

Messenger

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Winning our Children

Heather Haworth, BUC Children's Ministries director, introduces the KIDS in Discipleship programme.

What is 'KIDS in Discipleship' and what has it to do with us in the BUC? How does it relate to the United Nations' UNICEF report on the 40 indicators that gauge the lives of children in the 21 economically advanced nations?

The study by UNICEF uncovered the disturbing fact that children in the UK are among the poorest and most neglected, the areas of deprivation being lack of happiness and quality relationships. Jonathan Bradshaw, one of the report's authors, identified the root cause as a long-term under-investment in children.

Unfortunately, we have also under-invested in our children and this is evidenced in the number who leave the Church. Only 42% of children accept Jesus as their Saviour and out of that number, half may stop attending church in their twenties. (*Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions* by G. Barna and *Why Our Teenagers Leave Church* by R. L. Dudley).

The Valuegenesis youth survey of the 1990s showed that we were failing our children both spiritually and emotionally. In 2002, Bailey Gillespie noted

that in Valuegenesis II only 29% read the Bible regularly (a 10% drop on Valuegenesis I), 21% have daily family worship and 50% still think that salvation is based on performance.

The Church responded to this by promoting the Children's Ministries department which, with the Children's Sabbath School, would minister to the needs of children within the home. Also the Sabbath School lessons were updated as the 'GraceLink' curriculum, with an emphasis on God's saving grace, the 28 fundamentals and family worship activities.

Since last year, Dr Linda Koh at the General Conference Children's Ministries department has been sponsoring KIDS in Discipleship as part of the 'Tell the World' evangelism. Its potential was brought to the attention of the BUC Session by Bernie Holford (SEC Children and Family Ministries director) and it was voted in as part of its strategic plans. He, along with a team from Walthamstow, received training last year in the US, and subsequently, division-wide training took place last October in Watford. Now, two more churches, Leeds and Stanborough Park, Watford, are launching KIDS.

One major impact of the programme is that the whole church participates so that:

- Parents can grow as disciples and disciple-makers to their children
- Children learn to walk with Jesus daily and are mentored to use their gifts in worship, ministry and mission.
- Families grow closer to each other and to Jesus. They participate in weekly small-group Bible studies and enjoy take-home resources to assist spiritual mentoring in the home.
- Congregations will embrace children as a vital part of the church *now*.

Why disciple children?

Studies reveal a clear window in time to secure our children's hearts for Jesus.

'People are most open to accepting Jesus between the ages of 5 and 13. After that it is a lot harder to make this life-changing decision.' www.barnaresearch.org. KIDS shows parents, children and church members how they can work together to disciple children to Jesus by being involved in:

- **Footprints for Parents and Mentors** – a small group Bible study in which participants focus on their personal relationship with Christ and their role as spiritual mentors to their children.
- **Footprints for Kids/Children** – an interactive small group Bible study series for parents and children, designed to follow the above programme, it assists parents in leading their children through the following seven steps:
 - build your relationship with Jesus
 - invite Jesus to be your Lord
 - know the biblical truths of Jesus
 - discover Jesus' vision for you
 - share Jesus with your friends
 - learn to be like Jesus
 - become a friend like Jesus

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CHIP launch in the British Isles

By Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries Director

CHIP is launched! The long-awaited Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) is finally here.

Officially launched at the Stanborough Park church on Sabbath 17 March, Dr Hans Diehl, founder and director of CHIP, spoke during the Sabbath school under the caption 'From Cripple to Champion', recounting the story of a severely debilitated man who, having undertaken the CHIP programme, was restored to better health and thereby enabled to fulfil his life goals. Dr Diehl presented the sermon, 'Mad, Sad, Glad: the Gospel of Second Chance' and led an afternoon health presentation entitled 'Reversing Western Killer Diseases with Knife and Fork'. He was accompanied by his wife Dr Lily Diehl, a concert pianist and vocalist, who presented piano recitals of favourite hymns and sang 'The Lord is my Light' and 'The Holy City'.

Organised by Claudette Harris and her team, an entirely plant-based sumptuous community lunch was served which was hailed as the best church lunch many had ever experienced. Requests for the recipes are still coming in!

Attending at Stanborough Park was Paul Clee, TED Health director, and Elsie Staples, SEC Health director, who gave their support for the implementation of the programme.

The launch continued into the evening with Dr Diehl delivering an

entertaining health presentation at the Hampstead church. Pastor Walters, SEC president, gave the official welcome and address and endorsed the implementation of CHIP in the British Isles. There followed a celebration concert led by Dr Lily Diehl, whose exceptional musical skills were appreciated by all. Supporting artists were vocalist Jahama South, age 12, from Wolverhampton, violinists Asha Rogers, age 9, from Lincolnshire and Amanda Timmerman from Brixton, and soloist O'shea McDonald, age 11, from Croydon.

Forty-two leaders from all parts of the British Isles undertook the MicroCHIP training which was held at Roundelwood, Scotland from Sunday 18 to Wednesday 21 March. The training was led by Dr Diehl and his team of trainers from the USA, Dena Guthrie from the Adventist CHIP Association and Lynda Nelson, physician. Facilitating the training was Sharon Platt-McDonald, Malcolm Hayles, Roundelwood administrator, and Loraine Hayles, nurse educator.

