

# Messenger

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## The new BUC building

### A BUC office update for *MESSENGER*

by Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication director

After months of hard work, the Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC) and Adventist Book Centre (ABC) have reopened on Stanborough Park following the devastating fire at the BUC Office on 16 November 2008. The fire service had worked hard to protect the 'new wing' of the building from major damage, so over the past few months restoration work focused on repairing or replacing water- and smoke-damaged walls and ceilings, rewiring parts of the building, replacing floors and carpeting, and taking the opportunity to reshape some areas to make them more fit for purpose. This was especially important for the ADC and the Media Centre upstairs, where walls were demolished and extra space created to facilitate enhanced production of media and distance-learning resources. It is hoped

that the Media Centre will resume production in June.

With the installation of phone lines and Internet at the beginning of April, the ADC are delighted to be back in their spruced up office. Des Rafferty, ADC principal, says, 'It has been a major disruption for all of our staff, but I am so pleased with their good spirit and teamwork. This means we are now back in full service, marking lessons and providing appropriate follow-up for the 13,099 active students on our books.' Despite the disruption, the ADC has still

managed to enrol almost 600 new students since January.

The IT infrastructure was a major concern for the move back, as currently the building has no mains electricity and continues to be powered by an industrial capacity generator. Special filters and battery back-ups have been put in place to ensure a steady current for

computers. A special network based phone system was also installed for the whole BUC office following the fire, so that while the office may currently be split between different locations, the same phone number covers all.

The bookshop reopened on Monday 20 April and now carries a good selection of books and health foods. Currently

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Front elevation

I have been trying to decide whether or not to write about the death of my mother on 15 April. I decided to do so, as it is so much on my mind that to focus on anything else seems false.

One thing that struck me about her death was the finality and 'end of an era' sense about it. As I stood holding my mother's hand in the A and E cubicle, her breathing gradually got gentler and gentler. My brother and one of my sisters were also there, watching, crying; we were all feeling helpless, as the life of our 86-year-old mother came to a close. It took me an hour after her death before I felt ready to leave her side. All those stories about her life in the army in London during the Blitz; her ready laugh; her chatterbox nature; family feuds and joys; the recent dementia and its deteriorating effects on her both physically and mentally; all that, and everything else about her life had fin-

ished. I wish I could put a nice conclusion here and say that she was a Christian, and that I look forward to seeing her again. Sadly, that is not the case, at least, not obviously so. My mother did sometimes come to church with my sister or myself, but faith was not top of her life agenda. The truth is, I don't know exactly what her relationship with God was. I leave her future to the mercy and wisdom of God.

The inevitable question came to me. What was the point of her life now that it has gone? Was it of value?

As I reflect on my mother's death and the meaning of her life, one Scripture seems relevant, and it is actually the shortest verse in the Bible: 'Jesus wept.' (John 11:35.) Jesus was at the tomb of his friend Lazarus. Despite the fact that he was just about to resurrect this man, Jesus still wept. I don't know about all the ins and outs of meaning. However, what I do know

with Jonathan Barrett

### When death strikes close by



is that human life is so valuable to God, and the loss of a friend was so painful that, even though that life was about to be restored, Jesus felt the pain of death so keenly that he cried. I am glad that the God we love is, above all else, a God who understands and feels our sorrow.

This life is painful and full of unanswered questions. Even though the solution may be just around the corner, there are times when the pain is so great that the grief has to be expressed. Jesus felt the sadness and modelled that response. At least in our tears we are not alone.

# It all begins here

David Marshall



At the time of Jesus it was not unknown for pagans to express admiration for the high ethical standards of Judaism. They might even ask the question: 'How does one become a Jew?'

How would Jews respond?

With the words: 'You need to be born again!' By that they meant: You need to be born a Jew in the first place!

A Jew believed that he qualified for God's Kingdom by virtue of his birth, his circumcision and his energetic law-keeping.

Jews believed they had it all sussed and sorted, and that God's Kingdom was theirs by right. It was, they felt, a Jewish monopoly.

Hence, when Jesus told Nicodemus that everyone – including him – had to be born again to enter God's Kingdom, he reacted as if he had not understood. In fact, he almost certainly felt insulted.

The sheer inappropriateness of the response of Nicodemus showed *how* insulted he felt.

He was the Big Man, The Connection, the Head Honcho around here, and even *he* had to be reborn to receive what was his by right! Outrageous! Jesus had pulled the carpet out from under not just his theology – but his whole world-view.

This was a Victor Meldrew moment.

Nicodemus was a member of one of Judea's foremost aristocratic families. He had swallowed a huge wedge of pride and prejudice in order to visit the homeless Galilean. And – most untypical of a Pharisee – his approach was warm and inclusive. So why did Jesus weigh in with a swingeing response that seemed to be at cross purposes?

*Nicodemus: We know you are a teacher come from God.*

*Jesus: No one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again.*

*Nicodemus: A man cannot re-enter his mother's womb and be born.*

*Jesus: No one enters the Kingdom unless he is born of water and the Spirit. You need to be born again.*

*Nicodemus: How can that be?*

*Jesus: You are the teacher of Israel and you don't know that?*

Why *the* teacher? Weren't there others? Certainly. But apparently they were not nearly as eminent as Nicodemus. In our terms: Nicodemus was the foremost authority on the Scriptures at Jerusalem then.

That was why Jesus was more than a little exasperated that even he did not understand new birth!

Do *we*? We can define grace, explain repentance and, on a good day, start to unpack a word like *justification*.

But what do we make of new birth? Jesus, talking to Nicodemus, made it sound like the greatest 'must do' of salvation.

In his study of the (Old Testament) Scriptures what had Nicodemus missed or failed to understand about new birth?

There's Gospel in Isaiah, right? He spoke of a Messiah who would be 'pierced for our transgressions, [and] . . . crushed for our iniquities'.<sup>1</sup> He had expressed the Gospel call this way: 'Hey there! All who are thirsty, come to the water! Are you penniless? Come anyway . . . – everything's free!'<sup>2</sup>

Ezekiel had spoken of God's sovereign grace that would cleanse us from the disfiguring dirt of sin; God's regenerating grace that would place a new heart into penitent sinners responsive to his will; God's grace for the long haul, in the Person of his Holy Spirit.<sup>3</sup> The picture of new birth Ezekiel presents is of breath entering the bodies of the spiritually dead, bringing them to life.<sup>4</sup> He also speaks of the river of God trickling from Jerusalem, but growing in volume and force until it brings the Dead Sea to life and becomes a mighty river making fruit orchards grow in the eastern wilderness.<sup>5</sup> What a picture of new birth that is!

But it was Zechariah who identified the source of God's cleansing, life-giving river. Messiah would be 'pierced' and a 'fountain' would erupt in Jerusalem to wash away 'sin and uncleanness'.<sup>6</sup>

When Nicodemus left Jesus' lodgings that night, it seems likely that he had been enabled to approach Scripture in a whole new way. When he next saw Jesus, at the

Feast of Tabernacles, things were beginning to fall into place for *the* teacher of Israel. He was not ready to acknowledge Jesus as Messiah, but he said enough on the Sanhedrin to give the chief priests an excuse to smear him with the label 'Galilean'.<sup>7</sup>

By the evening of the day when Jesus made his triumphal entry in the week before Passover, it was known that Jesus had a number of undercover disciples among members of the Jewish establishment, but that they were frightened to go public.<sup>8</sup>

What made two of them break cover and accept the public reproach of being followers of Jesus, amazingly, was Calvary. To make sure Jesus was dead a soldier used a spear to pierce his side and (in proof that he was already dead) blood and water came from the wound.<sup>9</sup>

Was that the point when everything came together for Nicodemus? At all events, it was then that he – and Joseph of Arimathea – broke cover. Ten of the disciples of Jesus were in hiding, so two new disciples made the journey to Pilate's HQ, asked for (and received) permission to remove and bury the body of Jesus and then proceeded to do so.<sup>10</sup>

Imagine the language with which Annas and Caiphas would have ejected them permanently from everything they had, until that time, associated with status – *and salvation!* But Nicodemus and Joseph had made gains. They had not just recovered the courage of their convictions; but the whole experience of salvation that comes with an appreciation of the significance of the Cross and who Jesus is.

It is only at the foot of the Cross that new birth can begin. Nicodemus knew that, as he had learned from the mouth of Jesus, the lifting up of the Son of Man had made it all possible. Cleansing grace. Regenerating grace. Grace for the long haul. New birth. It all begins here.

