

Messenger

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Newbold Graduation 2008

Dr David Penner's Farewell by Helen Pearson, PRO

Photos: Manfred Lemke & Helen Pearson

As the rain poured down and Newbold Church Centre filled to capacity, Principal David Penner delivered his final public address to the 2008 graduates and their teachers, families, friends and well-wishers.

At the end of July, Dr Penner leaves the College after six years as principal to take up his new post as director of Leadership Initiatives for the School of Public Health at Loma Linda University in California. As speaker for the annual Awards Ceremony, his parting concern was to share his thoughts as a student and teacher of leadership with the 2008 graduates. 'All of you will, at some time, be placed in a position of leadership,' he said.

From the 8,000 secular theories of leadership, Dr Penner chose five principles with biblical bases to pass on to the 56 graduates from 31 countries. 'Forget about trying to be a hero. Don't worry about your own abilities – God chooses for his

purposes, not your abilities. Don't be proud about your own humility, but "do the needful". Finally, when everything goes wrong, remember the psalmist's simple word, "But" as it is used in Psalm 31: "For I hear the slander of many; there is terror on every side. . . . But I trust in you, O Lord."'

From the local community, the Rector of Binfield, Revd Bill Meyer, and the Mayor of Bracknell Forest Borough Council, Councillor Robert Edger, also participated in the service. Vice-principal Dr Michael Pearson bade a public farewell to Dr Penner, Admissions Officer, Mrs Josee-Marie Penner, and lecturer in History, Dr Kay Traille, all of whom are leaving the College. Pastor Don McFarlane, leader of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK, led in a prayer of dedication for the graduates.

Inevitably, this concluding event of the school year brought reflections on Dr Penner's own leadership style while carrying out the role of principal. In bidding him farewell, the vice-principal described Dr Penner's courteous and gentle style of



leadership in this extremely arduous and complex job, his deep love of the Newbold tradition, his enjoyment of student company, and his open door to all comers.

Among the well-wishers honoured in the ceremony were Newbold graduates from a different era who came with their spouses to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation in 1958 (see picture on page 8). Pastor Martin Anthony, president of

the 1958 Graduation Class and subsequently minister and administrator in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Union Conference, said: 'This morning's Graduation Ceremony was a highlight of the weekend for me. I watched the graduates and I thought, "What a super bunch! They are just exactly like we were 50 years ago. What a great heritage!"'

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Committed Newboldians

by Helen Pearson, PRO

Pat and Len Eastwood with their daughter Keren Milanovic who graduated with a BS in Behavioural Science. Keren is the third Eastwood child to graduate from Newbold in twelve years. Steven, who graduated in 1996, is now pastor of the San Louis Obispo and Moro Bay churches in California. Kaylene, who graduated in 1998, is now running an accountancy business with her husband in Weimar, Northern California. Keren goes on from Newbold to study for her PGCE in primary school teaching at Reading University. Pat and Len were themselves students at Newbold in the 60s and are proud of the way their children have all come through by working hard and not running up any debts.



with Jonathan Barrett

Spiritual values and children

'It is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.' Romans 2:13.

That is an interesting statement made by the apostle Paul in a book in which he is arguing for righteousness by faith. This seems to be saying the

opposite! Actually, I think he was saying that it wasn't the Jews, the hearers of God's law, whom God saw as righteous. Rather, God looked with favour at those (be they Jew or non-Jew) who actually responded and obeyed the law.

We could extend that principle and say that it isn't those who say the right thing but rather those who do the right thing that God smiles upon. This thought came to my mind as I came across a survey just published. It found that around two in every three adults think religious and spiritual values are important in a child's development. This was according to a Children's Society poll. The findings were part of a summary of evidence on values submitted to the Society's Good Childhood Inquiry whose final report is due to be published early next year.

It is surprising, really, that so many adults think that way, given the statistics about how many people regularly attend a church service (around 7%).

I find it curious that what we say in opinion polls often seems at variance with the way we actually live. If so many really feel that religious and spiritual values are important for children, then why don't they take them to church? I suppose there are

many answers to that, and among them would be their distrust of organised religion. Another answer may be that the theory sounds better than the practice. If the children are to be trained in those things, then the most likely place to get those values is at church. However, if the children are to go to church, then it would be logical for the parents to go with them.

Is it a case of 'Do what I say but not what I do?' I suspect we are all guilty of that at times. If we as Christians were asked: 'In order to eradicate poverty, is it best that everyone in the world has a similar living standard?' we may well say 'Yes'. However, if we were asked: 'In order to eradicate poverty, would you be willing to reduce significantly your

living standard?' I doubt we would be so keen to answer 'Yes' to that one!

There are things we believe in theory, then there is the way we actually live. A challenge for each of us is to live the way we feel we ought to live. Bearing in mind the initial survey response regarding children, can we instil religious and spiritual values in our children? Actually, Christians don't do too badly on that score. Every Christian I have known, I think without exception, has wanted their children to love God and live his way.

There will, no doubt, be areas in our lives where we find it tough actually to do the things we say we believe in. May God help us to be not just hearers or talkers, but doers!

JOB VACANCY AT ADRA-UK

ADRA-UK has a vacancy for the position of **Advancement Officer**. Responsibilities include the key role in planning and executing the major gifts programmes; creating and managing new programmes for the identification, cultivation, solicitation and stewardship of existing as well as prospective individual major donors; communicating in writing and in person with individual donors to inform them of ADRA-UK goals and programmes.

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All details of the position together with an application form are available on the ADRA-UK website www.adra.org.uk, or by emailing info@adra.org.uk, or by writing to Recruitment, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ.

Applicants should have the right to work in the UK prior to submission of the employment application.

The deadline for receipt of applications is 31 August. Interviews for suitable candidates will be held on 4 September.



Stand up and be counted!

Don McFarlane

Lillian Ladelle is my kind of Christian! I hadn't heard about her prior to 11 July, when her face appeared on the front cover of the *Daily Mail*. For those of you who missed the story, this brave woman stood up for her Christian values and her religious convictions against the might of Islington Council in London. As a registrar, she refused to conduct civil partnership ceremonies for same-sex couples and, as a result, attracted the disfavour of her employers. The *Mail* said that she was threatened with the sack, bullied and 'thrown before the lions' for her refusal to act contrary to her convictions.

