

New President for SEC

by Catherine Boldeau, SEC Communication director

The Executive Committee of the South England Conference has appointed Pastor Humphrey Walters as the new SEC president. Pastor Walters was elected as SEC Executive secretary at the November 1996 Conference Session in Bournemouth. Since then he has been actively involved in leading and shaping the vision of the South England Conference, most recently serving as special assistant to the president with responsibilities for Strategic Development, Church Growth, and LIFEdevelopment. Pastor Walters is married to Ava, and they have four children: Constance, Christian, James and John.

Pastor Walters replaces Pastor Don McFarlane, a president who, for the past fourteen years, has led the Conference with sophistication, poise, and skill. Pastor McFarlane began his term of office on 10 July 1991 after six years serving as Executive secretary of the British Union. When he assumed the role of president, the SEC had already established a positive reputation among the various fields of the Trans-European Division. However, two years into his term the finances of the Conference had become precarious, largely due to loans being given to churches to procure places of worship, the high cost of the rental of properties for pastors, especially in London and surrounding areas, and second mortgages being given to workers.

Decisive action was necessary to stabilise the finances of the Conference and secure the future of its work. With the astute financial leadership of Conference treasurer Victor Pilmoor, and the brave actions of the Executive Committee, a



Pastor Humphrey Walters with Pastor Don McFarlane

strategy was put into place that has led to what is considered today the strongest financial unit in the Trans-European Division. In 1993 over three-quarters of a million pounds was wrapped up in second mortgages. The corresponding figure today is less than £100,000. Loans for church buildings are now taken out directly with banks or from the BUC Revolving Fund, though underwritten by the Conference.

With regard to membership, the highest annual accessions in the history of the SEC took place in 2000 with 650 new members joining the Church by baptism and profession of faith. Recognising that a cosmopolitan city needed a cosmopolitan Church, conscious effort was made to diversify the Church in London. Although Pastor McFarlane faced considerable criticism over this strategy he was convinced that it was the right thing to do and today it has led to a variety of culture and language-specific churches in London. These include growing

congregations from the Ghanaian, Portuguese and Hispanic Communities, as well as Russian, Bulgarian, Nigerian, and Rwandan groups.

When asked about his favourite memories from his leadership of the SEC over the last fourteen years, Pastor McFarlane responded, 'Camp meeting has been one of my favourite events. My predecessor [Pastor Cecil Perry] advised me that the success of the Conference had much to do with camp meeting. I endeavoured to build upon the solid foundation built by Dr Silburn Reid and Pastor Perry and at the same time tried to ensure that the content and nature of the event moved with the times. What greater joy can a Conference president have than to see four or five thousand people worshipping God with purpose and conviction on camp meeting Sabbath.'

Pastor McFarlane went on to speak enthusiastically about two recent further developments. 'One of

my greatest thrills is to see how church-planting has taken off in the SEC,' he said. 'In the past five years 21 new congregations have been planted in the Conference.'

'Another development that has brought me a certain degree of satisfaction is the response of churches to the aims and objectives of LIFEdevelopment,' he continued. 'This programme is designed to bring about a sea-change in the attitude of members towards doing church. It is an effort to help members accept people for whom they are and lead them gradually into a relationship with Christ. It also encourages members to befriend people in their community as a basis to leading them to Christ.'

As a result of his election at the General Conference Session in St Louis this summer, Pastor McFarlane will serve as a Field Secretary, with special responsibility for Global Mission, Mission Awareness and Stewardship, at the Trans-European Division office in St Albans.

Do you want to study in style?

by Sujoya Paul Bullock

Do you like the thought of spending five days in idyllic surroundings during a warm English summer? How about a holiday that teaches you skills in dealing with the daily problems you face in work, family and church?

Twenty-one people combined these two in July 2005 and enjoyed the beautiful setting of Newbold College campus while attending an intensive Christian Counselling course – Level I. They hailed from a variety of countries, backgrounds and nationalities, with ages ranging from 18 to early 60s!

Lucia Hall, Director of the Institute of Christian Counselling, said: 'The course was challenging yet exciting; it was a really great group to work with.'

According to one student, Jennifer Phonela, who would encourage others to do the course without reserve: 'It's very useful and so very

important for anyone. You don't have to be a counsellor to benefit from the course. My husband and I were really impressed with it.' This course is essential for anyone who deals with people, whether they hold a church position, have a family, work in a social environment or just lead a normal, busy life.

