

Messenger

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Stanborough School: 'hands on' in India

by Kish Poddar, Assistant Head, Stanborough School

The 2006-2007 academic year saw the launch of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma course at Stanborough School. The high-level academic content of the IB is rationally balanced with a blend of non-academic activities designed to develop the whole person. The non-academic segment is called CAS: Creativity, Action and Service.

As part of the CAS element, eleven students and three teachers planned a project involving the BESSO orphanage in India from 11 to 25 February. The BESSO orphanage is sponsored by STOP International. In preparation for their part in this, Karen Cho and Neha Patel researched and designed murals suitable for a boys' dormitory. These designs were taken to India and the team worked together, carefully applying them onto the dormitory walls. The finished product added a sense of warmth and cheerfulness to this much-needed orphan dwelling.

In order to pay for their travel to India, the IB students raised funds by participating in a twenty-four-hour sponsored badminton session, a gospel concert, food sale, carol singing in ASDA, Watford, and Brent Cross shopping centre, London. Substantial funds were raised to supplement their costs.

After eight days of hard work, the building glowed in its pristine perfection in the bright Indian sunshine. On the final Sabbath of the project, the dormitory was dedicated by the newly-appointed Hosur church pastor who was the guest of honour. He encouraged the little children before offering the dedicatory prayer, followed by the cutting of the ribbon. The building was then open to viewing and it did not fail to impress. The spacious five-bedroom accommodation, with en suite bathrooms painted in magnolia and decorated artistically with beautiful murals, was a sight to behold. As a touch of ownership, each Stanborough volunteer left a painted silhouette of their hand on the stairwell wall with their name beside it. It was moving to watch the orphans, in what seemed to be a gesture of appreciation and bonding, touching each hand while reading out the name under it.

So how did the IB students benefit? Firstly, as a requirement for graduation, each student is expected to complete fifty hours in each of the elements of CAS, totalling 150 hours. On completion of the orphanage project, the IB students gained forty-five hours each on average. Secondly, the greater benefit was undoubtedly the feeling of fulfilment in helping disadvantaged fellow humans. This was further amplified



by the personal hands-on involvement in the project and time spent bonding with the orphan children. The added bonuses were the lasting memories, the development of an altruistic attitude, the experience of a new culture, the excitement of international travel, working as a team to complete a project, learning self-discipline and the thrill of partnering with a powerful God.

Does CAS fulfil its objectives? The evidence speaks for itself. If you are completing your GCSEs this June and are looking for an option, try IB at Stanborough. If you are a parent, do you remember the text in

Ecclesiastes 11:1 which says, 'Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.'

For more information on IB contact the registrar at Stanborough School, Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JT, or call 01923 673268/9.

Vitality Show 2007

by Victor Hulbert, Communication director, SEC

Strolling past the exhibits in the vast Olympia Exhibition Hall you will be bombarded with free detox drinks, diet aids, fresh yoghurts and a vast variety of treatments that may be good for your health if not your pocket. It is the Vitality Show, and for the fourth year running, Mrs Elsie Staple, Health and Community Services director for the South England Conference, worked with a dedicated team of nurses and volunteers to share an Adventist perspective on health with the over fifty-three thousand (mainly women) who visited the show between Thursday 29 March and Sunday 1 April.

Health for the Whole Person was the theme for the Adventist stand. 'We were looking for you!' and 'You are even bigger this year!' were among the comments from regular visitors to the stand. One young lady came specifically to the Health Ministries stand to inform us of her success story. 'Where is the lady with the "carbon" machine?' one asked. 'Let her know that since the assessment I have not smoked. The advice was excellent!' 'It was a great thing you did last year. Since visiting your stand I have not smoked,' another reported. During the four-day event four young ladies returned to the stand to inform us of the impact the carbon monoxide monitoring had on them. They

all indicated that they have not smoked for the past year.

This year the Adventist stand doubled in size so that, for the first time, blood screening for cholesterol and glucose could be included. Blood pressure and carbon monoxide were also assessed. Throughout the four days, the assessments were performed by fifteen volunteers, all qualified nurses. Depending on the results, those with any abnormal findings were referred to the resident doctors, Dr Chidi and Dr Joan Roseman Channer and the diabetic specialist, Gloria Simon. In conjunction with their medication, many were encouraged to practise NEWSTART (nutrition, exercise, water, sunlight, temperance, fresh air, rest/sleep, and trust in God). Others were advised to seek medical intervention. Appropriate health booklets were given to inform and educate the attendees.

During the four days the hard-working team checked 1,710 blood pressures, took 621 blood tests and performed 256 carbon monoxide tests.

But it was not just health. This year the team observed an interest among the young people in receiving a Bible. Some were even asking for a Bible. This resulted in 305 Bibles being distributed. The book *Ministry of Healing* was also popular, especially among those who were advised to use the eight natural remedies. This book stimulated much interaction among the visitors to the stand and thus

300 were given out.

With the launch and emphasis on CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project), the Health Ministries Department utilised the exhibition to promote 'heart health' by encouraging the visitors to the stand to read the testimonies of those whose health had been improved as a result of CHIP in the book *Take Charge of Your Health*. A contact details form, which included a telephone number, was placed in each book for anyone who would like to receive more information about CHIP. Many visitors accepted the book for someone else. With the increase in the mortality and morbidity rates in the United Kingdom there is no doubt that some interest will be generated. While at the show two persons have already indicated their interest in knowing more about CHIP and we ran out of the 3,000 books we had brought on the subject. Other literature included *Steps to Christ*, tracts, and FOCUS magazines.

