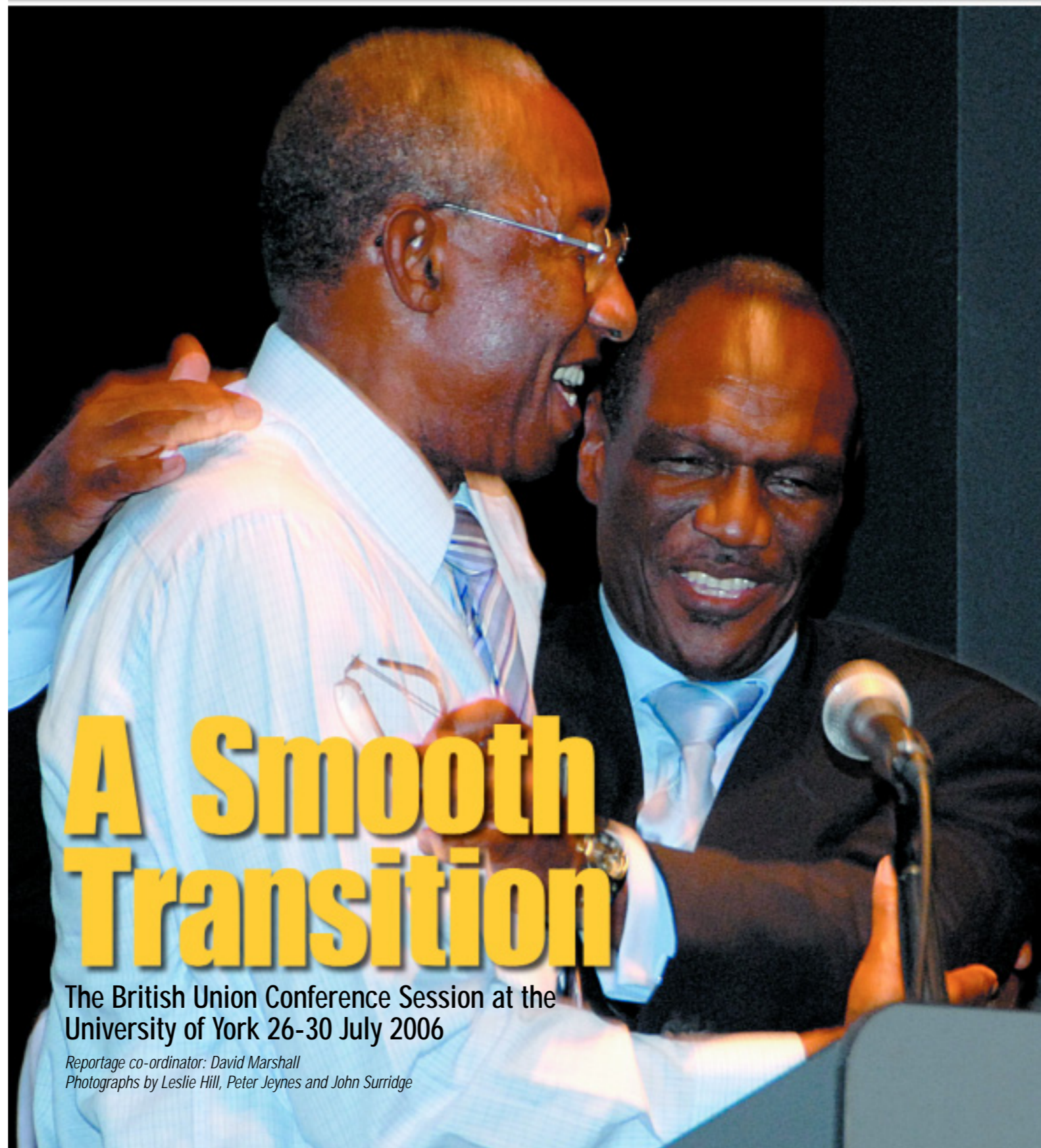


Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

# Messenger

18 August 2006 • Volume 111 • 19



## A Smooth Transition

The British Union Conference Session at the University of York 26-30 July 2006

Reportage co-ordinator: David Marshall  
Photographs by Leslie Hill, Peter Jaynes and John SurrIDGE

# University of Wales graduates first Newbold students

by Helen Pearson

For the first time this year, 25 Newbold graduates and eight of their lecturers shared in graduation ceremonies in both Wales and Bracknell. On Friday 7 July, Newbold's graduates in Divinity and Theology participated in the ceremony at the University of Wales, Lampeter, (UWL) with over 100 Lampeter staff and graduates.

In the second ceremony, the following Sunday, it was back to a home-grown awards ceremony in Newbold's Salisbury Hall with family and friends, and an address by Dr Gunnar Pedersen, head of

the Department of Theological Studies.

British graduates and others working in the BUC were present for the two ceremonies. They have a variety of futures in mind. **Irwin Larrier** plans to continue his study programme and focus on pastoral ministry. **Isaac Liburd** will continue reading for an MA in Theology at Newbold College. **Barbadian Victor Marshall** is a ministerial intern in the Leeds-Huddersfield district. On 1 July Brazilian graduate **Samuel Neves** was appointed minister of London's Holloway and Muswell Hill district. **Daniel Thompson** is planning to read for

an MA in Theology at Newbold College. **Susana Aber** and **Leigh Sleeman** graduated *in absentia*. Newbold began to offer divinity and theology degrees in partnership with UWL in 2004.

The speaker at the Lampeter ceremony was **The Revd Lord Griffith of Pembrey and Burry Port**, Superintendent Minister at Wesley's Chapel in London. Lord Griffiths was awarded an Honorary Fellowship. Newscaster **Huw Edwards** was also awarded an Honorary Fellowship for his outstanding contribution to broadcasting and journalism.



## Healthwise

### In Praise of Fleas!

Herman Melville (1819-91) was probably right when he said, 'No great and enduring volume can ever be written on the flea.' However, cadging a lift on a dog's back and being reviled by human beings may soon be a thing of the past for *Pulex irritans*. The flea has donated its body to science, and may even have answered the poet Yeats' question, 'Was there ever a dog that praised his fleas?'

To be fair, the flea did not volunteer its services to medical science. Researchers at *Australia's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation*

discovered that a protein responsible for the flea's ability to jump could be used in the repair of damaged arteries.

The protein *resilin* was discovered over forty years ago during an investigation into the flight systems of desert locusts and dragonflies. It is only recently that it was put to use in formulating a super-strong rubbery polymer that could be used in surgery. Resilin's elastic properties enables fleas to jump and flying insects beat their wings – up to 200 times a second.

Research shows that *resilin* resembles the cross-linked *elastin* found in human arteries and which must be strong enough to survive a lifetime of use. The substance is to

be used to combat two forms of cardiovascular disease: the hardening of arteries associated with *atherosclerosis*, which reduces blood flow; and *aneurysms* (a ballooning of the artery walls), which occur when arteries weaken and dilate.

*Resilin* out-performs the highest-grade rubbers available, is able to withstand the stresses placed on it and is able to return to its normal shape. Strips of artificial *resilin* can be stretched to more than three times their original length without breaking, so its potential for use in arteries and other surgical interventions is likely to be realised for a wide range of problems.

Imperial College, London,

spokesperson Professor Roger Greenhalgh comments: 'If we could take

something good out of the elasticity of the flea that benefits humans, that would be most impressive.' (One short hop for the flea, one giant step for mankind!)

So who knows? Enduring volumes may yet be written on the flea as research evidence mounts, but spare a fleating thought for '... a flea, hath smaller fleas on him prey; and these have smaller fleas to bite 'em, and so proceed *ad infinitum*!' (as Jonathan Swift, 1667-1745, wrote).



with Richard J. B. Willis



# Unity, Diversity and Love

Don W. McFarlane

The food was good and the conversation riveting when my Trans-European Division colleague, Miroslav Pujic, walked slowly to my table and whispered, 'Bertil would like to see you.' I wasn't quite sure why he wished to see me but my heart started beating at an unusually rapid rate as I contemplated the possibility that Dr Wiklander wished to share with me a decision of the Nominating Committee. I tried desperately to hide the import of the moment from my tablemates but my unfinished meal was a big giveaway, as I later discovered.

'Don, the Nominating Committee wishes to recommend your name to the delegation to serve as president of the British Union.' I cannot recall the thoughts that raced through my mind at the time, but I told Dr Wiklander that I needed to talk to two important people in my life – God and my wife. After 'wrestling' with both and being assured of their support, I informed the Division president that I would allow my name to go to the floor.

I did not seek the position of BUC president and had told Dr Wiklander prior to the Session that, if I was asked to serve in that position, there was no guarantee that I would accept.

I decided to accept the invitation to serve as BUC president because I concluded that it was God's plan that I did so. I reckoned that God must have directed matters on the Nominating Committee and, despite my deficiencies, had chosen me for this challenging assignment. Here the experience of Moses comes to mind when he was asked by God to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. He considered himself unsuitable for the task, in many respects, but reluctantly accepted only as he was assured that the One who had called him would be with him during his challenging assignment.

### Challenge

The challenge of leading the British Union seems even larger when one contemplates the record of my predecessor, Pastor Cecil Perry. For fifteen years he has provided strong, wise and spiritual leadership. I pay tribute to him and his dear wife for their sacrificial attitude and for the excellent service they have given. I will endeavour to ensure that the legacy they leave us is preserved and built upon for the advancement of God's Kingdom.

The history, culture and mission needs of the British Union combine to make it a unique field. This uniqueness, while challenging in some

respects, presents a platform for developing a Church that truly represents the unity, diversity and love that ought to characterise the people of God. I am convinced that there are immense opportunities for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles. During the next five years we will seek to embrace some of these opportunities in creative and exciting ways.

I am under no illusion regarding the magnitude of the job of leading the British Union. However, the primary task, as I see it, is not that of keeping our 25,000 members happy. Of course, it is my prayer that we will all be happy and fulfilled as members of the Church. But at the same time I hope that we will mature in our relationship with our Lord and our understanding of the reason for the existence of the Church. This maturity involves a readiness on the part of all members to do their part to reach the millions in the British Isles with the Three Angels' Messages (the fullest understanding of the Gospel that has been revealed to us).

### Evangelism and nurture

One of my dreams for the next five years is that every member will see himself or herself as an integral part of the Church's evangelistic and nurturing programme. Eric Sevareid was one of America's most able and popular news commentators. On his retirement he was reminiscing about his many years as a news correspondent and communicator in Washington DC. He spoke of another commentator who, he said, knew every-one worth knowing: the president, the diplomats, the senators, the president's cabinet, key bureaucrats and the socially elite. He had the contacts and was stuffed with information. 'There was only one problem,' Sevareid said. 'He never used the information he had. He forgot what he was here for.' It is important that every member remembers that he or she is in the Church to share the Gospel with others. It would be sad if we wasted the knowledge we have.

### People-friendly worship

Another dream of mine is that each local church will operate in such a manner that any member of the public, whatever their status or background, can enter and feel at ease and at home. There is much work that needs to be done in this area, but if we are serious about church growth we dare not overlook it. Should we succeed in getting this right, it will make a significant impact on our efforts to broaden the appeal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in these isles.

My predecessor promoted greater involvement of our Church with its community. Behind the scenes he also engaged with government minis-

ters and other leaders in an effort to advance the values of our Church. It is my intention to continue pursuing ways and means in which our Church can make a telling impression on society, despite our comparative smallness. At the same time it is important for all members of the British Union to recognise that the greatest impact that the Church can have on the community comes from the influence they individually shed on their neighbourhood and workplaces.

### Daily devotional

The 'Tell the World' initiative of the General Conference has revealed that approximately 50% of Adventists have no daily devotion, and many of those who do have a superficial approach to Bible study and prayer. This does not augur well for their personal spiritual development and for the future of the Church. It is imperative that we find a simple but effective means of encouraging our members to take their devotional life more seriously. As such, spiritual nurture will be a major emphasis during the next five years.

Positioning our Church to be able to respond meaningfully, sympathetically and creatively to the needs of our society is, in my opinion, one of the major tasks that leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church face today. This includes local church leadership. I have no doubt that what we have to offer as a Church is what our society desperately needs. However, many in society are not conscious of this need. We must create that consciousness where it is non-existent, and be able to communicate effectively and clearly how that need can be met.

### Ongoing dialogue

As we seek to advance the interests of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles, it is my intention to have an ongoing dialogue with members. Feel free to share your ideas with me. This is best done by writing to me or by visiting me in the Union office. I hope to share my thoughts with you each quarter using various means that I have at my disposal, including this page in MESSENGER.

I am pleased that I have been given a team that is able to deliver the leadership that is required to take our Church forward. The combination of skills, talents and interests in the leaders that have been chosen is impressive. We recognise, nonetheless, that talents without God's anointing are not much help to the cause of our Lord. Consequently, I ask that you join me and my fellow BUC leaders in praying for the enabling power of the Holy Spirit as we seek to discharge our duties and play our part in preparing a people for the coming of Jesus.



GC Executive secretary, Pastor Mathew Bediako

# Session Opens

## Wednesday 26 July

by Lee Gallaher

Five years ago the British Union Quinquennial Session was held, for the first time, on the York University campus. After the event David Marshall reported that it had been a hot week. With that thought in mind I glanced at the temperature gauge in the car as I turned into the south car park of the university last Wednesday. Thirty degrees. 'It's going to be another warm one!' I thought.

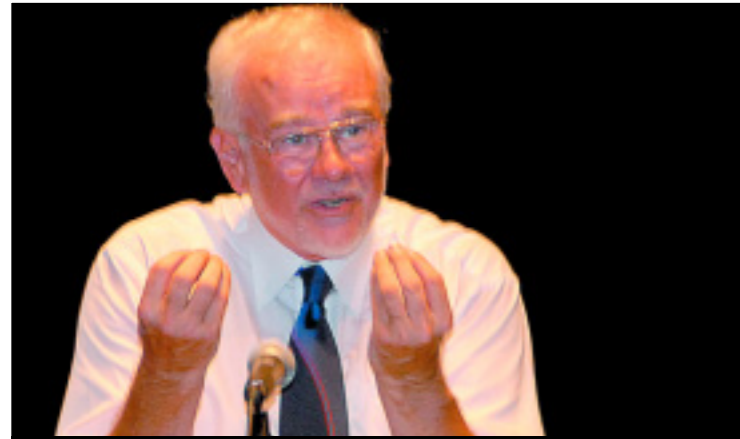
I paid and displayed and, picking up my laptop bag, headed off to acquaint myself with the layout of the campus – or, at least, the route from the car park to the Central Hall. Threading my way through a gaggle of Canada Geese near the path, being careful to look where I was treading, I found my way to the main auditorium.

At 2pm, upon entering Central Hall, it became apparent that many people were still registering or finding their accommodation. The hall was all but empty. By 2.45pm the hall had started to fill

up. The air throbbed with the hum of good-natured greetings. As I watched from a slightly elevated position in the auditorium, I saw delegates meeting with old friends from far and wide. The differing strains of their accents told me that these were old acquaintances from the length and breadth of the British Isles. It struck me as a good reflection of a diverse Church and, moreover, that Adventism could be the backdrop for lifelong friendships.

In addition to the warm hugs and handshakes there was an air of bright-eyed expectation. Who knew if the same optimism would last through to Sunday! But, for now, there was a buzz of anticipation. I shared in this sense of expectation as my assignment to report on the opening scenes of the session gave me my first opportunity to witness this peculiar church event first-hand.

**ENTER: The Lord Mayor**  
At 3pm the platform party arrived or, should I say, some of it did. Some sort of mix-up backstage meant that the



Dr Wiklander giving his Keynote Address



Lord Mayor of York



The opening of the session



The President's Report

first half of the platform party became detached from the second half. However, after a few moments of uncertainty, the Lord Mayor of York and her consort appeared from behind the curtain and the opening ceremony started in earnest. At this point I spotted that some well-organised souls (who had perhaps remembered the heat five years previously) had come equipped with fans. Others were rooting through the materials of their delegate packs looking for suitable fan substitutes. The yellow voting cards seemed to be the best instrument for the job.

Pastor Curtis Murphy got things off to a rousing start by leading the delegates in singing *Now Thank We All Our God* and a collective reading of verses 33 and 34 of Psalm 104. NEC president Pastor Egerton Francis continued the hymn's theme of thanksgiving in his opening prayer, thanking God for leadership and for the way in which the BUC had been led in the past five years. Pastor Francis also prayed that the Holy Spirit would breathe peace and calm over the proceedings of the coming few days.

To be honest, when the Lord Mayor approached the microphone to perform her civic duty I was expecting, perhaps, a short promotional snapshot of York and a generic welcome to the city. I confess that the excellent content of the Right Honourable Janet Hopton's remarks took me by surprise. Mrs Hopton had certainly done her homework, being very well informed about the work and values of Adventists. In closing, Mrs Hopton reminded the delegates: 'It is by your life and through practising Christian values that you can best promote Christianity and encourage others to "give it a try".' This, I thought, was an unexpectedly evangelistic challenge from a civic leader. I was impressed.

At 3.40pm Pastor Cecil Perry, having ascertained that a quorum of delegates was present, declared the Sixth Quinquennial Session of the BUC open for business.

**For the fallen**  
One of the most poignant parts of the

opening ceremony for me was the time taken to read out the names of those church members who had passed away during the past quinquennial term. As Pastor Eric Lowe read out the names they also appeared on the big screen. I saw my own grandmother's name appear and it gave me reason to reflect, as Pastor Perry later commented, that all those whose names were read had 'fallen asleep in Jesus'. What a glorious hope! This thought, I felt, put the entire work of the Session into perspective, that in all things the primary purpose of the BUC is to 'proclaim the everlasting Gospel of Jesus Christ'. What higher purpose could there possibly be?

The gathering of names for the Recommendations Committee took considerably longer than had been allowed for in the programme. Consequently it was decided to defer some of the business of the first session till after supper.

### Keynote address

After a well-earned break for supper the delegates returned to Central Hall to hear TED president Dr Bertil Wiklander's keynote address. He opened with a passage from Psalms which I will reproduce here as part of this report because it's such a great portion of Scripture and, if you take time to reflect on it now, it will have made reading this report worthwhile.

*'Your unfailing love, O Lord, is as vast as the heavens; your faithfulness reaches beyond the clouds. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your justice like the ocean depths. You care for people and animals alike, O Lord. How precious is your unfailing love, O God! All humanity finds shelter in the shadow of your wings. You feed them from the abundance of your own house, letting them drink from the rivers of delight. For you are the fountain of life, the light by which we see.'*  
Psalm 36:5-9, NLT.

