

Forward by his Spirit in Scarborough

A report on the 59th Session, North England Conference, 17-20 June



Thursday afternoon and evening

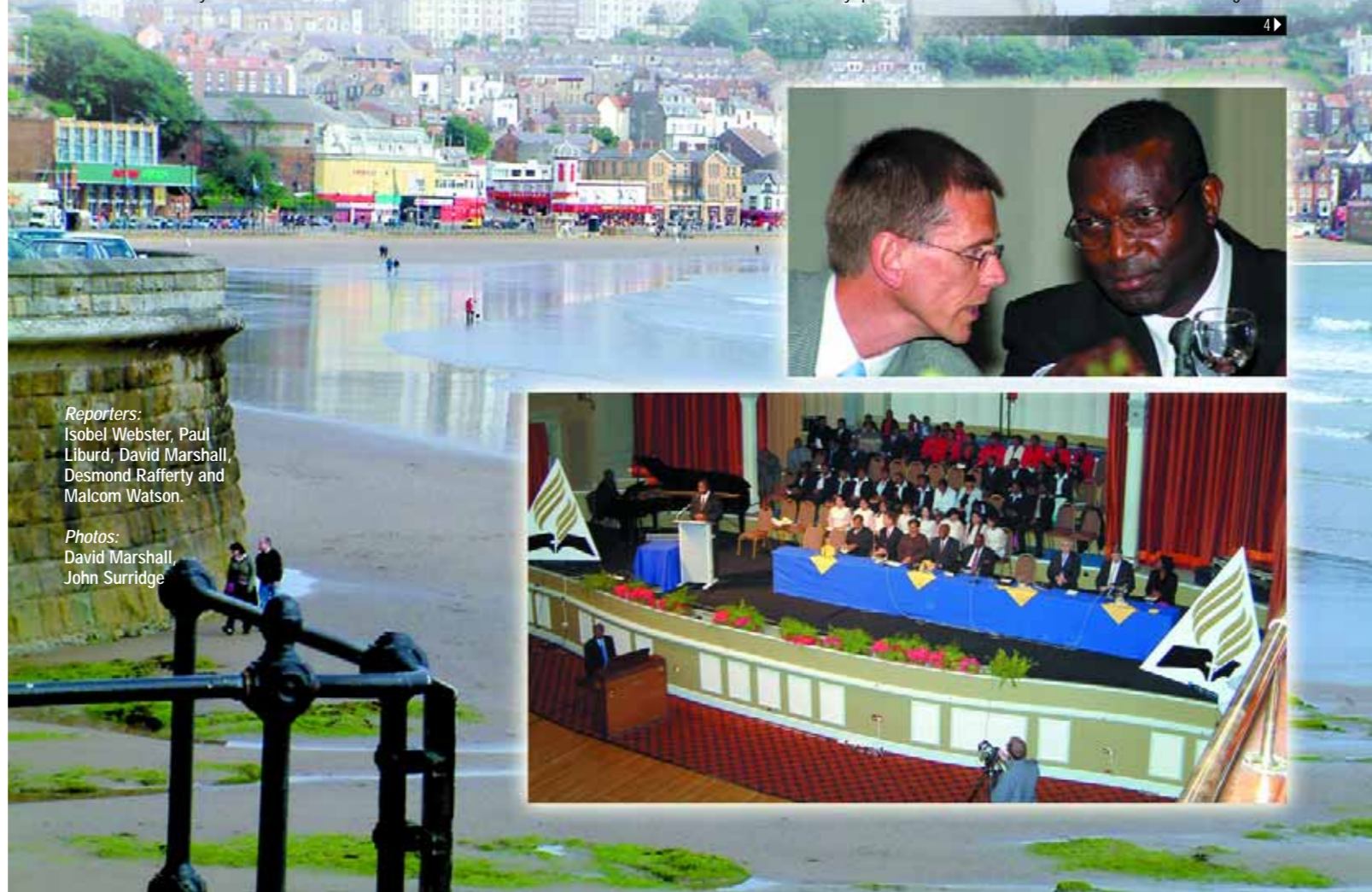
Promptly at 2pm on Thursday 17 June, Pastor Egerton Francis, president of the North England Conference, stepped up to the microphone in the Grand Hall at the Spa, Scarborough, and welcomed the delegation to the 59th Conference Session, reminding us that it had been four and a half years since we had sat together there. 'We look forward to a successful session, and good fellowship, over the next three days,' he said.

After rousing affirmation of our conviction that 'The Church's One Foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord', the delegation were led in prayer by Pastor Eric Lowe, Executive secretary of the British Union Conference. His prayer, and the hymn, reflected the tone of the entire opening day of this Session: central to all the business done is reliance on God, and praise and thanksgiving to him. In the Keynote Address, Dr Ralph G. Thompson, retired General Secretary of the General Conference, reminded us, 'Doubts and fears

don't amount to a thing if we trust that something can be done. God will do such things in this Conference, that we will stand amazed! He does not lead his people where advance is impossible or retreat necessary, and when he says to go forward, he will make the way clear.'

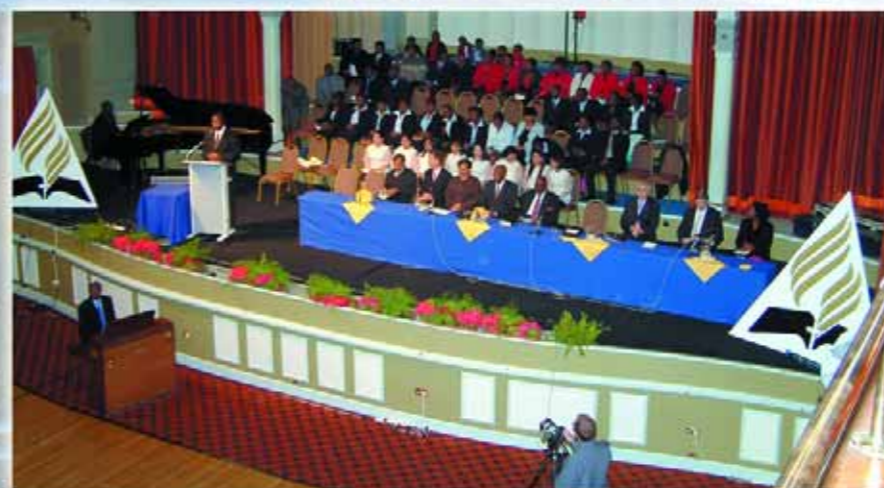
Pastor Francis had earlier explained that prayer bands would meet throughout the duration of the Session, 'that we can spend time asking for God's guidance . . . ensuring that all things are done according to his will.'

Pastor Cecil Perry, president of the British Union, welcomed the delegation,



Reporters:
Isobel Webster, Paul Liburd, David Marshall, Desmond Rafferty and Malcom Watson.

Photos:
David Marshall, John Surridge



Stanborough Press opens up photographic archives

Over the last two weeks around eighty photographs from the pre-1945 collection owned by the Stanborough Press, have been made available to the wider public on the Adventist History website at: adventisthistory.org.uk. Unlike most online collections the Adventist History site makes high resolution versions of the photographs available so that viewers can zoom in and, for example, easily identify individuals among larger groups.

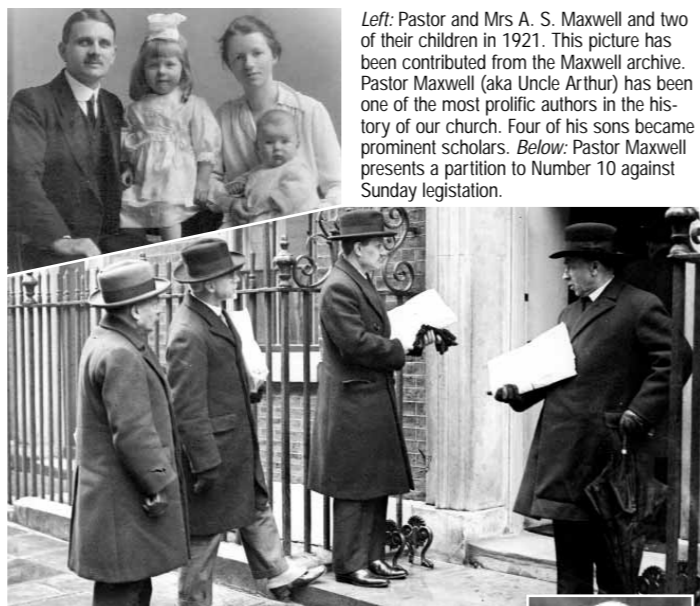
The archive was collected between 1966 and 1978 by Pastor Raymond D. Vine, then the senior editor of the Press. Pastor Vine's sons, Richard and Robert, and his daughter, Monica, are all church workers. Pastor Vine's widow, Mrs Peggy Vine, is an elder of the Oxford church. She has ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. All are loyal Seventh-day Adventists.

The photographs vary considerably in quality, but some poor quality ones have been included because of their historical significance. For example there are two photos taken at the official opening of Stanborough College in 1907.

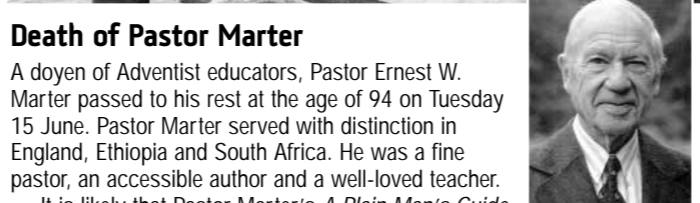
Although each photograph is accompanied by some written information we are always looking for confirmation of the facts and further details. If there are faces or places that you can identify or if you know of useful background information to a particular picture, please contact Pastor John Surridge at: Historical Archives, BUC Office, Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JZ. Phone: 01923 672251. Email: jsurridge@adventist.org.uk.

If you own important old photographs that are relevant to the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland, then you may be able to contribute to the growing Adventist History archive. At present we are not able to scan and return photographs but if you are able to have your own photographs scanned and sent on disk, or if you are willing to donate your old photographs permanently to the archive, please get in touch. Even if you are not able to do either of these things at present we would encourage you to make a note of the important photographs you do own, and start writing down details about them. They could be an invaluable source of historical information for future researchers.

JOHN SURRIDGE



Left: Pastor and Mrs A. S. Maxwell and two of their children in 1921. This picture has been contributed from the Maxwell archive. Pastor Maxwell (aka Uncle Arthur) has been one of the most prolific authors in the history of our church. Four of his sons became prominent scholars. Below: Pastor Maxwell presents a petition to Number 10 against Sunday legislation.



Death of Pastor Marter

A doyen of Adventist educators, Pastor Ernest W. Marter passed to his rest at the age of 94 on Tuesday 15 June. Pastor Marter served with distinction in England, Ethiopia and South Africa. He was a fine pastor, an accessible author and a well-loved teacher.

