

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

Messenger

29 July 2005 • Volume 110 • 17

GC: Prayers for London

from
Adventist News Network and
Adventist News Review



Pastor Jan and Mrs Kari Paulsen



and for the loved ones of those who have died. It has come fairly close to our church and I am so pleased that our churches have responded quickly by opening their doors as counselling centres.'

A statement was voted condemning the terrorism.

Dr Bertil Wiklander, TED president, and Pastor Cecil Perry, BUC president, led prayers at the GC Session following the terrorist bomb attacks on London on 7 July. Pastor Paul Clee, Sabbath School director at TED and a Brit, said, 'My heart goes out for those who have been injured

GC President

Pastor Jan Paulsen, 70, was re-elected on 1 July as world president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church during the 58th General Conference Session. He was elected by a unanimous vote of delegates in St Louis, Missouri, USA.

'It is a privilege to serve the Lord and the Church in the leadership role that you have asked me to fulfil. It is an honour, and I want to express appreciation for the trust you have placed in me. I will do my very best to serve the Lord and his church,' Dr Paulsen said immediately after the vote.

'I need to know that the Holy Spirit will be a constant companion and support, and I believe he will. I want to express my appreciation to the many, many of you who have, since I came here, offered your support,' he added. 'Thank you for continuing to remember us in your prayers.'



Dr. Bertil Wiklander and Pastor Cecil Perry



Oakwood College Choir

New Irish Mission president

At the British Union Conference Executive Committee on Thursday 23 June the name of Pastor David Neal was recommended for the position of president of the Irish Mission. Pastor Neal is currently pastoring the Hemel Hempstead and Welwyn Garden City churches and the call will have to be approved by the South England Conference. However, no problems are anticipated and, as the former president Pastor Curtis Murphy has already been appointed as Publishing director for the British Union Conference, Pastor Neal is hoping to start as soon as possible.



Speaking earlier this week Pastor Neal said, 'I feel honoured and humbled to be asked to serve and support the work of the Church in the Irish Mission. Right now I have a lot of listening to do. I want to listen to the Lord and find out what his will is for the Church. I want to listen to the pastors and the members. I also want to listen to and get to know the people of Ireland, those of faith and those without. Having visited this beautiful country a few times in the past, the thought of living and working there very much excites me and my family.'

JOHN SURRIDGE

The Principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre acknowledges with sincere thanks a donation of £300 received in May from the Manchester area.

MEN'S WEEKEND RETREAT
11-13 November (venue to be confirmed). Ring Pastor Cyril Sweeney on 0115 9606312 for further details.

MEN'S DAY OF FELLOWSHIP
Sabbath 24 September at 10am with Pastor Eddie Hypolite (SEC) at Manchester Pendleton church, Salford.

BRISTOL CENTRAL 50th ANNIVERSARY
Sabbath 10 September 2005. All-day programme. Contact Pastor Richard Daly on 01452 423089

SMALL GROUP TRAINING WEEKEND
28-30 October
at Littledale Hall, Lancaster.
Learn the basics on this practical course. £80.

Booking forms from North England Conference.
Interested? Call Paul Haworth on 0121 351 2188.

BRADFORD'S 40TH
On Sabbath 8 October 2005 the Bradford church members will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the building's dedication. If you attended the Bradford church, and have any memorabilia or old photographs of Bradford church or congregation that you can let us have for the occasion, please contact John or Christina McGoldrick on 0113 2587825 or email jmcg44@ntlworld.com.

Stanborough Press Open Day Grantham
4 September
Special Speaker
Terry Lyndon Johnson
author of *Aim High*
also, **Ginger Church**, well-known womens author
Health seminars with Dr Clemency Michell
All kinds of music and lots of fun

DUDLEY HOUSE SCHOOL requires a class teacher for Years 5 and 6 commencing as soon as possible. The successful candidate will have the skills necessary to take responsibility for this age group and to teach effectively and with real enthusiasm, providing learning situations where children are motivated to their full potential. A full understanding of the British National Curriculum, including a working knowledge of the Literacy and Numeracy strategies, is necessary. A specialism in SEN is desirable but not essential. Please apply in writing with a personal CV to Mrs P. Eastwood, Headteacher, Dudley House School, Dudley Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9AA.

ENDLESS LOVE A TIME OF ENRICHMENT FOR MARRIED COUPLES
at the Robinson Centre, Wyboston, Bedfordshire 30 September-2 October. Sponsored by NEC Family Ministries Department.
For details phone 0115 9606312.

Healthwise

Scurvy Knaves!

The celebration of the 200th anniversary of the *Battle of Trafalgar* has brought naval medicine back into the spotlight. After all, you cannot have missed the fact that the hero of the battle was minus an arm and an eye before he was minus his life! Pictures of Admiral Lord Nelson lying on rugs on the orlop deck of HMS *Victory* and breathing his last clearly show the starkness of makeshift medical facilities in the late 1700s and early 1800s. That is not to say that medicine had not made progress by 1805.

In 1738, twenty years before the birth of Horatio Nelson, one navy

doctor, James Lind, had conducted what was probably the first properly controlled clinical trial in the history of medicine. He conquered scurvy, a condition that had decimated the crews of most ships spending long periods at sea. Scurvy – or *scorbutus* – is a disease caused by a deficiency of vitamin C in the diet, a condition that can be remedied by a balanced intake of fruit and vegetables, not readily available to seafarers in the eighteenth century. Sufferers from scurvy pined away in a weak condition with loose teeth and swollen bleeding gums.

