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Harper Bell talent

by Jacqueline Halliday-Bell

'Harper Bell has talent' was an event staged by Key Stage 2 children, full of singing, instrumentals, mime and a special acrobatic choreography by head boy, Samuel Edwards. The event showcased the God-given talents of the students and raised funds for drama group costumes and the PTFA. The generous-sized audience enjoyed a pleasant evening.

Harper Bell Adventist school in Birmingham held two graduation programmes in July. The first on 14 July covered Nursery to Year 5 students and the second on 17 July was particularly to recognise the success of the Year 6 students who have recently moved on to their secondary education in a range of schools across the Midlands. At both programmes, certificates were presented to those who were moving from one foundation to another. For each year group, certificates were awarded to those whose behaviour and performance had excelled. The audience of parents, relatives and friends celebrated all the presentations with cheers and clapping.

Birmingham City Councillor, Ms Hamilton, presented some awards and commended all the children, not just the prize-winners, for their efforts and good work. Marcus Dove supported the event and said a few words of commendation to the children, explaining that in his previous role as BUC treasurer for fourteen years he was more often used to dealing with figures than words.

The school theme song, 'A More Excellent Way', closed the proceedings.

A few days later, on 19 July, a baptism took place at Camp Hill church. Fourteen souls were baptised, an event witnessed by a packed church of friends and family supporters. Some of these had travelled from as far away as Holland and Venezuela to be present.

Harper Bell talent night, graduation and baptism >10

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Should sex be fun?

Justin Thyme asks before it's too late

Two old men, sitting on a park bench. The sun was smiling. Trees, blossoming bounteously and our dear feathered friends warbling winsomely. Idyllic.

'Ere Fred,' says Jim, 'Spring ain't 'arf bootiful!'

'Yus . . . but . . . sex is more bootiful!'

'True,' sighs Jim. 'Yet spring comes more often.'

God created male and female, blessed them and told them to procreate, fill the earth. No argument about that. Then came the Fall and, because Eve disobeyed, she was told that thereafter her childbearing pains would be pretty grim.

Now here's my question. Perhaps not a 'good' question (whatever that is) but a tricky one (something we've always wanted to ask but aren't):

Why is sex so pleasant?

We can accept the problems of dealing with pain and sorrow. Accept that there's 'no gain without pain'.

But why, after our representatives had mucked it all up — are we able to enjoy life?

Take food. Supposing our daily staple was only grass? Day after boring day, *ad infinitum*. Very few *happy*, chip-loving bunnies then I'm sure. So why? A simple answer:

God is good. A loving Father.

And as Philip Yancey argues, pleasure is one of the greatest philosophical arguments against atheism. 'A good and loving God would naturally want his creatures to experience delight, joy and personal fulfilment.' *Soul Survivor*, page 54.

Sadly, nevertheless, it's all become sexagerrated. Sexual intercourse is a God-given way of expressing emotion between a male and a female who love one another. A reflection of God's love for us, and therefore sacred. Holy matrimony.

God is a jealous God (an advisedly used adjective) because sex can be a form of idolatry. God knows the scourge of promiscuity, adultery and fornication. His crowning glory is not honoured by unnatural acts of sex, perversion and shameful, animal-like behaviour. If you're in any doubt (God forbid!) then look up

a vernacular version of Romans chapter one. No ambiguity there. How should we deal with those who have such problems?

Remember that God loves the *pur*-son, but not their *pur*-suits.

What we all need is an: 'I-AM-BIG-uity' in our lives. God wants nothing better than to 'live' (in Spirit) within us. That conception must surely actuate all our behaviour, our thoughts — our everything.

Our twenty-first century is sex mad. Paedophilia angst, rife pornography. Sex shops in many a big town. Lap dancing, striptease, curb-crawlers. More sexually-transmitted infection clinics. Even soap ads have sexual innuendos. God's 'heart' must be broken a million times a day!

What other bee have I in my nightcap?

Fashion! A centuries-long crazy catwalk of fickle fashion fads. How did it start? From that curious question: 'Who told you that you were naked?' And you don't need to phone a friend for the answer. It's one of those queries that started the first must-have fash accessory. Fig leaves.

One recent fash-fad icon that irritates me is bare belly buttons. An odd little cavity, that seems nothing



more than a grit/fluff gatherer. But I am a spoil-sporting cynic. Statistics worry me.

Twenty-one schoolgirls in Britain become pregnant every day!*

Let me finish (get the giggle-suppressants handy!) with a final sermon-sentence I heard of, that I'm hoping was completely rhetorical:

'Brethren. Are we going to sleep with the Foolish Virgins, or stay awake with the Wise Ones?'

No comment.

*The Sex Education Show, Channel Four (October 2008)



Saints of the second fiddle

David Marshall

The instrument Adventists find hardest to play is second fiddle.

In that we have a lot in common with the disciples of Jesus. Though, in some ways, their reasons were different from ours.

Imagine the scene. *Be there for a moment*. 'The evening meal was being served.' The disciples had been playing the me-for-the-top-job game. Then there was a very awkward pause. The disciples first looked down their noses at one another. Then, suddenly, no one could meet anyone else's gaze. The awkwardness continued as they joined Jesus at the table. Jesus broke the awkward pause himself. 'He got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel round his waist.'¹

As always, Jesus and his disciples had spent that day in rudimentary footwear tramping on unpaved roads fouled by animals and ankle-deep in garbage. At the evening meal it would have been the job of their host, had they had a host, to make provision for their feet to be washed. It was about hygiene. It was about comfort. It was about washing away the cares and detritus of the day. The host would not have done the foot-washing himself under any circumstances. He would have delegated the job to a servant or slave. Indeed, there is a document dating from shortly after the time of Christ which states that *Jewish* slaves were not to be called upon to undertake so lowly a task. So a Gentile slave would have to have been found.

Unusually Jesus and his disciples were using a rented room for their special meal. There was no host. There were no slaves.

So who would undertake the unpleasant task? The disciples were all ready to play *first* fiddle. No one was practising for second fiddle. Jesus prepared to do it.

A wife might wash the feet of her husband, and children of their father, but it was an act of extreme devotion. In an emergency, disciples might wash the feet of their disciple-master. However, the emergency did not exist in which it was appropriate for the disciple-master to wash the feet of his disciples.

Hence we share the outrage of Peter who forbade Jesus to wash his feet. The response of Jesus? 'I'm about more than meets the eye

here, Peter. One day soon you'll understand.'² Peter forbade Jesus in even more emphatic terms!

Only with the 20:20 hindsight of the Cross can we understand Christ's reply to Peter — and, therefore, the full significance of what Jesus was doing; 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.'

That was not about hygiene or etiquette. It was about sin and salvation. It was about the love of which God alone was capable. It was about the love that took Jesus to Calvary.

The prophecies won't do it. The law won't do it. Only Calvary will do it.

As long as we imagine we can get by without Christ's cleansing we are not saved and we cannot be saved.

The foundation truth of Christianity is deeply politically incorrect. Jesus, God's Passover Lamb, submitted to slaughter on our behalf. That being the case, there is no way of being saved other than 'Jesus Christ and him crucified'. None. Jesus says, 'Unless I wash you, you have no part with me.'³

Adventists have tended to be scathing about the many-layered hierarchies of the Catholic and Anglican communions. The best we can say of the Adventist hierarchy is that it doesn't do dressing up. But, despite lots of talk about servant leadership, second fiddle is not a popular instrument among us.

Unnoticed and out in the churches are leaders (pastoral and lay) who are rarely seen at sessions, are never on committees and, typically, are seen at big church events, if at all, in corners counselling the broken and the 'unseated'.

Will you permit me to honour three such brethren of former times?

I give you Desmond Murtagh who, with a twinkle in his eye, once asked me if I knew he was '59th in line to be the conference president'. And I give you Victor Hall, one of the most gifted and visioned pastors of his time but who was content to serve in the ranks — *with distinction*. I give you Ron V. Edwards — brilliant, bookish, people-friendly and close to Christ.

Blessed, I say, are the saints of the second fiddle.

Those saints are *not* a brotherhood, how-

'Humility does not consist simply in thinking cheaply of oneself, so much as in not thinking of oneself at all - and of Christ more and more.' Keith Brooks.

'Genuine humility is unconscious. God's workmen must be so emptied of self that they are unconsciously humble.' Watchman Nee.

'The humble man feels no jealousy or envy. He can praise God when others are preferred and blessed before him. He can bear to hear others praised while he is forgotten because . . . he has received the spirit of Jesus who pleased not himself, and who sought not his own honour.' Andrew Murray.

'The only hope of a decreasing self is an increasing Christ.' F. B. Meyer.

ever. By no means. Had there been women at the Last Supper, I strongly suspect that there would have been no awkward silence. They would have been in there with the towels and bowls!

In the gospels of Matthew and Mark the narrative of the Last Supper is immediately preceded by the account of an outrageously humble action by a woman which embarrassed the men so much they protested!

Male or female, to be 'the greatest among us' is to be (in the words of Hudson Taylor) 'a little servant of an illustrious Master'. In the heavenly country only little servants will sit at top table with the illustrious Master. There will be a tendency for hierarchies to be turned upside down then. 'The first shall be last,' right?

