



Why read the Bible daily?

The vigour of your spiritual life will be in direct proportion to the place the Bible has in your life and thoughts.

by Don McFarlane, president, British Union Conference

IS THE BIBLE WORTH READING? Lemuel K Washburn, atheist of renown and a scourge of religionists, answers the question in an essay of the same title by saying, 'That depends. If a man is going to get his living by standing in a Christian pulpit, I should be obliged to answer, Yes! But if he is going to follow any other calling, or work at any trade, I should have to answer, No! There is absolutely no information in the Bible that man can make any use of as he goes through life. The Bible is not a book of knowledge. It does not give instruction in any of the sciences. It furnishes no help to labour. It is useless as a political guide. There is nothing in it that gives the mechanic any hint, or affords the farmer any enlightenment in his occupation.'

You need more than self-help Washburn is entitled to his ideas about the Bible. If, like him, one believes that there is no God, perhaps for such a person the Bible is not worth reading, apart from the possibility that by reading it one might be led to believe in God. For those who believe in God there is no question that the Bible is a book of knowledge. There is no other volume of which I am aware that sets out the problem with the human condition, the reason we find ourselves in our present grim predicament and the solution God has provided to extricate us from a pointless and hopeless life. This is the most

important knowledge there can be, albeit based upon faith. Additionally, no one can read Proverbs without realising that nearly every verse is pregnant with practical counsel for everyday living and human relations. Take, for example, the following quotations:

'He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin. The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.' (Proverbs 13:3, 4.)

'A mocker resents correction; he will not consult the wise. A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit. The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly. All the days of the oppressed are wretched, but the cheerful heart has a continual feast.' (Proverbs 15:12-15.)

The authors of the many self-help books that are around could learn much from the wise man Solomon about how to fulfil one's potential and get the best out of life. People are paying big money to attend seminars that share concepts that could be got for free in the Bible. Whatever one's profession or trade, there is much in the Bible that one can find useful. The Bible also provides guidance for important decisions, strength when facing circumstances that are beyond us, and comfort when in despair.

The greatest value of reading the

Bible is, of course, that of knowing that we have not been left in this sinful world to drift along without the prospect of anything better. John 3:16-18 rings with that sense of hope and assurance: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.' There is a story told of a man who had

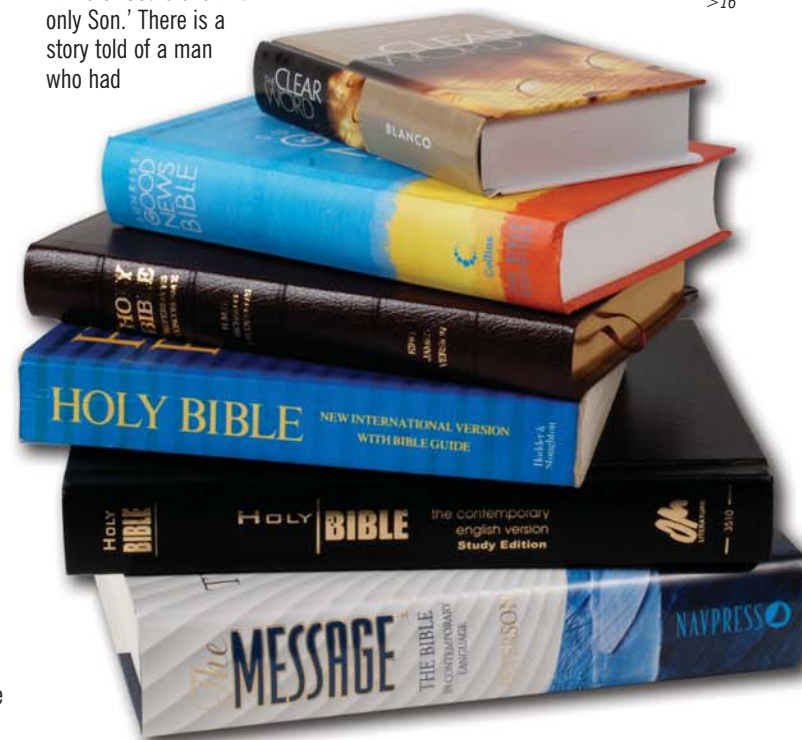
never read the Bible and who got hold of a copy for the first time. He began reading it and some time afterwards exclaimed to his wife, 'If this Book is true, we are lost!' Then he read on and not long afterward shouted to his wife, 'If this Book is true, we can be saved!' That is the real value of the Bible and the supreme reason why it is worth reading.

Have you been robbed?

Failure to read the Bible robs us of one of the greatest resources that God has provided to help us have a fulfilling and purposeful life. Woodrow Wilson, USA president from 1913 to 1921, said, 'I am sorry for the men who do not read the Bible every day. I wonder why they deprive themselves of the strength and of the pleasure.'

One of the characteristics of being a Christian is that we accept the Bible as God's revelation to us. If so, one cannot be considered a Christian unless one reads the Bible

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The last words of Moses

Newbold's Dr Laurence Turner whets our appetite for Deuteronomy

The first five books of the Bible, known as the Pentateuch, have traversed a vast amount of territory before they arrive at the climax of their presentation – the Book of Deuteronomy. Here Moses stands with the Israelites at the borders of the Promised Land. Israel can look back to a glorious past, as God rescued them from Egyptian slavery and brought them through the wilderness. They now look forward to a glorious future in the land – a gift of God's grace. So Moses preaches his final sermon, in which he looks back to the covenant they entered into with the Lord at Sinai, and also looks forward to life in the land where they will live out the principles of that covenant. Scanning the past and the future he sums up the essence of living life in the presence of God. His final inspiring sermon makes up the book we call Deuteronomy. And the principles he expounded that day still have the

ring of truth all these centuries later.

Love

The central principle for life lived in God's presence, and the main focus of Moses' sermon, is 'love'. 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might' (Deuteronomy 6:5, NRSV). Moses could have chosen many terms to describe the relationship with God, so why does he keep repeating 'love'? Only Psalms and Proverbs use it more often, and Moses refers to it more than John does in his gospel. His reason for doing so is probably that it is the common verb used in ancient treaties and covenants to describe the relationship between an overlord and his servants. So when a vassal 'loves' the Egyptian pharaoh, for example, he serves him and dedicates himself to no one else. Seen in this light then, 'love' is a duty. This type of

love can be commanded – as it is in the verse quoted from Deuteronomy above. Love is no sentimental abstraction, but a matter of commitment and faithfulness.

Israel's covenant relationship with God entails a triangle of relationships involving love. First, God's relationship with Israel: 'It was because the LORD *loved* you ... that the LORD ... redeemed you' (7:8). Secondly, Israel's response to God: 'You [Israel] shall *love* the LORD your God ...' (6:5). Thirdly, the relationships which exist between individual Israelites who are in covenant relationship with God. Surprisingly, however, 'love' is not used to describe this. Rather than loving a fellow Israelite, one demonstrates 'justice': 'Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue' (Deut 16:20). (There is one apparent exception to this in 10:19, but this relates to loving an alien, not a fellow Israelite.)

In concrete terms

In Deuteronomy why should 'love' describe God's relationship to Israel and also Israel's relationship to God, but never the relationship between fellow Israelites? The answer is that

love must be demonstrated in concrete terms; a passion for justice demonstrates that we truly love others. It is practical, down-to-earth, active love.

In his final sermon, therefore, Moses turned to matters of ultimate importance for the people of God. God demonstrated his love for Israel through an act which brought justice for them – freedom from slavery. In return, Israel shows its love for God not simply in bowing before him but by ensuring that justice is woven into the fabric of Israelite society.

If as Seventh-day Adventists we wish to be faithful to the Lord our God we might well be challenged as we listen to Moses' final sermon. True religious faith which is based on a love for God must express itself in a passion for justice. Not just theoretically, but practically. Tackling injustice within the Seventh-day Adventist Church is not a distraction from our mission, but a practical expression of our love for God. On numerous occasions throughout Moses' sermon we read, 'All the people shall say, "Amen"'. Can we echo that, not simply with our words, but also with our actions?



An apocalyptic moment

David Marshall

I thought I had been inoculated against American politics ages ago. I mean to say ... all that raz-zamatazz, that chanting, those banners, the whole showbiz thing, the gaseous oratory, and the 'Mah-Fellow-Americans' bombast. ... What took me by surprise and captivated me about the inauguration of President Barack Hussein Obama was the absence of all that.

John F. Kennedy's 'Camelot' never impressed me: high style, low substance. I am relieved that Obama looks further back than Kennedy for his historical heroes and finds them in Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt. The crowd of more than a million who spread out for miles along the National Mall – 'the happiest crowd ever to grace the nation's capital' (*Time*), despite freezing temperatures – did not have to listen to 'soaring oratory' (*The Times*). However, 'No incoming president has ever caught the imagination of the world like this one.' (*The Guardian*.)

Obama's eighteen-minute address was a serious speech for serious times. Not since Roosevelt came in in 1933 has the US and the world faced so precarious an economic situation as the current one. Obama promised 'bold and swift' action on the economy. He promised that America would 'leave Iraq to its people, win peace in Afghanistan' and he offered 'a new way forward' to the Muslim world 'based on mutual interest and mutual respect'. To America's enemies he said, 'We are willing to extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist.'

Obama's first act as president was to order the suspension of all tribunals at Guantanamo Bay. He has condemned his predecessor's unilateralism, arguing that 'our power alone cannot protect us, nor does it entitle us to do as we please'. He acknowledges the reality of global warming, warning that Americans cannot 'consume the world's resources without regard to effect'. While praising the power of the markets to create prosperity, Obama stressed that 'without a watchful eye they spin out of control ...'

The greatest US presidents have not been 'cheer leaders'. They have been men who forced their people to look into the mirror. 'The nation cannot prosper long,' said Obama, 'when it favours only the prosperous.' None of this will come as any surprise to those who have read Obama's brilliantly written autobiographical *Dreams From My Father*.

