



ending down the 'mud'.

MESSENGER

CHURCH PAPER FOR SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS IN THE BRITISH ISLES

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FOR CHATHAM —

A MARANATHA CHURCH

Report by Moray Stewart and
Mike Cunningham

CHATHAM COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Electrician Ken Casper, left, discussing the layout.



Day One on the project.

Sunday 12 May saw the start of the Chatham project by the Maranatha group, which entailed erecting timber frames to give the basic outline of the building, enabling the bricklayers to proceed at a good speed.

Monday arrived with a deluge of rain, causing a major problem for the brickies until someone noticed rolls of polythene from which shelters were made, thus enabling them to continue working.

On Tuesday it also rained most of the day. With the rain came really cold weather which many of the Maranatha team were quite unused to and had not anticipated. However, they battled on despite the unhelpful conditions.

Wednesday came and they got a good day's work in and succeeded in raising both the interior and exterior walls up to first-floor level ready for the beams and concrete floor sections to be laid the next day.

On Thursday they wondered whether the recently-

constructed walls would bear the weight of the huge beams and floor sections forming the middle floor.

Disaster impending. By early morning on Friday the mobile concrete machine commenced to pour the sanctuary floor, while all over the site other work was in progress. Suddenly it was noticed by one of the Maranatha team below that the floor was bowing out and in danger of collapse, partly as the result of insufficient floor supports. The immediate vicinity was evacuated but the floor remained as it was so it was decided to inspect from below and shore up from beneath to take the strain. This having been done the floor was completed by lunch and left to set for a day and a half. Meanwhile, all around, the brickies were going higher and higher with each hour and by the first Sabbath had reached a considerable height.

Michael Toy, Chatham pastor, thanking Don Noble, the Maranatha co-ordinator.

The group deserved a well-earned rest with a visit to Newbold and then on to Windsor and back through London by night, which was much enjoyed by everyone.

On Sunday 19th it was back to the grindstone with an early start. There was much to do. Not many people have heard a cement mixer start up at 7 am on a Sunday. Until now we had had only three slight accidents.

One early on when Kenny Casper, the electrician, backed into a scaffolding clamp and had to have a couple of stitches — and was amazed they refused his money at the hospital! Dave Thomas had a block dropped on his foot when they fled as the floor bowed and buckled. Jules Toews, scaffolder, decided to wear the safety helmet he was given. Twenty

Continued on page 6



'IN THE BEGINNING' NEWBOLD CREATIONIST CONFERENCE 16-18 December 1985

An international and interdenominational meeting for scientists, teachers, pastors, editors and administrators.

Among the speakers:

Professor A. E. Wilder Smith (Switzerland)
Dr. Ariel Roth (Geoscience Research Institute)
Dr. Leonard Brand (Loma Linda University)
Dr. Bertil Wiklander (Ekebyholmsskolan)
Dr. Mart de Groot (Armagh Observatory, Ireland)

plus Malcolm Bowden, Leofric Rhodes, Terence Mitchell, Dr. Colin Mitchell.

Full board £50.

Write to: H. J. Dunton, Education Director,
BUC Offices,
Stanborough Park,
Watford,
Herts.
WD2 6JP.

ARE YOU LEAVING HOME FOR STUDY OR NURSING THIS SEPTEMBER?

Every year Adventist young people leave home for college, university, apprenticeship, nursing, etc.

We would like to keep in touch—through the Youth Department and through the local church—so please, if you are leaving home this autumn (or have children or local youth who are) let us know by writing to either the Youth Director, or the Education Director, BUC Office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts., WD2 6JP. Or ring us: Watford (0923) 672251.

In return, we will: send a copy of 'Encounter'; keep in touch with a newsletter; put you in contact with other Adventist youth via the ASA; put you in touch with the nearest church or pastor.



Above: Representatives of the various faiths at the Interfaith Service at Stoke. Right: Stoke's Mayor and Mayoress at Interfaith meeting.

INTERFAITH MEETING

On Sunday 9 June the choir from Stoke church and Pastor G. Dennis attended an Interfaith service held in the city of Stoke-on-Trent in the presence of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Stoke.

Taking part were representatives from various countries and denominations, including Jews, Quakers, Chinese and United Reformists. There was also a reading from the Holy Qur'an with English translation. Stoke choir was asked to lead the community singing and also to sing two items. It was a very enjoyable evening and the spirit of Christian friendship had to be felt to be believed.

Our thanks go out to Dr. Albert Waite of Stoke church for arranging the service. He is chairman of the Community Relations Council. We are also



indebted to Dr. Waite for taking the photographs. Thanks too, to Sister Vera Wright who trains the Stoke choir and keeps her patience with her far from perfect choristers, and last but by no means least, grateful thanks to Sister Pat Thompson our pianist without whom the choir could not exist.

