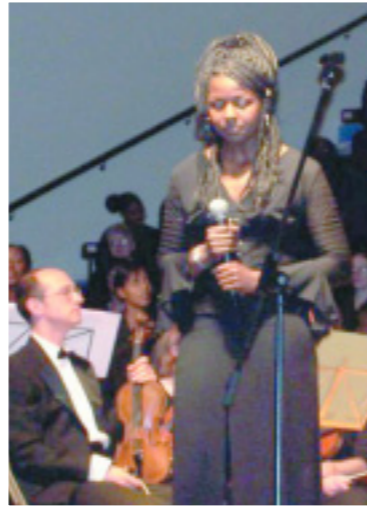


Messenger

7 May 2004 • Volume 109/10

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A Celebration of Christ



Shaun Douglas reports on the *Young Soulful Messiah*

Some years ago, the World Church issued plans for a global evangelistic strategy. 2004 is the Year of Evangelism. However, as a church membership, have we grasped and embraced this concept? What are we doing to bring the community into our churches, fellowship groups and other meetings to share our knowledge and experience of Jesus? Matthew 28:18-20 leaves us in no doubt about the primary role of the Church, the Great Commission from the Messiah's own lips. Any hesitation in implementing that Commission can only lose opportunities to save souls for the Kingdom.

Hence, the vision of the *Young Soulful Messiah*, a concert that through the efforts of laity inspired by the Holy Spirit, combined the gift of music with evangelism in order to touch the community outside and unite the skills of members from both the North and South England Conferences to 'preach Christ and him crucified'.

The *Young Soulful Messiah* is a selection of arrangements from two albums which represented contemporary reworkings of Handel's *Messiah*. The sixteen pieces included large choir support for at least three of the chosen songs: *Pastorale*, *Overture – A Partial History of Black Music*, and *The Hallelujah Chorus*.

The idea originated to create a community choir to work with other established Adventist choirs and community choirs. The Nottingham Community Gospel Choir, although still small in size, began life in July 2003 and contains a representative mix of Adventists and non-Adventists. Taught by Kelly Christie-Phillips and Shaun Douglas, they learned not only the words and music, but also the *ethos* behind the music. It was great to see the commitment shown by these young people attending every practice, enthusiastic for the day when their labours would be acknowledged, and all the while learning about the God who inspired the classic.

When setting up the choir, the aim was to have at least 80 people singing on stage. At first the choir did not reach this size. But the aim, tied in with a promise that had been made to the new recruits that they would get to work alongside established choirs and chorales and professionals in the music business, made us press on. How the Lord blessed us! In came the youth choirs of Chiswick, Willesden, Camp Hill, Leicester and Tamworth, with the support of the Northampton praise team. These took us to a total of 110+ choir members to perform on the night. In addition we were blessed by an ensemble of musicians in the IGM Band the IGM Chorale and the string section of the International Adventist Symphony Orchestra, led by Chris

Time 4 Action

International Adventist Youth Congress

by Des Boldeau, BUC Youth director

Something strangely exciting is going to happen in Poland this summer. Youth Congress!

Youth Congress? Who needs it? Isn't it just for a select few and those who belong to 'the club'? I'm too old for that sort of thing now! I can't afford the cost or time away from work.'

Are you quite finished dribbling out the excuses? May I speak?

What is a Youth Congress? We are talking 'world event'! A mega-spiritual, social, fellowship, getting-to-know-others event! Workshops designed with you guys in mind. We're talking a culturally-diverse, interactive experience! Music of a wide variety and taste. Live bands, deeply spiritual worships, and inspiring messages to warm your hearts and stir your souls.

Are you afraid of having your soul stirred? God wants to speak to you at this event, so please don't miss the opportunity to hear what he wants to say to YOU!

We are expecting about 4,000 young people from the Trans-European and Euro-African Divisions, but in addition there will be folk from other parts of the world. You just have to plan to be there!

Youth congresses have not been well supported in the UK for a while now, but we are hoping to change this trend, so please take some time to get on the BUC youth webpage at www.adventist.org.uk and download the application form, complete it and post it with your cheque to the BUC Office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ. Or you can email me on dboldeau@adventist.org.uk.

How do you get there? You can choose to fly with us to Berlin, then coach on to Poland, or you can make your own way there.

The city of Wroclaw is a university city and very beautiful for sightseeing in your spare time. Travel in the city is very inexpensive and food is also very reasonable. The congress fee includes your accommodation and food, but you can make your own arrangements for food and accommodation if you wish. The choice is yours, though we would prefer that you buy into the package that has been worked out for the event.

So what are you waiting for? Who knows how many new friends you could make? Go on! Do it now. And we'll see you there!

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

The Diet of Worms

The diet of worms referred to in the title is every bit as daunting as that faced by the reformer Martin Luther in 1521. However, these worms are likely to be prescribed to treat inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)!

University of Iowa scientists have developed a drink, TSO, made from thousands of pig whipworm eggs, which they have shown can significantly reduce the abdominal pain, bleeding, and diarrhoea associated with IBD. If the European regulators give TSO the go-ahead it could be on sale from this May.

