

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

# Messenger

18 November 2005 • Volume 110 • 25

## Author's sight restored

by Bob Rodd

**H**ome from the Sea is the story of Bob Smart's amazing adventures as a wireless officer on board merchant and hospital ships in the U-boat-infested seas of World War Two.

There are inspiring stories of God's providence that are thrilling thousands of readers. First shipwrecked by torpedo in the Caribbean Sea, Bob traces the story of God's leading in his life until, following his second shipwreck, he gave his life to Christ. One seaman in every four lost his life in the Atlantic convoys of World War Two that brought much-needed supplies to Britain. But when Bob was shipwrecked for the second time he was serving on hospital ship *The St David*. That ship was missiled off Anzio.

Back in home waters, a mariner returned from the sea, Bob resolved to go to Newbold to train for the

Seventh-day Adventist ministry.

During his many years in ministry Bob enthralled the younger members of his congregations, in particular, with his fascinating stories of God's protection and guidance. His brilliance as a story-teller, together with the stories themselves, led many people to urge him to write them down.

It is, however, unlikely that Bob would ever have committed them to paper had it not been for the encouragement of his wife Joy and their children Iris and Malcolm.

In the final months in which he completed the book, Bob had almost lost his sight due to cataracts. It was Malcolm's task to decipher what he had written and set the stories on computer. The cover picture – of Bob's first shipwreck – was especially commissioned from Scottish marine artist Gordon Bauwens, organist at the Crieff church and family friend of the Smarts.

The loss of Bob's eyesight was a major tragedy during



## Great Christmas Gift

**Home from the Sea.** An enthralling, inspiring story of God's providence in the life of a World War Two seaman who became a Seventh-day Adventist minister.

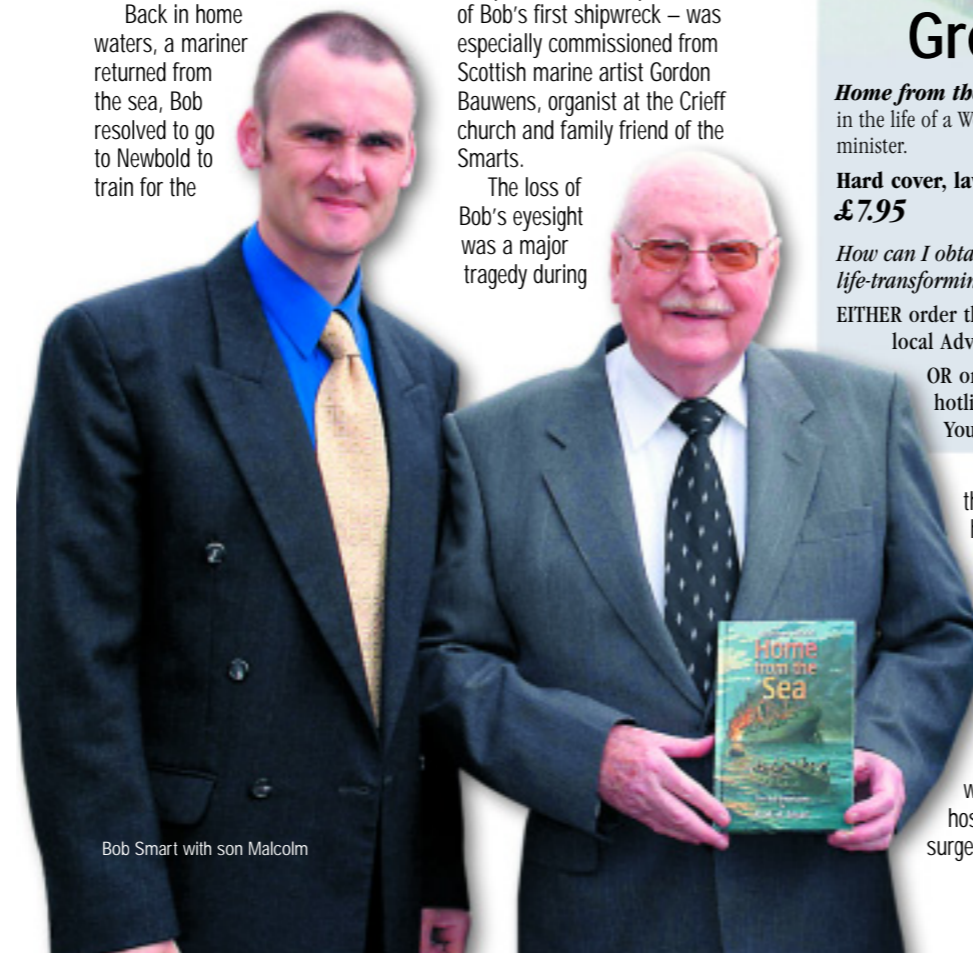
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Bob Smart with son Malcolm

