

Baptism in Sheffield city centre

by Pastor Trevor Thomas, Pathfinder director, NEC

Baptisms are public events but the North England Conference Pathfinder Rally Day brought new meaning to the word 'public'. As banners waved in the bright sunlight, and two thousand voices cheered, three Pathfinders were publicly baptised on the steps of Sheffield City Hall on Sabbath 13 September. This was the first time the church has ever conducted such a public baptism, but the three youth, Kenan Mackenzie-Grey, Larissa Andrews and Cargill

Webley, were delighted to demonstrate their love for God and of Pathfinders to the thousands assembled in Sheffield city centre.

The Lord Mayor of Sheffield, Councillor Mrs Jane Bird, and her husband consort were present to welcome Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs from across northern England into the city of Sheffield. NEC president Pastor Ian Sweeney and Personal Ministries director Pastor Mike Simpson, along with Sheffield pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt, also made contributions. Pastor Sweeney stated,

'The NEC Pathfinder Rally Day is one of the largest public events we do in this Conference and I am extremely proud of our young people and the public witness that they are bearing for Christ today.' The main speaker for the day was Pastor Jonatan Tejel, Pathfinder director for the world Church. In his address he challenged parents and Pathfinders alike: 'Be loyal to Christ and to the mission to which he has called you. Make yourselves available to God at all times.' That made an impression on Benjamin, a student at Harper Bell School, Birmingham. He stated: 'The preacher said to hold on to God, and I was blessed.'

Ainsly from Nottingham agreed, stating, 'The music and singing were really good. The sermon was simple to understand.'

At exactly 2.15pm the procession of two thousand, led by three marching bands, set off under the guidance of the local police for their parade through the city centre. Pastor Mike Simpson and those not in uniform distributed over five thousand Discover Bible cards and over a thousand Pathfinder information

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Filthy lucre

Justin Thyme on the money markets

Hum, dum, dum tit-tee dum, You're never alone as a bacterium! Did you know that of the 24,000 species of bacteria living with (and within) us only a few hundred are nasty, malevolent mutants? All the rest are beneficial little blighters, and we need 'em. As people selling those cute bottles of white, tasty gunge keep telling us.

Let's face it, we all need money too. My darling trouble 'n' strife is

always advising me to wash my hands after handling me 'readies' from the cash point. 'You don't know where it's been,' she says.

Quite right. Perhaps it's better that I don't. Whenever we watch Crufts and all those long-tongued, grateful pooches adoringly licking their owners' faces, she repeats the same thing.

Is money filthy? I mean, not just potentially teeming with gregarious germs with funny names – like

'mursa' and 'diffyseal' – but corruptible in the moral sense?

Recent events in world money markets suggest that the Greek word *lucre* used in the NT is very apt. Venal, sordid, given to greed, shameful. Wow! Strong stuff!

I can find five mentions of 'lucre' in Scripture. So it's been an ongoing human problem for some considerable time. In the church, I've only experienced one odd, rather trivial personal setback in money matters. I'd been trying my hand (and feet) at organ playing, and being inclined to sourpusyitis, injected some geniality into my musical renderings.

Especially for the offertory accompaniment. Once I played a happy little melody that tempted the deacons to dance up the aisle!

But, not long after, I became aware of an anony-castigator, who'd whispered a behind-the-hand criticism: 'Flippant!' In other words I was guilty of treating serious matters lightly. Yet I didn't want to play dismal dirges more fitting for funereal, bereaving situations. Made me think, though. Was there an inherent sense of loss behind it all?

A sympathetic 'sister', however, came to the rescue. 'The Lord loves a cheerful giver,' she quoted. I almost

skipped home humming my very own 'Ode to Joy'!

But another 'but'. Isn't our relationship with 'God-forward-slash-money' always a sensitive subject? An embarrassing illness?

Do our 'bowels of compassion' often need a gentle 'laxative'? 1 John 3:17, KJV.

Distasteful? Yes! Yet let's be honest. The truth about ourselves undoubtedly is. King Jimmy's intellect-jewel's version is graphic. Currant-chewys are a bit bland. Heartfelt, purse-opening compassion towards those on the poverty line is more up to date. When Jesus cleansed the temple of greed and corruption, he was figuratively hoping to clean up not only his temple but ours (which belongs to him) too.

Gordy PM (he is up before lunch) also admonishes all to 'clean up our act'.

Recent tabloid headlines scared the pants off me. 'Armageddon!' and 'Five Days that Shook the World!' And if our concerns are either bacteria or bankers, let's put 2 Kings 6:16 into the words of veteran Dad's Army battler, Jonesy: 'Don't panic! Don't panic! Them's that's with us is more than them's that ain't!'

Amen!



Political priorities

David Marshall

Party politically passionate people grate on me. By contrast those single-issue politically passionate persons of the past whose reforming campaigns have triumphed are apt to be my historical heroes.

Those who subsume their individual opinions, moral and prophetic edge and, indeed, personalities, beneath an uncritical endorsement of the programme of any political party worry me. All party programmes represent a compromise of views, principles and ideologies. Why? Because each of the main political parties represents a broad church of opinion. The party programme has to be crafted so as to get as many people 'on board' as possible. All political leaders are aware of that. One of the symptoms of that awareness is the evasiveness with which they answer the questions posed by the likes of Andrew Marr, John Humphreys and Jeremy Paxman.

The name of the political game, it seems, is to be as non-specific as possible about issues. That way the non-rational side of our natures takes control and we support one collection of politicians over another for similar reasons that a significant strength of middle-aged are wide-eyed when Julia Roberts and Colin Firth appear on screen and certain of my younger colleagues enthuse over the likes of Boyzone and Girls Aloud. Isn't that why actors do so well in politics?

The phrase 'actors in politics' puts me in mind of a political meeting I attended in the early 60s. It was addressed by Alfie Bass, a comedy actor well known at that time. Bass was turning out to be a rather incoherent (but moderate) speaker when someone shouted the word 'Communist!' at him. Suddenly a whole segment of that crowd echoed the cry. By way of reaction some young people began to shout the word 'Fascist!' at that segment of the crowd shouting 'Communist' at Bass. Bass disappeared into the police cordon and never reappeared. The crowd milled about – a bit shamefaced – long enough for me to ascertain that their political grasp did not extend beyond the headlines of the popular tabloids. None seemed to be aware that the roots of Alfie Bass were among the Jewish community of Eastern Europe which had

suffered so much at the hands of both Hitler and Stalin and that, therefore, both the terms being bandied about were offensive to him.

Name-calling is the lowest form of political activity. But Adventists are not immune from it. The next lowest level of political attitude among us arises from the vague awareness that crops up in correspondence from time to time that 'the Church' or 'the Spirit of Prophecy' or both either requires us to give our allegiance to a particular party (all three plus the Greens and UKIP have been recommended to me!) or, alternatively, requires us not to vote at all.

What are the facts? Should Adventist voters expect political direction from the Church?

From the earliest times in the USA there have been those among us who were vocal in one or other political interest. In an article titled 'How would Ellen White vote?' Mark A. Kellner, writing in the 11 September issue of *ADVENTIST REVIEW*, cites a 'Let's cool it!' quote from James White. Nevertheless White did not say 'Don't vote'. A subsequent statement by the GC in session in 1865 counselled against casting a vote in favour of any interest supportive of 'intemperance, insurrection, [or] slavery'.

Until the US Emancipation [of slaves] proclamation in 1864 it is likely that many Sabbatarian Adventists, coming as they did from a radical abolitionist background, declined to vote because neither party was unequivocally committed to abolition. For the remainder of the nineteenth century – and beyond – Adventist voting behaviour in the US would appear to have been influenced by the stance of individual candidates on the temperance issue and the perceived stance of local parties on Sunday sacredness enforcement.

At the turn of the century, however, Ellen White was recommending a silence-is-golden policy with regard to voting behaviour. Nevertheless, she also acknowledged that, on the great moral issues of the time, silence could be downright yellow. That is why she encouraged the 'Daniels' growing up in Adventist congregations not to hesitate to 'stand in [for?] legislative assemblies'. By then it was taken as a given that members

would be casting their votes secretly and according to conscience.

The first basic political principle for which Seventh-day Adventists stand would be the right to do just that. The second would be the separation of church and state and the unacceptability of any state interference with our political and religious freedoms.

We have been vigorous in our discussions of the role of 'the Beast' and 'the Image to the Beast' when we have made our prophetic projections. It is incumbent upon us, therefore, to be exceptionally careful in our own pronouncements on matters that impinge on politics not to imitate the behaviours of either of the religio-political players characterised in Revelation 13.

