



In the footsteps of Jesus

by Jacqui Grant, associate SEC executive secretary, and Sam O. Davis, ministerial intern, Lewisham

A meeting of ministers that was almost abandoned because of the prevailing credit crunch has energised ministers across the South England Conference. 'Amazing! Brilliant! An unforgettable experience! It will change the way I conduct my ministry!' were some of the words used by participants to describe the experience of visiting the land where Jesus walked. Under the theme, 'The Pastor as a Shepherd', the SEC ministerial workers met in Jerusalem from 1 to 8 March.

The courtyard believed to be where Jesus was brought before Pilate. The pastor who is pointing is Bernard Akakpo (Clapton, Chingford, Blessed Hope). To the left is Leslie Ackie (Stevenage, Watford Town). In the foreground are Vlado and Lydia Godina (Aylesbury, Oxford, Newbold Slovak)



The entourage included guest speakers: Dr Pardon Mwansa, GC General vice-president, and Dr Leslie N. Pollard, vice-president at Loma Linda University. Both led in devotionals and seminars on Leadership under the theme.

With revised funding for the trip, ministerial workers who wanted their spouses to accompany them paid for their costs, while the ministers had to forfeit their yearly professional

development allowance in order to attend. In total, 153 Adventist pilgrims visited the Holy Land. They all found it worthwhile.

At the start, SEC president, Pastor Sam Davis, quoted 1 Samuel 17 as evidence that God expects us to give good leadership. 'He has called us to minister, and we must be good shepherds.'

The group was also privileged to hear from the Israel Mission president, Pastor Richard Elofer, who welcomed the group and shared how God is blessing the growth of the Church there. Pastor Elofer reported that membership has doubled in the past five years, with the vast majority being Jews. He said they have made progress in negotiating with national TV to have an hour slot every day for the Adventist Church in Israel. Currently, he said, their work covers Israel, the West Bank and Bethlehem, except Gaza. He spoke of

>16

The entire group of church workers stand on the Mount of Olives with the Old City in the background. Where the Dome of the Rock stands was once the site of the temple.



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Not for the faint-hearted!

SEC president, Pastor Sam Davis, introduces Samuel and Kings

'The early Greek manuscripts of the Old Testament combined the books of Samuel and Kings under the title of "kingdoms" or "reigns" (*Basileiai*, BASILEIWN). Therefore 1 and 2

Samuel = 1 and 2 Kingdoms; and 1 and 2 Kings = 3 and 4 Kingdoms.¹

The books of Samuel and Kings cover Israel's period as a nation under a king: 1. Samuel – Saul; 2. Samuel – David; 3. Kings – Solomon and the divided kingdom; 4. Kings – The fall of the divided kingdoms of Israel and Judah.²

One of the most popular biblical names down through the ages that parents have been proud to give to their sons again and again is the name Samuel! Without doubt, the books of Samuel are some of the most exciting in the Old Testament. We are brought up on the story of Hannah, Samuel's mother, praying for a child. We sympathise and empathise with her as she pleads with God for a son of her own.

We are amazed at the strength of

character that is formed in the young Samuel who is able to remain firm and resolute when, effectively, his two older 'brothers', Eli's sons, were out-and-out evil men.

The books of Samuel give us David and Goliath, David and Jonathan, David and Bathsheba. They introduce us to the first monarchy in Israel and Saul's long fight for the line of succession against David.

Although the books bear the name of Samuel, he is not the author. Nevertheless, the books of Samuel do describe his work for Israel. Samuel was a nation builder. 'It was thus from its deepest fall that Samuel raised the nation to a new life, and from its shattered ruins built it up into an orderly and progressive kingdom.'³

'The Old Testament was the fruit of Samuel's schools, and so also was the New. The noble tree which he had planted was still vigorous when our Lord traversed the land of Israel; for none but an educated people could have understood his teaching, and

retained it in their memories, and taught it to mankind.'⁴

Samuel's other contribution in the building of the nation was the establishment of the monarchy, albeit reluctantly.

The books of Samuel give us an insight into the theocratic rule of God as manifested through an earthly monarch, Saul. Saul very quickly became despotic and was rejected by God.

Samuel's warning to the children of Israel when they demanded a king immediately became reality. (1 Samuel 8:11-18.) However, it was Samuel who shaped the monarchy and helped to build the nation.

Reading the books of Samuel and Kings is not for the faint-hearted. There is rape, murder, incest, war, adultery, fratricide, genocide, patricide, matricide, brutality, indeed all the sins of the human family are to be found in these books. Some have even questioned why are they in the Bible. What we see in these books is far from holy.

We are given a ringside view into the degradation of the human family, wars and all. Yet through it all we see the guiding hand of God over his people. The fortunes of the children of Israel to a large extent ebbed and flowed, up and down, depending on

the kind of leader they had.

Through all of this is the pleading voice of God through his prophets, calling his people back to himself. The story could have ended more gloriously, more spectacularly. The heathen nations should have been beating a path to Israel, asking them about the secret of their success. (See Isaiah 55:5.)

Instead, what began with so many exciting possibilities, the conquering of a land of promise under the leadership of God, ends generations later with the nation broken, divided, the ten northern tribes lost, and Nebuchadnezzar laying siege to Jerusalem and leading away into captivity the noblest and best of her sons and daughters. Right back where they started – under bondage.

In spite of all this God's love continues to shine through as it still does today. I hear him saying, 'They shall be carried to Babylon, and there they shall be until the day that I visit them. . . . Then I will bring them up and restore them to this place.' (Jeremiah 27:22, NKJV.) The best was still to come in Jesus.

¹Bible.org/page David Malik, *The canonical shape of Kings*. ²Ibid. ³The Pulpit Commentary Vol IV, Books of Samuel p.iii. ⁴Ibid Vol IV p.vi.



Caught in a time warp

David Marshall

Have you ever wondered what it must have been like for our early pioneers immediately following the Great Disappointment? They had expected Jesus to return in glory, but they had to go back to the mundane business of scratching a living and preparing for the imminent onset of another New England winter. Can you imagine their state of mind?

This is how an Adventist historian describes things. There was 'a period of chaos' in which believers 'were a shipwrecked remnant, clinging to the spars of their disintegrated hope'.¹ That being the case, it would be wrong to give the impression that suddenly the beliefs of our present-day Church fell into place. 'Knowledge of the truth is progressive, and only they who grow in that knowledge are living Christians.'²

The early pioneers carried theological baggage from the original denominations from whence they came, including the legalistic take on salvation of C. G. Finney who had been 'the pivotal figure of the Second Awakening'.³ Statements of belief produced by the early believers in the 1850s contained no mention of the gospel of God's grace or salvation by Christ alone.⁴ Writers and preachers of the period stressed 'the distinctives' and left out grace.⁵

The pioneer who stressed the centrality of Christ and the importance of grace was E. G. White. In vision she saw 'the discouraged Second Advent believers walking along a path that leads to heaven'. Behind them was the light they had experienced. Ahead was the New Jerusalem. Jesus encouraged those who faltered and a light shone on their pathway. Ellen White shared her understanding of the vision: 'If they kept their eyes fixed on Jesus, who was just before them, leading them to the city, they were safe.' Often she repeated, 'Do not allow your minds to be diverted from the all-important theme of the righteousness of Christ' and 'It is a good thing that the heart be established with grace. This is the ground of our steadfastness.'⁶

Forty years on from the Great Disappointment the by then organised Seventh-day Adventist Church had made significant progress towards the objective gospel. Ellen White was in the vanguard. The discussion began to centre on Paul's letter to

the Galatians. The essential purpose of this letter was, it was concluded, 'to establish beyond question *the ground of our justification*'. 'The law was put in charge to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith.' (Galatians 3:24.) 'By observing the law no one will be justified,' (2:16) Paul had said, 'I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!' (2:21.)

At the 1888 General Conference 'the message of Christ's righteousness, the everlasting gospel of God's saving grace, was placed so firmly in a central position that no one [could] ever again discuss Adventist theology without referring to this cardinal, fundamental feature of our faith.'⁷ In the two decades after 1888 Mrs White's output of books made her 'the most translated female non-fiction author in the history of literature'.⁸

Ellen White refers to grace at least 12,858 times. Those who have studied grace in her writings believe that her understanding of it grew with the years, and that her years of greatest maturity and clarity were those after 1888.⁹ She used the term grace in two senses.

