

S*ParkLife 21

Aka Lockdown News 38

Stanborough Park Church Newsletter
January 2024

◆ IN THIS ISSUE:

- Goodbye and Bon Voyage to the Stojkovic Family
- New Year Message: It's Hard Moving by Pastor Paul Clee
- Toy Service Features in Garston Magazine
- Baptismal Candidates
- News in Brief
- From the Archives: Newbold Revel Reunion
- From the Archives - two anniversaries:
 - 1) Fire at the Stanborough Press — 60th
 - 2) Former SPC Members Murdered in Africa — 43rd
- Church Matters: Announcements



◆ GOODBYE AND BON VOYAGE TO THE STOJKOVIC FAMILY — OFF TO A NEW LIFE IN AUSTRALIA

PASTOR DEJAN spent many years of his early ministry as SPC Youth Minister. His sermons were always enjoyable and will be remembered for the laughter they generated although his tendency to wander around the platform as he spoke gave the AV Team a headache before the advent of the radio mike!

Since then he has moved on to greater things: Youth Director for SEC, BUC and TED. As from the beginning of this year the family has relocated to Sydney, Australia where he has taken up the post of Youth Director for the Greater Sydney Conference. After moving on from SPC he remained in the area and subsequently married Deanna and had a family— currently three children. Deanna and the children have been regular attendees with the youngsters joining age-appropriate choir groups and the church has long held a special place in their hearts and they in ours.

Sabbath, December 30th saw Pastor Dejan preach his last sermon before leaving for Australia and to mark their long association with the SPC membership the family was invited onto the platform to receive a farewell gift. For once he found himself lost for words explaining that he was saving his voice for his sermon, entitled 'Beyond the Gates: a glimpse into the majesty of Heaven'. Speaking for the church membership, Pastor Terry thanked the family for the tremendous work they had done at the church and

was sad to see them go (although he said he would keep Pr. Dejan on the Preaching Roster!) and wished them well in their new life and the opportunities it will bring them. With modern air travel shrinking the world, hopefully it will not be too long before he makes a return visit.

Following the service a seemingly never-ending stream of people passed by him to shake his hand, hug him and wish him well in his new life.



NEW YEAR MESSAGE

◆ **IT'S HARD MOVING by Pastor Paul Clee**

Reproduced from MESSENGER Vol 95 NO 1 - 22 December 1989

Oh, moving is a horrible job! To my great surprise I have discovered that I am a terrible hoarder. Of course my wife has known this for a long time, and during the past eighteen years has taken many opportunities to remind me of this fact.

I discovered this terrible truth last weekend. You see, we are moving house today and tomorrow. Until a few days ago we thought we were doing the job ourselves, so bit by bit we have been filling boxes, trunks and cases with all the accumulated rubbish we have called a home for the past eighteen years. But, last weekend, there was nothing for it. I had to face the job I had put off for so long. Oh, moving is a horrible job!

Reluctantly I climbed the step-ladder and swung myself up into the loft. Fondly I had thought that there were just a few books and papers and half-forgotten memories up there. No such luck. In the seven years we have lived in this house it has either defied the laws of biology and reproduced, or one of us has been surreptitiously putting box after box after box of useless junk up here - awaiting just such a judgement day as we had last Sunday. Oh, moving is a horrible job!

You see, when we lived in Coventry I had the luxury of a study because our baby boys shared one bedroom. But here, with an office in Nottingham, we have given each of the boys their own room, and my 'office' was consigned, along with other junk, to the loft.

We started work with a will. When I had half filled the garage, the will wilted. Sipping a welcome cup that cheers (quite kosher; Barbara brought it to me) I opened a box. There were some of my early sermons. It made me blush to read them. Quickly shutting this box (Well, I'm sure they'll come in useful sometime), I opened another. Did you know, I have kept all my reports since the day I first started work for the Church? I can tell you how many Bible studies I gave, how many miles I travelled, how many visits were made on any given day for the last twenty years. Oh, moving is a horrible job!

I found lots of envelopes received from The Stanborough Press many years ago. How could I throw those away? Some day, I will need to post something large, and they will come in useful, honestly. No, I have to be strong. I stride purposefully to the dustbin and throw them away. Then, with a feeling of losing a good friend, I fish them out of the bin and pack them away again, hoping my wife will not notice. A few moments later, I have yet another fit of conscience, and this time I rip them up as I throw these museum pieces away (but I bet that'll need one of those big envelopes tomorrow!). Oh, moving is a horrible job!

But then I discovered that Barbara is just as

bad as I am. Underneath all her Open University stuff I found a battered suitcase that must have seen better days before the turn of the century. Flipping open the one clasp that appeared to work, to my horror I found every letter I had ever written to Miss Barbara Brook over the period of two years before we were married! What a terrible thing to have hanging over a man's head! Every protestation of love, every promise, every . . . Well, it isn't right. But brethren, before you laugh too readily, when was the last time you cleared out your loft? Oh, moving is a horrible job!

But eventually, last Sunday, the job was done. The loft is now clad only in its lagging. The garage is full. Full of boxes awaiting our next move before we throw them out (unless I get there first!). Tired out with all the work, I began to think. I wonder if you've cleared out your loft? No, this time I don't mean the one in the house, I mean the lofty recesses of your mind. How many times have you filed away little hurts, little annoyances, little grievances?

