

Messenger

News to the churches • 5 January 2007 • Volume 112 • 1

Ring in the New

By Keith Mosedale
Associate manager for Sales and Marketing for The Stanborough Press Ltd

Beginning a New Year gives us the opportunity to reflect upon the past year and examine our aspirations for the year ahead, and change is always a hot topic.

Some individuals feel the need to exercise more, or gossip less, work harder or ease up a bit! Change can be driven by the need to keep pace, and our environment usually serves as the catalyst for improvement.

Organisations, as well as individuals, need to change and move in order to remain relevant and effective in the society around them. But this need should not make us rush into change for its own sake. It takes time and thought to see where we are aiming for growth, and how that growth can be achieved.

There have been revolutionary changes in the business world in the last twenty years. The digital revolution and global economics have combined with other factors to create a rapidly-changing environment which encourages competition.

It is essential that we adapt and change in order to compete, but this idea of competing can seem like a foreign concept to us as a Church. Yes, we strive to become more Christlike in our thinking and behaviour, but we're not in competition with anyone in this. Yet the Man we strive to be like, Jesus, *did* compete. He died in an effort to win your soul

— my soul — didn't he? Satan played the cosmic battle for our souls with the sole aim of winning at any cost. And Jesus Christ paid that cost. Make no mistake. Our Lord is a competitor! He competes for *you*.

Here at The Stanborough Press we believe that good literature has always been important, but will be of increasing importance in our work for souls in the end time battle in which we're involved. It is therefore imperative that we prepare ourselves now, to ring in the changes to ensure that we are operating effectively as we seek to do the Lord's work until he returns.

The Stanborough Press is the sole Seventh-day Adventist publishing house for the UK, and despite many challenges and changes, remains strong and active in the Church and in the wider society.

There has been, of necessity, a period of consolidation, during which we have strengthened our organisation in order to serve our constituency in a manner that befits the Lord's service, not only now, but moving forward into the future.

We are now firmly set to pursue the goal, this New Year and beyond, of serving the United Kingdom and Ireland more effectively; broadening our remit, and expanding our services into unreached areas.

When most companies talk of growth, the aim is to acquire 'silver

and gold'. Not so, here at the Press. The Stanborough Press is a registered non-profit-making charity, which means that our aim is efficient service, not profit. We are owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and are the only publishing house in the UK endorsed by that Church.

We consider it an honour to be permitted to operate under the banner of the 'Adventist Book Centre' — the global Church literature movement — and our aim in the New Year, as it has always been, is to provide quality and service to the Church.

The Adventist Book Centre is the retail arm of The Stanborough Press Ltd., and is the only company of its kind in Britain which is endorsed by the world Church.

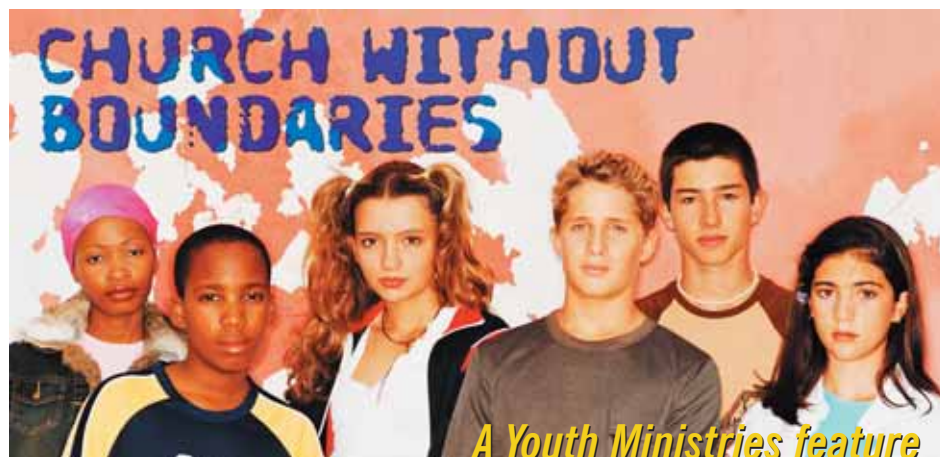


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It started off as a vain attempt to stop our two teenage boys hanging out on the streets with their friends on a Friday night. We had seen some of these friends before, and would have called the police if any of them had been caught in our house. You know the type: trousers hanging down their legs, hoodies, loud talk and even louder music coming from their mobiles. The type of guys whom you would give a wide berth to if you saw them at the end of your street. But these boys were our sons' friends and we had to do something.

One night we saw our youngest son with these boys standing on the street corner. As his father, I approached him and, with parental indignation, asked him how he could do this to us? Our pride was injured. What would people think of us as parents, churchgoers? Then our son replied, 'Well, you don't want my friends in our house, so where else can we go?' Then it came to us. We would have to leave our comfort zone, swallow our pride and invite them into our home.

We approached these young men and invited them home. I was surprised to find myself inviting them, and they were equally surprised to see me speaking to them much less asking them in.

On the first evening, we asked them what they would like to talk about and we would try to find a biblical perspective. We were very, very apprehensive. While we knew a few of them, the others were complete strangers and, to be honest, we feared for our possessions! But God has a way of 'enlarging your territory' in the strangest of ways.

