

Messenger

News to the churches • 9 November 2007 • Volume 112 • 24

All Ireland Day in Dundalk

by Douglas McCormac, Irish Mission Communication sponsor

A record crowd of 500 attended the Irish Mission's annual Day of Fellowship on 29 September at Dundalk.

Guest speaker for the day was son-of-Dublin, Pastor Patrick Boyle. Pastor Boyle preached a powerful sermon at Dundalk's Fairways Convention Centre which Ireland's diverse constituency will not forget.

Almost all the Mission's churches were closed for the day. Dundalk, located approximately midway between Belfast and Dublin, proved an excellent centre, attracting crowds from north and south, east and west.

The close harmony group Recall from St Albans shared their ministry of music both in divine service and in an afternoon concert. A number of choirs sang, including those from the new Seventh-day Adventist congregations in Ballinasloe and Longford.

A major highlight of the day was a moving testimony from Christina Mafi whose son Melusi tragically died at the Mission's summer camp. Christina, who has been an inspiration to us all, spoke of the strength she has drawn and is drawing from her faith.



Nobody knows

by Richard DeLisser

Krik Krak Productions staged *Nobody Knows*, written and directed by Mervyn Weir, for three packed nights at the Shaw Theatre. Such was the power of this play that it attracted names such as Rudolph Walker (*EastEnders*), Benjamin Zephaniah (poet), and Kwame Kwei-Armah (*Casualty*).

The story of slavery was painfully instructive, yet powerfully delivered. Weir's writing and directing covers some of the important aspects of the slave trade and its legacy in a manner which, although direct and at times painful, still allowed for windows of humour and grace.

We were accompanied through the play by Osi Okerfor playing Olaudah Equiano, the ex-slave who bought his freedom and wrote his best-selling autobiography entitled *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa, the African*, written by himself.



Spirit of Prophecy Day

It was a challenging day at Manchester South on Sabbath 22 September when the congregation celebrated a Spirit of Prophecy day. The guest speaker was Dr R. Antic from the White Centre at Newbold College. Dr Antic's sermon was based on the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman as outlined in John chapter 4.

The afternoon programme followed with the same enthusiasm. The members returned to hear Dr Antic discuss the topic, 'Does the prophet ever err?' Here analogies and examples from the Bible were used to substantiate the existence and the work of a prophet.

At the end of this session the congregation was given the opportunity to ask questions. Dr Antic commented on how impressed he was on the standard of questions asked. These also included the importance and relevance of Ellen White's writings in today's society and current climate.

JANICE SAVIZON

Adventist academic and professional theological education.

Currently, Newbold has admitted eleven highly-motivated PhD students and two or three more are expected to join during the course of this academic year. Their theses are on a wide variety of subjects, for example, the Theology of Daniel, the Trinity in the Book of Revelation, Ellen G. White and Friedrich Schleiermacher, and Seventh-day Adventist Church Growth in Europe. The first students will begin to graduate in two years time.

There is a lively interest in the DMin programme. Already eight

part-time students have commenced the preparatory postgraduate work for the DMin programme prior to commencing their research programme next autumn.

'If the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to thrive and grow, we need sound academic approaches as a basis for thoughtful and professional pastoral ministry,' says Dr Laurence Turner, director of Research Degrees. 'This decision gives Newbold the opportunity to assure the future of both pastoral education and sound theological teaching in the area served by the College.'

Newbold to offer DMin

by Helen Pearson PRO

Newbold College has completed its suite of theological degrees this week with the final decision to offer a Doctorate of Ministry programme in partnership with the University of Wales, Lampeter.

At its meeting in Silver Spring, MD, the International Board of Ministerial and Theological Education for the Seventh-day Adventist Church gave Newbold the go-ahead to offer this professionally-

focused degree. The doctoral theses of DMin students focus on applied theology and practical ministerial issues as opposed to the more academic theological dissertations written by PhD students. This latest development complements the decision taken two years ago to approve Newbold's candidacy status for PhDs and means that Newbold can now offer a complete programme of Seventh-day



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

STRESS Part 6

Gender Differences

Studies show equal numbers of men and women complaining of stress. However, they are stressed by different things and also react in different ways.

Stressors for women

Poor work/life balance. Many working women carry the lion's share of childcare, housework and caring for older relatives.

Pregnancy. Stressors include hormonal changes, pregnancy-related symptoms, altered body image.

