

Messenger

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London Ghana official opening

by Isaac Amo-Kyereme and Nana Sifa Twum



'This is the first permanent church building for Ghanaian Adventists in Europe,' Pastor Matthew Bediako, Executive Secretary of the World Church headquarters in Washington DC told the 1,000 members, friends and well-wishers of the new £3 million London Ghana Seventh-day Adventist church at their official opening on Sabbath, 30 June. For more than forty years, the Ghanaian Adventist community had wandered about in the city of London, worshipping in members' living rooms, dining rooms, terraces, classrooms, school halls and eventually in a school gymnasium. The consensus had always been to build a sanctuary for the Lord, so the grand opening climaxed a long-cherished dream.

The genuine expressions of joy of many of the pioneers of the Ghanaian fellowship, including church leaders Jacob Frempong, Yaw Bayim Adomako, Dr Yeboah, Seth Obeng, Oheneba Kwabena Apaw, Madam Rose Boateng, Mary and Alice Mensah and others was also captured in the repertoire of the choir that focused on inviting everyone to come and see what the Lord has done for his people. And come they did to celebrate this great day. With the kind permission of Newham Council, over 1,000 people from other Ghanaian churches, nationalities and religions joined the 500 strong membership of the church, clad in a specially designed cloth ordered from

Ghana, to sing praises and thank the Lord for using them for his service.

Preaching the divine service sermon under the theme 'Remember Not to Forget', Pastor Bediako reminded the congregation that the opening of this sanctuary was a testament to how the Lord had been with the Ghanaian congregation. He said, 'Like Israel passing through the Red Sea, the Lord has led this "immigrant" church through storms of discouragement, lack of finances, lack of commitment, etc. Yet the Lord has brought his people this far.' He then challenged the members not to forget what the Lord has done for them, referring them to the story of Israel crossing the Jordan River. 'Just as the Lord requested Israel to pick up stones from the River Jordan and to place them where they would rest that night, the Lord has used you to build this church as a testament to his name.'

Pastor Don McFarlane has been instrumental in making the dream of the church a reality. As president of the Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland he conducted the consecration service to open the church formally, urging the members to remember that Adventists all over the world have been called for the same mission. He stated, 'This church must affect positively the entire community, the entire city and the entire nation.' Pastor Humphrey Walters, president of the South

Welsh retired workers' get-together

Twenty retired church workers met for the day near Carmarthen on Sunday 17 June. Among the group were a printer, four or five teachers in subjects from English to gymnastics, geography and mathematics to domestic science, a headmaster, and pastors from South Africa, the Borders and Central Wales. Also nurses, including the matron of the old Stanborough Hydro and a former secretary of the Division Office.

The get-together was one of several for retired church workers to be held in various locations around the country. This time the group met at Glyn and Vi Meredith's lovely cottage

at Pontargothi, near Carmarthen. Glyn was a printing press manager and worked with Horace Pearce to set up the publishing house in Ghana, and later served at the Stanborough Press. His wife, Vi, a teacher, was privileged to give private tuition to the children of President Nkrumah, the first President of Ghana.

The group were joined for the day by Pastor Alan Hodges, BUC Ministerial Association secretary, Pastor John Surrridge, the Welsh Mission president, Dr Brian Phillips, the former Welsh Mission president, and Pastor Martin Bell, chaplain to

the retired church workers.

We were able to sit in Glyn and Vi's beautiful garden surrounded by roses, penstemon and delphiniums, with a fountain playing in the pool, and as Pastor Alan Hodges gave us all the latest news from the Church headquarters, a beautiful bird – a red kite – circled in the sky overhead. Later the group were able to stroll through Glyn and Vi's beautiful gardens and their own woods and meadows. One section of the wood is long-established but their 'new' wood is a beautiful place where Glyn and his son, John, have planted

1,500 mixed trees, including larch, cherry, ash, oak, beech and rowan.

The purpose of these get-togethers is to assure retired church workers that they are still appreciated and loved, to give opportunity for fellowship, develop friendships, and share spiritual encouragement.

There will be a major get-together of retired church workers at Stanborough Park church on Sunday 11 November. This will be a very special day, so if you are a retired church worker, make sure you put the date in your diary. More details later.

PASTOR MARTIN BELL

THE STANBOROUGH PRESS LIMITED – ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

The Stanborough Press Limited – a denominational entity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church based in Grantham, Lincolnshire – is seeking to recruit a full-time Administrative Secretary to serve the Administration team at its Grantham based offices.

The role requires the successful candidate to be an efficient organiser and personal assistant with an aptitude for hard work.

Applicants should be discreet and welcoming, with a pleasant outgoing personality, and be sympathetic to the ethos and values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organisation. Salary, upon application, will be based on qualification and experience and will be in line with the denominational wage structure.

Applications and CV should be sent to The Financial Director, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL, or email stanborg@aol.com. Closing date for application: 9 August 2007.

ABC WATFORD – CUSTOMER SALES ADVISOR

The Stanborough Press Limited – a denominational entity of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with an ABC outlet in Watford – is seeking to recruit a full-time Customer Sales Advisor to head its sales outlet based at the BUC offices on Stanborough Park, Watford.

The role requires the successful candidate to be an efficient organiser, with an aptitude for sales and the ability to monitor stock control and record daily sales receipts prior to banking.

Applicants should be discreet and welcoming, with a pleasant outgoing personality, and be sympathetic to the ethos and values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organisation.

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Standing, left to right: Fred Dust, John Surrridge, Glyn Meredith, Martin Bell, Alan Hodges, Roger Neal, Sheila Bell, Brian Watkins, Jean Watkins, Rex Pearson, Elvira Pearson, Brian Phillips. Seated, left to right: Philip Nolan, Audrey Nolan, Marilyn Neal, Valerie Dust, RoseMarie Riches, Peggy Mason, Joyce Phillips, Vi Meredith, Alice Allen.



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

STRESS Part 2 Signs and symptoms

How does stress manifest itself? In a 'normal' stress response, the physical effects of stress could be lifesaving. This is the 'flight or fight' response when experiencing fear or threat, where our body releases a rush of adrenaline, giving us the impetus we need to fight the threat or fear or to run away. This is the body's emergency response. Changes occur in the cardiovascular and metabolic system, increasing

pulse, blood pressure and sugar levels, and blood is diverted to vital organs such as the lungs, heart and muscles.

When suffering ongoing stress, the body instigates the 'flight and fight' response continuously, and we experience a variety of symptoms which generally fall into four categories: physical – our body's response; behavioural – the things we do; emotional – what we feel; psychological – our individual thinking style.

Physical symptoms:

Aches and pains, breathlessness, change in menstrual cycle, chest pain and/or palpitations, constipation, diarrhoea, headaches, indigestion, muscle twitches, nausea, recurrence of previous illnesses/allergies, skin conditions, sleep problems, tiredness, tightness in chest, weight loss or weight gain.

Behavioural symptoms:

Accident-prone, change in sleeping patterns, declining work performance, drinkers and smokers increase habit, inability to relax, inability to express feelings, loss of appetite, loss of libido,

overeating, over-reacting to issues, poor time management, poor judgement, withdrawing from family and friends.

Emotional symptoms/feelings:

Anger, anxiety, decrease in confidence/self-esteem, feeling helpless, feelings of guilt, feelings of shame, feeling out of control, increasingly cynical, lack of enthusiasm, mood swings, poor concentration, tension.

Psychological symptoms/recurrent negative thoughts and expressions:

'I can't cope', 'I don't know what to do', 'I don't seem to be able to get on top of things', 'I keep forgetting where I put things', 'I'm a failure', 'I should be able to cope', loss of judgment, 'nobody understands', 'what's the point?', 'why is everyone getting at me?'

Recognising what stresses us and an awareness of how our symptoms present themselves, will enable us to take action to minimise or reduce the effects. We will explore effective stress management in the forthcoming issues.

Good health!

One out of ten

David Marshall



There's nothing like a common misfortune to cause people to forget their differences.

At 10am, when the 347 was meant to have arrived, none of the tangled jumble of humankind who made up the queue at the bus stop had even spoken. By 10.15 most were vocal. By 10.30 we were a well-knit, ten-strong army and we were ready to storm the town hall.

The greater the common misfortune, the greater the cohesion among the group of the unfortunate.

As misfortunes go, few things beat leprosy. In Jesus' time a leper could not come within fifty yards to the windward of a healthy person. Leviticus had laid down the rules: from symptoms through diagnosis to the cry 'Unclean!'

By the time the 'ulcer', the 'scab' and the 'livid rash'¹ appeared, there was a sinister chance that a leper would have company. The incubation period was unusually long: anything from two to twenty years. Then, as now, droplet infection was known to be the means of contagion.

Once diagnosed, leprosy meant social exclusion. The leper had no alternative but to seek the society of other lepers. In doing so he could even ignore five centuries of prejudice and hostile history. The ten men Jesus heard wailing outside a village on the Samaria-Galilee border included both Jews and Samaritans.

