

Death of Pastor Dalbert Elias

It was with a deep sense of shock that Seventh-day Adventists in Britain and Ireland received the news of the death of Pastor Dalbert Elias.

The warmth of Dalbert's outgoing personality made him one of the most loved and popular Church leaders of his generation. He was known, and provoked the most enthusiastic of receptions, in all sectors of our diverse Church family.

The son of an evangelist-president, evangelistic outreach was at the forefront of Dalbert's ministry. In the last decade Dalbert took the lead in the promotion of satellite evangelism (notably NET '98), and was in the vanguard of *LIFEdevelopment.info*. He was part of the steering group that launched the *LIFE.info* magazine. For more than a generation he was at the cutting edge of technology and sought to harness each new

medium to the cause of the Gospel.

Only in the last three months have most of us been aware that Dalbert was struggling with a major illness. All were shocked to hear that he had collapsed and lost consciousness while getting ready for church on Sabbath 1 July, and that he had passed away on Sunday 2 July.

Pastor Dalbert Elias's funeral will be held at Stanborough Park church on Tuesday 18 July. The service will be conducted by Pastor Alan Hodges, with Pastors C. R. Perry, W. J. Arthur, Patrick Boyle and Ian Sleeman, all of whom were Dalbert's close personal friends.

'Our condolences go to his family,' said Pastor Perry, the Union president. 'In particular to his wife Pat, their sons Grant and Dean, his father Pastor K. A. Elias, and other close relatives.' He

added, 'Let us remember them in our prayers with the assurance of hope in the soon coming of Jesus and the resurrection of those who die in the Lord. He will be missed by all at the [Union] office, especially by those who worked closely with him at the Adventist Discovery Centre.'

All of us feel his death keenly, and identify wholeheartedly with Pastor Perry's words of condolence.

EDITOR



BUC Education director receives Governor of the Year Award

by John Surridge, Communication director, BUC

On Wednesday 5 July BUC Education director Dr Keith Davidson was announced as the London winner of the 2006 Department for Education and Science Award for Governor of the Year at the Teaching Awards ceremony held at the Banqueting House, Whitehall.

Over the last month the 2006 Teaching Awards ceremonies have been held at venues across England, Wales and Northern Ireland in order to recognise exceptionally talented head teachers, teachers, teaching assistants and school governors. Dr Davidson was given the award for the outstanding work he has done with the John Loughborough School in Tottenham. The following tribute is taken from the Teaching Awards website:

'Keith is an inspirational school governor. For almost 21 years he has been the champion for the education of black and ethnic minority children in his borough. His vision has moved

The John Loughborough School from an independent church school to a voluntary aided maintained school. It was a change that took much patience, persistence and a tremendous amount of hard work. The rewards have been many, not least the joy of seeing academic attainment rise at a pace that exceeds any Government benchmark.

'Wholly committed to the cause of education, and to working with families and young people, Keith acts as a catalyst for change and his representation on literally dozens of committees and working parties ensures he is as influential with the local authority, national government and the media as he is in his own school. In his way of making a difference he is a role model for all: down to earth, a great listener and a man of wisdom. He is also an excellent proponent of lifetime learning, having completed his Doctorate of Education three years ago.

Unsurprisingly, Keith is no stranger to accolades, having been *The Voice's* Educationalist of the Decade back in 1992, and two years before that presented with the Lignum Vitae award by the government of Trinidad. Utterly approachable, he makes everyone, especially students and staff, feel they can achieve. Above all he advances the fundamental role of education as the means to empower young people, helping them to realise their own potential and to use that knowledge in the service of others. Compassionate, visionary and transformational, Keith is a true beacon for education.'

Speaking at the BUC office the morning after receiving his award,



Dr Davidson was typically low key about it all. 'I knew that I had been shortlisted but it was still a surprise when the award was given. Mainly I'm pleased for the way this reflects on Adventist schools and the standards that they are able to attain.'

Opening of the Brooks Library at Newbold School

It was a very special day for Newbold School on Friday 30 June, as the new library was officially opened by the Mayor of Bracknell Forest and Fran Brooks. The room has been named 'The Brooks library' in memory of the late head teacher, Mr Maurice Brooks, whose vision oversaw the design and construction of the library. Mr Brooks loved reading to the children and, as a history teacher, he knew the value of books to educate as well as to inform and entertain. A bench has also been dedicated in his memory and Mrs Brooks, in her speech, encouraged the children to take time out to read books on the bench at playtime as indeed Mr Brooks loved to.

Mrs Chilvers, the current head teacher, conducted the service of dedication and thanksgiving in Newbold church before the opening. Other speakers included Cheryl Blake, BUC Education co-director, who challenged the children to use

books to increase their learning, Pastor Victor Hulbert, SEC secretary, who reminded us all that we are never alone with a good book, and Pastor Johnson, chair of the School Board, who thanked all the staff at Newbold School for their dedication



Mayor opens the library with Mrs Chilvers and the Brooks family



Mrs Brooks and previous Head Teachers (Sherard Wilson, Fran Brooks, Vicky Chilvers, Margaret Wasting)



Reading bench (Deborah, Camille)



Library interior

and efforts in promoting learning in the classroom. The morning was made more memorable by the attendance of three previous Newbold head teachers, former pupils and parents. The service opened with the entire school singing the school song, 'The Children's Saviour', chosen originally by the late Mr Brooks. We were also delighted by songs and poems, ably performed by pupils in the Reception and Year 3/4 classes.

