

MESSENGER

NEWS JOURNAL FOR THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH IN THE BRITISH ISLES

28 FEBRUARY 1992



TOP SCIENTISTS MEET AT NEWBOLD



Some top creationist scientists met at Newbold for Creationist Conference II. Among them were Gibson James, Ariel Roth, Philip Seddon, David Tyler and Clyde Webster.

Among the prominent Adventist scientists who contributed to the conference were Leofric Rhodes, Mart de Groot, and Albert Waite. Dr. Waite, Newbold's Head of Science, together with Dr. H. I. Dunton, organized the conference.

Tapes of the presentations given are advertised on page 8.



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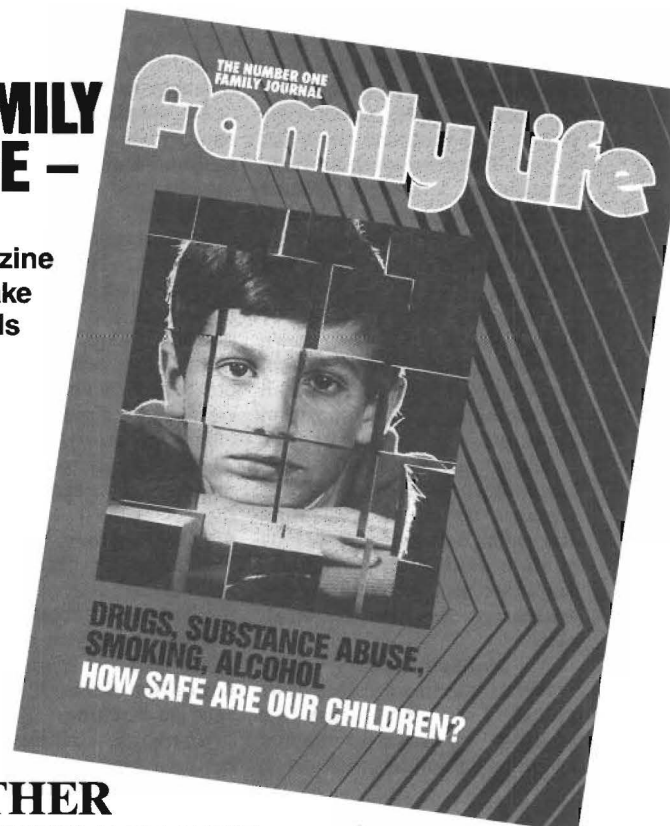
Pastor Raymond D. Vine, editor of The Stanborough Press from 1 March 1946 to 31 October 1976, has died in Oxford.

R. D. Vine was one of Newbold's 'class of 1940'. He commenced his ministry working part-time as a teacher at Stanborough School, and part-time as a pastor in the London of blitzkrieg. On 1 February 1941 he moved north to pastor the Humberside churches, locating in Hull, then undergoing saturation bombardment by the Luftwaffe.

Following a period of success-

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Isles will stay away from our evangelistic campaigns and Revelation seminars by the million.

USE FAMILY LIFE TO REACH THEM

was appointed Assistant Editor of the Press. On the retirement of W. Leslie Emmerson on 31 August 1966 Pastor Vine became editor in chief. In 1952 he published a full-message book, *God's Answers*, which is still in print. Subsequently he authored children's books, *Uncle Ray's Bible Alphabet*, and the three-volume *Bible Story Hour*. At various times he edited *Messenger*, *Good Health* and *Our Times*, together with the Sabbath School lessons and a variety of annuals.

During the period in which the

announcer of the VOP thirty-minute radio programme on Radio Luxembourg. For twelve of his editorial years he was also BUC Communication director. From November 1976 to January 1982 R. D. Vine was minister of the Oxford church.

Ray and Peggy Vine had two sons, Richard and Robert, and one daughter, Monica. Both sons are pastors. Monica is married to a pastor.

Pastor Vine will be remembered for his brilliant mind, his gracious gentlemanly personality, and his

VIEWPOINT

I Can't Come Down

by George W. Brown, president, Inter-American Division

Returning from Babylonian captivity the people of God were faced with a colossal task: the rebuilding and restoration of Jerusalem. Under the leadership of Nehemiah the task was vigorously undertaken.

With extraordinary skill Nehemiah began to harness the national resources, mobilize the people and motivate them for action. The rebuilding and restoration of Jerusalem became the singular passion of Nehemiah and the all-consuming objective of the returning captives.

However, the enemies of God's cause had their own agenda. Under the diabolical leadership of Sanballat, Tobiah and Gesham, vicious opposition surfaced.

These men and their collaborators organized a variety of schemes aimed at frustrating Nehemiah's objectives. As part of their assault on Nehemiah, Sanballat and Tobiah carefully engineered five specific strategies.

1. Ridicule. They said, "What are those feeble Jews doing? . . . What they are building — if even a fox climbed up on it, he would break down

their walls of stone!" (Neh. 4:2, 3*.)

Insult. Nehemiah complained about the insults that had been thrown at them. Then he said, 'So we rebuilt the wall . . . for the people worked with all their heart.' (Neh. 4:4-6.) That's the best way to deal with insult!

3. Conspiracy to commit violence. 'They all plotted together to come and fight against Jerusalem and stir up trouble.' (Neh. 4:8.)

4. Entrapment. The special emissaries to Nehemiah pleaded, "Come, let us meet together in one of the villages on the plain of Ono." (Neh. 6:2.) Nehemiah's response was unequivocal, firm and final. "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down." (Neh. 6:3.) There was no room for compromise or negotiation with the enemy.

5. Intimidation. To intimidate Nehemiah they urged, "Let us meet in the house of God, inside the temple . . . because men are coming to kill you by night." (Neh. 6:10-13.) Ignoring the intimidation strategy, Nehemiah kept on building.

