

Messenger

News to the churches • 16 February 2007 • Volume 112 • 5

Union opposes Sexual Orientation Regulations

In the days preceding the debate on the Sexual Orientation Bill many Seventh-day Adventists in the UK wrote either to their local Member of Parliament or to the Prime Minister expressing their opposition from a Christian perspective to the new Sexual Orientation Regulations. On behalf of the Church's 26,500 members in the British Isles, Union president Pastor D. W. McFarlane wrote an open letter to Prime Minister Tony Blair, the full text of which appears below:

The Rt. Honourable Tony Blair
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA.

Dear Prime Minister

RE: SEXUAL ORIENTATION BILL

I write on behalf of the Seventh-day Adventist church in the British Isles to express concern regarding the proposed Sexual Orientation Bill.

As a church we fully support the principles of equality and justice for all in society and can understand that the Government wish to be seen as being even-handed in the treatment of all citizens. However, equality and justice also mean that all citizens should be afforded the right to express their views and act in harmony with the dictates of conscience where such views and practice are within the bounds of decency.

We feel that the very principle that has driven the Government to formulate the Sexual Orientation Bill is being violated with respect to the overwhelming majority of Christians. Certain aspects of the Bill will essentially discriminate against Christian beliefs and practice.

After careful consideration of the document we have highlighted the following key elements which will negatively impact the Seventh-day Adventist Church and numerous other Christian denominations in the British Isles:

1. Churches currently meeting in public buildings or those receiving public funding could be open to litigation if they hold to the Bible's teaching on moral beliefs and sexual ethics. The Bill overrides freedom of religious expression on fundamental core beliefs.
2. Without proper protections the new laws will lead to courts adjudicating on what is and what is not authentic Christian teaching and practice. This would be in breach of religious liberty.
3. At present it is lawful for a Christian B&B to refuse a double room to unmarried heterosexuals. Under the proposed legislation Christian B&Bs which refuse to give double beds to homosexuals or Christian old people's homes that only allow double rooms for married couples could be closed down or fined. Most Christians will continue to hold to the view that sex is to take place between a man and a woman within marriage.
4. The new regulations threaten to promote homosexuality in all schools and in various subjects. They also will frustrate the parental right of withdrawal from sex education. This will be in conflict with deep religious beliefs of many parents. The new gay rights laws should not override the national curriculum and remove existing safeguards for parents. The majority of Christian parents will not want homosexuality promoted to their children.
5. The gay rights activists have sought to ban

Christian Unions from university campuses. It appears that under the new regulations this could easily become a reality.

6. Churches who refuse membership or baptism to practising homosexuals could be fined for so doing or for the way in which their decision is explained.
7. Many good law-abiding Christians could be made to break the law as a result of the new legislation, in that they will feel obliged to live in harmony with deeply-held beliefs that are based upon the Bible and in so doing break the laws of the country.

There is a vital need for exemptions in the proposed regulations to protect religious liberty and schools. The Equality Act 2006 provides reasonable exemptions to protect most of the major activities of religious groups. Unless parallel exemptions are included in the Sexual Orientation Regulations, the Government would be indirectly discriminating against religious believers as they are proportionately more likely to believe that homosexual practice is wrong.

It is clear that the new laws will benefit only a few people. The 2001 Census revealed that less than 0.2% of all households in England and Wales are headed by a same-sex couple (Census 2001). It seems unfair then that such sweeping new laws are being created for such a small number of people, while ignoring the views of the majority.

The new proposed sexual orientation regulations come under the category of civil, not criminal laws. As such they are relatively easy to use and activists could launch legal actions against their opponents with little difficulty. We would not want our Church or any Christian organisation to be sued for upholding basic Christian teaching on sexual morality.

We therefore urge you, Prime Minister, to reconsider the implications of this Bill to the religious liberty of the many sincere Christians in the UK who want to exercise their right to religious freedom and expression of beliefs and practice.

Yours respectfully

Don W McFarlane
PRESIDENT



Joy in their eyes

by Bert Smit, Executive director, ADRA UK

From far and wide, shoeboxes arrived at the office of ADRA-UK in Watford. The final count of 4,450 beautifully wrapped gift boxes for orphans in Liberia surprised us all. Together with other humanitarian goods, including beds and other hospital furniture, two containers were prepared for shipment to the country still suffering the effects of the long civil war that ripped it apart.

ADRA-UK's office manager, Valerie Austin, was in Liberia when the shoeboxes arrived and was personally involved in some of the distribution to orphans. Her story is compelling.

'The joy in each child's eyes as I handed them a present was a truly overwhelming experience! I was in Liberia delivering shoeboxes filled with toys and small gifts to over 4,000 orphans. Some couldn't contain their excitement. Others sang songs of joy,' writes Valerie.

