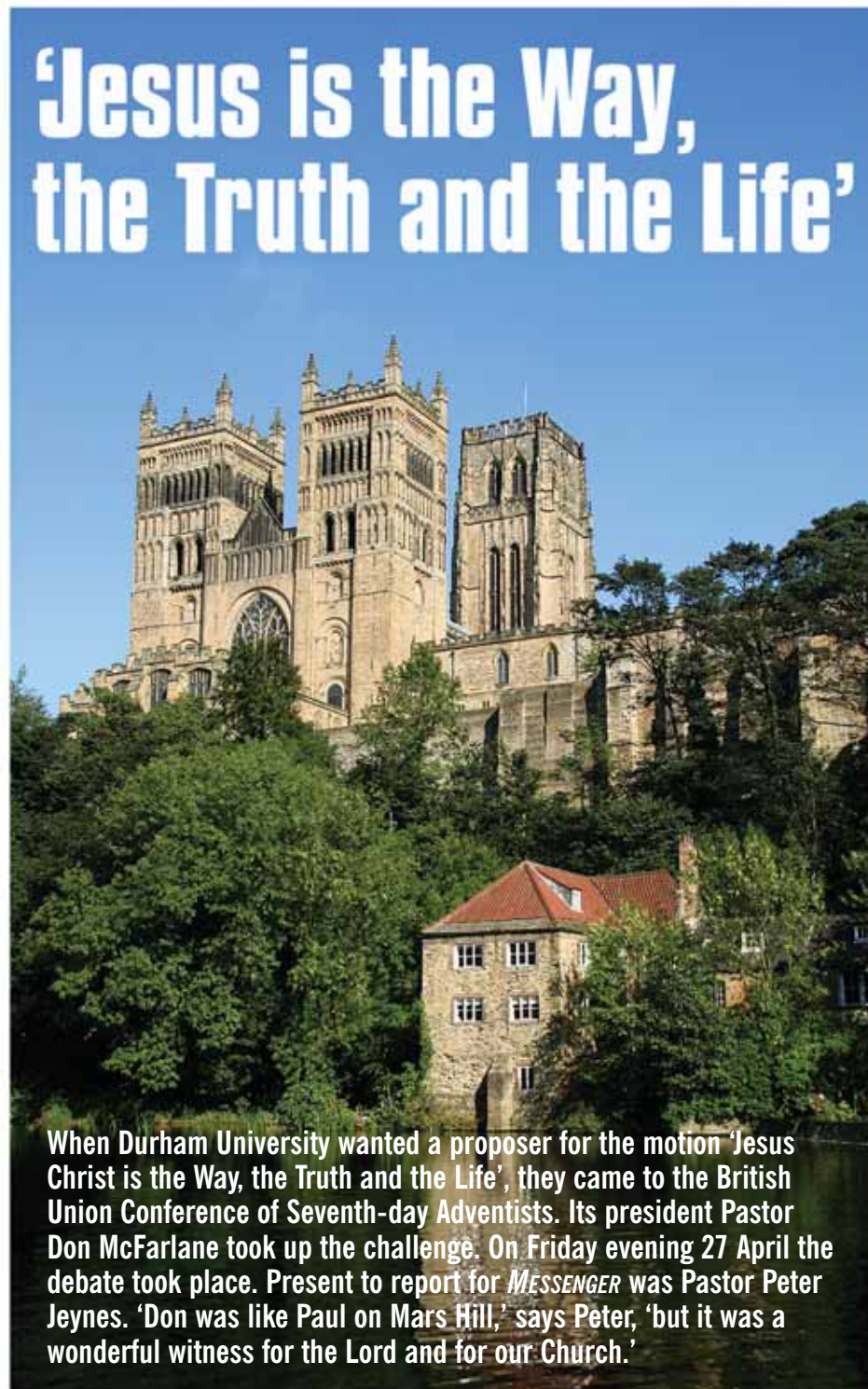


Messenger

News to the churches • 18 May 2007 • Volume 112 • 11

‘Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life’



When Durham University wanted a proposer for the motion ‘Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life’, they came to the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Its president Pastor Don McFarlane took up the challenge. On Friday evening 27 April the debate took place. Present to report for *Messenger* was Pastor Peter Jeynes. ‘Don was like Paul on Mars Hill,’ says Peter, ‘but it was a wonderful witness for the Lord and for our Church.’

1PING/StockPhoto

‘This house believes that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life’ was the motion debated by Durham University’s Students Union.



It was loudly announced that the proposer was the president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK. Other proposers were Oxford philosopher Professor Richard Swinburne and Rt Revd Brian Smith, the Anglican Bishop of Edinburgh.

The opposers of the motion were hardly less well-known. There was Dr Stephen Law, author and scholar, Stuart Sim, another published philosopher, and Thomas Bull, a finalist in the world debating championships.

To be invited into the company of such luminaries is a symbol of acceptance and great good news – but to be asked to *speak* on such a subject suggests that someone, somewhere, has heard that Seventh-day Adventists know something about Jesus. It would appear that someone is beginning to hear our voice.

The debating hall, within sight and sound of the cathedral, was packed – not with theologians, philosophers and sundry academics, but with a large crowd of young people who had decided that a debate was of greater importance than a Friday night on the town. The talk before the debate began was not whether United will win the league but whether there was ‘any point in a religious experience’, or ‘I’ve always been to church’, and ‘I was an atheist before I became a Christian.’ Solid and encouraging stuff.