Don't worry if you missed your chance of a working holiday; you have the opportunity to take the course at a much more leisurely pace from September onwards. Two courses

are available, running on Sundays at the Advent Centre and Tuesday evenings at the Newbold campus. You can fit this hugely rewarding and practical course into your schedule by attending twelve sessions. Twenty-two places are available at each on a first-come-first-serve basis, so sign up before it's too late!

Josie-Marie Penner would love to hear from anyone who is interested. Call her on 01344 407419 or email jpenner@newbold.ac.uk.



A taste of Heaven

Report of the ABPA Day of Fellowship, 16 July

by Audrey Balderstone

President Adventist Business and Professionals' Association and ASI Europe

'I must say that this Sabbath I had a taste of heaven, and when I looked down the garden and saw everyone chatting and relaxing, it made me more determined to be there on the great day when we shall all be gathered in the garden with Jesus.'

These sentiments, written by one of those attending the ABPA (Adventist Business and Professionals' Association) day of fellowship at the home of David and Audrey Balderstone, were echoed by many of those present. A thought-

provoking sermon, based on *John 6:60-71* by ABPA chaplain Pastor John Ferguson, and stirring music from trumpeters David and Robert Cooper, made the worship hour at Stanborough Park church a service to remember.

Ensuring he had the attention of the congregation with a well-told humorous story, John went on to challenge his listeners with some of the 'hard teaching' Jesus discussed with the disciples in this passage. Three groups of church members were identified and we were invited to examine

our hearts to see to which group we belonged. The sermon ended with a story told by the evangelist Billy Graham about Albert Einstein. Unlike the scientist, who on a train one day forgot where he was going, Billy Graham said, 'I not only know who I am, I know where I am going.'

This telling assertion reflected the title of the sermon, which was 'Quo vadis?' (Where are you going?), the motto chosen for the ASI Europe Convention which will be held at Newbold College in July 2006. Dwight Nelson will be the special speaker when business and professional people from all over Europe come together to strengthen their determination to spread the Gospel by 'Witnessing in the workplace'.

If you would like to know more about ABPA and ASI Europe please visit the websites www.abpa.co.uk and www.asi-europe.org.

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

Healthwise

Watch-dog

It is said that man's best friend is a dog, but that friendship is all set to get more intimate than some people would wish. The 'dog' in question is a highly sophisticated version of Sony's robotic dog *Aibo*, and the dog is being enlisted in the fight against obesity.

The dog, while not being able to talk, responds in various ways to the dieter's programme. It incorporates a pedometer, an electronic diary to record the person's eating habits, and a computer able to calculate daily calorie input and expenditure.

Aibo has four different behav-

iours: lethargy, energy – and two stages in between – all responding to the dieter's question, 'How am I?' On the basis of the computer calculations *Aibo* behaves according to how the person *should* feel depending on their compliance with the reduction regime.

If the regime has been strictly adhered to *Aibo* jumps up and down, wags its tail vigorously, plays vibrant music and flashes brightly-coloured LEDs all over its body. However, if the calorie intake has been too high *Aibo* moves lethargically and plays low-energy music.

In case all this sounds like a shaggy-dog story, it is worth noting that the idea originated from the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of

Technology. Boston University School of Medicine has also experimented with an animated computer 'companion' has shown that the programme encouraged people to exercise more. So the concept of a dog keeping people on a leash seems to have some merit.

It seems sad that people have to rely on computer images and robots to help them stick to weight management, especially when it is in their own interest. That thought was brought home by one of the researchers who said, 'A robot could offer the support that humans don't have the time to provide'. It is even sadder when we have no time for others.

If this is the route that the dieter is determined to take, forget about the animations and robots and go for an *imaginary* dog! This is not as silly as it sounds. Exercise physiologists have been saying for a long time that people should take the dog for a long walk every day, whether or not they *have* a dog!

In other words take the same sort of vigorous exercise. Have a predetermined circuit, and walk regularly. The need is not so much for a watch-dog as a lap-dog, and the more laps the better for our well-being!



It was exciting to be alive at the dawn of Christianity.

The crosses had been taken down.

The tomb was empty for all to see.

Pentecost provided the power.

Three thousand were converted in one day.

Five thousand on another day. There were astounding displays of courage by unlikely heroes.

Contemporaries described the world impacted by Christianity as having been 'set on fire' or 'turned upside down'.

Those were exciting times to be alive!

In the midst of the excitement some people were unchanged. The Sadducees continued with their cynical power games. The legalistic Pharisees carped, criticised and condemned. The obsessive Zealots continued to use religion as a power tool to break those with whom they disagreed.

But the Gospel triumphed despite them. The world was changed.

