

# Messenger

News to the churches • 14 September 2007 • Volume 112 • 19/20

## ADC Rally Day

by Des Rafferty, principal, Adventist Discovery Centre

Sabbath 29 September is Adventist Discovery Centre Rally Day.

This year we have taken a number of steps to give the ADC a wider impact:

### RDP Advertising

Back in April we reported the launch of our advertising campaign using Response Direct Publishing to promote the course simply titled Health.

Over the last four months we have received more than 5000 responses to the health ad. It was placed in RDP's response magazine, which has a potential audience of 6.2 million people, and we were also advertised on their website. Where did the majority of the responses come from? Unsurprisingly, from the same place where up to 60% of all UK adults can be found . . . the Internet.

### One million 'Take Jesus' Cards

We are excited by the prospect of another million 'Take Jesus' cards hitting the streets in the United Kingdom. These cards have been made available free to the ADC and subsequently to every church member through the generosity of granoVita UK Ltd.

This presents us all with a wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel with friends, neighbours and work colleagues. The cards can be used as part of your personal outreach or they can supplement your church's evangelistic activities.

Orders can be placed by writing to the ADC office in Watford, (Adventist Discovery Centre,

Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JU) or emailing [adc@adventist.org.uk](mailto:adc@adventist.org.uk). You can also order from our website [www.discoveronline.org.uk](http://www.discoveronline.org.uk). Either way, your order will be shipped by Stanborough Press FREE of charge.

### Collection box

By now your church will have received a new ADC collection box. Please place this box at the front of the church, not at the entry or exit doors. (It would be good for some local arrangement to be made for the care and supervision of the new collection box.) ADC Rally Day presents a wonderful opportunity for the new box to be introduced to the church into which members can place their donations.

### New Lessons

We are currently working through the upgrades to our existing lessons.

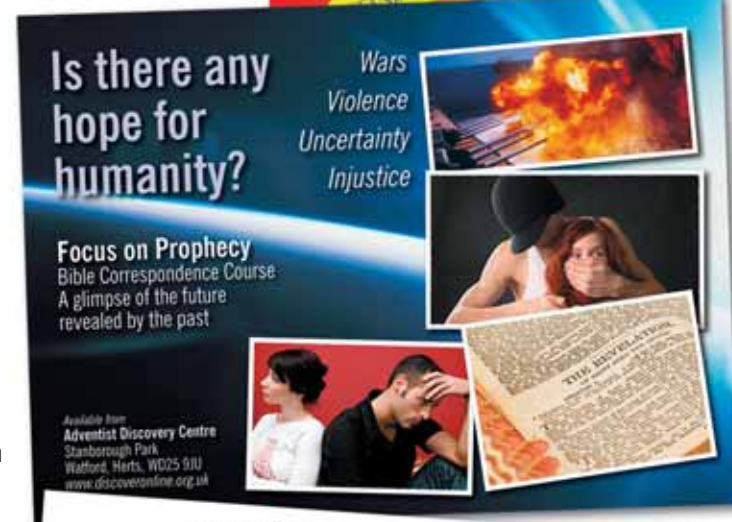
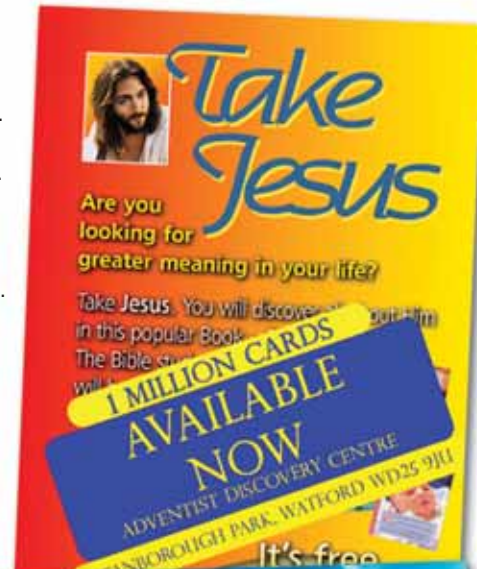
We also have four new courses in the pipeline: What We Believe – for kids  
What We Believe – for adults  
Understanding Judaism  
Understanding Islam

The Understanding Judaism/Islam courses in no way constitute an introduction to either faith. What we seek to achieve in offering these is a balanced understanding of both faiths and in so doing provide the student with factual knowledge on the

similarities, differences, myths and erroneous teachings. Other lessons will follow in due course.

The work in the ADC office is extensive, varied and thoroughly enjoyable.

While each member of staff works extremely hard, the reward of our labours is the knowledge that each student matters to heaven.





# Hope TV Online

by Victor Hulbert, Communication director, BUC

The Hope Channel has been a positive presence in Adventist homes for the last several years. Now the British Union Communication department has launched a new website making the official TV channel of the Seventh-day Adventist Church more accessible for members and viewers. At [www.hopetv.org.uk](http://www.hopetv.org.uk) viewers can now find the latest updated programme schedules, including what is playing now and in the next hour, watch the Hope Channel on their computers and gain useful technical information, browse frequently asked questions and submit comments.

Within the next few weeks the 'broadcast on demand' feature should also go live, allowing viewers

to download and view individual episodes of the UK produced programme, 'In Conversation'. The programme, developed by UK Adventist Media Centre manager, Wes Kapon, is provoking a positive response from viewers across the UK and around the world as it shares the stories of real people dealing with the joys and challenges of living for Christ in twenty-first-century Britain. One teacher in Brisbane, Australia, stated that 'In Conversation' is so positive that he wants to use it with his teenage students to provoke discussion. Another lady mentioned that she appreciates the programme asking intelligent questions. Programme host, Victor Hulbert, states, 'I try to



ask the questions that a non-Christian might want to know the answer to. I want to get under the guests' skin a little bit to see what makes their faith so important for them.' As guests share their life story and their hope in Jesus Christ, they can have a positive influence on the lives of those who may be watching them.

The British Media Centre is a part of Hope Channel Europe. The new website has been pioneered by colleagues at the German Voice of Hope Media Centre (Stimme-der-Hoffnung) so as to develop the corporate identity of the Hope Channel, whatever your language or region. A European portal is also available at [www.hopechannel.eu](http://www.hopechannel.eu).

**British Union Conference – Administrative Secretary to the President**  
 The British Union Conference is seeking to recruit a full-time Administrative Secretary to serve the office of the President at the Union office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts.  
 Applicants will have substantial experience working as a secretary or a PA. They should be able to demonstrate high levels of proficiency in the use of office technology, English usage and Microsoft Office software. Successful candidates will need strong organisational and interpersonal skills and be able to work independently without direct supervision, showing the utmost discretion and tact when handling confidential information. Salary, upon application, will be based on qualification and experience and will be in line with the church wage structure.  
 For a job description or an application form, write or email to:  
 BUC Executive Secretary, BUC Offices, Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ. (email: [elowe@adventist.org.uk](mailto:elowe@adventist.org.uk))  
**Closing date for applications: 30 September 2007.**



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

## Enhancing Health

**STRESS Part 3b**  
**RISK FACTORS (continued)**  
 Staley, a facilitator who runs the CALM programme which aims to alleviate stress, says this: 'Much of our lives are subject to "rainbow chasing", we go to bed, but not to sleep; eat food but not to satisfy our appetites; take medicine but do not improve our health; live in beautiful houses which are not happy homes; and buy luxuries which do not bring us contentment.' He further states, 'Most people are now prey to the tensions

of living in one place, working in another and taking leisure in a third.'

We need to find ways to deal with stress before it deals with us.

### Quick tips

- Trust God to take over; he's in charge anyway.
- Some stress is necessary to motivate or inspire productivity.
- Too much stress (pressure that continues for too long and leaves you feeling out of control) can be harmful.
- Recognise symptoms early.
- Identify cause.
- Seek practical solutions like the following:
  - a. Write down in order of priority what stresses you.
  - b. Talk to a friend or counsellor – unloading helps.
  - c. Accept what cannot be changed – it brings some relief.
  - d. Try to avoid too many life-change events in the course of a twelve month period.
- Let go of resentment – it's toxic to the mind and induces stress.

- Take time for rest and relaxation – it rejuvenates.
- Avoid junk food – it can aggravate stress symptoms.
- Maintain regular exercise to burn excess adrenaline.

A popular check for identifying stress was devised by two American psychologists, Holmes and Rahe,\* who created a scale of forty-three life events considered to be stressful. Each event is scored according to the degree of stress associated with the activity. According to the scale, the top ten most stressful life events are listed here: • death of a partner • divorce • separation from partner • imprisonment • death of a close family member • personal illness or injury • marriage • dismissal from work • change of job • retirement.

