

# Messenger

News to the churches • 5 December 2008 • Volume 113 • 26

## Headquarters building destroyed by fire

*Photos: Victor Hulbert and Bruce Anscombe*

**Full story by Victor Hulbert on page 6**







**Do you really understand stress, its causes and consequences?**

2008 was a tough year in which to be a Seventh-day Adventist pastor or lay leader. That was especially so in some of our cities. Stress levels have been phenomenal. These stress levels have had health consequences, only a few symptoms of which *MESSENGER* readers may have been aware.

In the next three issues, in a series of articles written by three professionals, we are seeking to enlist the understanding of *MESSENGER* readers. To begin with – for your own sake, and the sakes of your pastors/leaders – we would like you to achieve a deeper level of understanding of stress itself. We need to understand what stressors are and what the consequences can be when these are driven above acceptable levels. . . .

EDITOR



## Stress – a pastoral response

by **Bernie Holford**, MSc in Systematic Psychotherapy  
Family Ministries director, SEC

in our lives. Here are some ideas for resolving relational stress.

**Jesus is in the boat of your life with you.** We need to find ways to experience his presence all the time. 'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly . . . in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.' (Colossians 3:16.) Learn Scripture as a way of listening over and again to the words of Jesus in your life. I find learning Scripture songs, found at [www.trilogyscripturesongs.com](http://www.trilogyscripturesongs.com), the easiest way to do this. Often the storm continues to rage, but the presence of Christ's words helps us not to sink.

**Practise relational prayer** by asking God to give you his words of hope and relational wisdom for those you are struggling with. Look at these people in the compassionate way God views them.

**Show kindness, even to your enemies.** (Matthew 5:44.) David Oliver, who wrote the 'Stress Survival Guide'\* says, 'Express your appreciation for people frequently. When you show kindness, you have it shown to you. People will work with you, not against you. We all might need to resolve conflicts tomorrow; the way we interact with people today will make it much easier to do.'

**Build relationships with**

**supportive people** who know how to 'Rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn.' (Romans 12:15.) Spend time with those who build you up. God has designed us for community and we sometimes get more stressed when we feel we are alone or unsupported.

We are physical beings whose minds are affected by the condition of our bodies. **Exercise is a natural way to counteract the effects of stress.** Exercise outside in nature if you can. God has created us to enjoy his beautiful world and our minds are healed when we take time to connect with him in his Creation.

**Listen to those with the gift of wisdom.** Others can give us a different perspective on the ways we can deal with stress. God never intended us to suffer alone. He has given spiritual gifts to others to help us at times like these.

**Ask God to help you prioritise your time.** Get organised at work and home. Avoid leaving things to the last minute – plan ahead!

Jesus' presence in the boat will not stop the storms of life pounding us, but focusing on his guidance will help us manage our stress so that the peace of God will become part of our lives.

\*Available from Care for the Family on <http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/survivestress> (029) 2081 0800.

# The psychology of stress

by **Wallace Cyrus**, SEN, RPN, MEI, CNA, FCPN, BA, Life Management specialist, writer and broadcaster, having practised in Bermuda, Canada, USA and UK

**S**tress is our reaction to the events of life. It affects us physically, psychologically and spiritually. In this article I will focus on its psychology and psychological effects.

Stress has great short-term and long-term negative effects on all of us. It incapacitates us, it depresses our immune system, it makes us ill – physically and mentally – and it sends countless numbers of individuals to an early grave every day of the year.

In order to deal with everyday living and maintain good mental health, we develop coping mechanisms/strategies. These coping skills range from dealing with family members, difficult persons, or an annoying boss to coping with the death of a significant person in our life.

When we get it right, life is bright and has meaning. We say life is worth living. When we get it wrong, everything seems dark and we may even become unwell (physically and mentally). It is in times like these that depression may set in and we contemplate, or even commit, suicide.

It is surprising how our thoughts can significantly influence who and what we are. Even more stressful are the holiday periods – Christmas, New Year, Easter, anniversaries and birthdays. These are some of the greatest producers of stress.

**Managing our stress successfully**  
Only the dead have no stress, so

everyone needs to learn how to convert negative stress into positive stress and manage it. So how do we manage our stress/anxiety?

We need a positive and healthy self-concept/image. How we see ourselves is very important. We are all important, not because of what we do, or where we come from, our skin colour or our station in life. We are important because we are human beings, made in the image of God. Each and every one of us comes to this world as a self-contained unit, needing only God to make us complete.

We need to take control of our lives and take responsibility for our thoughts, words and actions. We need to stop blaming others for our problems. If life serves you a lemon, make the best lemonade in the world, drink some and sell the rest.

We need to dream and make plans (I did not say daydream). We need to be prepared and have a plan to succeed. When we fail to plan, we have effectively planned to fail.

Next we need to be visionary. 'Where there is no vision, the people perish.' (Proverbs 29:18.) We must each have a vision of and for ourselves and a vision of where we want to go and what we want to do. Aimlessly wandering around will get us nowhere, and nothing but failure and stress will result.

Do not compare yourself with any other human being. Set goals and work towards them. Each of us is a unique individual. There is no one

else on Earth like me or like you.