It is planned that the library become a resource room and be equipped with twelve computers providing Internet access for complementary research. We have been blessed and supported by numerous donations towards the library and with continued support can fully stock the resource room.

HEATHER HANNA

Healthwise

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

Cuckoos in the nest

Not everyone takes the view that 'Trojan Ducks' are the means by which the H5N1 avian flu virus is spread. Spokespersons for a wide variety of Bird Societies think that the truth lies closer to home, 'cuckoos in the nest' as it were.

Various aspects of intensive poultry farming have been identified as the 'cuckoos'. Research has shown that bird flu reported by countries in the Far East has centred on factory farming of chickens, ducks and geese.

There is a strong possibility that an unreported outbreak of bird flu in China was treated with the antiviral drug *Amantine*, intended

only for human treatments. The use of this drug may have helped the avian flu virus to become the drug-resistant H5N1 strain.

Not that the HN viruses are the only concerns surrounding our 'cuckoos'. It is reported that pathogenic bugs (such as *salmonella*, *Newcastle disease* – a virus of the *paramyxoviridae* family – and *campylobacter*) are already endemic among factory-farmed poultry. During 2005, 50% of chickens on supermarket shelves, tested by the Health Protection Agency, were contaminated by multi drug-resistant strains of the deadly *E coli* bug.

Factory farming techniques appear to increase the possibility of drug resistance. Tests on birds from

organic farms and factory farms with chickens having *campylobacter* strains in their gut showed significant differences in antibiotic resistance – less than 2% for the former compared with from 46-47% in the latter.

Antibiotic resistance in birds is a bad enough problem for the birds concerned. However, this same antibiotic resistance is passed on to people handling the carcass material in its raw state along with the viruses present. Factory farming of poultry also has the disadvantage of incubating viruses in close cramped quarters as well as through direct contamination from bird droppings and moulted feathers.

Antivirals, antibiotics and anti-

microbials have ever shorter lives as humans become resistant to their effects. At the present time concerns have been expressed that *ciprofloxacin*, used in the treatment of *campylobacter* in humans, is not effective in dealing with 19-40% of the strains clinically identified.

Perhaps Shakespeare had it right: 'The hedge-sparrow fed the cuckoo so long / That it's had its head bit off by its young' (King Lear). The problem may be with the cuckoos rather than ducks after all!



Conference Sessions

David Marshall



My dad refused to attend all conference sessions. 'On principle!' is what he said. That was a little surprising in that he was a church elder for in the region of forty-five years.

He refused, even, when the pastor insisted – and we (including Mum) all said we would go anyway, and did. Only once was he prevailed upon to attend the Sabbath services at a session. That was while we were on holiday in Wales. And I have reason to believe that he had been deliberately misled as to the destination of the coach!

Dad's attitude frustrated Mum. In her old age she asserted her independence by attending once, at considerable inconvenience (the journey involved a long walk, three trains and a ferry), with only her small granddaughter for company.

A few months before Dad died, he called upon me to give him 'a hand' taming his large and, by then, unruly garden. As I felled the giant weeds in preparation for the 'double digging' on which he always insisted, and he looked on from his canvas chair, I felt he was a captive audience. To the question about Adventist conferences he answered, 'On principle!' He responded to the supplementary question, 'What principle?' with a story.

He had always been an idealist and, as a young man, had been especially so. Baptised in his early 20s he had, in the parlance of those days, 'embraced The Truth', 'come into the Third Angel's Message'. Every Sabbath School had been a voyage of discovery. Every sermon, whether from laity or clergy, was a profoundly spiritual experience. He read his King James Version through at least once each year, and knew lengthy passages by heart. His eyes shone when he reached certain verses. ('Proof texts', we would call them.)

The aim of the Church had been 'to preach the everlasting Gospel'. In light of that, the question 'Who should be president of the Conference?' had been of limited relevance. Nevertheless, he had found the early conference sessions he had attended to have been preoccupied with just that question.

'What was worse,' he said, 'the people who had most to say [at the sessions he had attended early on], you never saw at Sabbath School! He went on to explain that even brethren he knew well, behaved differently at sessions. They behaved politically and, in his view, to behave politically was to behave badly. There was a man-centredness, an egocentricity, about political

behaviour which, to him, had everything to do 'with Darwin's-survival-of-the-fittest' and little or no relevance to church mission.

That was all the explanation I got for his having been so marked in his non-attendance at sessions.

Was he right? In part, that has to do with motives. I have heard it said that 'Political behaviour takes place in any human organisation, and, why should the Church be any different?'

The trouble with Dad was that he was not ready to dismiss the Church as a 'human organisation'.

Perhaps how we behave at conference sessions depends on whether we take a 'low view' or a 'high view' of the central purpose of the Church. Dad took a 'high view'; and I have been applying his 'high view' in my reportage of conference sessions ever since.