the months in which his book was in preparation at The Stanborough Press. Earnest prayers for Bob's healing went up from his local congregation in Crieff, Perthshire, when he went into hospital for laser surgery. Elsewhere in the

British Union – in the many congregations Bob has pastored, and in the homes of those he brought to Christ and inspired to train for ministry – scores of Adventists laid siege to the Throne of Grace.

The good news is that operations on Bob's eyes were an outstanding success. The sailor turned pastor, home from the sea, has had his eyesight restored. And he, his family and his local congregation are praising God.

**Royal Cornwall Show**

Lovely weather blessed the sizeable crowd over the three days of the Royal Cornwall Show. Two thousand carrier bags with the church name and logo on them were handed out from the Adventist tent.

Slowly but surely the Cornwall Evangelism Team began to experience 'return business', and it was very heartening. The main purpose of our presence at the show was to make people aware of the Adventist Church. The tent, bought two years ago, has proved a good investment.

The book that simply 'flew' out of our display was *Beware of the Crystal Dragon*, which young people were eager to take home to read. Many copies of the *Final Events* DVD were also given away. Many people left the show armed with good books.

BERTIE DE NYSSCHEN

**Newport Pagnell church plant**

On 16 July Milton Keynes church members, together with West Bletchley church, met in Newport Pagnell where the Park Life Festival was being held. We were permitted by the authorities to set up a stall on which were displayed posters and photographs of the work carried out by Adventists both in local communities and abroad. ADRA was prominent and many of the visitors stopped to check it out.

A large number of balloons carrying religious messages were distributed free to the children, and a good number of visitors, especially those resident in Newport Pagnell, completed surveys as to their requirements in the community. Foremost were the young teenagers who were keen to have a place where they could meet with their friends. Bags of freebies, including *LIFE.info* magazines, were given to the public and other stallholders. Good contacts were made with the latter for future outreach. In the afternoon some of the young

people helped with this part of the outreach. The day ended with the Milton Keynes Adventist Community Gospel Choir taking part in the local concert.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

**ASNA Carers' Weekend**

The first ASNA Carers' weekend took place on 30 September-2 October at the wonderful and peaceful venue of Highgate house, Creaton, Northants. Forty residential delegates and seven day delegates enjoyed the beautiful weather, company and well executed workshops. The weekend aimed to provide social, spiritual and physical support for people in a challenging caring role. Workshops included Managing your health, Stress management, Managing your money and debt, and Developing strong relationships with God and man.

We thank God for the volunteers who attended to run a children's programme thereby ensuring Parent Carers of children with disabilities were able to attend the weekend. Many thanks to the workshop leaders who included Heather Haworth, Elsie Staple, Tony Perkins and Martin Avis from Oxfordshire council, Sonia Munroe, Iris Johns and Joan Barrett. Medical support was provided by Dr Sarah Morris, who not only provided her expertise but stated that she had 'gained a wonderful experience and had learnt so much from the delegates and workshops'.

SOPHIA NICHOLLS

**NEC STAFF VACANCIES**

The North England Conference has two vacancies at its Campsite at Aberdaron, North Wales.

**Site Manager** – responsible for carrying out the plans of NEC for, and management of, the campsite and its operation.

**Assistant to the Site Manager** – responsible for the day-to-day domestic issues of the campsite under the supervision of the manager. Contact Pastor Paul Lockham, North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 22 Zulla Road, Nottingham, NG3 5DB. Email: [plockham@necadventist.org.uk](mailto:plockham@necadventist.org.uk). Closing date: 30 November.