Sadly, in the decades following the Fall of Jerusalem, AD70, the Church underwent change, too. Some Christian soldiers fell at their posts, while others 'endured hardship' (2 Timothy 2:3). Most sought earnestly 'to contend for the faith' that was entrusted to believers (Jude 3). By the time John wrote his three letters towards the end of the first century the flame of excitement had all but died. But the real peril that faced the Church was not so much persecution from outside but seduction from inside. The Church had grown its own Sadducees who had developed their own power games. It had grown its own Pharisees: Christian legalists trying to make it to the Kingdom on all fours. It had grown its own Zealots: closed-minded, intolerant, graceless exponents of a cult. And, for good measure, the Gnostics had come along to make Christianity 'intellectually respectable' in an age dominated by Greek philosophy.

The dawning was long past. Night clouds were lowering.

But the bliss of the dawning never left the hearts of some. The spiritual dynamic of Pentecost lived on. The age of Tyndale and Luther, the age of Bunyan and Baxter, the age of the Wesleys and Whitfield represented new awakenings.

Then there was the great Adventist Awakening of the nineteenth century.

Men and women, avidly, excitedly, searched the Scriptures. Old truths were rediscovered. New truths – reserved to be discovered in the end-time – came to light. Suddenly, elatedly, the pioneers found that the great prophecies of Scripture (of which there had been only a fragmentary understanding) fitted into a beautiful mosaic: a great, intricate whole. In the 1880s they found the same thing with regard to the core of the Gospel: the theology of law, grace, justification, sanctification, glorification – another beautiful whole. And all symbolised in the messages of three angels. There was an urgency, an excitement; there

was no time to waste.

The Adventist Church, it is said, has gone through three eras in its history. First, there was 'the age of the pioneers', characterised by commitment that carried all before it. Second, there was 'the age of evangelism when the Church was dominated by leaders who had enough drive to inspire the people to do great exploits for God'. Third, this postmodern age. . . .

Fragmentation is the most obvious characteristic of the last thirty years. Too often what divides us appears to be more important than what unites us. Groups decide to run with this or that sectional emphasis or pocket theology. There has been a great deal more pulling apart than pressing together.

The 'Pharisees', the 'Zealots', and the 'Gnostics' all have their separate identities and – inevitably – their websites. The phenomenon of Internet theology has arisen through which graceless Pharisees, Zealots and Gnostics advertise their wares and their prejudices to fellow believers. (What effect do they have on the unbelievers who should be, after all, the focus of the Gospel commission?) Fine points are refined even further. Most of our core beliefs come under attack. Undergirding all appears to be a resurgence of ungraced, pre-1950s, old-fashioned legalism.

The Sadducees are more subtle. They're into manipulation and control.

Acts is the exciting story of the early, heady days of Christian history. It is the only unfinished book in Scripture. Chapters are added by each generation. We are left to write the concluding ones. What shall we write?

Fragmentation, false intellectualism and a thousand-and-one pocket theologies: that doesn't seem like much of a contribution.

The concluding chapters of the Book of Acts will be in your handwriting – in letters of fire: the fire of the Holy Spirit. I pray God they will be about the triumph of the core issues of the Gospel: the faith once delivered to the saints. The gospel of God's grace is the gospel that must be preached to all the world as a witness.

The greatest want of the Church is not of cynical, power-pursuing, higher-critical Sadducees; not of legalistic, nit-picking, minds-at-ground-level Pharisees; not of intolerant Zealots who would make of the Cause of Christ no more than another mind-shattered cult.

The greatest want of the Church is the want of Pauls (who are not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, it being the power of God unto salvation), and not of Agrippas (those yet to be persuaded); not of Felixes but of Peters, for whom the only 'convenient season' is now.

Where faith is phoney



with
David Marshall

God grant a revival of the spiritual dynamic of Pentecost. May we know the excitement of the dawn of a day that knows no nightfall. May we be front runners of that dawning.

To the Church in crisis, whose love had 'grown cold' (Matthew 24:12), John wrote 'a loving and anxious sermon'. To a Church called to live the grace-filled life, John wrote, 'Do not love the world' (1 John 2:15). To a Church called to look for an Antichrist, John warned that 'even now many antichrists' were among them, their voices shrill and intolerant (1 John 2:18-27). To a Church unsure of the distinction between the false and the authentic, John spelt it out as had his Master: anyone who failed to love his brother and treat him graciously was 'not a child of God' (1 John 3:1-10). To a Church confused by clamorous and contradictory voices John wrote, 'Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God.' (4:1.)

