

Performing Pastors

by Susanne Kirlew



History was in the making, recently, when several pastors and elders performed to raise money for Hyland House School. Over 450 people attended the event at the Advent Centre and were reported to have thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Blow-by-blow accounts of events are

not usually that interesting to read, but I know that on this occasion everyone will want to know *exactly* what the pastors got up to.

- Pastor Leslie Ackie (Walthamstow and East Ham) and church elder Rohan Alexander (Walthamstow) sang a duet.
- Church elder Hector (Walthamstow) sang two songs accompanied by Fen Braithwaite (Stratford).

- Pastor Don McFarlane (Yes, you did read correctly!) our president, sang two spirituals, 'I Got a Home Up Inna Dat Kingdom' and 'Nobody Knows the Trouble I Seen'. To the audience's amazement the president (who was obviously near the front of the queue when they were handing out singing skills) sang really well. He was very professional with great stage presence.
- In addition Pastor Colin Stewart (Milton Keynes) sang, accompanied by Pastor Michael Mannix (Hackney) on the piano.
- Pastor Steve McKenzie did a short stand-up comedy slot in which he did an amusing impression of the president, and the whole audience, including the president, roared with laughter.

A competition was held to see which pupil at Hyland House School could sell the most tickets. Alexander Williams (Walthamstow) sold 44 tickets and won a £12 WHSmith voucher and an art set. However, Tramaine Williams (Hackney) sold a staggering 57 tickets and won a £40 WHSmith voucher. We give thanks and praise to God for the success of the event that raised £2,100 clear profit and was attended by people from as far afield as Sidcup and Ipswich.



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SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Notice is hereby given that the fifty-ninth Session of the NEC of Seventh-day Adventists will be held from Thursday 17 June to Sunday 20 June 2004 at The Spa Conference Centre, Scarborough. Pastor Paul S. Lockham, NEC Exec. Secretary

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

Gym'll fix it!

The King's Fund, a health policy-making unit based in London, prides itself on its innovative ideas, and has come up with the idea of putting health first! Their paper suggests the 'environment appears to be more favourable to turning the horse and cart around than at any time in the last fifty years'.

What is their radical proposal? Simply, that instead of being registered with a GP surgery, NHS money might be better spent enrolling us all in health clubs. That is only part of their plan. We need, they say, a new health 'system'. Not the rigidly defined NHS but a local health organisation comprising all sorts of health providers in the community, with neighbourhood-based health centres.

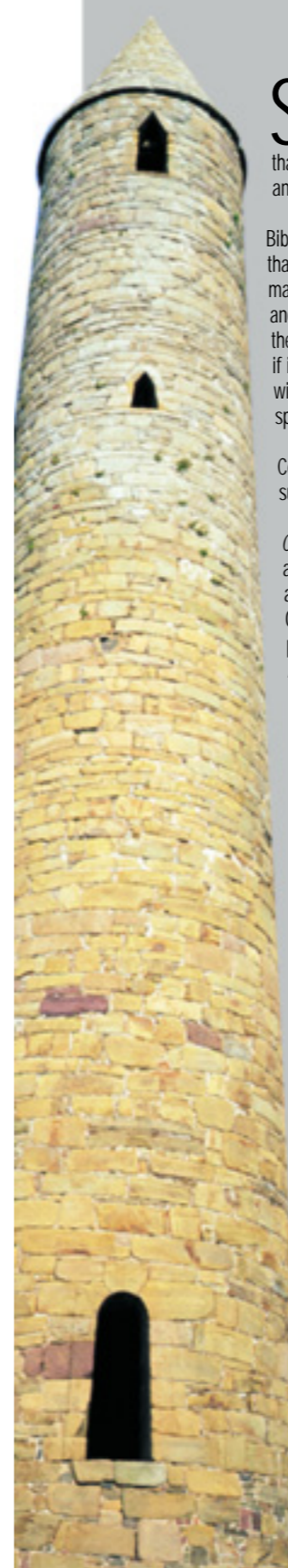
They refer to the current model of health referral as 'a tendency in general practice to see each transaction as a needy patient presenting a problem that can be solved by a professional'. It is stated that it is this attitude which needs to change, and that health clubs safeguarding and promoting health all through life might fit the bill. Health clubs could provide information and advice, as well as providing the physical setting to enhance health. Only when ill-health presents itself would people be referred to something like the current NHS model.

One thing is clear, we do need to put health promotion further up our list of priorities: A journal headline screams 'Scottish men's life expectancy "shocking".' The accompanying article says that in some areas of Scotland life expectancy for men is down to 63 years – 12 years lower than the UK average; In London about 1 in 4 male and 1 in 8 female deaths are attributed to smoking, with an annual death toll of 10,500; Around 9,000 new cases of cancer a year are related to being overweight, and so on with ever more disturbing statistics.

