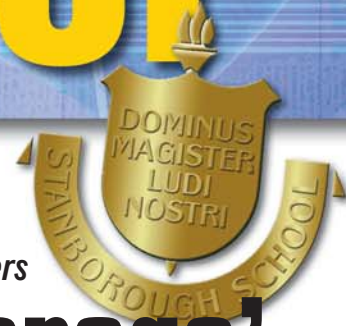


# Messenger

News to the churches • 10 October 2008 • Volume 113 • 22

## Stanborough's results: '50% above national average'

by Stephen Rivers



For those who have been carefully following Stanborough School's steady academic rise over the past nine years, the 2008 GCSE results for A\* to C of 90% will come as no surprise. Indeed, from 2004, the school has averaged A\* to C results above 80%. The fact that the school's

GCSE results now tower almost 50% above the national GCSE average is almost a given rather than exceptional news. What is surprising is how the school has managed to maintain such remarkable GCSE results in a school with a mixed ability enrolment and a considerable number of pupils for whom English is a second language.

Of Stanborough's thirty-two GCSE pupils, many are nationals from outside the UK. These international pupils add to the rich cultural environment, for which the school was commended nationally in 2000. However, looking at the GCSE results of one of its international pupils is like reading the Who's Who list at an Oxbridge University – with one pupil obtaining five A\* and five A grades. Clearly, the international pupils at the school are doing more than just learning English – they are excelling. Statistically, Stanborough School overturns the national expectation for girls to outperform boys. Male pupils at the school averaged 4%

higher than the school's female pupils to achieve a GCSE result of 92% A\* to C. Couple this with the fact that its Afro Caribbean pupils comfortably doubled the national GCSE average for that group and it is cheerfully obvious that some excellent things are going on behind the doors at Stanborough School.

In fact, it is at the school doors where all pupils effect a change. The school's small class sizes and familial environment are conducive to learning and this is how its educational values are instilled. Teachers hold extra lessons free of charge after school and on Sundays to ensure that pupils have thorough exam preparation. Each pupil is given the opportunity to excel.

The school offers the International Baccalaureate (IB) to post-16 pupils. For 2008, only one of the IB graduates took a gap year, with the others choosing to attend a range of universities in the UK, and even Australia.

The GCSE and IB results are not only a celebration of the hard work of pupils and staff, but of the

sacrifice made by many parents. As a fee-paying school, parents make a tremendous financial commitment to their child's academic future.

Admission to Stanborough School is by exam and interview. The school maintains a pupil to teacher ratio of 1:20. Intensive instruction is offered to all pupils who speak English as a second language.



# Big Bang or a raspberry?

Justin Thyme on 'The God Machine'

Where were you on the day John F. Kennedy was assassinated? Perhaps you weren't even around in 1963. But most of my generation, then, were shattered. And where we were and what we were doing is indelibly stored in our memory bank.

We felt JFK was our 'knight in shining armour' who'd vanquished the dastardly Dragon who ate nukes for breakfast and was poised and primed to spue them all over Planet Earth.

Who do I mean? None other than the then leader of the Soviets, Nikita Khrushchev.

But what about 10.9.08 (only one day on from 9/11's seventh anniversary), 'The day the world didn't end', when Large Hadron Collider, also known as 'The God Machine', was

switched on? Were you aware that it providentially 'worked like a dream'? Thank God, for if it hadn't, many feared the outcome as an Earth-swallowing black hole!

What were they doing, those boffins? Trying to replicate a mini 'Big Bang' and discover God's secret of creation.

I watched the 'switch-on' on telly. There they were, scores of eggheads, a few press bods among them, but not an Einstein look-alike in sight. A nerdy/geeky lot (according to my teenage grandson) who behaved like embarrassed amateurs in village-hall dramatics. With scarcely a shred of drama!

I felt a compatriotic affinity to Lyn Evans, the Welsh scientist with a lovely sing-song lilt, who'd dedicated fourteen years of his life to it

all. His 'countdown' was reminiscent of the Goon Show. How I longed for Harry Secombe to be there. That raspberry-blower of great renown could well have broken the tension when nothing happened.

Contributing one of his inimitable 'blasts', before, eventually, a wimpish, fuzzy white dot appeared on a screen.

Wish I'd spotted top scientist, Verena Kain, who 'steered' a beam of protons at night on the speed of light. A staggering 600 million mph! Round a 16-mile circuit-tunnel, 300 feet below the Swiss Alps. Surely a final nail in the coffin of male chauvinism. Great up(wo)manship! Get her on the Formula One team!

Could well ruin winter sports, though. Prince Charles would be well miffed. All his favourite pistes in meltdown. Why doesn't he stick his proverbial royal oar in?

Gentle reader, please forgive this flippancy. But I'm trying to prevent myself from becoming a 'gloomy doomie'. Peterson's *Message* sums up my defence: 'A cheerful disposi-

tion is good for your health; gloom and doom leave you bone tired.' Proverbs 17:22.