Miss Ladelle took Islington Council to an industrial tribunal, which concluded that her employers had ridden roughshod over her faith and had sought to trump one set of rights with another. Her employers had given her an ultimatum to choose between her beliefs and her job. They made it clear to her that unless she performed same-sex ceremonies she would be dismissed for gross misconduct. Commenting on this, the tribunal said that her employers showed her no respect as a Christian.

Many, like me, who have been following religious liberty trends in the UK, are becoming concerned with the scant respect being paid to Christians in the implementation of certain pieces of legislation. The chairman of the Ladelle tribunal spoke not just for her, but for all Christians, when he said that she was shown no respect as a Christian. As one who believes in the freedom of choice, I take the view that each person in society ought to be able to live in harmony with his or her convictions. This means that even when I do not agree with the particular lifestyle of a person, I accept that that person should have the freedom to live as he or she wishes, *subject to the condition that I should not be required to compromise my values in order to accommodate theirs.*

In the past few years legislation has been passed in the United Kingdom which, ostensibly, has been designed to protect the rights of minority groups. A civilised society has a duty to ensure that minorities are protected. However, great care should be taken to ensure that the rights and freedoms that are protected for the minority are not denied the majority. In the 2001 Census an overwhelming majority of respondents declared themselves to be

people of faith. Seventy-two percent claimed to be Christians. This figure came as a surprise to many, particularly those who had happily concluded that Britain was no longer a Christian country. The truth is that the majority of us believe in Christian values and desire the freedom to live according to our Christian convictions.

Some laws passed by Parliament in recent years appear on the surface to be helpful to Christians and everyone else, but they are being used to curtail the actions of Christians and stifle the proclamation of the Gospel. Take, for example, the Equality Act which prohibits discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities, services, use of premises and education.

The provisions of this Act have been used to curtail the work of Christian Unions in a number of universities. At Birmingham University in 2005 the Christian Union was suspended from the Guild of Students because it was not prepared to allow non-Christians to sit on its Executive Committee. A similar situation also occurred at Hull University. The Christian Union was banned at the University of Edinburgh from running a course that was considered offensive to homosexuals. The course, which was called PURE, simply emphasised what the Bible had to say about sexuality. Members of the Lesbian, Gay and Transsexual Society of the university complained about the course and had it banned. The reason given for the ban was that the action was necessary to protect free speech. The obvious question is, free speech for whom? What about free speech for Christians?

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act is another seemingly innocuous piece of legislation that is being used to silence Christians. An evangelist from 'Open Air Mission' was told by the Carlisle Council in 2007 that he could not hand out Christian literature in the city centre without their permission. The evangelist had been preaching and handing out tracts in the town centre for three years. The Council claimed it was exercising powers under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. I am pleased to say the Council did not succeed in their ban, because Open Air Mission wrote to remind them of the religious exemption, which is protected by law.

In late 2005 members of at least two churches were stopped by police officers in Newcastle city centre from distributing free literature promoting the Christian faith. Again, this was done under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act. However, when confronted with the exemption clause, the police had to back down.

The two cases demonstrate that there are people and forces in society who are prepared to silence the religious voice and use any law which appears to support their position.

So what does the action of Lillian Ladelle say to us? First, it says that Christians as members of society have rights as everyone else does. We cannot afford to allow organisations and individuals hostile to the Christian faith to deny us the right to act in harmony with our convictions. Second, like Miss Ladelle, we ought to stand up and be counted. Here Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in Daniel 3 come to mind. They knew what they believed. They knew who their God was and they were not prepared to compromise their relationship with him. 'Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.'

In a recent conversation with a prominent UK politician, I asked her why minorities in this country always appeared to get what they wanted while the government seemed not to care much about the majority, most of whom described themselves as Christians. Her reply was enlightening. A Christian herself, she said that minorities make their voice heard and stand up for what they believe, but Christians are silent. She went on to say that if Christians made their voices heard as much as minorities do, the government would have to take notice and would seek to ensure that their rights were protected as much as the rights of others. The simple lesson for us is, *stand up and speak up for your values and your convictions.* If they are worth having, there are also worth defending.



Enhancing Health

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

Brain Health Series

Part 7g

Dietary practice and well-being

In this concluding issue on brain health and nutrition, we examine the impact of two dietary practices on the brain, analyse some early reflections from E. G. White, and review corresponding current scientific research.

'Intellectual activity diminished by a heavy meat diet – The intellectual, . . . and the physical powers are depreciated by the habitual use of flesh meats. Meat eating deranges the system, beclouds the intellect. . . .' Diet and Mind, page 390, *Mind, Character and Personality*, vol 2, E. G. White.

Current research suggests that Alzheimer's disease, like heart disease and strokes, is linked to

the saturated fat, cholesterol and toxins found in meat and dairy products.

The recent World Alzheimer's Congress reported on a large study which found that meat eaters had a higher risk of

Alzheimer's. Conversely, people in this study who remained free from any form of dementia had consumed higher amounts of vegetables, beta-carotene, vitamin C, and vitamin E than those who had developed Alzheimer's disease and had significant meat consumption. The investigators found a strong correlation between increased cholesterol levels and increases in the number of plaques and tangles in the brain – two key elements of Alzheimer's disease. In contrast, the protective properties of plants, including antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals, helped to lower substantially the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease, and promoted overall good health (Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine).

'Coffee affects mental and moral powers – Coffee is a hurtful indulgence. It temporarily excites the mind, . . . but the after-effect is exhaustion, prostration, paralysis of the mental, moral, and physical powers. . . .' Diet and Mind, page 392,

Mind, Character and Personality, vol 2, E. G. White.

Coffee's well-documented side-effects have a list that includes anxiety, insomnia, tremor, irregular heartbeat, irritated bladder, prostate and digestive system problems. Andrew Weil MD states that, regardless of any recent suggested potential health benefits of coffee, if you experience any of the above effects, you're better off avoiding coffee (and decaf, which still contains substances that may contribute to the symptoms).

Professor Chris Idzikowski, director of the Sleep Assessment Advisory Service in London, reports that high doses of strong coffee can slow down the metabolism severely, and the caffeine can stay in the body for up to 15 hours, affecting sleep. The stimulant effect of caffeine also interrupts the flow of melatonin, the brain hormone that induces sleep. He suggests trying non-caffeinated herbal beverages.

Next issue we examine gender differences and brain health.

Good health!



