



## The need for change

A report on the BUC Extraordinary Session – Sunday 17 May 2009  
by Victor Hulbert, Communication director, BUC



**F**uture constituency meetings of the British Union Conference will now be more efficient and streamlined as well as giving a greater level of input for delegates and more information for members as a whole.

A one-day Extraordinary Session of the BUC was convened at Stanborough Secondary School on Sunday 17 May specifically to consider constitutional changes affecting the way future Union Sessions will run. The main areas under consideration related to delegate numbers, the length of session, cost and a restruc-

turing of the way the Recommendations and Nominating Committees will work, allowing them to meet and make recommendations and nominations weeks in advance of the main session.

Delegates arrived early to an Evangelism Expo hosted by the various BUC departmental directors. Stands around the edges of the school gym gave opportunity for them to explore resources available to them for use in their local churches and communities. By noon most delegates had arrived and were treated to a one-hour act of worship. Hosted by Catherine Boldeau and David Neal, three choirs and an orchestral ensemble raised delegates' minds towards Heaven in a repertoire that ranged from lively Ghanaian and Filipino numbers to Schubert and 'Abba Father' performed by Newbold School children. It climaxed with a varied selection by the London Adventist Chorale, including a powerful rendition of 'My Tribute' by Romanian soloist Felicia.



1. BUC Executive secretary and president, Eric Lowe and Don McFarlane.
2. There were matters of constitutional minutiae.
3. BUC treasurer Victor Pilmoor: 'What is the best use of the Lord's money?'
4. Jim Huzzey who chaired the committee that looked at the options.
5. SEC president Sam Davis speaks from the floor.
6. Floor speakers Geoff Smith and Chris Peake.



## Cool Bible reading

by Des Boldeau, Youth director, BUC

Most Adventists were raised on the *King James Version*. Today the Bible is read for enjoyment as well as study. Which version you use depends on personal preference.

When Jesus lived, the Scriptures were available in the language read by ordinary folk. It was known as the *Koine* (or common) Greek. It was the language of the street, not that of the scholar. Today, the need exists to get the Gospel out on the streets and into the hands of ordinary people. This has led to lots of versions, translations and paraphrases being published. Here is a selection of such Bibles that I recommend to help nurture your relationship with God.

**The Message Bible** is a paraphrase by Eugene Petersen. This makes reading of the Bible sheer enjoy-

ment. It is fresh and exciting. Its language is modern and colloquial and it uses descriptive and colourful words. Try reading in Romans 12 the section titled: 'Place your life before God', as his language brings home very graphically what it means to give yourself to God on a daily basis.

**The Word on the Street** by Rob Lacey is interesting and tells the story in manageable chunks for easy digestion. Look for the essence of the stories and the truth behind them. It brings the Word of God to life. Don't use it for deep theological Bible study, but for fresh insights and application for everyday use.

**The Green Bible**\* refers to itself as 'a green letter edition'. Traditional American Bibles feature the words of Christ printed in red ink. In the *Green Bible* the passages that speak

directly to the project's core message are in green. Features at the back of this Bible include 'The Green Bible Trail Guide', which leads the reader through a selection of Bible passages touching on six green themes that appear through the biblical narrative. There is a section on practical steps that can be taken by individuals, families and groups and a list of green organisations to contact called 'Where do you go from here?' There is a 'Green Subject Index' or concordance. This is an excellent edition of the Bible that will hopefully correct a widespread misunderstanding in certain parts of the Church that green issues are not a Christian concern.

**The New Century** has been around for a while now and the publishers have produced several different editions. The one that still holds my interest is the Youth edition. Some say that if you find the NIV too taxing and the *Good News* too easy, then the *New Century* is a perfect balance. The 'life files' with their

application and subject index for many teenage and youth experiences are a neat resource for you guys. **The Brick Testament** is a story approach for children and is especially recommended for parents with younger children.

I hope that some of these renditions of the Bible will re-ignite the desire for the Word or will further grow your interest in deeper study of the Word of God.

\* based on the *New Revised Standard Version*

### Faith

Found scratched on the wall of a cell in a death camp in Germany during World War II:

*'I believe in the sun, even if it is not shining.*

*I believe in the wind, even if I cannot see it.*

*I believe in God, even when he is silent.'*



# You're a born chooser!

David Marshall

One thing I've learned over the three decades in which I've occupied the editor's chair is that I'm a born chooser. Read that last word again to make sure you've read it right!

At some level, I have (almost) always known it, of course. But what I have learned over the last three decades is how to exercise my choice.

I should go so far as to say that the greatest discovery of my whole generation has not been the iPod or the Worldwide Web, it has been that human beings can alter their lives by altering their attitudes of mind.

What first brought the be-a-chooser discovery to the surface of my thinking was the story of death camp survivor Victor Frankl. Frankl was a Viennese Jew who was moved by the Nazis from one concentration camp to another. He even spent several months in Auschwitz. Whenever he was moved to a new camp the guards stripped him of everything he had and all he wore. The Nazis found Jews easiest to deal with when they were minus their dignity – and everything else that marked them as individual human beings. When they had been reduced to barely alive skeletons the camp guards could treat them with a viciousness that they would not use on their cattle. Cattle, after all, had value, whereas the very existence of these Jews was resented by the Nazis.

But Frankl discovered 'that everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms – to choose one's own attitude'. Notice that: *the last of the human freedoms*. 'Man can preserve a vestige of spiritual freedom,' Frankl discovered, 'an independence of mind.' The choosers, Frankl came to realise, were the micro-minority who would survive. The Few.

The opposite of a *chooser* is a *reactor*. We can react to circumstances, to the things around us, to other people – and permit them to define who we are. 'There's always *something!*' Right? Something to send our blood pressure up – or our morale down. Praise that makes us soar. Critics

that make us roar.

A reactor is always at the mercy of those who can pierce his defences. The driver who cuts him up on the roundabout or who honks when he fails to achieve a Le Mans start at the lights. The surly girl at the checkout or the officious pseudo-superior at work.

But isn't it a bit sad to allow other people to manipulate and determine our personalities? Isn't it wise to reserve a core that they can't reach? 'Independence of mind' was Frankl's phrase. If he could manage it without a stitch on the skin-covered bone frame he thought of as himself, we should be able to do it on three square meals a day and a regular income.

Why let a perfect stranger – or *anyone* – decide what sort of a day you will have, or what sort of a person you will be?

Biochemists tell us we are victims of our body chemistry. Biologists that we are victims of our genes. Psychiatrists that we are victims of our heredity/childhoods. Science has linked delinquency with diet, alcoholism with vitamin deficiency, and habitual criminality with chemical reactions in the body.

But what about the delinquents who choose to change their diets? The alcoholics who (daily) 'choose not to drink'? The habitual criminal who is born again?

Hey, we're not trapped in a pre-programmed computer. Our personalities are not locked into behavioural patterns that can't be changed.

Since infancy we've been brainwashed with the idea that we are creatures of *chance*: evolution. In fact, day by day and hour by hour we are creatures with *choice*: Christianity.

We're not born victims. We're born choosers.

True enough, people are always keen to pass their verdicts upon us. Over the years I've had outlandish verdicts pro and outlandish verdicts con. Perhaps you have, too? The trick is not to accept those verdicts! Why? The only verdict that *really* counts is Christ's. 'This is the verdict: Light has come into the world' and 'whoever lives

by the truth comes into the light.' (John 3:19-21.)

Since darkness reigns in the world, light precipitates a crisis whenever it arrives. And it arrives when we choose light over darkness. The phrase 'lives by the truth' used by John literally means *does the truth*.<sup>1</sup> God's salvation light is not just a matter of illumination; it is a matter of regeneration. 'It is not just seeing, but *new being*.'<sup>2</sup> New being makes a radical difference. It's what makes Christianity a religion of miracles. And it can override genes, body chemistry and any amount of pre-programming.<sup>3</sup> 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.'<sup>4</sup>

Light and truth, life and death – are choices.

The apostle Paul struggled with his genes, his body chemistry, his pre-programming. He admitted, 'My own behaviour baffles me. . . . I know from experience that the carnal side of my being can scarcely be called the home of good!'<sup>5</sup> 'It is an agonising situation,' he wrote, 'and who can set me free from the prison of this mortal body?'

