

# Messenger

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

News to the churches • 3 April 2009 • Volume 114 • 7



## ADRA is SMART

by Bert Smit, executive director, ADRA-UK

Last October I visited the project ADRA has been running in Madagascar. We are near the end of the three-year project there and the results are very good.

Visiting the many small communities that are scattered over the Fandriana region, I see with my own eyes that we *have* made a difference.

This project, called SMART\*, has impacted the lives of its beneficiaries. When I ask people what ADRA has done for them, they reply with one voice that SMART has changed their lives. Farmers say they produce more rice now and can sell the surplus on the market. The introduction of new vegetables has improved their diet and benefited their health. Health instruction has helped them understand how to improve their lifestyle. New methods of producing crafts have increased income. The benefits are all around them.

ADRA has also offered farmers additional income genera-

tion projects. They can choose from four additional activities: fishery, poultry, beekeeping and fruit trees. The project also introduced soya beans as part of new kitchen gardens. We visited the Tatamalaza community, where I was amazed to discover that in their first year they had produced more than 1,000kgs of soya beans. They have also been taught how to process the tiny little bean into some of the best soya products I have ever tasted. I sampled sweet soya patties and a beautiful creamy soya milk and learnt how the community sold all their soya products within one hour at a recent fair. Warren, the project manager, tells me that next year the community expects to produce twenty tons of soya beans.

When we leave the area, we are stopped at a police checkpoint. The police officer looks at the ADRA logo on our car and smiles. 'ADRA?' 'Yes,' we reply. 'Ah, the SMART programme,' he says. 'You have helped my family. Thank you so much!'

**you + ADRA = hope**

\*French acronym for Alleviating Poverty through Improved Livelihood and Health in Fandriana.



### The Children's Pages

The special Children's Pages in the centre of this *Messenger* have been designed to provide children and families with a range of spiritual activities. Some can be completed in church and others are included to enrich your family worship times and Sabbath afternoons. These pages are not designed to occupy the children during the whole sermon period. Pastors, parents and local churches can obtain sets of copiable and printable worksheets from the BUC Children's Ministries department by asking for The Story Pack which has 150 Bible story worksheets for £10. Other worksheet packs with different activity sheets are available for a small price from the SEC CM department (email: [amclarty@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:amclarty@secadventist.org.uk)) or some can be downloaded for free from websites such as [www.lightlive.org](http://www.lightlive.org) and [www.msscscrafts.com](http://www.msscscrafts.com).

Thank you for helping the children in your church to enjoy their Sabbaths.



**ADRA UK**  
Annual Appeal 2009

### Ingathering dates 2009

**METROPOLITAN AREA:** 28 March - 19 April  
**PROVINCES:** 28 March - 12 April



Follow the Bible in 2009 Visit the Follow the Bible webpage:  
<http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/followthebible>

## How the Bible came together

by David Marshall

The Bible is a library of sixty-six books divided into two testaments. The Old Testament has thirty-nine books. The New Testament has twenty-seven. At least forty authors were involved in the writing process; and the books were written over a period of 1,600 years.

No individual or committee of individuals compiled the Bible. The Bible grew. This principle applies to both testaments. The unifying principle that makes the Bible a living whole is Jesus Christ. Jesus was the fulfilment of messianic prophecy scattered throughout the Old Testament.

In the course of a clean-up in the temple in Josiah's reign, the 'Book of the Law' was discovered. The King read passages aloud to the people. The portions that were read came from Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 and 29. From this it has been deduced that the 'Book of the Law' represented the first five books of the Bible.

During the seventy years of the Exile, the words of the prophets, then extant, came to be valued a great deal. The nation had ceased to exist; and with it its temple. But there was still the Book of the Law – and there were the Books of the Prophets.

The Jewish *Talmud* asserts that Ezra, who led the people at the end of the Exile, undertook the collecting and editing of the Law and the Prophets. It also suggests that 'a Great Synagogue' was convened and that over a period of years all the Law, the Prophets and the Writings came under discussion. Hence the work of forming the 'Old Testament' began as early as 450BC. Most scholars accept that by the time of Christ the Old Testament existed in its present form.

It took only fifty years to write the New Testament. It took longer, however, for it to assume the form that it has today. Not until AD367 do we find the New Testament books listed in exactly

their present form.

In the two-and-a-half centuries between the completion of the last book of the New Testament – about AD100 – and the completion of the list in 367, there was much discussion as to which books should or should not be included in the canon. The Old Testament formed the Scriptures of the earliest Christians; gradually some Christian writings were placed on a par with it, not by the decree of any council but by the common agreement of the faithful.

What brought about 'the common agreement of the faithful'?

The books discarded from the Old Testament canon came to be called the *Apocrypha*. A further group of wrongly-attributed books – called the *Pseudepigrapha* – was also discarded. As we examine the books discarded from the New Testament canon, we sense the presence of supernatural guidance in the choice of what was and what was not God-inspired.

In short, the process by which the books of the New Testament came to be accepted was, in all essential respects, the same process by which the books of the Old Testament came to be accepted. Thus these two books – the Bible of the apostles, and the Bible the apostles wrote – together came to comprise what Christians accept as the written Word of God.

William Barclay has written: 'The ring of sublimity is to be found in the New Testament books. They carry their greatness on their faces. *They are self-evidencing.*'

'We may well believe,' wrote Professor F. F. Bruce, 'that those early Christians acted by a wisdom higher than their own in this matter, not only in what they accepted, but in what they rejected. . . . What is particularly important to notice is that the New Testament canon was not demarcated by the arbitrary decree of any church council. When at last the church council – the Synod of Hippo in AD393 – listed the twenty-seven books of the New Testament, it did not confer upon them any authority which they did not already possess, but simply recorded their previously-established canonicity.' *The Books and the Parchments*, pages 103-104.

The man who was beaten within an inch of his life at Lystra and who faced up to violent mobs in Philippi, Ephesus and Jerusalem was shaking with fear as he approached Corinth. So what was there about Corinth that frightened the man who didn't frighten easily?



## Would it work here?

David Marshall

The apostle Paul was no milksop. Namby-pamby was not a word anyone would have applied to him. Nevertheless he admitted that, when he first approached Corinth, he was 'weak, nervous and shaking with fear'.<sup>1</sup>

The man who was beaten within an inch of his life at Lystra and who faced up to violent mobs in Philippi, Ephesus and Jerusalem was shaking with fear as he approached Corinth. So what was there about Corinth that frightened the man who didn't frighten easily?

Corinth was the commercial capital of the Roman Empire, a port-metropolis with a multi-racial population, and was associated with knife violence and gang warfare. That was enough to challenge Paul, but not enough to frighten him.

Corinth was a heaving, vicious, depraved sink of a place that celebrated all that was rank and amoral. Around its Temple of Apollo a cult had developed that viewed homosexual acts as acts of religious devotion. Above the city was the Temple of Aphrodite that, when darkness fell, sent out a thousand prostitute priestesses to practise their profession till daybreak. Corinth was Sin City: Sodom and Gomorrah and then some. But it took more than that to make Paul tremble.

Paul had a high profile in the Roman world as the champion of Christ. When the Jewish population of Rome had been expelled in AD49 'because of Chrestos' (Tacitus) Paul, because the best known, was the most hated of Christ's champions by the Jews, the vast majority of whom were non- (and anti-) Christian.