Dr Wiklander went on to expand the Psalmist's theme of God's abundance, challenging the delegates to consider the reason God gives so generously to the saints – that his

followers will allow the received blessings of God to overflow into the lives of all around. God, said Dr Wiklander, is not made perfect by what he *has* but rather by what he *gives*. We, as God's servants, are called to emulate the characteristics of our heavenly Leader and are called to reflect his generosity to those around us. God gives without limits and this is one of the signs that we identify ourselves as God's children, that we imitate him and live generously, without limits, serving, sacrificing and loving the children of God we meet every day.

I personally felt that Dr Wiklander's message was stirring and from the heart. It certainly challenged me to think about my perception of God – just how big and abundantly loving is the God I picture in my heart and mind? And how do I allow God's abundance to overflow in my life and pour out to those around me?

While these thoughts were still rattling around in my head it was time to resume the business of the Session. Some matters concerning amendments to elements of the BUC's constitution were laboriously dragged out but finally the experts were satisfied and then it was time for Pastor Perry to give his report.

Pastor Perry good-naturedly joked with the delegates about not reading his report in full because he was *sure* that they had all read it in advance. Instead, after a short address regarding his lack of understanding of the word 'retirement' and his love of God's work, again referring with humour to the trials sometimes presented by 'the brethren', Pastor Perry referred us to the big screen. We were then treated to a presentation produced by the Adventist Media Centre in which Pastor John SurrIDGE interviewed the president about his time in office and his hopes for the future. The presentation also featured members of the outgoing Executive Committee and their views of time served in this capacity. All aspects of the work of the BUC institution were covered, from administration to evangelism. The presentation was well produced and gave a thorough, if at times rose-tinted, overview of the work of the BUC during the past five years.

Alas, at this point my reporting duties ceased. I was only able to make it to the Session for this first day. I cannot say whether the hopes of peace, calm and the prevailing Spirit of God shone out across all aspects of the Session or if the cankerous spectre of politics reared its ugly head. But certainly, to my view, in the eyes of those in leadership as of Wednesday evening, the desire was for the former.

## Quality of Life

While I walked around the beautiful campus of York University, breathing in the fresh air and avoiding the numerous droppings of over-enthusiastic ducks, swans and peahens, my thoughts were interrupted with the words, 'Do you think the Session will be political?' My first thought was, *Of course, it's always political*, so I just laughed and said nothing. Then, strolling past the lake, I felt guilty for my sneer and wished that I had offered my fellow church member a word of Christian encouragement.

My mood was altered by the words of Nigel Todd, a member of the Executive Committee, who offered the opening prayer. Prior to his talk with God, he told the congregation of his battle with cancer and how his faith in God and the 'prayers of the saints' had enabled him to be well on the road to recovery. In his closing words, he petitioned the Lord to 'help us to put separate agendas aside'.

Dr Bertil Wiklander spoke about the quality of life. His was the first presentation, which encompassed values that the General Conference wishes to promote. Using Psalm 36:5-9 as his key text, he relayed the fact that none of this physical life that we possess would be anything without the love, faithfulness and justice of God.

'Quality of life' is a modern, secular phrase. However, Dr Wiklander told the delegation that the best quality of life is from Jesus Christ, and pointed to John 10:10 where Jesus stated, 'I come to give you a more abundant life.'

Unless we receive 'premium fuel' in our lives, we cannot have the quality of life that God intended. And this quality of life is not simply for us to enjoy selfishly; it is for us to Tell the World about.

As we said the closing prayer, the question returned to my mind, 'Do you think the Session will be political?' and now my answer was clear: No! If I want my quality of life to reflect the life of Jesus Christ.

CATHERINE BOLDEAU

# Thursday Session

## Morning

by Natasha Gunter



Dr Beach, the session Parliamentarian



Victor Pilmoor, Treasurer of the British Union



Eric Lowe, Executive secretary of the British Union

Pastor Matthew Bediako, the General Conference Executive secretary, presented the first devotional for the Session. The auditorium was well filled as Pastor Bediako used the example of the spies who went to look at the land of Canaan and the discouraging report that ten brought back to the people. The children of Israel, he said, had lost hope and had forgotten the way that God had led them in the past. Pastor Bediako asked the question, 'Do you have giants in your life?'

Pastor Perry opened the first morning session by thanking Pastor Bediako. He also took this opportunity to recognise the presence of Dr Orville Woolford, who would speak to

the delegation later when the Education report was being presented.

Pastor Perry thanked the team who had put together a special issue *Messenger* which covered *A Hundred Years of Mission 1906-2006* and contained features on current evangelistic and diversity challenges.

### Secretariat Report

The first report presented was from the secretariat of the BUC, Pastor E. C. Lowe; Pastor Perry acted as chair for this report. For the quinquennium, 82% of the goal for membership increase had been reached. That had been achieved through baptisms and transfers. The net

transfer growth had increased significantly over the last five years. Despite that positive growth, the ratio between Seventh-day Adventist members and the rest of the population remained a challenge. Pastor Lowe said that the devotional presentation by Pastor Bediako had renewed our hope that the British Isles Mission Field did not represent a mission impossible if we relied totally on God for strength. During the previous quinquennium, membership losses had been the lowest by comparison with previous comparable periods. That had partly been due to the implementation of new programmes that had encouraged nurturing, and partly due to the enthusiasm of the members and workers in witnessing.

Currently the ratio of field pastors to membership is: 1:148 in the NEC; 1:198 in the SEC.

Pastor Lowe then invited questions. What follows represents a summary of the questions and the answers given.

- 'When workers come into this country is there a package to brief them on the various cultural issues?'

Pastor Lowe said that although there was not a specific package tailored for these purposes, new pastoral workers coming from abroad are given appropriate support.

- 'Are the current leaders training future leaders?'

In response it was said that leadership courses have been and continue to be provided by Newbold College. This gives an opportunity to develop leadership skills. In addition to these various programmes, the BUC Ministerial Association department will be holding a programme in October this year for interns and new ministerial workers.

- The assertion was made that much of the membership growth had come from children who had

grown up in Adventist homes. In response Pastor Perry said that, in actual fact, we were losing a lot of our children, and we needed to evangelise not only to reach the outside communities but also the people who are within our reach, including our own children.

- The next comment generated much excitement and applause from the delegation. It was on the issue of various cultural churches, churches that had been set up for one nationality. The questioner challenged us to recognise our need for sensitivity to the fact that there are those in our congregations whose first language is not English and that they are more fluent in expressing themselves in things pertaining to the Word of God in their mother tongue. Therefore we should include in our churches people who are able to interpret so that people from other nations

may feel more at home in our congregations.

Commenting on this Pastor Perry said that our duty is 'one church'. Although we encourage the mosaic (diversity) it should be within that 'one church' organisation.

- A delegate raised the point that in the schools of the prophets there must have been some prophetesses also, because the Bible speaks of prophetesses. The question was then posed: 'Is there a service of blessing planned for women who are in pastoral ministry within the British Union Conference, a service where women in ministry can be publicly set aside?'

In response Pastor Lowe said that such a service was in place for pastoral female workers.

- Another related question was, 'What was planned for the female workforce?'

This question generated a lot of

interest on both sides of the argument. Pastor Lowe affirmed that the BUC would continue to work with the GC and not against their directive. Currently the position of the GC was that female pastoral workers could be commissioned.

### Treasury Report

The mission of the Treasury department at the BUC was to be stewards for God's faithful people who are charged with building a community in Christ. Victor Pilmoor said that this has been very important to him throughout his term in office.

Referring to Pastor Bediako's devotional encouraging us to think big, Victor Pilmoor briefly talked about the investment that had been put into the *LIFE.info* magazine, which aims to reach people from all walks of life.

It was highlighted that in the quinquennium there had been an increase in financial giving. Mr Pilmoor made the point that there was a myth that those who had recently come from other countries were not financially supporting the churches they were worshipping in, but the figures showed that this was not the case.

The treasurer gave thanks to God because in the last twelve months we had seen £14.5 million in tithes.

The report was followed by questions that ranged from concerns raised about elderly care available to the membership, to an individual giving thanks to the department for setting up an online system that allows individuals to give an offering via the Internet. It was acknowledged that Pastor John Surrudge had been responsible for setting up this facility online.

### Education Report

Education = Investment. That was the motto for the presentation made by Dr Keith Davidson, the BUC Education director. Currently we had seven schools across the British Union. Dr Davidson proposed that we needed to look more closely at getting appropriate funding in order to aid the growth and development of education in the Union. It was hoped that another secondary school would be established in the near future. Dr Davidson concluded his synopsis of the Education report by thanking the various individuals who had made a difference in that area of ministry.

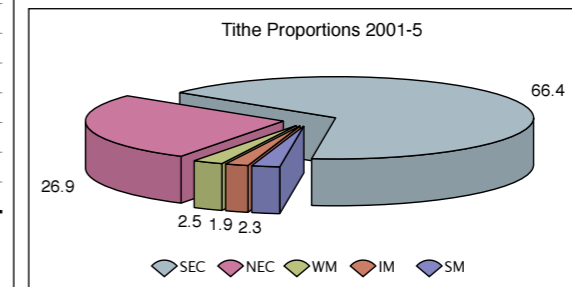
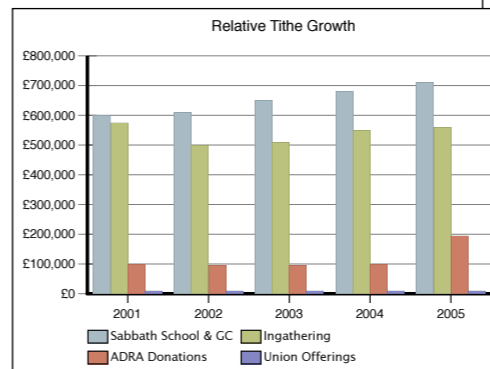
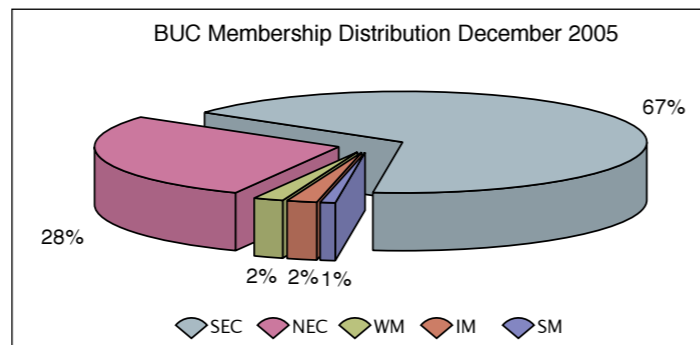
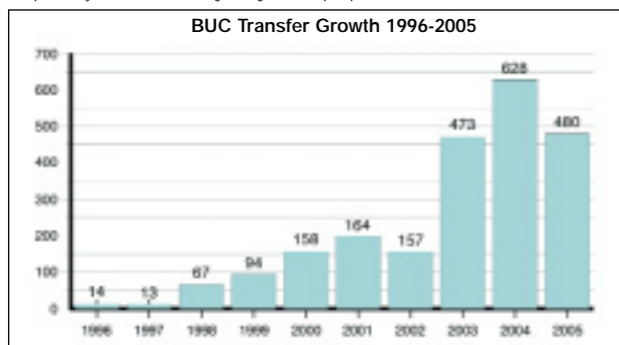
At the conclusion of Dr > 8

### From the Secretary's Report The Statistics of Growth

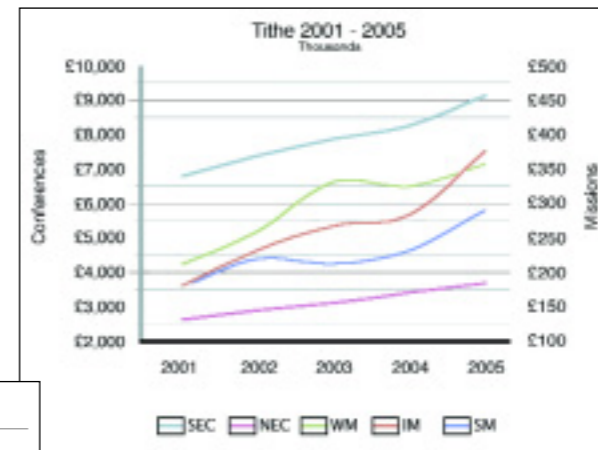
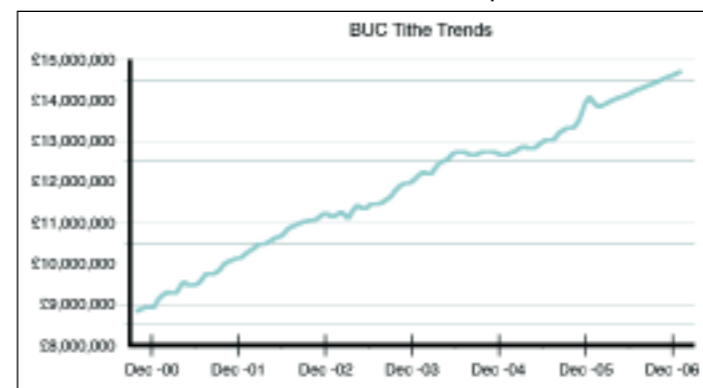
Quinquennium	Baptisms and POF	Net Membership Increase	Net Annual Growth Rate (5-Year Growth Rate)
1981 - 1985	3,624	1,496	2.05% (10.34%)
1986 - 1990	3,499	1,674	2.08% (10.42%)
1991 - 1995	3,101	995	1.12% (5.61%)
1996 - 2000	3,292	1,903	2.03% (10.16%)
2001 - 2005	4,099	4,883	4.73% (23.66%)

Quinquennium	Membership at Start of Quinquennium	Baptisms and POF	Accession Annual Growth Rate (5-year Rate)
1981 - 1985	14,569	3,624	4.97 (24.87)
1986 - 1990	16,065	3,499	4.36 (21.78)
1991 - 1995	17,739	3,101	3.50 (17.48)
1996 - 2000	18,734	3,292	3.51 (17.57)
2001 - 2005	20,637	4,099	3.97 (19.86)

The following graph demonstrates the significant net transfer growth which has taken place during the past 10 years - 1,902 coming during the last quinquennium.



### From the Treasurer's Report



< 7  
Education Report continued

Davidson's report at 11.40am, there were lengthy queues of delegates waiting to speak at both floor microphones.

Rumours of school closures had circulated. Dr Davidson made it clear that local Conferences were responsible for the setting up and closure of schools, with the single exception of the Union school. The function of the Education department was to support existing schools.

One delegate enquired if, under new legislation, the Church would be obliged to employ gay teachers. Dr Davidson affirmed that the governing body of each school would continue to be responsible for the appointment of staff.

A Scottish Mission delegate wanted greater emphasis on primary education. For every secondary school, she said, it was possible to find *four* primary schools. Dr Davidson responded that the great majority of our schools were primary schools. However, he proceeded to put the case for Adventist secondary education.

Dr Colin Mitchell, an eminent scientist, underlined the importance of Adventist education by stressing the all-pervasive influence of Evolution in the state sector.

SEC's Julia Smith asked for statistics to back the assertion (made by Dr Davidson in his report) that Adventist schools served an evangelistic purpose.

Cheryl Blake, a former HMI, now Dr Davidson's associate in the Education department, addressed the concerns of delegates with regard to the Theodore McLeary School.

Tony Best, a former student of

Stanborough Secondary School, voiced concerns with regard to the marketing of the school as an 'independent' rather than an Adventist school.

When a question was asked about what Adventist parents should do in districts where Adventist schools were unavailable, Dr Davidson said that home schooling could be part of the answer.

Dr Clemency Mitchell felt that weekend schooling by Adventist teachers could be another part of the answer and that a curriculum should be provided by the Education department for weekend schools.

Concerns were expressed about the possible 'strings' that might be attached to state funding (Grant Maintained Status). Dr Davidson responded: 'We seek state funding so that our children can sit at the feet of godly teachers.'

Dr Orville Woolford added: 'When we negotiated state funding we took the necessary steps to ensure that "no other piper would call the tune".'

At 12.25 Ann Pilmoor reported as head teacher of Stanborough Junior School. During her eight-year headship she had had her aims pinned to the wall of her study to keep her focused. She thanked Pastor C. R. Perry for his 'generosity of spirit and his principled and exemplary leadership'. Staff worship had been especially important. The teaching of Spanish had been introduced into a broad and balanced curriculum. She concluded: 'We've seen scallywags transformed into well-disposed boys and girls.'

At the conclusion of the morning session the Recommendations Committee reported the membership of the Nominating Committee (see page 29) and it was voted.

# Thursday Session

## Afternoon

by John Surridge

### The Nominating Committee

The first item on the afternoon agenda was the eagerly anticipated initial report of the Recommendations Committee, giving the names of those selected to sit on the Nominating Committee. Twenty-one names in total, including the chair, Dr Bertil Wiklander, were presented to the delegates by NEC Executive secretary Pastor Paul Lockham, secretary of the Recommendations Committee. There was a short discussion on the degree of overlap between the two committees, but the names were then approved by a large majority. The names voted were: Chair: Dr Bertil Wiklander, TED president; Pastor Eglan Brooks, SEC; Pastor Jude Jeanville, NEC; Pastor Ernest Logan, retired pastor; Pastor Emmanuel Osei, SEC; Pastor Steve Palmer, NEC; Pastor James Phillip, SEC; Luis Aguilar, SEC; Claude Alexander, SEC; Dr Cynthia Benz, SEC; Charles Bramble, NEC; Craig Gooden, NEC; Stella Jeffery, SEC; Nylann Kennedy, SEC; Raymond Little, IM; Nana Obeng-Badu, SEC; Beulah Plunkett, NEC; Dr Rita Robson, NEC; Martin Luther Rodney, SEC; Elsie Staple, SEC; Alison Taylor, WM.

### Unity

Pastor Don McFarlane, currently serving as a Field Secretary for the Trans-European Division, then spoke on the theme of unity, one of the Adventist Church's key values.

Using Psalm 133:1-3 as his theme text, Pastor McFarlane said, 'God values unity highly and is always willing to pour a blessing on those who practise unity.' He then went on to list three reasons why 'dwelling together in unity' is good in itself. Firstly because it looks good to see people from different races fellowshiping together; secondly because it is good for us – apparently actually reducing stress levels; and thirdly because it is good for the

portrayal of Jesus Christ to the world and the proclamation of the Gospel.

'However,' said Pastor McFarlane, 'Disunity is a characteristic of unredeemed people . . . but Jesus prayed for unity among his people. . . . Without unity our Church loses credibility.'

'But,' he continued, 'unity is not uniformity. It is not to press people together so that they look alike and worship and fellowship in the same way. I believe in people worshipping in ways in which they feel comfortable.'

Also, 'unity is not demanding,' Pastor McFarlane stated. 'It is not that others should become like us; it is for us to understand others and to accept them.'