New baby. Stressors include lone parenting, relationship difficulties with partner, financial concerns, career break or change, postnatal depression.

Children The main stressor: high dependency. A parenting magazine survey found that 51% of full-time mothers felt regularly stressed, compared to 29% of working women without children.

Caring for relatives. The chief stressors are repetitive and demanding chores. There are 6.8 million people (mostly women) in Britain caring for disabled or frail elderly relatives.

Bereavement. Women are more likely to suffer bereavement as they generally live longer than men.

Stressors for men

Peter Baker, editor of the website *malehealth.co.uk*, states, 'Stress is not just about having a hyperactive lifestyle.' He adds, 'Having no role and being hard-up is very stressful too.'

Unemployment. Stressors include loss of self-esteem, and financial difficulties.

Work changes. Stressors are outsourcing, longer hours, temporary contracts.

Changing roles. Stress arises as a result of not being the main breadwinner.

Modern man. Society now expects men to devote more time to home and family as well as work. Subsequently, after working long hours, men feel pressured to be domesticated, entertain the children, and be ideal partners.

How women cope

Women are generally better than men at seeking help when stressed: they are more comfortable sharing their feelings and talking about everyday life challenges. Twice as many women as men see their doctors about anxiety, depression and stress rather than waiting for a physical problem to develop.

Carole Spiers, an occupational stress counsellor, agrees that women often cope with several demands because they are naturally more 'multi-tasked'.

How men cope

Men are less likely than women to talk about how they feel and seek help from a doctor or anyone else. Most men wait until medical symptoms of stress emerge, such as chest pains, headaches and stomach problems, before visiting their GP. They tend to choose escape routes like exercise, drinking, smoking or driving aggressively.

Mind reports that three-quarters of suicides in the UK are by men. Research suggests men suffer equally from depression as women, but are less likely to be diagnosed by a doctor.

Reports indicate that both men and women benefit equally from effective stress management.

Good health!

In the midst of life

David Marshall



TV funerals invariably feature a preacher intoning, 'Man that is born of a woman hath but a short time to live. . . . In the midst of life we are in death. . . .' The origins of that prayer are in the twelfth century. Whenever I hear the 'In the midst of life' sentence, it echoes round the chambers of my mind for hours. And it's true, of course. Absolutely true. No approach to life, let alone a Christian approach, can be considered realistic unless it takes account of that fact. The two non-negotiables: death and taxes. Right?

Alone among God's creatures humans *know* they are going to die. At the funeral of Louis XIV of France, Masillon paused for a long time over the coffin and began, 'God alone is great, my brothers.' Death is the ultimate leveller. Even 'the Sun King', who had done his best to buy immortality, was not exempt from death's reach.

Try not to be near a control freak when he learns that death is coming. Finally, something he cannot rationalise and schedule! It can be especially scary if he's not used to his own company. He can discuss it with his friends; but he has to do it alone. And, in essence, it is the opposite of control; it is the ultimate letting go. 'We only die once,' wrote Molière, 'and for such a long time.'

Above all, try not to be near a cynical rationalist when he receives his terminal diagnosis. One such spent much of his life undermining the foundations of the faith of his friends, scoring an astonishing success with an influential pastor. When his diagnosis came, he discovered that rationalism had cut off all his arteries of hope. And, as Viktor Frankl noticed in his Auschwitz and Dachau experiences, without hope existence is not sustainable; 'Those who lost faith in the future were doomed.' The rationalist's resultant hysteria denied him dignity.

The 'in-the-midst-of-life-we-are-in-death' issue did not take long to surface

among the early Christians. Interestingly it was in the metropolitan church at Thessalonica. Following the three-week campaign that established Christianity in that European city, Paul had to escape by night. He left Timothy and Silas behind. When Timothy caught up with Paul at Corinth it appeared that many of the concerns of the new metropolitan church centred on death and resurrection. In short order, Paul dispatched two letters to the Thessalonians in which he made it as clear as he could.

The pagan world, like the world of the rationalist, faced death with bleak hopelessness. Catullus spoke for most of them when he wrote, 'When once our brief light sets, there is one perpetual night through which we must sleep.'