Following the civil war there are some 50,000 orphans in Liberia. As

the arduous work got under way, led by ADRA country director Cooper Mykers and his staff, we commenced distributing the 4,000 shoeboxes to various orphanages. The children of Liberia celebrated with smiles on their faces thanking Adventists and friends from across Britain. More than fourteen years of civil war in Liberia left many scars and resulted in the death of about 300,000 persons and the destruction and looting of infrastructures, including homes, schools and medical facilities. Over 50% of the orphans are sheltered in various orphanages and vulnerable group centres that have sprung up all over the country. The children are aged mainly between 1 and 15 years old. Many of the orphanages lack the basic facilities needed to provide the required comfort for the children.

Welcoming ADRA-UK and ADRA-Liberia to the 'Group of 77 Orphanage', the founder and director Mrs Kartumi Yarta Boakai, also the

Second Lady of the Republic of Liberia, praised ADRA-UK's gesture of extending the hand of generosity to the needy children in the orphanage: 'We are very happy to have you here today and are grateful that you thought of us at this time. Our desire in "Group of 77" is to see these children grow to become useful people who know God despite their difficult past circumstances. Through obtaining just a basic education we hope to break the cycle of poverty,' said Mrs Boakai.

For projects like these we need your ongoing support. With funds



Valerie Austin talking to children in one of the orphanages

raised during the Annual Appeal this year we will contribute to a score of very worthy causes. With your help ADRA-UK will, for instance, provide new water boreholes in Togo and improve drinking water in Mali, two West African nations. We are also planning to build a primary school in the town of Yei in South Sudan. In addition to providing funds to help people with special needs in the UK, we are looking to provide start-up grants for community projects in the UK. For these and our many other projects we need your support. The Annual Appeal 2007 will take place from 31 March to 15 April (extends to 22 April in London). More information is available on our website: www.adra.org.uk.

Is your Sat-Nav working?

David Marshall



'D-a-a-d! D-A-A-D! What's a Christian?'

Five-year-old Paddy had a carrying voice. The word 'Christian' had cropped up repeatedly in the sermon, and Paddy wanted an explanation.

While he was receiving one, the people in the pews in front, behind and across the aisle were busy nodding with amusement at one another.

After receiving an answer from his dad, Paddy came in with an unexpected supplementary question: 'D-a-a-d! Do I know any Christians?'

After that the folks in the row in front, behind and across the aisle were covered with confusion until, suddenly, they decided it was time to exit the sanctuary.

'Do I know any Christians?'

Ouch!

The word 'Christian' crops up only three times in the New Testament, whereas 'disciple' occurs 269 times and applies to the same group of people.

So if Paddy had asked, 'What's a disciple?' what would Dad have said?

The words 'disciple', 'discipleship' and 'disciplining' have acquired a whole new currency among Christians – including Adventists – in the last few years. Hence a definition is called for.

Just a thought. When a definition is given would 5-year-old Paddy recognise any in the congregation? The church was full, but he didn't spot any Christians!

Honestly, after reading some rather high-powered books on discipleship I'm beginning to wonder if I would qualify. They have given me the impression that a twenty-first-century disciple is a 4-litre, turbo-charged Jaguar of a Christian built for high performance in the fast lane of the Straight and Narrow Motorway.

So what about the 1.6 Astras and the basic Ford Focus, even the VW Beetles and the split windscreen Morris Minors among us?

Putting aside all the modern manuals on discipleship and getting stuck into the New Testament, the definition of *disciple* is pretty clear. So pretty clear that I feel sure it is the definition Dad would have given Paddy if he had asked him to define 'disciple' instead of 'Christian': *A disciple is a follower of Jesus.*

No two ways about it, that's me! You, too, right?

A disciple is not some sort of high-powered transport to God's Kingdom. It is the basic mode of transport. In the fleet bound for the Kingdom there's every which model, including my 1958 Morris. Certainly there are Jags in the fast lane of the S&N Motorway, but there's every other model and vintage in the other lanes, lots of them, too.

So what identifies the disciple? A few things:

- Strict obedience to the rules of the road? No cutting up? No overtaking on the inside? That's a start.

- No honking? *Definitely no honking!* If discipline has to be exercised on the S&N Motorway to the Kingdom, however it is exercised, there is no role for honking. And the discipline applies to drivers of white vans and those lumbering heavy goods vehicles, too!

- Chiefly the discipleship conveyance is identified by its destination. It is Kingdom-bound. As far as other motorists are concerned all that matters is that they are on the road and aimed in the right direction. Concerns as to engine capacity, fuel consumption, speed, performance, streamlining optional accessories are for the individual traveller – each disciple.

