

LIFE.info – have you tried it yet?

by Lee Gallaher

LIFE.info is finding its way into court waiting rooms, Chinese take-aways, and hotel bedrooms. People are picking it up in hospitals, local libraries, dentists' and doctors' waiting rooms. It is being pushed through letterboxes, handed out at coffee mornings, and picked up in staffrooms – and the magazine is making a difference to people's lives.

Non-Christians are finding in the magazine relevant, interesting content. There is down-to-earth advice and support. It is a refreshing change from the tabloid-style gossip and sensationalism that fills many of the magazines in the racks in Asda, Sainsbury's and TESCO.

There is also spiritual content aimed at piquing the curiosity of pre-Christians, offering Christian options and solutions which they are

starved of in most other forms of media.

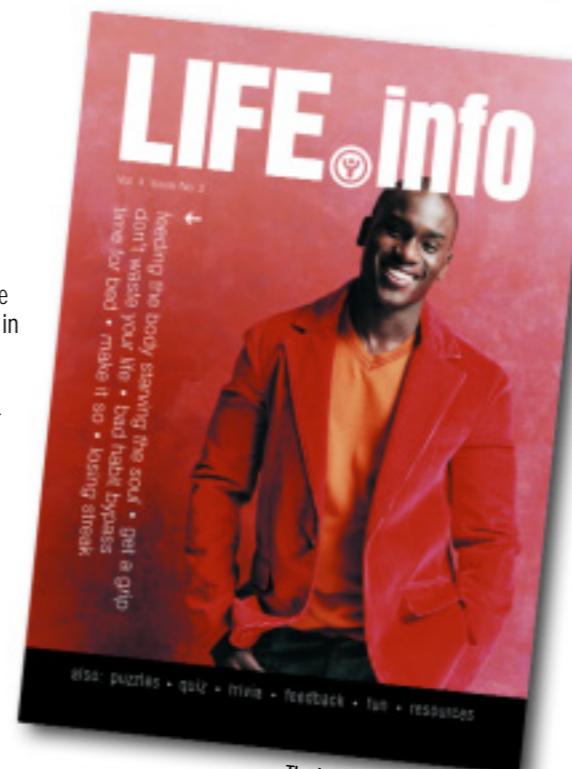
LIFE.info is an excellent evangelistic tool *but* it cannot get into the hands of its target audience (not yet Christians) unless the people who already know about it make the effort to get it to where it's needed.

And it does require effort and personal commitment. It even requires a tiny amount of financial sacrifice. You may think that because you faithfully pay your tithe and give regularly to your local church budget that all evangelistic materials ought to be free. Well, I disagree. Count *your* blessings. Has God been less than generous to you? I don't think so.

LIFE.info costs just 20 pence a copy.* That's less than the cost of a muesli bar! – something you can

unwrap, consume and forget about in minutes. For the same price you could give someone a magazine that might start some thought process that leads them on a journey to the Kingdom. It's true, the emphasis has to be on the word 'might', but for just 20 pence it's quite an opportunity!

So, give *LIFE.info* some serious, prayerful consideration. Take time to ask God if he's got anyone in mind whom he'd like to touch – with *your* help.



The latest LIFE.info Vol 4, No. 2
Now available

* only 20p a copy when you buy 25 or more

VITAL at the Vitality Show

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau

For the second year running, the SEC's Health Ministries department represented the Adventist Church at the Vitality Show. From Thursday 7 to Sunday 10 April, over 40,000 people from all over the country flocked to the Vitality Show at the Grand Hall in Olympia to discover how they might improve their lives, physically, but also mentally, socially and spiritually.

The Health Ministries department, under the leadership of Mrs Elsie Staple, screened 814 people and gave out over 6,000 copies of the recent health edition of the *FOCUS*. When I spoke to Elsie after the show, she was, to say the least, ecstatic. As well as the magazines, she also gave away over 100 Bibles and 100 copies of *Ministry of Healing* and *God's Little Book of Prayer* – and she received 434 subscriptions to *FOCUS* magazine.

'It was so good to mingle with people and hear their experiences about their health,' Mrs Staple stated. She continued by saying that exhibiting at the Vitality Show



School of Evangelism training event

'A Heart for the Lost' was the theme for the weekend at the High Leigh Conference Centre 28-30 January, organised by the Personal Ministries and Sabbath School departments of the SEC. The very successful event was attended by over one hundred members from over forty churches.

The spiritual tone was set on Friday evening with an interesting visual presentation by Pastor D. Cox, 'Treasure in clay'. The purpose-driven Sabbath school format suggested by Pastor A. Vontzalidis was simple but very effective. We were also challenged by the powerful message of Pastor H. Walters. On Sabbath afternoon we were the recipients of an enthusiastic presentation by J. Murayama and N. Nichols from Oxford church, sharing how they reach people in their community through health. Following this were workshops on How to Give Bible Studies, Small Group Leaders and Coaches, Community Involvement, Spiritual Gifts and Purpose-driven Sabbath School. The Sabbath day was a delight as we fellowshiped and relaxed, making friends from other churches. Worship throughout the weekend, led by the Rogers family from the NEC, and Laverne Byng, was very inspiring.