**References:**

- <sup>1</sup>Isaiah 53:5. <sup>2</sup>Isaiah 55:1, MGE. <sup>3</sup>Ezekiel 36:25-27. <sup>4</sup>Ezekiel 37:1-10. <sup>5</sup>Ezekiel 47:1-12. <sup>6</sup>Zechariah 12:10; 13:1; 14:8. <sup>7</sup>John 7:37, 38, 41-52. <sup>8</sup>John 12:42, 43. <sup>9</sup>John 19:34. <sup>10</sup>John 19:38-40.



## Enhancing Health

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

### Brain Health Part 15 Perception



In this final issue of the brain health series we look at the importance of perception and its impact on the brain.

Crucial to mental well-being is how we perceive the world around us.

Our sensory organs receive signals which are then passed through the nervous system to the brain, which processes the information, whether from visual, auditory or tactile stimulation.

Assisting the process are built-in filters which sift the information we take in. This, for example, would include how we deal with noise. We often filter out background noise so that we can concentrate on what we are doing without distraction.

A bad experience, however, may become ingrained in the brain's 'programme'. If the individual is unable to filter the negative thoughts from that experience, it can affect

how they rationalise that event or similar experiences.

Attitudes and emotions can also affect the perception process. Scientific studies reveal our tendency to read the implications of another person's words and body language differently, depending on how we feel about that individual.

*Brain Research*, Volume 1079, Issue 1, 24 March 2006, details the link between perception and action and its impact on our decision making process and social behaviour.

In the book *Mind, Character and Personality* (Vol. 1) E. G. White writes under the caption: The influence of perception. On page 332 she states:

*'Keeping Powers of Perception Alert – If you are called upon to attend a council meeting, ask yourself whether your perceptive faculties are in proper condition to weigh*

evidence. If you are not in a proper condition, if your brain is confused, you have no right to take part in the meeting. Are you fractious? Is your temper sweet and fragrant, or is it so disturbed and disagreeable that you will be led to make hasty decisions? Do you feel as though you would like to fight someone? Then do not go to the meeting; for if you go you will surely dishonour God. . . . Take an axe and chop wood or engage in some physical exercise until your spirit is mild and easy to be entreated. Just as surely as your stomach is creating a disturbance in your brain, your words will create a disturbance in the assembly. . . .'

Essential reading prior to your board and business meetings!

*' . . . be transformed by the renewing of your mind . . .'* Romans 12:2.

**Good health!**



## Easter service

by Kelsey Curnutt,  
Adventist volunteer at Stanborough Park

Photos: Natalie Davison

We sat nervously in the room where the Stanborough Park church board meets, waiting for our names to be addressed. The time came, Kimberly Paulien and I gave each other a reassuring look that lasted only a moment but was enough to give Kimberly the courage to begin. 'This Easter we would like to do something different here at Stanborough.'

We had it all planned out. We had walked the steps we wanted the crowd to take as they experienced the last days of Jesus' life (played by Stanborough's own Nicholas Dean). Both Kimberly and I go to Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, where the Passion Play is a really big deal. Thousands of people volunteer, helping with costumes, food, makeup, acting, sets, scripts



board meeting and it was January. Time to get really serious about this. Originally we had planned to have the Passion Play outdoors, having

wares as if in a market, when suddenly the scream of Mary Magdalene penetrated the air, the lights dimmed, and everyone's attention



and advertising. The event, which runs the entire Easter weekend, brings in thousands of people from the community. This year there were over 8,000 people in attendance on Saturday alone! We had big dreams and wanted Stanborough to have this unique experience to offer to the community.

Three months after the initial

the crowd move with the scenes, but we soon realised that it would have to be a lot smaller than that and narrowed the scenes down to have it all take place within the church itself.

Before we knew it, it was March, and we had a little over a month for everything to come together. We still didn't have all the actors together, not many props, and the practices were going very slowly. Kimberly and I would come away from the practice asking, 'How is this going to happen? Can we really do this?' The answer was always, 'Not alone.' And we'd stop right there and pray. Always pray.

Things started falling into place. Props were being made, makeup kits put together, food menus made, and costumes sewn. Actors were learning lines. Two more practices and suddenly it was Friday 10 April.

I sat myself in the front row acting as prompter, flipping through the pages to make sure they were in the correct order. Kimberly ran here and there to make sure everything was in place and ready to go. Our 'crowd' of people came trickling in, selling their

was focused on our stage. Everyone watched intently as the final events of Jesus' life unfolded before our eyes.

Starting with the scene of Mary Magdalene and going through other scenes, such as the triumphal entry with a live donkey walking through – a surprise not only to the audience but to many of the actors as well – and the trial and the crucifixion. I sat there, watching with the audience, only in more amazement at how God had worked everything out. Two weeks beforehand neither Kimberly nor myself was sure if this was going to happen. But, here it was really happening. With the musical pieces in between each scene, the mood was right; then with the final song, 'Arise, My Love' the words came to life as Jesus emerged from the tomb at the call of the Father.

A lot of the time we just read our Bibles, seeing it as a simple story, but with the Passion Play, the events we read about, the Person we believe in, come to life. He is alive. Because he is alive, we have life eternal.

## Invitation to Downing Street by Ralph Lombart

On Wednesday 15 April, a very special event was held at 11 Downing Street. The hostess for the event was Maggie Darling, wife of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Rt Hon. Alistair Darling. Mrs Darling, who is a supporter of many charities, was marking the launch of Nicole's Fund, supporting the Teenage Cancer Trust. Nicole Dryburgh, a cancer sufferer since the age of 11, has been an indomitable force in raising awareness and funds for various charities close to her heart. Despite being blind and almost deaf, as well as confined to a wheelchair, Nicole has bravely used what energies she has to do her charity work, supported loyally by her mum and close friends, including Matthew and Ralph.

Matthew Lombart, a Seventh-day Adventist singer, and his father Ralph Lombart, who have worked closely with Nicole and her mum in their fundraising work, were also invited to the event. Matthew is well-known in his local community as a volunteer hospital chaplain and for his fundraising work for various charities.

Over 100 guests, including many dignitaries, were invited to the charity launch. Guests mingled as they were served afternoon tea and cake. Mrs Darling came to Matthew and thanked him for his work in supporting the various charities. 'What you are doing is excellent. Keep up the good work!' she encouraged.

There were more words of appre-



### ... by the way!

It's good to know our Father sees What we can't understand, That all our days are safely held In his strong and loving hand.

That we may always trust him To lead the unknown way, And that he knows before we ask The needs of every day.

Submitted by Dr Doreen Bull

### Sales Associate required at The Stanborough Press

The Stanborough Press is seeking to recruit a Sales Associate to join the existing team in Grantham, Lincolnshire. Applicants should possess good organisational and interpersonal skills, together with an enthusiasm for the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The role will cover a wide range of sales administration roles and contribute towards the sales team's initiatives to increase the flow of literature into the UK. Training will be given on the computer software packages used within the organisation.

Interested persons are invited to contact Paul Poddar, UK Sales Manager, for an informal discussion on this post (Tel. 01476 591700).

Salary and terms of employment will be in keeping with denominational policies and are available on request.

Individuals are invited to send a CV to Paul Poddar, UK Sales Manager, The Stanborough Press Ltd, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincs., NG31 9SL.

**Closing date for receipt of applications: 28 May 2009.**

ciation for Matthew's work from Julie Frost of Teenage Cancer Trust. Julie was very grateful that Matthew's major fundraising concert in 2009 will be given to support the setting up of a new unit in the south-east of England for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

The afternoon event was another opportunity for both Matthew and Ralph to let others know that their Adventist friends are ready to help make a small difference wherever it is possible.

## Mailbox

### TOXIC ATTITUDES

Dear Editor

I would just like to say that I liked your editorial 'Toxic Attitudes' in *Messenger* of 6 March. In fact, I like the whole way the matter of Pastor David Spearing's sad death was handled.

I will be keeping your editorial and some of the other articles in my file.

DR JOHN LENNOX, Washington State

### BIBLE VERSIONS

Dear Editor

Pastor Gifford Rhamie should be congratulated for his balanced comments (3 April).

Some years ago the Free Church of Scotland *Monthly Record* compared how different versions, from the AV to the NIV, rendered some passages that had a bearing on the deity of Christ. Surprise, surprise! The more modern the translation, the more unambiguous it was in having those texts assert our Lord's deity.

No translation is perfect. Even the sainted AV shows the underlying theological bias of its translators in odd places. By far the best practice is to read the *entire* Bible through and, please, let us have an end to ill-informed nit-picking selections of isolated bits lifted out for criticism. Otherwise, such are liable to find that they have a dead body on their theological operating-table rather than the living Word of God.