It's New Year; a good time for a clear-out? A particular lady of my acquaintance used to berate her children. Normally a fairly placid lady, when she blew her top you dived for cover. Every little childish sin was dragged out of the mists of time past and would be loudly paraded before the hapless offspring. How dangerous it is if we keep that attitude to life! If I harbour some resentment, if I keep some little grudge, it could fester up in the loft of my mind until it comes out to colour in cynical shades my view of, say, the leader of the church, a fellow church member, the church itself - or even the God we purport to serve. Oh, moving is a horrible job!

But sometimes it is very necessary. And what better time for it than New Year? First, how about us clearing out our lofts? How about going to someone who has rubbed us up the wrong way and consciously trying to make friends, to make amends for the bad wishes we have heaped upon their heads? After all, we are all human; all struggling up the same pathway towards God. Most of us are far from making it into a stained glass window . But do we really need to harbour all that resentment, all those supposed wrongs done to us, all those long-forgotten (by others) slights? If we do become hoarders, then we are really doing Satan's work - and how he must delight in it!

Climb up there with me today. It's New Year. Don't put it off any longer. Open the forgotten trunks. You know, as an expert hoarder I have discovered that the best way to throw stuff away is to throw it away without looking at it. So before the sun sets on today give to Jesus all the half-remembered rubbish that should never have been kept in the first place.

Last Sunday, with a clean loft over my head, I felt so happy and virtuous. With a clean heart, cleansed and renewed by the grace that only God can give, I can face the world unafraid. You see, when you really try, moving is not such a horrible job after all.

◆ SPC TOY SERVICE FEATURES IN THE LOCAL NEWS MAGAZINE

<https://www.mynewsmag.co.uk/toy-time-garston-church-holds-62nd-toy-collection-for-underprivileged-children>

TOY TIME: Garston church holds 62nd toy collection for underprivileged children

Published on: 25th December 2023 | By: Sophia Sheera | Category: Uncategorized



A number of underprivileged children in Garston were able to unwrap presents on Christmas Day thanks to the generosity of a local church congregation.

Each year, members of the community are invited to buy toys and drop them off at Stanborough Park Church before sharing a special December Toy Service with charity representatives, social workers and local families. After the service, care workers select toys for children unlikely to otherwise receive a gift at Christmas.

The annual event held last December marked the 62nd toy giveaway event held at the Church. Started by the late Alf Kelly MBE, who is remembered for his years of voluntary service in and around Watford, the Toy Service is now run by Alf's daughter Pat Walton.

This year, Pat said that there were more toys than ever at the annual giveaway. In fact, Pat had to store some of the donations elsewhere in the building after the display area was filled to the brim with presents.

The December Toy Service was once again attended by Elected Mayor of Watford Peter Taylor, who graciously accepted the presents on behalf of Watford residents.



TOY TIME: Garston church holds 62nd toy collection for underprivileged children

25th December 2023

ONLINE

Details of the Toy Service were submitted to both the Watford Observer and local news magazine My Garston News. The latter (monthly) magazine for the Garston area published the story on its local news website homepage with a link to the full story (see left and above). The photo, one of several submitted, was taken by Arto Keshishian.

ON PAPER

Shown right is the slightly different version which appeared in the January issue of My Garston which was distributed by the publisher to every home in the Garston area in the middle of January.

The story has also featured in the 12th January issue of BUC News.

Church holds toy collection for underprivileged children

News Bulletin

A number of underprivileged children in Garston were able to unwrap presents on Christmas Day, thanks to the generosity of a local church congregation.

Each year, members of the community are invited to buy toys and drop them off at Stanborough Park Church, before sharing a special December toy service with charity representatives, social workers and local families. After the service, care workers select toys for children who are otherwise unlikely to receive a gift at Christmas.

The 2023 event marked the 62nd toy giveaway held at the church. Started by the late Alf Kelly MBE, who is remembered for his years of voluntary service in and around Garston and Watford, the toy service is now run by Alf's daughter, Pat Walton.

This year, Pat said that there were more toys than ever at the annual giveaway. In fact, she had to store



The Mayor surrounded by children at the special service some of the donations elsewhere after the display area was filled to the brim with presents.

The service was once again attended by Elected Mayor of Watford Peter Taylor, who accepted the presents on behalf of Watford residents.

◆ **BAPTISMAL CANDIDATES: 16th December, 2023**



Julia Brugos - Although I grew up in church, I never really took it seriously, and never considered my real reasons as to why I came to church. Then lockdown hit. Ever since then, God touched my heart to place him as my priority. I am living proof that if you honour him, He will honour you too. I got my highest grades during GCSE simply by honouring the Sabbath, and that's only one of the events. Today, I make this decision to get baptised, so I can show everyone who my saviour Jesus is, and to be a light to those around me."

Madalayne Sauvary - Over the past year or so, my relationship with Christ has grown immensely. God has become the one I go to with all my worries, and problems, thanks for family, friends and all things good. I'm getting baptised today to signify giving my life to Jesus and promising to live for him and spread the gospel.

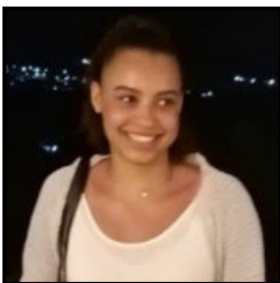


By just reading the Bible every night my faith has grown so much to the point where I put all my trust in the work He does in my life. He has guided me through stressful times, and I know He will continue to do that, to achieve the plan He has for me. I want to live my life following Jesus because I know He is Lord of all. Therefore, as I get baptised, I am surrendering my life to Jesus because He is the leader of my life and will be forever.