Liverpool Pathfinder baptism



The revival that is taking place among the Pathfinders in the NEC is also being felt in Liverpool. Seven Pathfinders have been baptised there in the last eight months. In December 2007, three Pathfinders were baptised, namely, Amanda Ndlovu, Camile Boyce and Michael Kiragu. At the latest Pathfinder baptism on 12 July, four more were baptised: Prichard Sibanda, Chad Boyce, Lindsay Alfred and Grace Ndebu.

Pastor Trevor Thomas, NEC Pathfinder director, was present to immerse the candidates. He spoke of his joy at seeing four young people committing their lives to God. Pastor Ebenezer Daniel from Manchester preached.

Prichard Sibanda was first to be baptised. Prichard is the eldest son of Themba and Shelly Sibanda. Themba is the treasurer of the Liverpool Stoneycroft church.

Chad Boyce, next in the pool, is the son of the North-west Area Pathfinder co-ordinator Cheryl Boyce and the grandson of the Liverpool Pathfinder director Mrs L. Mason.

Lindsay Alfred, along with Chad Boyce, joined the Liverpool church. Lindsay is a member of the Liverpool drum corps. She started out playing the cymbals, moved on to the tenor drum and now plays the snare.

Grace Ndebu and Prichard Sibanda joined the Liverpool Stoneycroft church. Grace was first invited to church by Fiona and Flora Kogera. Grace plans to study to become a pharmacist, and hopes one day to return to her Kenyan homeland to open an orphanage.

The Liverpool church was full to overflowing, with family members, friends and Pathfinders and their leaders from all over the Conference.

PASTOR BARRY STOKES

'Forgiveness is dynamic'

by Michelle Rondof

Sabbath 28 June was Day of Jubilee, the brainchild of Pastor Kirk Thomas, for Willesden church. It happened after forty days of fasting. This was a day high in meaning, emotions and brighter futures as members of the congregation could for once unload past hurts, sins and feelings of isolation. Our numerous visitors were probably not expecting anything like this.

Adrian McQueen, our historian and prophecy lecturer, opened Sabbath School with a background study of Old Testament Jubilee. 'Jubilee', declared church elder E. Simpson, 'is firstly coming back together and drawing closer to God in humility, considering what Christ did for us, and secondly, a readiness for spiritual improvement.'

As we began divine service, our Praise Team, strengthened by Blessed Voices, reminded us in a moving and stirring rendition that as a church we need each other, since we all are a part of Christ's body. Husbands and wives, children and parents were called to embrace each other, bringing tears to many eyes.

Pastor Kirk Thomas freely shared experiences from his own life which, he told us, can benefit us, since he is a man who like ourselves had to learn to forgive. He said, 'We are not honest with each other, that is why we have a problem with forgiveness.

The reason why there is a problem is because we are not ready to move on.'

Unconditional forgiveness for a Christian should make sense, but how is it achieved? Does it mean amnesia? Does it remove the hurt done?

Firstly, we must understand that forgiveness is dynamic; it results from a personal choice. It is a costly word at the core of Christianity. Heaven will be filled with people who have learned to forgive. As individuals, we must revise our feelings towards the person who has caused us pain and rediscover his/her humanity. Secondly, surrender. Surrender what? *Surrender our right to get even.* When we forgive, two things happen: 1) We release the person to a higher court, whose Judge is God who will deal now with the person; 2) Then God files the hurt in the cabinet located at the back of our mind and we experience relief and rest/Sabbath as embedded in the context of Jubilee.

After such an address, no wonder many in the congregation responded to the call to bring to the altar names, hurts and deep resentments, written on pieces of paper, to be prayed over. Pastor Thomas asked the Lord to move upon the hearts of the hurting.

through baptism and three on profession of faith.

It was very much a family affair in many respects, with three siblings – Clifford Fourie, Hazel Fourie and Petronella Fourie – who entered the pool together with tears of joy, and a couple, Albert Tereki who was baptised and Marian Ndongwe who was accepted on profession of faith. Emmaculate Musavengana was the only one to be baptised this time.

Roseline Davidson, who was the last to be baptised after a good rendition of the song 'It's not an Easy Road', was filled with tears of joy also as she was led to the baptistery. The other candidates, Loveness Ndelela who has been attending Southall church for the past six years, and Sandra Osithen, who is a

regular at Northolt, were accepted on profession of faith. Pastor Everett Picart, who officiated, talked about how pleased he was to witness the power of the Holy Spirit working in the churches, as this was the third baptism in the district in the space of two months.

CHADWICK MUSAVENGANA

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Southall: 'Third baptism in two months'

On Sabbath 17 May Southall church witnessed nine precious souls take their stand for Jesus. Seven of the candidates were some of the fruits from the Northolt Group and two

from the mother church, Southall. The church was packed and all faces were full of joy as everyone sang from their heart. Six members were accepted into fellowship



Left to right: Sandra Osithen, Albert Tereki, Marion Ndongwe, Roseline Davidson, Pastor Everett Picart, Petronella Fourie, Loveness Ndelela, Clifford Fourie, Emmaculate Musavengana, Hazel Fourie