Eliminating parasitic worms in the diet has apparently been paralleled by an increase in IBD in the Western world. Two hundred people treated with TSO in its experimental

stage were relieved of their symptoms. Pig whipworm eggs were chosen because they survive in humans just long enough to clear the condition.

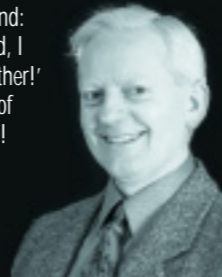
Various complaints such as Crohn's disease, IBDs, and ulcerative colitis seem to be related to an over-active immune system, which results in inflammation in the bowels. Crohn's disease is presently regarded as incurable and treated with, among other treatments, steroids which often produce side effects, so the introduction of TSO might be regarded as welcome. Limiting or eliminating dairy products, which can cause gas, abdominal cramping and diarrhoea, has been shown to be an effective way of controlling IBD, as has also avoiding fatty food and dietetic sweeteners

(sorbitol, manitol etc).

Adding fibre to the diet in the form of fruits and vegetables, which is necessary, should only be done gradually. Fibre helps to prevent constipation but can increase uncomfortable gas levels if large amounts are introduced into the diet too quickly. Since raw fruits and vegetables can add to the bowel irritation these should be cooked rather than avoiding their intake altogether.

Other irritants for people with IBD include alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, spicy foods, and concentrated fruit juices. Experimenting with foods will eventually settle the diet the IBD sufferer is most happy with. Bowel movements help by temporarily relieving the pain and discomfort of IBD.

Lifestyle change is clearly a priority in managing IBDs, which can be painful, annoying, and embarrassing, but not generally life-threatening. With TSO being made from parasites – and pig parasites at that – it is hardly likely to be a treatment option for Adventists! Still, the possibility of using the new drink (which would have to be taken twice a month) can be met with a no, and: 'Here I stand, I can do no other!' in true Diet of Worms style!



with David Marshall



Superstars, Shepherds and Foremen Sheep

It is not uncommon for commitments to Christ to take place when we are 10 or 11. Hence, when the Morrisons took their 10-year-old daughter Chloe to an evangelistic meeting addressed by one of the most significant figures in today's church, they had prayed that the Holy Spirit would work on her heart.

The meeting went well. The Significant Figure could not have been on better form. The Morrisons waited to see what Chloe would do at the end.

Chloe was first out of her seat. She made it to the front so fast she was first there when the Significant Figure made landfall.

That was when she asked him for – his autograph.

That this happened says nothing negative about Chloe, and certainly not about the preacher. It is, perhaps, a small indicator that we have a celebrity culture in our church.

There are other indicators. Local preachers and pastors have long had to give way to any 'star' who happens to be in town. Since the geographical disposition of the 'stars' is now shown on the web, the phenomenon of the floating congregation has become more apparent in the last couple of years. There's a greater tendency to follow the 'big names' these days.

In the 70s Advent Audio Visuals used to market cassette tapes of favoured international speakers. The cassettes of three speakers in particular were especially popular. 'Stars', you might say. I recall their names, but don't like to mention them. For one reason or another all three 'stars' have long since ceased to be part of the scene. Their celebrity status led them to push the boundaries either of belief or behaviour just too far.

Years ago an English cricketer, David Shepherd, was made Anglican Bishop of Liverpool. Star-struck myself, perhaps, I made my way to an afternoon service in the cathedral there. I arrived in time to see the bish leading a procession out of the nave. He was carrying an enormous shepherd's crook. Forgetting to ask him about his test centuries, I asked him about that instead. He made a self-conscious, self-deprecating remark about the bishop's gear in which he was got up, and explained that the crook was a symbolic reminder about the nature of his 'proper job' – and made the inevitable pun on his surname.

In the celebrity culture that grips us, and the shallow religious hucksterism to which it sometimes gives rise, could we use a symbolic reminder of our 'proper job'? 'You're not shepherds!' said the speaker at the ministers' meetings. 'You're just foremen sheep!' There's something in that, too.

My friend Sinead, with a group of Adventists from the Republic of Ireland, came over for one of our English camp meetings. Only one, though. 'We gave up on them,' said Sinead, 'when they all queued up for _____'s autograph!' You see, the celebrity culture – religious hucksterism, whatever you want to call it – doesn't work for some of us. It turns us off.

Do you remember what Jesus said when James and John wanted

to get in on the ground floor of the celebrity culture? They received the distinct impression that 'promotion' in the Kingdom of God is not won by aggressive self-presentation, but that God, not us, determines how his 'honours' are distributed. That was the cue for the other ten disciples, miffed, perhaps, because they had not claimed top seats themselves, to become 'indignant with James and John'. That was Jesus' opportunity to talk about his reversal of the world's ideas of greatness and leadership.

Jesus called them together and said "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. *Not so with you.* Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mark 10:42-45, NIV, italics mine.)

The phrase 'not so with you' is correctly translated 'it is not to be so among you'.

