



Building up, reaching out

A report on SEC Camp Meeting 2009

by Dr Richard de Lisser and the Print Media team

Camp Meeting 2009 for the South England Conference (SEC) will be remembered for a number of important things. It would play host to the first Seventh-day Adventist and newly knighted Governor General of Jamaica, Sir Patrick Allen, and his wife Lady Patricia Allen. It would see ten ordained to the gospel ministry. It would witness history in the making as the communion sermon was delivered by SEC's only female commissioned minister, Pastor Mary Barrett. It would also hear from our own local pastors as they assumed the title of Camp Meeting Speaker for one night only and preached the sermon of their lives. All the services in the main auditorium were streamed live on the Internet with live chat following the evening commitment services, where the night's speaker would be interviewed live, and viewers could send in their questions for the speaker to answer. There was also Camp Meeting's own dedicated radio station, Lightfm. Broadcasting on the 87.7fm frequency and on the Internet at *Lightfm.net*, Lightfm inspired campers and community members alike with a mixture of music, comment, information and debate.

The theme for this year's Camp Meeting was 'Building up, reaching out'. This was not just confined to the campsite but, because of the special effort to reach beyond our borders through radio and the Internet, half a million minutes of live streaming were watched, and over 6,000 visited the site, including viewers from 55 different countries on all continents with over 2,000 unique viewers. Online radio Lightfm received over 1,907 page visits during Camp Meeting, with 635 unique visitors with a total of 31,275 listener minutes.

SEC president Sam Davis welcomed his fellow travellers to their haven for the week. An impressive welcome in Welsh from local representative Pastor Clyde Moore, and the introduction of the platform party seemed to echo the quiet start. Yet something was different. A different theme song – 'Ancient Word' – seemed to capture the mood of the moment as rapturous voices echoed each refrain. Night after night the melody lifted the spirits of all who came to hear commitment speakers

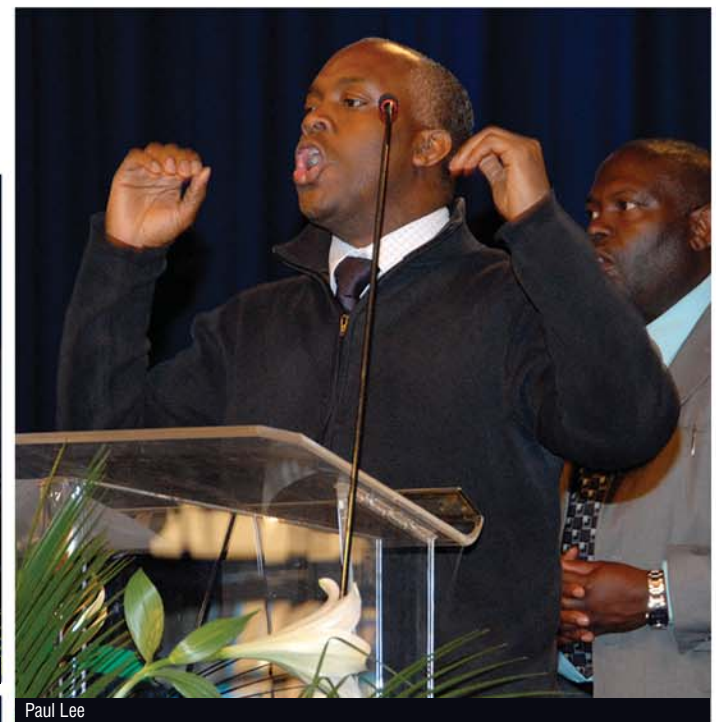
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SEC president, Sam Davis



Michael Mbui



Paul Lee



East African Choir

How good are you at taking care of your teeth? I saw the dentist and hygienist a couple of weeks ago for my usual six-monthly check up. No huge problems, just the usual build up of plaque that needed to be scraped off. I have tried for decades to reduce this plaque build up, but to no avail. Mouthwashes, flossing, inter-dental brushes, brushing after every meal, you name it and I have tried it, but nothing seems to work. Actually, I say I have tried, but in reality I don't think I have tried hard enough. After a visit to the dentist, I can manage, for a few days, to put effort into cleaning my teeth, then the priority lessens and the recommended two-minute brushing lapses into something more like a few seconds. The truth is, I just can't be bothered to take the time to brush consistently and do all the other things often enough and for long enough.

