

AFB

Magazine
July 2001



**40TH ANNIVERSARY
SPECIAL EDITION**

THEME: "THE GOOD SHEPHERD"

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Greetings!

Welcome to the fifth publication of the AFB Magazine. I have just returned from a lovely short 25th Anniversary break to Italy, the town of Lido di Jesolo. A Statement made by our guide, which quite amused me, spoke about rich Italians of yesterday, who... *Because they knew they were counted to be sinners during their life time, in order to be sure that they entered into heaven, paid large sums of money for burial spaces 'within the church'!..*

And what did I come back to..... Well, here it is, the **40th Anniversary Special Edition** of the AFB magazine. I had great plans for this issue, but it was a lot more difficult than I had imagined. The collation of the necessary information was very frustrating and therefore not all churches are represented appropriately. I still hope however that the work produced in the magazine will give moments of interesting reading as we look at the AFB over a period of 40 years. What has she achieved? Read for yourselves....



I must apologies, first, that through no fault of my own, the magazine was published late. One year to be exact. Therefore some people mentioned are now deceased and dates correspond to the year of the 40th Anniversary this being '2001.' I had experienced a lot of problems with the person recommended by a friend to take the pressure off me with the design, layout and print of this special edition, and decided thereafter to hold publishing until this years General Convention. Also, should there be any errors, whether spelling or information, others along with myself have tried to get things as accurate as possible, (give or take a few years – laugh!). Enjoy!!

Special Thanks to:-

Matthew and Amanda Brown who eventually had to help with the design and layout on the magazine. To Sis Melaine Edwards, who came on to the editorial team recently and has helped with the typing of articles and work on advertising. For financial gift given by a sister in the AFB, to Sis Cherry Hylton who helped with the editing And last, but definitely not least, to Evang Cherry and Pastor Neville Brown, who edited the final material, may God richly bless you all, your assistance was greatly appreciated!

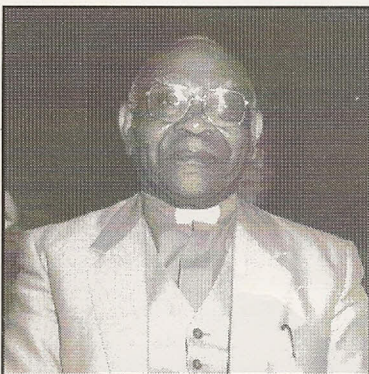
Faith Brown - Editor AFB Magazine

Greetings from the General Overseer of the Assemblies of the First Born (U.K)

To all the Ministers, Officers, Brethren, Visitors, families and friends, it is with exceeding joy in my heart that I am able to greet you all once more in the wonderful name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

This year is a very special one, as it is our 40th Anniversary. Little did we know that we would be here today to lift up our hearts and souls in gratitude to our creator and Father for having brought us thus far. The Lord has added greatly to our number. From the few, who used to gather in living rooms to hold prayer meetings, has grown an international ministry, but the words of the Psalmist constantly remind us.....

“except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it”.



As we welcome back old friends and brethren, we pay a special tribute to the pioneers, stalwart men and women who stood up under the anointing of the Lord to deliver His Word, and help to lay the foundations upon which we now stand.

As we reflect on where we have come from, let us not be complacent in our having reached this milestone, but rather, seek to obtain that “double portion” of blessing to continue the work until the Lord shall put in his appearance.

May the Lord continue to bless you one and all, as we labour together for Him.

Overseer Charles S. Wright

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF THE FIRSTBORN (UK)

The Assemblies of the Firstborn came into being when men of like vision, travelling thousands of miles across the sea, primarily to make a better life for themselves, realised that God had put together a wonderful plan for the redemption of lost souls, and this plan included them.....

Brother Thomas Cooper and Brother Charles Wright had made the first transition to England together in 1954. Brother Hubert Maxwell had also come over and was living in Nottingham. Brother Cooper had been worshipping with others until he decided to hold a prayer meeting at 167 Upperdale Road, Derbyshire. He then made contact with Brother Maxwell, who with his wife, joined the prayer group. This grew and Cavendish Hall in Corporation Road, Derbyshire was rented for worship.

At the same time over in London, Brother Charles Wright was being led of the Lord to start holding prayer meetings at his home.

"It was in the year 1958 when the Lord spoke to me regarding starting a prayer meeting. I was worshipping with the Church of God in Christ, when the Lord gave me this revelation, but my first thoughts were that I had no where to hold meetings as I did not have a house of my own, but the Lord used Bro Alfie Ferron to come and speak to me and with this confirmation, I then endeavoured to buy a property. Shortly after this, I bought a house, 55 Stormont Road, Battersea, and opened it with a prayer meeting."

Brother Wright was contacted by the others in Derby and, with other brethren from London, regularly attended services in Derby. During this time there was a lot of growth and interest in the work. Eventually, at a meeting held in Birmingham, it was decided that the church be set up officially and it was formally launched in Derby in 1962 by Pastors, Cooper, Maxwell and Wright with the support of their wives. They were later joined by Pastor Tilman Harris, Pastor Chambers, then Pastor Alan Bell. The General Overseer for the church in Jamaica, (Elder Jeremiah Bryson) was invited and the Assemblies of the First Born in the United Kingdom became official. With the work progressing well, a decision was made to appoint Pastor Wright as the General Overseer for the UK, assisted by Pastor Chambers.

The church grew not only numerically, but nationally as the body began to spread throughout the country. However, it was not only in the U.K that the Lord was blessing the work. In 1982 Overseer Wright was called to America by Evangelist I Richards, who, leaving England to reside in New York, had started a church and now wanted to affiliate with the Assemblies of the First Born U.K.

This led to the launch of the First Assemblies of the Firstborn church in the United States and placed under the leadership of Pastor Meakley, until the will of God was sought regarding a Pastor. Shortly afterwards, Overseer Wright was introduced to Pastor Canute Cohen and wife. On meeting him, Overseer felt led of the Lord to invite Pastor Cohen to take local responsibility for the church in Remsen Avenue and the church he was pastoring in White Plains, New York, also became affiliated to the Assemblies of the First Born, UK. Later Evangelist Richards moved to live in Fort Lauderdale in Miami, Florida and started the work there.

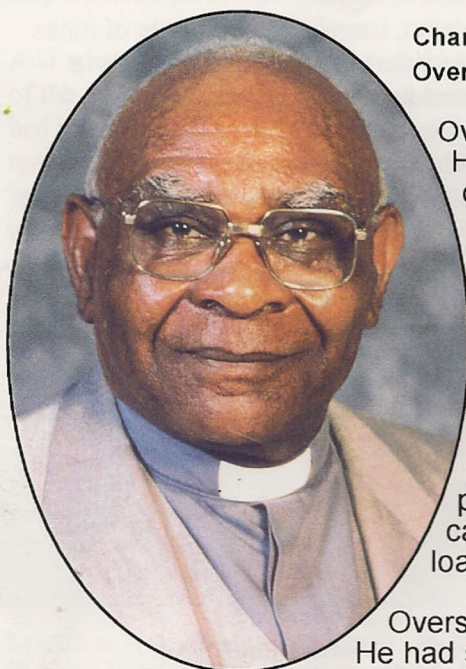


Cavendish Hall



55 Stormont Road

Profile of our Overseer and Mother Wright and their daughter Ulla-Lee Wright



Charles Samuel Wright

Overseer For the Assemblies of the First Born UK

Overseer Charles Samuel Wright, born on the 8th January 1930. His Mother Ephamie Wright, up until March 2002, was 101 years old and lived in Garden Hill, St Catherine, Jamaica. His Father, died aged 64 in 1963.

Overseer Wright had 3 sisters, although one sister subsequently died. He was educated at Garden Hill All Age School, was a sociable child having many friends. He had a trade of shoemaking before leaving Jamaica for the UK in September 1954.

On arrival he did not find it difficult to obtain employment and progressed from working at a London Borough Council, and a cable company, to eventually running his own bakery, until the workload of the church became too great to continue with both.

Overseer Wright married Sister Stephanie Rhule on 29th October 1955. He had several places of abode until 1958 when he

was able to buy his own home.. (this however served a specific purpose which will be highlighted later on.) *My favourite food is.... Butterbeans & Salt Fish. My life's ambition... to be a true Christian and to help others. Do I think I have achieved it?... Yes, I have done my best!*

Mother Stephanie Elizabeth Wright

Stephanie Elizabeth Wright, born Stephanie Elizabeth Rhule, on the 19th March 1929 in Mount Effort, St Catherine, Jamaica. Sister Stephanie was educated at Kentish All Age School, she had three sisters (two died) and eight brothers.

Before coming to England Sister Wright took care of her sick mother at home, whilst doing embroidery as a hobby. Then in 1955 she came to join Overseer Wright to be married. Sister Wright found work at the TMC Telephone Company and then the Chapman Envelope Co. Her life's ambition was to do nursing, but just before the training began, while working as an auxiliary nurse at the Princess Margaret Hospital, Sister Stephanie injured her back, putting a halt to this desire. She has however led a busy life, caring and sharing and supporting her husband as he engaged in the task of building the church here in the UK.



Ulla-Lee Wright - daughter



Ulla-lee Wright, born on 29th October 1965 and was schooled at the Tooting Private School in Trinity Road, Tooting Bec. For a short time she was educated at Norwood Girls, but her parents saw it to be more beneficial to send her back to Tooting Private. From there Sister Ulla went on to college to study Business and then a Management Course at University. She left England in 1996 to return to Jamaica with her parents and decided that she loves it there. Sister Ulla-lee now works as a Personnel Manager for the Sandals Hotel in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

Profile of the Churches in the Assemblies of the First Born (UK)

ALFRED STREET - BIRMINGHAM

Minister - Pastor Neville Brown

The work in Birmingham started in June 1967 with 6 believers under the leadership of Evangelist Bailey and Bro Bailey with the guidance of Pastor Maxwell. At that time the work was based in Percy Shurmer School Hall. With dynamic evangelism and commitment, the work grew rapidly and soon was firmly established as another branch of the AFB in the UK. One factor that contributed significantly to the growth and development of the work was the excellent relationships that were established with local churches.



Development and adjustments led to the first change in venue and the work moved to Mount Pleasant Community Centre. There we continued to prosper, and experienced a rapid expansion in the number of young people coming into the church. It was through links with other churches in the area that we were offered the new venue of Alfred Street and moved there to work with Pastor and Evang Croll.

We cannot look back at our history without making mention of the two timber constructed buildings that we inherited. We cannot fail to remember the leaky roofs, the constant repairs, the cold in winter, overheating in summer, the poor level of domestic facilities, the list goes on. These, coupled with the constant vandalism should have been enough to discourage us, but were just mere irritants compared to the blessings we were experiencing at this time.

With the ambition of the brethren, there was a vision to see a new building erected. Through hard work and determination and with the help of our sister churches and friends, our present building was completed in 1986. The church continued to grow with more officers being ordained. Pastor and Evangelist Bailey returned to the Caribbean in the mid 90's, followed by two key workers Deacon and Evangelist MacFarlane. Pastor Neville Brown assistant Pastor, took full responsibility of leading the work thereafter.



"The hope is that the church will continue to prosper as in its early days, so we too, the current leadership, can leave a legacy of commitment, Christian morals, faith and teaching."

TESTIMONY

I came to England from Jamaica as a born again Christian. I was not a member of any particular church until I was invited to attend the Assemblies of the First Born by Evangelist Bailey. During some very hard years, with many ups and downs and working long hours, with a husband and the children to care for, it was difficult looking after their needs plus having to share accommodation with other tenants and with no relatives to rely on, the church was a sustaining factor in my life. The brethren shared, supported and encouraged me both spiritually and temporally. I give God thanks for He has always been there for us. He provided for our needs and blessed us in all areas of our lives.

