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A TIME FOR CHANGE AND RENEWAL

Report of the South England Conference Session, Bournemouth, May 1978
by Pastor Ted Pettit

THE quiet south coast holiday resort of Bournemouth provided the setting for the 51st South England Conference, during May 18 to 21, 1978. With its excellent hotels, friendly landladies, splendid gardens, somnolent beaches, pleasant sea-scapes and commodious town hall, most delegates found Bournemouth an ideal centre for the session.

However, not a few got tangled up in the confusing one-way road system, that has what must be a unique feature — no traffic lights. They found themselves going round and round, never getting anywhere, with their chosen destination tantalizingly close, yet still far away. Only when the car was abandoned for patient footslogging was the destination reached. Perhaps this was symbolic of the Conference. There were no red lights to hold things up, but the committee work seemed an interminable, never ending, one-way system, that could only be traversed by patiently slogging away until the answers came up. Nevertheless, the various committees finally 'made it' and presented acceptable reports to the session, and the destination of mutual good-will and reaffirmation of a shared brotherhood in Jesus Christ was achieved.

Just one hundred years ago in the large seaport of Southampton, the 'work' had officially begun in 1878. It started in an inauspicious manner. William Ings, a Dorsetshire man who became a naturalized American, visited the homes of Southampton with *Present Truth*. From this beginning the work slowly spread. The delegates attending at the nearby resort of Bournemouth, had opportunity to evaluate how the Seventh-day Adventist cause had fared over the hundred years since its beginning.

There is much to praise God for. In the British Union in 1978 there are now numerous fine church buildings and



British Union Conference President E. H. Foster welcomes newly elected South England Conference President K. H. Gammon.

Photo: J. G. Munson

many large church congregations, with excellent institutions like Newbold College, Granose Foods, and The Stanborough Press. Not least has been the massive contribution to the cause world-wide from British missionaries, evangelists, teachers, administrators, and theological heavyweights (e.g. Edward Heppenstall, G. D. Keough, W. E. Read, A. S. Maxwell, to name a few). This is by no means an insignificant contribution and your correspondent is sufficiently chauvinistic to aver that a strong work in Britain is still vital for the future of the world-wide Church.

Nevertheless a sense of frustration

seemed to hang over the session as it convened. All felt a need for renewal; for freedom from the fears, failures, and frustrations of the past; and for spiritual power to achieve real results under God in the immediate future.

Over the past two decades the British Union has been faced with a unique situation. A small Church of a few thousands, with already inadequate institutional and worship facilities, was faced with the entrance *en masse* of almost a brand new 'conference' of immigrant believers from commonwealth countries. How to relate to this new circumstance, how to achieve a balanced relationship in the Church between believers with such diverse backgrounds, and how to make everyone feel happy, wanted, and a cherished member of the Advent family, were problems that pressed themselves with increasing urgency right up to the convening session.

There were no easy answers. Most delegates sensed a desire for a fundamental readjustment in the Conference to meet the needs of a growing multi-racial society in South England. Immigrant believers have much to offer the Church with their talents, abilities, loyalty and zeal. It seemed essential that the co-ordinated potential of a multi-racial Church in South England, should be offered to God on the altar of service. To do this required hard thinking, earnest prayer, meaningful discussion, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Don Lowe, who served as president during the triennium 1975/77 reported cause for confidence for a promising future for the Church. For instance, the total of tithes and offerings during the period was over two-and-a-half million pounds. The Conference has entered the multi-millionaire bracket, thanks to God's blessing and the faithful stewardship of His people.

There was also a rise in Church membership to nearly 7,500, with an overall increase of 332 representing a growth rate of 5 per cent. It could have been much greater had the number of apostasies been checked. This is a serious problem. Pastor Lowe appealed to the delegates to do all in their power in their respective churches to diminish this tragic loss. Nevertheless, though the rise in membership is not large, every soul won represents a victory for God —

indeed a miracle. However, it is sobering to reflect that at this present rate it would take 100 years for the membership to double. Assuredly, far better results than this will be achieved in response to Latter Rain power.

Pastor Lowe also spoke of the pressing need for adequate church buildings. Ten church buildings were opened, or dedicated, or re-opened after extensive rebuilding, during the triennium. Vastly more, of course, needs to be accomplished, and this calls for greater support of the Conference-wide Building Fund and more use of the Deed of Covenant plan. Britain is unique for this generous provision. We should make full use of this facility.

Despite the rise in finances, another problem lies in the area of adequate ministry to the churches. The present worker-force of fifty-five ministers plus the Conference officers and other licensed workers, is inadequate, but shortage of funds still inhibits expansion of staffing. Nevertheless, an encouraging trend is the growing involvement of the laity in preaching, church organization and evangelism. The problem is unlikely to diminish in these days of inflation, so laymembers will be needed to share the privilege and responsibility of ministry.

The President pointed out that during the triennium Brother D. A. Leigh was called to the position of treasurer at the Union, and Pastor Rex Riches and Pastor James Huzzey had also been called to the Union Health and Youth departments respectively.

Adding to Pastor Lowe's report, Brother Peter Hinks, the Conference secretary-treasurer, reported that despite the encouraging rise in tithes and offerings to an all-time record, inflation had eroded the tangible benefits of this. Also there had been a marked fall off in the percentage increase of tithe over the three years, from 24 to 23 to 5 per cent. The per-capita amount per annum was £93. Once again he expressed the thanks of the Conference for the faithfulness of the membership. However, the levelling off of the tithe percentages, and the fact that expenditure is now above operating income, give cause for concern. This was also partly due to fairly heavy requirements under policy by higher organizations for tithe sharing and retirement fund needs, which means that the Conference retains only 64½ per cent of its income. These are necessary contributions to the Union and Division, yet they do signify that the Conference will have to exert some economy of operation. Brother Hinks expressed assurance that these trends were under review and hoped for betterment during the next triennium.

The Conference Departmental leaders had been active during the triennium. Pastor T. T. McLeary reported for the Lay Activities and Welfare Departments. In the former, emphasis had been placed on training courses for laymembers to encourage and motivate for more skilful, active and successful witnessing. Nearly 2,000 Gift Bibles with lessons



South England Conference delegates descend steps from the assembly hall for relaxation in the Town Hall grounds and the public Central Gardens just beyond.
Photo: J. G. Munson

were distributed, as were over 600 'Witnessing for Christ' manuals, which present an effective programme for mobilizing churches into active soul-winning endeavour. Thousands of magazines, Bible tracts and other literature had also been distributed, the *Good News* magazine proving highly successful wherever it was sold. A total of 195 baptisms, that are credited from this laymember involvement, was the harvest. Another high point of Pastor McLeary's report was Ingathering: £90,363 in 1975, £92,744 in 1976, and £102,442 in 1977, a grand total of £285,550, a gain of 23 per cent over the previous triennium.

Pastor McLeary pointed out that the Adventist concept of 'caring for the whole man' was the foundation of our Welfare programme. There are fresh trends here. Instead of bales of old clothes there is an emphasis on hospital services, visiting old age pensioners and care for disadvantaged children. It could well be a significant way in which God will advance the cause in Britain.

Pastor Douglas Sinclair reported for the Sabbath School and the Health Departments. The Sabbath school attendance figures are somewhat discouraging, showing a downward trend from 6,659 in 1975, 6,752 in 1976 to 6,520 in 1977. Why members should not attend Sabbath school is mystifying, especially when all the hard work of the Department is taken into account. The offerings for the three years were £60,610, £74,180 and £76,901 - totalling £211,680. These monies go direct to the General Conference. The per-capita figure is just over 1 per cent, whereas the General Conference recommends 3 per cent of earned income. However, this is an artificially depressed figure as it includes many non-wage earners e.g. children. In fact, there

is a true upward trend of Sabbath School offerings per church membership capita.

Pastor Sinclair also reported on the outreach of the Health and Temperance Department. School lecture programmes on the dangers of drugs, tobacco and alcohol; and 136 5-Day Plans for Smokers, with much resultant publicity, were prominent features of this work.

The Youth Department's director, Pastor James Huzzey, reported that it cared for 4,000 young people in South England. In areas of leadership training, youth advisory councils, summer camps, and youth programmes such as the Congress at Aberystwyth in 1977, the Department has been busy. An annual average of more than one hundred and eighty youth baptisms were reported.

Likewise, the Education Report by Mrs. Maureen Luxton showed that progress is being made in an Educational Outreach Programme for young people unable to attend church school. Materials for youth counsellors on specialist topics, Discussion Conferences for youth of select age-levels, and Bible text-books for young people up to College level, go some way to reducing the handicap of the lack of church schools. However, in the existing church schools fine work was accomplished in the field of Christian education.

Pastor W. J. Arthur, Fretson Taylor, and Dennis Johnson reported for the Publishing/Communication, Voice of Prophecy, and Adventist Book Centre, respectively. With Publishing, Pastor Arthur revealed a 46 per cent increase in sales. In the area of Communication, or Public Relations, he reported an extending coverage of the Adventist Church in the media, including Press, Radio and TV. Meanwhile, Adventist World Radio broadcasts each Sunday morning from Lisbon on shortwave (31m). In-



Ordinands at the South England Conference. From left: Glen Weare and Mrs. Weare, Barry Gane, Ron Davey, Dr. Steve Thompson, Mel Trevena, Mrs. and David West. Mrs. Gane, Mrs. Davey, Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Trevena stand behind their husbands. Photo: J. G. Munson

vestigations are currently being made for a Church-owned transmitter for radio broadcasts to Europe. Another developing plan is use of the tape cassette as an effective medium of evangelism, and a wide range of recorded material is now available. Even video-cassettes for playback on home TV are envisaged for the not distant future.

Still in the area of literature, Dennis Johnson, manager of Adventist Book Centre (South) spoke of the challenge of serving forty literature-evangelists and the Conference churches with literature. Proving a versatile aid in the A.B.C. programme is the mobile library. A large stock of books is on display at the centre, and churches are regularly visited with display stands for sales on Saturday evenings. Sales to literature-evangelists (£91,450 in 1977) show a fifty per cent increase over 1975. Sales to members (£47,310 in 1977) is a hundred per cent increase over 1975. There is also a link-up with Granose Foods with sales, and many churches now appreciate this combined service as visits are made.