Why do scientists spend five billion to find out God's secrets? A Bible (I picked up a beauty in our local charity shop – for 50p!) tells me God's ways are unsearchable, unfathomable. But God's not fazed (he doesn't need hindsight!), so we shouldn't be fazed either. Look forward in hope, in joyous anticipation.

I don't have to repeat all our Adventist mantra-like verses on the Second Coming that we all know. I *expected* Jesus to come soon five to six decades ago. Yet now, the signs are evident that he's coming sooner than ever. Global warming. Tsunamis, hurricanes, floods. Genocidal barbarism. World financial collapse – if a dozen or so Zacchaeus types had been around now, it would never have happened.

He who testifies to all these things says it again: 'I'm on my way! I'll be there soon!' Yes! Come, Master Jesus! *Message*, Revelation 22:20.



# It's outrageous!

David Marshall

Judas Iscariot's statement that Mary's gift of perfume was worth 'a year's wages'<sup>1</sup> was not contradicted, so we may assume that it was accurate.

How could a flask of perfume possibly be worth that much?

It was *pure nard* and was an extract from a rare and very aromatic Nepalese plant called *Nardostachys jatamansi*. Vast quantities of that plant material had to be processed in order to extract the tiniest amount of the aromatic substance. After extraction it had to be transported all the way from Nepal (wedged between India and China) to Palestine. That was a very long distance, complicated by the Himalayan mountain range.

How much of this rare commodity are we talking about? Enough to fill a small Chanel Number 5 bottle? No. Much more. Enough to fill one of the flasks Jewish women carried which were attached to cords around their necks. In an age long before sophisticated underground drainage systems, these flasks of perfume were so indispensable that even the most rigid pharisaical rules permitted women to carry them on the Sabbath. Carrying anything else was categorised 'work'!

The flasks contained a *litra* of perfume. The NIV says, 'Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet. . . .'<sup>2</sup>

Bible commentators reckon that the contents of Mary's flask represented her total life savings, perhaps an investment made to finance her old age.

Each of the four gospels carries an account of a woman who anointed Jesus. Some of the details are different. My favourite account is Luke's.

In countries where it's dark by 6pm, evening meals are apt to be leisured affairs involving company and conversation. The well-off Jews of Jesus' time built their homes so that they occupied three sides of a square. The square would be cobbled and, under the light of blazing torches, would often be the location for the evening meal. Whether the meal was in or outdoors family members and guests would recline

around a large U-shaped table known as a *triclinium*.

Food would be served inside the U; and guests would recline on low couches outside the U. Typically guests would recline on their left shoulders, keeping their right arms free to scoop in the food and, occasionally, to gesticulate in conversation. The fact that conversation and food were equally important was why the host often invited a celebrity guest. On the occasion or occasions – not all the accounts necessarily refer to the same event – described in the gospels, Jesus was the celebrity guest.<sup>3</sup>

The evening meal ritual for comfortably off Jews is a matter of record. The host would welcome each guest by giving him the 'kiss of peace'. He would then relieve each guest of his sandals and wash his feet. Finally he would put a dab of perfume on the guest's forehead.

When the folks in the community heard of a celebrity guest in whom they were interested, they would enter the cobbled square by the back gate and stand around in the shadows, listening. These uninvited guests would not expect the kiss, the foot bath and the perfume from the host. But a host's failure to perform these courtesies for his invited guests – and, even more so, for his celebrity guest – would be regarded as an oversight that represented churlish and deliberate discourtesy.

In Luke's account, Simon the Pharisee was host. He did *none* of the acts of courtesy for his special Guest.<sup>4</sup> Indeed, such was the atmosphere of discourtesy that we may wonder why Simon had invited Jesus at all.

What made the meal everlastingly memorable was an outrageous act by an unnamed, uninvited guest. What made her *presence* outrageous was that she had been noted in that community as a lady of the night.

The presence of the unnamed woman is accounted for by the fact that she wanted to be in the presence of the One who, earlier, had rescued her from her life of sin. What made her appearance at Simon's dinner party particularly unacceptable to



her host was that he was the person who had led her into sin in the first place.

Think of the heart of this drama. The fallen woman. The man who had first seduced her. The Man who had already redeemed her.

The point of the story, of course, is that the woman was no longer *fallen* but had been redeemed. Notice Luke 7:37: she '*had lived* a sinful life in that town' – but she did so no longer.

Her outrageous act was an act of gratitude to the One who had brought her pardon and new life. The Pharisee did not give Jesus the welcoming kiss of peace; the woman kissed his feet. The Pharisee failed to bathe the feet of Jesus; the woman did so with her tears and dried them with her hair. The Pharisee failed to place the customary dab of perfume on the forehead of Jesus; the woman poured out her life savings in the form of the finest, most aromatic perfume – all over his feet.

Jesus told Simon that the woman's 'many sins' had been forgiven, said the same to the woman, said that her faith had saved her and bade her enter into peace.

The woman had been forgiven much and so 'she loved much'.<sup>5</sup> That love had driven her to perform that outrageous act of gratitude for Jesus that reminds us that redeemed sinners owe to Jesus all they have, are and can ever hope to be.