MARGARET E. WILD,
Communication secretary

STOP PRESS

BUC Secretary Pastor
Everette Howell has been
called to be president of the
East Caribbean Conference.



28 SEPTEMBER MISSIONS EXTENSION CAMPAIGN BEGINS

► Before Missions Extension begins you order a special supply of the designated Missions Extension issue of FAMILY LIFE (this is over and above the standing order your church already has).

► Personal Ministries leaders at church level organize members into bands to sell the magazines for Missions (the retail profit on each magazine is put towards a designated Third World project).

► This year's FAMILY LIFE 'special' tackles the problems of drug addiction and alcoholism in Britain, is co-edited by Martin Bell, and leads with the story of the baby girl who was a heroin addict at birth...

Our Life Together

BAPTISM AND BELONGING

by Charles Scriven

I was 12 the day I wore the black robe. When I took it off, dripping wet, I felt as solemn as a monk, wondering what my baptism really meant, imagining how it would change my life. I remember thinking that now my 'slate was clean', now my sins were gone and I was starting again. I thought, too, of how this day I had made a promise to give my life to God.

It no doubt occurred to me that I had joined the Church, but that I had joined a community, a fellowship, was not clear. Paul had told his friends in

Corinth (in chapter 12 of 1 Corinthians) that when we are baptized we bind ourselves to 'a body', the 'body of Christ', and he had meant by this that we splice our lives with other lives in Christian solidarity. Yet I did not see this, or see it plainly, when I was 12.

Still, my baptism had taken place and I did belong, in a new way, to the Church. During the years the meaning of belonging and the importance of it, grew clearer. In my mid-20s, married now and father of a child, I went with my family one Sabbath afternoon to a red-brick house in Takoma Park, Maryland. We were about to move West and our best friends were going to bid us farewell. At sundown we made a circle and honoured the fading Sabbath. The friend who led out opened a book called *Life Together*—it is by the courageous German, Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer—and he began to read from the chapter on 'Community'. The first lines in the chapter are from Psalm

133: 'Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!' A few paragraphs later come these words: 'The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer.' I felt both joy and strength, as darkness overtook the daylight, and so did the others who were there.

The phrase 'life together' has ever since been special to me. I have continued to be grateful for my own baptism into the body of Christ. And I have continued to wonder what the full meaning of this might be, especially what it might be for us, for Seventh-day Adventists. Over the next several months I intend to explore these matters with you, to reflect—biblically—upon Our Life Together. We will not have to grope after things to think about, for although this life involves fellowship, it involves much more as well.

Or so we'll see if we keep on looking.

SOCCKER-MAD SYMON SAYS, 'NEVER ON SATURDAYS'

Hats off to Symon Burgher! Hats off! I say. For while his elders have been arguing about the Investigative Judgement, and the Year-Day Principle, the implications of Hebrews 9 for the Sanctuary Doctrine and who should be the next president of the South England Conference, Symon has been standing for principle. While his elders have been debating the finer points of the theory, Symon has been taking a stand on practice and principle, and a firm stand at that.

I can't resist casting his story on the plain of Dura. The Great King of that land, flanked by his satraps, his prefects and his judges, has assembled together on the plain all the people to do homage to the Great Image he has set up, which may be called Fame, Riches, Stardom or simply the Gross National Product.

And there we all are on the plain of Dura. 'Then the herald loudly proclaimed, "This is what you are commanded to do, O peoples, nations and men of every language: As soon as you hear the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipes and all kinds of music, you must fall down and worship the image Whoever does not . . . will immediately be thrown into a blazing furnace."' Daniel 3:4-6, NIV.

The sound of the horn, the flute, the zither and the rest whine forth, and the satraps extend a beady eye over the assembled millions to see who does not prostrate himself. The beady eye catches a motley crowd over on the far right – and what's doing?

They are the Adventists of the British Union.

A few of them are cumbered about the person with so much of this world's goods that they're crumpled towards the ground, all but prostrate before the Gross National Product anyway. The satraps can virtually afford to overlook this contingent. They have too much of a stake in the Kingdoms of this World that, come the crunch, they'll hang on and hope (actually *hope*) that the glorious sight appearing far beyond and above the GNP, a dazzling brightness extending from sky to sky, is *not* the Lord returning. 'I've only just changed to a Montego 2 litre', protests one. 'We've bought a new video', groans another. 'And our five-bedroomed detached in Ruislip', whinges a third. 'No worries there', Mr. Satrap reports to the Great King on the plain of Dura.