We *are* victims of heredity – *unless* we find a way to override it. Paul wrote, 'I thank God that there is a way through Jesus Christ our Lord.'<sup>6</sup>

*There is a way!*

The Law defines sin so it can't help in removing it.

We need to choose, and to choose Jesus.

Through his perfect life, death and resurrection we are all born choosers.

And it's not just *attitude* that we are empowered to choose, though a right choice of attitude is crucial to our survival chances. It is *life, light, salvation*.

Much depends upon how we exercise the right to choose.

References:

<sup>1</sup>Bruce Milne, *The Message of John* (IVP), page 78. <sup>2</sup>*Ibid* page 79. My italics. <sup>3</sup>2 Corinthians 5:17. <sup>4</sup>1 Corinthians 15:22. <sup>5</sup>Romans 7:15, 18, J. B. Phillips, *The New Testament in Modern English* (HarperCollins). <sup>6</sup>Romans 7:25, Phillips.

## Enhancing Health

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

### Allergies

Over the next six months, the health page will be dealing with current health issues in the news. This will give an opportunity to highlight emerging research, analyse its potential impact and explore the discussions surrounding the reports.

We commence with April's news item on allergies and will be analysing the report over a series of three articles.

In an article published 14 April 2009, Sue Emmett, reporting for BBC news, revealed that several specialist UK clinics are seeing a significant rise in the number of patients suffering from multiple allergies, where several allergies manifest at the same time. Speaking with staff from specialist clinics in Liverpool, Cambridge, Birmingham and London, the practitioners identified that they were finding symptoms becoming more severe, causing acute pain and in some cases even death. Among the sufferers was a high proportion of children. The findings also demonstrate that someone with a severe allergy

was more likely to have other allergies as well.

Reports now indicate that the UK has one of the highest diagnosed allergy rates in the world.

Expressing concern at the increase in allergies, Dr Jonathan North, a consultant immunologist in Birmingham, said: 'We used to say that 15% of the population had an allergy of some sort. Now the figure is nearer 40%. As well as the well-documented increase in prevalence, the proportion of complex/multiple allergy cases is increasing.'

#### Culprits

Among the suggested culprits for the rise in allergies have been climate change adversely affecting respiratory conditions; changes in food and exposure to varied diets in children at a younger age; and modern living with toxins in detergents and cosmetics affecting skin conditions such as eczema. (Next issue explores these claims.)

#### What is an allergy?

It is useful to know whether you have an allergy

to something specific or intolerance to a particular substance. Here are the differences.

#### Allergies or intolerance?

- An allergy occurs when the immune system reacts to a harmless substance such as a food or pollen, and the body responds as if that substance is unsafe.
- A severe allergic reaction can cause the body to go into a life-threatening shock known as anaphylaxis.
- An intolerance does not affect the immune system.
- An intolerance is being unable to digest certain foods such as lactose in milk.
- An intolerance is generally not life-threatening and the symptoms are less severe.

Next issue we examine suggested allergy causes.

#### Good health!



# Involving children in the sermon

by Karen Holford

**I am sick to the heart of seeing how churches treat children during the worship service – holding them down in their seats for an hour and a half, punishing them for the tiniest fidget, not letting them even look at the pictures in a *Children's Bible* – all in the name of reverence. Where do we get the idea that hurting our children helps them to be reverent? Reverence is born in the heart that is in awe of God, not in forcing children to look as if they are sitting still and listening.**

If you ask many children in our churches today what they like and don't like about church, most of them will say that the worship services are boring. There is nothing for them, except perhaps a children's story. In many churches they are expected to sit perfectly still and listen to things they cannot understand for an hour or so. The experience of most of the children in our churches each week is one that is potentially *anti*-evangelistic. If we want our children to choose to become members of our churches, God invites us to be willing to make radical changes to the way we do church.

We need to re-examine our ideas about reverence in church, as many of them are cultural and historic, expressing Victorian ideas about children. They are not biblical, and our current understanding of how God has created children to learn, and what helps to open their hearts to his love, requires us to reconsider our approach to the children in our congregations. Throughout the Bible we see worship taking place in different ways. People walked with God, built altars, worshipped him on mountaintops, in tabernacles and temples. Jesus sat on the hillside or stood in a boat and taught people in the open air. The early church met in people's homes, and each person brought a spiritual contribution to the meeting times. When the children shouted in the temple in Matthew 21:12-17, Jesus was delighted with their response and chided the church leaders for their harsh negativity.

When we hold too tightly to our own traditions about how church should be, rather than adapting to the needs of our current context, we are in danger of becoming like the Pharisees. Are we saying that our traditions of reverence are more important than saving our children? Jesus told adults to do everything possible to save the children and suggested that any person whose words or actions pushed children away from experiencing his love needed to be drowned in a lake (Matthew 18:1-9).

It is not irreverent for a child to look at age-appropriate Bible story books in church, hold a soft toy, complete a Bible activity worksheet, or draw a picture of Noah's ark. It is much better for a child to feel comfortable and happy in church than to feel angry and resentful.

The sermon time has traditionally been a time 'just for the adults' where children should be neither seen nor heard! But Jesus told stories that everyone could understand and used living illustrations from the world around him. He didn't preach in churches with plain walls, but outside, where children were free to move around, pick flowers, watch boats on the lake and look for lost sheep on distant hills. They clambered on his lap and loved to be close to him.

This month we are sharing some ways in which children can be creatively involved in the sermon. If you are a preacher, try to use at least one of these ideas, or something similar, the next time you preach a sermon.

Remember that sermons take place during the time that most children would usually have lunch at school. They are tired, hungry and it's difficult for them to sit still on hard chairs. At school they are used to a different learning structure, where they can move around and explore things as they learn through all five of their senses.

Let's have the heart of Jesus for our children. Let's be wise and generous enough to let go of some of our own favoured traditions and create church services that will keep our own children attracted to Jesus.

## Ten ways to involve the children in the sermon:

- As you write your sermon, think about how the children will hear what you say and which points will be relevant to them. Pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire you to find fresh and creative ways to involve the children in your sermon. If you find it hard to be creative, ask your local Children's Ministries leaders to help you come up with different ideas, or contact your Mission, Conference or Union Children's Ministries leaders for help with ideas and resources. Please give at least two weeks' notice before your service if you are asking a busy person to help you.
- Tell the children's story during the sermon. This can break up the long sermon time for the children and give them something to listen out for. Otherwise they can often find it very hard to listen to the sermon as they have often learned that nothing else happens for the children in a church service once the story has finished.
- Be creative about involving the children in the theme of the service. If you are telling the story about Noah you could hide plastic animals in 7s and 2s around the church for the children to find. These could then be placed inside a large ark – a cardboard box would be fine! Gift wrap objects that help to tell your sermon and invite the children to open them. One pastor places a surprise object in a special bag which he takes to church each week. The children can't wait to help him open the bag during the sermon. Each week the object is chosen to help the children learn how much God loves them.
- Ask a teacher or scientist to involve the children in a science or nature experiment as an illustration during the sermon time.
- Use attractive photographs to illustrate your sermon or PowerPoint slides so that you keep the children's attention. Hide the picture of a small object on more than half the slides. You can choose an image that is relevant to the sermon theme, such as a stone, lamp, coin, and so on. Ask the children to look for the hidden pictures quietly and secretly and count how many they can find.
- Create a simple worksheet that is linked to the message and give it to the children for them to

complete during the sermon. This is not being irreverent, because it helps them to think about the sermon, and many children actually listen better when they are doing something else at the same time. There are many books of copiable worksheets on a wide range of themes. The Children's Ministries departments can help you to find worksheets for specific ages and themes.

- Just before the sermon hand out a small ball of play dough to every child. Crayola's Model Magic is clean, non-messy and soothing on the skin. Invite the children to model something that relates to the sermon or a scene from the Bible story. After the service let the children display their models and tell you why they chose to make their creation. The models can be taken home to dry out and be kept, or the dough/clay can be returned to a sealed container to be used during another service.
- Give each child in your church a special Spiritual Memory box. This is a place where they can collect items that are spiritually significant to them. Each week choose a small and inexpensive object that has a link to your sermon and give one to each child as they leave church. Make the connection between your message and the item very clear, and remember that under-7s may find it hard to understand abstract meanings for objects. You could give out a large nail when talking about Jesus' death, a small piece of map or tiny compass when talking about how God gives us direction, a tiny smiley person when talking about joy, and so on. Encourage the children to use the boxes during their own worships and family devotional times to remind them of God's loving care. A notebook can be added to the box so that they can write down what each item represents, and other ideas they may have.
- Give older children a piece of squared paper and a pencil and ask them to create a simple crossword or word-search puzzle using the key words in your sermon, plus other words that they hear you use. Or ask them to make a word search using as many words as possible from your key texts. This helps them to concentrate on what you are saying and helps them to remember the important parts of your message.
- Dress a few children as the characters in your chosen Bible story and help them to create tableau scenes to illustrate the story. You could also give them cards with clearly written words for them to speak at the appropriate moment. Talk to the children about how they would feel if they were different characters in the story to add another dimension to the Bible story. Ask the children to share their ideas for ways in which they could be involved in your sermon times.