Of course, there are worse prospects than sleep. Those worse prospects were in the other pagan view that an 'immortal soul' had to endure a painful form of eternal life. What an irony that this nightmarish view was the one the medieval church bought into! However, at least I can grasp why the nightmare of hell was necessary to a corrupt church hierarchy intent on controlling the masses. What I am totally unable to grasp is why a 2007 evangelical author like Max Lucado can take up the cudgels in favour of hell and eternal punishment.¹ Lucado makes hopeless rationalism look good!

Praise God that Paul wrote two letters to the Christians in Thessalonica so that they would not be ignorant about those who were asleep. Within twenty years of the Resurrection he tied the fate of those who are 'in Christ Jesus' to the death and resurrection of Jesus.² He identifies a great principle (in William Barclay's words): 'If a man has lived in Christ and died in Christ, even if he is dead he is still in Christ and he will rise in Christ.'

The irreducible core is this: Jesus died

and rose again. Those who have died in him will rise at his command – because he conquered death. There will be a Great Reunion when Jesus returns.

The timing of the *Parousia* – the coming of the King – was known only to God. There was a need to be prepared and watchful. The end envisaged would come, as Jesus himself had said, when the Good News of the Kingdom had been 'preached to all the world'. Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to take comfort in resurrection certainty and reunion at Jesus' return.³

Somewhere in Paul's assurance that there was no need to be concerned about 'dates and times' and how 'the Day of the Lord' would come when it was least expected (1 Thessalonians 5), some of the Thessalonians found scope for confusion. That was, in part, why the second letter to the Thessalonians had to follow hard on the heels of the first.

A report had been circulated which had unsettled some in Thessalonica. There was a belief that Jesus had already come (and this despite the graphic language of 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17). Paul had to tell the Thessalonians in his second letter that the Parousia could not happen until 'the Rebellion' had taken place.⁴

Parousia. Resurrection. Judgement. Kingdom. Those were all part of the grand finale that made sense of history.

'In the midst of life we are in death.' But, thanks to the Empty Cross and the Empty Tomb, death need hold no terrors. Rationalists and pagans hold on to their bleak futures, because they have chosen them. Thankfully an eternally burning hell is not on the menu for anyone; and as for the fate of those who have talked it up? God's call. And God is more gracious than we.

References:

¹Max Lucado, *3:16 The Numbers of Hope* (Thomas Nelson, 2007), pages 93 *et seq.* ²1 Thessalonians 4:14. ³1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. ⁴2 Thessalonians 2.

Stanborough School serves community

Stanborough Secondary School students arrived at school in Garston on Friday 28 September unusually eager to start the day. It wasn't just that normal lessons for the whole school had been suspended for the day, it was because they knew that by the end of that day they would have learnt something new – how to make a difference to their local community through voluntary work.

The British Union Conference designated the week of 23-29 September as 'Making a Difference in the Community' and challenged the churches and schools in the British Union to make a concerted effort to make a difference. Stanborough School took up the challenge and organised a Community Day on 28 September. The whole school, consisting of 130 students and around 25 staff, joined in to participate in their first Community Service Day.

Pupils were divided into groups along with supervising staff and teachers to participate in a wide range of tasks in their community. By the end of the day over twenty cars had been washed, a hundred helpings of soup and sandwiches and cup cakes had been made for the Stanborough Park church weekly soup run into London, ten gardens

had been weeded, bushes pruned, bulbs planted, lawns mowed and debris removed. Dozens of shoppers in ASDA-Walmart had their bags packed for them, and more boxes were packed for the ADRA Christmas campaign. Two care homes were visited, where the students sang songs or performed musical items for the old folks. The art teacher led a group of her students to express art in the Harlequin Shopping Centre and in the afternoon Stanborough Park church organised afternoon tea for the members of the community to raise funds for the Macmillan Cancer Research Trust. The students waited on the steady stream of community members for the rest of the afternoon.

So did we make a difference? Judging from the letters and phone calls of gratitude we received from the community, there seems to be no doubt that we did. But the irony of the day came from a few students who had expressed reluctance to participate in the day, but having done so were so thrilled about the difference it made in their own experience that they asked, 'Can we do this again? Can we do it next week?' It may not be next week, but there is a strong move to make it an annual event.

ADAM GIBBARD



Loughborough says Thanks!

A recent Sabbath was tinged with sadness for Loughborough church, as it said goodbye to a much loved, hard-working and dedicated couple, Ray and Oonagh Clarke.

