

Messenger

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

8 September 2006 • Volume 111 • 20

London Live Desperately Seeking

by Carolyn Frisby of the London Live PR team

A sharp ear-piercing crack shattered the silence and woke me from my peaceful sleep. I rushed to my bedroom window, convinced that one of the nearby Jubilee line trains had been bombed. I pulled back the curtains, but instead of seeing billowing black smoke, I saw the sky momentarily light up to reveal a calm sea of pointed rooftops. Just sleepy London waking from her slumber.

Did you hear it? Wednesday 5 July at 6:30am – the deafening clap of thunder?

I stumbled back to my bed. It must have been that the one-year anniversary of the London bombings was on my mind: just two days later, on 7 July, London remembered. At midday I stood, together with my class of year-10 students, in a two-minute silence, so that the horrific events of that day, the lives taken, the injuries sustained, would not be forgotten.

The voice of our deputy headmaster came over the tannoy: 'One year ago today, four suicide bombers struck in central London killing 52 people and injuring more than 770. Three bombs went off simultaneously at 8:50am on underground trains just outside Liverpool Street and

Edgware Road stations and another travelling between King's Cross and Russell Square. A final explosion was around one hour later at 9:47am on a double-decker bus in Travistock Square.' At Russell Square 26 people had been killed and 340 injured. On the bus explosion, 13 people were killed and 110 injured. Aldgate saw 7 people killed and 171 injured, and at Edgware, 6 people had died and 163 had been injured.

As I listened to what could have been just a list of meaningless numbers, I pictured the face of a victim that I'd seen on the front page of a newspaper; I remembered an interview with a lady who survived the bombings but who had lost her legs; I thought of the family members who had lost loved ones: the woman who had lost her husband, the father who had lost his son, the brother who had lost his sister; and I tried not to let my students see the tears threatening to spill out of my eyes.

On 10 August, wandering down Oxford Street, I spotted a newspaper headline: 'Heathrow Terror Plot' and, later that evening, discovered that a plot to blow up as many as ten planes in

mid-flight from the UK to the US had been discovered. As I watched the news that night and listened to Home Secretary John Reid saying that if the attack had gone ahead it would have caused a loss of life on an 'unprecedented scale', I wondered, What sort of world are we living in?

The third *London Live* meeting took place last month with Pastor Japhet de Oliveira (until recently our South England Conference Youth Ministries director) as the speaker. The theme of the evening was 'Desperately Seeking', and Japhet delivered a powerful message about how God is desperately seeking us.

During the talk, it occurred to me how utterly heartbreaking the London bombings and other such terrorist attacks must be for God.

He loves us all so passionately and knows each one of us intimately – how must he feel?

Japhet spoke about the feeling he

had when he held his son Joshua for the first time. He described a powerful feeling of union, an intense bond that he compared to the feeling God has for us, *his* children. As our *Heavenly Father*, God not only created us and cares for us but he is actively seeking a relationship with us. The signs that God loves us and is desperately seeking us are everywhere. We can see them in a brilliant crimson sunset. We can feel them as a gentle breeze breaks the blazing heat of summer. We can hear them in a perfect four-part harmony.

The evening also featured worship through song. Led by Nicolas Thompson, we enjoyed some heartfelt singing, and the London Live Creative team were back with another entertaining drama that, once again, presented the theme in a fresh and innovative way.

>8

Ralf Hettler/StockPhoto

Voice of Prophecy Rally Day Sabbath 23 September

Give sacrificially

'God so loved . . . that he gave . . .'
How much do you love?

The Adventist Discovery Centre/Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School
is funded largely by individual donations and bequests.

In memory of Pastor Dalbert Elias, principal of the ADC/VOP, who died on 2 July 2006.

Rwanda: Hungry for the Word

Bristol minister Pastor Richard Daly has recently returned from Rwanda, where he was special speaker in a three-week evangelistic campaign in Kibeye laid on by the GC's Department of Global Evangelism. 'The experience was awesome!' he reports. 'It went on each night for the whole period, and 1,500 people attended each meeting including some who had travelled on foot for five or six miles. People are hungry for the Word of God. God blessed us with 153 persons baptised on the last Sabbath. A further 105 are in a Bible class preparing for a future baptism.'

Pastor Daly is the author of *From Tragedy to Triumph*, a collection of riveting accounts of God's healing ministry in the present-day world.

Jean Baptiste Niyonzima reports from Rwanda on Pastor Daly's campaign:

The message of Hope was heralded around the sea-port town of Kibuye in Rwanda where hundreds flocked to hear the messages of Pastor Richard Daly under the *Share Him* programme of Global Evangelism. Indeed the message of hope of a new life, the hope of the resurrection, the hope of Christ's return, and the hope of a new world were mes-

sages that appealed very strongly to a people who just ten years ago experienced perhaps the worst acts of genocide in Africa during which, in 100 days, just under 1 million people were killed in tribal warfare.

