

Welsh Mission highlights

A preliminary report of the Mission session on Sunday 9 May, by David Marshall
A detailed account will appear in our next issue



A century ago Wales was in the grip of the Great Revival. There were Adventists in Wales before the Revival began. But, believes Welsh Mission president Dr Brian Phillips, the consequences of the Revival included a massive growth in the membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The massive growth made it necessary to organise the Welsh Mission of Seventh-day Adventists.

And hence the Welsh Mission is just one hundred years old – this year!

'At the first Welsh Mission Session at Barry in 1904,' said Dr Phillips, 'one past and one future General Conference president was in attendance in the persons of O. A. Olsen and W. A. Spicer. At the 1904 Mission Session 90 of the 101 members were present. And a surprising number of those 90 members could be categorised as self-supporting missionaries. Hence, from the start, the Mission was set to grow!'

Dr Phillips, himself a Welshman, was speaking at the Welsh Mission's one-day session on Sunday 9 May. It was held in St Paul's Adventist church in Cowbridge Road, Cardiff, within a quarter of a mile of the Millennium Stadium venue for great sporting events.

Supporting Dr Phillips were all three officers of the British Union Conference: the president, Pastor C. R. Perry; the treasurer (also treasurer of the Welsh Mission) Victor Pilmoor; and the executive secretary Pastor Eric Lowe who also has some claims to be a Welshman.

All three officers were present, with the sizeable delegation, when Dr Phillips presented his report. 'There

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Top: Veteran pastor Richard Vine, who has ministered continuously in the Welsh Mission for thirty-two years
 Middle: Welsh Mission treasurer Victor Pilmoor, president Dr Brian Phillips and BUC president Pastor C. R. Perry
 Right: Children's Ministries sponsor Anette Moore
 Bottom: Dr Phillips gives his President's Report to the delegation

Roundelwood Nursing Home to close

The Board of Directors for Good Health Association (Scotland) Limited met on Sunday 25 April and, very reluctantly, voted the closure of the Nursing Home at Roundelwood in Crieff, Scotland.

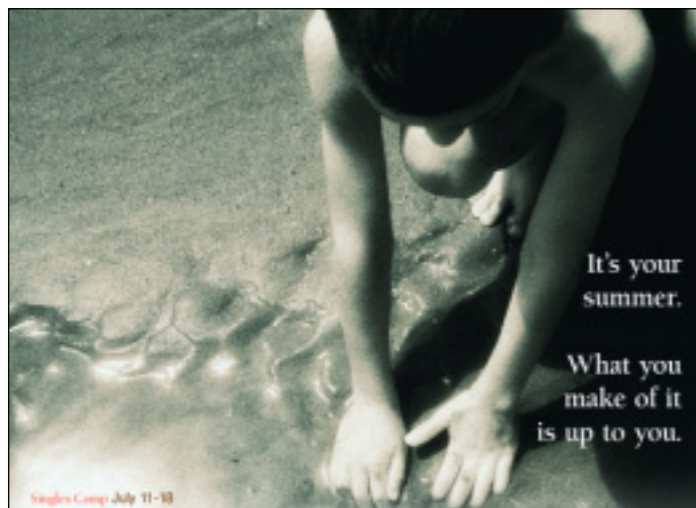
The Nursing Home was opened by Dr Gertrude Brown in October of 1945 and has been a haven of care for the elderly for almost 60 years. Unfortunately, following the introduction of 'Care in the Community' by the Government in 1993, the number of nursing home clients has gradually diminished from 50-plus to just 22 today. The loss of income caused by this reduction is approaching £600,000 a year in today's terms.

In recent years the Board of Directors and the management at Roundelwood have endeavoured to build up the number of clients attending the health programmes at Roundelwood to compensate for this loss, but the health programme and the Nursing Home do not sit comfortably together. Independent business studies arranged by the British Union Conference have highlighted the fact that the Nursing Home and the health programme are not compatible.

The audited financial statements for 2003 have indicated that the greater losses at Roundelwood are now coming from the Nursing Home and, for that reason, the Board of Directors has had to make this very painful decision.

We would like to express sincere appreciation for all of the staff who have worked at the Nursing Home in Roundelwood. Through many years the professionalism and skills that they have demonstrated have been of the highest standard. We would seek the prayers of the Church for these good people who will lose their employment, and also for the elderly residents who are very distressed at having to move to a new home, and

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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.

Global Partnerships in Nursing* Coventry, 12-16 July

Join nursing colleagues from around the world . . .
To learn, to network, to celebrate

Conference Schedule and topics:
Day 1 Arrival, registration and dinner

Day 2 The meaning and relevance of wholeness in nursing.

Day 3 International challenges in nursing education and clinical practice.

Day 4 Meeting the challenges through research, education and practice.

Evening: Closing events.

*Certificate of attendance and continuing education units will be available.

Opportunities to participate:
Panel discussants or moderators.
Research podium or poster presenters.

Conference format:
Presentations and posters.
Panel discussions.

