



New schedule for 'Mind the Gap' TV transmission

by Alan Hodges, BUC Ldi co-ordinator

'Mind the Gap' is the third stage in the exciting process of LIFEdevelopment.info. There is no greater joy than leading men and women to a knowledge and acceptance of Jesus Christ as their Saviour. The Church needs you (and every member) to play your part in reaching the thousands of unchurched throughout Great Britain and Ireland. If you have been through level one, 'Get Connected', and made friends with an unchurched person, and then shared with them the 'Evidence', which is level two, you are ready to introduce them to 'Mind the Gap' by sharing with them the basic, but wonderful truths of Christianity. The ten programmes presented by Pastor Dwight Nelson are part of a number of resources being made available to church

members, which are designed to prepare postmodern people to receive the Gospel message.

In *MESSENGER*, 16 July, we reported details regarding the recording of 'Mind the Gap' at Newbold College from 11 to 15 July. Plans at that time were to transmit the programmes on the Hope Channel during the first two weeks of October. In order to allow more time for this important resource to be available on video tape and DVD, and for members to have a little more time before introducing their unchurched friends to the basics of Christianity, it has been decided to reschedule the transmission of the ten programmes to February 2005. Details of the programming are as follows:



Date in 2005	Subject
Monday 7 February	Faith
Tuesday 8 February	Bible
Wednesday 9 February	Prayer
Thursday 10 February	Jesus
Friday 11 February	Jesus' Second Coming
Monday 14 February	Jesus' Death and Resurrection
Tuesday 15 February	Holy Spirit
Wednesday 16 February	Human Nature
Thursday 17 February	Healing
Friday 18 February	Fellowship



A 28-minute programme entitled 'LIFEdevelopment ... the story so far', has been produced by the British Union Conference Media Centre. The programme reports on the three levels of LIFEdevelopment produced to date, and will be shown on the Hope Channel during October, and then distributed to churches throughout the BUC on DVD. This documentary programme covers 'Get Connected', 'Evidence', and 'Mind the Gap'. If you would like a free copy of this DVD then write, telephone or email the LIFEdevelopment.info office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ, Tel 01923 672251, ask@LIFEdevelopment.info.



Pavilion of hope

by Natasha Gunter

There was much rejoicing at the end of the West Midlands campaign as over 35 people publicly acknowledged the Lord as their Saviour. The idea of tent campaigns in the West Midlands was first introduced in 1988, and on average approximately forty individuals have been baptised during each. A large part of the success of the campaigns over the last sixteen years has been the way that pastors and lay-members from the West Midlands have continued to join hands to organise the event.

The theme for this year's campaign was, 'There is Hope for You', and the popular location of Summerfield Park was once again selected. This area is not only the most favourable with regard to accessibility but Summerfield Park is also central to the surrounding area of the church and is frequently used by the community.

The evangelist for the four-week campaign was



Dr Syvester Jackson. Dr Jackson was born in Alabama, and has an MA from Oakwood College and a Master of Divinity from Andrews University. He has worked as a pastor-evangelist for over thirty-nine years. In recognition of his tireless work, he has received various awards including 'Pastor of the Year' twice and 'Evangelist of the Year' several times. Throughout the four weeks Dr Jackson presented many topics such as: 'Adam's Mother's Birthday', 'Heaven's Big Three', and 'Facing the Judgement with Confidence'.



On behalf of the West Midlands pastoral team, I would like to extend our warmest thanks and appreciation to the members who set aside the time to support and take part in this event. We

would like to give special thanks to everyone who attended, because without you the campaign would not have been the success that it was. Ultimately we give all praise and glory to God who made all this possible.



Healthwise

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

Gold Standard

In spite of the fact that Great Britain managed to get nine gold medals in the Olympic Games, which puts it joint ninth on the medal winners' list, it fails to get into the top ten golds per million of the population. Kudos goes to Bahamas at 3.125 GPM, followed by Norway 1.099, Australia 0.851, New Zealand 0.792, Hungary 0.787, Cuba 0.761, Jamaica 0.721, Greece 0.540, Sweden 0.451, and Georgia 0.375.

As Dr Alan Maryon Davis says, 'Despite our marvellous medal haul, the great British population seems to be moving in the wrong direction.' Statistics in the latest General Household survey show that the number of people engaging in physical activity continues to fall, and is most marked in the 16-19 age groups where

we might have expected the greatest physical activity.

Sports pitches, gyms and games areas have never been so good or so prolific as at the present time yet so underused. Goethe's observation that 'Knowing is not enough, we must apply, willing is not enough, we must act,' is more than apt. With all the varied sports fixtures and their publicity we certainly cannot say that we do not know, so it must be an unwillingness to apply that holds us back!

