a food factory enhanced the outreach activities of the church. It is still not unusual to meet people in the Watford area who bemoan the closure of the Stanboroughs Hydro in 1968. It made an impact in that community and far afield.

The age of public evangelism

Evangelism through the use of rented halls in cities from Edinburgh to Cardiff, and from London to Southampton, brought many thousands of people into contact with the Three Angels' Messages.

Bible workers were employed to work alongside the evangelists, and tracts were distributed as the leaves of autumn.

The impetus of the church was not quelled by two World Wars. While bombs were dropping and the fires were raging, faithful labourers in the blitzed cities were giving Bible studies behind closed doors.

The use of large theatres and, in later years, the purchase of the New Gallery, gave evangelists such as George Vandeman, Kenneth Lacey and others an opportunity to preach to vast crowds.

Britain in those days, it would appear, was more receptive to spiritual things. The Depression had lifted, and economic prospects appeared hopeful. The Christian religion still had a stabilising influence on the institutions of society. From our own Union many missionaries were sent abroad. East, West and South Africa were familiar destinations. Other regions served were South America, India, Central America and Japan.

The popularity of the large public meetings began to wane. However, the flood of immigrants changed the picture in the 60s and 70s. They became an ever-growing percentage of the church membership.

Postmodernism

It has been suggested that the decline in

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A blast from the past

If Pastor Perry had not reminded me, I might have forgotten that 2002 represents the 100th birthday of the British Union.

Of course, the Adventist story in Britain really began, not a century ago, but a century and a quarter ago. 1878, to be exact. Whenever I have access to the documents from that early period one thing strikes me. The conspicuous lack of success of our pioneers and their discouragement as a consequence. John Loughborough, Steven Haskell and W. W. Prescott had enjoyed outstanding evangelistic success in other countries but in Britain had only 'penny number' baptisms. In correspondence all three men expressed dismay at the tough terrain they found here.

Men like Judson Washburn (in the 1890s), William Maudsley and Lionel Barras (in the 1920s), C. A. Reeves and R. A. Anderson (in the 1930s) and George Vandeman and Ken Lacey (in the 1950s) made soul-winning *look* easy. They packed large buildings with people. Indeed, well-authenticated reports indicate that, in a number of population centres, including Scottish cities, 'thousands had to be turned away'. Nevertheless, the numbers of those who were baptised were, of course, less impressive. There has always been the problem that not all of those who respond in evangelistic meetings can hack the way Adventists 'do church' . . .

Soul-winning in the British Isles has always, in fact, been tough. Having said that, the impact on the British psyche of two World Wars, the great Depression, a century of secular mass media, decades of materialism and the onset of post-modern attitudes has not made soul-winning any easier.

1902, the year when the meeting convened in Leeds to organise the British Union Conference, was a crisis year for our Church internationally. In February a towering inferno tore through the Battle Creek Sanitarium. In December a similar inferno destroyed the Review and Herald publishing house. In the course of the year two of the denomination's thought leaders attempted to lead the Church into pantheism. One of them, E. J. Waggoner, had, until the previous year, been based in Britain.

In May 1902 the European Session of the General Conference – there were thirty delegates – convened in London. The 'conference' in Leeds that created the BUC in August was a camp meeting addressed by A. G. Daniells, the reformer who had been elected General Conference president the previous year. Our first BUC president was O. A. Olsen, an American of Norwegian descent. Ellen White was at that time active in the Unites States raising funds for a British health institution.

On 6 January 1902 twenty students signed up at the opening of Duncomb Hall, a 'Training School for Gospel Workers', founded in London by 31-year-old Homer Salisbury.

By 1902 the International Tract Society, the parent of The Stanborough Press, was already six years old. It, too, was based in London.

The health-food factory, originally at Redhill, had been moved to cramped and unsuitable premises in Birmingham. The first Seventh-day Adventist health institution in the British Isles was probably Dr J. H. Bell's clinic opened in Belfast in 1902, though the Caterham Sanitarium opened in Surrey not long afterwards. In 1907 it seemed sensible to centralise the various institutions on Stanborough Park, then a vast tract of land well north of Watford and well south of St Albans.

It was not easy being an Adventist in 1902. My grandmother, who gave birth to her younger daughter (my mother) in the June, was finding the assignment especially difficult. In 1887, at 23, Mary Ann Snowdon had been baptised following cottage meetings conducted by Ellen White in the home of the Armstrongs. A new Seventh-day Adventist church (opened in 1888) was being constructed in her community at the time of her baptism. It was the first church Seventh-day

Adventists built in the British Isles. She knew that her new church represented a growing movement in many lands. But, following her marriage to the unbelieving village blacksmith, this did not help in the struggle to keep both the Sabbath and body and soul together. Of her eight children four died. The enthusiasm that had been generated by the pioneers and, subsequently, Ellen White's visit, had evaporated. The thirty-strong congregation that had thronged the little chapel in its early years had been reduced to a handful. The Armstrongs, the Shorts and others had joined the worker-force of the Church elsewhere. There was a morale problem among the Ulceby faithful who were left pastorless for twenty years. In 1917 the North England Conference sent Bible worker M. E. Brooks to conserve what was left of the church work in that community.

The greatest single problem faced by the 858 Seventh-day Adventists in the British Isles in 1902 was employment. Back in 1885-1887 Ellen White had noted the particular difficulties encountered by Sabbath-keepers in Britain. Those difficulties had not gone away. The six-day week was almost universal. B. B. Belton and F. W. Goodall were among the hundreds who lost their jobs because of the Sabbath. The institutions, at least in part, existed to employ church members. The canvassing work was not a soft option; the AGM minutes of the International Tract Society record significant sums of money being paid out to secure the release of canvassers from the workhouse. Joseph Brandt wrote of canvassing all hours and then sleeping rough under a tree. Canvassers Wilkinson and Johnson were roughly handled by vagrants while sleeping out of doors. In 1907 a Poor Fund was established to help those who were well below the poverty line.

From Hull, Harry Armstrong, a future conference president, reported to the *Missionary Worker* (what they called the MESSENGER in those days) that 'many in this little church are passing through much tribulation'. The obituary column of the same paper reflected social conditions at the dawn of the twentieth century; rheumatic fever, tuberculosis and pneumonia were common killers of the young.

A century on and many things have changed. Few these days have to suffer employment discrimination, let alone loss of employment because of the Sabbath. While there is a massive difference between the highest- and the lowest-paid believers, the Welfare state saw to it that the causes that gave rise to the Poor Fund have largely disappeared, though many of our members continue to struggle. Nevertheless, high rates of crime, often the results of a drug-driven culture, impact on those of us who live in large housing developments.

In 1902 American missionaries formed the major part of the worker-force. A century on and both the ethnic composition of the membership and the pastorate has changed radically yet again. Immigration as it has impacted on the Church in the last few years, has been largely from African and Eastern European countries. One of the challenges of the immediate future will be to find more meaningful roles for women (more than two thirds of the membership) in ministerial and leadership positions.

The forces with which we have to do battle in our outreach endeavours do not, in the main, take the form of other Christian churches. The chief religious challenge is from Islam; but the greatest challenge is irreligious secularism. A major question we need to address is, Do we have to convert postmoderns to modernism before they become Seventh-day Adventists? Or is there a way of reaching out to postmoderns 'direct'?

By contrast with 1902 one advantage that we enjoy in 2002 is that the Church itself has a higher profile with the population, thanks to the work of Ken Burton and the various quality choirs. Other potential flagships are ADRA, our schools, colleges, publishing houses, our websites, and the access we have to satellite broadcasting. We are not nearly as 'out in the cold' as we were a century ago. Can we turn this positive profile and new outreach media into the means of effective soul-winning?

Healthwise

A Century of Health

If you had opened your daily paper 100 years ago, you would have been introduced to the amazing properties of Keen's 'One Night' Cold Cure, Tuberculozine, Curic Wafers, Bell's Fairy Cure, Munyon's Blood Cure, Zox, Oquit, Pistoia Gout Powders, Vin Urané Pesqui, Capsulated Haemoglobin ovals for the Hair, and similar other such substances to cure all diseases from cancer to baldness.

There were so many of these quack nostrums and, in particular, an anti-tuberculosis preparation by a certain Mr Stevens, that the British Medical Association published a book in 1909 called *Secret Remedies* to expose them. A public analyst was hired to list the ingredients and the cost of a variety of patent medicines.

The introduction to the listing notes: 'Judging from the relative number of secret remedies advertised for different complaints, it would seem that the most attractive fields for exploitation by the "patent" medicine man are afforded by those diseases which are widely prevalent, and sufficiently serious to cause considerable suffering and incapacity, inasmuch as such disorders

lend themselves to sensational descriptions of the dire consequences which will follow if the one and only real and certain cure is not purchased.'

The authors also pointed out that it was not only the poorer classes who had a weakness for quacks but that the well-to-do took a curious pleasure in experimenting with mysterious compounds. Against this background the Adventist health message, with its emphasis on natural remedies, must have been a breath of fresh air, and was part of the earliest work. Dr and Mrs A. B. Olsen published the *Good Health* journal in 1901 and started a sanitarium in Caterham, Surrey in 1903; In 1902 Dr J. J. Bell opened a 10-bed sanitarium in Belfast (moved to Rostrevor in 1906); and Dr F. C. Richards ran a sanitarium in rented premises in Leicester in 1903.