Do not define yourself in the context of what you do or who you know (definitions in externals).

Take great care of yourself. Looking after your well-being must be your number one priority. You can only do your best at work, rest, play and prayer when you are in good physical, mental and spiritual health.

Use positive self talk to your advantage and stay away from negative people. Avoid negative thoughts and putting yourself down – this is not modesty.

Finally, have principles, take what you do very seriously, but do not take yourself too seriously, and develop a great sense of humour. Laugh every day and always have a smile and a kind word for everyone with whom you come into contact.

I teach a programme called 'Creative Stress Management'. It is designed to help us manage our stress creatively by identifying our stressors, evaluating the stress and identifying creative ways to cope. I use a formula called the 'Q of 3' to accomplish our goals.

1. Whose problem is it?  
2. What can you do about it?  
3. What are you going to do about it?

To help us cope with life and living, we use many psychological tools – sublimation (channel our energies in different areas to compensate – an angry person punches a wall instead of his boss), denial (refusal to believe reality – your boyfriend/girlfriend tells you it is over, but you keep calling and sending gifts) and projection (blaming others or things for our shortcomings – you are late for work because you wasted time, but you blame the traffic) are among the most commonly used.

**In managing our stress creatively and effectively, it is not what happens to us that matters most. It is how we relate to what happens to us that makes the difference.**

### What is stress?

Stress results from an imbalance between the demands on us and our perception of our ability to meet those demands. It is our response – psychologically and physiologically – to events that upset our personal balance in some way. These events or demands we call *stressors*.

If *stressors* involve central aspects of our lives, and if they persist over extended periods, they impact negatively on our ability to function.

Chronic stress over a long period can have a harmful effect on our physical and emotional health. Psychological effects include depression and suicidal thoughts.

Recognise when stress becomes destructive. Try to identify the cause (it will help you work through the pressure). Write down what stresses you – in order of priority – and tackle the causes. Talk to a friend or counsellor: unloading helps. Let go of resentment: it's toxic. Take time to rest and relax. Maintain regular exercise: it burns up excess adrenaline. Nurture spiritual well-being. Remember: 'You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon [God], for you are his personal concern.' (1 Peter 5:7, Phillips.)

SHARON PLATT-McDONALD

# Headquarters building destroyed by fire

Victor Hulbert, Communication director, BUC

A major fire at the headquarters office of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland has gutted the building. The fire appears to have started during maintenance work that was taking place on Sunday 16 November and spread through the roof to engulf a major part of the building.

Fire services were called to the scene at approximately 2.10pm. Ten fire fighters battled the blaze throughout the afternoon and into the evening. Much of the main part of the building was destroyed. There were no casualties or injuries.

Mrs Frances Brooks, manager of the ABC bookshop located at the far end of the building, was the only person inside at the time. She evacuated the building on hearing the fire alarm and was shocked to see smoke pouring out of the roof above the boardroom.

Staff at the office, based on Stanborough Park, Watford, met at the Stanborough Centre on Monday 17 November to draw up contingency plans and to ensure that the work and mission of the Church can continue to move forward as smoothly as possible.

Until what remains of the building is declared safe it is impossible to ascertain how much material has been lost, but all staff have made a commitment to restore a normal service as soon as possible.

Union president Pastor Don McFarlane

stated: 'The fire at our Church headquarters has surely affected operations. However, it is a comfort to know that the work of the Church is not primarily done in an office building but by our many thousands of members through the UK and Ireland in towns, villages and cities where they live.

'We will salvage what we can from the ruins of the building and seek to have a replacement as soon as the attendant factors allow. The sorry state of this building, which for nearly fifty years has stood proudly on Stanborough Park, reminds us that there is no real security in anything that is fashioned by the hand of men. Our security is in God and his plans for the human family.'

The office will be closed until further notice. Phones are still not working, but email service was quickly restored. The server, thankfully, was not damaged in the fire and has been moved to the ADRA-

UK office where we are courteously being provided with disaster relief!

Thanks to the numerous people who have sent messages of support – the staff are very grateful. If you have not had a personal response, we are sure you will understand.

Until such time as the office reopens, the South England Conference Office will take messages on behalf of the BUC on 01923 232728.



Monday morning and all is right with the world – at least for the milkman. Now just where is the fridge we need to put that milk in? Maybe we can just ask the fire brigade to spray it with water from time to time to keep it cool! Photo: Bert Smit

## Dr Maxine Newell

Dr Maxine Newell, a member of the Holloway church, has successfully defended her PhD dissertation study at Loma Linda University, and the degree of Doctor in Public Health has been conferred. Her study, entitled 'Knowledge, Perceptions, Beliefs and Behaviours Related to the Prevention of Hypertension among Black Seventh-day Adventists Living in London', surveyed volunteers from seventeen Adventist churches across London.

The health practices and beliefs of 312 individuals between the ages of 25 and 79 were studied. Twenty-five percent had high blood pressure and, based on their responses to the questions on lifestyle habits, 69% were at risk of developing high blood pressure within ten years.

Dr Newell decided to do this study as a way to measure the impact of our health message on the health status of blacks in London. In

the US, black Adventists have better health profiles than non-Adventist blacks, and studies of SDAs around the world have demonstrated that the SDA lifestyle does positively impact the risk of disease, including high blood pressure.