The debate did not reveal any new approaches in how to persuade people that Jesus really is the Way, the Truth and the Life, nor did the opposition provide truly stunning arguments against our concept of God. What was important in the debate was revealed after the event.

Who won is not the issue. That the motion was lost proved that the opposers could shout the loudest. That the debate took place and that many students were involved and became involved is the victory. People heard some of the issues and put their brains to work. Victory!

After the debate Pastor McFarlane said that for him the aim was to make sure that the name of the Church was announced and held high. ‘It was a privilege,’ said Pastor McFarlane, ‘to put the case for Jesus – the Way, the Truth and the Life.’

For the full text of Pastor McFarlane’s speech see www.adventistinfo.org.uk/departments/president.php

ADRA appeal: 30% increase

by Bert Smit, ADRA-UK director

Reports in from the Conferences and Missions at the end of April indicate a 30% increase so far in the Ingathering total over the same period last year.

As director for ADRA-UK, I would personally like to thank all those who participated in this year's ADRA Annual Appeal. It was heart-warming to hear and read your

reports from all over the British Isles about activities that have added to our yearly fund-raising effort. From car washes to sponsored walks to fund-raising concerts – all of it has made a great difference. A very special 'thank you' to all the collectors who took full advantage of this year's good weather to collect from door to door.

Together we *are* making a difference! Therefore a very warm 'thank you' on behalf of the poor and needy for whom ADRA provides essential support. Without your financial help, we could not do this.

As soon as we have the final figures in from all the churches, we will report the total amount. We would also encourage you to remember the work of ADRA throughout the year. Please contact your Ingathering agent to provide you with a special 'home-tin' to keep collecting small

change at home. Alternatively, you can make out a monthly standing order to ADRA. With Gift Aid added, every pound can make a real difference. If you would like a fun day out in Edinburgh, then the 'Great Scottish Walk' might be an ideal way to raise more funds for ADRA. Contact www.adra.org.uk for more details. The SEC is organising an ADRA Fun Run on Sunday 29 July at Crystal Palace.



Is it well?

David Marshall



You never know how you will cope when disaster strikes – until it strikes.

You never know how deep your roots run until the hurricane happens.

Thankfully, disasters rarely strike nor hurricanes happen with the frequency and intensity with which they struck the life of H. G. Spafford.

A Chicago lawyer, Spafford dedicated his life to God after hearing the preaching of Dwight Moody. At first, all went well. His business interests prospered, he married a beautiful Nordic wife, they settled down in Lake View on the Chicago shores of Lake Michigan and had a son and four wonderful daughters.

Spafford used his wealth and influence to God's glory and, with others, bankrolled the Moody evangelistic enterprise.

The first disaster to strike was the death of the Spaffords' young son in an epidemic. While the Spaffords were still grieving, the Great Fire struck. Spafford narrowly escaped with his life and, with conspicuous heroism, helped many others escape the inferno by making it possible for them to cross the river. His home and family were spared but his business interests never recovered from the fire's devastation.

Two years later Spafford arranged a European holiday for his wife and four daughters aged between 18 months and 12 years. Tickets were bought on the grand *SS Ville du Havre*. It was Spafford's intention to join his family in Europe once some business had been concluded in Chicago.

Mid-Atlantic, the sea three miles deep but calm, the *SS Ville du Havre* sank after a collision with another vessel. The three Spafford girls drowned while the mother clung to the baby. Finally, the baby was swept from her grasp. Mrs Spafford was one of only forty-seven survivors. Ten days later, from Cardiff, she sent a cable to her husband. It began with the words, 'Saved alone. What shall I do . . .'

Spafford sailed immediately for Liverpool. There Dwight Moody took time out from his evangelistic campaign in Edinburgh to comfort the Spaffords. The hurricane had struck their lives and the great evangelist was amazed at their fortitude and faith. On the voyage Spafford had made to Liverpool, the captain of the vessel on which he travelled called him to the bridge one evening. 'A careful reckoning has been made,' he told Spafford, 'and I believe we are now passing the place where the *Ville du Havre* went down.' Back in his stateroom, Spafford wrote the words of a poem, 'When peace like a river'.

But back home, in Chicago, members of the Spaffords' home congregation were dissecting his sorrows as if they were specimens requiring analysis.

The losses in the Great Fire? The death of his son? The deaths of all of his daughters? Was not God punishing H. G. Spafford for sins in his life? For his outspoken beliefs?

Thankfully, the Spaffords, struggling through sea-billows of grief, were unaware of what the home crowd was making of their tragic situation.

The Spaffords were struggling with their grief in their different ways.

Mrs Spafford was trying to prove that she was more than a 'fair weather Christian'. She told herself: 'I will trust Him, and some day I'll understand.' Back in Chicago, Moody involved her in an exacting programme to help the poor and disadvantaged women of the city.

H. G. Spafford struggled to make sense of his children's deaths. He expressed his thoughts in poetic form and published them in a book titled *Waiting for the Morning*. Then he re-immersed himself in his Chicago ministry: YMCA efforts in the downtown district, prison ministries, helping Moody (with the little that remained of his fortune) to build a new tabernacle in Chicago's north side.

The lasting bequest Spafford made to Christianity was the words of the poem he had written mid-Atlantic, and for which his friend Philip Bliss composed a tune. It is number 530 in the *SDA Hymnal*. It begins:

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea-billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
'It is well, it is well with my soul.'*

Two more children, one boy and one girl, were born into the Spafford family.