When we make our statements on the great moral imperatives we must make sure we are not giving the impression that the Church endorses any political party or its programme. It doesn't. Individuals are on their own on that one. That's part of the meaning of freedom of conscience. If you believe that you have heard a party political endorsement from the pulpit then, assuming you have heard correctly, you have heard somebody behaving unprofessionally.

We owe it to ourselves and to the country in which we are citizens to inform ourselves about the great political, economic and social issues of our day. That guards us against political name-calling and falling for the visceral prejudices to which our insecurities make us susceptible and which unscrupulous politicians and newspapers exploit.

You would be interested when the Archbishops of Canterbury and York denounced the culture of greed behind the stock market crashes last month. They were right to do that. They would have been wrong had they implied that any particular collection of politicians have all the answers.

As the world's economy goes into freefall, let us make it a matter of prayer that the greedy be thwarted and the vulnerable protected.

If you would like to pursue the issues raised you might like to visit the following websites:
www.adventistreview.org
www.whiteestate.org/books/mol/chapt13.html



Enhancing Health

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

Brain Health Series

Part 9e

Emotions and mental activity

Under the caption 'Mind and Health' in her book *Mind, Character and Personality*, E. G. White wrote the following statement: 'The electric power of the brain promoted by mental activity vitalizes the whole system, and is thus an invaluable aid in resisting disease.' (page 396.)

This statement remains relevant as science continues to confirm what was written over 150 years ago.

Davidson MD, at the Laboratory for Functional Brain Research at the Institute of Wisconsin-Madison, reveals MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scan results which identified the relationship between brain

activity and emotional states. Davidson found a distinctive difference between the brains of individuals characterised by enthusiasm, alertness, energy, persistence in goal orientation and other positive behavioural

characteristics in comparison with the brains of those individuals who experienced depression.

From his research a possible link has been found between the functioning of a region of the brain called the amygdale responsible for processing emotions. 'We've already discovered that there are differences in the amygdales of people who appear to be these happy, positive individuals compared with those of individuals who show more vulnerability and more depressive emotion in response to the emotional events in life,' he states. It was found that the right frontal area of that region was more active when negative emotions and stress were experienced. In contrast, Davidson noted that the left side was activated when positive emotions were expressed. He also stated: 'In infancy and early childhood, individuals with the pattern of left prefrontal activity show signs of exuberance and are highly social.'

Psychology researcher Kalin, applauding this

research, states: 'Scientists have begun to redirect their attention from problems that produce disease to brain systems that regulate positive emotions and their relationship to key physiological systems affecting health.'

The Cleveland Clinic Foundation highlights research on the following activities which stimulate brain activity and enhance emotional well-being.

Prayer – Brain imaging studies show that brain activity changes during prayer. Research also shows that blood pressure and heart rate can decrease during times of prayer and worshipful reflection.

Music therapy – Particularly in clinical settings, the effectiveness of music as a therapy has been researched extensively with regard to its benefits for pain relief and reducing stress and anxiety.

Massage – Patients experiencing anxiety can receive beneficial short-term effects from massage. Additionally massage has been found to improve relaxation, relieve muscle tension, improve sleep and enhance blood circulation.

Good health!



Trauma and the clergy: help for wounded healers

Pastors are healers, but what if the healer himself is wounded?

Daphne Stephenson-Valcourt, PhD, LMFT, LMHC, BCPC*

An experienced pastor in a New York City church was relating to his congregation the story of a traumatic incident involving a youth who had committed homicide. He was not present when the incident occurred but he told the story with such strong pathos and in such vivid detail that it was hard to believe that he was not present when the incident occurred. The incident as told to him had left an indelible impression on his mind, so much so that it seemed he was reliving the experience.

Dealing with traumatic life events is increasingly becoming the lot of many pastors in urban and suburban communities. Pastors, elders and chaplains, like social workers and mental health professionals, are invariably the first responders in a crisis situation or traumatic life event, resulting in their experiencing what is often referred to as vicarious trauma. As healing vessels they are frequently the first ones family and congregants call on for help in a family crisis situation or a traumatic life event. Yet the profound impact of pastors' repeated exposure to the hearing or witnessing of traumatic life events without an opportunity to process their feelings or thoughts is not a topic that is often considered.

The impact of trauma on an individual is commonly known in clinical terms as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Victims of PTSD are never quite able to forget the event that traumatised them. In World War II it was referred to as shell shock, war neuroses or combat fatigue. It is a condition that is associated with exposure to life-threatening circumstances. Bessel van der Kolk is a noted researcher who identified post-traumatic stress disorder among Vietnam vets and returning wartime combat survivors. Kolk observed that these war vets were experiencing flashbacks, closing down emotionally, beating their wives and engaging in substance abuse.

Panic attacks

Today, survivors of events such as the 11 September terrorist attack, the untimely death of a loved one, victims of domestic violence, child abuse or rape, are just a few examples of individuals who may experience PTSD. In most instances, we see post-traumatic stress disorder manifested in the form of anxiety disorder or stress disorder. Victims may experience panic attacks upon exposure to situations that remind them of the traumatic event. They are often hyper-vigilant, easily startled or show brisk reflex responses. Some may even avoid dealing with the trauma by numbing their feelings, withdrawing or avoiding places or individuals associated with the trauma. The symptoms may become exaggerated with the use of substances or alcohol as a way of self-medicating. It is possible even to see a

complete personality change in the individual.

What is seldom noted is the painful impact of secondary trauma on healing vessels or first responders such as the clergy. As healing vessels, they are expected to be available and supportive at all times. But, as they respond to traumatic life events such as child abuse, domestic violence, death by violence, and untimely deaths, they themselves are likely to experience the feelings of fear, pain and suffering, intrusive thoughts, nightmares, loss of energy, or hyper-vigilance. Some may even act out behaviourally in the home, while at church they behave in a 'normal' saintly fashion, typical of a pastor.

Secondary trauma

As with milk that is poured into a glass, once it is poured out, the milk is no longer there but the residue remains. The same goes for tea in a cup. The stain or smell of the tea remains. Similarly, healing vessels are impacted by what is called vicarious trauma or secondary trauma.

Vicarious trauma was first observed in the late 1970s among emergency rescue workers who began showing symptoms similar to those they were helping. As healing vessels listen to and support trauma survivors, they too absorb some of the emotional pain. Sometimes the memory and the pictures, the stories relayed or scenes witnessed are so vivid that they leave imprints on the minds of healing vessels. Before long, they too begin to experience anxiety, depression, depersonalisation, changes in the way they feel about themselves, low self-esteem, increased feeling of sadness or cynicism and sleep problems.

As a healing vessel, Jesus responded to many crises and traumatic life events. The one traumatic event which moved him to tears was the untimely death of Lazarus. Lazarus lived with his sisters Mary and Martha and he was probably the main breadwinner. His untimely death obviously came as a shock to everyone. The whole community was in mourning, and the sight of people wailing was an emotionally painful one. As Jesus approached the scene, it tugged at his emotions. It is said that his spirit groaned within him. He was deeply impacted. So much so that he wept. Jesus' actions in handling this and other traumatic life events give us clues as to how to handle vicarious trauma.

The blame game. Lazarus' sister Martha indirectly blamed Jesus for her brother's death. 'If you had been here,' she said, 'our brother would not have died.' Jesus responded by showing empathy for the sisters but he did not accept the blame. He maintained his objectivity by reframing their view of death and giving them a sense of hope. He said, 'Your brother is sleeping.' During traumatic

events there is a tendency to seek to place blame on someone. Healing vessels must seek to bring meaning to the trauma rather than join in the blame game.

Delegation and self-care. After summoning Lazarus from the dead, Jesus allowed someone else to take over. He said loose him and let him go. Healing vessels need to know when to step back and establish work boundaries. *Healing vessels have a tendency to want to be all things to all people, sometimes at the expense of spending time with their own family, which quickly leads to battle fatigue and burn out, not to mention conflicts in the home.* Jesus was a strong believer in self-care. He said come aside and rest awhile. After the resurrection, he reappeared to his disciples and prepared a meal for them. Healing vessels must make self-care a priority. They must focus on proper diet, rest and exercise.

Emotional support system. Jesus was a frequent visitor at the home of Lazarus and his sisters. It was one place where he could truly relax without feeling judged. Jesus also saw his disciples as his emotional support system and was not afraid to ask for their help when in distress. Just before facing the most trying circumstances of his entire life, Jesus asked his disciples, 'Can't you watch with me for one hour?' Healing vessels must establish an emotional support system to which they can turn in time of need.