The sorry little multicultural group of ten from their hovel in the hills had seen a Stranger approaching the village from which they were excluded. Leprous limbs had no feeling, but a frisson of hope went through the ten. Before the Stranger could enter the village – and from the specified distance – they called out to him.

They often wrangled but, in the fellowship of their sufferings, there was comradeship. They lived together, died together, buried one another, were one in their numbness, social exclusion and depressing prognosis – but, seeing the hopeful Stranger, they called out for mercy, not healing.²

They called from a distance. From a similar distance, day by day, they watched the children play, the steady stream of women bringing leathern buckets to the well. They saw weddings, markets, funerals, celebrations, confrontations, processions – knowing they

were permanently excluded from village life. They saw the merciful leave parcels of food for them at a safe distance. And, when the hopeful Stranger approached, they struggled until everyone was upright and – all ten of them – blundered clumsily down the barren hillside and cried out:

'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!'

Perhaps, for the briefest time, Jesus didn't hear them. When he did, he called out: 'Go, show yourselves to the priests.'

That would have winded them at first. Then, from the brightest to the dullest, they would have tumbled what had happened.

The Stranger was telling them they were cleansed. The only occasion a leper had to show himself to the priest was to prove he was no longer leprous.

Ten former lepers went wild with excitement. Feeling had returned to their limbs. Arms, legs, went in all directions as they tumbled their way to the nearby village while the Stranger and his companions looked and laughed with them.

After years of a living death, ten men could resume living life.

When a single leper, on a different occasion, knelt before Jesus and begged for healing, 'Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man.'³ When the ten men came down the mountain they kept their distance from Jesus but were healed as they ran.⁴

But, as they ran, one leper, a Samaritan, felt a need welling up inside himself. Perhaps he tried to attract the attention of the other nine. 'Wait! Wait!' Then, when the other nine ran on in search of a priest, the Samaritan hung back. He ran towards Jesus. Reaching him, the former leper flung himself at Jesus' feet: 'Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!'

The Greek word for grace *xaris* comes from the root meaning 'to be joyful', and the noun has a wide variety of meanings, all associated with joy. Having cried out for mercy and been given grace, thankfulness was priority one for that former leper.

Jesus and his disciples, in a spirit of joy, said to the Samaritan, 'Hey! Weren't there ten of you guys? So what happened to the other nine?'

Nine were so absorbed with their new life that they did not acknowledge its Source. In one of the ten, the chord of thankfulness was awoken. He could not wait until he was certi-

fied fit to rejoin the community. He felt the urgent need to say thank you and to praise God – because he had seen the hand of God in the healing.

The parting words of Jesus to the one-in-ten were: 'On your way! Your faith has healed and saved you!'

The other nine had had faith, too. But that Samaritan had both *faith* and *gratitude*. Jesus acknowledged that in the verb he used in his parting words. It meant *salvation*, as well as healing. Jesus sent the Samaritan off 'with the assurance that it was well with his soul as it was with his body.'⁵

Do you identify with the nine who went on down, about their business? Or with the one who was thankful?

There is no such thing as a self-made man:

- Of all living creatures man needs the longest time to become able to meet the essential needs of life. Our debt to those who raised us and prepared us for life can never be repaid.
- Most of us owe great debts of gratitude to our fellowman: perhaps a surgeon or a doctor, a friend or a pastor or a teacher.
- Then think of our debt of gratitude to God. Luther wrote: 'If God had been more sparing and close-handed with his gifts and benefits, we should learn to be thankful . . . The greater God's gifts and works, the less they are regarded.'

We acknowledge need when it is desperate, but how thankful are we the rest of the time?

'He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him,'⁶ that one man in ten.

I can't tell you what *you* owe in thankfulness. I owe everything I am, have and can ever hope to be. Now you go . . .

There is only one thing better than thanksgiving: *thanksgiving*.

Be on the lookout for God's mercies. The more you look for them, the more you'll see. Better to lose count while naming your blessings, than to lose your blessings by dwelling on your troubles.

¹Leviticus 13:2. See *SDA Bible Dictionary* on leprosy. ²Luke 17:13. ³Matt. 8:1-4. ⁴Luke 17:11-19. ⁵Leon Morris, *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: Luke* (Revised edition), p.283. ⁶Luke 17:16

Maranatha Spring



Eight baptisms and an exceptional family week made April and May great months for the Maranatha church family.

Baptisms were carried out on 28 April and 19 May at the two sister churches, Maranatha Hayes, and its church plant, the Oxford Rwandese church. On both occasions the churches were packed, as members came to witness the baptism of seven teenagers. As Angela, Cynthia, Anne, Joy, Ruphina, Darlyn, David and Masuku stood in front of the church you could feel the joy that filled the room. Three of the young women baptised were sisters (Angela, Cynthia and Anne), and the happiness of the occasion was felt most by their parents. The youngest, Anne, had surprised her parents with her decision to join her sisters

in the act of baptism, and although they were not all baptised at the same time, they had made the collective choice to commit their lives to God and their parents could not have been more proud. The baptisms brought tears to several eyes, and after their immersion all candidates were passionately and unaniously welcomed into the Maranatha family.

However, the baptisms were just the first event that took place during the activity-filled months. During the May bank holiday weekend thirty couples attended an exciting retreat led by Drs Alonzo and June Smith, who both have qualifications in counselling and who had travelled from America to participate in the programme. Together they held a number of seminars, and the pre-

sentations given were both touching and informative.

Although Dr June Smith had to return home after the weekend, her husband remained to hold nightly meetings at Reading Central church on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Those who were unable to attend the weekend were blessed, as during the week, Dr Alonzo addressed several aspects of family life, such as family finance and parenting. Friday was directed specifically at teenagers. Attendance for the meetings grew over the week, so that by Friday the church was packed, and all who attended left feeling invigorated and with three new rules for life: 'God first. Respect parents. Aim high'.

After the success of the weekly meetings, the Sabbath programme was anticipated with enthusiasm. Dr Alonzo ended his sermon by inviting the singles to 'Wait on the Lord'. After Sabbath, and to end on a celebratory note, the couples attended an elegant banquet where they received their final presentation from Dr Alonzo.

Everybody agreed that the family week had been a success, and attendees had travelled from as far as Rwanda, Africa to be there. Jackie (who travelled with her husband and three other couples from Rwanda) said, 'Had I realised how wonderful this retreat was going to be, I would have tried harder to persuade more people to come.'

EUNICE NJAGI

Croydon and Norbury: Joint baptism

On Sabbath 26 May, we joined in the celebration of Global Baptismal Day, with the Croydon and Norbury churches hosting a joint baptismal service.

For this service we were privileged to have Pastor Radsia Antic, head of the Ellen G. White Institute at Newbold College, as a guest speaker. In his message to the candidates he gave an historical background on what baptism meant to the early Christian church when people were baptised in secret places underground.

The fifteen candidates were immersed by Pastors Brighton Kavaloh and Sinisa Horvat, together with church elder Duscan Uzlec. Baptised from Croydon were Jeremie Toussaint-Bourne, Lee White, Rodney Winter, Selina Williams, Marilyn Grey, Cecilia Kondowe, Rose-Marie Walters, Donette Brown and Debbie Katara. The Norbury candidates were Natasha Briscoe, Regina Mugariri, Michelle Phillips, Theraze Angus, Angela Abel and Simone Wells, some of whom will be joining the fellowship of the

Horley community (a branch of Norbury).

The pastors gave us an insight into the reasons that led each of the candidates to make this important decision to follow Christ all the way. The highlight of the service was when 7-year-old Rachel Wells, daughter of Simone Wells, sang beautifully for her mother, blessing our hearts with a marathon rendition of 'Jesus I Come', and she also eloquently read her mother's favourite Scripture.

KAREN BENJAMIN



Belfast's 50th Anniversary

by Eileen Irvine

'Explosion in Belfast Church' – happily this time it was an 'explosion' of people, as more than 288 attended the morning service celebrating the 50th anniversary of the dedication of the church building. For the first time in more than thirty-five years extra chairs had to be placed in the aisles!

Our expectations were exceeded as we were humbled and delighted to see that so many had made the effort to come to share the special day with us; we trust that they were blessed. We had visitors from all over the UK, many of whom had originally lived in Belfast and were returning to join in the celebrations. We were also privileged to have a number of pastors, past and present, with us – some having travelled long distances. These included Patrick Boyle, John Ferguson, Vlado Godina, Mart de Groot, Adam Keough, Douglas McCormac, David McKibben, David Neal, Ron SurrIDGE, Robert Vine and David West.

We are grateful to our speaker, David McKibben, a former Belfast member, now pastoring in Australia, who preached on the parable of the Sower. There were some present who hadn't been to a Seventh-day Adventist church for many years and we pray that the Holy Spirit had opportunity to speak to their hearts as he did to ours.

A light lunch was enjoyed by all, offering opportunity to catch up with 'old' friends and take photos – a snapshot of the Great Reunion we are all looking forward to in heaven. A celebration cake was cut and flowers were presented to our longest attending sister in Belfast, Sonia Farquhar. There was then an organised walk in the local botanical gardens after which, at around 5pm, an evening meal was provided for 143 in a local restaurant.

