

Messenger

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Dr Steve Thomas



Pastor Michael Mbui

LIFEdvelopment is beautiful

by Eglan Brooks
Ldi co-ordinator, BUC

'Christianity is not a unique way of thinking, but a unique way of linking,' Miroslav Pujic told participants at a LIFEdvelopment retreat organised by Pastor Eglan Brooks, Personal Ministries and LIFEdvelopment director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland. That 'linking' became evident from the sharing among participants, including a Muslim and a self-professed atheist.

The devout Muslim started the weekend by checking the prayer times and direction of Mecca from our location in Slovenia. She is devout but is open to looking at other religions and viewpoints. Invited by her friend, Ellen, to the weekend, she stated that she was 'overwhelmed by the amount of love she was shown'. She wants an invitation to any future events.

The weekend of 8-11 November saw a diverse group of 68 individuals travel to the cool, luscious climes of Slovenia for LIFEdvelopment training in Rogaska Slatina. As this was the first ever LIFEdvelopment retreat, and with a number of sceptics in attendance, evaluation reports at the Sunday close stated, 'LIFEdvelopment is beautiful,' and 'At last I understand what this thing called LIFEdvelopment is all about.'

Both in discussion and in practice the programme also crossed cultural boundaries as participants, all resident in the UK, represented over thirty nationalities. All were excitedly examining how the programme would work best for them in their locality.

Dr Miroslav Pujic, the director of the Centre for Secular and Postmodern Studies, led the group from finding people where they are, through to how to connect with them and how to lead them into a deeper experience with God. Pastor Brooks then showed how LIFEdvelopment fits into the regular church evangelistic system. 'LIFEdvelopment does not replace our evangelism, it complements it,' he stated.

The morning and evening devotionals were special times when speakers were

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with Jonathan Barrett
Responding to truth



What do you think about the recent report that eating red meat and drinking alcohol, even in small amounts, increases the risk of developing cancer?

My guess is that your reaction to that depends on whether or not you eat red meat and drink alcohol! If you don't partake, then you probably feel good about yourself, and proud of our Church's teachings on these things.

If, on the other hand, you either eat red meat or drink alcohol, you may feel that this is just one more statistic that is probably wrong.

Isn't it strange the way we respond to information? There may be those among us who think that we are all objective, rational beings who sensibly weigh the facts and respond accordingly. Unfortunately, many of us respond in rather a different way. Self-justification seems to be common, as is self-satisfaction.

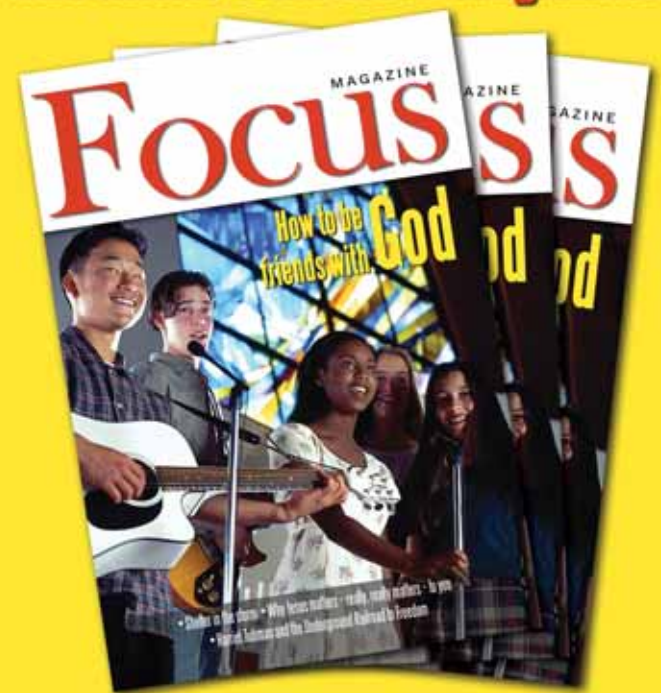
It is true that different surveys come out with different results, which does give some weight to the argument that this is just another survey which may be disproved by other surveys. It does seem to me, though, that over the years there tends to be a large amount of evidence that supports this current study. Also, this study took five years to compile, and was put together by the World Cancer Research Fund, so it isn't as if this was a business that had anything to gain by slanting the evidence in a certain way.

How, then, do you respond to that survey and, indeed, to others, especially if they challenge the way you think or live?

When Jesus said to Pilate: 'I came into the world to testify to the truth,' Pilate responded: 'What is truth?' (John 18:37, 38, NIV.) Pilate was faced with an uncomfortable decision as to what to do with Jesus, and he avoided the issue by hiding behind a philosophical question.

What do you and I do with truths that apply to our lives? It may be the issue of what we eat or drink, but it may be something else. Are you able to look at issues honestly, openly, with vulnerability, as a disciple of Christ who is genuinely interested in growing?

Adventist Outreach Magazine



Why Jesus matters – really, really matters – to you
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History's Headliners

David Marshall



Kings, generals and politicians too often make headlines in history.

When 2007 is taught, Tony Blair and Gordon Brown will be the names on the blackboard. That's how it goes.

Two centuries ago, the Duke of Portland and Spencer Percival were the Blair and Brown. Ever heard of them? Why should you have?

How about Napoleon – the Numero Uno, two hundred years ago? He had smashed the Austrians, Russians and Prussians in battle and gained control of Portugal and Spain.

A pessimistic English columnist confidently predicted that Napoleon's Continental System would 'inevitably throttle the life' out of a Britain dependent on trade.

Few things are 'inevitable' except to newspaper columnists. Two hundred years ago, who would have bet on that rank outsider Arthur Wellesley (later called Wellington)?

Often 'the inevitable' does not happen. Britain did not surrender to Germany in 1940. Thomas E. Dewey, 'the dead cert', lost to Harry S. Truman in 1948. Donald Rumsfeld's prediction notwithstanding, the Americans did not 'carry all before them in Iraq in 2003'.

'Once in a Sheffield flood' is used in place of 'once in a blue moon' in parts of the north of England – both events seeming unlikely. So far, there has been no blue moon, but . . . Anyone catch the news in June?

In 1919 an English Adventist professor was in Grand Central Station reading in his newspaper that the passing of the Prohibition Amendment 'just could not happen'. At that point, a voice over the tannoy announced that it just had! Goliath, huge, armed and dangerous, was 'inevitably' the winner in the contest with the stone-throwing teenager. Trapped in the desert between a large mechanised Egyptian army and the deep Red Sea, the unarmed fleeing slaves were 'inevitably' done for. Golgotha was 'inevitably' The End for a broken band of brothers and sisters. And, come Sunday, no way could they begin to turn the world upside down; no way could they succeed.

When shall we learn that only the God of history can predict – and that he is full of surprises?

Twelve months from now we shall be

breathing down the collar of 2009. Who knows how 2008 and 2009 will turn out? But the most significant thing about 1809 was that it saw the birth of a vintage crop of headliners. More important than the politicians and generals were the babies!

The Reverend Tennyson's wife gave birth to a son in a Lincolnshire vicarage and called him Alfred. The Gladstones of Liverpool had a little boy and called him William Ewart. That red, raw, screaming thing bursting into the world in a Kentucky log cabin would become Abraham Lincoln. The baby born to the doctor's wife in Shrewsbury was the grandson, on his mother's side, of Josiah Wedgwood. At the christening the minister announced that his name would be Charles Robert. The family name was Darwin.

What made 1809 the dawn of a new era was not the antics of politicians and the clash of armies. It was the births. Tennyson grew up to write deathless poetry. Gladstone and Lincoln were to be, from opposite sides of the Atlantic, the Great Men of the Century. And Charles Darwin, the naturalist, for good or ill, would impact the thinking of men as few others have.

Darwin's impact on life, however, would be tiny by comparison with that of a baby born some eighteen centuries earlier when a man leading a donkey, on which sat his uncomfortably pregnant wife, trudged down into Bethlehem. Banished from the habitations of men, the couple and their donkey were accommodated among the animals. They were in no position to be picky.

In Rome – distant in all dimensions but thought – Caesar Augustus had just declared himself 'God and Saviour of the World'. He was after immortal headlines, first inviting, then demanding, man's worship.

Caesar was showing himself sensitive to the mood of the times, described by the Roman historian Tacitus: 'There was a firm persuasion that at that very time the East was to grow powerful, and rulers coming from Judea were to acquire universal empire.'

Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome – and Judea? Ludicrous! There was only one nominee for the Messiah – Augustus!

The Roman historian Suetonius wrote of the fever of expectation in those years leading

up to the birth of Christ: 'There had spread over the Orient an old and established belief, that it was fated at that time for men coming from Judea to rule the world.' Herod the Great, having murdered the competition in his own family, determined that he would be Judea's Great Headliner. So why did the magi take the Bethlehem Road?