References:

¹See John 13:1-9; verses 2 and 4 are the ones quoted.

²See verse 7. ³Verse 8.



Enhancing Health

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

Brain Health Series

Part 9f

Emotional Wellness – The Stress and Trauma Impact

We all experience emotional pain at some point in our lives, and stressful moments are common to most of us. However, persistent stress, mental fatigue and anger affect our mood and behaviour and, ultimately, our outlook on life.

Medical research continues to demonstrate the connection between longstanding stress and holistic wear and tear. The consequence of poor response to stress and trauma not only has emotional effects but also negative physical impact. Studies show the chemical changes that take place in the brain when we process negative thoughts. Neurological tests also demonstrate the

energy drain that occurs in the body, affecting muscle response, co-ordination and reaction time. Science concludes that as more negative emotions become part of our daily lives, it leads to premature

damage of our cells. Stress, feeling out of control, anger, fear, grief, sadness and depression all have a negative effect on our cells and immune system, leading to further disease.

Over 150 years ago E. G. White stated: 'The mind needs to be controlled, for it has a most powerful influence upon the health. The imagination often misleads, and when indulged, brings severe forms of disease upon the inflicted.' *Mind and Health*, page 397, *Mind, Character and Personality*.

With effective stress management, social and lifestyle changes can usually restore physiological and psychological balance. This is not necessarily the case when someone becomes traumatised. 'Traumatisation is stress frozen in place — locked into a pattern of neurological distress that doesn't go away by returning to a state of equilibrium.' (Healing Resources info.) This requires professional intervention.

Fact:

Positive thoughts create positive feelings which motivate positive actions.

Positive beliefs influence our whole approach to life.

Our feelings, thoughts and beliefs can be changed from negative to positive.

Traumatic life events can be difficult to deal with. Individuals going through these require support (sometimes professional help) to enable them to deal with the memories, find positive coping mechanisms and move forward with their lives.

Exercise:

Identify your feelings, thoughts and beliefs and how they impact your response to life events.

Instead of believing that you always fail at tasks, try stating that you do the best you can with the help of God.

If you see yourself as being helpless in any given situation, realise that you can take control and that God is ultimately in charge.

Good health!





On the brink . . . ?

With Dr Patrick Lowe*

Dr Lowe discusses the economic meltdown and concludes: 'Is it time that important things should give way to essential things? . . .'

' . . . upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity . . . '

These are indeed distressing and perplexing times. If we were not living through each dramatic moment ourselves, we could be forgiven for thinking the world had stumbled onto a multi-million dollar movie set assembled for a fantasy thriller.

The scenes that we are witnessing could scarcely be more alarming or dramatic. But this drama, an epic tragedy, is like no other in recent history. The pedigrees of its key actors are graded as *awesome*. Idolised for their high intellect, high earnings, and the high-rise, prime-site skyscrapers they occupy, the investment bank magicians hold centre stage. These conjurers of wealth, versed in what to most others seem like sayings from a different dimension, utter 'splendid' mantras like 'securitisation, credit-default swaps, and collateralised-debt obligations', causing entranced devotees, otherwise known as serious investors, to swoon, cuddling their wallets.

Those were the good times. Few publicly acknowledged that lesser times were at hand and, when they hit, the punch was packed with unexpected ferocity. In response, governments around the world fought desperately to fend off bank meltdowns. Stock markets continued to nose-dive, wiping billions off share values. Investor confidence collapsed and mind-numbing sums were infused to shore up the battered system. There was panic and some loss of control.

Observant Bible students have long recognised that the conduct and control of international systems of trade and finance were intrinsically linked to end-time events.²

Since the earliest times, the strength of powerful, secular nation states was determined by their military competence and social cohesion. Wealth was also a critical factor. Money makes money, remunerates the military, and ensures the existence of a so-called 'middle class', the educated stratum forming the engine, brains and base of successful secular societies. Nations became 'distressed' when their wealth, might or morale was diminished. The same is true today. Little can distress a nation more than the onset of an economic crisis that threatens its ability to maintain its place and status in the community of nations. Perplexity or exasperation quickly follows when the chaos remains resistant to revival.

Amazingly, financial markets have been behaving like twenty-first-century prophets of doom foretelling deepening crises ahead. This

resonates well with our end-time world-view. The markets show that despite the frenetic, best efforts of governments, the infusion of billions have failed to shore up confidence in the stock and money markets. Furthermore, the credit crisis continues to be contagious, threatening global repercussions.

Whether these events prove to be short-lived or longer lasting, they have made unambiguously clear a host of sobering facts:

- At any time in September to October, a catastrophic collapse of global monetary and banking systems could have occurred.
- Trade, both local and global, could have been paralysed, spreading despair.
- Countless businesses, big and small, could have gone to the wall.
- Millions living in affluent English hamlets or desperate third-world enclaves could soon have lost their main sources of provision.
- Shops and supermarkets could soon have found themselves unable to restock shelves.
- Without the ability to move currency around the world and from business to business, the world's capability to buy and sell could have ground to a halt.
- Almost overnight, the world could have been driven to a scenario from which, in end-time prophetic terms, anything could develop.

This is not loose talk. Academics tasked with reading global economic runes prophesy of gloom for some time to come. These extraordinary developments have even seen nations on the brink of bankruptcy.³

As the people of the world stand on the brink, many of the people of God find themselves on the brink with them, caught up in the human side of the crisis. There are mortgages for homes and churches, bank loans for our businesses and building renovations, and, of course, the prevailing uncertainties of unemployment as employers struggle to find credit for their cash flows.

The scale and magnitude of overwhelming times like these ought to remind us that God's people also stand on another brink: 'We are standing upon the threshold of great and solemn events. Prophecies are fulfilling. Strange, eventful history is being recorded in the books of heaven. Everything in our world is in agitation.'⁴

With respect to the signs of the times, Jesus instructed his followers to watch, discern, pray and respond.⁵ This means that as watchmen we must closely track events as they unfold across political, economic, social, military and religious

realms. Our church halls must become community forums that schedule, promote and host Bible study events, current affairs analysis and discussions on the relevance, context and end-time significance of everything going on around us. This is not new doctrine. The Advent movement has always been thus: a means by which God can retune the inhabitants of Earth to holy things.

But never forget, ' . . . the powers of earth and hell arrayed themselves against Christ in the person of his followers.'⁶ We are to expect no less today. We should not be surprised at the identities of those who line up to oppose what God would have us do. Important things must give way to those that are essential. At the top of the list must be renewed efforts to *rightly train* our young people, providing them with a sound spiritual base, a love-embracing relationship with their Maker, and the end-time world-view that we have been entrusted with and commissioned to deliver to others.

Some say that only alarmists attempt to determine end-time significance from the current, ongoing mayhem. But it was for times such as these, when living history seemed to align with Bible prophecy, that God's people, you and I, were instructed to watch out for.⁷ Watching involves far more than being mere onlookers. Let's be clear, Jesus told his followers that they would not know the day or hour of his appearing. However, in the same discourse, Jesus instructed his followers to know the times. God's end-time people were to be the most skilled in reading the records of history, in discerning the changing seasons of world affairs, and in recognising when his coming was near.

The events we now experience, allowed by God, might be signalling stranger things that are about to follow, or it might be another wake-up, get-up, do-something call from a merciful God to those who have slumbered, slept and are still snoring. These events may simmer and disappear. Our duty is to recognise them for what they are, and treat them as a rebuke to our state of unreadiness.

As the end-time marches on, the enemy's malignant mind remains hard at work devising more successful ways to belch out his falsehood, torment and deceit. So while we watch unfolding events with keen interest, and redouble our efforts to train and up-skill our children and young people, let us not forget that at times when world news is saturated with one or two events, more significant ones might be trying to slip by unnoticed.

¹Luke 21:25 (KJV). ²See: Daniel 11:43; James 5:1-8; Revelation 13:16, 17; 18:11-19 (KJV). ³Iceland on the brink of national bankruptcy over bank crisis. (Accessed 9 October 2008). <http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/breaking-news/world/iceland-on-brink-of-national-bankruptcy-over-bank-crisis-13994580.html> ⁴Testimonies vol. 6, p. 14. ⁵Luke 21:29-36 (KJV). ⁶The Great Controversy, p. 39. ⁷Mark 13:33-37 (KJV).

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Food for thought about food for children

Submitted by Dr Clemency Mitchell*

The following material is taken from the chapter 'The Child' in *The Ministry of Healing* by Ellen G. White, the book which was the inspiration for the NEWSTART programme. It was written in 1905 and, although the language may seem old fashioned, the simple principles it teaches are very up to date. A return to these 'old fashioned' principles would go a long way towards reducing our current health-destroying epidemics of obesity and eating disorders.

Too much importance cannot be placed upon the early training of children. The lessons learned, the habits formed, during the years of infancy and childhood, have more to do with the formation of the character and the direction of the life than have all the instruction and training of after years.

Parents need to consider this. They should understand the principles that underlie the care and training of children. They should be capable of rearing them in physical, mental and moral health. **Parents should study the laws of nature.** They should become acquainted with the organism of the human body. **They need to understand the functions of the various organs, and their relation and dependence.** They should study the relation of the mental to the physical powers, and the conditions required for the healthy action of each. To assume the responsibilities of parenthood without such preparation is a sin.