The evening programme began with a short concert which included music from a wide range of ethnic groups, featuring some of Belfast church's best talent. Following a short potted history of the church leading up to its dedication, presentations were made covering each of the five decades.

These recollections were in the main lighthearted, amusing and

sometimes revealing. They covered the early days: the swinging 60s, our past period during 'the troubles' and right up to the present day. There was a special flower arrangement with the



Trevor Murtagh (left) talks to David Neal



Sons, friends and former Belfast pastors were among those who attended Belfast's anniversary services. Special speaker was Pastor David McKibben, a son of the Belfast church

centrepiece of lilies representing Jesus Christ, the centre of all our lives. That was presented by Pastor L. H. Hill, a son of Belfast, in memory of his parents, the late Captain and Mrs Les Hill, who were members of the Belfast church.

The reviews were interspersed with musical items and DVD greetings from some past members

and pastors unable to attend in person – the Greer and Barnes families living in Australia (Albert and Audrey, Dennis and Maureen); Irene (née Hewitt) and family, also living in Australia; Jim Cunningham; Alan Hodges; Mrs Hulbert (née Dorland) with her son, Pastor Victor Hulbert. Other former pastors and Belfast members, including Pastor L. H. Hill and Pastor Roy Hulbert, provided CDs of photographic recollections of Belfast's history.

Despite a deluge of rain on Sunday morning, around thirty travelled to visit the Ulster Folk Park just outside Belfast. This is an open-air museum where actual buildings have been salvaged from all over Northern Ireland and reconstructed in typical settings, providing a glimpse of the past. The rain eased off and the weather softened. After strolling, viewing, reminiscing and chatting for several hours, we had a light lunch in the local tea rooms. We then all gathered in one of the reconstructed churches where our pastor, Adam Keough, went into the pulpit and prayed for us all – a perfect finish to a lovely weekend.

There have been many to whom the present church has cause to be grateful, and we stand on the shoulders of those who have smoothed the way before us. It is only right that we mention the names of some who made this building and church community possible: Pastor W. G. Nicholson who took the lion's share of responsibility in the construction of the church; Pastor O. M. Dorland who procured the site and motivated the building, supporting those who carried out the work. Thanks also to John Murtagh who assisted Pastor Nicholson; Dr Houston, who steered a steady course for the church; Mr West our elder, teacher and friend; Madge Ellis, church organist and encourager of young people. Those who have connections with Belfast will know the names of many others who have made our church what it is today. We owe them a big 'thank you' and take this opportunity to thank those who currently support the work in Belfast.

Over the past fifty years our mission has been to shed the light of the grace of God throughout the city of Belfast and beyond. This we have tried to do over the years, sometimes more successfully than others, realising that ours is the planting, God's is the growth and his the harvest; . . . 'Not by might nor by power but by my Spirit'.



Pastor Philip Anderson and Pastor John Ferguson



Pastors Robert Vine and Vlado Godina were among the former pastors. Pastor Ron SurrIDGE (above), a former Irish Mission president, was also among those present



Sheffield Adventists help flood victims

After the fortnight of torrential rain and severe flooding across the north of England in June, Sheffield Adventists partnered with ADRA-UK to provide basic necessities for the 300 families that Sheffield Council were working to re-house. Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt said that all three Adventist churches in the town were involved in providing parcels of blankets, dry food and other essentials for distribution in conjunction with the local council and Social Services. The church and individual members have also contributed to the mayor's appeal for funds for displaced persons.

The Carter Knowle Adventist church extended its normal Monday drop-in centre and used church funds, donations and a £2,000 grant from ADRA-UK to provide sandwiches, soup and hot drinks for the families affected by the severe weather.

The BBC reported that about 900 people made use of emergency shelters in Sheffield. The UK Environment Agency has labelled the recent weather conditions as 'phenomenal'. The agency's flood expert, Phil Rothwell, stated, 'We've had a sixth of the annual rainfall in 12 hours.'

VICTOR HULBERT

Good News from Sudan

About half a dozen loudspeakers effectively send the Gospel proclamation to the more than one hundred and twenty people seated in the open-air auditorium. However, two additional loudspeakers were turned to face the main road where hundreds of pedestrians were passing and often stopped to hear excerpts of the message.

It took place in Khartoum, with more than 5 million people. Khartoum is the capital of Sudan with 45 million inhabitants. Seven nights in a row Patrick Boyle, retired pastor from England, in two-hour programmes which included song, music, and answers to questions, covered the main points in God's plan to save men and women with positive reference to the Advent message. His messages were translated into Arabic.

During the daytime, the evangelistic team, nineteen pastors and workers from the Sudan field, attended a course in World Religions organised by Middle East University and taught by Borge Schantz. In the evenings they took an active part in the evangelistic campaigns.

In the audience were many visitors, including citizens of Khartoum who, by their dress, revealed that they belonged to Sudan's main religious tradition. They were all keen listeners. Many took notes and some requested Bibles in Arabic or English. Pastor Miroslav Didara, president of the Sudan field, continues the campaign with regular meetings and reports a steady faithful attendance. Include the people of Sudan, the activities to spread the Gospel and the few Christians in your prayers to the Lord of Missions.

Sudan is often mentioned in the Bible under names such as Cush, Nubia and Ethiopia. The first Christian missionary sent by Byzantine empress Theodora arrived in Nobatia and started preaching the Gospel of Christ about AD540.

By the fourteenth century, Islam had become the dominant religion of the area.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church began its work about thirty years ago. Today there are about 14,000 members in two conferences. This makes the Church in Sudan, the biggest country in Africa, the fastest growing in the Middle East Union.

BORGE SCHANTZ

'No Worries Mate'

The use of the Australian vernacular, 'No worries mate', in Pastor Ian Sweeney's sermon, describing the faith relationship with Christ, perhaps also summed up the Scottish Mission's Day of

Fellowship on 16 June. A large multicultural congregation in the impressive Queen's Park Baptist Church, Glasgow, reflected the day's theme, 'United as a Family'. Pastor Sweeney's message also emphasised the need to ensure that faith transcends our pride and prejudices

as we seek to be a united family.

Those present were inspired by outreach experiences and future plans throughout the Mission's churches. They learnt of the Crief Aid Programme (CAP) which began with the church board's ambition to raise £3,000 for a Romanian old people's home and which, eighteen months later, had raised more than £25,000 and added a Lesotho Orphans and Vulnerable Childrens' project to the programme. They heard of the spiritual development and outreach initiatives in Edinburgh and the newly planted Fairley church, of the 'Christianity Explored' surveys in Irvine and East Kilbride and the forthcoming two-day National Personal Evangelism Training seminar in Glasgow.

The day was blessed with abundant musical talent, culminating in a rendering from the Glasgow Childrens' Choir which seemed to say it all – 'Oh Happy Day!'

JOHN WILBY

Great Scottish Walk

Thirty-three walkers from the Edinburgh and Glasgow district churches joined more than five thousand others in the 10th Great Scottish Walk in Edinburgh on Sunday 10 June. The walkers expect to raise several thousand pounds for ADRA-UK. Youngest participants were Andrew Bamusi (8) and his brother Themba (6) from Glasgow who completed the six-mile section. Many of those who took part for the first time enjoyed the experience so much that they have determined to complete the twelve-mile section next year. Next year's walk is scheduled to take place in Glasgow.

JOHN WILBY

Carmarthen community outreach

Carmarthen church Personal Ministries team is doing its best to reach out to the community this year.

Due to the weather we were able to enjoy Ingathering more than we normally do, for we had a fortnight without rain and plenty of sunshine helped the people to feel well, and to give generously. The church collected £5,100.

In April we held a service for the elderly at Cartref Tywelan residential home. One of the residents is 101 years old and still takes two of our God's Wonderful World calendars. It

proved to be a blessing to all of us and we have planned to hold a service every three months.

In regard to the local community, we are building up a good relationship through a project concerning *FOCUS*. We plan to give away four issues of *FOCUS* to about 160 homes around the church, in the hope of creating an interest whereby the people will become regular purchasers of our magazine. We have distributed two free copies so far.

Having laid a foundation for community relationships, we took advantage of this by inviting the local residents to a sacred concert at our church. On 20 May at 2pm the Carmarthen Male Voice Choir came to our church and held a sacred concert which was a blessing to all who attended. We had twenty visitors, a number of whom were from the local community. A collection of £235 was taken up and donated to the Cardiac Unit of West Wales General Hospital.

We have further projects this year, including the distribution of 5,000 Discovery cards.

H. MASON

Gene medicine and your health

A healthy lifestyle has been an integral part of the Advent message from a very early time. This, however, is often associated primarily with a proper diet and secondarily with factors such as rest, exercise, temperance and fresh air. A proper relationship with God figures as one factor among several of equal or more importance. From 12 to 17 March a series of health meetings were held in the Banbridge church and the emphasis was decidedly different. The speaker was Dr Sang Lee, a physician who has lectured extensively throughout the world in the last twenty-five years. Dr Lee's special area of interest is gene medicine. Gene research in the past twenty years has demonstrated that genes are like computer programmes that guide cells in the human body to perform certain functions. Diseases that are not directly caused by viruses or bacteria are inadvertently caused by some malfunction in the genes, which renders the cells incapable of performing their task. Such malfunctions can be caused by wrong lifestyle (e.g. high fat diet, lack of proper rest, lack of exercise) or by a negative

mental outlook (e.g. anger, guilt, pessimism).