The church, like the Kingdom of God, is not to work in the same way as other human organisations. From first to last it is an alternative society in which the first are last and the last first. Wherever we see the stratifications and divisions which human society takes for granted, we need to remind ourselves: 'not so among you'.

The Word says that '*all men*' (and that, believe it or not, means women too!) will be drawn to Jesus when *he* is lifted up (John 12:32). It does not work so well when it is the preacher who is lifted up!

And that inappropriate 'lifting up' is not the fault of the preacher. The likelihood is that he is trying to lift up Jesus. The fault is in our attitudes towards the preacher.

Jesus was and is the 'Son of Man'. Daniel prophesied that a time would come when 'all peoples, nations and languages' would serve the Son of Man (Daniel 7:14). Yet Jesus, the Son of Man who fulfilled Daniel's prophecy, came not to be served but to serve. In serving he fulfilled another great prophecy of the Old Testament: the suffering servant of Isaiah chapters 42 and 53. 'He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.' (Isaiah 53:5.)

The Jesus model of servant leadership is one meant for our imitation. We cannot, of course, imitate him in his specific role of being 'a ransom for many'; only he could do that, and it need never be done again. But we can imitate him in the utter neglect of self-interest, which enabled him to choose death 'for many' rather than the glory that was his due.

And that will require an adjustment in our attitudes and our behaviours. We must not lift up men. Lionise men and women and you will warp and damage them. Elvis has left the building. *Lift up Jesus.* Then *all* will be drawn. Notice that in '*all men*' of John 12:32 the word *men* is in italics: it is supplied. The text just says *all*. Right?

Jesus is the great magnet of the ages. If we lionise those who lift him up, it can only get in the way of the magnetism of the Saviour. Jesus does not need to stand in the shadow of the preacher. The preacher needs to stand in the shadow of the cross.



Weymouth Centennial

On 20 March, members of the Weymouth church celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of the coming of Adventists to Weymouth. In 1904 a colporteur arrived to live in the town and carry the Advent message to the surrounding area. His work bore fruit and a steady flow of believers has kept the message alive to this day. Home meetings were held until members increased and halls were hired. During this period pastors and lay preachers ministered from Bournemouth. Then, in the 60s, Pastor Spencer Maxwell retired to Weymouth. His dynamic approach boosted the numbers and in 1965 the Weymouth company was inaugurated into the church which remains today. The numbers have fluctuated over the years, but the church has stood firm.

It was this continuity that the present members and their guests celebrated in March. Pastors and lay preachers from the earlier years had been invited to attend, but various commitments, age and ill-health prevented most from attending. However, a warm welcome was given to Basil Powell, and to Stanley Maxwell and his wife Joan, son and daughter-in-law of the late Pastor Spencer Maxwell. Many who were unable to attend sent messages of congratulations and fond memories of their association with the Weymouth church. These included Mrs Grace Bainbridge, widow of the late Pastor Bob Bainbridge; Mrs Alice Bell, whose husband George held the wartime campaign in Weymouth which resulted in five baptisms. Her letter vividly recalled the excitement of that perilous time. Pastors Peter Stearman and Mike Stickland also sent appreciative accounts of their visits, while Pastor Robert Vine recalled happy memories of the times he and his family visited. Pastor and Mrs Leslie Hill, our ministerial team until two years ago, regretted being unable to attend, but added their best wishes for the future of the Weymouth church.

Our centennial celebrations were incorporated with our quarterly special programme for spring and Easter presented by April Dunnett. Carefully chosen poems, readings and music, along with Pastor John Dunnett's sermon, reflected all these aspects – the hope that comes with spring, the glorious message of Easter, and the need for continued steadfastness of God's people – all summed up in the hymn especially written for the centennial celebration by April Dunnett and the writer. In the words of the last verse:

'Though all around faith flickers and fails,
Its flame in God's Church brightly burns,
And may it still be shining there,
When Jesus Christ returns!'

As is customary following the special programme, the congregation repaired to the home of Barbara Leigh at Osmington. Here April gave each a copy of the history of Adventism in Weymouth, first collated by Pastor Spencer Maxwell and now brought up to date. Then a truly sumptuous meal prepared by Barbara brought our memorable celebration to a close.

PEGGY M. D. TEVERSHAM

SEC Teens' Day Out

On Mother's Day it would be nice for our teenage children to make their mothers breakfast in bed, and do all the housework. Failing that, the next best thing would be to have a quiet house free from noisy, messy teenagers! So on 21 March teens from across the SEC chose the latter option and escaped to the Suffolk countryside to take part in team-building activities; but I'm sure they gave their mothers cards, at least!

It isn't very often that teens have the opportunity to meet up and some teens can feel very isolated, especially if they come from a small church or from one with few people their own age. So this day out was a wonderful opportunity for the teens to meet old friends and make new ones.

The day was spent taking part in team-building activities that would foster trust and co-operation as well as nurture leadership skills. There was problem-solving, retrieving of articles from 'minefields', and the traversing of 'swamps' with limited equipment. The teens also took part in abseiling from tall buildings, as

well as getting thoroughly muddy quad-biking over fields. They had an absolutely great day, the only problem being that they wished they'd had more time.

