

The Cross and the Crescent

On 19 September Lord Carey, the 103rd Archbishop of Canterbury, presented the annual Beach Lecture at Newbold College. In 'The Cross and the Crescent', Lord Carey looked at the need for deep and honest dialogue between the two faith communities. Before the main lecture he gave an exclusive interview to BUC Communication director, Victor Hulbert.

Q Lord Carey, the cross and the crescent seem to be moving further apart rather than coming together. How should this issue be addressed?

A We've got to find ways of living together. We've got to find ways of deepening the dialogue and understanding. We *do* share so many things and values with Muslim people. I don't think the situation is hopeless, but I am concerned about it because some people are trying to make it look as if the two civilisations are at war.

Q While there are a lot of moderate people, including moderate Muslims, what we hear through the media is that an innocuous remark can lead to something that builds tensions. Is dialogue really possible in that kind of situation?

A Dialogue is possible, but dialogue is tough. And what passes for dialogue today isn't dialogue at all. It's too tame, it's too politically correct. We tend to say nice things to one another and the real tough questions are avoided. But we can only ask tough questions if we understand people – if we're friends. And I do believe that one can talk to the majority of Muslims whom we might call 'moderate'. But I think that's a bad term, because I'm not a 'moderate Christian'. I'm a Christian, and we've got to engage with true faith on both sides.

I also want to say something else. I actually believe we are defeating the terrorists. What is happening all the time is that we are increasing the number of mainstream Muslims in the West

who actually want to do what we do, and that is to have a good life, to have a fulfilled life; and they don't want violence.

Q There's a difficulty, though, as well, isn't there? If you believe that Jesus is the Saviour, how are you going to have that conversation, and gain the respect, and gain the trust, when ultimately your role as a Christian is to say, 'Well actually, maybe Mohammed isn't the prophet you thought he was, but let me introduce you to ...'

A I believe very firmly that Jesus Christ is the way to God; I don't regard Mohammed in the same way. But the problem at the moment is that we're all dancing around this and not facing up to the real issue. I think it is possible to have such a relationship with Muslims that we can say to them, 'For me, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. I know you see him differently, but let's talk about this.' In parts of the Muslim world there are Christians who have a very brave testimony. So the dialogue is possible. But if I were to say, 'You're an unbeliever; your way is absolutely wrong. My way is right,' there's going to be no dialogue because I've come at it arrogantly.

Q What do you really want a Christian audience to understand?

A We live in dangerous times, and we need to be alert to the fact that terrorism is in danger of tearing our world apart. What will overcome it will be the depth of Christian faith, in association with understanding Islam better, and making friends with Muslims. If we can do that with confidence, then we can make a real difference.

Q We've talked about the Muslim-Christian dialogue. We have tensions within the Christian community itself. It must be easier to relate to some groups of Christians than others?

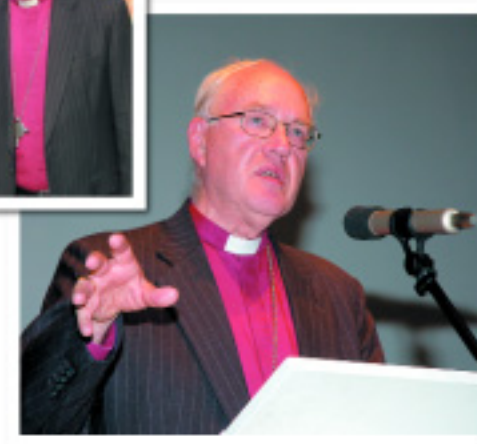
A You know, the funny thing is, I've found on occasion, I've had more in common with a practising Jew or Muslim, than I have with an extreme Christian. I mean there will be some extreme Christians whose attitude and arrogance can be such that I wonder if we are in the same family. But sometimes a friend who's a Jew – I can think of Rabbi David Rosen in Jerusalem – has taught me about God. I feel I have a lot in common with him. Of course, I'm not denying that Jesus Christ is the centre. He's the heart of it all.

Q Is there anything that the Adventist Church can learn from the kind of leadership role and model you're giving us?

A No. It would be arrogant for me to suggest it. All I want to say is that I know something about the Seventh-day Adventist Church and respect it enormously. I have a sister-in-law who's an Adventist, and I see the difference it's made to her life. I do believe that the Anglican tradition, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church have a lot in common. We can work more together, and I would hope that we would start to do that.



Above: Dr B. B. Beach with Lord Carey





Dr John Woodfield celebrates his 90th birthday

On 11 September, Newbold Lecturer Emeritus Dr John Woodfield celebrated his 90th birthday. The young John first came into contact with the Church when his father became an Adventist in the early 1920s and lost his job as a result. It was not an auspicious introduction. John knew hardship as a boy, but this did not deter him from enrolling at Newbold in the mid-1930s, paying his way through college by working in the maintenance department. When he graduated in 1939 he began pastoring in the Derby area but was soon called to Watford, where one of his former teachers, E. E. White, had been called to set up a secondary school. John was to be a teacher for the rest of his life. It was a small two-teacher school to begin with but it prospered and, when E. E. White left to become principal of Newbold College in 1945, John was appointed principal, a post that he held until he was asked to head the English department at Newbold in 1954. By that time Stanborough School had expanded considerably and moved to larger premises.