First, *justifying* grace. Salvation through Christ alone, she said, 'is wholly a free gift', 'wholly of grace', 'wholly efficacious', 'not because we are worthy'. When Ellen White stated that salvation is 'only by grace' she put clear, blue water between herself and other of the pioneers who were influenced by the legalism of the non-Adventist preacher C. G. Finney.¹⁰

Second, *sanctifying* grace. *Justifying* grace is the grace that saves us; and *sanctifying* grace is the grace that transforms us. The context indicates the sense in which the world is being used.¹¹

God's grace saves us. God's grace transforms us.

There really is no need for us to be caught in the 'period-of-chaos' time warp. The fact that there is a degree of chaos may be accounted for, in part, by the fact that theological ideas these days are more likely to come from websites than from books, and training in outreach can come from 'independents' rather than from trained pastors.

'Of all professing Christians, Seventh-day Adventists should be foremost in uplifting Christ before the world.' *Gospel Workers*, page 156. But are they?

'The message of the gospel of His grace was to be given to the church in clear and distinct lines, that the world should no longer say that Seventh-day Adventists talk the law, the law, but do not teach or believe Christ.

'This is the message that God commanded to be given to the world. *It is the third angel's message*, which is to be proclaimed with a loud voice, and attended with the outpouring of his Spirit in a large measure.' *Testimonies to Ministers*, page 92. (Italics inserted.)

Finally, and above all, grace must be far, far more than a concept captured in theological language. It must be far, far more than the richest theme in our preaching. *Grace must be experienced*. When we experience grace we become 'loving and lovable Christians'. Is that important?

'The strongest argument in favour of the gospel is a loving and lovable Christian.' *Ministry of Healing*, p. 470. The passage from which this quote is taken (MOH, pages 469-473) suggests that it is not just 'the strongest argument'. *It is the only unanswerable argument*.

References:

- ¹A. W. Spalding, *Origin and History of Seventh-day Adventists* (RH, 1961), page 136. ²Stuart Tyner, *Searching for the God of Grace* (PPPA, 2006), page 198. ³Alister McGrath, *Christianity's Dangerous Idea* (SPCK, 2007), pages 164, 165; Tyner, *op cit*, page 195. ⁴L. E. Froom, *Movement of Destiny* (RH, 1971), pages 89, 90. ⁵Norval Pease, *By Faith Alone* (PPPA, 1962), page 109. ⁶Quoted in Stuart Tyner's *Searching for the God of Grace* (PPPA, 2006), pages 196, 197. ⁷Tyner, page 209. ⁸Wikipedia. ⁹W. W. Whidden, *Ellen White on Salvation* (RH, 1995), page 114; Tyner, *op cit*, pages 216-224. ¹⁰*Evangelism*, page 552; *God's Amazing Grace*, pages 179, 218; *Faith and Works*, page 24; *SOT*, 5 September 1892, *RH*, 25 July 1899; *COL*, page 251; all quoted by Tyner, pages 195, 217-221. ¹¹Tyner, pages 221, 222.

Recommended reading:

Stuart Tyner's *Searching for the God of Grace* (PPPA, 2006) costs £12.95 and can be obtained from the Adventist Book Centre.



Enhancing Health

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

Brain Health Part 13

The spiritual impact

At the recent BUC Nutrition conference, Angelette Muller, nutrition consultant and university lecturer in Nutritional Therapy, discussed the link between diet, appetite, mind and spirituality. She highlighted the brain's pre-frontal cortex responsible for 'higher cognitive functions' which allows us to exercise self-control and decision-making, and factors that affect it.

A recent article by Robin Nixon carried the title 'Spirituality spot found in the brain'. It was found that individuals who were more spiritual had physiological differences in the parietal lobe of their brains. Researcher Brick Johnstone of Missouri University also concluded that a positive spiritual outlook has been associated with better mental and physical health. Previous research on neuro-spirituality using brain scans of actively practising 'believers' had

resulted in broad and inconclusive findings, as it was not clear whether subjects were responding to their life experience or specific religious practice. However, in recent studies, researchers looked for correlations between brain region performance and the subjects' self-reported spirituality, which demonstrated a significant link.

Inspired writings have much to say on the link between brain health and spiritual capacities. Ellen White pointed to habits that impair spiritual sensitivity. 'The Lord would have our minds clear and sharp, able to see points in His word and service, doing His will. . . . Vital energy is imparted to the mind through the brain; therefore the brain should never be dulled by the use of narcotics or excited by the use of stimulants. . . . Mind and Spiritual Health, *Mind, Character and Personality*, Vol. 2, p 407.

In the same book, under the caption 'The Mind

and Spiritual Warfare', she states, 'Evil thoughts destroy the soul. The converting power of God changes the heart, refining and purifying the thoughts. Unless a determined effort is made to keep the thoughts centred on Christ, grace cannot reveal itself in the life. The mind must engage in the spiritual warfare. Every thought must be brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. . . .'

E. G. White, under the heading 'Knowledge Strengthens Mind and Soul', states: 'What we need is knowledge that will strengthen mind and soul, that will make us better men and women. . . . It is well, even essential, to have a knowledge of the world in which we live; but if we leave eternity out of our reckoning, we shall make a failure from which we can never recover.' *Mind, Character and Personality*, Vol. 1, Religion and the Mind, p. 69.

Be vigilant!

Why the grass roots popularity of Intelligent Design and Creationism?

by Dr John Walton, Professor of Reactive Chemistry, University of St Andrews*

In February the theological think tank 'THEOS' reported on an independent survey carried out by ComRes in which a sample of 2,000 adult Britons were asked their opinions on four theories of creation, namely: 'Young earth' creationism, Intelligent Design, theistic evolution and atheistic evolution.

provide proof positive of Darwin's 'tree of life' by decoding DNA and RNA from across a large range of micro-organisms, plants and animals. What actually emerged was quite the opposite. Different genes taken from many diverse organisms led to discordant phylogenetic trees. It gradually became apparent that there was no definitive tree of life,

'Many viewers, even those unacquainted with the real evidence, will have a shrewd suspicion that they aren't being told the whole truth; that the reports are biased and have been spun to promote the naturalist/materialist agenda'

ture Darwin's Tree of Life as the jewel in the crown of evolution in programmes screened in the following month! Against a background of ferment over this issue in the biological world, what is the 'innocent bystander' to make of repeated statements by expert evolutionary presenters that the DNA evidence had triumphantly confirmed Darwin's Tree of Life? Many viewers, even those unacquainted with the real evidence, will have a shrewd suspicion they aren't being told the whole truth; that the reports are biased and have been spun to promote the naturalist/materialist agenda. Intelligent Design and Creationism never receive a fair platform. Perhaps it's the overt one-sidedness of the controlling cultural elite that rouses the innate scepticism of the ordinary British public and promotes openness towards Intelligent Design and Creationism.