Our boys spread the word among their friends, resulting in an attendance of about five to six young people, including a young lady from Milton Keynes. No, we didn't start with prayer, and, no, we didn't have a Scripture reading. Remember, these kids were not church and from dysfunctional backgrounds. This was 'come as you are' church without boundaries. We decided to spend the first few minutes letting them decide the topics that they wanted to discuss over the coming weeks. We were really surprised at the subjects they chose: parents, relationships, money, music, video games, religion, peer pressure, education, just to name a few.

Our first topic would be about parents. We were completely taken aback at how articulate these young folk were, who were aged between 15

and 19, and how likeable they were. More and more we saw less 'thug' and more young people looking for validation, advice and guidance. We heard some very personal stories that night, and we were able to show them texts relating to relations between parents and children. They were impressed that they were not being asked to join our faith or our church and promised to come again the following week. We emptied our kitchen of refreshments (you know how those teens can eat!) and they left, promising to return.

We sat down to talk about the evening's events, pretty pleased that the first meeting had gone so well, but also a little apprehensive about next week's turnout. We needn't have worried, though, because the following Friday night about ten of them turned up, all eager to get in on the discussion. They had so many problems, so many questions, that at times we felt a little overwhelmed, but all the time we could see that God was blessing. Could this be the ministry we had been praying for? We believed it was, and all it took was the courage to open our home, our hearts and more importantly our God to a group of young people who would probably never set foot inside a church.

And now, when we see these young men in the street, we don't cross over to avoid them, we cross over to greet them. They carry my wife's shopping; they make sure that she's OK when she's out at night. We even gave one shelter for the night when his parents had put him out after an argument. The next morning, he had washed all the dishes and replaced the milk he had drunk. We even encouraged him to try and work it out with his parents.

The point we are trying to make is that sometimes church can be a daunting place for young people, but that should not stop us reaching out to them. They need our help and our wisdom. Most of them are fatherless; their mothers are trying to be both parents. Some of them are the man in the house and so have no respect for authority because they have never been shown how.

There is a reason why they behave the way they do. They are lost and don't know how to ask for help. This was also a big learning curve, not only for us as parents but also for our sons, who realised that we were not the tyrants they had told their friends about; that we were loving Christian parents, trying to do our best.



by Sharon Platt-McDonald RGN, RM, RHV, MSc,
Health Ministries director, BUC

Health Evangelism

If the health message is the 'right arm' of the Gospel, then we should be practising health evangelism on a major scale. This describes health ministry which positively impacts lifestyles, enabling individuals to make choices which enhance their health.

In the USA, I recently witnessed a number of excellent health programmes that have been used successfully as evangelistic tools with good community uptake. These programmes include following the research-based NEWSTART principles, which focus on the prevention and reversal of lifestyle-related diseases. This incorporates Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest and Trust in divine power as fundamental natural remedies to optimise health.

The Adventist-run Lifestyle Centre of America in Oklahoma is an excellent example of effective health ministry. It provides physician-supervised residential programmes focused on prevention and reversal of diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, stress-related illness and smoking cessation. This is undertaken using a plant-based diet, cooking classes, personalised exercise, counselling and spiritual devotionals.

Another successful programme has been the Coronary Heart Improvement Project (CHIP) run by the Adventist CHIP Association. This world-class programme is conducted in schools, hospitals, corporations and churches internationally, with excellent reviews in numerous journals. Dr Hans Diehl from Loma Linda California, and founder of CHIP, reported that a number of individuals who had undertaken the programme had become Adventists. (Additional info www.CHIPhealth.com.)

Having observed the success of these programmes, a team is currently looking at the possibility of implementing them in the British Isles.

The BUC Health Ministries 5-year Strategy hopes to make health evangelism a major focus. This will entail revisiting the message of health reform through the promotion of biblical and inspired teachings on health principles and the promotion of the NEWSTART programme. Additionally, support is being planned for local and community outreach health evangelistic programmes which seek to impact the lifestyles of members and the community.

Grace for the New Year

Donald W. McFarlane

Writer and philosopher Thomas Carlyle was attending a party on New Year's Eve in his native Scotland. There was much laughter, music and food.

Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves, with the exception of Carlyle. He became bored with the hilarity and eventually slipped away into the night, making his way down to the seashore. It was a very stormy night. The waves crashed against the large boulders along the shore while the air pulsed with the sound of thunder. Carlyle was caught up in the natural drama and the overwhelming bigness of the experience and, as the hand of the New Year reached out and touched the disappearing heel of the old, he cried in a state of exhilaration, 'Now I stand at the centre of immensities, at the conflux of eternities.'

As we start a new year it seems that we are standing today where Carlyle stood that night — at the centre of immensities. We find ourselves in situations and circumstances that seem bigger than we are. International terrorism holds the world in its lengthening tentacles. The war in Iraq is spiralling out of control despite public statements to the contrary. The cost of living for most people in the British Isles is increasing at a rapid pace, particularly in energy-impacted areas of life. All these challenges and many more loom large and threatening as we stand at the juncture of the old year and the new.

