

## Gloucester says 'Thank you'

by Robert Hinds

**G**loucester church has held an Appreciation Service to say thank you to the emergency services for their dedication and help during the floods of July 2007.

In his address, Robert Hinds pointed out that while the Appreciation Day was to say thank you for all the work done on the community's behalf during the floods, in reality the services were working on our behalf throughout the year, combating crime, policing our roads, dealing with fires and traffic accidents and attending to the sick and injured and transporting them to hospital. 'We owe them all, the men and women who serve us so selflessly, a deep debt of gratitude and appreciation,' he said. The representatives were assured that we value them greatly. They were asked to

convey this message to all who served with them in providing the services we often take for granted.

The Council, represented by the Lord Mayor, was thanked for providing all the essential services and for the funding and support of the emergency services, and in particular the distribution of water and food supplies during the floods, so essential to so many. The Lord Mayor was thanked for his initiative, together with the Mayor of Tewkesbury, in setting up the Flood Relief Fund which now stands at £1.3 million.

In his address the Mayor spoke of the high regard he had for the Adventist Church, its schools, hospitals and institutions, and thanked the Gloucester church for their help and care during the floods and for the contribution of £2,000 from ADRA-UK to the flood relief pro-

gramme. Each representative was presented with a plaque and gift as a memento of the day.

The emergency services were represented by Dr Timothy Brain, Chief Constable for Gloucester Police, Mr Nick Griffin, deputy Chief Fire Officer, for Fire and Rescue, and his wife, Mr Kevin Dickens, for the Great Western Ambulance Service, and the Lord Mayor of Gloucester, Mr Harjit Gill. The guest list included many from the community, and other denominations were also represented, together with the local press.

The Pathfinders, Adventurers and Colour Party led the procession and recession. The service, conducted by Pastor Ilie Tarlev, consisted of praise and worship through music and song. In his sermon Pastor Ilie addressed the question: 'Where was

God?' — a question many ponder during times of suffering and trouble.

Our guests were given refreshments before leaving and the day ended with an afternoon programme of wonderful music provided by our own local musicians and the St Mark's Quartet from Newbold College. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day a success.



Representatives from the various emergency services, and the Lord Mayor of Gloucester



The Pathfinders and Adventurers



with Jonathan Barrett

## The reservoir is full

The country's reservoirs are full or nearly full! That has to be good news, doesn't it? Do you remember the water shortage of the summer before last? It was a top news story during that summer. There were frequent photos of nearly empty reservoirs and criticism of the government and water authorities for not building more reservoirs. There was a lot of discussion about hosepipe bans and how much water industry and households use. That is all long forgotten. Although the reservoirs are not in the news, I just thought it might be interesting to mention a

non-current issue for a change. Funny how we tend to forget the good news, isn't it?

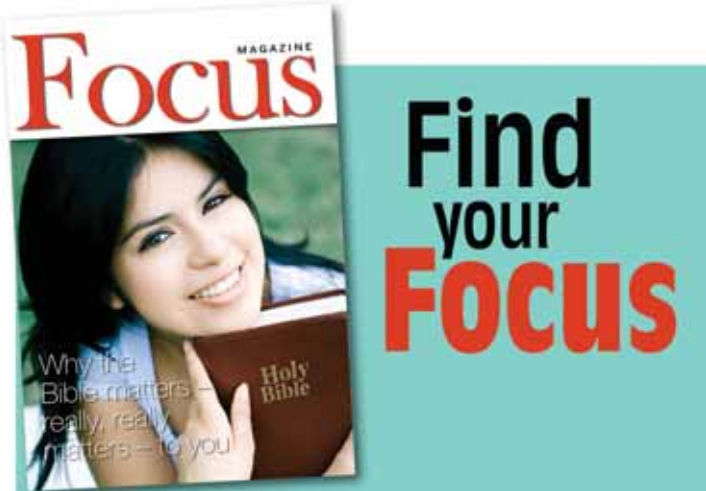
If you want something else to celebrate, you could always rejoice that 2007 saw the publication of the final Harry Potter book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows!*

Also, if you are not a football fan, and maybe even if you are, you can be pleased that the news about England being out of the 2006 World Cup is no longer an issue!

There are plenty of things to celebrate that you could choose to focus on if you wanted to. That is exactly what that early Christian pioneer, Paul, encourages us to do:

'Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious – the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realised. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.' (Philippians 4:8, 9, *The Message*.)

That has to be one of the most positive passages in the Bible. Rather than just absorbing all the bad news, we would do well to fill our minds with the good! Of course, we shouldn't close our eyes to the bad news, but if that is all we see,



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then we will soon get depressed.

Think about some good things this week; then let your thoughts

take you to God and dwell on him.

His reservoir of goodness is always full!



## Enhancing Health

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

### Brain Health Series

Part one

#### Overview

In this issue we begin a new series on brain health. We will examine information on what impacts brain development and degeneration, how to keep your brain as healthy as possible, how to boost memory and control the mind to enhance spiritual well-being.

We will analyse the latest research in neuroscience which highlights the key factors that contribute to brain health and help prevent cognitive decline as we age. These are: dietary habits, physical activity, mental well-being and

emotional stability, spirituality, social engagement and cardiovascular health.

More than 100 years ago Ellen G. White produced two inspirational volumes entitled

*Mind, Character and Personality* (guidelines on mental and spiritual health). In these she depicted the power of perception, physical habits affecting conscience, moral values and spiritual sensitivities. She emphasised the impact of diet, exercise, emotional well-being, social activity and relationships, and the power of choice and its impact on the health of the brain and the negative influences that affect it. Between 1827 and 1915, during Ellen White's lifetime, research on the brain and human psychology was still in its infancy. Are her writings on the subject still relevant today in the face of modern discoveries in the area of brain health? Follow the forthcoming issues and decide for yourself as we examine the evidence.

Engage in the forthcoming exercises to understand how the brain works and how we can use that knowledge to maximise brain function and brain health, particularly as we age.

Did you know that when older adults create a world of fresh ideas and challenge themselves with new thoughts and experiences, they not only create new neural pathways but they find new forms of self-expression? Research now demonstrates the importance of developing new creative, social and intellectual activities for adults over 50. This has been shown to halt the process of cognitive degeneration and enhance brain health well into the later stages of life. Major research findings point to the role of mental stimulation for lifelong brain health and cognitive and emotional development and the avoidance of Alzheimer's disease.

Research also exists to demonstrate how to enhance the brain function of children and youth, the dangers and risks that can impact brain function at their particular age and its subsequent effect later in life. Share the information with them so that they take responsibility early on and live to value it.

Good health!



# 'If worry is the problem, what is the solution?'

David Marshall

That was the question one reader had for me. And it is a good one.

We had shared our mutual frustration with what the experts say about worry. The experts are agreed that worry is bad. The doctors have come up with a lengthy litany of potential medical consequences of worry. In Scripture, David, Jesus and Paul come out strongly against worry.<sup>1</sup>

Clearly, worry is a problem, so what is the cure?

Before we progress from diagnosis to prescription let's put worry under the microscope.

Temperament comes into it; and, arguably, not all consequences of worry are bad. Worry can prove that we care, work hard, take life seriously, and can provide an impetus to positive action.

But Jesus does say that 'the worries of this life' interfere with God's ability to work with us.<sup>2</sup> Clearly, worry acts like bad cholesterol. It hardens the spiritual arteries and impedes the flow of God's grace to us and through us to others. *It stymies our fruitfulness.*

What do we worry about?

The newspapers have it all wrong. Ten years ago the top five of the Top Ten Anxieties were said to be: AIDS, drug abuse, nuclear waste, the ozone layer and the incompetence of the government.

Tell me, when was the last time the ozone layer or the government's incompetence ate into your night's sleep or damaged your digestion?

Recently I read that global terrorism had, since 9/11, soared to item one in our worry agendas. I recall being very worried when, packed into a rush-hour train between Russell Square and King's Cross, I spotted a young man with a well-padded jacket. However, I all but forgot him by the time I'd caught my mainline train.

If there were a Worriers Anonymous and you and I were making confession about the things that *really* get to us – to what would we confess?

I can't speak for you. I can only speak for me. Right?

The things that make me fret are not the major menaces to the planet. They're injustices, especially if the injustices have been done (or perceived to have been done) to me, my family and my friends. I also beat myself up when I've let people down or treat them badly. And I get seriously bent out of shape when the bullies seem to be winning the battles of life.

Can you identify with any of those fret factors? More importantly, can you identify some of the personality issues that might give rise to them?

When my wife was diagnosed with breast cancer, the thought that came to my mind as we

walked away from the hospital was, 'Hey! All these years I've been worrying about the wrong things! On this one we're really going to need God's help. . . .'

The prescription for the fuming and fretting of life is there in the counsel of David, Jesus and Paul.

In Psalm 37 David writes from the perspective of an old man who has lived much and learned lessons, one of which is that all the fretting has been useless and pointless. His prescription is threefold.

1. *Trust God – and take the long view.* It will all work out. Be patient while waiting for God's time (verses 2, 10, 11).

2. *Trust God – and look up.* Refocus your life upward. Make God your principal preoccupation. That's the only way you will exit the mindset that sees fellow human beings as rivals/enemies (verses 3-7).