Now, despite not being able to do much because of aches and pains, I can say, through it all I have learned to trust in Jesus and to depend on His name. If we put our trust in Him and remain faithful He will see us through, despite life's difficulties. God is well able.

L Graham
Alfred Street Assembly

BATTERSEA

Ministers- Pastors Harry Brown & Curtis Sinclair

In 1958 Brother Charles Wright was led of the Lord to start a prayer meeting. At this time he was worshipping with the Church of God in Christ. Whilst wishing to follow the leading of the Lord, the problem that he had was where to hold this prayer meeting. Through a revelation, Alpheous Fearon came in confirmation to Charles Wright who started the prayer meeting in his home. The prayer meetings continued at 55 Stormont Road, Battersea, until the number of people attending, prompted Brother Wright to look for alternative premises. Minister

Hoggard of St Philips Anglican Church in Queens Town Road, helped with obtaining a hall in Thackery Road, Clapham. The place was always very dirty and therefore had to be cleaned before it could be used.

The meetings were very spiritual and there was a strong sense of love and unity among the brethren. Brother Wright and the brethren continued there until 1967 when premises on Heath Road, Battersea was bought.



Pastor Curtis Sinclair

The fellowship in Heath Road was very strong and on many occasions when meetings were held, many people had to return home as space to accommodate them was lacking. The church grew rapidly and in 1978, St Stephens church in Battersea Bridge Road was bought. The hall at Heath Road was kept but the rest of the building was sold. The years gone by have not all been easy but the Lord has continued to bless the church, who through His grace are still pressing forward.

The total membership of adults is 70, if children and regular visitors are included the total number is 250 people. Many have left the headquarters to return to their homeland, senior officers including Pastor Shaw, Evang Shirley Brown, Mother Dawkins, and Mother Richards. We also give thanks for those who have left us to serve elsewhere whether overseas, or within the AFB here in the UK, such as Evangelist I Richards, Pastor and Evangelist A Brown, Pastor and Evangelist Eccleston, Pastor and Sister Robinson, Missionary D Brown and Missionary Richards.

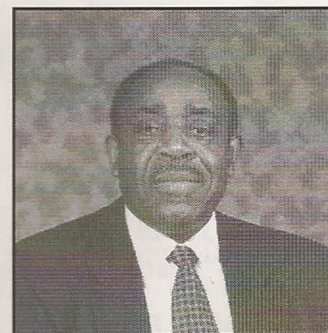
At present all auxiliaries are in operation. The Deacon's Department is headed by Deacon P Coleman with Deacon Gilbert Porter assisting. The Evangelist's Department is headed by Evang. Austin Ferron. The Men's Fellowship is headed by Pastor Curtis Sinclair with Deacon Joe Brown assisting. The Sisters Department is headed by Mother L Coleman with Sister Walker assisting. The Missionary Department is headed by Missionary Paulyn Porter. The Sunday School is led by Sis Jennifer Roberts with Sis Angela Roberts assisting. The YPE Group is led by Bro Henry Palmer with Evang. Faith Brown assisting.

The Pastoral leadership of the headquarters church listed in reverse order are:

Overseer C S Wright
Pastor Harry Brown
Pastor Curtis Sinclair
Pastor A Bell (Deceased)
Pastor Whittick

The Lord has been good to his people!

(Compiled with the help of Overseer Wright and Sis Walker)



Pastor H J Brown



Official Opening & Dedication



Entrance of the Choir

ASTON - BIRMINGHAM

Minister - Pastor L Anderson & Pastor V Stewart

The inception of the church came about through the divine revelation given to Mother Anderson in which even the location was given. There was no hesitation. The place was sought and found immediately by four people - Mother Anderson, Pastor Anderson, Mother Jaddoo, and Miss L. Taylor. Work officially began on the 14th June 1977 with nine believers, namely Evangelist Anderson, Miss Georgia who is now deceased and Pastor and Mother Anderson. The following week four families were added, they were, the Richards, the Gardeners, the Howells and the Johnson's.

Although the fellowship had moved to different premises it remained in Aston. First at Upper Sutton Street School Hall, then to the home of Evangelist Kennedy. From there it moved to The Methodist Church and to The Baptist Church. In 1984, we found our permanent home at 23 Lozells Road.

Over the years the Lord has been adding new members to the fellowship, among them is Pastor Stewart who is currently serving in the capacity of Pastor.

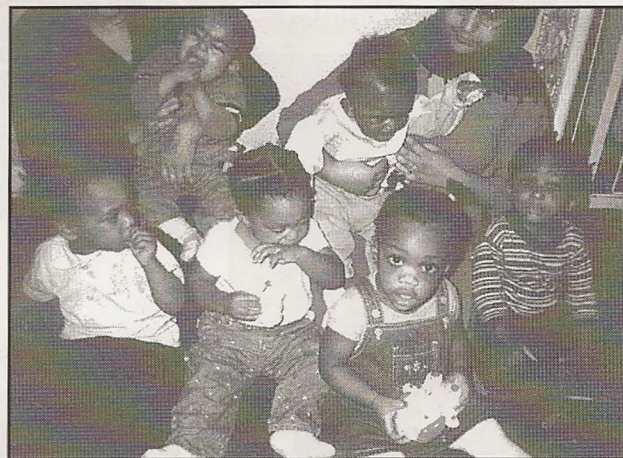
During the last 24 years we have suffered many struggles, spiritual experiences and upheavals, but the Lord has seen us through. There is, at present, an active youth group, women's fellowship and a bible study group which developed into bible training seminars with the view to extending into the wider community.

Our theme has always been to: Sound the battle cry, to raise the standards high for the Lord. With armours girded on, standing firm and resting our cause on the holy word of God, knowing that in God's service, our greatest ability is our availability.

ANKA DAY NURSERY..... A DREAM BECOMING A REALITY

In the early eighties we saw the need for childcare provision in the areas of Lozells, Handsworth, and Aston. An official survey revealed that 3% of Birmingham's inner city children were under the age of five years with only 12 childminders. Along with provision from Social Services and the Education Department in these wards more than half of the children mentioned in the survey were not catered for because of lack of facilities.

On the 7th October 1985 we were registered as Lozells Pre-school Play-group located at 23 Lozells Road. We began with twenty-five children with carers all on a voluntary basis except for bus passes to and from work. We had a small funding from City council to help provide a balanced diet for the children. The City Planning Department helped us to improve our building to make it more care worthy and our first set of carpets was from Borrow and Trust. We also got some assistance from Allan Lane Foundation of London to install safety rails and tarmac in our play area.

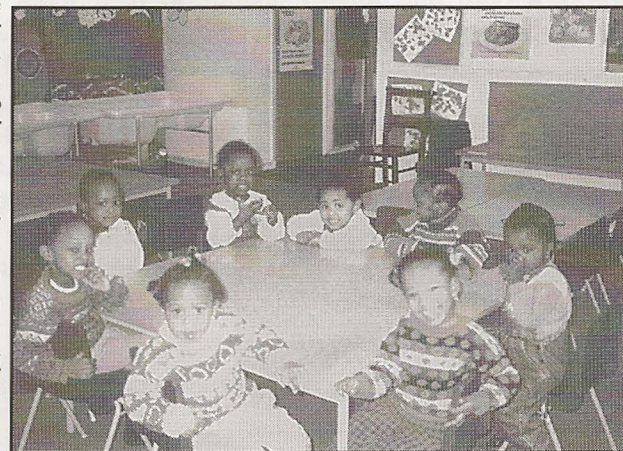


As time went by we realised that the hours we could operate was not in line with working parents and some college students so we decided to change from Play-group to Day nursery. In February 1990 our playgroup became a full day nursery and was renamed **A.N.K.A Day Nursery That Cares For All.** Our nursery now caters for children three months to eight years. this also incorporates an After School Club.

Having fought hard for the nursery to keep within the Children's Act of 1989 we are determined to keep striving for quality care and service. As a result of our hard work we were able to expand our service to other areas and on the **1st January 1999-Anka Childcare Centre located at 12 Hall Road opened it's doors to the public.**

We are proud to say that a wide strata of the community has benefited from our excellent service knowing that their children are in safe hands.

Our contribution towards society was recognised by the government giving us the go ahead to expand our work into Providing training and employment for young adults, and so on **18th February 2000 Anka Child Services Limited was recognised.** We at Anka Day Nursery do believe that dreams can indeed Become reality with hard work and determination. With our dedicated management team and staff the sky is the limit.



KINGSHEATH – BIRMINGHAM

Minister - Pastor George Salmon

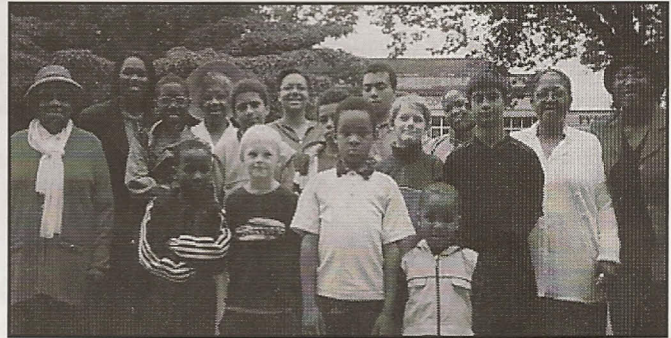
Until recently evangelist Salmon effectively carried the responsibility of the church work for many years until 1997 when her son George Salmon was ordained as Pastor. He is married to Ioni and has two sons Adrian and Matthew and a daughter Gemma.



WALSALL – BIRMINGHAM

Minister - Pastor L Barratt

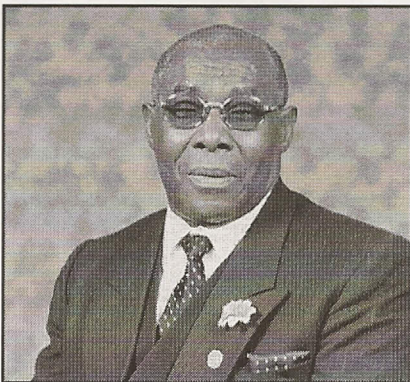
The work in Walsall formerly started on 17th September 1988 by Sister Joy Henry Nee Aboaja. Sister Audrey Thompson from Alfred Street branch started helping out in 1996. When Sister Joy got married in 1998 Overseer Wright officially asked Sister Audrey to continue in Walsall alongside Pastor Barratt, co-Pastor of Derby Branch. A team from Derby have been committed to the work in Walsall travelling down every week. *"In July 1999 we held an open air service in the City Centre with the United Voices Choir followed by a concert in the evening. It is a small work, mainly with children and we have taken them on trips and held a Christmas Programme with lunch. We would like to say a big thank you to the Alfred Street and Derby assemblies who have supplied workers, whose help and support has been greatly appreciated. Please continue to pray for Walsall."*



ALUM ROCK BIRMINGHAM

Minister - Pastor E Butler

Can you recognise any among this group of young ladies?



BRISTOL

Led by Evangelist Mckenzie

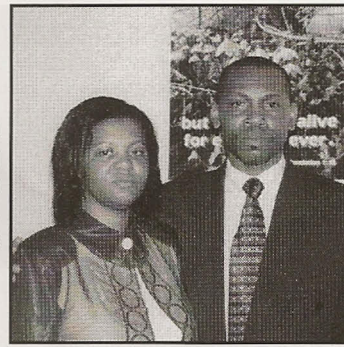


Bro Crawford's baptism

COVENTRY

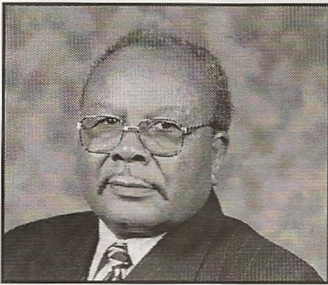
Minister - Rev M Daley

Pastor Melroy Daley was a young Evangelist in the Assemblies of the Firstborn Church Coventry, when In July 1997 he was ordained into the Ministry taking over from Pastor Tennant, when he and Evangelist Tennant returned home to Jamaica. Pastor Daley is married to Jasmine and has two young daughters. Their membership is at present small as the church has lost a few returnees to Jamaica, but recently things have taken a turn for the better.

