

Messenger

The Chorale at 21

David Marshall interviews Ken Burton, conductor of the London Adventist Chorale



viewed Chorale conductor Ken Burton in Watford last month.

How did it all start, Ken?

My involvement with the Chorale began in 1990. But the Chorale itself kicked off in 1982. I was 12 at the time. John Tolman, a member of the Croydon church, began it. My sister Vanessa was a member from the first.

So how early did you get into music?

My family – I was the youngest of ten – was very musical. Every family member played an instrument at one time or another. We had an orchestra in the house! It all started with my parents

singing around home. They're uninhibited, even at six o'clock in the morning!

What part did the Croydon church play?

A big one. Croydon church choir was where it all started. In 1979 the Croydon Seventh-day Adventist Gospel Choir was founded by Vanessa. Although I was only 9 – and had done only two years of

piano lessons – I was the pianist! I am still involved with that choir. On Christmas Day 2002 it sang to an audience of 17 million on EastEnders.

Did your education help prepare you to be a conductor?

At Trinity School in Croydon I was able to do a lot of music, singing in their famous boys' choir. At Goldsmith's College, London University, where I took my degree, they latched on to the fact that I was involved in a church choir. They managed to put me off being a concert pianist but I had good experience conducting the College choir.

Who gave the LAC encouragement in those early days?

Outside the Croydon church, both the LAC and the Croydon Seventh-day

Adventist Gospel Choir received valuable experience by singing at big church events, including sessions, camp meetings and days of fellowship. Ken Livingstone's Greater London Council was generous to music projects at the Croydon and Fulham churches in that period. The GLC bought me a brand-new keyboard, among other things.

What gave the LAC a national profile?

We were first involved in the televised (BBC2/Sainsbury) Choir of the Year competition in 1991. In 1995, of course, the LAC and the CGC took first and second places, respectively, and received massive exposure.

What have been the main national events at which the LAC has performed in their 21-year history?

Three choirs were involved in the national commemoration of VE Day in 1995 and two of them were the Chorale and the CGC. That was a Royal Gala Special. We did a Royal Gala Special in 1996, too. In 1997 we sang at the International Eisteddfod.

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The London Adventist Chorale is 21 this year. In November, to be exact. The Stanborough Press will help the Chorale commemorate its 21st year by a summer celebration. The 21st birthday celebration will be at Press Open Day on Sunday 31 August, and the Chorale will perform in a large marquee. Everyone is invited to attend.

The buildup began when I inter-



We sang at a number of Commonwealth Observance Days – 1996, 1997, 1998 – at Westminster Abbey.

I understand that Bill Clinton is one of the admirers of your choirs?

We did a Winston Churchill Memorial Fund charity concert at Blenheim Palace. While the Duke of Marlborough sat 'taking it all in', Bill Clinton became 'an involved listener' – to our surprise – joining us on the stage at the end!

I believe you've met the Queen.

I first met her in 1994. Prince Charles appreciates our music and so, I believe, does Prince Edward.

Other highlights?

We sang at the Proms in 1996. Shelton Kilby, who is involved in the *Breath of Life* telecasts in the US, was commissioned by the LAC to write a piece of music especially for us. He based it on Psalm 8 and wrote it in a contemporary classical style. We performed it at the Proms and Kilby came over specially. The theme was slavery to freedom.

But the Prom at the Palace has to be the big one, right?

The Prom at the Palace in connection with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Celebrations was certainly a 'high'. We sang to a UK audience of 8 million and an international audience of at least 200 million.

Any international tours?

Quite a number. For some reason Australia and Zimbabwe stand out in my mind. We performed at the GC sessions in Utrecht in 1995 and at Toronto

in 2000. We have also performed at the Sorbonne, the University of Paris, and at the Ankara Music Festival in Turkey.

What about your CDs?

The first CD I was involved in was called 'Until We Reach' (contemporary gospel). That was done by the Croydon Choir in 1994. In 1995 I produced 'Deep River' with LAC. In 1996 the Croydon Choir produced a CD called 'Perfect Love' (contemporary gospel) and in 1997 released an album called 'The Very Best of Gospel'. In 1998 the Chorale released 'Steal Away', and Croydon released 'Praise' in 2001.

The Chorale has made a major positive impact on the image of the Church in the British Isles.

I like to think that the Chorale has helped to right the balance in favour of the Church after some of the negative news stories of the '80s and early '90s.

Future contributions?

Through the Adventist Musicians' Association, with the Chorale, I shall be involved in the Dwight Nelson programmes in connection with LifeDevelopment.info. Music plays a tremendous role in this country and we hope that through our involvement in the LD programme we shall enable the Church to reach out. We are hoping not just to play at concerts but to *initiate* concerts – and to invite the public in. We are doing a festival in the Croydon church – six concerts – between June and August. Press Open Day will come at the end of these.