At Newbold he taught not only English but homiletics to a whole generation of budding preachers. He deplored what he called 'pious musings' and encouraged future pastors to engage fully with the Word and to expound it clearly and with conviction. He also made time to write MA and PhD theses for the University of London –

one of the first British Adventists to do so. In his MA he drew the attention of the scholarly world to the existence of a number of congregations of Seventh-day Baptists in London and the provinces in the first half of the seventeenth century and then turned his material into articles for the Adventist Church's evangelistic papers.

He is also remembered by his former students of English literature, one of whom, now a professor of English at an American University, said recently, 'Having tried a number of approaches to teaching the subject, I have come to realise that Dr Woodfield's methods worked the best.'

John Woodfield is a modest man. Winston Churchill once said of his great political rival Clement Attlee that he was a modest man, but then, he had much to be modest about. It was not true of Attlee and it is not true of John, for he is multi-talented and, after his retirement in 1984 he took up wood carving and mock antique furniture-making, as well as devoting more time to gardening, which he has always loved. He is also an artist of considerable talent – a picture of the crowds milling about on Moor Close lawn at a graduation now hangs in the principal's

office at Newbold. He also writes poetry and loves history, a love that he has passed on to one of his grandsons who did a degree in ancient history. And the skills he learnt all those years ago in the maintenance department as a student are still being put to use: he is no mean bricklayer and plumber. So his has been a very active retirement. His friends hope that it will remain that way.

Newbold principal Dr David Penner pays tribute to his former teacher: 'As a thinker, a scholar, a Christian gentleman and a friend, Dr Woodfield has always made a significant contribution to the lives of his friends, his colleagues and his students at Newbold. In the Newbold community we are still benefiting from his presence and are delighted to see him reaching this milestone in his life.'

HARRY LEONARD

Want to do something worthwhile next summer? Kenya Mission Project Summer 2007

The BUC Youth Department in partnership with ADRA UK is organising for a group to travel to Kisumu, Kenya to build a 100-bed dormitory for orphans of AIDS and children who have contracted the HIV virus from their parents. The 14-day trip will take place in June/July next year and is open to all aged 18 or over.



Want to participate?
Call Des Boldeau on 01923 672251
or email dboldeau@adventist.org.uk
for more details or to register your interest

Healthwise

Downloading Memory Time

Investigators often compare the human brain with a computer. Linking the brain with machines in this way is not new. Similar observations have been around for years. Various theories about the working of the brain abound. Each tells only a part of the story.

Details are now forthcoming which make the link easier to understand. As we wake in the morning the brain stem sends minute puffs of nitric oxide to the thalamus at the centre of the brain. When the chemical reaches the thalamus it is redirected to other parts of the brain in a kind of 'booting-up' sequence. New data from our external world is then sensed and acted on.

Lead author of the study, associate professor Dwaine Godwin (at Wake Forest University, US), says the thinking part of the brain applies a sort of template to the incoming information which the nitric oxide disperses, so the brain can perform more complex tasks.

Observers at Northwestern University (US) describe the brain as being similar to the Internet or to a network of friends. The scientists have used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to record the transfer of information in the brain. Such imaging shows the complex inter-communication of the neurons.

A study at the University of Rochester (US) showed that the brain, unlike the computer, never switches off. Neuron activity record-

ed via electrodes placed in the brain, demonstrated that about 80% of our perception is locked in our heads. Dark areas existed where the visual systems were immature.

Lately there has been evidence that new brain cells can grow. One dendrite was seen to sprout an impressive .003 inches in less than two weeks. The growth depends on use! So it is necessary to be mentally active. Another study has shown that brain cells harvested from epilepsy patients can be transformed into other types of brain cells. *Neuro progenitor* cells from the patients were placed where they could flourish in a different way. Developments of this kind offer hope that new sources of human brain cells – other than stem cells – can be used in the treatment of Alzheimer's and

Parkinson's diseases, stroke, and other brain disorders.

Longstanding conditions may benefit from all this research activity.

Other research is not so attractive. There are plans to download the product of thinking onto a computer as part of a daily routine. Science-fiction might soon be science fact. Remembering is often difficult as we age. 'Jazzing-up' the brain electronically is not the answer. Brains need *exercise*. When, in due course, everything is brought to remembrance – at the final down-loading – what we exercised with will be of vital importance to our destiny!



with Richard J. B. Willis



The Gospel of Barnabas

David Marshall

Do you have a Bible hero? Some brethren might say Peter: they identify with his passion. Others might say Paul, or Daniel, or Joseph, or John. Some sisters might receive special inspiration from Ruth, Esther, Mary the Lord's mother, Dorcas, Martha, or Mary of Bethany.

For years my hero has been Barnabas, 'the Son of Encouragement'. It has been an important aim of my ministry to affirm and build up, to be an encourager.

That is the purpose of this page in MESSENGER. It is also the underlying aim of every other page.

That, of course, does not suit everyone. They have strong opinions and would like to use the Union paper as a means of convincing others of the validity of those opinions. On a theoretical level that sounds great. But I have noticed over the years that the opinions urged are too often at variance with the fundamentals of the faith or, at the very least, likely to divide the Church. Hence it becomes a judgement call. Do the church members whose offerings fund this paper, and the British Union who owns this paper, want me to use it as a sounding board for controversial opinions?

I have to make the judgement call. In making it I am influenced by the views of three groups of people with whom I want to keep faith.

The first group is made up of rank-and-file readers, of each and every ethnicity, who keep in touch with me by letter, email, or in person. (I don't think of this group in the abstract; I think of specific people.) Nothing will appear in these pages to cause hurt and distress to those honest, authentic Adventist people.