In contrast to Dad, I find myself – *at times!* – enjoying sessions and session reportage. Political behaviour, however, doesn't earn my respect, let alone applause.

With a session upcoming, I should like to make a little appeal on behalf of decent, old-fashioned Adventists, like my late dad, who find political behaviour distressing and its purpose incomprehensible.

Let's take the 'high view' of the Church. The Church is about the furtherance of God's Cause on Earth. It's about inreach and discipleship (the barometers of spiritual health) and outreach (souls won).

The 'low view' of Church makes it sound similar to a commercial organisation with conversion figures replacing production and output statistics. It leads to individual and sectional interests predominating.

Church health – *spiritual* health: maturity – is at least as important as church growth. Arguably more so, for, as the spiritually mature preponderate in congregations, those congregations become more winsome and grow as a result. As churches fill up with *disciples* – as opposed to mere consumers of religion – the message of God's amazing grace will be modelled to the communities served.

There is only one unanswerable argument for Christianity: A loving and lovable Christian. Why? Because it's the proof that Christianity works. You cannot gainsay *living proof*.

The case for Adventism does not stand or fall on arguments for this or that fundamental

belief. It stands or falls on whether Adventists can provide living proof that the miracle at the core of Christianity works: new birth.

Paul stressed this in his letter to Titus. In chapter 1 he emphasised how that miracle should impact the Christian's duty to the church. By chapter 2 Paul was concerned about the Christian's duty in the home. In chapter 3 Paul spoke of those who moved from the inner circle of the Church or the home and interrelated with the outer circle, including the wider community.

Paul began this way, 'Remind the people to respect the government and be law-abiding, always ready to lend a helping hand. No insults, no fights. God's people should be big-hearted and courteous.' (Titus 3:1, 2, MGE.)

How can we be 'big-hearted'? We can rise above our generational interest, ethnic or national interest and personal/group ambition or interest.

Paul goes on to say, 'It wasn't long ago that we ourselves were . . . dupes to sin, ordered every which way by our glands, going around with a chip on our shoulder. . . . But when God, our kind and loving Saviour God, stepped in, he saved us. . . .' (Titus 3:3, 4, MGE.)

How did he save us?

'He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.' (Titus 3:5-7, NIV.)

This is the miracle at the heart of Christianity, Paul says. If that miracle has happened in your life, he continues, it will be evident in the way you relate to other people.

Loving and lovable Christians do not just stay out of trouble. They actively seek to do good.

Our new beginnings are experienced through 'rebirth and renewal'. They come about through the grace of Christ and the work of the Spirit.

The results of new birth and renewal include new life.

'Man', said Aristotle, 'is a political animal.'

By contrast Christ calls upon us to rise above sectional interests and concerns – above our 'group' whatever that may be – and give our lives in service to others, as he did.

William Barclay translates Titus 3:2 this way, 'Remind them . . . not to be aggressive, to be kindly, to show all gentleness to all men.'

Have a good session!

First Swahili-speaking Adventist church in UK

by K. Harun Kuyenga

July 2003 saw the start of a small prayer group with a vision of growing to become a church. Four families captured this vision and started meeting for prayer in their various homes. These families extended an invitation to other Swahili-speaking families, the group started growing, and by God's grace the first Sabbath meeting took place in January 2004 with 24 adults and 11 children meeting for worship.

The number has been growing ever since and now meetings are attended by an average of 75 worshippers every week. 'Angaza' has organised two evangelistic campaigns, two visitors' Sabbaths, and one revival meeting, and these brought 20 new souls into the fold.

In January this year a request to be organised as a church was made to the South England Conference and we thank God that this was realised on Sabbath 1 July. The event took place in Reading, Berkshire, where Angaza is based, and more than 280 worshippers came to witness the

event. During the programme Pastor Michael Mbui, of Maranatha churches in London, dedicated four children to the Lord. SEC president Pastor Humphrey Walters preached and conducted the organisation ceremony. He spoke from Isaiah 6:1-8 and challenged members to accept the call and shine to the community. Other officiating ministers included SEC Executive secretary Pastor Victor Hulbert, Area Five co-ordinator Pastor David Spearing, SEC Church Clerk Mr Godwin Benjamin, Pastor Patrick Johnson, senior pastor at Newbold College church, and Pastor Branislav Mirilov, who is the Angaza guardian.

Pastor Walters tested Angaza members on their understanding of church teachings and what makes us different from other churches, and on completion he pronounced, 'You have passed your test.'

We want to thank whole-heartedly everyone who came to support, witness, and rejoice with us on this memorable day. We seek your prayers that God will help Angaza

grow. On behalf of Angaza I would like to extend our invitation to all who can, to join us at the Hexham Community Centre in Reading as we

worship Sabbath after Sabbath. We have an evangelistic campaign planned for Sabbath 5 to Sabbath 26 August and all are welcome.



Galway: Unity in Diversity

Sabbath 10 June was a day of rejoicing in Galway church once again. Cornelius Teslaru from Moldova, and Tanaka Melusi Mhaka from Zimbabwe went through the waters of baptism. This was the second harvest in the west of Ireland this year. Earlier, on Sabbath

20 May, six people were baptised. Eight people have been baptised so far this year in the district, and four more candidates are ready and will be baptised soon.

