

MESSENGER

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DID MAN EVOLVE?

by Colin Mitchell, author of

The Case for Creationism

(Autumn House*)

Time magazine recently featured an article entitled 'How Man Began' with a picture of a frightening unshaved apeman's face on the cover and a double-page spread inside showing him running. The object was to present reports in two prestigious scientific journals which 'are rattling the foundations of anthropology and raising some startling possibilities'.

The first 'shocker' was in *Nature*. Chinese scientists claim that the skull of a modern-looking human, found in their country a decade ago, is at least 200,000 years old — more than twice as old as any *Homo sapiens* specimen ever found in that part of the world.

The second 'shocker' was in the US journal *Science*. US and Indonesian researchers said they had redated fossil skull fragments found at two sites in Java from 1 million to 2 million years ago. These are from a species called *Homo erectus*, thought to be the immediate ancestor of Neanderthal and modern humans.

These findings challenge the current view that man evolved from an ape-like ancestor in north-east Africa and only began colonizing elsewhere in the world about 1 million years ago after he had evolved through the stages of *Australopithecus afarensis* (4-2 million years ago), *Homo habilis* (2-1.5 million years ago), to *Homo erectus*, and that he only developed into *Homo sapiens* anywhere about 100,000 years ago.

The *Time* findings appear to pose the choice between (a) 'pushing back' the time human ancestors left Africa, and (b) reviving the possibility that human evolution in the Far East was quite separate from that in Africa. Only these alternatives would explain the proposed earlier dates of the Indonesian and Chinese fossils.

We must, however, chal-

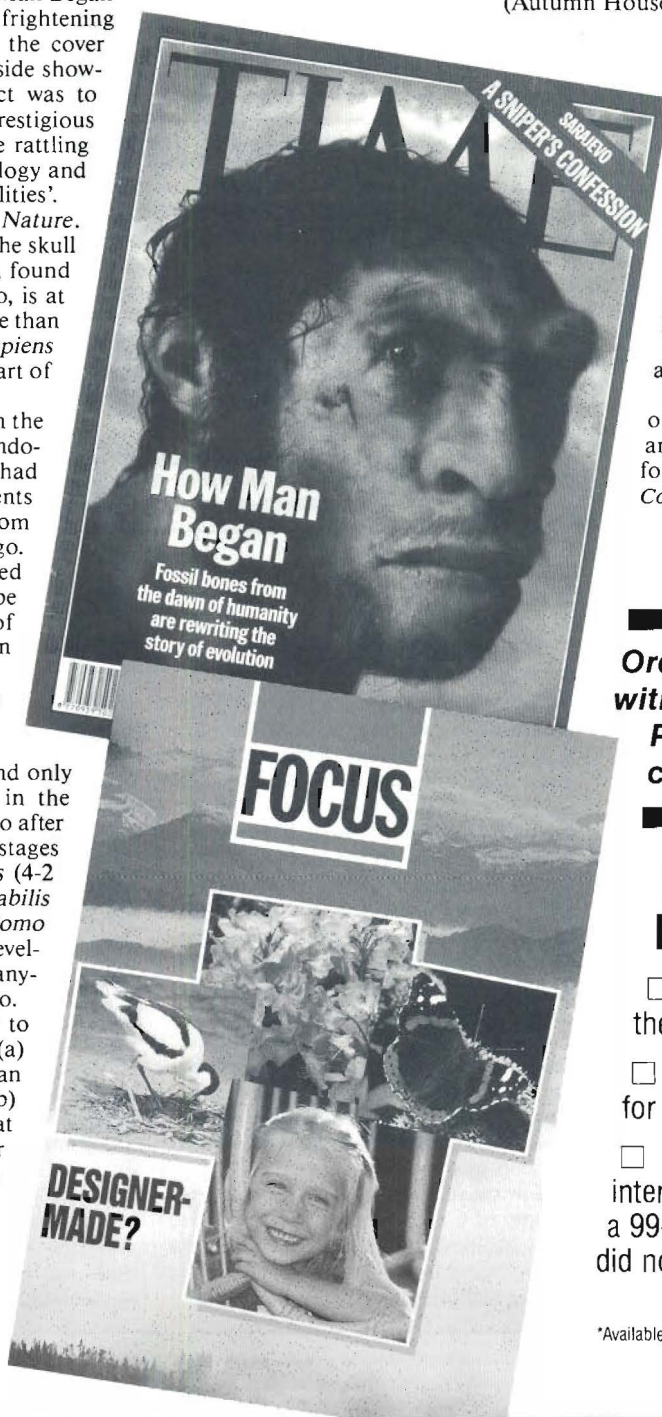
lenge this whole discussion. All the researchers quoted by *Time* assume that human evolution is a fact. They accept conventional scientific opinion in seeing the problem as elucidating the evolutionary story, not investigating its validity. This inevitably biases their reporting away from creationist explanations.

But the whole theory of human evolution is not only clearly unbiblical *but rests on weak scientific foundations*. The new discoveries reported by *Time* in no way alter this.

There are a number of compelling arguments for the Creationist view:

1. Fossils are almost always fragments of bones and teeth. Skulls are very rare, and whole skeletons are seldom, if ever, found. Virtually all fragments found are

Continued on page 8



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In this quarter's FOCUS . . .

- ☐ **The Real Jurassic Park** — the case for a global flood.
- ☐ **Designer-made?** — the case for a God-made Earth.
- ☐ **Beyond Prison Walls** — an interview with an Adventist serving a 99-year-sentence for a murder he did not commit.

*Available through your PM secretary.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

'Christianity Today'. America's big circulation *Christianity Today* featured the work of ADRA in a very positive light recently. The feature began, 'Sarajevans wanting to worship in a Protestant service can do so only on Saturdays. Seventh-day Adventists are the sole Protestants still holding church services in the war-torn city. Though the Adventist population has shrivelled to twenty baptized members, its Saturday services are attracting 200 persons . . .'. Leadership is being taken by the young laity. During heavy shelling one young Adventist speaking over Sarajevo radio, 'admonished worshippers to drown out the explosions by singing louder'.

CT reports that last year Adventist lay preacher Dario Slankamenac 'spent two months in Sarajevo's military prison for refusing to carry a weapon within the Bosnian army. The strong reputation of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency led to his abrupt release.' ADRA, apparently, is the only aid organization whose impartiality is respected by all sides in the fraught conflict.