Most of these initiatives had a short life and the health work became centralised in the Stanborough Sanitarium or Hydro on Stanborough Park in 1911. Other self-supporting health work continued around the country. With the coming of the NHS, interest in private medicine waned and eventually the 'San' closed. Drs Gertrude and Ted Brown continued in the health work in

Scotland which culminated with the purchase and development of Roundelwood at Crieff which continues as the sole Adventist health Institute in the British Union.

The passing years have seen a swing from quackery to highly sophisticated medicine; from private ventures to NHS, to private medicine once more; the one single constant has been the natural remedies taught by the Adventist Church. These simple remedies, given by divine providence, are as valid now as they ever were. These days, in fact, there is more interest in holism in health.

It may be a source of regret that we have so few flagships to promote the healthy living espoused by Adventists, but we do have a message to be proud of. Let us re-excite the citizens of the UK with the message at the turn of our BUC century, for the disorders that allowed quackery to flourish are still with us.



Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

The Challenge of our Second Century
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the indigenous church began in the 1930s, though many would dispute this. Certainly the Depression and the Second World War altered the world view of British society. By the end of the twentieth century modernism, with its stress on reason, materialism and technology, had given way to postmodernism. A major shift has taken place in popular thinking. People today are dazzled and distracted by a thousand options in religion, ideology, philosophy and alternative spirituality. General church attendance has hit a new low of 9%, with the pursuit of leisure and pleasure the popular option.

The church throughout Western Europe and in our Union territory faces a great challenge: that of connecting with people whose world view is radically different from our own. The traditional methods of evangelism, although still effective in reaching those with a Christian orientation, may not be so effective in reaching the non-churched, secular majority.

The challenge as we move into our second century

To mark the 100th Anniversary of the British Union Conference we have sought to bridge the gap between the church and the unchurched by launching the Life Development Project. This is a daring evangelistic initiative of faith which is an ongoing process to lead the non-faith to faith.

Friends and small groups

The build-up for what could be a journey covering five years, requires churches to embrace the concept of making friends. Through the mechanism of forming small groups, establishing of Life Development centres in churches or halls, and daily individual contacts it is our intention to use the communication means at our disposal to reach a sceptical and secular world.

Satellite programme

The church has earmarked up to £1 million to provide training and materials for the various levels of the project. In the autumn of 2003 the satellite programme will be uplinked from the UK to benefit all our churches as well as many in Europe.

The concept of this initiative may be hard to grasp at first. It is only as the individual member becomes involved in the critical process of understanding the need of engaging the secular mind to spiritual things that the whole picture will be seen. The Life Development programme represents a vision which is greater than the present and potentially more productive than anything else we have tried.

Not a numbers game

This is the first time the Union will be entering upon a project the results of which depend exclusively on a close working relationship between us and God. This is not a numbers game but a deliberate effort to reach the unchurched by specifically targeting them in a language they can understand. The church must not only make itself relevant but resonate with the dynamics of the society in which it finds itself.

The *LIFE.info* magazine is our first promotional tool aimed at turning on the lights of truth. Our church started with tracts and no technology. Today, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, the situation has changed. Through the multiple means of communication, satellite, radio, television, Internet, etc, information is accessible to all.

Seize the moment!

This is a golden opportunity for the members of the Union to seize the moment to own an idea whose time has come. Witnessing to a lost world is our mission. There is no option or better way to celebrate this anniversary than to find the Lost Coin, the Lost Sheep and the Lost Son.

Our story, then, will not be a mere recounting of past, but a hopeful end. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Idris Owen at 101

Mountain Ash (Aberpennar) and Penrhiwceiber are two close-knit communities in the Cynon Valley in South Wales. These communities suddenly grew up at the end of the nineteenth century as workers for the coalmines descended on the valley from all parts of Britain. The Owen family from the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire settled in this valley. Parents often fought hard to save their more talented sons from working in the dark of the deep mines. Idris Owen was saved from such a fate by his talent for music.

The change in the outlook of the whole family came when W. E. Read set up his Bell Tent next to Noddfa Chapel in 1908. The Bible worker, Maud Livings, made an impression on the family, and the Owens became the founding members of the church in Mountain Ash. Idris Owen was just 6 years of age at the time but remembers quite vividly the Standard of Attainment Courses that were set for Adventists. His musical career began at the age of 12 when he went to the organist of the Baptist Church for tuition in the harmonium. A year later the teacher suggested that a new teacher should be engaged as Idris had reached a high standard. He was to win the 12-16-year-old piano competition at an Eisteddfod in Burry Port.

Of those early years at Mountain Ash, Idris still remembers the Public Debate in 1913 between the Adventist evangelist Morgan Nicholls and a leading Spiritualist. The reporter from the *Aberdare Leader* said that Nicholls had 'won the day'. When a Conference was held in Mountain Ash in 1914, the local church had 36 members, but by 1916 they had just 17 members as some had moved away.

Idris was soon to follow, and found himself in Stanborough College. He began to teach music at the college but was invited about 1922 to move to the new college being set up at Collonges in France. He taught music there for eighteen years, but returned to Walford on the eve of the Second World War. He conducted The Stanborough Park Male Voice Choir that supported evangelistic campaigns in many parts of the country. The next step in his musical career was to teach music for eighteen years at an Adventist school in New Zealand. On retirement, he returned to Britain and settled for a while in the Grantham area. His next move was back to Wales where he has often played, with a masterful touch, the organ at the Carmarthen church.

This centenarian's memory is keen today as he reviews the history of the Adventist Church for almost a century. He has seen many changes but remembers still the excitement of those early years when they were telling their neighbours and friends of the soon coming of Jesus.

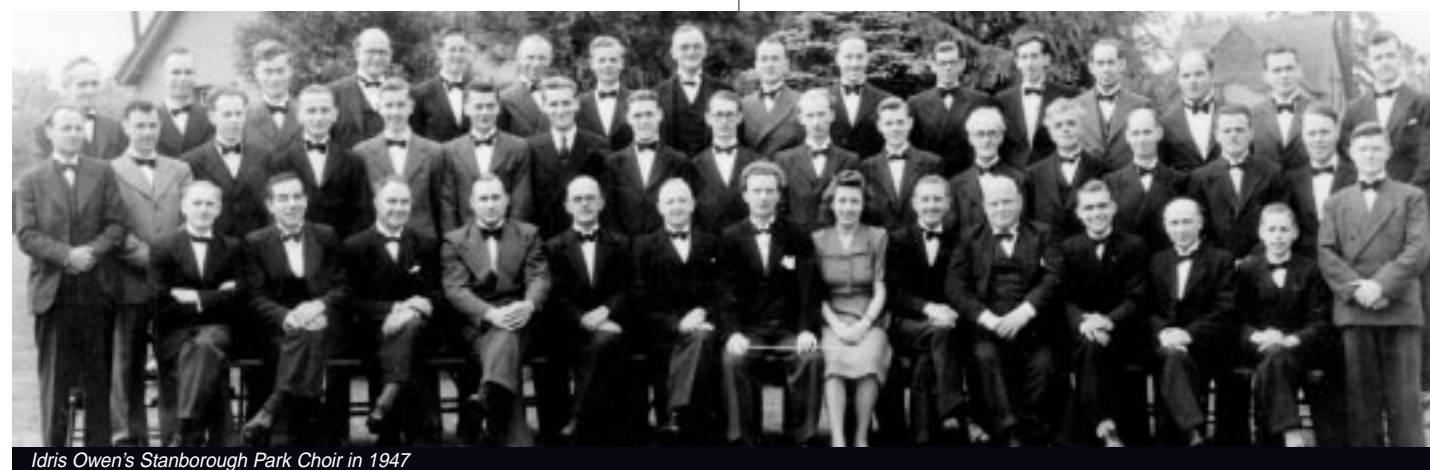
BRIAN PHILLIPS

Most of the identifications are as follows:

Sitting (from left): Arthur Sanders, Roland Hamblin, William Coates, Eddie Watson, Walter Dobbs, Fred Archer, Idris Owen (Choir leader), Violette Owen (pianist, now Mrs G. Meredith), Frank Male, Edward Parry, Roy Burgess, Jack Cannon, Reg Burgess.

Second row: Herbert Barham, Edward J. Wallis, David Throssel, ?, Ron Emmerson, Dennis Archer, Desmond Nolan, Dennis Young, ?, Bert Carter, Alan Joyce, F. W. Coppock, Albert Allen, Ronald Freeth, Laurence Allen, Albert Balderstone, Reg Swain.

Back row: Stan Bevan, Walter Kidd, Clive Blackburn, Arthur Cannon, Roy Hulbert, George Freeman, Mervyn Whiting, Brother Swinford, Basil Powell, Leslie Denn, Cliff Westwood, Eric College, Charles Tew, Andrew Proudley, Ronald Coombe, Alf Dutton.



Idris Owen's Stanborough Park Choir in 1947

An Edwardian Lady

Irene has a sense of humour, excellent hearing, sight, quality of life; a brilliant memory – and she will be 100 in January.

