

Messenger

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End-time theme at Three Missions' Pastoral Retreat

by Pastor Jimmy Botha

The Scottish, Irish and Welsh Missions' pastors and sponsors enjoyed a Three Missions' Retreat in the Scottish Highlands at the Strathyre Cabins near Callander in Scotland from 9 to 12 February. The team of thirty plus enjoyed cabins in stunningly beautiful winter weather to spend a few days together in thought, fellowship and relaxation. They were privileged to have a guest speaker who really challenged and stimulated their thinking. Dr Jon Paulien is dean of the Loma Linda University faculty of religion. He is seen as one of the leading Adventist authorities on the book of Revelation and the other prophetic books of the Bible.

Dr Paulien led out in topics such

as 'The Biblical Concept of Judgement', 'The Sanctuary in the Book of Revelation', 'A Lifetime of Spiritual Leadership', 'A Vision for the End-time Remnant' and 'Doing Church in a New Reality'. He was accompanied by his wife Pamela and their daughter Kimberly, who was comfortable to answer some of the questions from the pastors with regard to the post-modern young people in church today. These topics were no doubt challenging and very enjoyable to all. Enough time was allowed for pastors to take a walk, take a nap, or just enjoy the snow.

But no retreat would be a proper retreat without good food, and food was there in abundance – supplied by Karin Edwards, Carole



Peacock and Janice Perry.

The retreat was grateful to have Pastor Alan Hodges from the BUC, who also took one of the morning worships. The other morning worships were taken by Pastors David Neal and John Surridge.

So the recipe was complete – good food, speakers, and good, relaxing experiences. It looks as though it gets harder to improve as we think forward to new retreats.



Dr Paulien



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The memorial stones

Gleanings from Joshua, Chapter 4

by Anne Pilmoor

Children's book editor and associate Education director

Most of us have enjoyed the spectacular and exciting narratives found in the book of Joshua, where the final stage of Israel's long journey from Egypt to Canaan is recorded. We have probably recognised the theme of salvation in every story and have often turned to the book to extract principles of leadership. However, tucked between the blockbuster scripts lies a quieter but no less dramatic account of the crossing of a river and a simple memorial service.

After forty years of travelling through the land, their journey about to end, the Israelites face their final challenge: the crossing of the Jordan River. God turns the course of nature on its head, just as he had when they crossed the Red Sea, and he

performs a miracle again. As he parts the river, making it possible for all to cross safely to the other side, his message to his people is personal and understood. He reminds them that he has always been with them from start to end in every struggle, and that their victory belongs to him.

God does not stop there. He further instructs Joshua to organise a memorial service.

Twelve men, one from each of the tribes of Israel, are sent to the middle of the Jordan River where the priests are waiting with the ark. Each selects a rock and carries it across to Canaan, where they will be used to build a memorial.

The purpose of this memorial is to set aside time and space for God's people to remember all that he has done for them; to provide an oppor-

tunity for renewing personal commitment; and to mark the time when they would no longer suffer the consequence of their past defeats.

Imagine a whole nation reverently engaged in this spiritual act of remembrance. It must have been a poignant and moving service, as one by one the twelve men would have placed their rocks on the designated spot, telling their story of everything they had seen, heard and felt in the difficult years.

God's call to remembrance did not simply recount past victories, but called parents to share their faith with their children. (Two references in this chapter remind parents of their responsibility to communicate God's Word and his calling to future generations through the memorial.) It further encouraged the Israelites to be witnesses to the wider community ('that all the peoples of the world may know . . .').

The act of renewing personal commitment focuses on Joshua as a leader: As the men carry their stones back to the riverbank, Joshua picks up another twelve stones and builds a memorial in the middle of the riverbed in a personal act of worship and commitment.

When the Israelites reach the other side of the river they set up camp in the place appropriately named Gilgal, which means, 'the reproach has been rolled away'. With an overwhelming sense of a journey completed, they finally find freedom from the spiritual defeats and failures of the past forty years. The memorial marks the end of that struggle and they have everything to look forward to – a new beginning in a new land. The Israelites are now a people with a powerful sense of their victory through God.

After the memorial service, the monument of twelve stones would be a continual, visible reminder of God's faithfulness. It would remain a silent witness to the special day when the people of God stepped into the fast-flowing Jordan River, confident that he would see them safely to the other side.

And what of us? Where are our memorial stones? Do we take time to remember our unique stories, those monumental occasions when God changed our direction, gave us a new hope and a new sense of purpose? Have our children seen our memorials and asked, 'What do these stones mean to you?'



Toxic attitudes

David Marshall

The president of a conference a long way from here labelled any pastor who called in sick 'A Sickly Man'. Unsurprising? What was surprising was that he made the label stick, *permanently!* When the pastor's name came up for a move a year or two later, the committee was asked to remember that that pastor was 'A Sickly Man'. When he was nominated to be a departmental director, the nomination was quashed with, 'He's a Sickly Man.' The fact that the pastor had made an excellent recovery from his sickness eight or nine years earlier was disregarded. That pastor had once admitted to being ill. And it became a permanent and, apparently, 'terminal' demerit on his record.

A group of church workers speculated as to the reason for the president's prejudice against the admission of ill health. 'He remembers the days when a man's worth was estimated in sterling, and any admission of sickness or disability would diminish his value,' said one. 'He doesn't want us to go off sick willy-nilly,' said another. A third explanation was that in the very early days of the Advent movement there arose a belief that we should be physically as well as spiritually ready for the return of Jesus.

Whatever the reason for the Sickly Man Syndrome, has the mindset on which it was based entirely died out among us?

Adventists are still apt to equate physical with spiritual health. Our health message has been a great blessing, but the fact that 74% of the diseases that do for us are lifestyle-related does not mean that lifestyle adjustments can enable us to avoid all of them. One 1950s pastor made 'Adventists don't get cancer' part of his evangelistic pitch. What he should have said was that, given our lifestyle, we were less likely to get *certain types of cancer*. On average Adventists may have 'seven extra years', but, until the Lord comes, death will come eventually to us all. Pastor Willis tells me that incidence of some cancers among us is pretty much the same as it is in the general population but without the lengthy, chronic illness that usually accompanies these conditions.¹ Sadly, the dear old evangelist who had preached, 'Adventists don't get cancer', died of – cancer.

Over the years countless people have told

me – sometimes talking about a loved one, and sometimes about themselves – that when they shared with fellow Adventists that cancer had been diagnosed, they encountered so much disapproval and even hostility that the burden of guilt that the patient subsequently carried was worse than the disease. These are life-destructive, toxic attitudes.

We save our most lethal toxic attitudes, however, for those suffering from forms of mental disorder such as anxiety states or depression. The fact is that such illnesses crop up relatively frequently among pastors (and other professionals) under pressure. Some of the most gifted and successful pastors have been victims of depression. Those who have needed time off work have afterwards felt stigmatised by fellow workers.

The symptoms of depression can include panic attacks, mood swings, a death obsession and mind-altering paranoia. But these days we acknowledge that these things are a matter of *brain chemistry*. Your General Practitioner knows that it's all about 'neurotransmitters', and that a course of the appropriate antidepressants will hopefully, in time, restore 'normal service'. The phrase 'in time' is important. Most antidepressants take four to six weeks before they 'kick in'.

Our recent Issues series on Anxiety States, Depression and Suicide was meant to improve our understanding of these things and commence a process by which we could discuss them openly, and take a more matter-of-fact attitude towards them. The situation the Health and Family Ministries professionals were addressing was one in which a depressive pastor might feel totally unable to discuss his condition with *anyone* within his Church. While that might, in part, be an aspect of a paranoid perception on the part of the sufferer, it could also in part – because of attitudes prevailing within the Church – have a basis in fact. That was what we sought to address.

The great majority of those who have written or emailed in have been church members pleased that, finally, Adventists are able to discuss depression. A few have felt that our professionals came over as hostile to antidepressants. That is why I have mentioned the brain chemistry angle of things here. A few also felt that our professionals 'seemed so pat-

with their solutions'. One wrote, 'My heart ached for those who may have tried all that was mentioned, with little or no positive results.'