As for Simon, he had no love, asked for no forgiveness – and received none. The one thing that shuts a man off from God is self-sufficiency.

Three characters are central to this drama. A man who was self-sufficient, unloving and unsaved. A woman who repented, loved and was saved. The third was the Saviour, the perfect revelation of God to man.

References:

<sup>1</sup>John 12:5. A year's wages was considered to be 300 denarii and one denarius was often said to be a workman's wage for a day. <sup>2</sup>John 12:3. <sup>3</sup>Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-50; John 12:1-10. <sup>4</sup>Luke 7:44-47. <sup>5</sup>Luke 7:47.



## Enhancing Health

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

### Brain Health Series

Part 9d

#### Mental activity and brain function

##### Review

In the previous issue we saw how our social experiences, personal relationships and work abilities interrelate with our physical and mental health issues. During times of intense stress, when we are distressed or experience great anxiety, our physical health can be affected, as well as causing us to feel emotionally low.

##### Mental activity and the brain

Research in the field of neurological brain function and stimulation demonstrates a link with memory and mood. The phrase 'use it or lose it' in this context is certainly most pertinent to individuals who begin to notice a decline in

their abilities to retain and process information, particularly with advancing age.

A variety of evidence now exists which suggests that mental stimulation may have a

preventative effect for illnesses such as dementia and Alzheimer's disease. One such study, undertaken in the US, asked subjects to look back on their 20s, 30s, 40s and 50s and report on which leisure activities they had regularly engaged in and their duration on a monthly basis. The results showed that people who had undertaken more intellectual activities in their 20s and 30s had a lower risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. The identified intellectual activities included pursuits like doing jigsaws and other puzzles, playing a musical instrument, doing crafts or home repairs, playing board games, writing letters and reading. Interestingly, subjects demonstrating increased intellectual activities after their 30s had a reduced Alzheimer's risk of up to 47%.

**Key research finding:** Engaging in stimulating brain activity may assist in creating increased cognitive reserve, enhancing brain adaptability

and compensating for other damaged areas.

**Advice:** The brain is a muscle that requires exercising in the same way as other body muscles.

**Homework assignment:** Over the next two weeks, try the following suggestions below and observe the difference it makes to your mental alertness and mood.

##### Tips for daily mental stimulation

- Engage in a crossword, jigsaw or other puzzles.
- Step up your practice if you play a musical instrument.
- Commence a new creative activity or re-engage in your favourite craft that has been dormant.
- Tackle a household repair that you have been putting off for some time.
- Engage in board games when you have family time together or when visiting with friends.
- Write a letter to a friend or family member.
- Complete a book in the next two weeks.

**Good health!**



# Commitment to excellence

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau

Stanborough prides itself on its commitment to excellence. Dr Keith Davidson, Education director, commenting on the recent GCSE results, said, 'I am delighted by the continued good work done by the students and staff at Stanborough School. Ninety percent of students gained five or more A\* - C grades, with the top students receiving five A\*s and five As. There was also a 100% pass rate in Religious Education and Biology, among other subjects.'

David, who recently took and passed nine GCSEs, all with grades A\* - C, said, 'Stanborough School is helping me to achieve my dream to be a corporate lawyer.'

Stanborough School is a small school of less than 200 students. This means that class sizes are small and that greater attention is given to all pupils. Stanborough is also a multicultural school with over thirty nationalities represented. Steve Rivers, director of the International School, states, 'Stanborough is a mini United Nations.' Daniel Ali, Year 13, is from a non-Christian background, but really appreciates the way pupils are treated in Stanborough.

As a Christian school, Stanborough is very keen to stage events that promote its ethos. Each year the school has a chaplain to assist the spiritual needs of the pupils. This year, the chaplain is Naomi Best of Andrews University. 'I love young people. I love music. I am people-orientated.' The annual Week of Prayer is celebrated by all the

students and staff. Other activities, such as Health Week, are all part of the spiritual development of the young people.

One of the beautiful things about Stanborough School is the parkland surrounding the buildings. Stanborough School nestles in forty acres of well-maintained grassland and majestic trees, affording the pupils opportunity not only to have a deeper appreciation of nature, but to use their surroundings as part of their learning environment.

Sport at Stanborough School is important. Although a small school, Stanborough always enters pupils into national sports events where possible. Russell McKie, head of PE, encourages student involvement in healthy activities as part of the curriculum and in lunchtime and after-school clubs.

As well as developing the young people physically, spiritually, socially and academically, the school is keen for them to get involved in community projects. Under the leadership and guidance of Kish Poddar, local community involvement and international community projects are organised. This year, the students took part in Union-wide 'Let's make a difference' week. They sang at residential homes, cleaned cars, packed boxes for ADRA, as well as doing odd jobs around the school and packing in the local ASDA-Walmart.

'Stanborough School is a wonderful school,' said Roger Murphy, head teacher. 'I am so proud of the students who achieved so much in

# New head for Stanborough Primary School

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau

The board of Stanborough School recently appointed Mrs Kathleen Hanson as the acting head of Primary School with Mrs Julie Koziol as acting deputy head. Kathleen has been the deputy head for the past two years and has a wealth of experience in the field of education. She holds a BEd (Hons) and an MA in Education.