Irene Himsworth was born in Manchester in January 1903 just two years into the reign of King Edward VII. The world into which she was born was innocent of world wars, broadcasting and totalitarian regimes, and knew little or nothing about man-powered flight. Winston Churchill was a young man. The present Queen's parents were still in their infancy. A quarter of the planet was administered from Whitehall. And the British Prime Minister was wondering if it was time to abandon 'Splendid Isolation'.

By the age of 10 Irene had accepted Jesus as her Saviour and was reading all she could about him. There is a photograph of Irene, aged 16, holding a copy of *Our Day in the Light of Prophecy*, a book published by the International Tract Society, the parent of The Stanborough Press. It expounded the apocalyptic portions of scripture. Her interest in the Bible had led her to attend tent campaigns in her native city. They were conducted by J. D. Gillatt, a pastor with a *pince nez*, a fly-away collar and waxed mustachios that would have done credit to Hercule Poirot.

Along with Sidney Beardsell, Irene was baptised on 31 July 1918. She became a member of the 100-strong South Manchester church. Sidney's parents, William and Florena Beardsell, had been baptised in 1916.

Things had not always gone well for the young Irene. As a result of rheumatic fever she had been taken out of her state school. Her parents had paid for her to go to a small private school. From this period there is a photograph of Irene as part of the cast of *As You Like It*.

At 15 Irene began working in an office. She presided over a telephone switchboard, a technological marvel in those days. For four years she used all available spare time to do canvassing work from door to door. The first World War had underlined the urgency of the end-time message. There were souls to be won. No time to waste.

By the time Lloyd George and Clemenceau were signing the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, Irene had enrolled as a student at Stanborough College

where one of her music teachers was young Idris Owen, at the beginning of a glittering career; now, at 101, a member of the Carmarthen congregation. Another was Phyllis Hardinge. Irene took Phyllis's younger brothers, Leslie and Mervyn, bird-spotting. Part of her tuition for the college was paid for by Mrs Vera Beardsell of Manchester, wife of Sidney. Sidney and Vera subsequently joined Irene at college. Sidney became a pastor and his son – seventy years later – the College principal.

At 23 Irene Himsworth became a Bible worker. Her final year at the college would have included John A. McMillan, a future Union president. Her first assignment was to work with the evangelist William Maudsley in Glasgow. Two years later she was sent to work in Dundee where there was no pastor. Such were the communication problems in those days that Irene was conducting all services and working as a *de facto* pastor. A decade later she would work for an extended period in the Derby district as a *de facto* pastor. A very youthful Donald Lowe, later to be a president in both conferences, was keen to have a ride on Irene's new bicycle. Irene Himsworth was one of a number of women employed by the denomination in a quasi-pastoral capacity in Britain in the first half of the twentieth century. Female pastors were invented long before 1990!

A photograph of Irene taken at the age of 23 shows her as a stylish and, indeed, a glamorous young lady. She appears – along with W. H. Meredith, Harry Armstrong, Ted Craven, J. D. Gillatt, and many others – in the workers' groups of the period. With evangelist Robert Madgwick, Irene helped build up the Edinburgh church. She subsequently worked with pastors in the Huddersfield, Nottingham, Sheffield and Manchester districts. It was while working in her home city that Irene was again attacked by rheumatic fever, a disease which is known to weaken the heart. As a result, in 1948, conference president O. M. Dorland recommended Irene's move to the VOP Bible School where she took many of us through the *Great Teachings* correspondence courses from which we derived our grounding in the faith.

It was at the VOP that Irene

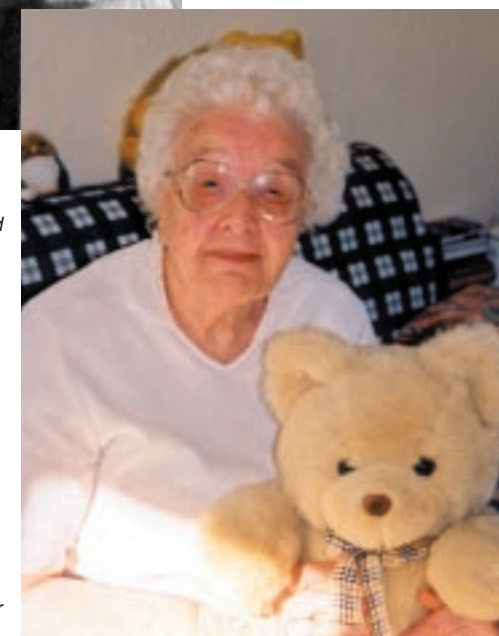
renewed her friendship with Victor and Rhona Cooper. At 61, in 1964, Irene married John Osborne. Victor conducted the service and Ray Vine was best man. Irene and John retired first to Tunbridge Wells, then to Bournemouth. John was well known as a gardener.

Seventeen years ago Irene Osborne moved to the denomination's apartment complex in Oulton Broad, Suffolk. Her visitors' book reads like a 'Who's Who' of Adventism. An interesting feature of it is that the same visitors keep coming back. Not surprisingly Irene's visitors become her friends. The qualities that made this Edwardian lady an effective minister, Bible worker and teacher are now used to make her an

effective counsellor and prayer warrior.

Irene has a tremendous ability to make friends – and keep in touch with them. Her trust is in her forever Friend, and his life is being lived through hers. He is a Friend with whom she has never lost touch. She has a great love for his Church and has no political perceptions of it. She is patient and happy to accept all the plans he has for her with the assurance that she will spend eternity in his company. Her attitude to life is one of thankfulness for blessings received; she overlooks its negative aspects in the knowledge that every battle has already been won – and Jesus is the victor.

DAVID MARSHALL



Top left: Pastor J. D. Gillatt who conducted the campaign in Manchester that resulted in Irene's baptism. Top right: Miss Irene Himsworth, aged 23, when she left Stanborough College to begin her career as a Bible worker. Middle: Irene, aged 16, at the time of her baptism with a copy of 'Our Day in the Light of Prophecy.' Right: Irene Osborne in her flat at Oulton Broad, 27 September 2002.

Pictures from the Past



Leeds Session 1902

Birth of the BUC

At Leeds in 1902 the British Church agreed to the formation of a union conference comprising two local conferences and three missions. The constitution for the union was not approved until the session at Southsea in 1903.



Official opening of the extension to Stanborough College, 1922

Stanborough College

Boaters were in fashion when the new extension to Stanborough College was opened in 1922. The stout Edwardian building, plus the 1922 extension, was bulldozed in the late 1980s to make way for the new Stanborough School. Many remember the old building with great affection.

New Camp Hill

The new Camp Hill church was one of the largest to be built by the denomination in the 1980s. Nearby, the West Midlands Centre, containing the Harper Bell School, was purchased.



Camp Hill church



John Loughborough students, 1981

John Loughborough School

When a new school was opened in Tottenham on 26 October 1980 it was named after the man who brought the Advent truth to the British Isles in 1878. W. J. Arthur reported that 3,000 members were present for the opening and that Mrs R. M. Luxton, the BUC Education director, had 'done much of the spade work'. Mr Orville Woolford was the first headmaster.



Dr S. Reid, 1981

Master of Ceremonies and general organiser of the opening day was Dr Silburn Reid. In 1981 Dr Reid was to become president of the South England Conference. In 1982 he was to reintroduce camp meeting to the British Isles. Pastor Theodore McLeary had become the first black departmental director (SEC, early 1970s) and Dr E. L. Henry (NBC, 1978) had become the first black conference officer. However, Dr Reid was the first black conference president.

The first half of 1979 saw the arrival from the Caribbean of a number of pastoral families. These families were welcomed by the Editor in the 27 July 1979 issue of MESSENGER. Two of the original pastoral families have made their permanent home in Britain – the Perrys and the McFarlanes.

Adventist dynasties

Until the 1970s there was something 'dynastic' about the Seventh-day Adventist ministry in the British Isles. The photograph below, taken at Swanwick in 1974, commemorates this fact. On the left is Pastor W. J. Newman, in the photograph by virtue of the fact that his son David is a pastor. Next along is Pastor R. D. Vine with his twin sons Robert and Richard. Pastor Dennis Conroy stands behind his son Pastor Alan Conroy; Pastor Fred Edwards behind his son Pastor Ron Edwards; Pastor H. K. Munson behind his son Pastor Geoff Munson; Pastor K. A. Elias behind his son Pastor Dalbert Elias. On the right of the picture are two generations of the Trevena family, both pastors.



Ministerial Council, Swanwick, June 1974



Orville Woolford



Aerial view of Stanborough Park

A plot in the country

When the Park estate was bought it was beyond the reach, it seemed, of the northern edge of Watford. St Albans Road was a country lane.



Park Golden Jubilee 1957

Stanborough Park

The Stanborough Park estate was bought in 1907. By the time this photograph was taken – circa 1960 – most of the estate had been sold off to developers. What was left accommodated, on the extreme left edge of the picture, 'Holy Row', which housed the church leaders; together with Granose Foods Ltd and The Stanborough Press Ltd; more central on the shot are the Stanboroughs Hydro (closed in 1968), Stanborough School and the VOP building.