I put those points to our professionals and they took them on board and said that they were primarily concerned to explain depression to those who did not understand it, rather than to outline treatment options for those experiencing it. In the spring, Sharon Platt-McDonald will launch a Mental Wellness Strategy as part of the BUC Health Ministries agenda. At that time coverage of depression will be more sensitive to the sufferer.

What we have tried to say is this. When someone shares his/her mental health concerns with you, it is appropriate to listen and sympathise, but it is inappropriate to disapprove or speak/behave intolerantly.

Elijah suffered from discouragement, despondency and depression. On at least one occasion, he couldn't shake it. 'I have had enough, Lord,' he said, 'Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.' (1 Kings 19.)

Moses, too, once asked God to take his life. Following the revival at Nineveh, Jonah did the same.

Writing of his hardships in Asia, Paul began, 'We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life.' (2 Corinthians 1:8.)

Charles Haddon Spurgeon, 'the prince of preachers', often struggled with deep depression.

Jeff Lucas is one of Britain's most prominent Christian preachers and writers. He has a side-splitting sense of humour. A couple of years ago he spoke at Spring Harvest in Minehead. Towards the end of his presentation on the final night he shared his experiences as a depressive. He concluded by giving thanks for the things that kept him going. Among them were God's great grace and a common antidepressant. When he sat down a score of people stood up and spoke. The gist of what was said? 'Today we heard you say, "It's OK for Christians to suffer from depression." We cannot tell you what a relief that has been for us.'

I want the readers of this paper both to give and to receive that relief.

Toxic attitudes are incredibly destructive. Jesus ignored the stigma of leprosy, for example, and healed the sufferers. He did not make sufferers feel guilty for having leprosy!

The advice of health professionals and researchers is gratefully acknowledged. DNM

¹*Diet, Life Expectancy and Chronic Disease: Studies of Seventh-day Adventists and Other Vegetarians* (Oxford University Press, 2003), page 56.



Enhancing Health

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

Brain Health Part 11c

Learning and retention

In the book *Mind, Character and Personality* volume 1, chapter 11: 'Bible Study and the Mind' E. G. White highlights some essential study principles to enhance the mind. Under the subheading 'Memory Training Aids The Mind' she talks about the importance of committing texts of scripture or even chapters to memory. However, in the preceding section she warns against casual or hurried reading, as that is not a good way to retain information. She states: 'It is not safe for us to turn from the Holy Scriptures with only a casual reading of their sacred pages. . . . Rein the mind up to the high task that has been set before it, and study with determined interest, that you may understand divine truth. Those who do this will be surprised to find to what the mind can attain.'

Paced learning

The principle of slow, in-depth learning and its

efficacy in retaining information is validated scientifically. New research demonstrates that people who 'cram' or 'speed learn' do not necessarily come away with as deep and permanent an understanding of the material as those who study at a more steady and regular pace. Gerald W. Bracey, an educational psychologist and associate professor at George Mason University, found that students who tried to learn large amounts in a short period of time did less well than others who studied the same volume of information over a longer time. Researchers found that when students were tested six months later on the information that they had studied, those who had studied in depth over a lengthy time period demonstrated that they retained more information than the 'crammers'.

Goal setting

When learning a new skill, set small goals which

are achievable and undertake them in small steps, rather than rushing to achieve the overall goal as quickly as possible. This will ensure that the learning is well grounded and that you take on manageable portions as you build steadily towards your goal. The brain retains new information better this way. Also as you compare your achievement with these small steps and do not expect to be able to grasp the new skill quickly, it is more likely that you will stay the course.

Sleep impact

A number of research studies show the power of adequate sleep to impact brain efficacy positively during periods of learning new skills and studying. We explore this more in the next issue.

Happy learning!

Children mattered to Jesus!

by Karen Holford, associate director of Children's Ministries, SEC

2009 is the Year of Evangelism. In an age when everything has to be 'cost-effective', do you know what is the most cost-effective kind of evangelism?

You work it out.

Research indicates that 30% of the children we reach for Jesus will stay faithful to him all their lives, while only 3% of those who encounter Jesus as adults will accept and follow him.

So let's hear it for the Junior Sabbath School teachers, the tellers of children's stories and those preachers who make their worship and their sermons child-friendly. . . .

Do you remember the Children Matter feature on the cover of the MESSENGER of 23 January? Throughout the year there will be ideas to inspire you with new ways to minister to the children in your churches and involve them in your worship and activities. This month we will explore ten of the ways that Jesus showed us how much our children matter to him.

1. Jesus welcomed children freely and encouraged us to welcome them warmly in his name. 'Whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.' (Matthew 18:5, NIV.) **How could you help the children in your church to feel especially welcomed each week?**
2. Jesus used a child as the highest example of a person ready for his Kingdom. 'I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little

children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.' (Matthew 18:3, NIV.) On a scale of one to ten, where ten is the most childlike, where do you think you stand today? **What would it take for you to move to the next point on the scale, and to grow in the special qualities of childlikeness that God values?**

3. Jesus used the simple, generous gift of one boy's lunch and invited him to participate in a miracle that fed thousands of people. (John 6:1-13.) **How are you making use of the gifts God has given to the children in your church, so that the whole congregation can be fed and blessed?**
4. Even when he was tired, Jesus found the time, energy and compassion to bless the children who had been brought to him. (Mark 10:13-16.) **How can you have compassion on all the children in your church each Sabbath?** (Maybe the ones who seem hardest to love are the ones who most need your time, energy and attention.)
5. Jesus went many miles out of his way to heal a non-Jewish girl who suffered from epilepsy. (Matthew 15:21-28.) **How far will you go out of your way to comfort a hurting, frightened or isolated child?**



6. Jesus accepted children's enthusiastic and energetic worship with delight, even when it was loud and bothered the other church leaders! (Matthew 21:15-16.) **How do you welcome the lively praise and activity of small children in your church?**
7. 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.' (Mark 10:14.) Jesus wants us to remove everything that could prevent children from experiencing the fullness of God's love. We may have to remove our prejudices and our tightly held ideas about formal worship. We may have to let go of our ancient and beloved pews that block a child's view of worship. We may have to spend some money so that our children can have an attractive Sabbath School room. . . . **What might you and your church have to let go of so that children can access the Kingdom of God more freely?**
8. His first commission to Peter was to take care of the children and those young in their faith. Jesus asked him to 'Feed my lambs' before asking him to feed the sheep. (John 21:15-17.) **How are you feeding the lambs first in your church? Or do the sheep get fed while the lambs starve?**
9. Jesus came to Earth as a baby, to live as a child. He understands what it means to be young, vulnerable and dependent on adults. Whatever we do for the children in our churches, we can imagine that we are doing the same act of service, or neglect, for Jesus. 'Whatever you did (or did not do) for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did (did not do) for me.' (Matthew 25:40, [45].) **What are you doing (or not doing) for Jesus in the way that your church ministers to the children?**
10. Just as the caring shepherd will go out into the darkest night and look for one lost sheep, God wants us to be willing to go to great lengths, and take great risks, to save the children he loves so much. 'Your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.' (Matthew 18:14.) **What risks are you taking to ensure that the children around you are being saved for God's Kingdom?**

All four one

I suppose if you are going to do a job you might as well do it properly. On 28 June Southampton's Pastor David Foster baptised four candidates, the heavens rang and the congregation sang. Brother and sister, Magesa and Hilda Beseko, Keri Manuel and the most senior, Peter Kempster, all took to the water of the baptistery pool and in front of a packed church gave their lives to Jesus.

Hilda and Magesa come from a loving, faith-based family. It was in 2002 the family came to us from Tanzania via Botswana.

Their first introduction to Southampton was the Holiday Bible Club in August of that year. English was not their first language.

However, they joined in and made new friends and are now both great assets to the church today. Anything that has 'youth' in the title you will find them playing their part. They want to be part of those children who will one day be taken up to live with Jesus in the gleaming city of God.

Keri Emanuel was born and raised in Zimbabwe. She always went to church with her mother and siblings more out of habit than anything else. The day she joined Pathfinders her life changed. She started to get to know God and her own place in the world. Keri was 14 when the family moved to England. First stop Plymouth and then they moved along the coast to Southampton. That was where Keri

became a Master Guide, and during the training she realised she was falling in love with Jesus. The more she learned, the more she loved, and with that love she wanted to show the world and her friends what Jesus had done for her. In front of her twin brother, her mother, her siblings and her church family, she gave her life publicly to God.