The Jews, wrote Josephus Flavius, had a belief that 'about that time one from their country would become governor of the habitable earth'. Balaam had said, 'There shall come a star out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall arise out of Israel.' Jacob had spoken of One who would arise from the House of Judah 'and unto him shall the gathering of the people be'. The calculation of the timing was based on Daniel's arithmetic, and of the location on Micah's indicator.

Prophetic writings were of a minority interest, as Augustus had demanded a census so as to measure and maximise income from taxation. That political decision was important to God. He wanted Joseph and Mary of Nazareth in Bethlehem. God could use even Augustus to serve his purpose.

While Augustus and Herod made headlines, God arrived in the person of a baby. Was placed in the sharp straws of a manger. Under a star. In Bethlehem.

So Virgil's 'golden age' * became the Age of Grace, made possible by a birth in an out-house, a birth serving as the hinge of history.

Who would have thought of the great reversal of roles? Jesus, in centuries unborn, reigning in the hearts of millions? Augustus, known by millions only for his part in accounting for the location of Jesus' birth?

What will hit the headlines when, in the final role reversal, Jesus returns in more auspicious circumstances?

In the face of all that is 'inevitable' and 'obvious' – 'Echo it hilltops! Proclaim it ye plains!' – Jesus is coming again.

References:
Numbers 24:17, Genesis 49:10, Daniel 9:20-27, Micah 5:2. Tacitus, *Histories*, volume 5, page 13. Suetonius, *Life of Vespasian*, volume 4, page 5. Josephus Flavius, *Wars of the Jews*, volume 6, pages 4, 5. *SDA Hymnal*, number 213, 'Lift up the Trumpet', Jessie E. Strout.
* Virgil, a Roman poet, wrote his Fourth Eclogue, The Messianic Eclogue, about the Golden Age just begun.

Enhancing Health

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

STRESS Part 8 THE COST OF CARING

One in eight adults – almost six million people in Britain – are carers. According to the 1995 General Household Survey published in 1998, while the average age is between 45 and 64, up to 50,000 carers are believed to be under 18. Although most carers are women, about 42% are men.

What carers do
Carers look after people who, due to frailty,

illness or disability, are unable to look after themselves. Care can include tending individuals through physical, mental or terminal illnesses like cancer or AIDS. Nearly half of all carers juggle their role with paid work.

Stress impact
Although the nature and extent of caring varies among carers, stress is a common experience to most. A study by Carers UK, published in 2004, entitled *In Poor Health: The Impact of Caring On Health*, found that carers providing high levels of care were twice as likely to suffer ill-health as non-carers. Another Carers UK study, *Ignored and Invisible?* found more than half of UK carers have been treated for a stress-related illness since becoming a carer. Additionally it was found that if they don't get a break, carers are twice as likely to suffer from mental health problems. The report, *Stress in Informal Carers of Hospitalised Elderly Patients*, published in 1995, found that 47% of carers suffered depression.

Causes of stress

- Juggling work and caring
- Financial difficulties if having to give up paid work

- On call 24 hours a day or caring long hours
- Other family members feel neglected
- Strain on personal relationships
- Inability to take a holiday or arrange short breaks
- Neglect of self and own needs

Support for carers
A range of support and services for carers may help prevent and manage stress. These include: information – on services, support groups, benefits, etc. advice and advocacy – to access and negotiate with local services time off – for holidays, day trips or just a break from routine meeting others – talking to other carers can be a lifeline therapies – stress relief interventions, like massage, aid relaxation and provide a break stress management – empowers individuals to find ways to deal effectively with their stress.

The key components of the Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000 gives carers the right to an assessment, offers direct payments to carers and a short-term break voucher.

Good health!

Stanborough Secondary 'Top among mixed ability schools'

Words and pictures by Catherine Boldeau



Echoes of nine A stars and one A sent the crowd of over four hundred spectators into a roar of approval. Stanborough's highest academic performers achieved admirable grades, maintaining the school's top position among mixed ability schools and exceeding the GCSE national average by some 30%. The school's five year average GCSE pass rate touched on 80% at grade A* to C and the results from summer 2007 continued the annual upward trend, with subjects such as Religious Studies, English and the sciences reaching 100% pass at A* to C.

Guest speaker, alumnus Pastor Samuel Neves, gave an entertaining account of his experience at Stanborough School, where he achieved exceptional results. Neves admitted that he was not always focused during his three years as a boarder from Brazil. However, when he considered the great financial sacrifice that his parents made in sending him to the only SDA boarding school in England, he became determined to gain nothing less than six grade As.

The dedication of parents, pupils and staff make Stanborough School a great place to be. Praise was given to the recently retired Mr John Butters and Mr Terry Menkens, whose combined teaching years at the school exceeded sixty. The continuing achievements of alumni were recognised with the Fletcher Cup being awarded for overcoming exceptional circumstances to gain a degree in Law in pursuit of a career as a solicitor.

In the shadow of such accolades, Stanborough School's choir of students and staff closed the 67th Speech Night.

For more information on Stanborough School or to see photos of Speech Night 2007, visit the school's website at www.spsch.org.



Easy peasy harvest

Stanborough Primary School celebrated their annual Harvest Festival on Wednesday, 17 October. Parents, grandparents and friends joined staff and pupils to celebrate this special time of year. Items were presented by children from the nursery right up to Year 6.

As part of the service, an offering of £220 was collected for International Children's Care (UK) after a moving presentation by Daren Bullock, director of the charity. ICC (UK) works in eighteen countries of the world, helping to sponsor disadvantaged children.

Mrs Cheryl Allen, the head teacher, said, 'I'm so happy that we, as a school, were able to help needy children overseas at harvest time.' The produce and tinned items from this year's Harvest Festival will go to the weekly Stanborough Park church soup run.

CATHERINE ANTHONY BOLDEAU



JLS students meet Jesse Jackson

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health director

Afternoon on Monday 12 November, the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland hosted a reception in honour of Civil Rights leader Jesse Jackson as part of the celebration for the bicentenary of the abolition of the Slave Trade. This was followed by a press conference with the Revd Jackson when a number of reporters and political and social activists were invited to interview him.

Among the invitees were representatives from the John Loughborough School and Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries director.

Accompanied by head teacher Dr June Alexis, three students from the John Loughborough School – Asher McKenzie, Carla Edgcombe and Rumbidzai Sithole – were invited to speak with Revd Jackson. The students spoke about themselves and their school and shared their life aspirations. A video of the meeting has been kept for Revd Jackson's archives.

Later as Asher, Carla and Rumbidzai mingled with the dignitaries, a number of the guests reported how impressed they were after speaking with the John Loughborough students and commented on their articulate and intelligent conversation.

Invited to participate in a round table discussion with the Revd Jackson, Sharon Platt-McDonald spoke of the need to engage ethnic communities more in the health issues impacting their cultural groups. She also voiced her

concerns over the low uptake of blood and transplant donors in the black community, particularly among Christians.

Revd Jackson responded by explaining how he encourages the black churches across the US to invite the mobile blood units to their church where the members, led by the pastors, can be encouraged to donate blood. He spoke about his call to the bishops to endorse HIV testing by having their HIV blood test in front of the congregation – in the pulpit! He hastened to add that, while the test was public, the results were given in private. This leading from the front has helped to break the fear, remove the taboo and encourage more engagement of the black churches in regards to health and social issues.

As a learning experience, the John Loughborough students were invited in to listen to the round table discussion and were impressed with the response and advice Revd Jackson was able to give to the various people who spoke with him from their area of expertise.

In reflecting on the event, the three teenagers expressed their delight at the opportunity to meet with Jesse Jackson and hear what he had to say on social issues impacting minority groups. They all found him inspirational.

Asked what they would take with them from this event, the students responded by quoting from the Civil Rights leader: 'If you believe in something, stand up for it, stand up

for yourself and fight for what you believe in.'

Dr June Alexis, JLS head teacher, spoke of Revd Jackson's 'inner strength' and ability to inspire and empower individuals to value themselves, realising that no one should be denied as everyone is entitled to fight for their beliefs. Dr Alexis felt privileged that they were the only school who had been invited to the event and saw that as a positive highlight for the school. She was equally pleased that it had been a very positive experience for the children and reported how valued they felt and amazed that so much interest had been shown in them.

An afternoon session ensued with a separate list of invitees to the Christ Church venue on Blackfriars Road. This event was captioned: 'Entitled to excellence – inspiring future generations of black Christian leaders in church and society'. Here the Revd Jackson delivered a dynamic presentation in his oratorical style to a responsive audience.

With numerous motivational quotes like 'Strong minds break strong chains', and 'Each victory gives us strength to fight the next battle', the church reverberated with amens and spontaneous applause.