At the heart of his letter to a Church which began in excitement but was currently in trouble, John wrote: 'Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.' (1 John 4:7, 8.)

Love is the litmus test.

Where love is absent, faith is phoney.

Camp Hill's 50th Anniversary

by Dr Jacquie Halliday-Bell

Camp Hill celebrated its 50th anniversary over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend 30 April-2 May. It was a blessing-packed, joyous and reflective weekend.

The Sabbath

The Sabbath school lesson, *Jesus Man of Action – Man with a Mission*, was led by a dozen dynamic young people. The divine service platform party included distinguished pastors and members past and present. Among them Pastor C. Murphy, who preached a thought-provoking sermon bearing the title of the weekend's theme: 'Nothing to fear except we forget'. Particularly moving was the certified acknowledgement of eleven committed individuals who had attended Camp Hill throughout the half century.

The church sanctuary was packed 'to the rafters' (as were the basement, lobby and paved patio areas). A hot lunch was served to fuel the many who had travelled miles to share the memorable occasion.

The AY programme 'Adults Xposed!' gave Camp Hill's young people an opportunity to quiz a selected 'historical' group of adult members on aspects of their lifestyle, habits and activities during their time as the 'Youth of Camp Hill'. This frank and lively session worked to improve understanding across the generations and to build bridges.

Sister Olwen McIntyre and her



'Tremendous scenes from *The Witness*'

team organised and led a beautifully spiritual memory lane evening entitled 'Remembers and Praises'. A full congregation reminiscently enjoyed songs, choruses and hymns from the past fifty years. Musicians from as far afield as London enriched the praise and worship with woodwind and brass.

Sunday

The main commemoration programme was held on Sunday in the University of Birmingham's magnificently-domed Great Hall. There were over 700 attendees from the UK, United States and beyond. The focus was to recognise and remember the crucial parts played by members over the decades: the pioneers of the 1950s, the consolidators of the 1960s, those involved in the

expansion of the 1970s, the catalysts of changing years of the 1980s, and the vision of the Millennium People, occupying the era from the 1990s to date. This was rolled out through interviews, songs, photograph displays and personal testimonies. Former Camp Hill pastor, Don McFarlane, preached on the many blessings and challenges of the past and the church's soul-saving mission for the future. Uplifting spiritual and cultural enrichment came from the massed choir singing *Great and marvellous are thy works, O God*, a selection of melodies from AY singers, tremendous scenes from *The Witness*, and heartening messages from former leaders.

The symbolic passing on of torches from rightly proud stalwarts of the first 50 years to the Millennium People who make up Camp Hill today formed a fitting closing ceremony to Sunday's celebrations as everyone vigorously sang 'Side by side'.

The day was rounded off with a banquet at Parklands suite in Handsworth. Several hundred feasted on a three-course meal. A trip down memory lane fashion show, mirrored by a slide show of away days and Pathfinder/choir events over the last five decades framed familiar faces with Afro hairdos



The Service in the Great Hall

adding cheer to the evening's festivities. Those who have passed away and are now resting in preparation for the resurrection morning were remembered in a special time during the evening.

Monday

Monday was a time for those at Camp Hill who had a limited tolerance for nostalgia simply because they were still in their teens. The forty or so young people were encouraged to grasp the challenges

of the NXT50 years for the church at a special 'Prom' event. Bedecked with bow ties and ball gowns the teens really did Camp Hill church proud.

Commemorative mugs, pencils and a yearbook of current members and their families were produced. The stocks were rapidly sold out.

Kenneth Burt sent out a vote of thanks to the hard-working organisers and all who supported with cash, time and talent what was a memorable weekend.

The day a Rhythm & Blues Star came to Ipswich

As Paulette Banton completed a milestone in her spiritual journey someone else was on a journey that included Ipswich.

As we made last minute arrangements for her baptism on 7 May a large white stretch-limousine pulled up outside Ipswich church. We wondered if the group of men who came into the church were members of Paulette's family. It turned out that the sixties rhythm and blues legend, Little Richard, himself a Christian, was performing in Ipswich that very night and so he came with his band to worship the living God. It was a

low profile, quiet visit as they sat near the front, listened attentively and received the blessing that God bestowed on all of us that morning.

Paulette Banton was brought up in a Christian home. She had been on her own spiritual quest from the age of twelve. Also present at the baptism was her best friend and ex-work colleague at BT's research centre, who had become a Baptist pastor. During the service she testified that Paulette is a thinker, a fact-finding person who needs evidence for her faith, and it was only a matter of time before she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Saviour. Paulette found significant answers

to her questions at the SEC camp meeting last year. Back home in Ipswich she asked semi-retired Pastor Paul Smith to study the Bible with her. When she felt that everything seemed to fit together and make sense she made her decision to be baptised and become part of the Ipswich church family.