3. *Trust God – and be constructive.* Doing always beats stewing. Get up, get out and get active. That way the worrier is no longer turned in on himself (good psychology). That way God has a chance of overcoming evil with good (good theology) (verses 3, 8; see Luke 6:27).

In his Manifesto of the Kingdom, Jesus devotes a significant section to worry (Matthew 6:25-34). He says that secular people obsess about food, drink and clothes, but says he wants his disciples to stand out and focus on his Kingdom and righteousness. He says that worry is unnecessary, achieves nothing and is blind. It doesn't empty tomorrow of sorrow, it just empties today of joy.

To illustrate his point Jesus refers to 'birds of the air' and 'flowers of the meadow'. They live their lives in quiet dependence on their environment, displaying the peace Jesus wants to mark out the disciple. After all, the disciple knows that behind the environment is a loving God; at the core of Cosmic Mission Control beats the heart of a Father whose essence is love.

When the storm strikes and the questions greatly outnumber the answers the disciple's reflex is to *trust*.

When the Big Storm strikes, the disciple will have conditioned his reflex through the squalls and crosswinds of life. When the dire diagnosis comes from the doctor, what then?

The words on most life prescriptions can seem trite then. But is there something to hang on to that will help the trust reflex?

Dachau survivor Viktor Frankl demonstrated that no matter what we're up against we have a choice – of *attitude*. My wife chose to exercise

that choice. To give in to fear would have led to panic and the physical, mental and spiritual consequences of panic would have been extremely destructive. She chose to offload the burden that could have crushed the life out of us both on to God. I followed suit. In return God gave us his peace. That, after all, is the deal Paul outlined from his dark, dank death cell. Paul's is the prescription:

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, *with thanksgiving*, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'<sup>3</sup>

The *with thanksgiving* part can be tough. Ruth Graham discovered that. When one of her sons was living a wild and dangerous life she was possessed by anxiety. Though exhausted, she was unable to sleep. At 3 one morning she felt that God told her, 'Stop studying the problems. Start studying the promises,' and that she was directed to Philippians 4:6, 7.

When she checked it out the phrase *with thanksgiving* leapt from the page. Initially it appalled her. 'There was nothing – but nothing! – to be thankful for.'

Then she thought of the son who was running her ragged. First, she gave thanks for his boyhood. Then she gave thanks for his earlier difficult spots which had improved her parenting skills. Then she asked God to lift the whole heft of that problem boy from her and to assume primary responsibility. 'And you know what happened?' she asks. 'It was as if someone turned on the light in my mind and heart.' Franklin Graham is now a minister.

David concluded his worry psalm with, 'The salvation of the righteous comes from the Lord; he is their stronghold in time of trouble.' (Verse 39.) Paul says that 'the peace of God that transcends all understanding' will be the experience of those who seek the safety of God's stronghold.

Paul heard the risen Lord say, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is maximised when you are at your most vulnerable.'<sup>4</sup>

From experience Peter wrote, 'You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon Him, you are His personal concern.'<sup>5</sup>

If worry is the diagnosis, *that* has to be the bottom line of the prescription.

References:

<sup>1</sup>Psalm 37:1, 7, 8; Matthew 6:25, 34; Philippians 4:6, 7. <sup>2</sup>Mark 4:18, 19. <sup>3</sup>Philippians 4:6, 7. <sup>4</sup>See 2 Corinthians 12:8, 9. <sup>5</sup>1 Peter 5:7, *Phillips*.

# Storming the prisons for God

by Richard DeLisser and Roy Chisholm

## 'They may be excluded from society, but nothing can exclude them from the love of God.'

Search Prison Ministries, an arm of the South England Conference, is proud to reveal that we are actively engaged in working with Her Majesty's Prisons to reduce re-offending. Although we co-operate fully with the Coalition on Criminal Justice, our ultimate goal is to labour to present every man/woman faultless before God. The record from God's Word declares that, in the final judgement, the Master will commend those who were labourers together with him, and their response will be: "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" The king will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers [and sisters] of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:37-40.)

God loves those in prison. It is a shocking fact that God loves the prostitute, the murderer, the mugger, the wife-beater, the arsonist and the thief. And, as his followers, he expects us to demonstrate that love. Loving our neighbour means much more than getting along with the folks next door. It means caring for all those around us. *Eighty thousand of our neighbours are in prison!* They may be excluded from society, but nothing can exclude them from the love of God. There is enough evidence in God's word to verify this statement. For example, the thief on the cross, Zacchaeus, Mary Magdalene, and there are lots more.

The prison population in the UK stands at 80,000 and is expected to rise by 2010 to 109,000, while the world prison population exceeds 9,000,000.

Search Prison Ministries was established by the South England

Conference in 1989. Pastor Roy Chisholm was appointed to organise the ministry and prepare a written manual to guide volunteers in ministering in HM prisons.

On 6 January 2008 one hundred and eighty prison volunteers were invited to a dinner to celebrate what they had achieved under God's blessing and guidance. With singing, preaching and sharing, these men and women enter HM prisons to share the good news of the Gospel with those on the inside. Invited church leaders included Dr Daniel Duda, Education, Chaplaincy and Ministerial director for the Trans-European Division, and Pastor Paul Lockham, executive secretary for the South England Conference, who told his audience, "There's nothing wrong in our young people seeing the results of wrong choices."

Thelma Soremekun, leader of the Hanwell group for eighteen years, told of the privilege God has given her to serve the incarcerated. She said, "To see these men, many in the prime of their lives, locked away like caged animals, is enough to make you weep." A presentation was made to Thelma for her years of service and leadership as she handed over her leadership role to Carol Fletcher.

Shirley Lee from the Ipswich

church works with inmates in open prisons. It is her duty to escort some of the inmates shopping, to help integrate them back into society. She is allowed to introduce them gradually into the local church. She had many stories to tell of those who were deported but who still kept in contact, ever expressing their gratitude for her acceptance, love and friendship.

Sylvia Bernard is a member of the Prison Visitors Association. She told her colleagues that God had given her this opportunity to labour with prisoners in order to help her appreciate her own lost condition. Sylvia travels to Broadmoor Prison, Highpoint Prison in Newmarket, and even further afield. She and her colleague, Jo Anderson, will tell you that where a soul for Christ is concerned, distance is no object.

Myrtle Warren and her team from the Reading church have built up a wonderful rapport with the Chaplaincy Ministry at Huntercombe Young Offender Institute. Not only do they conduct monthly Sunday worship, but a team member, Derrick Lindo, whom the chaplain has highly praised, holds a weekly discussion group with young inmates.

Our prison volunteers realise that it's not the deserving who need our

love but the undeserving.

Baroness Patricia Scotland addressed prison volunteers in November 2007 during Prisoners Week when more than forty of our volunteers were in attendance. The following is an extract from her address: "Helping prisoners to change will reduce the multiple barriers they face in re-integration. Prison volunteers are a real sign of hope."

"They are also a sign of love, because they walk with people when there is no one else to walk with them. They befriend people when it is not fashionable to do so. We Christians believe that a person is more than what he or she does or does not do. We have a hope that sustains us and enables us to care, even when it is difficult to imagine positive change taking place."

The ministry of the spoken Word and messages in song to inmates is highly praised by all the chaplains who have invited us to serve in their institutions. So far, we are aware of fifteen people who have come to Christ through baptism; one was a delegate at the recent SEC Session. We believe many more have come to know the Lord as a direct result of the dedicated ministry of our volunteers.



## Nine baptised following campaign by blind evangelist

by Dr O. Mangena

On 10 November, packed to full capacity that Sabbath afternoon, Plaistow church saw nine souls baptised.

The Plaistow pastor, Mohan Rao Abbadasari, was assisted by Pastor Leslie Ackie from East Ham and Walthamstow churches. Both endured an unheated baptistery that afternoon, albeit warmed by the harvested souls.

This was a harvest from a two-week campaign from 27 October to 10 November by Dr Sharat Babu Nakka from Spicer Memorial College in India. Dr Sharat Babu Nakka has been teaching at Spicer Memorial College for eighteen years. A son of a pastor, Dr Babu has been blind since the age

of 10. Nevertheless, he obtained a doctoral degree and teaches in the School of Religion to graduates and non-graduates, specialising in the Book of Daniel, Revelation, Eschatology and Last Day Events. Dr Babu is visibly passionate about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and loves to share the Gospel with everyone he meets.

By faith Plaistow members printed and distributed some 5,000 flyers, only to receive the news that the speaker's visa application had been unsuccessful. Flyer distribution continued with prayer and supplication. God answered prayers and the visa was granted about three days before the campaign was due to start. Now moving by

sight and not just by faith, a further 5,000 flyers were ordered and distributed in East London.

The campaign was well attended throughout by members and non-members alike. We had local pastors: Ackie, Akakpo, Chackoshen and Mbui. From the BUC and

SEC we had the pleasure of welcoming Earl Ramharacksingh, SEC treasurer, Terry Messenger, PM, and Sam Davis, the SEC president. Eglan Brooks came from the BUC. Pastor Elias Moyo of the Brethren in Christ Church and his wife were regular attendants at the campaign. What a blessing and encouragement the local and SEC leaders were to both Plaistow members and the visiting evangelist.