Scottish Women's Retreat, 20-22 April

by Judith Martin, WM sponsor, Scotland

'What about being a Christian in the real world? Why does it not always seem to work? How do we deal with it when everything goes wrong in our lives?' Isobel Webster asked these questions at the beginning of this

year's retreat, as she introduced her title, 'Life in the Lifeboat'. Over the weekend, we explored the issues and shared our experiences of how we deal with the shipwrecks in our lives.

This was again a wonderfully uplifting retreat. We met, as before, at the Scottish Churches House in Dunblane, and felt we were coming home. We enjoyed the peaceful atmosphere; the cathedral at the other side of the square, the blossoms on the trees and the spring flowers in bloom. Our Sabbath afternoon walk along the riverside was refreshing, in spite – or because – of the damp coolness, and we enjoyed meeting old friends, getting to know new ones and drawing closer to our Best Friend.

We worshipped together, prayed together, and of course, spent a lot of time talking. The warden of the centre commented on our beautiful singing.

We had a powerful presentation from Enid Lungu from Zambia, who shared with us the wonderful work that she and other women, under the auspices of Women's Ministries in Kitwe, are doing for those in need: the orphans and widows and others devastated by the effects of AIDS and poverty.

We thank Isobel for coming to lead out in our retreat and to share her insights with us. We were greatly blessed by this very collaborative weekend.

our immune system, possibly resulting in various ailments and chronic illness.

Common Diseases Associated with a Malfunctioning Immune System include:

- *Allergies, *Arthritis, *Asthma, *Autoimmune disorders, *Cancer, *Connective tissue disorders, *SLE, *Sjogrens syndrome, *Diabetes, *Eczema, *Food allergies, *Food intolerances, *Hay-fever, *Inflammatory Bowel Disease, *Infections, *Inflammatory disorders, *Urticaria/hives.

Toxic Poisoning

Twenty-first-century chemical toxins are crippling the immune system, making it vulnerable to poisons. Immunotoxicology, a branch of medicine specialising in this field, has identified the ability of synthetic chemicals and toxins to attack every aspect of our immune system. Chemicals and toxins interrupt smooth immune function in two ways, making it either under-active or over-active. Some chemicals trigger a mixture of the two responses.

Immunosuppression occurs when the immune system is suppressed and cannot tackle invading bodies effectively. It becomes under-active. This results in vulnerability to infections and the individual is at a greater risk of developing illnesses, particularly cancer.

Immune over-activity occurs when the immune system goes into overdrive. The affected individual becomes sensitive or allergic to more and more substances with increasing regularity. Affected individuals report symptoms as common as hives, runny nose, wheezing, and, in extreme cases, anaphylactic shock.

Reduce daily exposure to toxins

Most damaging to the immune system are the following:

- Toxic metals** – such as mercury (present in amalgam fillings and some vaccines). Look after old fillings and opt for white fillings for new dental treatments.
- Aluminium** – in soft drink containers and food additives.
- Environmental pollutants** – particularly industrial waste products, dioxins and PCBs.
- Halogens** – such as fluoride, chlorine and bromine.
- Lead** – in old paint or pipes.
- Pesticides** – in foods and household products.
- Plastics** – particularly when exposed to heat.
- Solvents** – in household products, cosmetics and foods.

Opt for naturally-derived household products to preserve your immune system.

Good health!

The Sabbath was not just for Jews or Christians or Adventists: 'The Sabbath was made for man.' Who said? Jesus did.'

Whatever his religion, a man's constitution as a human being works to a seven-day rhythm, and that rhythm demands that he rests on the Sabbath.

God's creation took him six days. At the end of his working week God made man. Right after he made man, he made the Sabbath as a means of man's blessing. No wonder the Sabbath is part of the rhythm of life. Remove it, and life begins to break up, human society malfunctions.

Seen any signs of that happening?

Sabbath is not just a stress-buster. It's a marriage-and-family enhancer. It's for time-out-from-the-rat-race. And it's for worship. *True worship*. God does not benefit from that: you do.

When I think of childhood, I think of childhood Sabbaths, punctuated at both ends by worship. Friday evening worship was very special. A large dining table: a parent at either end, brothers, sisters, friends who came for the ride – and God. We did not take his presence for granted. He was invited in.

Sabbaths were special. Visitors. Walks. Sabbath games and quizzes. Singing and homemade music: we had a piano, an organ and a piano accordion. I can recall no complaints from the neighbours. Amazing, really!

These days lots of folk seem to have to be in church to remind themselves that it's Sabbath. That's great as long as we remember that Sabbath is also a family time: and that your home is a better home if God is at home there on a Sabbath. Sabbath, marriage, the family: they all began in Eden. That was not accidental.

But a good Adventist family is not an exclusive family. My Sabbath memories include friends, visitors, singles, spinster aunts, visiting preachers and a host of other folks who adhered to my family as iron filings to a magnet. All were welcome.

'The Sabbath was made for man,' Jesus said, 'not man for the Sabbath.'¹ Why did he say that?

'Upon one Sabbath day, as the Saviour and his disciples returned from the place of worship, they passed through a field of ripening grain.'² Remember the story? How they picked ears of wheat, rubbed them between their palms, ate them – and brought down the wrath of the Pharisees?

