

# Messenger

News to the churches • 22 August 2008 • Volume 113 • 18



## Serve our Saviour

**BUC camporee report 2008**  
by Catherine Anthony Boldeau

*Photos: Victor Hulbert, Natalie Davidson*

The largest BUC camporee, with over 1,100 attending during the week and a further 200-300 on Sabbath, was held at the Skreens Park Scout Campsite from Sunday 27 July until Sunday 3 August.

**Advance party and planning**  
For a week prior to that, forty of the one hundred and twenty members of staff who formed the advance party were on site, setting up and preparing for the influx of numbers on Sunday morning. Their tasks varied from setting up the booths and tents for craft activities, building pioneer structures, and constructing the rope

bridge, the aerial runway, the water slide and the bungee slide. There was a shop on site which needed to be stocked. This meant trips to several wholesalers and fruit markets.

On Sabbath 26 July, the advance party took a break from the toil and labour of the week to enjoy the blessings of worship. Church was held outside in an informal yet meaningful way. During the study hour, the worshippers split up into groups to unpick the dynamics of what it means to live the Christian life as Jesus lived it.

'We wrestle not against flesh and blood' was the subject of the short

sermon delivered by Kevin Johns, pastor of the Community Fellowship and Greenwich churches.

In the evening, the team celebrated the tenth wedding anniversary of Kieran and Sharon Pryce from Camp Hill church. The couple are avid Pathfinders and invaluable members of staff. When asked why they would want to spend such a special time at camporee, Kieran said, 'We discussed it and thought that there was no place that we would rather be than right here.'

### Opening ceremony

Around 9am on Sunday morning, Pathfinder clubs began to arrive.

Already on site was a party from Germany who had spent the previous week at Skreens Park.

With precision and grace the camp head of security, Gloria Saville (NEC), ensured that cars were parked sensibly.

By the time the opening ceremony began at 7.30, the mayhem of the day had calmed, except for the beats of the drum corps and the military instructions from the Parade Commander, Natalie Simon.

The ceremony began with an inspection by the guests and

>2





<1  
**Serve our Saviour**

Pathfinder ranking officers. These included the Mayor of Chelmsford, Councillor Tom Willis, Pastor Don McFarlane, president of the BUC, Pastor Paul Tompkins, Youth director of TED, and Pastor Des Boldeau who is the Youth director of the BUC.

The programme for the evening was relatively short, with greetings from guests and officers, together with Pastor Sam Davis, president of SEC, Pastor Ian Sweeney, president of NEC, and Pastor David Neal, president of the Irish Mission. Des Boldeau also acknowledged the presence of the Youth directors from around the British Isles – Nathan Stickland (SEC), Trevor Thomas (NEC), Adam Keough (IM) and Marcel Ghioalda (SM).

The visiting clubs from Germany, Spain and France were warmly welcomed. Floral tributes were given to Mrs Rowena Davis and Mrs Jennifer Sweeney, as well as to the Mayoress of Chelmsford, Mrs Jane Willis.

**Spiritual blessings**

As part of the opening ceremony the campers were introduced to AJ Grant, a pastor from Australia who describes himself as 'fruit salad'. AJ

is of Indian descent but spent his childhood in Vancouver, Canada, and says that he was converted in an African-American church but is married to a Caucasian Australian.

Basing his sermons for the week on Proverbs 4:23, 'Above all, guard your heart; for out of it are the issues of life,' he spoke about the nature of Christianity, drawing on his own experiences. AJ spoke frankly, honestly and openly about his own spiritual journey from a young man to the present day. He begged the young people not to listen to the 'hiss of the snake' but to the pleading 'voice of Jesus'.

During the week over 110 young people came every night to the altar for prayer, and 200 young people requested Bible studies. On Friday evening, after visiting the Adventist Discovery Centre tent, AJ recommended their online courses which can be accessed at [www.discoveronline.org.uk](http://www.discoveronline.org.uk).

As a result of the working of the Lord, nineteen young people were baptised on Sabbath morning. They were Derrano Green (Brixton), Nokuthabo Moyo (Bristol), Sithabile Bafanah (Cambridge), Darran Close (Chelmsford), Sachcadena Simone Walker (Croydon), Hadassah Holder

(Holloway), Marcus Rodney (Ilford), Joel Rodney (Ilford), Stefan Cudjoe (Ilford), Amarah Mitchell (Peckham), Hawa Vandj (Reading Whitley), Leah Thelma Chitiyo (Bournville), Kelly Manungo (Bournville), Winston Chirambo (Camp Hill), Lydia Smith (Camp Hill), Danielle Fyffe (Camp Hill), Tino Chiguma (Leeds), Seanee Marie Tanganan Bennett (Scottish Mission), Jennifer Grace Logan (Scottish Mission). Pastors Nathan Stickland and AJ Grant immersed the candidates. The Youth department of the British Union Conference would like to wish them the blessing of God on their spiritual journey.

**The soap opera**

An integral part of the evening's programme was the 'soap opera' written by Kay Rodney, a secondary school drama teacher from Kings Cross Pathfinder club. The storyline centred around two young men, Tom and Jez, both of whom grew up in

church, attended Pathfinders, but who chose different paths.

The kids loved the soap, leaving their seats each evening to get a better view of the actors, who were all Pathfinders. The soap concluded on Sabbath morning with a happy ending. The drama was reflective of urban life in a large city, but also of the grace of God to change lives.

>16



# When 'the man' gets in the way of the Man

David Marshall

The years in which I did PhD research in London coincided with a poverty period and the consequent need to walk a good deal. We could not afford a car. My walk home from Watford Junction took me past a park where gangs of male mid-teens hung out. Some of them knew me from school. When they saw me they would say, 'Here comes *de mon!*' Usually I broke my journey for a chat. One day I asked what '*de mon*' meant; and, after that, they undertook my induction into Jamaican youth culture.

I gathered that this good-natured greeting was used because, in their view, I walked head-erect as if I were 'in charge'. They told me – in an emergency they spoke standard English! – that it was a matter of style, image or persona. They even shared that they aspired to *de mon* status themselves; but they felt that their mothers and school teachers had alternative notions.

Some of those fellows did very well for themselves. Some were sitting behind the wheels of BMWs before I bought my second-hand VW Beetle. Doubtless they were wondering, then, why they had ever thought I merited '*de mon*' status! A bright yellow Beetle! How uncool was that!

How does *the man* persona come over in the pulpit? I can't do it, but some preachers can.

It would be good for the souls – but not the egos! – of those preachers to listen in to the conversations of the female church members once the service is over. Remember: four-fifths of those who listen to sermons are women!

'Why does he bellow the whole time? I end up with a headache every week!' 'He was just spitting testosterone!' 'He says the charging bull style is part of his nature. *But so is sin!*' 'Dramatic presentation: deafening. Content: repeated the same phrase 47 times.' 'Vaudeville meets divine service.' 'He was relying on the Holy Spirit *again!* Next week let's hope he actually *prepares* something! Otherwise we'll have to assume that the Holy Spirit is all bark and no substance!'

Most comments reduce to: *Who does he think he is?*

It's a valid question. Who do we think we are – up there forty feet above contradiction?

Actors? Entertainers? Conduits of grace? Engines of reproof? What?

The first thing we must be is ourselves. Not the camp meeting star pulpiteer. Not a shouter 'n' stomper from the God Channel. Ourselves. Not a Holiness preacher from the American Deep South. Ourselves.

When we adopt '*the man*' style, the lack of authenticity that attaches to our presentation rubs off on our content. We do God and his Gospel no favours.

We can learn a lot from the great preachers but if we try to imitate them then we are debasing a currency that is not ours but God's, and we're compromising ourselves.

The best sermons are those we have carefully and prayerfully mined from God's Word to meet the needs of our congregations. And then carefully and prayerfully honed and internalised until every word tells. In *Making Men Whole*, J. B. Phillips writes, 'If words are to enter people's hearts and bear fruit, they must be the right words shaped so as to pass man's defences and explode silently and effectively within their minds.' So choose them with care. To stand up in the pulpit and say, 'I've been busy this week so the Holy Spirit will have to preach through me' is, more times than enough, to be guilty of blasphemy.

Joseph Parker said, 'In every pew there is a broken heart. Speak often on suffering and you will never lack for a congregation.' He was exaggerating – slightly – to make a point. The people in those pews are hurting, broken, fragile and (in Jesus' words) 'weary and heavy-laden'.

There is a growing group of people who, alienated for one reason or another, have opted out of church attendance. It would be dangerous to generalise about the causes of their alienation. However, the issue (and there is a big difference between *issues* and *causes*) I hear about most is the failure of 'church' to meet spiritual needs. Those down and damaged by life go to church and find themselves bruised and battered some more. Jesus offered peace, rest and a well-fitting yoke. Occupants of our pulpits – somewhere between two-in-three and four-in-five of them lay – could not always be accused of being 'gentle and humble in spirit'. The yoke of Christ makes it easier to carry life's

burdens; too often our preachers make the burdens heavier.

Every preacher should have the words of *Gospel Workers*, pages 159-160, taped to the desk where he prepares his sermons. The quote begins, '*My brethren, you are handling the words of life . . .*'

The core of the quote is this: 'Lift up Jesus, you that teach the people, lift him up in sermon, in song, in prayer. Let all your powers be directed to pointing souls, confused, bewildered, lost, to "the Lamb of God." Lift him up, the risen Saviour, and say to all who hear, Come to him who "hath loved us and given himself for us." Let the science of salvation be the burden of every sermon. . . . Bring nothing into your preaching to supplement Christ. . . .'

At an NEC session four years ago a young pastor spoke of having based a series of evangelistic presentations on John's gospel. Subsequently, from both the floor and platform, a certain amount of comedy was made at his expense. We were given to understand that all truly macho evangelism was based in Revelation. Interesting.

The central claim of the Christian faith is that Christ alone can reveal God to man. The four gospels are there to reveal Christ and showcase Calvary. Jesus said, 'When I am lifted up I will draw everyone to myself.' So are we afraid of Jesus coming over too strongly in our outreach? The consequences could be amazing!

Many identify with the Risen Christ's dire diagnosis of the condition of the church at Laodicea. May I remind them that Laodicea's most fundamental problem was that it had locked the front door and left Jesus outside (Rev. 3:20)? Too often we hear of a monstrous crypto-christ whose 'message' is indistinguishable from that of the Pharisees Jesus so roundly condemned. 'Bring nothing to your preaching to supplement Christ.' Remember?