Lind was a surgeon on HMS *Salisbury*. He experimented with twelve scurvy sailors having mottled skin, lassitude and putrid gums. He

divided the men into six pairs and varied their fluid intake. Each pair of men had respectively:

- a quart of cider a day
- an elixir of vitriol (a few drops of sulphuric acid!)
- two spoonfuls of vinegar 3 times a day on an empty stomach
- half a pint of sea water
- a nutmeg mixture (included garlic, mustard seed, tamarind, and cream of tartar)
- two oranges and a lemon (to be eaten at any time during the day also on an empty stomach)

The 'treatments' were conducted for six days. Lind said, 'The sudden and visible good effects were perceived from the use of oranges and

lemons', and one of the two sailors having this treatment was able to return to duty at the end of the six days.

Nelson's fleet benefited immensely from Dr Lind's cure for scurvy. It had been said, 'The scurvy alone, during the last war, proved a more destructive enemy, and cut off more lives, than the united effects of the French and Spanish arms.' Lind probably contributed as much to the victory at *Trafalgar* as did Nelson, but it is Nelson who is remembered today. As for the scurvy knaves, no one knows *their* names.



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



From the time he saw Bathsheba in the shower to the time of his encounter with Nathan, David lived like an atheist.

Lust can do that to a person. So can anger, money and the pursuit of power.

God doesn't go anywhere, of course. But driven by lust/anger/money/power, the person behaves as if there is no God. God's plans, principles and purposes are not taken into account.

Joab was commanding the Israelite forces at the Eastern Front. King David was back at the palace taking his ease. Awakening from a snooze, he saw Bathsheba.

Listen to what happened. 'David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?" Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him and he slept with her. . . . Then she went back home.' (2 Samuel 11:3, 4.)

It was far from being a love story. And that, I suppose, might have been that, had it not been for Bathsheba's pregnancy.

It became evident to the inner circle just how squalid David's one-night stand had been. The courtier David had sent to discover Bathsheba's identity had tried to warn the king. In effect he said, 'Don't you realise that this young woman is the wife of one of your finest warriors, and the daughter of another? Do you want to be guilty of all that betrayal?' (Both Uriah and Eliam were listed among the military heroes of David's reign.¹) He could have added that Bathsheba was the granddaughter of a senior advisor and friend, Ahitophel.

But David was in atheistic mode; lust was driving him. The only fact about Uriah that pleased him was that he was absent. But the pregnancy made him want Uriah present.

Atheistic mode notwithstanding, I suspect that when Uriah turned up at court David's conscience kicked in. Listen to this exchange: 'David asked if Joab was well and if the army was well and if the war was going well. Uriah replied, Well!² Was someone feeling uncomfortable?

David urged the warrior to 'go home and relax'. He may have winked. He actually sent a servant after him with a gift. ('Flowers for the lady' or 'a bottle of champagne?')

David was in atheistic mode, but, for Uriah, God and God's principles counted for everything. Next day he told the king, 'I couldn't go take my ease knowing the lads were out, sleeping rough in the trenches.'

The next night, David poured wine into Uriah and made him drunk. That would push him from the moral high ground and reduce him to David's level! But, even drunk, Uriah the Hittite was a more faithful Israelite

than the Israelite king.

That was why, when Uriah did return to the front, without knowing it, he carried his own death warrant with him. The cover-up now demanded Uriah's death: 'Dear Joab, In the next skirmish, put Uriah where the fight's worst. I want him dead. Your king, David.'

Can you imagine what the cynical general thought of the psalm-writing king? David caused 'the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme',³ but he must also have caused many of the Lord's friends to lose faith.

Joab's cynicism was evident in the message he sent to Jerusalem following Uriah's suicide mission. It ended with, 'If the king complains that the casualty figures are high add, "Oh, yes, and your servant Uriah the Hittite is dead," that should do it.'⁴

Back at court, David married Uriah's widow, and all seemed to be on track. The problem was, Bathsheba was grieving for her husband, and other wives were grieving for their husbands, and mothers were grieving for their sons. To ensure Uriah's death, Joab had lost more men outside Rabbah. But the king may have comforted himself with the thought that only Joab knew that the loss of life was not all down to the fortunes of war.

Who knew what, however, was a matter of some unimportance in light of the last sentence of 2 Samuel 11: 'But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.' David had acted as if God did not exist, but God hadn't gone anywhere. The bottom-line problem is not 'Do atheists believe in God?' but 'Does God believe in atheists? Does God abandon his people when they behave as if he isn't there?'

No. But, we may infer, he *does* call them to account.

Even before Nathan assumed centre stage, God was giving David a hard time: 'My bones wasted away. . . . Day and night your hand was heavy upon me.'⁵ David complained.

Nathan's story caused David to pronounce sentence on himself. Having been asked for judgement, he gave it: 'The man must pay and the man must die!'

Nathan's response? 'You are the man!'

Leaders do not escape the consequences of their *public* actions; their ethnic cleansings, unaccountable slum clearance schemes and the wars they wage to improve their poll ratings catch up with them. God's judgement is what makes sense of history.

Leaders – and led – cannot escape the consequences of their *private* actions. Nathan prophesied that the repercussions would be felt

Scandalous!



with David Marshall

in David's dysfunctional family. And they were.

Saul abandoned God, and God abandoned Saul.

David abandoned God, but he missed him. Life in the Far Country was not all that the kingly prodigal might have expected. It was empty. It was a sham. He was unfree. His life was joyless.