Scripture had told mankind to keep the Sabbath holy, but the Pharisees had choked that healthy principle with a jungle of weeds. They 'accomplished the will of Satan by surrounding God's rest day with burdensome requirements,' wrote Ellen White.³ The response of Jesus was effectively, 'The Sabbath was made for man's blessing, not man's annoyance.' Then he reminded them, 'The Son of Man is Lord also of the Sabbath.'³

The Sabbath exists to make man's life richer, fuller, more complete. It exists to elevate us to God's presence and promote our spiritual growth. Jesus told the Pharisees 'that in their [spiritual] blindness they had mistaken the object of the Sabbath'.⁴ 'The institutions God has established are for the benefit of mankind.'⁵

The rules of the Pharisees had made the Sabbath day a symbol of 'galling religious bondage' when Jesus began his ministry. By his teaching and his campaign of conspicuous Sabbath healings Jesus liberated the Sabbath. He did so for our benefit.

Did the destruction of Jerusalem see off the

07/07/07 What a difference a day makes

David Marshall



Had you noticed? The seventh day of the seventh month of the seventh year of this century – 07 07 07 – is a Sabbath!

Why not make it an extra special Sabbath at your church and in your home?

The Pharisees were so anxious to know what the Scriptures said that they could not hear what the Scriptures meant.

Celebrate the Sabbath properly, and your children and young people will look forward to it with enthusiasm. If you get it right, it will not be an irritating confinement, but a blessing and a joy. The Lord of the Sabbath is at the heart of Sabbath celebration.

In the end-time Sabbath is more relevant than it has ever been. It liberates us from the tyranny of materialism and all that follows in its wake.

Those who ignore the Sabbath put themselves beyond the reach of one of the greatest promises of Scripture.⁷

Until sixty or so years ago pit ponies were used in coal mines. One day a mine owner, passing by, noticed ponies jumping around in a field. He wanted to know why. 'These ponies are worked in the mines through the week and they are brought into the light on the Sabbath to keep them from going blind,' he was told.

We're not unlike pit ponies. We work in the dark of the material world all week, needing to come up for light, air and re-creation on the Sabbath.

References:

- ¹Mark 2:27. ²*Desire of Ages*, page 284. ³Mark 2:23-28. Look carefully at verses 27 and 28 and ask yourself, 'What is Jesus saying?' ⁴*Desire of Ages*, page 285. ⁵*Desire of Ages*, page 288. ⁶Read Matthew 23. ⁷Isaiah 58:13, 14.



Handsworth Wood African Fellowship

'Facing challenges' was a very fitting title for the campaign, given the events leading up to it. After several nail-biting months of discussions and decisions, the speaker's arrival was not guaranteed. The continuing civil unrest in Zimbabwe meant that the visa for the visiting speaker remained an issue. At the same time here in England we were informed that our regular venue was unavailable. The authorities had decided that April was the time they would undertake the much-needed repairs to the building rendering it unsuitable, on health and safety grounds, for hosting the crowds that we were expecting. The membership was split as to whether or not to cancel or postpone the programme. In the end the decision was taken to go ahead.

Two weeks prior to the reserved dates, Pastor Moses Msimanga was granted the necessary visa for the duration of the campaign, accompanied by his wife. The roller-coaster ride continued as we endeavoured to get



everything in place.

On 7 April the church filled up. Pastor Msimanga spoke as one with a message; he had been sent on a specific mission.

Night after night we were blessed with topics including, 'Is There A Way Out?' 'In The Best Interest of the Child', 'What About Being Single?' and 'Wedlock or Deadlock'. The final one on Sabbath morning was 'A new creation'.

Despite the tensions and the frustrations with the preparations, the church united as one and came out in force, bringing friends and family to support.

In the blazing heat on Sabbath afternoon of 14 April, the amens were loud, the congregation was vibrant, Christ was in the midst and the devil was once again defeated. The 'Facing the Challenges' week-long campaign conducted by Pastor Msimanga at the Handsworth Wood African Fellowship drew to a close. What occasion could be more fitting than a baptism? The baptism of four precious souls – Linah Tsapo, Shaun Chisholm, Yolanda Mudonzvo and Sarudzayi Bodza – took place.

AUDREY OGUNDERE



Gollivan Family. Left to right: Jenny Gollivan, Kathryn Duffy (née Gollivan), Jan McKenzie, Joan Gollivan holding bouquet, Angela Gollivan, Richard Gollivan, Lucy Gollivan.

Dedication of the Gollivan LIFEdevelopment Centre in Newport

On Sabbath 12 May members of the Gollivan family joined visitors from several South Wales churches at the Newport Seventh-day Adventist church for the dedication of its new LIFEdevelopment Centre. Construction of the centre was funded by Mrs Joan Gollivan in honour of her late husband, Dr Terry Gollivan, who attended the church in his youth and had made it clear in his will that he wanted to support some kind of project there. 'This project came along at just the right moment,' said Mrs Gollivan, 'and I'm sure he

would have approved of it.'

The special afternoon service included a talk by former Welsh Mission president Dr Brian Phillips, who spoke about the history of the Newport church and the key role it played in the early work of the Adventist Church, both in Wales and further afield. Adventist work first began in Newport in the 1890s through the literature ministry, and the church itself was organised in 1904. A key figure in the establishing of the church was the highly successful evangelist A. F. Ballinger, and other famous names associated

with the church include W. E. Reid, A. A. Carscallen and A. F. Bird. Terry Gollivan's name first appeared in *Messenger* on 26 May 1939, in a report of a Missionary Volunteer Investiture at the Newport church, where he is listed among the 'Friends', along with six others.