**Job Vacancy – ABC Sales Manager**

THE STANBOROUGH PRESS LIMITED, based in Grantham, Lincolnshire, is seeking to appoint an Adventist Book Centre Sales Manager at its Grantham-based offices. Key responsibilities include the marketing of its UK sales portfolio which includes the oversight and hands-on management of new and existing products, its ABC outlets and its regular weekend book sales.

The successful applicant will have a proven marketing background preferably with a Marketing degree; experience with motivation of staff in a relatively small but challenging environment; strong analytical, verbal and written communication skills; and a strong commitment to the ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Salary and allowances according to denominational wage scale.

Letter of application with current CV and addresses of two referees should be sent to The Manager, Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Email: [stanborg@aol.com](mailto:stanborg@aol.com). Deadline 30 November 2005.

Interviews for suitable candidates will be held in December.



**... said Mother, and the family collapsed into laughter.**

She meant 'bitter and twisted', but somehow it sounded better the way she said it. And they have said 'twitter and bisted' in that family ever since.

The father's bankruptcy had occasioned the crisis. It brought to light all manner of crooked financial dealings. It also focused attention on expensive aspects of his private life – gambling among them – that he had previously kept under wraps.

The family home had been repossessed and mother had been taking stock of her life and the lives of her four children, three of them still at school. She had decided to exclude the father from all decision making for the future, and to move herself and the family into a rented flat. From here on in *she* would be the provider.

Mental attitudes were, however, vital to mother. If her two sons and two daughters were to be mentally healthy adults then on no account must they permit their minds to dwell on the negative aspects of the crisis that had destroyed her family. They must have closure – and move on. There was, she felt, no reason to get bent out of shape, permanently.

That was forty years ago. For most of the years since then, I've been in a position to monitor the progress of that family. The mother lived to old age, never having become 'twitter and bisted'. The progress of the family was more chequered. Suffice it to say that the ones who 'made it' were the ones who lived by their mother's precept.

But it's a tough precept. Our minds have a tendency to dwell on the negative. Reversals in life can occasion withdrawal from work and normal life. Our conversation and thinking can be subsumed in an orgy of grievance and driven by a hunger for vengeance. Negative fantasies can bend our whole lives out of shape.

It *could* have been that way with the Joseph whose life occupies so many chapters of Genesis. Betrayal by his brothers. Slavery in a land where no one spoke his language. The victim of a major injustice. The false charge of attempted rape. Years rotting in a stinking dungeon, apparently forgotten by God.

To become bitter and twisted was the natural recourse. But Joseph took the other option; and a day that he began in a dungeon ended up with his becoming the manager of the biggest economy in the world. Amazing. Astounding. Has there ever been a more radical reversal of fortune in history?

And it could all so easily have gone the other way.

Plan A of Joseph's brothers had been to murder him. They only elbowed it in favour of Plan B when they realised there was money to be made from the plight of the brother they had decided to remove from the family's story.

How did Joseph feel as he stood on an Egyptian auction block? What did it feel like to be bought body and soul by the captain of the guard?

Time to give in to self pity? Apparently not. His attitude was positive, he worked hard and he did well. 'Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned' (39:4).

All might have been well had the lecherous Mrs Potiphar not noticed that, in addition to his good attitude, Joseph had something else going for him: 'Joseph was well-built and handsome' (39:7). He became the subject of Madam's indecent proposals, 'day after day' (verse 10).

In his mid-20s, the body chemistry of Joseph must have been attracted to the proposal. But the mind and spirit of this positive thinker were in the ascendant. He turned her down so frequently that she fabricated a charge against Joseph that cast him as a sexual predator, and a violent one at that.

Alfred Edersheim says that the 'guard' of which Potiphar was 'captain' were Pharaoh's elite corps who did his dirtiest work. Indeed, he refers to Potiphar as Pharaoh's 'chief executioner'. We may assume, therefore, that Potiphar could have taken Joseph's life had he wished to do so. Instead of giving him a quick death, however, Potiphar decided on a

slow death in prison for Joseph.