Jackson, reflecting on the past, stated, 'The object of our fight was not freedom, but equality.' Then he reminded us that with freedom comes responsibility. He asserted: 'Freedom may be the absence of chains but freedom gives us choices. Do not use your freedom to degrade yourself.'

Stanborough Primary School raises funds for ADRA

Five- and six-year-old pupils from Stanborough Primary School raised £70.77 for ADRA-UK by organising and holding a used toy sale on Wednesday 7 and Thursday 8 October in their lunch hour.

ADRA-UK is an independent humanitarian agency with the specific purpose of individual and community development and disaster relief. ADRA-UK is part of the ADRA global network with operations in more than 120 countries. The charity offers aid to the world's poorest people, regardless of age, sex, race, ethnicity or religious association.

CATHERINE ANTHONY BOLDEAU



John Loughborough students with Jesse Jackson

Photo: Danny Gayle



Jesse Jackson speaking in Oxford

Photo: Cathy Boldeau

Empowering leaders, equipping churches, embracing difference

by Sharon Platt-McDonald (BUC Health director & Special Needs co-ordinator) and Sophia Nicholls (Training Development co-ordinator ASNA)

'Excellent, a long-awaited event,' 'Very welcoming,' 'An eye-opening experience,' 'Very informative,' 'Well organised.' These were just a few of the many comments made by the delegates at the first BUC/ASNA Special Needs co-ordinators' conference held on 4 November at St Albans church. In the words of Aesop: 'In unity there is strength' and, together, ASNA and the BUC have identified a need to support the church with this much-needed training conference.

This historic event was undertaken to offer training, share the learning and experience to develop the role of the newly-appointed co-ordinators and celebrate the work of those who care for individuals with special needs and disabilities.

The key goals for the conference were threefold. Firstly, to provide delegates with adequate training and support to enhance their experience as Special Needs co-ordinators and encourage greater understanding of their role. Secondly, to provide relevant information to raise the profile of disability awareness in their churches and facilitate the development of the co-ordinator's role. Thirdly, to enable delegates to challenge barriers that hinder compliance with the Disabilities Discrimination Act as it relates to churches.

'Achieving Access' was chosen as the theme for the conference, as

our ultimate goal is to create an environment within our churches and communities where individuals feel that they are welcome and their diverse needs are met in the services and programmes offered. Under the caption, 'Empowering leaders, Equipping churches and their communities, Embracing difference', a series of presentations and workshops were created which provided both theoretical knowledge and practical insights in how we can better embrace the needs of diverse individuals in our communities.

Excited and keen to learn, delegates came from far and near across the British Isles – the furthest from Aberdeen.

Nigel Nicholls, chairman of ASNA, welcomed the delegates, noting that this was an exciting day for the Church. An exciting day because they had answered God's call to act, not just to come. Disability co-ordinators from Aberdeen, Bristol, Cardiff, Derby, Dublin, London, Wolverhampton, Birmingham and many other areas answered the call to act in the service of making the Gospel accessible.

Joy Bussey followed the chairman's introduction with a presentation about the annual BUC special needs camp which is held at Aberdaron, Wales. This week-long event takes place in the summer and provides a residential activity camp for adults with disabilities. Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Special

Needs co-ordinator, welcomed the delegation and encouraged the co-ordinators to realise that together we can make a difference to those in our community who live with disability.

Terry Messenger, SEC Personal Ministries director, gave an experiential presentation, again encouraging the delegation to see this mission as an essential part of their work.

This was followed by an excellent presentation by David Bendor-Samuels of the Causeway Prospects Charity. He highlighted the work of Causeway and the importance of taking the message to the disabled as essential to the life of the Church. His words, 'A church without disabled people is itself disabled,' left a lasting impression on those who attended. His presentation on the different models and how we see people with disability struck home with many. One delegate commented that 'his eyes had been opened' by the theological model of disability which presented a holistic approach to the work of the Church and its members.

Sophia Nicholls, honorary secretary and Training Development co-ordinator of ASNA, highlighted the two main barriers to accessing services within the Church, these being attitudinal and environmental barriers. She encouraged delegates to examine their personal perspectives on people with disabilities, as this would inform their work in

ensuring that such people are included in the life of their church.

Sharon Platt-McDonald examined the roles of the co-ordinators, their responsibilities and how to engage their churches in the necessary changes required to be compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act.

An opportunity followed where delegates could discuss some of the issues they were facing in implementing these challenges. Concerns and fears included the challenges of overcoming difficulties to meet the needs of the disabled in their community, having a deeper understanding of their roles, and the inability to implement change. Examples of good practice were highlighted.

An excellent and sumptuous lunch provided by Cynthia Goodman and her team refuelled the delegates for the afternoon workshops.

All the workshops were specifically developed to support church ministry. Peter Winmill from Causeway presented a workshop on *Developing a Ministry for People with Learning Disabilities*. He examined the practical and attitudinal steps members need to take to plan effectively for embracing people with special needs and disabilities. *Supporting Carers and Raising Awareness about Mental Illness*, run by Anne Loftman, was an insightful workshop which gave an in-depth look at support networks and services for carers. It also highlighted how to recognise signs of mental distress and illness and relate effectively to individuals experiencing this challenge.

Removing Barriers to Access workshop, facilitated by Sophia Nicholls, allowed the delegates to examine the services provided by their churches and to identify the barriers that might exist which deny people with disability access to these services. Sign Ministries from London presented a workshop on *Deaf Awareness*. Members were keen to take up the grant allocated by ASNA to fund people studying British sign language (interpreters) from Level II.

All delegates identified realistic action plans to take back to their church boards for discussion. Several delegates stated that their objectives were achieved and that they would be returning to their churches empowered to undertake their role with more confidence and zeal.

Homeless at Chelmsford

On the night of Sabbath 17 November Chelmsford church presented a thanksgiving concert for their Homeless Project that has been running each Sunday since July.

The invited guests were the Deputy Mayor of Chelmsford, Councillor Nichollette Chambers, and her husband Alan, Special Sergeant Dawn Burton of Chelmsford Police, and her daughter Melissa, and Keith Otter, reader of Springfield All Saints Church, Chelmsford, who represented the chaplaincy team of CHES, a Chelmsford-based charity for the homeless, which runs a night shelter in the town.

The Chelmsford church Youth Choir, under their leader, Lwinde Mumbuluma, opened the evening to a packed and attentive audience, who enjoyed a programme of music and song. The church is blessed with a wealth of home-grown talent, including gospel singer Bob Beswick, who sang, 'People Need The Lord', and Pam and Alafia Maxwell from The London Adventist Chorale, who sang, 'He's Been Faithful' and 'No One Ever Cared Like Jesus'. There were also supporting items from Southend Adventist Quartet.

Members of Chelmsford's homeless community were present, and one of them, 'A. J.', gave a powerful witness

to how much the homeless valued the help and support they receive each week from the homeless feeding programme, where, each Sunday, he can receive a hot two-course meal, access a clothing bank, and also receive advice and guidance to help come off the streets and move towards employment. A. J. finished his short presentation by playing a lively piano piece.

Ted Shirley was MC for the evening, and in his address of welcome, he mentioned that the Deputy Mayor was the first civic dignitary to visit the church in its sixty-year history. He prayed that she would be blessed in her year of office, and that this would be just the start of a fruitful relationship between the council and the church.

In her address, Councillor Nichollette Chambers praised the Youth Choir, for their beauty in song. She thanked the church on behalf of the council and community for everything the project was doing and striving to do for those who had fallen by the wayside.

Dawn Burton of Essex Police moved the audience when she spoke of how alcoholism and homelessness had touched her family, and encouraged those present to give their support to the project. Elder Cliff Hilton offered the closing prayer.

TED SHIRLEY

be planted in Sunderland. Our church [in South Shields] is growing and it seems that there is quite a large group of Adventists who live in Sunderland.'

For more visit www.bbc.co.uk/wear/faith/my_faith/index.shtml.

BUC NEWS

'Firsts' that will last

The 'firsts' in life are often of special interest. Stanborough Park church experienced a few of them on Sabbath 17 November during divine service.

It was the first time that Pastor Sam Davis had visited the Park church, and his preaching appointment for this day was the first he had booked after his election to the presidency of the South England Conference. From his sermon on the parable of the two sons we realised that teenage attitudes have not changed all that much since biblical days, neither has the need for willing, dedicated workers in the church field today. Considering that the first vote on this year's nominating committee report had just been taken, Pastor Davis's sincere appeal was appropriate.

Pastor Davis's wife had visited our church before, but this was the first time she had told the children a story. The children (and no doubt the adults) enjoyed the story of harmless-looking worms that are not what a first glance suggests them to be.