When Paul entered Corinth in AD51, 20,000 Jews from Rome had recently settled there and were struggling to make a living. That was 20,000 people with an additional motive to give Paul the most violent reception imaginable. Had Paul not been a little unnerved by his probable reception by the Jewish population of Corinth he would have been superhuman. But 'shaking with fear'? I don't think so.

What makes a preacher tremble is when he's not sure of his ground. And as Paul approached Corinth his mind was in a turmoil. The evangelistic approach he had used prior to his arrival in Athens had involved the use of the Scriptures to identify Jesus as Messiah. Paul had tried an alternative approach in Athens. He had sought to find common ground with the Mars Hill intelligentsia by taking a (by his stan-

dards) semi-secular approach in which he had recourse to Greek philosophers and poets. There had been only a flicker of interest, some scorn and no baptisms.

As Paul made the journey from Athens to Corinth his confidence had been shaken. He had heard from others about the triumphs of the Gospel in the immediate post-Pentecost period and, after Athens, may have been wondering if the Holy Spirit had gone AWOL. What would reach the Corinthians? Not the proof-text approach he had used in the cities of Asia Minor. Clearly, not the approach that had singularly failed to impress the Athenians. How could the heaving, pagan, volatile population of Corinth be reached?

We are in a situation not dissimilar from Paul's. \*The proof-text approach that once won chapel-goers won't do anymore; the advent of TV and mass culture emptied the chapels. \*The prophetic approach, though striking and valid, can be a turn-off to the secular people if only because it leans on a detailed approach to Daniel and the Revelation – as well as to the periods of history to which their prophecies apply. \*The archaeological approach which aims to prove the authenticity of the Bible is vitally important but that, too, seems to presuppose an interest in a scholarly discipline which is less than common in our secular population. \*Even the popular version of the archaeological approach – the Holy Land approach – presupposes an interest in things biblical that is largely absent. \*The only example that I can think of in which a rationalist-philosophical approach was attempted (late '70s) did not, I think, enjoy conspicuous success.

For some time, like Paul contemplating Corinth, we have been looking out over the secular city and searching for an evangelistic approach.

Paul could not know, as he looked at Corinth, that it would represent the Gospel's first conspicuous triumph in the Gentile world.

Is there anything we can learn from how Paul faced up to his crisis?

- He didn't give up! The Gospel commission said: Start in your home district and fan out from there to the uttermost parts of the Earth. There are no no-go areas for the Gospel.
- Paul realised that the evangelistic strategy

for Corinth had been with him all along. The cross was a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but that did not alter the fact that that was the sole means of mankind's salvation. The Christian community did not include many high-flyers, but they were folks whom God had called and gifted. Jewish rituals had not enabled them to recognise Messiah when he came. Greek philosophy had not led them to God. There were two alternative fates: everlasting life and everlasting oblivion. The difference between the two came down to attitude to the world's Saviour.<sup>2</sup> 'I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Christ and him crucified.' No one – anywhere – is beyond the power of the Gospel.

Early Adventists stressed those doctrines that made us distinct from other denominations. The 1888 General Conference Session refocused the message on Christ. *Gospel Workers* pages 158-162 represents a summary of its conclusions as far as the Gospel is concerned.

Long before Peter or Paul were commissioned to take the Gospel to the Gentiles, one group of Gentiles came asking for Jesus. When Jesus spoke to them he made the most profound and prophetic statement ever made about evangelism: 'I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.'<sup>3</sup>

Paul's experience in Corinth was an early proof that it was true. The Risen Christ spoke to Paul in Corinth, and what he said to him he says to you: 'Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. For I am with you. . . . I have many people in this city.'<sup>4</sup>

Elsewhere Paul wrote, 'I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.'<sup>5</sup>

To be ashamed of the Gospel is to be ashamed of Jesus. All evangelism comes down to introducing people to the Saviour. Once Paul realised that there was no more fear. No more trembling. He knew what had to be done.

References:

<sup>1</sup>1 Corinthians 2:3, NEB. <sup>2</sup>Please read what Paul actually wrote on the matter, beginning with 1 Corinthians 1:18 as far as Paul's wonderful conclusion in 1 Corinthians 2:2. <sup>3</sup>Read John 12:20-33 and underline verse 32. <sup>4</sup>Acts 18:9, 10. <sup>5</sup>Romans 1:16.

## Enhancing Health

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

### Brain Health Part 12

#### Age-related brain maintenance

As we approach the end of the brain series, this is a good place to look at age-related activity necessary for effective brain maintenance.

**Ages 0-10** Language is fundamental to cognitive development. Talking and listening to children is one of the best ways to make the most of their critical brain-building years. Children who engage in lots of verbal interaction show more advanced linguistic skills than those who don't.

From age 10 onwards The Brainwaves Centre suggests the following to maintain mental capacity as we age:

**Age 10 plus** Working out *why* things happen, not just *what* is happening, is a great stimulant to the building of new neural pathways in the brain.

**Age 20 plus** When reading an article, imagine that later you will have to express your opinion to someone on what you have learned through it. This stimulates neu-

rons. Eighty percent of the neurons that activate when you do something physically are activated when you imagine doing it.

**The 40s** Puzzles and games that require the reviewing and analysis of facts are great for challenging the brain. Another great brain-exercise technique that enhances short- and long-term memory is to concentrate closely on what another person is saying to you. This builds concentration ability.

**The 50s** The brain shifts resources continually. For each task that it has to accomplish, the brain recruits circuits. Disused brain circuits inhibit this ability. So keep challenging your mind with tasks. Although some brain cells are lost over time, the remaining cells become effective when worked harder.

**Age 65 plus** The brain works best when there are multiple new things to learn. In later years, people are not compelled to learn new skills, and this results in the slowing down of brain capacity. Therefore, attempting

new challenges continually keeps the mind sharp.

#### Facts

- The latest brain-boosting exercise is called Neurobics, which has been found to enhance overall mental fitness, strength and flexibility as we age. The exercise programme challenges the brain with non-routine or unexpected experiences, expanding brain capacity.
- Neurobics involves doing things you normally do, but doing them differently. For example, writing with the opposite hand or brushing your teeth with the other hand, taking a different route to work and so on.
- During these neurobic exercises the underused nerve pathways and connections in the brain become activated. This stimulates growth of new brain cells and brain connections.

#### Homework

Try alternating the above neurobic exercises on an ongoing basis.

#### Good health!

Follow the Bible in 2009 Visit the Follow the Bible webpage: <http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/followthebible>

# The Bible and translations

by Pastor Gifford Rhamie, Newbold College

The Bible is the most translated book in the world and still is the 'Number One Best Seller'. This is largely because of the depth of its spirituality told through stories, but more so because of its central character, Jesus Christ – the one who is the cause of the division of history into BC and AD, and the division of the Bible into the Old Testament and New Testament. Because of the booming thousands of translations, Jesus has become accessible to millions of people around the world. Yet history has taught us that the day translations become censored is the day when Jesus would be put in a box and attempted to be monopolised and 'copyrighted' by the censoring group. Hence, the Gospel must continue to be preached throughout the world to all people groups by all people groups.

To appreciate the translated Bible we have in our hands is to appreciate the long history of sacrifice, serendipity and divine providence on the part of thousands of people throughout the ages. The production of the Bible could be best divided into six stages: revelation, inspiration, autograph, transmission, preservation and translation. In this brief article we are concerned with the final stage – translation or Bible versions.