Now trained to conduct the MicroCHIP programme in their local church, the participants are excited about the potential this programme can have for health evangelism. They have returned with enthusiasm to implement the principles learned to the benefit of their own and others' health and to share the knowledge with their church and community.

In preparation for the launch, Dr



Sharon Platt-McDonald with Drs. Hans and Lily Diehl of the Lifestyle Medicine Institute

Diehl met with forty-six pastors from the London area at the Stoke Newington church on Tuesday 13 March, sharing with them the fundamentals of the CHIP programme. The following day a similar meeting was held at the Newbold College church centre with twenty-one pastors from the provincial areas of the South England Conference.

The presentations consisted of testimonials, clinical research, scientific reviews and data relating to CHIP graduates and the dramatic positive health changes they experienced after undertaking the programme. Also key to these meetings were the building blocks for reviving the message of a positive and friendly 'health reform' in the British Isles and how CHIP can play a part.

The spirited and informative presentations left many pastors with a clearer understanding of the CHIP programme and its positive impact for health evangelism in the UK.

Thursday 15 March saw Dr Diehl present a moving devotion at the BUC morning worship, 'From sceptic to believer', in which he recounted the story of an initially cynical journalist

who, having undertaken the programme, was transformed from a potential cardiac victim to a vibrant and more healthy individual in just four weeks. On the same morning Dr Diehl addressed the BUC

Executive Committee, presenting scientific data and clinical reviews endorsing the efficacy of CHIP. He also highlighted the key points in relation to making CHIP an effective health evangelism tool, using the success stories of previous CHIP trainers and graduates who became believers as a result of the programme.

GPs and health professionals have also had the opportunity to meet with Dr Diehl and present some of the current challenges of the NHS and the link that CHIP could have in terms of lifestyle intervention programmes.

As the resources for the MicroCHIP programme are being prepared for shipment to the UK, the adaptation of key materials is being undertaken to ensure its applicability for the British Isles and relevance to issues faced in the NHS.

We continue to pray for God's favour on this key initiative to raise the profile of our health message. A three-minute video presentation explaining CHIP in the UK is available for viewing on www.adventist.org.uk. Photographs are available for viewing in the photo library at www.adventistpictures.org.uk.

Equiano: The Black Abolitionist

David Marshall

When Olaudah Equiano (aka Gustavus Vassa) published his bestseller in 1789 he was a novelty among bestseller writers.

To begin with he was black. Then there was the fact that he was an educated man; his book gave evidence that he was widely read and had enjoyed, for example, the writings of Milton and Rousseau. Added to that was the fact that he was a free man having bought his own freedom in 1766 for £40.

Equiano hit the headlines in London in 1773 by trying to prevent former slave John Annis from being shipped back to slavery in the Caribbean. Equiano and his codefendant Granville Sharp thought that they had an excellent chance of success in the courts because of a judgement made the previous year by Lord Chief Justice Mansfield. Sadly, they were mistaken. Both Equiano and Sharp were the victims of 'unscrupulous lawyers'.¹ Despite legal judgements and precedents which favoured his case, John Annis was re-enslaved and shipped back to St Kitts where he was 'cut and flogged unmercifully' until 'kind death released him'.

It is likely that his failure in the Annis case fuelled Equiano's desire to put an end to the iniquitous slave triangle upon the basis of which the prosperity of London, Bristol and Liverpool was built. Goods left English ports and were exchanged for what was called in the jargon of the period 'live cargo' in West Africa. Slavery was endemic in parts of West Africa and often followed defeat in local conflicts. Along the coast of present-day Ghana are a number of 'slave castles' in which vast numbers of captives were kept in unspeakable conditions and abused preparatory to shipment to the Caribbean and North America in the slave ships. When those ships returned to Liverpool, London and Bristol they carried sugar, cotton and other commodities produced in the plantations.

England's involvement in the Slave Trade began in the reign of Elizabeth I. By the 1770s England dominated the trade with the Spaniards, Portuguese, French and Dutch fighting for their share of the 'action'.

Equiano himself, born in the Eboe lands of South East Nigeria circa 1745, was enslaved at the age of 10, enduring six months of captivity before being sold to slave traders on the coast. Equiano's 1789 bestseller, *Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*, became a principal source for British abolitionists in the period of eighteen years preceding the passing of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act by the British Parliament in 1807. The book continues to be of great value in providing insights into conditions aboard slave ships during the infamous Middle Passage and in slave plantations in Barbados,

Montserrat and Virginia. Equiano was given the name Gustavus Vassa by his first owner and would appear to have used it for most of his subsequent life.

Historians have suggested that, in addition to his own experiences, Equiano drew on the experiences of others in the writing of his *Narrative*. Certainly in the two-year period following his failure to secure the release of John Annis, Equiano travelled around the principal ports in West Africa, the Caribbean and England connected with the slave trade and took care to inspect on-board conditions.

Among those who associated with Equiano in the campaign for abolition in Britain were Thomas Clarkson and Granville Sharp. His friendship with the Clarkson family led Equiano to live near Wisbech. In 1792 he married Sussah Cullen in Soham, Cambridgeshire. He died in 1797 (ten years before abolition) leaving an estate worth £1,000, equivalent to £100,000 in today's money.