Gym might be able to fix some of these problems, but certainly not all of them. The Public Health minister, Melanie Johnson, has responded to the various health issues by stating that children and young people are the key to a healthier nation. Although she did not state it, research from Scandinavia shows that health attitudes are pretty well set by age 11, so Johnson is right. I feel a little *déjà vu* coming on! A GC Health Ministries meeting in 1977 anticipated the radical new concepts in health promotion by proposing the establishment of Better Living Centres, 'To promote an optimum lifestyle by education, demonstration, and practice, to improve physical, mental, social and spiritual health for persons with recognised or potential health problems'. It is not so much a King's Fund idea, rather it is the King's business!



Celtic Renaissance



Seventh-day Adventists have no trouble identifying with Celtic Christianity (the earliest form of Christianity in the British Isles). After all, there is strong evidence that the Celtic Christians kept the seventh-day Sabbath and preached the second coming.

But the Celtic Church was known for things other than Bible-based belief. To begin with they had a missionary zeal that penetrated language and cultural groups here and in many parts of Europe. They did so in the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh centuries. Students of church history contrast the heavy, hierarchical, non-moving Roman system (which, if it evangelised at all, did so by treaties with local rulers) with the vibrant, reaching out of Celtic evangelism which spread the Gospel among so many people groups.

If we have lots in common with the beliefs of the Celtic church, how much do we have of their outstandingly successful methods of making the faith contagious?

The earliest of the Celtic 'apostles', Patrick, left us his *Confessio* (spiritual life story), *Epistola* (a letter written to a British chieftain), and *Liber ex Lege Moise* (Patrick left a copy of 'the books of the Law and the book of the Gospel' wherever he ministered). There are many biographies of Patrick – as there are of Columba, David and Aidan – some of them written quite early on. From these sources we can learn a surprising amount about the evangelistic methods of these original British Christians who shared many of our beliefs and lived such a long time ago.

Above all they wanted to reach out to the people groups dismissed by the Roman missionaries as 'barbarians'. The Romans wanted people groups to be 'civilised' (Latinised) before they would accept them as Christians. The Celtic Christians reached out to the Irish, the Picts, the Britons, the Welsh, the Franks and the rest. They did so by learning their language – to speak as they did – and by assimilating their culture – to use their thought forms, art forms and music.

It was the Celtic conversions that 'took', apparently, and the Roman conversions that were 'surface' and 'short-term'. In AD397 (before Patrick) Ninian (trained in Rome) founded Whithorn near Stranraer as a base from which to evangelise the 'southern Picts' (Scots). By the time Patrick wrote his *Epistola* (in the 450s) the southern Picts had lapsed into paganism. When Columba arrived in Iona in 563 he had to begin the conversion of the southern Picts all over again – as well as to convert the northern Picts for the first time. Ninian had planted churches only in 'Romanised Pict communities' and had utterly failed to build the necessary cultural bridges that would have made possible the taking of the Gospel to the masses. Hence the failure of his mission.¹

David Bosch, who has done years of research into this, makes the statement: 'The Christian faith never exists except as "translated" into a culture!' Missiologists call it 'the indigenising principle': ensuring that the Gospel will 'take' by expressing it in the local language/thought forms/art/music.

Ian Bradley makes the point that the distinctive Celtic Cross represents this principle: 'the circle of creation, representing the earth and the sun, which surrounds and encompasses the cross of redemption'.²

The Celts understood that to undertake any form of outreach they must *understand the people*. That way they knew what to do and what to say; how to do it and how to say it. They used parable, story, song, visual arts and drama in order to harness the remarkable imaginations of the Celtic people groups.

By using those methods in Ireland, according to Louis Gougand, in his own lifetime Patrick saw between 30 and 40 of Ireland's 150 tribes become substantially Christian. In this way he brought the Irish slave trade to a halt, significantly reduced inter-tribal conflict and, argues Thomas Cahill, ensured the survival of Western civilisation through the Dark Ages.³ Today more than 6,000 Irish place names contain the element *Cill* – the old Gaelic word for church.

Today the barbarians are upon us again. Let's call them 'the New Barbarians'.⁴ Who are they?

- They are the secular people of Western Europe who have never been substantially influenced by the Christian religion; innocent of 'church etiquette' to whom Christian language and concepts are about as alien and unintelligible as anything can be.
- They are postmoderns who have reacted against the Enlightenment (the supremacy of science and reason) and the belief that the universe functions like a machine; are suspicious of people and institutions that claim Authority and claim to have Ultimate Explanations.
- They have rediscovered their feelings and intuition – and want to explore the spiritual and the supernatural.
- They are people who have rejected 'I think, therefore I am', in favour of 'I feel, therefore I am' or 'I belong, therefore I am'.

The New Barbarians would be, in the opinion of old-fashioned (Roman?) Adventists, insufficiently 'civilised' to be 'real' Christians.

Is there scope for a Celtic approach to outreach? After all, there has been a renaissance in Celtic music, Celtic art, Celtic spirituality and Celtic love of nature.

