

Overlooked highlights of 2003

At least four times as much copy arrives for publication as there is room for in our eight pages. As each year comes to an end heaps of news material are consigned to the file marked 'the past'. We shall commemorate this new year by sharing some of the overlooked highlights of 2003. . . .

- July 19 saw a Children's Day in Preston that involved costumes, props, skits – and a picnic.
- On June 7 Judith Martin reported a threefold increase in the membership of the Glasgow church, caused by the arrival of many new brothers and sisters from Eastern and Southern Africa, the Philippines and the Caribbean.
- On September 25 Newbold's Melody Tan reported on a weekend retreat to Chapel Porth and trips out to St

Michael's Mount, Tintagel and Land's End for a hundred students and staff.



- On June 1 Pastor Ken and Mrs Monica Lacey, the successful evangelistic team of the 1950s and the 1960s, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.
- The Chelmsford church reported the departure, for the Dell, of Gladys Brailsford at 95, and of a farewell to Erica White, widow of Ivan, who has returned to live in her native Germany.



Top: Children's day at Preston.
Above: Pastor and Mrs Lacey.
Left: New members for the Glasgow church.
Far left: Erica White, and Gladys Brailsford of The Dell.

Celebrating Small Groups

Aris Vontzalidis, PM director, SEC



During the last weekend in October about one hundred small group leaders and members of small groups from the South England Conference gathered at the Stanborough Secondary School, to celebrate and testify to what God has been doing. There was time for inspiration, bonding, learning, and fun. The times of worship were highly innovative and spiritual as various symbols were used to bring us to the presence of our Lord, and where everyone present actively participated.

Speakers included Pastor David Cox and the writer, as well as Pastor Bobby Bovel, who shared his insights about the small groups that are operating as an integral part of the church plant in Beckenham which he is leading. At the end of his talk members of the group surrounded him and his team and prayed for them. The time for testimonies was not long enough as members recounted what God had been doing through their small groups. Particularly inspiring was the account given by Karen Weekes, who is the small group co-ordinator for ASNA (Adventist Special Needs Association).

Laverne Byng and Rose Lewis, who had been previously trained and equipped, led out in the worship and workshops, and SEC Youth director

Pastor Japhet DeOliveira and S. Gittens from the Youth Federation gave valuable instruction during the youth small groups workshop.

As Pastor Cox said, 'These groups are proving effective in reaching people who would not readily respond to an invitation to attend church. As such they are foundational to the future success of LIFEdevelopment. Training events such as this one are getting better all the time. This was the best so far!'



'God bless the child'

Hyland House fundraising success

Much to the surprise of the organisers, over 400 people turned up to support Hyland House School's fundraising event recently. The concert was put on at the Advent Centre, London, and the theme was 'God bless the child'. All the performers were children, and those taking part on the night were Victor Acquah and George Acquah, Promise (Luton Children's Choir), Hyland House Mime Team, G.C., Hyland House Choir, Andrea Clarke (from Liberty Ensemble), song leader Devon Boyd, and MC Pastor Steve McKenzie.

The audience was thrilled to see so many children lifting up the name of the Lord through music and mime. People came from as far away as Leicester and Northampton to support this worthy cause. A competition was arranged to see which pupil could sell the most tickets, and it was won by 4-year-old Nathaniel Awoti who worships at the Tottenham West Green Road church. His proud parents came onto the platform to receive the trophy with him.

There are more fundraising events planned for this year. The idea is for the audience to have a Spirit-filled, enjoyable evening at an event that is not your usual run-of-the-mill format. What is more, the aim is to have family events that all ages can enjoy. With that in mind we can expect to see more events at which we can all do our bit to help support good Christian education.



Words and pictures from Susanne Kirlew



As happy as a sandboy!

While the origin of the expression is obscure its sentiment is widely appreciated. It is thought that it might derive from the jollity of boys who used to sell sand a century or so ago. One thing is clear, however, and that is that happy children are usually healthy children and avoid risk-taking activities.

Studies using families from twenty Ohio counties and using data from the US Census, listing the availability of artistic and recreational outlets in communities, show that children who are happy and have access to these activities are healthier than children who do not.

The studies involved 1,160 people and led the researchers to conclude: 'Communities that have made an investment in the happiness of children may be encouraged to find that this also may extend to children's health.' Several other studies have arrived at similar conclusions.

Professor Garry Hopkins and Joyce Hop of Loma Linda University have collected the results of these studies and documented them in their book, *It Takes a Church*. Children with good self-esteem fare better than others who lack this trait across a wide range of health-related areas of life. Self-esteem is defined as having a realistic attitude about oneself, knowing one's strengths and weaknesses, and being able to accept oneself, rather than having the unreasonable pride or conceit often associated with the word. Self-esteem and the support of family and friends go hand in hand.

Sociologist V. Battistich says, 'A commitment to care is the basis of morality, and children learn to become caring by being in caring relationships.' US research has shown that children enjoying such relationships are:

- 46% less likely to initiate drug use (70% less if of a minority race), and 20% less likely to initiate alcohol use;
- 53% less likely to skip school, and 37% less likely to miss a class;
- more than 30% less likely to hit other children;
- more confident in school work, and get along well at home.