Dr Babu's explanation of the seven last plagues of Revelation 16 was to many a student of prophecy a climactic event that made member and visitor see the events unfolding so clearly and see the urgent need to be sealed. Commenting on the clarity and effectiveness of Dr Babu's presentations, Pastor Moyo's words may be paraphrased thus: "He gives the listener compelling information; he analyses and dissects it; and he asks him to make a decision based on that information. He does not just leave him with the information."

We thank the Lord for the souls harvested and pray that Dr Babu's ministry will go from strength to strength as we wait for our Lord's imminent return.

*The baptismal candidates were:*

**Plaistow church.** Angela Semper, Anthony Semper, Atibu Kiberu, Kevin Omwenga, Nkosilungisa Mpoko, Sandra Aryee, Zgoro Nyirenda  
**Dagenham church.** Donna Caddle-Blackman  
**East Ham church.** Jessica Williams.



Dr Sharat Babu Nakka with the baptismal candidates

## St Austell baptisms

On 14 April at our Youth Day of Fellowship Joanne Lewis took her stand for Jesus and was baptised at the St Austell church. Joanne is the wife of Dwight Lewis who was brought up as an Adventist. Both of them were serving in the Royal Navy at the time. Joanne felt the call of the Holy Spirit and, after a series of Bible studies, became convinced that she wanted to commit her life to Jesus. Nathan Stickland was our speaker for the day and after a stirring message Joanne shared her testimony with the members and friends who had come to witness her stand for Jesus. Before her baptism the Hatton family sang a song for

her. The writer baptised Joanne, afterwards inviting her to become a member of the St Austell church. Joanne was welcomed into the family of the world church by Pastor Nathan Stickland and Nalissa Maberly welcomed her as a member of the St Austell church. Since this wonderful day, both Dwight and Joanne have moved to Portsmouth to study at Portsmouth University.

Then on 17 November Paul Francis was baptised in the name of Jesus. Paul was working at a place for the disabled near St Austell as a gardener. One of the volunteers whose name is Sonia, an Adventist from South America, was working at the same place and wanted to share her faith with someone while she was working there. She met Paul and began to talk to him about Jesus. Over the last eight months Sonia studied the twenty-eight fundamental beliefs of our Church with Paul and encouraged him to come to the St Austell church. Paul was convinced that Jesus wanted him to follow him so he asked if it was possible for him to be baptised and, after talking with him and Sonia, Paul was encouraged to write a reason why he wanted to be baptised and why he wanted to follow Jesus. After further conversations Paul wanted to com-



## 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'. He explained 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

mit his life to Jesus and, on the day of his baptism, Paul shared his testimony with the many members and friends who had come to witness his decision for Jesus and was baptised and invited to become a member of

the St Austell church. He was welcomed into the family of the world church by Pastor Ron Clemow and as a member of the St Austell church by the leader, Terry Symons.

PASTOR RON CLEWOW

# 70 lay preachers graduate

Sunday 16 December was a day of celebration for the South England Conference. Seventy members from different parts of southern England graduated as lay preachers at the Advent Centre in Central London. This represents the largest class ever to graduate in one year in the South England Conference. They had signed up for the lay preachers' course at the beginning of 2007 which was initiated by Dr Richard DeLisser, then the Personal Ministries director. The course began in May and extended through to November. The participants were required to attend various workshops throughout the course led by experienced preachers and teachers such as Pastor P. Boyle, Dr M. Hamilton, Pastor M. Holness, Dr T. Messenger, Dr E. Osei, Pastor C. Perry, Pastor G. Rhamie, Dr L. Turner, Pastor A. Wagner III and Mark DeLisser. The workshops covered different aspects in the art of preaching such as Deciding What to Preach, How to Bring Variety into Preaching, Persuasive Preaching, Pulpit Decorum, The Sermon Structure and African-American Preaching. The student preachers were required to take two written tests and present a sermon in front of assessors and their peers. Dr Terry Messenger, who took over the reins of Personal Ministries director in October, commented that the standard of preaching had been exceptional.



Pastor Alan Hodges, in his address, reminded the students of their solemn responsibilities as preachers of the Word and that they should not be afraid to proclaim the whole message of God. Dr Emmanuel Osei charged the students to remember that they are Seventh-day Adventist preachers with a distinctive message to give to the world. Pastor C. Perry dedicated them to service during his prayer. John Anderson from the Isle of Wight, who gave the class response, gave thanks and credit to those who had organised and taught the course, and vowed that they would be true to their calling.

There must have been much rejoicing in Heaven to witness another 'seventy' ready to be sent out by King Jesus to perform great exploits for him!

DR TERRY MESSENGER

## Faithful Faifley celebrates first baptisms

Just ten months after its planting the thirty-strong Faifley congregation celebrated its first baptisms on 1 December. Five young people – husband and wife George Singo and Glory Gondwe, brother and sister Sphe and Menze Mokhonta, and Nzala Chimuka – took their decision for Christ.

A measure of the Clydebank membership's impact on the local community is the local Baptist church's willingness to make their baptismal facilities available for the occasion. The capacity congregation, including several non-members, enjoyed musical contributions from the Glasgow groups, Praise, Helping Hand, and Gospel Flow.

Scottish Mission Bible worker and Faifley leader, Britius Habwangabwanga, spoke of the free choice available for salvation and made an impassioned plea for others to make the right choice. West of Scotland District pastor, Clifford Herman, officiated and four more of those present responded positively to his invitation to offer themselves for baptism.

Not content with this initial success, Faifley members are committed this month to distributing 7,000 Take Jesus cards in the district.

JOHN WILBY



## 'It is time to pray'

27-30 March

It is time to grow in grace and to become more like Jesus in character. It is time to draw nearer to God. It is time to experience the fire of the Holy Spirit in our lives, empowering us to witness for him. It is time to place all on the altar of sacrifice – ourselves, money, time, talent and possessions.

*More Prayer, more Power. Little Prayer, little Power.*  
We welcome you to come to Prayer Harvest Ministries' Annual Residential Prayer Retreat. Our Theme is **BLAZING 2008**. Stir up the flame within you. Come and learn how to BLAZE ABROAD what Jesus has done for you.

**Come and pray for the REVIVAL, REFORMATION, THE OUTPOURING of the HOLY SPIRIT and the HARVEST. COME.**

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*Registration Officer:*  
Mrs. D. Dawkins, 173 Glaisdale Gardens, Whitmore Reams, Wolverhampton, WV6 OTX.

## Water into Wine marriage retreat at Newbold

by Tabitha Cummins and Jeremy Cedenio

I guess the big test for any marriage retreat is men. Did the men enjoy it? Would they do it again? The answer was a resounding yes from the men who, with their spouses, attended the Water into Wine marriage retreat organised by Newbold church with the SEC from 16 to 18 November.

For an engaged couple at our

first marriage retreat, this was a special moment. Preparing for marriage amid the wedding plans and normal working life, we were able to take time out and attend to the serious business of our relationship. We were not the only ones who felt this way. Apparently, it's not only engaged couples who feel the stress



of life. All the married couples at the retreat remarked how good it was to take a break from day-to-day life and focus on one another.

The wonderful thing about a 'Water into Wine' conference is that the couple is the focus. Yes, you are there with eighteen other couples in the beautiful surroundings of Moor Close, but the two of you have a great opportunity to connect and spend time together. This goal was achieved with the help of Karen and Bernie Holford, as well as Leslie and Irma Ackie, who guided us through the development of relationship skills including communication and forgiveness. Chris and Susanna Rogers, with their daughter Asha, led in very meaningful worship.

There were so many little things that made this conference special, but one thing that all the couples agreed on was that conversation with their partner was the most special. The hosts fostered an environment in which you felt safe and were guided towards having much-needed conversation with your partner.

Throughout the course of the weekend, Bernie and Karen emphasised the importance of reflecting a Christlike love towards our spouses in order to improve our relationship, not just with our partners,

but with others as well.

While learning skills to enhance our relationship were at the centre of the retreat, there was more to it than that. On Saturday evening the couples enjoyed an intimate and romantic banquet with their partners. All dressed up and given the tools of communication, the couples were treated to live music, great ideas and wonderful displays of appreciation by some of their partners.

Those who have interacted with Karen and Bernie before will know that creativity surrounds them, and this weekend was no different. The climax of the weekend was a special communion service. This was the culmination of a conference filled with spirituality, learning, conversation and, most of all, relationship building. There could have been no more fitting culmination to an event such as this.

Our advice: If you get the opportunity to attend the 'Water into Wine' marriage retreat, go for it. You will be surprised at what you will learn about yourself, your partner and your relationship. This is a real opportunity to connect in a spiritual way to the person you love.