Lilah Sauvary - Today I am giving my life to God. I was born into Christianity but I've only just started to create my own personal relationship with Him. He supports me and will continue to as I'm promising my life to Him, I've never had to ask Him to be there for me. I've developed my relationship so deeply that I really want to get baptised and I'm excited too. It's amazing how a God who creates such beautiful things could create me and you.

Kristian Perry - When thinking about baptism and seeing others around me getting baptised, I always wondered how they knew if they were ready. I now realise that it is not about being ready, but rather about wanting to commit my life to Jesus and to grow to have a deeper relationship with Him. I want to become a shining example of God's love for others to see and come to know Jesus. My parents named me Kristian as a reminder to myself and others that I belong to Christ. Through my baptism, I can now say I am truly a follower of Christ.



Allanah Udeaze - Today I have chosen to dedicate my life to Jesus because I cannot begin to describe the love, compassion and forgiveness He has given me throughout my life. I am a living testimony of the Lord's powerful love and mercy. I have been far from perfect on my walk with God, nevertheless, He has never given up on me and will continue to push me in the right direction. I believe the Lord has placed me here according to His plan and that through Him I will continue to prosper and grow by His grace.

◆ **Email alert:** until this month the newsletter's email addresses have only generated a response from three people: two concerning WD40 and one requesting receiving the newsletter on a regular basis. Hence one turning up in each mailbox at the same time, each with attachments relating to a ridiculous invoice, resulted in a sense of humour failure on the part of the editor! They were promptly deleted unopened and, regrettably, the email addresses have been withdrawn from the title page.

◆ NEWS IN BRIEF

- **Christmas cards:** the message got through! By Christmas Eve there were just 10 cards on the reception desk reduced to 5 by the Sabbath afterwards! This is a big improvement on previous years.
The take-up of Christmas cards to the whole church by 16 members in return for a donation to ADRA was promising raising a total of just over £400. The organisers are hoping that even more will join the 16 who sent greetings to the whole church whose cards were displayed in the con-course just before Christmas.
Donors: Dennis Johnson, Johnson Wong, Clarisse and Family, Joan Maxwell, George and Joelle Priest, Bianca Espinal, Michael Power, Lisa, Rui and James, Annalisa Molteni, Ken Spicer, Sheila Burgess, Dave and Alison Burgess, Jim and Audrey Huzzey, Michele Thompson, Therese Valsin, Pat and Peter Walton, Lorraine and John Cooper.
- **The New Year Concert** was held in the church on 12th January and was a mixture of instrumental and vocal music, hymns, readings and pastoral meditations. It can be viewed on the SPC YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQGAvp0-yk8>.
- **Warm Spaces:** the church is open on Tuesdays 10am-12 noon.
- **Good News from Audrey!** We are delighted to tell you that, thanks to their generosity, a small number of members of Stanborough Park Church have raised £10,677.80 on the Just Giving Page for ADRA. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. The Just Giving Page for 2024 is now live and, as before, Audrey is encouraging you to donate for birthdays, anniversaries, in Memoriam, or as a thank-you to God for His blessings. Please go to: [Audrey's Fundraiser for ADRA 2024](#).
- **Chari Lilley** has produced a colouring book for children on the topic of the Creation. It is available for sale on the Amazon website.
- **Happy birthday** to Harriet Cudjoe (50) and Bronwen Atkinson (93).
- **Clarification:** Pastor Roy Burgess's life sketch featured in the previous newsletter was a collaborative effort between David Burgess and the newsletter editor who expanded it with information from the Messenger archives and previous articles.

◆ ARCHIVE AMBLE

- **1982 SPC Toy Service** (Messenger vol 88/2, 21/1/83) with Watford MP Tristan Garel Jones, standing, Mr. Peter Lawton, Chairman of the Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme (seated) and Alf Kelly far right. Photo Albert Sutton.
Can anyone identify any of the children?



- **LAST SPC VISIT BEFORE TRAGEDY STRUCK**

HOME FROM RHODESIA

FORMER members of Stanborough Park church, Ann and Don Lale, have returned on furlough and are visiting relatives and friends in the area. They have been in Rhodesia for the past three years and are pictured here with their sons Timothy (14), and Andrew (12).

Both Ann and Don were teachers at an Adventist teacher training college in Gwelo, which is 200 miles south of the capital and the geographical centre of the country. Due to terrorist activity in the African tribal trust lands it was not safe for them to continue at that school, and in August last year they withdrew to Anderson school on the other side of Gwelo. Don is dean of boys at his new school.

The family have been travelling the country visiting their many friends from the Isle of Wight to Grantham. Before going on mission service to Africa Don had spent nine years at The Stanborough Press, and completed his teacher training in Lincolnshire. They will be returning soon to Rhodesia for a further three years' service.

FRANK BLEWITT
PR Secretary



Little did anyone know that this would be the last time we saw these former members, Don and Ann Lale alive. It was to be their last furlough home from Africa, visiting Ann's parents. Just a few years later they were brutally murdered and their sons were relocated to America. They are buried side-by-side in Zimbabwe. See full story on pages 9-11.

◆ **FROM THE MESSENGER**
ARCHIVE: NEWBOLD REVEL —
A TIME FOR NOSTALGIA BY GEORGE BELL
(This article about a reunion of Newbold Revel students in 1979 was discovered during a trawl through the archive in Messenger Vol 85 No 1— 4 January 1980. Probably Dr. Woodfield is the only one attending who is still with us!)