See you there!

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Healthwise

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

Carrying a tune

It has been said of some people that they could not carry a tune even if it was in a bucket! Research shows that we all carry 'tunes', and not just particular favourites but every piece of music that we have ever heard.

Whenever we are exposed to music, virtually every part of our brain plays some part in its perception, appreciation (or otherwise), and its storage as a musical memory. Following the transmission of music to the primary auditory areas in the temporal lobes of the brain, other parts of the brain process the pitch, rhythm, metre, melody, timbre and familiarity of the music before storing it as memory along the front edge of the temporal lobes.

There are individual and ethnic differences in the way music is perceived and processed in the brain. For some reason (for example) Japanese folk music is processed predominantly in the left hemisphere of the brain while Westerners listening to the same pieces process appreciation in the right hemisphere. Processing differences are also to be found in the brains of musically trained people in comparison with those of non-musicians.

Disease in any part of the brain can affect parts of the processing. Musical hallucinations occur in some people either as a result of brain damage or epilepsy as these conditions alter the brain chemistry and/or excite the areas where musical memory is stored. It is believed that infants have *absolute* pitch which, for the majority, changes as they age to *relative* pitch.

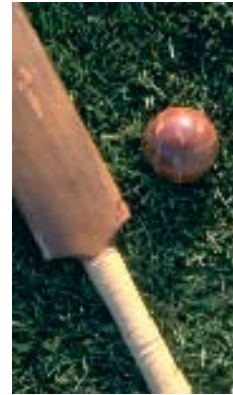
The effect of music on body as well as mind is fairly well documented. Music is said to 'soothe a savage breast', and is often played as a background in areas where anxiety is high such as dental surgeries and hospitals, as well as being used therapeutically. Studies show that playing Mozart's music has enhanced IQ; helped people with Alzheimer's disease to function more effectively; and reduced the severity of epileptic fits.

Music also: masks unpleasant sounds and feelings; affects respiration, heartbeat, pulse-rate and blood-pressure; reduces muscle tension; improves body movement and co-ordination; affects body temperature; increases endorphin and regulates stress-related hormone levels; boosts immune function; fosters endurance and productivity; may be erotically stimulat-

ing; and changes perceptions of time and space.

Different types and speeds of music affect people in different ways, and *this is not related to musical tastes*. Motorists were warned last year that what is played on the car stereo can either lull or kill, the former by putting the driver off to sleep, the latter by raising the pulse-rate and incidentally by raising risk-taking rates!

Since music has profound emotional and physical effects, what we play and hear, and where such effects can be catered for appropriately, becomes an important issue. Not least, music has a spiritual dimension, so there are times and places where some of the physiological effects of music would be completely out of place and be destructive rather than conducive to the reverential awe of worship.



'Could try harder'?

A few weeks ago I lost my driving licence. I'll come clean. I panicked! You see, it was on the eve of a trip to Ireland in which a hire car would be indispensable. It's amazing how difficult it is to hire a car without a driving licence! Impossible, actually. Having incited a young friend to turn over the city of Lincoln in search of it – er, no joy! – I began my umpteenth forensic examination of every drawer and work surface in the house.

Long before the licence was found, I found a great many other things I should have preferred had stayed lost. Readers of this paper, aware that its editor has PhD after his name, have the right to expect an unblemished academic record. For most of the forty years since I left school I have tried to remember those years in roseate terms (pun intended). But – you know what? – I unearthed my school reports; and all those roseate recollections were suddenly blasted away. In those days schoolmasters had a crisp way with witty one-liners about my waywardness! Auberon Waugh left it on record that he intercepted his school reports before they reached home and extracted all those that were 'outrageously offensive'. It would appear that that course of action was not open to the youthful Marshall.

There, in witty one-liners, my juvenile follies were laid bare. Those sharp shafts of illumination into my murky past revealed an 11-, 12-, 13-year-old not so much in preparation to be a pastor/teacher/editor, but some species of creative comedian. My memory obliges me to acknowledge the justice of most of the curt character studies. Not quite all, however. 'Without natural ability; could try harder,' still rankles a bit as a summary of my year's contribution to the Physical Education department of that particular school.

Thankfully the responsibility for the summings up at the end of my school reports was in the hands of a succession of form masters who were prepared to take the larger view; accentuating the positive, dwelling but briefly on my contribution as a joker, and entirely overlooking the references to my failure to get along with the vaulting horse and the cricket bat.

Catherine Hurley has recently published a compilation of one-liners from the school reports of famous personages. It has been a source of some satisfaction to me that the likes of Jeremy Paxman, Jon Snow and Michael Heseltine suffered at least as much as I did from the coruscating barbs of schoolmasters. 'This boy will never get anywhere in life,' wrote a junior school headmaster of the late Eric Morecambe.