The good news for us is that the immensity of God's grace and promises is bigger than all the immensities that cast a shadow over us. A new year puts into perspective the need for God's grace, and underscores the *quality* of that grace. All of us failed to live up to our own expectations, and God's, during the course of 2006 but, whatever the failings and disappointments of the past, a new year presents us with new opportunities and new prospects. New Year's resolutions are usually a recognition of past failures and a determination or, more precisely, a *desire* for past failures to be replaced by outstanding success. So, there will be the usual resolution to lose weight, to exercise more, to save more, to buy less, to pray more, to witness more.

God is in the New Year's resolution business as well. He wants the best for each one of us. He wants us to have a Happy New Year, a fulfilling, prosperous and successful year. To set us on our way he offers his grace to cover our past mistakes and failings, and to start afresh with us. The one condition that is required is genuine confession and repentance on our part. Often we do not

receive the fullness of the grace of God because we do not care to avail ourselves of it. 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' 1 John 1:9, RSV.

The immensity of God's grace is matched by the immensity of his promises. In all situations that challenge our meagre resources he tells us not to worry or be afraid: 'But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my eyes, and honoured, and I love you.'" Isaiah 43:1-4, RSV. What a powerful and all-encompassing promise!

None of us knows the experiences that we will encounter during the course of 2007. The year lies before us like untrodden snow. However, the One who loves us exceedingly and whose promises are sure can see through the darkness where our eyes cannot penetrate. The past, present and future are all alike to him.

The songwriter puts appropriate words in our mouths by writing: 'I don't know about tomorrow; I just live from day to day. I don't borrow from its sunshine, for its skies may turn to grey. I don't worry o'er the future, for I know what Jesus said. And today I'll walk beside him, for he knows what is ahead. Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand. But I know who holds tomorrow and I know who holds my hand.'

So, in the face of terrorism, wars, high cost of living, sickness, natural disasters, broken dreams or any other overwhelming situation, we can have confidence that the immensity of God's grace and power far outweighs all our negative experiences. More than that, we can continue to believe that very soon all such experiences will be but a memory. Soon we shall stand at the conflux of time and eternity, when our Lord returns to claim his kingdom and establish righteousness throughout the Earth. Then, like Carlyle, we will stand at the centre of immensities — the immensities of God's glory, kingdom and love.

Go forth into 2007 with confidence in God's power to keep you, his love to enfold you, and his grace to sustain you. Do not be fearful of things

seen or unseen, of human or demonic adversaries, 'for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.' 1 John 4:4, RSV.

Happy New Year!



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Stanborough International's first trip to Hong Kong

by Claire Cameron, IB student

On 20 October, six very privileged students from Stanborough School embarked on a great adventure. One of these students was me. Being the only Year 12 member, I must admit I was slightly uneasy, but not for long. Taking part in some of the activities in Hong Kong made me feel like a big kid! Particularly going to Disneyland, where I spent the day enjoying the little kids' rides; probably more than things like Space Mountain, purely because I felt like I'd been transpor-

ted back to being a child and being able to run around like a loon! I think I probably ended up acting like one of the youngest members of the exchange, squealing with excitement on more than one occasion.

We had so many breathtaking experiences, it's almost physically impossible to articulate just how amazing it all was. Excursions such as Ocean Park, Sai Kung, Clearwater Bay and Shen Zhen in China.

Apart from the activities, the

amazing shopping and the food, I think what made this adventure were the people. For ten days we were treated like royalty, people constantly making an effort to talk to us and make us feel welcome. The friends we made, teachers and students alike, spent so much time, effort and even their own money in accompanying us to ensure we had the most fulfilling adventure.

The whole way of life is entirely different, and if I thought we were over-worked here, it's nothing compared with Hong Kong. Form One students (Year 7) are getting the same amount, if not more homework than pupils here in Year 10. And none of them complains! It's just how they all are. Waking up in our flat, Shivani, Melody and I were all astonished that the students were sitting down in the playground below us and working *before* school started! Talk about dedication.

Not even trying to talk for my peers who accompanied me, I know I don't speak alone when I say I have made some tremendous friends, that I truly hope I will stay in touch with for a very long time.

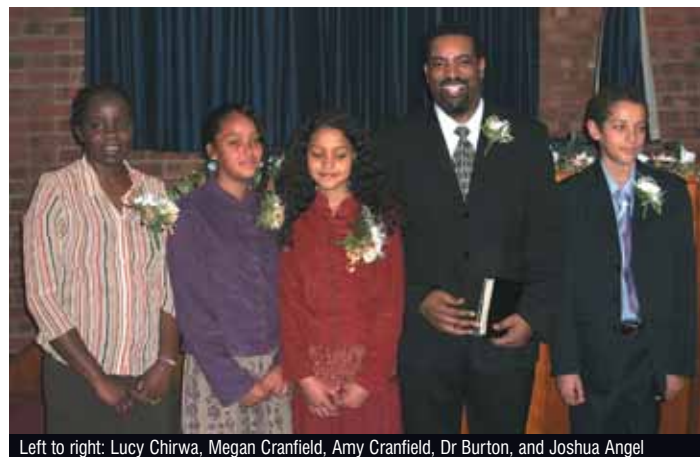


Revolution in Gloucester

'Get ready for the revolution' was the title of the evangelistic campaign that started on 14 October and finished on 27 October in Gloucester church. Dr Keith Burton, a well-known Adventist evangelist from the USA, spoke every evening except Thursdays, preached each Sabbath morning, and was inspirational in his presentations. Dr Burton's final presentation on Sabbath morning 27 October culminated in four people accepting Jesus as their Saviour. They were baptised by Dr Burton. Thirteen others are receiving Bible studies for a later baptismal service.

