

MESSENGER

CHURCH PAPER FOR SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE BRITISH ISLES

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Roland and Valerie Fidelia, with their children Gerard, Alain and Harvey. Baby Claire was still unborn when this photograph was taken. On behalf of the membership in Britain MESSENGER welcomes them to service in this country.

NEW PUBLISHING DIRECTOR FOR BRITAIN

by Pastor E. H. Foster, president, British Union Conference

WE are very happy to inform the constituency of the appointments of Pastor Roland Fidelia as Publishing director of the British Union Conference.

We most heartily welcome Pastor and Mrs. Fidelia and their family to the work in the British Isles.

For twelve years they have served in West Africa. Currently Pastor Fidelia is Publishing and Communication director of the West African

Union. The Fidelia family plan to be in England by 2 May.

Pastor Fidelia's experience, enthusiasm and dedication, we are sure, will provide strong leadership to the literature ministry. There are many challenges to be met in this area of service and we believe your prayers and your encouragement will sustain Pastor Fidelia as he discharges his responsibilities.



Left: Headmaster Derrick Mason and senior master, Phillip Richards, discuss the plans for the new school assembly hall/gymnasium drawn up by Malcolm Bayliss.

Top: Two sixth formers, Robert Beardsell and Geoffrey Smith, hard at work in the physics laboratory.

Bottom: Colin Powell learns the Master's craft from master craftsman and woodwork master, Terry Menkens.



OFFERING FROM WORLD CHURCH TO BENEFIT STANBOROUGH SCHOOL

PART of the Thirteenth Sabbath Overflow offering for the second quarter of 1979 is to go to Stanborough Secondary School. This is an offering to which Sabbath School members throughout the World Church contribute.

It has been decided to appropriate the proceeds to the building of a new school hall/gymnasium. It is anticipated that the offering will meet only a portion of the total cost and much faith is placed in the generosity of private donors.

Stanborough Park's Estate Hall—the 'tin tabernacle'—has served the school as an assembly hall since it was built as a 'temporary structure' not long after World War II. According to ex-headmaster, Dr. Edward E. White, even at the time of construction 'it was more like a huge barn, draughty and ugly. . . . While it served a useful purpose it was always regarded by some with disdain, by others as a bad joke.'

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Photos: Paul Sundquist

News in pictures



As March winds gusted their squalls of hail over and around Stanborough Park, passions were also blowing up a storm. The scene, in a small way, resembled Blitzkrieg over Poland, with bulldozers instead of tanks. They had come to take our trees away and to replace them with parking bays, widened roads and, apparently yet more signs. Most Holy Row residents thought it a poor exchange and were boiling up an unholy row. Other interested parties joined in. For a time the BUC switchboard was jammed. Someone quipped: 'Plant a tree in '73; plant a sign in '79.' For the benefit of those who are turned on by cherry blossom rather than tar macadam The Stanborough Press photographic department have produced a montage of last year's blossoms and the Stanborough Park management have planted more trees.

Photos: John Pasco

IN TOUCH WITH BRITISH UNION NEWS

Missions presidents' re-appointment to office

The constitutions of the two missions require the BUC Committee to appoint presidents mid-way between Union Sessions. Consequently, at the March meeting, Pastors E. Logan and R. H. Surrige were re-appointed for a further term of service as presidents of the Welsh and Irish Missions respectively.

G. S. Crutchfield renders special service in Tanzania

In response to an appeal from the Afro-Mideast Division, Pastor G. S. Crutchfield has been released by the South England Conference to conduct a six-week evangelistic campaign in Tanzania, where Pastor Derek Beardsell serves as Union president. Meetings commence on 27 May.

Dates for Mission Sessions, 1980

The dates for the two Missions Sessions in 1980 are as follows: Ireland, 13-15 June; Wales, 5-7 July.

L. P. Anderson appointed ABC manager/HHES treasurer

Pastor L. P. Anderson, presently serving as district leader at Wolverhampton, has been called to head the new ABC/HHES programme at The Stanborough Press. The new position calls for preaching and promotional skills with reference to church visitation; and administrative and financial expertise as far as the office programme is concerned. Pastor Anderson is looking forward to the challenge.

Annual General Meeting - World-Wide Advent Missions

At the AGM of World-Wide Advent Missions on 20 March 1979, the board members voted unanimously to express appreciation to all churchmembers who participated in the 1978 campaign, when a record total of £190,720.79 was raised for the Church's outreach programme

Schedule for Union evangelist

Pastor A. D. C. Currie has been invited to extend the period of his public evan-

gelism in Londonderry and Coleraine from July to the end of November in order to consolidate the work along Ulster's north coast.

In March 1980 Pastor Currie has been invited to conduct a 'reaping' campaign in Cornwall, following a variety of preparatory activities which are planned for the interim.

New official name for Church Youth organization

The General Conference has authorized the name 'Seventh-day Adventist Youth' in the place of 'Missionary Volunteers' as the official name for the Church youth organization. 'Adventist Youth' is recognized as an acceptable shortened version of the whole name.

Fourth previous student to join Stanborough School Staff

The Stanborough School is commending itself well to the student body in so far as a fourth, former student - Miss Brenda Lewis - plans to join the staff in September.

D. C. Clothier returning from Mission service

Pastor D. C. Clothier, after having completed his term of service as president of the North Nigerian Mission, will be returning to Britain in August to take up an appointment in the South England Conference.

Stewardship year 1980

The General Conference has designated 1980 as 'Stewardship Year' when special emphasis will be given to the blessings which accrue to faithful stewards.

W.J.A.

Distinguished visitor at BUC Office

Dr. Roy E. Graham visited the Union Office on Wednesday, 28 March en route to Spicer Memorial College (India), where he is to lecture at the Andrews University Extension School being held there 6 April - 8 May. On account of his modesty and our lack of communication we have never expressed through the medium of the MESSENGER our congratulations to Pastor Graham on his attainment of the Ph.D. degree from Birmingham University in July of last year. His research thesis was entitled, 'Ellen G. White: An Examination of Her Position and Role in the Seventh-day Adventist Church'. Our belated but nevertheless sincere congratulations are offered to Dr. Graham on this achievement.

Another significant milestone in Roy's varied denominational career was his appointment as Provost of Andrews University on 15 March 1979. In this position he discharges the responsibilities of the second executive officer of that notable institution.

E.H.F.

POSTAL DELAYS

YOUR Union ABC and The Stanborough Press wish to apologize for the delays experienced in receiving supplies. This is due to industrial disputes both in the U.S. and our own postal system.

We are unable to post to London or Eire at the moment. Please allow a FULL 4 WEEKS for other areas.

To a member in good and regular standing

I heard about it from a friend, much given to dramatic hats and irregular hours. It had been received through the post and expressed a point of view of which the sender was not proud. That can be assumed from the fact that it was unsigned. In place of a signature was typed the legend, 'From a Member in Good and Regular Standing'.

It was Friday and soon my Beetle was chewing up the miles of the motorway, homeward bound. I had time for cogitation. And like the *gossamer that idles in the wanton summer air* (except that it was winter) that phrase kept playing around the edges of my mind. What did it mean to be 'A Member in Good and Regular Standing'? Three-and-a-half gallons of three-star later I had decided that it could mean everything or nothing at all.

We Adventists are always on the lookout for signs of the nearness of Jesus' return. And so we should be. Are we right, though, always to look out for cataclysmic events? There is a sign of His coming going on *in our very midst* that makes sun, moon, stars, distress of nations and rumours of wars look like old hat.

You can see it in homes and in churches. It's a kind of *separation, a polarization*. The two groups have always been *there*, but there have always been people in between them. Now they are becoming more distinct. It is almost as if the lukewarm of the Laodicean church have become either stone cold or piping hot. I've noticed it in quite a few churches and have heard that it is happening among

Adventists in at least two other countries.¹ Have you noticed it?

God probably has a word for it because He knows the heart. I can only note the *symptoms*—for this week anyway. With the Bible in one hand and the Spirit of Prophecy in the other we might find a few broad hints as to the nature of the *condition*, when space allows.

Symptoms, then. And at least one New Testament writer thought that you can deduce a fair bit from the symptoms.²

At one end of the polarity is a group just to talk to whom makes you feel that your soul has been watered. The urgency of the task of taking this Gospel of the Kingdom to all the world, of speeding the Advent, is strong in their minds. Powered by God's own fuel, they give of time and means to God's cause. They're getting it all together; gum-shoeing around town letter-boxing, door-knocking, witnessing in every way they know how. Ingathering, Welfare, *Signs* distribution—they're first off the touchline.

Then there's the others. Becalmed on a horizonless sea. All washed up on a tideless shore. Resting on their fallen arches. By no means card-carrying sceptics; indeed often *relying on the fact that they are Members in Good and Regular Standing*. But, like the Pharisees, being nothing more. Hoping that that in itself will *purchase good opinions*. The excitement has long gone out of their Christian walk, and the aim, direction and purpose out of their lives. In the absence of the real thing, they park themselves in front of the Box and try to achieve excitement and purpose vicariously, second-hand, through the celluloid world dished up to them each evening in thirty-minute helpings. Still loyal to the *practices* but having long neglected the *mission* of God's Church. They have received the embrace of the affluent society and it is smothering them.

Am I exaggerating? Correct me if I am. Ellen White saw God's last Church in vision as two distinct groups on more than one occasion. 'I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. . . Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances; large drops of perspiration fell from their foreheads. . . Evil angels crowded around, pressing darkness upon them to shut out Jesus. . . Their only safety was in *keeping their eyes directed upward*. . . Others 'I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. . .³ The broad and narrow roads 'are distinct, separate, in opposite directions. . . Those who travel in the narrow way are talking of the joy and happiness they will have at the end of the journey.' But notice that some members in Good and Regular Standing are on the broad way to destruction; 'I saw many travelling in this broad road who had the words written upon

them: "Dead to the world. The end of all things is at hand. Be ye also ready". They looked just like all the vain ones around them. . . They were in the broad way, yet they professed to be of the number who are travelling the narrow way.⁴

A dual carriage-way in God's last Church, then, with Members in Good and Regular Standing in both north and south lanes. But God's servant saw that this *polarization or shaking time*⁵ would occur not long before Jesus comes. We need to wake up to the challenge of the task still to be accomplished in the British Isles. Let those who *think* they are in Good and Regular Standing with the Lord take heed lest they fall. Only in *keeping our eyes directed upward* to Jesus can we *stand* at the end of all things. Only by *beholding* can we be changed in His likeness. Only by kneeling at the foot of His cross and making a full commitment can the victory be gained. Only as we witness to its revolutionary power within the life, exposing others to its magnetism, does the Kingdom come.