The second group with whom I keep faith are the field leaders in Watford, Nottingham, Cardiff, Belfast, Banbridge and Crieff. These are good, decent men; fine spiritual leaders who have my respect and have, after all, been elected to their positions. I shall not let them down. Good, decent church members would not expect me to.

The third group of people with whom I keep faith have one thing in common. They are all dead! Nevertheless, to remind me of who they were, I have their pictures on my office wall. They were the builders of the Advent Movement, including those who built the Church in the British Union.

MESSENGER is not a sounding board for divisive opinions. It is the newspaper for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles. Other publications exist for those who want to push back the frontiers of belief to either the left or the right. While the Issues page is there to sensitise us, it is not there as a hustings from which to attack the

beliefs of the Church voted by the GC in session. That is not what MESSENGER is for. Nor has it been at any time during its one-hundred-and-eleven-year history, at least half of which I can remember and for a quarter of which I have been its editor.

The purpose of this paper is to inform, to feed, and to encourage. Barnabas would be its patron saint, if it had one. We go with the objective Gospel, the Fundamentals, not with fashionable opinions. Fashions change and, from time to time, they cause division and fragmentation. Cyberspace may be limitless, but MESSENGER has only eight pages. Those pages are committed to keeping our constituency informed and to communicating 'the truth that was once for all entrusted to the saints'.

Remember the three groups with whom I strive to keep faith? The Gospel that was 'once for all entrusted to the saints' is what holds the three together, and what unites me to them.

The young bulls who – bless their hearts! – level some of the dictionary's more hostile adjectives at yours truly, do not thereby win the right to charge around in this particular china shop. Here we're into encouraging and building, not destruction and demolition.

There are those, apparently, who have decided that what was good for the builders of our movement, and may continue to be good enough for its rank and file members, is no longer good enough for them. Well, congratulations! Adventists have always encouraged thinkers. And I mean that! But no amount of intimidation me-wards will make the eight pages of a Union paper an appropriate forum in which to advance your ideas. Truth is not by consensus. Christianity is a revealed religion centred on the Person of Christ. We are saved by grace through faith. And those in Christ are 'a new creation'.

That's the Gospel. The Gospel is not only for conservatives. It's for radical superlatives, too. One Church. One Baptism. One Lord and Saviour of us all.

At the heart of the Gospel is the belief that men and women *can* change. There *can* be an 'extreme makeover' of behaviour, of motivation, of perspective. That is part of the hope of the Christian. A person can discover the desire and inner strength to turn around and make a fundamentally new start. The biblical term for that

is 'conversion'. The conversion (radical makeover) pathway is:

- Faith in God.
- Communication with God.
- A personal decision to change – *and seek the power to do so.*
- To persevere.

Unlikely as it may seem, millions can testify that for them, somehow, this has actually worked. It's the God-given, Christ-inclining, Spirit-driven miracle at the core of Christianity. To say that those who have been saved by grace cannot then become gracious is to deny the miracle. To deny the miracle is to say that Christianity doesn't work.

It works!

For millions, life-direction has changed radically. Self-centred, callous people have become warm, loving people. They have overcome all manner of destructive habits and addictions. Not being 'conformed to this world', they have been transformed through mind renewal (Romans 12:2).

The Gospel is not just a theoretical proposition, 'it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. . . . For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last.' The miracle at the heart of the Gospel is summarised by Paul (Romans 1:16, 17) and by Habakkuk (2:4) in the phrase 'The just shall live by faith'.

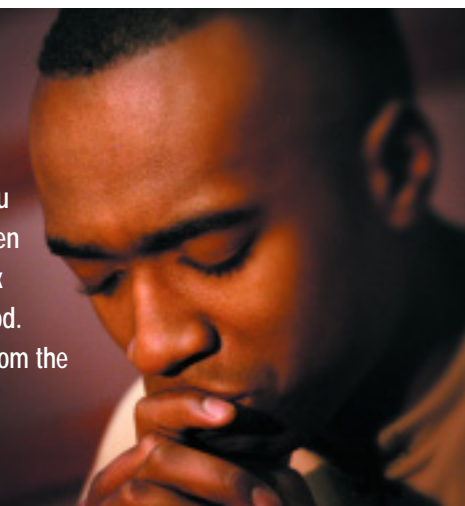
Here we aim to build faith in God, assist communication with God, point to God's power to change us, and to help us persevere. The means: *encouragement*. The message: *grace*.

So here's to God who transformed 'Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus' into 'Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement)' (Acts 4:36).

Inside Out

'Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out.'

Romans 12:2, MGE.



'Be at work!' said boss to baptismal candidate



A newly-baptised member of Leicester Central faced possible disciplinary action after ignoring her boss's warning to be at work on the day of her baptism. Thulani Mlotshwa, 27, was one of three candidates who committed to a life following Christ on 15 June.

In Central's third baptism for the year and the second in June, the care assistant and part-time accounting student revealed that she could face action for taking time off to be baptised and arranging cover for her shift. She could even face the sack.

'If I'm persecuted for Christ's sake I would rather,' said Thulani, who planned to return to work at a later shift caring for people with learning disabilities, despite her employer's warning.

Two other candidates, mother of four Diane Rushin and Henry Mwai, also revealed their stories.

Nursing assistant Diane was a surprise candidate who made up her mind to be baptised just days before the ceremony, after Pastor Orlando Holder, who was giving her Bible studies, told her about the imminent

baptism and asked whether she would like to be included. She met Central member Ian Liburd while he was visiting a patient on a hospital ward.

'He seemed to know that while I was happy and smiling on the ward, deep down I was troubled, and he said I shouldn't be that way.' After two visits to Central she 'felt it was where she belonged'.