At the extreme right of the picture are the BUC offices, opened in the late 1950s. Below, Leslie Emmerson, Nelson Knight and Worsley Armstrong, Union president

(standing) at the Stanborough Park Golden Jubilee in 1957.



Stanborough Park entrance, St Albans Road

Literature-evangelism

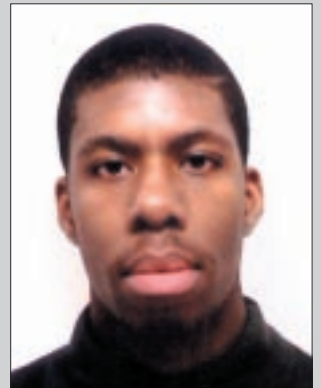
Literature-evangelists prepared the ground in most British cities. The publishing work reached its heyday under the leadership of John Arthur, British Union publishing director, when the photograph (below) was taken at Swanwick in 1970. The photograph (right) is of a group of literature-evangelists in Leeds in 1929. Front row, second left and second right are Publishing directors B. Belton and G. R. Bell. Third right is Pastor Arthur Maxwell (Uncle Arthur), then editor of The Stanborough Press.



Colporteur Council at Leeds, 1929



Literature-evangelist Convention, Swanwick, January 1970



My dreams and aspirations for the Church

Darell Philip
(Trainee elder and Communication secretary, Hackney)

As a young person, my dreams and aspirations for the future of the Church are to see the fulfilment of young people being the next generation of leaders and stewards of God's work. Although the current crop of young people are inexperienced and have much to learn, there is no shortage of gifts and talents among them. This looks set to shape the Church as a place of exuberance and power in the near future. A lot of young people need to be given the experience of leadership-type roles. Their talents too must be developed. I am passionate about this because I myself am in a position where God is teaching me how to witness to people through preaching and teaching. If I was to go back in time I would never have guessed that I would be in a leadership role such as an elder or Sabbath school teacher. It just goes to show that God works in mysterious ways!

I think that in time the Church will be led by young people who, like the Hebrew boys – Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego – will stand for principle. I believe that like David when he defeated the giant Goliath in battle, young people will also turn the world upside down because of the influence God will have in their lives.

Pictures of the Past: the Last Decade



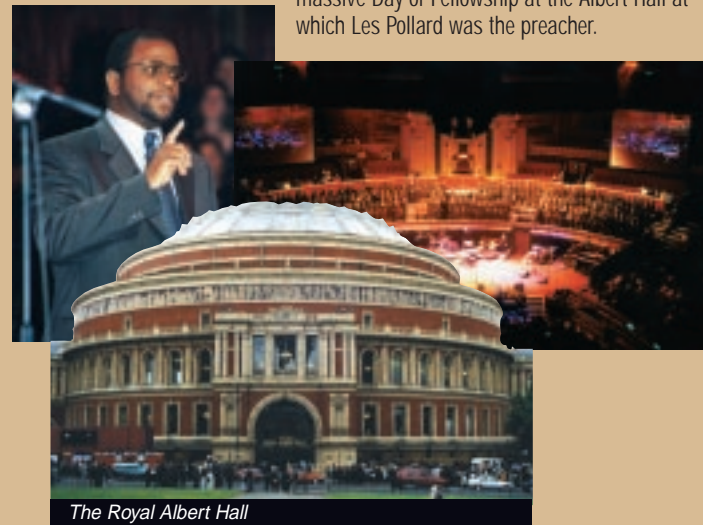
Stanborough School

New Stanborough School

The decade began with the launch of the new Stanborough School project. While many had mixed feelings about the destruction of the old Edwardian building, most agreed it was a time for rejoicing.

Big day at the Royal Albert Hall

The South England Conference celebrated the millennium in October 1999 by a massive Day of Fellowship at the Albert Hall at which Les Pollard was the preacher.



The Royal Albert Hall

Stanborough Centre opening

Sabbath 8 September 2001 was the day of the opening of The Stanborough Centre, the Park church's new extension. Denver Annable, the chairman of the church's development committee, said that the need for additional room was evident decades ago. Church member Doris Clark, 95, snipped the ribbon and the Mayor of Watford opened the front door.



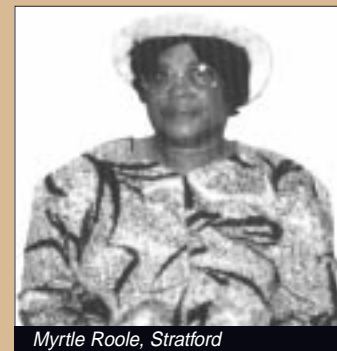
Stanborough Park church with the new extension

Preacher of the Year

On 27 November 1998, Sheffield minister Pastor Ian Sweeney became the first Seventh-day Adventist to win *The Times* Preacher of the Year Award.



Pastor Ian Sweeney



Myrtle Roole, Stratford



Alf Kelly, Stanborough Park

MBEs

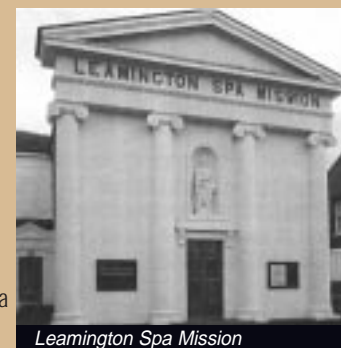
Myrtle Roole of Stratford and the late Alf Kelly of Stanborough Park both received MBEs from Her Majesty the Queen for their services to the community.



Jeremy Irons talking with the press

Westminster launch

Actor Jeremy Irons and politicians Baroness Chalker and Baroness Cox helped The Stanborough Press to launch a book in its Autumn House range titled *An Idea of Bosnia* in 1996. The launch took place in the most ancient part of Westminster Palace, the medieval Westminster Hall. The same book was the subject of Esther Rantzen's 'Hearts of Gold' programme on BBC1.



Leamington Spa Mission

Leamington Spa Mission

October 28, 2000 marked the opening of the Leamington Spa Mission. Built in 1828, The Mission was bought by the Church in 1993. Pastor Alan Conroy and a dedicated group of believers, having planted a new church in Leamington, worked tirelessly to renovate this period building and to fit it to the requirements of modern worship. £180,000 was raised to bring the building back to life.



The four Adventist representatives

Grant maintained status

At a press conference in the House of Commons, 9 March 1998, MP the late Bernie Grant, along with leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, announced that Grant Maintained Status had been given to the John Loughborough School, Tottenham.



Laura Sweeting

NET '98

The NET '98 satellite series was the first evangelistic programme to involve a majority of the churches in the British Union's territories. Dwight Nelson's powerful sermons were downlinked, many attended and a significant number of baptisms took place. Pastor Dalbert Elias was the principal promoter. The idea of a satellite downlink programme had been tried out in Ireland already by Pastor Alan Hodges. NET '99 would follow.



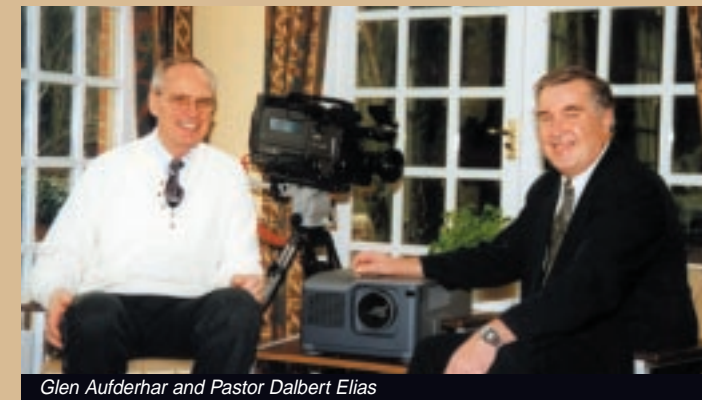
The Queen greets members of the Adventist Chorale

The Chorale factor

Since the London Adventist Chorale won the BBC2 Sainsbury Choir of the Year competition, and the Croydon Gospel Choir came second, no one has done more to raise the profile of the Adventist Church, either nationally or internationally, than their conductor Ken Burton. It is exceptional if one of Ken's choirs is not featured on *Songs of Praise* these days. And it is believed that, in the Jubilee Prom at the Palace, the Chorale broadcast to at least two hundred million people.

UN Goodwill Ambassador

At the Café Royale, Regent Street, on 9 June 2001 Stanborough School's Laura Sweeting became, at 16, the United Nation's youngest goodwill ambassador. Headmaster Steven Rivers indicated that Laura's selection took place after the *Daily Mail* published a one-page feature telling how the school – drawing its intake from thirty-six countries – was itself a United Nations.



Glen Aufderhar and Pastor Dalbert Elias



BUC Workers' Meeting January 1998



My dream for the Church

Elizabeth Jones
Colchester

How do we move forward with the times? How can we bring secular people to our church in a non-threatening way? These are questions that need to be considered if we want to bring our message to the world in the twenty-first century.

Evangelistic meetings and lectures on the Bible may reach a few people, but the majority these days are not interested when you mention church or the Bible.

For years I have thought how nice it would be to own my own café-bookshop where people could come and relax from the pressures and stresses of life.