Conference Fun:
Celebrating new friends and old
Sharing a global vision of nursing
Exploring Coventry



Conference Venue, Royal Court Hotel, Coventry

Contact us on the web for information and abstract submissions:
www.llu.edu/llu/nursing/international/confdetails.htm
Conference co-ordinator: Dr Patricia Jones

Global Partnerships in Nursing Project is sponsored by Loma Linda University Office of International Nursing, and the Department of Health Ministries, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

For a registration form contact Dawn Tompkins at Health Ministries Dept., BUC Office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ. Tel: 01923 672251.

Full-time Secretarial/Book-keeping vacancy at the BUC Office (Temporary position to cover for maternity leave/absence starting 1 October 2004) An exciting and demanding role is open for an energetic, efficient and highly organised person with good secretarial/book-keeping skills and a commitment to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The responsibilities will include routine secretarial and data entry tasks, book-keeping, and will require competency in the use of Microsoft Office 97 or comparable software packages. Salary and terms of employment will be in keeping with denominational policies and are available on request. Interested individuals are invited to send a CV to: Raafat Kamal, Executive Director, ADRA-UK, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ. Tel: 01923 681723. Email: rkamal@adra.org.uk. Closing date for applications: 18 June 2004

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

Squeezing the purse!

How much are you willing to pay for fruit juice? A reasonable amount, I am sure, but not as much as some retail outlets are charging. A major survey on the quantity of fruit juice sold in cartons and bottles shows that you could be paying up to £34.67 per litre!

Consumer organisations have measured the percentage of real fruit juice in a variety of drinks and then worked out how much it would cost at the rate on offer to purchase a litre of the juice.

The costs are as follows for juice drinks: Cape Tropical £2.63; Tesco Tropical £2.73; Rubicon Sun Exotic Tropical £3.16; Pure Heaven £3.19; ASDA Extra Special (Orange/Lime/Lemon) £4.80; Del Monte Burst Tropical £5.07; Suncrest Tropical

£5.56; Princes Refreshingly Tropical £6.27; Sunpride Tropical £6.90; and Consumers Pride Exotic Tropical £12.50!

Children's juice drinks start just below mid-range of the above figures then climb dramatically! Disney Winnie the Pooh £3.53; Thomas and Friends (Apple/Blackcurrant) £6.60; ASDA More for Kids (Apple/Pear) £9.20; Tesco Kids (Orange/Peach) £9.56; Florida Style Sunny D £10.27; Tom and Jerry (Apple/Blackcurrant) £12.50; Robinsons Fruit Shoot (Orange/Peach) £22.60; Twist 'n' Squeeze (Orange) £25.00; Ribena Blackcurrant £34.67, and it's no kinder to the teeth for the price!

Squashes also come in for the same analysis and cost per litre estimates: Princes Geebee £4.00; Tesco (Orange/Lemon/Pineapple) £4.46;

Pataya (Apple/Blackcurrant) £4.50; Morrisons (Apple/Blackcurrant) £5.90; Sainsbury's Mixed Fruits £6.20; Kwik Save (Orange) £6.30; Budgens Whole Orange £6.50; Londis (Apple/Blackcurrant) £6.90; Kia Ora Mixed Fruit £7.79; Noddy Smooth (orange) £9.90!

The pure juice blends work out at better value for money with the following brands claiming 100 per cent of juice: Sainsbury's low price long life (orange) 38p; Sainsbury's Pure Tropical 75p; ASDA Multivitamin Tropical 88p; Waitrose (Orange/Passionfruit) £1.09; Fruit Passion Fair Trade £1.49; Tesco Pressed (Apple/Mango) £1.79; Marks and Spencer Pressed (Pineapple/Peach/Passion Fruit) £1.99; Santal Exotic £2.35; Liquefruit Breakfast Punch £2.49; and Tropicana Tropics (Orange/Pineapple/Mango) £2.69.

Apart from the pure juices, the juices that we buy are concoctions of

water, sugar, and a dash of the named fruit juice varying between 10 and 40 per cent of the volume. For the children's juices the percentage of fruit juice ranges from 5 to 55 per cent of the end product.

With bottles of wine costing less than these fruit mixtures, it is no surprise that people choose wine as the healthy drinking option. The Consumer Organisations doing the survey say watch out for words like 'refreshing' on the label as this often denotes lots of water! If you want to water down juice it is cheaper to do it yourself. Clearly the purse is being squeezed more than the fruit.



with Roy Adams*



Don't knock it

'Why do we want people to explain the 2,300 days before they can become Seventh-day Adventists?

If I had a dollar for each time I've heard those sentiments, I'd be sitting on decent cash today. And even though no responsible person in the church has ever come even close to suggesting such a thing, the charge persists, usually ending with the statement: 'What people need to have preached to them is Christ, not doctrines.'

But each time I hear that, I say to myself: Here's someone who obviously has not taken the trouble to think things through. For no one can make a single statement about Jesus – positive or negative – without drawing upon some aspect of doctrine. If I say 'Jesus is Lord', I've made a doctrinal statement. And however simple, it anchors deep in a large and complex body of materials we call the New Testament, a document pregnant with doctrine from start to finish.