Pastor McFarlane also emphasised that unity is not the avoidance of debate or controversial issues in the Church. 'It is good to have disagreements,' he said. 'Debate sharpens our understanding of truth. . . . *However, the manner in which disputes are handled shows whether or not there is unity in the Church.*'

Listing some practical ways that members can contribute to the unity of the Church, Pastor McFarlane said that they should: accept Jesus as Lord; respect differences between members and cultures; and speak positively about one another, our leaders, and our fellow members. Mindful of the current discussions about diversity he added, 'Unless there is a clash between culture and the Gospel our members should be allowed to worship in the context of their own culture.'

'The Seventh-day Adventist Church has the potential to be an even more powerful agent for evangelism than it is now,' Pastor McFarlane concluded. 'If we could demonstrate genuine unity it would attract more people to our church than any evangelistic campaign.'

As a practical exercise three

questions were presented to the delegates for them to discuss: What does Psalm 10:11-13 tell us about God's attitude to people of different races and cultures? What steps could be taken to promote greater unity in our Church? In view of Matthew 18:19, 20, what happens when people in the Church unite behind a common purpose? These questions were not deemed rhetorical, and Pastor Perry actually allowed about ten minutes for discussion of them before Pastor McFarlane closed with a prayer.

### Publishing

Business resumed at 3pm with the newly-elected Nominating Committee leaving for their discussions and the presentation of the Publishing Department Report.

Former Trans-European Division Publishing director Pastor John Arthur, who had recently been awarded an OBE, introduced the subject and reminded delegates that literature-evangelism had played an important role in the early years of the Church's history. He then handed over to the current BUC Publishing director Pastor Curtis Murphy.

Pastor Murphy pointed out that he was new to the department, having been called to serve in this role just last September, and he commended the work of his predecessors and all of those who work in the field of literature-evangelism. He then gave a brief testimony from his own experience of the need to build connections with people in order to reach them with the Gospel and with Adventist literature. 'There are people in the Church who are wanting to become literature-evangelists,' he concluded. 'Encourage them!'

### The Stanborough Press

Because of its strong links with the literature work Pastor Perry steered the meeting straight into the Stanborough Press Report, which was presented by the manager, Mr Paul Hammond.

Mr Hammond pointed out that there had been many changes during the quinquennium, some of which had been very painful. Stanborough Press had moved from a printing house to a publishing house with a consequent loss of jobs. But as a result, over the last two years the Press had moved to a more sound financial position. Fifty new books had been published over the quinquennium, in a number of different

languages, and the *Focus* and *LIFE.info* magazines were making a major contribution to the evangelistic work of the Church.

Mr Hammond expressed his thanks to the Press staff, the British Union Conference, the Review and Herald (which is the parent company of the Stanborough Press), the members of Stanborough Press board, and to the Lord for his leading in the work of the Press.

### Help in Secretariat

In a brief interlude Pastor Perry brought to the delegates the pressing need for an additional budget to be added to the existing twelve in the British Union Conference office. He pointed out that the work load on the Executive secretary had increased so dramatically over the quinquennium that an associate was now needed. This was agreed with a minimum of discussion.

Stanborough Press editor Dr David Marshall then continued the Stanborough Press Report but, having received numerous enquiries, spoke initially about the health of his wife Anita who had recently been suffering with cancer. Her operation had been successful, he said, and the fact that lymph node biopsy had proved negative was, in his view, an answer to prayer.

Dr Marshall, who has served in his current position for twenty-eight years, told the delegates that he had really enjoyed his work over that time and thanked them for their continued support.

As Dr Marshall sat down Dr Bert Beach came to the lectern and added his personal commendation to the work of Dr Marshall. 'You should be very proud to have an editor of this calibre,' he said. 'Hang on to him!'

The General Conference secretary spoke next, unfortunately to give some bad news that had just reached him: the mother of Dr Jan Paulsen had passed away and, while this was not unexpected, it was nevertheless a cause of sadness. Pastor Perry immediately led out in a prayer for the family.

There were numerous questions and comments about literature-evangelism and the Stanborough Press, but the reports were approved by the delegates just before 4pm.

### Youth/Personal Ministries

The Youth Report should have followed but, as Pastor Perry pointed



The Publishing People: David Ahwan, I Mardner, Paul Hammond and Roy Chisholm



BUC Publishing director, Pastor Curtis Murphy

out, the Youth director was busy in Denmark with the Pathfinders so his report would be presented on Friday. The Personal Ministries director was also absent, though for different reasons, having been called to the Middle East Union last year. His report was presented by Pastor Eric Lowe who thanked Pastor David Cox for the work he had done in his time at the British Union, particularly in the area of small groups.

Time was then given to the Personal Ministries directors of the Conferences to speak. Pastor Aris Vontzalidis spoke warmly of Pastor Cox and thanked God for the fruit that had resulted from his good work. He also emphasised the importance of LIFEdevelopment and said, 'It is the method that Jesus used. Jesus mingled with people and met their needs.'

Pastor Roy Morgan, Personal Ministries director of the North England Conference, spoke of the revival of Revelation Seminars, the LETS programmes, and

Ingathering within the NEC.

Spirited discussion ensued on a wide range of subjects, not all of which were easily identified as being connected with Personal Ministries. The issue of diversity came up several times with some delegates struggling to understand the role of monocultural churches within the British Union.

Discussion was interrupted once, for the final report from the Recommendations Committee. Secretary of the committee Pastor Paul Lockham presented, in turn, the names of people selected to serve on the Credentials and Licences Committee, the Standing Constitutional Committee, and the Plans Committee. After the names were approved by the delegates Pastor Don McFarlane, who had taken over as chair of the Recommendations Committee, commended the committee members for their good work.

The meeting adjourned for supper at 5.25pm.



## Stanborough Secondary School

Newly-appointed Stanborough School headmaster Roger Murphy introduced a DVD presentation. The school offered a broad curriculum which included the sciences, music and public speaking. There had been a maximum of twenty students per class.

Mr Murphy acknowledged the hard work and vision of his predecessor Mr S. Rivers. An International Baccalaureate course, recognised in eighty countries, would be offered to the over-16s. Mr Rivers would head up the IB programme.



'There is going to be a new president'



'So, how will it affect us?'

# Thursday Session Evening

by John Surridge

## Irish Mission

Thursday evening's programme began with the Irish Mission Report presented by their president Pastor David Neal. 'The world is changing in Ireland,' said Pastor Neal. Hundreds of thousands of incomers from a variety of different countries were changing society. That had had a knock-on effect on the Church. A number of new national groups had been worshipping in the Mission, including Brazilian, Ghanaian, and Romanian. An estimated 600-650 Adventists currently met every Sabbath across the Irish Mission.

A downside of the numerical and economic growth of the country, however, had been that it was becoming more secular. Evangelising the indigenous people was increasingly difficult.

The report concluded with a DVD presentation put together by Pastor

Douglas McCormac. This illustrated the diversity of the country and the Church and also featured a number of interviews with members. Particularly inspiring was the report of an Adventist presence at the Ulster Show where *LIFE.info* magazines and other Adventist literature were given to the public. The DVD ended with the song 'Christ Be Before Me', played and sung with a distinctive Celtic lilt.

Other speakers continued on the platform, including the previous Irish Mission president Pastor Curtis Murphy, Steve Wilson, from Dublin, and Pastor Rudika Puskas, who is currently working in Northern Ireland. He paid tribute to Pastor Watson Southcott for his work in the Irish Mission some twenty years ago and the continuing effects of that work today.

The report was accepted with a warm round of applause.

## New president elected

Immediately following the Irish Mission Report, Dr Bertil Wiklander announced that the Nominating Committee had a partial report to present. He said that the committee members had worked long and hard and now had a name to present for the position of British Union Conference president. Mrs Cynthia Benz came to the podium and read out the name of Pastor Don McFarlane. This name was accepted almost unanimously by the delegates.

Before calling him to the platform Dr Bertil Wiklander paid tribute to Pastor McFarlane for his work at the Trans-European Division and said that although he would be a great loss to the TED it would be the British Union Conference's gain.

In his acceptance speech Pastor McFarlane paid tribute to outgoing president Pastor Cecil Perry.

Referring to the last time that he took over from Pastor Perry, as president of the South England Conference, he said, 'Fifteen years ago I stepped into the shoes of a giant, and I am doing the same again today. I will make mistakes; I am only a human being. Under Jesus Christ everything worthwhile can be accomplished and I am putting myself under his control. Please pray for me and remember that presi-

dents need words of encouragement. Thank you for the confidence you have placed in me. Under God I will endeavour not to let you down.'

As Pastor Perry came forward he received a long, standing ovation. When eventually there was quiet he said, 'As I told my wife, I come to every Session not expecting anything and I am prepared to leave with nothing. No man determines my destiny, only God does. I love my Church. Whatever the Lord asks the Church to ask me to do I will do it. I was not born a president; I was just born a child of God to do God's work. Whether I'm a pastor or doing something else I'll go where God wants me to go. Don't believe that this man is disappointed. I am still a pastor in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I want to thank you very much. I have done what I could and I will do it up to the last moment.'

Grasping Pastor McFarlane's hand he said, 'Pastor McFarlane, I want to commend you to the grace of God. You are not going to be in this position to please everybody. Sometimes it is a lonely task.'

The conversation then took on a lighter tone as these two long-term friends engaged in some good-natured banter. Finally the two embraced and Pastor McFarlane left the stage to work with the Nominating Committee.

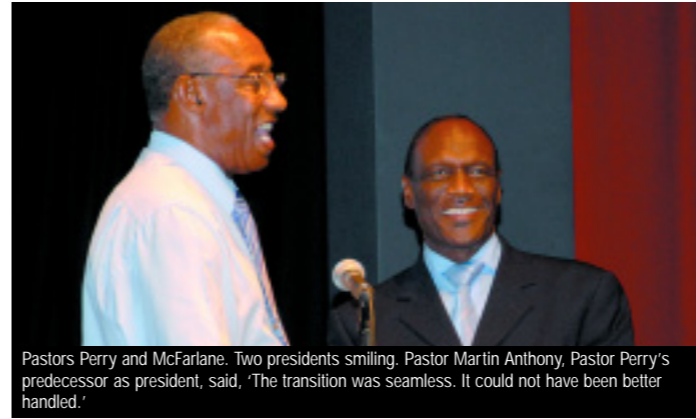
When Don and Mary McFarlane came to Britain in the autumn of 1978 their first child had yet to be born. Jodi, Mardon and Melea have all been born and raised in Britain



By the close of business on Thursday all three Union officers had been chosen



When Don and Mary McFarlane came to Britain in the autumn of 1978 their first child had yet to be born. Jodi, Mardon and Melea have all been born and raised in Britain



Pastors Perry and McFarlane. Two presidents smiling. Pastor Martin Anthony, Pastor Perry's predecessor as president, said, 'The transition was seamless. It could not have been better handled.'

## Scottish Mission Report

Scottish Mission president Pastor Llew Edwards then presented the Scottish Mission Report and listed a number of indications that showed how growth was taking place. These included an increase in the number of elders, the equipping of pastors, youth activities, small groups, and an increase in diversity.

Regarding youth activities, Pastor Edwards commended the Project Romania trips. Young people had been involved in hands-on construction of houses for needy people. Regarding diversity, he quoted a survey conducted on one particular Sabbath where it was found that thirty-eight different nationalities were present in the Adventist churches in Scotland.

The Scottish Mission presentation concluded with a beautifully-constructed PowerPoint programme showing some of the magnificent scenery of Scotland and many of the activities that the Adventist Church is engaged in.

## South England Conference Report

All of the SEC officers and departmental directors were invited on to the stage for the SEC Report. This was presented by president Pastor Humphrey Walters and was based very firmly on the theme of mission. The motto of the South England

Conference is, 'The Whole Church taking the Whole Gospel to the Whole Community', and Pastor Walters put the flesh on this framework during the rest of his presentation.

The SEC has seen excellent results over the quinquennium. 'We have seen the hand of God guiding and leading and blessing,' said Pastor Walters. 'Membership has grown, churches are packed. We now have over 17,000 members.'

Growth has taken place in the provinces as well as in London, and Pastor Walters cited youth activities, special outreach ventures such as 'London Live', and the work of the SEC's schools as being instrumental in this growth.

Camp Meeting was another success story, attracting some 4,000 visitors every year. Prayer ministry and the 'Tell Southern England' initiative had also played their part.

The SEC had endeavoured to involve as many members as possible in its strategies, and Pastor Walters spoke of a recent event when more than 1,000 members had gathered together for training and inspiration.

Pastor Walters ended his personal presentation by paying tribute to his predecessor Pastor Don McFarlane who was president of the SEC for fourteen years.



Pastor David Neal. The report of the growing work in Ireland was interrupted by a report from the Nominating Committee

A major portion of the presentation then continued in the form of a DVD. This began by telling the story of an early missionary to Britain, Saint Alban, but went on to show the increasingly secular nature of our society. Dramatic images of the twin towers helped to illustrate some of the problems that the world is now facing.

Much of the DVD featured previous SEC president Pastor Don McFarlane speaking at the Trans-European Division office. He referred particularly to the strong growth that had taken place in the SEC over the quinquennium. 2005 had been a record year, with 700 accessions. Improved finances reflected the growing confidence of the members in the Church, and Gift Aid had been a wonderful blessing. 'We have received seven and a half million pounds back from the Inland Revenue over the last five years,' he said, 'but this has not gone to the Conference office; it has gone back to the churches.'

Pastor McFarlane was also pleased to see the growth in diversity within the Conference. 'Twenty years ago there were indigenous and Caribbean. Today we have a wide variety of churches.'

Current president Pastor Humphrey Walters continued the DVD narration, and some of the SEC directors were interviewed about

their particular work. Pastor Michael Hamilton spoke about the importance of prayer ministry, and Bernie and Karen Holford spoke about their relational programmes at the Lone Parent Camp and Marriage Enrichment seminars, as well as their work in the area of Children's Ministries.

The report ended at 9.30pm with a round of applause.

## Nominating Committee Report

The final item of business for the evening was a second partial report from the Nominating Committee. Again this was introduced by Dr Bertil Wiklander, who told the delegates that they had two more names to present: for the offices of Executive secretary and treasurer.

These were read by Cynthia Benz who formally proposed the re-election of Pastor Eric Lowe and Mr Victor Pilmoor. There was warm applause for this popular decision and, when the names were read in turn for the purposes of voting, there was again applause, a recognition of the outstanding work that these two men have done over the quinquennium.

Pastor Lowe said that he accepted the position with great humility and that he would count it an honour to serve with Pastor McFarlane.

Mr Pilmoor, with typical humour, thanked the delegates for giving him another five-year sentence! However, his record of achievements during the time he worked with Pastor McFarlane in the South England Conference was known by virtually all of the delegates.



Welsh Mission president Dr Brian Phillips and BUC president Pastor Perry were both replaced by younger men. But there was still much to rejoice about



Mrs Cheryl Blake, once one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, now Associate Education director of the British Union

# Friday Session

## Morning

by Sam Davis

God blessed us with Caribbean weather at the Session. Indeed Friday began with the Medical Aid officer warning everyone to make sure they had enough water with them in the auditorium because it was going to be even hotter than Thursday.

### The blessing of finishing

After breakfast we came together for the devotional. Pastor Paul Haworth took us to the throne of grace, and Pastor Matthew Bediako, secretary of the General Conference, led us with another inspirational thought entitled Patient Endurance.

He reminded us that there is blessing in finishing. He shared with us his experience as a child living in a home where his mother and father had separated because his mother had become an Adventist. In spite of the hardship and difficulties, his mother did not give up.

As a child of 11 years old he used to walk three miles to the market to sell firewood that his mother had collected. One particular day, his mother collected firewood and the bundle looked the same but on picking it up he found it was much heavier. His mother assured him that the money for this pile was guaranteed. He only needed to get it to the lady who had ordered it. She was having a party so there would be cake at the end also. The offer of

cake to a little African boy was a great incentive.

There were three hills to climb before coming to this lady's house. He set off enthusiastically. The first hill was no problem. The second was difficult. By the third, his knees were knocking. He thought of giving up. A kind lady who had already reached her destination with her bundle and decided to help him. She walked with him up the hill, encouraging him and telling him that it was not far to go. No, she did not carry the burden, but her encouragement made all the difference.

He made the point that, as we get nearer to the kingdom, people are giving up and dropping out because of hardship. 'We need to persevere and hang on because Jesus is our Friend. He will walk with us and encourage us.'

### The LDi Report

The first report of the morning came from Pastor Alan Hodges, the Ministerial director and LIFEdevelopment co-ordinator.

Many delegates had already indicated on Thursday that they wanted to say something about the LIFEdevelopment programme but had been referred to this Friday report. It was clear from the outset that this particular report was going to generate some serious debate.

And so it did.

Pastor Hodges, in his report, pointed out that LIFEdevelopment was at the cutting edge of evangelism. Less than 6% of people attended church in the British Isles. LIFEdevelopment had been an attempt to reach the unchurched. He said that Dr Miroslav Pujic had been a good source of help.

Adventists needed to be bridge builders, communicating Christ in a postmodern world, *building relationships*. We all had a story to tell, and those who needed to hear it were not in our churches but in the market-place and in the workplace.

Pastor Hodges pointed out that as the LIFEdevelopment.info concept followed a seven-step discipleship path, it had been difficult to evaluate it in the same way as a traditional form of evangelism. It was a *process* rather than a *programme*. That would prove to be one of the main focus points of the discussion that followed.

### Comments from the floor

Marc Rassel (SEC) expressed concerns that we appeared to be compromising our principles as we sought to make LIFEdevelopment relevant to the postmodern man. He commented on the fact that people were dressing up in Batman suits and beating drums.

Pastor Perry countered by saying that folk dressing up in Batman suits were not *his* idea of *Ldi*!

Adriel Lowe (NEC) wanted to know what the 'critical success outline' was for this project. Victor Pilmoor said that *Ldi* had cost £4 per member over the past five years and hence was not an expensive tool for the work it was intended to achieve. We all had a story to tell, he

said, and *Ldi* was a tool that everyone could use. That did not satisfy Lowe. He asked the question that most of the delegates who came to the microphone wanted answered. 'How far are you along the road of your intended target? What have you done to measure the results of *Ldi*? We have received £59 million in five years; has *Ldi* had £59-million-worth of impact?'

Pastor Hodges pointed out that *Ldi* was not to be measured in the same way as traditional methods of evangelism. It was a long-term process with seven steps and we were only at level three. Victor Pilmoor also contributed by saying, 'When I see 25,000 people working [the number of Adventist in the UK] then I will know that the programme is working.' He challenged Lowe by asking him, 'What are you doing?'

What became clear was that delegates were used to traditional forms of evangelism with traditional results, namely numbers baptised at the end of the programme. Many speakers aired their view that *Ldi* was not 'value for money'.