Those who want to know more about Olaudah Equiano should google his name or visit www.oxforddnb.com or www.brycchancarey.com/equiano.

These days it is fashionable to underplay Olaudah Equiano's Christian commitment. Those who read his *Narrative*, however, will discover that he did not. He was a convert to Methodism and Equiano's *Narrative* was the last book read by John Wesley, Methodism's founder, prior to his death. Among those introduced to the horrors of the Slave Trade by Equiano's book were William Pitt and Charles James Fox. A government headed by Fox was responsible for the Abolition of the Slave Trade ten years after Equiano's death at the age of 52.

Women of the Abolition Movement

The story of the abolition of the Slave Trade was not all about men. Evangelical Christian women made a vital contribution.

In the 1780s a coterie of devout Anglican women, led by Elizabeth Bouverie and meeting at the home of Margaret Middleton at Teston in Kent, was at the heart of the Abolitionist campaign. It was in their company that both Clarkson and Wilberforce pledged themselves to abolition and had subsequent meetings in which strategy was planned. Among the women who met in the home at Teston was playwright Hannah More who published a number of influential poems which helped feed public outrage against the trade.

Women were largely responsible for the mass boycott of West Indian sugar that involved as many as 300,000 people in 1792.

Women must be given most of the credit for placing the slave trade at the top of the national agenda in the pivotal years 1786-1792.



Olaudah Equiano



William Wilberforce

Slavery

What came to an end as a result of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act in 1807 was British involvement in the Slave Trade.

Slavery itself was not abolished in British territories until 1833.

Even then the emancipation process was not completed in the Caribbean until 1838.

In the United States it took the Civil War of 1861-65 to remove the institution of slavery.

Is it true to say that slavery has now been completely abolished?

Decidedly not, according to William Haig, Wilberforce's most recent biographer. 'From the villages of Africa to the farms, sweatshops and brothels of Asia and the Indian subcontinent, slavery still flourishes,' he says.

Apparently trading human lives continues to be a blight on the face of the planet.

'Slaves harvest cocoa and other crops in Ivory Coast, mine diamonds in Sierra Leone and are forced into domestic servitude in Latin America,' writes Mr Haig. 'Closer to home slavery lies further below the surface but is there nonetheless: people are trafficked from country to country within Europe, undetected by state authorities. . . . A recent report from the UN Office of Drugs and Crime concludes that no country in the entire world is immune from human trafficking, be it as a country of origin, destination or transit. After narcotics, it equals arms dealing as the second largest criminal industry in the world and is the fastest growing,' concludes Haig. He believes that what challenged Wilberforce, should challenge contemporary Christians.


Haig outlines the problem in a joint publication by the Bible Society and the Anti Slavery Society.

Anti Slavery International was founded in 1839 by many of the same abolitionists who led the campaign against the slave trade in 1807.

If you want to know more visit www.antislavery.org/2007.

¹Simon Schama, *Rough Crossings* (BBC Books), page 197.

* The next issue of MESSENGER will represent the British Union's official commemoration of the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act which was voted by the House of Commons on 10 February and received the Royal Assent on 25 March 1807. Its terms were implemented on 1 January 1808.



Enhancing Health

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

THE IMMUNE SYSTEM (part 1)

The immune system is our defence against disease and infection. It comprises several organs including the thymus gland and spleen and a host of free roaming cells which help to fight off foreign bodies.

Immune system enemies: Stress; Poor nutrition; Pollution; Cigarette smoke; Pesticides; Food additives; Too little or too much exercise; Obesity; Crash dieting.

Boosting your immunity

Two main factors determine the condition of our immune system — heredity and lifestyle. Heredity we need to work with to minimise any predispositions. However, as we can do something significant about our lifestyle, we need to focus more on this area to improve our chances of avoiding the chronic diseases which strain our immune system. We can then begin to reclaim ground lost in our heredity.

Lifestyle factors impacting our immunity include diet, exercise, environment, mental, emotional and social well-being.

Body defence and antioxidants

Harmful molecules known as 'free radicals' which damage our bodies' cells are produced through a process called oxidation. Damage from oxidation weakens the immune system and is at the root of many chronic diseases. It also advances the aging process.

Antioxidants found in particular foods are important as these nutrients are 'anti' the 'oxidants', helping to protect us by mopping up the free radicals before they can cause this oxidation damage. These antioxidants work as immune-boosting nutrients. Fruit and vegetables are the ultimate body-protecting foods as they are high in antioxidants.

The most potent groups of antioxidants are the *carotenoids* and the *anthocyanins*. Here's how to find them:

- Carotenoids — includes betacarotene: found in carrots, sweet potatoes, dark green vegetables
- Anthocyanins — plant pigments that give fruit and vegetables their colourful hues: found in berries, (especially blueberries), cherries and red grapes

Eat plenty of these foods to boost your antioxidant intake. The recommended portion of fruit and vegetables per day is now 9 portions. Eat up!

Food over supplements

Scientists have established the links between antioxidants and immunity and the benefits for our health. However, research has shown that antioxidants eaten in foods are far more effective than supplements in protecting our health. It appears that there is something in antioxidant foods which cannot be replicated in pill form.

In the next issue, we expand on diet and food additives and their impact on the immune system.

