

Messenger

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Adventists on the march

The SEC youth LIVE report

by Colin Stewart, Youth director, SEC

Sometimes it is easy to see God's hand at work. This was one of those occasions. When I began dreaming of this project, I never thought God would open it up in such a massive way.

My colleagues Eddie Hypolite and Nathan Stickland backed me in this project, as did the special committee and the Teen and Pathfinder leaders who worked so hard to make it a success.

All day Friday 6 June reporters and journalists were on the phone wanting information and requesting interviews.

On Sabbath 5,000 gathered in Trafalgar Square with their LIVE banners: Living Intentionally Versus Existing. As many as a thousand of our number may have been non-Adventists.

Streets closed, buses were held back, and tourists pulled out their cameras as the youth, supported by Pathfinder drums, marched from Trafalgar Square, down Whitehall to the Houses of Parliament and then across the River Thames to a major rally in Kennington Park. Their purpose was clearly displayed on countless banners: LIVE.

The LIVE march was not just a protest against gun and knife crime. It presented a positive alternative – an alternative that the media were ready to hear. There was massive press, TV and radio coverage.

'O when the saints go marching in', they sang

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with Jonathan Barrett

What do you hope for?

What do you hope for? A group of us recently asked this question of people walking through St Albans city centre on a Saturday afternoon. (This was part of the HOPE 08 initiative organised by the evangelical churches.) How would you answer that question?

Just pause for a few seconds before you read the rest of this to

think of your response.

If you were to give a considered response, from an Adventist perspective, you might say that you hope for the return of Christ as quickly as possible. At least, I think that is the way I would answer it.

The answers I received from people in the street were interesting. People said they hoped for a decent car, world peace (this was the most common one), Steve (that was from one of a group of giggling female teens), a fantastic pair of shoes, to know God (this person was already a Christian), good health for a son. The saddest response I got was from a middle-aged lady with a white stick who said she hoped for death.

After this exercise, the impression I was left with was how different people's life experiences are. To go from a group of hyped-up teenagers to a suicidal woman in the space of a few seconds clearly demonstrated that.

One challenge we face as Adventists is to share our hope, the return of Christ, to people who hope for so many different things. How are we to connect with whatever they hope for and point them to what Christ promises?

Stanborough Press (Grantham) OPEN DAY

Sunday 7 September

Special Speaker:
World-renowned marriage and parenting expert

NANCY VAN PELT

author of *Highly Effective Marriage* and 30 other titles

Music from
Ken Burton's Adventist Vocal Ensemble from the BBC's 'Songs of Praise'

We look forward to seeing you



One familiar Scripture comes to mind. However, perhaps we should concentrate more on the second sentence than the first, though it is less well known:

'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness

and respect.' 1 Peter 3:15.

We do have a hope to share. This is to be presented with sensitivity. I would also say that it is better to share with a friend than a stranger. There may be a place for my street activities, but the best people to share our hope with is those we are closest to.



The Word lives

David Marshall

I doubt whether Jeremy Paxman would win many popularity polls, but he is a stimulating writer. Nevertheless, his book *The Political Animal: An Anatomy* makes very uncomfortable reading for politicians, his *On Royalty* would be a rough read for Prince Charles and his *The English* may be said to have been enjoyed rather more by the near neighbours of the English than by the English themselves.

For all that, the picture of his fellow countrymen Paxman paints reflects reality. And, towards the end of the book and in a backhanded way, he concedes a few points in their favour.

England, Paxman goes so far as to say, enjoys some advantages over other countries. Among these are the trade links their now defunct empire left them with. Others are the English characteristics of (relative) tolerance, lawfulness and business acumen which have made London an attractive base for foreign business people to live. Did you know that the murder rate for England and Wales is eight times lower than that in Scotland and twenty-six times lower than that in the United States? The greatest advantage England has, says Paxman, is that English has become a global language. One quarter of Earth's population can speak English to some degree. Two-thirds of the world's scientists use English. Four-fifths of all data stored on computers is in English.²

The reasons for the universality of English are examined carefully and presented persuasively by Paxman. No one could accuse Paxman of Christian bias or having a sensitivity to the feelings of Christians. Indeed, one of his main gripes with the monarchy is the 'religious aura' that surrounds it. Hence, when he reaches the core of his explanation for the spread of English as a global language and of the reasons for the existence of a number of English 'plusses' – from 'our tolerant democracy' to 'our formidable universities' – I picture Paxman as seriously annoyed with himself. Why?

The root Paxman identifies for the English enthusiasm for words, which made it the global language is – *the English Bible*. From Paxman that has to be in the nature of a grudging admission.

England may have produced precious few

painters and most of the composers they lay claim to were actually born elsewhere. Nevertheless, says Paxman, the English are enthusiastic about their language, have produced the planet's greatest writers, and take pride in using words well. The reason for the English facility with words is the primacy in their culture of THE WORD.

Paxman tells the story from Wycliffe's Lollards through Tyndale to the King James Bible. The latter, he states, 'had the immediate effect of democratising learning'.³ It embedded 'in the English mind a belief in the rights of the common man. . . . By offering a direct relationship with God, unmediated by popes and bishops, the [Bible in] the common language of devotion gave the individual all sorts of rights he might never have otherwise thought he had'. Paxman concludes his argument: 'The English belief that "I know my rights" owes a lot to this profound conviction that it is liberty, not kingship, that is divinely ordained.'⁴

The secular revolutions of the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries spat out religion. By contrast the English Revolution of the 1640s drew its support from biblical Christianity. Then, when a century later crowns and thrones perished at the hands of the European middle and working classes, those classes in England were engaged in John Wesley's Great Awakening. Among the political consequences of that were Wilberforce's campaign against slavery, Shaftesbury's campaign to reform working hours and conditions, Elizabeth Fry's campaign to reform the prison system, as well as the century-long reform movement that led to the votes-for-all enactments.

The primacy of the Word had serious consequences for *all* parts of the United Kingdom, as well as other countries that share our language.

English speakers owe much to their Bible. However, their debt is even greater than Paxman suggests.

In a debate in the Oxford Union atheistic philosopher Jonathan Glover was having it all his own way. Then Dennis Prager asked him this question: 'Professor Glover. If you were stranded at midnight on a Los Angeles street and saw ten burly young men pounding the pavement in your direction, would it or would

it not make a difference to you to know they were coming from a Bible study?'⁵

Geoffrey Bull, a Scottish missionary in Tibet, was captured and kept in solitary for years in a series of inhumane Chinese prisons. The Communist authorities denied Bull any access to Scripture or even to pen and paper. Subjected to starvation and torture Bull feared for his sanity. But he had studied the Bible all his life. He used his memory to review the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. The review took him six months. When he had finished, he began again. Following his release years later he wrote, 'Every privation was an opportunity to feast at His table. . . . I lived in the glorious and sufficient territory of the Word of God.'⁶ Bull told reporters, 'The strength I received from meditation on God's Word was the vital factor that brought me through.'

The penalty for owning any part of Scripture in the Japanese prison camps was death. Nevertheless, a female missionary considered it a risk worth taking and hung on to a copy of John's gospel. She destroyed the pages – *only after she had memorised them*. A *TIME* magazine reporter stood at the gates of that prison camp following liberation and described the prisoners as they filed out: 'Most of them shuffled along, eyes on the ground, little more than automatons. Then out came the little missionary, bright as a button.' The *TIME* reporter heard someone ask, 'I wonder if they managed to brainwash her?' 'No,' responded the *TIME* man, 'God washed her brain.'⁷

The Word lives and is powerful. 'The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood.'⁸ 'In him was life, and that life was the light of men.'⁹ 'These [things] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.'¹⁰

The Bible was not written to give us information but to give us Life. Hence, if you are spiritually dead or dying, the reason may not be far to seek.

References

¹Paxman, *The English* (Penguin), page 254. ²*Ibid*, pages 239, 234. ³*Ibid*, page 112. ⁴*Ibid*, pages 112, 113. ⁵Ravi Zacharias, *Can Man Live Without God?* (Word), page 41. ⁶G. T. Bull, *God Holds the Key*, pages 34, 39, 134. ⁷Cited Billy Graham, *How to be Born Again*, pages 44, 45. ⁸John 1:14, MGE. ⁹John 1:4, NIV. ¹⁰John 20:31, NIV.



