

Graduation: 'Where education begins'

by Helen Pearson

sixty-eight graduates from over thirty nationalities received their diplomas at two graduation ceremonies at Newbold College on 16 May. But students were encouraged to see these occasions as the beginning not the end of their education.

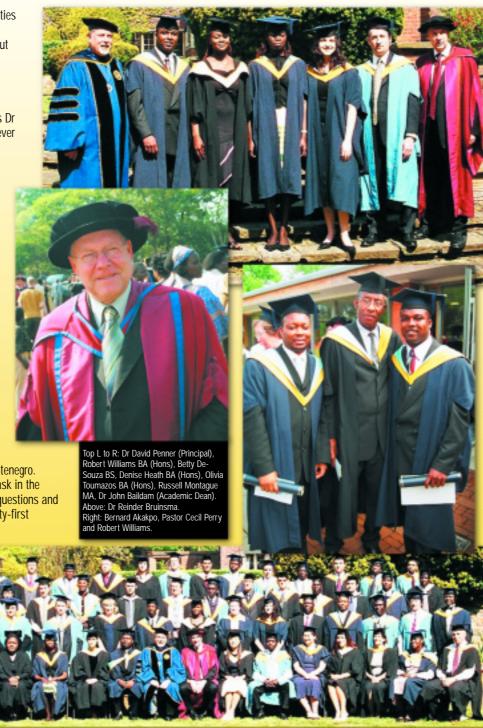
The speaker at both ceremonies, himself a graduate of the College and now president of the Netherlands Union of Seventh-day Adventists, was Dr Reinder Bruinsma. He challenged the graduates never to stop asking questions, and not to correspond to Bertrand Russell's description of Christians who 'would die rather than think'. He encouraged them to have 'fit' minds as well as fit bodies and not to be afraid to say the words, 'I don't know' or 'I have changed my mind'.

The largest groups of graduates were those with degrees in Theology and Biblical and Pastoral Studies validated by the Open University. An international group of fourteen postgraduate students received MAs in Leadership — a professional education qualification for the improvement of those in executive positions in the church and other organisations.

In a break with tradition, Newbold College
held an extra graduation ceremony this year. One
ceremony in the morning and another in the
afternoon allowed over one thousand parents,
friends and supporters of graduates to be
present in the Newbold Church Centre at
these two significant rites of passage for
students from Egypt to Estonia and Malawi to Montenegro.

Principal David Penner outlined the College's task in the days ahead: 'Our task is to share with others the questions and the answers: What does it mean living in the twenty-first

century to love God with all one's heart and soul and mind? And in that context, how then must we live? — with ourselves, with our neighbours. These are the challenges being addressed by Newbold College. We invite others to join us.'



Dr David DeRose's UK visit

Type two diabetes is a hot topic these days as the UK, like the US, faces an epidemic of this preventable disease. Can diabetes be reversed? Many people asked Dr David DeRose this guestion during his first visit to England. Dr DeRose is a specialist in lifestyle medicine, and he spent a week here on his way home from a three-week trip to Romania with Global Evangelism.

It was a busy week, with meetings with dieticians, diabetes nurses, hospital doctors, GPs, Newbold students, Country Life customers and Leaves of Life members. He preached in Croydon and at Newbold, was guest speaker at the AIMS day of fellowship, ran a 'New Start for Better Health' day seminar on Sunday, and gave radio interviews for AWR and the BBC!

The Sunday health seminar attracted people from just down the road in Bracknell, from London, and from as far away as Manchester. He emphasised healthy diet and lifestyle as an antidote to diabetes and the other problems that result from Western overeating and under-exercising. These are diseases that shorten life and make it miserable. A colourful and delicious lunch illustrated just how enjoyable plant foods can be, and Dr DeRose's own example encouraged everyone to take every opportunity to walk, and his ever-present bottle of drinking water ensured that everyone was impressed with its importance.

Dr DeRose's presentations made it clear that type two diabetes can be reversed. Vast amounts of research are now being published confirming that it is a lifestylerelated disease and that exercise and right diet are key factors in its prevention. The evidence is equally convincing that even when the disease has developed, the preventative lifestyle can begin the healing process, and if started soon enough and maintained, can reverse much of the harm.

What is the right diet? We learned that it's the plant foods that have the healing

How important is exercise? It is vital in preventing heart attacks and strokes, as well as in maintaining right weight. And good news about what kind of exercise — it doesn't need to be intensive and it works best if you enjoy it. And what is the point of drinking all that water? It thins the blood and so actively protects against heart attacks and strokes. It also keeps the immune system in good working order, so is important to everyone, not just those in imminent danger of heart attack or stroke.

Dr DeRose has gone back to the USA to Compass Health in Oklahoma, where he continues his health education work by speaking at seminars, writing, broadcasting and making videos. His visit has made a real difference to many people. Some are walking more, drinking more water and eating more vegetables. Those who were already doing these things have had their faith in the Adventist message confirmed by Dr DeRose's knowledge of the scientific data and his clinical experience. If you would like to know more, go to www.compasshealth.net. Dr CI FMFNCY MITCHFI I



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 objec-

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

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 s open for an energetic, efficient and highly organised person with good secretarial/bookkeeping skills and a commitment to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The esponsibilities 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

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.