Until then . . . watch what you eat!

New church in Liverpool

February 17 was an historic day for the Stoneycroft company in Liverpool. Well-wishers from the entire North England Conference came to help us celebrate our organisation into a church. On 3 December 2005 Stoneycroft Sabbath School had its first meeting in the United Redeemed Church, in Lister Road in Anfield, Liverpool. In February 2006 Stoneycroft was organised as a company with a membership of 14. On 27 December 2006, seven were baptised.

Our minister Pastor Barry Stokes, who has helped our growth, and Pastor Egerton Francis, the president of the North England Conference, officiated on the memorable occasion.

In his sermon, Pastor Francis urged the members to remember what the church is all about, stating that the members should appreciate,



respect and understand one another. His message encouraged planning carefully and studying the word of the Lord diligently.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

'The Clearest Gospel'

What a privilege it was for the church in Belfast to have Pastor Jack Sequeira and his wife Jean visiting from Portland, Oregon on Friday 9 March to host an in-depth study retreat on the book of Romans, which Martin Luther described as 'the clearest gospel of all'.

After travelling for thirty-two hours to reach the Mourne, Jack and Jean ministered continuously to us from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon.

The venue was a small hotel deep in the Mourne Mountains with only sheep as close neighbours. Not only were we enlightened, but even those who had wondered if they could cope with continuous Bible study admitted that the weekend was enjoyable and informative. More importantly, all rejoiced that they were led into a more meaningful relationship with God and a greater understanding of his love to us through Christ Jesus.

Jean began each study session



Adventist presence at CRE Exeter

Exeter church made its presence felt at the recent South-West Christian Resources Exhibition at The Westpoint Centre, Exeter, from Thursday 25 to Saturday 27 January.

Volunteers on the stand offered *The Evidence* DVD as resource material for small groups and outreach to the unchurched. They presented the DVD pack as a tool to be used before the Alpha course as a way of introducing God in everyday life. From there they could go to the Alpha stage where Christianity and the Bible are introduced.

The other resource material offered was the *LIFE.info* magazine which was given out to more people, as well as to those doing youth work, day care centres, etc. We also gave them to passers-by, together with a *Focus* magazine.

Using the *Focus* magazine as a resource, the volunteers also introduced the Seventh-day Adventist church and its beliefs. This led to many questions and afforded the team opportunity to have a chat with attendees while sharing the content of the magazine. The stand also focused on a Ten Commandment display offering the book, *Ten Commandments Twice Removed*. These proved to be very popular.

The church team were very positive about the event and believe that their presence at South-West CRE helped build bridges and links with fellow Christians. It has also created the potential for introducing the church's first and second stage (*LIFE.info* magazine and *Evidence* DVD) LIFE.development materials to the broader Christian community.

BERTIE DE NYSSCHEN

with a short recollection of the Sequeiras' ministry in Uganda and how God had looked after them in both large and small ways.

Although Jack and Jean are 'retired' they travel all over the world preaching the Gospel. Jack's main ministry is to enable people to understand the truth of the Gospel and so have peace and assurance in their lives, as well as reason to give glory to God for his grace and love.

Jack is a prolific writer, having many books to his name, but he is also widely in print on the internet and can be accessed at www.jacksequeira.org/jacklist.htm.

EILEEN IRVINE

It's time to break the glass!



And there's another one! This time it's an ambulance on its way to help at some emergency. The sirens scream, cars pull over, the ambulance weaves its way through the rush hour. Why? Someone somewhere needs help. In 2002, 302,605 people were involved in a major road accident of which 39,407 were killed or severely injured. (www.statistics.gov.uk/STATBASE/Expodata/Spreadsheets/D4031.xls).

In and around our office building are little red boxes mounted on the walls. They say 'FIRE', and on the glass panel there are these instructions, 'Break Glass' 'Press Here', and there are two little arrows pointing to a centre circle on the glass. The message is clear. If there is a fire, break the glass, tell everyone about the emergency; let's save lives.

A great deal of effort goes into helping those who are in an emergency, in a life-threatening situation. Much time and energy is spent on trying to prevent these emergencies from happening. We know that life is precious, and saving life is a priority.

Saving lives has always been Heaven's priority. Jesus said in Luke 19:10 'For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.' Paul tells us 'the wages of sin is death' (Rom 6:23), but Jesus states categorically that we need not die. '... here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die.' (John 6:50.) And again that marvellous assurance '... whoever believes in him [Jesus] shall not perish but have eternal life.' (John 3:16.) So what does all this have to do with me? I hear you ask. Well, simply this: 'The most solemn truths ever entrusted to mortals have been given to us to proclaim to the world. The proclamation of these truths is our work. The world is to be warned, and God's people are to be true to the trust committed to them.' (RH July 28, 1904, EGW.)

'We are to be channels of light to the world, imparting to others the light we receive from the great Light-bearer. The words and works of all men are to be tried. Let us not be backward now. That which is to be done in warning the world must be done without delay. Let not the canvassing work be left to languish. Let the books containing the light on present truth be placed before as many as possible.' (MC66:2 EGW.)