Diane disclosed a traumatic upbringing: given up for adoption aged 3, taken on by her grandparents, and throughout this time trials too painful to share. She was baptised at 9 but her troubles increased and she abandoned her faith. Now she has committed to being an Adventist. 'This is where I belong. Before, there was something missing. Now the puzzle is complete,' she said.

The only male candidate, Henry Mwai, who along with Thulani received Bible studies from church elder Barry Robinson, said, 'I've been looking for a church and the Adventist ticked all the right boxes.'

Thulani still works for the care institution. GEORGIA DACRES

Paula comes to Christ

Leicester Central has witnessed the miraculous conversion and baptism of one of its most interesting young people.

Paula Pryce, 19, surprised Leicester Adventists by declaring her love and discipleship for Jesus in a moving baptism attended by dozens of young people, friends and family, some of whom performed musically for the first time in church.

Paula admits to experiencing difficult times as a youth. She has worked for Central as one of the

organisers of the successful Youth Day, which is recognised for its innovative music and worship style and has attracted hundreds of teens. But God brought Paula to him.

'I realised that certain things were wrong,' said Paula, who was taught the Truth by Pastor Paul Liburd.

She began to feel the pricks of her conscience in activities that had never bothered her before. 'It's a long process. Things that never used to bother me started to when I went



to these places.' Paula also acknowledges the influence of friends.

Now she is waiting for God to reveal her mission. She has an inkling. 'I realise that God doesn't worry about what you're wearing –

it's about your heart. It's not about your iron-press trousers – that's what I want to tell young people. Anyone can come to God,' Paula said. GEORGIA DACRES

Yeovil's seaside baptism

There was a celebration in heaven on 9 July when two candidates from the Yeovil church plant were baptised at Ringstead Bay. The sun was high and so were the waves that almost knocked everyone off their feet. Timothy and Agnes plunged beneath the chilling waves of the sea off the south-west of England. An international barbecue followed this joyous occasion, which was shared by fifty people, seventeen of whom were unchurched friends.



Left to right: Pastor Mick Smart, Agnes Mpenge, Leslie King and Tim Secong

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Grantham baptism

It is a very great delight for a church to see one of its own young people make a stand for Christ, and equally special to see someone come into the church through friendship evangelism. Such were the cases on 20 May when Michael Bull (fifth generation Adventist) and Marlyn Keane were baptised by Pastors John Ferguson and Ron Surridge, respectively. Michael, a fine young man from a strong Adventist family, has always been encouraged by parents and grandparents who are very active in church life, and he is a great asset to the Grantham church. Marlyn, also much loved by the membership, was helped to her decision through regular Bible studies with Stephen Coxhead and Miss Alice Blackburn, and felt particularly prompted to accept the Saviour through a message preached a little while back by Pastor Surridge.

PASTOR JOHN FERGUSON



Left to right: Pastor Ron Surridge, Marlyn Keane, Michael Bull and Pastor John Ferguson

Mayor of Camden applauds Community Health Fair

Sunday 14 May was another high day for Hampstead church's Vibrant Health department. We hosted our Vibrant Health Fair in Queen's Crescent Community Centre, right in the heart of the community. The emphasis, as always, was on community work, and the Mayor of Camden, Barbara Hughes, visited

the fair. She said she attends similar inter-faith community



activities and that this fair reflected the ethos of the borough and she was 'very encouraged' by what she saw on the day.

Residents from the local community seized the opportunity to flock to the health fair. A few weeks earlier the area had been pamphleted and an advertisement placed in the local newspaper, informing the community about the fair. Visitors had to register before they could enjoy all activities on offer. Some had their blood

pressure and BMI taken, while others had facial and back massages. These were done by volunteer workers. Those who wanted to consult the doctor to discuss a particular problem, visited Dr Audrey Tsoetsi, a local church member, in her 'consulting room'. We also had stalls featuring vegan cheese

Japhet's delight

Words of appreciation were expressed to Japhet de Oliveira on his last Sabbath at Stanborough Park as he left to become Campus Ministries Chaplain at Andrews University. During his time caring for the youth at the Park, and then the South England Conference, Japhet has built up a special relationship with the young people – and how better to depart than by conducting a baptism?

Jacques Vitry is one who has been blessed by Japhet's ministry and, following a series of Bible studies with Japhet, he requested baptism. Members of the Vitry family, together with several hundred church friends, were glad to witness the event and welcome Jacques into fellowship on Sabbath 22 July.

Ian Sleeman presented the morning message, and musical items were presented by a quartet of young people connected with the Café Blue outreach project, and by the Ahn Sisters from South Korea. JOHN ARTHUR

New Gosport Company

Sabbath 5 August was a great day for the Adventist community in Portsmouth. For the first time, a worship group started in the district of

Wasting Time!

Wasting Time was the theme of Hackney's Youth and Teens Day held on Sabbath 15 July. Members and



visitors filled the main sanctuary upstairs and the hall downstairs where the service was watched on plasma screen.

The teens and youth gave practical demonstrations on how we as young people can waste time on things that often have very little to do with our faith, such as playing computer games and the type of conversations we may

demonstrations, leaflets, steps to spiritual health, health food and 'juicing' demonstrations. Lectures on Diabetes, Men/Women's Health, and Health and General Advice, were given during the day. Refreshments were available throughout the day, and this contributed to making the visitors feel welcome and comfortable. The Pathfinders were visible in full uniform throughout the day, which prompted questions from members of community.