'[The inauguration] was, for the Americans, a day of joy,' said *The Washington Post* editorial. With their first black president 'they took a great step on the long path to overcoming the stain of slavery and discrimination'. It was also a

'moment of hope' because Obama 'sought to combine a sober acknowledgement of the perils the nation faces – the wars, the recession, the mounting debt and ebbing confidence – with an unflappable assurance that they can be overcome.'

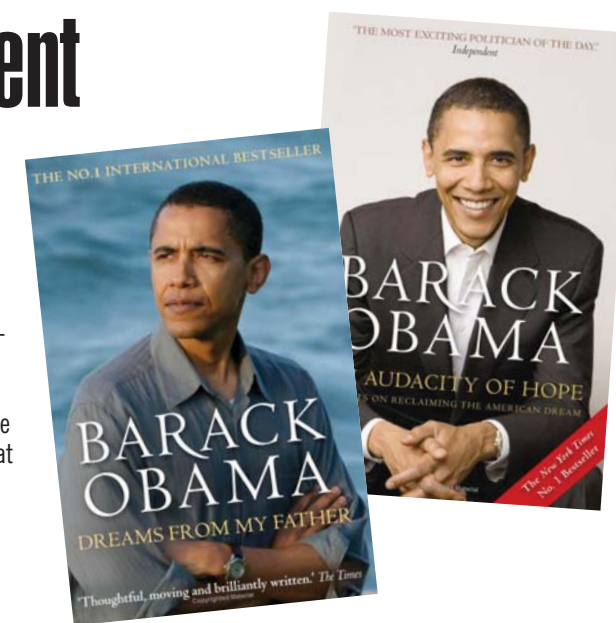
Adventist reaction in Britain to Obama's election has, in the main, been in that vein. *BUC News* quotes SEC president Sam Davis as saying, 'For those who have been alienated, suppressed and oppressed, Obama is a sign that we are all equal and "Yes we can".' The BUC's president, Don McFarlane, has said that Obama's election will enable the young to realise that with hard work, perseverance, good manners and the blessing of God there is no limit to what they can achieve. If you have read *Dreams From My Father*, you will have realised that there were many points in his experience at which he could have ditched grace and embraced bitterness. In the providence of God and in democratic settings, the power is more likely to come to visioned healers rather than the embittered and alienated. Indeed, as Abraham Lincoln's story, as well as Obama's story, exemplifies, a qualification for the highest office is the ability to deal with failure and adversity.

The least appropriate response to Obama's inauguration came from a British politician interviewed on TV. He dismissed all the enthusiasm with the words Samuel Johnson used of a friend who had married for a second time after a notoriously unhappy first marriage: 'The triumph of hope over experience.' I found myself yelling at the TV screen, 'But hope *must* triumph over experience! And it does, time and time again!'

The American sub-prime mortgage fiasco spewed its 'toxic assets' around the world's banks, most notably our own. A collapse of confidence among financial institutions resulted, unprecedented in Britain.

British banks, businesses and consumers have been slow to respond to government initiatives aimed at stimulating the economy. That may have been, first, because the monetarist British instinctively retrench and cut back in these circumstances and, secondly, that they were waiting for an initiative from the country where all the 'toxic assets' began.

That, we must hope, is where President Barack Obama will come into his own. 'Obama will need ONE TRILLION DOLLARS to kick-start the American economy,' said *Time* magazine. 'John Maynard Keynes, the trendiest dead economist of this apocalyptic moment was godfather



of government stimulus,' wrote the *Time* team. 'The strict monetarist principles we all believed in during the eighties would dictate the collapse of the world's largest banks and the demolition of its principal industrial plants. That cannot be allowed to happen. Keynes has been resurrected. His central idea – that aggressive deficit spending is the way to stimulate flat-lined economies.'

When J. M. Keynes first made his prescription (in the early 1930s) it represented an invitation to permit hope to triumph over experience. The British National Government lacked the courage to adopt the Keynesian prescription. In the US the newly-elected F. D. Roosevelt viewed Keynesian ideas differently. When he was elected, a quarter of his nation's workforce was unemployed and what remained of its credit system was on life support.

Roosevelt made hope triumph over experience when his New Deal helped the world economy slowly to arise from the Slough of Depression.

We can be grateful that Roosevelt is one of Obama's historical heroes!

'Behind, above and through all the play and counter-play of human interests and power and passions, the agencies of the all-merciful One silently, patiently [work] out the counsels of his own will.' E. G. White, *Education*, page 173.

The all-merciful One *guarantees* that, one day, right and justice and hope will triumph over experience. 'Set your troubled hearts at rest,' said Jesus. 'Trust in God always; trust also in me. There are many dwelling-places in my Father's house; ... I'm going to prepare a place for you. ...' (John 14:1-3, REB.)

You *can* 'go wrong with bricks and mortar'! But the Father's House is made of eternal stuff. There is room for you when, in the final apocalyptic moment, hope triumphs.

Barack Obama's *Dreams From My Father*, his life story, and *The Audacity of Hope*, the ideals he stands for, are both published by Canongate and can be bought in most bookshops.



Enhancing Health

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

Brain Health Part 11b

Stimulation and learning

Two issues ago I mentioned that I had tried out the brain exercises in the new *Puzzler Brain Trainer* magazine that I had purchased over the Christmas holidays. I also stated that I would reveal how I got on with them. Truth is, I did well in some, fair in others and let's just say that the remaining category meant there was room for improvement.

So what helps us to learn and keep the brain active? Take note of the following ten tips as essential brain boosters for learning.

1. As physical exercise keeps the body fit, so mental exercise enhances brain activity. If you don't exercise it, like your body, the brain will become 'flabby'. We strengthen our mental muscles and brain capacity by challenging them.
2. To keep the brain active attempt a new skill like learning to play a musical instrument. This boosts brain activity and stimulates brain cells

and capacity, regardless of age.

3. Three key elements to good learning are: challenge, change and new information. Activities which involve an element of challenge that becomes more difficult as you improve are best. The activity should include change which involves fresh situations and tasks as these switch on additional brain cells. Learning something new grows new brain connections, enhancing brain stimulation.
4. Brain training games and exercises are fun ways to keep the brain active. Keep a puzzle book, crossword or Sudoku close at hand for brain-boosting moments.
5. Include other stimulating activities like meeting new people, reading, improving your cooking or learning a new language.
6. People (interesting ones) are a good stimulant. A rich network of friends boosts the brain and increases our connectivity and

interaction with others.

7. Aerobic exercises are an excellent brain enhancer. Check with your GP what best suits you.
8. Stress and low mood can suppress brain function. Learning to manage these challenges is crucial for mental well-being.
9. Proper nutrition (particularly group B vitamins and omega 3) is crucial to maintaining brain health, as is adequate rest which rejuvenates the brain.
10. Memory enhancing activities are key to effective stimulation of the brain. Try to memorise something new every day as it keeps the brain sharp. Learning passages of Scripture is one beneficial exercise as it boosts both mental and spiritual health.

Next issue we examine how to retain what we have learnt.

Good health!



'Second fiddle' or 'first violin'?

On 7 November the Editor paid tribute to members who have been content to serve in subsidiary roles and pastors who have spent their careers shepherding (and adding to) the flock without climbing the Church's corporate ladder. The article was called 'Saints of the second fiddle'.

Very correctly PASTOR RON V. EDWARDS wants to put me right on that one! Pastors should not be seen as 'second fiddles' but as 'first violins'! I should have seen that one coming!

Pastor Edwards' response was immediate. We apologise that he has had to wait for publication until the series on Adventist attitudes to stress-related illness, depression and suicide was concluded.

Readers will discover that the article was worth waiting for.

Editor

It depends upon how we look at it. Jesus voluntarily humbled himself (Philippians 2:1-16). He neither needed, nor ever sought, any human commendation (John 5:41-44); the only valid commendation he acknowledged was that of his Father (John 5:37; 8:18). He is our Example: we need to stick to this, or fail. We need no more; we could have no better: or we would stand in the same danger that caused Lucifer to fall. Those sent forth by the lowly Saviour to minister are not called to find honour; but to give service and to endure suffering (Matthew 10:16-39).

Jesus said, 'I am the Light of the world (John 8:12); also, 'You are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14, 16). Every child of God is to be a light; or perhaps, rather, a lens through whom Christ shines. The lens knows no brilliance but that of the light: when the light shines through it, only the light is seen; the lens is totally invisible: the lens has no brilliance of its own. Its only measure of usefulness lies in its capacity to focus the light clearly. Jesus said, 'Let your light so shine . . . that they

may . . . glorify your Father . . . in heaven.' The Saviour is our only true Pattern of ministry, whether 'lay' or pastoral. Sent forth by him, on him alone must rest our entire dependence (Isaiah 57:15; Jeremiah 9:23, 24; 17:7, 8). To him alone, in consequence, all praise and thanks are due.

Of what did the ministry of the Saviour consist, when God visited mankind? Of simple, self-giving service to all who sought his help or healing; or whose needs his own heart of compassion perceived. 'First violin', or 'second fiddle'? You judge. Did the Saviour ever aspire, or was he ever 'elevated' to administrative responsibilities? He, never! His mission infinitely transcended all such earthly aspirations or appointments. This is precisely where, due to our own fallen condition, our concept of 'second fiddle' and 'first' is all too inclined to be inverted, topsy-turvy, upside-down. In prophecy, Jesus is called, 'The Lord's Servant' (Isaiah 42). He ministered impartially to the 'lowliest' and the 'loftiest': a human soul is a human soul; and our

necessities do not differ essentially. Wherever there was a human need, Jesus was there: to serve, to minister God's free grace, or healing; to not only the spiritual, but also the practical needs of human souls. There are many things that we as humans may aspire to; but none is truly greater than this.

Jesus said, 'You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit . . .' (John 15:16); and, 'I know whom I have chosen' (John 13:18). As participants in this inestimable privilege — and 'Who is sufficient for these things?' (2 Corinthians 2:16) — how we may perceive ourselves is neither the vital, nor the valid point. When Daniel was granted a vision of God's Son, he testified, 'All my comeliness was turned in me into corruption' (Daniel 10:8): as the candle-flame in the light of the noonday sun, all his own virtues vanished. Yet his divine Messenger addressed him, 'O man greatly beloved' (Daniel 10:19). What reassurance also for us all is found in the words of the beloved apostle in 1 John 3:19-21. He who feels confident in his own ability to minister in Christ's place is not 'fit for purpose'.

