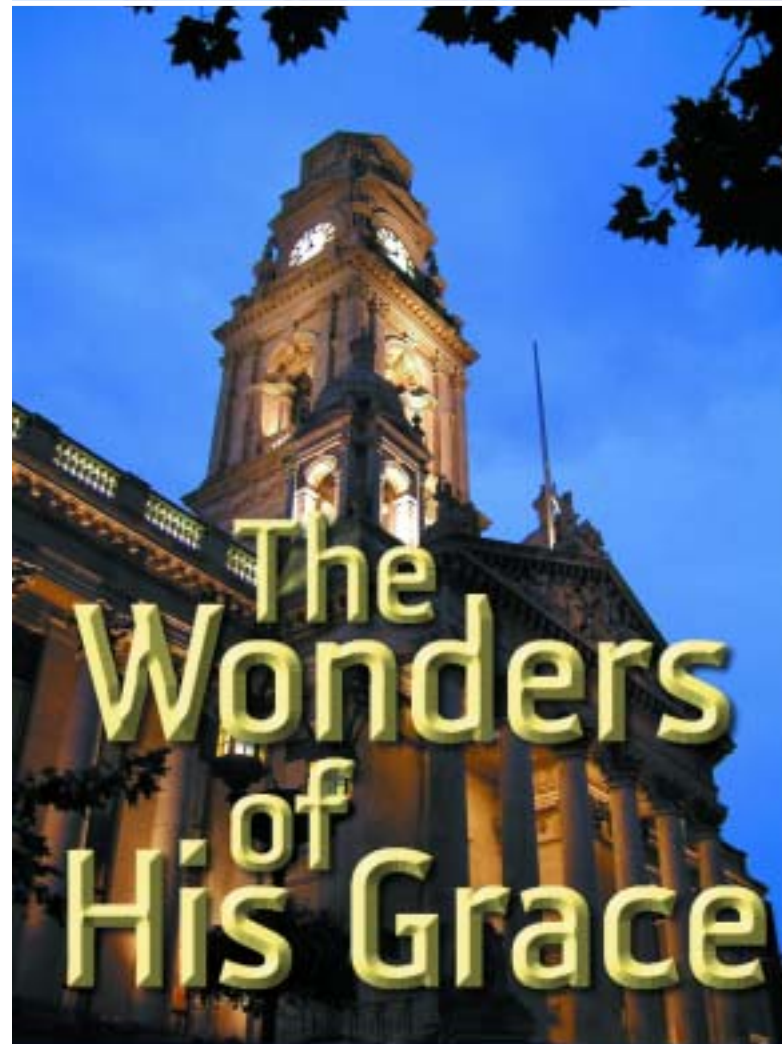


Messenger

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



A report on the South England Conference Session at Portsmouth 4-7 September

Words: Catherine Boldeau, John Surridge and David West
Photographs: Les Hill, Barry Alen, John Surridge and David West

Session opening

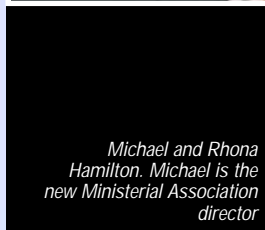
On Thursday 4 September the South England Conference began its 59th Session at the Guildhall, Portsmouth. Meetings started promptly at 5pm with a short address from SEC president Pastor Don McFarlane followed by a welcome from the Mayor of Portsmouth, Councillor Tom Blair. Councillor Blair praised Seventh-day Adventists for their work in education. He said, 'This weekend, in your prayers, please remember the children and young people here in Portsmouth who are in the care of our social services department.'

praised the SEC for its evangelistic work, its role in the LIFEdevelopment process, and its programme of church planting. 'Of the forty conferences we have in the Trans-European Division, the South England Conference is one of the fastest growing,' he said.

BUC president Pastor Cecil Perry also spoke briefly in the opening stages of the Session. Referring to the demanding task of chairing the nominating committee, which traditionally falls to the Union president at Conference Sessions, he said, 'I will be locked up in a back room for three days,



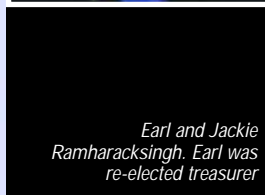
Don and Mary McFarlane. Don was re-elected president



Michael and Rhona Hamilton. Michael is the new Ministerial Association director



Dalbert and Pat Elias. Dalbert was elected Executive secretary



Earl and Jackie Ramharacksingh. Earl was re-elected treasurer



Delegates to the Session were also welcomed by local pastor David Foster, and by TED president Dr Bertil Wiklander. In his address Dr Wiklander

so please remember me in your prayers!

The keynote address for the Session was given by former General Conference secretary Pastor G. Ralph Thompson. In his address Pastor Thompson focused on the theme for the Conference Session: 'United in the Wonder of His Grace.' He reminded the delegates that the theme of grace runs right through the Bible. 'Grace is as much an Old Testament word as a New Testament experience,' he said. 'The challenge that comes to us is to practise grace – to show kindness to those who don't deserve it. We need to reach out to our friends and relations and tell them about the grace of God.'

At the conclusion of Pastor Thompson's address BUC Youth director Pastor Des Boldeau led out in a time of prayer when all the delegates were encouraged to divide into pairs and pray together.

Continued on page 4



Liberia Appeal

by Raafat A. Kamal, ADRA-UK director



ADRA-UK is launching an appeal to raise funds to support 8,000 persons in Clara Town affected by the recent fighting in Liberia. Through this intervention, ADRA-UK aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To improve shelter conditions through the provision and distribution of non-food items including blankets, cooking and household utensils, mats and bed nets.
2. To improve health conditions through the provision of drugs to the community clinic.
3. To improve environmental conditions through a clean-up campaign of drainage and garbage collection.

Assessments carried out by ADRA in the Clara Town Community, situated on the outskirts of the capital Monrovia, revealed that the living conditions of the already impoverished residents of this community have been exacerbated by the recent fighting in Monrovia. The health situation has recently become a major problem in Clara Town. There is one government-owned clinic in the community which receives between 650 to 800 patients daily. Furthermore, the war has worsened the already deplorable sanitary

conditions of the community. Drainage and community latrines urgently need repair.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) is currently providing wheat, beans and oil to 12,000 newly-displaced persons in other parts

of Monrovia. In addition to meeting food needs, ADRA has also distributed 350 bales of clothing to approximately 10,000 internally displaced persons.

Over the past months, ADRA-UK has supported disaster interventions in a number of countries including Uganda, Mexico, Malawi, Zambia, Bangladesh, Sudan and Pakistan, bringing relief to thousands of people.

What can we do? We kindly request that our churches and individual members 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'.

Alternatively, you can send your gift through the regular church channels. In all cases, please indicate that the gift is for the 'ADRA-UK Liberia Appeal'.

Thank you for your help. (In keeping with accepted charitable practices in the UK, up to 5% of donations will be retained to help with administrative expenses and to generate further funds.)



Life on the Fringe

Can you guess which speaker was being described here?

'He spoke for about twenty minutes on the theme of corruption and rottenness of the old order [words omitted here]. He kept warning his audience that it was five minutes to midnight – "Fünf Minuten vor zwölf!" He never explained what was to happen at twelve, he simply repeated the same phrase over and over again, gently at first, quiet and explanatory, then increasingly furious and finally shouting at the top of his voice. He played with his audience. He had pathos, tenderness, decisiveness, frightfulness. I thought, "Wow! Who is this guy?"'

A camp meeting speaker, maybe? Or a lay evangelist in a tent campaign?

Alistair Cooke, the world's best known journalist, wrote those words when he was a young man. In 1931, Cooke, with a Jewish friend, was on holiday in Munich. They idly wandered into the grounds of the *Braunhaus* and caught a soapbox speech by a politician of whom they had never heard.