There Joseph was left to rot for years. Where was God during this time? With Joseph, apparently (verse 21). God, like Joseph, was in jail.

When Potiphar's chief cupbearer and baker were put in prison, Joseph's position as a trusty was such that the Captain of the Guard assigned them to him. Hence, when they both had puzzling dreams, it was to Joseph they told their troubles.

After years of negative experiences, including a long spell rotting in prison, we might expect that Joseph would have given up on everyone – including God. But, no. He told the disgraced court officials that God had the answer to their problems. Giving God the credit, he interpreted their dreams.

Only human, Joseph said, 'Mention me to Pharaoh' (40:14) when the cupbearer returned to court. And, when his interpretation of his dream turned out to be right, Joseph must have had high hopes. The two further years in prison before the cupbearer remembered him, must have been especially hard to live through. But God was still with Joseph, and Joseph knew that God was on the case. Then came the day that began with Joseph in prison and ended with his appointment as the second most powerful man in a superpower.

What use would Joseph have been to God if, during the prime-of-life years in which he had been obliged to labour as a slave and rot in a dungeon, Joseph had become 'twitter and bisted'?

Joseph's on-the-job integrity, his capacity to rise above his circumstances, and to manage the joykillers, gracekillers and peacekillers of his life, made him fit to manage the world's largest economy.

The key to the story? 'God was with Joseph.' The key to the key? Joseph decided that God's presence must make a difference.

Of what use are the 'twitter and bisted' to anyone, most of all themselves?

When Joseph was reunited with his brothers there were hot issues to be handled. Clear-sighted as ever, he said, 'Do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you' (45:5). Joseph's life was graced, so Joseph was gracious.

'Twitter and bisted' or gracious? Your call.



with David Marshall

**Healthwise**

**Mind the gaps!**

Not an advertisement this time for LIFEdevelopment, but an observation from one of the latest reports on car telephone use from *Transportation Research Part F*, and the *British Medical Journal* (BMJ).

Legislation in many countries makes it illegal to use a mobile phone handset while driving but make provision for a hands-free set. Now that car phones have been around for a while new data is being released with regard to the risks associated with car-phone use.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the use of phones of any kind is hazardous to their

users. Currently about 1.5% of mobile phone users use them in their car while travelling. Using phone company record and driver interviews, it was found that where mobile phones had been used within ten minutes of a crash it had quadrupled the chances of crashing. The risk was the same for either hand-held or hands-free phones. This Australian study was published in the BMJ.

Research from the *National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology* (Tokyo) highlights new information referred to in the title: talking on a telephone is more distracting than a conversation with a passenger. The reason given in the Report says this is due to changes in signal sources

received by the phone. There are distortions to the signals as the phone passes in and out of the range of the signal masts.

At an average speed of 65 mph there are: variations in sound quality; 300 millisecond time-lags in conversation; and 300 millisecond breaks in the signal every ten seconds. The study showed that the brain had difficulty in piecing together the signals as coherent conversation. It is probably this temporary incoherence that distracts the driver sufficiently to contribute to an accident.

On the basis of these observations some health and motoring organisations are pressing for a total ban on car driver use of phones. Studies in the USA give

support to the position: all forms of cellular phone usage lead to significant increases in response times, or non-response to highway traffic situations; complex conversations are most distracting (it's like trying to tune a radio); the distraction rate for the over 50s is 2-3 times greater than for young people; prior experience of cellular phone use bears no relationship to the distracting effects.

It is likely that a complete ban will be introduced. Meanwhile, in an attempt to mind the gaps, keeping in-car phones for emergency use only is the safer option.



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

# West Midlands: The Canvas Cathedral

by Natasha Gunter

September 3 signalled the end of what had been a fascinating experience under the canvas cathedral pitched in Summerfield Park. Among the distinguished guests over the duration of this West Midlands evangelistic effort, we were happy to receive support from dignitaries such as Lord King, a member of the House of Lords, who commended the young people for attending such an event and emphasised that 'our future lies with the young people'. We were also visited by Mr Regis, the third black footballer to play for England. He reminded us that 'our relationship with God is the most important thing in our lives'. Dr B. Wiklander, TED president, and NEC president Pastor E. Francis gave us their support by attending the campaign.