The Voice of Prophecy has prepared new courses in the area of nutrition, new brochures and handbills for advertising, and has held fifty rallies throughout the Union during the period. Over 39,500 applications were received from which developed 1,506 interests and from which came a share in 253 baptisms, in the British Union. This department has provided an inestimable contribution to the work over the years since its foundation, and although it has encountered many difficulties in the present secular age, it still brings a regular harvest of baptisms.

The opening message on Friday evening was presented by Pastor G. R. Thompson, a vice-president of the General Conference. His theme was the Christ-centred motto of the conference session—'Jesus, Author and Finisher'. The work of grace through Him is

available and indeed indispensable for God's people to achieve spiritual maturity, and to have the satisfaction of rendering fruitful service to God's glory.

Perhaps it was significant that the key thought of the Sabbath lesson of the weekend, was 'new birth'. Dr. B.B. Beach led the discussion in such a way that the perplexities of the Conference seemed to find their spiritual answer right there in the text, 'Except a man be born again'.

We sensed we needed a new beginning, fresh ideas, fresh vision.

Pastor W. R. L. Scragg's timely sermon that followed also pointed the way forward. Like Pastor Thompson, he took as his text the motto of the Session, 'Jesus, Author and Finisher', he pointed out that only as the Church fixes its eyes on Jesus Christ, will it be able to finish its course. There is always the temptation to attempt to achieve spiritual ends by human resources. But God cannot be served this way. The message was also uplifting in that it pointed the way forward over every difficulty. He spoke of the 'wait awhile' vine in Australia that has tendrils that stretch over twenty feet. Should anyone ask why it is called such an odd name, they would soon find out if they got tangled in it—they would have to 'wait awhile' as friends cut them out! At the Conference this seemed a particularly appropriate illustration. We certainly seem to get tangled in peripheral issues, at the very time when God is urging the Church forward to great victories. Let's cut free from our 'wait awhile' vines and pursue our priorities.

The tangible evidence of growth, achievement and revitalization in the Church was seen in the afternoon as six young men were ordained to the ministry. Pastor E. H. Foster, president of the Union, gave the address, and we were also favoured by the ministry of Pastor Thompson from the General Conference. The charge was given by Pastor Scragg. Ordinands were Ron

IT HAS ARRIVED

THE shutters of The Stanborough Press often open up in order that our truth-filled literature can be loaded, by the ton, into containers which will carry it to many distant parts, and into home-based vehicles for the ABCs. Now they have been opened to receive part of the new Crabtree-Vickers' 'Sovereign' 4-colour press, which will soon play an important role in the production of our books and magazines. Seen here is just one unit, weighing twelve tons, being lifted from the low-loader. When in operation, this unit will print just one of the four colours—black, blue, red and yellow—used in colour printing. After all four units have arrived, together with the feed and delivery sections, the lengthy process of fitting and installation will begin. You will have the opportunity of seeing the 'Sovereign' in operation on the Press Open Day, Sunday, September 10th. Plan now to come along.



Davey, David West, Steve Thompson, Barry Gane, Mel Trevena and Geoff Weare—two Britons, one American, and three Australians. They, together with their radiant wives, were presented to us by Pastor Lowe. South England is fortunate to have such fine young men now serving in its ordained ministry.

In the evening further inspiration came as Pastor David Currie presented a programme showing the progress of evangelism in South England. Space precludes an exhaustive account of this. But it was especially heartening to see the growing involvement of laymembers in evangelistic work, whether by home visitation or public campaigns. Though the work is slow and there were no spectacular achievements, solid work has been done all over the Conference. No doubt this is the way it will always be in South England, a patient war of attrition rather than evangelistic pyrotechnics. Yet God always seems to reward honest endeavour and a rich harvest of souls has been and can yet be, reaped from English soil.

On the final day of the session there was a discussion on the theme of readjustment to meet the needs of a multi-racial membership. The General Conference Blueprint (reported in MESSENGER No. 10) formed the foundation to this. It is natural to expect, in a healthy, living organization like the Church, differences of perspective and viewpoint. The Church has never been a totalitarian regime. In the Apostolic Church there were even sharp differences between Paul and Peter (Gal. 2:11), and there was racial tension between Jew and Greek (Acts 6:1) which needed to be, and was in fact, resolved.

In this debate two factors emerged that need wisdom, restraint, and patience, to balance. On the one hand there had to be greater recognition of the valuable contribution immigrant believers give to the South England Conference Church, which, broadly speaking, has a fifty-fifty balance between indigenous and immigrant membership. On the other hand there is the fundamental fact that the society within which the Church operates is 96.5 per cent indigenous. We would be lacking in the true vision of our task if the Church concern became predominantly introspective and thereby ceased to witness to the broad spectrum of society in which it operates. General Conference President Pierson's call for a balanced programme of evangelism on all fronts, can be met only by a united Church.

At the session there was majority acceptance of the General Conference's recommendations and the Nominating Committee shaped its report according to these guidelines. It was justly pointed out that years before this General Conference blueprint was even thought of, efforts to work in precisely the recommended direction had been made. Much had been accomplished by retiring president Don Lowe in an almost paralysing period of difficulty. The delegates responded to this with a spontaneous

ovation as he laid aside the heavy burden of leadership. The Conference will miss his warm, humane, generous and practical leadership exercised over the last six years. At the same time it is recognized that his successor, Pastor Kenneth H. Gammon, brings to the Conference the benefits of a wide experience and a dynamism that can vigorously grapple with the problems that lie ahead.

Above all there is now urgent need to pursue evangelistic priorities. The debate is over. The decisions are made.

'FIRST THINGS FIRST'

Report of the Opening Days of the North British Conference
Triennial Conference Session, Blackpool. May 25, 26, 1978
by Pastor Robert G. Vine

THOUGH Blackpool is a leading conference centre, this was the first time a conference was held there by the Church in North Britain. So observed President K. A. Elias at the opening reception in the Spanish Room of the Winter Gardens complex which was graced by the presence of Lady Mayor Margaret Riley, JP, and the Mayoress June Moore. These charming ladies made delegates welcome with kind words, good food, and even a piano trio.

The Planet Room, a wide, shallow room, was the setting for most of the business of this 51st Session. Though rather dark, it was striking for its starry constellations of electric lights in the ceiling. It was evident from the start, however, that the Planet Room would be no Star Chamber, for a positive atmosphere of goodwill prevailed throughout.

The big test facing this conference was whether the Church could complete the process of administrative ethnic integration that was started some years ago, a policy involving sincere but conflicting views, and still retain the essential unity of the Spirit. The appointment of Pastor Eric Henry as secretary fulfilled NBC's commitments on administration to the recent General Conference recommendations. Brother W. J. Griffiths was re-elected as treasurer.

Four new churches were voted into the Conference sisterhood. Cannock, started under Dr. Bryan Ball, continued by Pastors Alan Crowe, John Bayliss, Howard Parkin, and John Handysides, and now by lay minister John Rosier—a Newbold graduate; Newtown church was raised by laymen Brethren Windrass and Thorpe, and opened by Pastor W. Southcott in May; Chelmsley Wood, also in Birmingham, was also started by laymen, under Pastor George Harris and now Pastor Brian Robinson; Northampton church, re-opened up by Pastor Keith Brackenbury is now officially returned to the map by Richard Cooper—Kettering district leader. A sad foot-

There is need to fix the eye more firmly than ever before on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of the faith, and to believe His assurance that the work He began will be finished with glory. The great priority now must be, 'Go and preach the Gospel'. Multiplying signs declare there cannot be another century for God's work in South England—or anywhere in the world. A united Church must step boldly into the future bright with the promise of the Saviour, 'I will come again'.

note is that companies at Falkirk, Killamash, Rushden, and Todmorden have had to be dissolved due to deaths and emigration.

The Conference motto: 'First Things First', gave rise to many uplifting devotionals on Thursday and Friday. Pastor Elias's keynote study, based on John 14, highlighted these priorities—proclaiming the Advent, preaching obedience to God's Law, and praying for the unity of believers. The chapter division between John 13 and 14 hides the striking fact that the words: 'Let not your heart be troubled' were spoken to Peter straight after Jesus' prediction that Peter would betray Him.

Pastor K. H. Gammon—newly-elected South England Conference president, gave his interpretation of 'First Things First' in the context of 1 Corinthians 4:1, 2: 'Stewards of the mysteries of God.' A mystery, according to Paul, is that which is open to the initiated, not something beyond knowledge. The mystery of God is His salvation work in which the unlovely are loved, good is brought out of evil, and man is restored to God's likeness.

Pastor W. J. Arthur held in his study, that the all-embracing text is Matthew 4:19: 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' Following Jesus is our first concern. He developed the theme of following in the Gospels, and illustrated it from personal experiences and the way the Thousand Redshirts followed Garibaldi in the struggle for Italian Reunification.

Pastor B. B. Beach's devotional revolved around the theme of reconciliation, and the new concept of love that Christ gave His disciples in John's gospel. As our example, Jesus loves individually, yet without favouritism. He loves unconditionally, yet intelligently. He loves in spite of problems and obstacles—steadfastly. It is in the Church that God's full and final display of love is to appear.

The music, directed by Pastor Ken



Blackpool's Mayor welcomes Conference delegates. Right: Pastor K. A. Elias (second left) and some of his new staff members: A. R. Rodd, Youth leader; R. Chisholm, Publishing Department leader; G. Martin Bell, Lay Activities leader. Photos by Derek Marley (left) and Fred Shone (right).



Clothier, was of the highest standard. Who will forget his Friday evening song 'The King of Love my Shepherd is'? Eddie Langley of Nottingham also delighted everyone with the Wayne Hooper song on John 14:1, 2. And a distinguished visitor from America, Betsy Ross, studying traditional music at Edinburgh University, gave a sensitive interpretation of Schubert's 'Moment Musical' no. 6, as well as bagpipe solos, and strong hymn-leadership on the white Bechstein grand.