The last time the 'Celtic' approach to outreach was used was by John Wesley who welcomed seekers of all sorts to his open-air meetings, who engaged people's imaginations through Charles Wesley's music and the folk art of the people, who made an attempt to express the Gospel in the language and thought forms of the people and who reached out and welcomed in the people groups shunned by the establishment churches as 'uncivilised' and 'unreachable'. Wesley understood, as did the Celts, that people 'caught' the faith from fellowship. He knew, as did the Celts, that people find faith when they are brought into Christian community.

Some questions before we finish:

- The Celts made every attempt to understand the people they evangelised. Do we?
- The Celts did not just 'set up church' and expect people to come to them. They sought to penetrate the pagan world. Do we?
- The Celtic way of 'doing church' contributed to the evangelisation of Europe. Evidence suggests that the first time a seeker comes to church he/she is very nervous and tentative. If one turned up at your church would his experience draw him in – or cause him to make a run for it?

John Finney's research suggests that 'belonging comes before believing'. Is there enough going on that is magnetic in your congregation to make a seeker want to belong?

We're meant to win souls, right? Right?

If a visitor turned up at your church, would his experience draw him in – or cause him to make a run for it?

References:
¹George G. Hunter, *The Celtic Way of Evangelism* (Abingdon Press, 2000), pages 78 et seq. ²Cited *ibid* page 88. ³Thomas Cahill, *How the Irish Saved Civilisation* (Hodder, 1995). ⁴Hunter, *op cit*, page 96.



NEC: Two 60th birthdays

March 2004 was a typically busy month as the members of staff at the North England Conference office prepared for the many programmes that are to take place over the next few months. While looking forward to the different events of great significance this year, the staff took a moment to reflect and to celebrate one hundred and twenty

years of life! On 4 and 5 March respectively, Mrs Paula Robertson, secretary to the Secretariat department, and Pastor Egerton Francis, president of the North England Conference, celebrated their sixtieth birthdays. The office staff gathered together for a small celebration. Paula and her husband Pastor Neil Robertson have given nearly 40 years of service in ministry, and Pastor Francis and his wife nearly 25 years both in pastoral ministry and administration.

ANGELA PURKISS

Manchester South: eight baptised

Angels in heaven rejoiced as the relatives, friends and members of Manchester South gathered to witness eight souls commit their lives to the Lord on Sabbath 28 February. The whole church rejoiced with the new members: Ada Boyles, Daphne Graham, Deanne Heron, Londekile Ndhkala, Thapelo Ntibane, Lizert Milanzi, Pauline Sampa and Daniel Trueman as they were introduced to the congregation and welcomed as new members.

Pastor Richard Brooks carried out the baptism, which was the first for the New Year. The majority of these new members received studies from our resident Bible worker, Brother A. Karbah.

JANICE SAVIZON

Manchester: Marriage Enrichment

Immorality can be represented as the norm on TV. And the behaviour of church members can mirror what they view. Last summer our minister Pastor Richard Brooks decided that something must be done to address problems of this nature. Two questionnaires were drawn up, one for men, the other for women. The questions concerned spirituality, sexuality, children, relationships, finance, trust, romance and the home.

The questionnaires were filled in and returned. The findings were collated and analysed. As a result Pastor Brooks designed a three-week seminar. It commenced on 15 February and targeted married and

engaged couples of the Manchester South congregation. It was not a closed shop. Anyone over 18 was at liberty to attend. Each week the seminar was attended by approximately 70 married couples, three or four engaged couples and a small number of dating couples.

There was much discussion and nothing was held back. The three central issues turned out to be finance, communication and sex. Pastor Brooks used the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy to present God's ideals.

The couples who attended were encouraged and enriched.

JANICE SAVIZON

Off to Botswana

On Sabbath 6 September, the Manchester South church family celebrated with Abel and Colleen Daman as they presented their son Betsho to God. Other family members were also present, but these special moments were tinged with a little sadness as this was the family's last Sabbath together at Manchester South.

Abel and Colleen married about four years ago and from that time Abel has worked very hard at his studies. Earlier this year he gained his PhD in Mathematics from the University of Central Lancashire. He was then offered a position at the University of Botswana to lecture in Mathematics, which he accepted, and left that week to take up his new post, with his wife Colleen and baby Betsho following two weeks later.

During his time at Manchester South, Abel was a very dedicated

deacon and never failed in his duties. He always had a cheerful smile to greet you at the door on Sabbath mornings. On this his last day, the head deacon, Brother G. Evans, said of him that he was one of the best deacons he has worked with.

Both Abel and Colleen will be greatly missed at Manchester South, not only because they sang in the church choir, but also for who they are. However, we have faith in God that he will keep Abel, Colleen and baby Betsho as they continue to work for him in Africa.