On the final evening, a Gospel concert was held which featured guest singers 'Robert and Jenieve Bailey' from Jamaica, and 'Oasis' from Birmingham. It was a huge success and a fitting end to a wonderful campaign. Special thanks to the campaign director/co-ordinator Anthony Saunders, the Personal Ministries department led by Ken Douglas, all the prayer warriors, musicians, leaflet distributors, and everyone involved in the planning and running of the campaign, and, of course, to Dr Burton.

R. HINDS



Left to right: Lucy Chirwa, Megan Cranfield, Amy Cranfield, Dr Burton, and Joshua Angel

Halifax homecoming

Sabbath 21 October was a very happy day at Halifax church. We had the pleasure of welcoming Pastor Paul Haworth, Heather and Liam to our meeting. Paul is Halifax born and bred and moved from pastoring Halifax for eight years to his present position of Executive secretary of the North England Conference. We feel the Sabbath was a pleasant homecoming for him.

Paul preached and took the Sabbath School before a group of thirty people, contrasting nicely with those occasions when there have been only six people in the congregation. He will have been pleased with the steady increase in membership at Halifax church and the number of 'permanent' and occasional visitors. Among our visitors were three of Methodist persuasion who were appreciative of the way Scripture was presented in a powerful, humorous way.

The event was less than it could be due to the absence of Mansel and Doreen Jones, who were in Calderdale Royal Hospital - he with a broken arm and she with a broken hip. They were both greatly missed.

GRAHAM RIGBY



John and Ruth at the Palace

by Victor Hulbert

Thursday 23 November will long be remembered by former BUC president Pastor John Arthur. It was the day he travelled to Buckingham Palace to receive an OBE in recognition of his international charity work for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Accompanied by his wife Ruth and two children, Christine and Andrew, Pastor Arthur, handsomely attired in top-hat and tails, was presented to Queen Elizabeth II and shared with her ADRA's activities in Albania, Sarajevo and Kosovo. In his own inimitable style he encouraged Her Majesty, 'May you not grow weary in well doing.'

While the visit to Buckingham Palace may have been the highlight of the day, there were some surprises to come. More than 130 friends and colleagues from across the British Isles hid inside the Stanborough Centre while Pastor Arthur arrived for what he thought was an interview for BUC News. Instead, it was party time with reminiscences and speeches co-ordinated by long-time friend and broadcaster Bill Hamilton. Dr Bertil Wiklander, president of the Trans-European Division, commended Pastor Arthur for his 'passion for the people and for his work.'

Representing the British Union, Pastor Don McFarlane told Pastor Arthur he was 'proud of what has been accomplished through your leadership.'

His Excellency Pavli Quesku, former Albanian Ambassador to London, shared his admiration for Pastor Arthur, who, 'In the days of Kalashnikovs, AK47s and turmoil, said, "Never say die," but continued working for the people of Albania.' Not all could be present. Other tributes were sent from Sir Norman Wisdom; Sarah, Duchess of York; Suma Chakrabarti, Permanent Secretary of the Department for International Development, and Pastor Arthur's nephew Steve Cooper, who wrote from Somalia where he is now ADRA Country director: 'I was so encouraged by John's selfless service that I determined to follow in my uncle's footsteps.'

Speeches and video memories reminded participants that, during his time as director for ADRA-Trans-Europe, Pastor Arthur was responsible for co-ordinating millions of pounds worth of humanitarian aid, despatching emergency supplies and initiating numerous development projects throughout Europe, the Middle East and North East Africa. He was also very active in publicising and promoting ADRA at home, and is perhaps best remembered for his fund-raising for the children of Albania.

Pastor Arthur pointed out that he did not see the award as a personal reward for him, but as recognition of the positive efforts of a whole team of people who have supported the work of ADRA.

Pastor Arthur's plans now involve looking for a quieter life as he and Ruth move to Scotland in the New Year. However, his links with ADRA will continue as, at the climax of the evening, he accepted an invitation from ADRA-UK director, Bert Smit, to join the board of trustees. 'We need a man with this kind of vision and initiative to help guide ADRA into the future,' Smit told BUC News.



A Triumph for Prayer in Festival City

This was the new name adopted for Nottingham by delegates who attended the two-week 'Better Days are Coming Prayer and Bible Conference' held in May.

A series of uncompromising sermons was delivered by Pastor Talemaque, an evangelist from the West Indies, over a two-week period, culminating in a baptismal service for fifty-eight souls.

Festival City's resident pastor, Patrick Herbert, advised that months before this venture in faith, the church took time out to prepare for the event by praying. This began in the middle of the Week of Prayer held in November 2005. As a church, we spent a whole day in prayer and fasting, and we have never been the same since!

