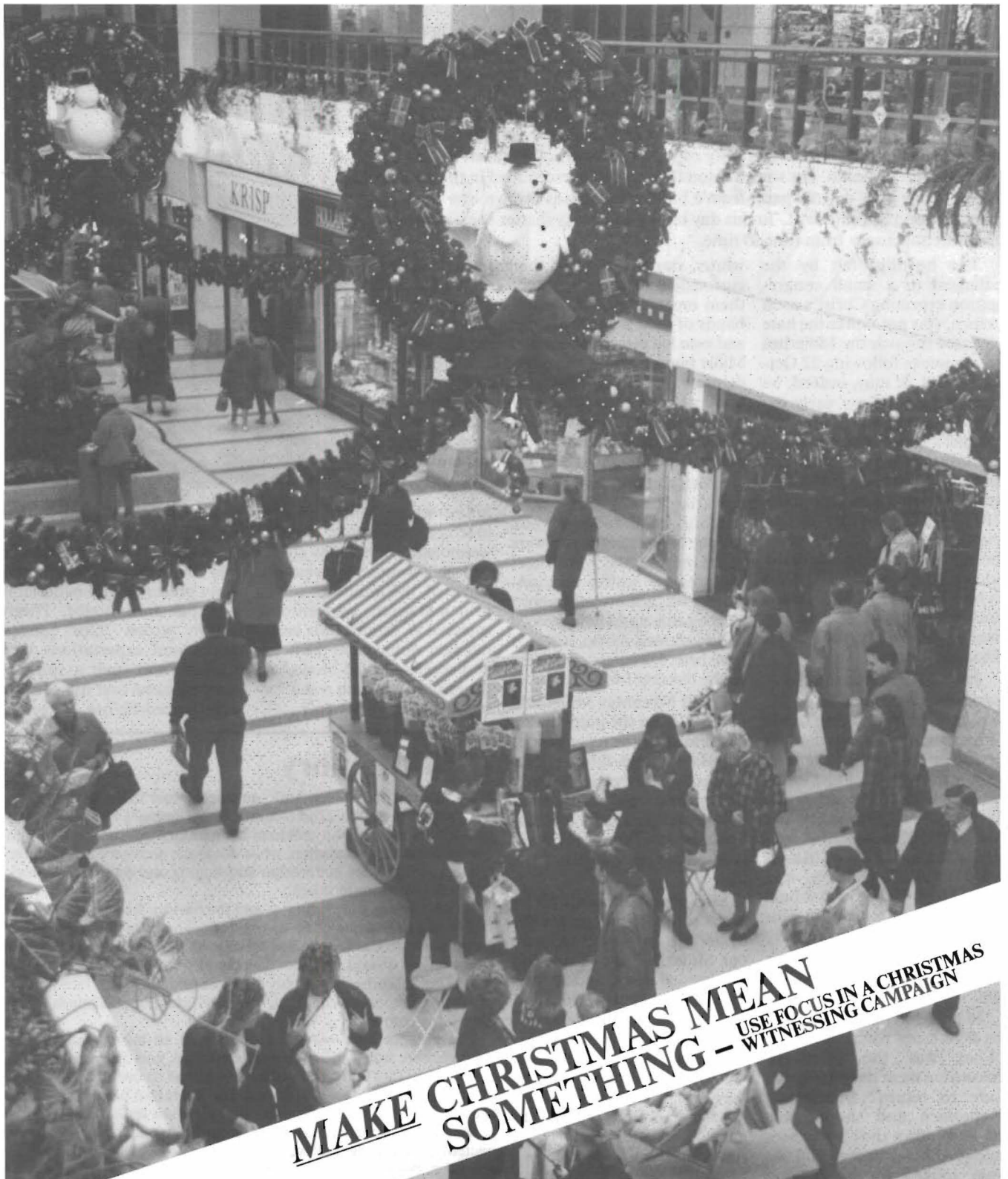


MESSENGER

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

VOL 99 NO 26 9 DECEMBER 1994



THE SHATTERING TIME

by David Marshall, editor

The 'little flock' who searched the Scriptures and were inspired by the 'Midnight Cry' vision, December 1844.

One of the windows of our church had been smashed by a huge rock thrown by the villagers. The rock had remained on the wooden floor of the sanctuary. From my seat in the second row I looked through the jagged hole in the window — and I saw Jesus Christ returning amid a great shining of angels.

That was the substance of an iterative dream I had as a boy. But, when I awoke, I knew that the rock and the broken window had been for real. The hostility of the villagers to the small community of Adventists was often taken out on our beautiful little church. For some reason the hostility crescendoed in the autumn of 1953; day after day red paint from a builder's yard was thrown over the large windows and the billboard. To this day bricks and rocks shatter the windows of the little sanctuary from time to time.

The hostility felt by the villagers to a small congregation expecting Christ's soon return, was not unlike the hate directed towards the Millerites in the weeks following 22 October 1844. It may, indeed, be the memory of my early exposure to persecution for the Gospel's sake that causes me to identify with the sufferings our pioneers were undergoing during November and December 1844 — just 150 years ago. In rural, self-contained communities, minorities are easily identified and victimized. This is how I found it. This is how it was for the pioneers in the weeks following the Great Disappointment.