Are you feeling stressed? Take time to reflect on the cause but realise that there is always a way of dealing with it. Helen Keller has this advice: 'Although the world is full of suffering it is also full of the overcoming of it.'

\*Holmes and Rahe (1967) 'The social readjustment rating scale' *Psychosomatic Medicine*, 11: 213-18.

# What brings the Dead Sea to life?

David Marshall



Think of Ezekiel and you think of bones or, perhaps, 'wheels within wheels'.

Try thinking water. But perhaps you're thinking, *Er... Ezekiel?*

OK. Let's spool back a bit. Ezekiel was born into a priestly family in Jerusalem the year in which the Book of the Law was discovered and King Josiah increased the impetus of his reforms in Judah.<sup>1</sup>

Since the reign of King Ahaz, a century earlier, Judah had been a vassal state of the Assyrian Empire. Josiah's reforms were symptomatic of the weakening of Assyria and the increasing assertiveness of New Judah. Ezekiel's training for the priesthood took place under the reforming influence of Josiah's regime.

But there was a problem. Josiah could remove idolatry from Judah's high places, but he could not remove idolatry from the hearts of Judah's people. Jeremiah was on hand with a challenge. Unless there was a radical change in the people's ways, Jerusalem and its temple would disappear as completely as Shiloh had, centuries earlier.

No radical change for the better occurred. The change was for the worse. The reforms of Josiah were reversed by Jehoiakim who, when Ezekiel was 17, burned the scroll of Jeremiah's prophecies. The extent of the influence of Jeremiah on Ezekiel's work, however, makes it clear that Ezekiel had studied the prophecies and been present when Jeremiah presented them in the palace.

Jeremiah's prophecies were fulfilled. After an interim in which Judah was subservient to Egypt, Judah was subjugated by Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon. First, Nebuchadnezzar carried off the nobility into Babylonian exile and then 'all the officers and fighting men, and all the craftsmen and artisans – a total of ten thousand'.<sup>2</sup> Among the ten thousand was a 25-year-old trainee priest, Ezekiel.

On the mudflats of Mesopotamia near the Kebar Canal, in his thirtieth year, Ezekiel was called to be God's 'watchman' for his exiled people. Back in Zedekiah's Jerusalem, Jeremiah still thundered. Among the exiles in

Babylonia, Ezekiel spoke for God. To God's demoralised exiles, Ezekiel first explained that Jerusalem itself had to fall; God's glory had departed from the temple. Ten years after Ezekiel went into exile, it did. The temple and much of the city burned. Zedekiah was obliged to witness the execution of his sons before he was blinded and taken in chains to Babylon.

To God's demoralised exiles, Ezekiel then preached the ultimate return of God's glory to the city and to its temple. Needless to say, the 'restoration' chapters (40-48) are the most thrilling of all. It is chapter 47 that contains the heart-lifting picture of the wonderful River of God. The worship of God has been restored in his temple. The glory of Yahweh has returned to his people. But that glory was not confined to the temple or its precincts.

'The man with the measuring line' who conducts Ezekiel through his vision brings him to the eastern door of the temple.<sup>3</sup>

Flowing east, a trickle of water emerges from the temple's threshold. But, after Ezekiel has followed the water course for 500 metres, he is ankle-deep.

Ezekiel's guide strides purposefully on in an easterly direction. Ezekiel hurries to catch up. After another 500 metres he is, with difficulty, wading through water that is knee-deep.

The exponential growth of the River of God continues. After another 500 metres, Ezekiel is waist-deep, the current carrying him ever eastward. When the guide reaches the 2-kilometre mark, Ezekiel is totally out of his depth. The massive volume of water is such that it is unstoppable as it powers on down through the lunar landscape of the Judaeon Wilderness towards the great fault in the Earth's surface that contains the Jordan valley and the Dead Sea.

Breathless, Ezekiel finds himself standing on the shores of God's River. But what has happened to the surrounding lunar landscape: *Lo Debar*, the place of barrenness?

Earlier on, Ezekiel had watched dry bones come to life. Here a whole landscape comes to life. The life-giving River of God, from its source in God's own presence, has brought a dead land to life! A whole new creation has

taken place. Vast orchards of fruit trees line both banks, and the wilderness is disappearing.

But the greatest transformation of all takes place as God's River niagaras down to the salt-heavy, appropriately named, *Dead Sea*, bringing it to life with marine life.

Is this the new creation from which the curse is lifted? Or does it represent lives washed clean and transformed by God's River? 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!'<sup>4</sup> But, I have a question. What is the agent of this new creation?

The rest of Scripture provides the answer. For the River of God had been seen by Isaiah more than a century earlier – and the thirsty invited to drink free.<sup>5</sup>

After Ezekiel's time, Zechariah saw the River's source erupting as a fountain in a Jerusalem of the future to cleanse men from sin and uncleanness. Like Isaiah, he saw God's servant 'pierced'. Like Ezekiel, he saw the River flow from Jerusalem – but in both directions, west and east.<sup>6</sup>

In the New Testament, Jesus is identified as the source of the living water offered both to *cleanse and transform* sinners.<sup>7</sup>

In Revelation, the River that cleansed Lo Debar, erupted in Golgotha, and brought the Dead Sea to life, winds by 'a great multitude that no one can count' who stand before the Throne. And it is the subject of the final invitation of Scripture, the invitation of grace. 'Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes let him take the free gift of the water of life.'<sup>8</sup>

The substance of Ezekiel's river and the agent of cleansing and transformation? It's grace. Grace is what makes the difference. Grace quenches our thirst and becomes 'a spring of water welling up to eternal life' in those who receive it.<sup>9</sup> 'For it is by grace you have been saved through faith.'<sup>10</sup> This is how prodigals get from Lo Debar via Golgotha to the Father's House.

### References:

- <sup>1</sup>2 Kings 22. <sup>2</sup>2 Kings 24:14. <sup>3</sup>Read Ezekiel 47:1-12. <sup>4</sup>2 Corinthians 5:17. <sup>5</sup>Isaiah 55. <sup>6</sup>Zechariah 12:10; 13:1, 6; 14:8. <sup>7</sup>John 4:7-26; 7:37-41. <sup>8</sup>Revelation 7:9-17; 21:6; 22:17. <sup>9</sup>John 4:13, 14. <sup>10</sup>Ephesians 2:8, 9.



# Ireland mourns for Melusi

by Stephen Wilson

Monday lunchtime, 6 August, saw the traffic in Athlone town come to a standstill as over 500 mourners marched behind the coffin of 12-year-old Melusi Tanaka Maka. Hymns were sung in English and Ndebele as the funeral procession approached Mary's Church of Ireland building where the funeral service was held.

Melusi was one of a group of young people from Galway church who had travelled to Belfast for the Irish Mission Summer Camp in Lorne House, Bangor. He had been given the choice of attending a football camp or the Adventist church camp, and had chosen the latter without hesitation. This was the first camp he had attended, and he could not wait to be there. During the camp Melusi quickly made friends with everyone and became one of the most popular boys on site.

On Thursday evening, just after supper, he was playing rugby with some friends before worship when his breathing became difficult. Being used to asthma, he immediately took his inhalers and went to the camp nurse. His breathing quickly became more laboured and an ambulance was called to the scene. Melusi lost consciousness and camp staff and the paramedics tried to resuscitate him. He never awoke. One of the doctors at the Ulster Hospital said that Melusi had fallen asleep and would have felt little more than a tightness of breath.

It was a long weekend for Christine, Melusi's mother, a widow from Zimbabwe, and for all her friends and family. Melusi's body was brought to Athlone on Saturday night and preparations made for the funeral. He was well-known in the town of Athlone as he played Irish football, hurling, basketball, soccer and rugby with local teams.

At the funeral, a close Irish family friend of Christine, Gary Hughes, told how Melusi was like a son to him. There were tributes from Melusi's friends and Sabbath School teacher too. Many of the children who had been at the summer camp travelled to be at the funeral and they all wore their camp T-shirts.

The Zimbabwean community from around Ireland gathered close to support Christine and her friends.

During the funeral service Tino Marira, one of the Galway church Pathfinder leaders, shared some moments from Melusi's last days. At camp Melusi had made a T-shirt that said 'I am the best'. He was a true hero, and was known by all and well-loved. The number of adults and young people who turned out to say farewell was astonishing. But his mother will miss him most. Melusi was her hero, as he had supported her through so many difficult times.

Irish Mission president, Pastor David Neal, sought, in his homily, to minister to the many groups in the congregation. First, to Christine (who, thank God, has strong faith), then to those with little faith and those with no faith. Recognising that even those with strong faith are asking the question, 'What, dear God, is going on here?' he used Romans 8:28-39 as the source of the message, emphasising that human words at this point can seem empty



and hollow yet, while we may not completely understand Paul's words in Romans 8, we can consider them in faith to be trustworthy and true. 'God works for the good of those who love him'; 'If God is for us, who can be against us?'; 'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?' He encouraged the children and teens present to talk with God in prayer about the fears of what they witnessed at camp and the pain of loss.