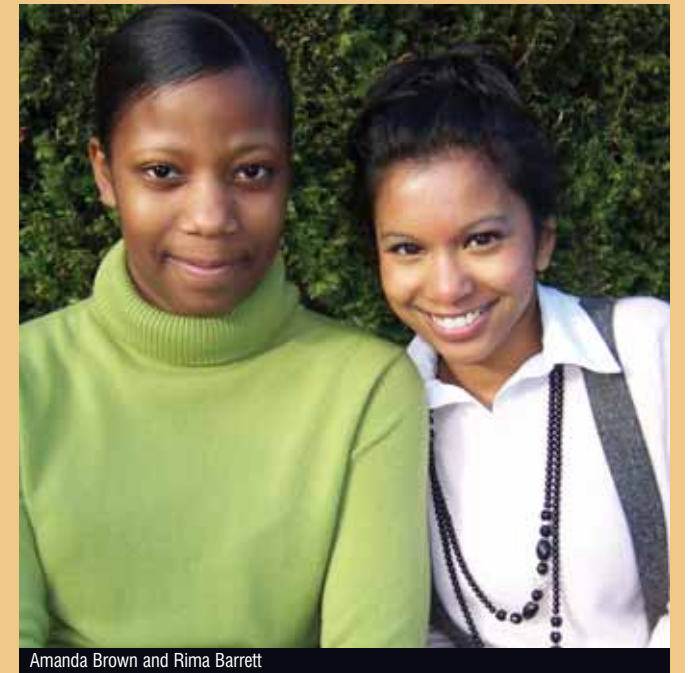
Please contact the Family Ministries department at the SEC on 01923 232728 or email [fm@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:fm@secadventist.org.uk) to register your interest in future marriage enrichment events.

## Autumn baptism at Stanborough Park

Members of Stanborough Park church were delighted to welcome two young ladies into fellowship following their baptism on Sabbath 20 October. Both Rima Barrett and Amanda Brown come from Adventist homes and decided, following a short period of Bible studies, that now was the right time to be baptised.

Rima (23) studied with Paula Carrillo and was baptised by her father, Jonathan Barrett. Pastor Barrett is the minister at the neighbouring St Albans church and her mother, Mary, is an elder and part of the pastoral team at Stanborough Park. Amanda (13), who was awarded Pathfinder of the Year 2007 status at the church's summer Investiture, studied with our pastoral assistant, Mary Barrett, and was baptised by our senior minister, Pastor Ian Sleeman.

JUNE COOMBS



Amanda Brown and Rima Barrett



## John Loughborough School annual Speech Day

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau

The John Loughborough School held its annual Speech Day on Sunday 25 November at the Gladsmore Community School in Tottenham with over 300 people in attendance. The keynote speaker for the occasion was Kwame Kwei-Armah, an actor famous for his role as Finlay Newton in BBC's *Casualty*. He urged the young people to live 'extraordinary lives' because they live in 'extraordi-

nary times'. He deliberated on the fact that as a young person, he did not have to face the issues that today's teenagers experience. Dr Keith Davidson, BUC Education director, commenting on the speech, said, 'The challenge from the guest speaker was deeply moving.'

Head teacher Dr June Alexis spoke of the successes of the school during the past year. 'Despite the challenges we have faced and are facing, God is still here with us and has blessed these young people to complete their GCSEs.' There were several pupils who achieved outstanding results, notably, Jemiliat Otun (13), Joshua Agilinko (13) and Lemarr Lockear-McGrowder (13).



These young people received A\* to C grades and a further 17 received five or more A\* to C grades.

Mayor Councillor Sheik Thompson and his wife, Mrs Kyoko Thompson, attended the event and were pleased to accept a cheque of £142.27 for the Mayor's Fund raised by pupils from the school. He personally thanked the students for

their kind donation.

Music was provided by year 10 girls and also Antonio Francis and Louanne Sampson, teaching staff at the school.

Reflecting on the Speech Day, Dr Davidson concluded: 'After such a momentous event, we are left feeling that we can move forward despite difficulties experienced.'

# BUC hold second Conference on Teenagers

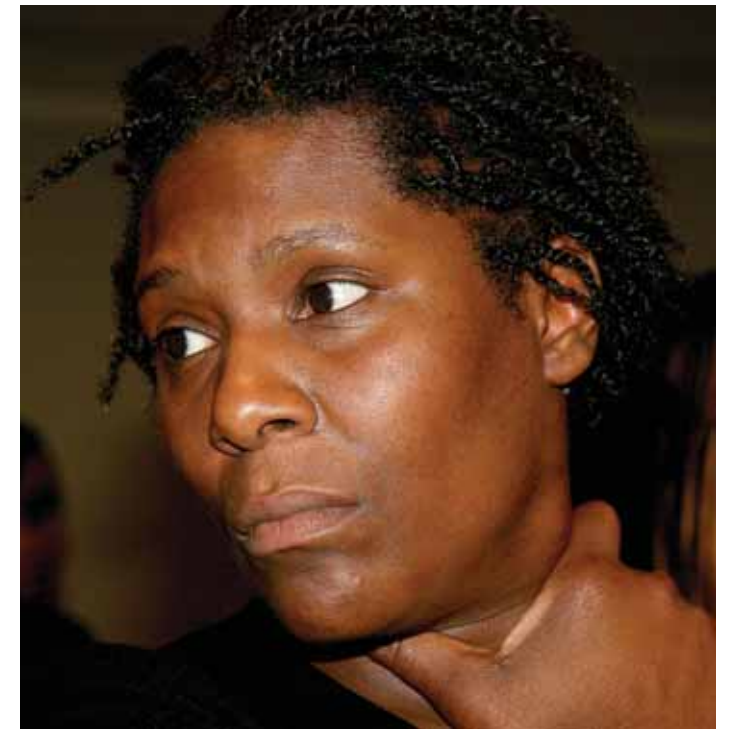
by Catherine Anthony Boldeau

The youth department of the British Union Conference held its second Conference on Teenagers during the first weekend of December at the Staverton Park Hotel in Daventry. The main purpose of the conference was to assist parents, youth and family workers to understand the mindset of twenty-first-century teenagers in order to help them in their faith and life journeys.

The main speaker at the conference was Neals Chitan, who is the president and founder *MOTIV-8 For Change International* in Canada. His first presentation was based on his life story and how he was originally a victim of bullying before he became a bully himself in his early teens. He then related how the loving faith of a teacher enabled him to turn his life around. His second presentation

focused around negative messages and how these influence the lives of teenagers, and the third presentation was entitled 'Voices of Change'. This plenary session detailed a child's life from birth to late teens and described how through each phase there are different 'voices' – methods of communication between parent/ guardian and child. Prior to this appointment at the Conference on Teenagers, Neals spent time in London speaking with pupils and teachers at the John Loughborough School. He preached in Balham and Leicester Central churches and made presentations in the Brixton church and in the highly successful Kennington's 'Food for da brain', as well as being interviewed by Choice FM.

Val Bernard, a lecturer in sociology at Newbold College,



presented two plenary sessions in the form of case studies on spiritual sociology as it relates to African-Caribbean people, and explored the reasons why many of the black teenagers in UK society behave as they do. These presentations were well received, especially against the backdrop of the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade.

Paul Boldeau, programmes manager of a team of mentors in London, presented a solution focused approach to working with teenagers. Des Boldeau, BUC Youth director and conference organiser, delivered the opening presentation on the mind of teenagers, and Paul Tompkins, TED Youth director, spoke on the challenges that parents face when dealing with teenagers, and he also explored how as Seventh-day Adventists we could 'reclaim and retain our teenagers'.

Other workshop presenters included Sarah Brighton, deputy director of Hope UK, a Christian drug prevention and education

organisation in the UK, Pam Millington, a Neighbourhood Contracts manager who works with hard-to-reach young people, and Lynthia Grant, a Family Project manager. Presentations on the Government's strategic initiative, *Every Child Matters*, and the new Safeguarding Act and their impact on faith communities were also delivered.

One of the highlights of the

conference was the arrival of six teenagers from Little Eden High School in West London. As well as performing an entertaining sketch depicting the relationship between parents and teenagers, the teens were also interviewed about what they appreciated about their parents and what aspects of the parent/teen relationship they found challenging.

Des Boldeau, reflecting on the conference, said, 'I am pleased at the turnout of the members. But I was extremely encouraged to have seven non-Adventists who attended our programme, two of whom were Muslims and two who had no particular faith tradition. The presenters were all youth and family specialists who work with teenagers on a regular basis.' Continuing, he stated, 'One of the outcomes of the conference is that the Youth department of the BUC will now be developing resources relating to teenagers in order to equip leadership at local level to minister to the needs of teenagers more effectively.'



## St Albans baptism

On Sabbath 1 December seven people reflected a life-changing decision when they were baptised at St

Albans church by Pastor Jonathan Barrett. The candidates, Mwenee Monga, Makoye Kampengele, Andre

Fernandes, Mpande Maiambo Chilange Kampengele, Veruschka Gietzmann, Shingirai Nyakwima, and Joan Prosper accepted Jesus into their lives on profession of their faith.

This baptism was witnessed by family and friends as the candidates entered into a covenant relationship with God. The speaker, Dejan Stojkovic, spoke about the significance of not only looking for treasure but finding it.

It was striking to see how many young people came to support the candidates who, at the end of the service, spoke to the church about the choice they had made to follow Jesus. For Shingirai, making the decision to be baptised came as a result of her personal conviction and study of the Scriptures. Joan gave a moving testimony of how God had led her out of her job as she was

encouraged by a friend to become involved in the health ministry. By giving up a demanding job she became aware of her own ill-health. She testified that this was the way God miraculously saved her life. Andre, Makoye and Mpande are all young men who are daring to be different. They made the following comments: 'I realise how kind God has been to me', 'The Lord has been showering me with blessings recently' and 'I realised that I am growing up and I need God in my life'. Veruschka wrote that it was after she went to camp and felt very close to God that the change came. It was at that point that she knew for certain that the time was right to make this life-changing decision. Mwenee realised that God is to be trusted and that he wanted to begin a new life with him.

