

Messenger

News to the churches • 19 January 2007 • Volume 112 • 2/3

Make a Difference Annual Appeal 2007



by Bert Smit, Executive director, ADRA-UK

Thanks to your great effort in 2006 ADRA-UK was involved with 14 development and 17 relief projects around the world, varying from small to large. During the year we have provided emergency assistance when disasters struck Indonesia, Lebanon, Vietnam, Somalia, the Philippines and other countries. Larger ongoing development projects in Nepal, Sudan, Peru, and new projects in Madagascar and Papua New Guinea, are making a lasting impact in whole communities to alleviate poverty.

To help us continue these and other new projects ADRA-UK is asking you again to help raise funds in 2007.

Without your support we cannot do this work that the church has asked us to do. *You* can help us in many different ways to raise funds: opt to become a sponsor for a specific project; make a monthly donation by standing order; adopt a project as a church group or family; organise or take part in a

sponsored event, and traditionally, donate time to collect door-to-door during our Annual Appeal.

Anytime disasters strike, ADRA will be there to help, but we need your financial support to continue to do this.

The Annual Appeal will start on 31 March and will end on 15 April (22 April in London). The promotional materials have been prepared for printing and projects have been geared up.

The aim of our work is to make a difference to the lives of the poorest people of the world and help them to break the cycle of poverty. This year we are again emphasising that together we can 'make a difference'.

The 2007 promotional materials will feature the face of a Peruvian little girl. Rosita* is 5 years old and lives with her parents in a community that has benefited from the work ADRA has done in co-operation with the Department for International Development in a remote area of Southern Peru.



'Thanks to ADRA, my parents don't beat me anymore.' Rosita.

Little Rosita tells how her life has improved since ADRA started work in her community, targeting domestic violence and improving the conditions of women and children. She explains, 'The Community Defenders teach our parents how to behave with us at home. My parents don't punish me anymore and don't even shout at me.' Her parents affirmed that, thanks to ADRA, their lives have changed and Rosita's father no longer hits his wife as he used to. He has learned new coping skills. This project started as there were no social or counselling services in rural Peru. Community volunteers, called Community Defenders, are trained in counselling and mediation skills and provide free training, mediation, counselling and support

in violence-related problems. This helps families in this community in Peru stabilise and slowly break the cycle of domestic violence and poverty in their lives.

ADRA will continue to show our faith in action. Thank you for planning to help ADRA to raise the funds needed to continue to 'make a difference'!

Information about this and the other projects is available on our website, www.adra.org.uk.

* We have changed the name to protect her identity.

**ANNUAL APPEAL
31 March – 15 April
(22 April in London)**

John and Her Majesty

Pictures have reached me of Pastor John Arthur's encounter with Her Majesty the Queen on 23 November. Study the facial expressions on the bottom right picture and you will conclude that it was a joyful meeting. Pastor Arthur received his OBE for his services in Albania, Kosovo and Sarajevo on behalf of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).



BUC seeks Assistant Executive Secretary
 This person will be responsible for providing and managing HR policy for the BUC and, in addition, will carry a number of administrative responsibilities, including record retention and co-ordination of the Adventist Retirement Plan. Ideally, applicants should hold relevant CIPD qualification and have some practical experience in HR. They will be proficient in the use of the Microsoft Office software, well organised, and a team player with good interpersonal skills and an ability to get on well with people. Salary and allowances in line with denominational pay scales. For an application form write to: BUC Executive Secretary, BUC Office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ (email: elowe@adventist.org.uk). **Applications must reach the BUC office by 6 February.**

New church address
 From 1 January the new address for Harrow church is Kenton Methodist Church (Old Hall), Kenton, Harrow. Any mail should be sent to the minister, not the church address.
R. PECK

The Dawkins Delusion

David Marshall



Do you ever feel that the tide of human affairs is running clean contrary to the Cause of Christ? What would the upshot be were you to analyse a typical evening's TV viewing? Indecency as the spice of life. A world empty of all but anger. The naive take on Darwinian evolution that is the basis of even the best of the science programmes. Are the papers any better? The big screen? The worldwide web? And how does Christianity fare in the world of ideas? Christianity certainly doesn't get much support in the daily papers. And when a crusading atheist like Richard Dawkins releases a new diatribe against faith it receives such positive exposure in the media that hundreds of thousands of people are happy to shell out £20 for the *hard-back* edition! Ever heard of *The God Delusion*?

Does being a Christian make you feel impossibly retro? What's new? The Cause of Christ was against the tide of the 60s, too. Then the crusading atheist was Bertrand Russell.

A century earlier, Christianity was marginalised in the Age of Revolution. In the Middle Ages, when Christianity was theoretically central to European culture, its manifestation was mixed with superstition, distanced from life by formalism, and was the plaything of princes.

Was the world of ideas peculiarly receptive to Christianity in the first century of the Christian era? The universality of Greek language and culture, together with Roman roads and Roman order, made possible its rapid spread. 'The world was ripe for the coming of the Deliverer',¹ but the realm of ideas could not have been more hostile to the Christian message.

Listen to Paul: 'The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing. . . . Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles.' (1 Corinthians 1:18-23, NIV.) That was how it was!

The world was ripe for a Deliverer but the realm of ideas (contemporary wisdom) could not have been more hostile to the Deliverer sent or to the deliverance he offered. Christianity, said Tom Wright, 'was and is, the craziest message anyone could imagine'. In the first century the problem was emphatically with *message content*. What was that? Check out the sermons reported in the book of Acts: •God's time had come. •God had been on earth and been manifest in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. •All this had fulfilled prophecy. •This same Jesus would return in glory.

•Those who heard were invited to repent, believe and receive the Holy Spirit.²

All that was pure stumbling block to the Jews to whom, Isaiah 53 notwithstanding, a crucified Messiah was a thing impossible. They would turn out by the tens of thousands in support of charlatans who could provide astonishing happenings because they had convinced themselves that such happenings proved their credentials, whereas they believed that crucifixion disproved the claims of Jesus.

And to the Greeks? They believed that gods were, by definition, removed, apathetic, totally unable to feel. Hence the notion of God-in-Christ who has borne our griefs, carried our sorrows, suffered our pain and died for our redemption was both ridiculous and revolting. Greeks wanted fine words and acrobatic arguments.

But, for all their piety, the Jews had failed to recognise the Christ. For all their wisdom, the Greeks had failed to find God. *So what did that say about their piety and wisdom?* the apostle Paul wanted to know. For Greeks, for Jews, for everyone, Jesus is 'the power of God and the wisdom of God'. The 'foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength' (1 Corinthians 1:24, 25).

From the first, the educated classes had looked down on Christianity as a religion of fishermen, carpenters and slaves. Towards the end of the second century Celsus was ridiculing Christianity as a faith that appealed to 'the most uneducated and vulgar persons'. He was, it has to be said, overlooking the fact that people like the proconsul of Crete and Erastus, Treasurer of Corinth, had become Christians.³ He was, perhaps deliberately, overlooking the support for Christianity that existed at Caesar's court⁴ and the fact that prominent Christians had been martyred for the Cause of Christ: among them Pomponia Graecina, the wife of Aulus Plautius, conqueror of Britain, and Flavius Clemens, cousin of the Emperor Domitian. Nevertheless, Celsus had, broadly speaking, got it right.

But Paul saw the mass appeal of Christianity as part of its glory. He reminded the Corinthians that, when they embraced the Gospel, not many of them had been high born or 'wise by human standards'. But, he maintained, 'God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. . . . It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.' (1 Corinthians 1:26-30.)

Following his temptation, Jesus launched his

ministry by entering the Nazareth synagogue on the Sabbath ('as was his custom') and reading a passage to demonstrate that he had come 'to preach good news to the poor'.⁵ Twenty years on, Paul had no problems with that. The good news was grounded on 'Christ and him crucified' and its benefits were offered freely to 'whoever believes in him'. God saved *believers*, not those who were clever or proud.

Few societies outside of Rome were more vicious and corrupt than that of Corinth. The only evidence of new life, new hope and new love in that society was in the Christian community. If, in response, the vicious and corrupt society could only point out that Christians were not often persons of power, influence and proven cleverness, Paul felt that the Christian community could live with that reproach.

Why? God had not only found the standards of the world false — he had turned them upside down. How?

By offering salvation, not to the well-bred, the wealthy and the articulate, but to 'whosoever' believes in his Son — 'who has become for us wisdom . . . , righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord." ' (vss 30, 31.)

Do you ever feel 'out on a limb' as a Christian, as an Adventist? Remember Who is your Wisdom. On the receiving end of acrobatic argument, do you ever feel 'at a loss'? Respond by telling your protagonist — calmly and with a smile — what Jesus has done in your life.

When the world is worn out from big words and acrobatic arguments, there remains one unanswerable argument for Christianity:

A loving and lovable Christian. A Christian who, through God's grace, has become *gracious*. Such a person boasts only in his Lord.