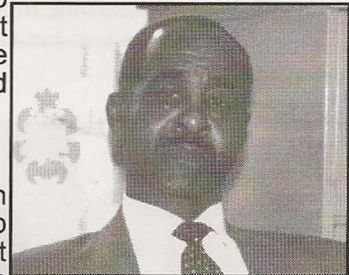


DERBY

Minister - Pastor L Morgan & Pastor L Barratt



I was invited to the Church by the then Evangelist Cooper in March 1962 who was not ordained as Pastor for the work as yet. He was renting a hall at 110 Osmaston Road Derby. I was already a Christian from Jamaica saved with the Church of the First Born. Just as I started, the late Jeremiah T Bryson visited England to see the new church formed. At the same time Pastor Maxwell was building a work in Nottingham and on occasions would come to Derby to give us communion. It was about thirty people at that time, but the number continued to increase. The late Pastor Harris was living in Nottingham, and he left and came to join with us in Derby.



After the departure of some of the senior brethren, when the late Jeremiah T Bryson revisited England he asked me to be the Treasurer and Sister Thompson to be the Secretary. I tried to decline but Elder Bryson encouraged me to take up the work. I held that position for more than 20 years. About 1963 we had our first convention in a rented hall at the Cavendish. I was ordained a Pastor in the 70's and myself and Pastor Barratt who was ordained in the 80's continued to lead the work in Derby after Pastor Cooper and wife returned to Jamaica.

EARLSFIELD "TOOTING"

Minister - Pastor Ted Brown

Tooting Church started in the early 1960's under the leadership of Pastor Gentles. This was based at St Mary's Hall, Alston Road, Tooting, London, and worship continued there for a number of years.



After the building was sold the brethren had to find somewhere else to worship.

A place was found in Wimbledon Road, Tooting, at St Mary's Church Hall. The brethren continued. In 1987 Pastor Gentles left to reside in the United States and Pastor Shaw, and wife assisted by Evangelist Ferron and others, took over the leadership of Tooting Pastor and mother Shaw remained there until 1992 when they retired to Jamaica. Pastor and Evangelist Williams took over the leadership, of Tooting until 1996, when they retired back to Jamaica.

Pastor & Evang Brown, were then asked to take on the leadership of the church in Earlsfield. They accepted the commission and moved with their family in October 1996. When they first took over, the church membership was predominantly elderly, but after a while the Lord began a restructuring process and young people and children began attending the church services. Tooting has experience many deliverance's and healings such as cancer and serious heart trouble to mention a few. Through prayer and fasting the church has grown from strength to strength.....

To God be the glory!

KINGSHEATH – BIRMINGHAM

Minister - Pastor George Salmon

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WALSALL – BIRMINGHAM

Minister - Pastor L Barratt

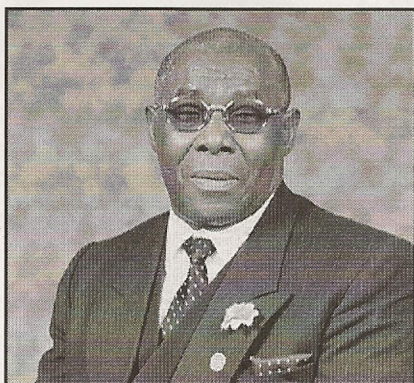
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ALUM ROCK BIRMINGHAM

Minister - Pastor E Butler

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BRISTOL

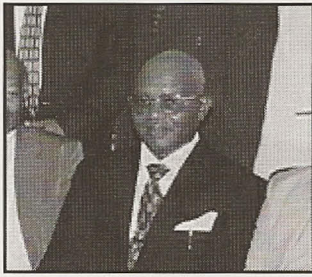
Led by Evangelist Mckenzie



Bro Crawford's baptism

FOREST GATE

Minister: Pastor C Reid

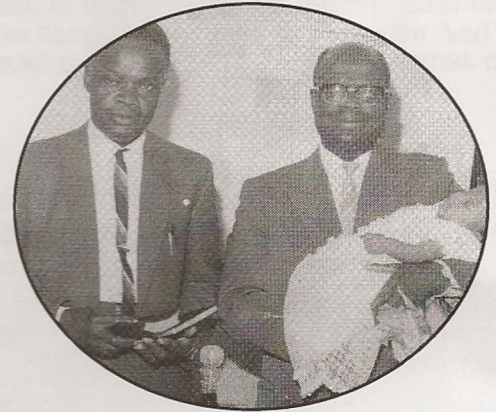


HARLESDEN

Minister:
Pastor B Eccleston
(Photo & Report not provided)

Pioneers of the work here in the UK

Deacon Tamlin and the
Late Deacon Anderson



NORBURY (formerly Croydon)

Minister: Pastor Clinton Robinson

This work started with an inspiration given to Sister Tracy in 1985 for an Assemblies of the First Born Church in Kent. It began with a



series of prayer meetings that were held at her home. A few of the members from the church in Battersea were asked to attend this prayer meeting and eventually Pastor Sam Brown and the late Evangelist Maureen Brown were assigned to lead this work. In 1986 the work moved to Clyde Hall in Croydon and Pastor Brown was joined by Deacon Joe and Sister Faith Brown who were attending the Battersea church, being led of the Lord to help out with this work.

Sadly Sister Maureen passed away. A few years later Pastor Sam Brown married Evangelist Doreen Brown from the Headquarters church, and Deacon Joe and Sister Faith were recalled to Battersea. The church had been experiencing many difficulties prior to the death of Sister Maureen and there after. In 1996 it was decided to move to it's current location in Norbury – (St Phillip's Church, Beech Road, Norbury). Towards the early 1997 to late 1998 the work continuing to decline, assistance was sought from the Headquarters church, who sent several officers to help (namely Pastor Clinton Robinson and Sister Jennifer and family, Missionary Dora Brown, Bro Tony Brown and Missionary Icilda Richards).

Over the past three years the attendance has grown from five to around thirty. We currently run our Sunday service from 1:00pm - 3:00pm and have regular prayer meetings at the Robinson's home on a Thursday evening. The Sunday school has also grown to three classes 0-7 years, 8-15 years and an adult class. As a church, we also have regular 'Street Witnessing' and leaflet distribution, an annual family service, and two nights of meetings each year, regular home prayer meetings and new converts' classes.

NOTTINGHAM

Bro Hubert Maxwell and wife Mary met here whilst on the mission. They got married on the 6th October 1956. They worshipped in Nottingham in St Saviours Church hall, Awkwright St. Pastor Maxwell and family then moved to Birmingham. Pastor Joseph Watts was then assigned the Pastoral role and in 1970 the church bought their first building in Traffic St. They had



Deac. & Mother Lindo

moved to larger premises in Hyson Green, then Palin St. Pastor Watts pastored until his death on 11th October 2000. Pastor Samuel Lindo who had been living in London was asked to work along with Pastor Watts who was unwell, he and his family moved back to Nottingham and worked in that field until recently. The work is now being looked after by Pastor Barratt.



Mother Watts

LEICESTER

Minister: Pastor Linton

Leicester Assembly began in May 1982 at St. Saviour's Parish Room, with four members. Brethren from other churches in Leicester also shared fellowship with us. We owe a great deal to Rev. Bold, from the Church of England, who was very helpful in offering these places of worship to us, at St Saviours and later St Hilda's. Due to the sale of St Hilda's, we had to find another venue for worship. After much fasting and prayer, the Lord led us to a friend, who in turn introduced us to the minister of the Edge Hill Methodist church. We are now settled at this church and finding the brethren there very friendly and helpful. Assisted by David Randle an ordained deacon, and other members of the congregation, we are encouraged to pursue our goal of preaching and ministering to the people of Leicester. We are always uplifted by the many visitors who have joined our worship over the past months.

LUTON - AFB

Led by Evangelist Campbell &
Sister Margaret Seaton

Being called by the Lord, in 1974 I resigned my membership from the church I was attending and began to wait on the Lord. I worshipped at home holding prayer meetings etc, and then being led to go to India. Having known Bishop Wright for some years, I approached him with a view to our becoming a part of the Assemblies of the First Born and the church assisting me in my ministry to India. Luton House Church/Mission to India became a part of the AFB in the mid-eighties.

The brethren of the Battersea church, supported us during prayer meetings, which developed into fellowship meetings and then in November 1995 we moved into a hall. It is now five years since the inception of the church in Luton, and although we have had visits from different sections of the community, very few have actually remained to be apart of the church. Many, however, have received help from the Lord, for which we are thankful.

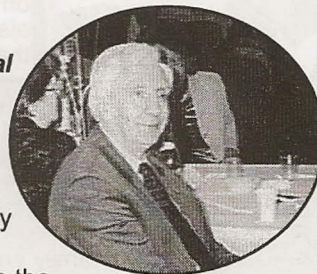
So, how is the Church today?...

Although still few in number, our aim is to persevere and to continue until the Lord brings about the change he requires.



Testimony:- We are thankful to Lord for the privilege of the ministry carried out at HMP Leicester, which has been very profitable. Thanks to Sis Lola Kemp and the brethren from the Derby Assembly for their support in this ministry. We also started a ladies group in 1996 at St Hilda's church and are now at the African Caribbean Centre. Not many members, but strong in the Lord and in His might.

I spoke to Deacon David Randle regarding his social position within the AFB.....



When I came to Leicester the family love was extremely warming, so I expected that when I met the brethren from the sister churches it would be the same. I was glad that, although culturally we differ, we were united in the language that is spoken. When the word of God is preached there is a bond and you feel as though you have known everyone all your life.

Have you experienced any colour barriers?

I don't think in colour, I have been received with love and affection, and there is a spirit of hospitality with the willingness to make sacrifices, financially etc.

Does any other members of your family visit?

My wife visits on occasions.

What would you say AFB lacks?

I cannot put my finger on anything.

Reported By Evang. Faith Brown

RUGBY – AFB

Minister: E J Henry

The Rugby church was started in the early 70's by Pastor Bailey the late Pastor Laws and the Rudduck's at Hillfield School. They then moved to St John's Ambulance Hall. In 1983 Pastor Henry took over as Pastor. The church rises and falls, but by God's grace we are still there.

SWINDON – AFB

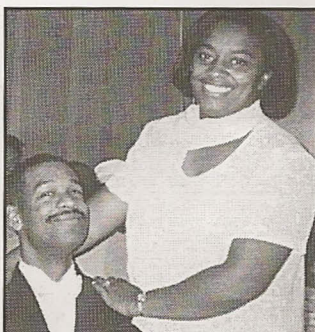
Minister: Simeon Chambers (Assist Overseer)

In 1963 Pastor Chambers being led of the Lord, moved to Swindon. He went from home to home encouraging people to turn to the Lord. A few years later Overseer Bryson advised Pastor Chambers and the members to throw a pardoner to save for a deposit on a church building. Donations were also made and eventually 38 Prospect Place was bought.



WEMBLEY – AFB

Minister - Pastor Alton Bell



Wembley church began around twenty years ago pioneered by Evangelist Myrtle Bell, who left the Harlesden assembly to start the work there. She began initially in the front room of a family friend, Mrs Johnson, before moving to a church hall in Ealing Road, Wembley. A couple of years afterwards she was informed that the hall was to be sold and the site redeveloped and had to find an alternative place for worship. She eventually found its current location, Barham Park, Harrow Road.

The church in Wembley began as a Sunday School with a small group of children. Spurred on by a desire Evangelist Bell purchased a van to collect the children for Sunday School also embarking on door to door witnessing in the local area inviting children, with the hope that their parents would follow.