The beady eye of Mr. Satrap lights on an animated group engaged in fervent argument. 'One doesn't actually have to prostrate one's self,' booms an authoritative voice, 'just adopt a general posture of genuflexion.' 'Yes, indeed,' pronounces a second authority, 'and, further to that, are we quite clear that the Commandment specifically forbids bowing down to an image of this type? On the issue of icons, Sister White is less than clear, and Bultmann considers the whole thing a nonsense anyway. Oh, I *do* wish I had a copy of the *Commentary* to hand.' 'For goodness' sake let's not stand out like a sore thumb', expostulates a determined man. 'Remember the importance of PR, the *image* of the Church, how it is

perceived in the Secular City.' 'A little bending of the back, a little bowing of the head, no harm done, and the crisis will be over', says a spokesman for the Silent Majority – all oblivious of the vault of Heaven full brilliant with angels. Oblivious too of the little flock who, faced with the Image, have resolutely refused to bow – and, heads erect and radiant, are being led in chains to the fiery furnace, and the Form like unto the Son of God stepping from the dazzling angel-throng to join them. Their obedience, born of Calvary-love, has brought them peace and joy in the crisis. And their white robes of righteousness (*His* righteousness) are fire-proof – even when the Great King of this world orders that the furnace be heated seven times hotter.

A touch melodramatic, you say? Well, maybe. But you see, what has caught my attention is a full-page newspaper report that tells me that, at a time when some of our greatest minds are engaged in the dissection of hairs, and when not a few of our finest preachers are passing out polythene packets of those split hairs in place of the Bread of Life, that one idealistic young Adventist has refused to bend the knee to the GNP because of the Sabbath he loves, and has thus turned his back on a sparkling career in English soccer.

'If it wasn't for his Sabbath,' reads the newspaper report, 'Symon Burgher would be sitting on some hot-spot beach contemplating his future of English soccer caps, beautiful girls and sports cars.'

Apparently this 18-year-old mid-fielder, who has played for Exeter City and excited enquiries from Luton, Cardiff and Aston Villa, has blown the whistle on Saturday play.

Symon was first spotted when still at school and, subsequently, has made twenty professional appearances for Exeter City. Now he has taken his stand for the Sabbath.

All the arguments have been brought into play against him. His father and brothers are understandably disappointed at what they see as his inflexibility and would like to see him bend. Mike Radford, his coach at Exeter City, cannot see why Symon cannot pursue a successful soccer career alongside his faith. 'Surely all sects should show a little flexibility on matters like this', he said.

But Symon will have no truck with compromise. He has turned his back on the Golden Image. Others may prostrate themselves before Fame, Fortune and the GNP. Not Symon. He plans to teach PE in an Adventist school and eventually to enter the Gospel ministry. Only his mother understands that the call has come from the Lord.

Hats off to Symon Burgher! Hats off! I say.

May God give more of us the courage to stand firm and true by His side, eschewing the dissection of hairs, disseminating instead the Bread of Life, and walking with 'the Form of the Fourth which is like unto the Son of God' through the fiery furnace, fireproofed by the white raiment of His righteousness.

D. N. MARSHALL

NEWS DIGEST



Pastor and Mrs. David Lawson.

SAD FAREWELL

Sabbath 13 July was a happy-sad occasion for the Lawson family. Pastor David Lawson was the preacher at a communion service for the Stanborough Park church, of which he is a member. However, this was to be his final sermon to the Park congregation before his return to Australia.

Pastor Lawson has spent the last ten years as Ministerial secretary at the Northern European Division. In accepting this post he succeeded another Australian, Pastor Coltheart. He has particularly close connections with Stanborough

Park since both of his daughters, Kaylene and Jenny, attended the School prior to further training in their homeland.

Pastor Lawson well remembers his arrival in England on 29 February when their plane was delayed by fog – his first introduction to Europe! During the past decade he has had opportunity to visit many countries in our Division, as he has planned and conducted public campaigns, often through a local interpreter. In actual fact, he says, he has only spent a total of about two and a half

ESSEX COUNTY SHOW

Despite foul weather 4,000 contacts were made and 7,200 magazines and leaflets were given out at this year's Essex Show. To date there are seven serious interests. Chelmsford church are grateful to SEC Area 8 for the loan of their marquee, which we decorated with bunting inside and out.

The displays included Anti-Smoking, Granose food tasting, the Press book stand, photographic coverage of youth activities, a huge world map showing the location of SDA churches and institutions across the globe, an ADRA information board, a fruit juice

stand – and a scale model of the Ark.

When the exhibition was over Mr. J. Morrell, a freelance journalist, wrote to the Chelmsford church that he was so 'impressed by the straightforward sincerity' of the Adventists that, after a lifetime of hostility to Christianity, he was going to make a commitment; 'I am not sure where I will finally settle but I know there will be a Seventh-day Adventist church nearby – according to your map there is a wide choice of locations.'

A. N. HILL

years in this country!

It was hard to have to say goodbye to the many good friends at the Park, he said, particularly since the time when he ran campaigns simultaneously at Stanborough church and Hemel Hempstead in 1982.

COMMUNICATION
DEPARTMENT

FAREWELLS AT ERDINGTON

At Erdington on Sabbath 10 August we had a double portion of farewells. Firstly, it was the last occasion for our minister, David Hole, and his wife Gloria to be with us prior to their departure to take up their

ministry at Aberdeen. In his closing sermon Brother Hole told us that the Christian life preached the best sermon, and that love to one another was the greatest proof that we are Christ's disciples. A presentation from the members consisted of some useful tableware.