Healthwise

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

Heart's ease

Not the pansy on this occasion but the proliferation of new treatments to ease the burdens of heart disease. These range from psycho-social factors to microwaving the heart! So if you wake up in the morning with the symptoms of heart disease what can you expect from the new range of treatments? (Recent research shows that it will most likely be a morning call as these emergencies peak between 8am and 11am daily no matter where you live):

 Studies conducted at Manchester Royal Infirmary concluded that having a very close relationship with a significant other person might provide the best protection for people who have had heart attacks – possibly even halving the likelihood of recurrence. The

research findings are in line with a growing body of evidence that social support is beneficial to health.

 Researchers at the Indiana University School of Medicine are treating people with circulatory problems by giving them a dose of their own fat! They are working on the theory that stromal cells found in human fat can stimulate the growth of new blood vessels which will transport much needed oxygen to the tissues. Using the individual's own fat encourages the body to accept and utilise the growth factor without rejection. It is thought that the process, while slow, might be particularly useful for people with the reduced blood flow causing

 Another technique for restoring blood flow (still at the drawing board stage) is to use a laser to cut a number of fine holes in the heart

muscle with reduced supply. The tiny holes might fill up with blood and also stimulate new blood vessel growth. If the laser therapy is successful it could replace coronary bypass surgery at some future date.

 A medical team at the University of Colorado has been experimenting with a new type of pacemaker that has been shown to reduce the likelihood of death from heart rhythm disturbance by up to 36%. Implanted under the left shoulder, the pacemaker resynchronises the heart rhythms. As the cost is around £20,000 per device, the NHS has not yet decided whether the therapy is cost-effective.

 With heart rhythm disturbances still in mind, a University of Technology team in Sydney proposes to microwave hearts to 55°C to block the conduction of abnormal rhythms. Heart rhythm disorders are

commonly treated with lower frequency radio frequency ablation in the UK to destroy certain areas of heart tissue selectively. The microwaves produce deeper lesions and might avoid the complication of clots forming and doing further heart or stroke damage. Our hearts beat around 100,000

issues of life

flow.

times a day, pushing 9 pints of blood every minute through 60,000 miles of arteries and veins. They need all the help that we can give them, so it makes sense to go straight to the heart of the matter and take care of the organ whence all the

millions do. Paul called it being 'governed by the flesh' (as opposed to the It happened when David lost his vertical hold. No psalms are attributed to that phase in his life. He was influenced wholly by horizontal concerns, and his reasoning was driven by worst-case scenarios, pessimism if you like. 4 Focusing on himself, he wondered how he could possibly be saved.

As is the case when we move into enemy territory, David's decision



onsider it pure joy . . . whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature. . . . ' (James 1:2-4, NIV.)

Anything strike you about that verse? It just leapt out of there and bit

Was it that I'm expected to be joyful about being tried and tested? No. Though that's bound to be a challenge!

Was it that I'm to interpret all the interruptions to life's smooth path as part of an upward way? No. Though that does help.

What leapt out of the text and bit me was the word whenever.

It's bound to bite you if you take some modern translations, because it's up front: 'when all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives . . . don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends! Realise that they come to test your faith and to produce in you the quality of endurance."

There's no if about trials and temptations. It's a question of when. If they're not happening now, they're just about to.

The point is, according to James, first, how you encounter them; and, second, how you use them. You are to encounter them joyfully 'as friends'. Why? Because, given time, they'll be used to your advantage. Since good is the intended long-term effect, are we to consider 'trials and temptations' as acts of God?

Not temptations, certainly! We know where *they* come from! So how about 'trials'?

Step into the time tunnel and travel to Uz. No; not Oz. That's up the Yellow Brick Road. Job lived in Uz, you will recall. He was a God-fearing, clean-living chap whom God permitted to be tested - rather radically!

But Job's trials are not typical of those that impact on thee and me. Not most of the time, anyway. When we hit 'the pits' or get stuck in a mudhole (call it 'the Slough of Despond' if you prefer) it is generally because we've taken a wrong turning. The mudhole was there and, because of the wrong turning, we're in it, neck deep.

David got stuck in his mudhole after taking a whole series of wrong turnings. And he started down the wrong road soon after he drove down from Spiritual High. It's often that way. God, through Samuel, had anointed him king and, through Saul's son Jonathan, had reaffirmed him.² If further reassurance were necessary, David had it from Abigail.

Not many of us receive that kind of career reassurance!

It is all the more surprising, therefore, that David, at that point in his life, started down the wrong road and kept taking wrong turnings until he arrived, not only in enemy territory, but in the enemy's capital: Gath. (Who was it who said, 'Man is the only animal that runs fastest when he has lost his way'?) Gath, remember, was where Goliath had come from. And Gath was where David fetched up. What was he doing there? He was offering his services to the King!

We hear a lot about victorious Christians. We hear even more about those who have never met Christ. But how much do we hear about Christians who move into enemy territory – and live life as if, for all practical purposes, there were no God? That's what David did. That's what

affected a good many others. As John Stuart Mill discovered when he was

writing *On Liberty*, there is no such thing as a 'self-regarding' action (an action that affects only oneself). Everything we do impacts on others. When David shifted his allegiance, he dragged his family and more than 600 men – each with his own family – with him.

David had been used by God as his champion to destroy the Giant of Gath. Now Gath became his home! Living there he had a false sense of security: at least Saul no longer hunted him. He compromised with carnality and began to adjust to life without vertical hold. The Philistine king even gave him his own city. But David's sixteen months in that city were silent ones. As with Lot and Sodom, having pitched his tent nearby, he moved in.

Living among the Philistines, David had a tough time determining his identity. Was he an Israelite or a Philistine? He had never formally announced his allegiance to God, nor formally accepted the gods of the Philistines. Having let go his vertical hold, the horizontal held him. Like many pseudo-Christians, David was living in carnal corral.