For a complete set of the ideas for involving children in your church, visit the Children's Ministries Resources at [www.secadventist.com](http://www.secadventist.com)

Also visit [www.barnabasinchurches.co.uk](http://www.barnabasinchurches.co.uk) for dozens of fresh ideas under their 'Ideas' tab.

## FACTS TO REMEMBER

- Thirty percent of the children we reach for Jesus stay faithful to him all their lives, but only 3% of those over 18 who encounter Jesus for the first time as an adult will accept and follow him.
- It is more cost-effective to focus our evangelism on the under-10s than on the over-20s.



# JLS: Operation Take Back

by Pastor Royston Smith, chaplain  
Ruth Pearson, deputy head



Tears filled the eyes of not a few teachers as they experienced the first baptism at the John Loughborough School for over ten years. This was a week that will linger in the minds of all those who witnessed 'Operation Take Back', the title of the school's Week of Prayer. At the end of this Spirit-filled week, one young lady was baptised by our chaplain, Pastor Royston C. Smith, while nine others have requested Bible studies. Truly, students, staff and everyone were blessed at the end of the week.

Our speaker Pastor Daniel D. Saugh, a native of Trinidad, now resides in Canada. He has travelled extensively throughout the world, preaching and teaching the Word to young people. From the beginning it was evident that there was something special about this young, vibrant and animated preacher – his immediate connection with the students, his ability to get positive responses to questions raised, and his method of breaking down complex messages into simple, student-friendly ones. This irresistible pastor

had students and teachers alike eating every word spoken.

Even though Chaplain Smith was responsible for the programme, it was the pen of Louanne Sampson that designed the programme. She ensured that the programme was student-led and student-directed. Prayers, Scripture readings, songs and everything else were done by the talented and dedicated students of John Loughborough School. To create a spur, Ms Sampson blessed us with her voice on the first morning. This set the scene for all of the musical items. Jayden Mitchell-Brown held us spellbound on Tuesday, Aishat Otun's piece on the violin on Wednesday was sublime, Sector and Sheree Barnes' harmony kept us on the edge of our seats, and Adaia Bwoga and friends brought the house down on Friday

morning. Equally, thanks must be given to Asher McKenzie (head boy) and Victoria Soyam (head girl) for getting fellow pupils to participate cheerfully. Moreover, the singing of all the students was a foretaste of an orchestra in total synchronisation.

One of the highlights of the week was taking our students to a local Adventist church. This was the brainchild of our esteemed director of Education, Ms Opal Johnson-Christie. Three coaches hired by South England Conference took over 200 pupils along with staff to the Tottenham West Green Road church. For some students and staff, this was their first entrance into an Adventist church. Each pupil was led down the aisle by a JLS prayer warrior. There they sat quietly and meditatively, waiting, anticipating something special. Praise and worship were led by four year-nine pupils. Welcome and opening prayer were offered by resident minister, Pastor David Burnett. Our Education director presented an overview on the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Sector and Sheree Barnes set the scene with a Spirit-filled meditation, before Pastor Saugh preached a modern-day version of the David and Goliath story.

believe but knew and respected the work of the Adventist Church. She explained that her late friend was saved, along with her infant son, from the Holocaust by Seventh-day Adventists. The dear friend was a convert to the Adventist faith for the rest of her life. The lady gave generously and thanked us.

When the young see their parents involved in a worthwhile cause and hear stories such as these, it builds a strong sense of purpose and a desire to serve the King of kings and Lord of lords. Hannah Smith (7) and her sister Athee (6), Adam McKerrow (11) and Adjani Doughma (10) deserve our thanks for the effort they put into the ADRA appeal 2009.

PATRICK MCKERROW



Left to right: Hannah Smith, Adam McKerrow, Athee Smith and Adjani Doughma

# Training in Adventist Muslim Relations

by Pastor Petras Bahadur,  
SEC AMR director

Some years ago Newbold College offered a course on Islamic Studies but this is not in place anymore. So we in the Adventist Muslim Relations department, seeing the need for pastors and lay people to have a good understanding of Islam, have organised a six-month course on Islam.

The one-year Islamic Studies course at Newbold used to cost approximately £7,000 in fees alone, but now this six-month course will cost only £125!

The course will take place as follows:  
**Frequency** – Once a month (every third Sunday of the month)  
**Dates** – 17 May, 21 June, 19 July, 20 September, 18 October, 15 November  
**Graduation** – 20 December  
**Venue** – The Advent Centre, 12 Crawford Place (off Edgware Road), Westminster, London, W1H 5HD

This very special course, called *Encountering the World of Islam*, is organised by the World Mission

Institute, USA. You will receive a certificate at completion. Every topic will be covered by professors and scholars coming from across the world to lead in the presentations. These presenters are authorities on Islam and evangelism. Topics covered will be: History of Islam, Expansion of Islam, Spiritual World of Islam, Cultural Barriers, Theological Issues and Approaches to Evangelism. We have limited places, so please register for this course on time to avoid disappointment. Please send an email to my secretary Mrs Sophia Vontzalidis: [svontzalidis@secadventist.org.uk](mailto:svontzalidis@secadventist.org.uk) or call the South England Conference on 01923 232728.

## Good Friday witness

Clapton church, along with Holloway's Pathfinder band, marched around the Hackney community on Good Friday, making our presence known and letting the community know that 'Jesus saves'. It was a day filled with rejoicing as we marched to the glory song, singing, 'When the saints go marching in', giving the community that hope and the blessed assurance of the resurrection and Second Coming of Jesus Christ. *KAREN HARLEY*



# A life of volunteering

Lynn Thomas, who attends Brixton church, came to England from the West Indies in 1963. This was a happy but sad time for her as she left behind her family. However, to make up for leaving them behind she threw herself into doing voluntary work, from which she gained a great deal of satisfaction. Even when her children were growing up, she found the time to continue doing this work, always having in the back of her mind that someone would be looking after the people she had left behind in Jamaica.

She says, 'When I came to this country I left my parents at home in Jamaica. I felt that whenever I did something over here to help someone, God would do some good for my parents. Even though they have now passed away, I'm still doing it for my children and grandchildren and everyone who might be left out.'

Now, after working tirelessly for thirty-six years as a volunteer, her hard work has been recognised and, after winning the regional and then the national award, Lynn was handed the Marsh Christian Trust 2008 UK Award



for supporting older people. She continues to visit people's homes to keep them company and to make sure that they are not left out. She has also been a school governor and a St John Ambulance volunteer and holds her annual elderly tea party, supported by various departments at Brixton church. Carolyn Robertson from Contact the Elderly said, 'Lynn is amazingly caring and considerate and obviously has great empathy with elderly people. We are privileged to have people like Lynn volunteering for us.'