'When parents are perceived as having friendly, attentive styles of communication, their adolescents report less sexual activity. . . . When adolescents perceive their parents as contentious, dramatic, and dominant, they reported more sexual activities.'

There are a number of buzz words that connect with self-esteem. *Social support* is one of these, and *mentoring* and *empowerment* can be added to the list. A new word on the scene is *resilience*, which is the ability to function competently whatever life may throw at us. T. P. Herbert says of resilience, 'Resilient youth often have the ability to use their religious faith to maintain a positive vision of a meaningful life.'

Children who have good self-esteem and social support; who are mentored and empowered; and have resilience may not even know the expression 'sandboys' but they are sandboys nonetheless because they are happy!



Healthwise

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

with David Marshall



Towards a better magazine

What we need to improve MESSENGER are better stories and better photographs. And that, of course, is down to our Communication secretaries.

Better Stories - and the key word is *story*.

For almost twenty-five years now I have been telling the Communication secretaries: 'Send *stories*, not reports.' The sad thing is, of course, that the old-style reports represent the bulk of what we continue to receive for publication in MESSENGER.

HOW NOT TO DO IT

Do not give a blow-by-blow account. The general happenings in any church on a particular day will be of interest to no one (not even the writer) if you begin your story with the hymns sung, who announced them, the prayers prayed and by whom, and then you go on to distil the content of the Sabbath school lesson and sermon. Most church members experience these details each week. This is *not* news.

You need to adopt a different approach.

HOW TO DO IT

When a newspaper reporter leaves the office in the morning he says he's 'going after a story'. This is what our Communication secretaries must do.

- It might be a **conversion** story.
- It might be the story of how someone **raised a lot of money** for ADRA.
- It might be the story of how someone (or a group) **won souls** for Christ.
- It might be someone's **personal testimony** of how they came to Christ.

BEFORE WRITING ANYTHING, ask yourself:

Is it interesting?

1. Most readers of MESSENGER are church members from other congregations. Do not write about anything that does not have a nationwide appeal.
 2. Events that take place regularly in all churches – harvest festivals, Christmas, visitors' days, Ingathering, etc – are never going to make news in themselves, *unless a story comes out of such events*. Remember: If it's not different enough to be interesting to people in other churches, *it's not news!*
- SO: Report that baptism, but make a story of it by singling out how one or two of the candidates came to Christ. *Interview them.*

PRIORITIES

Fact: Four times the amount of copy arrives for MESSENGER than there is room for.

Communication secretaries are competing for a limited amount of space. **Fact:** Reports on evangelistic/outreach endeavours and baptisms are prioritised.

All reports should ideally be emailed to me on editordnm@aol.com. At the end of your story, please include a word count.

BETTER PHOTOGRAPHS

Submit only sharp, contrasty colour photographs

These should be on a good quality camera, whether digital or film. (See below for how, and where, to send good digital pictures.)

Photographs, like stories, must be interesting

Vary the composition of your photographs. 'Action shots' provide a welcome alternative to 'firing squad' pictures (groups of people lined up, all facing camera). When taking a group of people, stand on a chair, or a platform,

and have them smile up at you, for instance.

Make sure the background is not cluttered. A plain wall can be handy here, but group the folk imaginatively – some sitting, some standing, etc. Better still, take photographs outside whenever possible. Consciously look for good settings and don't be afraid to organise people into interesting groups.

IF YOU HAVE QUERIES

Send your query via email to editordnm@aol.com, or phone my secretary, Mrs Gloria Mallinson, on 01476 591700. MESSENGER occupies me only one day in a fortnight. At other times I am editing books and other magazines. Hence the need for you to email (rather than phone) your queries.

EDITOR

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Digital camera quality is improving all the time. The average camera now has at least 3.2 – 5 mega pixels, some even higher, giving high resolution images at sizes between A4 and A3.

When using your digital camera, it is important that you set it to *maximum*. That is, if you have a 3.2 mega pixel camera, use it at 3.2 for optimum quality. (Why have a high resolution camera if you're not going to use it at high res?) You won't get as many shots on your memory card (so buy a bigger card) but your pictures will be better quality. Some cameras at maximum resolution allow you to set 'normal' or 'fine'. Normal will usually suffice. The majority of pictures for MESSENGER arrive as digital files. Most have been taken at a lower resolution, resulting in images that are too small and pixelated.

It is important to consider the flash when you are taking indoor shots. Most of you will have fairly small cameras, which means a fairly small flash. So get in as close as you can to your subjects in order to light them up. Don't expect good results from the back of your church! But there are times when the flash could be used outside too, for instance, if your subject is in front of bright light, for example the sun. This would cause the camera to under-expose for the subject, so a bit of fill-in flash would help. Of course, this would also apply to most film cameras as well.

Send digital pictures to prepress@stanboroughpress.co.uk.

Identify them with ✳ the name of your church; ✳ your name; ✳ the title you have given to the article.

It's best if we can receive your pictures by email, as this saves scanning, but please send them as an attached JPEG, not embedded in the middle of a 'Microsoft Word' file.

Digital cameras are great fun to use, so take lots of pictures and enjoy!