Initially they were invited to boost the dwindling numbers. However, they soon found themselves regularly attending, eventually transferring their membership. Over the years they have held several different church offices such as elder, Sabbath School leader, church clerk, deaconess. They have faced hardships but God has always brought them through. On their last Sabbath at church it was fitting to see five new membership transfers and more pending.

When asked about the event that stood out most, Ray and Oonagh recalled a close friend's baptism. The Loughborough and Leicester district have enjoyed many good times with the couple, such as the tremendous church outings remembered fondly by many.

The members of Loughborough church expressed their gratitude with gifts and a floral tribute. This was followed by a surprise party in the evening which, needless to say, brought a tear to the eye. Everyone in the district would like to wish Ray and Oonagh God's blessings as they move closer to their family. We know they'll be warmly welcomed into their new church in Swindon, but would like to let them know they will be greatly missed.

STEPHEN HOLDER

Making the best of it

The Social Committee of Tottenham church planned a trip to Wicksteed Park on Sunday 27 May. On the morning of the trip members and friends were all set for a day of fun, laughter and excitement. However, from the outset it seemed that out-

Crieff retirees week

by John Woodfield

It had to be seen and experienced to be believed – the verve, vivacity, fun and happy companionship that informed the week-long holiday activities at Roundelwood of twenty-one former church workers, now retired after, according to Pastor Martin Bell's calculations, a thousand years of service. Were they 'weary, sad and worn'? Not a bit of it, in spite of a rare walking stick or two. If today's youngsters find this incredible, they should have seen and heard a group of grandmothers on the Friday morning making merry with the rigours of pummelling, rotating and vibrating on the exercise machines in the gym or heard the excited buzz of conversation and outbursts of laughter at the dining tables, often sparked off by the sallies of our jolly Irish waitress. Such were two of the days, plus treatments for those who wanted them, the steam room, sauna, jacuzzi and swimming pool for water lovers and heavenly peace for those who simply wanted to put their feet up.

Three other days found Harry Wilby's safe hands on the wheel of a coach taking all the party out and about into the splendid beauties of Scotland. The Trossachs and Loch Lomond, once as popular as Blackpool before the proliferation of the car lured many away with promises of a foreign sun that never failed to shine on demand, was the first trip out. That country of romance had lost none of its grandeur and inspiration until ill-timed showers greeted us there and at Luss and drove us running helter skelter for the nearest café. But there was better to come on the next trip. Edinburgh, the Athens of the North, came up with a sun to match and display its glories, a stiff breeze to preserve us from heat fatigue and an open-top tour bus with a first-class commentator to point out the landmarks and tell enthralling tales of the city's colourful present and past. Some of us even squeezed in a tour of the Royal Yacht, Britannia.

Thursday's trip was climactic. Another scenic ride, this time to Oban, through glens and scattered villages doubly beautiful under a cloudless sky. There, all blue like the heaven above and sparkling with drifts of diamonds, lay the placid levels of the Sound of Mull, the Firth of Lorne and the great Loch Linnhe, which reaches far inland to Fort William. So magical was the lure of that sleeping water and the muted outlines of the hills and mountain ranges that surrounded them that nearly the whole party threw caution to the wind and boarded the ferry to Mull. Then, untroubled by even the gentlest of swells or the slightest qualm of sea sickness, we felt like Wordsworth when he wrote of London and the Thames that earth could not show anything more fair. I wonder if he ever saw Mull as we did that day.

Friday evening was a fitting prelude to Sabbath, the great day of the feast. Then, our chaplain for the week, Dr Derek Beardsell, led us in Holy Communion, set in the intimacy of an Agape meal. Next morning we joined the local Adventist community in the sanctity of its comely church. The day ended with a literal feast together with resident retirees in the church hall, and, as a sparkling epilogue, Pastor Ernest Logan's account of some of the lighter incidents in his ministry.



door fun would be restricted, as the weather was displaying the typical English conditions – wet, grey and cold.

Despite these conditions the trip had to proceed, as we believed we could have fun in any weather. Sister Joseph prayed on the first of the two coaches. She asked God for

journeying mercies and that we would have fun and be able to socialise. We departed from Tottenham at 9.07am and arrived at Wicksteed Park at 10.56am, but still the weather had not improved.

The leader of the Social Committee, Brother Brimm, announced a change of plans and

Ministry of Justice Youth Conference

by Jenny Williams

'Let Your Voice Count' was both the title and theme of the Ministry of Justice's Youth Conference held on 9 October at Central Hall, Westminster.