Many claim to be willing to participate but still do not act. The biggest purchases for the home are often exercise machines which are ultimately disposed of as they take up too much house room.

It is not only exercise that suffers from our ambivalent attitudes. The government has seen fit to remind us of our need to lower the intake of sugar, fat and salt, to quit smoking and to reduce

alcohol intake. The fat in children's lunch boxes has increased by 3gm over the past year. After sandwiches, crisps were found in 69% of lunchboxes, along with biscuits and chocolate bars (58% of lunchboxes), with cereal bars coming in at 29%.

Although we know that smoking kills we still allow over 2M people in the UK to work in places that allow smoking throughout the workplace, and another 10M (38% of the workforce) to work where smoking is allowed somewhere on the premises. Second-hand smoke in the workplace is estimated to kill 700 people a year, three times the number killed in industrial accidents.

Lloyds pharmacies introduced a free in-store glucose testing service starting in June of 2003. Already they have screened over 500,000 people for type 2 diabetes. Of those people referred to their GPs 72% had either type 2

diabetes or elevated blood glucose levels. A different survey – The Euro Heart Survey – showed that 58% of the 4,900 people with heart disease surveyed had diabetes but did not know it.

So what more is it that we need to know before we apply? How more willing must we be before we act? The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) continues to turn out guidelines for doctors and for patients. Must we wait for these guidelines to push us into action, or by acting can we set our own gold standard? Here is one area where we can all be winners.



The galleries of our yesterdays



with David Marshall

Your past is like an art gallery. Corridor after corridor hung with paintings. Each painting represents a memory.

Down the first corridor – Childhood – the pictures are really big, but naive.

Down the second corridor – Adolescence – the pictures are vivid, even livid, and some are surreal, the proportions exaggerated.

The third corridor could be called 'Education'; the fourth, 'Finding a Partner'; the fifth, 'Starting a Career'; the sixth, 'Bringing up a Family', and so on. Dotted through the galleries are unpleasant pictures representing anger and pain: ruptured relationships, betrayals, crises – you've got the idea.

At all points the pictures of our past influence our present.

Some say we are the sum total of these pictures. Dark shades from murals of the past exercise their influence over the present tableau through subconscious illness, anger, guilt, compulsions, inhibitions, frustrations and negative self-attitude.

A *physiologist* has said that your friends may forgive you anything, but your nerves will forgive you nothing and

forget less. The *psychologist* retorts that whether your nerves do or do not, the subconscious mind – into which sinks everything we do, think or suffer – certainly forgets nothing. The *psychiatrist* agrees. C. G. Jung (1875-1961) said, 'The lingering ills of the soul will yield to the treatment of being dragged out into the full daylight of consciousness. But as for the hidden, guilty secrets – only religion can help with them.'

Some murals in our gallery of the past we need to dwell on. Some we need to learn from. And some pictures of the past need to be removed.

Why?

With regard to issues such as abuse, the reasons are obvious. Less obvious, to some, is the need to remove grievance pictures, pictures of angry confrontations, injustices, rejection and put-downs. These pictures, by perpetuating negative emotions that could be left behind, add unhappy hues to pictures of the present and can result in illness.

How can memories – including feelings, concepts, patterns, attitudes and tendencies towards actions – be removed from the galleries of the mind?

There is a short answer, but not necessarily an instant cure.

Jesus is Lord of yesterday as well as of today and forever. He can walk with us through the galleries of our yesterdays and he has the power to remove the pictures that bring bad or defeating memories. Where there is repentance, he can erase the past with pardon: *that is instant*. Where there is hurting, he can invade our yesterdays and, with our co-operation, remove from the corridors of our lives those scenes that bring despair and defeat.

In his books *Healing For Damaged Emotions* and *Healing of Memories* (Scripture Press), Christian counsellor David Seamands says that the healing of memories is no 'quickie cure-all or short-cut to emotional and spiritual maturity'. The healing of memories, he says, 'is a form of Christian counselling and prayer which focuses the healing power of the Spirit on certain types of emotional/spiritual problems.'

Seamands identifies three phases to memory healing. The first of these is counselling; 'Counselling is often necessary to uncover the hidden hurts, the unmet needs, and the repressed emotions which are preventing us from getting to the truth which will set us free.' That is how Christ *identifies* the pictures requiring removal.