Another first was the presence of a Steinway grand piano standing where the old faithful upright had stood since the last century. Roland Guenin spoke of the pleasure tinged with sadness that it gave him, and all the Guenin family, to give this grand piano in loving memory of his parents, Marcel and Genevieve Guenin. Their love of music and of 'The Truth', and the church family's love for them, will never be forgotten while it assists our worship. A dedication concert is planned for early December.

The last 'first' of an interesting morning was a delightful performance on that beautiful grand piano. Ji-Ac Ahn, the pianist sister of the Ji-Ahn Trio, played Mozart's *Sonata in F Major*. While this gifted professional young lady was playing even more music, we left the sanctuary, the joy of it going with us.

JOYCE HILL

The screenshot shows the BBC Wear website interface. The main headline is 'My Faith - Colleen and Connor' with a sub-headline: 'Having been brought up as Catholics, Colleen and her 14-year-old son Connor decided to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church.' The article text begins: 'By Colleen and Connor Cartledge...'. There is a 'SEE ALSO' section on the right with links to other related content.

Connor corners BBC website

Fourteen-year-old Connor Cartledge is proud of his faith. A young member of the South Shields church, he discovered the 'My Faith Project' on the BBC Radio Wear website. He emailed the editor, Emma Hallenberg, saying he was interested and a Seventh-day Adventist. After contacting his mother for parental permission she then sent him recording equipment and some questions on Seventh-day Adventists. 'I think she knew a little about us but not loads,' Connor said. 'We prayed, my mam and I, and answered the questions that she

sent out about what we believe.'

His story and audio recording are now on the web and have created interest in the church in the area. He says, 'I am very pleased and thank the Lord that me and my mam have had the opportunity to do this spreading of the news. . . . This is a good way to tell people what we believe all from the Bible and to correct misunderstandings, most importantly to uplift God.'

Connor may be the youngest contributor to a project like this. Teesside pastor, Peter Jaynes, reflects, 'It's all too easy to think that public relations and the church is a business for the professionals – and then you come across Connor

who has realised that we all have a role to play in revealing how God is at work in our lives.'

Connor responds, 'It would be good if we all get involved in things like this. . . . It's not hard to do.' Pastor Jaynes is excited about Connor's youthful enthusiasm. 'I really appreciate the way Connor has shown that a relationship with God isn't about facts and texts but has shown that God is at work in his life – and made that available to web surfers in an interesting way.'

Connor and his family live in Sunderland but his missionary activity is not stopping with just the website. He has a passion for his home town. 'I pray for a church to



Croydon: 38 baptised after Gospel Renaissance campaign

by David Billett, first elder

'Attitude determines your altitude' was the motto that Pastor Ainsworth Joseph hammered home during a two-week revival campaign held at Croydon church from 22 September to 6 October.

Pastor Joseph is a native of the West Indian republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and now pastors and maintains a dynamic ministry at the Kingsboro Temple Seventh-day Adventist church in Brooklyn, New York.

Night after night the call was made for men, women, young people and children to change their attitude and determine a spiritual altitude based on the mighty power of an awesome God.

During the family service on the final day of the campaign, Elder David Billett announced that over twenty people had decided to affirm their faith by baptism during the service planned for that Sabbath afternoon. The number of candidates had risen from ten to twenty since the anointing service on the previous Wednesday evening, and many more had expressed a desire to know about Christ through further Bible study. Elder Billett also testified that the Holy Spirit continued to work in a mysterious way which made planning the baptismal programme difficult, and he could only now 'let go and let God'.

Pastor Joseph's final message focused on the promise of an eternal life with Jesus. This was followed by a Spirit-filled appeal that also encouraged parents to lead their children to Christ.

Those wavering on the edge of decision were also prompted to step out from their pews and follow Pastor Joseph and Pastor Brighton Kavaloh in a walk of faith around the church while the congregation meditated, prayed and sang songs of worship and praise. Over fifty men, women, young people, and children responded to the appeal and joined the procession.

That evening, with a church

packed to capacity, a total of thirty-eight people including eleven children were baptised by Pastor Brighton Kavaloh, assisted by Pastor Dusan Uzelac, and welcomed into the fellowship of Croydon church.

Each candidate presented a powerful testimony of their spiritual journey. Among them was Christabel Mingle who, up to two weeks before her baptism, had never seen inside an Adventist church, nor had she

been personally invited by a Croydon member. After seeing the banner advertising the revival campaign outside the church, Christabel decided to visit on the first Sabbath of the campaign. She said that she received immediate confirmation that the message presented by Pastor Joseph was the truth that she had been searching for. Christabel testified that the Holy Spirit had simply

told her to come to Croydon church, and she responded to his call.

'The work has only just begun,' said Pastor Kavaloh as he introduced special Wednesday evening prayer meetings for the children who were baptised and their parents.

The pastoral team and Bible workers at Croydon continue to work with many other souls who are hungry for the Word of God and are preparing for another baptism.



NEC Pathfinder rally

by Dr Jacquie Halliday-Bell

Camp Hill Pathfinder club, although in the process of some reformation, joined the throng of uniformed members for the annual NEC Rally Day on Sabbath 9 September in Wolverhampton. Starting outside of the Civic Hall, the various clubs lined up in their ranks and files, and paraded in full-dress

uniforms sporting patches that acknowledged their achievements and camping records. In spite of the crowd we marched into the hall on time, to the sound of rhythmic drumming.

The day's programme included Sabbath School study and a fair share of praise and worship time.

The Mayoress of Wolverhampton was the honoured guest for the morning. She was clearly moved by the proceedings, particularly the massed choirs' singing, and admitted to pushing the tip of the Girl Guides' flag accidentally through the roof of the church she attended in her youth! She was a very down-to-



earth person and accepted a beautiful bouquet of flowers and other gifts graciously. The divine service sermonette was delivered by a youthful Master Guide trainee who had impressed the NEC department leaders during away weekends with his knowledge and delivery of the Word of God. The staff at the Civic Hall were excellent, making us feel very welcome throughout the day.

The highlight of the day was the march to nearby West Park, recog-

nised as one of England's finest Victorian parks. The long procession was flanked by uniformed police officers, mainly on motorbikes, who stopped traffic and ensured our safety on the busy roads of the city centre. Our guests – family members and friends – in 'civilian' church outfits gave out flyers telling passers-by who we were and what all the noise was about!

Once at the park, a concert ensued, with each club presenting selections of music and singing to



give glory to God. The weather was pleasant and the fellowship great, although we didn't have an opportunity to enjoy the boating lake, see the collection of waterfowl or the beautiful floral displays as we centred our worship around the Victorian bandstand.

On days like this it is always nice to see old friends and have a sense of 'oneness' as we dress and march in line with God's leadership. I was particularly glad to see Pastor Trevor Thomas in fine form after recovering

from an acute illness earlier this year. During the main service he testified how his absolute trust in God had enabled him to stay calm throughout the invasive procedures he experienced while in hospital.

The day ended with an orderly march back to the Civic Hall. We closed in prayer, said our goodbyes and, although we did not want this taste of heaven to end, we had memories of a blessed 2007 Rally Day to treasure.

Zimbabwe-UK SDA Fellowship

by George Nyatanga

It was a lovely and memorable Sabbath day when Zimbabwean Adventist members from across the UK congregated in Luton for their quarterly fellowship meeting. The Sabbath School programme started at 9am, led by 'Higher Ground', a youth group from the various churches in London. Their theme was 'Identity Crisis' and issues raised in their presentation included the need of each church member to remember that they are representatives of the heavenly Kingdom who should be *in* the world but not *of* the world. The boys urged all present to be aware of the community where they live and to give a good account at all times.

The three choristers for the day graced the gathering with sweet music. The highlight of the day was just before the divine service when 'Reflections' (a slideshow of old and current pictures from Zimbabwe) was shown, leading to a very emotional prayer session for our country and the current situation.

The speaker was Pastor Michael G. Hamilton, TED's Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director. He presented more than an hour-long sermon about the Jews in exile and how the Lord saved them from death through Queen Esther.

The afternoon programme was a mixture of preaching by Pastor Z. Manombe, music by various groups and a presentation of vision and objectives from the newly-elected executive committee chaired by Jabulani Mpofo. Brother Mpofo put across the committee's recommendations on effective communication, evangelism via our local churches, spiritual growth through Bible study and training, youth emphasis, stewardship and Project Zimbabwe which seeks to promote development in schools and church building programmes as identified by the Zimbabwe Union Conference.

The day ended on a very high note with Pastor Hamilton concluding with vespers. The next fellowship meeting will be held in Barnsley on 23 February 2008. All Zimbabweans and those wishing to attend can get more information by emailing zusdaf@yahoo.com or calling the secretary on 07789 334774 or chairman on 07889 366967 for details. All welcome.