Those who stand looking upward when Jesus returns through the vaulted skies will be those who have stood looking upward to Him all along the narrow way. Those so fuelled by His power that they have not been able to contain themselves. But the blessings of the narrow way are not all at its end. 'Heaven is waiting to bestow its richest blessings upon those who will consecrate themselves to do the work of God in these last days of the world's history.'⁶

Don't worry how Good and Regular your standing is. Leave that to God.

Just keep looking up and don't miss out on the blessing.

¹ M. Vendon, Cassette on Laodicea, Advent Audio Visuals; R. H. Parr, *Australasian Record*, 80/23.

² James 2:14-26, NEB.

³ E. G. White, *Early Writings*, pages 269, 270.

⁴ E. G. White, *Testimonies*, vol. 1, pages 127, 128.

⁵ E. G. White, *Early Writings*, pages 269-273.

⁶ E. G. White, *Messages to Young People*, page 26.

MEET YOU AT CAMP!

CALLING all young people, 9 to 35 years, and families, to renew friendships and to make new ones at one of the exciting camps planned for the North British Conference this year. Most of these camps will be held at our own beautiful camp site at Aberdaron, North Wales. Get away from the rat race and enjoy its peace. Other camps will also be run at other venues. For application forms and further details write to Pastor Bob Rodd, Youth Director, North British Conference, 22 Zulla Rd., Mapperley Park, Nottingham, NG3 5BZ. Tel. Nottingham 606312.

18-20 May
Camporee provisional date. Venue to be arranged.

2-9 July
Scottish Camp (Tayport)

16-19 July
Sixth Form Conference (Aberdaron)

20-29 July
Family Enrichment Camp (Aberdaron)

23-28 July
Division Youth Congress (Norway)

30 July - 6 August
Pathfinder Camp (Aberdaron)

7-14 August
Earliten Special Pursuits Camp (Aberdaron)

14-23 August
Senior Special Pursuits Camp (Aberdaron)

23-30 August
Earliten Holiday Witness Camp (Aberdaron)

31 August - 9 September
Senior Holiday Witness Camp (Aberdaron)

12-14 October
Scottish Youth Retreat
Provisional date. Venue to be arranged.

AN HSI CATECHISM FOR EVERYMAN

What is this HSI?
HSI in plain English means The Home Study Institute.

Why should I be interested in the HSI?
Because it can help you make the most of your talent of time. Remember you have only a limited amount of it.

How does it do this?
By helping you improve your education. By killing the boredom ogre stone dead for you and helping you keep the Box in its place.

What are some of the specific benefits the HSI offers?

- Instruction in how to be better informed
- how to become a better Sabbath School teacher
- how to sell literature more successfully
- how to preach better
- how to be a better elder
- and how to be a much more effective Christian.

How can I find out how to start one of these excellent courses?

By writing for a prospectus to:
The Secretary/Registrar, NEWAD Branch, Newbold College, Bracknell, Berks., RG12 5AN.

CHURCH NEWS ROUND UP

GROWING INTO JESUS



Mrs. Kathie Connors.

THREE years ago Kathie Connors stepped through the doors of a Seventh-day Adventist church. A convinced vegetarian, she came to a Christmas Pot-luck supper organized by the newly-formed Coventry Vegetarian Society. The society's organizers, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Trickett, are friends of the church and requested use of our hall.

In a MESSENGER report, written soon after, I remember quoting Kathie as saying, 'I knew nothing about Adventists until I came to these meetings. For some time I have been searching for truth and I should like to know more of your beliefs.'

Since that time Kathie has completed several Voice of Prophecy Bible and health courses. Following Bible studies with Pastor Paul Clee and a deepening conviction that she had at last found truth, she committed her life to Christ within the Adventist Church.

On 20 January there was much happiness in heaven and in the Coventry church as Kathie was accepted into church fellowship. It took three years and many prayers but what is time with the Lord?

MARY BARBER
PR secretary, Coventry

BAPTISM IN IPSWICH

A CAPACITY congregation at the Ipswich church, with many visitors including an Adventist young lady from Japan, witnessed the baptism on Sabbath 10 March, of three young people, Brother and Sister W. Whiting and Beverley Graham, and the acceptance by vote of Sister F. Vare.

Pastor B. Gane immersed the candidates and the address was given by Pastor G. S. Crutchfield, minister in Ipswich for 7 years before moving to

Wimbledon. The message for the young folk on this joyous occasion was that they are not only to enjoy the fellowship as members of the church family in Ipswich, but more important, they are also members of the family of God in heaven.

The rendering by the choir of 'Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go' brought a re-assuring message to all present.

B. DUKE
PR secretary

ON THE AIR IN BIRMINGHAM

ON Sunday, 25 February, Pastor S. D. Hensman and Sister Pam Jones, Ward End PR secretary witnessed for the risen and returning Lord on BRMB Radio, Birmingham.

A few weeks previously Brother Mahoney, a member of the Ward End church, went to the radio station to ask if it would be possible for an Adventist to speak on the radio. He was given the address of the Director of Religious Broadcasting. Brother Mahoney contacted Ward End's PR secretary and she wrote to the director. At this stage Pastor Hensman also became involved.

Within days a reply was received setting up an interview for 25 February.

Pastor Hensman and Sister Jones discussed what they would say and arrived at the studio on time with eager anticipation. Before the programme commenced they had an opportunity to discuss the interview with Rev. John Austin. They were admonished to 'speak smoothly'; If they said anything the broadcasting company did not approve of they would be 'cut off'.

Despite this inhibition, minister and PR secretary were able to put forward many important doctrines, including the Sabbath, the Second Coming and the origins of man. The Rev. Austin was particularly interested in our non-smoking clinics and Pastor Hensman invited listeners to phone him for details.

Thanks to Brother Mahoney's groundwork, the hundreds of thousands who live in the Birmingham metropolis have now heard the message of the soon-returning Lord. Preparations are now being made for a second interview.

Local radio stations, hungry for material, have been established all over Britain. Has your church realized the full potential of this avenue of witnessing yet?

PAM JONES
PR secretary, Ward End

Dell Rest Home

Urgently required at Dell Rest Home a single lady, preferably with nursing experience though not necessarily qualified. Good accommodation available. Apply: Matron, Dell Rest Home, 45 Cotmer Road, Oulton Broad, Lowestoft, Suffolk. Telephone: Lowestoft 0502 2591.

BRISTOL ON THE MOVE

THINGS don't stand still here. The Spirit of God and a dedicated ministry guides the church forward.

We have just returned from Broomhill House in our own minibus purchased by the efforts of our own membership. Pastor Mel Travena, an excellent driver and organizer, proved to be an experienced pathfinder too.

We found true relaxation while we enjoyed nourishing food supplied to meet our spiritual and physical needs. Pastor Dougherty refreshed us with good counsel, and spoke with assurance of the benefits of obedience; 'The blessings of physical, mental, and spiritual health are all part of God's plan for his children.'

Morning services in the beautiful Exeter church were enjoyed by all. Laughter is a good medicine too. This we proved in an informal concert in the evening.

The following day saw us walking on the sea front at Teignmouth, imbibing the ozone! Next on to Torquay, around the blue boat-filled harbour and up the hill. The descent was rapturous and our hearts overflowed with praise to God for all His works.

Hearty appetites relished a good meal on return. Then, following a prayer of thankfulness we prepared to leave. The mini-bus followed by two cars, one driven by Pastor Dougherty and the other equipped with trailer carrying all our luggage, was safely steered by Lynne Travena.

Thank you Pastors Dougherty and Travena, host and hostess Ken and Megan Hayes, and every one. We feel refreshed to renew a vibrant witness so that more souls in this vast city may yet be *on the move* towards God's kingdom.

A. A. WOLFE

INGATHERING WINS SOULS

TEN souls were added to the church in Gloucester in 1978 due to the faithful witness of the membership. While one sowed, another had watered and God gave us the increase. Earlier in the year four young people had followed their Lord in baptism, one as the direct result of a house call during the Ingathering Campaign the previous year. Brother Morgan had called for a donation in his box and left with an appointment for a Bible study. Successful Ingathering indeed! Now on Sabbath 6 January, Pastor K. H. Gammon addressed the remaining six candidates who, now baptized, rejoiced in the full assurance of sins washed away.

William Johnston, who recently joined the worker force in the Conference and is now assistant minister in the Cotswold district, was ordained to church eldership. We welcome Billy and his wife Lilian, and their children Wendy and Alexander as they serve a loyal membership in the South Midlands.

PASTOR R. A. BURGESS



SKEGNESS WAITS FIFTY YEARS

In the recent past the faithful members at Skegness have realized a dream. Some of those who first had this dream half a century ago, including Brother Faulkes and Brother Dawson, have fallen asleep in Jesus. Others, like Brother and Sister Bartle, Sister Faulkes, Sister Bone, Brother Rook and Pastor and Mrs. Munson have lived - having saved and

toiled - to see this dream become a fact.

The dream was to have a church of their own. Fifteen years ago the land was bought. Today a building stands on it - a monument to the glory of God and the faithfulness, sacrifice and toil of men and women committed to His cause.