## Translations

Since the writers of the Bible were thought-inspired, the early Christians felt at liberty to translate it into their own languages. Among the early translations were the Latin (Italy), the Syriac (Syrian), Coptic (Egyptian), and the Ethiopic (Ethiopian) Bibles – all produced by

the sixth century AD. However, the continuing desire to have the Bible read, explained and thereby translated in the local vernacular of (and by) the different people groups was suppressed for several centuries by the Roman Church. Nations, particularly in the West, were simply not allowed to translate, much less read the Bible in their own language. Hence, the Roman Church – the censoring group – monopolised and 'copyrighted' a particular understanding of the Bible and, by definition, of God.

Yet one can only suppress the will of a people for so long before a 'prophet' arises from among them to uphold justice and give voice to that will. So it was that men such as John Wycliffe and William Tyndale began to translate the Bible into the English vernacular from the fourteenth to the seventeenth centuries AD. By the seventeenth century change had swept over Europe and broken the stranglehold of Catholicism. The Reformation was preceded by the invention of the printing press. The first printed English translation was Tyndale's. The best of the *Authorised Version*, commissioned by King James I and published in 1611, incorporated the work of Tyndale. No other translation (and, perhaps, piece of literature) has helped to shape the life and times of an empire like the KJV. Four centuries later you will still find its influence in the UK, underpinning the rule of law, the practice of commerce, and idioms of common speech.

Since the KJV, many New Testament Greek manuscripts have been found, particularly in the Middle Eastern

region. These are found to pre-date the manuscripts used for the translation of the KJV. Furthermore, there have been huge developments in the English language. Language is never static. It is dynamic – always changing. Therefore, with the discoveries of new manuscripts, coupled with the growing desire to have the Bible translated, read and understood in contemporary language, there has been a plethora of English translations. With so many translations, some confusion has arisen over which are most reliable. In light of this, I wish to suggest some pointers that will help with the choice of translations or Bible versions for personal reading or study, whether formal or casual.

- **Self-disclosure.** Most Bibles declare their hand as to what the translators of their particular volume are trying to achieve with their new translation. You must, then, read the preface of the Bible in order to discover what the translators are trying to do.
- **Literal translations.** Some translations set out to give a very close reading of the original text of the Bible, such as the KJV, NKJV,

RSV, NRSV, ASV and NASB. These are known as *literal* translations. They are particularly useful for personal Bible study and/or doctrinal study. The KJV is particularly useful for memorisation, as it has uniquely retained the metre and cadence of the poetry within the Bible.

- **Moderately dynamic translations.** Some translations set out to give a dynamic reading of the original text of the Bible, such as the NIV, NCB, NLT and JB. These are known as dynamic translations, since the translations attempt to retain the original meaning of the text while giving it a fresh, present-day-English idiomatic feel. These are good for personal, reflective study, though some caution must be applied when studying for serious doctrinal purposes.

- **Dynamic paraphrase translations.** Some translations set out to give an impressionistic reading of the original text of the Bible, such as *The Message*, *The Clear Word*, *The Living Bible* and Phillips'. These are known as paraphrase translations, because they attempt to retain the essence of the meaning of the text while paraphrasing it to give a general feel for what the author is trying to say. This is very good for a casual reading of the text, especially if you want to visualise a particular narrative or have a general grasp of a biblical teaching. However, great caution must be applied if you are using them for doctrinal study, as that is not what this particular set of translations has purposed to accomplish.

- **Read several translations at a time.** Short of reading the Bible in its original languages – Hebrew and Greek – it is useful to have several translations in view, to juice the essence of the meaning of the text. Those of you who are bilingual would know that there are some sayings that are impossible to translate smoothly into an English equivalent. In your original language, people may laugh (because of rhyme, alliteration and so on), but when translated the same witty phrase may draw only blank faces. So it is with all translations, including that of the Bible. However, you might begin to see the sense of what is being communicated in the original by putting several translations together, side by side.

We must be thankful to the providence of God that we have many translations today. Nevertheless, we must remember that, however we read the Word of God, it is meant, in the words of my colleague and friend Jean-Claude Verrecchia, 'to shock, to disturb and to shake up' the reader. Or, as Hebrews 4:12 says, 'For

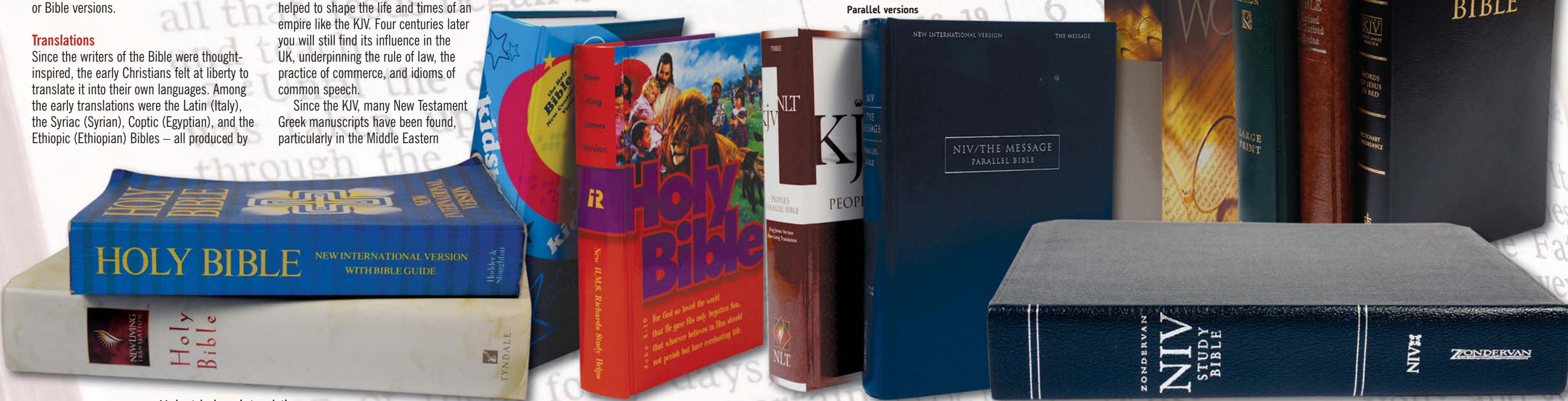


the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.'

Dynamic paraphrase translation

Literal translations

Parallel versions



Moderately dynamic translations

Children's versions

# Children matter —

## Involving children in your church

The year 2009 is a special one. Not only has it been designated as the worldwide Year of Evangelism for our Church, but it is also the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Year of the Child. Research indicates that the churches which are involving children in their services are among some of the fastest-growing churches around the world. Working with the children already in our churches, and evangelising the children in our communities, are the two most inspiring and fruitful mission fields that we have available to us. Did you know that 30% of the children who learn about God before they are 9 will choose to remain life-long followers, but only about 3% of people who learn about God after they are 13 will choose to follow him? We need to put our effort and finances into the most effective evangelism available to us, and Children's Ministries can help us to do that.

**Karen Holford, associate director of Children's Ministries in the South England Conference,** has put together some ideas for helping you to involve children in your church services. Each month ten fresh ideas will be published to enable you to transform your church and to help the children discover that they are an important part of your Sabbath morning services.