The conference was organised by the Ministry of Justice for young people, and adults who work for organisations that represent youth and children's concerns locally and nationally. The aim of the conference was to attract young people, explain the political process, facilitate interactions between young people and politicians, and showcase examples of children and youth work where the young were clearly 'letting their voice count'.

The conference succeeded in retaining the interest of its young delegates by the creative and the interactive manner in which the morning and afternoon workshops were conducted. There were three workshops:

'Who runs this place?' – A political engagement play in which Everyman, Malcolm Nugget, goes on a journey through the council in order to fix a blocked drain.

'Political speed dating' – A fun way for people to interact with their representatives. Based on conventional Speed Dating, participants have three minutes to have a one-to-one with a local or national politician on issues that matter to them.

'Backchat' – Young people were put into focus groups

Newbold School makes a difference

'Make a difference' was the theme adopted by Newbold School in the last week of September. We embraced the BUC initiative and took a different project to serve others as the week progressed.

Having watched the Adventist mission DVD and seeing missionaries at work, children were challenged to become missionaries in their own community and help represent Jesus on earth. Children showed generosity and compassion by collecting unwanted DVDs and games consoles to be recycled into funding wishes for terminally ill children; recycling clothes and soft toys to raise funds for the school while also helping families in Eastern Europe; recycling ink cartridges and mobile phones; collecting for

we would instead go to Milton Keynes Shopping Centre. We spent two hours exploring the latest fashions, dining at some of the cafés and restaurants, and most of all relaxing and enjoying the day as the majority of people did not have to



Bridget Prentice, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, with Dr Richard DeLisser

of five individuals, (six groups in total), and given 45-60 minutes for debate on topics such as votes at 16; what it means to be British; how to engage uninterested youth in the democratic process.

The keynote speaker was Secretary of State for Justice, the Right Hon. Jack Straw. He spoke of how he had first got engaged in politics in order to make a difference to the lives of people he cared about from his early days as president of the National Union of Students to the judicial inquiry on the death of Stephen Lawrence.

The closing speech was given by Bridget Prentice, Parliamentary Under-Secretary, who acknowledged the team and multi-faceted efforts involved in the conference's organisation and her pride in youth projects such as the Lewisham Young Mayor Project.

As an adult engaged in working with Adventist young people at church, area and conference levels, I was disappointed not to see our young people, or indeed adults who work with them, at this conference.



a children's charity; and designing logos for a school eco-friendly water bottle. The week climaxed in a coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Relief where children ably and politely served members of the community, staff and parents in a relaxed, sociable atmosphere. Two enthusiastic entrepreneurs even managed to persuade the postie and a delivery man to contribute and enjoy a drink.

On 6 October the children and staff took the Harvest Festival service at Newbold church. God's goodness and creation were celebrated through poem and song. The congregation was challenged to take the responsibility of being stewards of God's earth seriously and to look after the world God has given us. We all considered how we can make a difference for future generations.

VICTORIA CHILVERS

return to work the next day, Bank Holiday Monday. In addition, Brother Brimm organised a quiz and this got us thinking and guessing, trying to work out the answers. The prize was a discount fare on the next trip in August.

We arrived back in Tottenham at 4.49pm and Brother Brimm prayed, thanking God for our safe return. We had a wonderful day, despite the weather, as God was always there to see us through and forever more will be.

Choices

by Nova Banton

Youth Day at Handsworth was held on 22 September and the theme for the day was 'Choices'. The youth led out in the Sabbath School and, impressively, managed to highlight the actual and the spiritual analogy of the story of Hosea and Gomer.

After a song service, which was again led by the youth, the youth choir extended an invitation to the Holy Spirit to come and tabernacle among the congregation as they rendered 'Lead me Lord, I will follow'.

The children also received instruction on the theme of the day as Bev Fiellateau discussed 'having a conscience' with them.

The meditational to pre-empt the message of the hour was 'Trust and obey'. The three young girls who sang this well-loved hymn gave it a very modern melody, a melody that

reflected the creativity of youth.

The speaker for the hour was Micah Campbell, and his sermon was titled 'In the river on the bank'.

Brother Campbell holds a degree in Psychology and perhaps had plans to become a healer of the mind, but God saw Micah's commitment to him and wants him to become a healer of souls. As a result, Micah is at Newbold College studying for the ministry. He used the story of King David and Bathsheba to convey the 'take home message' which was the awfulness of committing sin and trying to cover up your tracks.