David's was a double life. Even his relationship with the Philistine king was marked by deception.5

Then came the ultimate crisis. The piper must be paid! When David and his men arrived home one day it was to a scene of mass destruction. It was not only material things that had been destroyed. It was that his family had been taken. And not only *his* family; but the family of each of his 600 men.⁶ Imagine how David felt.

At that point everything depended on David's next move. Another wrong decision and life would have been over – physically and eternally. It was the pitch dark in David's life; way, way past midnight.

Thankfully, David realised that his only prospect of salvation was in God. When we look at ourselves we wonder how we could ever be saved. When we look at the Lord we wonder how we could ever be lost.

The crisis had been used by God to bring David to his knees. On his knees he had realised that his only help was from above. He could have descended into the mire of despair and spent the rest of his miserable life thrashing about there. But from the Slough of Despond he looked up. He could not get out of his mudhole himself. No one can. Only God can lift us.

David renewed his vertical hold. His decision was for God. 'David strengthened himself in the Lord his God."

And, you know what? The vertical hold was still live!

Within two chapters David was King of Judah.

Back down the time tunnel to Uz. . . . Permit me to suggest that, in the face of bankruptcy, pain and ten fresh graves, Job had done the same as David did. He had no wrong turns on which to blame his crisis, but he did have to work his way through the idea of the loving sovereignty of God. 'Shall we accept good from God, and not adversity?'8 he asked. Then Job fastened on to God's justice. and he sensed that, in God's good time, all wrongs would be righted.

Finally, back there in the land of Uz, having thoroughly debated the issues, Job admitted that there was much he did not, and could not, understand, Job confessed his inability to put it all together. 10 He gave his 'why?' questions to God and was content to leave them there. In the ultimate, that's all we can do.

Only when we do that, can we find joy in adversity, maturity in perseverance and can recognise trials as friends.

Are you at a place where there are more questions than answers? Here's a promise from the mouth of Jesus to fasten on to: 'What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter."

That was the foundation of Job's faith, of David's restoration — and it can work for you.

References

¹James 1:2-4, Phillips. ²See 1 Samuel 24:20. ³1 Samuel 25:30. ⁴1 Samuel 27:1. ⁵1 Samuel 29. ⁶1 Samuel 30:1-6. ⁷1 Samuel 30:6, NKJV. ⁸Job 2:10; see also 1:22. ⁹Job 19:25, 26. ¹⁰Job 42:2-4.



Alone in England

n a cold day in February 2003, a serious-faced Ukrainian young man named Benjamin Horkun walked into Ilford church, having travelled from Argentina to England to find work.

Benjamin, aged 39, had done a series of jobs mostly in the building trade but, with a limited knowledge of the English language, he continued to struggle

with the difficulties of being alone in England. In spite of a painful past, his Adventist upbringing remained a steadfast influence in his life, and he felt continuously compelled to do what was right.

Benjamin says, 'I asked God for advice and he told me to "get baptised".' So, in November 2003 he re-committed his life to the Lord. His joy and feeling of acceptance was further sealed when he was asked to serve as a deacon this year, a role he has willingly accepted. His English is now being boosted by attendance at regular ESL classes run by the church for the community. In broken English, he urges us to: 'Do what is right by God, so that God will direct our lives'.

His steadfastness and commitment, despite obvious barriers, is an example to us all.

DEBBIE HUSBANDS

Women of Faith

April 9 heralded the beginning of the Lewisham's Women's Ministries weekend. This began on the Friday evening with a group discussion. Women are known, among other things, for their ability to talk and be open. These skills were not wasted! Memories were shared and bonds strengthened.

In Sabbath School the congregation was introduced to two women: Hannah, representing women of the past, and Debbie, the woman of the present. The two lives were contrasted and we were reminded just how much things have changed for the female gender.

The speaker for the divine hour was the head of Women's Ministries, C. J. Lewis. The topic was 'You and God: Moments of Peace'. In line with the theme of the day Voices in Praise (Lewisham's female singing group) sang 'Women of Faith'.

If you thought sleepovers were only for the primaries and teens, you'd be wrong! Saturday night was just that, open to women of all ages. A night of fellowship and fun! But the weekend ended on the Sunday morning when the adventurous ladies, who had spent the night in the church hall, joined the prayer band. After a weekend of spiritual food the physical food was shared as the women breakfasted together.

The weekend was a time of

reflection and renewal.

NICOLA REST

Twenty visitors at Easter service

One of the more unusual Easter services took place at the Crieff church on Easter Sabbath when the story of Christ, from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem to his betrayal, trial, crucifixion and glorious resurrection, were illustrated by eight beautiful flower arrangements placed around the sides of the church. Six members took many hours to arrange the displays that delighted a full church. This Easter service, which was also the communion service, was advertised and personal invitations were sent and the members were overjoyed when twenty visitors attended. One wellknown local resident was so impressed with the communion service, in which he took part, that he said he wanted to attend more in the future. Pastor Llewellyn Edwards invited those who did not take part in the feet-washing to get up and look at all the displays with their

and read.

The church was open for viewing over the weekend and two ladies who were on holiday came and said they were so impressed with the friendly welcome they received that

scriptural text and then sit and

meditate on what they had seen

they wanted to attend a service when they were next in Crieff. The local church brochure and the *Focus* magazine on the Celtic Church were given to visitors. About eighty visited the display over the weekend. Mrs Christine Hall, who is almost 80, spent two days in the church arranging her displays and said she felt this was her part in witnessing. PASTOR A. R. RODD

Flags fly high over Lewisham

The skies might have been grey over London during the May bank holiday, but Lewisham church was awash with colour as friends and family gathered to celebrate their different cultures.