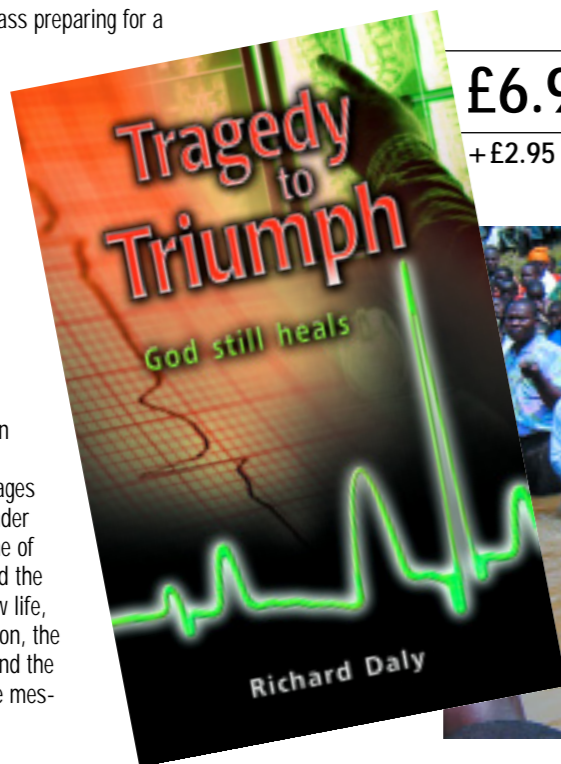
Today Rwanda had moved on. Apart from the various memorial sites scattered across the country there are no apparent signs of any disparity among the people.

In fact, coming from such an experience,

the Gospel truths are bringing healing and reconciliation and, above all, a vision of perfect peace to come. That's why so many responded to the two-week campaign held each night by Pastor Daly. With an average attendance of 1,000 – some travelling by foot as far as 5 or 6 miles – there was much rejoicing at being able to hear the sermon in English, translated in the local Kinyawanda language, and observing the universal PowerPoint slides depicting the message in a visual way.

At the end of the series 153 people were baptised in the river. Another 105 are presently preparing with the local pastor for the next baptism. Each single baptised person has a unique story to share of how, out of struggle, grief, pain and sorrow, they have persevered and endured to claim hold on the precious promises of God.

JEAN BAPTISTE NIYONZIMA



£6.95

+ £2.95 p+p

EITHER order through your PM Secretary OR on the ABC credit card hotline (01476) 539900



Healthwise

Heart to Heart

Drs W. B. Cannon (1871-1945) and Hans Selye (1907-1983), pioneers in stress physiology, showed that changes in our emotions are paralleled by changes in heart-rate, blood pressure, respiration and digestion. The mechanism for these changes is mediated from the brain via the *vagus* nerve and other nerve fibres in the spinal column.

The advent of heart transplants has shed a new and surprising light on the neuronal pathways involved in emotion and memory. A trickle of anecdotal accounts of memory changes in heart transplant patients

has led to a relatively new field of research – *neurocardiology*.

During the 1960s and 70s, researchers John and Beatrice Lacey observed that the heart communicates with the brain in unsuspected ways. The results of this internal communication significantly affects the way we perceive and react to the world around us.

Current research shows that the heart has a 'brain' of its own. There are about 40,000 neurons – called *sensory neurites* – in the heart's nervous system. These neurites detect circulating hormones, neurochemicals, and heart rate and pressure information. Feedback from the sensory infor-

mation is relayed to the brain and can influence perception, decision making and other cognitive processes.

The Lacey's discovered that the heart's own particular logic frequently diverged from, or over-rode, information coming to it from the autonomic (automatic) nervous system. So in some instances the brain 'obeyed' the heart and affected the individual's behaviour. This would appear to be the physiological proof for the words of the wise man: 'For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he' (Proverbs 23:7).

It is possible that these new physiological insights underscore other Bible texts that name the heart – not the brain or mind – as the seat of our

emotional and spiritual responses and commitments. The biblical account may be nearer to the truth in this matter than was previously suspected.

When a heart is transplanted the nerve fibres are severed and may never reconnect, hence the possibility that memories are inherited via the transplant. The heart is unique. We would do well to heed David's words: 'Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart . . . and be still' (Psalm 4:4).

Have a real heart to heart!

with Richard J. B. Willis



Lord of all Hopefulness

David Marshall



It was about 9.30 on a Friday evening.

There are 'times that try men's souls', and that Friday came after a time that had been more trying than most.

It began with the results of a biopsy. 'I'm afraid it *is* cancer,' the surgeon told my wife.

Eight weeks on and the operation was over. It had been performed on the Thursday afternoon. I had visited Anita not more than an hour after the end of the op, and there she was, bristling with tubes, unnaturally pale, and breathing with the aid of an oxygen mask.

By visiting time on Friday evening things were beginning to look a little better. For one thing there were fewer tubes. And, after the end of visiting, I felt like taking a walk before resuming my duty by the telephone at home.