Prior to our evangelistic series, we spent another powerful day in prayer and fasting, as members sacrificed the whole of one Wednesday and came to petition the Lord. Pastor Talemaque is a believer in prayer ministry and he spent quality time with a group of prayer warriors each day. The prayer warriors knew the campaign would not be successful unless the Holy Spirit was invited and they saw, in Pastor Talemaque, a preacher who drew on the power of prayer as the foundation of his service to God.

When Pastor Talemaque highlighted that the first Sabbath would be a prayer conference, Pastor Herbert questioned the fact that there would be no preaching. He thought it sounded strange to have an evangelist come and not preach, but just demonstrate the power of prayer for our Sabbath worship. It

was a concept that called for us to 'let go and let Jesus take care of our worship'. It was remarkable to see that even though we had no sermon, when an appeal was made for baptism, over twenty persons responded.

On the last Sabbath one highlight for Pastors Herbert and Kumi (our associate pastor) was that they were able to baptise their own children. Pastor Herbert's daughter Patrice, and Pastor Kumi's son Emanuel took their stand for the Lord.

The stories of the fifty-eight people who chose to be baptised on 13 May are as unique as each candidate.

The youngest was 7-year-old Lavinia. Her mother said she had always been a very spiritual child, and that she had received a very clear vision that prompted her to encourage her children to be baptised.

The majority of those who were baptised were in their teens. Megan, whose family have been worshipping for a number of years, said she had been thinking about her decision for a long time.

Ainsley said he wanted to be baptised because he wanted to give his life to God. Hannisha, 16, said she felt the time was right, and she wanted to walk closer with God.

Whole families were baptised, such as the Cornwall family. Joan was the first to decide she wanted to take her stand for the Lord. Her husband Errol also wanted to be baptised but was struggling with his work rota, which meant that he worked some Sabbaths. However, with the Lord in control, these issues

were resolved. Their daughters Elizabeth and Shirley were so moved by what Pastor Talemaque said that they made their decision too.

Other pastors were on hand to help. Pastor Sweeney baptised his son Liam. An uncle, Pastor Kevin Johns, baptised five of his nieces and nephews. Pastor Harris was there to witness two of his own grandchildren being baptised.

The last candidate to enter the pool was Ruth. Her story is remarkable. She has struggled with disability, homelessness and domestic violence. Ruth said she had wanted to stand up on three previous occasions to indicate that she wanted to be baptised, but her disability had made this seem almost impossible. Ruth attended the Conference and Pastor Talemaque noticed her hand lifted when he made an altar call. Then Pastor Kumi spent time talking to Ruth about her decision to accept God. Ruth was brought up in an Adventist family and said the valuable lessons taught to her as a child have always stayed with her.

Throughout the day's programmes the delegates enjoyed some soulful and spiritually uplifting music from Festival City's resident musicians and resident Praise team, in addition to singing from 'Spiritual Addiction', many of whom are natives of Festival City, alongside 'Heralds of Hope' and 'Unlimited Praise', from Leeds.

A new branch Sabbath school has been established in the Hyson Green area of the city as Central Church has been exceeding its capacity for a long time. We plan to develop more Bible study and outreach programmes, and are already planning another campaign.

Report provided by Festival City Communication team with contributions from delegates and Pastor Patrick Herbert.



Sexual Orientation Regulations and the School Curriculum

By Don W. McFarlane, president and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director, BUC

Members of the Adventist community in Britain need to be aware of the gathering pace of certain proposals that are likely to become law, unless strong and persistent opposition leads the government to change its mind.

On 1 December 2003 the Sexual Orientation Regulations laws came into force. These laws seek to ensure that people are not treated less favourably than others on grounds of sexual orientation. Churches have been given a certain amount of protection, though I am in no doubt that this will be challenged in future:

- if the employer has a religious ethos and with the nature of the employment, or the context in which it is carried out, being of a particular sexual orientation is a genuine and determining occupational requirement;
- where the employment is for the purposes of an organised religion and where the employer applies a requirement related to sexual orientation so as to comply with the doctrines of the religion;
- to avoid conflicting with the strongly held religious convictions of a significant number of the religion's followers;
- if it is proportionate to apply such a requirement in the particular case.

The concern that has now arisen is that the government wants to go farther and apply the Sexual Orientation Regulations to the national school curriculum. This could force the equal promotion of homosexuality and heterosexuality in the classroom.

Under the proposals that have been made to apply the Sexual Orientation Regulations to the school curriculum, a parent with pro-gay views could threaten a school with legal action if equal time and weight is not given to teaching homosexuality, either directly or indirectly, as a normal way of life.

Section 3.29 of the government's

consultation paper on whether the Regulations to protect gay rights should cover the school curriculum clearly states:

'We need also to consider whether teaching in schools should be covered by the regulations.'

If the curriculum is covered by the Regulations, schools could be sued for refusing to teach homosexuality as being on par with heterosexuality and for refusing to use controversial textbooks that promote same sex relationships. The danger of Seventh-day Adventist and many other Christian Schools is obvious.

Under the current system any parent can complain about any aspect of the curriculum, using a school's complaint procedure. This does not involve the courts and in my opinion is the appropriate way in which to handle the concerns and complaints of parents.

I and many other church leaders are concerned that Discrimination laws could be used to promote homosexuality but not to object to it.