* Professor Walton is senior elder of the Dundee Adventist church

	Definitely or probably true	Definitely or probably untrue	Don't know
Young earth	32 %	60 %	8 %
Intelligent Design	51 %	40 %	8 %
Theistic evolution	44 %	46 %	10 %
Atheistic evolution	34 %	57 %	10 %

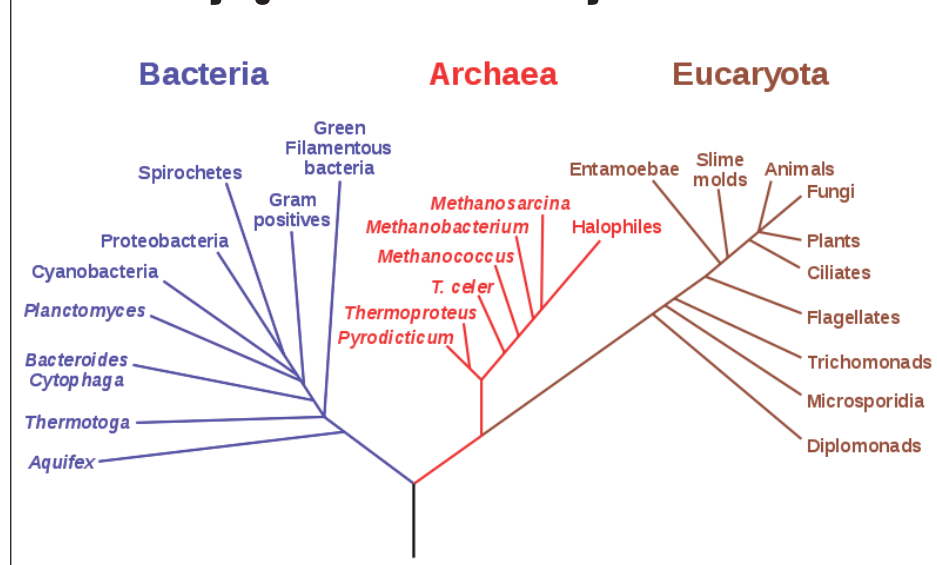
(Figures don't necessarily add up to 100% as they are rounded)

Bearing in mind the virtually unbroken diet of evolution generations of Britons have been fed in schools and by the media, these results can only be viewed as astonishing. Even after nearly 150 years of Darwinian indoctrination, support for evolutionary theories only just about equals support for alternatives. Intelligent Design continues to have the most support of the four, whereas atheistic evolution is only marginally more popular than belief in 'young earth' creationism.

and scientists began to talk of a 'forest' of trees, or a web of connections. In 1999 biologist Ford Doolittle provocatively claimed: 'The history of life cannot properly be represented by a tree.' Subsequently, philosopher of biology Jon Dupré went much further in stating: 'If there is a tree, it's a small anomalous structure growing out of the web of life.' Evolutionary biologist Michael Rose summed the situation up: 'The tree of life is being politely buried, we all know that. What's less accepted is that our whole fundamental view of biology needs to change.'

How ironic, then, that the media chose to fea-

Phylogenetic or Evolutionary Tree of Life



The 21 January issue of *New Scientist* carried an article by Graham Lawton with the title: 'Why Darwin was wrong about the tree of life'. Lawton recounts how molecular evolutionists set out to

Involving children in your church

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

In recognition of 2009 being the Year of Evangelism and the thirtieth anniversary of the International Year of the Child, Heather Haworth, the BUC Children's Ministries director, has invited Karen Holford from the SEC to share some creative ways for involving children in your weekly church services.

Churches that take the time to involve children in their services grow the fastest.

Many children have already decided by the age of nine that they will leave the church as soon as they are old enough, because there is very little in the church service that they can understand or find relevant. But they are young and don't have much of a voice in most churches.

We become worried when we see them physically leave the church as teenagers, and invest thousands of pounds and hours in trying to keep them interested in the church. *But the spiritual damage was done years earlier as they sat through hundreds of church services that did not involve them, or consider their physical, spiritual and developmental needs.*

Research is teaching us important information about growing a healthy church by nurturing the spiritual development of our children, and we know better now. Jesus already knew this, and taught us by his example to preach, using stories that children can understand, too.

Ten ways to involve the children in the Scripture reading:

1. A group of children could each learn one of the Bible verses in the passage, and then repeat their memorised verses in sequence to complete the Scripture reading.
2. Older children and teens could be invited to

create an attractive PowerPoint presentation to illustrate the Scripture reading.

3. Ask children to read the Scripture readings and then say a few words about what the passage means to them.

4. Invite a small group of children to act out or mime the action in the Bible passage as it is being read.

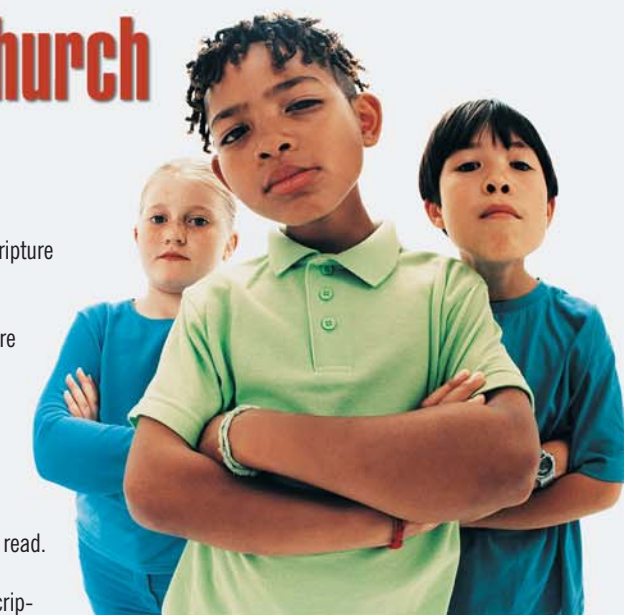
5. If the Bible passage is also a scripture song, a family or Sabbath School class could learn the song and sing it instead of reading the verses.

6. Choose a significant and repeated word in the Scripture passage and invite the children to perform a silent action each time the word is mentioned.

7. Older children could research the context for the passage and say a few words about the background to the verses before the Scripture reading.

8. Ask several artistic children to draw a series of pictures to illustrate the Scripture reading. Scan these into a PowerPoint presentation to show as the verses are being read.

9. Make a word-search puzzle using an Internet puzzle-maker site. Include the key words from a long Scripture passage, or all the words from a shorter reading. As the children search for the words during the service, the important message



from the Scriptures will be seeping into their memory. Or create a coded text or Rebus version of the passage for the children to unscramble.

10. Be creative! Choose one or two verses for a Scripture reading and then find an interesting way to teach the verses to the children. Write each word on a different shape appropriate for the text, and hide the shapes around the church for the children to find and bring to the platform. Then stand the children in the correct order so that the verse can be read by the congregation. Give the children small gifts with the key text written on them, or design your own printable bookmarks.

Ask the children in your Sabbath Schools for their ideas about how they could take part in your Scripture readings.

For a complete set of the ideas for involving children in your church, visit the Children's Ministry Resources at www.secadventist.com.

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On the recent trip to Israel I kept telling myself not to be judgemental of the Jews, especially the orthodox ones who don't cut their sideburns. They do look odd, but in my desire to be accepting I remind myself that it must take a lot of courage to walk around like that. Their Sabbath observance seemed extreme as well, as two of the lifts in our hotel were programmed to keep going up and down continually on the Sabbath, so that the strict Sabbath observer would not need to press the button. However, after my initial surprise at this, I began to enjoy it, as it took away the need to rush on Sabbath.

The way they separate men and women in their place of worship grated a little, as it seemed discriminatory and did not go well with my politically correct and all-inclusive way of looking at things. Nevertheless, I kept telling myself to be open-minded and to accept a different way of doing things. What really surprised

me though, and the thing I found the hardest, was a time when I was praying in the synagogue at the hotel. I did my best to be respectful of their way of worshipping, so my head was covered. There was no one there, and I knelt to pray. Someone came in and said, 'We don't kneel.' I didn't argue, and continued to pray while seated. I have found that hard to accept, though. It is one thing to say that we don't *have* to kneel in prayer; it seems another entirely to say *we don't*.

Later, I asked a Jewish tour guide why Jews don't kneel to pray, and he said it had to do with the temple. Apparently, the only place it is possible to kneel while praying (apart from on the Day of Atonement) is in the temple. As the temple is no longer in existence, as a form of mourning for the loss of the temple, it is not appropriate to kneel in prayer. Since then I have done a bit more research on this and found other reasons given, such as the fact that kneeling or prostrating oneself is seen as being something that idol worship-

with Jonathan Barrett
Making allowances



pers did. Also some say Judaism teaches that it is best to stand straight and proud and not to kneel as though one is afraid of God.

The Bible doesn't say much about it, but it does say this:

'Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.' Psalm 95:6.

That seems clear enough to me. However the Jews want to approach it, for me, kneeling seems like a very appropriate and biblical way to pray. I will do my best to keep an open mind about the way other faiths worship. At the end of the day, though, the Bible has to have the last word!

with Mary Barrett
Making a difference
 The story of Esther



If the story were made into a movie, we would probably go and see it! It has all the elements of a blockbuster. There is the glamour and the greed, the deceit and the desire, the power and the poverty and, of course, the goodies and the baddies.