A further consideration: *you may have to be four-door.*

The New Testament, you see, requires *disciples* to undertake *discipleship* and engage in *disciplining*. Does that sound fancy? It isn't. It just means that stranded and broken-down drivers, not to mention those trundling along but clearly in trouble – and the pedestrians wandering on the

hard shoulder and the central reservation – are the concern of on-the-road drivers with spare capacity.

Above all, the discipleship conveyance needs the spark – ignition, access to Power.

How would Dad explain that to Paddy?

He would say, 'That's prayer, son. Talking to God as to a Friend. Tapping into the Power Source.'

In addition to ignition, there's the need for pit stops.

'What's "pit stops," Dad?'

'That's the point of church, son. To take on fuel. Oil, maybe. A bit of air for the tyres. A long look at the map, some slight adjustments of direction – then on towards the Kingdom.'

Above all things, a disciple is defined by his direction. That's where sat-nav comes in.

'What's "the map", Dad?'

'The map is the Word of God, Paddy. We tap into Power through prayer and prayerful thought about the Word of God. Unless we tap into Power our sat-nav won't work and we'll be travelling every which way but the right one.'

'Is that what happens when we're lost, Dad?'

'That's about it, son.'

Gramper/iStockPhoto



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

DETOX YOUR LIFE (Part 3)

Mental well-being

In the book *Mind, Character and Personality*, E. G. White states: 'The mind needs to be controlled, for it has a most powerful influence upon the health.' (Volume 2, page 681)

The study of psychosomatic disorders mirrors this quote. Numerous researches demonstrate the impact of the mind affecting the body.

Negative thinking

Research into psychoneuro-immunology reveals indisputable evidence highlighting the effects of negative thoughts and how they weaken the immune system leading to disease. Findings report that negative thoughts and emotions flood the body with hormones that depress the immune system. Conversely, positive thoughts and emo-

tions release immune-enhancing hormones.

Just think of it! Every time you succumb to anxiety, fear, worry, anger, hate or bitterness, you are delivering a shot of poison to your body! If left unchecked, these toxic emotions will double the risk of your falling prey to disease. You are what you think.

De-stress

A stressful lifestyle can affect mental well-being by causing symptoms like poor memory, irritability, moodiness and depression. A less stressful life ensures a healthy mind and body with a stronger defence against toxins.

Try including the following in your daily lifestyle:

- Adequate rest and sleep
- Relaxation and 'me' time
- Increase your prayer life
- Practise forgiveness
- Plan your day/life – set goals
- Avoid consistent back-to-back appointments/meetings
- Write down your feelings
- Manage your anger
- Have positive friends
- Laugh more often
- Exercise regularly
- Go for walks regularly
- Have regular holidays
- Trust in God/nurture your faith

Brain foods

The following have been found to enhance mental well-being:

- Omega 3 fatty acid – includes plant-based foods and flax seed
- Avocado – rich in antioxidant and potassium which helps to combat mental confusion and depression
- Sweet potatoes and carrots (beta-carotene rich)
- Walnuts
- Grains

Avoid coffee. Although giving an initial 'buzz', coffee interferes with brain-boosting nutrients such as vitamin B1, biotin, potassium, zinc, calcium and iron. Tea and soft drinks containing caffeine are discouraged as they can upset the delicate blood sugar balance causing poor concentration, reduced alertness and forgetfulness.

Alcohol. Can interfere with vitamins A, B, D, E, K and magnesium, leading to fuzzy thinking and poor recall.

Refined sugars and processed foods create toxins.

Water. 2 litres daily help to eliminate toxins, boost concentration and alertness.

Happy wholesome thinking!

22 Baptised at Croydon

The Revolution is coming soon. When King Jesus comes again there will be big changes – and his reign will never end. Revolution is coming soon! That was the theme song for the Final Revolution Campaign that was held at Croydon church from 21 September to 7 October.

Three weeks of soul-stirring messages reminding us of our role in preparing for the final revolution were delivered by the internationally acclaimed speaker Dr Keith Burton. Speaking at Croydon was a special event for Dr Burton because this was the church that nurtured him for the first two decades of his life. With his engaging preaching style and his smiling personality, Dr Burton attracted high attendances with attention-grabbing topics such as 'Will America win the War on Terror?' Especially encouraging was the interest that was shown by our children, which resulted in five of them giving their lives to Christ.

The series ended on a high, with a baptismal service of twenty-two

precious souls. Baptised were Tuso Panganayi, Aletta Drummond, Laurel Drummond, Phathekile Moyo, Javaria Cedenio, Jasmin Saul, Karina Saul, Tsi-Tsi Muhwati, Priscilla Asamani, Sattie Prince, Lameka Swruwu, Nyaradzo Machache, Sula Smith-Blake, Wayne Strachan, O'Shea McDonald, Joel Latunji, Omari Moore, Richard Davies, Munyaradzi Muhwati, Gilbert Muhwati, Moorogosub Naidoo and Don Kwiyo.

