

Messenger



Mass Baptisms after Power in the Park Campaign

by Susanne Kirlew



The first Adventist tent community outreach project of the 21st century, entitled *Power in The Park*, took place at Mabley Green opposite Kingsmead Estate in Hackney, London. The London Area Advisory Council as a community outreach project conceived the *Power in The Park* concept. This consisted of a series of workshops, evening seminars and promotional days. The workshops that were put on for the community free of charge included: Starting a Business; Money Management; Parenting Skills; Let's Talk about Sex; How to be a Playa; Performing Arts; Music Production; Management Matters (men only); Healthy Eating on a Budget.



Mildred Robinson, lay evangelist

The speaker, Mildred Robinson, was the first Adventist female lay-evangelist to hold a major tent campaign in this country. She was born in Montserrat but lives in the US Virgin Island of St Thomas. She recently held a series of meetings in Trinidad and baptised 250 people.

Power in The Park attracted

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Pastor Richard DeLisser with one of the four baptismal groups

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Contents of the president's pockets

I had not been to the US before. The Editors' Council was at Takoma Park, outside Washington DC. As a young editor – the youngest there! – the lectures and workshops were full of fascination for me. However, after six days of a packed, dawn-till-dark programme it occurred to me that I was likely to return to Britain without having seen any of the sights!

That concern was shared with Lawrence Maxwell. Lawrence's father, Arthur Maxwell, had been British editor between 1920 and 1936, in which year the Maxwell family, including Lawrence, had been moved to the US. There Arthur – and then, in turn, Lawrence – had edited the *Signs* magazine. Lawrence, with some enthusiasm, agreed to show me the American capital. On the last day of the Council we both went AWOL!

Lawrence's tyres barely touched the tarmac as we sped around the various sights of Washington's central square mile. After twenty years one of the few things that has lodged in my memory is an incident that happened in what I was told was the Library of Congress. There our pace had to slow down for a guided tour given by an impressive librarian. Among the things he introduced us to was a box with this label on it: CONTENTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S POCKETS ON THE NIGHT OF 14 APRIL 1865.

Lawrence and I were not the only ones present who realised that an alternative label might have read: What Abraham Lincoln had about his person on the night of his assassination.

For some reason one member of our party wanted to know what was in that box. The guide was obliging. There were just five items: a handkerchief with 'A. Lincoln' embroidered on it (no kidding!); a penknife; a spectacle case held together by string; a wallet containing a \$5 bill; and some old newspaper cuttings.

It was clear that the library guide wanted to pass over the newspaper cuttings quickly, so I asked him about them. With evident embarrassment he read aloud their contents. As I recall, all were concerned with Lincoln's achievements. One was a lengthy quotation from the British President of the Board of Trade John Bright in which he said that Lincoln was 'one of the greatest men of all times'.

That Lincoln deserved such an accolade is now accepted almost universally. In 1865, not so. In fact, millions took the opposite view. Lincoln's detractors were vicious, and numerous.

From time to time I have thought of the contents of Abe Lincoln's pockets. Anything strike you about them? There is something touching in the idea of a great leader who needed to encourage himself by reading the good things others had said about him.

Loneliness starts where the buck stops.

I've just finished reading an excellent biography of Winston Churchill.¹ Few can have experienced the isolation of leadership that Churchill did in the early summer of 1940. Some of the senior figures in his own government favoured coming to terms with the Nazis. The free world will always owe a debt of gratitude to the man who decided, 'We shall fight on!'

Making friends cannot be the primary consideration of any leaders. Neither Moses nor Joshua were notable for the number of chums they had. True David had Jonathan; but that was only in his earlier years. His toughest decisions and deepest prayers were made in solitude. The same was true of Daniel. The prophets were the loneliest men in the Old Testament. And in the New? Paul once said that everyone in Asia had deserted him (2 Timothy 1:15). Quite a statement! He faced life's greatest crises alone (2 Timothy 4:10).

In a Roman prison, contemplating execution, Paul was acutely aware of the forces at work in the world to draw Christians from the straight path of conviction. He wrote this to the under-pressure Christians in Philippi:

'Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course. . . . There are many out there taking other paths, choosing other goals, and trying to get you to go along with them. . . . All they want is easy street. They hate Christ's Cross. But easy street is dead-end street.' (Philippians 3:18, 19, MGE.)

Then Paul came to trial. He wrote, 'At my first defence, no-one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. . . . But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength.' (2 Timothy 4:16, 17.)

When it comes right down to it, that is what it's all about.

We face our crises alone – as Jesus did – and we have Jesus for company.

These days people want the fast lane and (paradoxically) they want it to be easy street. We whinge a bit sometimes when what had appeared to be easy street finishes at a precipice – as all easy streets will! In those circumstances, stop and consult the route map!