At the other end of the age scale comes Peter Kempster. He and his wife Linda began their walk with the Lord as members of the Salvation Army. It was in 1999 Linda first came to our church for the Dwight Nelson programmes. As time went on Linda became a regular and we met Peter at small group meetings and events like 'pancake nights' and Christmas parties. He was worshipping at the Church of the Nazarenes, just around the corner from our church, when Linda was baptised. Due to the minister's retirement and the closure of the Church of the Nazarenes, Peter, who had become a great friend to Southampton church, made the decision to take baptismal lessons and become a full member of our church. With family and a very happy wife watching, Peter, Magesa, Hilda and Keri were taken through the waters and raised up to the Lord.

It was a joyous ending to a fabulous Sabbath day. Everyone including the angels in Heaven were singing. May God bless their walk and their work in his glorious name.

WENDY BRADLEY

NEWBOLD COLLEGE is seeking to appoint a **LECTURER IN MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS** which may be combined with the post of **COURSE BOARD LEADER**, to commence 1 August 2009 (or earlier, by mutual consent)

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- Manifest strong customer care and tutorial support for students

All applicants must have 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.

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In any recession there are many losers, which is obvious. The main ones seem to be those who lose their jobs. However, there are a few winners as well, such as certain food retailers, as people go out to eat less but spend more on meals at home. It also seems that as a Church we could be among the 'winners'.

The Church of England has reported a rise in numbers at their services since the recession began to bite. In last September's *Back to Church Sunday*, an annual campaign to encourage parishioners back into church, 37,000 new people went to church. That was almost double the previous year's visitors. Church leaders believe that the economic difficulties are causing

Increase in churchgoing

Churchgoers increased in numbers in 2008, with 12.8 million adults in the UK attending church at least once a year. Those people account for 26% of the population, and this has increased from 21% in 2007, according to the Christian relief and development agency Tearfund. They have also found that 7.3 million people attend church once a month, an increase of 2%. The fact that more people are coming to church since the recession started does seem to be evidence for a greater interest in faith recently.

That is surprising. Before this, all the evidence was that church attendance has been decreasing in this country for decades. Another very recent survey has found that 51% of people believe that 'evolution alone is not enough to explain the complex structures of some living things', and that the intervention of a 'designer' would have been needed at key stages. That was according to research commissioned by the theology think tank Theos. With all the recent publicity over the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth, that has to have relevance. Information like that does seem to run counter to the popular understanding that virtually everyone in the UK wholeheartedly accepts the concept of evolution as adequately explaining where life came from. That is a nice surprise, isn't it?

people to reassess their lives and values and, for some, that means searching for new meaning by going to church.

That has to be good news for us. Our mission is to share God's love and alert people to the imminence of Christ's return. If people are going to be more open to that, then our task is easier. In situations like the current financial crisis, we will, naturally, be thinking how to survive it without too much loss. Our first thought will be about our jobs, our investments, our family, our future. We may also be looking to make the most of the situation by snapping up some bargains. As well as that, as Adventists, our

with Jonathan Barrett



What was your first thought when the recession hit?

second thought will always be about how to share our understanding of God with people. Some may argue this should be our first thought, but be honest, when the recession hit, was your first thought about yourself or others? Anyway, whether that thought is first or second, it will be there, and the Bible has something to say about it:

'Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.' (Colossians 4:5, NIV.)

Now that people are possibly becoming more responsive, we need to be aware of that. This *could* be the beginning of a turn-around in this country. Who knows if the time will come here when many will be open to spiritual things? That seems hard to imagine. Recently I spoke to an Adventist from Moldova who said that in one town in his country, out of a population of 10,000, nearly 2,000 were Adventist. Figures like that are hard to believe, and I had to check with him to make sure I had heard correctly.

That may never happen here, but whether it does or not, especially during this Year of Evangelism, keep making the most of every opportunity!

When Cyclone Nargis hit

by Bert Smit, ADRA-UK executive director

In the aftermath of the deadly 2004 Asian tsunami, ADRA had been working in Myanmar to rebuild damaged communities in the Irrawaddy Delta. This included the construction of almost two dozen bridges, ten jetties, and a number of breakwaters.

When Cyclone Nargis hit the country on 2 May 2008, ADRA workers were literally caught with tools in their hands. Teddy Dinh, associate country director for ADRA Myanmar, was with a work crew constructing a jetty in the village of Amageley. Based on radio reports, he thought that the storm would go further south, but by mid afternoon the winds were so bad that his team insisted, 'We have to run.' Teddy grabbed his sleeping bag, took his son by the hand, and directed his workers to find a place to ride out the storm. They found a rice storage shed, climbed on top of sacks of rice stacked high, and hoped to get above the incoming tidal surge. The water swept one metre above where they were huddled and, in the middle of the night, when the waters began to recede, they had to go out into the storm and search for a higher place to shelter.

Teddy tells of burying the many dead the next morning – a Sabbath morning – and having nothing to drink or eat except coconuts. He did not know it at the time, but the bridges that the ADRA staff had been building in recent months actually saved the lives of 885 people. The Lay Yin Kwin Bridge, which measures 40 metres in length, held 145 people through the night, while the storm surge rose and then receded. Spanning 30 metres, the Pyin Htaung Twin Bridge held 101



people, and the Ma Gu Stream Bridge, also 30 metres long, saved 86 people from certain death in swirling waters. Even much smaller bridges saved lives. For example, the Thingan Byi Bridge is only 5 metres long, but provided security for thirty people for many hours.

We hear about disasters around the world and see the pictures on television, but these tragedies are very personal to the people who make up ADRA. Every time a disaster happens it is a life-and-death struggle, not only for those who are in the midst of the chaos, but for the people who try to help. These are courageous men and women who are ready to put their lives at risk to provide assistance to others living in places around the globe.

Disasters cut across people's lives in unexpected ways. They also make us come together as brothers and sisters. ADRA-UK supporters raised £25,000 within just two weeks following Cyclone Nargis.

It is thanks to such commitment that ADRA is able to save lives around the globe during disasters, feed the starving in developing countries, and transform communities



through sustainable development. This bond, which the New Testament calls 'the body of Christ', is what brings people together to help the hurting, give sustenance to the poor, and provide hope to the down-trodden.

That is something Jesus was passionate about in his ministry. Matthew 7 includes a brief account about being prepared for disaster, and it is paired with some very strong words about who will ultimately be with Jesus and who will not.

Verses 21-23: Not every person who says 'I am a Christian' is going to be claimed by Jesus when it is time to enter the Kingdom. It does not matter if you perform miracles, if you are an extraordinarily pious person, or if you are wonderfully religious. Jesus wants 'only' those who do 'the will of my Father' (NIV).

For Jesus, actions speak louder than words. The same thing is true for the secularised society we live in, including those who have not yet decided to get involved in church. And the same thing is true for our own young people – in our homes

and in the church. They are looking to see whether you 'walk the talk'.

Verse 24: 'Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man' who is prepared for a disaster. Are you ready for the times in which we live? Are you prepared to be a healing influence, an agent of hope, when disasters happen?

Verses 25-27: Jesus describes the reality of a flood. The people of Myanmar understood this very clearly as they watched the storm surge of the cyclone come in and sweep away homes and entire villages. There are people in England who experienced a similar reality during the summer of 2007. People lost their homes and even their loved ones. Many of these people thought they were prepared, but the preparations were not enough. When our practical demonstration draws a picture of peacemaking in the family or in the neighbourhood or in the workplace, we are providing a visible story about God and his purposes.

What does it mean to be adequately prepared? What does Jesus want? He clearly laid it out in Matthew 25:31-36:

'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." ' (NIV.)

In these times of trouble, Jesus is not interested in super religiosity and fancy theology. He is not interested in people with the best prophecy charts and Bible-marking plans. He is interested in people who can put his good news into action. Are you prepared?



ADRA-UK Fun Run 2009

by Dr Terry Messenger, Personal Ministries and Sabbath School director, SEC

The annual ADRA appeal is almost upon us and I know many of us are looking forward to knocking on those doors and interacting with the great British public, as well as collecting funds to help the poor and needy in this world. Over the past few years many other innovative ways have been initiated to raise these much needed funds. Activities such as car washes, sponsored silences, auctioning items on eBay and car boot sales have all played their part in aiding this great venture.