Enhancing Health

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

Brain Health Series

Part 7e

Foods and the nervous system

'The sin of intemperate eating . . . of rich, unwholesome food, . . . affects the brain, and perverts the judgement, preventing rational, calm, healthy thinking and acting.' (*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, E. G. White, page 50.)

Research is increasingly demonstrating that the brain is dependent on adequate supplies of nutrients in order to function properly. However, studies also show that when the brain does not receive these nutrients a number of deficiencies are exhibited. This produces a variety of negative symptoms affecting thought patterns, mood, emotion, perception and behaviour.

'The use of unnatural stimulants is destructive to health and has a benumbing influence upon the

brain, making it impossible to appreciate eternal things.' (*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, E. G. White, page 48.)

Considerable scientific data is emerging that links artificial stimulants and food additive intolerance to various mental and physical disorders.

Scientific evidence supports a more natural-based diet and the avoidance of sugary and artificial foods for the enhancement of brain health.

In a recent article on food for the brain (2008), the following breakfast menu was advocated for brain boosting.

- Oat porridge with 1 tablespoon ground seeds (flax/linseeds, sesame, pumpkin, sunflower)
- Chopped fresh fruit or a spoonful of sugar-free jam
- (You can also add ground cinnamon or ginger for extra flavour)
- Sugar-free cornflakes such as those by Doves Farm or Evernat

There are specific foods which have been found to enhance brain function and invigorate the nervous system, as well as having a calming effect on the nerves. For example, wheat-germ is one of the best sources of vitamin B group, Vitamin E and essential minerals that balance the nervous system.

Check the category of symptoms/disorders and the associated foods that impact them.

Nervousness/Anxiety

Increase: Oats, wheat-germ, whole grains, Brazil nuts, walnuts, cashews, bananas, sunflower seeds. **Avoid:** Alcohol, stimulant beverages, meat, white sugar.

Depression

Increase: Almonds, chickpeas, Brazil nuts, cashews, pine nuts, avocado, brewers' yeast, oats, wheat-germ. **Avoid:** Saturated fats, stimulant beverages, alcoholic beverages, white sugar.

Stress

Increase: Almonds, chickpeas, pine nuts, oats, walnuts, wheat-germ. **Avoid:** Stimulant beverages, alcoholic beverages, white sugar.

Alzheimer's disease

Increase: Leafy green vegetables, brewers' yeast, wheat-germ. **Avoid:** Cured cheeses, alcoholic beverages, stimulant drinks.

Check your intake of these foods over the next month and, if you need to make changes, note any significant improvement in your mental well-being.

Good health!



Signs of Hope

SEC camp meeting print media team: Dr Richard de Lisser, Pastor Jon Gendle, Sharon Platt McDonald, Ranette Prime, Michelle Terrelonge, Malika Bediako
 Photos: Les Hill, Victor Hulbert

Camp meeting 2008 began with 3,000 but swelled to a weekend crowd of over 4,000. Once again we converged on the Welsh town of Prestatyn for a week-long spiritual feast. Our theme was Signs of Hope. The summer arrived right on cue as an added blessing to all!

Main speakers and presenters

In the adult meeting Dr Emil Dean Peeler, pastor of the Dupont Park church, Washington DC, challenged us to break the generational curses, stating that the traits of the parents will become tendencies of the children unless the parents put an end to those traits in their own lives. Dr Peeler began every night with a rousing call to the congregation and a cry of 'Devil! Get out of here. . . . Three times he led the congregation in the chant as they rose and loudly echoed the call, with their Bibles raised in defiant hands, before Dr Peeler concluded: ' . . . because the Holy Ghost is in the house.'

In the youth meeting Pastor Paul Hunt, a native of the UK who currently pastors in Dallas, Texas, challenged the audience with the statement, 'Those who believe in God do not need miracles to sustain their faith. Miracles are for unbelievers. God wants us to go further and deeper with him.' He shared with the 300-strong audience his transatlantic experience, in particular his battle with leaving the music industry to pursue the ministry, which reminded us that when God calls us, there is always a sacrifice.

In the teen meeting Anthony Fuller, a native of the UK and a prospective ministerial graduate from Oakwood, called the teens to order by making the Gospel basic and asking the question, 'What does it mean to be in Christ?'

The 0-4s were catered for by Michelle Terrelonge, Patricia Rutherford and Angela Spencer, under the theme Fishers for Jesus. The children learnt through storytelling and role play how Jesus

ministered to people, feeding them physically and reaching them spiritually.

The Morning Prayer session on the beach was once again a great success. This year it was led by Dan Augsburg, a prayer practitioner from the USA. Many hearts were blessed and moved by the testimonies and the miracles of God.

The Bible study hour was taken by Dr Kwabena Donkor, a native of Ghana and associate director of the Biblical Research Institute. He spoke with passion and clarity on the theme of Hope. He stated, 'Hope is the expectation of a positive outcome,' and 'The root of modern man's hopelessness is the abandonment and denial of God's presence in his creation.' Dr Donkor began by observing that we continue to deal with the problem of the enlightenment which denied God and thus, to restore hope, we have to restore God.

Drs Thomas and LaVerne Jackson, Gospel Health educators, stated that the Bible is our owner's manual. 'It tells you how to maintain the product and how to troubleshoot the product.' This was no empty proposition, but a hypothesis they verified over and over by means of the many slides through which they informed minds and revealed references to the biblical narrative. Their assurance that 'Only the one who designed the product knows how to look after it,' was proven in Thomas's life and in the lives of others. Dr Thomas stood before the packed hall as a 'wounded healer', stating, 'I am here to declare today "There is hope."'

Camp meeting radio: Lightfm

One of the many highlights of this year's Camp Meeting was its own dedicated radio station, Lightfm. Broadcasting on the 87.7fm frequency and on the Internet at lightfm.net, Lightfm inspired campers and community members alike with a mixture of music, comment, information and debate. Station director Mike Johnson said, 'Our name is an expression of our purpose. We recognise that there are people in our towns and cities who are going through situations which to them represent dark days. We want to bring some light to them — to show them an alternative and a better way. Jesus said he's 'the Light of the world', and that's the Light we will be presenting. It also indicates our approach in that our programmes are fair and balanced and presented in a way that is easy on the ear.' He went on to add, 'I am pleased with the annual progression that the radio is making and this has been instrumental in Lightfm getting off to such a successful start. Thanks must go to the many volunteer presenters and technical staff who helped to make it possible. Most important of all, the comments of appreciation from the listeners serve as confirmation that we are heading in the right direction. To God be the glory.'

You can still listen to the station at lightfm.net.

Seminar presenters and devotional speakers

Devotional speakers and seminar presenters informed, instructed and inspired us to greater service. These included Pastors Patrick Johnson, Ashwin Somasundram, Dejan

Stojkovic, Maslin Holness, Janos Kovacs-Biro, Gifford Rhamie, Stennett Ross, Eddie Hypolite, Colin Stewart, David Riley, Ian Sleeman, Robert Hines, Petras Bahadur, Bernie Holford, Richard Daley, Mike Mbui, Curtis Murphy, along with Valerie Bernard, Anthea Davis, Petranella Hunt, Yvonne Hypolite, Elsie Staple, Malika Bediako, Gina Abbequaye, Deborah Harris, Annell Smith, David Ahwan, Paul Lee, Trevor Johnson and Tony Best.

Friday evening's communion was a solemn and dignified service. Pastor David Burnett spoke about Christ being the Bread of Life.

Sabbath School

Dr Terry Messenger led out in an excellent Sabbath school and introduced Dr Kwabena Donkor who ably took the lesson study. The highlight of the morning was the Ingathering awards, with top honours going to district 6b with a total in excess of £66,000. The top church was once again the Croydon church with a total of £31,000. Finally, the top collector for the SEC was Joyce Morrison from the Hampstead church, who collected a total of £3,322.

Church planting is alive and well in the SEC as can be attested by the presentation made by Pastor Aris Vontzalidis during the mission spotlight, prior to which the Chelmsford church inspired the congregation to get out into the community and provide a service that makes a difference!

Divine service

The Sabbath festival began with a regal fanfare played by Tony Best on the keyboard. The divine service commenced with the processional of the massed choir as they marched in to the tune of 'We are marching in the light of God'.