The desertion of Paul's friends was, in part, due to the pursuit of 'other goals' and 'other paths'; 'Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life' and, consequently, was to be found in downtown Thessalonica (2 Timothy 4:10, NLT). But the desertion of Paul's friends is likely to have been more down to 'fear' than 'malice' or alternative attractions.² Fear, the forces of conformity, call them what you will, continue to be major factors in accounting for desertion.

The media builds up public figures – politicians, entertainers, headliners – and then destroys them. But beneath what the media makes and destroys are real people. In the same way, aside from your occupation or your position, there is an essential you. That is the person who is present when everyone else has deserted. That is the person who, in daily solitude, needs to relate to God and feed on his Word. It is in lonely solitude that God delivers his strength, his inspiration, his best thoughts. Still your mind – and learn to breathe in the thin air of the Himalayan heights where God's assurance comes. 'Be still, and know that I am God.' (Psalm 46:10.)

When all have deserted, God is still there. And God is worth far more than the newspaper clippings of man's opinions. In him there is all you need to fight on.

Fasten on to these words from the psalmist:

'God is a safe place to hide, ready to help when we need him. We stand fearless at the cliff-edge of doom, courageous in sea storm and earthquake, before the rush and roar of oceans, the tremors that shift mountains. . . . Step out of the traffic! Take a long, loving look at me, your High God, above politics, above everything.' (Psalm 46:1-3, 8-10, MGE.)

In other words: 'Be still and know that I am God.'

References:

¹ Roy Jenkins, *Churchill* (MacMillan, 2001).

² John R. W. Stott, *The Message of 2 Timothy (VP)*, page 123.



Healthwise

with Richard J. B. Willis, BUC Health Ministries director

Blue Genes

Genes are in the news again. Hardly a day goes by without a gene being identified for this, that or the other. Like London buses, you cannot find one if you want one – and then three come along at the same time! GRK3, 5-HTT, and CREB1 have just been announced.

GRK3 is thought to be the gene associated with manic-depression. Defects in this gene might make people oversensitive to the chemical messages that result in the condition. While GRK3 is currently in the spotlight, the researchers estimate that there could be dozens of genes involved in the disease process. With around 2.3 million Americans suffering with manic-depression, the research from the University of California (San Diego) cannot have come too soon.

It was New Zealand scientists who found 5-HTT. They believe that it helps to control the brain chemical serotonin, one of the messenger chemicals between brain cells and which affects mood. There are two versions of 5-HTT carried by each of us – a long or a short form. People with two short genes are more

likely to become depressed when experiencing the stresses of life (43% of people in the study while only 17% of those with two long genes became depressed).

A University of Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania) team discovered CREB1 and showed that a mutation on this gene causes severe depression in women. The mutation may even run in families. Men also carry the gene but it does not cause depression in them since it is the interaction of CREB1 protein and oestrogen receptors in women that lies at the heart of the problem. Animal studies show that the exact amount of CREB1 present is co-related to depression rates. Finding out what switches the gene on/off may lead to an effective treatment.

The likelihood of having abnormalities in the genes listed above is relatively small and it is likely that combinations of genes are the mechanisms for our various ailments. At this stage in the research, with so few people taking part in the trials, the research findings are not definitive. They do show, however, that clinical

scientists are serious about finding the basic causes of the problems that beset us. If genes can be positively identified and their mechanism of action understood, it could be possible to redress some of 'nature's' bad deals or to formulate drugs with the capacity to negate the genetic effects.

Whatever we may think of genetic modification or therapy, it is remarkable that the alphabet soup of the human genome is open to scrutiny and understanding. That it can sometimes be very precise is also a cause for thanksgiving. Rather than being gloomy about our genetic future prospects, let us be grateful, among other things, that research is lifting the blues and opening the full rainbow spectra of gene comprehension to us.





Advent Singers participating in the service Photo: David West

Adventists in civic celebration

The Advent Singers from the Ipswich Adventist church recently participated in a service in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Ipswich. The annual service brings together the various faith cultures of the town. The media often portrays cultural unrest; this was a time to show people of all faiths together as a community of believers.

The service, attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Ipswich together with the councillors of the town, takes place in one of the local town centre churches, and representatives from each faith group are invited to contribute to the programme. Representatives came from the Buddhist, Bahai, Islam, Pagan, Jewish, Hindu, Unitarian and Christian faiths.

This year the theme was our neighbours, and each spoke of how we should respect and love our neighbours. We may have different beliefs but each faith group showed how they wanted to build a close and loving relationship with one another.

The service ended with the Christian song, 'Jesus put a song into our hearts', which spoke of the theme running through all the beliefs for everyone living in harmony and as a family in the town.