Dr Richard Gollivan, son of Terry, spoke about his father and told of how he had been an active lay preacher in the Welsh valleys. Among the anecdotes he recounted was one about a service that he had organised in a disused signal box by a railway line. All went well until a train went by, filling the meeting room with steam and smoke. When he was a student, Terry worked as a window cleaner with Harold Baker, whose family are still in the Newport church, and he later worked on an evangelistic team with George Emm.

Current Mission president John Surridge, and Newport minister Jan McKenzie, spoke about the philosophy of LIFEdevelopment and how the centre will be used in the future. One of the first programmes to be run will be a lecture for the community by health professionals on the subject of breast cancer, and various other lectures as well as social and youth events are planned.

The Gollivan family, as well as Mrs Sharon McKenzie, added to the programme with musical items and Mrs Gollivan was presented with a bouquet as a token of thanks from the Mission and the local church.

The Gollivan LIFEdevelopment Centre comprises a lecture and social area above a new storage facility within the existing youth hall of the Newport church.

JOHN SURRIDGE, WM president

Thetford evangelism

by Dr Claude Lombart, pastor Cambridge and Bury St Edmunds

Thetford, the former Saxon capital of East Anglia and a significant medieval religious centre, is remembered for famous names such as Queen Boudica, the engineer Charles Burrell, and Tom Paine, among others. All seven area 8 pastors have

teamed up to evangelise Thetford, with a well-defined five-year strategy, in addition to the seventeen churches and companies they serve. The approach is to make friends, build up relationships over time, and gradually introduce the Good News

in a user-friendly, non-threatening and attractive way, and at an appealing venue.

Once a week for several weeks the team meets an hour and a half prior to the presentations to pray and prepare for the 7.30pm PowerPoint lectures by Pastor Michael Walker on topics such as archaeology in the Middle East, evolution and Creation, and astronomy. They spend at least an hour after each meeting in debriefing. The first part of the meeting is followed by announcements and a short refreshments break of hot and cold drinks and biscuits. At the conclusion of the second part people usually stop to chat.

At the end of each segment we hold a round table forum led by Pastor Mike Toy, area co-ordinator, with the assistance of Pastor Michael and other pastors. That's when we assess where the listeners are at spiritually and what sort of topics they would most likely be interested in for future meetings. The outcome on the recent topic of the

Flood was encouraging and exciting. The room we hire at The Bell Hotel was filled to capacity with twenty-four participants. The audience's responses showed that they were visibly touched by the Holy Spirit's work on their minds and hearts. One retired Baptist minister had many of his questions answered afterwards in a long discussion with Pastor Walker. He remarked as he was leaving that he felt God had led him to that meeting when he had other plans for the evening. Our second series started on 8 March. On the 15th Dr Colin Mitchell did a presentation on Evolution, Creation and the Christian, followed by Q&A. Meanwhile, evangelism moves apace in area 8 with Pastor Walker scheduling two more series of meetings in his churches for 2007, and with the other churches considering other evangelistic approaches after the visit of Pastor Geoff Youlden to motivate us in attempting more pastoral and lay-led evangelistic outreaches.

Gwyneth – The Dell's second centenarian

The Adventist group and their friends at the Dell care home in Lowestoft enjoyed a remarkable celebration on 11 May, when Gwyneth Mudford reached her 100th birthday. The day was marked by a party at the home organised by the management, and on Sunday the 13th, a group of friends from further afield joined Gwyneth's daughter Sue Ingram in the Lowestoft church hall for an afternoon to mark the occasion. Gwyneth (née Johns), who spent her youth in Plymouth and South Wales,

is a wonderfully active and alert member of the Oulton Broad church and still remembers the missionary events of the early 1900s when large numbers of Americans came here to help build the Adventist Church in Britain.

Gwyneth's birthday means that we now have two centenarians resident at the Dell, as her room is just a few doors down the corridor from retired Bible worker Irene Osbourne who is now 104!

C. PEAKE



Stoneycroft baptism

MESSENGER 12 April (page 4) carried the report of the organisation of the Stoneycroft company in Liverpool on 17 February. That was made possible by a baptism that took place on 27 December. On that day seven people were baptised and joined the Stoneycroft company, while four were baptised and received into the membership of the Kensington Liverpool church. Pastor Barry Stokes conducted the baptism and Pastor John Kiragu gave the charge.

FREDERICK MATVO



On Friday 11 May forty guests gathered to celebrate. Gwyneth arrived on the arms of two very tall gentlemen – Benjamin Ingram and Dennis Porter. The former was a great grandson and the other a long-time family friend. We all – with Eunice Sampson at the piano – joined in the joyful rendition of 'Lord For the Years', and a short address

was given by Pastor Paul Smith. There was a truly grand spread laid on by Eunice, her daughter Ruth and regular helper, and great friends Eric and Jean Baker. Eunice made a magnificent cake to mark the occasion. There was much reminiscing and chat about days long gone and those yet to come.

SUE INGRAM

Home Schooling Option

by Neal Lawrence, BUC Home Schooling advisor

‘In Britain and other countries, home schooling is a quiet but growing educational option.’

What does the term home schooling mean to you right now?

Home schooling (or home education) is simply the education of children at home rather than at school. Usually, the parents, especially mothers, are the teachers.

God’s plan

At Creation, home-based education was God’s original plan for all children. As families multiplied, the parents were to be the teachers and home was to be a school (Gen 1:26-28; 4:1, 2; *Education*, pages 20-22). This was still the basis of education in later periods (Deut 6:4-9). Jesus Christ himself was the product of a home school education (Luke 2:51, 52; John 7:15; *Desire of Ages*, pages 68-70). It still remains God’s ideal way of educating children.

