

Messenger



Largest ever gathering of Adventists in Britain

John SurrIDGE, BUC Communication director, reports on the SEC Day of Fellowship

On Sabbath 26 April approximately seven thousand Adventists gathered at the Wembley Arena in London for a special South England Conference Day of Fellowship. The event celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the SEC and focused on the task of reaching unchurched, secular people through the LIFEdevelopment initiative. According to SEC president Pastor Don McFarlane, the day also broke some records. 'We are making history today,' he said. 'We believe that this is the largest ever gathering of Seventh-day Adventists in Britain.' Pastor McFarlane went on to remind those present of their heritage and mentioned E. J. Waggoner, who became the Conference's first president back in 1902.

England – 'Post-Christian'

Guest speaker for the morning was Dr Dwight K. Nelson of the Pioneer Memorial church in Berrien Springs, Michigan. In his address he focused on the need for Adventist evangelism to become more relevant to the inhabitants of predominantly secular countries such as England. 'England is now post-Christian,' he said. 'It is as secular as secular can be.' Issuing a personal challenge to every 'enlightened' Adventist church member in the audience he asked, 'How many people are in your social circle? Isn't it true that we Adventists have become so cloistered that our friendship lists do not include those who are outside where it is dark?' Spelling out the practical implications of this he went on to explain that post-Christian westerners want to belong before they believe, and turning to the President sitting behind him he said, 'Pastor McFarlane, we are going to have to reverse some of our methods.'

In fact the concept of 'friendship evangelism', which appears so radical to many, is already being heavily promoted throughout the

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Dr Dwight Nelson



Just part of the congregation



Left, Praise and Worship team, right, Chris Rogers conducts the orchestra



Pastor Don McFarlane

VOP at its best!

A little faithfulness goes a very long way

by Mike Stickland, principal, Adventist Discovery Centre

Do you know when VOP lessons work best? When local people get themselves committed to visiting the correspondence students. You see, there is only so much that we can do 'remotely'. Eventually we need to get someone local to visit – and not just a one-off visit but a regular contact. Tracey's story is a good example of what I mean.*

Tracey came from the Caribbean a few years ago, but unfortunately she made one serious mistake and ended up in prison. Inside, realising how stupid her actions had been and how severe the

consequences, she began to come to her senses about life. But she was not as 'alone' as she thought. The local church came prison visiting and VOP cards were left around. Tracey picked one up.

I first became aware of Tracey in 2000 when she sent in a Visiting Order (VO) so that Pastor Emmanuel Osei could visit. Meanwhile, the authorities had moved her to another prison. I sent her a magazine, answered several of her questions and sent the VO to her new local pastor. Like Pastor Osei, Pastor Barry Alen is one you can rely on to make prison visits and it

wasn't long before Tracey was writing telling us of the delightful times she enjoyed.

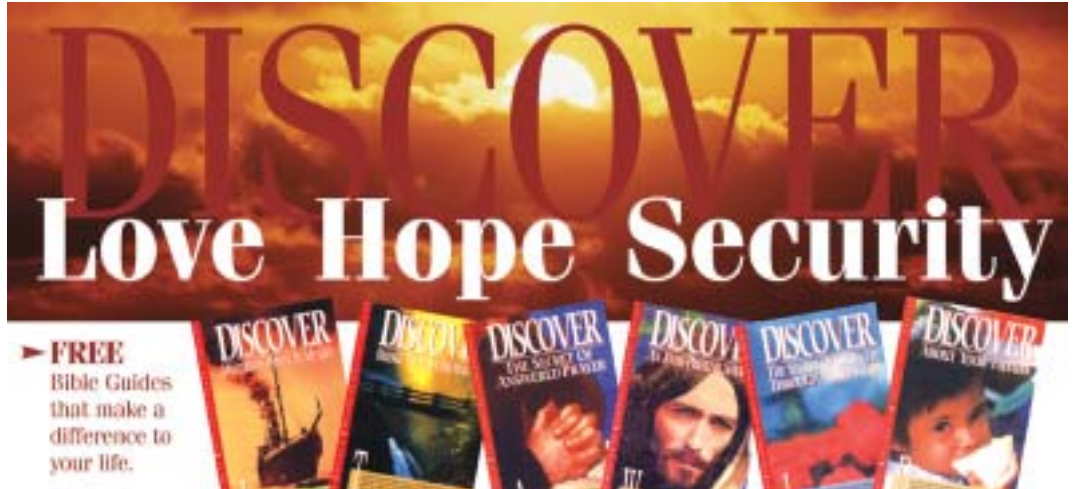
This is when the really good work began. We kept up the Bible correspondence lessons. We sent her some sermon tapes to listen to on Sabbaths. And the local team kept up the visits. Even when Tracey was moved on to another location, they kept up the contact. In 2002 she wrote to us, 'Thank you for all your support and prayers. I am sure that God is working in my life today. I have a lot more strength than I had two years ago. I'm also writing for a friend in here. Can you please drop her a line, if possible have someone visit her. She doesn't have anyone. She would also like to start the Bible course.'

Tracey was returned to the Caribbean as soon as she was released. Terry and

Linda Clark, who had been on the prison visiting team, took a cruise that went past her island. 'It was a very emotional meeting,' Linda reported, 'She ran to greet us at the cruise terminal and took us to meet her family. She has settled into a church. She has renewed her family relationships. She has a job. She has found a small flat. We left her very aware that many prayers had been answered. Tracey looks well and is happy, and she is making an independent life with God's direction and leading.'

What can I say? Simply this – you can help us make so much more of ADC/VOP contacts if you will commit to visiting and serving the students who live in your town, even if they are in prison. If you hear God calling, don't turn a deaf ear. A little faithfulness goes a very long way!

* Name changed to protect identity.



Healthwise

with Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

God in the Brain

The title of the BBC *Horizon* programme screened on 17 April highlighted an ongoing area of research concerning brain centres thought to respond to religious feeling and experience. In recent years the temporal lobes of the brain have been subject to close scrutiny in this regard.

As part of the research, Dr Michael Persinger (of Laurentian University), has devised a transcranial magnetic stimulator with the specific object of stimulating the temporal lobes to produce religious experience. Since many temporal lobe epilepsy sufferers report such experiences, it has been thought that the chemistry of this region of the brain (approximating to the areas immediately above the ears) may even originate religious experiences such as 'divine' voices and visions. Programme producers have chosen to include the visions of Ellen G. White as a possible evidence of this following her being accidentally hit in the face by a stone.

It should be said that this is not a new allegation. Two physicians around 1990 made the same speculation. Ronald Numbers (*Prophets of Health*, 1992, first published in 1976) refers to their comments regarding complex partial seizures 'often entailing altered consciousness,

auditory or visual hallucinations, automatic movements, staring, and perseveration of speech.' While doing Adventism no favours in his writing even Numbers is forced to conclude that 'White's behaviour differs in significant ways from someone experiencing complex partial seizures: She apparently spoke clearly and lucidly during her visions, emerged from them with a clear mind, and did not suffer the amnesia, disorientation, or terror so often associated with complex partial seizures' (pages 211, 212). It is generally agreed that a stone thrown at the face would not have caused epileptic seizures.

Ann Taves (*Fits, Trances & Visions*, 1999), in a critical review of those having visions in the popular religions of Mrs White's day, contrasts Ellen White with the mesmerists and Spiritualists: 'Where Adventists demonised mesmeric psychology, the Spiritualists embraced it. Where Ellen White disavowed any similarity between herself and clairvoyant somnambules, the Spiritualists recognised a clairvoyant somnambule as the forerunner of their movement.' (page 165).

Numbers says, and Traves notes (page 399), that while Mrs White's visions and those of her contemporaries were often similar, she was able to distance herself from

the other visionaries by the spiritual content of her visions. It is to be expected that at this crucial time of spiritual reform the era would have its counterfeit 'gifts'.

Some 50 million people suffer from epilepsy, 50-70 cases per 100,000 of the population. Only a small percentage hear voices or music, or have 'spiritual' experiences. Of that small percentage none is recorded as having such clear lucid thoughts that they can address others in great detail; see people and structures not even then existing; or lay the plans with deep theological insight that enabled a church to be founded and grow internationally.

Seventh-day Adventists have nothing to fear from such charges. Be it epileptic fits, mercurial poisoning, mesmerism or spiritualism, the life of Ellen G. White shows more dissimilarities to these conditions than superficial similarities. God does not force himself on us (which is implied if fits are involuntary); we choose whom we love and serve. Mrs White's experiences have stood the test of time. 'By their fruits' is still the standard test.



Standup comedians used to make fun of the northern town in which I went to school. But I didn't mind. In fact, I thought of the real character of the town as a well-kept secret. On my way to and from the railway station I savoured the town's tree-lined avenues, its old market square and its characterful shops. The old bookshop – Albert Gait's – pioneered the use of well-stuffed sofas for punters to sit and ponder their potential purchases.

In our last summer holiday we had a free day between outings. I suggested to my wife that we take a trip down memory lane. Although the memories were all mine, she agreed.

We drove north. The roads into the town had been vastly improved in the thirty-five years since my previous visit. We found parking without difficulty. Then we went in search of my old haunts. Right off we were faced with a problem. The square tower of the church that dominated the landscape in old times had disappeared. Or so I thought at first. It was eventually found quite dwarfed by an early 70s hotel built of tat. We looked in vain for the old market place. It had been built over! The centre of the square was occupied by characterless – and all but featureless – shops, again early 70s kitsch (liberally bedaubed with graffiti in which a generation expressed its understandable pain!).

Nevertheless I decided that if Chambers' shop, from which used to waft the delicious aroma of home-ground coffee, and Albert Gait's bookshop were still there, I could forgive much. They were not!

Worse was to come. Round the corner the street in which pukka department stores once stood cheek by jowl and trolleybuses jostled – was empty! The stone-built barber shop – which might have been a last reminder of a time when I had use for such establishments! – had been levelled. What raw work was pulled by the planners to get permission for that one? I wondered.

A few yards away was a giant oblong – you guessed it: naff 70s tat – which contained all the shops in little boxes, each like every other, quite without character. Had they rehoused Albert Gait? Sadly, no. Though W. H. Smith appeared to be using his sofa!