However, this is no movie, no figment of a writer's imagination. Instead, it is a true-life story, not to be watched, but to be read; not to make us feel good, but to challenge us. The story is found in the Bible, handed down to us by a God who wants us to know that there is an adventure to be experienced by each of us, if we want it.

The story tells of a poor orphan girl who became a queen. Esther, a real Cinderella, was so beautiful that she won a beauty contest. It didn't take long for her to be declared the winner, because to go along with her Hollywood looks was a character of equal beauty that captivated the onlooker.

The prize? To marry the powerful King Ahasuerus, who ruled during the fifth century BC. With one lingering look from the king, Esther went from the poverty of a tiny village to a palace beyond her imagination. She found herself living in a world that most young girls dream of – a world of beauty, riches, extravagance, luxury, indulgence, with a king who adored her. Esther had everything good that this world offers. Yet she longed for something else. We know that, for when God asked her to play a part in saving the lives of his people, she answered, 'Yes.' She longed to make a difference.

The 'baddie' in the story was Haman. He devised a plot to kill the Jews without the king's knowledge. The 'goodie' was Mordecai, the man who appeared at the right times, at the right places, saying the right things. He was the one who let Esther know what Haman planned to do.

Esther (a Jew herself) knew that she had to tell the king what was going to happen, but not before she had spoken with another King – the King of Heaven. For three days Esther talked with God as she prepared herself to talk to her husband. She asked the Jewish people to support her by praying and fasting, too.

Thirty-six hours later, she knocked on the king's door, invited him to a banquet and spilled the beans. The king believed her. Instead of ordering the death of the Jews as Haman had planned, the king ordered the death of Haman. Esther had made a difference!

If, in the quiet moments of your life, you, too, long to make a difference, long to fulfil the purpose that God created you for (Esther 4:14), then I would encourage you to read this story for yourself. Read it slowly, carefully, asking God to stop your thoughts on words or actions that speak to you in your life. Listen to God through this story – be encouraged and enthused, captivated and challenged. Be brave enough to ask God, 'What do you want me to do to make a difference? What adventure can you and I share together?'

But take note of one of the most important aspects of this story – Esther depended on God and not on herself to make a difference. Read how the most beautiful woman in the Persian kingdom chose to depend upon God rather than her beauty to soften the heart of her husband. If you want an adventure with God, you must also be willing to depend on God, for it is only when we really depend on him that we see God's power work in amazing ways to accomplish his purposes.

Read this story. Then ask God to fill your heart with a passion to make a difference for him. Who knows what adventure you and God will experience together?

Editor: Mary and Jonathan Barrett trained for ministry and married at Newbold College, graduating in the early 1980s. Currently Jonathan pastors at St Albans and Barnet, and Mary is part of the pastoral team at Stanborough Park. Their daughters are Rima and Sharna. Mary is the author of a number of books.

2009's book for sharing

The British Union's Missionary Book of the Year, *HE IS COMING*, was launched in early March at The Stanborough Press in a service of prayer and blessing conducted by Pastor Curtis Murphy.

'Finally we're putting the Second Coming up front in our outreach,' says Pastor Murphy, the British Union's Publishing department director. 'This book is about the signs of Jesus' return. Every chapter concludes with a powerful appeal to the reader to commit his/her life to Christ and to be ready when Jesus comes.'

By the date of the launch, advanced orders for 64,500 copies had been received from Adventist churches in various parts of the British Union.

The first shipment received included only 50,000 copies. On Monday 16 March a much larger shipment arrived with a further 150,000 copies. Pastor Murphy is confident that these will all be used in outreach by Seventh-day Adventist congregations in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

'Tell your readers to order NOW,' Pastor Murphy told *MESSENGER*.

'*HE IS COMING* is a 96-page, slim-line book, tailor-made for your pocket,' says Pastor Murphy. 'Do explain the offer carefully,' he said.

We'll do our best.



Pastor Curtis Murphy, BUC Publishing director



Left to right: David Marshall, Ian Clutton, Arnis Naudins, Paul Brewin, Stephen Holden, Paul Poddar, Andrea Sarlinova, David Selvage, Pastor Curtis Murphy, Mark Walmsley, Melissa Thoroughgood, Liz Gould, Stuart Sly, Alison Jeins & Graham Cox

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'Soul-winning is what we're here for,' concluded Pastor Murphy.

Send your order to the BUC Publishing Director, The Stanborough Press Ltd, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Please make cheques payable to 'The Stanborough Press Ltd'. For further information contact Pastor Curtis Murphy cmurphy@adventist.org.uk.

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Above: Adoration from London.
Left to right: Kezia, Roshena, Helena and Keren.

Right: Glorify from Camp Hill, Birmingham.
Left to right: Dionne B., Denise, Dionne C. and Linnette.



Camp Hill: Young people have testimonies, too!

On Sabbath 24 January Camp Hill Youth department facilitated an afternoon programme called Evening of Praise. The evening

consisted of testimonies, praise and worship in song, as well as a sermonette. The concept of the programme was to show the importance of music, testimonies and sermons, as all aspects of worship are important and acceptable in the sight of God.

We were blessed by a song service with Glorify and the band,

followed by a sermon by Andrew Fuller (aged 20) who told us the story of Jehoshaphat's battle of 2 Chronicles 20. The message convicted us never to let go of the core of Adventism, to come out of 'Babylon' and sing meaningful songs. 'Before we can truly understand the importance of praise and worship we must know the God whom we serve.' Andrew inspired many not to be led by entertainment, but to hold on to truth. It also inspired the Youth department's next Evening of Praise (July 2009) called, 'The reason why we sing hymns'.

'Adoration', a gospel group com-

prising four young ladies from London, blessed us with testimonies and singing. All their songs were relevant to what God had done for them and expressed thankfulness to him.

It was a blessing to see over 150 people come to worship and support the youth. Seeing the youth lead out in the programme was inspirational. Many young people are claiming the Scripture in 1 Timothy 4:12 which says: 'Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.'

DR JACQUELINE HALLIDAY-BELL

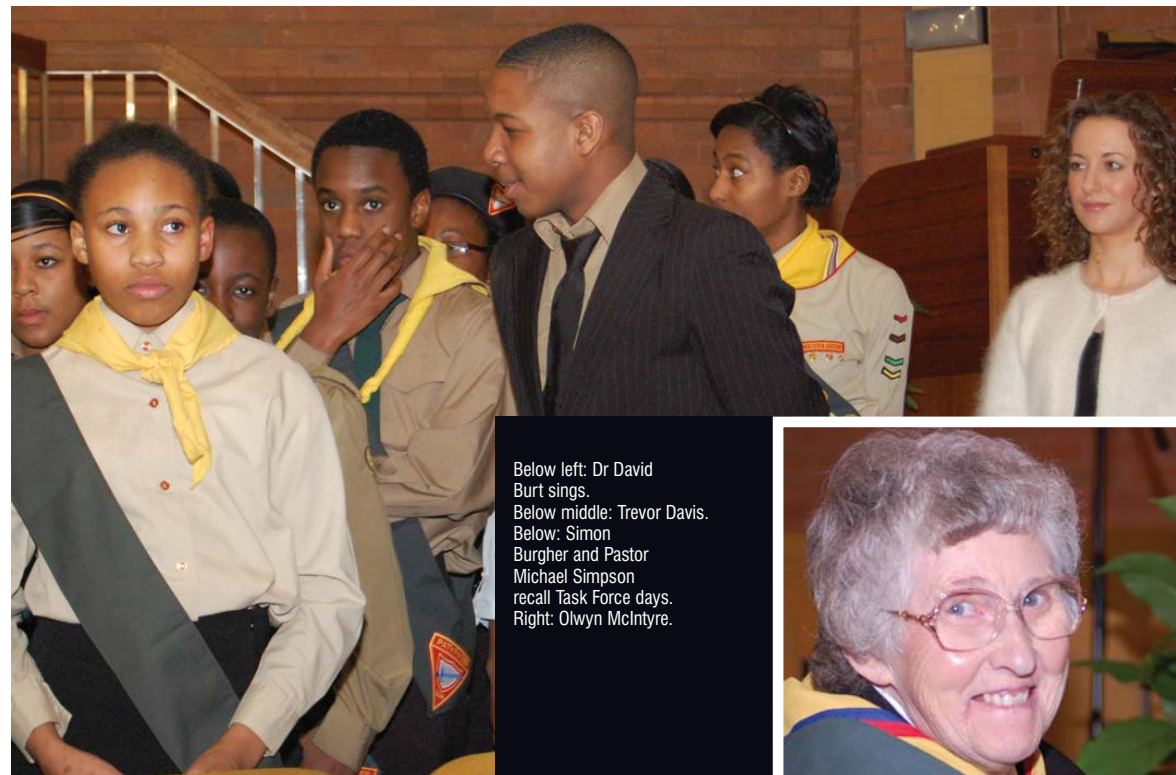
Camp Hill induction service: 'Yes, we can!'