These thoughts impressed themselves on me again as I read through the book of Acts recently. Take Pentecost. The theme of Peter's message on that magnificent day was Jesus – no question. But he didn't just keep repeating that one name like a stuck record. No, he had something to say about this Person. There was content to his message. And, says the text, the multitude who believed 'continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine' (Acts 2:42, NKJV).

As the message of Jesus spread through the Roman world, with multiplied thousands embracing the Christian faith, misunderstandings arose – about Christ, about salvation, about the appropriate practical response to this marvellous gift of grace. 'Some men came down from Judea to Antioch,' to cite one example, 'and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved." ' (Acts 15:1, NIV.)

It was a doctrinal claim fraught with all kinds of cultural, theological, and emotional connotations – impossible to counter with the simple notion that all they needed to hear about was Christ. Facing the crisis head on, Paul and Barnabas entered into 'sharp dispute and debate' with these Judaizers, as they later came to be known (verse 2, NIV). But making no headway, they appealed the matter

to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem.

The outcome of the resulting Jerusalem Council, 'after much discussion' (verse 7), was a brief but carefully worded *doctrinal* statement (see verses 22-29). It was a pattern to be repeated throughout the history of the Christian Church: A theological conflict arises, it grabs the attention of the church, its leaders and theologians grapple with it, and a doctrinal statement emerges. Just about all the letters of Paul – indeed, most of the New Testament – came into existence this way, as efforts to clarify aspects of the faith *through doctrinal elaboration*. We see it in the early and middle centuries of the Christian era. And when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church door at Wittenberg, it was all about doctrine – indeed, essentially the same basic issue tackled by the Jerusalem Council: *How we get right with God*.

Doctrine makes a difference

Each time we hear a criticism – whether directed personally at us or generally at the church – we need to examine it for any possible validity it might have. And the grain of truth I find in the anti-doctrine attitude we're discussing here comes from the fact that some Adventists, no doubt unwittingly, have given doctrine a bad name. Some of their materials come across my desk – the pamphlets, the broadsides, the densely packed letters, the huge emails. It all leaves a sinking feeling in the chest.

But *doctrine* simply means 'teaching'. It's because of doctrine that I'm a Seventh-day Adventist, and not still an Anglican. It's because of doctrine that I'm an Adventist and not a Baptist or a Roman Catholic or a Mormon. Each of these groups professes faith in Jesus Christ. However, my understanding of doctrine determines which group I join.

Doctrine should not turn us into bigots and sourpusses. After all, it was the same Paul who, after composing that sublime poem on love in 1 Corinthians 13, turned in chapter 15 to the most extensive doctrinal exposition on the Resurrection in Scripture.

Essentially, the prophecy of the 2,300 days is about Christ. You might not be able to explain it, but by all means don't knock it. It's hugely important for the self-identity of the Adventist Church.

*This guest editorial appeared in *Adventist Review*, 25 March 2004. Roy Adams is an associate editor of the *Review*.

Many hands, one vision

World Conference on Youth and Community Service, Thailand

The youth programme in Thailand was a thought that became a reality for hundreds of youth across the world, representing nearly every continent and having the same goal, to be workers for Christ in a country that is dominated by Buddhism.

Fellowshipping with so many people was an

uplifting experience throughout the whole project. This included morning devotionals at the Ekamai Seventh-day Adventist Secondary School, where groups actively took a lead and then spilled over into the Congress at the various workshops and seminars.

JENNY PARCHMENT

Thailand

We arrived at Birmingham airport for a flight to Dubai 7.5 hours away, then a flight to Bangkok. The flights totalled approximately 14.5 hours. We



were met by smiling Thai faces and the 'Wai', which is a Thai welcome, by placing hands as to pray and a slight bow.

We arrived at the hotel after a two-hour city ride, and then we received our project briefing, which was done by Beatrice, the project co-ordinator.

The group was excited as we were going to teach English to children between the ages of 2 and 14.

We were assigned interpreters who were from the Adventist International School in Ekamai. Their ages ranged from 15 to 17. I will never forget Wendy, Ploy, Meme and Peng. The fun we had was hilarious, especially with the English language. Food and culture was great, especially the governors' banquet which was on a riverboat.

The GC Community Conference was brilliant and there were over forty different seminars to choose from, all with their social and spiritual aspects.

The sad part about the trip was that there weren't enough people from the UK; only five from the North England Conference and two from the South, plus one

from Sudan, making a total of eight delegates from the Trans-European Division.

CLEMENT MORGAN

The Thailand Project

On 21 December 2003, along with four others from the North England Conference, I went to Thailand. We arrived at Bangkok airport in the early afternoon of 22 December.

There was only a day's rest before we embarked on our teaching project. On the morning prior



to the start of the project, our group joined with others for worship. We were given the task of teaching a number of activities to some school children.

The entire experience of visiting Thailand and taking part in the project is one that will

not be forgotten. It was fascinating to see the politeness of the Thai children and the respect that the Thai people have for their place of worship. Their respect goes beyond the place of worship; it is an integral part of their cultural behaviour.