### Ten fresh ways to involve children in the congregational prayer:

- A group of children could write different sections of the congregational prayer and then pray them in sequence.
- Older children and teens could be invited to create an attractive PowerPoint presentation to illustrate the different sections of the prayer, the people and situations being prayed for, and so on.
- Train a group of children how to pray for others in a simple way. Invite people who would like someone to pray for them to put up their hands. The children could then find a person who needs their prayers, ask about the prayer requests, and pray a few sentences on his or her behalf.
- Invite a small group of children to act out the Lord's Prayer with actions (see website for instructions) or to teach it to the rest of the church.
- Give each person in the congregation four A5 pieces of paper as follows:
  - Yellow paper with the word 'Praise' written on it
  - Blue paper with 'Sorry'
  - Green paper with 'Thanks'
  - Pink paper with 'Please'
 Also stick one of these papers on each of four gift bags, the same colours as the paper, to make matching the words to the bags as easy as possible. Have pencils and pens available. Allow time for everyone to write a sentence or two of praise, sorry, thanks or please prayers on each of their sheets of paper. Place the four labelled gift bags at the front of the church and invite everyone to come forward and post their prayers into the relevant bags. Then pick up each of the bags in turn and read a selection of the prayers inside. This is a prayer that involves everyone.
- Ask the children to bring objects that represent the things they want to thank or praise God for. Make a collection of the objects on a table at the front of the church, and interview the children about their choices. Use these objects to inspire a prayer of thanks.
- Ask the children to create attractive prayer postcards, decorating them with their artwork or a simple collage. Use these cards to let homebound or sick church members know when the church has been praying for them, or write a short prayer on the card and post it to their home.

- Give each child a piece of white play dough (or model magic — which is a very clean and light dough). Ask the children to make a model of something they want to thank God for, praise him for, or say sorry for. They can reshape their dough several times during one prayer or bring their sculpted objects forward as part of the prayer time. They can make shapes that represent the things they want to say sorry for, and then reshape them into white heart shapes, to represent the way God takes away our sins and gives us a pure heart again. Adults often enjoy this prayer activity, too!

- Find a small 'tree': a bare, twiggy branch that you can place in a pot. Give everyone, including the children, green card leaves that have a hole punched in one end, and a short piece of raffia or string attached. Invite people to write the names of those who are sick and need healing on the leaves, including some brief details of their illness or injury. The leaves can be brought forward and tied to the tree, and the whole tree of healing prayer requests can be presented to God. The tree can have a place in the church and, when healing has occurred, a coloured paper flower can be stuck to the leaf representing the person who has been healed. If someone dies, a white flower can be attached to their leaf, and talk about how healthy they will be when Jesus raises them from the dead.

- Invite the children to write a praise prayer to God. Give them lots of large photos of nature scenes (such as those from calendars) and let them choose one and take it home. Ask them to write a sentence or two praising God for the things they can see in the picture. Then let them hold up their picture for everyone to see, and say their praises as part of your prayer time. Remember that it's all right for us to pray with our eyes open! God doesn't mind!

Ask the children in your church to tell you their ideas for ways in which they could be involved in your prayer times.

For further ideas see *100 Creative Prayer Ideas for Kids and Grown-ups Too!* Karen Holford, 2003, Pacific Press, available from the ABC.

If you are hungry for more ideas and can't wait all year to collect them, you can visit the SEC website at [www.secadventist.com](http://www.secadventist.com) and explore the Children's Ministry resource pages.

## BUC Health Ministries Nutrition Conference

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries director

'Excellent presentations', 'The day was extremely informative and inspiring', 'Brilliant! Well worth the early start and journey!' 'Excellent programme. Encourages me to try more things and share with others and my church', 'A very well organised and very inspiring event. The food was excellent.' These were just a few of the comments from the enthused seventy plus individuals who attended the BUC-sponsored Nutrition Conference held on Sunday 1 March.

Conference organisers — Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries director, Angelette Muller, nutritional consultant and lecturer in therapeutic nutrition, and Fay Lindo, food demonstrator — facilitated the event. The caption for the conference was 'Renewing our Vision for Health — a dietary perspective'. The conference theme was developed in line with the inspired directives from E. G. White identified in *Counsels on Diet and*

*Foods*, p. 273, which states: 'Wherever the truth is proclaimed, instruction should be given in the preparation of healthful foods.'

The conference aimed to deliver the 'how to' of nutrition rather than taking the usual route of explaining what was good and not so good to eat for healthy living.

Key to the day were the culinary steps participants were taught when helping to assist someone to transition from a meat- to a plant-based diet. This was supported by demonstrations of plant-based recipes and the provision of colourful, laminated postcards and fridge magnet recipes for easy access in the kitchen. Each participant was issued with these aids to take away, including tasters pre-prepared and those demonstrated during the day.

A range of food demonstrations covering breakfast, lunch and supper was undertaken. Recipes included Bircher muesli, granola, apricot spread, how to build a salad, guacamole, hummus, stir-fry and sweet potato wedges. The lunch for the day had a Moroccan theme, and participants were able to see the making of dishes like aduki bean koftas and spiced, marinated olives, which were also part of the lunchtime plant-based meal. Dessert was a delicious pina colada or berry nutty vegan ice cream. Sorry you weren't there to taste it!

The opening lecture concentrated on a little explored area — the link between food, appetite and spirituality and its impact on our well-being. There followed a range of seminars, including the benefits

of a whole-food, plant-based diet, Moroccan vegetarian cuisine and transition nutrition.

The conference pack provided additional resources for displays that Health Ministries leaders and their teams could use when delivering health programmes to the church and community. All conference resources were written and created by the conference presenters — Angelette Muller and Sharon Platt-McDonald.

As a step to transferring the learning on their return to local churches, attendees were encouraged to explore current issues or challenges they face within their churches in regards to the health message. This included what dietary principles and practices they saw exhibited in their local churches and how closely their church follows the inspired writings given to us concerning health and well-being. This segment of the conference asked participants to examine these questions, encourage discussion and share possible solutions.

In discussing the way forward, Sharon and Angelette shared with conference participants their plans for the development of a cooking school and nutritional resources being developed for churches, schools and the community.

With the launch of this first stage of the Nutrition Strategy at the conference, the presenters highlighted options to support churches and health teams in enhancing the health and well-being of the membership and communities they serve.



Conference attendees were also challenged to commit to renewing their vision of health and realising the impact of health evangelism within the community.

The BUC Health Ministry department wishes to thank the Stanborough Press for supporting the event and the team of volunteers who made the day such a success. For more information on nutrition information shared at the conference, please ring Sharon Platt-McDonald on 01727 872 162.





**It's amazing!**

Spring is coming and flowers are blooming and birds are singing and building nests for their eggs. The world is full of beautiful things that God has made. What do you think is the most amazing thing God created? I like grass. It's not big and fancy, but it's lovely and soft and it keeps on growing even after you cut it down. It's a lovely colour for covering the world and it feeds lots of animals. Even though there are many more amazing things in the universe, I could never make a blade of grass, however hard I tried! So I find grass incredible! What about you? What amazes you? Think about the answer and then write a letter to God, thanking him for his amazing Creation.

**Creation prayer**

*For you make me glad by your deeds, O Lord, I sing for joy at the works of your hands. Psalm 92:4*

Find a picture of an outdoor scene. Often there is one on a calendar or in a magazine or you can even download one from the Internet. Use it as an unusual way to write a prayer inspired by the wonderful things God has made. Write your praises on different parts of the picture. For example, on the grass you can write, 'My God is very clever, he created a soft, colourful covering for the earth.' While you do this you can sing, 'My God is so big, so strong, and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do. The mountains are his, the rivers are his, the stars are his handiwork, too. My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do, for you.'