The major highlight of the ADRA Appeal recently has been the annual fun run. Members, as well as community members, have

raised much money by taking part in this event, sponsored by their friends, family and fellow church members. This is a great and lucrative way of raising funds, and it is great fun! We are trying to expand the fun run to include as many people as possible this year, and so whether you are young or old, fit or unfit, you can take part. We are proposing the following:

- Golden mile (for youngsters and the slightly older folk)
- 3 miles (two laps) for the walkers
- 6 miles (four laps) for the faster ones
- 9 miles (six laps) for the sporty types

- 12 miles (eight laps) for the really keen

There will be no registration fee this year and T-Shirts can be purchased on the day for £3. Bottled water will be provided free of charge.

It will take place at Crystal Palace Park on 19 April and will begin at 10am. Further details are posted on the SEC website.

I would like to invite you to take part – and why not invite your non-Christian friends to participate? They will have great fun and would be glad to be doing something for such a great cause! I look forward to seeing you there!

Year 3/4 teacher required

Newbold Primary School is seeking to appoint a teacher for Year 3/4, to commence in September 2009.

If you would like to join a committed, professional team; are familiar with the National Curriculum; are keen to keep abreast with current educational practices; enjoy being part of a learning and faith community, please send CV along with covering letter to the Head Teacher, Newbold Primary School, Popeswood Road, Binfield, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 5AH.

For information about the post, please contact Mrs Pat Eastwood at Newbold Primary School. Tel: 01344 421088 or email: newboldschool@hotmail.co.uk Appropriate checks will be carried out. Applicants are also required to have the right to work in the UK.

Application deadline: 31 March 2009



Forgiveness bubbles. Have you ever done something wrong and then felt terrible about it afterwards? That can be such a horrible feeling. Jesus loves us so much that he wants to take away our bad feelings, even when we've disobeyed him! His forgiveness helps us to feel happy and peaceful again. Try this. Find a pot of bubbles. Open the pot and think of something you want to ask Jesus to forgive you for. Blow some bubbles, then shut your eyes and pray for forgiveness. When you open your eyes most of the bubbles will have disappeared completely. You can't find the bubbles because they have gone forever. That's what Jesus does to your sins when you tell him you're sorry, and you ask him to forgive you.

The forgiveness code Crack the code to see how much God has forgiven you.

10 19 22 11 19 8 23 19 16 19 26 9 8 24 12 9 1 19 22 16 8

24 12 5 24 12 9 11 5 26 9 12 13 23 19 18 16 3 23 19 18 24 12 5 24

1 12 19 9 26 9 22 6 9 16 13 9 26 9 23 13 18 12 13 17

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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
5				9				13						19			22	24	26	1					A

Cross-eyed! Look quietly around the room or church where you're sitting. See how many cross shapes you can find - look at the patterns in the windows, doors, floor tiles, shapes of furniture and so on. Try doing this when you go for a walk outside. Crosses can be found in all kinds of unusual places! Each time you see a cross, thank Jesus for dying for you and then rising again so you could live forever! That's the best gift in the whole universe!



Eggstra-special Easter fun. Ask your parents to help you organise an Easter egg hunt for your friends. You can hide dozens of flat card egg-shapes (you can cut these yourself), which can be swapped for real chocolate eggs, so that they don't melt in the sun or get eaten by animals! Include a few gold card egg-shapes, which will win special eggs. Make sure you have enough chocolate eggs for all the tokens. Give each person a bag for collecting their egg tokens and a leaflet or comic explaining the meaning of Jesus' death. You will find Easter leaflets and special comics for children about Easter at www.cpo-online.org.uk



Easter crafts on the web. Visit www.dltk-holidays.com/easter/religious.html for some Easter-themed crafts that you can print off and use. Make some crafts to give away and help others to understand what Jesus' death and resurrection really means. You will find other Bible crafts, games and activity sheets on this site that you can use any time you like.

Forgiveness prayers. 'I write to you dear children because your sins have been forgiven on account of his name.' (1 John 2:12.) At Easter we feel sad that people did awful things to Jesus. Do you admire the way he was able to forgive those who hurt him? All of us have done wrong things. Easter time is special because it reminds us that Jesus died so we can be forgiven, too. He proved he forgives us because he has the power to rise from the dead. Draw a picture of a cross. At the bottom of the cross write a list of things that you want Jesus to forgive, or go outside and choose a cross-shaped twig and some little stones. Tell Jesus what you want him to forgive as you place the stones at the foot of the cross.

Easter activity. Take a sheet of thick white paper and write 'Jesus is alive!' on the paper using a white wax candle, or the edge of a tea-light taken out of its metal cup. The writing will be nearly invisible. Then paint the paper all over with black paint and see what happens. Remember that however dark or bad everything may seem, Jesus is still alive and nothing can hide him. The disciples were very sad when Jesus died. Everything seemed dark and gloomy, but nothing could stop Jesus coming back to life again forever! Hallelujah! Jesus is alive!



Studying the words and knowing the Word at Newbold

by Helen Pearson, Newbold PRO

Newbold lecturers in Literature and Theology, together with Newbold pastor, Patrick Johnson, contributed to 'The Words and The Word' – a four-week series at Newbold church, finishing on 14 February. The series focused on the Bible, the manuscripts, the nature of inspiration and, appropriately for a series that finished on Valentine's Day, how to read it and relate to the God found in the Bible. In the final week, two sermons and a discussion focused on the 'how to' of Bible reading.

In the Contemporary Service, Manuela Casti, lecturer in Pastoral Studies, chose as her title: 'Eat the Book'. She focused on the warning to the apostle John in the book of Revelation that eating the book would be sour to his stomach but be sweet as honey in his mouth. 'We don't read the Bible. It reads us,' she said. She warned her listeners that Bible reading 'chal-

lenges, stimulates and questions your fantasies about yourself'.

In the Family Service, Jean Claude Verrecchia, principal lecturer in New Testament, assisted by Dr Sandra Rigby-Barrett on the piano, drew out the comparisons to be made between reading the Bible and reading music – understanding pace and context, relating to the author and the people for whom the music text was written.

In the afternoon, about eighty church members and visitors, including teenagers and pensioners from a variety of different nationalities, returned for a question and answer session on the four-week theme. Participants were interested in the reliability of manuscripts, the value of different translations, and books to read to help with the study of the Bible. Theology lecturers Daniel Duda and Jean-Claude Verrecchia, who dealt with the questions, both testified to the

power of Bible reading at different times in their own lives.

The series concluded with an appeal by Jan Barna, assistant lecturer in Systematic Theology and leader of the Sabbath School team at Newbold church, to participate – and encourage friends to participate – in the Sabbath School.

A list of books to help non-specialist Bible students will be

found soon on Newbold church's website. For those who want to be specialist Bible students and to learn how to teach others how to study the Bible, Newbold offers a range of degrees and professional development opportunities for both pastors and lay people. As we go to press, Dr Daniel Duda is teaching a three-week intensive class on The Doctrine of Christ and Dr Reinder Bruinsma, another intensive on Approaches to the Contemporary Mind. For more information about how to study the Bible at Newbold go to www.newbold.ac.uk.

To discuss your options for studying the Bible at Newbold, contact Dr Steve Currow, Course Director. Tel: 01344-407487; Email: scurrow@newbold.ac.uk.



Holloway and North Wembley.

The speaker for the day was Pastor Des Boldeau from the BUC. His sermon was very lively and youth-friendly. He challenged the youth to commit their lives to Jesus by submitting time at the start of the day to God, to read and meditate on his Word.

After a free lunch, provided by Chelmsford church, a session of praise and worship, led by the

praise team, introduced the afternoon programme.

The programme started with an ice-breaker game, and then many special items took to the stage. Pastor Des Boldeau led a talk and discussion on commitment, but it contained a different message from that of his sermon.

The day ended with an evening social during which the youth played games and watched a film.

Walthamstow baptism

Seven precious souls were baptised in a special service at Walthamstow church, which was conducted by Pastor Leslie Ackie on 20 December.