LINDA INCE

## What on earth is going on?



This was the theme of our youth day at Wolverhampton Oxford Street on 22 December. During Sabbath School the youth focused on family values and the church discussed the issues facing our youth today, and how the church family can support young people during these last days.

During divine hour our 32-member youth choir sang songs

of praise to God and words of encouragement to the congregation. As well as singing in the choir, I also sang with my friends Naomi, Sharna and Chanel in our group The Gospels.

Our speaker Juan Jimenez spoke to the youth from his heart and encouraged us not to be ashamed of our beliefs and to talk to those



who do not know God.

In the afternoon the young people put on a play for the church, which looked at the wrong choices that we as young people sometimes make. But I know that as a Christian young person we should stand up for our beliefs and choose the right path to Christ.

MELZINA WALKER, aged 13, Youth Reporter

forward wearing their new robes, and a second prayer of dedication was said and words of encouragement to keep on singing.

The praise team then led the church in the song, 'I got a robe, you



got a robe, all God's children got a robe', and before the closing prayer was said by church elder C. Chambers, the church sang, 'All hail the power of Jesus' name'.

Oxford Street Senior Choir has been singing for over forty years and during that time they have shown their dedication and commitment to singing praises to the Lord.

During 2007 the choir was led by Viv Palmer. We would like to thank her for all her hard work. We know that Sister Lindo and her team will continue this high standard as we sing our way to Heaven.

JENNIFER DINHAM

## Oxford Street robing ceremony

'Walking with Jesus in white, beautiful robes we shall wear' was the title for the Sabbath afternoon meeting on 5 January. On this day the Oxford Street senior choir dedicated themselves and their new robes to God.

After a rousing praise and worship session, Pastor Fray gave a warm welcome to all. Mark Palmer then went on to describe the robes and duties of the church choir. Also joining the service were Wednesfield church choir, Great Brickiln Street church choir and the Oxford Street Youth Choir. As well as singing,

Melzina Walker and Naomi Brown read a poem specially written by the talented Wendy McKenzie.

After giving the charge to the choir and the congregation, Pastor Fray then began to call each choir member by name. Each had asked a close friend or family member to put on their robe. There were lots of smiles, hugs, kisses and amens during the service. The choir then linked arms while a dedicatory prayer was offered, followed by a rendition of 'Beautiful robes we shall wear'.

The youth choir also came

# London Ghana collects £100,000

by Nana Sifa Twum and Isaac Amo-Kyeremeh

The London Ghana church's ability to raise money for the Lord hit a record high this year with members raising over £100,000 during the church's annual fundraising programme.

Dubbed 'The Annual Harvest', members are encouraged by church leadership to count their blessings over the past year and accordingly offer a 'harvest' to the Almighty God for his protection, forgiveness of sin and blessings.

The giving spirit of the nearly five hundred members has been fantastic and inspirational since the establishment of the London Ghana Adventist church.

Members of the church have made a tremendous financial contribution in order to acquire their own place of worship. The temple, which was opened this year, saw many prominent figures of the worldwide church and Ghanaian diplomats gracing the occasion.

The 'Harvest' was preceded by a three-week Stewardship Capital Campaign led by Pastor Emmanuel Poakwah, an experienced and successful church stewardship campaign consultant from the church in Accra in the South Ghana Conference.

The church's financial records

indicate that over the past five years there has been a substantial and steady increase of nearly 30% every year in the monies raised by members, and it would not be an overstatement to say that the £100,000 raised this year during the 'harvest' will go down in the history books of the church worldwide.

This provides tangible evidence that the church is growing from strength to strength and from grace to grace. The church has been able to expand its facilities.

The senior pastor, Dr Emmanuel Osei, observed that the giving spirit of church members, to a large

extent, is determined by their level of spiritual growth. 'With the unity and love that has prevailed in this church over the years, we can do more than we are doing now to the glorification of God,' he acknowledged.

With members clad in a cloth designed purposely for the official opening of the church in June 2007, the atmosphere was just inspirational. The Holy Spirit was at work and the beaming faces of members, including children and the youth, were testimony to the Lord's presence among his people.

At the end, some members observed that as we are progressing every year in our giving to the Lord with almost the same numerical strength, then by God's grace we will hit about £130,000 or more next year.

## Wolverhampton Youth Emphasis Weekend

The youth of Oxford Street church in Wolverhampton, led by the AY leader Mark Palmer, have started the year with a positive, encouraging in-reach programme led by a dynamic young speaker by the name of Enoch Adu. Enoch is originally from London but is in his final year at Oakwood College. During the weekend the praise team led the church in song.

Friday evening's topic was character building. Enoch came from a different angle as he used the sanctuary to illustrate his points. The sanctuary wasn't discussed in the usual way, but instead he spoke about the sanctuary representing our relationship with God.

Enoch's sermon on Sabbath combined testimonies, stories and words of encouragement.

During the AY programme, Enoch encouraged us not to focus on celebrities such as Oprah, 50-cent and Jay-Z but on God. 'They might be rich with houses and cars, but we can be rich in Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit,' he said.

Using Romans 8 as his foundation, he also encouraged us to feed our spiritual lives and

spend more time with God. If we want to grow in Christ we should feed the spirit more and feed the flesh less.

RACINE GREEN

## Tottenham's Children's Day

Sabbath 27 October was Children's Day at Tottenham church. The theme was 'Christian Children' and the Bible text chosen was: 'Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.' (Proverbs 22:9, NIV) The children were in charge of the day's programme: Sabbath School, divine service and AYS. Family and friends came out in their numbers to support the children and they were not disappointed. The church was blessed with three sermons from Ryan Donaldson (age 11), Nadhera Edwards (age 12) and Quinland Anderson (age 15).

Ryan, who was baptised in 2004, spoke about being an Adventist. As a student he had to be different, not following what others were doing, but doing what was right. He kept himself anchored in God by studying his Bible and praying.

Nadhera reminded the congregation that children were the future and they would be helping to shape tomorrow's world. She quoted Psalm 8:2: 'Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength.'

Nadhera said that the eyes of the world were upon the children of the church, so they needed to walk in the Spirit of Christ. 'God is able to give his children strength to trample the deceiver,' she said. She noted that children should be

respectful to parents and this was a mandate from God.

Quinland, who was baptised in August during the Impact London programme, spoke about God's grace. He reminded us that children too can be used to spread the Good News. He quoted Solomon's wise words, 'Remember thou thy Creator in the days of thy youth. . . .' Quinland attended Stanborough Park school, and he mentioned the kindness he was shown by his roommate when he boarded there for two weeks while sitting his GCSEs. He is now attending a non-Adventist institution to do his A Levels and he has noticed the difference made by the absence of God in the hearts of the people he meets. As a result, some are unable to resist the temptations of drugs and alcohol. He mentioned that he is a good footballer, but he did not join his new school's football team, to the surprise of those who know his skills, because the games were played on Sabbath.

The AYS took the form of a concert by the children and they displayed a range of singing talents which belied their ages. At the end of the concert the Junior Sabbath School superintendent, Carol McDonald, awarded some Sabbath School prizes. There was an individual and family prize for '100% Punctuality'. The individual prize was awarded to Nathaniel Awotwi. The family prize was awarded to two families: the Edwards family – Abib, Nadhera, Miranda, Melissa; and Brother Maxwell's grandchildren, Sanchez and Shaquilah. The prize for 'Good Behaviour' was awarded to Victoria Soyam and Rhea Strachan and the prize for 'Most Improved Sabbath School Class' was awarded to Pat Williams. However, none of the children left empty-handed as they were all provided with goodies.

MAXINE DONOVAN

**Calling Maltese Adventists living in Britain**  
Anthony Stagno, deacon of the Adventist congregation in Malta, wants you to know that an edition of *Steps to Christ* has been published in the Maltese language. Copies of the book may be obtained by emailing [tandor7@onvol.net](mailto:tandor7@onvol.net).

# Seventh-day Adventist members in fraud case

by Richard DeLisser, SEC Communication director

National and local press have given substantial coverage to a case at Southwark Crown Court concerning four young men who have been charged with 'communicating an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity between 3

October 2003 and 5 April 2004'. One of the four has also been charged with 'fraudulent trading, carrying on unauthorised investment business, and one count of money laundering between 31 July 2003 and 1 March 2004'. The prosecution alleges that

up to one thousand people, many of them members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, have been affected by the case, many losing substantial sums of money. The four men, all from the London area and members of the Adventist Church,

are denying the charges. The case is expected to continue for several weeks.

Our hearts and prayers go out to all those who have been affected by this case. The British Union Conference and South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists want to assure members that the Church will continue to provide positive stewardship counsel both at national and local level in order to equip our members to make reasoned choices in their financial planning.

As the court case is continuing, it is impossible for the Church to make further comments, except to ask our members to pray for all concerned. The Church will make a further statement once the case is concluded.