BARRY GOWLAND, Milton Keynes

### MISS E. GUNTRIP

Dear Editor

There was a Miss Guntrip who moved from Bristol to the Dell Rest Home in Oulton Broad in the years about '74/75. There is no record of a transfer from Bristol to Oulton Broad, but we are making enquiries this end that might throw more light on Desmond Hubbard's query.

MRS VALERIE RUDDICK, Lowestoft

Dear Editor

I was interested in the letter written by Desmond Hubbard regarding Miss Guntrip. My brother Professor Ronald Sweet remembers her very well. He was invited to her home for tea at the end of each school term when he was a boarder at Colston Boys' School, Bristol. I also remember being invited to tea on Sabbaths with other young people. She originally came from London and was the Bible worker for Pastor O. M. Dorland (?1940-1946). Miss Guntrip was a very kindly, saintly lady who was concerned about the spiritual welfare of the young people at the Bristol Lodge Causeway church where we attended. On the picture she is the female figure on the right.

MRS GLENYS COOKE, Coventry



Miss E. Guntrip is the lady on the far right. Photo supplied by Glenys Cooke (née Sweet)



In our review of the Bible we have reached Job and Psalms

# Job and Psalms — Reaching the parts others seldom do

by Llewellyn Edwards\*

Once there was a lady who sued a local church — she cleaned it out of every penny it had. I will spare the details but her case was so unjust and the little flock so unjustly treated that my imagination stumbled across the idea of wishing her to fall under a bus and get her comeuppance. Christian or me? Maybe not, but biblical — Yes! See Psalm 137:8-9: 'O Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction, happy is he who repays you for what you have done to us — he who seizes your infants and dashes them against the rocks.'

That's what I like about the poetical books of the Bible — Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon and Lamentations (especially Job and Psalms) — they are so honest. Job calls God to account, David confesses it all, the choirs get ecstatic and the Babylonian exiles vent their anger. And our wonderful God sits back, making sure it is recorded, as if to say to each of us reading today: 'That is OK! Your capacity for moods and deep emotions are part of my creation. Now learn to place them in the context of trust.' Where better for the parts we often hide to be reached than in books like Job and Psalms?

In this short article I intend to revel in just a few of the parts that cause my inner spirit to soar. But let me begin with what I think is one of the first keys to loving these poetic sections of Scripture — parallelism.

We are used to the joy of rhyme.

'Jesus loves me! This I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong;  
They are weak, but he is strong.'

The Hebrews loved parallelism — where the first line is repeated in a different way in the second line — and there are so many variations of it. Here are some examples:

Psalm 104:5-7:  
'He set the earth on its foundations;  
it can never be moved.  
You covered it with the deep as with a garment;  
the waters stood above the mountains.'

Or Job 4:17:  
'Shall mortal man be more just than God?  
Shall a man be more pure than his Maker?'

And it's not just repeating something with

different words. Parallelism can be contrasting, like . . .

Psalm 1:6:  
'For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.'

Or Psalm 37:9:  
'For evil men will be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD will inherit the land.'

Parallelism can be of the expanding type — by the second line saying the same but adding more information to the first line. An example is Psalm 25:14:

'The LORD confides in those who fear him;  
he makes his covenant known to them.'

Look out for parallelism as you read and see which lines 'speak' to you. It's as if God, knowing that we are all emotionally different, made these poets write to make sure we 'hear' through the words meanings that speak to each of us — reaching the parts others seldom reach. And rhyme would not have translated very well into other languages.

But let me list a few of those parts that have touched me so deeply.

My understanding of the great controversy is awed when I read Job 1 and 2 along with Psalm 82.

Read not just the words of Psalm 23 but its colours and scenes and sounds, and let the LORD refresh and unstress your heart.

When I am angry I sense the spirit of Psalm 58, but I beg the Lord Jesus to make me follow the way of the Cross. Take me back to Psalm 51 to face my impure heart.

And, oh, the prophetic mystery of Psalm 22! You felt forsaken, David? There is One who will yet go further — for us.

Then there is the lest-we-forget-the-way-he-has-led-in-the-past Psalm 105. How often have we been there and forgotten his caring hand!

And those praise, hallelujah and thanksgiving psalms (like 136 and 150). It's like listening to Handel's *Messiah* — they make you want to stand up!

That's what books like Job and Psalms do; they touch the inner parts — the heart. When our hearts are sad or lonely or empty or hateful or filled to bursting with joy, God wants us to be

honest with him. So tell him and let him be the glory and the lifter of your head. (Ps. 3:3.)

Maybe that is why Psalms appears to be Jesus' favourite book — he quotes it more than any other. As he leaves the upper room on his way to Gethsemane and then the Cross, the book *Desire of Ages* (p. 672) tells us:

'Before leaving the upper chamber, the Saviour led His disciples in a song of praise. His voice was heard, not in the strains of some mournful lament, but in the joyful notes of the Passover hallel:

"O praise the Lord, all ye nations:  
Praise Him, all ye people.  
For His merciful kindness is great toward us:  
And the truth of the Lord endureth forever.  
Praise ye the Lord." Psalm 117.'

\* Pastor Llewellyn Edwards has been president of the Scottish Mission for some years. As you read his article you can imagine Llew and his wife Karin packing for a move to Egypt, where Llew is to be president of the Union. With me, you will pray for God's guidance and protection.

## NEW from The Stanborough Press Ltd

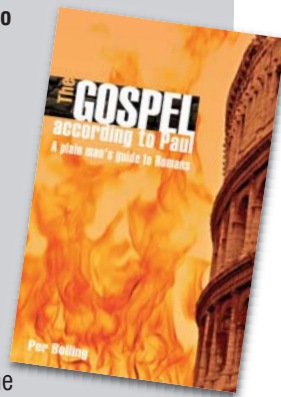
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## New President for Scottish Mission

by Victor Hulbert, Communication director, BUC

Pastor Bernie Holford, currently serving as Family Life director for the South England Conference, is to be president of the Church in Scotland starting this summer. His appointment comes following the decision of the current president, Pastor Llew Edwards, to accept a call to serve as president of the Church in Egypt.

Pastor Don McFarlane, BUC president, explains: 'Working for the Seventh-day Adventist Church can be an adventurous and exciting undertaking, especially when without warning one is asked to move to a new country and a new set of circumstances. This has been the experience of Scottish Mission president, Llewellyn Edwards. After serving the British Union for almost thirty-six years in a variety of positions, he has now been invited to serve as president of the Egyptian Field.

'Pastor Edwards' calm attitude, deep spirituality, gentle manner and insightful leadership have all played a part in making him a balanced, thoughtful, approachable church leader. He and his wife, Karin, have served our Union with commitment, purpose and distinction. We will miss them when they leave in the summer but will not soon forget their outstanding contribution to the development of the Church in the British Isles.'

Pastor Holford has accepted an invitation to succeed Pastor Edwards as Scottish Mission president. He will come to this new assignment with considerable experience in various forms of church administration, including over twelve years in departmental work. His wife

Karen, who has been his co-worker in Family and Children's Ministries, has not been given an assignment in the Scottish Mission but hopes to find work in the Kingdom of the North.

Bernie told BUC News: 'The call to serve in Scotland came as quite a surprise. I am excited at the opportunity to work with our members and ministers there. Together we must pray and experience God's power and wisdom to help us focus on reaching Scotland's five million people.'

Pastor Holford will bring a wealth of experience to the Scottish Mission. Looking at his vision for the future, he states, 'Strengthening family relationships has been a passion for me as I have served with my wife Karen in Family and Children's Ministries for many years. Healthy relationships are essential for effective evangelism. Relational evangelism works by helping us to build stronger connections in our churches and with our communities. It is through love in action that God's Spirit will transform us and those to whom we minister. I am looking forward to hearing from those who have been born and raised in Scotland as well as those who have arrived more recently about how they believe God can help our churches grow stronger.'

He also has a challenge, stepping into the shoes of his well-loved predecessors. 'In the last eighteen years Pastor Bob Rodd and Pastor Llew Edwards have led the Scottish Mission in a deeply spiritual and effective way,' he says. 'It



Bernie and Karen Holford

will be a privilege to continue building a united team that can be powerfully used by God in this very special country.'

Bernie and Karen's loss will be felt by the South England Conference. Their president, Pastor Sam Davis, states, 'On behalf of the SEC family I would like to take this opportunity to wish Bernie God's richest blessing as he takes up the new challenge of president of the Scottish Mission. Bernie and Karen have given quality service to the Family Life and Children's Ministries department.