The second phase of memory healing, according to Seamands, is a time of special healing prayer. He says, 'So that the Holy Spirit may actually touch the barriers to health, a full use is made of conversational prayer. . . . In this special prayer, we allow the Spirit to take us back in time to the actual experience and to walk through those painful memories with

us. . . . The prayer time is the very heart of the healing of memories. It is in prayer that the healing miracle begins; without it the whole process may simply be a form of auto-suggestion, catharsis, or feeling therapy. This special time of prayer cannot be bypassed, if there are to be lasting results.' Seamands continues: 'Whether or not the prayer time is an occasion of new perceptions, it is always a time of new power. . . .'

The third phase of healing is identified by Seamands as 'a time of follow-up'. 'The painful memories need to be integrated into life and invested with new meaning,' he states. This phase apparently requires a great deal of hard work. 'The healing of memories does not automatically computerise us into perfect performance and guaranteed different behaviour,' he says. 'The real tragedy of hurtful memories is not simply the intense pain we feel from them and the powerful push from the past they stir up inside us. It is that because of the pain and the push we have learned wrong ways of coping with life's situations and wrong ways of relating to people, until these have become the basis of our personality patterns – our way of life. These patterns must be changed by the sanctifying power of the Spirit working through our daily disciplines,' he concludes.

In short, the pictures can be removed, but you need help: a Christian pastor or counsellor; intense prayer; and the power of the Holy Spirit to redirect the behaviour patterns resultant from the negative pictures of the past.'

'We need to be specific in our confessions and prayers,' writes Dr Seamands. 'One of the great emphases of Scripture is the need for ruthless moral honesty in facing our sins, failures, and needs. . . .'

The biblical prescription: honesty, openness, repentance and confession.

God has to deal with sinful men and women; there are no others. It is no accident that the Bible's heroes are people with a past to live down, a life to rebuild from shame and failure: Jacob, Moses, David, Peter, Mary Magdalene, Paul and the rest.

So what is the word from the Lord?

'Come now, and let us reason together' . . .

'Though your sins are like scarlet

They shall be as white as snow;

Though they are red like crimson,

They shall be as wool.'" (Isaiah 1:18, NKJV.)

Jesus can deal with the problems that the past bequeaths. For the blunted conscience and the unclean subconscious, he offers regeneration: 'If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.' (2 Corinthians 5:17.)

For the weakened will, beset by habits and emotions too strong to break, he offers double cure: the expulsive Calvary power of a new affection to drive out all alien contradictory loves; and the invasive power of the Holy Spirit, as divine assistance pours into the bankrupt soul to restore its moral energies.

But it's not all about our own past sins. It's about sins against us by others: pictures of the past, the removal of which will result in our forgiveness of those who have damaged us. Seamands says: 'Memory healing means being delivered from the prison of past hurts. We remember, but in a different way. We cannot change the facts we remember, but we can change their meanings and the power they have over our present way of living.'

God is not the *Author* of everything that has happened to us. But God has put 'all things' beneath the feet of the risen Jesus (1 Corinthians 15:27). Hence he is Master even of your memories. He can even help you rewrite your autobiography 'by seeing and assigning new meanings to even the most painful incidents – the meanings God is going to work out through them'.² As with Joseph, you will be able to turn to those who have perpetrated evil in your life and say, 'Don't you see, you planned evil against me, but God used those same plans for my good?' (Genesis 50:20, *Message*.)

References:

¹David A. Seamands, *Healing of Memories* (Scripture Press, 1986).

²Ibid, page 187.



Henrik Jorgensen checks everyone in

Newbold's Chapel Porth weekend by Timothy Puko

Staff and students from Newbold College spent a weekend in Cornwall, 24-26 September, flying kites and fellowshiping as part of an annual tradition to help the new students grow together with existing members of the college community. Community building is a main focus at the College this year.

About eighty students and ten staff members huddled into minibuses for a five-hour ride to South England Conference's Chapel Porth campsite in Cornwall. The retreat featured Sabbath worship services and campfire conversations along with trips out. Chaplain Henrik Jorgensen has been organising these trips for five years.

While leading a service on Friday evening, dean of men Geert Tap asked students to share descriptions of special places from their lives – places where God might have met them. On Sabbath morning he emphasised that 'grace costs everything for the giver and nothing for the recipient'. Then he gave out kites that had been partially prepared by the worship leaders, and helped students finish assembling them.

Bonding around the bonfire was a major activity. 'There was a group who sat around the bonfire Saturday night until the wee hours of the morning, just sharing stories, playing games and talking,' Jorgensen said. 'I've heard people say in the past about this trip, that it is where they make their friendship groups for the rest of the year.'