I chose to walk home via a circular road along the outer limits of the hospital grounds. My mind was a jumble of pictures.

One of the pictures that surfaced was of a lesson on the London Blitz I had taught years before, my description of the fear among those who hid from bombs in air-raid shelters and the response of one of the pupils: 'Well, sir, they *knew* we would win in the end, didn't they?' The point had been, of course, that they had *not* known. And neither did I know now.

Another picture that sprang to mind became a whole sequence of pictures. The morning worship crowd at The Stanborough Press praying for Anita from the start. The wider circle of praying people as the bad news spread: my good friends in Ireland, Watford, Barnsley, Brighton and Nottingham. Prayer support from overseas: my friends Roy Adams and Bonita Shields at *Adventist Review*, Per Bolling in Sweden.

Then there were the very special prayers that had taken place at the anointing service.

The operation day had been fixed. We had arranged a week's holiday in the Yorkshire Dales immediately prior to it 'to take our minds off things'. But when we returned it was to the news that an MRI scan had revealed a larger cancer than the ultra-sound had found, together with a second, smaller one. The first operation had been cancelled and a date scheduled for a more major one. That second date seemed an eternity coming (in fact it had been less than two weeks), but now the operation was over. I had left Anita in the hospital ward looking awful, but recovering.

The hospital perimeter road proved longer than

I had anticipated. But I welcomed the opportunity to be out of doors. You can't beat the long-shadowed late evenings of an English summer. And, anyway, I needed to think.

Where had God been in all this? Had those prayers made any difference? What of the future?

God had kept us calm in the crisis. There had been a few wobbles, but we had experienced a sense of God's peace. Anita had been so cheerful, positive and upbeat that she had proved an inspiration to our neighbours and a major source of positive thinking to our immediate neighbour, Fred, battling cancer himself. But, that Wednesday evening, with both of us psyched up for the Thursday ordeal, Fred lost his battle. In order not to discourage us, another neighbour tried to prevent our hearing about the death. But, inevitably, the news reached us. Despite our sadness, we were aware of 'the peace that passes all understanding'. Anita enjoyed a good night's sleep before I took her to the hospital at 7.30am on Thursday to be 'prepped' for the op.

Still some distance before the hospital perimeter road joined the main road, my ears picked up a sound. Someone was whistling a tune. Distinct and clear, it seemed to be the only sound there was.

The tune was familiar. I identified the Irish folk melody 'Slane' (the one we use to accompany the hymn 'Be Thou my Vision').

When I came round a turn in the road, I saw that the whistling was coming from a boy (perhaps 12 years old) standing beside his bicycle where the hospital road joined the main road. That road is thronged with traffic for most of the day, but at 9.30 on that Friday evening there was no traffic, and not a soul about. Except, that is, the whistling boy.

I smiled. Soon the boy will notice my approach, become embarrassed and stop whistling, I thought. He didn't. *He sang!* To the Irish tune he sang words that took me back to my school days. At the time all that stuck in my mind was the first two lines:

*'Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could
destroy. . . .'*

The boy sang on until I reached him. I nodded, smiled and thanked him.

Leaving him behind, I heard him resume singing.

Yes, I know I should have asked him his name.

The truth is that the sight of a boy whistling, then singing, a hymn just there, just then, was so out of the ordinary that I didn't think to ask his name.

As soon as I arrived home I looked up the full text of the hymn. Already I had recognised in it possible answers to my questions and the balm for my fears.

Who was the boy? I did not see him on subsequent evenings when I walked past that spot. In the town where I live, youngsters who hang about on corners at 9.30pm are not generally serving a positive purpose. But on the evening when he was needed there was the boy, first whistling, then singing, a hymn. . . . Do angels need bicycles?

More important than the messenger, of course, was the message.

*'Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could
destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the
day.'*

*Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane
and the lathe,*

*Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of
the day.*

*Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to
embrace,*

*Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the
day.*

*Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is
balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the
day.**

For the present: God's peace. For the future? Well, we know we shall win in the end, don't we?

* ©Oxford University Press. Permission to use sought.

Plymouth baptisms

On 6 May, Fernanda, Vitoria and Isadora Gimenes were baptised at Plymouth church after having a series of studies with Pastor Ron Clemow. Pastor Clemow spoke about the Potter and the clay and mentioned that the heavenly Potter, Jesus, is able to remould our lives and shape them like his. Fernanda,

Vitoria and Isadora shared their personal testimonies as to why they wanted to be baptised and what Jesus meant to them. All three shared how Master Potter Jesus had instilled a deep desire for a new beginning in their lives.

Then, on 5 August, Gemma Hall and Melina Jackson demonstrated



Irish Family Weekend

When you walk into an Adventist church in Ireland you will notice many children and young families. This is one of the main reasons why the church organised a family weekend in Connemara, County Galway. The weekend 30 June to 2 July was an opportunity for families, and singles too, to gather together, open their Bibles and have fun.