There are striking parallels between Nehemiah's task and

that of the Adventist Church.

Nehemiah's mission was the building and restoration of Jerusalem. Ours is the divine task of building the kingdom of God.

We're engaged in a global mission of supernatural dimensions. The proclamation of the everlasting Gospel to all is the scope of our mission.

As God's modern-day Nehemiahs the Adventist Church must constantly reaffirm, "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down."

Fulfilling our global mission of redemption and restoration is to be the all-consuming passion, the singular purpose and the magnificent obsession of the Adventist Church. Nothing should deter us from the accomplishment of this mission.

The Church is constantly bombarded by its Sanballats and Tobiahs. Some seek to bring into question the authenticity of the message and mission of the Church. Others ridicule, criticize and undermine the credibility of the Church leadership while piously posing as defenders of the faith.

Nehemiah's formula for deal-

ing with Sanballat and Tobiah is still most effective today. "I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down."

Our answer to the modern Sanballats and Tobiahs must be equally firm, final and irrevocable. Don't come down to argue, debate or negotiate with the enemy.

Rather, let us strengthen our hands through unceasing prayer, intensify our work of kingdom building, cling to God's promises and be courageous.

This is no time to be deterred from our global mission as a Church. Now is the time to pray with Nehemiah, "Now strengthen my hand." (Neh. 6:9.)

*All scripture references are from the New International Version.

ADVANCE NOTICE

SEC SESSION 1993

Advance notice is hereby given that the next South England Conference Triennial Session will convene at the Bournemouth International Centre, 14-17 October 1993.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

I'VE MADE UP MY MIND

by A. J. Raitt

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Decision-making is a vital factor in life. Every child needs to be taught how to go about this important element in the totality of life's responses, with which we are all confronted. Inability to make up one's mind makes for vacillation and vacillation to lost opportunities and exposure to grave dangers. So when we hear a firm, 'I've made up my mind', it is often a ground for rejoicing.

Unfortunately it is very easy to make up one's mind without weighing up all the factors involved, and carefully calculating the consequences. Snap decisions lead to vain regrets so that it is important to study carefully the factors that have led to the

In my mind's eye I see the owner of a business sitting at his desk and carefully reviewing the factors affecting his trade. Can the adverse factors be remedied? What measures can he take to balance his accounts more successfully? Are some things out of his control?

In my mind's eye I see the owner of a business sitting at his desk and carefully reviewing the factors affecting his trade. Can the adverse factors be remedied? What measures can he take to balance his accounts more successfully? Are some things out of his control? How may other people's lives suffer from his decisions, or can he enhance their happiness and prosperity by taking the appropriate measures?

Looking back over my own life I have to recognize that while I made up my mind in certain circumstances, I did so on impulse rather than principle. I failed to consult the One who has a vital interest in my life and on the lives of those who would be affected by my decisions. Looking back I can see that it would have been wiser and kinder for me, in some cases, to have delayed carrying out my decision until I had had time to consider carefully the con-

Having said this I must nevertheless applaud the making up of one's mind without reservation where principles are involved. None of us can afford to shilly-shally on such matters. Our arch enemy knows that if we once begin to hesitate

Having said this I must nevertheless applaud the making up of one's mind without reservation where principles are involved. None of us can afford to shilly-shally on such matters. Our arch enemy knows that if we once begin to hesitate it is likely to weaken our resolve, causing us to compromise. But there is no half-way house in the choice between good and evil.

Indecision results in so many losing their mastery of life's circumstances. They become entangled in the devil's snares, often thinking that they have chosen the way of enjoyment only to discover, too late, that they have become the victims of a delusion.

I love the robust declaration of Joshua as recorded at the end of the book bearing his name. He declared: 'As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.' He made up his mind on the side of right and

EDITORIAL

YOU CAN KNOW!

Al was only 3 when his mother died. His father was uncaring and mostly absent from the home. The upbringing of Al and his brother and sisters was entrusted to a housekeeper who was loveless and cruel to the point of sadism. 'I never knew what to do to be right,' Al told me. 'I didn't know what to expect. In the end, feeling rejected, I behaved badly all the time.'

Al's bad behaviour began in the home and overspilled into the street. It ended up in the centre of the town; half bricks lobbed through shop windows.

When Al was 11 — 1913 — the police called at his home. They told Al's father that since he was clearly incapable of controlling his son, they would be placing Al in the parish workhouse.

It was at that point that a little lady interposed herself between Al and the policemen. She said that that very morning she had married Al's father and that, from now on, *she* would guarantee Al's good behaviour. The police were hostile to the idea and looked on the little lady with contempt. But there was something about her bearing that made them back off. They said they would allow her a few weeks to see what she could do.

The day that little lady walked into Al's home she brought love and Jesus with her. So far as anyone knew, they had never been there before. And it makes my heart rejoice to tell you that Al's new stepmother — 'The best mother I ever had,' he said — was a Seventh-day Adventist.

The little lady set about transforming Al through the power of love. She told Al, 'I don't care what you say, I don't care what you do, but you will not make me stop loving you — even though you may hurt me badly.'

The transformation in Al was not instant. But gradually, as the little lady communicated to him her unconditional love, his life began to heal. The uncertainty and rejection-fear that had caused his bad behaviour were removed. Now Al had the strongest possible motive for obedience: love. How could he

The transformation in Al was not instant. But gradually, as the little lady communicated to him her unconditional love, his life began to heal. The uncertainty and rejection-fear that had caused his bad behaviour were removed. Now Al had the strongest possible motive for obedience: love. How could he possibly do things and say things that would hurt the little lady who loved him?