VALERIE MOODIE

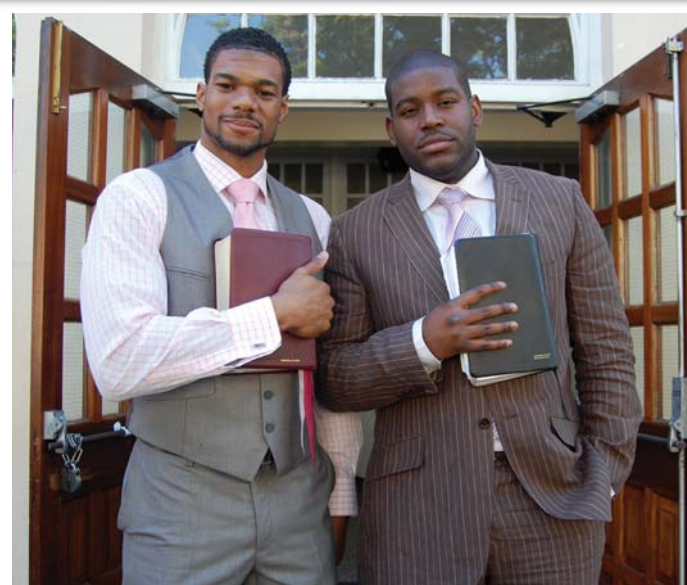
## Into the fold

Three candidates from Mitcham church were baptised by Pastor Arthur Campbell on Sabbath afternoon 31 January. The service was held at Wimbledon church. Church members from Mitcham, Kingston and Wimbledon joined forces with families and friends and joyfully sang praises to the Lord Almighty for leading Paulette Ffrench, Howard Ffrench and Royston Mckenzie-Williams into the fold. Husband and wife, Paulette and Howard, stood side by side in the pool and dedicated their lives to Christ, after which Royston also professed his commitment to the Lord. It was a lovely and heart-warming service filled with lively singing, special readings and a special musical contribution.

Pastor Campbell based his sermon on Ephesians 6:10-18. He urged the candidates and the congregation to be prepared at all times to fight Satan's temptations by putting on the armour of God and holding the shield of faith.

Pastor Sam Neves, the pastor for Wimbledon church, played an active part in the programme and assisted Pastor Campbell in the baptismal pool.

LUCY KANU



# Holloway Youth Revival: 17 baptisms

groups which met for Bible study during the week: Jeremiah Bonner and Leo Carter.

Eight of the baptismal candidates were young people aged from 9 to 18 years. As B. Rutherford, Holloway's Bible worker, aptly declared: 'Devil, you've lost once again!' before Clarence and Kareem Riley-Guishard entered the baptismal pool. There was a pensive moment, as Pastor Richard Holder reminded the congrega-

tion how much hope these young men had brought to a community where knife and gun crime was still prevalent. God had spared their lives to save their lives.

Each candidate was honoured with songs and readings rendered by friends and family. The father of Trevina and Trevona Jennings sang 'Amazing grace'. Nola Hopkins, 15, had a song and poem dedicated to her by her friends and sister. And the sound of Aca-pella accompanied Georgina Anderson and Vanessa James, both aged 15, two of the first teenagers to enter the pool. The youngest yet determined member to enter the pool was 9-year-old Alyaj-Jada Chunda, who had grown up in the church under the guidance of her grandmother, Sister Spence.

The surge of young candidates was the result of years of attending Bible study groups, Pathfinders and the witness of the youth to their friends. This was confirmed during Holloway's recent Youth Revival the same weekend, a response to the positive feedback from the Youth Week of Prayer held at the beginning of March. The two preachers responsible for the meetings were students of Newbold, Micah Campbell and Andrew Davis, the latter on placement at Holloway.

RANETTE PRIME



Sabbath 25 April will reside in the hearts of the Holloway members as the occasion of a most impressive baptismal service.

It was impressive for many reasons. Each of the fifteen baptismal candidates had journeyed far and wide to declare publicly Jesus Christ

as their Lord and Saviour, four of them quite literally: Sonto Mashele of South Africa, Gillian Tembo-Oke of Nigeria, Musa Maphosa of Zimbabwe, and Vivien Goddard-Quildon of Trinidad. Joining the women were two men who had found Christ through their service to the church and the regular small

gation how much hope these young men had brought to a community where knife and gun crime was still prevalent. God had spared their lives to save their lives.

Joining the two young men was Stevie Tutaloamo, 15, whose eagerness and enthusiasm were echoed by the youthful congregation that

## High Wycombe evangelism

In keeping with the Year of Evangelism focus, the three Adventist churches in High Wycombe decided to look at ideas that were slightly 'outside of the box'. Within the last three months, the Micklefield, Sands and Amersham churches have

embraced varying methods of spreading the Gospel of Christ within the community.

Pastor Andrew Leonce's enthusiastic drive in the district has resulted in all the churches having a strategic plan for the next twelve months.

- The distribution of the **Amazing Facts' 'Final Events' DVD**. This has already proved to be successful. Bible studies with members of the public have already begun, and thousands of the DVDs have been distributed in the homes of the community.
- One Sabbath each calendar month the church is dedicated to move actively **'From talk to action'**. Every family is assigned an area of the town to work in door-to-door ministry.
- The most challenging and probably the most visible



method of evangelism is taking place in High Wycombe town centre every Tuesday. The churches in the district have launched an **Adventist Christian market stall – 'Health and Happiness'**. Church members have volunteered their time to engage with the passers-by, sell Christian literature, share the DVDs and promote a healthy lifestyle.

The stall opened on 31 March in a prominent position in the high street, and to date many members of the public have commented on how good it was to experience a Christian presence. The witnessing opportunities are tremendous.

To complement the Adventist health seminars running in the town for some years now, we will be introducing a health foods section to the stall.

The distribution of free health literature has also been very successful and has proved to be yet another way of introducing the public to the Adventist lifestyle.

CAROL LAYNE

Stars

Christian Stars

### Heaven-seekers!

What's your bedroom like? Is it messy and full of your toys, heaps of clothes and the things you need for school? Does your room have a theme like trains, boats, butterflies or flowers? If you could make your room special, what would you do? Did you know that God is making a special room for you in Heaven, right now? He knows exactly what you like doing and how you like your room, and he's preparing the perfect place just for you!

My friend likes bears and he hopes that God will put a real brown bear in his heavenly room, a bear that will hug him when he wants to sit down and rest, or when he wants to go to sleep. I think I'd be happy just to be in Heaven with my loving Father God, where no one ever hurts or cries, and where I can learn about all the flowers and animals and stars.

When you think of Heaven, what are you looking forward to most? Ask the people in your family what they think will be the best thing about being in Heaven and pray that you'll all be there together one day.

### Heavenly room craft

This is a fun thing to do on a wet Sabbath afternoon! Find a strong shoebox that nobody wants and then make it into a model of your heavenly home. You can turn it upside down and just decorate the outside, or you can pretend the lid is a roof, and decorate the inside, too. Use scraps of junk, fabric, gold paper and anything else you can find to make furniture and decorations for your heavenly room.

### Heavenly prayer

*In my Father's house are many rooms. . . . I am going to prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me. (John 12:1-3)*

Have you seen a TV programme where they surprise people by decorating their houses? Would you like your bedroom to be redecorated? Draw a picture of the tools they could use and what it would look like.

Take some time to think about the words in the text where Jesus promises to prepare a super room for you in a heavenly mansion. Close your eyes and imagine what it will be like.

Imagine the colours of the countryside around it and the people you will see. Try drawing this scene.

Now think about how you will feel when you finally meet Jesus. Does it give you a warm glow just thinking about the perfect future God plans for you? Tell him how much his promise means to you. Thank him for letting you know what a wonderful future he has prepared for you and tell him how much you look forward to being in Heaven with him.

### Heavenly stone search

In Revelation 21:19-21, John mentions thirteen precious/semi-precious stones and metals that will be used to build 'The New Jerusalem' (another word for Heaven). See if you can find them in this word-search puzzle.

C	S	A	R	D	O	N	Y	X	A	B	C
C	H	A	L	C	E	D	O	N	Y	D	J
H	N	R	D	L	A	R	E	M	E	F	A
R	A	E	O	J	A	S	P	E	R	G	C
Y	I	H	I	S	J	T	K	L	B	G	I
S	L	M	N	O	O	P	R	S	E	O	N
O	E	T	U	P	V	P	E	A	R	L	T
L	N	W	A	Y	Z	A	H	D	Y	D	H
I	R	Z	A	B	C	E	G	R	L	I	J
T	A	K	M	O	R	T	V	Y	A	B	C
E	C	D	E	R	I	H	P	P	A	S	E
A	M	E	T	H	Y	S	T	F	H	I	E

Amethyst  
Beryl  
Carnelian  
Chalcedony  
Chrosophrase  
Chrysolite  
Emerald  
Gold  
Jacinth  
Jasper  
Pearl  
Sapphire  
Sardony

Find a piece of A3 paper or card. Draw, paint or make a collage of what you think Heaven will look like. Revelation chapters 21 and 22 will give you some good clues.

Send it to 'Children', British Union Conference, Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JZ by 31 July 2009. Remember to write your name and address on the back of your masterpiece. The best submissions will be posted on the website.