It was good for the volunteer staff to meet some of our new teen staff and other teens. Nicole from Lewisham said, 'I'm glad that I decided to go, as I learnt a lot from the teens that I got to know in that short space of time.'

A lot more is planned for the teens throughout this year, such as Camp Meeting, Worship in the Park, Extreme Teen Camp, Teens' Retreat, and SEC Teens' Day of Fellowship. Youth and teen leaders have all the details, but more information can be obtained from The South England Conference Teens' Ministry. Call on 01923 232728. Or email us at youth@secadventist.org.uk. The SEC is also forming a Teens' Advisory to help co-ordinate the work of teens' ministry across the SEC.

We're looking forward to seeing you at our events.

PASTOR ROBERT HUINES

Second Pastor for London-Ghana

by Nana Sifa Twum

From the pulpit on 14 February, SEC president Pastor Don McFarlane expressed the need for an associate pastor for the London-Ghana church, a 'flock' with nearly 500 members and only one shepherd!

When the president announced a very familiar, beloved and senior member of the church, Pastor Fergus Owusu-Boateng, as the new associate pastor, the response was huge and enthusiastically joyous. The applause was difficult to stop.

On April Pastor Owusu-Boateng picked up his 'rod and staff' and got behind senior shepherd Emmanuel (not the Master Shepherd, but the learner) seriously, and will work with him for the five-year development plan for this church and, above all, the job of the Master to be accomplished.

Pastor Boateng arrived from Tel-Aviv, Israel, on 31 March to take up his new office, but he had to return to attend the Israeli Conference session, where he gave account of his stewardship over the work entrusted to his care in that area.

In an interview with the Communication department, Pastor Owusu-Boateng expressed delight in working with a renowned and experienced senior pastor like Pastor Emmanuel Osei. He observed that much can be achieved in the area of soul winning and church building in the light of the members' enthusiasm to work for the Lord. He said he has closely followed the activities of almost all Ghanaian churches in Europe and is impressed by the unity, hard work and commitment with which members are looking forward to the second coming of Christ.

Pastor Owusu-Boateng was born in Kumasi, the second largest city in Ghana, on 24 September 1962. He is married. He is a product of the Church's two famous universities, Valley View College, Accra, Ghana (1989-91), where he obtained his first Associate Degree in Theology, and Newbold College/Andrews University (1997-99), where he obtained his BA in Religion, and in the same year started his MA in Pastoral Ministry, which has now

Chelmsford: 50% growth in six months

What does a church do when its membership grows by 50% over six months? At Chelmsford we have been blessed with an influx of Indian nurses who have come over to work in the local hospitals. A 'Taste of India Evening' social event was suggested, and 'curried' favour with all those asked. As well as introducing members (and friends) to Indian culture, it was a chance for the homesick to get a taste of home.

A date of 6 March at 7pm was set. Tickets went like Hot Bahji's! The numbers (like our stomachs on the evening!) rapidly swelled, from an initial 50 to 70, 80, 90, 100 – eventually topping out on the night at over 110! Such a sell-out, in

fact, that we had to hire the St John Ambulance hall round the corner as the event had outgrown our church hall.

The food was great, with speciality dishes from all over India. A vast amount of preparation had gone into providing food from mild to 'really tasty', to cater for the needs of all palates – the most delicate to the 'cast iron'. No stomach was left unfilled, and at the end there was plenty left over. It was so good that some of us left with 'doggie' bags, ensuring it didn't go to waste.

After the food was cleared away, the cultural entertainment began. Items of music and dance were performed, representing the various regions covering the length and breadth of the Indian subcontinent. As well as wearing appropriate regional dress, descriptions were given of the people who wore them, customs and food delicacies enjoyed. What a diverse range of cultures, languages and peoples co-exist in this mighty nation! And finally, a powerful and moving rendition of the Indian national anthem brought the evening to a close.

Altogether it was an evening that will live long in the memories of all who attended. Our thanks to those who worked so hard to make the event a success.

CHELMSFORD COMMUNICATIONS



been completed successfully.

As a minister of religion and literature-evangelist, Pastor Owusu-Boateng has worked in a good number of communities in Ghana and elsewhere. Nearly twenty churches have been established either solely by himself or with others. He has enviable experience in the field of health care, where he has worked in various capacities for nearly ten years, and he is an international volunteer with interests in visitation, travelling, reading and singing.

Family Life Day in Portsmouth

On Valentine's Day the Portsmouth Family Life team gave the first of what is planned to be a series of programmes throughout the year. Since Health and Temperance has a close connection with family life, the same team act as leaders of both groups, and therefore intend to combine aspects of both in these presentations.

The day got off to a bright start with hymns that contained messages setting out the secrets of a happy family life. The theme of the Sabbath School, led by the writer and Andrew Chenge, was 'learning lessons from long ago'. This was followed by a lesson study of John's gospel, well planned by Tony Mendes.

The family life theme continued into divine service, taken by Pastor Robin Lewis. This included all the young children of the congregation, and during it the dedication took place of three babies: Lauren Chenge, Neil Kangangarara, and Thabo Ndlovu.