How often does '*the man*'-style get in the way of the Person and power of Christ? If we put anything or anyone other than Jesus centre stage, are we not beaten before we begin? Is '*the man*' getting in the way of *the Man*?

Christ should never have to stand in the shadow of the preacher. The preacher should stand in the shadow of the Cross.



## Enhancing Health

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

### Brain Health Series

Part 8

**GENDER DIFFERENCES**

If you've read the book *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus* or the religious alternative *Men are from Israel, Women are from Moab*, you would have concluded that gender differences are quite significant; and this is backed up by science.

So what are the differences?

**Facts:**

**Brain cells** – Men have 4% more brain cells than women, and about 100g more brain tissue. Women have asked why men need more brain tissue in order to get the same things done. Science is still working this out!

**Brain weight** – The average adult male brain weighs about 11-12% more than the brain weight in women.

**Size** – MRI scans show that the corpus callosum, which regulates communication

between the brain's hemispheres, is larger in females than males.

**Brain usage** – Men tend to be more left brained, while women use both sides more.

**Language** – Men use the dominant hemisphere (usually the left side) for language, but a larger number of women are able to use both sides for language – hence the challenge to stop women talking!

**Stroke advantage** – Women who suffer a stroke in the left frontal lobe of the brain usually retain some language from the right front side. However, men having the same left-sided damage are less likely to recover speech as fully.

**Emotional expression** – The deep limbic system is responsible for emotions and bonding and is larger in females than males.

As a result, women create bonds easily and are more expressive and in touch with their

feelings than men.

**Depression risk** – A larger deep limbic system, however, makes females more susceptible to depression, particularly at times of significant hormonal changes such as puberty, menstruation, postnatal period, and at menopause. Women attempt suicide three times more than men. However, men kill themselves three times more than women, partly because they become disconnected more easily and use more violent means of dying.

**Brain activity** – Males demonstrate more activity in the mechanical centres of the brain, while women have more activity in the verbal communication and emotion centres of the brain.

**Communication** – Generally, girls develop conversational skills much earlier than boys.

**Visual accuracy and spatial awareness** – Boys appear to develop better distance vision and space perception than most girls, which gives boys an advantage at some sports.

**Nurture your brain!**





# Forgiveness is *necessary*

by Heather Haworth, Family Ministries department

## Abuse Prevention Day is Sabbath 6 September

Have you gone to bed tired but found yourself wide awake? You have put your head on the pillow and instead of experiencing the forgetfulness of sleep your mind has been replaying a record of a deep-seated hurt, one which does not turn off, night after night. Sleeplessness seems to be the tip of an iceberg when it comes to the effects caused by various types of hurt. Mario Pereyra and his colleagues at Universidad Adventists del Plata, Argentina, for nearly a decade researched the attitudes resulting from emotional and physical hurt. In an article in *Dialogue* 16.1 in 2004 entitled 'How Do You React When Offended?' Pereyra wrote that they found eight characteristic attitudes.

- Submission – a passive acceptance.
- Denial – a conscious forgetting.
- Hostile reaction – instant retaliation.
- Revenge – intentionally planning vengeance.
- Resentment – retaining feelings of anger and remembering the wrong.
- Explanation – confronting the other person so as to overcome discord.
- Forgiveness – it is more than communication; it is reaching an understanding of the cause.
- Reconciliation – this includes explanation and forgiveness but adds the intention of reviving a good relationship.

By studying people of different ages, genders, marital status, beliefs and origins, this study showed that these eight characteristic responses formed three basic groups of behaviours:

- The first included submission and denial.
- The second response group corresponded to behaviours of hostility, revenge, resentment, where upsets sometimes resulted in outbursts of anger.
- Thirdly, the responses are

channelled through dialogue and negotiation, actively seeking to achieve reconciliation.

Long before any clinical studies had been done on the impact of abusive behaviour, Jesus knew that the solution lay in taking these experiences to the Creator of humanity,

### How can sex slaves, emotionally damaged children or tortured prisoners be expected to forgive?

the heavenly Father. He shared this solution with his disciples, and the formula is known as the Lord's Prayer: 'Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors.' (Matthew 6:12.) Here the word 'debt' is one of five Greek words for sin – *ophidian* – which means a failure to pay that which is due. The literal meaning of this phrase is 'Forgive us our sins in proportion as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us.' Jesus gives an example of this in the parable of the unmerciful servant. (Matthew 18:23-35.) He graphically tells how the king forgave his servant a debt he could never ever repay but the servant could not forgive a fellow servant a small debt. The king's response was to give no mercy to the unforgiving servant. Jesus concludes: 'This is how our heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart.'

Why should Jesus, who is often pictured as being 'gentle, meek and mild', be so insistent over the matter of forgiveness? Our Designer Creator understands only too well the importance of the need of the physical human system to be cleansed from resentment. Multiple scientific studies back up the findings at the South American Adventist College which concluded that those in the first of the three response groups, who

showed denial and submission, and those in the second group, who responded in violent, hostile outbursts, were most likely to experience physical and mental health disorders. Literature on this issue reveals that those who bottle up their emotions are most susceptible to cancer. The violent, explosive

releases of anger can cause illnesses such as heart attacks and other heart disorders. These people also had a tendency towards suicide. On the other hand, those in the third group, who sought explanation, forgiveness and reconciliation, were more likely to have religious beliefs. The resulting better health of this group is exactly as outlined in James' epistle chapter 5 and verse 16: 'Therefore confess your sins (debts) to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.'

There are terrible atrocities happening every second by powerful 'others'. How can sex slaves, emotionally damaged children or tortured prisoners be expected to do as Jesus expects, 'forgive your debtors'? Could it be that he could ask this because he knew it was possible? Not instant but possible. Not automatic but possible. Not humanly possible but divinely possible. You see, these words are couched in the context of prayer where the human heart is reaching up to the divine. Here is one person's experience of such a prayer.

'I lay in bed with my mind replaying the emotional hurts I had experienced and found I could not forgive the person who had done this to me. "I cannot forget, let alone forgive such behaviour," my mind cried out to God. "I simply cannot forgive;

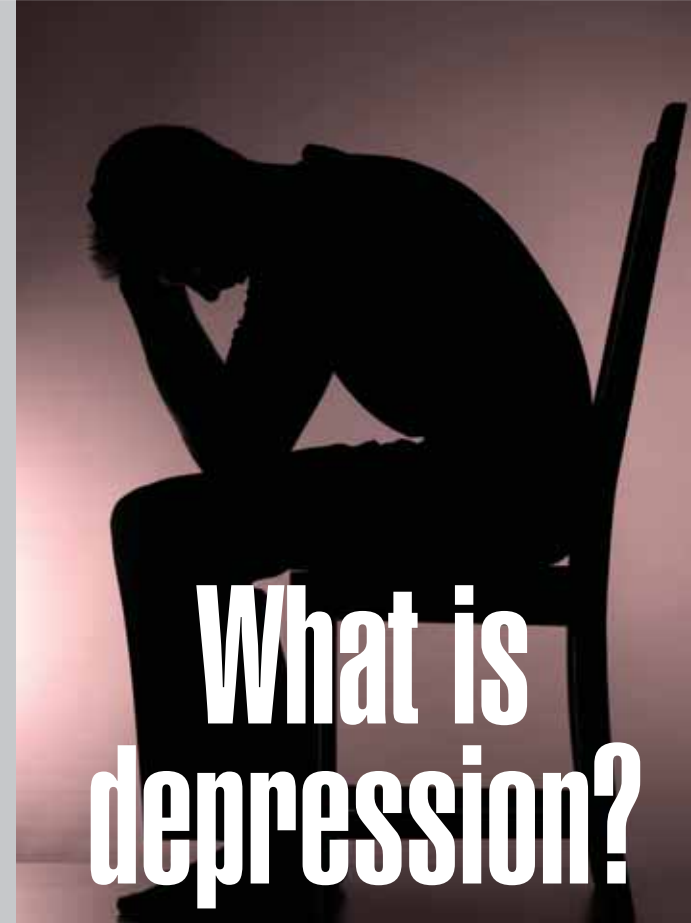


I know I should." Instantly God answered my challenge, saying, "I know you cannot forgive, it is not humanly possible, but turn your eyes upon Jesus as he hangs on the cross carrying your debts." At that moment I saw my own sinfulness and asked his forgiveness for all my debts. Again I shared my inability to utter words of forgiveness to the one who has so abused me. Once again God drew near and spoke. "I know you cannot forgive but I can say the words for you." "Oh yes, Lord," I replied, "say them for me." "Father forgive them," I heard Jesus say from the cross. Peace finally came after years of hurt, and that night at five o'clock I fell into a deep sleep.'

In the article from *Vibrant Life* issue one 2001 'Forgiveness; A Key to Better Health', Allison Kitchen confirms that forgiveness is not usually a single act but starts off as a decision to allow the possibility of forgiveness to happen. 'This decision leads to freedom from the effects of hurt and abuse,' states Ran Schmitz, a Christian physiologist. It is this decision that enables those imprisoned by life's hurts to go on a journey through the five steps of forgiveness.

- 1 Recognise the true depth of an injury. Overlooking the magnitude of the hurt is a stumbling block to forgiveness.
- 2 Grieve over your losses. Feel the depth of the pain. Let it surface.
- 3 Examine how your perception of life has been fractured by this injury. Often faulty core beliefs result in unhealthy patterns of judgement.

Schmitz has found these first stages take time. Forgiveness is not an overnight act. Often it takes a series of choices and steps. The heart may take a while before it catches up with the head



Adventists are not all that good at understanding depression and dealing with depressives with sensitivity. This is an attempt by a depressive church worker to help *MESSENGER* readers understand what depression is and what it feels like. It was written by a church worker, who is a qualified Christian counsellor, at the request of BUC president Don McFarlane. It has helped him understand depression and he hopes it will help you, too.

EDITOR

#### What is depression?

Depressive illness is as common as the common cold. It is its own unique self that takes on a life of its own. It is no respecter of persons and comes to you out of nowhere. Some depressed people are able to live fairly normal lives. For others it is not so easy, because some stages of depression are too dark and too painful for them to do anything at

all. Some people cannot even manage the basic survival techniques, like getting out of bed, bathing, eating and drinking, things most people take for granted.

#### What does it feel like?

It is like a thick cloud that comes down on you totally unexpectedly. You feel as though you are in a black hole, unable to pull yourself out. The

walls are closing in on you and you are paralysed by fear and totally incapable of climbing or even clawing your way out. You are screaming so loudly but no one can hear you. You speak but no one can hear or understand you. You become desperate and you want out of life.