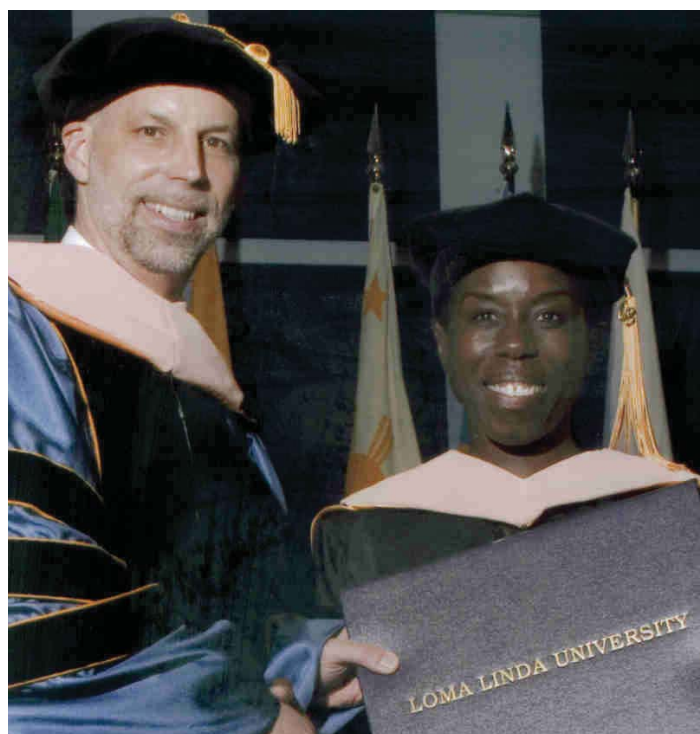
Unfortunately, when the health practices and blood pressures of the London volunteers were compared with the national data of the general black population throughout the UK, the results of her study revealed that black SDAs in London were exercising less, eating fewer fruit and vegetables and using more salt in cooking. Consequently, they have levels of high blood pressure that fall in the middle of the range for blacks in the UK. They have lower numbers than Caribbeans in the UK, but higher levels than Africans in the UK.

Dr Newell will return to London in the near future to give a more

detailed presentation of her findings, but, in the meantime, she would like to encourage us not to squander the

blessing that God has given to us by way of our health message.

DR RICHARD DE LISSER



# Intelligent Design and Darwin's God

by Victor Hulbert, Communication director, BUC

A Dutchman working in Ireland but with his eyes firmly fixed on the heavens was guest lecturer for the second 'Darwin's God' lecture held at the Gateway Centre, Shrewsbury, on Tuesday evening, 11 November. As a former director of the Armagh Observatory, Ireland, Dr Mart de Groot shared his viewpoint of the universe, the Big Bang and Intelligent Design with an audience of around forty people, emphasising with simple illustrations and in lay language that both the universe at large, and planet Earth in particular, are very finely tuned, providing all the essentials necessary for life.

Like Darwin, de Groot started off on an adventure of discovery, not on *HMS Beagle*, but with a similar enquiring mind, pointing a telescope to the skies. After many years of study and research he is convinced that 'The many fine-tunings within the very narrow limits that are required for life point to Intelligent Design.'

He pointed out that if our Earth were closer to the sun we would run the risk of being 'locked in' like the planet Mercury, which always has the same side facing the sun. On an atomic level, he noted that if the electromagnetic force was 2% less or 0.3% more, molecules could not form. Even more dramatic is the velocity of the expansion of the universe. If the mass density of the universe varied from what it is at present by just one part in ten to the power sixty (1 with 60 zeros), we would not be here!

He then posed the question, 'Can there be Intelligent Design without a designer?' Working through the options, he concurred with Einstein, 'Religion without science is blind. Science without religion is lame.' For de Groot, Darwin's God provides the context for scientific discovery and endeavour. His study reflects the words of Psalm 19, 'The heavens declare the glory of God.'

The third and final lecture in the series will focus on the Hebrew story of Creation found in Genesis. Dr Laurence Turner, a theologian who specialises in the book of Genesis, will ask what relevance the story has for the twenty-first-century

world. The lecture will be held at the Gateway Centre, Shrewsbury, on Tuesday 2 December starting at 7.30pm. All are welcome. Admission is free. The 'Darwin's God' lecture series, organised by the Shrewsbury church, serves to explore the world of science and religion leading up to the bicentenary of Darwin's birth in February 2009. Darwin was born in Shrewsbury on 12 February 1809.

The BUC Media team also spent the day in Shrewsbury filming for a Hope Channel production to be aired in February, aiming to give a Christian balance to the media debate on Creation and Evolution. Filming will continue through until early December. The programme will also be available for church members to share with friends who have questions on Creation and will act as a companion to the recent *FOCUS* magazine on 'Origins and Design'.

A selection of photos from Shrewsbury and an mp3 audio recording of the Darwin's God lecture are available on the BUC picture gallery: [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk).

## East Ham Music Day

Just a week before the big day, the invitations were delivered to residents in the vicinity of the church by our Personal Ministries team, led by Damien Jackson.