Which draws me back to the original *Messenger* editorial (7.11.08) that was the provocative cause of this rescript. There are so many, such diligent and faithful elders and pastors — together, each with his devoted wife — both in active service and retired, beside those no longer with us: name after blessed name leaps to mind: such finest examples of truest ministry; yet it would be invidious to name any, for one could not name all. David erred when he began to number Israel. Who

made me judge? Only God can reckon up the score. God alone knows the true quality of the ministry of any pastor or lay-worker; and he alone can bless the ministry of his faithful shepherds, each with his own individual talents which God's providence bestowed on him or her. Nevertheless there are those who have been a beacon-light, and ever shall remain so, upon my own path. Yet we need to beware lest we inadvertently tumble into the ditch of 'personality culture' so prevalent today. Known only to God, and to the flocks they serve, God's faithful servants work, in the main unnoticed and unrecognised, entirely out of the glare of publicity. Indeed, the most effective pastoral work is always done, not under the blaze of the spotlights, but inconspicuously and unperceived.

In conclusion, may I add my own testimony. No man could have elevated me to (nor I have chosen) a place higher, or more honoured, than that which, as I trust, God himself, in his kind, wise, patient and omniscient providence, assigned in pastoral ministry. The opportunities placed directly in my path throughout my years of service to minister to souls in need have, as I perceive, by God's grace so miraculously blessed those souls and myself as well. And also, in the 'minor key', his own merciful providence transposed the worst mistakes of my ministerial service into his own greatest blessings (is that not the very 'theme' of redemption?), to the eternal glory of his name alone, who is the incomparable Composer.

'If we bless others, we also bless ourselves; for the influence of every good deed is reflected upon our own hearts.'

150 years after the publication of *Origin of Species* Has faith in evolution been shaken?

by Frank Blewitt*

When asked 'Did Darwin get anything wrong in *The Origin of Species*?' Richard Dawkins replied: 'Darwin got everything pretty much right except he hadn't the foggiest idea about genetics.' (*Radio Times*.)

Evolutionists expected the fossil record would have vast numbers of transitional forms but instead they have found not one. Darwin himself said:

'There are two or three million species on Earth. A sufficient field one might think for observation, but it must be said today that in spite of all the evidence of trained observers, not one change of the species to another is on record.' (*Life and Letters*, volume 3, page 25.)

Darwin confessed in his book, *The Origin of Species*:

'To the question why we do not find rich fossiliferous deposits belonging to these assumed earliest periods prior to the Cambrian system I can give no satisfactory answer . . . the case at present must remain inexplicable, and may be truly urged as a valid argument against the views here entertained.' (page 309.)

Did Darwin get that 'pretty much right'?

You may be old enough to remember that at one time it was believed by evolutionists that under the proper conditions of temperature, time, place, and so on, decaying matter simply turns into organic life. This theory has now been abandoned according to Webster; and Dr George Wald, Nobel Prize winner of Harvard University, states, as honestly as an evolutionist can:

'One has only to contemplate the magnitude of this task to concede that spontaneous generation of a living organism is impossible. Yet here we are — as a result I believe, of spontaneous generation.' (*Scientific American*, August 1954.)

Spontaneous generation is impossible but we are here as a result of spontaneous generation. What child in any secondary school are you going to get to believe that?

This is not an isolated instance of evolutionists holding up some new idea as the answer to their searches for an explanation for the universe that does away with the need to believe in an almighty God, only to discover a very short while later that their theory has developed a fatal flaw. And they are not above fudging the evidence, only to be caught out red-handed.

I suspect you don't like the use of that term

'fudging the evidence'. Evolutionists have not hesitated to forge artefacts where none existed, and there have been several attempts at foisting a man-ape transitional form on a gullible public.

RAMOPITHECUS — formed from a fragment of jaw and several teeth.

PITHECANTHROPUS RECTUS (JAVA MAN) — found by Dubois; consisting of an ape-like skull and from 50 feet away a human leg bone. This hoax is still accepted by many evolutionists today.

AUSTRALOPITHECUS, in spite of its name, was found in Africa. The knee joint was an important find because it showed that the creature walked erect. It was later revealed that the knee joint was found over a mile away and 200 feet deeper than the other bones.

PILTDOWN MAN — a human skull was doctored up with the jaw of an orang-utan. The teeth were filed. It fooled those who so much wanted to believe in evolution.

And so I could go on — Neanderthal Man, Nebraska Man, all fakes. I call that fudging the evidence. When you discover you have been lied to repeatedly, doesn't it dash your belief in this theory?

With all the millions of boreholes that have been dug all over the world, and more than 120 years of searching, the missing links between the different life forms are still missing. Colin Patterson, one time director of Paleontology in the British Museum of Natural History, has written: 'There are no connecting links in the fossil record.'

The problem is that evolution has gone too far. If they were to retract what they have been vigorously promoting for so long, millions of textbooks would have to be destroyed, museums all over the world would have to take down their exhibits and the public would never trust the scientists again.

And that would be a real shame, for not all scientists have hooked their wagon to the false star of evolution. There are scores of scientists of every discipline, with degrees from prestigious US and British universities, who believe the world was created very much as it says in the book of Genesis.

I find in the writings of Sir Julian Huxley material that sounds remarkably like what Dawkins is saying:

'To sum up, natural selection converts randomness into direction and blind chance into apparent purpose. It operates with the aid of time to produce improvements in the machinery of living, and in the process generates results of a more than astronomical improbability which could have been

achieved in no other way.' (*Evolution in Action*, pages 54, 55.)

Don't miss the force of that last sentence. The evolutionary changes wrought by natural selection are astronomically improbable, but because Huxley sees no other way for it to be done, he believes in the astronomically improbable.

Sir Julian computed the likelihood of every favourable evolutionary factor being able to produce a horse. In his book *Evolution in Action*, Huxley gave the odds this way:

'The figure 1 with three million noughts after it: and that would take three large volumes of about 500 pages each, just to print! . . . No one would bet on anything so improbable happening; and yet it has happened.' (page 46.)

Professor Dawkins might like to think that there is a science of evolution, but everyone else knows that after 199 years it is still a theory. The preponderance of physical scientific data is on the side of creation, not evolution.

* Frank Blewitt is a retired teacher and IT specialist who lives in Watford.

EDITOR'S NOTE David Attenborough, who has done more than anyone else to enthrall us with a love for the natural world, continues to put his faith in evolution. Interviewed by the religious affairs correspondent in *The Guardian* on 27 January, Attenborough complains about the avalanche of 'creationist hate mail' he receives following his programmes. That is deplorable, especially in light of the fact that he replies to correspondence from interested questioners. However, when he tells *The Guardian*, 'Evolution is not a theory; it is a fact,' he, too, is ignoring so much scientific evidence that he is betraying the same naiveté as the authors of his hate mail. The only piece of scientific evidence he advances for his rejection of 'the notion of a divine and benevolent creator' is the existence of a 'worm [that] cannot live in any other way, except by burrowing through eye balls'. I can put the existence of the worm down to the perversion of nature caused by the Fall. But the eye itself is what fascinates me. How could that have 'evolved'?

Thanks to Thelma Smith of Feltham, Middlesex, who draws our attention to an article (based on an interview with Sir David) published by the *Mail in Weekend* in connection with the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin. Confronted with the question, 'Why are we here?' he 'longs for the comfort of faith'. Jenny Johnston's article is titled 'I wish I could believe in God.' However, I have been unable to find the place where Sir David uses those actual words.

For those readers who have been upset by the contribution of Professor Dawkins of *The God Delusion* to Darwin's 200th birthday celebrations, I could recommend Professor Alister McGrath's easy-to-understand 78-pager *The Dawkins Delusion: Atheist Fundamentalism and the Denial of the Divine* (published by SPCK and available in high street bookshops).



Special BUC Session — May 2009

by Don W. McFarlane, president

Whenever a special Session is called it can be safely assumed that something unusual is afoot. That is true of the special Session which has been called by the BUC Executive Committee for 17 May 2009 at the Stanborough Park church in Watford.

Many are asking why this special Session has been called. The short answer is that the Union Committee has recommended major changes to the Constitution regarding the manner in which future regular Sessions of the Union are conducted. These changes require the approval of delegates in Session.

What are these changes and why are they necessary? Let me answer the last question first: The changes are designed to:

- improve the process by which officers and directors are elected;
- improve the quality of accountability and openness that is offered to all members;
- engender greater dignity in the manner in which leaders are changed;
- reduce the cost of holding a Session;
- improve delegate participation.

Improved process by which officers and directors are elected:

Current practice does not allow adequate time for assessment of and reflection on those who are to serve as leaders of the Union. The process is rushed and can easily lead to decisions that do not reflect the needs of the Union and the direction in which delegates and members in general wish to see it go. The proposals for change provide months rather than days over which these important decisions are to be made in future.

Improved quality of accountability and openness:

The recommended changes envisage an arrangement whereby all members, as opposed to the few who travel to a Session, can receive and reflect on the work of church administration.

Additionally, all members will be kept abreast with the elective process, though only delegates will be able to participate in it.

Greater dignity in the manner in which leaders are changed: Our record in this connection is not good. The sudden removal from office of incumbents without notice or reply is seen by many as harsh, sometimes humiliating and destructive to reputations. Proposals that will come to the special Session, if approved, will eliminate most of this and ensure a smooth transition.

Reduction in cost: The BUC seems to spend significantly more on a Session than her sister Unions in other parts of the world. The current cost of a BUC Session is equivalent to the annual subsidy to Stanborough School, or 60% of the cost of running all departments for two years, or the cost of three years' evangelism budget. One of the proposals that are designed to reduce cost is having the Session over one day as opposed to the traditional four days. A one-day Session also facilitates the event being held in one of our churches or institutions, thus ensuring that there are no big bills to pay for hall hire and that delegates are in familiar and friendly surroundings. Accommodation cost would also be relatively small.

Improved delegate participation:

The new proposal provides for every delegate playing an active role in shaping the future of the Union's programme, as opposed to most delegates being passive spectators.