Sis Vera Watson was one such person who responded to an invitation to attend service through her grandchildren and has worshipped faithfully ever since. She is both the longest serving member and the eldest. Over the years her many grandchildren and indeed great grandchildren have attended the fellowship. The late Sis Eloise Rose was another faithful member who served until ill health forced her to stop, shortly before her death in March 1999.

Pastor Alton Bell and family supported Evangelist Bell in Wembley from 1982. 'Over the years the fellowship has grown and although we are quite small we have had many converts and enjoy good fellowship with both present and past worshippers.' said the Bells.

We fellowship occasionally in united meetings with other local churches of different denominations and visit our sister church in Harlesden occasionally in the evenings.

Our external activities include outings, weekend retreats, feeding the homeless, home-to-home prayer and bible study meetings, feast and fellowship services, visiting and working with youngsters. Over the years we have faced many trials and testings as well as many memorable and happy occasions.

Evangelist Bell returned to her native land, Jamaica in 1992 with her husband, the late Pastor A. Bell (senior). At this time we fasted and prayed and asked the Lord about the future of Wembley church. We felt the Lord was leading us to carry on until he tells us otherwise.

Our present number circulates 18-20 members and regular visitors and 15-20 children. Please pray for us as we labour on this side of the vineyard.

WALTHAMSTOW

Ministers P Lavinier & S Francis



YORKSHIRE

Minister M Terrelonge



WHO IS THIS YOUNG
MAN - DEACON?

THE NATIONAL MISSIONARY BOARD....

President - Missionary Paulyn Porter

I would like on the behalf of the Board to pay a special tribute to all the pioneering Missionaries from the various churches, who came together to set up the Missionary Board in England in the mid 70's which is still in progress.

The Boards first president was Evangelist Bailey and together with other Missionary workers worked on Gods plan of redeeming the lost, by reaching different areas in order to a build a team.

Now there are groups of missionaries who go to different parts of the world, for example India, USA, Jamaica, and there are those who work in their local communities visiting hospitals, prisons, working with the elderly, children and young people. There is a wider vision to reach the lost with the light of the Lord.



The Missionary Board
Evang. H Brown, Mission. P Porter (Presid.) Mission D Brown,
Mission. J Nicholls, Evang. R Lavinier

THE NATIONAL SISTERS BOARD

President: Sister Margaret Seaton

The Sisters Board was possibly set up to give a greater opening to the women of the church to play their part in the building of the work. The first president was Mother Dawkins (Battersea) who returned to Jamaica and was succeeded by Mother Cooper (Derby) took up the baton. Later when Mother Cooper also returned to Jamaica, Sister Margaret Seaton was chosen to lead the group.

"My desire is to see the sisters group being unified and focused. There also needs to be more commitment and our work needs to be aimed towards the local communities not just AFB"



Officers of the Sisters' Board
Evang. Jennifer Robinson (Sec), Sis Paulette Chambers (Assis)
Evang. Margaret Seaton (Presid.) Sis. Janet Edwards (Treas.)
not in photo Evang. Philips. (Assis. Presid.)

Evangelist M Seaton



BATTERSEA YOUTH GROUP EARLY 90'S

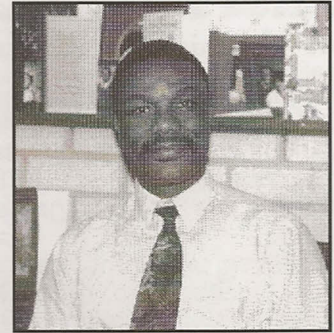
Walker Family & Friends



SOME MORE
MEMORIES TO REFLECT ON

GREETINGS FROM THE NATIONAL YOUTH PRESIDENT

Pastor Neville Brown



Sincere greetings to you all....

It is a joyous occasion to celebrate with you the 40th Anniversary of the Assemblies of the Firstborn in the U.K. God has been good to us and has certainly wrought wonderful works among his people.

Recalling our humble beginnings, we have witnessed and experienced the tremendous work the Lord has enabled us as a people (both young and old) to achieve in His name and we are grateful. We, the youth group, have not forgotten, nor do we overlook the hard work and labour of our pioneers and leaders who through difficult times have stood their ground and ensured that the church maintained its stance and fulfilled its obligations to the Lord. We would like to thank all those who have laboured with us throughout the years and have patiently and diligently coached and coaxed us in the ways of the Lord to make us better people, zealous of good things.

May God continue to bless us through this our 40th year as we strive to ensure that the legacy is passed on. With all God's Blessings to you all.

National Youth Board Members



(From left to right)

Pastor Alton Bell - Treasurer, Evangelist Faith Brown Secretary, Pastor Neville Brown President, (others on the Board are Pastor George Salmon - Assist. President, Sister Dianne Hill - Secretary)



**GUESS WHO
THESE YOUNG
LADIES ARE?**



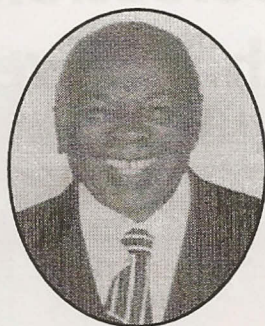
**And this handsome
young man?**



TRIBUTE TO A WARM CARING MAN OF GOD

Joseph Watts came to know the Lord in 1948 at the Assemblies of the First Born, Keys, and Clarendon. He served in the church and was deacon before emigrating to the UK.

He arrived in England in 1955 and visited a number of local churches in order to continue his service for the Lord. Of course, like all of his contemporaries, he was among many who struggled to find a permanent place of worship.



In the early sixties - along with others - he became one of the pioneers of the "House Church", which continued until the church was established in 1961.

Early in his ministry, having to use rented accommodation, Pastor Watts and the brethren often had to clean up dog's mess, hairs, cigarette ends and other rubbish before worship could begin. He would never argue or worry. Instead, he would encourage his brethren and helped to clean up the rubbish himself, while maintaining a hopeful attitude, (the irony being that having found the building in such a state, they would have to leave it clean). In addition to this, the landlord would arrive early to make sure that the hall was clean and that they left on time. Pastor Watts took the blows and did it God's way!

He then continued to work tirelessly in the service of the Lord and was ordained as a minister in 1977 when he became pastor in charge of the Nottingham assembly.

Pastor Watts had a vision about a building with a blue ceiling. On waking up, he got out of bed and walked up to the meadows where he saw the building revealed to him. When he went into the building, the ceiling was indeed blue and based on that, both he and the brethren proceeded to purchase the building. In the same way, the present building in which we stand today was revealed and bought.

Like all black-led churches, the church in Nottingham was struggling financially when Pastor Watts had a vision that he saw the Lord standing with his arm raised saying, 'Upon this rock have I built my church and gates of hell shall not prevail.' From this vision, Pastor Watts received strength and was able to encourage his brethren.

From here Pastor Watts continued his labour in the Assemblies of the First Born church in the office of Board Member, where he served for a number of years. In his later years, although sickness slowed him down, his relentless quest for serving and being at church was never diminished. Indeed, it could be said that he fought a good fight, he finished his course and he kept the faith.

Pastor Joseph Watts, we salute you!

Joseph Watts
Born 10th December 1929 - 11th October 2000
(Edited Tribute read at funeral)

Selection of Weddings through the 40 years

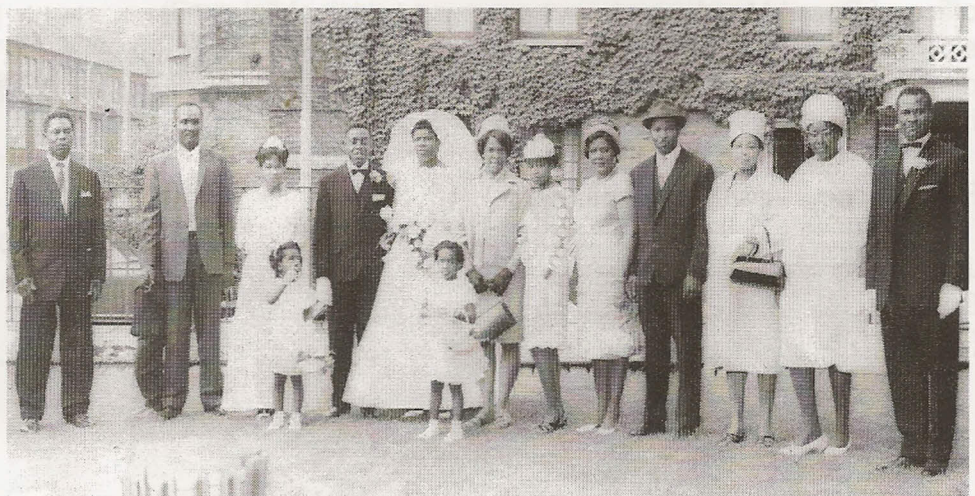


Rupert & Miriam Walker
28th April 1962



Basil and Beverly
Eccleston
6th December 1969

Harry & Haggitha Brown -
1st July 1968



Neville & Cherry
21st Feb 1976



Gladstone & Faith Brown 10th July 1976



Bro & Missionary
Crawford's 25th
Anniversary



Paul & Monica
Morson



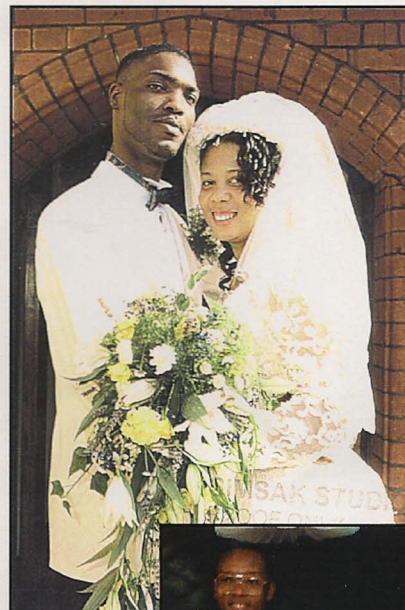
Alton & Marva Bell - 7th May 1983



James & Michelle Reid
9th June 1990



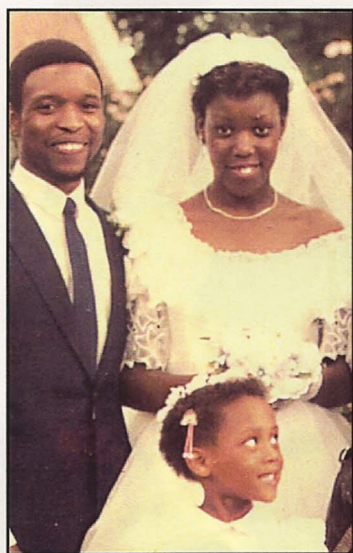
Clement & Hope Rhule
17th August 1996



Haydon & Beverley Lamond - 6th September 1980



Curtis & Carol Sinclair
19th Dec 1990



Oral & Audrey Phillips -
5 October 1985



Anthony & Marjorie Bartley

CONGRATULATIONS TO.....