After a few short years a scarlet fever epidemic swept through Chicago. Both children caught it. The little boy died.

The struggles began again.

They were vastly intensified when a quietly-spoken, pious member of their congregation came to their home and asked them to permit him to adopt their one remaining child.

When he had gone, Mrs Spafford had to explain to her husband that, since the death of their daughters, the 'Christian' community of which they were part had engaged in whispered comments and speculations. 'They think we have sinned,' she told him, 'and that God is punishing us.'

In the ensuing months the whispering campaign continued: 'If the Spaffords were true Christians, God would not have allowed all these disasters to happen to them.'

Some whisperers contended that Spafford was being punished for his hell-hostile theology. Other whisperers contended that the Spaffords were being punished for unspecified 'sin in the life'.

The elders of the Presbyterian church which the Spaffords had helped to build finally asked them to resign their membership. The Spaffords subsequently moved to Jerusalem where they founded a ministry to win Moslems and Jews for Christ. End of story.

Their story, that is.

The story of the whisperers continues. In your congregation?

When the disciples saw the man born blind, and before Jesus could heal him, they showed that they adhered to the superstitions of folk religion by asking, 'Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?'¹ Jesus said, 'Neither' and moved quickly to deny their superstition and, by implication, 'the whole Jewish system of rewards and punishments'.²

Our reflex when tragedy strikes is to demand answers. And, almost invariably, we demand answers to the wrong questions.

Jesus invited the disciples to think through their wrong question. They were looking for someone to blame. Jesus implied that it was not their business to argue cause-effect. It was to allow God to work in the situation. In that situation, God's work was to let in the Light!

Pilate's soldiers murdered a group of Galileans. Jesus asked, 'Do you think the murdered Galileans were worse sinners than those who survived?' He answered his own question, 'I tell you, no!'³

A tower in the Siloam district of Jerusalem collapsed, killing eighteen people. Jesus asked, 'Do you think those eighteen were worse sinners than all the others living in Jerusalem?' Again, he answered his own question, 'I tell you, no!'⁴

The Bible allows a general relationship between suffering and sin, due to the Fall,⁵ but it refuses to permit the principle to be individualised in every case. God explicitly dismisses the simplistic sin-suffering theology in Job.

In the same way Jesus refuses to accept that deaths as shocking as those of the Galileans slaughtered or the people of Siloam killed resulted from the sin of the victims. 'I tell you, no!' he said.

Our reflex when crises come to ask questions, demand answers and then blame someone can lead into the realms of dangerous and destructive theology.

How is it destructive?

Because the person who is already a victim – through tragedy or illness – is not affirmed by a healing, supportive Christian community. To the contrary that person, in addition to illness or tragedy, is made to carry an insupportable burden of guilt.

To those persons, by contrast, Jesus says, 'What is happening may not be clear to you now but – trust me! – it will be one day.'⁶

To the whisperers and those dishing out guilt, Jesus says, 'I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.'⁷

Connecting an individual's sufferings or tragedies with an individual's sin is a cruel, destructive and heartbreaking thing to do. Ask Job. Ask the Spaffords. Ask hundreds of Adventists.

¹John 9:2. ²Jon Paulien, *The Abundant Life Bible Amplifier: JOHN* (Pacific Press), page 167. ³Luke 13:1-3. ⁴Luke 13:4, 5. ⁵See Genesis 3 and Romans 5:12 *et seq*. ⁶See John 13:7. ⁷Luke 13:3, 5.

Arson attack on Micklefield church

Arsonists struck at the Micklefield Adventist church in High Wycombe on Saturday night, 21 April, destroying the children's room at the back of the church and leaving the building unusable for worship in the short term. The fire was started in a wheelie bin placed at the back of the building, and then broke through a window into the building itself. The alarm was raised by staff at the next door Community Centre who called

the fire brigade at around 10.20pm.

While the children's room was badly damaged, the bulk of the building remains intact and Pastor Michael Anim hopes that the church can be re-opened for worship within eight weeks.

The Micklefield church has had a history of vandalism, including a previous arson attempt

on the building, when a car was torched near the back. However, this does not deter the Micklefield members. Sunday morning saw them outside the church. Surveying the damage to their building, they joined hands and prayed for forgiveness and a change of heart for those involved in the attack.

HARPER BELL ADVENTIST SCHOOL, Birmingham KS2 TEACHERS REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2007

- 1 Part-time teacher
 - 1 Full-time teacher to cover maternity leave
 - 1 Part-time teacher (French). Hours to be negotiated
- All positions carry one year contract to August 2008.

Harper Bell is a small but growing Christian primary school with a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Successful candidates should:

- Have QTS and up-to-date professional knowledge
- Have the potential to be an excellent teacher, committed to good pupil progress and active learning
- 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 this enthusiastic and caring team of staff, please contact the school for an application form on 0121 693 7742. A visit to the school is welcome.

Closing date for applications: 12 noon on 25 May.

cise group had an increase in natural killer cells (part of the body's first-line defence against germs and viruses).

Excessive exercise – over-training, intense workouts and major competitions have been found to reduce immunity, increasing susceptibility to bacteria and viruses thus leading to infections. These changes do not occur after moderate exercise. Researchers found that Upper Respiratory Tract Infections (URTI) appear to be highest after major events like the marathon or during periods of intense training. Nearly 50-70% of athletes report URTI two weeks after a major competition.