'Bernie and I came into the Conference office together back in

1997. We served together briefly as Youth directors, Bernie for the provincial youth and I for the youth of London. Bernie has also headed up our "Keeping the Church Family Safe" initiative for several years. He has been instrumental in continuing with the growth and development of the Cornerstone counselling service started by Pastor Des Boldeau, to the point where they have outgrown their current location.

'Bernie and Karen take with them talents and skills that they have honed and developed over many years of Spirit-led leadership. They are a loving, caring couple who will be missed here in the SEC.'

## Tell Area 3 in 2009

Freemantle United Reformed Church was the venue for this year's Area 3 day of fellowship. The members and friends of the Adventist churches in Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Gosport, Winchester, the Isle of Wight, The Watering Hole and Southampton came together for this annual event to celebrate what God had done for them. 'Tell Area 3 in 2009' was the theme for the day, and the event was attended by over 300 from the various churches.

The Watering Hole team, with Pastor Rosemary Lethbridge in charge, led out in kids' church on the Sabbath morning with over fifty children, plus the parents, who stayed to enjoy the music and puppets which were used to teach the children about God's Word.

Pastor Sam Davis, the SEC president, was the key speaker for the morning service. His message for the service was: 'Commitment to

Service'. He spoke of the difference between being a volunteer and a person who is driven to serve because they are called of God. He reminded each one of us that we are called by God for a special work in these last days.

After the fellowship meal, Dr Jolyon de Freitas, a physicist by profession, and Pastor Bertie de Nysschen from Torquay shared a programme in which they looked at some of arguments used to support evolution and how we might we respond to them.

A good day was had by all; God blessed us through the fellowship and the worship, and for once the sun shone to make for a splendid day to remember that we are all God's children, called by him!

Photos from the day can be viewed at <http://opal.lunarbreeze.com/~south199/photos/>.

PASTOR DOUGLAS McCORMAC



Pastor Sam Davis, SEC president

# Options, alternatives and change

by Eddie Hypolite, Associate Youth director for Teens, SEC

The only thing wrong with change is that things don't remain the same! *Things change!* Things were all too happy to ignore in the hope that they would change by themselves, things we hoped someone else would deal with, things that took us further than we wanted to go, kept us longer than we wanted to stay and cost us more than we were willing to pay. We're paralysed by the fear of the unknown. Hardest of all is the realisation that true and lasting change doesn't come with the options of change but only with the alternatives of change. What's the difference? Options and alternatives are two very different concepts, producing two very different outcomes.

An option, essentially, is a different choice of the same thing which really doesn't change things; it just gives us an easier way to manage the problem. Most people deal with change within the comfort of options: a kind of better-the-devil-you-know choice. That way, change is less

painful. It's less challenging because, in essence, it's not really taking place. We're managing it better than we did before so we think that things have changed, until it blows up in our face and we sit mystified as to how this could have happened again, because we were sure that things had changed.

An alternative, on the other hand, is a different proposition altogether, because it means finding and choosing something totally different, and that scares the change out of us. Alternatives mean that you've looked at the options for change and all of them are not workable, sensible or desirable. Alternatives mean rejecting both the root cause of the problem plus the problem itself.

Having been faced on countless occasions with the dilemmas and people that needed changing in my life, I've learned that the only time I've found complete and lasting although sometimes painful resolutions was when I sought

the alternatives of change, instead of the options of managing problems. Don't get me wrong, sometimes all we have is just about enough mental and emotional strength simply to consider our options until some more resolve comes along. Sometimes rushing to deal with situations and circumstances that need changing only worsens the problem, which I've also learned to much personal and public pain. I have also discovered that it was only when I looked into what my alternatives were that I actually only had a real choice as to what I needed to do to deal with my problematic, in-need-of-change situations.

So how do we move from fearing to embracing the alternatives of change? Here are the three simple lessons I've learned.

*Seeking alternatives means exercising my right not to be controlled by the immediate.* The here and now must not be allowed to determine my tomorrow and day after, because the here and now is just that, 'here and now'; and my life is so much greater than just my immediate present.

*Seeking alternatives is life's way of celebrating the growth potential in me;* problems have a way of producing in us the much-needed resolve to bring about complete change. Life is celebrating me, not destroying me.

Seeking alternatives cannot happen until I reject the idea that the best I can do for myself is to live a life only looking at my options and never consider that there could be a totally different way altogether.

I think about this Church that I love so very much and the challenges that we face now. I think about the way we do what we do as Adventists and how much we fear the change that the Holy Spirit is bringing to us and I wonder what the end will be. Then I remember the words of God to a young prophet, who had to live and preach through monumental changes that were coming to Israel, when he said, 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' (Jeremiah 29:10.) I remember that I'm OK, because God knows how to see the Church through. The only thing wrong with change is that it changes things! But it's the challenge of change that makes life beautiful and the unpredictability of alternatives that makes life meaningful.

# Newbold: Religious freedom update

Tel. 01344 407420  
www.newbold.ac.uk

A champion of religious freedom gave the April Diversity Lecture at Newbold College. Dr John Graz, a Newbold alumnus, reported on the work done by the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department (PARL) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church around the world to promote religious freedom. His PowerPoint presentation featured pictures of visits with other religious leaders and with government officials and ambassadors in conferences, dialogues and symposia on all six continents.

Dr Graz, who is director of PARL, suggested that Christianity does not have the status it once had in international affairs. Various trends in different parts of the world – anti-conversion laws in some countries, laws against the defamation of religion, movements challenging the universality of human rights, and portraying religious liberty as threats to peace – all these, he said, pose potential threats to religious freedom. He encouraged the members of his audience in Newbold's Smith Centre not to lose sight of the fact that 300 million Christians around the world are currently either oppressed or actively persecuted for their faith and to recognise and appreciate the religious freedom which they themselves enjoy. 'In every country where we have religious freedom, we should have a day to celebrate,' he said, and recounted the organisation of such celebrations in Brazil and other countries.

In the subsequent question and answer session, Dr Graz was pressed on the changing nature of Seventh-day Adventist ecumenism

and on the need for education on human rights and religious freedom at grassroots levels in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. 'We should avoid conspiracy theories,' he said. 'Recognise that people of other faiths are taking their own steps towards God, and respect them for it.'

HELEN PEARSON

## Investment banker to speak at Newbold Awards Ceremony

An international business executive with a track record of supporting young people will present a challenge at the 2009 Awards Ceremony at Newbold College on 5 July.

Herta von Stiegel is Executive Chairman of Ariya Capital Group, a Botswana- and London- based fund-management firm which she launched to focus on sustainable investments in Africa.

Herta brings to her task extensive experience of weaving passionate Christian commitment into her international career as a lawyer and a banker with companies like Citibank and J. P. Morgan where she has held senior positions. She and her husband Hans have shown consistent commitment to the young people in the Central London church since they arrived from the United States in 1990.

Everyone is welcome to the Ceremony on Sunday 5 July at 11am in the Newbold Church Centre. There are limited numbers of seats available so admission is by ticket only.

For free tickets (first come, first served) contact Carolyn Bissell, PA to the Senior Management Team, T: 01344 407420; E: cbissell@newbold.ac.uk.



# Genesis TV questions Adventist beliefs

An email from an observant church member led to Adventists being given a one-and-a-half hour opportunity to share their faith and beliefs on one of the UK's top Christian television channels. John Mann emailed the BUC Communication department to state that he had heard an invitation on Doug Harris's programme, 'Simply the Truth', that he would like to talk to a Seventh-day Adventist.

As a result, on Thursday evening, 23 April, Victor Hulbert, Communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland, joined Doug Harris of Reachout Trust and Gerard Chrispin of Daylight Christian Prison Trust for a live, unscripted discussion of Adventist beliefs on Genesis TV's premier programme, 'World in Focus'. 'It is nerve-racking being on live TV to defend your faith and the Church you love,' Victor Hulbert stated after the programme, 'but it was also extremely helpful to be able to share what we believe and dispel some myths.'

With the inclusion of phone calls and emails from viewers, topics ranged from the assurance of salvation we have in Jesus Christ, to the Trinity, our relation to the law as a response to God's grace, the investigative judgement, health and hell.



To view or download this interview, visit: [www.adventistinfo.org.uk/about/world-in-focus.php](http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/about/world-in-focus.php)

The last subject provoked some quite heated discussion, both with Gerard who, as a Baptist, has strong views on eternal damnation, and with one listener who said she felt that 'God would have to blank our minds out if we were in heaven with eternal hell going on elsewhere'. Victor emphasised that the Adventist view of the 'second death' being final is a comfort in these situations. Several viewers emailed to state that they now had a better view of Seventh-day Adventists, while others expressed strong views on some of our distinctive doctrines.