DAVID BELL,
MESSENGER design



These two pictures of me illustrate high and low resolution





Left to right: Pastor Eddie Hypolite, Jamaal Channer, Fadil Channer, Pastor George Kumi, Timothy Rennalls, Esther Sullu, Victoria Granger, Blessed Tachiona, Shadreck Gumbo, David Mariga, Peter-Ray Dube, Pastor Everrett Picart, Andrew Singo

Reading Revival and Reclamation

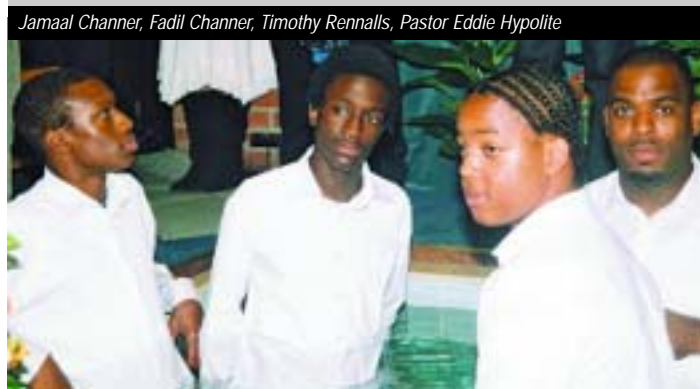
From 10-18 October Reading Central conducted a Revival and Reclamation campaign. The theme: 'Stay Connected – Being faithful to God'. The main speaker was Pastor Joshua Maponga, who combined his evangelistic messages with his musical talents on the harmonica and trumpet. The climax of the campaign was the baptism of nine – seven men and two women – on 1 November.

Pastor George Kumi, a member of the Reading Whitley church, preached a wonderful sermon on John 3:1-6 that stressed the importance of the new birth experience. It was wonderful to see on this occasion that there were more men than women going into the baptistry. Especially moving was the baptism of two brothers Jamaal and Fidal Channer and their best friend Timothy Rennalls, who entered the pool together and were baptised by Pastor Eddie Hypolite who had known the brothers from when they were toddlers and to whom they made a promise that whenever they were baptised he would baptise them. There was tremendous support for these young men (age range 15-17) from their family and also importantly from their peers.

Pastor Everett Picart, Reading district minister, baptised the other six candidates. Victoria Granger had wanted to be baptised at the time of the last baptism but had waited patiently for this one. Shadreck Gumbo was among those who came forward at Dr Jeff Brown's altar call earlier in the year. Esther Sullu, the sister-in-law of Dalington Onditi, the assistant choir leader of Whitley church, indicated her intention when Pastor Picart visited the family. Lindiwe Dube, a member of the famous Inspired Redemption singers (comprising members from Reading Central and Reading Whitley churches), was thrilled when Peter-Ray Dube, her husband, decided to join the church. David Mariga had not long arrived from Kenya, his father having founded several churches there, and had decided the time was right to join the Adventist church. Blessed Tachiona, a 16-year-old, made his mother so proud by taking this step for the Lord.

The campaign was a wonderful testament to the power of God. The Reading Central church building was packed each night and especially on the penultimate day (Friday) of the campaign. On the last day of the campaign twelve hundred people gathered in the Maiden Erlegh School sports hall for divine service, including the spectator quarters, which were packed with young people and children.

FLOYD FELIX



Jamaal Channer, Fadil Channer, Timothy Rennalls, Pastor Eddie Hypolite

On TV

The BBC's 'Songs of Praise' recorded two programmes in Gloucester Cathedral in the last week of November. The first was the Christmas programme transmitted on Sunday 21 December. The second, the Easter programme, was recorded the next day and will be transmitted this year. The programmes featured traditional hymns, and, in the case of the Christmas one, part of Handel's 'Messiah'.

The BBC had sent information to all the churches and choirs in and around Gloucester, and the writer took the opportunity to apply for some tickets. It was bound to be a popular event, and the number of tickets allocated to the Gloucester Adventist church proved the point. In the end, a dozen Adventists contributed to the multitude of singers in the Cathedral. Judging from their enthusiasm, the rehearsals and the final recording sessions, which sometimes lasted over three hours, were all worth it. To be part of a ministry to millions and praise God in a 400-strong choir, accompanied by the Songs of Praise brass ensemble and the Cathedral organ was an unforgettable experience – oh, and they might be on TV, too.

STEFAN BURTON-SCHNÜLL

Redruth and St Austell Day of Fellowship

Pastor Patrick Boyle was the guest speaker on Sabbath 15 November when St Austell church hosted a day of fellowship shared with her sister church in Redruth. In his two sermons, the speaker directed the congregation to consider the characters of Zacchaeus and Daniel to see how our Christian life can be affected by God's grace.

Several non-Adventists attended that day, including a lady and her three children from the community. She had apparently been to a craft evening many years ago as a child, and when two of our members, Frank Colliver and Margaret Newcombe, recently called at her home with the 'Jesus Video' outreach project, she decided to renew her acquaintance with the church.

PASTOR MICHAEL WALKER

Baptism at Banbridge

September 27 saw a beautiful autumn morning as friends, relatives and church members gathered, and



Women of Vision Retreat

Seventeen women from Muswell Hill church spent the weekend of 10-12 October in Devon for our first ever Women's Ministries retreat. Our icebreaker on Friday evening was entitled, 'The Colour of You', and involved each woman bringing a piece of cloth and taking a few minutes to talk about her chosen material, and how it best described her characteristics, hopes and ambitions. This was followed by our guest speaker, Delcina Rodney, wrapping herself in purple cloth and giving us some biblical facts about Lydia, 'the seller of purple'.