'Certainly on the road to failure. . . . Rather a clown in class,' wrote a teacher on one of John Lennon's reports. 'The boy is every inch a fool but luckily for him he's not very tall,' wrote the headmaster on Sir Norman Wisdom's school-leaving report. 'A regular pickle,' 'He has no ambition,' and 'Constantly late for school,' appeared on Sir Winston Churchill's reports. 'No notion of style . . . rather backward for his age,' was written on the school report of Viscount Montgomery of Alamein when he was 18.

There are tremendous dangers in snap judgements. Snap judgements are like a judge reaching a verdict having heard only the case for the prosecution, and having had no recourse to a jury. Our church administration has been blighted by them; and the danger from them was even greater when the Church in the British Isles was only half the size it is now. Then it was possible for everyone not to *know* everyone else, but to *feel* they knew everyone else. There were certain families (*dynasties?*) within the Church: the Murdochs, the Logans, the Vines, the Coopers, the Dorlands, the Lowes – and a great many more that I can remember but won't bore you by mentioning. The snap judgement was apt to apply to an entire family. 'Oh, he/she is a [insert family name],' the implication being that that made him/her a certain kind of person.

At the centre of the church structure were the goldfish bowl environments created by the existence of Stanborough Park and Newbold Adventist communities. Acquire a certain kind of image in one or other (or both!) of those communities and it would be raised, re-enlivened and used in evidence against you – for life!

Do I exaggerate? A little. Does the tyranny of snap judgement still apply? Yes. But to a more limited degree. Let anyone earn, or have imposed upon him/her a negative one-liner within the church system, then that negative will resonate for years. It's a weakness of organisational structures warped by the human tendency towards control freakery.

Permit me to commend God's generosity of spirit to you. Permit me, too, to warn you against the worst case scenario for negative snap judgements: our tendency to pass them on ourselves

'This is the verdict,' said Jesus (John 3:19), thus reminding us that, in the ultimate, there is only one verdict that counts.

Other people's verdicts on us may be important, but not ultimately important.

Our verdict on ourselves may influence our behaviour, but it is not ultimately important.

Only one verdict is ultimately important.

That verdict is God's verdict.

Only God has all the facts at his disposal. Far more important, only God has a big enough heart,

a large enough view to pass judgement at all.

In Islam it is necessary to obey all the details of the *Kor'an*, the dietary laws, the *Shar'iah* law, in order to earn paradise. In the Eastern religions there is the concept of *karma*: a guilt which, once earned, follows the individual across many lifetimes.

In Jesus there is forgiveness, and in Christianity's God there is grace. That's what marks Christianity out among all the world's religions. Only in Christianity's adherents, from time to time – as with the adherents of other world faiths – do we encounter *unforgiveness, ungraciousness and the impulse to earn salvation*. Why? Because too many of those who embrace the name of Christ do not embrace Christ and his Gospel.

'It is by grace you have been saved. . . .' Ephesians 2:8.

'From the fulness of his grace [Whose grace? *God's grace*] we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.' John 1:16, 17.

We need not accept the verdicts others pass upon us. The verdicts we pass on ourselves don't count. Only God's verdict counts. And God, above all things, is gracious.

I like the story that Tony Campolo told at Loma Linda University recently. The theology is distinctly suspect, but the story makes a good point.

Peter and Paul were having a discussion in heaven. Paul was in charge of internal administration and Peter was in charge of admissions. But when they came to check their numbers they found that there were more people in heaven than Peter had allowed through the gate or Paul could account for. How come?

One day Paul came running up to Peter and said, 'Peter, Peter! I've worked it out! It's Jesus! He keeps sneaking people over the wall!'

With our legalistic take on righteousness we say, 'You can't come in!' By contrast Jesus, with a grace that often gets stifled by our legalistic attitudes, is looking for the uttermost, the outermost, the whosoever will.

Snap judgements are dangerous. Don't pass them on other people. Don't let other people pass them on you. God is gracious. Why don't you try grace for size?



Assurance in troubled times

A report on the NEC Camp Meeting 9-15 June

by Pastor Des Rafferty, Communication sponsor and Pastor Paul Liburd
Photos: Peter Jeynes

In a week in which European Union membership and a cabinet reshuffle made headlines, over 700 people gathered on Monday 9 June (a total that rose to 1,200 by the weekend) at Pontins holiday centre, Southport, for a spiritual retreat.

Under the theme 'Assurance in troubled times', commitment speaker Dr Gene Donaldson, from the Allegheny East Conference USA, collaborated with Pastor Anthony Anobile (pronounced an-no-bil-lay), Power Hour speaker, and Professor Walter Veith (pronounced fight), Bible study and health hour presenter, in sharing the best news of the week: we can have assurance in God's word.