Pastor Perry, always a man with an appropriate answer, pointed out that the day we began to compare people with money we were in trouble. 'One soul is more precious than all the money we can think of. *Ldi* is *only one* of the evangelistic tools at our disposal. The challenge is, how do I reach Prince Charles, the yuppie, and business people who will not come to tent meetings?' Pastor Perry shared how he had gone to a law firm where a senior partner had told him: 'You produce the *LIFE.info* magazine. It is one of the best magazines I have read.'

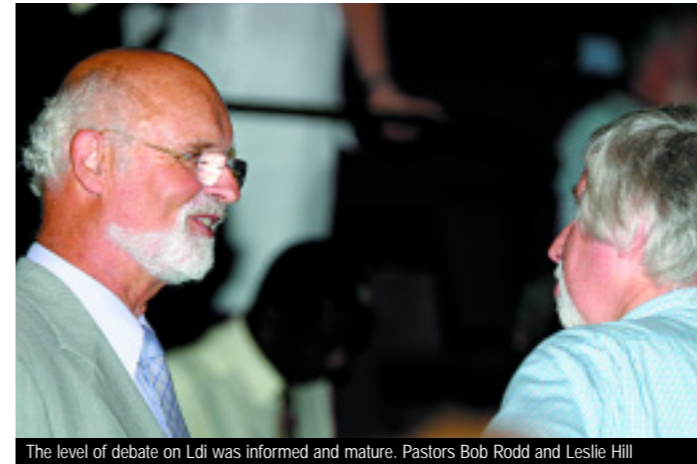
Paul Haworth (NEC) pointed out that one of the great holes we have in the Church is a package that disciples people. He said that the people who brought him to Christ also disciplined him. *Ldi* was a tool to help train people and encourage them to become disciples of Christ. It also taught us how to disciple others.

In favour of LIFEdevelopment, Curtis Murphy (BUC) shared a quote from the book *Evangelism*, page 200, where Ellen White says, 'Not all truth should be communicated to non-believers at one time. If you use more tact you will see more results.'

Kudzai (SEC) said that he had been to the Houses of Parliament and distributed *Great Controversy* to



Dr Cynthia Benz, secretary of the Nominating Committee



The level of debate on Ldi was informed and mature. Pastors Bob Rodd and Leslie Hill



the MPs there. 'How much time do we need to reach the lost? I used to distribute the *LIFE.info* magazine but when I saw no results I stopped. We need to slash the budget of LIFEdevelopment and put the money to something else.' Kudzai did not share the results of books distributed in the Parliament.

Pastor Perry patiently reminded the delegates that we should use all methods and not lift one up above the other. He reminded us that Ellen White says that 'if we were more gentle and kind a hundred souls would be won where there is now one'.

Evelyn Wilson (Irish Mission) said that she had been an Adventist for forty-five years and that she had noticed that we had tended to talk about 'them and us'. She said that the leadership was behind every venture to help people know Jesus Christ. The challenge, though, was: when were *we*, as lay people, going to start telling the people we meet about Jesus Christ? 'We have a guide book in our homes – the Bible. Let's get back to the Bible, spirituality and prayer. I see that time is ticking away. We have to tell people what's in our hearts.'

### The LDi Debate

The LDi debate took place on an impressive level. Speakers for both sides of the debate argued their cases well and, because they were mature Christians, with restraint.

Pastor Hodges began by saying, 'We must have one foot in the Word and one foot in the prevailing culture. Most of the people who need to hear our story will not hear it in churches. They are in the marketplace. We must be there (in Ellen White's words) "to change the current of their thoughts". With *LIFE.info* magazine and other materials we must be prepared to challenge the secular public. 867,000 copies of *LIFE.info* had been printed by the end of 2005.'

Ebenezer Jones-Lartey (SEC) called for us to make use of Adventist programmes and not ones like the Alpha course generated by other denominations.

Susannah Mathan (NEC) pointed out that she teaches behaviourally-challenged children in her job. They did not represent 'value for money' in the sense in which that term was being used at the session. However, if she did not do it they would never get back into normal schooling. 'We cannot measure people with money,' she said. She thanked the leaders for promoting the programme. 'It's not value for money, but we need to do it,' she concluded.

What was clear from the debate was that the LIFEdevelopment programme has still not caught the imagination of all our members. It is still misunderstood. Our results-

orientated minds have not grasped the concept. It is clear that more needs to be done to win over a sceptical membership who want to see quick fixes. Bob Rodd (Scottish Mission) thought that the promotion of LIFEdevelopment used complicated language. 'It will not work,' he said, 'unless members promote it.' Andrew Rashford Hewitt (NEC) felt that maybe the reason why the programme had not taken off in the way leaders would have liked could be due to the fact that not many lay people sit on the board of the LIFEdevelopment team. He made a motion calling for two members from each conference and two from the missions be co-opted on to the LIFEdevelopment board.

Egerton Francis (president, NEC) felt that the motion was not necessary, because there were already lay

people on the board. What was needed was for members to get up and get active.

Although the voting was close the motion was carried.

This represents just a sampling from the debate following the Ministerial Report. Readers will see that the focus of the debate surrounded the LIFEdevelopment programme.

Miroslav Pujic (TED), one of the leading architects of the programme, said that it was an extremely valuable debate. Adventists are not seeing many people coming to Christ, and LIFEdevelopment has the full intention of leading people to Christ. 'Thanks for the opportunity to try something else.'

### Good Health Association

In introducing the GHA Pastor Perry > 13



Julia Smith wanted more than anecdotal proof that Adventist education was evangelism



Dr. Keith Davidson

**Friday Morning continued**

said that Martin Bell had been asked to come along and give an historical review. Pastor Bell retired from the institution in 2005 following a period of illness. The new manager at Roundelwood is Malcolm Hayles.

Pastor Bell said that, in reviewing the history of Roundelwood, it was like telling the story of the seven years of plenty followed by seven lean years. He said that we had had eleven or twelve years of plenty followed by seven lean years. 'After the Government introduced "Care in the Community", we saw an immediate downturn in our fortunes. We began,' he said, 'to lose £400,000 a year. We were also competing with at least another six care homes in the vicinity.'

The Board of Directors had made 'some very wise decisions'. They had decided that 'we should close the nursing facility and build up the health improvement programmes'. Currently on offer at Roundelwood were:

- Physiotherapy and hydrotherapy for conditions such as arthritis, back pain, MS, ME, sciatica, etc.
- Stop-smoking therapy
- Weight-loss and weight-control programmes
- Stress management
- Health and fitness improvement
- Health emphasis holidays

An analysis of the business for the year 2005 indicated that 2,274 people had visited Roundelwood on a residential programme during the year, taking 6,850 guest nights. The resulting income was £637,419.

Malcolm Hayles, the new manager, said that when he started at Roundelwood there were several rumours that he had had to contend with. Among them were the claims that the institution was a 'massage parlour' and a 'Bible basher', both of which were totally untrue.

He said that renovation work had been started and nine rooms added. For the future they planned to offer a programme for diabetes and hydrotherapy. He said that there were over fifty dedicated people working at Roundelwood.

**Comments from the Floor**

David Billet (SEC) wanted to know if the GHA was the vehicle that the BUC used to establish care facilities in the UK. 'My concern,' he said, 'is

that I have grown up in the Church but there is no Adventist care facility in London or any other parts of the country. Why has it taken so long, and why is there no long-term plan for such?'

Pastor Perry said that it was for the local conference to work such a plan into its future strategy. He also suggested that churches should use their medical professionals to help guide them.

Adriel Lowe (NEC) wanted to know if the success of Roundelwood could be transferred elsewhere. 'We have a wonderful health message. Why can't we see more of such facilities around the Union?'

Pastor Perry said, 'Yes, it could be transferred if we had the resources.' Malcolm Hayles said, 'It costs at least £10,000,000 to set up a spa.'

Bob Rodd (Scottish Mission) said it saddened him to hear fellow ministers criticise Roundelwood when they had not even been there. Having ministered there, he had met many people from different walks of life who would never have met Adventists had it not been for Roundelwood.

Audrey Balderstone (SEC) said that she had spent the last seven out of eight years doing flower arranging at Roundelwood. She had met people who came there with real needs. After finishing their treatment they kept coming back because of the spiritual enrichment they had found at Roundelwood.

'Roundelwood', she said, 'is LIFEdevelopment in action.'

Aristotle Vontzalidis (SEC) was full of praise for the institution. He said that 'the Lord has turned it around'.

Leonard (SEC) called for more health institutions because they represented another way that people identified Adventists as God's people. 'Let's use the money we are spending on LIFEdevelopment to fund health institutions.'

Dr Clemency Mitchell (SEC) said that she was aware of the high cost of trying to set up health institutions. Why not run short health programmes locally?

The report was moved and accepted by the delegation.

**Health Ministries**

The Health Ministries Report began with a rather dramatic announcement from the Health director Pastor Richard Willis. He announced that,

due to the fact that Roundelwood had adopted the practices of Acupuncture, Reflexology, and Aromatherapy, which he had counselled against, he had subsequently resigned from the GHA Board. He believed these practices to be contrary to GC guidelines and policies.

Pastor Willis did not take up much time in going through the report as it had been circulated to the delegates ahead of time. Rather, he chose to give more discussion time to the delegates.

The Health Report highlighted the fact that over the five years he had been invited to run health seminars and community health programmes. He had attended special conferences and sat on various boards promoting health.

**Comments from the floor**

Brian Davison (SEC) said that he had grown up in the Church at a time when the temperance movement was very strong. 'Sadly,' he said, 'there have been more and more Adventists taking alcohol. There needs to be a strong voice speaking out against this.'

Danny Reid (NEC) said that, since health is the right arm of the Gospel, not much was being heard in the north. Danny asked how much money was being spent on health in the Union.

Pastor Willis answered that the various departments had their budgets and spent accordingly. His departmental budget was £2,500. Danny Reid asked, 'Is it any wonder that not much is being done? What can you do with £2,500?'

Julia Smith (SEC) thanked Pastor Willis for his statement regarding his resignation. She expressed concern that the GHA report had already gone and, therefore, that we could not now call it to account. She was concerned that the full information had not been given about the introduction of these programmes.

Malcolm Hayles of GHA came back to the microphone and said that it was not correct to say that these programmes had been introduced. They had already been in place when he had become manager. He had, however, asked Richard Willis for the policy that they were alleged to be in contravention of but, to date, had not received it. He had also asked the GC for their policy statement on it and had received nothing.



Pastor Richard Willis

Pastor Willis countered by saying that he had presented the policy to the board and he had also written about the practices in his book. Pastor Perry said that he had also gone to Loma Linda seeking guidance on this matter and they were less than forthcoming, saying that they used it very sparingly. Pastor Perry moved a motion asking that the matter be referred to the incoming BUC Executive for further clarification.

David Burnett (SEC) pointed out that on a point of order the chairman could not move the motion. This was subsequently moved by another and passed by the delegation.

Adriel Lowe (NEC) was concerned that we were moving a motion asking for guidance on a policy that we did not have [apparently]. Having researched acupuncture for himself he said that it was a demonic practice that we should have nothing to do with. Instead, he suggested that the committee should investigate it for themselves and then draw their own conclusions.

Malcolm Hayles said that there was no desire for the institution to operate outside the guidelines of the Church. As soon as they had the guidelines they would fall in line with them.

The Health Report was moved and accepted. Friday morning discussion, as at other times, demonstrated that we have members in our churches who care passionately for their Church, its institutions, and the manner in which they are run. They are not afraid to enter into intelligent debate and make motions, if necessary, to ensure that the Church they love stays on the right track.

# Friday Session

## Afternoon

by Karen Holford

**Focus on Community**

The Friday afternoon session opened with a presentation by Dr Orville Woolford, retired TED Education director, who invited the delegates to consider Luke 4:18-19, and their relationship with the communities in which they find themselves. He pointed out that Jesus' mission was to minister to the broken-hearted, imprisoned and hurting people in his community. He challenged Christians to buck the trend for self-centredness and to live their lives in accordance with Jesus' comprehensive agenda for personal service. Dr Woolford urged the delegates to be people who could transcend, and yet transform, the world in which they lived, as positive catalysts, learning about their different communities, and developing ways to connect and co-ordinate with them.

**Communication Report**

The opening report of the afternoon session was the Communication Report presented by Pastor John Surrridge. He pointed out that the world of communication had changed dramatically in the last five years as technology had developed and brought with it fresh opportunities. The BUC had produced an interview programme called 'In Conversation' that had had sixteen showings a week around the world for the 24-hour satellite channel, 'Hope Channel', and the weekly BUC email news was being received by 1,800 people. A series of specialised websites were working together to produce a network of BUC websites, experiencing an average of 50,000 hits a week, and also providing opportunities for non-Adventists to research information and find useful resources.

The department had also been responsible for developing databases in accordance with the varied needs of the Conferences, media training courses, and monitoring news about Adventists worldwide through an Internet-based news monitoring service. Gratitude was expressed for the work of Conference and Mission communication col-

leagues, and to Wes and Mary Capon for their invaluable work within the BUC Communication department.

Comments from the floor highlighted the value of ensuring media coverage of Adventists involved in positive action, and the importance of exploring ways in which local churches could present a clear and positive image to their communities. Cathy Boldeau, of the South England Conference, mentioned that several local people in Prestatyn had been inspired to attend some of the SEC Camp Meeting programmes after hearing transmissions from the Camp Meeting radio.

A need was also expressed for training church members to maximise the opportunities available to them through free papers and local radio, and to develop the skills to make high-quality radio and TV programmes. A request was made for the department to consider developing special materials to communicate the Adventist message to those with visual and hearing impairments.

Dr B. B. Beach underlined the importance of the communication department in the twenty-first century, and paid tribute to Pastor John Surrridge as a professional communicator and relational bridge-builder.

**Adventist Discovery Centre**

The report for the ADC was made by Pastor Eric Lowe, because of the sad and recent death of the former director Pastor Dalbert Elias, and the illness of the previous director, Pastor Mike Stickland. The excellent evangelistic work of the centre was commended. News was shared of a special project, involving technology developed in Australia, for the production of online courses.

**Seventh-day Adventist Association Ltd and Seventh-day Adventist Trust Co. Ltd**

Donovan Cleary presented the reports for the Association and Trust. After sharing a brief history of the Association, and offering a tribute to

his predecessor Pastor Michael Taylor, he clarified the work of the two organisations. He explained that the BUC was recovering less tax as a result of the Gift Aid programme as Conferences were now making their own Gift Aid claims. He also thanked God for the legacies of over £222,000, received during the last quinquennium, to assist the Church in its ministry.

**Youth Department**

The Youth Department's Report took the form of a video of Pastor Des Boldeau, filmed on location at the TED Camporee in Denmark, where he was accompanying 1,000 young people from the BUC. He shared news of three special youth projects conducted during the past quinquennium:

- The North Ghana Project involved forty-five young people who visited Ghana for two weeks and helped to build part of a hospital, offer health screening for 1,500 people, and conduct three evangelistic campaigns resulting in the baptisms of thirty people.
- A Parenting of Teens Conference, attended by forty parents and youth workers was held in 2005. An outcome of the conference was that several churches have begun their own 'parent of teen' ministry.

A Pathfinder Camporee also took place in Northern Ireland. Pastor Perry reminded the delegates of the importance of accepting young people with grace and love, and stressed the importance of potluck when young people and students could experience hospitality. Pastor Colin Stewart of the South England Conference exhorted church members and young people to look outwards and find ways to evangelise the young. Pastor Robert Hines followed with an invitation for the delegates to have an inspired imagination when considering the importance of involving teens in friendship evangelism, networking and helping to transform our church from the inside out.

**Adult Sabbath School**

Pastor Richard Willis presented a brief report on the Adult Sabbath School department. Pastor Perry encouraged people to attend Sabbath School on time and to study their lesson quarterlies so that they could contribute to the experience of spiritual connectedness that took



Roundelwood's Lorraine Hayles



Pastor Des Rafferty

place during well-taught Sabbath School classes.

**Religious Liberty**

Dr B. B. Beach took the opportunity of a brief interlude to describe the work of the Religious Liberty department of the General Conference, and the need to protect the religious rights of all human beings, especially those who are vulnerable.

**Children's Ministries Department**

Mrs Heather Haworth presented the work of the Children's Ministries departments across the Union, including training events, the Welsh Mission Children's Rally Day, and Keeping the Church Family Safe. Pastor Bernie Holford of the South England Conference was invited to share news of the 'Kids in Discipleship' programme which would be launched for the Trans-European Division at Stanborough Park church in October 2006.

**Nominating Committee Report**

The Nominating Committee returned just before the close of the session with their report. The following nominations were made and were carried:



# Friday Session

## Evening

by Karen Holford

### Welsh Mission Report

The Welsh Mission opened their report with an inspiring rendition of the Welsh National Anthem, 'Land of our Fathers', blended with images of the Welsh coastline, castles, cities, lakes, scenery, and Adventist churches. Dr Brian Phillips used a map of Wales to illustrate the wide distribution of members across the Mission, and the need for a higher-than-average pastor-to-member ratio.

The Welsh Mission year was punctuated by the Brecon Family Camps, which had been running for forty years and were now being held twice a year. Young people who had grown up coming to the camp were now attending Brecon Family Camp with their own children. The camp

drew regularly-attending families from Cornwall and Leamington Spa, and had over 200 campers. Pastor Richard Vine worked closely with Peggy Mason to organise the camps. He mentioned that the camp had been the birthplace of many close friendships, and that his son, who was soon to be married, had met his wife-to-be at Brecon Camp.

Dr Phillips commended Pastor Ed Sammons for his work with the young people in the Missions and the Three-Mission Youth Retreat that rotated among Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The Welsh young people had also been involved in a youth mission project to Lithuania where they had spent two summers nurturing discipleship, evangelising, street witnessing, and community service. Several Welsh young people had committed their lives to Christ through the Lithuanian experience.

Children's Ministries were active in the Welsh Mission. Anette Moore was the sponsor for this ministry and had used her creative talents to help co-ordinate a Children's Rally Day where Mission children could invite their friends for a time of crafts, puppets, music and teaching. Club Creation met weekly in Pastor Richard Vine's area, supported by six dedicated ladies. Beginning as a follow-up to Holiday Bible School, Club Creation provided games, crafts, Bible study and songs for 20-25 regularly-attending children. Pastor Vine described this as 'positioning ourselves in the local community as people who are making a contribution'.

Several of the churches in the Welsh Mission were undergoing refurbishment. Dr Phillips commented that 'when you renovate a church it seems to attract people back to the church'. People who used to come to a church were often curious about how the church had changed over the years, and were willing to step back inside to see the difference.