It is likely that Pastor Marter's *A Plain Man's Guide to Daniel and the Revelation* is still the most easy-to-understand exposition of the Adventist interpretation of Bible prophecy.

As a teacher Pastor Marter touched the lives of many generations of young people. At Helderburg, Newbold and elsewhere, he was the most pastoral figure in the Bible department.

A full obituary for Ernest Marter will appear in a future issue.

EDITOR

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

Wolf in sheep's clothing

The story is familiar. In order to get among the flock of sheep the wolf had to don a fleece. Some medical conditions appear to work in a similar way, and one in particular – *Lupus* – fits the title perfectly.

Lupus is the Latin for a wolf and is the name given to a variety of skin conditions. The two chief types of *Lupus* are: *L. vulgaris* (due to the mycobacterium tuberculosis); and, *L. erythematosus* (which is largely of unknown origin). Around 50,000 people in the UK have *Lupus* and 90% of these are female. The condition affects people mainly between the ages of 15-55.

Describing *Lupus* as the wolf in sheep's clothing is more than appropriate as the symptoms of the illness mimic other diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis or multiple sclerosis. *Lupus* can be

further defined to *discoïd Lupus* (usually affecting only the skin) or *systemic Lupus* in which the body's immune system starts to attack itself (autoimmune disease), and these conditions are neither infectious nor contagious.

The symptoms of *Lupus* are vastly varied and include: joint/muscle aches/pains; permanent rash over cheeks; kidney problems; extreme fatigue/weakness; oral/nasal ulcers; risk of miscarriage; hair loss; rashes on sunlight/UV light exposure; depression; flu-like symptoms and/or night sweats; internal tissue inflammation with chest and/or abdominal pain; poor circulation to tips of toes/fingers; blood disorders including anaemia; seizures, mental illness or other brain problems; headaches, and migraines.

A diagnosis of *Lupus* is made if four or five of the above symp-

toms are presented. The two major symptoms are the joint/muscle aches and pains, and the extreme fatigue and tiredness. As some of the symptoms recede, others may develop. *Lupus* can be triggered: at puberty; through sunlight; after viral infection; after childbirth; during the menopause; as a result of trauma; and after prolonged use of some medications.

As can be seen from the wide range of symptoms, where the diagnosis is made ultimately will depend on the particular presenting symptoms. Treatment will also vary considerably but will include choices from the following: NSAIDS (anti-inflammatory drugs such as Aspirin) for joint/muscle pain and those needing anticoagulants (where heparin or warfarin may be prescribed); anti-malarials to help management of skin/joint involvement; steroids to counteract inflammation and suppress active disease; and, Immunosuppressants which are used

when *Lupus* is severe. While *Lupus* cannot be cured at present, the monitored use of the above range of medications help to control the condition and enables the person to have a fairly normal life and life-span.

There are many geographically scattered support groups for people with *Lupus* which will offer help and advice, but if you, or someone you know, would like support within the Adventist family, Louanne Sampson is willing to lend a listening ear. Louanne can be reached on the following telephone numbers: 0208 491 7168 and 0794 129 8154. As with many other conditions, early diagnosis offers the best hope.



A time of storm



with David Marshall

The drive up England and across Scotland to Cairnryan had been long and tiring. Even laden down with a cargo of books I had had difficulty preventing the car from veering to starboard in consequence of a powerful side wind.

So as we waited for the arrival of the small P&O ferry, we were not expecting a boringly peaceful journey across the North Channel to Larne. By no means.

Nearly two hours after the scheduled departure time, we were stowing the car and cargo among the bilges and clambering up the steep steps to the cabin. The cabin, shared by all the passengers, was like a glass blister atop the small vessel. At one end was a counter and behind it shelves of assorted bottles.

Loch Ryan was choppy but no more. I ordered and ate tea before we reached the open sea. I had, after all, crossed the Irish Sea scores of times without loss of . . . er . . . appetite. And I reflected that the first Marshalls had almost certainly arrived by longboat on the east coast. The sea was in my blood.

On the south coast, a friend, whose father was a captain with the P&O line, was checking the shipping forecast and concluding

that the company would not permit us to sail. As our ferry left Loch Ryan for the Irish Sea, and the big, buffeting waves began to tip us and turn us, the captain – over the tannoy – came too close to saying 'I shouldn't have started but, since I've started, I'll finish' for his passengers' tastes.

Chasms opened up in the – amazingly deep! – sea, and the boat went into freefall. Then, equally suddenly, it was carried up to the crest of a water mountain by a surge of power that we would not have suspected the sea of possessing.

Worried stewardesses were handing out white paper bags. I knew what they were for, of course, but did they have to be, well, *so big*?

The small boat, on a deep-valley-to-high-mountain surge, was suddenly hit by a crashingly, shudderingly vast cross-current. As it impacted, the vessel shook and the cargo of vehicles below us made a noise I shall hear in my nightmares.

When the second cross-surge impacted, shelves emptied of bottles, tables shed their contents, and a till (bolted to the counter) shed its money on the deck.

I sweated, inhaled, and thought of Ireland. Anita was preoccupied with *Titanic* images, the smallness of the vessel and the vastness of the sea. All that preoccupied me was the *motion* of the vessel. . . .

The pinstriped Belfast businessmen in the seats opposite found a use for the paper bags when the third cross-current wave shuddered the vessel. And I found them useful on the fourth occasion. . . . Viking blood? A weaker concoction, I'm afraid!

Stormed well off course, we were to the south of Belfast by the time we caught sight of land. After that we hugged the coast up to Larne. Hours late, the car shaken and its cargo stirred, we found bed more than usually welcoming.

At the height of the storm a number of Bible passages had come to mind. A couple of verses in

Philippians – written by Paul from a Roman prison – turned over a couple of times:

'The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.' (4:5-7, NRSV.)

It is always good to be reminded of the nearness of the Lord. But what did Paul mean by the 'Do not worry about anything' line?

At the height of life's storms – at home, at work, in the church, facing long-term illness – are we not entitled to worry a *bit*?

That's not the end of Paul's sentence. He continued: 'but in everything by prayer . . . with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God'.

What is Paul saying? 'In the storms of life that frighten you, present the situation to God. Say to him, "Lord, this thing is bigger than me but it's not bigger than you. And I'm handing it over to you to deal with – in thankfulness. I'm not thankful *for* the storm. I'm thankful *in* the storm. I'm thankful for your sovereignty and complete sufficiency, Lord. I'm in over my head, Lord: it has taken me by surprise and now it's right out of control. But thank you that I can hand it over to you – that you knew it was coming: it hasn't taken you by surprise – and that your grace is sufficient for me in all circumstances.'"

Soon after you have handed the storm over to God – or, if you prefer, invited God to join you *in* the storm – there's something else to be thankful for.

Notice the last part of the passage? 'And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.'

God has never promised either that the storms will not come or that he will lift us out of the storms. Sometimes he invites us to step *into* the storm.

Remember the storm on Galilee? Jesus, knowing the weather forecast, told the disciples to put to sea. Many hours into the storm he came to his troubled followers and said (in effect), 'Don't be afraid because I am.'

'I *am*' what, exactly? I am totally sufficient, completely sovereign, totally equal to the situation.

He didn't say, 'Don't be afraid because the storm will be over in ten minutes.' He said, 'Don't be afraid because I *am*.'

God invites us to give him our panic. In return he gives us his peace. That's the deal. And the deal's possible 'because I am'.

The peace of God is not when he is fixing everything for us. God doesn't offer that service. It's not a peace of tranquillity; when everything is nicely dovetailing together. Anybody can have that kind of peace. The peace of God is the peace he gives because you've said, 'Lord, I give you this situation with thanksgiving for your total sufficiency.' 'And the peace of God . . . will guard your hearts and your minds.' God's peace is a peace we can have in a storm.

Before we left Larne the morning following the storm, we spotted a monument on the foreshore. It commemorated the loss of 133 lives when, on its way to the port, the merchant vessel *Princess Victoria* went down on 31 January 1953.

Ten days on we were in Connemarra, an area of mountains and lakes in the west of Ireland. I bought a slab of Connemarra stone with these words carved into it: Be still and know that I AM. It was bought for a friend, but not before I had appropriated its message to myself. Here's hoping it helps you in a time of storm.

14 **Forward by his Spirit**

commending this Conference Session's motto, 'Forward By His Spirit'. 'We need his Spirit to lead us, to lead our minds, to lead us in the construction of a right attitude, to lead us in worship, discussion and planning, and to lead us at last to a glorious future, having baptised us anew with power from on high!'

Perhaps this spiritual tone was partly attributable to the Session Report book, which delegates had received several weeks earlier, in which department leaders and sponsors reported the work of their departments. Dr Bertil Wiklander, president of the Trans-European Division, specifically commended this Report, saying it had encouraged him so much that he intended to keep it as evidence of how the church can operate. Dr Wiklander also told of his delight at being with us in Scarborough. 'A beautiful place, known around the world

because of the song "Scarborough Fair". The NEC has a very special place in my heart,' he said, recounting that as a young man of 18, having decided to enter the ministry, he spent a month in the North England Conference; in the course of visiting around, he encountered his first 'church plant', thus his inspiration towards church planting originated right here in our Conference. Then Dr Wiklander said, 'I have experienced the Christ-like kindness of your lead-

ers in this Conference, and I thank God for their ministry. I encourage you to stand firm in your faith.'

The Mayor of Scarborough officially welcomed the delegation, thanking the North England Conference for returning, and encouraging us to make the most of the beautiful surroundings. The Mayor and Mayoress were presented with gifts, as Pastor Francis told them how much the NEC always enjoyed that part of our region.

Pastor Paul Lockham, Executive secretary of the North England Conference, read out encouraging letters of greeting from the Presidents of the Irish and Scottish Missions.

On ascertaining that the constitutional requirement of 51% of the delegation had registered before business could begin, Pastor Francis officially opened the Session. The business of the first day included the selection of the

Recommendations Committee, whose job it was to select a Nominating Committee, a Plans Committee, a standing Constitution Committee, and a Licences and Credentials Committee. At 3.30pm names for the

Recommendations Committee were brought, voted and accepted; with Pastor Perry as their chair they left to begin their work.

Business also included considering two new churches formed since the last Session, Breath of Life and Oxhill Road, represented by Pastor Dalbir Masih; he moved that these churches be accepted into the sisterhood of the NEC which, in each case, was voted.

The evening session, opened with prayer by Pastor Lockham, began with the President's Report. Pastor Francis explained that the Report is a composite of the various departments, and is also a report of the Trustees of the NEC, the serving Executive Committee. His report included a 16-minute film representation of events throughout the Conference during the four years up to the end of 2003. Breaking from tradition, questions were allowed on the President's Report, which, after time for discussion, was moved and accepted.

Unusually, the Recommendations Committee did not return before the end of business on the first day.