The speakers quickly endeared themselves to everyone with their friendly manner and challenging messages. Meanwhile, those gathered for the week participated in a variety of workshops organised by the departments of the North England Conference. One such workshop saw a unique collaboration between Adventist World Radio and the NEC Communication department providing a daily workshop, resulting in a live Sabbath pm broadcast from the main hall.

The thirty-minute programme was hosted and presented by those practising the skills acquired during the week. One of the interviews featured Mark Bunney, a talented young saxophonist. The programme was broadcast on AWR on 30 June.

While many are preoccupied with the European Union and government reshuffles, a large number of people spent a week of spiritual renewal and returned to their homes informed and assured in these troubled times.

Keynote Address and Commitment Service

Reporter: Pastor Paul N. Liburd

The eager campers arrived on site with enthusiasm and high expectations. Many had travelled hundreds of miles and made great sacrifice to attend Camp Meeting. They came with a hunger and thirst for righteousness, expecting to be filled, bringing hurts, broken dreams, missed opportunities and spiritual weaknesses.

All this expectation and more rested on the keynote address. Like the

crowd on that hill listening to the Beatitudes, each person listened for the answer to his own dilemma, hoping that the Holy Spirit would somehow provide his unique personal answer somewhere in that message. God opened the mouth of Dr Gene Donaldson and spoke through him to his people, and from that moment on lives were changed and souls were brought to Christ.

As the week progressed, the listeners were brought face to face with their own emotional and spiritual frailty. They were not left to wallow in despair, but were introduced and re-introduced to the divine healer Jesus the Christ. With every sermon the written word became the Living Word, able to change lives.

Bible Study

Professor Walter Veith used his vast knowledge of science and the scriptures to dispel completely the myth of gradual evolution so that no one was left in any doubt concerning the biblical account of creation. The presentations were so filled with clarity and substance that even those with no scientific background understood every word, and yet those with scientific letters following their names still found sufficient content to provide intellectual stimulation and challenge. Each Bible study left the congregation eagerly awaiting the next instalment.

Health Spot

Professor Veith also brought the health message to life. His enthusiastic, informative presentations were clear and well supported by current research. Every dietary prohibition was counterbalanced by an alternative that was not only practical and affordable but also scientifically credible. The business of change was made easy.

1. Trevor and Annice Thomas. 2. Dr Gene Donaldson. 3. Tony Anobile. 4. Mark Bunney who had just brought out a new CD. 5. Professor W. Veith. 6. Mike Simpson spoke of the vision of the Personal Ministries workers and illustrated with typical experiences of Revelation seminars and other outreach endeavours. 7. The NEC awarded two cups for outstanding success to Ingatherers H. Smiley from Dudley and S. Nugent from Nottingham Central.



Power Hour

Latino American Tony Anobile was Power Hour speaker at 12.10 each day. Tony, born in Canada to an Italian father and an Argentinian mother, is assistant president of the Southern California Conference. His wife and children – aged 9, 12 and 13 – were very friendly and chatted to the youth. Tony himself interacted well with youth and was a frequent attender of workshops. He did one workshop himself. Tony's presentations stimulated and challenged the young people. 'If something is popular, it doesn't make it right,' he said. 'And if something is right, it doesn't make it popular.' His presentations were based on the parables in Mark's gospel.

Introducing the ordinand: Pastor Trevor Thomas

Pastor Trevor Thomas was ordained during divine service on the Sabbath of the Southport camp meeting. In the week prior to his ordination Trevor's mother died. It came as a terrible shock to the entire family.

Trevor was born in Reading on 1 May 1963 to Lauren and Camilita Thomas and raised in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

As a child he was sent to church and consequently attended irregularly. There he was looked after by his uncles, Teroy and Levi. However, he stopped attending at the age of 15 and pursued a lifestyle apart from Christ over the next few years.

During that time Trevor left school and won an apprenticeship with a large engineering company in the area, 'Compair', and completed a degree in Technical Production Engineering in 1983.

Eventually Trevor began to see the way his lifestyle was affecting the lives of others and was challenged to ask serious questions about the direction of his life by Pastor Felix McPherson.

In 1985 he attended Camp Meeting in the SEC and later that year an evangelistic series at the High Wycombe, Micklesfield church. Under the guidance of Pastor Vince Goddard, Trevor was baptised in 1986 and became a member of the High Wycombe, Sands church.

Over the next two years Trevor's relationship with Annice deepened and they were married by Pastor Martin Anthony in 1988. As newly-weds they moved to Peterborough. The church there, being only a small congregation, ensured that Trevor and Annice were involved in all aspects of church life. In 1992 they were blessed with the birth of their first son, Christopher.