The more quiet and simple the life of the child, the more favourable it will be to both physical and mental development. At all times the mother should endeavour to be quiet, calm and self-possessed. Many infants are extremely susceptible to nervous excitement, and the mother's gentle, unhurried manner will have a soothing influence that will be of untold benefit to the child.

Mothers who desire their boys and girls to possess the vigour of health should dress them properly and encourage them in all reasonable weather to be much in the open air. It may require effort to break away from the chains of custom, and dress and educate the children with reference to health; but the result will amply repay the effort.

The importance of training children to right dietetic habits can hardly be overestimated. The little ones need to learn that they eat to live, not live to eat. The training should begin with the infant in its mother's arms. **The child should be given food only at regular intervals,** and less frequently as it grows older. It should not be given sweets, or the food of older persons, which it is unable to digest. Care and regularity in the feeding of infants will not only promote health, and thus tend to make them quiet and sweet-tempered, but will lay the foundation of habits that will be a blessing to them in after years.

As children emerge from babyhood, great care should still be taken in educating their tastes and appetite. Often they are permitted to eat what they choose and when they choose, without reference to health. The pains and money

so often lavished upon unwholesome dainties lead the young to think that the highest object in life, and that which yields the greatest amount of happiness, is to be able to indulge the appetite.

Parents should train the appetites of their children and should not permit the use of unwholesome foods. But in the effort to regulate the diet, we should be careful not to err in requiring children to eat that which is distasteful, or to eat more than is needed.

Children have rights, they have preferences, and when these preferences are reasonable they should be respected.

Regularity in eating should be carefully observed. Nothing should be eaten between meals, no confectionery, nuts, fruits or food of any kind. Irregularities in eating destroy the healthful tone of the digestive organs, to the detriment of health and cheerfulness. And when the children come to the table, they do not relish wholesome food; their appetites crave that which is hurtful to them.

While the children should be taught to control the appetite and to eat with reference to health, let it be made plain that they are denying themselves only that which would do them harm. They give up hurtful things for something better. Let the table be made inviting and attractive, as it is sup-

plied with the good things which God has so bountifully bestowed. **Let mealtime be a cheerful, happy time.** As we enjoy the gifts of God, let us respond by grateful praise to the Giver.

Parents should early seek to interest their children in the study of physiology and should teach them its simpler principles. Teach them how best to preserve the physical, mental and spiritual powers, and how to use their gifts so that their lives may bring blessing to one another and honour to God. This knowledge is invaluable to the young. **An education in the things that concern life and health is more important to them than a knowledge of many of the sciences taught in the schools.**

Above all things else, let parents surround their children with an atmosphere of cheerfulness, courtesy and love. A home where love dwells, and where it is expressed in looks, in words, and in acts, is a place where angels delight to manifest their presence.

Parents, let the sunshine of love, cheerfulness, and happy contentment enter your own hearts, and let its sweet, cheering influence pervade your home. Manifest a kindly, forbearing spirit; and encourage the same in your children, cultivating all the graces that will brighten the home life. The atmosphere thus created will be to the children what air and sunshine are to the vegetable world, promoting health and vigour of mind and body.

*Dr Mitchell is a General Practitioner in Berkshire.

Seven simple steps to get your children to enjoy healthy food

1. **Learn to enjoy healthy food yourself.**
Example is the best teacher. Training yourself to like healthy eating will also give you the confidence to guide your children on the same path.
2. **Curb their taste for processed sugars.**
Sugar keeps children on an emotional roller coaster, causes disagreeable behaviour and continually sets off cravings for more and more sugar.
3. **Teach them to like pure water.**
Children need liquids, but they don't need calorie-laden, high-sugar soft drinks and juices. Clear water leaves room for good food.
4. **Substitute whole grains for the processed ones.**
Wholegrain breads, brown rice and whole-wheat pastas should be your grains of choice. You may have to start with half and half and keep adding more of the good stuff until you eventually reach 100% whole grains.
5. **Eliminate random snacking.**
If your kids are full when they get to the table, they won't want the good foods you've prepared. Make sure they're hungry enough to eat what's put in front of them.
6. **Help them learn to like nutritious fruits and vegetables.**
Carrots and apples only taste sweet to children who don't eat a lot of sugar. Serve vegetables when children are hungry and fresh fruit for dessert.
7. **Offer only good, healthy choices.**
Don't give them anything but nutritious foods. If their only choices are natural whole foods, they'll eventually prefer them.



Adapted from Moss Greene at www.bellaonline.com, 5.12.03

Miracle building for New Life

by Augustus Lawrence

After searching for a permanent home since its inception in 1987 the New Life church in north London now has a new miracle home. Finding suitable and affordable property for a church in north London is almost impossible. Members cannot compete against property developers in

this highly priced market.

The members had been looking at a former YMCA building situated on Lennox Road, Finsbury Park, which was on the market at a price of £1.1 million. With £400,000 in their building fund it was an unreachable goal. Nevertheless, members recognised the need for a

building they could use both for worship and community evangelism and made it a matter of special prayer. Pastor Augustus Lawrence received a surprise through the post when estate agents contacted him to let him know that the property was going to auction. He attended with SEC treasurer Earl Ramharacksingh and SDAA treasurer Steve Okelo. Earl promised to match the money raised by New Life members.

While church members prayed at

home the property went to auction on Tuesday 7 October. However, a few minutes before the auction began the auctioneers put it out for bidding. Earl Ramharacksingh got expert advice to make a pre-auction offer. After a few minutes of adrenalin rush caused by our anxious waiting for a response from the vendors, the offer of £890,000 was accepted instantaneously. The members are rejoicing in answered prayer and looking forward to refurbishing their new home. Watch this space!

Stanborough Park church: A new era begins

words and photos by Natalie Davison



Pastor Nathan Stickland explained the purpose of the new service

On Sabbath 13 September, Stanborough Park church started a new era in its long life. For the very first time it ran two worship services at 11am on the same premises. The traditional family service continued as usual in the sanctuary with an inspiring sermon by church elder Brian Davison and a musical contribution from the Stanborough choir who sang 'God and God Alone'. The children were told the remarkable story of the parking ticket machine which tried to claim £1,900 from Cecilia Davison!

Meanwhile, in the Cedar and Sycamore church halls an air of anticipation was growing as the chairs laid out for those attending filled up rapidly. The children entering the room were delighted with the crayons they received (courtesy of Pizza Hut in Garston) to colour in the picture handed out by the ushers. As Pastor Nathan Stickland stepped up to the microphone the hubbub died down as we all were welcomed. We then listened while he



Pastor Dejan Stojkovic spoke of spiders and a vacuum cleaner

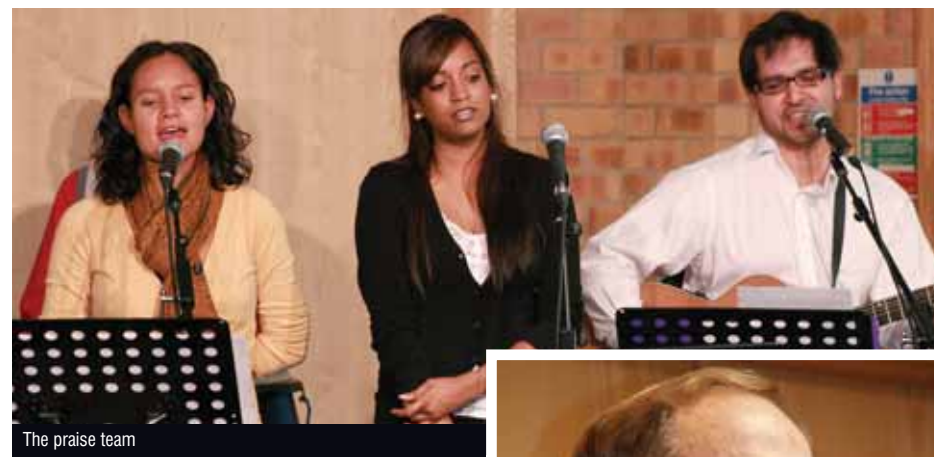
explained the purpose and aims of the new service.

Following praise time everyone received a 'life-saver' sweet, much to the surprise and delight of the adults as well as the children! As mouths were quiet we listened to Pastor Dejan Stojkovic tell us the story of the spider family and the vacuum cleaner. Dejan had everyone laughing with him and then, as usual, he expertly wound up his sermon with the message that Heaven isn't obtained by our own efforts.

The intention of the ministerial team was not to make the church members choose one camp over another but, instead, to increase the options for Sabbath morning worship, taking account of the differing styles of worship suggested by the more than 300 attending members and regular visitors. Supported by the entire ministerial team, the organisers of the new services have fully involved the youth of the church, with youngsters taking on jobs such as ushering, audio-visual responsibilities (sound, PowerPoint, lighting and so on), praise team participation, music accompaniment and worship committee participation.

The services do not run every week. The whole church membership meets in the main sanctuary once a month for a youth service; and on special occasions, such as harvest thanksgiving, communion, baptisms and so forth, everyone is united in the main church.