PASTOR STEVE PALMER,
NEC Youth director



Not one but two Newbold graduations 16 May 2004

by Helen Pearson

In a break with tradition, Newbold held an extra Graduation ceremony this year. Two services allowed maximum possible numbers of families, friends and supporters of graduates to be present in the Newbold Church Centre at this significant rite of passage for students. The College estimated that about seventy students would graduate from Newbold this year. The speaker at both services was Dr Reinder Bruinsma, president of the Netherlands Union.

ABPA weekend by Jocelyn McCappin

It was only a virtual million, won in a quiz on Saturday night by a small group, but all of the members of the Adventist Business and Professionals' Association who attended the recent Spring meeting at the Staverton Park Conference Centre felt like millionaires that weekend. It was not because of the excellent facilities, the delicious food, the stimulating company or the good weather. It was because of the devotionals which reminded us again and again of the wonderful free gift of the Grace of God – grace which 'gives what I don't deserve'.

Our chaplain, Pastor John Ferguson, left us in no doubt that God's grace saves, sustains and sanctifies us, and he challenged us to 'shape up' and ask ourselves how we have progressed since God's grace touched us. Are we more kind, more honest, more forgiving, more humble? Ernest prayers and moving songs engendered a spirit of joyful worship and thanks to 'the wonderful Saviour who loved' us.

It was our singing which prompted a couple of members of staff to ask to which church we belonged. They went on to explain that a colleague had been tragically killed in a road accident the night before, and asked if we could pray for the staff, and for Philip and his family. We promised that not only would we pray that morning as a group, but that we would remember them in our private devotions.

An invigorating walk, a visit to see the excellent facilities at GranoVita, and thrilling reports of God's blessings there, at Aberdaron, at Dudley House, in ADRA, and in the lives of members, meant that everyone left feeling invigorated,

blessed and eager to share those blessings with others. We were reminded that we had the perfect opportunity during the Annual Appeal for ADRA.

A warm family atmosphere is evident at ABPA weekends, so it was with sadness that we said 'farewell' to one family who have been members for many years. Paul and Velda Mason, with their children Adam, Jake and Luke, are moving to Australia later this year. We are sad to see them go, but we know that God's grace will sustain all of us until we meet again.

If you are a professional person, or run a business with at least one employee, and would like to know more about the ABPA then please contact the secretary, Pastor John Arthur, c/o TED Offices, 119 St Peter's Street, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 3EY.

Convinced of the Sabbath

A smiling Theodosia Miller emerged from the baptismal pool as she recommitted her life to Christ and joined the fellowship of the Brixton church. As she attested, it was not without a struggle, but she was determined to join three other ladies in baptism on Sabbath 27 March in the presence of friends, visitors and members.

Theodosia was brought up in the Anglican faith in Jamaica, but while she was living in England a literature-evangelist knocked at her door, sold her some books and introduced her to the Voice of Prophecy course. It was as a result of reading the Bible to complete the lessons that she realised that the seventh day was indeed the Sabbath of the Lord. She was convinced and continued reading her way into the Sabbath-keeping church.

Like the other ladies who were baptised – Amarachi Uchechi, Keisha Thompson-Wright and Mavis Jackson-Donegal – Theodosia has put her trust in Jesus and is willing to let the Lord guide her through the rest of her life.

The candidates were baptised by Pastor Hamilton Williams after his timely sermon admonishing us to focus on the 'Beautiful Gate' where there is hope and encouragement.

JOAN REID

London Youth Day of Fellowship

From the moment the doors opened at 9.30 on Sabbath morning 17 April in poured hordes of youth eager to

partake in what was to go on at the Emmanuel Centre that day, a great day, where the youth of London fellowshiped. And, oh, did we fellowship! The morning began with a creative flare as dance and drama introduced the theme and set the tone for the day ahead.

Touching on the controversial subject, 'The Passion of the Christ', the London Youth Federation offered a service to fill in the gaps that the media left. The message explained the full purpose of Christ's death and the implication to us. With 'Operation Bring One' under way, the hall was full and overflowing with a mixture of familiar faces and non-Adventist youth.

With the pick of London's very own young preachers, every minute of the day was conducted for the youth by the youth. Preachers included Emmanuel Dadey, Sarah Itam, Anthony Fuller (LYF's very own president), and Wanitta Beverley, who mapped out the story of Christ's sacrifice from Creation morning to the mount of Calvary.

All corners of London were represented. Musical renditions from the north, south, east and west, in keeping with the atmosphere, had young people getting out of their seats with praise.

The closing sermon by Victor Acquah and Enoch Adu was a touching re-enactment of the last few hours of Christ's life, which brought tears to the eyes of many. Responding to an altar call a number of young people, Christian and non-Christian alike, dedicated their lives to Christ.

The LYF did London proud and the day resulted in several young people offering their services in ministry. The blessings that poured down at the London Youth Day of Fellowship 2004 will long be remembered.

Pictures of this day and more can be seen on the newly refurbished London Youth Federation website at www.londonyouthfed.org.uk.

REMONA SJ JOHN

African Fellowship in Handsworth

The vision began with some of the African members of Handsworth church who felt that something needed to be done to reach the Africans in the community. The idea was discussed with the local pastors who gave them assurance of support should they venture out to reach the non-Adventists and those who currently do not attend church.