I was not yet quite defeated. You see, that town was big enough to support two shopping centres. My determination not to be totally robbed of my memories quickened my step. For a time, anyway. When we reached the multi-tracked railway crossing where the great 'fast trains to King's Cross' once set out on their journeys, there was but a single track – and a noisy, congested road where the rails once ran. The other shopping street had not been demolished in favour of a 70s shopping mall. The old Victorian buildings were still there – with a number of late-60s tower blocks for backdrop – but the shop windows were boarded up. And the words of the prophets were spray-painted on the chipboarding, as well as on the subway walls, the tenement halls – and, doubtless, the stairwells of the tower blocks – and their message was: 'Ichabod: for the glory has departed.'

Straight ahead was the 309-foot Italianate tower – once a symbol of the community's prosperity, now a lonely reminder that all around it was decay and detritus. Along the boarded-up street there was a pale beggar every hundred yards or so, each one sitting and accompanied by a dog and, presumably, the notion that substance abuse was the only way to survive the concrete wilderness. The description by Herodotus of Babylon post-Darius was hardly more poignant of a glory that had been than the scene we left behind at a fast canter.

My memories belonged to an age of prosperity, and that had fallen victim to the collapse of the staple industry, as the town itself had fallen victim to the planners. Memory Lane ended in Dead-end Street.

That is how it is with memory lane. And that is how it will always be – as long as our past is littered with the consequences of wrong choices. The past, it has been said, is another country; and memory is an unreliable lens through which to view it. 'For if a man is in Christ he becomes a new person altogether – the past is finished and gone, everything has become fresh and new.' (2 Corinthians 5:17, Phillips.)

The consequences of some past decisions may remain with us, but the stuff of which Christ remakes us is independent of anything as unreliable as memory and its backdrops.

Before Copernicus the Earth was assumed to be the centre of the universe. Before we came to Christ we thought everything revolved around us.

Copernicus demonstrated that planets orbited around the sun. Since the Copernican revolution in our lives we have experienced a radical reorientation. Self is no longer the centre. Christ is. We are not the product of our past. We are the emerging product of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives.

The universe is not geocentric. Life is not *egocentric*. Both the universe and life are *Christocentric*.

Christ is the centre because he both made and remakes us; died for us and rose to model and empower the resurrection life. When the resurrection light shines, the shadows of the past disappear. When we sin we need not be destroyed; we can repent and be reborn. When others wrong us we need not be warped by bitterness; we are privileged to be able to forgive as we have been forgiven. And, once reborn, forgiven and forgiving, ours is a ministry of reconciliation. 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.' (2 Corinthians 5:17, 18, NIV.)

So what if our past is a mess? Repent, be reborn – *be reconciled!* Who wants to revisit the past? Leave it, and move on!

When Memory Lane leads to Dead-end Street



Teens and sexuality

'I don't do sex. I'm a radical!'

Who said that? Ben Elton put those words into the mouth of one of his heroines. However, the first of the two sentences represents the stance that Adventist young people – male and female – have to take when they start out with relationships at 15, 16, or whenever. And it is the stance that they continue to take until they marry.

'Where have you been for the last thirty years?' I hear you ask.

It is in the nature of each generation, apparently, to believe that it has invented sex and all about it. Strange, when you come to think of it, given how we all originated. But, despite being married for around thirty years, I still get 16-year-olds talking down to me about sex as if it's a subject about which, because of their age, they have all the knowledge; whereas, because of mine, I have a monopoly on the ignorance.

The fact is that whatever hot blast of sex education there is these days (and I, for one, don't believe it is much better than it was thirty years ago), there are certain rules and principles that are eternal because God is eternal. Of course, back in the 60s, our generation was certain sure that it had invented sex. The truth, of course, is that we were the first generation to talk about it – endlessly, if I recall. Back then, it was in the nature of 'the older generation' to talk about what 'the younger generation' was doing. In fact, *to talk up* what the younger generation was doing; the reputation the 60s have for promiscuity largely comes from the testimony of 'the older generation' from that decade. Older generations must always be careful about taking a prurient interest in the doings of the young. But there is still the matter of those principles that are eternal and apply in *every* generation . . .

A very senior pastor was on the line to me yesterday. He had brought up a family of his own; but was concerned that God's eternal rules had been too widely set aside by contemporary young people in his congregations.

In upholding God's sex-only-in-marriage principle, you would be mistaken to assume that I am ignorant of the fact that, for many years, a high proportion of our youth have been disloyal to God's principle. Nevertheless, I believe in God and God's principles. More than that, I am certain that those principles are there to maximise human happiness. I am also aware of astonishing examples of youth who, having been faithful to God and his principles, have been bountifully blessed as a result.

Permit me to share with you the experience of Jay. Yes, of course that is not her proper name. But, believe me: *Jay is real*.

Jay comes from a good Adventist home. What's my definition of 'a good Adventist home'? A home where there is family worship and there are praying parents who seek to raise their children according to

Seventh-day Adventist principles. Not a home of toxic, finger-wagging righteousness; but a home where there is love, communication, prayer – and Christ.

When she was 16 it became obvious that Jay would soon be attracting a lot of attention from the opposite sex. She did. At first it was from older boys intent on warning Jay about the predatory tendencies of her male contemporaries; and that was good. Inevitably, there were those Adventist young men whose approach to her was more amorous; that, too, was entirely healthy. At first, that is. Very soon, Adventist young men were putting Jay under a lot of pressure to 'do sex'; and that was neither good nor healthy. The arguments they used on Jay were actually voiced, too (disgracefully), by the father of a sexually disappointed son: 'Jay, this virginal attitude of yours is outrageous. If you think my son – or anybody else – is going to wait until you are ready to get married, you've got another think coming!'

You will find it all the more astonishing when I tell you that Jay was still in the Sixth Form when she heard those words and withstood those pressures. But withstand them she did. She noticed that, if anything, the pressure to 'do sex' from the boys in her College of FE was less than from the boys in her church community. Indeed, it was in College that she encountered a rather extrovert Christian of another denomination. He was a big, burly Ghanaian who walked around with a crucifix round his neck. He once reduced the lunchtime canteen uproar to silence by announcing, from the front of the dinner queue, 'I'm a virgin and I'm proud of it!' That was a real moment of liberation and represented one extrovert Christian's approach to social pressures!

In the fullness of time, Jay went to university. Inevitably the pressures continued. But now she was ready for them. To the first boy who used the tired old, 'If you love me' line, she announced, like Ben Elton's character, 'Hey! I'm a radical! I don't do sex.' And, in an atmosphere in which promiscuous sex is the norm, radical is right!

Asked why she's a radical, Jay replies; 'You've got to be prepared to be a radical, a revolutionary, to stand out. The norm is that sex in every relationship is an expectation; it's not even an issue, it's the norm. I revolt against that. I don't do sex – to protect both my heart and my body. Get involved with that stuff – and you give too deep, of both.'

I applaud Jay's radical stance, and – even aside of the issues of right and wrong – I'll give you ten reasons why:

- ❖ Sexual indulgence can hurt and will never help a relationship. Mature sexuality requires discipline. Even within marriage, a mature expression of sexuality calls for a careful balance between indulgence and suppression.
- ❖ Sexual indulgence before marriage can prevent



the development of a relationship along more important lines. Sex drives are tremendously powerful in the adolescent years; given half a chance they will dominate an entire friendship. Lasting friendships that are free of regrets require the sharing of ideas and ambitions – not sex.

- ❖ Sexual expression involves committing oneself in trust and surrender to another; and it can lead to premature and inappropriate commitments.
- ❖ Much mock is made of marriage as 'a piece of paper'; however, anyone who has been involved in divorce or child custody proceedings will be aware how much weight is attached to that piece of paper. It represents a public declaration, acknowledged by the Church, the State, the courts, and a host of friends – not to mention the future children. And it gives a hefty dose of security to a marriage.
- ❖ Forty years ago the ready availability of the Pill seemed to undercut an important argument in favour of premarital abstinence. The problem was (and is): few girls *plan* to be promiscuous. That's why Britain has the highest rate of teenage pregnancies in Europe.
- ❖ The very fact that so many are promiscuous (and the fact that you can't pick them out from the others) accounts for the fact that AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases have achieved pandemic proportions.
- ❖ Sex before marriage prompts distrust: 'If he/she gave in to me, how many more?'
- ❖ Premarital sex often stems from unhealthy motives: a girl who purchases emotional security by offering her body; a boy out to prove his virility. Premarital sex keeps poor company and ruins good company.
- ❖ Practice doesn't make perfect. The 'trial-and-error' game is a tragic, destructive mistake.
- ❖ Premarital sex blunts your ability to enter into the beauty of postmarital sex. Marital sex is a love-offering of oneself; and such complete self-giving must be made in the most secure context possible. Premarital sex robs a new marriage of one of its strongest binding forces.

Old fashioned? Yes; like God. And like God – and Jay and the Ben Elton character – *radical*. Seriously radical! God calls for radicals – and rewards them throughout their lives.

DAVID MARSHALL

Words at War

by David West

The flood of words and pictures in the media coverage of the Iraq conflict reminded me of aspects of the Great Controversy. Some of the phrases we heard again and again rang bells in my mind. See what you think.

'Who can you believe?' Listening to the claims, counterclaims, condemnations and comments of all and sundry on both sides, it is obvious that in war Truth is still the first casualty. 'Who can you trust?' is the key question now as ever. We don't have all the information we would like. We search for answers to difficult questions. In the end we have to make up our minds on the basis of the evidence available to us at this time. When the war is finally over we will see things more clearly. For the moment, Truth has been 'cast to the ground'.