Kathleen's vision for the Primary School is based on her deep and firm belief in 'Achieving excellence God's way'. It is her opinion that for her vision to be realised, the school needs to develop a learning community, providing lifelong learning for all. In addition to this, she is a strong believer in togetherness, unity and co-operation. Kathleen also believes in excellence and would like to see teachers and pupils strive towards this goal and, finally, she believes that God's way is a balanced way and that there should be work/life balance for the staff and school/life balance for the pupils.



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the latest GCSE examinations. I am also grateful for the dedication and hard work of the teachers who, on many occasions, have gone beyond the call of duty outside school hours to ensure that the children are successful.' When asked about his vision for the future of the school, Mr Murphy reflectively stated, 'I believe that Stanborough School is a flagship school and one of which the Seventh-day Adventist Church can be proud. My vision for the school is for it to become a greater witness in the local community.'

# New theologians at Newbold

by Anita Kelman and Helen Pearson

The Department of Theological Studies (DTS) at Newbold welcomes two new members of staff this year. German Andreas Bochmann and Englishman Cedric Vine will bolster an already strong theological team with their combined knowledge and experience.

Dr Andreas Bochmann has been appointed as a senior lecturer focusing on pastoral care and counselling. He says, 'My passion is people. I see my role as a catalyst to help people to reach their potential.' Andreas has an extensive experience as a pastor, hospital chaplain, pastoral counsellor, and lecturer in Germany. He is working for Newbold under a job-share scheme with Friedensau Adventist University where he teaches counselling. To fulfil his obligations in both countries, he is commuting between the two Adventist colleges.

As an alumnus of Newbold College, Andreas is very happy to be back in his old haunts. 'The staff members are very pleasant and easy to work with,' he says. 'I am pleased to see the openness and acceptance of different opinions being expressed by Newbold students. The multiculturalism and diversity on campus is so positive.'

Acting head of DTS, Dr Laurence Turner, says getting Dr Bochmann to teach at Newbold was 'a great score'. 'We are breaking new ground with Andreas' appointment. This sort of co-operation between Adventist institutions is rare. We can now offer the best education in pastoral care for a larger number of people with a mutual benefit for Theology students at both Newbold and Friedensau.'

Andreas is married to Carol and they have three adult children.

The other new member of the DTS is the youngest. Pastor Cedric Vine is also no stranger to Newbold College, having completed his MA in theology in 1999, and, more recently, being a regular guest lecturer in New Testament studies while he enjoyed a nine-year stint working in the North England Conference as a pastor.

Dr Turner says, 'Cedric brings a shot of fresh blood to the department. The average age of staff has been reduced, but the IQ has not. I taught Cedric when he was a student and I was impressed with his talent for Biblical Studies. His return as a full-time staff member makes me very proud, and I know that he will be a fabulous asset to the department.'

Pastor Vine says that the first few weeks have been quiet but enjoyable. 'In the classroom I have been surprised by the students' remarkable diligence to learn the material they are given. I enjoy lecturing and the mental stimulation associated with being given a chance to continue learning myself through dialogue with the students as they ask questions. Teaching is an excellent opportunity to contribute to the Church by helping to shape future pastors' minds. It's going to be a challenge to finish my own studies while finding time to prepare lectures.'

Cedric continues to work towards completing his doctoral studies at Sheffield University. He is married to Tserha and they have two young sons.



# Five baptised following African Fellowship campaign

by Theophilus Gokah

On Sabbath 13 September five new members were baptised and added to the rapidly growing South Wales African Adventist Fellowship (SWAAF). The baptism was held in the Cardiff Central church following a three-week evangelistic campaign entitled, 'Cardiff for Christ'.

The campaign was organised by local minister Pastor George Asiamah, together with other members of the African Fellowship, and the speaker was evangelist Robert Osei-Bonsu. Those attending found the messages to be inspiring and particularly relevant to the challenges facing society and communities across Britain.

Cardiff, like much of British society, is largely secular, and it is not always easy to present Christian principles to the general public. However, attempting to bring the Gospel to such secular people is one

of the reasons that SWAAF was organised, and this campaign showed that the members are serious in their mission. On this occasion five people were baptised, but a further ten have accepted the Advent message and more baptisms and further campaigns are planned for the future.

During the baptismal programme on Sabbath afternoon each of the candidates' favourite Bible texts were read by John George while the congregation sang their favourite songs. Pastor Asiamah conducted the baptisms while Elder Osei-Bonsu officiated. In his commitment address, Elder Osei-Bonsu charged the baptismal candidates to be faithful.

More than 100 photos from the campaign and baptism can be seen at: [www.swaaf.org.uk](http://www.swaaf.org.uk).