There was much to rejoice about in the President's report on Friday morning. North British Conference membership is now 4,809, a net gain of 318 souls since Scarborough. Nineteen seventy-seven's net gain of 209 was actually the highest net increase in any single year ever. Tithes—over £1 million, but with a small gap between income and expenditure. Soul-winning must remain our chief concern. Twenty-seven public campaigns, new churches raised by laymen, but not enough buildings—twenty-six churches still meet in hired halls, ten of which are major congregations. Attention is needed in our Sabbath schools and in the literature ministry with a decline in member-participation. But general prospects in North Britain are very bright.

Brother W. J. Griffiths' Treasury Report listed new churches at Burngreave, Crieff, Dundee, Nottingham, Preston, Skegness, South Shields, and Walsall. The Seven-Year Deeds yielded £37,600, and was ploughed back into operating costs. The faithfulness of God's people is evident in tithes of over £1 million and offerings, apart from local church offerings of £321,000.

Lay Activities and Welfare director Pastor G. Martin Bell showed how this faithfulness by the members has also won 279 souls. Laymen at Wolverhampton, under Pastor L. P. Anderson, and at Nottingham, have established new groups at Stafford and Top Valley, respectively. In Ingathering, two star collectors were commended, Jessie Wear who collected £1,100 and Samuel Morgan who collected an incredible £2,800, in this year alone! Triennium total was £183,400.

According to Pastor S. Ware, Youth and Sabbath School director, we are a younger church with 67 per cent of total

baptisms under thirty, compared with 46 per cent before 1972. For sheer complexity, the Youth department is top with back-up, training, and outreach programmes organized by Pastor Ware. His move south is bad news for the



Pastor G. M. Bell, Lay Activities director, and E. L. Henry, secretary of the North British Conference. Photo: Fred Shone

Group of Adventists street-witnessing in Blackpool under the shadow of the famous tower, on Conference Sabbath evening. Photo: Fred Shone



north, but our gratitude and love go with him.

In the discussion, a novel device was the desk and microphone especially for delegate-speakers. An official recording was made automatically, and on the front of the desk were three traffic-lights operated by the chairman's thumb on the button. Green for 'speak', amber for 'get ready to stop', and red for 'say your last things fast'. Though continually pressed for time, an excellent positive spirit obtained, and one was impressed especially by the concerned spirituality of the younger West Indian delegates. Brother Sweeney of Leicester made many good suggestions for evangelism—his special love. Pastor Frank Cantrill suggested starting a group like Maranatha Flights International (of Crieff church fame) to give their skills free to build churches.

As well as Division leaders Pastors W. R. L. Scragg, and B. B. Beach, Elder G. R. Thompson was present from the General Conference to help in the four statutory committees—Nominating, Plans, Constitution, and Credentials. Pastor Elias, elected for a further triennium on Friday, was able also to give practical guidance. It is wonderful to meet old friends at conferences and keep 'family ties' strong. Perhaps this is a more long-term benefit than the decisions of committees and discussions of delegates. And so what a sad loss since Scarborough, was the departure through death of former worker E. Merchant; former col-porteurs J. Cundey, S. Duroe, Mr. and Mrs. W. McLeod, and W. J. Woodfield. Also deceased are former Bible Instructors Annie Clarke, M. Kirby, Mrs. Overton (née Elizabeth Adair), and Mrs. E. West (née Cleary); Albert Lethbridge—former treasurer, and former pastors, J. H. Bayliss, Bernard Belton, H. Robson, and E. R. Warland.

The deaths of these beloved brethren and sisters remind us that this world is not our home and that God's plan is for a better earth with a renewed humanity who have sought 'First Things First'—the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

PRAYER REQUEST

A Watford member requests prayer for her son-in-law in California who is partially crippled by a badly slipped disc.

SABBATH AT BLACKPOOL

Report by Pastor D. P. McClure

SABBATH morning dawned brightly through a little haze which obscured the top of Blackpool's famous tower. However, nothing was going to obscure the light of truth for the many coach- and car-loads of eager Seventh-day Adventists who were travelling in for a spiritual feast. On approaching the Winter Gardens complex of buildings, one could easily follow the crowds making their way to the Winter Gardens Theatre. A song service was in progress before Sabbath school and it was probably an unaccustomed sound to hear strains of hymn-singing filtering through the doors of the theatre which would normally cater for an entirely different interest.

Our able superintendent was the Sabbath School director of the British Union Conference, Maureen Luxton, who read an appropriate passage from *The Desire of Ages* as an introduction to the lesson theme of peace. The lesson itself was conducted by the newly-elected secretary of the North British Conference, Pastor E. Henry, who led our thoughts to appreciate the reality of peace and reconciliation with Christ. There were several comments from the floor, which, when repeated from the desk microphone, gave one the impression of a vast Sabbath school class in the theatre stretching from the stalls to the gallery. Both before and after the lesson, we were inspired by the musical trio from Grantham – Roland, Margaret, and John – who sang: 'What it will be like when we get home' and 'This one thing I do.'

The missions appeal was brought to us by Pastor Robin Riches who hails from Ipswich and is now a Church ad-

ministrator in India. Our hearts were stirred intensely as we heard eye-witness accounts of the disaster which struck India in November, 1977. Terrifying storms and floods overwhelmed thirty-nine villages bringing devastation and death on a gigantic scale. Although nineteen of our churches were destroyed and 10,000 Adventists were made homeless, together with 200,000 non-Adventists, there was but one Adventist fatality. Pastor Riches told how so many people were left without hope, but the Church must continue its witness in that area, as it does elsewhere, and bring the knowledge of the 'blessed hope' to millions who are still in darkness and despair.

In the morning hour of worship, Pastor K. A. Elias had a special Ingathering appreciation spot. He introduced, as representatives of all who had gone out to the public, two star Ingatherers – Miss Jessie Wear who had collected over £1,000 and Mr. Samuel Morgan who had collected £2,800.

The choir, formed under the direction of Pastor Ken Clothier, sang the appropriate hymn, 'Jesus saves' and set the scene for the morning message delivered by the Northern Europe-West Africa Division president, Pastor W. R. L. Scragg. The Conference motto 'First Things First' with a large clock motif was suspended over the platform, so Pastor Scragg showed that God was in control of time and our message is to be delivered in the context of time. We live in anticipation of an appropriate time of God's intervention. As Christ came in the 'fullness of time' (Gal. 4:4) at His first advent, so He will return at the right time. In preparation

for this event we must be aware of another time element in our personal experience – brought to view in the previous chapter, 'before faith came . . . after that faith is come'. (Gal. 3:23, 25). Pastor Scragg stated: 'A life without faith is a life out of control.' Daily, moment by moment, we need this guiding principle in our lives. God plants seeds of faith in the heart, and they produce a harvest in the life (Gal. 5:16, 22, 23). As the second advent is so near, less time is available and the urgency is greater to allow Jesus fully into the heart by faith and let the fruit of the Spirit be seen in the life of every church-member.

The weather was still favourable for all to be able to eat their lunches out in the open, but the majority did not stay out long. Quickly the theatre began to fill up again for the musical programme which featured a wide variety of items, mainly presented by singing groups from Birmingham and Grantham. A special treat for the Scots – and therefore for us all – was included in the form of a solo on the bagpipes – 'Amazing Grace' and 'Going Home'.

Two further stirring messages were to be presented to the eager congregation that afternoon. Firstly, came Elder G. R. Thompson, the representative for the General Conference, who spoke of the courage of the believers in their stand for truth. One illustration concerns a young man in the forces of Cuba. Because of his faith, he was found in opposition to the authorities and was actually taken before Dr. Castro himself. Dr. Castro asked about the significance of the number 2,300, whereupon our brother gave a Bible study on the 2,300-day prophecy of Daniel. Because of the obvious sincerity of his beliefs Dr. Castro released him. Churchmembers should always be prepared 'to give an answer to every man that asketh them, a reason for the hope that is in them'.

Speaker at the last meeting of the day was Pastor E. H. Foster, president of the British Union Conference. 'Finally, brethren, put first things first', was his challenging and uplifting emphasis of the Conference motto. In the first chapter of the Bible the first thing to be created was light, while in the last chapter of the Bible the Lamb is the light of the New Jerusalem. John declares in his gospel that Jesus is the true light, and it is His life which is the light of men (John 1:1-9). To show the light of His life – to reveal His character and know Him personally, this is to put first things first.

It had been truly a day of good fellowship with the Lord and His people. Many old friendships had been strengthened and new friendships made. The coaches and cars rolled away to their various destinations leaving the conference delegates to continue the work. This was of a spiritual nature and accordingly a large group went out in the evening to witness to the throngs of people on the sea-front. There they



Teacher Mrs. Vivienne Vine holds the attention of children at the Conference Sabbath School.
Photo: Derek Marley

sang about the love of Jesus while helpful literature was handed out. It was good to see some passers-by stop for a helpful discussion and also join in the singing.

As the golden sun sank slowly in the west we thought of the great contrast between Blackpool's 'Golden Mile' of amusement arcades, where the group was witnessing, and the 'golden streets' to which our thoughts had been directed during the Sabbath. We pray that many will walk there as they heed the invitations that were extended in literature and song. There we shall be able to look forward to an unending fellowship in worship of the Redeemer.



The Conference choir conducted by Pastor Ken Clothier.

Photo: Fred Shone

SUNDAY AT THE N.B.C. SESSION

Report by Pastor Colin Martin

SUNDAY dawned as bright and fine as the previous days of the Conference. It says much for the stoicism of the delegates that the majority turned their back on the sunlit sands so tantalizingly near to the Planet Room of the Winter Gardens, and were in their seats by 10 a.m. when Dr. J. Paulsen started the affairs of the day with a devotional study. Brother Paulsen encouraged the assembly to think of Biblical doctrine as always related to living, for it is the Christian life that brings doctrine into its true focus.