ISOBEL WEBSTER

Friday morning session

Friday morning the delegation came to judgement via Pastor Cedric Vine's exposition of Psalm 50. He said, 'God's judgement is a continuous process. God judges his people's works including our work as an NEC delegation. In this Psalm there are two groups of people:

'Group one is made up of experts-at-running-the-show but they place form over substance; their intricate planning neglects God. We must look for the hand of God and always present an offering of thanksgiving,' affirmed Pastor Vine. 'Let God rule in our business.'

He continued, 'Group two speak the language of service but are deceitful, schemers. God says of this group, "You think I am like you, a deceitful schemer."

'Well, I thought, there must be a third group in the Psalm; a group who are getting it right, my group,' continued the speaker. 'No matter how hard I looked, *only these two groups are in the text*. QED, I must be in one of them. The fingerprint of sin us upon us. We must remain in awe of God and discern his hand in the work of the quadrennium and give thanks for it,' was Pastor Vine's conclusion.

This godly reminder was salutary, apposite, comforting, and absolutely necessary for the delegation to do God's work.

Secretary's Report

Pastor Paul Lockham, NEC secretary from 2 January 2002, thanked the former secretary, Pastor Llewellyn Edwards, for his work that had made

possible the compilation of the report. Numerous changes of personnel saw fifty-five pastoral staff at work in the NEC at 31 December 2003, against fifty in January 1999. Five long-serving employees retired in 2003: Pastor Lloyd Darrel-Ashere (Antonio), Pastor Alan Conroy, and Bible instructors Mrs I. Blackburn, Miss Phyllis Coldwell, Mrs O. McIntyre, and Mrs I. Mardner.

Church planting – the intentional planting of new churches – had begun to come into its own. From such intentionality two churches were born: Breath of Life in Smethworth, and Oxhill in Handsworth, were formally organised on 17 September 2000 and 19 July 2003 respectively. Three out of the eight companies reported, Birmingham Bournville (became a church in 2004), Birmingham Community of Hope, and Fishpool Community Church, were church plants, too. Four other intentional church plants are operating along with eight Branch Sabbath schools.

Two churches, Moss Side and Old Trafford, Manchester, amalgamated, giving a net increase of one church in the term, totalling seventy-eight.

Total accessions (new members and transfers) for the two years 1999-2002 were 1,035, or 17.8%, and for the second half of the quadrennium 1,506, or 25.9%. After the grim reaper, transfers and apostasies were done, the net increase was 733, or 12.6%.

Treasury Report

Treasurer Mr Marcus Dove thanked

Bill Beamish (retired after fourteen years in the NEC treasury), who had served for three of the four years of the term. Thanks were given to God and faithful members for an increase in tithe income and to the local treasurers for operating the process with diligence. The net amount of tithe increased but, adjusted for inflation, its purchasing power is down. The salary bill for pastoral and support staff is the greatest expense. It makes possible a threefold core activity: Evangelism and other forms of ministry service, Discipling and Training, and Nurture of members.

Personal Ministries Report

Director Pastor Roy Morgan shared three thrills to his soul.

Thrill 1 – the term saw increased member involvement in personal ministry. With the help of Dr Carl Fletcher, Revelation Seminars were resurgent. One hundred member-operated Revelation seminars will run in 2004 using free materials from the NEC PM office. Ten baptisms can be traced to seminars. (The writer has just baptised seven more.) Fifteen thousand pounds is available on application for further member evangelism.

Thrill 2 – the Lay Evangelism Training Seminars (LETS) programme. Examination shows a correlation between attendance and activity in personal ministry. Attendees receive top level training. This 9-15 August the LETS main presenter will be Don James, an expert church planter. The focus will be on creative youth evangelism, too.

Thrill 3 – the UK-ADRA Annual Appeal. Pastor Morgan thanked the Local Agents and local PM leaders

for leading an increasing number of members in conducting the ADRA appeal. The count so far this year has reached £197,000, £7,000 over the goal of £190,000.

Community Services Report

Delegates' concerns mirrored the Actions section in this report. Provision for the elderly was a recurring theme. Naomi Watson, Camp Hill, asked for the preparation of an age profile of our membership. 'We need the facts to determine provision,' she said.

Wesley Harvey, Wednesfield, proposed and, after debate the delegation voted, that the NEC apply for funds for a home to serve our elderly from the next 13th Sabbath offering that is assigned to the TED. Innovation *can* meet the need. Witness the Dorcas Housing Association in the West Midlands. Currently the recruitment of an Advocacy Worker for the elderly is under discussion in the NEC.

Disability access and health and safety were also raised. Pastor Cyril Sweeney confirmed that materials on these issues were sent to all churches to enable provision and compliance.

Partial Nominating Committee Report

At the end of the morning's business, shortly before the Community Services Report was accepted, Pastor C. R. Perry, Nominating Committee chair, and Monette Morris Burrill, secretary, came to the platform. Pastor Egerton R. Francis was nominated and voted in as president. He humbly and graciously accepted.

MALCOLM WATSON



Standing Committees:

The Standing Committees for the session are nominated by the Recommendations Committee. The Recommendations Committee, in turn, is appointed by the delegation members in separate groups according to the congregations they represent.

Nominating

Chair (BUC President) Pastor Cecil Perry; Mrs Inez Blackburn, Sheffield Carter Knowle, Area 3; Pastor Richard Brooks, Ordained minister, 2; Mrs Inez Brown, B'ham Handsworth, 5; Mr Zacharia Campbell, Conference church Doncaster, 7; Mrs Jill Geldart, Middlesbrough, 1; Mr Wilson Herbert, Leeds, 3; Mr Kevin James, Leicester Central, 6; Pastor Lorraine Johnson, Ordained minister, 6; Pastor Dalbir Masih, Ordained minister, 5; Miss Novey Medley, Bible instructor, 4; Mrs Monnette Morris-Burrell, Manchester South, 2; Mrs Ethelrene Sinclair, B'ham Camp Hill, 5; Mrs Kefilwe Sivako, Coventry Central, 6; Pastor Cedric Vine, Licensed minister, 4.

Credentials & Licences

Chair, Pastor Alan Hodges, BUC; Mr Michael Baker, B'ham Newtown, Area 5; Pastor Melvyn Ellis, Ordained minister, 4; Mr Wesley Harvey, Wolverhampton Wednesfield, 5; Pastor Patrick Herbert, Ordained minister, 4; Pastor Jude Jeanville, Ordained minister, 5; Mr Eric Lawrence, Dudley, 5; Pastor Paul Liburd, Ordained minister, 6; Mr Amos Liburd, Nottingham Central, 4; Pastor Alexander Pairman, Ordained minister, 1; Mrs Esther Porter, B'ham Handsworth, 5; Mrs Millicent Richards, Long Eaton, 4; Pastor Barry Stokes, Ordained minister, 2; Mrs Lois Tapper, B'ham Handsworth, 5; Pastor Malcolm Watson, Ordained minister, 5.

Constitution

Chair Pastor Eric Lowe, BUC Exec Sec; Secretary Pastor Paul Lockham, NEC Exec Sec; Mr Wilfred Masih, B'ham Oxhill Road, Area 5; Pastor Fred Mapp, Ordained minister, 2; Ms Donna Rose, B'ham Newtown, 5; Mrs Yvette Saunders, Dudley, 5; Mr Ransford Scarlett, Wolverhampton Bilston, 5; Mrs Ingrid Sharpe, Northampton, 6; Mr Clinton Waite, Sheffield Carter Knowle, 3; Pastor Bryan Webster, NEC Executive, 4; Dr Andrew West, Middlesbrough, 1.

Plans

Chair Mr Victor Pilmoor, BUC treasurer; Mr Raymond Angel, Worcester, Area 6; Pastor Samuel Appiah, Licensed minister, 5; Miss Wilma Bartlett, Leicester Central, 6; Mr Malcolm Bayliss, Bradford, 3; Mr Charles Bramble, Rugby, 6; Mrs Rosemary Bull, Grantham, 4; Mrs June Collymore, Nuneaton, 6; Mrs Yvonne David, B'ham Chelmsley Wood, 5; Mr John Francis, Nottingham Central, 4; Mr Craig Gooden, B'ham Handsworth, 5; Pastor George Harris, Conference church, 7; Mr Everton Haslam, Derby Chester Green, 4; Mr Leebert Hughes, Manchester North, 2; Pastor Richard Jackson, Licensed minister, 5; Mr Terry Kowarin, Sale, 2; Mr Lennox Lowe, Wolverhampton GBK, 5; Mrs Susanna Matthan, Lincoln, 4; Pastor Rainford McIntosh, Ordained minister, 5; Mr Charles Morrison, Manchester South, 2; Mrs Gina Pepper, York, 3; Mr Randolph Prime, Sheffield Burngreave, 3; Mr William Riley, B'ham Breath of Life, 5; Mr John Robson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1; Mr Alex Simon, South Shields, 1; Pastor Michael Simpson, Ordained minister, 2; Mr Royston Smith, Bible instructor, 3; Mr Paul South, Wolverhampton Pendeford, 5.

Business Session - Friday afternoon and evening

Family Ministries

Pastor Cyril Sweeney made the assumption that his Family Ministries report had been read by the delegation – and went straight to questions. The first question from the floor underlined the importance of professional training in Christian counselling for those involved in Family Ministries: Pastor Sweeney accepted the point and went on to provide details of Christian counselling courses which he, and many others, had taken at colleges of further education. Mrs Annette Kowarin asked what plans were in place to cater for and reach out to the increasing number of single-parent families in both society and the church; Pastor Sweeney recommended the Rob Parsons 'Care for the Family' materials and stressed the importance of lifting up the two-parent Christian family model.

Sabbath School

At 2.41 Pastor Roy Morgan presented the report of the Sabbath School department. The printed report held by the delegates was presented in a helpful and information-packed, question-and-answer format. Nevertheless, Pastor Morgan was able to add information to it and extract highlights from it.

Why was the Sabbath School so important, he asked. It was the heart of the church. The fastest-growing conference in the US (Michigan) used Sabbath School as its instrument of growth. Sabbath School had been proven as the most effective means of reclaiming ex-Seventh-day Adventists.

Pastor Morgan's emphasis for the quadrennium had been on training teachers and superintendents. In *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, page 10, Ellen White said, 'The Sabbath School, if rightly conducted, is one of God's greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ.' The 'if rightly conducted' clause, said Pastor Morgan, presupposed that Sabbath School could be *wrongly* conducted. He believed that the best safeguard against this was training.

The Sabbath School continued to encounter two problems. The first was lack of attendance. The second was an inadequate study of the Word. There was, said Pastor Morgan, a need to concentrate on the Sabbath School as a means of reclaiming 'missing members'. He recommended 'homecoming Sabbaths' aimed to reclaim those who were no longer attending church. He encouraged delegates to ensure that representatives were sent from their congregations to his training programmes.