The church was packed to overflowing with members, friends and family who came to celebrate with the candidates on this important day.

Dr Burton's message to the candidates was to hold on. 'When you feel like giving up, remember that you have the assurance of salvation. Don't let anybody spoil your joy. The Lord's time is always right on time. No matter what we're going through, God is going to reward our faith. Be faithful unto death and God will give you the crown of life.'

KAREN BENJAMIN

Another church for Bristol

November 4 was a special Sabbath for two reasons. It was the very first Bristol District Day of Fellowship and the formation of South Bristol church as a company.

Pastor C. R. Perry, former BUC president, who cut short his visit to Montenegro so as to witness and officiate on the day, gave the morning address. He spoke of the indispensable hope and its importance to the growth and well-being of the church.

With a congregation of over three hundred, primarily made up of the four Bristol churches, the excitement of the day was interspersed with lively music from *Kindred* and the *North Bristol Choir*.

This sense of celebration continued into the afternoon in which the formalities of the church organisation got under way. Beginning with a brief history of the South Bristol Church, it was revealed that they were a year old on 5 November 2006, with a membership of twenty-two. Another stirring message was given by Pastor Perry, who stated that the church was 'born out of love and not mere affection'.

The occasion must have meant a great deal to the former pastor, Ron Edwards, in attendance with his wife, whose vision it was to see the growth of the church in Bristol. A vision that is not lost on our current minister, Pastor Richard Daly, as church elder Dave Wright disclosed further churches being planned for east and west Bristol.

The formation service was capped with a message of welcome from Pastor Humphrey Walters, SEC president, which was read by Pastor Daly.

SHILOH HARMITT

4 Messenger

Long Eaton baptism

It was a big day in Long Eaton. Two souls were won for Christ. Mick and Karen Hickley were immersed in the waters of baptism.

Novey Medley had previously held some evangelistic meetings at our church. Leaflets had been distributed and posters had been placed in shop windows, but long after the series was over, a poster which should have been taken down was still displayed in a shop window. Karen took down the

details, came along to our services and has never stopped coming. Later her husband joined her and as they studied our Bible-based teachings, they decided that they wanted to become members of our church. Novey Medley, who is at Newbold College completing her ministerial training, Pastor George Kumi and Dr Patrick Herbert officiated in this service, which was held at the Long Eaton Baptist church.

GWEN SPEAK



Golden couple

Contratulations to Lloyd and Maude Bert who have been married for fifty years. They were married on 22 September 1956 and have been

blessed with seven children, seventeen grandchildren, and seventeen great-grandchildren.

A service to celebrate their many happy years of togetherness was held at Lewisham church with SEC president Pastor Humphrey Walters delivering the short address. Lloyd and Maude are grateful to church members, family and friends who attended.

When asked, 'What are the ingredients of a happy marriage?' the couple replied, 'Forgiveness.'

BRENDA PARCHMENT



Pastor Butoiu's Ordination

Tottenham West Green church was packed to overflowing on Sabbath afternoon 9 December, as members of both the Tottenham and Romanian churches joined together for the ordination of Pastor Nicolae Butoiu.

Pastor Butoiu has served as a minister both in Romania and in the Southeastern California Conference but, with the growth of the

Romanian community in London, he agreed to come to England in the summer of 2005. As it was Pastor Don McFarlane, then SEC president, who extended the invitation, it was fitting that, as Union president, he should be the one who introduced pastor Butoiu and his wife Maria to the congregation.

Pastor Butoiu became a Christian

Watford's biggest Christmas present

It measured forty feet long. It was ten feet high, and it was eight feet wide. Possibly this large metal container full of everything from wheelchairs to wrenches was the biggest present handled in Watford during the holiday season. Packed full to the last square inch, this huge consignment of goodies was the latest overseas shipment by ADRA-UK. This time the destination was Liberia.

Following years of civil war, thousands of children throughout this West African country have been left without parents. An SOS call from its

sister office in Monrovia prompted ADRA's UK branch to target several orphanages through the inclusion of more than 4,300 shoebox-size parcels containing such items as soap, toothpaste, and toys – each individually wrapped for the children. There was also a complete football kit donated by a team based in Hertfordshire.

'We are grateful to all our supporters near and far for another marvellous response,' said David Balderstone, the ADRA Transport Manager.