Every Conference I have attended seems foredoomed to run behind the time set for the agenda, and this one ran true to form. After the devotional a start was made on the reports scheduled for presentation on the previous Friday afternoon.

The first report was the Education and Newbold News. Dr. Paulsen ended his talk on the activities of the College by appealing for more young folk to consider a period of training at Newbold. Several delegates came forward to the delegate's microphone to ask questions along the following lines: 'Can we

have a Business Course again at Newbold?' 'What about planning a Lay Training Course?' Lack of finance and general resources appear to be inhibiting factors. Nevertheless, the delegation appeared happy with the college.

Mrs. R. M. Luxton brought a report on her attempts to strengthen the educational work, and it was evident that she had tackled her task with vigour. She stated her disquiet at the rather low Educational Offering received from the churches, especially as there may be the chance to lease a redundant school or two from local authorities. A second area for her concern lay in the fact that few young folk had applied to attend the Youth Discussion Conferences at which they would receive help, among other things, at countering the Marxian teachings. The report encouraged many varied questions which lasted until lunch hour.

When the representatives of the churches reassembled at 2 p.m. many were wondering how the business of the Conference could be completed as the reports for Friday were not yet all presented, and none of the presentations listed to take place on Sunday had been given. This fact of running behind time is unfortunate, for we live in an age when delegates do like to exercise their right to ask searching questions upon all reports. Nine reports would somehow have to be crammed into the final three hours of the meeting. With the best will, the chairman would have no alternative but to severely limit the number of questions waiting to be asked.

Soon after the afternoon's actions got under way the secretary of the Nominating Committee appeared to give her report. The majority of the delegates seemed to be happy with the report which did not contain any real change

other than that Pastor A. R. Rodd comes in as Youth and Sabbath School leader in place of Pastor S. Ware who has been called to the South England Conference. Pastor Rodd is undoubtedly a young person's man, and the prayers and best wishes of the churches will be with him.

The rest of the afternoon was absorbed with trying to cram 'a quart into a pint pot' as departmental reports jostled with the readings of recommendations from the Plans Committee, amid a series of questions as varied as those concerning the *Sabbath School Quarterly*, to the best procedure to be adopted when the Nominating Committee makes its report.

Pastor K. A. Elias closed the 51st Session of the North British Conference with a brief spiritual exhortation and prayer. To conclude, the delegation spontaneously sang the first two lines of the hymn: 'God be with You.'



British Union Conference President E. H. Foster welcomes Pastor K. A. Elias as the re-appointed President of the North British Conference.

Photo: Fred Shone

FREE HELP AVAILABLE

Members contemplating making or altering their wills are advised that help and advice is available from the denomination's specialized Trust Services. This service is completely free and confidential. Write to: Trust Services, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts. WD2 6JP.



Pastor K. A. Elias and two star Ingatherers: Miss Jessie Wear and Samuel Morgan.

Photo: Fred Shone

In this Centennial Year of the official organization of the Church in Britain, we continue Pastor Rex Riches' History of . . .

The Church's British Mission 1878—1887

Chapter 5

COMMUNICATION AND CLASS OF EARLY BELIEVERS

COMMENTS made by E. G. White, and articles submitted to the *Review and Herald* give us sufficient indication of the type of persons who were, in the early stages of our organized work, acknowledging the truths of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and calling themselves members. Often the class of person brought into the Church in those early days reflected to some extent the modes of communication that were used.

The South of England

We have little record of the groups of Seventh-day Adventists in south England during this period. It is known that meetings were conducted in Exeter and

in Dartmouth, and we know that in Taunton during 1880 some Christadelphians accepted the views of the Church. In London three ladies were endeavouring to share their faith and increase their number.¹

Southampton, as the Church's headquarters, stands out perhaps as attracting a better class of believer than in some places, especially than in north England. What meagre records there are, suggest there was a spirit of unity among the members.

Local prejudice seemingly caused Pastor J. N. Loughborough (president) more heartache than did anything else; but class differences created difficulties, for the rich refused to listen to the same man to whom the poor gave their ear.²

Being accustomed to the practice of the denomination in America to use tents for summer evangelistic work,

Pastor Loughborough within weeks of his arrival purchased a canvas tabernacle in preference to hiring halls. Certainly the tent was better than holding services in the basement of his house.³ He no doubt also had in mind the eventual long-term saving of expenses. Undoubtedly the mode of meeting house determined for him, to a certain extent, the type of audience he would have and ultimately, therefore, the type of member.

William Ings wrote as early as 1878 of how several had joined those he had left behind after his first visit to this country, and how all of them, including a local preacher who had left his Church to join the Seventh-day Adventists, were 'actually engaged in scattering the seeds of truth'.⁴ It is clear that both Brethren Ings and Loughborough encouraged early participation in missionary work by the members. It is said of Brother Loughborough that he made use of all who were willing to help, even urging those who were not Sabbath-keepers to assist, which many of them did.⁵

Under the tutelage of Loughborough the National Tract and Missionary Society came into existence in Southampton on January 11, 1880. It was formed to facilitate the circulation of literature, in particular the *Signs of the Times*.⁶ Reports indicate the extent of the work accomplished by a group averaging twenty-six members over the first three years of the Society's life. With the year ending October 1, 1882, twenty members reported through their secretary that they made a total of 18,518 visits to families or individuals to interest them in the Advent faith. With the same purpose they wrote 1,567 letters, ordered 473 *Signs of the Times*, obtained 147 subscribers to periodicals, and distributed 525,146 denominational publications.⁷ In September 1883 the first Seventh-day Adventist Church body in England was organized in Southampton with a membership of nearly twenty.⁸

After the departure of Brother Loughborough to America and the removal of the Church's headquarters to Grimsby, little is reported regarding the membership in Southampton or of any other work in the south of England.

The North of England

In the autumn of 1881 a General Conference Session resulted in the arrival of Pastor A. A. John to the British Mission to help Pastor Loughborough with his preaching.⁹ Shortly after his arrival he was sent to work alone in north England, where until this time nothing had been done as far as the Seventh-day Adventist Church was concerned. He began his work in Grimsby visiting homes and loaning tracts. He also printed cheap tracts on his own small machine.¹⁰ In this town he was able to organize a Bible class of twenty members by January 1, 1883.¹¹

He also held meetings in Ulceby, near his home, and regular open-air meetings in Louth eighteen miles south of Grimsby. By September he had begun work in the town of Barrow.¹²

£10-REWARD-£10

THE SABBATH QUESTION!

A SPECIAL

MEETING

"Will (D.V.) be held on

Thursday, March 6th, 1884,

AT SEVEN P.M., IN THE

FORESTERS' HALL, ULCEBY,

For the purpose of replying to the positions taken on the SABBATH QUESTION by Rev. COX and others.

"Get but the truth once uttered, and 'tis like
A star new-born, that drops into its place."

And which once circling in its placid round,
Not all the tumult of the world can shake."

It was claimed that Sunday is the Sabbath or Lord's Day.

A Reward of £10 will be given for a Text of Scripture proving this Statement.

Several Ministers from abroad will be present to assist in the Services.

DISCUSSION INVITED.

A. A. JOHN, Minister.

PRINTED AT THE "NEWS" OFFICE, GRIMSBY.

Poster used by Pastor A. A. John in 1884.

Pastor Loughborough made a point of expressing his approval of the open-air meetings which were held in the marketplace where buildings 'had a roof but no walls'. The cost of obtaining good halls and of advertising properly had become prohibitive and the damp climate, after two seasons, had ruined the tent, and the cost of maintaining it was even more expensive than renting a hall.¹³

Pastor John's type of programme, however, does not seem to have been successful. It tended to draw into the Church a low class of persons who evidently did not all become pillars of the Church, nor were all temperamentally mature. Pastor J. H. Durland, for two years superintendent of the British Mission after Loughborough's departure, reported that some were troublesome and that others had turned out to be 'stony-ground hearers'.¹⁴ Ellen White, in writing to J. N. Haskell in 1887 had admitted that some members of the Church 'who have embraced the Sabbath are not an honour to the cause'. She also spoke of 'strange ideas that have not proved a success'. She felt that Brother John's idea of open-air meetings had made his labours 'almost a failure' during his stay in England.¹⁵

The efforts at evangelizing in Kettering, Northamptonshire, appears also to have provided the Mission with some difficulties. Meetings were having to be conducted in the absence of a minister much of the time, as was probably true of many small companies, and the members were not making those meetings very attractive. They were offering up long prayers 'all over the world' and 'preaching' in them. Some talked simply for the sake of talking and to fill time. There were also divisive elements in the Church which was consequently less strong than it should have been.¹⁶ During Ellen White's third and last visit to England she spoke to the church at Kettering. Recording her feelings she later wrote: 'Quite a number of unbelievers were present. I know that they will have trouble in the church because of the elements here that are turbulent. Some are ignorant, undisciplined, self-important, and unmanageable.'¹⁷

Such observations of his own led Brother Haskell to write: 'The work in Europe has been largely among the poorer classes, and has been shaped to meet that class of mind. . . . It is evident that this class would not be prepared to give the light of truth to the more influential; and if the work is shaped merely to reach the former, and this labour is put forth exclusively with them, there is a battle to be fought for the truth, and such a one we never expect to see accomplished in the work of God.'¹⁸ Very strong words but a clear indication of the problem he saw he was going to have to face.

Certainly little appears to have been done to attract the 'better classes' either in the north of England or for that matter in the south, although there ap-

Historic Picture Gallery

WORLD CHAMPION OF CREATIONISM

Among the most celebrated of the world's Creationists was the late Professor George McCready Price (left in the picture). He is standing with Pastor Lewis H. Christian, then president of the Church's European Division. The date: 1924. The place: Stanborough College, Stanborough Park, Watford — where Prof. Price was College principal, and also teacher of geology. Brother Price, a Canadian, died in 1963 aged 93. He early accepted the Advent truth and then entered the literature ministry.

Throughout his long life and ministry, he was an indomitable defender of the faith, and a relentless opponent of evolution. He was known and respected throughout the scientific world. He wrote many books on geology from a Biblical basis. Some titles are: *God's Two Books*, *The New Geology*, *If You Were the Creator*, *Genesis Vindicated*, *Common-sense Geology*, and many others.