One of the very worst things in deepest depression and despair is the utter loneliness. In the depths of night, fear grips your heart and paralyses your mind. But most of all, you feel very, very alone and so afraid. You want to escape, but you cannot run away from yourself.

The symptoms of depression are many and varied. Each person can experience a multiplicity of symptoms which will include uncontrollable crying, bursting into tears for no reason, irritability, withdrawal from everyone, anger, weight loss or weight gain, lack of concentration, violent mood swings, fear and anxiety, an over-awareness of and sensitivity to criticism, feelings of guilt, hopelessness, inadequacy, a changed pattern of sleep – either waking up early or an inability to get to sleep – no interest in food, or overeating as a kind of comfort. Food can also be used as a way of gaining control, where the person literally starves himself, adding to an uncontrollable feeling of total despair.

Many depressed people experience overwhelming exhaustion. While they need plenty of sleep, they are often afraid to go to sleep and will force themselves to stay awake until the early hours of the morning. This creates a vicious cycle of tiredness and total exhaustion.

There are others who sink so far into despair that they abuse themselves with drugs (including prescription drugs), sex and alcohol.

And nothing to look backward to with pride,  
And nothing to look forward to with hope.

Robert Frost

#### How do I survive?

Although I am qualified Christian counsellor and was a psychiatric nurse many years ago, I still lack the ability to drag myself up from the dark hole of depression.

I have an intellectual understanding of my depressive episodes, but I have become totally paralysed and cannot untangle myself from this 'thing' that is dominating my life.

In my deepest, darkest hour, I wear a mask so that no one can see the pain, hurt and ugliness within. I have developed different masks for different occasions and I wear them well. I remove them only in the privacy of my home.

What I find unhelpful is when you try to give advice and use such clichés as 'You will live. You are strong. You will cope. You just need to pray more.' In fact, your words only serve to make me feel more inadequate because I am literally unable to carry out what is to you the simple task of praying. You are not aware of the fact that I am unable to pray because I have no words with which to express my utter despair. I do not know where to start or even what to ask for. It makes me feel guilty that I cannot do something as basic as praying.

If I say 'I cannot pray,' do not stand in judgement on me. Instead, pray for me. One of the things that I find helpful is when someone who does not know or does not understand the turmoil I am in says to me: 'I am praying for you.'

This is more uplifting than the unhelpful barrage of well-meaning advice. Knowing that you have taken the time to lift me up to the throne of grace – a place where I am unable to go by myself – helps me to accept the fact that God is still working on my behalf because he has placed the desire in your heart to pray for me.

and can go on to these next steps.

- 4 Learn empathy skills. Recognise the abuser is a human being with problems, pain and tears which lead to them making choices that were hurtful to others. Yes, this is the hardest step to take but the most critical in terms of generating genuine forgiveness.
- 5 Challenge prevalent myths about

forgiveness, such as relationships must be completely restored before you can stop being angry about a sinful act.

These five steps lay a foundation to the final work of forgiveness, as they involve recognising that vengeance belongs to God. Holding on to anger will lead to further damage to oneself. Forgiveness is not

humanly possible; it must be through Jesus. The choice must be made to stop thinking about destructive memories and to replace them with positive ideas. Ask others for help and pray that God will give strength and the power for forgiveness to become a part of your attitude towards life.

Forgiveness exchanges anger, bitterness, hatred, depression and

health problems for a peaceful night's sleep. That is what our God wants for us and that is what he makes possible when we pray, 'Father, forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.'

For more material on this topic contact your Family Ministries department for previous years' material published for the Annual Abuse Prevention Sabbaths.



# Winners!

On Sabbath 19 July, friends, families and visitors gathered to celebrate another year of achievement with the Pathfinders and Adventurers at Hove church. The service was centred around their chosen theme: 'We are all winners'. This was reflected in the children's story in which Daniel, like themselves, rose above many trials. This emphasised that we may not always be winners in the world, but if we obey and put our trust in God, then we are all winners for him. Their special item, 'Lord, prepare me', was a testimony of their aspirations to work and be victorious for God. The Pathfinder area co-ordinator, Sirbrina Ramharack-

Deen, reminded us in her sermonette that we are all on a track running for the prize that God has offered us.

After a fellowship lunch enjoyed by all, the Pathfinders provided desserts which included homemade cakes, cookies and fruit salad. This was followed by an afternoon programme in which they encouraged everyone to share their favourite Bible texts as a testimony of God's faithfulness towards us. We were also blessed with the opportunity for them to share with us some of their achievements throughout the year. In closing, we all gathered to say a special prayer for the Pathfinders and Adventurers to continue to work hard in all they do and always to put God first.

Each Pathfinder and Adventurer

was invested into the class listed and received awards and honours for work completed: Adventurer: Kenny Shimwa – Busy Bee; Gugu Sibanda – Sunbeam. Pathfinder: Jonathan Chappell-Seetayah – Friend; Lorraine Masayike – Companion; Elihude Justin Urassa – Companion; Bessie Phiri – Explorer.

A club award for best achievement was also given to Kenny Shimwa. Special thanks go to Agatha Dunn and Yvonne Seetayah for all their hard work and commit-



ment to make the day successful and spiritually uplifting.

AMANDA ANOZIE

# Assurance of salvation at Cardiff

'The Assurance of Salvation' was the theme for a special one-day Bible conference held at the Cardiff Adventist church on Sabbath 19 July. Guest speakers were BUC president Pastor Don McFarlane and Pastor Ivan Milanov, who is currently researching the book of Daniel for his PhD thesis at Newbold College. An estimated 170 people came from all over South Wales, filling the church to capacity.

Although Pastor Milanov was not previously known to most of those in the congregation, they soon warmed to him as he spoke on the theme, 'Let Justice be Done' in the first

morning session. Starting with the Old Testament, he explained the close relationship between the Hebrew concepts of 'righteousness' and 'justice', and showed how a misunderstanding of God's nature can come from the Greek view of justice as 'punishment'. In contrast, the biblical view of justice and righteousness includes victory, covenant and deliverance.

In the divine service Pastor McFarlane spoke on 'A Matter of Holiness'. Starting from Revelation 22:11 and the characteristics of those who will be saved, he reminded the congregation that holiness is vitally important for our salvation. However, he then went on to show that there are actually three types of holiness: generic holiness, obtained by association; personal holiness, a process of

maturing obtained by walking with Christ; and God's holiness, which can only be received as a gift, through faith. Important as the first two are, it is only the last one of these that can save us.

This theme was developed further in the afternoon by Pastor Milanov, who asked the question 'Once Saved Always Saved?' Sadly, Pastor Milanov pointed out, not all Seventh-day Adventists have the assurance of salvation – or at least many of them feel uncomfortable expressing their assurance. Salvation, though, has three components: past, present and future. Now we are saved from the power of sin, but not the presence of sin. It is a matter of both 'moment' and 'process', but all the time it is a 'relationship' with Jesus.

The day concluded with numerous practical illustrations of what 'The Assurance of Salvation' means in day-to-day life. 'Those who are saved will produce good works,' said

Pastor Milanov. They will do good, not out of guilt or the desire for a reward, but simply because it is good.

Pastor McFarlane drew on his long experience of pastoral and administrative ministry to illustrate how we should present the Gospel to people today. 'Condemnation destroys relationships,' he said. However, responding to questions on church discipline and standards he explained that there are some cases where discipline is still necessary. 'The people we need to discipline are the rebellious, the haughty and the hypocritical,' he said, 'but not those who are struggling. We need to be an encouraging and affirming Church, where sinners can come and know that they will not be condemned. The highest standard of the Church is the standard of love.'

Many people worked hard to make the Bible conference a success. Overall co-ordinator was the local pastor, Jan McKenzie, but he was assisted by the Cardiff elders, deacons, musicians and singers, among others. Those present were particularly grateful to the highly efficient catering team who provided a full meal for around a hundred people at lunch time.

Those familiar with the Cardiff church were pleasantly surprised by the recent facelift that the building has received. New railings and paint in the car park have secured and brightened up the rear of the church, and a great deal of cleaning and tidying by members during a recent workday has much improved the interior as well.

JOHN SURRIDGE

# Willesden baptism

Pastor Kirk Thomas only had fifteen minutes left for his sermon before baptising two strong young men during divine service: Alex Castle, 18, nicknamed 'Pastor' by Pastor Thomas, and Eusi Anderson, a student who has just completed university. Pastor Thomas and Eusi, who phoned 'Pastor' to insist that he be baptised, attended the same church in Guyana. The mothers of the candidates were present to witness the baptism of their sons.

Pastor Thomas's sermon, titled

'Only for the weak' and taken from 2 Corinthians 12:9, 10, pointed out that Christianity was only for the weak. Not only the congregation, but even more so the candidates needed to be reminded that when Paul wrote about his weakness, he had us – the Christians down the ages – in mind. He boasted of his achievements only in God's strength as he himself was affected by a

chronic ailment. He was perfect in strength through the consciousness of his own weakness, and so it should be with us, since we are sinners saved by grace.

MICHELLE RONDOP



# Scottish women's retreat

In a change of venue this year, women from Scotland – and England – came to the seaside town of Saltcoats on the Ayrshire coast for our Women's Ministries retreat. We were blessed with fine, warm weather, and Adelaide House is right on the shore with fine sea views.

up to date with what is happening in Women's Ministries.

Over the weekend, Geraldene led us through the theme with a series of workshops, from an introduction on Friday night, looking at our potential to meet God's purpose on Sabbath, identifying our spiritual

enthusiasm and prepared to go back home to act on our commitment.

There were other factors that contributed to the inspiration and uplift of the weekend. On Sabbath our early morning worship was held outside on the deck in the bright sunshine with a light breeze from the sea. It was a wonderfully refreshing way to start the day. The two morning worships were taken by the women from Dundee and



The theme for the weekend was 'In His Image – For His Purpose', presented by Geraldene Farmer, who is a coach by profession. At thirty-four, it was our largest group so far and we were all eager to find out what God's purpose was for each of us. Heather Haworth, BUC Women's Ministries leader, also attended for part of the week and she brought us

gifts, and a general discussion on Sabbath evening when we were able to ask questions and discuss issues, to the Sunday morning's topic, Living Larger on Purpose, when we made decisions about our personal mission statement and how we were going to fulfil God's purpose in our lives. Some hard thinking was necessary. We were inspired and



# Stafford's Education Day

Stafford church, which meets at Rowley Street Methodist and Church of England, Stafford, ST16 2RH, will be presenting an Education Day on 13 September.