On 31 January, Camp Hill church experienced its first induction service for its Pathfinder club. The service was led by its newly appointed club director, Trevor Davis, who emphasised the importance of this induction as a formal welcoming

of new Pathfinders and counsellors. Pastor R. McIntosh (senior pastor) in his opening address welcomed the new director, pledged his support for the club and the staff team, and urged the church and parents to support the club. In his address,

Trevor Davis shared his vision and the mission for the club in the year ahead and encouraged the Pathfinders to aim to be the standard-bearers in the North England Conference by following a 'YES, WE CAN!' philosophy. He also emphasised the need for working collaboratively both within and outside church.

It was great to see several newcomers to the club; in all, seven Pathfinders and five counsellors were inducted, namely, twins Ruramiso and Rumbidzo Muguta, Micah Woolley and Lawrence Hall (all of whom graduated from



Below left: Dr David Burt sings.
Below middle: Trevor Davis.
Below: Simon Burgher and Pastor Michael Simpson recall Task Force days.
Right: Olwyn McIntyre.



Adventurers), Darnelle Humes, Jevauni Robinson (Explorer), Micela Gonzales (Frontier Guide). The new counsellors were Shanda Reid, Camilla Bran (intern pastor's wife), Keri-Ann Welch, Rochelle Sterling and Olwyn McIntyre (former Bible worker). Overall it was a 'nervous but exciting' occasion for everyone involved. The programme was well supported by the NEC with area co-ordinators Mavis Griffin and Joseph Spencer in attendance. There was a revival of interest in Pathfinding, as several young people joined up or expressed an interest in joining the club after the service!

SHANDA REID

'One more night'

Twenty-seven years ago, Nerry John, the then AYS leader at Holloway church, dreamed of a choir to be created for an upcoming youth day. Little did he realise that he was creating a legacy that would span twenty-two years of ministry. The choir, known to the church fraternity as the Holloway Gospel Choir (HGC), really came into its own when they entered the BBC Gospel Choir of the Year and won the award of 'The Best Newcomers'. HGC has ministered through the years up and down this country, singing at numerous churches (SDA and others), evangelistic meetings, days of fellowship, contemporary events, such as Covent Garden Summer Festival, attended by over 2,500 people.

Every time the choir sang they gave all they had, with the ethos that 'they would sing as if it were their last song', giving the choir a reputation for an all-or-nothing ministry that touched many lives. Never was a song sung without the prayer for God to bless the song, such was the desire to touch hearts.

And so it was at a recent homecoming event at Holloway that a number of members past and present visited the church that day and, during the evening programme while conductor Tony Best was presenting the story of the Holloway church's musical history, a plea for the choir to sing was made. Those in attendance met up and put a song together, just like old times. The anthem 'Soon as I get home' was the result. As this song was sung there was not a dry eye in the congregation. That coming together whet the appetite for a reunion and the choir has come back together to sing just one last time. This long-awaited concert is on 2 May at the Coliseum, Watford. This will not only be a worship experience, but a walk down memory lane for all those who have heard the choir minister - truly an event not to be missed. It is the dream of the reunion choir to have its legacy continued in the form of a scholarship to aid up and coming music and arts ministries to develop in fulfilling their godly purpose.

TONY BEST



Jacqueline Kelly's baptism

The day after Jacqueline Kelly, 21, graduated she was baptised.

The East Kilbride Baptist church was hired for the day by the East Kilbride Seventh-day Adventist congregation. Jacqueline was baptised by Pastor Marcel Ghioalda, the Scottish Mission's Youth leader. She has grown up in the East Kilbride church and is well known among the youth group in Scotland. Seven out of the nine Scottish Mission churches were represented at her 5 July baptism.

EDITOR, based on information supplied by Mrs Jean Kelly

Colchester: When the bank manager came calling

We get used to our routines, so something different captures our imagination. One particular Sabbath recently did just that. We were received with an enthusiastic welcome and an exceptionally uplifting thought for the day – 'God knows everything about us'.

Prompt attendance can sometimes be a problem in Sabbath School, but not this day! We met in glorious sunshine and attendance was excellent. Why? The Primary Sabbath School were taking the morning service and their theme was discipleship.

Our mission was made very plain. Both Old and New Testament worthies were brought bang up to date and used as examples of the way we should reach others. 'A little child shall lead them' was the thought that came to our minds throughout. Memory texts, poems, specially written songs (to familiar tunes), musical interludes from gifted youngsters – how inspiring it all was! Colchester church will continue in good hands if these little ones are trained up. We thank God for our dedicated leaders.

We have been fortunate recently as retired bank manager, Ray Hornett, has been teaching us over a series of four weeks about Stewardship. He used graphs, pictures and, above all, texts from God's Word to illustrate our duty to use our wealth – however small or large – and our God-given talents to the furtherance of God's work. He emphasised how greatly we shall be

blessed if we do so.

In the middle of March we were blessed with the dedication of Ruth Marshall. Family came from far and wide – there was a strong Welsh contingent – as our beloved Pastor Sam took tiny Ruth in his arms and knelt to put her life into God's great care and keeping. We were all reminded that although Elizabeth

and Stephen are her parents, we each have a duty to support both them and Ruth. Again our hearts were stirred as the Primary School boys sang a specially worded song, 'Welcome, Ruth.' It was beautiful. 'Morning has broken' was played by our flautist Nicole, and Ruth's dad rendered a magnificent saxophone solo.

SUE INGRAM

Celebrating marriage

It is Saturday evening on 14 February, in the warm and beautiful hall of a Greek Orthodox church, well known for its hospitality and celebrations. The meal has been prepared, the room decorated, the tables set with red and white napkins, and the couples are arriving, dressed in their evening best. Bristol Central church is presenting a dinner for twenty-eight couples from the Central and North Bristol churches and their friends, hosted by Pastor Richard and Maxine Daly. The goal is to inspire married couples and to celebrate the special gift of marriage.

As they enter, a photographer takes their portrait, checking his digital screen to make sure he has the best shot. Music is playing as the couples choose their tables and settle down, relaxing into the specialness of the moment.

Maxine Daly sets the scene for

the evening, and her husband prays for the couples before Pastor Bernie and Karen Holford from the SEC Family Ministries department make a short presentation. They discuss some of their interesting and more mundane, but still significant, achievements during their twenty-five years of marriage. Then they remind the couples that whenever they show love to one another, they are working hand in hand with God, the supreme source of love. He inspires the best of our human achievements and is the real reason to celebrate the gift of love in marriage. Couples are given thank-you cards to write to their spouses, showing appreciation for the times when their husband or wife loved them in a way that demonstrated the incredible love of God.

As the delicious three-course meal, created by local chef Henry Brown, is being served, a music

GBK: Record sum raised for Kids' Kidney Appeal

The Great Brickkiln Street church's ability to raise money for charity hit a record high.

On Sabbath 24 January a cheque for £1,000 was presented to Justine Cleary. She is the Kids' Kidney Appeal co-ordinator for the Birmingham Children's Hospital. It all started during November 2008 when one of the GBK Sanctuary Choir members, Linda Hudson, responded to a kidney charity appeal

she heard on Radio WM. Soon various events such as mini concerts, sponsorships and donation requests were organised to raise cash over a period of two-and-a-half months. Justine expressed her gratitude and stated that the donation would be a good start towards the £1.5 million they are hoping to achieve in order to fund the new kidney unit at the Birmingham Children's Hospital.