While serving the British College he engaged in a widely reported public debate on the theme of Creation versus Evolution, in London's Central Hall, with the celebrated Joseph McCabe — ex-Roman Catholic, ex-monk, ex-priest turned atheistic evolutionist.

Mrs. L. J. Ponder (Bible Instructor and literature-evangelist) kindly sent us the above picture. She identifies the lady in the background as Mrs. Howard, Stanborough College matron.

Information for new members: Stanborough College was the predecessor of Newbold College, and is now the Stanborough School.

Few men have done as much for the cause of Creationism in a time of tremendous challenge, than College principal George McCready Price. He knew that the whole structure of Christian doctrine is validated by the truth of Creation and the Fall.

Those who were students in Professor Price's time remember him as a thoroughly



dedicated Christian, and a thoroughly strict disciplinarian of the no-nonsense type.

R. D. VINE
Editor

CORRIGENDA

Our identifications in the historic pictures are mainly right but occasionally incorrect. Sometimes (and often) they are elusive. We are indebted to readers who take the trouble to write in, providing us with more information and sometimes corrections. We appreciate this, because this MESSENGER feature is, as its title suggests, a record of history.

We are therefore indebted to Mrs. C. E. Bird (widow of the late Pastor A. F. Bird) of Watford for pointing out that the central tall

figure in the back row of the picture on page 7 in MESSENGER Nos. 12/13, is F. C. Bailey (not Bayliss). Pastor Bailey is now in his nineties and recently visited his homeland from America where he went to retire. Sister Bird also points out that in the small picture on that same page (the picture was originally printed in MESSENGER No. 2) the lady next to Brother H. Casson (first left third row) is not Mrs. Casson but Miss C. Baldwin — now none other than Sister Bird herself.

R.D.V.

pear to be a few scattered and isolated ones who were of this class.

¹ White, MS 36.

² Loughborough, 'Southampton, England,' *Review and Herald*, January 22, 1880, page 60; February 5, 1880, page 92.

³ *ibid.*, March 27, 1879, page 102; April 17, 1870, page 106.

⁴ Ings, 'England,' *ibid.*, November 21, 1878, page 168.

⁵ Loughborough, 'Southampton, England,' *ibid.*, February 6, 1870, page 28.

⁶ *idem.*, 'A Tract Society in England,' *ibid.*, *Review and Herald*, February 5, 1880, page 91.

⁷ Maria L. Huntley, 'Annual Summary of Missionary Labour for the Year ending October 1, 1882,' *ibid.*, January 9, 1883, page 23; *Seventh-day Adventist Year Book* (Battle Creek Michigan: Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association, 1884), pages 48, 49.

⁸ Loughborough, 'The British Mission,' *Review and Herald*, October 9, 1883, page 632.

⁹ 'Editorial,' *ibid.*, January 3, 1882, page 8.

¹⁰ A. A. John, 'British Mission,' *ibid.*, July 24, 1883, page 475; John, 'England,' *ibid.*, September 16, 1884, page 603.

¹¹ *idem.*, 'England,' *ibid.*, January 2, 1883, page 12.

¹² *idem.*, 'England,' *ibid.*, September 16, 1884, page 603.

¹³ Loughborough, 'The British Mission,' *ibid.*, September 18, 1883, page 604.

¹⁴ 'England,' *ibid.*, September 16, 1884, page 603.

¹⁵ E. G. White, Letter 50.

¹⁶ *idem.*, 'To a Church in North England,' MS 3, 1885.

¹⁷ *idem.*, MS 36.

¹⁸ Haskell, 'The Work in England,' *Review and Herald*, August 23, 1887, page 536.

Chapter 6 GROWTH AND EXPANSION OF THE MISSION BY 1887

At the General Conference Session held during October, 1883, Pastor J. N. Loughborough submitted his final report for his labours in the British Mission from January 1, 1879 to October 10, 1883, a little over four and a half years. He stated that those 'who had embraced the Sabbath and kindred truth' number 100.¹ The official report indicates that seventy of these were baptized.²

It is not known exactly how many baptized churchmembers there were in the British Mission when S. N. Haskell arrived in 1887. Brother Haskell himself reported 'one-hundred-and-fifty Sabbath-keepers'.³ The official report omits figures of baptized members for the year 1886 but for the following year, 1887,

STANBOROUGH SCHOOL

Required for September 1978: Part-time assistant to the boys' preceptor. Young man able to take charge when needed in small boarding home in exchange for accommodation, board and monetary allowance dependent on hours worked. Main responsibility: two evenings per week and assistance at weekends on a rota basis. Additional work possible in area if needed. Alternatively suitable for older graduate or undergraduate studying in London.

Apply: The Headmaster, Stanborough School, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts. WD2 6JT. Telephone: Garston 73268.

Haskell's first year in the Mission, it recorded a registered eighty-one baptized Seventh-day Adventist church members in Britain.

These reports would indicate that the number of baptized members in Britain had grown very slowly since the close of 1883, although the number keeping the seventh-day Sabbath had evidently increased by fifty.

Church groups

Brother Haskell discovered that since Brother Loughborough's arrival in England on December 30, 1878, a very small number of towns or cities had actually been entered by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Among those places that had been entered were Southampton, Grimsby, Riseley, Exeter, Dartmouth, Keynsham, Leeds, Blackburn, Wigan, Liverpool, Kettering, and Wellingborough. Not all, however, had organized churches or owned church properties.

A lady 'in the faith' in the town of Riseley had provided a building and fitted it out as a small mission hall and this constituted the first and only meeting house actually owned by the Seventh-day Adventists in England. The first church building was not erected until after Brother Haskell's arrival as superintendent of the Mission. This would be in Ulceby.⁴ All other churches met either in hired halls or buildings, as in Southampton where a leased property known as Ravenswood had been used since 1879.

There is little doubt that many members were isolated, some having joined

the Church by reading the denominational weekly, *Signs of the Times*. These probably met in homes as was the case with the company raised up by Pastor Loughborough in Taunton, Somerset.⁵ At the close of his first year in the British Mission he wrote of several 'embracing the truth as a result of reading the *Signs*.' Two of these had actually joined the Church. He went on to say, 'We hear of a company at Dorsetshire but have not been in contact with them', and 'we also hear the same of two families in Sheffield'.⁶

Often a foray into foreign territory would bear some fruit which of necessity would become isolated from the main flock. Such a case is reported of a family in Ireland at the close of 1885. An American, R. F. Andrews, spent a short time on the island and of his work the record states: 'A few accepted—one family remained loyal. For years they were the sole representatives in that intensely Catholic country.'⁷ It is also known that on her third visit to Britain, July, 1887, Ellen White paid a visit to a family on the Isle of Wight, and found them 'children of God, keeping the Sabbath with all fidelity'.

Generally speaking the believers were to be found in small towns rather than large cities, and were much scattered.

Large cities

Writing a missionary appeal in December, 1885, Sister White presents the need of the workers in Britain 'who have borne the heat of the day'. It is obvious that from her visits to Britain she discovered what many believers in America had little inkling of, that 'England needs many missionaries', especially London 'with its five million inhabitants'. At the time the publishing work moved from Grimsby to London, Sister White had commented that 'London needs one hundred workers'. She was aware that London had received 'too little attention' and that this was the case for the majority of towns and cities in the British Mission. She believed that there was little hope ahead for changing this situation or for meeting the



Ulceby church. The small Lincolnshire village of Ulceby is notable in church history, and for being the first place to have its own SDA church building.

demands: 'We have seen that the work is advancing slowly. . . . England has not had much labour. . . . As we have seen the large cities in which no labour has been put forth we have known that a much greater work is to be accomplished than has yet been accomplished for the cities of England. . . . At the present time the outlook is not the most encouraging.

' . . . The truth, the present truth, the truth for this time is what is needed in London. We should enter the great cities with the message of God's truth; but without means or workers we have a most discouraging outlook for work of this kind.'⁸

Thus the history of the early British Mission assumes its shape.

¹ J. N. Loughborough, *Rise and Progress*, page 336.

² Gideon David Hagstotz, *Seventh-day Adventists in the British Isles, 1878-1933* (Lincoln, Nebr.: Union College Press, 1936), page 200.

³ 'A Word from England,' *Review and Herald*, August 2, 1887, pages 489, 490.

⁴ J. H. Durland, 'England,' *ibid.*, March 16, 1886, page 160; April 6, 1886, page 220; October 11, 1887, page 635; March 1, 1887, page 140; S. H. Lane, 'England and Ireland,' *ibid.*, April 19, 1887, page 251.

⁵ J. N. Loughborough, 'England,' *ibid.*, April 22, 1880, page 268.

⁶ *idem.*, 'The *Signs of the Times* in England', *ibid.*, December 11, 1879, page 191.

⁷ Matilda E. Andross, *Story of the Advent Message* (Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1926), pages 228, 229.

⁸ 'A Missionary Appeal,' *Review and Herald*, December 15, 1885, page 191.

⁹ E. G. White to Brethren in Europe, August 6, 1887, Letter 15.

Perhaps the earliest team of Bible Instructors in London. With them are Pastors W. A. Spicer, later General Conference President for many years, and D. A. Robinson, a pioneer missionary to India. (Victim of smallpox in 1899, aged 51, buried at Karmatar Mission, India.)



Points to Ponder

► 'In all my travels the thing that has impressed me the most is the universal brotherhood of man — what there is of it.' *Twain*

► 'What religion is he of? Oh, he is an Anythingarian.' *Jonathan Swift*

► 'I am profitably engaged in reading the Bible. Take all of this Book upon reason that you can and the balance by faith, and you will live and die a better man.' *Abraham Lincoln*

► 'All men love liberty, and seem bent on destroying it.' *Voltaire*

► 'The courage we desire and prize is not the courage to die decently, but to live manfully.' *Carlyle*

To enhance our Centennial series, we have invited evangelistic stalwarts to record their stories. Here, Pastor George Vandeman, director of the Church's 'It Is Written' TV programme, remembers his evangelistic service in central London.