At first this was just a pipe dream. Then one day in the MESSENGER I saw that The Stanborough Press was opening bookshops in two London churches – North Wembley and the Advent Centre. The idea crossed my mind, 'Why don't church members open cafés, which are also bookshops, as a non-threatening means of outreach? They would create an environment in which it would be possible to come in, have a drink and something to eat, browse through the books, have a chat, and basically enjoy time out from the stresses of life, yet not feel pressured.

Apparently the Newbold church has done just that, by setting aside an area for a similar project. A good idea, but maybe it would be better to establish café-bookshops away from church premises to attract people who would not want to go near a church. Only 9% of people in our country ever attend church, so it is important to find ways and means of reaching out to the other 91%.

A café-bookshop is not an easy project to undertake. No one could do it alone. Perhaps this is something the BUC would like to consider.

Golden Wedding on the Glorious Twelfth

The Glorious Twelfth (of August) had a special significance for Pastor Ron and Rachel Surridge of Grantham, for it was on that day fifty years ago that they started their life together as man and wife.

Ordained to the ministry in July 1961, Pastor Surridge and his wife spent time in Nigeria and Ghana on mission service, where Rachel taught in schools serving the children of missionaries from a variety of nationalities.

Pastor Surridge has an impressive CV, having been president of the then North British Conference, which at that time included Scotland, as well as Youth leader on a different occasion. He was president of the Irish Mission for four years, as well as Youth leader for the Division, the British Union, and in Africa. It was while he was serving as Youth leader for the North England Conference, that the Aberdaron campsite facility was purchased early in 1964. It was with the late Bill Griffiths, that tons of soil were moved by hand and barrow, on the newly-acquired site in North Wales, the first step of what has become something of a flagship for the youth work in Britain. Later that year the

Surridges set off for their six-year period of mission service in Africa.

Pastor Surridge has been Head of the Theology department at Newbold College, a post he held for four years. He also pastored the Stanborough Park church for three years.

A short while ago a fresh challenge was presented, when Pastor Surridge was invited to lecture to a summer school in Australia. So it was that the couple embarked on another long journey, but this time Rachel did not have to teach! The lectures he was asked to present were on the duties, other than theological, that new ministers have to face as they go about their day-to-day routine, a series that was greatly appreciated by those who recognised their tutor as being a man of real experience!

Today they are proud parents of two sons, both in the Adventist ministry, and are very young looking grandparents!

Officially retired, Pastor Surridge, who originally comes from just a few miles from Grantham, is still in demand as a guest preacher both in his adopted home church, and elsewhere. Rachel, a very accomplished pianist, is often asked to be accompanist for both choir and soloists, and to tell the children's story during the divine service at Grantham.

It was on Sabbath 10 August that the Grantham church honoured the Surridges with a basket of flowers presented by one of the local elders. It came as a complete surprise to the couple who had thought that their special day had escaped the attention of the church members!

MIKE COWEN



The CAN School Children Achieving Now

Philippians 4:13 is the focal point of our after-school facility – I can do all things through Christ. The dream was simply a dream in April 2001, but by 6 June CAN became a reality. CAN is a community after-school project that is currently held in the North Wembley Community church



on two Sundays a month. We have 15 children aged 4-11.

On 21 July 2002 our first academic year was completed and we culminated this event with a weekend of thanksgiving together with a graduation service.

We were supported during this weekend by educators who presented the message on both days. Laura Osei presented the Sabbath message. We were also privileged to have Dr O. Woolford, TED Education director,

as our speaker for the graduation service. His emphasis was on what our children achieve through a 'CAN DO' attitude.

Our second year began in September. We extended our facilities to include ages 12-16, focusing on the essential subjects. This has increased our intake to 22 children. The interest in our facilities has required us to create a waiting list. To satisfy the need we are currently acquiring more voluntary assistance.

Our greatest joy was what a parent said about our school after the most recent parents' review. 'I've seen an improvement in my child, and this has helped with school performance.'

C. GOLDING, CAN School co-ordinator

wrestling match where two wrestlers work together to overcome the team on the opposite side. A huge roar of praise and exaltation went up as Pastor Ming said: 'Jesus will not make a breakthrough in your life until you allow him to roll the stone away. We are in a battle like the WWF – we get smacked down, but we keep on fighting. Reach out and tag your partner *The Rock*, Christ Jesus, the same *rock* that Moses struck and water came from, the same *rock* that David threw into that giant Goliath's head, knocking him down for ten.'

In another message entitled 'But', Pastor Ming revealed how Jesus can turn what Satan deems negative into a positive. There was rapturous applause when he pointed out: 'Satan wants you just to believe that the wages of sin is death, *but* Jesus tells you that the gift of salvation is eternal life. Satan wants you to believe that weeping endures for the night, *but* Jesus has come to tell you that joy comes in the morning.'

Each evening visitors touched by the messages and impressed by the Holy Spirit would answer the call to have a closer relationship with Jesus, and there were contributions from members and non-members in poetry, testimony and song. Among the groups who ministered to us in song were the quartet, Blessed Voices, who won the Channel Four Gospel competition earlier this year.

At the end of the campaign a special presentation was made to Pastor Ming by trainee elder Darell Philip and Deborah Burton, the AYS leader.

DARELL PHILIP

Hackney: 'Ready to rumble!'

The Hackney Adventist church held its *No More Drama* youth campaign 17-31 August. The speaker was Pastor Carlos Ming, 30, who was born and raised in Jamaica, and has been an Adventist for eight years.

Night after night visitors came to hear a man who preached the word of God with conviction and with holy boldness. Many young people were impressed with his God-given ability to recite long texts from memory.

All the messages that Pastor Ming gave were of relevance and importance; however, there were two in particular that stood out. In one sermon, 'Let's Get Ready to Rumble', Pastor Ming convincingly illustrated the nature of a WWF tag-team

Service in Hebrew

Pastor Roy Morgan, Personal Ministries director of the NEC, was the speaker for the Personal Ministries Day of Fellowship held at Burngreave church in Sheffield on 8 June.

The scripture reading was read with a difference in that Pastor Morgan and the congregation read each verse

alternately in Hebrew and English. First Pastor Morgan read in Hebrew and the congregation responded reading the same verse in English. The programme was also interspersed with special renditions of vocal music by members from Africa and Korea. The organist was one of our brethren from Malaysia. The theme of the sermon was 'The amazing difference that one

Brixton Gospel Choir

The Brixton Adventist Gospel Choir (BGC) has made history by becoming the first UK gospel choir to receive national prime-time air-play on mainstream radio stations up, down and across the UK with their debut single 'Shout it!', featuring Lurine Cato and Pastor Nigel Graham David. One radio DJ, Jenny Francis, labelled the track 'the best UK gospel track this year'.

The track was written, arranged and produced by Bishop Brad, who goes on to say, 'Shout it! is a chal-

lenge to every Christian believer to go out and spread God's love and tell them that he is coming back very soon!'

BGC was formed over twenty years ago and now, under the direction of Miss Paulette DeLisser, plans to embark on a national UK promotional campaign in a lead-up to the single's release in November.

For further information contact Bishop on 07956 281179. Email: bishop@bishopbrad.com. Watch this space!



person can make who is connected to Yahweh,' which theme continued into the afternoon programme when a video was shown about soul-winning.

ROSEMARY BLENMAN

Oxford students: congratulations!

Congratulations to Marion Lewis, Barbara Remez and John Woodfield from the Oxford church. John obtained a First Class Honours BA degree in Ancient History from the University of Durham. He has a place at King's College, Cambridge, to do further studies leading to an MPhil degree in the same field. Marion Lewis and Barbara Remez obtained BSc and BA degrees at Coventry and Oxford respectively.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Togetherness even in baptism

It is so nice to find a couple who do everything together. Simba and Priti Nduku met at the Walsgrave hospital in Coventry as student nurses. Together they studied nursing, and then Simba introduced the study of the word of God and together they studied the Bible. Friendship turned to courtship and together they were united in marriage last November. Bible studies continued and Priti (a Hindu) decided 'your God will be my God', and that she would follow her new husband in the faith that he held dear. Simba,

already a baptised member, decided that they would go under the waters of baptism together. On 13 July they took their public stand together to follow Christ, and became members of the Coventry (Bell Green) church. We trust that they will continue together on this path, and that in time to come 'they will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air'.

LORRAINE McDONALD

Burngreave: AIDS and kindness

'A leper in our path' was the topic of the sermon preached on 3 August for the Community Services Visitors' Day at Burngreave church, Sheffield, by Pastor Cyril Sweeney, Community Services director of the NEC. He talked about the terminal disease of AIDS, and how the church can help the community in these situations.

In the afternoon Pastor Sweeney spoke on kindness, and outlined four ways to make it a habit:

1. Make kindness a *priority* in your daily life.
2. Act kindly whenever possible as soon as possible.
3. Avoid inaction – don't delay and don't deny.
4. Turn your pain into another's gain.

To kindness add compassion and gentleness to complete a trinity of qualities essential to Christian living, he admonished.