The baptismal service was conducted and beauti-



(left to right): David West, Del Williams, Paulette, Paul Smith, Mother & Father. Photo: by Paul King

Bessie's royal party

On 5 July, at Hollybank Care Home, Bury, Lancashire, Bessie Goldstone, a long-time resident originally from Huddersfield church, celebrated her one hundredth birthday!

Bessie had a 'royal' party. Not only did she receive a letter and a card from the Queen, and from the NEC officers, but a homily from local pastor, Felix Jack, and a message from Pastor Fred Mapp, NEC's Ministerial secretary.

Relatives, friends and members from Bolton, Bury and Huddersfield shared this unique and very happy occasion. The Mayor of Bury not only came but tremendously enjoyed the French cuisine prepared by our French/Algerian chef!

Run by Sister and Brother Hensman, Hollybank Residential Nursing Home, where Bessie, and her deceased friend Sylvia Turtill, missionary nurse, lived for many years, has just completed twenty years of service in our local community. In early October a new annex caring for eighteen residents will be opened by the bank manager! We are also expecting the Mayor of Bury to attend the occasion.

An Open Afternoon and official opening is planned for 12 October, 2-6pm, with drinks (non-alcoholic, of course) available, and members and friends are very welcome to visit and view at that time.

STAN HENSMAN



fully arranged by Pastor Smith. Local church pastor, David West, spoke of baptism in terms of loving commitment to a gracious friend in a marriage that not even death can break. Paulette chose the songs we sang and even the special item which our church choir 'The Advent Singers' sang.

After enjoying the service of praise and thanksgiving, Little Richard and his band slipped quietly away to their waiting limousine. The church family and friends remained for a lovely fellowship meal, and everyone rejoiced with Paulette and the angels of heaven.

PAUL KING

Reading Whitley baptism

May 28 was a day of rejoicing for Reading Whitley, when three precious souls joined the church. The baptism was held at Reading Central, which was packed



Back row, left to right: Elder Andrew Singo, Pastor Everett Picart, Elder Victor Kasimba, Pastor George Kumi, Pastor Lewis Quaye. Front row: (Candidates) Mythyle Sesay, Allison Awuko, Emmanuel Cudjoe.

to capacity with relatives and friends to witness this special occasion.

Joojo Bonnie, a pastoral ministry student who is a member of Whitley, preached a wonderful sermon on Galatians 3:27 titled 'The Doorway to New Life'.

Pastor Everett Picart,

Teenage speakers debut at Cardiff

A living faith was both the theme and order of the day when three young ladies made their preaching debut at Cardiff Youth Day in June. Sisters Elda (18) and Elisa Alvarez (14) from Cardiff, and Cherelle Boothe (19) from Willesden cast aside any initial nerves to deliver a powerful three-part sermon on the topic of faith. They were accompanied on the platform by Arianne Haran (8), also from Cardiff, who made the announcements.

The young speakers all attend Cardiff Community church and form part of the AYS Praise Group and the resident singing group Charis. The day's programme was punctuated with their musical offerings, and it is true to say that all who attended and took part – members and visitors alike – were truly blessed. Let us continue to pray for, and encourage our youth in their faithful endeavours as they continue their witness for Christ.

ENA DOUGLAS

Reading district minister, baptised the candidates. Allison Awuko, a former Roman Catholic, embraced the Adventist message through studying with her husband Sam. Mythyle Sesay, formerly from the United Methodist Church, studied with Pastor Aaron Turyo and was duly baptised (on the previous Sabbath Mythyle and her husband Joseph dedicated their firstborn child to God). Emmanuel Cudjoe had waited patiently for several months to enter the waters of baptism. Finally the day arrived and the whole family was there to celebrate with him. At the end of the service the candidates received their baptismal certificates together with a gift book set from the church, and a bouquet of flowers.

The Area 5 Youth Praise Team did a rousing song service and led out at various times throughout the service. There were two wonderful, special items, the first by V4X (Voices for Christ), a group of young men from Whitley church ranging in age from 11 to 13, who sang 'I am ready to give my life', and the second by 'Voice', a youth group from the Reading district who sang 'Great is your mercy'.