Neville & Cherry Brown
25th Anniversary
21 st Feb 1976



KELSEY ASHTON - LUTON,
1 YR OLD ON 6TH JUNE

BRO DAVID CAMPBELL-
LUTON - 81 YRS
3RD JULY



Gladstone & Faith
25th Anniversary
10th July 1976

Pastor Morgan on his
70th Birthday



Overseer & Mother Wright
46 years October 2001



Deacon & Mother David
Brown - 14th July 1943

Kay
Arogundade
Congrats.on
GRADUATION



Myrtle Morgan
70 Yrs on
31st July 2001



Amand-Louise Brown Happy 16th
Birthday-17th August 2001



Sophie Pryce
GRADUATED
2001

Ted & Ruth Brown - 19 May 1979



Pastor
and Evang
Peterson

Tony & Dora Brown
19 November 1977



Errol & Lola Elliston



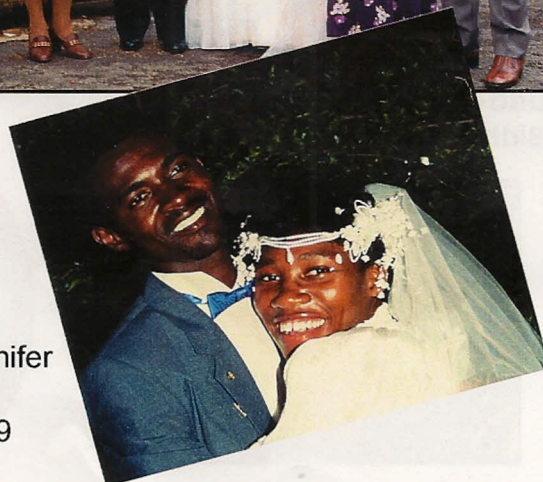
Mike & Charmaine Brown - 28th April 1979



Beris & Jennifer Roberts -
11 Aug 1984



Clinton & Jennifer
Robinson
9th Dec 1989



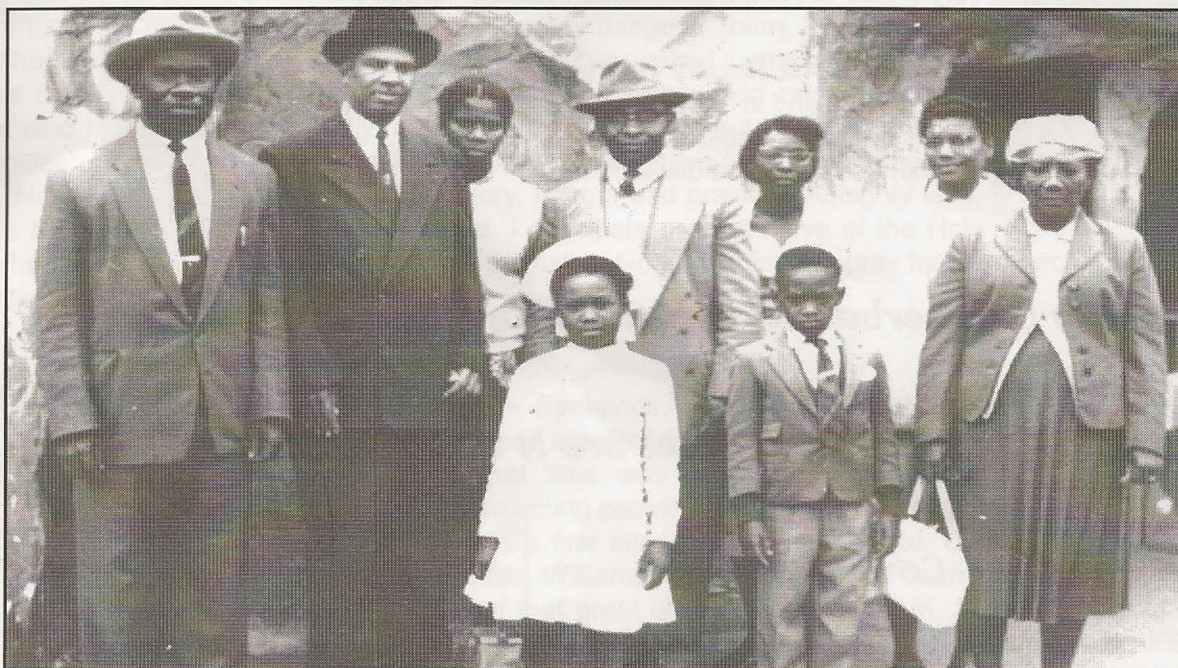


Mr and Mrs Blake

Trevor and
Delcie
Baxter



Although this may not be the appropriate place, this picture could not be left out as it includes some of the official fore runners of the Assemblies of the Firstborn.



Elder Knibbs, Elder Bryson, (unknown), Overseer Wright, Mother Clementine Brown
Mother Stephanie Wright, (unknown), & two young children.

We Celebrate some of the Senior Brethren in the AFB

Mother and Deacon David Brown

Mother Brown born 28th October 1921, Deacon David born 1st April 1914, they were married on 14th July 1943, they have been married for 58 years and recently celebrated their anniversary. They have 10 Children alive, 1 died. They were both born in St Anns Jamaica, West Indies. Mother Brown came to England 1967, to join her husband, he came in 1959. Mother Brown was saved from 1937, Deacon got saved in 1929. They have spent 34 years in the AFB.



Testimony of Mother Brown

For many years I attended the church in Battersea, but had not felt the need to receive the 'right hand of fellowship' until I felt that the Lord was urging me to do so. From a young woman I believe that the Lord has been using me and now even in my senior years I am still willing and able to be a part of the choir.

Sis Watson

Vera Watson was born on 14th October 1914, in Nine Turns, in Jamaica. She got married to Joseph Watson, and had 5 boys and 1 girl. Vera Watson is a sister of Wembley AFB church.

Mother May

Mary Williams "Mother May" was born on 17th July 1913, and came to England in 1956. Mother May has 1 son called Patrick, 2 Grandchildren and 2 Great Grand children.



Mother Anderson

Mother Edna Anderson, born on the 21st January 1911 in Trelawny, Clarks Town, Jamaica. Came to England in 1966, married Cyril Anderson in 1944. Mother Anderson has been a member of the Senior Choir in Battersea until going to live with her son some distance away.

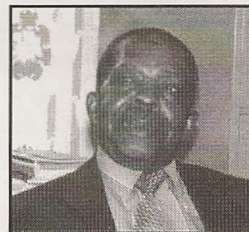


Mother May Cumberbatch - Walthamstow

Mother M Williams, Bro, D Rule, Bro N O Cameron - Derby AFB

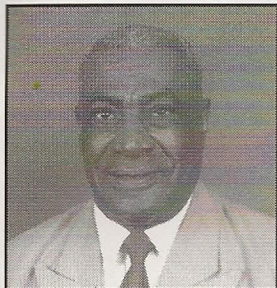
Deacon Nelson - Coventry AFB

Sis D Smith - Alfred ST AFB



Anniversary Greetings From Overseas

Compiled by Sis Cherry Hylton; Assit. Editor



Pastor & Mother Cooper - St Catherine, JA.

Dear Brethren...It is a privilege to greet you in Jesus' name.... We are grateful to God that we can celebrate 40 years of the AFB church in England. We rejoice for the many souls that have been saved, many of whom are still rejoicing in the Lord. Yes, it was worth the sacrifices, the suffering and the struggles many of us have been through. We are glad that we were a part of it and that we have no regrets. A BIG thank you to the Derby brethren

who have been faithful and have stood with us for many years. We have so many precious memories... Here in Jamaica we are still working for the Lord. Let us continue the good work. Be strong in the Lord, never give up. God will see us through.



Mother Dawkins - Spaldings, JA. I came to England in 1956 there was no AFB churches at the time, so I attended other churches for a while. During these times our prayers to God was to obtain a place of our own, where we could be free to worship God as we desired. Our prayers were answered when overseer Wright bought a house and invited us to worship in prayer meetings. Very shortly thereafter it became clear that we needed somewhere larger to worship as the young church grew. Deacon Tomblin found a hall in Thackeray Rd, where the first service was held. I did the devotional part, Evang. Burns gave the message - Psalm 107:23-24 - 'Doing business with God in deep waters'. Over the years it was hard work and commitment until the work was

established. In 1988 with much regret, I had to leave Battersea and the lovely fellowship we shared to return to JA, but we do come back in our hearts now and again to Battersea. I do hope and pray that it will be business with God always. Thank you for allowing me to share in this anniversary. May god continue to prosper the work.

Mother Richards - Mandeville, JA. Dear Brethren and Friends, most holy greetings in Jesus name. It is joy to report victory through Christ. I became a member of the AFB in 1962, just after the church started in the home of Pastor Wright and his dear wife. I watched the work grow, as God led us through many dangers. Today, I can honestly say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us" (1 Sam 7:12). I've worked in many departments and was the President for the ladies board for many years. God raised up many warriors who have worked resiliently, bringing glory to his name and success to the communities....I give thanks to all the faithful officers, who have fought the good fight of faith. Now we celebrate 40 years. I give glory, honour and praise to Almighty God, who has brought us out with his mighty hand. I anticipate a great move of the Holy Spirit, when men and women will surrender to the call of God. I continue to pray for the church, as we become one in Christ. God bless you all.

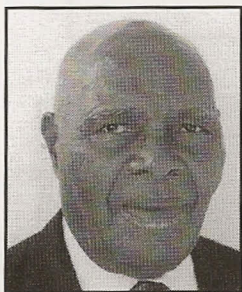


Pastor & Evang.I. Williams - Spaldings, JA. It is with great pleasure that we greet you in the precious name of Jesus. We have spent 35-36 years in England. All of that time was spent between Battersea, Harlesden and Tooting. As two young people, we had laboured night and day from the inception of AFB's first service at Thackeray Rd. During those years especially, Pastor Williams worked from one county to another for the building up of that great organisation in the UK. Since returning to Jamaica, we are trying to settle down...our place of worship is at AFB, Santa



Hills. Fellowship is wonderful. May God bless you all in this great milestone and may you continue to harvest souls in the vineyard.

Pastor Alvin West - Buff Bay, Portland, J.A.



It is with great pleasure I extend greetings to all the brethren on our 40th anniversary. We have come through great battles and hardship, but the Lord of Hosts was, and is, with us (Psalm 46:7, 10) We are looking for greater things to happen but these can only be achieved through unity, faithfulness and prayer from us all. I am still here in Jamaica doing what I am called to do the Parish of St Mary. Souls are being saved, baptised and going on and the Lord is helping me to remain active in his service. May the Lord continue to bless you richly, as I pray for a special anointing for this 2001 convention.

Pastor H Croll - Buff Bay, Portlands .J.A.

Greetings from Jamaica to brethren and friends in the UK. I am pleased to know that the church has been established 40 years in the UK. Thanks be to God that I am a part of it. Many times I give thanks to God for the strength and courage he gave me to labour at Alfred Street, Kingsheath, Rugby and Coventry in snow and sunshine. I know I shall reap if I faint not. Yours in his service.



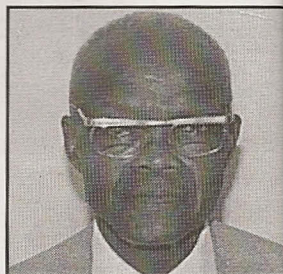
Sister Beryl Hylton - Carey Park, Falmouth, J.A.

In July 1976, I attended a baptismal services held at Mallinson Road. The Lord had been dealing with me for over 2 weeks before, preparing me for that special day. When I got a call inviting me to the baptism, my time at work was changed without me having to ask for the night off. God always has our best interests at heart, as he is a God of plan and purpose. On that very night - 24/7/76 - as the baptism was going on; the Lord spoke to me. I heard, listened, fully gave my life to Jesus, and was baptised at once. 10 days later I was filled with the Holy Spirit. I remember at that time at Heath Road, that the young people were on fire for the Lord. The leaders, mothers - I drew from their spiritual lives. There were so many blessings. It was Jesus or nothing! The prayer fellowship gave stability and a sound spiritual background. I gained strength and now prayer has become my first priority. Thank you to all who have helped me to be strong and to grow in my 10 years with you. Praise the holy name of Jesus! I give him glory. Peace, love and joy in the Lord to you all.



Deacon Sidney Tomblin - Clarendon, JA

Praise God, having obtained help from the Lord I continue until this day. I was living at 10a Queenstown Road in Battersea. One night I was coming from work when the Lord gave me a revelation to go to Robinson Street and ask for a place of worship. A Mr Briker gave me his hall to worship in. Then from that time I have been going on with the Lord in the good times and the bad. Even though I left England to go to Jamaica, I still have the Holy Ghost zeal to keep the fire burning. I am represently worshipping at the AFB in Chapleton. The older I am getting, the more serving God gets sweeter in my soul. Keep faith and stay under the blood of Jesus.