The theme for the weekend was the second book of John and keeping strong in our faith. Discussions, especially on Sabbath morning, were inspiring and well directed by Irish Mission president Pastor David Neal, and the hostel proved to be a great place to chat, and was safe for the children to have fun.

It is amazing how God provides little blessings along the way. As the group took a walk along an old peat road by the lakeside we came across a patch of sweet wild strawberries. And the weather was amazing too, something special, and a conversation starter. Although the rest of Ireland was wet and damp, when we went on our cruise on Sunday the

sun shone and the water was lovely to swim in.

The hostel was beautiful, but not big enough for all who attended, and extra space had to be found in a nearby B&B, but that didn't stop the weekend being enjoyed by all.

STEPHEN WILSON

Ballinacrow organised

On 7 March 1981 a small church was opened in Ballinacrow in rural Wicklow. The church building had been the dream of five families, Murphy, Rothwell, Moody, Wilson and Finlay. The first meeting, led by Pastor John Freeman, had taken place in 1978. The members from Wicklow and Wexford then decided to build their own church. At that meeting a cow and several hundred Puntis were donated to the building fund.

The Advent message first arrived in Wicklow in 1928 when Thomas Finlay became an Adventist in Canada and sent back books and music. He arrived in Ireland a few years later and witnessed to his family and community until his

death in 1933. Bible studies were held in the home of Thomas's nephew Ted until the new church was opened.

At the same time, in Wexford, a young Ben Rothwell was challenged by a comment made by a Sunday School teacher that led him to buy the book *Bible Readings for the Home* in 1948. As he continued to

joyed family, friends and church members, then invited them into membership of the Plymouth and world-wide church family of Seventh-day Adventists. Both special days were followed by a celebratory meal.

PASTOR RON CLEWOW

Yorkshire Pathfinders

Following the decision to attend the Denmark Camporee as one club, the leaders of Burngreave and Huddersfield Pathfinder Clubs decided it would be beneficial for both the Pathfinders and the leaders to get to know each other at a deeper level before embarking on the trip to Denmark. After much planning and collaboration, the two clubs finally met under one flag at Woolley Edge Campsite over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend.

The theme for the weekend was 'Walking with Jesus'. On the Friday evening Jenny Sweeney led in ice-breaking activities, and on Sabbath Basil Powell delivered a captivating sermon that illustrated the value and the fruits of walking with Jesus versus the results of not walking with Jesus.

After the sermon, the Pathfinders embarked on a strenuous 10-mile cross-country nature hike led by Pastor Trevor Thomas, who believed that if he tired the children out they would sleep more soundly (ironically the hike tired the leaders more so than it did the Pathfinders).

On Sunday morning the Pathfinders engaged in pioneering and fire-lighting activities. This was followed by a veggie barbecue. Once everyone was satisfied, it was time to burn off the food. This was done through the 'Games Events' led by Andrew Whittle and Roy Carrapatoso, who custom-built an obstacle course that ensured that the Pathfinders used their intellect, organisational and interactive skills.

Monday morning watch was followed by a short devotion and reflection of the weekend. Everyone gathered together and drew an outline of their footprint, which was placed on a path that symbolised our walk with Jesus. Inside the footprint each person wrote out a personal pledge of their intention to continue to walk with Jesus all the way.

A total of twenty-one Pathfinders, and nine leaders and counsellors attended the camp. The two cooks, Auntie May Hazel and Auntie Barbara Robinson, prepared excellent meals that ensured that everyone was physically nourished and prepared for a hectic fun-filled blessed experience.

BURNGREAVE COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



study the Bible his father showed him a book that had been in the book case for twenty-eight years, *The Great Controversy*.

A difficult search began to find a suitable location for the new church, which was eventually built on land donated in Ballinacrow. Pastor Dale Arthur, now in Australia, worked hard to organise the building of the

Forward at Ystrad Mynach



Pastor Jeremy Tremeer and church elder Bryan Watkins



The Tomos Family

Art and Design Technology, Pontypridd. We trust that God will continue to lead her as she continues her studies at Madrid University.

On Sabbath 22 July our new minister Pastor Jeremy Tremeer was welcomed by head elder Bryan Watkins. Jeremy found Christ as his Saviour through the VOP while living in Singapore, where his father Frederick was serving in the Royal Air Force. He has lived in many countries, studied at Manchester University and Newbold College, and worked as a missionary in Japan for four years. He has worked in youth, pastoral and counselling ministry in Port Talbot and Swansea District, and helped with youth outreach in Latvia and Lithuania with Pastor Ed Sammons. He has also helped in the Club Creation activities at Ystrad

Mynach and at the Brecon Family Camps. One of his most valuable contributions has been to help the Ystrad Mynach church in the recent renovations of the building and furnishings, which would not have happened without the generosity and hard work of the church members and a substantial grant from the Welsh Mission. This makes the building more useful for local outreach, including Club Creation, and a planned Mothers and Toddlers Group. The arrival of Jeremy also marks the retirement, after forty years' ministry, of the writer – years full of hard work and happiness, and the privilege of service in the pastoral work.