The aim of the services is not just to provide a choice of different styles of worship for those who attend Stanborough Park church, but to provide a



The praise team



Uriel Herinirina



David Balderstone



slightly more informal setting in which lapsed members and friends can feel comfortable worshipping. There is a growing number of 20- and 30-somethings who, after many years' absence, are now returning to church to bring their babies, toddlers and young children to Sabbath School. Some still haven't quite made that step back into church, preferring instead to send their children with the grandparents! However, it is these folk that the parallel service organisers would especially welcome. They hope that the format and setting will make them feel more at ease, while still facilitating meaningful worship.

The next service was held on 25 October with speaker Nathan Stickland. Future speakers are Mary Barrett (8 November), Phil Yates (15 November), Joanna Evers (22 November), and Paul King Brown (29 November). Please feel free to attend on any of these dates or see the church website for more information: www.stanboroughchurch.org.



with Jonathan Barrett



Nelson Mandela and Angelina Jolie?

I'll do my best not to talk about global financial pain. It has been covered elsewhere.

Instead, something else in the news caught my attention. First of all, a question for you: Which four people (within the last hundred years) would you say best represent goodness and compassion? According to the Swedish public, they were Angelina Jolie, Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi and U2 singer Bono. I was surprised at the choice of Angelina Jolie and Bono, until I did a bit of googling and now realise that both of them have been busy, not just as an actress and singer respectively, but also in humanitarian work.

Anyway, photographs of these four people have been used in a new glossy magazine-style Bible called *Bible Illuminated: The Book*. When published in Sweden, the edition boosted Bible sales by 50% in 2007. The New Testament version of *The Book* will be released here soon. If we follow the example of Sweden, it will be sold in fashion shops, art galleries and design stores.

Will it be as popular here as in Sweden? It could be, as our level of secularism is similar to theirs, and I suspect our choice of photographs of people representing goodness and compassion is likewise similar.

I said I would try not to talk about financial issues, but I am going to allow myself just a few words. I wonder, in these changing times, if the British, mostly non-church-attending public will be more open to spiritual things than they were a few months ago? Could it be that Christianity, if it has the kind of packaging that is likely to appeal to them, will now begin to have a place in their lives? Packaging has a small but nonetheless important role. What is of more value is what the Bible actually has to say to people. On that score, the words of Jesus are always relevant, but maybe especially so to those who are looking for security in something other than finances:

'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.' John 6:35.



'You can't love your neighbours unless you know them!'



Members of All Saints, Wokingham, an Anglican church about three miles from Newbold, can see more of their churchyard than they could a week ago. The transformation is thanks to a group of students and staff led by groundsman, Andreas Lamberth, Newbold Students' Association president, Thomas Rasmussen, and Newbold principal, Dr Jane Sabes.

Last Friday, eighteen students, accompanied by the groundsman and the principal, and armed with gardening implements, spent an afternoon in the graveyard of All Saints, Wokingham, helping to clean up the churchyard. The work was arranged in response to a sign, posted in the churchyard, calling for volunteers to assist with cleaning up the environs of the parish church. Many of the headstones date back to the early nineteenth century and have become overgrown with the passage of time.

A thank-you note from All Saints churchwarden, John Smith, says: 'The difference in the section that has been cleared is dramatic. It is a

long time since we've been able to see the monuments and tombs in that part of the ancient churchyard. We hope now to be able to get a mower in to keep the re-growth down in much of it and to cut back other re-growth before it takes over again.

'The tending of the formal flower bed and the cutting of the grass has also made a big difference and means that our own volunteers can move on to other tasks at our next work day.'

'One of the goals of the 2008-9 Newbold Students' Association is to be actively involved in the wider Binfield community. I believe that making a difference starts with the small things that nobody else particularly wants to do,' says Thomas Rasmussen.

'You can't love your neighbours unless you know them,' says Dr Sabes. 'For many of our students from overseas, this is a valuable way to connect with and serve their community.'

'Newbold has a lot to offer'

A small Viking invasion hit Newbold College during the first week of October. Thirty-eight senior students from Vejlebjergskolen, the Adventist secondary school in Denmark, came to get a taste of life on this side of the North Sea.

The trip was organised by Vejlebjerg's Psychology and English Literature lecturer, Scotsman Robert Lindsay. The students were divided into two groups who each spent four days in London and four days at Newbold. Staying on campus allowed the students to interact with current Newboldians and join the campus's spiritual and sporting activities each evening.

Newbold College principal Dr Jane Sabes welcomed the students and made sure their stay was full of activity. Newbold lecturers Peter Balderstone, Tabitha Cedenio, Steve Currow and Marinko Markek gave the teenagers a taste of the subjects they teach – Shakespeare, Diversity Studies, Theology and Business Management, respectively. A library tour (in Norwegian!) led by

Newbold's librarian, Per Lisle, gave them a taste of student academic life with a Scandinavian accent!

As an alumnus of Newbold, Robert Lindsay is keen to bring his students to experience the college and enjoy its Christian academic environment. He said, 'Everyone has been so nice. The students were very positive about the trip to Newbold. They were really chuffed with the Shakespeare hour with Peter Balderstone. They all, without exception, loved Newbold food! Even the carnivores loved the food. They thoroughly enjoyed the Sabbath services too. My feeling is that Newbold has a lot to offer. Being met at the station, a warm welcome, and a good programme goes a long way!'

Newbold College regularly welcomes church and school groups for short-term and extended visits. If anyone is interested in bringing a group to Newbold College, please contact Tabitha Cedenio on 01344 407492 or email tcedenio@newbold.ac.uk.



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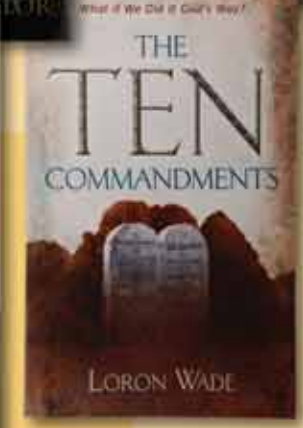
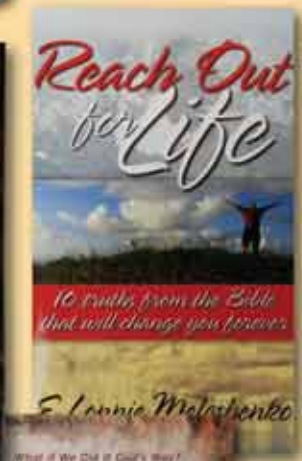
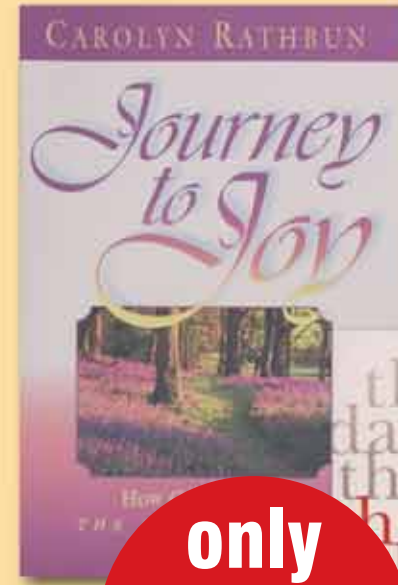


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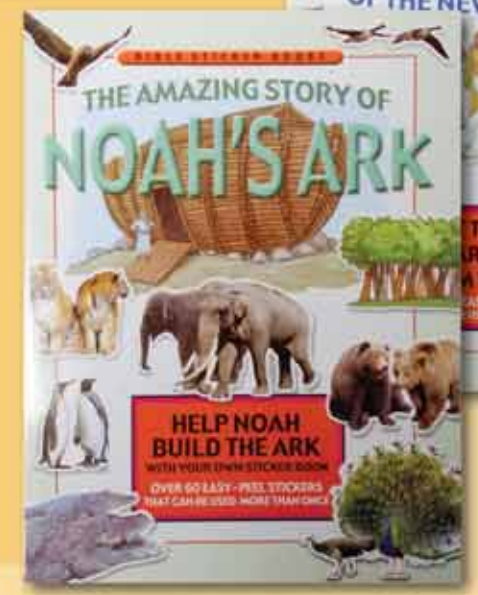
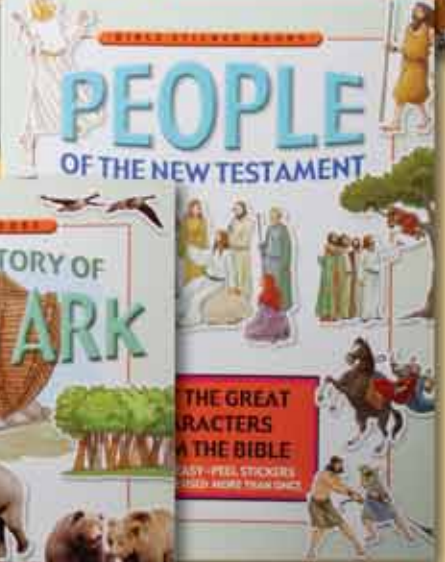
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Lotz on repentance

The 2008 Beach Lecture had a provocative question in its title: 'Repentance: Is it the path to mission and unity?' 'Yes' was the clear and resounding answer from the guest lecturer, Dr Denton Lotz, General Secretary Emeritus of the Baptist World Alliance, as he addressed the audience of staff, students and church members in the College's Moor Close Chapel.