Pastor George Asiamah baptises Isaac Darko, one of the five candidates

# Pathfinders work for leukaemia victims

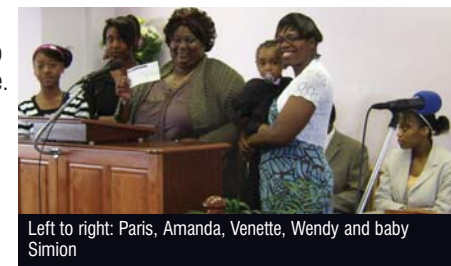
On 5 July Venette Weatherburn, a leukaemia survivor and member of the leukaemia charity organisation, accepted a donation for the Great Ormond Street Leukaemia Research Centre.

The cheque for £100 was presented to her by Wendy Watson-Teague, one of the Pathfinder co-ordinators.

That donation was a result of action by energetic Pathfinders of Great Brickkiln Sreet church, Wolverhampton. An event was organised on 8 June with useful activities

carried out. They ranged from various workshops to hand-washing cars on site. Funds were successfully raised, so that the Pathfinders were able to make contributions for leukaemia victims.

DELVA CAMPBELL



Left to right: Paris, Amanda, Venette, Wendy and baby Simion

# Crieff's weekend of intensive Bible study

Programmed into the church's calendar at Crieff is an annual Bible Conference, when topics of interest to the membership are addressed. This year the special speaker was Dr Radisa Antic, head of the E. G. White Research Centre on the campus of Newbold College.

The meetings were well supported by the local congregation and a good number of members from other churches throughout the Scottish Mission. All in attendance were greatly enriched by Dr Antic's presentations.

On the Friday evening the meeting between Jesus and the Woman of Samaria was explained as never before. The Sabbath morning topic was entitled 'The Relevance of Ellen White for Adventist Theology and Practice'. In the evening two practical and inspiring presentations were made under the titles 'Revelation and Inspiration' and 'Hermeneutical Principles'. Then, on the Sunday morning, Dr Antic presented an encouraging and enlightening lecture on 'The Sanctuary of God in the Book of Hebrews'.

Dr Antic's lectures and previous year's presentations by Daniel Duda and Jan Barna are downloadable on the Crieff church website – [www.crieffadventist.org.uk](http://www.crieffadventist.org.uk).

An element which was greatly appreciated was Dr Antic's ability to illustrate many of his points by experiences gathered during lengthy service as a local pastor, an evangelist, a college lecturer, and a Church administrator in Yugoslavia prior to his transfer to Newbold College in 2002.

From 1995 to 2002 Dr Antic was the president of the South-East European Union based in Belgrade. This was a difficult period for the whole Church throughout the Balkans – yet, by the grace of God, the membership increased to the extent that that Adventist Church today has become the largest Protestant Church in Serbia and Montenegro.

JOHN ARTHUR

## Jotsam

Prayer is . . .  
 'The rope that pulls God and man together. But it doesn't pull God down to us; it pulls us up to him.'  
 Billy Graham  
 'The opening of the heart to God as to a Friend.'  
 Ellen White  
 'To stand in attention in the presence of the King and to be prepared to take orders from him.'  
 Donald Coggan

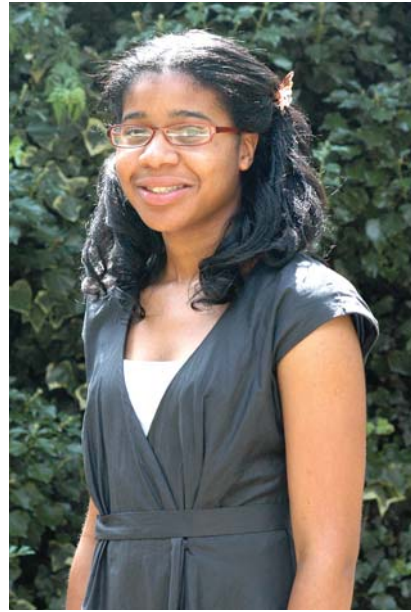
## Chiswick bids farewell to a young missionary

Shannon Alexander (18) has always known that her life would be spent doing something important for God. Her childhood career aspirations included being a teacher, an accountant and a psychologist. Quite sure now that she does not want to be any of these, she has resigned herself to going where God leads. It is as a result of this simple childlike trust that the Chiswick church said farewell to one of its brightest lights on Sabbath 26 July.

Shannon will be spending close to a year in the Marshall Islands as a student missionary, teaching in one of our Adventist schools there. She knows that it will be an adventure that will test her character, capabilities and resourcefulness to the limit, but she is mindful that she is not doing this alone. 'God has a plan,' she insists, 'and he knows what he's doing.'

When Shannon was born her grandmother decided to bring her to Sabbath School every week. Shannon remembers with fondness the love and warmth shown her, the advice given to her, and the gift of prayer entrusted to her. 'It was Granny who taught me how to pray,' she confides.

Shannon has been a faithful contributor to Chiswick's weekly



activities, including teaching in the Junior Sabbath School department, assisting as deaconess and singing in the choir. Shannon has been a key member of the London Youth Federation, delivering sermons in local congregations, organising youth events and encouraging young people in their walk with Jesus, and her evangelistic endeavours across London will be particularly missed. As a dedicated Pathfinder, her friends remember with admiration her courageous efforts during the flood at the 2006 TED Camporee in Denmark.