In the afternoon there was a health video for the children, entitled 'Food for Growth', and one for the adults about the body. We intend to develop these throughout the year, setting out the message that health depends on a balance between our physical and spiritual needs.

RAYNA MATTHEWS

Left to right, Andrew Chenge, Rayna Matthews, Tony Mendes.



Live Outdoor Event

What makes a great live outdoor event? Sabbath 3 April was Leamington's chance to put our theory to the test! The formula was: get two great bands; nominate a great charity; get them all together on one afternoon; mix in a bit of rain; add lashings of worship. And, hey presto! You have the bandstand event!

The Avenue Worship Band from Leamington and Lisalife from Worcester came together to promote the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). The plan was simple, through great entertainment and a bit of fun, to raise awareness and money in aid of ADRA.

Raafat Kamal, ADRA-UK director, was there to share with us the work that ADRA has done and continues to strive to do. As a result of the afternoon more than £125 was raised.



Friends baptised in St Albans

On Sabbath 27 March two young men were baptised and received into the fellowship of the St Albans church family. Nineteen-year-old Benson Ferrari comes from a Baptist background but was educated at Stanborough Primary and Secondary schools, where he excelled and was made head boy in his final year. He has attended Adventist churches for eight years and has been coming to the St Albans church for the last four. Active in the youth group, as well as playing the organ, he enthusiastically takes part in Ingathering. Currently Benson is working at the South England Conference office in the accounting and IT departments.

Daniel Surridge (16) is a fifth generation Adventist whose great-grandfather, two grandfathers, uncle and father, either were, or still are, Adventist ministers. In his younger years Daniel was active in the Pathfinder groups of the Carmarthen church and then the St Albans church. In 2001 he went on a short-term mission project to Albania with the St Albans young people, and last year went on a similar project to Romania, this time with the Scottish youth. This year he is planning to go to India with Stanborough School's 'STOP International' project.

Benson and Daniel have been good friends for a number of years and have Ingathered together since Benson was 16. They were baptised simultaneously by Pastor David Neal, minister of the St Albans district, and Pastor John Surridge, Daniel's father. Both pastors praised the young men for their independence and singlemindedness in coming to a decision to follow Christ.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

As part of the ADRA campaign there was also a banquet held on 27 March, which brought in more than £250.

For more great events keep an eye on the Leamington website. We plan to grace the bandstand regularly with our presence, and will keep you informed of future dates. If you're interested in information about Avenue bookings, please contact Anna Simmonds on 01908 330 442.

BRENDA-LOUISE PRETORIUS

Switched on at The Dell!

Residents at The Dell care home and flats are amazed and delighted with the Hope Channel. Irene Osborne was halfway through her life when TV was invented. Now, aged 101, she says, 'Who would have thought that I would be able to watch an Adventist Church programme just by pressing a button on my TV remote control. Sometimes in the night when I'm not sleeping, I switch it on and it's still going 24 hours a day!'

I asked Frances Pickworth, a resident in the retirement flats, if she understood the technology that allows us to watch Adventist programmes that are beamed by satellite around the world. 'My mind boggles,' she said. 'I just don't understand anything technical, but I think it's wonderful and I love the title, Hope Channel. Hope boosts us up and it's for all people, not just the Church.'

Asked what they thought of the Dwight Nelson programmes, Sister Gwyneth Mudford, in her mid-90s,

agreed with the others that she did not much like the music but she realised that it was a 'psychological approach for all the world' and that music was included to attract non-Christian people. Kay Ruddick, who lived in London, used to watch the soap serial 'EastEnders' because it is set in parts of London that she knew as a young woman, and another care home resident was an avid 'Coronation Street' fan, but they declared the Hope Channel to be far superior to all the regular TV programmes.

As I sat with one of the ladies as she watched a Hope Channel programme about a young man whose life had been saved from alcohol and drugs, she said, 'This is a God-inspired idea. What the world needs is hope. It comforts me. Jesus said that his Gospel would go into all the world, and it is today. There is hope for the future, no matter what age we are.'

G. MARTIN BELL

Mel Gibson's Passion

As Bracknell cinemagoers left the first public showings of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*, they were met by Newbold Ministerial Association students Bernard Akakpo, Boubakar Sanou (not pictured), Conrad Vine, and Stephen Wilson, accompanied by Dr Roland Karlman.

'This was an unusually silent group of filmgoers as they left the cinema,' says Dr Karlman. 'Some people were just crying and could hardly speak.'

Dr Karlman and his student friends, however, were not silent. On three Fridays and one Saturday night after the film, the group handed out brochures entitled: *Just a Gory Story or Real Life?* – brochures offering *New Start* correspondence courses. On the four occasions when they went out, the group also distributed specially published books containing parts of *Desire of Ages* and entitled *The Passion*, or copies of *Steps to Christ*.

'We were inspired by the example of the youth and members of the Irish Mission', explained Irishman Stephen Wilson. 'In Ireland the film was released earlier than in the UK, and the Irish youth have reported very positive responses to their work.'