This programme will examine the philosophy which underpins world education upon which the national curriculum is based.

The Education Day will present a biblical and Spirit of Prophecy perspective on 'true education'. The day will begin at 10am and will consist of a musical praise session from our own and visiting children's departments, practical home-school workshops hosted by home-school practitioners and a question and answer session. Our main presenter of the day, Neal Lawrence, will be leading out in divine service.

A tasty vegan and vegetarian meal will be served at lunchtime (donations will be gratefully appreciated).

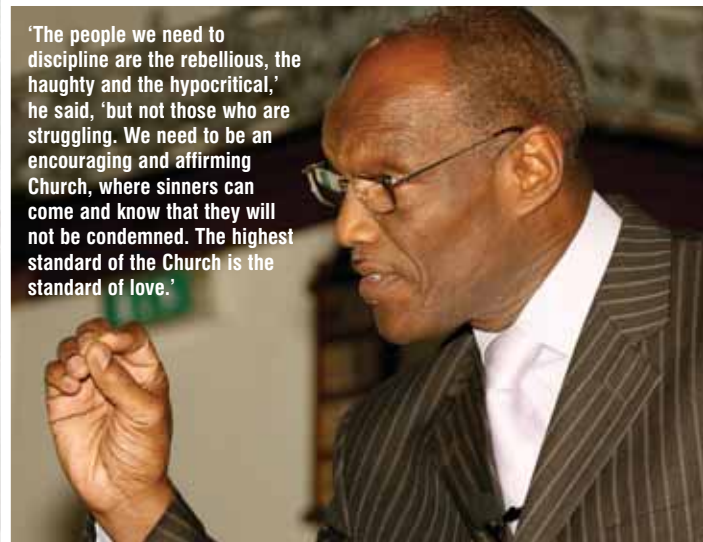
Please contact Dana Sudworth on 01785 614346 for further details.

Glasgow, and the praise sessions were led by the Bolton group. The Sabbath evening sacred concert was a great time of sharing – of stories, singing, a quiz, and, most powerfully, finding out how many language backgrounds we were from.

The time felt all too short, and by Sunday we were not really ready to go home. Comments from the women, when asked for suggestions for future retreats, included the possibility of having a longer weekend, or a full week.

We enjoyed the opportunity to get together, some taking advantage of the time as much as possible, staying up, talking and singing until the wee small hours. As we left, we were already looking forward to meeting up at our next retreat.

JUDITH MARTIN



'The people we need to discipline are the rebellious, the haughty and the hypocritical,' he said, 'but not those who are struggling. We need to be an encouraging and affirming Church, where sinners can come and know that they will not be condemned. The highest standard of the Church is the standard of love.'



# Scottish Mission Family Camp

Scottish Mission Family Camp is held annually, led by the Mission's Family Ministries sponsors, on the Cowal Peninsula, which forms part of the picturesque south-west of Scotland. The remote and friendly Christian Port Ban Holiday Park, with its outstanding views of the islands of Jura and Islay, every year welcomes a group of families from around the Mission to have their family camp. The event, although small in its beginnings about twenty years ago, now welcomes representation from almost every church in the Mission. The past two years even drew a family all the way from Darlington in England. This year nineteen families, making the number around fifty-five, arrived on Friday 27 June and stayed until 4 July.

Although the weather forecast for the week was 'dreich' (a Scottish word for dull, overcast, miserable and rainy weather) the spirits of the attendees were optimistic, looking forward to a relaxing yet Spirit-filled week together.

Family camp usually includes craft activities for children, sports sessions for everyone – which always are joined by other visitors to

the caravan park; the odd golf putting competition; a praise evening for Saturday vespers; a fun auction – of which the proceeds go to the caravan park for their generosity and friendliness; a talent evening; camp fires; and a trip to the beautiful nearby town of Tarbert.

The unique draw card this year was the invitation of a camp speaker who led our evening worship sessions. Pastor Wayne Erasmus, who pastors Weston-super-Mare in SEC, along with his wife Karliese and their two daughters Michaela and Matthea, graced the camp with their presence and enthusiasm. His inspirational thoughts on the seven miracles in the gospel of John, along with innovative prayer and praise sessions led by Karin Edwards and good singing by the whole group, allowed us to reflect on the personal applications these miracles have to our daily lives.

Other events this year, which have not formerly been part of the week's events, included a camp barbecue led by Pastor David Hatch and his assistants, a talent and fun evening by Pastor Clifford Herman, and a fast and exciting game of 'blitz' cricket introduced by



## Light the fire by Ingrid Wellman-Francois

There is a favourite camp meeting song which goes: 'It only takes a spark to get a fire going . . . And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing. . .'

The 'spark' behind the Bath church Ingathering happened to be a dynamic octogenarian, Eleanor Friend.

Sister Friend, who is the church's Ingathering agent, decided to supplement the traditional Ingathering methods with a sponsored walk. This was ten miles long. Eight members took part. Considering that

there is a membership of thirty-six, of whom a good part went door to door, coupled with those who literally went the extra mile for the Lord's work, a goal was set for £300. The faith goal was £500. God superseded these paltry expectations with a total of £1,835.70.

As famed architect and city planner Daniel Burnham stated, 'Make no little plans; they have no magic. Make big plans, aim high in hope and work.' A youthful spirit motivating a small congregation, combined with great faith, truly reminds us that miracles are still in the making. Let's also not forget the text found in Ephesians 3:20 and 21: 'Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.'

Pastor Jim Botha.

The forecast for the week happened to be correct, and it was indeed 'dreich'. However, what makes every Scottish Mission family camp amazing and memorable, which was no different this year despite the weather, is always the involvement of everyone, I really mean *everyone*, who attends. Young and old get involved, contribute and always find opportunities to bless someone else.

CLIFFORD HERMAN,

Scottish Mission Family Ministries sponsor



# Stanborough Press OPEN DAY 2008



Music from Ken Burton's

## Adventist Vocal Ensemble

**The Stanborough Press Ltd**, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL

**Coach to Open Day.** If you live in the West Midlands and would like to book a seat on a coach, phone H. Smiley on one of the following: 01384 213803, 07789 206171, 07940 538372, 07502 033991.

**Sunday 7 September**

8.30am - 4.30pm

Special guest:

**Nancy Van Pelt**  
world-renowned  
marriage and parenting expert





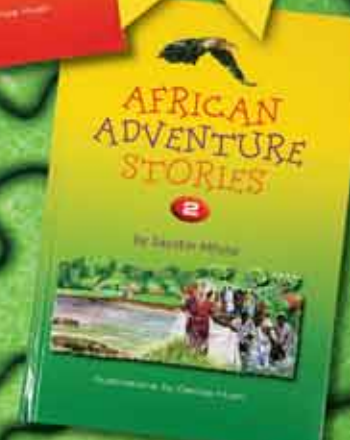
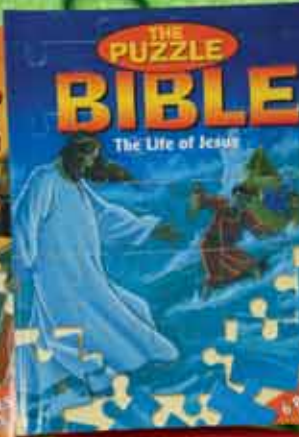
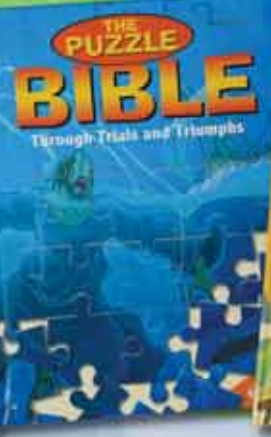
**Special offer**

for July, August & September

**Buy all 8 volumes for £59.95**

**and get 2 vols of African Adventure Stories FREE**

**Absolutely FREE**



**£59.95 plus P+P**

**God saves Noah and the animals**  
In the days of Noah, people were very evil. God told Noah He would destroy the world. He also told him not to be afraid but build a big boat where Noah's family and the animals would be safe. After forty days of heavy rain everything was drowned—except for Noah's family and the animals.



**Shepherd Boy**  
of his father's sheep. His father attacked the sheep and they were taken away with his father. David became a shepherd boy.



The Puzzle Bible Series covers favourite Bible stories from Genesis to Revelation. Put the pieces together and see how the stories unfold. Learning by reading and doing. For children age 3-9

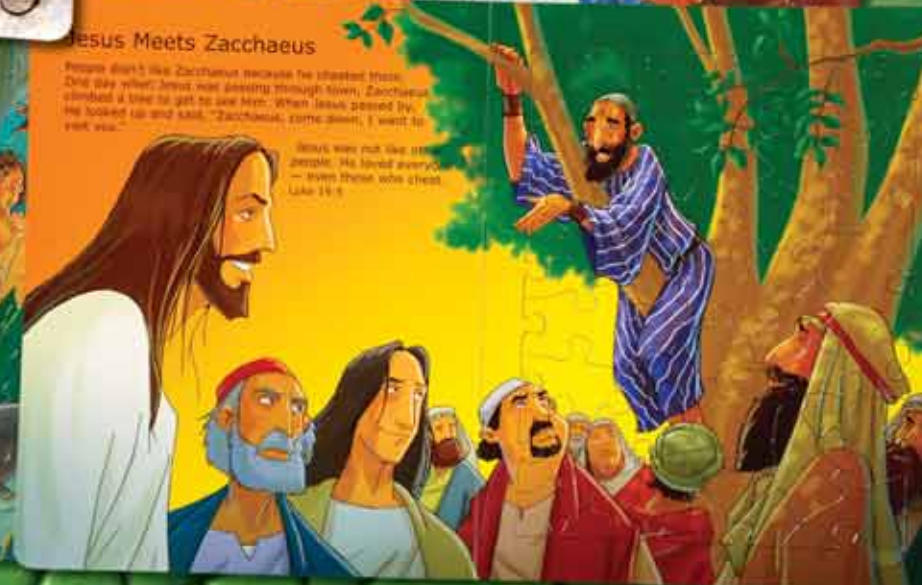
**David Fights Goliath**

The Israelites were at war with the Philistines. One of the Philistine soldiers was a giant called Goliath. Everyday he boasted and shouted bad things about God and His people. All the Israelites were afraid of him. When David heard what Goliath said he got so angry that he went out to fight him. God was with David, and David killed Goliath with a stone from his sling shot. 1 Samuel 17:4-48