The members of the Welsh Mission made excellent use of public events and celebrations, such as



GC 'Second-in-command' Pastor Matthew Bediako, left, was interviewed during divine service. 'He travels more than his fellow national Kofi Annan'!

the National Eisteddfod and the Centenary of the Bible Society, to make contact with members of the community and to build bridges with other churches. Ministries with a health focus had also been used to grow churches, by using interested members of the community to support and run health programmes in smaller churches. One Welsh vicar had regularly used *LIFE.info* magazines to inspire his preaching, and distributed the magazine to his members!

A need was expressed for more outreach materials in the Welsh language, and for an increase in the number of small groups in the Mission.

Appreciation was recorded for the work of Pastor Brian Phillips, retiring Mission president, and the report closed with a powerful rendition of Cwm Rhondda, 'Guide me O thou Great Jehovah', a suitable prayer for the incoming president Pastor John Surridge.

### North England Conference Report

Pastor Egerton Francis opened his report with three excellent musical items, reflecting the diversity of genres and nationalities in his Conference. This was followed by a series of interviews that were skilfully led by Pastor Pat Douglas. These conversations, with Pastors Rudika Puskas, Samuel Appiah and Dalbir Masih, focused on the diversity and evangelism within the Conference, and highlighted the need



Pastor Ian Sweeney, above, and Pastor Egerton Francis, below right, of the NEC

for prayer, understanding, involvement, hospitality, creativity, local involvement and working with children in their schools and communities.

Pastor Paul Haworth, NEC director of Personal Ministries and Church Growth, humorously pointed out that whenever churches are bursting at their waistbands they need to consider giving birth to daughter churches! He described the variety of new church plants across north England, including the courageous step of the Matthan/Rogers family to plant a church in their tiny Lincolnshire village of Billingham.

Solomon Senessie, head teacher of Harper Bell, described how the school was educating its 125 pupils

for the world to come by integrating faith and learning, employing Adventist teachers, encouraging excellence, and nurturing Christian development. Out of the 19 children in year six, 13 had achieved level 5 SAT results and 13 had also been baptised. The school was exploring the possibility of applying for voluntary aided status so that more Adventist families could afford to send their children to the school.

Pastor Ian Sweeney, NEC evangelist, spoke of teamwork as the foundation for effective outreach, a collaboration between the evangelist, God's Holy Spirit, and a supportive community of believers. Pastor Francis reported that there had been

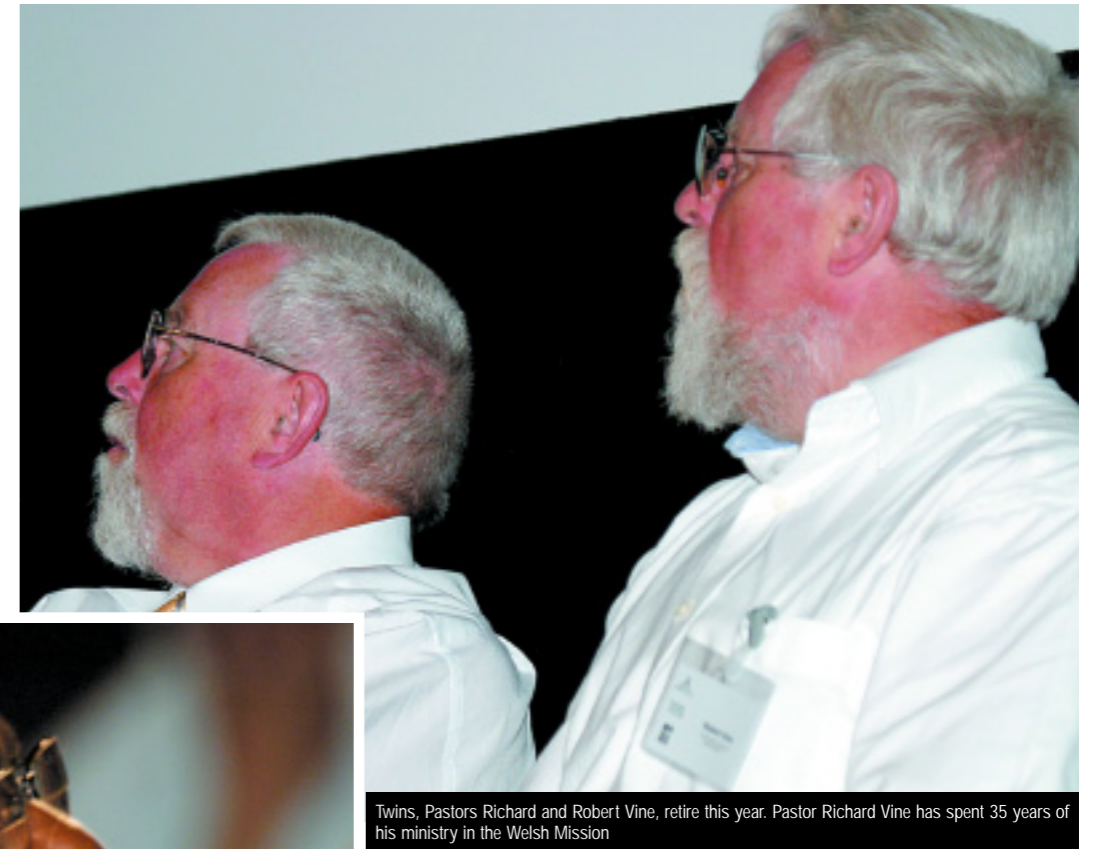
250 evangelistic events during the last five years, resulting in 1,268 members joining the Church, and spoke of the importance of programmes to nurture and care for new members as they are discipled on their journey of faith. The generosity of the NEC members had meant that many churches were undergoing refurbishment, or purchasing new premises, and Aberdaron Camp had been upgraded through the installation of several comfortable and attractive chalets.

### Evening vespers – time to cool down

Friday evening closed with a vesper service when Pastor Solon Kyriacou prayed for forgiveness for those times during the proceedings when



Dr Brian and Mrs Joyce Phillips



Twins, Pastors Richard and Robert Vine, retire this year. Pastor Richard Vine has spent 35 years of his ministry in the Welsh Mission

delegates may have become, in Yorkshire terms, a little 'het up'. With soaring temperatures, high humidity, and challenging issues to consider, this was an appropriate prayer to welcome the cool of the evening and the beginning of another Sabbath day.

Pastor McIntosh continued the theme by preaching on Psalm 51, and the need for God to cleanse our hearts and free them from any negative feelings and hurts that

may have been incurred during the events of the Conference Session. He encouraged the delegates to welcome a change of heart, a change of mind, and to have a clear conviction of their Christian duty.

He closed the evening with an invitation for daily consecration, and the openness to be empowered by the Holy Spirit in the vital work of sharing the good news of Christ's soon return.

### Friday Afternoon continued

*Irish Mission President, Pastor David Neal; Scottish Mission President, Pastor Llewellyn Edwards; Welsh Mission President, Pastor John Surridge; The Missions Secretary/Treasurer to be appointed by the BUC Executive. Women's Ministries, Family Ministries and Children's Ministries, Mrs Heather Haworth; Communication Director, Pastor Victor Hulbert; Education Department, Dr Keith Davidson; Ministerial Association Secretary, Pastor Alan Hodges; Personal Ministries/Adult Sabbath School Director, Pastor Eglan Brooks; Publishing Director, Pastor Curtis Murphy; Youth, Pathfinders and Chaplaincy, Pastor Des Boldeau.*

The Nominating Committee also presented a list of names for the BUC Executive Committee. However, concerns were expressed about the lack of young people, women and diverse nationalities on the Executive Committee, and the list was referred back to the Nominating Committee for further consideration.



Dr Wiklander thanks the Perrys for their many years of dedicated service



George Powls of Middlesborough church was one of a number to receive awards for outstanding service



Dr Beach conveys the thanks of the GC to Pastor C R Perry for his fifteen years as Union president, a record for this Union

# Session Sabbath

by John Surridge and Sam Davis

**Sabbath School**  
Sabbath services began at 9am with a traditional song service led by Pastor Curtis Murphy. The Sabbath School period was chaired by Pastor Richard Willis who pointed out that this year we were celebrating the fact that it was just one hundred years since the British Union undertook direct responsibility for overseas missions.

In his PowerPoint programme Pastor Willis showed some of the highlights of the BUC Mission programme over the years and particularly captured the attention of the congregation when he came to pictures from the more recent era. After displaying a picture of a more youthful version of Dr Bert B. Beach, who was sitting in the congregation, Pastor Willis said, 'And some of you who are smiling, wait until you see your pictures!'

After the Sabbath School offering Pastor Willis said, 'As we are studying the book of Daniel we thought we would get a Daniel to teach us . . .'

and introduced Dr Daniel Duda from Newbold College.

Dr Duda untangled the picture lessons of Daniel using a sequence of clear and logical PowerPoint slides. After showing a diagram of the sanctuary, Dr Duda asked, 'What is the first thing you see as you enter?' The reply came back from the congregation: 'The altar.' Dr Duda explained, 'The first message God has to give us is, "You are accepted, I love you." First there is justification. Then you learn that, through grace, the power of sin can be broken in your life.'

Although it was difficult to achieve in such a large setting, Dr Duda encouraged the congregation to form small groups and spend some time answering a few questions. One of these was, 'Where is the sanctuary in the New Testament?' The simple answer given by Dr Duda was, 'Where Jesus is,' but he went on to give three examples of where the sanctuary actually was.

Another question was, 'If a restoration of community is part of

"restoring the sanctuary", what are the implications for us as a Church?'

Dr Duda concluded his study by saying, 'Satan says to God

that people will only serve him if he bribes them or if he forces them, but God replies that there is a group of people who will serve him because of his character and because they love him.'

The special music was provided by Living Hope from Leicester, an African a *cappella* group.

## Special Recognition

In the interlude between Sabbath School and the divine service, Pastor Perry and Pastor Alan Hodges paid tribute to Mrs Irene Osborne. At 103 she is one of the oldest Adventists still living in the territory of the British Union Conference.

Five people were then recognised with special certificates. These were as follows:

Alice Allen (Welsh Mission) for her tireless service to the Church since her retirement.

Anna Graham (Irish Mission) one of the first Adventists in Londonderry church.

Dr John Walton (Scottish Mission)

a 'scientist and champion of the Bible'.

Arthur Campbell (South England Conference) a 'good churchman'.

George Powls (North England Conference) a 'true Christian gentleman'.

Only the last two of these were actually present, and certificates for the other three were received by others on their behalf.

## New Field Leaders

In the second part of the Sabbath morning service there were numerous messages of appreciation and thanks. Pastor Perry particularly thanked his wife for her support over the years, and Dr Brian Phillips spoke of the tremendous work his wife Joyce – a minister since she was 19 – had done in the Welsh Mission.

Pastor Don McFarlane brought his wife and three children onto the platform with him and thanked them for bearing with him through his difficult work.

Pastor Eric Lowe, Mr Victor Pilmoor, Pastor Llew Edwards, and Pastor David Neal, also came onto the platform with their wives, as did Pastor John Surridge, though he pointed out that his wife was already in Wales – attending the Family Camp in Aberdaron.

Dr Beach brought greetings from the General Conference. 'The BUC



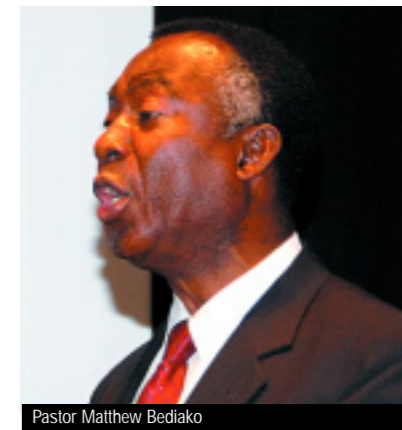
Dr. Daniel Duda



Pastor Bernie Holford



Birmingham Choir 'Joy Symphony' sang a beautiful arrangement of the Lord's Prayer



Pastor Matthew Bediako

Session is the only one I really attend. I don't attend the North American ones. I try to stay away from them!' he said.

## Special Music

After more welcomes, thanks and gifts, Mrs Cheryl Blake read the morning Scripture reading – Numbers 10:29-32 – and 'Joy Symphony', a choir from Birmingham, sang 'Our Father who art in Heaven', partly in English and partly in an African language recognised by a considerable number in the congregation and enjoyed by all.

Pastor Matthew Bediako was then interviewed about his background, family, and work. Speaking about his present responsibilities he compared his travel load with that of his fellow countryman Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations. 'I touch more countries than Kofi Annan,' he said, 'because I travel with the Three Angels' Messages!'

A highly accomplished Korean musical group, the Ahn sisters, playing cello, violin and piano, then performed variations on the theme of *Amazing Grace*, leading the service into Pastor Bediako's main address.

## Pastor Matthew Bediako

In his opening remarks Pastor

Bediako thanked Pastor Perry for his work over the years, both in the British Union Conference and on the General Conference Executive Committee. He also thanked him on behalf of the General Conference president Dr Jan Paulsen. Turning to Pastor Don McFarlane, he wished him God's blessings and, quoting Scripture, said, 'Be not afraid. God is on your side. He is the one who has asked you to lead the British Church at this time.'

Pastor Bediako then said a few words about the Adventist Church in Africa. 'There are 5.5 million Seventh-day Adventists on the African continent,' he said, and he expressed his thanks to the missionaries who had been sent from Britain over the past hundred years. However, he added, 'We haven't finished the work, because there are over 500 million people on the continent.'

In his sermon Pastor Bediako talked about the increasing difficulty he had in obtaining visas for his travels around the world – mainly due to growing demands for security checks to prevent illegal immigration. 'This world is not our home,' he said. 'It is time for us to study the road map back home.'

Focusing on the first part of the



Pastor Bert Smit of ADRA

BUC Session theme, 'Journey of Hope', Pastor Bediako said that the reward at the end of the journey is eternal life, but we need to have patient endurance if we are to get there. He then described an interesting phenomenon that occurred during the genocide in Rwanda: after the war there were more Adventists than before. 'As they fled,' said Pastor Bediako, 'they also told the story of salvation. On our journey of hope we need to tell the world.'

With regard to evangelism Pastor Bediako asked the members of the congregation to think back to where they started from in their Christian experience, even though some were now well established in the Church. He pointed out that problems could arise in our role as 'fishers of men' if we forget where we started from. Illustrating the high expectations we sometimes have of those we are witnessing to he said, 'Some of us are beginning to clean the fish before they even get into the net, and we lose them.'

Pastor Bediako went on to tell the biblical story of the four leprosy suf-

ferers in the city of Samaria, when the people inside were under siege by the Syrians and dying of hunger. The four men decided to go to the Syrian camp, hoping that they would have mercy on them. But God had worked a miracle and they found food and everything else they needed. 'God is waiting for us to say, "We will go in; God will fight for us"',' Pastor Bediako said. The main message of the story, however, was that the men realised that it was wrong to keep the good news to themselves.

'Today is the day of Good News,' Pastor Bediako said. 'The world has questions and is looking for answers, but we sit in our homes and we sit in our churches to the extent that some of us are obese!'

'Every member is an evangelist,' concluded Pastor Bediako.

The congregation was invited to stand as a sign of personal commitment, and Pastor Perry, who had been asked to close with a prayer of dedication, ended with the words, 'Help us to have a queue of people behind us to meet the King.'



# Sabbath Afternoon

## Festival of Evangelism

by Mary Barrett

It was entitled 'Festival of Evangelism' and that is exactly what it was! A festival to celebrate the fact that the British Union Conference is using different ways to 'Tell the World' about God's love. The programme was preceded by a time of worship when our hearts and minds focused on the greatness of God as we listened to the music of the Ahn sisters and the choir 'Joy Symphony'. Appreciation was shown by enthusiastic applause and comments such as 'Beautiful!' 'Amen!' 'Wonderful!' 'Fantastic!'

The festival then began. The programme was originally planned by the late Pastor Dalbert Elias in consultation with Pastor Alan Hodges. A special DVD presentation that Dalbert had created featured the song 'We have seen His Glory' with scenes from the life of Christ and particularly his crucifixion. The words 'Tell the World' were shown several times throughout the DVD. For all who knew Dalbert, the video caused us to think of the man whose passion it was to share his Saviour and we felt sad that he could not be a part of the programme that he had prepared so excitedly.

Next came a video message by General Conference president Jan Paulsen. He appealed to us to be what Christ asked us to be – his witnesses, and to 'Tell the World' about Jesus.

The programme then followed in rapid procession as the Conferences, Missions and Adventist Discovery Centre shared the different ways in which they were 'Telling the World', and some of the results.

**North England Conference.** This conference used the phrase, 'A going Church for a coming Lord', to emphasise their desire to evangelise. With an impressive video presentation the NEC focused on a variety of ways in which they are sharing the Gospel: door-to-door

work, prison ministries, literature ministry, church planting, improving relationships with those living near the church, Revelation seminars and also tent ministries. There was a true sense that this is a conference that, under the leadership of Pastor Egerton Francis, is working together to share God and is not frightened to try different and inventive methods.

**Irish Mission.** President of the Irish Mission, Pastor David Neal, caught everyone's attention with his confession that he and Mrs Frances Moody had been clubbing! He quickly assured us that it was to collect money for Ingathering! Frances then went on to relate how personally interacting with people can bring them into a relationship with Christ.

**Scottish Mission.** President Llew Edwards told the moving story of Steve. This young man had lost his brother, father and wife to death within a short period of time. Struggling to look after his two young children, he turned to alcohol to deal with his depression, but because of the friendship shown him this man is now able to look to God for hope and is preparing for baptism. The story reminded us that if we want to 'Tell the World', we must walk patiently with others in their pain.

**Welsh Mission.** Dr Brian Phillips, president of the Welsh Mission, promoted the LIFEdevelopment programme as a way in which Adventists in Wales are reaching out. He shared how he and his wife are members of a small group, which includes people of other denominations. He also challenged us to invite our neighbours to church and ended with the questions, 'Do you know your neighbours? Have you spoken to them about Jesus?'

**LIFEdevelopment.** An interview



Pastor Egerton Francis, president of the NEC

between Pastor Alan Hodges and Trans-European Division Communication director Pastor Miroslav Pujic opened the way for Pat Walton and Rosemary Lethbridge to share some practical experiences since working with this form of evangelism. Pat, from Stanborough Park church, talked of how her church had been forging friendships with those in the community. Rosemary, a ministerial worker, also shared different ways in which she was reaching out to the unchurched. Both women conveyed confidence in LIFEdevelopment as a way of introducing people to God.

**Adventist Discovery Centre.** With the presentation from the ADC came the reminder of the loss of Pastor Dalbert Elias. With dedication, passion and incredible ideas, Dalbert had worked tirelessly to ensure that the ADC has an effective and positive role to play in telling others about God. Stories of three students of the ADC illustrated the fact that the 'silent army', as Dalbert had called them, needed to keep doing just what they have always done – 'posting those leaflets!'