Pastor Newman has accepted office as our elder, Mrs. Newman as Health and Temperance secretary. Retired! What an example of active Christian service they are giving. They have made their presence felt by inviting Dr. H. Royall to speak in the church on the 'Danger and Misuse of Drugs'. At this meeting an alcoholic testified of God's saving



grace and the help he had received from 'Alcoholics Anonymous'. After the meeting non-alcoholic drinks were served and were on display for sale.

Through Pastor Newman's 'sense of urgency' for these days in which we are living, fifteen members of the church contributed £250 in sending out *Confrontation* to the professional people in the area. We ask your prayers for those to whom they have been sent.

MARY SNEED
PR secretary



The photograph from India sent by Pastor Robin Riches shows two needy Indian girls with the blanket knitted by Indian folk from wool provided by the Ipswich Welfare Society.

was given to these two motherless Indian girls.

Pastor Riches sent the photograph to thank the Ipswich Welfare ladies for their help.

B. DUKE,
PR secretary

CONFRONTATION AT NORWICH

THREE hundred copies of the book *Confrontation*, the modern title of *The Great Controversy*, were on display below the rostrum for dedication at the Sabbath morning service by Pastor P. Stearman and brother G. Cabbin the Lay Activities leader.

The members of the Norwich church had donated these books for distribution to Members of Parliament, doctors, clergy, dentists and others in the Norwich area. It is hoped that a work of grace may begin in the hearts of a section of the public that we have perhaps neglected.

May God speed the truth.

W. P. WATSON
P.R. secretary

WOOD GREEN BAPTISM

ON Sabbath afternoon, 3 March, the members of the Wood Green church extended the right hand of fellowship to two new souls, who publicly professed their faith in Jesus Christ by being immersed in the waters of baptism.

Taking this memorable step were Owen Seivwright and Norbert Vitry, both in the prime of their youth, and both having been assiduously instructed in the faith by the church minister, Brother C. Cook.

Pastor K. H. Gammon, president of the South England Conference, officiated leading the candidates through the waters of baptism. He subsequently appealed to the congregation to re-dedicate their lives to God, and those who felt the need to commit their hearts to the Lord for the first time he asked to affirm this decision by a show of the hands.

Pastor Gammon quoted several relevant texts and gave a poignant example of one person whose life-style had changed dramatically after having surrendered her will to the Holy Spirit.

We wish these two young men a really close walk with God.

C. HICKSON
PR secretary

FROM IPSWICH TO INDIA

While Mrs. Riches of Ipswich church was visiting her son, Pastor Robin Riches, president of the Central India Union, and family, she wrote to her friends in Ipswich saying she was teaching some of the Indian people to knit but there was difficulty in buying wool there. Ipswich Welfare leader Sister T. Chalcraft made an appeal for wool and she was able to send a good consignment which arrived safely and was knitted into blanket squares.

When Mrs. Riches paid another visit to her family in India she was asked to complete the blanket by sewing up the squares and making the border. Then it

YARMOUTH ON THE MOVE

It is now eleven months since the opening of the Gt. Yarmouth church. During that period we have welcomed into our membership seven persons who have moved into the area, among whom are Pastor and Mrs. W. J. Newman.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE Treasurer of the British Union Conference acknowledges with thanks receipt of the following tithes: £26 from M.R., £20 from 'Thankful'. THE treasurer of the South England Conference acknowledges with thanks receipt of the following tithes: £1 from H.T., £1 from H.T., £25 from W.T.C.

Assembly Hall for a Secondary School

by Dr. Edward E. White

Education director of Euro-Africa Division, Schosshaldenstrasse 17, 3006, Bern, Switzerland (Headmaster at Stanborough School from 1940-46).

THE Stanborough Secondary School was born of a great need almost forty years ago, when children of Adventist families at the British Union headquarters, who faithfully attended primary school, found themselves blocked in acquiring further education. In great faith plans were made to offer the full range of secondary education, and the first venture was begun at what seemed a most inauspicious time, namely, just after the outbreak of World War II. Circumstances proved, however, to be most propitious, for the flood of evacuees from the other side of London caused the enrolment of this embryo secondary school to grow extremely rapidly and as a result higher classes and additional staff were added each year until the full range of subjects were offered.

Let it not be thought, however, that finally the school had advanced to the stage of luxury, for this hall was a pre-fabricated building, temporary in nature, but like most temporary school structures of enormously long life; it was more like a huge barn, draughty and ugly, its only virtue being that it enclosed a large area under cover. For while the secondary school inherited some magnificent playing fields in a park-like atmosphere, of adequate area for the whole school at one and the same time, yet the vagaries of the English climate were such that the non-rainy days did not coincide with the physical education slot in the daily time-table.

Undercover facilities were therefore necessary, and furthermore suitable equipment and sufficient place to store it. The 'estate hall', as it was called, for it also served the youth department of the church as well, was therefore an urgent need, and while it served a useful purpose, it was always regarded by some with disdain, by others as a bad joke.

Importance of Christian education

Now with the primary school section re-housed in a beautiful new building at the other side of the park, it is time to direct attention to the secondary school. This is the only Adventist

Need of school hall

Even at this early stage the need of an assembly hall was obvious. Classes were crowded into the small rooms of what was formerly a dormitory for nurses. Even when some dividing walls were removed to make reasonably sized rooms, there was always need for more space. The largest room of all was always in use as a classroom and for morning assembly the pupils gathered like sardines to receive their spiritual instruction. Conditions in fact were so unsatisfactory that four days a week morning worships were conducted by the teacher in his own classroom. In some respects this was a good thing, but there was the lack of the unity of the school, the school spirit, the psychological togetherness of all of the pupils, the sympathy of numbers so to speak.

At the close of hostilities the school was able to move into the former Seminary building which had been vacated when the college moved to Newbold. The contrast was at the time magnificent, for all of the secondary pupils—about a hundred of them—could stand in the old chapel building for morning assembly, and listen to the various teachers as day by day they endeavoured to infuse noble ideals of honesty, integrity, obedience, service and the like.

Bad joke

Further progress followed in the provision of a separate building for assemblies, gymnastic exercises, and special occasions, such as speech days.



COME AND GET IT!
Stanborough School is multi-national. Here is Dudu from Denmark and Azita from the Aytollah's country, Iran. Photo: Frank Blewitt

Top: Sharon and Nelly engage in an experiment in General Science.

Bottom: Beryl in an 'A' level Chemistry practical at Stanborough School. In September 1978, she began studying at a College of Physiotherapy. Her sister, Eileen, also an ex-pupil, is now reading Medicine at the University of Manchester. Her brother, Robert, still in the Sixth Form, hopes to begin his medical training later this year.

Photos: Frank Blewitt

secondary school in Great Britain, and boarding facilities are offered so that adolescent youth can attend a Christian institution in their formative years. Religious education and moral instruction, and more especially teaching based on the Scriptures as the Word of God, is gradually disappearing from the schools, and openly atheistic sentiments are part of the general curriculum in state schools. *How much we need a centre of light and blessing such as a Seventh-day Adventist secondary school can and does offer. How necessary it is to have regular spiritual instruction for the whole school family, not only in the facts of the Bible, but also concerning the moral issues of a young person's daily life and problems, and how he can resolve them in a manner that is well-pleasing to his Heavenly Father.*

Not only so but facilities for the physical development of growing boys and girls should find a place in a school of this size and importance.

Fine record

The Stanborough Secondary School has a fine record of academic achievement. It is even prouder of its spiritual trophies, for not only are former students led to become baptized members of the Church - and this whether their home background is Seventh-day Adventist or non-Seventh-day Adventist - but from either group have also come workers for the Church and ordained ministers.

Part of the offering for the coming 13th Sabbath will benefit the school. It is an investment, in bricks and mortar, yes, to some extent, but essentially in the lives of young people who are on the threshold of service, whose potentiality will be a mighty factor in finishing the task committed to this Church. Such an investment finds its rich reward in the reaping of the final harvest of souls for eternity.



Why not do your 'A' Levels at Stanborough School under the direction of friendly, dedicated, Christian teachers?

- * Pleasant dormitory facilities with sixth form privileges.
- * London University 'A' Level entrance offered in English, Biology, Geography, French, Physics, Chemistry Mathematics and History (Oxford). Religious Knowledge is offered as a core subject covering a syllabus giving Newbold credit.

For details write to the Headmaster, Stanborough School, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts. WD2 6JT

COTSWOLD DAY OF FELLOWSHIP

A DISTRICT Day of Fellowship for Gloucester, Avon and Somerset was held in the Town Hall, Weston-super Mare on Sabbath, 20 January 1979. Despite heavy snowfalls throughout the southern counties the previous afternoon, which almost prevented our guest speakers from travelling and closed many of the roads approaching the area for a time, the main hall was almost filled with

warm-hearted, spirit-filled Christians who had come together for united worship and expecting a blessing.

Right on time, Pastor Andrew Gebbie introduced the Sabbath School presenters and the congregation rose to sing their praise to the Lord of the Sabbath. A spirited presentation of the lesson for the day was given by the Conference president, Pastor K. H. Gammon, lead-

ing us all to an evaluation of the true motives which inspire daily Christian living.

Pastor J. Paul Sundquist, no stranger to such gatherings throughout Britain, had chosen for his theme well-depicted on a large cross suspended above the platform—'Our Foundation Standeth Sure.' This was such a welcome change from all the depressing headlines we had been subjected to through the national media in recent weeks. Despite the heavings of earth's masses, unsettled by politics, wars and strikes, through hatred and discontent, we responded to this enthusiastic declaration made by Paul the Sabbath School director for NEWAD quoting Paul the Apostle, 'Nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure'.

The youth were responsible for a delightful presentation of music and drama in the early afternoon. Items of music were well given by a number of the talented in our district and a dramatic enactment of Noah's appeal to the antediluvian world was presented by William Johnston and the youth from Gloucester. The climax was reached as the narrator read the words of Christ to this stilled house—'As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man.'

The day closed with Pastor Sundquist's invitation, which we gladly accepted, to join him on his journey into Papua New Guinea and to view on colour slides the progress of the Adventist cause in the islands of the sea. We were not disappointed. We will long remember this exciting day. We thank all who made it possible.