Rebound exercise is an excellent immune booster. This aerobic 'rebounding' is a whole-body exercise, consisting of bouncing on a firm mini-trampoline, a bouncer or rebounder. The rhythmic bouncing activates the flow of the lymph fluids. Toxins move more effectively out of the cells into the lymph fluid and into the blood stream, for excretion and elimination from the body. This allows the white blood cells to defend the body against infection and foreign invaders, increasing immunity.

Where vigorous bouncing movements in a standing position is impossible or ill-advised, just sitting on a bouncer and rhythmically moving up and down is beneficial. This is an excellent exercise for older people or those rehabilitating after surgery or injury.

Advice:

- Invest in a small trampoline or bouncer. Use 10-15 minutes twice a day.
- As cardiac, respiratory and muscular performance are diminished during and for some time after even mild viral infections, avoid exercise when ill. Exercise during a mild cold is fine if symptoms are above the neck-line – a stuffy nose, etc. However, if your whole body is affected by a systemic illness or the flu, with symptoms like fever, extreme tiredness, muscle aches and swollen lymph glands, *don't* exercise. The College of Sports Medicine recommends waiting two to four weeks before training intensively.
- General moderate exercise – 30 minutes, 5 times a week.

Get moving!

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.



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

IMMUNITY AND EXERCISE (part 3)

Little or no exercise encourages toxin build-up, leading to cell degeneration, disease and deposits which suppress the immune system.

Exercise physiologists and researchers studying exercise and the immune system have suggested that moderate exercise appears both to protect and enhance immune function.

One study researched women who were placed into exercise and non-exercise groups. The exercise group walked briskly for 45 minutes, five days a week. These women experienced half as many colds as the non-exercise group. The exer-

The Great Scottish Walk: are you up for it?

by John Wilby, ADRA sponsor, Scottish Mission

If you were moved by the ADRA-UK Annual Appeal video, but couldn't find time to door-to-door collect, then don't despair, you can still do your bit! Maybe your church is organising a sale or some other fund-raising event. But if you really want to raise some serious cash, enhance your relationships with others and have a great day out, then ask yourself this question:

'Would I like to take an enjoyable, leisurely six or twelve-mile-walk, in the company of several thousand similarly inspired people, around one of the most beautiful and historic cities in the world *and* benefit my favourite charity?'

If the answer is 'Yes' then this is how:

- Block out Sunday 10 June in your diary.
- Get an entry form from your ADRA agent for the Edinburgh Great Scottish Walk (or download from www.adra.org.uk).
- Decide if you want to form a team (4-6 people) or enter as an individual.
- Send the entry form to the organisers with your entry fee(s). *
- As soon as you receive your sponsorship forms, start seeking sponsorship from your neighbours, friends, work colleagues or fellow students.
- When you have completed the walk collect the sponsorship monies and send the sponsorship form and the total received by cheque to ADRA-UK.

* You can deduct the entry fee from the sponsorship money if you obtain £50 or more in received sponsorship. (Entry fees: Adults £10. Under 18s, students & unemployed £8 – credit cards accepted.)

'Mr Menkens, we miss you!'



After 35+ years, Mr Terry Menkens hung up his D&T lab coat, and laid down his Maths and Geography chalk. Clearly displaying excellence in all three subjects he taught, Stanborough School was truly blessed with having not only a skilful teacher, but also a loving friend.

From the day he arrived to the day he left, Mr Menkens became synonymous with many things; virtuoso at the piano, expert in geography, mathematical genius, specialist in woodwork, loving

husband, brilliant dad, and helpful friend. Mr Menkens was the prime example of what Stanborough School wishes to offer to its students.

We remember Mr Menkens as a man who encouraged his students to be creative and also as one who willingly took part in charity events, having little children throw wet sponges in his face for a good cause. We remember Mr Menkens as a man who upheld values such as respect, honesty, confidence and integrity and brought them to our young leaders of tomorrow.

Mr Menkens, we miss you and we wish you the best in your retirement.

RAY DALIAS

Editor: Mr Menkens began teaching at Stanborough School in January 1964. After that, apart from the period 1968-77 when he taught in the US and Australia, he taught at Stanborough Park for his entire teaching career. Terry retired recently and lives in Watford. He continues to be passionate about D&T, Maths and Geography.

Middlesbrough is moving on

Sabbath 24 March was a very special day for the Middlesbrough church – and perhaps a unique day for Seventh-day Adventist churches in the British Union.

The members of the church had taken a decision to sell their building and move into rented accommodation. This was an unusual decision, but it had been taken in the light of

major changes to the size of the congregation and the council's imposition of a two-hour parking limit on the streets around the church. Add to that the pressing need to upgrade the facilities in the church to allow for easy access by the disabled, and to make the church a representative building again, and we saw the need for a move. →

Baptism at Newbold Contemporary Service

On 3 March, Newbold church saw the beginning of the celebration of 100 years of the Adventist Church Youth department. The young people led out in a special baptismal service: the style was contemporary and the church was packed with youth and church members. As part of a series of sermons on the ten commandments Pastor Patrick Johnson preached on 'You shall not steal' and focused on how nothing should be able to steal our relationship with Christ.