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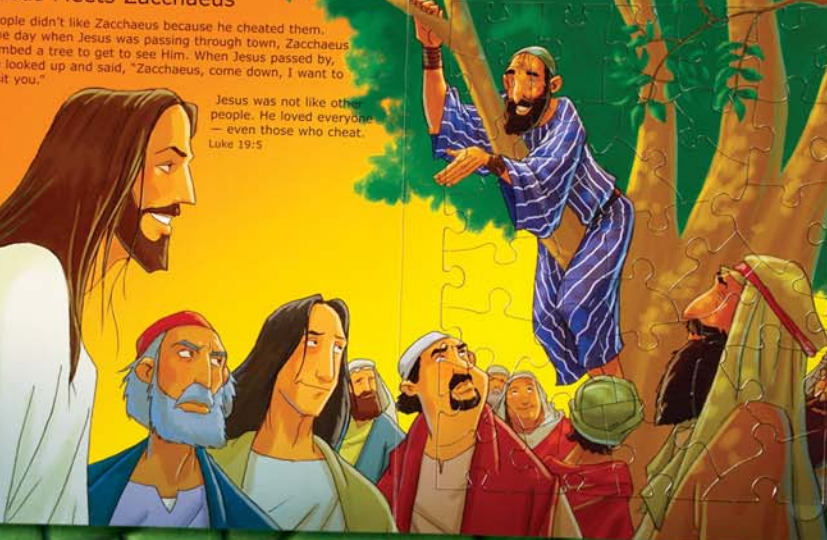
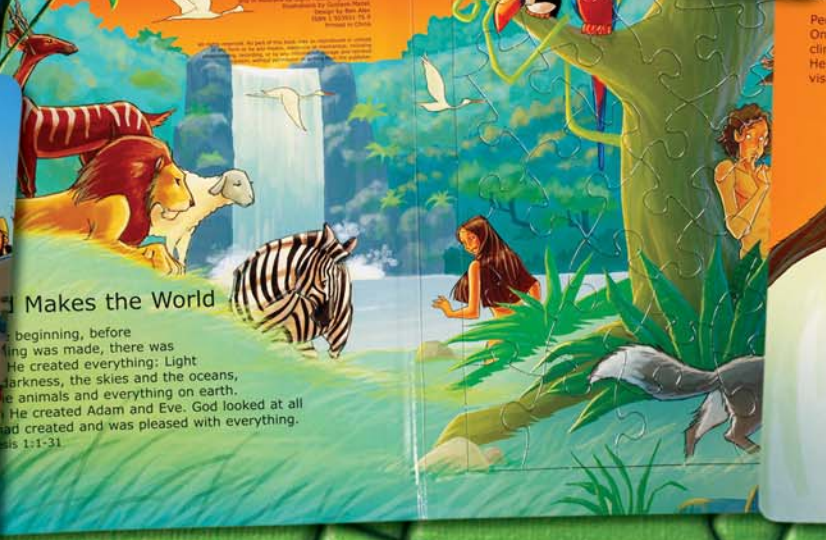
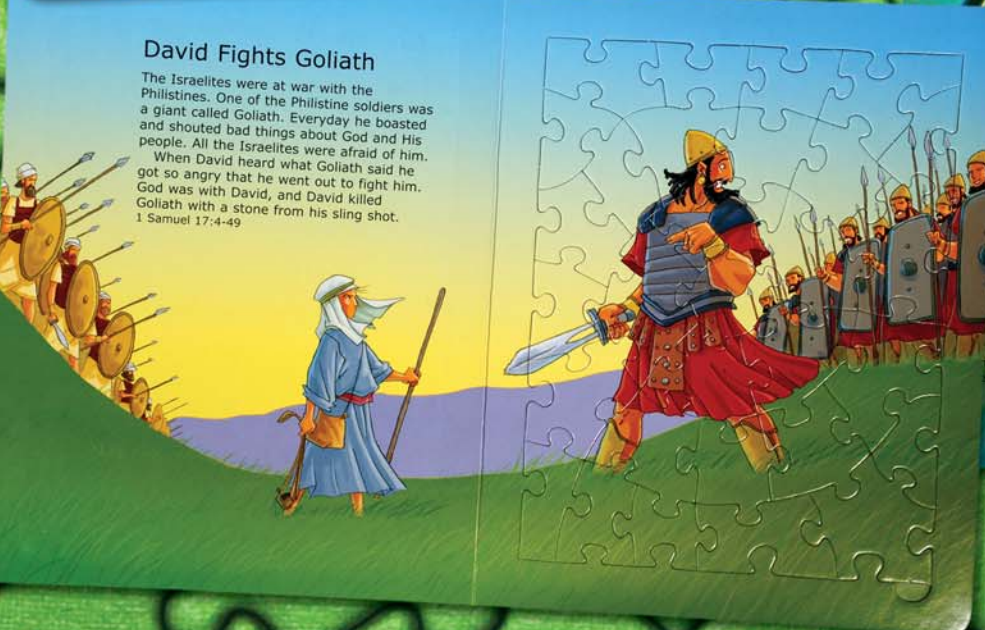
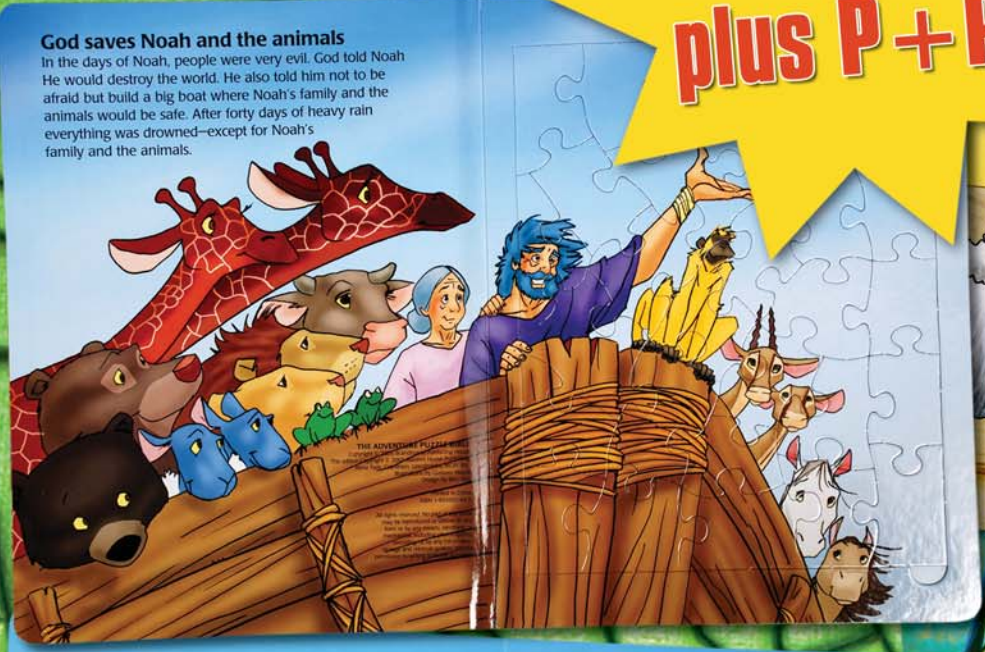
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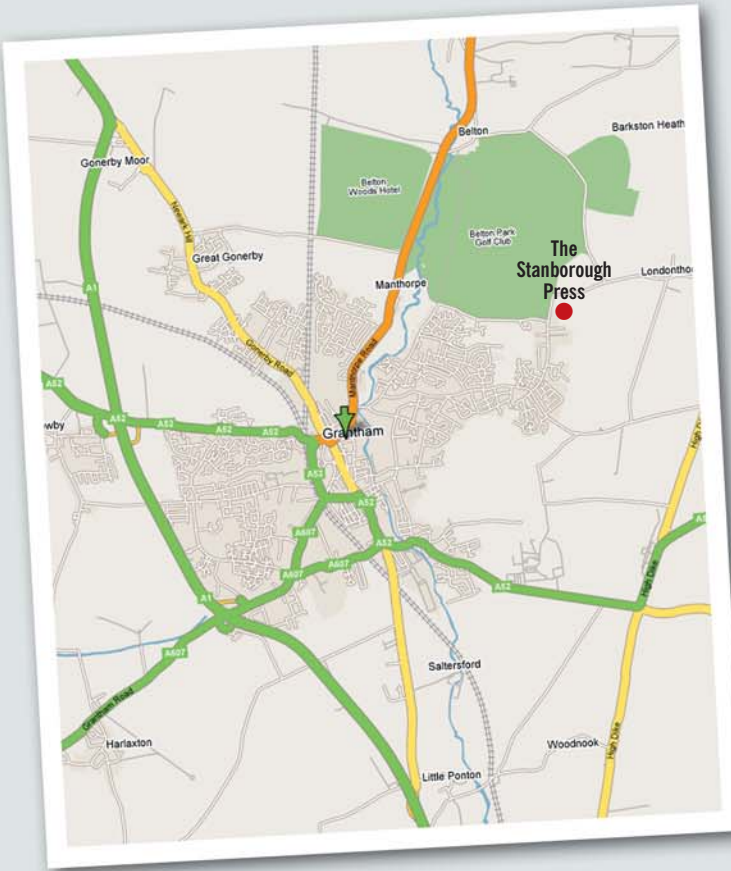
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Foundation of Fun