At the end of this series of meetings forty-one precious souls were baptised. Dr Warden (the evangelist) from the beginning aimed at building a rapport with the visitors. His messages each night were complemented by the songs that J. Herbert (the singing evangelist) sang. In tandem with the series of messages presented, Dr Knight, working in partnership with Dr Warden, presented a ten- to fifteen-minute family issues spotlight which really enthralled the audience. Dr Knight provided counsel on several areas including: 'Are you the one for me', 'Bad boys are bad', and 'Let studying unlock you'.

On the third Sabbath, Dr Knight momentarily swapped roles with Dr Warden and delivered the message for divine service. The theme of his message was 'If God be for us'. As Dr Knight moved from Joseph to Job, the temperature rose. He touched the core of many people's problem with his question, 'What do you do when crisis hits you?' and 'Where do you turn to?' This message brought home to all the reality that God is really and truly our present and future help.

## Interview with Dr Knight

Spending a few moments to interview Dr Knight, I asked him:

Reflecting on the Sabbath message you delivered last weekend on

'If God be for us', what do you think is the key to survival in the unstable world of today?

*The only way I believe you can make it in this world is by forming a close relationship with Jesus. We must totally submit our lives to him.*

From your own personal experience what has helped you in practical terms to overcome crises in your life? Linked with that, what would your advice be to anyone experiencing crisis right now?

*The Number One thing is that God does not send crises, but he uses them as refining fire. He wants us to trust in him. It is very easy to follow Christ when things are rosy; but you are supposed to follow Christ despite the situation.*

Did you grow up in the church?

*As a child I was an altar boy in the Anglican Church. When I was 8 our neighbour encouraged my mother to send me to an Adventist camp. It was at one of these youth camp retreats that I gave my life to Jesus and where I first met Dr Ivan Warden, who was acting as the chaplain for the week.*

How long have you been in pastoral ministry?

*I entered the ministry in 1988. In addition to my pastoral duties I am a hospital, university and registered police chaplain. I believe that working in these roles has created an opportunity to reach those who normally would not come to any church.*

What do you consider to be the greatest need of the Church?

*The greatest need is passion in the members to finish the work. As the Word of God in*



1. The West Midlands ministerial team.  
2. Dr and Mrs Warden.  
3. The baptism.  
4. Dr Knight.



5. Oxhill members preparing to feed the multitudes.  
6. The baptismal candidates.  
7. Young people from Oxford Street (Wolverhampton) church shared their musical talents.



# Pavilion of Hope hosts Fun Run

by Dr Jacqui Halliday-Bell

A changeable Sunday morning on 14 August saw the inaugural Run for Fun at the Pavilion of Hope location in Summerfield Park, Birmingham. An offshoot of Pathfinder club activities, the run was open to all.

The charity fundraising event was promoted on flyers posted out to promote the soul-winning campaign. There was clear organisation from Cislyn Morgan, with paid registration, numbered cards for runners and exercise warm-ups by Pastor Trevor Thomas before each category of 'athletes' hit the track. Ten kilometres was the maximum, but the distance was broken down to shorter stretches and the option of walking for the less able.

The beneficiary on this occasion was OSCAR, the Organisation for Sickle Cell Anaemia Research. Pastors Paul Haworth and Natasha Gunter had given the event their full support from the local ministerial team while Pastor Thomas, NEC Pathfinder director, had travelled with his wife Annice and two of his children, James and Chanelle.

The runners had turned out in

good number, with a total 91 from 14 churches between Wednesfield and Walthamstow. Friends, relatives and supporters gave generously to the cause. There were pledges of over £1,500 from sponsorship alone. Some participants had been more successful in the art of persuasion. The highest sponsored individual, Trevor Davis, looked likely to collect a total in excess of £300. Shaun Watson-Teague won the adult race, lapping fellow runners by over 2 kilometres. The fastest female runner was Shirley Parnell who wore the number plate 1.

Money was also raised by the sale of occasional millinery (hats) and evening wear by Jan and colleagues. Profits from refreshments, a bouncy castle and beauty products on sale further contributed to the funds.