First-year School of English student Timna Espinoza was enthusiastic about the experience. 'I made closer friends with the people I stayed in the caravan with,' she said. Timna, 21, of Guadalajara, Mexico, said she also enjoyed the nature of the worship services on the retreat and the switch from the conservative worship traditions of her home country. Activities like song services and Bible trivia allowed students frequent chances to participate. 'You can have a friend relationship with God,' she said. 'The people here preach in a way that young people can understand the love of God.'

Brixton Batpism

The sun shone brightly through the stained glass windows as we sat in



anticipation awaiting the baptism of eleven candidates on 24 July.

One of the candidates was Ken Nanton, who always believed that



Make new friends!

'Make new friends,' says LIFEdevelopment. How do you do that and have fun at the same time? 'The Church', Enfield Town, thought that a great way would be to take everybody to the zoo. After much planning, a sunny August day soon dawned and it quickly became apparent how good an idea it was.

The animals were truly a delight

– proving how wonderful and varied is God's creation. Many of those who came asked about 'The Church' and what we believed, and if they could be informed about future events. Our mission was accomplished. We are now hoping that many will attend the Alpha Course which began on 22 September and will run until Christmas.

JAN DUST

Doncaster church dedication

by Pastor R. V. Edwards

What a privilege to be the serving pastor when a company is organised into a church, and its new building dedicated simultaneously. For Adrian and Iris Broome this landmark occasion in the history of the Doncaster church held an even greater significance: for Doncaster was the very company in which they had begun their ministry twenty years before.

On Sunday 25 July, in the presence of Union and Conference officers, the Deputy Chair of Doncaster Council and a church packed with members, friends from near and far and some previous pastors, this twin-celebration took place: long anticipated and carefully planned by Zechariah Campbell, elder, and the board.

Choirs from Doncaster and Sheffield sang during the two services. Zilpah Hadden, company leader for many years, also recounted the

history of the Doncaster group since it was re-established in 1982. But Doncaster church has a history longer than the memories of any of its present members. The first seeds were sown and harvested in 1965, when a public campaign was held in the town centre by evangelist Fred Pearce with ministerial intern Clive Havard. As a result of that a group of members was established, Reginald Arnott serving as leader.

Through victories and vicissitudes this small group struggled on, in various meeting places, for many years. In his time John Duroe strengthened the youth work. Together with Roy Chisholm, then local colporteur, Joy Lowe (who, with David her husband, has been associated with the Doncaster company for over thirty years) established a Pathfinder group of about thirty, meeting in a local school provided free of cost. But as time passed, due to emigration and deaths, attendance declined, till the tiny band expired.

In 1982 God sent another faithful colporteur, now Bible worker, Inez Blackburn. From her thorough follow-up work, together with Peter Sayers, three souls were baptised. This small group of consecrated souls met on Sabbaths in each other's homes, inviting friends; and slowly the group strengthened and grew. Zechariah Campbell, of Burngreave church, together with Peter Sayers, found a venue for Sabbath services. Various pastors engaged in diligent and imaginative

evangelistic endeavours.

During the untiring ministry of George Harris more souls were added. As the group grew, difficulty arose regarding accommodation for Sabbath services; but in this difficulty lay the seed of the search for land for their own church building. Oliver Brown located a plot of land. Funds were raised and the land was bought.

About that time John Hines took up ministerial responsibility for the Barnsley/Doncaster district. The group was still not large; and to many it appeared impossible for it to finance the building of a church. But what seemed impossible became reality. The diligent endeavours and generosity of both minister and members, under John Hines' inspired, energetic and capable leadership, brought in funds from many sources: from friends far and near; 'It would have been impossible,' said one, 'without the help of Burngreave church'; and the remnant of Rotherham met and recommended that the assets from the recent sale of their own church and its furniture be given to Doncaster: another magnanimous gesture, which one hopes may one day be reciprocated.

Thus by the end of 2000 ground was broken to build a new church; by May 2001 the church was ready for occupation; and May 2003 saw the final repayment to the Conference. The impossible had been accomplished. 'It was by faith that this church was built, together with the prayers and hard work of a lot of persons,' concluded Sister Hadden.

How timely God's providences. During 2002-03 an influx of members from countries on the continent of Africa helped fill the new building: insomuch that Brother Campbell, the

elder, remarked during 2003 that the congregation had doubled during a six-month period. It was with the greatest sadness that the members of Doncaster and Barnsley had to let John Hines go on account of his health; but the work God sent him to do still continues. Their prayers are that John and Jean will enjoy a long, happy, healthy and rewarding retirement. John also composed a fine poem for the dedication ceremony.