The Newbold group did more than just hand out literature. They engaged in conversation with people and found the public response largely very positive. 'Many requested additional literature and asked about our Christian beliefs. Some shook hands and said thank you for the literature,' say the members of the group. 'Other Christians were also very enthusiastic and encouraged us in what we were doing.'

The students continue their evangelistic efforts. Praise the Lord for such a wonderful evangelistic opportunity, and pray that the seeds sown will produce fruit worthy of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

CONRAD VINE with HELEN PEARSON

From left to right: Conrad Vine, Bernard Akakpo, Dr Roland Karlman and Stephen Wilson.



HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

The South England Conference wish to recruit a Human Resource Manager to provide a comprehensive and quality Human Resource Management service to its staff and volunteers. Ideally the person should be CIPD qualified/part qualified or have at least two years' experience working at senior level. The candidate, in consultation with the Executive Officers, will be required to develop a Human Resource Strategy for the organisation that enables the delivery of its aims and objectives.

For a comprehensive job description, please email cboldeau@secadventist.org.uk. The closing date to receive all CVs is midday 28 June 2004.

The Evidence at Newbold School

Pastor Dwight Nelson came all the way from America to do the *Evidence* series at Newbold church. While he was over, he managed to fit in time to come to Newbold School and tell a fabulous story. He even acted it out. Later in the day, Ken Burton and Martin Harman (two of the musicians) came to do a brilliant musical item for us. Martin could play three instruments – the jazzy saxophone, classical flute and the cool clarinet.

Katya Makarchouk, Reu-el Fleary Griffiths and Laurent Bouchereau were interviewed by BBC's Gillian Joseph for the opening programme. They had designed posters to show what love meant to them.

Andrew Hunt, the director of the programmes on the Hope channel, took us on a tour around the studio and even

allowed us to try the crane camera. He demonstrated how to use the control panels in the purple vans outside as well.

KATYA MAKARCHOUK, JONATHAN RHAMIE and ALEXANDER SMITH, Newbold School



A fine young man

Joseph Wright has been attending Bristol Lodge Causeway since he was a little boy and we have watched him grow into the fine young man who presented himself to God in his early teens.

Joseph is still studying and because he is a young man of excellent qualities he was invited to take up the office of trainee deacon. He spent the next year preparing for this responsible role.

The first Sabbath of this year was Joseph's big day when, in front of a packed church, he was ordained as a deacon. This was very much a family affair with his mother and sister both taking part in the service,

which was conducted by Pastor Brian Martin. Assisting with the laying on of hands were our two elders, Anthony King and Ruth Ohman.

Congratulations and welcoming handshakes were shared at the fellowship lunch held in the church hall after the morning service.

May God continue to bless Joseph as he and our other young people take over the reins for the finishing of the work.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



GERTRUDE BROOKS (1904-2003) d. 6 December. The Gorseston church is sad to record the death of Gertrude Brooks just a few weeks before her 100th birthday. With a father usually away at sea, and a mother with a drink problem, it fell to Gertrude to look after her nine brothers and sisters. Her life was hard but, at 21, she went into service and came to know the Lord through her employers, who were Christians. When they retired they moved to a house next door to Thelma and, through her, met her father, Albert, whom Gertrude later married. Gertrude's first son was stillborn, Albert died aged 53, and she lost her other son, Brian, aged 46. She then lived alone until she was 90, when she came to live with Thelma, who cared for her devotedly until her death. For many years Gertrude had been an Adventist and the Pentecostal Church, but no longer attended when she became hard of hearing. In the meantime Thelma had become an Adventist and, when the pastor came to visit Thelma, he would also see Gertrude and would bring Communion to their home, as Gertrude could not come to church. Though not actually on the membership list of the Adventist Church, Gertrude came to regard it as her own and was very supportive both in tithes and offerings. In spite of her difficult life she always kept close to the Lord and never lost her faith. We look forward to his coming.

VERA COWLEY

CHARLES IRVINE (1918-2004) d. 22 March. The writer is sad to report the death of Brother Charles Irvine who passed away in his own home after a short illness and whose funeral was held in a packed Crieff church on 26 March. Brother Irvine was one of the founder members when the new Crieff church was opened in 1977 but he was baptised many years before that, following a campaign by Pastor Ken

Lacey in Aberdeen. He was born on his parents' farm in 1918 and after leaving grammar school returned to work on the farm. It was during the severe winter of 1947 that he met Martha, his future wife. She was attending the farmer, who had broken his leg, but because of the severe conditions Charlie (as he was affectionately known) was asked to escort her through the snow. This led to romance, and eventually Martha invited Charlie to attend the evangelistic series in Aberdeen. To get there they had to cycle fourteen miles and catch a tram, in all sorts of weather. After his baptism and marriage they answered an advertisement in the *Messenger* to work on Brother Coombs's farm in Cornwall, and this is where they met the writer, who was just a boy at the time. They stayed in Cornwall five years before moving back to Scotland to work on Brother Logan's farm, and then 38 years ago they moved to Crieff to their own smallholding. Martha, besides helping her husband, also nursed at Akaroa for Dr G. Brown. The couple became widely known for their friendliness, honesty and the excellence of their strawberries, raspberries and other garden produce. This was evidenced by the number of people who attended the funeral, some of whom had travelled over 200 miles to be present and who held Charlie and Martha in high esteem. Charlie worked in his garden to within a few months of his death and never let his physical handicaps get him down. When the writer was helping him paint the outside of his house, he remembers him leaning on his stick, with his paintbrush in the other hand and saying with a twinkle in his eye, 'The passing motorists will be saying, "What grand old men those two are".' The funeral service was conducted by Pastors E. Logan, L. Edwards and the writer. They reminded the congregation of the Christian character of Charlie who was never heard to criticise