JANICE SAVIZON

150 attend lay evangelism training

by Pastor Aris Vontzalidis

Over the weekend of 20-22 February more than 150 members from about forty churches attended a lay evangelism training event held at Stanborough Secondary School. Run by the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School departments of the South England Conference, the event included worship sessions, inspiring talks, and various practical workshops. The workshop subjects included: how to give Bible studies, how to prepare and lead a lay evangelistic series, door-to-door contact-making, effective small groups, purposeful Sabbath school classes, effective use of media, and community involvement. A group from the High Wycombe Sands church also gave an interesting presentation on their innovative evangelistic series entitled 'Friends Haven'.

Participants had the opportunity to have their muscles awakened by an aerobic session on Saturday evening, and to shed some of the calories gained from the delicious food which everyone enjoyed!

There were lots of positive comments after the event. One enthusiastic participant named Leana said, 'I really felt as though the Spirit of God was there. I came away with hope. I've always wanted to take a leadership role within the church, and the weekend fuelled my desire and gave me tools with which to carry out this dream.' Leana went on: 'I liked the creativity of the sessions and the encouragement to be creative. The Bible reading, the symbolic treasures, the cross, the single note chord . . . and I found that Laverne's worship sessions had a lot of meaning because of the dialogue she presented alongside. It focused my thoughts and made me treasure the words even more.'

Bradford baptism

On 20 March two young people dedicated their lives to Jesus in baptism at the Bradford church. The church was packed as over 130 friends, relatives (from as far away as Holland, Sweden, Wales and South England) and members witnessed the baptism of Lynette Allcock and Shaun Connell.



JOHN MCGOLDRICK

Shaun and Lynette's favourite texts were read out, after which Graham Allcock (father of Lynette) gave a sermonette on baptism by immersion. Bradford African choir excelled themselves with the singing of 'Jesus is coming soon', and while Pastor L. D. W. Southcott (Lynette's grandfather) baptised Lynette and Shaun, the congregation sang 'Amazing Grace'.

Lynette said: 'Having grown up in a Christian home I always knew that Jesus loved me, and I love him. I had been thinking of getting baptised for quite a while, but thought that I was a bit too young. Then recently, while on holiday in America, I decided to give my life over to God.'

Shaun, who was brought up in the church, had wandered away but was greatly influenced by his grandmother, Veta Green (a faithful member of Bradford church), who had had discussions about serious issues with him before she died a couple of years ago. Shaun writes: 'At a time when my life was running on fumes, I saw hope in God's promises. It has taken a while for me to see that God has never bounced a promised cheque. Promises. Delivered. Promises. Delivered. In times of personal crises, the Bank of Heaven is, and always will be, solvent.'

Week of revival

During last November, 'Hallelujah' (a group of young people from Windsor Street congregation, Birmingham) held a glorious week of revival entitled, 'The Midnight Cry' at the Windsor Street church. The week

signified a renewal of Christian vows and the call to be ready, and stay ready for Christ's return.

Seven powerful lay-evangelists took up the challenge to preach on the important parable of the Ten Virgins and how it relates to our situation today. The lay-evangelists



Vincentian evening

Two hundred people, including the local Member of Parliament, attended a special evening to celebrate Vincentian culture put on by the High Wycombe (Sands) church. Outside St Vincent, High Wycombe has the highest concentration of Vincentian people (a detailed report appeared in 26 March issue).

PATSY THOMAS

were Andrew Francis (Windsor Street), Len Stewart (Ladywood), Timothy Stephen (Windsor Street), Simon Berger (Newtown), Robert Jules (Windsor Street), Fred Evans (Windsor Street) and guest speaker Gary Harrison (Kilburn).

Gary Harrison has travelled to various parts of the Caribbean, holding campaigns, lifting up the name of Jesus and helping to prepare others for the soon return of our Saviour. At Windsor Street he continued to deepen the impression of the parable of the Ten Virgins with a great four-part sermon entitled 'Why am I a Seventh-day Adventist?'

A vote of thanks goes especially to Pastor Delroy Foster for his support. The week-long series included

a 'health spot' on various nights, a Wednesday night anointing service, and a district-wide special day of fellowship held at St John's church in Ladywood, culminating at Windsor Street church on the last Sunday.

On Sabbath 21 February Windsor Street held a special ordination service for three new elders and two new deacons. The three elders were Leroy Grant, Timothy Stephen and Fred Evans. The two deacons were Keith Elliot and Renford Gardiner. Pastor Jude Jeanville officiated.

JAVAN STEPHEN

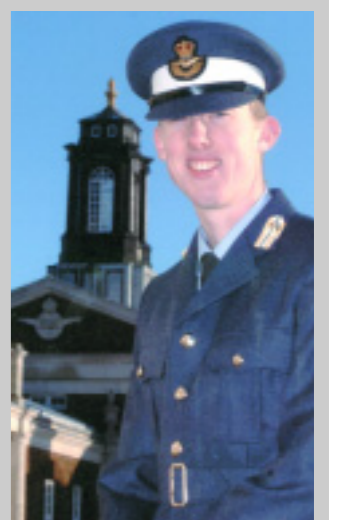
Congratulations to Fiona Peart on gaining her MSc in Human Resource Management from the University of Salford in July 2003. We wish her continued success in her future career.