The purpose of addressing this issue in our church paper is to encourage members throughout Britain to lobby their Members of Parliament in an effort to prevent government proposals becoming law. Please take time to let your MP know about your views on the matter.

Support for Prisoners

Pastor Roy Chisholm, Prison Ministries co-ordinator for South England Conference, the London Adventist Chorale, and Recall from the St Albans church, participated in an event on 14 November which was part of the interdenominational National Prisoners' Week.

Search, led by Pastor Chisholm and involving sixteen SEC congregations, provides support and mentoring for prisoners after they have served their sentences, as well as chaplaincy visits and support when in prison.

More on Adventist attitudes to cancer

Judith Purkiss's article 'The death that dare not speak its name' (6 October 2006) provoked some very positive and thoughtful responses.

Pastors, in particular, affirmed Judith's view, a number providing anecdotal evidence from their own ministerial experiences relating to illness in general or to cancer in particular. Among the anecdotes shared were:

- A young family move from a small country church to a large city church. Not long after the move, the mother gives birth to a slightly deformed child. There is an issue about whether the new baby can be dedicated in church, and the church is split down the middle with half the members turning against the family. Consequently, the family return to the small country church where the pastor and the members are happy to have the baby dedicated.

Adventists diagnosed with cancer are apt to become 'double victims'. In addition to the dire diagnosis, they can suffer from a whispering campaign. Among the things said are, 'Well, he was never a vegetarian,' or 'She probably drank tea,' or 'There must have been sin in the life,' or 'It must be God's will.' In part, these prejudices may arise from cultural factors (Jesus countered the selfsame cultural factors. He was asked, 'Did this man sin or was it his father?') In part, the prejudices relate directly to one narrow school of Adventist evangelism that used to say, in effect, 'Become an Adventist and you'll not get cancer' (whereas what they *should* have said was, 'Adopt the Adventist lifestyle and your chances of getting certain types of cancer are *significantly reduced*').

- There are a number of anecdotes about naive Adventist attitudes towards herbalist remedies. One member expended vast sums of

money treating cancer with herbal remedies, celebrated his 'cure' — then died because his cancer had not received proper treatment. Adventist Health Sources stress that special diets can help cancer patients *but that proper medical procedures/treatments should be followed too*. Early diagnosis is also stressed, as are positive mental attitudes (which can be greatly helped by affirmation and support from the church community). Adventist health experts assert that, ultimately, church members are apt to die from the same diseases and conditions as the general population, albeit a little later.

My correspondents draw the following conclusions:

- 'Cancer strikes whether you are a Methodist, a Muslim, an Adventist — or even if you vote Conservative!' In some parts of the world studies have shown that 'Adventists can live up to seven years longer than the average for the population,' but that does not mean that Adventists are immune from cancer. It is wrong to pretend that it does.
- There is one respect in which Adventists can come out a bit ahead of the general population. That is where the church community is so loving, supportive and prayerful that it lifts and affirms the sufferer, gives him the feeling 'We're all battling this together', and helps maintain positive mental attitudes — and faith. *Never underestimate prayer therapy.*

One final point is made in some letters. When you are talking to cancer sufferers, you are *not* engaging in grief counselling. Show your solidarity and concern, but don't wear that worried, mournful look when you say, 'How *are* you?' The cancer sufferer is often 95% well and, as a person, is not defined by his condition in any case. He is the same person he was before his diagnosis. Prayer and cheerfulness are always a great help. EDITOR

The Ministry of Healing

Those who seek healing by prayer should not neglect to make use of the remedial agencies within their reach. It is not a denial of faith to use such remedies as God has provided to alleviate pain and to aid nature in her work of restoration. It is no denial of faith to co-operate with God, and to place themselves in the condition most favourable to recovery. God has put it in our power to obtain a knowledge of the laws of life. This knowledge has been placed within our reach for use. We should employ every facility for the restoration of health, taking every advantage possible, working in harmony with natural laws. When we have prayed for the recovery of the sick, we can work with all the more energy, thanking God that we have the privilege of co-operating with Him, and asking His blessing on the means which He Himself has provided. pages 231, 232

Year-end redeployments

Following actions by the South England Conference executive committee and the British Union Conference executive committee, Pastor C. R. Perry and Pastor R. J. B. Willis took up their new assignments on 1 November.

In the light of Pastor Michael Hamilton's initial call to serve as the new principal for the Adventist Discovery Centre, the SEC invited Pastor Perry to care for their Ministerial department until the SEC Session in 2007.

In a similar vein, forthcoming changes in the staff at the Adventist Discovery Centre led the BUC executive committee to invite Pastor Willis to join the ADC team. He will be employed as Course Development, Research and Liaison officer. His duties will include reviewing all correspondence courses with a view to recommending any necessary updating or further development; marking of students' quiz sheets and addressing their enquiries; liaising

with local pastors and churches regarding the distribution of cards and lessons, and assisting the ADC principal in promoting the Adventist Discovery Centre in the local churches within the BUC.