**South England Conference.** Introduced by Humphrey Walters, president of the SEC, their presentation was lively, punchy and fast-moving! Drama was interspersed between interviews where a 'footballer', played by Mark de Lisser, spoke of how God asks us to share him. Interviews skilfully conducted by Pastor Victor Hulbert, secretary of the SEC, showed the areas of evangelism that the SEC are focusing on: lay evangelism, church planting, community outreach and media outreach. Interviews were conducted



Steve Wilson of the Irish Mission

with various pastors and lay members as a wide range of projects were mentioned, including 'Hit London', 'London Live', 'Symposiums for Women', 'Food for da Brain' and an eighteen-week campaign in Stanborough Park church. In their final skit the 'footballer' spoke of the need for commitment, co-operation and teamwork to achieve its goal, and that is exactly what the SEC conveyed to us – that with commitment, co-operation and teamwork they were going to 'Tell the World'.

Even though the programme ran over schedule, the stories and the different methods of sharing God were indeed inspiring! We left the programme feeling challenged to keep on sharing God, and also proud of a Church that, despite the indifference of the postmodern man and woman, is determined to do all it can to 'Tell the World'.

# Sabbath Evening

by Mary Barrett

## ADRA-UK

Sabbath evening was a time of reflection as Bert Smit, ADRA-UK director, spoke of the great needs of those struggling with poverty or in disaster-stricken areas. Pastor Smit interviewed some members of the ADRA team: Valerie Austin, office manager, who spoke of the importance of Gift Aid and how it can add 28 pence to every pound pledged; David Balderstone, transportation manager, who spoke of his travels to various countries taking aid. He mentioned the 3,000 boots that had been taken to Pakistan to help the earthquake victims there; Mark Castellino, programmes director, then informed the delegates of various projects that ADRA is running and in particular its work in

Papua New Guinea and Madagascar.

During his presentation Bert Smit tossed a football to Pastor Perry and then Pastor McFarlane; footballs that were made by women in Iran because of a project that ADRA has devised there. A DVD showing the poverty in Peru and how ADRA is helping to change the lives of the people living there concluded the presentation. Bert thanked everyone for the support they had given ADRA. But in a sense we need to thank Bert and his team for all that they are doing to take practical hope and help to those who are living in tragic conditions. Well done, ADRA. Thank you!

**Newbold College**  
Sabbath evening then became a

time of nostalgia as Dr David Penner took to the stage. The trip down memory lane began with photographs from Newbold dating back sixty years. Dr Penner talked about the history of Newbold and of its close connection with the BUC. He also spoke of the strategic agenda of the College, which involves learning, welcoming and gathering. Time was also given to outline the new things happening at Newbold: an undergraduate certificate in Theology Youth Leadership, Newbold in the City – the London Lectures, a Counselling course in London, and a special course for those wanting to take a gap year at Newbold, when young people will have a chance to take part in an ADRA project.

Dr Penner brought his presentation to a close with a slide show of pictures of Newbold as it is today. He also told the delegates that 'Newbold is the finest place to study!'

## Vespers

The evening's programme was then concluded by Pastor Perry, who spoke of the need for humility.

He focused on Numbers 13:3, which speaks of Moses as being a humble man, and then Psalm 51:10 where we need to ask God to create within us a clean heart, a humble heart, just as Jesus had.

Pastor Perry also said that if we could have a spirit of humility within us then we would be able to embrace one another despite the insults that we may receive from one another. His concluding words were 'God, help us to be like Jesus.'

It was fitting that Pastor Perry, who has led this Conference for fifteen years, should end his meditation with these words, for all who know Cecil Perry would indeed say that he is a humble man who has always called us as members of this Conference to put away our differences and be like Jesus.

# Session Ends

## Sunday

by David Marshall

The session had by no means run out of steam by Sunday, but it was in danger of running out of reports to discuss. Certainly there was a hiatus in proceedings between the conclusion of the Women's Ministries debate and the arrival of the reports of the Nominating and Plans Committees.

## Moses to Joshua

Sunday morning began with a brilliant devotional from Dr Brighton Kavaloh.

The scenario presented to us was one of leadership change. Dr Kavaloh was describing the Moses to Joshua change and did not mention the Cecil R. Perry to Donald W. McFarlane change. He didn't have to make the connection.

God's counsel to Joshua had been: 'Be strong. Be of good courage. Be not afraid.' Dr Kavaloh's counsel to the delegates was: 'There is strong continuity in the guidance of God.' He went on to argue: 'Whether your preference is for

Moses or Joshua you are, in fact, following the Ark of the Covenant as the Israelites did.' The Ark of the Covenant had included the Law of God, but Dr Kavaloh wanted us to note that the tables of the Law were beneath the Mercy Seat.

'Journey of Hope' had been the principal theme of the session. 'In our journey of hope,' said Dr Kavaloh, 'let's remember that we are following the Ark. . . . Every member and every leader must carry with himself or herself a sense of the presence of God. The Ark of the presence of God must be present in all of our lives,' he concluded.

## Women's Ministries

At 9.30 Pastor Perry began his final marathon stint as session chairman. Distinguished in appearance he, nevertheless, did not look his three score years and ten. His physical and mental vigour were remarkable.

Introducing her report, Heather Haworth was inclined to affirm the male chauvinist stereotype of



Women's Ministries director Heather Haworth

women as 'the speaker [as opposed to weaker] sex'. 'God created women to talk,' she began.

'Women represent a majority – two-thirds, at least – of the membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.' In recognition of that, and of the special gifts and concerns of women, Mrs Haworth went on, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, meeting at Utrecht in 1995, had established the department of Women's Ministries. As a result, she said, the composition of church committees had changed considerably. There was, she

inferred, a qualitative improvement in committees in the ten years in which women had come to be more adequately represented.

When Heather paused for breath, delegates had time to reflect that, in part, they had refused to accept the Nominating Committee's suggestions with regard to the new Union Executive at the end of Friday's business session because of the under-representation of women. I spared a thought for Dr Bertil Wiklander who, somewhere on campus, was still chairing the

**Sunday continued**

Nominating Committee in the impossibly humid conditions.

Heather introduced us to the Women's Ministries directors/sponsors of the various segments of the Union with whom she had worked. These included Julia Smith (SEC), Judith Martin (Scottish Mission) and Karlene Rafferty (NEC). Mention was also made of Ruth Hamblin (IM) who was unable to be present. A Women's Council met regularly in the BUC board room, we were told.

SEC's Julia Smith had prioritised the mentoring of young women through a number of women's retreats. To ensure the attendance of younger women a system of sponsorships had been devised. Those who had attended the women's retreats had been encouraged to bring along their non-Adventist friends. Some had done so year after year. Thus the retreats had taken on an evangelistic function. NEC's Angela Purkiss had also prioritised the mentoring of young women.

'We talk to our young women about sex, relationships and even etiquette,' Julia reported.

A special female slant was given to evangelism, she said. 'We are concerned about re-engaging with women who have taken time out from church attendance as well as with soul-winning,' she concluded.

Not for the first time in her presentation, Heather Haworth stressed the need for a Women's Ministries budget for the NEC. The Union had added Family Ministries to her Women's Ministries and Children's Ministries. Hence Heather felt that, for the future, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to carry NEC as well as Union responsibilities.

Karlene Rafferty stressed that Women's Ministries brought three major advantages: improved motiva-

tion, greater commitment and more dedicated service. The focus had been on women as God's most valuable assets. The aims had been to challenge and to encourage.

Scotland's Judith Martin returned to the theme of evangelism as 'reconnecting' people who were taking a break from church. She stressed her point by saying that some seven years ago she had reconnected with the Church after a thirty-year absence.

Heather, Julia and Judith concluded the Women's Ministries report with a prayer to which they all contributed. It recalled the emphasis of Rob Parson's 'Is Your Church Prodigal Friendly?' campaign. Prayer was for the return of all of our prodigals to the Father's House.

The ensuing debate was both informed and meaningful. Nevertheless it revealed the massive breadth of opinion with regard to the role of women in our ethnically diverse church.

The first speaker sought to connect Women's Ministries with the feminist movement and put forward the view that Ellen G. White had counselled against it.

Dr Clemency Mitchell of the Newbold church had done her homework on Ellen White and the role of women. She had been concerned with the involvement of the early women's movement with spiritualism. The context of Ellen White's comments suggested a warning against spiritualism, not a warning against women fulfilling their role in the church.

Heather Haworth, to reassure the questioner concerned about feminism, said, 'I am wearing a bra. I have not burnt it.' Cathy Boldeau said, ' "Women in Leadership" does not mean "Women taking over".'

Stanborough Park minister Pastor Ian Sleeman applauded Women's Ministries, the expanding role of women within the Church and,



Dr Orville Woolford reports as co-chair of the Plans Committee

bravely, quoted the passage in Ellen White's writings in which she stated the need to set aside women for service by the laying on of hands.

**Credentials and Licences Committee Report**

At 10.15 Pastors Martin Anthony and Fred Mapp, respectively chair and secretary of the Credentials and Licences Committee, brought us their report. The term 'honorary' – as in 'honorary ministerial credentials' – was being changed. 'Honorary' had taken on the connotation of 'unearned'. It was being replaced with 'emeritus' which means 'earned by service'.

**Ingathering Statement**

At 10.25 re-elected Union treasurer Victor Pilmoor made a statement with regard to Ingathering. The period of the annual appeal was the only time we were licensed to collect from the public. Ingathering had to be done within the specified dates. There was a need for discipline in returning the relevant paperwork within a short period following the end date. The aim of Ingathering was to address the needs of the poor. Our response to world poverty required more than the collection of our loose change.

Session chairman Pastor Perry added that Ingathering was, in any event, 'not just about money'. It was about doorstep dialogues, interfacing with the public: establishing, year by year, a relationship (friendship) with the people resident in a given area.

**Hiatus**

It was following the Ingathering

Statement that a hiatus occurred in proceedings. The Plans and Nominating Committees had yet to report and, since the agenda seemed to have been temporarily exhausted, delegates chose to fill the time as if 'Any Other Business' appeared on the agenda.

The 'Pantry Police' (as one delegate described them) put in an appearance at the floor mikes. After some time Pastor Paul Haworth felt that the delegation was in danger of behaving ungraciously to caterers who had done their best to provide us with a balanced vegetarian diet and spoke in their favour.

It appeared for a time as if the 'Worship Police' had arrived at the mikes. Questioners defined one style of worship (their own) as standard and acceptable Adventist worship and viewed more enthusiastic and spontaneous worship as, in some sense, 'not the real thing'. Another delegate defended more lively, spontaneous worship. The chair appealed for toleration across a range of worship styles currently in evidence in our rich, diverse Adventist community in the British Isles.

Another floor delegate enquired if the time might be more profitably spent receiving guidance from the chair on how to deal with independent ministries. The chair was asked if he was aware that young, vulnerable and new members of our congregations were being targeted by those who had infiltrated our churches distributing literature and canvassing views that were at odds with and hostile to the beliefs and practices of our denomination. Pastor Perry indicated that he



Drs Benz and Wiklander report from the Nominating Committee for the last time

was most assuredly aware of these persons and their activities. He made a clear distinction between 'supportive ministries' and 'independent ministries'. The former were capable of making a positive contribution. The latter were 'parasites' living on the Church.

The chair indicated that the contribution of these 'parasites' was wholly destructive. The Internet had given them a higher profile than they might otherwise have had.

In order to identify the false, said Pastor Perry, we must study the truth. 'It was because we did not do that that Waco happened,' he added with emphasis. They were apt to be alarmist and not a little paranoid. 'Any organisation based on criticism is going to perish,' he said. 'I have met many of these people and they are like a nail bomb ready to explode.'

Paraphrasing 1 Corinthians 13 Pastor Perry said, 'Though I have [all kinds of gifts and skills] and have no love, I am nothing!'

In what turned out to be his concluding speech, Pastor Perry said, 'Love respects the principles and the Law of God. Jesus embodied both Law and Love. The Law points to sin. Jesus saves from sin.'

In some final words of counsel the chairman exhorted the delegation to be less condemnatory. Instead, 'Lift up Jesus,' he said.

Two final points were made. The first, to the delegation as a whole: 'Listen to one another.'

The second, specifically to pastors and elders: 'Do not invite people into your pulpits whom you do not know.'

**Nominating Committee: Final Report**

At 11.45am Dr Bertil Wiklander, chair of the Nominating Committee, and Dr Cynthia Benz, secretary, presented their concluding report. The appointment of a Health Ministries director and the composition of the 2006-2011 BUC Executive had been referred back on Friday. The presentation of the report by Dr Benz was preceded by statements by Dr Wiklander and Pastor McFarlane, both of whom provided useful insights into the painstaking, listening approach the Nominating Committee had taken.

The new appointment of the Health Ministries director was voted: Sharon Platt-McDonald, a health care professional, a former Nurse of the Year with a Masters degree in Health Science who has contributed on health and related matters to FOCUS, MESSENGER and COMMUNICATOR. The names for the new BUC Executive Committee were, helpfully, grouped in categories:

**New Executive Committee Ex-officio members:**

**BUC Officers**

D. W. McFarlane, BUC president; E. C. Lowe, BUC secretary; Victor Pilmoor, BUC treasurer.

**Field leaders**

Humphrey Walters, SEC president; Egerton Francis, NEC president; David Neal, Irish Mission president; Llewellyn Edwards, Scottish Mission president; John Surrridge, Welsh Mission president.

**Miscellaneous**

David Marshall, editor of Union paper; Roger Murphy, head, Stanborough School; Paul Hammond, manager, Stanborough Press; Malcolm Hayles, manager, Roundelwood; David Penner, principal, Newbold College.

**Elected members**

*Departmental directors:* Keith Davidson, Education director; Victor Hulbert, Communication director; Eglan Brooks, Personal Ministries director.  
*District pastors:* Richard Brooks (NEC), David Foster (SEC), Emmanuel Osei (SEC), Douglas McCormac (IM).

**Ray members**

Beulah Plunkett, Richmond Muimo, Kwao Tettah Abequaye, Cynthia Benz, Ainsley Stephenson, Asha Rivers, Steve Logan, Philip Emm,

Aleta Cabone, Sasha Gillan, Alfred Officer.

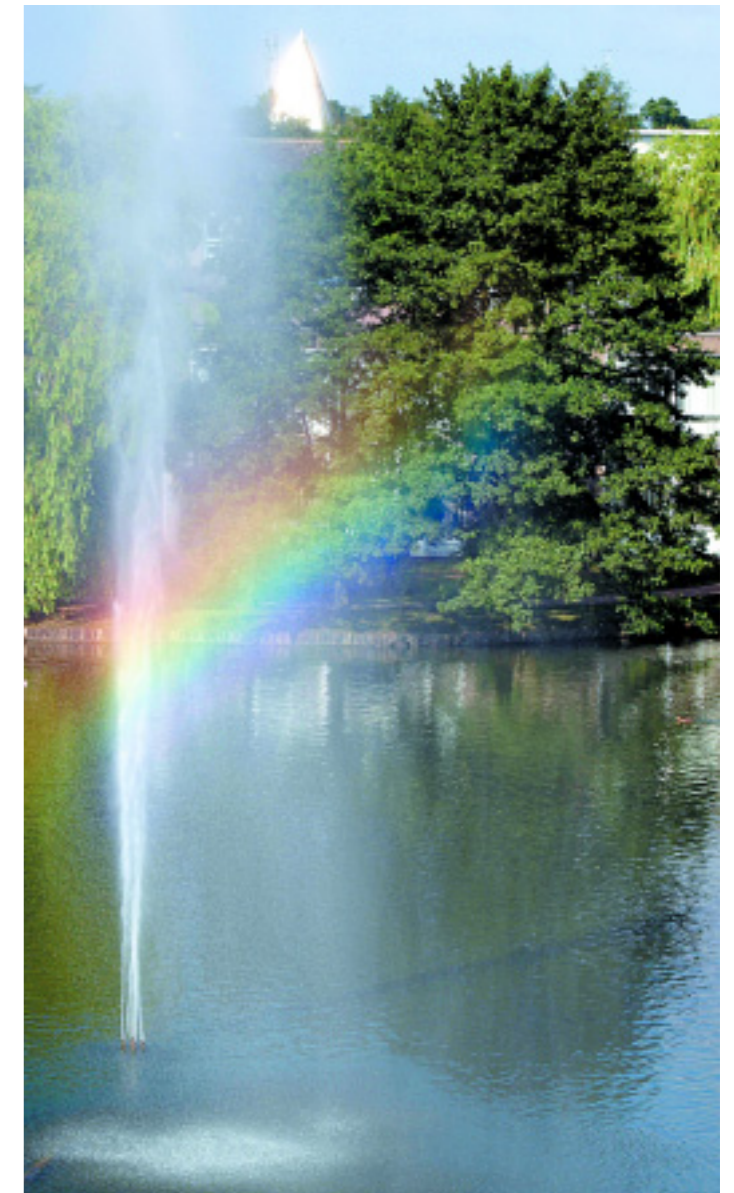
**Richard J. B. Willis**

D. W. McFarlane followed the Nominating Committee by making a very strong and positive statement regarding the contribution Pastor Richard Willis had made as Health director over the past twelve years. Pastor Willis succeeded Dr T. J. Gallivan at this post.

**Plans Committee Report**

At 12 noon Drs David Penner and Orville Woolford, co-chairs of the Plans Committee, presented the report of the Plans Committee's deliberations. This represented additions to/an editing of the BUC Strategic Plan.

The session ended with appropriate expressions of thanks and a brief speech by the incoming president Pastor D. W. McFarlane.



The Women's Ministries team – Heather Haworth, Julia Smith, Judith Martin and Karlene Rafferty – pray for the prodigals of the Church



# Three Indispensables

**Three things are essential for spiritual survival:**  
Know your God  
Know yourself  
Know your Church

## 1. KNOW YOUR GOD

To know God is not only to know the Creator but to know true wisdom. Once an individual knows the reference point of his life, his heart will be in tune with the divine will.

Solomon's advice is relevant to those who seek to know God:

'Trust in the Lord with all your heart and never depend on your own understanding. Put the Lord first in everything you do and he will direct your life. Don't be wise in your own eyes. Respect the Lord. Listen to him and stay away from wickedness.' (Proverbs 3:5-7, Clear Word.)

Knowing God is a divine-human confrontation. The initiative is on God's part, manifesting himself with an outpouring of the agape love.

The only appropriate response we can give is that of a surrendered heart constrained by his unconditional love. 'Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God!' (1 John 4:7, NIV.)

The born-again Christian is one who is in a loving relationship with God and thereby knows his God.

## 2. KNOW YOURSELF

This is a more difficult assignment than it sounds. There are many obstacles in the way of self-knowledge. Among them are our inherited and acquired tendencies not to see ourselves as God sees us.