A time of singing was led by SEC Music director Paul Lee, as we entered into an inspirational worship service.

The invocation was given by Dr



Top: Paul Hunt
 Above: Dr Kwabena Donkor

Kwabena Donkor as he led us in the call to worship.

In his welcome and introduction of the platform party, president Pastor Sam Davis enthused: 'We have had a wonderful week in God. . . . We welcome you to this encampment. . . . Camp meeting truly is a

wonderful event. . . . We acknowledge that the Holy Spirit is here to bless and do us good.' He then went on to tell the day campers who had come down just for the Sabbath services how much they had missed during the past week, as the week-long campers had enjoyed a rich

variety of spiritual and temporal blessings.

In the opening hymn 'Crown Him with Many Crowns' the 2,000 plus congregants had the opportunity to lift hearts and voices to God.

The pastoral prayer was a unique and uplifting experience as Pastor Mary Barrett and Dan Augsburg led the congregation in prayer, interspersed by Paul Lee meditatively singing verses of the hymn 'Be still and know that I am God.'

Enriching the service through music was the massed choir of 120 individuals who sang an African-American anthem of praise written and arranged by Nolan Williams. Conducted by Tina Brookes and accompanied by musicians Tony Best and George Acquah on the keyboards, the anthem 'High Praise' was beautifully rendered as we were caught up in praise to God through the inspirational words and pathos of the music.

Following this, Pastor Cecil Perry presided over a baby dedication where Ruth and Darren Perry presented their daughter Cerys Elia Samara to be blessed. Baby Cerys was born last year at Camp Meeting, so this dedicatory event was a very special one for the parents. In his address to the parents

Pastor Perry advised, 'Children respond to their environment and inherited tendencies, but God intended mothers and fathers to be the child's first teachers.' He charged both Ruth and Darren with the solemn responsibility of directing this child in the path of the Lord. The supporting family members and friends and wider church body were

also invited to be spiritual guardians of this young life.

The offertory was led by BUC associate treasurer Stephen Okelo, who encouraged generous giving as God had been generous and faithful to us in both our personal and church life.

Presenting the Scripture reading was Dr Jackson, Health presenter for Camp meeting. He read from Matthew 7:7-11, the foundation Scripture for the sermon, which depicted the prerequisites for prayer.

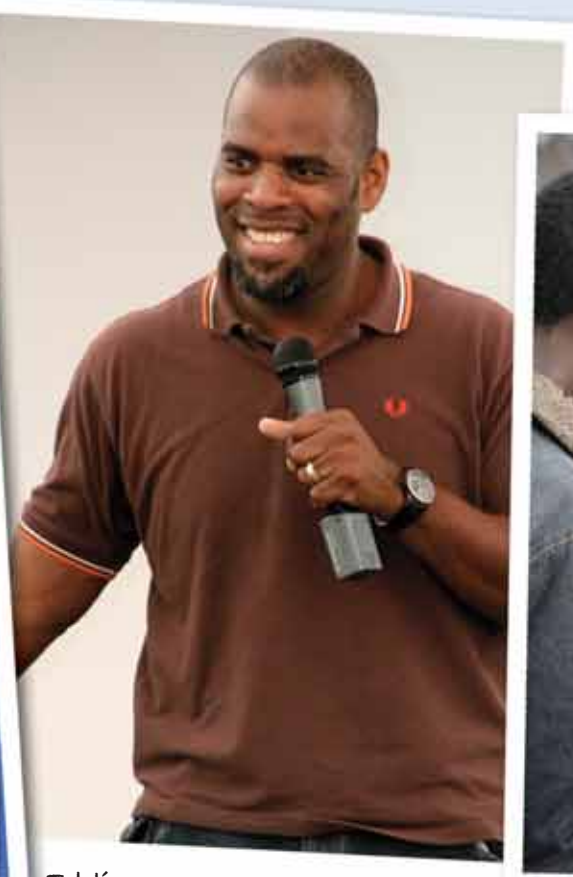
Camp meeting speaker, Dr Peeler, delivered a powerful and enlightening sermon on the seven facets of a productive prayer life. In his address he gave practical pointers to how we can prepare for our prayer experience, tap into the divine Source of power when we connect in a meaningful way with God and rely on his Spirit to guide us in prayer.

Baptism

Following the worship service a baptism was conducted over at the site swimming pool, as fourteen individuals demonstrated their commitment to commence a new journey with God.

The service was conducted by intern Rebecca Pedersen who led in announcing the candidates to be immersed, and Pastor Ashwin Somasundram, in the reading of their favourite texts. Pastors Sam Davis and Paul Hunt, along with Dr Peeler, pronounced the baptismal commitment and blessing as Pastors David Riley, Steve Roberts, Dejan Stokovic and Paul King-Brown immersed the candidates. Paul Lee led in the singing of the hymns.

We celebrate with the following baptismal candidates who are listed in relation to their respective churches: April Peart (Brixton), Jamie Gittens (Brixton), Miriam Smallman (Croydon), Naomi Matala



Eddie Hypolite



(Croydon), Ashnath Munbaga (Leicester Central), Elizabeth Nyoni (Luton Central), Nomsa Marara (Milton Keynes), Roberta Kupzai Matasa (Milton Keynes), Robbie Tuffield (Milton Keynes), Sherelle Michaels (Milton Keynes), Elizabeth Matambo (Northampton), Ronah Dube Mauyika (Nottingham Central), Shari Hammond (Palisud Paris, France), Kevin Rolle (Stanborough Park).

We rejoice in this wonderful demonstration of the expansion of God's Kingdom as we celebrate these new members and embrace them into the fellowship of our Church.

Cultural celebration

Commencing with a dramatic fanfare played by Tony Best on keyboard, the Celebration of Cultural Identities, the first of its kind at a Camp Meeting, began on a high note.

Compèred by Susan Watt and Pastor David Riley from the Central London church, their enthusiastic comments ignited the interest and celebratory mood of the congregants.

As both Susan and Pastor Riley gave their welcome, they greeted the audience in an extensive range of languages, spanning most of the cultural groups represented in the procession. And what a truly magnificent procession it was! A beautiful collage of colours as each group depicting their cultural attire filed in triumphantly behind their country's flag.

The procession was led as follows: United Kingdom, Angola, Antigua, Botswana, China, Dominica, Ethiopia, Ghana, Granada, Guyana, Greece, Holland, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Malawi, Mauritius, Montserrat, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Rwanda, Singapore, South Africa, St Kitts & Nevis, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Columbia, Sierra Leone.

As Jamaica entered, the decibel levels increased significantly as fellow Jamaicans (who probably wished they were marching) responded enthusiastically. This was matched by Ghana who had enough people in their procession for an entire church congregation! The passionate cheers from the audience encouraged the Ghanaian group as they swayed and sang in their native tongue 'Our God is coming'. South Africa also received an exuberant and prolonged welcome as they carried their flag to the stage. However, the sound barriers were broken when the Zimbabweans made their entrance.

Reflecting the changing demographics of the UK, the rich mix of cultures displayed throughout

the procession and within our Church community, SEC president Pastor Sam Davis gave an engaging and inspirational address. He highlighted the importance of both valuing and celebrating diversity. He asserted, 'When we look down on other cultures or despise individuals because they are of a different background, we are anti-God, anti-Christ, because diversity is God-ordained, it was a divine idea and our lives are enriched because of it.'

In the closing song we were invited to learn a few words of Mandarin. However, the gift of tongues was evident in the closing prayer, as six individuals representing their respective countries prayed in their mother tongue. The celebration of cultural diversity ended as it had begun – on a high note of celebration. Before leaving the platform each flag bearer gave a note of thanks and final greeting in their language and then marched out to the beat of the fanfare for an official photo call. Heaven must have been rejoicing at this wonderful demonstration of unity and appreciation of God's creative power. This is truly a Sign of Hope for our world.

Youth and teens

Reporters: Ranette Prime and Sanya Brown

In the young adults' worship service on Sabbath morning the congregation could be heard singing in one accord. Praise and worship, led by the camp meeting praise team and band members, was certainly a reflection of the spiritual journey each member of the 500-strong congregation had taken during the week. Highlights of the week included one of two workshops led by Pastor Gifford Rhamie entitled 'Making Disciples'. Pastor Rhamie proposed that central to the great commission given to us in Matthew 28 was each of us. And, essentially, the text is calling us to be 'mentors' to the people to whom we witness. We need to help them develop their relationship with Jesus Christ. Participants were persuaded that, in effect, mentoring another in the ways of Christ Jesus was key to each of them remaining successful Christians themselves.