Robin's Story

by Michael Beamish, his Dad

What do you do when your 8-year-old tells you he is ready to be baptised? As Robin's parents we were surprised yet very pleased. Perhaps our surprise should not have been so great because even at his young age, Robin's enquiring mind was producing lots of questions. From an early age he clearly understood the meaning of the Communion service and was very keen to participate.

Even so we were not sure if this decision was a little early, and we sought the counsel of our minister, Pastor Mick Smart. Robin and Pastor Mick discussed together the issues involved in deciding to follow Jesus which confirmed Robin's decision that he still wanted to be baptised.

Robin is a young man who knows what he wants. He was quite clear that he did not wish to be baptised in a river or a swimming pool, but in a 'proper' baptistery somewhere in Cheltenham. Big problem: Cheltenham church uses the Friend's Meeting House, which does

not have a baptistery! There followed a few months of searching in the local area until eventually we found the Leckhampton Baptist Church. Revd Cirtina kindly agreed to loan us his building for an afternoon.

So on 20 October, friends and family gathered to watch Robin publicly make his decision to follow Jesus. Robin, just like the rest of his family, loves music, so we all sang many of Robin's favourites, which contained messages which spoke clearly of the decision that Robin was making. He also chose two Bible readings showing the great Old Testament examples of Daniel and Elijah; again very fitting for the occasion.

What made this particular baptism a brave occasion was the fact that Robin entered a baptistery of very cold water. Apparently the heater was not working that day but Robin was not to be deterred. He genuinely looked so happy, despite the temperature of the water.

Robin was voted unanimously into the

Cheltenham church family and was showered with good wishes, cards and gifts which will keep his already active mind busy for a long time.

In Pastor Mick's short address to Robin he reminded Robin how pleased his family and friends were that he had made this decision and how pleased Heaven was as well – at which point Robin interjected to remind everyone how pleased *he* was that he had made his decision to follow Jesus.

Following the service, most stayed to enjoy refreshments and fellowship together while others struggled to pull the plug on the baptistery – all adding to the flavour of the day!

Robin sees his future in developing his musical talents for the benefit of the church family and we are sure that we will all be blessed by this and in other ways yet to bear fruit. Robin is a very willing and valued member of our church family and we look forward to him using his talents for Jesus.



Pastor Mick Smart baptises Robin Beamish

Visitors' Day at Newcastle

'Are you ready?' That was the question posed by 4-year-old Carl Arit to his audience as he and fellow Filipino International Church (FIC) Kids' choir introduced their song. Although a well-known song (It is well with my soul), FIC Kids performed it with a difference, using a traditional musical

instrument of Indonesian origin, made out of two bamboo tubes attached to a bamboo frame (see picture). The audience was left amazed at the superb talent displayed by the kids who were all aged between four and ten.

Newcastle church was full to

capacity for both the morning and afternoon programmes during a special visitors' day on Sabbath 3 November. The FIC Chorale flavoured the special occasion with their presence. FIC's Rico Guzon in his sermon reminded the worshippers of the need to be Christ's witnesses of what



they have heard and seen. After an abundant, delicious potluck lunch, FIC Chorale, FIC Ladies Ensemble and FIC Kids delivered an amazing musical concert, rightly entitled 'The King', a tribute to their beloved and sovereign Lord Jesus.

The two-hour concert featured a range of wholesome music with titles such as 'In Christ Alone', 'What A Day That Will Be', and 'Lift Up Your Heads'. In their customary fashion, the London-based group climaxed the afternoon concert with the Hallelujah Chorus, to a standing audience. Such was the beauty of the praise rendered that Mpumelelo Sibanda could not help but insist on a repeat performance of an earlier song, 'The King'. Asked about his experience of the day's renditions, Innocent, a regular visitor at Newcastle church, remarked: 'I was very impressed with the entire programme. The music was fantastic; especially the kids with their instrumental song. The sermon, too, was good; the preacher kept me interested.'

Speaking after their performance, singer and choir vice-president Nita Calpatura, remarked: 'We are enjoying our ministry in music and are always willing to serve the Lord.' FIC Chorale has served God through their

music ministry since forming in February 2006. The group currently has twenty-seven members and has performed at various events, including the South England Conference Session in Exeter in September this year. The group has a dedicated leadership including Janet Capian, the directress, Junith Klassen, the choir's president and its remarkably talented and hilarious pianist, Noreen Cabral, who introduced the visiting choir members.

For the Filipino community, who comprise nearly 40% of Newcastle church, the event was extra special for another reason. It served as a great reunion – a chance to meet and reminisce with old friends from childhood, high school or college days back in the Philippines.

Newcastle church choir leader, Benedict Labro, believes that FIC Chorale's visit and music ministry will serve as a catalyst to the local choir's morale and commitment. There is already talk of a return concert in London by Newcastle's Lifeline Chorale some time next year! Newcastle's elder, Gerald Narciso, thanked the visiting group for the sacrifice they made in coming all the way from London to share their wonderful talent. VICTOR & LYNNE SAMWINGA

East Midlands Community Services Day of Fellowship

On Sabbath 6 October, Sutton-in-Ashfield church hosted the area Day of Fellowship for the East Midlands Community Services.

After a welcome from our Community Services leader, Jean Gregory, we launched into the theme song, 'So send I you'. Our preacher for the day was Pastor Curtis Murphy, BUC Publishing secretary, who led the song service with his usual effervescent style. His sermon was most enlightening, 'Chips and Lighthouses', and how we can think of both as examples in outreach: Chips need to be mixed thoroughly with salt for good flavour, and likewise we are to mix with the community to bring added value to people's lives. As a lighthouse shines from inside out, so we are to shine out the message of Christ to others.

The afternoon session commenced with praise time led by Pastor Murphy, after which we settled down to hear reports from the representatives from Birmingham, Nottingham and Sutton. We were all encouraged by how the various groups approached the public in their outreach ministries. In many cases, the outreach ministries were the only way in which the church had contact with the community.

We concluded the afternoon with a plenary session on how we can improve our community outreach methods. We thank Jean Gregory for organising a special and blessed day.

MORAY STEWART



Not a Hallowe'en Party – A Hallelujah Party!

On 31 October, in Manchester Central church, we had a wonderful Hallelujah party when the world was celebrating Hallowe'en. The party included playing games, praise, talk and prayers. Children also had the opportunity to make crafts. Finally everyone at the party enjoyed food and drinks. Jason Chang from Manchester Central conducted interviews with the participants.

Why don't we celebrate Hallowe'en?

'It's about the devil.' Krystal, 9 years old.
'Cos Jesus is the Light of the world.' Joshua, 9 years old.
'It's a pagan festival.' Arlene Roach, trainee elder.

How do you feel about the

Hallelujah party programme?

Marie-Claire, praise and worship leader of Manchester Central, said, 'All of them are interested. It's good to play with the children.'

Why do you bring your child to the Hallelujah party?

Deborah Lauder-Bell, Sabbath School teacher of Manchester Central, said, 'To celebrate light rather than darkness.'

Why do you organise such an event?

Marlene Simpson, Children's Ministries co-ordinator at Manchester Central, said, 'Because children at school kept hearing their friends talking about going to Hallowe'en parties. So I decided that it would be nice for Christian



Evelyn's baptism

On 20 October at 5pm, Evelyn Henry made her decision to give her life completely to her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Wednesfield's Pastor Richard Jackson performed the ceremony and spoke words of encouragement.

Evelyn was a bit nervous, which was understandable as she was the only candidate to be baptised, but she took pride in the fact that she was the first person to be baptised in the new baptistery at Wednesfield church.

Says Evelyn, 'I had heard about the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I was not that much interested in that denomination at all. As far as I was concerned, Sunday was my Sabbath day and no other. I had too many commitments on Saturdays – too much to do!'

'I tell you what changed my mind, though,' Evelyn continues. 'I went to Jamaica on holiday and stayed with my family. They were all Adventists. Every morning they had an early morning meeting that I was obliged to attend. I really felt the Spirit move and I was impressed by the warmth and the closeness of the family. On my return to England, I thought that I must contact someone from the Adventist Church. The late Sister Pearly Francis had invited me on several occasions, so I contacted her straight away. I informed her that I was ready for Bible studies.'

Evelyn learned from her Bible studies and felt blessed. She concludes, 'Consequently, I thought that I must give my heart to Jesus. Since I have given my heart totally and unreservedly to the Lord I have not looked back.'

Evelyn received Bible studies from Sandra Francis.

SANDRA FRANCIS

children to have somewhere to go to, so they can witness about going to a Hallelujah party where they will celebrate the Light of the world, Jesus.'

How does this event fit into the overall church development?

Senior pastor of Manchester Central, Michael Simpson, said, 'This event fits into our church outreach strategy. It brings the community together. Children from outside the church can make friends here.'