RICHARD L. VINE

church and was the first minister in the area.

After twenty-five years in Ballinacrow, it was time for the group to be officially organised as a church. Pastor Eric Lowe and Pastor David Neal led out in the services, and a specially touching aspect was that the pastor was 25-year-old local boy Pastor Stephen Wilson. He said that it was a great privilege to be involved in this special day as he saw the history of the church so closely tied to his own life story.

The children had Sabbath School in a marquee, in the rain, and later

the members all worked hard to provide a beautiful meal and care for the many visitors.

Ballinacrow church has changed much in the last twenty-five years. Now it is full of many cultures, and has become a home for new Irish as well as old. The church has many children and hope for the future. One of the most beautiful things was to see the young people of the church lead out in worship.

God has plans for his church. Look out for the article about the fiftieth anniversary in 25 years!

STEPHEN WILSON

Sunshine Café

The month of June marked the first anniversary of the Sunshine Café located in Arnold, Nottingham, and owned by two Adventist entrepreneurs, Hyacinth Taylor and Sandra Johnson.

The idea of opening a café had long been a dream of Sisters Taylor and Johnson who, over the years, with Sister Evadney Watts, have provided catering for a number of different events, including the annual North Conference Prayer Warrior event, weddings, Big Six sports events and at Stanborough Press Open Day. The venture had the blessing of Pastor Herbert and the elders at Nottingham Central church who, along with Sisters Johnson and Taylor, entered into a prayer session in which the Lord's blessing was sought. The café was officially opened on 20 June 2005 by the Lord Mayor of Gedling in Nottinghamshire.

The Sunshine Café specialises in West Indian food, but also offers a varied menu. Sister Taylor said the café in the heart of a bustling high street gave them an opportunity to witness to the community at large. Information about the Adventist Church is on open display and the fact that the café is not open on a Sabbath provides opportunity to dis-



Situation Vacant!

Could you see yourself here? Could you appreciate a picturesque, natural environment, where the pace of life is relaxed and the people are warm and friendly? Maybe you have heard the voice of the Lord calling you to new horizons.

The Isle of Wight currently seeks dedicated individuals and families willing to relocate to this beautiful part of England and support the continued labouring by members of the Adventist Church.

The ideal candidate(s) will demonstrate a burden for souls and an ability to become all things to all men, that they – by all means – may win some to Christ (1 Cor 9:22).

For more information, call 01983 405995, visit our website www.iowadventis.org.uk, or email us at mail@iowadventis.org.uk

cuss beliefs with customers and curious members of the public.

The Sunshine Café is able to provide a venue for small intimate parties, and staff offer a first-class outside catering service. For details of the range of services and prices Sisters Johnson and Taylor can be contacted at the café at 137 Front Street, Arnold, Nottingham, NG5 7ED. Telephone 0115 8407227.

SHARON MULLINGS-BANTON

Baptism at Wednesfield

On 23 July a baptism took place at Wednesfield church conducted by Pastor Richard Jackson, when two young people surrendered their hearts to the Lord. Crystal Coleman and Michael Smith affirmed their acceptance of the Bible beliefs and received literature to assist them on their spiritual pathway. In addition, they were presented with framed certificates as a constant reminder of the day that they gave their hearts to Jesus.

Special songs were rendered, followed by words of encouragement from our dear Mother Smith from Brickkiln church. As the grandmother of Michael she prayed that he, by faith, would stay on the path of righteousness until he reached Home. He was further admonished by his second grandmother who prayed that the Lord would protect him and put his loving arms around him. My Heart Can Sing!

SANDRA FRANCIS



September is Abuse Awareness Month Keeping our church family safe

Love always protects . . .

by Karen Holford

Living God's love means loving everyone. God loves everybody with the same tender care and compassionate heart, whether they are young or old, male or female, married or single. Living his love means that we offer all those around us a safe place to experience positive relationships.

Do you know anyone who might be in vulnerable circumstances? How can you offer them a safe place to experience God's love through your words and actions?

Do you feel unsafe in a relationship? God wants you to experience safety. To whom can you turn for safety and protection?

Are you finding it difficult to offer the protection you need to your family members, children or others? Often this can be because you have been badly hurt in the past by those who didn't give you the protection and love you needed. God loves you and wants to help you, too. You owe it to yourself and those you love to find help to overcome your difficulties.

Love is patient

Loving people remember that they were young once and they let children grow and learn at their own pace. They protect children from being pushed too soon into a sexual adult world and they protect their innocence. (Matthew 18:5-7.)

Love is kind

Loving people handle children gently. They take care of their physical needs for food, drink,

exercise, warmth, shelter and safety. They take care of their emotional needs for encouragement, appreciation, support, comfort, acceptance, affection and respect. They take care of their spiritual needs by showing them a true picture of a loving, gracious and forgiving God. Loving people speak and act kindly towards children. (Philippians 4:5.)