'The battle for hearts and minds.' Some feel that in Heaven, as in Iraq, raw power is all that matters. Since God is almighty and has limitless power at his disposal he should just squash the enemy and liberate the oppressed. They wonder why he didn't do it long ago. However, in the Great Controversy, just as in Iraq, the real battle is for 'hearts and minds'. Years of fear and deception have taken their toll. People are unwilling to express their true feelings when a ruthless dictator demands unconditional obedience and rigid conformity. In Iraq all questioning and disagreement were ruthlessly suppressed. Freedom and democracy seem to be at a disadvantage when faced with tyranny and terror. On the face of things the power of love seems an unfair match for the love of power. For God and the Coalition, 'shock and awe' alone can never and will never produce the desired result. 'The exercise of force is contrary to the principles of God's government; He desires only the service of love; and love cannot be commanded: it cannot be won by force or authority. Only by love is love awakened.' *The Desire of Ages*, page 22.

'Regime Change.' That's what it was all supposed to be about. It's fascinating to reflect that Iraq was the approximate venue for the first

use of deadly propaganda in the perfect freedom of Eden. God promised that regime change would ultimately be achieved, but not without pain and suffering both to himself and all those caught up in the chaos of war. (Even the roots of the English word 'war' lie in the concept of confusion). God wants people freely to choose his way of running the universe but the enemy is still having a field day with death and destruction here on earth.

'Friendly Fire.' The ultimate nightmare is to be hit by your own side. Yet Christians have been doing it for centuries. Christians have killed more Christians than atheists ever have. And the tragedy is that 'spiritual friendly fire' is still going on today in our own churches. People are the victims of character assassination, innuendo and gossip. In distress they often turn away from the God whose love and compassion are being mocked by those who claim to be his fans (fanatics?). Some people find fault as if it were hidden treasure. Sometimes their critical attitude is a cover-up for their own concealed feelings of guilt on similar issues. The results of 'friendly fire' are a gift to the enemy propaganda machine.

'Past friends become present enemies.' Who trained Iraq's military and supported them when it was Iran who seemed to pose the greatest threat in the Middle East? The Coalition is now fighting an erstwhile ally. Who is God's greatest foe? Lucifer, who at one time was his pre-eminent light bearer. Now, as the Accuser, Lucifer is God's most implacable enemy. And ours!

'What does the future hold?' As Tony Blair said in an interview broadcast on Friday 4 April 2003; 'In the end the question is, Is the Iraq of the future going to be a better place than it is now?' How do you feel about the future God is preparing for us after the investigation and judgement of what went wrong in the universe has taken place? We will all be involved in that process. God will put everything on the table for examination. Mr Blair has faith in a future scenario that is built on his hopes and dreams and he



doesn't shy away from sharing his optimism. Are we presenting a realistic and positive picture of a post-conflict heavenly government that will win others to share our Blessed Hope and rally people to the side of God's coalition?

'How long will it take?' The answer seems to be the same in both Heaven

and Iraq – 'as long as it takes'. Of course, we all want it to be over as soon as possible. Sadly for us we do not know all the ins and outs and thus we often feel frustrated – especially when the innocent suffer as they always do in areas of conflict. It's hard to say, 'God's purposes know no haste and no delay' and trust in his promise to return.

'A closing thought.' 'It is Satan's constant effort to misrepresent the character of God. . . . He causes [people] to cherish false conceptions of God so that they regard Him with fear and hate rather than with love. The cruelty inherent in his own character is attributed to the Creator; it is embodied in systems of religion and expressed in modes of worship. Thus the minds of men are blinded, and Satan secures them as his agents to war against God.' *The Great Controversy*, page 569.

Sunday
31 August 2003

Open Day is changing!
Make sure you keep
31 August free so that
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- * Specialist Morning Seminars
- * Exciting programme of events – featuring the

Adventist Chorale

and special guest speaker
Jeff Brown

- * Combined sales area bigger and better than ever before!
- * New church stall facilities
- * Children's activities

Largest ever gathering of Adventists in Britain

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Dwight Nelson

Ullanda Alexander

British Union Conference under the banner of LIFEdevelopment. For over a year now Pastor McFarlane and his fellow administrators have been encouraging their pastors and members to get involved with the project, which aims to help individuals build up a network of friends in preparation for a satellite television series entitled 'Evidence' that Pastor Nelson will be broadcasting from London next year.

However, Pastor Nelson's sermon was not simply a call to witness, it was also a call to Jesus Christ. Following an appeal 'not for re-commitment but for people who are as yet undecided to give their lives to Jesus', a crowd of some one hundred people gathered in front of the stage. As Pastor Nelson prayed for these people others in the congregation could be seen openly crying as they, perhaps, relived the commitment they had once made themselves.

Let's Praise: Music Festival

History was also made during the evening musical programme when the International Adventist Symphony Orchestra performed for the first time. Formed under the auspices of the Adventist Musicians' Association and conducted by Chris Rogers, the eighty-piece orchestra drew musicians from countries such as Switzerland, Serbia, Russia, Iceland, Australia and South Korea, as well as British

musicians from a variety of cultural heritages.

The orchestra was backed by a 200-strong massed choir, combining the voices of more than ten separate choirs, including the internationally famous London Adventist Chorale. Ken Burton, television celebrity and conductor of the London Adventist Chorale, co-hosted the evening with Madeline McQueen and Gary Wynne, and introduced a wide variety of items, ranging from a Rachmaninov piano concerto performed by the orchestra and soloist Junko Urayama, to lively spirituals sung by artists such as Denise Wint, Paul Lee, Ullanda Alexander, 3D and Blessed Voices, to name but a few.

Once again time worked against the performers and congregation and, although the programme was allowed to run for an hour more than was originally intended, some items had to be left out. However, the abiding memory of most of those who stayed to the end will be of the impressive quality and spirituality of the performances.

In his closing comments British Union Conference president Pastor Cecil Perry returned to the theme of LIFEdevelopment. 'I challenge you to search your community and tell others what Jesus has done for you,' he said. Dwight Nelson had the final word and in his benediction he echoed the words

of the closing song. 'We know that in a little while we are going home, but our prayer is that we won't go home alone.'

Behind the Scenes

It would be impossible for an event as large as this to go off without a hitch and a number of issues had to be managed creatively during the day.

To start with, many Church members had arrived very early and queues were stretching right around the block when the doors were finally opened. Once inside they faced a further problem: technicians were still involved in major construction work around the stage area.

Apparently an 'S-Club' concert, which had been held in the Arena the night before, had overrun by several hours. This delayed the setting up of the stage area which, in turn, held up the lighting, sound and video crews, and led to the whole programme starting more than half an hour later than planned. However, looking on the bright side, this did mean that everyone was seated and ready when things finally got under way.

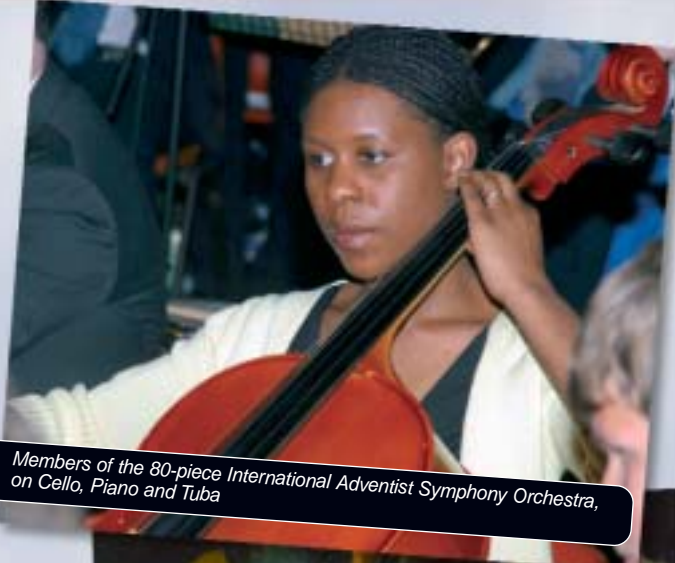
Another logistical challenge was that of giving each person who attended a 'gift bag'. This was a promotional exercise for LIFEdevelopment organised by Pastor Dalbert Elias. A team of young people from

Grantham, led by *LIFE.info* magazine editor Lee Gallaher, helped in the packing and distribution of the bags and in the end everyone received a plastic bag sporting a bright orange LIFEdevelopment logo, plus a pen, *LIFE.info* magazine, and various other bits and pieces. Surprisingly, at the end of the day there were very few bags left lying around so people must have taken them home as planned.

Live video projection has become an essential feature of major Adventist events these days, but in a hall the size of the Wembley Arena it presents particular challenges. In this case the system was managed by Paul Weekes, who also directed the video at the Albert Hall Day of Fellowship in 1999. The final rig needed several kilometres of cable, four cameras and crew, plus a television production van located out in the car park.

Thanks

Hundreds of people worked very hard to make the whole day a success. Only a very few have been mentioned in this article. However they are listed in more detail in the colourful printed programme which was given to everyone at the event. Designed by Becky de Oliveira these will no doubt become collectors' items, highly valued by aficionados of Adventist special events. Try to get hold of one if you can.



Members of the 80-piece International Adventist Symphony Orchestra, on Cello, Piano and Tuba



Mark Bunny on the sax



Abigail Murphy



Murray Harvey talks about Café Blue



Ken Burton



Annalee Taylor and Keron Rhamie



Gary Wynne and Madeline McQueen

NEC Festival of Mission & Praise

words and photos: Des Rafferty,
Communication sponsor, NEC

Over three thousand people gathered in the Wolverhampton Civic Hall and the adjacent Wulfrun Hall on Sabbath 19 April. The vast congregation, larger in number than Camp Meeting Sabbath attendance, was there to join the celebration and challenge of a 'Festival of Mission and Praise'.

The day of fellowship, a first of its kind besides Camp Meeting and Conference Session days of fellowship, sought as its objective to 'share the vision of reaching the wider community of the unchurched using the LIFE-Development.info initiative,' said Pastor Egerton Francis, president of the NEC. Pastor Miroslav Pujic, assisted by excited and energetic colleagues, carefully outlined the steps involved in the LDi initiative, which includes the already much-acclaimed *LIFE.info* magazine designed to assist in our 'getting connected'. Messages of approval of the magazine's content and presentation are being received on a daily basis from many people and public figures, demonstrating its universal appeal.