Nathan's reproof was, to David, an invitation to come home. Broken, he prostrated himself before the Father. Then he entered the Father's embrace. The Father forgave.

God's grace is scandalous!

'Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight. . . . Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean.'⁶

Lust-, power-, money-, anger-driven, we may behave as if there is no God. But our behaviour does not alter the glorious fact that there is, and that he is a God of justice and forgiveness. Hyssop branches were used to sprinkle lamb's blood on the doors and lintels at the Exodus.

God's scandalous grace brings pardon to the penitent. It is also the means by which a pure heart and a right spirit are created in the penitent. The joy of God's salvation comes that way.⁷

That's how the graced become gracious.

References:

¹See 2 Samuel 23:34, 39. ²2 Samuel 11:7, Anchor Bible. ³2 Samuel 12:14, KJV. ⁴See 2 Samuel 11:24. ⁵Psalm 32:1-4. ⁶Psalm 51:4, 7. ⁷Psalm 51:10-12.



Kimberley and Sonia Muneri celebrating after the baptism

Manchester South: ten baptised

Sabbath 2 April was a glorious day at Manchester South when ten candidates took their stand for the Lord. One candidate was from our sister church in Longsight.

Nigeria and joined his wife Brenda to see their two daughters, Sonia and Kimberley, seal their faith. Pastor Richard Brooks conducted the service and immersed the candidates. One young person, Loyce, had the privilege of being baptised by her father, church elder Isaac Keengwe, when he assisted Pastor Brooks in the pool. Pastor Robert Williams

from neighbouring Manchester South gave the message for the occasion.

The new baptismal members are Charmane Allen (Longsight), Burchell Ewan, Wayne Fagan, Loyce Nyakundi, Sonia Muneri, Kimberley Muneri, Nebula Norman, Bertha Mlanga, Doreen Sailesi and Janet Tucker.

JANICE SAVIZON

Baptisms are always a time for celebration, especially for those being baptised and their immediate families. It is also a time for the church family, along with others, to witness the commitment new members are making in their walk with Christ.

Each person had his or her own unique story to tell of a journey to the pool that day.

The church was filled to capacity with family, friends and well-wishers. Among them was Stanley Muneri, who had travelled from

50 Years of Marriage

Mr and Mrs Fitzroy Lessey recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The couple, who attend the Reading Central church, were married on 22 May 1955 at the Siparia Seventh-day Adventist church in Trinidad.

Asked about the secret to their successful marriage Ruth said: 'We start each day by saying good morning lovingly, and we never turn a problem into something big that we can't handle. We make important decisions together and we don't hold on to things that make us lose sight of the Lord.'

As proud parents of six children, Ruth and Fitzroy have always worked as a husband and wife team, spearheading church building projects in Trinidad, working with children, and bringing people to know God. Fitzroy, former head deacon and elder said, 'As God blesses us, we use his blessings to help others.'

CLIVE MALCOLM



Cheltenham chills out

Twenty-two members/regular attendees of Cheltenham church went away for a long weekend to the Brecon Beacons. We rented a large farmhouse with 10 bedrooms, 2 kitchens, 2 dining rooms, 3 bathrooms and 5 loos!

The youngest person there was aged 2 and the oldest was 80 (and there were all ages in between!). This was the first time we had gone away together for a 'retreat', and we were joined by Pastor David Neal [newly-elected Irish Mission president], along with his wife Marcie and two young sons, Tom and Mikey – and dog Matt! Pastor Neal fed

us spiritually by leading us through the book of Philippians.

Living closely together as a church family for a few days challenged us as Christians; we had to learn to be tolerant of one another's ways of doing things and to make sure everyone's needs were met.

We spent our time enjoying good wholesome food, walking in the beautiful Welsh countryside and generally 'chilling out'.

Is the system failing our children?



Trevor Phillips, the Commission for Racial Equality Director, regarding the failure of black males in mainstream education. The CRE Director, after a trip to the US, had said that black boys might do better in education if they were taught in a class of their own. Media critics and education professionals argued that this move would lead to segregation and would, in the long term, be bad for race relations and integration.

At Hackney church Fitzroy Morris, a lay preacher from Leytonstone, sought to give an Adventist response. Brother Morris's first comment was that he did not have degrees so there was an irony that he was guest speaker for an Education Day.

'God does not call the educated, he educates the called,' Brother Morris said, and suggested that what the world needs are not great *minds* but converted *hearts*. When it came to the question, 'Is the system failing our children?' Brother Morris said yes, but that there was more to it than that. 'Parents are quick to say that the system is failing their children and maybe there is a case for that, but parents need to take a closer look at themselves, because education does not begin in the classroom but in the home.'

The afternoon programme included an interesting discussion with panelists involved in education either as teachers or students. The programme was organised by Hackney church's Education Team led by Deborah Burton who also leads the Children's Choir and teaches young children in a local primary school.

DARELL PHILIP

A few years ago only a handful of people attended our church, but now we are a growing community of diverse believers, which includes South Africans, Spanish, Asian,

Croatian and, of course, British. Special thanks to Lyn and Ray Morris who arranged and planned everything with such success.

JILL SWAINSON



Sponsored walk

The final Sunday for Manchester South's Ingathering campaign this year was set aside for a sponsored walk. The idea was initiated to enable those who wanted to use an alternative method of raising money for ADRA-UK.

On the morning of the walk only a small group was present. However, those who had already gathered at the church after their routine early morning jogging session helped to boost this number.