Self-doubt. Jesus was not afraid to get feedback. He asked his disciples 'Who do men say I am? What do you say?' Healing vessels are often unlikely to ask for feedback for fear the feedback may cause self-doubt, loss of confidence, or lower their self-esteem. Yet, feedback provides the very opportunity healers need for successful personal growth and development.

Consequences. Through vicarious trauma, it is possible to experience deeper spirituality and total dependence upon God. As healing vessels put meaning to vicarious trauma, they not only develop resilience but also they develop a greater connection and reliance on a power that is greater than they are. They realise that of themselves they cannot bring about healing; they are simply vessels being used by God to help the trauma survivor work through the impact of the traumatic life event. Ellen White in the book *Ministry of Healing* (pages 512-514) notes that we must have less trust in what we ourselves can do and more trust in what the Lord can do for and through us. You are not engaged in your own work; you are doing the work of God. Since the work is not yours, then the trauma experienced by others is not yours to carry. You are not the healer. You are the healing vessel. Therefore, as the healing vessel, your responsibility is simply to surrender the pain and hurt of others to God and allow him to work through you to bring healing to the lives of those who are hurting.

* Dr Stephenson-Valcourt is a psychologist and counsellor who works in New York. Between 1979 and 1993, however, she was based in London and was a contributor to the 'Black in Britain' feature in our *FAMILY LIFE* magazine.

Arriving in a different country can be an interesting experience! On my family's recent holiday to the States, we arrived at New York's JFK airport and had to make our own way, without much time to spare, to La Guardia airport a few miles away. As we exited JFK with the intention of getting an airport transfer bus, we were met by a number of individuals who seemed to be hustling for business for their buses or taxis. One of them seemed to be an official (as he had a badge), so when I told him we needed a transfer bus he told us to wait with another group. This we dutifully did. While waiting I tried to find someone 'official' to ask the best way to travel between airports, but there wasn't anyone to ask. Soon this man took us outside and told us to wait while he got his transport. We couldn't believe it when he turned up with a limo! I wasn't sure whether to be excited at the experience or worried about the cost. There didn't seem to be a quick alternative, so we went along for the ride. We did get to our destination in time, and in style, but

were relieved of \$50 for the privilege. I couldn't help thinking that we might have paid over the odds!

Some years ago Mary and I arrived in what was then Bombay, India. The reception at the airport was similar, with various taxi and rickshaw drivers keen to have our business. As we left in a taxi, though, things were different. Bombay (now called Mumbai) is a mixture of palm tree beauty and corrugated iron poverty. My most vivid memory of that taxi trip, and in fact of the whole stay in India, was of a beggar shoving the stump of an arm into the taxi, trying to persuade us to give. So, two memorable arrivals in foreign countries!

I don't think it is too big a leap from that to imagine what it is like for people attending church for the first time. For some it is not too dissimilar to visiting another country. Most of us are very familiar with churches, but to some, they are strange, unfamiliar, almost scary places. I remember the first time I stepped into an Adventist church, in my twenties. I used to attend an


with Jonathan Barrett

A virgin at church



Anglican church in my childhood, but hadn't been for years, and I certainly had never attended any other kind of church. Fortunately, the welcome I received was a very positive one. People seemed so friendly and talkative, much more so than my earlier experience of church. Even though there were some negatives, such as the public reporting of good deeds, which I felt seemed like bragging, the warmth of the welcome was strong enough to counteract these.

Let's not forget that for some who attend our churches it is a one-off, potentially life-changing event. The least we can do is give them a warm welcome, which may in itself be enough.



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These workshops are a collaborative venture between the BUC (Youth and Health departments) and Newbold College and have been developed by Val Bernard, Christian sociologist and educationalist.

SEC Choir Festival postponed

The SEC Choir Festival (advertised in *MESSENGER*) has been postponed until 2009. We apologise for any inconvenience caused by this postponement.

Trevor Johnson

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The Messenger 'boring for kids'? NO. NEVER AGAIN!

by Heather Haworth, Children's Ministries director

'Church is boring!' Have you heard your children say this when they have complained about being nudged out of bed on a Sabbath morning? Have you thought that they might be telling the truth? Perhaps you have wondered why it is that you might enjoy attending church but your twenty-first-century child does not.

The key to knowing why church can 'turn off' a child is found in understanding how the world today is moulding a child's mind. Over the last twenty years the world has changed faster than ever before due to the technical revolution and its accompanying changes in lifestyle.

Flexible working patterns are the norm for families. Today nearly half the homes have a computer and 75% of children have mobile phones. Gone are the days of a four-channel TV; we now have multiple channels, plus videos

and DVDs, Mp3 players and the computer game revolution.

Learning for everyone has changed. This is taking place especially in schools and colleges. Since 1989 the ever-changing national curriculum might not have enhanced the ability of students to rote learn, but it has responded to teach children in the ways they learn best. This is through interactive teaching, where children in pairs or groups get hands-on activities that help them understand what they are learning. Computer spell-checks might not have helped our children to spell correctly, but computers have opened up a whole new world that is easily accessed by a click of a button, even while they are eating in front of the TV.

Now compare this hi-tech, interactive, always-something-to-do world with what a child, teen or 20-year-old experiences at church. A majority of the time, church services are a 'spectator sport'. Fortunately some children's Sabbath School teachers use the 'hands on' Gracelink programme, but for the majority of the day information is poured into a child's mind with no opportunity for doing what they do at school. No time is given for them to process the information, see its relevance, discuss it and decide how it will be used in their daily life. No wonder 'boring' is an apt description of the style of worship only the over 35s can cope with each week.

The response of the young people – aged 9 to 29 – is to stop attending church. *In the UK and Eire it is up to 80%*. It is time we responded, not by lowering our church standards or setting aside doctrines, but by following in the footsteps of Jesus who told a church leader to put children first. (John 21:15.)

The latest Children's Act (2004) is entitled 'Every Child Matters'. How the children's guardian angels must long for our Church also to implement actions that say to our children that 'every child matters'.

Soon the *Messenger* will not just be giving lip service to the value the editor and his team place on Jesus' young disciples, for they are taking a new step in making their magazine relevant to our children and youth. Let your children know they matter to you, their church, and most of all to God, by encouraging them to enjoy the kids' pages.

Point out to them the advert telling how they can win a prize by sending in a name for their pages. Better still, in your family and church worship, implement ways of making your time together with God a creative and meaningful one for every age group.

For more information go to the Children's Ministries resources page on www.adventist.org.uk or phone that department on 01923 672251.



Children's Pages name competition

Soon we'll be unveiling some brand-new pages in the *Messenger*, just for children. We've called these pages 'Stars' to begin with because we think that you're all like special stars in Jesus' crown. But because we think you're so great we want you to come up with a name that you like. It needs to say something about how much God loves children. It's best if it's just one word, like 'stars', but be as creative as you like.

Email your ideas to us at children@adventist.org.uk. We'll choose the best name and the winner will receive a prize from the new range of children's books at the Stanborough Press. Or post your entries to Heather Haworth, Children's Ministries Department, BUC Offices, Stanborough Park, Garston, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ.



In a world in which hard-earned fortunes are lost in a day's trading, JUSTIN THYME asks, 'Is there anything we can REALLY depend on?'

I did a wayside pulpit sign for our church once: 'Beat the burglars – store your treasures in Heaven!' Today, perhaps, I should replace 'burglars' with 'bankers'. Yet although the whole system seems flawed, there must still be a good few more honest Harrys or Harriets looking after our Lsd than are not. Yet could it be that some may have been ingesting the other LSD and hallucinating invincibility?

Who and what can we trust? God, of course, and evidently gold. It's more valuable than ever. A mysterious, malleable, ductile, metallic element. Ultra-precious since time

immemorial. The Bible's chock-full of the word 'gold' from Genesis to Revelation. Wait till we see the Holy City!

What's more to be desired than gold? God's love and his law, replies the psalmist. The only time I've ever bought any gold was just before I got hitched. Needed two gold rings.

A cankered confidence has pervaded the whole world lately. Money has become ephemeral. Loopy shares yoyo frenetically at a nauseously bewildering pace. Gold and coins are at least tactile. More of an assurance than the pin numbers,

plastic credit and debit cards and so forth that we're compelled to use. Usury is the old word for describing the interest on a loan. Not extortionate, but reasonable. But too much in recent years was loaned on property that's not worth it. Then, of course, appears the cruel crunch – negative equity.