DELVA CAMPBELL



Elders ordained at Leicester Central

During the divine service of Sabbath 28 February, the Leicester Central church celebrated the ordination of three elders. The ordinands, Denise Williams, Thomas Chimwala and Daniel Fleming-Danquah, received a wealth of Bible-based, practical counsel that was concisely conveyed by Pastor George Kumi with touches of good humour and wise Christian analogies.

He reminded the ordinands that they were called to be both stew-

ards and shepherds, looking after the spiritual welfare of the church community. They were admonished to ask for God's strength to extend love and consideration to all, always exercising humility in their work. Service for others and ministering to the needs of others unselfishly was another central point, and they were reminded that God will give a crown of glory to those who are willing to be followers of Christ in serving the needs of

First outreach event for Kings Lynn group



It was cold, it was grey, but the Kings Lynn members rallied in force to staff their first ever community outreach event in the town's Tuesday marketplace. Magnificently led by Elsie Staple and her husband, we set up under a gazebo shelter to deliver free health checks, including blood sugar and cholesterol level testing.

The response was enthusiastic, with the volunteers working to capacity the whole day, conducting a total of 105 tests. The Kings Lynn group has a high proportion of NHS workers in its membership, and so has set out to use health issues as a primary line of its work for the townfolk. This event made many friends for the new church group in the town, and has laid a good foundation for follow-up activities.

C. PEAKE

Doreen Jones at 90

On Sabbath 21 February the sun was shining on a happy bunch of Adventists who gathered at Halifax church to worship and thank God for the way he has brought us through all these years.

Eugenia Moses was our speaker and she pointed us towards Heaven. We look forward to the time when we all get to Heaven to be united with Jesus and all our friends and relations.

This was also a celebration of Doreen's birthday, and after the service there were presentations and a few speeches, much appreciated by Doreen. A special meal was enjoyed by all. We were delighted that our brothers and sisters came from Bradford and Huddersfield to join us, bringing some of their children with them.

When the cake arrived, Doreen was surprised that we had made such an effort for her, but we just wanted to tell her what a lovely person she has always been. She, however, took three goes to blow the candles out amid loud applause.

We would like to wish Doreen and Mansel many years of health and happiness.

PEGGY BICKNELL



Left to right: Pastor George Kumi, Daniel Fleming-Danquah, Denise Williams and Thomas Chimwala

group from the New Testament Church of God sings inspiring and beautiful songs of divine and human love. Richard and Maxine invite couples to share how they met and what attracted them to one another. One brave couple, married for twenty-four years, survives a searching 'Mr and Mrs' quiz with 100% accuracy! Poet Roz recites a heart-warming poem about the gifts we are given when other people believe in us and inspire us through their love. Non-Adventist friends and

partners are also there, experiencing the love of God and each other.

Prizes are given for the best-dressed couple and for the longest married couple (fifty-four years!). And the evening closes with couples exchanging their thank-you cards and a prayer of blessing from Bernie and Karen. As they leave, the men are given red roses to present to their wives, and the couples are given gifts of books that explore love. The celebration ends, but people are reluctant to leave. It has been a

beautiful evening. Many couples want to do it again, and soon! One man admits that he hardly ever takes his wife out, and he will try to make her feel more special in the future. Another says the evening was too short; they want the special moment to linger longer. They are asking when the next married couples' dinner will be. . . .

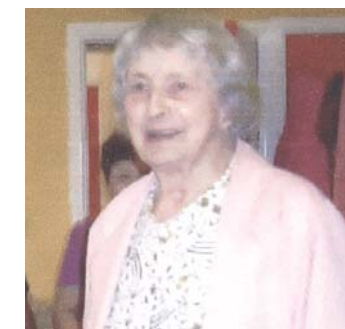
Many thanks go to Pastor Richard and Maxine and their team for a successful and heart-warming evening.

KAREN HOLFORD

others. There was also a note of caution. The ordinands were asked to be vigilant in resisting the devil and to remain steadfast in faith, in order to be overcomers who will be rewarded in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Pastor Kumi was ably supported in this service by elders Roy Zembe, Sylvia Ham-Ying and Eustace Charles, who laid hands on the newly appointed elders. To mark this occasion, each of the ordinands was presented with a badge and certificate as they were welcomed to their new office.

PHILIP HERBERT



Members faithful despite recession

by Victor Hulbert, Communication director, BUC

Adventists are known as people of hope. Such hope can be seen as reality in 2009 with increased church attendance and tithe returns, even while the news media report doom and gloom. Pastors are reporting increased attendance on Sabbath mornings, and the latest BUC tithe figures shared with the executive committee on Thursday 12 March showed an overall monthly average increase of 4% during the past year. 'Our members are more than faithful,' BUC treasurer, Victor Pilmoor, reported to the committee. He also quoted GC Stewardship director, Dr Erika F. Puni, as noting that 'giving is greater during the credit crunch worldwide than before'. Many factors may be responsible for this trend, including the promises of Malachi 3:10 and the realisation of Jesus' injunction to 'store up treasures in heaven'. (Matthew 6:20.)

Membership growth is also up for the twelve months ending 31 December 2008. Official membership now stands at 29,050, a net growth of 1,940 over the previous year, although it was noted that the actual number of baptisms was down on 2007. A very positive emphasis on 2009 as the Year of Evangelism is expected to help turn this trend around.

Finance and membership can be seen as dry statistics, but in his devotional, Trans-European Division president, Bertil Wiklander, focused on the idea that business must not be as usual. Quoting Matthew 6:31-34, he noted that 'you are different from the pagans'. In our mission he emphasised that there is no room for compromise. 'We must be different, and they will be attracted by the difference.' Concluding his remarks, he said that a child of God does not seek the material things. 'We are defined by what we seek first,' he insisted and encouraged us to 'put God first.'

BUC financial reports are also available online on the Treasury pages of the BUC website: www.adventist.org.uk.

Youth accessions at Stanborough Park

Six young people have become members of the Stanborough Park church in recent months. First were Jake DeBique and Colin Donaldson, both of whom have families at the church. Then came Kirsty Hatten, who first came to the church through making friends at the Friday night youth services.

Pastor Paul Tompkins, the TED Youth director, baptised Zayne Mueller, who came to the service dressed in her Pathfinder uniform.

Aaron Ramharacksingh was accepted into fellowship, having previously been baptised at the SEC's camp in Chapel Porth.

Zoë Marshall was accepted into fellowship, having previously been baptised by Pastor Cyril Sweeney in connection with the Extreme Teen camp at the NEC's Aberdaron back in the summer.

This information comes to us courtesy of Zoë's parents, Stanborough Park's KIT magazine, Joyce Hill and Mary Barrett.

Change of location for BUC one-day session

Notice is hereby given that the BUC executive committee has called a one-day Extraordinary Session of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to be held on Sunday 17 May 2009. The revised venue will be the Stanborough Secondary School, Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JT commencing at 1pm. Delegate registration will commence at 10.30am. The sole item on the agenda is the consideration of proposed amendments to the BUC constitution.

E. C. Lowe, Executive Secretary



Cislyn Morgan, Pastor Don McFarlane, Noah Naylor, Maureen Thompson, Viv Sterling, Pastor Moses Msimanga, Trevor Davis



The Wednesfield children

Blessings at Wednesfield church

They say that good things come in threes and while this is not a thought nurtured by Christians, three good things certainly came to Wednesfield church!

There was truly a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place on Sabbath 14 March. As the song that was sung as the introit indicated, everyone was in high spirits as we celebrated Visitors' Day, a special presentation from AYA and a first visit from the BUC president.

With over forty guests, regular members were hard-pressed to find a seat for the main service. There were older faces and young faces, new faces and faces we had not seen in many years, but all faces wore a smile. One visitor reminisced about his childhood with a particular member whom he had not seen in many years. Pastor Moses Msimanga, the local pastor, greeted all, members and visitors alike, at the entrance to the car park early in the morning. He later invited regular members to escort their visitors to the front to be personally greeted, but many of the guests felt so at home they came to the front unescorted and gathered for a group photo with our guest speaker.

AYA, Advent Youth Aid Society, have been raising funds for charity for a number of years. Set up by a small group of Pathfinders and supported by the North England Conference, their aim is not only to spread the Gospel but to evangelise in practical, realistic and fun ways. With planned events such as strollathons, wheelathons and packathons, they cater to the participation of both young and old.