While modern medicine is looking for ways to reactivate inactive genes through medicines in order to help cure disease, Dr Lee was adamant that there is a better way to achieve this. This better way is a balanced and health lifestyle and, more importantly, a healthy outlook on life, especially based on a knowledge of God's love. It is his conviction that when guilt, anger and every negative feeling are replaced by the assurance of God's love and forgiveness and a determination to look at life in a positive light, this can re-energise malfunctioning genes which, in turn, can programme cells to work to restore health.

Attendance ranged from between twenty-five to sixty in the evenings (less in the morning meetings). The lectures were well received and have given us much food for thought.

MARCI NEAL

Southall baptism

Southall church ran a Reclamation Programme from 6-12 May. The theme was 'God's Call for Revival: No Time to Sleep!' The speakers were Pastor Richard Holder, the pastor of Chiswick church, and our very own Pastor Everett Picart. The programme commenced on the evening of Sunday 6 May with the sermon titled: 'Can These Bones Live Again?' The last message, delivered in divine service on 12 May was, 'Home at Last!' Pastor Picart made use of some wonderful PowerPoint images of Jesus coming in glory. The revival ended in the afternoon with the second baptism of the year for Southall church, where four precious souls were baptised. Pastor Des Boldeau (BUC Youth director) expounded Daniel 1:8. The message was well received by Adventists as well as the large number of non-Adventists in attendance. Three of the four candidates were Pathfinders, and the programme incorporated the Pathfinder march. Each candidate was saluted as he was baptised. At the baptism appeal by Pastor Picart, three precious souls raised their hands for baptism.

CLAUDE ALEXANDER

Luah party in a blizzard!

During the Christmas holidays, my husband and I began planning a joint Hawaiian beach birthday party for our sons, James and Daniel, in

New Hope for Jaisari

by Bert Smit



Jaisari is a participant of 'Shreejana Mahila Samuha' women's group in Golauri Literacy Centre in Dang district of Nepal. She has made vegetable farming her main source of income and now earns about £10 a month from it. She remarks, 'I will create a new world of hope for my family.'

Her past was a different story. As a woman coming from a traditional and poor Tharu family, she had no option except to stay at home and do housework. She had a very hard time financially and was unable to send her children to school. But things have changed for the better now she has started attending ADRA's literacy classes and become part of a women's group.

Jaisari decided to take up vegetable farming as a result of the vocational training from ADRA. There was no water pump in their village, so she and her women's group led a delegation to the ADRA office to request some support. In response, ADRA supported them with £75 for the pump while the remaining expenditure was borne by their women's group. Jaisari grows tomatoes, cabbage, cauliflower and potatoes in her field and sells them every morning in the local bazaar. She now sends her daughters to school with her income and says, 'I have to shape the future of my children. I had to suffer because of illiteracy but I won't let that happen to my daughters.' As a result of ADRA's literacy/numeracy classes, she keeps records of her income and expenditure. Her husband is proud of her and helps out in the field.

When her neighbour asked her, 'Don't you feel shy shouting in the market to sell the vegetables?' she answered, 'I respect my job that has supported me so much. I am able to educate my children because I sell these vegetables, so why should I feel shy?'

Jaisari has transformed her dream into reality. Other women have now followed in her footsteps and started doing vegetable farming, too.

This project is funded by the European Commission and ADRA-UK.

order to raise money for ADRA-UK and to celebrate their fifth and second birthdays. At the time I said, 'I bet it snows.' Fast forward to Sunday March 18 when Andrew and I host a 'Luah' party – in a blizzard!

James invited his classmates from school and inside each party invitation he requested that all the party guests make a donation to ADRA-UK rather than buy him a birthday present. This they did and a grand total of £155 was raised.

James's and Daniel's birthday party not only enabled us to raise money for ADRA but it also gave us the opportunity of sharing Seventh-day Adventist beliefs with the parents of the children in my son's reception class.

DANA SUDWORTH



NEC's Top Collector

Ray Angel of Worcester was 2007's top ingatherer for the North England Conference. He collected £3,672 and received his cup at the NEC Camp Meeting at Southport. Brother H. Smiley of Dudley was a close second, having collected £3,431.

EDITOR

The Facts

Degrees Awarded
 24 undergraduate degrees
 18 postgraduate degrees
 2 undergraduate certificates
 2 postgraduate diplomas
 6 counselling diplomas
 4 Gap Year Certificates

Areas of Study

Accounting
 Behavioural Sciences
 Biblical Studies
 Christian-Muslim Studies
 Counselling
 English
 Management
 Pastoral Studies
 Theological Studies

The People

50 students
 21 women
 29 men
 26 countries represented
 12 students *in absentia*



Future BUC workers



Gap Year Trio. Left to Right – Lyle Katzen, Mike Logan, Henrik Jorgensen [Gap Year Co-ordinator], and Charles Oroko



James Standish and former Newbold Registrar Frank Wood

Newbold Awards Ceremony 2007

by Helen Pearson

'Rewarding innovation and discouraging ossification'

Speakers, Speeches and Prayers

Councillor Mrs Gill Birch,
Mayor of Bracknell Forest Council:
 'I want to welcome you all to Bracknell Forest. This is a very special occasion and I am delighted to be part of it and add my words of encouragement to all the other words in this day. Words have power and we can and should use them to encourage others.'

Dr David Penner,
Principal of Newbold College:
 'As you savour these moments now, and later as you look back at the photographs, remember the events that brought you here, your commitment to achieve what is embedded in these awards, the instances where you sensed a purpose in your life. Thank God for being there, behind the scenes, nudging you forward, supporting and protecting you at every turn. No matter where you

go, be loyal to those moments. If you remain loyal to these moments, they will grow and become more valuable to you, serving as a guide and a comfort. This Awards Ceremony recognises these memories as well as your academic achievements.'

Mr James Standish,
Director of Legislative Affairs, World Headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church:
 'Think about Google, the search engine. What makes it valuable? The knowledge, dedication and innovation of the people who work there. . . . The true value of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and education system can be found in the people. . . . We need to reward innovation and discourage ossification. . . . We do well when we ask hard questions and move projects with diligence through to implementation.

Then we become exceptional.'

Pastor Don McFarlane,
President of the British Union Conference and Vice-Chair of the Newbold College Board:
 'May they [the graduates] have unflinching commitment to principle and a keen sense of justice. May they be defenders of the poor, the dispossessed, the disenfranchised. Bless the college as it seeks to impart knowledge that ennobles and values that give meaning to life.'

Star Students
Sung-Gon Kim and Rebecca (née Alen) **Pedersen** graduated from their MA programmes with distinction. Sung-Gon (South Korea) specialised in Theological Studies and Rebecca (UK) in Pastoral Theology.

The Gap Year Trio, three of Newbold's first Gap Year students were present to receive their



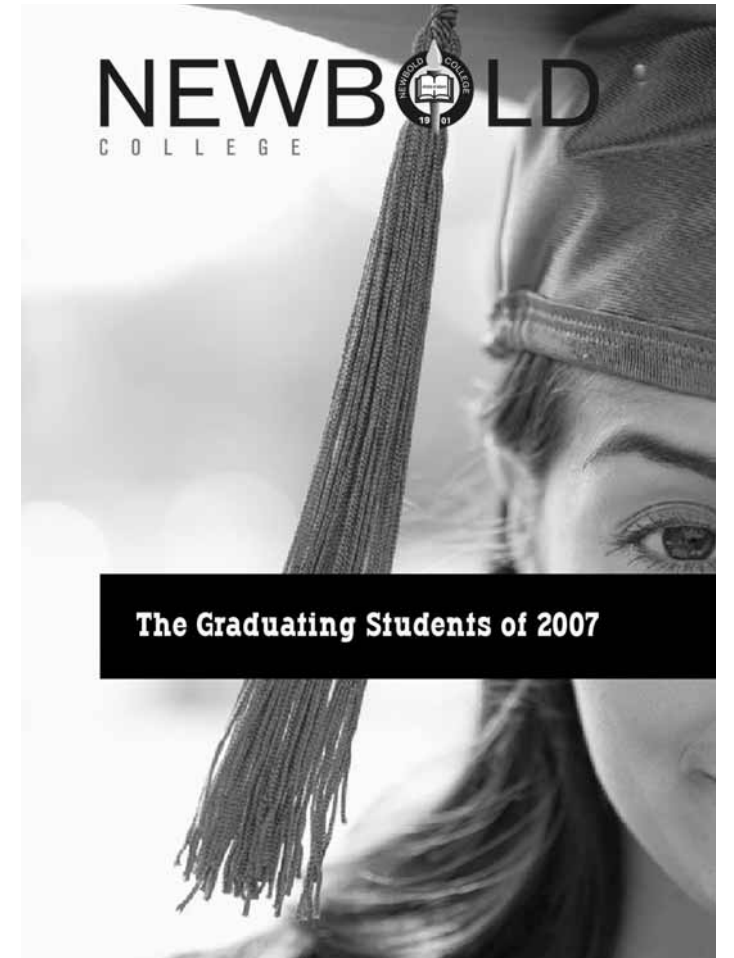
Celebrating 20 years of Newbold's Business Studies department

awards. South African Lyle Katzen worked for ADRA on new projects in Salvador, Brazil. Scottish Kenyan Charles Oroko worked as a teaching assistant in Zaokski, the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary in Russia. Irishman Michael Logan spent six months as a work supervisor at Yeldall Manor, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre in Twyford, about ten miles from Newbold. A fourth Gap Year student, Merika Tuononen from Finland is continuing what was planned as a 7-month placement in a language school in Bangkok. She is enjoying her work so much she will stay until Christmas.