Christine's faith has been a witness to all present. She knows that her son passed away in the 'best' place. And she knows she will see her son one day soon. Melusi's body was laid to rest in Mount Temple cemetery. Local pastor, Steve Wilson and the whole church family are witness to Christine's faith and ask that you remember Christine and Melusi's friends and family in your prayers.

## Cariad project in Wales

by Ed Sammons

*Cariad* is a formal expression in Welsh for love. It became not just an expression but a reality for Welsh Mission youth who, joining with a team of youth from Minnetonka, Minnesota, USA, shared God's love with the different communities in Swansea from 23 to 30 July 2007.

In a joint project, the youth gathered at a campsite near Oxwich Bay, leaving every morning to host a holiday Bible club called Avalanche Ranch in two separate locations. The young people then spent the afternoons involved in various service projects, including painting and gardening at The Old People's Information Centre, litter-picking in a nearby community, hosting local children in a community art project, and finally handing out balloons, face painting, hair-braiding and handing out literature and toys to children in Swansea city centre. The Welsh group were also proud to take their American visitors to several historical locations in Wales. For the Americans, it was an exciting experience to visit their first castle and Roman amphitheatre, and have worship on the steps of the Senydd (Welsh Parliament) on Cardiff Bay.

In spite of a week of camping in the heavy rain and long days, the youth worked together tremendously right from the start. Local church members showed their support by serving the group with meals and assisting where possible. The week concluded with a sightseeing trip to London where, sadly, the group said their tearful goodbyes.

God blessed our experience together. Community children learned about Jesus, new friendships were formed, and commitments of service were renewed.



## Chiswick Gospel Choir at major community event

The annual Bedford Park Festival in Chiswick was graced this year by the presence of the Chiswick Gospel Choir. The festival is an annual week-long fundraising event that serves the community with various activities. The festival has taken place every June since its launch in 1967 and has grown in popularity to become the largest community event in Chiswick, attracting thousands of people. On 9 June 2007, however, the stage which usually hosts the resident jazz band was occupied by the Chiswick Gospel Choir. The weather was good and the choir held their large audience captive for over 45 minutes, singing its unique blend of Gospel songs and audience participation choruses. The organisers and many festival-goers commented on the quality of the music and how impressed they were with the messages in the songs that were presented. The charities to benefit from this year's festival will be UNICEF's 'United for Children Against AIDS' campaign and the Upper Room, Feeding the Community in Need in West London.

VIVIAN LINDO



## Telford church organises Ghanaian Day

by Theophilus Gokah

Inspired by the activities of church groups elsewhere in the United Kingdom, the Telford Adventist church organised a 'Ghanaian Day of Fellowship' on Sabbath, 4 August to interact with friends and the community at large. The day brought together friends, visitors and Christian brethren from as far away as Birmingham and saw the church members coming alive with dedication and dynamism. The theme for the occasion was a symbol of Ghanaian hospitality, 'Akwaaba', meaning welcome. Josephine Appoh, conducting Sabbath School, urged guests to 'consider their presence a blessing' and assured the congregation of the ability of God 'to do all things according to his wisdom'.

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of Thomas

Telford, after whom the town was named. Telford is one of the fastest growing towns in the Midlands and situated within this dynamic community is the Telford Adventist church. From the Christian perspective, it is God who has brought the town and its people to their present position and thus the church must make him known to the community.

In the morning service, Dr Theophilus Gokah reminded the Telford members of their role in propagating the Advent message within their community, a duty that can only be realised through dedication, planning, perseverance and the support of the Holy Spirit.

Pictures from the event can be seen on the SWAAF (South Wales African Adventist Fellowship) website at [www.swaaf.org.uk](http://www.swaaf.org.uk).

## Riverway fundraising

On Sabbath 24 March the Riverway church hosted a fundraising concert in aid of ASNA (Adventist Special Needs) and was honoured to have the London Adventist Chorale as special guest artists. Matthew Lombart of Canterbury church also delighted us with renditions of classic gospel favourites. Visiting pastor Malcolm Taylor gave the welcome and opening prayer, and in his vote of thanks echoed everyone's view that we had all enjoyed a wonderful musical experience.

We are grateful to everyone who helped to make this event a success and are pleased to have raised £650 in support of ASNA's valuable work.

PAM LEWIS

### Watford Shop

New opening times effective from Wednesday 28 August.

**Monday to Thursday**  
11am-5.30pm

**Friday**  
10am-2pm

**1st and 3rd Sunday of each month**  
10am-2pm

*The shop will be closed Sunday 2 September for Open Day.*



## Friends support Shakira

Shakira (pictured centre) was baptised at Chiswick church on 23 June and the special day was attended by church members, friends and family. Testimonies were shared concerning the positive influence Shakira had had in the sharing of her faith with her college friends and how eager she always was to discuss her beliefs with them. As a testament to that, many of her closest friends (some pictured here) were present at her baptism to share the special moment with her. At the request of Shakira, special music was presented by the Chiswick and Cornerstone teen choir 'Joint Praise'.

VIVIAN LINDO



# Impact London Health Expo

by Elsie Staples, Health Ministries director, SEC



demonstrating. These events help form relationships with the local community and promote social inclusion for the different people groups in the borough.

The exposition commenced with a bang! Lorraine Bacchus organised a parade of Pathfinders with their drum corps. Immaculately dressed in their uniforms, they paraded the grounds, attracting the attention of the community as their radiant faces clearly demonstrated that there is more to living than crime.

A very conspicuous acronym 'GOD'S PLAN' faced people as they entered the school car park. Based on 3 John 2, 'Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well,' the acronym led people through a series of displays and action stations demonstrating Godly trust, Open air, Daily exercise, Sunshine, Proper rest, Lots of water, Air and good Nutrition. At each station there was an advisor who distributed pertinent printed material and provided verbal advice.

The two stations most heavily patronised were those of exercise and nutrition. Encouraging active participation, Max Wallace, a



**T**his kind of exercise really gets the heart and the circulation going,' an out-of-breath Sharon Platt-McDonald told me as she leapt into the air, touching her toes and bouncing down again on the mini-exercise trampoline. Practising health in action, Sharon, Health Ministries director for the Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland, was clearly enjoying life, joining in with visitors at the John Loughborough School at the Impact London Health Expo on Sunday, 22 July. 'It is so important to share our faith through holistic witness! This is a taste and see event,' she commented.

The North London Adventist

churches (Area 6A), in partnership with Elsie Staple and the Health Ministries department of the South England Conference, joined together to provide the day, one of a series of community events to heighten people's awareness of their health status, thus prompting lifestyle changes by informing, teaching and



physical trainer and instructor from Fulham took the willing through their paces for almost one hour. One of the participants commented, 'I never thought I could have exercised for so long. Max was full of encouragement, "Just do what you can and try."' Another senior citizen was found trying out her skills with a skipping rope.

The nutrition station was hosted by special guests, Dr Thomas Jackson with his wife Dr Laverne Jackson. They are founders of Missionary Education and Evangelistic Training (MEET) and recently facilitated a three-week training course at the Advent Centre in central London. The Jacksons shared practical information, helping keen attendees learn how to choose and prepare foods that will promote well-being.

The children were not left out. Malika Bediako provided enjoyment and fun while they learnt about how to take care of their bodies. She stated, 'I couldn't bring the session to an end. The children just wanted more!'

Other professionals provided health screening. Millie Williams and her team assessed eighty blood sugar and cholesterol levels. Eldica

Blake and her team assessed body mass index, expressing concern that of the 107 persons measured and weighed, some 30% were either *clinically* or *morbidly* obese. Massage therapy, dental health promotion, cookery and juicing for health were all part of the programme. At the end of all the screening, individuals were able to gain personalised health advice from Dr Chidi.

Health Expo was one of the precursors to the Impact London programme which commenced on Sunday 5 August and was held at five venues simultaneously throughout the month. The Impact London programmes hope to make a difference in the lives of Londoners which will ultimately affect the community. The concept was the brainchild of Area 6A pastors and their co-ordinator, Pastor David Burnett. For more on Impact London visit [www.impactlondon.org](http://www.impactlondon.org).

## Weston baptism

For the second time in five months the Weston-super-Mare church members were happy to prepare their baptistry for use. The candidate was Sibukisiwe Wenyika from the Taunton church. Sib (as she is known by her friends) arrived in Taunton, along with her husband and three children, on Christmas Eve 2004 from Zimbabwe. She made contact with the members and when Pastor Watson Southcott began caring for the church in 2005, he began a series of Bible studies with her. This led to a re-affirmation of her faith which was confirmed by her baptism on 14 July.