Ingrid Sharpe (Northampton), in a floor question, deplored the use of gimmicks in the place of deep Bible study. Pastor Morgan responded: 'I would not want to suppress creativity in Sabbath School. . . . But I do encourage deep Bible study rather than merely reading the Sabbath School lesson.'

In response to another delegate's question Pastor Morgan said, 'Sabbath School teachers are pastors of small groups.'

A Manchester delegate recommended significantly smaller Sabbath School classes and that a policy be implemented to that effect. Pastor Morgan, too, advocated small classes. He believed that the

optimum was five to eight members. Nevertheless, he saw problems in introducing a uniform policy.

Youth Ministries

At 2.55 Pastor Steve Palmer began his presentation of the Youth report, in the course of which he made it clear that he was not seeking re-election. Pastor Palmer had served as Youth director and student chaplain since 1996. His ministry had been built on the assumption that his first function was to lead young people to a deeper knowledge of Christ. Society had seen the disintegration of both moral and ethical values. Postmodernism was the challenge. It assumed that 'everything is relative' and 'there is no absolute truth'. Present-day young people grew up in a cultural milieu which often confused both right and wrong, and truth and error. As a consequence he had prioritised instruction that was biblically and theologically sound. Young people had been encouraged to involve themselves in evangelism in a variety of ways. The Aberdaron campsite had continued to be a blessing, the preceding five years having seen an increase in the number of young people attending the camp programmes. Malcolm Hayles had done much to improve the site; new tents and chalets had been erected and the whole site had experienced substantial redevelopment. Training had been provided for youth leaders.

'We need to accept that we are living in the "new city", affirmed Pastor Palmer, 'not long for the old one.' Example was the most effective training; post-modern youth were watching how we lived.

Youth ministry was not just about sharing information; it was about sharing the hurts of the youth. It was vital that we took youth ministry seriously. 'Significant resources' had to be committed to youth work.

Many floor comments were prefaced by affirmations of the importance of youth leadership. One questioner said that education rather than entertainment should be the basis of youth programmes. There were two complaints that youth were not given responsibility for their own programmes; and one recommendation that youth federations be revived. One questioner asked what had been done for the 'white youth'. What happened to youth who had no support in the local congregations? The questioner had had a daughter at university during the preceding year who had not received a ministerial visit on a single occasion. The questioner stressed the importance of a total change of attitudes. In reply Pastor Palmer said, 'I believe that the needs of the white youth are the same as those of the black youth – especially if the black youth have been brought up in this country.' He encouraged parents to contact pastors and the Conference when their young people became university students. Pastor Palmer concluded: 'Youth are not the church of tomorrow – they are the church of today. They should have a part in Sabbath School, divine service – as well as AYS.'

Fiona Peart (Manchester South) asked if some activities were organised for black youth and others for white youth. Pastor Palmer replied: 'That is the perception. But perception is reality in the eyes of the uninformed.'

Pastor Perry welcomes the re-election of the president, secretary, treasurer and PM/Sabbath School director. Pastor Cyril Sweeney, Community Services/Family Ministries director, was also re-elected



Egerton and Cynthia Francis



Paul Lockham



Marcus Dove



Roy Morgan

Francis Williams (Handsworth) expressed grave concerns about failures to pass on the fundamentals of the faith to our youth. Pastor Palmer responded sympathetically. 'Remember the church started with young people. I want to see pastors passing on biblical truth. There is a need for *narrative* Bible study, rather than proof text Bible study,' Pastor Palmer concluded.

Evangelism

At 3.30 Pastor Des Rafferty presented the Communication report. It was voted as presented in the session booklet. There was no discussion. At 3.33 Pastor Ian Sweeney, the NEC evangelist, presented his report. Pastor Sweeney had been asked to assume the role of conference evangelist in the autumn of 2000. His assignment had been shared with a pastoral district comprising Leeds and Huddersfield churches. In the course of 2001 and 2002 he had held evangelistic meetings in West Bromwich, Handsworth, Camp Hill, Stockport, Middlesbrough, Leeds, Huddersfield, Leicester, Coventry and Manchester districts. He had moved towards an evangelistic series based on Christ's own teachings. He had shifted from the proof text method 'commonly preferred in evangelistic preaching to a more exegetical consideration of Jesus' words'. When presenting the Sabbath he had based his studies on Mark 2:27, 28 and when presenting the second coming had based them on Jesus' statements in Matthew 24 and 25. He had not sought to impose his programme upon congregations but had worked with congregations, seeking to complement and enhance existing evangelistic plans. He had given guidance with regard to programming, campaign preparation, Bible work and baptismal instruction. The level of congregational involvement had varied from series to series; some pastors had been more knowledgeable about running campaigns than others.

In a period in which Pastor Sweeney's gift as a preacher had received national recognition, Pastor Gary Gordon enquired if there had been adequate support from the conference. Did the import of American speakers indicate that 'an evangelist is not without honour save in his own country'?

Pastor Sweeney responded that he was not into playing the popular numbers game and resisted the 'I went there and got a hundred' mentality. 'It's not what I'm all about,' he stated. He stressed the importance of Bible studies and personal contacts. 'What works best is when church members bring family and friends,' he concluded.

Pastor Roy Morgan opined, 'We often send evangelists to churches that are not ready for them.' He stressed that Bible study should precede the arrival of the evangelist. This view was echoed from the floor. 'We need to get out of our comfort zones – and get out on the streets,' said one speaker.

Pastor Sweeney agreed. 'It's pointless for me to stand up and preach if there have been no preparatory studies,' he said.

One floor speaker expressed opposition to a form of evangelism based on 'Matthew, Mark, Luke and John'. 'I'm fed up with milk drinking,' he said. 'I want the prophecies! Until we use the hardcore message, no one will be on fire.' Pastor Sweeney responded by stressing the centrality of Jesus Christ to our message.

Sandra Miller (Manchester Central) said, 'We must accept ownership. The question is what are *we* doing? I must testify to what God has done for me. I can only witness if I have a *relationship*.' There was, the speaker felt, too much pointing of the finger at others

when one should be pointing it at oneself; '*What am I doing?*'

At 3.55 Pastor Paul Haworth presented the Church Growth report. In the NEC territories, he said, there were a number of small churches 'where only a handful of members meet'. Working with the leaders and members of these congregations he had sought a way forward. He had met with Hull, Carlisle, Rugby, South Cumbria, Darlington, Cannock and Nuneaton churches. Nuneaton had reorganised and given emphasis to evangelism among children. Further to this he had conducted a series of Bible and archaeology programmes there. A series of 'Digging up the Past' programmes had been presented in Hull, but had had no impact. However, the same series had been successful in Scarborough where many names had been gathered from 'Digging up the Past' VOP cards and where eighteen non-Adventists had been attracted to the meetings. He had presented the series on Turkey and the book of Revelation in Halifax, and this had resulted in a group meeting under the guidance of the pastor for well over a year. The same series had been run in Erdington and Wednesfield with little success. Where outreach to the indigenous population had been successful – in Halifax and Scarborough – church members had already established friendships and VOP contacts. Forty-seven participants had begun small-group training in October 2001. There had been four further training weekends in the course of 2002 (one of which was an advanced session), and two further sessions in 2003. Alongside this, pastors in three areas had received small-group training.

Pastor Haworth stressed a quote from *Evangelism* page 115, in which Ellen White said, 'The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is a plan that has been presented to me by One who cannot err.' Manchester South and the new Sheffield Manor churches were successfully using small-group principles. Church plants had taken place at Bury, Scunthorpe, Manchester, Scarborough, Bradford, Corby, Sutton Coldfield and Sheffield.

LIFEdvelopment.info was a strategy created by the BUC to encourage members to make friends with unchurched neighbours, work colleagues, etc, in an effort to bring them to the gospel of Christ.' The LDi programme was working up to the 'Mind the Gap' phase.

Ken Burt (Camp Hill) asked, 'How did "the Director of Indigenous Evangelism" become "the Director for Church Growth"?' There had been discussion at the November 1999 session about the need for a director of indigenous evangelism. That had represented the will of the previous session. Brother Burt hoped that it had not been abandoned because it was difficult.

John Barron of the Fishpool Community church, Bury, stressed, 'We shouldn't have churches of 600 people; but small groups. . . . Go out and plant churches!' There was applause.

Nominating Committee Report
Pastor Roy Morgan was chairing

the session when, at 4.13pm, a partial report of the nominating committee came in. Pastor Paul Lockham was nominated as Executive secretary of the Conference.

From the floor, Dr. O. Mwimbi, a delegate from Manchester South, spoke against the re-election of the same team. To this Pastor Bryan Webster responded, 'If we have failed to reach goals in the past four years it is because we have failed to get off our backsides. It is wrong to say, "We don't have a good leadership" – when the problem has been that we are not good team players.' Another Manchester delegate responded: 'This is a session. It's all about administration, direction and strategic planning,' and put the case against the piecemeal nomination of officers/directors.

Pastor Sandy Pairman (Newcastle) spoke in defence of Pastor Lockham. 'Pastor Lockham has encouraged me much in my ministry,' he said. 'Sixteen per cent growth [in NEC church membership for the quadrennium] is not a bad result. . . . I would like to thank Pastor Lockham for his ministry.' Pastor C. R. Perry, Union president and therefore chair of the nominating committee, explained for the benefit of the delegates who were new how the nomination process worked.

Pastor Lockham's re-election was accepted by a vast majority of the delegation. At 4.40, after minimal discussion, Mr Marcus Dove was accepted as Conference treasurer; Pastor Roy Morgan as director of the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School departments; and Pastor Cyril Sweeney as director of the Family Ministries and Community Services departments.

At 5.50pm the delegates reverted to the discussion of church growth centring on Pastor Paul Haworth's report. Pastor Haworth spoke positively of the success of the café church at Scunthorpe. Speaking of church plants in general, Pastor Haworth stated, 'Where we enter areas in which a church already exists, the church plant is more likely to succeed. It begins with a local person who has a vision – not in an office with a man who has a pencil.'

The eve of Sabbath services took the form of a musical programme presented by Pastor Lorance Johnson and a powerful message from Pastor G. Ralph Thompson.

DAVID MARSHALL



Sabbath Services

Lively discussion

The five-day forecast for Scarborough had 'Sunny' over North Yorkshire for Friday, Sabbath and Sunday. It was wrong! There were heavy clouds and, at times, there was drenching rain. Big puddles had to be stepped over by crowds on their way to Sabbath school in the impressive, Victorian Spa auditorium used for the whole of the session. Rooms used for committees during business sessions rang out with the sound of children's Sabbath school classes by 10am. However, when adult Sabbath school began, the main hall was less than half full.