R. A. BURGESS



Enjoy fellowship and relaxation with fellow churchmembers

Have a heart-to-heart talk with Union and Conference leaders, Newbold representatives etc.

Get acquainted with the Church's institutional and departmental programmes operated on the headquarters estate

Conducted tours round BUC, VOP, Stanborough School, Granose Food Factory.

Take advantage of special discounts

Bibles, books and hymnals in The Stanborough Press marquee; Sabbath School supplies; Health foods from Granose including cookery demonstrations; cassettes; etc. Cricket match; volleyball; musical programme in church hall.

SUNDAY 13 MAY

10 am – 5 pm

WORCESTER'S HIGH DAY

MARCH 3rd was a happy day for the members of the Worcester church. Friends from Dudley, Stratford and Smethwick churches arrived for Sabbath School and stayed to share a day of worship. Every seat was taken and extra chairs were needed in the aisles. Several interested non-Seventh-day Adventists also joined us for the first time.

Pastor Martin Bell gave an inspiring morning address, and took the afternoon meeting which included a film on Christian witnessing.

It was heartening for our small membership to see the church filled to capacity. Under Pastor Colin Martin's leadership we are beginning a Christian outreach programme. We pray that our church will soon be filled by others who will find the love of Jesus. G. P. TANNER

PR secretary

NEWBOLD GRADUATION 4-6 May

Graduation speaker: Dr. P. P. Schull

Other weekend speakers include:
Pastor V. H. Cooper, Pastor D. J. Sinclair,
Dr. S. Thompson

Admission by ticket. Apply to the Principal, Newbold College, Bracknell, Berks., RG12 5AN.

COMMUNICATORS COMMUNICATE

'I thought the morning services were fine, and the plastic briefcase and its contents impressive. I learned a lot from some of your speakers especially Frank Blewitt, and I think something from all of them. On the whole you hit the right balance, and you provided us with an opportunity to meet, to discuss, to criticize our own attempts. The lunch was acceptable and the Luton ladies lovely - last Sabbath's Seminar will achieve much.'

Words of appreciation from Bronwen Atkinson in one of several letters received after the Communication Seminar held in the Luton church, 10 March 1979.

'We must take every justifiable means of bringing the light before the people. Let the press be utilized and let every advertising agency be employed that will call attention to the work. This should not be regarded as non-essential.'

This quote was used by John Arthur, Communication director of the BUC and it is for the reasons expressed in it that a group of some thirty-five Communication secretaries gathered at Luton.

Bernard Kinman rallied our thoughts around the life of Jesus and the methods of His ministry. He demonstrated how that 'Thinking Big in Communication' means following the pattern of His ministry as outlined in Isaiah 58; 'When we demonstrate the caring attitude of Jesus for those in need then, only then will our cause be noticed.'

'Developing Journalistic Skills' became a lively challenge as Helen Pearson of Newbold College led us through the Do's and Don'ts and the 'Pitfalls' encountered in preparing copy.

Enid Tolman, Chiswick, was obviously at home in her topical presen-

tation 'My Friends the Editors'. Punctuality, painstaking perseverance - a lot of hard work and a certain winsomeness go into success with editors and reporters - column inches bear testimony to Enid's success. Surprising, too, the invitations that have come to be a guest speaker or writer in the wake of such winsomeness. Yes, Enid certainly gave us some good guidelines.

'Look in, listen in, read all you can, know your subject. Don't be caught out. Keep your information on the Church and world affairs updated and fresh,' was the advice given by Arthur Torrington, radio journalist, L.B.C. Arthur interviewed Neal C. Wilson, world president for L.B.C., also Ken Gammon, South England president, for his station. His advice was timely as more and more of our ministers and laymen are invited to speak into the microphone.

With slides demonstrating every point, Frank Blewitt of Stanborough Park, led us a step at a time through the intricacies of photography suitable for press usage. 'Get that picture' became more of a challenge than a topic as his programme unfolded. Frank's record of 'getting the picture' and seeing it published is undisputed. We learned much from this excellent approach to a difficult subject.

Thirty-five Communication secretaries with friends attended the seminar. Together we enjoyed the comfort and hospitality afforded by Pastor Edgar Hulbert and the ladies of the church. We remember the lovely renderings by the Harmonettes'.

Remember, 'Souls have been won by a simple one paragraph announcement of a meeting'.

L. ACTON-HUBBARD
Communication director, SEC

SEVENTY-TWO YEARS AN ADVENTIST



Sister Casburn, senior, of the Wellingborough church celebrated her 97th birthday on 18 March. Born into a Roman Catholic family in Liverpool, she was sent into domestic service at an early age. While in service in Leeds she met her husband-to-be, who was then a Methodist. Shortly after their marriage the young couple attended an evangelistic series being held in Leeds. Under the instruction of Brother Andrews they learned of the Three Angels' Messages. Being faithful to the call, both were baptized by the late Pastor McAvoy in 1907. Brother Casburn then lost his job as a fireman with one of the railway companies and Sister Casburn lost the respect of her family on leaving the Catholic Church.

Sister Casburn has proved herself a true Mother in Israel, bringing up a family of boys. Although blind for forty years, she remains a faithful stalwart for truth, with her sons and their wives who serve the cause, respectively, in Wellingborough, Kettering and Western Australia.

EDWARD O. CASBURN

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

May I add one more letter to your mountain. I read John Arnold's letter, in MESSENGER No. 6 this morning, and I would say whole-heartedly, Yes, please let us hear more about the time of trouble just ahead of us, we do need something to awaken us out of our Laodicean sleep before it is too late. We are seeing signs all around us today, of the very near return of our Lord.

D. WHITMORE

Dear Editor,

Listening by chance to the programme 'Sunday', relayed from Manchester from Radio 4UK at 8.15 this morning, I was very surprised and concerned to hear that a Seventh-day Adventist (his name was Russian and I could not catch it) is on trial at Tashkent, USSR and that six other Adventists who have been subjected to torture have been refused permission to give evidence on his behalf. Tashkent is in the southern part of the country in the region which borders on Afghanistan, where I believe our missions are denied entry, and this may perhaps have some bearing on the case. As an Adventist for more than 40 years, I realize that such happenings will become more and more frequent towards the end, but I do not understand why our members should not be informed. Surely it is known to the General Conference, and it would be interesting to hear what representations have been made to the Soviet authorities by the Conference. I find the official silence on a matter of such vital concern to the Church rather disquieting. M. J. WIBER



IN TOUCH WITH THE PRESIDENT

South England Conference

President: K. H. Gammon



In industry, commerce – and the Church – there are times when administrators ask, 'Is our present method of operating meeting our needs efficiently and satisfactorily?' 'Would it be advisable to adapt, within our constitutional framework, to meet the demands of an enlarging work and future growth requirements?'

The South England Conference Executive Committee has asked these questions, and in order to find the answers it was necessary to look at the facts with an amount of analytical thought. This involved facing areas which may have given cause for real or imagined grievances. Some of these found expression in such statements as, 'The administration does not have sufficient detailed knowledge of all the churches and their needs'. There is no local-level voice in Conference planning.' 'The further from the Conference office, the less interest there is in the churches and companies.' To these could be added other supposed shortcomings, and although not all are valid, yet, to be fair, they need to be considered.

The Lord's work is progressing. He 'is adding to the church daily such as shall be saved'. Branch Sabbath Schools are being started, companies are being formed and churches are being organized. This is all the more reason to strengthen fellowship and relationships throughout the Conference and provide a two-way flow of care – to our members, and by them for the organization.

Rather than treating each church as an isolated community, the Conference needs to be concerned with every church in relationship with its neighbouring churches and locality. The members, too, need to be thinking of the unfinished (often unstarted) work in the district, area or county around them. They are more familiar with this territory than anyone further afield or in the Conference office.

With these things in mind the Conference has now been organized into eight areas. These in general follow natural geographical boundaries. These

areas are merely an extension of the old district plan, but the enlargement has certain undeniable advantages. It helps in the overall administration. It fosters a greater fellowship within the area. It gives a knowledge of other churches. Broader plans can be laid for a more complete work and for spreading out into the unentered areas within the district. It gives a sense of concern and involvement.

District Advisory Committees have been set up in each area made up of all the ministers and an elder from each church and leader from each company. This committee discusses ideas and suggestions from members of churches represented, and projects and plans formulated to suit local needs. Inter-church co-operation can be fostered and joint-team action can be undertaken. The needs of the entire district can be discussed and a recommended list of local priorities can be fed back through a District leader for study by the Conference Executive Committee. This gives the Executive Committee detailed knowledge and provides 'grass-roots' information and suggestions for its decision making. For a detailed knowledge of the whole Conference the administration will be able to consult with the eight District leaders. District development and stability can be carefully weighed by the committee in evangelistic planning and worker placement.

As each district will have its own annual Day of Fellowship, not only will the members have opportunity to meet together, but also the Conference president will be enabled to meet with almost the entire membership each year. This is a considerable improvement and enhances communication and care.

The success of the plan depends to a large extent on an abandonment of any parochial attitude and a growing spirit of care and concern for other Adventist communities within one's enlarged district. Already even in these early stages there are indications by action, and participation, of a growing warmth for a growing work. The district plan is also being promoted by and for the various departments. For instance, the Youth Department has organized its work in the same district pattern having Youth sponsors and Youth Committees. An encouragement and enlargement of youth activities is being evidenced.

District adjustments, for the initial period at least, are as follows:

- 1) Cornwall and Devon
- 2) Somerset, Avon, Gloucester and North Wiltshire
- 3) Hants, Dorset and South Wiltshire

- 4) Surrey, Sussex and Kent
- 5) Oxford, Bedford, Berks and Bucks
- 6) Inner London
- 7) Middlesex, Herts and Essex
- 8) Cambridge, Suffolk and Norfolk

District leaders are not appointed for a set term or duration. Some are ministers with experience in leadership and organizing, others are younger ministers who are being given opportunity to develop a talent for leadership which, if proven, may one day be recognized by a nominating committee. Worker moves and appointments mean that District leaders are subject to change. The initial appointments are:

- 1) Pastor A. Hodges
- 2) Pastor R. Burgess
- 3) Pastor G. Anthony
- 4) Pastor G. Crutchfield
- 5) Pastor R. D. Vine
- 7) Pastor D. Sinclair
- 8) Pastor P. Stearman

District 6 is currently being cared for by the Conference president.