The unity of the singing and testimonies on Sabbath morning matched the intensity of the fellowship that took place on Friday evening for communion, where, once again, over 400 youth gathered in groups of four around tables to share their experience of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in their lives. The divine hour was yet another highlight of the week filled with reverence and true reflection, as Pastor Paul Hunt drew attention to young leaders in ministry in his final sermon: 'It's not business, it's personal'. Using the example of Jesus in the temple, he emphasised that whatever ministry God has called us to, it is not to be a platform for us but for Jesus Christ. The service ended with special prayers for those youth in positions of leadership.

Camp meeting for the teens was a spiritual trip back to the beginning. It was led by main speaker Anthony Fuller of Balham church, London, and a prospective ministerial graduate from Oakwood. With the theme, 'Living The Last Mile', the teens were challenged to think seriously about their relationship with Jesus and where the activities they were involved in inside and outside the church were taking them.

On the first night Anthony Fuller posed the question, 'What do you have to do to be saved?' With reference to Mark 16:16, Pastor Fuller preached with great energy and obvious passion for the lives of the teens. He was often observed continuing the exploration of the Word of God with them long after the service. The Holy Spirit had evidently moved on the hearts of the teens, as many of them responded to the altar calls, rededicating their lives. Three others gave their lives to Jesus Christ in baptism on Sabbath afternoon.

Over 150 teens met regularly in the early morning for the devotionals entitled 'Soldiers roll call', which reminded them of the need to have the full armour of God (Ephesians 6:13-16) and of how having even one piece missing placed them in danger. The week continued with workshops on music and drama/creative arts, conducted by experienced teams from various churches. Pastor Eddie Hypolite presented a workshop on Seeing, Hearing and Declaring, addressing the issue of what it means to be a witness for Christ. He urged the youth to find out what their community is lacking both spiritually and socially, and how as teens they could help, touching on his own experience of setting up community projects.



Emil Dean Peeler



Witnessing for Jesus

by Fred Mapp and Victor Hulbert

Photos: Victor Hulbert



Dr Ron Smith

Martin and Natasha Shaw are excited. For most of the year they worship in a congregation of six. Together with their young son, Nathaniel, they purposely chose to move to Southport, Lancashire, to help revive a church whose membership was dwindling rapidly towards zero. But once a year that membership leaps. For the last week they have been surrounded by around 1,250 Adventists, with the number rising to approximately 1,800 on the weekend.

The Shaws live three miles from Pontins, Ainsdale, on the outskirts of Southport, venue for the North England Conference annual Camp Meeting, 9-15 June. Martin is a consultant in the local hospital. Natasha's excitement bubbled over as I met her by the bandstand in

the town centre. 'This is great!' she told me. 'The witness of our members here makes a real impact.' Surrounding her were Adventist youth and adults handing out literature and invitation cards to the local Adventist church which currently meets at the Unitarian Church, Portland Street, Southport. Conversations were taking place with school children, shop workers and retirees enjoying the afternoon sunshine and the music. Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt co-ordinated a varied programme of music and testimony – with an unexpected entry from one passer-by who had recently given her heart to Jesus and rejoiced to see a large group of Christians active in the town.

Witnessing at the bandstand is part of the NEC camp meeting tradition. This year they added door-to-door visits and they are already planning for a more sustained witnessing effort next year to help grow the church in Southport.

Each time campers sang the 2008 NEC camp meeting theme song 'Witness for Jesus', written by Tochi Anurukem, Michael Edwards, and Natasha Windsor, they reinforced their commitment to witnessing and the desire to return home and reach out to their community. However, witness is just part of what has been a very positive week for campers at Southport.

In the adult commitment meetings, Dr Ron Smith, executive secretary of the Southern Union Conference in the USA, took practical lessons from Bible stories such as the creation, the prodigal son, and Samson, then turned the

messages around with hard-hitting, practical applications for twenty-first-century, Christ-centred living.

Dr Elaine G. Kennedy's informative mid-morning 'Studies in Creationism' integrated faith and science in a fresh and challenging way: 'Data proves nothing. It is the interpretation and the use of the data that tells us something. And this latter is affected by our world view.' Dr Kennedy is a research scientist and adjunct professor of geology at the South-western Adventist University dinosaur field station in eastern Wyoming.

Dr Sharon M. Robles MD received a steady stream of enquirers after her morning health presentations. Campers have come to love and appreciate her insightful presentations on aspects of healthful living. Dr Robles, a returnee to NEC camp meeting, currently practises internal medicine and endocrinology in a New York City public clinic.

A wide variety of mid-morning workshops catered for various interests among campers.

Youth speaker Matt Parra experienced a series of delays getting to England. However, local NEC Bible instructor in the Leeds/Huddersfield district of churches, Adam Ramdin, stepped in and generated a powerful altar call in his Tuesday midday Power Hour on left-handed giftedness. From Thursday onwards, Matt enthusiastically challenged the audience to be all that they could be for Jesus Christ. One hundred and twenty youth responded to Friday's Power Hour appeal, indicating their desire to be trained, equipped and sent to work. 'It is clearly evident that when our youth are given the opportunity, they desire to share in the finishing of God's work on Earth,' says Pastor Alan Hush, NEC Youth director.

Scores of young people responded to a specific appeal for baptism with a spontaneous expression of praise and rejoicing that extended to the early hours of Sunday morning.

A highlight of Sabbath School was Pastor Roy Morgan's presentation of the NEC ADRA collection trophy, for keeps, to Brother Angel from the Worcester church. Once again he led the field, collecting over £4,000. In 2009 he and Judy plan to compete against the rest of his church!

Sabbath afternoon saw a very special service in the main auditorium. Pastor Patricia Douglas, currently serving part-time in the West Midlands Walsall district, became the first female in the British Union Conference to be commissioned to the Gospel ministry. A full report will appear in a future issue of *MESSENGER*.

NEC Camp Meeting 2008, themed 'Movement of Destiny', was bathed in prayer by five prayer warrior teams of some six individuals each, who began their day at 5.30am petitioning God and interceding with him concerning everything and everyone connected with the meetings.

So what did campers feel as they left this week of renewal? One question asked at the end of Pastor Paul Haworth's Sunday morning farewell service says it all: 'What is the date for next year's Camp Meeting?'

For Martin and Natasha there is a feeling of loss that the week is over, but there is delight that it has made a difference, both in their lives and the lives of the community where they choose to live and witness.



Matt Parra



Adam Ramdin



Trevor Thomas



Town centre ablaze for Christ

Sabbath afternoon 17 May saw the members of Folkestone, Ashford and Canterbury coming together in the town centre to share Jesus with the Folkestone community. The group was joined by the puppeteers from Hounslow and the Battersea choirs and mime groups.

The town centre certainly came alive and passers-by joined in the praise and worship. Many were fascinated by the puppet ministry and eagerly accepted tracts and listened as we shared Jesus. One young adult was heard to exclaim 'If this is how you worship in your church, I would love to be a part of it.'

The theme for the afternoon was

'The Love of God'. This was demonstrated in songs and miming and many community members eagerly joined in the singing. You could truly feel the love and presence of the Lord. Church elder Chris McBean took time out to remind those within his hearing that despite all that was happening around us God was still in control.

It was with much disappointment that the evening came to a close, but not before the community was placed before the Lord in prayer and the members made a commitment to return to share God's love with the community at a later date.

KAREN LEARMOND

'SWAAF For All Nations'

by Theophilus Gokah and John Surridge

On Sabbath 31 May around eighty people attended a day of celebration for members and friends of the South Wales African Adventist Fellowship (SWAAF). The event celebrated the first anniversary of the inauguration of the group, but was also the occasion of its organisation into an official Company of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Welsh Mission president Pastor John Surridge officiated at the service, assisted by Pastor George Boakye Asiamah, who is currently serving as the minister for the Barry and Port Talbot churches, as well as the South Wales African Adventist Fellowship. Friends, families and well-wishers came from the Cardiff and Newport churches, and even from the Telford church, some 130 miles away.