JOHN ARTHUR



in 1973 in Communist Romania. Three years later he was drafted into the army and faced severe persecution for keeping the Sabbath. In 1978 he studied for a year at the Communist-supervised Adventist Theological seminary but, the following year, was arrested and sentenced for the illegal distribution of Bibles. He faced death by starvation, exposure to the cold and continued beatings for six months. After release from prison in 1980, he was soon re-arrested due to his continued witnessing activities. He managed to escape from the authorities and survived in hiding.

In 1982 he married Maria Zabava and they have been blessed with four daughters, Manuela, Vicky, Elena and Christiana. After the fall of Communism in 1989, Pastor Butoiu

immediately began conducting evangelistic campaigns and served as evangelist for the Romanian Union and director for Prison Ministries until 1996. He was then invited to serve as pastor of the Romanian Adventist church in Loma Linda. The church prospered under his evangelistic leadership and he also began to feature on the Hope Channel.

Following the prayer of ordination by Pastor Don McFarlane, the charge by BUC Ministerial Association secretary Pastor Alan Hodges, and a warm welcome by SEC president Pastor Humphrey Walters, Pastor Butoiu gave an emotionally charged response.

For more information on the London Romanian church visit www.londonromaniansda.com.

VICTOR HULBERT



Croscombe remembers

An Adventist church was started in the small village of Croscombe, Somerset, almost a century ago as a result of the work of a colporteur, Charles Johnson. Among those who responded to his invitation was the Hardy family, which included three young men. Children of the founder members still faithfully attending Croscombe church are 97-year-old Jim Hardy and his wife Doris, who celebrated an amazing 73 years of marriage on 26 December.

During the World Wars, because of the Church's stand against bearing arms, the male members were ostracised and vilified, being accused of cowardice despite the fact that they were doing work 'of national importance' on the land and in a local quarry. One was even sent to prison because of his beliefs, as were a large number of Adventist men, including ministers, during World War I.

Nevertheless, from this small rural group have come several ministers, two doctors, several other medical professionals, and many faithful layworkers, who have made a significant contribution to God's work, not only in Somerset, but around the world.

We are presently compiling a historical record of the Croscombe church, and would be glad to hear from former 'Croscombites' who have memories that we can include. Email to: sieris@ukonline.co.uk.

On Sabbath 11 November, Pastor D. J. Dunnett was impressed to preach on the subject of Remembrance, in view of the fact that it was the actual date of the Armistice. This service was prominently advertised, free of charge, in the Village Magazine, which also serves as the parish magazine in this Anglican diocese of Bath and Wells – something that would never have been envisaged as recently as twenty years ago, due to the prejudice that had existed for so many decades among the villagers, because of wartime memories.

Over the past fifteen to twenty years we have made valiant efforts to improve relationships with the villagers, including a very well-attended vegetarian cookery course, a Daniel and Revelation seminar, Alpha courses, and evangelistic campaigns, as well as numerous Visitors' Days.

Our current project is to carry out essential repair and restoration work on our beautiful architecturally-listed structure, built of local stone in typical Methodist style, acquired by the Adventist Church from the Methodists in 1925. This project involves replacing half of the roof of the sanctuary area, followed by refurbishment of the interior. Croscombe members and friends are trying hard to raise the necessary funds for this work, and look forward to worshipping in this lovely building in its beautiful English village setting for many years to come, if time lasts. We are always happy to welcome visitors.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Al Gore: An Inconvenient Truth

John Wilby

With a title reflecting how some non-believers might regard the Advent Message, *An Inconvenient Truth* has an important supplementary message for us all: 'How, in these last days, are we going to fulfil our duty of stewardship for God's creation?' In this 90-minute documentary, former Vice President Al Gore, the US presidential candidate who narrowly and controversially lost to

George W. Bush in the 2000 election, offers a passionate and inspirational look at one man's fervent crusade to halt global warming's deadly progress in its tracks. In a sometimes humorous, constantly engaging, and passionate account of the truth about what he calls our 'planetary emergency', he exposes the myths and misconceptions that surround it.

News Digest

New company in West Wales

On Sabbath 20 January some twenty-seven people were present at the Memorial Hall in Pontargothi, near Carmarthen, for the organisation of a brand new Adventist company. The establishment of the Pontargothi company had been approved the previous Sunday by the Welsh Mission Executive, and Welsh Mission president Pastor John Surridge led the service, together with local minister, Pastor Michael Logan.

Over the last fifteen years or so the number of isolated Adventist members in West Wales has been steadily increasing and during this time they have met together in various places. The Pontargothi Memorial Hall became available only recently, following a £100,000 renovation programme by the Welsh Assembly. The facilities are outstanding, with a modern kitchen area and toilets, a dining area which can also be used for Sabbath School, and a main hall which can seat well over a hundred people.