Sunday arrived with a twinge of sadness that we had to part after such a warm and fruitful weekend, but the Lord did not let us part without a special visitation of the Holy Spirit on Sunday morning during our worship time. The Holy Spirit filled our hearts, and joy mixed with tears of repentance were the results. His presence accompanied us in our workshops, and finally to lunch, where we continued singing accompanied by the surprising guitar playing of Pastor Cox! Finally we reluctantly parted company with the confidence that our God is able to give us all we needed to develop 'a heart for the lost'.

On behalf of all present we would like to thank the SEC administration for subsidising the event, Pastor Vontzalidis and his secretary V. Austin for organising it, and our wonderful God for honouring us with his presence.

VIVIENNE RASHFORD, Slough

Montserratian Day of Fellowship
Sabbath 28 May
High Town Methodist Church,
45-47 High Town Road, Luton,
LU2 0BW, Bedfordshire
with Pastor Delroy Foster, NEC
Contact William B. Riley (Principal
Co-ordinator MDF) 0121 241 7318

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Community Services Volunteers – 'A Good for Nothing People'

On Sabbath 26 March, members of the Central Lancashire District were pleased to welcome Pastor Cyril Sweeney and his wife as they joined the congregation for worship at Preston church.

All were intrigued by the title of Pastor Sweeney's sermon 'Community Service Volunteers – A Good for Nothing People'. A strange title indeed! Who wants to be a volunteer classed as a 'good for nothing'?

Pastor Sweeney outlined the qualities needed to be a Community Service Volunteer:

- selflessness,
- kindness to those who don't deserve it,
- serving others, especially those who are oppressed and without Christ,
- loving your enemies,
- treating people with respect and courtesy.

'We need to experience a complete change in our hearts and lives to show the kind of love and compassion that our Heavenly Father expects from us. Jesus has introduced us to a radical way of loving – *agape* – love in its highest and truest form; love that impels a man to sacrifice himself for others – even if they don't deserve it! We are all Community Service Volunteers, young or old, uniformed or not, and Jesus asks us to be 'Good for *nothing*', said Pastor Sweeney.

What a timely message, as many who heard it were about to take part in the community service, Ingathering.

JENNY JEFFERS



Pastor C. Sweeney with the Community Service Team and members wearing Ingathering tabards

Healthwise

Sweet Hotline

Just when you would expect everyone to be concerned about the growing problem of obesity in the UK, events take an unpredictable turn. British Telecom (BT) is entering the retail arena by selling confectionery and fizzy drinks from – wait for it – its telephone kiosks!

With the explosion in mobile phone use and the loss of its telephone monopoly, BT has approximately 40,000 loss-making kiosks. An initial twenty of these in the West Midlands are being turned into vending machines. The traditional phone box will remain but the

interior will be gutted to install the coin-operated machines. Telephones (if they are needed) will now be affixed to the exterior of the box.

As around 60% of BT's 70,000 kiosks are running at a loss, we can expect to see more of these bright red sweetboxes across the countryside. A few may be converted into walk-in 'jukeboxes' with downloadable tracks. BT has not said what happens to the customer who gets a crossed line or whether you can press button B and get your money back.

The spread of sweetboxes is in marked contrast to an initiative in Walsall where child obesity clinics

have been opened and from where, it is hoped, such clinics can be replicated in other regions of the country. Walsall was chosen as it is reckoned to be 'the fat capital of Europe'.

Leeds Metropolitan University rose to the challenge presented by the designation by devising a walk-in clinic programme where children come regularly for monthly meetings during the course of a year. Already success has been notched up for the children through a mixture of education and activities.

Reporter Katie Coyne says, 'Six months into the course, around half of the children had lost weight while the rest remained the same weight. It is important to note that, as the children are still growing, those whose

weight stayed the same are in effect "growing out" of their weight problem.'

While it is good to see the progress made in the clinics it would be much better to see the education and activities being carried out in the home by involving parents in the process of decreasing obesity risk.

Still, it is good to know that help is at hand for those who need it. However, if the children need an obesity hotline it might be best to avoid BT's red sweetboxes, or it might just become a self-defeating exercise!



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

As I write, we are in the midst of the thrust and lunge of a British General Election.

How should Christians relate to it?

Our civic responsibility requires us to try to grasp the issues in order to make an informed choice on polling day.

Our spiritual responsibility requires us to stand aside from the antics of the political circus and the methods of the performers.