Newbold visit

Newbold College paid a visit to Stanborough Park church on 31 January. College principal Dr David Penner led the family worship service, helped by past and present Newbold students including Pastors John Arthur and Robert Vine.

Dr Penner's sermon, 'All the Days of My Life', took the form of an exposition of Psalm 23. Dr Penner concluded by asking, 'Is it possible that we are already dwelling in the house of the Lord? God is with us and we are with God. In good times and in bad, God is with us.'

BRONWEN ATKINSON



Flying Officer

In February, Matthew Scholes of the Barnsley church graduated as a Flying Officer (Supply Section) in the RAF.

On his 23rd birthday, relations and friends attended the passing-out parade at Cranwell. Later in the day there was a very appropriate and moving church service (for which Matt said one of the prayers), followed by an excellent luncheon.

After completing further experience at Brize Norton and Cranwell, he is looking forward to being posted to his first base/squadron in August.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Phillips, also transferred her membership from the Welsh Mission church, wishing for a more continuous church experience. Mrs Nest Lamont joined by profession of faith. She has been studying the Scriptures, attending church for some years, and is a member of the Small Group led by Erica Cameron. Above all, she has met Jesus as her personal Saviour and Friend. The picture shows, from left to right, Bryan Watkins, church elder; Joyce Phillips; Anthea Fielding, daughter of Nest; Nest Lamont; Charles Lamont; Jean Watkins, church elder; and Richard Vine, church pastor. Edith Scott was unable to attend the service.

RICHARD L. VINE



Christianity and politics

Three recent speakers at Newbold College have discussed the relationship between Christianity and politics. 'There is a desire among members of the Newbold community to see that our Christian responsibility is lived out in the wider world,' says Henrik Jorgensen, Newbold's chaplain. 'We have invited visitors on campus and participated in various activities to express and develop this interest – not in a party political way, but to encourage our students to open their eyes and see what is going on in the world.'

The plight of prisoners of conscience has been of particular interest in the Newbold community. Martin Dore from Amnesty International spoke at assembly and invited students to consider the needs of prisoners of conscience and the challenges involved in supporting them intelligently. During the first term, students participated in the Amnesty International *Snowball* campaign by gathering in the chapel to write letters to men and women unjustly arrested and imprisoned. Members of staff and community members of Newbold church also participated in the evening, encouraged by Dr Harry Leonard, former head of Newbold's Humanities department.

More recent visitors were John Prangle, trustee of the peace and justice organisation, *Pax Christi*, and Dr Andrew Bradstock. John Prangle spoke about the history of the peace movement and outlined the biblical basis for involvement in the peace and justice movements in the world.

This theme was expanded by Dr Bradstock, Church and Society representative for the United Reformed Church in the UK and would-be prospective parliamentary candidate. In his attempt to persuade staff and students that political activity was an appropriate activity for Christians and not all about 'compromise and stabbing people in the back', Dr Bradstock reminded his audience that in the Old Testament the idea of Jubilee rest was closely related to the Sabbath principle. He quoted Deuteronomy 15 where God promised Israel that the result of following the commandments and divine principles for organising their community would be that 'there shall be no more poor among you'.

'Jesus was not the Labour MP for Galilee South,' said Dr Bradstock, 'but part of his message was about showing concern for children and other outcasts. His cleansing of the temple was about disturbing the complacency of powerful people. As he looks at our lives and our relationships with each other, God wants real change, not *small* change.'

Francesco Paris, president of the Newbold Students' Association, and Martin Watson, a Humanities student, have started a Political Awareness group 'to promote political and world awareness'. 'We want to encourage people to participate actively in causes, not just get riled up about injustice in the world,' said Paris. 'Dr Bradstock and other visitors have given us insight into how we can do that.'

HELEN PEARSON

Auction for AIDS orphans



On Thursday morning 18 March, it was dangerous to scratch your nose in Newbold College's Salisbury Hall. That was the time it took eagle-eyed auctioneer Dr John Baildam, otherwise known as director of Academic Affairs, to raise over £1,600 in an auction to support Newbold Students' Association's latest campaign – a project, initiated by Malawian theology students, to raise £8,000 to build a learning centre for AIDS orphans in Malawi.

Central to the auction were five pieces of 'wire art' created by Malawian Charles Gunsari, a third-year business student. But the proceedings began with the auction of a strawberry-trimmed cake made for the appeal by Josee-Maree Penner, wife of Newbold's principal Dr David Penner. The cake alone raised £180.

The pieces of incredibly skilful wire art: two model cars, a guitar, a globe and a working radio received enthusiastic bids and prompted students outside the bidding to pledge over sixty individual donations of £10.