Post disappointment persecution. James White, 23, wrote of turning 'again to the cares, perplexities and dangers of life, in full view of the jeers and revilings of unbelievers who now scoffed as never before'. When Joshua Himes visited the little Adventist congregation in Portland, Maine, soon after 22 October, and 'stated that the brethren should prepare for another cold winter', James White wrote, 'My feelings were almost uncontrollable. I left the place of meeting and wept like a child.'

Many Millerite farmers had let their crops rot in the fields; What was the point in harvesting them if the Lord was sure to return? Merchants, tradesmen and shopkeepers had run down their businesses and given away their capital. As they looked to the ensuing

winter, starvation stared them in the face. But curiously it was not the starvation that haunted them most. It was the harsh treatment at the hands of their neighbours, families and friends; and even harsher treatment in the papers. William Miller himself wrote, 'It seemed as though all the demons from the bottomless pit were let loose upon us. The same ones and many more who were crying for mercy two days before were now mixed with the rabble and mocking, scoffing, and threatening in a most blasphemous manner.'

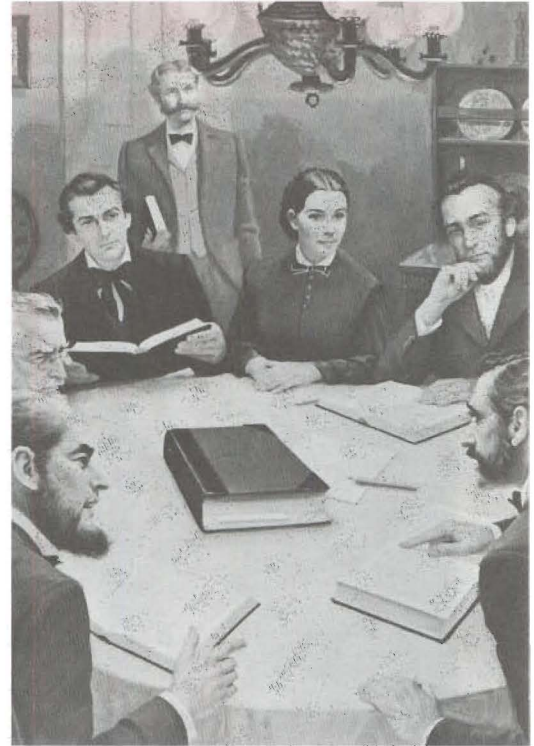
When Captain Joseph Bates went out to buy groceries on 23 October, a youthful mob followed him yelling: 'We thought you were going up yesterday!' For Bates the pressure within his community was almost unbearable; 'If the earth could have opened and swallowed me up, it would have been sweetness compared to the distress I felt.'

On 18 November Miller told Himes: 'Even the pulpits were desecrated by the repetition of scandalous and false reports concerning "ascension robes", and priests are using their powers and pens to fill the catalogue of scoffing in the most scandalous periodicals of the day.'

Mob attacks. In many places mobs took action against the Millerites. In New York State one Millerite place of worship was burned down, another was torn down, and a third attacked, the worshippers sent running for their lives. A Millerite group in Canada chose to meet in a private house after they had been driven out of their meeting-house, only to have 'thirty heavy guns . . . fired close at the window'. Elsewhere a mob rushed into a

house where Millerites were meeting, flaunting 'deadly weapons; others threw stones and clubs through the windows. Most of the windows in the principal rooms were entirely smashed in. Some of the brethren were wounded in the head, and some received blows.' At the head of the mob was a former Millerite follower. . . .

Hopes blasted. Worse than economic privations, worse even than the persecution, was that everything they had so passionately preached and believed in was put into doubt. Hiram Edson wrote: 'Our fondest hopes and expectations were blasted, and such a spirit of weeping came over us as I never experienced before. It seemed



1844 Memory

Years ago, in western New York, an elderly sister in the faith told me her memories of that 22nd October, in her father's family. She was then but a little girl. But graven in her memory was the scene of that day when father and mother, while doing the necessary things in the home, spent the day in devotion and singing and waiting. No work in the field was undertaken.

At last the day was ending — and the Saviour had not come. The father was sitting in a chair by the door. The little girl was playing on the lawn. Just as the sun was sinking, its last rays lighted up a little cloud on the distant horizon. The cloud shone like silver and burnished gold. 'Father rose to his feet,' she told me, 'with face lighted with joy. "Oh, praise the Lord," he cried, clapping his hands, "our Saviour is coming."'

The preparations to meet eternity had all been made. These believers were ready; their sins were confessed, and their wrongs were made right. This father did not have to attend to these things of getting ready when he saw that shining cloud. He had before that heard the admonition, 'Be ye therefore ready'. It is a lesson for us today as the time of probation hastens by, someday to end 'suddenly', unexpectedly, even to the believer.

W. A. Spicer, 'Pioneers of the Advent Movement' (R&H 1941), pages 64, 65.

that the loss of all earthly friends could have been no comparison. We wept, and wept, till the day dawned. I mused in my own heart saying, "My Advent experience has been the richest and brightest of all my Christian experience. If this had proved a failure, what was the rest of my Christian experience worth? Has the Bible proved a failure? Is there no God — no heaven — no golden home city — no paradise?" On 24 October Josiah Litch told Miller: "It is a cloudy and dark day here — the sheep are scattered — and the Lord has not come yet."

Sheep scattered. In fact, the sheep were scattering in all directions. Some continued to look daily for the coming of the Lord, some set new dates (only to be disappointed later). Miller began to believe that there was a margin of error in his calculations. Some abandoned faith in the advent, and some abandoned faith altogether.