It must naturally follow, where District Committees recognize needs and make lists of recommended local priorities, that funds to make such progress possible are also necessary. The Conference Committee has taken the initiative in planning for this in two ways. First, it has arranged within the Treasury department that provision is made to handle a District Advancement Fund for each district. Then it has made possible a self-help funding in the following manner. Subject to the churches co-operating with the Conference in the 1% Development Fund, the Conference will allocate one-third of its income on tax return on Deeds of Covenant to the District Advancement Fund of the participating churches. This money will be used by the Conference for church buildings, evangelism, church debt elimination, etc. etc. within the districts having regard to the list of priorities drawn up within the district. This self-help programme will grow and grow in proportion to the goodwill and co-operation of the members. Through the allocation of these funds a programme of progress in each district can go forward in a way that has not been previously possible.

It is the sincere hope of the administration that our members will endorse this entire programme by their prayers and action. At the moment we are faced with a tremendous uphill struggle. Inflation attacks the Church. There are numerous challenges. The plans that have been made are a serious attempt to provide an onward positive approach that will lay the foundation for the breakthrough which must come if the Lord's work is to be finished within our territory.

This report would not be complete without thanking our believers for their faithfulness in returning the Lord's tithe and in making their freewill offerings. It is our prayer that the windows of heaven may be opened to provide continued spiritual blessings and soul-winning opportunities. K. H. GAMMON



CHURCH/INSTITUTIONAL IDENTIFICATION BOARDS

ALMOST all successful business organizations have a standard name board for easy identification. Whether one is walking through the main shopping thoroughfare of Thurso or Truro, well-known nameboards like 'Marks and Spencer', 'British Home Stores', 'W. H. Smith', etc. are readily recognized. The first law of advertising, repetition, has been applied; and not without considerable benefits!

However, if one undertook a tour of SDA churches and institutions throughout the British Isles to inspect nameboards, one would certainly find a variety as considerable as the products of H. J. Heinz! Somehow, the importance of standardizing the identification of our denominational buildings seems to have been lost sight of.

The writer had the privilege of visiting the Southern Union in the USA several years ago. Here an excellent identification symbol not only enhanced churches, schools, offices and factories owned by SDAs, but 'tied-up' the Union-wide programme in the mind of the on-looker.

The question of designing an acceptable name board, which would meet the needs of the whole constituency, was recommended to the BUC Communication Department at the two conference sessions which convened in

May 1978. Consequently, we would like to invite artistically-inclined church-members to submit:

- A 'logo' for possible use outside all SDA buildings, on letterheads, etc - so as to make possible 'instant recognition'.
- A format for a name board which could be manufactured in different sizes in order to meet local needs.

Designs must reach the BUC Communication Department by 30 May 1979. Even if you cannot claim originality for an idea, but you have seen something displayed in other parts of the world which appeals to you, please submit either a sketch or a photograph, so that it can be considered.

The BUC Executive will appoint a committee of 'experts' to advise them regarding the final choice. A prize will be given to the individual submitting the suggestion which is ultimately recommended to the constituency.

The BUC committee would not expect recently-acquired boards outside churches to be suddenly taken down for replacement by the new design; the change-over could be effected over a ten-year period.

Once the basic designs for the logo and name-board have been decided, quotations for various sized boards will be obtained from manufacturers by the BUC Communication Department, with the information being supplied to the field on request. Churches would then order direct from the recommended manufacturers.

It would be our plan, however, to illustrate the design which is approved by the Union Committee in the July issue of MESSENGER.

Please let us have your suggestions, in an effort to portray the name of the Church before the public in a clear and easily-recognized manner. W. J. ARTHUR

*Communication director
British Union*

MOSES AT GRANOSE



THERE is no need to introduce our new Sales and Marketing manager to readers of the MESSENGER - more especially perhaps to those in the south - but literature-evangelists all over the UK will know him well.

Brother Moses Elmadjian, who lives in Watford, has been a Publishing director in the South England Conference for four years, but was invited a short time ago to take his present post at Granose. The literature work has made great progress under his able leadership. We know that the loss of his service in the Publishing Department will be Granose's gain for a dynamic person like Moses will be a tremendous asset.

Moses is an Armenian and was born in Cyprus. The Armenians were a Christian nation oppressed and persecuted by Persians, Turks and others during most of their long history. Hundreds of thousands of them fled from the persecution

and emigrated to the Middle East and to many parts of the world. Most Armenians can speak many languages fluently and are good bankers, businessmen and craftsmen. The Armenians first accepted Christianity in AD 301. The Review & Herald has published a book telling the vivid story of an Armenian girl who endured hair-raising persecution and eventually became an Adventist nurse. The book is called *Exiled* and it is written by Serpouhi Tavoukjian.

Moses worked for nineteen years as the managing director of a leading radio and electrical household appliance company which was situated in the High Street of Nicosia. Then he was called to be secretary-treasurer of the Cyprus Mission, carrying the responsibility of several departments for a period of twelve years. While still a denominational worker, Moses and his family moved to Beirut in Lebanon to study at our Middle East College where he took Religion and Business Administration.

A year before he moved to England (after the Turkish invasion of Cyprus) he left his salaried work in the denomination and chose to be a literature-evangelist and immediately became the top colporteur in the whole of the Afro-Mid-East Division with over £1,400 sales a month.

Those of us who heard the thrilling story of his family during the war in Cyprus in 1974, when they had to flee to the refugee camps set up at the British bases in the Island, marvel at the way God worked in their lives and protected them. God eventually opened up the way in most unusual circumstances for them to move to England.

Like most Armenians, Moses can speak four languages fluently - Armenian, Greek, Turkish and of course English. His wife Alice, who has worked at the Granose office, now works at the Seventh-day Adventist Association Ltd. They have four children, Ani, studying at our Columbia Union College in the USA; Sylvia who is at Newbold College; and Madeleine and their son Alex are at Stanborough School.

We are confident that Moses will bring to Granose the enthusiasm and dedication he has shown throughout his work for the Lord in our little corner of the Lord's vineyard.

Moses says that one of his priorities is to make all the wide range of Granose products (with the new mouth-watering lines Granose makes) available to all our members throughout the UK at reasonable prices. He says you will hear a lot about it through the MESSENGER soon!

KAY MILLER
Public Relations Officer

CONGRATULATIONS. Our sincere congratulations to Jude Cuniah who graduated recently as Dr. of medicine at Montpellier University's Faculty of Medicine in France. His thesis was based on research in 'the role of dietary fibre in the prophylaxis of diseases affecting modern (civilized) communities', during a survey conducted in California (USA), on practising vegetarian communities, including Seventh-day Adventists. We wish Jude God's blessings in his medical career.

C. HINCKSON, *PR Secretary, Wood Green*

FIVE-DAY CLINIC ON WOMAN'S HOUR

MANY readers of MESSENGER will no doubt have heard the Radio Broadcast, 'Woman's Hour' 22 February 1979, when the problem of smoking and the advisability of stopping was discussed. The familiar voices of Bernard Kinman, Rex Riches and Lionel Acton-Hubbard will no doubt have been recognized.

The actual clinic at which some of the recording was made convened in Guildford, 5-9 February. This was a relatively small clinic and was conducted for the benefit of Newbold students, who had done all of the spade work in Guildford by way of a questionnaire and door-to-door visiting. The students also participated in the presentation of the 5-day Plan.

On two evenings, Anne McNamara from the BBC was present to record parts of the programme, and further to interview Rex Riches and Lionel Acton-Hubbard concerning the effectiveness of the programme. On the last evening she

spoke to some of the participants and recorded their appreciation of the programme and their hopes for the future.

The result of this Radio Broadcast has brought many requests for information regarding the 5-day Plan, which are filtering through to the South England Conference, the North British Conference, and the Missions.

We are always grateful for publicity of the work of the Church in this particular field, and once again it has been demonstrated that we have a programme in which the people involved with smoking are anxious to participate.

The accompanying pictures show Anne McNamara chatting over the programme with Rex Riches, and again sitting with participants, getting their reaction to the programme and its effectiveness. LIONEL ACTON-HUBBARD

Health Education and Communication director, SEC



FROM SUNDAY TO SABBATH?

Dr. Samuel Bacchiochi, author of *From Sabbath to Sunday*, has received many 'wonderful and positive responses' to his book from religious leaders of differing persuasions around the world.

Professor L. G. Patterson of the Episcopal Divinity School at the University of Cambridge states that the book marks 'a new stage in the study of the origin of Christian Sunday observance. . . .'

Marcus Ward of *Expository Times* concludes; 'After reading this, any reasonable man must question the general easy, uncritical acceptance of Sunday as the Lord's Day.'

There has also been a favourable review by a lecturer at the London Bible College, while Richard Bauckham of the Church History Department at the University of Manchester states that the work 'deserves very serious attention in the current search for the theological norms of the Christian day of worship'.

Another development has been a visit by the executive director of the 'Lord's Day Alliance', the American equivalent of the 'Lord's Day Observance Society', to the campus of Andrews University, where Bacchiochi currently lectures. This has led to Dr. Bacchiochi being given a *unique opportunity* on February 14th to present the Adventist position regarding the Sabbath at the annual board meeting of the 'Lord's Day Alliance', attended by fifty religious leaders from thirty different denominations.

Coincidentally, Arthur Torrington - a freelance Adventist reporter for the London Broadcasting Corporation interviewed a representative of the (British) 'Lord's Day Observance Society' regarding Bacchiochi's publication. The news report was featured on the 'Sunday Supplement' programme on 18 March from 8 pm to 9 pm on 261 metres.