The African Fellowship Committee was set up with Themba Tshuma, Kathy Senessie, Jim Haarroff and Sam Ayeh. At a later date Solomon Senessie, Pezani Fexter, Kenneth Obure and Joan Stewart joined the team. Weeks of discussion and planning saw us arrive at one very sunny Sabbath morning in spring.

What a fitting moment to begin a Branch Sabbath School. The weekend that the world celebrates the death and resurrection of our Lord was the Sabbath God chose to see this dream realised. One hundred and five people were in attendance, as young and old met at the inauguration of the African Seventh-day Adventist Fellowship.

There were and still are many dissenting voices, but this is only to be expected when there is the Lord's work to do.

After a slight delay the morning started with a rousing song service, then began the programme proper. We were blessed with a heartrending solo by Pezani Fexter, a Malawian student currently studying at the University of Central England in Birmingham. The mission story was a real-life reflection of life in the Sierra Leonean mission field. The lesson study in classes allowed for much debate on the crisis of leadership that currently exists without and within the church society. So interesting was the debate that bringing an end to the Sabbath school session could have left one bereft but for the reassurance that despite everything God is and will remain in charge.

Pastor McIntosh took a break in his busy schedule to voice his support for the Sabbath school and reminded us of the inclusiveness of the Adventist Church.

The divine service was more than could be expected. We were taken to the gates of heaven by the voices of Joyous Symphony and brought back to the reality of our task as a people. Pastor E. Francis, NEC president, after pledging his support and giving words of encouragement, reminded us that our sole purpose here was to cast out into the deep to fish.

The day ended with a fellowship meal tastefully prepared by Judith Asare and her team. Spiritually and physically filled, we left armed to conquer another week.

The African Fellowship aims to:

- Reach out to non-attending Adventists who have settled in this part of the country.
- Reach out to potential Adventists in the community.

- Support the mother churches in church activities.
- Offer pastoral support.
- Worship in the context of African culture.

We welcome everyone who wishes to join us at Elmwood United Reformed Church, Handsworth Wood Road, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham, B20.

KATHY SENESSIE

GBK: £25,000 raised in 30 minutes

Sabbath 7 February. There was no band, no fanfare, no mood-setting music. Pulpit pounding was left for another day and, in its place, a serenade with a pure, plain and simple message: 'Give and it will come back to you, full measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.' And in anticipation of the overwhelming blessings God has promised from above, men, women and children of the Great Brick Kiln Street church in Wolverhampton brought of their earthly blessings an offering to the Lord.

Seated in an impractical L-shaped sanctuary was a family of believers with a vision of expanding and modernising their existing church building to accommodate more of the community and increase the potential for a greater array of church-based, community-centred programmes.

As Pastor Jude Jeanville's discourse came to an end, deacons solemnly waited on the congregation. No one doubted that God would bless GBK's efforts, but, as usual, wildest dreams were an underestimation of the love and power of a mighty God. His blessings were higher than any of our human thoughts.

In less than 30 minutes over £25,000 was raised for the refurbishment and extension project in this the first round of collections. We ask for your prayers that the members of the Great Brick Kiln Street church will continue to preach the message of a soon-coming Lord.

ADRIEL LOWE

Congratulations

to Angela Knight Jackson, a health visitor from Birmingham, on using a Leading Practice through Research award to improve health services for people from black and minority ethnic groups in her local area. Sister Jackson's achievements were featured in the *Times Supplement* 6 April 2004 and on www.health.org.uk/ourawards/successstories.

‘A warm-hearted intellectual’

An appreciation of the life of Dr Bernard Seton, one-time Union president, who died last year

by David Marshall

‘He was a master craftsman with words – both written and spoken,’ said Roy Clifford. ‘He had a rapier-sharp mind and was an expert at the *mot juste*,’ writes Frederick Pelsler. ‘He had a beautiful command of the English language – both in the pulpit and in the written word,’ B. B. Beach has written. ‘He will always be remembered as a genuine Christian gentleman,’ writes John Arthur. ‘He had no axe to grind, no hidden agendas, and did his best to come to terms with the enormous headaches which his administration inherited,’ he concluded.

These comments have been made about Dr Bernard Seton, who died on 11 September 2003. Briefly British Union president (1967-70), Dr Seton was undoubtedly the best-educated man ever to hold that position. Nevertheless, it is not as an administrator that Dr Seton is best remembered. It is as a scholar, an educator, and a brilliant communicator of spiritual realities. It is also as a warm human being who prioritised people. There is a fund of wonderful stories.

Over the last few months I have interviewed forty people who knew Dr Seton – in Africa, Australasia, North America and Britain. Those who knew Dr Seton (formerly Sparrow) in both Africa and at the General Conference have been most helpful. This appreciation is based, in the main, on their testimonies. It is not an obituary. Dr Seton’s obituary appeared in *Messenger* last year.

Radical policies are still associated with the names of Bernard Seton and Colin Wilson, his equally gifted and clear-thinking fellow officer of the British Union during the three-year presidency. In addition to a certain irreverence for the status quo and the clarity of their vision, Seton and Wilson also shared largeness of heart. That would be the testimony of all who worked with them. Dr Seton was – and Mr Wilson still is – a gentleman in the best and most meaningful sense of that term. They took the larger view and refused absolutely to descend into the petty politicking. The whole debate on the Union Executive 1969-70

with regard to the future of Stanborough Park took place, in the main, on a surprisingly high level. There were good men – ‘heavyweights’ if you prefer – on both sides of the argument.