Sadly in the next month we are far more likely to hear echoes of the political circus in our midst than any conscientious attempt to debate the issues.

The reason?

We are fallen, sinful human beings. Hence we are drawn into the thrust and lunge of personality politics rather than to any debate on serious issues in the light of the Gospel of God.

The ladder of power fascinates us: it reaches upwards. The ladder of God's grace saves us: it reaches downwards.

The greatest power of all is in grace.

In the last few chapters of his book *What's So Amazing About Grace?* Philip Yancey draws to a conclusion his arguments about the central distinction between, on the one hand, the 'grace-full Christian way' and, on the other hand, the survival-of-the-fittest, dog-eat-dog political way. In his final chapter Yancey says that two great forces rule the universe: gravity and grace. 'Most of us remain trapped in the gravitational field of self-love,' he says: that is what makes us behave like animals in a survival-of-the-fittest Darwinian setting. The truly radical, revolutionary force is grace: God's great, liberating gift that enables us to disprove evolution by the way we behave. No words you say can formulate an unanswerable argument for Christianity. But, by accepting God's grace, you can *be* – by the way you live – that unanswerable argument.

There is much about the British political system that is deeply unattractive. But, having reread Yancey, there is something about it for which we can be thankful. There is, so far as I am aware, no British equivalent of the American Religious Right that Yancey is shadow-boxing throughout his book. Jesus told us to be 'as wise as serpents and as harmless as doves'. Christians who involve themselves in politics, says Yancey, invariably become 'as wise as doves' and 'as harmless as serpents'. That certainly covers one part of the American political scene!

Christianity can cause us to exert pressure on politics on behalf of a cause. The anti-slavery movement in the Britain of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries is an excellent example of this. Christianity can also sharpen 'the prophetic edge' of campaigners for reform. That was the case with William Wilberforce and Anthony Ashley Cooper, for example. We are in trouble, however, if we allow the political agenda of any party interest to subsume the Gospel of Grace. Jesus was profoundly unpolitical. Just read the four gospels! The only political axis you read of there is the coalition of a rigid religious establishment and the pagan empire that brought about the crucifixion.

Jesus didn't campaign for or against Tiberius, for or against the Herodians or Caiaphas. He showed no sympathy with the direct action Zealots. Jesus gave his life for his enemies so that, through grace, salvation might be possible for 'whosoever will'. The power he commended was the power of love. The followers of Jesus are sheep among wolves, a grain of mustard seed, the salt of the earth. Christians are aliens and

sojourners. The Christian's primary loyalty belongs elsewhere.

That doesn't sound very macho, does it? *But it is!*

Ask the Russians.

The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 was followed by the most concerted attempt to rub out Christianity since Christianity's inception. If Christianity could be destroyed by burning churches, killing clergy and closing seminaries, then Christianity would not have survived. Atheistic Communism was imposed with the utmost ferocity by a totalitarian state apparatus for seventy years.

But Christianity survived. In 1983 some youthful Christian daredevils unfolded a banner in Red Square on Easter morning emblazoned with the words CHRIST IS RISEN! Older people fell to their knees and wept. Troops arrested the youth and destroyed the banner.

Ten years later all over the Soviet Empire the totalitarian apparatus was being dismantled. Bibles were for sale in government buildings. Communism was a 'wasm'.

Yancey suspects that the story of Christianity's survival in China may be even more remarkable. Before Chairman Mao's accession in 1949 China had been a showpiece of the Christian missionary movement. However, Mao's regime systematically destroyed every Christian church, school, college, office and institution. The Bible was suppressed, its publication successfully prevented. But, according to Yancey, China's Christian community – 'a safe figure would be 35 million believers' – is now second in size only to that in the USA.

Apparently Christianity survives quite well in the face of government opposition and without any discernible organisational structure. Yancey argues that Christianity thrives best in the teeth of government rather than in collaboration with it.

As Jesus told Pilate, 'My Kingdom is not of this world. If that were not the case my disciples would be fighting for me.' (John 18:36.) That does not mean that the Kingdom of Christ has no political concerns. Quite the contrary! It means that Christianity's concerns are so important that they must supersede all the political agendas of earthly kingdoms.

When Jesus said 'My Kingdom' he spoke as King. And to whom? To Pilate, the embodiment of the Roman Empire; Pilate the politician, who represented a kingdom wholly of this world. Pilate's kingdom depended on force, soldiers, legions, armies. By contrast Jesus was saying, 'My Kingdom is not of the world, nor is it built by worldly methods.'

Jesus was saying, 'Mine is a Kingdom of Truth.' Pilate wanted to know, 'What is truth?' By that he implied, 'If that is the nature of your kingdom, then what chance do you stand in this kind of a world?'