You've probably guessed already who the speaker was. If not, you will guess when I fill in the words of the speech that I deliberately omitted: 'The corruption and rottenness of the old order in general and the Jews in particular.'

If you have guessed who it was, you will have realised that 'the unknown politician' did not remain unknown for long. Indeed, in the annals of European history, he was to become one of the most well-known personifications of evil.

After Adolf Hitler had become dictator of Germany and commenced his systematic persecution (and near extermination) of the Jews, a well-known Christian was returning to Europe on an ocean liner from New York. Over tea he had to listen to a Nazi sympathiser blaming the Jews for all the evils of the day. He ended by asking the Christian, 'Don't you blame the Jews?'

The Christian's response surprised him: 'The Jews and the cyclists. Don't forget the cyclists.'

Puzzled, the Nazi responded: 'Why the cyclists?' The Christian replied: 'Why the Jews?'

The most unscrupulous of all political groupings have a way of deflecting attention from the evils around them (and from their part in the creation and perpetuation of those evils) by focusing hostility on some identifiable minority.

People – particularly *unstable* people – need

someone to hate. The Nazi regime recognised this need to hate and concentrated its propaganda against the Jews until that minority became the focus of what has been called 'a national psychosis'. Extermination camps resulted.

Adventists would never adopt a hate strategy, would they? Not deliberately, of course. But minorities can be isolated for verbal abuse.

A friend sent me a book in which the *Jesuits* were blamed for every historical evil of the last century including both world wars, the sinking of the *Titanic* and the destruction of the World Trade Centre. The book constituted an incitement to hatred. Sadly, it concluded with an appeal for the seventh-day Sabbath, thus identifying its author as an Adventist. The implication, without justification, was that Bible prophecy made it legitimate to target Roman Catholics in general and Jesuits in particular for hatred. That is not the point of prophecy. Part of the point of Christianity is that *no one* has a licence to hate *anyone*.

One of the problems of scale caused by the rapid growth of the Church has been a pluralistic approach to theology. There is a lot of life on the fringes these days.

Among the hucksters represented in the 5,000-strong throng who came to hear the Adventist Chorale on Press Open Day, the commercial arms of most of the fringe groups were represented. Judging by the number of complaints received subsequently at least one of these outfits engaged in very aggressive canvassing. . . . The beliefs promulgated in their products were *not* those of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Does that mean that, having identified the fringe groups, we can focus our hostility on them? Not if we are Christians, it doesn't. What it *does* do is lay a heavy responsibility on the shoulders of The Stanborough Press Ltd to screen more carefully those who make use of its premises. It also lays a heavy responsibility on every Sabbath school teacher, preacher, pastor and communicator of the Gospel to express clearly the central truths of the faith. Truth is the only inoculation we can give against error.

There are tremendous dangers in demonising minorities. *Yes*, they are irritating, not least because of their upside-down Gospel and shallow hucksterism.

Jesus himself was outspoken against those who

'spun' the Gospel the wrong way in his day (read Matthew 23 on the Pharisees). Paul wrote Galatians against infiltrating legalists (called Judaisers). But neither Jesus nor Paul incited to hatred, and neither should we.

Two pieces of counsel from Jesus should be noted.

First, is the message of the Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds: Let the wheat and the weeds grow together until the harvest (Matthew 13:30). If we tackle the uprooting, we'll end up uprooting both wheat and weeds.

Second, remember the Jesus criterion: 'You will know them by their fruits.' (Matthew 7:16.) There's something for everyone in there. The fruit of an individual's experience is the only guide we have to its genuineness. If the behaviour of the orthodox should become worse than that of the unorthodox, what does that say about the spiritual experience of the orthodox? Orthodoxy on its own is not a guarantee of spiritual maturity.

Jesus is the root of your salvation. Christian behaviour is the fruit. Show me a *fruitless* profession (or a profession characterised by sour fruit), and I will show you a *rootless* profession.

- One last time:
- 1 No one has a licence to hate.
 - 2 Christ is the Root, so let's see some fruit!

Reference:
 'Nick Clarke, Alistair Cooke: The Biography (Orion, 1999), pages 57, 58.



Healthwise

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

Clearing the tubes

The US writer and humorist Ambrose Bierce seemed to have a low opinion of musical instruments, referring to the accordion as, 'An instrument in harmony with the sentiments of an assassin.' Writing of the piano, he said that it was 'a parlour utensil for subduing the impenitent visitor. It is operated by depressing the keys of the machine and the spirits of the audience.'

One wonders what Bierce thought of the bagpipes, but perhaps he had only a slight acquaintance with them. No doubt, in the light of a Report in the *Piper and Drummer*, he might have taken an equally ascerbic line. The pipes have been blamed for a variety of problems from deafness to marital break-up.

The first of these is understandable with the noise level from a single chanter reaching 122 decibels. Robert Wallace, principal of the College of Piping in Glasgow, is dismissive. In spite of the estimate that 50% of the pipers surveyed admitted having hearing loss and repetitive strain injuries, Wallace says that all good pipers take care not to

play loudly in confined spaces and they play their instruments in such a way that their hearing is not affected. Such loss as there might be is more likely to result from close proximity to drums which might do more damage than pipes.

One in ten of the pipers said that their intimate attachment to the pipes in practice and formally had led to marital breakdown, though the Report does not specify where the pipes were played! Interestingly, none of the pipers owned up to being alcoholic, but 84% of them knew pipers who were! Whether or not these were the survivors of the broken marriages was also not reported. Wallace admits that the men like a drink - after all, blowing the pipes is thirsty work - but says that the pipers' drinking is no different from that of any other club members.

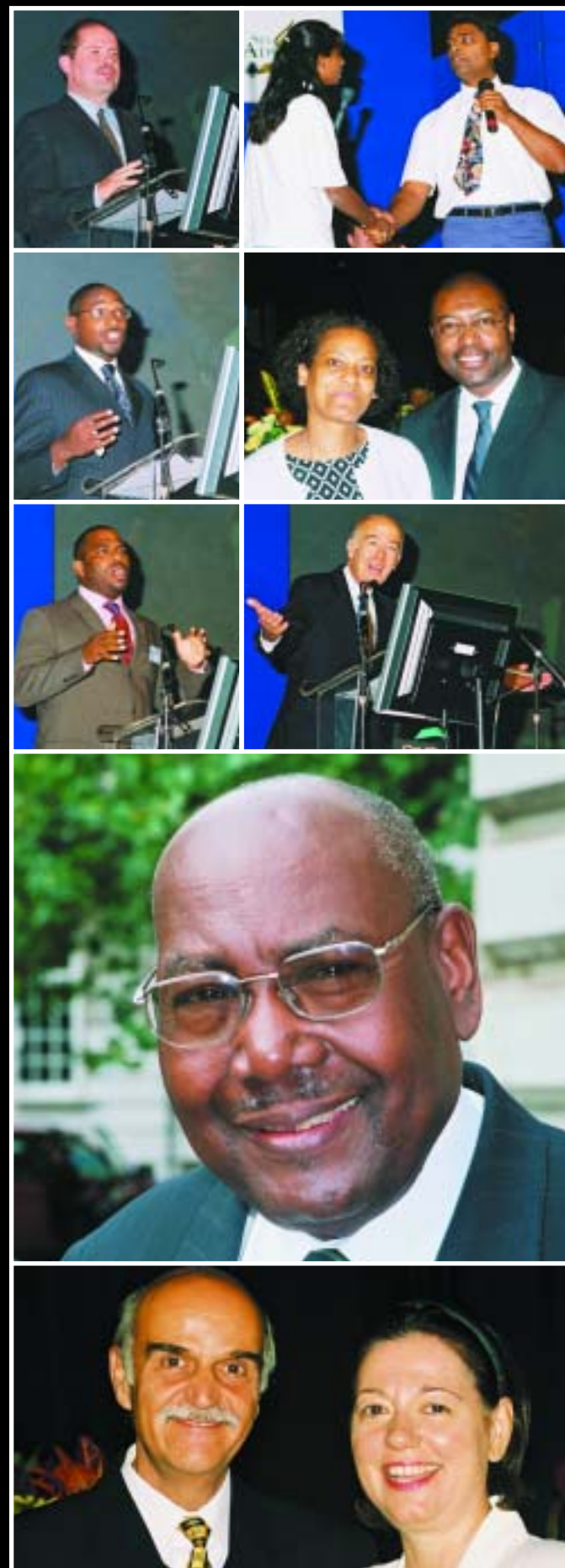
Much of the popular image of the piper, Wallace says, is stereotypical and stems from an old music-hall act which depicted a drunken piper. It is easy, states Wallace, to make fun of the piper and his instrument, but, he stresses, you cannot play the