Weeks of planning finally culminated on 3 May in a festival of colour and song, as Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Ghana, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Kingdom were all celebrated! What a wonder it was to see the diversity of God's people, and the ability of all to unite and rejoice. God was commonplace in all of the national anthems, and stories of hardship and triumph marked the history of all these great places. The virtues and graces of these islands were told through songs, skits and images, and both young and old participated in extolling their nation's greatness. The evening culminated with a feast fit for a king, as everyone enjoyed the wide variety of delicious cuisine that was available.

LIFE.info witness

Witnessing in this secular age and also in a small close-knit community like Crieff is not easy. The church board accepted Pastor Llew Edwards' vision of trying to reach the secular community by agreeing to distribute 6,000 copies of *LIFE.info* to Crieff and the surrounding villages for one year. There will be a letter in the magazine saying it is sponsored by the Crieff Seventh-day Adventist church and eventually there will be a follow-up of any

Jean-Claude's story

ean-Claude Balisson grew up in an Adventist home where he and his family attended the Eau-Coulèe church for all of his childhood and youth.

After making a public declaration of his commitment to the Lord when he was baptised in 1977 in Mauritius, Jean-Claude decided to join one of his brothers in England in 1984. Anxious that his son would remain faithful to the commitment he made to God, Jean-Claude's father warned him, before he left home, of the dangers and temptations of large cities.

In England he was accepted into the fellowship of the St Albans church, which he attended for two years. His whole world seemed to fall apart when his brother emigrated to Australia and left him in a fairly new country, but Jean-Claude emerged from what seemed like his very own wilderness when he met Helen at an English evening class. He was warmly welcomed into her family.

In 1988, Jean-Claude and Helen were married. They have been blessed with three children, Cassandra (12), Oriana (9) and Sebastian (6).

A member of the Wood Green church since 1987, Jean-Claude's continued commitment to the Lord has been demonstrated by his willingness to serve as deacon, Sabbath School superintendent and assistant in the Community Services department.

Although he felt he needed to devote his time to caring for his children at church, he accepted his first call to serve as an elder in 2003, knowing

that the Lord equips us for every task he places before us. He continues to serve Wood Green church in this capacity.

A packed congregation, including family and friends, witnessed the ordination of Jean-Claude on Sabbath 7 February 2004.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Harper Bell Adventist School invites tenders to provide school meals. The meal provider would produce a variety of wholesome vegetarian meals, catering also for children on more restricted diets. Kitchen facilities are on-site and Health and Safety Regulations must be met. The school has 100 pupils and staff requiring meals, with provider responsible for purchase of ingredients, production and serving of meals. Tenders should be submitted, along with suggested 5-day menu, references and copies of relevant Catering and Health and Safety Certificates, to Mr O. Stewart, Headteacher, Harper Bell School, 29 Ravenhurst Street, Camp Hill, Birmingham B12 0EJ.

interests. This undertaking will cost about £8,000 but we hope and pray that it will help to break through to those who do not go to church. Pastor Edwards has also told ministers of the other churches in Crieff that they could take advantage of this evangelism because their members could talk to others about the magazine they are receiving.

Gorleston Easter outreach

Members of the Gorleston church, near Great Yarmouth, organised a special Easter afternoon service on 11 April. Colourful flyers were created and distributed to the church neighbourhood. It was a beautiful, sunny afternoon and the church was filled with the perfume of the lovely spring floral displays created by Elma Hayes. The theme for the afternoon was 'The Miracle of Easter',

with a special message conducted by Marc Rasell to remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and also to remember loved ones who had passed away. White flowers were given out and the names of loved ones were recorded on a register.

Jim and Joan Frost sang 'The Old Rugged Cross', Raviro Kumira sang 'Amazing Grace', and Pastor Marc and his three little boys stole the show again by singing 'Jesus Loves Me'. We would like to thank them all for their contributions and also a special thank you to Glynn Jones for coming all the way from Norwich to play the piano for us.

Afterwards everyone retired to an upstairs room where hot cross buns and drinks were served, with chocolate eggs for the children. It is the aim of the Gorleston church to continue to have these special services throughout the year and to invite people from the neighbourhood to join us.

ROGER AND YVONNE HILL

New church plants in West of Ireland

The number of believers attending Adventist churches along the western seaboard has increased by 300% in recent months. Two new churches have been planted in Limerick and Longford. A Sabbath service took place for the first time in Limerick on Saturday 3 April. Believers met in an upstairs room, rented from the local Methodist Church, situated just off O'Connell

Street, Limerick's busiest thoroughfare.

Then three weeks later an Adventist church had its first meeting in Longford, in an apartment room near the city centre. In both churches there are multicultural believers and great possibilities to extend the Gospel message to all who dwell in these cities and their hinterlands. On Sabbath 1 May the Irish Mission president, Pastor Curtis Murphy, gave the sermon at a special day of fellowship in the Limerick church.

An account of the Longford church was published in the Longford Leader, accompanied by two photos, one of Pastor Ashley Kongari. He had, prior to this, received considerable publicity in the Galway and Clare areas, including a live radio interview on Clare FM, a profile on the prime time local radio news service on Galway Bay FM, and a photograph and extensive profile in the Galway City Tribune, Galway city's premier broadsheet newspaper.