### Angel food!

Plan a meal with your family where everything you eat is food that you might eat in Heaven! What do you think you would eat, and what foods do you eat everyday that you might not eat in Heaven? You can always choose your favourite fruits and ask an adult to help you make a super-healthy and delicious smoothie!

### Heavenly memory verse house

*In my Father's house are many rooms. . . . I am going to prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me. John 12:1-3, NIV.*

Use a pencil to make a very faint outline of a house on a sheet of paper. Then write the memory verse along the lines you have drawn, so that the words are written in the shape of a house. Inside the verse outline write some of the different things you'd like to do when you're living in Heaven.

# Manor of hope

by Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication director

It is not your average Adventist congregation. There are more children than adults. Visit any Sabbath morning and you discover that somehow both age and racial differences between core members and the community seem to have been bridged in a way that gives great hope for the future. Children's Sabbath School time is more like Pathfinders or an activity club, and the kids are very enthusiastic. Family worship is a little noisy and is stripped down to the essentials so as to be understandable to the 'un-churched' from the troubled area of Manor, Sheffield. There is always lunch.

Core members from Sheffield's two churches chose to move into this difficult area of the city some seven years ago. Led by Carlton Lee, and with much prayer, patience and a lot of door knocking, they have really become a community church, attracting families from social housing in the local area.

'One of the positive things about Manor has been the fact that both black and white children and adults have been attracted to the Manor church from the local community,' Andrew Yesudian states. Not everyone understands their way of working – but parents and children in the area see the difference. Andrew argues that churches need to change their way of thinking. He is thrilled that his church can hold onto the traditional theological values of Adventism but develop a programme where you feel welcome, whatever your background.

Chatting comfortably on one side of the church are teenage mums with their babies. Children from varied backgrounds are welcomed and obviously enjoy being there. Adults are being influenced as well. Clinton Caine started attending on and off about two years ago. Now he plays guitar in the worship band – his skilful finger-work making a significant difference to the quality of worship.

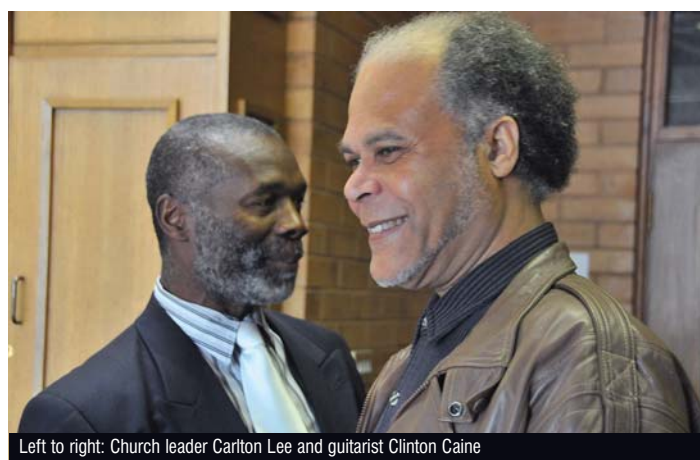
God has blessed the Manor Newstart group with two youth from the community committing their lives to Jesus through baptism. With the increasing number of young persons

attending, a recent trip organised by the group took a minibus full of youth to Aberdaron, north Wales, for a youth weekend. For some it was the first time camping and the first time leaving England. Commenting on the weekend and the increase of young persons attending Manor, Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt says, 'We are excited about this and the way in which God is blessing.'

Meeting in St Swithans Anglican church, the core group have a good working relationship with the Anglican parish and the community. Members have just produced 5,000 attractive cards, reminding residents in the area of their presence and most Sabbath afternoons they will spend up to an hour knocking on doors and talking with residents.

Visit Manor and you will find a warmth and passion essential to worship and witness. People choose to come to Manor because they know they are making a difference. Andrew states they are keen on outreach and retention. 'At one time we were worried about reaching out to the majority community,' he says, 'but equally we realise that many of our own children are dropping away fast. We needed to do something that reverses the trend, making the Adventist message and mission relevant. This is what Manor looks to do.'

This is a different form of evangelism. Manor members have chosen a weekly and daily commitment that after seven years of hard work is making a difference. This year the district churches of Sheffield will be joining with Manor in a week of evangelism, consisting of a Noah's Ark Playscheme, health talks, a street and garden clean-up, barbecue and presentations of the Gospel of Jesus in a variety of styles appropriate to the local community. This will be the first week-long evangelistic event but not a one off, as each week's worship service is evangelism in action. Sheffield Manor hopes to organise as an official church in the coming months. But they are very positive that they are there, not just to be another church, but to make an impact in a very real way in their community.



Left to right: Church leader Carlton Lee and guitarist Clinton Caine



## Health Ministries at Camp Hill and Yardley

by Dr Jacqueline Halliday-Bell

Birmingham has enjoyed two significant programmes incorporating health promotion and spiritual development in the last few months.

Under the leadership of Pastor Peter Sayers an outreach programme ran for three weeks in a community and leisure centre during October 2008. It was preceded by a door-to-

door survey on health, which drew some interest in the campaign. Yardley church members supported a leaflet drop to hundreds of homes in the community, and a large publicity banner was erected. The campaign combined a focused and informative programme on circulatory diseases, including stroke, hypertension, myocardial infarction, diabetes and

atherosclerosis. Although research from the US highlights the significant benefits of a vegetarian diet and regular exercise, with the avoidance of high salt and saturated fats, it seems many of us have systematically drifted from the fundamentals of our health message, now reiterated widely in current medical research. This is particularly relevant to the black and Asian community in Small Heath where the campaign took place. Body MOTs were performed. Speakers also included Dr Jacque Halliday-Bell, Joe Lynton, Gene Kol, Amelda Forbes and Grace Walsh. Each evening Pastor Jeff Nicholson followed with a pertinent spiritual message. Topics included Heaven, what happens when we die and the Sabbath. Health products were promoted and refreshments allowed time for reflection and discussion. The campaign meant that people of Muslim, Sikh and other faiths had their first close encounter with the Adventist message. The outcome from this campaign was that four people are undertaking Bible studies and one person is considering commitment to Christ through baptism.

MicroCHIP at Camp Hill ran for four weeks between November and December 2008. Aimed chiefly at potential leaders of future CHIP and MicroCHIP programmes in churches around Birmingham, it developed a renewed enthusiasm for the health message and an excellent opportunity to sample food that would improve coronary health, control diabetes, cause weight loss and generally improve energy levels, psychological health and cognitive function.

Over thirty individuals, including non-Adventists, signed up for the MicroCHIP programme – a lifestyle intervention programme headed by a team including Dr Pasi Gutti, Dr Jacque Halliday-Bell, and Pastor Malcolm and Naomi Watson. Experienced nurses Marcia Nicholson, Gloria Sewell, Godfrey Hull, Tendai Gutti, Margaret Beacon-White and Cislyn Morgan also showed strong commitment to the various media used to bring the message home.

The programme ran each Sunday and Thursday for four weeks, supported by the relatively newly instituted Pastor McIntosh and his wife Diane and their son Mark and intern Pastor Bran and his wife Camelia. The programme included the fundamentals of the health message that

God gave to man in the Old Testament reiterated by Ellen White's writing on health reform and modernised by a PhD-qualified health promotion specialist, Hans Diehl. The spiritual influence was sustained through prayer and reference to Scripture, linking the important elements of health and well-being to the Bible message. A meal was prepared to include tasters combining vegetarian, low-fat, low-salt and low-sugar foods in novel ways to suit the palate. A fact-filled and inspirational DVD was played and discussed before assignments were set for review in the subsequent meeting. At each meeting more and more members of the group were moved to motivate others with their experiences, telling how they had coped with the changes to their lifestyle and the benefits they had reaped. Remarkably, they had surprised their many GPs who in turn had been moved to comment that the programme 'was working'.

So what was the objective evidence? BP, BMI and blood sugars measured at the commencement and completion of the four-week programme demonstrated that many showed some improvement, particularly in the blood pressure and body mass indices. It was notable, however, that some blood pressures were higher at the end of the four weeks, possibly due to the fact that the initial reading was on a very calm Sunday only a few hours after a peaceful Sabbath. The final measurement was taken on a Thursday evening at the end of a working day a few weeks before Christmas, when travel in Birmingham can be extremely chaotic and hazardous to health!