Deacon and Mother Morgan - Montego Bay, JA

Our arrival in England was in the early 60's. We had left our home, families and church. Once in England we had difficulty finding a place of worship. We were foreigners, and were made to feel unwanted. In those days there were not many black-led churches around so we thank God for the vision of Pastor Charles Wright who was one of those that helped to pioneer the work here in England, the Assemblies of the First Born. The church here in England was introduced to us by the late Evangelist Latouche and wife. It was then sited at Thackeray Road, before moving to Heath Road and thereafter to Battersea Bridge Road. The fellowship was great. God really blessed us mightly and we had some good times. We're praying that the blessings will continue to flow because God is the same yesterday, today and forever.



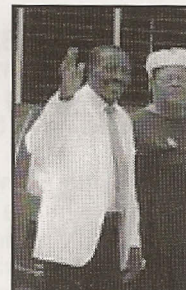
Sis Rosalyn Brown - Spanish Town, J.A.



Sorry I am unable to attend the 40th anniversary. I spent 30 years in Battersea church, (1962-1992). I had a wonderful time and love the brethren very much. We got on very well together, both young and old. Well, I am now going to Ackles Hill Church - same body - and this is at Red Hills, St Catherine. I am enjoying myself in the Lord with the brethren. I wish you a very happy 40th anniversary. Please pray for me as I am praying for you all. I love you all and God bless you.

Pastor & Sister Peterson - Old Harbour, J.A.

Greetings to all our brethren in the UK. Congratulations on the 40th Anniversary of the church in the UK. On various occasions, both my husband and I felt God was calling us for service in the Island of Jamaica. I returned in 1985 where I began working as nursing supervisor, but was also partnering my husband in the ministry. Upon becoming a part of AFB in Jamaica, we were blessed in being asked to pastor a church in Bushey Park and from then were able to minister to many in other parts of the Island. Once again congratulations and God's blessings for now and the future.



Evangelist Inez Richards - Fort Lauderdale, USA. I was saved in 1962, under the ministry of Overseer Wright. In 1968 I left England for Jamaica, and then I returned. Shortly afterwards, I emigrated to New York.



While there, other brethren and myself made many trips to Jamaica, (Decoy, Clarendon) to hold crusades. Souls were saved and a work began there. We were able during that time to acquire some land, on returning from Jamaica, we started a church in Brooklyn. After that we went to Florida and started a work there. We have also been to Haiti to run crusades, where many souls were saved. My desire is to see souls born for the kingdom. The brethren from this local body and myself are arduously working in the vineyard desiring to see sinners repent, lives changed and the name of the Lord be glorified....Continue to pray for us, as we do the same for you. May God bless you richly.

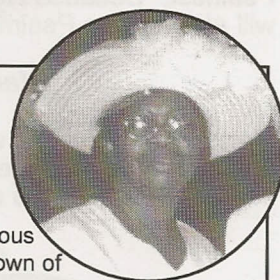
Evangelist H V Brown - Bog Walk, St Catherine, J.A.

Greetings to my pastors and brethren in the precious name of Jesus our Lord and soon coming king. The Lord has helped me to continue. It has not been easy, especially since I returned to Jamaica. I am in pain almost every day. However, I have continued to trust the Lord who saved me by his grace, and I am able to do his will in my life. Since I came to Jamaica I have been given many responsibilities, such as Adult Sunday School, Bible class Teacher, Counsellor, & Choir instructor. Thank you for the invitation. It is greatly appreciated Love you all.



Churches Overseas

Remsen Avenue, Brooklyn New York, White Plains New York, Fort Lauderdale Florida. Of the three churches of the Assemblies of the First Born in the USA, two began through the passion that a young evangelist had for the rescuing of the lost. Evangelist Inez Richards was saved in 1962 and came to England in 1968, a short time thereafter emigrating to New York. Evangelist Richards was also making various trips to Jamaica holding crusades and another church in the Assemblies of the First Born (Jamaica) in the town of Decoy was started - "in my garage".



The work in New York grew rapidly and in 1982 Pastor Charles Wright was asked to come over and set up Remsen Ave officially as a member of the Assemblies of the First Born affiliated to the UK. Pastor Meakly was asked to take care of the work by giving communion, whilst prayer was made as to the will of God for the leadership there. At the official opening of the church Pastor Wright was introduced to a young pastor named Canute Cohen and his wife Overseer Wright later stated that he knew immediately that this was the man to take over the work. The church Pastor Cohen was pastoring in White Plains New York also came into affiliation with the AFB. In 1991 Pastor Walford became the Associate Pastor of Remsen Ave, Brooklyn, along with Pastor Cohen. Four years later Evangelist Richards moved to Fort Lauderdale in Florida where she continued her labours until another church was eventually formed. Today the borders of the churches in the USA extend from Remsen Avenue Brooklyn to White Plains, continuing onto Fort Lauderdale in Florida. Who knows how and where the Lord will lead next?

... I will be with thee and I will bless thee..."

Faith without works is dead.....

Marjorie Bartley is a young woman with a God given vision for the lost. She came to the UK in 1980 for a visit and ended up falling in love with a young man, Anthony Errol Bartley. They married sometime later that year and have been blessed with six children.



After living in this country for sometime, Marjorie began to have prophetic visions. In the dreams she saw people in the land of Jamaica, suffering, but what really intrigued her was the fact that they were lost and heading for hell. At once, Marjorie feeling the burden of the vision, began to pray, "Lord how can I help these people?" She did not accept that these were just 'visions,' (illusions of the mind) but divinely inspired.

As Marjorie prayed for clarification and direction, the Lord began working things out. To cut a long story short.....as they say, confirmation was given, when, after the death of his father, Anthony began to have thoughts on returning to Jamaica so as to be nearer to his mother. This was realised in 1998.

In Jamaica, to establish the necessary funds to help Anthony sustain their large family and to begin working on the vision, Marjorie tried various sources of income, one being the setting up of a florist shop, the craft she learned here. This however, was not as successful as expected and eventually was closed down. After taking some thought, she then established classes for the teaching of floristry which has proved a better venture. Marjorie is a hard working person and continues until today to labour towards the cause for which she has been sent.

One fateful day however, whilst making flower arrangements for the late Sister Burns, she felt a strong pressure in her head, causing immense pain. After a prayer and an urgent visit to the hospital, doctors scanned her brain, but were unable to diagnose the reason for the pain in her head, deciding she needed a more in-depth investigation. It was at that point that Marjorie decided, prayerfully, to come to a decision regarding further examination.

Her final decision was to return to the UK for further tests. Unknowingly Marjorie was near to death's door! After a visit to a local hospital here in England, doctors discovered a sack of fluid within the brain, which was draining slowly, if ruptured she could have died instantly. The doctors did not send her back home that day, they had to operate immediately to remove this sack. It was a delicately intricate operation that took 8 hours. To God be the glory, it was successful! Sis Marjorie declares that through it all she stood on the word of the Psalmist, "Because He hath set His love upon me, therefore will I deliver Him, He shall call upon me and I will answer him Psalms 91 verses 14 - 16.

Marjorie is still proceeding towards the vision.....comes what may!

Marjorie and Anthony would like to give special thanks to the brethren of Battersea Assembly AFB, for their love and support during the time of her illness. "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, when you love one another." And a special thank you to **Pastor Alton and Sis Marva Bell.**

Remind you of
anyone?



Officers of AFB (UK)

ALFRED STREET - Pastor Neville Brown

Evangelists	Deacons	Missionaries	Mothers
Cherry Brown Pearly Pryce Mercylyn Hepburn Audrey Thompson	Kenute Pryce Geoffrey Bennett Alana Matthews	Lassett Graham Monica Prescod Inez Jeffers Zena Gentles Clementina Scott	Enid Cooper Vadzie Pryce

ALUM ROCK - Pastor E Butler

ASTON - Pastor L Anderson, Pastor V Stewart

BATTERSEA - Pastor Harry Brown, Pastor Curtis Sinclair

Evangelists	Deacons	Missionaries	Mothers
Austin Ferron Faith Brown Haggitha Brown Bev Elliston Mablyn Graham Herman Thomas Cecil Rowe	Gladstone Brown Michael Brown David Brown Persis Coleman Samuel Elliston Oral Phillips Gilbert Porter Beris Roberts Rupert Walker	F Livermore Judith Nicholls Elsa Thomas Paulyne Porter	Louisea Coleman A Brown Catherine Hazel L Murphy

COVENTRY - Pastor M Daley

Evangelists	Deacons	Missionaries	Mothers
	I Nelson		

DERBY - Pastor Morgan, Pastor L Barratt

Evangelists	Deacons	Missionaries	Mothers
N Hamilton N Palmer B Phillips L Wright	M Cooper L Moulton	J D Cooper P Thompson N Wedderburne	M Williams