Among the baptismal candidates were two sisters, a young man who was called 'a miracle baby' by his parents, and the niece of Pastor Pickhart – who came especially to conduct her baptism.

This was a bittersweet day for Walthamstow church members as they were also saying goodbye to Pastor Ackie and his family on this, his last Sabbath. It was therefore fitting that he should end his ministry at Walthamstow with a baptism.

RAY MARSHALL



Youth fellowship day in Swansea

On Sabbath 31 January friends and families from Swansea, Carmarthen, Cardiff, Newport, Bristol and Lampeter gathered together in Swansea church to have a special youth fellowship day. Although it was a particularly cold winter's day, the atmosphere inside the church was warm and cordial. In a change to the usual pattern of having two separate services, the youth decided to create one long service and to rearrange the seating plan. The service was coordinated by Eifion Paul, the song service by Duane and Lubona, and music was provided by Tihomer, Ffion, Chris and Eiddon.

The focus of the day was on the need to have 'silence and time alone' in order to appreciate God's voice talking to us. We were reminded about the importance of prayer and the example that Jesus gave us through the Lord's Prayer. In his inspiring Bible message Welsh Mission Youth sponsor, Pastor Jeremy Tremeer, emphasised the need for all of us to be in tune with

God and to have a meaningful prayer life.

The morning service was followed by the usual potluck lunch and we would like to thank everyone who helped and took the trouble to prepare special delicacies and treats for the day. After lunch some people headed for a walk in the nearby Singleton Park, while others stayed and relaxed at the church.

The afternoon programme was again somewhat different. The youth provided scatter cushions and had us all sitting on the floor for the song service! This was again led by the praise team and was followed by Jonathan, Eiddon, Ffion and Lydia giving readings on the need to have Jesus in every part of our homes and, most importantly, to invite him into our hearts. An inspiring duet by Tihomer Lazic and Belinda Stojanovic also contributed to the atmosphere of the occasion.

For some the youth day contin-

ued into the evening with entertainment at the Singleton Hospital residence hall. Here the young people spent the evening either relaxing and chatting, or watching a film and playing games.

We would like to thank Pastor Jovan Adamovi for the work he has been doing with the young people in Swansea. It is really important that we support our youth in all our churches – to help them to achieve their hopes and dreams, but also to help them to use their God-given talents in serving the Lord. LILY KIDWELL



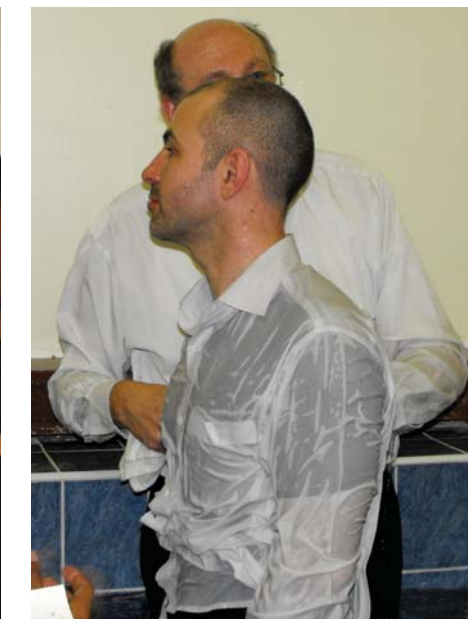
Merseyside: Year of Evangelism and our first harvest

On 31 January the Merseyside District of Churches witnessed the first harvest of this Year of Evangelism. Six precious souls sealed their decision to follow Jesus Christ through baptism into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. All were young people.

Of these six, Eunice Kiragu, Samatha Nyaata, Petronella Kunzwa and Noziph Moyo were baptised into membership of the Stoneycroft church, while Owen Chenge and David Cunningham became members of the Liverpool (Kensington) church. The first five can trace their conversion experience to the influence of family, supportive church brothers and sisters, attendance at Adventist schools and the Camp Meeting at

Ainsdale, Southport, in 2008. However, Dave is unique in having been led by the Holy Spirit to a knowledge of the truth through the Internet.

The baptism at the Liverpool church was undertaken by Pastor Jeff Couzins. After three hours of a lively service, local pastor, Ebenezer Daniel, challenged all members to pledge that they would each endeavour in the power of the Holy Spirit to bring at least one individual to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ through Bible study this year. In response, the church members stood and committed themselves to this challenge in the Year of Evangelism, 2009. MERLVIN MOYO





Elena's special day

This delightful and warm photograph was taken of Elena Veggas with her father. It was a very special day for Elena who was baptised during the Sabbath service at St Albans church on 24 January. Elena is just 10 years old, but she made a wise choice to be baptised and seal an awesome commitment to follow Jesus. Having completed a series of Bible studies with Pastor Jonathan Barrett, she was determined to nail her colours to the mast. Pastor Barrett said that he had never known anyone so eager to be baptised. Like the pirates who nailed their colours to the mast, Elena was encouraged to nail her colours to God for life. He urged her to keep up her commitment and not to be dissuaded from doing so. However, he recognised that she needs to be supported by her immediate family and the church family if she is to grow and mature as a Christian. The baptismal service was enriched by other children, one of whom was her sister who played the violin and read John 3:16. The children sang, 'You are my all in all' as a tribute to Elena as she came up out of the baptismal water. As the beliefs of the Adventist Church were read to Elena, she gave her full attention and then consented to them. As a symbolic gesture a mast was provided, and she literally nailed her colours to it, along with members who made a commitment to God on that day. As the elders welcomed Elena into the fellowship, the members unreservedly accepted her into the local and worldwide membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

LYNDA INCE

Baptism at Slough

On Saturday 24 January there was joy in both Heaven and on Earth as six young souls (Tinotenda Chingosho, Chantelle A. Khoza, Leeza Murray, Fadzana Nyama, Sharon Kimati and Angeliqueca Gomes) gave their lives to Christ. In addition, four more people (Colin Harry and Kenkester, Odette and Kizzie Murray) were accepted in the Slough Central church by profession of faith.

Before their baptism the candidates gave moving testimonies about their walk with God which had resulted in their decision to be baptised. Speaking to the congregation, Angie said: 'I want to give my life to Christ because he has been good to me, although I have not always been on his side or said the right things. That is why today I will dedicate my whole life to God.'

Leeza Murray affirmed that she

would probably not have been here today without God and that she would not have missed the opportunity to be baptised for the world. She explained how God had come through for her and concluded that the only and best way to repay him was to give her life to Christ and die to sin.

Chantelle Ashleigh Khoza stated: 'I do not deserve to be here; I am too sinful. I know Jesus can cleanse me and all I have to do is just ask.' She acknowledged her indebtedness to the Lord due to his sacrifice on our behalf and recognised our need to be faithful witnesses for him. 'I used to be very shy,' she said, 'but now I can talk about my faith. I remember how much the Lord sacrificed for me.'

In his sermon, 'Following the example of Christ', Pastor Ron Clemow entreated the youngsters to



Pastor Ron Clemow, Tinotenda Chingosho and Student Pastor Sam

Baptism, football and pale blue balloons

When Daniel Hanna was baptised at Newbold church on the evening of Sabbath 15 November he chose to be baptised in a way that would witness to his school friends. So he



combined his baptism with his 12th birthday party and created a unique programme that inspired people of all ages from 2 to 92!

Opening with rousing praise and worship led by Jena and Stephen Hulbert, the service included Daniel's testimony which he had written for his mother to read aloud. Maidenhead elder, Will Sharp, who had created special Bible studies for Daniel using PowerPoint presentations on his computer, led Daniel through his baptismal vows. Pastor Bernie Holford gave a short sermon explaining the connections between being on

honour their parents and to be wary of friends who could not only discourage or make fun of them, but could also be a snare to them and lead them to abandon their faith. He urged them to become friends of God and fully reflect his character in their lives so that others might be drawn closer to him. He concluded that they should make Christ their example.

Another of the candidates, Sharon, said: 'I always knew this day would come at some point in my life and it seems that the Lord chose this moment in time for me. As I go into the water, I pray that I come out a new child.'

