

by Isobel Webster



Church for the unchurched



Top: Pastor Bryan Webster talks to the 'News Crew'.
Left: The bride and groom, Eija Koivuranta and Andrew Wright.
Below: Cottage Beck Café Church.



It was an outstanding day for Cottage Beck Café church, the Adventist church for the unchurched in Scunthorpe, North England Conference. Two volunteers, Andrew Wright from Melbourne and Eija Koivuranta from Helsinki, were married at the Café church which brought them together from opposite ends of the earth. As Andrew said in his personally-written vows, 'I have no idea of how a man from Australia and a woman from Finland could meet in Scunthorpe unless there was divine intervention. I thank God for providing you.'

Andrew, whose father is Scottish but who grew up attending an Adventist church in Melbourne, came to Scunthorpe temporarily as part of a planned year seeing Europe. On discovering that Cottage Beck Café was an Adventist church especially developed to reach people with no church background, he volunteered all his spare time to help. His IT skills have been invaluable, literally a God-send, in setting up the Internet section of the Café.

Eija, unemployed for some time because of Sabbath convictions, began to consider spending some time in voluntary mission work, and mentioned this to TED's Peter Roennfeldt, saying that she was thinking of somewhere warm and exotic such as Thailand. Pastor Roennfeldt, knowing the needs in Scunthorpe, suggested she consider Cottage Beck Café! Not warm, and not generally considered exotic – but the 'Wright' place for Eija!

Both have become popular and well-known in the locality, as the Café church is a favourite place and they have made many friends. Their romance has been followed with interest by everyone! Yorkshire Television filmed the entire wedding, for televising on 15 May, and also televised an interview the previous week. During that interview the couple, and also the pastor, Bryan Webster, were able to talk about some of the vision behind Café church. The *Scunthorpe Telegraph*, too, was inspired by the story, running a full page with the headline 'World Wide Wed', because Andrew arranged web cameras to both Australia and Finland so that family and friends at home could take part in their celebration.

The wedding, a deeply spiritual service during which Andrew and Eija made clear the centrality of their Father God in every aspect of their lives and marriage, was attended mostly by unchurched people; to have it filmed in its entirety by a television crew was to give God glory in a way we could hardly have hoped for.

Ghana Mission project: overview

by Pastor Des Boldeau, Youth director, BUC

On Thursday 24 June a team of forty-five people, which included carpenters, plumbers, electricians and plasterers, together with doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other medical personnel from Scotland, Ireland and England, arrived in Ghana in preparation for work on a mission project in the busy and rustic northern Ghanaian city of Tamale.

Tamale, a city some 400 miles north of Accra and situated within the sub-Saharan region of northern Ghana, is a region in need of resources to assist in providing health care to its populace and to bring them up to a standard similar to that of Accra. The team worked within the hospital – wiring, interior and exterior plastering, ceiling painting, and the installation of window frames and doors.

On 28 June representatives from the team paid a courtesy call to Dr Elias K. Sory, Regional Director of Health Services for the northern region of Ghana, seeking his authority to conduct health care work in his district. Dr Sory emphasised the good work that Adventists had done in the past and gave his full support for the work we were about to do on the hospital. He also remarked that the North Ghana Mission should consider making the hospital a specialist unit. This is something the leadership had already considered and, at the handing-over ceremony, it was announced that the hospital would eventually become an eye hospital. However, there is much work still to be done if this dream is to become a reality.

After receiving Sory's blessing the representatives went to the local 'Fila FM' radio station for a half-hour interview, where they explained the mission to the community and informed them that they would be conducting health care every day at the hospital site. This proved to be a great success, and when the group arrived back on the site they were greeted by many people who had heard the interview and

had come to have health check-ups. Every day after that the team provided health care and prescribed medication for well over one hundred people. The accompanying medication was prescribed by the pharmacist, Mrs Angeline Shillingford, and her team. Our two doctors, Joan Roseman and Sandy Shillingford, worked together with local doctors under the co-ordinating hand of Millie Williams. In total, they must have seen in excess of 1,000 people during the ten days of consultation. In addition to the £3,000 worth of medication which we shipped in a forty-foot container, we purchased various medications locally worth about £2,000.

The final prayer and farewells said, we were ready to begin the journey home via Kumasi, Accra and Amsterdam. Ecclesiastes 9:10 reminds us to do with all our hearts whatever we find to do. I consider that the job we went out to Tamale to do fell within that category! One can hardly recognise the finished product when contrasted with the state of affairs we encountered upon arrival. The once skeleton of a building now has form and substance and is a pleasure to behold.

The task of completing was the assignment of the team from the BUC. The team worked long and hard; although not as long as the local paid workers. We were out as early as 6.30am some days, beginning work by seven. The cost of finishing and decorating the building was borne entirely by the BUC team and its entities, the NEC, SEC, ADRA-UK and the London Ghanaian churches. Some of the rooms looked promising as some equipment was put into position.

One of the highlights of the project was a day off for an excursion to a crocodile pond, palace and slave farm in Paga. There were several crocodiles swimming around in the pond or sunning themselves on land. But many of us will remember this mission trip for the 'deli-belly' that ran its course through the

encampment. Water was a precious commodity in Tamale and we ran out of it daily as the small tank was not able to cope with the heavy demands of the site. Walking through the city centre was a cultural eye-opener for most of us because of the poverty. However, this made the work we had done all the more relevant, for there is a desperate need for improved health care and education in this buzzing city.

In addition to the practical and medical work, three evangelistic campaigns were run during the trip. Pastors Steve Palmer, Ebenezer Jones-Lartey and Enoch Adu nightly proclaimed the good news of the Gospel with much passion and power of the Holy Spirit. The last Sabbath saw the immersion of thirty-five individuals, some of whom had been attending church and studying with the local minister, who gave their lives to Jesus Christ and began the process of living for him and preparing for his second coming. There was real joy and happiness as the local choir sang exuberantly, as only the Ghanaians can, at the immersion of each candidate.

The drama team visited several schools during the day. Their objective was to address issues such as food and personal hygiene, and HIV/AIDS, etc, by involving the students in mimes and skits. These were well received by students and teachers alike.

We were not permitted to bring clothing for the local people as, in the past, such clothing had been sold. We therefore asked our team to bring clothes with them that they could leave behind. This may have only been a 'drop in the ocean of needs' but the team responded well and a good quantity of clothing was given to the local church members as well as the non-churches.

The journey from Tamale to Accra began on Sabbath afternoon and found us visiting the Kintampoo waterfalls and staying a night at a hotel in Kumasi. That night it seemed that either the hotel water tank was leaking or that the rain never ceased. We discovered that the main road out of Kumasi was totally impassable due to flooding. After a visit to what used to be a slave trading post on the

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The Presence of the Prince



with David Marshall

The cargo vessel was in an Atlantic convoy shipping Sherman tanks to Europe during World War II. A Sherman tank weighed between 20 and 30 tons.

In a heaving storm mid-ocean the ship rolled with such violence that the tanks broke loose. Some began to bang against the bulkhead. The ship was being shaken apart.

For the safety of other vessels, the captain gave orders that his ship leave the relative security of the

convoy and head for the U-boat infested open sea. Merchant Seaman David Milton wrote, 'We headed into the sea, while the deck seamen went below to secure those tanks. They were riding them like cowboys, trying to hook cables through. Finally they got the tanks lashed down,' he concluded.'

The great danger to Milton's ship was not from the storm without, but from the crisis within. We can handle

the storm outside when we have peace inside.

The *shalom*-peace we can have inside, which is proof against the storm outside, is the peace of Christ. I was brought up on the King James Version.

Hence, although I have been preaching out of modern versions for thirty-five years, the voice that echoes through my soul in the storms of life, often speaks in KJV language. This is what it says:

'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.' (John 14:27.)

Writer H. G. Wells said this about one of his characters: 'He was not so much a human being as a civil war.' Biographers of Wells have expressed the belief that he was describing his own experience. 'Here I am at 65,' Wells wrote, '*still seeking peace*.' It is doubtful whether he ever found it.

By contrast with Wells was Sir William Dobbie. Dobbie was the English Nonconformist Governor of (Catholic) Malta when, between 1940 and 1943, the Axis air forces were attempting, in day-after-day and night-after-night bombardment, to smash it into surrender. The scripts of Dobbie's radio broadcasts to the islanders make an interesting study. He did not hesitate to draw on the common Christianity he shared with the Maltese. An army officer wrote, 'There was about Dobbie an inner calm that is hard to explain. It was there on nights when Valletta seemed about to be engulfed in one big inferno. We sensed it. Some even caught it.' Few communities suffered in those years as did the Maltese. But there was no surrender.²

On the one hand: *a walking civil war*. On the other hand: *calm in the midst of total war*. The

difference: *the Peace of Christ*.

The peace of Christ is that eternal calm which lies far too deep in the praying, trusting believer to be reached by any external disturbances.

'Peace I give unto you,' he promised. 'Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.'

Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

The angels heralded his arrival with the Song of Peace.

On the night of his betrayal he prayed that his followers should 'be one', at peace; 'that they all may be one, . . . as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee' (John 17:11, 21-26).

He sought to leave a legacy of peace: 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.'

That peace was sealed in blood; 'For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things . . . by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.' (Colossians 1:19, 20, NIV.)

He prayed for peace, he made peace, *because he paid for peace*.

The peace he paid for is a peace we may experience regardless of external circumstances and material possessions.

When all the visible means of support in this life have been removed, God still offers his powerful invisible means – including peace.

'My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives.' The world's peace depends on props and circumstances. God's peace is independent of both.

The peace of God is there for one who is prepared to trust. Wherever the Holy Spirit is, the peace of God rests.

On the night of his betrayal Jesus spoke of '*my commandments*', '*my joy*' and '*my peace*'. Man is powerless to plunder any of them.

Shalom-peace, Christ's peace, makes for our highest good.

The world's peace may be defined as *the avoidance of trouble*. God's peace may be had in the midst of trouble.

The peace of God is not taking us out of a situation. It is bringing God into our situation.

'The world may be in arms, death may be imminent, and the prince of this world intent to injure, but the heart which reposes on the will of God is free from alarm and fear.' F. B. Meyer.

The greatest dangers are not from storms without. They are from crises within. The peace of God dissolves every crisis. Resolves every internal civil war. It is the peace that follows forgiveness. And it is bought and paid for.

On the one hand: *a walking civil war*. On the other hand: *calm amidst total war*. The difference: *the Presence of the Prince of Peace*.

References:

¹Cited Studs Terkel, *The Good War: An Oral History of World War II* (Pantheon, 1984), page 104. ²James Holland, *Fortress Malta: An Island Under Siege 1940-1943* (Orion, 2003).

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

Aide-Mémoire

Professor Clive Ballard of the Alzheimer's Society says, 'Education in general can bestow benefits on cognitive function in later life! That does not necessarily mean formal education so much as keeping the brain active through playing musical instruments, reading, doing crosswords or playing board games etc.'

New study shows that language skills may also keep the brain sharper for longer. The study conducted by Dr Ellen Bialystok at York University (Toronto, Canada) compared the brain activity of mono- and bilingual speakers. In this particular case the subjects spoke

either just English, or English and Tamil, and were of similar social class and educational attainment.

Subjects were tested on vocabulary skills, non-verbal reasoning ability, and reaction times. The bilingual participants responded faster across the age ranges represented, and also showed a slower rate of decline for some of the processes associated with ageing.

It is thought that the bilingualism in general helped to establish neuronal networks in early life that protected the individuals as they aged. Alternatively, the researchers speculate, bilingual people may spend a great deal of their time excluding one or other language in any given situation so having practice at shutting out irrelevant information. The short-

er time in responding to the tests by bilinguals gave them an advantage in being able to stick to the task to hand and avoid distraction.

This research confirms what has been known for some time concerning diverse brain activity in early life protecting against memory loss and/or dementia in the later years. Naturally other factors may have significant influences. Numerous studies show that traumatic experiences wipe out memories particularly those associated with the trauma itself.