Ellen White had a lot to say about the canvassing ministry. With regret she wrote, 'This work has not of late had the life infused into it which was once given by the agents who made it their speciality.' (MC 66:1.) One final quote: 'God calls upon His people to act like living men and not to be indolent, sluggish, and indifferent. We must carry the publications to the people and urge them to accept, showing them that they will receive much more than their money's worth. Exalt the value of the books you offer. You cannot regard them too highly.' (4T 392.2.)

I believe that we are not just experiencing an emergency in our land, but a trauma that has put our population into intensive care. People are losing the battle with the diseases of this world but do not know that the disease of sin has been cured by Jesus Christ on the Cross.

Literature evangelists are needed in every part of the British Union. Our friends and neighbours, our family and acquaintances need to know that there is hope, and you can carry that message. So, is it time to break the glass? You can see the emergency, you know that time is running out. Is the Spirit speaking to you and asking you to become a literature evangelist? Why not contact the Publishing director, British Union Conference and explore the possibilities under God's guidance? Yes, it is time to break the glass. Come, let us do it together.

PASTOR CURTIS MURPHY, Publishing director, BUC

What's in a Name?

Shakespeare famously questioned 'What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.' (*Romeo & Juliet* Act II, sc.ii) The members of the association formerly known as the Adventist Business and Professionals' Association (ABPA) are hoping this is true. The decision was taken recently to change its name to ASI-UK in line with ASI Europe of which it is a chapter. ASI is an international organisation which originated in North America and stands for Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries. It aims to draw together Adventist business, professional and lay-ministry people who desire to 'Share Christ in the Market Place' and who want to use their talents to further the work of the Adventist Church.

Spring was very definitely in the air as the members of ASI-UK travelled to Scarborough for their latest meeting. John and Norma Kent have a house fellowship in Scarborough and brought along two of the people to whom they are witnessing. It was the first time this couple had worshipped with other Adventists and it was a great experience for everyone. We also had with us another non-Adventist family, so the members



were able to 'Share Christ' in positive ways.

Victor Pilmoor, the BUC representative on the ASI-UK Board, led an innovative, challenging and interactive lesson study which was enjoyed by all. David Balderstone, a trustee of STOP International, reported on his latest trip to India, where he and a group from Stanborough School led by Kish Poddar worked on an orphanage, while Ken Halls, another trustee, drew a sketch to show where sponsorship from ASI-UK was being used. Martin Bell, newly appointed chaplain for ASI-UK, shared insightful thoughts from Scripture which he illustrated with appropriate and sometimes amusing anecdotes in his devotionals. 'Talk time', when we heard of God's leading and guiding, added to the sense of blessing all experienced and appreciated.

During the Saturday evening meal there was a buzz of excitement

as members pitted themselves against each other with table quizzes. The fun continued as new member Peter Marshall proved that laughter really is the best medicine.

In Sunday's business session the members approved the projects to be helped over the next year and they were issued with 'seed money' which they are expected to 'grow' in order to finance the chosen projects. It was with a sense of having experienced spiritual, physical and emotional refreshment that the members dispersed to their various homes, determined more than ever to 'Share Christ in the Market Place.'

If you would like to know more about ASI-UK please contact the secretary: Mrs Christine Manners-Smith, email: Manners-Smith@ntlworld.com, or write to ASI-UK c/o the BUC office.

AUDREY BALDERSTONE

'It was scary – at first . . .'

A lone trumpet sounded a halting voluntary, piano chords thundered and the flags of the British Union and the Pathfinders fluttered as the steady march of dozens of uniformed youth entered Leicester Central's church.

The Leicester Central Pathfinder,

Master Guide, Adventurers and Eager Beavers (PAEB) clubs held their first investiture for 2007 in January.

Under the gaze of many proud parents, the NEC Pathfinder director Pastor Trevor Thomas, and local PAEB director, Pauline Matturi,



all the clubs displayed the very best of their talents for which they were being commended with badges and certificates.

The chosen speakers for the divine hour – Carlmore Joseph, Guides Unit, Violet Muchenagumbo,

Friends Unit, and Rodrick Chapangara, Guides Unit – read sermonettes penned by elder Sylvia Ham-Ying called 'Lift Him Up.'

The youngest speaker, Violet, 10, gave an insight into how she managed to deliver a confident and animated message entitled 'Lift Him up in Praise'.

She revealed that she relied heavily on Jesus. 'I was praying and praying to God. The night before I was feeling sick, but I kept on praying. I went up feeling scared. Once I got started, it wasn't that scary,' said the Pathfinder who received honours in swimming, kite-flying and helping hand.

Likewise the young men showed confidence beyond their years.

The PAEB club continues to grow under the guidance of newly appointed director, Pauline Matturi and has seen an increase in members from the local community.

W. G. DACRES

Mothers' Day prayer focus

As many were celebrating Mothers' Day on Sunday, 18 March, mothers and fathers in Zion assembled at the Stoke Newington church at 10am for prayer and morning breakfast. Prayer co-ordinators and their teams from Areas 6A, 6B, 6C and 6D came together to pray for one another and for the work and challenges ahead – Ingathering, Camp Meeting, Impact London 2007, church planting – to name a few. Joining the prayer co-ordinators were SEC president, Pastor H. Walters, his wife and their young son.