New college in Russia. A new SDA college on Sakhalin Island, in the Far Eastern reaches of Russia, is operated today by the Korean Union as an extension of its mission service. This is part of an effort to evangelize the 450,000 people of Korean descent who live in the area. The college, which began in December 1992 with thirty theology students, accepted another thirty students this past September in theology and expanded its

offerings to include business management and foreign languages.

Albanian Mission formally organized. Just three years after Albania opened its doors to religious freedom, following decades of persecution, Seventh-day Adventists have formally organized the Church community there into a new national entity — the Albanian Mission.

Seventy delegates representing believers from Tirana, the capital, Korca, Shkodra and Elbasan convened 14-16 April in Tirana and voted to adopt Church constitution and form a Church organization directly attached to the TED.

Today there are 155 baptized members in Albania but, according to Ron Edwards, president of the Albanian Mission, the number worshipping on Sabbath is much greater. ANR

Missionaries evacuated from Rwanda. Nearly ninety overseas mission personnel affected by the civil war in Rwanda have been evacuated, according to reports received at the GC. All have reached safety in neighbouring countries or their country of origin, except the ADRA director, Carl Wilkens, who chose to stay in Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. ANR

Baltic Union welcomes Newbold College. Education for church workers in the Baltic countries has recently been discussed between Newbold College and the SDA Church in Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania.

Dr. Mike Pearson, head of The-

ology at Newbold College, returned in early April from negotiations with the leadership of the Baltic Union. Commencing in June this year, with the possibility of holding courses two or three times a year, lecturers from Newbold's Theology department will present a two-week course in the Adventist Centre in Riga, Latvia, which has recently been returned to

the Adventist Church.

'Church membership in the Baltic Union is increasing by up to 20 per cent per annum', says Pearson. 'The forty ministers there are committed to improving their skills and knowledge so that they can meet the unique challenges of the rapidly-growing Church and changing society.'

ANR

GRADUATION

NEWBOLD COLLEGE Sunday 12 June at 2.30pm

Speaker: Dr. W. Richard Leshner, president of Andrews University

Admission will be by ticket only. Tickets are available on a first-come-first-served basis from the:

Principal's Secretary, Newbold College, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks., RG12 5AN.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Stanborough Secondary School is pleased to offer seven scholarships equivalent to 60 per cent of all fees (boarding and tuition), starting from September 1994.

2 for NEC

2 for SEC

1 for each Mission

The following criteria will be considered: positive attitude of applicant, academic performance, financial need and need of child for Adventist friends, though not all applicants will be expected to fulfil all criteria.

If interested please speak to your church pastor or ring (0923) 673268 and ask for an application form. Decisions will be made at the end of May.

SIXTH FORM TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE, DEPENDING ON GCSE RESULTS.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

JUSTIFIED

by E. E. Cleveland

'I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.' Luke 18:14.

Two worshippers are brought to view — one a Pharisee and the other a publican. They are indeed a study in contrasts.

Let us consider the Pharisee. He

depended upon his performance of external forms. 'I pay tithe,' he boasted before the Lord. He compared himself with other men. 'I am glad that I am not like other men,' he said. The folly of comparing oneself with other faulty human beings is self-evident. The only perfect pattern by which we may measure behaviour is the absolutely perfect life of our Lord Jesus Christ. In spiritual things men who aspire to be like other men choose poor patterns, to say the least. The Pharisee depended upon his good deeds to qualify him before God. In a sense we may say that the Pharisee sought to buy God's favour in exchange for his own faithfulness in certain external forms. This churchman did not receive the blessing of God because his ostentatious worship was unacceptable.

Now the publican typifies the true worshipper of God no matter how lowly. He knew his need. 'God be merciful to me a sinner' (verse 13) was his prayer. This is the proper attitude of worship. Such a soul

will not leave the sanctuary without blessing. This worshipper had a measure of faith. He knew God to be a God of mercy, and his prayer was for God to be merciful to him. He believed he would be rewarded, therefore his confident petition. There was love in his heart. He was so sorry for his sins that he smote his breast. He had offended his Creator by some deed, some thought, or some word. His remorse was deep and genuine, and such remorse is born only of love. He had a strong desire to be free. 'Be merciful to me,' he pleads. 'I have nothing to offer; I have nothing with which to commend myself. I throw myself on Your mercy, and I plead only Your merit. Do not judge me according to my works and do not give me my just deserts. Be merciful to me, a sinner.' This humble plea won him clemency. He went down to his house justified, innocent, free from condemnation. Oh that we might learn the grace of abasement.

JUST AS I AM

Charlotte Elliott was born in Clapham the year the Revolution began in France. A carefree cockney, she became popular by writing satirical verses and drawing satirical cartoons.

The carefree life ended when, at 30, she began to suffer from a degenerative disease. For the next fifty years she was to be more or less bedridden. When disease struck, Charlotte was living in Brighton. She sank into a deep depression. Her humour and her gift for writing verses and drawing cartoons left her. Parsons called, but their legalistic ritualism deepened a sense of guilt she already felt. Jesus, salvation and heaven seemed totally beyond her reach.

In 1822 Swiss preacher Dr. Caesar Malan visited her. There were counselling sessions. Malan homed in on her problem: 'You are right to feel a sense of sin. Without it no one comes to the Saviour for pardon and new life. But you must come just as you are, a sinner, to the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.'

Charlotte came to the Saviour. Just as she was.

Luther described unregenerate man as 'crookedly bent in on himself'. He must come to Jesus crooked. Only the Lord can straighten him out.

John Stott wrote, 'There is in every one of us this tough fibrous root of self-centredness.' That 'fibrous root' must be taken to the Great Physician, for we are powerless to deal with it. While total surgical removal may not take place until we are glorified (Philippians 3:21), He provides the power to subdue it now.

Plato said, 'There is a blind, many-headed beast that is all that is evil within you.' Left to your own devices *you* could not tame that beast; it could take over your life. Take it to the Saviour. Life and eternity depend on it.

Over the years many 'How-I-became-an-Adventist' stories have been sent for me to read. But whether it is From-Communism-to-Christianity or From-Hinduism-to-Christianity or From-Materialism-to-Christianity I do not categorize them as conversion stories unless they contain two basic elements:

- There must be evidence of sin-sorrow.
- The sinner must take his sin to the Saviour.

Without those two elements it is possible to exchange one ideology or system of ethics for another, even to embrace a new and better way of life. But without sin-sorrow, there is no sense of need. If there is no sense of need, we shall not be drawn to the cross. No cross, no Saviour, no salvation, no crown — no conversion.