The Malawian project, to build a school for children too young to walk the long distances to nearby schools, was initiated by the Malawian Women's Ministries team, who went to the village of Chimdikhu to conduct an evangelistic meeting. They got their husbands, brothers and sons involved and when the men came to study at Newbold they brought their project with them. Students have already raised about £1,000 towards the project and this auction moves them well over a quarter of the way to their target.

Malawian Pastoral Studies ►

Both the Ilford and Watford churches join with Earl, Jackie, and brothers Sean and Aaron in celebrating new life with Katie.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Pastor Nigel David Snr, who conducted the baptism, reminded Katie and the congregation that only Jesus gives us the power to meet the storms and challenges of modern-day living, and we were all encouraged to trust him more.

To the singing of Katie's favourite hymn, 'My Jesus, I Love Thee', ten people, including some of Katie's friends, responded to the baptismal appeal. Katie said afterwards, 'This is the most important decision I have made, and today feels like the best day of my life!'

Poignant songs such as, 'You'll Always Be a Child In My Eyes', and 'I See Jesus In You', reminded Katie of the connection between herself and her heavenly Father.

student George Hamisi, who has done much of the organising of the appeal, was delighted by the success of the auction. 'The next fundraising event will be a car wash,' he said. 'And there are other things in the pipeline.'

You can email George Hamisi on george_hamisi@btopenworld.com.
HELEN PEARSON

Stepping back

Pastor Roy Morgan (Sabbath School leader, NEC) preached at Burngreave church, Sheffield, for the Sabbath School Visitors' Day on 13 September. 'In order to move forward we need to step backwards in reflection, in remembrance,' he said. 'We need to remember how God has led the Church in setting up Sabbath school,' he continued. 'Sabbath school was first set up by James White in 1882 for young people.' In the afternoon Pastor Morgan showed a video of the history of Sabbath school.

ROSEMARY BLENNAN

Darlington says goodbye

March 6 was a sad day in Darlington church. After a year of 'will they – won't they' Peter Nassau and his wife Rita were finally moving to Grimsby. Peter has been a member of our church for seventeen years now since he moved here from Hastings. He quickly settled in and became an essential part of our family, holding a number of offices over the years. He was certainly missed during this year's ADRA appeal having been our top collector for the past five years.

To mark the occasion we held a potluck lunch and invited members from Middlesbrough and Durham where Peter has preached regularly. Speaking for Middlesbrough church, George Powls described him as always 'dependable' and said, 'We will miss him.' Clarice Smith of Durham church shared with us the fact that when she first met Peter she wondered if she could get on with him. An opinion that happily soon changed! The writer, speaking on behalf of the Darlington members, said that it seemed as if Peter had been here longer than seventeen years – but in a nice way. He was presented with a signed card, a clock and money towards something for the new house. We ended with a few words from Peter who said that his time with us had been one of the

happiest chapters of his life – everyone had made him feel so welcome. We are all sorry to see him go, but especially Alan Walker who, now confined to a wheelchair, has been brought to church every week by Peter.

SUSAN SELVAGE

Water into wine

For 27-29 February thirty couples travelled to Highgate House just outside Northampton to experience an inspirational marriage enrichment weekend. The luxurious *en suite* bedrooms and excellent menu options, along with the full use of swimming pool, gymnasium, sauna and tennis courts, made the weekend an unforgettable experience.

Bernie and Karen Holford, assisted by John and Delivon Francis, led out in practical sessions that enabled couples to experience how greater intimacy can be achieved through understanding each other's needs.

DELIVON AND JOHN FRANCIS

The Oldham three 'stand up'

Date and time, Sabbath 21 February at 4pm. Place, Oldham Adventist church. Occasion, Baptism. Candidates, Rachel Braithwaite, Jothan Taylor and Laurent Grosvenor.

Rachel went away to High Wycombe, obtained her degree and returned to Oldham before joining her granddad as the only members of their family to join the Adventist family of God at Oldham church. As a member of the group 'Bethany', Rachel has always attended church but knew when the time was right to take her stand.

Jothan, 'the smallest person' ever baptised by Pastor Simpson, clearly understood at six years and eight months old what it meant to 'stand up for Jesus'. Unusually quiet but nonetheless determined, he joined his parents, aunts and grandma as a fourth-generation at Oldham church.

Oldham members have watched and nurtured Laurent until six months ago when at 14 years old he started to attend Manchester Central church. His mother is a regular at the Oldham keep-fit class on Monday evenings so he is still 'attached' to Oldham. Laurent stood to join Manchester Central church.