After the message, Brother Campbell urged the congregation to find someone to whom they don't usually talk and exchange details with them and call them up in the week. He assured us that engaging in this exercise would make a difference. The afternoon was saturated with the significance of being on the bank and not in the river because

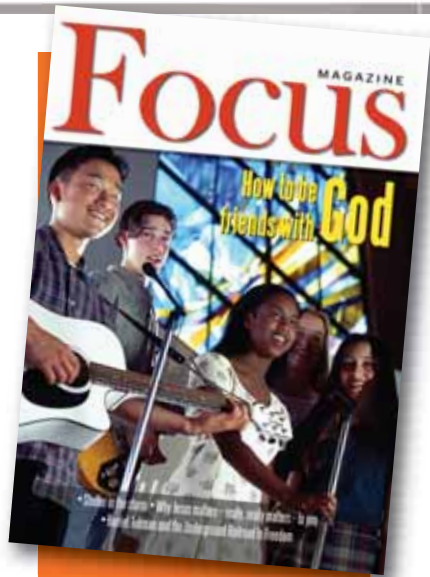
we might get swept away.

The day culminated with a grand social in which the youth displayed their organisation, friendliness and enviable energy.

Church membership growth breaks records

Reporting to constituents at the Autumn Council of the World Church, Executive Secretary Matthew A. Bediako reported that 1,044,315 people joined the Church in the year to 30 June 2007. This makes a world membership of almost 15.5 million, or one Seventh-day Adventist for every 429 of the world's population. Commenting on this figure, Bert Haloviak, director of the Office of Archives & Statistics, said that this was the highest growth rate (4.62%) since the auditing of records began in 2002.

TED NEWS



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Roy Warren (1939-2007)

d.18 August

On Sabbath 18 August Roy led Sabbath School and preached a wonderful sermon at his beloved Newark church. With his wife Margaret he returned home to Sabbath lunch and suddenly, without suffering, died. Cardiac arrest due to atrial fibrillation (a condition diagnosed early in his life) proved to have been the cause. Roy was born on 20 May 1939, the only child of Edgar and Lilian Warren. His grandfather, Arthur Warren, was general manager of The Stanborough Press, and his father, Edgar, was proof-reader. Roy was educated at Stanborough

School – junior and secondary – and was very successful there. During his final year at school, Roy often wandered up to the Press, then also on Stanborough Park, and watched the printers tending their machines. Hence no one was surprised when he applied for an apprenticeship. Roy worked as a Stanborough Press printer throughout his working life, except for two years of National Service spent at Shrodells Hospital and Granose Foods. On 5 October 1960 Roy married Margaret Ruddock, a nurse and midwife, and began a conspicuously successful marriage partnership. Their sons Kevin and Derek were born while they lived in Watford. Richard and Stephen were born after they moved, with the Press, to Grantham. At the Press Roy was a friend and near contemporary of Dave Pearce (who became his brother-in-law), Peter Howard, John Sutton, Ian Thompson and Barry and Martin Bell. It soon became apparent that printing was only the beginning of Roy's skills. As Newark elder

Edward Johnson remarked at the funeral, 'Roy was such a gifted speaker. He could paint a picture with words so well that you could almost feel you were there.' That gift with words was matched by a facility for figures and accounts. With Dennis Archer, Roy was among the Stanborough Park team. He had enviable people skills and, as Robert Vine recalled following Roy's death, served as mentor to a generation of Adventist youth on the Park. Roy's creativity extended to photography, which went from the wholly manual Rollei to an expensive digital camera, where his expertise was enhanced by Margaret's considerable on-line skills (which were also harnessed as Roy researched his sermons). Their shared enthusiasm for caravanning and the fell-walking in the Lakes, and for the Age of Steam, fuelled their shared enthusi-