# Death of Ivan Dave Wright

by Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication director

Churches in the Bristol area spent special time in prayer on Sabbath 19 January in support of Angela Wright and her family who lost their beloved husband and father in a devastating house fire on Tuesday 15 January.

Ivan, an elder of the Bristol North Seventh-day Adventist church and a second year theology student at Newbold College, was found dead after a fire at his home in Horfield, East Bristol. Ivan's wife Angela was at work at the time and his two younger children were at school. He

has one daughter, who flew back to England from her work in Korea, and two older children.

Local pastor, Richard Daly, says that Angela and her family have been overwhelmed with the support and the prayers of church members. Members from the Bristol area, friends at Newbold, and the South England Conference office, have all contributed to help a family that has lost almost everything in the fire.

Pastor Daly reflects the emotions of the Bristol members when he



says, 'It has been a numbing shock to all of us that he passed away in such a tragic way. Our thoughts and

prayers go out to his wife, Angela, and his five children. We have courage to know that despite his untimely death he had a hope that we share that one day we are going to a place where atrocities and tragic accidents like this will be no more and he will be in peace.'

# Tottenham's community outreach

On Sunday 16 December the doors of Tottenham church were opened to welcome the local community to a Community Outreach Day. Over fifty non-Adventists attended, the majority being Eastern European.

Although the event was scheduled to start at 11.30am, visitors started to arrive from 11. They wanted to be there on time to choose clothes,

household items, toys and books donated by church members. The day was bitterly cold, so visitors were provided with a selection of hot beverages and biscuits while they waited their turn. After visitors had selected their items, they were provided with a three-course meal. In addition, Sister P. Wiggan carried out health checks and visitors received food packages to take away.

Tottenham church has been holding this event twice a year since 2001. Councillor Brian Haley attended in December 2006, but sent his apologies this time. Also that year the Mayor of Haringey, Councillor Gina Adamou, who was unable to attend, sent a special message: 'Thanks to all those from the church involved in organising this event. This Outreach Day is very welcome, especially at this time of year, as it gives so much support to those vulnerable members of our society. Best wishes for the day.'

MAXINE DONOVAN



# Music Day at GBK

Music Day on 10 November was presented by Dr Diane Sinclair from the NEC. Her sermon was based on music, musicians and musical instruments used in the Bible. The congregation was blessed and inspired as Dr Sinclair highlighted the purposes of music and its place in worship to God with highest praise.

The four choir groups – the Sanctuary Choir, the Messengers, Chorale and Children's Choir joined in resounding songs of praise.

The day's events continued with the AY programme and Dr Sinclair answered questions raised on whether contemporary music in worship is justifiable or a dangerous compromise. Quizzes and group discussions helped to clarify areas of doubt and misunderstandings.

DELVA CAMPBELL

# GBK Pathfinders

Twenty eager Pathfinders prepared the ground of their allotment in early March 2007 in the hope of reaping a bountiful harvest in the autumn.



The Pathfinders prepared the ground of their allotment



The Pathfinders present the fruits of their labours to the GBK church

Their allotment was divided into six plots, one adult supervising between three to four children in each plot.

Collette's group planted beetroot and carrots. Collin's cabbage and lettuce. Helderburg supervised the planting of pumpkin, corn and courgettes. Karen's group did flowers, thyme and parsley. Wendy's planted

onions, garlic and red peas. Michael's pupils planted tomatoes and sweet peppers.

By October the Pathfinders' hard work had paid off as they presented their home-grown fruits, vegetables and flowers to GBK church, and lifted their voices in songs of praise and thanksgiving to God.

DELVA CAMPBELL

# West Bletchley baptism

West Bletchley Community church was pleased to celebrate the joyous occasion of a baptism on 6 October. At this event, Isaac Addaih and Patience Mangoro were baptised by Pastor Alonzo Wagner III, the local minister. As usual, it was a wonderful occasion that attracted the

support of family, friends and acquaintances.  
SYLVONIE NOEL



Isaac Addaih and Patience Mangoro

# Mayor at King's Cross Christmas lunch

Every year the members from King's Cross Adventist church arrange a spectacular lunch for the senior citizens of their local community. The menu is mouth-watering, from the traditional turkey and stuffing to a delectable vegetarian option, not to mention all the other goodies that go with it.

The lunch is prepared by the ladies at King's Cross and is served by the youth, so everyone has a chance to get involved.

This year we were privileged to have as guests the Mayor of Islington and her consort.

They both enjoyed the meal and felt the warmth of Christian fellowship. They thanked us for giving them the opportunity to be involved in our community event. The Mayor's consort made us smile when he said, 'It is very rare to eat Brussels sprouts and carrots that are not over cooked.'

While they ate, entertainment was provided in the form of topical renditions from Sonia Woods and Carla.

It was thoroughly enjoyed by all. At King's Cross we see this as another opportunity to share our faith with those in the community around us.

KAY RODNEY

The principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre (VOP) acknowledges with sincere thanks a donation of £40 from the Watford area.

**DAVID JOHN BRADLEY (1937-2007) d. 5 September.** David was born in a Navy nursing home in Southsea, Hampshire. During the first ten years of his life he lived in ten different addresses in the Gosport area, excluding six months in Northern Ireland when he was about 5 or 6 years old. He surprised everyone by passing his 11+ exam and completed his education in the local Grammar School. With GCEs under his belt he decided to join one of the forces and applied to both the RAF and the Navy. He passed both entrance exams and when asked by his dad which service he would choose, his reply was: 'Whichever paperwork comes through the letterbox first'. From his 16th birthday to his 30th the RAF was home. During those fourteen years he travelled from his apprenticeship in Weston-super-Mare to Lincolnshire, Germany, Aden, Singapore, the Middle East and finally Odiham back in Hampshire. The next thirty-five years saw him take his electrical engineering skills to many other parts of the world. It was while with the RAF in Aden that the seed of faith was sown in the life of David. It was there that he made his first public commitment to God by running a Sunday 'in faith' show on Local Forces radio, with music, readings, sermons and 'thoughts for today'. In 1993 his interest in God was reawakened as a bright coloured card dropped through the letterbox. The card was one of 3,000 dropped in the area inviting the reader to a Revelation Seminar. In 1994 David and I were baptised into the SDA church in Southampton. A year later, after much prayer, David began studying to become a lay preacher and in September 1996 he stood before his new 'family' and gave his first sermon. The next ten years would see David preaching in Area 3, Area 5, Plymouth to the west and Bogdaneste, Romania, to the east. It was in 2006 after a month's trip to Romania that David became aware of the first symptoms of his illness and in January 2007 we were told the devastating news that he had a malignant brain tumour. Through the remaining time his faith grew stronger and, for as long as possible, David took an active part in the small group meeting we had at our home every Thursday morning. At 5 o'clock one morning David woke me with, 'Get some paper and a pen; write this down'. So was born David's song 'Take Me to the Cross Where Jesus Died', a song of love and hope. On 5 September he fell asleep in my arms and now rests waiting for his Lord, our glorious Saviour, to come and take us all home. On 12 September, a bright sunny day and with a full church, we all came together to say our last farewell. Among our number were six pastors and an Anglican vicar from the General Hospital's chaplaincy department where David worked voluntarily on Sunday mornings as organist, wheelchair pusher and, yes, preacher. As part of the service a hand-picked choir sang David's song, in tribute to a nice guy and good friend. During this past year David had been involved with three concerts, one he organised at the Area 3 day of fellowship, one which was presented for him, and a third with him in mind. The collections from these concerts and a plate offering at his funeral service meant that £1,085 has been collected for Cancer Research UK, a charity very close to David's heart. I would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, phone calls, visits over these past months, and for your generosity.

WENDY BRADLEY

**CHRISTINE DAWE (1916-2007) d. 6 September.** Christine was born in Isleworth, Middlesex, while her father, the middle child of four brothers, was serving in France during the 1st World War. After the war her father returned, but died in 1927. Her mother was seriously injured in a car accident and so Christine took over the running of the family. At about the same time she won a scholarship to the Grammar School and had the ambition of becoming a teacher. Her responsibilities to her family meant, instead, that she had to obtain work in an accounts office. Outside of work she swam, cycled, played netball and tennis, provided secretarial support to her brother's Scout group and rode motor-cycle sidecars in grass

track races. It was while playing netball that she met Ida, an Adventist from Ealing church. Ida's witness led to Christine cycling six miles to hear Pastor W. W. Armstrong preach, and then to her baptism in 1942. She found a war-worker job with a tyre company and now that Sabbath was so important to her, she requested not to work on that day. She was physically removed from the premises and dumped on the pavement with the words ringing in her ears, 'You are a war effort deserter and will face the consequences!' After many challenges to her faith she found employment with a Jewish company. About this time she met and married Leonard Dawe at Ealing church. They lived in various places, including Sark in the Channel Islands. They had four children and eventually moved to Andover in Hampshire in 1957 where they were active in the beginnings of the Winchester Adventist church and held office faithfully. Christine joined the local WI, Civil Defence and WRVS as well as serving on the Andover Scouts' parents committee. Leonard died in 1994 but Christine continued to support local charities and the scouting movement, raising funds and sharing her strong faith. Her love of motor-cycling continued until well into her 70s. She persevered against her failing health and would not miss church if there was any way of getting there, even though it entailed being lifted in a chair up a flight of stairs to the worship room! Her love for Jesus gave her certainty for her future and she died peacefully on 6 September. She left her body for medical research. Her family led a wonderful service of celebration on 27 October which was attended by family from around the world as well as friends from church and her local community. She is missed by her family and friends at Winchester and we look forward to meeting her again when our King returns.