Canterbury member, Ralph Lombart, discovered the programme by accident while preparing for church on Sabbath morning. Watching a repeat of the show, he wrote, 'The World in Focus programme is very interesting and it's excellent that you were able to share something with their viewing audience.'

John Wilby from Glasgow gave the programme some critical appraisal: 'It's typical of these types of programmes that you get insufficient time to tick all the boxes for those issues you want to cover.' He continued, 'It was encouraging to receive acknowledgement of agreement on most of our beliefs. The investigative judgement was always going to be a difficult one.' Victor agrees. 'Time flies so fast that it is difficult to cover all the ground, and

quite naturally the agenda is somewhat dictated by viewers' calls and emails.' However, there is sufficient interest from the first programme that a second edition has already been booked for later this year. That will cover in more depth Adventist views on the Sabbath, what happens when we die, and our concepts of Heaven and hell. Genesis TV is available on the Sky platform and on the Internet. To view the programme visit [www.adventistinfo.org.uk/about/world-in-focus.php](http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/about/world-in-focus.php).

Ben Davison (youth leader, Stanborough Park church): 'Victor . . . Just watched it . . . was only going to watch a couple of minutes and catch the rest later but couldn't tear myself away . . . fascinating . . . nice job!'

Frank Blewitt: 'I thought you did very well. We cannot expect in the hothouse of TV that there will be complete agreement with all that you said, but I think you said it well.'

Pastor David Foster: 'Haven't managed to watch all of it yet, but it looked a pretty scary situation, one hostile, one semi-hostile. I always seem to have trouble with Baptist pastors, they know "the only answer" . . . and they are unanimous in that!'

Su Matthan: 'Watched it. Well done, Victor, thought you were very gracious :-)' Phew, they did give you a hard time!'

See [www.adventistinfo.org.uk/departments/youth.php](http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/departments/youth.php) for full details and to download an application form.

# Treasurers' council

by David Hulme

Photos: Earl Ramharacksingh

'The stewards of a faithful people' from both SEC and NEC met at Staverton Park, Daventry, Northamptonshire, for a weekend treasurers' council. After registration, Earl Ramharacksingh presided over the welcome. This was followed by an uplifting praise and worship session, conducted by Paul Lee. Malika Bediako gave a reminder to apply to Grantfinder in order to raise funds for local community projects. She stressed the need for immediate action because this package is only available for one year.

Vespers was taken by the NEC president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, who based his homily on Matthew 19:16-22 and Mark 10:17-22. These passages describe how a rich young ruler asked Jesus what he had to do to be saved. When told that observing the Ten Commandments alone would not suffice and that he should commit himself fully to Jesus by giving his wealth to the poor, the reluctant young man went on his way full of sadness. In contrast, Zacchaeus, the once avaricious tax collector, gave half his goods to the poor and made restitution to those he had cheated as a token of his repen-

tance, thus demonstrating a whole-hearted commitment to his Lord. (Luke 19:1-10.)

## Building trust

The evening concluded with a presentation by the BUC treasurer, Victor Pilmoor, who spoke about the spiritual calling of being a treasurer. The health of a society depends on its ability to trust. He then contrasted the unreliability and lack of trust generated by recent economic developments with the timeless and absolute trustworthiness of God. The Church is a spiritual enterprise that deals with the business of the public, who are our brothers and sisters. A church treasurer, therefore, must be both trustworthy and able to inspire trust and, in turn, needs to trust the members. The treasurer's primary task is not to organise or to count money or to make decisions, but to build organisational trust. The method of achieving this can be encapsulated by the acronym CORE, which stands for Competence, Openness, Reliability and Equity.

Sabbath began with a devotional, taken by Pastor Maurice Musgrave. Mission spotlight was linked with the

self-sufficiency projects of ADRA and with church growth in developing countries.

Sabbath School was taken by Steve Okelo, who encouraged lively discussion about the blessings of the prophetic gift.

Divine service featured a sermon on Daniel 6:1-7 by our SEC president, Pastor Sam Davis. Although Daniel was a foreigner in the empire of the Medes and Persians, Darius recognised his honesty and integrity and put him in charge of the 120 princes (governors) and of the three presidents above them, so 'that the princes might give account to them, and the king should have no damage' (suffer no loss). Pastor Davis gave examples of corruption and dishonesty in our own era, including one involving the victimisation of a man who, like Daniel, attracted hostility for being steadfastly honest. The ultimate enemy of the righteous is Satan, who works on those who are vulnerable, and that is why anyone who is in debt or unemployed should decline or resign from the post of church treasurer, in order to safeguard themselves against temptation.

On Sabbath afternoon, Earl Ramharacksingh led a large group on a walk in the delightful surrounding countryside.

**Balance sheets and mission**  
Sabbath evening saw another presentation by Victor Pilmoor, who warned against 'budgetitis', a disease which sometimes afflicts treasurers. Its symptoms are: 1. When the value of the balance sheet is seen as being more important than the mission, and 2. When any questions from members about the treasurer's work and methods are seen as intrusive. The treasurer's function

is not to work behind the scenes manipulating figures, but to involve the whole church in mission, demonstrating qualities which will inspire generosity. He/she should coach and co-operate, not command and coerce. The budget is a dream with price tags and it should be appropriate to the demography of the church. Members need to know what they are giving, why they are giving it, and how it will be spent. In short, stewardship consists in honouring what has been given, using power with a sense of grace, and serving purposes greater than oneself.

Praise and worship was taken by Paul Lee, followed by vespers, when the BUC president, Pastor D. McFarlane, used Mark 3:20-35 to show how Jesus asserted that kingdom relationships take precedence over all other relationships, including those within the family, and that service in the Kingdom of God is the most important and valuable service of all.

## Presentation

After vespers on Sabbath evening, a presentation was made to Pastor M. Musgrave for his sixty-seven years of devoted service which began in pastoral service in the North England Conference and was followed by many years of mission work in various parts of Africa, including South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Namibia and the Trans-Africa Division, and as treasurer of both South England Conference and British Union Conference.

Mervyn Leicester gave a very detailed and interesting talk on Adventist Risk Management and the importance of adequately insuring church property. He cited the recent examples of the fires at the BUC, Watford, and at some flats owned by the BUC in Liskeard, Cornwall.

After supper, Earl Ramharacksingh presided over a workshop which involved a somewhat taxing practical exercise. Everyone emerged from it with a renewed appreciation of the importance of accurate accounting and strict and methodical procedures.

Sunday morning was blessed with a devotional led by Pastor Anthony.

A very informative workshop was held by Steve Okelo on the acquisition of church buildings, outlining procedures and warning of pitfalls. A brainstorming session then enabled the delegates to share a great variety of ideas for fundraising.

# End of an era at Oulton Broad

In the days when the Dell retirement home at Oulton Broad, near Lowestoft, was popular with Adventists looking for a place to spend their later years in good Christian company, the Oulton Broad church, meeting in a chapel attached to the home, was a busy little place. The congregation there benefited from the support of retired workers and committed members, and the spiritual life of the home was enriched by worship activities right through the week. Over the years, however, the number of Adventist residents and staff dwindled, until maintaining the institution became a burden the Church could no longer support.

A little over three years ago, the home and its chapel were sold to a private operator, and in March of 2006, with the redevelopment of the chapel, the congregation moved into one of the flats behind the Dell,

which was rented back from the new owners, so that they could use its lounge room as their place of worship. Now, with the passing away of a number of the remaining members, the congregation has decided the time has come to cease holding these services. Arrangements have been made for those members still living at the Dell to get to the nearby Lowestoft church, and those who live in the town but have been part of the Oulton Broad church will be choosing to join with either Lowestoft or Great Yarmouth, which is also not too far away for some of them. The lease on the flat terminates at the end of April, and Sabbath 25th saw the last Sabbath worship service of the Oulton Broad church.

Although it has been creeping up on us steadily, it is nevertheless a sad moment, especially for those with memories of the



The group outside the flat used for worship

former days at the Dell.

Yet the story is not altogether finished. Ever since the sale of the Dell we have continued to run midweek meetings which have been enjoyed by both our members and a number of the residents of the home. With the closure of the flat, the owners of the home have asked us to continue with these services in one of the lounges within the home. So

Adventist-led meetings will continue for our members there and their non-Adventist friends. We value this opportunity to provide a spiritual service to the elderly in an environment where many are cut off from the churches they used to attend, and we are glad that they, in turn, value the offering we make in a spirit of ecumenical Christian outreach.