Petras Bahadur, who graduated with an MA in Theological Studies, received a joint award for 'community building' from the College and the South Asian Seventh-day Adventist Reunion – a group of people, mostly from India and Pakistan, who meet to worship and fellowship in East London. Petras received an award certificate and a gold medallion in recognition of his ministry to them – a ministry performed alongside his studies. 'Newbold has given me the skills to support and minister to this group,' he said.

What else happened?
 On Saturday evening (7 July) seventy alumni and former staff members from Newbold's Department of Business Administration gathered to celebrate twenty years of Business Studies. In a gesture of confidence in the future of the programme, they raised funds to support future students of business. More pledges are still coming in.

What does all this have to do with me?
 Business alumni from Newbold are



The Graduating Students of 2007

working in the church's offices in the South England Conference, the Union and the Trans-European Division. Seven of the graduates will work in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Union. Some of them have already started work. **Aftab Barki** is working in the South England Conference office. **Claudiu Popescu** will work as a pastor in Ireland. **Rebecca Pedersen** is working as a ministerial intern in the Southampton area. **Acquoi Karbah** is working as a

ministerial intern in the Manchester area. **Royston Smith** is a ministerial intern in the Wolverhampton area. **Petras Bahadur** is director of Adventist-Muslim relations in the South England Conference and leader of the Asian Reunion group in East London. **Sidney Almeida** will be working in the North England Conference. For a report and pictures on all these stories and Newbold's Lampeter Graduation, go to www.newbold.ac.uk.



The Principal, the Registrar and the students on the curved steps



Petras Bahadur and the South Asian Reunion Group

For Better or Worse –

Support Materials for Third Quarter 2007
Sabbath School Lessons

The lessons for the third quarter contain valuable help for married and engaged couples, as well as single people, as the lessons learned can improve a wide variety of relationships.

If you would like extra material to support your Sabbath School class, or to provide useful background reading, explore the following websites.

www.2-in-2-1.co.uk

This is one of the best websites covering many aspects of being married, with mini seminars, helpful ideas, book reviews and research and news on marriage and couple relationships.

www.careforthefamily.org.uk/marriage

This website has articles relating to marriage, as well as other family information. You can also hear snippets of presentations, and order materials such as DVDs about marriage (twenty-first-century marriage).

www.christianitytoday.com/marriage

This website, for the magazine *Marriage Partnership*, is full of excellent articles, stories, and ideas for Christian couples. Search for the topics that interest you and find interesting real-life stories to enhance your Sabbath School programmes.

www.familylife.com/marriage.asp

This website contains articles on marriage and has the facility for couples to click on links and subscribe to email devotionals and romantic tips.

www.secadventist.org.uk

You can also visit the SEC website and search under the Family Ministries Department to find resources, articles and seminars on marriage. You can search our catalogue online to find books, videos and DVDs on marriage that you might like to show this quarter, or you could show a few minutes of a video that illustrates the point of the lesson. If you would like to borrow something, please contact Vivienne Evers at vevers@secadventist.org.uk and let her know at least three weeks before you require the materials. Each book needs a deposit of £5 and each DVD or video needs a £15 deposit (in the form of a cheque made payable to SEC), which is returned to you, or shredded, once your borrowed item is returned. We only have limited supplies of materials in the office, so please order in advance and return them swiftly so that others can benefit. Thank you.

Useful Books

Maximum Marriage by Roger and Peggy Dudley – ABC.

The Marriage Book by Nicky and Sila Lee – from Amazon or your local Christian book shop (ISBN 1904074553).

The Family Book by Karen Holford – ABC (ISBN 1899505938).

Chicken Soup for the Couple's Soul – various authors – full of inspiring stories of couples' experiences (ISBN 1558746463).

Compiled by Karen and Bernie Holford, SEC Family Ministries Department 2007

AYA Strollathon gets a head start

by Dr Jacqueline Halliday-Bell



On Sunday 1 July the clouds parted for a few hours of sunshine during which the 3rd annual Advent Youth Aid (AYA) Strollathon and Family Funday got off to a brilliant start. The event took place in East Park, Wolverhampton – the site of the Pavilion of Hope Campaign, with the spiritually-engaging international evangelist Burnett Robinson (it ran until 14 July).

The 60 plus strollers bowed their heads for prayer led by one of the region's pastors, who were there in good numbers to encourage those taking part. Young and more mature members of the West Midlands churches covered laps around the park up to a total distance of 12.5 kilometres. The funds, which are hoped will top £3,000, will go to two Sickle Cell and Beta Thalassaemia charities in the region. They have



Stanborough Press Open Day 2007

Sunday 2 September

Special Guest Speaker

Roy Adams

Editor of *Adventist Review*

Musical Guests

oasys

&

Jennifer Phillips

New 2007 book releases

Author signings

All the books in our warehouse open to you!

Fun for ALL the family!
Come join the fun!

benefited from previous fundraising activities over the years. Sonia, one of the local representatives of OSCAR (Organisation for Sickle Cell Anaemia Research) reported that they had used the money to increase awareness and to support sufferers and their families with special projects. This year's funds will also help the Princess Diana of Wales Children's Hospital, Harper Bell School and the various churches' Pathfinder clubs.

Funds were also collected from food stalls, inflatable activities, a book stall and sports events. A Body MOT suite was run by a nurse and a

medic – one possible diabetic was identified through screening and a number of hypertensives were advised on better management. Sickle Cell screening was also available.

The onlookers taking advantage of the first hours of dry, bright weather for several days were witnessed to when they enquired who we were and what we were doing. They were invited to come to the evening and Sabbath meetings.

The good news for *Messenger* readers is that it is not too late! Funds are still being collected and anyone can sponsor the strollers retrospectively up until 31 October 2007.

A further region-wide event, Packathon, took place in a number of supermarkets on Sunday 8 July. All in all, at a time when news of mugging, stabbing and shooting amongst youth seems all too prevalent, AYA organiser, Trevor Davis and a vibrant team of others, are encouraging young people to take on the message of Matthew 25. This will make them better citizens on Earth and more fit for the heavenly kingdom.

Pastor Viv meets HRH

Since his retirement from the ministry Pastor Viv Llewellyn has been working with the Mission to Seafarers in the Port of Southampton.

The Mission was the vision of a Welsh clergyman who, looking from Penarth Head at the vast fleets of sailing ships waiting to dock at Cardiff, was struck with the thought that 'no one had the cure of the seamen's souls'. To put that right he bought a boat and began visiting the ships at anchor. That was the start of the Mission.

These days Pastor Llewellyn takes out a bag of 'goodies' (including everything from International Phone cards to copies of *LIFE.info* and *FOCUS* magazines) to seafarers arriving at Southampton. His pastoral contact with them varies from lighthearted banter to prayer. Many of the seamen are on nine-month contracts, are total strangers to Southampton and warmly welcome Pastor Viv's provision of maps of the port and local currency.

HRH the Princess Royal, patron of the Mission, has been to Southampton to say a personal 'Thank you' for their work.

EDITOR



Best Camporees ever

NEC Adventurer and Pathfinder Camporees 2007 were our best yet. Not just because we had 330 campers for Adventurer Camporee and 230 for Pathfinder Camporee, but because both camps were deeply spiritual. Our evangelist for the Adventurers was Esther Fleary-Griffiths, from the Reading Central church, who spoke on the theme of 'Hearts Touching Hearts'. Our evangelist for the Pathfinders was Pastor Jonatan Tejel, Global Pathfinder director, who spoke on the theme of 'Eagles Wings'. Both speakers made short presentations with illustrations that cut straight to the spiritual point, leaving our children and young people to think about their relationship with Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit's presence with us throughout the week was evident, as on the Sabbath afternoon six young people accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and were baptised by

Pastor Tejel, for which we thank and praise God.

The venue for both camporees was the Outdoor Education Centre at Shugborough Hall. What a blessing this site turned out to be. The grass was flat and the site was well drained. There was enough room for us to spread out and everyone was very comfortable. The Pathfinder activities during the week included canoeing, wall-climbing and abseiling, archery, first aid, pioneering, camp cooking, and everyone's favourite, go-karting.