PAUL KING

Blue Café baptism

There was much rejoicing at the Stanborough Park church on Sabbath 14 June as five young adults committed their lives to Christ. The service was conducted by the Youth pastor Japheth De Oliveira. Alexandria Kingston, a student missionary and a member of the Blue Café, led the Youth Choir in several joyful songs. All five baptismal candidates sing in the Youth Choir and form an integral part of the Blue Seeker Service and Blue Café Team.

Carolyn Cooper (18) is the daughter of John and Lorraine Cooper. She is a Youth Sabbath school co-ordinator,

and was escorted to and from the baptistery by her mother. Carolyn said recently, 'I recognise that I need God in my life and I want to give him control.' She plans to go into medicine.

Chris Dove (27) is the son of Marcus and Anne Dove. Chris runs the Youth Bible study group and is considering entering the ministry. His father, Marcus, NEC treasurer, escorted him to and from the baptistery. Chris said, 'God has been working in a big way in my life which makes me realise how much I need him.'

Graham Pilmoor (18) is the son of Victor and Anne Pilmoor. Graham said, 'I consider all the wonderful things Jesus has done for us and I want to give my life over to him.' He plans to do something in business.

Daniel Sabatier (26), son of Jude and Maritza Sabatier, is a keen musician. His father Jude escorted him to and from the baptistery. Daniel said he wants to 'publicly demonstrate his commitment to God'. Daniel is presently involved in IT at the SEC.

Joelle Turner (21), the final candidate baptised, is the daughter of Graham and Edwidge Turner. She is also cousin to both Daniel and Carolyn. All three cousins are grandchildren of Yves and Liliane Vitry, who are members of the Stanborough Park church. Joelle's mother,



Above: Daniel Sabatier, Pastor Japheth De Oliveira, Carolyn Cooper, Yves Vitry, Liliane Vitry and Joelle Turner. Below: Marcus Dove, Chris Dove, Japheth De Oliveira, Graham Pilmoor and Victor Pilmoor. Photos: Johnson Wong



Bedford and Milton Keynes baptism

On 10 May three people were baptised at Milton Keynes church. The candidates, one from Bedford Central church and two from Milton Keynes, were prepared for baptism by Pastor C. Stewart and Bible worker Margaret Stewart. Being the sister church of Bedford Central through the pastor, Milton Keynes church family were more than happy to accommodate the candidate from Bedford.

Bongi Sibanyoni has been attending the Bedford church for about two years. She has a warm and friendly personality and was quick to make friends. Bongi (pronounced Boni) came to train to be a psychiatric nurse. On arriving in the UK she was eager to identify an Adventist church.

Edwidge, escorted her to and from the baptistery. Joelle said, 'It was the right time for me to show family and friends both inside and outside church that I love God and want to serve him.' Joelle is in her third year of medical training.

M. DALEY

Bongi's family were there at the church to witness the occasion and Bongi looks forward to getting involved in church life, through her role in building a strong youth movement in the church.

The other candidate, Sheba Webb, had been prepared for baptism by Margaret Stewart, the Conference-assigned worker for Milton Keynes and Bedford. Sheba has been attending the Milton Keynes church for about a year. She hails from Zimbabwe and, being a single mother with three young men to bring up, she will be blessed by the prayers of the saints.

The final candidate was Travis Benn. This young man was also prepared for baptism by Margaret Stewart. Many of his student and work colleagues attended the baptism. Travis, being a very talented young man, has already shown some possible gifts from the Lord and is using them in the Master's service and he is eager to share his faith and live for his God. The church was filled to overflowing and a video link was established in the youth hall to accommodate the large numbers in attendance.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Prayer Warriors

Patrice Rock says . . .

Prayer Warriors has been running now for seven years. The venue for the weekend, Alton Castle; the aim, to give young people a better understanding of the power of prayer, the importance it plays in our lives and how we can then apply it to our lives.

I had been to Prayer Warriors twice before, this being my third year, but this year's was better than the other years; a totally new experience. Maybe not for the same reasons as everyone else, I left Alton Castle with a new aim. I think this was the first year I realised just how important Prayer Warriors is, and just how important a role the youth have in witnessing to other youth.

People go to Prayer Warriors for many different reasons. Some want to grow closer to God, some to share their knowledge and joy of God, some don't know what to expect, and some just end up there. That last category was mine a few years ago. Whatever the reason, it is not by coincidence that, of all the places we could have been on 2-5 May, it was Prayer Warriors.

The socialising was good, meeting with old friends and making new ones; the singing was lively – everyone enjoyed it; the worship sessions a blessing also; but this weekend I learnt and felt the true importance of prayer. In one of our group meetings we spent about an hour praying. We weren't counting down the minutes until it ended. I felt the presence of the Lord in that room, and I know I wasn't the only one.