Fifty years on, Richard Dawkins will be forgotten, but there will still be millions who will testify, as we do today, to the life-transforming Gospel of Christ. In Jesus there is power.

I'll give the last word to Mo Venden: 'The names of great men [and no one is calling Dawkins 'great'] appear on the horizon, flicker for a moment, and then are lost forever in the sea of forgetfulness. But there is one name that grows brighter and more lasting with every passing day. It is the name of Jesus.'

References:
¹DA, page 32. ²Acts 2:14-39; 3:12-26; 4:8-12; 10:36-43. On the message of 1 Corinthians read Tom Wright, *Paul for Everyone: 1 Corinthians* (SPCK, 2004). ³Acts 13:6-12; 17:4, 12; Romans 16:23. ⁴Philippians 4:22. ⁵Isaiah 61:1, 2; Luke 4:16-20.



Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald RGN, RM, RHV, MSc,
Health Ministries director, BUC

DETOXIFY YOUR LIFE (part 1)

Detoxification is possibly the biggest health topic of the 21st century. We are becoming increasingly aware of the dangers of toxins to our health and environment. National statistics indicate that British workers are taking 300,000 more sick days a year than previously, with women suffering more than men.

Statistics like these are indicative of the fact that we are filling our bodies with toxins and experiencing 'toxic overload'. Among the list of toxins are: pollutants, pesticides, saturated fats, sugar, red meat, alcohol, caffeine, nicotine and stress.

Several key organs play a part in detoxification, as they assist the process of eliminating harmful substances from the body. These are the liver, kidneys, skin, lungs, lymphatic system, fat stores, intestines and bowels.

When the body's natural detox system is working well, it functions at its full potential and we enjoy good health. However, if any one part of the system breaks down or functions inadequately, toxins will start to build up in the body and begin to stress our natural detox system. This leads to problems like low energy, bad skin, cellulite, weight gain, poor immunity, arthritis, numerous other conditions and even cancer.

DIET
 What we eat is the first line of defence against toxic attack.

The following top ten detox foods are known for their cleansing and antioxidant properties which help to neutralise harmful toxins and boost the immune system. Eat them regularly.

- Apple • Avocado • Artichoke • Beetroot
- Cruciferous vegetables • Garlic • Kiwi fruit
- Prunes • Seaweed • Watercress

Adequate water (8-10 glasses) is also essential to help flush toxins through the body.

EXERCISE
 • Aerobic exercises

EXTERNAL DETOXING
 • Body brushing and body scrubs • Sauna and steam treatments

These encourage toxins to come to the surface and stimulate the circulatory system, which allows toxins to be released more readily.

MASSAGE
 • Manual lymph drainage • Aromatherapy massages

Massage therapy has proven therapeutic results, aiding elimination, enhancing relaxation and is reported to be beneficial for a number of ailments.

SUPPLEMENTS
 • Chlorella • Dandelion • Milk thistle
 • Multivitamins • Probiotics • Psyllium husk

The above have been reported to enhance elimination, boost the immune system and assist in maintaining good health.

Part 2 will deal with toxins in our environment and how to combat them, and part 3 will look at detoxing for good mental health.

Dawkins Reviewed

by Colin Mitchell *

**Review of Richard Dawkins:
The God Delusion, Bantam Press, London £20.**

The *God Delusion* is already the publishing success of last year, having sold over 170,000 copies to date and still in wide demand. It is an important but tragic book. Why important? Because Professor Dawkins seeks to answer the fundamental reasons for our existence from a Darwinian viewpoint. The dust cover tells us that he 'presents a hard-hitting impassioned rebuttal of religion of all types and does so in the lucid, witty and powerful language for which he is renowned'. But why tragic? Because he denies the central truths of Christianity and bases an atheistic stand on fatally faulty scientific grounds.

Professor Dawkins is Simonyi Professor of the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University, Fellow of the Royal Society and holder of numerous honours and awards. *The God Delusion* follows earlier books on evolution and science, including *The Selfish Gene* (1976, 1989), *The Extended Phenotype* (1982), and *The Blind Watchmaker* (1986), but goes beyond them in directly facing the religious issues that challenge the evolution theory.

It is beautifully written, lucidly argued and accessible to the lay person *but is not well reasoned*. It uses rhetoric as much as science. It is more dogma than argument; fails to engage with opposing views and even has a feeling of desperation about it. Perhaps Professor Dawkins is at the end of his tether because his desire to turn us all into atheists is having so little impact. Nevertheless, he is affable, elegant, and charming as he presents his case, clinging closely to Darwinism despite the challenges it faces today.

What is the basis of his argument? Rejecting the uncertainty of agnosticism he advocates outright atheism, justifying its apparent lack of self-sacrificing principle by quoting examples of apparent altruism in nature such as the relation between

bees and the flowers they pollinate. He traces the roots of religious belief in the human desire for guidance and comfort, and the origins of morality in the intrinsic needs of evolving society rather than divine guidance. He sees our human condition as moving upwards in thankfulness and deriving meaning from our own choices.

He strongly questions the truth of the Bible, charging the God of the Old Testament with being 'arguably

It uses rhetoric as much as science. It is more dogma than argument; . . . and even has a feeling of desperation about it.

the most unpleasant character in all fiction'. He dismisses the historicity of the Gospels, placing them alongside the *Da Vinci Code* as 'fiction', and stating that, 'Although Jesus probably existed, reputable biblical scholars do not in general regard the New Testament (and obviously not the Old Testament) as a reliable record of what happened in history, and I shall not consider the Bible further as evidence for any kind of deity.' This closes the door. He ignores the idea of progressive revelation from Old Testament to New, the powerful historical evidences for biblical events, and the remarkable fulfilments of prophecy. Above all, he passes over the life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the consequent evidence that the source of all that exists in the universe is personal love. The book turns the central Christian truth of the atonement from a source of praise into evidence for its savagery.

But Professor Dawkins surely reflects his own early Christian background in condemning churches and other religious bodies for such culpable activities as their sale of indulgences, enforced baptism and indoctrination of infants, the death penalty, 'holy' war, and intractable

intolerances between faiths – which have justly brought contempt on religion's moral authority. But he fails to condemn the horrors perpetrated by *atheistic* organisations.

Also, true science cannot back his Darwinian view. The evidence is against the Earth being millions of years old. Why? The great thicknesses of geological strata and their uniform directionality of deposition across whole continents argue for their rapid formation under flood

conditions. The origin of life on Earth cannot be explained by a random chance combination of elements. The simplest living cell is so vastly complex that conscious design is the only feasible explanation. And the same argument applies with at least equal force to such fabulous con-

structions as eyes, bird wings, animal limbs, and human brains. As Michael Behe has pointed out, they have 'irreducible complexity' in that species-to-species evolution would require the simultaneous modification of many different parts. This puts their origins beyond the reach of chance. The fossil record shows unequivocally that living things belong in classes which appear suddenly and remain thereafter with little change. There is total absence of 'missing links' between major groups. This automatically negates the need for a multi-million-year chronology to allow time for evolutionary change. Such chronology has hitherto also relied on radiometric dating, but growing indications of its unreliability have brought its use into serious question.

In short, the arguments of this book cannot justify an evolution-

based rejection of religious truth.

* Dr Colin Mitchell studied at both Oxford and Harvard Universities and has a PhD in Soil Geography from the University of Cambridge. His book *CREATIONISM REVISITED: A New Look at the Case for Creationism* has a Foreword by Professor John Walton of the University of St Andrews. It is available from the Adventist Book Centre for £7.95. Ring our credit card hotline 01476 539900.

Beyond The Da Vinci Code

The Da Vinci Decode – Is Christianity 'The Greatest Cover-up in Human History'?

Grenville Kent and Philip Rodionoff (Signs Publishing Company, Victoria, Australia 2006)
Review by Brian Martin*

This book aims at a questioning readership for whom *The Da Vinci Code* throws up a range of issues that need a convincing answer.

The Australian authors first tackle *DVC's* (Leigh Teabing's) implications of the key conspiracy claim that at Nicaea in AD325 the Church 'upgraded' Jesus from mortal prophet to Son of God to hide the real truth of his marriage to Mary Magdalene and of the divine blood-line. Dan Brown (through Teabing & Robert Langdon) seeks plausibility in history, claiming the Bible is merely the 'product of man', and that the Church Fathers destroyed true records like the Gnostic gospels, which show us the *real* human Jesus. By contrast, the New Testament gospels fit the Church's 'cover-up' conspiracy.

In an incisive reply, *The Da Vinci Decode* (*DVDC*) apologetic first cites New Testament evidence for Jesus' divinity, his earthly life, death and resurrection, together with secular contemporary records on early Christianity. Then follows a careful analysis of translation, actual documents and of the formation of the scriptural canon.