Dr Lotz's wide-ranging lecture began with an exposition of the story of the reconciliation of Jacob and Esau, followed by a look at God's call to ancient Israel to repent as a prerequisite to the healing of their land. Dr Lotz talked about the New Testament calls to repent addressed not only to individuals but to cities and nations, and he completed his biblical survey in Revelation with the admonition to the church at Ephesus, 'Repent and do your first works'. 'Forgiveness and reconciliation,' he said, 'are a biblical imperative.'

More contemporary sources were the focus of the second half of the lecture as Dr Lotz quoted wisdom about reconciliation from the psychiatrist Paul Tournier, the post-war Stuttgart Declaration of Repentance, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. Modern prophetic insights from Abraham Lincoln, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Martin Luther King and George Carey focused on the necessity for repentance both as a cathartic prerequisite for individual and national reconciliation and for the development of the Kingdom of God. Dr Lotz focused particularly on corporate repentance within the Church with regard to racism and called on Western missionaries to give up their colonial activities and turn to a theology of repentance. 'The day of Christianity in the southern hemisphere is dawning,' he said. And he asked another significant question: 'Are Western churches prepared to be re-evangelised by people to whom they sent missionaries in the first place?'

A lively half hour of questions followed the lecture. Questions raised discussions on, among other things, the election of Barack Obama as a national act of repentance, a discussion of the difficulty of repentance, and a decline in its place in liturgy and preaching. 'Do contemporary Christians want faith

Baptism at St Albans

It was a happy day when three young people were baptised at St Albans church. Left to right, Nyasha Rugube, Kerhys Sterling and Debbie Millsop publicly declared their decision to follow Jesus. We give God thanks for young people who are willing to answer the call to follow Jesus and dedicate their lives to his service.

The candidates were given words of encouragement by family members, and there was a glow on their faces as they came up out of the water. Kerhys has now taken up a place at the University of Birmingham where she will be studying Geography. She told us that her spiritual life has always been important to her and that she has experienced Jesus Christ working in her life. Debbie was dedicated as a baby in St Albans church. She has also taken up a



place at the University of Arts in London to complete her BA degree. She told us that it was at summer camp where she took an active role in singing that she decided to accept Jesus into her life. Nyasha is 14 and has an active interest in sports which, he says, is an important part of his life. But this comes second to his decision to follow Christ and have a daily walk with him.

LYNDA INCE

Yulia's story: from Jakarta to Guildford

Yulia's dream came true on the afternoon of 21 June when she was baptised by Pastor Sinisa Horvat.

This is how she told her story: 'My mother is a Seventh-day Adventist, along with my aunt, my grandmother and my great-grandparents (now deceased). My grandmother and my aunt attend the Kramat Pulo Adventist church in central Jakarta, Indonesia. I was born in Jakarta, and I remember attending children's Sabbath School. I loved to sing action songs.' She continues, 'Ever since I can remember, I've been taught in the ways of Christianity and told the stories of Jesus. Since June 2007 I have wanted to dedicate my life to Christ. I began studying with Pastor Vlado Godina. I hope to

offer my services fully to Jesus and his work when I am out of full-time education. I have been studying with Pastor Sinisa Horvat since January. He has helped me to understand the principles and message of the Bible more clearly. He educated my father and me in the history of the Adventist Church. On the afternoon of 21 June, at Newbold College, Guildford church members prepared a beautiful baptismal service for me. Two important items that touched me were when my father read a special Bible passage and Jermaine rendered special gospel music.' Julia concludes: 'I am really glad to have confirmed my faith in front of Guildford church.'

SUNITHA SMITH

without repentance?' asked one participant. 'We're telling the world to repent but they don't see us repenting,' concluded Dr Lotz.

Worship in a diverse Church

The Newbold Diversity Centre began its eighth year with a lecture by one of the Centre's founding team.

Dr David Trim, at present fulfilling his obligations as the Walter C. Utt Visiting Professor at Pacific Union College in Angwin, California, returned to Newbold for a visit and was invited to give the September Diversity lecture. His title was: Liturgy and Community: Worship in a Diverse Church.

In his lecture to fifty staff, students and community members, Dr

Trim began by recognising the varieties of language, class and ethnicity in most contemporary churches. He claimed that most of our church debates on worship are 'based on instinct rather than prejudice'. He said he was not going to deal with specific questions about whether loud amens, applause or guitars are appropriate in worship but rather wanted to ask two questions: What do we intend to do in worship? and What are we trying to accomplish?

His sixty-minute lecture focused on principles which, Dr Trim argued, were fundamental to worship regardless of cultural bias. Worship he said, is God's primary requirement of his people. It should generate a strong sense of the transcendent and numinous. It should appeal both to the mind and the senses. It is a way to strengthen the identity of the Church by building relationships between fellow believers and the wider community. In all of these ways, it is vitally important for the mission of the Church.

Dr Trim offered various scriptural models for worship which, he said, is always liturgical, either intentionally or unintentionally. 'Whenever people worship they create liturgy. The challenge is to have meaningful rituals instead of meaningless rituals. Ritual is only bad when it becomes meaningless.'

A full copy of the lecture can be found on the Newbold College website. www.newbold.ac.uk

Harper Bell talent night, graduation and Camp Hill baptism continued from page 1

A number of the candidates were among the recently graduated Year 6 students from Harper Bell School. After acknowledging their transition between junior and secondary schooling, they were now also stepping out to a committed walk with Christ.

A number of special items were sung, and family and friends read favourite Scriptures, predominantly taken from Psalms.

Mrs Ollette Lawrence-Plummer, a former 'child' of Camp Hill, has spent several years of her adulthood living on the European continent, making her fluent in German. She felt blessed during the baptism as her German husband, Manfred, had travelled to be present for the occasion. Although not an Adventist himself, he was clearly moved by the immersion.

Along with Ollette were Annette Walker, Alan Smith, Karlene Agard, Honest Ndhlovu, Dorothy Bursey, Kevin Murandu and Locksley Brown.

Married couple Jonathan and Rose Karemera were baptised together in the pool. They are originally from Rwanda and have now settled in the UK. After the service Jonathan said he felt he had found truth in the Bible messages shared by his Adventist friends when they had visited him and studied the Scriptures with him. He had found followers of the Adventist faith to be good, caring people back in Rwanda

and felt that he now had a renewed life in Christ.

Hannah-Mae Gordon, a former pupil at Harper Bell and now in Year 8, is a young person who has grown up at Camp Hill, having been dedicated at the church as a baby.

The baptised Harper Bell Year 6 graduates were Laquaan Parchment, Rojuane Irish, Cameron Fuller, Talitha Jackson and Jenai Higgins.

Talitha was baptised by her father, Pastor Jackson, who had



Left to right: Amber, Tanesha and James



Pastor Jackson and Talitha Jackson



Pastor Nicholson and Kevin Murandu

travelled from his current ministry in the Turks and Caicos Islands. In a short interview after the ceremony Talitha said she felt as though she had a new life. She reflected that she was happy to be freed from sin through Jesus. Talitha, clearly a popular pupil and much loved by her family, was successful in her appli-

cation to a local grammar school. She had over thirty visitors attend from Sheffield for the service.

Cameron, now also in secondary education, said he felt closer to Christ and enthused that he wanted to follow in his footsteps for life.

Summer outreach in Guildford

Guildford church youth leader Tia organised a witnessing opportunity in the summer. The main emphasis was to sensitise the public to the importance of regular health checks. Three nurses assisted Tia so that blood pressure checks and blood glucose checks were done together to minimise the waiting time. A total of fifty-eight people had these

checks. One individual from the Bangladeshi community was referred to his GP for extremely high blood pressure.

There was also a full table of vegan food displayed for the public to sample, and E. G. White books and health literature were distributed by Guildford church members.

SUNITHA SMITH



Newport baptism

Sabbath morning 30 August was one of the brightest days this summer. Not only did the sun shine, but so did our gratitude and love for each other as we witnessed the baptism of four precious souls won for Christ.

Prior to the personal witness of each candidate, Pastor Jan McKenzie spoke briefly on the importance of being free from guilt and the surety of 'Emmanuel with us', never again to walk alone, stressing the point that baptism is only the beginning of our walk with God.

Each person entered our newly modernised baptistry to the sound of their specially chosen hymn.

Dawn Ryal first came to know us by attending Pathfinders with her cousins. As she grew up she felt the working of the Holy Spirit in her life



'Together as one' was the theme chosen for this year's annual retreat for over eighty Newcastle church members who spent the second weekend in August in picturesque Ambleside in the Lake District. For two years running now, the church has organised an annual retreat which provides an opportunity for members to enjoy some leisure time as a Christian family.

The special focus for this year's retreat was enhancing unity and fellowship within the church family. Newcastle church, like many Adventist churches in the British Isles, has a very diverse membership, with over fifteen nationalities represented, making 'unity' a very fitting theme.