THE GOLDEN FIFTIES

Two and a half years is not a long period of time. But a very special two and a half years of my forty years of ministry were spent in grand old England—a privilege and responsibility I shall never forget. Exposure to the rich tradition of the motherland, the culture of the people and the charm in meeting an entirely new and faithful constituency of fellow believers, left its mark for the better on my family and myself.

1952 to 1954, now twenty-five years past, were years of 'toil, sweat, and tears' of joy, in working together with my British brethren in an attempt to evangelistically break into the city of London. From the first city-wide rally of our people in a large Baptist church to the day I left, I found an eager optimism that good things were in store for our people. I would have been helpless without that backbone of strength. *Our God is not limited, but I believe He can use nothing so potent as the faithful laity, courageous in spirit, trusting in spite of all evidences to the contrary that the battle is still the Lord's and that truth in His saving power will yet conquer darkness.*

First, there was the Coliseum theatre located just off Trafalgar Square. Shall I ever forget that experience! Newspapers as near as the giant *Times*, *Daily Telegraph*, and *Daily Express* on Fleet Street in London, and as far away as South Africa, chronicled that memorable first day. Mr. Harbourn, the Jewish manager, was courteous but sceptical when he rented his theatre to us for three meetings on a single Sunday. He simply couldn't understand it. Then came the queues, four people deep, four blocks long by two-thirty in the afternoon, with the opening of the doors at four o'clock. *Seven thousand five hundred were seated that day.* Thousands were turned away, and the nearby pubs threatened to sue the Coliseum for lack of business—so Mr. Harbourn reported years later as I returned and reminisced with him.

Typical of the hunger of the masses was the statement made by a little lady who was the first to be shut out. The man ahead of her was the last to be admitted to the top-balcony four flights up. When she realized what was happening she exclaimed, 'And all I wanted was just to look up.'

It was on that historic stage three months later that Frank Jeffries, an astronomer for years connected with Greenwich Royal Observatory, stood and gave his testimony. He and his wife had just made it inside the doors that first day. Now the Sabbath truth was being presented, and at my request he gave a

testimony on the constancy of time, that time could not possibly be lost to the centuries. When he finished, he evidently heard me standing to my feet ready to thank him and continue. He turned with a smile and said, 'Wait a minute, Mr. Preacher, I want to add a word of personal testimony to what I told you, I was going to say.' He then turned to the audience and declared,

share these funds with several of the largest cities of the world, and London and New York came in for their share. It was the brethren's plan that a permanent centre for evangelism be established in the heart of each of these cities. Thus it was that the New Gallery as a centre of fruitful evangelism for many years, materialized.

Shall I ever forget the day when, in the British Union Conference office at Watford, the brethren had gathered to discuss the future plans for reaching London! Before the meeting formally opened, Pastor Worsley W. Armstrong, then president of the Union, opened a letter from the General Conference outlining the plan. Needless to say, no formal committee meeting was held that day. Rather a prayer and praise service

On This Opening Night

THE HEAVENS ARE TELLING

What Do the Stars Say to You?

The inspiration of a lifetime awaits you as George E. Vandeman, impressive and colourful speaker, unfolds the splendours of the sky. Hear him tell the captivating drama of the stars—and their message to you. See magnificent screen pictures of whirling worlds, blazing suns, mystic moons, and sweeping comets, recently filmed through giant telescopes. Cancel all other engagements to be present for this unforgettable night!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 4:30 and 6:30 p.m.
(All Seats Free)

Outstanding Musical Feature
BEN GLANZER, Tenor

You will understand why thousands have acclaimed the brilliant voice and winning personality of this consecrated radio and recording artist, eight years with the Voice of Prophecy radio programme, heard weekly by millions over 700 stations. Sing lyrics we all love with this inspiring leader and his large choir.

The London **COLISEUM** *Trafalgar Square*

Two Identical PROGRAMMES
For Your Convenience, 4:30 and 6:30. Making 5,000 Seats Available

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The handbill that launched the Vandeman Campaign in London.

'My wife and I have listened with you to these messages through the weeks and we personally have decided to keep the true Sabbath.'

Older members will remember that we soon transferred to the Stoll Theatre on Kingsway next to The Old Curiosity Shop, immortalized by Charles Dickens. The theatre has since been replaced by a modern office complex, but God worked mightily within those walls while they were yet standing. And then came the golden days of the New Gallery.

Here is part of the story many may never have known. The General Conference brethren had been saving the yearly mission appropriation for the China Division, after we could no longer work in that area, in the hope that these funds could be preserved for the day when doors would open again. Since prospects for such a development were bleak in 1953, the brethren decided to

took its place. Then all engaged in a search for a permanent centre. I think I probed the darkened recesses of every theatre in the heart of that vast city, in the process of searching.

The Lord answered our prayers beyond our dreams. He gave us the gem on Regent Street—acclaimed the world's most elegant shopping centre. And you people in Britain know the story thereafter.

There were times during the early days when four sessions of meetings were scheduled in a single day. Another evangelistic project presented the moving film of the life of Christ entitled, 'I Beheld His Glory.' Over the weeks ninety-six thousand people from all walks of life filed into the New Gallery, and then left sober and impressed, and with a presentation copy of *Steps to Christ* in the hands.

One day an intelligent Britain accosted me in the foyer of the New

Gallery Centre. 'Vandeman,' he said, 'I'll give you thirty minutes to present your case. When I leave you I shall decide between Christianity and Buddhism.' What a challenge! Only thirty minutes! The only way I could help this searching man was to introduce him to a Person. Only the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ could calm the confusion and set his feet on a path of peace.

I remember the lady, a personal friend of the then-living Queen Mary, who actually attempted to bring the Queen to one of the meetings, but protocol annulled her plans.

I think of the gracious Scottish lady judge at Walthamstow, who attended those original Coliseum meetings. One day she invited me to visit in her home. When I arrived there were twenty or more of her friends gathered to listen. Wondering just how to proceed, I asked what she thought I should study that day. And without a moment's hesitation, she replied, 'Tell them about the blessed Sabbath.' And I did just that.

During a final decision study some weeks later, I arrived to find that she had moved a table into the centre of the living room, one chair on either

side, an open Bible in the centre. We sat across from each other and studied the Word. Can you picture the scene? In that lovely home, overshadowing that table on my right, was a huge hand-painted portrait of Queen Elizabeth, a gift to her during a ceremony in her honour, and on the wall to the left, a huge hand-painted portrait of Sir Winston Churchill. Her husband had been the captain who had taken Sir Winston on his many voyages by ship through the years. The picture was a personal gift to her from Sir Winston himself. Finally, the moment came to pray. I shall never forget that sacred moment as she spoke those simple words of commitment in her delightful Scottish accent, 'If the blessed Word says so, I will do it.' And of course, baptism followed. When she died several years later, a bequest within her estate was granted to the South England Conference, an amount in excess of all they paid out for that first expensive evangelistic thrust in London. Courage and faith were amply rewarded.

Now twenty-five years have passed. My work has changed to television. The denomination's full-message 'It Is Written' television programme, under the blessing

of God, has covered 75 per cent of Canada, 50 per cent of the United States, and 85 per cent of Australia. But my heart still carries a burden for England – the same burden that the readers of this article carry. Just how God will reverse the secular trend in that giant nation and turn millions soberly to reflect on the final message of mercy, I do not profess to know. I only know that the work is His, London is His, Britain is His, and the hour has surely come.

Whatever happens, I know that faithful laymen whose prayers ascend daily will play a prominent part in the final drama. God will use the printed page mightily. The influence of the health work will have a telling effect, and, of course, the ministry will be in the centre of it all.

But the blessed Third Person of the Godhead must breathe upon His people. We remain impotent and helpless without that Gift which He alone brings and with it every other blessing in its train. In America and in England and everywhere else around this planet in rebellion, this is our only hope.

South England Conference

NEW CHURCH TO SERVE GREAT YARMOUTH AND GORLESTON AREA

ELBOW grease, sweat, and good humour (not tears) brought forth as lovely a church as you would find anywhere in the South England Conference – its members gratefully believe this to be true.

The above project was fully realized when members and friends filled the church and its two vestries, porch, and the upper room, after Pastor E. H. Foster, president of the British Union Conference opened the doors on April 29, 1978.

It was a privilege to have founder, yet present, members with us in the persons of Sister Hogg and Brother and Sister R. Haylitt. Sister Moore, also a founder member, visited us for the occasion.

The first Seventh-day Adventist church in the district, an existing building, was purchased, altered to fit the needs of a church, and dedicated in 1932. Over the years the building deteriorated, partly due to severe bombings in the area during World War II. Although repair work was carried out at various times, the condition worsened. The members humorously recall times when up to a dozen buckets and basins decked the floor and caught water flowing through the cracks. The old church was eventually sold in 1972.

During the ensuing six years a rented

room was the church home of the diminished company (after the war a majority of the membership moved away). Yet time was not lost, neither enthusiasm, nor hope. Because of the spirit of unity and sheer hard work and

planning, the Lord poured out His blessing upon His Remnant. There were autumn fairs; market stalls, in rain, wind, and snow (and I think once in sunshine); a £1-a-brick fund, led by a friend of the church family. Such were some of the methods put into operation to purchase today's lovely dwelling.

Fifty-seven old chairs, scrubbed and re-varnished, a beautiful oak rostrum with four matching chairs, and £2,000 in cash, all given by a large neighbour-



British Union President E. H. Foster cuts the traditional ribbon to signify the official opening of the Great Yarmouth new church.

ing sister church, have been received with loving thanks.

As the building work progressed, other gifts were given by other sister churchmembers, and friends of more distant churches amounting to well into four figures: a lovely organ; carpets to cover all floors; a cash gift to have a brick and block wall and gates around the church; all the decorating and fitting work done by the churchmembers, and members of a sister church; payment to have a firm surface car park (the members paid for the material) to save so many extra hours of hard work.