The church was filled with people from Limerick, Newmarket-on-Fergus, and Ballinasloe.

Fungai Sakaike led out in the service and Alice, from Moldova, sang a special song. There were also



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Sunday 3 September

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Golden Couple

Glen and Vernilla Sweeney have been married for 51 years! They were married on 12 June 1955 by Pastor Van Putin in the St John's Seventh-day Adventist church in Antigua. When asked, 'What advice would you give to young married couples?' Glen replied, 'Don't try to be boss. Be equal partners and let God be Head of the marriage. And both partners must *keep communicating.*'

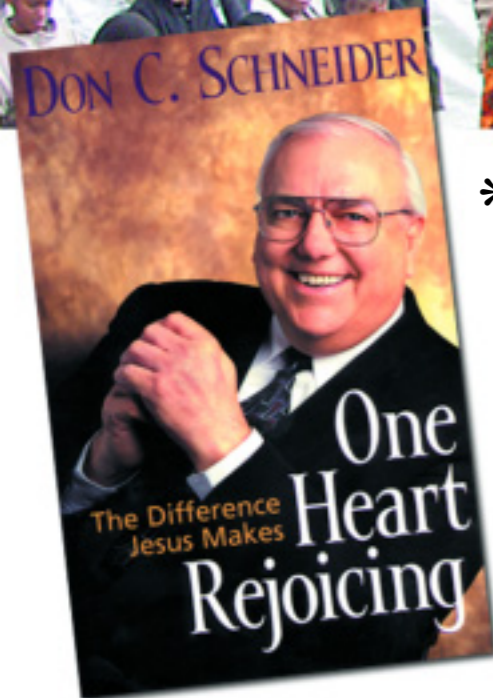
Glen and Vernilla are the parents of Pastors Cyril Sweeney and Ian Sweeney, and of Marion (who is married to Robert)

PASTOR PAUL LIBURD





Stanborough Press OPEN DAY



- * MARK & LADONNA BUNNEY
- * UNITED VOICES
- * LEEDS MALE VOICE
- * CHARLES NGANDWE



This year's special speaker:

Don C. Schneider

President of the North American Division and vice-president of the General Conference

Elder Schneider is one of the denomination's best-loved preachers, and is the author of *ONE HEART REJOICING: The Difference Jesus Makes*.

Among the other speakers will be Reinder Bruinsma, author of *Faith Step by Step*.

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SPECIAL GUESTS FOR OUR CELEBRATION SERVICES

Sunday 3 September



DON C. SCHNEIDER

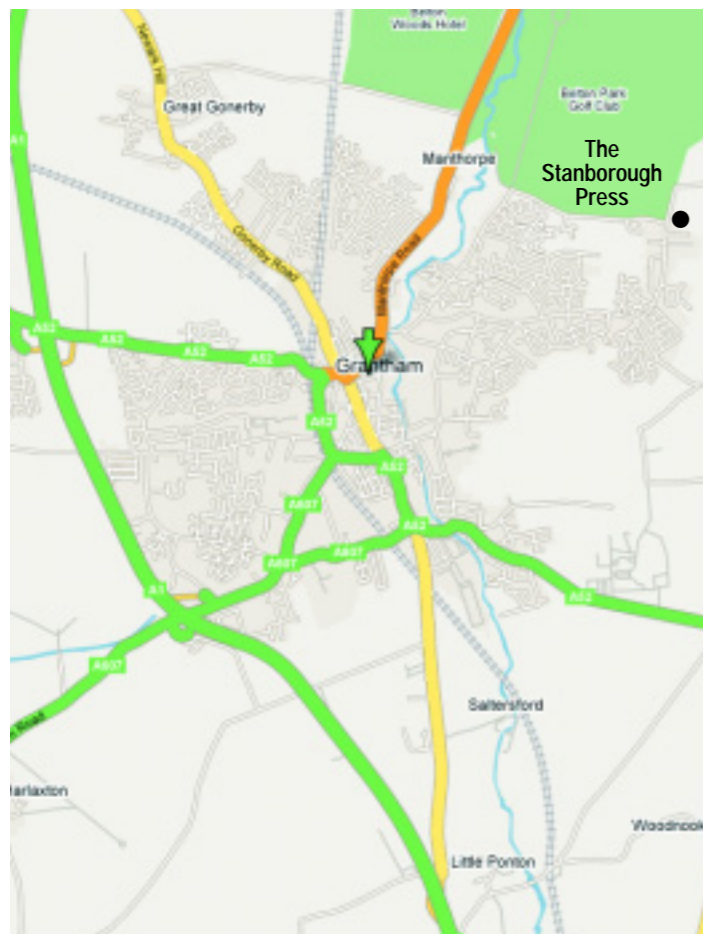
Vice-president of the General Conference and president of the North American Division

- * Mark and LaDonna Bunney
- * United Voices
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- * Charles Ngandwe



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many children in the church. Martha Kongari told the children's story and then Pastor Ashley Kongari preached on the subject of diversity, highlighting the diversity of people and culture that exists in the district. He pointed out that the changing trend in the society was an important factor to consider in evangelism. 'Considering the changing trend,' he said, 'the best strategy of evangelism in the west of Ireland is "friendship evangelism".' He went on to encourage the congregation to reach out to friends and bring them into the fold of Christ. 'If you are African, reach out to another African. If you are Brazilian, reach out to another Brazilian. If you are Russian, reach out to another Russian. If you are Irish, reach out to another Irish person. But that should not be the limit of our mission field. In fact, anyone who is in need of Gospel is the mission field for you and me.' Addressing the congregation, he emphasised that 'we are united in diversity, in one spirit. We are all different but are parts of the same body, the body of Jesus Christ.'