pipes if you are drunk. Since William Shakespeare speaks of those who 'laugh like parrots at a bagpiper' (*The Merchant of Venice*), and the Scots themselves, who believe that 'Twelve Highlanders and a bagpipe make a rebellion', who are we not to chuckle at the thought of pipers clearing the tubes?

Forgive me if I have a somewhat jaundiced view of the pipes. It relates to our trying to get to sleep in our apartment, after a late and tiring arrival in Malta some years ago. We were awakened at 2am by our Scots neighbour playing *Amazing Grace* on his bagpipes!

Whatever Bierce might have written about the pipes, I think I would have agreed with him!





First row, left to right: Pastor Spearing of Oxford. The Kings of Taunton. Second row: Dr DeLisser, Ava and Humphrey Walters. Third row: Eddie Hypolite. Pastor David Cox. Fourth row: Retired GC man, Pastor G. Ralph Thompson. Fifth row: Aris and Sophia Vontzalidis.

Continued from page 1

New churches

The first business session was officially opened at 6.25pm when SEC Executive secretary Pastor Humphrey Walters announced that 74% of the delegates had already registered – well above the 51% required by the constitution for business to begin. The first main item of business to be carried out was the accepting of a number of new congregations into the sisterhood of churches that make up the South England Conference. Altogether twelve new churches were added to the SEC, a number of which are new 'national' churches such as the Filipino and Ghanaian congregations.

President's Report

As usual at Conference Sessions the selection of the Recommendations Committee took a considerable amount of time. This was followed by the President's report which received warm applause. Presented in the form of a 30-minute video, the report clearly showed that over the last four years the SEC had been remarkably successful. Statistics showed that there had been 2,090 accessions over the quadrennium and tithe had increased to over £25 million. However, Pastor McFarlane was not complacent and reinforced Dr Wiklander's comments about the LIFEdevelopment process which will form a major part of the SEC's outreach in the year ahead. 'I am convinced that there is great merit in this approach,' Pastor McFarlane said.

The evening concluded with the delegation breaking up into small groups to discuss specific areas of concern. They were instructed by Pastor Humphrey Walters to come up with clearly defined proposals which would then be submitted to the Plans Committee. Some of the groups concluded their work by the suggested time of 10.15pm, though others continued formally and then informally for a while longer.

Friday

On Friday 5 September, the second day of the Conference, Pastor G. Ralph Thompson began the morning with a devotional based on the story of the woman caught in adultery. Expanding on Jesus' words, 'Go and sin no more,' he said, 'It's not what I am but what I can be by the grace of God, that is important.'

Immediately after the devotional, business began in earnest with a report from the Recommendations

Committee. This presented the names of those people suggested for service on the Nominating Committee, the body which discusses and finally presents for approval by the delegates the names of those people who are to serve as Conference officers, departmental directors, and committee members over the next four years. Once voted, the Nominating Committee left immediately to begin work while various reports were presented to the remaining delegates.

Upbeat

In the Executive secretary's report Pastor Humphrey Walters gave an upbeat presentation that highlighted the numerical growth that had occurred in the SEC over the last four years. Membership was up by 1,714. In his treasurer's report Earl Ramharack-singh also had good news: tithe had increased by an average of 12% per year over the quadrennium. However, the growth that has taken place in the Conference has also brought some problems. A number of speakers raised questions about the overcrowding which is limiting growth in some of our churches, and the difficulties many new groups are having in finding suitable churches in which to worship.

President re-elected

At 12.35pm a report came back from the Nominating Committee suggesting that Pastor Don McFarlane continue to serve as president of the South England Conference. This was well received and was quickly voted through. In his response Pastor McFarlane assured the delegates that he only had one objective in mind, 'to advance the cause of God'. He went on to say, 'I realise that I can't please everyone. That is impossible.' However, he outlined a number of plans for the future of the SEC and, while being encouraged by the growth that had taken place in the Conference, concluded, 'We need, most of all, to grow spiritually.'

Church growth

Friday afternoon reports came from the Church Growth department and Ministerial Association. The second of these was interrupted by another report from the Nominating Committee, this time presenting the names of Pastor Dalbert Elias for Executive secretary, Mr Earl Ramharack-singh as treasurer, and Pastor Humphrey Walters for a new position of Strategic Development director. After these positions were voted two further directors were presented: Pastor Aristotle Vontzalidis as Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director, and

Pastor Michael Hamilton as Ministerial Association director. Summarising the comments of many, Pastor McFarlane expressed appreciation for the work that Pastor Walters had done over the last seven years as Conference secretary, and for the ministry of the former Ministerial Association director, Dr Brighton Kavaloh, who had requested that he be allowed to return to field ministry. BUC president Pastor Perry also spoke highly of Dr Kavaloh. 'If I was sick I would want Pastor Kavaloh to come and pray with me,' he said.

Vespers

In the evening there was a change of pace as Pastor David Cox presented a vespers service for the beginning of the Sabbath. Laverne Byng and Rose Lewis, both active in local church plants, led out in a number of praise and worship songs, and delegates then watched a video Bible reading from the popular 'Matthew' set of videos.

The final programme for the evening was a celebration of evangelism by Pastor Dalbert Elias. A trumpet trio and video helped to focus people's attention and then a number of people gave testimonies about their particular experiences of evangelism. Pastor Richard DeLisser spoke of the 100 people who had been added to the Church as a result of the Mildred Robinson campaign in Mabley Green. More than one speaker spoke on the phenomenon of 'national' group growth, with Ghanaian, Asian,

Portuguese, Filipino, Russian and Bulgarian groups now being officially recognised and encouraged by the Conference. Leslie and Dana King have spent five years pioneering a church plant in Yeovil, and they spoke of the success that they are now having. Particularly entertaining was a talk by Pastor Eddie Hypolite whose 'Kennington Community Fellowship' is perhaps the most radical approach to small group evangelism in the whole of the SEC.

Sabbath

Pastor Patrick Boyle began the Sabbath programme in his own unique style. As he presented the Sabbath School lesson his combined biblical scholarship and sharp wit, not to mention his habit of picking on unsuspecting 'friends' in the congregation to answer his questions, kept people on their toes. Pastor Boyle's initial focus was on what he called Jesus' mission statement, 'The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.' However, he concluded with a warning: 'The Jews made the mistake of making the shadows into the reality. We can make the mistake of substituting our knowledge for practice.'

Presentation to Chorale

In the divine service Pastor Don McFarlane made a special presentation to Chorale conductor Ken Burton and congratulated him on the excellent work that he was doing. 'More than any other individual or group the

London Adventist Chorale has raised the profile of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in this country,' he said. (Divine service is reported in full on page 9.)