Dr Dwight Nelson, assisted by the appealing, melodious voice of his wife Karen, challenged the congregation to consider the methods, means and management of the Gospel commission. A commission so universal in its appeal encourages each Christian to be a reflector of God's light to mankind and to dispel the dark shadows of our communities with a hope bring-

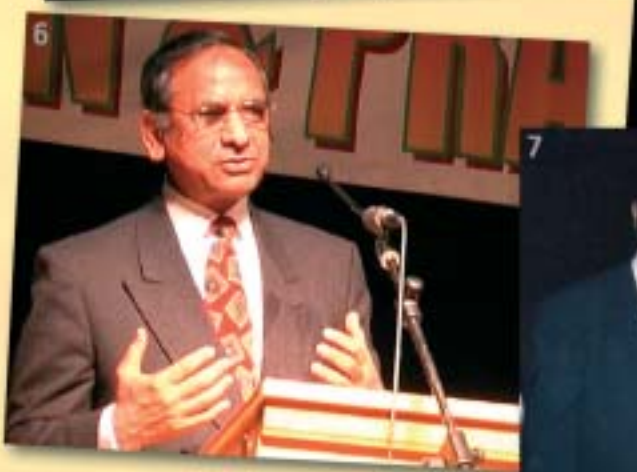
ing, life-changing understanding of God.

From a variety of personal testimonies and working examples by those who are taking the good news to the streets, to songs of hope and expected triumph by choirs, groups, soloists and congregational hymns, the vision of a church that cares for everyone was held up as a template for all would-be followers of Jesus.

An extremely vibrant parallel programme was offered to the children in attendance which included mime, music and captivating presentations throughout the day from a dedicated team of presenters including a memorable spell binding address from Dr Nelson. Regrettably, requests for church to convene the following Sabbath had to be met with the reality that all good things have to come to an end, at least for the time being!

Pastor Cecil Perry, president of the British Union Conference, extended his congratulations to the North England Conference and its administration for planning such a 'well executed Day of Fellowship, one that fulfilled its objective and carried such a rich variety of messages, promotions, testimonies and music'. In response to the day Pastor Francis said, 'We thank God for a very successful day and for all those who contributed to its quality and impressive achievement.'

The success of the day will now ultimately be gauged by the quality of the friendships made for eternity.



1. Choir from Nottingham Central. 2. Mrs Karen Nelson. 3. Dr Dwight Nelson. 4 & 5. Pastor Dalbert Elias and Lee Gallaher talk about LIFE.info magazine. 6. Pastor Dalbir Masih. 7. Pastor D. W. McFarlane, Dr Dwight Nelson and Pastor Cecil Perry (Photo by Marvin Patterson). 8. Choir leader Mike Baker. 9. Prayer of Consecration. 10. Wolverhampton Choir. 11. Brian Allen. 12. Ian Philpott, Walsall.





Honours List

Two Grantham church members were included in the *Grantham Journal's* New Year's Honours list for services to the community. They were among 75 people who were presented with their medallions at a special event in the Marriott Hotel.

The awardees were Mrs Pat Eastwood, head teacher of our Adventist Dudley House School, and Mrs Zenia Ferguson, a carer. Mrs Eastwood was nominated for her award by an appreciative parent of one of the schoolchildren, while Mrs Ferguson was nominated by one of the clients for whom she cares. It is nice to see the community recognising the value of Christian lives and ministry.

Retirees. Grantham church has recently arranged two functions for its 50-odd retired members, and is planning three more for the spring and summer. They meet for a pot-luck luncheon at the church hall then spend the afternoon playing table games and other activities, or listening to a guest speaker. To add interest, each meeting has a different theme. Retired pastors Ron Surridge and John Trim have led out in the planning, seeing this as a form of ministry to our older members.

24-hour fast. Grantham church member Vera Lindsay has just completed her eighth annual 24-hour fast to raise money for World Vision, an international Christian charity dispensing aid to needy areas of the world. This time she raised £140 from sponsors, bringing her total to date to more than £1,000.

JOHN B. TRIM

Gloucestershire's new pastor

On Sabbath 8 March, SEC president Pastor Don McFarlane formally introduced the new pastor, Stefan Burton-Schnull, to the Gloucester and Chalford congregations. In his introduction, Pastor McFarlane commended Pastor Stefan to both churches, and spoke of the warmth and vitality of the pastor, his wife Barbara, and family. He assured the church that if the pastor and his family, in return, received the same warmth and affection and support, then both churches could only move forward. The churches have already taken Pastor Stefan, Barbara, and his family to their hearts.

Pastor McFarlane, accompanied by his wife, who presented the children's story, based his sermon on the theme, 'If you could live your life all over again'.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Bring 'n' Buy Sales

The Community Services department of Burngreave church, Sheffield, held a Bring 'n' Buy Sale on 20 March. The site of the sale – the church's youth hall. People from round about queued before the doors were open. A similar sale occurred on 26 September. Both sales were considered doubly successful in that, as well as raising much needed funds, they raised a friendly awareness of other aspects of our church activity.

ROSEMARY BLENMAN



Heaven on Earth at Canterbury

Have you ever had a perfect Sabbath experience? Well, on Sabbath 5 April the Canterbury church held a baptism ceremony that brought Heaven down to Earth for one afternoon.

The weather was perfectly sunny and bright with a tang of spring in the air. The church was packed to overflowing with people from all walks of life and representing over ten nationalities, including friends and family of the five baptismal candidates. All the candidates were young people ranging from 10 to 18 years of age.

South England Conference president Pastor Don McFarlane preached an inspiring sermon in which he gave a personal testimony as to why he

was a Christian. As the candidates were being immersed, the congregation sang 'Just as I am', and tears of joy ran down the cheeks of many.

All who attended the baptism felt uplifted and blessed and left with a memorable impression of how great it is when heaven comes down and glory fills our souls.

Canterbury church pastor Fernand Lombart thanked all those who contributed to the programme, including Pastors McFarlane and Claude Lombart, elder John Wilson, and those who contributed musical items – Jerry Barreto, Dr Lynn Ritz, and some members of the Deep Persuasion group.

RALPH LOMBART

Left to right: Pastor Fernand Lombart, baptismal candidates Fernanda Maria, Valerie Denise and Jose Samuel Reyes Rochin, Andrew and Annabelle Lombart, Pastor Don McFarlane (SEC president)



Christ in our Crisis

by Joan Reid

On Sabbath 1 March Brixton church warmly welcomed Dr Ron Smith to England and to the church. He had come in response to an invitation to be the guest speaker at our two-week campaign entitled *Experience the Power – 2*.

Dr Smith is currently the editor of the *Message* magazine and also serves as a pastor in Washington DC, USA. He holds a number of academic degrees and is widely experienced in biblical research. Despite his many achievements, however, he humbly attested that above everything else, his main qualification is that he is a child of God.

Dr Smith's theme for the week was 'Christ in our Crisis' and each night except Thursday he presented real-life truths substantiated by some of his near death experiences and his miraculous recovery from illnesses and accidents through his deep faith in God's power and much prayer.

During the second week of the campaign, Pastor Hamilton Williams, pastor of the church, was the main speaker. Within his capacity as author, evangelist and life coach, Pastor Williams gave the congregation some salient health tips and memorable quotations each night for both physical and personal well-being, such as, 'Some people succeed because they are destined to but most people succeed because they are determined to.' His soul-searching presentations from the Word were supported by relevant slides and pictures on screen.

The campaign was further highlighted by beautiful singing from Christine Sinclair, an international Gospel recording artiste from Connecticut, USA. Christine has been singing on the international stage from the age of 7 and, more recently, has performed throughout the United States, in several European countries and in the Caribbean. As the singing evangelist for the campaign, she warmed the hearts of all who heard.

The overriding focus of the campaign was that, like Hosea and Gomer, regardless of how far we go from him, God is always willing and ready to take us back and claim us as his own.

At the end of the campaign, nine persons were baptised, seven ladies and two men, including a brother and sister, Kieron and Kerri-Ann Wilson aged 10 and 8 respectively. The campaign ended with the rousing theme song, 'What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought, since Jesus came into my heart.'



Pastor Hamilton Williams, Christine Sinclair and Dr Ron Smith

Sabbath School Visitors' Day

Sabbath School Visitors' Day was celebrated on 28 September 2002 in the Burngreave church, Sheffield. The pastor of the church in Birmingham was speaker at the divine service, Pastor Jeff Nicholson. He took faith as the theme of his sermon which he illustrated profusely with stories of the progress of Christianity in the days of pagan Rome. The congregation comprised a large proportion of visitors from near and abroad. The same theme was taken up by local speakers during the afternoon service and interspersed with admonitions and renditions of special music.

ROSEMARY BLENMAN

Young achievers

Members of the Adventurer and Pathfinder Club at Stanborough Park church marched into the family service on Sabbath 5 April, carrying the Union Flag and their club flags. It was Investiture Day and the thirty-five youngsters together earned 156 awards and honours. The highest achiever was their club director Mr Bernell Bussue, who became a Master Guide. Special recognition was given to his daughter, Francesca, 7, who gained eight awards; and to Naomi Burgess, 9, who gained seven. Special areas of study were those to make one wise, such as 'Bible 1', 'Bible 2' and 'Media Critic'; those to make one safe, such as 'Safety Specialist', 'Temperance' and 'Road Safety'; and those giving new windows on the world, such as 'Friend of Animals', 'Friend of Nature' and 'Camper'.

Among the Pathfinders, Rachel Lunan, 11, and 10-year-old Philippe Keshishian were the highest achievers. They each won five honour badges.

Certificates and badges were presented by Pastor Eglan Brooks, SEC Pathfinder director. As most of the children are of junior school age, he based his address to them on the hymn, 'Jesus Loves Me'. He told them, 'Whatever you do in life, wherever you go, remember somebody loves you.'