However, at Newcastle, unity doesn't have to mean uniformity! As such, eight families pitched their tents at the Great Langdale National Trust campsite, while twelve families preferred to retain most of their home comforts by lodging in the caravans at Greenhowe Park. Among those who opted for tent camping was the family of Benedict and Mary-Jane Labro, with their six-week-old daughter, Janelle, and boys Jan and Sebastian. 'The caravans are more comfortable, but for a family of five it is more practical and less expensive to stay in tents,' said Mary-Jane after the event.

The wet weather did not deter the enthusiastic holidaymakers from having a great time. Being a weekend event, it included Sabbath, during which a range of relaxing and yet spiritually enriching programmes were shared. Church leader Pastor Sandy Pairman shared a short but insightful message on 'How beautiful it is for believers to dwell in unity'. On Saturday afternoon, Pastor Sandy led a group of enthusiasts to Hardknott, the site of the Roman fort, via the Hardknott Pass. The winding roads, steep climbs and descents proved not to be for the faint-hearted. Unbeknown to the group, the pass on which they travelled boasts England's two steepest roads, each having a gradient of 1 in 3. However, all who dared to make the treacherous journey up the pass to the historic spot enjoyed the breathtaking views along the way.

Due to popular demand and the positive impact on fellowship, Newcastle church booked their 2009 retreat nearly a year in advance. The event will take place at the famous Aberdaron campsite from 25 to 31 May 2009.

VICTOR SAMWINGA

and told her husband all that she knew. After attending church and taking studies they made the decision to follow Jesus together. Mark and Dawn are now hoping that their two children will follow.

Saphra Ross, a student at Bristol University whose family lives in Newport, decided to join with God's people.

Ruth Manyela came along to church with a friend and was impressed by all that she observed.

After studying with Wendy Sammons she decided to join us.

Following a very happy fellowship lunch, members and friends assembled to witness a service of anointing for three sick members. They were L. Green and Ruth Manyela, who had failing sight, and Ray Bell, who suffers greatly from a chronic complaint. During his remarks, Pastor McKenzie emphasised the need for more prayer for the sick.

VERA MACHELL



Third member of Stanborough Park church scores a century

Stanborough Park church has just celebrated the birthday of its third current member to achieve a century, and the second one this year. However, despite the celebrations in mid-October, the Queen was going to be late with her congratulatory telegram as, just like her, Yves Vitry has an official and an unofficial birthday.

Yves was born in the Rose-Belle district of Grand-Port/Savanne in the South of Mauritius on 15 October 1908. However, his birth was registered as 15 November (common practice at the time to avoid fines for late registration), which is when he will receive his telegram from the Queen.

Yves was born into a Catholic family, the fourth of eleven children (six boys and six girls – one boy died in infancy). As a child he didn't like school too much, but once he left school he was tutored by a local retired headmaster who helped him to obtain his teaching qualifications, although for his first employment he was apprenticed to a shoemaker. He soon moved on and learned tailoring which he found more interesting and rewarding.

By the time he married his wife Liliane in 1948 he was employed as a teacher, a profession which gave him the right to travel abroad. So in 1963 he endured a month travelling on *The Ferdinand de Lesseps* to pay a visit to his sister in London. Initially he was homesick and wanted to return straight away but was persuaded to stay for six months, during which time he found tempo-

rary employment as a tailor at Austin Reed. When the time came to return home he was told that if he wanted a permanent job there the company would sponsor him.

Soon after his return home he was surprised to be notified that his work visa had come through and a job was waiting for him at Austin Reed. This was an opportunity he could not turn down so, leaving his family in Mauritius (they were unable to accompany him at the time) and retiring from teaching, he went to live with his sister in Bounds Green.

Liliane brought their three younger daughters and son to join him for a working holiday in January 1967. But she developed breast cancer and, with more specialist treatment and better educational and work opportunities for her family available in England, decided to stay permanently. The oldest daughter joined them the following summer and they set up home in Maida Vale for seven years before moving to Harrow Weald.

By this time Yves had left Austin Reed and was working as a clerk at the Land Registry in Harrow where he worked until he was 70. Liliane obtained work at the telecommunications branch of the Post Office (later to become BT). Four years ago they moved from their home in Harrow to warden-assisted accommodation in Garston to be nearer their family and Stanborough Park church. They have five children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild, most of whom live

in the Watford area.

Yves first came across the Adventist Church as a teenager. His sister Camille was married to a nurse, Ozone, who had accepted the Adventist message. He would ride his bike to visit her, stopping en route at the home of Daniel Cheron who was a lay preacher. Many years later Yves was to marry Daniel's daughter, Liliane. It was the influence of Camille's husband that started the Vitry family studying the Bible and this upset their local priest. However, Liliane Vitry was a determined lady and accepted the Adventist message along with her children, although Yves was the last one to be baptised!

His greatest passion in life has been fishing. He also enjoyed reading and memorised a lot of poetry which he can still recall.

Yves has been blessed with good health and still walks the few hundred yards along the road to church for the weekly services and the Seniors' Club meetings. He puts his long life down mainly to God's good grace towards him and a very active life in the fresh air. His children all attend Stanborough Park church and thank God for the example of Christian living that they received from their parents who celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversary earlier this year.

Yves celebrated his birthday with the Seniors' Club and then with church members after divine service on 11 October. The following day saw a large party at the church for family and friends and the family went out for a meal on his actual birthday. He also featured in the *Watford Observer* following a visit from a reporter and photographer. After all this attention, the eventual arrival of the awaited telegram from the Queen must be an anticlimax!

JUNE COOMBS

Stoke Newington: Something to smile about

Tuesday 1 July was truly a day to remember. Not only because it was the hottest day of the year, but because on this day Southwark Cathedral in London was filled to capacity with parents, tutors and other well-wishers to witness the graduation of 152 of King's College, University of London's newly qualified clinical dentists. Cheryl Stewart, one of our young elders, was among this number, obtaining her Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS).



Prior to this achievement, Cheryl studied at the University of East London under a scholarship award where she received her Bachelor of Medical Biochemistry with honours. This achievement was featured in the *Messenger* dated 19 January 2001.

Cheryl has put her success down to hard work and complete dependence on God. She hopes that her achievements will encourage all our young people to study hard and to give their all in whatever they do.

Dr Stewart shares with us the first mathematical equation that she learned from one of her tutors: PRAYER + HARD WORK = SUCCESS; and to date this equation has never and will never fail. She now practises at the Ark-G Dental Practice in Crayford, Kent, under the mentorship of Dr Apollonius Allen, and is thoroughly enjoying her profession, especially the fact that she is now earning a salary!

Cheryl would like to thank her parents Sam and Kathy, sister Caroline and grandmother Phyllis Stewart for their support, and all her many friends and church family (some from other churches) for their constant encouragement and prayers.

FLO SUTHERLAND

Willesden baptism

The possibility that children who grew up in the Church could remain in the Church all their lives without making a commitment to Christ, or, worse still, that they could leave for the world, was a good reason for Pastor Kirk Thomas to earmark 27 September for a youth baptism at Willesden church.

Neither he nor the church were disappointed. Joshua Steven Henry, aged 12, and Daniel Stewart answered the call on the spot.



Samantha Ranger, who had been a regular visitor, made her decision for baptism a little later.

Willesden church members had the chance to have a double serving

of joy as the Portuguese church had joined forces to baptise one of their members.

The mission continues.
MICHELLE RONDOLF

Youth Day at Gloucester

Gloucester church Youth Day was a really special Sabbath which was enjoyed by all.

The day started with Sabbath School led by our teens and youth. It included the mission spot taken by Nicholas Haynes, who had recently returned from spending two weeks in Romania working with underprivileged children and families.

Pastor Colin Stewart (SEC Youth director) was the preacher for the day. He started by saying how privileged he feels to be Youth director and how much he enjoys travelling round the conference meeting and listening to the young people. He noted the talent among the youth in Gloucester.

The theme for the day was 'Many are called, few are chosen' and was based on Matthew 22:1-14. Pastor Stewart explained that the parable speaks about family – the family of God. He said that the parable suggests

that when people get serious this church will really be full; the community will come into the church. They won't look like us or talk like us but we must be ready to receive them. He believes the church should reflect the community and if it does not, we need to ask why.

The service was interspersed with lovely music by the Youth choir. The youth also took the afternoon service which involved a quiz as well as a very inspiring presentation by Kieran McKenzie and friends about their trip to Jamaica and the bus evangelism.

ANGELA CONNICK



Gloucester baptism

Sabbath 4 October was a high day for the Kelly family in particular and the Gloucester church as a whole. That was the day Victoria Kelly, aged 13, decided to declare publicly her love for God and her desire to follow him by being baptised.

The programme kicked off with a wonderful sermonette by Pastor Ilie Tarlev, based on Mark 16:15-16.

Pastor Tarlev emphasised that baptism was crucial for all believers, primarily because it originated with

Darwin challenged on home territory

by John Surridge

Shrewsbury is famous for being the birthplace of Charles Darwin. Next year it will become the focus for a number of celebrations marking both the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his influential book, *On the Origin of Species*.