SWAAF was instituted by the Welsh Mission primarily as an attempt to reach out more effectively to the African community in Cardiff. However, its role has grown and developed over the past year, as pointed out by Dr Theophilus Gokah, one of the prime movers in the group, in his introductory talk on the history of SWAAF. Early on in its campaign to reach out to the surrounding community, the group adopted the title 'SWAAF For All Nations', and it has certainly tried hard to live up to this challenge. Today the friendship circle of SWAAF encompasses people from many different cultural, linguistic and

national backgrounds, not all of which are African.

Following Dr Gokah's talk, a lively video presentation summarised in pictures the many events that SWAAF has run over the last year – and generated a spontaneous round of applause, both for the memories and for the technical expertise of those who had prepared it.

In his welcome address, Pastor Asiamah echoed the comments of Dr Gokah as he set forth his vision for bringing together African and Caribbean Christians from all over South Wales for praise and worship, fellowship and friendship. He urged members and supporters of the fellowship to let SWAAF, with its rich traditions and beliefs, develop and grow naturally from generation to generation.

In his children's story Pastor John Surridge warned old and young alike that living the Christian life will inevitably attract opposition. This is particularly the case for churches that stand out, like the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and for groups that try to do something a bit different, like SWAAF. However, he urged them to shake off the insults and criticism, and rise above them in order to achieve the full potential that currently only God can see.

In his sermon Pastor Surridge pointed out the differences between a club, a community and a church. 'Many people,' he said, 'see the church as nothing more than a club or a community, but in reality it is



The John Loughborough Seventh-day Adventist VA Secondary School
Holcombe Road, Tottenham, London, N17 9AD
Telephone: 020 8808 7837, Fax: 020 8801 6719

Associate Executive Head teacher Mrs L. Osei
Associate Head teacher Ms O. McInnis

Advanced Skills Teacher
AST 2 Inner London Allowance
September 2008 or January 2009

A Male and Female PE Teacher
MPS and Inner London Allowance
September 2008 or January 2009

Science Teacher
MPS and Inner London Allowance
September 2008 or January 2009

The John Loughborough School is a voluntary aided Seventh-day Adventist school for students of all faiths between the ages of 11 and 16 in the borough of Haringey.

The school is on the OFSTED category Notice to Improve and is aiming to make great improvements to make John Loughborough a good school where all young people achieve and become citizens of whom their parents and the community can be proud.

We are seeking teachers who know what works in effective schools. If you have the skills and experience, you are the person we are looking for. The posts offer opportunities for ambitious, innovative, hardworking teachers to make their mark. The successful candidates will have good knowledge in their subject and a commitment to the highest standards of learning and teaching and must subscribe to the values of the school. Experienced teachers are welcome to apply.

Come and make a difference at The John Loughborough School. Help us to move from 'Notice to Improve' to 'Good' at our mixed 11-16 comprehensive, situated in Tottenham.

If you are interested in applying for any of the posts, application packs are available on the school website www.john-loughborough.haringey.lgfl.net or by contacting Mrs Y. Gordon, the school secretary. Visits to the school can be arranged by contacting Mrs Gordon.

Closing date: 3pm Mon 7 July 2008. **Shortlisting:** Tues 8 July 2008
Interviews: From 10 July 2008

much more than these things. Clubs and communities exist for the benefit of their members, but a church exists to serve the world – to bring the Gospel to every nation, tribe and people group.'

Following the fellowship lunch – which is very much a part of the SWAAF tradition – there was a sacred concert in which inspirational songs were provided by EVE (from Cardiff), Inspirers (Telford), the Chigbo Sisters (Newport), and Sister Noreen from the Swansea church. The SWAAF Fellowship Choir, which made its debut at the Welsh Mission Day of Fellowship at Llandrindod Wells last autumn, also thrilled the congregation.

Twelve members currently make up the core of the new SWAAF



company. There are a further seven who are awaiting confirmation of membership transfers, and eight more who are scheduled for baptism or acceptance by profession of faith. Fifteen children and eleven regular visitors help to make up a sizeable weekly congregation, but the company has much greater ambitions than this. The next step will be organisation as a church – hopefully in the near future – and after that it is hoped that further expansion may lead to other church plants.

If you would like to follow future developments and see how God is leading the SWAAF company, keep checking their website at www.swaaf.org.uk. More than fifty photos from the day can be seen in the gallery section of this site.

50 years at the Stanborough Press

At 9.30am on Thursday 5 June the management and workers of The Stanborough Press gathered for a special breakfast to mark the retirement of Jan and David Pearce.

David Pearce has completed fifty years of continuous service with the company.

General manager Paul Hammond made a speech covering those years during most of which he worked with David.

Assistant general manager Paul Poddar, who has worked with David since 1966, had gone to the trouble (with the assistance of his wife Muriel and local businessman Bill Cross) of preparing a beautifully written scroll in which both humorous and serious aspects of David's fifty years of

service were commemorated in rhyme.

David's father, Pastor Horace Pearce, served as a compositor at the Press in the 1930s. For much of David's youth his father managed Advent Press in Ghana. David returned to England in 1957 and worked for wholesale greengrocer Will Hamley before beginning his apprenticeship as a lithographic printer at the Press, then based in Watford, in June 1958. In 1963 David married Edna Ruddock. They had two sons, Brian and Russell. There are now five grandsons.

In January 1964 the Stanborough Press fire made it necessary for the whole printing and publishing operation to move to Grantham in the North England Conference. The Pearce family settled in the village of Great Gonerby where, after a number of years, Edna tragically died of cancer.

David moved from printing to book binding and, with Paul Hammond and Paul Poddar, helped to run a fully mechanised bindery line.

David moved from printing to book binding and, with Paul Hammond and Paul Poddar, helped to run a fully mechanised bindery line.

In 1995 Jan Clarke, an Australian, came to work in the finance department of The Stanborough Press. Jan and David's friends sensed a budding romance. Jan and David were married in 1998.

When the Press management closed the printing and bindery unit in 2002 David assisted Paul Poddar in the warehouse, helping to deal with the many container lorries that brought printed materials to and took export orders from what had become a publishing company.

Jan is an elder and David a deacon at the Adventist church in Grantham. They plan to spend more time touring with their caravan in retirement.

Jan, a chartered accountant and a qualified nurse, worked in a number of denominational institutions in the South Pacific Division before coming to the Stanborough Press. 'Before coming to Britain I had five unfulfilled aims,' Jan recalls. 'I wanted to travel, to own my own home, to work for a publisher, to get married and to write a book.' After a pause, she added: 'I have achieved four of those aims. . . .'

The Stanborough Press wishes the Pearces a long and happy retirement.

DAVID MARSHALL



Left: Assistant general manager Paul Poddar reads from the poem by Bill Cross, beautifully written on a scroll by Muriel Poddar, Paul's wife. 'You've always run the extra mile/And always done it with a smile./You're much admired and rightly so/But sadly Dave it's time to go . . .'



Right: Paul Hammond, general manager, makes the presentation to Dave and Jan. The event was carried by the *Grantham Journal*.



Below: The Press workers with Jan, Paul Poddar and Dave at the centre.

Photos: David Bell

Geoff and Nancy retire

At the end of April Pastor Geoff Dennis retired after 31 years of service to the Church. His first years of ministry were spent in the SEC, where he worked in an evangelistic team with Pastor David Currie. Very long hours and virtually no holidays didn't discourage him, and to this day Geoff remains an evangelist at heart.

Geoff first came to the Welsh Mission in 1988 and it was here that he spent the larger part of his ministry. His final posting was in the North Wales district where he cared for the Rhyl church, as well as the Llandudno Junction, Bangor and

Wrexham groups.

On Sabbath 19 April Geoff and his wife Nancy arrived in Wrexham to take the service, but they were surprised to find that Pastor Clyde Moore and Mission president Pastor John Surridge were also there. Other members, as well as Karen, the manager of the hall where the group meets, also turned up to pay tribute to Geoff and Nancy and to wish them well. Revealing something of a hidden talent, Clyde sang an appropriate solo, 'Where do I go from here?' and Geoff preached an evangelistic sermon based on the story of Peter healing the crippled beggar at

the Gate Beautiful, recorded in Acts 3.