Since that day Pilates have been saying much the same thing to Christ's followers in every generation. Whenever they have said it, common sense has appeared to be on their side. But where are their empires now? The Kingdom of Christ has proved more durable, and its most glorious phase is yet to be.

Three quotes to finish with.

The first from Yancey: 'Politics draws lines between people; in contrast

Grace, Gravity and the General Election



with David Marshall

Jesus' love cuts across those lines and dispenses grace.'

The second and third from Martin Luther King: 'The Church is not the master or servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state.'

'Power without love is reckless and abusive. Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice.'

* This editorial is based on Philip Yancey's *What's So Amazing About Grace?* published by Zondervan. It costs £8.99 and is available through your Adventist Book Centre or from your local Christian bookshop.



Jesus was profoundly unpolitical



From left to right: Pastor Ron Clemow, Jennie Hall, Jane Masuka and church elder Dennis Hall

Rebirthday

Jennie Hall and Jane Masuka provided a fantastic witness to friends, family and members of their rebirth in Jesus through baptism on Easter Sabbath 26 March at the Plymouth church. Both shared their moving personal testimonies, supported by family and friends. It was a double celebration for Jane as it was also her birthday.

Pastor Ron Clemow emphasised that because of the events that signify Easter, heaven is open to all; and on this day there was great celebration because of Jennie and Jane's acceptance of Jesus' sacrifice for them. While Pastors Ron Clemow, Ken Clothier and Marc Russell, and church elder Dennis Hall (grandfather of Jennie) laid hands on the candidates, Ken prayed for the Holy Spirit to anoint them both so they will go and share their joy with others.

RUTH CLEWOW

The Lord kept the pool warm

On 29 January the Lord kept the baptismal pool warm enough for Lydia, Louis and Mayaba to be baptised in the evening.

Anybody who is familiar with the Plumstead Community church knows that part of the building is currently under reconstruction. The church decided to use the newly-constructed baptismal pool downstairs for baptism on this winter day. Every effort was made to heat the pool from Friday evening.

On Sabbath morning the church realised that the pool was nippy because the electrical heaters had tripped off the system. After the midday service the heaters went into the pool again. They worked for less than an hour and tripped off the sys-

tem again. The elders decided to cover the pool to preserve heat.

The baptismal service began at 6pm. On three occasions the heaters blew the fuses in the church, plunging the premises into darkness. It was amazing to hear the whole church, including the number of visitors who had come to witness the baptismal service, sing in the dark while electricity was restored.

It was time for the immersion at about 7pm. Anybody who placed his hands in the pool acknowledged that the pool was cold. However, when the pastor stepped into the pool it was not very cold. Each candidate testified that the pool was warm enough.

PASTOR E. JONES-LARTEY



Front left to right: Lydia, Louis and Mayaba Behind: Pastor Jones-Lartey and elders Harris and Hanson-Bartholomew

Preston Bible Conference

It has to be an important occasion when both NEC and BUC presidents, the BUC Executive secretary and local minister Pastor Kevin Johns are gathered together in one place. So it was on Sabbath 12 March for a Bible Conference at Preston church, where a warm welcome was given to our visiting speakers – Pastor E. Francis, NEC president, Pastor C. Perry, BUC president, and Pastor E. C. Lowe, BUC Executive secretary.

Why a Bible Conference? Because we cannot study too much of God's word.

The format for the day was split

into three presentations, interspersed with special musical renditions: The importance of unity (Pastor Francis), Truth on trial (Pastor Perry), Witness to the truth in the life of Jesus (Pastor Lowe).

The Importance of Unity

Pastor Francis outlined the meaning of unity as 'togetherness, solidarity, completeness, and strength'. The disciples were trained by Jesus. His wish was for them 'to be one'. Even though they had different personalities and were from different walks of life and had different limitations,



From left to right: Pastor & Mrs Perry, Pastor & Mrs Johns, Pastor Lowe, Pastor & Mrs Francis

Joy in Peckham!

Sabbath 26 February was a beautiful start to the year as heaven increased its book numbers and Peckham increased its membership numbers!

Three candidates, Verona Anderson, Camay Griffiths and Carol Orakwue publicly surrendered their lives to Christ in the presence of their friends and families. It was a wonderful day as these three ladies had been friends of Peckham for some time.

Verona came to the end of a long journey and was supported by her daughter all the way; Camay could not escape the fifteen years of praying by her mother, Sister Gray, a long-standing member of Peckham; and Carol was a 'Peckhamite' returnee who knew she had been away for way too long and finally joined her mother and daughter back at Peckham.

There was joy in heaven, but there was also much joy in Peckham!

CAROL JOSEPH



Candidates taking their vows

Jesus had great faith in them. He looked at their qualities, not at who they were, but for who they could become if they followed him.