DVDC, aware that the divine blood-line story demanded reducing the Bible's status to fit the 'conspiracy' theory, cites the prophecy of Daniel 9 on the coming of the Messiah to provide 'solid reasons to believe the Bible is accurate'.

Dan Brown offers us 'fashionable spirituality'. Mary – whether in the gospels or in the *DVC* plot – 'encapsulates some unresolved issues facing Christianity'. *DVC* introduces a 'sex as religious devotion' (*Heiros Gamos*) norm, where sexual intercourse enables the male to achieve 'the spark of divinity' through union with the 'sacred feminine'. *DVDC* challenges this idea: does goddess worship – whether ancient or post-modern – 'increase the status and dignity of women'? And was there really a 'happy harmony' of male and female in pre-Christian religions for the Church to come along and spoil?

As to Brown's (Teabing's) 'Church cover-up' of the holy blood-line story through Mary, *DVDC* shows

there is no case to answer; Gnostic gospels are not to be taken as history, and the pivotal claim for Jesus and Mary as lovers is merely part of modern fiction. Moreover, the New Testament gospel narratives, and later literary evidence, make out a case for Mary Magdalene, the ex-prostitute, rising to an 'honoured role' among the believers through the restoration ministry of Jesus.

Some excellent research gives us a clear and persuasive answer to the fact/fiction mosaic of Dan Brown. In 120 pages (with the last 10 as References and Further Reading) *DVDC* comes in a user-friendly format of 7 short chapters (supplemented with 6 related features) and 2 Appendices (Daniel 9, and Mary Magdalene).

DVC was begging for somebody to challenge its basic assertions – direct or subtle – about the foundations of Christianity. Numerous takers have come forward. Kent and Rodionoff's reply to the *DVC* is very readable, 'in your face', and genuinely evangelistic.

* Pastor Brian Martin is a Seventh-day Adventist pastor who works in Bristol.

Editor: The same is true of Robert K. McIver's *Beyond the Da Vinci Code: Exposing Myths and Lies about Jesus and Christianity*. Ask about these books at your local ABC or phone 01476 539900.

The Forgotten Stewardship

by John E. Warren

On Sabbath 4 November several other Adventists and the writer joined approximately 30,000 people in Trafalgar Square. Christian, Muslim, political and international development and conservation organisations were present, and the aim was to persuade the UK and other governments to agree to actions to stop climate change.

Most scientists agree that climate change is taking place. The evidence is from diverse fields of research from temperature measurements to changes in animal and plant distribution.

The British Trust for Ornithology reports that breeding success for British birds for 2005 and 2006 was very poor. The decline in House Sparrows has been in the news recently and is now known to be, in part, caused by bad weather during the breeding season. Spring is now starting two weeks earlier in Britain, causing such situations as Tit species nesting when no caterpillars are around, so that the babies starve.

Farming is also being affected. The 2006 wheat crop was one of the poorest on record, so it is predicted that the cost of a loaf will increase by at least two pence. Aphids are now surviving as adults through the winter, increasing pesticide costs. The effects of climate change will be greater in the future. The UN Environment Programme has published several reports predicting that if nothing changes, the world's ecosystems will collapse with disastrous consequences for humans.

The UK government has just published the Stern Report, which says that we have ten years to stop climate change. If not, the world's economy will shrink by 20% with the developing world being hit even harder.

The Adventist Church is called 'the silent church' on this and other issues, but protecting the environment is a God-given command. Adam was given stewardship over Creation (Genesis 1:28). The Israelites were given several environmental commands (Deuteronomy 22:6, 9; Leviticus 25:11, 12, 18-22, etc). The Stern Report says that doing nothing will result in the destruction of the Earth. God will destroy those who destroy the Earth (Revelation 11:18).

How can we obey God's command to protect the environment?

- The Adventist Stewardship Department could promote Environmental Stewardship.
- Church business should be by teleconferencing rather than delegates travelling.
- The Church's Publishing Houses should use only recycled or FSC certified paper.
- ADRA should have projects to slow down climate change.
- Members could buy Hybrid cars as these reduce fuel consumption.
- Members could install solar panels and wind turbines, which, after five years' use, both make a profit.
- Members could use energy-efficient light bulbs and appliances.
- We could turn off appliances when not in use. If all appliances were turned off, the equivalent of one power station's electricity could be saved in Britain alone.
- We could join conservation charities.
- We could purchase Brazil nuts as they can only grow in tropical rainforests.
- Best of all, become vegan. To grow food for a vegan uses one eighth of the land of a meat eater; to produce a day's food for a vegan uses 10,000 calories, while for a meat eater, 34,000 calories; 1,150 litres of water for a vegan but 15,000 litres for a meat eater. Cows and sheep produce methane during digestion, which significantly adds to global warming. One third of wheat grown is fed to farm animals, which could feed people.

I appeal for the Adventist Church and its members to take immediate action and lobby decision-makers to do the same.

John E. Warren is a deacon and a keen amateur naturalist, environmentalist and a vegan for over fifteen years.

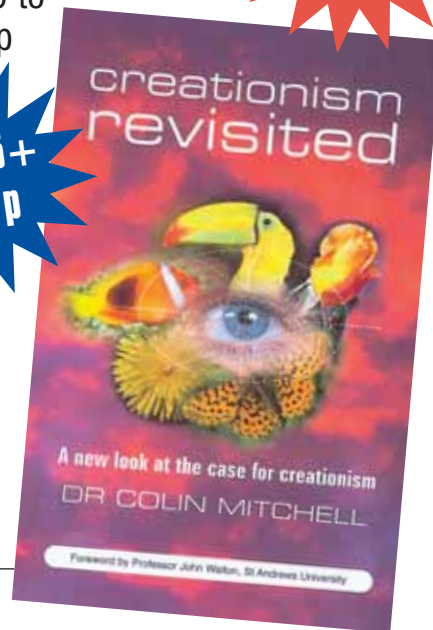
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Canterbury concert helps Nicole

Nicole Dryburgh is a non-Adventist young lady who is battling cancer for the third time. Canterbury church members Ralph and Matthew Lombart were impressed by her poignant story in the local press and decided to help by organising a concert to support her fundraising. On 25 November Matthew gave a concert in Canterbury supporting Nicole's fundraising for the King's College Hospital Silver Lining Appeal.

Nicole (17), of St Mary's Grove, Seasalter in Kent, was first diagnosed with cancer when she was 10 years old and had an operation to remove a tumour from her spine. A second tumour grew two years later and then burst, causing a brain haemorrhage which left her blind and needing a wheelchair. The cancer has come back for a third time but spirited Nicole is keeping

busy raising funds for the neuro-rehabilitation room at King's College Hospital, where she was treated after her brain haemorrhage. When contacted by Ralph with the offer of help, Nicole was simply overjoyed and grateful for the offer. Plans for the concert were put in motion immediately, and five weeks later the concert was held at Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys. The school hall was full and all those who attended said the concert was a great success. They loved the music performed by the various artistes. Nicole's surgeon thanked Ralph for inviting him to the concert and said that he had a splendid time and was grateful for the money raised.

Some of those who took part in the concert included award-winning pianist 10-year-old Roshnie



Russian group, left to right: Daumand Sokolovsky, Tatjana Murga, Lilja Plamadjala, Svetlana Samoilenko

Dan-Rev Emphasis Southern Asian evangelism

A group of four committed laymen have formed an organisation to work among the people of Southern Asia resident in the UK. The Southern Asian laymen's organisation, Adventist International Everlasting Gospel Ministry (AIEGM), is led by the writer and Loswell Freeman from Manchester, Prem Wilson from Bolton and Mathew Daniel from Lewisham. Last July they started a study group in Watford with six people. That group has grown and today fifteen families and their children attend the study every Saturday evening. As the group requested to learn in their mother tongue AIEGM invited Pastor Mammen Mathew for three months from the Southern Asia

Division. He concentrated on the books of Daniel and Revelation.

This was all new information for the group. As the people found the messages interesting they started telling their friends and other doors have been opened in Basildon and Bromley. Calls are now coming in from many people in different parts of the UK and small groups in south London, Colchester, Bristol, Hull, Liverpool and Scotland eagerly wait for us to teach them. Studies are currently happening in the Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Marathi, Gujrati, Hindi, Punjabi, Bengali and Urdu languages.

It is planned for Pastor Mathew to return in February and, with further visits from Pastor Maywald Jesud in March and Pastor Thomas Gill in April, the aim is to expand these study groups. Pastor O. P.

Kumarage from Ashford church, The 'Russian Group' from Berkshire, members of the Canterbury Church Choir and others.

Ralph also took the opportunity to give away quite a large number of *LIFE.info* magazines at the concert.

ANDREW LOMBART

Preston: Eleven baptised

Sabbath 18 November proved to be an extra-special day in Preston church. The coldness in the air and the constant showers did not dampen the spirits of the members as they assembled for worship.