Following her acceptance into the Slough church on profession of faith, Kizzie talked about her desire to work for God and saw that this could best be achieved within the loving and understanding atmosphere of Slough church. Her parents Kenkester and Odette Murray expressed their joy at becoming members and said: 'We aim to continue to allow God's Spirit to teach and renew us as we grow day by day in him.' They also thanked God and the church for their support, as their journey had been an uphill one.

Finally, Colin Harry was grateful to God, his family, friends and the church for their support. When asked why he was rejoining the church after many years of absence he said, 'Why not now, my son?' He explained how God has been with him through thick and thin and affirmed that there was no better time than the present to give his life to Christ.

GEORGE AMOAKO-ATTA
Picture by Kenkester Murray

a football team and being baptised to illustrate that even when we're on a team we still make mistakes, and we need to learn, be coached, develop our skills and be supported.

Pastor Bernie baptised Daniel in a baptismal pool bordered by a series of ascending pale blue balloons, reminding his family and friends of the steps he was taking towards Heaven.

The choir from Newbold School, where Daniel had been a student until the summer, sang a contemporary version of Psalm 23, and the Newbold Puppet Choir performed 'Joyful, Joyful' and 'Oh Happy Day', celebrating Daniel's decision with enthusiasm and energy. The Rogers-Matthan family also taught everyone a soothing song, 'Wonderful God', to remind those present that they had



Left to right: (back) Brenda Rutherfordford (Bible worker), Mark Mann, Pastor Williams, Levon Johnson, Akeem Savizon, Nettie Rushie, Charmaine Augustine; (front) Lois Moodie, Akeal Savizon, Halitash Hewitt, Lauren Lindo, Linda Allen (Bible worker)

Brixton on the march

No sooner had Pastor Keith Anson Albury of the Exuma and Long Island churches in the Bahamas ended the campaign at Brixton church with a baptism on 18 October 2008 and returned home, than the evangelistic fervour that had been set in motion reaped its second baptism on 27 December. Truly it can be said that the Lord is working when souls come forward to accept the message of salvation so soon after a baptism.

Brixton is on the march for the Lord under the guidance of Pastor Hamilton Williams, and all the

departments of the church are working towards soul winning in 2009. We are united and determined to work steadfastly at bringing the message of salvation to all who want to hear.

As we witness to our friends, loved ones and the community, the church family will continue to grow. As the signs of the times begin to manifest themselves, the Holy Spirit continues to impress on the minds of all ages the need to draw nearer to God. The victory is God's and we are his instruments, so let us pray on.

VALERIE MOODIE

Doncaster baptism

It was a joyous occasion on Sabbath 13 December for the family, friends and visitors of the pastoral district of Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham, when scores of worshippers congregated at the Doncaster church to celebrate the baptism of Norma Stephenson, Sam Sikhosana and Thelma Mpofu. During this jubilant occasion, the worshippers praised God for their deliverance as they sang hymns such as 'To God be the glory' and 'Would you be free?' In his message, 'All men still seek Jesus', Pastor Marshall pointed out the fact that even though many people are affected by economic and financial difficulties, this day was proof that individuals are still interested in finding Jesus Christ.

PASTOR VICTOR MARSHALL



nothing to fear because God was watching over them.

Just as there is a party in Heaven whenever someone chooses to follow Jesus, so there was a party on Earth, and the baptism was followed by bread, soup and a baptismal

cake. All the children and young people at the baptism left with a goodie bag full of inspirational and spiritual treats and surprises, and Daniel's family and friends left with special memories of a unique celebration of his faith journey and his

personal decision to follow Jesus.

How can the baptisms of our young people in your church help them witness creatively to their friends and relatives in the 2009 International Year of the Child?

KAREN HOLFORD, SEC Associate director of Children's Ministries

Joseph Bates — prisoner to pioneer

by Ken Clothier

Joseph Bates, later a friend of Ellen White and one of the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, spent his formative years in Plymouth County, Massachusetts, just a few hours' drive from the spot where the Pilgrim Fathers had disembarked 200 years earlier, having set sail in the *Mayflower* from Plymouth in the south-west of England. Plymouth to him and his family had symbolised escape to freedom, but this image

changed for a time when he was a teenager. Just fifteen miles inland from the city of Plymouth in England is the exquisite scenery of Dartmoor — 60,000 acres of attractive moorland, the natural habitat of badgers, foxes and, of course, wild Dartmoor ponies. However, there is one ugly eyesore on the moors — a prison, and through nothing evil Bates had done he was actually incarcerated in this penitentiary.

From Plymouth County in Massachusetts, which spelt freedom, this innocent teenager became a prisoner near the very city that gave it its name. Sailing was in Joseph Bates's blood, so at the very early age of 15 he volunteered his services as a cabin boy aboard ship, and almost immediately found himself on the high seas.

His excitement could have come to a swift end when he was asked to climb the riggings to open the sails. He lost his balance and dropped unceremoniously into the Atlantic Ocean. There was, in fact, a shark on the other side of the ship, but he was rescued in time.

In 1810 Bates sailed to Belfast in Ireland, and then made a crossing to Liverpool, where he hoped to get a boat back to America. Press-ganging was quite common at the time, so along with at least 1,500 other sailors he was press-ganged into the British Navy. This distressing experience became worse after two-and-a-half years when Britain found itself at war with the USA. Bates quite naturally refused to fight, so was now regarded as a prisoner.

He was transferred to Dartmoor Prison and spent the next two-and-a-half years in that ugly, depressing building on the moors.

A number of textbooks describe the depressing, diabolical conditions in the prison, though undoubtedly because of universal criticism the situation has improved to a large extent in recent years.

The Napoleonic wars with Britain lasted from 1803 to 1814, and Dartmoor Prison was actually built to accommodate French prisoners. At one point, accommodation built for

5,000 was crammed with 10,000 men. In the first year 500 died because of virulent measles.

In 1813 American prisoners were housed in the same disgusting building, and within less than a year 260 died from an outbreak of smallpox.

It is not difficult to appreciate that Joseph Bates would have endured some of the inhumane conditions just described.

In those days Dartmoor Prison had no heating. Windows two feet square were unglazed, which invited biting winds in the wintertime. Sometimes during the winter, snow lay four feet on the ground outside. Breath from the prisoners' mouths froze on the walls. Incidentally, during the First World War the British parliament refused to tolerate conscientious objectors, so a number of Adventists were incarcerated in prisons throughout the country, including Dartmoor. Some of these men became valuable leaders in the Adventist Church at the end of hostilities.

Despite the fact that Joseph Bates was press-ganged as a sailor when he was very young, he never lost his love for the sea, and eventually became captain of his own ship. His wife packed a Bible with his luggage before one voyage, and this transformed his entire life. He later made contact with the Seventh-day Baptists, and became convinced about the true Sabbath.

Bates was strongly influenced by the preaching of William Miller and began preaching that Christ would return in 1844.

Despite the Great Disappointment, Bates became a valuable pioneer of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Dr Carl Fletcher (1946-2008) d. 30 December.

The funeral of Dr Carl Fletcher was conducted on 15 January 2009 at the Adventist church, Dean Road, Bolton. Friends and colleagues from the BUC, NEC and Newbold joined Carl's brother Paul, sisters Barbara, Sylvia, their families and Carl's cousins. The outpouring of love to God and Carl in the service greatly comforted all present, especially the family. The boy from 'Dean' was buried to await Christ's coming, along with his dad Carlton, in St Mary's Church, Dean, Bolton. Circa 1969 he met his motivator, Jesus, through the evangelistic preaching of Pastor Brian Robinson. Together with his friend Ian, Carl quit his job to keep the Sabbath. The faith planted by his mother Marion blossomed, shocking his neighbours as his life moved from rock 'n' roll, parties and sport, embodied by Bolton Wanderers FC, to one of service that included anyone and everyone, and excluded no one. The Bolton church members, in particular the Murphy family, assisted Carl's establishment in the church. While struggling in the treasury of the NBC, Carl endeared himself to the president Pastor Don Lowe. At worship one day Carl said, 'Oh Pastor, don't give us more theology. Tell us a story.' Carl trained himself to be a storyteller. Sermons like 'I'm a Rasta Man' and