At the TED Winter Meetings in Slovenia, newly-appointed ADC principal Pastor Michael Hamilton responded positively to an invitation from the Trans-European Division to serve as director for Personal Ministries, Sabbath School and Publishing. In a major reshuffle that took place during the TED winter meetings, Pastor Paul Clew moved to be Field secretary as well as director for Communication, Human Resources and Health Ministries, while Pastor Miroslav Pujic has become director of the Centre for Secular and Postmodern Ministries and Media Ministries. Raafat Kamal is leaving the TED-ADRA office to become a Field secretary and director for Global Mission and Stewardship.

December — Britain and Ireland Month in Online Survey

December was designated BUC month for the European ValueGenesis Survey.

Over 400 responses were received from the German Union in November, together with more from Switzerland and Portugal.

The BUC distributed, through the Conferences and Missions, all the relevant promotional materials well in advance of the big start on Friday 1 December.

The survey was accessed by youth aged 14-25 via passwords. Youth leaders across the Union organised special preliminary meetings on the first Sabbath afternoon or the first Sunday of December. Computers were provided, with access to the Internet. On the completion of the survey, social functions were organised.

The back page of MESSENGER 1 December was entirely given over to detailed instructions — in huge type — about the European ValueGenesis online survey.

Associate Director needed

ADRA-Sudan, Northern Sector, require an Associate Country Director (administrative officer in charge of general day-to-day operations), to locate in Khartoum. Applicants must have BA or Masters degree in field of development, administration or related areas, with at least three years administrative and/or international work experience.

Salary according to ADRA-Sudan wage scale and benefit package.

Letters of application, with current CV and email addresses of two referees should be sent to: Raafat Kamal, ADRA Trans-Europe Regional Director, 119 St Peter's Street, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3EY. Tel: +44 (0)1727 860331.

For further details please email: rkamal@ted-adventist.org, or visit www.adra-te.org/pages/experience.html.

Deadline for applications: 8 January 2007.

NORMAN FREDERICK WRIGHT (1913-2006) d. 19

September. On 2 October the Stoke-on-Trent church was filled with mourners for the funeral of retired headmaster Norman Wright, who was tragically killed in a road accident while walking across a pedestrian crossing. He was 92 and hail and hearty, a true testament to the Adventist health message in which he so fervently believed. Norman was baptised in December 1954 after being introduced to the church by his wife Vera. He was influenced greatly by the late Pastor George Emm and by Pastor Ken Gammon, who encouraged him to become a tent leader at the various camps in Oxwich Bay. In 1957 he was called to become the Headmaster of Fletewood School in Plymouth, where he worked hard to build the reputation of the church school. When he left in 1966 he had established a thriving school with a three-year waiting list. From Fletewood he took up the headship of Hyland House School in Walthamstow, London, where again he built a flourishing school with an excellent reputation. In 1980, at the age of 67, he decided it was time to retire. He and Vera moved back to Stoke-on-Trent, where he supported the local church by lay preaching, Sabbath school teaching and as an elder. At the age of 76, Norman received a call from Pastor Derek Beardsell, the president of the Pakistan Union, to go to Pakistan to teach the children of the ex-pats who were working in the seminary there. Norman and Vera spent six months teaching and raising money to help educate the poor children of the local population. Two years after returning from Pakistan, Norman was called to head the Harper Bell School in Birmingham until a permanent replacement could be found. Norman was a prolific writer, writing articles for *Family Life* magazine. He was well known for his letters in the local newspaper, where he raised issues of concern for many years. He was a well-loved and respected figure in the local community. Norman leaves his wife Vera, son Paul, a pastor in the Adventist church in Zurich, daughter Helen, principal of an Adventist school in St Louis, grandson Thomas, daughter-in-law Miriam and son-in-law Chris. Vera and family would like to thank everyone who sent donations to ADRA in memory of Norman, and thanks also to those who have sent cards and letters of sympathy. They have been greatly appreciated by all the family. Pastor Derek Beardsell and resident minister Pastor Carlton Douglas conducted the service. The overflowing congregation were inspired by the beautiful rendering of 'Meditation' by Massenet, played by a dear friend, Keith Mosedale, on his violin accompanied by a colleague, Maureen Siddall. Tributes to Norman were given by Norman's son and daughter, Paul and Helen.

PAUL WRIGHT and HELEN PALMER

DEATH OF KAROLINE BROWN. It is with tremendous sadness that we report the death of Karoline Brown, who was killed in a road accident while driving from Perth on her way to see Karl, her fiancé, in Forfar on Wednesday evening, 29 November.

A member of the Dundee church, she was a well-known, much loved and active member of the Adventist Church in Scotland, and was a member of the Scottish Mission Executive Committee. She grew up in the Glasgow church, then studied and worked in Aberdeen, Inverness, and recently Blairgowrie where she was an occupational therapist. She had very recently become engaged, news which had excitedly been shared with friends on the day she died.

Pastor Marcel Ghioalda stated, 'Karoline was a bubbly, effervescent young lady with a passion for our church youth. Her smile lit up every situation.' She recently led a group of Scottish Mission youth to Riga, Latvia, for a week-long study of the church plant there.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her parents, Reta and Allen Brown, her sister and brother-in-law Sylvia and Panos, her grandmother Trudi, her fiancé Karl Da Silva and his family. Visit the Scottish Mission website, www.sdascotland.com, where you can also find a book of condolence.