This year, for the first time, we hired a paramedic team to cover medical care at Adventurer Camporee. Rick and John were not Adventists but they were soon loved and accepted by everyone on site. They attended all of the worship services and by the end of Adventurer Camporee were moved to tears. Both said they had never met

a group of people who loved Jesus so much.

One aspect of camporee that I was personally pleased about was the rise in camping standards. Working with the national guidance for fire safety, medical first aid, food hygiene, and child protection, we have adapted our campsite inspection forms, which are now very strict. This strict standard was appreciated by all clubs when we saw the results on the camping field.

I would like to thank all of the club staff and NEC staff for sacrificing themselves over the camporees. In particular, I would like to thank Kathleen Lopuszansky and Cheryl Boyce as camp masters for Adventurer Camporee, and Len Stewart and John Bishop as camp masters for Pathfinder Camporee. Finally, I would like to thank God for his presence with us and for the six precious souls won to his Kingdom.

PASTOR TREVOR THOMAS



Pastor Trevor Thomas (left) and Global Pathfinder director, Pastor Jonatan Tejel with a group of campers

Romford Community fellowship launch

Sabbath 28 April saw seven smiling members from Plaistow church realise their long-held dream to found a church plant. The seven, joined by the resident pastor, Mohan Rao Abadasari and his wife and children, South England Conference treasurer, Earl Ramharacksingh, Pastor George Scoon, who pastored Plaistow before retiring, and representatives of several departments from Plaistow church, participated in the launch of Romford Community Fellowship as a branch of Plaistow church. Altogether forty people attended the Spirit-filled and Spirit-led inaugural worship service.

The dedication service of the Romford Community Fellowship was carried out in the Upper Room of Trinity Methodist Church, Angel Way, Romford, Essex, RM1 1JH, where the group were granted a licence for Sabbath worship.

After introducing the seven core members who agreed to be pioneers in Romford, Pastor Mohan handed over to the SEC treasurer who represented the Conference. Pastor Mohan came back with a brief encouraging sermon for the seven members and all those in attendance.

The launch of Romford Fellowship is an answer to prayer for a few members of Plaistow church who live in Romford. One of those resident in the area had distributed leaflets and tracts locally for over forty years. For that faithful sister it was truly a dream come true.

On 3 May the group attended a planning meeting chaired by Pastor Mohan.



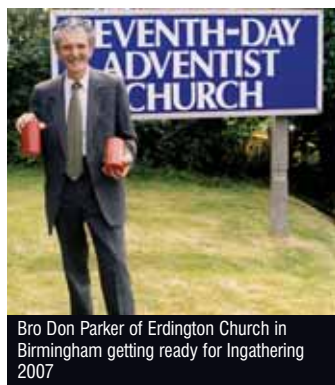
Five of the seven core members posing with visiting worshippers

All seven core members were each assigned a task ranging from Sabbath School, Praise and Worship, Children's Corner, Divine Service, through to outreach activities. Praise and Worship services have continued faithfully each Sabbath from 10am to 12.30pm.

DR ONIAS MANGENA

Don Parker loves Ingathering!

This year's Ingathering ended on 14 April. For Don Parker of the Erdington church that was a cause for regret as he takes such delight in the event, embracing it with all his soul and all his might! In his opinion, Ingathering should continue all the year round. Every year he goes out into the community, collecting door-to-door with great zeal and enthusi-



Bro Don Parker of Erdington Church in Birmingham getting ready for Ingathering 2007

asm, making some really good friends in the process.

For the past ten years his annual total has exceeded £1,000 and each successive year he breaks his own record. In 2006 he collected £2,008 for ADRA and this year his total reached £2,193.37!

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG

A Cheerful Heart

Recently I suffered a heart attack. On Friday 8 June at 1am I woke up with a tight pain in my chest. Within

minutes the ambulance crew arrived and, within a couple of hours, I had had an operation to unblock one of the arteries in my heart. I can testify that throughout the whole experience there was never a moment of worry or fear but a deep sense of calm and peace. Later that day I learned that from 1.30am the Huddersfield Prayer Team were on their knees praying for me and that through the Prayer Team network there were soon many other churches praying for me. I per-

Sabbath concert attracts visitors to African Fellowship

by Dr Theophilus Gokah

On Sabbath 23 June the South Wales African Adventist Fellowship (SWAAF) hosted a special music day and afternoon concert at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff. An estimated 200 people attended the event which attracted African visitors from the local area, as well as friends from further afield.

In their spoken messages Dr Lovemore Nganunu, a medical practitioner based in Scotland, and Richard Khumalo, highlighted the positive impact that good music can have on the church and society. However, 'Music can only heal the wounds of society if it brings people to Christ,' said Dr Nganunu.

He went on to say that there is a need today

for women and men who will build the walls of the church, the walls of society, and regenerate the walls of health and morality. Messages of health and morality in contemporary society are gradually fading away from the church. It is the duty of Christians to show leadership if the walls of society are to be rebuilt as they were in the days of Nehemiah.

The afternoon concert featured some good examples of quality Christian music with groups

like Raffle's Inspiration from Bristol, Holy Family and For Christ from Reading, the Chigbo Sisters from Newport, Emmanuel from London, Joyful Bells from Leeds, Stella and Chifundo from South Bristol, among others. Particularly inspiring were the performances of the younger artistes - Raffle's Inspiration, a violin trio, For Christ, and the Chigbo Sisters, both singing groups. These talented young people reminded the congregation of the important role that youth can play in the church, and also in healing societal wounds through music that binds the cords of friendship.

This concert was just one part in the wider mission of SWAAF to reach the African community, as well as the general public in South Wales, with the Advent message. Although the group has only been running for three months, it has already developed significant momentum and new contacts are being found almost every week.



sonally believe that it was those prayers that filled my heart with peace that night and caused me subsequently to make such a good recovery. Twelve days on I have just started walking a couple of miles each day to exercise the heart and, by God's grace, I hope to be back on the hills soon.

PASTOR TREVOR THOMAS

God's Word was presented in a clear and concise manner in this recently acquired Grade II listed St Paul's Church. Souls were blessed, and many people made the decision to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour. As a result of the decision made by individuals, the campaign culminated in the baptism of sixty precious souls. Dr Eben O. Sackey and Dr Richard de Lisser baptised the sixty candidates.

60 baptised after Clapton campaign

Preparation for the campaign first began in December of last year with a late-night prayer walk through the Clapton area. This was followed by weekly door-to-door visits conducting a community survey. Programmes were held in the church where the local community was invited to come in and talk to members. One such programme was a 'Pampering Day' for mothers, in which women from in and around the area were invited to church for health checks, massages, refresh-

ments, entertainment, prayers and gifts. This programme was well attended and enjoyed by all. The door-to-door visitation yielded seventy Bible studies with over a thousand people contacted.

The concert was well-attended and we all praised, ate (refreshments were on sale), and celebrated late into the evening. All funds generated from the concert will go towards the church's building fund. We thank God for blessing us. It was a wonderful night with young and old alike joyfully singing and praising.

DENISE BROWN

Clapton Community church rebirth

Clapton acquired a new home when we bought the lease of the St Paul's Church, previously owned by the Church of England. This is a Grade II listed building that had been in a serious state of disrepair for the past twenty-five years. Clapton church is now actively working towards the full restoration of this historic building, hence the fundraising concert. We have already set and achieved a number of goals, but still have a long journey ahead of us. We at Clapton are seeking funds towards the restoration of our church building, and would welcome any donations.

DENISE BROWN

Micklefield Mission in India

What? 'Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' (Matthew 28:19) **Who?** 'Micklefield Missionary Volunteers – MMVs' consisted of 30 people (children, teens, youth and those slightly older) from the Micklefield church in High Wycombe. **Why?** Their hearts felt impressed in September 2006 when Pastor Thomas Gill, international evangelistic speaker, made a call to do mission work during the series of outreach meetings entitled 'Amazing Truths'. **When?** On 2 April the MMVs waved goodbye to their comfort zones for two weeks and exchanged a sun, sea, and sand holiday for a hard-working, Spirit-filled mission trip. **Where?** They landed in Delhi and headed for Ludhiana, (Punjab, North India). Actually, they had no idea where they would end up as their final destination changed several times! **How?** Several problems occurred even before they arrived and that was down to the same old enemy that we're all familiar with who gets angry when the Lord's work is being fulfilled.

500 attend outreach meetings
A series of outreach meetings, funded by the MMVs began the same

evening the team arrived in Ludhiana. The campaign lasted for five evenings and left the team speechless and in awe of God. Over 500 people regularly came to the meetings and even the walls could not contain the people or their love. Ninety percent of the people attending the meetings were from the Hindu and Sikh religions. Yes 90%! They travelled from the shanty villages approximately an hour away to hear the everlasting Gospel and dedicated their evening to be in God's presence and fellowship with God's people. A variety of people regularly attended: mothers with new born babies; those with visual impairments and physical disabilities; the frail and elderly; all levels of the Indian caste system; those who thought that 'Satan had got them'; and the list went on and on. When there was the call for prayer, hundreds of people rushed to the front and were desperate for the team to lay their hands on them and pray. Full of faith they reached out like the woman in the Bible touching Jesus' garment, desperate for healing. The team left the venue each evening after hearing wonderful testimonies, songs in Hindi and leading out in the Praise and Worship time. Although the team felt tired, overwhelmed and



sometimes burdened with the people's poverty and despair, they also felt re-energised to work for God and all tasted hope and witnessed God's grace and mercy!