As chapter 3 of Romans begins, Paul is proving that — whether Jews or Gentiles — we 'are all under sin'. 'What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all!' Romans 3:9, NIV. 'For all have sinned . . . ' Verse 23. George Eliot of *Middlemarch* fame had no perfect characters in her books — no flawless heroes or heroines; she knew that everyone works from mixed motives. We are all alike; sinners. We all start from the same touchline; a long way from righteousness. *And that goes for Adventists too!*

The *guilt* of sin is taken away when we are justified. As we grow into Christ, the Holy Spirit is the agent through whom the *power* of sin diminishes in our experience. But there is no scope for boasting. *Not even by Adventists!* The nearer we come to Christ the more aware we become of the reservoir of evil within us. Hence the really great Christians are the ones most acutely aware of their propensity for sin.

Dag Hammarskjöld (UN Secretary-General, 1953-61) was a giant Christian. W. H. Auden described him as 'a great, good and lovable man'. But in his autobiography, *Markings*, Hammarskjöld wrote of 'that dark counter centre of evil in our nature'.

Years after his dramatic conversion, 'Amazing Grace' author John Newton wrote, 'I am not what I *ought* to be! Ah! how imperfect and deficient! I am not what I *wish* to be! I abhor that which is evil, and I would cleave to what is good! I am not what I *hope* to be! Soon, soon, I shall put off mortality, and with mortality all sin and imperfection! Yet, though I am not what I *ought* to be, nor what I *wish* to be, nor what I *hope* to be, I can truly say I am not what I *once* was, a slave to sin and Satan, and I can heartily join with the apostle and acknowledge, "By the grace of God, I am what I am!"'

That's how it is with all of us. In Romans 3:21-24 Paul contrasts * the reservoir of evil within man with * what he calls 'a righteousness from God' or 'the righteousness of God'. This *other* kind of righteousness — the only *genuine* kind — is, says Paul, '*apart from law*'. Martin Luther's whole life was totally transformed when he stopped being intimidated by the phrase 'the righteousness of God' and realized that this righteousness was a free gift which the believing soul received from God through faith in Jesus Christ.

As Romans 3 concludes, Paul is telling us that as we cast our burden of guilt at the foot of the cross, we must leave there too all our deadly doing — all our attempts to achieve salvation by law-keeping, performance. Did this make the law null and void? 'Not at all!' Law-keeping was the fruit, not the route of our salvation.

The words of Dr. Malan, 'You must come just as you are, a sinner, to the Lamb of God' led to Charlotte Elliott's conversion. Throughout the remainder of her bedridden life she celebrated each day with a renewal of her personal relationship with Jesus.

Fourteen years after her conversion, having thought about Malan's words, she incorporated them into the words of a hymn. It begins this way:

'Just as I am — without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidst me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come!'

When Charlotte died more than 1,000 letters were found among her papers from people around the world telling her that 'Just as I am' — the message and the hymn — had broken their hearts and brought them to the Saviour.

DAVID MARSHALL

'Adopt a truck . . . '

Stanborough Park church is to hold a Flower Festival, 8-10 July, as part of their 'Adopt a Truck for Croatia/Bosnia Appeal'.

Two 40-foot trailers will be parked outside the church as receptacles for the 5,000 boxes of food which the people of Watford are being invited to contribute.

The volunteer organizers also aim to raise £5,000 to cover the cost of driving the trucks to former Yugoslavia. They plan to show video reports of the work involved in sending the truck loads of food and supplies to Bosnia/Croatia and feature the recipients' desperate needs and their appreciation.

Festival director, Audrey Balderstone, says the flower displays in the sanctuary arranged by local groups will illustrate sixteen of the countries in which ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency) conducts its aid programme. With the backing of the Council she is inviting organizations to help this philanthropic effort by arranging food collections and/or fund-raising events — and to show that Watford is a town that cares. Audrey and her associates are appealing to police, firefighters, ambulance crews, schools, clubs, pubs, shops, factories, churches, mosques, temples, businesses, shoppers, hospitals, nurses, doctors, dentists, rotarians, round tables, journalists, councillors and other groups.

Audrey's husband David, a well-known Watford garden developer, has five times driven a loaded ADRA truck along treacherous roads to the former Yugoslavia. Motivated by the sight of despairing, hungry people, he challenges local business people to help and says,

'the volunteer food parcels are a life-line to them.'

Tony Welch, ADRA's Watford-based UK director, says he applauds the Stanborough Park church initiative. He is attempting to assemble twelve truck loads of food aid this year. Groups as far apart as Southampton and Crieff in Scotland are contributing to the appeal. Welch says his most urgent need is to find a warehouse in the south-east where collections of food can be accommodated prior to transit. ADRA-UK is part of ADRA International which has representatives in, or provides aid to, over 100 countries. This non-governmental organization is recognized world-wide for giving relief without regard to ethnic, political or religious association, in harmony with its charter.

Those wishing to make a donation or organize a food- or fund-raising event may phone: David Balderstone (0923) 675009 or Emma Davison (0923) 672251. Arrangements for group visits to the Flower Festival may also be made on the same numbers.

VICTOR COOPER

COMPUTER OPERATOR/SECRETARY. A vacancy exists in the South England Conference office for a computer operator/secretary to work in the secretariat, primarily concerned with operating the church clerk membership database and providing secretarial support to a departmental director.

The successful applicant will have had experience of computer use, especially with databases, although specific training will be given regarding the Conference system. Experience with other computer programmes, especially with word processing, will be important.

Salary according to age and experience. Write enclosing a current CV before 30 May 1994 to: Dr. J. Gallagher, South England Conference, 25 St. John's Road, Watford, Herts., WD1 1PY.



Pastor Nicolson baptizes Jason Daley.

Photo: H. Daley

Young and old choose Jesus

When the Holy Spirit speaks to a person and prepares him for baptism, nothing can hold him back. Brother Harper, one of the six candidates at Wolverhampton Oxford Street church on 13 March, suffered a mild stroke just two days prior to his baptism. We were doubtful if he would be able to go through the waters, but our fears were unfounded. The Lord made sure that Brother Harper was fine on the day and along with his wife he was baptized by Pastor Jeff Nicholson. Brother and Sister Harper had studied with Brother Taylor and Sister Munroe.