Is there a heavenly currency? Yes indeed: God's love! I'm not altogether sure, however, that it has an earthly exchange rate. Paradoxically, the reason that it has no earthly purchasing power is that it is, primarily, a heavenly redemptive power. You can't use

it to buy anything and of itself it cannot be bartered. And if you look upon it as a loan that needs to be paid back, you are failing to recognise that whoever gives you that love gives it on the tacit understanding that its recipient is incapable of making any requital.

In worldly terms this is incomprehensible. For this love demands no obligation. Believing that God's love incurs a debt when we accept it can demean its very sacredness. Its inestimable value, most bafflingly, is its expendability.

'If you love me, keep my commandments,' suggests two things. One, that loving God engenders a velvet compulsion, a reciprocal response. Obedience is not only miraculously absolved of its legal, binding obligation, but transformed from being an onerous duty into a loving consequence!

Or two, that keeping his commandments without the prompting of his love is tantamount to a rejection of God's loving sacrifice. So-called 'good works' that refute the source of all good. Actuated solely from motivations of self-righteousness. A humanistic delusion, 'having a form of godliness but denying its power'.

The power is still with God. Don't ever doubt that. He offers no quick fix to all these mammonist muddles, but coaxes us gently to accept his love into our hearts, into our lives. Love is the only arousal of love. 'We love because he first loved us.' 1 John 4:19, NIV.

The Holfords honoured for services to Family Life

by Heather Haworth, Family Ministries director, BUC

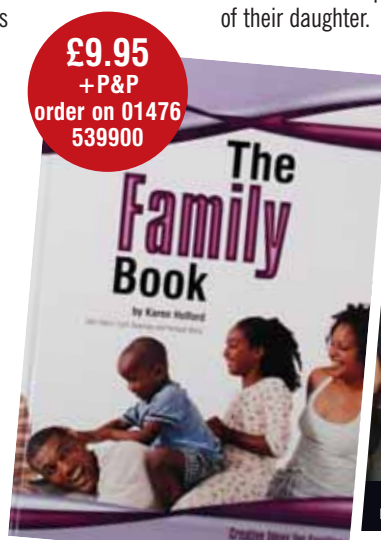
Pastor Bernie and Mrs Karen Holford, celebrated authors of *The Family Book*, received the prestigious Arthur and Maud Spalding award for their years of devoted service to Family Ministries during an annual Family Life training event in Hungary that Karen and Bernie had attended as presenters. As South England Conference Children's and Family Ministries director and part-time associate, Bernie and Karen have a vast experience in the area of family life. They started off their married life at Andrews University where they both received degrees in this subject. More recently they studied in London for a degree in Family Therapy. Bernie is now doing a four-year doctorate in Family Ministries at Andrews.

General Conference Family Ministries director and associate director, Pastor and Mrs Ron Flowers, presented the award. They both spoke highly of the contribution of the Holfords to the Church in the UK and Ireland, as well as other

parts of the world, through their seminar presentations and books. They have contributed towards fourteen GC annual plan books and co-authored a book, *Jump Start Connections*, with the Flowers, but are still best known in Britain for the brilliant *Family Book*.

Only twenty-three such award plaques have been given since 1975 to those who, in the footsteps of Pastor and Mrs Spalding, have benefited the Church through their ministry to families. Bernie responded, 'It is a privilege for Karen and me to serve the families in our Conference and to build up family

relationships through working in our Union as well as other parts of the world. We are excited by the future of this department within our Union as it is positively impacting families.' It was a fitting gift for the Holfords who were celebrating their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary and had recently experienced another aspect of family life, the marriage of their daughter.



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Bernie and Karen are the couple on the right

Newbold emphasis at Welsh Mission big day

by John Surridge

Warm sunshine and azure skies greeted the 200 or so visitors to the Welsh Mission Day of Fellowship in Llandrindod Wells on Sabbath 27 September. Once again the meetings were held at the Pavilion, the largest conference venue in mid-Wales, and once again lunch was enjoyed on the terraces and in the gardens outside.

The emphasis for this year's Day of Fellowship was on Newbold College, which was represented by Dr Jane Sabes, principal; Dr Laurence Turner, principal lecturer in Old Testament; and Dr Jean-Claude Verrecchia, principal lecturer in New Testament; together with two young musicians, Manuel Matos (piano) and Marta Cupertino (violin).

In the morning service Dr Turner spoke on the theme for the day, 'Standing out from the crowd'. In his retelling of the story of the image of gold and the fiery furnace, as found in Daniel chapter three, Dr Turner pointed out the thoroughly Babylonian nature of the image and emphasised the importance of standing in opposition to the Babylonian principals of size, power and conformity. He also referred to the beast of Revelation 13 with its thoroughly Babylonian number of 666, implying that the importance of standing in opposition to Babylonian principles is as relevant today as it was in the time of Nebuchadnezzar.

In the afternoon programme Dr Verrecchia presented a Bible study entitled, 'Rejoice: We have a High Priest!' Working from Hebrews chapters 8-10 he highlighted the differences between the high priests of the Old Testament and the High Priest of the New Testament – particularly the fact that the latter did not need to make

any sacrifice for himself because he was the sacrifice. 'The result of Christ's sacrifice is that sin has been annulled,' said Dr Verrecchia. 'It is not future, it is done. It cannot be repeated.'

Dr Jane Sabes, principal of Newbold College, although previously unknown to most of those in the congregation, made a major impression early on when she took the children's story. Carefully fitting her message to the theme of the day, she talked about chameleons and the temptation there is to blend in with our surroundings. In the afternoon Dr Sabes took on a different role as she chaired a question and answer session on Newbold College. In her responses Dr Sabes emphasised the spirituality of the students at Newbold and the unique atmosphere that exists there. Manuel Matos gave a personal testimony of how enjoyable life can be as a student at the college.

The two new ministers in the Welsh Mission, Pastors David Foster and Jovan Adamovic, were active in the adult and youth Sabbath Schools respectively, and Pastor Jan McKenzie hosted the final programme of the day – a Songs of Praise programme featuring musicians from within the Welsh Mission.

Sadly missed at this year's Day of Fellowship was Pastor Mike Logan, who passed away in August after suffering from a brain tumour. Photos from Mike's time in Wales were shown on the screen and former Welsh Mission president Dr Brian Phillips paid tribute to his ministry, before praying specifically for the members of his family.

Videos of the three main presentations, together with more than 100 photos from the day, can be seen on the Welsh Mission website at www.adventistwales.org.



Top: Dr Jane Sabes tells the children's story.
Above: Dr Laurence Turner presents the morning sermon.
Above: Marta Cupertino on the violin.
Below: Dr Jean-Claude Verrecchia presents the afternoon Bible study.



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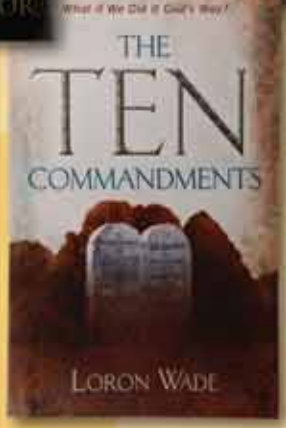
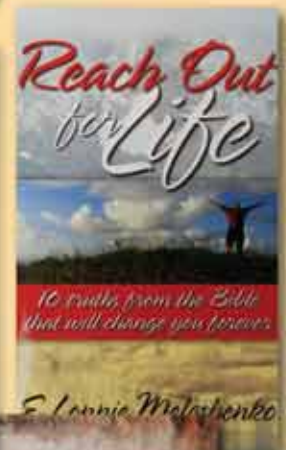
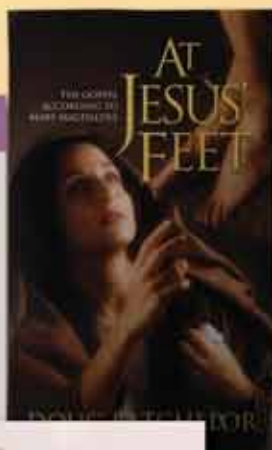
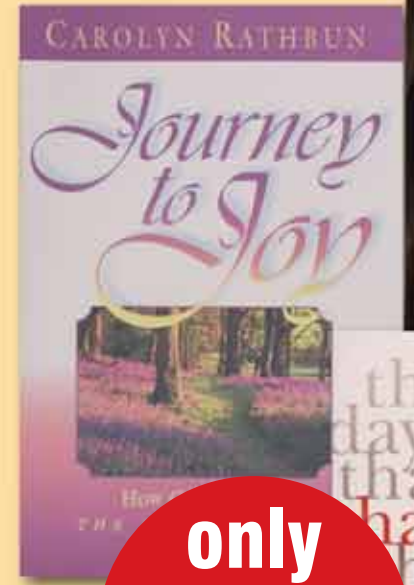