'Today we can experience the same Pentecost experience the disciples had,' said Pastor Francis. 'It's free! If we approach God in humility and put away our differences. The apostle Paul emphasises the need for unity among the church by using the parts of the body as an illustration. The church is made up of people from various ethnic origins, cultures etc. and we were asked to embrace our diversity. Irrespective of where we come from there is commonality, one Lord, faith, baptism, commission to share.'

Truth on Trial

'Some people are afraid of the word "judgement",' said Pastor Perry. 'You don't always find truth in a human court because words are manipulated and make the innocent look like the accused.'

Pastor Perry asked us to imagine a courtroom scene, the stage: the

Universe, Heaven, the unfallen worlds. The accuser: Satan and his emissaries, and the defendant: God.

In heaven, the environment was just right until Satan developed the wrong attitude and iniquity was found there. He made charges against God, e.g. laws impossible to keep, God's love is God-centred or self-serving. 'Satan is fracturing the Church today,' said the BUC president. 'God's truth is on trial.'

The Witness to Truth in the Life of Jesus

Pastor Lowe spoke of Jesus' being the light of the world. What did he expose by his light? Jesus' main conflict was over the Sabbath. The day created to be a blessing had been turned into a curse. The Sabbath Maker was being accused of being a Sabbath breaker! Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. He needed to help people recognise that this was a special day. Sabbath should be the happiest day of the week. It was symbolised when Jesus 'rested' on the Sabbath. 'We have a responsibility to uphold the Sabbath,' concluded Pastor Lowe.

JENNY JEFFERS



It pays to advertise

A group of Brazilians has begun to worship regularly at Ballinasloe, about eighty miles east of Galway in Ireland. The contact began with a *Yellow Pages* ad that the church placed early in 2004. There was a family of four from Brazil living in Ballinasloe who were all baptised members of the Adventist Church in Brazil. They had looked for the Adventist church and had not found any for one year. Suddenly they found Galway church listed in the *Yellow Pages*, and began to attend.

Seeing potential for a group being planted in the Ballinasloe, Athlone, Birr area, Pastor Kongari initiated the idea of having a place of worship that would be suitable and convenient for the believers in that area. The group was organised under the leadership of Endrew DaSantos. The week 27 March to 3 April was a special time of prayer, and meetings were held every night, with a total attendance every day of between 17 and 20.

One family of four, taking charge, has made a difference in Ballinasloe and brought over twenty people to attend meetings and know about the Adventist faith.

ASHLEY STANLEY KONGARI



The Hackney Three

Three people fully gave their hearts to the Lord in a baptismal service held at the Hackney church on Sabbath 19 February.

Hannah-Mai Barham, 8, followed her brother Jamie Barham, 13, to the baptismal pool while their mother and father, Miriam and John Barham, proudly looked on. Church elder John Mathieu, uncle to the two young people, remarked that from an early age Jamie had always had a strong desire to be baptised, and Hannah-Mai had always followed her brother and looked up to him, saying, 'If it's good enough for my brother then it's good enough for me.' Michaela Mathieu-Marius, 19, cousin to the two young people, sang 'I'm Running Back to You'.

Also baptised was Michael Lynch. Michael's mother did not live to see the step that her son made, and his family are dispersed throughout the Caribbean and America. Although he has no family in England, he says, 'I am now part of the big family of God.' Special items were given by Sister Kirleen and Sister Carmen Millard Graham on behalf of Michael.

The baptismal programme was co-ordinated by the elders and pastor of the church, Michael Mannix, who immersed the three candidates.

DARELL PHILIP

Eggciting Witness

An eggciting afternoon of family fun was organised by the Llandrindod Wells church plant over the Easter holiday. Fifty-four people turned up to search for 200 eggs hidden in a local park. Family fun events and kidz clubs are part of the DNA of this new plant as we endeavour to reach the families in the community. Thirty new names of people wanting more information about our family activi-

ties were added to our database.

But more important than that were the comments of thanks and appreciation received. It also led to offers of funding from community schemes as the community becomes increasingly aware that we are 'committed to caring for them'.

ROSEMARY LETHBRIDGE

Bradford baptism

Sabbath 26 February was a cold wintry day, but the temperature was high in the Bradford church as Mandlenkosi Dube dedicated his life to Jesus. He was baptised by Pastor Ian Sweeney assisted by local pastor Jeff Couzins. The address was given by lay preacher Charlie Twentymann, who had given the Bible studies, and the theme was 'Let this mind be in you which is in Christ Jesus'.

Mandlenkosi has a beautiful singing voice, and often joins with the other Africans to enhance worship – as he did at his baptism.

Manklenkosi says, 'I was born in an Adventist home in the rural Matebeland in Zimbabwe. I always had a desire to do God's will, but as I grew up I served him out of fear. I thought God was always waiting for me to do wrong and punish me.

The result was that there was an increasing gap between what I wanted to do and what I was doing. In my search to find God I discovered a God who is love. That is the reason why I decided to restart my life.'