Those being invested were: *Friends*: Rachel Asare-Bediako, Philippe Keshishian, Rachel Lunan and Lee Scott. *Helping Hands*: Naomi Burgess, Laura Horwood and Sean Ramharacksingh. *Builders*: Michael Burgess, Charlotte Fidelia, Daniel Green, Bethany Lindo, Zayne Muller-Smith, Aaron Ramharacksingh and Jamie Thompson. *Sunbeams*: Francesca Bussue, Dionne Donaldson, Rebecca Morais, Bianca Pandoo, Bradley Thompson, Jacques Vitry and Angelina Williams. *Busy Bees*: Kieran and Nadia Asare-Bediako, Daniel and Rachel Davis, Stephanie Hanson, Juliana Keshishian, Daryl Lindo, Karl Lunan, David Mannix, Ben Pandoo, Jemma and Rebecca Scott, Brendon Sraha and Ann-Marie Williams.

We congratulate Bernell and his assistants on a splendid investiture.

BRONWEN ATKINSON

Young achievers at Stanborough Park

Photo: Johnson Wong



London Gospel Café

The first London Gospel Café was launched on Sunday 4 May, Seven Sisters Road, Manor House, N4 3LX. The venue offers a lovely restaurant section, pool tables and a wide screen. Delicious Caribbean food is on the menu with a wide range of non-alcoholic drinks. The Gospel Café has its own house band, a dynamic welcoming crew and the finest gospel artistes (Blessed Voices, New Beginning, Raymond & Co), live Gospel bands and good food. This facility is also a way to evangelise those who do not feel comfortable inviting colleagues, friends or family to church.

What are our objectives in setting up the Gospel Café?

We want to popularise Gospel music in the UK by promoting the best UK and international Gospel acts live on a stage made for them. It will be a place where anyone can experience live Gospel music.

My husband Dimitry and I are from the Caribbean and we moved to the UK two years ago so that he could make Gospel music his living. He has been a base player since the age of 12. On our arrival in London, we felt the need for a stronger Christian community, and having a Gospel café is a good way to find it.

Email: auberte@cdt-design.co.uk

AUBERTE THERESE

Plumstead's new church

Sabbath 8 February was a very special day in the calendar for Plumstead church. After many years worshipping in the Glyndon Community Centre, Plumstead moved into its own building. Even though there is still a lot of work to be done, we are able to use the upstairs hall as a temporary sanctuary until downstairs has been completed.

Our guest speaker was Pastor Terry Messenger, the minister of Greenwich church, and his encouragement to us was so appropriate. His sermon,

entitled 'How much are you worth?' reminded us that God wants us to live an abundant life. We may not look like much, but in God's sight we are worth everything. We are very precious to God.

In the meantime, we would like to thank everyone for their support for Plumstead, whether financial or with their physical presence.

Our new address is 11-15 Plumstead High Street, Plumstead, London SE18 1SA.

F. BALL AND J. BROADCASTER



To Mother, with love

by Sylva Keshishian, Interest co-ordinator

On Sunday 30 March members of the Hanwell Adventist church gave flowers to mothers who live in the Hanwell area. With a group of just seventeen volunteers, the church in Greenford Avenue was able to distribute more than 700 carnations throughout the community.

Mothers are usually the most influential people in our lives but most of the time they are either ignored or receive a lot of bad press for the trouble their kids get into. On Mother's Day, as members of the Hanwell community, we wanted to honour our mums and show our appreciation for the part they play in shaping our futures.

The volunteers included adults and children of various ages. One of the adults, Thelma Soremekun, was so keen to help out that she took part in the distribution despite suffering from a painful right knee.

Here is what volunteer Sharlene DeCourtney-Odle, mother of teenagers Chloe and Elliott, experienced when she knocked on the doors of fellow mums in Hanwell: 'At first they were reluctant to receive the flowers because they thought I was selling something, but once they realised that it was a gift from their local church a number of mothers responded with comments like, "Oh that's very kind of you," and "What a lovely idea!"'

Each flower distributed was accompanied by a little note which read, 'A flower especially for you, Mum', and one of two items: *Keys to Happiness* book or the critically-acclaimed new magazine *LIFE.info*.



Sharlene DeCourtney-Odle, herself a mother of two teenagers, took part in giving flowers to Hanwell mums

Clergy celebrate marriage

Retirement has brought together in Grantham three Adventist clergy couples, each celebrating a golden wedding anniversary with family and friends. All were married 50 years ago but each one on a different continent – Australia, North America and Europe.

Each has, not unexpectedly, had a widely diverse ministry both in nature and in the part of the world served – youth, education, publishing, administration – in Africa, America, India and Australia, as well as the United Kingdom. It is not surprising that the families of these couples are scattered in many parts of earth today.

First of the three couples to be married was Ron and Rachel Surridge who subsequently spent years in Africa and the UK before retiring ten years ago in Grantham, where Pastor Ron has been a Belton Woods Golf Club member for ten years. Earlier he was president of the North England Conference with headquarters in Nottingham, and Rachel was a teacher at Dudley House School in Dudley Road. Their son John is a pastor and Communication director at the BUC. Their other son, Robert, pastors a church in California (reported 25 October issue).

The second couple, Pastor John and Dr Mary Trim, retired in Grantham just three years ago after residing in Berkshire and Leicestershire. They come from 'down under' and were married in Melbourne, Australia, on Christmas Eve 1952. Their more than sixty years of ministry led them to Australia, New Zealand, India and the UK. Today their family is widely dispersed around the world – a son a doctor in Canada, another lecturing at Newbold College in Berkshire, and three daughters in Sydney.

Pastor D. R. L. Astleford and his wife Della also retired to Grantham three years ago, with one son located in London and another at Bassingham, while a third is in Canada and a daughter in Sydney, Australia. The Astlefords were married in Edmonton, Canada, her home town, while he was born of English parents who were missionaries to British Honduras (reported by James Astleford on page 13).

The wheel, as they say, has turned full circle. Having been room-mates at theological college more than sixty years ago, and having spent the intervening years globe-trotting, David Astleford and Ron Surridge are now both retired in the same town and attend the same church.

JOHN B. TRIM

Blevins: Golden Wedding

It was with very great pleasure that on 6 December we helped to celebrate the golden wedding anniversary of two of our best loved members, Archie and Jessie Blevins.

Archie was born within yards of the River Tyne in 1931 and Jessie was born in 1932 somewhere in Little Horton, Bradford. It was the Second World War that caused Archie to be evacuated to three different locations before finally arriving in West Yorkshire at the age of 10. After leaving school at 14 he began working at Sharp and Law shopfitters.

Jessie left school at 13 years of age and began her apprenticeship as a bakeress. At Sharps and Law Archie met Jessie's dad, who happened to be the foreman joiner there. As well as her dad, her brother also worked there along with her future brother-in-law, Geoff Peace, who married her sister Audrey. It was after Geoff and Audrey married and



Archie and Jessie Blevins

had their first daughter, Wendy, that Archie baby-sat for them and it was during this period that Jessie and Arche met. Archie was 19 and Jessie 18. Friendship turned to love and they were engaged eighteen months later.

Archie had to do his two years' national service in the Royal Engineers and at 21 he went to Farnborough to start his training. Six months later he was stationed in South Wales. The couple kept in contact with each other by public telephone and it was then that they arranged to marry, which they did in 1952.

In 1954 Archie came out of the army to a new home and a six-month-old baby daughter, having seen only a photo of her when stationed in Neyri, a small village about 75 miles from Nairobi near Mount Kenya, East Africa. Stephen, their son, was born in 1955. The family emigrated to Christchurch, New Zealand in 1963, looking for a better life because the marriage was a bit shaky, but things didn't improve and after three-and-a-half years they planned to come back and maybe end the marriage.

But God intervened through a campaign held by the Adventist Church in Christchurch city hall. All were baptised and the marriage was saved! Today, Jessie and Archie are very much together and attending Bradford church. Sadly, Janet and Stephen are no longer in the church but between them they have provided five grandchildren – all girls, one of whom made Jessie and Archie great-grandparents in June 2002.

LYDIA CHINCHIO

Silver Kings

A Silver Wedding is a great time to celebrate and thank the Lord for his many blessings, and so on Sabbath morning to mark this happy occasion Chris and Tony King were presented by one of our young people with a growing floral arrangement, and a silver photograph frame. Congratulations and good wishes were shared at the fellowship lunch held after the morning service. Family travelled from Texas especially for the occasion and a special celebration is to be held at a later date.

Chris and Tony were married by Pastor Alan Hodges at Bristol Lodge Causeway church on 28 March 1978 and are both second generation Adventists.

For twelve years until 1997 they ran a residential home in Bristol, but are now enjoying semi-



Tony and Chris King

retirement, although with his many preaching appointments and commitments, Tony might not quite agree with that phrase.

Tony believes he has served in every office in the church and is at present elder. Chris, among other offices held, is now head deaconess.

S. A. HATCHER

First baptism

Angels in heaven rejoiced as the relatives, friends and members of Wilmslow and Sale church gathered to witness Ray Orr, who began attending church in 1999, commit his life to the Lord on 25 January. The whole church was so happy at Ray's baptism, following the years of prayers that were offered for him. Pastors Andrew Rashford-Hewitt and Derek Beardsell carried out the baptism, which was the first to be held at the newly relocated venue at the Dean Row Community Centre in Wilmslow.

SHARON HOLLEY

Ordination

Dr Patrick Herbert, the Nottingham Central pastor, is pictured congratulating elder John Francis, along with deacons Andy Boyd (front), Rupert Commens, and John Bravo (middle), after an ordination service in Nottingham. Dr Herbert, the officiating minister at the service, reminded family, friends and members of the important roles and responsibilities of these brethren which should not be taken lightly. The brethren were given certificates of ordination and the right hand of fellowship from all elders of Nottingham.

WORDS AND PHOTO BY MARVIN PATTERSON



Festival of Flowers 2003 to support Albanian orphans

by Audrey Balderstone

Changing Lives . . . A Festival of Floral Art is the title chosen for the flower festival which will take place at Stanborough Park church 27-29 June. Two years ago £7,500 was raised for Helen House Children's Hospice and this year the funds will go to ADRA-UK.

A children's orphanage in Korce, Albania, needs £12,735 to provide clean water and sanitation for the children aged 0-6 years who live there, and it is hoped that a large percentage of that amount can be raised at the festival. In addition we are hoping



that the churches throughout the UK will provide 2,000 shoeboxes filled with goodies for children in eleven orphanages in Albania.