(Adapted from *100 Creative Prayers for Kids*, by Karen Holford, Pacific Press Publishing Association)

**Messenger explorer**

Look through *Messenger* and see how many words you can circle that are things God created, such as flowers, trees and so on.

**Memory verse activity**

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1*  
Write out this verse, one letter to a line, down the left hand edge of a page. Then write one thing God created beginning with each of the letters: i – iguana, n – nectarine, t – tortoise, h – horse, and so on.

**Adam and Eve hunt!**

See how many Adam and Eve words you can find in this puzzle:

A	D	A	M	E	A	D	A	M
D	E	V	E	V	A	E	V	E
A	D	A	M	E	D	E	V	E
M	A	D	A	E	A	E	V	E
E	D	E	V	E	M	A	D	A
V	A	V	V	V	A	D	A	M
E	M	E	V	E	V	E	M	E


Adam \_\_\_\_ Eve \_\_\_\_

Choose two names, one from the plant world and another from the animal world. Build your own puzzle from those words in the blank grid.

**Creation numbers**

Read the story of Creation in Genesis 1:1-2:4. Take it in turns to roll a dice. Look at the number on the top face of the dice and then say something that was made on that day in creation week. Try not to say the name of something that has already been suggested during the game. Water was created on the second day, but you can say river, stream, brook, sea, lake, waterfall and so on. Name different flowers, trees, types of light, land formations, animals, planets and so on.



**Creation mobile**

Find a simple wire coat hanger and some strong black thread. Then search for seven different things that represent something that God made on each day of Creation. You could find a feather for day five when God created birds, or a shell. Perhaps an interesting twig for day three, a star for day four and so on. Make sure that you can hang each object. You may have to find an adult to help you make holes in things and then tie them to the coat hanger with different lengths of thread. When you have finished, thank God for everything he has created. Hang your mobile in a place where it will remind you to praise God for everything he has made!



**Operation Clean-up Creation**

With your family, choose a small place near your home that often looks untidy. Take bin bags, wear thick gloves and use pick-up sticks to remove the rubbish from the area.

# A church is born

On the last Sabbath of January 2009, the members of Northolt and visiting friends assembled together to witness a Spirit-filled, memorable and auspicious occasion. The Northolt group became Northolt Seventh-day Adventist Community church of the South England Conference.

A well-prepared day was in store as the Sabbath commenced with lively congregational singing led by Winston Noel. The theme for the day was 'Experience God's Power'. The lesson discussion was very interesting and well presented by Bert Ackie and was followed by beautiful singing from Jennifer Philips.

The organisation service started as Dr Richard de Lisser, the main speaker, gave us words of admonition and encouragement. He asked the members of Northolt questions in relation to Adventist Church beliefs. The members were then called together for the church organisation, where Godwin Benjamin, the church clerk, called the members and additional members together.

The day was a double blessing as Dean Jeena, the leader of Northolt, was ordained an elder. The Golden Chords blessed the listeners' hearts as they ended that part of the service with joyful music.

The afternoon programme featured presentations, talks and a continuation of heavenly music from local artistes and the Golden Chords, who told us that we should be 'connected' and 'keep the faith'.

Wederly Aguiar also presented a talk and reminded the members that they should always shine their light, especially in the community.

Northolt group started in July 2005, when Leonard Mujaya, the founder and leader of Northolt back then, saw that the time was right to branch out and start somewhere new in the Northolt area. Pastor Aguiar was the minister at the time and supported the group until he moved. Along with Leonard Mujaya were young vibrant men, namely, Dean Jeena, Jason du Pont and later Reedwaan Jeena. Then members from Southall and Hanwell churches



started attending the group and have continued ever since.

Pastor Robert Vine replaced Pastor Aguiar and was instrumental in the development of Northolt. Pastor Everett Picart is currently the

pastor of Northolt church.

Over the last two years, Northolt has had two baptisms. A total of ten precious souls have been added. The work continues.

DR RICHARD DE LISSER

# Battersea elders

by Pastor Simeon Esson

On Sabbath 7 February three elders, including two ladies, were ordained by Pastor S. Matthias Esson to serve in the Battersea church. They are Mrs Dorothy Durant, Mr Basil Lumsden and Mrs Leila Blake. All three have given outstanding service to the church in various leadership capacities for many years.

Leila Blake, after serving as an associate leader for some time, began her first term this past January as the first elder. Prior to this she served the church as PM secretary, church pianist, and Sabbath School teacher.

Basil Lumsden, prior to his ordination, also served as associate leader for many years. His

portfolio of offices includes AY sponsor, Communication and Technology. He is committed to the development and mentoring of youth and children, a passion which led him and Krystal Greenland to form Hands of Praise, a mime and sign gospel group of young adolescents. This group has been a credit to the church.

Dorothy Durant brings to the leadership team all her expertise from the Treasury, Sabbath School and Stewardship departments. She is a pivotal member of the church choir and is committed to the progress and forward thrust of the church.

Taking part in the ordination service along with Pastor Esson were church elders Stephen Adams and Densel Harris. Stephen Adams served for many years as first elder for the Battersea church and the Mitcham group. Densel Harris is currently serving as the first elder for the Plumstead Community church.



Left to right: Elders D. Harris, A. Adams, D. Durant, L. Blake, B. Lumsden and Pastor S. Esson

# Happy 99th birthday Sister Christie!

The period between 1910 and 2009 has seen many great events.

King George V was crowned as King of Great



# The children at Manchester South

Saturday 21 February. Jesus said, 'Do not turn the children away, for the kingdom of God belongs to them' (Luke 18:16). While the presence of young people in some churches in the UK is decreasing, we in Manchester South are proud of our young people. It was a very special day in Manchester South when children under 15 years old took the whole day's service from opening the church door to closing it after the service. The whole day's service was based on the theme 'What are you doing with your talents?' This was the day when children had the opportunity to use their talents to glorify God. Nomsa Mwimbi, 11, was the speaker of the day. Her sermon was entitled 'Talent or no talent, God wants you'. She reminded the young people and the entire church family of our duties towards him, regardless of our talents. At the end of the service all the young people pledged to use their talents to glorify God.

PRABHU SAHAI



# For the blind and partially sighted

We in Wallasey church, Wirral, had a really happy and special Sabbath day on 13 February. Our church had collected money week by week for the blind and partially sighted children to enable them to get some special equipment to aid them in their learning at Henshaws BP Sighted Centre in Liverpool.

Our minister Pastor E. Daniel welcomed Mrs Hannah Frith, FS worker, as she came to collect her cheque for £180. She thanked us and told just a little of the very important work Henshaws do for all the children. She showed us some of the special toys used to help them feel and smell as stories are being read to them, which made us feel pleased that we could play even a small part in this important work. Mrs Frith then went on to tell us that her husband was a minister in the local Baptist church. We enjoyed her company and, on leaving, her words were, 'Many thanks, and I too have learned a lot from my visit to your church.'

PAM GITTINS



Left to right: Pam Gittins, Hannah Frith, Winnie Parker (our oldest Welfare helper, aged 94)

Britain in 1910. Two years later saw the tragic voyage of the *Titanic*, and World War I spanned the years 1914-1918.