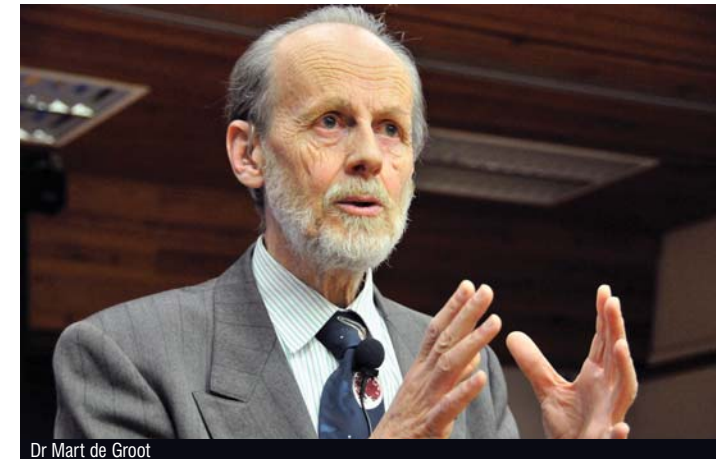
'Sweet Heavenly Music' was the theme of the day. The ensemble, consisting of keyboards, flutes, violins, recorders, guitars and an accordion, provided just that, as the congregation lifted their voices in praise and worship. A stirring message was delivered by Alvin McQueen who encouraged us to choose music to edify and uplift the soul and to give praise where it belongs. The East Ham Senior and the East Ham Youth Choirs delivered messages in song.

Fellowship lunch was provided. To end the day, Pastor Leslie Ackie opened an evening concert with prayer. The hall was packed for the occasion, which featured The King's Ambassadors, Inspire, Advent Singers, Bobby McKitty, The Levites and the Sureway children's group, to name but a few. The host choirs also sang beautifully.

EAST HAM MUSIC DIRECTOR



East Ham Youth Choir



Dr Mart de Groot



Dr de Groot talks to camera



Dr de Groot answers questions



Dr de Groot beneath the statue of Charles Darwin

# Stanborough School Speech Night

Catherine Anthony Boldeau

Photos: Peter Cooper

Stanborough School held its annual Speech Night on Thursday 23 October. The purpose of Speech Night is to recognise the achievements of students and staff during the previous academic year.

The most outstanding achievement of this year was the fact that 90% of the students who sat national examinations received at least 5 GCSE grades A\*-C, with the highest achieving student receiving 6 A\*s and 5 As. Roger Murphy, head teacher of the school, stated that he was 'very proud of the achievements of the young people and felt humbled by the commitment and devotion of the staff at the school'.

In his review of the school year, Mr Murphy highlighted the many accomplishments through the use of the spoken word and a video presentation. In addition to this, special awards were given to Mr Peter Martin, the former head of English and senior master who recently retired after seven years of service; Mr Peter Bailey, the former head of maintenance who worked at the school for twenty-two years; Mrs Janet de Luca who served for thirty-two years; and Mrs Lydia Dean, the outgoing chair of the PTA who sat on the committee for eleven years.

'Seek the truth' was the title of the speech given by Janice Phillips, a lawyer from the Willesden church, who encouraged the students to look for truth in the person of Jesus Christ through their Christian faith.

Musical items during the evening were given by Su Ju Li (piano), Joshua Roberts (saxophone), Troy Campbell and Andreas Papannoui (violin duet), Stanborough Junior School Choir and Stanborough Secondary School Choir with soloist Colin Donaldson.

Apart from the students past and present, parents, friends and well-wishers, we were pleased to be graced with the presence of the chair of the board, Pastor Don McFarlane, and Dr Keith Davidson, the BUC Education director, who are long-term supporters of the school.

Apart from the awards, the highlight of the evening was the speech given by the head boy who had the audience roaring with laughter.

One of the students commenting on Speech Night said, 'It was a great evening, although a little long. I really enjoyed it. Stanborough School has done so much for me.'



## LIFE.info article leads to TV interview

Sunday 16 November's 'Songs of Praise' programme on BBC1 featured Aled Jones interviewing 15-year-old Anna Surrridge, along with her father Pastor John Surrridge. This all came about through them writing a LIFE.info article about the musical 'Godspell'.

'When you write an article for a magazine, you never know who is going to end up reading it,' says Anna. 'Back in January, Becky de Oliveira, who is the editor of LIFE.info, asked us if we would do a review of "Godspell" because she had heard that it was on in Cardiff. We didn't need much encouragement and that very evening we went out to see the show. It was great, of course, and we loved it, and we also enjoyed writing the article.'

The article was published in LIFE.info Vol. 7, Issue No. 3, and when Anna saw it she was very excited. 'Although I didn't write the whole thing myself, it was my first published article and I was absolutely over the moon to see it in print. I didn't think it could have got any better, but it did! A month or so later we got a call from a researcher from "Songs of Praise" who wanted to talk to us about "Godspell"'. Apparently, she had read the LIFE.info article online and it fitted in with a programme they were doing on musicals. We were both asked in detail about it, and afterwards she said she would like to interview us for the show. To be honest, I never thought anything would come of it, but to our surprise a few weeks later we found ourselves in the Wales Millennium Centre in Cardiff about to be interviewed.