In 1993 Trevor was impressed to join pastoral ministry. He studied at Newbold College, being greatly influenced by Dr Pederson's lectures on Righteousness by Faith and Dr Karlsen's lectures on Ellen White. He graduated in 1996 with a BA (Hons) in Biblical and Pastoral Studies. During this time Trevor and Annice were again blessed with the birth of a child, their second son James.

In 1998 Trevor obtained an MA in Religion from Newbold College. In December of the same year he was invited to join pastoral ministry in the North England Conference by Pastor E. Francis, and worked in Middlesbrough from that time until August 2000. In September of that year he was moved to the Leeds and Huddersfield district where he is currently serving.



PICTURE AND STORY BY MARVIN PATTERSON

Sharing your gift

Nottingham Central was the place to be when the East Midlands Community Services department hosted its annual Day of Fellowship. The theme for the day was 'Sharing Your Gift' and this was the topic of guest speaker Raafat Kamal (third left in photo), director of ADRA-UK. Nottingham Central had many visitors from neighbouring churches in the East Midlands.

The day was action-packed with various Community Services specialities such as fellowship lunch, a presentation by Pastor Cyril Sweeney (third from right), Community Services director at the NEC, street witnessing and tract distribution, mini concert, and Community Services awards presentation to three members at Nottingham.

Also seen in the picture, from left, are Murel Elson, Nottingham; Christine Buxton, Bulwell; Joyce Sharpe, Bulwell; and Winifred Anderson, Nottingham.

Preston and Lancaster Day of Fellowship

'United to Save' was the title of Preston and Lancaster's day of fellowship, held on 10 May at the Lancaster University Chapel.

The sun shone brightly as members assembled for worship. The atmosphere was one of rejoicing as the song services were led out by the enthusiastic 'Praise Team' and band from Manchester. The programme included a variety of musical items from Preston and Manchester, and Preston children's Sabbath school performed an item using mime.

The visiting speaker, Pastor Egerton Francis, president of the North England Conference, based his sermon on the theme for the day. The afternoon's programme was one of musical praise including songs and solos from various groups from the two churches. One member commented on feeling spiritually blessed with the day's programme.

Prior to the afternoon's programme, the catering committee treated everyone to some wholesome physical food, which was very much appreciated by all.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

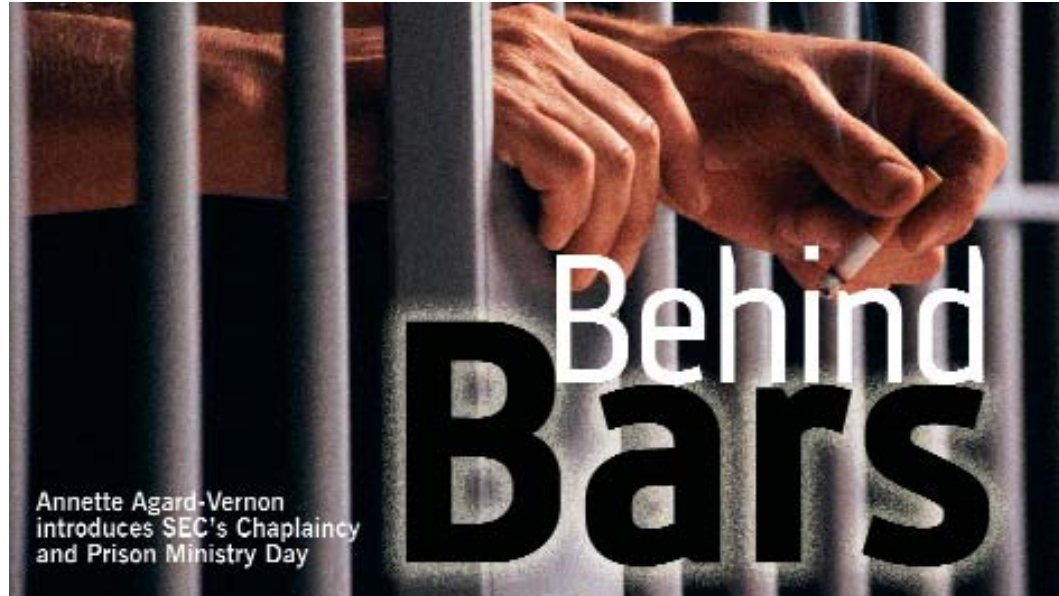
East comes to the West

It's not often that one gets a visiting speaker from the Orient, but on Sabbath 5 April, Preston church were truly blessed by the visit of Pastor Isaiah, Ministerial secretary and Stewardship Ministries director for the Southern Asia Division.