C. PEAKE

# A church for Bedford Central

Bedford Central was founded in 1921 and was officially established as a church in 1964. In common with most churches, a place of worship was our greatest challenge. Few in number and stretched for funds, we never lost the vision of one day owning our own premises. Bedford's dreams became reality when we generated enough funds to purchase a redundant Spastics Society property in an exclusive area of town. The property was valued at £500,000, way beyond our ability to afford, but it was reduced to £135,000. All we could say was, 'This is the Lord's doing.'

Now that we had acquired the property, our challenge was to find funds to demolish the large hall and the hydrotherapy pool to build a church. Again the faithful members, with the assistance of Area 7, the SEC and a number of sister churches, helped us to accomplish that. We have a beautiful building in which we can worship with pride. The official church opening took place on 29

November 2008, attended by the presidents of BUC and SEC, our previous pastor and represen-

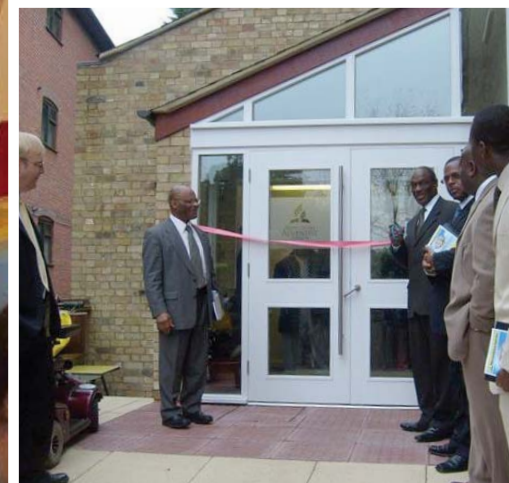


tatives from other churches, the builders and a local care home. Our special thanks to Pastor Roy Chisholm who worked tirelessly with his team to see the project through to completion.

We have witnessed a revival in Bedford Central church. Whereas our worship hall could only seat eighty people (with an overflow area where some felt cut off from the congregation), the sanctuary now has a capacity of approximately 150, and an adjacent mothers' room with a seating capacity of thirty. We have witnessed the baptism of five candidates in the lovely baptismal pool.

Bedford Central has again started a Pathfinders club and the Lord has provided able leaders for this essential programme. We have also introduced a Sunday morning manna prayer service at 6.30am. Bedford Central is being referred to as a mini United Nations in that we have at least twenty-five nationalities in attendance.

KONDWANI PHIRI AND RUTH SAM



## Lewisham Youth Week of Prayer

by Sam O. Davies

Photos: Tony Mackintosh

Lewisham youth celebrated this year's week of prayer with an evangelistic twist. The guest speaker, Pastor Eugene Hamilton, presented heart-warming and invigorating messages that struck a chord with the youth, resulting in a baptism of seven individuals on 28 March.

In the nightly near capacity attendances, the young people showed great enthusiasm for the week of prayer, some of them coming in their school uniforms and inviting friends to come along and witness the presentations. Each night was blessed with visitors who received gifts, including a Methodist minister invited by Pastor J. Phillip who attended three meetings.

Fourteen-year-old Vanessa Robinson, whose relationship with the church began through an invitation by a Pathfinder friend, was among the seven baptised. Vanessa has attended Pathfinder club meetings and Sabbath services for the past two years. Last year at a summer camp she expressed a desire to be baptised, but when the Pathfinder leader, Sister Dorothy, spoke with her parents about Vanessa's desire, they said no. She continued attending both club meetings and Sabbath worship nonetheless. However, on Wednesday when Pastor Hamilton made an appeal for baptism, she walked forward. She was asked to speak with her parents. Her conviction was too strong for her parents to say no this time round. It was refreshing to see her non-Adventist parents, who were accorded a very warm welcome by the church, come to witness and support their child's baptism. It was also a special day for Daniel Anti who was baptised on his birthday. Also baptised were husband and wife Elijah and Debbie Noel, Dorrett Wooley-Clarke, Tennesha Blackman and Brittnae Henry.

The baptism was conducted by Pastor James Phillip, who also extended the right hand of fellowship to the newly baptised.



Front left to right: Serene, Luke, Jordon, Melody and Pastor Esson. Back left to right: Linton, Ndumiso, Sashene, Hannah, Lawson, Roselys, Densel and David.

## NEC youth AdvANCE — again

Over two hundred and thirty young people convened for the second AdvANCE Conference at the Jubilee Conference Centre on Nottingham University campus over the Easter weekend. AdvANCE is an acronym for Adventist Apologetics Networking Conference on Evangelism and is a residential conference where we endeavour to equip and train the youth to share their faith effectively in a post-modern and secular society. Outstanding evangelists and youth trainers, including Louis Torres of Mission College, Don Macintosh of AFCOE, Matt Parra of ARISE, Lyle Southwell of It Is Written Oceania, along with Clifford Goldstein, Warren McDaniels and Peter Gregory presented a varied syllabus preparing the youth of the North England Conference to finish the work in their territory.

Plenary sessions were mingled with testimonies by Deniza Hush and Lyle Southwell, as well as workshops on Defending the Faith, Health Evangelism and Extreme Missions. Each evening there was a general training session conducted by Louis Torres which covered the important subjects: How to Detect Conviction, How to Make an Appeal, and How to Win a Soul. With his extensive life experience and many stories, these simple and yet profound lessons were taught in a very practical and meaningful way.

The highlight of the conference was Sabbath. In the morning we were blessed with a thought-provoking Sabbath School by Clifford Goldstein and a powerful message from the Conference president, Pastor Ian Sweeney. In the afternoon two hundred young people hit the streets of Nottingham with a simple and yet very effective method of outreach designed to reach the secular society, as they went knocking on doors in the area.

Despite this being a new experience for many and with only twenty minutes' training, we were all pleasantly surprised when they came back with seventy-five Bible study requests. The young people were so encouraged with the response from the community that the decision was made to go out again on Sunday afternoon, when another sixty-five Bible study contacts were made in the community. This was not just a useful training exercise to give those attending a memorable life experience but this outreach programme will form part of a cycle where these contacts will be followed up in the next few months by the ASI Youth

## Baptism at Plumstead

by Pastor S. Matthias Esson

On Sabbath 28 March, eight new members were added to the Plumstead Community church. They were Serene, Luke, Jordon, Melody, Sashene, Hannah, Roselys and David.

Pastor S. Matthias Esson conducted the

service. The sermon was entitled, 'Now that you are baptised: How do you make it?' The key text, Matthew 7:13-14 from *The Message* Bible, provided the challenge for a disciplined walk with Jesus. 'Don't look for shortcuts to God. The market is flooded with sure-fire, easygoing formulas for a successful life that can be practised in your spare time. Don't fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do. The way to life — to God! — is vigorous and requires total attention.'

He said that walking with Jesus is not a spare time activity. It requires a disciplined approach that calls for your total and full attention. 'You must be intentional about the spiritual disciplines of Bible study, prayer and witnessing, all for the purpose of developing a life of holiness.'

Others participating in the service included church elder Linton Smart, first elder Densel Harris, David Hanson-Bartholomew and Aldreana Somerville. The church clerk, Jennie McClymont, introduced the candidates to the church and then sent congratulatory e-cards to all of them after they were baptised.

ALAN HUSH, Youth director, NEC



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## Music for ADRA

This year, Oxford launched the ADRA-UK 2009 campaign with a wonderful sacred and classical music concert organised by Sophia Nicholls, music director. On 21 March, Oxfordshire-based professional Christian pianist, Michiyo Machida, stunned the audience with her impassioned performance of pieces by Beethoven and Chopin. The J. Ahn piano trio, three sisters based in Stanborough Park, provided an atmosphere of wonder as they played sacred pieces. Over 100 visitors from the local area and from the Health Living Supper club — a health

project run by the church — attended the concert, collecting over £600, a great start to the Oxford ADRA-UK campaign 2009. On 28 March, we were blessed again with a fantastic performance from the Newbold College Choir, directed by Dr Sandra Rigby-Barrett.

SOPHIA NICHOLLS

## Jim Hardy at 100

Following the recent report in *MESSENGER* when two senior members of Croscombe church, Jim and Doris Hardy, celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary, Jim has had cause to celebrate again, having reached the age of 100.



A celebration was held in the church hall on 5 April. This was attended by four generations of Jim's family, which included his son Philip, who lives with his wife near to his parents, grandsons Scott and Todd with their families, which of course included the five great-grandchildren who had all flown in specially from the USA. Also present were various relatives, church members, friends and acquaintances.