Research shows that while people will never forget the traumatic experience, they are not very good at remembering the details. This is probably due to the high levels of cortisol and adrenalin released as a

physical response to the stressful situation.

Clearly we cannot avoid all the many stressors that beset us, but how we deal with these will have important implications even for our health as we age. It is not too late to establish the protective neuronal networks by engaging in mind-expanding activities, including learning new languages, so *hasta luego hermanos y hermanas!*



Music and the Adventist

Pastor Ken Clothier pleads for balance and tolerance

The difference between Christian and other kinds of music is not as clear as we like to think. As a matter of fact, we may wonder if a definition of Christian music is at all possible when so much overlapping has taken place between the secular world and the Christian Church.

Music has always been a controversial subject in Christian congregations. Some have argued that the Welsh Revival, the centenary of which we mark this year, was riven with friction among the believers. Mrs Roberts, for instance, well past her 'sell-by' date, refused to forfeit her place among the sopranos in the choir. Evan Evans the milk and Morgan Phillips the butcher clashed over their turn to play the organ on Sunday morning! Incidents like these provided hilarious fodder for music hall turns. In reality they were tragic. They contributed to the demise of the revival.

It should not surprise us that the serpent, way back in the Garden of Eden, used the medium of music to seduce the mother of all nations, according to a statement by Ellen White. 'Thus with soft and pleasant words, and with musical voice, he addressed the wondering Eve.' (Italics supplied.)

We must never allow the arch enemy to divide the church simply because of the music. With a tolerant and balanced approach to this sensitive issue discord can be avoided. Balance, by the way, is not synonymous with compromise.

Ancient and modern

New ideas and methods are not always appreciated by the hoary heads yet. Having said that, the words of the wise man are absolutely true: 'There is nothing new under the sun.'¹² To illustrate this point we shall refer to the union of secular tunes and religious words, but also those 'awful' instruments hijacked from the world and placed in the sanctuary to replace the traditional chords of the organ.

The *Church Hymnal*, declaring itself to be the 'official hymnal of the SDA Church' (1936), contained the hymn, 'We sing the praise of Him, who died upon the cross' (number 296). This, like many more hymns, was set to a secular tune.

The *New Advent Hymnal*, going back several decades, includes a deeply moving devotional hymn (number 472) imposed on the well-known secular tune with the familiar words, 'Drink to me only . . .'

A third illustration can be found in the *SDA Hymnal* with the tune Danny Boy (number 255), a familiar Irish folk-song.

There is nothing new about this practice. The religious community at large has followed this

pattern for centuries. The *Geneva Psalter*, dating back to 1552, borrowed tunes from old French melodies and popular songs.³ Martin Luther and the Wesleys did the same thing. William Booth of the Salvation Army went a step further, and was even more daring by borrowing catchy tunes that went with a swing. It is reckoned that he borrowed as many as eighty music hall songs and adapted them for gospel outreach.

Ira Sankey is extremely popular with many West Country Adventists. Four hymns bearing this name appeared in *The Church Hymnal*, and two more have been added to *The SDA Hymnal*. The following quotation is not meant to shock but to enlighten.

'Sankey's hymns while written to religious words are made attractive by many secular contrivances . . . a circus quickstep, a Negro sentimental ballad, a college chorus, and a hymn all in one.'⁴

Not every hymn satisfies individual tastes. Nevertheless we need at least to be consistent if we feel uncomfortable singing gospel words to secular tunes recently invented.

Unholy instruments

The most usual instrument in the sanctuary, without doubt, is the organ. In 1536 the organ was considered one of 'the 84 Faults and Abuses of Religion', and in 1644 Parliament declared that this instrument should be 'silenced in the church'. What a turn around. Some Protestants in Scotland still reject the organ. Traditionally the saxophone has been associated with jazz music, though that was not the original intention. This instrument came into being through a Belgian instrument maker by the name of Adolphe Sax. It made its debut at a performance of a biblical oratorio, *The Last King of Judah*. We could say that it began in the church, went over to the world and has returned to where it began.

Is there anything new in the use of drums in worship? We shall see. Bach's full orchestra included a pair of kettledrums, and just think of his prolific output of sacred music. Beethoven and Brahms used them in the same way. Berlioz apparently demanded sixteen kettledrums for the performance of his *Requiem*.

Who of us would be bold enough to eliminate the closing words from the Book of Psalms? 'Praise him with drums and dancing.' (Good News Version.)

Am I suggesting that anything goes? Nothing could be further from the truth. Would it really make sense to destroy the piano because someone plays a medley of hymn tunes one minute, and then Scott Joplin's *Maple Leaf Rag* the next?

It is more important to ask the question 'How?' rather than 'Which?' Those sensitive to the way instruments should perform in the sanctuary should be less concerned about the kind of instrument used but the way it is played.

Style

Excess of any sort is never good for us. This is certainly true of music. What we are considering now is our relationship to God. The Scriptures are

clear that our bodies are the temples of God. If we wilfully destroy any part of that temple, can we expect to find favour with God? Excessive sound levels are destructive.

Volume

The *Daily Mail* newspaper in January 1999 printed the words, 'The 90s was the noisiest decade ever, millions being exposed to dangerous volumes every day. The climax of Armageddon clocked 110 decibels – the level where ears can be damaged after less than two minutes . . . at discos and rock concerts sound can reach 120.'⁵

A government report on noise made the comment, 'Any exposure to a sound level more than 90 decibels should be regarded as requiring ear protection.'⁶ We may feel smug because we never attend discos. But are we allowing ourselves to be exposed to these harmful excessive volumes in our own homes, and dare I say it, even at church events?

Rhythm

Oh, dear! Whatever next? So rhythm is about to have a pasting! The answer is: absolutely not. The problem with this element is that too many people confuse rhythm with beat. Rhythm is all around us and within us. It can be discovered in a rippling brook, the regular heartbeat, our pangs of hunger and desire for sleep.

Rhythm embraces everything relating to time, and that includes the beat. The late Sir Malcolm Sargeant, a respected conductor of the BBC Symphony orchestra 1950-57, once commented that the beat is the most primitive of all musical sensations, which can be found, he went on to say, in 'completely barbarian societies'. Surely this primal dimension of rhythm should be taken seriously.

When the beat is accentuated the effects can be damaging to our bodies and souls. Two quotations may be sufficient to substantiate this reality. 'When the beat overrides the other elements in a song, the communication level is significantly changed to one which is primarily physical and often specifically sensual.'⁷ 'Music which is directed predominantly towards the sensitive motor responses of man is not worthy of liturgy. This music makes its appeal only on the level of the purely sensual, even to the possible exclusion of the spiritual faculties.'⁸

Syncopation

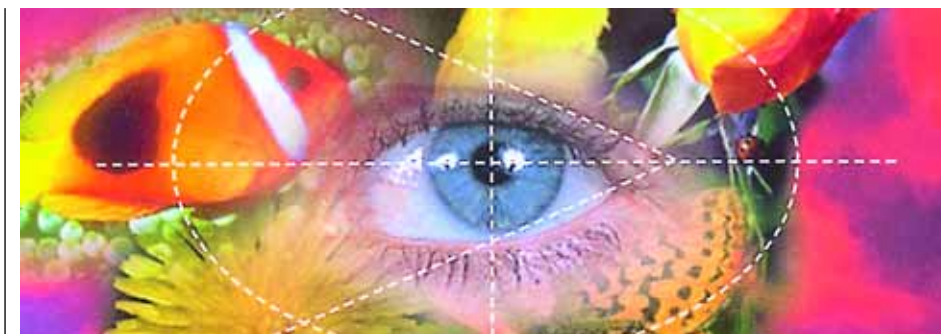
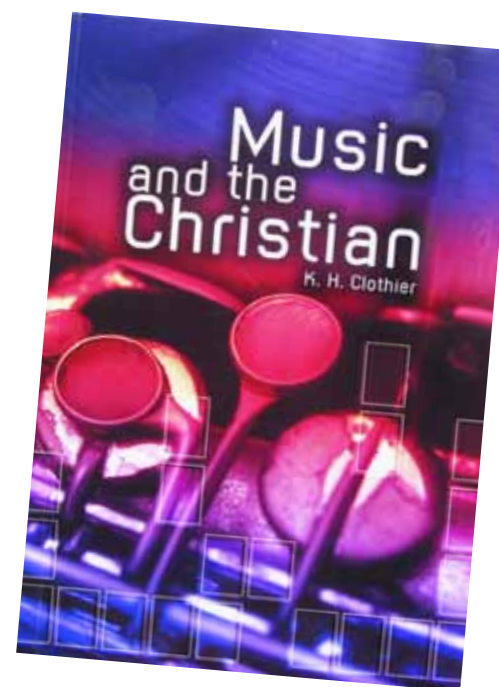
Apart from the false theology behind the Rasta movement and its association with drugs, reggae music exploits the ingredient of syncopation, thus giving this element in music a bad name. Syncopation *per se* is colourful and can be found in classical as well as church music. Once again something perfectly harmless in itself, like many other things, when taken to excess is never in our best interest.

Nothing has been said about lyrics, the obvious reason being that those who feed upon the Word of God will recognise false or harmful teachings in any secular songs of the day, just as Jesus himself rebuffed Satan in the wilderness. The emphasis has been on the music using just a handful of illustrations that could be of use when tackling current issues in some of our churches today. Compromise and balance are definitely not synonymous most of the time. Extremists have never contributed positively to the growth of the Church. Where God allows, let us be willing to change. It may only need an ounce of flexibility to retain harmony among the saints God has chosen to proclaim a special message for the days in which we live.

References

¹E. G. White, *The Story of Redemption*, page 32. ²Ecclesiastes 1:9. ³*Ministry* magazine, September 1996. ⁴Andrew Wilson-Dickson, *The Story of Christian Music*, page 200. ⁵*Daily Mail*, 20 January 1999. ⁶Government Report on Noise, pages 7-14. ⁷J. Blanchard, *Pop Goes the Gospel*, page 17. ⁸Andrew Wilson-Dickson, *A Brief History of Christian Music*, page 388.

Pastor Clothier, who has made a lifetime study of this subject, has recently published a book entitled *Music and the Christian*. It has been well received and is available from your Adventist Book Centre at £6.95.



Battle lines are drawn

The creation vs evolution debate has recently acquired a new intensity with Oxford professors and Christian bishops as combatants. ISLWYN REES gives the background to the debate and outlines the arguments from an Adventist perspective. He also brings news of a creationist revival. . . .

Genesis 1:2: 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.' That is what Seventh-day Adventists believe. We go unashamedly under the heading of 'Creationists'. That is one of the two views of the origins of life and of the origin of the universe.

Between creationism and the extreme view of atheistic evolution there is the view, called 'theistic evolution', that evolution was used by God in the eventual creation of man. And to put it simply, there is the view that God stepped in at different stages of the evolutionary process to guide it towards the creation of humankind. That is called 'progressive creationism'.

'Would you Adam and Eve it?'

A reminder of the more generally accepted view of atheistic evolution was a recent article in *The Times* of 3 July 2004 with a full-page heading which said, 'Science icon fires broadside at creationists.'

The evolutionary biologist Ernst Mayr, about to celebrate his 100th birthday, is still active at Harvard University. He is to release a research paper later this year that will examine and refute the creationist 'intelligent design' theory.

Back on 22 February a half page in *The Times* by Francis Wheen carried another bold eye-catching title, 'Creationism returns: would you Adam and Eve it?' The subheading said, 'Mad theories are making a comeback and politicians are giving a helping hand.'

Creationism 'dangerous'

In the Educational section of *The Times* on 20 June, there was another half page section entitled, 'Questionable foundations'. The introductory paragraph reads, 'Providing millions of pounds to schools to teach creationism is dangerous, says atheist Richard Dawkins and the Bishop of Oxford.'

Sir Peter Vardy, described by both the bishop and Richard Dawkins as 'one of Tony's old cronies', was knighted by Blair for services rendered to business and education. The Vardy

Foundation sponsors Gateshead Emanuel College, and Vardy is known to have been invited by the government, along with other business people, to be more involved with sponsoring education. This has led to the possible sponsorship by the Vardy Foundation of six more schools.