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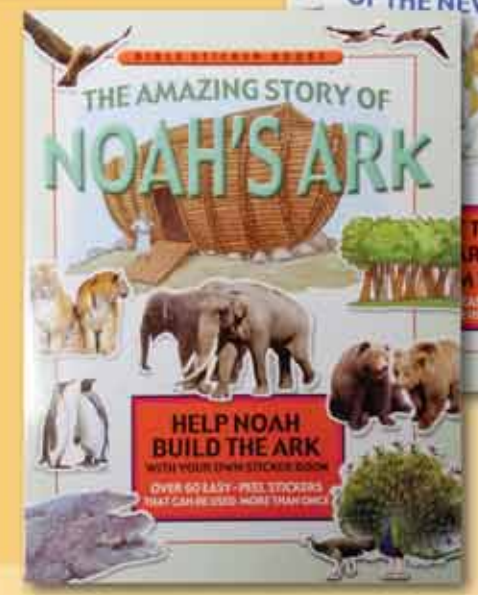
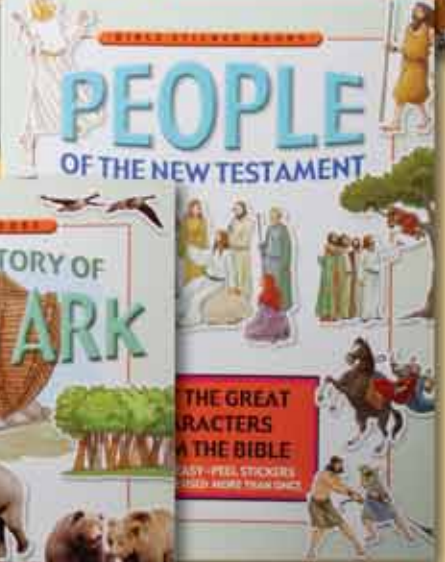
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Coventry centenary celebrations

by Amanda Khozi Mukwashi



BUC president Pastor D. McFarlane, NEC president Pastor I. Sweeney, former president of the NEC Pastor E. Francis, Pastor P. Clee, Pastor S. Palmer and Sister E. Mukada to the platform.

Alison Duncan presented a short history of the church in Coventry, while BUC Communication director, Victor Hulbert, shared with the congregation a synopsis of the origins of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, harking back to the Bible, the Celtic church, the Reformation and the Great Religious Awakenings. Pastor Paul Clee, a former pastor of Coventry who now serves in the Trans-European Division office, presented an engaging message based on Philippians 3:13-14, encouraging members to look to the future. He said, 'Although we are looking at the history of Adventism in Coventry, it is important to do what Paul said: "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."'

The morning was also an important time for the children with a programme organised by the children's department. Paul Ellison was their special speaker.

Mixed with music, the afternoon session saw the theme continue, looking back at the development of Adventism in Coventry. It was really inspiring to hear of the great projects in which the pioneers were involved. Alison Duncan narrated the activities and developments of the past century. This was accompanied by visual images from over the decades.

Hearing about the evangelism undertaken by Coventry Adventists in the past was an eye opener. They worked relentlessly for God. And we can only be inspired and take strength from God's great missionaries of past generations.

A constant theme of the day was that, while celebration was appropriate, hope is more appropriate as we look forward to the soon coming of Jesus Christ. For Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, a recent member of Coventry, the message is clear: 'We have celebrated a centenary of Adventism in Coventry. May we commit ourselves to keep the faith so that generations to come will be able to look back and say, "They did a good job. They too were God's great missionaries of their time."'

Photos from the day and the two PowerPoint presentations are available in the picture gallery on the BUC website: www.adventist.org.uk.

'Not unto us, Oh Lord, but unto thy name be glory given.' This was the theme throughout the preparation for Coventry Adventist churches' centenary celebrations which took place on Sabbath 20 September in the beautiful Coventry Central Methodist Hall.

A lovely sunny autumnal day greeted about 500 members and guests from across the country as they joined Coventry Central, Henley Green and Nuneaton churches for this special day. Pastors, many with their spouses, who had pastored the Coventry churches at different times, came in solidarity. They were joined by former members and friends, who, together with Coventry's current membership, represented different ethnic groups united in Christ.

The day began with a wonderful song service and prayer from Pastor Peter Sayers. Sabbath School was a very different occasion, marked with music from Janet Bulla, the Joy Bells of Coventry Central and the London Adventist Chorale. The highlight of Sabbath School was a special lesson led by Adam Ramdin.

The Pathfinders, dressed for the occasion, brought zest to the day with their youthful steps and march. The drum corps, with great precision, escorted the Lord Mayor of Coventry, Councillor Andy Matchet,

100 years of childhood

We are all children of God, and as such, when Coventry celebrated 100 years of Adventism, we were also celebrating 100 years of childhood. Childhood in God. And because we realised this was a celebration as much for the children as for the adults, the children were given their own special Sabbath School and divine service.

The entire day was fun for the children. We kicked off with Yardley Pathfinders leading us in a fabulous Sabbath School on the theme of friendship, focusing mainly on the story of Priscilla and Aquila. The activities included making posters, a dramatic sketch from the Coventry Pathfinders, and many items from Nuneaton and the Praise and Worship team. The entire service was fun and informative, and all the children enjoyed themselves. The presence of all the children in their Pathfinder uniforms gave the day an air of formality which it deserved, being such a momentous occasion.

Before we continued into divine service, all the Pathfinders lined up outside for the ceremonial marching into the sanctuary. They were accompanied by the magnificent West Midlands Drum Corps who only the week before had wowed audiences at Pathfinder Rally Day. The drumming again added to the air of formality which such an event really needed and was much appreciated and even mentioned to the congregation by one of the visiting pastors.

When the drumming was over, the fun continued with the divine worship service. The speaker was the energetic Paul Ellison, who gripped the children with his sermon which continued the theme of togetherness and unity.

JORDAN CHARLES, NUNEATON

SEC workers' meeting: Crossing ministerial boundaries

Over 120 ministerial workers from around the South England Conference gathered together at the Stanborough Centre for two days' training on Crossing Ministerial Boundaries and Child Protection.

The training was organised by Pastor Bernie Holford, Family Ministries director for the SEC, and the training facilitators were Pastor David Robertson, director of Safe Place Services for the Australian Union Conference Limited, and Dr Bryan Craig, senior consultant for the Adventist Institute of Family Relations. Issues that were covered included sexual misconduct, expectations and basic assumptions about ministry, understanding abusers and abusive behaviours, myths, rationalisations, and warning signs in relationships.

Other areas of discussion were: Understanding power and vulnerability, Meaningful consent, Why it is so hard to maintain boundaries in ministry, Touch, Barriers to boundaries, Importance of

boundaries, Personal arenas of safety and self-care and Preserving ministerial boundaries.

This intensive training provided a much-needed foundation for ministerial awareness and church information, particularly in the area of child protection. Ministers were issued with a number of resources to help in these areas of ministry.

Pastor Sam Davis, SEC president, stated that Brian and David brought freshness to these very serious and pertinent issues and they have been a blessing to our workforce here in the SEC.

David Robertson commented on the commitment of the workforce in the SEC to address these issues and how attentive and involved our workers are in ensuring that safeguards are in place to protect the ministry and our children.

Bryan Craig stated that he felt inspired and enjoyed the participation of the ministers and the focus that they placed on the issues.

Protecting the ministers and our children is the goal of the SEC.

DR RICHARD DE LISSER

Newport Health Fair makes a difference

To mark the start of the BUC's 'Make a Difference Week' on Sunday 21 September the Newport church held a Health Fair in the Eveswell Primary School, just over the road from the church building. The event was advertised widely and two large banners were placed either side of

the main road, inviting members of the public to come in. Major exhibitors included the Adventist Book Centre, with both food and books on offer; The Stroke Association; Cardiff University's Hypertension and

Cardiovascular Risk Factor Clinic; a CHIP presentation stand run by Newport elder Even Green; and a healthy food demonstration put on by Welsh Mission Health Ministries sponsors Lil and Irving Saunders.

The main attraction outside the school, in the bright sunshine, was



Loren and Gareth Courtney in the cab of the Maindee fire engine



Pastor Jan McKenzie, event co-ordinator and Newport pastor



Paul Poddar from the Stanborough Press has his blood pressure checked



Vera Machell joins in the fun

a shiny red fire engine generously loaned and cheerfully manned by the crew of the Maindee Fire Station. Children were allowed to climb into the cab, wear helmets, and operate the fire hose, and selected adults (including one senior member of the Newport church and one Mission president) were also allowed to join in the fun.