Pastor Kongari says, 'I have very strong men and women in my churches, who mean business for the Kingdom of God. They support me with all the resources they have. We have no problem if we want to get something done.'

A poet at Sydenham

Carlyle Clarke of the Sydenham church in south-east London has recently published a short volume of poetry. The title is *Reborn: with a pen in my hand and a rhyme in my head.* Carlyle is a young man who, for company his own age, is often seen visiting the Lewisham church. Malcolm Anderson describes Carlyle as 'a disciplined and quiet person who loves books, has a retentive mind and an aptitude for verse'.

We wish him every success.

Still knitting

argery Heughebaert, known to all as Aunty Margery, who at 95 is Crieff church's oldest member, just keeps on knitting. So far she has knitted over fifty beautiful dolls which have been sent to orphanages in Romania and to the only children's hospice in Scotland. She has also knitted babies' jackets, and soft toys such as rabbits and ducks. Although she has had three hip replacements and has other health issues, she still attends church and has folk back for lunch every Sabbath, including nonmembers. She feels that this is the way she can witness. The local paper also carried an article and photograph about her and her work.

Aunty Margery was a skilled artist and taught for a while in the Salford School of Art. She then went with her parents to Cornwall with the late Pastor Arthur Rodd and his family. They were among the first Adventists in Cornwall and from a little cottage meeting in their home in St Blazey, the church gradually grew until four companies or churches were formed in Cornwall. Aunty Margery, her sister and mother, grew up in Clent and were baptised at the Handsworth church in 1927. She moved to Scotland ten years ago to be near her nephew, the writer, and his wife Moyra.



Messenger Messenger

Committees

Welsh Mission Triennial Session 8-9 May 2004

by Richard L. Vine

Cardiff Day of Fellowship

A day of fellowship on Sabbath 8 May served as a fitting preparation for the Triennial Session of the Welsh Mission on Sunday 9 May. We met at St Paul's Adventist church, Cardiff. Our special president; Pastor Eric C. Lowe, BUC secretary; Mr Victor Pilmoor, BUC treasurer and Missions secretarytreasurer; and Dr David Marshall,

After a warm welcome by Tim Barber, his sons Joshua and Rory

quests included Pastor Cecil Perry, BUC Stanborough Press editor.



Lowe preached on the conference

motto: 'United in the Fellowship of Christ', based on Ephesians 4, 1 John 1 and Jesus' prayer for unity in John 17. In a divided world, a Church that is united is a powerful sign of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The business session opened with the seating of the delegates and the election of the Recommendations Committee.

President's Report

Middle: Mr Victor Pilmoor, Dr Brian Phillips, Pastor Cecil Perry. Bottom: Pastor Richard L. Vine.



conducted the song service, and the Cardiff young people put on a quiz on Bible geography. The writer talked on 'Building the walls of Jerusalem' based on Nehemiah 3. Finally, Dr Brian Phillips, Welsh Mission president, gave

us a summary of how the Session would work the following day. He reminded us that 2004 is the centenary of the Great Welsh Revival of 1904, and the bicentenary of the British and Foreign Bible Society of 1804. The organist for the day was Ron Kelly of the Newport church.

Highlights of Sunday morning's **Business Session**

For the morning worship Pastor Eric

Dr Brian P. Phillips, our president since 2000, reviewed the work and progress

> Victor Pilmoor reported many encouraging signs in Wales: in spite of a slight fall in membership from 449 in 2001 to 440 in 2004, tithe had increased during the triennium by £252,000 to a total of £806,000 for the triennium. On the income side, tithes plus offerings amounted to £928,034, and this included £46,602 raised for Ingathering and £10,370 raised for ADRA-UK. Support from the British Union which, in turn, is due to the largesse of the two larger conferences, continued. A total of £246,415 was contributed compared with £223,700 in the prior period. Gift Aid contributes over £30,000 to local church coffers each year. On the expenditure side, 85% of operating expense was used in pastoral ministry. This included nurture, outreach and stewardship. About 7% was

of the Church in Wales during the triennium 2001-2004. It had been a time of fresh initiatives, such as satellite evangelism, eisteddfods, a children's safety committee, small-group ministry and new youth events. A new and company of believers had been formed in Wrexham. A programme of upgrading church buildings had been vigorously pursued. While, due to deaths and other causes, there had been a slight decrease in the book membership of the Mission, standing at 440, there had been an overall increase, due to immigration, of people whose church

We have a young and keen worker force, overall. The sponsors of the different departments, whether ordained or lay members, are as enthusiastic and committed as ever. The tithe is on an upward trend, and the overall feeling is one of gratitude for God's past blessings, and optimism for the future. Dr Phillips thanked the members for their faithful support: the lay preachers who take to the pulpits week by week: the Sabbath school teachers and other church officers: the sponsors of the departments; and notably his dear wife Joyce (as beloved and respected in the Mission as her husband).

membership transfers were still in the

Secretary-treasurer's Report

used for administrative costs, which included insurance and depreciation of church buildings. Sincere thanks were expressed to members, the BUC, church treasurers and others, for their contribution, care and support of the Welsh Mission, and thanks were voted to Victor Pilmoor himself for his

Children's Ministries

Anette J. Moore, our Children's Ministries sponsor and wife of Cardiff pastor Clyde Moore, had as her main goal to see boys and girls giving their lives to Jesus. To this end she had conducted church visits, Sabbath school workshops and make-and-do workshops. These activities stimulated the children's work, and provided an amazingly creative resource for Sabbath school teachers. To visit her home church of Cardiff is to feel that the church is itself 'children-friendly', with colourful posters, mottoes, fun furniture, and children's Bible stories in all

continuing care for Mission finances.