'The Kingdom of God is joy,' said our speaker. 'Joy every one of his citizens will enjoy. . . . The homecoming of a loved one makes us happy, an increased salary makes us happy, but the happiness relating to the Kingdom of God is not participating in externals of religion. It is the joy of the forgiven and the hope that even if we die we will rise again. Joy is a guilt-free life in Christ and that is the Kingdom of God. Don't just wait, the Kingdom of God should be within you right now – righteousness, peace and joy,' he concluded.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT





Where might you expect to find two ex-cons, a chaplain, a magistrate and a man who, having completed his prison sentence, has been asked to stay so that he can continue giving Bible studies to the other inmates? Well, the last one was in Nigeria, but the others I met at Wood Green church on Sabbath 24 May!

People gathered from all over the South East to recognise and celebrate the Chaplaincy and Prison Ministry work of the Church within this region.

Pastor Roy Chisholm, Prison Ministry co-ordinator SEC, did much of the ground work in organising the day, together with Pastor Orville Woolford, Education and Chaplaincy co-ordinator TED, and Dr Martin Feldbush, Associate Chaplaincy director for the General Conference.

Most people reading this will never have the experience of being behind bars. Listen to the stories of those who have (as visitors or prisoners). It will open your mind.

Early retirement due to back problems left Shirley from Ipswich with more time to help other people. She had already felt impressed to get involved in prison visiting and had completed some training while in Florida. On returning to England she was introduced to a Christian organisation called Prison Fellowship. Now actively involved in Prison Ministry, Shirley's voluntary work revolves around supporting the Chaplaincy Service by helping out in the services on a monthly basis, being part of a regular prayer group and taking part in ongoing training. In addition to prison visiting, Shirley frequently takes two of the men from the Open Prison out on 'town visits'. This is a special privilege that inmates are allowed – usually for shopping trips as the prison prepares

them for life back in the community. It is also an excellent way to avoid re-offending because they are establishing contacts and connections outside.

'One of the men is a Seventh-day Adventist and the other is interested in learning more, so they have chosen to spend their "town visit" at the local Adventist church!

'They are welcomed with open arms. The rules state that they cannot come to my house so the church members organise a pot-luck lunch and we all spend the Sabbath together until it's time for them to return in the evening.'

Although some church members expressed misgivings at first, the mutual respect that has grown between Shirley and the men has silenced their fears.

'Today, because I couldn't be there, these two gentlemen have been allowed to attend Sabbath services with another church member who signed them out on my behalf!'

Even while we chatted over a delicious lunch prepared for us by Wood Green church members, Shirley's mobile rang. 'They just wanted me to know they are at church right now having a good time!' she beamed.

Rev'd Phillip Meaden, former Chaplain of Wandsworth Prison, spoke of his first time in prison as a frightening and challenging experience. In spite of that, he was confident that the Christian faith can and will prosper in any circumstances. He spoke about the 'something special' we all share as Christians and about the importance and power of prayer.

'In my work I prayed all the time; while walking around the prison, entering prison cells, meeting new prisoners getting settled in on the first day, ministering to the bereaved, before chapel service.'

In 1999 businessman Paul was sentenced to nineteen years in prison. The prospect of this hung heavily on him, although he was in the process of appealing. Paul began attending the prison chapel services and there he met Sephlyn Campbell, a member of the Croydon Church Prison Ministry team. Sephlyn's prayers, letters and words of encouragement helped him through that devastating experience.

The Croydon Prison Ministry team pulled together and organised a barrister for Paul. After he had served just one year Paul's conviction was quashed. On Sabbath he could not contain his joy as he told the story of God's victory in his life. Paul's testimony was summed up in the song, 'Thank you, Lord, for Your Blessings on me', which he sang with such passion it was impossible to be unmoved.

Recently-appointed Magistrate Ana-Maria Bradshaw shared with us

some insights into the important role of mentoring. Her experience over the years served at Feltham Young Offenders' Institute as a mentor gave her the authority to talk about the qualities and skills needed. Pastor Chisholm recruited Ana-Maria who, with Tracey Moses, trains mentors and helps them develop writing skills.

Like becoming a prison visitor, becoming a mentor does require some training and this is the work in which Ana-Maria – a non-Adventist – is involved. Ironically, we all find ourselves playing the role of mentor at some time in our lives when we advise, listen, encourage, or act as role models.

The qualities listed are considered some of the most important for becoming a mentor: commitment, empathy, patience, a sense of humour and a non-judgemental attitude.

We didn't spend the day just listening or being entertained. We were also invited to participate in role play when we discussed the issue of re-offending.

According to Dr Martin Feldbush, the main guest speaker, this is a serious issue and one which enables church members to play an important role through mentoring. Associate Chaplaincy director of the General Conference, Dr Felbush spoke of the mysterious (or, as someone said, 'mischievous') way God works. In his sermon 'The Genealogy of Jesus', he illustrated how often the most unlikely people can play an important role in God's plan.