Keisha Armstrong says . . .

The four days I spent at Alton Castle for the Prayer Warriors weekend was truly a time to remember. This was my first visit so I didn't know what to expect, but my feelings of hesitation and uncertainty soon changed. I can honestly say that the people, atmosphere and activities within Alton Castle were most welcoming and it was a true pleasure to meet, witness and participate.

The speaker we had for the weekend was extremely inspiring and she really helped me to stop and take a closer insight on how I live my life and how important a role I allow God to play in it. I believe that she seriously

touched the hearts of everyone, and the testimonies that people were brave enough to give sincerely motivated me to try and live a better life in Jesus Christ.

Alycia Hanson says . . .

Another spiritually-uplifting weekend was spent at Alton Castle as approximately 150 young people gathered to spend time dedicated to prayer and worship.

The weekend started with ice-breaking exercises to get us acquainted. As the weekend progressed, friendships grew and we became united. This was especially evident in Sunday evening's worship and sharing session with candlelight and a wooden cross with the burdens of the young pinned to it, symbolising decisions to surrender and rededicate our lives to Jesus.

It was emotional when our voices united in 'O, Lord, How Excellent'. There was a real sense of unity and tears were shed as we prayed for each other. A social for insomniacs followed.

Our inspired speaker, Jessica Shine from Andrews University, USA, delivered the last message, telling us to 'Test everything' and 'Hold to what is good!' With our theme song, 'Lord I Want To Know You More', ringing in our ears, we exited for pictures and to exchange contact details.

I can't wait till next year!



David Neal with Premier Radio's managing director Peter Kerridge holding one of the new posters

Adventists attend 'Christians in Politics' launch by John Surridge

On Tuesday 17 June Pastor David Neal and the writer attended the launch of a new 'Christians in Politics' poster campaign at Premier Radio's headquarters in London. Taking part in the launch were the Rt Hon John Battle MP (Labour), the Prime Minister's Envoy to the faith communities, and Revd John Kennedy, co-ordinating secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland's Church and Society Forum. Steve Webb MP (Liberal Democrat Parliamentary co-sponsor of CIP) chaired the event, and guests included Andrew Selous MP (Parliamentary chairman of the Conservative Christian Fellowship).

The poster is designed to be placed on church notice boards, and to encourage churchgoers to discover more about CIP. Drawing an analogy with football, it points out that it is the 'players' who join mainstream political parties that mainly influence 'the course of play' – by determining the party's leader, election candidates and policies. The poster also highlights the support that is available, through Christian fellowships in the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat parties, once Christians have joined the party of their choice.

Speaking after the event, Pastor Neal, who is a keen follower of all things political, said, 'We would be failing in our responsibility as Adventists if we did not listen to the voices of the world around us and then go beyond being concerned. It was C. S. Lewis who said, "Christians, who have so much hope for the next world, are the most effective in this." Getting involved in local, or even national politics, is one way of being effective in our world.'

More information about the launch, as well as details of how to get hold of copies of the new poster, are available on the Christians in Politics website at: www.christiansinpolitics.org.uk.



Two members



The large group who attended this year's Prayer Warriors

TEEN SCENE

Teen Music and Sex

by Samantha Wiggins

How much does the music we listen to really influence our lives?

Beyonce Knowles initially launched her musical career as part of the ultimate trio, Destiny’s Child, in 1999. She was just 18. Back then she said that she would ‘never use sex to sell her music!’ Yet in all the videos for her solo debut album so far, she has used nothing but. She grew into a woman on the screen in front of us!

One of the most renowned cases of children becoming adults before our eyes is that of Britney Spears and Justin Timberlake. When they first hit the scene as a couple, Britney was so proud of her virginity. She made media statements that confirmed she was yet to ‘become a woman’. Yet, four years on, it seems that it was no more than a promotional tool that worked (for Britney) very well! On her first album, song titles such as ‘Soda Pop’ helped us to buy into this early image. By album 3, the titles had become more daring with ‘Slave For You’.

I am not dropping names for dropping names’ sake here. These are the musical influences that your teens are exposed to every day.

Before you rush into the nearest teen’s bedroom to throw out all CDs with the words love, sex or kiss in the title, don’t be alarmed! I am not here to create mayhem for your children or stress for you, but we need to be honest with ourselves and more so with our children.

So, why is it that the music industry has the hold on our children that we want to have? What is their secret weapon? One word: *Unorthodox!* The music industry does what it has to, to sell records. We need to do what we have to, to save souls. The music industry spends money on its target group using merchandise, sponsorship and advertising. It’s actually not a bad act to follow. You have to put something in to get something back. This is the way with today’s generation.