PASTOR BARRY ALEN

**METELLA ADASSA ALMAN (Vena) (1932-2007) d. 2 November.** Jesus himself died after an agonising experience. But he is alive today. And that is the basis for our hope in Christ and access to eternal life. Laurie Alman, a founder member of Willesden church, is alive and well, but he has been touched three times in 2007 by the sorrow that death brings. In April his brother, Eric, also a founder member of Willesden when it was Harlesden, died in Canada where he was living. Then in July his sister, Sylvia, died in Canada too. On Friday 1 November, Laurie's wife, Vena, had a fall at home and died the next day. On 15 November, the Willesden church was packed with people who gathered to pay their last respects to their sister and friend, Vena Alman. Pastors who have ministered to Vena in the Willesden district over the years, from Hamilton Williams to Clive DeSilva, were present. Laurie's sister, Avis, flew in from Canada. In the introduction Keith Allen recognised the presence of 'the great God' and the people, in synergy with the tune, echoed, 'When Christ shall come, with shouts of acclamation . . . How great Thou art.' This set the scene for Pastor Williams' pertinent prayer: 'God of life, love and hope . . . Jesus is the resurrection and the life . . . Jesus, a victor over death, giving us joy, peace and hope. . . ' The praise team, who had been calming our nerves and focusing our minds, accentuated our gaze on Christ as they sang: 'Draw me close to you. Never let me go. You are my desire, no one else will do. . . ' Various speakers and the choir gave tributes to this dignified Christian lady, who in all aspects of life demonstrated loyalty, determination, caring and compassion, and dedication to the choir, singing songs like 'Beautiful Isle of Somewhere' with a nightingale-like voice. Dr Waite, a close family friend, recalled how Laurie introduced his 'lady friend' to him after a Saturday night meeting at the New Gallery Centre in the mid-1960s. The choir reminisced with one of Vena's favourites: 'It will be worth it all, when we see Jesus. Our trials will seem so small when we see Christ. . . So bravely run the race till we see Christ: A brave and now only son of the Almans is Dorell. Andrew, his younger brother, died in a tragic car/bicycle accident 21 years ago to the month – a tragedy

from which Vena had never fully recovered. But she nevertheless directed her energies to establishing the Andrew Memorial Nursery. Dorell gave the eulogy with composure and humour, and added, 'Mum kept a good home that lacked nothing. . . Mum had a strong religious conviction.' Pastor Gifford Rhamie, who grew up under the gaze of Willesden's members and at one time led the church choir, said, 'No one is defined by how they come into the world or how they leave the world. They are defined by how they know and live with God.' In an apt and poignant sermonette, Dr Emmanuel Osei summarised, 'Life does not only take place in the here and now. Though plagued with pain and suffering, the Christian doctrine tells us that a better day is coming. Christ has died and paid the price for her sins; so not even the devil can point a finger at Vena, for Jesus saves. She sleeps in Jesus.' With the promise that 'The golden morning is fast approaching' we have this hope that on the resurrection morning God will reunite the spark of life with dust from the earth to form a new Sister Alman. In the meantime, Laurie Alman, four weeks after his wife's funeral, said of Willesden SDA church, 'The people [are] a comfort around you. That environment makes you feel as if you have everything: peace of mind, comfort and a loving family. The cards are still coming. I thank God for everyone.'

ALBERT A. C. WAITE

**ERIC CUTSFORTH MEADLEY (1921-2007) d. 4 November.** The Hull church has lost a senior member. Eric was born on 4 January 1921, the youngest of three children. His elder brother John died in World War 2 at the age of 43, and sister Kathleen passed away only last year aged 101. Eric and his wife June were baptised by Pastor Ernest Cox on 17 November 1968. Sadly June died on 13 August 1988. Eric's family described him as an excellent host and as a walking encyclopaedia. Eric came to the Adventist church from an Anglican background, and when the church moved from his neighbourhood to the city centre, he decided to attend his local church, St Matthew's, again. Eric took his faith seriously, continuing in his belief in the sanctity of the Sabbath and the return of our Lord. Among those paying their last respects at the funeral service in St Matthew's were Hull minister, Pastor Solon Kyriacou, and representatives from the Adventist church. Following the funeral service, cremation took place at the Hull crematorium.

PETER WALLER

**DORA PHYLLIS (Babs) FRETTON (1921-2007) d. 25 November.** Babs was on her most recent visit to see her sister, Betty, in Atlanta when she became unwell. This forced her to cut short her trip and, with niece Linda, to return home. There she learned that the cancer which she hoped had been beaten by chemotherapy treatment had spread, leaving her no hope of recovery. During her short stay in Poole hospital she showed no self pity, but her customary gratitude for a life largely untroubled by ill health. Babs' father had been drawn to the Adventist message, giving up his job to honour the Sabbath hours. Babs and Betty recall how during those lean years there was always food on the table. Babs worked as a secretary during the war, after which she realised her dream to become a teacher and eventually a head teacher. She loved Christmastime in school and refused to compromise the Nativity story in the name of political correctness. She recalled a Muslim family taking pictures of the play and sending them home to their relatives. Her sense of fair play, her keen mind, humility and straightforward dealing with everyone were attributes that found expression both in school and church life. While attending the Holloway fellowship she worked to help establish the Muswell Hill church. Babs gave unstintingly of her time, energy and means to enhance the local church. Offices held while in Bournemouth included head deaconess, PM secretary, local and area treasurer. She remained the local treasurer and PM secretary until her death. Her generosity,

self-forgetfulness and thoughtfulness were a wonderful source of encouragement. Babs needed no position or title to fulfil the needs of young or old: visiting the housebound, bringing wisdom and practicality to a board meeting, attending Mother and Toddler club events, taxing elderly members to Seniors' club and taking them out for a drive in the countryside with lunch included as a treat. Her long-time friend, Bobby Coombe, says of her: 'I am indebted to her far more than I can ever say.' There are many visitors to the Alma Road fellowship who can testify to Babs' excellent Sabbath School class, where an experienced teacher and a dedicated, caring Christian lady combined to inspire, challenge and model. She taught her SS class for sixty years! Babs' funeral took place in Bournemouth's Crematorium chapel in the presence of family, friends and neighbours. Her sister Betty and brother-in-law, Roy Musgrave, nieces Linda and Sandra, had travelled from the US to be there. Cousins Olly and Stan Mellish, who live in Dorset and had been on hand to help Babs, also came. The service, conducted by local minister Ian Lorek and the writer, was a celebration of Babs' life, giving those of us who knew and loved her an opportunity to say thank you to a remarkable lady and to share her own hope for a bright future when Jesus returns.

PASTOR LESLIE HILL



**KOLODZIEJCZYK – THOMAS.** On Sunday 9 September the marriage ceremony of Mr Romuald Marek Kolodziejczyk to Miss Patsy Janet Thomas was held at the High Wycombe Sands church. The sun shone down on the happy couple throughout the day as over three hundred guests arrived at the church to witness this special occasion. Officiating ministers for the ceremony were Pastor Michael Anim and Pastor Trevor Thomas (brother of the bride). In presenting the message to the couple Pastor Anim spoke of the importance of each leaving close family ties and cleaving one to another and to the everlasting love of God who binds hearts and relationships together. The guests were deeply touched as Pastor Trevor Thomas asked the couple to step forward as he conducted the exchanging of vows and the prayer of dedication. Special music presentations at the church came from harpist Sujoya Paul Bullock, and organist Leslie Wood. Special songs included 'Song of love' by Doris and Yarek Szatkowski, and 'In moments like this' by Rebecca Thomas. Musical pieces titled 'Everything I do, I do for you' and 'You raise me up' were played by Christopher Thomas on clarinet and Sarah and Gemma King on flute and violin respectively. The bridal party consisted of Laurien Thomas (father of the bride), Helen Thomas (matron of honour), Slawek Gromadzki (best man), Chanelle Thomas (flower girl), Adam Thomas (ring bearer), Rebecca Thomas and Anna Speight (bridesmaids), Joshua and James Thomas (cushion boys), and Christopher Thomas (usher). The reception was held at the Hazlemere Community Hall in High Wycombe where over three hundred family and friends joined the host of the evening, father of the bride Mr Laurien Thomas, to celebrate the wedding of his daughter Patsy to Romuald. Masters of ceremonies Gideon, Annice and Yarek co-ordinated the evening as the guests enjoyed an evening meal, wedding speeches, cutting of the cake and entertainment with Caribbean and Polish wedding traditions. The Sunrise Steel band brightened the evening's atmosphere with songs and music, bringing a happy and lively Caribbean flavour to the occasion. It was indeed a joyous and grand occasion which Patsy and Romuald, with all family and friends, will remember and treasure for the rest of their lives.