After the service, Cornelius and Melusi were formally welcomed into the church by the believers. People had fellowship lunch after the service and left inspired to win souls for Christ.

Ashley Stanley Kongari

Church for a 'tough' area

In March the Manor Newstart church plant project in the Manor Area of Sheffield commenced its fifth year.

Four years ago the local church,

Carterknowle, took a brave decision to give their blessing to an effort to establish a presence in a 'tough' part of the city – Manor. Under the Holy Spirit's guidance, the local leadership with Pastor Des Rafferty ventured into this new area. With city regeneration being pumped into the area, the Carterknowle church's decision was certainly of a higher order as they were injecting a Holy Ghost influence into that area.

Since then the Manor Project has gone from strength to strength, of course with some struggles, but by God's grace they were able to and give thanks to him.

With essential financial assistance from the mother church, Carterknowle, and local funds and sacrifice by the Manor group members, they have been able to develop an essentially strong children's ministry, as well as reaching and positively affecting the lives of adults and young families.

With words of encouragement from Pastor Rashford-Hewitt, along with a timely message from district Bible worker Collin Woodford, hearts were touched with a sense of gratitude for all that God was doing with and through the group.

With a special visit representing the conference from Marcus and Ann Dove and his words of exhortation, the service was followed by a fellowship meal in the special 'Manor style'.

PASTOR A. RASHFORD-HEWITT

Names have meanings

At Leicester Central's first baptism in 2006 four sisters in Christ made public their new life in Jesus. The women, whose first names all have a meaning, spoke after their public immersion on why they became Christians.

Shellia (Sheila), 23, said, 'We're living in the last days and I want to prepare for his coming.' Spatiswe (Privileged) 'Patty', 22, had prepared herself for baptism last year after a friend encouraged her to return to church, while Sanelisiwe (Content with what we have), 17, insisted that it was the right thing to do after the Holy Spirit talked to her. Sikhangezile (Happy to receive a gift from God), 33, confessed: 'There is no life without God,' after having drifted away from Adventism in her youth.

GEORGIA DACRES

Reading Baptism

Pastor Everett Picart baptised Dina Oculi Patrick, Sarah Boucaud Patrick, Gwamaka Mwambogela and Theo Charles on 22 April at Reading Central church.

For Dina it was an extra special occasion, to be baptised on the day of her birthday with daughter Sarah, and to have her youngest daughter Mariame dedicated to the Lord at the same time. Sarah decided to commit her life to Christ when she responded to a baptistery appeal in 2005. It was while Sarah was receiving Bible studies from Pastor Picart that her mother Dina revealed her own desire to be baptised.

Spiritual guardians Caroline Richardson, Tessage Singo and Andre Disso accompanied the newly-baptised members during their formal welcome into the Reading Central and Reading Whitley churches.

CLIVE MALCOLM



Left to right: Dina Oculi Patrick, Sarah Boucaud Patrick, Pastor Everett Picart, Gwamaka Mwambogela and Theo Charles

'Kidderminster Nights'

If you didn't get to Kidderminster Forest Glades on Saturday 18 March, you really missed a special night. The 'Kidderminster Nights' live concert worship experience was a resounding success with just over one hundred people of all ages attending. The event was well supported by various churches. There were also a significant number of people attending who don't usually go to any kind of church. Many of them said they would bring more friends next time. In total we had about 80 visitors.

Guest speaker Richard Down, a school teacher and lay preacher from Bromyard, dealt very sensitively with the subject of suffering and why bad things seem to happen to innocent people. His talk was both challenging and thought-provoking, coming from his deep experience after losing his brother in a car crash.

The purpose of 'Kidderminster Nights' is to be a tool for bringing people near to God through a close worship experience, perhaps for the first time in their lives. It is then for others to open up their home study groups and invite people as they begin to respond. Great music and a wonderful message led at least 25 people to worship the Lord for the first time.

STEVE WINNITT



Dr Bruinsma on 'Reaching Southern England'

by Jon Gendle

It's hard to find a single reason to like Dr Reinder Bruinsma, but it's easy to find many! On meeting him, one is impressed by his warm smile; his Dutch accent is always appealing, like the TV narrators of science programmes we watched in awe as children; and of course his knowledge seems as deep and as alluring as the deepest ocean. He is a man in command of his subject, a message to convey, and an awareness of exactly what we need to know.