Representing AYA, Trevor Davis, chairperson, and Cislyn Morgan, treasurer, made a special presentation for the money raised by Wednesfield church. Chrisel Thompson, aged 79, was presented with an award for being the oldest member to take part in and complete the strollathon 2008. Young Ben Hubbins also took part, raising a significant amount in sponsorship, and Pastors Msimanga and McFarlane were presented with honorary AYA T-shirts. Finally, a cheque for over £290 was presented to the church as part of a Club Reward Scheme, whereby a church or a group registered as such prior to the start of the event receives a percentage of what their members collect in sponsorship.

The last, but by no means least, blessing in our triangle of blessings was a first-time visit by the BUC president Pastor Don McFarlane and his wife. The McFarlanes were inspired to visit Wednesfield after a meeting with three of its members, Maureen Thompson and Andy and Sonia Williams, at the BUC Disability Co-ordinators Conference. The inspiration came after the members talked about how well the church catered for its members by ensuring all facilities were usable by both the able-bodied and disabled. In his own words, Pastor McFarlane was 'thrilled to see that these testimonies are all so true and it was indeed a blessing to be here'.

Sister McFarlane's children's story had all, young and old, captivated as she illustrated some of the most priceless items in the world and compared these to the most priceless gift we all have that is Christ dying for us. Pastor McFarlane gave a dynamic and moving message pertaining to holiness. He invited us always to be holy as Christ was, but reminded us that it is only Christ's holiness that can save us.

As part of the Year of Evangelism project the Sabbath School department, led by Nerissa Harvey, planned a day to remember for our visitors, guests and regular members. With a festive spread, both spiritual and edible, and the opportunity to fellowship as we will in the earth made new, there truly was a sweet, sweet Spirit in that place on this very special Sabbath.

JO FISHER MITCHELL



Sowing, reaping: Bethel is bringing in the sheaves

by Clarisse Elysée

Sabbath 8 November 2008 will forever stay in Bethel members' memory. Since the creation of the Bethel Adventist

church in Derby, no less than fifteen people have decided to manifest their alliance with God publicly through the baptismal waters.

The joyful and uplifting ceremony was held in a more-than-packed church where members, friends and relatives alike came to celebrate this unique event and to accompany the baptismal candidates, through songs, dedicated Bible verses and exhortations.

What made this ceremony so special and emotionally intense was the number of young candidates who had accepted Christ as their personal Saviour. This was the result of the work started with Pastor Cedric Vine, former pastor of Bethel church, now lecturer of Theology at Newbold College. As Pastor Selburn Fray, the new pastor of Bethel, rightly said: 'He sowed and I reaped! And we, and the church also, praise the Lord for this wonderful reaping. I pray that God will continue to guide these new-born members as their spiritual journey starts. I pray also that the church will keep on encouraging and supporting them.'

After a couple of hours, the ceremony of baptism ended, with the youth choir, including the young people baptised, performing a vibrant 'Oh, happy day'. For the fifteen new members of Bethel church it was indeed a happy, happy day, that, surely, they'll cherish in their memory until the Lord comes.



Top: The new members of Bethel church. Above: Pastors Fray and Vine with two candidates. Left: An afternoon of celebration!

Mother and daughter reunited after sixty-two years

by Pamela Sobieradzki, née Ingram



Pamela, aged 5, with Matron Wilkinson



The most precious moment in my life – meeting my mum for the very first time. 25 March 2007

As a very small child I had always wondered why there was no family in my life. I used to stand and stare whenever a parent of another child came to visit them at St Christopher's, the children's home where I was raised between the ages of four and eleven. I found myself on several occasions asking the matron, 'Why have I not got a mummy and daddy?' The matron told me that my mother was only a child when she had me, so consequently could not look after me. I seemed to accept this answer and put it out of my mind. At least for the few years that I grew up at St Christopher's I appreciated the emotional stability and security that gave me the continuity that I needed at the time.

Our church was the Church of England, and we (all the children) would be taken there on Sundays for the morning and afternoon services, and the evening mass. Even though we regularly went to church, I never really understood or felt any connection with God.

For many years afterwards I blindly stumbled through life. The more physical and psychological hurt that I experienced, the more I lost my faith in the idea that there was a God. I would present myself to friends and colleagues as a humorous, funny and intelligent person, but all the time I was screaming inside, longing for secure attachments and for something or someone to believe in. I thought then that as long as I complied with the world around me my emotional world would be safe.

In the year 2005 I had been to London to the Post-Adoption and Care Project Centre to receive records from my life in the Church of England's care since birth. The records also gave me information on my mother whom I did not know. I became very depressed after reading my records and put the file in my study until I felt I was able to read it again.

Two years later in January 2007 I felt emotionally strong enough to do one last search for my mum and any siblings. I joined Genes Reunited and started my search, not really think-

ing that my mum would still be alive. Three weeks into my search, someone said that they recognised the name Ingram so they contacted me.

I got shivers down my spine and asked my husband to come and look at this. We compared her details with her birth certificate that I had, and he said that this was definitely my mother.

Once final proof was established with my half siblings, my mind was in a whirl and I could not stop talking and gabbling to my husband. At times I was incoherent and could not contain my excitement. My half sister and I decided that we ought to involve a mediator to help us, so we spoke to a care officer at TPO Centre who offered to help us. A letter was sent to her from our mediator, asking if she would like to make contact with me. Mum's answer to the letter was, 'Yes. Pamela is my daughter.' Shivers went down my spine; I laughed, cried, paced the floor, and finally went so weak at the knees that I collapsed onto the settee.

The most unforgettable moment in my life

I was nervous and excited as I phoned my mum, and squealed with delight when I heard her voice for the first time in sixty-two years. We exchanged our life stories and were chatting away as if we had always known one another. Mum told me why I had been taken away from her at the tender age of three months. I told her that I did not bear any grudge regarding her reasons, and that I fully understood the implications and stigma that was around in her day. Mum was indeed very relieved to hear that I was not angry with her. I told her that, although I did not know the circumstances, I had forgiven her years ago, because I had always felt that her decision to give me up was involuntary. Earlier on I said that I had lost my faith in God and yet I found myself saying to Mum that God must have had a hand in our reunion and must have been watching over us for all those years and decided that it was now time for us to be reunited.

The most precious moment in my life

Mum cooked us a meal, and we spent the rest of the day exchanging our life stories. I feel so proud to have her as my mum as she came across as such a positive person; she is also a much-loved person in her town. From my very first meeting

Mailbox

Evolution

Dear Editor
I read with interest Frank Blewitt's article 'Has faith in evolution been shaken?' (MESSENGER 20 February page 5). I would take issue with one or two of the points he makes. For example, the GC's Geoscience Institute puts Neanderthal man into perspective as follows: 'Neanderthal man probably lived in caves, but they were not apemen. The skull was shaped differently from most modern humans, but the brain space was larger. They apparently had culture, and were probably highly intelligent.' Quoted from James Gibson's *Frequently Asked Questions in Creationism*.

If we are too prescriptive in our approach when there is a range of opinions within Adventism, we push to the fore the possibility of disillusionment when the subject is studied in more detail.

ADRIAN PECK, St Albans

Miss E. Guntrip

Dear Editor
During my years in the army I received a great deal of encouragement from letters I received from Bible worker Miss E. Guntrip. Can you find out what happened to her?

DESMOND HUBBARD, Watford

From BUC Secretariat: 'We do not have any record of a Miss Guntrip among the almost 1,300 names of ex-workers we have on the computer. Either no record was made of her or the conference she worked for did not send her record to the BUC when she left.' *Judith Willis*

From Jack Mahon: 'Miss E. Guntrip was definitely a Bible worker in the UK – I believe in the Bristol area. Noted for her adherence to Victorian dress, she must surely have retired before World War Two broke out. I will try to pick up her trail in the Newbold library.'

From Dennis Porter: 'I remember her slightly. I think it was in Bristol. I think that she had retired from the Bible work by the 1960s. It may well be that she died in the Bristol area around that time. Des Hubbard could start his enquiries by writing to the local Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, asking for the date of her death and where she was buried. I seem to connect [Miss Guntrip] with Mrs Watson and her sister Beatrice. Perhaps Mrs Doris Clarke could help, too.'