Four young women walked into the baptismal pool and were baptised by Pastor Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist. In a church packed with over 500 people, Marju, Ané, Katya and Putri shared their testimonies. In particular, friends Putri and Katya shared how they, through friends at secondary school, had come to know Newbold church youth. Through debates and discussion, both Katya and Putri had gone from atheism to accepting

Jesus as their personal Saviour. Friendships and involvement in youth activities, alongside Bible study with the pastors, brought these four young women into a closer walk with God. SEC Youth leader Colin Stewart joined Newbold pastors to pray over the four young women, asking a blessing on their walk with God. Newbold church celebrated these four women's decision with their friends from school as well as their families; some were attending church for the first time that Sabbath.

PASTOR KIRSTEN ØSTER-LUNDQVIST, NEWBOLD CHURCH



Pastors Johnson and Lundqvist with the four candidates

The preacher for the day was George Powls, a former elder of the church and to many 'Uncle George'. The church was built by Adventist builders on the site of two derelict houses which had been bombed in World War II.

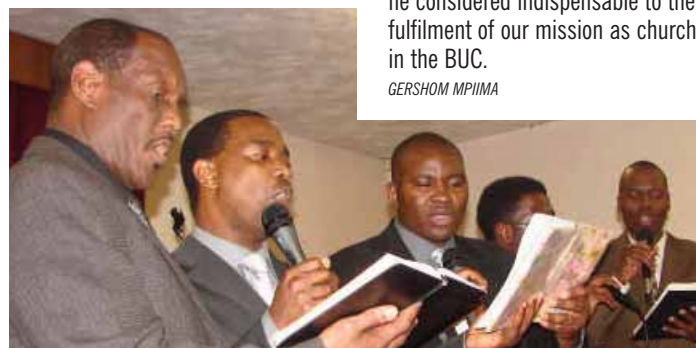
There were tears – even from some of the men. There was an air of sadness for older members – and not a few of the younger members as well. However, for many it was a

case of recognising God's leading in the move as the sale of the church realised more than double the valuation offered.

The Middlesbrough church will be moving on to worship and minister in a nearby Anglican church whose leadership have bent over backwards to make us welcome. We have full access to their premises (we have our own keys) for the whole of Sabbath. *PETER JEYNES*

The president sang bass!

January 20 was a special day for Liverpool Kensington church as we were blessed by a visit from the BUC president, Pastor Don McFarlane. During the divine service, he exhorted the faithful with his sermon entitled, 'Being a Servant'. In the afternoon, the church members were treated to a pleasant surprise when Pastor McFarlane joined the visiting King's Shepherds Male Quartet from Birmingham in singing two beautiful songs in his deep bass voice. He later presented a Powerpoint presentation of ten 'Hot Button' issues



he considered indispensable to the fulfilment of our mission as church in the BUC.

GERSHOM MPIIMA

Casilda at 105

Mrs Smiley (Casilda, 'Aunt C') was born in Jamaica in 1902. She had fifteen children, six of whom are alive and well in 2007.

She has been a Christian all her life and loves the Lord very much. She has been living in Dudley, West Midlands, since 1990 and at present she resides in a nursing home.

Mrs Smiley is a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, and even a great-great-grandmother.

She is a woman who is loved and admired by all who are in her company, and she loves to express life

through Jesus Christ. An inspiration to all, she has both knowledge and wisdom. Mrs Smiley is caring and compassionate, kind to all, and non-judgemental.

All of her descendants and friends would like to wish Mrs Casilda Smiley, 'Aunt C', hearty congratulations on reaching one hundred and five years old on 2 April 2007.

KATHLEEN SMILEY, HANDSWORTH

Faces of Adventism

A Sabbath afternoon conversation in Newbold College's Salisbury Hall climaxed a series of lectures by Dr Roy Branson, Professor of Ethics and Public Policy, and Director for the Centre for Law and Public Policy at Columbia Union College.

During the week, three lectures had identified three 'faces' of Adventism personified by 'dutiful rationalists', 'intrepid reformers' and 'passionate visionaries'. On Sabbath morning Dr Branson reminded the congregation in Newbold church that the Adventist church's mission was 'to be a people of Apocalypse, a



Inspired by Ben Carson

by Patrick McKerrrow

Dr Carson, director of paediatric neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institution, is living proof that perseverance, prayer, and self-respect, combined with a devotion to acquiring knowledge, can overcome any obstacles in one's way.

The internationally-renowned neurosurgeon, who first came to world attention in 1987 when he separated the conjoined Binder twins who were joined at the head and shared part of the same brain, is author of three books – *The Big Picture*, *Think Big*, and *Gifted Hands*. He is also an inspiration to many young people.

One of these is Sam Katebe, the eldest son of Enoch and Irene Katebe, both members of Balham church. Born in Lusaka, Zambia, on 23 April 1982, and a fifth generation Adventist on his paternal side, Sam was attracted to medicine after reading *Gifted Hands* by Dr Ben Carson. The book, given to him by his father Enoch, senior elder at Balham, explains how Ben Carson progressed from a broken home, poor self-esteem, street fighting and a bad temper to a top surgeon today, through the power of God. The book left such an impression on the young man that all he wanted was to be

like Ben Carson. He worked hard on his studies and after being offered a place to study pharmacology at UCL, Sam was keen to study medicine and so accepted an offer at Southampton University, where he graduated as a medical doctor in 2006.

Dr Sam Katebe is grateful for the inspiration of the book by Ben Carson, the support of his family, friends, and church members and indeed the faith in Jesus Christ which he considers priceless. Our young are still receptive to positive images. People like Dr Ben Carson are a treasure and a gift from the Lord of Lords and fountain of all knowledge.