How do you find tonight's programme? (Comments from visiting children)

Emily Przybyla (11 years) and Emily Moffat (10 years), who were invited

by McKenzie's family, said, 'It's a lot of fun. The singing is good. Christian songs are cheerful. It was wonderful. It's very sociable. Everyone here is very kind and joyful. We would like to come again.'

During the Hallelujah party, there was a power cut which left 80,000 homes across Greater Manchester without light. However, this did not stop the party. Thirty-five children were there to experience this event. They continued their praise and worship with candlelight and torches until power was restored. The Lord has truly blessed this outreach event.

JASON CHANG

Wokingham on 10W

On Sunday 16 September the members and friends of the Wokingham Branch Sabbath School had their annual day out. This year we went to the Isle of Wight.

We were met there by Brother and Sister Hemmings of the Isle of Wight church, who are past members of our group. Brother Hemmings was our tour guide, pointing out places of interest and directing our coach driver to various destinations where we could browse, stroll or eat.

The photograph shows us at Ryde, about to board our coach for the next leg of our trip. The outing was greatly enjoyed by all age groups, and it was quite an adventure for some of the children as this was their first journey by sea.

We were blessed with ideal weather, and we thank God for giving us a safe journey.

R. NICHOLLS



Bodmin harvest

Not with an old horse-drawn binder, but with a pair of garden shears, two wheat sheaves were cut at Mr Griggs' farm at Longstone, St Mabyn (by his kind permission) for the harvest thanksgiving service at Bodmin Seventh-day Adventist church.

The next day they were used at St Breward Parish Church for harvest thanksgiving, and likewise at the cluster service of thanksgiving at Blisland Parish Church the next Sunday. The following week they stood testimony at the St Breward Methodist Chapel harvest thanksgiving. Thus four places of worship saw the evidence of Christ's words: 'The earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear' (Mark 4:28), and 'Some an hundred-fold, some sixty-fold, some thirty-fold' (Matthew 13:8).

The final episode saw the two sheaves taken to The Gables, St Breward, for the poultry to enjoy.

A. BLACKBURN

Gloucester's long-awaited day

On Sabbath 3 November, after fourteen months without a pastor, Earl Ramharacksingh, SEC treasurer, introduced Pastor Ile Tarlev and his wife Veronica and two children Alina and Adrian to the Gloucester congregation. Pastor Ile has been with us for a few weeks, but now he is

joined by his wife, and the family have been taken into our hearts as we pray for their ministry in Gloucester and Chalford.

The picture below shows the pastor and his family being welcomed by Ainsley Mitchell, head elder, joined by Brother



and Sister Ramharacksingh.

On the same day, the pastor and his family and Brother and Sister Ramharacksingh were introduced to three couples who had celebrated fifty years of marriage during the year, a combined total of 150 years of marriage, a wonderful achievement during these times of frequent marriage breakdowns and a testimony to trust in God. In the above picture they are joined by 'Auntie Gwen', who played the piano at the

wedding of Peter and Iris Fanstone, and has played throughout the married lives of all the couples in the church life in Gloucester, and continues to play each Sabbath for the Gloucester congregation, even though she is in her late eighties.

The picture shows l to r: Sister and Brother P. Fanstone, Sister and Brother A. Fishley, 'Auntie Gwen' Brinstone, Sister and Brother F. Mitchell.

ROBERT HINDS

Seven baptised in Bristol

Bristol Central and North Bristol churches combined in a baptismal service that witnessed seven souls being baptised. The occasion was the culmination of a variety of witnessing campaigns and Bible studies across the Bristol Central, North Bristol and South Bristol churches over the past six months.

Co-ordinated by Pastor Richard Daly, the churches held campaign meetings on different Sabbaths of each month that focused on outreach to their local communities. Dynamic speakers such as Costa Vaggas, Vaughn Thorpe, Luke White, Veronica Williams, Jojo Bonnie, just to name a few, as well as the musi-

cal talents of Mark Bunney and his wife Ladonna, the London Adventist Chorale and Brixton choir all added a powerful yet spiritual dimension that left many, some of whom were experiencing an Adventist service for the first time, completely overwhelmed.

The candidates included four young people: Damien Hartley-Brown and cousin Estelle Hartley-McDonald, Nathanael Watt and Thoko Chibowa. It was indeed a special occasion for the other two candidates, Clinton and Ingrid Anderson, who were also married this year, and finally Vivienne Vibgedor.

The baptism took place at Bristol



Central where it was standing room only, yet the joy of the occasion could be felt by all, including the main speaker for that evening, Dr Richard DeLisser. He encouraged and challenged the candidates in

their new life as Christians, reminding them of Paul's words that, no matter what life might throw at them, nothing – not even death – could separate them from the love of Christ.

SHILOH HARMITT

Cardiff's farewell

September 29 was a very special day in the Cardiff Community church. It was the last Sabbath service in which recently ordained minister Pastor Clyde and Sister Anette Moore were officiating as the local ministerial team. October 1 would see them commence working in the North Shropshire district, with responsibility for Shrewsbury, Telford and Wrexham. The divine service was blessed with the dedication of three newborn babies, all cousins and grandchildren of Community Services director Ellen Nesbeth. In the AYS members expressed their gratitude for the ministry of Clyde and Anette and articulated how they would best be remembered. The week had begun on Sunday 23 October, with a farewell three-course meal served in the youth hall and foyer by the ladies of the church, all suitably attired in black. Following the meal, members said their farewells. Pastor Moore, in response, thanked them for their kindness and friendship, but most of all thanked them for their Christianity and exhorted them to continue in their faithful service to make a kingdom difference in the Cardiff community. Pastor and Mrs Moore were presented with a beautifully crafted card, handmade by one of the members, Elizabeth Thomas, and a monetary gift from the church and members' donations. They also received several personal cards and gifts from individual members. Local treasurer Ian Matthews said, 'We won't miss Pastor and Mrs Moore because we will see them again from time to time in the Welsh Mission, but we wish them all the best in their new district.' Pastor Jan McKenzie, currently the pastor of the Newport church, will now also pastor the Cardiff and Barry churches.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



Pastor Clyde and Sister Anette Moore

Stewardship... It's more than money!

by Dr Richard DeLisser, Stewardship director, SEC

When we think of stewardship we invariably think of money. This misconception may find its roots in a text that we have learnt off by heart as the tithe and offerings are being collected every Sabbath morning – Malachi 3:8-10: 'Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. . . . Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.'

Stewardship is more than tithes and offerings; it is about our relationship with God and the things over which he has made us stewards – our bodies, our time, our children, our planet, our talents, and our treasures. When we view stewardship from a holistic perspective, we can see that we rob God in so

many other ways, not least in tithe and offerings.

- We may have robbed God of thought. In the hotel of my heart there have been many guests coming and going but there has been little or no room at the inn for Jesus. We rob him of our attention if we forget to consider the great mysteries of God.
- We may have robbed God in our speech. In the vocabulary of my vocation is my day-to-day dialogue littered with passages of purpose to guide some weary, wayward feet home? We rob him if our speech betrays him and causes someone to stumble and lose their way.
- We may have robbed him in service. In the daily routine of my life have I made time to work for him who died for me or have I stood idly by knowing the time and watched as people died? We rob him if we fail to work for him 'for the night is coming when no

Congress in France: Muslim patients under Christian care

by Patrick Guenin MD

Eight hundred French speaking Seventh-day Adventists in the medical profession in France, Belgium and Switzerland feel they need understanding of Islam and special preparation in order to meet the new challenge arising from the ever-increasing number of Muslim patients seeking their help.

These SDA health-workers are working in Adventist institutions, government health agencies and private clinics and practices in the three countries. They have formed their *Association Medicale Adventiste de Langue Francaise* (AMALF) with Kohlia Stéveny MD from Belgium as president. They are an active branch of the *Adventist International Medical Society* (AIMS).

Muslim patients seeking help from nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists, dentists and physicians, due to Islamic beliefs and lifestyles, often react negatively to some aspects of Western medical treat-

ments and methods. These conflicts cause some anxiety on part of the medical practitioners.

The AMALF conference held at the French Government Sports Facilities in Tours, France, in the beginning of November 2007 had this issue as the main point on the agenda.

The theme for the meeting attended by fifty-five medical practitioners was *Health Professionals Facing Multicultural Patients*.

To deal with the issues Dr Borge Schantz, external professor at Loma Linda University and founding director of the General Conference Islamic Study Centre, was invited as guest lecturer.

In his lectures he dealt with Islam as a religion and how Islamic world views guide Muslims in their lifestyle and choices. It was pointed out that the determining factors in the complicated and sensitive area in dealings with Muslims, including medical care, are more due to



- man can work'.
- We may have robbed him of love. In the drudgery of the day and the work of the week have I exhibited the love for others he has shown towards me? We rob him if we promote selfishness instead of love, and there can be no greater loss.