asm for photography. Roy was a kind father and a loving, attentive husband. His mellow, genial, understanding disposition and lively mind were deeply appreciated both in his growing family – he has seven grandchildren – and in the overlapping church and Press families. In 1999 Roy was diagnosed with prostate cancer but, following treatment and anointing, came through and was in remission. Roy's well-attended funeral on 28 August was conducted at the Grantham church by Pastor John Ferguson and Edward Johnson. The latter said that, on the day he died, Roy had been given 'a privilege few people are given. He had served his Church. He had served his God. He had gone home happy, content, and blessed – a job well done. He had sat down to lunch with the woman he loved and, without pain, had fallen asleep. Not many leave this life like that.' Roy had concluded his final sermon, about Elijah, by observing that Elijah's fiery chariot ride to Heaven was not for us, 'but one day soon the Lord will come and take us home.' He added, 'I pray that we will all be ready and waiting.' Roy will wait in sleep, but he was ready. God grant his grace and comfort to Margaret and the family who, though aching with loss, sorrow not as those without hope. At the great family reunion Roy will be unaware of the passing of time from that summer Sabbath that parted them.

DAVID MARSHALL

Margaret and family wish to thank all who sent cards, letters of condolence, flowers and gave hugs. Also deeply appreciated was the support of the many friends and colleagues who attended Roy's funeral. May God bless all of you.

VACANCY: ASSOCIATE TREASURER. The British Union Conference is seeking to recruit a full-time Associate Treasurer for the Union office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts. Applicants will be members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and have substantial experience and qualifications in Accountancy (ACCA/CIMA) as well as a broad knowledge of the Church and its affairs. This position is normally considered a 'call' appointment of the British Union Conference nominating committee and as such candidates should be prepared to be fully involved in the life of the Church including flexibility to travel and attend committees throughout the UK and Ireland. They must have the right to work in the UK. The salary package available is between £30-£35,000. Interested persons should send their CV for consideration to: BUC Executive Secretary, BUC Office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts WD25 9JZ. Email: elowe@adventist.org.uk. Closing date for applications: **Wednesday, 14 November 2007.**

APOLOGY In *MESSENGER* 12 October an advertisement for Black History Weekend appeared. After *MESSENGER* went to press, and due to circumstances beyond my control, the gala organised for 28 October was cancelled. We apologise to all those who, in response to this advertisement, had a disappointing journey. The events on Friday the 26th and Sabbath the 27th went ahead.

MICHELLE OBAKENG

Calling all churches in Area 5 Are you interested in church planting?

We are looking for dedicated and determined individuals to form teams representing each of the four counties in this area (Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Surrey).

The specific goals for the teams for 2008 will be:

- to visit churches across Area 5, promoting small/cell groups and church planting
- to identify communities where there is no Adventist presence
- to promote Adventism in those areas and
- to plant ethnically diverse churches.

We would like all churches in this area to nominate individuals from all backgrounds who are interested in participating in this endeavour.

Please contact Julie Stephenson on 0118 943371 or 07983 466990, write to 108 Usk Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG30 4HU, or email angello65@yahoo.co.uk

Fifty years at Stanborough Press

On 14 October Press Manager, Paul Hammond, was celebrating fifty years at The Stanborough Press. He has been General Manager for 23 years.

Julius Lumbu, Publishing director of the East Central Africa Division, was special guest for the celebration.

'When I first came to the Press as a stuttering, stammering 15-year-old on 14 October 1957, I never dreamt I'd be general manager,' says Hammond.

'Joe Craven was manager then,' he continues. 'Even on Sabbaths he was seen sitting on a bench admiring the Press! When it burned down, it killed him,' he concludes.

Paul remembers spending his early days sweeping floors and cleaning machines. He then served his apprenticeship in the bindery.

'There were forty people in the bindery then,' he says. 'There was a lot of hand work. In October we would do a 50,000 print run of *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories*.

Before Christmas our literature-evangelists would have sold them and we would be doing a reprint.'

Asked about the decline of literature-evangelism, Hammond said; 'It's not just the decline in the number of full-time literature-evangelists, it's the decline in church member involvement. In 1957 church members went out regularly, selling *Good Health* and *Our Times* magazines.

Paul Hammond recalls how the decline in home demand led to an increasing reliance by the Press on its export markets, principally in Africa. Pastor Lumbu represents one of our main export markets. Fierce competition with other publishing houses overseas had made it necessary to close our own printing and binding

departments. A situation had come about in which it was far cheaper to have our printing and binding done in the Far East.

'In my early days,' says Hammond, 'We would often come in on Sundays to hand bind books that some literature-evangelist needed to sell on Monday morning.'

But Paul does not 'yearn for the old days'. He states, 'As a Publishing house we are now more successful than we have ever been. We are distributing more books, we are developing more products (especially in the children's area), and we have larger print runs than ever before. Print runs of our 'Little Book' series are often as high as 100,000 and, with *Steps to Christ*, 250,000.'