His talk on 'Reaching Southern England' addressed the issue of postmodernity. Yes, we've heard so much about this before, but we need to hear more and we need to know it again, over and over, until interaction with the subject becomes second nature and discussion of postmodernity elicits an informed response rather than a furrowed brow or glazed eyes. This is the world in which we live. No matter how much we might yearn for a previous age, it will never return; this is the world in which the lost are dying without knowing Jesus, unless we speak into their post-modern lives. As Dr Bruinsma said: 'It's the Zeitgeist, the spirit of the time. You can't put your finger on it, but it's there. It cannot be denied – and we have to deal with it.'

Dr Bruinsma began his talk speaking in tongues – Dutch to be precise – as he greeted his compatriots who were present, not as groupies, but as lovers of SEC Camp Meetings. Swiftly and deftly, he took us through the historical and philosophical roots of postmodernity up to the present reality in which there is a generation who have grown up thinking very differently from their parents – the average teenager bearing testimony to the fact.

Our children no longer believe that they will do better than their parents. Their outlook is much more bleak – as is their confidence in the potential of science to provide solutions to many of the world's ills. Notably, there is an emphasis on the non-rational, which poses a particular problem for Adventists since we are a very rational, very logical people. Postmodernists are much happier than previous generations to allow feelings and emotions to inform their worldview, as opposed to cold, hard facts – or what we would just call facts. Whereas many in the past believed in the notion of absolute truth, postmoderns just believe in *their* truth – and they believe *their* truth to be as good as my truth and your truth. There is no longer any 'grand narrative' to explain the nature of the world – neither communism nor Christianity will do. In fact, postmodernity will mix all kinds of

'styles', just as the Tate gallery building does.

Dr Bruinsma went on to stress that these ideas present great challenges to us. How does one speak to such a viewpoint? 'A postmodernist will readily say that doctrine isn't important, feelings are; what your worldview does for you is more important than doctrine; my interpretation of the Bible is as good as yours – it's all interpretation anyway!' Perhaps one of the greatest challenges is that postmodernists do not see the need for Jesus to work out any solution for them. 'If you make a mistake, then you work it out and you improve through the process.' Postmodernists move from church to church or philosophy to philosophy and pick and choose as they go along.

One might have been tempted at this point to feel that Dr Bruinsma was bringing us a message lacking in hope – but his counsel was not of despair or desperation. His message was one of opportunity. There is at least a spiritual awakening today. You can talk to people about such things. A young person being baptised can bring a busload of school friends along for the experience. They may have a problem with the institution and the hierarchy of the church, but debate about spirituality is no problem. What is more, postmodernists do not have to unlearn texts taught by others – they don't know them.

With postmodernists there is a great opportunity to talk about loving communities and they are quite happy to belong before believing. While doctrines and truth still matter, our approach should be one of incarnational love and faith. They need time and space to develop and grow. Our faith has to be shown to be relevant and we have to be better at translating our faith into action so that it is attractive to them, shorn of any hint of hypocrisy that might suggest our lives are not as sorted as our beliefs suggest they should be. In essence, what we say and what we are has to square up.

Dr Bruinsma concluded with the recognition that we have a great challenge. Reaching the nations is not just about nation states, but about all peoples and cultures, including postmoderns. He called on us to meet that challenge as he ended with these words: 'Let us make an effort to understand them and let us make an effort to bring the Gospel to postmodern Southern England.'

One could sense that Dr Bruinsma had stirred a response in the hearts of many, and his follow-up workshop bore testimony to the fact. In such a little time he had communicated much and



implanted within us a sober understanding of a world so different from the one we usually inhabit. But it's the world that Jesus died to save; it's the world we must strive to understand and reach out to as a personification of God's gospel of grace.

Dagenham revival meetings

From Sabbath 27 May to Sunday 11 June a series of revival meetings was held at the Dagenham church on Sabbath and Sunday evenings at 7pm. People turned out in large numbers to support the event.

Preparation began with a day of prayer and fasting.

The revival meetings were entitled 'What's That in Your Hand?' The key message was that God is willing to use whatever talents you have if you dedicate them in service to him.

The revival series contained special items from Pure Harmony, the Stratford Praise Team, Sister Swaby, Sedina Lewis, Brenda Christian and Darrien and Thula Mangena. There were beautiful song services. The Dagenham congregation was greatly uplifted.

There were five revivalist preachers: Pastor Delcina Rodney, Pastor Felix McPherson, Pastor Maslin Holness, Costa Vaggas and Ayo Adesina.

The revival climaxed with the baptism of Kashina Clairmont on the final Sabbath. That was the first baptism ever to take place at the Dagenham church.

Kashina has been involved in music, communication and the AYS department.

The revival series ended with a presentation from our head elder Timothy Clairmont.

VANESSA DODDS

CORRECTION

Dublin's Anniversary. MESSENGER 12 May 2006, vol 111/11, page 7. Dr Rex Riches has emailed from the United States. The 'first (recorded) Adventist baptism in Ireland' was not in 1859. Rather it was the first recorded acceptance of Adventist beliefs. The J. Andrews to whom reference is made should not be confused with J. N. Andrews. EDITOR

1,200 attend the funeral of Kiyan Prince

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau

The high-profile funeral of Kiyan Josiah Prince was held at 11am on Thursday 22 June at the Holloway church in north London. Over 1,200 people were in attendance, filling the church and overflowing out into the street. Kiyan was the gifted footballer son of Mark Prince, a member of the Holloway church, and grandson of Mr and Mrs Prince of Wood Green.