Special awards were presented to various categories on 28 August in the Pavilion by Dr Ivan Warden, the evangelist who has been leading the campaign.

The categories receiving special recognition were:

*Youngest Runner* – 3-year-old Maya Munroe from Dudley church.

*Oldest runner* – Gertrude 'Darling' Morgan, 81 years, from Camp Hill church.

*Highest number of Adventurers taking part* – Great Brick Kiln Street church, Wolverhampton, ten children.

*Highest number of Pathfinders* – Great Brick Kiln Street church, Wolverhampton with fourteen young people.

*Church with most adult participants* – Oxford Street with eight.

*Most families* – Oxford Street, Wolverhampton with four families.

*Biggest contingent from outside West Midlands* – Walthamstow church with ten individuals who had travelled one hundred and ten miles or so to take part in the event.

A Body MOT was available for blood pressure and blood sugar checks, performed by qualified nurses Yvonne and Melvina Sibbles and

Cislyn Morgan. The writer checked and advised on weight and body mass index for those brave enough to step on the scales.

A well-laid-out stand and audio visual presentation by the OSCAR Sandwell Project manager Sonia Lindsay gave an informative overview of the condition and highlighted areas in which the funds would be put to use. The National Blood Service set up a stand, manned by Kamlesh Mistry and Shailesh Mistry. They gave out freebies and encourage attendees to become blood donors.

God blessed the efforts of all those who participated, and the looming rain clouds merely sprinkled us with light showers to refresh the scene. Everyone who took part in this well attended event enjoyed the day. Organisers Cislyn Morgan and Trevor Davis praised God for the enthusiasm of participants and gave thanks for the support from the hard working team of staff.

## Get involved – Get addicted

Join the staff at Aberdaron for Special Needs Camp 2006. Volunteers are needed to provide care and entertainment for campers from 2 to 9 July 2006. Training sessions will be provided. Please contact Joy Bussey at 2 Shakespeare Street, Watford, Herts, WD2 5HF, to register your interest and for an application form. Phone: 01923 461044.

*Revelation predicted, we are in a Laodicean state. The level of apathy is high; we seem to love this sin-sick world. The other need is biblical preaching.*

What was your perception of church as a youth? What would you say to the youth of today concerning their role in the church?

*As a youth I attended SDA academy. Most of the youth who attended there were tired of restrictions and this influenced my thinking until I came to Jesus Christ. As for young people's role in our church today, I believe that they should be grafted into the decision-making of the church so they can learn by being involved.*

In between services you have sacrificed the time to conduct seminars specifically for the lay-members who wish to sharpen their skills in the area of expository preaching. What specific roles do you see for the lay people of today's church?

*The lay people of this church*

*are the ones who are going to finish the work. This has been a multi-dimensional evangelistic work – and so while Dr Warden has been presenting the Word of God, I have taken time to address the equipping of the laity and the needs of the family.*

What was your impetus for coming to Birmingham?

*After the bombings in London I had the impression that I had to come and give support to Dr Warden. I also had the burning desire to share my gifts and resources to aid this harvest of souls.*

How would you like to be remembered?

*As a humble man of God. I want people to focus on Jesus.*

What one thing has gripped you during your time here?

*I was really overwhelmed by the masses of young people who responded to the appeals made; totally surrendering their lives to Christ.*

# Dundee Adventurers

For a whole year four young Adventurers worked hard most Sabbath afternoons in the Dundee church. Through writing, arts and crafts, acting and singing, leader Jane Walton helped them to become health and safety specialists and Bible beginners. On Sabbath 22 October Pastor Marcel Ghioalda presented them with their awards, investing them as Busy Bees.

JOHN WALTON



Left to right: Jane Walton, Danielle Simpson, Daniel Frazer, Charity and Laura Kanyongo, with Pastor Ghioalda





## Newbold School raises money for Macmillan Cancer Relief

We were very pleased to help prepare for the coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Relief. We had great fun painting the signs, although we had to paint the letters really big to catch people's attention. It took a long time (three-quarters of an hour) but we thoroughly enjoyed it. The next day as we walked to school, we admired our great work.