Stewardship is using all the gifts God has given us to do all the work God has given us to do. Stewardship is what we do, with all that we have, after we say, 'We believe in Jesus.'

Will a man rob God? Stewardship is more than money. Stewardship is a way of life!

religion than culture. Examples of confrontational problem areas were outlined and discussed.

Christian witnessing, a sensitive area in this context, was an important subject at the congress. The traditional Adventist missionary approach in medical work, where medical skills are employed both to express Christian compassion and attract patients to the Gospel, should be the guide. However, this should definitely be applied in a different way.

It was emphasised that in government hospitals in the West, any form of witnessing is disallowed. It was also pointed out that 'spiritual blackmail' in the superior-inferior relationships between medical practitioner and patient should be avoided.

In a situation with a Muslim patient, who has no right to change religion or even discuss variant spiritual concepts, it was suggested that the practitioner should not take the role of the preaching evangelist. Rather he/she should be the evangel (Gospel) incarnated. The examples from the Bible where Jesus healed without preaching should be followed.

LETTERS FIRST-TIME VISITOR

Dear Editor,
Last week, for the first time, I visited a Seventh-day Adventist church. It takes a lot of courage for a person to walk into a crowded room alone, and it certainly took a lot of courage for me to take that first step. I had previously researched the writings of Ellen G. White and had been watching some videos by evangelist Doug Batchelor, so the teachings were nothing new, but I had no idea what to expect at a service. As I reached the door I heard a very beautiful version of 'Kum ba Yah' being sung which brought me a great sense of peace about the whole thing. I was ushered to the front, which came as a shock, but everyone was so friendly that I felt OK about it.

I cannot express the joy I felt by being welcomed so much by the people there. I was simply 'accepted' and felt like part of a family. I did not feel like an outsider or even a visitor. I was simply 'accepted and loved', and even invited for lunch. For perhaps the first time in a long time I felt part of something very beautiful and loving. I don't know the last time I spent such an enjoyable time and ended up spending the whole day there. I have been reading the book *Seventh-day Adventists Believe* which was given to me, and I'm so looking forward to attending more services.

Of course I will be returning next week.

JOSEPH McTAGGART

Great testimony, eh? Any more stories of visitor-friendly congregations?

A sincere friendship between health-worker and former patient could possibly later, outside the clinic, give meaningful opportunities for witnessing.

A Salvation Army lady chaplain from a multi-religious hospital in Paris also lectured and narrated details of her interesting and demanding work. In particular, Christian chaplaincy with people from traditional African religions had its challenges.

The dialogues at the convocation revealed that in the extreme difficulties Christians face in witnessing to Muslims, health-workers could prove to be important and accepted spokespersons.

WEDDINGS

WEST-TOMPKINS The rarity of a beautifully warm day this past summer and a picturesque setting combined to bless and uplift those privileged to attend the wedding of Laura Elizabeth Tompkins and Timothy James West. Sunday 8 July was the date, and the lovely gardens of the Rose-in-Vale Hotel, Mithian (Cornwall), the setting for the gathering of friends and family to witness the marriage of a couple who hold a special place in the affections of the writer. Laura, daughter of Pastor Paul and Mrs Dawn Tompkins, was attended by her sister Amy as chief bridesmaid, her two cousins Julia Hollister and Jade Pearce, and four friends. Timothy, son of Dr Andrew and Mrs Rosemary West, was ably assisted by best man Doug Ferguson, MC Ian Cort, and two ushers. Jack Pearce and Amy Colledge, cousins of the bride and groom respectively, also took part in the wedding service with family and friends travelling great distances – some all the way from America, Australia and Europe – to join the happy couple on the day. Pastor John Ferguson led in the exchange of vows and prayed for the blessings of God on the much loved Christian couple. A splendid meal in the hotel; humorous, moving and spiritually uplifting speeches, followed by an evening cruise down the River Fal from Truro to Falmouth, rounded off a supremely joyful day. May God continue to bless Laura and Tim by making them truly happy in the home they have set up in Yorkshire.

PASTOR J. FERGUSSON

FERGUSSON-KOWARIN The wedding of Natasha Kowarin and Steven Fergusson took place on Sunday 5 August at St Edwards Church in Leek, Staffordshire. The service was conducted by Revd Matthew Parker and Pastor Geoff Smith, the Adventist minister of the Sale/Wilmslow church, where the bride and her family are members. The organist was Eileen Baildam who played traditional wedding marches requested by the bride and groom. They had a mixture of traditional and modern hymns. The chief bridesmaid, Victoria Kowarin, sang 'Above All' by Paul Baloche during the signing of the register. This was a momentous day, not only in the lives of Natasha and Steve, but for the Sale/Wilmslow fellowship as this was their first wedding. The bride was the elder daughter of Terry and Annette Kowarin, and the groom the youngest son of Alison and the late Ian Fergusson. The couple met in the Sixth Form and their love has blossomed ever since. The bride has just graduated with a first class honours degree in fashion and design and the groom is a design and technology teacher. Her natural flair for design was evident in the wedding planning. She designed and made the bridesmaids' dresses. The bride walked down the aisle wearing a Spanish Pranovias cream silk gown decorated with swirls of Spanish lace with sparkles of diamante gems, her father on her arm. She was accompanied by four bridesmaids – her sister Victoria, her best friend Holly Nancharow, and Antonia Baildam and Amy Plant. Everyone played their parts very well, including the best man who was the brother of the groom. The couple were surrounded by family and friends. The reception was held at Keele Hall where guests were treated to canapés in the Italian gardens, and played croquet on the lawns. The couple have set up home in Milton, Staffordshire. We all wish them God's blessing in their new life together.

ANNETTE KOWARIN

Ruth Annie Brown (1914-2007) d. April

Nurse Ruth Brown began her training in Leicester in 1934. Her kindness and compassion were early demonstrated when she attended some of the troops brought back from Dunkirk in 1940, some of whom were German prisoners. When one prisoner was in need of urgent attention, she replied to her critics, 'He's a person too, and he is someone's relative!' In 1953 she was sent as a missionary nurse to the Belgian Congo, but prior to this she spent some time in Belgium learning French, where she produced a dissertation (in French) on kwashiorkor – a disease of malnutrition. She later moved to Rwanda, where, in 1960, serious hostilities erupted between the Hutus and Tutsis. The Adventist hospital could easily have been targeted. Ruth and her staff spent time in earnest prayer, and apart from superficial damage to the building, patients and staff were unharmed. Not only an accomplished nurse and midwife, she displayed remarkable versatility in other areas. While in Central Africa she trained others as nurses; doctors taught her how to perform operations such as Caesarean sections and she even turned her hand to extracting teeth! In Rwanda she taught children's Sabbath School, and during her years of retirement assisted in the playgroup in her home village of Whimple, near Exeter.

She led the Community Services department in the Exeter church. She was also a gifted artist. Her last few years were spent in a residential home where, despite her sufferings, she constantly witnessed to her faith. The funeral service was held in Newport church, attended by her brother Tom and his wife Alice, sister Ethel and husband Bill, niece Lorraine and husband Clive and many other close relatives, as well as friends from Exeter and Newport churches. Officiating was Pastor Kenneth Clothier, assisted by local pastor Bertie de Nysschen, and Pastors Alan Hodges (BUC) and John SurrIDGE (Welsh Mission president). A memorial service was held on 6 June in Whimple church, where Ruth had been actively involved in several organisations. Her ashes were buried in the church grounds and her brother Tom donated an antique campaign chair to the church in her memory. This intelligent, dedicated, compassionate, selfless servant of Christ was a real inspiration to all who knew her.

Lorraine Morgan and K. H. Clothier

MARY ROSETTE BARKER (1917-2006) d. 20 September 2006.

In 1934 Pastor Sammy Joyce and family moved into the Teesside area and the area was never the same again. After a campaign in a local cinema with large Sunday evening meetings, a baptism of over fifty people was held in the local Baptist church. Included in that baptism in 1935 was 18-year-old Mary who from then onwards was everything the Adventist Church hopes for from a dedicated young person. She helped in the church in whatever way she was asked, particularly with children and at youth camps. Pastor Joyce held a second campaign at which she met Harry Barker, who joined the church in spite of opposition from his family and was baptised in 1936, soon after they married. World War II came and Harry joined the RAF. Soon he was moved to Wales and Mary went with him. On their return to Middlesbrough and in the years that followed, their family increased to five boys and, at last, the one girl Mary always longed for. Her early years had been difficult as she was only 10 when her mother died. She slowly but surely became all that was needed to bind together a motherless family. The experience gained was to prove to be useful to her own children when her husband died in 1981. Her home became a refuge to so many people at so many different times. She gave up so much to look after her father and brothers and then her own family. She was an accomplished pianist, a gift she inherited from her mother. In time she became a mother in Israel, unassuming but loved by all who knew her as head deaconess. She was 'Auntie Mary' to one and all at Middlesbrough church. Her 53-year-old daughter remarked: 'During my lifetime I have never heard my mother blaspheme, swear or lie.' What a testimony! She loved us all, prayed for us all, and I am so glad and so sure to be able to say: 'See you in the morning, Auntie Mary.'