Ordination

At 4pm another major Sabbath service took place, the ordination of six men to the ministry. These were: Amalendu Bairagee, George Dadey, Edmund (Eddie) Hypolite, Andrew Leonce, Michael Mannix, and Ashwin Somasundram. The speaker for this service was North England Conference president Pastor Egerton Francis, who took as his theme Jesus' words, 'Follow me.' 'The disciples were not asked to learn the art of being fishers of men,' he said. 'They were simply told to follow Jesus and he would make them fishers of men.' At the time of the ordination itself there was a call for all ordained ministers in the hall to join those on the plat-



Evangelism Feature

The evangelist feature began with a short video that highlighted the deprivation of the world. Statistics were given with regard to secularism, drug abuse, prostitution, alcoholism, homelessness and unemployment. This dramatic film aptly portrayed the need of the world for Jesus Christ.

Immediately following this, the congregation was invited to take part in a multi-media interactive liturgy. Using as its basis the 27 doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist faith, it encouraged the delegates to have a point of focus regarding the religion that we all hold so dear. Dalbert Elias, newly-elected Executive secretary for the SEC, led out in this service.

After this inspiring and dramatic beginning, we were brought back to earth with the reality of the work that the ordinary members are doing in working with their fellow human beings, telling them about the love of Jesus Christ.

First to talk of soul-winning activity was Dr Richard DeLisser. He spoke about the Community Services programme held in Hackney Marshes. 100 souls were baptised from this programme. There are an additional 8 to be baptised shortly. The speaker for this community-based tent programme was Mildred Robinson, a lay member from the West Indies. It is the first time in the history of the SEC that a woman has led out in this way. The reason for the project is to let the public know that we are proud of being Adventists.

Richard told a story of a man who was homeless for twenty years and who died recently. The only other attendee at his funeral was another minister – his only friends Adventists whom he had met in a drop-in centre at Stoke Newington.

St Francis of Assisi was reported to have said to his disciples, 'Go preach the gospel to the whole world, and if necessary use words.' This is how Pastor David Spearing, co-ordinator of Area 5, began his report. In his church there are fourteen nationalities. For one minute he felt like Kofi Annan, Head of the United Nations, and he said that he offered a prayer of thanks for the unity in diversity in his church in Oxford – a little taste of heaven in the city of 'gleaming spires'.

'Multi-cultural evangelism – a Celebration' – this video began with Dr E. Sackey, who spoke of the Ghanaian churches. Next, Pastor A. Bairagee, who was ordained at the Session, spoke about the growth of the Asian church. Pastor E. Duarte of the Hispanic and Portuguese church, told of the growth in Spanish. Todd Frias spoke of the growth of the work with Filipinos in the Conference, 90-100 people attending each week, and the CD ministry.

Pastor Lutso, Russian fellowship, worships each week with 25-30 people in Tooting Broadway. The Bulgarian church was also featured.

Kennington Community under the leadership of Pastor Eddie Hypolite is about Urban Ministries. Eddie told of a young person called Jesse, who printed leaflets, and had a youth week of empowerment. Food for the Brain – Youth forum. Juicy Jerks – talk Christ on the Street. In the summertime, the church took them out.

'We're not just planting churches, we're planting the world.' You don't need a building, you need a plan. Membership – 80, attending 140. Kick it in the Butt – a stop-smoking programme – Evangelism is alive!

The Yeovil project. Leslie and Dana King did a small sketch that illustrated the journey they experienced when they moved from their home in High Wycombe to Yeovil. When they moved to Yeovil for the purpose of becoming child-minders they met an estate agent who tried to find them a house. This lady has since become a good friend of the family, and attended the baptism of both of their children. From being a professed non-believer, she has accepted that there is a God and is regularly worshipping with the family.

The Cooper Brothers from Stanborough Park church gave light musical relief. Accompanied by Benson Ferrari of the St Albans church, the three young men played a trumpet trio of the piece 'Hallelujah, Sing to Jesus'. The loud applause of the congregation was evidence of their appreciation.

Aris Vontzalidis, known as the 'Small Group Guru', began his presentation by greeting the delegation with Greek phraseology. Doris Adams accompanied him from the Muswell Hill church. Doris told of how she attended a small group seminar at Newbold earlier in the year and was impressed by the concept, so she decided to start one in her home. Doris, due to disability, was not able to go far, but her neighbour started one and she goes there on a Tuesday evening. Doris attends at least three small groups each week.



First row: The congregation. Second row: Karen and Bernie Holford. Third row: Oscar Osindo. Fourth row: Aris Vontzalidis.

form, which was subsequently filled to capacity. Following the laying on of hands, Pastor Andrew Leonce gave a response and Mrs Laura Osei gave some words of advice to the wives of those ordinands who were married.

At 7.30pm Mrs Heather Haworth, Women's Ministries director at the British Union Conference, presented a brief vespers service. Reminiscing about when her own children were small she spoke of the games of hide and seek they would play and how her husband would call out and say, 'Where are you? I'm coming to find you.' 'Of course he knew where they were all along,' she said, 'and when he found them he would pick them up and enfold them in his arms.' Mrs Haworth drew parallels with God's experience with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden and said that Jesus' message to us today is basically the same, 'Come back into the fold of the family.'

Chorale concert

The finale to the whole day was a concert by the London Adventist Chorale who performed a variety of songs ranging from classical to up-tempo gospel. Chorale conductor Ken Burton led out with his characteristic charm and flair, effortlessly making the transition from pianist to conductor, and entertainer to teacher as he helped the congregation learn a four-part harmony to 'This little light of mine'. A consummate professional in things musical Ken inspired the twenty-two Chorale members to perform at their best. An extra treat was a performance by the group 'Take 4', a male quartet from within the Chorale.

Pastor Don McFarlane concluded the evening with more thanks to the Chorale and a short speech on the use of music within Adventist churches. 'The London Adventist Chorale epitomises the quality of music that we should have in our churches,' he said.

Sunday

Attendance on Sunday morning was initially fairly low as delegates recovered from a late night and the process of checking out of their hotels. In his devotional Pastor Thompson concluded his series on grace with a call to obedience. 'We can be lost if we do not obey. This is not legalism; it is loyalty to God. . . . When we love Jesus Christ we serve him. The grace of God leads us to obedience.'

Graciously Pastor Thompson stayed on for the rest of the day, giving very helpful advice on matters of policy and constitution drawn from his many years at the General Conference.

Lively debate

Discussion and questions from the floor increased as the day wore on, to the dismay of those who realised the volume of work that had to be completed before they could go home. A concise report from ADRA-UK director Raafat Kamal was speedily voted but the subsequent report from the Nominating Committee did not fare quite so well. The official establishment of Communication as a 50% department was well received, and Mrs Cathy Boldeau was voted into the role. However, the suggestion that Pastor Dalbert Elias, already voted in as Executive secretary, could also carry Stewardship, caused some consternation. 'How can one person do one and a half jobs?' was a question repeated by more than one delegate. Despite numerous reassurances that this wasn't the way things worked in practice, and a testimony from BUC president Pastor Cecil Perry who also serves as Religious Liberty director, the matter was referred back to the Nominating Committee and wasn't finally voted until two hours later.

The only other reports to be presented during the morning session were Children's Ministries, Family Ministries, and Youth. The last of these generated lively discussion but was repeatedly interrupted by reports back from various committees. Again the Nominating Committee presented its recommendations and Pastor Bernie and Mrs Karen Holford were voted in as Family and Children's Ministries directors.