It appears that in these schools creationism will share the curriculum with evolution. The current row is over the Vardy Foundation adding the second school, Doncaster Northcliffe Comprehensive, to what the bishop and Dawkins exaggerate as 'its growing empire of schools noted for their controversial teaching of creationism'.

In this article both the bishop and Dawkins use ridicule and derisive language, like 'bizarrely anti-scientific', 'bonkers', 'Vardy's fundamentalists', 'bad science and lousy theology' and 'an insult to the idea of God'. Wheen also uses derisive phrases like 'Christian fanatics'.

Dawkins, in particular, is known for his rudeness to those with whom he disagrees, and he *does* violently disagree with the idea of a God. To pick one example from *The Times*, 12 February 2003 (page 17), Mary Warnock, in reviewing Dawkins' book *A Devil's Chaplain*, made the comment: 'The other thing that irritates (indeed it is intended to) is Dawkins' hostility to all religions.'

What is surprising, then, is that, whatever disagreements there may be between Christians over the reading of Genesis, a Christian bishop, the Bishop of Oxford, would ally himself with someone who opposes the very idea of the existence of God and denigrate fellow Christians who do!

Logan champions creationists

But what has brought these sneering, caricaturing attacks against creationists? For the British scene it is best described for us by Kevin Logan in his 200-page paperback called *Responding to the Challenge of Evolution*. (Kingsway Communications Ltd, Eastbourne, 2002, £8.99 through your local Christian bookshop or through the ABC.)

'Battle lines are drawn' is the title of the first chapter. The book is about a clash

between the two views of origins, with their different nuances.

Logan is not a scientist; he is an Anglican chaplain who has had to battle in his own mind as to what influence he should bring to bear on young minds at school. As a leader of a Church of England chaplaincy team, Logan asks: What do I tell the hundreds of children I face each week in assembly?

A journalist/sub-editor before entering the ministry, he uses those skills and his wide reading to give as impartial an introduction as one can give on what creationist and evolutionist scientists are saying.

The truth of Logan's claim about 'Battle Lines' can be seen in the stream of books being written on both sides, as well as in articles in the press and in presentations on television.

Creationism on the Net

To discover the strength of creationist activities one just has to go on the Net and into Google and type in 'creationism' and see the list of organisations. Creationism is gaining a lot of interest as an alternative to evolution as an explanation of our origins.

In its most recent report (July-September 2004), *Answers in Genesis* claims its website www.AnswersInGenesis.org to be one of the most popular Christian websites in the world with the month of March 2004 showing 1,057,000 visitors, plus many millions more hits. It claims that 'it is now widely recognised as the most accessed source for up-to-date information on science and Bible issues'.

And it is not just the 'evangelical fundamentalists', as the opposition so wants to tag the creationist movements, who are causing a stir in the religious and scientific world. There are those scientists who are not what are referred to as 'Young Earth Creationists', but 'Old Earth Creationists', who are also seen as a current threat to evolution and Darwinism. These are scientists who believe the earth has been here for billions of years and that the universe was begun with a Big Bang. But they have come to the conclusion that its origin is not through evolution, but through a higher or superior intelligence; hence the title 'Intelligent Design Theorists'.

The case for a Creator

One of the most recent creationist

publications (2004) is the 300-page paperback, *The Case for a Creator*, by Lee Strobel. Lee Strobel was educated at Yale Law School and was an award-winning legal editor of the *Chicago Tribune*. He, like Logan, uses his journalistic skills to make the debate accessible to the likes of those who are not into scientific jargon. But, unlike Logan, Strobel is more persuasive in the creationist cause.

Strobel is not concerned with the differences between 'Young Earth' and 'Old Earth' creationists. His emphasis is on the conclusions of leading scientists, who may or may not be Christians but are seen to conclude that only intelligence can produce the 'finely tuned' universe and the 'finely tuned' world in which we live. Michael Behe, a biochemist who has created serious waves with his book *Darwin's Black Box*, is an example of an 'Old Earth' creationist. It is this Intelligent Design movement among scientists, whether 'Young Earth' or 'Old Earth', which is really causing a stir and seems to be annoying Darwinists like Dawkins. Hence the many column inches in the newspapers given over to this issue.

Strobel admits to having been a spiritual sceptic until 1981 when his serious explorations about life brought about his conversion to Christianity. In his book he takes the approach of an investigative journalist interviewing leading scientists about their views on the origin of life. It is Old Earth Creationism which comes across. And their conclusions have brought them into serious conflict with Darwinism.

'Intelligent Design' theorists, whether 'Young Earth' or 'Old Earth', have raised the temperature in scientific and religious circles. 'Intelligent Design' theorists see Darwinism as a failed system of belief. Going on the evidence of the furore taking place in the media here, this view is something that is spreading beyond the USA.

Selwyn Hughes, a Creationist

Besides the active interdenominational creationist movements, there are many church leaders here in the UK who promote belief in the whole of the Bible as the Word of God with a literal reading of the Genesis account of creation, the Fall and the promise of salvation. There are independent ministries, such as CWR founded by Selwyn Hughes, whose

ministry is to be a support and a service to churches in general. CWR claims to extend beyond the UK to some 130 countries in the world. Selwyn Hughes does not hide the fact that he believes the Genesis account of origins is a fact.

A significant influence on Selwyn Hughes and those like him is the late evangelical leader, Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones. He is considered in some Christian circles as one of the leading expository preachers of the twentieth century. His three chapters on verse 12 of Romans 5 make Lloyd-Jones an ardent creationist. His influence on many preachers and religious teachers is wide-ranging, both here and overseas.

The Baptist Charles Hadden Spurgeon is considered to be one of the greatest preachers of the nineteenth century. He took a similar position to Lloyd-Jones.

One could cite more, but enough to say that creationism in the UK is not the recent importation from America that some may claim, or the domain of extremists. Creationists of both kinds are among lecturers in our universities, and the creationist-based Newbold College is accredited with recognised UK degrees from the Open University and, from September, by the University of Wales! (See *Let the Earth Speak*, ed. Dr Albert Waite, Mandra Publishing, 2002, page 28.)

Creationist Science Movement: a creationist revival

Although not responsible for its 'importation', there is no doubt that Henry Morris has been a major influence for a creationist revival here in the UK as well as elsewhere. At least two Creationist movements, both on the web, would recognise Henry Morris as a founding member of their societies. The Creation Science Movement based at The Hard in Portsmouth is one (www.csm.uk). It is also the testimony of Ken Ham, the director of *Answers In Genesis*. And even the editor, A. L. G. Nevard of the Roman Catholic Creationist journal *Daylight*, based in St Albans, credits Henry Morris with being the influence behind his own creationist convictions. Says Logan, 'The amazing growth of interest in creationism can be traced to this one volume.' In 1998 *The Genesis Flood* had its 42nd reprint!

But there is another reason. Says Logan: 'Amazingly, leading atheist

Richard Dawkins and similar media scientists may have been an inspiration to creationists. A reaction set in against Professor Dawkins' reduction of humans to 'nothing more than . . . throwaway survival machines' for genes. His militant atheism, often dismissive of and offensive to Christians, caused the very thing he sought to eliminate – a creationist revival.'

So here we have the atheist Richard Dawkins, along with people like the Bishop of Oxford, unwittingly providing impetus to our Christian revival through raising issues over creationism in our post-Christian world! Negative newspaper reports are making readers aware that Darwinism's credibility is being seriously challenged.

Where did all this current conflict begin here in the UK? Logan takes us back to the furore that took place early summer 2002 when the creationist movement, *Answers in Genesis*, gave their presentations at Emmanuel College in Gateshead. The opposition was so furious and caused such a stir among academics and clergy that it struck the headlines in the national papers and on television.

Blair backs Creationists

Professors Richard Dawkins at Oxford and Steve Jones of Genetics at University College London got involved. Sixteen scientists and clerics, including Richard Harries the Bishop of Oxford and Sir David Attenborough, sent a letter of protest to the Prime Minister. But Tony Blair defended the college at Prime Minister's Question Time in the interest of a diverse school system.

The whole airing of the issue seemed to favour Gateshead College with its high academic success rate. In making such a defence of the school Tony Blair was in effect seen to be putting the teaching of creationism on a par with the teaching of evolution. The school head, Nigel McQuoid, was given a very positive television interview by David Frost the following Sunday.

The Vardy Foundation is still only dealing with the second of the seven schools on its agenda. The creation-evolution debate is not going to go away. With books, television and newspaper reports, it is a question of 'Watch this space'.

Editor's Notes

1. For three summers in succession

meetings of Adventist scholars have been convened in the United States to discuss the age of the Earth. The meeting this summer is expected to produce a consensus paper.

2. The British Union is fortunate to have among its membership (and pastorate) a number of top-flight Creationist scientists. These include John Walton (Professor of Chemistry at the University of St Andrews), Colin Mitchell (a retired lecturer from the University of Reading), and Mart de Groot (pastor of the Belfast church and, before that, head of the Armagh Observatory).

Colin Mitchell puts the case for Creationism in *Creationism Revisited*, available from the Adventist Book Centre at £7.95.



Ghana mission project: overview

continued from page 2

coast, where we were moved emotionally as the guide informed us about the conditions the slaves had been subjected to by their masters, we travelled on to the airport.

We thank our heavenly Father for his blessings, protection, health, wisdom, strength, patience, perseverance, and the ability and skills to undertake such a project and see it through to completion. Grateful thanks go to every member of the team for their willingness to sacrifice nearly three weeks of their lives and holidays to give to the Lord in serving mankind. May God's blessings be upon each one. May his blessings also be with the hospital so that everyone who enters its doors will find evidence of Jesus Christ's character in the people who serve there.

Secretarial vacancy at the NEC Office
An exciting and demanding role is open for an energetic person with good secretarial skills and a commitment to the mission of the Adventist Church. Responsibilities will include routine secretarial and data entry tasks, preparation of workshop/seminar materials and will require competency in the use of Microsoft Office or comparable software packages. Salary according to denominational scale. Send letter of application with CV to: Paul S. Lockham, Executive Secretary, North England Conference, 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham, NG3 5DB. Tel: 0115 9606312. **Closing Date: 15 August 2004.**

Not in my name, not in my house

For Abuse Prevention Day, 28 August, CATHERINE ANTHONY BOLDEAU discusses the subtle power of *spiritual abuse* . . .

'How dare you walk in here looking like this?' As she spat the words out, I quickly examined myself. My skirt was the accepted length, the neckline almost clutched my mouth for dear life, and my garments had several inches to spare around my hips, positively baggy. So, what had I done that this pious, holier-than-thou should attack me as I stepped in the foyer of the local church?

Her next remark let me know that her comments were to my friend who was visiting for the day.

'You've put on so much weight; you look terrible. What are you doing to yourself? God does not want you to go 'round looking like that and you certainly shouldn't come here like this.'

There was no word of greeting. There was no kiss, no hug, and no words of encouragement – just a violent outburst to a 'prodigal son'. No wonder he doesn't bother to come to church any more!

David Johnson and Jeff VonVondern describe this kind of behaviour as 'spiritual abuse'. In their book *The Subtle Power of Spiritual Abuse*, they state: 'It is possible to become so determined to defend a spiritual place of authority, a doctrine, or a way of doing things that you wound and abuse anyone who questions or disagrees or doesn't behave spiritually the way you want them to.' Johnson and VonVondern continue to describe spiritual abuse as 'when your words and actions tear down another, or attack or weaken a person standing as a Christian to gratify you, your position or your beliefs'.

So often, 'so-called Christians' practise this kind of behaviour, even in the Adventist Church, and this is *not* acceptable. Many lives are regularly devastated by the brash words and unkind behaviour of their fellow church members. Ministers who spiritually abuse lead congregations and, likewise, some ministers live in fear of their congregations, as they too feel abused by overbearing lay leadership.