Fifteen-year-old Kiyan was killed outside his north London school in Edgware on Thursday 18 May. He died from stab wounds inflicted on him as he tried to be the peacemaker and intervene in settling a dispute. His death has been headline news for the weeks prior to the funeral. ITV News broadcast highlights of the funeral.

A representative from Queens Park Rangers, where Kiyan played in the under-16 team, said he was an 'outstanding and gifted player'. BUC Youth director Pastor Des Boldeau

gave a tribute on behalf of BUC president Pastor Cecil Perry, and spoke about the 'senseless loss of such a young life'. Dr Richard de Lisser, Personal Ministries director of the South England Conference, represented Pastor Humphrey Walters, president of the SEC, and grieved the fact that 'we live in a dangerous world where knives, guns and weapons of destruction accompany our children to school along with the books, lunch and sports kit'.

Mark Prince and Tracey, his mother, gave a moving eulogy to their son, whose young life was ended so quickly. The service was led by Pastor Emmanuel Osei, minister of the Holloway church.

QPR is trying to arrange a match with Arsenal next season as a memorial to Kiyan. As a mark of respect to him, Watford and Leeds footballers wore black armbands in the championship play-off final in Cardiff.

Baptism at Hanwell

May 20 was a happy day in the life of a very happy church in west London. Hanwell, with some 150 members, witnessed three more joining the family on a warm Sabbath morning. Tandeeka (11) and her brother Terrell Byfield (12) entered the pool to be immersed by Pastor Robert Vine, who was privileged to study with them in their home in Hayes. Especially poignant was the presence of their mother Paula who had left her hospital bed to be present. Then followed Sally Farren (18) from Watford whose friend Wederly Aguilar (Pastor Valdeir Aguilar's son) first took her to church. Sally studied with Vivienne Vine prior to joining the Adventist Church from a Roman Catholic background. Sally met Wederly as the boy-round-the-corner on the Meriden Estate several years ago.

We deemed the filling of the pool a worthy use of scarce water during the drought. In spite of Hanwell's notoriety as a place of wells and springs, near the River Brent, it too is suffering the lack of rain. The Ethiopian Eunuch's cry 'See, here is water' took on a vivid meaning for

us all. Pastor Vine took his thoughts from Acts 8:38. 'And he went on his way rejoicing.' Of whom does Luke speak? Of the Eunuch? He was certainly delighted to discover Jesus as his Saviour and Messiah. Of Philip? He had been the instrument of God's converting power and grace. Of the Holy Ghost? The Eunuch and Philip had been open to his instruction. Of the horse? He came to know Philip as a 'lover of horses' – he had had a lovely rest and a long drink on the dusty Gaza Road.

Surely all four went on their way rejoicing. This note of joy was confirmed in the singing of Tandeeka and her friend Stacey Philpott, 'Little Girl', also in the baritone of Joseph Walker and of Joel Dunton, our Young People's leader, and in the hymns 'Marching to Zion' and 'Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee'. The note of festivity was epitomised by the flowers all round the pool and by the hugs and words of welcome by our seven elders, led by Tony Brownlow. We all left the sanctuary for a celebration meal with joy in our hearts that God's Spirit is still at work in a mighty way today.

PASTOR ROBERT G. VINE

Seven baptised at Stanborough Park

Sabbath 24 June was a day packed with blessings for the church family at Stanborough Park. Pastor Ian Sleeman, who is giving a series of talks on the Gospel of John, presented an apt message on 'John the Baptist'. After all, this was the first of three baptisms scheduled for the next ten weeks.

What a thrill it was for a large congregation of church members, relatives and friends of seven candidates to witness lives young and old being dedicated to Jesus Christ.

First to pass through the baptismal waters was 73-year-old Derrick McCracken, a former machine fitter from Wigan who has had worldwide experience with the RAF. After caring for his sick wife for five years, Derrick was introduced to the Stanborough Seniors' Club. He has also attended Brian Davison's evangelistic meetings, discovered that the Bible is a truly fascinating book, and found real friendship within the church.

Former Park pastor Robert Vine also immersed Philippe Keshishian, much to the delight of a good number of relatives including

grandparents Gary and Araxi from Ealing.

Pastor Ian Sleeman baptised three more young people: Katrina Francis, who has grown up in the Watford area; and then a sister and brother originally from Brazil, Marly and Eladio Oliveira. Each of them was a picture of joy as they rose from the watery grave.

Youth pastor Matt Vincent then descended the

steps to conduct his very first baptism – 12-year old twin brothers, Daniel and Pierre Guenin. Not many ministers in the whole world-wide church could have had this type of inauguration! As with the other candidates, relatives from several countries, and especially parents Louis and Roslyn, all rejoiced with the hosts of Heaven.