Youth: Three full-time budgets

In the afternoon session, which was the final session scheduled for the Conference, Pastor Eglan Brooks presented the Teens report. Again, as is usually the case for reports presented towards the end of a Conference Session, the Teens report was interrupted by reports coming back from various committees, including the Credentials and Licences Committee and the Constitution Committee. When these matters had been approved discussion on Teens issues resumed in earnest, with some delegates commenting on the behaviour and dress of teenagers in the Church and others calling for more resources to be put into supporting young people. Pastor McFarlane praised the work that Pastor Brooks had done with the Teens and highlighted the marked improvement in their behaviour at Camp Meeting since a Teens programme had been organised for them. He also pointed out that for the first time ever

Continued on page 8

Nominating Committee:

Chairperson: Pastor C. Perry
 Area 1 David Hatton
 Area 2 Sam Harrison
 Area 3 Pastor Barry Alen
 Area 4 Michael Cunningham
 Area 5 Miss Helen Savage
 Area 6a Carolyn Facey
 Area 6a Orville Baxter
 Area 6b Nylann Kennedy
 Area 6b Miss Eudene Joseph
 Area 6c Martin Rodney
 Area 6d Sam McQueen
 Area 7 Michael Johnson
 Area 8 Miss Natalie Henry
 Bible Ins Mrs V. Vine
 Pastor Pastor Michael Hamilton

Constitution Committee

Chairperson: Pastor Eric Lowe
Areas Nominees
 1 Jen Read
 2 Pastor Stefan Burton-Schnull
 3
 4 Patrick Ford
 5 Colin Mitchell
 6A Malika Bediako
 Jacqui Nicholls
 6B Pastor Wilfred Blake
 6C Alex Amponsa-Yeboah
 Ava Walters
 6D Mrs Chucks Golding
 Desire Chitanga
 Alan Redfern
 7 Pastor Mike Toy
 8 SEC secretary

Licences & Credentials Committee

Chairpersons: Pastors Orville Woolford and Alan Hodges
Areas Nominees
 1 Stella Jeffrey
 2 Pastor Islywn Rees
 3 David Bradley
 4 Pastor Alan Hart
 5 Selvin Sealy
 6B Pastor Ebenezer Jones-Larty
 6C Sam Adjei-Owusu
 Pastor Leslie Ackie (Nominated by 6A)
 6D Pastor Horrace Taffe
 7 Pastor Colin Stewart
 8 Jean Gittens
 SEC Brighton Kavalogh (Ministerial secretary)
 BUC Alan Hodges (Ministerial secretary)

Plans Committee

Chairperson: Dr Keith Davidson
Areas Nominees
 1 Jerry Joyles
 Pastor Bertie de Nysschen
 David Elliott
 Robert Hinds
 Maxine DeCordova
 Ray Morris
 3 Luis Aguilar
 John Hemming
 Linda Clarke
 Pastor Ashwin Sumasandram
 Pastor Ferdinand Lombart
 Shirley Foord
 5 Uda Chalk
 Denise Ellison
 Pastor Jeremiah Bonner
 Martha Aqua
 6A Eustaquio Andrade
 Pastor David Burnett
 Colin Anderson
 Araldo Davis
 Andrea Daws
 6C Nigel Todd
 Onias Mangena
 Pastor Michael Mannix
 Carmen Esson
 Mengus Julien
 Tiding Chengeta
 7 Brian Davison
 Ed Hammond
 Coreen Hanson
 Paul King
 8 Inclair Saunders
 Althea White

Recommendations Committee

Chairpersons: Pastors C. R. Perry and E. C. Lowe
Delegate
 Aguilan, L
 Alexander, C
 Amakye, L
 Amponsah-Yeboah, A
 Anderson, C
 Anderson, Mrs W
 Andrade, E
 Applewhite, R
 Barton, M
 Baxter, O
 Portuguese Speaking
 Aylesbury
 Greenwich
 Tottenham West Green
 New Life
 Croydon
 Muswell Hill
 Acton
 Stanborough Park
 South East London Ghana
 Torquay
 Hackney
 Bury St Edmunds
 Croydon
 Tottenham Holcombe Road
 Wimbledon
 Hampstead
 Holloway
 Portsmouth
 Willlesden
 Bournemouth
 Hemel Hempstead
 Chatham
 Stonebridge
 Battersea
 Edmonton
 Hampstead
 Hutton
 Bristol Lodge Causeway
 Stoke Newington
 Crocombe
 Clapton
 Exeter
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 Oulton Broad
 Ipswich
 North Wembley
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 Plumstead
 Bristol Central
 Riverway
 Bodmin
 Norbury
 Walthamstow
 Conference
 Peterborough
 Peckham
 Watford Town
 Norbury
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 Hounslow
 Walthamstow
 Holloway
 Hove
 Milton Keynes
 Lewisham
 Tottenham West Green
 Conference
 Chiswick
 Croydon
 Balham
 Canterbury
 Norwich
 Russian Speaking
 Bethel
 Plaistow
 Folkestone
 Taunton
 Oxford
 Balham
 Wood Green
 Willlesden
 Brown, Mrs A
 Bruce, C
 Buckley, R
 Burton, D
 Bwoga, Mrs D
 Campbell, A
 Carr, R
 Carter, L
 Chenge, A
 Chitanga, D
 Cooper, Pastor A
 Crouch, A
 Cunningham, M
 Davies, S
 Davis, A
 Davis, R
 Daytes, Mrs D
 de Lancey, D
 De-Cordova, Mrs M
 Douglas, Mrs H
 Edwards, Dr S
 Edwards, Mrs B
 Elliott, D
 Ellison, Ms D
 Fletcher, A
 Foord, Ms S
 Francis, D
 Francis, T
 Frost, J
 Gittens, Mrs J
 Golding, Mrs C
 Gordon, C
 Grant, Mrs K
 Green, M
 Green, Ms N
 Gugleta, M
 Gushway, J
 Hanson, Ms C
 Hanson-Bartholomew, D
 Harrison, S
 Hart, Pastor A
 Hatton, D
 Haughton, M
 Hector, E
 Hemmings, J
 Henry, Miss N
 Henry, Mrs B
 Henry, R
 Hersey, P
 Holder, H
 Holl, O
 Hughes, Mrs H
 Hunter, W
 John, B
 Johnson, M
 Joseph, E
 Joseph, Mrs J
 Joyles, J
 Julien, M
 Kennedy, N
 Lecointe, C
 Lombart, R
 Lorek, Mrs R
 Lutso, Pastor M
 Maindo, D
 Mangena, Dr O
 Marsh, Mrs D
 Marshall, Mrs P
 Massey, R
 Massiah, P
 McFarquhar, A
 McQueen, S