Let me just make it clear that we are not here to condemn how these artists sell their music. After all, we know sex sells, and their songs are fantastic testament to that. What we are here to figure out is how to

minister to teens in 2003 when the messages they are being fed are filled with lyrics such as:

‘Take my hand, and come with me, let me show you to ecstasy, Boy be brave don’t be afraid, cause tonight we’re gonna go all the way.

Don’t mean to be bold, gotta let you know, I gotta thang for you, and I can’t let go. . . .’

Aaliyah – *Age Ain’t Nothin But A Number*

This is not a new problem. Teens of the 60s had the lyrical genius of singers such as Elvis Presley, Cliff Richard and Marvin Gaye with words like:

‘Hold me close, hold me tight Make me thrill with delight Let me know where I stand from the start I want you, I need you, I love you with all my heart.’

Elvis Presley – *I want you, I need you, I love you*

Again, this is not a complaint. Many of these words were written from experiences that the artistes themselves had and felt they wanted to convey. For us to condemn that suggests that we condemn the life experiences of the artistes. This is not our place.

We all know how powerful music is! After all, when the pastor is just about to make his altar call, what happens? The piano starts to play softly; the praise team start to ‘ooohhhh’ and just at the ‘finale’ the beautiful voice of the lead singer fills the tent/church/hall with the sweet sound of . . . MUSIC.

Scientific studies show just how powerful music is:

‘Music has the enormous power to cause emotions to well-up within us. These compelling, often overwhelming, feelings, emerging seemingly from nowhere, colour our moods, affect our perceptions, and can alter our behaviour. The mystery of this power of music is

yielding to scientific investigation. Recent studies point to the interaction of two factors through which music operates: how much we like a piece, which might be expected, and the magnitude of its arousal potential, which is not.’

Understanding Music’s Emotional Power Copyright © 1998 Norman M. Weinberger

The Bible shows just how powerful music is. Psalm 150:1-5:

‘Praise the LORD! Praise God in his heavenly dwelling. . . Praise him with a blast of the trumpet; praise him with the lyre and harp! Praise him with the tambourine and dancing; Praise him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise him with a clash of cymbals; praise him with loud clanging cymbals.’

On 9/11

by Pastor Michael I. Walker

Craig, born in South Africa and influenced by an Adventist background, was sent to one of our boarding schools where he had studies and was baptised. However, for one reason or another, he left the church and became a young man of the world. He knew he was not living right in the sight of God. In January of the year of ‘9/11’ Craig came to England and got a job in Newquay for a company that sent him hither and yon, working long hours sometimes into the night setting up computerised audio-visual equipment for big companies. The money was good and he enjoyed the life he had with many of his friends until it happened! Along with the world, Craig watched the 9/11 TV pictures in horror. From deep within his mind, Craig remembered what he had heard as a boy back home in the church and

If this is what scientific studies show and what the Bible tells us, then we have major competition on our hands and we are being left behind.

We all know that by beholding we become changed; so let me conclude with some encouragement for those of you who wish to embark on this journey. *The battle is not yours, it’s the Lord’s.* Fight for your children, encourage your children, know your children, let the Lord lead you! In the words of Fanny Crosby:

‘All the way my Saviour leads me; Cheers each winding path I tread; Gives me grace for every trial, Feeds me with the living bread; Though my weary steps may falter, And my soul athirst may be, Gushing from the Rock before me, Lo, a spring of joy I see.’

Fanny Crosby – *All the way my Saviour leads me.*

became very concerned that the final events of earth’s history were about to be concluded. The Holy Spirit prompted him to seek out the church of his childhood.

The writer received a phone call one evening from Craig, who found his number on the Church website, asking where the nearest Adventist church was located. He came along and the pastor remembers sitting at the lunch table being asked a number of serious questions about Revelation 13 – ‘Were the twin towers anything to do with the deadly wound?’ Afterwards, on a long walk, they had a heart-to-heart talk and Craig expressed his concern and desire to come back to the Lord, but he acknowledged there were so many things in his life that he knew were wrong. It was suggested that he concern himself at that time with establishing and developing a relationship with Jesus Christ first of all, and then these other concerns would be resolved naturally as the relationship

grew. Bible studies were introduced and Craig attended church when he was not required to work on Sabbaths. He was also encouraged by the fellowship of others in the church, especially the three young people. One Sabbath evening, having heard Craig was unwell, the pastor called by to see him. Unknown to the church, Craig had in fact informed his employer the previous week that he would no longer be going in to work on Sabbaths even though he might lose his job. Against his wishes the boss had urged him to work just one more Saturday and then he would arrange something – but God intervened again! Craig came down with flu and had to ring in and say he was too ill to work! From then on he has attended church regularly on Sabbaths; and he kept his job until recently when he decided to go solo.