Everyone, including the leaders, gained knowledge during the eight two-and-a-half-hour sessions. Several weeks after the programme closed the writer had the privilege of getting an update on how some of the attendees were coping with the lifestyle intervention over the medium term. Maureen reported weight loss of 8lbs in four weeks; Yvonne had improved mobility and reduced joint pain; Steve was more careful when shopping and cooking to avoid excess salt and sugar; and Valerie was keen to involve her family with the lifestyle intervention and had improved her exercise and sleep habits. Others in the cohort had managed to reduce their diabetes and blood pressure medication.

A graduation for the majority of

## Windows on to God

**What:** Flower Festival  
**Where:** Stanborough Park church, St Albans Road, Watford  
**When:** 26-28 June

**What for:** To raise funds for Helen and Douglas House. Helen House was the first hospice in the world for children. Douglas House was the first hospice in the world for teenagers and young adults. Both were founded by Sister Frances Dominica, an Anglican nun based in Oxford. Sister Frances will come from Oxford to open the Festival at a preview evening on 25 June. A light supper will be served afterwards. This is a ticket-only event and will raise funds for the charity.

**Who:** Audrey Balderstone organised her first Flower Festival in 1981. The Festival in June – 'Windows on to God' – will be the fourteenth she has arranged.

In 1999 she was invited by the churches in Watford to stage a festival in Beechen Grove church to welcome the millennium. In 2007 she staged a festival in Brentwood Cathedral on behalf of the Home Counties Area of the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies (NAFAS).

The festivals so far have raised in excess of £96,000.

Arrangers from churches in Watford and from flower clubs in the area will join with the arrangers of the church to create over forty spectacular displays of flowers – every one of which will tell a story.

Audrey, along with Geoff Fox of Watford and Vera Blanchard of Croxley Green, presented a demonstration at Watford Floral Society in March to celebrate the Golden Anniversary of NAFAS. NAFAS staged a very prestigious flower festival in Westminster Abbey in May, and Audrey was invited to be one of the flower arrangers.

In July Geoff, Vera and Audrey will compete on behalf of the Home Counties Area at the NAFAS national competitions in Coventry.

**Specials:** The festival 'Windows on to God' will feature a 'River of Roses'. Visitors to the festival will be invited to buy a rose and write a dedication to say 'Thank you' to someone, or to remember a loved one. It is anticipated that by the end of the festival there will be around 1,000 roses in the river.

On Saturday evening 27 June a fundraising musical concert featuring top quality artistes will be held in the church at 7.30pm.

On Sunday 28 June the festival will close with a special 'Songs and Hymns of Praise' programme. It will be led by Valerie Fidelia (née Westwood), formerly of Kingswood Estate, now living in Cyprus. The flowers will be sold after the programme and all proceeds will go to the charity fund.

participants took place at Camp Hill church on 20 December. It was a great day to celebrate and at the same time marked the point at which attendees from various churches across the West Midlands Area 5 proved they were qualified to take the health message forward in evangelism.

BUC Health Ministries leader Sharon Platt-McDonald recently introduced MicroCHIP and a more substantial CHIP programme into the UK.

Saturday 20 June  
at 6.30pm  
**A Grand Gospel Concert**  
in aid of the Gaza Children Appeal Fund  
at  
Acton Town Hall, Winchester Street,  
Acton, London, W3 6NE  
**Tickets:** Children (up to 12) £5; Adults £10  
Tel. 07983 343312 or 02086646496  
You are advised to purchase  
your tickets in advance  
**Organiser:** Gilbert John  
Refreshments will be on sale  
**Featuring:** The Trio (Three in his name), The SDA  
London Male Voice Choir, The Chiswick Gospel Choir,  
The Boldeau Brothers (Steel pans and others),  
Golden Chords, New Beginning, Adoration, Amana

## Forty-three bags of sugar!

March 28 marked the graduation day for thirty-one candidates in Sheffield who undertook the MicroCHIP training programme to enable them to deliver the full CHIP programme to the wider community. The programme was facilitated by Val Grossett with the support of NEC Health director Grace Walsh, Mike Rossiter, Pastor and Naomi Watson and a skilled and willing team. The training was held at Burngreave church and the participants were members from the Adventist churches in Sheffield, Doncaster and Leeds.

CHIP is more than just another health programme; it is based on the foundation that 75% of our Western diseases are 'lifestyle-related'. We are taught that by making simple lifestyle changes we can reduce our risk.

The participants met on five consecutive Sundays. On the first and last sessions weight, blood

pressure, height, blood sugar and BMI readings were taken. After analysing all the data, we were amazed to see that twenty-nine participants had lost a grand total of forty-three bags of sugar (43kgs in weight)!

In sharing her testimony at the graduation, ecstatic Portia Gittens, a type II diabetic, told how she went to her local GP and informed him about the simple lifestyle changes she had made. The GP noted that her blood sugar levels had decreased dramatically over a period of four weeks, but he was reluctant to reduce the dosage of her medication, saying that she would need to take the drugs for life. He has since agreed to review Portia's progress over the next few months. The practice nurses, on seeing the dramatic change in Portia, have asked for leaflets regarding MicroCHIP and have encouraged Portia to keep on



doing the programme.

Coral Millin humorously shared her experience of avoiding sugar for four weeks and then being faced with a wide array of mouth-watering desserts at work. 'CHIP' went out the window and she succumbed to temptation. The result of this indulgence was abdominal pain, bloating, spots and physical proof to her of cause and effect.

Other success stories included elevated feelings of wellness, a renewed sense of purpose, weight loss, increased energy, lower blood pressure, learning to cook healthier meals, fellowshiping, and being involved in a different way of evan-

gelising to colleagues and friends.

It is gratifying to see the changes in people's lives and we are planning to run the full CHIP programme in Sheffield in September 2009. With the Holy Spirit leading, we are confident that seeds will be sown and members of the community will become 'healthy by choice and not by chance'.

We recommend that you try the programme and see what it can do for you and your community.

(For further information contact Gene Kol, BUC CHIP co-ordinator, on [gkol@adventist.org.uk](mailto:gkol@adventist.org.uk) or 07966713469.)

ROY CARRAPATOSO

## 3,000 visitors to Adventist stand at Vitality Show

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries director

As I wandered around the concourse trying to understand the map which would identify where the health team was based, I abandoned the floor plan and headed in the direction where most people were milling around. It did not take long to identify our Adventist booth. It was the one with the longest queue as people waited patiently in line to be screened.

This year's Vitality Show was a prime opportunity for the Adventist Church to make new contacts, in addition to demonstrating a high-calibre health screening service and sharing the benefits of our health message. An excellent ministry tool in this the Year of Evangelism.

For the past five years the SEC Health Ministry department has had a presence at the Earls Court Vitality Show under the able directorship of Elsie Staple and her team. This year they excelled themselves with a larger stand. Over the four days from 26 to 29 March they had in excess of 3,000 persons visiting their exhibition stand!

Equipped with the latest technology and resources, a comprehensive screening package was offered which included Body Mass Index (BMI) test, blood pressure recordings, blood cholesterol and glucose and carbon monoxide checks. Breaking down the number of individuals who were screened revealed that 791 had a BMI test,

1,021 blood pressures were recorded, 651 blood cholesterol and glucose tests were done and 506 carbon monoxide checks were undertaken.

In addition to the screening, a health analysis was offered which most visitors to the stall took up. One lady remarked that it was an excellent service to offer the full screening including blood analysis for only £5.

Embracing the importance of lifestyle and its impact on health, the team also raised awareness of the various health programmes the Adventist Church runs and took time to explain to individuals what such programmes entailed and how they could become enrolled. As a result, sixteen names were obtained for a smoking cessation group and three names for the Coronary Health Improvement Programme (CHIP).

Never missing an opportunity to witness, a variety of Adventist literature was given away. This included the following: 120 King James Bibles, 2,000 *He is Coming* (evangelism book of the year), 1,000 *God's Book of Encouragement*, 1,500 *Focus* magazines, 120 *Ministry of Healing*, 200 *Steps to Christ* and countless tracts.

The substantial team of twenty-seven members included doctors, nurses, dieticians, specialist health professionals, diabetic specialist nurses, first aiders and volunteers.