Nearly a hundred and fifty people gathered at Newbold Revel, near Rugby, of whom nearly forty were former graduates of the first Newbold College. They were there for the ceremony of 'the unveiling of the stone' on the façade of Newbold Revel — a Georgian building which now belongs to a Telecommunications College — to commemorate their residence there.

They came to remember and recognize the exploits of those who graduated between 1932-1942, and to recapture the inspiration of their youth, which had sent them out to the far-flung corners of the world with the Second Advent Message.

Nostalgia is a very temperate term for the enthusiasm which such a reunion engendered. Memories came flooding back as they saw the chapel where they worshipped, with its magnificent fireplace and beautifully moulded ceiling and the green dining room, exquisitely decorated with gold mouldings, where they met socially. There were the classrooms where they had sat 'at the feet' of dedicated teachers, and of course the grounds, with the lake and spinney where they had wandered.

The beauty of the estate is so typically English that viewing it after the passage of years brought a heart throb, especially to those who had returned from distant lands, and an ecstatic joy to those from the homeland who were returning to enjoy its delights.

The ceremony consisted of short speeches from representatives of the graduating classes, and a look at the present and into the future from Dr. Jan Paulsen, the principal of the present Newbold College. The welcome was given by Mrs. Alice Bell, who had been instrumental in arranging with the head of the Telecommunications College, to place an inscription on the building recording the period of our residence.

Dr. L. G. White represented his class of 1932. He is now a doctor in London. He had on the platform with him another graduate of his year, Dr. B. E. Seton, who has recently retired from General Conference responsibilities.

Mrs. F. Cumings, quietly and from her invalid chair, recalled the exploits of her class, who also made a good contribution to the work of God throughout the world, as well as in this country. One

of them, Dr. L. G. Hardinge, has contributed to our knowledge of early Church history.

The 1934 class was represented by Mrs. M. Warnock, who spoke for one of the smallest classes of the decade, but they were not without their trophies of success. The 'Todd Murdoch family' are mentioned in Philippine history for the part they played in the development of agriculture. They changed the use that was made of the land, as well as, through the Spirit, the hearts of the young people who attended the Adventist College.

Miss V. Warren, who has engaged in the work of a Bible Instructor from the time she graduated in 1935, recalled the contribution of her class to medicine in the work of Dr. E. A. Brooks, and Dr. M. G. Hardinge. Dr. C. W. Fitcher was mentioned for his service as vice-principal at Southern Missionary College. There were also those who served successfully in evangelism at home and abroad and also in the Voice of Prophecy.

Nineteen-thirty-six was a large class, by the standards of that day. Their exploits were recalled by Pastor D. A. Conroy, who has been one of our successful evangelists. His class contributed to evangelism, worked as Bible Instructors, as well as missionaries, temperance workers and medics.

Then came Class 1937, represented by Pastor K. A. Elias, President of the North British Conference, who reported that all who had graduated with him were still in the work, with the exception of those who had fallen asleep in Jesus.

The class 1938 was not represented, and although they were a small class they attained high scholarship. Dr. A. J. Woodfield, a highly esteemed teacher at the present Newbold College, spoke for the large class of 1939. He recalled the size of the diploma presented to graduates forty years ago, and contrasted it with the small diploma for which nearly twice as much work is required today. (See photo centre left next page.)

By this time speaker after speaker had been vying with each other to record the achievements of their particular class over forty years ago, so that when Pastor R. D. Vine commenced his reminiscences he became rather ebullient as he recorded the wisdom and dedication of his class and the contribution they had made to the work at large. He recognized that each class had its own contribution to make, but his was unique in as much as they had produced two editors who had shared the same room forty years ago, and even slept in the upper and lower parts of a bunk bed. He did wonder if there was some contagion . . .

Our Union president (Pastor E. H. Foster) was among the last to graduate from the first Newbold College, and his class was one of the biggest. It was during the dark days of the Second World War.

A letter of greeting was read from Dr. W. G. C. Murdoch, principal of the College in that historic decade. In recognition of the work of those of our number who had died we stood in a moment of silence. In contrast with the nostalgia for days gone by Dr. Paulsen brought us back to the present.

Those who received their education at that first Newbold had been prepared for the world into which they had to 'go and teach all nations'. The world has changed, educationally, socially, religiously. Today the challenge is different, and the educational programme has had to advance with the times. The world demands new approaches.

The memorial stone that had been inscribed, recording that memorable decade, was unveiled by Pastor G. R. Bell, a graduate of the 1935 class. (Photo above right)



On such a day of remembrance it was easy to recall the speech, of Pericles to the Athenians when he said:

*For the whole earth is the sepulchre of famous men,
Not that they are commemorated by columns and inscriptions in their own country,
But in a foreign land where dwells also an unwritten memorial
Not written in stone, but in the hearts of men.*

The hundred or so graduates of that memorable decade have written their own inscriptions in the hearts of men, and may God be praised.



◆ FROM THE ARCHIVES: FIRE AT THE STANBOROUGH PRESS

January 3rd, 1964 saw an event which shook the Stanborough Park Church membership to its very core. The unthinkable had happened. In those days most of the members either worked or had worked in one of the Park's institutions so it was like a family event. The news spread fast. The Press building had caught fire. Those of us who were around at the time will still recall its effect on us all.