The fair officially started on Sabbath 13 May in the Hampstead church. The AVS was very informative as the members discovered 'health gems' about the different fruits and the advantages that each fruit offered, for example, the humble banana is *not* fattening; it is high in sugar, but it is the right *kind* of sugar! The health message is not new, but from time to time we need to be reminded of this important message.

Every first Sunday of each month, Hampstead's doors are opened to the community, offering all the services offered at the fair.

CHARLEEN ARENDSE

Hove Pathfinder passes out at Sandhurst

Alex spent a year at the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, and passed out as a lieutenant. For many years he was a Pathfinder at Hove Adventist church and was Captain during his last year. He attended church with his grandmother, Mrs Inge Harvey. He also attended Pathfinder camps in England and abroad. We pray that our Lord is blessing him and keeping him safe in his career.

ANNE BEATTIE



Lieutenant Alexander J. Nicholas

Gosport. After wide consultation, much prayer and physical effort, this project, which had remained a dream for many years, was finally under way.

Gosport is a key naval base and so it is hoped that this new group will provide an important service to the community and to visiting servicemen and visitors to the town.

Pastor Robin Lewis, who tirelessly fought to start the group, led the service and was supported by his elders and a large contingent from the mother church and the Blessed Hope singers. ANDREW CHENG



engage in with friends. The church was privileged to hear the inimitable voice of Paul Lee who created a heartfelt and mind-filled atmosphere of worship with his rendition to the Lord.

The speaker was Chris Brooks, music producer and one of Hackney's main musicians. His sermon, entitled *Trapped in the Closet: The Choice, The Voice and True Worship*, examined the ways in which some Christians can have an identity crisis.

The service concluded with an

appeal song rendered by Paul Lee, during which a number of individuals made their way forward to the altar, either to dedicate or rededicate their lives to the Lord.

Time was most definitely well spent in the sanctuary, and was not wasted in the afternoon as the teens and youth took to the streets of Hackney with a live band and tracts, sharing the good news of the Gospel of Salvation with the local community.

DARELL PHILIP

Photo: Chesley Brooks (14)

Lifetime Service Awards

Pastor Alan Hodges, Ministerial Association secretary, writes

During the British Union Conference Session, which took place in York University from 26-30 July, five lay members, one from each Conference and Mission, were presented with a certificate of recognition for faithful service to the Church. Those who were recognised were Anna Graham (Londonderry), Alice Allen (Carmarthen), John Walton (Dundee), George Powls (Middlesbrough) and Arthur Campbell (Wimbeldon).

The British Union recognises that the laity in our church play a major and important role. There are many faithful church officers who serve the church Sabbath after Sabbath in keeping the various depart-



GEORGE POWLS

I first met 'Uncle' George (as every-one affectionately calls him) when Lew and I moved to pastor the Middlesbrough, Darlington and Durham churches in 1991. He quickly introduced himself to me and made me feel part of the family by telling me that he knew my parents as he had attended Newbold with them.

Uncle George is a family man. He loves his wife Josie and his four children and three grandchildren. But, more than that, he loves the whole church family, taking a keen personal interest in every member and visitor.

He was baptised in the Middlesbrough church in 1935 by Pastor Sammy Joyce, and ever since has had a passion for the church, working for the Lord, and an ever-increasing longing to see his precious Saviour return. He spent years as a literature-evangelist both in England and Scotland. He loves children, which is reflected in the fact that he spent his working life teaching children, and always has a pocket full of sweets to hand out to them on Sabbaths!

George has been, and still is – even at the age of 84 – an active, conscientious and hard-working member of the Middlesbrough church. He still preaches and teaches Sabbath school classes, and has spent over forty years as the head elder. His wisdom has been a great blessing to the church board. He has

been actively involved in countless evangelistic outreach programmes under numerous evangelists and pastors, and worked as youth leader for many years, encouraging the youth to commit their lives to Christ. He also has a very characteristic laugh that can be clearly heard, especially at the various church social events he has helped to organise.

KARIN EDWARDS



ALICE ALLEN

It was a particular pleasure on Sabbath 19 August to present a Certificate of Honour to Mrs Alice Allen at the Carmarthen church. Recognition and appreciation of her long service to the church was expressed by Pastor Alan Hodges at the BUC Session at York.

Since her retirement twenty-five years ago, Sister Allen has faithfully served the church and kept up her ministry of visitation to many isolated members over a wide area in west Wales, and has brought encouragement and blessing to them. She has always shown loving concern towards everyone and would be the first to say that whatever she has been able to do was by God's grace and because of her love for him and his Church, and her own desire to win souls for the Kingdom. She graciously accepted the token of the Church's gratitude, but would never have presumed herself worthy. However, this exceptional lady *deserves* this accolade. She is loved and appreciated by all who know her

ments running smoothly. Many church elders lead in the services of the church and are often engaged in a preaching ministry. They are always there to welcome visiting speakers, and to act in a pastoral role with members and visitors, and they have carried out their duties faithfully for many years.

The president's office and the Ministerial Association have initiated this ministry of recognition at the Quinquennial session with the hope that the spirit of thanksgiving for our laity and their faithful service will become a regular feature at Union Sessions and will also spread to the local Conferences and Missions.

and we pray God's continued blessing on her life and faithful service.

BRIAN PHILLIPS

ARTHUR CAMPBELL

'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me' is the motto of Arthur Campbell, longstanding member of the Wimbeldon church who was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at the recent BUC Session. He was born in Jamacia on 18 September 1935, and baptised in the North Street Adventist church in Kingston at the age of 16.