Too often, the training and discussions of abuse lie only with those considered abhorrent. Most of us appear to be disgusted at the thought of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual abuse, rape, incest, etc, but I truly believe if good Christian behaviour was emphasised in addition to the training of ministry and laity in the prevention of *spiritual abuse*, then the incidences of the other, more 'evident' abuses in our churches would decrease.

'In all that we do we are to sustain a Christ-like relation to one another. . . . Our relations to one another are *not* [emphasis my own] to be governed by human standards, but by divine love, the love expressed in the gift of God to our world.'

My friend does not come to church often. He does not feel welcome. He now believes that God does not accept him because of his size. He also feels unloved and betrayed by the church, which he feels rejects him and looks down on him.

I wonder what God thinks when he sees how we treat each other. I wonder if he came down to earth now, what he would do. Would he sit quietly in a corner and allow his children to suffer, or would he stand up to the spiritual abuse and condemn it? I imagine if he lived on earth today and came to your church and witnessed the abuses he would say loudly and clearly, 'NOT IN MY NAME, NOT IN MY HOUSE.'¹

References

¹Ellen G. White, *Mind, Character and Personality* (vol 2), page 628.

NEWBOLD COLLEGE Bracknell, Berkshire, England. The Department of Theological Studies is seeking to appoint a **LECTURER IN NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES**. The successful applicant will be expected to teach a variety of modules in NT Studies, plus modules in another area within the Department, and hold, or be close to completing, a doctorate in a relevant field. An opportunity for an innovative individual to join this progressive international department, providing quality pastoral education at under- and postgraduate levels with students from sixty different countries. Salary according to denominational scale. Letters of application with current CV and names/addresses of two referees should be sent to: The Vice Principal, Newbold College, Bracknell, Berks., RG42 4AN. Tel: +44 (0) 1344 407401; Fax: +44 (0) 1344 407404; email: mpearson@newbold.ac.uk. Full job description from above address or Newbold website: www.newbold.ac.uk/newsite. **Deadline for applications: 15 September.**

ADRA-UK is seeking to appoint a **Programmes Officer**. Key responsibilities include investigating, sourcing and monitoring funds from government, public and private donors; supporting ADRA-UK's implementing partners on proposal development, donor compliance, monitoring and evaluation, and donor reporting; and providing backstopping to ensure that ADRA-UK's projects are successfully completed. Applicants will hold a Bachelors degree in a relevant subject; Masters degree in international development/international relations/related subject; have experience in working with government donors on grant applications; two years' overseas experience in relief and development work; in depth understanding of current relief/development issues; strong analytical, verbal and written communication skills; a passion for serving hurting people; be an enthusiastic motivator committed to ADRA's principles of development and SDA beliefs. Initially a 1-year contract. Salary according to denominational scale. Letters of application with current CV and addresses of two referees to: ADRA-UK director, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ. Tel/Fax: 01923 681723. Email: director@adra.org.uk. **Deadline for receipt of applications is 30 September.** Interviews for suitable candidates will be held in October/November.

REACH INTERNATIONAL, UK, has a new management. Miss Joyce Bullock, for personal reasons, could not continue leading the organisation. Last spring Mrs Elvira Pearson was appointed to care for the work of REACH in the UK, with Pastor Rex Pearson as the new treasurer. Enquiries should be addressed to: **REACH International, UK**, Rex & Elvira Pearson, 67 Manor Lane, Charfield, GL12 8TL. Tel: 01454 260198. Email rpeivira@aol.com. J. E. Jacob, PhD, president.

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. Applicants must have ability to communicate fluently in English and a European language, preferably German, as well as good computer skills (Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and Publisher). Salary, etc, based on TED salary scale/working policy; starting salary according to experience/qualifications. A good level of education required. Previous experience in Risk Management and Insurance an advantage. 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.

Heaven came down at NEC Camp Meeting

A report by Pastor Des Rafferty, Communication director, NEC

There is always a sense of cheerful anticipation on the opening evening of North England Conference Camp Meeting, and this year was no different. The pleasure in friends' greetings, mingling with the gentle strumming of musicians setting up their instruments, combined with an atmosphere of reverent expectation as people looked forward to a week of spiritual challenge and uplift.

In his welcome, NEC president Pastor Egerton Francis introduced our theme. 'This world is riddled with problems and heartaches even for Christian believers,' he said, 'and from time to time they are overwhelmed; they need to be reminded that the answer is in Jesus Christ. That is the reason we have chosen this theme for our week: Reach Out To Jesus. "Is your burden heavy as you bear it alone? Does the road you travel harbour dangers yet unknown? . . . Reach out to Jesus, He's reaching out to you," ' was the thrust of the president's message.

Pastor Francis closed his introduction to the week with this encouragement: 'As the Holy Spirit moves upon the speakers no one will go from this camp meeting empty. You will be able to return to your homes and your churches spiritually revitalised and blessed. Pray for the blessings of the presence of the Lord.'

Pastor Cecil Perry, president of the British Union Conference, also encouraged us at the start of the week: 'I always feel the camp meeting is that convocation where we go on the mountain and are spiritually fed,' he said. 'I thank God that I am here, and I hope that the Holy Spirit will be poured out in abundant measure on all of us. One day we will have the next convocation, because the last one will be on the heavenly shores.'

After an inspiring musical item by the Tuckley Twins from Kettering, Pastor Francis introduced our evening speaker, Pastor Jensen Trotman, president of the Caribbean Union, and a specialist in Family Ministries. 'From the very first time I

met Elder Trotman, it did not take me long to recognise a man of God. He is a most gracious man, who impressed me deeply on first meeting.' Pastor Trotman has 200,000 members in his Union, with 600 churches covering 20 islands in the Caribbean.

Pastor Trotman began by asking us, 'What would be your biggest wish for tonight?' He went on to propose that politicians might answer, 'Peace on earth', 'Economic recovery', or 'Law and order'. He suggested we might answer, 'Money', 'A nicer car or house', 'More luxuries', 'A happy marriage'.

'The thing that will satisfy us most this evening is salvation from sin in Jesus Christ our Lord. There is nobody here who does not have a sin problem! Being in the church does not mean we are saved. Lots of people come to church dressed in religious garments, but are not saved. There is nobody here tonight who cannot be helped by Jesus Christ,' said the speaker. 'There is no situation that any of us can be in, from which the power of Jesus cannot release us. The trouble is, sometimes we don't realise that Jesus is all we need, until Jesus is all we have.'

'What we need more than anything else is somebody who can take us out of this world, with all of its trials and confusion, and give us eternal life, . . . Jesus came to walk with us on the battlefield of life, to show us that we are never alone. Whatever your need is tonight, that need can be met in Jesus tonight! Each of us needs to run to the Lord Jesus Christ ourselves. It is not something anyone else can do for us; we must do it ourselves.'

Pastor Trotman is able to present deep and profound truths about God in an easy-to-listen-to, almost light-hearted way. There was much laughter as he suggested that the same questions we might ask of a

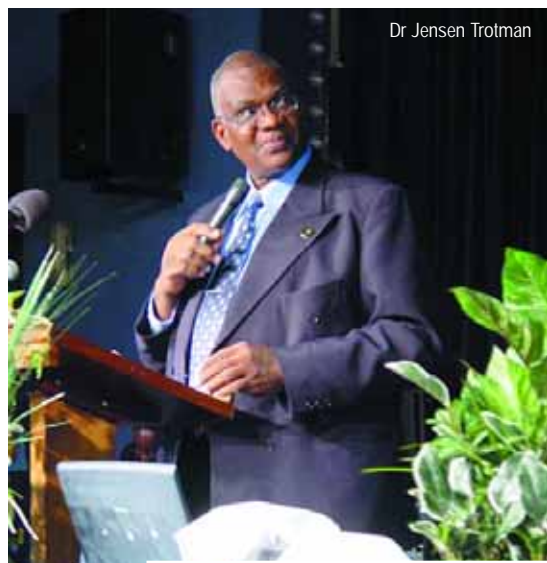
prospective marriage partner, we should ask of God, 'Is he trustworthy? Can he provide for me? Does he love me? Will he accept me as I am? Does

he want me with him?'

And as our speaker provided ample evidence of positive answers to all of these questions, he stressed, above all, the unconditional nature of God's love. God does not wait for us to be good enough before he loves us. He loves us even when we mess up. He loves us just as we are. And most exciting of all, he is coming to take us to himself; 'Each sign fulfilled is a telegram from our loving Saviour saying, "I am coming soon!" ' he said.

Pastor Trotman began each evening by leading us all in repeating aloud, 'I feel very special tonight, for I am a child of the King. God is my Father and he loves me unconditionally. The Bible is his word and I believe in his teachings. Jesus is coming again and I am preparing to meet him.'

Pastor Trotman ended his prayers with the words, 'Make me a nail upon the wall, Fastened securely in its place; And from this thing so common and so small,



Dr Jensen Trotman



Wayne Brookes



Friends, Elaine and Beryl



Tamara, from Leeds

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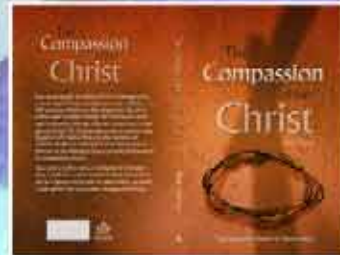
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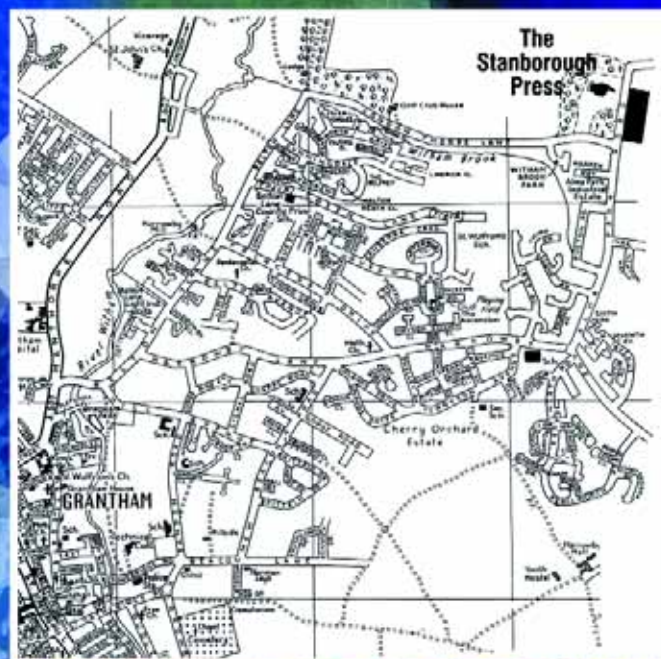


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Come and enjoy the fun and the fellowship

NEC Camp Meeting



Dr Samuel Koranteng Pipim

each other, the congregation was blessed with the opportunity of discussing the Sabbath school lesson. A panel of members and ministers chaired by Pastor Roy Morgan discussed key highlights of the lesson. With the

soldier on one side or the other. Nobody can say they are not taking part. Every man, woman, boy or girl has to make up his mind on whose side he is.'

The evening meetings all led towards Friday evening's Communion service. After the praise team led worship with hymns, gospel praise and worship, choruses, and spirituals, the Tuckley twins pointed us towards the Communion table:

'I'm just a sinner saved by grace,
 When I stood condemned to death he took my place . . . loved and forgiven, back with the living, I'm just a sinner saved by grace.'

Pastor Trotman spoke of the story of blind Bartimaeus. He described the misery of the beggar's life, and then reminded us, 'For Bartimaeus today was going to be different. He knew what he wanted God to do for him. Jesus is here tonight – what do we want him to do for us? Today can be different. Today can chart our course for tomorrow. Today is a great day to be alive. The fact that we are living and breathing today means that God isn't finished with us yet.'