ROSEMARY BLENMAN

Oxford youth go camping

The Oxford church youth club held its youth weekend on 16 August. Hill End, a campsite in the beautiful countryside of Farnoor, Oxfordshire, provided the setting for this exciting and inspirational weekend. Oxford youth aged 11-16 were able to invite their friends for a weekend of fun and spiritual nurture. Nature walks and outdoor activities were enhanced by the glorious weather. Al fresco meals and a campfire in the evening encouraged the warm

spirit present at this youth event. A baking competition provided some friendly competition. Friends invited to this youth weekend have now decided to attend the Oxford church on a regular basis. Spiritual food was provided by Nigel Nicholls, Gerald Hanson and Oxford minister Pastor David Sparing. Many thanks go to Sonia MacIntosh, Youth sponsor, for her inspiration and organisation of this event.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



Campers enjoyed a baking competition

Edinburgh Activities Day

September 1 dawned warm and gloriously sunny, a jewel in Scotland's crown and just as rare, as families and friends from all over Scotland gathered for the first Scottish Activities Day.

Events got under way with the teams having to make team banners and cheerleaders' outfits from bits of string, paper and napkins – Blue Peter in real life!

After that, events became more strenuous as the teams were cheered on to great athletic feats. The water-filled wellie-throwing competition caused much hilarity and organisers may wish to provide crash helmets and umbrellas for spectators next year.

Many fun-filled games followed in which all ages participated, ably umpired by the Scottish Mission

president, Pastor Llew Edwards. The balloon-stomping competition drew quite a crowd of passing spectators who remained for much of the day, enjoying the fun and asking questions about the group. Who said witnessing can't be fun!

Energy reserves were replenished with a picnic lunch, after which battle recommenced. The tug-of-war decided the winners, the Wildcats, and the fun finished with an energetic game of the 'flying Dutchman', which left many requiring oxygen and a rest!

LYNN RETALLICK



Zara Retallick, cheerleader

Teams in 'pass the bucket' competition



Preston says farewell to Pastor Mapp

The congregations at Preston, Blackpool and Lancaster gathered for a special programme of songs, speeches and a presentation, to thank Pastor Fred Mapp for his ministry in their district. Many spoke words of appreciation of this man of God, with his infectious smile and mischievous sense of humour.

He was to most of us 'a pastor who also became a friend', and will be missed by all, but especially by the children. He developed a special relationship and rapport with them. On his behalf they were happy to sing a song about God's book and expressed their sadness on his leaving, but wished him well.

He leaves to take up his new position as (part-time) NEC Ministerial Association secretary and (full-time) pastor of Bolton church.

The members also said 'hello and welcome' to their new minister Pastor Kevin Johns, his wife Margaret and two sons, Dwight and Aaron.

Pastor Johns was born in West Bromwich, West Midlands, grew up in Nottingham, and started theological studies at West Indies College, Mandeville, Jamaica. He completed his BA at Newbold College, started the Stonebridge church in London (1996), did his internship and was a pastor in St Lucia, 2000-2002.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Pastor Fred Mapp, centre, with Pastor & Mrs Kevin Johns and the Preston elders

Edinburgh on the move x 2

Edinburgh church is now meeting in the United Reformed church in Boswell Parkway, Granton, Edinburgh, where a warm welcome awaits you! This is a temporary move until a permanent home is found.

Edinburgh is also on the move, marching forward with the Good News of the Gospel. The small enthusiastic and dedicated evangelistic team, led by Rudolph Berki, has delivered over 8,000 questionnaires to local residents around the new church. The questionnaire included requests for further information, books and Bible studies.

The Lord has blessed this endeavour with over 380 responses to date. Over 160 individuals have requested books and so far two people are actively working through Bible studies.

LYNN RETALLICK



Left to right: Adele Smith, Joy Campbell and Rudolph Berki

Still active for God

Sabbath 21 September was a very special day in Newport. Harold Baker was the centre of the proceedings which took place prior to divine worship. The reason? He had reached the age of 90, seventy years of which he had spent in the service of the Lord.

Despite partial blindness, Harold still preaches from memory, and is a participant in all the various church proceedings.

His main interest has always been the Temperance work. Before retiring from the Newport Temperance Society he worked unflinchingly for alcoholics locally and in the surrounding districts, setting up hostels, counselling and visiting prisoners and their dependants.

On behalf of the church Michael Sammons presented a bouquet to Mrs Baker and a basket of fruit with a cheque to Harold. A cheque was also presented by Vera Machell, president of the Newport Temperance Society. In reply Harold gave all the praise to God for guidance and blessing in his long and still active life.

VERA MACHELL

Highest Grade Award

Joseph Flynn of the Smethwick church won the Highest Grade Award in the Midland Musical Contest last year. Smethwick is proud of this devoted, well-mannered and talented young man. Joseph has now left us to further his musical studies at university.

P. SWABY

270,000 Euros for ADRA-Ireland

Over the years ADRA-Ireland has received substantial funding from the Irish Government and this year has been no different. On 6 September a cheque was received by the ADRA-Ireland treasurer, George Sisson, for €270,000, making the total for 2002 so far €289,227.

We have received the funds for the Beteriko Community Water & Sanitation Project in East Nigeria for which we received €17,760. We also received three grants of just over €90,000 each to build three Day Care Centres in Brazil: for Engenheiro Coelho and Itanhaem both in São Paulo State and for Planaltina, Goiás State. Over the past three years with the co-operation of ADRA-Brazil, ADRA-Ireland with the support of Ireland Aid has built nine day care centres in Brazil. These centres are built in the shanty towns and provide much needed space for children to learn and play. There are also classrooms where health education and other subjects are taught to the adult population.

Ireland Aid has been very happy to support the work of ADRA for many years and a close relationship has been formed with its officers and the Irish Mission. Pastor Alan Hodges continues to work for ADRA-Ireland and tells me that although we are nearing the end of 2002 he still hopes that a further project in Nigeria to build a school for the deaf will receive funding.

DOUGLAS MCCORMAC

Torquay's V-E Day

The weekend of August was a time of great celebration for Ernest and Vera Campion, long-time members of the Torquay church. Family and friends from California, Florida, Somalia, and different parts of Britain descended on South Devon en masse to honour Vera on her 90th birthday.

The Sabbath church services were taken over by the extended Campion clan. Daughters Betty and Ruth led out in Sabbath school, and the missions appeal was presented by nephew Steve Cooper – director of ADRA-Somalia. During the divine service, Ernest and Vera's thirteenth great-grandchild, Juliana Hughes, was dedicated by Pastor Peter Cooper (Betty's husband, now retired after 40+ years of ministry in Africa, Asia and North America). An address on 'Reflections' was given by John Arthur (husband of second daughter Ruth).

A superb fellowship meal prepared by the local church members was enjoyed by fifty attendees in the rear hall. Then in the afternoon Margaret Shipton (sister of Dorothy Taylor and organist at the Torquay church for many decades) arranged for her choir, consisting of twenty ladies from several different churches in the region, to present an hour-long concert of sacred music. This inspiring programme by the 'Shipton Singers' in honour of Ernest and Vera was greatly appreciated by all who were present.

On the Sunday, almost one hundred guests – including members from the Torquay church, neighbours, farming friends, and relatives – assembled at the seafront Livermead House Hotel on a cloudless sunny day. A vintage Rolls Royce brought Ernest and Vera from their home for a good old chin-wag in the floral gardens, followed by a delightful Devonshire cream tea.

During a brief speech John Arthur mentioned that Ernest (now 91) and Vera have been married for 67 years. They have lived in the same house during the whole period (apart from the war years), and have been members of the Adventist Church for 61 years. He outlined some of the

Book Review

3:16

I've been meeting the name of Robert H. Parr as a by-line for virtually the whole of my adult life. And, I add in the same breath, it has often faced me with a challenge.

At first, the articles in question were in an old-time church paper titled *Youth's Instructor*, and they posed a problem. You see, they were captivating enough to suggest preservation and they had enigmatic titles like 'Artless Artie and me', 'My debt to a pound of sausages' and 'The GQ of Albert K'. However, I never succeeded in arranging them under the time-honoured array of subject headings to be found in most filing systems.

The solution? I took a manila folder, replete with the clippings, and simply wrote on it '(RH) Parr' – and then tucked it in between 'Papacy' and 'Perseverance', where it remains to this day, over forty-five years after I first caught sight of the articles.

Now, these decades later, I have to tell you that Pastor Robert Parr has done it again. This time with a book whose short title has no words in it at all – simply *3:16*. It may be a little unusual to catalogue, but I predict you'd value having it in your library, in your heart and, for good value, in your Sabbath school Bible study time and devotional presentations.

My copy of *3:16* is destined to sit (when I'm not referring to it) on a shelf labelled 'Devotional Theology'. It turns out (and you quite likely guessed it) that this hot-off-the-press, 224-page missive is a personable, armchair chat around the inspirational themes of every text in the New Testament (21 of them) that carries the 3:16 chapter-verse identification.

You might ask: Isn't it something of a risk committing oneself to finding devotional matters related to the gospel of Jesus in 21 texts selected on the sole basis of their common numerical reference? You'd better believe that our Australian church-school-teacher-cum-principal, editor, conference president, church pastor, prison chaplain and author is incurably of the opinion that 'all Scripture is given by inspiration of God' and that it can well be used for 'doctrine . . . reproof . . . correction . . . instruction in righteousness'. And that, it turns out, is a quote from one of the 3:16s in question (2 Timothy, in fact).