Before divine service, Dr Deepak Gupta and his wife Pearly brought their baby daughter, India Tean-Ern Gupta, to be dedicated to the Lord. Then we were fed with spiritual food as Pastor Kevin Johns shared the good news that Jesus' love has no boundaries.

For the afternoon service, the main hall had been furnished with approximately 300 chairs. A portable fibreglass pool was situated on the stage, and family, friends, guests and members from far and wide gathered to witness the baptism of eleven young people. A baptism on this scale represented a first for the Preston church, and Pastor Johns was undertaking his first baptism since his ordination. Among the baptismal candidates was his 11-year-old son Dwight. The congregation were filled with emotion as he stepped into the pool with his father. Pastor shared with the audience how



he had raised his son to the Lord. As they shared a hug, many could not contain their tears.

The other candidates were Violet Molato Nkekoleng, Carl and Laura Jeffers, Natasha Strachan, Estelle Bryant, Rochelle Magloire, Dian Winspeare, Dennis Ongaro, Ben Marwa and Timothy Mpofu. Five of the candidates had attended the Denmark Pathfinder Camporee in July where they witnessed a baptism and, since then, felt that they too wanted to commit their lives to God.

Pastor Johns encouraged us to remove our selfishness and pride and put on Christ's righteousness, allowing him to take full control of our lives. Many people went forward when the altar call was made.

Each candidate was presented with a baptismal pack containing a wealth of reading material to help them on their Christian pathway. Also, each chose a spiritual guardian.

PASTOR KEVIN JOHNS

Micklefield – Evangelistic success

The 'Amazing Truths 2006' outreach campaign, conducted by Indian evangelist Thomas Gill, culminated with the baptism of three candidates at the High Wycombe Micklefield church on 23 September.

After Pastor Gill's first visit to the town in 2005, the Micklefield members unanimously agreed to invite him back, together with his wife and daughter. The result: an explosion of the Gospel in the district!

Jen Blenes, Nobuhoele Mpofu and Louis Williams committed their lives publicly to God in front of a packed church with both the local minister Pastor Anim and Pastor Gill participating in the baptismal ceremony.

The service was solemn and became very emotional for all who visited and took part. The two-week event climaxed when an inspiring altar call led to even more souls being drawn to the foot of the cross.

Such a soul-stirring time was had by all during this time that thirty-five members of the Micklefield church are now planning to use their musical, worship and evangelistic talents and will be venturing on a missionary trip to India, working with Pastor Gill on a series of outreach meetings across the remote villages during the Easter period of 2007.

JOHN VARGHESE

COMMUNICATION TEAM

Tottenham: Eyes on Israel

Sabbath 16 September was a special day at Tottenham: Communication Day. Pastor John Lascu, a Romanian pastor in Israel, served a spiritual feast to the waiting congregation. He was ably assisted by his translator, Titus Iudean from the Romanian church. Pastor Lascu spoke about communicating God's love to the world. He said communication was not about words, but demonstrating love through action such as visiting the sick, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked and visiting those in prison.

Eyes were riveted on Pastor Lascu when he spoke about the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah and the response of his congregation to the humanitarian crisis that developed. There was much prayer, but they wanted to do more. A house of refuge was set up and families from both sides of the conflict found a place of safety there.

Pastor Lascu also spoke about

the joys of celebrating Sabbath in Israel. At 2pm on Fridays people left work and started making the final preparation for the Sabbath. During the Sabbath hours everything was so peaceful; businesses were closed and no vehicles on the roads. On Sabbath people were either going to the synagogue or to church. As he spoke, the congregation longed for that peace, as there was noise from vehicles and a procession with drums and chanting passing by the church.

The Communication team used the opportunity to remind the congregation of the General Conference mission statement for the Communication Department Conference 'Building Bridges of Hope'. The team also spoke about the role and responsibilities of the department, as outlined by the SEC, the support that was needed from the church and some of its future plans.

MAXINE DONOVAN



The Lascus and the Iudeans

Brian Neumann conducts worship seminars

Tottenham church was the venue for six music and worship seminars conducted by Brian Neumann of Amazing Discoveries over the weekend 27-29 October. All three days were well attended, but on the Sabbath the church was full by 9.30am and the only room was in the hall downstairs. The audience included many young people who had travelled from all over London and beyond to attend the seminars.

Brian Neumann spoke passionately on various topics such as The Language of Music, Biblical Concepts of Worship, Music in

Biblical Worship and How to Evaluate Your Music. He used a series of PowerPoint presentations to explain and illustrate the points he made. One of the many quotes used was from Johann Sebastian Bach, 'The aim and the final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul. If heed is not paid to this, it is not true music but a diabolical bawling and twanging.'

He said it was God's purpose to bring people as close to the heavenly standard as possible. If we allow the present generational cultures to set

the tone and standard for our worship, then we will allow a flood of influences that will lead us away from the biblical standard. He quoted 2 Timothy 3:1-5 to highlight the description of the final generation that would exist upon Earth, and from Ellen White's statement in *The Great Controversy*, page 384, 'What was the origin of the great apostasy? How did the church first depart from the simplicity of the Gospel? By

conforming to the practices of paganism, to facilitate the acceptance of Christianity by the heathen.' (Italics ours)

He also spoke about the challenge faced to reflect the essential elements of reverence, awe, respect and holiness in our worship to God. Many of the problems we experience in worship have to do with our desire to please ourselves, rather than pleasing God. COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Plaistow Prayer Tower

Sabbath 16 September was an historic day for the Plaistow Prayer Tower. In its 25-year history, Fitzroy Bernard was the first person to be baptised at one of its all-night prayer meetings. His wife Donna was joyful as she witnessed how God had answered her prayers for her husband. People travelled from all over London and as far away as Watford, Luton and Ipswich to be present. Also present to witness this special occasion were Pastors McPherson, Kavaloh and Blake.

Pastor F. McPherson gave a brief sermon before the baptism and he referred to the candidate as the 'first fruit' of the Prayer Tower. Pastor McPherson commended him for making a choice to serve the Lord, but reminded him that becoming a member of the church and a member of the Kingdom of God were totally different. He reminded all present of the importance of allowing the Saviour to come into our hearts and take up residency there.

Pastor Brighton Kavaloh, who conducted the baptism, stated that

Jesus did not need to be baptised because he was sinless, but he did it as an example for us, that we might experience death to sin and walk in newness of life. Pastor Blake spoke about the way of the cross leading home and the need to wrestle like Jacob.

There was melodious singing to celebrate the occasion from the group Inspiration (Stratford church), Kelly Hunter (Tottenham church) and the energetic Praise Team. Even the candidate gave his testimony in song.

Anticipating that the Plaistow church would not be able to hold everyone in attendance, organisers Brenda Edwards and Carol Henry-Linton from the Clapton and Chingford churches respectively, and their team, made arrangements with the local Pentecostal Church to use their church hall. After the baptism the youth went over to this hall where a special programme was planned for them, facilitated by the writer (Tottenham church), and Fitzroy Morris (Leytonstone church).

MAXINE DONOVAN



Reading youth baptism

Sabbath 9 December was one of the major highlights of 2006 for Reading Central and Reading Whitley churches, when ten young people expressed their love for Jesus by being baptised. The baptismal service took place at Newbold church, Bracknell, and was attended by over 450 friends, relatives and church members.

Pastor Michael Hamilton preached a rousing sermon encouraging the candidates to remember that, in spite of the storms of life,

Jesus will always be there to guide and protect.

Pastors Steve Palmer, Robert Hines and Gifford Rhamie baptised candidates Andrew Wright, Nicole, Rue-el and Renee Fleary-Griffiths, Adelaide de Souza, Dale Wells, Julian and Helena Thompson, Serena Rhamie and Apphia Felix. It was a momentous day for Pastor Gifford Rhamie who was honoured with the opportunity to baptise his daughter Serena.

Asked what she had to say to

other young people thinking about baptism, Adelaide de Souza, 19, said: 'It's better to get baptised now while you're young.' Nicole Griffiths, 17, pointed out that many young people 'need to wake up and make a decision'. Julian Thompson, 18, said: 'There is nothing to worry about. Everybody is here to support you and has your best interest at heart.'

Andrew Wright, 11, summed up the essence of the occasion by stating that he wants to be a witness for God.

CLIVE MALCOLM



From the right: Pastors Michael Hamilton, Colin Stewart, Gifford Rhamie, Robert Hines, George Kumi and Steve Palmer (far left) with candidates

Re-birth of young and old



Heaven came down and glory filled the souls of those at the baptism of Molly Morris and Aaron Bayley of the West Bletchley Community church.

Friday evening, 24 November, saw a



packed church and a packed programme of praise when the members of our mother church, Milton Keynes Central, kindly permitted the use of their church building for the event.