The women enjoyed this exercise immensely and even the shy participated. At the end we joined the materials together to show that each piece of cloth, though flimsy on its own, when tied together could produce a strong rope. Our follow-up project is to donate a small piece of cloth each to start a quilt.

We woke on Sabbath morning to lovely sunshine and as we looked from our hotel windows we could see the calm sea and beautiful landscape. This picture evoked many thoughts, such as the chorus 'Wide, wide as the ocean'.

The first programme for the day was conducted by Jean Cadogan and her team. Delcina then, in divine service, encouraged us to listen to Christ as he asks us to 'put down your handbags and follow me'. In this gripping talk we learnt of seven types of handbags that women can use to carry their baggage around in. Sabbath afternoon saw us, young and old, walking partly for recreation, but mostly to shed some pounds after enjoying the wonderful hotel cuisine!

The afternoon session was low key, but nonetheless inspiring as we discussed several women of the Bible and their often traumatic experiences. Saturday night was free time and we used that time for 'partying', socialising and for bonding.

Sunday morning saw us packed and ready to return to London, but not before having a service of recommitment and reconsecration.

DORIS ADAMS

filled to capacity, the Banbridge church to witness the baptism of one of its young people, Kerri Muldrew.

Following a morning communion service and potluck lunch in the church hall an inspirational afternoon baptismal programme took place, organised by Kerri. A wonderful song service started the programme with Kerri and her family taking part throughout the service in song, poem and Scripture reading.

Kerri gave a moving testimony on her love for Jesus and how she had



decided to give her heart to him following a miraculous recovery from meningitis just over a year ago.

Local church pastor Nathan Stickland had led Kerri through a series of Bible studies and gave the address. Mission president Pastor Curtis Murphy led Kerri through the waters of baptism which was followed by a song 'Because He Lives' sung by Emma and Nathan.

EMMA STICKLAND

Too hot for comfort

Sabbath 11 October was a beautifully sunny but chilly morning. The Plymouth church was decorated with lovely flowers for the special occasion of welcoming three new members into our membership – two by baptism and one by profession of faith.

After a very good message, Pastor Ron Clemow stepped into the baptistry. And stepped out very quickly! The water had reached nearly boiling point!

While the deacons added the necessary pails of cold water, Ruth Clemow led the church in a song service.

The first to enter the baptistry was Ange Bah, a young man who arrived in the UK a couple of years ago from the Ivory Coast, and is now studying English in Plymouth. He is the first member of his family to become an Adventist. David Harrison followed. He had been baptised over twenty years ago after a campaign, but David felt he had not really grasped the truth fully, especially regarding the Sabbath. Now, however, he feels committed to the Lord, and asked to be rebaptised. Jim Ramsbotham was married to his wife Barbara for 45 years. Barbara was baptised while a student in Vincent Hill Adventist College in India. Jim would take Barbara regularly to both the Croydon and Plymouth churches, but he would not come in. After her sad passing two years ago he felt he would like to learn more about his wife's faith and started reading the Bible to find answers to his questions about the state of the dead. Pastor Clemow invited him to join in the Bible studies he was giving someone who lived quite near to Jim. Jim then attended several seminars run by the pastor and decided he would like to join the church. Due to medical reasons he was not able to be baptised but was given the hand of

fellowship by the pastor, elder and church members. MAVIS DREW

Holloway's 75th

'Glory and Praise' was the theme chosen to celebrate the Holloway church's 75th anniversary. The event was nostalgic and unforgettable. Reflection was made on God's immense blessings to the church during the seventy-five years of its history.

The celebration was momentous in more ways than one because Pastor Louis and Janice Preston were flown from the United States to be the guest speakers for this great occasion. They graced the celebration magically, since over twenty years ago they made a tremendous contribution to the church during their ministry in Britain.

The celebrations began on Wednesday evening 16 July. Pastor Preston focused his presentation on God's blessings on the immigrants who came from the West Indian islands to work in Britain during the 50s and 60s. He made mention of the way God had elevated his people from positions of subservience in British society to professionals holding positions of eminence in all levels. Pastor Preston used as his text 1 Peter 5:6: 'Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God that he may exalt you in due time.'

On Thursday 17 July, Louis and Jan Preston gave a combined provocative presentation on the five languages of love. Basically, they talked on the different way married

couples could enhance their marriages if they were aware of the differences between the sexes and what men and women should know about each other in making their marriages successful.

For most, the high point of this celebration was Sabbath 19 July. From the Sabbath school to the AYS programme emphasis was given to how the church sailed through chilling years from the 1920s to its current day leading up to this historic landmark. PASTOR STEVE ROBERTS

Liverpool health emphasis

The Liverpool church has long been blessed with a large number of medical and paramedical personnel. We have many nurses, several pharmacists, a doctor and an optician.

The Health and Temperance director, Dr Edward Wilson, has initiated a number of health programmes during the year which have included a Health Day in July, with guest speaker Pastor Richard Willis, BUC Health director, and a long weekend of health lectures by Ray Angel and Judy Wade of the Worcester church. Over three days Ray and Judy shared their knowledge and enthusiasm for healthy living. This is the third time that they have conducted health evangelism in Merseyside in the last two years. They plan to return next year for a week-long series, with emphasis on attracting the public to Christ through healthy living. PASTOR BARRY STOKES

Holloway Pathfinders march on

Up two, three, four! Left! Right! Left!