W. J. ARTHUR
*Communication director
British Union Conference*

SAVING THE CHILDREN

MANY of us are concerned that the Word of God is no longer being taught in schools to our little ones, and that many of them are growing up without any knowledge of the great truths of the Bible. With this in mind Sister Monica Vesey of Reading church has started an activity group for the under-fives at her home in Wallingford.

A happy, busy day is filled with simple craftwork, games and exercises and the reading of one of the well-loved Bible stories, which the children listen to eagerly.

At Christmas a grand party was given for the group, when thirty children attended with their parents. Pastor Mike Stickland of Reading church, told the Christmas story to the children with the help of slides.

We pray God's blessing on Sister Vesey's venture and on the children in her care. E. D. HUGHES

LOVELESS AT NEWBOLD

WHAT do you look for Noah's ark, Sligo church, the International Family Counselling Association, and Newbold's Spring Week of Prayer, all have in common? Answer: Dr. Loveless, Principal of Columbia Union College and the speaker at Newbold's Week of Prayer.

Dr. Loveless drew on his wealth of experience from all walks of life to make his talks interesting. This is where looking for Noah's Ark and harpooning sharks off California come in. He has worked as a pastor for thirty years and is the only person to have pastored the two largest Adventist churches in the United States—Sligo and Loma Linda.

He is very interested in human behaviour and one of his specialities is counselling. These were combined in the theme of the week Caring+Confrontation = Growth. To grow one must have confrontation but this must be linked with love and care. If you confront or criticize someone in a negative way he will regress rather than progress. The only way we can achieve balance is in Christ.

The week consisted of early morning and evening meetings. After the evening meetings there were after meetings for the 'giraffes'. Here people were divided into groups of six called support groups. During this time we discovered the value of group Bible study, prayer and mutual support. It was not only of immediate help for those who stayed but also gave valuable training to those who are preparing for the ministry.

The week ended with a communion service on the Friday night. It began with a meditation and a very serious tone and gradually moved into a service of praise and thanksgiving.

AUDREY E. BOYLE

Communion service Friday evening. Dr. Loveless is at the head of the table. Michael Pearson, left, and Warren Johns, right, are the serving elders.



Discussion continues during the recess.

Photo: L. Acton-Hubbard

LEARNING TO LEAD

A two-day training Seminar for Departmental directors recently convened in the BUC boardroom, the first of its kind in the history of the Church in Britain.

Approximately twenty delegates (including administrators), participated in the discussion periods which followed lectures on such topics as Recognizing Priorities; Human Relationships; Effective Communication; Finance; Denominational Policies and Practice; Training Programmes; Office Procedures, etc.

The seminar certainly clarified a number of 'grey areas' which existed in the minds of some delegates; and it is hoped that the implementation of the emergent recommendation will lead towards greater impetus and co-ordination in the departmental programming both for membership conservation and Gospel outreach.

W. J. ARTHUR
Communication director
British Union

APPLIED EVANGELISM

THE dirty brown mini bus shuddered to a halt and the young hitch-hiker climbed in. He looked a bit surprised at the assortment of people, guitars and bags. Smiling tentatively he said, 'Thanks for the lift. My name is Chris. Who are you?'

David answered him: 'We're a group of students from Newbold College and we are on the way to Cornwall for the weekend.'

'Are you on holiday?' he asked.

'Not exactly. We're on our way to plan a series of Christian witness meetings.' Our hitch-hiker looked startled but thought he'd better look interested. 'What will you be doing?' he asked.

Gill replied this time, 'We are going down to meet with other young people from two SDA churches at Bodmin and St. Austell. We're all going to pool our ideas for the evangelistic meetings that we plan to hold there this summer at the end of August.' He looked even more incredulous as she went on to explain that most of the group were studying Theology—even the girls. Obviously Christ was beginning to think that he had been picked up by a bus-load of crack-pots! But as the conversation de-

veloped he began to see that we really believed in what we were doing. It turned out that nine of the ten of us from Newbold had been just as sceptical as Chris a few years before. Eight of us had only become Christians in the past four years. By the time we dropped Chris off at Bristol he had realized that at least Christians were normal!

For the Newbold students the planning sessions held with the Bodmin and St. Austell young people were a revelation. Suddenly classes like Introduction to the Ministry, Ministerium Practicum, Personal and Public Evangelism, became relevant as we grappled with such questions as: What type of meetings will we have? What type of person are we trying to reach? Young or old? Where will the meetings be held? What type of approach will appeal to the public most? Who can sing and play and talk?

By the end of the Sabbath some firm plans had been made and all the young people were able to relax and get to know each other better at a light-hearted social.

The Newbold group travelled back on Sunday, but the work has just begun.

Please pray for these plans between now and the end of August!

AUDREY E. BOYLE

CHRISTMAS IN MARCH

AFTER two postponements—through foul weather—our Edinburgh church was happy to welcome Dunfermline members, and others, to a very belated Christmas party. Despite the continued cold, but happily without the familiar snow, fifty people braved the night air to join in a happy evening organized by Pastor C. D. Baildam, ably assisted by his son, Dr. Andrew Baildam, and our latest 'proud father', Gordon Howard. Our members provided the food which was served by Sister Gullard and her helpers. It was a special joy to see so many children and young people present. Games and special items especially those from the 'Ogilvie family, were much enjoyed. Surely the Lord blessed our gathering.

Pastor Baildam's campaign has survived the snow, ice, strikes, etc., and approximately 35 people are faithfully attending. As the time draws near when he will present the difficult and testing subject of the Sabbath we would ask for your special prayers.

E. S. FERRIER

AFTER INGATHERING

Bring your family, come with friends, to:

CARAVANSERAI

the Lakeland caravan weekend retreat

27-29 April

Cost per 6-berth caravan £15

Guest Speaker—Pastor E. L. Henry,

NBC Secretary

Social evening—Beautiful walks—Activities

BOOK NOW: Send deposit with your name and address to: Pastor G. M. Bell, L.A. Director, North British Conference, 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham, NG3 5BZ.



HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR SABBATH SCHOOL

WHAT good fortune it was that the snow and ice that had blanketed Britain and paralysed rail and road links only a week before, had all but disappeared in time for the Sabbath School Leaders' Council held at Newbold College from 23-25 February. Some 50 or so Sabbath School superintendents and representatives from churches throughout the British Union were treated to a weekend of fellowship and instruction and when the time for farewells came, after lunch on Sunday, the verdict was unanimous—it had been a weekend well spent.

The programme had been conceived with the aim of assisting Sabbath School superintendents with the important task of planning and running a well-organized, effective Sabbath School department, and, from the start of the weekend's busy schedule none of the superintendents gathered was allowed to remain in any doubt about his or her responsibilities.

On Friday evening, Pastor Mike Stickland, a lively, enthusiastic evangelist from the Reading church, spoke convincingly of the great potential of each and every one of the Sabbath Schools in the Church. A weekly visit to Sabbath School should not simply be a token presence—Sabbath School is a soul-winning agency. But if members are to attend faithfully (and punctually) then Sabbath School departments must strive to make the Sabbath School the high spot of everyone's week.

That objective, though desirable, may seem daunting, and, if excuses are sought, then these are easily found. Sabbath School departments do not always possess trained teachers or an even mixture of age groups. In some of the larger cities and rural areas transport difficulties may provide an apparent excuse for unpunctuality. However, not only the weekend's remaining lectures and seminars but also Newbold's own most invigorating and inspiring Sabbath School made it plain that it lies well within the power and resources of every Sabbath School department to improve and extend the scope of Sabbath School activities.

From simple, practical suggestions from Pastor Alan Crowe, preceptor of Newbold College, on how to prepare the Sabbath School lesson—and the comforting reassurance that most teachers are made, not born—to Dr. Bryan Ball's concise analysis of the principles of successful teaching, the delegates were given a step-by-step guide on how to approach the 'core' of every Sabbath School—the lesson study.

Newbold church's Sabbath School supervisor, Sister J. Schomburg, gave more general hints on programme planning and Sister Betty Robertson, a teacher from Newbold church Sabbath School children's division used her own visual aids to provide some delightful examples of how to interest children in Sabbath School activities.

The council organizers, Mrs. M. Luxton, Sabbath School secretary for the

British Union and Pastor Bob Rodd, Sabbath School secretary for the North British Conference, had left nothing out. There followed further talks and discussions on the organizational and financial aspects of the Sabbath School, plus details about organizing Holiday Bible Schools and Branch Sabbath Schools and some of the delegates were so busy taking notes that one feared an epidemic of writer's cramp.

Come Sunday morning, and the closing lectures, there were not many blank sheets left in the notebooks given to the delegates by The Stanborough Press Ltd. and there was even a good deal of to-ing and fro-ing over lunch as ideas were exchanged and suggestions noted.

It is now up to the Sabbath School superintendents who attended the council to 'spread the good news' in their own Sabbath Schools back home. It will require diligence and determination to match up to the high standards we set ourselves over the weekend at Newbold, but it is not just the Sabbath School which will derive benefit from such an effort—it is the Church and its work as a whole.

I am sure all the delegates would join with me in thanking Mrs. Luxton, Pastor Rodd and their secretaries, for the amount of work they put into organizing the Sabbath School council and also the staff and students of Newbold College who helped make our stay there so pleasant.

INGA-BETH HINCHLIFFE
A delegate

WEDDING

PILMOOR—STRATFORD—Roy Pilmoor, younger son of Pastor and Mrs. Brian Pilmoor, was married at Helderberg College church, South Africa, by his father on 29 October 1978, to Sandra M. Stratford, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Stratford of Bulawayo, Rhodesia. Roy graduated from the Science Dept. of Helderberg College in 1977, obtaining his South African B.Sc. early last year and beginning work in the Computer field in South Africa. Sandra graduated from Helderberg with a Teaching Diploma in 1978. After the wedding Roy and Sandra left South Africa to come to England, where he has recently obtained employment in his chosen field in Windsor.