anybody, who was an exemplary head deacon, a faithful church member and a loving husband. He died believing in the wonderful Christian hope of resurrection to eternal life at the return of our Lord. Our prayers and thoughts are with Martha at this time. He will be greatly missed by members of the Crieff church and all who knew him.

PASTOR BOB RODD

HERBERT BARHAM (1909-2004) d. 9 March 2004. Bert Barham was born in Hastings, the second son of a railway signalman. His father, Edwin, was a Methodist and his mother, Jane, an Anglican. As he grew up, Bert worshipped with his father but, in deference to his mother's wishes, was educated at St John's (Church of England) Choir School. Music played a major part in Bert's education and he learned to play both the organ and the violin. For fifty years he was to be a member of the Watford Philharmonic Orchestra and, until his stroke at 91, was organist for congregations across a number of denominations. On leaving school Bert obtained a place at a theological college to train for the Anglican ministry. A meeting with Pastor Woodward on the promenade at St Leonard's in the summer of 1928 led to a change of plan. What began as a discussion of theological differences continued with a study of *The Great Controversy* and led to his decision to study at Stanborough College. On 17 October 1928 Bert became the first to be baptised at the newly-opened Stanborough Park church. Bert left college, relocated to Newbold Revel in 1934 and, shortly after that, married Eileen Read, the daughter of W. E. Read, the BUC president. The marriage lasted sixty years until Eileen's death and produced five children: Derald, Mervyn, Nigel, Graham and Angela. Eileen, who had two artificial legs, had a strong personality. So had Bert. During his college years he emerged as a successful literature-evangelist. His undoubted

DAVID MARSHALL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 2004

Seventh-day Adventist Association Limited
Notice is hereby given that the ninety-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Association Limited will be held on Thursday 1 July 2004 at 2pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts. On behalf of the Board of Directors, M. K. Taylor (secretary)

Seventh-day Adventist Trust Company Limited
Notice is hereby given that the twenty-second Annual General Meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Trust Company Limited will be held on Thursday 1 July 2004 at 2.15pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts. On behalf of the Board of Directors, M. K. Taylor (secretary)

Good Health Association Limited
Notice is hereby given that the hundred and first Annual General Meeting of the Good Health Association Limited will be held on Thursday 1 July 2004 at 2.25pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts. On behalf of the Board of Directors, G. M. Bell (secretary)

Good Health Association (Scotland) Limited
Notice is hereby given that the thirty-seventh Annual General Meeting of the Good Health Association (Scotland) Limited will be held on Thursday 1 July 2004 at 2.35pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts. On behalf of the Board of Directors, G. M. Bell (secretary)

ADRA-UK
Notice is hereby given that the sixth Annual General Meeting of ADRA-UK will be held on Thursday 1 July 2004 at 2.45pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts. On behalf of the Board of Directors, R. Kamal (secretary)

The Stanborough Press Limited
Notice is hereby given that the hundred and tenth Annual General Meeting of The Stanborough Press Limited will be held on Thursday 1 July 2004 at 2.55pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts. On behalf of the Board of Directors, P. Hammond (secretary)

WHEN THE PRODIGAL LEAVES
Re-establishing the connections

An exciting series of presentations for fathers and mothers, sons and daughters, and other relatives and friends as well

by
Dr. D. Robert Kennedy
Professor of Theology and Religion
Atlantic Union College, Massachusetts, USA

Featuring the Singing Evangelist
Christine Sinclair
International Gospel Recording Artist

Venue: John Loughborough School Hall, Holcombe Road, N17
Commences: 15 May - 5 June 2004 at 7:15pm nightly
(Excluding Thursday) Saturday 6:00pm

Because I Got High
A Drug Awareness Programme

Saturday 6th & 15th May 2004
5:00pm

The Advent Centre
39 Brandon Street
London W1H 5JE

presented by
Eden Secretaries

continued from page 1

Rogers. Sectional practices were conducted in London, Birmingham, Northampton and Nottingham by Kelly, Shaun, Devon Elliott and Mark Forester. Final rehearsals for the massed choir were led by Christine Burt. Shaun and the late Paul Horslen worked tirelessly on developing promotional work for this event. And again opportunities to include the wider community opened before us.

Thanks to a co-ordinated effort with Steve Palmer, NEC Youth director, the tone of the evening was set by world-renowned evangelist, Pastor Henry M. Wright, who admonished a capacity cosmopolitan crowd to open themselves to a living relationship with the *Young Soulful Messiah*.