JOHN WILBY

Newbold College's Centre for the Study of Religious and Cultural Diversity invites you to: 'Conversations'

A space to dialogue on the Adventist male identity, specifically focusing on the topic: 'Is this identity in crisis?'

Sunday 14 January 2007, 10am-1pm, Newbold College, Moor Close.

Entrance fee: £5, which includes a light lunch.

Book your place by 11 January by contacting Danijela Serbic on 01344 407417, or emailing dserbic@newbold.ac.uk.

To discuss this Conversation Event call Val Bernard 01344 407468, or email: vbarnard@newbold.ac.uk.

Thank you The Pendeford, Wolverhampton, church would like to thank Simeon Brown of the Oxford Street, Wolverhampton, church for the gift of £1,000.

PASTOR RICHARD JACKSON

QUIET CHURCH

A Newbold First

Helen Pearson, PRO

Nobody spoke a word during a silent worship service at Newbold College this week. No one sang a hymn, or preached a sermon. There was no music and no collection of an offering. This was a first for Newbold.

Quiet Church was the beginning of a monthly series, offering to students, staff, and the wider community an opportunity to take time out with God and each other in a quiet space. Salisbury Hall, one of the College's assembly halls, was open and dimly lit for two and a half hours during the evening. Staff, students and community members came and left quietly in their own time, praying, reflecting, meditating or reading Bibles or other devotional materials on offer.

'The aim of *Quiet Church* is to provide a peaceful space where people can be with God,' said Dean of Students Pastor Henrik Jorgensen, one of the organisers of *Quiet Church*. 'In silence we may hear the voice of God, which is so often drowned out by the noise of other activities and other people, even in



worship. In *Quiet Church* we want to give people an opportunity just to be with God and really listen to what God might be saying to them. Our motto for this activity is, "Let God be God".'

Between twenty and thirty people came and went during the service. One person, initially dubious about the idea, reflected: '*After a busy, noisy day . . . I wanted peace not company. But . . . something in a home is always begging to be cleaned, folded, ironed, cooked, watched, or answered. Peace can be hard to find; even in a quiet place. Somewhat reluctantly, I walked into Salisbury Hall. I left with a quietness and confidence I've not felt for a long time.*'

The John Loughborough Seventh-day Adventist School

Holcombe Road, Tottenham, London N17 9AD
 Headteacher: Dr June Alexis
 Telephone: 020 8808 7837
 Fax: 020 8801 6719

An Invitation to Excellent Teachers and School Leaders

The John Loughborough School is currently engaged in formulating its next five-year strategic plan. The Headteacher is interested in meeting all Seventh-day Adventist secondary teachers with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), who have a track record as good/outstanding classroom practitioners and school leaders. Should you fulfil the above description please contact the headteacher by email: (headteacher@johnloughborough.haringey.sch.uk) or by post at the above address, submitting an up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV) as soon as possible.

'Youth Active' Launch

On a day when government reports highlighted the negative roles teenagers often play in society, and the importance of healthy and functional family relations, MPs, sport celebrities and staff from the National Council for Volunteer Youth Services (NCVYS) gathered at Arsenal stadium to address issues relating to youth work, embracing the voluntary sector and local government agencies. Thursday 2 November saw the AGM for NCVYS attended by over 150 members.

Of particular interest was the launching of a special 'Youth Active' campaign designed to encourage young people from all lifestyles to become more involved in sports as a career and voluntary support of sporting events.

The Rt Hon. Richard Caborn, an MP for Sheffield and the Minister for Sports, launched the 'Youth Active' campaign with support from Paralympian champion Danny Crates and five times World and European champion flat-water canoeist Anna Hemmings. The importance of the two athletes was that they both overcame enormous challenges in their lives to achieve their present heights. Danny lost his right arm in a car accident in Australia and, despite his incapacity, within six months was back on the rugby field. He is the UK's only amputee rugby player. He picked up a bronze in Sydney in the 400mt but has since moved on to the 800mt for Athens.

Anna was diagnosed by doctors two years ago with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS). However, by February 06, she was back in training. Anna is Britain's most successful female canoeist with nine world and European championship medals.

These two individuals served as inspiration for many other young people and a model of what can be achieved despite physical setbacks.

Sport is a significant avenue through which young people can come together and make a positive impact upon society. The 2012 Olympics will have many service opportunities for such young people, and the many organisations who are affiliated to the NCVYS were encouraged to embrace these opportunities to bring and inspire all young people to participate in the many sporting activities toward the 2012 event.

The 'Youth Active' campaign encourages young people to 'B active; B inspired and B challenged.'

Why not take the challenge and encourage your young people to 'run' with the campaign?

DES G. BOLDEAU, Youth director, BUC



Left, Richard Caborn, MP, and right, Parmijit Dhandra, MP for Gloucester and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families

ABC BOOK SALES

Jan		
28	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
Feb		
4	Harper Bell	10am-2pm

Messenger

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	London	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Jan 5	4.07	4.19	4.03	3.54	4.13
12	4.16	4.28	4.13	4.05	4.24
19	4.27	4.39	4.25	4.18	4.36
26	4.39	4.51	4.37	4.32	4.49

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