PATRICK MCKERRROW



Dr Ben Carson, an inspiration to the young

people of visionary passion – Christ's radiant presence in the world'. He encouraged members to shape their lives by a prophetic vision of the 'holiness of beauty'.

In the Sabbath afternoon conversation, Dr Branson was joined by other 'Adventist-watchers' and academics for a conversation led by Newbold's Vice Principal, Dr Michael Pearson. The subject of the conversation was 'Shoulder to Shoulder – Are Adventists in Europe and the USA facing the same challenges?'

Dr Reinder Bruinsma, leader of the Adventist Church in the Netherlands, noted that, 'Adventism did not emerge in a vacuum and while we can't take America out of Adventism, we need to do a great educational work in making clear which parts of Adventism are culturally and historically conditioned.'

Journalist Keith Lockhart reported statistics which suggest that Adventism has been twice as successful in Eastern Europe as in

Western Europe and that European Adventism as a whole is becoming increasingly a patchwork of ethnic groups with the potential for inter-ethnic theological conflicts.

Roy Branson suggested that American Adventists have had a double sense of ethnic centrality in that both the founders and the founders of the Church have traditionally been American, while European Adventists have felt marginal both to mainstream Adventism and to mainstream European culture. He suggested that European Adventists should ask how Adventism could be enriched by European qualities and identified reason, radical reforming principles and experience and understanding of universal human rights as being specific European strengths.

A full report and photographs of the event can be seen on the Newbold College website, www.newbold.ac.uk.

HELEN PEARSON, NEWBOLD PRO

Nottingham District Day of Fellowship

by Communication department



United in fellowship was the motto for the day and united in fellowship we were. Months of planning and rehearsal had helped our district bring to fruition such an inspiring day. When the day was over, Pastor George Kumi reminded Pastor Patrick Herbert of when he turned to him some months ago and said, 'I have a crazy idea', and this was how the idea for the day of fellowship was conceived. From then on, Pastors Herbert and Kumi



joined their churches together in planning and preparing for this day. The Vineyard Church in Lenton opened its doors to Seventh-day Adventists, friends and family for Nottingham district's day of fellowship. An attractive grouping of teens and uniformed Pathfinders greeted the arriving congregation with glossy programmes, ushering some to their seats. The large high-roofed auditorium resounded to the music of a polished praise team and band, which led the congregation of hundreds in a series of rousing hymns and songs.



Good news certainly had travelled far as there were visitors from as far north as Manchester and as far south as London and all stops in between. Large numbers of children and teenagers enhanced the day with an added air of excitement. Throughout the day, the theme of unity was evident as members from all of the churches in the district, young and not so young, new and seasoned members, all



contributed to the services. We were blessed with two lively presentations of the Sabbath school lesson from George Mabeza and Calvin Williams who helped stimulate minds and generate discussion as thoughts from the wise man Solomon were considered. There was further home-grown contribution to the Sabbath school programme as a special DVD mission spotlight had been filmed and edited by one of our young men, Dominic Elliott from the Bulwell church. This DVD featured

Distinguished Service Awards

Timmy Tiufaki	(Bulwell church)
Claude Ford	(Bulwell church)
Robert Mokaya	(Nottingham Central church)
Winfred Anderson	(Nottingham Central church)
Rachael Frances	(Nottingham Central church)
Edel Christie	(Nottingham Central church)
Maxine Carradice	(Nottingham Central church)
Ken Griffiths	(Nottingham Central church)
Isen Taylor	(Nottingham Central church)
Julie Scott	(Bulwell church)
Harry Wood	(Nottingham Central church)
Joyce Sharpe	(Bulwell church)
Pastor George Harris	
Veronica Lewis	(Nottingham Central church)
Georgina Miller	(Nottingham Central church)
Sam Nugent	(Long Eaton church)
Stanley Hardy	(Long Eaton church)
Pearl White	(Long Eaton church)
Millicent Richards	(Long Eaton church)
Muriel Elson	(Nottingham Central church)
Michael Mapp	(Nottingham Central church)
Devon Elliot	(Nottingham Central church)
Dorothy Tate	(Nottingham Central church)
Mavis Francis	(Long Eaton church)
Pearl Thompson	(Nottingham Central church)
Michael Scott Snr	(Bulwell church)
Mary Johnson	(Bulwell church)
Vashti Calham	(Bulwell church)
John Kirk	(Long Eaton church)
Victor Speak	(Long Eaton church)
Sis Speak	(Long Eaton church)

four local projects which are being undertaken in the district. The short film was narrated by Julie Scott whose attention to detail and precision were second to none. The four projects filmed were:

1. Nottingham Central – feeding the homeless project which has been in operation since 1994.
2. Long Eaton – John Kirk produced hundreds of evangelistic DVDs which he is distributing free of charge. One young male contact has already visited this church through this venture.
3. Nottingham Central – ongoing senior citizens' residential home visitation programme.
4. Karen Hickley from Long Eaton was seen being baptised on 11 March with her husband. Her 'light bulb' inspiration moment came when she got the idea to have a market stall. Her wares would include Christian books, Bibles and DVDs. Her aim? 'To build bridges in the community and offer them meaning in their lives.'

Divine service was a picture of diversity and the inclusiveness that God extends to all who are willing to work for him. To see confident earlites, Gift and Lucchin, reading alternate verses from Psalm 91 truly was a joy to see. We were thrilled to hear the children's choir as they provided backing for Ashton Patterson (one of our senior teens) who sang 'Yes You Can'.