GEORGE DE SOUZA

H.O.T. on Mission

It all started one AYS programme during a discussion and group dynamics session on spiritual gifts and talents. In a corner of the church a group of nurses and medical workers wondered how they could serve the community for Christ, not only with their spiritual gifts and talents, but also through their profession. It was then that they decided to become HOT for God! Nurses and various non-medical personnel, members of the Filipino International church, were HOT members indeed on the Sundays of 12 June and 17 July. After orientation, a devotional and prayer, the Health Outreach Team members, clothed in their H.O.T. T-shirts and

caps, carried out their medical mission, taking blood pressure and blood sugar levels for free in two of the most active and widely-attended Filipino Festivals in the country. *Barrio Fiesta sa Morden* (12 June), and *Barrio Fiesta sa Hounslow* (17 July), were hotspots for people needing medical attention. There are thousands upon thousands of *Barrio Fiesta* visitors each year, and with South Asians being three to five times more likely to have diabetes, the Filipino International church's medical mission team felt empowered and motivated to reach these people with our health message.

MICHELLE CASTILLO, FIC



Filipino day of celebration

Sabbath 11 June was a magnificent day for the Filipino International Church based in Central London. Members and visitors alike were blessed by the morning service, and splendidly entertained by the afternoon and evening programme entitled 'The Story of Filipinos: Then, Now and Tomorrow'. To open, a singing group from FIC enthused the crowds with a collection of songs, and as the Sabbath drew to a close, the audience learned more about Filipino culture. A play that covered all areas of Filipino culture took place during the

evening, introducing Filipino tradition through its fashion, traditional dance, wooing customs, food and the cherished and esteemed importance of family life. FIC members wowed the crowds, beautifully clad in native traditional Filipino attire as they paraded through an elegantly choreographed fashion show. The 'Mantones de Seda' dance, involving many of FIC's youth, was also choreographed to perfection – showcasing the traditional Spanish *senorita* and her *manton* (intricately embroidered shawl). Several married couples from FIC

entertainingly acted out 'Harana' – a customary Filipino wooing practice where a man serenades his 'sweet-heart crush' by singing her customary love songs in order to win her heart. This performance reduced the crowd to roars of laughter and gave the actors a chance to relive their wooing days! After an interval for refreshments and a taste of traditional Filipino dishes, the second half of the programme left the crowd extremely amused as a hilariously comical play depicted a daughter's departure from her family in the

Philippines and her arrival with friends in the UK. Dialogues among the actors and participants were either in Tagalog (main Filipino dialect), English or 'Tag-lish' (Tagalog and English amalgamated). The audience, however, was kept well informed and educated, as all Tagalog/Filipino dialogues were translated on a screen. The programme closed with a grand finale as the entire cast of the evening production sang 'Ako ay Pilipino' ('I am a Filipino').

MICHELLE CASTILLO, FIC



Diamond wedding

Sabbath 6 August was a very special day for Ivy and Cyril Thompson, when they celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary at the home of their eldest son Ian and his wife Dawn at Grantham. Pastor R. S. Joyce, the North England Conference president at the time, married them on 6 August 1945 at the country chapel at New Earswick, near York. They first met at the Nottingham Adventist church. For many years they lived and worked in the Watford area and latterly Nottinghamshire. They now live at Lowdham, near Nottingham, and attend the Newark Company when they are able. Their celebration was all the more joyous as it was shared with their granddaughter Dupree and her husband Dan, who were celebrating their fourth wedding anniversary. Ivy and Cyril have two sons, Ian and Philip, and a daughter, Christine, who lives in Australia. They are very grateful to God for all his leading and guiding and for his many blessings throughout their sixty years of marriage.

DAWN THOMPSON

Exeter baptism

It was a happy day in Exeter on 25 June when we witnessed a decision to follow Jesus. Cleo Giamolo, a nurse at the Exeter hospital, approached her pastor earlier in the year with a request for baptism. The wheels were set in motion and in her off-duty times she was busy with Bible study. The devil tried a few tricks here and there, especially with the video machine, but with the Bible open in front of us we enjoyed some interesting discussions. On the big day, her fiancé Yuri was at her side. Yuri is a baptised member and is a nurse in Newcastle. It was interesting to hear Cleo's story. As a



young girl many of her friends in the Philippines were Adventists. PASTOR BERTIE DE NYSSCHEN

Couple baptised

Debra and David Garwood, here being baptised by Pastor Felix McPherson at the Plaistow church, were married there on 28 May.