AUDREY AHWAN

## Combined Coventry Central and Henley Green baptism

Just four months after the previous baptism, Coventry celebrated another one on 30 August when eight candidates were baptised.

The church was full to overflowing with family and friends who came to support the candidates. For each one special texts were read and families surrounded the baptism to sing a favourite hymn during the immersion of their loved one.

From Henley Green there was Awirindiwo Esther Mpinganjira, and from Coventry Central there were Alvin Amito, Stennie Bhebe, Tafadzwa Biston, Fadzai Muchaiwa, Mary Mujaji and her husband Witness, and Pathisani Nyoni.

Pastor Moses Msimanga in his address to the candidates said that in their allegiance to the Lord they become new creatures, which means a complete change, and not just an outward mantle of change.

At the end of September Pastor Palmer leaves the pastorate of the Coventry and district churches which makes this baptismal service timely and reflects his whole mission of drawing others to commit themselves to Jesus. As a church we wish him and his family well as they continue service to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

ALISON DUNCAN

6 Messenger

## A story of faithfulness

Every Sabbath at around 9.30 a little red car draws up outside Glasgow church. As soon as the church doors are open, out of it steps a member of the congregation. Until recently, when the task was taken over by the children, he could be seen a few minutes later faithfully picking up the rubbish outside.

This man was born a month before the end of the First World War in which eight-and-a-half million soldiers lost their lives. But this was nothing compared with the forty million people worldwide who died from a flu epidemic in his first year of life. He went on to survive the horrors of the Second World War.

A 1948 copy of *Messenger* records his wedding at the age of 30 to another church member in Plymouth. A 1956 *Messenger* reveals his painting and decorating expertise in the building of the new Dublin church.

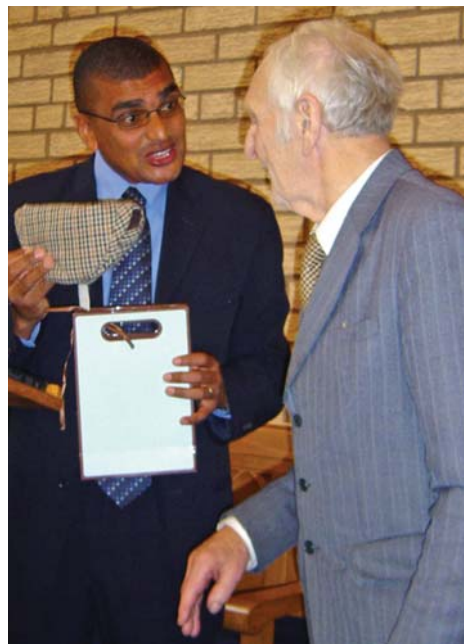
This man spent twenty-nine years as a literature evangelist, going from house to house selling church literature. He moved around the country, living and working in Dublin, Plymouth, Southampton, Edinburgh and Cornwall, before

settling in Kilbarchen, near Paisley in Scotland. He was married for thirty years before his wife sadly passed away.

He has been a member of the Glasgow church for more years than he cares to — or can — remember. From doors open to doors closed, this man is 'always there', and we thank God for such faithfulness.

On Sabbath 13 September the church celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Jimmy Ponder. To replace one he lost recently, and as a small token of love and appreciation, Pastor Clifford Herman presented him with Jimmy's trademark — a flat cap.

JOHN WILBY



## Thirty years of Special Needs Camp

by Joy Bussey

In 1978 Pastor Martin Anthony decided to provide a camping holiday for people with Special Needs. This has continued with one omission, when Aberdaron campsite was unable to open because of foot and mouth disease across the country. This year, during the week 6-13 July, we were aware of the significance of the date, but were reminded by one camper in particular that it wasn't our thirtieth camp — that will be next year! This year we 'made do' with a small cake and sang Happy Birthday to ourselves.

During the year between Camp 2007 and Camp 2008, a great deal of preparation had been taking place. Awareness programmes took place in Stanborough Park and Birmingham, and I am immensely grateful to Eseata Steele and all the long-term staff from camp who gave their time to participate and share their interest in what they see as an addictive event. The committee would also like to express their thanks to Dorothy Mulenga of Dublin church who flew to Birmingham for the Awareness Programme, and, on

## Miriam and Leslie Wood's Ruby Wedding

September marked forty years since Leslie Wood and Miriam Davies tied the knot. They were married by Miriam's uncle, Pastor Matthew Murdoch, in a Baptist chapel in Llanrwst, North Wales. They originally met at Newbold College, where Miriam was studying to be a Bible instructor, and where Leslie had studied previously. Miriam was born and grew up in North Wales with a Welsh father and mother from London. Leslie was born in Slough, but also had a Welsh father and mother from London. The initial attraction between them was spiritual and musical. Les was a lay preacher and pianist and Miriam

sang, so this proved to be an excellent combination. Les was working in horticulture in Slough and Miriam worked as a Bible instructor for several years in Swansea. Her two bridesmaids, Helen and Frances, were the daughters of the family where she lodged during her stay in South Wales.