Now you may be wondering how a Session could be held over just one day. It is done by ensuring that a number of important matters are addressed prior to the Session. It is common in North America for a Union or Conference Session to be held over one day. We are used to going through the process of appointing a Recommendations Committee, then Standing Committees at a Session. These Standing Committees would meet over days or hours, depending on the nature of their work, and then

bring back a number of recommendations to the full delegation for approval.

In most cases where a one-day Session is held, the work of the Recommendations Committee and Standing Committees is done prior to the Session. For example, the Recommendations Committee meets about three months prior to the Session, with the Nominating Committee meeting about ten weeks before the Session. The names of those recommended for office are published, with a mechanism in place for delegates who wish to raise objections to those names. Having gone through that process, all that remains for delegates to do at the Session, as far as the leaders are concerned, is to vote on the recommendations.

One reason for having a Union Session from Wednesday to Sunday was that such an arrangement allowed us to have a special Day of Fellowship on the Sabbath. Members who were present at the last two or three Union Sessions would have observed that, apart from delegates, invitees and guests who were present throughout the Session, there were not many others present on the Sabbath Day of Fellowship. Perhaps this is telling us that the Session Day of Fellowship is not as necessary as it once was. District and area days of fellowship, as well as camp meetings, seem to meet the need for members to come together en masse from time to time. Consequently, the Session Day of Fellowship has lost its pulling power and the need for it to be a feature of the overall programme.

Another reason for having a four-day Session was the need to consider, propose, allow time for reflection and approve constitutional change. Constitutional change now requires public approval, in addition to the vote of a Session, and is best dealt with by a Standing Committee.

A reduction in the number of delegates to a Session is among the proposals to be presented to delegates in May. A survey of delegate/members ratio from various parts of the world shows that the

BUC has by far the highest ratio. Unions in North America with larger membership than that of the BUC have a much smaller delegation than ours. With a membership of fewer than 30,000 the BUC's delegation is just over 400. The Southern Union in the USA has a membership of 223,000 members but only 234 delegates. The West Indies Union with a membership of 262,000 has just over 400 delegates. The current delegate/members ratio in the BUC is 1:75. The ratio in North America ranges from 1:300 to 1:1000. That for the West Indies Union is 1:655. If our ratio moved from 1:75 to 1:150 it would still be double that of the highest ratio in North America and possibly the entire world.

One obvious question is how do we reconcile a reduction in the number of delegates with greater delegate participation? Despite the fact that there are approximately 400 delegates at a BUC Session, not many are able to participate in the work of the Session, apart from engaging in the voting process. With a smaller delegation the plan is for all delegates present to participate personally in discussions, recommendations and decisions. For example, it is expected that the entire delegation will serve as the Planning Committee, with delegates divided into various groups to discuss how the Union can progress its primary areas of operation. A written report on the work of the Union during the quinquennium is to be provided as usual, with a consolidated oral report by the president given at the Session. However, quality time is to be spent by all delegates discussing and determining the evangelistic, nurturing, educational and humanitarian work of the Church.

Some might be concerned that the new approach to conducting a Session could possibly lead to abuse of the system through political manoeuvring. Such a concern would be valid. However, it is important to bear in mind that any system, including that which is currently in force, can be abused. The Executive Committee accepts that the proposed changes are not perfect but are likely to lead to a healthier process of choosing leaders and a sharper focus on the Church's mission. I invite the all members to join me in praying that delegates to the special Session will make the right choices.

'Young man, you shouldn't be wearing that in here'



by Pastor Adam Keough, Irish Mission Youth sponsor

The well-meaning elderly gentleman strode towards me. To be honest, I didn't know what to think! It was my first time at a Friday evening programme for weeks, maybe even months — and I'd even come because I wanted to be there! Yes, I did attend the worship service most weeks, but I wasn't really interested in it, and I certainly didn't read my Bible or pray at home (as far as I can remember anyway). I went to church because my dad went and I had been brought up to go. 'Young man, you shouldn't be wearing that in here,' he said again. 'Please take it off or go outside.' By this time he was by my side and had laid a gentle hand on my shoulder — not in a malicious way I might add, but in a way that assured me he was serious.

I can remember the rush of frustration, or was it even anger that I felt? Here was I, setting foot in a Friday night meeting and the most important thing that this gentleman had to say to me was: 'You shouldn't be wearing that in here.' I couldn't believe it! Was my wearing of a baseball cap in the church more important than my actually being there? I remember considering my two options: Should I stay, or should I leave right away and not come back — ever? Yes, it was *that big a deal* . . .

Unfortunately, many of our young people face the same decision now as I did thirteen years ago. The 'problem' with them may not be the wearing of a baseball cap as it was for me. It may be that they're wearing jeans, a shirt that has one too many buttons undone, or a gleaming gold necklace. Or the 'problem' might be a guy with an earring, a Mohican, fluorescent green hair or a girl who has recently got pregnant.

As I look back at that defining moment in my life, I have to thank God that I didn't turn around and leave, never to go back. But let me assure you, some have, because they were given the impression that what they were wearing or what they had done was more important than their being there! As I look back I am challenged to consider how I act now.

I believe that Paul gives us some excellent advice in Romans 15:1, 2 & 7. 'We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please his neighbour for his good, to build him up. . . . Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.'

According to this we must remember that each one of us has already been welcomed and accepted into the Kingdom of God only because of the love and grace which God has, in Christ, shown towards us. God's welcome and acceptance of us, even though we are sinners, is the basis for our call to welcome and accept others who are sinners just like us.

Our acceptance of one another also brings praise to God. This is an awesome idea to sit down and think about! The flip side of the coin is that when we don't accept someone we are bringing the opposite of praise to God.

Finally, we are not the focus — God is, then our neighbour is, and then us. We should do everything in our power to focus on building our neighbour up in a way that will lead him or her closer to Jesus Christ.

As young people right across the UK and Ireland consider whether 'God is for them' and make eternal decisions about their acceptance/rejection of salvation in Jesus Christ, may each one of us continually show a loving, graceful, welcoming hand of acceptance to them as they come to our churches.

FOCUS

MAGAZINE

Christ's Second Coming



- Five lifestyle own goals
- What a difference a day makes

Adventist to non-Adventist on the 8.30 to Euston: **'Jesus is coming again soon!'**

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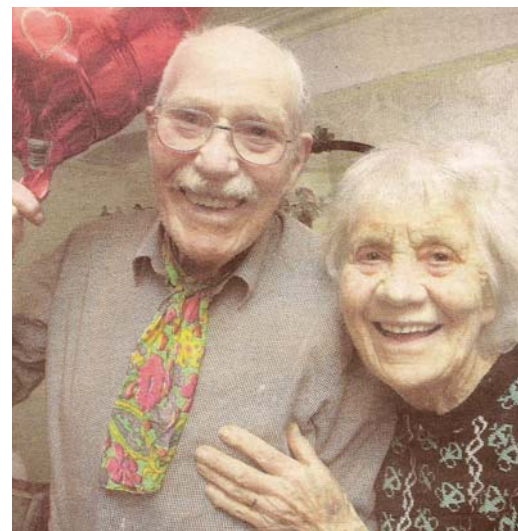
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Happily married for 75 years!

by Dr Richard de Lisser, Communication director, SEC



anniversary on Boxing Day. Jim and Doris Hardy, members of the Croscombe church, exchanged their vows in 1933 at a Baptist church in Shepton Mallet when Jim was 24 and Doris just 18. Unfortunately their wedding photographs failed to come out, so they have no record of the big day. However, Jim and Doris have had a lot more success with their marriage.

Jim, 99, a former champion cyclist, and his wife Doris, 93, are both fit and healthy and thanking God for his goodness.

Jim worked at the Great Western Quarry, a big local employer. He remembers the first car in Croscombe – an Austin owned by his boss – and how the men of the village gathered to examine it.

Doris worked for a commercial photographer in Wells.

A Seventh-day Adventist couple brought up on the same road in the same village of Croscombe celebrated their 75th wedding

Doris and Jim lived in Canada for some years, where Jim worked as a lumberjack in the far north. He recalls: 'I was working in the mountains in snow four feet deep and at temperatures of 40 degrees below zero. That's not good for a Brit.' But the couple loved the outdoor life and the camaraderie in the tiny community of forty other Adventist families. 'There were bears, and the moose used to come round the house at night. It was wonderful,' recalls Doris. Later they moved to the sunnier climes of California before returning to Somerset, along with the 4,000 budgerigars they bred while living in Los Angeles.

How has their marriage lasted seventy-five years? Doris said with an impish smile: 'It's a puzzle sometimes, but our healthy lifestyle, having never smoked or consumed alcohol, has promoted our longevity.'

Jim said: 'The Lord has been good to us. He has led us along.'

Today Jim and Doris live happily at their home in Portway, Wells.

A Moses at Balham

Balham is renowned for fostering young speakers on Children's Day. But Balham's children's day on 22 November was a little different. This time not just one but two plays were performed for the church. The first play was during Sabbath School and was organised by Joanne Passley and performed by the Primary class, with stunning performances from Matteo, who played the young Pharaoh, and Ashleigh, who played the older Pharaoh.

During divine service the church was blessed with an entire production of *Moses and the Journey*. Moses was played by Jonathan, Aaron by Darius and Miriam by Abigail. It was a real treat to see

children of all ages involved in both productions.

The teachers of the Junior Sabbath School want to thank all the children, teachers and parents for their hard work in helping to make the day such a blessing. A guitar recital of 'Come, Thou Fount of every blessing' was played by 12-year-old Leah.

NATASHA SHARMAH



Vegetarian cooking club

Three months ago, the Weston-super-Mare church began a health outreach programme entitled 'Eating Better, Paying Less'. The advertising promised 'top tips for a healthier lifestyle based on a vegetarian diet'.

We began the programme on 2 October with fifty-five visitors attending – which blew off our oven mitts! We were at the point where any latecomers would have been turned away. Regrettably, it did mean that our church hall was overly full and seating was at a premium, which also meant that many could not adequately see what was happening in the front. Three months and six sessions later, we are all amazed at the interest that the programme has generated.