Pastor Walters offered special words of encouragement and thanks for the focus and priority that the prayer co-ordinators had given to prayer. As he reported the violent death of another youngster, he reminded us that we were, 'living and dwelling in a grand and awful time'. However, 'Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal'. It was therefore of the utmost importance for God's people to take prayer to a higher level, so that they can be vigorous, united, and go forward to conquer.

Numbers 13:25-4.1 was chosen by Pastor Walters for his presentation. He requested prayer for the following: for God to identify two or three men/women of vision, integrity and purpose to take on certain

responsibilities; for Camp Meeting, (the Adventists' spiritual convention), for church planting, and for the young people. Pastor Walters and his family were asked to sit in front facing the congregation. The prayer co-ordinators then surrounded them as Fitzroy Morris prayed for them.

The programme continued with prayer requests being made for the various churches' plans, followed by group prayers and a special closing prayer by Ermine Davis. At the end of the meeting there was networking over a delicious meal prepared by Patricia Awotwi and others.

MAXINE DONOVAN

NEC Pathfinder: Outdoor Training

Rain greeted us on our first Outdoor Training weekend for this year at Beaudesert Park Scout campsite. There were over 65 campers on site willing to brave the elements in order to take the Master Guide, Pathfinder Leadership Award, Pioneering & Knot-tying & First Aid for the Appointed Persons courses on 2-4 March. While the rain

persisted over the weekend, building up to thunderstorms on the Sunday, it did not dampen our spirits or the jacket potatoes and vegetable casseroles that were cooked on the open fire. While these weekends can be physically demanding, they are also the source of great spiritual strength and nurture as the Master Guides led out in the Morning Watch at 7.45 each morning and vespers each evening. On Sunday we were joined by Trevor Harewood and Natalie Simon from the SEC, who led out in the Basic & Advanced Drilling & Marching courses which were attended by another 30. Two of the courses we ran, Pioneering & Knot-tying and First Aid, were new to our line-up. The Pioneering group highlighted just how necessary this course is to the development of our camping skills and the First Aid certificate is now an essential qualification for our club staff. As the First Aid course is run over one weekend, this will be available to another 12 candidates on 20-22 April. Pastor Thomas would like to thank all the members of the training team for their support and sacrifice.

PASTOR TREVOR THOMAS

The Stanborough Press Ltd has a vacancy for an Administrative Secretary at its Grantham offices. Applications, together with CV, should be submitted to The Financial Director, The Stanborough Press Ltd, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: 01476 591700; Fax: 01476 577144; Email: stanborg@aol.com. Salary in accordance with denominational wage scale.

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Winning our Children (cont.)

How can KIDS happen in your church?
Training, materials and coaching are available.

'KIDS University' offers three days of intensive training to equip volunteer leaders to direct 'KIDS in Discipleship' in their home church. These courses are to be held at the Stanborough Park church in Watford on 21-23 and 24-26 May, 2007.

A limited number of teams is accepted each year. The success of KIDS is dependent on two priorities – praying for the Holy Spirit and full integration of the ministry into the fabric of the church. For this reason, the pastor and at least three lay leaders are required to attend. Each team is linked with a coach who will offer support throughout the first year.

How do I sign up?

Contact us at the BUC Children's Ministries department to request an application pack today or go to www.secadventist.org.uk, click on Children's Ministries department and then Departmental Events.

We must not overlook God's children. They are the church of today.

Pastor Michael John Stickland – 29 November 1944-16 February 2007

It is with sadness that we record the passing of one of our talented pastors in the British Union Conference. Pastor Mike Stickland served his Lord in the British Union for just over thirty-four years as a pastor, preceptor, youth director, communications director, conference president and principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre (Voice of Prophecy).

Mike was the second of five children born to Ray and Audrey Stickland in Norwich. Norwich was a part of Mike and, after a forty-year absence, he returned to retire nearby. It was after a short spell as a police cadet that Mike changed the course of his life towards a different kind of service when he began to study theology at Newbold College. Early in his studies, he had first contact with the illness which he would fight for the rest of his life. During a period of remission, he married Sheila and they had three sons, Nathan, Bobby and Dan.

After graduating from Newbold in 1969 Mike Stickland began what was to become a truly outstanding life of service in the Adventist Church. For ten years he served as a pastor to churches in the South England Conference. He then specialised in work among young people. For three years he served as preceptor at Stanborough School, for three years as Youth director in the South England Conference and he spent five years as Youth and Communication director for the British Union Conference. To a generation or more of young people he was known for his down-to-earth spiritual values, his cheerfulness and his caring for people. He was to them a role model of what it means to be a Christian in today's world. The youth of the British Union were among those who prayed for Mike's recovery

when he was diagnosed with a lymphoma in 1988 and were among those who rejoiced at his recovery.

In November 1991 Pastor Stickland was invited to serve as president of the North England Conference. It was a disappointment to him and many who served under his leadership when, in 1993, after nearly three years, Mike was diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma. After much prayer, he was released from the heavy responsibilities of the presidency. For three years he returned to pastoral ministry and filled the role of Ministerial secretary and Communication director in the North England Conference. For the last six years of denominational service he accepted the position of Principal of one of Britain's most important Bible correspondence schools, the Adventist Discovery Centre.