Pastor Robert Williams examined the candidates and gave the address. Pastor Michael Simpson conducted the immersions.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

MARIAN FREDHEIM (née HERTOGS) (1954-2003) d. 3 June. Marian had an exotic childhood. She was born in 1954 in Mauritius, the third child and second daughter of Errol and Dr Drusilla Hertogs. When she was about 11 her father was called to work for the Church in Kenya. There she was educated until 1968 when she and her sister Gill came to Stanborough School. While in the sixth form she and some friends formed a prayer and Bible-study group. She regarded it as a turning point in her life, and spoke of having had 'a little legalistic soul' but that as a result of the study and prayer together she realised that Christianity was a question of relationships and that behind all the problems there was a loving and unchanging God. Another in the group who saw this as a turning point in her own life is Dr Andrea Luxton, later to become principal of the same school and later still principal of Newbold College and now a General Conference Education Secretary. Marian was, she writes, 'the first person ever that I really was able to speak to about the issues in my life and the questions that I had. It was one of those rare, totally equitable, open relationships.' In 1972 Marian came to Newbold to read for a double major in English and History and she completed the course with distinction. But she came away with more than a BA. In her last year she married Egil Fredheim, a Theology major, and when they had both graduated, she moved to Norway, a young minister's wife. She mastered a new language and eventually taught in it – and even broadcast in it when Egil switched from the ministry to teaching. Languages may have come more easily to one who had grown up on a French-speaking island and spent her early secondary school years in Kenya. But it was an achievement just the same, as is indicated by her success in gaining degrees in Norway: first the Cand. Mag. in 1984, then the Postgraduate Teaching Certificate two years later, and finally the Cand. Philol. in 1994. But work in her mother tongue was not forgotten. In 1991 she was awarded a distinction when she completed an MA in Modern English Language and Stylistics at the University of London. She was certainly not an intellectual sloth. But neither was she

primarily an intellectual. People came first. This could be seen in her concern for her students both in Norway and in North Wales where she spent the last two years of her life. It was also manifested in her readiness to take groups of teenagers to France each summer to experience French as spoken by the French; and in her willingness to take on tasks that she initially considered beyond her: conducting a Sabbath school for the tiny tots in her church, taking on the leadership of the Pathfinder youth group, and eventually becoming elder of the Tyrifjord college church. Academic, devoted wife and mother, teacher, youth group leader, church elder, she was, above all, a loving and loveable human being. On one of the walls in the humanities block at Llandrillo College, North Wales, where she was working at the time of her death, there is a collection of pictures of the staff. A cleaning lady from Marian's block had found her way up there, having heard about a teacher's untimely death. She wanted to know who it was. She was heartbroken when she saw the picture. 'That nice lady,' she said. 'She was always so nice. Stopped and talked to me when leaving work in the evenings.' Llandrillo College was the place where the last short part of her life was spent. She was enjoying the challenge of getting to grips with a different education system and she enjoyed the work itself. In the event, she had little time to enjoy it or to accomplish what she had set out to do there. She was killed on 3 June 2003 by a speeding car while she was crossing the road. She was 48. In the words of her husband, they had held hands for nigh on thirty years; she is now at rest in the hands of Another. The funeral was conducted at Newbold College by Welsh Mission president Dr Brian Phillips, Pastor Doug Sinclair and a former colleague from Norway, Pastor Finn Myklebust. There followed later a memorial service at Llandrillo College where former colleagues and students paid tribute to her hard work, warm personality, and innovative ideas. She is mourned, though not without hope, by her husband Egil, sons Rolf and Harry, brothers Keith and Bruce, sister Gill, her father Errol, and a wide circle of friends.

HARRY LEONARD

Staff required for Special Needs Camp 4-11 July. We have vacancies for carers, kitchen staff and a laundry co-ordinator. If you would like to work for a week in beautiful Aberdaron, please contact Joy Bussey:

2 Shakespeare Street, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD24 5HF.
Tel: 01923 461044.

NEWBOLD GRADUATION – 16 MAY TWO CEREMONIES IN 2004

In a break with tradition, Newbold will hold an extra Graduation ceremony this year. Two services will allow maximum possible numbers of families, friends and supporters to be present in the Church Centre. The College estimates that about 70 students will graduate this year.

The speaker at both services will be Dr Reinder Bruinsma, president of the Netherlands Union of Seventh-day Adventists.

Undergraduate ceremony: 11.30am.

Postgraduate Ceremony: 3pm.

Entrance by ticket only (including children over 3)

Telephone Helen Savage on: 01344 407420

Or email: hsavage@newbold.ac.uk

Or by post at Newbold College, Bracknell, Berks. RG42 4AN.

The Social Committee at Lewisham Church is inviting all to a Cultural Evening on the 3 May at 2.30pm. There will be food available for purchase and special items performed. It promises to be a fun filled family event, please come along and share in this time.

Singles' Conference

by Helen Pearson

Ministry to single people in the Seventh-day Adventist Church took a significant step forward at Newbold College on Sunday 28 March. About a hundred people came from all over the UK – from nearby Reading, from London, as well as from Birmingham and Glasgow. Their goals were summed up in the title of the conference: *Making It Real*. Or as Pastor Bernie Holford, co-director of Family Ministries for the South England Conference, described it: 'To recognise the significance, importance and value of single people in the Church.'