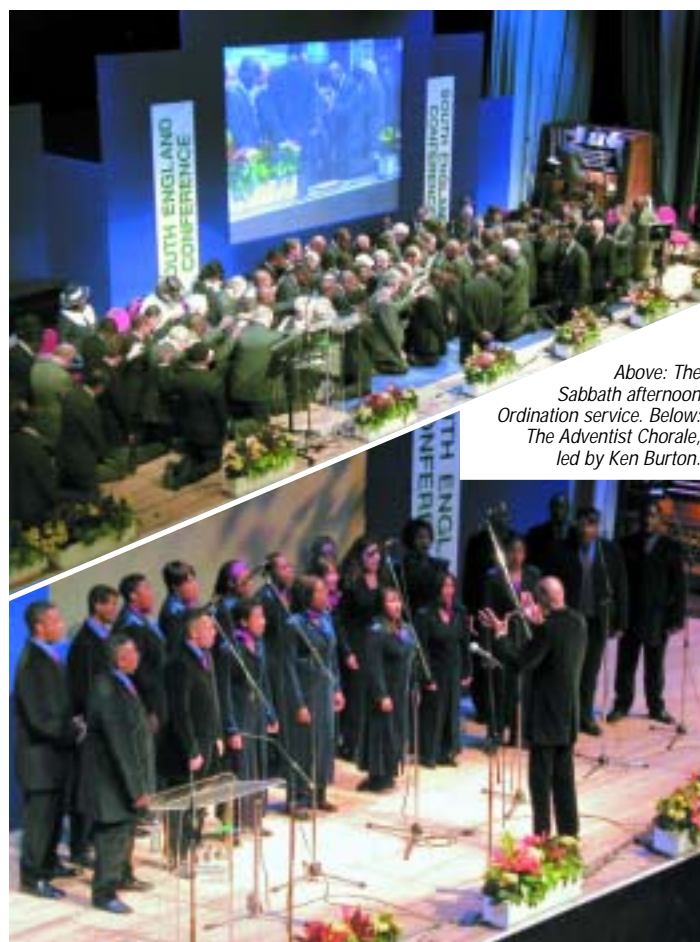
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 Wokingham
 Lewisham
 West Kilburn
 Guildford
 Conference
 Central London
 Leytonstone
 High Wycombe, Sands
 Eltham Green
 Bedford Central
 Miller, W
 Mitchell, C
 Moore, E
 Morgan, Ms M
 Morris, R
 Mugo, J
 Mukibi, S
 Murtagh, Pastor D
 Musanu, B
 Musoke, C
 Newell, Miss H
 Nunes, T
 Obeng, S
 Ogun, O
 Owusu, A
 Pedley, D
 Phillips, Miss P
 Poulton, R
 Price, Mrs J
 Ravelo, J
 Redfern, A
 Rees, Pastor I
 Reid, L
 Richardson, Mrs O
 Rodney, Miss D
 Sabatier, Mrs M
 Samuel, Mrs E
 Samuel, Mrs H
 Saunders, Mrs I
 Savage, Miss H
 Scarlett, S
 Sealy, S
 Sewell, J
 Southern, D
 Stanislaus, R
 Thomas, Pastor S
 Vartsaba, V
 Vontzalidis, Mrs S
 Watson, K
 Weekes, S
 Williams, J
 Williams, Ms W
 Wilson, G

Nominating Committee Report

SEC OFFICERS AND DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS
President
 D W McFarlane
Executive Secretary/Stewardship director
 D G Elias
Treasurer
 E Ramharacksingh/Associate A Taylor
Youth director
 J De Oliveira/2 Associates (to be appointed)
Strategic Development/Church Growth director
 H Walters
Family/Children's Ministries director
 B Holford
Family/Children's Ministries Associate
 Mrs K Holford
Ministerial director
 M Hamilton
Personal Ministries/Sabbath School director
 A Vontzalidis
Communication director
 Mrs C Boldeau
Community Services/Human Resources (to be elected)

SEC Executive Committee

D McFarlane
 D Elias
 E Ramharacksingh
 M Brooks
 B Davison
 R DeLisser
 J De Oliveira
 A Fuller
 E Hector
 W Hunter
 Mrs S Jeffery
 E Jones-Lartey
 Miss E Joseph
 N Nicholls
 N Obeng-Badu
 Mrs E Staple
 H Walters
 D West
 President
 Executive Secretary
 Treasurer
 Newbold School
 Area 7
 London
 Youth Director
 District 6b
 District 6c
 District 6a
 Area 1/2
 District 6b
 District 6b
 Area 5
 District 6a
 District 6d
 Strategic
 Development/
 Church Growth Director
 Area 8
 Area 3/4
 Dr G Wijeyesinghe



Above: The Sabbath afternoon Ordination service. Below: The Adventist Chorale, led by Ken Burton.

Continued from page 6
three full-time budgets were being allocated to youth by the South England Conference.

It was at this stage in the discussions that the Nominating Committee brought its final recommendation: that Pastor Japhet De Oliveira be asked to serve as SEC Youth director. A popular and not unexpected choice, Pastor De Oliveira was voted into his new position in less than five minutes.

The final business of the Session was the acceptance of the report from the Plans Committee, a body which generates something of a 'road map' for the next four years. This important, but lengthy report was curtailed by the chairman, much to the relief of the delegates, of whom only the hardest remained. It will be considered in detail by the new SEC Executive Committee.

Final words of appreciation were given by Pastor Mick Smart and a final brief conclusion was given by Pastor McFarlane. 'I am always open to suggestions and complaints,' he said. 'Don't condemn us unless you have talked to us first.'

The closing prayer was given by the leader of the dedicated 5-member prayer team who, delegates were

informed, had been praying continuously throughout the conference.

SESSION SABBATH

Sabbath School was steeped in the good news of grace from beginning to end. The message of Pastor Boyle's study was that everything Christ said and did was directed to seeking and saving the lost. Stepping out of his heavenly comfort zone he entered our uncomfortable world to demonstrate saving love in his life and death.

Pastor Vontzalidis reminded us that in the real world, unless God gives us the gift of his love, we can never truly relate to that neighbour or workmate who is a thorn in our side. He emphasised that we are all ministers of God, albeit with differing gifts. He warned against the heresy of separating ministry from laity in accomplishing the Great Commission. We are all ministers working together for God, and we saw a brilliant demonstration of these principles in Gita (a retired GP) and her daughter Asha (a practising solicitor) from the Wimbledon church, who shared their experience of working with small groups of people who were just beginning to respond to the Good News. It was clear that the time and patience required to let people develop

at their own pace, in co-operation with the Holy Spirit, will be richly rewarded. Pastor Oscar Osindo then expertly applied his vast depth of knowledge and experience of Islam to the challenging issue of how Christians can witness to Muslims.

We relished the musical equivalent of the three angels' message when the three Cooper brothers lifted up their trumpets and let them ring out in some lovely variations on a hymn tune. It is also worth noting the stirring virtuoso accompaniment for the congregational hymns provided by Pastor Malcolm Taylor on the Steinway grand in collaboration with Pastor Gifford Rhamie on the organ.

The worship service began with a time of introductions and prayer led by Pastor Cecil Perry, chair of the Nominating Committee. He presented the men who had been elected so far. Pastor McFarlane responded with a note of reminiscence from his youth when, in the North Street church in Kingston, Jamaica, he first decided to work for God. He affirmed that he is still willing to serve 'for as long as the Lord shall decide'. Dr Brighton Kavaloh, the outgoing Ministerial and Stewardship secretary, was invited to pray for those chosen for office.

Having opened our worship with a moving introit, The London Adventist Chorale prefaced Pastor G. Ralph Thompson's sermon with a sublime, silky-smooth meditational piece.

The sermon revolved around God's radical response to the problem of sin. Having explained that the meaning of the word 'radical' (like 'radish') is 'root' he went on to show that we need to understand the roots of both the problem and the solution. He wisely delineated the difference between 'sin'

and 'sins', using aphorisms like 'Sin is the centre and sins are the circumference' and 'Sin is a producer and sins are the product.' We smiled as he told of the person who told him, 'I never committed a single sin in the past seven years.' Such a response to sin is patently self-defeating. Aware of the way we in Britain use the word 'bloody' he still emphasised that 'sin is a bloody business, it is a mess.' He threaded in the Great Controversy theme and shared his response to the question, 'Why did God make the devil?' by replying, 'God made Lucifer an angel of light and Lucifer made a devil of himself.'

Touching on the nature of Christ, another troublesome issue for some, he affirmed categorically that 'Christ came with the possibility of sinning, but he lived and died without sinning.' Having reminded us that 'Sin is what we are, sins are what we do', he then spent time celebrating the radical solution to 'lostness' by bringing out telling details from Christ's well-known story of the Lost Son. When the son returned home dirty and smelly, the loving father didn't just give him a peck on the cheek to welcome him home. Pastor Thompson showed that the Greek indicates that 'he kept on kissing him'. Wow! With such a response, grace clearly means that 'we can come home; it knocks on our door'. Pastor Thompson shared how much he valued the verse, 'The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time.' God is willing to take us back for the umpteenth time. Thus if we are willing, grace will ultimately triumph over sin. No wonder everyone stood with Pastor Thompson in an act of commitment as he prayed that we might accept God's grace anew.