The last time West Bletchley Community church had met under such a circumstance was in

February 2005 when we had the baptism of our first community member, Peter. It was particularly touching when he paid tribute to Molly.

Following his baptism, Peter had knocked

on her door with an invitation to church. However, Molly had not intended to attend church the first time she came. She had boarded the bus and before she knew it, she had come off at the stop right outside the Community Centre where we worship – and has kept coming back ever since! It was a joy to have Molly's son and daughter-in-law with us for the celebration.

Aaron is one of Milton Keynes' sons who has grown in the Lord to the point of making his commitment to Jesus public. Tribute was paid to him that, although only 10 years old, he would often just 'pick up his Bible and read it'.

The baptism was conducted by Pastor Colin Stewart, who was ministering in the area when Molly began attending church.

SYLVONIE NOEL



Stanborough Park Annual Toy Service

Lighted candles, a Christmas tree, hundreds of toys and a full car park greeted worshippers attending the annual Toy Service at Stanborough Park church on 9 December.

This event was started by the late big-hearted Alf Kelly more than three decades ago to ensure that local needy children did not go without toys at Christmas, which led to his being dubbed 'Watford's Father Christmas' by the local newspapers. After his death this traditional event has been maintained by his youngest daughter, Pat Walton.

Stepping into the role formerly taken by her father (a rather emotional experience for her), Pat presented the large quantity of toys donated by church members to Councillor Rabi Martins, Chairman of Watford Council. In his response, Councillor Martins thanked the congregation and reassured them that, unlike some councils, Watford intended to continue to celebrate Christmas and not replace it with a winter festival.

In addition to the congregational carols, festive music was supplied by Charlotte Fidelia (solo), Robert Cooper (trumpet solo) and Joy Bussey's children's choir.

Pastor Patrick Boyle, a former minister of the church, provided the brief but thoughtful meditation. Having dedicated baby Lillie Sawyer, whose mother Sue (née Bennet) was once one of our Stanborough Park children, earlier in the service, he reminded us that Jesus loved children and set an example for us all to follow. Therefore, we should not be congratulatory with ourselves for our actions as, with three-and-a-quarter million disadvantaged children in this country, we are only doing what is required of us.

Citing Tolstoy's story of Martin the Cobbler as a demonstration of seeing Christ in the needy around us, Pastor Boyle finished his meditation by asking what gift we would bring as, like the Magi, we fall down to worship the King.

JUNE COOMBS

Journey of Hope

You would be right in thinking the title 'Journey of Hope' sounds familiar. As Bristol Lodge Causeway held their weekend retreat at the end of the week of prayer, Pastor Victor Hulbert continued with this theme. Making good use of the electrical

equipment provided, he guided us through 'Real Worship in the Real World', Galatians 5, the Ice Maiden and the traditions of the Inca tribes. Plenty of food for thought there.

Set in the lovely rolling countryside, Hill House Christian Centre

Oxford Day of Remembrance

At Chester Street Adventist church, Oxford, on 11 November, there was a reverential one minute's silence at 11am to commemorate those killed in the First and Second World Wars and subsequent conflicts.

Yet it became not only a twofold Day of Remembrance, but also a day of great rejoicing. A never-to-be-forgotten day for eight baptismal candidates, their families and friends. The largest baptism in the whole history of Oxford's church.

Pastor David Spearing delivered his sermon that morning to a church filled to overflowing, basing it on Philippians 4:13: 'I can do all things

through Christ who gives me strength.'

He stressed the importance of realising that 'in this verse there is a balance, there is a partnership', and 'when it comes to salvation, Christ has done it all. His death, his resurrection, is all we need – all we do is reach out and accept these gifts – but when it comes to being happy, thinking positively, living the Christian life, these involve action on our part.'

Pastor Michael Mbui baptised Agnes Nahayo and Eunice Balyendeza, who are attendees of the Oxford Rwandese Fellowship

group, and usually meet in St Clements, Oxford.

The other six candidates – Beryl Mills, Esther Williams, Jean-Marie Ruzindana, Beatriz do Rocio Pinheiro, Rosangela Goncalves and Marcelo Goncalves – were baptised by Pastor Spearing.

For this special occasion the congregation was joined by the Rwandese group and the Portuguese Speaking group, who generally meet upstairs in Chester Street. Daniel Costa kindly translated the sermon into Portuguese.

PASTOR DAVID SPEARING



offers pleasant facilities and we felt very comfortable in the annexe. A great spirit of teamwork and togetherness prevailed and, with Pastor Hulbert accompanying us on his guitar, the excellent singing played a large part in the workshops. We took

the 'obligatory' Sabbath afternoon's walk along the cliffs near Minehead, nearly getting blown away in the process!

During morning worship we observed the two-minute silence for Remembrance Sunday and then set

off to explore the surrounding area.

With heartfelt thanks to Pastor, and to Chris and Tony King, our hosts for the weekend, we came away feeling spiritually and bodily well fed.

SHEILA HATCHER



'Thank you' Sabbath

The local minister and family for the district of Milton Keynes shared their last Sabbath with the West Blechley Community church members on Sabbath 25 November, having been called to the role of Youth director for the SEC in August.

It was the vision of Pastor Colin Stewart and a group of core members that caused the setting up of what is now known as the West Blechley Adventist Community church in December 2003. Since its inception, each community-focused event organised by the church has seen Pastor Stewart involved and befriending young people in the community.

Under his leadership, the church changed its status from a company to a church on

Sabbath 19 June 2004.

Throughout Pastor Stewart's ministry he has been ably assisted and supported by his wife Pat, who was happy to serve wherever it was



needed most. On their last Sabbath here, the family were presented with an award that will serve as a constant reminder of their time with us.

Our warmest wishes go with Pastor Stewart, Pat and their children Dion and Brandon, with God's richest blessings. *SYLVONIE NOEL*

The joy on their faces

The Harvest Festival held at Dudley House School was very different this year. Instead of the usual array of

fruit and vegetables, there was a display of shoe boxes and other items. There were toys, books,

crayons, felt-tips, notepads, toothbrushes and toothpaste, flannels, cars, hats. All kinds of little things that could be squeezed into a shoe box for another child to enjoy.

In their assemblies for the term the children at Dudley House had been learn-

ing about sharing. After watching a DVD where they saw the joy and delight on children's faces when they were given a shoe box of goodies for Christmas, they decided that they wanted to share things with children in Liberia as part of the ADRA shoe box appeal.

As well as sharing gifts with other children, they shared a musical version of the story of *The Little Red Hen*. The children enjoyed singing the catchy songs and acting the story out, and the parents and friends of the school were very impressed with what they saw. One mum said, 'That was the best thing I have ever seen done on that stage.' Afterwards, to continue the sharing theme, children and parents all enjoyed sharing freshly baked bread and jam and drinks. *ANDY JOHNSON*

The Filipino Connection

A Filipino connection brought Dr Mike Ryan, General Conference vice-president and his wife Jeanie, to Glasgow recently. They were there at the invitation of Vilma Espinosa, who was a student some twenty-four years ago at the Central Philippines Adventist College when Dr Ryan was an academic consultant there.

Earlier this year, Vilma (front row second right) saw Dr Ryan on the Hope Channel and emailed him, saying how much she had valued his

mentorship and wishing he could visit her in Scotland. Without hesitation, Dr Ryan took time out of his busy schedule to spend a weekend with Vilma and her family. As a result of this initiative, a large congregation, including Filipino members from across Scotland and the Midlands, were able to share this emotional reunion at a previously-scheduled Scottish Mission Youth Day of Fellowship.

In a powerful and inspiring

address, Dr Ryan emphasised the three key driving forces of the Adventist Church. He said, 'We are people who have a *Mission*, a *Message* and a *Promise*.' He related stories of the pioneers whose personal sacrifice, perseverance and commitment - sometimes under

Celebration concert at Ystrad Mynach

by John Surridge

On Saturday evening 25 November more than 100 church members, family members and friends of Pastors Brian Phillips and Richard Vine, gathered at the Ystrad Mynach church, near Caerphilly in South Wales, for a celebration concert. The concert was organised primarily by the members and minister of the church as a tribute to Pastors Phillips and Vine, both of whom retired from their official duties earlier this year. As a mark of their respect for their colleagues, the three administrative officers of the Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland, Pastor Don McFarlane, Pastor Eric Lowe, and Mr Victor Pilmoor, together with the current president of the Adventist Church in Wales, Pastor John Surridge, were all present.

Pastor Brian Phillips joined the ministry in 1989, having already had a career as an engineer. He served in the Hereford, Ystrad Mynach, Rhyl and Colwyn Bay districts before becoming the president of the Adventist Church in Wales in the late 1990s. Brian's wife Joyce, who comes from a Salvation Army background, has also been very active in the church over the years as a lay

persecution - had resulted, worldwide today, in millions of converts to the Adventist message. These were people, he said, who gave their lives to the Lord. 'What do you think they would have said if they were alive today? Do you think they would say their sacrifice was worth it?' Dr Ryan presents a regular *Advent Mission* programme on the Hope Channel. *JOHN WILBY, Scottish Mission Communication sponsor*



preacher and leader. They have been married for 38 years and their daughter Jane currently serves as a lay preacher and administrative secretary in the church.