The following day Geoff and Nancy were invited to the Welsh Mission Executive Committee in Shrewsbury. Here, formally during the meeting, then informally over a

restaurant lunch, BUC president Pastor Don McFarlane, and Welsh Mission secretary-treasurer Victor Pilmoor paid warm tribute to the work Geoff and Nancy had done over the years.

JOHN SURRIDGE



Geoff and Nancy with Clyde and Anette Moore and members of the Wrexham group

Crieff declines to 'pass by on the other side'

One of the best-known parables in the Bible relates to the refusal of a priest to assist a seriously wounded victim of physical violence. Jesus says that he 'passed by on the other side'. Thousands are guilty of similar neglect today – but *not* the members of the Crieff church.

When the G8 Summit involving leaders from around the world convened at the nearby Gleneagles Hotel in 2005, a campaign was orchestrated to urge the politicians to do more to ease the burden of millions living in the less-developed regions, and to 'make poverty history'. Adventists at the Gwyder Road church decided to 'cross over the road' and become actively involved.

They chose to sponsor two projects relating to people who had become marginalised. One related to assistance to AIDS orphans in the vicinity of Maluti Adventist Hospital in Lesotho, and the other involved the enlargement



Ruth Farrer (left), representing the Crieff church, discusses additional humanitarian needs with the Mayor and Mayoress of Mociu, Martan and Lilian Horvath. Seated on the right is Jozsi Horvath (no relation), the administrator of the Chesau Care Home which has already received aid from the church family at Crieff.

and enhancement of a care home in northern Romania.

Although the Crieff church only has 60 members, there was a unanimous vote to appropriate from the church budget £4,000 each year for three years to each of these projects – a total commitment in excess of £24,000!

Following a recent private visit to southern Africa, Shirley Thomas reported that targets were being met, and scores of youngsters were benefiting by growing their own fruit and vegetables on land which had been made available for the project.

Two committee members also visited Romania at personal expense to evaluate the Chesau Care Home. The aim was to increase the occupancy from 23 to 50 over a three-year period. How heartening it was to see this goal realised in only 18 months because of the total commitment of the staff. Moreover, the centre which houses aged and physically and mentally disabled patients is characterised by cleanliness and care of the highest order.

Now that the country is a member of the European Union, the economy is growing at 6.5% each year. Many in the cities are prospering – and the younger age group is particularly interested in developing business and technological skills. Those living in the rural areas, however, are still having a very difficult time. At Chesau the hope is that the Crieff church will continue its largesse by supplying 150 wheelie bins to improve community hygiene, and to create a play area for the children.

Two hundred out of Chesau's population of 500 attend the local Adventist church. Nationwide, the Church's membership exceeds 70,000 – the highest concentration of Adventists on the European continent.

JOHN ARTHUR



Pastor Neil Robertson, Pastor Malcolm Pedlar, Pastor John Arthur and Pastor Bob Rodd

'If music be the food of love . . .'

by John Wilby, Scottish Mission Communication sponsor

This Shakespeare quote aptly sums up a dominant feature of Scottish Mission's Day of Fellowship at the Granton Baptist church, Edinburgh, on 31 May. The Mission's combined congregations and guests were blessed with a large repertoire of songs and instrumental pieces.

They ranged from the country and western style, 'Poor Wayfaring Stranger', to a musical sketch of modern youth's temptations, accompanied by the secular, but appropriate, 'Total Eclipse of the Heart'. There were also contributions from Glasgow and Dundee gospel groups and solo classical violin and flute renditions. A multi-talented band, complete with sensitive drum accompaniment, complemented the congregation's songs of praise led by Edinburgh youth.

The inspiring broad musical spectrum reinforced Union president Pastor Don McFarlane's response to a question about church music in the afternoon's televised 'Ask the President' event. He emphasised that although there is a level beyond which we should not go, the essential element of church music is that Christ is upheld. Anchored by BUC Communication director Victor Hulbert, the programme featured the president being quizzed by a panel of church members on topics including homosexuality, the media's ridicule of Christian ethics, Adventist broadcasting, and marriage partnerships. ('Ask the President' can be viewed on demand at www.hopetv.org.uk.)

Pastor Alan Hodges, BUC Ministerial Association director, began the day by leading a participative Sabbath School on the current week's study of the 'Wonder of Jesus'. It was followed by Pastor McFarlane's keynote message in which he contrasted the world's vain search for hope and security with that of the surety found in Jesus Christ. Another indelible memory of the morning session was

Pastor Clifford Herman and Natalia Herra-Cruz's animated and humorous children's story.

David Hatch's ordination in the afternoon recognised his Mission-wide outreach initiatives and his pastoral leadership of the Irvine and East Kilbride churches. Pastors Hodges and Hulbert officiated and were joined by the Union and Mission presidents and local pastors. David's response was brief but to the point. 'Jesus appointed twelve that he might be with them and send them out to preach. I believe that God is with me and that he has sent me out to preach. By the power of his Spirit I will do his will.'

The day was tinged with sadness at news of the imminent departure of Britius Habwangbwanga, Faifley's inspirational leader, who is returning to Zambia to address visa requirements. Prayers were offered for his and his family's soon return.

It seemed, though, that nothing could overshadow the spiritually enriching day. Even the Scottish weather played its part. Sunshine, with temperatures exceeding the mid-twenties, allowed several groups to enjoy fellowship picnics in the church grounds. Mission president, Lew Edwards, perhaps best summed it up. He said, 'The day was like a spring bouquet of talent, ideas, worship and fellowship – offered to God on a beautiful day.'

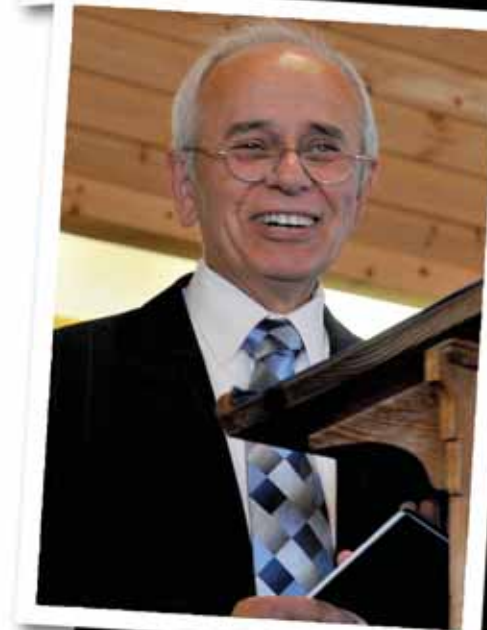
A selection of photos from the day can be viewed on the BUC Picture Gallery: www.adventist.org.uk.



Above: Pastor Alan Hodges, Pastor and Mrs David Hatch, Pastor Don McFarlane



Left: Scottish Mission president, Pastor Llewellyn Edwards



Below left: With Victor Hulbert as anchor, a panel from the Scottish Mission pose questions to the Union president

Below right: The Sabbath morning congregation



Merseyside international baptism

Liverpool is the European Capital of Culture for 2008. The Queen and Prince Philip visited Liverpool during the last week of May. A meal was

put on for the royal visitors and for civic leaders of the city. Present at the meal was the Liverpool Adventist church first elder, Enna Rey, who works for the city council.

The royal meal was a foretaste of the spiritual feast that was enjoyed by all who witnessed the baptism at Liverpool on Sabbath afternoon, 31 May. This was truly an international event, with candidates



Pavilion of Hope hosts UK's first CHIP baptism

by Naomi Watson

The baptismal service of evangelist Pastor Kenneth Rancifer's Next Level Living series in Birmingham on Sabbath 24 May included a unique first. Marilyn Saddler became the first UK CHIP graduate known to be baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Marilyn became a Christian 22 years ago, trying numerous denominations without being satisfied. Befriended by her neighbour Jennifer Riley, she became a worshipping member of the Community of Hope, Winson Green, Birmingham, last September, and now she is a baptised member.

The key to Marilyn's baptism is God's message on health, first entrusted to the Adventist movement circa 150 years ago in prophetic vision. Marilyn is a carer of family members with ill health. In turn, she

has developed her own health challenges. Profoundly aware of the limitations of standard medical science, God's message of health was attractive, intriguing, and now the power of recovering health.