In a concluding statement Paul, who has been general manager since 1984, said. 'Now is the most satisfying and exciting time of my life. There is so much that needs to be done! That's the challenge!'

DAVID MARSHALL



Left to right: David Marshall, Curtis Murphy, Ian Clutton, Paul Poddar, William Johnston, David Pearce, Jan Pearce, Graham Cox, Maureen Hammond, Paul Hammond, Julius Lumbu, Toni Mason, Alison Jeans, Sarah Jarvis, Steve Holden, Gloria Mallinson, Harvey Mallinson. (Absent were Graham Barham, Keith Mosedale, Abigail Murphy, Barry Mallinson, David Selvage.) Taking the picture was David Bell.

Women's Day: Child Abuse Emphasis

'Who really is the greatest?' This was the question posed by Dr Eileen Baildam, the guest speaker at Manchester South's Women's Ministries day on Sabbath 1 September. Her sermon was very thought-provoking and encouraged the congregation to reflect on those among us, namely children, who might be neglected. This could be because some regard them as being insignificant or an inconvenience, an attitude reflected in the many cases of child abuse that have recently hit the headlines.

After a hearty pot-luck lunch enjoyed by visitors and members, the afternoon programme consisted of a panel presentation on the topic of child abuse with a question and answer session at the end. The session was very informative and led to discussions on child abuse and other related issues.

The five-member panel consisted of Dr Eileen Baildam, consultant paediatrician, Bernice George, psychotherapist, Amanda Questel-Lewis, social worker, Verna Davis, manager of the Manchester Sickle-Cell Unit and Monette Burrell, health visitor. When the programme ended the members concluded that more still needs to be done in order to

tackle the issues relating to child abuse, both from the aspect of Adventists and how we are placed within society as a whole.

JANICE SAVIZON



Dr Eileen Baildam

Shoebox send-off

Dundee members and friends responded generously to the ADRA appeal for Christmas shoeboxes for the orphan children in Madagascar. Nearly fifty colourfully wrapped shoeboxes were sent on their way with a prayer. The journey from Dundee to Crieff was just the first leg of a long voyage from Scotland to South-east Africa. The picture shows Jane Walton presenting ADRA representative Harry Wilby with the shoeboxes and a cheque towards the shipping costs.

JOHN WALTON



Newport: diet and cancer

On 18 October a number of people assembled to listen to advice on diet and cancer. Pastor J. McKenzie welcomed Mervyn and Lillian Saunders from Swansea and, after an opening prayer, we all enjoyed a 'small groups' quiz on diet.

With the use of the board, Mervyn contrasted the foods eaten in the Western Mediterranean with the food consumed in Eastern countries. He then explained why cancer incidence is higher in the countries where — through climate, poverty or affluence — less fruit and vegetables were grown.

'Food is our medicine,' we heard. 'If we follow the correct diet and drink plenty of water with adequate rest, we have a good chance of a long and healthy life.'

There was very lively demonstration of easy-to-make dishes. The evening ended with light and tasty refreshments and all who attended left armed with leaflets and recipes to try.

Our next venture will be on 29 November with a presentation on diabetes by Mrs P. Beaven RMWCCS.

VERA MACHELL

8 Messenger

Conference on Teenagers
Friday 30th November – Sunday 2nd December 2007
Staverton Park Hotel, Daventry, Northamptonshire

This Conference is being organised by the BUC Youth Department for parents, youth workers, pastors, church leaders, Sabbath school teachers and anyone who works with teenagers on a regular basis. Apply early to take advantage of the early bird rates.

Cost is £125 per person. For more details and an application form, please call 01923 672251 or email Natalie on ndavisan@adventist.org.uk www.conferenceonteenagers.org.uk

The principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre (VOP) acknowledges with sincere thanks a donation of £60 sent in August, also one donation of £40 and two of £60 sent in September.

ABC BOOK SALES

December

2	Harper Bell	10.30am-2pm
9	John Loughborough	10.30am-2pm

Messenger

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Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Bell
Nov 9	4.21	4.33	4.20	4.17	4.33
16	4.11	4.23	4.09	4.04	4.21
23	4.02	4.14	4.00	3.54	4.11
30	3.56	4.08	3.53	3.45	4.04

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