Few photographs were taken to record the event however Press employee, Mike Cowan, shot some iconic images of flames escaping the building. Your newsletter editor, barely a teenager got on her bike and, armed with a camera loaded with 127 film, produced some not too sharp shots of the building still occupied by firemen tackling smouldering piles of paper. She still has the cover page of the Messenger dealing with the fire and original copies of the story which featured in



the local press. This demonstrates either early news gathering instincts or the effect it had on the church membership!

This year January 3rd saw the 60th anniversary of the disaster. Two years after the fire the Press and its staff moved to Grantham, beginning the reduction in the number of church institutions located on Stanborough Park.

The Messenger, volume 69, number 2, January 17, 1964 covers the story thoroughly from just about every angle. The following two extractions from this

edition written by the Editor, Pastor W. W. Emerson and Associate Editor, Pastor R. D. Vine (the father of former SPC Senior Minister, Pastor Robert Vine) sum up the event and are featured below.

The Work Will Go On: By Pastor R. D. Vine, Associate Editor, Stanborough Press

THE incredible has happened. Our beloved Press has been ravaged by fire. But thank God, though the place has been cruelly mauled, there is already reason to expect a speedy recovery.

When we entered the Park to report for work at 7.20 a.m. last Friday morning, we were shocked by the sight of leaping flames which were horribly visible somewhere beyond the School. With pounding heart we wondered: what could it be—the Estate Hall—the Press—or the Food Factory?

But the agonizing truth exploded like a bomb as we rounded the gentle curve of the Park drive. The church Press, your Press, the only Press in Britain dedicated to the promulgation of pure truth—yes, the dear old Stanborough Press, was in the throes of a raging inferno. Half of the familiar front section flanking the road, from the east end up to the front door, was a mass of flame.

Out of the Flames: By Pastor W. L. Emerson, Editor, Stanborough Press

Our bursting heart cried out in agony against the shattering truth; but the merciless flames roared on, from ground floor to attic. Occupying the floor above the Despatch Department, which was early involved in the conflagration, it (the editorial/offices etc areas) could not be reached through the smoke and flames. In a very short time desks, filing cabinets containing thousands of Biblical and other pictures accumulated over many years, information files, and the whole library, crashed through the burning floor into the inferno below. In less than an hour the work of years perished, leaving not a book, not a piece of manuscript, not a picture unconsumed. A vast mound of sodden ashes on the packing room floor was all that remained of the dispatch, editorial, proof reading, and art departments.

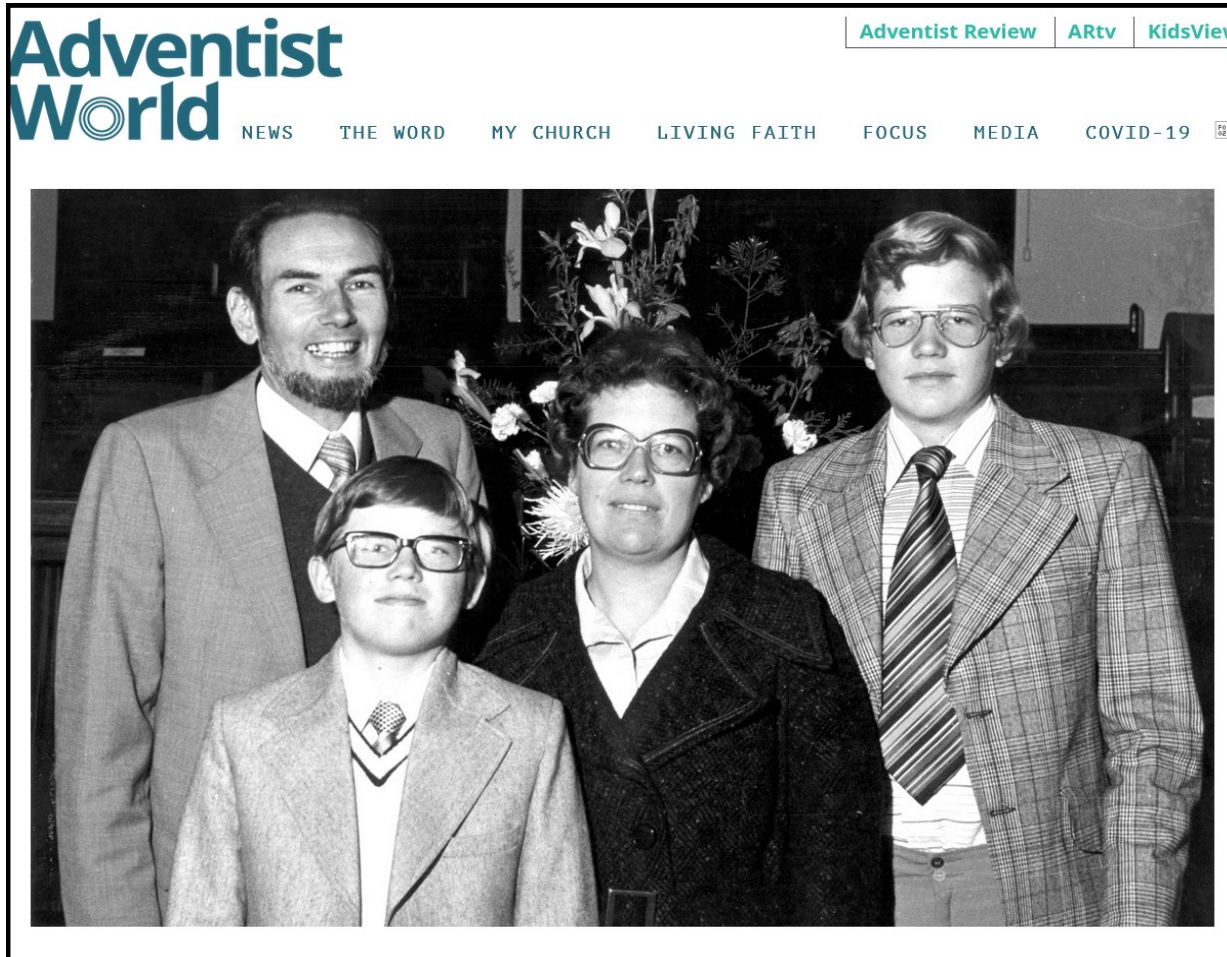
◆ FROM THE ARCHIVES 2: FORMER SPC MEMBERS SERVING AS MISSIONARIES MURDERED IN AFRICA