The world has much to attract our youth, so it was a great joy to see that the remaining four candidates were all young

people who had made their decision for Christ. Darren Taylor had chosen Jesus. He studied with Mark Palmer and Hannah Gaynor. Jason Daley, just 14, was reflecting the influence of his parents when he made his choice. He studied with Sister Mardner. Creton Allen had studied with Brother Hudson when he too decided to surrender his life to Jesus. Angela Douglas had searched various churches before she studied with Brother Fisher.

The candidates were all baptized by Pastor Nicholson who also presented the message. They were examined by Pastor David Savalani. Sister Mardner presented Bible study certificates.

PHILIP BAKER

J. Major gives £8,000 to Mission

Yes, it's true! The government under Prime Minister John Major has donated, free of charge, £8,000 for the work of the Lord in the Welsh Mission. What are the strings? None. Twenty-eight people took out four-year deeds to pay their tithes and offerings. That means that, without paying one extra penny than they usually give, these people have allowed the Church to claim back the tax they had already paid. The Mission has also benefited from Gift Aid through which single contributions of over £250 have similarly been presented and the tax reclaimed. If you are a tax payer and would like to dedicate some of that tax to the work of the Lord, at no cost to yourself, contact your local Conference, Mission or church Stewardship secretary.

G N FROM WALES

Marriage check-ups at Newbold

'You might have serviced your car recently, but when did you last give your marriage a check-up?' This was one of the questions asked by Dr. Jeffrey Brown, Family Life expert, at a Marriage Enrichment seminar held recently at Newbold Primary School. Pastor David Cox of the Newbold church envisaged the seminar as part of a four-pronged programme of outreach into the Binfield community.

The participants met five times under different themes. 'Communication, Key to Your Marriage', 'How to Fight Fair in Love', and 'The Secret of Staying in Love', were some of the topics. It was a marriage enrich-

ment seminar, strikingly different from traditional marriage counselling. The seminar was aimed at making good marriages even better. 'Your marriage may not need this seminar, but deserves it,' said Dr. Brown.

The seminar was appreciated by those living in the local community who were not members of the Church. 'I thought it was very productive and an opportunity for my husband and I to draw closer together', said Pamela Frost, who first heard of the programme at a parenting seminar, likewise arranged by the Newbold church.

LOTTA ABERG ADU-GYAN





Left to right: Pierre L'Homme, Yvonne Howell, Millie Stone, Lorraine Webley and Donna Toussaint.

The Windsor Street Five

Spring had arrived early. The sun shone on Birmingham and especially on the Windsor Street South church as we assembled to witness the first baptism of 1994 on 19 March. Pastor George Harris, our present pastor, and our former minister Pastor J. Nicholson, shared in baptizing the candidates. They were Millie Stone, Pierre L'Homme, Lorraine Webley, Yvonne Howell and Donna Toussaint. This will be a particularly memorable occasion for the fourth candidate Yvonne Howell; the dedication of her children, Christopher and Selina, preceded her baptism.

The counsel was given by Brother Richard Jackson from Jamaica — via Sheffield — who admonished and encouraged the candidates.

C. PHILLIPS

Singing Africa

Enthusiastic musical praise to God, colourful costumes, and a deliciously-cooked Ghanaian feast made up a day to remember on Sabbath 9 April.

When the Ghana SDA church in London advertised that they were to have a day of Ghanaian musical praise and food, the 240-mile journey became no obstacle. Dr. Jan Paulsen, the speaker at divine service, delighted the congregation by using a few well-chosen Ghanaian words remembered from his years of missionary work in Ghana.

The afternoon gathering began with the various singing groups introducing themselves musically. There were the

Church Choir under the direction of Joe Kwame, the Singing Group, the Children's Choir, the Missionary Group, and a male quartet and quintet. Then followed African-style worship, where the congregation moved in time to the various choral offerings, waving white handkerchiefs while they filed out, to drop their offerings in the large bowl supplied. They came out not once, but several times with a variety of small coins to add about £100 to the coffers of the building fund. Although the church was formed only two years ago, already £70,000 has been raised towards the £200,000 needed to buy and convert a permanent 'church home'.

FRED M. SNEED

Worthing Baptism

On the last Sabbath prior to his return to his native New Zealand, Pastor Mel Trevena baptized Eddie Wiseman. The baptism occurred at Hove. Eddie will be a member of the Worthing congregation.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Pastor Mel Trevena baptizes Eddie Wiseman.



MESSENGER PROFILE . . .

Pastor Denys Baidam



Evangelism has always been his great love and he has conducted nearly two dozen major campaigns since those early days in Dunfermline. These resulted in many souls being won, and when he began working at the BUC office his outreach extended to continuing the PREACH programme for contact with non-Adventist clergy. As well as co-ordinating their receiving copies of *Ministry* magazine, he also conducted seminars in Norwich and London. He then subsequently headed up the Trust Services and Family Life departments for the British Union, helping to prepare the Church programme for the Year of the Family.

Denys and Jean are rightly proud of their family. They were blessed with two sons, John and Andrew. John works at Newbold College as the director of admissions, and Andrew is a consultant surgeon at a circuit of hospitals in the Manchester area. The Baidam family has also extended with two grandchildren.

There is no substitute for experience in ministry. In his farewell speech at the British Union Denys referred to the well-known film *Goodbye Mr. Chips*, the story of a much-loved and respected teacher who had given all his years of service to a school. Denys officially retired at the end of March this year having completed a marvellous forty-six years in Gospel ministry, with the testimony on his lips that he would do it all again. He will still keep his hand in as the consultant observer for the Church on the British Council of Churches, and by writing articles for church periodicals and with other varying assignments. His wit and wisdom will be greatly missed at the BUC office and Pastor C. R. Perry, BUC president, paid tribute to his unstinting dedication to the Church. The last word was fittingly left to Denys, who ended his farewell speech by saying, 'Mr. Chips says goodbye.'

PAUL D. TOMPKINS

'Goodbye Mr. Chips . . . ' In 1953 as a young minister, Denys Baidam ran his first evangelistic campaign in Scotland. His budget was £250 to open up the work in the then unentered city of Dunfermline. As a result twenty-one people were baptized and a small group was formed. At first they had no church to worship in, but undeterred Denys and the new group purchased a plot of land for £50 and everyone pitched in to build a church. Last August Denys had the thrill of going back to Dunfermline to take part in the 40th anniversary of the church, which in many ways also acted as a testimony to the ministry of a faithful servant of the Church.