The serious business of health awareness was addressed inside the school. Maggie Munney and her team from Cardiff University took numerous blood samples and provided reports on people's blood sugar, cholesterol and triglycerides, as well as blood pressure and a pioneering measurement of arterial stiffness. 'People need to be aware of their baseline measurements, and know what the numbers mean,' she said. 'Education is important, but once people know the facts they need to move on and do something about changing their lifestyle.'

Tess Saunders, Information Officer with The Stroke Association, had numerous pamphlets and leaflets highlighting the major risk factors associated with strokes.

Wholesome food, low in salt and fats and high in vitamins, was available free from the healthy kitchen. Members of the public were unanimous in their appreciation and many were surprised that vegetarian food could be so tasty.

The organising team was particularly grateful to Paul Poddar and Stuart Sly, who got up very early to bring the ABC stand down from Grantham.

Since the construction of the Gallivan LIFEdevelopment Centre inside the Newport church, the members have taken an extra special interest in health matters. This event was designed primarily to bring simple health principles to the general public, but also to let them know that Adventists care about their local community.

PASTOR JOHN SURRIDGE

Dr Sabes meets alumni

by Helen Pearson

Dr Sabes, Newbold's new principal, has had a meeting with a group of retired British church workers led by Pastor Martin Bell. For the first time this year, they held one of their meetings at Newbold. Since the majority of the group had studied at the College, they were keen to meet the new principal and invited Dr Sabes to address them alongside two former Newbold staff members, Dr Harry Leonard and Dr John Woodfield.

Dr Sabes shared with the group her vision to improve Newbold's service to the Trans-European Division and to improve community outreach at home. She invited alumni and church members with ideas to come and enjoy a 'free lunch' with her.

Dr Sabes stayed on to meet and mingle with the members of the group and was treated to a taste of 'Newbold past' as Dr Leonard spoke about the history of Sylvia's Garden and the need for further funding for its restoration. Dr Woodfield, his wit and wisdom seemingly untouched by age, then shared reminiscences of his life as a teacher and showed examples of his painting and carving. Dr Sabes presented all the visitors with an illustrated history of the garden.

The group welcomed Dr Sabes enthusiastically, describing her as 'enthusiastic', 'friendly', 'spiritual' and 'so easy to talk to'. 'We didn't have principals who hugged people before!' said Mrs Peggy Vine, a student at Newbold during the early 1940s.



A loving gift

Not long ago, Newbold School enjoyed the opening of a brand new library block named in memory of Maurice Brooks, the head teacher who had the vision to plan and had built this new facility to extend and

enrich the resources available to the children at the school. It was intended that this building should also house a computer suite to be used by all the children in the school.

In memory of a loving wife, mother and grandmother, Elaine, the Emmerson family, long supporters of the school, having had two genera-



Determined!

He's only 17 but he's already a trailblazer for young people. He's chosen a path that his father says he will never regret because it is always the right decision. Ndala Tolosi is our trailblazer. On the afternoon of Sabbath 30 August, he sat silently, ready to demonstrate that he was 'not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ'. Incidentally, this is his favourite text from Romans 1:16.

Bhekimpilo Nyamambi (Bheki) is a determined person with her mind made up. She had come 'this far by faith' and nothing – not even her swollen, bandaged ankle which made her reliant on crutches – was going to stop her from being baptised. She was wearing her usual big smile, the first thing one sees whenever she greets people.

It was an exciting time for everyone present, and as Cambridge church elder Althea White observed, it was also a very emotional time for many people. In presenting both candidates, ministerial student Edison Williams told the congregation that he had been studying with Bheki for a number of years. 'She has asked a million questions,' he said. Speaking of Ndala, Eddie commended his parents for their Christian influence and dedication to teaching Ndala the Scriptures when they rise up, throughout the day and when they lie down. He declared that Ndala's action was a powerful example for other young people to follow.

Clad in their baptismal gowns, young Tolosi, as we like to call him, and Bheki shared a poignant moment declaring their full commitment to Jesus in baptism. The congregation joined in singing their favourite songs, and family members shared their favourite Scriptures as the candidates were baptised by Pastor Claude Lombart.

DELOECIA WHITE

tions educated there over the years, very generously donated sufficient funding for the school to be able to install a twelve-screen computer network in the library, including the further networking of all other computers in the school to the same link.

The children now have regular use of all this up-to-the-minute equipment and enjoy extending their

learning throughout the curriculum in this very vital and enjoyable way.

Staff and children of Newbold School would like to say a sincere thank you to the Emmerson family for their very kind generosity, enabling the school to keep abreast of modern technology in order that the children can extend their skills in this essential area.

PAT EASTWOOD



Newbold's week of spiritual emphasis

Trusting human beings is not the easiest skill to learn; trusting God can be even more difficult! As September merged into October, Newbold students and staff learned more about trusting God during a week of spiritual emphasis.

A wide variety of worship options were available on campus during the week. Weekdays began at 8.45 with 'Morning Breeze' – a fifteen-minute worship before classes. Days finished at 9pm with a variety of challenging and spiritually diverse programmes. A range of interactive activities, including craftwork, film clips, musical items, testimonies, prayers and illustrations, helped to make worship a meaningful and thought-provoking experience. A third opportunity for spiritual development was 'Just Prayer,' a short time in the evening when people simply came together to support and pray for each other. Tastefully decorated, the Student Centre became a haven of trust. A large wooden cross reminded everyone of Christ's sacrifice for sinners.

Head of Social and Spiritual Activities Geert Tap explained the choice of theme. 'We chose the theme of Trust as the follow-up after we opened the year by thinking of "Friendship" at the College retreat in Cornwall. To become real friends, trust is essential. At the same time, being part of the Newbold community, "trust" is an important ingredient which either breaks or makes a community.'

To encourage participants to think about their spiritual journeys, the organising team had invited MA Theology student, Patty Miranda, to arrange a labyrinth – a mini spiritual journey in Salisbury Hall. In candle-light and against a background of tranquil music, the path led individual seekers on a spiritual journey where they encountered music, meditation, art, media and symbolic activities at interactive stations. Audio prompting challenged participants to rethink their relationships with themselves, other people, the planet and God.

Albanian MA student Ermira Kollarja was moved by her labyrinth experience. She said 'It was beautiful. I cried three times. When I dropped the stone into the water, it felt as though Jesus was beside me lifting the burdens from my shoulders. It was so real.'

The Monday evening craft session encouraged students to use paint, pens and plasticine to illustrate what trust means to them as individuals.

Licence in Theology student Marko Rasic spoke on Wednesday evening about life being similar to a stone that gets heavier as more stress and problems are added. He challenged the students to trust God in all situations, even when life seems out of control. He said, 'Let go of your anger, your hurt and your fears. Make a decision to leave your stone at the foot of Jesus Christ. He is able to take the burdens of life. He



Harrow baptism

On Sabbath 1 March Harrow church members, families and friends witnessed three young people publicly committing their lives to Christ when they were baptised at Wembley church. The candidates were Liz Chaungu, Idris Lamina and Chipampe Mulombe. The service was conducted by Pastor Perry, assisted by Pastor Michael Anim who carried out the baptism. All the candidates have taken an active part in Harrow church, assisting with the children's Sabbath School, helping to conduct song services and running the audio visual equipment. At the end of the service Pastor Perry called upon the congregation to recommit their lives to Christ and during an altar call prayed with those who came forward.

ROBIN PECK

Community awareness march: 'Health is wealth'

On Sabbath 6 September the morning started out cloudy and grey. This day was planned by Personal Ministries to reach out into the community at Rainham Branch Community church in Essex by

Stratford members (the mother church).

The march was led by the Stratford Pathfinder drum corps, led by Charmaine Weekes and Natalie Simon. The event was organised by

pancakes, Swiss rolls and so forth, which everyone enjoyed.

On behalf of Aberdeen members, Sonja Eikum thanked everyone who made an enormous effort to travel from all over Scotland to sing their hearts out. She said, 'God was surely praised. The echoes of their voices were heard in the surrounding area and proved an awesome witnessing tool!' Fourteen-year-old Chloe Mukisa from Glasgow said, 'We had a really great time and also got to know each other better.' Mission Youth sponsor Pastor Marcel

Ghioalda said, 'This was by far the best attended, and attracted the most feedback and enthusiasm from

those who participated. It has surely earned its place in our annual calendar of events.'