Under the command of Drill Major Orin Pitkin, 14, and supported by their Drum Corps, the Holloway Adventurers and Pathfinders marched in to present 'Onward Forward Upward', the theme for Pathfinder Day on Sabbath 27 September.

Visiting us were the Lewisham Pathfinder Club and co-ordinators Rachel Valentine-Montoute and Simon Lamma.

From Sabbath school through to AYS the Adventurers/Pathfinders presented various aspects of their curriculum and highlights (video clips) of some of their other activities.

Long remembered will be the

inspiring sermon presentation as delivered by the trio Joshua Roberts, 10, Corinne Greenaway, 12, and Karl Adams, 15.

L. JOHNSON



JANUARY 16-18
Level 1 Youth Leaders' Training
Bilberry Centre, Birmingham

FEBRUARY 15
Big 6 Sports Day
Harvey Hadden Stadium, Nottingham

MARCH 13-20
Youth Week of Prayer

MARCH 20
Youth Day
Albert Hall, Nottingham

APRIL 16-18
Level 2 Youth Leaders' Training
Bilberry Hill Centre, Birmingham

APRIL 30-MAY 3
Prayer Warriors 8
Alton Castle, Staffordshire

MAY 30
Big Banquet

ABERDARON CAMPS
July 4-11 Special Needs
July 23-August 1 Family Camp
August 1-8 Earliteen Camp
August 8-15 Junior Camp
August 15-22 Senior Camp
August 22-29 Coventry Camp

JULY 25-AUGUST 1
BUC Pathfinder Camporee

AUGUST 6-8
European Youth Congress

JUNE 24-JULY 11
Ghana Project

SEPTEMBER 10-12
Doctrinal Weekend

OCTOBER 1-3
Doctrinal Weekend

OCTOBER 10-12
Level 1 Youth Leaders' Training
Bilberry Centre, Birmingham

NOVEMBER 20
Student Day

NEC
Youth events 2004

Claire's baptism

Claire Puckering was baptised a few weeks ago at the York church by Pastor Roger Neal. It was a nerve-racking experience for both, as it was Roger's first baptism as an ordained minister. Claire's agnostic boyfriend, Adam Folds-Hall, read out her favourite scripture reading (Psalm 150), and her spiritual and literal family, including her brother Andrew and father Geoffrey, were also present.



Claire Puckering and Pastor Neal

It is hoped that many more will follow her example. As Pastor Neal said in a thought-provoking sermon, 'It is a miracle every time a young person accepts God in this day and age.'

Praise God for this one!

ANDREW PUCKERING

Adventist display in library

Ken Jones from the Colchester church is a keen photographer who designs displays of photos on various subjects for charity groups such as Oxfam fair trading campaigns and his own enjoyment.

Deciding to use his gift for the church, he created four boards, using photos of different events from the Colchester, Chelmsford and Ipswich churches. The fourth display was of the day at Wembley Arena. These were then put in the window of Colchester library for a week, along with the *LIFE.info* magazines, for all of Colchester to see.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



FIC by Candy Layson

The Filipino International church (FIC) took part in the two-day Filipino festival. The Barrio Fiesta is an annual gathering of Filipinos in the UK which was held in Lampton Park, Hounslow on 20 and 21 July. FIC aimed to reach out to fellow Filipinos by giving out Adventist World Radio CDs, magazines and tracts. It was also a means of making the Filipino community aware of the existence of the organised Filipino Adventist church in the UK. With God's grace, these aims were realised as supported by the following facts provided by Pastor Todd Frias:

- A total of 1,200 CDs, together with hundreds of *LIFE.info* magazines and other tracts were distributed.
- There were 1,243 individuals, the majority residing outside London, who registered for the Correspondence Course or Bible Study Plan. Pastor Todd is also receiving a lot of phone calls requesting CDs and VOP lessons.
- Thirteen Adventist church members in the Philippines approached our pastor to express their joy upon learning about the recognised FIC in London.

During the celebrations the Rainbow Singers gave their share of ministry through music. The group rendered a series of songs all pointing to Jesus as our Hope, our Guide and our Redeemer. The presentation is purely an effort of evangelisation through the media of songs, which made it unique from other shows. The group is composed of Filipino members, mostly nurses who are working in different hospitals in London, and is led and directed by Rethel Reeves.

The overwhelming response from our fellow countrymen imposes a challenge to all members of FIC as this really is an enormous task. FIC's participation in the Barrio Fiesta is only the start of evangelisation and needed support from all of us, so this ministry will continue – until Jesus comes!

Baptism in Gloucester

On Sabbath 11 October Harold Grant became a new man. Baptised in his home country of Jamaica as a young boy, Harold had, by his teen years, left the Church and gone out into the world. However, there was always something or Someone calling him, and he became increasingly disillusioned with the world's lifestyle. This led him to try other religions such as Islam, Hinduism, etc, as well as other Christian denominations.