PATSY KOLONDZIEJCZYK

# Pastor Ernest Logan

## (1926-2007) d. 18 December

by Pastor Ron Surridge

Messages from all parts of Britain and beyond have been received and each had a similar content: 'Pastor Ernest Logan brought something special to his ministry.' Most spoke of his dignified bearing and style that seemed to be present in all aspects of his life. Church members to whom he ministered recalled his poise and aplomb when occupying the pulpit. Others who worked with him on committees noted his calm and effective use of argument, and how well informed he was regarding the manner in which church matters should be conducted.

One thing is certain; Ernest Logan believed that the word 'professional' was in no way inappropriate when applied to Gospel ministry. But looking back over his forty years as a minister, there is, perhaps, one thing above all others that characterised his ministry. It was the sense of reverence that he brought to the pulpit, a realisation that the church, in a very special way, is the place where we can, and should, expect to experience the presence of the Almighty.

It was after suffering a severe brain haemorrhage that Pastor Ernest Logan died peacefully in the Perth Hospital on 18 December. His two daughters, Angela and Heather, were at his bedside, where they had been for the past eight days.

Ernest was born into the Logan family in 1926. At that time they lived in Glasgow, so it was there that he grew up with his four brothers. Of the five, Herbert, Douglas and Ernest became ordained ministers. The other two, James and Ron, have been strong supporters of the Adventist Church wherever they found themselves. Their faithfulness is a tribute to their parents, James and Marion, who were well-known and stalwart members of the Adventist Church in Scotland.

After receiving an education in Scotland, Ernest entered Newbold College where he graduated from the Ministerial course in 1949. He was then appointed as a ministerial intern in Belfast under the guidance of the late Pastor W. G. Nicholson. It was while he was working in Northern Ireland that he married the lady he described as 'the one true love of his life', Audrey (née Trafford). Together they formed a most effective team wherever they ministered, and their ministry took

them to some interesting places.

Their first daughter, Angela, was born while they were still in Belfast. In 1952 they were seconded to the Vandeman London Evangelistic Campaign team. That experience proved to be a great learning curve that positively affected their future ministry.

Ernest was district minister in the Manchester area for a short time in 1955, but he was called to service abroad in what was then Rhodesia. He was ordained in Bulawayo while working in the city of Salisbury, and it was here that the Logans' second daughter, Heather, was born. The last part of their eleven-year overseas ministry was in South Africa. There Ernest was pastor of a district in which he had five churches to care for, a daunting task for the most able of ministers.

The family decided to return to Britain in 1966. Ernest was appointed pastor of the Stanborough Park church where he ministered for six years. There, to this day, in that congregation the name 'Logan' is regarded with great esteem and respect. After a short period in which Ernest was a departmental director in the South England Conference, the family moved back to Belfast where their ministry had begun. It was the beginning of a fifteen-year period of administration, first as president of the Irish Mission and then twelve years as president of the Welsh Mission. It was, however, not just in those Missions where his leadership skills and influence were felt. Ernest was then a field leader and a member of the British Union Committee. There, again, just as he had done in the local church pulpit, he brought something special. By his knowledge of Church policy, the important Church constitutions, his grasp of finance, as well as his experience in local church matters, he was able to make an invaluable contribution.

In November 1997 the lovely wife, with whom he had lived and laughed and whom he had loved for almost forty-eight years, died. By this time they had been retired for nine years and were still living in Wales. After a time, Ernest decided to return to Scotland, the land of his birth, and relocated near to where his brother Ron and his wife lived. There, in the village of Muthill, near Crieff, he spent his final years. He received unstinting and loving support from his brother Ron and wife Dorothy. Nearby



was an Adventist church and, not without significance, there were a number of fine golf courses.

Family was very important to Ernest, and Angela and Heather, his devoted daughters, spoke to him frequently on the phone and often visited him in Muthill. Ernest loved his family dearly, was always involved in family celebrations, flying or driving down to southern England where they lived and enjoying holidays with them. Their thoughts are summed up in this quote, 'How we will miss our dearest beloved Dad, a loved, adored and respected Grandpa, who had such a huge influence on all our lives and of whom we were so proud. We now take great comfort in the promises God has made.'

The Scottish Mission president, Pastor Llew Edwards, welcomed people from all parts of Britain to the funeral service, held on 28 December in the Crieff church. Pastor Martin Bell was the officiating minister. Ernest's son-in-law, Mr John Shave, spoke on behalf of Angela and Heather. He gave a succinct but comprehensive summary of Ernest's life as it related to his daughters, their husbands, grandchildren, and the members of the wider family. Pastor Ron Surridge spoke of his close friend and colleague. Pastor Bell referred to Pastor Ernest Logan as a true servant of God now awaiting our Saviour's return. Throughout the whole service our minds were directed towards the promises of Christ's return. Pastor Bob Rodd prayed the final prayer at the Perth Crematorium.

Our Christian love and our prayers go out to every member of the extended Logan family.

The Logan family wishes to say a sincere thank you to all those who have phoned, written or emailed their condolences.





## Britain's oldest Adventist dies aged 105

by Eric Lowe, Executive Secretary, British Union Conference

It is with sadness we report the death of the person we believe to be the oldest Seventh-day Adventist in Britain, Mrs Irene Osborne (née Himsworth), who passed away on Wednesday 16 January.

Born on 14 January 1903, Mrs Osborne had just celebrated her 105th birthday at The Dell, Oulton Broad, Suffolk. She entered church employment as a Bible Worker in 1926 and worked as such for two years in the Scottish Mission and twenty-two years in the North England Conference. In 1950 she joined the team in the Voice of Prophecy at the British Union office on Stanborough Park where she gave

further service until retirement at the start of 1963.

Irene was a Bible instructor at the Voice of Prophecy when a young Valerie Pearce joined there as receptionist. They have been friends ever since. Valerie says, 'She was such a lovely, warm and caring person. She was so selfless, people were drawn to her.' Irene brought many people to a knowledge of Christ and even in her later years continued to have a positive influence on others. Valerie states that 'even when she was in her eighties the children in the church were drawn to her'.

The funeral was held on Tuesday 5 February in the Lowestoft church, followed by the committal at Gorleston Crematorium.

## Marriage enrichment at Sheffield

Friday night 19 January saw the end of a three-week marriage enrichment seminar entitled 'Sweeter than the day before' devised by Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt in partnership with Family Life director of the NEC, Pastor Cyril Sweeney, and the Family Life department of the Burngreave church.

The programme saw over twenty couples attend the presentations given by Pastor Sweeney. The last week ended on the theme of intimacy in marriage with a very special communion service for couples, led by both pastors. Those who attended expressed that 'it was very helpful and informative' and that it 'made them feel special'. 'This is just one of the steps we are taking to meet the needs of the various types of families within the district,' said Pastor Andrew. Many thanks to the Family Life department and the district leadership of Sheffield.

PASTOR ANDREW RASHFORD-HEWITT

## My Life, My Love, My All

On 12 January, people from all around London (and beyond) joined together at the Advent Centre for a night of praise, worship and thanksgiving. With the Advent Centre bursting at the seams, the Holy Spirit moved upon the hearts and minds of all who attended, using SAPP (praise team), Spiritual Sounds, Friends, Alex Douglas and United Praise Choir (UPC) to reach all who were there. The night also featured drama which highlighted the human race's moral decline and the way in which we allow ourselves to move further and further away from Christ, allowing various people and things to take his place. The audience applauded when the drama depicted Christ stepping into the middle of the situation, taking back his rightful position as Lord, causing the sin-sick soul to be free again.

The event was called 'My Life, My Love, My All' and its aim was to reinforce the fact that spiritual maturity is not just about going to church week after week, knowing Bible prophecy and Ellen G. White's writings inside out or holding positions in church. These things are all secondary and will in the end be fruitless if upon Christ's return we do not hear the words, 'Well done my good and

faithful servant.' We also wanted to create an opportunity whereby people could come together, have an amazing worship experience, listen to good quality music and singing, and receive the undiluted Word at no cost. Our speaker, Laura Osei, ended the evening of praise and worship with a short message that emphasised the fact that Christ needs to be at the centre of our lives. She reminded us that God requires our lives as a living sacrifice and that building and maintaining a relationship with Christ is the only way in which our salvation can be guaranteed.

'My Life, My Love, My All' was put on by Anointed Events & Music Management, a team of vibrant people who have a passion for spreading the good news of salvation. Currently the team consists of Naomi Osei, Olivia Briscoe, Serena Maurice, Alec Gage, Laura Osei, Shola Pyne, Ellen Bryant, Marie Cader, Andrae Johnson and Michael Williams. Together they plan to work hard at being an effective witness to this generation, meeting them where they are and introducing them to a relationship that will change their lives forever. They will be planting a church in the West London area and the first service will be held on 16 February. Log on to [www.myspace.com/anointedmanagement](http://www.myspace.com/anointedmanagement) or contact the team via email, [anointedmanagement@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:anointedmanagement@hotmail.co.uk) for further information about the projects lined up for 2008.

OLIVIA BRISCOE

THE NEC YOUTH DEPARTMENT PRESENTS





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## Sunset

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	Lon	Card	Not	Edin	Belf
Feb 8	5.02	5.14	5.02	5.00	5.16
15	5.15	5.27	5.15	5.15	5.30
22	5.27	5.40	5.29	5.31	5.44
29	5.40	5.52	5.42	5.46	5.59

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