Being a godly young man, his heart was set on working for the Lord and he entered North Caribbean University (formerly West Indies College) and studied theology. In 1959 he left Jamacia, but did not enter the ministry at that time; 'one of my great regrets'. Arriving in England, he began working in construction and eventually became a building surveyor as well as studying for a social science degree with the Open University.

In 1967 Arthur married Margaret Lacey, a Certified Accountant, and they have had a 'fantastic partnership' for the nearly 40 years. Arthur attributes his success, first to God, who has given him the health and strength, but also to the support of his wife, and his mother-in-law Evelyn Lacey (now deceased).

For the past thirty years he has sat on the board of the Wimbeldon church offering advice and support. Arthur has held the position of elder for the past 25 years and is currently the leader of the recently formed Kingston company. In addition to this, he is a lay preacher and has spent much of his life utilising his preaching training. He is also a member of the Area 4 Lay Advisory, has been a delegate to both SEC and BUC sessions on

many occasions and has served as Parliamentarian for such events. He is also Chairman of the London Male Voice Choir and the London Adventist Credit Union.

Despite his positions of authority, Arthur is a humble man, with a big heart and a broad smile, who always has a kind word. His hobbies include giving Bible studies leading to baptism, and singing.

We wish him well as God continues to bless him in his life and ministry.

CATHERINE ANTHONY BOLDEAU

JOHN WALTON

John Walton was appointed to the faculty of St Andrews University in 1970, and rose through the ranks to his present position of Professor of Reactive Chemistry. He married Jane (née Lehman) in 1971, and the two have been faithful members of the Dundee church since. Both believe strongly that training and example to children are of key importance to the church in a largely materialistic society, and Jane in particular has worked tirelessly for several generations of children.

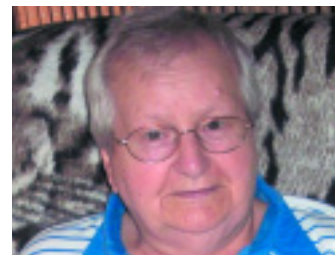
Dundee church has always contained a core of faithful, spiritual and capable individuals. Encouraged by them, John became an elder in the late seventies. Over the years he has taken strength from inspirational ministers, including Victor Hall, Lew Edwards, Bob Rodd and David Spearing. He helped out in major campaigns with Australian evangelists Lewis Barker and Ken Wright, as well as with Americans Jim Stevens and Kevin Wiley. At the time these were scary events, but with hindsight they made an indelible impression and radically elevated John's learning curve as well as that of the church.

Elders have many and varied duties, and John's have included giving a listening ear and encouragement to troubled ministers, members and students. For the latter, hospitality was an important ingredient. He and Jane are members of the Dundee church caring committee, which tries to visit and care for the sick, isolated and elderly. He has been a regular and long-time Sabbath school teacher, as well as preacher. Preaching at Peacehaven Home for the elderly was always special, and he remembers many zimmer speed interruptions to the sermon for calls of nature, as well as diverting comments delivered in

what the speakers erroneously believed to be whispers!

John has delivered many lectures on topics in the science and religion area in Scotland, and also in other parts of the UK. He has been delighted to see cracks in the dominant atheist/materialist Western cultural establishment which have been widened by postmodernism, the fall of Communism and the Intelligent Design movement. Many excellent books have contributed to this process in the last decade and John has tried to help it along by writing several origins articles himself. He has been a long-time member of The Stanborough Press Reading Committee and has probably read and helped improve as much Adventist literature as any lay person. He has had the privilege of being part of Newbold College Board, and a high point of this experience was delivering the graduation address.

LLEWELLYN EDWARDS



ANNA GRAHAM

Her first contact with the Advent message was at the age of 31. The Voice of Prophecy Bible correspondence course introduced this young Methodist lady to truth of which she was not aware. Even though her husband objected to the idea of 'changing religion' she was baptised by Pastor Don Lowe in March 1967, aged 34.

Anna was among the first people to accept the Advent message in the Derry/Londonderry area, where a small group of about a dozen would gather in the local Orange Hall every Sabbath. By 22 April 1978 this group had grown to about 20 and had its own church building, which was built by Maranatha Volunteer Services in only nineteen days. During these years Sister Anna was always ready to serve in any capacity.

During the troubles in Northern Ireland the church in Derry/Londonderry started decreasing in attendance. Several older members died, some members stopped attending worship services, while others left the church completely. There were even those who moved

KENNETH JOHN BUNKER (1917-2006) d. 11 July 2006. Churches across the West Country were deeply saddened by the death of Ken Bunker, the last of a generation of Adventists in this Devonian family. Ken was the youngest of four boys in this family of market gardeners in Plymouth, who were also gifted in their natural aptitude towards engineering. Together they designed and built a mobile crane which was used to help clear the devastation caused by the blitz on the city in the Second World War. Ken also risked his life on a number of occasions as an

overseas for a more peaceful life.

Having been left with only a few irregular members, Sister Anna took on the leadership of the church and for a good number of years she was the one who carried the burden of service, filling almost all the offices: Sabbath school leader, deaconess, treasurer, etc. She found it a real challenge to do all this in the midst of the enmity and mockery she was receiving from her husband and family. The situation got even worse. At the end of the 1990s Anna was the only member in the Derry/Londonderry area who continued going to the church to worship. For more than a year she endured loneliness, being joined in the church by the minister or a lay preacher for the service. But the church door was never locked on the Sabbath day.