The second farewell was to Brother and Sister L. Stoddart. Hailing from the West Indies, they have been members at Erdington for sixteen years. They are returning to their native land, but to remind them of England, they were presented with a framed painting of the English countryside.

N. PRIEST

HIGH PROFILE FOR ADVENTISTS

Adventists were very much in evidence for all seven days of the exhibition held in the West Bromwich precinct. Every aspect of Church work was covered and every belief high-

lighted. The anti-smoking sessions and the anti-drugs film were a main attraction and ensured a high profile for Adventists.

BRENDA BIRTH

Every department of the West Bromwich church was represented at the Exhibition, including Sister Mitchell with her Community Services team and Sister Johnson and her health team.

Leaflets, magazines, correspondence school enrolment cards – all were available at the West Bromwich stand.



Granose Sales representative, Paul Eaton, made sure that health foods were in evidence.



AS ADVERTISED IN
"THE PEOPLE'S FRIEND"



**find
the
way to
real
satisfaction**

Learn more about the 'people's friend' Jesus
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A series of twenty-four guides that show how
• Gain peace of mind • Relate to suffering
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ill • Have confidence for the future.

**THESE GUIDES CAN MAKE THE BIBLE
COME ALIVE - FOR YOU**

Learn what the Bible can offer you - fill in the
coupon overleaf and post TODAY.

October and November. Ask your Personal Ministries leader for further details.

... ABOUT OUR CONCERN FOR STUDENTS' PROGRESS

We appreciate that if students are to gain full benefit from their studies, it is helpful to have personal contact with them. To make this possible we invited the local ministers to deliver personally over 900 certificates last year. Those students who reach lessons 7-10 of the *Great Teachings* and *Take His Word* courses may receive, if they wish, a per-

... ABOUT THE NEEDS OF THE SCHOOL

This year 47 per cent of our budget must be raised from donations from students and members, so we must let our friends know of our financial needs. To meet these expenses we hope to raise £16,000 in the second half of this year. Sabbath 21 September is the day appointed for the churches to take a special offering for the Bible School. If you have a VOP savings box, why not add its contents to the offering you were planning to give? I know also that some members for the past ten weeks have been saving 20p weekly for this offering. This support is greatly appreciated. When you invest in the Lord's work, the Lord 'stretches' your money.

Recently we realized it was necessary to replace our ancient postage scales. Each week we send 400 to 500 items of post, so accurate scales are essential. Just as we were looking at the possibility of purchasing some electronic scales, we received a donation of £300 from a member requesting we use it to purchase some needed equipment. This came just at the right time. We contacted an Adventist businessman stating our need, and a few days later he came to the office with the latest computerized scales. While these were just what we needed, we explained we could not afford such sophisticated equipment. He appreciated our problem and offered a 75 per cent discount, thus enabling us to make the purchase. Now, by pressing a button, we can have displayed the weight, cost of first and second class postage, as well as overseas and airmail costs.

Whenever we give to the Lord, be it money or time, He blesses it and miracles do take place. We hope you will put God to the test - and we will seek TO LET YOU KNOW.

CHURCH SERVICES START IN BURY ST. EDMUNDS

Sabbath 27 July was an historic day in East Anglia. The very first regular Adventist church services began in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. In all, about thirty-five adults and children met together in the Guildhall for Sabbath school and divine service. These brethren and sisters had come from far and

VOP FACTS - 1984

Applications	11,773
Active students	3,749
Test papers graded	33,619
Graduates	1,413
Interests reported	448
Students baptized	51

SOURCE/APPLICATIONS - 1984

Card distribution	2,218
Magazine adverts	1,373
Student recommendations	2,181
Ingathering	1,831
Literature-evangelists	1,769
Application pads (members)	765
Ex-student - further studies	866
5-Day Plan	251
Gateway card	26
Displays	76
Miscellaneous	419

21 SEPTEMBER VOP OFFERING DAY

wide to form the Bury Adventist group. There were representatives from Newmarket, Haverhill, and the scattered villages of Norfolk and Suffolk, as well as the USAF Base at Lakenheath.

The Sabbath school lesson was taken by Ron Edwards of Haverhill, and the divine service by Robert Surridge, Lowestoft pastor. Brother Edwards also led us in the 'a cappella' singing of some good old Adventist hymns.

ROBERT SURRIDGE

YOUTH WITNESSING

Manchester North youth leaders have been psyching up all the youth for a witnessing campaign throughout the summer. At every AYS meeting this year the leaders have concentrated the minds of the young people on this plan. When it came actually to going out witnessing in the neighbourhood, most young people were well ready. They have already gained much ground. Look out for future reports.