Why have I taken up so much space to tell you this story? Let me explain. In my Editorial of 17 January I wrote about the Christian assurance that, according to The Perth Declaration, our Church leaders are eager that we should share; knowing that we *are* saved — not hoping to be, or planning to be. Some have written letters asking: Does having assurance make us careless about sin?

Now, perhaps, you begin to see the point of the story. Assurance *should* have quite the opposite effect. Knowing God's unconditional love, that Christ died for

us 'while we were yet sinners' and responding in love to Calvary, how could we possibly want to hurt our best Friend who went to such lengths to save us? In the words of Dr. Thomas Chalmers, when we grasp the meaning of Calvary we are 'transformed by the expulsive power of a new affection'. Those who have not grasped the meaning of Calvary or experienced the love that comes as a consequence, will lose eternal life. (See John 3:17-18, 36.) Once we have grasped hold of Calvary there is no room for uncertainty or rejection-fear. We have the strongest possible motive to obey Jesus Christ in everything.

What about those 'Christians' who still make sin a habit of life? They are phoney. Either they have never been to Calvary or, having been there, have chosen to turn their backs on it. If, having been to Calvary, Jesus is our first love and in Him is our first trust 'there is therefore now no condemnation' for we 'are in Christ Jesus'. (Romans 8:1.)

The tragedy is that so many of our fellow believers have looked at God in the same way as Al looked at the authority figures in his early life. They have been so sure that God was going to reject them because of what they are that they have kept being what they are! They have kept on sinning because they have not believed that they have been forgiven. They have remained defeated because they have not had the assurance that God accepts them even as they grow. 'Being justified by faith, we have peace with God' (Romans 5:1) — and that peace with God is the assurance of God's salvation. And that assurance is new every morning as, every morning, we commit everything we are, have, can ever hope to be, 'my life, my soul, my all', to the One who went to Calvary and there died as our Substitute and Representative that His righteousness might be *imputed* to us (2 Corinthians 5:21).

The authentic Christian life is a life lived in assurance, by faith, looking directly to Christ. The authentic life is a life centred on the authentic Gospel. It was his knowledge of that that made Paul so frustrated with the Christians in Galatia. He wrote, 'I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called ~~you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different~~ The authentic Christian life is a life lived in assurance, by faith, looking directly to Christ. The authentic life is a life centred on the authentic Gospel. It was his knowledge of that that made Paul so frustrated with the Christians in Galatia. He wrote, 'I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel — which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. . . .' (Galatians 1:6, 7, NIV.) Paul insists, 'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.' (Galatians 5:1, NIV.) Then Paul suggests that the authentic freedom upon which the life of assurance is based is freedom *from* religion! Religion is what *we* do. The Gospel is what *God* has done. The truly free person focuses, not on what *we* do, but upon what *God* does (the Gospel).

DAVID MARSHALL

COMMONS VOTE ON SUNDAY TRADING

Two hundred and twenty-four MPs supported Ray Powell's Sunday Trading Reform Bill (restricting Sunday opening) and only four voted against it.

Sixty-two Conservative MPs, forty-four Labour MPs and six Liberal Democrats stated openly that they had voted for the first reading of Mr. Powell's Bill. Others remained silent. No MP said they had voted against the Bill.

Sonia Sandy of 'Keep Sunday Special' was jubilant at the success of the pressure group's pro-Sunday campaign, but was angry that 'the British press, except for *The Times*, was too embarrassed to report the vote.'

Ms Sandy knows that the Bill — restricting Sunday opening to certain types of shop (including goods for recreation, social gatherings, and travel) — is by no means home and dry.

The Second Reading is scheduled for 21 February.

Home Office minister Angela Rumbold told 'Keep Sunday Special' campaigners that the Government will be watching the vote on 21 February very carefully.

Sonia Sandy of KSS fears that MPs quietly opposed to the Bill will use delaying tactics to ensure that it does not become law before the General Election.

EDITOR

LAYMEN LEAD AT MINISTERS' CONFERENCE

One hundred and fifty people attended SEC Church Ministries workshop at High Leigh Conference Centre, 10-12 January. And all the devotional speakers were laymen!

'Think globally, act locally,' was the theme of SEC Church Ministry director Theo Sargeant's opening address. God's timetable, said Pastor Sargeant, is not the same as man's. He used the swift collapse of Communism to exemplify this. In the faster pace of things there was, he said, an even greater urgency in the Church's mission.

The weekend's special guest speakers included TED's Pastor Martin Anthony, BUC's Pastors K. C. Henry and Paul Tompkins and Dr. Andrea Luxton.

Pastor D. W. McFarlane, Church's mission.

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Pastor D. W. McFarlane,

SEC president, presented Sabbath morning's divine service address.

Pastor Anthony outlined the structure and function of the Church Ministries department, and its relationship to the church board and other church committees. Pastor Henry gave detailed information on the vital work of the Interest Co-ordinator in the outreach of the local church. The weekend's participants broke into groups to discuss special interests for two sessions. A special presentation entitled 'Let's Move it Together', focusing on Church growth, was given by Pastor Anthony. It led to a lively discussion on forms of worship and the needs of different cultural groups within the Church.

JOYCE REDFERN

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JOYCE REDFERN

I know someone who met up with a non-Adventist partner. They brought them to church and they received a frosty reception. It might have had something to do with her dress or her make up. It might have had something to do with the closed-group attitude of other young people in that church. Neither person attends church now, although it must be said that the person who was brought up as an Adventist still believes.

I know of someone who has a very demanding job. They work long hours and need their wits about them at all times. They survive in a very competitive atmosphere. By the time Sabbath comes they need the rest that it was designed for. Yet they find that when they attend church there is a strained atmosphere there; the attitude of competition is no different from work. People struggle to get to the top of the church pile and church offices are rated in order of influence and status. At work people are constantly undermining their colleagues, it's the same on Sabbath.