Had it not been for Adventist World featuring the story of Don and Ann Lale's brutal murder by terrorists in Africa in February 1981, the anniversary of this story would have passed unnoticed. Forty three years may have passed but some members will still recall Don and Ann Lale who were married in SPC in 1962.

Ann grew up on Stanborough Park living with her parents and her two sisters, Pearl (who married into the Barham family) and Christine, in one of the wooden buildings behind the Granose factory where her father Frank, who was an SPC deacon for many years, worked. Don was a recent convert to the church who came to work at the Press. He had one of those unforgettable faces so his photo was immediately recognised by the writer. It was their last family photo, taken in Stanborough Park Church whilst they were on furlough by the legendary Frank Blewitt, and appeared in the 21st July, 1978 volume of the Messenger.

Their death was widely reported in the media, both local and national and on TV news. Following the SEC Conference session later that year the Messenger reported that the quantity of headlines the event produced was large but, *'in this instance, there was no doubt in the minds of the delegation that they would rather have had Don and Ann alive than any number of banner headlines'*.

The account of their story and death was adapted from the Adventist encyclopaedia still under production and cited Messenger articles as its source so what better way than to go back to the original source, the Messenger, and see how the event was reported at the time. (See next pages.)



ADVENTIST WORLD: story and photo appeared in the November issue of the journal published on 11-10-2023 . Photo: Frank Blewitt (SPC Communications)

IN THE LINE OF DUTY:

Don Lale and his wife, Ann, were Adventist teachers serving as missionaries in Zimbabwe when in 1981 they were brutally murdered by suspected Mozambican rebels in a dawn attack at the school where they taught. The rebels were carrying out reprisals against an attack by South African forces, and the Lales were innocent victims of their rage.

◆ LETTER TO THEIR FRIENDS AT HOME

This letter, with a background introduction, was published in the *Messenger* exactly four years before their tragic death. After their death the denomination set up a fund for their two sons who eventually left to live with their aunt in America.

DON and ANN LALE, accompanied by their sons, Timothy and Andrew, responded to a call to the Teacher Training College at Gwelo, Rhodesia, in 1975. Both Don and Ann are widely known. Ann served the Stanborough Sanitarium, and as a Bible Instructor at the New Gallery. Don served the Stanborough Press Ltd. for many years, then he and Ann qualified as teachers. After teaching for sometime in the Grantham area, they willingly responded to a call by the Church to overseas educational service despite Rhodesia's political instability. We received an informative letter from them the other day, part of which we share with *Messenger* readers.

'We do so enjoy letters from folk in England filling in the personal details that don't find their way into the *MESSENGER*. . . . We took a much-needed holiday for two weeks over Christmas, and are now frantically preparing forth opening of the new college year on January 25th. We hired a small caravan from a friend here in Gwelo and towed it down to Bulawayo a week before Christmas. We parked it in the Municipal Caravan Park, and had a glorious fortnight visiting places of interest in and around the city. Among the attractions of Bulawayo there is a very good railway museum, and the Mzilikazi Art and Craft Centre where one can watch African craftsmen and women making exquisite pottery, sculpture, mosaics, basket-work and jewellery, as well as cloth-weaving and dyeing in Batik style.

'The National Museum was only stone's throw away, and that was so fascinating that Andrew had a second look around at 9 o'clock one morning, and spent two hours alone until the rest of us were ready to go to town. In the beautiful Centenary Park is a miniature railway run by the Round-Tablers in aid of charity, and we patronized it a couple of times during our stay. On the opposite side of the road is one of the loveliest fountains I've seen with constantly changing floodlights at night, and the Christmas lights were lovely, too.

'About thirty miles out of Bulawayo is a very rugged area of granite outcrops, which is now the Rhodes Matopos National Park, and we spent two whole days out there, climbing the rocks, exploring caves, and relaxing by one of the manmade lakes.

'We went to church on Sabbaths, of course, and to prayer meetings on Wednesday evenings, and enjoyed the fellowship with the folk there. We are beginning to make friends around, now that we have been here near-

ly a year and a half, and we had several invitations out to meals—including supper on Christmas day with Pastor and Mrs. Dale Ingersoll and a whole day out at the Adventist Solusi Mission with Brother and Sister Ian Hartley. It's such a wonderful experience belonging to the great Adventist family.