Three months into her Adventist journey Marilyn graduated from Stanborough Park church's first micro Coronary Health Improvement Project series. Rising early on the four Sunday mornings of November, she journeyed from Birmingham to Watford with fifteen others from the NEC's Midlands congregations. Group leaders Pastor Malcolm and Naomi Watson invited Marilyn to join, believing that she would be benefited. She accepted their invitation gladly so she could address her health issues in a practical way. Her participation in the micro CHIP has brought a beneficial lifestyle change. Participation cemented her relationship with the Church and the Third Angel's Message. Her association with others seeking to achieve the same lifestyle change developed mutually beneficial spiritual friendships that aided her to baptism.

At the micro CHIP graduation, Marilyn shared that the lifestyle change CHIP had enabled had improved her internal health, sleep, skin and energy levels. Obedience



Marilyn Saddler

coming from four continents and five countries.

Mzwakhe Dlodlo was the first candidate, originally from Bulawayo in Zimbabwe. He is a young man of 17 who has joined the Liverpool Stoneycroft church.

Eric Mwangi, 19, from the East African country of Kenya, was next to be baptised, also joining the Stoneycroft church.

Kia Curtis, from Yardley in Birmingham, who has been studying at Liverpool University for several years, was the third candidate. Contacted by the Rey family, Kia experienced a dramatic turnaround

in her life. Kia joined the Liverpool church.

James Christensen from Australia, teaching in Hoylake on the Wirral, joined the Wallasey church.

His father was an Adventist and James felt drawn back to his spiritual roots.

Vijay Chilla, 'Bobby', came to the UK with his wife Ranny in December 2003 from India.

A civil engineer by profession, Vijay joined the Wallasey church.

Faith in God and obedience to him was the theme of the baptismal sermon, ably delivered by Felix DaSilva, first elder of the Wallasey church.

The baptism of four Pathfinders is being planned for July.

PASTOR BARRY STOKES

Upper room

On a bright sunny Sabbath on 3 May, three young ladies from Doncaster church were privileged to attend an all-day service at the Upper Room SDA church in Nottingham. This followed an invitation subsequent to the visit of the Nottingham families to our church in April.

The youth participated in a group Sabbath school discussion. The main worship service was spiritually uplifting and focused on why Christians need to 'Fear not'. The main preacher for the day drew examples from his life experience on the fear factor.

While we enjoyed fellowship luncheon served in the lower room section, the focus turned to the afternoon's musical programme, which was entirely led by the girls' trio from Doncaster church. Among the groups gracing the afternoon session were Southend men's group, Joybells family group, Doncaster 'Gospel Voices' trio and soloist Jabulani 'JB'.

A history of the Upper Room church was presented by three elders of the church, focusing on 'where we've come from', 'where we are now' and 'the journey ahead'.

ADVENTIST YOUTH SOCIETY, DONCASTER



to the natural laws of health presented in the micro CHIP had lifted her depression. She prefaced her speech: 'Since becoming an Adventist three months ago . . .' Now she is fully fledged. On the afternoon of her baptism, before hundreds of people, Marilyn testified

again. She shared how it was the knowledge of and obedience to God's laws of health, while claiming God as her personal Healer (Exodus 15: 26), clearly presented during the micro CHIP and on other occasions, that had brought her to baptism in the Adventist Church.

VERA GLADYS HOBBS (1917-2007) d. 7 December. On 7 December 2007, after a short period of illness, Vera Gladys Hobbs died peacefully. She was the eldest of five children and although as a child she was quite sickly, she survived all her siblings by a number of years. Vera was described as being a devoted wife and grandmother and she lived her entire life in Stourbridge, West Midlands. She was married to George and they spent many pleasant years together until he died in 1989.

A few years later, Vera was introduced to the teachings of the Adventist Church by her aunt. Vera was also encouraged in her Christian walk by the late Brother Saxby and his family. After taking a series of Bible studies, she was baptised into the Dudley church in 1994. The baptismal service was led by Pastor Malcolm Watson and Pastor Paul Liburd. In 1995 she underwent major surgery to have one of her lungs removed due to cancer. However, this did not deter her from lead-

ing a fulfilling life. She really wanted to see her grandchildren grow, and was concerned that she would not be around long enough to enjoy them. Making a remarkable recovery, she far exceeded her expectations and saw them attain the ages of 26 and 24, getting jobs, buying their first homes and generally being part of their lives. She was called 'Groovy Gran' by her grandson and really loved that title. Despite only having one lung, she took part in church programmes and events with enthusiasm. She befriended the late Lottie Keating, and the two remained long-standing friends until Sister Keating's death in 2006. After the loss of her best friend, church was never quite the same for Vera. However, Vera remained faithful, bounced back into church life and was admired for her physical strength, charm, sharp wit and her love for Jesus which remained until her final days. Vera, who died at 90, is survived by her son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.

GRACE WALSH

MARGERIE ALICE KING (Marge) (1919-2008) d. 21 February. Marge was born in Bristol to Henry and Alice Parker. As a young woman, while on duty with the St John Ambulance, she met Arthur King. This was the start of a long and happy relationship, resulting in 65 years of marriage. Soon afterwards a leaflet was put through their door with the title 'Are angels the spirits of the dead?' This was their first introduction to the Adventist Church. They received Bible studies from Pastor O. M. Dorland and Bible worker Ethel Guntrip, and were baptised in 1942. They had one son, Tony, of whom Marge was immensely proud. 'Auntie Marge', as she was affectionately known, touched the lives of all whom she met. Her health was marred by arthritis from her mid-40s, resulting in two knee replacements. She was fiercely independent and had a wonderful sense of humour. She would say she wasn't old at all; she was just a 'recycled teenager'. When Arthur died in 2006, she relied on God and his love to get her through each day. She lived in her own home until a few months before her death when her final illness took hold. She passed away with her family at her bedside.

The effect on outreach brings benefits and challenges. Transferring membership at the earliest opportunity to the local church signifies a commitment. It also offers an opportunity to use spiritual gifts and talents, in church office, for the Lord's service.

Immigrant church members are attracting ex-patriot work colleagues and fellow students to our churches. But the challenge for those from another culture in reaching the indigenous population remains. Experience shows that gospel music can successfully bridge cultural divides and dissipate initial resistance. However, there can be no substitute for developing genuine friendships. This involves finding *common interests* with others so that they 'belong before they believe'.

For its part, the British Union Conference is providing 'the tools for the job'. Notably, programmes such as LIFEdevelopment – including the introductory *LIFE.info* magazines – and CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project) are designed to reach secular minds and fulfil their needs. All that is required from each one of us, locally, is our personal commitment – with financial, physical and spiritual support.

'And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.' Acts 2:47.

Scotland's challenge

by John Wilby, Communication sponsor

The Scottish Mission president's message in last month's *Mission Newsletter* highlighted the impressive Adventist church membership growth in Scotland over the past few years. But, as a recent Worship Service Attendance Survey of all Scottish Adventist churches revealed, it does not tell the whole story.

For example, the Glasgow church has a membership of 76, yet the survey showed an attendance of 132, 40% of whom were under sixteen. Furthermore, that church's congregation contact list exceeds 250. If this phenomenon is replicated in the Mission and elsewhere, what does it say, and what are the implications for the Church in the British Union?

Well, it does highlight the high proportion of children and youth – hence the considerable effort being expended on Youth activities and the importance attached to the KIDS in Discipleship programme.

But, as in any organisation, such rapid growth imposes enormous strains on accommodation and the provision of membership services. The evidence already exists in several churches where seating capacities and facilities are often under extreme pressure and there are plans for expansion. Heating, lighting, repairs, photocopying, church bulletins, *MESSENGER* and other publications are also affected – and all come at a cost.

Part of this growth, particularly in the university cities, is due to a transient but constant overseas student population. However, some students have brought spouses and children with them, and a growing number have settled permanently. The dilemma for some immigrants may be that they have 'a foot in both camps' – uncertain if their residence will be permanent – and perhaps financially supporting folks back home.

in Newton Abbot on 29 March at the age of 95. An evangelistic campaign conducted by Pastors A. J. Mustard, R. H. Bainbridge and L. G. Harding led to her acceptance of the Adventist message, together with her mother, brother Ernest, and sister-in-law Vera, who, in her 96th year, still attends the local church regularly. For a quarter of a century Nancy served as the church treasurer and Ingathering agent.