After a prayer of encouragement from Dr X. Mwimbi (second left in picture), the walkers set off. The 10-mile round trip lasted for approximately two-and-a-half hours, after which some were heard to mention how much they had enjoyed it.



The total amount collected by the group was £426.90, of which Lorraine Greenidge (fifth from the right) collected £164.

JANICE SAVIZON

Over 60s set record

This year the Ingathering target for Guildford church was £2,200, and Gordon Mueller, our Ingathering agent, encouraged and trained the younger people in the church. The Lord answered the prayers of Sisters Theresa and Vera May, and fulfilled Isaiah 40:29, 'He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might he increases strength.'

During the first week of counting the Ingathering cans, 80-year-old Vera May surprised everyone with a total of over £80 which included a £20 note. She was so overwhelmed that she went out door-to-door collecting, and praised the Lord for the extraordinary strength.

Sister Theresa has been a very faithful, persevering Ingathering agent for many years. One year due to her hip replacement she did not get involved, but we praise the Lord she has been so vibrant – her red can was so heavy at the close of Ingathering that it needed two people to lift it! One lady had given her a bag of 20p coins which she carried separately. I am thrilled to mention at this point, that these two ladies collected £465. We congratulate them for all their efforts. The other team effort comes from Gordon and Sylvia, and I believe their total was nearly £200.

Next year we hope, with some

training and encouragement, the youth of Guildford will take the lead.

It was such a relief when it was announced that we had reached the goal of £2,200. Well done!

SUNITHA SMITH

Plaistow baptism

All heaven rejoiced with the members of Plaistow church on 28 May as husband and wife David and Debra Garwood publicly declared their love for the Lord through baptism in the presence of friends and families.

The baptism service was conducted by Pastor Felix McPherson, assisted by Pastor Delcina Rodney. Pastor McPherson reminded the couple of Jesus' words in John 10:27-30 to his followers, that to those who hear his voice and follow him he will give eternal life and no one will be able to snatch them out of his hand.

PERSONAL MINISTRIES

Stoke Newington baptisms

The Youth Week of Prayer, held 12-19 March with the theme 'He is on his way', was taken by the youth of the Stoke Newington church. An evangelistic campaign followed from 20-26 March with the theme 'Do you know him?' The speakers for this event were Mark Doyley from Stoke Newington and John Mathieu from



Stanborough in Athletics Final

Stanborough School's fourteen-strong athletics squad was successful at the Independent Schools Association regional championships in the early summer. They were held at Bedford International Athletics Stadium, home of Paula Radcliffe.

It was in track events that Stanborough made its mark. On 22 June, Michael Weekes and Lyndsey James represented the School in the national championships held in Birmingham, where Lyndsey came 4th in the 200-metres, and Michael won a bronze in the 200-metres, and came 5th in the 100-metres.

JOHN SURRIDGE

Hackney church. At the end of the campaign a Youth Day was held which ended with a baptism held on 26 March. Those baptised were, left to right in the photo (below left), Carlos Thorpe and Jennifer Smith.

A second baptism was held on 18 June, when, left to right, Ayodele Olubukola Agbolade and Erhan Kubak were baptised. A baby blessing was also held after the baptism of Erhan's

daughter Beklem Kubak. Pastor de Lisser is on the right of both pictures.

Since February, Stoke Newington Community church has been holding a weekly Master Bible Class on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. Although this class was only supposed to be held once a month, the attendees enjoyed it so much that they started to hold it weekly. Average attendance is 25-30 members and visitors.

D. DOUGLAS



Harry's story: A loaded gun and six bullets

On 30 April Harry Powell was baptised at the Colchester church. His testimony may shock you.

Harry was *not* a nice person in 1991. In fact, the circles he moved in were not nice at all.

On a cold evening he left his London flat on a mission to destroy another person's life. He had a loaded gun and six bullets. One of these was meant to kill a man who had 'dissed' him (disrespected). A part of him didn't want to shoot the man but, because of the company he kept, it was the macho thing to 'take a stand'.

Arriving at his destination, he knocked on the door. There was no answer, but a neighbour appeared and said the man was on a long-distance lorry run in Italy. This made Harry really angry. Leaving the scene he sat in a field and smoked a 'spliff'.

Turning to walk back to Wood Green, he went to cross the road. A voice told him to stop. Three times he went to cross and each time he heard the voice. Looking to the right he noticed a zebra crossing five yards up the road. He crossed on the zebra crossing and went back along the other side to the road. Suddenly he heard a car screeching and a bang as the car impacted something. He turned back. Lying in the road was a middle-aged man. There was blood everywhere.

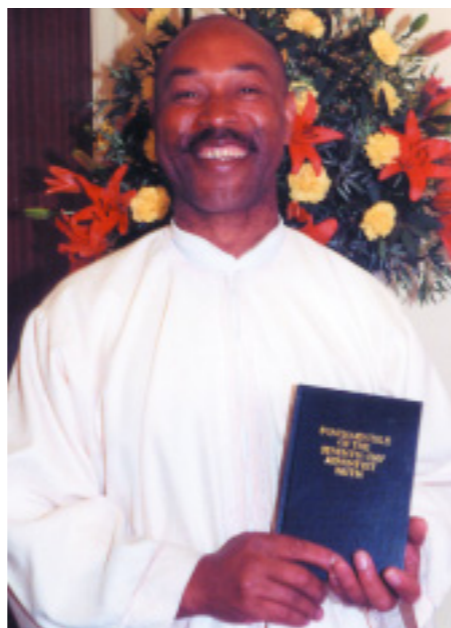
Harry then heard a voice saying, 'You were ready to kill; ready to waste your life.' He realised the police had arrived, and his jacket was undone showing his gun. Thankfully they did not notice it.