EARLSFIELD - Pastor A Brown

Evangelists	Deacons	Missionaries	Mothers
Ruth Brown			

HARLESDEN - Pastor B Eccleston

Evangelists

D Cristy
D Eccleston
S Hanson
E Lewis
L Sinclair

Deacons

S McCarthy

Missionaries

E Braithwaite

Mothers

KINGS HEATH - Pastor R G Salmon

LEICESTER - Pastor R Linton

Evangelists

Deacons

D Randle

Missionaries

Mothers

LUTON - Evangelist G A Campbell

Evangelists

M Seaton

Deacons

Missionaries

Mothers

NORBURY - Pastor C Robinson

Evangelists

J Robinson

Deacons

Missionaries

D Brown
I Richards

Mothers

NOTTINGHAM - Pastor L Barrett

Evangelists

M Watts
C Baltilo

Deacons

I Lindo
I S Lindo
C Brooks
R Thomas

Missionaries

W Brumwell

Mothers

M Morgan

RUGBY - Pastor E Henry

Evangelists

Deacons

M Gordon

Missionaries

M Gordon
T Rose

Mothers

SWINDON - Pastor S A Chambers

Evangelists

A Johnson

Deacons

F Edwards
H Douglas

Missionaries

H Edwards
F Swaby

Mothers

I Chambers
M Williams

WALTHAMSTOW - Pastor P Lavinier, Pastor Francis

Evangelists

Romain Lavinier

Deacons

Missionaries

May Cumberbatch

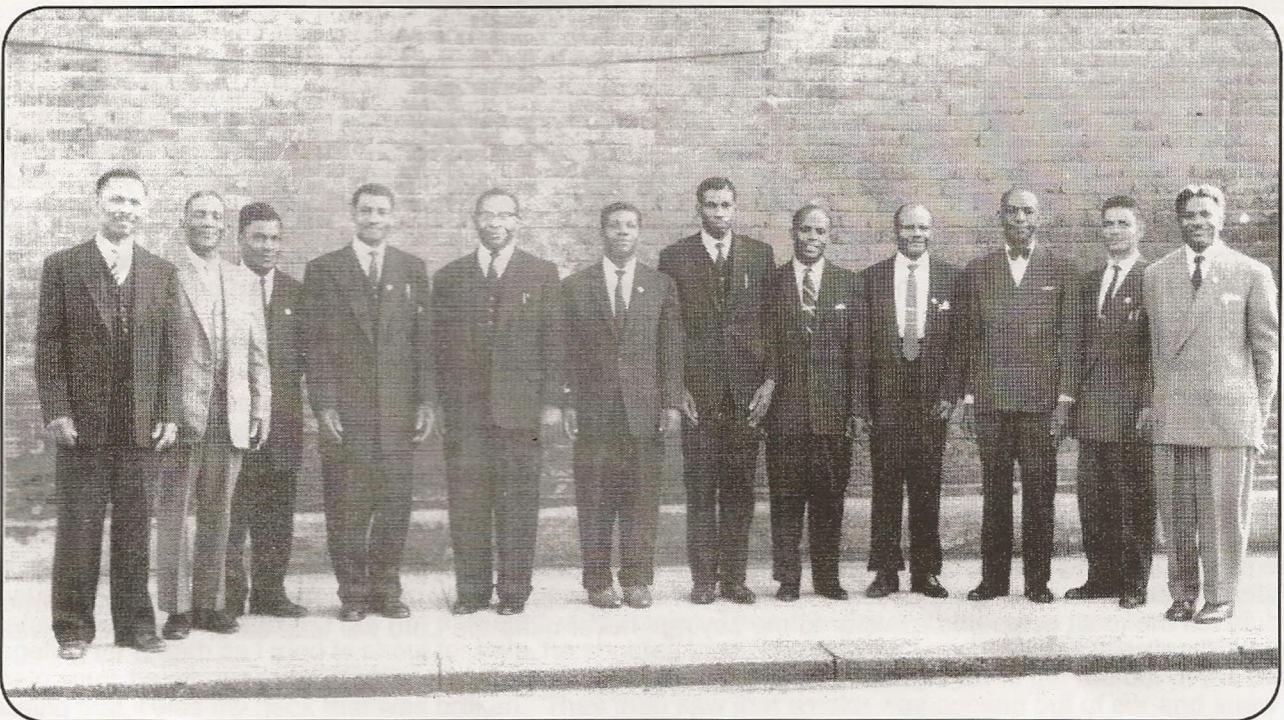
Mothers

WEMBLEY - Pastor Alton Bell

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE EARLY DAYS



The First Officers of the Assemblies of the Firstborn UK



Mr Harricot, Tilman Harris, Thomas Cooper, Herbert Maxwell, Charles Wright, Cornelius Williams
Mr Whittick, Mr Anglin, Simeon Chambers, Mr Headley, Allan Bell, Mr White
(Some of these men are now deceased.)

Testimony of Sister Miriam Walker



Reported by Melanie Edwards

I got saved at the age of 23 and after two years I came to England in 1962. I was sent for by Bro. Walker and we married. We had originally been with the Assemblies of the First Born in Jamaica so we started to worship with the Assemblies of the Firstborn in Battersea.. Fellowship here has always been excellent; with good relationship with the brethren. In the early days there were a group of about 6/7 of us who would meet together as young people and pray and fast, sometimes until the early hours of the morning. I think it is those things that has helped us to become strong christians.

After having my children I went into nursing and I had also taken on some responsibility in the church in the ministry of administration. In 1985 I had an accident and required surgery on my leg. While I was recuperating my grandmother who had raised me died. I was unable to go to the funeral because of my leg and on the same day of the burial Bro. Walker had his accident.

It was a great shock, initially when I got the report of Rupert's accident. He had taken the morning off to take some friends to the airport. I had felt uneasy all morning, sensing something was wrong. I committed it into the hands of the Lord and continued with my daily chores. Later that day a police officer called at my door to tell me that Bro. Walker had had an accident. When I got to the hospital, the doctor was quite frank but not very tactful. He asked me 'are you Mrs Walker'? I said 'yes', he said 'I haven't got any good news for you. Your husband has been in a Road Traffic Accident and within the next 24hrs, whatever members come back into use, will be what he will be able to use in the future. And he will have to go to a special hospital. He will not know when he wants to go to the toilet or when he wants to pass urine.' Even now I can remember that moment and my saying, 'Lord I'm asking you for his hands'.

When I went up to the ward to see him he was conscious and we were able to speak. I started to touch his hands asking 'can you feel it' and he told me he could feel certain parts and certain parts he couldn't feel. They transferred him on the third night to Stoke Mandeville about 40 miles away. It was a trying time because I was still working on night duties. I had to go up to the hospital almost 2 to 3 times a week but the support and co-operation of the brethren and the family, made the time more tolerable.

As I have said I had asked the Lord for his hands and I'm still trusting God. At times I would get low and have questions and the Lord would say to me quite audibly 'wait, wait on the Lord'. At other times he will send some one to speak to me and remind me that the Lord said I'm to wait on Him. One day I was going out and I began to look back on the days when Bro. Walker could help himself and I started to cry and said 'Lord I am praying and you're not answering me' I heard a voice clearly say 'you've prayed and I answered you' and I asked 'what have you said?' and the voice replied 'I told you to wait!'. So regardless of what is happening I cannot go over a certain boundary, even if I feel discouraged I cannot stay there, because God has placed me here and has told me to wait.

I know that God has healed Bro Walker spiritually. If I had to make a choice between spiritual healing and physical healing, I would choose the spiritual healing, because we have bonded much more closer now than ever before. Things we do now, when he was much more able bodied we did not do, he would do his thing and I would do mine. Now if he is having a cup of tea, it's no problem to me, as I'm having the same mug of tea, I will just make one and both of us will share it. I put our dinner into one plate/dish and we eat together, it brings a special bonding. It also brought the family very, very close because we are a big family (touching 30 at the moment).

I have proven God in so many ways. Looking back at the accident and the fact that Bro. Walker is unable to look after himself, yes, at times it becomes hard, but he has been a tower of strength. There are times when he would tell me to sit down and minister to me saying 'never mind the Lord will take care, God will provide' and God has always taken care of us.

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People may think that with a couple in our situation with the amount of care that is needed, that there has to be some ill-feeling and fear. This I experienced whilst working as a nurse in a hospital, I saw that many times the paralyzed spouse would feel bitter towards the able bodied person and sometimes the able bodied person would be afraid that he/she would not be able to cope and would be reluctant to take home his/her spouse. I thank the Lord that it has not been like that for us but there has been a bonding between us and we can share each other's thoughts. I am grateful to God, that He has given us the strength, the grace and the courage to face up to this challenge.

If our lives in the position we are in, can be a blessing to anyone or if it has been a blessing to any one, I just want to give the praise to the Lord. Of myself I wouldn't be able to cope but the Lord has given me the necessary will power, the courage and vigour.



So I just want to encourage my fellow readers. It does not matter what our circumstance are; God is able and he does answer prayers. It may not be the way we want Him to, but he does answer prayers.

I have proven Him financially, physically, mentally and spiritually. Some times, I do not have to say a long prayer, I just say 'Lord, have mercy'. I just go down and say a few words and God answers. To Him I give the glory.

Sometimes it's hard for me to prepare Bro. Walker to take him to church but he still has a strong ministry. People come to him to pray and he often ministers through song and even when he goes to the day centre, they will ask him to have Bible Studies.

For some one who has been in the church now (with AFB) for 39/40 years, I have seen so many things, and many blessings. The Lord has done some miraculous things. The Lord has been good to us in the Assemblies of the First born, and He has taken us this far. I just want to give Him all the praise.

Testimony of Deacon Walker

It was 1955 when I got saved. One Saturday I was at home looking after my sister's children, I had the breakfast cooking and doing some clearing up, when I saw a package between the house and the flower garden. I picked up the package intending to throw it away and I saw it was a book wrapped up. As I tore the leaves off I discovered it was a bible. The first chapter I opened was II Chronicles 29v10 -11 'it was in my heart to make a covenant with the Lord God of Israel, that His fierce wrath may turn away from us...'. Tears just started to fall from my eyes. There was a boy in the kitchen, who if he had seen me crying would have made a big fuss of it and would have laughed at me, so I tried to dry up the tears. However, I could not stop until, I heard these words 'you have always said you wanted to serve God and now is the time,' after that I just said 'yes Lord I will serve you' and the tears dried up.

The following day, Sunday morning, I got ready and went to the First Born Church of God. I continued to worship there until I came to England in July 1961. The church at Battersea had just started here so I went there to worship and have been in fellowship with them until now.

My accident happened in 1985 while I was taking a church sister and her family to the airport. I was driving along the M23 when another driver cut in front of me. I went hard on the brake to avoid going into his back and my tyre 'blew out'. I pulled over to the right to have a look at it and I said to my passengers 'the tyre is rugged, I have to change it' but it was dangerous to change it in the right hand lane. I got back into my car, put my hazard lights on and started to pull over to the near side. Whilst going over another car came along and collided with my car, both cars travelling further down the road until my car turned over.

The seat belt had got tangled around my neck and broke it. I said to those in the car 'my shoulder is broken,' because when I tried to lift my arm to undo the seat belt there was no feelings there. The nerves had been cut off already. They said to me 'oh no' and started to panic. Then the driver in the other car heard that I was struggling for breath as I tried to shout for help, he shouted back 'I heard you, just hang on a minute. I'm coming to help you,' he stopped some other drivers and they came over to help. They tried to get me out of the car not realising that it was my neck that was broken. They then saw that smoke was coming out of car and knew that the car was going to catch fire so they had to hurry up and get me out and away from the car.

.....

They put me down by the roadside. At first they put me on my back I found that I was struggling for breath.. I could hardly speak to them to ask them to put me on my stomach. They said " No, no we can't put you on your belly, it's your neck that's broken so you should be on your back." I pleaded with them, "Please, please help me my breath is going out, I can't breathe properly". One person said "Alright, let's put him on his belly and see what happens". So they put me on my belly, and while I was there I was singing this song 'I come to the garden alone'... **(sings the song)**. They were helping me to sing the chorus, as they said that they knew it because it was one of Pat Boon's songs. After that I was speaking in 'tongues' and one of them said 'imagine, after helping him, he is swearing at us'. Mother Brown, a passenger in my vehicle, told them that I was not swearing at them, but that I was speaking in unknown tongues to the Lord. When they heard me cry 'hallelujah, hallelujah'. They said 'yes we know that language, every nation uses that language'. The police arrived as this stage and gave me a breathalyzer, twice, and took my address and phone number and details of my next of kin which was my wife.



I was taken to Redhill Hospital and kept there for 2 days and 1 night before I was transferred to a spinal injury hospital. I remained there for 6 months on my back until the 7th month when they helped me to sit up a little way. I wanted to sit up more but I was told it would cause me to faint.. I was able to persuade them this would not happen, so they put me up little by little until I was sitting up 100%. They told me I was the only one who had sat up like that so soon. Others always faint on the ¼ degree. They watched me for 30mins until they said 'okay he's alright there' and left me. I started to move around. But I could never swing my hands as I do now. They were just stiff.

I was kept in hospital for 10 months. When the doctor came, he called my wife and the social worker and two of the nurses and told them that I would not be able to do anything for myself. My wife wanted them to call me and tell me, but they felt that I would not be able to take it, but she was confident that I would be. She said "Yes, I know my husband, he will take it." So they took me into a room and the doctor told me. I said "Well doctor, I believe I will walk again, by the miracle of God" and he asked "by what?". I repeated "by Gods miracle, I will walk again and I will use my hands," he said "I don't know anything about that, but under medical grounds you won't be able to walk again." The social worker turned to the doctor and said "Well when he first came in here we did not think he was going to make it, but we believe that it is his prayer that has turned him around".

Once I came out of the hospital a number of nurses came and looked after me. Sister Ferron came also and said that the Lord told her to help with me. From she started she has never stopped. She has often come and helped the nurses wash me and get me ready in the morning. Some times I fainted and she just tipped the chair back with me until I recover.

Every moment is God. God has been providing for us. My wife has cared for me in a wonderful way . I could never make any complaint about the care that I received from her. If it had not been for Gods mercies and His grace in giving me her help, I wouldn't be here today. I believe I would have been dead a long time ago. So I give God thanks for everything. To me God is wonderful. My children also come and make me happy and the brethren provides companionship and do things for me which I can't do for myself. They make me happy. Even though I'm like this I still give God thanks and I'm looking forward to that day when God will heal these hands and feet.



Guess who these
little gems are!