Denys's ministerial record read like an almanac of Scotland, Wales and North England. He graduated from Newbold in 1947 and began his internship in Glasgow. In those days interns were not allowed to marry before two years of service, but somehow he and Jean (née Whiting) managed to short-circuit the system and were married within 18 months. They have now celebrated forty-five years of happy marriage. Further ministerial calls have taken Denys and Jean to Cardiff and Caerphilly in Wales, where he acted as Youth sponsor, and then on to North England as a pastor evangelist in Leeds, Huddersfield, Wakefield, Manchester, Stockport and Oldham. In 1977 they returned for a second spell to Scotland until 1986 when Denys was appointed as Ministerial Association secretary of the British Union Conference.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. The treasurer of the British Union Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of £100 WWAM from Anon; £85 WWAM from Anon; £100 tithe from Anon. Marcus R. Dove.

You are invited to
**The Second Scottish
 Mission Session**

to be held on **Sunday 5 June 1994**
 at the
Crieff Seventh-day Adventist church,
 Gwydyr Road, Crieff.
 Proposed starting time 9.30am.

Also

The very special
Scottish Day of Fellowship
 to be held on Sabbath 4 June at the
 Edinburgh Seventh-day Adventist
 church, 3 Bristo Place, Edinburgh.
 9.45am to 5pm

Guest speaker

PASTOR R. FOLKENBERG
 GC president

Musical items presented by Newbold College
 Choir and local musicians.

The SDA church in Edinburgh where the
 meetings are being held has seating capacity
 for only 400. **ACCORDINGLY, ADMISSION
 WILL BE BY TICKET ONLY.** Those wishing
 to acquire tickets should apply to Pastor John
 MacFarlane, 63 St. Albans Road, Edinburgh,
 EH9 2LS.

Belfast: Creation Conference

The presence in the UK of Dr. Clyde Webster, a Geochemist with the Geoscience Research Institute at Loma Linda University, was the opportunity to organize a Creation Conference in the Belfast church on 15 January. Dr. Webster preached the morning sermon on the subject of creation. In the afternoon an audience of about forty listened to presentations on the general theme of 'Back to the beginning'. Among them were several visitors from Queen's University and various Christian churches in the area. Dr. Webster spoke on 'Creation of statistics' and on 'Resolution of time conflicts'. Dr. Mart de Groot spoke on 'Where science fails' and 'Glimpses of the future'. Good discussions followed all presentations.

On Sunday evening Dr. Webster gave a lecture on how his investigation of uranium roll-front deposits confirms the possibility that many geological features can be formed in centuries rather than millions of years.

By invitation from Loma Linda University Student Association and the Geoscience Research Institute, Dr. de Groot travelled to Loma Linda to take part in a creation conference there. His talk on 'God or big bang — what do you believe?' was well received.

EMERALD NEWSLETTER

ROOMS in N1 area, single/double. Central heating. Ten minutes to the West End, the City or Docklands. Contact: Danny on (081) 519 8442 x 243.

New church for Leamington Spa

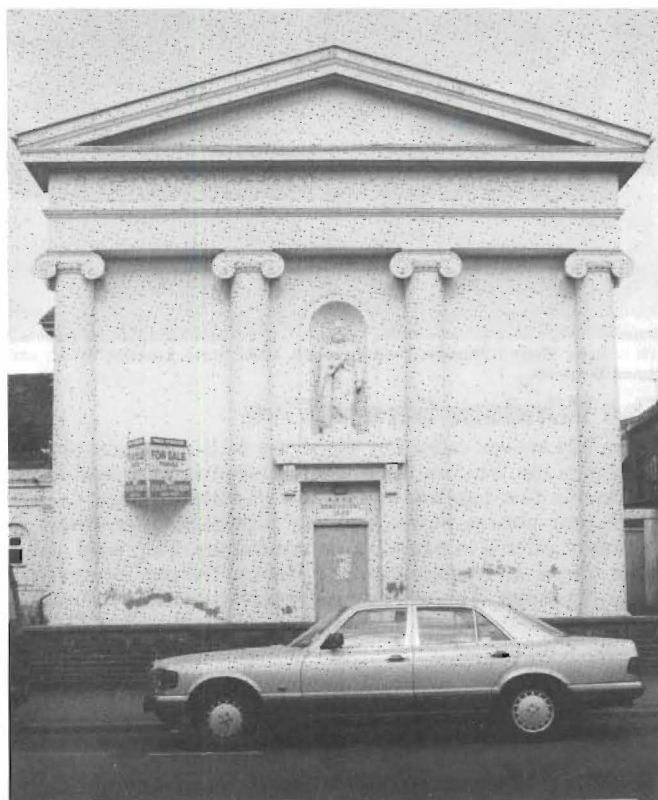
Sabbath 2 April was a red letter day for the members of Leamington church. We moved into our own building after months of prayer, planning, searching and hard work.

Leamington Mission, an historic and well-known local landmark built in 1820 as the first Catholic church in Leamington, was latterly used as a social club but lay vacant since 1990.

The original stucco lettering on the front façade bore the legend 'Leamington Youth Mission'; the word 'Youth' having been chiselled out some time before leaves space to insert the denomination's initials — thus the building will be known as 'Leamington SDA Mission', an appropriate title in a town which, just over three years ago, had no Adventist presence.

Since exchange of contracts in mid-January every Sunday and several week days the building has resounded to the sound of hammering, sawing and cleaning as an enthusiastic band of able-bodied and stout-hearted members and young people set to work to prepare some of the side rooms for immediate use pending the extensive renovation work which needs to be carried out on the main sanctuary.

We give thanks and praise to our God who has led us in this



Once a Roman Catholic church, now the home of the Leamington Spa SDA congregation.

venture after much heart-searching and disappointment. Thanks also to our minister Pastor Alan Conroy and church elders Rob Pearce and Stephen Peacock who have led and encouraged the members, and to all members and friends young

and old who have worked, prayed and given to make this dream a reality.

The address of the church is: Leamington SDA Mission, George Street (Off High St./Radford Rd.), Leamington Spa.

ANN CASTELLINO

FANCY TEACHING ENGLISH IN SPAIN?

The SDA primary school in Madrid is a bilingual institution. They are looking for an English-speaking native willing to spend a school year (September 1994-June 1995) on a voluntary basis in Madrid. Knowledge of the Spanish language is not necessary. The school would care for room, board, and other expenses. For further enquiries contact: Mr. José Anioite, Headteacher, TIMON SDA School, Alenza 6, 28003 Madrid, Spain.