Sibu and her husband are both working in the medical field. She is a Staff Nurse at the Musgrove Hospital in Taunton and her husband, Richard

works in the field of medical diagnostics. Not content with her present qualifications, Sib is working on a degree in Health Services and Community Nursing Sciences. Their dream is to return to their homeland with their enhanced medical skills.

Pastor Alan Conroy, one of the retired ministers in the area, gave counsel not only to Sib, but to all the congregation, reminding them that life is full of choices, but the three most important are to remember that God has chosen you, you have to choose God, and choose to live with him. Pastor Southcott immersed Sib.

After the service Sib was asked what counsel she would give to anyone who has not yet made their decision to follow Jesus. 'Choose now,' she said, 'as the signs of the end are all around us, and we need to be right with God.'

CYNTHIA SOUTHCOTT



## A wild ride through God's Word at Avalanche Ranch

On 23 July Cambridge church opened their Avalanche Ranch to forty-two young ranchers aged 2-12 for a week-long amazing adventure through God's Word. Each day the children were given a wild ride through God's Word. Their daily adventure began with singing and doing actions to upbeat Bible songs and learning treasure verses that introduced them to various concepts about God. Then they visited each of the five ranch stations and engaged in activities that taught them about God. At Chuck Wagon Chow they made tasty treats; Cowpoke Crafts and Missions offered delightful creations. They had wild Bible Adventures, enjoyed games at Horse Play Games and met Chadder Chipmunk on video. The adventure

at each ranch reinforced the concepts: God is real, God is with us, God is strong, God is awesome and God is in charge. Another exciting and rewarding activity for the young ranchers was the Spotlight Drama that allowed them to demonstrate what they had learnt about God. Our young ranchers, including some from the community, thoroughly enjoyed their time at the Avalanche Ranch. They have learnt valuable lessons about God that will help them to understand and love him more. The Children's Ministries department and volunteers have worked very hard to make this year's Avalanche Ranch Vacation Bible School an unforgettable experience for all who attended.

DELOECIA WHITE

## Oxford Portuguese-speaking church finds a home

**O**n Sabbath 14 July the Oxford Portuguese-speaking church met in the spacious and beautifully-appointed St James Church Centre in Cowley. This marked a major step forward for the new church group in Oxford. The Portuguese-speaking group had started worshipping last year in a home and then, as the numbers grew, moved to the upstairs hall in our mother church in Chester Street. The group continued to flourish under the leadership of David Jesus Martins who has just recently been ordained as an elder.

There was a great deal of joy and gratitude expressed by the congregation as they worshipped in the new premises.

DAVID SPEARING





# Ordination and Gospel Concert in Cardiff

by John Surridge

On Sabbath 11 August Clyde Moore was ordained to the gospel ministry in the Cardiff Adventist church. Pastor Moore was brought into the Welsh Mission by the then Mission president, Pastor Brian Phillips, just over five years ago and has ministered in the Cardiff and Barry churches since that time, first serving an internship and then taking over full responsibility for the district.

Somewhat unusually, the ordination service took place on a Sabbath morning, replacing the usual divine service. This, however, was appreciated by the nearly 200 people in attendance, some of whom commented that having the programme in the morning helped to underline the spiritual nature of ordination and its importance in the life of the church.

The ordained ministers who took part in the service were Pastors George Asiamah, Geoff Dennis, Michael Logan, Roger Neal, Brian Phillips, Watson Southcott and John Surridge. In his address current Mission president Pastor John Surridge spoke on 2 Chronicles 7:14 and 'God's Four Steps to Successful Service'. The text was chosen especially by Pastor Moore who said that it had sustained him through his entire Christian experience.

Pastor Brian Phillips introduced Pastor Moore to the congregation and also offered the ordination prayer. In his response Pastor Moore began by giving thanks to God for the way that he had led him to this particular point in his ministry. He also thanked the members of his family for their influence over the years and particularly thanked his younger sister Dr Christine Salter and her daughter Victoria for flying over from St Louis just for the service. Their journey had been quite traumatic with planes cancelled and luggage lost, but they still managed to present a special musical item — 'Through It All' — during the service.

One particularly influential person in Pastor Moore's life is his wife Anette who currently serves as Children's Ministries sponsor in the

Welsh Mission. Anette accompanied her husband on the platform and, following the official welcome to Pastor Moore, was given a special welcome to the ministry by Mrs Nancy Dennis, herself a minister's wife.

The morning service was largely planned by Pastor Moore himself, and additional musical items were provided by the Croydon Seventh-day Adventist Gospel Choir, Ken Burton's quartet 'Tessera', Jenny Grant, and a quartet from the South Wales African Adventist Fellowship.

Following a fellowship lunch, which was in itself a logistical triumph for the ladies of the Cardiff church, there was an afternoon concert featuring the Croydon Seventh-day Adventist Gospel Choir. Renowned for their professionalism, the Croydon Choir endeared themselves to the congregation with their warmth and the way that they genuinely seemed to be enjoying themselves, sharing in Pastor Moore's special day. Their version of 'By the Rivers of Babylon', no doubt a Ken Burton special arrangement, was particularly appreciated.

Other performers included Sharon McKenzie, whose husband Jan will be taking over the Cardiff district when Pastor Moore moves to Shrewsbury and Telford, Wayne and Sarah from Tamworth, Jenny Grant, Tony Kofoworola-Kuti, Christine and Victoria Salter, and Kim and Pam from Birmingham. Victoria Salter's 'Alabaster Box' was beautifully delivered and very moving, and Kim and Pam, brother and sister, and also only youngsters, held everyone spellbound with 'Undisputed Champion of Love' and 'Shine Your Light' respectively.

The Croydon Choir concluded the day with a lively and congregation-involving rendition of 'In My Father's House'. As Ken Burton played the piano, conducted, and taught, all at the same time, the whole audience was transformed into a choir. And with Paul Lee helping out the newly-recruited and struggling tenors, the result was a fairly joyful noise.

Many people helped to make the

day a success and special thanks go to Tim Barber, who hosted the afternoon programme, and Ian Matthews, whose careful nurturing of the public address system ensured that everything that should have been heard was heard.

Pictures from the day can be seen in the gallery section of the Welsh Mission website at: [www.adventistwales.org](http://www.adventistwales.org).



Top: The ordination prayer, left to right: Brian Phillips, Michael Logan, Anette Moore, Clyde Moore, Geoff Dennis and John Surridge. Above left: Sharon McKenzie. Above right: Singers from the Croydon Seventh-day Adventist Gospel Choir. Left: Victoria Salter, niece of Pastor Moore. Below: Paul Lee.



## In an English country garden

Sunday 15 July marked the third year in succession when members and friends of Winchester church met to enjoy special music in the beautiful country garden at the Nightingale's home.

Lorna Nightingale arranged special items performed by members of our local congregation and by a Russian string quartet led by Lilya Plamadyala. Peter Sokolovsky, a member of the National Youth Orchestra, performed a solo on the

cello. The programme included items ranging from Mozart and Handel to Andrew Lloyd Webber and Gershwin.

We were blessed with dry weather (almost!) The brief spots of rain were laughed off and the proceedings continued beneath umbrellas.

It was a beautifully atmospheric experience shared with neighbours and friends from the community and from as far away as Cambodia and

South Africa, totalling around fifty people in all.

Delicious refreshments were provided by Marlene Leeson and the evening concluded with all joining together to sing the song 'Memory'.

Why a concert in the garden?

We have a number of our fellowship suffering from cancer at the present time and we raised £330 for Cancer Research UK. To this sum was added a further £230 donated at a similar concert held in the Southampton church earlier in the year as a surprise for David Bradley, one of our friends, who has cancer.

MARGARET ALEN

## 60 Saved in 'Festival City'

On Sabbath 5 May at 7pm, Clapton Community church was transformed into 'Festival City' as the doors opened to welcome residents of the Clapton community to the 'Better Days are Coming' campaign. People from different walks of life, young and old, came to hear Pastor Samuel Telemaque, a dynamic evangelist from the Caribbean, present thought-provoking messages directly from the Bible.

Night after night for three weeks, God's Word was presented in a clear and concise manner in this recently-acquired Grade II listed St Paul's Church, previously owned by the Church of England. Souls were blessed, and many people made the decision to accept Jesus as their personal Saviour. As a result of their decision, sixty precious souls were baptised by Dr Eben O. Sackey and Dr Richard DeLisser.

Preparation for the campaign first began on 16 December 2006 with a late-night prayer walk through Clapton. This was followed by weekly door-to-door visits within the community, along with programmes held in the church where the community was invited to come in and talk with members.

DENISE BROWN

This is a follow-up to 'Clapton Community Church Rebirth', MESSENGER 27 July, page 13.