The congregation were then led through the Bible account of Christ's sacrifice for our sins, in song and reading, before coming to the communion table. At the end of this time of worship, there was a united sense of joy and gratitude for all that God has given us in his gracious love, but most of all for the death of Jesus, his Son, whose sacrifice has made possible our hope for eternity, and the joy we had in meetings such as we enjoyed that week.

Sabbath events were marked with a flurry of activity. Breaking with the traditional format of power hour and divine service following



Alison Jeins

assistance of two roving microphones the congregation, too, was able to contribute to the understanding of the Word of God.

One of the highlights of the camp meeting was the children's programme with its colourful display of arts, crafts and refreshing talent. This year the children displayed puppets.

Quotable quotes:

Glen Sweeney, who came to Leicester forty-nine years ago and whose two sons are in the ministry in the North England Conference, said of camp meeting, 'It's not only enjoyable and a holiday; you get a spiritual blessing. I go back blessed every time – you can say that for sure!' Brother Sweeney also praised all of the speakers, both the transatlantic visitors, and the local pastors who led out. 'They have all given me something to think about.'

Tamara from Leeds church enjoyed the Youth Bible study led by Dr Samuel Pipim, and the power hour in which Dr Pipim elaborated on his early-morning theme. 'He showed up our sins!' she enthused.

Wayne Brookes from Tamworth church, who gave up a week of his annual holiday to play keyboard as part of the music team, also enthused about the youth studies. 'Straight to the point,' he said. 'He really hits home. Very nourishing!'

Elaine Henry from Manchester South comes to camp meeting every year because 'The preaching is really good, and it is interesting meeting new people.' Her friend from Manchester South, Beryl Evelyn, also comes every year. 'You go away with more joy. You meet a lot of people from far and near, get together for prayer – it is very good!'

Alison Jeins – the familiar face working at the ABC – said, 'It's nice that the ABC can be here to serve the members with books and vegetarian food, and to enjoy the camaraderie, the friendship and fellowship.'

Pastor Jensen Trotman, evening speaker: 'I am having a wonderful week, meeting new people and old friends. And there are a lot of people here with Caribbean connections, so I feel at home.' Asked what he thought of the weather, he said, 'You had what is projected to be your hottest day this year the other day – your hottest day is like our coldest day!'

Belkisa Dizdarevic from Croatia, presently attending Chelmsley Wood where her brother-in-law Pastor Alan Hush works, said that this was her first time ever attending an event such as camp meeting. 'It is really powerful. I especially appreciate the Bible studies. I am not a member of this church; the speakers are very good. The Holy Spirit is touching me. It's also nice to be with so many people, especially young people, who all believe like this.'

Plenary Session – Keeping Romance Alive in Marriage
Jansen and Gloria Trotman

'Romance is the icing on the cake of love!' Pastor Trotman, together with his wife Gloria, placed great significance on the importance of romance in the marriage relationship. Quoting extensively from the Bible, the couple reminded us of stories that show romance in the relationship of Isaac and Rebecca after they had been married for a very long time.

Then they listed suggestions for restoring romance to marriage, causing much laughter as they explained their encyclopaedia of kisses.

They closed with the challenge: 'A couple can choose to have an ordinary, so-so marriage, or they can fill it with excitement and joy by keeping the fires of romance burning day after day, month after month, year after year.'



Mrs Clement at 90

Mrs Doreen Clement organised her own 90th birthday party this year, and over fifty family members and friends were invited to join her for a celebration lunch at the Livermead House Hotel in Torquay.

Doreen worked for the Church offices in both Watford and Nottingham before moving to Paignton with her late husband, Alan, when he retired.

She is a keen gardener, walker and correspondent, is the senior member of Torquay church's Belleplate group, the Musicales, and takes an interest in local, national and world events, often writing to the local newspaper's letters' page about moral and biblical issues.

Over the last few months, Doreen could be seen walking briskly around the area, training to walk six miles along the coast in Brixham in June, along with a visiting friend. *R. MORRIS*

Apology

The Editor unreservedly apologises for the offence given to Black American preachers by an unfortunate comment made by a colleague in a report on the SEC Camp Meeting (MESSENGER 109/14, 2 July 2004, page 6). Pressure of business accounts for the Editor's failure to excise the comment. The comment in no way represents the Editor's views nor the views of the Seventh-day Adventist constituency and leadership in the British Isles. The Editor, together with the other church leaders in Britain, greatly values and has been blessed by the contribution to evangelism, camp meetings and other church events, of speakers in this tradition.

David N. Marshall, PhD
 Editor, The British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists



Hyland House annual fête

tising. (A 600-leaflet drop was made one week before the event to all the houses surrounding the school.)

The day commenced with a processional by the Drum Corps from Holloway church followed by the opening speech by the mayor of Waltham Forest. The fête was more like a fun day with a main stage that had live performances throughout the entire day. The live performances included: Berno the Christian Clown; The Animated Gospel Choir (puppet team) – Walthamstow church; Call 2 Witness (mime team) – Tottenham West Green Road church; and Wale Olajide (gospel singer). There was also an hourly prize draw

that included: phone, football, cameras, and a selection of toys from the Disney Store.

The event had something for everyone: Arts & Crafts, Italian Bags, Barbecue, Basket Ball Competition, Bouncy Castle, Car Wash, Giant Connect 4, Face Painting, Hair Plaiting, Medical Checks, Giant Snakes & Ladders, Under 5s' Play Area, Veggie Meat, plus stalls for Beauty, Books, Bottles, Cakes & Sweets, Nearly New, Plants, Pocket Money and Tins.

The event raised £2,100. Hyland House School has only 103 pupils, so for a small school this was an excellent achievement.

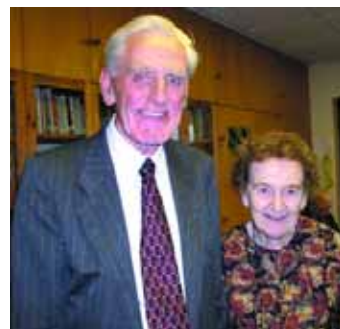
SUSANNE KIRLEW

Hyland House School had its annual school fête recently. Over 500 people attended the event, including members of the local community, several of whom commented on the excellent adver-



Bournemouth celebration - 50 years

Betty (née Elizabeth Ponder) and Arthur Cooper celebrated 50 years of wedded bliss on 9 June. Meeting at Newbold College in 1948, their relationship continued to blossom in correspondence after graduating in 1952, as Betty and Arthur worked in different areas of the UK and Ireland during the following two years. Church rules of the day dictated a waiting period of two years' service before marriage. During this period Betty was responsible for feeding everyone at Newbold, as head cook, then she became a Bible worker in Norwich and Scotland, working with Denys Baildam. Arthur became assistant evangelist with his brother Amos and Pastor Jack Howard in Tonypandy, South Wales, and also



canvassed to earn extra pennies. During 1953-54 he served as assistant evangelist for the Brighton and Hove churches, moving to Portadown, Northern Ireland, in 1954 where he and Betty were married in Dublin, Betty's home town.

Arthur's ministry reads like a geography lesson! Between 1954 and 56 three churches were built up in Banbridge, Belfast and Larne. In 1956 Betty and Arthur moved to Wimbledon, London, in time for their firstborn, James's birth. In 1957 they went to Edinburgh, then on to Glasgow and Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline, where their second son John was born. Alongside his ministry, Arthur took a lifelong interest in the Publishing department. He worked as secretary with Victor Benefield in organising accommodation for the SEC in the early 1950s, as well as becoming PDS for the London area, the Scottish Mission, and the Irish Mission. It was during the Coopers' move back to Edinburgh in 1962 that their third child, Sharon, was born, and in October 1962 Arthur was ordained. With a family of five, Betty was often busy with her needle and thread; she has turned many a collar and coat inside out!

Many more moves were to come! Back to Wales, across to Leeds, becoming PDS for Wales and the North England Conference. Arthur has pastored at York, Scarborough, Rhyl, Llandudno, Slough, Wembley, High Wycombe, Aylesbury, Reading and Maidenhead, completing his ministry in Bournemouth. It was here that Arthur and Betty became 'business people', responsible for the negotiation of funds to renovate an out-of-date, damp church. They were key fundraisers, and became experts at cashing in on a new craze – car boot sales! – every Sunday until the project was completed on time and in profit.

When Betty and Arthur graduated, they made a joint decision to accept any call that the church made for their services and they have continued willingly to serve both the church and individual members tirelessly for the good of all. I know there are many members and friends throughout the years who have felt the benefit of their 110% support and, to this day, if they hear of anyone in need, they are first in the queue to help. Betty and Arthur are now the proud grandparents of seven grandchildren, and

on Sabbath 24 July, Bournemouth church held a day of recognition of this wonderful anniversary. May they remain richly blessed for many more years to come.

JUDITH CASSIDY

GBK: A new beginning

As the final flickers of sunlight continued to burn a red sky purple, it was clear that Sabbath was bringing an end not just to a week but to an entire era. With 3 July fading fast, the key had turned: doors finally locked to members of the Great Brickkiln Street Adventist church. For the next fourteen weeks the church will become home to builders: hewers of wood and drawers of water of a different kind, as the first stage in the church's refurbishment project begins.

When members finally return, walls of partition, which have for decades separated worshippers and rendered the main service area impracticable, will have been torn down. In their wake a sanctuary without partition of wall or veil will have been established.

Nevertheless, while away from home, members and friends will continue their worship at the St Chad and St Mark's Anglican Church, Lime Street, Pennfields, Wolverhampton (about a 6-minute walk from Great Brickkiln Street church). An open invitation is extended to all.

Your continued prayers are kindly solicited as every effort is made, by God's grace, to 'make strong The Brickkiln'.

ADRIEL LOWE

Congratulations

- to Louise Hill for receiving a BSc Hons in Medical Bio-Chemistry from the University of Surrey;
- to Ramona Howson for receiving a BSc Hons in Neuroscience from the University of Sussex;
- to Rachel Patrick of the Barnsley church for receiving a First Class Honours in French and Italian from the University of Leeds;
- to Louisa Bostwick of the Barnsley church for receiving an Upper Second Class Honours in English from the University of Leeds;
- to Joanna Bostwick of the Barnsley church for receiving an Upper Class Honours in Psychology from the University of Aston in Birmingham

EDITOR



Zeph and Evelyn Grant Golden Wedding

Forever and ever my heart will be true – sweetheart, forever I'll wait for you. We both made a promise that we'll never part. Let's seal it with a kiss – forever, my sweetheart.'

Zephaniah and Evelyn's relationship began as they danced together to these words in June 1949. Evelyn had spotted Zeph entering the room, liked what she saw, and turned down another dance so she would be free if he came over. Having seen her before that night, he wasted no time! Eventually married at Chiswick church on 15 August 1954 by Pastor J. C. French, they now celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.

Above all, both credit their successful marriage to God. Zeph says, 'Marriage has its ups and downs. But we learned that the ups are more than the downs, because God is always there for us and he sees us through when we stick together. We had our tears and we had our laughter, but we remain as we promised each other: to love and to cherish until death do us part.'

As this couple reflect on their lives, they truly bring glory to God. They have known hardship and difficulty yet since entrusting themselves to him they have never wavered in holding his hand.

One week after their wedding, Zeph and Evelyn were baptised together at the New Gallery church by Pastor Brian Pilmoor. Their decision was made public during a campaign led by George Vandeman, but in fact it was the life of Brother Lunan, a workmate, that attracted them to God.

'Brother Lunan was different,' remembers Zeph. 'He didn't smoke, drink, or swear. We got talking. He invited me to Bible studies and we met all these people singing and studying. He didn't preach to me, but his life was really a testimony.' Brother Lunan lives in Jamaica now.

Over the years Zeph and Evelyn have been part of the New Gallery, Walthamstow, Watford Town and, for the last fifteen years, Lincoln families. Faithfully assisting wherever they are, between them they have covered most church offices, with Zeph presently serving as elder, and Evelyn librarian at Lincoln.

They have three children: Shirley, Andrew and Martin. 'Our pride and joy. We really thank God for them,' says Evelyn, who believes that tolerance is the key to any relationship. Zeph adds, 'Always remember to have worship together. That is one of the strong points – those who pray together! It's true!'