'Interesting as all the man-made places are, the visit our two boys and Ann (and I, too!) enjoyed most was tote Chipangali Animal Orphanage about fifteen miles out of the city. It was started by the wife of the former curator of the National Museum some years ago, when she begun nursing sick animals back to health, and releasing them back to the wild. Now and again one would be too maimed to fend for itself in the bush, or an animal would just refuse to go; and the place has grown over the years to such an extent that Mr. Wilson resigned his curatorship, and he and his wife devote their full time to the care of these animals, birds and reptiles. They give a name to every creature that comes in, many of which answer to these names when the Wilson's go around the enclosures. . .

'Unfortunately, many Bulawayo people are now afraid to go out to Chipangali because of the security situation, so the Wilsons are negotiating with the City Council for a much smaller plot at Hillside Dam on the outskirts of Bulawayo.

'Christmas is ancient history now I am working on science projects, maths worksheets, and art schemes; while Ann plans her music, needlework and art for the coming year. We graduated twenty-five students as infant teachers in November, and have forty-seven new students coming in, so we are going to be packed to the doors this year. Fortunately we are getting a new member of staff therefore our actual teaching load won't be increased.

'With increased enrolment in the primary and secondary schools we'll have to have two Sabbath services because the church just isn't big enough to take everybody at once. The political situation becomes more uncertain by the day and the terrorist war has been stepped up, but we believe that the Lord will be our refuge and our strength. Tim has gone as a border to our SDA school, but Andrew will continue to go daily to an Adventist school thirty-three miles away, as long as it is safe to do so.'



**MESSENGER: VOLUME 82
NUMBER 4 FEBRUARY 18,
1977**

• **Sheila Stickland** reports that she was the boarding school's preceptress/matron at the time of the incident and recalls trying to comfort Tim.

◆ **HOW THEIR DEATHS WERE ANNOUNCED IN THE MESSENGER.***



Don and Ann Lale, British Seventh-day Adventist teachers in Zimbabwe, were murdered on Tuesday, 3 February.

This husband and wife team were teachers of English at the Inyazura Adventist Secondary School in Zimbabwe, and were well-loved employees of The Stanborough Press prior to their three-year teaching training at the Stoke Rochford College of Education, Grantham. They went out as missionary teachers to Zimbabwe at the height of the civil war, were well aware of

the dangers but were so totally committed to God's Cause that they were prepared to live with them. Don has a sister, Patricia Walker at the WRAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire. Ann's parents, Brother and Sister Frank Smith, reside in Watford. Frank is a retired Granose employee. The Smiths have two other daughters. The news of the murder of Don and Ann Lale was communicated to Pastor E. H. Foster, British Union Conference president. It was his sad task to break the heart-wrenching news to their relations. Brother Lionel Acton-Hubbard, Communication director of the South England Conference, informed the newspapers and the radio and television companies that these two connected missionaries had given their lives in the Cause of God. His efficiency in this regard ensured an accurate and detailed coverage of the tragedy, and obviated distortions. Pastor Maurice Musgrave, who has had

much experience in Zimbabwe, was interviewed by Richard Whitmore on BBC TV. Don left many close friends at the Stanborough Press, more especially in the Photo-Litho Department. Days before his murder he wrote a letter to the members of that department beginning, 'Dear Mervyn, Ed and Alan'. He spoke of Zimbabwe as a clean, pleasant land, free of the tyranny of the internal combustion engine. Alluding to his whereabouts he said, 'We have now moved away from Anderson School. The strain of trying to run the boys' dormitory, and to carry almost a full teaching load at the same time, was really wearing me down. So when the headmaster of our Inyazura Secondary School phoned several times to ask us to teach here, I suggested he should put a call through to the Trans-Africa Division and the Zambesi Union, and if it was processed and passed on to us, we would take it as the Lord's will and accept it. And here we are. It's an idyllic campus, at the foot of a small mountain, and looking across a wide valley to a long ridge that ends in two small "kopjes" . . . We are on the edge of the Eastern Highlands, and the 70-kilometre drive to Umtali is very spectacular. School opened on 20 January. We have consistently found a very tolerant and congenial spirit in the education world here — as much among teachers in government schools as among those in Adventist circles; and right from primary school teachers, to headmaster to professors at the University, and officials from the Ministry. It's quite heart-warming.' The Lales were due for furlough in March but Don and Ann had decided to stay on to avoid disrupting the school programme. Pray for their two sons and grieving relations. Don and Ann stand in an old tradition which began with Stephen. Echoing Jesus, Stephen said of his murderers, 'Lord, lay not this sin to their charge'. We believe that Don and Ann Lale might well have said the same.

Don has a sister, Patricia Walker, at the WRAF Brize Norton, Oxfordshire. Ann's parents, Brother and Sister Frank Smith, reside in Watford. Frank is a retired Granose employee. The Smiths have two other daughters.

The news of the murder of Don and Ann Lale was communicated to Pastor E. H. Foster, British Union Conference president. It was his sad task to break the heart-wrenching news to their relations. Brother Lionel Acton-Hubbard, Communication director of the South England Conference, informed the newspapers and the radio and television companies that

these two consecrated missionaries had given their lives in the Cause of God. His efficiency in this regard ensured an accurate and detailed coverage of the tragedy, and obviated distortions. Pastor Maurice Musgrave, who has had much experience in Zimbabwe, was interviewed by Richard Whitmore on BBC TV.

Don left many close friends at The Stanborough Press, more especially in the Photo-Litho Department. Days before his murder he wrote a letter to the members of that department beginning, 'Dear Mervyn, Ed and Alan'. He spoke of Zimbabwe as a clean, pleasant land, free of the tyranny of the internal combustion engine.