Dr Seton’s election to the Union presidency on Good Friday 1967 at the De Montfort Hall, Leicester, was memorable.

After the vote had been taken Dr Seton walked to the platform up the central aisle to the thunderous applause of the delegation. His election was a popular one. It was also, perhaps, one that surprised some. Seton was not one of those who had climbed to prominence up the usual ladder: a mission/conference presidency. To me – at 21 – he looked like a non-establishment figure. One of my own sort, in fact: a scholar and a writer.

Born in Birmingham, Seton had joined the Adventist Church when he was 11, graduated from Newbold Revel and pastored in both conferences prior to his ordination. Not long after it, in 1943, he was elected Youth director of the North Conference and began to be known as a spellbinding speaker. In a population preoccupied by war and not nearly as mobile as we are today, it was worth travelling many miles to hear ‘Pastor Sparrow’.

To his marriage – to Marjorie, daughter of Pastor G. D. Keough – were born Gerard and Hilary. Their upbringing was to take place in Africa. Seton had received a call to the Southern Africa Division in 1946, and spent some months in Portugal learning the language before he and the family located in Angola in 1947.

The call for Seton’s services had been placed by Max Webster, secretary-treasurer of the Angola Union Mission of which Seton became Youth and Education director. Max recalls the period in which the Websters and the Setons were neighbours in Nova Lisboa (now Huambo). A realignment of division territories led to the Setons’ move to South Africa in 1951. There Seton became preceptor at Helderberg College, Cape Town. Recalling those days, Max Webster wrote this on 29 April 2004:

‘Bernard was a rare, warm-hearted intellectu-



Dr Bernard Seton preached and wrote in English, French and Portuguese, and was an Adventist thought leader in Africa, Britain and at the GC.

Above right: We have not found a photograph of the BUC Executive during Seton’s presidency. This is a photograph of the SEC Executive in 1969 in which Dr Seton stands on the right.



al. While his keen mind fathomed the depths and ramifications of theology or administration, he was a devoted family man and a warm and loyal friend. His interests were many – English literature, geography, theology, philosophy, nature, and especially was he a lover of poetry and good music. He was a keen observer of that which went on around him, and took note of the birds, the squirrels, the little flowers on the grass in his garden, and even the moods of the mountain (he lived in the shadow of Table Mountain during his sojourn in Cape Town). But perhaps it was most noteworthy in his observation of human nature and his sensitivity to the needs of friends and neighbours, which made him unobtrusively proactive in providing what help he could.

‘His scholarship was profound and because of that he was well able to deliver a sermon worth listening to, or produce an article worth publishing. When he undertook an assignment he gave it his best. . . . As an administrator he probed beyond the obvious and could be depended on to be fair. He was honest, a clear thinker and not constrained by tradition or policy, fluent in expressing his convictions, but always gentle and kindly, even in conflict. Bernard was a prime example of a Christian gentleman and I was proud to be his friend.’

David Birkenstock, Frederick Pelsler and Eric Webster remember Seton as a force to be reckoned with at Helderberg, but a man of humour and compassion. Pelsler recalls dealing with a despairing (and very vocal) fellow student one night. There was an urgent rapping on the door. Pelsler opened it. Seton said, ‘Please, your voices are carrying to the floor above and making sleep impossible. Could you end this?’ When Pelsler explained that he was dealing with a suicidal student, Seton said, ‘Carry on the good work!’ and closed the door without another word.

However, the late Dan Handysides remembered the intimidating effect of Seton’s unblinking gaze from the front row of a congregation. ‘It disorganised the thinking!’ he recalled. In addition to his work as preceptor, Seton taught Greek and Hebrew.

Seton applied the high standards he asked of his Helderberg students to himself. While there he took his BA in Biblical Studies from the University of South Africa. Colleague Ruby Lander, who worked with Seton at both Helderberg and the Sentinel Publishing House where he worked as editor from 1957 to 1962, recalls his high standards, good counsel, sense of humour and the exacting research for his doctorate. His PhD from the University of Cape Town was in History. The degree was awarded in 1962. The title of his dissertation: ‘Wesleyan missions and the Sixth Frontier War, 1834 to 1835’.

During this period Ernest Logan was pastor of the Durban Central church. On a number of occasions Seton stayed in the Logan home. On others Logan associated with him while conducting weeks of prayer and graduation exercises at Helderberg. His lasting impressions were of ‘an English gentleman with a superb command of the English language. His conversational skills and sermons were linguistically a delight. He encouraged students and ministers in the use of meaningful, beautiful and expressive words and phrases.’

While editing *Signs* at the Sentinel Publishing House, Seton did a period of study at Andrews and, when in the States, made a major contribution to the work being done on *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*. He wrote extensively for denominational publications in the US and the UK, and completed an MA for the

Adventist Theological Seminary. From his enthusiasm for hymnology emerged his definitive *Our Heritage of Hymns*. Seton also prepared Sabbath School lessons on, among other subjects, the Letters of Peter.