During the day, the MMVs visited these people in their villages and were welcomed into their dwelling places. The children and youth engaged the village children in lively programmes using puppets, music and mime. Thousands of New Testaments printed in Hindi and Punjabi were distributed to the rural areas. The team were fortunate to have the knowledge and skills of several nurses and a doctor who provided free health screening assessments and gave basic advice on diabetes, anaemia and hygiene and other problems specific in the developing world. The team purchased medication and dispensed it to those in need. Blood pressure monitors, blood glucose monitors and other medical aids donated by church members were given to the clinics, along with a range of other equipment necessary to carry out effective essential health care. Stationery was donated from a company in England and was left for future projects such as a Vacation Bible School. £630 had been raised in England prior to the mission trip and will be used to

fund another series of outreach meetings that will host another campaign sharing the truth about God's love.

On Sabbath 7 April, eighteen people gave their lives to God through baptism. These included three pastors from other Christian denominations who learned the truth and decided to walk in it. Sephiea Hector a volunteer from Micklefield church also made a commitment and decided to serve God and was baptised. Many others indicated their desire to learn more about the true God. Jai masih ki! (Praise the Lord!)

On their return, the MMVs received news that miracles had taken place: a woman diagnosed with cancer had been healed; three men gave their testimony about how they were preparing to take their own lives but found a reason to live; and the church membership in Ludhiana has increased by 165%. The MMVs came back feeling changed, refreshed and renewed. They gave *all* they had and God blessed them as they received so much love from those who were poor in wealth but rich in God's love. The children learned how fortunate they are in England. The teens and youth felt more equipped to tell others about God.

KIMBERLEY EDWARDS

A church at Kingston-upon-Thames

'According to the church manual guidelines, a local elder must be recognised by the church as a strong, spiritual, religious leader,' Pastor Arthur (OBE) told the congregation at the Kingston company. The former BUC president was the guest preacher and officiating pastor at an ordination ceremony of some church officials of the company. Pastor John Arthur served as president of the British Union Conference (1986-1990), Executive director of ADRA

Trans-Europe (1990-2001) and is a former Publishing director of the Trans-European Division.

The ordination ceremony took place on Sabbath 17 March and those ordained and consecrated included the first elder, two deacons and three deaconesses. The first elder, David Ahwan, is a founding member of the company and has worked tirelessly over the years to keep the group together. 'David Ahwan's heart and soul belongs to

NORMAN D'CRUZ (1937-2007) d. 6 February. A stalwart of the now tiny Taunton church, Norman D'Cruz was born in northern India. His parents both died before he was 6. He was raised by a strict, Bible-teaching aunt, and a priest-guardian. They sent him to a good school in the Himalayas. Aged 18, he was sent to college in England to become a draughtsman, but became more interested in religion. He joined the Anglican Church Army to do youth work. He was commissioned Captain on 26 July 1957 and served at Scarborough, Oxford, Southampton, Kensington, Bristol-in-Gordano, Hull and Corby – trekking whenever he could. In 1959 he served in London-Stepney and Clacton, then in May 1961 resigned his commission in order to become a Licensed Reader in the Church of England. He moved to Taunton in Somerset to join the Fire Service in 1968. He worked at County Hall and at Hestercombe Manor as administrator in charge of all the country's fire hydrants. His elegant copper-plate handwriting was much in demand, especially for certificates and citations. In his free time, Norman was a keen snooker player and supported both Chelsea and Portsmouth soccer teams. His Christian life continued vibrant: choir member, preacher and worship leader at St George's, Wilton (Taunton) and Thorpe St Margaret's (Wellington). He was famous for his 'original intercessions!' Ever more concerned about the second coming of Jesus, and while maintaining his Anglican connections, ministry and friends, Norman joined first the British Israelite movement, and finally, in the early 90s, the Adventist church in Weston-super-Mare, in which he served as church librarian. 'A lovely man,' people said, 'positive, gentle, humble, never bitter, brave though suffering extreme pain and a long and tedious final stay in Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton.' As far as he was able, Norman 'maintained his great faith about which he was always ready to talk.' His death means 'a big loss to us,' declared the Anglican minister at the funeral service in St George's. The church was full, and one notable attendee was the retired Bishop of St Helena, a former college friend of Norman's. Norman used to tell the vicar of St George's, 'I'm filled

with power every Sunday when I come here,' and after his Sabbath services with us, how much more of the Truth and the Word he gained from Adventist Bible studies and sermons! His life and his faith are reflected in the selection of his favourite hymns, sung with vigour at his funeral: 'All my hope on God is founded', 'Fight the good fight', 'Lord of all hopefulness', and finally, 'Thine be the glory'. Norman was laid to rest until Jesus comes, in the cemetery of the Taunton Deane Crematorium on 13 February.

APRIL DUNNETT

EILEEN FARROW (1924-2007) d. 28 April. Eileen Farrow was born in the North Norfolk village of Stody, and although she lived in a number of places during her life, she never left the North Norfolk area. Brought up as the third of four children by her father and grandmother, she won a scholarship to the Fakenham Grammar School and went on to find work as a cashier/secretary. She married Kenneth Farrow (known as Jack) on 30 March 1946, and the couple had two children. In the early 1980s they came into contact with Pastor Peter Stearman and his wife Vera, who would become firm friends, and on 27 October 1982, they were both baptised into membership of the Norwich church. Eileen became an active and much loved member of the church family, but her home was 34 miles away from the church in the town of Swaffham, and, in her later years, the distance and her failing health meant that she was unable to make the journey in for the services unless someone fetched her. This favour was faithfully performed for some time by Malcolm and Iris Brooks, among others. Contact was further maintained by her good friends Maxey Cooper and Lily Walker, who ensured that she always received a tape of the week's sermon in the post, and Eileen always kept in phone contact with all her friends at the church. Eileen died in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital at Kings Lynn after a short period of illness, and, after a funeral service led by the writer at the Norwich church, was laid to rest with her late husband in the Swaffham Cemetery on Thursday 3 May.

C. PEAKE

God,' said Pastor Arthur during the ceremony. Mrs Phyllis Ahwan, consecrated as head deaconess, has been a strong pillar of support for the group. The deacons were R.

Lyttle and K. Norman, and the deaconesses, Joyce Thompson and Juel Haynes. Also present was Pastor Arthur Campbell, the local pastor for Kingston and Mitcham.

LUCY KANU



Arthur Campbell, David Ahwan, John and Ruth Arthur

DENSIL ANTHONY (BRUCE) BAISDEN (1939-2007) d. 21 April. Sabbath, 21 April, when the preacher had finished his sermon, the last song had been sung and the benediction pronounced, a large Adventist congregation in London watched as an elder approached the podium and, with calm composure, said, 'Brother Bruce Baisden from Southall church died this morning in hospital at 3 o'clock. Let's pray for the family.' Simultaneous gasps and groans rose from the congregation. There were faces with open mouths. The news was shocking and unexpected. 'I'm glad that announcement was not made before the sermon,' the preacher sighed. 'He was my friend.' By evening the Baisdens' home in Southall was inundated with phone calls and visitors from as far afield as Birmingham. The sad reality is that Densil Anthony Baisden (Bruce) died, leaving wife Harriette, daughter Hannah and son Samuel. On Tuesday morning, 8 May, the international crowd gathered in the vicinity of the Holy Trinity Church in Southall. Parking pressures were partially relieved by some homeowners moving their vehicles onto their drives to accommodate the cars of strangers, who came to pay their last respects to a man of the community. Every available space in the church was taken. They were in one accord with those who stood in the entrance and forecourt of the church. Police representatives with their commander were out in force, and offenders from the Youth Offending Team (YOT), with their escorts, joined Adventists from all over England to form a multiracial and interdenominational crowd, sprinkled with past and present presidents and administrators of the SDA Church in Britain. Elgar's Ninth Variation, Nimrod, played by Percy Reason, invited the platform party in, followed by pallbearers cradling the coffin draped with the Grenadian flag. All was still as Pastor Steve Roberts welcomed the congregation in a most dignified manner and introduced the singing of 'How Great Thou Art.' Revd John Baisden (Bruce's brother) thanked God for the life of a 'wonderful father, brother, husband, friend and Christian' – a fitting tribute to the life lived by the late Bruce Baisden. In his welcome, the local Anglican minister, Revd Michael Bolley said, 'Bruce was a concerned citizen of the community and was known to be so.' He pointed to the presence of the commander of police and other officers as tangible evidence of this, and of the appropriateness of the first Scripture reading: 'Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly... But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season.' (Psalm 1:1-3, KJV). Hannah and Samuel eulogised their father: He was a little man with a big heart, who played competitive table tennis, was passionate about cricket and gardening, an effective salesman, worked for British Telecom and later for the YOT; and a smart dresser, which complemented his friendly and joyous disposition. Bruce's dedication to duty and selfless service was the theme of Inspector Bing of the London Borough of Ealing Police. The YOT manager, a tearful Rachel Bantleman, emphasised, 'Bruce always saw the good in others – their potential – but he spoke directly to the young people, telling them of the likely consequences of their actions. They loved him.' Other tributes from neighbours, the church, and overseas, said: Bruce was 'quiet, dependable, loved young people', 'he had time for everybody', 'a true and faithful SDA', 'a loyal and trustworthy first elder', 'he was God's man.' Pastor E. Picart's biblically-based sermonette was appropriately encouraging. On a personal note he said, 'From the first time I met Brother Baisden, six months ago, I knew