**God Makes the World**

At the beginning, before anything was made, there was nothing. God created everything: Light, darkness, the skies and the oceans, the sun, the moon, the stars, the animals and everything on earth. He created Adam and Eve. God looked at all He had created and was pleased with everything. 1:1-31



Order on our sales hotline 01476 539900 or come to **Open Day 7 September**

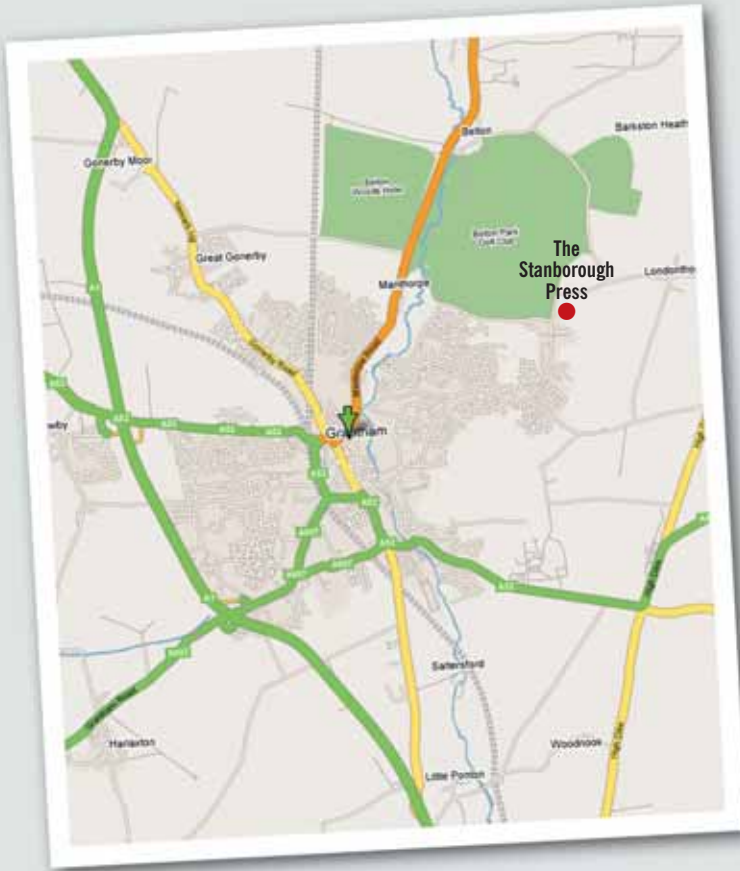
**The Stanborough Press Ltd** Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, England, NG31 9SL



# COME AND JOIN US

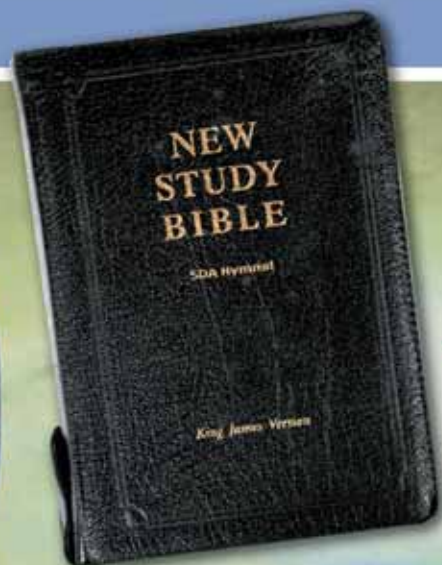
The Stanborough Press,  
Alma Park, Grantham,  
Lincs, NG31 9SL

*For a great day of  
fun and fellowship*



## Adventist Book Centre SPECIAL

**While  
stocks  
last**



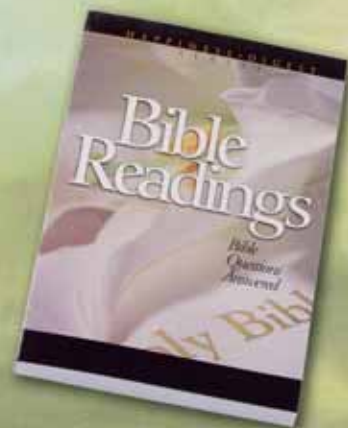
**New Study Bible**

~~£60.00~~

now only

**£19.95**

and receive a **FREE** copy of  
**Bible Readings**



Michael's Centre, St Michael's & All Angels Parish Church, Milton Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 9RP.

The money collected will help ADRA to continue to provide emergency aid to victims of the cyclone that hit Burma (Myanmar) and killed well over 100,000 people. We continue to pray for the people of Burma.

PATRICK McKERROW

The basement at Camp Hill church was recently filled to bursting when Olga Quarrie celebrated her 75th birthday and twenty-five years of leading the branch Sabbath School. Interviewed by Jeff Hall, she gave us a little insight into her experiences in children's missions.

Sister Quarrie told us that the branch Sabbath School began in 1982/3 after another church member, Sister Greenaway, suggested the idea to the church board to extend the regular children's Sabbath School out into the local community. The church agreed to provide funding so that a space could be rented at a school in Small Heath and Sister Quarrie was appointed leader. Sister Quarrie, Sister Greenaway and several other sisters went to their neighbours and friends and asked if

## 25 years leading branch Sabbath School

they could take their children to the branch Sabbath School for a couple of hours on a Saturday afternoon. The children would be picked up from their homes to meet for songs, Bible stories, quizzes and refreshments. They would then be returned to their homes. The response was amazing. At times there have been up to fifty children at the branch Sabbath School. When the Birmingham Community Association (BCA) in Small Heath offered to let us rent a room for £5 a month we jumped at the opportunity and the branch Sabbath School settled there until 2005.

Sister Quarrie explained that right from the very beginning it has been a joint effort supported by several faithful church members. She said,

'Some would come to tell Bible stories or lead out in the singing. Some regularly used their own vehicles to ferry the children to and from their homes for many years until Camp Hill bought its own minibus. There were others who would bring biscuits and snacks for the children. We also organised a yearly day trip for the children, which has only been possible because of the support of individuals who have felt inspired to support us with finances. Many times when what little funds we had were long spent, several members would approach me with five or ten pounds to help out with the branch Sabbath School.'

When asked to describe what she felt were the highlights of her many years of leading out in this mission,



she said, 'One of the most satisfying aspects of the branch Sabbath School has been preparing the children to take programmes to senior citizens' homes and to churches, both local and further afield. It would give us an opportunity to invite their parents (who did not usually go to church) into the church to see their children sing and recite poems and Scripture. To see the pride on their parents' faces was priceless.'

Sister Quarrie was delighted to tell us about what she called 'the fruit' of the branch Sabbath School. She spoke of one young girl who started attending at the age of 3, accompanied by her older sister. Although her sister eventually stopped attending, she continued to come and took part in many of the branch Sabbath School programmes, even leading out in a children's evangelism programme. In time she was baptised and soon afterwards her mother

started attending church and was also baptised. Another one of her fruits is also a baptised member of our church and has been teaching the regular Primary Sabbath School for several years.

When a tornado hit Small Heath on 25 July 2005, the roof of the BCA building was ripped off. After more than twenty years of the branch Sabbath School meeting at the BCA, we were homeless. The branch Sabbath School started to meet in the basement of Camp Hill church and has continued to meet there since. With the move into the church building many of the children from the community gradually stopped attending. However, their places were filled by the children of church members. Our format has changed to accommodate this. We now focus on getting the children to study the Bible in depth, reading the Bible for themselves. We have worked our way, chapter by chapter, through books like Esther, and first and second Samuel.

We asked Sister Quarrie: 'At 75, what plans do you have for the future of the branch Sabbath School?' She answered, 'My son Worth has taken an increasingly central role. He is a natural storyteller, a talented musician and brings a lot of fun into the Sabbath School. I have been able to sit back a little and let him take the lead. I think as long as I am able I will continue to be involved with the branch Sabbath School even if I am only propped up in a little corner somewhere just looking on.'

For those of you who are reading this and are inspired to start their own branch Sabbath School, Sister Quarrie has this advice: 'You must have a lot of patience, love children with all your heart, and be firm. Don't take all the responsibility on just your own shoulders. Get help. Seek support and listen to sound advice from others, because even after twenty-five years you still won't know it all.'

We at Camp Hill are very proud of Sister Quarrie and the work she is doing with the branch Sabbath School. We pray that God will continue to bless her efforts and bring the seeds of truth that she is sowing in the hearts of these young children to fruition.

JEFF HALL



# Wimbledon Better Health Fair

'Last Sunday was amazing!' That was one of the favourite comments used to describe the Wimbledon Better Health Fair. The event was the brain-child of Dr Adam Ibrahim, who has recently joined the Wimbledon International SDA church. Enthusiasm for the event was reflected in the number of church members who par-

ticipated – at least a third. Watching everyone busy ministering with the spiritual gifts God had given them was the first amazing part of the day.

The second amazing thing was the way in which attendees were welcomed. Balloons were festooned on the street outside and they led all the way to the reception desk. This

proved an effective way of drawing in the crowds, both local residents and shoppers.

The reaction from the community was also amazing. There were ninety-one first-time visitors to the church. One lady mentioned to one of our doctors that she passes the church all the time and has often wished she could enter and join in the singing but was reluctant to do so as she knew no one there. We hope to see her worshipping here with her mother in the near future. A young man from Croatia agreed to enrol in a Stop Smoking course. Three homeless men were welcomed and fed. Many elderly ladies said they felt rejuvenated by the Pilates session.

We were delighted when one of the attendees, a man in his sixties who had spent the whole day with us and with whom we had developed a great relationship, entered the prize draw and won first prize. We trust that the blender and book he received will remind him of us.

The day was an amazing success and we hope and pray that the ninety plus people will be impressed to return some time soon to give us the opportunity of ministering to them again.

SAM NEVES

## Sudden decision

Two children and eight adults said 'yes' to Jesus on sunny Sabbath 3 May. Initially, eight people were to be baptised, but when young William Lawes, not yet 11 years old, heard Pastor Kirk Thomas's presentation, he made up his mind that he would be baptised there and then. His mother had no idea of his intention until she was approached for her permission.

While first elder Keith Allen congratulated the candidates on their public commitment which testified that they were through with selfishness and all the trappings of the world, Pastor Kirk Thomas reminded the congregation and the candidates that the one thing that gives us life eternal is our spiritual birthday, rather than our natural one.