JOHN MCGOLDRICK



To West Bletchley, a son!

The youngest church in the South England Conference, West Bletchley, gave birth to a son on Friday 25 February. Peter James-Walsh became the first member of the West Bletchley community to be baptised, with the service being held at the mother church, Milton Keynes Central in Fishermead.

Peter's baptismal service was conducted by Pastor Colin Stewart and attended by Conference representative Pastor Dalbert Elias, who responded to a personal invitation from Peter. Though Pastor Elias would humbly say that he was there to represent the Conference, it was his 'personal' commitment and desire to attend the service that moved the West Bletchley membership.

Peter's first encounter with the Adventist Church came as a result of members knocking on his door to tell him of the newly-established church in West Bletchley. Peter responded to the invitation immediately the following Sabbath, and ever since then he has not failed to be one of the early arrivals every Sabbath morning. Apart from his attendance at Camp Meeting in June, Peter has not missed a Sabbath in church. You can guarantee that if there's a church-related event going on Peter will be there – whether it be a social, wedding, funeral, or his own baptism. You can even count on Peter faithfully to be at every Wednesday night prayer meeting.

Being from a Catholic background, one of Peter's earliest questions about the church was, 'Why do we go to church on Saturday and not Sunday?' Once explained, Peter's conviction of the Sabbath has been unshakeable.

In 1993 Peter suffered a very serious accident. While replacing some roof lights in a building, he fell a number of storeys through a hole in the floor. He woke in hospital to find that he had broken four ribs, suffered a cracked collar bone, and had lost all hearing in his left ear. Peter is convinced that two things saved his life, his army training where he learned how to fall, and God's saving grace. Peter says: 'If God saved me then he must have a reason for doing so . . . and that reason is to bring others back to God.'

ANDREW ROCK



Association of Adventist Writers & Editors

Mission Statement

The Association of Adventist Writers & Editors exists to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the medium of the written word.

Vision Statement

'Write . . . for the next generation, so that people not yet born will praise God.'

Motto

Write with God

Aims & Objectives

- To encourage the promotion of writing as an effective form of evangelism.
- To raise the profile of excellence in writing in Christian circles.
- To encourage writing by children and young people.
- To provide support and training for unpublished and published writers.
- To provide continued support for editors.
- To establish a database of Christian writers.
- To provide a support network for Adventist writers, primarily, but not exclusively in the South England Conference.
- To provide a bursary for one evangelistic writing project each year.

Contact details: Adventist Writers & Editors, c/o Communication Department, South England Conference, 25 St John's Road, Watford, Herts., WD17 1PZ. Tel: 01923 232728; Fax: 01923 250582; Email: swatt@secadventist.org.uk.

EVENT

Adventist Writers & Editors invite writers to WRITE ON TIME: Christian Writing for the 21st Century on 21 May 2005 at The Chapel, Stanborough Secondary School, Watford. The day begins at 10:00 with a special worship service. There will be workshops in the afternoon. Lunch is provided for all, but please let us know you are coming by contacting swatt@secadventist.org.uk or Susan Watt on 01923 232728 to register.

Special Needs Camp

10-17 July

We have vacancies for carers and staff, and for medical, kitchen and laundry services. If you would like to work for a week in beautiful Aberdaron please contact Joy Bussey, 2 Shakespeare Street, Watford, Herts, WD25 5HF, Tel 01923 461044. Do not hesitate to contact me for more details.

Joy Bussey

A Healing Miracle

'In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.' (Proverbs 3:6.)

Many years ago my father and mother and my sister and I were in Shanghai, China, where my father was working as the representative of the National City of New York. Mother was a very devout Anglican Christian and sent us off to Sunday School every week. I have very vivid memories of those services, for excellent visual aids were used to get across to us children the lessons the teachers wanted us to learn.

Quite unexpectedly my mother became very seriously ill. Dad took her to the family doctor, but after examining her he shook his head and said: 'I

am afraid there is nothing I can do to help her.' Those same words were repeated again and again as my father took my mother from one doctor to another. When every local doctor had been visited, my father in despair went back to the family doctor and said: 'There must be someone we can go to. Please, please, tell me.' The family doctor's reply was: 'Well, there's that crank in charge of the Robicon Road sanatorium – you could try him.' So to Dr Harry Miller at the Adventist hospital my mother was taken.

Dr Miller gave her a very thorough examination and then, looking at my father, shook his head and said: 'I would not be able to do anything to help her get better, but I am quite prepared to offer my hands to the Lord so that he can heal her if that is his will.'

To those of you who knew my mother all through the years since then, you will know that the Lord did indeed heal her, using Dr Miller's hands. As a result of this amazing experience my mother became an Adventist and taught my sister and me to be Adventists too.