At her funeral service conducted by Pastors K. H. Clothier, B. de Nysschen and the writer, tribute was paid to Nancy's caring nature, and her generosity. Frequently she rewarded postmen, window-cleaners and refuse collectors with Mars bars! She knitted scores of jumpers and blankets following ADRA appeals on behalf of the needy. Moreover, Nancy bore a strong testimony to her Christian faith among her neighbours and friends, and she died with a steadfast hope concerning the glorious future which awaits God's elect.

JOHN ARTHUR

RUTH ALICE RHODES (1920-2008) d. 10 April. Ruth Alice Rhodes was born into the Proudley family on 17 January 1920. She was the youngest of seven children. Her mother accepted the Seventh-day Adventist faith in 1918, which set the course of Ruth's future as a lifelong member of the church. The family lived in Bournemouth and going to church was an experience for the Proudley family. Seven children had a five-mile walk to worship in the 'upper room' above a grocery store. Later it became a fish and chip shop. On wet days, of which there were many, the children hung their wet clothes to dry around the coke-burning stove. The resulting steam would often induce sleep. Raising funds to buy a church was a constant of her church life. Carol singing with Ray Vine, Victor Benefield, Peggy Greaves, Leslie Lockyer and others helped to raise funds, and in due course a former wool mill-cum-Christadelphian church became home to the Bournemouth Seventh-day Adventist church. Ruth was educated at Bournemouth Municipal College where she met her future husband Melvin Rhodes. In 1939, with the outbreak of World War II, Melvin enlisted. Gifted with the poet's skill, he sent Ruth a series of love poems which she kept all her life. They married in 1941, Melvin having been granted 48 hours' leave. They celebrated their dream wedding anniversary in 2001 and enjoyed 64 years together. Melvin died in 2004. Ruth had five children: Maureen, Philip, Jennifer, Katherine and Caroline. The family moved to Australia twice, then to Watford where Ruth worked in the San and Melvin in Granose. From Watford they moved back to Bournemouth where they were invaluable members of the church. Infirmary led Ruth to be near her family, and for the last few years she lived with her daughter's family in Watford. She worshipped at Stanborough Park church where her wit and cheerfulness endeared her to all. This lovely Christian lady, with her infectious laughter and gifted singing voice, has served her Lord in church life for eighty-odd years. She now rests in the North Watford Cemetery awaiting the return of the Lord she loved and served. The service of celebration in Stanborough Park church on 25 April was conducted by the writer and Pastor Robert Vine, and her son Pastor Philip Rhodes. Philip travelled from Australia to be present. The death of this old and faithful member recalls an age that has passed; one in which the church lived and witnessed in difficult times. Ruth's legacy is a family who carry the torch in this generation 'till he come', when all will then be reunited, never more to part. The family express thanks and appreciation for letters and phone calls from friends and members.

PASTOR PATRICK J. BOYLE

'You can remember her and only that she's gone, Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.'

ESTELLE HARTLEY-MCDONALD

NANCY CAMPION (1912-2008) d. 29 March. A faithful member of the Torquay church for almost 70 years, Nancy Campion passed to her rest in the Greenhill Care Home

Dutch churches plant more than tulips

by Jerry Smith

The weekend of 16-18 May was special for twenty-seven participants of the SEC Church Growth department's educational trip to Holland. Coming from various churches and church plants from the SEC, they went over to check out the 'rumours' that church planting efforts were being made there, and were not disappointed. Pastor Aris Vontzalidis and his wife Sophia (who is also his secretary) led the trip and discovered that planting efforts are alive and well in the Netherlands and receive generous support from the local Union.

Over the three days the group visited seven church plants located in the Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht regions. They varied widely in scope and temperament, and each had their own story to tell about how God had called them

to his service.

One plant focused on reaching the Antillean population through social services and also received great support from local government. The mission of the other six plants is to reach the unchurched majority in Holland. Some focused on reaching young families, some majored in powerful worship music and utilising various forms of communication and media, and one reached out to disaffected Adventists.

Two of the above started up less than three years ago, and have already begun to 'blossom' beautifully, with people coming to know Jesus and being baptised. During the weekend participants learned that churches are not to be size-oriented, but need-oriented. 'Don't aim to get numbers,' they were told. 'Instead aim to meet the needs of people in



<1 Adventists on the march

as they passed Downing Street. The banners gave a strong message: 'Spread love, not bullets', 'Families against gun and knife crime', 'PUSH: Pray Until Something Happens', 'Put it down' – youth choosing to LIVE: Living Intentionally Versus Existing in a world of gangs, guns, knives and drugs.

An American tourist expressed surprise at Adventists marching on the Sabbath before coming to realise that this march glorified all the principles of positive Sabbath-keeping. The door to our communities now stands ajar and we have but a little time to enter and make a difference for Jesus. The door was more than ajar in Lambeth. People came out of

their flats and shops clapping, waving and showing their support.

The march climaxed with a rally in Kennington Park where Adventist youth mixed with passers-by attracted to the positive music and message. In addition to the main stage, there were sideshows with puppets, health displays and information on positive living.

The programme included step-dancers, singers, poets, choirs and moving real-life stories. Mark Prince, father of 15-year-old Kiyan who was stabbed to death in 2006, told the crowds, 'I want to love and I want to forgive. If it means I have to forgive the guy who killed my son, then that's exactly what I'm going to do, because I need some mercy myself. I need some forgiveness myself.'

love.' Time was another important lesson. 'Don't expect your church to explode overnight,' leaders said. 'Postmodern ministry takes time, energy, and patience. Expect good things to start happening over a period of a couple of years rather than days, weeks, or even months.'

Other lessons learned were that people are more important than programmes, that Christ works through the love of his people for others and that a variety of methods are required to reach a variety of people. They learned that sharing food is the universal way of saying: 'Hi! We want to be friends!' and that they must not let non-Christian folks frighten, shock, or scare them with their outrageous statements or denial of our beliefs. 'Love them right where they are at, as Jesus would,' they were told. 'Let them know they are accepted just as they are. Acceptance is more important than conformity when seeking to reveal Christ's love to people.' They also learned that planting takes commitment and time and is not easy. However, the rewards of working for the Lord and for precious souls are literally 'out of this world'.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the realisation that small groups of caring, accepting individuals seeking to make an impact for the Lord in the lives of others, cannot but bring fruit for his glory. This, essentially, turns traditional thinking and methodologies of the past on their heads. Plants in Holland have reversed the traditional 'Believe, Behave, Belong' into 'Belong, Behave, Believe'. With these methods they are finding consider-

There were messages of support from the Leader of the Opposition, David Cameron, and Cabinet Minister, Tessa Jowell. Christopher Wellbelove, Deputy Mayor for Lambeth, was ecstatic at the turnout. The march comes following the deaths of 16 teenagers in London this year.

With events like this we can somehow crash into these guys' worlds and see if we can make a difference.

The day finished with a Gala Fundraising Concert at the nearby Emmanuel Centre, Westminster, raising £6,000 towards establishing a LIVE Centre and community projects right in the heart of where communities are hurting. Photos of the day are available in the BUC picture gallery, www.adventistpictures.org.uk.

able success in reaching a generation that is mostly devoid of any experience of religion, God, or church, and who tend to find anything of the sort irrelevant.

Many in our group were quite challenged by this approach. With much dialogue we took the matter as a personal challenge from God to pray and rethink more seriously about these new ways of building up our churches. The weekend was well worth the time and money to investigate these plants. Now 'the 27' are excited to begin sharing what we have learned with our home churches, and to begin implementing new approaches in the communities where we live.

VACANCY FOR LAB TECHNICIAN at Stanborough School Science department. The position is full-time and the candidate will need to have a science degree or equivalent. Good organisation and communication skills are essential. Please send CV and letter of application to Mr Kish Poddar, Stanborough School, Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JT, by 31 July. For more information, phone 01923 673 268 or email: kpoddar@spsch.org.

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Sunset

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	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
July 4	9.20	9.32	9.32	9.59	10.01
11	9.15	9.27	9.27	9.53	9.55
18	9.08	9.20	9.19	9.44	9.47
25	8.59	9.11	9.09	9.33	9.36

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