'We were taken to the main theatre where the camera and lights were already set up and found Aled Jones sitting there waiting to interview us. I was really nervous but he was so friendly, he made us both feel as though we had known him for years. As he had been performing in "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang", which we had also been to see, we got a chance to talk to him about that, too. The interview was everything I had hoped it would be - enjoyable, exciting, but of course a bit terrifying! It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and it's amazing to think that it all came about from an article in LIFE.info.'

VICTOR HULBERT

LIFE.info is available through your Personal Ministries secretary or online. Annual subscription to LIFE.info, still only £5.



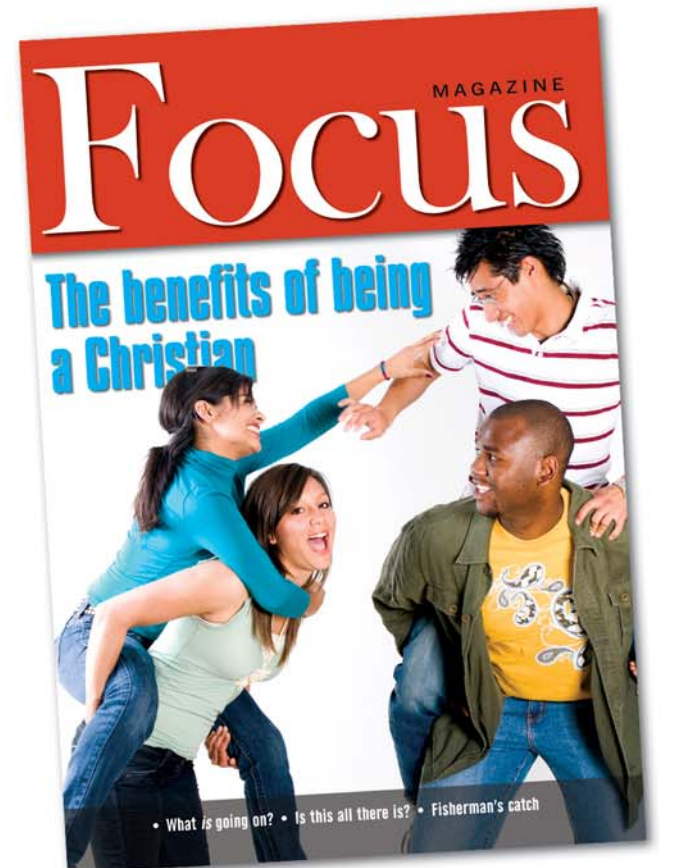
### Over Christmas . . .

The Adventist presence on national television will continue next month as on Sunday 14 December the Adventist Vocal Ensemble will perform with the BBC Orchestra and Ruthie Henshall on BBC1 'Songs of Praise'. The following week, Tessera, an Adventist male group, will be guests on Lesley Garrett's show, then on Christmas Eve, 24 December, the Adventist Vocal Ensemble will perform on the ITV programme, 'Aled Jones' Christmas Carols'. The year will close with Tessera again appearing on the 28 December 'Songs of Praise'.

# 'Tis the season



## Share the reason!



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## Miles of Smiles charity concert raises £2,000

On Sabbath 1 November, Pastor Victor Hulbert, BUC Communications director, preached a thought-provoking sermon at Canterbury church. He challenged the congregation to ensure that the church found their presence in the local community to be useful and positive.

It was appropriate that on that same evening Ralph Lombart and his son Matthew, members of Canterbury church, had organised another of their annual charity concerts, where 100% of the proceeds is donated to their chosen charity.

This is their unique and effective way to impact their community for Christ. It is an all-round winner. Needy people are helped. All enjoy an artistic evening where the emotions are touched, the spirit revived

and the intellect challenged to dwell on heavenly thoughts. The performers and organisers feel good about their achievement. And, most importantly, Christ is heard through songs and music.

Kent College Chapel in Canterbury was the venue for the evening's charity concert which raised £2,345.85 for Kent Kids Miles of Smiles. Guests of honour at the concert were The Lord Mayor of Canterbury, Cllr Carolyn Parry, and her consort Mr Stephen Parry.

Taking part in the concert were singers, young musicians and poets from all over Kent, including Renato Paris, Paul Cookson, Melissa Rahiman, youth and adult choirs and Valerie Bloom from the Riverway church. Fiffi and Camille McKenzie-

Cook travelled all the way from London to take part. Non-Adventist local talents Esther Thomas, Emma Marie and Keely West were impressed by the friendliness of everyone at the concert and said they would love to help out for the 2009 fundraising event. Grateful thanks go to Perran Facey-Hay and Wilston Anandam for their great help behind the scenes during the concert.

Amin Choudhury a severely disabled young man of the Kent Kids Miles of Smiles family, an Elvis Presley fan who had visited Graceland, joined in spontaneously, singing along as Matthew performed an Elvis Presley number among the many other songs that received warm applause. People were moved to tears since Amin can hardly talk.



The Lord Mayor Carolyn Parry presented certificates of appreciation to the performers and said, 'I am humbled and impressed by the many people who have made this evening so special and who freely and voluntarily gave of their time, effort and money for such a worthy cause.' She and her consort, Mr Stephen Parry, stayed longer than planned to shake hands, chat and further express their heartfelt appreciation.