Not before time the government has instigated a Learning Through Play curriculum for Early Years, and children in the Foundation Stage at Newbold School are experiencing a complete new 'makeover' to ensure that Play is the important word in this part of their development.

As in all schools, funding for new initiatives is an issue and Newbold School is no exception, but thanks to generous donations received we have been able to redecorate and refurbish the Early Years area of the school completely.

Thanks to an initial response from granoVita UK, who sponsored the wonderful voices of the Northampton Male Voice Choir in concert in the Salisbury Hall auditorium, we were able to raise £1,000 towards costs – enough to get us under way. A further donation was given by the Becejac family, enabling us to reach our £3,000 budget for the new equipment.

We are very grateful to our sponsors for providing us with bright new walls and display areas, a wonderful kitchen/creative play area in the 'home corner', new tables, storage units, computer centre, wet play and painting equipment, as well as a new cloakroom facility for the children in the room.

A sincere and grateful 'thank you' to granoVita UK and the Becejac family for understanding our pressing needs and helping us achieve them. We now go forward to installing a new outdoor area for the children, bringing the school facility to a very high standard at this level.

PAT EASTWOOD



Eager candidates at Clapton

After our 'Sanctuary and 1944' series conducted by Pastor B. T. Akakpo, followed by the five days Health and Happiness programme hosted by the Health and Temperance department at Clapton church, we brought the curtain down on Sabbath morning 5 July with a baptismal service. The candidates could not wait to be baptised. The pool was stirred, the candidates were at the ready, and Pastor Akakpo said of one candidate that she is 'ready and does not want to wait any longer'. But the biggest surprise was when Pastor Akakpo baptised his two children, Ithiel and Ashriah. What a joy it was for Pastor Akakpo to see his own children accept Christ as their Lord and personal Saviour, along with the other candidates, Barbara Dariah, Yvonne Bakere and Loriamah Skerritt. When the appeal was made



Left to right: Pastor Akakpo, E. Higgins, Ithiel Akakpo, Yvonne Baker, Ashriah Akakpo, Loriamah Skerritt, Barbara Dariah, B. Edwards, G. Ragout

by Pastor Akakpo for those who would like to be among our next baptismal candidates, five more precious souls responded and came to the altar.

KAREN HARLEY

New church founded

July 5 saw the inauguration of the latest language church in the British Union. About seventy Malayalam-speaking Seventh-day Adventists from the state of Kerala in India gathered for their inaugural meeting at the Stanborough Park School. It was planned and organised by John Varghese. Joy Paul and Andrew Chackochen taught the Sabbath School, Pastor O. P. Chackochen delivered the message for the divine service and Raju and Stella George provided a sumptuous lunch. Pastor Chackochen pointed out that selfless, sacrificial service is the hallmark and identifying mark of Christianity. The primary purpose of the group is to attract the hundreds of Malayalam-speaking people living in and around Watford, where an outreach programme among the Malayalam-speaking community has been going on for the last two years. The group plans to meet on the first Sabbath of every month at the Stanborough Park School. For further information, please contact John Varghese on 07912 697 367 or Pastor Chackochen on 07748 417 460.

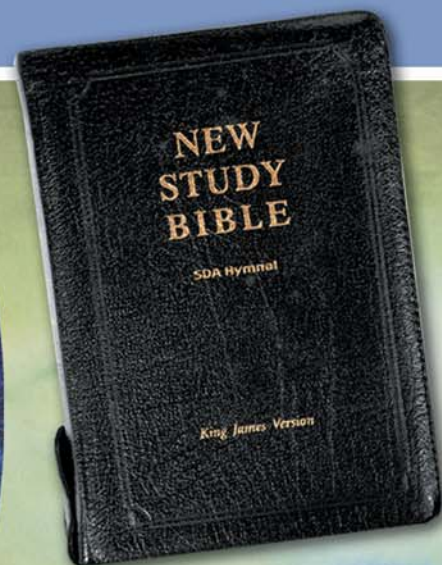
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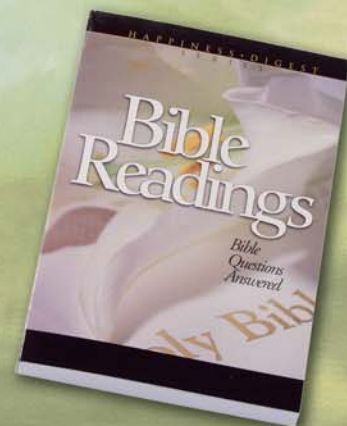
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Thanks to Calvary

Sabbath 14 June was truly a day of rest for those normally involved in conducting divine service at Stanton Close church, Wellingborough, as the youth took over all responsibility for the proceedings.