Four years ago, while staying in Gloucester with relatives, he attended an outreach campaign organised by the Gloucester church run by Errol Nembhard, and once again became convicted of the truth. With Bible study, and encouraged by his family, he became increasingly aware that he wanted to become a new man, and to be baptised. Pastor Stefan Burton-Schnüll baptised Harold, with the support of a large congregation and many relatives rejoicing and giving thanks to God. Harold is returning home soon, and is looking forward to showing his old friends the new man.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Hallelujah Party

November 1, just after sunset, saw Lincoln church's annual Hallelujah Party. With the popular rise in all things occult, hallowe'en rears its ugly head each year with more and more children joining in. Our church decided to offer our own and neighbouring children an alternative!

Twenty-two children from 18 months to 15 years had a great time in our church, with not a ghoul, monster or Harry Potter lookalike in sight. Over half of these children were from unchurched backgrounds, some of whom we had not met before (but will be seeing again at our Christmas party and services).

We had all the traditional games: pass the parcel, musical statues, bobbing for apples. . . . And many of the children came in fancy dress; we had lions, tigers, various Disney and TV characters, and some Bible characters, too. Faith and Lauren Marsh took joint first prize as Queen Esther and the Queen of Sheba! Two hours of noise and hilarity and some new friends were made!

SAMANTHA PAPAIOANNOU



PASTOR EDGAR ERNEST HULBERT (1920-2003)

d. 22 October. Edgar Ernest Hulbert was born in Perth, the eldest of four children. His father was a colporteur whose work took him round Britain as he helped in public evangelistic campaigns. Edgar was joined later by Roy (also a pastor) Joyce, and Clarence. The family moved to Watford when Edgar was 7, and thence to Hastings when he was 10. He showed great promise as an artist and won a scholarship to art school where he studied for a year before heeding the call to pastoral ministry at Newbold College near Rugby – a cycle-ride of one hundred and sixty miles.

Summers were spent canvassing, often with not much to put down towards college fees, so Edgar sometimes returned early to set up rooms and classrooms ready for the new term. It was during one of these times that Edgar saw a young lady – a new student called Ruth Dorland from Bristol, where her father, Pastor O. M. Dorland, was working as pastor/evangelist. Against the warnings of her father, she started going out with Edgar and they married, very successfully, in August 1945. The couple started work in the Cheltenham and Gloucester district before being called to Africa in 1946. They travelled to Calabar Town in south-east Nigeria where they established the Adventist work, following in the footsteps of Mary Slessor who went in the 1840s from Dundee, to preach the gospel to the Ebo people. By the time the couple left, there were thirty baptised and thirty preparing for baptism. These contacts were cared for by Edgar's successor – his own brother Pastor Roy who went with his wife May. The Edgar Hulberts worked in Ghana, too, in the 11 years they spent in West Africa.

While in Africa, Mervyn was born and soon Heather came along. Both helped Dad as he took the picture-roll to townships and villages preaching the gospel. They would sing 'Rock, rock, rock, little boat on the stormy sea' to give visual illustration to the talks. Another daughter, Rosemarie, was born not long before the couple returned to Scotland in 1957. It must have been a shock to the little girl – from the heat of Africa to the blizzards of Aberdeen. It was there, in a place of great achievement, that Victor, longed-for brother to Mervyn, was born. And it was there that the church got a beautiful building under the ministry of Edgar and Ruth.

Later they moved to Glasgow, and thence to Belfast. The move to the Irish Mission happened in 1962, and it was in Larne, County Antrim, that another church was established. Edgar was a 'family man' in both families – the family at home and the family at church, the lives of the two families often merging, especially for Friday evening worship around the piano with the fire blazing, and important things being said. The new church at Larne followed intensive evangelism in the town both private and public. Edgar was an incredibly hard worker.

In 1968 the family moved to Plymouth in Devon. Other places to benefit from their work for God were Harlesden in London, Luton in Bedfordshire and Folkestone in Kent. Taking early retirement due to ill health, the Hulberts moved to Grantham where they were busy with Bible studies, Sabbath school teaching, Bible Society work and preaching. Edgar had a bypass operation in Leicester in 1993, and he supported his wife Ruth when she went to Hemel Hempstead for a pace-maker operation earlier this year. On 17 October he was taken to Watford General Hospital with a 'mild' heart attack. Then a couple of days later, after apparent recovery, Edgar suffered a stroke from which he did not wake up. The family was able to gather and the funeral took place at Stanborough Park church on Friday 31 October, led by members of the family and by a dear colleague from African and Irish Mission service, Pastor Don Lowe. Especially memorable was the song

composed and sung by Stephen, one of Victor's sons, with his girlfriend Jenna. Edgar leaves behind his wife Ruth, children and spouses Mervyn and Lesley, Heather and Andrew Par, Rosemarie and Peter Plimmer, and Victor and Luisa, and grandchildren Daniel and Lara Hulbert, Kevin and Elaine Par, Darren and Jennifer Plimmer, and Steven Timothy and Amy Hulbert. He also leaves brother Roy and wife May, sister Joyce Hill and nephew Gordon. Edgar's favourite scripture was 'Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee' (Isaiah 26:3). We bade him farewell at West Herts crematorium, to meet him again when Jesus comes to mend broken hearts and families.

PASTOR ROBERT G. VINE
Ruth Hulbert and family thank all those many friends and church members who have offered their love and support. It is much appreciated. We are also grateful for almost £1,200 donated to help support Arabic programme production for Adventist World Radio, a project very close to Edgar's heart.