'Everybody on the planet and his dog loves dad!' says son Martin. Shirley agrees: 'My dad can make friends everywhere.' Perhaps Andrew sees Zeph's secret here, when he says, 'I wish I were more like Dad; he's a very contented man.' When speaking of their mother, it is Evelyn's absolute dependability which has been the bedrock in their lives. 'Mum is so supportive. Nothing is too much trouble,' says Shirley.

Zeph and Evelyn cannot be summed up in these few words. As you hear short chapters from their life stories, you long to read the whole book! It would be a book bringing glory to God as they credit him with providing strength, patience, peace in trouble, and the ability to keep the promises of the song that started their lives together. Lincoln church, their children, and all their friends, wish them much happiness as they celebrate their 50 years together.

ISOBEL WEBSTER

Four baptised at Doncaster 'Presents to ADRA'

What are the influences that move a soul to accept the Saviour? Usually various, but all divine. So it is in the lives of four young people in Doncaster who, on Sabbath afternoon 10 July, before a packed church, each gave public testimony by their baptism: Only and Faith Chidongo, Samantha and Olivia Mukubvu.

Twenty weeks earlier, baptismal classes were commenced each

Sunday afternoon in the home of one of the families, conducted under the leadership of Dorothy Osborne together with other apt members, assisted by the pastor, Adrian Broome.

Baptism was administered by the writer, by whom the baptismal classes were initiated, and Pastor Broome, who saw the studies through to completion.

PASTOR RONALD V. EDWARDS



The Stoke-on-Trent church assembled in goodly numbers at the Borough Arms hotel on Sunday 9 May to celebrate the 80th birthday of Joan Richards at a luncheon she organised with her family: accountant treasurer Mark, his wife Keri, 3-year-old Laura, 8-year-old Edward and 11-year-old Harvey, who introduced the 'Happy Birthday' song on his trumpet. Also helping were daughter Karen Lymer and husband Chris, recently back from Jakarta, there organising the business of Doulton's pottery factory.

Joan and businessman husband Stanley (now deceased) have been lifelong supporters of our church's local world-wide welfare work, so that even now Joan requested no birthday presents, but that any donations be directed to ADRA, our global Adventist Relief Agency. The sum of £325 was thus raised for this worthy cause.

The various neighbours invited by Joan were clearly impressed as our pastor Geoffrey Smith offered a prayer of blessing and thanksgiving on the celebration.

NORMAN WRIGHT



Scoring Goals for LIFEdevelopment

Football is a means of bringing people together. It was no different when Loxford Lions came into existence on a hot summer August Sunday morning in 2002. The usual twelve aside 'kick about' was in full swing on Loxford Park. It ended as it usually did, but this time instead of going their separate ways, they organised themselves into a team. The name 'Loxford Lions' was chosen as the majority of players lived in the Loxford area of Ilford, Essex,

and 'Lions' because of the animal's fearlessness.

Under the leadership of Coach/Manager Clement Mitchell, the team took part in the (former) Barking & District Sunday Football League, which proved particularly advantageous as registration was inexpensive; they had a Sunday League format, and games were played in close proximity to Loxford Park.

With a team of 20 players, Loxford Lions reached the third round of the League Cup, 4th place in Division 1, with sights set on playing premier division football next season. On Sunday 5 May they played the finalists in the

Division 1 Cup. Although losing on penalties, they played with high spirits and excellent gamesmanship throughout.

A number of kind-hearted sponsors have allowed the continued existence of the team – namely: the Area 6 committee and Councillors of the London Borough of Redbridge Council, who graciously provided the team with funds to hire a pitch for two seasons; Ilford church's own treasurer, Hartel Holder, who paid for the team strip; and the church

Dudley House School at Aberdaron!

It was something we had planned to do for years. This was the year we *did* it! Fourteen youngsters (Years 5 and 6) and seven staff members and parents left Grantham for North Wales on 7 June and enjoyed a week packed with fun activities. Thanks to Debbie and Tim, camp instructors, the children received qualified guidance in kayaking, swimming, hiking and rambling, as well as rock climb-

members who allowed the use of the church hall and provided financial contributions.

Of particular interest is Clement's other role as LIFEdevelopment leader. As a consequence of his involvement with these non-Adventist young men, a number of them have seen fit to bring their babies to the church for dedication. We view this as a promising start on the road to commitment!

DEBBIE HUSBANDS

ing, and at the same time were able to benefit from the spiritual aspects of worship and fellowship together.

We were all thrilled with the comfortable accommodation afforded by the chalets and it was agreed that vice camp commandant Lorraine Hayles' superb cooking meant Mum's meals weren't too greatly missed.

Getting to bed in the evening was a challenge with so much going on, but girls and boys were able to have fun and spend time together cementing relationships with other pupils and staff that will enable us all to work together in a new and special way throughout the school year to come.

Our thanks go to Malcolm and Lorraine for making us so welcome. We were very sad to leave on the Friday but have vowed that we will *definitely* be back again next year!

P. EASTWOOD

Seymour and Mavis - Forty years

This is a special year for Seymour and Mavis as they celebrate their fortieth wedding anniversary. They married in 1964 on 28 March.

On their anniversary day the couple were chauffeured in a stretch-limo organised by their children, which came as a complete surprise as they thought they were going to be



picked up by a church member! The Stoke Newington church, which was beautifully decorated by daughter-in-law Chantelle, was the setting for a special thanksgiving where a renewal of vows service took place, witnessed by family, church members and close friends. Officiating minister was Pastor Richard Holder, a former minister who is now in charge of the Chiswick church. The beautiful floral arrangements in the church were the handiwork of Eileen Lenton.

Musical items were provided by various artistes, including our church choirs. A special marriage vow was read by daughter-in-law Chantelle.

In his address Pastor Holder reminded the couple of the vows they made to each other forty years ago and said that no marriage that lasted forty years could do so without trials and troubles and that they should let their love continue through the rest of the way.

After the ceremony the couple led the way to a hired hall, which was also beautifully decorated by daughter Sandra. There, 200 guests feasted on a sumptuous meal prepared by our Yvette Clarke and her team, during which anecdotes and fond memories were recalled by many who had known them over the years. Seymour then voiced his sincere gratitude for the time and effort made by everyone to provide this most happy occasion. The Master of Ceremonies was son Christopher.

Seymour and Mavis, both raised in the Adventist faith, came from the same community in Manchester, Jamaica, where Seymour used to accompany Mavis home from prayer meetings every week. Seymour emigrated to the UK and was later joined by Mavis where they were married.

The couple are longstanding and active members of our church. Seymour has been head deacon for many years and on occasions is seen around the church building fixing things to keep the church looking

beautiful. He has also been a member of the London Male Voice Choir for many years. He is a member of the Community Services team and is the main driver of the van that feeds the homeless. In his younger days Seymour used to be a top runner in the annual sports day meetings. Mavis has been a deaconess for many years.

Seymour and Mavis are parents to three children: Rosemarie, Sandra and Christopher, and grandparents to Tanika, Jermaine, Javan and Alarna.

F. R. SUTHERLAND

MK community

The rafters of Milton Keynes church rang with the praise of the newly-formed Milton Keynes Community Gospel Choir as it delivered its first

Luton's second church

On 15 May Luton was blessed with another church. The congregation at Luton North was ecstatic about their fellowship which had begun only seven months earlier but was now more than thirty members strong, with many more on the way, and frequent weekly attendances of 100+ people.

Officiating were Pastors Don McFarlane, Alan Hodges, Michael Hamilton and Aris Vontzalidis. A packed congregation witnessed the formal establishment of Luton North as an Adventist church. This will not be a church that stands still. Already many of its congregation have been out in the community and have been distributing literature, Ingathering and discovering the needs and views of the locality.

Preparation was something that weighed heavily on the minds of the initial assembly, and much prayer, supplication and fasting by the fellowship as a whole happened in order that they might better accomplish the work God has set before them. The members at Luton North, side by side with their committed pastor, Andrew Leonce, are ready and willing to continue to serve their neighbours and proclaim the good news of Christ.

ANDREW STEPHENSON



Eight baptised after Bristol campaign

At first it looked like Satan had won the day. Bristol Central and North Bristol churches had planned a campaign for the latter end of May. The original speaker, a very prominent youth evangelist, had to cancel because he was called away to a desperately needed instant post for the South Africa Division.

The pastor who agreed to take his place was Jojo Bonnie Straight of Newbold College, and the campaign ran from Sabbath 15 May, each Friday, Saturday and

Sunday, and concluded on Sabbath 29 May with eight baptisms.

Jojo spoke with a freshness, a direct sincerity and a passion for God. We could feel the Holy Spirit moving when he shared the message with us each night. Using appropriate modern-day analogies and personal testimonies coupled with the immediate biblical message he told of God's love and presence, and emphasised the theme for the two-week campaign 'Let's Get Serious'. Each night his words were accompanied by songs and testimonies from local members.

At the baptism Anthony Charles said, 'Apart from my wedding day, this has been the happiest day of my life.' He started coming to church when he stopped to talk to some members outside one day, then came back the following week.

Ricky Thorpe, at 25 the youngest in the group, also the tallest at 6'6", said he never thought this day would come. 'It's been a long hard road,' he said. 'Now there is no turning back.'

Levoy Getton said, 'It's been a long time; I should have done this ages ago!'

Everton Smith said he had wandered away and now returned to the fold.

Mike and Nadine Brown have recently been married and they were overjoyed to be baptised in the pool together.

Pauline Dinnel said, 'I was convicted by the Holy Spirit to study the Sabbath question.'

Clover Samuels was happy to be a part of the family of God and liked the way she was made to feel at home in Bristol Central.

There have been eight baptisms in just over a year. One new member joining North Bristol church, seven joining Bristol Central. Pastor Richard Daly is the pastor of both churches.

MILES CHAMBERS

Juniors at HQ

Stanborough Park church's Junior Sabbath school, consisting of eighteen 10-12-year-olds under the leadership of Lorna Annable helped by Alison Burgess, Arto Keshishian and Peter Walton, broke new ground last quarter.

They were examining what influence Jesus had on their lives, and their personal relationship with him.

On 26 June they showed us a Powerpoint presentation of a magazine they'd put together about Jesus, starting with creation and travelling forward to his new commandment that we love each other.

After receiving pictures and messages from a mission field they contacted the missionaries by email and asked them questions. After a short period they got a response.

concert to the rest of the community. The programme included specially arranged music for the choir, various instrumental and vocal renditions, poems from the children, a gospel delivery from our three rapping evangelists, Garvin, Christian and Julian, as they rapped in English and French, and a 5-minute message on praise by Nigel. The skilful paying of the piano by Odelia and Ruth, to accompany the choir and other groups, was not only melodious, but visually awesome as these two young ladies took it in turns to work their way up and down the keys of the church piano with great alacrity and accuracy.

People were moved to tears as the Praise Team rendered a most moving version of 'Great is Thy Faithfulness', under the leadership of Doreen, who, despite her injured leg and crutches,

did not miss one rehearsal. During this time two new choir conductors were born, Simone and Alan. Such was the commitment to the project.

The project started in March. The aim was to help the community praise through singing, to bring people in contact with gospel music, to help people make new friends, to bring the community to the church, and to witness. It was a delight when faces began to show up from homes around the church neighbourhood to join the choir. People who said they could not sing a note in public were soon offering to render individual items. We saw the birth of two new press officers Bepsy and Derrick and they contacted the local newspaper and got them to run a three-inch free advertisement for the concert.

Attractive posters were designed and sent to various centres in Milton Keynes. The central library also took some and sent them out to neighbouring libraries. Some were placed in colleges and schools. All this publicity was organised and carried out by members of the newly-formed choir. The church front displayed the work of Davinia, the choir artist who is designing the T-shirt logo. Our concert was not swamped with church members but with members of the community. The publicity paid off as we had people attending from as far as twenty miles away.