I know of someone who has problems with the Sabbath school lessons, especially when the teacher uses them as blunt instruments instead of a basis for discussion. They still attend but usually come late.

I know of someone who went through a difficult time. They made some mistakes and drifted away from the Church and their church friends. They were missed at first but people presumed they were visiting elsewhere and didn't bother to check. This person found some help for their problem and made new friends — but not from within the church. The church adapted to one less member.

I know of a student who, when leaving home for the first time, decided to stretch his wings. He had promised his parents that he would attend the local church, but found that no one at that church really bothered about him. What he needed most was feeding; he would not admit to it but he really missed home cooking, student fare was no match. He was also feeling lonely and vulnerable. He had travelled quite a way to church, spent what was to him a lot of money on the

aged to get to church. He had been keeping student hours the week before so enjoyed the opportunity that the sermon gave to catch up on much-wanted sleep. After church he went straight back and joined his new friends in their afternoon activities. He still assures his parents that he attends regularly but is finding it very difficult to find the money and the incentive for the travel.

I know of a married couple who are finding life particularly tough. Finances are a problem and the children are ever demanding. They would really enjoy the opportunity of some time on their own, but they have no family near by and do not feel happy about leaving their children with other friends. They seem to fall in a gap at church. The young people have their own programme and those with older children seem so much more confident and always demonstrate how well they can cope. Young children are often very demanding and the couple want to share their worries with someone but nobody is there. The other people in the church would, if asked, say that they would willingly help out, they remember what it was like, but nobody brings the two sets of people together. The young married couple begin to get discouraged and stop coming.

I know of someone who has not attended church for years. They left because they fell out with the pastor or someone else. They still believe and on occasions think about the many friends they had. In fact when you meet them they are always anxious for news. They need some impetus to return but would find attending a formal service too threatening. They would go to someone's house for a meal or a party.

Where are all these 'someones'? I feel and know that they are here, there and everywhere. I am a member of the Leamington Spa church where we have spent time and attention looking for ways of offering solutions to these 'someones'. So far our solutions are beginning to work, although there is clearly much left to be done. We have started from the premise that we question the way in which things have always been done. By ques-

The lay devotional speakers, with other participants, at the ministerial workshop.



way of working, although relatively minor changes appear important. Changes are implemented with the agreement of all and many who attend have found that their spiritual lives have been transformed. People will come if their needs are fulfilled, why else do we have people regularly attending our church when the journey involved is over 100 miles return?

What I feel is needed is a complete rethink of the way in which we worship and run our churches. Our attitudes must be far more needs-orientated. I challenge Church leaders to examine how this Church can move forward into a needs-assessment and fulfilment role. Our Christian mission should be to organize our Church in a way that it meets people's needs. My conviction is that without this change our Church will wither and die.

ROBERT PEARCE, *Leamington Spa*

AN Adventist young lady desires to stay with an Adventist family during the summer holidays, not as an au pair but as part of the family and paying her own expenses. Her aim is to improve her English, meet many Adventist young people and see as much as possible of England. If interested please contact: Mlle Pamela Wray, Chez Philippe Kippelen, 31 rue Kléber, 68100 Mulhouse, France.

WE are a group of five Adventist young ladies performing under the name 'Visions'. We are looking for some talented musicians to become part of our group. If you can play the piano, keyboards, guitar, or would like to sing with us, then contact Jennifer Munroe, 15 Sweetbriar Road, Ettingshall, Wolverhampton, WV2 2NB.

LYNETTE'S BIG DAY

The Colchester church was packed with members and friends to witness the baptism of Lynette Andrews, one of the young people who has grown up in the church.

Lynette spent many months preparing for her baptism, studying the Bible with the pastor's wife, Romola Lorek, and was never discouraged despite her learning difficulties. In fact, she counted the number of studies she had had, and counted down to her baptismal day!

The baptism was held in the morning as no one wanted to miss Lynette's big day. The members had put considerable effort into preparing the baptistery and, at the end of the day, Lynette thanked everyone for coming. She is always cheerful, friendly and willing to speak about her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

PASTOR IAN B. LOREK

VICAR VISITS SATURDAY BIBLE SCHOOL

The Church of England vicar has been visiting the Smethwick Saturday Bible School. The vicar and his wife were overwhelmed to see so many children attending the school. He heard them sing, repeat Bible texts and recite poems. He thanked the children, gave them good counsel and promised to contribute Bibles to the school.

HILARY DAVIS

YOUR HEALTH AND YOUR FUTURE

A visitor to the small lecture room in the Carmarthen Library might have been forgiven for thinking that a birthday party was about to commence. In fact this was the culminating meeting of a nine-week series of lectures given by Pastor John Surridge.

Almost the entire membership of the Carmarthen church played a part. Six thousand handbills were printed and distributed and with each handbill a VOP Health course invitation was delivered to every home in the town area.

On the opening evening over forty townsfolk arrived for the first of eight lectures. The age range was from teenagers to pensioners.

Over the following weeks Pastor Surridge lectured effectively, covering many aspects of healthy living. From the outset he introduced himself as the minister of the Carmarthen Seventh-day Adventist church, and throughout the series he introduced a number of 'Spiritual Gems' which were appreciated by his audience. Jon Meredith gave a rather light-hearted quiz, appropriate to the lecture subject.

The drinks and biscuits were provided by Peter Mertens and his wife from their health food shop in Llandysul. He also brought a fine selection of their



Jon Meredith, left, talks over a point with a visitor.

stock which he displayed and offered for sale to both visitors and members alike.