Pastor Richard Vine, whose Adventist heritage goes back five generations, grew up in the Adventist church. His father and two uncles were ministers. Richard himself began his ministry in 1966 in the Birmingham area but came to Wales in 1972 where he has remained ever since. His ministry has focused in four main districts: Newport, Swansea, Shrewsbury (within the territory of the Adventist Church in Wales for administrative reasons), and Ystrad Mynach. He has been married to his wife Pam for 39 years and they have three children, Douglas, Daniel and Anna.

The concert was hosted by Brian Watkins, elder of the Ystrad Mynach church and brother-in-law of Pastor Brian Phillips. The Brecon Women's Institute Singers, conducted by Peggy Mason, performed the majority of the pieces, which included some modern gospel songs and Christmas carols. Their 'Song of the Hebrew Slaves' went down particularly well. As Peggy Mason pointed out, it was a new venture into more operatic pieces for the choir but, judging from the applause, it won't be the last. Baritone Wynne Rees, who has performed at the church before, sang a number of favourites including 'My Welsh Home' and 'If I Can Help Somebody'. Saxophonist Ian Mason, who is a member of the Ystrad

Mynach church, performed 'Myfanwy'.

During the interval tributes were paid to the two retiring ministers. Pastor Don McFarlane highlighted the qualities that he had appreciated in Pastor Phillips over the years, particularly his encyclopaedic knowledge of church history. Pastor Eric Lowe, who had shared a room with Pastor Vine when they were at college together, shared some anecdotes from that time and also commended him for his faithful ministry in Wales.

Incoming president of the Adventist Church in Wales, Pastor John Surridge, spoke of his experience with Brian and Richard when he began his ministry in the early 1980s. 'When I first visited Brian in his home I expected to have a brief conversation and a prayer,' he said. 'Three hours later I was still sitting enthralled as he related stories about Wales, the mines, and the church in years gone by.' Speaking of Richard he said, 'When I first stayed in his house I was struck by the quiet Christian atmosphere in the home. He and his wife and children were so hospitable and seemed so loving that I decided then and there that if ever I had a family, this was the example that I would try to follow.'

Although officially retired, both Pastors Phillips and Vine are currently continuing to serve the Adventist Church in Wales, preaching regularly and carrying out numerous other duties.



From left to right: Pastors John Surridge (Welsh president), Brian Phillips, Don McFarlane and Eric Lowe



Eight baptised at Coventry Central

Sabbath 18 November was a special occasion for the members and visitors of a packed Coventry Central church. Eight candidates were baptised: Siphon Tshuma, Sipmathisiwe Tshuma, Sonile Mpofu, Mary Nduta Kamau, Alisha Majaya, Sindisiwe Mkwanzani, Janet Bula and Hlanzekile Moyo - all immersed by Pastor Steve Palmer. Most of the candidates came to this commitment through the Coventry district evangelistic campaign which had the theme, 'People need the Lord'. It was held at Central church between 10 and 30 September. Responses came to the nightly call from Pastor Palmer after each of his eighteen inspirational messages. Bible studies were given by Lloyd Lambert, Bible worker for the campaign, Pastor Palmer and church elder Darcy Blake.

Our special guest speaker, Mike Baker, gave a powerful address on the 'power of love'.

Before the candidates were immersed, a favourite scripture passage was read and a stanza from their favourite hymn was sung. Janet Bula had her family members, who are also part of the church singing group 'Joybells', to sing her special song, 'He touched me'.

The only male candidate, Hlanzekile Moyo, said, 'This is the proudest moment of my life.' When asked how he felt being the only male, he said, 'It was a little uncomfortable at first. . . . Pastor Palmer, while still in the pool, made a very passionate appeal, and seven people responded. *DEO MEGHAN*

GBK supports people living with cancer



From left to right: Sharon Francis, Mrs Mckintosh and Pam Walker

On 25 September at 10.30am, the Women's Ministries Team of the Great Brick Kiln Street church, Wolverhampton, staged the World's Biggest Decaffeinated Coffee Morning. The aim was to show support for people living with cancer, and the Team invited leading members from the local Cancer/Oncology Unit, along with a few Macmillan support nurses to the event, which took place in the youth hall at the church.

The clever Team utilised the opportunity to display Adventist literature on healthy living, as well as providing healthy food and refreshments. Generous donations were collected.

The team ventured further by inviting curious passers-by to come inside and be part of their support network. Twenty-five people responded to the appeal. People who had been invited but were unable to attend faithfully sent in their donations, and a grand total of £207.46 was raised. The Team proudly demonstrated the results by displaying a giant cheque.

Yes, the Women's Ministries Team has helped to make a difference in the community for people living with cancer. *DELVA M. CAMPBELL*

Dr Terry Gallivan

(26 June 1925-14 November 2006)

‘With the passing away of Dr Terry Gallivan, the Adventist Church in Britain has lost one of her prominent members and unforgettable personalities. It is likewise a loss for the world church.’ So began Dr B. B. Beach’s tribute to Dr Gallivan at his funeral service in the Stanborough Park church on

Terry came from Newport in Wales, and his grandmother was a charter member of the Newport church of which, in due course, Terry became a member. Leaving school in the middle of the Second World War, he enrolled as a sick berth attendant in the Royal Navy and served on the corvettes protecting convoys in the North Atlantic. He was involved in the D-Day landing, ferrying soldiers to France and the injured back to England. At the end of the war he moved back to Newport and enrolled in the Medical School in Cardiff, qualifying in 1953.

Paralleling his medical studies was his involvement in the life of the Newport church, where he served in various capacities, not least as a lay preacher. It was while he assisted Pastor George Emm in evangelism that he met Miss Joan Forbes who became his wife. They married on 4 June 1954. His first position was in St Asaph Hospital, North Wales. This had formerly been the ‘Workhouse’. Terry humorously noted he was married on Independence Day and then, with his wife, spent their first Christmas as a married couple in the workhouse!

He moved to Pontypool to join Dr McQuillan as a partner in the general practice, and it was there that son Richard was born. The family moved from Pontypool to Garston at the invitation of Dr A. H. Williams, and joined the prac-

tice in Sheepcot Lane with Drs Hugh Williams and Stanley Guest. Not long after the move to Garston daughter Kathryn was born. It was at the Sheepcot surgery and the Stanborough Park church that Terry became a legend in both church and community.

Moving tributes were paid by Audrey Balderstone, Edward Hammond, Richard Willis, Paul Bellamy and the writer. Audrey spoke for the youth of the church in retelling the wonderful influence Terry had upon her own life and that of her peers. Edward Hammond told of his serving with Terry as a church elder and how Terry had saved the life of his granddaughter by spotting what others had missed, that the child had a heart condition. Richard Willis paid tribute to Terry as a co-worker in the Temperance work in the British Union.

After his retirement in 1986 Terry was appointed voluntary Health director for the British Union. In this capacity he was a tireless advocate of the work of the International Commission for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency. Paul Bellamy spoke movingly of the practical and spiritual help Terry showed to him and his family, especially following the loss of his daughter Madeline. The writer echoed the admiration and respect of all the ministers with whom Terry served in the Park church, Pastors Logan, Surridge, Hall, Burgess, Stefani and himself. Terry did a weekly session at the geriatric wing of Shrodells Hospital, cared for patients in the San on Stanborough Park and, in 1965, had a spell as a relief doctor at Kwahu Hospital in Ghana.

Dr Beach particularised the qualities of this man when he wrote, ‘Terry was a man of probity. His integrity was always beyond question. There were no questionable shortcuts or compromising roundabouts in his life and career.

He was a man of clear speech. He was never speechless. He was straight spoken, he was outspoken, but well spoken. I loved him for this. We all did . . . He was an advocate of just causes, such as health and proper and transparent policies and administration.’

Terry’s family paid personal tributes with trumpet, voice and poetry. The love and devotion of his son Richard, his daughter Kathryn, and their seven children and spouses was a wonderful support during a protracted and serious illness, and that of Terry’s brother Dennis. The love and devotion of his wife Joan is a true model of a committed Christian lady. Her care for Terry has been an inspiration to the church family. Pastor Robert Vine gave the address and spoke of the hope of the resurrection. BUC president Pastor Don McFarlane also shared in the service.