Jim and Doris never tire of testifying to the leading of God in their lives and are regularly present at Sabbath School and divine service each week.

YVONNE BAXTER

## Radio Caroline or radiant Carolyn?

Forty-five years ago, pirate radio station Radio Caroline hit the airwaves. From a rusting ship in the North Sea, Caroline changed the sound of British broadcasting.

A year later, another Carolyn started a career of a very different sort. Starting as a secretary in Granose Foods Limited, a quiet, hard-working and even-tempered Carolyn Stearman (later Bellamy) served, at various times, in several areas of the Church, climaxing with twenty-eight years as Treasury secretary at the British Union Conference.

On Thursday 26 March, three former treasurers joined with the present treasurer and the staff of the British Union Conference to celebrate her years of service on the occasion of her retirement.

Looking back to 1981, Pastor Maurice Musgrave stated: 'There is one thing that Carolyn was noted for, at least as far as I'm concerned, and that is the precision of the work she did.' When Basil Powell took the mantle of treasurer, he was grateful

for a secretary 'who always kept an even keel'. Having dealt with two treasurers, Carolyn set about initiating a third, Marcus Dove. 'There are always people who are supporting but are carrying out a vital role,' Marcus stated.

For the last eight years Carolyn has worked for Victor Pilmoor. 'They've all been very, very different in character and in the way they

have tackled the work,' Carolyn said in a very moving speech, 'but they have one thing in common, that is a great commitment to the work of the Lord.' As a somewhat exuberant personality, Victor appreciated Carolyn as 'someone who just stays calm and cool'. Carolyn's successor, Lucinda Calvert, added that she was 'humbled to have such large shoes to fill. It is a lot of

work and a very exciting department.'

Carolyn is retiring so she can spend more time with her husband, Paul, to manage their large allotment and to enjoy some travel. 'I'll miss you,' she told the staff, 'but I'll be back to visit, especially when you move back into your new premises.'

Carolyn will equally be missed by

the staff at the British Union, who all gave her personal greetings and best wishes at her farewell afternoon tea. Radio Caroline may have changed the face of British broadcasting, but without a doubt Carolyn Bellamy, in her quiet, efficient service, has made a very significant difference to the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in these isles.

VICTOR HULBERT



From left to right: M. B. Musgrave, Carolyn Bellamy, Victor Pilmoor, Basil Powell and Marcus Dove

# NEC Health Retreat

by Elizabeth Iheoma

The first NEC Health Retreat was held from Friday 17 to Sunday 19 April at Quorn Hall International Centre. The eye-catching logo, 'Spice of Life', included the acronym SPICES, which stands for Spiritual, Physical, Intellectual, Cultural, Emotional and Social. The activities of the weekend attempted to embrace those aspects.

Health coordinators from various churches in the NEC gathered to glean some essential tools of health evangelism, as well as gain confi-

dence in planning health events. Delegates arrived on Friday afternoon and were presented with their packs by a welcoming Val Grossett. In the evening, after a light meal, delegates were warmly welcomed to the event by Grace Walsh, NEC Health Ministries director, who also introduced the other two keynote speakers for the weekend – Elsie Staple, SEC Health Ministries director, and Pastor Volney Ham-Ying, director of SmartLife UK, a lifestyle coaching company. Pastor Ham-Ying



has trained and worked within the healthcare profession in England, Africa and the United States (Florida Hospital) and holds formal qualifications in environmental health and health education and promotion.

Furthermore, he is no stranger to the NEC, as it is where he began his ministerial internship over thirty years ago.

In his evening address, Pastor Ham-Ying reminded us of the health

benefits of laughter and shared the surprising statistics that children laugh at least 400 times a day, compared to an adult's rather unimpressive fifteen to twenty times. He then led delegates through an unusual but memorable icebreaker of producing hearty belly laughs while greeting one another. At first, delegates' laughs were rather timid, but Pastor Ham-Ying encouraged all to 'fake it till you make it', and the room was soon filled with the sound of gusty belly laughs, coupled with warm handshakes.

Sabbath morning devotion was marked by delegates quietly reflecting and meditating on a PowerPoint of rotating scriptural verses and meditational thoughts that encouraged one not to live a life of pretence but to draw closer to God. Testimonies relating to health, such as the health benefits of water and CHIP programmes, were shared among delegates. During the morning worship, delegates were passionately reminded that whenever Jesus healed someone it was an act of saving them. Pastor Ham-Ying asserted, 'When we move closer to God we move from death to living,' and a musical item on the cello was presented in between his talk by Elizabeth Iheoma. Grace Walsh then delivered an enthusiastic and motivating presentation, challenging delegates to be at the forefront of health training in the community. She stated, 'God has given us so much knowledge and many skills, we should be leading the way.' She also emphasised that physical exercise combined with good nutrition was key to good health and longevity. Her talk ended with a season of prayer for strength and courage to make changes in personal health habits, as well as to make a difference in the community.

been made, it looks as if it won't be costing the church anything.'

The Newport MicroCHIP programme is the second one to be run so far in the Welsh Mission under the leadership of Health Ministries sponsors Lil and Irving Saunders. A full CHIP programme, to which the general public were invited, has taken place at Swansea and is still to be reported.

## Seven graduate from Newport MicroCHIP programme

by John Surridge

In a brief graduation ceremony on the final day of Newport's eight-week MicroCHIP programme, seven students were presented with certificates by Welsh Mission Health Ministries sponsor Mrs Lil Saunders. Course presenter and qualified nurse Mr Evan Green was presented with a special facilitator's certificate and thanked for the time and commitment he had put into making the programme a success. Although it was his first time presenting a MicroCHIP programme, Evan has considerable experience of lecturing and public speaking, both as a health educator and as an elder and lay preacher in the Newport church.

The MicroCHIP programme was held in Newport's LIFEdevelopment Centre, a facility constructed in 2007 with money donated by Mrs Joan Gallivan in honour of her late husband Dr Terry Gallivan, who was active in the Newport church in his youth. Welsh Mission president, Pastor John Surridge, who was present at the graduation, commented on the fact that the facility was being used in exactly the way intended. 'As a former BUC Health Ministries director, Dr Gallivan would have been very pleased to know that the centre is being used in such a way,' he said. 'CHIP is all about lifestyle change, bringing a better understanding of Seventh-day Adventist health principles both to our members and to the wider public. That's also why the LIFEdevelopment Centre was set up here.'

Eleven people started the course but due to work and other commitments only seven were able to meet the CHIP graduation requirement of attending at least six of the eight sessions. Those who graduated were: Silverline Chigbo, Timothy Hope, Ellenor Nesbeth, Wendy Sammons, Harvey Scott, Olive Scott and Dothlyn Scott-Mitchell. Three of these, Ellenor, Silverline and Timothy, managed to attend all eight sessions.

All of those who attended are pleased with the results. Some have lost weight and one, who suffers from diabetes, has been able to cut down on

her insulin. Mike Sammons, who helped to coordinate the programmes, also points out that it is not an expensive programme to run. 'Everyone who came contributed £30 each to cover the cost of food,' he said, 'and with other donations that have



Course presenter Evan Green, with Welsh Mission Health sponsors, Lil and Irving Saunders



Graduates, leaders, and other attendees of the Newport MicroCHIP programme

## Joanne Claire Elmadjian (née Pain)

30 August 1964 – 26 March 2009

'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints' were the words from Psalm 116:15 that David Cox, pastor of the Nicosia Adventist church, Cyprus, used as his 'way of hope' for the funeral of Joanne Elmadjian on Thursday 9 April at the Stanborough Park church, Watford. Married to Alex Elmadjian and the mother of ten-year-old Aaron, she was described in the service as a 'chocolate-cake-making saint'. The youngest of eight children of Lincoln's Pain family, she grew up in a warm Adventist home and gave her life to the Lord in her teens. At age 19 she started work as secretary to the headmaster at Stanborough Secondary School. Then, after marrying Alex in 1992, she moved to Cyprus. While Alex worked in Communications for the Church, Joanne served as an administrative secretary and later as office manager for the Adventist Church in the Middle East. Outside her work she was actively involved in

church life and served passionately as Children's Ministries director and treasurer for the Nicosia church. A close friend and colleague, Valerie Fidelia, stated during the funeral service that these were sixteen years of 'work, worship and play'. She sang alto in the ladies' singing group, played the guitar for worship and immersed herself in developing creative ways to present Jesus as a children's friend. Her son, Aaron, was her special pride and joy. Sadly Joanne's life was cut short by pancreatic cancer. Surrounded by family members, she finally slipped to her rest on 26 March. Joanne, along with her family, wrestled with the unfairness of her sudden and painful illness. Yet, despite all her doubts and unresolved prayers for healing from around the world, she expressed that she was at peace with her Saviour. As a large congregation of extended family and friends said their tearful farewells, they lis-



tened to Paul King-Brown express her faith in the song, 'Potter's Hand', an expression of Alex's commitment to reunite one day with Joanne. As Pastor Cox said at the conclusion of his sermon, 'Not in time are we healed but in eternity.' The family would like to express their profound thanks to everyone who has extended love and support throughout the difficult months of Joanne's illness and to those who, in lieu of flowers, have donated to the Middle East Children's Scholarship fund.