It is true that the years have left their mark on Anna, but her spirit of endurance and persistence in the truth and service is still the inspiration for the present church community that has been growing as a direct result of her prayers.

DAVID NEAL

The concept of the Award

Basically the idea originated with a phone call from a former Adventist minister who spoke about his admiration for the exceptional faithfulness of so many of our lay-people – especially those in the smaller churches. My friend maintained that some of these people opened up the church buildings each Sabbath morning, led out at prayer meetings, took the lesson almost every week, and frequently had to present the sermon if the district leader had larger churches to care for. 'In some instances these saints have been undertaking this kind of weekly schedule for forty years,' he added.

This conversation led to my wife and I initiating a plan to honour some of these individuals in just a small way. Obviously they will receive their major reward from our Heavenly Father in due course. However, I shared the idea with Pastor Perry, and he then requested each field leader to submit the name of one suitable candidate from each Conference and Mission.

ambulance driver, often as bombs were falling in air raids over the city. Ken married Leta Bishop in 1949 and they moved to Tavistock, where they set up a motor repair business in Drake Road, a business in which Ken was still working until April of this year. They were highly respected in their Devon community, as was evident by the many representatives from the motor trade and the customers of their own garage at the funeral service conducted in the local parish church. Ken was an organist and had played for some occasions in the church. The church organist played one of Ken's favourite pieces, which he had sometimes played in the Liskeard church where he was the organist – 'Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in their heavenly Father's realm', from Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah*. The address was given by Pastor Roy Burgess, offering hope and consolation from biblical references to the resurrection at the coming of Jesus. Ken was a keen Bible student himself, and always enjoyed teaching a Sabbath School class and hearing, as he used to say, 'a good sermon'. He was laid to rest by the writer in the presence of his family, friends and church members from the West Country and further afield, in a churchyard on the edge of Dartmoor, where he awaits the Saviour's call to eternal life. We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Leta, to John and Tina, and to Penelope and to the wider extended family, in sure and certain hope of the promised resurrection.

R. A. BURGESS

Ken's family wish to thank all those who have sent cards, letters and messages of sympathy and given support during his illness and in their bereavement. Also for donations received for St Luke's Hospice.

CHRISTINA KHAN (-2006) d. 29 July. The Blackpool church is sad to report the death of Mrs Christina Khan, who passed away after a long battle with cancer. Nursed by her husband Colin, Christina was able to die at home which was her wish. Christina was baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist church on 1 June 1974, and she will be sorely missed. We extend our deepest sympathies to Colin and the family.

MARY RICHARDSON

SIDNEY ALEXANDER BROWN (1905-2006) d. 26 August. It was a fine autumn morning when the members of Brixton church paid their final respects to Sidney Brown who died peacefully in his sleep at the grand old age of 101. Brother Brown was a longstanding member of the Brixton church who grew up in St Andrews, Jamaica, and first heard the Advent message in 1931. A traveller showed him a red-covered book, which he later identified as one of Ellen G. White's, and through this book and the Bible he was led to accept the truth and was baptised into North Street Adventist church. He came to England in 1954 and, although there was a brief period when he did not attend church, his conscience would not let him forget what he had

Certificates of Appreciation were prepared by the BUC, and Ruth and I contributed funds for accompanying vouchers to enable each recipient to acquire Bibles, books, cassettes, and/or health foods from The Stanborough Press to the value of £100 (retail).

Thanks to Paul Hammond's co-operation, our donation just covered the wholesale cost, but we will set aside funds so that a bursary is set up to allow this arrangement to take place at each Union Session in the future. The church has been very good to Ruth and me, and we have enjoyed wonderful hospitality and kindness from so many members during forty-five years of full-time ministry. Our hope is that this small symbolic gesture will send out a signal that the self-sacrificing efforts of our lay-persons are greatly valued by the Church's leadership and ministry.

W. JOHN ARTHUR,
Retired Publishing and ADRA director, and Union president

been taught and he began attending the Brixton church. Brother Brown was always a quiet, unassuming person who in later years was not able to attend church as often as he wanted to. He had a sharp mind throughout his life and when visiting him at home you had to book an appointment so that he knew you were coming. When he was able to attend church he always insisted that he was picked up at a specific time, as punctuality was high on his priority. During the final months of his life he was happy to know that his daughter Irene Phillips could come from Jamaica to look after him. He lived way beyond the three score years and ten mentioned in the Bible, and when asked in an earlier interview what was the most significant event that had occurred during his life he said he was amazed that man could use a machine to go to the moon and come back in the same machine. However, he recognised that although man could do this, God was still in charge. When asked what his first question to Jesus would be, after much deliberation he said, 'Sister Val, there is no question that I can ask that the Lord has not thought of. Who am I to question him?' Brother Brown leaves behind his daughters Irene and Ellen and a son Sidney Junior. May he rest in peace until he hears the trumpet of the Lord.

VALERIE MOODIE

Wedding

JOHNSON-PALMER

On 4 June family, friends and relations celebrated the marriage of Sharon Palmer and Jeremy Johnson in a beautiful service that included instrumental contributions from David Brooks, organist, and Clarence Parnell for his composition 'Lover's Serenade' (wedding march). Sharon looked stunning as she entered the Oxford Street, Wolverhampton, church, smiling, on the arm of her proud father Issac Palmer. The bridal party included Sharon's nieces, sisters, and Jeremy's niece. The ceremony was conducted by Pastors Fray, Jeaville and Morgan, who presented the address. Sharon's sister-in-law, brothers and sisters, provided a fitting song for the happy couple. We wish Jeremy and Sharon God's blessing in their life together.