And so to our culminating ninth week when the deaconesses and friends produced this mouth-watering selection of party items which were consumed with relish by all present. A pleasant social evening ensued, when thanks were offered and four ladies who had attended all nine meetings each received a small gift.

As a follow-up to the series, Harold Mason, with the help of the writer, and with the kind co-operation of the VOP Bible School, set up a display in the centre of the local library of VOP lessons that are available.

GLYNNE MEREDITH

YARMOUTH'S UPPER ROOM

On Sabbath 5 October the Yarmouth church witnessed the baptism of Margaret Hannant by Pastor Walter Newman. For eighteen months previously Margaret had been attending the

On Sabbath 5 October the Yarmouth church witnessed the baptism of Margaret Hannant by Pastor Walter Newman. For eighteen months previously Margaret had been attending the Monday evangelistic seminar series held in the upper room of the church.

She was interested at first by 'Discoveries in Daniel', followed by 'How to Make Christianity Real'. Revelation complemented Daniel and the 'Good News for Today' series went well with Revelation. At present she's studying John's gospel. Why did she become an Adventist? She would answer that there are two reasons: 1. The discovery of Scripture and new truth. 2. The warmth and fellowship of Gt.

your average-sized lounge, yet each Monday evening, summer and winter, over twenty people squeeze into the room for what is technically called an evangelistic seminar. It can't really be

your average-sized lounge, yet each Monday evening, summer and winter, over twenty people squeeze into the room for what is technically called an evangelistic seminar. It can't really be called a seminar any more, because it's turned into a fellowship — although the study is as

serious as any you'd find in a seminar. The fellowship is warm (even when the heating isn't).

Margaret is soon to be followed through the waters of baptism by her friend Thelma. They are both still attending the weekly seminar/fellowship along seminar. The fellowship is warm (even when the heating isn't).

Margaret is soon to be followed through the waters of baptism by her friend Thelma. They are both still attending the weekly seminar/fellowship along with Enid Flemming who became an Adventist just over a year ago. Remember Ron in

prayer who's only just started coming along and who likes what he sees. Pray for all the Upper Room disciples of Gt. Yarmouth that they will continue to share and learn together — and that they will be joined by new disciples in 1992. coming along and who likes what he sees. Pray for all the Upper Room disciples of Gt. Yarmouth that they will continue to share and learn together — and that they will be joined by new disciples in 1992.

DAVID NEAL

MERRY WATERS AT BAPTISM!

Merry Waters has been baptized at the Chatham church. Merry was introduced to the church by a friend who was an Adventist. She attended our seminars and prayer meetings and, over several months, Sabbath services. The baptismal service was conducted by Pastor Robert Surridge. Merry was supported by her mother and father, her son aged



TIME TO DECLARE BANKRUPTCY

'Recession', 'bankruptcy', are today's in words.

Accountants, auditors, receivers are busier while others stand idle.

What has this got to do with you and me?

People in transition, people facing the perplexities and traumas of life are usually more receptive to the Gospel.

Secondly, the work that we could have done in easier times will now have to be done in times of recession, tight budgets and limited resources.

Thirdly, we need to call The Auditor in, even declare ourselves bankrupt. Does this thought amuse, bemuse or anger you?

Let's twist the knife a little more. The Church does not have a future, you do not have a future, I do not have a future, unless and until we declare bankruptcy.

In fact God can do nothing for us or with us until we do.

'You say, "I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing." But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.' Rev. 3:17.*

"... a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." Luke 12:15.

The need is to be rich towards God (verse 21), rich in faith, rich in friendship with Jesus, rich in commitment to the Church and its programme.

When the Heavenly Auditor goes through your 'books' examining your 'transactions', your life's business, what report will He make?

Will it be — 'spiritually bankrupt' or 'spiritually rich'?

In times like these we need to have the right priorities.

Recently the Stewardship Committee examined your transactions, your life's business, what report will He make?

Will it be — 'spiritually bankrupt' or 'spiritually rich'?

In times like these we need to have the right priorities.

Recently the Stewardship directors/sponsors within the Union territory spent a day together praying and planning. Our commission is *not* to force you to open your purses and wallets, but to encourage you to open your *heart* and put Jesus in charge of your life. We believe that stewardship is the wise and unselfish use of life; the management of all that God has entrusted to our care.

Objectives: As a stewardship team we have set our sights on:

- Broadening the concept of

not be measured purely in tithes and offerings.

'Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellow man has fulfilled the law.' Rom. 13:8. 'Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.' 1 Peter 4:10. Read also Matt. 25:31-46. It is on the basis of scriptures like these that the Stewardship Department takes its place within the Church Ministries structure of the Church.

Take time and list *all* that God has entrusted to your care in order to complete His work on earth. It ranges from a knowledge of His love, through talents, skills, and includes money and possessions.

Our stewardship and management of these 'things' does not end with our death. Our influence, our possessions, our money must still live on and be dedicated to the service of God.

- Nurturing, fostering, even creating a sense of mission and a commitment to that mission among the youth and children of the Church.

God has laid the responsibility for managing His affairs on earth on young and old alike, rich and poor, employed and unemployed, yuppie and retiree, children and parents, single and married. All must share the vision of a finished work and contribute to it.

How do we plan to achieve our goals? We will share briefly with you three plans that involve the whole Union territory.

- We believe that within our Union there are creative individuals who can help us 'polish up' the stewardship heirlooms. We

How do we plan to achieve our goals? We will share briefly with you three plans that involve the whole Union territory.

- We believe that within our Union there are creative individuals who can help us 'polish up' the stewardship heirlooms. We will be searching for the best sermon, best poster, best essay on a stewardship theme. The search will be conducted regionally with the winners going forward to a national final. ABC vouchers will be available as prizes. While you wait for more information start thinking! Your ideas are as good as that of anyone else.