## Baptismal photo album

On Sabbath 21 July Tottenham church was packed, not only because it was Men's Ministries Day, but also because baby Sebastian Thorpe, grandson of Pastor Thorpe, was being dedicated.

The theme for the Sabbath School session was 'Men We Can Emulate', and the lives of Enoch, Moses and Paul were discussed. The Sabbath School lesson study followed and all the female Sabbath

School teachers got a break, as men conducted the classes.

Time was 'stolen' from the men's programme to present to the nine newly-baptised members a photo album containing pictures taken on the day of their baptism on 26 May.

The speaker for the day was John Mathieu from the Hackney church and the theme for his sermon was 'A Few Good Men'. His message was based on Judges 6. Israel was being oppressed by the Midianites and had to hide in caves. How did God's people get to this state? The simple answer was that they had turned their backs on the Lord and were worshipping the gods of the heathen. The children of Israel cried out to the Lord and he heard their cry. God used Gideon, a man who was weak and doubtful, and 300 men to deliver his people.

The story teaches us that sin does not stand still. It starts with a cigarette and ends in heroin addiction; it starts with a glass of wine and ends in alcoholism; it starts with an 'innocent' kiss and ends in an abortion. God is looking for men to be role models who will call sin by its right name. 'The greatest want of the world is the want of men — men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.' *Education*, E. G. White.

MAXINE DONOVAN







# Revelator at the Royal Cornwall Show

by Bertie de Nysschen

At the Royal Cornwall Show this year we stepped out in faith and invited Annette da Silva, a professional artist from South Africa, to come over and do two 'live' paintings at the show.

The idea was to attract people to our stand and give us an opportunity to speak to them. Well, were we surprised! It worked very well and one of our members, Ernie Lamey, was our star 'evangelist' in sharing the Second Coming of Jesus with people. He would just ask them if they could guess what the painting was about and, regardless of their answer, he

took the 'gap' to continue with a full explanation of the meaning.

Annette did two paintings (the backgrounds were already prepared back in SA) and, without taking much of a break, she was busy painting from early in the morning until the show closed at 6pm in the evenings.

At the same time we received donations for ADRA and one lucky person, (as each donation was accompanied with a telephone number) was able to hang a painting of her choice in her home. She could choose either of the two paintings.



We did this for a reason because we knew that some secular people might not want a painting of the Second Advent with Jesus coming on the clouds of heaven. And sure enough, she chose the one of John the Revelator in vision with the theme of Revelation 1:7. She said at first that she would give it to her parents because they were 'religious', but a few weeks later, because Annette worked during the camp meeting week to complete it, when it was delivered to her by Pastor Ron Clemow, she was so impressed that she decided to keep it.

We split the donations we received at the show between the Cornwall Air Ambulance and ADRA, both of them receiving £122 each at the end of the day. And each person who gave a donation was given a booklet about ADRA and we made sure they understood that the money would be split 50/50 between the two charities.

The other painting in the traditional Second Coming style was also completed during camp meeting (as Annette accompanied us there) and was donated to ADRA and handed

over to Bert Smit, together with a cheque for the £122 from the Cornwall Show. He will now be able to try and raise further funds by selling it if he can.

Area 1 paid for Annette's air ticket to the UK and it was an investment that may only reveal its returns in heaven. But many, many people, especially children, were fascinated by the angels in the painting of the Second Coming, as they stood watching her paint. Who will ever know what impressions were made and how the Holy Spirit will work with those people in the future? As for the lady who received the painting . . . every time she looks at it, it will declare the hidden meaning to her. And every time her friends ask her about the old man in the picture, she may find herself explaining the hidden meaning to them.

Once again we can say that the Royal Cornwall Show was a great success. It costs Area 1 a lot of money each year as we give away hundreds of pounds worth of books, but who has ever said that a farmer can buy seed without money? So we will keep sowing until Jesus comes to reap.



Pastor Bert Smit (right) receives the donation and painting from Pastor Bertie de Nysschen and Annette da Silva (artist)

# Marching to Victory!

Sabbath 11 August was a special day for the Adventurers and Pathfinders at Newcastle church as they treated their audience to a rousing programme under the theme: 'Marching to victory'. They started with their various recitals of the aim, motto, pledge, law and promise. Then, a Pathfinder presented the sermon of the day. In spite of his age, 11-year-old Othinel D. Ross preached a big sermon reminding his listeners that everyone is involved in a battle in which believers are soldiers in the army of the Lord. Othinel challenged the church to check whether Christ or Satan was winning the war in their lives. He passionately urged all to claim the victory which is possible only through Jesus and march on victoriously till Jesus comes again.

The afternoon was filled with a display of the various skills and honours, such as knot tying, which the young people have acquired so far during 2007. The crowning act of the programme was to reward the children for their achievements.

Certificates of attendance were issued to sixteen Adventurers and Pathfinders. In addition, another eleven certificates were issued for Pathfinders who successfully completed their achievement classes, ranging from Busy Bee to Ranger. To add icing to the cake, two of the children were delighted to receive top honours for their all-round excellence in areas such as attendance, payments of dues, behaviour at home and church: Chipo Mashiri was named Newcastle church's Adventurer of the year while Jeff Thulani Ndlovu was crowned Pathfinder of the year. Patrick Mashiri was delighted and proud of his 7-year-old daughter who received a top honour. He praised the leadership of the Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs for their hard work. 'It was a blessing to see our Pathfinders and Adventurers leading in church worship. I was touched by the sermon. We can only give glory to God for the children he gave us, especially as we witness his work through them.'

Jeff's father, Maxwell, was also impressed with the programmes of the day, adding: 'It was very exciting to learn that one of my sons, Jeff Thulani, scooped the Pathfinder of the year award, in addition to graduating from Ranger class to Voyager class.'

Newcastle Pathfinder club is run by Sithandazile Ndlovu and her assistant Ray Ndlovu. At twenty, Sithandazile Ndlovu is thought to be the youngest club director in the Conference. Sithandazile, fondly known as Tandy, was grateful for the support offered by parents and club staff without which the club would not function, adding that she is so

glad to be a part of God's plan of helping other children to know, understand and serve him through the Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs.

VICTOR and LYNNE SAMWINGA



# Amulree's baptism

About twenty-two years ago the emotional and joyous baptism of Vince Quinn took place in the sea at Aberdaron, home of the North Conference's campsite. Vince had been invited by Pastor Bob Rodd to come as a volunteer to teach climbing at the Senior Camp. He was not a Christian at the time, but enjoyed the camp and new friends so much that he came back four more times. Each time he asked more and more questions about Christianity and attended the services and worships. He finally made his commitment to Christ and was then baptised, even though this meant giving up his job because he could not get Sabbath privileges. He continued to go to camp as one of the most popular staff members Aberdaron has had.

God was working in a wonderful way because it was at this time Roundelwood needed a Health and Fitness director, and Vince applied and was accepted for the position. He and his wife, Elerie, moved to Crieff where he became a very valued member of the church, and a popular member of the squash and other clubs. Tragically he died eight years ago of a heart attack, leaving his wife and two children.

Amulree was one of these children and six months ago, now aged 16, she asked Pastor Rodd for studies so she could be baptised. She asked to be baptised at the Family Camp at Aberdaron just like her father. So on 28 July a short service was held at the camp and a large group went to the beach to witness her baptism by Pastor Rodd. It was a very emotional and joyful time, because more than twenty who were now attending the Family Camp had been at the camp when Vince was baptised years before.

On 11 August Amulree was voted into the fellowship of the Crieff church and as Pastor Rodd talked, a video was shown of her baptism, thus enabling the church to share in that special event as well.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Photos: David Bell





# Kenya Mission Project

by Des Boldeau, Youth director, BUC

'Full of surprises,' 'Backbreaking but rewarding work,' 'A great cultural experience,' 'We've done two weeks work in one week,' 'As the building is going up the family is growing up.' These are some of the comments from the team who travelled to Kenya on 28 June-17 July as part of the BUC Youth Department Mission Project.

The mission was fourfold in approach: building a two-classroom extension including a new dining and kitchen area at the Kajado Adventist Girls' School for young girls from the Maasai people; conducting community health clinics; promoting personal health matters to pupils in schools and evangelistic meetings.

The approach of this project was to join with local workers and youth volunteers in completing this assignment. The funding came from our 2006 ADRA-UK Annual Appeal, of which £25,000 was devoted to the project.

Sabbath highlights included worshipping with the local congregation in the open air with nothing but the canopy of a beautiful blue sky for covering. We sat from 9am until 1pm, trying desperately to dodge the moving sun beating down upon our ill-prepared bodies. The few trees offered little shaded protection. Special music was provided by the Kajado Girls' School choir, whose lovely voices blended beautifully to offer a memorable act of worship. Four of our own young ladies also graced the waiting church with their beautifully harmonious singing.