DOROTHY PILMOOR

een grandchildren, thirty-seven great grandchildren, eleven great, great grandchildren, and one sister. To them we extend our deepest sympathy.

C. HINCKSON
PR Secretary

DAINES, Minnie—d. 12 January 1979. Since suffering a major stroke more than three years ago, Sister Daines had been unable to attend the Hutton church she loved so much. She was baptized in 1941 after a campaign by Pastor C. A. Reeves and had always been a keen Bible student. Pastor A. J. Timothy conducted a brief service before the interment. Members of the Hutton church will remember her with deep affection.

E. ASHWORTH, *Church Clerk*

WRIGHT, Frederick William—d. 19 January 1979. It is with great sorrow that the Oxford church records the death of one of its charter members. Frederick William Wright, who was born early in 1881, passed away quietly earlier this year shortly before his 98th birthday. It was in 1961 that Brother Wright joined the ranks of the Adventist Church and later that year was married to his wife Muriel. Since that time both he and his wife have been regular, sincere members and have seen the Oxford church develop from its humble beginnings. In recent years all who knew him were amazed by his iron constitution, but alas, he suffered a slight stroke in May last year which marked the beginning of his last illness. The funeral service was held at the Oxford Crematorium on 26 January and was conducted by Dr. B. W. Ball, a previous minister of the Oxford church. Our prayers and thoughts are with Mrs. Wright at this time of bereavement, but it is with joy that we look forward to the glorious day of reunion that is only a short time away.

C. J. WOODFIELD
Church Clerk

Mrs. Muriel M. Wright would like to thank all those who offered prayer on her husband's behalf, those who sent messages of condolences and for the beautiful floral tributes. Please accept this as acknowledgement.

DICKINSON, R.—d. 1 February 1979. Brother Dickinson was baptized in July and made promise

of being a good servant of God, but he was not very robust. We extend our sympathy to his widow to whom he was married as recently as 13 August 1978, to his four sons by a previous marriage, and to their families. The service was conducted at Bishopthorpe Crematorium by Pastor R. G. Vine. In the meantime, our hope is in Jesus who will come and end all suffering.

G. HANSON
Church Clerk

SMITH, Muriel Lynda—d. 3 February 1979. Sister Smith was baptized by Pastor H. E. Armstrong in 1912 but had been attending the Cardiff church since 1897, brought by her mother, Sister Morris, a charter member. Sister Smith devoted her life to the church and filled numerous offices with great efficiency. The funeral service was conducted in the Cardiff church by Pastors Ernest Logan and Stewart Finlay. She now rests until the Resurrection Day. To her sons Gurney and Malcolm and step-daughter Essie, we extend our deep sympathy. 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.'

B. NEWELL
Church Clerk

WILLIAMS, James Charles Herbert—d. 4 February 1979. Brother Williams joined the Cardiff church in 1952, being baptized by Pastor D. J. Handysides, but for many years he had lived in Cornwall and attended our Liskeard church. We have grateful memories of the help he gave to the Cardiff church in former years and the beautiful communion table and minister's chair which he donated will be a lasting memorial. The funeral service was conducted in the Cardiff church by Pastor Stewart Finlay and our brother was afterward laid to rest in Cathays Cemetery. To his family we extend our sincere sympathy and look forward with them to the Resurrection Day.

B. NEWELL
Church Clerk

HASTINGS, Betty—d. 12 February 1979. Sister Hastings collapsed at her home in Corfe Mullen, Dorset, with a heart attack and died at Poole General Hospital. Betty had been a staff nurse at this hospital for over twenty years and the fact that she was much loved by her colleagues was evidenced by the many tributes paid to her and a write-up in the *Bournemouth Echo* by the hospital

OBITUARIES

MASON, ——d. 4 December 1978. Brother Mason was one of the founder members of High Wycombe church where he held many offices including Sabbath School superintendent and deacon, he was also involved with the missionary activities of the church. Brother Mason was cremated at the Chilterns Crematorium. The service was conducted by Pastor A. Cooper. We extend our deepest sympathy to all those who mourn our dear brother.

K. JEFFERS
PR Secretary

SWABY, Margaret—d. 1 January 1979. Sister Swaby became a member of the Wood Green congregation in 1977, after having diligently studied the doctrines and beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist faith under the able guidance of Brother T. Cuniah, our elder. In conducting the funeral service Brother C. Cook brought to mind the well-known text: 'Come unto Me all ye that labour . . . and I will give you rest', and continued to explain that though this was a time of intense grief and sorrow, we should, however, bear in mind that Christ is our bearer of burdens. Sister Swaby leaves to mourn four children, eight-

administration. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her aunt, Mrs. Charlotte Hastings, who had raised and educated Betty from five years of age. The funeral was conducted at Corfe Mullen by Pastor Don McEune of the Bournemouth church where Betty attended. DON MCEUNE

BRYAN, George E. D., evangelist—d. 13 February, 1979. Pastor George Bryan died after more than 23 years of Gospel Service. His death was a great shock to his dear wife Edna, to the family Mervyn, Heather, Warwick and Russell, and to all his many colleagues and friends inside and outside the ministry. He was fifty-eight years of age.

George had spent a very busy and eventful life. He loved the Work and the members for whom he toiled so hard. He was born in Birmingham, and there seemed to be destined to carry on the family business. However, he felt called to the ministry and gladly responded, taking his wife and young family to Newbold College so that he could receive the necessary training.

His service began in Dunfermline in the Scottish Mission. He then moved to Wales and did a fine work at Rhyl and Swansea. He then returned to his birthplace where he took charge of Camp Hill for several years. During his ministry over three hundred souls were added to that church and new churches were started in districts around. He cared for Erdington too, for part of his time in Birmingham, and ran a successful campaign at West Bromwich.

His work completed in the Midlands he moved to Merseyside and finally Carlisle. His health had been poor for some time and he found sleep difficult to achieve. Now he sleeps, his work done, surely his works do follow him.

To his wife and family the love and condolences of a wide circle of friends were expressed in the service so kindly arranged by Pastor B. Flynn in his beloved Camp Hill church on Wednesday, 21 February. Pastor Lloyd Antonio was the chief speaker.

George's work has been cut short unexpectedly. Let those of us who have survived him take up the task he has laid down. The return of Jesus that he proclaimed so enthusiastically will soon be here. When Jesus does come tragedies like this will be over eternally. Come quickly Lord Jesus. PASTOR K. A. ELIAS
NBC President

WILSON, Evaline—d. 13 February 1979. Sister Wilson was baptized at Norwich in 1965 by Pastor A. Cowley, having had studies with Bible instructor Miriam Ford. Our sister remained a very faithful member until her sudden death in her 80th year. Independence was a marked trait of her character. She was loved by all who knew her and we remember her with affection. D. L. GRAHAM
Church Clerk

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for my son David, a medical doctor, who was an Adventist until his university days. May the Holy Spirit impress his mind with the truth he once accepted. Secondly, please pray for my grandson, Jonathan, son of Pastor E. Lowe. He has a cardiac condition. Please pray that he will be healed. The assurance that fellow-members are praying will give us hope.

E. MARSHALL

Please pray for Fitzie Buchanan who has recently been baptized. He is having difficulty at work. Pray that God will solve the problem as He sees best. A SISTER IN CHRIST

Further Accessions to the Church for February

Bristol Central

Miss J. E. Henry, Miss B. V. Johnson
Miss N. D. Julius

Croydon

Mrs. A. Registe, Mrs. D. Roberts

High Wycombe

Miss C. A. Cain, Miss C. C. Haywood
Mr. V. A. Roberts

ADVERTISEMENTS

CAN YOU TAKE A CHALLENGE FOR GOD?

THEN apply to join the proposed Holiday Witness Camp in the beautiful Isle of Man from 22 June to 1 July. It is planned that the group stay in a Youth Hostel and have meals provided, giving added time for study, recreation, and witness. If you have musical talents, or are interested in running a Holiday Bible School, street witnessing, and house-to-house calls, then apply to Pastor Bob Rodd, Youth Director of the North British Conference, 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley Park, Nottingham, NG3 5BZ. Tel. Nottingham 606312. Cost £25 each. (This is heavily subsidized by the NBC and the Division.) Limited space, so not everyone can expect to go, but a group will be chosen for their various skills and abilities.

LEICESTER YOUTH DAY OF FELLOWSHIP

MAY 5

Special Guest Speaker: Pastor J. M. Huzzey,
Youth director, British Union.

Sabbath school 10 am
D.Vine service 11 am
Special musical programme 2.30 pm

At the Robert Hall Memorial Baptist church,
Narborough Road, Leicester.

Young people from all surrounding churches are
cordially invited.

ADVENT AUDIO VISUALS AMAZING OFFER!

We appreciate that it's hard to decide which of our musical cassettes will take your fancy, so we have produced a SAMPLE CASSETTE featuring one song from each of the eight SDA singers and musicians recorded by us in recent months.

WHAT YOU DO

- 1 Send 75p for this SAMPLE CASSETTE.
- 2 Listen to the songs and decide which of the singers appeals to you most.
- 3 Send for the full-length cassette featuring your favourite singer. (We will send a detailed price list with all SAMPLE CASSETTES.)
- 4 Return the SAMPLE CASSETTE to us, undamaged, and we will deduct 75p from the cost of any new cassettes you order. In fact, you can deduct this amount when making out your cheque/postal order, payable to British Union Conference. Orders should be sent to us at Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.

P.S. If you want to keep the SAMPLE CASSETTE that's fine by us!

Sabbath School Lesson Quarterlies

Cradle Roll	.50p
Kindergarten	.50p
Primary	.50p
Junior	.50p
Earlteen	.50p
Youth	.50p
Senior (2 quarters, paperback)	.60p

These are all operative from the 3rd Quarter, 1979.