The baptised were voted in as members of Willesden church, affectionately congratulated and welcomed while hymns were sung.

The candidates were: Carlos S. Das Neves, Naomi Drysdale, Hubert Dunn, Doreen Joseph, Anita Kabambe, Lloyd George Paul, Paula Mathurin, Pancheta Sheay, William Lawes and Beck Johnson.

MICHELLE OBAKENG

## 'Reach out and touch'

by Angela Connick

A retreat for the Community, Health and Women's Ministries teams, conducted by SEC's Malika Bediako and Elsie Staple, was held in Area 2 during the weekend of 25-27 April and was hosted by the Gloucester church.

It started with prayers on Friday night with a table of oil and water representing cleansing and healing; another table with stones to build an altar of forgiveness; and the last table with a scroll where people could trace their hands (representing Jesus' hands) and fill in the names of those they want to see saved in the Kingdom.

Sabbath morning was about praise, worship and preaching, based on the theme for the weekend 'Reach out and Touch'. The sermon was based on the woman with the issue of blood (Matthew 9:20-22).

## First Adventist Youth Volunteer NHS Chaplain

by Claude Lombart

'Matthew Lombart is the youngest person ever to have completed a Volunteer Lay Chaplain certificate for the East Kent NHS Trust,' stated Revd Dr Paul Kirby, head of Spiritual Care and Services for the trust. He was introducing over twenty-four adult and mature ministers and professionals in a special commissioning service in the chapel of the Franciscan Study Centre in Canterbury on Wednesday evening, 25 June.

The service was conducted in a packed chapel of seasoned Anglican chaplains, Christian ministers and lay people. Leaders of various church denominations were invited to participate and congratulate each newly authorised volunteer lay chaplain. Matthew requested his uncle, Pastor Claude Lombart of the Cambridge and Bury St Edmunds churches, to accompany him and represent his church.

Revd Dr Kirby introduced Matthew and Claude to the event's preacher, the Archdeacon of Canterbury, Ven Sheila Watson. She

reminded Matthew of her visit to him in hospital when he was seriously ill, stating, 'The fact that you have yourself experienced what it is like to be a patient will make you a better and stronger chaplain.'

Twenty-year-old Matthew adds chaplaincy to the service he gives the Lord in music and preaching. He produced his first easy listening gospel music CD in 2003, and then went on to become the youngest person to complete the SEC Lay



## Holloway: A great day at 'home'

Sabbath 19 April was truly a home-coming for the past and present members and friends of Holloway.

The weather was conducive to travel and by the end of Sabbath School the sanctuary was filled to capacity. Pastor Clive DeSilva (a son of Holloway) was the speaker for the divine hour. His sermon was prefaced by a rendition from the Chiswick choir and Sister U. Alexander, who reminded everyone that 'He is able to carry you through'.

Before he went into his discourse on 'The Long Walk Home' Pastor DeSilva reminisced, quoting names of past members. This set the stage to remind us of what home is. He mentioned some of the singing groups like Accord, Orion and the Youth Choir, which moved many in the congregation to remember 'how it was'.

Pastor DeSilva emphasised that we should live according to God's purpose, because he has a providence in place and we should each ask him to give us the passion to do his will.

The afternoon programme began with snippets of history, as Holloway is now in its 81<sup>st</sup> year. The rest of the programme was a medley of musical renditions interspersed with psalms of praise. The presentations included items from friends and daughters of Holloway.

In his acknowledgement Tony Best recalled the happy times he spent growing up in Holloway church. This created an impromptu rendition by the still youthful youth

choir of yesteryear after Pastor Cecil Perry had given his sermonette, reminding us that when everything else appears to fail the Lord speaks. The youth choir's item could well have been the finale, as they sang, 'I shall wear a crown when it's all over', but they gave way to the All London Male Choir who concluded the evening by singing 'Redemption Draweth Nigh'. This was a day well spent at 'home'.

R. MARKHAM

## Glasgow celebrates unity in diversity

What's colourful, comes in nearly thirty varieties and speaks volumes for the Gospel message? Those present at Glasgow church's International and Visitors' Day on 26 July found the answer in a packed programme of study, worship, praise and fellowship.

A common theme emerged. Martin Pearson's imaginative presentation of the week's study of Jesus, Pastor Clifford Herman's sermon on the divine origins of cultural diversity and the range of national narratives and songs, reminded us of God's purpose for the whole of mankind and how individual spiritual gifts can be brought to bear in his service.

The day was not without its humour – all with underlying messages. It ranged from claims and counter-claims about which country was 'at the heart of Africa' to an 'Arab visitor' claiming our common origins from the seed of Abraham who was quickly unmasked as the church clerk!

The adage that 'armies march on their stomachs' was not neglected. The Christian soldiers present were treated to a multi-cultural fellowship lunch, further enhancing the day's palpable 'feel good' atmosphere. As one member observed, 'The day exemplified the global reach of our passion for Jesus Christ.'

JOHN WILBY

## Train up a child

For two weeks in a row Wednesfield church has been blessed by the ministry of its youth. The leaders of tomorrow have made their debut and have stood up to be counted.

Youth Day was held on Sabbath 7 June and our Youth leader, 17-year-old Chrystal Coleman, led out. Her co-ordinating and guidance were only visible to those who knew how much hard work she had put in during the months leading up to the day. The outreach message was presented by 22-year-old Alicia French of the Norbury church in London, and the Wednesfield youth choir ministered in song.

On Sabbath 14 June, 18-year-old Sam Walters offered a timely message based on the story of blind Bartimaeus, illustrating that, like Bartimaeus, we are spiritually blind and in desperate need of Christ's mercy. He gave a hilarious but pointed personal testimony, reminding us that if we take life's problems into our own hands we can only make things worse, but our kind and merciful Father in Heaven knows a million ways to solve a problem when we cannot think of just one.

JO FISHER

## Congratulations

to Charlene Picart of Manchester South on gaining a first class degree from University College of The Creative Arts in Textile Design. May God continue to bless your future career path.

JANICE SAVIZON

to Hannah Patrick of Barnsley who has graduated with First Class Honours in Classics from Newcastle University.

EDITOR

to Pastor Marcel Ghioalda. On Sunday 6 July the degree of MA in Theology in Youth Ministry was conferred on Pastor Ghioalda at the Newbold College graduation service.

This brings to completion several years of part-time studies which Marcel has carried out alongside his work as the Dundee pastor and Mission Youth sponsor. Congratulations Marcel!

JOHN WILBY

Editor: Are there more of our young people who have graduated this summer? Let's hear about them.

## Children's Church at Gloucester

The Gloucester church Children's Ministries team has introduced Children's Church; this is held on the first Sabbath of the month barring any other church commitments. It is held in the youth hall after Sabbath School and is designed for children aged 0-14.

The Children's Ministries team appreciates that, apart from the fifteen-minute slot allocated for the children's story during divine service, everything else in divine service is targeted at the adults.

Children's Church, however, is geared totally for the kids. The leader, Fiona Fishley, explains that her motivation for running this is her awareness that children are the future, and the joy on the children's faces when they realise that it's time for Children's Church is another bonus. In fact, throughout the month they keep asking, 'When is Children's Church?'

The team have designed it to be a mix of the formal and the informal. The formal part, like the main church service, comprises Scripture reading, offering and prayer and a short sermon. The informal part is the activity time, but this, too, is designed to reflect the sermon. It is the practical aspect which helps to drive the sermon home.

Children's Church has become a witnessing tool because the children invite their non-Adventist friends, and the team ensures that the visitors go away with mementos such as children's gospel CDs.

ANGELA CONNICK

## Gloucester Pathfinders

On the morning of Sabbath 12 July the Gloucester Pathfinder and Adventurer club held their long awaited investiture. After a number of postponements, eight Pathfinders and three Adventurers were rewarded for completing their courses and honours.

The club has attracted a number of young people from the community who will be ready for a special investiture planned at the end of the year. They have joined the club as a result of being invited by our Pathfinders and Adventurers, who together have worked very hard over the last year. We are very pleased with this outcome, as it is a reflection of the dedication of the staff, some of whom joined the team recently, namely, Charlene Cranfield and Albert Gardiner.

Our speaker for the day was area coordinator Pam Catchpole, who also presided over the investiture. Pam presented a talk on the fruits of the Spirit and, with some help, managed to make a chocolate cake during her presentation.

We are very pleased with the way the club has grown and developed over the years with parents providing valuable support. Gloucester has a long history of Pathfinders, going back to the early eighties when the club was twice the size. We aim to continue preparing our youth to survive the rigours of this world, while preparing them for the world to come.

We had the pleasure of sharing the day with members of the Bristol Pathfinder club who joined us for lunch. This was followed by AYS which was taken by the Pathfinders/Adventurers who showcased their new-found skills and abilities.

ANGELA CONNICK



# Middlesbrough Adventurer Day



Isaiah wrote, 'All your children shall be taught by the LORD'. (Isaiah 54:13.) On the Middlesbrough Adventurer Day on Sabbath 7 June, the children shared what they have been learning in a very positive way – and did some teaching themselves!

Four Adventurers with bold clear voices presented the family service message: There is hope for the sinner. They were helped by members reading passages of Scripture from the floor. These budding preachers, Farirai Chikengezha, Ceira Hamilton-Johansson, Wignii Mtopo and Isabel Dirahu, are in the Builder and Helping Hand class.

The children's story for the day asked the children what they thought the word 'treasure' meant. The answers varied from 'chocolates' to 'something shiny' to 'diamonds'. We were reminded by Karen Ham-Ying, the storyteller, that in Jesus' eyes earthly treasures do not last. They may rust, be destroyed or stolen. Jesus wants us to save and store up treasures in Heaven. How? By becoming more like Jesus, and, as one child answered, by

praying. The children were asked to look into a small treasure chest to see something which was a very special treasure: they saw themselves reflected in the bottom of the box! We were reminded of the words recorded by Matthew: 'Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also'. (Matthew 6:21.)

It is because our parents want to develop their 'treasures in Heaven' and encourage their children to follow Jesus that this day was organised. It was also to give the children a chance to invite friends and their parents to see what Adventurers is all about, so that friends may choose to join, too.