Those who had conventional congregations to return to, returned to them. Some who had been disfellowshipped as Millerites made apology and went back to their previous place of worship. But many felt that this was not an option. Joshua Himes set about organizing what would become known as the Albany Connection. Some, having been expelled from their congregations, had (using Revelation 14:8 and 18:1, 2) identified their former churches with 'Babylon'; for them a return was out of the question. Among these were James White who deplored the 'general stampede in the direction of Egypt', Ellen Harmon, 17, who persisted in the belief that 1844 had been 'the happiest year of my life', and Captain Joseph Bates, 52, an able speaker and writer who, with others, was moving towards a belief in the seventh-day Sabbath. While Bates would take some time to persuade his young associates of this truth, with him they already believed in baptism by immersion and conditional immortality.

December vision. Come December even this faithful few had drawn the conclusion that the 22 October calculation had been a mistake. Significantly it was at this point — when,

paradoxically, faith in the Advent was strong but faith in prophetic interpretation shaken — that Ellen Harmon received the first of her visions. She saw 'the Advent people' travelling 'to the City. . . . They had a bright light set up behind them at the beginning of the path, which an angel told me was the Midnight Cry. This light shone all along the path and gave light for their feet so they might not stumble. And if they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus, who was just before them, leading them to the city, they were safe. . . . Others rashly denied the light behind them, and said that it was not God that had led them out so far. The light behind them went out which left their feet in perfect darkness, and they stumbled and lost sight of the mark and of Jesus, and fell off the path. . . .'²

In today's Church I see trends that remind me of the November-December 1844 experience. Challenges to the light that shines from our beginnings have come from liberal thought-leaders. These challenges have led to a shattering time. And part of this shattering has been a feeling of rootlessness and uncertainty as to our identity and direction. This has left our congregations open to the wiles of all kinds of splinter groups, the very nature, number and effects of which convince me that the devil knows he has 'but a little time'. Let us draw strength from our roots to withstand the pressures of the present, so that when 'the time of trouble such as never was' is upon us, we can stand, our faces fixed on Jesus. We may, indeed, view His return-

ing through shattered church windows.

Looking from the perspective of 1844 to the final, rapid movements that would finish the work in triumph, Ellen White writes: 'Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place. . . . By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers. . . . Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side.'³

¹The majority of quotations are cited in George Knight, *Millennial Fever: A Study of Millerite Adventism* (Pacific Press 1994), chapters 11 and 14.

²Early Writings, page 13.

³The Great Controversy, page 612.

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DINNER AT THE SAVOY

Bill Hamilton, BBC correspondent, was special guest speaker at an ADRA fund-raising dinner at the Savoy Hotel on the evening of 2 November. Herta and Hans von Stiegel and four of their friends at the Central London Church organized the fund-raising dinner in order to give their business associates — bankers, lawyers and executives — the opportunity to become acquainted with ADRA's work in Albania.

Award-winning TV journalist, Bill Hamilton, has reported on at least fifteen ADRA projects in Albania and elsewhere. His after-dinner speech described graphically the impoverishment of Albania in the wake of the disastrous tyranny of the Communist dictator Enver Hoxha. In the face of all this need,

Hamilton affirmed his confidence in the work of ADRA. 'ADRA is improving life, stimulating life and saving life,' he said. The agency's divisional director, John Arthur, showed a film of the Duchess of York's recent visit to the Albanian projects with ADRA representatives and brought the sixty guests up to date with a current campaign to raise £100,000 to build a children's health centre.

HELEN PEARSON

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. The treasurer of the British Union Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of £100 tithe from Anon., £100 tithe from Gibraltar, £70 Week of Sacrifice from Gibraltar. *Marcus R. Dove*

The Principal of the Voice of Prophecy Bible School acknowledges with thanks a gift of £20 from OAP, Stoke-on-Trent. *K. F. Taylor.*

The Time is Now baptism

On 23 September members and visitors of the Manchester South church witnessed a memorable occasion as Mr. Newton Walker gave his life to the Lord in baptism.

The first candidate of The Time is Now campaign, Mr. Walker confirmed to a full church his dedication to the Lord and the beliefs of the Church. His baptism was witnessed by his two daughters and his jubilant wife. For a number of years he had observed the life-style of his wife and realized there was no other life-style than one with Jesus. Asked to view the uplifted hands ready to accept him into church

fellowship, there were more than he could number.

Preceding the baptism was the usual format of the campaign delivered by Derek Marley, whose subject of repentance and love touched all present. This was perfectly supported in song by the District Choir and Sister Marley adding an essence of heaven. An appeal was given, after which seven people decided to dedicate their lives to the Lord.

May God continue to bless the efforts of those who bring the love of God to many souls, as we continue The Time is Now campaign.

COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR

Part of the campaign's reception team: Rose Fairweather, Adrene Evans and Kathleen Morrison.



Trek to Broomhill

Maidenhead church members undertook their annual trek to Broomhill. As usual, the families enjoyed a weekend of excellent food provided by Pete and Miriam Chapman, together with walks in the fresh Devon air and spiritual food courtesy of Pastor Paul Clee.