A Preview Evening for the festival will take place on Thursday 26 June at 7.30pm. The festival will be officially

opened by ADRA-International president Dr Charles Sandefur, and Bill Hamilton, a BBC reporter who worked extensively with John Arthur in Albania, will be the after-dinner speaker. Tickets for the event are available from audrey.balderstone@virgin.net or call 01923 231110. Anyone wishing to support the Korce Orphanage Water and Sanitation project can send their donations to ADRA-UK, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ. If possible, Gift Aid your donation. Please make your cheques payable to ADRA-UK. In all cases, please indicate that the gift is for the *Albania Orphanage Fund*.



Son Peter, Della, David, daughter Pamela and son James

Golden Day

What were future prominent Adventist leaders doing at the Ascot races in the 1940s?

The answers to this and other intriguing questions were revealed at the special dinner held in Grantham on 3 March to celebrate the golden wedding anniversary of David ('DRL') and Della Astleford. Joining three of their four children who were able to be present were friends and neighbours, along with a cross-section of British church leaders and missionaries who had worked with the Astlefords. Congratulatory telegrams (all right, they were emails) from Australia, Asia, Africa and North America contributed an international flavour.

JAMES ASTLEFORD, ADRA-Canada

Hereford's 'TOGETHER'

What do you do when the number of active church members is declining due to illness, death or re-location? The answer is to get out into the community and find more people to fill those empty seats! Which is precisely what the Hereford church is doing in adopting the three streets surrounding the church for special attention. Regular prayer walks, and making themselves visible and part of the street community simply by stopping to chat, are starting to get them noticed.

In addition, members have willingly denied themselves the comfort and



security of the regular Sabbath morning format in order to hold a fortnightly community sensitive service called 'Together'. Topics for presentation and discussion are chosen with great care, with attention to dress code, music and the physical layout of the sanctuary in order to make unchurched people feel comfortable when entering the church. Members are encouraged to bring friends and are doing so as they feel confident that the 'cringe factor' is missing.

'Link Together', launched just in time for Easter, is a quarterly newsletter linking the neighbourhood together and is the latest attempt to get connected. This newsletter contains among other things: a kids' corner with competitions, a 'think together' section with a relevant thought for the month, as well as dates of forthcoming events of community interest being held at the church. It has already resulted in attendances and responses from the street.

Members of the Hereford church knocked on 130 doors, handing out the newsletter, and an Easter card with an invitation to the service, along with a

tube of 'mini eggs' that bore the message, 'Happy Easter from your friends at your local Seventh day Adventist church.' This is the second time in the last few months that members have called at all the homes on the street and they are starting to be recognised. In the majority of cases they have been well received. Gifts of money and chocolates, letters of appreciation and most importantly their company confirm this.

Members are hoping to change the perception of the people in the street so that they come to regard the church as 'our church'.

ROSEMARY LETHBRIDGE



The Dell Care Home

50th Anniversary Celebrations

SABBATH 19 JULY

A day of fellowship at the Lowestoft Church

London Road South, Lowestoft, Suffolk

Guest Speakers

Divine Service:

Pastor D. W. McFarlane
SEC president

Afternoon Celebration Service:

Pastor C. R. Perry

BUC president and chairman of the Good Health Association Board

SUNDAY 20 JULY

2.30pm at the Dell Care Home
45 Cotmer Road, Oulton Broad
Lowestoft, Suffolk

* Strawberry Tea

* Exhibition: 'Fifty Years of Caring'

* Stanborough Press book and food sale

* Craft stalls

* Visit the care home and grounds

All are welcome!

G. Martin Bell

Death of a great teacher

Dr Edward Eric White, 2 August 1909-22 February 2003

by Jack Mahon

'They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.' Daniel 12:3, KJV.

The above quotation from a well-thumbed portion of every Adventist Bible is rendered by some Hebrew scholars as 'They that be teachers' etc. Of such a spiritual ethos was Dr Edward Eric White who died in his sleep on Sabbath 21/22 February in his 94th year. He was known universally and endearingly as 'Eddie' on the three continents in which he served the Church – Northern Europe (1931-47), South Pacific (1947-70), Euro-Africa (1970-81). In 'retirement' he returned for the third time to Newbold, teaching Education and Hymnology (1981-93) until the onset of profound deafness stopped him in his pedagogical tracks. But length of service is much less than half the story, for Eddie, Scientist, Musician, and Pastor was a 'born' teacher with a marvellously retentive cranium which registered the name of every student he ever taught and under its sparse thatch nourished a delicious spring of humour to spice his utterances in classroom and pulpit alike. He had moreover a heart whose compassion-capacity matched his erudition.

In the stringent days of 1925, when Eddie had completed his matriculation at Wellingborough Grammar School, few families could afford a professional teaching course at university and ex-soldiers of World War I had precedence for bursaries. So Eddie became for two years a 'pupil-teacher', a sort of apprentice, spending half his week at Northampton Town and County School practise-teaching Secondary subjects, and the remaining half at Irthlingborough Primary School in the small community which was his place of birth. Did the Eddie White genius for making abstruse subjects simple, stem from his earliest introduction to pedagogy when this brilliant scholar learned how to make learning accessible and attractive to the developing mind which is 'as wax to receive and as marble to retain'? Through life Eddie himself was sustained by a faith far from childish, but which in its trust and confidence was by definition 'childlike'. Was this to some extent at least a spin-off from his first teaching sessions?

In an era when 'worldly' degrees

were frowned upon by the denomination, Eddie was the first Adventist educator to add the London degrees of BSc, MSc and PhD to his Stanborough College Ministerial Diploma; and later achieved state recognition by passing the Oxford Diploma in Education. He began his adult teaching career in 1931, the year of his graduation which was the first year of Newbold Revel. It was to the Easenhall Lodge of that legendary mansion that he brought his bride, Marjorie Brown, in 1932 and when Marjorie's sister Gwendolen Hargreaves, wife of Persian missionary doctor Henry Hargreaves, died in 1936, the couple welcomed 5-year-old Katherine to that warm and loving environment which, like all future White homes, was open house to students and visitors of all kinds.

Although Eddie was teaching some subjects at College level, much of his time was spent in bringing ministerial recruits up to College-entrance level by teaching them Maths and Science to Secondary matriculation. When the BUC finally recognised the need for a separate Secondary School Eddie was the obvious person to develop the enterprise. The year was 1940 and the country at war, with all the major buildings on Stanborough Park taken over by London University College Hospital. In Stanborough Villa, a redundant nurses' home, Eddie set up his unpretentious academy. Crowded classrooms were the norm and the staffroom-cum-principal's-office a tumbledown garden shed. But the School flourished! The 'pig's ear to silk purse' transition became complete when, in 1946, with the departure of UCH, Eddie and his colleagues had the undiluted joy of moving into spacious classrooms, assembly hall, offices, kitchen, toilets! But in Eddie's case not for long! That was the year of his ordination to the Gospel ministry and his appointment as Newbold College principal.

Uprooted from Newbold Revel in 1941 and transferred to temporary hutted quarters in the West Midlands, the College, decanted into the Berkshire countryside in 1946, consisted of buildings recently vacated by a wartime

department of the Food Ministry and a few 'country houses of the gentry' variously purchased or leased – most commodities, including building materials, were in short supply – in other words a perfect context for Eddie to work his organisational magic! This he proceeded to do with the result that 1946-7 is looked back upon as a vintage year in Newbold history, especially by the privileged students of that era.

Eddie's friendly enthusiasm sent a clean wind through the corridors, blowing away most of the residual stuffy and stilted Victorian attitudes! His chapel talks were classics, characteristically illustrated by everyday events. For example, in those pre-wheely-bin days, household garbage collection in Binfield village was undertaken each Wednesday by a noisome tumbrel served by a posse of muscular binmen with great noise, leaving in its wake an effluvium which lingered until evening. At the personal level, Eddie pointed out, the rotten rubbish of sin must not be allowed to fester and fester until it fulminates the week long!

'Consecrate yourself to God in the morning, let this be your very first work' was his *Steps To Christ* text. More than half a century on, I can't witness even a perfectly hygienic bin-collection without those words leaping into my mind! QED!

Gloom and glumness settled heavily on the Newbold Campus on 10 October '47 when Eddie was called to the South Pacific Division, but occasional anecdotes filtered through of Eddie's 'down-under' doings. He was an outspoken opponent of preachers who used the same sermon *ad nauseam*, reckoning that a sermon may be 'Manna from heaven' on its first airing but like ageing 'heavenly bread' would breed worms and stink (Exod. 16:20) on too many subsequent exposures. Rarely a publicity seeker, there was one occasion when not only Eddie's left hand but every student and preacher in the SPD was aware of his proposal to jettison with appropriate ballast, his own sermon file in the Pacific Ocean. On his next Island itinerary Eddie was aware that his vessel would sail through that chart reference where in terms of Psalm 46:2 the ocean bed could accommodate the full height of Mount Everest without danger to shipping. This was his chosen latitude based on the very best biblical pattern (Mic. 7:19) The unspoken *'go thou and do likewise'* still hangs in the air and is sound counsel to later preacher

generations with seaside access. Eddie, being dead, yet speaketh!

Perhaps the files of Australasian *Record* or Avondale College still retain a cautionary disquisition Eddie wrote under the heading 'Yaws' with the subtle subtitle 'Not so much a tropical as a topical disease'. It gently took to task wannabe preachers who adopted an 'affected' sonorous preaching voice and 'larger than life' pulpit mannerisms.

When a rather large group of Eddie's friends and colleagues, including luminaries of the British Union and South England Conferences, met to celebrate his life we sang the hymn he set to music with his tune 'Bracknell' (NAH 452) and reminded ourselves that the capacious auditorium of Newbold's new Church Centre would have overflowed if all the folk could have been present, who sent emails from the Antipodes, the Americas and Euro-Africa remembering with great affection how this life so well-lived had touched their own. This fourth day of March, we were reminded, was not only the day of Eddie's memorial service but the ninth anniversary of Marjorie's passing. The solitary hymnologist had been cared for appropriately in the interim by two Carols or rather Carol, a near neighbour whose family Marjorie and Eddie had characteristically welcomed with hospitable tray on their first arrival, and Carole Lorencin who as a small child under statutory entrance age, had been brought to Eddie's school by her war-widowed mother, and duly accepted by him at a time of momentary vision-impairment!