You will note, when you get the chance to browse through the various chapter titles, that the word gospel appears in every one. Apart from the big 3:16 (John, which may well have been the first text you memorised), you'll find, for example: 'The first glimpse of the gospel' (Galatians); 'The riches of the glory of the gospel' (Ephesians); and 'The gospel of the thankful heart' (Colossians). In there, too, are the cautionary tones of the Laodicean warning (Revelation) under 'Beware of a lukewarm gospel'.

Pastor Parr owns up to the fact that writing *3:16* has been a personal blessing to him in the process. It shouldn't be any other way, of course. And



I'm confident it can be that to his readers as well as we who ramble with him (I speak figuratively; I have it on some authority that he is not the world's most avid walker) through themes that can resonate so heartily with us all.

3:16 The Joy of the Gospel by Robert H. Parr was published by Autumn House, 2002. Soft cover. 224 pages. Price £6.95. Available from the Adventist Book Centre or directly from The Stanborough Press. Order through your PM Secretary or, if you have a credit card, directly on 01476 539900 Monday-Thursday. *3:16* has been reviewed by Trevor Lloyd who writes from Australia.

changes which have taken place in the world during their life-span, and included a few humorous anecdotes.

V-E Day (Vera-Ernest Day), as it was named within the family, was a celebration of the lives of two

nongenerations who have sought to live in accordance with God's will. And it is to God that gratitude is extended for the fulfilment and longevity which they have both experienced.

RUTH ARTHUR

An Orphanage for India

A report on the BESSO Project 2002

by Kish Poddar, Executive secretary, STOP International *

I would definitely go on one of these again,' was the response of a volunteer (aged 22).

The BESSO Project 2002 began in February 2001 when a team of twenty-two STOP (Save The Orphans Please) International volunteers, mainly from Watford, went to the village of Thally, in India, to construct living accommodation for the director of the Captain Azariah Children's Home. While there they met the children of another orphanage run by BESSO (Bethel Education and Social Services Organisation), an Indian registered charity. The thirty-three BESSO orphans, aged between 4 and 13, were living in two overcrowded and unsuitable rooms rented from a local landlord. This was all they could afford. STOP International had decided it wanted to build a new orphanage with some land of their own on which the children could play in safety. The volunteers selected a plot of land measuring just less than half an acre on the outskirts of Hosur, India. A price was

ridicule from his peers in the construction industry. They questioned his ability to complete the project for the quoted price or to complete at all! They did not appreciate Solomon's determination to complete or his commitment to his work. They were not aware of his Christian experience and faith in God.

After constructing a solid concrete security wall around the boundary of the property and a shed for supplies, the work of digging the foundations began in early February. This proved to be more difficult than first thought as the part of the site where the building was to be erected included an outcrop of granite. Solomon had to use dynamite in order to prepare the ground for the foundation!

While Solomon and his dedicated team of workers were constructing the orphanage building, in Watford a team of fourteen volunteers aged between 16 and 62 was preparing to visit in July to complete the building and grounds in readiness for occupation.

They came from various backgrounds – three students, a paramedic, a builder, a fitness trainer, two teachers, an accountant, a computer engineer, an assistant manager and three volunteers who were unemployed. All the volunteers raised their own airfare and cost of board, lodging and travel while in India for the two-week trip. They were also organising all their jobs and starting their course of malaria tablets, and stocking up with insect repellent and suntan lotion. Children's clothes and toys were being collected for the children of BESSO and seventeen cardboard boxes were packed ready to be flown over.

In April the British Government issued advice to tourists not to travel to India due to its conflict with Pakistan along the Kashmir border. Having planned for a year and a half for this project, STOP put this before the Lord. Three weeks before the planned departure the advice was relaxed which opened the way for plans to send the volunteers to Hosur on 28 July for two weeks.

When the volunteers arrived at the site on the first day, the building was 95% complete. It was thrilling to see the superb facility where the orphans were to live. However, there were only ten days in which to complete the building, so the volunteers really had

their work cut out. The building site was a mile from where they stayed so they hired bicycles and eight of the fourteen volunteers rode to and from work daily. They also borrowed two mopeds and a car, which helped to carry lunch, building supplies and volunteers. Work started at 8am and continued right through to 5.30pm with short breaks for lunch and rests. The work involved painting the interior walls, doors and window frames, fitting taps, shower heads, electrical switches and sockets, plumbing to and from the overhead water storage tanks, erecting swings for the children, planting saplings of mango, custard apple, guava, coconut, jackfruit and sapota, digging up boulders to create a level play area for the children and clearing the site of the building debris. The first day's work progressed better than expected and on the second day most of the painting had been completed. They were ahead of schedule and by Friday, the fifth day, all the painting was completed, most of the fruit trees planted, and almost all the plumbing finished.

In the second week the men worked on the electrics and cleared the building debris. The ladies washed the floors and shelves. They purchased bougainvilleas, rose bushes, and coleus to add colour and planted them around the property.

Application for electrical connection was made to the local authorities and it was hoped that it would be obtained by the second Monday of the group's stay. Unfortunately, local bureaucracy prevented this so a diesel generator was hired to complete the drilling work and to pump water into the overhead tank. All the plumbing

could be tested for leaks, and electrical fittings were fixed. They had completed the work with one day to spare.

A party was planned to celebrate the completion of the work. Invitations were given to all the BESSO orphan children, now numbering forty-eight, Solomon, his family and all his workers, the BESSO helpers, STOP board members, and all the volunteers from England. There were over eighty in the large hall decorated with bunting, balloons and streamers. All the children washed their hands, were seated in rows, and the volunteers served them their meals. Some volunteers even helped feed some of the younger children.

It was a great party with delicious food catered by a local restaurant that supplied ice cream for dessert. After the party they distributed the sweets and toys which were brought from England. The volunteers also bought the children skipping ropes, frisbees, footballs, volleyballs and a cricket set, and played games with them for some time. Goalposts were made from construction iron rods and a football pitch was marked out. The children were so excited they overlooked all football rules and freely chased and kicked the ball. They had never before had so much space in which to run and play in safety.

Before the children could occupy the facility, BESSO needed to sign a ten-year lease contract with STOP. At the end of the ten years the ownership of the entire facility will transfer to BESSO. On Thursday 22 August the contract was signed and registered at the Kelamangalam District Registrar's Office. That was the final formality of the BESSO Project 2002 and marked the culmination of all that STOP International had worked to achieve over the past two years.

The last day was a sad time, saying goodbye to the fifty children. (Two more were added in the final week under tragic circumstances.) The children hugged and kissed the volunteers and hung on to their arms as if to say, 'Don't leave us.' They clung on for as long as they were allowed before the volunteers had to leave. However, they parted with the satisfaction of knowing that after nearly two years of planning and two weeks of hard work on site, the children would have a comfortable, safe, hygienic living facility where they will grow and develop into young people able to face the big world outside.

STOP hopes they will recognise that a loving God provided them with new, loving friends in the volunteers from England and a decent home in which to spend their childhood, and trusts that this experience will confirm

their faith in a generous and gracious God. This same God the volunteers, as Christians, have come to know and love through his Son Jesus in whom they trust.

The total cost of the project was £31,500, and included the purchase of the land and construction of a surrounding wall with a security gate, digging a bore well, installing a pump building and furnishing the home. The STOP volunteers, their friends, well-wishers of the project and Stanborough Park church members all helped raise funds during 2001 and the beginning of 2002. The STOP fund-raising committee organised cake sales, a sponsored non-stop 24-hour badminton marathon, a sponsored bike ride, Christmas Carol singing at the local shopping mall, packing bags for customers at the local ASDA hypermarket. Funds were further boosted when a local charity, ADRA-UK, included the BESSO 2002 project on their list of fund-raising projects and committed £6,000 to STOP. Keith Didcock, a parent of one of the students at Stanborough School, Watford, requested that mourners donate money to a charity rather than buy flowers at his funeral. When he passed away earlier in 2002, his friends and family handed over the £445 donation to STOP International. A mango tree was planted in his honour at the orphanage. Another supporter of STOP International had his head shaved, which raised £400 for the project. There were numerous others who donated various sums ranging from £10 given by a local child out of pocket money originally intended to buy Christmas presents, to an individual donation of £4,000, all to make this home a reality for the children. May God bless each one of them.

STOP International has approved a project for two weeks in February/March 2003 in a town just outside Ranchi in the state of Jharkhand (Old Bihar), East India. The Prabhudas Orphanage needs classrooms in which to educate their children. STOP International is looking for volunteers committed to this work of the gospel who will give two weeks of their time and raise their own airfare, board and lodging, to complete this project. If you would like to apply to join the team, please write to: The Project Manager, The Ranchi Project, 7 The Conifers, Watford, WD25 0JP, or email: stopinternational@supanet.com.

* Kish Poddar is a teacher at Stanborough Secondary School and an elder at Stanborough Park church.

Children should be seen – and heard!