To say that our day was bathed in good quality music would be an understatement. Also in divine service, the group simply named Kelly and Co, gave a harmonious rendition of a theme brought out in Ecclesiastes, 'God understands your tears, Even when you think you can't go on let your soul cry out to the Lord.' Throughout the day musical accompaniment was of the highest professional standard.

Our divine service had many ingredients, none so important as our Pastoral Prayer time. This was divided into three sections by three individuals from the various churches in the district. Robert Mokaya prayed for the world Church, Millie

Richards for the North England Conference, and Audrey Muniyati laid our local prayer concerns before the Lord.

We were delighted to have many distinguished guests including BUC president Don McFarlane, Pastors Paul Haworth (executive secretary of the NEC), Fred Mapp and Roy Morgan, also from the NEC. In a powerful message, Pastor McFarlane encouraged us to 'Stand fast in one spirit' and exhorted us to 'live worthy of the sacrifice'. A splendid reflective piece of music was rendered by Joan and Carlington who led us to ponder on the fact that 'He's More than Wonderful'.

The afternoon carried with it an element of curiosity and mystique as those who attended asked, 'What is this "Recognition and Appreciation Service" all about?' Pastor Herbert outlined the concept of this service, quoting the words of Martin Luther: 'No work is insignificant.' All labour that uplifts humanity is important. In this quotation, even the street sweeper was exhorted to do his job well. However, though we work untiringly, none of us is indispensable. Pastor Herbert aptly emphasised this point with the poem 'The Indispensable Man'. The moral? Do the best you can, be proud of yourself, but remember: there is no indispensable man.

He concluded his remarks by saying, 'We should strive for it to be said of us, "Here is a child of God who does their job well."'

Pastor Fred Mapp (Ministerial secretary for the NEC), delivered a soul-searching message prior to the unexpected presentation of some thirty-one plaques to individuals who had given excellent service to the church in various capacities. This presentation climaxed in a paparazzi-style photo-shoot, which was followed by a highly-charged, anthem-style piece by the mass choir entitled, 'It is My Desire to Praise Him'.

The evening was brought to a joyous relaxing end by a concert featuring much of the local talent. Pastors Herbert and Kumi gave thanks to God for what had been accomplished on this day. Members not only united in fellowship, but members united in purpose.

For those who were unable to be there, this day has been captured on a set of DVDs, which we recommend you make part of your DVD collection.

Jonathan Edwards at Scotland's Youth Day of Fellowship

by John Wilby, Communication sponsor SM

Organised by the local youth, Edinburgh church was the venue on 24 March for a Scottish Mission Youth Day of Fellowship. In a departure from conventional Sabbath School, Jonathan Edwards led out on thought-provoking problems facing youth today. These were identified as gang violence, depression, debt, premature sexual activity, peer pressure, alcohol and drug abuse. Referencing the biblical examples of Zacchaeus and Jesus, David and Goliath and the store-gathering parable, lively group discussions ensued, examining the corresponding modern-day issues of Value, Image and Security.

Scottish Mission Youth sponsor, Pastor Marcel Ghioalda, concluded the Youth Week of Prayer, by exploring four facets in the life of a Christian who worships God and whose heart is the very dwelling place of Christ. They are *Service to Others, Personal Testimony, Giving Thanks* and the importance of *Small Fellowships*. He said that service to

Adventist graduates at Galway University

The Galway church was deeply honoured when one of its members, Dumisani Bhebhe, graduated at the National University of Ireland, Galway. Dumisani received a Masters in Philosophy, for which he had been studying for the past two years. The title of his thesis was 'Ideological and sociological implications of political violence in Zimbabwe.'

Dumisani, who comes from Zimbabwe, has a deep concern for the welfare and future of his fellow Zimbabweans. He described writing the thesis as 'an enriching experience', and one of the conclusions he draws from it is that 'as a church we can also contribute to the building of a nation such as Zimbabwe.' He added that the Christian churches 'can spearhead giving people hope'.

Dumisani expresses his gratitude to the Irish government for the chance to study at NUI, Galway, and for the prayers of the Galway church during his studies.

OLIVER MARTYN

others emulates the character of Jesus and is a Christian imperative; that personal testimony is the most powerful method of sharing the Gospel with others and that no matter what our personal circumstances, there is always a reason to give thanks to God. He also underlined the benefit of small fellowships where young people are accountable to one another, encour-

age each other and pray together. In an innovative altar call, the congregation was invited to write on the sticky side of post-it notes their personally perceived obstacle to mission outreach and to place them on the platform lectern. A prayer was then offered that God would remove these impediments and embolden those present to share their faith.

Edinburgh youth premiere U-tube movie

A packed congregation at the Youth Day of Fellowship enjoyed the premiere of a video movie produced and directed by Edinburgh church youth. The 23-minute broadcast-quality production uses cross-cultural topical issues and a mixture of Monty Python and Rap humour to emphasise an important Christian message. An original idea of the Edinburgh youth group, it includes humorous cameo appearances from Pastor Jimmy Botha and youth leader Chantel Davies. It is now available to view and download at www.youtube.com

JOHN WILBY, Communication sponsor, SM

Galway baptism

Sabbath 31 March was a day of great joy and celebration in the Galway church. On that day, in the baptistry set in the grounds of the Galway church, Exavier Muwalo was baptised. Exavier, who hails from Zambia and has come to live in Ireland with his wife and family, was described as being a very zealous and dedicated Bible student by Stephen Wilson, pastor of the Galway church.