Just a few days ago I was going through an old photograph album that had belonged

to my sister, and which Dr Woodfield passed on to me. Within its pages I found this letter, which was a copy of the letter my mother wrote to members of her family (she was one of eleven children).

'I was persuaded to leave my own doctor and go to see the very clever Seventh-day Adventist Dr Miller (American), who immediately told me the serious condition I was in, so the very same day I came into the hospital, and the following morning the operation was performed. It certainly was a struggle this time, but the whole hospital – doctors, nurses and everyone – were praying for me, with the result that I was called "the marvel" for making such a wonderful recovery. Everyone is a Christian in this place, and it is a marvellous place to uplift one spiritually – apart from the material side. Before they commenced, one of the doctors offered up a prayer.'

I would like to add a few words of my own now. I want to thank God from the bottom of my heart for healing Mother in such a wonderful way, for shortly after she left the hospital she and my father decided to make a journey back to England so that she could meet up with all her family members. Just a few weeks after we returned to England my father died, very unexpectedly, but Mother was there to care for us. It was a terrible tragedy for me, for Dad was my very best friend. However, Mother guided us into making a decision to join the Church she belonged to. I thank God for his leading in my life ever since.

VERA PORTER

Alpine New Start 7-22 June

Refresh your health this summer and enjoy the holiday of a lifetime at the Alpine New Start spiritual and health retreat in the beautiful Waldensian valleys of North Italy.

An inspiring programme has been planned with varied morning activities, afternoon excursions and relaxing evenings. The main speakers will be Dr Alan Finlay, producer and narrator of the *Keepers of the Flame* videos, (worships and reformation history), Drs Roby Sherman and Clemency Mitchell (health programme), Dr Colin Mitchell (local geography, creation science).

For more information visit www.alpinestart.org or www.alps2005.org or contact clemency@themitchells.eclips.co.uk.

Obituary

OLGA MISILDENE NAPIER (1917-2005) d. – March. It was with sadness that on 7 March the members of the Greenwich Adventist church, along with families and friends, attended the funeral service of Sister Olga Napier, who died peacefully at the University Hospital Lewisham after a short illness. Although obviously in pain, she never complained. Olga was born in Georgetown, Guyana, on 19 July 1917, the eldest of two children to the late Mr and Mrs Croft. Olga was baptised into the Adventist Church at an early age, and came to England in 1956 to join her brother. As a professional dressmaker she joined the staff at Selfridges bridal department, working there for many years. In the 70s she left to work nearer home, and then became a nursing auxiliary at the Millers Hospital, Greenwich. It was during those years that she met and married her husband Rainford Napier whom she predeceased by five weeks. As a member of the Greenwich church Olga was dearly loved by all, including the community in which she lived and served. A generous person, she gave away money, clothing, quarterly study books, and yearly calendars to non-members. No favour was too great for her to undertake. She was the Pied Piper to the children. The memory of her strong alto voice will never be forgotten in the church choir. It was a joy listening to her reciting poems. She also had a phenomenal memory for dates, figures, and names. Olga was ready to meet her Saviour, and we look forward to the day of resurrection and reunion.

JOYCE CERES

Sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone for their tokens of love and support received.

The Battle for the Bible reviewed

'The style of the book makes it easy to read. At times it holds the reader in suspense.'
ADVENTIST REVIEW

'The author has done the Christian church a valuable service in writing this attractive and very readable book.'
DIALOGUE magazine

'One cannot recommend this book highly enough for anyone interested in finding out what the Bible is, how reliable it is and what is its message.'
MINISTRY magazine

'Dr Marshall's enthusiasm for his subject results in a book which is almost a thriller. . . Recommended both as an introduction to the Bible's history for the novice and as a refresher course for the more knowledgeable.'
METHODIST RECORDER

£6.95

Battle for the Bible has 192 pages, maps, and a good index. It is available from the Adventist Book Centre. Credit card hotline: 01476 539900.

< 1
Vitality Show

was also a great networking opportunity to meet individuals and organisations of like minds.

One lady who had her blood pressure taken on the Friday was advised by one of the nurses that currently it was too low and that she needed to drink more water. To the surprise of Elsie, she turned up again on Sunday to check if her levels had improved (and she brought her husband with her).

The Community Services director

would like to thank the following individuals: Gloria Simon, who was present for the four days, Myrtle Hunter, Andrea Phillip, Fawn Leith, Merlene Bishop, Gloria Thompson, Sister Lee (Hampstead), Agnes Thompson, and the eight nurses who assisted over the period of time.

In addition to this, appreciation goes to Tony Westmore, Anne Marie Bennett, Eleni-Jay Anderson-Grey, Ruth Clarke-Scarlett, Claudine Francis and Michelle Sullivan, who so ably helped out on the stand.