Greetings from some Friends of the AFB

Bishop D. Bernard -

On the behalf of the brethren of the New Testament Assembly, Beechcroft Road I would like to say a greeting to Overseer Wright and the Assemblies of the First born.Church

I first met Pastor Wright at his home in Battersea many years ago and we have remained friends up to today, supporting and encouraging one another. When I had realised he was from the Church of the Firstborn in Jamaica I suggested to him that one was also needed here and I believe that it was not long after our discussion that Pastor Wright actually began making plans. There is so much that I could say, but let me conclude by congratulating the pioneers for establishing the church here and to say how proud I am to see the spreading of the church, internationally as well as nationally.



May God bless you all

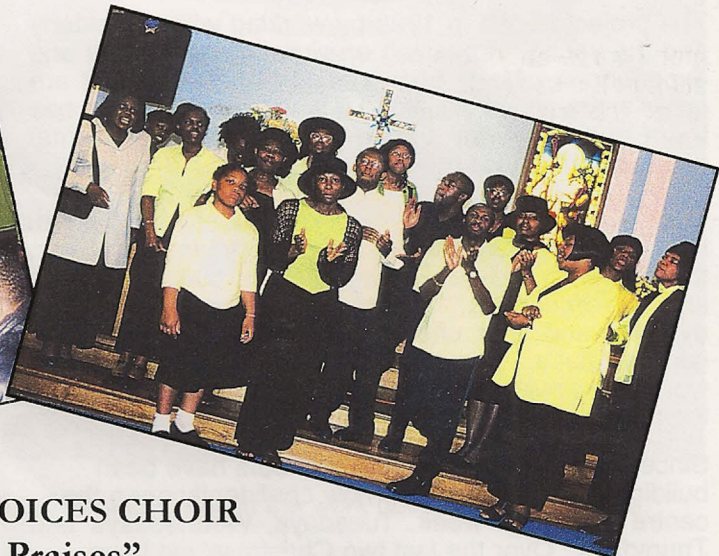
Sis Pearl Anglin



From in the 50's I have known Overseer and Mother Wright and it is good to see how the fellowship has grown, to where it is at the moment. It is especially pleasing to see among the new faces many of the youth from the early days are still there today as mature adults, helping to carry the work along.

May the Lord continue to bless you as you labour in his vineyard!

Sis Pearl is a lady that has shown her love and support for The Assemblies of the First Born here in the UK. During the annual convention she opens her doors to those coming to the convention be it from abroad or right here in England, special thanks and appreciation to her for doing so.



THE UNITED VOICES CHOIR "Singing His Praises"

The United Voices is a group of young people who have been blessing us with their singing for a number of years now. Over the years we have seen many changes and a significant number of people have made a contribution to the choir. The foundation was laid by Sonia Watts, Ioni Salmon and Sharon Bramwell, followed by the late Maureen Brown to the more recent leaders, Maria Hamilton and Angela Pryce. Their commitment and dedication have been an inspiration as they have drawn together the young people to work in such an important ministry. We want to give acknowledgement to the work that they are doing and the way the Lord has used them to minister both in the church community and further afield. We want to encourage them to persevere and to allow the Lord to continue to use the unique talent with which He has blessed them.

HEATH ROAD COMMUNITY PROJECT

For several years the hall at Heath Road, where once flowed a chorus of joyous singing, praise, and merriment has lain dormant and unused except for the occasional function. A nursery has been there for several years ran by sisters from the church, but sadly the nursery had to close. Missionary Pauline Porter had an idea that she put to the church and on 12th December 1998 the first stage of the Heath Road Community Centre was launched, "The Aged Project." now called **The Star Apple Project**.

The Launch began with a welcome and brief address by Missionary Porter. There was a special guest speaker in person of Mrs Yvonne Nwanokwu from Age Concern. The remainder of the evening consisted of entertainment and distribution of information of planned activities. The evenings events drew to a close with refreshments being served.

THE STAR APPLE PROJECT

The Age Project

The project began in 1998 by working with the elderly and the young, in passing on skills, ideas, history and experiences. Many of the elderly on the project are gifted with various skills and it is very rewarding to see them teaching the young people in an informal environment where they can be relaxed.

The women share their skills in knitting, crocheting, etc. basket weaving and exercising while the men are keen to show their skills in playing certain cultural games, such as dominoes. The group's interaction is very dynamic and very often their discussions stem from current affairs. It is real pleasure to see people who would otherwise be shut in on their own enjoying themselves.

Since starting the project the numbers have been building up and so we can now confidently open the centre 3 days a week, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Over the last two Christmas' we have organised a festive dinner, both of which have been very successful. The patrons were very supportive even bringing along family and friends and this we found to be very encouraging.



Youth Project

Since the summer of 1999 we have managed to set up a Summer Club and also a Saturday School.

With the restructuring of a new Board, more detailed preparations are now being made to ensure that the project is run at its maximum capacity for an even more successful 2001/02. This involves looking into other areas where we may be of help to the local community. Questionnaires were compiled and distributed around the vicinity of the project and the response was very positive.

We found the demand for an After Schools/Holiday Club to be quite high. So these are just a couple of the projects of which we are excited about taking on.

In August 2000 we put on an I.T Course that ran for two weeks. A Music Workshop has also been set up where voice training and drum and keyboard lessons are on offer. The drum lessons have been proven to be a great favorite to the younger children and numbers are growing.

On the 17th February 2001, we had a day trip to France. Initially geared towards the elderly of the project, it turned out that every one invited some one else and it turned out to be a very mixed age group. Every one enjoyed the day immensely, for many it was their first time there. We hope that as we plan more for the future it will open the door for perhaps more exposure for not only the elderly side to the project but the project as a whole.

ADVERTISING

PHILLIPS ELECTRICAL

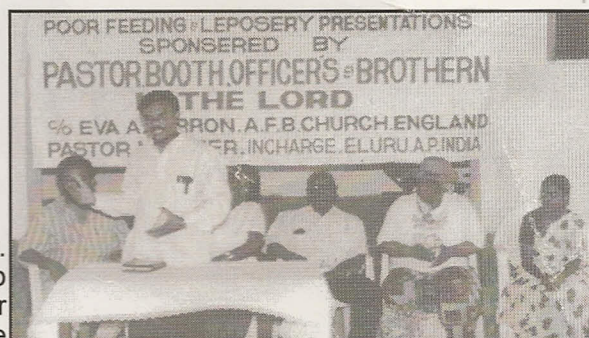
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SURREY CR4 1DT

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A MISSION TO INDIA REALISED....

On the 15th of March 1975 the Mission to India began. Initially, it was the vision of an elderly evangelist who possibly did not realise it would have reached thus far today. But through her faith in God and persistence, the Assemblies of the First Born Church is making its impact on India! In 1996 another evangelist, Austin Ferron, was asked to accompany Evangelist Campbell on a fact finding mission. He in turn was personally touched by the conditions of deprivation he witnessed and from then on has worked tirelessly to help develop the project in India. In 1997 a team of five brethren namely, Evangelist's, Ruth Brown, Austin Ferron, Gwendolyn Campbell, Missionary Nezzle Saunders and Overseer Charles Wright returned to India. Their visit was successful as souls were born for the Kingdom and many people experienced healing and deliverance. Then in 1999, Evangelist Ferron and wife returned to India, in a village called Thammadapalli where a church is lingering, because of lack of funds was roofed as contributions were made by the AFB.



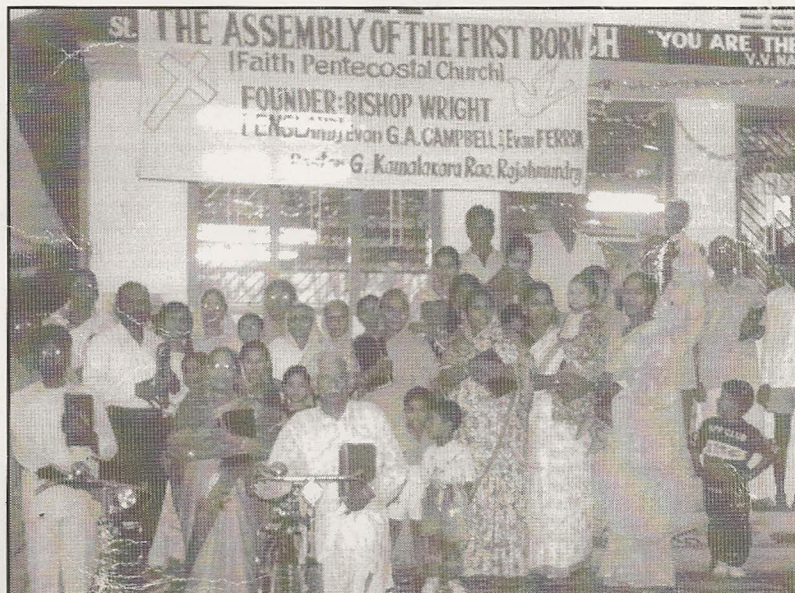
Since then the Assemblies of the First Born has managed through the church and the help of other associate churches, including: The Little Flock Fellowship led by Pastor Booth, The Assembly of Christ, led by Pastor Bolton, New Cross, Faith Pentecostal Church in Luton, Bro D Powell and S N Powell, Bro Earl Mckay, to establish a welfare project there.



With the donations collected in England, we have been able to purchase fifteen bikes in order to help some of these pastors and gospel workers to get around. A special offering towards the buying of a motor bike was made by two members of the Alfred St Assembly. Sewing machines and other tools were given to help make the people of Rajahmundri self sufficient. There are many poor people on the street and money is also sent to churches asking for special dinners to be arranged so as to feed the homeless.

Back in 1997 a plot of land was donated to one of the Pastors in Eluru to build a church. That pastor has since donated the land to the Assemblies of the First Born. A church is now in the process of being built and when completed should have living quarters for visiting Missionaries. It will also accommodate an office from which the project's Administrations will run. However, there is still a long way to go before the building is finished. Funding is needed to help erect the roof, put in windows, doors, flooring and interior and exterior rendering etc.

The India Project has also provided sponsorship of children who are unable to attend school. This is sent out quarterly and has helped to provide stationery items as well as clothing and payment for general medical treatment. Donations are also received from church members, families and friends which is also added to help maintain the work being effected in India.



Since the establishment of the India Project in 1996 we have had several requests for visits to England to attend the Annual General Convention. Those who have been fortunate to come over are the Late Dr Prasad 1997, Pastor Martin 1998, the Late Sister Victor and Sis Diana 1999.

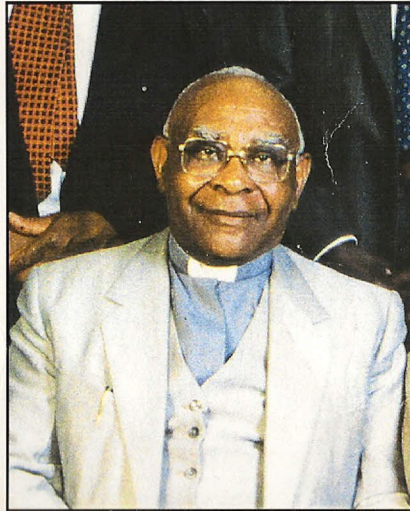
We sincerely need your support and this you can give by :

Contributing financially; to help finish the building, buying necessary items to aid workers there, or helping to feed the poor and homeless and those in the leprosy colonies.

And last but not least.... Help to sponsor a child, the cost is £2.50 a week or £10.00 a month.

Please contact Evangelist Austin Ferron or Evangelist Campbell.

The Executive Board The Assemblies of the Firstborn (UK)



OVERSEER
CHARLES S. WRIGHT



From Left To Right
Back Row Pastor's: L Barrett, N Brown, H Brown, M Daley,
Front Row Evangelist's A Ferron, C Brown, Pastor's P Lavinier, A Reid, S Chambers