Terry rests from his labours and from his sufferings. It was characteristic of the man that over the years he never once complained about either. His influence lives on in the many lives he touched and the consistent

FLORENCE TAYLOR (Flo) (1917-2006) d. 21 June. It was a beautiful midsummer’s day when our magical Grandma passed away after a long illness. It’s been a while since Gran passed away but it’s given us all time to think about her life and what influences she had on us all. Gran was the second oldest of eight children born into a time which has long since changed. Being the oldest daughter in those days meant that she took on the role of working/raising her younger brothers and sisters. She spent all of her working life in Stoke-on-Trent, staying close to the family. In 1944 she married Horace and they later had two daughters, Susan and Kate. Gran loved her holidays and travelling – especially to Scotland where she has left us an album full of holiday shots. It’s a good job Grandad liked driving as he had to drive them everywhere! In 1983 they retired to Weston-Super-Mare to be nearer their eldest daughter Susan, and it’s fair to say this was one of the happiest periods in their lives. A weekend at Gran’s was a big treat and this continued even when her three teenage/young adult grandsons obtained driving licences! We were welcome any time and regularly ate the contents of her fridge and treated her house like our own personal hotel. We even invited our girlfriends – who eventually became wives – to stay with us, but Gran took it all in her stride. The only condition was that we had to take her to church every Sabbath at 10am. This was good as we made some great friends which were perfect for the time, and the members of the Weston church were very warm and friendly.



Christian life he lived. Dr Bert Beach spoke for all who knew and loved Terry when he said: ‘When the saints go marching in, Lord, I want to be in that number with Terry and his family. When the saints go marching in.’ Interment took place at the North Watford cemetery.

PASTOR PATRICK J. BOYLE

Joan, Kathryn, Richard and the wider family wish to express their thanks and appreciation for the many letters of support and sympathy they have received. A significant sum of money was given to the designated charity STOP International (supporting orphans in India).

Without Grandma’s influence and her accommodating attitude at this time in our young adult lives I am not so sure where we would all be with our faith right now. I think she knew what she was doing, and her quietness and confidence were her strengths! Grandma was a quiet lady who could easily blend into the background at social meetings; a person happy to spend time in the kitchen where her cooking attained legendary status. This was especially true when it came to chocolate cakes – just ask anyone who ever took one home! Grandma has left us, but her influence and the memories we share are with us until we meet again in the kingdom.

MARTYN BENTON

SYLVIA FREDERICA GERTRUDE SPEARING (1919 – 2006) d. 13 July. Freda, daughter of Pastor Frederick Albert Spearing, one-time president of the South England Conference, and sister of Edwin, went to sleep for the last time on Thursday 13 July. Freda had been a member of the Brighton and Hove church since she moved to Hove with her parents as a young woman. For many years she played the organ at services and was an enthusiastic children’s Sabbath School leader, treasurer and Welfare leader renowned for her knitting of blankets and garments and distribution of parcels to the needy, as well as giving personal support to the local St Patrick’s hostel for the homeless. Her education equipped her well to be a Primary school teacher: her first post in the Brighton area was in West Hove Infants where

her musical talents were used in teaching the recorder and a variety of percussion instruments. Freda’s love of music led her to play in a mini-orchestra in Hove for over thirty years. Her former head teacher, Miss Ficken, testified to Freda’s love of the children, shown by her sympathy and, although not a mother herself, she had a mother’s heart when dealing with the troubles of little ones. In her later years Freda had a great friend and supporter in Win Sebbage. They shared a flat together in Shoreham, from which hospitality was dispensed liberally and many reminiscences of years gone by were shared with friends and church members. Freda’s last years were spent in residential care, where she increasingly struggled with ill health. The funeral service was held in her home church of Brighton and Hove. The writer invited Miss Ficken to give the tribute to Freda’s long and committed teaching career. Arthur Campbell, whose wife’s parents were personal friends of Freda’s, gave a warm appreciation of her life. Tim Sebbage, son of Win, spoke affectionately of the long friendship between these two ladies. Freda was laid to rest in the Mill Lane cemetery, Shoreham, to await the resurrection call of the Lord Jesus.

PASTOR LESLIE HILL

ROBERT STONE (1916-2006) d. October. The funeral of Robert Stone took place at Rossett near Wrexham on 13 October, when a large congregation of relatives, church members, neighbours and friends attended the service held at the Presbyterian church. Robert was born in Lewisham, East London, during the First World War. His parents were grocers but Robert left school to enter a printing firm, an occupation that he was to follow all his life. On the outbreak of the Second World War he was called up to serve his country and soon found himself in a demolition team helping to clear the results of the Blitz in the East End of London. A bomb blast sent him tumbling from a lorry and he was unconscious for many days. Following his return to consciousness he became friendly with his nurse, Myrtle, and, nine months later, they were married. Robert was to serve in North Africa, Sicily and Italy and landed in France on D-Day+one. His journey through the war was harrowing and the many deaths he saw resulted in his having frequent nightmares. He continued to serve in Belgium and Germany and did not return to civilian life until a year after the war ended. He became a skilled craftsman in the printing trade and, during his career, printed Bibles, books, and cheque books for the High Street banks. Robert and Myrtle were blessed with three sons, and Robert proved to be a kind, caring dad, spending time with his sons, taking them on long walks and showing a great interest in their maturing lives. Much of his life was spent in the area south of London and eventually the family moved to Guildford. Myrtle came from the well-known Adventist family, the Maxwells, and had spent her early life in Africa. Robert was to join her in church activities and when they lived in Guildford they were keenly involved in the church. Many students from Newbold remember the welcome given by Robert when they spoke at Guildford. Just over twenty years ago they decided to move to Llay near Wrexham and they became part of the Welsh Mission church. Too far from a regularly worshipping Adventist congregation, they would visit the churches at Rhyl and Colwyn Bay from time to time. In the past few years they found fellowship with Christians in Llay, Marford and Rossett, just

North of Wrexham. They were held in high regard by their Christian friends and neighbours. Sadly, they lost their youngest son, Richard, to illness during the past year. Our sympathy goes out to Myrtle, sons Malcolm, Andrew, and theirs and Richard’s families. We look for the day when Jesus returns and the family is united once again.

DR BRIAN PHILLIPS

AUDREY PATRICIA LEWIS (1937-2006) d. 5 November. It was with great sadness that members of the Kettering church family learned the news that Audrey had passed to her rest on Sunday 5 November. Audrey was born on 17 March 1937. Tragically her mother died when Audrey was only 9 years old. Her father, Brother Alfred Reeve, was a full-time colporteur in Northern Ireland but later moved to York where Audrey could enjoy the female company of her aunt. Already displaying her love of people, Audrey commenced her nurse’s training at the Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford, in 1955, and graduated three years later with the hospital Silver Medal for her year. In 1957 she attended the North England Conference Senior Youth Camp at Saltwick Bay, near Whitby, and there met John Lewis, who was also a student nurse doing his training at St Luke’s Hospital, Bradford. Their friendship blossomed, and so, after gaining her SRN, she moved to the Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Grassington, North Yorkshire, to be nearer John and to obtain the specialist British Tuberculosis Nursing Certificate. They were married in March 1960 in the York Adventist church. Having gained State Registration in General Nursing, John had moved to York to obtain the Psychiatric Nursing Certificate. They set up home in the city and their first son Geoffrey was born there. Later they moved to Easingwold as John had obtained a Charge Nurse’s post in Claypenny Hospital in that attractive little town, and their second son Stephen was born there. Currently Geoffrey is a Chief Clinical Pharmacist at the Civic Hospital, Ottawa, and Stephen is a Captain with Virgin Atlantic. After a few years there, John obtained a Nursing Administration post in Northampton and they joined the Kettering church where they have worshipped ever since. While living in Northampton, Audrey achieved her ambition of administering nursing care to the sick in their homes. Later, John obtained further promotion to a higher nursing post in Bedford which necessitated another move. Audrey then worked as a clinical tutor in the General Hospital and in the School of Nursing for a while, but transferred back to District Nursing and was soon promoted to a Senior Nursing Officer’s post with responsibility for a team of district nurses covering a large area of Bedfordshire. Unfortunately, rheumatoid arthritis was making it more and more difficult for her to carry out her duties and she was forced to retire on grounds of ill health early in 1991. Although in constant pain, she battled bravely on and was never heard to complain. She was an able Sabbath School teacher and successfully completed the Lay Preachers’ training course. She held a number of positions in the church and was, for many years, the church clerk. Just three years ago she had to decline re-election to the post as her hands were so bad she was unable to hold a pen well enough to take notes at the board meetings. Until just a few weeks before her death she was ever present at church and had a loving smile for everyone despite her increasing pain. She will

be sadly missed by all the members, friends and family. The funeral service was indeed a service of remembrance of her life. The opening hymn was very appropriately ‘O love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee’. Her elder son, who had travelled back from Canada just in time to say his farewells to his mother, read the Scripture reading from 1 Corinthians 13:1-13: ‘If I speak with the tongues of men and angels and have not love. . . .’ The writer and Pastors John Ferguson and Roy Hulbert, both former pastors in Kettering, gave tributes of appreciation for all that Audrey had done for them in the church and in the community. Our current pastor, Brian Robinson, preached a short sermon on love and how Audrey had lived a life of love for her family, her God, and her church. Stephen, her younger son, read a portion from *Pilgrim’s Progress*, where Christian himself realised his earthly sojourn was nearly over. The final hymn was deliberately feminised to make it very appropriate to Audrey’s life. ‘I saw one weary sad and worn with eager steps press on the way, who long the hallowed cross had borne, still looking for the promised day; with many a line of grief and care, upon her brow was furrowed there: I asked what buoyed her spirits up. “O this” said she “the blessed hope”’. She will be sadly missed and mourned by her husband John, their sons and their wives, four grandchildren, church members and friends alike. Her dedication and forbearance will long be remembered and appreciated by all who knew her.