PATRICK McKERROW

Gospel Concert

With TV stars 'The Inspirational Choir' and The Edwards Sisters on
Saturday 19 October at 7 pm
at Ferneham Hall, Fareham, Hants.

Contact: L. Williams on 0494 444687.

LET THE PEOPLE KNOW...

by Pastor K. F. Taylor,
PRINCIPAL, VOP CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

Tracey is a girl in her late teens who is one of the 3,749 students who studied a VOP correspondence course in 1984. After reading the lesson on the second coming of Christ, she wrote to the School: 'I didn't know how near the return of Jesus was until I read your lesson. Now I believe I should share this Good News with others.' She has been given some VOP cards and is enjoying sharing the good news of the soon return of Jesus.

... ABOUT JESUS CHRIST
The Bible School is inviting you once more to take an active part in LETTING PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT JESUS CHRIST and the salvation that can only be found in Him. During the months of October and November, advertisements will be placed in the popular women's magazine *The People's Friend*. This magazine has a national weekly circulation of 655,000 and an estimated readership of one and a half million people. Thanks to generous donations from various members, we are able to place two adverts costing a total of £920, one in the 3 October issue and the other in the 21 November issue. We invited the Press to design the advert and also a VOP card in conjunction with it. The adverts inform the reader that *The People's Friend* is Jesus who brings satisfaction to life. We are inviting the churches to order a supply of these specially-designed cards and to distribute them from door to door during the months of

personal visit to help them with their studies. The ministers were sent 480 such requests for visits. As a result, we get letters from our student saying how much they appreciate this service. *You will be pleased to know that last year fifty-one students were baptized as a result of their own study and personal visiting by ministers.*

... ABOUT THE PROGRESS OF THE STUDENTS

Each year members faithfully distribute thousands of cards and in the past have not always heard the results of their labours. For some years we have been reporting to the local minister all those who have enrolled in a Bible course in his area. Many workers have more than one church, so unfortunately this information does not always get through to the individual church concerned. Now, thanks to a computer, we are able to send a report each quarter to the Personal Ministries leader giving a list of all active students in the area of his church. Last year we also received over 1,700 applications from our literature-evangelists. We inform each of them when their applications have been processed and each quarter notify the Publishing directors of all the literature-evangelist applications and active students. Two men, one in London and the other in the Midlands, have been appointed to take care of all contacts made by the literature-evangelists and these men receive a weekly report.

Continued from front page

minutes later a thirteen-inch block fell on his head. Needless to say the hat never left his head until the end of the project!

Specialist help. By now the specialists were at work. Lloyd from Tottenham was beginning to plaster the lower walls. Lloyd Rennals from Lewisham was supervising the electrical wiring, while Dave Miller started the central heating and plumbing.

At the edge of the car park a giant plinth was laid to hold a template for the first of the huge roof trusses, under the supervision of Lee Gates and Bob Dasher. Meanwhile all the ladies were moving to and fro on the site with bricks and blocks carrying and passing tirelessly. They kept at it all day. Passers-by remarked that it was wonderful to see so many people smiling while working.

Of course, a project such as this needs many items after it commences. For this they have 'gofers' – go for this, go for that – and both the writers volunteered for this task. Not a job we would readily jump at again, as our feet rarely touched the ground!

By Thursday morning the breeze-block walls had attained the full height, just a day or so later than anticipated. The trusses had then to be lowered onto cement which was only a few hours old. Hollis Scarborough called for special prayers during lunch break as they had never attempted this manoeuvre before. The Lord heard our request and guided the crane driver's hands with precision, and not one drop of mortar was squeezed out of place. This was repeated twelve times.

Show stopper. The last day of the project started off at full speed as Maranatha were racing against time to complete the roof with some 1,500 tiles. By now the place was frantic and a long chain of people were lined up across the site, up the scaffolding and onto the roof. In the late afternoon there was a jubilant shout as Fred Speck and Dane Wilbar had just laid the last brick right at the top of the building. That just left the north side of the roof to be completed.

If there was a show stopper, this was it.

The time was 6 pm. Below us

was a slow-moving queue of cars and every face was upturned as they saw a human chain of people moving tiles at a great pace along the roof. At 7.45 pm the last tile was laid. And so the building was completed, although sadly not finished entirely, due to the weather and complexity of the design, together with the strict building laws of England.

They could not proceed as far as they would have liked and agreed it was a three-week project. However, we are extremely grateful for the good fellowship and many friends we made and the regular meals prepared by Marie Schaffer and her ladies from Maranatha and from Chatham.

Help from United Reformed Church. Our thanks to Yvonne Haroon for her assistance with the fruit, vegetables and cash-and-carry contacts, enabling us to receive a favourable discount on the vast amount of food that was consumed. We

are indeed deeply indebted to the board and members of the United Reformed Church which we took over entirely. What other church would allow one of their store rooms to be converted into a two-cubicle shower unit? As it turned out, they were more anxious about the progress of our project, and we look forward to the day in the near future when they will all be at our official opening.