Easter Sabbath, 19 April, was a high day in the St Austell church when Craig was baptised into Christ and officially received into the church family. The church was filled with many friends from Devon and Cornwall, as well as far beyond, with whom he had become acquainted since coming back ‘home’. Musical items were presented by some of these ‘new’ friends who sang and used their instrumental talents to the glory and honour of God. Craig had made a special request to the pastor that his message include an explanation of the meaning of baptism because he had invited several of his other friends to witness his baptism – and they also came. These are friends he used to drink with in the pubs, but now his concern is to witness to them and bring them to know the Lord as well.

West Country Patriarchs

Sabbath 17 May was a very special day of fellowship. Four retired pastors shared the Sabbath with us. Pastor Robin Riches (who said he was a Cornishman by marriage) shared with us his experiences in Vietnam for the mission spot. Pastor Bob Rodd (a true Cornishman) ably led us in the study of God’s word. Pastor Jim Huzzey (who said that he was not a Cornishman but felt quite at home with them) led us in the divine worship. After lunch and a rousing song service, Dr Bryan Ball, visiting England doing research for his next book, shared some thoughts from his book *The Essential Jesus*, co-authored with W. Johnsson, and briefly gave an overview of his next book.

PASTOR RON CLEMOV



Dr Bryan Ball, Pastors Robin Riches, Bob Rodd and Jim Huzzey

Vegetarian Cookery

by Emma Stickland

It was a warm and friendly atmosphere as ladies of the Banbridge church and local community met for their annual Vegetarian Cookery Demonstrations, held in the Banbridge church hall during April and May.

Each Tuesday evening for four weeks, both new and regular faces from the community arrived at a hall that was beautifully and colourfully decorated with posters made by the Pathfinders which promoted healthy eating and living. Literature was displayed too for people to look at and take away.

Varied and delicious vegetarian and vegan recipes were demonstrated by church members and their friends, with time at the end of the evening to sample dishes and socialise. Savoury dishes, desserts, tasty salads and soups, along with a demonstration on juicing, were just a few of the delights demonstrated during the series.

The cookery demonstrations took on a couple of new ideas this year which included a half-hour presentation and question time from one of the community dieticians, which was greatly appreciated by all, on the benefits of healthy eating and vegetarianism. A candlelight vegetarian buffet meal was put on at the end of our last evening together which proved to be a wonderful success enjoyed by all.

This year’s demonstrations have been no exception to the rule and have proved, as in the past, to be a wonderful way of being able to witness to our friends, to those in the community, and to enjoy an interactive and sociable evening together!

A big thank you to all who have been involved in making the posters and invitations, and to the ladies of Banbridge church who have played a part in the preparing, organising, demonstrating, setting up and washing up!

RICH, Florence – d. 21 April. After a long life of commitment to God, Flo finally fell asleep in her Saviour. She was born near Lostwithiel, Cornwall, in 1907, the fourth of seven children. Upon completing her training, she entered her career as a teacher at Otterham School. In this locality she met a young farmer, Jack Rich, whom she married in 1931. They started married life together by running a farm near Launceston. In those days there was no electricity, running water or sanitation; but they were happy working together and raising their family of three children – twins John and Molly, and later Pearl. During this time they started reading literature which Brother Jolliffe placed into their hands. Although they were staunch Methodists they became convicted of the biblical teachings they discovered in these books, and were baptised in Plymouth in 1941, later becoming charter members of the Bodmin Adventist church. Subsequently they moved farm to ‘West End’ near Boscastle and upon semi-retirement to St Tudy north of Bodmin where they frequently offered hospitality to many visiting Adventists. Gradually Flo lost her sight and they fully retired to a smaller bungalow in St Austell within walking distance of the church, where their daughter Molly was able to call upon them each day. In 1993 Molly and then Jack died; and so Flo went to live with Pearl and her husband Michael in Sutton Coldfield, where she transferred her membership to the Erdington church. Flo adjusted and made many new friends among the memberships of Erdington and Tamworth. Six years later she returned to Cornwall when the writer was called to serve in the area. Flo remained a faithful and supportive member of the church and, in spite of her physical infirmities, loved to attend Sabbath services and prayer meetings at St Austell and Redruth. It was on the evening of Easter Monday, having just had worship, that she peacefully drifted to sleep, with some of her family and grandchildren around her. The family are very grateful to two of Jack and Flo’s former ministers, Pastors Ron Davey and Islwyn Rees, who travelled down to conduct the funeral service. The St Austell church was full of friends and relatives. Pastor Davey spoke eloquently about her life and the contribution she had made in the church and the community; and the congregation was touched to hear a recording of Flo singing ‘Whisper a prayer’ which John recorded last year. Flo’s grand-

daughter, Katrina Walker, played a violin solo. Pastor Rees then brought assurance from the Word of God in the glorious hope of the resurrection which was very dear to Flo’s heart. Interment took place beside her husband and daughter Molly, in Campdown cemetery, to await the day when our Saviour calls them to life once again. Flo was a loving mum and grandma who will be dearly missed by her son John and his wife, Joan; daughter Pear and her husband, Michael; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren; but we await the day when Jesus returns and we shall be reunited with him!