Stanton Close has only been in existence since the autumn of 2004, but already has a vibrant youth group which operates under the able leadership of Edwin Abacan.

The service was conducted with dignity and reverence, all the young people displaying a maturity beyond their years. Participants were

Tanyada Njolinjo (16) who led out in the proceedings, Lencia Ryan (17) who read from Matthew 27, Deborah Samuel (15) who offered the prayer, Grant Samuel (10) and Shamarl Braithwaite (8) who took up the offering, and Maryam Mohammed (16) who gave the benediction.

The older members of the youth group also blended their voices in the moving song 'In Heaven's Eyes'.

The task of preaching fell upon the shoulders of two young men, Tino Bere and John Samuel. Tino (16) and John (16) defied their inexperience and confidently and clearly

Holloway: Ten days of prayer

In May Holloway church Prayer Co-ordinators arranged for the church to participate in Operation Global Rain's Ten Days of Prayer, and it was a real blessing and well attended.

Over 1,830 churches participated in more than 80 countries. We were praying for non-Adventist family and friends and for opportunities to witness.

Pastor Richard Holder launched our ten days of prayer with the first theme: 'Divine Appointment'.

On the succeeding nights we were blessed with presentations on the set themes for each night.

Church members, elders and people from our sister churches presented each theme, all with a style that was unique.

Elder Hunter spoke on 'The Gospel with Power'. He said that we should all experience personal shaking, to shake certain things out of our lives, and that we need to be willing to change, receiving the power by being submitted to the Holy Spirit.

Elder Cuffie presented the theme 'Soldiers of the Cross' with passion and clarity.

Jean Boyd presented 'The Cross and the Law'. The theme 'Personal

Ministries' was presented by Sister Toyee, and there were many more, encouraging us as members to take on the mantle of the Gospel and tell it to our friends and families.

During the ten days names of non-Adventist friends and relatives were collected, and at the end of each night special prayers were offered for them.

Calling friends of Coventry Central

Come to Coventry's Methodist Central Hall, Warwick Lane, Coventry, CV1 2HA, on 20 September and celebrate 100 years of Adventism in this city.

You will be welcome to the services which start at 10am, and finish at 5pm. Bring a packed lunch with you as we are unable to cater on these premises.

The guest speaker will be Pastor Paul Cleo. The programmes are expected to feature the Adventist Chorale, and other musicians.

It promises to be a joyous occasion, and you are invited. We look forward to seeing you.

Please note the following:

- Coventry Central church will *not* be open for services on 20 September.
- Concessionary parking is available at £3 for the day in the New Union Street multi-storey car park which is conveniently situated near the venue. However, as we do not have sole use, it may be advantageous to be early. If there is an attendant on site, kindly inform him that you are part of the Seventh-day Adventist Centenary Celebration taking place at the Methodist Central Hall.

If further information is needed, contact J. A. Duncan at jalisonduncan@btinternet.com.

Holloway: Music and worship seminar

Music and worship was the theme of a seminar hosted by the Holloway church on 7-11 May. The guest speaker was Pastor Robert Robinson from Chicago.

Wednesday night prayer meeting commenced with a Spirit-filled presentation on worship, highlighting the importance of music in our worship, suggesting that our attitude and understanding of worship will be evident in the way

we present our music to God. Part two of the seminar began with participants separating into their various harmonies, the aim being to form a massed choir which would perform at the conclusion of the seminar.

The seminar included the art of singing, as Pastor Robinson is a multi-talented professional musician and a music teacher. He has sung in opera workshops and oratorios. Being a composer and arranger, he has founded and directed choirs, and given numerous voice-training seminars.

He demonstrated both vocally and musically his talents, teaching voice projection, about the resonant chamber and other techniques of singing. He also offered individual voice training.

A total of fifty members, comprising individuals from the four choirs in Holloway (Ladies', Male Voice, Mixed and the younger Praise Choir), participated. In addition there were people who did not belong to a choir but had the desire to tune their voices to enhance their worship and praise to God. A wonderful blend of people of all different ages came together for the seminar for the four nights. Pastor Robinson spoke of two types of choirs in the church: 'the church choir' and 'the choir in the church'.

The highlight of the seminar was the concert on the last evening when the participants demonstrated their improvement and implemented what was learnt during the seminars. There were soloists, musicians and choirs. The climax of the evening was the 'Music and Worship Seminar Chorale', who performed an arrangement of 'I Cannot Tell Why'. The choir received a standing ovation for their rendition.

JACKIE LAWRENCE and KIM NEWELL

Twenty years of Harper Bell (1988-2008)

Calling all Harper Bellians! Have you been involved with Harper Bell during the last 20 years? Past student, teacher, head teacher, part of the PTA, part of the general staff, founding members – whatever involvement you have had – we want to hear from you.

We are going to be having a full year of activities to celebrate 20 years of Harper Bell. International speakers, alumni (calling all ex-students), special banquets, fun days, open days and much more. However, this can only be a success with your involvement. If you would like to be part of this trip down memory lane and celebration of success, send us your details (stating your involvement) to harperbell20th@googlegmail.com. We are looking for pictures and names of people whom you remember. We wish to let you know what will be happening, and look out for further adverts, too.

First date for your diary: Special Breakfast Gathering to start the ball rolling – **Sunday 28 September**. More details to follow shortly. Be a part of the success!
Lorraine McDonald and Astra Stewart, event co-ordinators

Endless Love
Therefore what God has joined together, let no man put asunder (Mark 10:9 KJV)

A Time of Enrichment for Married Couples
Friday 26th – Sunday 28th September 2008
Robinson Centre, Wyboston, Bedfordshire MK44 3JL
Telephone: 01480 226700

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For information and bookings contact:
CYRIL SWEENEY (Tel: 0115 960 6312)
csweeney@necadventist.org.uk

Sponsored by:
The North England Conference
Family Ministries Department

We would like to thank all who participated and encourage you to share your testimonies of how the ten days impacted you personally or those for whom you have been praying.

We will follow up with 110 days

Sheffield: Fire brigade fill baptistery

May 17 witnessed the baptism of eleven members (including four Pathfinders) of the Sheffield Burngreave church by Pastor Rashford-Hewitt and Pastor Trevor Thomas. The baptism was set to start at 4pm. However, this turned out to be not just 'your average baptism'.