Nearing the end! We are, at last, nearing the end of the many jobs still to be done, and we extend our gratitude to Keith Fowler who makes regular trips to the site in his pick-up, which he calls 'God's truck', enquiring about materials needed.

So, as we look at our church each week, we can still hear those two words that rang right across the site – 'more mud'. With real anticipation we look forward to the day when we shall be worshipping in our lovely new church.

INGATHERING CONTACT REBAPTIZED

Amie was an Adventist in the Philippines but lost contact with the Church when she migrated to Britain. During Ingathering, Hounslow elder S. S. Philbert called at her door. Her interest was renewed, Bible studies were conducted, and now she has been baptized by Pastor James Cuthell.

M. HINDS

FIRST BAPTISM IN NEW BAPTISTERY

Sabbath 6 July was a special day for Sutton-in-Ashfield – in many senses of the word special. In addition to all the usual Sabbath school exercises, after the re-assembly of all the classes, we enjoyed two special action songs for the children aged 10 and under. After the missions appeal we closed with a trio item sung by three of our young people, Karen, Elizabeth and Graham. The guest organist for the day was John Tolman of London.

Local pastor, Philip Rhodes, brought a special blessing during divine service. At the conclusion of the morning service a 'faith lunch' – all food provided by members – was served to all who wished to share it. This proved a very good way of

cementing friendships and making new friends.

At 2.45 pm a special baptismal service was held. Apart from every such service being 'special', this was particularly so as it was the first time the new baptistery at Sutton church had been used. While all their relatives and friends looked on, two young ladies were immersed by Pastor Rhodes. Maureen Nicholson and Karen Smith now join all the other members of their families in the Advent faith. Karen is leaving home to further her singing career in London and Maureen already works away from home. The church was packed with relatives, friends and visitors. The events were recorded on cine film by Eddie Langley, elder of the Nottingham Bulwell church.

IVY BINKS

EARLIER SABBATH SCHOOL AT WEYMOUTH. From 5 October 1985 Sabbath school will begin at 10 am, followed by Divine service at 11 am. All visitors welcome to the Radcliffe Hall, Queens Road (off Spa Road), Radpole, Weymouth. Church Clerk.

GREECE. Adventist young lady required to work as an au pair for one year (minimum) to assist housewife who suffers from spinal illness. Accommodation, fare and pocket money provided. Phone (0476) 64284 ext. 31 or (0476) 70689 (evenings) for further information.



Pastor Lane baptizing Brian Palfrey.

ACTION-PACKED DAY IN THE ACTION CHURCH

Sabbath 29 June was a long and memorable day for the members of the Newport Seventh-day Adventist church. Sandwiched between two special children's programmes in the morning and evening was a service of baptism for two young people.

The day began with the children, who took over the Sabbath school for the thirteenth Sabbath programme. Newport is blessed with a large contingent of children, and about fifteen of them contributed to the service with songs, recitations, prayers, in fact everything except the teaching of the lesson.

The Sabbath school was followed by the baptism of Debbie Ward and Brian Palfrey. Debbie has grown up in the Newport church, and is already active as Sabbath school secretary. Brian is from nearby Cwmbran, and several members of the Cwmbran company had travelled to Newport to witness his baptism. Both young people were baptized by Pastor L. A. D. Lane.

This service was also attended by Douglas McGregor, a photography student from the local art college. Every year the college produces an illustrated book on a particular aspect of life in Newport. Next year the book will be about the religious life of the town and, hearing that the Adventist Church practised baptism by immersion, Mr. McGregor came along to photograph the occasion for the book. We were happy to welcome him.

again came to the fore when ten Pathfinders were invested by Welsh youth leader, Pastor Neil Robertson. There were six Busy Bees: Marijke, Sylvia, Anika and Garth Williams, and Lisa and Nicholas Morgan; three Sunbeams: Edward and Rebecca Sammons and Ryan Pimm, and one Helper: Ian Morris. Ian and Ryan also received special awards for Endeavour and Proficiency.

After their exertions of the morning, the children showed commendable endurance in putting on such a display. Their stamina was surpassed only by that of their leader, Sister Vera Machell, who had put them through their courses and prepared them for the investiture.

The children gave us joy in the present and hope for the future. They had brought a day of blessings to a perfect end.

JOHN WILLIAMS and
JANET PENNY

WEST MIDLANDS YOUTH EVANGELISM

Since the NBC appointment of a West Midlands Youth Evangelist, almost every church in the West Midlands has made plans for some form of youth evangelism. So far public youth crusades have been planned for Windsor Street, Newtown, Handsworth, Coventry, Dudley and Wolverhampton.