Keynote speaker for the event was Dr Bramwell Osula, professional in residence in the School of Leadership Studies at Regent University in Virginia, USA. Dr Osula challenged his audience to question the traditional, stratified view of society in which singles are defined



Valerie Bernard

primarily in relation to marriage, and to develop a liberated understanding of the power of singlehood in church life and beyond. A discussion followed Dr Osula's speech before participants separated into nine groups for workshops on various aspects of 'singledom': single parenting, woundedness, commitment, prayer and survival.

'Single parents have lots of transferable skills and tremendous energy to bring to the life of the church,' said Primary Mental Health worker Clare Constant Shields, who led the workshop on single parenting.

'I didn't want to come but I felt that God had led me here on a road to discover the value of my singleness,' said one participant.

Moving spirit and organiser for the conference was Adventist Sociologist Ms Valerie Bernard, head of Behavioural Science at Newbold. 'As a Christian sociologist, I believe that I have a moral duty to see that my sociological research impacts on the ministry of the church. I am glad to see it creating dialogue on a variety of different levels.'

'Val's doctoral research on singleness combined with her personal experience of lone parenthood offered the participants a rich resource,' said one observer.

After a brief concluding concert of singing and rap poetry, the



God's car factory

Lachlan's childhood was secular - no Sunday School, no religion – even Christmas was 'about Santa'.

His Christian aunt read him adventurous Bible stories and prayed for him when he was 6.

At 15 he dated a Christian girl with impressive values and optimism.

At 17 he found his favourite teacher, a biologist, was a Christian. His example and reasons started Lachlan thinking there was probably a God. 'But I thought maybe Fate or Superforce – not necessarily Jesus.'

At 18, with a great traineeship and social life, Lachlan couldn't work out why he was dissatisfied and wanted more. A Friday night street preacher boomed, 'Without God, your jigsaw will always be missing one piece.' Lachlan thought he was right. He questioned an Adventist workmate, who invited him to a dinner party discussion about basic Christianity. It made sense. He asked questions that gradually caused 'almost total change of world-view over two years', and was baptised.

Looking back, he feels 'like a car being made – someone built the chassis, another installed the engine, etc. The gospel engine wouldn't fit without first meeting good Christians and hearing logical reasons for faith.'

Lachlan's aim: 'to move people one step along God's assembly line'.

For precept *must be* upon precept . . . line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little. Isaiah 28:10.

participants dispersed, committed to organising more small events: seminars, workshops, conversations and *agape* feasts.

'Inspiring, inspirational, enlightening, formative,' said Joel Codrington, a workshop presenter and electrical engineer from Reading Central church.

ABC BOOK SALES

April	25 West Midlands	10am-2pm
May	9 John Loughborough	10am-2pm
	16 Newbold Graduation	
	23 West Midlands	10am-2pm
June	6-13 NEC Camp Meeting, Southport	
	SEC Camp Meeting, Breen Sands	

Messenger

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Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Apr 23	8.11	8.23	8.19	8.36	8.43
30	8.23	8.35	8.32	8.51	8.56
May 7	8.34	8.46	8.44	9.05	9.09
14	8.45	8.57	8.55	9.18	9.22

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cost to member supplied in bulk to churches £6. Single copy subscription by post £13. Overseas airmail £27.50

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
Divorce Care Ministry	Sabbath 1 May (pm)	Manchester Central church	Merrily Richie, DivorceCare administrator	Tel Pastor C. Sweeney at NEC on 0115 9606 312
AXIS spiritual retreat	30 April-3 May	Cliff Coll. Conf. Centre, Calver, Derbyshire	BUC	Tel Personal Ministries Department BUC 01923 672251 for details
Lone Parents' Family Day	16 May, 10-4 Limited spaces. Must be booked/prepaid	Advent Centre, London	Bernie and Karen Holford and Lone Parent Team	Janet Guthrie at SEC 01923 232728; jguthrie@secadventist.org.uk . Book by 3/5: £3 a family inc. lunch+childcare
Keeping the church family safe – Policy Training day	Sunday 16 May 10am-1pm	Middlesbrough church	Everyone working with children should attend	Tel Pastor C. Sweeney at NEC on 0115 9606 312
Community Services Chilterns Fed Spring Meeting	Sunday 16 May	Stanborough Park, Watford	Speaker: Sister E. Staples, CS director	Bring packed lunch. Hot and cold drinks supplied. Contact S. Sealy, 01932 831646.
Spring Family Camp	16-23 May	Aberdaron	Pastor Patrick Boyle	Tel NEC on 0115 9606 312
Family Life Revival Series	22-27 May with Dr Alanzo Smith, GNYC	Handsworth Church, 98 Hutton Road	Pastor R. Mackintosh	0121 344 3672 www.handsworthsda.org.uk
Men's Day of Fellowship	5 June	West Midlands	Elder J. Trotman	Tel Pastor C. Sweeney at NEC on 0115 9606 312
Concert	Sabbath 19 June		The Golden Chords and friends	Tel London Youth Federation on 07904 956288 or 07939 875325

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