We have been glad to extend hospitality to at least thirty-five consistent visitors! As we meet for our fortnightly sessions, the aroma of fresh vegetables on the cooker mingles pleasantly with the light banter and laughter of people becoming friends. All ears are attentive to hear ladies share what their husbands thought of the latest dish. Cooking tips are exchanged. Conversations are longer. Questions relate to more personal matters. Four new faces arrived at our fifth presentation, and close on forty people enjoyed a three-course vegetarian Christmas meal on 11 December.

WAYNE ERASMUS



New Beginning at New Life!

by Dr Richard de Lisser, Communication director, SEC

Sabbath 20 December saw history being made at the New Life Adventist church as approximately 400 people gathered to celebrate the church's new home at 8-10 Lennox Road, Finsbury Park, London N4. After twenty-one years in the wilderness, finally God had provided the growing and vibrant congregation with a home they could call their own. Having been formed as a church in 1987 after one of London's greatest evangelistic campaigns, conducted by evangelist J. J. Rodriguez as part of the Harvest London initiative, over 220 new believers were added to the church out of which was born New Life!

In those days all roads led to New Life, for it was indeed alive with vibrant singing, powerful preaching, telling testimonies and fellowship to feed the soul. Prayer meetings were packed and, as for Sabbath, by 9.30am the church would be nearly full.

Having been first located in Tottenham and then Woodberry Downs, New Life finally found a home away from home at the United Reformed Church in Portland Avenue, Stamford Hill. Having sojourned there for almost eighteen years, they were finally given notice to move in 2007. The members did not give up hope of one day finding a home of their own. A short stay at the St Andrews Church of England church in Stoke Newington provided them with a greater zeal to find a home.

In May 2008 the former YMCA building came on to the market at £1.1 million. However, it was seemingly out of the church's reach. New Life was notified that the building would be placed in an auction. It was with nervous anticipation that a pre-auction bid was offered and accepted for a miraculous £890,000!

The acquisition of these new premises has led to a flood of gifts to the church from members and friends alike. One member donated a brand new electronic baby grand piano, another donated a wide-screen television, another carpeted

the foyer, another donated the platform, another the podium, and yet another, a freezer, dining table and microwave; the list of generosity goes on. But the greatest gift to the New Life church has been the gift of time by its members and friends, who sacrificed to clean, paint, cook and decorate in order to get the building ready for its opening day.

It was with a sense of pride that members and visitors filed into the new building to see and to celebrate what God had done for the New Life church. Sister Eglantine Baptiste, the Sabbath School superintendent, proudly welcomed everyone to the historic event in this new church home. The Sabbath School lesson was taken by Dr Richard de Lisser, former pastor of New Life (1994-1999). The sense of joy and happiness on the faces of all who attended the opening day's service was heightened by the vibrancy of the praise and worship. Pastor Sam Davis, president of the South England Conference and guest speaker for the day, stated that if he could bottle up the worship service and send it out around the conference he would!

During the worship service a special time was set aside for prayer and the dedication to God of the church furniture. The main offering was collected in a unique way as local pastor, Augustus Lawrence, called on everyone to come to the front of the church and bring their gift and place it in the buckets provided. A total of £3,000 was raised. Pastor Lawrence then cast a vision for the church to raise £100,000 for the future development of the building in 2009.

After a hearty lunch the service continued with a baptism, where eight new members were added to the church, one being a man in a wheelchair who was helped into and out of the pool by the men of the church. The teamwork and evangelistic fervour of the members of the New Life church, as evidenced on this opening day, will serve as a catalyst for the future growth of the New Life church in its new location.



Volunteer with ASNA

Do you enjoy working with young people? Would you like to make a difference in their lives?

Bright Futures, a project of ASNA, needs youth workers to support an activity week held during the summer holidays. This fun-filled week is organised to support Young Carers* by providing:

- challenging activities
- the chance to share experiences with other young carers, and
- personal development opportunities.

Volunteering as a youth worker for this project will:

- provide you with new skills and
- enhance your career opportunities.

Details for activity week 2009:

Venue: Avon Tyrell, New Forest

Date: 10-14 August

Training and expenses will be provided.

For further information contact ASNA office.

Name of contacts: Sophia Nicholls/Helen Batten

Telephone: 01491 833395, Mobile/text: 07768 298297

Email: asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk Website: www.asna.info

* Young carers are young people aged 8-19 who care for family members with disabilities or special needs. Due to their caring responsibilities, young carers face daily challenges which affect their health, social development and economic prospects. Bright Futures provides opportunities for young carers to take a break from their caring role and socialise with their peers.

Brand-new Bible quiz launched



A brand-new web-based Bible quiz has been launched this week. Named 'quiz28' and located at www.quiz28.org, the new quiz is based directly on the *Seventh-day*

Adventists Believe book and features twenty-eight different quizzes, each one matching one of the twenty-eight fundamental beliefs of the Adventist faith.

The quiz is in multiple-choice format with twenty questions for each subject and five possible answers. This means that altogether it contains twenty-eight subjects, 560 questions, and 2,800 answers!

The whole quiz can be completed just using a mouse – no keyboard is needed. It is also arranged in such a way that every user scores 100% on each subject! This is achieved by only letting users move from a question when they've got it right. An advantage of this approach is that lessons are learned as you go along, rather than having to wait until the end of the quiz.

The competitive element comes in through a timer. As soon as a user begins a quiz the clock starts ticking. It only stops when the final question is completed, and at this stage the user is presented with his or her completion time and an authentication code which can be used to prove that the time is genuine. In testing, times of less than three minutes have already been recorded for certain subjects.

The quiz was written over the last year by Pastor John Surridge. 'This kind of project is what I like doing in my spare time as a hobby,' he says. 'The coding is done in a combination of PHP, MySQL, HTML and JavaScript, but what took the most time was researching the questions and thinking up imaginative answers for the multiple choice section. Over the last year I have thoroughly studied the twenty-eight fundamental beliefs of the Adventist

Church and it has been a really helpful exercise. Even as a pastor it's surprising how much you can forget if you don't keep studying, and I would encourage all of our members to revisit our fundamental beliefs and remind themselves of just how much sense they make.'

'I see quiz28 being used by many different types of people,' John continues. 'For those doing baptismal studies it can be a useful summary of each topic, and it can also be useful preparation for some of our Sabbath School lessons. What I'd really like to see, though, is people doing it just for fun – particularly young people. I'd like to see them competing for the fastest times and talking about it with their friends. We've already got the "Follow the Bible" project and if quiz28 can help to make Bible study enjoyable, then it's got to be a good thing.

'I can also see quiz28 making a contribution to our "Year of Evangelism". If we can publicise the site and get members of the general public involved, then they can learn something about our fundamental beliefs before they ever set foot in an Adventist church. Obviously the quiz alone can't give them the detail they need, but on completion of each quiz they are presented with links to sites such as the Adventist Discovery Centre where they can enrol in more in-depth courses.'

The quiz28 website is now fully operational, so why not try it out and tell your friends about it? Webmasters are welcome to put links to quiz28 on their own sites. Any international webmasters who would like to translate the whole site into another language should contact the BUC Communication department for further details.

addresses that question from the perspective of four scientific Christians who value being created in the image of their Maker. In a specially commissioned programme made by the BUC Media Centre for Hope TV, John Smith, a former BBC journalist, talks to astronomer Dr Mart de Groot, chemist Dr John Walton, consultant engineer Dr Steve Logan and science teacher Kish Poddar. They explain how they can stand up for their faith and belief in the scientific community and what that belief means to them.

'Darwin Revisited' is available now for viewing and download on the UK HopeTV website: www.hopetv.org.uk, along with extended interviews. A DVD will shortly be available for bulk purchase. These are a fantastic companion to the special edition of *FOCUS* on 'Origins' and can be used as a positive way to share good science with our friends and neighbours.

Stockport choir

On Sabbath 10 January the Stockport church had an appreciation service in which they recognised the members of their church choir for their ongoing support. The choir, which formed in the middle of last year, has performed in concert with a choir from London last year, and sings regularly in church and represents the church at various functions.

'The choir members are very dedicated to spreading the Word of God in songs and praise,' said choir director Calvin Handfield, 'and whether it is snowing or raining, the choir shows up at practice, determined to spread God's Word in music and songs.'

The church is very supportive of its various groups. www.stockportadventists.co.uk

CALVIN HANDFIELD



Members of the Stockport church choir

Darwin revisited

by Victor Hulbert, Communication director, BUC

It is hard to ignore the barrage of media excitement around what the Darwin day website calls 'a global celebration of science and reason'. February 12 was the 200th birthday of the evolutionary biologist Charles Darwin. A further celebration will occur this October with the 150th anniversary of the publication of *The Origin of Species*.

Seventh-day Adventists have always held fast to the Genesis account of origins, yet in the current climate many are asking whether science and reason can still go hand in hand with a belief in Creation. 'Darwin Revisited'



Stafford: Far East programme

On 27 December, Stafford children's Sabbath School department hosted a Far East thirteenth Sabbath School programme and children's party. The children and teachers had been busy preparing songs and poems, talks and piano recitals, as well as rehearsing their weekly memory verses. Japanese phrases and Mandarin songs had been organised while the children and Sabbath School teachers took part in preparing the decorations and costumes that reflected this Far Eastern theme. While the focus of the thirteenth Sabbath programme had been based on the evangelistic work of the Far Eastern Division, the Stafford junior Sabbath School department also saw it as a great witnessing opportunity. Non-

Adventist friends were invited along to join in the celebrations and the programme saw members and visitors alike listening, singing, watching and taking part in the practical activity of making and decorating their very own paper lantern, complete with name tag featuring the Bible verse, Psalm 119:105. Later in the programme, the children held their completed paper lanterns aloft and sang along to the children's favourite, 'This little light of mine'. Our non-Adventist visitors also received homemade cinnamon and honey loaf with a special Christian bookmark as a gift. The evening ended with a children's feast of cakes, fruit and children's party games.

DANA SUDWORTH

Adventist-Muslim relations

Fifty-five attendees visited the Advent Centre on 14 December to learn more about the fast developing area of Adventist-Muslim relations.