Alongside his formal ministry, Mike was also a respected author, writer and teacher/trainer. He wrote two books, one valuable to young people wanting to investigate for themselves the value of Christian faith and the other to encourage and give hope to those facing serious illness. Both books were successful because they were written from his very real and practical experiences. Then he developed and wrote several seminars and training manuals, the most successful now being used internationally to teach ordinary lay members extraordinary skills in public speaking and preaching.

After his retirement, on health grounds, he continued working in the local community at Lingwood, just outside Norwich, where he became an active member of the Parish Council.

The story of Mike's long battle with cancer is one of answered prayer, miracles and God's leading. He was one of life's great fighters and he qui-

etly but firmly accepted the life he was given and made the best possible use of it in service to others. He is to be remembered for his spirit and courage. There were times when his very survival astounded the

medical profession and as they saw it, 'the impossible happened'. The Lord preserved him for forty years and Mike turned his illnesses, terrible and debilitating as they were, into a gift with which he could help others.

The funeral service was conducted in the Norwich church on Tuesday 27 February and, at Mike's request, was attended by close family and members of the Norwich church. A memorial service, celebrating Mike's life and ministry, was held in the Stanborough Park church on Sunday 4 March, attended by members of the family, pastors, friends and colleagues. Mike will be remembered by several generations of young people who found a deeper meaning to life through him. He will also be remembered with the greatest respect by fellow church pastors and Bible school workers, who saw in him an example of work and service. Above all, he will be remembered and missed by his wife Sheila, their three sons Nathan, Bobby and Dan, two daughters-in-law and four grandchildren. Finally, Mike will be remembered with warmth and affection by the rest of the family and the larger church family. Like Jesus, who died before his time, but triumphantly, amazingly lived again, so Mike knew for a certainty that he will one day live again. Until that day Mike will rest in peace. Even so, come Lord Jesus.

ALAN HODGES and JAMES HUZZEY



Gloucester baptisms



Sabbath 25 March was an important day in the lives of one of the younger members and one of the older members of Gloucester church. Tara Emraz, who had celebrated her eleventh birthday earlier in the week and Euva Mitchell, both made public their decision to follow Jesus by baptism, and the event was a fitting climax to the Youth Week of Prayer.

They had made their decision following the autumn campaign by Dr Keith Burton, and received Bible studies leading up to this memorable day in their lives. Tara's mother, Hella, spoke of her joy at her daughter's decision, which had been made entirely on her own, and Merlene Mitchell, Euva Mitchell's wife, reminded us of the many years of prayer that had led to this day.

Pastor Bernie Holford was special guest for the day and baptised the two new members in an afternoon programme that followed the morning service organised by the youth team, when Winsome Badjes Brown preached an inspiring message. The church was packed with fellow members and guests of the candidates, and Pastor Holford reminded us that we have to support one another during our journey to the kingdom.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Newbold News

Rave reviews for Newbold lecturer at Slavery conference

Dr Kay Traille, one of Newbold's history lecturers, received rave reviews when she contributed a lecture to a recent conference at London University on black history and heritage.

To mark the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act, the Institute of Education held a public lecture and debate on African and Caribbean history and heritage in UK schools. Dr Traille, whose doctoral dissertation looked at learning in ethnic groups, lectured to 600 people at the Institute on the experiences of African Caribbean history students and their mothers.

by Helen Pearson

Professor Heidi Mirza, director of the Centre of Equalities and Human Rights in education at the Institute of Education, told Dr Traille: 'You have a rare gift to articulate the inner emotional experience of what it means to be black and be a parent and a pupil. You opened new ways of thinking about identity through the concept of "shame". What came across was a person who is committed and passionate about what she does.'

In consequence, Dr Traille, who has previously written scripts on aspects of nineteenth-century history for radio broadcast, has been invited to contribute to a

BBC programme, give a talk at the National Gallery, publish a book and write for a journal. As she says, 'Not bad for a 20-minute talk!'

Alumni Reunion 29 June-1 July 2007

Students from the late 60s are mobilising to organise an alumni reunion to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their time at Newbold. Nearly thirty people, mostly from Europe and the USA have already registered for the event which is entirely alumni organised.

The core programme of the reunion will last from Friday evening to Sunday morning. Events will include talks by Newbold principal, Dr David Penner and Emeritus History teacher, Dr Harry Leonard.

By chance, on the same weekend, Newbold will be hosting

an international forum, organised by the *Global Internet Evangelism Network* and featuring Newboldians from the 60s and 70s. Clearly, there will be a general Newbold homecoming for Newboldians that weekend and some alumni are planning to extend their stay beyond the weekend itself. Remaining accommodation will, of course, be booked on a first-come-first-served basis.

Connie (Koenig) Maloney is the moving spirit behind the alumni event and she is still working on the final details.

For more information about the event contact Connie Maloney: connie@gistnet.com.

To book accommodation and/or meals at Newbold contact Pat Dyckhoff, (Alumni secretary) pdycckhoff@newbold.ac.uk.

Faith in God and the people of South Sudan

by Graham Pilmoor*

Sudan has been in a state of civil war since 1984. In 2005 a peace agreement was signed between the north of Sudan and the south. To this day it is still holding firm; Darfur of course is a different matter. The story of war torn areas

is becoming increasingly familiar with the sustained coverage afforded by global news channels: in fact, there isn't a day that goes by when we don't hear from Iraq, Israel, Sudan or Sri Lanka, and the constant dripping of bad news leads us

to lose all hope in their future. How sad is the day when we accept defeat and cease to extend our hands into the murky waters of war to help the drowning brother.