David and Audrey Balderstone were welcome guests. They told of the work of ADRA. Instead of the usual Harvest Festival, tinned and dried foods, clothes and shoes were arranged at the front of the hall. Maidenhead member John Kent was part of the ADRA mercy trip to Sarajevo which ended in his being trapped there by the military activity of the Bosnian Serbs. There has been considerable newspaper coverage of John's experience, including one paper who kept ringing up to see if he was still alive!

MIRIAM WOOD



Members of the group pictured left to right: Don and Shaun Douglas.

Oxford man baptized

It was a very special Sabbath on 17 September when Mark Harrison was baptized. Although Mark had grown up an Adventist it was while attending a local evangelistic campaign conducted by Pastor Brian Robinson that he decided to commit his life to Christ. Members from Cannock church and Mark's family and friends helped to fill the Erdington church to witness the public demonstration of his faith. Pastor Michael Walker baptized Mark and Pastor L. D. W. Southcott of the BUC was the speaker for the day. May we also take this opportunity to wish Mark God's blessings as he continues his studies and now undertakes to witness at Oxford University.

J. WILLIAMS

Pastor Michael Walker immerses Mark Harrison.



Vision concert

A group of Nottingham Central members in the North England Conference proceeds were raised for the Nottingham 'Vision' is a group of young adults with resources and talents in order to promote our people and the community.

Motto: Where there is no vision the

Abundant Life Cam

On Sabbath 1 October members of the E and visiting friends packed into the Ed five candidates who accepted the Lord

The baptism was the culmination of pastors David Burnett, A. Welsh and S the Sabbath sermons.

Pastor Theo Sargeant, Church Minister officiated in the immersion of the candle with baskets of flowers.

The Abundant Life campaign not only but also the physical. As the body is the importance of looking after our body truth.

The health spot covered areas of stress cell anaemia and dental health.





in Williams, Catherine Williams, Gary Williams
Photo: Marvin Patterson

hosted one of the biggest and best choir e, at the Albert Hall, Nottingham. All MENCAP.

have pooled together their God-given angelism and economic stability among

ple will perish. *MARVIN PATTERSON*

aign

nton, Chingford and Enfield churches nton church to witness the baptism of their personal Saviour.

our-week campaign. The speakers were 1 Dowding, who assisted in presenting

director of SEC, and Pastor Sam Davis, as, after which the ladies were presented

alt with the spiritual aspect of our lives, mple of the Lord, we were reminded of s in order to serve God in spirit and in

nagement, hypertension, diabetes, sickle *E. BELLOT*



WHY NEWBOLD COLLEGE IS IMPORTANT

Velda Cox, Advancement director inter-views Derek Beardsell, principal of Newbold

Dr. Beardsell, you have been principal of Newbold College for four years now. What do you see as the most important reason for Newbold College's existence?

The most important reason is to provide a unique education which not only prepares students for their chosen career but caters for their spiritual and social needs. Young people have the opportunity to be guided by dedicated Christian lecturers in their search for knowledge and comprehension of their chosen field of study, and in their search for an understanding of God. They also have the opportunity to make friends and socialize with Christians from many different nationalities and to share their faith with those who have not yet found Jesus as their Saviour.

Are there some other reasons why you feel Newbold is important?

Yes, there are many! Firstly, Newbold provides the Church with well-trained, competent young people to serve both in the Trans-European Division and around the world. Graduates have taken up positions as accountants, teachers, administrators, pastors, business managers and directors of ADRA, to name just a few. Many leadership positions are filled by those who have been students here. For example, Robert Folkenberg, president of the General Conference; Andrea Luxton, BUC Education director; Niels-Erik Andreasen, newly-appointed president of Andrews

University, and Lawrence Geraty, president of La Sierra University in the USA. I could go on, but there would not be sufficient space to list the success stories of our students.

Secondly, the College is providing lectures, seminars and workshops in various locations. To date approximately 100 students in the Baltic Union have registered for modules taught by lecturers in the Department of Theological Studies in Riga, Latvia. In addition, staff have answered calls to teach in the West Indies, West Africa, Denmark, Italy, Austria, France, Holland and England. There is no doubt that Newbold's influence is being felt farther and farther afield.

What has been happening at Newbold recently that you feel the Church should know about?

There are several things. Firstly, ten of our lecturers have either just completed a further degree or are involved in further study of some kind. Four are studying for doctorates and three have recently published books.

Secondly, I am happy to be able to report a record enrolment this year of 383 students. Also, in response to the fundraising drive spearheaded by the Advancement Department this year, church members, friends and former students have donated almost £40,000 to various projects which include the new bathrooms for Keough House, student aid and the new Church building. A big

thank you to all those who have supported this appeal with donations.

What is the most important need Newbold has at present?

The increase in student enrolment has placed more strain than ever on our existing facilities. Last year we made an appeal for funds for three new bathroom units in Keough House. We need to rebuild all existing units with drainage system replacement at a cost of £25,000. So far we have collected £6,422 towards this project. To build the first unit we need another £18,578. You may think that this is a prosaic and mundane project, but it is our greatest need at this time. It is not that we have neglected our duty in keeping up with maintenance, it is simply that we have been unable to meet the demands placed upon us in the face of reduced funding. Our major priority has been to keep a strong educational programme going and to develop and grow in a way that will give our young people confidence that this institution is keeping up with the times and indeed meeting the twenty-first century boldly. I believe that we have achieved this — our increase in enrolment indicates confidence in our programme.

Will you help us on 21 January 1995 by giving a generous offering so that we can complete this project this year? God bless you for considering Newbold's needs.