- We are organizing a weekend seminar at Stanborough Secondary School 30 October — 1 November 1992. The emphasis of the weekend will be on teaching

asked to provide us with skilled instructors for the weekend. We believe it will be a special, special seminar. Your church should plan now to be represented. From the Friday tea-time through to Sunday lunch it will be an action-packed experience. The cost will be kept very low.

- 23 May — 1 June is another date for your diary. Pastor Charles Griffen of the GC Stewardship department will be here conducting regional seminars. Plans are being laid to give the Missions and both Conferences an opportunity to benefit. Full details on all three projects will be available shortly.

The holistic approach to stewardship should encourage and excite all of you.

The traditional financial em-

phasis is not being overlooked. The Deed of Covenant programme will be relaunched this spring and the proposals currently being contemplated for its promotion and administration are desirable ones.

Brethren and sisters — God is counting on YOU being a faithful steward. The Church needs YOU, not just your money. Your home, school, workplace, community needs YOU.

With all eyes on YOU we know you will rise to the challenge. The work will be finished. All our resources must be committed to this end.

MARANATHA — the Lord is coming

L. D. W. SOUTHCOTT, secretary, BUC

*All scripture references are from the New International Version.

CATHOLIC HELPS ADVENTISTS

Overlooking the harbour right in the centre of Torquay are several newly-renovated shops, some of which have not yet been leased. When Grace Bainbridge, widow of Pastor Bob Bainbridge, spotted the empty ones she immediately went into action. She contacted the manageress of the agency leasing the shops to see if we could hold a sale in one of them. When the Roman Catholic manageress discovered that the Adventists wanted to raise money to assist a children's hospice in South-West Devon, she not only handed over the keys to one of the empty shops, *but cancelled the rental charge, paid the insurance and legal costs, and promised to pay the electricity bill for heating and lighting during our use.*

An empty shop was of little practical benefit without

something to sell, so moving forward in faith Sister Bainbridge took the next step. She canvassed the proprietors of some of the neighbouring shops for further assistance, and was amazed how many brand-new clothes and toys, as well as boxes of chocolates, were freely donated for the sale. At the end of the first day's sale over £300 worth of merchandise, all clear profit, had been sold with enough goods left over to warrant another sale.

The diplomatic skills of our sister went into operation once again, and a prime site in a local market was offered to us free of charge. The sales total then increased to over £400. At a special service in the Torquay church the writer handed over to Paul Cousins of the Hospice Support Group a cheque for £413. →

Pastor Ken Clothier, Paul Cousins of the Hospice Support Group and Grace Bainbridge.

Photo: Herald Press, Torquay

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Pastor Ken Clothier, Paul Cousins of the Hospice Support Group and Grace Bainbridge.

Photo: Herald Press, Torquay



Were any goods left over? You've probably guessed correctly. A third sale is now envisaged to turn the remaining donated goods into cash.

PASTOR K. H. CLOTHIER

NEW LIFE FOR WOKINGHAM

Last year it looked as though the small Wokingham church might have to close her doors for good following the departure of some members for other parts of the country. However, 1992 has already brought new life to the church as a number of students from nearby Newbold College have joined the few committed and highly-motivated members at Wokingham to experience the special Christian fellowship offered by a small and loving church. Together with their inspired pastor, Andrew Hardy, they have developed a dynamic programme for the year. Part of this programme involves street evangelism, a health stall at the local town hall, followed by a New Start programme at the local Red Cross hall. COLIN SPOTSWOOD

THANK YOU UNITED CARRIERS

Scotland gave two-and-a-half tons of food towards the Albania appeal. In a co-ordinated effort, food collected by each church was taken to Irvine. Andy McKie arranged transportation to Watford on 27 November.

Many thanks to United Carriers for taking it free of charge, and also for a quick delivery.

Clothes and toys were also dispatched, the toys including a gigantic bear. He was named 'Barney' by the children of the East Kilbride church. Barney achieved TV stardom in Albania at Christmastime, along with Bill Hamilton of the BBC.

JOHN MACDONALD

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JOHN MACDONALD

NEWPORT BAPTISM

Newport ended 1991 with a baptism. Four young people gave their lives to the Lord. Kevin and Amanda Bale, a young husband and wife, Hazel Morris, daughter of our treasurer and head deaconess, and Anika Williams, daughter of Sabbath school teachers John and Elizabeth Williams, declared their faith before the assembled congregation and were immersed by Pastor Geoff Dennis. Pastor Paul Clee, Welsh Mission president, gave a stirring address and challenged

come home day'. Pauline, daughter of our church elder and his wife Bill and Wendy Searles, and her Australian husband Bruce Potter, were visiting us after some years of mission service in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.

VERA MACHELL

HEALING MIRACLE AT PLUMSTEAD

In the last quarter of 1991 the Reach Out for Life Crusade was conducted in Plumstead by Pastors Des Boldeau and N. Myrie. The campaign meetings were well supported. Mary, a red-haired lady, came each evening with her children, as well as on the four fellowship Sabbaths during November — asking questions as usual!

But this was a campaign with a difference. Each Monday was designated 'prayer night', and people from far and near came with their prayer requests. One lady came with a little daughter who had, according to the doctors, only two weeks to live because of cancer. In the course of the meeting the Great Physician took control and, with prayer and the laying on of hands, the dread disease disappeared from the child's body. M. TOMLINSON

FULHAM: SEVEN BAPTIZED

Sabbath 16 November was a day of great rejoicing at Fulham. The afternoon service witnessed the baptism of Adam Moses, Nicola Chedick, Rodney Chedick, Stephenson Simon, Yvonne Simon, Lydia Simon and Amanda Simon. These seven young people grew up in the church. They made their decision to follow Christ during a lay campaign conducted by Dr. Osei Tutu, church elder D. Dawpah, church elder A. Jeffrey and E. Hypolite, under the leadership of PM leader C. D. Telesford.