Harry was actually on home leave from a three-year prison sentence, and had planned *not* to return when the leave ended. He returned home. The next day he smashed his gun to

pieces and threw it away. Then he went to his friend and told him he was returning to prison. The six bullets were put down the drain. Returning to prison Harry picked up the Bible in his cell and started to read it.

At the end of his sentence he moved to Ipswich, and God led him to a Pentecostal church. After five months he was baptised. Deep down he knew something was missing. He kept on reading the Bible, searching and questioning. Eight years later he found the answer. His searching could stop. He moved to Colchester and God led him to the Colchester Adventist church.

We were blessed to have Harry in our church. Sadly for us, not long



after he was baptised, he announced that he was going to return to his home in Jamaica, as God had called him to do his work there. We wish Harry all of God's blessings in Jamaica, and we pray that he will inspire many people to turn to God.

ELIZABETH JONES

< 1 GC: Prayers for London

Pastor Jere Patzer, president of the Church's North-West Pacific region in the United States, was chair of the nominating committee, with Dr Delbert Baker, president of Oakwood College, as the vice-chair. The panel was composed of 196 delegates from around the world. Norwegian-born Jan Paulsen, church president since 1999, has more than 40 years of service as an Adventist church pastor, missionary, educator and church executive. He is an ordained minister and has served his Church in many areas, beginning in the West Norwegian area. He has been a pastor, a Bible teacher in Ghana, teacher and principal in Nigeria, teacher and principal of Newbold College, and general secretary and Education director of the Trans-European Division. In 1983 he became president of that region, and was elected as general vice-president of the General Conference in 1995, a position he held until he became world church president.

Dr Paulsen's re-election came on a day when he and his wife, the former Kari Trykkerud, were celebrating 50 years of marriage. The Paulsens' three adult children are Laila Paulsen Becejac, Jan-Rune, and Rein Andre.

Woman Vice-President

In a historic vote the session elected a woman as general vice-president of the world church. Dr Ella Louise Smith Simmons, an African American, is the first woman to fill this position. Until recently she served as provost/vice-president at La Sierra University, California. Before that she was vice-president of academic affairs at Oakwood College in Alabama.

International Festival of Mission Trans-European Division

The first in a series of presentations by each of the 13 divisions of the world church entitled 'International Festival of Mission' was presented by the Trans-European Division. The TED, made up of 36 countries from the continents of Europe, Africa and

Asia, is diverse in people and beliefs.

Their theme for the past five years has been 'Growing Together' as one in Christ. In an area with a population of 588 million people this presents many challenges when 62% of that population is Muslim, and in Europe 79% is secular, considering religion to be outdated.

8 >

Trans-European Division Elections

Field Secretary, Global Mission and Mission Awareness co-ordinator, Stewardship director – Don McFarlane elected
Assistant secretary – Pat Swan re-elected
Associate treasurer – Dean Papaioannou re-elected
Assistant treasurer – Rejoice Kampengele elected
ADRA and Ingathering – Rafaat Kamal elected
Children's and Women's Ministries – Anne-May Wollan re-elected
Co-ordinator of Evangelism, Church Revitalisation and Church Planting – Janos Kovacs-Biro elected
Communication and Publishing – Miroslav Pujic re-elected
Education and Ministerial Association – Daniel Duda elected
Family and Youth Ministries – Paul Tompkins re-elected
Health Ministries, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries – Paul Clee re-elected

'I feel very grateful for those who have served the Division in the past with distinction,' said Bertil Wiklander, president of TED. On the question of the future, he said, 'As we look to the coming five years we have decided to make some changes which I believe are for the good of the church, and we have brought in some new people. I look forward to building a good team spirit and making sure that we address the many challenges we face.'

The TED delegation voted a motion of appreciation for those who are moving on to other assignments: John Arthur, Roy Richardson, Peter Roennfeldt, Michael Thorman and Orville Woolford. The delegates acknowledged their good work and contribution to the Church in the TED.

BERNICE BEATRICE WRIGHT (née Bruce) (1924-2005) – d. 17 March. It was with much sadness that on Friday 1 April family, friends and church members from far and near gathered at Manchester South church to witness the final journey of Bernice Wright. The service was conducted by Pastors R. Brooks, the resident minister, S. Palmer, E. Picart, G. Rhamie and church elder H. Picart, and included tributes, a slide presentation of Bernice's life and musical items, including a beautiful rendition by her son Tony on his flute. Bernice made this last journey in a grand horse-drawn glass carriage. The interment took place at Manchester's Southern cemetery after which a reception was given. Bernice was born in St Elizabeth, Mountainside, Jamaica, to Lillian and Edmond Bruce on 19 March 1924. She had eleven siblings of whom only two remain. She spent the first 34 years of her life in Jamaica and commenced careers in nursing and as a dressmaker. In 1958 Bernice decided to move to England. She left her first son Granville in the care of his grandmother Lillian, and would often send money back home to help. Granville later joined his mother in 1961. Bernice continued her nursing career in Manchester at the Crumpsall, Withington and Christie hospitals. In August 1962 Bernice married Ishmael Wright, whom she met before leaving Jamaica. They enjoyed 42 happy years together and were blessed with two children, Anthony and Juliet. Brought up an Adventist, Bernice never lost her devotion to the Lord and sought out the Adventist church in Manchester once she arrived in the UK. For years she attended church without the rest of the family. Through gentle persuasion and continual prayers, in time she was able to witness the baptism of her two sons and more recently her husband who, in August 1999, was baptised into the faith. Cake baking and decorating were among her hobbies, and Bernice always had time for her grandchildren, at times travelling near and far to spend time with them. She will be remembered for her unfailing compassion towards her close family and friends, her generosity, kindness and sense of humour even while on her hospital bed. She could be heard singing her favourite hymns in her home. Bernice leaves behind her husband, two sons, a daughter, a brother and sister, 9 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, plus many other nephews, nieces, cousins and other relatives. May she rest until that great resurrection morning when our Lord and Saviour returns.