In 1915 the first trans-continental phone call was made from New York to San Francisco by inventors Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas A. Watson. In 1936 King George V of England died and was succeeded by his son, Edward VIII, who abdicated for 'the woman I love'. His brother, George VI, took the throne in his stead.

The years 1939-1945 brought World War II. Queen Elizabeth II began her reign in 1952.

In 1955 the refusal of Rosa Parks to move to the back of a bus led to the Montgomery bus boycott.

In 1963, 200,000 people marched on Washington to demand civil rights for all, and Dr Martin Luther King Jr delivered his famous 'I have a dream' speech.

In 1969 US astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon.

In 1978 the first test-tube baby was born in England. Nelson Mandela was freed from his South African prison in 1990. The year 1992 saw the Internet start up for home use. The tragic loss of many lives in the Twin Towers of New York marred 2001.

All of these events show how the world has changed over the last ninety-nine years, and on Sabbath 21 February Izetella Christie celebrated her 99th birthday at Chiswick church. During her lifetime all of the above world events have taken place.

She has been a pillar of strength in Chiswick church for many years and is dearly loved by all.

The church sang a heartfelt Happy Birthday to her to mark this landmark occasion in her life.

Chiswick has truly been blessed with the support and membership of Izetella Christie over the years.

May God continue to bless her as she continues to serve and love the Lord.

WAYNE DAVIS



# Stanborough School humanitarian trip to India

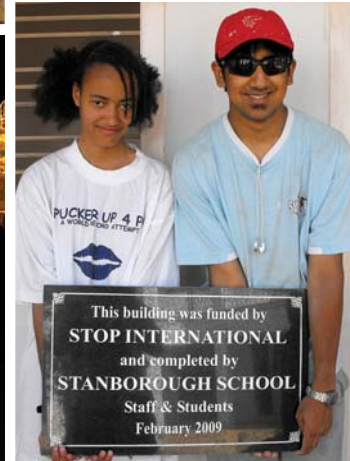
by Kish Poddar MSc, Science teacher

**O**n a bitterly cold 16 February a group of students and staff from Stanborough School, including a few volunteers, exchanged the snowy winter of England for the tropical warmth of India. The group was to be involved in a two-week IB CAS\* humanitarian

project sponsored by STOP International. The project for the small team this year was to paint and decorate the newly-constructed infant block for the Captain Azariah Orphanage. The construction was funded by STOP International and built by local builders prior to the



Left: Latha, in the foreground, is one of the older orphans who helped cook the lunch. Above: Rhiannon Lee-Murray. Right: At the airport: Peter Cooper, Vishal Patel, Rhiannon Lee-Murray, Bledar Rakipaj and Kish Poddar. Below: Rhiannon Lee-Murray and Bledar Rakipaj with the lit-up palace behind them. Below right: This building was funded by STOP... Rhiannon Lee-Murray and Vishal Patel hold the plaque.



group's arrival on Indian soil. The team had no problems adjusting to the tropical climate in spite of a ten-hour flight. The work of painting began at 8am the following day. All the materials were in place and the team began with sanding down the walls, after which they primed them for the last two coats of paint. Then some of the team whitewashed the outer walls. The temperature got up to 34°C but the group kept going, drinking gallons of water to prevent dehydration. Windows, doors and railings all received two coats of paint.

rickshaws and horse-drawn tongas. The second week of work mainly involved painting murals of cartoon characters on the bedroom walls. This work was constantly interrupted by babies and toddlers seeking attention. The beautiful, cuddly babies were difficult to resist and some of the team members made little effort to fight off their charming appeal. It was a sight to behold teenage boys blissfully carrying and embracing these lovely infants. One student was so touched by this experience that he pledged: 'I'm going to give my children everything they want.' When all the painting and decorating was completed a special dedication service was conducted on Friday 28 February by Pastor G. J. Christo. Soon after that all the team members and the orphans, including

the babies, went on a picnic to celebrate. The site was an idyllic setting by a river where the lunch was cooked on an open fire by the older orphans, while the younger ones swam and played in the river. The hot sun made playing in the cool river even more enjoyable. At lunch the children sat in the water and ate their meals. The picnic celebration was the icing on the most blessed cake for the Stanborough School

team who will remember it for a long time. During the two weeks the team visited four other orphanages sponsored by STOP International. The BESSO orphanage invited them to participate in their annual prize-giving celebrations; in the Love Home they were treated to delicious fresh coconut water; in the Blessing Home the children sang songs to charm the group, and the team spent the whole of Sabbath at The Way To Life Orphanage.

What do the students of Stanborough School gain from an experience like this? It may seem obvious but when one hears the reflections from the students themselves the value of a humanitarian project like this becomes hugely relevant. When asked what was the best part of the trip, fellowshipping with the lovely, happy orphan children was unanimously voted the highlight. In fact, that sentiment was consolidated when one student said that he had to interrupt playing with the children to do some work. One student was so impressed by the quality of the care and facilities given to the orphans that he asked, 'Do you have to be an orphan to stay here?' Two other students said they did not want to go home, and one asked me to call her mother to allow her to stay longer. We praise God for his care during the two weeks but, above all, for showing the Stanborough School team the blessedness of the Christ-ordained philosophy of service.

\*International Baccalaureate - Creativity, Action and Service

# Grantham's children

**N**ovember saw the children of Grantham church working hard to prepare for leading the worship service on 29 November. New songs were sung, lines learnt, whales and boats painted and bell-ringing practised! Invitations to the service were sent to family and friends, and particularly to those children who join us only occasionally.

The children were a little nervous on the day as some had not done anything like this before and Grantham is a large church. However, all gave their best and enjoyed sharing what they had been learning.

The service was based around the theme of God communicating with us. The stories of three Bible characters were chosen to illustrate this.

Firstly, the 9-12 year olds presented a play detailing Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus. Following this, the older children used hand-bells to play the hymn 'God speaks to us' before the congregation joined in with singing. Next, the 6-8 years olds acted out the story of Jonah while the other children sang a lively song about Jonah. They particularly enjoyed doing this, using scenery that they had painted previously. Finally, it was the turn of our under fives, who acted out the beautiful story of God speaking to Samuel in the temple. The older children sang about Samuel with great enthusiasm, while the younger children were 'Samuels' running to Eli.

The response of the adults in the church was to thank the children and show their support and appreciation for the children's efforts. 'We've never had anything like that before, have we?' was the remark made by one member. 'It went so quickly I'd like to see it all again!' said another.

VIVIENNE BARRATT-PEACOCK

# A double blessing for Erdington

Two thousand and eight saw the baptism and the wedding of Mr Jonathan Woods and Miss Lenasha Smith in the Erdington church.

Mr Woods and Miss Smith were baptised by Pastor Ron Davey on 12 July 2008 and on 3 August the couple tied the knot in the presence of the Lord. This special occasion was witnessed by members of both families, including the parents, Dr Jeff Johnson and Mrs Smith, Mr and Mrs Woods, and the entire church members and friends of the families. The wedding was

solemnised by Pastor Paul Haworth, the NEC Executive secretary, with his wife, Heather Haworth, the BUC Family Ministries director, in attendance. Pastor Orlando Holder of Erdington had a double responsibility for the overall services on both occasions. JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG



Above, left to right: Melody, Naomi, Matthew, Taylor, Courtney, Benjamin, Kirsty, Sam and Adam sing: 'We are his hands to touch the world around us'

Right: Alex Johnson (left) and Adam Sheppard read James 1:22-25

Below: 'I don't want to go to Nineveh!' The children sing about Jonah.