he was a man of God, who was interested in evangelism... He was a first elder any minister would be proud to work with.' The words of the song 'What a glorious sunrise' and the hymns, 'The Lord's my Shepherd' and 'I'll Meet You in the Morning' consoled and reassured the large mixed multitude of their hope in seeing Bruce Baisden when Jesus comes again. The stillness was again broken as Prelude and Fugue in C Major (The Ascension) was played, and seven police officers led the recessional, forming a guard of honour as the coffin exited. Pastors Richard Holder, Des Boldeau and Richard Willis administered the committal. Densil Anthony Baisden (1 May 1939-21 April 2007) was born in St Patrick's, Grenada. He was given the nickname 'Bruce' by his schoolmates after they had learned about Robert the Bruce, known as Robert the Fearless, in history. Bruce Came to London in 1968. He met Harriette, a Barbadian, at Chiswick church in 1980, married her in 1981 and they set up home in the vicinity of Southall church, which he served with distinction. The Baisden family wish to thank all those who supported them in prayers and other ways since the unexpected death of their beloved Bruce. They are comforted with the words: 'Death is but a pause, it is no barrier to eternal life.'

Bruce leaves to mourn him Harriette, his wife, Hannah and Densil (Samuel), their daughter and son, his brothers, sisters, numerous nephews and nieces and many, many good friends.

ISABEL MCCLURE (1930-2007) d. 25 April. Lucy Isabel McClure was born a twin on 30 November 1930 in Merton Park, London. While quite young, her twin brother passed away. When she was six, she went with her mother, a Baptist, to evangelistic meetings held by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They started attending the Wimbledon church and Isabel was baptised when she was thirteen. She later attended Newbold College to study to be a Bible Instructor. It was there that she met Donald McClure, a theology student and they were married on 4 April 1954. The McClures served and worked in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Among other churches, they ministered to the Ealing, Wimbledon, Wood Green, Derby, Glasgow, Newcastle-on-Tyne and South Shields congregations. For a time Donald was the assistant editor of the Stanborough Press. They have three children: Malcolm and Fiona live in Australia and Andrew lives in New Zealand. It was while in Northern Ireland that Isabel and Donald made the decision to leave the United Kingdom and migrate to Australia, which they did in March of 1980. Settling in Australia was a new experience, but the church readily accepted and embraced them. They were very much appreciated and loved. With her husband Isabel served faithfully and dutifully wherever she went. In Australia, this included churches on the East, West and South coasts. Just before their retirement, Donald was diagnosed with terminal cancer and died in 1996. To Isabel it created a void that no one on Earth could fill. In 1998 she moved into the church's Avondale Retirement Village. Six years later she was found to have cancer and died after major surgery. She loved her Lord. Her undying faith in his redeeming grace and her confidence in the message of truth undergirded her hope. Isabel's favourite hymn was 'Great Is Thy Faithfulness; — especially because of the line 'All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.' She rests peacefully, with her husband, in the Seventh-day Adventist church's Avondale Cemetery, awaiting the call of the Life-giver.

OWEN D'COSTA

Weymouth celebrates Isaac Watts

Three hundred years ago Isaac Watts published his first English Hymnbook, yet his many hymns continue to encourage, comfort and provide the means of worship today. This fact was noted and celebrated by the Weymouth church on Sabbath 2 June.

The small membership of Weymouth hosted this event, inviting the community and members from neighbouring churches to attend and participate. About thirty people, mainly from Bournemouth church but also as far afield as Bletchley, Milton Keynes, gathered to sing a variety of hymns written by Isaac Watts, and learn about his life.

It was interesting to hear about the life of this Nonconformist minister with a gift for poetry, but the highlight of the morning was the singing of a number of the hymns we have come to know and love so well, such as 'I sing the mighty power of God' and 'When I survey the wondrous cross'. Of course we could only sing a few of the many favourites that come from the pen of Isaac Watts – just look at the number in our own Adventist hymnbooks.

Thanks go to Allan Kissack for planning the programme, Alysse Frazer for playing the piano, and Barbara Leigh for preparing and hosting the delicious lunch for everyone.

The day was enjoyed by all, and described by more than one as 'splendid and uplifting'. Perhaps a sense of that uplift can be shared by the refrain from Watts' hymn, 'Come we that love the Lord': *We're marching to Zion, Beautiful, beautiful Zion; We're marching upward to Zion, The beautiful city of God.*

PASTOR IAN LOREK

<1

London Ghana Official Opening

England Conference, then led in special prayers for the congregation.

In a keynote address, the special guest of honour, Ghana's High Commissioner to the UK and Ireland, His Excellency Mr Annan Cato, spoke of the essential need to recognise the spiritual nature of each person in

order to restore vitality and purpose to both individuals and society. 'For the Ghanaian community here in the UK, this represents a new beginning. We want you to know who we are, what we believe, and what we stand for,' he stated, praising the Adventist Church for the role it has played over the years in the promotion of health, education and assisting the govern-

ment of Ghana to raise the living standards of the people. 'That is practical Christianity,' he said.

Acknowledging the contribution of all the former leaders of the church such as Dr E. O. Sackey, Pastors Esson, Kavaloh, Dadey and the late Pastor Bikkai, the current church pastor, Dr Emmanuel Osei, said, 'Our doors are open seven days a week,' telling the community, 'No matter what your social standing, your race, or your creed, and even if you want simply to find out the answers to your questions, or to be helped for whatever the need, you are welcome.' It was a commitment echoed by associate

pastor, Fergus Owusu-Boateng.

Included among those honoured for working towards the completion of the project were building committee members: Samuel Adjei Owusu, Armstrong Opoku-Kyeremateng, George Addai and Yaw Bayim Adomako. Also the architect of the project, Mr Paul Henry, who could not help but shed tears of joy, Mrs Estella Obeng and Madam Cecelia Nimo.

London Ghana is one of seven Ghanaian Adventist churches in the UK. A selection of photos from the opening is available on the BUC picture gallery: www.adventistpictures.org.uk.

NEC Youth dept presents school of prophets 4 (Youth Congress)

Risking it all... with nothing to lose!

Venue: Cefn Lea Park
 Keynote speaker: Pastor Ivor Myers
 Central California SDA conference
 Power of The Lamb Ministries

Date: 25th - 28th October 2007
 Cost: £75

For Info contact: NEC Conference - 0115 960 6312
 Pastor Hush - 07980 576 399

Corringendum MESSENGER 29 June 2007 112/14 pages 8-9
 We apologise for any offence caused by the feature ADVENTIST YOUTH MARCH AGAINST GUNS. Apparently, while some youth *did* march against guns, the Youth and Pathfinders in general feel that the title misrepresented the central purpose of the march: a commemoration of the centenary of Seventh-day Adventist Youth Ministries in the British Isles.
 We convey our apologies to the Youth, Pathfinders and anyone else who found the headline a problem.
 David Marshall, Editor

SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
 Notice is hereby given that the sixtieth Session of the South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held from Thursday 6 to Sunday 9 September 2007 in the Great Hall at Exeter University.
 Pastor Paul S. Lockham, SEC Executive secretary

IRISH MISSION TRIENNIAL SESSION Notice is hereby given that the Triennial Session of the Irish Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on 4 November 2007 in the Banbridge Seventh-day Adventist church. Delegates should note that registration will commence at 8.30 to 10am and delegates must register before participating in the proceedings of the Session. The opening of the Session is scheduled for 10am.
 D. F. Neal, president and V. Pilmoor, secretary

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 9.30am, and delegates must register before participating in the proceedings of the Session.
 J. Surridge, president and V. Pilmoor, secretary/treasurer

New address
 Enfield Town - The Church, St Johns Methodist Church, Yews Avenue, EN1 4QA.

ABC BOOK SALES

August
 12 John Loughborough 10.30am-2pm

September
 2 Stanborough Press Open Day

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	Land	Card	Notf	Edin	Bell
July 27	8.57	9.09	9.08	9.31	9.34
Aug 3	8.46	8.58	8.56	9.17	9.21
10	8.34	8.46	8.42	9.02	9.07
17	8.20	8.32	8.28	8.46	8.52

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