On Sabbath 31 August the children at the Wolverhampton Oxford Street church confounded the dictum that children should be seen and not heard. Directed by the leaders of the Junior Sabbath school, the children centred the day under the theme 'I can do all things through Christ'. The ages of presenters ranged from 2 to the 'veterans' aged 11; and every child executed his or her role with notable professionalism and confidence.

There were four preachers for the day: Stephen Blake (11), Benjamin Dockery (10), Jordan Palmer (11), and Naomi Brown (8). Using the story of David and Goliath, and in front of a full church and video cameras, each preacher motivated listeners to have confidence in the Lord. Watch out for these preachers in the future!

The afternoon programme incorporated a Children's Achievement Awards ceremony in which the children were publicly recognised for their individual achievements. Each child was presented with a certificate of recognition.

We are indebted to the commitment of the Sabbath school leader Collis Parchment and fellow teachers for their dedication to the children, not only for this special day but from week to week.

MARK PALMER

Adventists in the media

Two Wolverhampton Oxford Street members have received extensive media coverage over the last few months.

Ian Palmer, well known gospel singer and choir leader, received recognition from *The Times Educational Supplement*, *The Birmingham Evening Mail* and the local newspapers due to his rare role as a black, male school nurse. As well as undertaking his role as a school nurse in Birmingham, Ian is pioneering work with disaffected pupils in the city, focusing on behavioural issues and sex education. His managers and colleagues view Ian as an excellent communicator and invaluable asset within the city.

Donald Brown has built a reputation as a talented sculptor both in England and America. Articles in *The Voice* and *Nu Nation* and the local press highlight that this young man has been blessed with an exceptional gift that he has used wisely. Donald has also received accolades from world famous individuals such as the writer Maya Angelou who acknowledges that Donald is truly gifted. Trained at the University of

GREEN, Veta – d. 29 July. It is with great sorrow that we report the death of our very dear sister. Veta was born in 1931 in Sherwood Forest, Portland, Jamaica, the tenth of eleven children born to her parents, Ralph and Priscilla Bignall. She grew up in Portland where she met and married Noel Green in 1954. While living in Portland they were blessed with six children and, after their arrival in Bradford in December 1960, they were blessed with four more. Although baptised into the Adventist faith at an early age, Veta renewed her commitment to God in 1991. She knew that she should fully commit herself to the Lord who had been such a rock in the life of her late mother. At that moment in time she had no idea that the road ahead would be one that constantly tested her faith in God. Despite receiving the best of medical care, Veta, a diabetic, began to suffer health problems that resulted in the loss of both her legs. She also underwent triple heart bypass surgery that offered a 50/50% chance of survival. Throughout her trials she remained a living testimony to all who knew her. Over the years as her health deteriorated her faith in the Lord grew. She knew her God and, come what may, she lived to witness to his love and goodness. Veta drew immense strength and courage from the many promises in the Bible. In a letter to a brother she wrote that the Lord never promised that the road would be easy. He promised, 'I will never leave you. I will never abandon you. Don't be afraid or discouraged for I, the Lord your God am with you wherever you go.' It was this and the many other promises that comforted Veta when she was tired. That gave her strength when she was weak. God didn't give up on her and she didn't give up on him. She lived for the Lord and now she rests awaiting his triumphant return.

SUBMITTED BY VETAS GRANDSON SHALUN

GIRLING, Walter – d. 17 August. Walter was born in Mochdre, Newtown, Wales, where his father Walter Arthur Girling was colportearing at the time. Later he grew up in Gillingham, Kent, where his father operated a shoe repair business employing many Adventists who were finding it hard to get work due to their Sabbath needs. After some years in Kent the family moved to Winslow, Bucks, where they established a garage business. Walter was brought up in the Adventist Church and, in 1958, he and his wife Ethel helped to found the Oxford church, where he was church treasurer for many years. Walter passed away on 17 August, leaving two daughters, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren who look forward to the day when they will meet him again at the great reunion with Jesus.

JEN READ

WEDDING

BAKER-HAWKINS. On a lovely Sunday, 21 July, two of our young people were united in marriage at Crieff church. One hundred people – family and friends – were there to watch the wedding of Christopher Baker from Irvine, Scotland, and Karen Hawkins, Denver, USA. Karen wore a beautiful diamond white straight wedding dress with beaded bodice and carried cream roses. Her sister Andrea, dressed in blue, was her bridesmaid. The groom wore his Russell tartan kilt and was ably attended by his friend Keith Thompson as best man, who also wore a kilt. Two candles were lit in church by the mothers at the beginning of the service in honour of the lives of the bride and groom, and before signing the register the newlyweds lit one large candle which signified the merging of their lives together. We shall miss them as they set up home in Texas, and wish them God's blessing on their marriage.

M. BAKER

Wolverhampton in the late 80s, Donald was recently invited back by the university to receive an award in recognition of his work which spans both sides of the Atlantic.

MARK PALMER

SITUATION VACANT

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All 48 orphans



Joanna feeding some of the younger orphans



agreed with the land agent and it was purchased and dedicated for the construction of suitable living accommodation for the children of the BESSO orphanage.

Mr Ken Halls, an architect by profession and one of the STOP volunteers on the trip in 2001, drew up plans for a building measuring 3,250 square feet, capable of comfortably accommodating thirty-plus children. The plans were sent to India where building permission was obtained and STOP engaged the services of Solomon, a Christian building contractor. He had not previously attempted a project as large as this, and faced



The Oldway Mansion crowd

West Country events

On 13-15 September several members from the Bodmin, Redruth, St Austell and Plymouth churches joined together for a family camp. Ray Allen from Adventist World Radio came with his family and led the weekend break. His theme was the Love of God. We had a good time of fellowship and fun. On the Sabbath over fifty people attended from the area, plus members from Croscombe and Chelmsford churches who were down in Cornwall on holiday.

The Area 1 Day of Fellowship was held at Oldway Mansion in Paignton on Sabbath 28 September. Pastor Orville Woolford led the day's worship. His theme was, 'He is faithful'. In the afternoon he shared with us his experiences during his travels through the Trans-European Division. The day was interspersed with musical items from the youth and a song service in the afternoon.

We were also able to welcome Pastor Bertie De-Nysschen and his wife Thessie who have recently taken on Exeter and Torquay churches.

PASTOR RON CLEMON



The West Country Family Camp

The Stanborough Press Ltd Graphic designer required

A full-time position has arisen for an additional graphic designer to assist in the Pre-Press area. The successful applicant will be conversant with several software applications including QuarkExpress, Photoshop and Illustrator.

He or she will be involved in all aspects of page layout and design using a Mac-based system, working on a variety of different products including book and magazine work, brochures, leaflets, posters, etc.

Applicants must be self-motivated and able to work to challenging time-scales as part of a small team.

All replies need to be in writing and accompanied by CV before 7 November to: The Manager, The Stanborough Press Ltd, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincs, NG31 9SL.

ABC BOOK SALES 2002

Month	Location	Time
October		
27	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
November		
3	West Midlands	10am-2pm
16-17	Women's Ministries Convention	
24	John Loughborough	10am-2pm



Some of the Chalford members with SEC president Pastor Don McFarlane and local minister Pastor Richard Daly

Chalford: 50 years' celebration

Sabbath 4 September was a very special day in the life of Chalford church. It marked the commemoration of the 50 years since the church commenced with a special celebratory service.

A church that normally holds only a handful of faithful members each week was totally transformed, beautifully decorated and filled to capacity with over sixty past members and pastors in attendance, and visitors from the local community.

The service began with a warm and vibrant welcome by the present minister, Pastor Richard Daly, followed by an appropriate hymn 'Now thank we all our God'.

Former ministers, Pastors Ron Davey, Margaret Stewart, Ian Lorek and Derek Clothier, were given the opportunity to share their experiences during their pastorates at Chalford. Gerald Whiting and Basil Hyatt, two of the longest-standing members, shared the history of Chalford church from its inception to the present day. Basil Hyatt also received a special plaque from the church for his many years of faithful and dedicated service and for initially drawing up the plans for the building.

The guest speaker for the day was conference president Pastor Don McFarlane whose sermon was entitled 'Built on the Rock'. We were reminded that with the church being built on the 'rock', Christ Jesus, it will always be triumphant.

The day's celebrations ended with a fellowship lunch at the village hall.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Basil Hyatt with the plaque honouring his faithful, dedicated service to the church

her and we are all rejoicing with her.

JOY MONTEITH

Bread and water

Harvest Thanksgiving service in Torquay church was different this year. Our display was just bread and water, with emphasis on how fortunate we are in this country with our many choices of food, compared with those who think themselves lucky to eat at

all. Thanks to the generosity of Safeways in Paignton who donated some of the bread, our display showed twenty-two different types of bread that are easily obtainable in our shops. During one of the hymns, members of the congregation came forward with donations to put into one of the large baskets in the display. The grand sum of £146 was sent to ADRA.

JEN READ

For a complete list of upcoming events check out the database on the BUC website, www.adventist.org.uk.

Messenger

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Sunset

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

	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Oct 25	5.47	5.59	5.48	5.49	6.03
Nov 1	4.34	4.46	4.34	4.33	4.48
8	4.22	4.34	4.21	4.18	4.34
15	4.12	4.24	4.10	4.06	4.22

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