Love is humble

Loving people honour children above themselves (Romans 12:10) and treat them respectfully, as princes and princesses in the Kingdom of God.

Love is polite

Loving people respect children and do not humiliate them or put them down. They only speak words that build children up and show them how much God treasures them, not words that damage their confidence. (Ephesians 4:29.)

Love is generous and unselfish

Loving people do not use children for their own physical, sexual or emotional advantage. They do what is best for the child, and are willing to make sacrifices for the child's benefit. (John 15:13.)

Love delights in the truth

Loving people treat children in ways that they would be happy for other people to know about. They don't have shameful secrets, or need to lie about the way they have treated children. (Ephesians 5:8-13.)

Love always protects

Loving people do nothing that will cause harm to a child's body. They do not use physical punishment in anger, use violent or harsh words, treat them cruelly or manipulate them. Just as perfect love casts out fear, fear casts out perfect love. (1 John 4:18.)

Love always trusts

Loving people believe what children tell them, even when the experiences the child reports seem shocking. They accept what the child has said and seek to help the child find protection and safety, even from their family members or fellow church members. (Psalm 10:16-18.)

Love never fails

Loving people never let children down by betraying their trust, or failing to protect them from emotional, spiritual, sexual or physical harm. Through their constant, unselfish love, children come to know their Father God who will never fail them. (1 John 4:11, 12.)

Adapted from 1 Corinthians 13 by Karen

If you need help you can access it through the following services:

NEC: Rainbow Counselling Service: 0161 740 3602. SEC: Cornerstone Counselling Service: 0207 723 8050 or 0845 741 3602

Pastor Bernie and Karen Holford are both trained Family Therapists who have experience in helping families who may be experiencing domestic violence. They can be contacted confidentially via the SEC office on 01923 232728.

Download the BUC child protection policy (Keeping our Church Family Safe) from <http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/about/reference.php>

Michael's baptism

God's 'mysterious ways' even include Internet chat rooms! Michael Willey lived in Wellingborough. One day he entered a chat room which included a nurse in the Philippines. Someone else was a little rude to her and so he joined in to suggest they had gone too far and then left it at that. Three months later he contacted her again and from then on their chats became more frequent and eventually, three years later, Mick flew out to the Philippines to meet her. Her name was Shari, and Mick became very interested in this

young lady and discovered she was a Seventh-day Adventist.

Gradually their friendship developed into romance. They married and set up home together in Milton Keynes. Shari wanted to worship in an Adventist church and together they visited the ones in Milton Keynes, Northampton and Wellingborough, and there retired Pastor Roy Hulbert befriended them and began Bible studies with Mick. Later, local minister Brian Robinson joined in the studies.

Mick and Shari started attending the Kettering church. Mick contin-

ued with the Bibles studies and decided to take his stand for Christ and express it publicly in baptism, which took place on Sabbath 5 August with Pastor Robinson performing the ceremony. Pastor Hulbert assisted, and Mick was welcomed into the fellowship of the Kettering church. Shari is in the process of having her membership transferred from the Philippines.

TONY WELCH

They last met in Ethiopia

On Sabbath 17 June two elderly ladies, both well in their eighties,

attended church in Kettering. Afterwards they sat and talked for nearly an hour. Nothing unusual in that, except that these two had not met for forty years when both had been in mission service in Ethiopia.

Brenda's husband, Reg Anderson, was treasurer of the Ethiopian Union in the late 1950s and early 60s and they both had a wide circle of friends in the multi-national missionary group and local people. Anna Jensen from Denmark was a nurse and midwife who worked in Addis Ababa and also set up the new Green Lake mission



Pastor Robinson, Mick, Shari and Pastor and Mrs Hulbert



Pastor Dalbert Elias – everybody's friend

Pastor John Arthur reviews a 51-year link with a colleague blessed with great faith, vision, and humility

and Somerset. He and Pat were blessed with two sons, Dean and Grant, both of whom were present at the funeral service, together with their families. Dean is now working in the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the Florida Adventist Hospital in Orlando, and Grant is a GP in St Albans.

'He was a giant in the field of diplomacy – a real people's man,' was one of dozens of compliments made about Pastor Dalbert Elias at his farewell on Tuesday 18 July 2006. The funeral service was the largest conducted at the Stanborough Park church for many decades, as more than 400 relatives and friends from different parts of the world and the four corners of the British Isles assembled to pay their respects on one of the hottest days Watford has ever experienced. Pastor Elias, known by so many as Dalbert, sadly lost a short battle against cancer, and passed to his rest in active service for the Church just one month after his 65th birthday.

Dalbert was the oldest of four children born to Pastor and Mrs Ken Elias. During his younger years he moved fairly frequently from town to town in north England because of his father's work. He met his wife-to-be, Pat Davey, while living in Nottingham, and this couple commenced their courtship at Newbold College in the early sixties. Their marriage in 1965 marked the beginning of a very harmonious and joyful journey of togetherness which continued for almost forty-one years.