VIV PALMER

Congratulations to Jodi McFarlane for graduating from the Institute of Education, London, with a distinction in her Master's degree in School Improvement and School Effectiveness.

EDITOR

Correction In the report entitled 76 Baptised in Pavilion of Hope Campaign (page 4, Messenger 22, fourth paragraph), it was Pastor Delroy Foster who took the meeting, not Pastor David Foster as stated. We apologise for the mistake.



Who's changing the church? YOU are!

Calling ALL Youth aged 14-25

by Des Boldeau, Youth director, BUC

During the month of December young people aged 14-25 will have the very exciting opportunity to tell the church leaders of the UK what they think of the church and other related issues. Not many of us will have such an opportunity again within our lifetime, so please stop and take note.

Who is conducting the survey?

The Trans-European Division of our world church (of which the UK is part) is joining up with the Euro-Africa division to conduct this much needed survey. It will be conducted in 18 countries throughout Europe.

Aim

The aim of this survey is to understand how European Adventist youth live out their faith, in order to develop a culturally-appropriate strategy for Adventist youth ministry and mission.

Subject matter

We need to know your thoughts and feelings on a range of subjects that will give some indication of the relevance of the Adventist church to your everyday needs; that means *you*, the youth of the church.

The survey will look at certain key areas relating to: faith maturity, personal spirituality, relationship with the church, commitment to Adventist doctrines, behavioural standards and social ethics.

Why should you participate in this survey?

1. Because youth are an important part of the church
2. Because this is an opportunity to express your opinion about the church and its relevance to you
3. To try to find out why youth are leaving the church
4. To make the church more aware of youth issues

5. Because the opinion of every young person is important to us
6. Because the answers will help in setting strategies relevant to young people's needs
7. To help the church make changes to fulfill its mission better

How does it work?

For the first time the survey will be administered through a website designed by a professional survey company.

All youth either owning or having access to a computer will be simply connected to a very easy series of questions.

The website will provide confidential and anonymous access to the questionnaire by means of a password. Each young person will receive a personal password which will allow him/her to fill out the questionnaire. The password will expire at the completion of the questionnaire.

Each local church which has young people registered with the Conference will receive the allocated number of passwords (one for each person). For those not having direct access to a computer or Internet for completing the questionnaire, a PDF file or hard copy can be obtained from your local Conference/Mission youth department. We have a limited window of opportunity to complete this survey so it is imperative to get the task completed in one sitting.

The passwords will be valid from 1st December and become void after the end of December.

When will the results become available for public knowledge?

An analysis of the raw percentage scores for all questions will be available in the March issue of ENCOUNTER, so watch this space to see what the survey will reveal about British youth church trends.

The benefits?

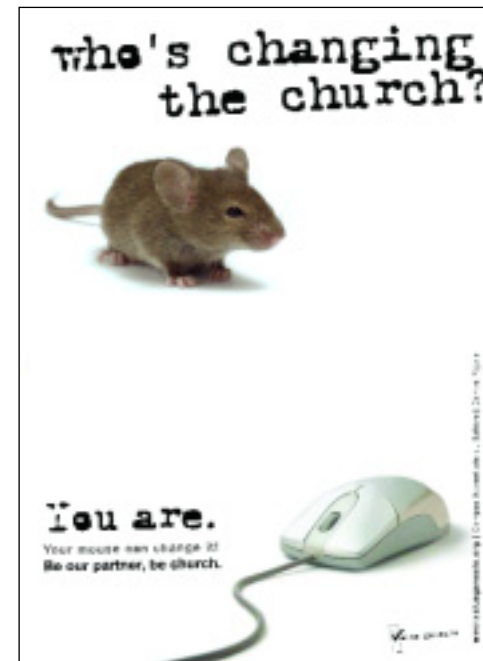
The benefits will be experienced by all entities of the British Union. It will influence the direction of youth

ministry at Union, Conference, Mission and local church level. It will change the way the adult church addresses youth issues, the leadership, and the way youth ministry is done.

I foresee that the results could be an eye opener and somewhat of a revelation for the church. With this in mind, if the results of this survey do not alter the structure of what we presently see as the youth ministries of the church, then the exercise will have been in vain and the expense will be wasted.

So, get ready and tell all within this age range to prepare themselves to engage with the church in this survey.

If you have any questions about



the survey now, or want to feedback on the survey after completing it, please feel free to contact me or my secretary on ndavison@adventist.org.uk. I'll be in touch again!

ABC BOOK SALES

Oct		
29	West Midlands	10am-2pm
Nov		
5	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
19	Family Ministries	
	Retreat	Daventry

JOB VACANCY PROOF READER

The Stanborough Press will have a vacancy for a Proof Reader in January 2007. The applicant should have considerable experience at working with words, have an in-depth knowledge of the structure of language, be competent in spelling and punctuation and, above all, have a meticulous mind-set. The work of a proof reader can be painstaking, but is vital to a publishing company.

Applicants should have experience in the latest computer technology and should be prepared to undertake work other than proof reading if and when required. Send letter of application, with cv and the names of two referees, to: The General Manager, The Stanborough Press Ltd, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL by **Wednesday 1 November.**

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Sunset

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

	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Oct 20	5.57	6.10	5.59	6.00	6.14
27	5.43	5.56	5.44	5.44	5.59
Nov 3	4.30	4.43	4.30	4.29	4.44
10	4.19	4.31	4.18	4.14	4.31

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