RALPH LOMBART

## Special baptism at Croydon

On Sabbath 25 October Croydon church witnessed a very happy and blessed baptism of three new members. Carol Hall, who comes from a well-known large family originally based in Manchester, gave her life to Jesus before family and friends.

Julian McKerrow who is 18 and his 11-year-old brother Adam also filled everyone with joy, including their large extended family which travelled from Manchester and other places, when they were baptised by Dr Brighton Kavaloh, Croydon church senior pastor. Pastor Kavaloh

recalled the day some twenty-two years ago when he conducted the marriage ceremony of Julian and Adam's parents, Jeanie and Patrick McKerrow. Recalling how Jeanie had just completed her PhD at Cambridge University two years prior to the wedding, while Patrick was working at British Aerospace, Dr Kavaloh said it was a privilege to perform the wedding and a delight now to be baptising their sons. He felt that, having missed out on baptising their daughter Sabrina who was baptised by Pastor Richard

Brookes in Manchester two years ago, he now gives forewarning, 'I will conduct your wedding Julian when the time comes.'

Julian who is in the sixth form at Archbishop Tenison's Church of England High School and Adam who has just started secondary education at Wilson's School in Sutton, Surrey, will be attending their local church based in Wallington which is under the wing of Croydon church and is very well supported by all Croydon

members. Pastor Dusan Uzelac is the Wallington pastor.

The service which was graced with fine singing and music, including a piano piece by Sabrina McKerrow, was a testimony to the loving and caring God we serve. The fact that Carol Hall decided to come back to the Lord and two very young people decided of their own free will to follow Jesus is a blessing without measure.

PATRICK MCKERROW

## Shaping our children to lead

Jhenielle Reynolds, a 15-year-old student attending the ACS Egham International School in Surrey, relocated from the United States with her family last year, and attends the Reading Central church. At the age of 12, Jhenielle was nominated to attend the Jr National Young

Leaders' Conference in Washington DC, due to her leadership skills and academic excellence. After attending the conference, she became a distinguished alumnus of the Congressional Youth Leadership Council, which opened the door for her to represent the United States as



## Evangelism in Wellingborough

Wellingborough is one of those churches which still takes evangelism seriously. Alton Levy, the Personal Ministries leader, along with the church board, organised a series of meetings in the south of the town of Wellingborough with the aim of interesting local people in the Gospel.

The speaker is Pastor Robert Vine, recently retired but still in harness and still enthusiastic. To offer support, brother Richard was in the congregation, as was his mother, wife of a former *MESSENGER* editor, and attending an evangelistic meeting for the first time for some years.

The meetings take the form of a series of lectures on Daniel and Revelation. Of course Pastor Vine began with Daniel 2. Where else? In his usual

humorous and informal style Robert told us about the *Omphelos*, a rock feature, a part of

Babylonian belief, and connected that with the Rock which destroys all human empires.

We are living in a world where people are at one and the same time worried about where the world will go and yet not deeply interested in the things of God. There were not many visitors at the Wellingborough meetings, despite a large amount of advertising. However, the church members were very blessed by the style and content of the meetings. Charlotte Bramble sang beautifully, the welcome was warm and the message worth listening to. The visitor that we had points out the importance of our friends. The man was impressed – but then, he knew the speaker and was brought along to the meeting by a friend.

There will be more evangelism in Wellingborough – because that is what they are interested in. They talk about Jesus freely to their friends.

PETER JEVNES



## Indonesian students say 'Thanks'

A school rebuilt after the dreadful tsunami of 2004 has now opened thanks to a \$100,000 construction grant donated by ADRA-UK. The Community School of Hope, constructed by ADRA Indonesia on the island of Nias, off the Western Coast

of Sumatra, now boasts three classrooms and, for the last five months, has been educating 135 students. The students are so keen that senior head teacher, Mr Mangatas Hutabarat, reports an attendance rate of between 97 and 100% for

each. The school has enrolment for both junior and secondary age pupils and plans to add more classrooms as funds become available in the future. A full report on the project with lots of pictures can be seen by viewing the PDF newsletter at: [www.adventistnews.org.uk/Nias\\_School.pdf](http://www.adventistnews.org.uk/Nias_School.pdf).

ADRA-UK director, Bert Smit,

wants to pass on the thanks of the children. 'Thanks to generous donations from ADRA-UK supporters, this project is giving children on Nias a chance for education,' he says. 'This will help to increase the opportunity for a prosperous and stable life. We are excited to see that this project is now realised.'

VICTOR HULBERT

## Pathfinders in Remembrance Day parade

The Holloway drum corps, under the command of drum major Alex Silcott, led out in the Islington Council's Remembrance Day parade on Sunday 9 November.

Service units from 217 Field Squadron RE(V), the standard bearers and wreath bearers, Islington Veterans' Association, 23 Cadet Squadron RE, 9F Squadron ATC, 329 Squadron ATC, sea cadets, the Rifles, as well as the Holloway Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs marched from Highbury Terrace along Upper Street to Islington Green and back. The Adventurers and Pathfinders were very enthusiastic and excited to take part in this momentous occasion,

and also to contribute and make a positive impact in the community.