## Purity: The theme of a Youth Day

March 14 was a day of serious introspection at the Liverpool Stoneycroft Youth Day. Having realised the need for consistent evangelism, as well as the closeness of the Saviour's return, the youth had decided to review two major aspects of their lifestyles: communication and relationships. They therefore asked the speakers, Pastor Eric Lowe, the BUC Executive secretary, and Pastor Ebenezer Daniel, the local pastor, to address these two themes.

In the divine service, Pastor Lowe presented a sermon entitled, 'The Weapon of Mass Destruction', using the book of Proverbs to highlight purity of lips and the use of the tongue. This was followed in the afternoon by a presentation on dating and courtship by Pastor Daniel. Both presentations were warmly received by the young people, as evidenced by their enthusiastic questioning directed at the pastors after the afternoon presentation.

MERLVIN MOYO



## West Bromwich investiture

The morning of Sabbath 25 April started off gloomy but the sun shone in the hearts of the West Bromwich Pathfinders and Adventurers who were to be invested that day. All dressed up and looking smart, the Pathfinders began the day by leading out in Sabbath School. A presentation was given on the history of the Pathfinder movement which ended with a slide show of camps which our Pathfinders had attended, and we saw some of the activities that they had undertaken.

The Pathfinders were ecstatic when they were informed that Pastor Des Boldeau, BUC Youth director, would be spending the whole day with them. The Pathfinders were also favoured with the attendance of three Pathfinder Area co-ordinators – Joseph Empowi, Len Stewart and Loretta Griffin.

Pastor Boldeau delivered the message of the day on the theme 'The Christian Walk'. The essence of the

message was: 'We need to be clear on who we are



## New church at Northolt

On the last Sabbath of January, the members of Northolt and visiting friends assembled together as they witnessed a Spirit-filled and memorable occasion. The Northolt Adventist group became a church organisation: Northolt Seventh-day Adventist Community church under the umbrella of the South England Conference.

The Sabbath commenced with lively congregational singing led by Winston Noel. The theme for the day was 'Experience God's Power'. The lesson discussion was presented by Bert Ackie and was followed by beautiful singing from Jennifer Philips.

The organisation service started as Dr Richard de Lisser, the main speaker, gave us words of encouragement. Godwin Benjamin, the church clerk, called the members together. The day was a double blessing as Dean Jeena, the leader of Northolt, was ordained. Golden Chords blessed the listeners' hearts as they ended that part of the service with joyful music.

The afternoon programme fea-

tured presentations and a continuation of music from local artistes and Golden Chords. Wederly Aguiar presented a talk and reminded the members that they should always shine their light in the community.

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

Pastor Aguiar was succeeded by Pastor Robert Vine, under whose leadership the group continued to prosper. The current minister is Pastor Everett Picart.

Over the last two years Northolt has had two baptisms and a total of ten precious souls have been added to the group.

BRENDA CAMPBELL





Back row: Elder Jeffers, Elder Lindsey, Pastor Lyburd, Elder Mardenborough. Front row: Pastor Palmer, Baptismal candidates: Lenroy Lee, Kenneth Lewis, Venerine O'Garro, Melanie Goodin and Brandon Lee, and Pastor Almeida

## Ladywood baptism

On Sabbath 4 April at Ladywood church, Birmingham, an excited congregation gathered together to witness the baptism of five individuals who, in the company of family and friends, took their stand for Christ. It was a time of rejoicing as well as recommitment. Pastor Paul Lyburd presented a thought-provoking sermon in which he explored the cyclical nature of our walk with God. The converts were admonished to pray and then read the Word which will point them back to prayer. Most of the converts gave brief testimonies of their experiences as they solicited the prayers of the brethren and sisters. The people baptised were Venerine O'Garro, Melanie Goodin, Brandon Lee, Kenneth Lewis and Lenroy Lee. The Spirit-filled singing and the solemnity of the occasion were clear reminders to all present that there is 'joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth'.

KENDREA LEWIS

## Evolution: myth or reality?

This year being the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Darwin, the media has spent much time debating his revolutionary theories on the origins of man.

In order to promote the biblical version of this wonderful act of Creation, Croscombe church took the opportunity to organise a series of three nightly seminars entitled: 'Evolution – myth or reality?' These

were presented by Stefano Bertolini, an international speaker on this subject who is also vice-president of AISO, the Italian Association for the Study of Origins.

Stefano presented his thoughts on the subject and indicated how he had been affected by his studies but urged his audience to listen and study by themselves to reach the right conclusions.

YVONNE BAXTER



## Walsall honours its soldiers for God

On 28 February the Walsall church said thank you to twelve of its hard-working, dedicated soldiers of the army of God. Pastor Patricia Douglas wanted to recognise those who have served the church and community of Walsall with distinction. Special mention must be given to Elder Browne, who was one of the founder members of the Walsall church and who served as head elder for many years, nurturing the congregation. His dedication to the growth and development of the Walsall church will never be forgotten. Sister E. Taylor, who overcame many obstacles in establishing the first branch Sabbath School in Walsall, was also remembered for her tireless efforts.

The message for the day was delivered by BUC president Pastor Don McFarlane, who spoke on the theme 'Walk Worthy of the Calling', in which he admonished the congregation to remember the great sacrifice that was made on their behalf to redeem them from their fallen state. He told the brethren not to compromise the truth or lose their salvation, because the road will not always be smooth. The reward at the end, however, makes it worthwhile.

He urged all present to walk worthy of the blood shed for us all. Pastor McFarlane addressed the twelve and thanked them for their dedication and hard work and assured them that God is aware of the sacrifices they had made over the many years and he will one day reward them with eternal life.

The evening ended with praise and worship and Pastor P. Douglas thanked the president and his wife for gracing us with their presence on such a grand occasion for the Lord.

Those honoured were Elder and Sister L. Lawson, Sister L. Scott, Brother and Sister W. Taylor, Brother T. Senior, Brother Henry, Sister M. Lawrence, Sister A. Wright and Brother W. Williams.

Words and picture: M. TAYLOR

## Connecting people, changing lives, 100+ attend ASNA weekend

by Sophia Nicholls, ASNA Hon. secretary/trustee



Poisonous snakes, skunks and dangerous spiders were all on show to be seen and handled by the children and adults attending the eighth ASNA annual respite weekend held at the Pioneer Centre, Shropshire, from 24 to 26 April. Over thirty children, including those with disabilities and special needs, and more than twenty volunteers enjoyed the beautiful sunshine and had fun. Activities such as abseiling, orienteering and a talk presented by Tropical Inc. Company, a company specialising in exotic animals, were enjoyed by the children and their volunteer carers. The children also took part in an inclusive Sabbath morning worship with parachutes, arts, crafts and music.

Over fifty adults attending the weekend included carers, adults with special needs and great workshop leaders. Brother and Sister Bacchus and

Susan Bacchus led in the early morning worship services. Susan uses a wheelchair and has learning difficulties but this did not stop her leading out in the morning service. This expression of worship by Susan inspired the Special Needs co-ordinators and other carers to feel happy and grateful for all that God has done for them. The weekend theme



# Edward Johnson

(1940-2009) d. 10 April

Edward Johnson's was a strong, humorous, larger-than-life personality. In time there may be some consolation in that he died when he was still 'at the top of his game'. But that is not how it feels now to his wife Helen, his sons Edward and Andrew, daughters-in-law Jackie and Jenny, grandchildren Samantha, Mandy, Alex and Matthew, brother Dennis, sister Jan, his several nephews and nieces, and his very many friends. The fact that until Edward became sick in Cyprus he was still his healthy, ebullient self makes his death harder, not easier, to accept. Even when we received news of Edward's emergency operation we expected him to make a comeback, prayed that he would do so, and were not at all surprised when an air ambulance (Learjet) was provided by Luxembourg Air Rescue to fly Edward, his surgeon, his anaesthetist, his nurse and Helen back to Lincolnshire. His death on Good Friday was hard to accept. It gave a whole new dimension to the phrase in the twelfth-century prayer, 'In the midst of life we are in death.'

Edward was born on 17 June 1940 at Hallam Hospital, West Bromwich, the first child of Linda

and Simeon Johnson. He was raised at 54 Thynne Street, West Bromwich, went to school in West Bromwich and married Helen, a West Bromwich girl with whom he had been at school.