During the course of the weeks leading up to the event various plans were made to ensure that this day would be one of joyous celebration for all. Invitations went out to churches in the neighbouring towns to come and witness these people surrendering all to Jesus. In the final week leading up to the baptism, plans for an after-baptism concert were finalised, the baptistery was checked and rechecked, the officiating pastors were informed, and confirmations were received that members from Manchester Central, Newcastle, Nottingham, Camp Hill and Liverpool churches, among other churches, would attend. Members were also advised to bring extra food for the visitors. Everything seemed to be in place.

On the Sabbath morning of the baptism, members entered Burngreave church with anticipation of the pending baptism. Pastor Gifford Rhaim from Newbold College delivered an awe-inspiring sermon on the prodigal son, which added to the heightened spiritual atmosphere of the day.

Following the sermon, lunch was served and all were fed, and at 3.30 members began returning to the sanctuary for the baptism. The deacons checked the baptistery once again. All seemed to be in order. The baptistery was covered, and the Praise and Worship team led a congregation of approximately 400 people in a powerful worship experience. Pastor Rhaim then gave solemn advice to the baptismal candidates, which was well received by the members as well.

Finally, the time which everyone

of intense outreach, where we are to set aside one day or more a week for one hour or more in which we will simultaneously reach out to non-Adventists through Bible study, tracts, prayer and visiting families.

K. WILLIAMS

had been waiting for had come. The deacons came forward and the floorboards were removed. And then, for some reason unfathomable to the congregation, all the deacons began to assemble around the baptistery. Pastor Rashford-Hewitt was called to view the baptistery, and still the members could not understand what was going on. Shortly after, Pastor Rashford-Hewitt stood in front of the congregation and said, 'Something has happened here today that I have never seen before.' Apparently, the baptistery was now empty. Pastor Rashford-Hewitt then outlined that the available options were either to postpone the baptism, or wait an extra hour or two to refill the baptistery.

The congregation was opposed to the first option, and immediately the concert that was scheduled for after the baptism began and a chain gang was formed to carry water from the kitchen and from a neighbouring building to the baptistery. Pots, buckets, and even kettles and urns were used. And while this was going on, Pastor Rashford-Hewitt approached Sheffield Fire Department and explained the current situation, and the Fire Department agreed to come and help.

There were loud 'Amen's' from the congregation as the firemen walked down the aisle carrying their hose pipe, and within a few minutes they had filled the baptistery. But they were intrigued as to what exactly was going on, and why we needed the water. In response to this, the firemen were invited to witness the baptism. And even though the water was cold, the baptismal candidates had come on 17 May to declare to all present that they were going to follow Jesus all the way, and accordingly they were baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The oldest candidate was in his eighties.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

RUTH BARON (1915-2008) d. 30 April. Ruth was born in 1915 in the town of Nowi Tomysl, today part of Poland, but which over the centuries has been fought over by a number of nations. It was in Germany when Ruth was born, so she grew up as a German citizen. By and by the family joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Ruth remained a faithful member of the Church she loved and served all her life. She met her husband, Frank, at an Adventist youth meeting in the beautiful Carpathian Mountains and married him in 1936. Being a Polish citizen, Frank worked on the Polish railways before the Second World War, joining the Polish Army before the war started. When Hitler invaded Poland he was conscripted into the German Army, working on the German railways until 1944, when he was captured by the British Army in France. As an ex-Polish soldier, he was offered a place in the Polish corps of the British 8th Army and sent to Italy. He worked there until 1946 when he was demobilised and allowed to come to Britain. He came here and found a job. All through the war Ruth had had to live on her own, coping with the pressures of keeping her two children fed and clothed and protected while not knowing where her husband was or when she would see him again. From 1944 to 1947 she completely lost contact with him, being surprised one day when she heard that he was in England and looking for her. A less dedicated and courageous soul would have given up long before, but she coped with those pressures and then the new one of coming to a foreign land, the land of the enemy, not knowing a word of English and having to get to know her husband again. All these were pressures that tested her to the limit, but she pressed on and became a loyal citizen of the UK, built a strong family, and gave strong support to the Adventist church in Blackburn. When, finally, it became possible for the Blackburn members to dream of their own place of worship, she came to the fore in raising funds, in encouraging her husband, then the church elder, and the other members to press on, and great was her joy when Blackburn dedicated its own lovely church building. Ruth placed great importance on her marriage and family, which she had fought so doggedly to protect. As each major anniversary of her wedding to Frank came along, she insisted on a public celebration to commemorate it; the ruby, golden, diamond and earlier

this year, even though she was unwell, the platinum, an emphasis that has not been lost on her children, grandchildren and many friends who came into their home. Ruth now lies sleeping in a beautiful cemetery on a hill outside Blackburn where she waits for the Lord to come and return her family and friends to her. Frank, Eleanor, Siegfried, and Wilfred are grateful for the support of friends and look forward to seeing her again soon.

DR D. C. BEARDSSELL

DR DAVID BULL (1922-2008) d. 31 May. Dr David Bull passed away after a long illness borne with quiet courage. As a child he lived in Shepton Mallet, Somerset, and in his youth regularly walked with his family to Croscombe church on Sabbath. During the early part of the war years he worked as a nurse in his sister's nursing home, and later studied medicine at Edinburgh, qualifying in 1948. After three years' surgical experience, he left England in 1951, with his wife Dr Doreen, to work in the Adventist Mission Clinic in Port of Spain, Trinidad. While there he was an elder in the Port of Spain church and took an active part in health lectures. Returning to England in 1961, he, with his wife, became a general practitioner in Leamington Spa. His church membership was with Coventry Central church, where he was church clerk for many years, took an active part in anti-smoking clinics, and used his DIY skills for the benefit of the church building. His funeral service was conducted by Pastor Peter Sayers who had been minister at Coventry Central for nine years and knew Dr David well. For some thirty years he had a keen interest in geology. Fossils, stones and rocks became collector's items. The theme of the service was 'The Rock – Christ Jesus'. This was expressed in the hymns sung, one of which was 'Will your anchor hold?' part of the chorus being 'Fastened to the Rock which cannot move; Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love'. The promises of Scripture bring comfort to those who mourn the passing of Dr David. 'I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.' Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and for ever. The promises remain firm until Jesus comes and the great day of resurrection. Dr Doreen and family wish to thank all who gave so generously to ADRA (Burma relief) in memory of Dr David, and to the many friends for their expressions of love and sympathy.