During the interim the writer accepted a call out of retirement for one year to serve the district; following which Adrian Broome has been invested with the care of the district. The president also announced the appointment of the new permanent pastor, Desmond and Carlene Rafferty, to take up responsibilities from October.

Carnival time in Darlington

June 26 was supposed to be unsettled. This year was our fifth time of having a stall at the Carnival in the Park and in previous years the weather has been kind to us. This time the weather forecast was *bad* – lots of rain – so the stalls were to be inside the art centre opposite. Our hearts sank. Surely it would not be as good inside and the bad weather would keep people away?

We found our pitch inside, unpacked the car and started to set up our tables with the games to attract the children and magazines and books for the parents. We waited and the people came! It rained and rained but the people came! God certainly blessed us that day and we all had a great time. Most of the helpers felt it was one of our best stalls. The games in particular worked very well – marble madness being one of the most popular as

children kept trying to break their own record or that of their friends. At the end of the day the record stood at forty-four marbles in the plant pot in one minute.

People willingly took the *LIFE.info* magazines and literature and many were happy to stop and chat. The *FOCUS* issue on The Passion of the Christ was an attention grabber. When the Mayor came past, Colin Woodford (Middlesbrough church) made a point of handing him some of our literature and was even able to chat to him for a couple of minutes on *The Passion of the Christ*.

SUSAN SELVAGE

Woodford Green baptism

Budding flowers and the sweet perfume of fragrant air is indicative of springtime, a season of growth and new birth. It was indeed springtime in the Woodford Green company on Sabbath 29 March, as the seeds sown in four precious souls germinated and culminated in baptism. The candidates were baptised by Pastor Michael Hamilton, and the occasion was unique because not only was there the new birth of the converts but also growth of the newly formed Woodford Green company.

The company has been blessed with two baptisms since its inception, in which families have united together in giving their lives to the Lord. On the last occasion it was mother and son, Donna and Dominic Williams, and on this occasion it was father and daughter, Karl and Candice Dixon. Karl had recently travelled from Jamaica to join his wife Lorraine, a teacher, and had no idea that, like Paul, he too would have a Damascus Road experience. Nine-year-old daughter Candice, after witnessing the last baptism, was determined that she too should be baptised as a testimony of her



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faith. Also baptised were Cheryl Banarby and Rory Williams. All the candidates had been attending regular Bible studies led by church elder Lawrence Bellot.

ERIMA BELLOT

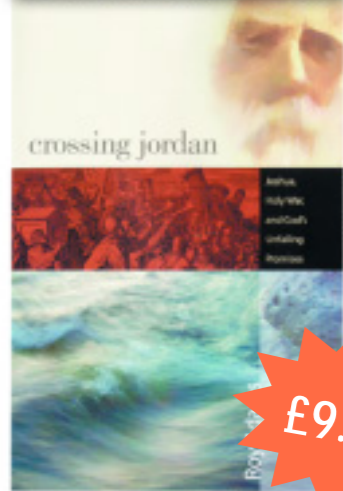


Left to right, front: Pastor Michael Hamilton, Rory Williams, Cheryl Banarby, Candice Dixon, Karl Dixon. Back: Raymond Marius, Elder, Lawrence Bellot, Elder.



Book of the Year?

Anita Marshall reviews *Crossing Jordan* by Roy Adams



In these days of fast food, fast cars, fast tracking and fast forward, it is so refreshing to read a book by someone who slows his readers down, presenting the unfolding tale in such a way that they feel they are actually part of the story.

Crossing Jordan by Dr Roy Adams is just such a book. As Dr Adams says, 'We miss the full impact of these biblical stories unless we pause long enough to live through each episode in its original setting.' And, though his knowledge of that 'original setting' is encyclopaedic, his language is so easy to read!

It's often said of books that they are 'unputdownable'. I am frequently taken into books, but rarely kept there, in such a personal and faith-enhancing way. I was with Joshua when

£9.25

he heard the news, straight from the Lord, that 'Moses my servant is dead. Now then . . . get ready to cross.' (Joshua 1:2). I felt the water round *my* feet as the priests entered Jordan's waters. I *saw* the waters 'piled up in a heap'. I *felt* the elation and awe as the first footsteps were taken into the Promised Land.

But this book is more than just a journey from the wilderness to Canaan. It is a journey through the faith of a great man of God, exploring, as it does, the reasons behind God's keeping his people wandering about in a desert for forty years, and his attention to such details as the timing of their arrival in Canaan – when there was food. It was harvest time. When the miracle of the crossing could be seen as such – it was floodtime! The author explores fully the question of whether the drying up of the Jordan was a natural occurrence which God used for his own purposes. So many aspects of the story are explored.