Dr. Derek Beardsell, Newbold's principal, with the Mayor of Bracknell, Alan Ward, the Mayoress, Pauline Hellier Symons and Dr. R. W. Leshner, president of Andrews University.



NEC Ministers' Convention

Ministers, Bible workers and Conference officers from the NEC enjoyed a spiritual retreat at the Stanborough Secondary School, 24-26 October. The event had been planned and organized by Pastor E. Francis in his capacity as Ministerial Association secretary for the Conference. From the feedback provided by response sheets passed round during the meetings the indications are that the programme was greatly appreciated.

The theme for the three-day meeting was 'Called and Sent'. Bible studies and devotional messages were presented by I. Mardner, O. McIntyre, and Pastors M. Anderson, L. Edwards, E. R. Francis and I. Sweeney. Visiting speakers included Dr. J. Paulsen, Pastors C. R. Perry, D. McFarlane, and R. H. Surridge.

The tone of the retreat was set by the opening presentation on Monday evening. Pastor McFarlane reminded his colleagues in ministry that while Jesus was accused by His opponents of many different things, in one area there was unanimous agreement. They were united in their recognition that Jesus spoke with authority. He suggested a threefold source for this authority: an abiding belief in God's call, a God-given message, and the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Elaborating upon these three sources Pastor McFarlane demonstrated that they were also the key to an authoritative ministry in the modern world.

On Tuesday morning Pastor Perry spoke about a 'Productive and Successful Ministry' while

Retired NEC president Pastor R. H. Surridge speaks to fellow pastors.



Pastor Surridge addressed the broad issue of 'Ministerial Ethics and Pastoral Visitation'. In the afternoon, thanks to the services of Mrs. V. Eccles, secretary to Pastor A. D. C. Currie the TED Ministerial Association secretary, the NEC workers were able to survey the evangelistic materials available from the Division office. This was followed by an evangelistic symposium during which several ministers spoke about the methods or the materials that they had been exploring and utilizing. Pastors Jeff Nicholson and R. Morgan gave presentations on 'Tent Evangelism'; Pastor D. Masih shared new materials that could be used in developing Asian contacts, including the video 'Jesus', based on the gospel of Luke that is now available in the three main Asian languages; and Pastor M. Walker described the rationale behind the Bible Lands approach. Pastor M. Watson introduced materials produced by Alex Currie on 'Managing Life's Crises', while Pastor K. Hamilton demonstrated the video material he had been producing and utilizing in door-to-door ministry in South Cumbria.

Before his presentation on 'The Urgency of the Gospel' on Wednesday morning, Dr. J. Paulsen took the opportunity to share some of the actions taken at the recent General Conference Winter Council meetings, together with their implications for the forthcoming General Conference Session in the summer of 1995.

When Pastor Francis rose to give the final rallying challenge just before lunch on Wednesday it was obvious that ministers, Bible workers, and conference officers had greatly appreciated the spiritual enrichment they had received through the instruction and social interaction the event had made possible.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE SPECIAL CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Special Constituency Session of the South England Conference is to be convened at the Advent Centre on 29 January 1995 at 10am for the purpose of making changes to the Constitution as required by the Charity Commissioners. It is suggested by the Conference administration that those same delegates who were elected to attend the previous SEC Session last September be identified as the delegates to this Special Session in January. However, any church is, of course, able to make any changes they so wish. For further details please contact your local pastor. Registration will commence at 9am.

JONATHAN GALLAGHER, Executive secretary of the SEC.



Samantha with granddads Eric Southey and Ed Johnson.

Good news day for Samantha

Sabbath 12 November was a very special day for the Norwich church. It was chosen as a day of praise and thanksgiving to God for the good news that Samantha Johnson had completed her two-year course of chemotherapy for leukaemia. Samantha is now 11 years old and has been through a lot of pain during the last two years, but has remained cheerful and happy.

We were joined for the day by so many friends from around the UK that the Norwich church was full to capacity. Sabbath school was taken by members of the Grantham church and Bruce Hertogs led the lesson study. The speaker for divine service was Edward Johnson, Marketing director of The Stanborough Press, and Samantha's grandfather. Musical items from Joan Moore and Sylvia Elmadjian helped make the service memorable.

After the pot luck lunch the afternoon programme was led by the Grantham young people and included lively singing and a

sketch called 'The Tune', based on witnessing.

It was a day that we will remember for a long time with happiness and joy.

Although Samantha has several years ahead of her before she can be declared 'cured', we know that the Lord will continue to be with her whatever the future holds.

M. PATTEN

NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE SPECIAL CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Executive Committee of the North England Conference is calling a special Session of their constituency as provided for in Article 5, Section (c) in the constitution. This meeting will convene on Sunday 12 February 1995 at 10am in the Pendleton SDA church, Cross Lane, Pendleton, Salford, Greater Manchester. The sole item on the agenda is the proposal to accept amendments to the constitution for the North England Conference. Registration will commence at 9am.

ERIC C. LOWE, Executive secretary of the NEC.





Lucy and Charlotte Chater play tuba and sax. Photo: G. Lucas

Unparalleled Youth Day at Wimbledon

No other area of the UK has had an Area Youth Day like the one held at the Wimbledon church, London, on 24 September. Every continent was represented in church.

Open class at Sabbath school time often means a sermon before the divine service sermon, but Mervyn Weir led out in a stimulating and thought-provoking session.