As Christians we assert that hope is not to be lost, neither in this world nor the next. We believe in a time when spears will become pruning hooks. In the meantime we assert our faith in God's earth. 'Still houses will be built in this land.'

At ADRA we continue to put our faith in God's earth and in the people of South Sudan. We build and run health clinics, dig boreholes, distribute mosquito nets and help returning refugees. Yet if there is one thing that affirms faith in the future God holds in store for us, whether in Sudan or anywhere else, it is in the way we look after our children. For the last 3 years ADRA-UK has encouraged communities in South Sudan to pursue education for their children, and in particular girls who previously made up less than 25% of the classroom, with most girls

only finishing primary school (if at all) by the age of 20. Community volunteers meet and travel for days at a time to promote girls' education and to discuss how to overcome the barriers that keep girls out of school. ADRA trains role model teachers who are sensitive to the needs of girls and share these with their colleagues. They then hold rallies where community volunteers can come together to discuss the challenges facing them and raise the profile of girls' rights to education. Since the project started, the number of girls registered to attend school has trebled in the project areas. Where once there were 7,000 girls in schools, there are now 22,000; where once only 1 in 5 students were girls, the ratio is now 1 in 3. As these girls grow, they become empowered to take part in the major decisions of their families, their communities and their country.

The people of Sudan haven't lost hope in their future and neither have we. Education for all is now part of public policy: the contribution made the people of Britain, beyond helping the few, has established a pattern for the many. We thank you for continuing to reach out.

* Currently working for ADRA in South Sudan



Fletewood School

Position Vacant

The Headteacher and governors of Fletewood School invite applicants for the post of Key Stage 1 teacher starting in September 2007.

Fletewood is highly regarded in the local community and by inspectors for its Christian ethos and high academic standards.

The ideal candidate will:

- Have QTS, • Have evidence of excellent classroom practice across the curriculum, • Have experience of working with pupils who are gifted and talented and with those who have additional needs, • Have experience of managing additional staff within the classroom, • Have up-to-date professional knowledge, skills and practice, • Have clear philosophy and the ability to put it into practice, • Be hard-working with a good sense of humour, • Be willing to uphold the Christian Seventh-day Adventist ethos of the school.

If you feel called to join the team in this successful school, please forward your CV and a covering letter to: The Headteacher, Fletewood School, 88 North Rd East, North Hill, Plymouth, PL4 6AN. Tel: 01752 663782; E-mail: headteacher@fletewoodschool.co.uk.

Deadline for application: Monday 30 April 2007

ADRA Vacancies

Two positions for Finance Directors are available, working for ADRA-Sudan – one based in Khartoum (Northern Office) and one in Juba (Southern Office).

Requirements:

- A minimum of BA in Business Administration or Accounting.
- A minimum of five years senior management experience in accounting, public Administration or business management in the developing world.
- Special skills in organisation, personnel management, budgeting, accounting, computer science, logistics, and procurement. Adaptability in human relations and cross-cultural living.

A full job description can be accessed at www.adra-te.org by visiting the Experience section.

A letter of application, together with a current CV and email addresses of two referees, should be sent to Raafat Kamal, rkamal@ted-adventist.org, ADRA-Trans Europe Regional director, 119 St Peter's Street, St Albans, Herts. AL1 3EY. The deadline for receipt of applications is 30 April 2007.

Newbold Awards Ceremony

The speaker at the Newbold Awards Ceremony on 8 July will be James Standish, director of Legislative Affairs at the World Headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Why 'Awards Ceremony' not 'Graduation'? And why July and not May or June?

To find out more go to www.newbold.ac.uk.

Dudley House School

Requires an **Experienced KS1 Teacher (Years 1 & 2) for September 2007** initially to cover maternity leave.

Dudley House School is a small independent school with 55 pupils aged between 3 and 11. It is a caring, Christian school, offering high quality education to pupils from the local Seventh-day Adventist church and the community.

The successful candidate should:

- have QTS and an up-to-date professional knowledge, • have the necessary skills to provide stimulating learning situations to motivate all children fully, • be able to create a happy and stimulating environment in the classroom, • take an active part in all aspects of school life and extra-curricular activities, • demonstrate a Christian faith by word and example.

If you would like to join the enthusiastic and caring team of staff at this school, please send a letter of application together with a current CV and the addresses of two referees to: Mrs Johnson, Headteacher, Dudley House School, 1 Dudley Road, Grantham, Lincs. NG31 9AA

For further information please ring or email the school.

Telephone: 01476 400184.
Email: headteacher@dudleyhouseschool.co.uk

Closing date for applications: 30 April 2007

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May

13 John Loughborough 10.30am-2pm

Messenger

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Sunset

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

	London	Card	Nottingham	Edinburgh	Belfast
April 20	8.05	8.17	8.13	8.29	8.36
27	8.17	8.29	8.25	8.43	8.49
May 4	8.28	8.40	8.37	8.57	9.02
11	8.39	8.52	8.49	9.11	9.15

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