Drill major Alex Silcott from the Pathfinder club laid a wreath in remembrance of those veterans and soldiers who had lost their lives.

Organisers, as well as a spokesperson from Islington Council, commented: 'Everyone was talking about the drum corps and how wonderful they looked leading the parade. Having organised the parade for the last twenty-five years this was definitely the best.' An invitation was extended from them to the drum corps to take on this role on a permanent basis in the future.

OLIVIA RILEY





with Helen Pearson



# Crucial inspection yields high praise for Newbold

## Newbold means business

Two encouragements for future students of Business arrived at Newbold College this week. The first boost came with the news that ASI-UK, a group of Adventist businessmen and women, voted at its Annual General Meeting to offer a one-year scholarship for a new UK student to study Business Management at Newbold, beginning in August 2009.

ASI-UK vice-president, Brian Davison, said, 'The members of ASI believe that the strength of the Church today and in the future depends on committed lay men and women who have a strong relationship with Jesus Christ and a strong desire to serve their Church. Newbold has a pivotal role in helping to mould young adults into these sorts of people. That's why ASI wants to invest in young British Adventists at Newbold.'

The second boost came with the final confirmation from the Government Student Loan Company that European students of Business Management\* at Newbold are eligible for the same student loans that they would receive at any other UK college or university. Students need to repay the loans only when they start working and earn a minimum wage of £15,000 annually.

'We believe that Newbold is now the best option for European Adventists wanting to study international business management skills in an Adventist environment,' said Marinko Markek, course director, Business and Management. Contact: Marinko Markek, E: [marinkom@newbold.ac.uk](mailto:marinkom@newbold.ac.uk); T: 01344-407493.

\* Newbold offers a BA Hons in Business Management – through a franchise with the University of Wales Lampeter. (UWL) UWL's Department of Management and IT consistently ranks highly in leading surveys of higher education.

A visit to Newbold College by British Accreditation Council (BAC) representatives this week brought high commendation for the work of Newbold College staff.

The visit was carried out in response to the British government's managed migration policy, which stipulates that all independent higher education institutions not receiving government-recognised accreditation will eventually be closed. It is no exaggeration to say that Newbold's future hung on this visit.

The inspection team toured the campus, scrutinised extensive documentation, spent eight hours observing in classrooms, met with administrative, support and teaching staff, lunched informally with stu-

dents, and inspected the College's systems of Quality Assurance, Pastoral Care, IT, and Health and Safety. They examined the Admissions and Records and Financial Systems and looked closely at the library provision. At the end of the two days they met with the members of the Senior Management Team to report on their findings. 'We have no reservations in commending your work,' they told them.

The morning after the visit, Dr John Baildam, director of Academic Affairs, who organised the visit, gave a thirty-minute report to the staff, many of whom had worked long hours preparing documentation for the visit. He made it clear that their hard work had more than paid off. Among other things, the inspectors praised Newbold for its talented and

very knowledgeable teachers, an extraordinarily strong and effective system of student welfare, with a better pastoral care system than they had seen in other UK higher education institutions, and the best library they had seen in an independent college. 'We are extremely happy with what we have seen and this will be reflected in our report,' they said.

'The inspectors' report is extremely gratifying,' said Dr Baildam. 'In a long list of commendations, it was clear to members of the Newbold staff that many of the values that matter most to us had been recognised in our work by knowledgeable and widely-experienced inspectors. The Accreditation Committee meets in December, and we are hoping for a positive outcome for Newbold.'

ASI members meet at Newbold



## Swansea baptism

The last day of the Week of Prayer, 8 November, was a great day for us to witness the baptism of our friend Tony Sciuuba from Cowbridge. Tony is currently studying at Swansea University. He searched and learned about Adventism a year ago and recently decided to follow the teachings of Jesus and the Church's fundamental beliefs. Pastor Adamovic has given him further Bible studies. We all welcomed Tony into our membership and fellowship last Sabbath. The day of baptism was witnessed by a big congregation and followed by a regular potluck. We all congratulated Tony and wished him and his family a bountiful blessing in his walk with Jesus. Some reassurance was also given to him that he is now adopted by Swansea church family as well as God's family as a whole, and he should always feel at home with us or any other Adventist church he goes to in the world.

LILY KIDWELL

## 'It's time' for Scotland's youth

West of Scotland shift workers swapped shifts, others hurried from work, and schoolchildren delayed their homework – and all so they could be in church at 6.30pm during the week commencing 2 November. Why? Because a Youth Week of Revival was taking place entitled 'It's time'.

Word about the week's guest speaker, Calvin Preston, pastor of the 1,000-member Atlanta, Georgia, church, had spread. By Friday evening the church was filled to capacity and beyond. Those present warmed to his Southern-style animated and participative sermons, as evidenced by the frequency and numbers of heartfelt amens. 'He made the Word in these end times so relevant for today's youth,' said Carille Walcott.