On leaving Newbold in 1967, Dalbert engaged initially in evangelism and pastoral ministry in the South England Conference, serving in such places as Chelmsford, Chatham, Bristol, Stanborough Park,

clinic in the early 1960s, where she was the only 'feringi', as non-locals were called.

Although Anna had visited England several times to stay with Fretson and Dorothy Taylor, Anna and Brenda had not seen each other since they left Ethiopia.

DOROTHY TAYLOR

and Somerset. He and Pat were blessed with two sons, Dean and Grant, both of whom were present at the funeral service, together with their families. Dean is now working in the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the Florida Adventist Hospital in Orlando, and Grant is a GP in St Albans.

In 1978 Dalbert responded to a call to serve in the Irish Mission as pastor of the Belfast church and youth sponsor for the Mission. Besides providing spiritual enrichment to our church members in Ulster, he established a very special relationship with young people throughout the whole of Ireland. If ever Dalbert organised an event for the youth, he would talk to everybody individually, and make sure every single person in attendance felt at home. One middle-aged lady now living in North America mentions how 'Uncle Dalbert' helped her with her boy-friend problems when she was a confused teenager. Dalbert totally disregarded any notion of a generation gap, and very few ministers have been able to match his ability to converse so readily with those of younger years. During the committal at the North Watford crematorium, Pastor Ron Surridge, who was the president of the Irish Mission during those years, highlighted the outstanding work which was undertaken by Pat and Dalbert. They returned to the South England Conference in 1986 to take up ministerial appointments firstly in Bristol and then Weston. Wherever they worked they were loved by their church members.

From 1991-2000 Dalbert occupied several positions in the British Union, and Pastor Cecil Perry spoke of the special regard which all members of the headquarters staff had for him. Many observers saw Dalbert as the driving force behind the NET'98 project, which involved the downloading of evangelistic programmes from the campus of Andrews University to several hundred sites around Britain and Ireland. His technical expertise and

his promotional skills enabled him to play a leading role in propelling the British Church into a new communications era.

At the turn of the millennium, Dalbert took up several challenges at the South England Conference office. Firstly, he directed the Church Growth programme, and then the LIFE.development initiative. In 2003 he became the Executive secretary of the Conference. His wise input on a variety of church matters, his patience, and his deep spirituality were of enormous value to the Conference. Favouritism, partiality, prejudice, self-interest and narrow-mindedness were never part of Dalbert's practice. Whether a person was from Grimsby or Galway, Ghana or Grenada, Dalbert was their friend. However, by his own admission, Dalbert did not like paperwork. His expertise was more in the area of preaching, innovating and promoting new programmes, and motivating people. And the relevant committees are to be congratulated in moving a round peg from a square hole into a round one.

This was the background to his call back to the British Union in 2005 to head up the Adventist Discovery Centre (formerly known as the Voice of Prophecy) – a job which was tailor-made for him. He viewed the VOP as 'the BUC's greatest evangelist', and before long he inspired church members to distribute one million invitation cards, arranged for an advertisement in the *Reader's Digest*, and set in motion some initial arrangements whereby a group of pastors could directly tutor VOP students courtesy of a home computer. Right up to his totally unexpected decease, Dalbert enthusiastically shared his vision for the future of the VOP, and his departure from the scene is a massively cruel blow not only to that organisation but to the whole Church throughout Britain and Ireland. But, as his brother Michael pointed out in the benediction, it does mean a cessation from chemo, pain, and suffering – and a period of rest to

await the call of the Master.

Participating in the church service were Pastors Patrick Boyle, Alan Hodges, Cecil Perry, Ian Sleeman and the writer, all of whom were very close friends of Dalbert. For each of them it was a painfully emotional experience.

The three Cooper brothers (whose music Dalbert greatly appreciated) gave a fine musical tribute on their trumpets. And in his address Alan Hodges compared Dalbert to Barnabas – one who was passionate about evangelism and the work of God, one who had a generous heart, one who inspired others, and was a good man.

Pastor Hodges also emphasised that a time is soon coming when there will be no more separation – a time when Pat will be reunited with her husband; Dean and Grant will see their father again; Pastor Ken and his late wife, Nan, will link up once more with their son; Lindsay (a minister in Germany), Michael (a minister in California), and Judy (who has also worked with her husband for the church in Canada) will all see their brother again. It will also be a day of great rejoicing for Dalbert's extended family as God's people commence a new life in the Eternal Kingdom.

Pat Elias and family would like to thank everyone who has sent donations in memory of Dalbert to the ADC. Grateful thanks also to those who have sent cards and letters of sympathy. Dalbert will be sorely missed, but we thank God for his promise of the resurrection and eternity together.

DO YOU HAVE JEWISH ROOTS? Or close friends who are Jews?