CARMELITA THOMAS (1942-2003) d. 12 June. Carmelita, affectionately known as Cammie, was a dearly loved member of High Wycombe Sands church and will be greatly missed by all who knew her. After a life of committed service to God and devoted love towards her family, Carmelita Eucina fell asleep in the loving arms of her lifelong Friend and Saviour, Jesus. Cammie was born on the beautiful island of St Vincent in the small village of Calder. She was the daughter of Wilson and Elmina, the sixth of eight children. From her earliest years Cammie was surrounded by a close family who loved and cared for one another and trusted in a God who would provide their daily needs. At the age of 5, Cammie lost her father through illness, leaving her mother and older brother Teroy and sisters Louisa and Anita to care for the younger siblings Doreen, Felix, Cammie, Levi and Enos. In 1960 Cammie came to England with her brother Levi. One year later she married Laurien Thomas and they began their married life together in High Wycombe.

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In 1963 their first child Trevor was born. Two years later their first daughter Helen was born and in 1970 Patsy was born to complete the family. During the early years Laurien and Cammie were not regular churchgoers but worked hard to provide a secure and loving home for their children, ensuring they had a good education. In 1981 Cammie's eldest brother Teroy invited the family to an evangelistic campaign being held in the area in which Dr Silburn Reid spoke to the congregation of a loving and forgiving God who welcomed prodigal sons and daughters back to the fold. Subsequently on 16 May 1981 Laurien, Cammie and Patsy were baptised by Pastor Reid at the Micklefield church. With the purchase of the Sands church in the early 1980s Cammie and her family transferred their membership where they would begin the work of serving and witnessing to the local community. Cammie served as the Sabbath school assistant, head deaconess, and in November 2002 was ordained by Pastor Elliott Williams as an elder. Cammie worked all her life as a machinist. She enjoyed her work and made good friends with her work colleagues who liked and loved her for her wonderful sense of humour and reliability. At every given opportunity she shared her faith in God with them. At home Cammie enjoyed singing and reading the book of Psalms, but best was being a nanny to all five of her grandchildren. To all around her, Cammie showed a genuine concern for each individual need and in return asked nothing for herself. Rather with a loving smile and heartfelt hug she desired only to show the joy and love that Jesus had placed deep within her heart. After a short fight against cancer, Cammie peacefully died at home with all her family by her side and the blessed assurance of 2 Timothy 4:7-8. The funeral was held on 18 June at the Sands church. The church was filled to capacity with friends, family, church members, neighbours and well-wishers who wanted to show their last respects to a wonderful lady. Officiating ministers for the service included Pastors Elliott Williams, Cecil Perry, Humphrey Walters and Egerton Francis. Also attending were Pastors Paul Lockham, Alan Hodges, Llew Edwards and Ian Sweeney. Cammie leaves behind husband Laurien, son Pastor Trevor Thomas, wife Annice, children Christopher and James, daughter Helen, husband Gideon, children Rebecca Joshua and Adam, and daughter Patsy. We look forward to the soon coming of our Lord Jesus when we shall see Mum again never more to part.

PATSY THOMAS

The Guildford Congregation is interested in providing a part scholarship for research into the religious history of Surrey for the preparation of outreach material, which could be used toward a postgraduate degree. Anyone interested should apply to Juhani Harju: tjharju@aol.com.

Calling past and present Manchester South members from the Americas, West Indies, Australia, United Kingdom, Europe, Canada or Africa. Manchester South church librarian James Savizon wants you to get in touch with your memories and information for archiving.

Donations may be in any format: letters, photographs, films, email, etc. and they will be returned so please ensure all your mailing details are correct and clearly marked.

The archive will be posted on the Library Website under Manchester South church.

Send information/queries to James Savizon, 26 Flying Fields Drive, Macclesfield, Cheshire, SK11 7GE. Tel: 01625 430998. Email: jameslibrarian@aol.com. JANICE SAVIZON

Prayer Feature

with Tracy Dixon

Praying Parents

Last week a dear friend of mine lent me a book that might just change my life. It is called *The Power of a Praying Parent* by Stormie Omarthian. It is not that I haven't each day been praying for my son, from the time I knew I was carrying him in my womb, but this book is particularly helpful because it focuses the mind on all the different areas of a child's life that we need to bring regularly before the Lord and thereby release our children into God's hands.

Stormie advocates the idea of handing all the concerns you have for your children to the Lord immediately that you begin to worry about them and to continue praying until you are released of that concern. She finds it a worry buster and I have been trying it in the last few days and, I must say, it works for me too.

She talks about praying for your child's health: whether they feel accepted by society and by you, how loved they feel, for them to develop 'a hunger for the things of God', and that they will attract 'Godly friends and role models', to name but a few of her chapters' focuses. Each chapter is followed by Bible texts that are applicable to the message of the chapter and can, therefore, be used in prayer as ways of claiming promises from God. This for me adds another dimension to my prayers because it does make me more certain of a positive answer from God as I remind myself of his promises that show what a loving and protecting God he is. The most encouraging of these texts for me was John 15:16: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you." In this context you see that Jesus could easily have been talking about our children being our fruit, not just about the good things we might do, and that he has appointed that our children 'should remain' in him. I know no better place for my son, so I will be claiming this one for him in prayer on a regular basis for many years to come, knowing that God will give me what I have requested because he has promised and he alone can be completely trusted.