90 YEARS YOUNG

**Stanborough Primary School Celebration 1919-2009**

Appletree Walk, Garston, Watford, Hertfordshire WD25 0DQ  
4 & 5 July, 2009

CATHERINE ANTHONY BOLDEAU

# Nineteen plus four — a record for Scotland

On 21 February and for the second time in just over a year Drumchapel Baptist church hosted a large gathering of Adventist members from the west of Scotland. But this time a Scottish record in decades was celebrated when twenty-three candidates from the Glasgow, Faifley and Paisley churches took their baptismal vows. Nineteen, mostly teenagers, were baptised, and four more entered membership on profession of faith.

Those committing or recommitting their life to Christ included husband and wife, Alan and Patricia Spencer, and Phelomen Mukangilye and her children Benjamin and Alice. Among those who also saw their children enter the waters of baptism were the parents of Chloe, Clara and Cokkine Mukisa and Thandiwe and Vitumbiko Madhlopa. Sixteen-year-old Benjamin perhaps best summed up the day with the comment: 'It was a blessed day when children's souls were enriched with God's Spirit and the fullness of his won-

derful words of life.'

Addressing the candidates, Mission president Pastor Llew Edwards referred to Romans 6:3, 4, emphasising that 'Baptism is a memorial of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.' Focusing on the temptations and choices faced by young people today, he referred to Paul's description in Romans 5:14, 15 of two communities — those 'in Christ' and those 'in Adam'. 'In the latter you will die, "in Christ" you will have everlasting life,' he said. Posing the question: 'How will we know we are in the "life" community?' he summarised 1 John 3:14: 'In Christ we become other-centred rather than I-centred.'

Pastor Clifford Herman, who had prepared the candidates and who conducted the baptisms, said: 'A baptismal event is one of the best ways to uplift and refocus the mission and meaning of a church. It is a time when those who have committed their life before through baptism rethink their journey, and those who

have not yet accepted the need to follow a life with Jesus rethink their life situation.'

The ceremony was enhanced with songs of praise from the

Glasgow group Helping Hands, soloist Francesca Vaudein, and Faithley youth group, Destined for Greatness.

JOHN WILBY



## Bletchley baptism

One year ago Andrew Webb attended a prayer meeting at one of West Bletchley Community church's small groups. He remembers testing the power of prayer. He was scheduled to take his driving test one week later and had requested those present to pray that he would pass. On the morning of the test it was raining and he says, by rights, the test should have been cancelled. The fact that it was not was in itself an answer to prayer, as he went on to pass his test!

Andrew testifies of his mother being a prayerful woman and acknowledges this as being instrumental in his making the decision to be baptised on 24 January. His mother, brother Joseph, sister Elithia and a sizeable group of family and

friends were present to share this momentous occasion with him.

The minister for the district of Milton Keynes, Pastor Ashwin Somasundram, gave the address, and his predecessor Pastor Colin Stewart, currently Youth director for the South England Conference, immersed Andrew.

SYLVONIE NOEL

## Silver medal for Stanborough Primary School Choir

The pupils and staff of Stanborough Primary School were kept very busy recently with a variety of activities. First thing on Monday 2 March, the school took part in a sponsored Jump Rope event to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation. In attendance were a reporter and a photographer from the *Watford Observer* and you can view the

details on their site: [www.watfordobserver.co.uk](http://www.watfordobserver.co.uk). Details of the monies raised for the event will be available in due course.

On Thursday 5 March the school curriculum focused on World Book Day. Pupils were encouraged to use the library facilities, and interactive literary activities were held in each classroom. On Friday the Junior Choir and children from the Infant School were invited to celebrate Women's World Day of Prayer with members of other churches in Watford. The infants performed the story of the saving of baby Moses by his sister Miriam and mother Jochebed, and the choir ably delivered a medley of spirituals. Present at this event was Dorothy Thornhill, Mayor of Watford, and Clare Ward, the local MP.

The delivery of the spirituals was a hit for the choir, for on Sunday 8 March they won a silver medal at the Watford Music Festival.

Speaking about the Watford Music Festival, Kathleen Hanson, head teacher, stated, 'I am really delighted that the school was able to participate in the competition and that we got a medal. The children worked really hard for this.' She continued, 'This week was a busy week for our school, but one we all thoroughly enjoyed. Stanborough Park School is a child-centred school and as head I would like to ensure that we seize every opportunity to assist the pupils in their spiritual, academic, social and emotional growth.'

CATHERINE ANTHONY BOLDEAU



## Bernard Charles Joseph Howard (1918-2009) d. 3 February

one such trip, an amusing encounter with Agnes Farrell started an interest that led to courtship and eventually marriage. During the war years he was a conscientious objector and worked on a farm, milking cows as well as fire watching and trying to complete his university studies. After their marriage in 1946, he and Agnes moved to Swaffham in Norfolk where he taught Maths. Quite soon the young couple accepted a call as missionaries to Sierra Leone and worked in Bo, until Bernard became seriously ill. Their daughter Isobel was born in Freetown but the family had to return to the UK where, after treatment at Stanborough Hydro, Bernard eventually returned to Scotland to teach Maths. They lived at Milngavie where son Gordon was born. Bernard was next promoted to principal Maths teacher at Webster's High School in Kirriemuir. He lived there till his retirement before moving to nearby Maryton in 1996. This brief biography gives little hint of the enormous scope of his creative abilities, his problem solving capacity, his love of apocalyptic prophecy, his car and house maintenance, or his fierce independence. He was such an expert with both electronics and carpentry that he built his own organ. His musical abilities were of a high order and he could play several

musical instruments. Friends still recall the embellishments and variations with which he enlivened hymns such as 'There's a land that is fairer than day'. He died peacefully, surrounded by his family, on Tuesday 3 February 2009. The funeral service, conducted by Pastor Marcel Ghioalda, was a family affair in Bernard's home. Family members read tributes and, thanks to the wonders of telephony, relatives in Australia were able to hear the service and participate with affectionate memories of their own. The words of Isobel's tribute will be wholeheartedly endorsed by Bernard's many friends from the Dundee church and further afield: 'God knows how much we loved Dad's funny stories, and we loved him even more! It was a pleasure to do things for him and he was always so appreciative of the smallest thing. I will miss the warmth of his love, his care and his wise advice. Can't wait to see him and Mum again when Jesus comes!' Bernard transmitted a strong faith in God, tempered by his sense of fun and the ability he gave others to laugh at themselves. Bernard was laid to rest in Kirriemuir cemetery, beside his beloved Agnes, whom he had nursed during the final years of her life.

JOHN C. WALTON

with a son James, later Pastor Jim Huzzey, and during the privation of the wartime years the family enjoyed the fellowship of a wide circle of church friends, with their home constantly filled with visitors. Dorothy was a fine cook, and her generous hospitality was much appreciated on Sabbaths. When the war was over the family moved to Luton, where three further children, John, Doreen and Paul, were born. Idris worked hard and was able to establish a fine watchmaking business. Later he was to serve for nearly thirty years as the local church elder for the Luton congregation. Dorothy herself loved to be active, giving stalwart support to the London Coliseum meetings during the Vandeman era of evangelism. She became part of a wide circle of new friends during this period, and every year would distinguish herself in raising several hundred pounds annually for over-

seas missions. In 1979 she and her husband moved to their son John's farm near Fordingbridge, Hampshire. Following Idris's death in 1982, Dorothy was happy to be so close to her son. She remained active until the final few years of her life, when her strong personal faith helped her to cope with her increasing frailty. She was immensely proud of her family, and celebrated her 90th birthday in the presence of thirty-eight family members. Her great-grandchildren brought her special delight, and she followed their progress eagerly. At the funeral service, Pastor James Huzzey gave a stirring tribute to her memory, after his daughter Cheryl shared the message of John 14:1-6. After a brief meditation by the writer, the final farewells followed. She rests in the Lord, awaiting the call of the Life-giver on the final day of reunion.