After a pot luck dinner the varied afternoon programme followed with the Eager Beavers vigorously rowing 'Jonah' in the boat amid the noise of the storm. Edward Kunonga was the kind 'whale' sent to rescue Jonah when he was tossed into the stormy waters. Farisai Chikengezha made a very eager Zacchaeus, with the Busy Bee and Sunbeam group, climbing up the sycamore tree - a leafy ladder - to get a glimpse of Jesus. We then had a visit from a 'Builder' with her hard hat on displaying the message 'Jesus Saves'. She carried a spade for digging good foundations on the Word of God, and explained the different building blocks in her course. The Helping Hand group told us about the different Bible characters they have learnt about – including Daniel, David, Abraham, Noah and Moses.

Thanks were given to Arnold Mtopo, Adventurer leader, and his team – Charity Chikengezha, Karen Ham-Ying, Rosemary West, Edward Kunonga, Carol Khumalo, Chris Dube and Robert and Ruth Mhlanga – working with upwards of twenty children, for their enthusiasm in encouraging us to invest our hearts and time in the children – treasures in the church of today!

ROSEMARY WEST



Pastor John Ferguson baptises Evan, while his father Chris Rees looks on

## Evan Rees's baptism

'For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes. . . .' So wrote the apostle Paul to the believers in Rome (Romans 1:16), and so agreed Evan Rees at his baptism in Grantham church on Sabbath 21 June. With many young men and women under pressure these days to have nothing to do with things spiritual, Evan ignored that coercion and instead acted on a conviction that had come to him earlier in the year that he should do something about his relationship with the Lord Jesus.

PASTOR J. FERGUSON

## Ken Burton in the Deep South

Sabbath 21 June, Midsummer's Day, was a wonderful celebration of music and thanksgiving in the Brighton and Hove church.

The visiting speaker, Pastor Paul Tompkins from the TED, presented our theme for the day: 'Jesus Our Hope'. He urged our youth to be active in their Christian witness, encouraging participation on the field rather than spectator passivity on the terraces.

Ken Burton brought the spiritual vitality and polished performance of the London Adventist Chorale to the 'deep south' to enrich our worship.

The hymn 'We Have This Hope' thundered out of the imposing pipes as Ken played. It was a moving and memorable moment.

Congregational singing was led by John Wilson and his group Cantabri, offering an interesting contrast in style and mood.

A hot meal, fellowship and laughter added to an inspirational day to linger long in the memory.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



Dawn Higgins with daughter Jenai

## GBK baptism

On Sabbath 19 July Joe and Dawn Higgins witnessed a joyous occasion. Their daughter Jenai was welcomed with the right hand of fellowship to the Great Brickkiln Street church, Wolverhampton, as a new member. Jenai is active in the Pathfinder team and often participates in the children's choir. She demonstrated her love, duty and commitment to Christ by being baptised on Sabbath 12 July. We trust that God will direct and use Jenai in a mighty way.

DELVA CAMPBELL

**a time of refreshment for married and engaged couples**

26-28 september 2008

newbold college, bracknell

contact sec family ministries for an information pack

tel. 01923 232728  
email: fm@secadventist.org.uk

or go to [www.secadventist.org](http://www.secadventist.org) > events for more information and application form

Newbold members should contact the church secretary on 01344 401792 or email: [mm@newboldchurch.org](mailto:mm@newboldchurch.org)

## GBK Pathfinder Fun Day

On 14 June the Pathfinder team at GBK staged a pleasant and enjoy-



Children enjoying the bouncy castle at the GBK Pathfinder Fun Day

## Investiture day at Leicester

'Heaven-bound Kids' was the theme for the Pathfinder, Adventurer and Eager Beaver investiture day held at Leicester on 21 June. A filled church witnessed thirty-five children and young people proudly being invested and charged by Pastor Trevor Thomas to consider the seriousness of what their PAEB insignia represents, as well as being the best examples they can be. The Heaven-bound kids, in the form of Leicester Central's PAEB club, stopped at a

variety of stations from Sabbath School through to divine service to pick up more passengers. A highlight of the journey was the sermonette delivered by 11-year-old David Banda entitled 'Heaven is for Kids'. David reminded us all how we need to become like children to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, how our bodies will be youthful and changed when we get there, and how we cannot even begin to imagine some of the wonderful things God has in store for each of us.

DENISE WILLIAMS

able event. On show were creative skills and artwork demonstrated by young people. Numerous stalls and workshops provided a variety of items to sell, including religious books, vegetarian foods and soft drinks. Passers-by in the locality homed in on the opportunity. Those who wished to chill out attended the aromatherapy area where they were well pampered. Others took their young to the bouncy castle on site.

Background rhythmic religious music enhanced the theme of the

day. A sponsored walk proved a popular activity. One of the highlights of the event was a workshop project introduced by the community police team. They offered advice, especially to the youth, on how to be safe, and gave practical guides to crime prevention.

The gathering proved to be a very successful Pathfinder Fun Day, well attended by friends, church members and guests from the local community.

DELVA CAMPBELL

## Basildon church visits nursing home

On Sabbath 24 May, members of Basildon church paid a visit to Ghyll Grove Nursing Home in Basildon.

The smiling nursing home staff were already at the car park waiting when church members arrived. We were taken to a lounge where residents had been gathered.

We introduced ourselves as Basildon church members who had simply come to sing and chat with them because we care. Our voices were so melodious that there was no need for us to use our singing group, 'The Loving Arms', which was on standby to throw in special items if needed. We sang songs from the church hymnal and, interestingly, some residents were singing along and even making their own choices.

The most emotional moment was when we paused for a while and took some time to interact with the residents. Quite a few of them had very touching stories, and this was a reminder of how important it is to understand the spiritual and social needs of the elderly and work out how we can effectively help them.

After our closing prayer, the supervisor said she felt indebted to us. She opened the door to us and invited us to visit any time we wanted.

Ghyll Grove Nursing Home has a capacity for 150 residents. We are now planning to visit the home once every month.

WILLIAM GOLOZERA



# Pastor David Spearing

(1960-2008) d. 23 June

by Pastor Sam Davis

It was King David who said to his servants, 'Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel?' (2 Samuel 3:38.) I can truly say that for all those who knew Pastor David Spearing these sentiments sum up perfectly the feelings of his family, fellow pastors, and members of his congregations.

From his early teens, David confessed that he wanted to grow up a good man and become a pastor. He also demonstrated great compassion for all God's creatures, even the very tiniest of animals,

and had a special fondness and love for little children.

Dave attended the Stanborough Park Secondary School, and then Cassio College for his A levels, and from there went on to study for the ministry at Newbold College.

Pastor Spearing started work for the South England Conference in 1986 as an intern at the Stanborough Park church. He went on to pastor successfully several other churches including Canterbury, Folkestone, Chatham, Oxford, Aylesbury,

Perth and Dundee.

He was ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1993, along with colleagues Nerval Myrie, Emmanuel Osei, David Neal, Michael Hamilton, Winsley Hector and Finbar Benjamin.

While she was working at the South England Conference as a secretary, Lillian Tranborg met Pastor Spearing. They fell in love, and eventually got married in 1995 near her home in Vellinge, Sweden. David then spent two years in the Scottish Mission from August 1997 to August 1999 before taking a spell away from ministry in Sweden. The call to be a Gospel minister was too great, so, when asked to return in 2001, he accepted gladly and took up responsibility in Oxford and

Aylesbury, and latterly in Cheltenham and Swindon.

Dave was a jovial, sensitive, caring, and loving pastor who cared deeply for those to whom he ministered. He will be sorely missed. He leaves behind his wife Lillian, his parents, Otti and Tony Spearing, his brother Robin and sister Sylvia, along with other family members.

We look forward to the resurrection morning when sin and death will no longer blight our joy, and we will be reunited with our loved ones who have been so cruelly taken away.

A memorial service for Pastor Spearing will take place at the Newbold College church on 3 September at 10am.

# Pastor Kenneth Aubrey Elias

(1916-2008) d. 24 May

## A man of renown

by Pastor Philip Anderson

Ken Elias was born on 27 January 1916 at Southport in Lancashire. He was raised in an Adventist family and was educated in Perth and at Woodside Secondary School in Glasgow. He left school with the Scottish Higher Leaving Certificate.

Not long after Ken's birth, his father was called to serve in the British Army in World War One. As an Adventist he joined the Non-Combatant Corps. He was posted to Northern Ireland. In common with many Adventists who served as non-combatants in the 1914-1918 war, Father Elias fell foul of the military authorities by refusing to do non-essential work on Sabbath. He was court-martialled for refusing to obey a direct order and sentenced to be shot at dawn some days later. Earnest prayers ascended, and the sentence was never carried out. Private Elias was not only released from prison, but allowed to have his Sabbaths free from that week onwards.

Back home in Scotland young Ken was having health problems. In those days before antibiotics, pneumonia and meningitis were killers. Ken's mother was convinced that the fact that he survived them was down to answered prayer.

Ken's route to his primary school in Perth took him across the main Dunkeld road. A speeding car rushed towards him – eighty years on Ken could still recall the terror. Ken's next recollection was standing on the pavement. That began a life-long belief in his guardian angel.

Along with his parents and siblings, Ken went to church regularly. At 13, by his own request, he was baptised. At 17, in 1933, Ken enrolled at Newbold Missionary College. He had only a few pounds his parents had given him towards his ministerial training. For his first year he worked in the college garden for 6d (2½p) an hour.

Pastor Lamont Murdoch introduced Ken to his future wife during a college vacation in Scotland. Nan was a teenager who knew little of Adventist ways, but who had applied to Newbold. Pastor Murdoch wanted Ken to smooth her way at the college. 'That introduction resulted in us spending our lives together,' Ken told me. Nan's Newbold experience was punctuated by a major health crisis when a minor operation went wrong. At Ken's request, Pastor E. D. Dick's graduation sermon was interrupted at Newbold. The whole congregation engaged in earnest prayer on Nan's behalf. At the actual time of the prayer, Nan's bleeding stopped. She made a complete recovery.

Ken graduated in 1937. He began ministry

as assistant to W. R. A. Madgewick in evangelism at Rotherham in Yorkshire. His job was to visit on a weekly basis those who were attending the evangelistic meetings.

January 1940 found Ken beginning his own evangelistic campaign in Stoke-on-Trent. Ken was planning to marry Nan. Church policy dictated that a young minister must wait two full years before getting married. To marry Nan a week before Christmas 1939 (six weeks before the two years had elapsed) permission had to be granted by the NEC Executive! The £5 to pay for the wedding came as an answer to prayer.