Why should home schooling be of special importance to Adventists today? The Elijah message of Malachi 4:5, 6 is to be given just before the end of time. Its focus is reconciliation between the hearts of fathers and children, implying that there will be, at the end of time, alienation between parents and children (2 Tim 3:2) that must be addressed in the final proclamation of the gospel.

‘Those who bear the last message of mercy to the world should feel it their duty to instruct parents in regard to home religion. . . . As the claims of the law are presented, and men and women are convicted of their duty to render obedience, show them the responsibility of their decision, not only for themselves but for their children.’ Child Guidance, page 556.

Ellen White further emphasised the role of parents in

the education of their children and the importance of the home school:

‘Let not home education be regarded as a secondary matter. It occupies the first place in all true education. Fathers and mothers have entrusted to them the moulding of their children’s minds. . . . Home education is not by any means to be neglected. Those who neglect it neglect a religious duty.’ Ibid, page 18.

‘Children should virtually be trained in a home school from the cradle to maturity . . . the mother especially, who is the principle teacher in the home, should there learn the most valuable lessons of her life.’ *Child Guidance*, page 26.

The evidence

Research in America and Britain shows that home-schooled children do better in their all-round character development, self-concept, academic performance and social skills compared to school-educated children. Parents generally know and love their children more than anyone else. This relationship provides the best conditions for learning. Most loving, committed parents, who are willing to learn, can teach their own children.

Two Adventist families that are currently home schooling share their experiences. Tony and Beauty Lowe from Dudley have two young boys who have never attended school. They said, ‘We have chosen to home school our boys primarily to have an active part in their spiritual and academic education. We enjoy the one-to-one attention it provides and believe it is our responsibility to give the best to our children. They are able to adopt skills from all areas of life, preparing them to be valuable assets within the community and church.’

Jeanetta Liburd and her husband, from Leicestershire, have been home schooling their two daughters for five years. Jeanetta said, ‘There were several reasons why we decided to home school.

Firstly, the spiritual provision at their school was not adequate. We really needed to focus more on our family and on Bible principles, especially in terms of character building. Secondly it did not make sense that as a family we spent so much time apart, with the girls at school and both of us busy at work. We therefore felt as a family that it would be more productive to provide their education at home.’

Home schooling and the law

Legally, children in Britain have to be educated, but this does not have to be at school. According to The Department for Education and Skills, ‘Parents have a duty to ensure that their children receive a suitable full-time education either by regular attendance at school or otherwise (Under Section 7 of the Education Act 1996). Some parents decide, as they are entitled to do, to provide suitable education by educating their children at home.’

In Britain, America and many other countries, home schooling is a quiet but growing alternative education option. Amongst Adventists in Britain, home schooling is growing as parents become more aware of the advantages for their children’s Christian character development and preparation for adult life. There are estimated to be close to fifty Adventist families currently home schooling.

Developments in the BUC

The BUC Education department promotes home schooling for three main purposes:

1. A complement to the church school programme.
2. An alternative option for Adventist children in state schools.
3. A preferred choice for those who want a more individualised approach to Christian education.

Over the past six years, the department, through the leadership of Dr Keith Davidson, has given tangible support to home schooling families by sponsoring the following:

- Writing and current revision of an SDA Home Schooling Handbook (available on line at www.adventist-education.org.uk)
- Adventist education and home schooling promotions in churches
- Home Schooling Training Course
- Resources for home schooling families
- SDA National Home Schooling Conference and Association
- Development of a Personal Education Portfolio Assessment pilot
- Co-operation between Adventist schools and home schooling families.

Sunday 6 February 2005 witnessed the first SDA National Home Schooling Conference. Approximately thirty families from different parts of the country attended. The Conference aims and accomplishments were to:

- Help develop a distinct understanding of home schooling in the context of Adventist educational principles.
- Provide an opportunity for home schooling families to meet, share and network.
- Set up an SDA National Home Schooling Association.
- Begin establishing the necessary support struc-

tures for home schooling families.

- Offer input and support from the BUC Education Department.
- Raise the profile of home schooling as an Adventist educational option.

The future

Looking ahead, there are some important needs to be addressed in advancing home schooling in the British Union. It needs to be developed further on the specific principles of Adventist education given in the Bible and the writings of Ellen White. The support structures need to be solidified and it needs to be established as a viable Adventist education option.

To meet these needs, there are plans for a series of home schooling weekend training programmes around the country, starting in the second half of this year. I solicit your prayers for this important work. For further information on home schooling, please contact Neal Lawrence (BUC Home Schooling advisor) 01902 654246 or homeschooling@adventist.org.uk.

Rededication and Commitment at Aberdeen

by Pastor Brian MacCormac

A service of rededication and commitment took place at the Aberdeen church on Sabbath 26 May. It is part of the preparation for the Global Rain programme which will run from 27 June to 7 July. During the service the pastor reconsecrated the elders and they, in turn, reconsecrated the pastor. The pastor and the elders then re-consecrated the household heads, followed by the recommitment of the whole church. In this preparation time for Global Rain the congregation has drawn closer together and a new bonding has taken place throughout the church.

The church is also involved in two outreach programmes. The book *Ten Commandments Twice Removed* is being sent out to clergy in the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire areas, bringing to their attention God’s Commandments as the standard God has set for Scotland as well as the rest of the world. We pray that this move will make others more aware of the church in Aberdeen.

In another programme two young people in the church, Mitchell and Dinora, are leading other young people to give out Bibles to friends and neighbours and encouraging them to come to church.