Some of us were waiters and waitresses at the coffee morning, serving people delicious and mouth-watering food and drinks. We also helped to clear the tables.

Lots of mums came, and grandmas and granddads attended with grandchildren; it went very well. We also had lots of visitors from Binfield, too. We raised £129.43 in cash! A lady came from *The Wokingham Times* newspaper and took our pictures. We all enjoyed meeting new people and raising money for this charity.

JAMES, KATYA, IFE, LAVLA, SHEPHERD, TYLER, GABRIELLE, RENEE, REBECCA, ENOCH, HEATHER, CURTIS and ALEX

## En route to Rwanda

August Bank Holiday, when most of our thoughts ranged as far as the nearest seaside, saw the start of an incredible adventure for a young couple.

Have you ever wondered what happens in our remote hospitals and clinics around the world if something goes wrong with the plumbing or electrics? That is where Adventist Health International steps in, in the form of one of its operatives. Last



December, occupational therapist Susan Bennett of Stanborough Park church married Sydney-born Kelvin Sawyer. Kelvin is one of these miracle workers.

Monday 30 August saw the start of 'Project Fix-it', meaning that Kelvin was off assessing needs and eventually returning to repair or replace as necessary. Telling me he works closely with ADRA, he added, 'Often people have carefully preserved bits of piping or broken appliances which sadly cannot be used again.' His work will take him to Africa and India, and early next year to Afghanistan. Spares will come from Loma Linda hospital in California, so Kelvin will commute to there as well. Said Sue, 'That's what he does, working out of a Land-rover; but this time he has an accomplice – me!' Sue herself will be trying to establish rehabilitation programmes for the victims of land-mine explosions.

Sue's family waved them off from Heathrow en route to Kigali in Rwanda, with spares for a dental

clinic, not knowing when their bank holiday trip would end and Watford would see them again.

BRONWEN ATKINSON

## Race for Life

On Sunday 19 July the 'Race for Life' began at 11am at Trent Park, London.

The course was rocky, exciting, steep, grassy and very hilly. The weather was 91 degrees!

The dedicated runners in the Race for Life started on the 5k journey, along with the 4,000 other runners. Those who took part were Cresha and Audrey Richardson, Kim (Heather) Newell, Marcia MacPherson, Marjorie Richards, and Georgina Richards (9 years old). Our aim was to raise funds for people with terminal illnesses and to celebrate those who are receiving treatment and are in remission.

We all completed the race in fine style, tired, breathless, lost for words and, you might say, 'legless'! But we thank God for our talents, which include physical fitness and mental agility.

AUDREY RICHARDSON, Holloway church

**Congratulations** to Darren Chin who has graduated with a BA Hon. degree in Economics from Oxford Bookes University. Darren spent most of his childhood in Britain. His parents live in Singapore but he plans to stay here – his birthplace.

## ABC BOOK SALES

### November

20 Peckham 10am-2pm  
27 Manchester South 10am-1pm

### December

4 West Midlands 10am-2pm  
11 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
Nov 18	4.07	4.20	4.05	4.00	4.17
25	4.00	4.12	3.57	3.50	4.08
Dec 2	3.55	4.07	3.51	3.43	4.02
9	3.52	4.04	3.48	3.39	3.58

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Baptism is not a sombre affair, rather it is a time when heaven and earth join together in great celebration. It was such a time as this on 17 September 2005 when Nina Dust publicly acknowledged Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour.

Nina, part of the core group at 'The Church Enfield Town', was baptised by Pastor Jon Gendle with the help of Nina's husband Graeme. 'The Church', who meet at Kingsmead School, once again borrowed the local Baptist church enabling family, friends and neighbours to attend, many of whom were unchurched. On the day sixty-five turned out and heard an inspiring sermon by Pastor Gendle and took part in the wonderful worship led by The Church band of which Nina's two daughters, Charlotte and Zoe are members.

The message of the day was simple, repentance is not condemnation – it's liberation! It's not judgement – it's joy! It's not trying to appease a wrathful God but an invitation to the party of parties, the celebration of celebrations – eternal life.

JOSE BENNELL