Youth choir in prison

The Croydon youth choir has built up an excellent relationship with the former chaplain at the Rochester prison. When he was transferred to Camphill prison on the Isle of Wight he invited the youth choir to inspire the inmates in his new prison. Expenses were covered by the prison authorities.

We praise God for the power of the Gospel in songs that He is using to break down barriers. The chaplain is a regular reader of Seventh-day Adventist literature including *Ministry* and *Focus*. He requested fifty copies of *Focus* to be distributed among the inmates. SEARCH

Ballinacrow weekend

Surprising it was *not* raining on Friday 1 April as we all set out for the annual youth retreat in Ballinacrow, although we had plenty of rain, snow and hail through the remainder of the weekend.

There was a good attendance from all over Ireland. Unfortunately many of our old friends were unable to come, but there were a good number of new faces who, on the whole, seemed thoroughly to enjoy themselves.

The Sabbath day's programme was particularly enjoyable. A rousing song service, an interesting Sabbath school and an inspiring sermon from guest speaker BUC Youth director, Pastor Paul Tompkins.

Instead of the usual leisurely walk, most of us attempted to climb a mountain which *seemed* like Mount Everest to us. Nevertheless we achieved the half-way point — where we were stopped by a snow storm! Saturday night

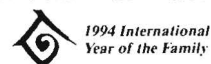
was great fun. Some of us, including our pastors, sang around the campfire which Steven Wilson, one of the young people from Ballinacrow, had made.

TOMI GODINA AND SIOBHAN BONNER

27-29 May 1994
 South England Conference

SURVIVING DIVORCE WEEKEND

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 England Conference, 25 St. John's Road,
 Watford, Herts., WD1 1PY.
 Telephone: (0923) 232728.

Evangelism in far west

Haverfordwest is the furthest west that our Church in Wales has conducted public evangelism. For about a year, a monthly Sabbath afternoon service has been held in the Withibush hospital on the initiative of two local members, Brother and Sister Quinlan.

Two public meetings have been held in the library hall. Pastor John Surridge has skillfully combined a lightning trip to the Holy Land and Egypt with humour and anecdotes, and unashamed support and defence for Bible truth, openly telling his audience that he is a Seventh-day Adventist minister.

G N FROM WALES

IMPORTANT!

● Notice is hereby given to the North England Conference constituency that the Specially Called Constituency Meeting scheduled for Sunday 15 May 1994 at Cayton Bay, Scarborough, has been CANCELLED.

● Notice is hereby given to the North England Conference constituency that a Special Session will be called on Sunday 10 July 1994 in the Great Hall, Birmingham University. Time: 10am. The sole item is to elect a new Conference president.

EGERTON FRANCIS, Executive secretary, NEC

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Contact Nos: Michelle Graham (0708) 555 738
Esworth Maynard (0708) 722 8860.

Liverpool Seventh-day Adventist church presents

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A Gospel extravaganza on Sabbath 28 May at the Archbishop Blanch School, Mount Vernon Road, Liverpool L7, featuring ● East London Choir ● New Hope ● Cheryl Saunders and much, much more.

Tickets £4, £3 concessions. Doors open at 5.30pm. Concert starts at 6pm. For tickets and further information contact William Ackah on (051) 733 0174 or Joe Rey on (051) 733 3512.

NURSERY HEAD REQUIRED

Andrew Memorial Day Nursery is the only Christian-based nursery in the Borough of Brent. It has an excellent inspection record. Situated at the Willesden SDA church NW10. Applicant needs to be: ● Committed to Christian Education. ● Aware of children's needs. ● Have relevant child care qualifications. ● Minimum of three years' experience with under 5s.

To commence 1 August 1994. Send CV to Pastor V. Goddard, AMDN, c/o South England Conference, 25 St. John's Road, Watford, Herts., WD1 1PY. Closing date: 31 May 1994.

OBITUARIES

DONALDSON, Edith Adina — d. 9 January. Edith Donaldson died peacefully in the arms of her daughter Rebecca Nugent as she prepared her for bed. Edith was born in 1901 in Clarendon, Jamaica. She came to England on Christmas eve 1984, to live with her daughter and husband Sam. She accepted the Advent faith soon after her arrival and remained a faithful member to her death. Edith is sadly missed by a host of Nottingham members, her two daughters, six grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren, and two sons-in-law. The funeral service was conducted by Pastors Curtis Murphy, Steve Palmer and Eric Lowe; and head elder for Nottingham church Sam Nugent. Sleep on and take your well-earned rest until Jesus calls you to meet your loved ones again.

MARVIN PATTERSON

KUZNICIW, Stefan — d. 22 January. Physically weak, but mentally and spiritually strong, Romanian born 78-year-old Stefan came to The Dell Rest Home in August 1986, where he was lovingly cared for by matron Mrs. Rose Barker and staff. Life had been hard. He was born during World War I and bereft of his father at the tender age of 3. As a refugee he worked in the mines of Germany and France in 1939 and later came to England in 1947. Stefan settled in Nottingham and was baptized there by Pastor V. Cooper in 1962. Nottingham had become his home, and sadly the officer-in-charge of The Oaks, St. Annes, said goodbye, giving him an excellent reference for his transfer. Though weakened by multiple strokes and general poor health, Stefan was a great blessing to us all and expressed himself in sign language and personal messages written in phonetic English. Eventually it became necessary for him to receive nursing care in James Paget and Northgate hospitals. From the latter he was taken to Gorleston crematorium on 2 February where Pastor D. C. Clothier officiated at the funeral service, and paid tribute to this brave, devout soldier of the Cross who knew his Redeemer and held on to his faith. The promises of God never fail to comfort the sorrowing. Remembering them again renewed the joyful expectation of that glad day. The crematorium organist was impressed by the closing hymn 'Face to face with Christ my Saviour' and by the Advent message. Stefan did not hear, but he will hear the sound of the trumpet and the voice of the Life-giver, and will rise to answer His call.