God is working in a mighty way and the church feels the blessings.

ELSIE HANDYSIDES (1906-2007) d. 11

January. At the age of 100 years, Elsie Handysides, widow of Paul Handysides, fell asleep in Jesus. Her beloved husband had introduced her to two families, his own extensive one and the family of Christ in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She remained devoted to both. Paul shared with Elsie his earliest memories of pioneer life at Avondale College in Australia and how on their return the Handysides family became founder members of the Newcastle church. Paul grew up in the Adventist faith, the third of six siblings, three of whom entered church ministry: Jennifer the eldest, Danny and John, the two youngest. Paul was always a serious seeker after truth and Elsie, delighted to learn more about God, was baptised. Elsie Handysides was indeed a remarkable lady for her time. After marrying Paul, she was encouraged to continue her career in the retail trade where she carried responsibility for the financial affairs of the Murdock company for many years. Well trusted and loved, Elsie also became like a daughter, caring for Mrs Murdock in her final illness. Always busy, she was a talented needlewoman, cook and cake-maker, with many charities benefiting from what she made for them to sell. She delighted in making conversation, music, lavish meals, and spreading happiness. Paul and Elsie were inseparable. We nieces and nephews knew instinctively how much they cared about us. In later life as ‘isolated members’ living outside Newcastle, Paul and Elsie spent Sabbaths studying the lesson together and singing hymns. They expected the Second Coming to be in their lifetime. After Paul died, Elsie’s relationship with her Saviour deepened. Day and night Jesus became the constant Companion who understood her loneliness and concerns, and comforted her especially when her health failed. She would constantly tell her nieces and nephews here, in the United States, and Canada, how much she loved us and prayed for us all. Her greatest desire was to awake to that glorious reunion with Christ, her husband and loved ones in heaven.

CYNTHIA BENZ

METHELLA ALEXANDER (1929-2007) d. February. On 14 February 2007 friends and family joined together to say goodbye to a beloved wife and mother and a wonderful friend. Methella Alexander was born on 19 August 1929 on the island of Grenada in the Caribbean. She was baptised in 1955 and on 8 May of the following year married her husband, Anthony Sydney Alexander in the Mount Rose church, Grenada. In 1961 the couple left Grenada for England, travelling with their eldest child, Claude. She joined the Chiswick church and remained there until 1967, when she moved to the Southall church. Methella also supported the growth of the Northolt branch and was a member there until her untimely passing. Methella was a devout Christian, who loved and served her Lord and she raised her six children to love and serve him also. Methella was also a faithful worker and worked tirelessly until her retirement, when she returned home to Grenada. She returned to England only to visit her children and grandchildren. May 8, 2007 would have been Methella and Anthony’s fifty-second wedding anniversary, but Methella was called to rest months before this. Methella leaves to mourn her, her beloved husband Anthony, her children and their spouses; sons Claude and Junior and daughters Louise, Ullanda, Brenda and Hazel Ann; grandchildren Cassandra, Becky, Joshua,

Elizabeth, Jonathan, Jermaine, Jada, Jayden and Justin. She will also be greatly missed by members of the Chiswick, Southall and Northolt churches as well as her all her brothers and sisters in Area 6D. The family mourns, but is comforted by the knowledge that Methella sleeps and now awaits the call of the Life-giver.

CLAUDE ALEXANDER

ESTHER ROBERTS (1924-2007) d. 18

March. A lifelong member of Stanborough Park church, Esther fell asleep in Jesus in Hemel Hempstead hospital. Esther was the daughter of missionary parents, Pastor and Mrs Roy Warland. She was born in Kenya, East Africa, on 24 June 1924. Her parents buried two of their children in Africa and on medical advice returned to England. Esther’s father served in the British Union in a variety of roles. Esther grew up in Watford, attending Watford Grammar School and became a lifelong member of the Park church. She served in the Voice of Prophecy Bible School as treasurer and general factotum from 1952 until her retirement in 1990. She had a serious fall in September 2006 from which she never fully recovered. Her funeral service took place at West Herts Crematorium in Watford. A moving tribute was given by her lifelong friend Valerie Pearce. Two principals of the VOP, Fretson Taylor and Desmond Rafferty, honoured her with their presence. The writer, with the local minister, took the service. Her faith was expressed by the beautiful promise of Christ in John 14:1-3, which Esther loved to recite. She is remembered by her son David and daughter Elizabeth whom she dearly loved. Also her brother David and sister Margaret, both living in Australia. Like all of the redeemed, Esther has fallen asleep in the words of the committal ‘. . . in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour’.

PATRICK J. BOYLE

HENRY ALBERT DRAKE (1919-2007) d. 8 April.

Harry was born in London. When World War II broke out, he volunteered and joined the Catering Corps and spent some of his service in Iceland as part of the protectorate force. It was during this time that he met a young local girl, Gudlief, with whom he fell in love and they married in Iceland in 1942. After the war years Harry took up his trade as a plasterer and the family lived in London. Harry was a dedicated family man and spent his evenings with his family rather than down at the local pub. As a plasterer he could boast that he was ‘By Royal Appointment’ as he had once done some plastering at Buckingham Palace. One day, Harry was walking past the New Gallery Centre in Regent Street when he saw that there were some religious meetings being held there, so he went in to see what it was all about. One of the meetings was about how the Sabbath had been changed from Saturday to Sunday. Harry wasn’t initially convinced of this so went to the British Library where his research ascertained this was true. Eventually he accepted the truth and in 1957 was baptised by Pastor Folkenburg Sen. at the New Gallery Centre. Harry eventually came to live in Grimsby and joined the Grimsby church where he served for many years as church clerk and then elder. He was a good and faithful servant for his God and the church. Sadly, Gudlief became ill a couple of years ago and Harry had to spend much of his time looking after her. Twelve months prior to his own death, Gudlief fell asleep. Shortly after

this he had a bad fall in the bath and had severe pain from this for the rest of his days. Harry could not cope on his own any more and had to go into a residential home and it was there that he fell asleep in his Lord. Harry will be sadly missed, especially by his church family, and we look forward to that day when we shall all meet again.