'New York City, Oh So Pretty' are remembered today, years later. In 1971 Carl went to Newbold, graduating with a BA in Theology and minor in History in 1975. He earned his fees by summer book-selling in Sweden with the Drew twins, Ed and Otto. Carl kept many college friendships alive. At the funeral, Dr Laurence Turner of Newbold told how he laughed more and lost more arguments with Carl than anyone else. For thirty-seven years, 'Hi mate, it's Carl!' came down phone lines from diverse places. Carl's formal employment as a pastor totalled twelve years from 1977 to 1988 and then an additional year, 1996-7. Interning as a pastor in Leicester and Camp Hill, Birmingham, he spent three years at Barry in the Welsh Mission, being ordained in May 1984. Most significantly he served as Youth Evangelism director to the inner cities of the NBC from 1984 till 1988. This ministry influenced a generation of youth. Preaching clubs, song writers' competitions, camps and creative events like Youth Task Force evangelism teams flourished. Participants like the current NEC PM director, Pastor Michael Simpson, remember those times with gratitude as the best of times. From December 1988 to 1991 Carl undertook a Doctor of Ministry, focusing on the principles of communication, at Andrews University. Then he worked in the USA freelancing in journalism, interviewing, among others, Mohammed Ali, Billy and Mrs Graham, Cliff Richard and Lindy Chamberlain. He also worked as a fundraiser, kept preaching and assisted

students of various ages. Carl lived to communicate the Gospel of Christ in accessible ways. Full of ideas, he shared them with editors, conference directors, presidents, pastors and members who invariably appreciated them. His sharing, mentoring and prayers are missed and his rhymes are stilled awhile. Ken Burt rightly said at a service of thanksgiving for God's ministry through Carl on Sunday 8 February at Camp Hill, 'Carl exemplified that prayer, the promises of God, and trust in God's power can overcome the most debilitating of conditions. If Carl with his physical limitations could do so much, what's to stop us?' The miracle of Christ's grace gave Carl salvation, a new life, an education, a ministry, fun and friendships around the globe. It was a privilege to know, help and count Carl, a uniquely creative disciple of Christ, as my friend and best man. Maranatha, Carl. To sample his creativity click on www.Carol-Fletcher.com. The notice placed in the *Bolton News* by Carl's family can be viewed at <http://www.lastingtribute.co.uk/tribute/Fletcher/3013426>.



PASTOR MALCOLM WATSON

British ARISE Graduates

On 13 December 2008, four young people from the North England Conference were among fifty-seven students graduating from the ARISE Institute of Soul-winning and Evangelism in Michigan, USA. Dionne White, Nathan Gray, Clarissa Lewis and Lynette Allcock are now eager to continue using the evangelistic skills they received while at the school.

'ARISE is more than a school, it's a complete life-changing experience!' says Clarissa Lewis. 'You can never leave ARISE the same person you came! I now have a new look at life with a goal to save souls. We are to be true missionaries for Christ, not just church members.'

Studying at ARISE was a very practical experience as, besides covering subjects ranging from apologetics and hermeneutics to relationships and the book of Romans, students were trained in Bible work, going on door-to-door outreach several times a week. This resulted in numerous Bible studies. The students also participated in an evangelistic campaign.

'It was very exciting to see the miracles God worked in people's lives — you could see they were so eager to learn these new truths, and it was wonderful to watch people fall in love with Jesus. ARISE gave me a deeper love for God and a heart for missions, and now I'll be going as a student missionary to one of Adventist Frontier Missions' projects in Southeast Asia for eight months,' says Lynette Allcock.

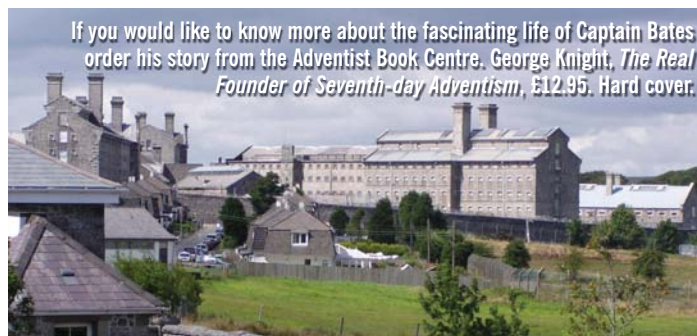
Nathan Gray is also planning on mission service. 'ARISE gave me an experience with the Gospel that made me seek God and others with a loving heart,' he says. 'I am now planning to spend six months in Guyana preaching, teaching, farming and building.'

As well as British graduates, ARISE 2008 comprised students from Norway, the Netherlands, Austria, Bulgaria, Haiti, Australia and Canada, besides many American states. This was the youngest class that had ever attended ARISE, with many students being under the age of 21.

LYNETTE ALLCOCK



The British ARISE students — Dionne White, Clarissa Lewis, Lynette Allcock and Nathan Gray



MARGARET CROSS (1911-2008) d. 5 November.

Margaret was born Margaret Linnet on 1 August 1911 in Brentwood, Essex. Her father died in the First World War, leaving her and her one sister and two brothers to be brought up by their mother. After training as a seamstress she began working for a shop in Brentwood, making ballroom gowns for the aristocracy. She married Bill Cross on her 27th birthday, 1 August 1938, at St Thomas Church, Brentwood, and they set up home in Shenfield. The early years of her marriage were marked by tragedy when their first son died as a baby, but in 1943 they were blessed with a son, Phillip, who would remain their only child. In 1939, they were introduced to the Advent message when Edna Phillips pushed a handbill for an evangelistic programme through their letterbox. The evangelist was Pastor C. A. Reeves, and studies were led by Miss M. Clements and Mary Lane. The couple were eventually baptised together by Pastor F. C. Bailey on 10 May 1941 at the Walthamstow church. They went on to spend many happy years at Chelmsford and Hutton churches, and sent Phillip to the Hyland House School — a long bus ride for the little lad! As war came on, Bill registered as a conscientious objector and was assigned to L. P. Forman's timber mill, where he rose to the position of foreman. Margaret's skills were put to good use during the war as she applied the 'make do and mend' philosophy, cleverly creating even suits and coats for the family out of the scraps available. Bill had charge of a number of Italian prisoners of war, who were put to work at the sawmill. He would sometimes bring them home for a weekend visit, when the house would be filled with the sounds of their singing Italian operas. In the nearby fields they would trap rabbits and present Margaret with the pelts, which she used to make gloves and similar articles. In 1949 the family moved to Watford so that Phillip could attend Stanborough School and Bill could work at the Granose factory, where

he became the food sales manager. They joined the Stanborough Park church, where Margaret spent many years as the Dorcas Society leader and teacher to the children's Sabbath School. At one time she took on the position of director of the Chilterns Federation Watford Welfare Centre. In 1969 they joined a party of over twenty Adventists on a trip organised by the BUC to Israel. After a period of time in Leighton Buzzard, and after the death of her husband, Margaret decided in 2000 to try the retirement home at the Dell in Oulton Broad. Here she found a number of old friends and spent eight happy years in her bright, sun-filled room, until, after a couple of falls, she passed away peacefully on Wednesday 5 November 2008. The funeral service was led by the writer at the Gorleston Crematorium on 17 November.

C. PEAKE

MYRTLE WHITFIELD (1923-2009) d. 12 January.

The large Bournemouth Crematorium chapel was filled to capacity with family, friends and church family to give thanks for the life of Myrtle Kathleen Pearl Whitfield. Her surviving children, Deirdre, Davina and David, had worked hard at putting together a programme that included poems that they themselves had written, which were then read by various family members of three generations from England and Canada, paying tribute to a much-loved mother. Myrtle was born near Salisbury in 1923 to parents who attended the local Mission Hall and Salvation Army. From the age of fourteen she was in service until 1941, when she moved to Bournemouth to do war work in a munitions factory. Here she met and married Walter. Deirdre was born in 1944, Rowena in 1947 and Davina in 1951. David was born in 1959, which made the family complete, but then in 1963 Rowena and Deirdre became sick with Crohn's Disease and Rowena sadly died in 1966. Myrtle never got over this loss but because of her faith always believed she would meet with loved

ones again when Jesus returns. Myrtle faced many challenges; in 1953 she became ill with rheumatic fever, and this was to be the precursor to lifelong heart disease, yet she continued to look after her three girls and her bedridden mother while ill. She became an Adventist in 1954 after she met Gladys Perrott who was selling *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime* storybooks. She suffered much opposition to this decision but continued to attend church with her three little girls, all dressed the same in clothes she had sewn by hand or knitted. She served Bournemouth church in so many ways, but she will long be remembered for her caring visits to the sick, elderly and discouraged. Then, when failing health limited her, she continued her ministry by writing cards and making phone calls until a few months before her death. Myrtle died

peacefully on 12 January, having been cared for by her loving daughters. Pastors Martin Anthony and Ian Lorek read scriptures and prayers at her funeral, including 2 Timothy 4:7-8: 'I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day — and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.'