Nothing daunted, Pastor Roy Morgan, re-elected NEC Sabbath School director, fronted the programme in upbeat fashion. For the lesson study he shared discussion leadership with Wolverhampton minister Pastor Jude Jeanville. Discussion questions were put to the congregation and to a panel of experts on the platform. The panel included Gary Gordon, Victor Pilmoor, Heather Haworth, Cedric Vine, Ken Williams and Melvin Ellis. Patrick Baadjes provided the music for Sabbath school.

Among the questions put to the panel and the congregation was, 'What must the Church do to be magnetic? What attribute would attract people to God's Church?'

The answers from the floor included 'Live out Christ's life', 'Don't apologise for the message', 'Love one another', 'By their fruits . . .' and, 'A God-fearing person has an aura around him'.

On the panel, Ken Williams said, 'Politeness and kindness: they have "pulling power".' Heather Haworth said, 'When someone comes to Christ it is because a caring person has invited him or her. . . .' Gary Gordon said, 'We must practise what we preach.' Victor Pilmoor felt that 'a people who can come together in unity' are magnetic.

To the panel discussion, Pastor Jeanville added a quotation from Ellen White: 'If we would humble ourselves before God, and be kind and courteous and tender-hearted and pitiful, there would be one hundred conversions to the truth where now there is only one.' (*Testimonies*, volume 9, page 189.) There was a loud 'amen' from the congregation.

From the floor, newly re-elected president Pastor Egerton Francis said

that if he were to answer the question put to the congregation and panel in one word, the one word would be *love*.

Mid-service

By 10.45 the auditorium was filling up. There was real depth as the enlarged congregation sang 'Seeking the lost . . .'. Church Growth director Paul Haworth used the mid-service spot to talk about small-groups successes. He showed a video from Yorkshire TV of a wedding at the (Adventist) Cottage Beck Café, Scunthorpe, at which the entire congregation was unchurched. He spoke of a thriving small group in Alsager near Leek in Staffordshire. Barnsley's Dr Sam Farmer had thirty attending weekly meetings in Wakefield with his 'Amazing Discoveries' series: and a small group had, as a consequence, been started in Wakefield.

Pastor Roy Morgan introduced a number of people who spoke about outreach among the laity. Pastor Patricia Douglas enthused about Cannock. Ian Sweeney had conducted the campaign there for which the laity had done the preparation. All had begun with a LETS in Walsall in 2001.

Dr Carl Fletcher was given the credit for re-introducing Revelation seminars into the NEC territories. Successful Revelation seminars had been conducted in Dudley and Northampton.

Even the Spa safety officer's announcement had an evangelistic thrust. He invited the congregation to

turn off all mobile phones, adding 'The only messages you should be receiving here are from your Bible.'

Divine service

BUC president Pastor C. R. Perry introduced the re-elected team for the North England Conference. Pastor Francis stood once again with his wife Cynthia. There was Mr Marcus Dove with his wife Ann, and Pastor Paul Lockham with his wife Helen, a teacher. BUC executive secretary Pastor Eric Lowe prayed for the Conference and the incoming administration. In the praise session two groups sang – Unlimited Praise and Heavenly Melodies. The latter sang in the Shona language.

The Thursday evening keynote address, the Friday evening message and the divine service sermon were provided by Elder G. Ralph Thompson, once vice-president and for four terms secretary of the General Conference. The divine service sermon was structured around a sequence of sound bites. Among them were, 'God did not originate sin. He originated a remedy for sin,' 'God did not make the devil. God made Lucifer, and Lucifer made a devil of himself,' 'John 3:16 is a fulfilment of Genesis 3:15,' 'At the foot of the cross the ground is level,' 'If Jesus had failed, Enoch, Moses and Elijah would have to have come to earth again – to die. God was a great risk-taker. Jesus *could* have failed,' 'Every doctrine we have is Christ-centred and Cross-centred,' 'Jesus smashed up all the

icons of social behaviour; he broke every norm,' 'When you become a Seventh-day Adventist you are saved to serve.'

Elder Thompson spoke of a 'Book of Remembrance' at the Parliament building in Ottawa – containing the names of all those who had given their lives for their country. He spoke of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Then he said, 'In God's book there is *no* unknown soldier. *God remembers.*'

'Don't be angry if you think the Church overlooks you,' said Elder Thompson, 'or if the committee forgets. Don't let it get to you.'

Discouragement is the devil's chief weapon.'

Perhaps with the incoming administration in mind, Elder Thompson said, 'Somebody *will* criticise.' Then he added, 'Beware when all men speak well of you.' 'Don't let the criticism get you down!' he affirmed. He had two more sound-bites: 'A person who is educated but not converted is a menace to society,' and 'We don't need to dilute the message; we need to be baptised with the Holy Ghost.'

In conclusion Elder Thompson stressed the need for three things: Urgency, Fervency and Emergency.

Nominating Committee Report Officers and Directors: 2004-2008

President, Pastor Egerton Francis; Executive Secretary, Pastor Paul Lockham; Treasurer, Mr Marcus Dove; Personal Ministries (1/2) Pastor Roy Morgan; Sabbath School (1/2) Pastor Roy Morgan; Family Ministries (1/2) Pastor Cyril Sweeney; Community Services (1/2) Pastor Cyril Sweeney; Youth (1) Mr Alan Hush; Pathfinders (1) Pastor Trevor Thomas. The remaining directorates/sponsorships to be appointed by the new executive committee: Church Growth (1/2); Asian Evangelism (1/2); Ministerial Association (1/2); Communications (1/2).



Recommendations Committee – by Area

Mr Donald MacKay, Carlisle, 1; Dr Andrew West, Middlesbrough, 1; Mr John Robson, Newcastle Upon Tyne, 1; Mr Alex Simon, South Shields, 1; Mr Alwyn Lunan, Blackburn, 2; Mr Vasantha Jayaraj, Bolton, 2; Dr Edward Wilson, Liverpool, 2; Miss Jennifer Bailey, Manchester Central, 2; Mrs Sandra Miller, Manchester Central, 2; Mr Samuel Hanson, Manchester Longsight, 2; Mrs Virey Clarke, Manchester North, 2; Mrs Monnette Morris-Burrell, Manchester South, 2; Mr Charles Morrison, Manchester South, 2; Mr Winston Marrie, Oldham, 2; Mrs Jane Nelson, Preston, 2; Mrs Evadne Whyte, Preston, 2; Mr Terry Kowarin, Sale, 2; Mr Graham Rigby, Halifax, 3; Mrs Thelma Allwood, Huddersfield, 3; Mr Thabo Mkwanzani, Huddersfield, 3; Mrs Faye Brown, Leeds, 3; Mr Wilson Herbert, Leeds, 3; Mrs Purnell Muir, Sheffield Burngreave, 3; Mrs Myrtle Williams, Sheffield Burngreave, 3; Mrs Joan Knight, Sheffield Carter Knowle, 3; Mr Clinton Waite, Sheffield Carter Knowle, 3; Mr Colin Hawken, Ulceby, 3; Mrs Joy Barker, York, 3; Mr Stephen Ham, Chesterfield, 4; Mrs Olga Marr, Derby Chester Green, 4; Mrs Pamela Burrell, Derby Normanton, 4; Mr Len Eastwood, Grantham, 4; Pastor Douglas Sinclair, Grantham, 4; Mr Nehemiah Marwa, Lincoln, 4; Mrs Millicent Richards, Long Eaton, 4; Mr Glendon Harris, Nottingham Bulwell, 4; Mrs Hyacinth Taylor, Nottingham Central, 4; Mr Harry Wood, Nottingham Central, 4; Mr William Beamish, Sutton in Ashfield, 4; Mr William Riley, B'ham Breath of Life, 5; Mr Hilary Mitchell, B'ham Camp Hill, 5; Mr Clement Morgan, B'ham Camp Hill, 5; Mr Errol Simon, B'ham Camp Hill, 5; Mrs Ethelrene Sinclair, B'ham Camp Hill, 5; Mrs Yvonne David, B'ham Chelmsley Wood, 5; Pastor

Ron Davey, B'ham Erdington, 5; Miss Claudine Jackson, B'ham Handsworth, 5; Mr Mark Larman, B'ham Handsworth, 5; Mr James Samuels, B'ham Handsworth, 5; Mrs Lois Tapper, B'ham Handsworth, 5; Mr Lenard Stewart, B'ham Ladywood, 5; Ms Donna Rose, B'ham Newtown, 5; Mr Wilfred Masih, B'ham Oxhill Road, 5; Mr Elroy Blake, B'ham Windsor Street, 5; Mr Fred Evans, B'ham Windsor Street, 5; Mr Stanley Farrell, B'ham Yardley, 5; Mrs Marla Towers, Castle Vale, 5; Mrs Yvette Saunders, Dudley, 5; Mr Chaman Mall, Langley, 5; Pastor Dalbir Masih, Ordained minister, 5; Mrs Charm Perry, Smethwick, 5; Mrs Sonia Parnell, Stafford, 5; Mr Winsford Mullings, Tamworth, 5; Mr Bradley Jones, Walsall, 5; Mr Brian Kerr, West Bromwich, 5; Mrs Violet Williams, Wolverhampton Bilston, 5; Mr Lennox Lowe, Wolverhampton GBK, 5; Miss Beverley Perry, Wolverhampton GBK, 5; Mr Novelette Blake, Wolverhampton Oxford Street, 5; Mr Carlton Green, Wolverhampton Oxford Street, 5; Mr Shirley Virgo, Wolverhampton Oxford Street, 5; Mr Michael Lawrence, Wolverhampton Pendeford, 5; Mrs Pearlina Coke, Wolverhampton Wednesfield, 5; Miss Maureen Thompson, Wolverhampton Wednesfield, 5; Mr Godwin Govathson, Coventry Central, 6; Mrs Kefilwe Sivako, Coventry Central, 6; Miss Darlene Myles, Coventry Henley Green, 6; Mrs Wendy Hopkins, Kettering, 6; Mrs Suzanne Berry, Leamington Spa, 6; Miss Wilma Bartlett, Leicester Central, 6; Miss Yvonne Chambers, Leicester Central, 6; Dr Rudolph Jordan, Leicester Central, 6; Mr Dorion McLeod, Leicester West, 6; Mr Ralph Clarke, Northampton, 6; Mrs Anna Morris, Northampton, 6; Mrs June Collymore, Nuneaton, 6; Mr Raymond Angel, Worcester, 6; Mr Zacharia Campbell, Conference Church, Doncaster, 7; Pastor Alan Conroy, Retired minister.

Sunday Morning

Sunday morning saw the presentation of the following reports: Pathfinders and Adventurers, by Pastor Trevor Thomas; Women's Ministries, by Heather Haworth; Ministerial Association, by Pastor Fred Mapp; Trust Services, by Pastor Neil Robertson, and Education, by Dr Keith Davidson.

Much time was taken for delegates' questions to the departmental heads and sponsors. A main concern, expressed widely, referred to the need for more schools, specifically in the Manchester area. Also of concern was the lack of homes for the elderly in areas of greater Adventist population.