What should one know about oneself?

- **Humanity.** Knowing that you are human admits of mortality and fallibility. 'To err is human but to forgive is divine.'

- **God-created.** We belong to God – body, mind and spirit – and are his by creation and redemption. Mankind has no identity or definition outside of God. We were made in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20).

- **Sinful nature.** Knowing that we are sinners in need of salvation and forgiveness can make the soul humble and puncture our inflated opinion of ourselves. Comparing ourselves with ourselves or with others is neither wise nor healthy, spiritually speaking (2 Corinthians 10:25). To know oneself is to understand one's purpose and destiny in life. Why am I here and where am I going? God's original purposes for the first couple were that they should ■ multiply and replenish the earth ■ glorify his name in worship and conduct ■ accept his lordship ■ manage his creation and be suitably employed ■ develop a righteous character on the way to immortality.

In fulfilling God's purposes Adam and Eve would have grown to know more of the mystery of the union of the human and the divine. They would have known more of themselves and God.

Finding one's true self is to find peace and acceptance of oneself whatever the circumstances.

'Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.' (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV.)

'This above all, to thine own self be true, and as the night follows the day, thou canst not then be false to any man.' (*Hamlet*, by William Shakespeare.)

Being what God wants us to be is always better than what we are. We must not forget, however, that in trying to find the true self God's plan is to make that self better.

## 3. KNOW YOUR CHURCH

It is important that church members know their Church and the core

values that make it distinctive.

Knowing the global nature of the Church, its vision and mission, will give the individual a broader view of God's plan of salvation.

The philosophical view of the Church as the Church visible and invisible is not what is posited here. Rather it is what the average believer is confronted with in the community of the saints.

### What shall we look at?

- The Church as a living organism, dynamic, policy- and mission-driven and rapidly growing with a membership of 14.5 million.
- A multicultural, multinational and multilingual Church, two thirds of whose members reside in the developing world.

- A Church with a governance structure that is one of the most tightly organised, democratic religious organisations in the world.

Knowing how the Church works can help us appreciate the relationship between its various layers and why our Conference Sessions and AGMs follow a certain format. The following suggestions can help you become more knowledgeable and interactive with the operations and structure of the Church:

- Become involved in its activities at local level and seek an understanding of its history and operation. Know the electoral processes and the functions of the various departments. The Church's website is a mine of information on what the Seventh-day Adventist Church is doing and why it exists.

- Know how the local church is linked to the next level of Church organisation. (Conference-Union-Division-General Conference.)

- Acquaint yourself with the governing policies of the Church (Constitution, GC Positional Statements, Church Manual). Know the history and development of the Church. Read the literature (for example *Adventist Review*, *Sabbath School Study Guides*; E. G. White's books; doctrinal books; books on the history

of the Church, biographies) produced by the Church. Acquaint yourself with the flow of information from the Church's media services.

The Church is made up of people of like passions who are at various stages of spiritual growth. Knowing this can help us to be more compassionate and understanding of each other's failures.

The Church, as the body of Christ, is his principal agency on Earth for the preaching of the Gospel. Politics is a human response but preaching is a divine function. The Church is the gateway to the Kingdom. People of the Kingdom mind the things of the Kingdom.

Many have asked me the question, 'Why can't there be a more Christ-like spirit at church business meetings and Sessions?' The answer goes back to the three indispensables. Expectations are unlikely to be shattered if those going to a planned meeting are fully informed of the historical conduct of such an event.

It should be the aim of those who conduct business sessions in our church to create a spiritual atmosphere despite the brass-tacks nature of much of the questioning.

When people hold forth at the 'dispatch box' at a session, the sum total of what they are becomes apparent. A Christ-like spirit is not natural; it has to be the result of a deliberate choice and, once chosen, it has to be cultivated and grow through supernatural strength.

God's expectation of meetings of his Church is that 'all things be done decently and in order'.

Knowing our *God* will put all things in the right perspective in the life of the individual and in the collective life of the Church.

Knowing the *Church* will help us to understand the dynamics at work in the community of saints.

Knowing *ourselves* will make us inter-dependent within the Church and more trusting of God who knows us more than any one else.

Centre for the Study of Religious and Cultural Diversity Newbold College

The Crescent and the Cross: The clash of faiths in an age of secularism

The Beach Lecture 2006

will be delivered by

Lord Carey of Clifton,

103<sup>rd</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury

At Newbold College, 7.30pm Tuesday

19 September

All welcome.

Contact: [grhamie@newbold.ac.uk](mailto:grhamie@newbold.ac.uk)

Or phone: 01344 407483.

# Plans Committee

## Introduction

- *The Plans Committee finds the BUC Strategic Proposals 2006-2010 to be an overall well-formulated and comprehensive document and commends the Union and departments for the careful thought and study that has gone into its preparation.*

- *Many action plans call for initial or ongoing implementation. We encourage continued work in these areas. However, it was felt that more specific timelines would help focus on achieving these goals. Further, it was not always clear as to how the actions would be evaluated and to whom the 'personnel responsible' were themselves responsible (accountability). Finally, we did not find that the tasks were prioritised in such a way as to indicate level of importance.*

- **We recommend that the document be revised to include some levels of priority, more detailed timelines for completion dates, specific times and methods of evaluation and clear reporting and accountability lines.**

- Several areas of specialised ministry are included for which there is much support. Women's, Children's and Family Ministries are all deserving of the support outlined in the plans.

- **We recommend that a Men's Ministries also be included in the plans and a stronger emphasis be placed on Family Ministries. We also recognise the need for increased attention in the areas of 'special needs'.**

- The clear need for an HR function was a recurring theme in our discussion of the document.

- **We recommend that an action plan be included that will provide for an HR function, especially in the areas of diversity, job descriptions, accountability issues and legal responsibilities.**

- It appeared to us that there were many opportunities to create linkages between departments, programmes and institutions. These linkages did not always appear in the document.

- **We recommend that these linkages be developed and encouraged (for example there are multiple opportunities between youth and education, Discovery Centre, youth and education).**

- The committee finds that the discussion of diversity is a theme that runs through the document and touches on all departments and activities of the BUC.

- **We recommend that in addition to the Religious Liberty department and Human Relations co-ordinator (as mentioned on page 30) that all departments be responsible for this important issue.**

- The development of leaders is considered very important to the future of the BUC.

- **We recommend that the BUC identify and train leaders for the future and give opportunities for their development reflecting the diversity of the Union (that is, ethnicity and gender).**

- The committee recognises that the three documents included in the appendices are three issues of high priority in the British Union. The committee endorsed the importance of these issues but did not take the responsibility to revise these documents.

- **We recommend that these important thought-papers be given wider church consultations.**

- Long-range plans benefit by more frequent reviews. Interim reports, inter-session reports, regional forums and other opportunities could help to keep the plans on target.

- **We recommend that in the interest of continuing the dialogue between the constituency and the BUC with regard to these plans, ways and means be found to share reports and conduct forums at times between now and the next session.**

- Changes and additions to the BUC Strategic Proposal 2006-2010. In reviewing the document, the Plans Committee found three levels of changes.

- **First, there were editorial and minor wording changes which we will pass on to the document editor.**

- Second, there were some changes that added to an existing point in the document. These changes strengthened or clarified a particular point.

- **Third, there were some additions, not previously addressed in the document, that were felt should be included in the document.**

- In all these recommendations, and in the plans themselves, it is recognised that these plans mark the strategic directions and that further plans will be designed by the persons and departments responsible which will make the action plans realities. We pray for the success of these plans.

## Evangelism – Policy Statement

- **Make evangelism a priority and continue to support Global Mission, Church Planting and 'Tent-making' (self-supporting) Ministry.**

### 2.1.6

- Appropriate 7-10% of operational budget for evangelism resourcing, 25% of which is targeted towards youth evangelism.

### 2.1.10

- **Develop initiatives for building friendships with different people groups within the population, including those of the Muslim and Jewish faiths and other language groups.**

### 2.1.12 (New)

- Support youth evangelism.

### 3.1.1

- **Update the 'Keeping the Church Family Safe' policy as new regulations arise, including the adoption of procedural amendments arising**

from an ongoing monitoring and evaluation of its day-to-day implementation.

### 3.1.4

- Ensure the appointment of a Child Safety representative at the local church level as defined in the document 'Keeping the Church Family Safe'.

## Communications – Policy Statement

- **Continue to develop the Communication department so that it may transmit with clarity the purpose for the Seventh-day Adventist Church by keeping pace with the changes that are taking place in the field of communication.**

### 6.1.1

- Continue to develop the appropriate infrastructure and best and cutting-edge technology, in order to provide information to the Church, external news releases and PR networking.

### 6.1.2

- **Develop a strategy for contacting members directly by the appropriate methods (post, email, text, etc) for the purposes of nurture, marketing of church resources and membership data integrity.**

### 6.1.3

- Produce policy guidelines on and establish best practice procedures for data security, archiving of and handling data, software standardisation and website, etc.

## Children's Ministries-Policy Statement

- **Facilitate the growth and nurture of our children to develop lifelong friendship with Christ and his Church.**

### 7.1.0

- To promote the spiritual, emotional, social and intellectual development of children within the church community of the British Union.

### 8.1.4

- **Support and encourage a mentoring ministry especially for those under the age of 30.**

### 8.1.9

- Make available to the pastoral ministry and the administration, resources and training information related to issues affecting women, for example, abuse, leadership, etc.

### 8.1.12 (New)

- **Actively support, encourage and promote the inclusion of single women (including widows, divorcees, lone parents and others) in the programmes of the Church.**

### 9.1.9

- Fellowship/Worship

- **To work in partnership with local units to organise a tri-annual Youth Congress for the BUC territory.**

### 9.1.11

- Fellowship/Ministry

- **To organise an overseas mission project each quinquennium in partnership with ADRA-UK and others.**

### 9.1.12

- Fellowship/Ministry

- **To continue the momentum of interest in**

Adventist Volunteer Services into the UK and raise the profile going out from the UK to other territories as the need arises.

- 10.1.12 (New)
    - Establish and make available a centre to promote the Adventist health message.
  - 11.1.3
    - School Governance Policy evaluation should be annually.
  - 11.1.5
    - To achieve qualified Adventist status, collaborate with Newbold College in developing an SDA Education Philosophy and History Induction Programme for all teachers in the BUC.
    - Date of implementation – 2008
  - 11.1.9
    - Complete the development of an RE curriculum programme for use in primary and secondary schools, after school and home schooling, which includes Adventist doctrine and church history.
  - 11.1.16
    - Develop a 'lifelong learning' strategy, which will include developing links with Adventists in state schools, and also home schooling, creating an environment of learning in our churches, co-operating with youth ministry, ADC and other departments involved in education.
  - 11.1.17
    - Endorsing the overall objective 11.1.0, pursue a holistic view of education.
  - 12.1.2
    - Implement a strong marketing policy or strategy to improve sales at Stanborough Press, student enrolment at Stanborough School and the number of health clients at Roundelwood.
  - 12.1.4
    - Implement an objective evaluation process to monitor the performance of each institution and its employees.
  - 12.1.12 NEW
    - Explore the development and production of new products for literature-evangelists.
  - 13.1.11
    - Support the development of regional schools (DBS60) with local co-ordinators, that strategically distribute cards, with personal visitation, guidelines for visitors.
  - 15.1.2
    - Organise with units and Newbold College, to provide opportunities for lay and pastoral leaders, workshops, projects, networks, communication in leadership development for all levels of leadership.
  - 15.1.3
    - Provide leadership development and opportunities for workers at all levels.
- Appendix I**
- Development of such services as would nurture and bring greater understanding of the lifestyle issues identified in each community.

**Nominating Committee**

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE BUC**

**PRESIDENT**  
Pastor Don McFarlane  
**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**  
Pastor Eric Lowe  
**TREASURER**  
Mr Victor Pilmoor

**MISSION PRESIDENTS**

**IRISH MISSION**  
Pastor David Neal  
**SCOTTISH MISSION**  
Pastor Llewellyn Edwards  
**WELSH MISSION**  
Pastor John Surridge

**SECRETARY/TREASURER**  
To be appointed by the Executive Committee

**DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS**

The list will be read en bloc and then voted for as a whole.

**CHILDREN'S, FAMILY AND WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**  
Mrs Heather Haworth

**COMMUNICATION**  
Pastor Victor Hulbert

**EDUCATION**  
Dr Keith Davidson

**HEALTH MINISTRIES**  
Mrs Sharon Platt-McDonald

**MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION SECRETARY**  
Pastor Alan Hodges

**PERSONAL MINISTRIES, CHURCH GROWTH AND ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL**  
Pastor Eglan Brooks

**PUBLISHING**  
Pastor Curtis Murphy

**YOUTH, PATHFINDERS AND CHAPLAINCY**  
Pastor Des Boldeau

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**3 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**  
Pastor Don McFarlane  
Pastor Eric Lowe  
Mr Victor Pilmoor

**5 CONFERENCE/MISSION PRESIDENTS**  
Pastor Humphrey Walters [SEC]  
Pastor Egerton Francis [NEC]  
Pastor David Neal [Ireland]  
Pastor Llewellyn Edwards [Scotland]  
Pastor John Surridge [Wales]

**3 BUC DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORS**  
Dr Keith Davidson  
Pastor Victor Hulbert  
Pastor Eglan Brooks

**HEADS/MANAGERS OF BUC INSTITUTIONS**  
Stanborough Press – Mr Paul Hammond  
Stanborough School – Mr Roger Murphy  
Roundelwood – Mr Malcolm Hayles

**EDITOR OF OFFICIAL CHURCH PAPER [MESSENGER]**  
Dr David Marshall

**PRINCIPAL OF NEWBOLD COLLEGE**  
Dr David Penner

**4 FIELD PASTORS [ELECTED]**  
Pastor Richard Brooks [NEC]  
Pastor David Foster [SEC]  
Pastor Emmanuel Osei [SEC/Holloway]  
Pastor Douglas McCormac [Irish Mission]

**11 LAY MEMBERS [ELECTED]**  
Kwao Tetteh Abequaye [SEC Area 6]  
Dr Cynthia Benz [SEC Area 5]  
Dr Aleta Cabone [NEC Area 6]  
Philip Emm [NEC Area 2]  
Miss Sasha Gillen [SEC Area 6]  
Dr Steven Logan [Scottish Mission]  
Richmond Muimo [NEC Area 3]  
Alfred Officer [SEC Area 6]  
Mrs Beulah Plunkett [NEC Area 5]  
Mrs Asha Rivers [SEC Area 4]  
Ainsley Stephenson [SEC Area 6]

[SEC – 6 members; NEC – 4 members; Mission – 1 member]



# The new president

Natasha Gunter interviews the incoming president PASTOR DON W. McFARLANE following his election

Following the initial approach from the Nominating Committee, Pastor McFarlane had said that he must consult God in prayer and consult his wife Mary, whose support would be vital. Having then accepted the challenge, Pastor McFarlane asked the delegation to pray for him.

'These are challenging times,' he said. 'Even a president needs an encouraging word from time to time.' He affirmed that he had learned much from Pastor Cecil Perry.

There was a standing ovation as Pastor Perry joined Pastor McFarlane on the platform. Pastor Perry said, 'No man determines his own destiny. God does. I was not born a president, but a child of God.' Pastor Perry commended Pastor McFarlane to God. He told his successor that the job was often a lonely one; the need for confidentiality made it impossible to discuss many of the problems that his job would require him to deal with.

The two men then embraced.

**Natasha Gunter: What prompted you to enter into pastoral ministry?**

**D. W. McFarlane:** I guess it was in 1967 when I was attending a conference session. Our Jamaican Union president, B. L. Archbold, preached a sermon and, in the course of it, said that there were over 375 million young people in the Western world who had never been inside a church and who did not understand what Jesus had done for them. There and then I pledged that I would be one person who would share the good news about Jesus with some of those unreached young people.

**How long have you been in pastoral ministry?**

Since 1973. More than 33 years.

**What has spurred you on during your ministry?**

I guess if every minister were to speak the truth he or she would say that there are times when you ask yourself, 'Why am I here? Why don't I become an accountant or a bus driver?' It is the conviction that God has called me to do this, that he will provide the resources that I need, and that he will provide the enabling that is required for me to succeed. The sense of calling is the one thing that has kept me going in ministry for this long. Ministry can be very, very discouraging at times, and unless one has a conviction, a *strong*

conviction that God has called you to it, it is very difficult to stay. I *do* have that conviction.

**When you were asked to pick up the gauntlet of BUC president how did you feel? What were your first thoughts?**

When I first heard that the TED president wanted to see me, I knew what that might mean and my heart started beating much faster because I was aware of the greatness of the challenge. I have worked at the BUC before; therefore I understand what a church leader is supposed to do, what kind of direction he is supposed to give.

**What changes do you envision for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the BUC during the next five years?**

That's a very difficult question, because one of the challenges we now face, not only at BUC level but throughout the world, is that the church is becoming somewhat congregational. Local churches tend to have their own independent

approach rather than harmonising with the rest of the world church.

I hope that in five years' time Adventists are better known in this country. I hope that we will be able to raise the profile. I don't think we are going to raise the profile by merely putting up billboards. I think we will raise the profile when individual Adventist members, working in their individual churches, meet the needs of the surrounding community. My hope is that we should become much more involved in our communities as a Church.

I sense that to some degree, over the years, there has been a cooling on the part of some of our members with regard to the second coming of Jesus. I hope that during the next five years we shall continually remind ourselves of our reason to exist as a Church. And I would hope that, as this happens, we would become excited about preparation for the advent of Jesus.

In these last days we cannot afford to be complacent. We can not be content with mediocrity. What we need in our churches is greater spirituality.

**What message at the opening of your ministry in this capacity would you like to convey to the membership of the British Union Conference?**

I will be an open and approachable president working in the interests of the Church.



# Interview with PASTOR ERIC LOWE, re-elected Executive-secretary of the British Union

Thinking back to when you were first elected as BUC Executive-secretary how did you feel?

I guess, given that I had only had three years at the North England Conference and given that the North England Conference is a small conference, I did feel very vulnerable in the sense of not having had sufficient preparatory experience at the conference level to be moving into the union scenario, and I guess I can only thank Pastor Perry for the leadership that he provided, the counsel and the support he gave.

**How do you feel your pastoral experience has prepared you for where you are now?**

I think it was very helpful. I began my ministry in Handsworth. The Nottingham district was also an area in which I ministered. These experiences have been major building blocks in my leadership development. Through ministering to different congregations I have experienced working in various multicultural situations.

**Where do you see the young people in the Adventist Church in the next five years?**

I would like the young people to feel that the Church was open to supporting expressions of church and witness that they would feel comfortable with, and that they feel are relevant to their generation and to the Church.