The whole event was the dream of Ruth Reider, a very committed musician and a very talented music graduate, since completing her Masters of Arts Degree in Composition and Church Music at Bangor University. Her philosophy is that gospel music is one of the greatest witnessing tools and one that could help some people to come in contact with the church.

For more information contact MKCGC@hotmail.com.

CARROLETA R. (choir mentor)



The six narrators for the Powerpoint presentation, left to right: Rachel Lunan, Phillipe Keshishian, Hannah Fidelia, William Bramble, Daniel Guenin and Katrina Herzig.
Photo by Johnson Wong

The programme finished with the Good Samaritan story performed in modern dress.

BONWEN ATKINSON

African SDA fellowship in Birmingham

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

The African fellowship committee was set up: Themba Tshuma, Kathy Senessie, Jim Haarhoff, Sam Ayeh, Solomon Senessie, Penzani Fexter, Kenneth Obure and Joan Stewart. Weeks of discussion and planning led to the meeting on 10 April at the Elmwood United Reformed Church, Handsworth Wood Road, Birmingham. The weekend when the world celebrates the death and resurrection of our Lord was the Sabbath chosen to found a new branch Sabbath school and one hundred and five people were in attendance. Young and old met at the inauguration of the African Seventh-day Adventist Fellowship.

The morning started with a rousing song service. Then we were blessed with a heart-rending solo by Penzani Fexter, a Malawian student currently studying at the University of Central England in Birmingham. The mission story was a real-life reflection of life in the Sierra Leonian field. The lesson study in classes allowed for much debate.

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

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

We were admonished that no matter how troublesome the water, or how slippery the fish, Jesus is able to use us as the means of bringing them in. Elder K. Williams, head elder of the Handsworth church, added his words of encouragement and support. The day ended with a fellowship meal tastefully prepared by Judith Asare and her team.

The African Fellowship aims to:

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

- Support the mother churches in church activities;
- Provide pastoral support;
- Provide worship in the context of African culture.

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

KATHY SENESSIE

Ghana Conference President visits London

The president of the Central Ghana Conference of the Church, Pastor A. P. Mensah, has paid a month-long working visit to the UK to acquaint himself with the activities of Ghanaian churches in the UK.

Currently there are nearly one thousand Ghanaian Adventists worshipping every Sabbath in the UK.

His visit took him to almost all the Ghanaian churches, including the London-Ghana, the London-Ghana South-East, the London-Ghana Slough and the London-Ghana South-West churches.

The president, on his second term in office, participated in this year's graduation ceremony at Newbold College, where two pastors from his conference graduated. He was also the guest at the second annual music festival of the Londond-Ghana church in Tottenham. The event is held to raise awareness among church members and the Ghanaian community on the role of music in the spiritual well-being of the human race.

In a speech, he noted that plans are afoot to develop the Adventist hospital at Kwadaso in Kumasi into a specialist eye centre to serve the northern part of the country. Pastor Mensah observed that initial plans to develop the ten-year-old hospital into a heart hospital have been thwarted due to expense. He said that the project has started smoothly with one specialist and ten other eye-related professionals. Pastor Mensah hinted that the GC, in conjunction with the Loma Linda University Hospital, is working out programmes to assist the hospital in Kumasi achieve its objectives.

The 80-bed hospital is currently the second largest in the northern sector of Ghana after the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital. It has an average attendance of 280 patients a day with five full-time doctors and 100 nurses and other paramedical staff. He said that well over 500 million *cedis* have recently been used on the face-lift and expansion programme.

NANA SIFA TWUM, London-Ghana church

Family baptism

On 22 May at Luton Central, Karen Mpemba and Rachel Hussey (11), Kelly Gordon (10) and her brother Matthew (13), demonstrated publicly their decision to follow Christ through baptism.

Officiating at the service were the local minister Pastor Andrew Leonce, elders Munangati, Davis and Sheppard, and guest speaker Pastor Elliott Williams from the Watford and Stevenage churches.

In his sermonette Pastor Williams spoke of how there is no other service quite as special as a baptismal service and of how heaven draws especially close at such times. He pointed out that just as the Ethiopian eunuch heard the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ and did not hesitate to be baptised, many children and adults should be responding to the voice of the Holy Spirit publicly by getting into the watery grave of baptism. He highlighted the fact that the church has a great responsibility to lead its youth to a joyful Christian experience and counselled parents that children of 8, 10 and 12 are old enough to be addressed on the issues of salvation. Parents, he said, have a sacred responsibility to present their children to God at a tender age.

Although only the Holy Spirit had been privy to it prior to the service, both ministers chose to focus on exactly the same theme. Thus the topic of the saving of the youth was echoed by Pastor Leonce as he performed the rite of baptism. He told the church of the burden which he has borne on his heart since taking up his position at Luton. He spoke of the need to bring Luton's many young people to a commitment to God through baptism and appealed to parents to encourage their children to take their stand for the Lord.

As Dean Terrelonge and the mothers of Rachel, Kelly and Matthew presented their protégés to the Lord, they and those looking on knew that the candidates had all weighed and considered the issues.

CLAUDETTE COLE

Russian group in Galway

There are many Eastern Europeans in the western part of Ireland, mainly in bigger towns like Galway, Ennis and Limerick. They come from countries that were once part of the Soviet Union, and they all have their own mother tongue. But what unites them here in Ireland is the Russian language. Some of them migrated to

Ireland as Adventists but there are others who did not. Those who were Adventists found our church in Galway and began to attend. They started to bring their friends with them.

When the group began to grow, it was suggested that they have a Sabbath school class in the language they understood best. They all understood Russian. Cornelius became the leader of the group, and over the months numbers grew. Among the newcomers there were few who understood English. They did not understand my sermons. Seeing the problem, Cornelius asked me if he could interpret for me, and I found him to be an excellent interpreter. The number of Russian speakers continued to grow. By 24 April a third of the attendance at Galway church was Eastern European – that is, from Estonia, Moldova, Ukraine, Russia, Romania.

We plan on special Bible studies with them soon on a regular basis. There are other ethnic groups in cities like Galway and Limerick who need to be reached and have their needs met, and, of course, there are thousands of soul-winning effective with one group might not be effective with another.

ASHLEY STANLEY KONGARI

Loughborough baptism

On Sabbath afternoon 26 June, the church at Loughborough was blessed with the baptism of June Maxfield. June answered an altar call at a commitment service at the NEC Camp Meeting, Southport, in 2002. Since then she has embraced the Word of God at weekly Bible studies and requested baptism.

Pastor Solan Kyriacou welcomed everyone present, elder Ray Clarke introduced the candidate, and Pastor Brian Robinson spoke regarding baptismal vows. Pastor John Ferguson read a passage of scripture – Psalm 111 – chosen by June, and Pastor Paul Llburd performed the baptism.

A buffet followed, with an estimated 70 people present, many of whom were visitors, and had been touched by the service.

RAY CLARKE



LINETTE ALBERTA JACKSON (1924-2004) d. 19 February. Sister Jackson was born Linnette Alberta Moncrieffe on 7 July 1924 in the town of Port Antonio in the parish of Portland, Jamaica. She was one of six children: three boys and three girls. She attended Titchfield School where she was a good student, but due to family circumstances was unable to complete her education. To help support her mother and siblings she took work at the Titchfield Hotel, where she rubbed shoulders with film stars. Sister Jackson met her life partner, Clifton Jackson, over fifty-two years ago and married him four years later. During their time in Jamaica she had two children Viviva and Kenrick. To provide a future for themselves and their growing family they came to England where Sister Jackson worked for Raleigh industries. Her family grew with the birth of Phillip and Joy. Viviva and Kenrick came from Jamaica to join the rest of the family in England. Claudine was born a few years later to complete the Jackson family. As well as being a housewife, Sister Jackson used some of her skills as a dressmaker to make clothes for herself and for many others. She did childminding and we can testify to the numbers of children who joined us in the Jackson household. Times were challenging for our family and although Sister Jackson did not have paid employment she used her skills to do things that would bring money in to help supplement the family income. Having been born into an Adventist home, when she first came to Birmingham she did not know of any Adventist churches and attended a number of local congregations. However, she could not settle until she found the Handsworth church, which became a major part of her life. This was reflected in her many activities: in the Welfare group; Personal Ministries; she was head deaconess; and her great love for singing was indulged as a member of the church choir. There was nothing she loved better than standing up in church and singing praises to the Lord. She was an excellent cook and there were fewer things that we enjoyed more than her cakes; it was always a scramble for the mixing bowl to see who could scoop out the most. Linnette Alberta Jackson fell asleep in her Lord as a wife to Clifton Jackson, mother to the five of us, grandmother to fifteen children and a great-grandmother. She was dearly loved in life and will be greatly missed by us all.

novab@onetel.com

LEO RADCLIFFE COX (1913-2004) d. 25 March. Leo Cox was born in India ninety-one years ago. He was proud of his Anglo-Indian background, and by profession was a civil servant, both in India and England. He led a very ordered working life and the same quality was seen in his daily life. He loved routine, getting up at 5am and going to bed early. Punctuality was very important to him. Much more important to him were faith and family. In his younger days, Leo was transferred to many places in India while the children were at boarding school in Madras, and he always took time to visit them when he could. The children treasure their memories of trips into the jungle with their dad to see wild elephants and tigers and other wildlife. Also, they used to enjoy listening with him to the cricket on the BBC. In 1966 the family came to England and, with sheer determination, rebuilt their lives from scratch. A loving father, Leo made many personal sacrifices for the future of his children and made sure they all had a good education. He leaves six children: Vernon, Trevor, Jessy, Glen, Jackie and Ivan. He had another son, Carlyle, who died many years ago. That was a great source of grief to him, as was his wife's death a couple of years ago, from which he never really recovered. Through all that heartache, it was his faith

that sustained him. He also leaves 17 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren, whose birthdays he always remembered. He loved to cook for them when they visited. Cooking was one of his talents and there was a healthy rivalry between Leo and his wife in the kitchen. Leo and his wife were among the founder members of the Deptford church (now Greenwich). He was an Adventist for about sixty years, and even when he retired from London to Poole in 1988 he still made the weekly journey to the church, especially for communion. Even in his old age, Leo was very fit. He would do his own shopping and refused to use the chair-lift, preferring to climb the stairs for exercise. The funeral was held at Bournemouth church on Tuesday 6 April, followed by cremation. Pastor Ian Lorek officiated, with scriptures from the Psalms read by Leo's sons. It was a message of faith in Christ and his promises. Leo rests peacefully now, untroubled by the care and sickness of this world, awaiting the resurrection call of his Lord.

DOUGLAS VINE

LEOFRIC JOHN RHODES (1918-2004) d. 21 March. Born on 20 July 1918 to Harold, an artist, and Nancy, a teacher of needlework, Leofric, the eldest of four children, was himself a highly gifted man of broad abilities, both in the arts and the sciences. He spent most of his working life as a research scientist, in a career which took him from apprentice at Metropolitan Vickers to the position of principal scientific officer in the Ministry of Defence at Malvern. However, even on retiring from the civil service, he went on to cover a range of activities including positions as technical director at Warren Point Ltd, scientific consultant at Hawker Siddeley, part-time lecturer at Newbold College, and computer consultant for Granose Foods and the Trans-European Division. He was always a creative person, expressing his artistry primarily through music. With his brother, Pastor Charles Rhodes, he made instruments such as guitars and violins, and he played as a clarinetist in many groups, ensembles and orchestras. He was also a leader of the Southern Adventist Choir (made up largely of members of the Southampton and Bournemouth churches), and he made sure that all his family not only sang but had the opportunity to learn instruments to create a home orchestra and keep the tradition alive! To all this he added a varied practical life. He was a sailor, and instructed youngsters in the art at Chapel Porth camps. As a car enthusiast he could be found rallying with his good friend Ken Hammond, rebuilding his old Le Lans model Singer, or helping out with general repairs; and as a general DIY enthusiast he is remembered for building swimming pools, boat trailers, pottery kilns, furniture, heating systems and other things. Yet more than all this, he was known as a popular and good-natured Christian gentleman. He was baptised into the Adventist faith in 1935 by Pastor George Hyde in the Ivy Chapel, Hyde, and married Myrtle Dabson on 30 December 1947. Leofric was the active lay preacher and Sabbath school teacher, and served the youth of the church with his memorable lectures on creation science – all in addition to the lecturing at Newbold, and computer consultancy work for the Church. Leofric also made a notable contribution to the history of Adventism and military service as the first Adventist to be called up for national service in the build-up to the Second World War, and so the first to apply for relief as a conscientious objector on the grounds of his faith. After being rejected by lower tribunals, his appeal was eventually allowed in the House of Lords, thus establishing the precedent for later Adventist conscripts. He leaves behind his wife Myrtle, his brother

Charles, his children Stephen, Christopher, Nicholas, Sarah and Matthew, and three daughters-in-law, Ailsa, Frances and Katharine, and nine grandchildren, as well as many long-standing friends from around the country, all of whom will miss him greatly as a good friend and ever-resourceful help in time of need, until that day when we are all reunited in the presence of our Lord. The funeral, conducted by the writer at the City of Norwich crematorium, was followed by a memorial service at the Norwich church in which Leofric's children, his brother Charles, and his friend Pastor Don Lowe led out in a thoughtful and musical celebration of his life.