In 1962 Seton left South Africa to work at the office of the Southern European Division in Berne, Switzerland. Fluent in French, he served as Sabbath School and Medical director in the SED. From there he transferred to the Northern European Division where he served as secretary (1966-67) before being elected president of the British Union.

The challenges that faced the Seton-Wilson administration and the radical measures the officers sought to take were covered by Dennis Porter in Dr Seton’s obituary (*Messenger* 28 November 2003). As Porter demonstrates from Seton’s correspondence with W. D. Eva, the Division president, Seton was reluctant in the extreme to contemplate the sale of Stanborough Park. John Arthur also reminds us that the Seton-Wilson administration was mandated by ‘a wide range of resolutions’ passed at the Leicester session. In addition to radical restructuring, Seton was also involved in an attempt to create a more professional ministry. The Home Owners’ Policy, part of the ministerial package now taken for granted, was a Seton-Wilson innovation.

The generation of ministry and ministerial students who were around in the 1960s speak about the quality, depth and impact of Dr Seton’s preaching. Scores have spoken to me of the week of prayer he conducted at Newbold. Some speak of it as the occasion or cause of their conversion, decision for ministry or conviction with regard to the Gospel. At the conclusion of that special week Seton donated a clock to Keough House, the boys’ dormitory, which bears the legend: IT’S TIME TO PRAY.

Notes are extant which testify to Bernard Seton’s careful sermon preparation over many

years. They are, however, notes that never left his study. When he stood before his congregations to preach those wonderful sermons Seton had only his Bible, his memory and the Holy Spirit’s power.

In 1970 Dr Seton was called to serve as associate secretary of the GC, a position which he held until his retirement eight years later. Dr B. B. Beach writes of Seton’s contribution in the dialogue with the World Council of Churches, his continued excellent contribution to the preparation of Sabbath School lessons and his work, as committee secretary, on revising the *Church Manual*. Roy Clifford, then secretary of the Trans-Africa Division, speaks of Seton’s oversight of the interests of several world divisions, including his own, and of ‘the voluminous correspondence that flowed between our offices’.

Fritz Guy of La Sierra University has graciously shared with me work he has done on the process by which ‘The 27 Fundamentals’ came to be arrived at. Dr Seton was a significant part of that process and Guy’s most important primary source with regard to it. This work continued after his retirement. Dr Seton’s contribution to the two quarters’ Sabbath School lessons on the Fundamentals was the major one. He was the author of the two books published in 1981 to explain the Fundamentals to members and seekers: *These Truths We Hold* and *These Truths Shall Triumph*.

Seton’s initial concern, first voiced from Berne in 1965, was that the Statement of Fundamental Beliefs required revision. As secretary of the *Church Manual* Committee (1970-75) he presented the many emendations to the Vienna GC session. As, subsequent to that session, the substance and codification of those beliefs came to be worked on, Seton’s contribution was to involve professional theologians at Andrews and to work with the Church’s best thinkers.

Seton believed in biblical preaching. Like his predecessor and successor as BUC president – J. A. McMillan and E. H. Foster – Seton opposed the use of the ‘Little Red Books’ from the pulpit and in the formulation of doctrine. Hilary Resla, his daughter, remembers him as a tolerant father clearly opposed also to the use – not unknown in Adventist homes of the 1950s! – of the red books as instruments of discipline. She recalls a father who loved poetry and music, Beethoven being his favourite composer. Gerard and Hilary share memories of a warm, loving father. In the eulogy given at his father’s funeral on 20 September 2003 Gerard recalled evening prayers in the home. ‘As we knelt against the sofa,’ he said, ‘I was aware of his uncovered arms surrounding me. To a child, praying is a rather abstract exercise, but here I felt the presence of God, who was just as close and just as real as those arms I could see and touch.’

Marjorie predeceased Bernard by eight years. Their son Pastor Gerard Seton and daughter Hilary live and work in the US. One grandson, Nicholas, lives in London. The other grandchildren live in either Germany or the US.

Dr Seton’s most lasting contribution to the Church is as a writer and thought-leader. He has left his imprint on many lives through his books, articles, preaching and supportive counsel. This ‘rare, warm-hearted intellectual’ used words well: to reach, to affirm, to inform, to build and to win.



Bernard Seton at his 1932 graduation from Newbold Revel



Quadrennial inspection of Newbold College. Left to right: Drs George L. Caviness, C. B. Hirsch, Bernard E. Seton, and Bert B. Beach.

Welsh Mission highlights

Continued from page 1
are more members in Wales than statistics suggest,' he said. 'Many are unable or hesitant to move their membership into the Mission. The book membership is 440. The actual number of members worshipping in Welsh Mission churches exceeds 500.'

Dr Phillips began by paying tribute to the Mission's sponsors. The Mission had lost Pastor Paul Lockham as Youth sponsor, but Pastor Ed Sammons had proved a worthy successor. For two years Anette Moore had done an effective job as Children's Ministries sponsor. People were being baptised younger – as young as 11. 'We need to cater for the new situation,' said Dr Phillips.