GEORGE POWLS

DELANA CARROLL SOBERS (1939-2007) d. 21 September.

It is with great sadness that we report that the Worcester church has lost a dear and faithful member. Delana passed away after a long and painful battle with cancer. In spite of several years of treatments, and after the doctors and specialists did all they possibly could to relieve her suffering and prolong her life, she fell asleep peacefully on 21 September. Delana and her husband, Colin, met when they were at school in Barbados. After leaving school,

Colin enlisted in the Army (The Royal Corp of Signals), but he eventually returned to Delana, and later they were married in Germany in 1968. Their only son, Patrick, was born in Kent in 1971, and has always been a great joy and comfort to them both over the years. They arrived in Worcester in 1973 and settled and remained there, apart from the times when Colin was posted in Cyprus and Germany. They stayed in Worcester when he retired after many years of service. Delana was the youngest of four daughters in her family, all of whom became Adventists. She was a very gracious lady and was loved by all. She was also very clever at cooking and needlework, and she loved to try out new recipes, which she was happy to share with her friends and members. When she was well enough, she loved to attend the church's weekly health meetings. Not only was she a regular and active member at church, she was also busily involved with various charities, including the local hospice, the SSFAFA (Soldiers, Sailors and Air Force Association), and worked in local charity shops. Just nineteen months before she died, Delana and Colin were thrilled at the arrival of their grandson, Theodore, 'son and heir' of Patrick and Julie. During her last few years, Delana showed tremendous courage in coping with her distressing situation, and was never known to complain. She showed a complete and utter trust in God, enduring her illness with dignity and patience. In the end, it seemed that God, in his mercy, knew when she and her loved ones had suffered enough. Delana was tenderly buried in St John's cemetery, after a very large congregation gathered in the local parish church. Among those present were her three sisters, Melvita from Essex; Linda from Toronto, Canada; and Audrey, living in London; as well as Hyacinth, her cousin, from Barbados, and all her other close relatives, friends, neighbours and church members who came to bid her farewell until the resurrection morning when Jesus comes again to raise Delana, free forevermore from all her suffering and distress. Our dear sister is sadly missed, but our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Colin, Patrick, Julie and all who mourn her loss, and we trust that God will help and comfort them in their great sorrow.

DORIS J. LACK

ERIC BENNETT (1927-2007). Eric Bennett was born in Wales, the second son of Hugh and Mary Bennett. Eric's dad moved to South

London when Eric was very young. Young Eric attended Norbury Manor School. At the outbreak of war he joined the Navy and served on the battleships' flagship – *HMS Nelson*. Eric was decorated for his war service. He served in the Far East mine sweeping. Once he was marooned on an island. He came to the island in a small boat and began exploring. When he returned to the beach the boat was gone. All that was left on the beach was a hat and a mess-tin. The boat had returned to the big ship. Eric thought he was in trouble. After a while he heard the sound of an engine and the small boat returned and he began to thank the men on board profusely for coming back for him. They retorted, 'You've got it wrong, mate! We'd forgotten about you! We only came back for the mess-tin!' But for that, Eric used to say, he'd still be on that island now! After the war Eric moved to Australia and settled near Melbourne and worked there for three years in farming. Eric worked his passage back to London. At Hyde Park corner he heard John Prince preaching and he was invited to go to the New Gallery Evangelistic Centre. Following Bible studies he was baptised in 1957 and then enrolled at Newbold College. While there his friend, Michael White, introduced Eric to his sister, Averil. They were married in the Edmonton church on 13 May 1964. The young couple moved to Essex where their four children were born – Susan, Julie, Alison and David. Eric was a man of principle who lived his life by faith and prayer. The family moved from Southend, because they wanted to put the children through Stanborough Park School and Eric worked as caretaker for the Junior and Senior School for thirteen-and-a-half years until his retirement. Eric loved classical music, he liked drawing, he loved being with his grandchildren, and he was a very good handyman. He remained a very active 80-year-old with a positive outlook. He even mended the front gate on the day he died! He was a man who had strong faith, a keen watcher of the 'signs of the times', and if anybody was ready to meet their Lord, it was Eric. His funeral was conducted by Pastors Patrick Boyle and Ian Sleeman. In his life Eric distributed thousands of copies of *Steps to Christ* which were also distributed at his funeral. We look forward to the time when Eric will hear his Saviour call him, and he will hear 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.'

PASTOR IAN SLEEMAN

<1
LIFEdvelopment is beautiful

invited to share 'My Story' of how the Lord worked through them or people they knew. Pastor Victor Hulbert shared how, as a teenager, involvement, rather than being a spectator, led him to commitment; and how his wife, as a hippy, came to an Adventist church that accepted her just as she was, allowing a growing relationship with Christ to change her. Pastor Michael Mbui shared how he was baptised after just hearing a few messages and was involved straight away in public evangelism after his baptism. Pastor Mike Logan told how he baptised a colourful former atheist and alcoholic in Ireland who made a huge impact on his family and community in the six months before he died. Pastor Michael Simpson shared his personal testimony of how God dra-



Pastor Michael Logan

matically called him and inspired him to use small-group evangelism effectively before and after becoming a pastor.

Sabbath worship was a beautiful experience with moving music, testimony and scripture. Tina Brooks, Tihomir Lazic, Ellen Bryant and Sharon McKenzie enhanced the retreat with quality music. Some participants were in tears following a rendition of 'I can only imagine'. Guests in the hotel corridor stopped to listen on their way to health treatments. Sophia Chisholm shared with us how God can change situations with a toothbrush! Blessing Wokoh told us how she trusted a roughneck taxi man in Ghana, how he was faithful and that it is not how we look that is important, it is our integrity. Netir Freitas shared how a dream and the miraculous events in her life confirmed

that she should be paying tithes again. On Sunday morning, Dr Steve Thomas pulled it all together when he merged the story of the woman at the well with the LIFEdvelopment principles. 'At last I fully understand it!' Betty Nsenga exclaimed.



Blessing Wokoh



Pastor Michael Simpson

The John Loughborough Seventh-day Adventist School

Holcombe Road, Tottenham, London N17 9AD

Headteacher: Dr June Alexis
Telephone: 020 8808 7837, Fax: 020 8801 6719

Non-Teaching Staff

The governors and headteacher wish to appoint a number of **Learning Support Assistants** and a **Science Technician** for the Spring Term 2008. The school is a co-educational Seventh-day Adventist Christian Voluntary-aided School for students of all faiths between the ages of 11 and 16. The school's motto is 'SPIRITUS, MENS, CORPUS', indicating that students will be encouraged to aim at the great ideal of spiritual maturity, mental excellence and physical well-being. As an integral part of its mission, the school seeks to be a 'Leading Edge Institution' for raising the achievement of all students within the goal of Education Inclusion, irrespective of social, economic, cultural, racial or religious backgrounds. These posts provide opportunities for innovative and enthusiastic Christians to make their mark by contributing to a dynamic, improving and forward-looking school. The successful candidates should have commitment to the highest standards of learning and teaching and must subscribe to the values of the school.

The John Loughborough School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.
All short-listed candidates are required to provide a current CRB disclosure

We are seeking to appoint:
4 Learning Support Assistants

Full-time
Salary: £14,372

Science Technician
Full-time

Salary: £NJC 18 – 21

Further details and application forms are available from the headteacher at the above address.

Closing date: 10 December 2007

Interviews for Science Technician: Week beginning 14 December 2007

Interviews for Learning Support Assistants: Week beginning 17 December 2007



ABC Sales UK Christmas Holiday Opening Schedule

Please be aware that all ABC locations will be closed for stocktaking purposes during the first week of January 2008.

ABC sales at The Stanborough Press will close on Thursday 20 December and reopen on Monday 7 January 2008.

ABC Watford will close on Friday 21 December at 2pm and will reopen on Sunday 6 January 2008 from 10am to 2pm.

Bedford Central Church – temporary premises

Due to extensive refurbishment work at our church, we will be worshipping at the following address from 15 December until further notice: 96, London Road (Junction of Barford Avenue), Bedford, MK42.

Pastor Chisholm

ABC BOOK SALES

December

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.

	Lon	Card	Not	Edin	Bell
Dec 7	3.52	4.05	3.49	3.40	3.59
14	3.52	4.04	3.48	3.38	3.58
21	3.53	4.06	3.50	3.40	3.59
28	3.58	4.10	3.54	3.44	4.04

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