C. PEAKE

RUTH BONTORN TIMOTHY (1928-2004) d. 5 May. Ruth was born in 1928 in Glasgow. Her father was a ship builder by trade. She was born into a devout Christian family and attended the Adventist church in Glasgow from the age of three weeks. She was a happy child who grew up to love the Lord Jesus and was baptised when she was 13. Such was her determination to serve the Lord that, at the age of 16, she left her home to go to Newbold College and study to be a Bible worker. While at Newbold she became an assistant preceptress. She graduated at the end of a three-year course as first-ever woman class president. This was a major achievement and honour in an otherwise male-dominated office. Her subsequent career as a Bible worker was fruitful, but romance was in the air and, in 1948, Ruth married Anthony John Timothy and began a new life as a pastor's wife. Her work took her to many parts of the country, including Cardiff, Nottingham, Bodmin, Newcastle and Carlisle, Exeter and Taunton, Oxford, Chatham, Tottenham and Wood Green, Harlesden, Chelmsford, Billericay and Hutton. When Ruth and Tony began their ministry in Oxford they worked with others to co-ordinate the building of a new church. Ruth found work at the University Nuclear Physics Laboratory to earn money that went towards building the new Oxford church. Tony and Ruth laboured for thirty-five years in the ministry before retiring to Ipswich in 1982 to live near their daughter and her family. Ruth enjoyed 22 years as a member of this church. She enjoyed tutoring students for GCSE Maths, and all her students were successful in passing the exam. She was never one to sit back, and fervently continued her work for the Lord through her involvement in the Discovery Bible School. At one point there were 88 Bible students taking Discovery courses around Ipswich, and Ruth co-ordinated the issuing of lessons and organised the posting of the lessons to Stanborough Park every Sunday. The delivery of lessons meant many bus rides and miles of walking in all weathers. She did this willingly and was genuinely committed to spreading the good news of the Gospel. Three new members joined the church as a result of her ministry and others are still studying at present. Family and friends gathered to celebrate her life with a service led by Pastor David West. She will be greatly missed by her daughter Fionna, son-in-law Stephen Markham, grandchildren Sarah and Robert, sister Moyra MacDonald and brother Donald MacKenzie. She always had a warm smile and was never too busy to talk and listen to the people she met. Ruth was a very private lady, a deep thinker and a devout Christian. She loved her Lord and loved the Church. She now rests in Jesus, and the words of her favourite text provide the epitaph for her selfless service and unshakable faith in God.

OLIVE VOLLCCKER

JOAN YVONNE TRACE (1919-2004) d. 9 May. Joan was born on 26 December 1919 in

the Strand area. She joined the Adventist Church in 1976 and was baptised with her husband Alfred on 22 November. They were both faithful members. When Alfred died seven years ago Joan carried on her good works without him. She thought only of others and was always dashing off in her car to help someone. When she had to give up driving a year before her death she found it difficult. Joan died very suddenly, having had a massive stroke on the Friday morning and dying early Sunday morning. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends, who look forward to meeting her again on the resurrection morning.

BARBARA WHITING

NORA BARNETT (née Morgan) (1925-2004) d. 29 May. Born to Ethel and James Morgan in St Elizabeth, Jamaica, on 28 August 1925, Nora was one of fourteen children. During the period of mass immigration to England in the 1950s, Nora was one of hundreds who settled in London, later marrying Zachariah Barnett. It was in 1969 that Nora committed her life to the Lord and became an Adventist, remaining faithful to her Saviour and attending the Ilford church until the time of her peaceful passing on the afternoon of 29 May after suffering a mild stroke. Nora leaves behind a daughter, Cheryl, a son, 5 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. The funeral service was conducted by Pastor George Scoon, who reminded all of the great hope of our soon-coming Saviour, when events such as these will be no more.

DEBBIE HUSBANDS

RUBEN CIESLAR GRAHAME (1923-2004) d. 5 June. Ruben Grahame's life was long and full. He was kind, hospitable and generous with his time and talents, always willing to go the second mile. He was a lovely man. Born in Wisla, Poland, into an Adventist family, Ruben was one of nine children. His parents owned a smallholding in the mountains and Ruben worked on the farm until the invasion of Poland in 1939. He was taken with his father and brother to Berlin to work as a labourer, then sent to Italy, from where he escaped to join the Polish army until the end of the war. Ruben arrived in England in 1946. After two years he became a coal miner in South Kirkby, a village near Pontefract. He worked in the coal-mining industry until he retired in 1984. In 1949 Ruben met Grace Grahame and they married in 1951, becoming faithful members of the Barnsley church in 1956. Ruben served at various times as elder, head deacon, Ingathering agent and Sabbath school superintendent. A good friend, he was loyal and compassionate. Strangers and friends will never forget the wonderful fellowship meals held at Grace and Ruben's home. His apple pies and cakes were much appreciated by young and old. Grace and Ruben were always a great support to each other; to their children Paul and Pat, grandchildren Joanna, Stephanie, David and Kate, and to their church family. Ruben seemed to be making progress after a stroke in April, but then he suffered two heart attacks, the last one proving fatal. The funeral service at St Luke's church, South Kirkby, was taken by Pastors Jude Jeannville and Adrian Brooke and was attended by family and many friends. Tributes from Australia and Germany were read out by Ruben's son Paul and son-in-law Mark. At the same time, another service was being held in Perth, Australia, for family members who were not able to travel to England. Grace, Paul and Pat and their families would like to express their appreciation to all who gave support and condolences. Ruben will continue to be missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew him.

HAZEL SCHOLES

International Arts Festival at Stanborough School

Stanborough School's Margerison Hall was awash with bright colours, exotic music and the roar of a capacity crowd on Thursday 1 July. A long procession of students carrying national flags marched in to a powerful beat as the school's annual International Arts Festival got under way, with students, staff and friends of the school performing a range of dramatic items from their respective countries. The festival started at 7pm with the performances, and then audience members were invited to visit rooms that had been decorated to represent the over 30 different countries of students in the school.

'Welcome aboard Stanborough Airways Flight 172004', announced headteacher Stephen Rivers as the audience members settled into their seats. The flight theme to the evening was accentuated by two flight stewards, Year 9 students Lyndsey James and Onysha Collins, as they laid the ground rules for the evening and introduced various numbers.

First off, Year 10 student Emanuel Markov played a short yet invigorating violin solo from his native Bulgaria. He was followed by a

second Year 10 student, Tinashe Mukahanana, who stunned the audience with a booming baritone voice as he performed a self-written speech titled 'The Wisdom of Nelson Mandela'. 'I am here to tell you about the love that is in Africa,' the Zimbabwean student declared, gesturing dramatically with his hands and smiling from ear to ear as he charmed his audience.

A little later, a comical element from Sweden was introduced when four staff members – Michael and Donna Lloyd, Grace Manurung and Bjorn Karlman – surprised the crowd by miming to a medley of ABBA songs. The four teachers glided through the accompanying dance routine, delighting their students in the audience as well as several ABBA-fan parents.

Towards the end of the programme, a visiting group of students from Hong Kong's Sam Yuk schools wowed the audience as, dressed in traditional costumes, they performed a variety of acts demonstrating their unique culture. Their performances included a kung fu martial arts demonstration along with a traditional dance with ornamental,



hand-held fans.

Audience members swarmed around food stalls and cultural displays as they were invited to take off their seatbelts and 'see the beauty of the different continents' for the second half of the evening. Several rooms in the school had been decorated to represent different parts of the world. One of the strongest impacts was made by the South Asia room. Visitors were given the sensation of walking into a tent as they entered through the doorway to find walls of beige cloth mounted with pictures and artefacts representing the cultures and religions of the region. The aroma of traditional food being served combined to make the room a sensory delight.

The festival ended with visitors being invited back into Margerison Hall for the exit of the flag bearers and a final 'goodnight' from the headteacher.

New website for Adventist Youth Societies

On 21 May, as part of a new Christian website, the The Youth Sanctuary Network opened for young adults aged 16-35. TYS is an ambitious project to create a series of websites that will attempt to give an online presence to Adventist youth societies everywhere free of charge – and it is starting in the UK!

The first to open, TYS is a forums area a little different from what some Adventists may be used to. Visitors are invited to set up and manage groups and their memberships themselves, or register a society for and in the name of their local church. Each group or society gets up to six forums to use to discuss whatever they wish that is relevant to their group or society members. All registered members on the site may join any group or society online in order to take part in their discussions or simply follow what any group is up to by reading their discussions. The aim of TYS is

to house as many groups and societies as possible, dealing with a diverse range of interests and activities, religious and non-religious, that all help in the development of a young adult's life.

There are only a few groups and societies currently set up, and thus many more are needed. For a very long time Adventist youth societies have been crying out for an online presence of their own and now everyone has the chance to find out what is happening in other churches – all from one website. In the near future the project aims to have more applications that will aid every society or group in showing what is happening in their local area through their own photo galleries, news and events areas and many more not yet conceived.

The project is a partnership between a team of young adults from the Hanwell church in West London and a couple of aspiring web developers also based in London. TYS is attempting to change the way we think about Christian youth websites, and everybody, young and young-at-heart, is invited to help shape its future.

Visit TYS at www.youthsanctuary.net.

DANIEL SUADWAH, Acting site editor

ABC BOOK SALES

August		
15	West Midlands	10am-2pm
September		
5	Stanborough Press Open Day	
26	West Midlands	10am-2pm
October		
3	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
10	Newbold School	10am-2pm
31	West Midlands	10am-2pm

Messenger

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Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Aug 13	8.26	8.39	8.35	8.53	8.59
20	8.12	8.25	8.20	8.37	8.43
27	7.57	8.10	8.04	8.19	8.27
Sept 3	7.42	7.54	7.48	8.01	8.10

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
'Woman 2 Woman' & Banquet (5 Sept)	28 August-4 Sept, (except Sunday) 7pm	Ilford Church, 380-382 Ilford Lane, Ilford, IG1 2NB	Women's Ministries Team featuring Carol Barron	Jenny 07960 391534 for info and Banquet tickets
Hampstead Church Summer Banquet	29 August, 7.30pm	London Marriott Hotel, Regents Park, NW3	Cost: £32 per person	June Daniel-Lee 020 8863 0256 david@burnett15.fsnet.co.uk
Stanborough Press Open Day	Sunday 5 September 8.30am-4.30pm	Grantham, Lincs	Roy Adams, Ken Burton and the Adventist Chorale, Charles Ngandwe and Keith Burton	Tel 01476 591700
'Everlasting Love' Marriage Enrichment Weekend	8-10 October	Highgate House Conference Centre	NEC Family Ministries	Pastor C Sweeney 0115 9606312 Limited spaces, book early to avoid disappointment

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