SONJA EIKUM

Praise Day for Scottish youth

The British Union's most northerly church recently hosted a Scottish Mission Jam & Scones session. On 27 September, Aberdeen church was bursting at the seams on Sabbath afternoon when over a hundred young people gathered from all over Scotland to worship God together. Four microphone stands were crowded with eager singers, while a good number of instruments led the

worship. They included guitars, mandolins, violins, trumpets, keyboards and cello, to name only a few. A repertoire of traditional hymns, choruses and popular action songs raised the spirits of those who worshipped! It was moving to see over a hundred young people praising God and enjoying it! Between sessions there was a good spread of scones, muffins, soup, hot dog rolls,

is able to take all your stones.'

Newbold church senior pastor Patrick Johnson spoke on Thursday evening. He suggested that it is not only we who should be trusting God but it is God who expects us to be trustworthy. We are entrusted to share the Gospel message to others. He challenged the students to be trustworthy in all their dealings with friends, family and colleagues. The week concluded on Friday evening with an agape supper for staff and students in the Church Centre.

The Week of Spiritual Emphasis is held each semester and is

designed to encourage students and staff to slow down and reflect on their spiritual journey with God. Geert Tap says it is a very important week in the college calendar. 'It may be the first time a new student has been involved in a week like this and we hope that it will be a catalyst for the beginning of a new life in Christ.'

**The Labyrinth initiative was originally created by Youth for Christ; a Billy Graham founded Christian charity. Pictures of these events can be found on the Newbold website at www.newbold.ac.uk.*

ANITA KELMAN and HELEN PEARSON



ROS FARRELL

ASNA trustees needed

Adventist Special Needs Association (ASNA) is a registered charity based in the UK, providing services to families and individuals with special needs and disabilities. These services include short respite breaks, information, advice, training and resources. We also provide disability awareness and education training programmes for volunteers and professionals, supporting and enabling people with disabilities. We are currently recruiting trustees with a keen interest in enabling people living with disabilities and special needs to reach their potential and live a happy and Spirit-filled life. If you are interested in supporting ASNA as a trustee with skills or experience in management, strategic development or trusteeship, please send a CV by email to asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk or by post to 65 St Helen's Avenue, Benson, Oxon, OX10 6RU. For further information please call Sophia Nicholls on 01491 833395 or 07768 298 297.

SOPHIA NICHOLLS



Crossfire at Brecon

by John Surridge, president, Welsh Mission

The September Brecon Camp is usually a quieter and more relaxed affair than the one held at the end of May. The darker evenings and the misty autumnal mornings create a different, more contemplative atmosphere which this year presented the perfect backdrop for three thought-provoking talks by our guest speaker David Wright.

David's theme for the weekend was 'Crossfire' and during the first meeting, late on the Friday evening, he graphically illustrated the word by setting fire to his flipchart! Though the flame was quickly extinguished a smouldering trail continued to burn – eventually cutting out the shape of a cross.

Over the next two days David presented three challenging talks, all focusing on the Cross. On Sabbath morning he told the story of an attempted execution in Devon where an innocent man managed to escape being hanged. Although innocent of the crime he was tried for, his later life proved that he was very much a sinful human being. This story was compared and contrasted with the actual execution of Christ – an innocent man in every sense of the word.

In his following talks David presented 'a tale of two chickens' – referring to Peter and the cock that crowed, and 'a view from the Cross' – imagining just who and what Jesus saw during those last few hours before he died on the Cross. After considering Mary, John, the other disciples and the centurion, he left us with the challenge, 'Where do you stand?'

In contrast to this year's May camp, we were blessed with good weather for the weekend. For a change, many of the hundred or so people who made up the Sabbath morning congregation were able to sit outside in the sun. In the afternoon a large group went off hiking to a beautiful waterfall – some even jumping in! The moonlight on Saturday evening, while not quite bright enough to read by, encouraged many to stay out late talking, fellowshiping, enjoying the company of new friends.

Particularly welcome at the camp were two groups of young people from outside the Welsh Mission –

one from the Newbold area and one from Cornwall. Some of these had been with us in May and now feel very much part of the Brecon family. A marquee set up especially as a café provided a social area for all the young people present and was hailed as a great success.

Though the focus of Brecon camps is shifting somewhat – from a mainly family camp to a family and youth camp – this is being well received. The leadership and sheer hard work of camp organiser and Welsh Mission Youth sponsor Jeremy



Tremeer is particularly appreciated.

More than ninety photos from the weekend can be seen on our website at www.adventistwales.org. To experience a Brecon Camp for yourself make a note in your diary – Friday 22 to Monday 25 May 2009.

About the speaker . . . David is a lay preacher from Winchester. He and his wife Corinne have just celebrated their 35th anniversary. He has two grown-up children, Emma and Simon, and just this year Emma gave birth to Finley Bob, making him a granddad for the first time. David has worked as a science teacher in London; worked in outdoor education and training for fifteen years with International YMCA and also as a Community School Manager for thirteen years in Hampshire. At present he is an Education Officer at Hampshire County Council. For several years he served as a youth and Pathfinder leader/trainer for the church, and also five years as an Ecology and Ethics lecturer at Newbold College. David loves nature and the countryside. In his free time he goes on long hikes around the UK.



Lockleaze chooses life

We never expected a warm and sunny day in late September, but our prayers were rewarded with just that. On Sunday 28 September, North Bristol church hosted an outdoor concert at Gainsborough Square, Lockleaze, in Bristol. The square is situated at the heart of this community and was the ideal setting to launch a lively gospel concert.

Entitled 'Choose Life', this concert was aimed at introducing and raising the profile of the North Bristol church in the locality. Due to the good weather, people came from their homes, on their way from shopping or from the local pub, curious to hear the melodious voices exalting the name of Jesus. Such was the impact of the singing that a local resident, Paula McNama (a former Catholic), was moved to sing a well known hymn, 'How Great Thou Art', which she had not sung since her childhood.

Instrumental in organising this concert, Dwight Sinclair, outreach leader, explained that the concert 'gives us the opportunity to identify with the community'. He went on to say that this approach is using a method that Jesus used, in that he befriended people before sharing the Word with them.

Those who performed included not only Channels Only, Susan Watt, the North Bristol Praise Team and others, but young teens also delivered very impressive performances that brought applause from church and non-churchgoers alike. The event was also supported by the local church members who gave out tracts and spoke with members of the public.

This outdoor concert is the beginning of a series of outreach activities that are being planned for the New Year. In the meantime, as a result of this event, there have been requests for a dedication service which, we hope, is the beginning for those in our community to choose life.

SHILOH HARMITT



Pastor C. D. Baidam (1922-2008) d. 2 September

little later than the other students that year and a young lady, Jean, who hailed from Bournemouth, 'noticed' him. Jean went to work as a Bible worker in Oldham and then to Torquay and Exeter. Denys graduated in 1948 and was sent to work in Glasgow.

After the statutory two years of denominational employment Denys was granted permission to marry Jean, and did so on 7 July 1949 – a happy union which lasted 59 years. Denys worked in Dundee with the evangelist Pastor Ken Lacey. Lacey inspired Denys to become an evangelist himself. Then there was a move to Dunfermline where Denys and Jean were pioneer workers charged to raise up a church. Denys constructed a church building for the fledgling membership. It is still in use today. Then the young family moved to Stirling and, finally, out of Scotland to Cardiff in 1956 where Denys served as the Welsh Mission Youth director. From Wales he was called to Birmingham and pastored in the Camp Hill church, conducting evangelistic campaigns in the Birmingham area. A move to Leeds

followed, where Denys spent eight happy years as pastor and evangelist. Following a pastorate in Manchester, the Baidams moved back to Scotland – to Edinburgh and finally back to Glasgow. Denys served over twenty years in total in the Scottish Mission. At a BUC Session Denys, then aged 64, was elected Union Ministerial Association director, 'the pastor's pastor'. He served in this position with distinction. He was a minister to whom young pastors looked with admiration and respect and was ideally suited to represent the SDA Church to the British Council of Churches. He was a proud Seventh-day Adventist and wore his denominational badge with pride. He always looked for similarities with fellow Christians rather than concentrating on what divided us from them. He really enjoyed mixing with clergy of other denominations and forged many lasting friendships. His other Union portfolio was that of Stewardship and Trust Services director. Again he wrote many wills for our church members with meticulous detail. He finally retired aged 73. Denys served Newbold church as its first

Cyril Denys Baidam was born on 25 February 1922. When Denys was only 9 he went with his mum to evangelistic meetings being run in Grimsby by Pastor Clifford Reeves. His mother was baptised into the Adventist Church and his father followed at a much later date. On leaving school, Denys secured a job with a firm of solicitors and must have been appreciated because the senior partner offered to sponsor him to study to be articled as a solicitor. But the Church was more important to Denys than the law. After the war years he went to study at Newbold Revel, Rugby. Denys arrived at college a