**How have you perceived the atmosphere during this BUC session?**

I feel that we have had a very good, positive, participatory delegation. It's true that there has been a new dynamic introduced by the changing demographics in the Church during the quinquennium, so that we have a new composition of delegates who are anxious that their voice is heard, along with the other voices, in the appraisal of what the Church has been doing and where it is going in the future. And while I'm sure that some will point to one or two areas when there was maybe a sharp contention, as there was in the early church from time to time over certain issues, I think it was healthy that we had the opportunity for people to air these questions, for them to be explored in a constructive and comprehensive way with different points of view being expressed across the floor, and between the chair and the floor.

While I'm sure that maybe for new delegates it may come as a little bit of a surprise that these sorts of eruptions occur, I don't think it has, from my perception, overruled the general, very positive spirit that we have had.

trained there. We now have more trained ministry. Although we have a younger ministry chronologically, yet we have pastors who are equipped to tackle the task that is before us in a postmodern world.

**Considering all the sleepless nights/late nights of work, the challenges that you have faced, the obstacles that you have had to manoeuvre around or work through, has it been worth it?**

Yes, it has been worth it. And I should say that – and thanks be to God – I was able to sleep at nights because I

placed the greatest problems on the shoulders of Jesus.

**What significant changes have you seen during your fifteen years in the Union presidency?**

1. The growth of the Church.
2. The increase in leadership skills.
3. Stabilisation in our institutions.

**How would you like to be remembered?**

I would like to be remembered as a Christian man whom God used to bring about needed changes.



# The outgoing president

Natasha Gunter interviews outgoing president PASTOR C. R. PERRY

**Thinking back to when you were elected to the office of Union president at Harrogate in 1991 can you recall how you felt at that moment?**

Humble.

**At the beginning of your presidency were there specific goals that you had in mind?**

The first goal was to bring the British

Union to the British people because it appeared remote, and to narrow the gap between 'them' and 'us'. And the second thing was basic evangelism.

There has been development in certain ministries, prayer ministries in particular, Children's Ministries, Pathfinding, and Women's Ministries, which I promoted strongly.

The relationship between the Union and the College has continued to develop well. This has resulted in the majority of our pastors being

# ASI Europe Convention 6-10 July

## 'Expect great things from God'

desire of ASI Europe members to hasten the coming of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. With joyful and thankful hearts the participants enjoyed the rest of

Flags of thirteen countries, paraded by Newbold Pathfinders during the opening ceremony of the ASI Europe Convention held at Newbold College and church on the weekend of 6-10 July, represented over 200 delegates who had travelled long distances to fellowship, network and worship together.

In his keynote address, special speaker Pastor Dwight Nelson set the tone for the whole convention when he challenged the participants to accept audacious goals. Drawing on the 'matrix' experience of the apostle Paul, who found doors closed to him in Asia Minor, Pastor Nelson graphically illustrated how God led Paul to the open door of Macedonia, thus bringing the Gospel of Christ to Europe.

Supporting the Seventh-day Adventist Church in its mission of taking the Gospel into all the world is the primary focus of ASI Europe – an Association composed of national chapters of Adventist business, professional and self-supporting lay people in the Trans-European and Euro-Africa Divisions. Thrilling testimonies from young and old, seminars on world events and the Adventist response to them, along

with inspiring and challenging devotionals and sermons culminated on Sabbath morning in a divine worship service in which the power of God was demonstrated in a wonderful way.

A trumpet fanfare by the Cooper brothers preceded a welcome to the packed church by Berit Lisle, business manager of Newbold College. The evening before, eight evangelistic projects had been presented to the members and these were outlined again by re-elected president Audrey Balderstone and vice-president for evangelism, Bernard Beranger, before Brian Davison made the 'audacious' request for a faith offering of €100,000. As *Recall*, a group from St Albans, sang movingly, God's Spirit could be felt in a powerful way and this continued through Pastor Nelson's challenging and inspiring sermon about the amazing generosity of our God. An audible gasp of surprise greeted the announcement that the 'audacious goal' had not just been reached, but exceeded, and in excess of €148,000 had been collected for evangelism. God had indeed done immeasurably more than we could ever ask or think.

Three years before, at the ASI



Audrey Balderstone was re-elected president of ASI Europe

Europe Convention in Barcelona, the offering was €24,000, so the leap of faith had been enormous. Contrary to popular opinion, ASI Europe is not composed of rich people, but mainly of small business people, professionals and those in lay ministries. Most struggle to make ends meet, which is why this sacrificial offering represents their commitment to God and to the work of his Church. Our theme song, *We Have This Hope*, enthusiastically led each day by Charles Bramble, expresses the

the convention in the beautiful setting of Newbold College, where the food and weather were as wonderful as the fellowship.

ASI, which operates within the British Union Conference as the Adventist Business and Professionals' Association, welcomes and invites the participation of members who are prepared to go the extra mile as witnesses of their faith. For further information see [www.abpa.co.uk](http://www.abpa.co.uk).

AUDREY BALDERSTONE



Dwight Nelson, right, addresses ASI Europe in the Moor Close Gardens



### RECOMMENDATIONS COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Bertil Wiklander  
**Associate Chair:** Don McFarlane  
 John McNamara, IM  
 Frances Moody, IM  
 Richard Brooks, NEC  
 Gary Gordon, NEC  
 Paul Lockham, NEC  
 Eugenie Moses, NEC  
 Beulah Plunkett, NEC  
 Rita Robson, NEC

Harry Wood, NEC  
 David Burnett, SEC  
 Brian Davison, SEC  
 Winsome Gillin, SEC  
 Sandra Golding, SEC  
 Stella Jeffrey, SEC  
 Nylann Kennedy, SEC  
 Nana Obeng-Badu, SEC  
 James Phillip, SEC  
 Martin Rodney, SEC

Elsie Staple, SEC  
 Steve Thomas, SEC  
 David Spearing, SEC  
 Amos Burt, SEC  
 Ernest Logan, SM  
 Judith Martin, SM  
 Wendy Sammons, WM  
 Richard Vine, WM

#### Editor's Note

When the delegates meet at a British Union Conference Session, the delegates of each segment of the Union (SEC, NEC, IM, SM and WM) must meet in separate caucuses to select members to represent them on the RECOMMENDATIONS COMMITTEE.

The RECOMMENDATIONS COMMITTEE recommends people to serve on each of the session standing committees: the NOMINATING COMMITTEE, the LICENCES AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, the CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE and the PLANS COMMITTEE.

The composition of each of these committees has to be approved by the delegation as a whole.

DNM

### PLANS COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Don McFarlane  
 Orville Woolford  
 David Penner  
 William Ackah, SEC  
 John Barron, NEC  
 Wilma Bartlett, NEC  
 Godwin Benjamin, SEC  
 Anthony Best, SEC  
 Richard DeLisser, SEC  
 Sandra Golding, SEC

Garry Gordon, NEC  
 Clifford Herman, SM  
 Orlando Holder, NEC  
 Maslin Holness, SEC  
 Richard Jackson, NEC  
 Shereka James, SEC  
 Susan Kirlaw, SEC  
 Paul Legah, NEC  
 Frances Moody, IM  
 Charles Morrison, NEC

Richmond Muimo, NEC  
 Jackie Nichols, SEC  
 Naomi Ninvalle, SEC  
 Emmanuel Osei, SEC (Ghana)  
 Millie Richards, NEC  
 Jeremy Tremeer, WM  
 Althea White, SEC  
 Steve Wilson, IM

### STANDING CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

**Chair:** BUC Secretary  
 TED Representative  
 Cheryl Blake, Education deptment  
 Victor Hulbert, SEC Secretary  
 Paul Lockham, NEC Secretary

Audrey Balderstone, SEC  
 Jeremiah Hall, SEC  
 Roger Murphy, SEC  
 Chidi Ngwaba, SEC  
 Anne Pilmoor, BUC

Asha Rivers, SEC  
 Ingrid Sharpe, NEC  
 Steve Thomas, SEC  
 Malcolm Watson, NEC

### CREDENTIALS AND LICENCES COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Martin Anthony  
 Keith Davidson, Education director  
 Mart de Groot, IM  
 Egerton Francis, NEC president

Frederick Mapp, NEC  
 Clemency Mitchell, SEC  
 Janice Phillips, SEC  
 Oscar Stewart, NEC

Horace Taffe, SEC  
 Robert Vine, SEC  
 Humphrey Walters, SEC president

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**Chair:** Bertil Wiklander, TED president  
 Eglan Brooks, SEC  
 Jude Jeanville, NEC  
 Ernest Logan, retired  
 Emmanuel Osei, SEC  
 Steve Palmer, NEC  
 James Phillip, SEC

Luis Aguilar, SEC  
 Claude Alexander, SEC  
 Cynthia Benz, SEC  
 Charles Bramble, NEC  
 Craig Gooden, NEC  
 Stella Jeffery, SEC  
 Nylann Kennedy, SEC

Raymond Little, IM  
 Nana Obeng-Badu, SEC  
 Beulah Plunkett, NEC  
 Rita Robson, NEC  
 Martin Rodney, SEC  
 Elsie Staple, SEC  
 Alison Taylor, WM

# Stanborough Press: Forty Years in the North

## YOU are cordially invited to the anniversary celebration on Sunday 3 September

Jim Willis arrived at work at 6.20am on Friday morning 3 January 1964 to discover a fire raging from the stockroom. The fire brigade was called, but the fire was spreading and appeared to be out of control.

As the Press workers arrived on Stanborough Park to begin work an hour later, they saw flames leaping skywards somewhere behind the School. It could have been the Estate Hall or the Press or the food factory. As they rounded the gentle curve of the drive they could see flames leaping out of the Stanborough Press building. Before the flames were brought under control in the ground

floor Dispatch department, the administrative offices, and the entire first floor Editorial and Art departments were gutted. 'As the fire swept up towards the west end of the building,' wrote editor R. D. Vine, 'its venom visibly collapsed. True, it scorched the accounts and circulation departments, but it quite suddenly yielded to control.'

*BBC South-East* said, 'All is destroyed, except the composing room.' Thankfully, they were exaggerating. The engraving, photo-litho, silkscreen, composing and parts of the pressroom and bindery departments were scorched but intact – under a massive blanket of debris.

The Stanborough Press had been located in Watford since 1907. It had been founded in London as the International Tract Society in 1894. Prior to that the publishing house, in embryonic form, had been based briefly in Southampton and for ten years in Grimsby.

Following the fire it was only gradually that an irony dawned. In the words of D. S. Porter, 'It was the

irreplaceable (particularly the contents of the editorial department) that was lost while the replaceable survived.'

There were no immediate plans to move the Stanborough Press. Indeed, it seemed, at first, to make sense to rebuild on land already owned by the denomination.

It was well over a year after the fire – 24 March 1965 – that the Union Committee took the decision to move the Stanborough Press to the north of England. In inimitable style Union president J. A. McMillan communicated this decision to the Stanborough Park church congregation in a sermon based around the text: 'Ye have compassed this mountain long enough: turn you northward.' (Deuteronomy 2:3.)

But much of the credit for moving the Stanborough Press to the territory of the North England Conference belongs to Walter Newman, who had succeeded Joe Craven as manager when the latter died in June 1964, six months after the fire. Watford was then perceived to be the core of the printing industry, so there were



Pastors Walter Newman and Arthur Maxwell with the Mayor and Mayoress of Grantham at the service of dedication

good arguments for rebuilding the publishing house on Stanborough Park. Pastor Newman's impulse to move was assisted by the hostility of the Watford Borough Council to industrial building on Stanborough Park, the availability of government grants to finance moves to areas of the north, and the comparatively low property prices in the north (a factor which appealed to the Press workers, as well as its management).

The site chosen for the relocated Stanborough Press was on the outermost edge of Grantham below Ermine Street, the ancient Roman Road from London to Lincoln. More to the point, it was close to the A1. The new Press was built by Atcost (Construction) Ltd, and the building, with a total floor space of 39,000 square feet, was completed on time in exactly twelve months.

The new Press building was opened on Friday 30 September 1966 by the Mayor of Grantham. He welcomed Adventists to his town and expressed the view that they would enhance its quality of life. The local Anglican vicar Canon G. R. Sansbury was not so sure. In his parish magazine he counselled his parishioners not to 'fraternise' with the Adventists. That was the cue for a charm offensive by Press personnel, including Editor Pastor R. D. Vine, which made use of *The Grantham Journal*. From the start the Grantham population followed their Mayor and not their Vicar. The

ancient town on the Great North Road – the town of Sir Isaac Newton and, more recently, Prime Minister Thatcher – took the Adventists to its heart. It was soon necessary to build a large Adventist church and church school to meet the needs of a community far wider than the Press family.

On the same day that the Press was officially opened it was also dedicated. Among those who participated in the service of dedication were W. E. Read (who had been Press manager from 1918 to 1922 and who, at the time of the dedication, was at the General Conference), W. L. Emerson (who had been senior editor from 1936 to 1966), B. F. Kinman (the leader of the 200-strong force of literature-evangelists), Dr Bernard Seton, secretary of the Northern European Division, and J. A. McMillan, chairman of the Stanborough Press Board.

The move of The Stanborough Press and its service of dedication were exactly forty years ago. The principal participants in the service are dead. Pastor and Mrs Walter Newman, however, live quietly near

Yarmouth. The then Production manager, who was to become general manager, Dennis Archer, with his wife and daughter, lives nearby. At the time of the move the current Press manager, Paul Hammond, was a young foreman who, with his wife and family, had moved from Watford to Grantham with between sixty and seventy others.

The last forty years have seen a decline in doorstep selling and, therefore, in that aspect of the Publishing work. Long before the fire the Press had a significant export market. As a result of a crisis in the late 60s, the ties of the Press with the Review and Herald Publishing Association were strengthened, and the importance of the export market has steadily increased. For a time the Review imposed an expatriate manager and marketing director. Since the mid-70s, however, the management has been in the hands, first, of D. H. Archer and, since 1984, of Paul Hammond.

A change of editor took place coincident with 'the Pierson Package' of 1978. Dr David Marshall succeeded Pastor R. D. Vine.

The merger agreement between

Stanborough Press and Review and Herald became a management agreement. Currently Stanborough Press is a British Union institution which has an unusually close relationship with Review and Herald Publishing Association, Stanborough Press serving as Review and Herald's outlet to Africa and Europe.

Thanks to the management initiative of Paul Hammond and the outstanding salesmanship of Tony Brownlow, Adventist books were sold in Christian bookshops, including those in Anglican cathedrals, between 1987 and 2001.

In October 2001 the Press Board followed most other British publishing companies in taking the decision to outsource its printing and binding to specialist overseas companies. The Stanborough Press Ltd became

a publishing company only from July 2002. Currently, *Messenger* and *Encounter* are printed by an Adventist company in Denmark. Books and *LIFE.info* and *FOCUS* magazines are printed in the Far East.

Currently the majority of the product of The Stanborough Press is exported to the English-speaking countries of Africa and the ABCs of North America.

Forty years on from the 1966 service of dedication the principal challenges faced by the Press management include the need to establish a greater presence in the home market, to revive and transform the Publishing work in the British Isles and to adapt to the rough winds of competition in order to hold onto its international markets.



Paul Hammond, general manager of The Stanborough Press since 1984, was a young foreman when the Company moved from Watford to Grantham forty years ago



The current Press building opened in September 1966



The old Press building on fire, 3 January 1964



**Sunday 3 September**  
Grantham, Lincolnshire

Special Guests for our Celebration Services:

- Don C. Schneider
- Mark and LaDonna Bunney
- Leeds Male Voice

- Special Offers • Church stalls • Fun for the children

**COME!**  
**HELP US CELEBRATE!**  
*It would not be the same without you!*







# Stanborough Press OPEN DAY



### NEC Inter Session Meetings

To review the progress of the Conference between sessions. We would encourage two representatives from each congregation in the NEC to attend

10am Sunday 24 September, Manchester Central church,  
Cross Lane, Pendleton, Manchester

10am Sunday 1 October, Camp Hill church, Birmingham

Lunch will be provided and it is hoped that the meetings will conclude in the early afternoon.

Tel: 0115 9606312 for more information

TRACK PRESENTS

## GOSPELITIS

A ONE-OFF FUNDRAISING GOSPEL CONCERT TO BE HELD AT  
ABUNDANT LIFE CENTRE, BRADFORD. 9 SEP 2006, 8:30PM.



**CROYDON SDA GOSPEL CHOIR**  
AS SEEN ON THE BBC'S EASTENDERS, SONGS OF PRAISE & FLASHMOB: THE OPERA

**BRIXTON SDA GOSPEL CHOIR**

**UNITED VOICES**

CHRIS ROGERS + RESURRECTION + LEEDS MALE VOICES  
MILTON KEYNES PRAISE TEAM + BRADFORD SDA GOSPEL CHOIR

COMPOSER: WINSTON BROWN

WHAT HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT CROYDON SDA GOSPEL CHOIR:  
"MANY THANKS, I GREATLY ENJOYED LISTENING TO YOU!" - HER FRANCES CHARLES  
"THEIR JOY IS INFECTIOUS, CRISP FABULOUS, DYNAMIC DICTON..." - CHORAL ADJUDICATOR  
"YOU BRING AS MUCH JOY TO SO MANY PEOPLE..." - TELEVISION VIEWER

**TICKET HOTLINE: 01274 728669**

INFO: CHIM (07810) 404818 | KELLY (07960) 888473 | KEVIN (07812) 840516  
£10 ADULT, £6 CHILD (5-16) £1 BKG FEE PER CARD TRANSACTION

PROCEEDS TO FUND THE CONTINUED WORK OF YORKSHIRE CANCER RESEARCH & TRACK  
www.keepstrack.org.uk | info@keepstrack.org.uk

## DON C. SCHNEIDER

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

- \* Mark and LaDonna Bunney
- \* Leeds Male Voice
- \* Charles Ngandwe

### Sunday 3 September

**COME! HELP US CELEBRATE!**  
It would not be the same  
without you!

Are you a member of a West Midlands Church? Contact Brother Smiley to arrange coach transport. Twelve coaches are planned. Phone Brother Smiley on any of the following numbers:

- (01384) 213803, (07736) 509625
- (07789) 206171, (07886) 948760
- (07940) 538372, (07950) 016744
- (07960) 328016

### Messenger

Volume 111 • 19 – 18 August 2006  
EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL  
COPY FOR No. 21 – 4 September 2006  
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](mailto:Editordnm@mac.com)  
ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900  
Mon-Thurs only, 8am-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](http://www.adventist.org.uk)  
ISSN 0309-3654

### Sunset

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

	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Aug 18	8.17	8.30	8.25	8.43	8.49
25	8.03	8.15	8.10	8.26	8.33
Sep 1	7.47	8.00	7.54	8.08	8.16
8	7.32	7.44	7.37	7.49	7.58

### MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

### ABC BOOK SALES

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