Sabbath School Supplies

Item	Yearly	Quarterly
Cradle Roll, Picture Roll	£7.50	£2.00
Cradle Roll, programme helps	£3.75	£1.00
Cradle Roll, teaching aids	£2.75	.75
Kindergarten, Picture Roll	£7.50	£2.00
Kindergarten, programme helps	£3.75	£1.00
Kindergarten, teaching aids	£2.75	.75
Primary, Picture Roll	£7.50	£2.00
Primary, programme helps	£3.75	£1.00
Primary, teaching aids	£2.75	.75
Junior, programme helps	£3.75	£1.00
Junior, teaching aids	£2.75	.75
Earlteen, programme helps	£3.75	£1.00
Earlteen, teaching aids	£2.75	.75
Youth, programme helps	£5.00	£1.25
Adult, programme helps	£5.00	£1.25

These are all operative from the 3rd Quarter, 1979.

Periodicals

Item	Yearly	Auto Renewal	Single Copies
Adventist Review	£11.50	£9.25	.30p
Adventist Review (monthly)	£3.50	£3.50	.30p
Liberty	£2.25	£1.75	.50p
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Insight	£8.75	£7.25	.30p
Guide	£8.75	£7.25	.30p
Worker	£3.50	£3.00	.30p

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Bible Journey no. 1	£4.00 plus VAT	32p	£4.32
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These are all operative from 1st July, 1979

Order from your local L.A. secretary, or ABC sales, The Stanborough Press, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincs., NG31 9SL.

CHURCH ORGAN. The Oxford church has for sale a Harris-Wyvern electronic church organ with a separately mounted loudspeaker. Among the facilities included on this two manual instrument are a swell pedal, full pedal board, two preset couplers for each manual and a full complement of stops. The console and integral bench are both tastefully finished in afrormosia wood. Price £850. Contact Pastor R. D. Vine on Kidlington 6421 or Mr. D. Porter on Cumnor 2555.

CALLING ALL OVER 60s

SENIOR MEMBERS HOLIDAY AT BROOMHILL HOUSE

As in previous years a period has again been set aside for our senior members to spend a holiday at Broomhill House, which is set in the beautiful Devonshire countryside. Why not join those who return regularly each year to enjoy a holiday in a relaxed Christian atmosphere? Brother & Sister K. Hayes are our hosts and are renowned for their marvellous hospitality.

The dates are:

12-19 June 19-26 June 3-10 July 10-17 July
and the cost is £35 per week.

For further details please write *without delay* to: Broomhill House Co-ordinator, 25 St. Johns Rd., Watford, Herts., WD1 1PZ.

USA EXCURSION

SOME of you have written in regarding our 15-day excursion to the General Conference Session in Dallas, Texas, 17-26 April 1980. Please note that we have been informed officially that attendance at the *daily sessions* of the GC is for *delegates only*. Visitors will be allowed to attend the *last weekend*. That being the case the planned tour - to take in New York, Mount Vernon, Washington DC etc. will go ahead. Those interested should write to one of the following addresses: V. Grant, 61 Sheriffe Road, W. Hampstead, London, NW6. (Tel. 01-624 1947.) L. Atkinson, 2 Malfort Road, Camberwell, London, SE5. (Tel. 01-274 5804.)

NUMBERS. If you enjoy playing with numbers you may be just the person needed as a Personal Assistant (Part-time or full-time) to an Adventist Chartered Accountant in practice in St. Albans. Duties will include checking and preparing accounts, (both for church organizations and other businesses) typing and involvement with a planned computer installation. Salary will be related to ability. Please send details of experience to: A. Redfern, Chartered Accountant, 14 Sleepcross Gardens, Smallford, St. Albans, Herts.

Situations Vacant

House of Natural Foods, Leicester
We will shortly be opening another Health Food shop and Take-away in Leicester and are looking for full-time and part-time staff. Would interested applicants please apply in writing to: R. Poulton, Granose Foods Ltd., Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts., WD2 6JR.

House of Natural Foods, Bracknell
For our established shop in Bracknell, we require temporary staff during the summer holiday period and one person full-time, commencing September 1979. Would interested applicants please apply in writing to R. Poulton, Granose Foods Ltd., Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts., WD2 6JR.

TWO Swedish girls would like to work as home helps in English families this summer, while at the same time learning the language. For further details please write to Mrs. E. Stone, Varbergatan 39, 703 51 Orebro, Sweden.

NEW 4/5-berth touring caravan for hire. For details please contact Keith Nightingale, 'Shiloh', Bighton, Nr. Alresford, Hants.

THE WINTERTON MEMORIAL LECTURE

Delivered by Dr. B. N. C. Pritchard, M.B., B.S.,
M.Sc., F.R.C.P.

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A twenty-page booklet of absorbing interest. A must for men and women who are concerned about the alarming increase of alcoholism. Obtainable from: The General Secretary, United Kingdom Alliance, Alliance House, 12 Caxton St., London, SW1H 0QS.

20p plus postage.

ACCOMMODATION urgently needed in Newbold area for married couple during 1979/80 college year. If you have a spare room, or know of suitable accommodation, please contact us: Michael and Ruth Hamblin, 51 Drumnavaddy Rd., Dromore, Co. Down, N. Ireland, BT25 1JT.

AN Austrian Adventist (age 16-17), wishes to spend July and August as an au-pair with an Adventist family in England, in order to improve her English. Please contact Miss Giuliani, Dult 833, A-8101 Gratkorn, Austria

GUEST EDITORIAL by W. L. Emmerson

The New Pope's 'Civilization of Love'

A NUMBER of letters have been received from members up and down the country asking if we need to modify our attitude to the modern Papacy in view of Pope Jean Paul II's remarkable address at the opening of the Conference of South American bishops at Puebla, near Mexico City, and the appeal for a 'civilization of love' in the final message sent out at the end of the meetings, not only to the 'people of God' in Latin America, but 'to all the peoples of the world'.

Many have been impressed and indeed surprised by the 'evangelical' tone of the Pope's address, and many besides Roman Catholics have felt, like Norman St. John Stevas in the *Catholic Herald*, that it 'constitutes one of the great Christian and spiritual documents of our time'.

'Let yourselves be led by the Spirit,' the Pope began. 'Your principal duty is to be teachers of truth - not a human and rational truth, but the truth which comes from God.' 'Its essential content,' he went on, 'is Jesus Christ, whose mission consists in complete salvation through a transforming, peacemaking, pardoning, and reconciling love.'

We entirely endorse these and many more 'evangelical' affirmations which the Pope made in his address, but we still feel that prophecy provides us with a 'more sure' (2 Peter 1:19) understanding of the new papal strategy than the Decrees of Vatican II or reports from Puebla.

The emphasis of the Pope's first major policy speech must be interpreted in the light of the deep crisis of the Roman Catholic Church in South America. Because of the all-too-frequent association of the Church with the rightist dictatorships in that continent, and its apparent lack of concern for the poor and oppressed, a movement has grown up among Roman bishops, priests, religious, and laity which is allying itself with the leftist political parties for the alleviation of poverty and the securing of social justice for the deprived. It was actually in South America that the 'theology of liberation' was devised, which owes much to Marxism without accepting its atheistic basis, and which, like Marxism, is prepared to use violence for the attainment of its ends. And equally significantly this revolutionary theology seems to have been adopted as the new theological basis of the World Council of Churches!

It was to counter this serious movement for the 'politicization of the Church' that the Bishops' Conference was called - with a carefully selected list of delegates which excluded Gustavo Gutierrez, the founder of liberation theology - to re-emphasize the historic

policy of the Roman Catholic Church, which, since Augustine's *City of God*, has been the 'sacralization of society'.

'Christ as a political figure, a revolutionary, as the subversive man from Nazareth, does not tally with the Church's catechesis,' declared the Pope firmly. 'The Church' does not need to have recourse to ideological systems in order to love, defend, and collaborate in the liberation of man: at the centre of the message of which she is the depository and herald, she finds inspiration for acting in favour of brotherhood, justice, and peace, against all forms of domination, slavery, discrimination, violence, attacks on religious liberty, and aggression against man.'

So the Pope urged the faithful in South America to trust in Christ and Christ alone to bring to their continent and to the world a 'civilization of love'. 'Do not be content with this your human world,' he pleaded, 'make a world explicitly more divine, more according to God's mind. . . . Do not lose sight of the vertical orientation of evangelization.'

With all of which, as we have said before, we entirely agree. We believe, as the final Conference document asserts, that Christ is the 'centre of history' and 'the Lord of history'. But unfortunately, we cannot believe that Christianity as defined by the 'magisterium' of Rome is 'the complete proclamation of the truth about Jesus Christ, about the mission of the Church, and about the nature, dignity, and destiny of mankind.' Nor do we believe that the desired 'civilization of love' will be achieved by accepting the leadership of the 'See of Peter' and invoking 'the protection of the Mother of God', either as 'Our Lady of Guadalupe' or in any other of her alleged manifestations.

It will, therefore, rather be in the light of the infallible Word of God that we shall watch the development of the new papal strategy when Pope Jean Paul II visits his native Poland in June this year.

W. L. EMMERSON

JOTSAM

One real test of will power is to have the same ailment someone is going on about - and not to mention it.

Let us not anathematize those who stand in some other pasture and do not think our grass is as green as we think it is

R. H. PARR

Children have more need of models than of critics.

JOUBERT

In a moment the ashes are made, but a forest is a long time growing.

SENECA

OXWICH BAY, Gower, S. Wales. Luxury 8-berth caravan to let on Greenway Holiday Park next to Advent Youth Camp. Has children's bedroom and double end bedroom, running water, electric lighting and colour TV. Toilets, showers and shop on site. Write or phone Mr. J. Baker, 168 Chapelwood, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff. Tel. Cardiff 763220.



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	Lon'n	Car'f	Nott'm	Edin.	Bel't
April 13	7.53	8.04	7.59	8.14	8.23
April 20	8.05	8.16	8.12	8.28	8.36
April 27	8.16	8.28	8.24	8.43	8.49
May 4	8.28	8.39	8.37	8.57	9.02

MESSENGER

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