The location of the evangelistic campaign was in fact an open-air venue in Bora-Bora, at a busy crossroads with people coming and going and children playing and fighting! The public address system was rigged to a pole about thirty feet long and tied to a lamppost. There was a platform which served to focus the attention of those who attended, including those who were standing in the doorways of their shops and even people in their homes.

Pastor Sam Davis and our own young Troy Flood were the speakers for the two-week period. However,

the challenges of speaking to a less than attentive audience, with all the noise of life going on around them, was something to which they had to become reconciled very quickly.

Work began on the building with a passion on Sunday morning 1 July and it was a wonderful sight to see everyone in their purple project T-shirts buzzing around the building site, carrying water, pushing wheelbarrows of sand, stones, ballast and cement and mixing them into mortar.

By lunchtime, many of us were ready to 'flake out' in a corner somewhere! Before long some of our folk began to show signs of blisters with the accompanying cuts and bruises from the rough and rugged stones — stones which weighed from about 10 to 25 kgs each!

Our school team addressed issues like HIV awareness, self-esteem, cultural differences and personal and dental hygiene. This team was led by Justin McKenzie, an art teacher. Pastor Wilson, the school chaplain and a teacher, remarked that 'this was a unique opportunity for both teachers and pupils to see and hear a different perspective of life and a freshness of the presentation on subjects which do not form part of the regular curriculum.'

On the health front, the medical team went into two of the neighbouring villages (Elangata — Wuas and Gatu Maasai villages) where they

saw close to 400 patients with ailments ranging from upper respiratory tract infection to eczema. The team was also accompanied by Dr Simon Ochandra who is a consultant. Invaluable support was also provided by Dr Mark Mwathi, Health Ministries director of the Central Kenya Conference who was with us when we visited local communities. Without his support and assistance the health aspect of the project could not have taken place.

The medical team, led by Millie Williams, conducted a clinic at the hostel where we stayed as well as at the church on the worksite. Medication to the tune of 63,115 shillings or £500, was provided by ADRA Kenya and the British Union Conference.

On Sunday morning we began the building of the roof trusses. By the end of the day we had most of the trusses in place and the structure was beginning to take shape. One memorable sight was seeing all hands on deck diligently beaver-



away, sawing, strapping each joint with metal straps, nailing, lifting and carrying these trusses and getting them in place.

By Tuesday 10 July, the galvanized sheets were being nailed onto the roof. The structure was beginning to look like a building ready to be inhabited.

The following day Valerie Rice and her team (Harry and Terry) diligently chipped away at the job of installing the conduits for electricity in the building. Both rooms were completed by Wednesday afternoon.

We saw the Kenyan plastering team in action. You have never seen plastering like this! These folks worked with perfect synchronisation as they slapped the loosely-mixed mortar onto the very rough and rugged surface of the walls.

Thursday was a busy day with a visit to a traditional Maasai village in the morning. One of the Maasai men was interested in paying handsomely for some of our young ladies! The major problem was how to get the 80 cows for each person across the waters to the UK!

In the afternoon, the long-awaited handing-over ceremony took place. Many local and civic leaders were present, including the Chief Executive director for the CKC, Pastor Peter Ndeto and the Union Conference Executive director, Pastor Paul Muasya. Country director for ADRA Kenya, George Baiden, was also present. I had the privilege of representing the BUC, ADRA-UK and the group of warriors who devoted so much time, finance and energy to ensuring that the project was completed.

One of the highlights from the handing-over ceremony was a touching recitation by five girls

describing the hardships of being brought up as a Maasai female.

During the ceremony a plaque which was covered with the Union flag was unveiled to commemorate the work that the BUC team had done. Our hosts, Pastor Shadrach and Madam Jacinta, went to great lengths to procure a Union flag from the High Commission in Nairobi.

The ceremony over, we rose to the challenge of a football match against Kenya's youth volunteers and building workers. However, we came away with plenty of bruises to our bodies and egos as we lost — but by just one goal! 3-2!

On Sabbath morning we had our worship and prayed that the Lord would bless us for that day. We began our journey with eagerness into the great Maasai Mara Game Reserve. We did not have to wait long to begin to see the wonders of God's beautiful creation in the forms of gazelles, zebras, elephants, jackals, monitor lizards, hyenas, eagles, vultures, hippos, crocodiles, a secretary bird, ostriches, giraffes, impalas and, of course, several hundred cattle, which represents the wealth of the Maasai people. The cattle were not part of the Maasai Reserve but grazed freely in the open section of the park.

We stopped at one point near a small airport and sat on the grass, singing and worshipping God for his wonders and his unending love. Pastor Sam spoke with us from Jeremiah 18 about God's desire to remake us to reflect his character. The journey through the park was relaxed and wonderfully complemented by the beautiful rolling hills and mountains in the background.

Sunday was another wonderful early morning safari, followed by the hazardous ride back to Nairobi. On Monday, Pastor Sam and I spent the morning in meetings. ADRA Kenya had organised a lunch for the group. At this time the group members all received a ceramic image of the ADRA logo as a memento of their visit to this beautiful country. By the afternoon, some last-minute souvenir shopping was all that was left to do; braving the craft market and its insistent traders was an adventure in itself!

However, all made it back home safely and we praised God for the blessings he gave to us during this eventful and most important mission project.

As a group we looked out for and

## Wood Green baptism

On Sunday afternoon 27 May, three young people publicly demonstrated their decision to follow Christ.

Wood Green church was packed to capacity with family, friends and members who came to support and witness the baptism of Cassandra Balisson, Natalie Walsh and Daniel Veerapen. Each chose a passage of Scripture that meant a lot to them and this was read prior to their immersion.

Cassandra grew up in the church, and has shown her talent for writing poetry, some of which she has read in church on many occasions. She has been active in other ways and is willing to participate. Her choice of Scripture was Joshua 1:9.

Natalie, too, was brought up in the church and from a very young

age showed her love for singing. She has warmed the hearts of those who have listened to her. Her choice of Scripture was Ecclesiastes 12:1, the advice of the wise man Solomon to the youth.

Daniel was also brought up in the church, but somewhere along the line he lost interest and did not attend for a long time. Recently he started coming again and joined the baptismal class where he was taught the truth once again. John 14:1-3 was his request.

Pastor Keith Boldeau, pastor of Wood Green and Palmers Green churches, immersed all three candidates.

Special music was provided by Cherice from Wood Green, and Holloway Trio.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

## 'Come and see' or 'Go and be'?

Glasgow church was the venue, on 28 and 29 July, for a National Evangelism Training Seminar. Keynote speakers, Pastor Miroslav Pujic, TED LIFEdevelopment director, and Pastor Eglan Brooks, BUC Personal Ministries director, took the participants through a comprehensive review of generational changes in British society and how they have impacted on approaches to evangelism. It revealed that personal beliefs are now more likely to be based on what a person experiences rather than what they see and hear. Consequently we should no longer expect people to 'Come and see', as with conventional evangelistic campaigns. Instead we should 'Go and Be' — mingling, as Christ did, with those in need of the Gospel. Pastor Pujic described this as 'Swimming with the fish' rather than 'Fishing from the shore'.

The seminar included a detailed

explanation of the BUC LIFEdevelopment programme. Other speakers included Scottish Mission president, Llew Edwards ('Walking the line of Faith') and Karin Edwards ('Prayer and Evangelism'). Seminar organiser and Church Growth sponsor for Scotland, David Hatch, said afterwards, 'It seems the programme has not been widely embraced because it may not have been fully understood. Those who attended the seminar should now have a very clear picture of this approach to reaching others for Jesus and I am looking forward to LIFEdevelopment's effective use throughout Scotland.'

Glasgow pastor, Clifford Herman, will be leading a local eight-week Sabbath afternoon follow-up programme entitled 'Sharing your faith with friends'.

JOHN WILBY,  
Communication sponsor, SM

discussed the needs around us and the way forward. It was at that point that we decided unanimously that we should continue to do something to assist the children and the school. We voted to start the process by

forming a trust to administer the funds we would all donate.

For the complete report and more photos of the project, look on the Youth Department page of the BUC website: [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk).



# Legislation relating to Disability and Special Needs Awareness

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health director and Special Needs co-ordinator

In line with current statutory regulations and our mission as a Church, I felt it necessary to develop the role of Special Needs Co-ordinator and encourage elected officers to this post in every church within the British Union. The role of the Special Needs co-ordinator will help to enhance the outreach of the Church, enabling it to become more inclusive of individuals with diverse physical, emotional, social and mental needs. It will also help to ensure that, as much as possible, churches meet the requirements of legislation relating to disability awareness and good practice.