PETER NASSAU

MARLENE JEAN WHITING – d. 14

April. The funeral of Marlene Whiting, beloved wife of Gerald and dearly loved mother of Jacqui and Tim, took place at Weymouth on Tuesday 24 April. One of four children, Marlene grew up at Minchinhampton in Gloucestershire. Here she started her busy life at 13 years old by working at weekends and holidays delivering milk with the local milkman, starting at 5 in the morning and finishing at 4 in the afternoon. On leaving Stroud High School for Girls, she began work as a shorthand typist. It was while collecting for Worldwide Advent Missions (today’s ADRA-UK) that Gerald visited Minchinhampton. Marlene answered his knock and went upstairs to find some change. She was gone so long that Gerald lost patience and left, but soon Marlene came running after him with a whole sixpence! This was the beginning of their romance. After courting for some months, Gerald received a letter from Marlene in shorthand, which he had to ask someone to translate for him. There were many expressions of affection, ending with the words ‘Will you marry me?’ Willingly Gerald agreed and they were married on 22 April 1957 at Minchinhampton Parish Church. Their romance was blessed by a daughter, Jacqui, in 1960, and a son, Timothy, in 1964. Marlene, who had previously regularly attended the local Baptist church, was baptised and became a member of the Chalford Seventh-day Adventist church. She held many offices, including Children’s Sabbath School teacher, deaconess and Personal Ministries secretary. She always gave a helping hand and words of comfort to needy friends and neighbours, organising trips to the seaside for elderly members. When they moved to Weymouth in 2000, Marlene continued her church work and activity, taking office and helping in any capacity. Her true and powerful voice was often heard as she led the small congregation in singing the hymns. Her generous hospitality and lovely meals will be remembered by the local members and many visitors. She kindly provided transport for any, like the writer, who could not otherwise have attended, and also for visiting speakers who arrived at the train station. Her hobby in recent years had been filling shoeboxes for the ADRA-UK Christmas appeal. Throughout the year she searched for small items that would bring joy to countless children in poor countries. In the past two years alone she sent sixty-three boxes to ADRA-UK, with thirty-six going to Sierra Leone. As her last illness grew worse, the family feared she would not be with them for Christmas. However, the Lord in his mercy allowed her to spend a special final Christmas with them. Our heartfelt sympathy is with the family at this time, and our thoughts are turned towards that glorious day when, in the words of the hymn, ‘We shall meet at Jesu’s feet’.

PEGGY M. D. TEVERSHAM

The family would like to thank all who gave a total of £420.95 towards ADRA and Cancer Research.

Bournemouth Mother & Toddler Group

On Thursday 5 April the Mother & Toddler Group at Bournemouth church – The Sunshine Club – celebrated Easter with a PowerPoint presentation by Pastor Leigh Sleeman telling the Easter story. This was followed as usual by the toddlers receiving Easter eggs from the church, together with a ‘Little Fish’ book from the local Christian bookshop.

This year, however, was different. For the first time we invited back former members of the Sunshine Club who now attend school – the Club has been running for almost eight years. We had purchased some Storykeeper DVDs to give to these older children and they were delighted to receive a gift from the church.

Hot cross buns were enjoyed by all, and there were 44 children present in our church that day, as well as parents – the most we have ever had in connection with this group. Only six of the children were from the church, all the others being from the local community. Several church members came in to help as well, and it was a very happy occasion.

We praise and thank the Lord for the way he has blessed this group from its inception in 1999, and Pastor Sleeman hopes to carry on the work with a new once-monthly programme for children of all ages.

JOY ELLIOTT

Stanborough School Teachers' retreat

School had finished for the week at 1pm on Friday 22 April and the announcement requested that all teachers and staff meet outside the school at 1.45pm in order to make it in time to catch the 5 o'clock ferry. This was the day we had all looked forward to: the first Stanborough School Teachers' Spiritual Retreat.

Two minibus loads of teachers and staff from Stanborough School drove down to Portsmouth, drove onto the car ferry and sailed to the Isle of Wight.

We had all been booked in to the Sherwood Court Hotel in Shanklin for the weekend. Our rooms were ready and very welcoming. Before the evening meal, some of us went for a stroll by the beautiful beach and promenade to take in the fresh sea air and scenery. After a hot meal we began the weekend with the first of many inspiring Spirit-filled devotionals. Pastor Butoiu was the padre for the weekend. He encouraged us all to trust God and rely wholly on his power in the challenging task of the teacher. We brought in the Sabbath with singing led by Anthea Davis and Natasha Taylor, accompanied by

Chudi Ughbomah, Paul Lettman and Raymond Dalias on their musical instruments.

Sabbath began with a glorious sunrise, a hearty breakfast and more spiritual food. The Holy Spirit seemed to be touching the hearts of us all deeply and an osmosis of divine peace was binding us with each other and heaven. After the Sabbath lunch we took a six mile walk in the country.