A. A. WOLFE

BENNETT, Ethel — d. 6 February. Hove church has been saddened by the death of Ethel Bennett, nearly 92 years old. Both she and her late husband were transferred to Hove from the Central London church in 1961. They were both baptized there as the result of an evangelistic campaign. Ethel was interested in welfare work and knitted many knee blankets which were given to worthy causes. She was always very busy. For the last fourteen months she has lived in a nursing home in Hove, being unable to live in her own home any longer, as age had taken its toll. While there, and previously, she was visited regularly by church members. So to them, and the staff of the home who cared for her so lovingly, we tender our grateful thanks. Ethel was a lady who believed devotedly in the return of her Saviour. Until then, when He comes to call us all, sleep on in peace, Ethel. The funeral on 16 February was at the Downs crematorium in Brighton, and was attended by church members and her neighbours and friends. Pastor Mel Trevena conducted the service.

WIN SEBBAGE

SOLOMON, Barbara — d. 6 February. The look in her eyes said it all. She was in pain. The last few years of Barbara's life had been tough. However, on 6 February a merciful God decided that she should sleep for a while. Born in February 1915 on the Shetland Isles, Barbara loved her roots. In 1938 she married Frank Solomon as a result of the herring fishing industry in Lowestoft. She was introduced to the Adventist faith in Lowestoft and was baptized by Pastor R. W. Docherty. Accepting the Adventist faith enhanced her love for God. She came into a Church which believed it had a distinctive mission, and her belief in the validity of her Church's mission was demonstrated in a life of Christian service; Ingathering, raising funds for the National Children's Home, along with preparing clothes for sales of work. Although at times in pain with arthritis, she knitted blanket squares for the homeless. Her personal life influenced her husband Frank to become a Christian. We cannot forget the hours too numerous to count given in door-to-door witness in Lowestoft. All these activities completed because of what her Lord had done for her. Barbara was a warm and caring person. She loved her family, calling her daughter and son affectionately as 'my' Jean, 'my' Willic. In moments of sadness at her passing, the Gospel comforts us with news that a newly-created Barbara will one day be reunited with husband Frank, daughter and son-in-law Jean and Terry Menkens, grandchildren Troy and Fiona, son William, along with other members of the Lowestoft church family. Lord, please come quickly.

DAVID NEAL

LLOYD, Ernest — d. 27 February. Coventry Central church regrets to report the passing of another elderly member. Ernest (Ted) spent most of his working life in the Coventry car industry. He became an Adventist and was baptized as a result of an evangelistic campaign conducted by Pastor David Lawson in 1977. His wife, who predeceased him, did not join him in this step. Our brother suffered considerably from a chest complaint and failing eyesight, and his last years were spent in a local nursing home. However, with the help of willing church members, he had transport to church services and attended when he was able, until a few weeks before his death. His quiet demeanour and patient smile will be remembered, together with his firm faith in a new heaven and earth where the blind will see. Pastor Alan Conroy conducted the funeral service at Canley crematorium, and spoke words of comfort and hope as he outlined the promise of the resurrection. To Ernest's two surviving brothers and to his sister, we extend our sincere sympathy.

DAVID BULL



WHITE, Marjorie — d. 4 March. The many friends of Dr. and Mrs. E. E. White will be saddened by the passing of Mrs. White.

Marjorie was born in Dorchester in 1906 and together with her mother and sister became an Adventist and was baptized by Pastor O. M. Dorland in 1922. A sports injury led to Marjorie's lifelong handicap, but failed to prevent her from living a full life in God's service. Despite having to attend classes in a wheelchair in her final year, she graduated from Stanborough Missionary College in 1929 and entered Church employment in the Youth department of the North England Conference. Out of office hours she often conducted prayer meetings in Derby and Sutton.

In 1932 Marjorie was married to Edward E. White, a young teacher at Stanborough Missionary College, and the couple set up home at nearby Easenhall. Marjorie's gift for appealing to young people found full scope at Newbold where she often used her beautiful contralto voice in church services and college concerts.

At the beginning of the Second World War the Whites received a call to Watford to launch a secondary school at Stanborough Park. Marjorie supported her husband valiantly during those dark days and served her country by joining the WVS to bring help to the victims of enemy bombing raids.

After the war ended, the call of duty took the Whites to Australia where Marjorie zealously supported the cause of public evangelism by putting her outstanding cookery ability at the service of the Greater Sydney Conference evangelists. When Dr. White became principal of Avondale College in 1952, Marjorie's love of students once more came into its own, for she made her home available to 300 students every year during the six years she and Dr. White spent at Cooranbong. Back at Wahroonga Marjorie resumed her evangelistic cookery demonstrations and launched a catering service to raise funds for a building project at Waitara. Her reward came in the invitation to spend six weeks in the mission field in Central New Guinea, which fulfilled her childhood dreams of seeing mission work at first hand.

After ten years service in Switzerland, the Whites retired in England, but their retirement was darkened by Marjorie's deteriorating health, which led to serious surgery and ultimately to hospital treatment. Perhaps Marjorie's greatest sorrow was her inability as her health declined to take part with fellow-believers in the services of the church. Marjorie bore great pain with great fortitude until the Lord in His mercy gave His beloved sleep on 4 March. Pastor Bernard Kinman took the funeral service in the Newbold chapel.

Dr. and Mrs. White celebrated their diamond wedding in 1992, and their many friends will feel deeply for Dr. White at this sad time when death has sundered the happy union of almost 62 years. To Marjorie's immediate family in England and Australia we express our deepest sympathy and share the grief of her numerous wider spiritual family scattered around the world. May the glad day of eternal reunion soon dawn with its knitting up of severed friendships and the turning of tears of grief into songs of eternal gladness.

A. J. WOODFIELD

HEAGREN, Kathleen — d. 25 March. On 31 March members of the Isle of Wight company and friends from the Ryde Salvation Army Corps attended the Isle of Wight crematorium to say farewell to a much-loved and respected lady, Kathleen Heagren, who died at the age of 73. Though disabled physically, she was an inspiration to all who knew her. Kathleen became a member of the Isle of Wight company in August 1991 when she was baptized by Pastor Peter Stearman. From the time she accepted the Advent message her home was the location for evangelistic meetings. It also formed the basis for our mid-week prayer meetings. Here under her guidance as prayer secretary, everybody took part in the prayer season including nine of our members in attendance most weeks. Our lives have all been enhanced and blessed through the never-flagging faith and example of Kathleen. At the funeral service to mourn her passing were her brother Reginald, his wife Lillian and their son Steven. Our minister Ron Clemow assisted by the writer conducted the funeral service.

CHARLES RUDDICK

Continued from page 1
distinctly human or distinctly ape. No clear 'missing link' has been established. The *australopithecines* and *Homo habilis* appear to be apes, *Homo erectus*, Neanderthal and later remains human.