The week culminated in a Scottish Youth Day of Fellowship in Glasgow's Church of Scotland Kelvin Grove Church. The young and the not so young travelled from all over Scotland to hear Pastor Preston's passionate plea to the Church's youth to 'flee from the world's temptations' and focus on Christ. The afternoon session, jointly compered by Martin Pearson and 11-year-old Mervyn Owusu-Ayim from Dundee, featured a rich variety of musical talents.

JOHN WILBY



## Carter Knowle children want a bigger church!

Sabbath 25 October was Children's Day at the Carter Knowle Road church. Lots of planning and preparation had gone into the day and a crowd was expected as on all our Children's Days. The theme chosen was 'I'm a lamb, feed me'.

Every aspect of the service was taken by the children of the church with their own unique spin being put on it. One session focused on 'Our dreams'.

There was so much humour in the passion and simplicity with which they put across their presentations. Two in particular were Sadie, who wanted to be a 'doctor or an ice cream lady', and TJ, who 'wanted to grow up so he could cross the road by himself'.

Their dreams for the church were just as impressive, including Tom who wanted to be a builder 'so he could build a bigger church' and Sonia who wanted 'children to sing

more'. Not surprisingly, Sonia was part of the worship team who led out for the day!

Two of the most poignant were from Rena who simply wanted 'more people to come to church and I want to live with Jesus' and Lewis who was to the point and dreamed 'I want to see Jesus'.

All the children's dreams were so touching and could fill this whole report.

Our preacher for the day was 11-year-old Bradley Ferguson. Bradley, even at 11, is no stranger to preaching and did an excellent job, focusing on the theme that the sheep knows its Master's voice.

Bradley challenged us all at the beginning and end of his sermon not to leave the church the same way we had come in. Given what we witnessed, it would have been hard to have done so.

DAVID BUSSUE



**North Wembley SDA Church Drama Club**  
invites you to a musical drama

**'Christmas Presence'**

an original nativity play directed by Mervyn Weir

Venue: Capital City Academy, Doyle Gardens, London, NW10 3ST  
Date: Saturday 13 December at 7.30pm (doors open at 6.30pm)  
Ticket Prices: £5 Adults, £3 Children (12 and under)

For tickets or enquiries, please contact 0785 210 5305 or 0794 173 2457  
Email: [christmaspresence@hotmail.com](mailto:christmaspresence@hotmail.com)





## Chartered Institute Award

Pam Millington, neighbourhood contracts manager at Moat and an elder at Stratford church, won the Chartered Institute of Housing South-East Excellence Award in 2008.

The award honours excellence for the work that individuals in housing make to their field and the impact of their contribution to the lives of local people. Pam was presented with the award at a gala awards ceremony in Brighton.

'My role can be a very dangerous one, from shutting down crack houses with the police to going into some seriously nasty homes where you wipe your feet on the way out,' Pam states. However, her belief system gives her an advantage. 'My faith is extremely important in my job and I know that the Lord has protected me when carrying out

early morning raids and visiting people in their homes.'

Moat is a charitable housing association based in the south-east of England. Pam was appointed as the neighbourhood contracts manager for Moat at Stanhope in January 2007 to take overall responsibility for the housing management contract in the area, to work with other stakeholders to contribute to the overall quality of life and develop sustainable community safety and cohesion for the neighbourhood.

Working at the neighbourhood office based on the Stanhope estate, Ashford, Kent, she has overall responsibility for eleven staff who perform the customer services, housing management and community development functions. She said: 'It is indeed wonderful to have been recognised in this way.'

### Scottish Mission of Seventh-day Adventists Triennial Session

Notice is hereby given that the Triennial Session of the Scottish Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on Sunday 21 June 2009 in the Crieff Seventh-day Adventist church.

Delegates should note that registration will take place in the church from 8.30am to 9.30am. Delegates are required to have registered prior to the commencement in order to participate in choosing members of the Recommendation Committee.

L. R. EDWARDS, Scottish Mission president, V. PILMOOR, secretary

### 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](mailto:elowe@adventist.org.uk)

Closing date for applications: 12 December.

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7 Harper Bell	10.30am-2pm	11am - 5.30pm Monday to Thursday	
14 John Loughboro'	10.30am-2pm	10am - 2pm Friday/1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday 10am-2pm	
21 Newcastle	10am-2pm	<b>Advent Centre</b>	
		Saturdays till Christmas 5.30pm-8.30pm	
		Sundays 11.30am-3.30pm	

SEC. YOUTH DEPARTMENT PRESENTS  
**YLC SPECIAL**

# PAUL'S Missionary JOURNEYS TODAY

A MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE TO GREECE AND TURKEY  
29TH. JUNE - 4TH. JULY. 2009

OVER 18s

Speakers:

Pastor **SAM LEONOR** (Keynote Speaker)  
LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

Doctor **HERBERT THOMPSON**  
PRESIDENT, VICTORIAN CARRIAGE UNIVERSITY, JAMAICA

Doctor **LES POLLARD**  
VICE-PRESIDENT, LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY, USA

Pastor **GIFFORD RHAME**  
NEWBOLD COLLEGE, ENGLAND

## 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
Dec 5	3.53	4.05	3.50	3.41	4.00
12	3.52	4.04	3.48	3.38	3.58
19	3.53	4.05	3.49	3.39	3.59
26	3.57	4.09	3.53	3.43	4.03

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