Laurent Grosvenor, an 18-year-old student from Manchester, gave the sermon in which he talked about the need for dedicated Adventists in the last days. 'God's house is full, but the fields are empty,' he said. Laurent urged those present 'to know how deep the Father's love is – above all measure.' The day was blessed with beautiful, sunny weather as Exavier surrendered his life to Christ in the open-air baptistry.

OLIVER MARTYN

Parent of Teens Conference

Friday 30 November – Sunday 2 December 2007
Staverton Park Hotel, Daventry, Northamptonshire

Tensions between you and your teens?
Are you struggling to understand their culture/scene?
Do you know how to identify 'at risk' behaviour?
Is the law for or against you and your teens?
Have the sins of the father been passed on to the child?



All these topics and more will be discussed during the weekend conference being organised by the BUC Youth Department. Hopefully you will come back rejuvenated, refreshed and ready to cross the age and culture gap and get to know your teens once more. Your lives might never be the same again!

Cost of £100 per person. For more details and an application form, please call 01923 672251 or email Natalie on ndavison@adventist.org.uk

BOLIZ WITE OUT

A retreat for our young men aged 13-19 years.
Price: £50 All Inclusive
May 31st - June 3rd

empowerment health grooming
spiritual leadership
fatherhood relationships
becoming a man
self-esteem encouragement



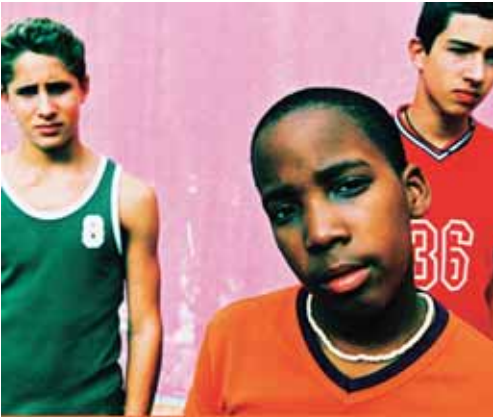
Girls Night In

Contact Angela Robinson,
SEC Teen Ministries,
25 St John's Road,
Watford, WD17 1PZ.
Tel: 01923 232 728,
email: youth@secadventist.org.uk

May 25th - 28th
A girls-only retreat by
TEEN MINISTRIES
£60 (early bird £50 until 20th May)



Because You're Worth It!



Situations Vacant Teens Ministry have several openings for volunteers. We are seeking enthusiastic people with experience and/or knowledge in one of the following areas, to assist in the development of community projects involving teenagers: Abused women, Book illustration, Cancer care, Car mechanics, Carpentry, Catering, Children in care, Electricians, Gardening/landscaping, Interior design, Painting & decorating, People with special needs, Plumbing (water & gas), Radio, Sex education, Sports coaching, Young mothers, Young offenders.

Teens Ministry is also seeking a volunteer to lead our sales and marketing team.

For more information please contact Pastor Robert Hines, Associate Youth Director, Teens Ministry, 25 St. Johns Road, Watford, WD17 1PZ. Tel: 01923 656524. Email: rhines@secadventist.org.uk.



Teens

chapel porth
7th-14th August
age 14-18
combined places

For further information and an application form please contact Robert Hines: rhines@secadventist.org.uk or Angela Robinson: youth@secadventist.org.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS 2007
GOOD HEALTH ASSOCIATION LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that the hundred and fourth Annual General Meeting of the Good Health Association Limited will be held on Thursday 7 June 2007 at 2pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.
On behalf of the Board of Directors
M. Hayles (Secretary)

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST TRUST COMPANY LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that the twenty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Trust Company Limited will be held on Thursday 7 June 2007 at 2.10pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.
On behalf of the Board of Directors
D. Cleary (Secretary)

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST ASSOCIATION LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that the hundred and second Annual General Meeting of the Seventh-day Adventist Association Limited will be held on Thursday 7 June 2007 at 2.20pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.
On behalf of the Board of Directors
D. Cleary (Secretary)

GOOD HEALTH ASSOCIATION (SCOTLAND) LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that the fortieth Annual General Meeting of the Good Health Association (Scotland) Limited will be held on Thursday 7 June 2007 at 2.35pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.
On behalf of the Board of Directors
M. Hayles (Secretary)

ADRA-UK
Notice is hereby given that the ninth Annual General Meeting of ADRA-UK will be held on Thursday 7 June 2007 at 2.45pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.
On behalf of the Board of Directors
B. Smit (Secretary)

THE STANBOROUGH PRESS LIMITED
Notice is hereby given that the hundred and thirteenth Annual General Meeting of the Stanborough Press Limited will be held on Thursday 7 June 2007 at 3pm in the Board Room of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.
On behalf of the Board of Directors
P. Hammond (Secretary)

ABC BOOK SALES

June	11-17 Camp Meeting
July	8 John Loughborough 10.30am-2pm
	15 Harper Bell 10.30am-2pm

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	London	Card	Nottingham	Edinburgh	Belfast
May 18	8.50	9.02	9.00	9.24	9.27
25	9.00	9.12	9.11	9.36	9.39
Jun 1	9.08	9.20	9.20	9.46	9.48
8	9.15	9.27	9.27	9.55	9.56

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