2. All humans have characteristics lacked by all apes which preclude easy evolutionary connection. These include an erect posture, relatively short arms in relation to legs, a U-shaped rather than a parabolic dental arcade, no thumbs on feet, lips formed by extending mucous membrane, and a nose with prominent bridge and elongated tip. Also, humans have a smaller baby:adult ratio, and a much longer period of infant dependence than any ape. Finally, they have linguistic abilities unknown in the animal kingdom and are unique in practising worship.

3. The assessment of fossil ages is subject to much error. Most fossils are dated by their position in the sedimentary sequence and by radiometric analysis. The first tends to be seen as dependent on the second. Two sorts of radiometric analysis are normally used: radiocarbon and potassium-argon dating. Radiocarbon dating is used of organic remains but is not reliable beyond a few thousand years. Potassium-argon dating is sometimes used of lava beds above and below fossils. It suffers from a number of problems which make its results doubtful. The most important of these are the ability of potassium to migrate in rocks after their formation and the difficulty of distinguishing argon 40 generated by radioactive decomposition of potassium 40 from that which has not. The *Time* article points out that the supposed 200,000-year-old Chinese skull is getting a cautious reception in part because the dating technique used for it is still experimental.

4. The relative position of the different fossil types in a sedimentary sequence is sometimes inverted. For instance, Louis Leakey, the pioneer of paleoanthropological studies in East Africa, claimed to have found the remains of a circular stone shelter underneath deposits containing remains of *Australopithecus*, *Homo habilis*, and *Homo erectus*. It is generally agreed that only *Homo sapiens* could build. If he existed before these fossils were laid down he

cannot be descended from them.

5. There is accumulating evidence of human remains in much earlier deposits than those found either in Africa or the Far East.

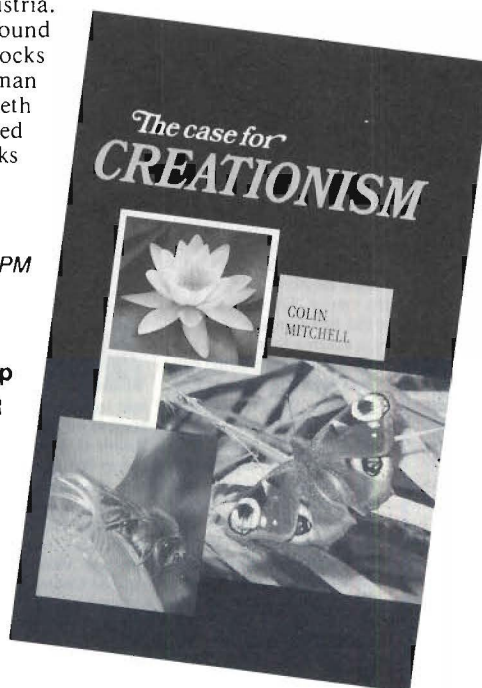
As discussed above, it has been assumed that humans evolved only in the last 4 million years or so. The Earth is generally thought to be about 4.5 billion years old and significant life, as represented by the earliest marine fossils, about 1.5 billion years old. Man is therefore seen as occupying only an infinitesimally short period at the end of Earth history. Any discovery of human remains earlier than 4 million years upsets the theory and favours the biblical record which associates man with all Earth history.

In fact, a number of such remains have been reported. Even if the authenticity of some is uncertain, several appear to be genuine. Human footprints have been recorded with crushed trilobites in Cambrian rock (notionally 570-500 million years old), and some were found actually inside dinosaur prints in Cretaceous rocks (c140-50 million years ago). An iron hammer head was unearthed in Ordovician rocks (c500-430 million years old). These last two items are on display at the Creation Evidences Museum at Glen Rose, Texas.

Coal beds of presumed Carboniferous age (c345-280 million years old) have been reported to contain a gold chain in Illinois, an iron pot in Oklahoma, and an incised steel cube in Austria. A nail was found in Cretaceous rocks in Britain. Human bones and teeth have been reported in Cretaceous rocks

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in Utah and in Tertiary coal (c50-2 million years old) in Germany, Italy, and Montana.

The creationist viewpoint would see these 'old' footprints, bones, and artifacts as being buried during Noah's Flood. The 2-million-year age given to the Indonesian fragments in *Time* would place them approximately at the boundary between the Tertiary period and

the Pleistocene Ice Age. A creationist would see this as probably being immediately postdiluvial and a few thousands years old, though it is uncertain whether the bones are from humans or apes. The Chinese skull is human and would date from the glacial period hundreds, rather than many thousands, of years later. □

Irish Mission: 'Where are we going?'

All organizations must look at what they are doing and where they are going. Churches are not exempt. The Irish Mission Executive thought that it should take this approach, so a special meeting including departmental sponsors was held in Dublin on Sunday 17 April. This is perhaps the first time in many years (if at all) that we have started such a process.

We did three things at that meeting. Firstly we reviewed the recent past of what was happening in the Mission. Next we had a 'brainstorming' session during which we collected a list of ideas of what could be examined and/or implemented and finally we gave broad agreement to four areas on which we need to concentrate. These were nurture, outreach, personal commitment and training/planning.

Within these four areas many topics were discussed and indeed overlapped, such as house groups, Sabbath school action teams, how to finance and staff our outreach work, improving

communications, our Mission resources for local workshops, youth ministries, upholding family values, retreats and worship.

What happens next? It was agreed that more work on the project was needed; this process requires communication to and from the local congregations; it needed a positive approach and most importantly an 'atmosphere' whereby we really open ourselves to the Holy Spirit.

This process will not crystallize overnight, but likewise we cannot afford to subject it to the dust of bureaucracy. Please pray for the Mission, that we move forward and do God's will.

BILLY LEONARD

HOLIDAYS, Rhyl, North Wales. BUC-owned 3-bedroomed furnished flat to let May onwards. Tel: (0745) 560869. This flat is usually the minister's accommodation. It is immediately above the Rhyl SDA church.

SUNSET

Sunset times are reproduced, with permission, from data supplied by the Science Research Council

	Long	Card	North	Edin	Bell
May 13	8.43	8.55	8.53	9.15	9.19
20	8.53	9.05	9.04	9.28	9.31
27	9.02	9.14	9.14	9.39	9.42
Jun 3	9.10	9.22	9.22	9.49	9.51

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