One of the best results so far is from the little church at Newtown where, during a three-week campaign, at least twenty people indicated their acceptance of Christ as Saviour, and of those twenty, nine indicated a desire for baptism either now or at a future time. In Wood End, Coventry, an evangelistic task force of largely West Indian young people has just started a campaign, and at the first house meeting twenty non-Adventists were present, sixteen of whom were white. The task force is running two house meetings a week and one meeting in the newly-acquired church premises. The team also plans to visit every home on the Wood End estate to share the Gospel message by word or with literature.

In Handsworth, although the public evangelistic crusade does not begin before the autumn, all year long young people have systematically distributed thousands of copies of John's gospel. Chelmsley Wood have adopted a similar door-to-door scheme in a

selected area, hoping to cultivate contacts into Bible studies. Although the territory is harder there than in the centre of Birmingham, lots of people have been enrolled for VOP courses. At the moment the momentum is growing in Chelmsley Wood and more Bible contacts will surely come.

Chelmsley Wood was the first church in the West Midlands to promote an evangelistic concert, staging 'The Witness'. From one night's performance eight non-Christians came forward at the appeal, five of whom requested Bible studies. Last Sabbath two of these interested people, together with their children, attended church for the first time. Chelmsley now plan another evangelistic concert for the autumn, using the Handsworth Youth Choral, and Newtown is planning something similar in September.

A new venture with vast potential in the West Midlands is child evangelism, and already Tamworth, Windsor Street, Wood End and Newtown have started child outreach programmes after attending a four-night course on the art of bringing children to Christ. At least 100 children from non-Adventist backgrounds have attended these four outreaches.

CARL FLETCHER, West Midlands Youth Evangelist

CHRISTIAN SINGLES. Social events. Fellowship groups. Nationwide. Weekend house parties. Holidays, home and abroad. New friends. Full details: Christian Friendship Fellowship, Dept. A80, Edenthorpe, Doncaster.

SELF-SUPPORTING missionary doctor, interested in buying your older SDA books and periodicals (prior 1940). Particularly interested in older editions of E. G. White works and books by E. J. Waggoner and A. T. Jones. Please send list of what you have available (title, author, date, condition) and price desired. Will gladly pay shipping costs. M. Lebowitz, PO Box 25, Mount Zion, WV 26151, USA.

ADVENTIST STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

All students are invited to join us for the day, Saturday 12 October, at Cardiff SDA church, corner Rawden Place, Cowbridge Road East, Canton, Cardiff. For further details please contact: John Surrridge: 0222 761850, or Pastor Robertson: 0495 226963.

CONGRATULATIONS to June Thompson of Manchester North on graduating with a BA Honours degree in Linguistics.

to Pauline Southcott of Watford on successfully completing her LLB degree (with Honours) from London University.



The baptismal candidates with Pastors D. Masih, A. Conroy and E. L. Henry.

Photo: E. Chisholm

CAMP HILL REJOICING

Sabbath 22 June was indeed a special one for the members at the Camp Hill church. The Personal Ministries department organized the morning services and the day's events culminated in a baptism in which five candidates (three from Camp Hill and two from Yardley) became, as Pastor L. Henry expressed it in his sermon, 'registered citizens of God's Kingdom'. Two of the candidates, John and Sally Khallahae, are from Papua New Guinea. John is currently studying accountancy at the University of Birmingham.

The baptismal service was conducted by Pastor D. Masih and musical praise was provided by the Camp Hill Male Voice choir.

H. E. SIMON, Communication secretary

LEWISHAM BAPTISM



'Hurry up, photographer! It's going to rain!' The Lewisham baptismal candidates.

On Sabbath 8 June members of Lewisham church joined with families and friends to witness the baptism of six dear souls, Fitz Herbert Wallace, Edward Kanyemba, Jenifer Nelson, Beryl and Lebert Channer (wife and husband) and Queen Ann Sarraf, formerly of USA now residing in England. Our guest speaker, Pastor A. A. Charles, SEC Youth director, spoke on the subject, 'He Pleased God'. The candidates were immersed by Pastor T. A. Sargeant, and after he had made an appeal, several people came forward indicating their wish to follow Christ. Our prayers accompany all the dear souls who have now become citizens for the kingdom.

HILARY JAMES, Communication secretary

to Dr. Rita Robson of the Newcastle Upon Tyne church on obtaining her Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologists.

to Simon Hunter, also from Newcastle, on obtaining a BA Honours degree in commerce at Sunderland Polytechnic.

Article eight – in Cradle Roll – THEME EXERCISES AND VISUAL AIDS

If you are following the recommendation of moving the presentation of the lesson to follow the opening exercises, you will plan the last twenty minutes or so of your programme with songs, finger-plays and activities on the quarter's theme.

Never prepare a programme with items which have no connection or focus. Tiny tots should be able to leave Sabbath school with a clear idea of what you have been trying to get across. If a song about Zachaeus, a finger-play about a duck, and another song about heaven are used, the lack of co-ordination is confusing to the child's mind. Plan a really effective theme exercise, where every item is linked to the one theme of the day.