Pontargothi is relatively central, but for some members it still means a journey of at least two hours to get to church. 'It's not too bad,' said a cheerful Mrs Libby Goodman who serves as treasurer for the company, 'unless you get behind traffic, that is; then it can take a bit longer!'

Leader of the new company is Mrs Elisabeth Williams, and during the inaugural service she spoke of the challenges and difficulties the members had faced on their journey. 'God planned what is happening today a long time ago,' she said. 'When we moved here and slept in a touring caravan, we never dreamed

that we would be sitting here today. We started with a few house-meetings, then had a few more, then had fortnightly meetings, and finally we were meeting every week. We asked ourselves, "Is this the way forward?" and came to the conclusion that yes, we were being blessed. We did have some disagreements, but we prayed and they melted away like snow before the sun.'

Elisabeth and others in the group paid tribute to the work of former president Pastor Brian Phillips whose encouragement over the years was a significant factor in the eventual formation of the company. Similarly Pastor Michael Logan, though he has been in the district for less than a year, was praised for his leadership and 'people skills'.

Fifteen members asked for their names to be included in the Pontargothi company list and it is the desire of all of them that the company will eventually be organised into a fully-fledged church.

JOHN SURRIDGE, Welsh Mission president

Newcastle: baptism and outreach

The Newcastle church year's programme ended on a high note with the baptism of five young people on Sabbath 25 November. This climaxed several encouraging and inspiring programmes in which the church members participated and led out. The newly baptised members are Hyndi, BB, Angelique, Joseph and Geoff.

In July our Sabbath School superintendent, Gurlie Andrada, and her team of volunteers secured a venue at one of Newcastle's premier car

Interspersed with bracing facts and predictions, it is the story of Gore's personal journey: from an idealistic college student who first saw a massive environmental crisis looming, to a young senator facing a harrowing family tragedy that altered his perspective, to the man who almost became president but instead returned to the most important cause of his life – convinced that there is still time to make a difference.

Ultimately it brings home Gore's persuasive argument that global

warming is no longer a political issue but the biggest moral challenge facing global civilisation. Conflicting brief references about Earth's age aside, it therefore powerfully reinforces the Great Controversy. Listing personal initiatives we can take to minimise the effects of climate change, it ends with the timely admonition, 'If you pray – pray for the strength to change.'

An Inconvenient Truth (2006) can be purchased online (£12.99) or on rental from *amazon.co.uk*.

boot sales to sell a large number of articles donated by the church members. We had an early start – 5am – with a loaded trailer and set up our stall. Dr Edward Chan, one of our local GPs and Health and Temperance leader, decided to take the opportunity to run a medical stall doing blood pressures and having a medical chat with interested folk, with the help of other dedicated health professionals from the church. Nearly a hundred visitors took advantage of the medical screening. Health tracts and spiritual material were distributed as well. It was a wonderful day with a lot of interest and resulted in us raising £240 for our Sabbath School.



Above: Baptismal candidates.
Left: Car boot sale witness.

September was a very special month for our children as they rose to the occasion of celebrating worldwide Children's Day. What an inspiring day it was as they took responsibility for the service with platform duties, preaching and a number of musical items from several groups and solos presented by some of the youngest children.

PASTOR SANDY FAIRMAN



Golden Wedding of Tony and Otti Spearing

Tony and Otti Spearing, now living in Comrie, Scotland and members of the Crieff church, recently celebrated their Golden Wedding. Otti was born in Austria but came to Watford in 1952 to do her nurse's training at the Peace Memorial Hospital. It was through a friend that she met Tony, who was to be her future husband. There was an obvious attraction and when he found she was an Adventist, he asked if he could go to church with her. Interestingly

enough, it was not his first meeting with Adventists because, as a young man, he used to deliver milk to the Stanborough School and Granose. He thought they were 'a bit of a strange lot' because he was told not to deliver milk after mid-day on Fridays in the winter. He did not let these thoughts hinder his courtship and eventually he was baptised and joined the Stanborough Park church. Otti and Toni were married in Austria and then returned to

PASTOR REX RICHES (1935-2007) d. 1 January

Rex Riches was born in Suffolk, the first son of Sidney and Agnes Riches, founder members of the Ipswich church. As a teenager he responded to an advertisement for a farm worker at Newbold College. Soon he was settled into the routine of early morning and evening milking, along with other farm work. When time allowed, he was given permission to audit Bible classes in the College and soon came to the conclusion that here was a whole world of study that he had to explore. As a result he graduated from Newbold in 1961, later obtained a Masters Degree in Public Health at Loma