Les and Miriam had their first home in Marlow beside the River Thames, but after a year they moved to the Cotswolds to live in the village of Bledington. The Oxford church embraced them on their first visit and they attended there until they moved to Maidenhead. They later moved to their present home in



her return home, encouraged a large group of willing volunteers for the staff team. Eseata and I spent a wonderful weekend with the Dublin church, training our new team members, encouraged by Ian Wilson — a long-term team member. All gave excellent service during the week of camp, and we hope they will return. Thanks are also due to Ian, and Daniel Botha in particular, for providing the return transport at very short notice for the Irish group.

In a summer which most people have referred to as a washout, we were again blessed with the weather, as it was fine and dry when we needed it to be. All the usual camp activities took place with our twenty-one campers, ranging in age from 9

to 60+, and a larger-than-usual staff team. We were pleased to welcome Vicky Murphy to share the worship with our padre, Curtis Murphy. The campers love to participate in daily worship, and several join the choir or the camp drama group. Alva Gallagher and his team provided a variety of craft activities to meet different skill levels, and, as usual, the day trips were in great demand and the overbooking caused a minor headache for Candy Quarshie, the administrator. There was time out from these organised activities to enjoy the ever popular village and beach.

Our lead nurse, Eseata Steele, was ably supported this year by Katrina Walker, and Bernard Hunt, who has previously led the washing-

Bracknell. Daughter Tanya was born while in the Cotswolds, and John joined the family at 4 years of age when they responded to an appeal for foster parents by a social worker at the annual toy service. Tanya and John grew up together as brother and sister, and John is still a family member forty years later, living in the same town. Tanya is married to Kevin and lives in Newport with their two children Lauren and Gareth. Along the way, another foster child, Melanie, joined the family for a year before moving into her own accommodation. Two more children came along once the nest was empty.

Clare arrived from London and Ieuan was fostered from High Wycombe, and both are still part of the family.

Miriam has just completed thirty-three years working for the NHS and

ended her career as Lead Music Therapist for Berkshire East PCT, working with people with learning disabilities. Leslie continued in horticulture for some years, then worked with the NHS, and later became a sports masseur, working at a private health and sports club.

Theirs has been a musical journey over forty years with a theme and many variations.

'Marriage for us means staying together through thick and thin, the good times and the bad, the sunshine and the shadows. We are sad when couples walk away from each other at the first sign of a storm. We would say to them: trust in God, pray together and work together. We've proved that however difficult the problems are there is a way to work it out.'

SASHA BECAJAC

## LETTERS

### DEPRESSION

Dear Editor

Thank you for publishing the article on depression (22 August issue, page 5). I found it very helpful. I have suffered on and off from depression and anxiety disorders for nearly thirty years. Currently I am taking tablets which are non-addictive and am in the process of receiving help for anxiety from a trained counsellor. I have only told five people at the church I attend, and we have all told God about it. My doctor tells me that it may take some time for complete healing to come. No matter how long it takes, I know God will be there with me. Nothing else matters.

With love, A. FRIEND (name of congregation given).

Thank you for your letter, and thank you to all those who phoned. Depression is not uncommon among us. For that reason a series of articles is being prepared by professionals with regard to both depression and coping with stress. Those who need more immediate help should feel free to contact me by electronic mail or, if preferred, phone one of the Health Ministries directors such as Sharon Platt-McDonald.

EDITOR

up team, took the lead in providing the meals. Our thanks go to every member of the team who gave their time and much energy, and without whom camp would not be possible. The number of campers we can take each year is entirely dependent on the number and dedication of the staff we can recruit. We would also like to thank Les Simpson and his team for the excellent site preparation which makes the start of camp so much easier and means that the carers are able to concentrate on their campers, rather than sorting linen and making beds after a long day travelling to camp.

We are thankful to God for his many blessings for Special Needs Camp and to the continued support from ADRA and BUC, without which

this camp would not be possible.

Special Needs Camp committee is making plans for a special celebratory camp from 5-12 July 2009. Over the next few weeks our new website will go live: [www.specialneeds-camp.co.uk](http://www.specialneeds-camp.co.uk). If you would like to help us celebrate thirty years of God's blessing in this ministry, please contact me. Training will be provided for new volunteers over the next few months. If you would like a Camp Awareness programme in your church, we would be happy to receive your invitation to provide this. Please contact me for information and application forms for either campers or staff.

Joy Bussey, Special Needs Camp Co-ordinator; 01923 461044; [js.bussey@ntlworld.com](mailto:js.bussey@ntlworld.com).

7 Messenger

# The firing of Michael Reiss

As we go to press 'Professor Michael Reiss has quit as director of education at the Royal Society, following the controversy over his recent comments on creationism.'

It appears that Reiss 'was pushed'. So what had Reiss said that so angered the scientific establishment?

Speaking at the British Association Festival of Science, Professor Michael Reiss said there was no point in scientists 'banging on about evolution and natural selection'. That way no one changed their minds. Reiss – a biologist and ordained minister – encouraged science teachers to engage with

students who had Creationist/ Intelligent Design views.