After all the presentations, question-and-answer sessions and special items, one man's testimony stuck in my mind. Like Paul, Bill had had a life-changing experience in prison. He shared this simple truth: 'The Lord has a plan for you but Satan has one too.'

Prison Ministry Day challenged us all to ask, What is the Lord's plan for my life and how would he like to use me to serve others?



The Croydon Team

Serving for more than ten years

The Croydon prison ministry team has been working with inmates for more than ten years. They travel as far afield as the Verne Prison in Dorset, Blundeston in Suffolk, and Long Lartin near Evesham. They have been to at least fourteen prisons, and have distributed thousands of pieces of literature, enrolled hundreds of prisoners in Bible correspondence courses and have received numerous letters and testimonies of life-changing experiences.

Inmates have returned home to as far afield as the USA, Nigeria, Jamaica, and Barbados. The team is in touch with a family in South Africa who remain eternally grateful for all the help that was given to their dad.

Each year the team spends approximately £3,000 helping inmates and their families in various ways. They have seen at least three inmates baptised this year. However, they know that seeds are sown and the heavenly watchers will see to it that such seeds will germinate and bring forth a great harvest.

Balham Prison Ministry Team

Jo Anderson and her team work extensively with inmates in a number of prisons such as Brixton, Belmarsh, Parkhurst, Send, Swaleside, and Wayland, to name but a few.

Not only do they offer spiritual help and counsel, they give practical help also, such as providing a suitcase on the day of repatriation, providing something to wear home upon release. They comfort the bereaved. They try to help reconcile prisoners with their families.

One young man whose father passed away while he was incarcerated, wrote to Jo telling her how devastated the bereavement had left him. He was depressed and shattered by the experience, locked up in Her Majesty's Prison when his family needed him. He said there was no one in prison with whom he could share his grief. 'One day I was in my cell praying to God for comfort. I felt this grief was going to kill me. Then a prison officer knocked on my door while I was praying. He handed me a letter from Jo. The letter contained words of comfort and assurance from the scriptures. My burden was lifted. There was never a time when I felt the presence of God so close to me. I cried and cried as I praised God for the comfort he sent me that day.'

'The letter contained a card to be sent to my mother. My mother has also received some money from the Balham prison team. I am deeply grateful. I am so happy for Christian people.'

Wood Green and Palmers Green

The prison programme in London started when Pastor Roy Chisholm pastored the Wood Green, Palmers Green and Hanwell churches.

Wood Green and Palmers Green have been serving the Wandsworth prison since 1989. Donna Murray has been the resident musician at Wandsworth prison for the past fourteen years and travels to the prison every Sunday morning. Imagine the number of inmates she has led in worship during that time.

1. Ana-Maria Bradshaw-Murray is a Youth Justice Worker and a Magistrate. Ana-Maria trains people to mentor prisoners. 2. Myrtle Warren, leader of the Reading prison team. The 8-member team visits Reading Prison once a month to conduct Sunday services. 3. Jim and Joy Francis, members of the Bury St Edmunds church. Jim has been a very active worker in the Wayland prison for over four years. A member of the Board of Prison Visitors in his town, Jim attends the Prison Chaplain Services every Sunday. Jim furnishes the prison chapel with many Adventist publications, which are in great demand. 4. Left to right: The Balham team, Margerite Mazula, Orville Fuller, Fay Cameron, V. Josiah, Jo Anderson, Errol Anderson, Sr Barnard and Carlton Fuller. 5. Left to right: The Wood Green/Palmers Green team, Victoria Ayree, Terry Nunnes, Annette Robinson, Nadine Nunnes.



Lloyd Harris receiving a certificate for his commitment to the Prison Ministries Department

Lloyd Harris - Watford Team

Lloyd Harris is a keen and enthusiastic prison worker, currently part of a team that is conducting Sabbath services in the Bovingdon prison in Hemel Hempstead.

The Hanwell Team

Hanwell prison team has been serving Bovingdon, Wandsworth, Brixton and Wormwood Scrubs prisons for over twelve years.

They are in great demand because they provide some of the most soul-stirring and uplifting services conducted in the prisons. For a fairly young team they are the most consistent and dedicated.

Leader Thelma and her three daughters are all great musicians.



Sephlyn Campbell and Paul Harding who was released after 1 year of a 19 year sentence

The Baby Doll Project

Baby Simulators were used at SEC camp meeting to help teens make an informed choice about parenthood.

Teen Ministries, in conjunction with Life Choice, launched the Baby Doll project on Tuesday 10 June. You will probably recognise 'Life Choice' from high-profile shows including *This Morning* and *Ricki Lake*. This programme aims to help young people make responsible, informed choices about parenthood by experiencing Baby Simulators. The research done alongside the programme shows that after experiencing a baby for a full course (a weekend), young people tend to make more informed choices about the way they conduct some aspects of their lives.