To help facilitate the implementation of this new role, I have drafted some key documents which have been sent out to all Special Needs co-ordinators. This includes a role description and a checklist for churches to assess their attitudinal and environmental barriers and improve accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

The following highlights the key aspects of the Disability Discrimination Act as it relates to churches, and identifies the immediate action which all churches within the British Isles need to take in order to be compliant with the legislation.

## The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and your church

The duties of The Disability Discrimination Act have been introduced in three stages:

**Since December 1996** it has been unlawful for churches to treat children and adults with disabilities less favourably for a reason related to their disability.

**Since October 1999** churches, under Section 21 of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), have had to make 'reasonable adjustments' for people with disabilities, such as providing extra help or making changes to the way they provide services. The 'adjustments' the Act requires are to policies, practices and procedures which could exclude people with disabilities.

**Since October 2004** churches will have had to make 'reasonable adjustments' to the physical features of the premises to overcome barriers which make it impossible or difficult for disabled people to have access to the building or service.

In looking at what is reasonable the church should ask: What message does that give to the individual with a disability? Do we reject 'reasonable adjustment' because of cost?

Churches should look at making 'reasonable adjustments' now and not wait until someone with special needs comes into the church building, only to find that the church is not able to meet their needs.

## The Disability Rights Commission Act 1999 – DRC Code of Practice

The Code of Practice states that churches should

endeavour to enact the following:

- Change practices, policies or procedures which make it impossible or unreasonably difficult for people with a disability to use the service.
- Overcome the physical features which make it impossible or unreasonably difficult for people with a disability to use the service, by providing the service with a reasonable alternative method.
- Provide auxiliary aids or services which would make it easier for or enable people with a disability to use a service.

## Practices, policies and procedures

Churches should review all their policies and procedures and alter any which may be regarded as restrictive for anyone with special needs.

## Physical features

Physical features can include steps, stairways, kerbs, exterior surfaces, paving, parking areas, building entrances and exits, internal doors, gates, toilets and washing facilities, lifts, etc. Where a physical feature is a barrier, churches should look to finding a reasonable alternative and, for example, change the Sabbath School room from the first floor to the ground floor, if accessibility is an issue.

Where modification to buildings may not be possible or where church buildings are rented, 'reasonable adjustments' may necessitate for example a fold up/mobile ramp to aid accessibility.

## Auxiliary aids

Churches could consider providing information on cassette, installing a loop system, or employing the service of a sign language interpreter.

## Duties of the church board/ leadership team and minister

- The church board or management team needs to be aware of its obligation under the DDA.
- Each church council or leadership team should arrange to discuss the issues raised by the DDA, so that they are aware of the wider range of disabling conditions which are found in the community.
- The board or leadership team needs to inform the church members and community users of their buildings and facilities that it is illegal to discriminate against disabled people.
- The board or leadership team should conduct an audit of the church's facilities and draw up a strategy to ensure that the church is open to everyone. The audit should address both physical and non-physical barriers to access for people with disabilities and special needs.

- Once the audit has been completed they should consult with an architect to see how any necessary changes can be made and how to fit them in with the ongoing maintenance of the church.
- The church board or leadership team could start with Through the Roof's 'Churches for All' scheme which will be able to assist churches in their task of maintaining the church buildings while meeting with requirements of the Act. There may also be denominational resources available; with the Church of England, for example, the Council for the Care of Churches can advise.
- The church board or leadership team should contact the Access Officer at the local council, or speak with local associations of disabled people, to discuss the building's accessibility.
- The church board or leadership team should then install appropriate equipment and make any necessary changes to accommodate the different special needs of the individuals attending.
- Members of the church board or leadership team should receive disability awareness training.
- The church board or leadership team should have regular reviews of their services to ensure that they are accessible to people with disabilities.
- The church board or leadership team should ensure that disabled individuals and those with other special needs are aware of any new provisions; for example, that there are signs at the church entrance and on notice boards, and that all publicity and advertising clearly states what provision is made.
- In planning any new buildings, ensure that they meet the requirements of Part M of the Building Regulations which covers access for disabled people.

While some churches are complying with the above regulations, several still fall far short of government regulations. We need to take this legislation seriously to avoid any litigation in the future. Implementing the above specifications will ensure that all churches come into line with government requirements.

The BUC's strategy for special needs has identified 3 key areas for development:

1. Identifying appropriate training, information and support for the newly appointed Special Needs co-ordinators assigned to each church in the BUC.
2. Ensure all churches are aware of the DDA guidelines as they relate to churches, and encourage compliance.
3. Funding for the implementation of training, events, workshops and conferences and resources.

ASNA – Adventist Special Needs Association is an SDA church-based ministry established to provide resources, education, support and training in the ministry of those living with disability and special needs. Sophia and Nigel Nichols are founding members of ASNA and their extensive work and training in this area over the years has

enabled greater understanding of special needs and disability awareness amongst our members. For more information on this ministry you can make contact via the following: Telephone 01491 833 395, [www.asna.info](http://www.asna.info), email: [asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk).

The annual Special Needs Camp run by Joy Bussey has offered great support for special needs individuals and respite for their carers.

Commendation to churches like Oxford and Stanborough Park who have worked towards making their churches more accessible to individuals with special needs.

The Pendeford church in Wolverhampton, having successfully gained funding from the council, is now fully compliant with the DDA legislations and recently had their church renovated to include the following:

- Automatic doors externally and internally
- 2 disabled WCs with right and left hand transfer onto the pan
- Upgraded toilets colour contrast coded for the visually impaired
- Seating and furniture suitable for individuals with disability and special needs
- Loop system
- Increased width passageway to accommodate wheelchairs
- Ramps at front and rear of building
- Improved signage
- Enhanced lighting externally and internally
- Panic alarm system.

Peckham church has been innovative in creating questionnaires to ascertain the needs of visitors and members with disabilities. Attitudinal barriers have been addressed and they have incorporated sign language for key services and implemented visual aids and special resources for children and adults with disabilities to enhance participation in worship services.

It is hoped that these examples of excellence will propel others to action to ensure that as Christians we embrace the needs of the communities we serve and adhere to legislation as far as possible.

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

# Roundelwood Health Spa to be sold

Roundelwood Health Spa, owned and operated by the Adventist Church, is to be sold following a decision by the British Union Conference Executive Committee on Thursday 16 August. The decision comes following years of significant effort to improve the fortunes of the Crieff health institution, first developed under the vision of Dr Gertrude Brown, who had previously worked as a matron at the famous Battle Creek Sanatorium in Michigan, USA.

Situated in the stunning beauty of the Crieff countryside in Scotland, the facility, right back from the 1960s, was seen as part of a strategy to broaden the evangelistic approach of the Church in Scotland. The vision was there but unfortunately the Centre has proved to be financially challenging to the Church for most of its history, leading to a vote at the 1981 British Union Session to sell the property. However, the newly appointed Executive Committee decided rather to invest in the Centre and during the following years, under the careful management of Pastor Martin Bell, the Centre was at its most successful, running as a combined retirement home and health centre facility. However, the introduction of the government's Care in the Community Act, the new emphasis on elderly people being cared for in their homes and the subsequent reduction in government funding for care of the elderly in retirement homes, have resulted in a significant reduction in the number of residents. This was in common with up to 10,000 retirement homes that have closed since the Act came into being. Roundelwood continued to survive by selling property and receiving a significant BUC subsidy.

With continuing losses, a decision was made four years ago to close the retirement home and to operate the facility as a dedicated health spa, focusing on health

as a significant part of the mission of the Church. The facility was upgraded, the programme was focused and Malcolm Hayles, a man with extensive marketing experience, was asked to manage the facility. Despite the quality of the service being provided, a major marketing programme, and positive feedback from those who use the facilities, Roundelwood continued to run at a large deficit. While the Adventist Church believes strongly in positive health the continuing drain on the Church's funds has come to the point where it is unsustainable. Thus it is with regret the Executive Committee accepted the recommendation of the Good Health Association board that the facility should be sold either as a going concern or as a property.

Some of the proceeds from the sale will be used to establish a sustainable health work in the British Isles. At this stage, the nature of that work has not been determined but the Health Department of the Church and the BUC administration have been given the responsibility of formulating a proposal for discussion by the Executive Committee.

Speaking after the committee, BUC president, Pastor Don McFarlane, expressed his thanks and support for the very dedicated staff and management of Roundelwood. 'They have done an excellent job in very difficult circumstances,' he stated. 'They have done their best to make this institution succeed in a very competitive market. We are extremely sad that we have had to make this decision,' he continued. 'We believe in promoting good health and will continue to work to develop initiatives in that direction.'

A fuller background to the selling of Roundelwood is available on the president's page of the BUC website, [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk).