Money was a major problem in wartime Britain, especially when it came to finding and furnishing a home. Chairs and floor covering were bought on hire purchase; 'I remember walking out of that showroom after a contract for £50 had been signed, feeling I was carrying the national debt on my shoulders!' Ken recalled.

In due time God blessed Ken and Nan with a fine family. There were three sons – Dalbert, Lindsay and Michael, who were to become pastors – and daughter Judy who was to become a pastor's wife.

Ken was ordained on 20 October 1948. Throughout his ministry he prioritised evangelism. There were seventeen moves and, following Stoke, included Wolverhampton, Liverpool, Southport, Bolton, Sheffield, Leicester, Belfast, Cardiff, Nottingham, Grantham and Edinburgh.

In 1953 Ken was a member of the team that assisted George Vandeman in London. Ken immediately took the vision of citywide evangelism to Sheffield where the result was the establishment of the church in Carter Knowle Road.

Pastor O. M. Dorland called him to evangelise in Belfast. At the close of the thrilling campaign conducted there, sixty precious people were baptised. Subsequently Ken was elected president of the Irish Mission.

The presidency of the Welsh Mission was his next office, followed by the presidency of the North England Conference. During this time the Stanborough Press was in financial difficulties following the move to Grantham. When asked to use his management skills to secure the future of the publishing work in Britain, Ken accepted the challenge and laid the foundations for the contribution that the Press has made in the succeeding years by negotiating a management agreement with the Review and Herald.

Next a call came to minister in America, but



instead he chose to accept the presidency of the Scottish Mission. Later he became president of the newly established North British Conference.

Retirement to Poole followed, but for several years Ken continued his ministry as Trust Services director for the British Union Conference.

Sadly, Nan fell asleep on 19 December 1999. Ken continued to serve the Lord until his own failing health required a move to Germany where he was cared for by Lindsay and Ulla until his death on Sabbath 24 May.

More than once I heard Ken preach a sermon based on the last phrase of Genesis 6:4. He began his sermon by quoting the verse from the gospels, 'As it was in the days of Noah . . .' His vision for the people of God in the last days was that they should be 'heroes . . . men of renown'. Ken was such a person himself. Among Adventist church leaders in Britain, he had the widest experience in pastoral work and evangelism before being elected to an administrative position, and his was one of the longest periods in leadership: 1956 to his retirement as president of the North British Conference in 1981.

Ken had a reputation for being resolute and firm but was at the same time caring and understanding. He had an unshakeable faith in God, the pillars of the faith and the mission of the Church. One of the principal moulders and shapers of twentieth-century Adventism in Britain has fallen.

Ken died in Germany. His memorial service, conducted by Ian Lorek, Union president Don McFarlane and the writer, took place on 9 July in the Bournemouth church where he had spent his retirement years.

Ken leaves to mourn Lindsay, who ministers in Germany, Michael in Los Angeles, and Judy in Canada. His eldest son Dalbert predeceased him. Ken will be missed by his family, their families and the many whose lives he blessed through his long years of ministry. He looked forward to seeing the risen Saviour who 'lived within his heart' when all who love the Lord are gathered home.

# Herbert George Crocker

(1910-2008) d. 29 June

by Greta Ancombe



Herbert was born in 1910 in Plymouth, the middle son of Herbert and Edith Crocker. His older sister was Audrey (later Mrs Frank Mills) and his younger brother was Harold. When his father retired from his career in the Navy he bought a small market garden near Plymouth. It was there that Herbert, at a very early age, began to help his father with the work of growing vegetables for sale in Plymouth. Herbert worked for his father from leaving school until his mid-twenties. Herbert's grandmother had been left with eleven children when her husband had been lost at sea. Gran Crocker, together with some of her children, accepted the Advent message. Herbert's mother, inspired by her mother-in-law's life, was baptised in 1917. Sadly, Herbert's father opposed her stand and they parted. Herbert chose to follow his mother and was baptised in 1926. Baptised at the same time was Eileen Stacey. Herbert and Eileen, together with some of Herbert's cousins, took an active part in the life of the Plymouth church. Romance blossomed and Herbert married Eileen in 1934. The following year Donald was born. In 1938 the family moved to Newbold Revel where Herbert took on the job as head gardener. There their daughter Greta was born. They moved to Binfield with the College where Herbert continued to develop the gardens, growing fruit and vegetables to supply the College kitchens. Two years later he also took on the management of the farm and its small herd of cows. The gardens and farm were a source of employment for the students and so

Herbert had a close association with many students over the years. Many found a needed and welcome refuge on the gardens and farm with Herbert acting as an unofficial counsellor and friend. Herbert and Eileen's home was a source of comfort to many a homesick student. Herbert's wisdom and common sense benefited many students over the course of twenty-three years. After leaving Newbold, Herbert and Eileen worked for a wealthy Berkshire landowner. Due to a recurring back injury, lighter work was sought. Herbert and Eileen took on the duties of caretakers for a primary school in Maidenhead, where they worked until they retired. The school was often used to show other caretakers how a school should be maintained. Shortly after they retired they went to live in Leeds with their daughter and her family. Here Herbert enjoyed a close association with the family for twenty years. His mother Edith spent the last two of her 105 years in the same house and three years later Eileen died there as well. On the retirement of Bruce and Greta from their business, Bruce, Greta and Herbert came to live in Watford. There Herbert met and married Myrtle Hyde and they enjoyed four happy years together before Myrtle died. Due to his lack of sight Herbert moved into a residential home but he still continued to worship at Stanborough Park church until the beginning of this year. As his health deteriorated he was cared for wonderfully by the Fletcher family in their residential home where he died. The funeral service was conducted by Pastor Roy Burgess (one of his College boys), assisted by Pastor Ian Sleeman.



How many generations of Newbold students remember Herbert Crocker

Pastor Maurice Musgrave painted a beautiful picture of a thoughtful and caring man now resting and waiting for our Lord's return. He will be greatly missed by his family, grandchildren and friends.

Donald, Greta and their families would like to thank the many friends and church members for their messages of love, support and prayers.





<2

**Activities**

During the week more than thirty activities were provided for the children. These included gentle activities such as glass painting, tie dying, puppetry and sign language. The more vigorous pursuits were abseiling, aerial runway, rope bridge, box climbing, canoeing, bungee slide, water slide, and archery. In addition to this, the young people learnt skills such as how to build a fire from one match, camp cooking, pioneering and raft building. There was a daily excursion to Colchester Zoo and a variety of arts and crafts, as well as drilling and marching.

The choir activities enabled a group of young people to deliver a message in song each evening and on Sabbath morning.

**Community outreach**

As part of the week's activities, three community outreach projects were planned. These included trips to local care homes, a market to raise funds for a local children's hospice and the creation of a butterfly garden for the Skreens Park campsite.

The theme for the week was 'Serve Our Saviour'. As well as visiting those in the care homes, the young people sang to them and brought them gifts. A total of £1,612

was raised from Friday's market day. This money was graciously received by a representative from Little Haven Children's Hospice in Chelmsford.

In addition to this, eight staff volunteers worked the ground around a 600-year-old tree to create a beautiful butterfly garden as part of a Pathfinder conservation project. The garden is designed as an area of tranquillity and peace for weary campers. In speaking to the Scout warden, Mick Barlow, it was agreed that the title of the garden should not only reflect Adventist values, but also the ethos of the Pathfinder movement.

Adventist values and the Pathfinder ethos were reflected in the life of Wayne Hill, a Pathfinder co-ordinator, who tragically lost his battle with cancer a few years ago. Wayne lived in the Chelmsford area and was an active member of the church there. It seemed only right and fitting for the garden to be named The Wayne Hill Memorial Butterfly Garden.

**Honour where honour is due**

Jo, wife of the late Wayne Hill, attended the closing ceremony and was presented with a special plaque of thanks for all the work that Wayne had done for Pathfinders in the British Isles.

Several other senior members of staff were also given awards for their duty to service. Des Boldeau, in consultation with Paul Tompkins, chose individuals who had gone beyond the call of duty for many years in the work of Pathfinders to receive the diamond award. Millie Williams, Pam and Paul Catchpole, Pat and Terry Dykoff, Valerie Clarke-Eccles, Roz Parsons, Pastor Mike Toy, Warren O'Hara, Len Stewart, Alec Simon, Dr Andrew West, Ken Burt, and Pastor Eglan Brooks. In absentia, awards were given to Jon Meredith (Welsh Mission), Mike Rossitor (former NEC Pathfinder director) and Trevor and Cynthia Harewood (SEC).

**Closing ceremony**

To ensure that camporee runs smoothly, many volunteers, apart from club leaders, are required. One hundred and twenty volunteers spent a week ensuring that the logistics of the event were tight. Without their dedication it would be impossible to run such a large camping event, and the BUC Youth director acknowledged their service to Pathfinders.

In the closing service, awards were also given out to each club. On a daily basis, the clubs were inspected for safety, hygiene, tidiness, grooming and decorum. This camporee's winner was the Ilford church. Other certificates were given for fire building,

advanced drilling and archery.

On Saturday night, after the closing ceremony, volunteers worked into the night to load the van, dismantle structures, tidy up, and clean the toilets. On Tuesday morning, the packing away and the returning of equipment was still taking place. When Des and the team were asked why they would go through so much hard work, they all replied, 'It's for the kids! For them to have fun! For them to learn new skills! And, ultimately, for them to make decisions to serve others and "Serve Our Saviour".'

**ABC BOOK SALES**

PRESS OPEN DAY  
Sunday 7 September

**ABC Shops**

Advent Centre, Sundays 11am-3pm  
Watford BUC, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 10am-2pm

**Messenger**

Volume 113 • 18 – 22 August 2008

EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

DESIGN: DAVID BELL

COPY FOR No. 20 – 25 August 2008

Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.

Fax No: (01476) 577144.

Email: [Editor@stanboroughpress.co.uk](mailto:Editor@stanboroughpress.co.uk)

Send high resolution pictures to:

[dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk](mailto:dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk)

ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900

Mon-Thurs only, 8am-5.30pm.

[www.stanboroughpress.com](http://www.stanboroughpress.com)

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Printed in Denmark.

Visit the BUC website at: [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk)

ISSN 0309-3654

**Sunset**

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

	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Aug 22	8.08	8.20	8.16	8.32	8.39
29	7.53	8.05	8.00	8.14	8.22
Sep 5	7.37	7.50	7.43	7.56	8.05
12	7.21	7.34	7.27	7.38	7.47

**MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Cost to member supplied in bulk to churches £6.

Single copy subscription by post £13.

Overseas airmail £27.50