Pastor Michael Logan (1951-2008) d. 26 August

another friend gave him the gospel of John, the Holy Spirit moved on his heart, especially after reading 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son . . .' (John 3:16). He and his wife Evelyn attended a Bible study group run by this same Christian friend and both their lives began to change. Following the departure of these friends to the USA, Michael and Evelyn heard about another Christian group that was meeting on Saturdays. They decided to go along one Saturday and met Seventh-day Adventist pastor, John Freeman and his wife Ethel. Pastor Freeman was travelling from Dublin to Shannon to conduct this Bible study group. After learning that Mike had a great deal of interest in Bible study Pastor Freeman invited him to teach the group and gave him the book of Bible studies, which turned out to be the Sabbath School lesson quarterly. Mike agreed to teach the group and then discovered that the first lesson was on the subject of the Sabbath. Starting in the book of Genesis, he studied the subject until four in the morning but could not find where the Sabbath had been changed. From this time Mike and Evelyn began

to keep the seventh-day Sabbath. Working for an engineering firm in Shannon, he requested his Sabbaths off. For a time all went well, but then the firm asked him to work on Saturdays. His Catholic work colleagues supported his request and threatened strike action if the management would not give him the time off on Sabbath. It was agreed, and Mike and Evelyn's prayers were answered.

Michael chose to spend his life in full-time ministry from 1989 and the family moved to Newbold College. When he completed his studies at the end of 1991 he commenced his internship with Pastor Ian Sleeman in the Weston-super-Mare/Taunton district. During this period he had the experience of working with Pastor Dalbert Elias and did much to build up the membership in Taunton. Returning to the Irish Mission in August 1993 he served in Dublin and Cork. In Cork he was a well-known figure among the Christian community and built up the small group of Adventists in the city. Ordained in 1998 he continued his service within the Irish Mission until June 2006 when he moved to the

elder for many years and it was during his time as head elder that the new church building was erected. He continued to preach and lead out when asked and did so with great dignity and composure, always being very well prepared.

At 82 Denys took up landscape painting for the first time. His artwork was really wonderful. He had a great interest in Celtic history and often referred to the fact that the ancient Celtic Church kept the seventh-day Sabbath. The writer went to visit Denys in the Coronary Care Unit of Frimley Park Hospital just a couple of days before his death on 2 September. Although obviously unwell himself, his concern was for his beloved Jean and her broken arm. He is survived by Jean and his two sons, Dr John Baidam and Dr Andrew Baidam. His funeral was conducted at Newbold by Pastor Patrick Johnson and the writer, and a tribute was given by Pastor Don McFarlane. He was laid to rest in the Binfield church cemetery and awaits the call of the Life-giver, Jesus, to restore all things and reunite him with his family.

PASTOR IAN SLEEMAN

Jean, John and Andrew Baidam and their families are immensely grateful to all those who have supported them in so many different ways over the past few weeks. They have greatly appreciated the huge number of cards, emails, texts, phone calls and visits which they have received.

Welsh Mission and took up a new pastorate in Carmarthen.

Late in 2007, while spending Christmas with the family in Cork, he was diagnosed with a brain tumour. In the subsequent period he demonstrated great courage and faith and was an inspiration to those many friends and colleagues who visited him during the period of his illness. His son, Michael Jnr, spent three weeks with his father just prior to his death and his daughter Joy and his wife Evelyn were at his bedside when, mercifully, he fell asleep on 26 August 2008.

The funeral service on 29 August, in the Newmarket-on-Fergus Seventh-day Adventist church, was conducted by Pastors Don McFarlane, David Neal, local church pastor Tony O'Rourke and the writer, and attended by ministerial colleagues from the Welsh and Irish Missions and the South England Conference. The committal followed in Mount St Lawrence Cemetery, Bally Simon Road, Limerick. Relatives, church members and friends from other denominations were there to celebrate the life of this contagious Christian, Pastor Mike Logan.

Michael is survived by his wife Evelyn, his children, Michael Jnr and Joy, his grandson Bryan and seven sisters and their families.

We look forward to the grand reunion when Jesus returns.

PASTOR ALAN HODGES

<1
Baptism in Sheffield city centre

leaflets in less than thirty minutes. The procession climaxed outside the City Hall where the watching crowds were treated to a drum display by the West Midlands Drum Corps. Pastor Tejel then baptised the three Pathfinders. 'I had the privilege of baptising three Pathfinders outside the Hall,' he stated, 'this being the biggest evangelistic moment of the day because we did it in front of the people of Sheffield.'

The closing ceremonies took place in the Oval Hall, during which a Rally Day badge was sent to

Pastor Delroy Foster in recognition of his services to Pathfinding. The day ended with a surprise item from the North-west Drum Corps who raised the roof when they switched off the lights and played the drums with luminous drumsticks.

Pathfinder director Trevor Thomas is excited: 'The NEC Pathfinder and Adventurer Rally Day gets progressively better. I am going home tired and worn out but extremely happy at the success of the day, especially as many other Pathfinders came forward asking to be baptised, including my own son James.'

The next NEC Rally Day will be on 19 September 2009.

Golden couple

Swindon church has celebrated a very special golden wedding anniversary. Married on 1 June 1958, Larry and Inez Holgate have been blessed with six children, seventeen grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The couple met after church one Sabbath in St Thomas, Jamaica. It was not love at first sight, but after Larry started helping Inez with Bible lessons they fell in love and got married within a year. They were married by Pastor Carter in Morant Bay, St Thomas, Jamaica, and came to England in the early 1960s. They have lived in Swindon ever since.

Pastor Mick Smart presided over a thanksgiving service for the couple. Many cards and gifts from family and friends were given at the well-attended service. The couple were surprised when their children and grandchildren arranged a stretch limousine to take them to the service.

PETER YESUDIAN



BUC Adoption and Fostering Network

The purpose of the network is to provide a forum for counsel, advice, moral, spiritual and pastoral support for families and professionals involved with caring for other people's children while working in the context of the British Union of Seventh-day Adventists.

The Fostering and Adoption Network has four basic objectives, which are:

1. Establish a support network for carers.
2. Provide an Adventist forum for professionals interested in the fostering and adoption area.
3. Promote fostering and adoption as a valid option for Adventist families.
4. Seek to continuously adapt to the varying needs of carers and professionals.

Why? Because all carers need support. While agencies and local authorities offer support, it often lacks any spiritual dimension, and may fail to understand the importance and centrality of faith.

Who is it for? People involved with, or who have thought about fostering or adoption.

Who is it by? Presenters include Heather Haworth, BUC Family Ministries director; Bernie and Karen Holford, SEC Family Ministries directors; Jeff Couzins, pastor; Carole Williams, member of Kennington Community Fellowship and network originator.

Where? Staverton Park (off the A425), Daventry, near Northampton.

When? Friday 5 December to Sunday 7 December. Please book before 7 November.

What? Seminars include: What a network means to you; Stress in the family; Anger and conflict resolution; Child development; Faith growth; Coping as a carer.

How much? Cost per couple – £210; to share a twin-bedded room – £115 per person; single room – £128 per person.

For more information and booking forms contact Family Ministries Department, BUC Offices, Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ; tel: 01923 672251; email: dtompkins@adventist.org.uk.

JEFF COUZINS

Notice of death

Elizabeth Lethbridge, second wife of the late Albert Lethbridge, died at Thousand Oaks, California, on 13 October. Elizabeth, maiden name Bessie Buck, was a Bible worker in the British Union for most of her working life.

KEITH LETHBRIDGE

ABC BOOK SALES

November

- 9 Manchester 10.30am-2pm
- 16 Harper Bell 10.30am-2pm
- 23 Lay Bible workers' retreat, (N'hampton)

ABC Shops

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

Messenger

Volume 113 • 23 – 24 October 2008

EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

DESIGN: DAVID BELL

COPY FOR No. 25 – 3 November 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

Send high resolution pictures to: dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk

ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900

Mon-Thurs only, 8am-5.30pm.

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

ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

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

	Land	Card	Notf	Edin	Bell
Oct 24	5.48	6.00	5.49	5.50	6.04
31	4.35	4.47	4.35	4.34	4.49
Nov 7	4.23	4.35	4.22	4.19	4.35
14	4.12	4.24	4.11	4.06	4.23

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Cost to member supplied in bulk to churches £6.

Single copy subscription by post £13.

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