PASTOR MARTIN ANTHONY



Above: The profession of faith group: left to right: Alan Spencer, Phelomen Mukangilye, Yonah Matemba and Virginia Dube.  
Above right: Benjamin with Pastor Clifford Herman.  
Below: The baptismal group with Pastor Clifford Herman (extreme right).



Left to right — Pastor Ashwin Somasundram, Andrew Webb, Pastor Colin Stewart

Day of Fellowship for Southern Asia Fellowship, Europe on 10 & 11 April at Platt Lane Methodist Church, Fallowfield, Manchester, M14 7BU  
Friday vespers: 7pm  
Sabbath School: 10am  
Divine service: 11.30am  
**Speakers**  
Friday vespers: Pastor Malcolm Watson  
Sabbath service: Ted N. C. Wilson, General Vice-president, General Conference  
Contact: John Varghese 07912 697 367

**CHIP** Do you want to make a difference in your community? The Coronary Health Improvement Project-UK is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to assist with taking CHIP forward into the next phase of its development in the UK and Ireland.  
• Do you have a couple of hours free a week?  
• Do you have health as a priority?  
• Do you have secretarial skills?  
• Are you able to write a story?  
• Would you like to assist with organising an event?  
• Can you work as a team member?  
Please contact Gene Kol, The BUC CHIP co-ordinator on [gkol@adventist.org.uk](mailto:gkol@adventist.org.uk) or 07966713469.



# Stanborough Park members provide continuing aid for Gucha Orphanage

by June Coombs

'It's a wonderful thing, having a mother-in-law,' said Stanborough Park minister Ian Sleeman, addressing the congregation on 24 January, pausing before adding mischievously, 'in Africa!' But his mother-in-law, Betty Hewitt, who had just updated his listeners with a PowerPoint presentation on the latest developments at her Gucha Orphanage in Western Kenya during her Christmas break with her family, is certainly no ordinary lady.

In February 2008, Mrs Hewitt, a former missionary nurse in Eastern Africa, appealed to Stanborough Park members for financial help to enable her to continue her work in Africa. Originally she had planned to return to Britain following her retirement but some generous benefactors enabled her to set up a small clinic for HIV patients in the Kisii district of Kenya. However, on her return to Kenya following a brief visit to her family in Britain she discovered that her twenty-four-bed clinic had been commandeered by the local social services and had become home to ninety orphans aged between 3 and 14 whose parents had died from AIDS.

According to Mrs Hewitt, the view in Kenya is that Westerners have access to wealthy Europeans and therefore have no need of funding from a poor African government! This left her to find approximately US\$1,000 a month to feed, clothe and educate the children, as secondary education is not state-funded in Kenya. There was also an urgent need for more money to fund the construction of a boys' dormitory.

Following her appeal, and thanks to word of the urgent need spreading and her extended family's various creative ways of raising additional funding, the Sleemans were able to send approximately £32,000 to Africa during 2008 (of which £8,369.51 was donated by Stanborough Park members alone), necessitating the opening of a British bank account for the orphanage. This was certainly no mean achievement and demonstrated how

God has blessed the project!

The political unrest in Kenya during 2008 meant that Mrs Hewitt was prevented from returning to Gucha until last September. On arrival she found the residents 'cheerful and in good health', and soon they had a small baby found in a field added to their numbers. By now the shell of the boys' dormitory had been completed but needed finishing, and the number requiring secondary education had increased from three to thirteen. Political and financial circumstances meant that costs of food and so forth had risen in her absence, and finding money to pay this and the running expenses, now requiring a minimum of £600 a month, was becoming an even harder exercise.<sup>1</sup>

Having updated members of the developments at her orphanage over the past year, Mrs Hewitt demonstrated the continuing need for financial help. The orphanage needs twenty-five sacks of maize meal (their staple diet) a month at a cost of 1,000 Kenyan shillings for 90kgs, in addition to other food-stuffs, running costs, including the generator, and wages for her five helpers. Boarding and tuition fees and uniforms must be paid for those attending the Magena Adventist High School – a minimum of £245 a year for each child. The boys' dormitory needs fitting out, there is plastering, glazing, plumbing and electrical work to be done (she is currently negotiating for a team of volunteers to carry out this work), in addition to equipping the building with furniture, fittings, bedding and so on.

Following her appeal, Stanborough Park members dug into their pockets once again, contributing £4,188.07 (as of 28 February) towards her 2009 expenses. This has enabled money to be sent to cover the first term's secondary school fees and expenses, to continue the work on the boys' dormitory and provide food and general sup-



Mrs Betty Hewitt

plies. Mrs Hewitt<sup>2</sup> is now hoping and praying that once again God will bless her project and provide the necessary funding to continue, as her son-in-law puts it, 'the wonderful work Betty is doing for the orphanage', alleviating the plight of just a few of the twelve million AIDS orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa.

<sup>1</sup>It is possible to view a CNN broadcast of the orphanage's work on the Internet by going to [video.google.com](http://video.google.com) and entering 'Gucha Orphanage' into the search box.

<sup>2</sup>Mrs Hewitt can be contacted via email: [guchaorphanage@gmail.com](mailto:guchaorphanage@gmail.com).

**WANTED** If you have a *Bible Commentary* set that you would like to sell, please phone 01923 491291.

## ABC BOOK SALES

### April

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

### May

3	John Loughborough	10.30am-2pm
---	-------------------	-------------

### ABC Shops

Watford, BUC. Due to the recent fire, the ABC shop in Watford is closed until further notice

Advent Centre,  
Sundays 11am-3pm

## Messenger

Volume 114 • 7 – 3 April 2009

EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

DESIGN: DAVID BELL

COPY FOR No. 9 – 20 April 2009

Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.

Fax No: (01476) 577144.

Email: [Editor@macc.com](mailto:Editor@macc.com)

Send high resolution pictures to:

[dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk](mailto:dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk)

ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900

Mon-Thurs only, 8am-5.30pm.

[www.stanboroughpress.com](http://www.stanboroughpress.com)

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Printed in Denmark.

Visit the BUC website at: [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk)

ISSN 0309-3654

## Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
April 3	7.37	7.50	7.43	7.55	8.04
10	7.49	8.01	7.56	8.10	8.18
17	8.01	8.13	8.08	8.24	8.31
24	8.13	8.25	8.21	8.38	8.44

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cost to member supplied in bulk to churches £6.

Single copy subscription by post £13.

Overseas airmail £27.50

### Wanted: used computers

If you have any good used computers which you are willing to donate to our Adventist schools in St Lucia, please contact Pastor Andrew Leonce by email: [andrewleonce@hotmail.com](mailto:andrewleonce@hotmail.com) or telephone 07971218101.

Pastor Leonce can arrange for collection.