Pastor Ian Sweeney, Conference evangelist



Ministerial director, Pastor Fred Mapp



Mr Alan Hush, the newly-elected Youth director

Much was also said about monitoring pastors; the administration reminded us how the ministerial audit works, providing the membership, annually, with a chance to express confidentially their feelings about their pastor's work. A motion was passed that recommendation should be made to the Executive Committee to work within Charity Commission guidelines to be able to discipline pastors whose theological beliefs differ significantly from those of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Ministerial Association secretary was quizzed regarding the comment in his report about pastors attending Willow Creek seminars on evangelism, as being a non-Adventist source of teaching (although the Jehovah's Witnesses had several times been extolled as examples to follow in our evangelistic endeavours!).

Also of concern was the overwork of some pastors: it was explained that this would lessen as members, including elders, took on the concept of every member a minister. On that point, the Executive Committee has recommended that the Pathfinder director change to a full-time office role, instead of the previous situation where he also carried a church.

The Trust Services Sponsor was questioned by delegates, after he explained his free service of making wills for church members. He was asked if he attempted to influence the content of wills when bequests appeared to be lacking in Christian responsibility. Pastor Robertson explained that he was bound by law not to interfere in any way, other than offering a pastoral 'word in season' when requested, although of course any illegal requests could not be countenanced.

One comment Sister Haworth made regarding Women's ministries was found by church growth studies to be applicable to all departments: 'If Women's Ministries starts in a church, and is not doing outreach within six months, it folds. If you are thinking that the Women's Ministries department of your church is not doing much, it must not be doing outreach!'



Mrs Heather Haworth, Women's Ministries director

It is worthy of note that every single Departmental Head and Sponsor specifically commended the secretarial staff in the Conference Office. All of these individuals work above and beyond their official roles, often being needed to turn around large amounts of preparation at very short notice, and all providing support, skill, wisdom and expertise without which none of the departments could function.

Besides the departmental

reports, one piece of business which was done on Sunday morning was the acceptance of Constitutional changes which had been developed by the standing Constitution Committee and brought to the Session by the outgoing Executive Committee. Details of the changes had been sent to the delegates more than 28 days previously; Pastor Lockham explained the changes, giving the delegation some time for discussion.

The morning had begun with devotional thoughts brought by Pastor Gary Gordon, who asked us, 'Will we, in our lives and as a church, move forward into the future or be stuck in the past? Will we be bound by what *has been*, or liberated by what *can be*? . . . God recognises our need to look back, but it must not be with longing or introspection; it should be with contemplation and appreciation that God has brought us a long way.' This was certainly the attitude that came to us from our departmental heads and sponsors, who consistently gave glory to God for all that has been achieved during the last four years. They encouraged the delegation to take the opportunities provided by the annual Inter-Session meetings to ask questions, express the burdens and concerns of their hearts, and make suggestions; suggestions made at the Inter-Session meetings can be incorporated into working practice during the ongoing Session, thus making it possible for quadrennial Sessions to be times of celebration and thanksgiving.

Sunday morning business closed with a sense of anticipation of much work yet to be done in the afternoon!

ISOBEL WEBSTER

Sunday Afternoon Business Session

The final afternoon of the 59th Session is best summed up as a race! With time and the Scarborough tide waiting for no man, the delegation received many presentations from the various committees.

First was a lengthy report from the Licences and Credentials committee, recommending credentials for ministers, Bible workers, teachers and administrative staff through our Conference, which was duly adopted. In addition, the credentials for three hundred and eighty-seven lay preachers was presented to, and approved by, the delegation which concluded the work of the committee.

The Nominating committee followed immediately with a report on Youth and Pathfinder directors and the NEC executive committee. Mr Alan Hush was nominated as Youth director, and Pastor Trevor Thomas as Pathfinder director. Both were duly adopted by the delegation. **The following names were voted as the new NEC Executive committee:** President, Pastor Egerton Francis; Executive secretary, Pastor Paul Lockham; Treasurer, Mr Marcus Dove; Departmental director, Pastor Cyril Sweeney; Mr Solomon Senesse; District Pastors Dalbir Masih, Lorraine Johnson and Alexander Pairman; Mr Winston Brown, Handsworth, Area 5; Ms Georgia Windrass, Breath

of Life, 5; Mrs Joan Knight, Sheffield C.K., 3; Dr Rita Robson, Newcastle, 1; Mr Charles Morrison, Manchester South, 2; Mr Joseph Raye, Liverpool, 2; Mr Robert Mokaya, Nottingham, 4; Mr Hilary Mitchell, Camp Hill, 5; Mr R. Pace.

The weighty matter of Voluntary Aided Status (VAS) was next on the agenda for the delegation. Dr Keith Davidson, BUC Education director, presented the case for the motion to the floor.

'VAS', he said, 'is a state maintained provision for faith groups and denominational schools, which allows church schools to be funded by the state.'

Outlining the arguments for and against, Dr Davidson stated that on balance we owe it to our children to avail ourselves of every opportunity to provide quality Christian education. While there were a number of concerns from the floor, the delegation adopted the motion for the NEC to move towards achieving VAS.

In an effort to finish the business of the Session, the delegation received the report from the Plans committee. The chair of the committee announced that just the summary of the report numbered eight pages. This caused quite a stir on the floor, as the time was now 4pm, half an hour beyond the time set for the close of the session. The delegation, after much clarification and with some reluctance, voted to forward the Plans committee report to the incoming NEC executive and to keep the churches informed by sending copies of the said report.

The Session clearly had to come to a close as the delegate numbers present went into steep decline. The recording of the written distribution of the Stewardship and Asian co-ordinators' report was the last item of business. By then the session was inquorate and could only move to pass all unfinished business to the incoming Executive.

Pastor Egerton Francis, in his closing remarks, expressed thanks to the delegation, to those who had worked behind the scenes, and finally to Almighty God. His parting wish was that we would all work together so that the motto of the session would be achieved throughout the territory of the North England Conference.

The challenge before us is to go 'Forward by His Spirit'.

DESMOND RAFFERTY, with reportage by PAUL LIBURD

NEC Outstanding ADRA-UK Collector

by Pastor Roy Morgan, Personal Ministries director, NEC

Brother R. Angel of the Worcester church was presented with the trophy for NEC Outstanding ADRA-UK Collector of 2004 at the NEC Camp Meeting held at Southport on Sabbath 12 June. He collected a staggering £2,821.



Brother H. Smiley from Dudley church, who has won this award for two consecutive years, received the runner-up cup. He collected £2,425.

The PM leader thanked all the members, pastors and ADRA agents for their contributions, and challenged the campers to 'wrest' these awards from the present incumbents in 2005!

Handsworth: 'Why Families Crash'

Dr Alonzo Smith is a certified marriage and psychological counsellor who serves as an adjunct professor at the Atlantic Union College. Augmented to the latter positions, Dr Smith is currently the Family Ministries and Communication Director for the Greater New York Conference.

His schedule has him committed to international appointments until 2008, yet, at the request of local pastor Rainford Mackintosh, Pastor Smith came from the 22 to 29 May.

And he proved to be an inspiration to all who heard him, talking on topics on which people need help – all people, whether they are Christians, unchurched, optimist, pessimist, indifferent, sinkers or swimmers!

His opening seminar on 'Why Families Crash' made us think about the state of the family today, and how the unity of it has become eroded. It made us critically

analyse our contribution to our families.

Dr Smith stung the audience into alertness with his second seminar presentation when, via Powerpoint, he showed numerous tragic examples of young people who have had their lives taken by the penal system for various crimes; the title of that presentation was 'Strong and broken Place', and dealt with the controversial issue of parenting skills.

During the week, Dr Smith challenged Handsworth and its many visitors and during one presentation, urged us to forgive, that 'it may be well with our souls'. He also allowed time during the seminar for the audience to put the message into practice. The lights were turned off, and people instructed to speak to those to whom they hadn't spoken for a while for whatever reason. It was a touching moment to see people make up under the dawn light, which streamed through the windows.

We were given further insight into our own way of thinking when Dr Smith gave a presentation that dealt with self-esteem, entitled 'If you think you are dumb'. The need to think 'good' about ourselves and others, and to rise to challenges rather than seeing problems as insurmountable, was the take-home message that night.

Dr Smith conducted other seminars all from a Christian perspective such as Human Relationships, Sexuality, Understating Depression and Dealing with Anger, What women want men to know, and The Family and eternity.

N. BANTON



Mission Accomplished

Report of the British group with Global Evangelism in Mauritius
31 May-21 June

by Audrey Balderstone

Exhausted, but elated, the British group returned from their Global Evangelism campaigns in Mauritius on Monday 21 June. A four-hour delay to the flight home did nothing to dispel the sense of joy and thanksgiving which was ours after a Sabbath filled with tears and laughter, joy and sorrow and, above all, praise to God for the fantastic experience of preaching the Gospel and having it received so warmly.

Of the eleven sites on Mauritius, eight were allocated to the British group and three to a group from Germany. In total 150 precious souls were baptised in eleven churches on Sabbath, and although these were mainly the results of Bible studies already given by the pastors, each 'evangelist', having been warmly adopted by his or her church, felt a keen sense of oneness with the candidates and members as they celebrated. This was heightened by the knowledge that the seeds sown during the eighteen sessions of the campaign would be reaped over the next months when the pastors study with those who have requested baptism as a direct result of the work of the teams. In each church these numbers exceed thirty persons and the first baptisms will take place at the end of September.

The teams were incredibly impressed by the total dedication of the Mauritian church members and pastors, who worked diligently over many months in preparation for the campaigns, and who supported loyally every single night, welcoming visitors, and providing music, quizzes and a theme song, as well as setting up and dismantling equipment. Their work continues with the contacts made, which in every church number well over 100 persons – apart from those who have actually requested baptism.

Each evangelist was presented with a gift from 'their' congregation and many were the other gifts pressed on them from grateful members and visitors. At one church the 'photo session' lasted nearly two hours and a number learned what it felt like to be a celebrity as they signed books and autographed

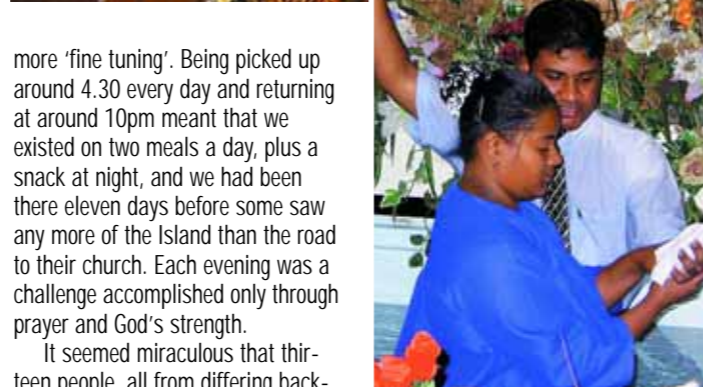
Bibles and hymn-books! The female preachers, having kissed their congregations on both cheeks at the end of the morning service, found themselves having to do it all over again, not only at the presentations of Bibles, special awards and baptismal candidates, but to the whole congregation after the end of the baptismal service in the afternoon. The male preachers only had to kiss the ladies!