Later on, when retelling in awe-some detail the fall of Jericho, Dr Adams says, 'Hampered, for example, by our prior knowledge of how the Jericho story ends, we do not often capture the sense of total helplessness that must have gripped the Israelites . . . at the sight of that well-defended fortress.'

Dr Adams' book reveals an author who is extremely widely read. The references and sources at the end of each chapter are very impressive, and the leading of the Holy Spirit is much in evidence. For instance, in describing Joshua's meeting with the armed 'stranger' before the walls of Jericho, when Joshua asks, 'Are you for us or for

our enemies?', Dr Adams puts in a pertinent question of his own. 'Is it not a universal human tendency to try to co-opt the Lord into the service of our own particular team or clique or party? Are we not more concerned to claim Him for our own side than we are about being on *His*'?

The book claims to make 'an important contribution to understanding violence in the Old Testament'. During chapter 4, and even before, the question about God's use of violence through his people (ethnic cleansing?) is tantalisingly, almost annoyingly, held over until chapter 8. At one point I nearly skipped ahead, but decided in the end not to. This terrible violence has long been a problem to me. I wanted Dr Adams to have the necessary time to lead me to a satisfactory answer. I'm not going to say whether or not he did. You will have to make up your own mind by reading his arguments for yourself.

In the meantime, one of the most encouraging of Dr Adams' statements shines forth (in regard to Joshua 10): 'When God's people seek His counsel before engaging the obstacles in their way, He will release even the forces of nature in their behalf.'

I crossed a few of my own personal 'Jordans' during my reading of this book. If you embark on the same journey, taking your time, and savouring the full implications of each sentence, you might find yourself crossing one or two of yours!

*Available from the Adventist Book Centre. Either order through your Personal Ministries secretary or on the ABC credit card hotline, 01476 539900.

Passing on the Heritage
At the BUC Family Ministries department we are wanting to learn and understand why people stop attending church and then return. Please let us know *your* story by either emailing it to: hhaworth@adventist.org.uk, phoning on 01923 672251 or writing in to: Family Ministries Department, BUC Offices, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ.
HEATHER HAWORTH

by Revd Leslie Newton, the only shower of the day fell on the rooftops and led to the remark, 'Our God reigns!' His presence was very evident during the service. The reception was held at the Ardsley House Hotel, where the beautiful grounds provided a delightful backdrop for the photographs. After their honeymoon in Florida Bryan and Rachel will make their home in Wakefield. We all wish them God's blessings in their life together.
HAZEL SCHOLLES

bridesmaid sister Hannah and friend Ruth Lawford. Bryan's younger brother John was the best man. Andrew Prince and Matthew Scholes, friends of the bride and groom, acted as ushers. The wedding was very much a family affair as Bryan's father opened the service with prayer and sister Leanne read from 1 Corinthians 13. During the registration of the marriage, Peter Crossley, the bride's uncle, played a selection of hymns for piano. In his very practical address, Pastor David Marshall spoke of the importance of communication and of spending quality time together, away from the commitments of everyday life, in order to protect the relationship. During the marriage service itself, which was conducted

private man, Fred was always thankful for the help and friendship he received from Ursula, Janet and Ray Cobb, Pastor Melvyn Ellis and his family and friends from all over Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire. As Malcolm said in his summing up of Fred, whenever a conversation was drawing to a close, it invariably ended with a familiar, 'God Bless.' 'Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.' (Heb. 10:23.) Fred lived that hope with distinction and now waits for the many who knew him to follow in the Master's steps. May that be his epitaph, for one day soon Fred will rise to see the face of his dear Lord, and hear those precious words, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; . . . Enter into the joy of your Lord.' (Matt. 25:23.)
ERIC HAND

Wedding

HAWORTH-PATRICK
On a lovely sunny day at the end of August, the Emmanuel Methodist church in Barnsley was the setting for the wedding of Bryan Haworth and Rachel Patrick. Bryan is the elder son of Pastor Paul and Mrs Heather Haworth. Rachel is the elder daughter of David and Angela Patrick. David is the local church elder. Bryan works in NHS administration in Wakefield, while Rachel has just succeeded in gaining a first class honours degree in French and Italian from Leeds University and will begin her MA studies in October. Family and friends gathered in the church as the elegant bride entered the sanctuary on the arm of her father. She was attended by chief

Katya's Story

Russian Olympic athlete comes to Britain
by G. Martin Bell



Katya and Irene

'God does not exist, Katya.' 'There is no God.' Katya was brought up with these words ringing in her ears from teachers and relatives. The Russian Revolutionary State of the 1970s had no place for God. In fact there were no churches and even funerals and graveyards reflected a revolutionary, atheistic society. Graves had no cross as a symbol of hope, but every grave had at its head the red star of the Revolution. And so as a little girl Katya did not believe in God either. However, as she grew up, her father received an American Bible and his Orthodox faith, learned from his mother, began to stir within him.