In an attempt to get a word in first, the Shrewsbury church has organised a series of three lectures promoting Creationism. Under the general heading 'Darwin's God' these lectures aim to present at least some balance in a society where the mantra 'Evolution is fact' reigns almost supreme.

The first lecture of the series was given on Tuesday evening 14 October in the Gateway Centre, a prominent arts venue adjacent to the city's railway station. The speaker was Kendall Down, an experienced archaeologist and Bible lecturer. In his presentation, entitled 'Just in Time', Kendall showed in some detail how, time and time again, archaeology has proved the reliability of the Bible.

Starting with Voltaire – who in the eighteenth century predicted that the only place Bibles would remain would be in museums – Kendall listed a number of leading figures who had dismissed the Bible as mere myth and of no historical value. For each attack on the Bible, however, archaeological discoveries and technological advances revealed contrary evidence.

After dealing with the Gilgamesh Epic, the Moabite Stone and the Dead Sea Scrolls, Kendall concluded, 'Archaeology supports the authority of the Bible. We need to work with a spade in one hand and the Bible in the other.'

Kendall's lecture style was authoritative and convincing, but also highly entertaining. His collection of photographs from archaeological sites around the Middle East – some of which are no longer accessible – and his obvious familiarity with and love for the subject, endeared him to his audience. Although he spoke for just over an hour the time passed quickly and a number of people stayed behind to ask more detailed questions.

Copies of the special 'Crisis over Origins' *FOCUS* magazine were given to all who attended. Several hundred more have been distributed in the community.

Two more lectures in the 'Darwin's God' series are planned, with astronomer Dr Mart de Groot on Tuesday 11 November, and Old Testament expert Dr Laurence Turner on Tuesday 2 December. All lectures start at 7.30pm. Admittance free. Venue: The Gateway Centre, Shrewsbury.

God as evidenced by the baptism of Jesus. He further explained

that baptism is a public stand for what we believe and also a witness to the world.

Lastly, Pastor Tarlev spoke of two births and two deaths; the first birth and first death over which we have no control, and the second birth and second death over which we do. We can choose the second birth by being born again, which thereby makes the second death avoidable.

Church elder Robert Hinds described Victoria as a child of God

because she was 'conceived in prayer, raised in prayer and surrounded by prayer'.

Her parents, Janet and Neville Kelly, gave a moving testimony on her behalf, telling about her pre-term birth, how she fought the odds in hospital and how from the age of 5 she kept responding to altar calls. Her Uncle Stanley sang 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus' and assured her that her life was now going to take off. Other music was provided by Pam Catchpole and the Youth Choir.

ANGELA CONNICK



Golden Wedding

Earlier this year Denise and Eric Winch, members of the Crieff church in Scotland, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary.

Denise and Eric met at the old Camp Hill church in Birmingham when Eric assisted Pastor Ken Lacey in his follow-up campaign in the church. Denise had attended the Theatre Royal series and she and her mother had been baptised with nearly seventy others, swelling the already established congregation.

Despite Eric's immediate transfer to Newcastle-on-Tyne, they soon became engaged and married in the spring of 1958. When Denise's mother died soon after her wedding, Lesley, her 8-year-old sister, came to live with them for the next five years. Five children, Lorraine, Diana, Paul, Valerie and Helen, were born during those early years of marriage.

Eric spent the first fifteen years of his career in the NEC ministry, working alongside Pastors Howard Parkin, Ken Lacey, Fred Pearce, Amos Cooper and Bernard Walton in Leeds, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle and Nottingham (Long Eaton).

Between 1970 and 1973 Eric studied for three years at Callendar Park College of Education near Falkirk, where he qualified with Merit in the Primary Teaching Course and Upper Primary Associateship.

After nine years of teaching in Scotland the Winches moved to Grantham where Eric became headmaster at Dudley House church school. Denise was part-time secretary at the school and the eighteen years spent there were enjoyable.

Denise and Eric both retired in 2000 and eventually came back to their beloved Scotland. They have already spent six years here in beautiful Perthshire, having been reunited with friends from the past in the idyllic setting of the Crieff church.

BOB RODD

Diamond Wedding

George Powls and Josephine Spencer met while studying at Newbold College between 1944 and 1947. They were married on 9 September 1948 at the Baptist church in Middlesbrough.

The congregation was made up of the Middlesbrough, Darlington and Newcastle Adventist congregations who had all been invited, with eight ministers in attendance. Josie was given away by Mr Robson from the Newcastle church and her sisters were bridesmaids. Pastor Denys Baildam acted as best man, and the service was conducted by Pastor O. M. Dorland, the NEC president at the time. Most of the catering was done by George's mother, with help from the Middlesbrough church members. A catering company was brought in at the last minute to provide more food but due to a mix-up in communication there was a slight embarrassment with a few pork pies nearly being served to the top table. The meal was followed by a lively social with games. The couple then had a honeymoon in Whitby for the sum total of just over three pounds.

They lived with George's parents until they were asked by the church to move up to Glasgow where George worked as a colporteur and Josie in several schools for seven years. During that time they were both involved in the Glasgow church, with George acting as youth leader.

After seven years in Glasgow, Josie was asked to go and teach in the Walthamstow church school, so they moved down to London.



George went to Goldsmiths College for two years studying to be a teacher and then taught for a year at a junior school in London. During this time their first child Wendy was born.

After the death of George's mother they moved back to Middlesbrough to help his father look after his brother Bertie. George taught in Mill Lane Junior School in Stockton-on-Tees until retirement, while Josie looked after their children. After moving they were blessed with three more children – Sharon, Andrew and Graham – who were all born in the home at Stockton. Once the children were all at school Josie went back to work as a nursery nurse.

During the last fifty years they have both been

involved in the Middlesbrough church, with George acting as youth leader, deacon, elder, as well as many other roles. Josie has been a deaconess and treasurer as well as playing the piano and organ for most services. George has also served on the NEC Executive.

They now have four grandchildren, Dominic, Samantha, Damien and Faith, with whom they love to spend time.

A greeting from the Queen was among the cards that they received from well-wishers. To mark the event, Middlesbrough church held a potluck meal and close family gathered together later for their celebration.

GRAHAM POWLS

FRED BYRON FRANCIS (1926 – 2007) d. 25 November. It is with deep sadness that the Francis family announce the death of a beloved husband and father. Fred left his home in Grenada for England in 1957, settling in west London. His fiancée Iris Mascall, originally from Trinidad, joined him in 1958. They got married and began attending the Chiswick church which was at that time under the ministry of Pastor W. G. Nicholson. Their first child, Antonia, was soon followed by Edward, Gillian and David. For over thirty-eight years Fred was an active church member, serving in lay activities, Sabbath School, MV, as a deacon, as Pathfinder leader and in most departments of the church, his last post being head elder which he held for many years. Fred was also a founding member the Adventist Laymen's Forum and was actively involved with the Conference in the development of the Pearson Package. From his earliest youth Fred had a passion for sports (especially cycling and cricket), music, poetry and art and this was reflected in his many hobbies, the main ones being music and poetry. In the church he was a member of the choir, led by Sister Kelly, and later by her son Donald. He also formed a male singing group called The Messengers. As the children matured they too began to develop musically and, along with the

beautiful singing voice of his wife Iris, this combination led to the formation of The Francis Six. Fred wrote well over fifty original gospel songs which were used by the family as a witness, spreading the Gospel through their unique brand of music in Adventist churches nationally and also in other Christian denominations and for a diverse range of organisations. Fred loved people, especially the youth, and always found time to make a joke, listen or offer wise fatherly and brotherly advice, whether at camp, church, or in his home. It was the long-term wish of Fred and Iris to return to the Caribbean, and in 1989 this became a reality when they returned to St Marks, Grenada. They did not retire to a sedentary life, but immediately immersed themselves in the local church life. They were heavily involved in the Clozier church, where he also served as head elder. Fred was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1997 and, although he continued to lead an active life, his health significantly deteriorated in 2007, and after two long periods of hospitalisation in the UK he recovered sufficiently to return to Grenada where he passed away at the end of November 2007. Though greatly missed by his family and close friends, we know he is at rest. Throughout his life Fred remained confident in the blessed hope and

we know that we will see him again on that great and blessed day.