You may find you will alter very little of these exercises from Sabbath to Sabbath. Even if you are tired of hearing the same things, young children need repetition. For effective teaching here, stress the one idea in many different ways, for example, using the same song, but different visual aids.

Any new materials must be added very gradually, and after six weeks, when you may want to introduce the quarter's second theme, try to adapt the same songs and verses you used in the first theme as far as you can, to avoid having a completely different programme. Use the Programme Helps as helps – they cannot be followed exactly. Adapt them to what will be a good theme exercise for you and your little ones, one which will ensure much repetition to help them grasp the concepts to be followed.

The Cradle Roll year has eight themes – Creation, Family, Angels, Prayer, Sabbath, Helping, Jesus loves me, and Heaven. Here are some ideas for visual aids:

CREATION

Song: *Jesus Said, I Love You* (back page Lesson Book, first quarter).

- Cut a large yellow sun from felt. Children add one or two other items each week.

Song: *The Raindrops* (No. 87).

- a. Cut large cloud shape from

card. Cover with grey or white fur fabric. Suspend large silver raindrops from cloud.

- b. Select a child to hold umbrella while you do actions.
- c. Make small cloud finger loops for each child – two felt shapes sewn together, slightly stuffed. Before sewing up completely insert a chenille wire loop. Secure firmly. Sew pearl drops on cloud.

Song: *I Like to Eat an Apple* (No. 71).

- Cut large tree shape from green mounting board (art shops). Screw small hooks in tree to hold artificial apples (Woolworth's Christmas decorations). Children 'pick' apples after singing song, then place in basket.

Song: *The Happy Little Duck* (No. 89).

When a Mother Calls

(No. 72).

We Quickly Will Obey (No. 69).

- Cut large pond shape from old blue blanket (or paper will do). Children place toy ducks on pond by mother.

Song: *Shall We Go for a Walk?* (No. 92).

(change words: Shall we feed the ducks today?)

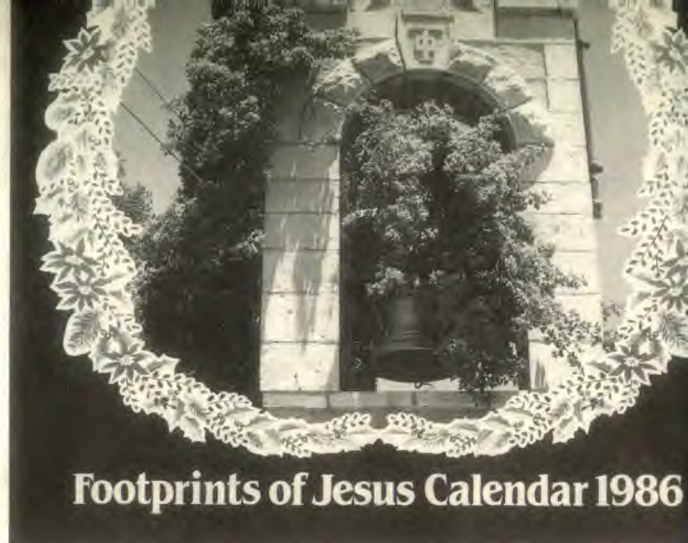
- Cut large duck shape from white fur fabric. Glue on to blue or green mounting board. Attach orange bill, black eye. Cut a hole just below bill so that children can 'feed' white foam rubber 'bread' to duck. (A much-loved activity – goes well with a Sabbath walk theme).

Song: *The Trees are Gently Swaying* (No. 75).

- a. Sew felt mitts – fir tree shapes for children to wear on hands while swaying to music.
- b. (Sing: *The Stars are Brightly Shining*.) Make star sticks for children to rub between hands to make them 'twinkle' – silver foil paper stars stuck on card, glued and stapled on to six-inch dowelling sticks.

SUSAN CROWE

Next article: *More Ideas for Visual Aids*.



WILL YOU BE BOWING DOWN TO THE GOLDEN IMAGE AGAIN THIS CHRISTMAS?

You know, delving neck-deep in the gooey mire of materialism? Giving your family and friends expensive gifts they don't need? Sending out Jolly Santa, holly-and-the-ivy cards?

MAKE CHRISTMAS CHRISTIAN!

★ Buy 'Footprints of Jesus' Calendars (text for the day; full-colour pictures of the Holy Land throughout; articles by E. G. White). The best value-for-money calendar on the market for **only 65p!** inc. VAT, complete with envelope (20p cheaper than last year!)

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★ Saturate your town with copies of **FOCUS**, **15p each**, or use them as Christmas cards!

SUNSET

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		Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Sept	6	7.36	7.48	7.42	7.54	8.03
	13	7.20	7.32	7.25	7.36	7.46
	20	7.04	7.16	7.08	7.18	7.28
	27	6.48	7.00	6.51	6.59	7.10

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