Lunch on the steps



First row, left to right: Ken Burton. The children enjoy activities in the capable hands of Heather Haworth. Second row: Friends old and new chat outside after the service. Third row: Paul Poddar, part of The Stanborough Press/ABC team. Wes Kapon - 'You've been framed'. Fourth row: Pastor G. Ralph Thompson addresses the congregation. The Cooper Brothers.



Church Planters' Exchange in Finland

Sixty-five 'well satisfied' pastors and church members attended the week-long Church Planters' Exchange which was held in Finland from 3-10 August.

The British group was part of a total delegation of over 350 believers from Germany, France, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Latvia. They met at the Adventist College at Toivonlinna to share experiences and receive further training in the planting of new churches in order to reach new people groups in their territories. 'The best Adventist experience of my life' was how one delegate summed up the week at Toivonlinna. But the best is still to come.

Already plans are being laid for next year's exchange event, which promises to be larger and better still as more believers become involved, and more unchurched people are led to faith in Jesus. For more information on church planting in the UK and Ireland, email David Cox at dcox@adventist.org.uk.

PASTOR DAVID COX

Derby baptism

Gharsha Haslam and Floretta Williams' previous baptism four months ago, then Michelle Harrison and Nathasha Ulyett's on 12 July both made public their declaration of friendship with Jesus. We wished them God's richest blessing on their walk with the Lord.

Pastor L. Johnson, former pastor, carried out the immersion of the candidates.

VERONICA FOX



Central London baptism

Heaven was rejoicing as people gave their lives to the Lord on Sabbath afternoon 10 May at the Central London church. Twelve people of different cultural, religious and personal backgrounds from Latvia, South Africa, Brazil, Philippines and England, to name just a few countries, united in the same Lord. Pictured from the front row left side are: Angie, Medi, Sabako, Nadia, Sereja, Tarrane, Naomi, Christa, Juliana, Bryan and Jolanta. Sandili not pictured.

Pastor Jonathan Barrett conducted the baptism, which was accompanied by an equally varied and rich programme of music and favourite scripture verses.

COMMUNITY SECRETARY

Photo: Hartley Holzhausen



It was a wonderful day, with lots of opportunities to talk to people. It is good to know that so many people are now reading the *LIFE.info* magazine.

On 12 July the members were in another local park to have a picnic and afterwards distributed 50 more LIFEdevelopment.info goodie bags to people out enjoying the good weather.

SUSAN SELVAGE

Interested in learning to teach English?

Each summer Newbold College runs an intensive English Language Teacher Training programme. On Sunday 16 November there will be a 'taster day' to see if this is the right course for you. The cost is £25 for the day, including lunch.

If you are interested in the taster day or in the summer course contact:

Meggan James on mjames@newbold.ac.uk or 01344 407454.

Scottish Women's Retreat

This year our retreat was held at a new venue – an ecumenical centre, the Scottish Churches House, in the Royal Burgh of Dunblane, near Stirling, ideally placed for access from all parts of Scotland. We were very glad that some of the sisters who had been with us in previous years from South of the Border were also able to come, because it proved to be a weekend of blessings.

We were especially blessed to have Mary Barrett as our main speaker. She organised her talks around workshops on prayer. During these carefully devised sessions throughout the week-end we worked through the process of prayer, from being honest about confessing our sins, and being ready to celebrate God at all times, to keeping focused on his great blessings and our need to keep close to him.

Worships were taken by Heather Haworth and Karin Edwards. Heather's introductory worship on Friday evening was an object lesson from trimming her rosemary bush, demonstrating our need for 'pruning', and that when the leaves were crushed, they gave out a beautiful aroma. Karin's early Sabbath

morning worship was a study on 2 Corinthians 3.

Heavy rain greeted us as we arrived at Dunblane. By the Sabbath afternoon, the skies cleared and we were able to enjoy the springtime countryside.

On the Saturday night we were able to let our hair down just a little, as we shared fun activities, and joined in a workshop on quilling by Carole Peacock.

Heather brought us news of developments in Women's Ministries around the world, including the collection for the Tanzanian Women's Training Centre planned as a memorial for the women tragically killed in the train crash in June 2002, to which the women contributed generously.

JUDITH MARTIN, WM sponsor, Scottish Mission

LD Goodie Bags

On 28 June Darlington church had a stall at the annual Carnival in the Park. This is the fourth time there has been an Adventist presence at the event and this year we were the only church to have a stall! With the help of former member Dave Selvage and his wife Fiona we gave out 200 LIFEdevelopment.info goodie bags courtesy of Lee Gallaher.



Health Holidays

Roundelwood Health Improvement Centre
Church member discounts

Book for November, December or January
at **50% off** the tariff price

At any other time of the year **50% off** the tariff price, providing that reservations are made less than two weeks before arrival (Seasonal tariffs apply)

Choose from these 5-day packages:

Fit for Life for men or women

The emphasis of this five-day package is overall health and fitness improvement, with exercise in the gym, pool, and out-of-doors in the fresh Scottish highland air. This is complemented with a full range of relaxing massages and other treatments suitable for everyone, with the aim of achieving complete relaxation, a clear mind uncluttered by work and responsibilities, plus a strong physical condition.

~~£500~~ £280

Physiotherapy and Hydrotherapy

The Physiotherapy Department employs two State Registered Physiotherapists and is fully equipped to deal with all conditions, including back pain, sciatic pain, arthritis, MS, injuries, etc, and to give support and guidance for ME, chronic fatigue syndrome. Roundelwood has the only Hydrotherapy Pool in private health care in central Scotland, and provides an exercise facility and support to improve mobility in pure, warm water, with physiotherapy supervision. Built into the pool is a jet-stream, water massage machine, which is extremely beneficial for lower back, sciatic and hip pain.

~~£540~~ £270

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This package is designed to achieve maximum relaxation both physically and mentally. It combines invigorating exercise with wonderfully relaxing treatments to remove tension and the effects of stress. Professional counselling can be included within the programmes at a small additional fee.

~~£585~~ £292

Slimming and Weight Control

This package is designed to achieve some weight loss during the client's stay at Roundelwood, but, more importantly, to set them in the right direction to continue and sustain weight loss in the future. Exercise is a key element of the programme, combined with sensible eating and treatments designed to promote slimming, weight reduction, and a positive mental attitude. A consultation with a professional nutritionist can be included in the programme for an additional fee.

~~£605~~ £302

Arthritis Relief

A programme designed to help relieve the discomfort of arthritis, improve mobility and quality of life. Under the direction of our Chartered Physiotherapists, the programme includes a number of treatments that have proved beneficial in the relief of pain and inflammation while improving muscle tone and the mobility of affected joints.

~~£540~~ £270

Roundelwood Special

With this package clients choose their own treatments to meet their interests and needs. Each day includes one-and-a-half hours 'hands on', with a choice of physiotherapy, massage, or a variety of other relaxing, detoxing, or invigorating treatments.

~~£560~~ £280

Weekend

Extend your stay over the weekend following your treatment programme with dinner, bed and breakfast and Sabbath lunch, leaving on Sunday morning, for an additional £35 per person.

Health Holidays

For further details and reservations telephone 01764 653806, quoting 'Church Member Discounts'. Alternatively, write to the *Reservation Department, Roundelwood Health Improvement Centre, Drummond Terrace, Crieff, Perthshire, PH7 4AN*, or email: health@roundelwood.freeserve.co.uk

PLEASE REMEMBER TO QUOTE 'CHURCH MEMBER DISCOUNTS'.