BUC Ministerial Association decision to follow Christ during a lay campaign conducted by Dr. Osei Tutu, church elder D. Dawpah, church elder A. Jeffrey and E. Hypolite, under the leadership of PM leader C. D. Telesford.

BUC Ministerial Association director, Pastor Dalbert Elias, conducted five nightly meetings on the theme 'The Magnificent Obsession'.

GERALDINE THOMPSON

OBITUARIES

GAUNT, Renée — d. 11 December. A member of the Grantham church for only a year, Mrs. Gaunt died after several months of ill health. She had contact with the church over several years, living just around the corner, and often attended the coffee mornings arranged by the Community Services ladies. After the retirement of Bible study with Miss

for several years, she leaves a son David and his wife Linda, to whom we express our sympathies, but look forward to Christ's second coming when all things will be made new.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

GERMAN, Harven — d. 14 December. **GERMAN, Ellen** — d. 28 December. We sadly miss Harven and Ellen German who were faithful and active members of the Torquay church. Whenever possible, although in poor health, they managed to come to church to worship the Lord, and to distribute the literature and care for the Personal Ministries department of the church. They came from the Sheffield church in 1964 and took a keen interest in all aspects of church life, and even between them managed to order and deliver the year end periodicals for 1991. They were devoted to each other and fell asleep as they would have wished just a fortnight apart, prepared and ready to hear the call of the Saviour on resurrection morning. We extend our sympathy to all their friends and relatives, to their son, daughter and grandchildren. Pastor Ken Clothier took both services in the church and Torquay crematorium.

M. A. CLEMENT

DOCKER, Frederick Victor — d. 29 December. The Erdington church reports with sadness the death of Brother Frederick Victor Docker after a long period of illness. After marrying an Adventist lady, Victor quickly established an affection for the Erdington church and, after Bible studies, was baptized by Pastor L. P. Anderson in 1975. A very enthusiastic church worker, Vic served for many years as a deacon. Vic's employment now took the couple to the North-East, where they attended both the Middlesbrough and Newcastle churches. Following illness they returned to Birmingham and united with their old friends at the Erdington church, but Beryl's health was failing and she died soon afterwards. In spite of his own illness, Vic was later able to attend church and although handicapped, enjoyed the fellowship. The funeral service, conducted by Pastor M. D. Smart, was attended by a large gathering of relatives, friends and church members. In his address Pastor Smart reviewed the contribution Vic had made to church life, and the many happy memories we could all cherish. Vic's suffering was now over, and he rested in peace. Pastor Smart conveyed to the family the sympathy and love of the members of the Newcastle and Erdington churches.

CHURCH CLERK

GETHING, Kathleen — d. 6 January. Sister Gething of the Cwmbran company, South Wales, passed away at her home in Pontypool. Kath was born in 1911, and had six children of whom she was very proud. She was introduced to the Adventist church through an evangelistic campaign, and was baptized in 1982 by Pastor Michael Walker. Kath was also one of the founder members of the Cwmbran company where she shared many of her talents. She was a private person but radiated love, kindness and humility. The funeral service was conducted by Pastor Walker and the president of the Welsh Mission, Pastor Paul Clee.

BARBARA ANGER

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BARBARA ANGER

VINE, Pastor Raymond Douglas — d. 20 January. Pastor Vine was born in Bournemouth on 31 January, 1917. From his youth it was his ambition to be a missionary for God so he went to Newbold Revel, near Coventry, to train for the Adventist ministry, and graduated in 1940.

His records indicate that, initially, he pastored the Lewisham church and taught at Stanborough School. In 1943 he married

partnership of service. They set up their first home in Hull and later moved to Grimsby and Sheffield areas before returning to Watford to serve under the late Pastor W. L. Emmerson in the editorial department of The Stanborough Press Ltd.

During his time in Watford Raymond was associated with the Voice of Prophecy as script writer and announcer for the British broadcasts from Radio Luxembourg. In 1966 he moved with the Press to Grantham and served as editor until 1976 when he took up his last pastoral post in Oxford.

He loved the Oxford church family and they loved him, so on retirement in 1982 he stayed in Oxford and continued to serve the church as an elder. As his illness took its effect it was sad to watch the slow deterioration of his mind. The church was his family and many times a week he would walk the seven miles from his Kidlington home to the Oxford church. It was while returning from one of these excursions, last July, that he was involved in an accident which contributed to his passing.

Raymond is survived by his wife Peggy, two sons Pastors Richard and Robert Vine, and daughter Monica deLange, and his brother Dr. Kenneth Vine a retired Bible teacher now living on California. His friend and neighbour Pastor James Cuthell conducted the funeral service in the Oxford church assisted by Mr. D. Galloway, the elder, and two retired colleagues of the deceased, Pastor E. H. Foster and Dr. A. J. Woodfield.

Raymond is laid to rest to await the Saviour's return in St. Mary's Burial Ground, Kidlington, beside the path he took on his daily walks in the fields. Take your well earned rest, Raymond, till we meet you on the resurrection morning!

PASTOR J. M. CUTHELL

Sister Vine and the family wish to thank all who sent cards and letters of comfort at this sad time.