Pastor Foster's message that day still rings in our ears and vibrates our heartstrings: 'Ye are God's building.' Not so much Great Yarmouth, but a great people of Yarmouth with a sense of fulfilment in a new church home: Bethel, the house of God, the gate of Heaven. A meeting place where we meet and worship God - this a visible reminder of the presence of God with us.'

Yes, that message still vibrates, and we trust it ever will till Jesus comes.

PASTOR IAN E. TREVINA



Children enjoy a tractor ride at the Stanborough School fete.

Photo: Frank Blewitt

HOME FROM RHODESIA

FORMER members of Stanborough Park church, Ann and Don Lale, have returned on furlough and are visiting relatives and friends in the area. They have been in Rhodesia for the past three years and are pictured here with their sons Timothy (14), and Andrew (12).

Both Ann and Don were teachers at an Adventist teacher training college in Gwelo, which is 200 miles south of the capital and the geographical centre of the country. Due to terrorist activity in the African tribal trust lands it was not safe for them to continue at that school, and in August last year they withdrew to Anderson school on the other side of Gwelo. Don is dean of boys at his new school.

The family have been travelling the country visiting their many friends from the Isle of Wight to Grantham. Before going on mission service to Africa Don had spent nine years at The Stanborough Press, and completed his teacher training in Lincolnshire. They will be returning soon to Rhodesia for a further three years' service.

FRANK BLEWITT
PR Secretary



Pastor Martin Anthony tries his skill at hoopla.
Photo: Frank Blewitt

FETE ACCOMPLI

STANBOROUGH SCHOOL seems to be extremely well blessed with fine weather for their fete days. Again this year it was a beautiful sunny Sunday, one isolated fine day in a long period of cold, grey windy days.

The fete, on Sunday, June 11th, was opened by Miss Joan Coveney, who retires this summer after many years of devoted teaching in the infant school.

Crowds of people were out on the park sampling the wares and taking part in the various activities. In addition to the usual stalls of cakes, books, gardening and clothes there were some unusual attractions.

Mrs. Liz Rafferty, a former pupil at the school, had an interested audience around her as she showed how to turn

a fleece into wool on her spinning machine.

The 'small pet' show at the Estate Hall had a good entry. A number of rabbits were entered, and it was one of these, a dwarf rabbit named 'Midge' who won first prize. The other entries included a chicken, a long-haired hamster, a canary and 200 snails with names from A to Z together with three newts named Coco-newt, Pea-newt, and Hazel-newt.

The tortoise race did not get many entries. In fact, the young girl who won first prize, won second prize as well. Her tortoises were the only entries. At the teddy bears picnic, however, there were a great many teddies of all sizes and the competition was extremely difficult to judge.

There were also tractor rides (pictured) and foot races, a wild life film and a painting competition, a revolving horse, archery, pistol shooting and hoopla (pictured). The juice bar and salad bowl, together with the ice cream stall, did brisk business in the hot sunshine.

Two pupils at the senior school who are planning a sponsored cycle ride of 250 miles to the Isle of Wight and back early in July, raised £200 in sponsorship money during the afternoon. At the end of the day over £1,100 had been raised towards a new assembly hall and gymnasium for Stanborough School, a happy result for Mrs. Peggy Mason the organizer and all her helpers.

It may be appropriate to mention here that the new facilities at the school are to be the subject of the Thirteenth Sabbath overflow offering in the second quarter of 1979. Stanborough School, while looking for help from the worldwide Church family, are doing all they can to turn their needs into reality.

FRANK BLEWITT
PR Secretary



PRINCIPAL ATTENDS 'VINSONIANS' REUNION

AFTER a lapse of thirty years or more a 'Vinsonians' reunion was held recently on a bright and sunny Sunday afternoon for former graduates and students of Vincent Hill School and College, our denominational institution at Mussoorie, India, a pretty hill-station nestled on the slopes of the Himalayan mountains.

Pastor Ronald Rice, a former principal, with his wife, Nelia—also a teacher, both having served Vincent Hill for three decades, were guests of honour. They are on a world-wide holiday

and at present spending some of their holiday in this country visiting relatives. It was their desire to meet as many former students as possible, so a reunion was organized by one of its former students, Brother Ron Valens and held at his home in Thornton Heath, Surrey.

The picture shows (standing from left): R. Valens, Molly Bird, George Poole, Cynthia Hurdle, Pastor Ronald Rice, Bernice Joseph, Henry Chapman, Geoff Webster. (Sitting, from left): June Baptist, Phyllis Hurdle, Mrs. Nelia Rice, Lorna Burgess, Olive Martin.

RONALD I. VALENS
Organizer, Vinsonian Association



JEWELS IN THE TEMPLE OF GOD

SOLOMON, reflecting upon the true meaning and purpose of life, concluded that the way of wisdom was to 'Remember our Creator in the days of our Youth'. On Sabbath, April 29th, eleven young men and women from the Croydon church indicated they had put that counsel into practice when they were baptized into Christ Jesus our Lord. It was a memorable day for Heather Alleyne, Karen Burton, Charmane and Dwight Elliott, Carolyn Fields, David Palmer, Marcia Roberts, David Santineer, Carol Stephenson, Emma Sylvestor, and Victor Williams. For Karen Burton the day was especially happy because she was baptized on her birthday.

Pastor Patrick Boyle baptized the youth. Pastor Theo McLeary from the South England Conference gave a stirring address on the meaning and significance of Christian baptism. Pastor L. Henry, the North British Conference evangelist spoke encouragement to the youth, counselling them to follow Jesus into the kingdom of God.

When they were voted into Church

fellowship Pastor McLeary commented on the joy it gave him to see such a fine group of youth decide to walk in the Christian way. We can only echo those sentiments and rejoice that these young people will play their part in Christian witnessing. In response to an appeal to follow Christ as these youth, nearly twenty persons, stood to indicate they wanted to take this step.

It was a day of rejoicing, witness, and



Baptismal candidates at Croydon.

fellowship. To the parents who guided their children in the way of righteousness, to the Church in caring for them, to our God for His marvellous grace and mercy given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord, we give thanks and praise. We pray that our sons and daughters may be jewels in God's Temple; that they will swell the ranks of the Advent youth who under God will help to finish His work in this generation. We desire these mercies and blessings that Christ's coming may be hastened and that we, with all the saints may enter into the heavenly Canaan.

PATRICK BOYLE

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Lyn Eardley of the Belfast church on attaining her qualifications: M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

CONGRATULATIONS to Lorraine Morgan (nee Searles) of the Newport church, who in 1977 obtained her Diploma of Nursing (University of London), qualified as a registered Clinical Nurse Tutor, was awarded a prize by the British Institute of Management as best nursing student at Gwent College of Higher Education, and also became a proud mother of a daughter, Lisa!

LYN MORRIS
PR Secretary

ADVERTISEMENTS

CARMARTHEN SABBATH MEETINGS

Service between 10.30 am and 12 noon. Central Public Library, St. Peter's Street, Carmarthen. (We meet in a lecture room downstairs.) Car park next door to library. All inquiries to minister - Tel. Swansea 24809. A warm welcome to all.

MORTGAGE? Have you purchased your home via mortgage? Then you might be interested in a 'Tailor-made' *Three Way Mortgage Protection Plan!* For details please ring GARY KESHISHIAN (FLIA). WEEKDAY MORNINGS 01-903 8096, EVENINGS 01-866 8821.

WANTED. — A copy of *The Bible Speaks* by W. L. Emmerson. Please contact Mrs. C. A. Harrison, 13 Price St., Cannock, Staffs. WS11 3DS.

AN SDA lady wishes to correspond with SDA gent., age 30 or over. Please contact Tel. 0793 39308, or write in first instance to: Mrs. G.M., 14 Monkton Close, Park South, Swindon, Wilts.

LADY, good Adventist, seeks another lady (residing Greater London area) with whom to share the joys of the faith. Age and nationality unimportant but should have enthusiasm for attending conferences and Church functions, and travelling around in general. Write: Miss H. Taylor, c/o 38 Crawford Street, London, W1.

GRANOSE

require the following staff:

Office Department

We are looking for a person with office experience to take responsibility for our Burroughs L9500 Mini-Computer, which has recently been installed. Previous experience would be an advantage but not essential. The successful applicant would also be required to carry out other office duties and would need to be sufficiently mature to take on the responsibilities of this position.

Dispatch Department

We urgently require a dispatch clerk to assist in our dispatch department. Previous experience not essential but welcome. Everyday work would involve driving a fork-lift truck, loading lorries, and some lifting.

Any persons interested in the above situations please apply to: Mr. R. Poulton, General Manager, Granose Foods Ltd., Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts. WD2 6JR. Phone Garston 72281.



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Apply: Administrator C. Wilson, Crieff Sanitarium, Drummond Terrace, Crieff, Perth, Tel.: Crieff 3806.

CHURCH FURNITURE

Notice to all ministers and church boards If you are planning to buy new furniture - chairs, carpets, curtains - for your church, you will need to contact the experts for free advice and estimates before you decide.

Deliveries throughout the United Kingdom direct from the manufacturers. For full details contact: Alvin Fielding, Complete Contract Furnishers, 9 Manorbier Close, Ton-Teg, Pontypridd, Mid Glamorgan. Tel. Newtown Llantwit (044362) 2288.

INSURANCE: SPECIAL OFFER to Adventists and their friends on ALL classes of insurances such as: *Saving Plans for Children's Education, House Purchase, Retirement Pension Plans* (with very advantageous tax relief!), ANNUITIES. Personal/Family Accident, Permanent Health Insurance, In Hospital Benefit Plans, 'New for Old' Comprehensive House and Contents Plans, etc. *Confidential Personal Service*. Please contact Gary Keshishian (FLIA). Tel: WEEKDAY MORNINGS 01-903 8096; EVENINGS 01-866 8821.

PEN FRIEND WANTED: Young lady, aged 28, wishes to correspond with SDA male penfriends. Please write: 'Nell', c/o Messenger Editor, British Union Conference Offices, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts. WD2 6JP.