JOHN ARTHUR



Mayor joins prayer initiative

by Maxine Donovan

Adventists in Haringey are so concerned about the increase in crime and violence that they have come together to pray intensely for their community. A week of prayer was held from Sunday 25 June, with a weekend prayer conference at Tottenham church from 30 June, and on Sabbath 1 July at Tottenham Hotspur Football Club. The theme was 'Reclaiming our Community Through Prayer', and the Mayor of Haringey, Councillor Gina Adamou, opened the prayer conference.

Prayer Warriors prayed for * the community to be united against all forms of crime and violence; * our members to be reclaimed from materialism and secularism; * the overcoming of evil and evil desires in this present generation; * the zeal to share the hope of Jesus' return; * the winning and retaining of converts for Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

A Prayer Chain was organised so that there was someone reclaiming the community through prayer every hour on the hour from Sunday the 25th, when a Bible Reading Marathon (Genesis to Revelation) started. Two non-Adventist churches – The New Testament Church of God (Wood Green) and the New Covenant Church (Tottenham) – participated in the Bible Reading Marathon and the Prayer Chain.

Invitations were sent to various organisations in the community, asking for permission to pray on their premises, and God opened doors that we had previously found firmly shut. This time the battle was no longer ours but the Lord's. The Lead Chaplain of North Middlesex Hospital, Revd Dominic Fenton, and the Assistant Director of In-patient Services at St Ann's Hospital, granted us permission to pray in the multi-faith room in both hospitals.

On Tuesday 26 June, from 7-8pm, John Loughborough School head teacher Dr June Alexis allowed us to hold a prayer and praise session, and a short presentation was given by Carol Henry-Linton from Chingford church, which reminded us of our importance as positive role models for our children.

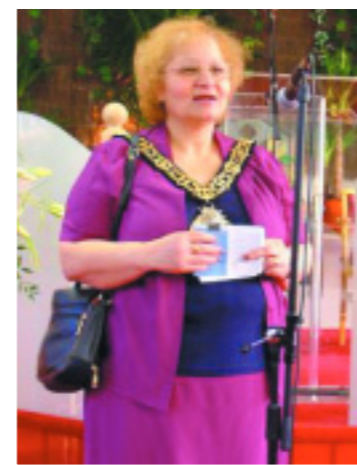
On Wednesday 27 June, 7-8pm,

we were at the Clive Lloyd Residential Home, a place we have tried to enter since 2001. This time the manager responded positively, and even asked us to design a leaflet which he could drop through the doors of all the residents, inviting them to the programme. Residents and members had a wonderful, Spirit-filled time, and we will be visiting the home every Wednesday evening at the residents' request.

Thursday 28 June at 10pm saw members of the prayer team joined by Elsie Staple, SEC director of Community Health Ministries, at Tottenham Police Station, the first of five police stations in Haringey we visited that day. A letter had been sent to the new Police Borough Commander, inviting him to the opening evening of the weekend prayer conference, and asking his permission to pray in all the police stations in Haringey. He responded quickly, though he was unable to attend due to a prior engagement, and we were granted permission. We even had an inspector assigned to us at each station as we carried out the project.

Friday 30 June at 7.30pm saw the start of the Weekend Prayer Conference. The first session was 'Cleansing', the Sabbath session was 'Prayer and Praise', and Sunday's 'Anointing and Empowerment'. Special guests included Pastor Humphrey Walters, SEC president; The Mayor of Haringey, Councillor Brian Haley; Dr June Alexis, head teacher of John Loughborough; Pastor Michael Hamilton, SEC Ministerial director; Elsie Staple, SEC Community Health Ministries director; and Tim Rawe, Facilitator of Pray Haringey, a network of churches praying for Haringey, of course. Other guests included the Chiswick Gospel Choir, Alan Charles, In His Name, Alafia Maxwell, Laura Osei and Kevin McLaughlin.

Councillor Haley, who attended the Sabbath session, referred to us as 'a force in the community'. He said he had been very impressed with the programme and that he would like to see more of the church members directly involved in practi-



yard. Thus will we be assured of God's blessings on our efforts because we are putting our confidence in him and in his promises. May each of us be a light in our community.

cal aspects of the community. Pastor Hamilton undertook to follow up on his suggestions.

The messages delivered by Elder John Mathieu, Hackney church, on Friday and Sabbath, and by Elder Rory Mendez, Stoke Newington, on Sunday, were powerful and blessed the hearers. Elder Mathieu reminded us, 'The battle is not ours, but God's' (2 Chronicles 20). Elder Mendez told us that to be anointed and empowered, we have to be of 'one accord', basing his message on Acts 2:1.

These prayer initiatives were an overwhelming success and, as we continue to prepare for Jesus' return, we intend to step out in faith under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and work tirelessly in the Lord's vine-

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Aug		
6	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
Sept		
3	Open Day	
24	West Midlands	10am-2pm
Oct		
1	West Midlands	10am-2pm
29	West Midlands	10am-2pm

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Sunset

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

	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
July 21	9.05	9.17	9.16	9.40	9.43
28	8.55	9.07	9.06	9.28	9.32
Aug 4	8.44	8.56	8.53	9.14	9.19
11	8.31	8.43	8.40	8.59	9.05

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