## Obituaries

**JOSEPH ALEXANDER BROWN (1931-2007) d. 23 January.** Joseph Brown always had a smile on his face and was a gentleman of the old school. He was born on 16 September 1931 at Green Hill, Alexandria in St Ann, Jamaica to Alexander and Adella Brown. Joseph grew up in Kingston and attended Swallowfield elementary school. In 1958 he moved to England and started work in Walton-on-Thames before commencing work with the Royal Mail by whom he was employed for twenty-six years. Joseph was baptised and joined the Balham church in 1986 where he became deacon and then head deacon (an office he held for many years). A generous man who shared with everyone in need, he loved singing and played a major role in the church choir. His kind and happy disposition gained him the respect of everyone and a lasting place in their memories. His neighbours told his wife: 'Your church has lost a lovely man. Our neighbourhood has lost a kind, caring man of God.' After a short illness, Joseph fell asleep on Tuesday 23 January. Officiating at the funeral service were Pastors Richard Holder, Dr Brighton Kavalogh and Anthony Opoku-Mensah, and they paid tribute to a lovely man whose life was dedicated to serving his church and his Creator. Joseph, who leaves behind a dear and loving wife, Clarice, was laid to rest at the London Road cemetery in Mitcham, South London. Clarice looks upon her married years as the happiest of her life. We all look to that glorious day

when our Lord will call us to his marvellous and everlasting Kingdom.

Clarice Brown and family would like to express their thanks for the support and assistance given by church members during a very sad and difficult time.

PATRICK MCKERROW

**MARCEL ALBERT GUENIN (1913-2007).** It is with much sadness that the Stanborough Park church records the death of Marcel Guenin, elder, treasurer, Sabbath School teacher and our good friend. He was truly a Christian gentleman, and a gentle man in his relationships towards his fellows. He died at a good old age and full of years. He was a good man, full of the Holy Ghost and faith. A man committed to God; an honest man, as true to duty as the needle to the pole. He will be greatly missed. Marcel was born in Geneva, Switzerland in December 1913. The youngest of three children, he enjoyed spending time on the farm, especially working with the horses. He came to England in 1922 when, due to a slump in the Swiss Watch Company, his father was sent to London to establish an office for Rolex Watches. Marcel began training for a career in teaching, but when his father died he went into Rolex to earn money to keep his mother and family. He rose to become the General Manager of the firm until ill health prompted a move into working on his own. Marcel was a member of the Holloway church, where he was baptised by Pastor O. M. Dorland and where he also married Genevieve in 1938. Bombed out of their first

home in Palmers Green, they moved to Southgate, their home until Genevieve died in November 2005. Marcel continued to live there, caring for his garden and especially his roses. He continued working in the watch business right up until three days before he died. For the past thirty years Marcel was a member of the Stanborough Park church and it was here that the funeral service was held on Thursday 19 July, conducted by the writer, assisted by Pastor Patrick Boyle. Words of comfort were expressed to the family based on the text of St Paul in Romans 15:4: 'Through patience and comfort of the scriptures we might have hope.' We extend our heartfelt sympathies to his sons Roland and Louis and to their families. Marcel was a believer. The promise to him is clear and assured. 'He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.' He who is the resurrection and the life will raise him up at the last day. We have this hope. Haste the day!

PASTOR ROY BURGESS

**Area 8 Family Day, 13 October, 10.30-3.30**  
At Emmanuel Church, Laindon Road, Billericay, CM12 9LD.

A day for families to worship together while enjoying songs, crafts, and films. Special feature will be the Animated Gospel Choir, a fantastic group from London who bring songs to life with the use of engaging puppets. Bring lunch, and stay for a wonderful family experience!

JACQUI STONE, Children's Ministries, Chelmsford



# Congratulations!

Remarkable twin successes have crowned the efforts of identical siblings, Hannah and Louisa Jeffery. The young women have never doubted God's leading in their lives throughout their studies for their MBiochem degrees at the University of Bath. The twins, who both graduated with first-class honours on 27 June, feel that the power and help of God and the constant support and prayers of their family and friends have alone enabled them to complete their course and graduate with such success. 'It has been an amazing walk with the Lord for us throughout our studies,' say Hannah and Louisa. 'For reassurance that we would be able to complete our exams and our dissertation projects, etc., we often prayed that the Lord would stop the rain and enable the sun to come out at par-

ticular times, and, sure enough, he did. Many might say that it was just chance that there was a change in the elements when we asked, but we don't think so.'

Hannah and Louisa are greatly appreciative of the prayers, encouragement and full support of their friends across the country and their church families in Exeter, Bath, Cambridge and Memphis, Tennessee, where both of them carried out their first placement in St Jude Children's Research Hospital. For their second placement, Louisa worked at the Sanger Institute and Hannah at the MRC Dunn Human Nutrition Unit in Cambridge.

They were both awarded the Broadbent Prize for achievement, and Louisa was also awarded the Pfizer placement prize for high achievement on placement. The

graduation ceremony took place in Bath Abbey, where Hannah and Louisa were impressed by the respect of the other students for the sanctity of the location.

Both women sense that God is leading them to continue their studies – Hannah in the field of oncology and Louisa in immunology at Birmingham University Medical School.

There are many others who have worked very hard and whom God has blessed with success in their studies. Tamara Bloom, who has a BA with first-class honours in Spanish, spent a year of her course working for ADRA in Peru and also in Spain. Esther Bowden graduated as a nurse from South Bank University and is now working in London, while her sister Rebecca graduated from Canterbury as a primary school teacher and has just been appointed at Grantham Church School. Louise Hill graduated with an MSc (research) from the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the

University of Bristol, and is to undertake PhD research at the same university. Jonathan Blackburn graduated from Cambridge University with a Masters in Engineering and his brother, Austin Blackburn, graduated with a Bachelor of Music (Hons) from Birmingham Conservatoire. Charissa Passmore is finishing her Operating Department Practitioner's Diploma from Plymouth University. Jason Chang, of Manchester Central church, has graduated with an MSc in International Business and been accepted as a PhD student at Salford Business School.

Have we missed anyone? If so and you have obtained a degree this year, please contact the editor at [editordnm@mac.com](mailto:editordnm@mac.com).

#### SEC Women's Ministries Retreat

26-28 October 2007  
at Wokefield Park, Reading.  
Contact Ruth Stewart at SEC office for further information and application forms.  
*EDWINA APAW*

#### Women of Inspiration

Do you know someone who is a Woman of Inspiration? It could even be you. Someone who has overcome a challenge or tragedy or achieved an accomplishment?

If so I would like to hear your story for possible publication in a book entitled *Women of Inspiration*. The book is aimed at inspiring others.

Please email me with your written story. A payment will be made for published stories.

*PASTOR RICHARD DALY*  
[richarddaly@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:richarddaly@ukonline.co.uk)

#### ABC BOOK SALES

##### October

7 John Loughborough 10.30am-2pm  
28 Harper Bell 10.30am-2pm

#### Messenger

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#### Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Bell
Sept 14	7.19	7.31	7.24	7.34	7.44
21	7.02	7.15	7.07	7.16	7.26
28	6.46	6.58	6.50	6.57	7.08
Oct 5	6.30	6.43	6.33	6.39	6.51

#### MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

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# All London Sports Day

by Eugene James, London Youth Federation president

With heavy showers hitting London from Saturday night right through till the early morning of 29 July, the prospects of a sunny Sunday looked extremely grim. However, the London Youth Federation (LYF) members and hundreds of church members turned up at Crystal Palace looking for a break in the clouds.

The day kicked off with a great opening from the Holloway Drum Core who marched us right into the 1500 metres intermediate/senior track event. Throughout the day the sun kept on breaking through the clouds while nineteen participating churches cheered, jumped, and had a great time.

LYF sports days are special, with a fantastic euphoria emanating from the stands with drums, horns, whistles and singing. Each church has its unique sound. Some came well prepared with supporters wearing a colour-code that made them stand out in reds, oranges and blues. One team organiser stated that this was 'clearly a time when family and friends, church and unchurched, can come together and have a great time.'

The 100 metres and 4 x 100 metres relay events got everyone on their feet in a thunder of eager anticipation to see who crossed the finishing line first. The 150 pre-junior and 50 metres under eights events clearly showed the potential and ability of our youngsters in the church. Parents and

trainers cheered them on. It was an exciting event and, at one point, it looked as if parents wanted to jump on the tracks and carry their child over the finishing line themselves!

The day ended around 8pm with an encouraging prayer from SEC Youth director, Colin Stewart, and hundreds of pictures being taken of the winners: Watford 1st place, Stratford 2nd place and Tottenham West Green Road 3rd place.

Crystal Palace is happy to host the sports day again next July when we hope to get over twenty-five participating churches. Start training now as the participants are getting faster and faster, jumping higher and longer every year!