The day started with a stirring devotional on what a mighty day Jesus was born, by Elizabeth Kavanagh, a member of the

Community Fellowship group in Lewisham.

Attendees then experienced what, for many, was their first Arabic lesson from Joy Braithwaite, a member of the Stratford church, who spoke about the beauty and intricacy of the language and about how important it is in witnessing to have an appreciation of the other

Rededication of Sutton-in-Ashfield church

November 1 was a celebration of many months of hard work by members of the Sutton-in-Ashfield church. This had involved arranging contractors of various trades to carry out interior and exterior work. With financial help from the NEC, we were able to proceed with the alterations as planned. The work began with the removal of the old platform and a new area created, giving room to accommodate more people taking part during programmes without being obscured by the old structure. This particular work included the reconstruction of the steps across the front to enable easy and safe access to the platform. The sanctuary was also re-carpeted to match the church hall.

The outside of the church was repainted and a new notice board and church sign have been erected. A new hymn-board was skilfully constructed by our treasurer's husband, Terry Hall. Our new mobile pulpit now has the denominational logo on it, artistically created by member, Gabriel Skocny.

The PA system also had an overhaul. The old system was realigned to operate from the rear of the sanctuary, with the addition of radio microphones and a ceiling-hung video projector, giving a much-improved audio and visual quality. Our new up-to-date system now caters for all our needs (including the use of laptop projection), and we are able to invite all our guest speakers to bring their equipment with them!

Sabbath School began with songs of praise, and the lesson was taken by our pastor, Melvin Ellis. Pastor Egerton Francis was our guest speaker of the day, ably assisted by Conference treasurer Marcus Dove. The church overflowed not only with praise and joy but with visitors and local members from near and far. There was standing room only. The afternoon programme of music and praise was organised by Jean Gregory and Moray Stewart. Members gave testimonies, which were indeed a blessing to all.

Sutton's singing group ended the day by singing 'What a day that will be'.

MORAY STEWART

person's language.

The SEC director of AMR, Pastor Petras Bahadur, then highlighted the work of AMR – to build relations with the Muslim community and to support those wishing to reach out to Muslims.

John Bishop, a member of Norbury church, then spoke about the many similarities between Adventists and Muslims, both in terms of culture and beliefs, that highlight a natural connection with our Muslim friends.

Following a typically delicious Asian lunch, attendees were quizzed by Petras Bahadur on their knowledge of Islam.

Attendees were then transfixed as they were treated to a fascinating exploration into Islam according to Bible prophecy by John Bishop.

Danny Julie, MC for the day, spoke about the common ground between Adventists and Muslims and highlighted that AMR does not exist to convert Muslims but rather to educate Adventists and to equip us for ministry with our Muslim friends.

Attendees were left wanting more, as was evidenced in the lengthy question and answer time. James Payne, an attendee from Wimbledon International church,

said, 'The day was very enriching. I now feel better equipped to interact with my Muslim friends.'

Please see the SEC website for future AMR events.

AMR TEAM

VACANCY FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER

Following the recent permanent appointment of Kathleen Hanson as head teacher at Stanborough Primary School, a vacancy has arisen for a Primary Class teacher, preferably at Key Stage 2.

Ideally, the chosen candidate will have several years of experience, as well as a Primary School teaching qualification. Individuals who apply need to be flexible in their approach to teaching and learning. In keeping with the ethos of the school, suitable applicants will need to be able to function well as part of a team. The child-centred approach that is evident at the school is a key element of its success. Any person joining the team will need to be able to incorporate this approach in their classroom.

Stanborough Primary School is a well-managed institution with a team of dedicated and hardworking staff. Christian values are practised by the teaching and support staff, and a new team member should be sympathetic to the ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who run the school.

Salary will be in line with the denominational scale. Potential candidates should have the right to work in the UK.

If you are interested in applying for this post, please send your CV for the attention of Mrs Kathleen Hanson, Head teacher, Stanborough Primary School, Appletree Walk, Garston, Watford, Hertfordshire. WD25 0DQ. The closing date for applications is 28 February 2009 for interviews to be held in early March.

First MicroCHIP graduation in East Lancashire

by Rose Gomez

On Sabbath 29 November the Bolton church was filled with guests from far and near to witness the graduation ceremony of the first MicroCHIP programme in East Lancashire. MicroCHIP is the leadership training programme for the Coronary Health Improvement Project, which trains teams of volunteers to run CHIP in the community. MicroCHIP ran during the month of November at the Bury (Fishpool) church. Twenty-one participants from seven churches gathered every Tuesday for two sessions a day, from 10am till 3pm. The programme was organised by the East Lancashire District of Churches; Bolton, Bury, and Blackburn, and facilitated by district Bible instructor Rose Gomez. Participants attended from as far afield as Barnsley, and three of the Manchester churches: North, South and Central. National CHIP co-ordinator Gene Koll and NEC Health Ministries director Grace Walsh were present to launch the event on 4 November and to officiate at the graduation service.

It was agreed that MicroCHIP is the modern face of the Adventist health message. The amazing revelations from Dr Hans Diehl, founder of the CHIP programme, showed that

many of the major diseases prevalent in Western society can be prevented and, in many cases, reversed through simple lifestyle changes advocated and clinically proven in the programme. These diseases include heart disease, hypertension, stroke, cancer, diabetes, osteoporosis and obesity.

Testimonies from the participants confirmed the clinically reported facts:

'Health screening in session one showed my blood sugar to be 16. Four weeks later it was down to 7.5. My blood pressure went from 179/95 to 150/75. I discovered that fat in the diet is the main factor in developing type 2 diabetes, not sugar, as I had always believed. This has revolutionised my life as a diabetic.' (D. Taylor, Manchester South.)

'With my doctor's approval I came off my medication for diabetes during the four-week programme, because of the lifestyle changes I implemented as I was learning them. I intend to write to the Director of Public Health for Barnsley, enclosing a copy of the CHIP "Advantage Journal", to introduce CHIP to him as a public health programme for my local district.' (M. Rossiter, Barnsley.)

'I lost 8lbs and as a result can wear this suit for graduation.' (J. Couzins, East Lancashire district.)

'At the age of 72, I cooked from a recipe for the first time in my life. Comments on how good it tasted encouraged me to prepare the same dish for our graduation dinner. I have lost 10lbs, I walk instead of using the bus, and go to bed at 9pm instead of midnight. I move about now like a young man!' (B. Chege, Bolton.)

The medical team of six health professionals was responsible for the two health screening sessions, including blood sugar, weight, height, BMI, blood pressure and pulse. The five-member nutrition team ensured that a heart-healthy lunch was served every Tuesday, including recipes from the MicroCHIP Recipe Book, compiled by Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries director. Other teams whose hard work ensured the success of the programme were the registration, housekeeping and audio-visual teams and the group facilitators.

This MicroCHIP was planned to run as a 'full dress rehearsal' for the CHIP programme scheduled for May 2009 in Bury. Consequently we

divided participants into groups, with two facilitators for each group, so that we could practise the small group principles of the CHIP programme. During CHIP, guests from the community will mingle with church members in small groups at each of the sixteen sessions, so that friendships can more easily and naturally develop. The principle worked so well that, at the final session, people were asking, 'What shall we do next week?' 'Can we arrange to meet together regularly now that MicroCHIP is over?'

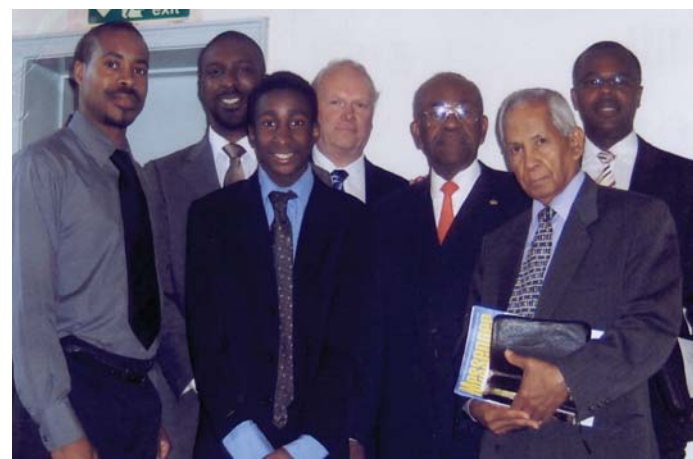
The health benefits experienced by all participants convinced them that the Adventist health message in the form of CHIP is a *must* for our physically ailing communities. All who took part expressed their determination to promote CHIP as the health evangelism programme for their local church. We join with the thousands of CHIPPERS worldwide in the motto: 'Healthy by choice, not by chance!'



GBK: Youth Day

Youth day at Great Brick Kiln Street church, Wolverhampton, on 29 November was a special event. Children were supervised in the youth hall in order to make space for visiting friends. The preacher for the day was Andrew Fuller and his sermon was entitled 'Watch out! You're sleeping on the borders'.

Andrew echoed the sentiments that today was not just another day when the youth could mingle together and 'kotch easy'. He urged them to make serious decisions about living for Christ. With dynamic heart-searching and convicting calls to the youth, Andrew Fuller offered challenges to wake up, throw away any ungodly music addiction or anything else that hinders full commitment to God. A trail-blaze appeal resulted in a remarkable response from all the youth in the congregation who made their way from their seats to the altar. They solemnly surrendered



Smile at the storm

Pastor Arthur Campbell was in reflective mood as he delivered the sermon at Kingston church on Sabbath 20 December. It has been a trying year for the church, especially after the death of two members. Phil Zamudio died in March after a short illness and Rashford Lyttle was laid to rest on 9 December. They had both been very active in the church and had been faithful servants of God. Pastor Campbell reminded members that as children of God we should always remember that, despite the difficulties, sadness and trials, the Lord has been good and has done great things for his people.

On the positive side, church members have clung firmly to their faith and have been working hard in their area. In June, members from Kingston and Mitcham had gathered together and joyfully welcomed Marshall Mukahiwa (Kingston church) and Dominic Best (Mitcham church) as they were baptised by Pastor Campbell, who is responsible for both churches. It had been a very moving service, with families and friends, special items, beautiful music, lively singing and inspiring messages. Pastor Campbell had urged all present to give their hearts to the Lord and not delay as we never know what tomorrow holds.