Among the outside team that helped attract audiences were the vocal contributions of Delroy Hutchinson and Godfrey Gayle, winners of the 2003 MOBO Award for Best Gospel Newcomers. They brought to the table Delroy's sister, Daphne Mitchell, a powerful voice that wowed the audience during the final performance. Further vocal support was given by Brenden Guyatt, a Christian who works in the commercial music industry. Among other very notable soloists on the night were Michelle Duncan, Greg Smith, Diamara Neil, Jennifer Phillips, Jeanette Liburd, the amazing Blessed Voices, Wayne Williams and the writer. The spirit of teamwork and ownership pervaded the project, with virtually all the soloists also being part of the Chorale or Massed Choir.

Over £1,300 was attracted in outside sponsorship from DMG

Antiques Fairs (*Bargain Hunt*), Mitchell's *The Bowl* in Nottingham and Hallelujah Ministries (Paul Horslen). These donations made the project financially secure.

God continued to bless the small team with offers of assistance that became essential for making the night a success. One of the most notable were the contributions of Kainé Gospel Arts, who brought excellent security and administration as well as Steps2Christ, whose dance interpretations on several pieces fully rounded out the visual aspects of the concert. Additional skills were brought by Ron Lawrence and his team through their use of video cameras to provide a backdrop for the performance. Among the visual treats were two short films edited by the writer to enhance 'For unto us a Child is born' and 'Surely he hath borne our griefs'; the latter employed scenes depicting the judgement, scourging and crucifixion of Christ taken from the *Visual Bible: the Gospel According to Matthew*. Many found these scenes, in concert with the truly emotive vocals from Delroy Brenden and Shaun to cause a seismic realisation of their personal position with God and the depth of love he displayed on the Cross.

The concert was never going to be just a musical feast. Pastor Roy Morgan and Pauline Maturi raised the bar with the inception of an inspired narrative, especially composed by Pastor Morgan, that maintained a thematic thread throughout the performance. The narrative combined a historical overview of G. F. Handel, Black Gospel Music and the story of the Messiah himself; thus it was a cross-cultural, religious, historical and educational exposition, seamlessly grafted into the whole



Introvert evangelist?

Graham is an introvert.

At his neighbourhood Christmas party he did his usual introvert thing: 'quality conversations with a few people rather than trivial ones with everyone.'

His neighbour Harry commented in passing that praying was like talking to Santa. Graham said, 'Do you think so? I pray.' Harry asked why, and whether it achieved anything. Graham answered in his logical, respectful way, mentioning prayers that had been answered for him. He was 'feeling shy and scarily open' and 'didn't want to push', but Harry kept asking, the questions getting less critical and more open.

Harry said, 'I'll try that.'

After many tries, discussions, retries, borrowed videos, small group Bible studies and, above all, clear answers from God, Harry is attending church – and witnessing to his family.

He says, 'Graham was my kind of person. No argument, no salesmanship. He just told me his own stories, quietly and factually with no hype. I trusted him.'

Graham was so encouraged. He says, 'I'd barely tried evangelism before, because I'm not the shameless extrovert who'd sell beef to Hindus. But it's a gift God gives to all personality types.'

Graham is the introvert evangelist, quietly confident to tell his story to anyone.

'I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. . . . I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.' – Paul to recent converts in Corinth, 1 Corinthians 2:1, *et seq.*

ABC BOOK SALES

May		
9	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
16	Newbold Graduation	
23	West Midlands	10am-2pm

concept of the *Young Soulful Messiah*.

As a result of the concert, the ABC reported significant sales of the new edition of *Steps to Christ* and other publications related to the life of Christ.

SITUATION VACANT The Stanborough Press Ltd has a vacancy for an Administrative Secretary at its Grantham offices. Applications, together with CV, should be submitted to: The Financial Director, The Stanborough Press Ltd, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincs. NG31 9SL. Tel: 01476 591700. Fax: 01476 577144. Email: stanborg@aol.com. Salary in accordance with denominational wage scale.

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Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
May 7	8.34	8.46	8.44	9.05	9.09
14	8.45	8.57	8.55	9.18	9.22
21	8.55	9.07	9.06	9.31	9.34
28	9.04	9.16	9.16	9.42	9.44

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 Cost to member supplied in bulk to churches £6.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
Community Services Chilterns Fed Spring Meeting	9 May (Note: not 16 May)	Stanborough Park, Watford	Sister E. Staples, CS director	Bring packed lunch. Hot and cold drinks supplied. Contact S. Sealy, 01932 831646
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
Spring Family Camp	16-23 May	Aberdaron	Pastor Patrick Boyle	Tel NEC on 0115 9606 312
Special needs Day of Fellowship	22 May	Leamington Spa church	ASNA/Leamington	ASNA 01491 833395. Elaine Harlin 01827 383282
Brecon Family Camp	28-31 May	Aberbran, Nr Brecon	Pastor James Huzzey	Tel: 02920 881560 Richard.Vine@caerphilly37.freeserve.co.uk

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.