Alluding to his whereabouts he said; 'We have now moved away from Anderson School. The strain of trying to run the boys' dormitory, and to carry almost a full teaching load at the same time, was really wearing me down. So when the headmaster of our Inyazura Secondary School phoned several times to ask us to teach here, I suggested he should put a call through to the Trans-Africa Division and the Zambesi Union, and if it was processed and passed on to us, we would take it as the Lord's will and accept it. And here we are. It's an idyllic campus, at the foot of a small mountain, and looking across a wide valley to a long ridge that ends in two small "kopjes" . . . We are on the edge of the Eastern Highlands, and the 70-kilometre drive to Umtali is very spectacular. School opened on 20 January.

'We have consistently found a very tolerant and congenial spirit in the education world here — as much among teachers in government schools as among those in Adventist circles; and right from primary school teachers, to headmaster, to professors at the University, and officials from the Ministry. It's quite heart-warming.'

The Lales were due for furlough in March but Don and Ann had decided to stay on to avoid disrupting the school programme. Pray for their two sons and grieving relations. Don and Ann stand in an old tradition which began with Stephen. Echoing Jesus, Stephen said of his murderers, 'Lord, lay not this sin to their charge'. We believe that Don and Ann Lale might well have said the same.

*This was written by editor David Marshall and appeared in the February 13, 1981 edition of the Messenger. Vol. 86, nos 3, 4

<https://documents.adventistarchives.org/Periodicals/BAM/BAM19810213-V86-03,04.pdf>

- Timothy and Andrew relocated from Africa to America to live with their aunt and uncle.

◆ CHURCH MATTERS: ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **We regret to announce that Therese Valsin** passed away peacefully on 15th January. The funeral was scheduled for 1st February. Please keep Christina, her children, Bianca and Ben in your prayers as well as the wider family.
- **Parallel Sabbath School class** has started at the back of the main sanctuary. Please join us.
- **The Weekly Friday** prayer meeting has been postponed until further notice. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause. There will be an announcement in the bulletin once it resumes.
- **Earliteens Sabbath School** is looking for volunteers to assist with teaching classes to our children this year. You will need to be able to engage with the young teenagers in a way that encourages and grows their faith in Jesus. We are looking for someone who is a committed Christian and attends Stanborough Park Church. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Adriana Mahy, the Earliteen Team Leader on 07967 246017.
- **The Pathfinder Club** (10 to 15 years of age) and **Adventurer Club** (4 to 9 years of age) invite young people and children to join the Clubs. Pathfinders holistically develop young people and children; physically, emotionally, mentally, socially and spiritually. Club meetings will commence on Sunday 11th February 2024. Contacts: Pathfinders Email: spcadventurersandpathfinders@gmail.com Adventurer Email: spcadventurers@gmail.com
- **The great Stanborough Barn Dance** and hay-stacks dinner is making a return on 27th January! We will be raising funds for the primary school. Please reserve your spot by Thursday 25th January using the form <https://forms.gle/cpqDUHbTWnvK4bhe8> which contains all the information regarding times, prices etc.
- **The Just Giving Page for 2024** is now live and, as before, Audrey is encouraging you to donate for birthdays, anniversaries, 'In Memoriam', or as a thank-you to God for His blessings. Please go to: [Audrey's Fundraiser for ADRA 2024](#).
- **Soup Run Minibus Update:** The 'Drive' towards a new Minibus for the Soup Run is making progress and has set us on our way to replacing the current care-worn, outdated and very exhaust emissions unfriendly vehicle. But we still need a further push before we can get to making the purchase of a replacement. The cost of an equivalent

17-seater minibus that complies with the ULEZ (ultra-low emission zone) in London and many other cities is around £30,000. <https://gofund.me/66ef90a5>

- **Terissa Fidock from Melbourne, Australia** will be employed as a supply teacher covering schools in Watford April 14th— June 30th. She has experienced difficulties with obtaining short-term rented accommodation for that period. Can you help her find a guest room or granny flat (to rent) that she could use during that period. She would be happy to return the favour should anyone wish to visit Melbourne.

◆ REGULAR EVENTS

- **Let's talk about Jesus. We meet on the First and Third Tuesday at 2pm.** Bring a friend, your Bible, your favourite text, favourite hymn or story so we can share and talk about our friend Jesus. Everyone is welcome.
- **Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting** is taking place in the Sanctuary. The Zoom facility will still be available. Meeting ID: 721 857 1482; Passcode: pray3r or [click here](#). We are praying for our children every Wednesday. If anyone wants to pray for their children contact the SPC prayer leaders on 07988045461

◆ PRAYER CORNER

- Thanks for prayers from Pauline Peck and from Carlton Plaatjes whose father is recovering.

Your prayers are requested for:

- Donna Bernard, Massimo Molteni Bronwen Atkinson, Linda Merchant and Morgan Charles those who mourn, especially Faith and Joseph Ngondo on their recent bereavement and who will be repatriating his brother's body to Malawi and for the family of the G.C.'s Heather-Dawn Small.
- the families who are struggling with inhumane conditions and bereavement due to conflicts in different parts of the world.
- all the requests in the Prayer Box.
You can place private Prayer Requests in the Prayer Box or via email STANBOROUGHPRAYS@GMAIL.COM

◆ THE LAST WORD

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Romans 12.18 NIV