JANICE SAVIZON

OLGA ALEXANDRA LEWIS (1914-2005) d. 24 April. Olga Lewis (née McKay) passed away peacefully at the Cripp Hospital at the age of 90. She had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease

Alumni reunited
Stanborough School Reunion
Sunday 23 October 2005

Reunions are rare occurrences, so grasp this opportunity to make this one a very special occasion by inviting your friends and family to meet up with classmates and teachers. We are planning a full day with meal provided and opportunities to look back to the past and forward to the future.

There will be an optional informal evening function for those who want longer to socialise or need to stay overnight.

Tickets (including a two-course meal)

We do encourage you to book as soon as possible to help us with planning. To encourage you still further we are offering a significant discount for prepaid bookings. Individual tickets £15; or £20 for two prepaid bookings. On the day £20 per person and £25 for two.

For an application form write to Stanborough School Alumni, Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JT, or email: alumni@stanboroughpark.herts.sch.uk

in recent years, and sustained a broken hip early in the spring from which she never properly recovered. The eldest of eight, Olga was born in Manchester at the start of the Great War to Yuki and Oscar McKay. Her small stature and oriental appearance made her determined to be a winner, and she thrived at school, excelling in all subjects. In her teens she was taken by one of her numerous aunts to join the family troupe of artistes performing on stage throughout Britain. She walked the tightrope, tailored elaborate costumes and managed their travel arrangements. Later, returning to the family home, Manchester, she worked as an accountant in Woolworth's head office. It was during this time (1935) that she attended a campaign in the city, and became convicted by the Advent Message as presented by Pastors Jack Cannon and George Hyde. In 1936 a young intern, John Lewis, was assigned to give Bible studies to the McKay family. His visits to the family home became increasingly regular, and his keen interest in Olga could not be kept secret. Olga was soon baptised, starting her journey with the Adventist Church which was to change her life forever. She gave up her career in Woolworth's to keep Sabbath, no small decision in those days, and went canvassing in London and later in the Midlands. The money she earned selling Adventist hardback books paid for one sister and then a close friend to attend Newbold. By this time John had been transferred to pastor churches in the Welsh borders and, with Olga now living in Kidderminster, their love blossomed. They were married in Worcester church in 1939 with barely a brass farthing to their names. As a pastor's wife Olga was a tireless, unpaid worker for the Church she loved. John and Olga ministered in Cardiff, Worcester, Shrewsbury, Hereford, Coleraine, Lewisham, Colchester, Reading, Slough, High Wycombe and Bath. Her skills as a seamstress were invaluable in various 'Dorcas' societies and she taught many Sabbath School classes for both children and adults. When John died prematurely in 1969 Olga was devastated, but like the fighter she was, she picked up the pieces and continued to work for the Church in Bath, acting as elder for a period. It was her faith that helped drive the project for the renovation of the Bath church in the mid 80s. She regularly attended conference sessions and was not afraid to speak her mind. She remained in Bath for twenty years after her husband died. Later she moved to Cookham to be with her son, where she became a beloved member of the Maidenhead church. As old age began to take its toll she moved to a residential home in Grief. Although her final months were quiet she always had a smile for visitors. Olga's faith in God was unshakable, and she spoke her faith to relatives, friends, neighbours and innumerable strangers alike. Her countless acts of kindness and impulsive generosity will go before her. Olga was buried in Haycombe cemetery, Bath, on 5 May where, with her beloved husband, she awaits a glorious resurrection. Pastors Eric Lowe and Alan Hodges represented the BUC at Olga's funeral. Pastor Mike Toy officiated and spoke kind words of hope and comfort to those who gathered to say goodbye to a dear sister, aunt, friend and mother. Olga is survived by sisters Margaret, Ellaline and Gloria, and son Michael.

'The woman who fears the Lord is honoured. Praise her for all she has accomplished. Let her achievements bring her honour at the city gates.' (Proverbs 31:30, 31, REB.)
MICHAEL LEWIS
The family would like to express deep appreciation for the kind thoughts, prayers and support given by the church members in Grief, Maidenhead and elsewhere.