BRIGGS, Gladys — d. 24 January. Born ninety-five years ago, Miss Briggs came to Weymouth in 1904. With her sister she joined her literature-evangelist father in his work. They took the Sabbath message throughout the Weymouth, Dorchester and Portland area. A Sabbath-keeping group was formed through their efforts and although this grew or decreased according to circumstances, it never failed. It was largely due to Miss Briggs's faithful service that the group held together through the war years. All her close family had died and she was taken into the home of a widowed aunt. In spite of her tireless work for the message, walking many miles a day to sell books and give Bible studies, Miss Briggs was devoted to the Aunt who, though not sharing her faith, had befriended her, and she nursed her with Christian dedication through her last illness. Now alone in the world, she threw herself into keeping the Weymouth group going. For many years she led Sabbath school, teaching the lesson, and often giving an address or Bible study if no speaker arrived to take the second service. Thus this tiny lady of indomitable spirit kept the group together until it became a company in the late 1950s, and eventually achieved church status in 1965. Miss Briggs continued her literature-evangelist work, which she truly loved, for as long as her health would allow. Then she worked from her home, and when no church building was available she allowed services to be held there. For the past few years Miss Briggs has lived quietly in a rest home, still working for the Lord through the spoken word and the passing-on of magazines. The Weymouth church owes more than it can ever repay to the tireless work of Gladys Briggs. We mourn her loss but look forward to meeting her

'IT ALL BEGAN WITH ONE LITERATURE-EVANGELIST ...'

'The work in the British Isles began with just one literature-evangelist, William Ings,' said BUC president Pastor C. R. Perry in his Wednesday morning devotional at the annual Literature-evangelist Conference at Broomhill.

And, as other speakers were at pains to point out, it is through literature-evangelists that the work will be finished.

Among the new faces at our LE institute was that of brand-new Publishing director, Ewen Macvarish, who, after our long journey, welcomed us with a bowl of fruit and a bottle of Italian grape juice in each room.

Ewen Macvarish, Press manager Paul Hammond, and HHES manager Ed Johnson gave the presentations on Chris-

tian Salesmanship during the course of the week.

Pastor Perry had provided us with our spiritual food at the beginning of the week, and Pastor Mike Stickland, NBC president, provided the spiritual food at the conclusion of our period together. Pastor K. F. Taylor, VOP principal, reported that literature-evangelist H. Wills, who works in Ireland, sent in 500 VOP cards, the highest number ever recorded. Mike Barnes, a literature-evangelist in Scotland, had the highest ratio of applications and students. Experiences from all over the British Union in which literature-evangelists have led souls to baptism, were related in the course of the week.

E. G. RODERICK

'MY BEST EXPERIENCE THIS MONTH'

On Friday morning the students at the Shannon Adventist school were reading aloud their essays 'My best experience this month'. One after another described, in detail, 'our weekend at Doolin'.

This weekend was shared by the sister churches of Galway and Shannon, as well as Dublin. Bumping down the winding roads, picking up church members and belongings, we ventured out to Doolin on the Atlantic coastline of Ireland. Our venue was a friendly youth hostel.

No sooner had Pastor Chris Barr commenced with evening vespers than the excitement began. Someone mentioned the words 'Northern Lights!' There was a rush for the doors and

nostel. No sooner had Pastor Chris Barr commenced with evening vespers than the excitement began. Someone mentioned the words 'Northern Lights!' There was a rush for the doors and

windows. Then gasps of delight and surprise. It seemed that God was playing with His 'finger-paints', the aurora borealis! Shimmering light green was His background colour which at times covered the entire hemisphere. Silently His finger streaked lines of white, then huge patches of red. Each slowly faded then reappeared in new shapes and intensities. Surely God visited us!

Early Sabbath morning a cheerful group scampered to the sea-shore. Galway member John McNamara began by witnessing to the Sabbath truth. Later Chris Barr shared his personal testimony with us. Our witness continued on Sabbath afternoon when we took an adventure by the Atlantic Ocean, at the same time distributing some free books.



Croydon youth in Rotterdam.

CROYDON CHOIR GO DUTCH

The Croydon Adventist Gospel Choir — together with supporting members — has spent a profitable few days in Rotterdam, Holland. The purpose was to present a concert in the Rotterdam church.

In a polished performance the choir rendered a broad repertoire of songs ranging from negro spirituals and a cappellas to contemporary numbers that appealed to the listeners' social conscience.

The choir was ably supported by Dutch groups 'Sweet Inspirations' and 'Reflections'. It was encouraging to note that a high proportion of non-Christians were among the packed congregation. The ambience was warm and the congregation was extremely appreciative of the presentation, with one visitor commenting that he had 'never heard anything like this before'. Others were inspired to return to active participation in gospel music. COLIN BARKER

turous hike by the Atlantic Ocean, at the same time distributing some free books.

Everyone returned full of stories and excitement. Pastor Taylor, from the Galway church, allowed several of us to give small testimonies of how the Lord had blessed our afternoon's endeavours.

The weekend would not have been complete without a special sharing time. On Sabbath evening we shared our musical talents. With violin, voice, guitar, piano or flute, the members offered deep, heartfelt praise in music. It is difficult to capture in words and phrases the atmosphere and blessing we received. The incessant strumming of guitars by all the young, budding musicians, mingled together with messages regarding the solemnity of the days in which we live.

MADELINE FLETCHER, student missionary, Shannon, County Clare

WANTED by Camp Hill church Welfare Society for ADRA projects in Eastern Europe and the Third World, all your old pairs of spectacles. Please send to: Mrs. E. Shaw, 2 Uplands Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 8BP.

SUMMER in Snowdonia, N. Wales. Morannedd Guest House an ideal base for mountains, beaches, historic buildings and industrial archaeology. Fabulous views, good vegetarian food. For more details phone Gordon or Rosemary on (0766) 762734.

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		London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Feb	28	5.38	5.50	5.40	5.43	5.56
Mar	6	5.50	6.02	5.53	5.58	6.10
	13	6.02	6.14	6.06	6.13	6.24
	20	6.14	6.26	6.18	6.27	6.38

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