Pastor Ian Sleeman, who presided, read a fascinating account of Eddie's last hours by Mrs Carol Day. Dr John Woodfield, Eddie's right hand man in establishing Stanborough School and himself a former principal, gave a memorable Life Sketch, and one of Eddie's former students read various tributes to this truly great man and added a few words of his own on behalf of all Eddie's friends and protégés.

When like Beethoven, profound deafness had put a stop to his teaching in 1993, Eddie was not deprived of music in his inner being. He scarcely needed to turn the pages of the monumental *Singing With Understanding* – the fruit of his lifetime hobby of hymn research (published by Signs in 1968) – to hear a myriad sounds of heavenly music! Singing along with the Newbold congregation in subsequent years he would occasionally get the timing wrong and his solo baritone be heard when the song had ended. It will not be so when 'the ears of the deaf are unstopped' and Eddie, no longer 'tousured' but haloed certainly; will joyfully join and perfectly match the heavenly chorale.

Pastor Andrew Beccai – A man of God. South England Conference employees paid their last respects to Pastor Andrew Beccai at his funeral on Wednesday 26 March. Andrew sadly passed away after battling with cancer for several years. The funeral was held at the Wesley Baptist Church in Reading. Around 800 people, mostly from the Ghanaian community of Adventists in the SEC, were in attendance. There were also ministerial colleagues from Ghanaian churches in Italy, Amsterdam, Germany and North America, who came out of respect for this ‘quiet son of God’. Andrew Beccai was a quiet and unassuming man. Deeply spiritual, he loved his Lord and worked tirelessly for him. He was also a minister who was, and will always be, highly respected by the members he served. ‘Andy’, as he was affectionately known to his family, close friends and colleagues, was a man of prayer. He had a group of individuals who prayed with him prior to his entering the pulpit and who would pray with him at the close of the service. SEC president Pastor Don McFarlane said of Pastor Beccai, ‘His presence will be sorely missed by the London Ghanaian church and the Ghanaian community, but especially by the South England Conference.’ The SEC offer their sincere condolences to Andrew’s wife Janet, and to his children Andreas and Abigail. ‘Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.’ A more detailed report will be published in a forthcoming edition of the *Messenger*.

CATHERINE BOLDEAU

MUSTOW, Pastor Derek – d. 14 January. Derek Mustow was born in Sheffield to Maurice and Frances Mustow in 1928. He was an only child, as his parents were strongly cautioned that the Lord was coming soon. Derek attended church with his parents every Sabbath and it became clear as the years passed that the destiny for which he had been born burned within his heart. Maurice and Frances took whatever jobs they could in order to save for his tuition to study for the ministry, and Derek set off for Newbold in 1944. It was during his years at Newbold that Derek blossomed as a baritone. He was soloist in numerous musical productions such as Hayden’s *Creation*, *Elijah*, and Handel’s *Messiah*. He began to practise with a gifted young pianist and organist named Audrey Frow, who had also joined Newbold in 1944 to study as a Bible worker. The practices became more meaningful over time and it became evident that these two were meant for each other. Audrey proudly watched as Derek graduated in May 1948. Derek commenced his ministry in the north of England. For eighteen long months he struggled on his own, as ministers were not permitted to marry until they had been in the work for a minimum of two years. He finally got up the courage to approach his conference president to plead for permission to marry his beloved Audrey. At last, permission granted, he took one day off on 26 December 1949, and their fifty-three-year love affair began. His ministerial career took him to Northern England then on to Scotland and Ireland, with Audrey by his side, accompanying his songs, which preceded or followed his sermons. Their marriage was blessed with two daughters, Margaret and

Alison. In addition to Derek’s beautiful voice he was a very gifted artist and using blackboard and chalk, he would illustrate Pastor Kenneth Lacey’s sermons. At the end of the sermon the illustration would be lit with a back light thus bringing the scene to life. In 1964 Derek received a call to Vancouver, Canada, as a singing evangelist. He spent four years ministering to seven churches simultaneously. In 1968 he accepted a call to Bozeman, Montana, shortly followed by a call to the Southern Publishing Association in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1980 Derek accepted a call to join Pastor George Vandeman on the *It Is Written* team where he served for five years. Following this spell he was called to the Southern California Conference in the Trust Services Department, where he remained until his retirement in 1993. During this period he suffered the first of a series of heart attacks and in 1992 he lost one of his most treasured possessions – his singing voice – when his vocal chords became permanently damaged during the placement of tubes for his open-heart surgery. Upon his retirement the entire family, including both daughters’ families, moved to Tennessee, to join Audrey’s identical twin, Betty, and the extended family. But retirement was not on the Lord’s agenda! Derek worked intermittently for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency under the guidance of Ralph Watts, visiting projects in Nicaragua, Haiti and Honduras. Subsequently, he was asked to assist in the Trust Services Department at the Kentucky Tennessee Conference Office. He repeatedly told his family how he looked forward to each and every day that he went to work – it was a pure delight for him every time he stepped inside the doors at the office. In September 1998, Derek underwent a second quadruple bypass operation but despite all going well, a few nights following his discharge he fell and damaged his rib case. This started a chain of medical events which would follow him for the remaining four-and-a-half years of his life. He was a most loveable family man to his two daughters, four grandchildren and one great grandson. His was a generous heart with the patience of a thousand saints. He had a ready smile and laugh and loved a good joke. Derek’s first love was his Lord, Father and Saviour, from whom he never turned down a call with his family by his side. How wonderful that during his last Sabbath he had asked Audrey to play ‘God Be With You Till We Meet Again’. He loved his dog Susie and despite Audrey’s offers that cold January evening, he insisted that he take Susie out for her walk – that was his job, his love and privilege. Somewhere between 7.30 and 7.45pm, as he stood facing the constellation Orion, he fell asleep – until Jesus comes.

ALISON BLANKENSHIP (NEE MUSTOW) EDITED BY CAROLINE SWAIN

ALBERTS-BACHU, Silke – d. February. The members of the Ipswich church were shocked and saddened to hear of Silke’s death while she was on holiday in Guyana with her husband Ken. Silke was taken ill there and hospitalised for three days. She had been given the all-clear and was preparing to leave hospital when she had a sudden massive heart attack. Ken was by her side but, sadly, all attempts to resuscitate her failed and he was left devastated. Silke loved Guyana and its people and it was fitting

that she was cremated there. Silke was born in Utzlingen in Germany on 12 January 1962, the daughter of Rudy and Else Alberts. She has two brothers and one sister. She met Ken while he was stationed in Germany with the Army. They married in May 2000 and lived and worshipped in Ipswich. It was a sad day for Ken when he had to return from Guyana alone but he has appreciated the loving support of the church family and friends. Silke had suffered a stroke in 1998 but was making a steady recovery. She was very musical and had just started singing duets at church and planned to join the church choir. Her death is a great loss to her family and the church in Ipswich, but most of all to her husband Ken. May the blessed hope that we have in Jesus uphold him through these difficult days of grief and loss and loneliness.

OLIVE VOELCKER

PEDLAR, Alice – d. 20 February. Alice Gulland was born on 7 November 1909 in Haddington, East Lothian. She was the youngest of four in what became a single-parent family when Edwin Gulland was killed in the First World War. Her own adventures began when she joined her sister Mary at school in Edinburgh. Not long afterwards their two brothers and mother Isabella moved to Edinburgh. Isabella attended some of the first Adventist meetings held in the city and Alice herself was baptised on 31 December 1924. At College – first in Stanborough Park and later at Newbold Revel – Alice made many lifelong friends. In 1936 she met Harry Pedlar. She was taking the business course and working in the College office. Harry was also a student, earning his fees by repairing shoes. Alice graduated on 22 May 1938 and she and Harry were married in Edinburgh on 10 April 1939. Together, from the grounds of Newbold Revel they saw the night sky light up when Coventry was bombed. Edinburgh beckoned and the Pedlars became part of Alice’s home congregation. Their son Malcolm was born in Edinburgh in October 1942. Harry established a shoe repair business and Alice worked with him in the shop. Making friends with people was her great gift. Together the Pedlars gave hospitality to students and young pastors who needed accommodation. Apart from a brief, experimental stay in Bournemouth in the 1960s, Alice and Harry remained constant, invaluable members of the Edinburgh church. Alice held many church offices over the years. She was Sabbath School superintendent and an outstanding deaconess. As local agent for Ingathering, she was served well by her quick mind and organisational skills. When Harry retired, Alice’s energy prompted her to work in the Bristo Health Food shop, next to the church. She finally retired at 82 – only because the shop closed down. After Harry’s death in December 1995, Alice remained active in the church and kept her sense of humour and her instinct for hospitality. She also travelled to Canada a number of times to see her son Malcolm and his wife and family; and she even attended the Toronto General Conference session in 2000. ‘I thought I’d go while I’m still young’, she commented at the time. Among Alice’s gifts was her wonderful memory for Bible texts and for the words of almost any hymn. One of her favourites was ‘Jerusalem, my happy home’ and this was read at

her funeral. Pastor Llewellyn Edwards conducted the service, held on 27 February at Mortonhall crematorium in Edinburgh. The chapel was packed with relatives, friends and neighbours who listened to local pastor Clifford Herman read the magnificent thirty-fifth chapter of Isaiah, a text Alice herself had chosen for the occasion. In paying tribute to his mother, Malcolm said she was ‘no plaster saint’, but went on to describe a caring Christian woman, who loved others and was dear to them in her turn as wife, mother, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother – and that rare being, a well-loved mother-in-law. Her friendships were notable, and of two her best friends, Cissie Swanson and Nora Miles, were present at the service to say ‘goodbye’. Alice is mourned and missed – and remembered with affection and frequently a smile – by all who knew her, and especially by Malcolm and Christine Pedlar of Victoria, British Columbia, their daughters Julie Thomas (and her husband Kendall), Gayle Kopp (and her husband Dean) and Gillian Jenne (with her husband Douglas) and also by Julie’s daughters Kayleigh, Jessica and Emily and Gayle’s daughter Katie, as well as by Alice’s niece Audrey, with whom she shared a long friendship as well as family ties.