Linda, and in 1973 a Masters Degree in Church History from Andrews University. In 1995 he completed a PhD based on the beginnings of the Seventh-day Adventist Mission in Britain. As an intern at the New Gallery Centre in Regent Street, London, Rex met a young lady, RoseMarie Nicholson, who had come to teach in north London. They were married in 1963 and began their ministry in Colchester where Rex organised the building of a much needed new church. In 1967 he was ordained and appointed as Health and Temperance and Sabbath School

director for the South England Conference and later for the British Union. With their two girls, Ann-Marie and Katrina, the family moved to Sri Lanka in 1979 where Rex answered the call to be the president of that Union. Three years later, the Riches family moved on again to Pune, India, where Rex became director of ADRA for the Southern Asia Division. He loved to travel. The bigger and more exciting the adventure, the happier he was. He loved meeting people of different cultures, trying different foods and seeing wonderful places. Most of most all he delighted in seeing projects completed that would benefit the people, such as providing wells and sanitation systems. Rex completed his ministry in North Carolina, pastoring several churches where he really enjoyed the many friends he made and renewed emphasis on Bible study and sermon preparation. The centre of life for Rex was his family. He loved them with a passion. Ann-Marie and Katrina were each his favourite daughter. 'Look what I got from my favourite daughter,' he would say, or 'It's my favourite daughter on the phone,' and every February he would send each of them a Valentine's card from a 'secret admirer'. His grandchildren brought him even more joy. When each of the grandsons, Nicholas and Christian, reached the great age of 7 he took them to England – just grandfather and grandson – and showed them the country from which he had come. Then when granddaughter Karlen was born they soon formed their own mutual admiration society!



RoseMarie, of course, was the heart and soul of this family which he has left behind, and to which friends and colleagues in the UK extend their sympathy and support. Rex was diagnosed with multiple myeloma early in 2005, but the disease did not stop him enjoying life to the full. On the evening of his death he told each of his family of his love for them and then passed away on the evening of New Year's Day. As the family laid him to rest in a sunny spot in Collegedale cemetery, they vowed together, 'We will see you in the morning and we love you, too.' Rex also leaves behind his brother, Pastor Robin Riches, and his family. Rex enjoyed travelling in Vietnam, Thailand, and Brunei with Robin and was recently able to visit him and his wife, Lamorna, at their home in Colorado. The memorial service was conducted on 20 January at the Collegedale Adventist church where the congregation was told that Pastor Riches was loved and appreciated wherever he lived and worked. His colleagues described him as 'a totally committed and able administrator'; his parishioners as 'a man of God, a true pastor and an excellent preacher'; his friends as 'good company and a man with a well-developed sense of humour'; his daughters as 'wise, generous and kind', and his wife as 'a careful decision-maker and a hopeless romantic'. His life had been 'a living sermon and an illustration of all that he believed and held dear'. Jesus said, 'Because I live, you shall live also.'

G. MARTIN BELL

Watford. Otti nursed at the Stanborough Hydro maternity department for three years before leaving to have her family of three children, David, Robin and Sylvia. Tony was a talented artist and writer and worked as the art editor of the *Woman's Weekly* magazine for

twenty years. On retirement they moved to Grantham and then, in 2004, to Scotland to be near Robin and Yvonne and their grandchildren. While in Grantham, Tony wrote the devotional book, *Early Bird Reflections and how not to be the weakest link*. BOB RROD



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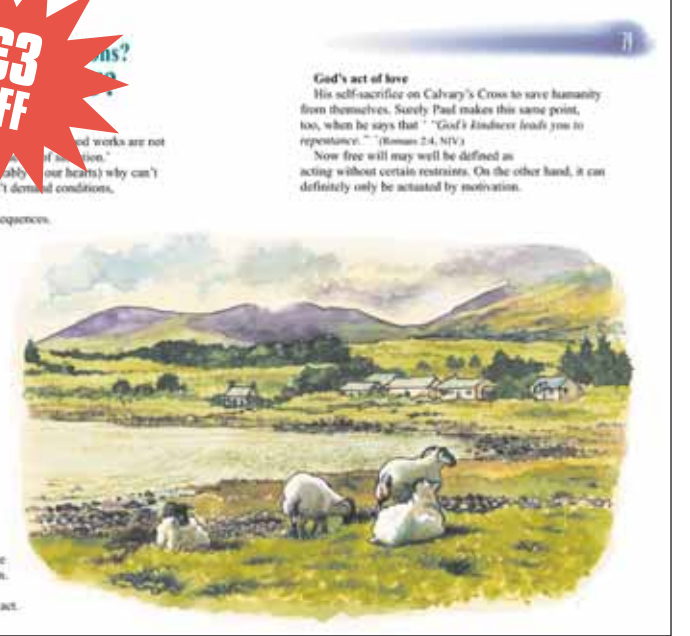
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Send Off for Gap Year Students

by Helen Pearson, Newbold PRO

Newbold's first Gap Year students received a supportive send-off from their friends as they completed their four months of studying anthropology, international development and other subjects and finalised plans for the placements where they can do what they came to prepare for: make a difference.