PASTOR IAN LOREK

From the family: We would like to thank Pastors Lorek and Anthony for conducting the service and for faithfully visiting and praying with her; the members of the Bournemouth church for their cards, phone calls and prayers; and all who attended her funeral.

DEIRDRE MARTIN, DAVINA BRADLEY, DAVID WHITFIELD AND THEIR FAMILIES

WEDDING

PALMER-SEALY

Sunday 10 August 2008 was a perfect day which saw the coming together of Mr Kish Devonson Freddie Palmer and Miss Catherine Louis Sealy in holy matrimony at the Stanborough Park church, Watford. Mr Palmer is formerly from Grenada, West Indies, and to support and witness the occasion was his mum Lenora Palmer. Also present were the bride's father (Selvin Sealy) and mother (Violet Ermine Sealy), both from the Slough church, and her brothers and sister. The approximately 300 guests who graced the occasion with their presence were made up of family, friends and church members. Officiating was the groom's former shepherd, Pastor K. Boldeau, who has known him since his infancy. He urged the couple to remain faithful and be one another's best friend. He entreated the groom to love his wife, no matter what, and urged the couple to make God the centre and foundation of their marriage. Catherine, radiantly adorned, was supported by her maid of honour, her sister Trudy Sealy, and her bridesmaids were Amanda Jordon, Trinda Cyrus and Carina Cyrus. The best man was Kenson Alexis, and Andrew Hudson, James Sealy and Benjamin Sealy were the groomsmen. Karlela Lewis-Alexis and Joel Stephenson were page girl and boy respectively. The bride's father gave his daughter away, and earlier in the ceremony, mothers of bride and groom had taken turns to welcome the invitees. The wedding was followed by a reception.

GEORGE AMOAKO-ATA

Apologies to the family and friends of Camay Griffiths

We make an unreserved apology to the family and friends of the late Camay Griffiths, whose obituary appeared in 20 February issue (114.4), for publishing her photograph on page 13 of 23 January 2009 (114.2) issue of *MESSINGER*.

EDITOR

Retirees visit Cyprus

by Dorothy Taylor

While snowbound Britain shivered in February blizzards, a group of about twenty retirees from all walks of church life enjoyed the glorious sunshine and sea breezes of Cyprus – but not until the third day of our visit.

For the first two days we dodged tropical downpours, with varying degrees of success, as the locals delighted in the first rain to fall on their parched land for many weeks. We had been warned to take warm clothing and umbrellas, for even Cyprus weather can be unpredictable in late January and early February. Our rendezvous at Gatwick at 6.30am meant we were dressed for British winter when we left, though we could shed the outer layers when we arrived.

Our hotel was a delight, thanks to the careful choosing of our guide and mentor Pastor Martin Bell. Its location meant we could walk out of the back door down to the beach and follow the paved walks to the harbour at Paphos, or round the bay to view the sunset, or we could catch the bus into the town right outside the front door. Inside there was plenty to entertain – an indoor and outdoor pool, table tennis, Greek dancing and much more – and the food! The choice was so vast, and so tempting, and many of us just walked round the whole array before making any decisions. Such treats as omelettes or pancakes made while you watched, with a selection of fillings to suit all tastes, exotic and familiar fruits and salads, an array of savoury dishes, all clearly

labelled, a rainbow display of desserts and all types of bread and rolls. No wonder there was only need for a snack at midday.

All of this may sound somewhat self-indulgent, but a short break like this is more than just a holiday. Many of our group live alone, have been bereaved, or rarely get a chance to associate with fellow Adventists. There were opportunities to reminisce with old friends not seen for years, and to hear stories that had us aching with laughter. When we played the card game called UNO – rather like a complex game of SNAP – we were having so much fun that two of the hotel guests asked if they could join us. How lovely to be seen as happy and welcoming people instead of an exclusive 'sect'. This same couple came to the presentation given by Harry Wilby on the joys and hazards of being a driver for ADRA.

For those of us who have the blessing of attending church every Sabbath, where we can have fellowship and be spiritually fed, it is hard for us to appreciate the situation of these members who are isolated. Our holiday location had been chosen so that we could bring a blessing to the little group of believers in Cyprus. During the week we followed in the steps of Paul the apostle in the historic sights, and on the Sabbath we tried to follow in his steps and 'strengthen the believers'. Moses and Alice Elmajian and their grandson Aaron, with three Sabbath-keepers from Paphos, joined us for the day.

LETTERS

Since the death of Pastor David Spearing on 23 June 2008 many letters have arrived here expressing deep concern for his family. Repeatedly I have been asked, 'How are they coping?'

We are publishing here a short piece written by Mrs Sylvia Bodman who used to be Sylvia Spearing. Sylvia is Pastor David's sister.

Please continue to remember Lillian, Otti, Tony, Robin and Sylvia in your prayers. EDITOR

Don't think I don't think about it

Don't think I don't think about it. I do, several times a day. Realisation of a reality that is unchangeable. But what I do with my incoming thought is important. I could bow my head in despair, have a crushed spirit and a heart of lead; or I can have joy, peace and serenity.

If we think outside of ourselves, most people could be walking or lying prostrate in the former condition, because all lives have been touched by sin's tragedy. Therefore, God made man to be a resilient creature. Just as he made provision for sin. In Adam all die, but in Christ all can live – so therefore he made us capable of experiencing deep joy.

This joy does not depend on riches, wealth, homes, families, health, position or power but on receiving heaven-sent joy! It is available freely without measure. In my case it even travels to me faster than email! I think that the world of nature plays a large part in distributing this joy. Maybe that's why Grandma told me to walk in the garden when I was angry, upset or sad. When you receive it, peace and serenity come with the package.

For those living in cities, I recommend looking up at the sky throughout the day. It is an ever-changing landscape of God's handiwork. Additionally, find a tree, a plant or patch of grass to study. Or you may, as I do, live in a rural setting where all of Creation calls out to us, instructing and revealing God's goodness. The sea, sky, rocks, sun, moon, stars and many trees are all far older than I. Remember, we are like grass that flowers today and is then blown away or cast into the fire. However, we are far from forgotten. God remembers each one of us – his sons and daughters. I like to think of how parents confuse the

names of just a few of their children with each other, or a teacher even more so. How many children does God have? He does not forget any single one of us!

The vein of kindness, compassion, helpfulness, mercy, longsuffering and meekness still flows from our Father, even if it is rather weak at times in many of us! We can boost our circulatory system though, by exercising with our Lord in prayer, in Bible study and communion with him.

So yes, I think about it, but I do something else. We have to be the smile, the hands, feet, heart, mind and mouth of those who sleep. Turn around, and be there for someone. Keep ordering the joy. It grows like yeast, so you can always pass it on!

SYLVIA BODMAN

Filipino International has moved

After years of earnest prayer and searching, the Filipino International church has finally found a place to call its own. The new address is: The Church Hall, Brentmead Gardens, West Twyford, London, NW10 7ED. For further information, including travel directions, please visit our website: <http://www.filipinosda.org.uk> or contact Pastor Todd Frias on 07917 824 517 or at pastor@filipinosda.org.uk

ABC BOOK SALES

March

15	Harper Bell	10.30am-2pm
22	Stan Park Church	10am-2pm

April

5	John Loughborough	10.30am-2pm
5	Bradford	10.30am-2pm

ABC Shops

Watford, BUC. Due to the recent fire, the ABC shop in Watford is closed until end of 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	Belf
Mar 6	5.50	6.02	5.53	5.58	6.10
13	6.02	6.14	6.05	6.12	6.24
20	6.14	6.26	6.18	6.27	6.37
27	6.26	6.38	6.31	6.41	6.51

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