Please send prayer requests and stories about answered prayer to be featured here to: TElizabethDixon@aol.com.



'Our high point for 2003':

Scotland's Project Romania

The twenty people awaiting the flight from Glasgow airport included skilled workers, young people – and the president of the Scottish Mission. They were going to Bolintin, Romania, to build two houses, each for a needy family.

The average temperature for our two weeks in Romania was 35° Celsius. By the first weekend we had finished the walls of the first house, started the foundations of the second – and welcomed six more team members.

In addition to building the houses we also brought the church up to scratch and conducted a summer club for the neighbourhood children.

Those who were involved in this project experienced a real sense of achievement. It was our high point for 2003.

A big thank you to our financial backers. We raised £20,000 in six months. Thanks, too, for those who donated supplies – Grahams, McGill Electrical, Plumb Center, PTS and William Wilson – who together donated 28 safety hats, 32 gloves, 22 boiler suits, 3 high-visibility jackets – and much more.

CLIFFORD HERMAN



Golden Years' Banquet

The Women's Ministries and Communication departments of the Brixton church were hosts to the first

Golden Years' Banquet to be held at the church. On Sunday 12 October over one hundred men and women of the age of 60 and over (some accompanied by their spouses) were ushered into the beautifully

decorated youth hall, where the tables were exquisitely prepared, and the participation and willingness of a number of young people to serve the meal was outstanding. The dinner was expertly prepared by Carol Pusey and her team.

The air was buzzing with excitement and exchange of pleasantries as some of the folks said that they had not attended a banquet for many years. They anticipated an enjoyable time and the event did not disappoint.

The function was planned for them primarily to recognise their contributions over the years to church ministry in general, as well as to the social development of the young people in terms of nurture and support.

Pastor Hamilton Williams acted as compere for the programme, which featured a variety of items including songs, poems, jokes, interviews by Pastor Williams and an entertaining version of 'Mr and Mrs' conducted by Leslie Reid. Both couples who took part, Brother and Sister Shorey and Brother and Sister Blake, have been married for over forty years.

JOAN REID

No concrete jungle Aberdaron doctrinal weekend 3-5 October

'Our Church experience is like reading a map. We must know where we are, look at where we've come from – to know where we are going. This was the theme of the youth weekend, and young people travelled from near and far to learn more about the history of the Adventist church and its doctrines. A presentation on the pioneers gave the young people a taste of that old-time religion! Insights into the sanctuary gave a

clearer picture of the sanctuary symbols and its relevance to our relationship with God. Dress code was a hot topic.

As well as being given food for thought, we were also kept happy with the physical food provided by the Nottingham kitchen team. The beautiful surroundings of Aberdaron were a welcome change, giving the young people the opportunity to escape the two-up-two-down, high-rise flats, block-paved streets, UPVC windows, the concrete jungles we call cities. There was also time for them to socialise and make new friends.

Overall, the weekend inspired the young people to make an impact in this secular society.

ANTON and AARON STEWART

Maths teacher required. Would you like to teach in a Seventh-day Adventist school? Do you enjoy the challenge of teaching secondary education – KS3 and KS4? Can you offer pastoral care to Years 8/9? Do you have experience in Maths and DT? Do you have a degree or teaching Diploma in Maths/Education? Well, look no further. Little Eden and Eden High needs you from January 2004. Please contact: Mrs Laura Osei (Principal), Little Eden and Eden High SDA School, Fortescue House, Park Road, Hanworth, Middlesex, TW12 6PN. Email: Littleedensch@aol.com. Tel: 020 8751 1844 (wk); 020 8581 8311 (h).

ABC BOOK SALES 2004

Jan
25 West Midlands 10am-2pm

Feb
1 John Loughborough 10am-2pm

Wishing you all a happy and blessed New Year!

Messenger

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EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

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Sunset

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	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Jan 2	4.03	4.15	3.59	3.50	4.09
9	4.11	4.23	4.08	4.00	4.19
16	4.22	4.34	4.19	4.12	4.30
23	4.33	4.45	4.31	4.26	4.43

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Cost to member supplied in bulk to churches £6.
Single copy subscription by post £13.
Overseas airmail £27.50

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
Big 6 The sporting event of the year!	15 February 10.30am-5pm	Harvey Hadden Stadium, Bilborough, Nottingham	Basket/foot/volley/netball, table tennis, badminton, athletics	Participants £2.50; Spectators £1.50. For further details contact the NEC office: 0115 9606312
Turning Water Into Wine For married and engaged couples	27-29 February 2004	Highgate House, Creton, Northampton	Bernie & Karen Holford	Tel: SEC 01923 232728 email: kholford@secadventist.org.uk
Youth Revival 'Revive and Stay Alive'	Sunday 14 to Friday 19 March 7.15-9pm	Church of England Church, Ladywood, Birmingham	Songs, prayer, testimonies Speaker: Pastor Henry Wright	NEC office: 0115 9606312
Youth Day of Fellowship	20 March 9.45-1pm; Street witnessing at 3.30pm	Albert Hall, Nottingham	Pastor Henry Wright Testimonies, songs, big concert	NEC office: 0115 9606312

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.