The Newbold Students Association (NSA) gave each of them a gift, presented by NSA president, Daniel Thompson. On the second Friday in December, students, staff and church members gathered to participate in a small service of blessing on them, and two other Newbold graduates, now a husband and wife team, David and Ann-Katrina (Stolen) James who are about to leave on a short-term contract.

The four Gap Year students began their placements early in 2007. Merika Tuononen from Finland is teaching English in a Language School in Bangkok. South African, Lyle Katzen, is working for ADRA on new projects in Salvador, Brazil. Scottish Kenyan, Charles Oroko is working as Dean of Men in Zaokski, the Adventist Seminary in Russia. Irishman Michael Logan has travelled the shortest distance for his placement and is spending six months as a work supervisor at Yeldall Manor, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre in Twyford,

about ten miles from Newbold.

The Jameses, who married last July, both like working with children. David graduated from Newbold with a Business Management degree and has since trained as a social worker. Ann-Katrina has a theology degree from Newbold. They will spend seven months working with the primary school aged children on an Indian reservation in New Mexico where the Lavidia Mission works with the Navaho people. 'Newbold has provided a place to grow and to grow up,' said David.

'I'm very excited about the opportunities for these students,' said Newbold principal, Dr David Penner. 'The College has provided them with a home base for these tasks and offered them time to be thoughtful and intelligent about what they are going to do. It is fitting that Newbold, which used to be called Newbold Missionary College, has a growing twenty-first-century concept of service.'

The Gap Year is the newest educational experience now available at Newbold College. It gives young people a unique opportunity to make a difference in the world and to reflect on who they are and what they have to offer. Newbold's Gap Year Experience will consist of a fifteen-week semester at the College followed by a six-month assignment for ADRA (the Adventist Development

JOB VACANCY PROOF READER

The Stanborough Press will have a vacancy for a Proof Reader from 5 March 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 Senior Editor, The Stanborough Press Ltd, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL by **Monday 19 February 2007.**

ARE YOU A COMMUNICATION

SECRETARY? You will need to visit the BUC website, www.adventist.org.uk, and read guidelines for MESSENGER reporting and photography.

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and Relief Agency), Adventist Volunteer Services, or another church organisation.

For further details log on to www.newbold.ac.uk or contact the course director: Henrik Jorgensen – T: 01344 401791
E: hjorgensen@newbold.ac.uk.

Other Newbold Stories

Seminar: Adventist Masculinity – Is it in crisis?

Communication Re-Launch
For more Newbold stories and pictures, visit the Newbold website: www.newbold.ac.uk.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 2007

GOOD HEALTH ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the hundred and fourth Annual General Meeting of the Good Health Association Limited will be held on Thursday 7 June 2007 at 2pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

On behalf of the Board of Directors

M. Hayles (Secretary)

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST TRUST COMPANY LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Trust Company Limited will be held on Thursday 7 June 2007 at 2.10pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

On behalf of the Board of Directors

D. Cleary (Secretary)

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST ASSOCIATION LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the hundred and second Annual General Meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Association Limited will be held on Thursday 7 June 2007 at 2.20pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

On behalf of the Board of Directors

D. Cleary (Secretary)

GOOD HEALTH ASSOCIATION (SCOTLAND) LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the fortieth Annual General Meeting of the Good Health Association (Scotland) Limited will be held on Thursday 7 June 2007 at 2.35pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

On behalf of the Board of Directors

M. Hayles (Secretary)

ADRA-UK

Notice is hereby given that the ninth Annual General Meeting of ADRA-UK will be held on Thursday 7 June 2007 at 2.45pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

On behalf of the Board of Directors

B. Smit (Secretary)

THE STANBOROUGH PRESS LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that the hundred and thirteenth Annual General Meeting of the Stanborough Press Limited will be held on Thursday 7 June 2007 at 3pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

On behalf of the Board of Directors

P. Hammond (Secretary)

ABC BOOK SALES

Month	Day	Time
Feb	25	John Loughborough 10.30am-2pm
	11	Harper Bell 10.30am-2pm
Mar	25	John Loughborough 10.30am-2pm

Messenger

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Sunset

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	Lond	Card	Notf	Edin	Bell
Feb 16	5.17	5.29	5.18	5.18	5.33
23	5.30	5.42	5.31	5.33	5.47
Mar 2	5.42	5.54	5.44	5.48	6.01
9	5.54	6.06	5.57	6.03	6.15

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