Terms and conditions

Pre-booked reservations attracting the Church Member 50% discount can only be made for November and December 2003 and January 2004. To attract the 50% Church Member discount at any other time in the year, reservations must be made less than two weeks before arrival and will be charged at 50% of the seasonal tariff. Church members must quote the 'Church Members' 50% Discount' when making the reservation to benefit from the discount. A twelve-day stay is only twice the cost of a five-day stay. Not available in conjunction with any other offer, and discount vouchers cannot be used in addition to this special discount.



All change at Open Day

Pictures: David Bell Words: David Marshall

Fifteen coaches, thirty minibuses and five hundred cars brought 5,000 people to Press Open Day on Sunday 31 August 2003.

Asked why last year's turnout had doubled, Press manager Paul Hammond replied, 'The London Adventist Chorale gave two hour-long concerts.' Open Day PA man Dave Bell said, 'The Chorale, the seminars and

Jeff Brown's afternoon presentation. How can we follow that?' Graphic designer Abigail Murphy, a twinkle in her eye, felt that the large numbers could be accounted for by saxophonist Mark Bunney's appearance alone (he performed in each concert).

The morning seminars – live, interactive and presided over by Press treasurer Graham Barham – certainly drew crowds. They were

presented by Dr Clemency Mitchell (Health Matters) whose book *Vibrant Health* was being launched; Dr Jeff and Mrs Pattiejean Brown (Family Matters) co-authors of *A Guide to Parenting, Total Marriage, and Single and Gifted*; and Chorale member Debbie Harris (Money Matters) who is currently working on a manuscript for launch at next year's Open Day. Dr Mitchell's brand of *Vibrant Health* was so popular that she had to present an

additional, unscheduled workshop over the lunch hour!

Ken Burton's London Adventist Chorale, currently celebrating its twenty-first birthday, was undoubtedly top of the bill. Anyone who arrived late for their concerts was obliged to stand outside the marquee (and so glorious was the weather that they were happy with this).

Every lady visitor was given a copy of Mary Barrett's *Little Book of Praise for Women*. Every child received a free snack bar.

Paul Hammond said that the two things that struck him about this year's Open Day were 'the excellence of the Chorale and the patience of the saints'. The saints were obliged to exercise their patience as they queued at the ten checkouts. But the saints interviewed by this reporter felt that their patience had

been more than rewarded by the bargains, fun, frolics, food and fellowship.

David Rees of The House of Natural Food, and Grano-Vita's Edward Johnson were more than gratified by the interest shown in nutrition and healthful living.

BUC Publishing director Pastor Vernon Nambo said, 'The most encouraging aspect of the whole day for me was seeing so many people carrying boxes of books and magazines away for sharing.'

As ever, the crowds of children took it out on the bouncy castles – and Steve Holden.





Ilona comes home

On Sabbath 19 July Ilona Samu was baptised in the Stanborough Park church by Pastor Larry Laredo from Australia. Ilona had spent several years away from the Lord, but was encouraged by her mother to go to church when she started a working holiday in Perth, Western Australia.

She started attending the north Perth congregation and was made to feel welcome. After several months Pastor Geoff Youlden ran a campaign and Ilona attended. Into the second week she went to Geoff and Larry and indicated her desire to be baptised. She wanted, on return to the UK, to start attending her old home church and asked that Larry baptise her. She wanted that to happen in England. Providentially Larry and Geoff were negotiating to run a campaign in England a year later.

Ilona, while in Australia, was a long way from home, but the Lord found her. Almost one year to the day she experienced her new birth and is glad to be again part of God's family.

LARRY J. LAREDO,
Communication director, Western Australian Conference

Plaistow's day to remember

They took a bold step to follow Jesus Christ. They are Allen Pipes, Marjorie

Fake, Pauline Nyirenda and Cynthia Mkandawire, and they were baptised on 26 July at Plaistow church. Members and visitors were there to support them.

The resident minister, Pastor F. McPherson, gave a sermon in which he made them aware that the lives they live should exude Christ-like fragrance. They were baptised by Pastor McPherson in the presence of elders and congregation.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Baptism in Russian-speaking church

'And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.' Acts 2:47. It was our deepest desire that the word of God would be fulfilled in full power and that our congregation, too, would witness that experience. In our prayers we asked the Lord to increase our faith so that the experience of the early church would be ours. Our prayers are not being left unanswered. On 11 May heaven, along with our members, celebrated with great joy as three young people made a covenant with the Lord.

PASTOR MICHAEL LUTSO

A section of the Manchester South Eager Beaver Club with their teachers at the Investiture, May 2003



Eager Beavers

The Manchester South Eager Beaver Club, despite losing its older members to the Adventurer Club twice a year, still has around twenty-four members.

The youngest pupils in the Club are 3 years old. All children remain until their sixth birthday and, as Eager Beavers, work towards their 22 chips. These are divided across a 3-year programme, taking into consideration the child's ability and age. The programme can be adapted for children with special needs.

The Eager Beaver leaders are convinced that this programme is a crucial part of Manchester South's Children's Ministries programme. Where Sabbath School was the only time some of these children had regular contact with their peers, the Eager Beaver Club now provides more integration time. We also have a number of non-Adventist children in the Club.

It was with confidence that the Eager Beavers led the way, marching to the beat of drums, into a filled sanctuary carrying their flag on Sabbath 17 May for our Investiture programme. Once the Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs had followed, the Eager Beavers sang their new song, composed by the writer, and recited their pledge and Bible verses.

From a class of 24 children, 18 were invested. There were two who did exceptionally well; Sean Savizon who received ten chips and Ollie Sibanda who got eleven

chips. Both, along with Asher Liburd, have now graduated to the Adventurer Club.

Pastor Eglan Brookes was our visiting speaker, and we were pleased to have the Liverpool Pathfinders and drummers from Birmingham join us for the day. They made our time together a little more special by marching in with the Manchester group and beating the drums.

The afternoon programme dealt with 'Pathfinders Past and Present' and was aimed at finding out if the Pathfinder programme is still relevant.

JANICE SAVIZON

The Principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre acknowledges with thanks two anonymous donations of £5 and £20 received from the Watford area.

ABPA BURSARY FOR 2004

The Adventist Business and Professional Association (ABPA) is offering a bursary of £500 towards an innovative project relating to outreach or mission. Individuals/groups are welcome to apply in writing on a single side of A4 paper, explaining the objectives and desired outcomes.

Applications should be received by the ABPA Secretary, Pastor John Arthur, TED Offices, 119 St Peters Street, St Albans, AL1 3EY, no later than 30 October. All funding requests will then be considered by the ABPA committee, and the successful applicant will be notified by 25 November 2003. On completion of the project, ABPA requires a written report, preferably by October 2004.

Dr Andrew Baildam, ABPA president

ABC BOOK SALES 2003

Oct		
12	Manchester South	10am-1pm
19	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
26	West Midlands	10am-2pm
Nov		
1	Bristol	6-8pm
2	Gloucester	2-4pm
8	Sheffield	5.30-8.30pm
9	Leicester Central	10am-Noon
16	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
30	Peckham	10.30am-2pm

Messenger

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Sunset

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	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Oct 3	6.35	6.47	6.38	6.44	6.56
10	6.19	6.31	6.22	6.26	6.39
17	6.04	6.16	6.06	6.08	6.22
24	5.50	6.02	5.51	5.52	6.06

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OCTOBER Book of the Month

The Kellogg Imperative

The story of Dr John Harvey Kellogg - with priceless photographs. Dr Kellogg made a brilliant - some would say unparalleled - contribution to the health reform movement.

Most of the European kings, queens and emperors - as well as presidents of the United States - were patients at Kellogg's Battle Creek Sanitarium at one time or another.

The majority of the UK population still pay homage to Kellogg's ideas every morning at breakfast. In the early years of the twenty-first century medical and food science are just catching up with ideas that J. H. Kellogg taught between 1880 and 1940.

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