F. ASANTE



Mayor visits Wood Green Pathfinders

The Mayor of Haringey, Councillor Sheila Peacock, was invited by the Pathfinder leader Horace Blackburn and his team to visit the Wood Green Pathfinders on 26 February. The Pathfinders performed a Flag Ceremony and repeated the Pledge, Law and Motto, after which the Pathfinder leader gave the opening remarks. The Mayor was introduced and welcomed by Pastor Keith Boldeau, pastor of Wood Green and Palmers churches. In her speech the Mayor gave the Pathfinders an insight into her role. Councillor Peacock was elected as Mayor for the municipal year 2004-5, and she represents the Council at ceremonies and civic events. She explained to the Pathfinders how she became Mayor, and told them that

there are 193 languages spoken in Haringey. She also told them that she was a teacher and taught in two schools in Tottenham. She then gave a little history of Haringey, the borough being formed in 1965 and made up of Tottenham, Wood Green and Hornsey. As Mayor it is very difficult fitting in with family life, admitted Councillor Peacock, who was pleased to answer questions put to her by the Pathfinders, such as:

ERIC LEONARD BRYCE (1930-2005) – d. 7 April. Brother Bryce was born in Manchester, Jamaica, on 3 November 1930, and died on 7 April at the Homerton Hospital. His funeral service was held on 21 April. Brother Bryce, a Pentecostal, met his wife Pam, an Adventist, in Jamaica in 1970. Though they were discouraged from marrying because of their differing religions, they married two years later on 27 December 1972. This marriage union was blessed with nine children and Eric proved to be a devoted husband and father. After the loss of a child, he found the members of the Adventist church to be very welcoming and supportive, and this first brought him to the church. He began attending the Clapton Adventist church in 1988, and was baptised in July 1989. He was a very prayerful person. Brother Bryce worked with London Transport for twenty-six years. Always a supporter of his church, he was ever interested in, and encouraging young people, and spent much time in their company. Although at times not in very good health, he still attended church. He was taken to hospital after a 'bad turn', and there he died quietly in prayer. Eric Bryce leaves in mourning his wife of thirty-two years, Pam, nine children, fifteen grandchildren, three sisters, two brothers, and numerous other family members. The family wish to express their gratitude to all the church members, friends and family, for their kindness and prayers.

DENISE BROWN

WINNIFRED WILLIAMS (1922-2005) – d. 23 April. Sister Williams

was the beloved mother of John and Eric, and sister of Vie and Fred. She died aged 83 years. Formerly a registered nurse, she married Lesley Williams in Handsworth in 1947, where she accepted the Adventist message in 1956, and was a very active member. In 1968 she moved her membership to the Smethwick church, and, after the death of her husband, she cared for her mother until 1990. In 2001 she suffered a stroke, and gradually her health deteriorated. She is greatly missed, especially at the Smethwick church, where she played a very important part in every capacity, and was strong in her faith to the end. By God's grace we will see her again when we meet with the Lord.

P. SWABY

DAVID ERNEST HOWELL (1935-2005) – d. 8 May. Brother Howell was born on 22 May 1935 in Golders Green, London. He was introduced to a member of the Smethwick church who invited him to attend church. He accepted the invitation, embraced the doctrines wholeheartedly, accepted Bible studies, and was baptised on his birthday. He took great interest in promoting the Smethwick church building fund, and remembered the birthdays of all members, including the children. Brother Dave was so loving, caring and kind, and was not easily upset. He always had a smiling face. Sadly after a week's illness, he was called to rest on 8 May. We all hope to meet him again on that great waking-up morning.

P. SWABY

Does she make crucial decisions? Does she say no to any demands? How does she see a Christian's role in society? The Mayor commended them for

asking such interesting questions. She was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a copy of the book *The Adventist Home*. COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Coming soon Vol 4, No. 3
 More opportunities to get talking with your non-Christian friends and neighbours.
 Including articles on:
 • the ageing process • getting a good night's sleep
 • bullying • positive parenting • the wisdom of King Solomon
 • contentment

Vol 4, No. 4 Out in November
 A magazine you can use as a point of connection between you and your non-Christian work colleagues or relatives.
 Including articles on:
 • facing our fears • improving your children's self-esteem
 • why men and women put on weight differently • eternal life
 • the differences between Batman and Jesus

Flower Festival preview evening sold out
 When we suggested raising the cost of tickets for the special Preview Evening for the Stanborough Park church Flower Festival to £10 some people thought we would have a job to sell them. However, although the Festival was not until the weekend of 9-11 September all 120 tickets were sold within ten days – and there was a waiting list!