Pastor Ole Kendall, TED Youth director, reminded us with his inimitable blend of spirituality and humour, that we are all witnesses for Christ: he brought home the reality of delivering 'the Gospel message to the world in this generation'. The very youngest members of the host church sang, 'In my life, Lord, be glorified'.

At lunch-time the Lord worked a miracle in the kitchen and nobody went hungry, even the late-comers! The afternoon programme was a musical delight as the talents of the area's youth were exercised to the praise of our Lord. 'Vintage' guitarist John

Dare to be different

The 'Dare to be Different' weekend was truly filled with spiritual fun and games relating to topical subjects such as, 'Christianity in a day-to-day environment, and how to maintain your religious beliefs and not be swayed by crowd pressure — all very relevant for young growing teens.

Don't miss the next one. You don't want to live to regret it! Weekend run by the North England Conference. **RON LAWRENCE**

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25th Anniversary Celebration

9-10 December 1994

All members and friends, past and present, are duly invited to this grand occasion on 9 December at 7.30pm and 10 December at 9.30am for our all-day programme.

Wilson showed the younger musicians that they could only improve with age! Lucy and Charlotte Chater on tuba and saxophone respectively, were a breath of fresh air and played most professionally, as did all who took part in the programme.

Our thanks to Bill Robinson for all his hard work and also to everyone who took part in the day's activities and to all who attended.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

WEDDING

COURTNEY-WOOD — The words of the song 'Love changes everything', sensitively sung by Penny Mahon, created the perfect processional for the wedding of Tanya Wood and Kevin Courtney on the afternoon of 11 September, in the flower and friend-filled Salisbury Hall, Newbold College. Love truly had changed everything for Kevin and Tanya who met through Companions, an Adventist friendship and contact agency. Tanya, whose love of children has been evident through all the years that she has worked in the children's Sabbath school department of Newbold church, has just completed the NNEB nursery nurse training. Kevin is a civil servant employed at the Passport office in Newport, South Wales. Tanya was given away by her father, Leslie Wood. Her friend Sharon Overy, foster-sister Clare Baker, Bethany Holford and tiny Felicity Guy accompanied Tanya. Kevin was assisted by his brother-in-law, Huw Hamblin, and page boys David Hamblin and Nathan Holford, who carried heart-shaped ring cushions. Pastor David Cox officiated at the wedding and gave a meaningful address, and Pastor Garth Anthony offered the prayer. The writer read 1 Corinthians 13 from the Living Bible, a version especially chosen by the couple to explore the practical and challenging aspects of a God-centred love. Music has always been a special part of Tanya's life and she has been a member of Adventus Domini Choir for several years. Her love of beautiful music was evident throughout the service. Christian actress Wendy Craig was the guest of honour at the wedding. Wendy had come to know Tanya and her family through contact with Adventus Domini at their annual London Christmas service. Kevin and Tanya are setting up home in Newport where Kevin is an assistant elder of the local church. We all wish them every blessing as they blend their lives in harmony with the love of God. **KAREN HOLFORD**

OBITUARIES

GLADMAN, Phyllis — d. 23 April. Sister Gladman died peacefully in hospital at Harwich aged 89 years. It was several years ago that Sister Gladman was first introduced to the Adventist message which finally led to her baptism in the Colchester church by Pastor S. Hensman.

She was always a happy person despite many trials and tribulations, given to much hospitality; a sister who always tried to share and use her talents of crochet, knitting and needlework to support her church. When in later years she was unable to attend church because of distance and infirmities, she was always happy to study her Bible with visitors and sing hymns in her home each Sabbath. The funeral service was conducted by Pastor B. Holford at All Saints Church, Dovercourt, after which Phyl was laid to rest in the peace and quiet of the graveyard amid the scenes of nature she loved so much. **S. EVERS**

BARRITT, Doris — d. 25 May. The members of the Colchester church were shocked to hear of the death of our dear Sister Barritt, who passed away suddenly. At her funeral Pastor B. Holford reminded us of her beautiful character, of her influence, of how Sister Barritt was loved by all and would be remembered for her sweet Christian spirit. She married Walter Barritt, and theirs was a happy partnership. Sister Barritt had no children from her own marriage, but was a mother to many. She was always reaching out to those who were hurting and to those who were in need, exemplifying her Christian faith. Sister Barritt was an active member of the Colchester church, filling various offices, and always doing what she was asked to do to the best of her ability. She loved the Lord Jesus and looked forward to His coming, but while she waited for that happy day, she lived out the words of the Apostle Paul's counsel: 'carry one another's burdens.' On that resurrection morning she will hear those beautiful words from the lips of Jesus: 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.' Those in attendance at her funeral were reminded of this, and were pointed forward to the Blessed Hope when the Saviour will come for His people. Deepest sympathies were expressed to those left behind: Walter her husband, her sister, nieces, nephews and friends. Our sister fell asleep with the assurance of salvation in Jesus Christ, and awaits His call to life everlasting. Maranatha. **COMMUNICATION SECRETARY**