If so, please contact Pastor Aris Vontzalidis at the South England Conference office. He is hoping to begin an outreach project (church plant) focusing on the Jewish population. Contact Pastor Vontzalidis – email: avontzalidis@secadventist.org.uk; phone: 01923 232728; or write to: 25 St John's Road, Watford, WD17 7PZ; or M. Cunningham – email: mcunningham@uwclub.net; phone 01795 871222.

NEWBOLD

The Crescent and the Cross
The Clash of Faiths in an Age of Secularism

Lord Carey of Clifton
103rd Archbishop of Canterbury
will deliver
The 7th Annual Beach Lecture
with time for questions
Tuesday 19 September, 7.30pm
Newbold Church Centre
Popeswood Road
Binfield, RG42 4AN

All welcome!

CSRCD

Contact:
Gillian Shone Tel: 01234 401642
Email: gshone@newbold.ac.uk
Phone 01234 401642 Fax 01234 401642
www.newbold.ac.uk, @newbold

Conference presenters include:

- Hallerin Hilton Hill
- Fred Shone
- Rev Nolan Williams, Jr.
- Michael Wakelin
- Karen Gibson
- Ken Burton
- Nicholas St Victor Brown
- Cheryl Wilson Bridges
- Dr. Daniel Duda

A Higher Calling
His head, His heart, Our hands
Music and Worship Conference
London, UK 13-14 October 2006

Friday 13th October 2006
Doverbury Chapel, Church, 223 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8EP

Saturday 14th October 2006
Salisbury Arts Centre, 275 Oxford Street, London W1P 0JQ

Registration on both days starts at 9.00am. To book online, visit our website: www.highercalling.org.uk

For further conference information please contact: 01994 469 801 or 01753 417 151. Fax: 01994 296 162. Email: admin@highercalling.org.uk

Conference costs £75 per person £80 if registered before 15 September. Concessions apply £10 per person.

www.highercalling.org.uk

<1
London Live
Desperately Seeking

In a world like ours, in a city like ours, there is a need – now more than ever – to reach out to those who are searching. To lead people to look for answers in the right places. To encourage people to answer the ‘desperately seeking’ advertisements and signs that God puts all around us. If you, or someone you know, is also desperately seeking some answers and feel it is time you found some, come along to *London Live* and invite a friend.

Up and coming events:
River Cruise: The next *London Live*

SEC CONSTITUTION
The South England Conference Constitution Committee is meeting in November of this year. Members in the South England Conference are invited to send suggestions by 1 November for consideration to:
Office of the Executive Secretary,
South England Conference,
25 St John's Road, Watford,
Hertfordshire, WD17 1PZ;
Tel: 01923 656500;
Fax: 01923 250582;
email: secretariat@secadventist.org.uk
www.secadventist.org.uk

event will be taking place on 9 September and will be in the form of a river cruise on the Thames. But if a river cruise is not your thing, come along to our next meeting – Friday night 15 September at 7:30pm – 275 Oxford Street.

London Live Sport: If you enjoy playing sports, spectating or simply

sitting in the shade and chatting, join us for our next *London Live* sports afternoon. Last month, over 20 people enjoyed a great game of volleyball in Hyde Park. Come along on 10 September at 1pm for volleyball, football and frisbee. Visit mylondonlive.com for directions and a map.

HEALTH & HAPPINESS DAY OF FELLOWSHIP
Sabbath 7 October
The Great Hall, Aston University, Birmingham
For more information on this upcoming event contact:
Fred Evans: 07908 058759; Gary Harrison: 07956 590131; Yvonne Howell: 0121 240 4110

NEC PARENTING WEEKEND
(in association with the Endless Love marriage enrichment team)
13-15 October
Robinson Centre, Wyboston Lake, Bedfordshire
Covering topics such as: General parenting principles;
Teens; Adulthood and the transitional journey;
Blended families (adoption/step-parenting);
The empty nest syndrome; Education and Finance
Contact Pastor C. Sweeney for further details on 0115 9606312

NEC Inter Session Meetings
To review the progress of the Conference between sessions. We would encourage two representatives from each congregation in the NEC to attend
10am Sunday 24 September, Manchester Central church, Cross Lane, Pendleton, Manchester
10am Sunday 1 October, Camp Hill church, Birmingham
Lunch will be provided and it is hoped that the meetings will conclude in the early afternoon.
Tel: 0115 9606312 for more information

ABC BOOK SALES

Sept		
24	West Midlands	10am-2pm
Oct		
1	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
29	West Midlands	10am-2pm

Messenger
Volume 111 • 20 – 8 September 2006
EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL
COPY FOR No. 22 – 18 September 2006
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: Editor@dnm@mac.com
ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900
Mon-Thurs only, 8am-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.

	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Sep 8	7.32	7.44	7.37	7.49	7.58
15	7.16	7.28	7.21	7.31	7.41
22	7.00	7.12	7.04	7.12	7.23
29	6.43	6.56	6.47	6.54	7.05

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS
Cost to member supplied in bulk to churches E6.
Single copy subscription by post E13.
Overseas airmail E27.50