RAISE FUNDS quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, diaries, etc. Gold-stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelities, Spencer House, Spring Gardens, Bradford. BD1 3HE.

THE Granose Mini-market, Stanborough Park, now has a limited supply of Loma Linda Foods for sale. Hurry, first come, first served.

NEWLY opened: F. & J. Health Foods, 217 New John Street West, Hockley, Birmingham, B19 3UA. Tel: 021-523 0858. Evening 021-382 7476.

CAR FOR SALE: RENAULT 16 TX, March 1976, Metallic Blue, Black Trim, £2,495. Please ring after 5 pm 01-866 8821.

Granose Foods Ltd. is happy to announce a new service to churches and members living in London and areas adjacent to Watford. In October we are beginning a programme of nutrition lectures and vegetarian cookery demonstrations in our factory, where a purpose-built kitchen is being installed. These programmes are to be widely advertised to the general public and visits by church groups and individual members will be welcomed.

Arrangements can also be made for our demonstrator, Mrs. Valerie Munson, to visit local groups, clubs, guilds, etc., to speak on topics related to healthful living, and to conduct demonstrations.

Details of the subjects available can be obtained by writing to Mrs. V. Munson, Granose Foods Ltd, or by telephoning Garston 72281.

BOURNEMOUTH (0202) 517284. Saxby House. Central. Bed and breakfast. Families welcomed, reduction for children. Mrs. Beach, 45 King's Road.

WEST Indian mature SDA lady wishes to correspond with mature SDA lady or gentleman. Please ring Northampton (604) 713972 after 6 pm.

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World DX News
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New British Voice of Hope
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9.45-10.00 am

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Hear General Conference Lay Activities Director

George E. Knowles

During his visit to Britain, July 18-22

Evening District Rallies will be held at 7.30 p.m. in the following churches:

Tuesday July 18
Hampstead Church

Wednesday July 19
Bristol Central Church

Thursday July 20
Nottingham Central Church

Friday July 21
Bradford Church

Sabbath July 22

All-day Rally in the
New Century Hall, Manchester
(in Miller St. near Victoria Station)

All local members, and especially LA officers from the surrounding churches are urged to make every effort to attend these inspirational gatherings.

Learn

how to implement a stronger witnessing programme in your church.

Discover

the secrets of more effective territory coverage.

Remember:

'He that winneth souls is wise'.

GRANOSE FOODS LIMITED has a vacancy for a mature person for Quality Control assistant, to work with the Quality Control officer on the inspecting of incoming raw materials and packaging components and for the monitoring of Quality Control procedures in the manufacturing, filling and packing of their full range of foods. The successful candidate will receive some in-company training but will also be expected to attend a training course in either Quality Control and/or Quality Assurance. For further details apply in writing to: R. Poulton, Manager, Granose Foods Limited, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts., WD2 6JR.

Get better the natural way

NATURE Cure Practitioners would like the London churchmembers and their friends to know that a weekly 3-day clinic is held at 7 Ruskin Road, Tottenham, N17. Ruskin Road is opposite the Whitbread Brewery and near White Hart Lane, off the High Road. Buses 76, 149, 259, 279. Surgery hours: Sunday 10 am - 5 pm. Monday - Tuesday 9 am - 7 pm. No appointment is necessary for the above days. Practitioners in attendance are C. Ellis, N.D. D.O. Herbalist, V. Elliot, N.D. D.O. D. Phys.

FRENCH SDA girl, age 16, seeks English home for six weeks, July onward. Would work for board and accommodation. Write: Miss Christine Martin, Seminaire Adventiste, 74160 Collonges-sous-Saleve, France.

COLLIN LINDIES Removals and Transport saves you pounds. Full house, office or flats. Cheaper long distance service. Fully insured. Sundays - Fridays. Tel: 01-664 7532 or 0689 47532.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CRIEFF Sanitarium acknowledges with thanks anonymous donation of £1.50.

THE treasurer of the British Union Conference acknowledges with thanks receipt of the Lord's Tithe: £30 from NRM, London; £6 from Anon., Birmingham; and £30 from Anon., (Grateful).

news notes

through the Union President's Office

NEW UNION APPOINTMENT.—Subsequent to the South England Conference Session when Pastor K. H. Gammon was elected president of that Conference, the British Union Conference Executive have taken action to appoint Pastor John Arthur as secretary of the British Union. We welcome Pastor Arthur to this new and challenging responsibility, believing that he will demonstrate an equal conscientiousness, concern, and ability as an officer of the Union as he has displayed in his many years of service to the literature ministry. He brings both youthful energy and several years of union departmental and committee experience to his new position. Pastor Arthur will continue to carry his departmental responsibility as Communication director. One of the factors in determining this secretarial appointment was our desire to maintain Pastor Arthur's interest in the field of Communication, to which he has committed himself in an encouragingly progressive manner.

We anticipated and already have had confirmation of our expectations that there would be disappointment in the literature-evangelists' ranks at the departure of Pastor Arthur from the Publishing Department but we are sure that

although Pastor Arthur has left direct contact with literature-evangelism, literature-evangelism will never leave Pastor Arthur. We wish our fellow officer God's choicest blessings as he continues to serve in the British Isles.

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR.—We appreciate the willingness of Pastor R. E. Appenzeller, Publishing director of the Northern Europe-West Africa Division, to accept responsibility (*pro tem*) of acting Publishing director of the British Union. We welcome Pastor Appenzeller, believing that his expertise and energy will make a most valuable contribution to the publishing work in the British Isles at this time. Pastor Appenzeller is no stranger to the literature-evangelist family and we believe they will be much encouraged to know that he is to have this direct link with them.

We thank the NEWAD committee for making this arrangement possible. It is our intention to seek for a suitable permanent publishing director and we believe that without the exacting pressure of too limited a time it will be possible to select a person who will adequately lead out in this important phase of ministry.

NOTHING TO LOSE: ALL TO GAIN

FROM Monday, April 17th to Thursday April 20th—104 women from nearly every county in England met at Nottingham University for the Annual Council Meetings. From the outset the president, Mrs. D. Sutton emphasized our motto for the year, 'Construct and Consolidate'. It was a truly inspiring time and problems were faced in a spirit of faith in God's power and leading.

We had several notable addresses: the Revd: H. Gillespie wove his talk round Paul's injunction 'Quit you like men', and said that it is getting increasingly difficult to stand against the tide of evil. It needs courage to be a committed Christian. He was sure that there is still much good left in mankind, but to activate this we need Christian leadership. Much of the ground lost is due to the loss of conviction by leaders. Compromise will not earn respect. His final words were: 'Stand firm, but let it be done in love.'

Mr. Geoffrey MacPherson, JP, business man, and one of the directors of Nottingham Forest Football Club, spoke from experience of the havoc wrought by alcohol; he spoke of the loss of virginity by girls, of broken marriages, of vandalism, of death and maiming on the roads. How much wiser it would be, he challenged, if the Government took steps to cut down the root cause, alcohol, instead of

TRUST SERVICES AND STEWARDSHIP.—These responsibilities have yet to be assigned and will be finalized next month.

APPRECIATION.—Thanks are expressed to Pastor Gammon for his services as an officer and department director of the Union. We give recognition to his contribution to the progress of the work in the past and pray God's blessing upon him as he discharges the responsibilities of his new office. We can hardly consider this a farewell message as we anticipate continued association with him in Union Committees and Boards and in his conference administration.

PASTOR DONALD LOWE.—It would be remiss in these notes to fail to mention our deep appreciation of the service of Pastor Lowe as president of the South England Conference for the past seven years. Pastor Lowe's degree of sincerity, concern, and integrity provided a unique contribution in his service to both members and ministers. We are sure that God will direct in Pastor Lowe's future service for the benefit of His Church.

'MAY ALL CHANGE BE BLESSED.'—As we address ourselves to the post-sessions situations let us re-commit ourselves to Jesus as Lord and Master; let us reassure ourselves of the final triumph of righteousness; and let us pray and work that the time that remains may be wholeheartedly invested for the increase of God's glory in these Islands and throughout the world.

E. H. FOSTER

GIFTS FOR CRIEFF SANITARIUM

At the last Union Session a motion was presented by a delegate from Chiswick church and unanimously adopted to the effect that the Crieff Sanitarium should submit to each church a list of the equipment needs of the new Institution. Lists were sent to the Conference offices for distribution to the churches and the management wish now to express their gratitude to the following churches for funds donated which have purchased equipment as under:

HANDSWORTH: Physiotherapy Cycle for £91.

CHISWICK: Solarium for £290, for physiotherapy department.

We would also like to make a general expression of our appreciation to the several members who have made private donations towards the equipping of the Sanitarium.

No doubt other churches in addition to the two mentioned above would like to help the Lord's work by making a specific contribution to the equipment costs, and we would be most happy to submit a list of items for their consideration on request.

C. WILSON

Administrator, Crieff Sanitarium,
Drummond Terrace, Crieff,
Perthshire, PH7 4AE
Telephone (0764) 3710

increasing the number of magistrates and magistrates' courts and de-toxification centres. He left us with the emphatic statement: 'You lose nothing by being an abstainer, you gain everything.' He also paid tribute to the excellent example set by the Adventists in Nottingham, to their high moral standards, and to the care they took of their young people.

You may be interested to know that an Adventist lady is the recording secretary of the Union; one is the superintendant of the anti-gambling department; and two others are on the National Executive. May I make a plea that more Adventist women join their local branch of the NBWTAU, and show that we are actively concerned with problems in our own area and nationally, and not just with ourselves.

DORIS A. W. CLEMENTS



SUNSET CALENDAR

London and Edinburgh times reproduced from the *Nautical Almanac* by permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office. Other times have been calculated.

	Lon'n	Car'f	Nott'm	Edin.	Bel't
July 14	9.13	9.25	9.25	9.50	9.53
July 21	9.05	9.16	9.15	9.41	9.43
July 28	8.56	9.08	9.05	9.29	9.34
Aug 4	8.44	8.56	8.53	9.15	9.19

MESSANGER

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