At the meeting on Monday evening, twenty-one teens were asked to come back the next day at noon as we had a surprise for them – little did they know they were to become parents! Most were excited at the prospect of having a 'doll' to look after; the majority thought it would be a breeze. There were those, on the other hand who, regardless of whether the project

involved dolls, babies or anything else, were not happy about the prospect of becoming Momma or Poppa.

Each of the chosen teens was given an electronic tag that fitted into the back of their child so that the child would recognise its parent. They were also each given two nappies – one blue, one white – and a bottle. They had to find the rest of the baby amenities themselves.

Once the babies were set, there was no way to turn them off apart from when they were put into Day Care. Between the hours of 11am to 4.30pm the 'doting parents' were permitted to place their child in the Day Care facilities provided by Natalie Nugent and Marsha Brooks (they had the master key).

The rest of the time the teen parents had to put up with crying through the night, nappy changing, feeding, burping, and cuddling these life-like dolls. The stress and effect that these dolls had on the teens were shown in the dark, heavy bags underneath their eyes every morning! The loud, monotonous cry of the babies even got through to the



One of the real ones!

people staying in the teens' chalets.

While for most this experience was harrowing, to say the least, there were those teen parents who tried to kidnap their child after the drop-off date had been set, and there were also a few who were close to tears when having to say goodbye. You see, the teen parents had given their children names, they had protected them from harm, they had taught them right from wrong, they had clothed them, fed them and nurtured them, but when it came down to it, they had looked after a doll and we suggested

they come to terms with that!

On a serious note, feedback from the teen 'parents' suggested that many of them would now definitely not have babies before they were married. It also reinforced the importance of abstinence as being the only true contraception against pregnancy. Although the amount of experience they received was only a teardrop in the ocean compared with having a real child, many of them grasped the gigantic and many times overwhelming responsibility that is involved in caring for a baby.

Session Announcement

South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Fifty-ninth Session of the South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held from Thursday 4 September to Sunday 7 September 2003, at The Guildhall, Portsmouth.

We wish to advise our constituency that amendments to our constitution may only be made where such proposed amendments are within the terms of Article 19, viz,

- a. Subject to the following provisions of the clause the Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the voters present and voting at any regular

special session. The Notice of the session must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed. At least twenty-eight days' notice of any proposed changes must be given.

- b. No amendment may be made to Article 1, Article 3, 15c, Article 20, or this Article without prior consent in writing of the Charity Commissioners.
- c. No amendment may be made which could have the effect of making the Charity cease to be a charity at law.
- d. The Executive Committee should promptly send to the Charity Commissioners and the British Union Conference a copy of any amendment under this article.

H. Walters, Executive secretary

ABC BOOK SALES 2003

Aug	31	Open Day Stanborough Press	
Sept	4-7	SEC Mission Session	
	21	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
	28	West Midlands	10am-2pm

BUC Youth Department is preparing a manual on youth leadership for the UK SDA Church and would like to hear from members to help fill in the huge gaps on the history and development of the youth work in our church. Please contact Des G. Boldeau at the BUC, Stanborough Park, Garston, Herts, WD25 9JZ. dboldeau@adventist.org.uk; telephone: 01923 672251.

Book of the Month

Messiah

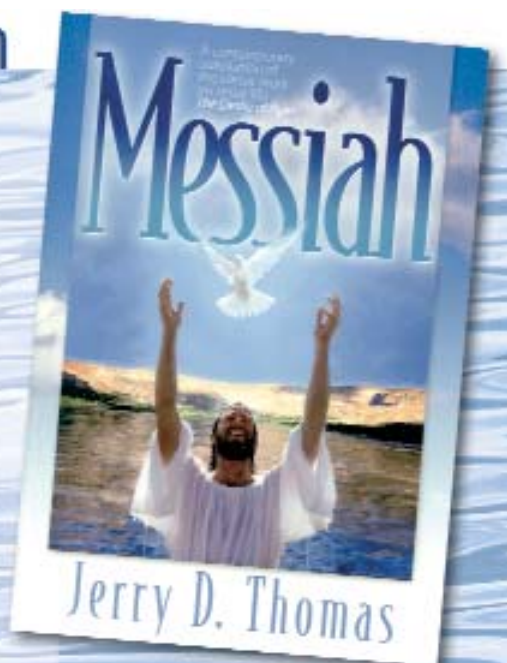
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Special price: £3.95



Messenger

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Sunset

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	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
July 18	9.09	9.21	9.20	9.45	9.48
25	9.00	9.12	9.11	9.34	9.38
Aug 1	8.49	9.02	8.59	9.21	9.25
8	8.37	8.50	8.46	9.06	9.12

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