Professor Reiss estimated that one in ten children come from a family in which the world view was Creationist rather than evolutionary. He said, 'An increasing percentage of children in the UK come from families that do not accept the scientific version of the history of the universe and the evolution of species.'

A 2006 BBC survey found that more than a fifth of those polled in Britain were convinced by the creationist argument. Less than half – 48% – chose evolution.

While last week the Church of England made a formal apology

**A Fellowship of the Royal Society has become one of the world's highest scientific distinctions.**

The Royal Society emerged from meetings of scientists, philosophers and other thinkers in 1645, was formally established in 1660 and received its royal charter in 1662.

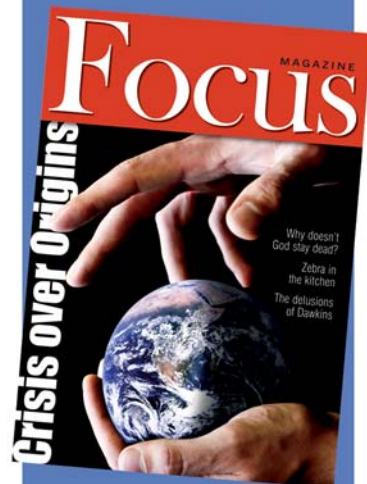
Among its early fellows were Sir Christopher Wren and Sir Isaac Newton (the latter was president for twenty-four years).

In the last 350 years the Royal Society has included Britain's most eminent scientists.

to Charles Darwin, after initially denying his theory, one third of the members of the Evangelical Alliance were said to be 'literal six-day creationists'.

Ross Rosevear, curator of the Genesis Expo Museum, believes that there are 'fatal flaws' in the theory of evolution. He believes that 'the earth was created in six days less than 10,000 years ago'.

The real growth area in Britain – including many top-flight scientists – is among those who believe in Intelligent Design. They see enough evidence of design in creation to presuppose a Designer but are uncomfortable when questioners try to tie them down to a given number of years. However, they are comfortable with the statement: 'Complex creatures could not have evolved as a result of natural selection.' Visit the website: <http://www.faithandscienceresource.org.uk>.



**Read John Walton's response to Richard Dawkins in 'Why doesn't God stay dead?' in 'Crisis over Origins', prepared for mass distribution in your district. ABC sales hotline 01476 539900. £12.50 buys 50 copies.**

### ABC BOOK SALES

October		
12	John Loughborough	10.30am-2pm
November		
9	Manchester	10.30am-2pm
16	Harper Bell	10.30am-2pm
ABC Shops		
Advent Centre, Sundays		11am-3pm
Watford BUC, 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday		10am-2pm

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Did my article appear in *MESSENGER*?
2. Why do *MESSENGERS* always arrive late at our church?

### ANSWERS

1. We publish *MESSENGER*. You must read it and find out when your article appeared. If you don't have printed copies to hand, visit the BUC website at [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk) and read the online edition. Not only the current issue is there, but you can access all the issues published since 1996.

2. *MESSENGERS* can take two days to despatch from The Stanborough Press and hence issues should arrive at the homes of the Personal Ministries secretaries at more or less the same time. If there is a pattern of late distributions at your church, recent investigations have revealed that the most common explanations are \* the uneven church attendance of the Personal Ministries secretary (or the unreliability of the person s/he has deputised) and \* (with regard to newer congregations) that the parcel of *MESSENGERS* delivered to the home of the Personal Ministries secretary is either left there or brought to church unopened and left in the foyer.

Every Adventist family in the British Isles is entitled to receive 24 issues of *MESSENGER* a year entirely free of charge. If, despite our best efforts and the best efforts of conscientious Personal Ministries secretaries, you continue to miss more issues than you receive, you may like to consider a PERSONAL SUBSCRIPTION. That costs you £13 a year but has the advantage of being posted directly to your home address.

*South England Conference*  
*Presents*  
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*Sunday 16th November 2008*  
**10.00am - 4.00pm**

**\* Earl Rambarack Singh:**  
*SEC Church Acquisition Policy*



**\* Victor Pilmoor (BUC):**  
*The BUC's Church Acquisition*



**\* Steve Okelo (SDAA):**  
*Church Acquisition-The Legal Hurdles*



**\* Mervyn Leicester:** *Insurance & Risk Management*



**\* Pastor Steve Thomas:**  
*Managing the Asset: Planned & Preventative Maintenance*



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Bernard Gordon & Co. Estate Agents:  
*The Current Market: Buildings that Can be Acquired for Religious Use*

**Who should attend?**  
*Pastors, Elders, Treasurers, Stewardship Leaders, Building Committee members, and church board members.*

*lunch provided*  
*Space limited so please register*  
*Dr. Richard de Lüsser (Moderator)*  
*Stewardship Dept*  
*SEC*  
*01925 252728*

**Venue:**  
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**Sunset**

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	London	Card	Nottingham	Edin	Belf
Oct 10	6.18	6.30	6.20	6.24	6.37
17	6.03	6.15	6.04	6.07	6.20
24	5.48	6.00	5.49	5.50	6.04
31	4.35	4.47	4.35	4.34	4.49

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