The participation in Global Evangelism of the British group came about as a result of the presentation by Pastor Bob Folkenberg at the ASI Europe Convention in Barcelona last year. Audrey Balderstone and Brian Davison (president and vice-president of the Adventist Business and Professionals' Association respectively) felt it would be wonderful to promote such an enterprise in this year of World Evangelism. Brian took on the role of co-ordinator for the group and worked tirelessly to ensure all went smoothly. An immense debt of gratitude is due to Brian for the success of the enterprise. Thanks are also due to the support team – Brian's wife Cecilia, who 'mothered' the team and videoed them in action; Kathy Dalton, who worked with the children; Sabrina Chineegadoo and Laurie Jayram who provided general support.

For the younger members of the team, Andrew Evers, Enoch Adu, Daniel Thompson and Christopher Dove (3 Newbold students/1 prospective student), PowerPoint presentations presented no challenge. It was a different matter for the mature members, Brian, Audrey, Lloyd Harris and Vivienne Vine, but by the end of the three weeks they were adept at importing or deleting images and creating shortcuts.

Contrary to popular opinion, the trip to Mauritius was not a holiday! Although the sermons were prepared by Global Evangelism, they were too long to be translated into Creole and many hours of preparation were needed to edit and personalise them. Some, like the 2,300-day prophecy,

proved a huge challenge, as did fitting in two presentations for each Sabbath. Once the sermon was edited it then needed to be practised so that words and images would flow smoothly and be understood by the translator, and this often resulted in



more 'fine tuning'. Being picked up around 4.30 every day and returning at around 10pm meant that we existed on two meals a day, plus a snack at night, and we had been there eleven days before some saw any more of the Island than the road to their church. Each evening was a challenge accomplished only through prayer and God's strength.

It seemed miraculous that thirteen people, all from differing back-

grounds, lived and worked together happily for three weeks without any tensions. But it shouldn't have surprised us. God just answered the prayers of friends, relatives and church members here at home, and those which ascended from the group each morning and evening. Our worships provided the powerhouse which sustained each of us and which knit us into a close 'family' who supported and cared for each other. Never have we felt so inadequate, and never have we relied upon God so much. It was a thrilling experience to see how he worked with our inadequacies and how his Holy Spirit went before us, covered our mistakes, and spoke to our own hearts as much as to those who listened to his voice through us. All, without exception, found it a life-changing experience.



General Conference leaders in Londonderry campaign

by Dougal McCormac and John Surridge

'My Grandfather sailed from this river, the Foyle, to the United States at the time of the potato famine. We have returned to our roots to tell again the wondrous love of our Lord Jesus Christ.' Such were the sentiments of former General Conference president Pastor Neil Wilson as he began his section of questions and answers in the Londonderry evangelistic campaign.

The three-week series entitled 'The Revelation of Hope', began on Sunday 16 May at two locations in Londonderry: the YMCA, Drumahoe, and the City Hotel, Waterside. The main speaker for the campaigns was Pastor Ted Wilson, son of Pastor Neil Wilson and currently a General Conference vice-president. Also on the team was General Conference Health Ministries director Dr Peter Landless whose health lectures were well received. Dr Landless was no stranger to Northern Ireland as he came last year with Dr Alan Handsides and Dr Stoy Proctor and presented seminars to Health Educators both in Londonderry and Belfast.

The evangelistic series began last year with support from the GC Health Ministries department who presented several seminars on health issues and nutrition. It has now moved to a more Bible-based approach and on the opening night

there were visitors at both locations. As the week progressed numbers rose.

At the beginning of the campaign Pastors Neil and Ted Wilson, together with local pastor Anton Kapusi, were able to meet with the Mayor, the Chief of Police and the Secretary of the Catholic Church in Derry. On the Monday Pastor Don Vollmer, formerly a pastor in the Irish Mission, and his wife joined the team. Don's main contribution to the campaign was in music ministry.

Reporting from his office in Banbridge, Irish Mission president Pastor Curtis Murphy said, 'We were greatly encouraged to see that several visitors returned each evening and some had promised to join us on Sabbath. I believe that God has opened a window of opportunity for us in Ireland to share the everlasting Gospel in a fresh and invigorating way. Our prayers are with the team in Londonderry. As I write this I am reminded of the words of our Union president, Pastor Cecil Perry: "God knows those in Derry who are his. The rock in Ireland may be dry and impenetrable but God can, at a stroke, 'bring living water from it. Our Father says to his children, his servants, don't be concerned about human calculation of success, leave that to me.'"



Ted Wilson at Ireland Day of Fellowship

On Sabbath 22 May members and friends came from all over Ireland for the Dublin day of fellowship at the Dundrum Methodist church.

High points of the day included the morning message from SEC president Pastor Don McFarlane, and musical contributions from Pastor Don Vollmer of the Wedgwood Trio.

The Sabbath school lesson was taught by Elder Ted Wilson, Vice-president of the General Conference. Elder Wilson was in Ireland as speaker at a major evangelistic campaign in Derry.

The Irish Mission members include people from all over the globe who have come to live and work in Ireland. Chris Riley, currently working in Derry, organised an afternoon programme that included contributions from Poland, Romania,

Baptism

We had a great celebration on Sabbath 5 June when our church in Londonderry grew by one member. Albert Shake, originally from Jamaica, was baptised as the first-fruit of the efforts of the local church team and the Revelation of Hope campaign. We believe this is just the beginning of a long-lasting campaign for reaching out to the communities on both sides of the River Foyle, to those who really long for Christ and salvation.

PASTOR ANTON KAPUSI

Zimbabwe and the Philippines, as well as Ireland.

The Dublin and Belfast young people made great music.

DOUG McCORMAC

Networking for Christ

by Leonard Mujaya

The Starverton Park Health and Temperance weekend is one we shall not readily forget.

Elsie Staple, Health and Temperance director of the South England Conference, chose the excellent location, and thirty-eight people took part.

The writer conducted the Sabbath school lesson in the form of a dialogue with the apostle John, and Pastor Hamilton Williams conducted divine service on the theme of 'Networking for Christ'. He broke up the verse 'Let us . . . go . . . up . . . and possess' into its component parts. *Let us*, he said, establishes the principle of co-operation: teamwork can yield better results. *Go* establishes the principle of action with regard to the Health and Temperance message. Action in church, action in the community at large. 'Never wait for big events only,' said the speaker. *Up* establishes the principle of advancement; it is a solemn duty to advance the Lord's work. *Possess* establishes the principle of acquisition with regard to the Health and Temperance

message. Members must *own* the message and, as a result, appear healthy, speak healthily and promote good health by example.

Elsie Staple reinforced the message, 'Networking for Christ', in her afternoon 'drilling time'. She drilled her point home so effectively that none missed it. We were challenged to live in harmony with everyone in our church, and to advance the work of God. 'Objectives should be set to give the Health and Temperance department of each church guidelines for achievement,' she said. 'When you've conducted an event, evaluate its success or failure and measure it against your set objectives.'

Elsie stressed that set objectives should be SMART:

- Specific – state exactly what you want to achieve.
- Measurable – use of quantity or percentages can be useful.
- Accurate – should be exact.
- Realistic – objectives should be easy to achieve.
- Time-related – set a time-span to achieve objectives.

Did you get a balloon?

'Creative mission stories' has been one of the goals of the Junior Sabbath School department of the Huddersfield church this year. With that theme in mind, the children had a mission story with a difference. The story, entitled 'Love letter from God', was about a boy in Sweden who thought no one loved him until he found a balloon that had travelled from Holland to Sweden with a message tied to it, saying, 'The children of the Adventist Church want to tell you that God loves you.'

Not just settling for presenting the mission story and collecting an offering, the children all received a helium-filled balloon with a message tag.

Messages were written on the tags such as 'God loves you', 'I am praying for you', 'You are special', and the balloons released into the air, with a prayer that someone somewhere will find a balloon and be touched by the children's simple message of God's love.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



'Have activities that incorporate church members and unchurched,' said Elsie. 'The involvement of both the micro and macro participants can extend our influence in society. We should establish relationships with the unchurched and use Health and Temperance as a firm platform for evangelism,' she concluded.

Outdoor activities were suggested; the church should set up a tent in open ground to reach the community. Advertisements should appear, attracting people for free medical tests: blood pressure, diabetes, stress, etc.

We were told that there should be *targetting*. Having identified society's specific needs through surveys or observation, these needs should be effectively targetted. In addition to the medical tests, lectures should be provided, addressing specific problems.

Local doctors should be involved in the tent outreach and kept briefed with regard to our plans. Letters and literature should be sent to them, together with advertisements for clinics and events. All available media – radio, newspapers, leaflets, word of mouth – should be used for advertising events.

Once patients have taken, for example, tests for blood pressure, there should be referrals to local GPs and nearby clinics.

The Health and Temperance leaders were advised of the need to delegate some of their duties to other church members. 'God has poured talents out into the church,' said Elsie Staples. 'Leaders should be aware that they cannot do all the work alone. They should be aware of all the members working in health/social services and involve them in the health ministry of the church. They should be encouraged to share their expertise. If people get involved they feel part of the programme. Doctors and nurses who have specialised in certain disciplines should be encouraged to share their expertise.'

At the conclusion of our meetings a visiting member from Ghana who has attended the Slough Ghana Adventist church accepted Christ as her personal Saviour. 'The Health and Temperance meetings,' she said, 'have portrayed Jesus to me in a unique way.' She dedicated her life to Christ. The director responded by giving her copies of the health books written by Ellen G. White.

ADC feature

Adventist Discovery Centre needs 'Treasure-filled jars of clay'

an appeal by Thelma Hodges

Psalm 119:105 tells us: 'God's word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.' We all say Amen to this verse and give thanks to God for the freedom we enjoy of unlimited access to the light of his word.

But then we read Luke 8:16: 'No-one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.'

God has 'made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ' (2 Cor. 4:6). Verse 7 goes on to say, 'But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.' How often have we sung, 'Have thine own way, Lord, have thine own way. Thou art the potter, I am the clay'?

The Adventist Discovery Centre is appealing for 'jars of clay' such as those we read of in 2 Corinthians to put themselves in the hands of the Potter. Even the most timid can participate in this outreach ministry. By distributing cards advertising the courses we have on offer *you* can have a part in eliminating some of the darkness in this world. *You* can sow the seed that will lead others to the source of light.

At the time of writing this appeal, we have in stock over 300,000 cards advertising a variety of Bible courses and about 130,000 advertising Health. Most are stored in a large container, achieving nothing, bringing light to no one's pathway. *You can change all this!*

The Personal Ministries secretary at your church can receive samples of all the cards we have on offer just by giving us a call on 01923 672606.