Family Life and Family Camps

Peggy Mason told of her partnership with the writer in organising the twiceyearly camps in Brecon Beacons National Park, beside the River Usk. The attendance peaked at 160 last year, with about 25 family tents and 25 caravans on site. A growing number of young people are coming. Special speakers on practical Christianity had included Pastor Martin Bell, Juha and Christina Mikkonen, Clyde, Anette and Dijon Moore, and Ed and Shawna Sammons. We plan this May to welcome Pastor James and Gillian Huzzey, who began their ministry in Wales forty vears ago. It's rewarding to see one generation grow up and begin teaching the next generation of children. Many friends of the church attend, and enjoy the walks, worships, music (ably led by Robert Pearce), campfires and games. They in turn bring more friends year by

Communication Report

The writer described the main thrust of this department which had been to support the LIFEdevelopment strategy of the BUC quinquennium. Hence the distribution of *LIFE.info* magazines and small group activities to 'get connected'. Then there is, this year, the support of the *Evidence* broadcasts by Dwight Nelson. To this end many members have had satellite equipment installed to receive the Hope Channel that is carried on the Hotbird satellite system. Adrian Williams and Jack Rayne have installed about a hundred satellite dishes (a number in other parts of Britain) for members to receive and share our message.

Health Ministries

Lil and Irvine Saunders of the Swansea church had continued their very lively work as sponsors of this department. Through regular church visits, annual health weekend retreats at Hebron Hall in Cardiff, and newsletters, they had

demonstrated a more healthy lifestyle. In so doing, they had been echoing the concern of the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff. The Assembly had itself issued reports on 'Food and Wellbeing', 'Active Life in Wales', and 'Obesity in Children'. In our materials and cooking demonstrations we are pushing at an open door in public awareness. Thanks were expressed for the steady support from Dr Brian Phillips and Pastor Richard Willlis, our BUC Health Ministries director. The close of their report was an apt moment to break for lunch. Again, a big thanks to the Cardiff ladies for another memorable meal.

Afternoon Worship

After lunch, Dr David Marshall expounded Philippians 3:10 where Paul links our Christian experience with that of Jesus himself.

Stewardship

Joyce Phillips thanked the churches for their growing tithes and offerings over the triennium, and for their support of Gift Aid which benefits the churches to the amount of £30,000.

Trust Services Again, Joyce Phillips reminded us of the good that is gained through believers remembering the needs of the church in their wills. The drawing up of wills is a free service offered to members. They are legally framed by solicitors, and are confidential. They can be revised at any time. While there is no persuasion involved, any monies that we choose to leave to the Church are gratefully received. And there is peace of mind for families in knowing that affairs are in order. As Joyce remarked, 'Remember, it makes sense to make a will. To make a will, will not damage your health.

Women's Ministries

Jane Wells had 'hit the ground running' in her commitment to Women's Ministries. We have noticed Jane's exercise of faith and Christian love in promoting this ministry. Jane was filling the shoes of Helen Lockham who did so much good work here before being called, with Pastor Paul Lockham, to the North England Conference. There had been the International Women's Day of Prayer with special meetings in Rhyl and Ystrad Mynach churches. Two weekend retreats had been organised. at Nicholaston House on the Gower Peninsula and at Hebron Hall in Cardiff, with speakers Heather Haworth, Mary Barrett, Anette Moore and Rosemary Lethbridge. There had also been twoday retreats in mid-Wales for planning and prayer. Themes included 'I am a new creation' and 'Fill my cup, Lord'. Future plans foresee a retreat in

Snowdonia National Park at which the quest speaker will be Helen Pearson. Judging by the growing number of church ladies and their families attending these retreats, we can see that this department is meeting a very real need in the life of our church.

As the effects of the lunch and the hard

wooden pews began to be felt, the appearance of smiling Ed Sammons, our Youth sponsor, was like a breath of fresh air. Again, as Jane Wells replaced Helen Lockham at the end of 2001, so Ed replaced Paul Lockham in the Youth department. Paul's was not an easy act to follow, but Ed had also 'hit the ground running'. He acknowledged the lack of young people in some of our churches, and saw one solution as being to encourage them to attend events where they can meet Adventists of their own age. Thus there had been such events as an Easter weekend at Cefn Lea in mid-Wales; ACTS 2003 at Newbold; a Scottish retreat; a Pathfinder camporee in Poland, an Irish retreat; an Easter weekend at Christ College in Brecon; and visits from Pastor Des Boldeau. A Pathfinder Club had been started at Telford, and there had been the Club Creation at Ystrad Mynach for local children. On Fridays Ed and Shawna hold a 'waffle meeting' in their home for physical and spiritual nourishment. Ed works closely with Jeremy Tremeer of the Port Talbot church in running church-based sporting events and Alpha courses. Ed closed with these words: 'The youth are not the future of this church, they are the present!'