JOHN THOMAS CASBURN (1907-2005) – d. 30 April. Born near Wakefield, Tom was one of the six sons of Frank, a literature-evangelist, and his wife Elizabeth. The family moved to Wellingborough when Tom was 7, and from

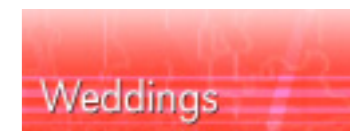
then on all the brothers played a prominent role in the life of the church in the Wellingborough and Kettering districts. In his youth, Tom was apprenticed as a printer and worked as a compositor until, as a conscientious objector, he faced a tribunal at the onset of World War II. He felt he needed to stand firm in upholding his beliefs regarding the sanctity of human life and the teachings of the Church he loved. Nevertheless, he also wished to serve his country, and so spent the war years on farm and land work. Tom met his first wife Kathleen Harriet Robinson (Kitty) at the Weetabix factory in Barton Seagrave. Kitty had been recently baptised by Pastor R. A. Anderson in London, and had moved to the Weetabix factory in order to obtain Sabbath privileges. Tom and Kitty married on Boxing Day 1935 and set up home in Kettering, where their lives centred around the Church and, in due course, their two children Kathleen and Martin. Tom's life took many turns and for several years the family lived in Llanllyfni, North Wales, where Tom worked for the *North Wales Chronicle* as a compositor. At that time, the family worshipped at the Rhyl church. With their children grown, married with families of their own and by now living in Canada and California, Tom and Kitty decided to retire to Colne in Lancashire. Sadly, shortly after this move, Kitty passed away in December 1970 ending 35 years of happy marriage. Some time later, Tom's life took another turn. He re-met Agnes (Abbot) Ohman, a friend whom he and Kitty had known years before. Agnes, now widowed, with two grown children Sven and Karin, was working as a literature-evangelist in the Kettering district. A warm friendship sprang up between Tom and Agnes that resulted in their marriage in 1973. They made their home in Woodford, near Kettering, and Tom once again became a member of the Kettering church. He was active in preaching, teaching and working for the church he loved until age and infirmity took their toll. During his retirement years he devoted much time to his allotment. He cultivated a large area of land, supplying his home and neighbours with vegetables, potatoes and tomatoes. Tom and Agnes enjoyed frequent visits from all members of their extended families. They saw grandchildren grow and boasted quite a number of great-grandchildren. Tom enjoyed a long life of more than 97 years. He was loved by his family and was respected by all who knew him. He lived every day according to his belief in God's wishes for him. He was proud to be known as a Seventh-day Adventist. On 9 May the Kettering church was filled with family and friends sorrowing over the loss of Tom. Pastors Llewellyn Edwards and Brian Robinson conducted the funeral service and committal. Pastor Robinson read tributes from Tom's Canadian grandchildren. Sven Ohman, his stepson, and John Lewis, also presented tributes on behalf of the family and the Kettering church. Sympathies go to Tom's beloved wife Agnes and his extended family, who, like Tom, look to the Second Advent of Jesus when all will be reunited.

KATHLEEN MITCHELL (daughter)

CONNIE CROSSLEY (1912-2005) – d. 13 May. Connie was born in Sheffield, one of five children who remained very close all their lives. The family moved to Birmingham in her early teens, where she later had studies with Brother Ron Frieth and was baptised with her sister Winnie by Pastor O. M. Dorland. With her sisters Winnie and Amy she worshipped at Handsworth Wood church. After her marriage Connie moved to Halifax, where she was a founder member of the church, serving as church clerk for over forty years and becoming well known in the area for her ingathering work. Connie was a loving and generous person; many might remember the Halifax church Christmas parties where Connie and her husband Norman provided trays of cream cakes, especially 'elephants' feet! After

moving to Barnsley in 1997 to live with her daughter Angela, Connie showed the same enthusiasm for church life, joining in many activities, including participating in a Pathfinder cook-out when in her 80s! In April 2002 Connie suffered a serious stroke and had to live the last days of her life in care. In her declining health she showed the same gracious patience that was evident throughout her life, thus being a witness to the staff in the home. The funeral service took place on 23 May at Ardsley crematorium and was conducted by Pastor D. Rafferty. Connie's son Peter delivered a warm-hearted testimony to his mother's life. We extend our love and sympathy to Peter, daughter-in-law Lourdes and grandsons Michael, Richard, Andrew and Stephen who all live in Mexico; and to daughter Angela, son-in-law David, granddaughters Rachel and her husband Bryan, and Hannah. The family would like to thank all those who have sent messages of condolence and for the generous donations to ADRA-UK given in place of flowers. We await the grand reunion with family, friends and, above all, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

HAZEL SCHOLES



DUBE-SIBANDA. Both from Zimbabwe, Hopewell and Sithokozele took their vows on 22 April. Sithokozele is an Adventist believer and attends Limerick as well as Newmarket-on-Fergus congregations regularly. Hopewell is a Methodist but occasionally attends our services at both of these places. We wish them well.

ASHLEY STANLEY KONGARI,
Pastor – Limerick and Newmarket-on-Fergus

LOWE-PEARSON. In December 2002, two friends began a journey at the Advent Centre in Central London. During the last three years, they have traversed the London Underground to be together and climbed the trails of North Wales and Nepal. At their wedding on 5 June in All Saints Church, Binfield, Emma Pearson and James Lowe paused to commit themselves to each other, and to celebrate with family and friends. Emma was accompanied by two bridesmaids: Julie-Maree Southen and Jessamy Oldfield, and flower-girl Amy Arthur. Not to be outdone, James appointed two best men: his school friends and climbing companions Julian Mallinson and Kevin Shelbourn. The marriage service was conducted by the Revd Catherine Dyer, a Pearson family friend, and included contributions from family and other friends who were invited to 'support and uphold them in their marriage now and in the years to come'. The bride's brother, Martin Pearson, read a piece on Friendship from *The Prophet*, Khalil Gibran, and the bridegroom's father, Pastor Eric Lowe, read from Colossians chapter 3. Long-time friend of both families, Pastor James Huzzey, offered practical counsel to the couple. The trumpeter for the service was a gift to the couple from one of Emma's musical school friends, and the service was enriched by the music of Penny Mahon's voice, Eder Paolozzi's violin, and Sandra Rigby's organ playing. The couple emerged to sunshine and church bells and a reception in Bury Court, near Farnham, where each table was identified with an underground station signifying Emma and James's travels between Emma's homes in Surbiton, and St John's Wood, and James's flat in Bethnal Green. The underground trips will be fewer now as they both live in Bethnal Green after returning from their honeymoon in the Canadian Rockies. For Emma and James Lowe, the journey is just beginning.