Special thanks to 'Friends of the VOP' for their prayers and financial support.



Kevin Glancy

by Isobel Webster

In November 2003, Grimsby church had its first baptism for many years. Kevin Glancy was baptised and voted into fellowship, and his wife Diane accepted by profession of faith. Kevin and Diane, from the Loch Lomond area of Scotland, have a fascinating story. Kevin had his moment of fame in the 80s when he sang with the pop group Bronski Beat. At that time

his life included many of the ingredients associated with that scene. Years later he found himself, with Diane and their son Ruben, on holiday in Barbados. Their landlady for the month was a Seventh-day Adventist. In brief, they had Bible studies almost daily for the whole holiday and, on returning to their home in Cleethorpes, they telephoned local pastor Bryan Webster. Pastor Webster studied with them. So did their Barbadian landlady – by email! They believed everything they learned, and eventually were baptised and joined the Grimsby church.

During this time, when Kevin unexpectedly found himself in trouble with the police, he called his pastor. An offence from his Glasgow years, which he had thought conclusively dealt with, came back to haunt him in the form of two police officers on his Cleethorpes doorstep, and court appearances in Glasgow. Newspapers soon picked up the story of a famous name in trouble. When it began to seem that a jail term was possible, Pastor Webster turned to the Probation Service in Scunthorpe.

Cottage Beck Café church, a Seventh-day Adventist church company in Scunthorpe, has good relations with the Probation Service. Because of the Café church's work in the local community, the Probation Service use it as a service provider: that means that when convicted individuals are sentenced to community service hours, they can be assigned to work on one of Cottage Beck Café church's projects. Pastor Webster's request was that his contacts intervene on Kevin's behalf, and request that his sentence be to do community service hours at the Café church. Bryan was asked to write letters to the Judge in Glasgow, explaining what he knew of Kevin's character. The end of that story can be summed up by the headline in the *Express*, 'Pastor gets rock star off the hook!' As a court in Glasgow cannot assign community service hours outside its jurisdiction, the Judge simply asked Kevin, on his honour, to keep working for his church as his pastor had testified to his doing.

Kevin is a straight talker! When the police officers asked him if he had done the offences in question, he said, 'Well, yes and no.' Naturally puzzled, they asked him to explain. 'Well, you see, the old Kevin Glancy did do that,' he admitted, 'but I've been born again. So, really, that wasn't me! I am a different man now.' Indeed, Kevin had already demonstrated who now holds his heart, by devoting many hours to church projects – for the Grimsby church, and for Cottage Beck Café church. He has given generously of his information technology skills, being responsible for the Café church website at www.cafechurch.com.

Kevin is the sort of person things happen to! So his story is bound to hold more fascinating chapters. For now, he is dedicating that musical talent which was at one time so much the world's, to his God. He has just produced an album of Christian music entitled 'Atmosphere for Miracles' – you can hear it at his website www.faithrecords.org. He would also love to sing at your church or any Christian venue, in the hope that others will be as blessed by the music and the words as he has been.

Soon Kevin will be interviewed on the God Channel; a one-time rock star releasing a Christian album is news! We wish him well in this venture as Kevin's God-given gifts work to spread the Gospel, share his faith, and give publicity to the church to which he has committed himself. The album includes a variety of musical styles, so give it a try! You can contact Kevin at the website.



Open Day

The Stanborough Press Ltd.

Grantham, Lincolnshire

Sunday
5 September 2004

featuring
Adventist Chorale with Ken Burton and Charles Ngandwe
Winner of 'Stars in their eyes', and author of The Voice He gave me

Special guest speakers . . .
Roy Adams of Adventist Review
Keith Burton
author of The Compassion of the Christ

Exciting programme of events
Special morning seminars
Children's activities
Combined sales area bigger and better than ever before

Adventist Risk Management, a service organisation belonging to the Adventist Church, has a vacancy for a highly motivated person to work at our St Albans office. The London Office of Adventist Risk Management serves 8 of the Church's world divisions and the applicant must have the ability to communicate fluently in English and a second European language, preferably German, as well as good computer skills and the ability to use the whole range of Office XP products, ie Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and Publisher.

The successful applicant will work with a small team to provide the day-to-day office support for our field service representatives.

Salary, benefits and allowances will be based on the Trans-European Division salary scale and working policy; starting salary will be determined by the applicant's experience and qualifications. A good level of education achieved is required, although it is not essential that the applicant hold a degree. Previous experience in Risk Management and Insurance will be an advantage, but not essential. To apply for the position or receive job description, please contact: MLeicester@adventistrisk.org. Or write to Mervyn B. Leicester, Field Service Manager, Adventist Risk Management Inc., 119 St Peter's Street, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3EY. Telephone: +44 (0) 1727 865773. Fax: +44 (0) 1727 864578.

Newbold College is seeking to appoint a lecturer in **Business Studies/Accounting**. Candidates should possess CIMA or ACCA qualification, a Masters degree in a relevant area and some experience in teaching. They will also be expected to teach a range of modules in accounting and finance and align the curriculum with CIMA and/or ACCA requirements in order to obtain exemptions. For a comprehensive job description, email mpearson@newbold.ac.uk. **The deadline for applications and CVs is 16 August 2004.**

Newbold College is seeking to appoint a **Business Development Manager** commencing immediately. The successful candidate will have: Understanding and expertise in the areas of sales and promotion; Communication skills that promote good will and positive work relations outside and within the College; Self-confidence and presence in presenting proposals in a variety of situations; Understanding of business plans, grant-proposal writing and management (a business degree would be a plus).

Once appointed, the manager will, among other responsibilities: Develop a strategy for generating non-tuition income from College buildings and property; Work with the Bursar and SMT to manage accounts relating to specific projects; Conduct successful sales presentations, calls and meetings; Work with the SMT and Board in the development of new ventures; Manage the guest services team with professionalism and in relation to the needs of the College; Write funding proposals; Liaise with individual and corporate partners/sponsors.

Salary will be according to the denominational scale. The initial appointment will be for two years. Letter of application together with CV and addresses of two referees should be sent to: The Vice Principal, Newbold College, Binfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG42 4AN, England. Tel: (0) 1344 407400. Fax: (0) 1344 407404. Email: mpearson@newbold.ac.uk. **Applications by 16 August 2004.**



Recording of 'Mind the Gap'

Filming of the ten programmes in the 'Mind the Gap' series took place at Newbold College from 11 – 15 July. Pastor Dwight Nelson, who presented the *Evidence* series in March, was also the presenter of this series, which forms the third level of the LIFEdevelopment concept.

These programmes are part of a number of resources being made available to church members, and are designed to prepare postmodern people to receive the Gospel message. Further resources are being prepared, which will cover the doctrines of the Adventist Church, and these will form level four of the LIFEdevelopment concept under the title 'Experiencing the Joy'.

Topics covered in 'Mind the Gap'

1. Faith
2. Bible
3. Prayer
4. Who is Jesus?
5. Jesus, His Death and Resurrection
6. Jesus' Second Coming
7. Holy Spirit
8. Human Nature
9. Healing
10. Fellowship

Topics covered in the *Evidence*

1. Love
2. God
3. Bible
4. Rest
5. Forgiveness
6. Peace
7. Hope
8. Fear
9. Suffering
10. Justice

The ten programmes in 'Mind the Gap' will be broadcast on the Hope Channel during the first two weeks of October. Watch for further announcements regarding the times of transmission. Videos/DVDs will be available in the autumn.

The *Evidence* series is available on 5 video tapes at £35 including postage and packing. DVDs (at the same price) will be available at the end of August. Order NOW to reserve your copy which will be sent automatically.

Don't miss out. Order the recordings of *Evidence* now. Complete the order form, stating your choice of videos or DVDs. Make your cheque for £35 payable to: British Union Conference, and send to: LIFEdevelopment.info, BUC Office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ.

Use these resources to raise the interest of your secular friends in the Gospel and thereby have the opportunity of introducing them to the greatest friend anyone could have, Jesus Christ our Saviour.

EVIDENCE

I wish to order/pre-order the *Evidence* series as follows:

Type of Recording	Price Per Set	No. of Sets	Cost
Recording on 5 x VIDEOTAPES	£35.00		
Recording on 5 x DVDs	£35.00		
TOTAL COST Including Postage and Packing			£

Please make your cheque payable to: **British Union Conference**

Name: _____

Church: _____

Address: _____

Postcode

Signature: _____

N.B. Don't forget to send your order together with your cheque to:
LIFEdevelopment.info,
 BUC Office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts., WD25 9JZ.



God has your number

One morning I was praying and a phone number popped into my thoughts.

I dismissed it as over-revving imagination. It returned. I wrote it down and finished praying.

The number bugged me half the morning. I scanned my address book but it wasn't one I knew. Finally I decided to ring it, thinking I could always say, 'Sorry, wrong number'.

'Michelle speaking.'

Ah! Two years before, we had sat on the library steps at university, Michelle chain-smoking and firing questions about Christianity all through lunchtime. She'd invited me to her house later to talk more, but she felt scepticism and anger about some past experiences, and couldn't seem to believe.

Now I identified myself and started the conversation by asking how she was.

'Actually . . . dying. How are you?'

'What? Are you joking?' She was 23.

'No. A freak disease. Actually, I'd love to talk to a Christian.'

I arranged to go over that day.

'Good. Oh, but I've moved house. So, hey – how did you get my number?'

I told her.

'God has my number. . . ?'

Weeks later, Michelle died a Christian, with gospel confidence of resurrection when Jesus returns.

Who is God saving today? Do you want to be involved?

'I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.' Psalm 32:8, NIV.

'Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.' Jeremiah 33:3, NKJV.

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.

Belfast church building

The spacious Belfast church building will be fifty years old in 2007. The Belfast members invite all those who have been associated with the Belfast church, whether as pastors or laity, to make contact with Victor McCormac.

EITHER by email on:
victor.mccormac@ntlworld.com

OR by post:
c/o 38 Woodbreda Avenue,
Saintfield Road, Belfast, BT8 7JJ.
The aim is to make a lasting record of the church work in the city.

ABC BOOK SALES

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

September
5 Stanborough Press Open Day
26 West Midlands 10am-2pm

Messenger

Volume 109/15-16 – 16 July 2004

EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

COPY FOR No. 18 – 21 July 2004

Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.

Fax No: (01476) 577144.

Email: Editordnm@mac.com

ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900

Mon-Thurs only, 7.30 - 6pm.

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Printed in Denmark.

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk
ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

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

	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Jul 16	9.10	9.22	9.22	9.47	9.49
23	9.02	9.14	9.12	9.36	9.39
30	8.51	9.04	9.01	9.23	9.28
Aug 6	8.40	8.52	8.49	9.09	9.14

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

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