BARRITT, Walter — d. 25 September. Walter was only a few weeks away from his 102nd birthday when he passed away very peacefully only four months after his dear wife Doris had been laid to rest. Walter came from a Quaker background and lived by high principles. It was only two years ago that he had spoken to Pastor B. Holford about his desire to join the Church and was welcomed into fellowship at the age of 100 — no doubt his wife's consistent Christian life had been instrumental in his making the decision to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Brother Barritt was a farmer by occupation. He was well known in his locality, not only as a farmer, but for his honesty and kindness. His neighbours attended his funeral and spoke about Brother Barritt's character, and what wonderful neighbours he and his wife Doris had been. Family members from Wales, Somerset and Sheffield, as well as other areas, were in attendance at the funeral and listened as Pastor Holford reminded us of the 101 years of life, and how Walter's influence would live on in our memories. It was to the second coming that Pastor R. Davey spoke and gave comfort to Brother Barritt's family, friends and neighbours. Pastor Davey showed us that death was only a sleep, and that if, like Walter, we had a belief in Jesus as our Saviour, then death was not goodbye, only *au revoir*. We were pointed forward to that day when Jesus will break through the clouds and call Walter, and how Walter would meet his wife Doris never

more to be parted. Yes, Walter sleeps, but not for long. Jesus, his friend, is coming soon. **COMMUNICATION SECRETARY**

PALFREY, Lillian — d. 11 June. Lillian was born in 1928. She met her husband Alden in 1946 and married in 1947. The union was blessed with four children, Alden, Brian, Jan and Lynden. Both Lillian and Alden were baptized members of Newport church and with their children worshipped there until they moved to Cwmbran. Lillian suffered through the years from osteoporosis, bearing this with Christian courage. Her motto was, do not just preach the Gospel, but live it. This she did, daily. The funeral was conducted by pastors Paul Lockham and Geoff Dennis. Lillian now awaits the awakening by her Saviour on the Resurrection morning. **CHURCH CLERK**

ROWLEY, Stanley — d. 19 August. Brother Rowley followed in his family tradition as a loyal member of the Baptist Church. From the age of 14 he played the church organ and was soon appointed organist and choir master, continuing in this office first in London and then in St. Albans, until failing eyesight caused him to resign. As the years passed, Brother Rowley was increasingly convinced of the soon return of our Lord, and he longed for a better understanding of the prophecies. In January 1987 as a result of seeing an advertisement in one of our local newspapers, he attended a Revelation seminar at the St. Albans church and in the following year was received into membership. Despite poor health he attended church regularly even when in considerable pain, retaining his cheerfulness and special sense of humour, and returning home renewed in spirit by the message of the morning worship service, comforted and encouraged by the kindness and love shown to him by church members young and old. On 26 August, following a service at Garston crematorium conducted by Pastor Donald Lowe, members welcomed Brother Rowley's wife Sylvia, family and friends for refreshments at the St. Albans church BLC. Brother Rowley had earnestly prayed that his family would one day be united in the Adventist Church and we pray that his funeral day marked the beginning of a continuing Christian relationship with them. **SHIRLEY MESSENGER**

CROWE, Doris — d. 3 September. Sister Crowe died just nine months after the sudden loss of her dear husband, Lesley Crowe. Relatives and church friends gathered in our Oulton Broad church for the funeral service conducted by Pastor Ian Lorek on 14 September. Memories of the late Pastor Alan Crowe at Newbold College gave Pastor Lorek a warm appreciation of these parents who had lost their only son. He reminded us of the promises of God's Word. The crown of righteousness, the victory over death, the removal of its sting through our Lord Jesus Christ, and the assurance of the resurrection. 'Farewell is temporary', he stated, while the Apostle Paul admonished his believers to 'comfort one another with these words'. Our sister had shown much living interest in children in her stronger and more active years, and had supported and encouraged love for her grandchildren. Prior to his sudden death her devoted husband had shared her interests and keen mind in the study of the Bible and ancient and modern history. A great loss to our little church. We could only admire our good sister's courage when she was left alone. Our loving God removed her silent sorrow and closed her eyes in peaceful sleep. How glad we are that Gorleston crematorium cannot hold God's sleeping saints. There we have been parted from many of our brethren and sisters, but only for a short time. **A. A. WOLFE**

Do we save only the leftovers for God?

One writer has said, 'Many people treat God as a dog.' Such a strong statement needs thinking about. Is it a blasphemous thought or a true statement?

The family pet will often get the leftovers. The family will have eaten all they want and if anything is left over the dog benefits.

Could it be true that Christians treat God in a similar way? Can you honestly say that God always receives the first-fruits, the choicest, the best of what you have?

Does God receive your leftover time, leftover money, leftover energy?

There are tremendous demands upon our time. We are bombarded on every side with adverts that attract our money. The rat race leaves us so tired that getting out of bed on Sabbath mornings is a problem for some — or is it many?

When are God's end-time remnant people going to restore God to His rightful position as King of kings, as number one?

The generous God who abounds in love, compassion; who does not treat us as we deserve; who emptied heaven for us when He gave us His Son; who is offering us a place on His throne

deserves our best.

Will 17 December be leftovers day in Britain — or Stewardship day?

Will it be the day when we place our all on the altar of sacrifice and allow God to choose what He wants, or will God have to make do with leftovers?

Evaluate your giving pattern. What does it say about you and the depth of your commitment? "Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But you ask, 'How do we rob you?' In tithes and offerings." (Malachi 3:8, NIV.)

'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. . . . ' (Romans 12:12, NIV.)

Seventh-day Adventists in the British Isles would never dream of treating God like a dog. We love Him with all our heart and with all our strength and with all our mind. (Luke 10:27.)

It is true . . . or . . . isn't it?
L. D. W. SOUTHCOTT, Executive secretary, BUC.