Together the group closed the sacred Sabbath hours and after supper went for an evening walk before continuing the fellowship with games till bedtime. After a good night's rest, some started Sunday with an early morning walk and then break-

fast and a final devotional of prayer and inspiration, sharing what the weekend had meant to each of us. It was a very welcome break from the busy teaching schedule and it had a tonic effect. Pastor Nestor Bruno, the school chaplain, who organised the retreat, blessed us with the announcement that he was going to stay on another year at Stanborough. After bidding farewell to our hosts, we drove to The Needles, had a picnic lunch and headed for home.

KISH PODDAR, ssistant head



STANBOROUGH SUMMER CAMP 2007

Come join us this summer!

1st Session: Mon, 16th Jul - Fri, 20th Jul
 2nd Session: Mon, 23rd Jul - Fri, 27th Jul
 3rd Session: Mon, 30th Jul - Fri, 3rd Aug
 4th Session: Mon, 13th Aug - Fri, 17th Aug
 5th Session: Mon, 20th Aug - Fri, 24th Aug

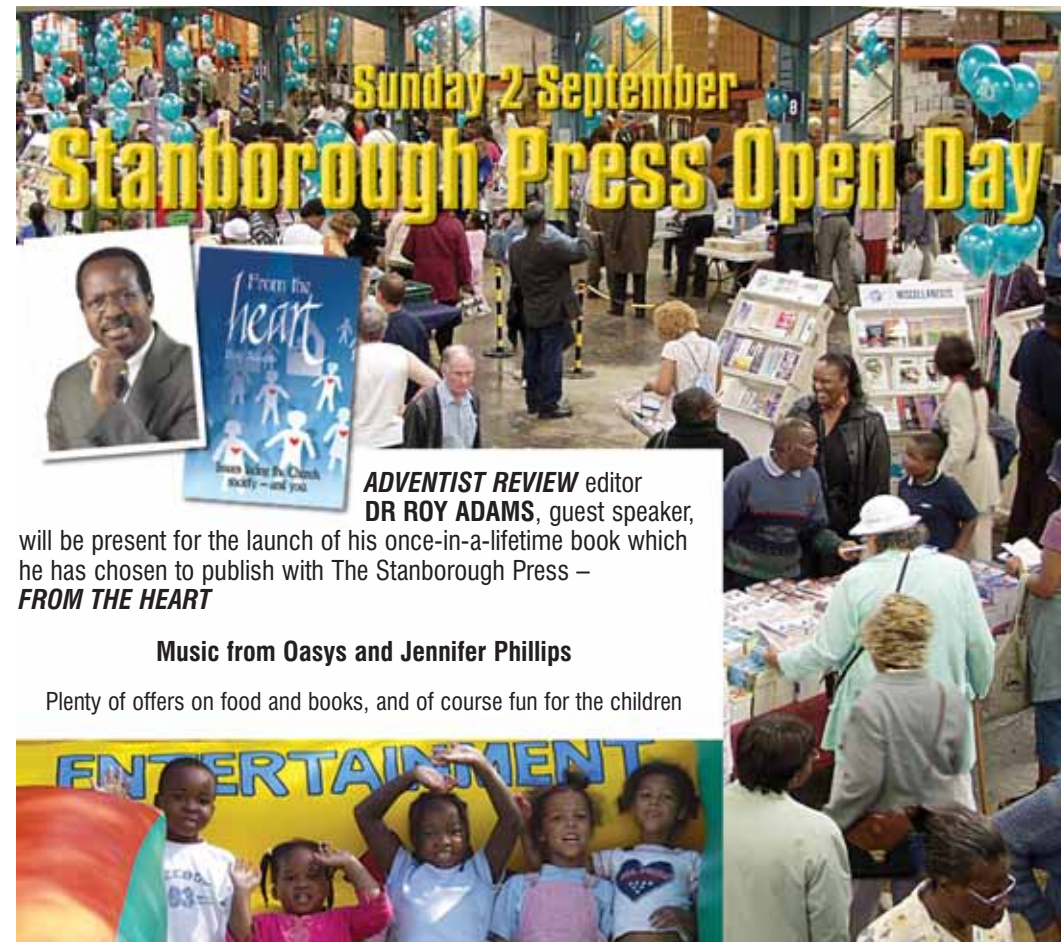
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Welsh Mission Triennial Session
 Notice is hereby given that the Triennial Session of the Welsh Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on Sunday 28 October 2007 in the Cardiff Seventh-day Adventist church. Registration will take place in the church from 8.30 to 9.30 am, and delegates must register before participating in the proceedings of the Session. *J. Surridge, President, and V. Pilmoor, Secretary/Treasurer*



Sunday 2 September
Stanborough Press Open Day

ADVENTIST REVIEW editor
DR ROY ADAMS, guest speaker,
 will be present for the launch of his once-in-a-lifetime book which he has chosen to publish with The Stanborough Press – **FROM THE HEART**

Music from Oasys and Jennifer Phillips

Plenty of offers on food and books, and of course fun for the children

ENTERTAINMENT

ABC BOOK SALES

July		
8	John Loughborough	10.30am-2pm
15	Harper Bell	10.30am-2pm
August		
12	John Loughborough	10.30am-2pm

Messenger

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Sunset

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	London	Card	Notf	Edin	Bell
Jun 15	9.19	9.32	9.32	10.00	10.01
22	9.22	9.34	9.34	10.03	10.04
29	9.22	9.34	9.34	10.02	10.03
Jul 6	9.19	9.31	9.31	9.59	10.00

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