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER

The family would like to thank the many friends for their loving letters, cards and phone calls; and also for the generous donations in lieu of flowers to ADRA.

OAKLEY, Kenneth – d. 23 April. The Wimbledon church was packed to capacity on 15 May with the Oakley family, members, friends and neighbours, to give God thanks and to celebrate the life and work of Ken. He was born with a disability of the spine, which meant he spent 5 years of his childhood in Mount Vernon Orthopaedic Hospital. However, this did not prevent him from living a full life, working to help others. He was a keen campaigner for Cancer Research and worked for the Notting Hill Housing Trust and Merton and Morden Citizen’s Advice Bureau. He loved graphic design, writing and art and he was an excellent typist. He travelled extensively during his life, visiting Jamaica most years. On one trip to Jamaica, he helped to teach small children to read and write. Although Ken’s mother has been an Adventist for many years, Ken was only baptised, after Bible studies by Arthur Campbell, Wimbledon church elder, on 5 April 2003. Following a short illness, he fell asleep in Christ. The funeral service was taken by Pastor Somasundrum, assisted by elders Gita Wijeyesinghe and Arthur Campbell. A representative from the Disabled Rights Association also gave a tribute to Ken. The interment was at Figgs Marsh cemetery, Mitcham. As we left the cemetery, our sorrows were tempered by the knowledge of the soon return of our Saviour. The Oakley family wishes to thank all those who sent messages and cards of condolence.

MARGARET CAMPBELL

Prayer Feature
with Tracy Dixon

In 2 Kings 20:1-11 we see a God who not only listens to our prayers and answers them, but apparently changes his mind from the course he had decided upon because he is moved by our prayers. He, of course, knows the end from the beginning, but here in this passage of scripture Hezekiah is dying and because of this he cries to the Lord ‘bitterly’ (v3). God tells Isaiah to go back to the king and tell him, ‘“I the Lord . . . have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you.”’ (v5) And on top of this assurance God even gives Hezekiah a sign that he is going to heal the king because he asked for a sign. Maybe God gives all this assurance to Hezekiah because he trusted God so much and did what God wanted. He had destroyed all the pagan places of worship and 2 Kings 18:5 says that ‘Judah never had another king like him, either before or after his time’.

When I first read this section of scripture I thought, well maybe God has changed his mind for Hezekiah because he was so good and had influence over a whole nation. Then I thought again. Yes, we are told about Hezekiah’s goodness so that we will aspire to influence others in positive ways as he did, but when told he was going to die, his response was very human. He ‘turned his face to the wall’ (2 Kings 10:2). It sounds like he gave up hope, perhaps becoming depressed like any ordinary person might. His response to his prognosis was not inspirational, as his life had been up to that point, yet God heard his prayer, healed him and gave him a sign to prove he would heal him.

What a wonderful Father in Heaven we have. He knows our frailties and knows that we stumble, yet he looks at the whole picture of our lives and hears our prayers and sees our tears, just as he did for Hezekiah. How wonderful!

Send prayer requests to: TElizabethDixon@aol.com. My friends and I will pray for your need, or perhaps you would like your prayer need to be shared with MESSENGER readers via this feature. You decide.

Power in the Park

continued from page 1

media interest, and over 700 people came out each evening of the week, increasing to 1,100 at the weekends. Numerous people were baptised throughout the campaign at the four different baptismal services. At the time of going to press the total number was 96, which is one of the highest figures in a very long time. There were many, many prayers for good weather and they were answered with much sunshine.

Alongside the event were many attractions to encourage members of the general public to attend which included: a café consisting of different stalls selling a whole host of different vegetarian foods; a fun day with bouncy castles, a mechanical bull, merry-go-round, main stage with live music, food, health checks, etc; a community football tournament in the park; a health drive; and gospel music to close.

This was a very successful but not trouble-free event. First was the incursion of gypsies onto the site. They left after two days in answer to our prayers. Then disaster struck when a man cut down the tent at 6.30am and was held and charged by police.