In her teenage years Katya developed a tremendous love and talent for skiing. Living in Magadan, further east even than Siberia, she became a strong and athletic cross-country skier in the harsh and cold conditions. Her talents were noted by a coach for the Belarus national cross-country skiing team and soon she found herself combining studies at university with training sessions and competitions.

One of the skiing friends she made while competing in Belarus always seemed to be reading books and the Bible. Katya couldn't understand this. She didn't read the Bible and had no interest in religion. Her friend Irene invited her to her home town and, while they were there, also invited her to church. There was a campaign meeting in the little theatre in that town in 1995. 'I don't remember much of what was said,' says Katya, 'something about the Second Coming and about life after death, but I started to think. Then my friend lent me a copy of *Patriarchs and Prophets*, and I discovered that all that the Bible said was true. It was like a new world opening up for me.'

As she was always travelling with the national skiing team, there was no chance to attend church, but God spoke to Katya through the books that her friend Irene gave to her. When her training was finished, she went in search of a Seventh-day Adventist church and found it in a dark building where people played chess downstairs and had other social activities. Katya loved the church and all that she learned there, and was baptised in 1996. Her bubbling enthusiasm spilled over as she told her friends in the Belarus national skiing team how she had found God, and one of them was baptised with her.

Problems began when the new training season started for the winter skiing competitions. Katya wanted so much to keep Sabbath but, as competition time came, it was harder and harder to keep the Sabbath hours for God. When she requested Sabbaths free to go to church, her coaches just laughed at her.

Meanwhile, Katya learned that vegetarian meals enhanced health and vitality, and she shared this knowledge with other members of the national team, and eventually the whole women's

team of skiers became vegetarians. She also shared her faith with the maids and the cooks in the hotels where they stayed during training and competition time, giving them videos and books.

Chosen to represent Belarus at the Olympics in Nagano, Japan, in 1998, Katya entered a period of intense training. Two Adventist girls were on the team and found themselves parading with the many thousands of athletes from countries all around the world in the huge Olympic stadium. Here they also met an Adventist bobsleigh Olympian from Canada.

In the midst of the ceremonies the athletes were invited to a Christian service in the city and all the women on the Belarus ski team decided to attend. A car came to the Olympic village to pick them up, and the man in the car was an Adventist who was able to arrange for them to go to the Adventist church in Nagano on the Sabbath. They were also able to find a Japanese girl who spoke Russian and could interpret the service for them, and she too went to the Adventist church for the first time.

Returning home to Russia after the Olympics, Katya made her decision to quit skiing and the national team in order to keep the Sabbath and follow her new-found faith and Lord. As one of the top cross-country skiers in the USSR, she was presented with the acclaimed medal for 'Master of Sport at an International Level'. Coaches and managers tried to persuade her to stay on and train for the next Olympics at Salt Lake City in four years' time. She was offered a free apartment and every financial support, but she made her decision and says, 'It was like a stone left my heart. . . . I lost my apartment, my job, my skiing and had nothing to live on, but I knew I had made the right decision.' Shortly afterwards, the Adventist church she had visited in Japan agreed to sponsor Katya for one year at the Adventist Seminary in Russia, and during that year an American dentist was introduced to her at the seminary and offered to pay for all four years of a BA course.

A little later, Katya was part of a Christian sports ministry, 'Athletes in Action' in Austria and Finland, where she met many of her former friends who were competing in those countries on the world championships. She was able to give them Bibles with testimonies from Christian athletes from all over the world.

Katya's life continues to be just as exciting as

it was on the Belarus Olympic team, as she has committed her life to Jesus and follows him day by day. Through her witness, her grandmother, her step-sister and her former atheistic mother have all become baptised Christians and Adventist church members.

The latest chapter in Katya's adventure started when she responded to a call to Roundelwood Health Spa operated by the Adventist Church in Scotland. At Roundelwood we wondered if she would be able to arrange a visa and obtain permission to come to the UK, but just one of the many miracles that has happened to Katya occurred shortly after she responded positively to the call to Scotland, when an old friend who had connections with the British Embassy in Russia was able to help her with the visa application.