HELEN PEARSON
Emma and James say: 'We shall be writing to people but we want to express a sincere word of thanks to friends and family at the wedding and those who weren't, for their good wishes, cards and gifts, and other support in the build-up to the wedding. We are grateful to be part of such a supportive community.'

Despite the difficulties, the 100,000 Adventists in the TED are rising to the challenge of keeping the flame of living Christianity burning. According to the region's leader, Dr Bertil Wiklander, they have actually managed to achieve 12% growth over the last five years. This growth has taken place, at least to some extent, through methods that might be considered radical in other parts of the world.

One of these methods, called 'LIFEdevelopment', is more of a process than a programme, says Cecil Perry, leader of the church in Britain. The unchurched postmodern people of Europe do not respond well to a direct presentation of the Gospel, and LIFE-development provides them with a gentle, non-threatening introduction to Christianity. It encourages existing members to make genuine friendships with secular people, allowing them to belong to church communities before they have become believers. Asked about the reaction to this new form of evangelism Pastor Perry responded, 'We are re-orientating the minds of our members. They are now thinking outside of their own flock.'

TED President re-elected

Dr Bertil Wiklander was, on 3 July, re-elected as president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the TED. After his re-election Dr Wiklander said, 'My vision for TED is to experience further steady growth; to reach people for Christ. Also that we as Adventists experience the excellent quality of life discovered through a relationship with Jesus Christ.'

Changes among the departmental directors at TED were announced on 8 July. The SEC president Pastor Don McFarlane was elected Field secretary, Global Mission Awareness co-ordinator and Stewardship director. The BUC's Rafaat Kamal was elected TED ADRA director. Janos Kovacs-Biro was elected co-ordinator of Evangelism, Church Revitalisation and Church Planting. Newbold's Dr Daniel Duda was elected Education and Ministerial Association director. A complete list appears on page 6.

Growth

The General Conference secretary revealed that baptised church membership totalled 13,936,932 as of 31 December. In 2004, 2,933 members were being added to the church daily. In some countries the ratio of church members to the population was quite high. For example, 1 in 10 members in Grenada are Adventists. Some towns in southern Mexico close down completely on Sabbath except for



Dr Andrea Luxton, Associate GC Education director



GC Executive secretary Pastor Matthew Bediako

emergency services as so many are church members.

Within the TED there has been very good news with an increase in membership of over 11% in the last five years. Harald Wollan, secretary of the TED, observed that although we have much lower baptismal figures compared with other divisions, 'It is interesting that we have a high percentage [increase]. That's very encouraging.'

Recognising the harsh reality that some families pay a high price in mission service, a bouquet of flowers was given to Melissa, a young girl whose missionary parents had been murdered in Palau in 2003. When asked what she wanted to do with her life, Melissa answered, 'I want to be a missionary in Palau.' Giving the flowers to Melissa, Kari Paulsen said, 'Melissa is one of the most beautiful [flowers] the Lord has ever made, both inside and out.'

Robert Lemon, General Conference treasurer, described a healthy financial position for the Church. Annual tithes and offering total US\$1.781 billion.

The Challenge of Youth

At a press interview soon after his re-election, Jan Paulsen answered questions covering a number of concerns of the youth within the church, the challenges of slow growth in Europe, the challenges for the years

ahead, and personal frustrations.

Concerning young people he said, 'I want to know what is in their hearts.' Repeating a theme from the previous evening's presentation, he urged the young people directly, 'If you don't find it [church] interesting, come in and make it interesting; be partners with us.'

Following his 'Let's Talk' initiative to invite young people to dialogue on issues that are important to them, he also urged the Church to be more accepting and tolerant of the involvement of our young people in church life, 'Because I am 55 (I am a little older than that) does not mean I have a greater right to speak than someone who is 20. They will make mistakes – didn't you?' He also revealed that he had urged the Division presidents around the world to have similar 'Let's Talk' initiatives with young people in their local areas.

Addressing the challenge of slow membership growth in Europe he acknowledged, 'I don't have the answers,' but he noted two things for members to realise. Firstly, that just



because the Church finds it difficult working in Europe 'please don't deduce from that that God is somehow removed. Secondly, don't define obedience by the situation in which you find yourself. There may be as much rejoicing in Heaven for one person saved in Europe compared with one hundred and one elsewhere.'

ABC BOOK SALES

July	31 West Midlands	10am-2pm
August	21 John Loughborough	10am-2pm
September	4 Open Day	Stanborough Press

Messenger

Volume 110 • 17 – 29 July 2005
 EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL
 COPY FOR No. 19 – 3 August 2005
 Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.
 Fax No: (01476) 577144.
 Email: Editordnm@mac.com
 ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900
 Mon-Thurs only, 7.30 - 6pm.
 The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
 Printed in Denmark.
 Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk
 ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Jul 29	8.53	9.06	9.03	9.26	9.30
Aug 5	8.42	8.54	8.51	9.12	9.17
12	8.29	8.41	8.37	8.56	9.02
19	8.15	8.27	8.23	8.40	8.46

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

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