Miracle at Adventist Hospital

Some people wonder, but I strongly believe, that miracles take place in God's institutions even in these modern days. One such miracle took place at Karachi Adventist Hospital (KAH) at 9.30pm on 10 February when a lady was rushed to our Emergency Room fighting for her life from complications suffered after the birth of her baby boy.

This young lady was bleeding profusely and was semiconscious,

only responding to painful stimuli. On examination she was found to be in deep shock with no recordable blood pressure and pulse and the only sign of life was that her pupils sluggishly reacted to light.

The doctor in ER declared an emergency and the whole medical team was actively involved in resuscitating the young lady. The patient received a hysterectomy operation and was administered many blood transfusions. As blood is hard to come by, employees of the hospital took an active part in donating the seventeen units of blood that were needed in order to save her life. After twenty-four hours the patient was moved to the Intensive Care Unit where she was monitored vigilantly. She gradually improved and was eventually discharged on 18 February in a satisfactory condition as she returned to her family of seven small children.

I consider that saving this patient was nothing less than a miracle. The family were very thankful for the dedication and prayers of the doctors, nurses and paramedics. God truly answered our prayers and used KAH as an instrument for his glory.

DONALD JACOB, ANR

John Loughborough School 25th Anniversary

The John Loughborough School celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. In that time, the school has moved from an Independent School to a Voluntary Aided School with government funding of 80%.

The school offers a wide curriculum, inclusive of the three core subjects: English, Mathematics and Science. Information Communication and Technology, generally referred to as ICT, is particularly popular among students and they would like to spend all day in the two well-equipped modern suites if given half a chance.

Students learning French are particularly proud of the new language laboratory, which is well equipped to enhance the tasks of teaching and learning.

The other areas of study, which are grouped together under the umbrella of Humanities, Expressive Arts and Technology, offer students a wide range of subjects from

which to choose their options. Bible and Religious Studies are offered as integral to the curriculum and this in line with the Christian ethos of the school.

Students work in an atmosphere where a high premium is put upon care for the environment, respect for each other and activities based on Bible-centred principles.

We are seeking to work with students whose parents not only want a secure educational environment for their children but who seek to have them develop their spirituality in favour with eternal values, everlasting goodness and sanctified love.

Please send for an application pack from:
The Secretary, The John Loughborough School, Holcombe Road, London, N17 9AD.

Celebration events

The 25th anniversary celebrations of the John Loughborough School began in April. April 1980 saw the opening of the first Seventh-day Adventist School in London. The school is situated in Holcombe Road, Tottenham, and was once the site of a Catholic school. Now in 2005, The John

Loughborough School can celebrate twenty-five years of successful delivery of secondary school education to the community. The school and church communities of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organisation have decided to mark this milestone in the history of Adventist education at the school by a series of activities. The aim

of the celebration will be to remember, reflect, recognise and rejoice in the goodness of God in this mission of educating children for service. A list of coming events is shown here. The Steering Committee is seeking to contact as many past students and personnel as possible to become involved in the events of celebration.

Dates

Events

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Monday 18 April | Launch date with Assembly by former students |
| Wednesday 20 April | Assembly by former students continues |
| Friday 22 April | Assembly by former students continues |
| Monday 25 April | Launch of Website with former students |
| Saturday 16 July | Thanksgiving Service – venue to be confirmed |
| Saturday 3 September | Sabbath Service – details to be confirmed |
| Sunday 4 September | Dinner Event at Holiday Inn with Former Students 1980-1988 |
| Sunday 20 November | Speech Day – Venue to be confirmed |
| March 2006 | Finale and Banquet – details to be confirmed |

The celebration promises a year full of events and we look forward to many delightful surprises. Why not join in the celebration and make this 25th anniversary a time to remember?

ABC BOOK SALES

May

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 8 West Midlands | 10am-2pm |
| 15 John Loughborough | 10am-2pm |
| 22 Newbold Graduation | 10am onwards |

June

| | |
|--|--|
| 6-12 SEC Camp Meeting, Camber Sands, Rye | |
| 20-26 NEC Camp Meeting, Southport | |

July

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| 17 John Loughborough | 10am-2pm |
| 31 West Midlands | 10am-2pm |

Messenger

Volume 110 • 10 – 6 May 2005

EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

COPY FOR No. 12 – 11 May 2005

Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.

Fax No: (01476) 577144.

Email: Editordnm@mac.com

ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900
Mon-Thurs only, 7.30 - 6pm.

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Printed in Denmark.

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk
ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

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

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| May 6 | 8.32 | 8.44 | 8.41 | 9.02 | 9.07 |
| 13 | 8.43 | 8.55 | 8.53 | 9.16 | 9.20 |
| 20 | 8.53 | 9.06 | 9.04 | 9.28 | 9.32 |
| 27 | 9.03 | 9.15 | 9.14 | 9.40 | 9.42 |

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