We are delighted that for one year Katya will share her warm smile and her wonderful story with us at Roundelwood, and with the guests who attend our health-enhancing programmes.

ORGAN. For a donation of £50 to ADRA-UK, an Elka Organ model E9 No. 1017 is offered free to any Church group. Recipient to arrange transport from Devon. Phone 01803 524506.

Time 4 action

by Pastor Paul Tompkins
TED Youth director

Over two and a half thousand Adventist youth met together in Wroclaw, Poland, for an International Youth Congress this summer. The event was extra-special in that it was the first International Youth Congress held in the Trans-European Division for twelve years, the last being in Budapest, Hungary, in 1992. It was also very memorable because, as the TED and Euro-Africa Divisions joined together to run the Congress, it featured youth from all over Europe, reviving memories of past European Youth Congresses.

The programme was held in and around the Hala Ludowa hall, a major feature of the city of Wroclaw. Those attending the Congress stayed in university dormitory accommodation and, for four days, the city was alive and buzzing with our young people. Inside the hall was a massive domed-shaped auditorium, which on Sabbath held about 4,000

people. Around the hall were many exhibition stands and workshop venues. For the entire length of the Congress there was a real hive of activity in and around the hall as this became the focal point of all that was happening.

Outside was a beautiful park area which featured 'The Street of Nations': an event designed especially for the 2004 Year of Evangelism. The outside area was also the starting point for 'The Run for Life' – a fun run that featured the Adventist healthful lifestyle and ended in another park in the centre of the city. The day closed each evening with groups performing on the Art stage, singing into the night

air on a stage positioned by the lake.

The theme of the Congress was 'Time 4 action' and this has become a reality for many. 'It has been a European eye-opener.' said Annaliene from England. 'By this I mean it has been a great experience meeting so many passionate individuals – youth about Christ. I came here knowing I needed to do more for Christ. Thankfully I will be leaving here knowing how and what I need to do in the UK.'

Youth came from over thirty different countries, representing a variety of different cultures and speaking so many different languages, yet united in purpose and action.



UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	WHEN	WHERE	WHO	HOW
Church family reunion	<i>Please disregard this item which appeared in a previous issue by mistake. Sorry for any inconvenience</i>			
The Pathway of Hope Evangelistic Campaign	23 Oct - 6 Nov	Handsworth Church 98 Hutton Road, Handsworth, Birmingham 20	Pastor R. Mackintosh	0121 344 3672
'Love Connects' Marriage retreat for couples who want to deepen their spiritual intimacy	12-14 November	Highgate House, Creton, Northampton	Bernie and Karen Holford, SEC Family Ministries	Tel Janet Guthrie on 01923 232728 or email jguthrie@secadventist.org.uk
In the Beginning . . . musical extravaganza	21 November 4pm	Albert Hall Institute North Circus Street, Nottingham NG1 5AA	Mark Bunney, Blessed Voices, Ayolah, Alan Charles, George & Victor Acquah	Tickets £10. Call Nottingham Playhouse Box Office, Tel: 0115 941 9419

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.

Festival of Song at Smethwick

On Sabbath 14 August the Sabbath School department organised a Festival of Song as a means of outreach. All visitors were presented with a copy of *Steps to Christ*. The children's choir from Camp Hill sang beautifully, and the message for the day, presented by Pastor Gary Gordon, was also very uplifting.

P. SWABY

STANBOROUGH SECONDARY SCHOOL
teaching vacancy for a qualified Teacher of Maths. Applicants should hold a degree in Maths, a teaching qualification, and be experienced in teaching KS3 and KS4. This is a full-time position effective from 4 January 2005. Applicants must apply by letter enclosing a current CV to: The Headmaster, Stanborough School, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JT.
Closing date 16 November 2004.

THANKS

The headteacher of Dudley House School would like to express sincere gratitude and acknowledges with thanks the gift to the school of £500 from Anonymous.

CHANGE AT HEREFORD

Services at Hereford church have been changed to the afternoon. Worship service 3pm, followed by Sabbath school.

ABC BOOK SALES

October

24 SEC Women's Retreat
31 NEC Women's Retreat
31 West Midlands 10am-2pm

November

7 John Loughborough 10am-2pm
28 West Midlands 10am-2pm

December

5 Manchester South 10am-1pm
12 John Loughborough 10am-2pm

Messenger

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Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Oct 22	5.52	6.04	5.53	5.55	6.09
29	5.39	5.51	5.39	5.38	5.53
Nov 5	4.26	4.38	4.26	4.23	4.39
12	4.15	4.27	4.14	4.10	4.26

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