MARGARET WHIDDEN

JONES, Lottie Sarah – d. 21 March. Just a few days before her death Sister Jones, affectionately known to many as Jonsie or Mum Jones, said she had had a ‘good life’. Family and friends at her funeral service, conducted by the writer in the Norwich church, celebrated that good and long life of 96 years. Sister Jones lived her whole life in the same area of Norwich, and is fondly remembered by neighbours past and present, many of whom attended the funeral service, as someone who cared, and was willing to give of her time and energy. However, her early life was not easy, spending one year flat on her back at the age of 13, and on recovery working long hours lighting the fires and cleaning at the local school, where her father was the caretaker. Lottie was the youngest of three girls, and with her mother’s failing health, she stayed at home to care for the rest of the family. This was a role she was to continue throughout her life as she cared for her own children and grandchildren. Lottie married Trevor Jones in 1934 after a seven-year courtship, and three children were born, Cynthia, Ruth and Glyn, although sadly, Ruth died after only a few weeks. Lottie’s dear husband Trevor died in 1971. Sister Jones gave many years of faithful service to the Adventist church in Norwich, after attending meetings at Black Friars Hall. Only increasing frailty, which eventually meant entering the Sunnycroft residential home, interrupted her church attendance. For a lady who was always active, in her home and neighbourhood, it was hard to have to submit to being cared for by others. When this life had nothing more to offer her she looked forward in faith, confident that her God would look after her. Her Bible contained a sheet of paper where she had noted many of the texts which speak of the sleep of death and that glorious resurrection morning. May God grant daughter Cynthia, son Glyn, and their families comfort and peace at this time, and hope for that eternal reunion when Jesus returns.

PASTOR IAN LOREK



Prayer Feature

Loneliness

with Tracy Dixon

I have received only one prayer request this fortnight, from a lonely person asking that I pray that feelings of loneliness might be alleviated by God; and this reflects many requests that I have received over the last few months, so I thought that it might be worth looking at what we could do as a church and as individuals in order that fewer people might feel so very alone.

I appreciate how difficult any solution to this problem might be, as most people find it very painful and

even humiliating to admit that they are lonely. People smile through their pain at church in case they are judged to have

a lack of joy in the Spirit, perhaps. Pastors have so many people they could visit, that they can’t hope to reach everyone as regularly as they might want, so maybe we could develop visiting committees or expand our numbers of small groups? (Forgive me if your church already has a system that adequately provides for the lonely in your church community.) I know that in some churches, elders visit members, but perhaps there need to be more visitors appointed to the task of visiting a smaller number, perhaps only three or four people, every month or so.

I know I am attempting to problem solve here, when my role is to pray, but with the number of letters that I have had where people simply need human contact and caring to supplement their spiritual lives (to put the flesh on what they know to be true about God, so to speak), has led me to feel the importance of bringing this to your attention. There are two Adventist counselling helplines. The SEC coun-

selling number is: 0845 741 3602; and the NEC Rainbow Counselling line can be reached by phoning: 0161 740 3602 Mondays and Thursdays between 6-8pm. So if you feel alone do give them a call. They are ready, willing and able to help.

The problem persists as often people feel uncomfortable about phoning a helpline, but would love a visit from a friendly, caring person whose face they are familiar with from church. I wonder what we can do. I don’t really have any answers that I feel might adequately help, but I hope simply to provoke discussions and actions based on whether the feeling of community at your church on Sabbath mornings is strong enough, having been nurtured by close fellowship during the week.

If outsiders see how close and caring we are as a church family, surely this will bear fruit in reaching people for Jesus in and of itself, which is one of our main aims. Let me know what you think and let me pray for the projects you start up in your church. Send prayer requests to Tracy E. Dixon, 83 Penygroes Road, Caerbyryn, Ammanford, Carmarthenshire, S. Wales, SA18 3BZ

Serbia: Adventist pastor severely beaten, churches vandalised. Pastor Josip Tikvicki was seriously beaten on 15 April in front of the Adventist church in the city of Zrenjanin, 40 miles (65km) north-east of the Serbian capital Belgrade.

Eight Adventist churches have been targeted by what is being viewed as an 'orchestrated campaign against a religious minority' in a predominantly Orthodox country.

Just before midnight on 15 April, Tikvicki and his wife heard glass breaking. He went outside to investigate and confronted a group of three men who were throwing stones at the windows and vandalising the church. He was then attacked. According to church sources, he was kicked, hit, and then fell to the ground, losing consciousness.

Church sources say he was found unconscious by the police, and was taken to the city hospital by ambulance. He remains hospitalised, suffering from concussion, several fractured ribs, a broken jaw – which has left him unable to speak – and a number of minor injuries. A report from Belgrade indicates that the city police arrested the three men involved in the attack.

ANR

Iraq: Adventist members and church survive bombings. The Adventist church and members' homes have survived the recent war activities in Iraq, according to church officials for the Middle East region.

'We're especially happy to be able to

report that all of the Adventists are safe,' said Pastor Michael Porter, president of the church in the Middle East, with headquarters in Nicosia, Cyprus. 'We just received word after a couple of weeks of no telephone contact at all. We're really thankful to hear that everybody's safe and also that the church building itself was not damaged during the recent war efforts.'

Porter expressed relief after receiving word from the chairman of the legal association of the Iraqi Seventh-day Adventist Church, Ghanem Fargo, who managed to gain access to a satellite phone and sent word through his daughter in California, United States, that all members and their property were safe.

'We are all doing well and urge you to keep praying that this situation will be over soon,' said Fargo.

Although relieved that the church and its members are safe, Porter and Bertil Wiklander, president for the Trans-European Division, are expressing concern about the uncertainty that Iraqi Adventists will face as a new leadership for the country is selected.

'Under the regime of Saddam Hussein the church had quite a lot of freedom and liberty to operate,' said Wiklander.

The Adventist Church in Iraq was one of the thirteen religions and denominations registered with the government. This entitled them to receive free utilities and the right to own property, according to regional Adventist church officials.

'There is concern that a new government might not be as interested in

religious freedom or as interested in allowing Christians to worship. There is concern,' states Porter.

Wiklander says that members and leadership will just have to wait and pray. ANR

Paulsen on Mission. Opening the 2003 Spring Meeting of Adventist church leaders, Dr Jan Paulsen, president of the world church, said it was important to merge the work of laity and ministry in fulfilling the church's threefold mission of preaching, teaching and healing.

The Spring Meeting is one of two annual gatherings of the 13-million-member church's world leadership; the other, Annual Council, takes place in the autumn.

Paulsen's remarks were prefaced by a reading of the Church's mission statement, which defines the Church's objective as to proclaim the everlasting Gospel to all peoples; leading them to accept Christ and unite with his Church; and nurture them in preparation for his soon return.

'Keep this in mind that we are talking about something that is totally integrated, that flows naturally from the life and convictions of the church,' Paulsen said. 'We don't have to discipline ourselves to try to "think" mission – it is what we are.' He added, 'It is important that we make mission our priority.'

ANR

Sow 1 Billion update. Reports from the Adventist Church's 13 world regions

indicate that the 'Sow 1 Billion' initiative to distribute 1 billion brochures worldwide inviting people to Bible study is receiving enthusiastic reception throughout the world church. Brochures carry a 'Don't Be Afraid' message and an invitation to study the Bible.

Reporting to the participants of the Spring Meeting, a two-day business session of the church's Executive Committee, 'Sow 1 Billion' leaders reiterated the fact that the initiative involves all levels of the church – from leadership to lay members. The 'Sow 1 Billion' programme presented an update on how the church is responding to a plan that will see an official launch in September 2003. ANR



Wondering where and when all the youth events are? Wanting to meet up with friends and enjoy an event at the same time? Check out www.youthpages.org for events of all types around the UK and the world. Want to advertise an event? Use our online form to submit the details through! Got any pictures or want to send a report in from an event you attended? Email them to events@youthpages.org. YouthPAGES . . . get Connected.

Book of the Month

June

Many are cold and a few are frozen

Have you come across the Straitlaced Nitpicker, the Jaded Pewwarmer, the Teenaged Twitterpate, the Underrated Dunnet and Naysaying Headshaker among the birds in your local congregation? They are among the characters in this sideways, insightful and, at times, humorous look at life in our Adventist congregations. No member can afford to be without this one!

Words: A. J. Raitt **Design:** Abigail Murphy

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9-15	SEC Camp Meeting, Prestatyn
	NEC Camp Meeting, Southport
29	Scottish Mission Session, Crieff

July

6	John Loughborough 10am-2pm
13	West Midlands 10am-2pm

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
May 23	8.57	9.09	9.08	9.33	9.35
30	9.06	9.18	9.17	9.44	9.46
June 6	9.13	9.25	9.25	9.53	9.54
13	9.18	9.30	9.31	9.51	10.00

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UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
Handsworth Sabbath School Homecoming Day	Sabbath 24 May (Lunch provided)	Handsworth church, 98 Hutton Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B19. Tel: 0121 344 3672.	<i>Speakers:</i> Richard Brooks, Steve Palmer, Dr Patrick Lowe. <i>Special Music:</i> Remnant, Living Waters, Celia Wickham-Anderson, Richard Gray.	For more details contact Bev Brown on 0121 356 8837.
Adventist Men Seminar	Sunday 26 May, 10am-1pm	Northampton church, 74 Highland Avenue, Spinney Hill, NN3 6BQ	Audrey James on 'Adventist men and the issue of domestic violence'.	Contact Pastor Cyril Sweeney at the NEC on 0115 9606312.
Life after Death Series	12-26 July	Bristol	Geoff Youlden and his campaign team	Contact Pastor Richard Daly on 01452 423089.

Please submit advertisements in this format. Please make the church connection clear. For a complete list of upcoming events check out the database on the BUC website, www.adventist.org.uk.