The main organisers of the event were Pastor Richard DeLisser, Susanne Kirlew, Tabitha Cummins, Annette Robinson, Edna Wedderburn, Pastor Simeon Esson and many others, including the support of the members and local churches (Hackney and Clapton).

Additional information

Over 80 people came out on two Wednesday mornings for prayer.

The London Area Advisory Council was approached by a Pentecostal church to help plan a praise-in-the-park event on 30 August 2003 in Hyde Park.

Sabbath morning 28 June saw the Open Church brought to the Hackney area in order to promote the *Power in the Park* campaign. In an answer to many prayers the weather was perfect for frontline evangelism. Two hundred

and fifty balloons were given out and 3,000 flyers promoting the campaign. Hundreds of people stopped to watch the Open Church, which was performed in the square in front of Hackney town hall. The commuters at the bus stop in front of the town hall and those on the buses were mesmerised by the morning's presentation. Performers came from all over London to take part in the evangelistic effort. There was also a prayer walk on Kingsmead Estate and Hackney Marshes.

In testimonies two ladies stated that they had been about to commit suicide prior to hearing about and attending the meetings.

The Open Church represents a modern, professional approach to what we have traditionally called 'street witnessing'. In order to get the public's attention and at the same time give our church some good publicity, Open Church involves the following: the collection of singers is replaced with a choir; a professional PA system is used (powered by a generator) replacing the tape recorder; it takes place on the streets or in the shopping centre in the morning (*when it's convenient for the public as opposed to being convenient for us*); a professional stage is hired; the Puppet Team and Mime Team are booked; additional musicians are booked to perform; an existing band is booked; a team of people is on hand to give out literature and engage people in conversation; a pastor is present to give a 10-minute sermon; balloons (with *Jesus Loves You* printed on them) are given to all children passing by; in addition you have a security team, logistics team, road manager, video and photographer person and refreshments for all staff and performers; everyone dresses in casual clothes.

In other words Open Church involves an open-air concert with a short 10-minute sermon at the end aimed at the unchurched.

BUC Youth Department is preparing a manual on youth leadership for the UK SDA Church and would like to hear from members to help fill in the huge gaps on the history and development of the youth work in our church. Please contact Des G. Boldeau at the BUC, Stanborough Park, Garston, Herts, WD25 9JZ. Telephone: 01923 672251. Email: dboldeau@adventist.org.uk.

NEWBOLD COLLEGE is seeking to appoint **A LECTURER IN BUSINESS STUDIES**. The successful applicant will: Have a minimum of a first degree in Accounting; Be willing, if necessary to complete a master's degree in a relevant area within three years of appointment; Have a professional qualification in Accounting such as CIMA, ACCA or CPA; Have some experience in accounting in the commercial or non-profit sector; Have some experience in teaching or in running training workshops. The successful applicant will be expected to: Offer a range of modules in accounting, finance, taxation and economics; Incorporate Christian values into the curriculum; Prepare young Christians to enter the business world. A fuller job description is available on request. Salary will be according to the denominational scale. Letters of application with current CV and the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to: The Vice-Principal, Newbold College, Bracknell, Berkshire, England, RG42 4AN. Tel: +44 (0)1344 407401; Fax: +44 (0)1344 407404; Email: mpearson@newbold.ac.uk. **The deadline for receipt of applications is 30 September 2003.**

STOP International needs 20 volunteers for orphanage project in India, 25 July to 8 Aug. 2004. Details/applications: Kish Poddar, Project Manager, 7 The Conifers, Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 0JP or send an email to stopinternational@supanet.com.

ABC BOOK SALES 2003

Sept		
4-7	SEC Session	
21	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
19-21	NEC Women's Min. Con.	
28	West Midlands	10am-2pm

Messenger

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Sunset

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

	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Aug 22	8.10	8.22	8.17	8.34	8.41
29	7.55	8.07	8.02	8.16	8.24
Sept 5	7.39	7.51	7.45	7.58	8.07
12	7.23	7.35	7.28	7.40	7.49

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UPCOMING EVENTS				
EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
Disability Ministry Programme	13 September	Sheffield SDA Church	ASNA	For further details Tel: 01491 833395
Day of Fellowship 'So you think you're a man?'	27 September	Former Pendleton Adventist church, Salford	NEC Men's Ministries	For further details Tel: 0115 960 6312
Turning Water into Wine – Special retreat for married couples	10-12 October	Preston church	Pastor Bernie and Karen Holford	Karen Holford, SEC 25 St John's Road, Watford, WD17 1PZ. Tel: 01923 232728; kholford@secadventist.org.uk .

Please submit advertisements in this format. Please make the church connection clear. For a complete list of upcoming events check out the database on the BUC website, www.adventist.org.uk.