Plans Committee Report This committee consisted of all the

delegates seated in the church. We approved of the plans outlined by Dr Brian Phillips for reaching the following goals: prayer for revival; support of the LIFEdevelopment strategy involving LIFE.info magazine and Hope Channel satellite outreach; provision of literature in Welsh for the coming Newport-Eisteddfod: the continuing sending of 165 *Ministry* magazines to clergy in Wales; continuing support of our health and children's ministries: the development of team ministries; and the development of a strategy for the next three years by the sponsors in counsel with the newly-elected Welsh Executive Committee. Dr Phillips explored the meaning of Fellowship in Ephesians 4:25-28 in our closing worship. Then Pastor Cecil Perry encouraged us to press together in fellowship, and to go forth into the Lord's vineyard, because he is out there already! We closed with the hymn 'Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah'

Mrs Beryl Bayliss, Mrs Lydia Campbell, Mr Brian Chapman, Mr Rui Dias, Mrs Dorothy Gregory, Mrs Jacqueline Jones (secretary), Mr David William Marshall, Mr Ian Matthews, Mr Sie Ngwenya, Mrs Heudel Morgan-Isaac, Pastor Cecil Perry (chair), Mrs Olive Scott, Mrs Dothlyn Scott-Mitchell, Mr Bryan Watkins.

Mrs Veronica Down, Mr Rui Dias, Mrs Anthea Fielding, Mr Harold Mason, Mr Ian Matthews, Mr Clyde Moore (secretary), Miss Sujoya Paul, Pastor Cecil Perry (chair), Mr Mike Sa

Credentials and Licences Committee Mrs Beryl Bayliss, Mrs Ina Douglas-James, Pastor Eric Lowe (chair), Pastor Richard L. Vine, Mr Bryan Watkins (secretary).

Plans Committee
Dr Brian P. Phillips (chair). All delegates present on the floor of the Session.

Reporting of Nominating Committee

Mrs Peggy Mason Pastor Richard L. Vine Mrs Anette Moore Mr Ed Sammons Mrs Wendy Sammon Youth and Pathfinder Stewardship and Trust Services Health Ministries Mr Irvine Saunders Mrs Lil Saunders

Mrs C. Jane Wells To be appointed by Welsh Executive Committee

Welsh Executive Committee
Mr Andrew Mitchell (Colwyn Bay), Mr Ian Matthews (Cardiff), Miss Sujoya Paul (Swansea), Dr Brian P. Phillips (chair), Mr
Victor Pilmoor (secretary-treasurer), Mr Ed Sammons (Swansea), Mr Irvine Saunders (Swansea), Pastor Richard L. Vine

Report of Credentials and Licences Committee
Ordained Ministerial Credential: Pastor Theunis du Buisson, Pastor Richard L. Vine; Ministerial Licence: Mr Juha Mikkonen,
Mr Clyde Moore, Mr Ed Sammons: Missionary Credential: Mrs Rosemary Lethbridge; Missionary Licence: Mr Jan McKenzie,
Mr Jeremy Tremeer; Honorary Literature-evangelist Credential from BUC: Mr Ron Kelly.

Lay Preachers' Credentials

Mrs Barbara Anger — Welsh Mission church/Cwmbran; Mr Harold V. Baker — Newport; Dr Duncan Bayliss — Welsh Mission
church; Mr Peter Bayliss — Shrewsbury; Mrs Erica Cameron — Ystrad Mynach; Mr Hayden Chapman — Trealaw; Mr Rul Dias

— Rhyl; Mr John Down — Shrewsbury; Mrs Veronica Down — Shrewsbury; Mr Fred Dust — Carmarthen; Mrs Ruth Frederick —
Cardiff; Mr Egil Fredheim — Welsh Mission church/Llandudno Junction; Mrs Dorothy Gregory — Barry; Mrs Ina Douglas-James

— Cardiff; Mr Sheila Johnston — Welsh Mission church/Llandudno Junction; Mr Ron Kelly — Newport; Mr John A. Marshall —
Swansea; Mr Harold Mason — Carmarthen; Mr Alvern McCrowe — Barry; Mr Glynne Meredith — Carmarthen; Mr John Meredith

— Carmarthen; Mr David Parker — Shrewsbury; Mrs Joyce Philips — Ystrad Mynach; Mr Leslie Riskowitz — Rhyl; Mrs Lill

Swansea; D. Mission Shrewsbury; Mrs Joyce Philips — Ystrad Mynach; Mr Leslie Riskowitz — Rhyl; Mrs Lill

Swansea; D. Mission Shrewsbury; Mrs Joyce Philips — Ystrad Mynach; Mr Leslie Riskowitz — Rhyl; Mrs Lill

Swansea; D. Mission Shrewsbury; Mrs Joyce Philips — Ystrad Mynach; McCliffed The McCliffed The Mission Charles Mission Charles Mission Charles The Mission Charles Charles Charles Mission Charles The Mission Charles Charle Saunders – Swansea: Dr Marrick Schoonzaad – Newport: Mrs Winifred Stewart – Cardiff: Mr Clifford Tomos – Rhyl; Mr Malcolm Turner – Rhyl; Mr Bryan Watkins – Ystrad Mynach; Mrs Jean Watkins – Ystrad Mynach; Mrs Jean Watkins – Ystrad Mynach; Mrs Sialyn T. Webbe – Cardiff; Mr Stanley Wells – Welsh Mission church/Cwmbran; Mrs C. Jane Wells – Ystrad Mynach.