Stoke Newington: Health Day

Sister C. Locke-Caton spearheaded Stoke Newington's Health and Temperance day on 23 July. Her theme: 'I can do all things through Christ.' The Sabbath school lesson study was taken by visiting Holloway sisters Irma George and Kathy Moore.

Divine service speaker was Pastor R. J. B. Willis, Health director of SEC.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

West Country Day of Fellowship

Oldway Mansion, the house built by Isaac Singer of the Singer sewing machines, was the venue for a West Country day of fellowship. Members from Devon and Cornwall gathered in the ballroom of this beautiful building in Paignton on Sabbath 17 September. TED president Dr. Jan Paulsen preached a riveting sermon in the morning and after lunch he spoke about his experiences in the Trans-European Division, and told stories of strong faith. His stories were so

fascinating that members begged him to continue when he stopped talking! Excellent musical items were performed during the day by Alison Blackburn, Beverley Coysten, Margaret Shipton, Hannah Read, the Exeter children's ensemble and all the children singing together. The children from Exeter also performed a short play. JEN READ

NEWBOLD SCHOLARSHIP

The Horticulture programme at Newbold College is offering a part-tuition scholarship for work completed in the Spring Term 1995 (27 March-11 June 1995). The scholarship will cover up to 90 per cent of the tuition for the next academic year (1995-96). If you are interested in attending Newbold, this may be a way of obtaining financial assistance.

Applicants will need to be academically acceptable for admission purposes and meet any other requirements for financial admission. The scholarship is only available to applicants from within the European Union.

If interested, contact the Bursar, Newbold College, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks., RG12 5AN, for further information.

ROOM to let to student £200 pcm. Please phone Patricia on (0181) 963 0458 (evenings).

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

There is a vacancy in the Records Office for the full-time position of secretary to the Registrar, starting as soon as possible. The successful applicant will be hard working, reliable, patient and cheerful. S/he will possess good wordprocessing skills, a pleasant telephone manner and a willingness to learn the many aspects of this exciting work.

Send an application and CV immediately to: The Principal, Newbold College, Binfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 5AN.

Student Aid

Peckham held out the right hand of practical fellowship when, on the evening of 15 October, it held a concert to raise funds to see a student through to the completion of his/her course. Truly it was not necessary to know either the identity of the student nor the amount collected on the night. It was important only to know that a tangible response was made to a plea for help. The evening was inspirational and soul warming. Contributory items were performed by members of the Battersea, Deptford, Brixton, Plumstead and Walworth churches and, of course, by the host church. Particularly heart warming were the items by the young members of the church family, Sharon from Brixton and the Peckham quartet of Denae, Rachel, Bianca and Mikela, youngsters ranging in ages from 6 to 12 years. We pray God's blessings upon the recipient of the funds raised.

V. KELLY and B. BROWN

When South meets south

On 13 August Windsor Street South church, Birmingham, opened their doors to the members of the Brixton church from south London as they came to present the AYS programme. The topic was the 'reason why we sing'. The church was packed to overflowing, but the presence of God could be felt.

The programme started at 3.30pm with a lively song service and we were kept on the lively, heavenly 'high' continually. The programme included everything from solos to a play.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Sheffield: Visitors' Day

On 1 October members of the Carter Knowle Road church, Sheffield, enjoyed a memorable day. Not only was it Sabbath school Visitors' Day, but around the edge of the podium and the windowsills in the main sanctuary were the lavish decorations of

Harvest Festival. Divine service was the outstanding part of the day. Joanne Lee delivered her debut sermon entitled 'Leaving at the wrong time'. Joanne preached candidly about the attitude of both the old and young who still persist in being casual about the Gospel, despite living in the last days.

ERROL GAYLE

St. Albans twins

It was in February 1993 that Trudy Young first asked permission of the St. Albans church board to negotiate arrangements for the twinning of our church with the SDA church in Tirane, Albania. Because of the difficulty in making contact, it was only recently that we received a letter from Pastor Ron Edwards to tell us of the service of celebration in Tirane on 7 May to mark their participation in this plan. St. Albans church was happy to reciprocate by recording a special worship service on Sabbath 3 September with tributes from Dr. Jan Paulsen and Sisters Trudy Young and Gaya Currie.

Sister Young stressed that 'twinning' is not a call for cash, but a call for friendship and an opportunity to develop a better understanding between people.

SHIRLEY MESSENGER

HOME HELP wanted for elderly gentleman who is in good health. Own room provided in very comfortable bungalow. Please write to Pastor P. Cummings, The Lilacs, Longwater Lane, Finchampstead, Berkshire, RG11 4NZ; or phone (01734) 733770.

SUNSET

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

	Dec	9	16	23	30	London	Card	Not	Edin	Belf
		3.52	3.52	3.55	4.00	4.04	4.04	4.07	4.12	4.12
		3.39	3.38	3.41	3.47	3.49	3.51	3.54	3.56	3.58

MESSENGER

VOLUME 99 NUMBER 26
9 DECEMBER 1994

EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

COPY FOR No. 2 — 2 JANUARY

Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL.

Tel: (01476) 591700

Fax No. (01476) 77144.

Contributors are asked to take note that the Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary.

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cost to member supplied in bulk to churches £6. Single copy subscription by post £13. Overseas airmail £27.50. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Printed by The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL.

ISSN 0309-3654