Toxic attitudes

Dear Editor
I have read recent articles in the MESSENGER with interest. Adventists do equate physical health with spiritual health. The fact that we are not particularly good at winning souls for Christ is related to our attitudes towards people who are 'going

with my mum, I became aware of my brothers and sisters.

Through Bible study and prayer who accepts whatever is thrown at her without judgement or criticism. She has the most beautiful nature that is so rare these days. Mum then told me that her faith was now in Adventism and that she was a deaconess and ADRA agent at her church in the city of Bath. I had no idea what Adventism meant but I was curious and when I got home I looked it up on the Internet. Since reading the history and the fundamental beliefs of Adventism, I started to visit my local Adventist church.

Two years on and I regularly attend the church on Sabbath, and during this time I have witnessed so much love and understanding from



LENNARD LIONEL CHARLES (1929-2009) d. 5 January 2009. It is with sadness that we record the death of Lennard Charles who was born the younger of two sons in Trinidad to

Alexander and Helen Charles. A good balance of work, play and spirituality was nurtured in him and he accepted the Advent message at a young age. After he passed the Cambridge External High School examinations with distinction in several subjects, he accepted a teaching position in Trinidad and later went on to start his own business. During 1961 the family sought a brighter future in England and settled in London. While in England he pursued a career in education and became a lecturer at various colleges in Enfield, Tottenham and at the John Loughborough School. That is where many of us were introduced to Lennard Charles. Lennard played an integral part at whichever church he found himself. He started off at the Holloway church as an elder, became well known to the

Croydon congregation, and a number of years were spent worshipping with the Tottenham West Green Road church. He was also a pioneer in establishing the New Life church. He and his wife Bernice moved up to Milton Keynes in recent years and joined the congregation of the Central church, prior to the establishing of West Bletchley SDA Community church four years ago. On 1 January 2008 Brother Charles suffered a massive stroke. Nine months later, during one of West Bletchley's weekly prayer meetings, an emergency call was received, informing us that he might not survive that night. The meeting was promptly relocated to his hospital bedside. As a result, God willed that his life be extended an extra two months, with slight improvement becoming evident later. There is so much more that can be said of this wise man who touched so many people's lives in a positive way: as a mentor, a mediator, a confidant and a peacemaker. He leaves to mourn his beloved wife Bernice, sons Ancil and Alfred, daughter Ethney, nine grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends, including best friend Hymers Wilson Sr. *SYLVONIE NOEL*

wrong' in some way or another. The 'kind and pitiful' attitude that Ellen White mentioned is not evident in our attitudes to both people inside of our church and in the communities around our churches. We seem to be very keen on defending 'Adventism' but not asking what Christ would have us do in particular situations. This I feel has made us judgemental and not very tolerant of the views of other people. We need to spend more time looking at how we can help people in our communities and thereby give others a picture of Christ. We should also notice that there are very few churches that regularly interact with their local communities. Why don't many of our churches have an explicit and intentional discipleship pathway?

MARK GITTENS, Impact Chadwell Heath, Essex

Parcelforce

Lots of letters arrive expressing appreciation for MESSENGERS received. However, some always come which say, with a degree of frustration, 'Why is it we NEVER see a MESSENGER at our church?' or 'I haven't seen a MESSENGER for months! Why is that?'

I share the frustration of those who write because the magazines are initiated on time, printed on time and (with a couple of exceptions last year) dispatched on time.

Parcelforce, who care for most of our deliveries, have recently made us aware of another part of the explanation. When the person to whom the package of magazines is delivered is not at home to sign for them, the package is taken back to the depot. From time to time Parcelforce returns these packages to The Stanborough Press and makes a charge for doing so.

Below is a list of the congregations for which parcels of issues of MESSENGER, ADVENTIST WORLD and WEEK OF PRAYER READINGS have been returned to the Stanborough Press in the last six months:

Name of congregation	Number of packages returned
Manchester Asian	5 packages
Oxford Rwanda	3 packages
Elephant & Castle	4 packages
Lea Valley	2 packages
Bradford (inc. branches)	3 packages
Southend	1 package
Chadwell Heath	1 package
Bracknell	2 packages
Luton North	1 package
Reading Maranatha	1 package
Coventry Central	5 packages
Newtown	3 packages
Northfield	4 packages

Mr Graham Cox oversees MESSENGER distribution. If the Personal Ministries secretary to whom magazines are normally addressed is out working when Parcelforce makes deliveries, perhaps the address of, say, a retired person could be used. Please update Mr Cox on any changes of address. Clearly there is a pattern in the returns.

EDITOR

In the footsteps of Jesus

a Palestinian who heard of the message through an Adventist network and was converted. He has made contact with him but is not allowed to meet him because of the political situation.

Dr Mwansa presented two topics on Monday, the first of which dealt with the burdens in ministry. He showed that the challenges of ministry are both internal and external and these could have a crippling effect on any ministry, citing Moses' example in Numbers 11:10. He admonished ministers to adopt two principles: to learn to find strength from the Lord and his promises and to find a friend to open one's heart to, finding strength in the Lord.

Later, after presentations from Pastor Aris Vontzalidis on 'The Year of Evangelism' and Pastor Bernie and Karen Holford on ministering to our children, Dr Mwansa ended the day with the topic: 'The Minister and Finance'. He demonstrated that anything that disturbs the life of a minister impacts the effectiveness of his ministry. 'Ministers,' he said, 'are not immune from what is common to all, that is, financial hardship, death, and so on. It behoves the minister to learn how to manage his or her finances well by taking appropriate measures to ensure prudence and faithfulness in matters pertaining to his finance.'

Dr Leslie Pollard was the devotional speaker both on Wednesday and Friday. Focusing on the life of Joseph, Dr Pollard emphasised that wherever we are placed God can make us fruitful. During his workshop on 'Effective Leadership in the Twenty-first Century', he illustrated seven leadership secrets, namely: character, vision, endurance, self-management, diligence, discernment and compassion. Joseph, as a leader, was seen to have all of these attributes, and ministers were, likewise, admonished to adopt these qualities.

It would have been impossible to visit the land where Jesus walked without taking time to view some of the many historic sites. Day tours were organised on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Sites visited included the Sea of Galilee, where the group experienced an amazing crossing of the sea by boat. The Sea of Galilee, which feeds into the River Jordan, is known for its sudden storms. The group was not



SEC pastors at the entrance of the Garden Tomb



Left to right: Steven Hulbert, youth project leader (the St Austell Project), Tanya Grant, secretary, SEC Youth dept., Eddie Hypolite, SEC associate Youth director (teens), Colin Stewart, SEC Youth director



Simon Martin (Luton North and Dunstable), Ron Clemow (Slough and Maidenhead)



Eddie Hypolite (we think!)

disappointed on the day, as we experienced a heavy downpour, accompanied by a stormy crossing.

The group also visited Capernaum, Mount of the Beatitudes, Tiberias, The Yardenit Baptismal site on the River Jordan, the Dead Sea, Nazareth, Qumran, Ein Gedi, Masada and Bethlehem. The Old City of Jerusalem also gave everyone an insight to places such as the Western Wall, the Garden of Gethsemane, the Via Dolorosa, the Mount of Olives, the Pool of Bethesda and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The absolute highlight for many was taking part in a communion service at the site of the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem on Sabbath. Pastors Pollard and Sam Davis both led out in a moving service where each one was reminded of the price that Jesus paid for our sins. This occasion was referred to as a highlight by Pastor Sam Neves who was also responsible for capturing photographic and video evidence of the entire trip.

ABC BOOK SALES

April		
26	Manchester	10.30am-2pm
May		
3	John Loughborough	10.30am-2pm
10	Harper Bell	10.30am-2pm
NEC & SEC camp meeting 8-14 June		

ABC Shops

Watford, BUC. Re-opening on 6 April
11am-5.30pm, Monday-Thursday.
10am-2pm Friday.
1st & 3rd Sunday in every month, 10am-2pm.
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
April 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
May 1	8.24	8.36	8.33	8.52	8.58

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