Pastor Michael Hamilton, Personal Ministries director at the Trans-European Division, had been the guest speaker at the baptismal service. Dr Hamilton had described baptism as 'the doorway to God's Kingdom' and stated that life is full of uncertainties and the storms of life always start unexpectedly when someone accepts Christ as their personal Saviour. 'When the storms of life come your way, remember that Jesus is on board and you are not alone. With Jesus in the vessel you can smile at the storm, because he is in control.'

LUCY KANU

as prayer was offered that effective spiritual changes would occur in their lives.

DELVA CAMPBELL

GBK: Pathfinder investiture

On 6 December Great Brick Kiln church accommodated the Pathfinder and Adventurers investiture in a well-attended congregation. They began the morning with marching in the sanctuary to the sound of rhythmic drumming, while others held high the colourful flags. The investiture programme progressed well into the day and activities included the giving of badges, presentations and certificates from the NEC leaders to the various achievers. The highlight of the day was the

special welcome given to a newly-qualified Master Guide Mrs Dawn Higgins. A lively sermon cemented the spiritual bond of the moment.

DELVA M. CAMPBELL

Children's Day at Walthamstow church

'You are special' was the theme for the day as relatives and friends were treated to a special programme at Walthamstow church on 6 December. There was rousing singing, a passionate praise team and three sermonettes – all led by children from Walthamstow church.

The day culminated in a colourful and animated production of the Kids'



Dundee baptismal candidate: Back from the dead

Arthur Gall has lived through some dramatic changes in his life, including being pronounced dead in a motorcycle accident, to working in London, to life as a soldier and then a long spell in entertainment management. But a new chapter opened on Sabbath 10 January as he was baptised in the Dundee church by Pastor Marcel Ghioalda.

A catalytic moment came for Arthur in 2006 when a tyre exploded on his car and he was badly injured. Hospital staff predicted he would need a zimmer frame for the rest of his life. Arthur felt a nearness to God and sensed that he had other plans for him. He left hospital under his own strength and began reading more of the Bible. He found it hard going but an inner voice kept telling him: 'Twice you have been close to death and survived; are you going to ignore the truth this second time?'

The Bible gradually became easier for Arthur to read as he found that each sentence, each verse, each paragraph, applied to him in a personal way.

About a year later Arthur met someone on the Internet who was a Seventh-day Adventist. She said not a word about Adventism, but as they got to know one another she told him of her beliefs and the fundamentals of her faith. One day she suggested he go along to the local Adventist church to see what it was all about. He did! He was kindly received and made welcome.

Since that day, Arthur's faith has grown stronger and stronger until, as he said of his baptism, 'I believed I had MADE IT, achieved my goal, only to realise I had only made it to the start line with so much more joy to come.'

Pastor Ghioalda emphasised in his sermonette that baptism is a public declaration of an inner conviction. It symbolises belief in the power of God to change lives radically as well as acceptance into the family of God. The spiritual atmosphere was heightened as all-time favourites 'The old Rugged Cross' and 'Amazing Grace' were sung. Pastor Neil Robertson offered a beautiful dedicatory prayer as Arthur was welcomed into the Dundee church family with acclamation.

JOHN WALTON

Praise 'Psalty' musical 'Heart to change the world'. May God continue to inspire our children to work for him.

RAY MARSHALL



Water from ADRA-UK

by James Shepley

Today is Tuesday 20 January. Barack Obama will step onto the podium to pronounce his inaugural speech in an hour or so. But I am not going to be able to make it to a TV screen in time. There is no electricity here. Still, it doesn't matter. I am enjoying the moment, sitting under a mango tree in the village of Seologhin in West Africa, watching a stream of Burkinabe ladies pour out of an adult literacy class, the class benches hoisted above their heads. On the bench beside me are two project evaluators, who have been hired to gauge the difference that ADRA-UK is making in twelve villages in this part of Burkina Faso through the Teng Koglogo or 'Save the Earth' project.

The three village notables who are being interviewed are sporting woolly hats. The temperature is an unseasonable 14 degrees. Two of them are not wearing shoes. Their torn and calloused feet

indicate a life of great physical exertion and small rewards. The third man is the village chief. He speaks some French. Conversation ranges from the training that ADRA has been dispensing to local women to help improve their vegetable production, to the need to protect and enrich the forest here, a process which ADRA is supporting, to the nearby dam, which is planned.

I ask if ADRA has done anything in the field of water here. The three men grin and the youngest and most talkative man, Saidou Zoungrana, laughs: 'All the water points in this village have been put in by ADRA.' He points past a huddle of granary barns made of freshly woven matting to the latest ADRA-UK-funded water point, one of eleven boreholes which have been sunk in the past month. Saidou waves his arms. 'If there was no ADRA, we would have no water here.'



ROSE DUNHAM (née WOODS) (1912-2008) d. 19 February 2008. It is with great sadness that we report that our 'Auntie Rose' fell asleep in Jesus aged 95. Rose was born two years before the First World War, on 20 April 1912. She grew up in a Christian home, one of six children, four brothers and one sister, in Leyton, East London.

As a young teenager she was introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist faith with her mother and younger brother Frank, by attending an evangelistic tent meeting led by Pastor O. M. Dorland. The tent was later replaced with a church building there in Walthamstow, where they were baptised and worshipped regularly. She was unable to finance training to be a Bible worker so she entered domestic service. She worked for Dr John Shone and his family in Walthamstow for several years. Both he and his family had a strong influence on her Christian life. During this time she met a young musician and apprentice printer named Percy Dunham from Tottenham church. They were married at Holloway church in 1937 by Pastor C. A. Reeves and continued to give faithful service to the Holloway church for forty-five years. Percy was organist and Rose as deaconess. They also supported the wonderful evangelistic campaigns of Roy Anderson and George Vandeman. Rose found so much joy in her church life. She was an amazing collector for Ingathering, faithfully covering the same territory for thirty years. She loved singing the hymns and listening to the Holloway Male Voice Choir. After Percy's retirement from his work as a master printer they moved to the Mendip Hills in Somerset to be closer to Rose's younger brother Frank and his family. Here they enjoyed the beautiful surrounding countryside and the warm fellowship at Weston-super-Mare church. Sadly, Rose lost Percy to cancer in 1987, a few months short of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. From then on, Rose lived alone with care and support from Frank, Mary, Hazel and Peter, her brother's family, until she had to receive professional nursing care at the age of 92. We are full of admiration for the care she received from the George Muller home and the constant support and love her brother Frank gave her. Rose was fiercely independent and attended church each week until she was too frail. She was faithful to her Lord and he granted her good health and a long, happy life, allowing her to pass away in her sleep. We thank God for Auntie Rose's life, for her wonderfully strong character, her faith and her great generosity to others. 'Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life.' (Revelation 2:10.)

HAZEL MARIE (née WOODS)

LIVINGSTONE BISHOP (1931-2008). Livingstone M. Bishop was born in Barbados to Seventh-day Adventist parents in 1931. As a youth he was baptised at King's Street Adventist church, Bridgetown. He took an active part in church work. Brother Bishop came to London in the 1950s and the first church he attended was Holloway. He became associated with the Male Voice Choir and maintained those links throughout his life, singing with the All London Male Voice Choir for the last time in December 2007. When Livingstone attended Holloway church he met Sister Otto and they were married in 1958 by Pastor C. Farrow. Brother Bishop attended the New Gallery Centre for a while, and then he attended Stoke Newington church through the leadership of Brother N. Ashley. There he was very involved in church work. He became an ordained elder and in the 1980s Pastor H. Kennedy asked Elder L. Bishop and Elder L. Roberts to start a church in Clapton. They worked very hard in Clapton church, but now they are both at rest. We are hoping to see them again when Jesus returns.

JANETTE MORRIS

SKAIDRITE LAKE (1960-2008) d. 29 October. The church at Sutton-in-Ashfield was filled with sadness as members and friends gathered to pay their respects to our lovely Latvian lady Skaidrite Lake who died suddenly on Thursday 29 October. Skaidrite was born in Smiltene, a small town in Latvia. She was one of four children and before coming to Britain was a student at Smiltene Technical College, where she acquired the profession of an agronomist and for some time worked in Russia. She eventually arrived in West Scotland to work on the salmon fishing grounds and from there went south to Cornwall where she met Brian who drove the agency bus. Brian came back to Mansfield and, soon after, Skaidrite followed him where Sutton church were delighted with her presence. Skaidrite was a charming lady and appeared a very happy person. She will be sadly missed.

MORAY STEWART

CAMAY GRIFFITHS (1962-2008) d. 31 October. On Sabbath 1 November a bright light went out in Peckham church. One of our dear sisters, Camay Griffiths, lost her battle against cancer. Camay fought the battle with her illness long and hard with the support of some of her close friends. Camay Griffiths was born in Hanover, Jamaica, on 5 July 1962, to Winnifred Gray

and Vincent Griffiths. Camay left Jamaica and arrived in England at the age of 8. Camay's parents were Adventists and raised her to know and fear the Lord. She attended Lewisham church for a few years, and later renewed her vows in the Peckham church. Camay has always been hard-working and ambitious. After leaving school, she worked for many years in the Inland Revenue. She worked in management positions in various departments but unfortunately was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1996. She had treatment and made a good recovery. Camay lived a very unselfish and fulfilling life and was baptised in Peckham church on 24 February 2004. She was always willing to help and give advice to others. Despite her illness, she never complained. During the final stages of her illness, which came back after ten years, she fought daily to look after herself. She tried various natural and alternative remedies to keep herself well. Unfortunately, she couldn't fight any longer and passed away peacefully after a rousing song service, anointing and worship at her bedside on Friday 31 October. Camay's calm and gentle spirit will always be remembered. Camay was laid to rest on Thursday 20 November. She leaves behind a daughter, granddaughter, mother, two brothers and many other family members and friends. We look forward to meeting her again on that great resurrection day.