Obituaries

MELVIN THOMAS RHODES (1920-2004) d. 1 February. Melvin was born in Bournemouth on 29 January 1920 and died

there on 1 February 2004. Between these dates he took his family to live in Watford in 1954 and to Australia in 1959 and again in 1968, working for Granose and Sanitarium Health Food Companies. In 1938 He met Ruth Proudley, whom he was proud to make his wife in 1941. During the last war he served in the Wessex Regiment becoming Warrant Officer 1st Class, and he was with the army of occupation in Berlin at the end of hostilities. Melvin was baptised in Bournemouth church in 1952, after his daughter Maureen, then 9, had filled in a VOP card in her father's name. On his second return from Australia, in 1971, Melvin continued working at Granose Foods until his early retirement in 1983 when he and Ruth went home to settle in Bournemouth. He served his church in a number of roles over the years but notably as a deacon and a regular and faithful Ingatherer. He was a loving husband and devoted father to his children, and his family misses him greatly. He is survived by his wife Ruth; his children, Maureen, Philip, Jennifer, Caroline and Katherine, and his grandchildren, and is remembered, too, with affection as 'the father I never had' by Alan Rhodes. Goodbye, Dad. You are sorely missed and lovingly remembered. Sleep easy until the morning

PASTOR PHILIP RHODES

MILLICENT PAIN (1911-2004) d. 22

March. Millicent Pain's life was long and full. She was a regal lady, with presence and a quiet assurance befitting one who knew herself to be a daughter of God. A word which seems to summarise her is 'generosity'. She was generous with prayer. Her children and grandchildren, and many friends, always knew she was praying for them. The Lincoln church has been carried for many years on

husband Jack Pain. When Millicent said she was praying for you, it was not a platitude! And out of her prayers came letters - faithful labours of love sent to all her family around the world. Jack and Millie Pain were generous with their time in physical ways too - their home was open to several generations of Lincoln youth, and they spent countless hours preparing quizzes, games and programmes to make Sabbath fun. Millie was a lady who focused on faith, the joy and the grace aspects of the Gospel, and her children say their childhood was wonderful. She was generous with wisdom. Her family could ask her advice on anything. Her long life was spent learning about people, and about God, and she shared from the depth of her knowledge of him. One of her pastors said, 'When she said, "God has been talking to me," I always got my pen out in anticipation.' Millie did not have an easy life. She was widowed and made homeless with two small children during the Second World War. She faced cancer twice in an age when the survival rate was lower than now. She knew the struggles of life. Her faith developed through trials, and her love for God grew in the hardships they faced together. She was a midwife and a children's nurse, working in the San at Stanborough Park in the 1930s. Millicent and Jack Pain celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary last year. She leaves a huge space in the hearts of her husband lack, her children Robert and Anne, her grandchildren Louise, Tina, Caroline, Rachel, Anita and Neil, and ten great-grandchildren. Her funeral was attended by over a hundred people; unusual for one who has outlived so many friends, and a tribute to the honour in which she was held by so many. Although Millie Pain sleeps peacefully for now, the influence of her absolute trust in God her Father lives on in the hearts of all whose lives she touched.

the wings of Millie's prayers, and those of her



ton Towers, with guest speaker Randy Maxwell, a time of inspiration, repentance, and tears of joy. arriors







UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
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
Charity Concert in aid of Milton Cato Children's Ward, St Vincent	Sunday 27 June 7.30pm	Cressex Secondary School, High Wycombe	High Wycombe (Sands) Church	Joel Williams: 01494 539802, joel.williams2@ntlworld.com
Divorce Care Ministry	Sabbath 10 July (pm)	Newcastle church	Merrily Richie, DivorceCare administrator	Tel Pastor C. Sweeney at NEC on 0115 9606 312
All London Sports Day	Sunday 11 July	London	LYF Sports Council	Tel London Youth Federation on 07956 688923
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



The team player

Andy is a cricketing, soul-winning legend.

For 60 + years he has coached a cricket club. 'Gets me alongside young blokes,' he says. In a father-hungry society where caring male leadership is rare, Andy is a magnet and mentor to young men. He's always ready for a fatherly chat about work, girlfriends, current events – or even cricket.

Andy's outreach method is personally inviting people to small groups, prophecy seminars – whatever outreach his church runs. 'I'm no preacher - never got an education - but I'm a team player.'

People soon feel that Andy likes them, so no one minds when he is confronting: 'Mate, give up the weed or it'll kill you.' Or: 'The world's in a bad way. You need Jesus.' Or: 'You're coming to my place tomorrow to talk

Andy loves gardening. When anyone is sick, divorcing, unemployed or struggling, Andy hears and arrives with a box of his fresh veges, then works miracles in their garden.

So Andy's personal invitations bring more people to outreaches than all the church's hand-billing. He has been 'on the team' for over fifty baptisms. What a half-century! Won't the Captain say 'Well done!'

Evangelistic hobbies. Team outreach. Why not you?

'Your life is a letter of recommendation for Jesus, written not with pen on paper but with the Spirit on your kind heart . . . and people who read it know the gospel works.' (2 Corinthians 3:2, 3, paraphrase.)

Singles
A retreat weekend for people needing space to process life issues is being planned at Newbold College for 25-27 June at a cost of £80 per person. If you would like to register an interest and receive further details contact Val Bernard on 01344 407468 or email vbernard@newbold.ac.uk.

Calling those who attended the March conference and others who want to get involved. A book-writing

seminar on 'being single' is to be held at Newbold College on Sunday 11 July. If you would like to contribute to this book-writing process and get your name, ideas and experiences on being single in print then contact Val Bernard on 01344 407468 or email on vbernard@newbold.ac.uk for further details. There are limited places at this event.

VAL BERNARD, Head of Behavioural Sciences

ABC BOOK SALES

27 West Midlands

4 John Loughborough 11 Manchester

August
1 John Loughborough
4-8 Youth Congress, Poland
15 West Midlands
10am-2pm

Messenger

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Sunset

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