[www.adventistmeu.org/joanne](http://www.adventistmeu.org/joanne)  
VICTOR HULBERT

## From 'disabled' to 'rock climber'

by Gene Kol, BUC National CHIP co-ordinator

'Tomorrow I will be taking the Pathfinders rock climbing.' These were the words of Abigail from the Manchester North church as she received her MicroCHIP training certificate. Abigail had been suffering for some time with back pain, radiating down her legs. She often felt incapacitated by the pain and thought that one day soon she would be in a wheelchair, cared for by her family. Then she got involved in her church's MicroCHIP training programme. She surprised herself by losing approximately 1½ stone. This enabled her to increase her exercise regime. She went from walking very slowly to running and walking for an hour regularly a couple of times a week. Abigail is excited about this significant health improvement and has applied the Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) principles to her family diet. The children are enjoying the changes in their mother's energy levels but sometimes they still miss their meat meals. Abigail has been encouraged

to make small changes until the children are used to their new diet. Abigail's is just one of the many stories you would hear at a MicroCHIP training graduation. There are real benefits from adopting the CHIP balanced lifestyle, focused around a plant-based diet, regular exercise, and faith in a God who will bless his children as they strive to live healthier lives.

The Coronary Health Improvement Project is a successful, scientifically proven programme that has been facilitated in the USA for the past twenty years. It was first introduced in the United Kingdom at the end of 2006. During the past two years 350 individuals have graduated from the train-the-trainer MicroCHIP programme in over forty churches, enabling well-equipped teams to facilitate the CHIP programme for their churches and communities.

In 2008 Ealing, London, saw the first UK CHIP programme facilitated by CHIP director Millie Williams and

Pastor Clive de Silva. Since 2009 is the Year of Evangelism, CHIP-UK has set a goal of running ten CHIP programmes across the UK. The first three CHIP programmes will run in Wales, Scotland and Manchester this spring. If you live in the area and wish to attend, please ensure that you register and book well in advance, as numbers are limited.

CHIP's founder Dr Hans Diehl will be visiting the UK in September 2009. The theme for his visit is 'CHIP – an Evangelistic Tool for the Post-modern Society'. He will be visiting in the north and south of England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Venues and dates to be announced.

If you wish to train a team with the MicroCHIP programme in order to facilitate a CHIP programme in your area or wish to find out more about Dr Hans Diehl's visit, please contact the BUC National CHIP co-ordinator Gene Kol (Ms) on 07966 713 469 or email [gkol@adventist.org.uk](mailto:gkol@adventist.org.uk).

### 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 would 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 tel: 07966713469.





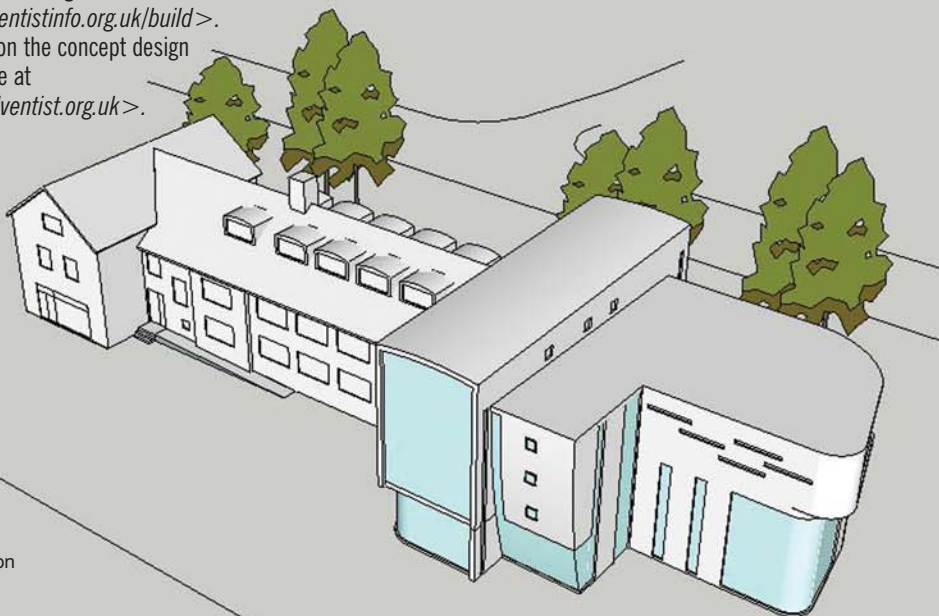
## <1 The new BUC building

the shop is open Monday to Thursday, 10.30am to 5pm and Friday 10am to 1pm.

Attention is now focusing on phase two of the restoration. Plans have been submitted to Watford Council for the rebuilding of the middle section of the BUC office where most of the offices were housed. In addition to restoring the former offices, plans include providing better toilet and kitchen facilities and adding dormer windows to provide additional office space on the second floor. It is anticipated that this section will be completed by December 2009.

Phase three will focus on the most severely damaged area of the building. The foyer, boardroom and administrative offices have had to be totally demolished. Plans are still being developed for this section with the idea that the rebuild will 'move away from little boxes and sharp edges' to provide a 'more rounded view to the world with the architecture raising the eyes upwards' – this according to Victor Pilmoor, BUC treasurer. Looking at the vision for the way the BUC will work in coming years, he quotes Winston Churchill, 'We shape our buildings, and afterwards our buildings shape us.' The concept drawings pictured here are a guide towards the way the final building will look. The modest expansion into the car park area will provide more meeting space and better mobility access, as well as presenting an uplifting profile for those approaching the office from the Watford direction.

For continued updates on the progress of the building programme and for a fully rotational 3D model of the concept drawing visit <[www.adventistinfo.org.uk/build](http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/build)>. Comments on the concept design are welcome at <[buc@adventist.org.uk](mailto:buc@adventist.org.uk)>.



Rear elevation

# Windows on to God

by Patrick J. Boyle

'If life hands you lemons, make lemonade,' is the optimistic response of the positive personality. The realities of life sometimes intervene and it requires someone else to make our lemonade for us for, try as we will, we can't do it.

Helen and Douglas House in Oxford is a unique institution, the first of its kind in the United Kingdom. It provides end-of-life care for severely disabled boys and girls and respite for their parents. Under the inspirational leadership of Audrey Balderstone and Pat Walton, the Stanborough Park church membership contributes to support this institution.

A major flower festival is planned for 26-28 June with the theme 'Windows on to God'. The aim is to raise the sum of £10,000 for Helen and Douglas House.

A visit from the Northampton Male Voice Choir was one of a series of events which are planned both to raise funds and generate interest and support for the flower festival in June.

The generous support of Nigel Phillips in arranging for the Northampton choir's visit in February raised the sum of £700. Several more preparatory events are planned to promote the festival.

Audrey's flower festivals are spectacular events. Any members and friends living within driving distance will find a visit in June rewarding. Refreshments are available on Friday and Sunday, 10am to 6pm. The festival is also open on Sabbath the 27<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 6pm. A preview evening takes place on Thursday 25 June. This is a ticket only event with a light supper. Sister



Francis Dominica, an Anglican nun who founded the hospice, will open the festival. A limited number of tickets are available from Audrey Balderstone at [abalderstone@btconnect.com](mailto:abalderstone@btconnect.com) or 01923 260270.

**DON'T MISS STANBOROUGH PARK FLOWER FESTIVAL 26-28 JUNE**

## And Finally...

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

When you get to your wits' end, you'll find God lives there.

People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road, and the back of the church.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.

Quit griping about your church. If it were perfect, you couldn't belong.

## ABC BOOK SALES

### June

NEC & SEC camp meeting 8-14 June

### ABC Shops

Watford, BUC. Now open  
10.30am-5pm, Monday-Thursday.  
10am-1pm Friday.  
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
May 22	8.56	9.08	9.07	9.32	9.35
29	9.05	9.17	9.17	9.43	9.45
Jun 5	9.13	9.25	9.25	9.52	9.54
12	9.18	9.30	9.30	9.59	10.00

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