The Mayor of Watford, Dorothy Thornhill, officially opened the Festival and Frances Dominica was the after-supper speaker. Sister Frances was born in Scotland in 1942 and trained as a nurse at Great Ormond Street and the Middlesex Hospital in London. In 1966 she joined the Society of All Saints, an Anglican religious community. In 1982 Sister Frances founded Helen House, the world's first children's hospice. Last year she established Douglas House, the first hospice for teenagers and young adults. Both Helen and Douglas House give respite and end-of-life care to children and teenagers with life-

shortening illnesses. Along with care they also offer friendship and practical support to the families, and this friendship continues in bereavement for as long as the family may wish. Douglas House will benefit from the profits of the Flower Festival this year.

AUDREY BALDERSTONE

West London Hosts 'Experience the Power' campaign

Experience the Power, an evangelistic outreach programme hosted by the Adventist church in West London, was launched on Sabbath 20 August at the Hammersmith Town Hall. Speaker for the programme was Walter Pearson, Televangelist for 'Breath of Life Ministries', one of a family of broadcasts originating at the Adventist Media Centre in North America. Its mission is to present the everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ with a contemporary, urban perspective to all people groups.

Experience the Power is structured to be engaging and entertaining, but is also designed to draw those present closer to the Lord, and to invite firm commitment to Jesus Christ. Music for the event is professionally produced by a passionate praise team and the programme is being filmed so that it can be televised later in the year.

'I believe that one of the best methods of presenting the Gospel is through the media available,' said Dr Steve Thomas, pastor of the North Wembley and West Kilburn churches and co-ordinator of the event. 'In these last days, God is calling us to try new methods of reaching a dying world and I think we should not pass up these opportunities,' he concluded.

CATHERINE BOLDEAU/ANR

Eleven baptised in Bristol

For three weeks the Bristol district was engaged in an evangelistic campaign with speaker Errol Nembhard. The meetings were aimed specifically at the community in St Paul's where the Bristol Central church is located, and we had an excellent response. Many visitors came in off the streets, and average attendance was in the region of 150 on weekdays and over 250 at weekends.

Errol Nembhard is originally from Birmingham, but currently lives in South Africa. He is a regular visitor to the UK and has conducted evangelistic campaigns in a number of different places, mainly in the

South England Conference. His theme for the Bristol campaign was 'More to life than this', and the series focused on contemporary issues. Programmes were held five nights a week and consisted of a song service, musical items, and an address from the speaker. Topics included catchy titles such as, 'If you want to walk on water you've got to get out of the boat', 'The Matrix reloaded', 'When you forget who you are', and 'The risk factor'.

At the conclusion of the series on Sabbath 13 August eleven people were baptised. A further thirty responded to an appeal made during the baptism and have been enrolled into the pastor's baptismal classes which started the following Sabbath afternoon.

RICHARD DALY

Messenger archives now indexed by Google

Over the last few months approximately 700 editions of the *Messenger* (early editions were known as the *Missionary Worker*), dating from 1923 to 1950, have been placed on the Adventist History website. The work has been carried out in a collaborative project between the British Union Conference, the Ellen G. White Research Centre at Newbold College, and the Newbold College Library.

The magazines have all been converted to Adobe Acrobat format and can be found at www.adventisthistory.org.uk/messenger. They were indexed by Google, meaning that researchers anywhere in the world can now search through the archives using a simple web browser.

Those who have not looked through these old magazines before will be fascinated by the wealth of information they contain. Dates, names, and pictures will be of interest to many family tree researchers, and information about how Adventist evangelism was conducted eighty years ago is not only interesting but instructive to new generations. Many will be surprised at how much of what is considered new today has already been done by evangelists of previous generations.

There are many other historically important documents that we would like to scan, convert, and add to the Adventist History website, but time and funds are needed to carry out the work. If you would like to support this work please visit www.adventisthistory.org.uk/give.

Announcing the first ASNA Carers' Weekend
30 September to 2 October
at Highgate House, Creton
Northampton NN6 8NN

This weekend will provide an opportunity for respite for carers. The person they support may have a chronic illness, disability, mental illness, or may be frail. For booking form and further information contact ASNA
 Tel: 01491 833395;
 email: asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk
 Subsidies available.

ABC BOOK SALES

October		
2	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
23	Sheffield Burngreave	Time TBA
30	West Midlands	10am-2pm
November		
6	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
20	Peckham	10am-2pm

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Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Sept 23	6.57	7.09	7.01	7.09	7.20
30	6.41	6.53	6.44	6.51	7.02
Oct 7	6.25	6.37	6.27	6.32	6.45
14	6.09	6.22	6.11	6.15	6.28

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