THE FRANCIS FAMILY

KAREN ACKAH (1960-2008) d. 21 May. On 4 June around 500 people crowded into North Bristol church to remember the life of Karen Lucene Ackah. The service was conducted by Pastor Richard Daly with support from St Michael's Hospital chaplain, Veronica Lee, and Pastors Richard Brooks and Ashwin Somasundram. Around a hundred of those who attended were non-Adventists, a fitting testimony to the genuine Christian witness that Karen displayed throughout her life. Karen was born Karen Lucene Grant on 27 June 1960, the sixth of the seven children of Francis and Gladstone Grant. She spent her early childhood with her parents and siblings in Aston, Birmingham. From an early age her love of nursing – which would prove to be a lifelong love – was already apparent, as she would nurse her dolls and model herself in a nurse's uniform. At the age of 10 the family moved to Chelmsley Wood and it was here that the family's association with the Adventist church developed, resulting in Karen's baptism in 1975 along with that of her mother, father and sister. Karen was a dedicated member of Chelmsley Wood church and was known for her kind and generous spirit and her ability to connect with both young and old people. After completing her initial nurse training in Birmingham, Karen moved to Liverpool in 1987 to do a one-year training programme in neonatal nursing. One year turned into fifteen as Karen stayed on at Liverpool Women's Hospital, eventually to become a sister and well-loved team leader. It was in Liverpool that she met her future husband William, who was then a student. They married in 1995 and spent happy years in the city welcoming people from all over the world into their home. Karen continued to be very active in church and the community, holding a number of church posts and developing special relationships with parents of babies who were on her unit, becoming godparents to two of them. In 2001 Karen moved to Bristol to take up the post of matron and clinical nurse manager at St Michael's Hospital where she managed a team of eighty. Her colleagues described her as 'a professional and caring manager who has been instrumental in making the neonatal unit a leading cen-

tre in the south-west region'. On 6 August this year local television and newspapers were present as two new cots were presented to the unit and plaques were placed on them in memory of her work. As in Liverpool, Karen was very active in the church and the community. She held the posts of Children's Ministries co-ordinator and treasurer at Bristol Central church. A keen athlete, Karen rode from Bristol to London on three occasions (110 miles) and raised funds for Action 100 Medical Research and the Adventist Special Needs Association, of which she was a committed board member and fundraiser. In late March Karen was diagnosed with cancer. Remarkably, even from her hospital bed her first concern was for her family and friends. Her witness during her short time in hospital was so powerful that one of her nurses, a former Adventist, has returned to the church in Bristol. These few words cannot really convey how special Karen was. She was able to transcend boundaries of religion, culture and class and reach out to any and everyone. Karen Ackah was a genuine Christian in whom there was no guile. A big thank you for your visits, prayers and support for the family.

WILLIAM ACKAH/CHEARINE INGRAM

FRANCIS ROSS (-2008) d. 29 July. Mr Francis (Frank) Ross passed away peacefully in hospital after a long illness. Frank joined the Fishpool Bury church eight years ago after being contacted by Pastor Peter Jeynes. Frank loved the church and was always giving out tracts and talking to people about Jesus, even on holiday in Blackpool. Frank passed away in hospital and on the day of his death was talking about Heaven and looking forward to seeing his friends there. The funeral service was taken by Pastor Jeff Couzins, Pastor Peter Jeynes and Mr John Barron in the Fishpool church. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Janet and the family.

S. HENSMAN

Rotherham: one year old

On Sabbath 4 October the Heavenly Melodies Choir from Sheffield Burngreave descended on the Rotherham church plant to join us in celebrating our first anniversary. As the members of the choir conducted the inspiring Sabbath School, the entire choir ministered powerfully through a variety of songs. Last September, 2007, Pastor V. Marshall, along with some twenty members from Doncaster and Sheffield Burngreave, officially set up a church in Rotherham. One year later Rotherham's children sang their hearts out as they blessed the congregation with 'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus' and 'This little light of mine'.

As the Holy Spirit led us on this wonderful day, both the Heavenly Melodies Choir and the speaker for the day, Pastor V. Marshall, ministered on the theme 'We are One'. He reminded us that members of the

early Church in Acts were able to sell their property at various times because the believers were of the same mind. In his sermon, he alerted the congregation to the economic crisis presently sweeping the world and therefore reminded the congregation that since Jesus' coming is very near we need to be one. In the afternoon, many of the worshippers shared testimonies of how the Lord had intervened in their lives, how he had protected them from accidents and in moments of need, and how he had opened doors for them. The testimonies blended with more music from the Heavenly Melodies Choir and Rotherham's children. In his message for the evening, Pastor Marshall encouraged the members to press on, looking forward to the prize of eternal life. What a day of rejoicing to see the church in Rotherham revived.

PASTOR VICTOR MARSHALL

Jotsam

Tearful God

'If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well.' John 14:7.

Philip Yancey reports receiving many letters asking the big 'WHY?' question. He writes: 'I tell them I cannot answer the "Why?" questions. I can, though, answer another question, and that is how God feels about their plight.'

When you have seen the tear-stained face of Jesus, you have looked into the face of God.

Adventists welcomed by Churches Together in Wales

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Wales was welcomed into Category B Membership of Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales) at their annual general meeting in

Aberystwyth on Tuesday 14 October. Although the Adventist Church has for many years had a good relationship with Cytûn, this formal step was necessary follow-



Reverend Aled Edwards OBE (pictured right), Chief Executive of Cytûn, welcomes Pastor John Surridge

Administrative Secretary to the Treasury department

The BUC is seeking to recruit a full-time Administrative Secretary to serve the Treasury department at the Union office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ. Applicants will have experience working as a secretary/PA. They should be able to demonstrate high levels of proficiency in the use of office systems and technology, English usage and Microsoft Office software. Successful candidates will need strong organisational and interpersonal skills and should be able to work independently without direct supervision, showing the utmost discretion and tact when handling confidential information. Salary £20-22k, depending upon qualifications and experience.

For a job description and an application form write to: BUC Executive Secretary, BUC Offices, Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ, or email: elowe@adventist.org.uk
Closing date for applications: 12 December.

ing a change in their legal status to a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Pastor John Surridge represented the Welsh Mission at Cytûn meetings for a number of years back in the 1990s and then went on to represent the wider Church at the national ecumenical body, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. Having returned to Wales as Mission president, he is glad to meet up again with former friends from the other churches. Speaking after the meeting he said, 'I was surprised to see so many people I knew from before at the AGM.

Most of them were already familiar with the Seventh-day Adventist Church and a couple of people there even had Adventist relatives.'

The Seventh-day Adventist position on ecumenical relations is that where possible we should have observer-consultant status. When this is not available we should apply for the closest alternative. In the case of Cytûn this is Category B Membership, which allows representatives to attend and speak at meetings, but does not give them voting rights.

Feedback

Questions for evolutionists

Dear Editor

Thanks for publishing 'Crisis over Origins', the latest *FOCUS* magazine. It was very timely and it was great to read that a belief in 'God in Creation' is coming to the fore again, even through scientific discoveries too. I have often wondered about one aspect of evolution which has entered my mind: During what stage of evolution would it be possible to develop eyes when 'they' wouldn't know there was anything to see in the first place or to develop ears when 'they' couldn't realise there was anything to hear either? The same could be said for the sense of smell. What explanation do evolutionists put forward for this? It all seems impossible to me and helps in establishing my belief in the God of the Bible as our Creator.

SAM ALLCOCK, Sutton-in-Ashfield

The firing of Michael Reiss

Dear Editor

'The firing of Michael Reiss' (back page 10 October) is in grave danger of falling into the same error as those being criticised. The impression is given that Professor Reiss is supportive of a creationist world-view. Although he is sympathetic to children who hold creationist views in the classroom, nothing could be further from the truth. Reiss, in his own word, was an 'evangelist' for evolution in the classroom, but changed tack to a more dialogue-based approach as he found that it was more effective in teaching *evolution* to the students (my emphasis). 'I realised that simply banging on about evolution and natural selection didn't lead some pupils to change their minds at all. Now I would be more content simply for them to understand it as one way of understanding the universe.'

Professor Reiss's position was supported by those, such as Professor Robert Winston, who commented when Reiss 'resigned', 'I fear that in this action the Royal Society may have only diminished itself. This is not a good day for the reputation of science or scientists.' It seems that both Reiss and Winston are committed evolutionists who are simply interested in a more subtle approach to teaching evolution. By

discussing and debating with Creationists, they expect evolution to carry the day. In truth this is a much more dangerous attack on Creationism than the blunderbuss of caricatures, invective and faulty arguments espoused by Dr Richard Dawkins.

So it seems that Professor Reiss was more interested in promoting debate in the classroom about Creation and evolution as a vehicle for the teaching of evolution and not, as implied by the article, that he was accepting of Creationist views.

Original article by Michael Reiss

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/blog/2008/sep/11/michael.reiss.creationism?gusrc=rss&feed=education>

How it was reported

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2008/sep/11/creationism.education>

'Creationism' biologist quits job

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/education/7619670.stm>

More interesting than the sensationalist headline would lead one to expect.

The Royal Society supports his position but . . .

<http://royalsociety.org/news.asp?year=&id=8008>

LESLIE HANNA

Editor: We knew here that Reiss is an evolutionist. Sorry if we gave a contrary impression.

Editorials

Dear Editor

May I take this opportunity to thank you so much for your editorials. Fortnight after fortnight you write words from God – words of encouragement, rebuke, words that teach and words that help us to reflect, but always words that show God in a praiseworthy way. Thank you and please keep writing. Our Church needs you.

Postmarked Plymouth

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November

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

ABC Shops

Advent Centre, Sundays 11.30am-3.30pm
Watford BUC, 1st & 3rd Sunday 10am-2pm

Messenger

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Sunset

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

	London	Card	Nottingham	Edinburgh	Belfast
Nov 7	4.23	4.35	4.22	4.19	4.35
14	4.12	4.24	4.11	4.06	4.23
21	4.04	4.16	4.01	3.55	4.13
28	3.57	4.09	3.54	3.47	4.05

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