TONY WELCH

AGNES MAY RICHES (1911-2006) d. 1 October. Agnes Riches, known as ‘Grandma’ to everyone at the Adventist church in Crieff, Scotland, died aged 95 years. She grew up in Chelmondiston, Suffolk, where she met and married Sidney Robert Riches. A few months later they attended a series of meetings conducted by Adventist Pastors Jack Howard and John Mustard and, in 1936, they became charter members of the first Adventist church in Ipswich. With their young family, the Riches set up their home in a house that they named ‘Half-Penny House’. Although they had the name ‘Riches’, at that time they could identify with the value of the half-penny. The two little boys in their home could be, from all accounts, quite a handful, and were often subjected to mother’s disciplinary measures. However, they grew up to become Pastor Rex and Pastor Robin Riches, leaders in the Adventist Church in the British Union Conference, Sri Lanka, America, India and the Southern Asia-Pacific Division. Both men give credit to their mother who instilled in them a love for God, Christian principles and the importance and joy of hospitality. From their earliest days they remember that their home was always a warm and welcoming place, and seldom did they sit down to a Sabbath meal without a number of visitors to share it with them. Agnes never regretted that her boys left home to go to Newbold College, but encouraged them in their ministry and, after her husband’s death, even flew out to India and America to be with them and their families. In 1996 Agnes moved from Ipswich to live in Crieff, Scotland, with her friend and companion, Marjorie Heughebaert, and her last two years were spent in a local residential care home. She served her Lord and Church faithfully, believing with assurance in her salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. To her last breath she was assured of a resurrection to eternal life, and looked forward with confidence to the glorious appearing of her

Saviour. She left behind her sons Rex and Robin, her daughters-in-law RoseMarie and Lamorna, her grandchildren Anne-Marie, Katrina, Melanie and Kumari, and seven great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held for Agnes at the Crieff church on Wednesday, 4 October, conducted by the writer and attended by her sister Winifred and two nieces who had travelled from Suffolk, and Pastor Robin Riches who had travelled from the United States. Unfortunately, Rex was unable to travel due to serious illness. Afterwards, Agnes was taken to the Parish Church of All Saints, Holbrook, Suffolk, to be buried alongside her husband. The committal was conducted by Pastor Bob Rodd. The place of her burial was at her special request so that, as Agnes said, ‘We may rise together at the resurrection.’

PASTOR G. MARTIN BELL

Death of Dr Gordon Madgwick Students who attended Newbold College in the early 1950s will be saddened to learn of the death of Dr Gordon A. Madgwick. He died on Sabbath 11 November after a protracted period of illness. After the death of his wife Beryl (née Trimmer), and soon after that, the death of his oldest daughter Karen, he was lovingly cared for by his youngest daughter Candi.

After graduating from Newbold, Gordon and his new wife emigrated to the United States. There he graduated from Columbia Union College and then from the Adventist Seminary. He later obtained a doctoral degree from Maryland State University. Gordon spent all but a fraction of his working life in the Adventist education system. He was a teacher and then headmaster in Adventist schools, but perhaps it was in the field of higher education where he made his greatest contribution. He became the academic dean at both Pacific Union College and Andrews University. The final years of his career were spent as chair of the Board of Higher Education at the General Conference.

Gordon was very proud of his Scottish background and never lost his love of Britain. He was an unassuming man who did not seek the limelight, but was highly respected both as a teacher and as an administrator with a special gift for organisation. The name Madgwick is well known and esteemed in Adventist circles in various parts of the world. Those who knew Gordon will agree that his name further enhances that reputation and also has brought honour to the name of his God.

Gordon is survived by his two daughters Fiona and Candi and by his two grandchildren. These, with us, look forward in faith to that promised reunion we all long for.

PASTOR RON SURRIDGE

Death announcement

It is with great sorrow that we record the death of Pastor Rex Riches on 1 January 2007. Pastor Riches, the son of Agnes May Riches, served for many years in the South England Conference before undertaking mission service in Sri Lanka. The death occurred following a year’s struggle with cancer. A full obituary will appear in a future issue. Rex leaves behind his beloved wife RoseMarie, his daughters Ann-Marie and Katrina and a number of grandchildren.

New Online Resource

Helen Pearson, PRO

A new page of weblinks just launched by the Newbold College library is particularly helpful for students in Biblical Studies, Church History, Systematic Theology and Pastoral Studies.

Hard-pressed Newbold students looking for online help with essays and papers are finding it on the library page of the College's own website. There students can find immediate access to primary documents, glossaries of specialist terms, help with grammar for biblical language study, and links to online versions of the Bible. An impressive aspect of this resource is

that the annotated links give students an indication of the content, scope and usefulness of the sites.

Librarian Per Lisle says: 'Electronic documents offer various advantages. They make research a much easier and more exhaustive process. And, of course, in one sense, they are less expensive. But, though there are a lot of resources for theological studies on the web, they vary in quality. We want to help our students to access good quality material as opposed to the bad or indifferent.'

The resource has been created by Tom De Bruin, himself a post-

graduate theology student, who has worked with several lecturers in the Department of Theological Studies to ensure that the material there is relevant to classes taught in the Department.

'The great advantage of the Internet for theologians,' he says, 'is that many texts (the Bible, the church fathers', theologians' writing) no longer have copyright, are freely available on the Internet and are fairly easy to find. Generally these sites are of reasonable quality – some more than others, as they include critical apparatus and other tools. Secondary source sites, which contain reliable information about primary sources, etc, are much harder to find, and so our online resource includes few of these links at the moment. But this is a work in progress and the Library will continue to be on the look out for sites of academic quality.'

The page is available to visitors to the Newbold website and can be accessed at: www.newbold.ac.uk/departments/newbold-college-library.html.

Jotsam There is no difference between the *words* of Jesus and the *works* of Jesus. The *works* have exactly the same message as the *words*. The message and words concentrate on the announcement of the Kingdom of God. The miracles and works show us what the Kingdom is like. *John Wimber*

Congratulations
Sharleen Leya Wilson wishes to encourage all the youth to return praise, thanks and service to God by announcing the occasion of her graduation in BSc (Honours) in Human Nutrition 28/11/06 from Westminster University. Continual praise belongs to God!

CALLING ALL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS!

The BUC Health Ministries department would like to make contact with all Adventist health professionals. If you currently work as a doctor, nurse, dentist, paramedic, medical student, therapist, alternative therapist, health researcher, or are a retired medical/health professional, interested in forwarding the work of health ministries in the British Isles, please contact: Faye Weekes, Secretary, Ministerial Department, British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ. Tel: 01923 665 546, Fax: 01923 893 212, Email: fweekes@adventist.org.uk.

Please state your name, profession, contact details, (telephone, address, email) and church.

We are developing a database of all health professionals and would like to keep you informed of the health ministries work in the British Isles. We would also like to invite you to participate in some of the opportunities/training, etc, as they arise and contribute (if you wish) to the implementation of the health ministries strategy for the next 5 years.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Thank you

An anonymous person has donated £200 to the Pendeford church. Thank you. *PASTOR RICHARD JACKSON*

The John Loughborough Seventh-day Adventist School

Holcombe Road, Tottenham, London N17 9AD
Headteacher: Dr June Alexis
Telephone: 020 8808 7837
Fax: 020 8801 6719

An Invitation to Excellent Teachers and School Leaders

The John Loughborough School is currently engaged in formulating its next five-year strategic plan. The headteacher is interested in meeting all Seventh-day Adventist secondary teachers with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), who have a track record as good/outstanding classroom practitioners and school leaders.

Should you fulfil the above description please contact the headteacher by email: headteacher@johnloughborough.haringey.sch.uk or by post at the above address, submitting an up-to-date curriculum vitae (CV) as soon as possible.

ABC BOOK SALES

Jan		
28	John Loughborough	10am-2pm
Feb		
4	Harper Bell	10am-2pm

Messenger

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Jan 19	4.27	4.39	4.25	4.18	4.36
26	4.39	4.51	4.37	4.32	4.49
Feb 2	4.51	5.03	4.50	4.47	5.04
9	5.04	5.16	5.04	5.03	5.18

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