BERYL NICHOLSON and CAROL JOSEPH

CASSIE SMILEY (1902-2009) d. 4 January. Mrs Cassie Smiley, affectionately known as 'Aunt C', was born in Joyce's Hope in Jamaica on 4 April 1902, and passed away on 4 January 2009 at 106 years of age. Her funeral service was held at the St Thomas and St Luke's Anglican church in Dudley, West Midlands, on Tuesday 20 January. The funeral service was led by local minister Pastor Roy Morgan, assisted by the resident Anglican minister, the Reverend Tony Atwood, and several other area ministers. The sermon was given by the British Union Conference president, Pastor Don McFarlane, who had served as the late Sister Smiley's pastor in Jamaica thirty-five years before. 'Aunt C', married Alexander Smiley at the age of 16 and produced sixteen children, several of whom she outlived. She became a Seventh-day Adventist due to the influence of one of her daughters, Lucilda. The Lord Mayor of Dudley, paying tribute to her, talked of her great wit and sharp mind. He remarked on her Christian faith and commitment, which was evidenced on his visits to her. She was never reticent to share her faith and enquire of his own spiritual welfare, and to pray with and for him.

CHURCH CLERK

GLENDA OPILAS (1967-2009) d. 6 January. On 6 January at 3.30pm in the Bacolod Medical Adventist Centre in the Philippines, Glenda Opilas fell asleep in the hands of God at the age of 41. Glenda was born in Malaybalay Bukidnon, Philippines, on 14 December 1967, the eldest of the three children of Benjamin and Gloria Opilas. She pursued her primary and secondary education at Negros Mission Seventh-day Adventist Academy. She finished her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at

Central Philippine Adventist College. While waiting for job opportunities, Glenda was a big help to her father in running the family business of making bread and tasty soya milk. There she mastered the art of making cinnamon bread which is one of the favourites of the people in the community. She practised her nursing skills first in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, working there for four years, and later as a staff nurse at the Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Birmingham in 2001. She joined the Bourneville church, where she served faithfully in various positions, in particular leading out in the Nightingales singing group of which she was director. In 2006 Glenda was diagnosed with breast cancer, which she fought with great fortitude, finally going into remission. In 2008 the cancer returned and she decided to return to the Philippines to be with her family. On 1 September 2008, the Bourneville church bade farewell to Glenda. Her last words to her church family were a testimony in song, 'Take my life and let it be/Consecrated Lord to thee. Take myself and I will be/Ever, only, all for thee.' She was a friend, a sister, a woman of God, and though she was assailed by illness and pain, she kept up her courage, knowing that she had surrendered everything to God. Glenda sleeps in Jesus as she waits for the voice of the Life-giver who, one glad day, will call her and all those who have fallen asleep in him. Sleep on, beloved, it won't be long now.

LANI JAVELOSA



GWYNETH PHYLLIS HILDA MUDFORD (née JOHNS) (1907-2009) d. 7 January 2009. Gwyneth Mudford was born on 11 May 1907 in Aberbarge, South Wales. She was proud of her Celtic ancestry and, till her end, nearly 102 years later, carried a distinctly Welsh accent. Born into an Adventist family, she served Jesus

faithfully all her life. She was a member of Roy Allan Anderson's London Choir during his many campaign meetings. Later in life she became a member of Russel Kranz's choir at the New Gallery, also through various series of meetings. Gwyneth married Reg Mudford who predeceased her. Gwyneth served as a part-time librarian at the New Gallery and made many true and lasting friends. As she grew older her friends became younger. Many of the younger generation regarded themselves as friends of this old lady and she revelled in their love. Left to mourn her are her adopted daughter Susan and her husband Billy, Christopher her grandson, Christine and Nicholas, Kathryn and Benjamin her great-grandchildren, and Nicholas, Holly and Willow, her great-great grandchildren. Jesus is coming again. She will be among those raised to meet him, with her husband Reg. She was cremated at the Gorleston Crematorium and friends and family and various ministers of her acquaintance of her long and happy life attended the service.

SUE INGRAM

Newbold News



Comings and goings at Newbold early in 2009

Lecturers in theology, Dr Gunnar Pedersen and Jan Barna, each spent a week in Belgrade in January teaching a module in Newbold's distance-learning MA offered to Seventh-day Adventist pastors in South Eastern Europe.

Dr Steve Currow visited Chantmarle Manor House in Dorset twice in January. On his first visit, he and Dr Mike Pearson spoke to the South England Conference Adventist University Students weekend. On his second visit he was joined by Pastor Gifford Rhamie when they both spoke to the South England Conference Youth Leaders' Convention.

Dr John Preston from the Institute of Education, London University, gave the first Diversity Lecture of the semester.

Early in February, Newbold's principal, Dr Jane Sabes, left for a tour of Adventist college campuses in the USA. Her visit is to include meetings with alumni and friends of Newbold.

HELEN PEARSON



Dates for your diary

NEWBOLD COLLEGE CHOIR UK CONCERTS SPRING 2009

Seventh-day Adventist Churches and Days of Fellowship

28 March – Oxford

4 April – Bournemouth

18 April – Cambridge

25 April – Devon/Cornwall venue TBA

For further details contact the choir conductor:

Dr Sandra Rigby-Barrett

T: 01344-407470

E: sandrab@newbold.ac.uk

<1
Why read the Bible daily?

and seeks to know God's will as revealed in Scripture for oneself individually and for the human family. We often speak about the need to communicate with God and see this as vital in building a relationship with him. God has many ways to communicate with the human family, but the Bible is one of the most effective in that it catalogues God's interaction with man and reveals, even though imperfectly but

- **A man began reading the Bible and, after a time, called out to his wife, 'If this Book is true, we are lost!' But he read on and, some time later, he called out, 'If this Book is true, we can be saved!' This illustrates the supreme reason why the Bible is worth reading.**
- **In prayer we tell God what is on our hearts: he needs to know. In Bible reading we learn what is on God's heart: it is vital that we know.**
- **If you are too busy to read the Bible daily, you are busier than God ever intended humans to be.**
- **God will not love you more because you read his Word. But unless you read his Word you will not understand the depth and magnitude of his love for you, nor understand the premise on which faith is based.**

sufficiently, the plan of salvation. There is a view that Bible reading is more important than prayer. This is based on the understanding that in prayer we tell God what is on our heart, while in Bible reading we learn what is on God's heart.

Rowan Williams, the current Archbishop of Canterbury, is known as a very reflective church leader. In his Larkin-Stuart Lecture in Toronto in 2007 he said, 'One of the things that most clearly and universally identifies Christians as Christians is that they habitually read the Bible or have the Bible read to them. From the most liberal to the most conservative, from Pentecostals in Venezuela to Orthodox in Albania, those who call themselves Christians are engaged in a complex and a varied set of relationships with this written text, relationships which shape the patterns of worship, teaching and ethical discourse.'

God never meant you to be TOO busy

Dwight Moody said to a man who claimed that he did not have enough time to read the Bible, 'My friend, if you are too busy to read the Bible every day you are busier than Almighty God ever intended any

human being should be, and you had better let some things go and take time to read the Bible.'

God will not necessarily love us more because we read the Bible, but without reading it we cannot understand the depth and the magnitude of his love for us. Without reading the Bible it is also doubtful that we will understand the premise on which our faith is based. We may join others in attending church and participating in various worship activities but are not able to defend our faith when required to do so.

Members who do not read the Bible are easily misled by those who come with ear-tingling doctrines which sound plausible but which are not anchored in the Word of God. 'Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are my disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."' (John 8:31, 32.)

Another important reason why the Bible is worth reading is its potential to foster spiritual growth. The athletes who are preparing for the 2012 Olympics in London know that if they want to do well and, hopefully, win medals, it is essential that they submit to the discipline of a particular diet. The same principle applies to Christians. We, too, need to feed on a diet that builds our spiritual muscles and bones and makes us resilient in the face of temptations and overwhelming odds. Job set a good example for us when he said, 'I have not departed from the commands of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my daily bread.' One of the defences Jesus used against the devil in the Wilderness of Temptation was his knowledge of Scripture. With that knowledge he was able to parry the attacks of the evil one.

NEWBOLD COLLEGE

is seeking to appoint a

COURSE LEADER IN COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA

To commence 1 August 2009
(or earlier, by mutual consent)

The College is planning to launch a new degree in Communications & Media in August 2009 and is looking for an individual with the following profile to help create and lead the programme:

- A minimum of a Master's degree in the Communications/Media area (PhD strongly preferred)
- Good experience in teaching communications modules at the undergraduate level (ideally with knowledge of UK higher education)
- Fluency in English (speaking and writing)
- Experience in both theoretical and practical applications of communications or media
- An ability to convey ideas and relate to students from diverse backgrounds
- Experience in new programme design
- Commitment to teaching communications or media within the distinctive ethos and context of Christianity

The successful applicant would be expected to:

- Teach a range of communications and media modules at the undergraduate level with a strong commitment to quality
- Help to create and develop a new degree, performing the duties of a course leader
- Display initiative, team spirit and leadership as appropriate and necessary
- Manifest strong customer care and tutorial support for students

Applicants will already possess or seek the right to live and work in the United Kingdom. Salary will be according to the denominational scale.

A letter of application along with a current CV and the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to:

The Vice Principal, Newbold College, Bracknell, Berks, RG42 4AN, UK
Tel: +44 (0) 1344 407401, Fax: +44 (0) 1344 407404
email: mpearson@newbold.ac.uk

The deadline for this application is 23 March 2009

Newbold College is a higher education institution owned and operated by the Trans-European Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

ABC BOOK SALES

February		
22	Stanborough School	10am-2pm
March		
1	John Loughborough	10.30am-2pm
7-8	Dublin/Belfast	
8	Harper Bell	10.30am-2pm
ABC Shops		
Watford, BUC. Due to the recent fire, the ABC shop in Watford is closed until March		
Advent Centre, Sundays 11am-3pm		

Messenger

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Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Bell
Feb 20	5.25	5.37	5.26	5.28	5.42
27	5.38	5.50	5.40	5.43	5.56
Mar 6	5.50	6.02	5.53	5.58	6.10
13	6.02	6.14	6.05	6.12	6.24

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