Lil and Irving Saunders had been the enthusiastic Health sponsors, he continued. Each year there had been an inspiring weekend for the health conscious at Dinas Powis. Each quarter a visit was made to every mission church by Lil and Irving.

The Mission's longest-serving pastor, Richard L. Vine, continued to serve as Family Life sponsor, as he had for in excess of thirty years. With Peggy Mason he had organised the annual Brecon camp, attendance of which extended well beyond the frontiers of the mission territory.

The president's wife, Joyce Phillips, had sponsored Trust Services and Stewardship. His daughter, Jane Wells, in her capacity as Women's Ministries sponsor, had organised a series of weekend retreats.

Great strides forward had been made in the area of small groups outreach. Alpha courses had drawn non-believers.

The Rhyl church had been renovated. In addition to Rhyl other

groups were worshipping Sabbath by Sabbath in North Wales at Bangor, Llandudno Junction and Wrexham. In Wrexham, the largest town in North Wales, the membership had increased following a short campaign in 2002.

Rosemary Lethbridge, with the support of her husband Gordon, had helped serve the mid-Wales area.

The Cardiff church continued to provide a spiritual home for many students.

'One of the concerns I have,' said Dr Phillips, 'is that our membership is getting older and we need to establish anew the idea of working for children and young people. My appeal is to those who have been Adventists for many years,' he continued. 'Please do not turn away our children and young people. They are the church for today and not tomorrow! When tempted to criticise please ask yourself: What would Jesus say? We might not like the

Roundelwood Nursing Home to close

Continued from page 1

for their relatives who have to make these arrangements in difficult circumstances.

Looking to the future

Roundelwood Health Centre will continue to operate and the management and staff are looking to build and expand the health and lifestyle programmes and treatments that it offers for people suffering from rheumatoid and osteo-arthritis, back pain, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue syndrome and other painful and debilitating conditions. Lifestyle-challenging and lifestyle-changing programmes such as stress management, weight control, stop smoking and health and fitness improvement will also continue.

kinds of music they like, their songs might mean little to us, but they are meaningful to them!'

In his report secretary-treasurer Victor Pilmoor noted a 29% change in the membership of the mission in the course of the triennium. 'We gained 59 and lost 68 – a total movement of 127,' he said. In the same period, tithes had increased by £252,000 to £806,000. 'We continued to be blessed by interested sons, daughters and friends of the Welsh Mission,' he reported.

Children's Ministries sponsor Anette Moore echoed the concluding concern of the Mission president. 'We need to make our churches more children-friendly,' she said. 'There are surprisingly few children in the Welsh Mission. . . . Let's build up boys and girls so that we do not have to spend all our time repairing men and women,' she affirmed.

In a floor comment Shrewsbury's Beryl Bayliss said: 'Every single one

of us is responsible for the spiritual growth of our children. And that responsibility is not discharged as we sit tutting at every noise the children make.' 'If the children are a little noisy, that's how God made them,' responded Anette Moore.

Pastor Richard Vine, the Communication sponsor, reported on the impact of LIFEdevelopment in the Mission. LD had five stages. Three of them had already been initiated: Get Connected, The Evidence series and Mind the Gap. Pastor Vine urged delegates to make use of satellite TV technology in order to receive the Hope Channel. 'Throughout Britain over 1,000 satellite dishes and receivers have been installed in members' homes and in our churches, with a number in Wales.'

Through satellite technology the next Welsh revival could reach every home in the principality – and beyond.

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.

ABC BOOK SALES

June
6-13 NEC Camp Meeting Southport
SEC Camp Meeting Breen Sands
17-20 NEC Session Scarborough
27 West Midlands 10am-2pm

July
4 John Loughborough 10am-2pm
11 Manchester 10am-1pm

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
Jun 4	9.12	9.24	9.24	9.51	9.53
11	9.17	9.30	9.30	9.58	9.59
18	9.21	9.33	9.34	10.02	10.03
25	9.22	9.34	9.35	10.03	10.04

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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
Live successfully with Stress	Sunday 6 June 10.30-3pm	St. Michael & All Angels Church, Sycamore Rd, Amersham	Richard Willis MA Msc FRSH	Tel 01494 452969 or email: cameronjack@hotmail.com Free admission + lunch
All-London Five-a-side Football 2004	Sunday 20 June 10am start	Wandle Recreation Creation Centre, Wandsworth	LYF Sports Council	£55 entry. Contact Sasha Daytes: 07961 405 912
Youth Rally	25-27 June	Dublin	Pastor Le Clare Litchfield	Contact Douglas McCormac: doug@adventist.ie
All-London Netball 2004	Sunday 27 June	London	LYF Sports Council	Contact LYF: 07956 688 923 or 0207 723 8146
Divorce Care Ministry	Sabbath 10 July (pm)	Newcastle church	Merrily Richie, DivorceCare administrator	Tel Pastor C. Sweeney at NEC on 0115 9606 312
Moss Side Garden Party/Gospel Concert	8 August 2pm	Millenium Park, Great Western St., Moss Side, Manchester	Manchester Central Church	Tessa (0161) 226 3564 Free Lunch

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.