When he left school in 1956 his teacher wrote on his report, 'A pleasing personality, who has worked well,' the headmaster adding, 'This boy has made steady progress here and has developed well in character.' He and Helen married in their late teens and, a year or two later, attended an evangelistic campaign being conducted in Wolverhampton by Pastor Bryan Ball. Edward and Helen were baptised, with many others, on Easter Sunday 1962. Since then Edward has built his life on faith and placed his organisational skills at the disposal of the health-food industry and denominational publishing. He was founding manager of the Book and Bible House, aka the Adventist Book Centre, in the Market Place, Grantham, in 1968, served a further period as ABC manager after the ABC had moved to The Stanborough Press, and retired from granoVita. In between times Edward gained independent

marketing and entrepreneurial experience in the insurance, holiday and health-food businesses.

In Grantham church Edward served with distinction as youth leader, and in Norwich church as elder. After his retirement from granoVita Edward did sterling work as the leader/elder of the Newark congregation. In the close familial atmosphere of the Newark church, Edward's loss has been felt acutely.

The funeral service on 27 April took place in the Grantham church. Pastor John Ferguson, who conducted the service, paid tribute to Edward's strong support of his ministry and spoke of the 'wit, charm and graft' he had brought to bear on all the challenges that came his way. Bill Kitchen, Ed's friend over many years, spoke of the humorous experience of working with him, something with which many of those present could identify.

Among those present for the service were the national and regional leaders of the Church, friends from all parts of the UK, fellow workers from granoVita and The Stanborough Press and many church members from Wolverhampton, Norwich, Grantham, Newark and elsewhere. Pastor Ferguson committed the Johnson family and the many who had come to support them in their grief to the care of the God who was the Lord of Edward's life, the



Saviour to whom Edward's life had been committed and the Holy Spirit who was Edward's and is our Comforter.

A memory of the funeral that will never leave those who were present is that of Helen Johnson courageously greeting everyone as they left the church. 'It is what Ed would have wanted,' she said. She had been married to Edward for half a century and knows that, above all, he was a family man. He had seen the family through many crises with the help of the Lord to whom his life was committed. The same Lord is their Shepherd and will remain so until we are all united as one flock.

Meanwhile, to borrow words from the Cenotaph service, Edward will not grow old as we who are left grow old. He sleeps until the Reunion. JOHN FERGUSON and DAVID MARSHALL

of Praise and Thanksgiving echoed throughout the activities and workshops.

The morning presentation given by Dr Pasi Gut

on the importance of maintaining good health was followed by individual health checks for carers.

The health checks were carried out by a team of

nurses and organised by Dr Gut and Dr Jacqueline Halliday-Bell from the Camp Hill church. Jannette Joseph from the West Green Road church reminded the delegates about the strength of the NEW-START programme in developing and securing a healthy lifestyle, important for busy and often challenged carers.

The Sabbath evening ended in a wonderful vesper service campfire experience led by Nigel Nicholls (Chair of ASNA).

Sunday morning's workshop taken by Dr Terry Messenger, Personal Ministries, Sabbath School and Special Needs director, SEC, reminded us about the importance of developing sound spiritual health habits. This theme was reflected in the stress management training seminar taken by Grace Walsh, Special Needs and Health Ministries director, NEC. A number of the carers who took part in this seminar found this session very enlightening and were pleased to be informed that they will be receiving the OCN accredited certificate for sitting the assessed part of this course.

For further details about the weekend or any other aspect of the work of ASNA or to send a much-needed donation, please contact [asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk), telephone 07768 298 297 or visit our website at [www.asna.info](http://www.asna.info).







Seasoned campaigners were present

<1 This set the tone for a moving devotional message by Joseph Kidder, associate professor of Christian Ministry at Andrews University Theological Seminary. He shared his remarkable conversion story in Iraq as a means of demonstrating the importance of 'always being faithful to God no matter what'. He also challenged delegates to 'believe in a God who can do the impossible' and 'to pray like your life depends on it'.

The session then opened for business as BUC Executive secretary, Pastor Eric Lowe, announced that 320 delegates had registered by 1pm, which was more than the 51% needed for a quorum.

The first section of minor changes, principally tidying up legal and banking requirements, was completed just before 3pm. A full hour of discussion then followed on the general principle of the need for change. Among the questions discussed were, 'Are we getting "quality" for money from Union sessions as they have been organised thus far?' and 'Can the money saved by organising sessions more efficiently be better used in the

work of evangelism?'

Delegates such as Pastors Michael Mbui and Curtis Murphy commended the BUC Executive Committee for taking the initiative to look for better ways to organise future sessions. Others were concerned that the new structure would lower church representation, particularly with the very diverse church to be found in the British Union. At 3.53 a motion was carried by a large majority to accept the general principle of the changes. That then moved the delegation on to look at the detail.

This included two main areas. The first under discussion was that the Recommendations Committee be appointed by the various Conference or Mission Executive Committees at least eighteen weeks before the session. Delegates felt that this would limit democracy, and an amendment was accepted that the choice of members to this committee should be made by the delegates. Conferences and Missions will now have to work out the best way to do this. However, the principle of meeting fourteen weeks before session and then for the Nominating

Committee to meet at least twelve weeks before session was seen as a very positive way of allowing the committees to deliberate in a less pressured and more thoughtful manner.

Delegates further helped the democratic process move forward by suggesting a further amendment to the constitution. The proposal was that 'The Recommendations Committee would appoint the Nominating Committee, the Constitution Committee and other committees as necessary.' Delegates felt strongly that the committee could only recommend to the delegates and that all delegates should have the right to vote. The constitution will provide flexibility in the way this vote is registered.

This effectively left one more major change: the size of the delegation. The proposal under Article 6 of the constitution was that the total number of delegates would be halved from the current 400 down to 200 of which not less than 70% would be non-employees of the Church. The BUC officers had received a considerable amount of feedback on this proposal which they shared with the Constitution Committee earlier in the day, and then with the BUC Executive Committee members around midday. The recommendation that then went to the floor was that the number should be set at 300. This would be sufficient for good representation, while keeping costs at a reasonable level.

The day finished at 5.30pm with delegates in good spirits. As Silvia Ham-Ying stated to the delegation, 'I commend this initiative to increase efficiency – it is long overdue.' It has now been voted. The new system will be implemented in 2011.

It was a long and busy day. Heartfelt arguments were presented but the spirit was good. BUC president, Pastor Don McFarlane, commented in his closing remarks, 'This is the Year of Evangelism. My heart is gladdened as I travel around the British Union and see our members and pastors involved in various forms of evangelism. When all is said and done, the Church is not about a session – that's merely a means to an end. The Church is about delivering the Gospel of Jesus Christ.'

In due course the newly amended constitution will be posted on the BUC website, [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk). A selection of pictures from the event is also available.



D. W. McFarlane: 'Sessions are just a means to an end . . .'

## Clarification

**MESSENGER 10 April, page 2**  
Eli's sons were incorrectly said to be Samuel's 'two older "brothers"'. By placing 'brothers' in quote marks the author was meaning to suggest not that they were literally the brothers of Samuel, but that in Eli's household where Samuel was raised they were *in effect* in the role of older brothers to Samuel. To make this evident the author wrote '*effectively*, his two older "brothers"'.  
Clarification by the Editor

## And Finally...

If the church wants a better preacher, it only needs to pray for the one it has.  
God himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should we?  
Some minds are like concrete – thoroughly mixed up and permanently set!

### ABC BOOK SALES

**June**  
NEC & SEC camp meeting 8-14 June  
**July**  
5 Newbold Graduation 10am-2pm  
**ABC Shops**  
Watford, BUC, Now open  
10.30am-5pm, Monday-Thursday.  
10am-1pm Friday.  
Advent Centre,  
Sundays 11am-3pm

## Messenger

Volume 114 • 11 – 5 June 2009  
**EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL**  
**DESIGN: DAVID BELL**  
COPY FOR No. 13 – 15 June 2009  
Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.  
Fax No: (01476) 577144.  
Email: [Editornm@mac.com](mailto:Editornm@mac.com)  
Send high resolution pictures to: [dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk](mailto:dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk)  
ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900  
Mon-Thurs only, 8am-5.30pm.  
[www.stanboroughpress.com](http://www.stanboroughpress.com)  
The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.  
Printed in Oxford.  
Visit the BUC website at: [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk)  
ISSN 0309-3654

### Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Jun 5	9.13	9.25	9.25	9.52	9.54
12	9.18	9.30	9.30	9.59	10.00
19	9.21	9.33	9.34	10.03	10.03
26	9.22	9.34	9.35	10.03	10.04

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