CHURCH CLERK

Death of Pastor David Spearing

It was with deep sadness that the church family learnt of the untimely and sudden death of Pastor David Spearing. Pastor Spearing had been suffering from severe depression. This is a serious illness which can sometimes result in tragic consequences. Sadly, the illness caused an altered state of mind which resulted in Pastor Spearing taking his life early on Monday 23 June. It is important to stress that Pastor Spearing was not himself due to the state of his mind. Anyone who knew Pastor Spearing would attest to his zest for life and his commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our thoughts and prayers are with his loving and devoted wife, Lillian, his parents Otti and Tony, his brother Robin and his sister Sylvia.

'Pastor Dave was more ill than any of us had realised, and this illness resulted in his death,' says SEC president Pastor Sam Davis, a long-time friend of Pastor Spearing. He continues: 'We look forward to the blessed hope of the Second Coming when Pastor Dave, along with all who have fallen asleep in Jesus, will hear the voice of the Life-giver and come forth never to die again.'

A funeral took place near the Spearing family home at Crieff, Perthshire, and Pastor Spearing's father, Tony, has sent us this thank-you message:

'Otti and I, along with Robin, Sylvia and our whole family wish to thank all our dear friends everywhere for your overwhelming demonstration of heartfelt love and sympathy. A most touching response to the devastating, untimely death of our beloved son David.

'Until now, I have never appreciated the concept of a church family, yet David's death has shown us an immensity of love we never dreamt existed. In fact, it's been worldwide!

'Pastor Robert Surrudge literally came halfway round the world and gave us an inspired, straight-from-the-heart eulogy at the funeral. It was beautiful, and an old soul like me wept unashamedly.

'Love to you all. Tony Spearing.'

Continuation of Newbold coverage

50 year alumni* with former staff

The seven representatives of the 'Class of '59' spent a happy Sabbath afternoon reminiscing with four of their former teachers, David Mansfield, Roy Scarr, Frank Wood and John Woodfield and their spouses. Some of the former students had come from Australia and the USA to be present. Telephone messages of greeting and good wishes had been received from another six members of the class who, for various rea-

sons, were unable to be present. Martin Anthony (president of the 1958 Graduation Class) says, 'It was a real inspiration to be "back home" again after fifty years. How much we owe to Newbold for providing us with a philosophy of life that has brought us immense encouragement and joy . . . the benefits of a solid start to life that Newbold provided for each of us have been obvious and real.'



Back row: Christine Wood, Geoff Wastling, *Margaret Wastling, *Martin Anthony, *Margaret Anthony, *Ingemar Soderholm, Ellen Soderholm, *Julia Catton, *Olwen McIntyre. Seated: Roy Scarr, Frank Wood, David Mansfield, John Woodfield, Edna Scarr. Front row: Peter Papaioannou, *Revel Papaioannou, Susan Mansfield, Anne-Marie Woodfield.

Frequency change for Hope Channel

Hope Channel satellite broadcasts changed frequency in July. This is due to a re-allocation of frequencies by the owners of the Hotbird Satellite and is beyond the control and wish of Hope Channel Europe. To ensure continuity of programming, you will need to retune your receiver to 11585 GHZ as soon as possible. While each make of receiver will work slightly differently, here is the basic principle for retuning:

1. Press **Menu** on handset.
2. Select **Installation**.
3. Select **Satellite Setup** (Hotbird 13.0E should already be selected).
4. Select **Scan** choose Free or FTA (free to air) press OK to scan.
5. After scan is complete, exit menu (save results if prompted).
6. Scroll through saved channels to find Hope Channel and add to favourites.

The re-scan should have picked up the Hope Channel in its new location automatically. This process may vary according to which receiver you have. Please refer to your receiver manual for guidance. A more detailed version of this information, along with an instructional video, is available on the UK-Hope TV website, www.hopetv.org.uk. The old frequency will switch off in August.

We apologise for the slight inconvenience this will cause and hope that it will not detract from your viewing pleasure. If you are referring the retuning to a technician they will want the following information: EutelSat-Hotbird 130E, Frequency: 11585 GHZ. Polarization: Vertical. Symbol rate: 27.5MB. FEC 3/4.

VICTOR HULBERT

The John Loughborough Seventh-day Adventist VA Secondary School

Holcombe Rd, 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

Support Staff Vacancies

We are seeking support staff to enhance the work of the school. These posts offer opportunities for ambitious, innovative, hardworking people to make their mark. The successful candidates will have a commitment to the highest standards and must subscribe to the values of the school.

Art and Display Technician Scale 4	30 hours	(40 weeks)
Science Technician Scale 4	30 hours	(40 weeks)
Premises Manager S02	36 hours	(52 weeks)

Closing date: Monday 11 August.

Data Manager/Examinations Officer	36 hours	(52 weeks)
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The post of Data Manager/Examinations Officer entails being responsible for the administration of internal and external examinations and assessment tests for students of the school as well as guest candidates in liaison with appropriate senior staff. To compile and analyse statistical data required by the school in liaison with appropriate senior staff.

Closing date: Friday 12 September.

If you are interested in applying for any of these posts, an application pack is available on the school website www.john-loughborough.haringey.lgfl.net or by contacting Mrs Y. Gordon, secretary to the head teacher.



Graduates with a British connection

Left to right:

Glenn Prior from Liverpool who graduated with an MA in Theological Studies and is working for the Adventist Discovery Centre in Watford.

Carole Williams from North London who received a Licence in Theology and will go on to complete her MA at Newbold.

Dr Michael Pearson, Vice-principal. Romanian Vicentiu Dranca who received an MA in Pastoral Theology and is working as pastor of the Bristol Lodge Causeway, Bath and Croscombe churches.

Messenger

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Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Aug 1	8.48	9.00	8.58	9.19	9.24
8	8.36	8.48	8.45	9.05	9.10
15	8.22	8.35	8.31	8.49	8.55
22	8.08	8.20	8.16	8.32	8.39

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PRESS OPEN DAY
Sunday 7 September

ABC Shops

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Watford BUC, 1st & 3rd Sunday 10am-2pm