It's hard, isn't it, to do everything you are supposed to do in order to stay healthy? If you were to put into practice all the things

you had ever heard were good for you, your days would be full! In addition to cleaning your teeth for two minutes three times a day, every day you would: drink six glasses of water, go for two half-hour walks, do a crossword to keep your mind sharp, engage in a muscle stretching routine, make sure your meals are cooked from scratch, using natural, unrefined sources, ensuring that each mouthful is chewed forty-seven times. You would take the time to peel, wash and slowly eat five pieces of fruit. As our food lacks sufficient nutrients, you would take a multi-vitamin tablet twice a day. Your food would either be home-grown to avoid pesticides and additives, or you would need to source the best organic produce.

You might expect the punch line of all this to be: Just forget about it all and live the way you want, as it is unreasonable to do all of the above. That is not what I am moving towards. Actually, I do believe in healthy living – it was one of the things that attracted me to this faith. The point I am making is that most of us

with Jonathan Barrett



Your choices

will choose some aspects of healthy living that suit us, our personalities or lifestyles, and go with them and forget the rest. For instance, I don't do well with taking care of my teeth, but I am consistent at being vegetarian.

Fortunately for us, God, who has been faced with many choices, chose us:

'Before the world was created, God had Christ choose us to live with him and to be his holy and innocent and loving people.' Ephesians 1:4, CEV.

As you consider your choices as to how to look after yourself, thank your Lord that he considered his choices very carefully, and chose *you* to look after and to live with on a very long-term basis!



The rustling of India paper

David Marshall

The sound of rustling leaves. That is the finest music to a preacher's ears. And it's not the leaves of autumn I'm talking about. It's the rustling of what we used to call 'India paper', the paper on which Bibles were printed.

That music played throughout the sermon in the Adventist churches of my childhood and youth. It was not that the congregation was scared the pastor was getting away with heresy. It was just that we wanted to stay with him. There he was, in the pulpit, dispensing the word of life – and we were hungry for it. Food for the spirit. Nutrition for the soul.

We believed what Paul wrote to Timothy in his last letter, and we applied it to ourselves: 'Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker . . . who correctly explains the word of truth.'¹ Back then, we were not merely consumers of religion. We were, in a very real sense, disciples of Christ. Disciples, furthermore, who had been *commissioned*, and never knew when a routine conversation might take a turn towards the spiritual. That was when we could give a reason for the hope that was within us (and ours *was* a reasonable hope) and 'earnestly contend' for it.²

The member in the pew back then wanted to be 'a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth'.³ What distinguished the Adventist from the other Christians was that the Adventist knew his way round the Bible. That he had learned in a whole variety of ways. No one was baptised on the crest of an emotion, but after a detailed series of Bible studies with an elder, a pastor, a Bible worker or some other responsible person. In the course of those studies we were required not just 'to get to grips with the fundamentals' but to affirm that Jesus had become our 'personal Saviour'.

When Paul wrote to Timothy he was well aware that 'it was one thing solemnly to charge others and quite another to take oneself in hand'. Paul was saying, 'False teachers are seeking the approval of men. You need God's approval. To receive it, study his word in a disciplined way. The most effective refutation of error is for the teacher to be the

living embodiment of the truth.'⁴

You can tell a lot about a man/woman from the state of his/her Bible. Some time ago I came across one that was almost detached from its cover. In addition to hard usage, the book gave every evidence of having been out in all weathers. Huge sections of it were badly wrinkled from drenchings in the rain. But as I examined the Bible carefully I saw evidence that its owner had used a ruler and a considerable number of different fountain pens to colour code a whole series of Bible studies through it. Whether the owner of that Bible and any of those who had received studies from it over many years will be in God's Kingdom I really couldn't say. But what I would say is that the indications were good. In my experience those whose Bibles are coming apart are often the most 'together' people in the congregation.

Last year one of our members died aged 105, and I was asked to say a few words at her funeral. Weeks after I had done so I came across documentation that indicated that I had had correspondence with her when I was in my early teens and she marked VOP correspondence school courses. In those days, both before and after baptism, youth put themselves through the Youth course, the Take His Word course and Great Teachings course; conscientious Bible teachers wrote letters of encouragement, and appetites were whetted for the Word.

However, I would have to give Sabbath School the credit for really involving me in Bible study. Those who know me well are aware that I find the quality of Sabbath School lessons over the years uneven. In my recollection that has always been the case. However, that state of affairs means that a really good quarter's lessons tends to stand out. In the mid-1960s, thirteen weeks of lessons on Paul's letter to the Galatians (the first of his letters to survive) did much to clarify my grasp of God's gospel of grace. Since then I have had an appetite for God's Word that doesn't quit.

Adventist churches are often hard to locate for first-time visitors. That is why satnav has been a help for visiting preachers. Nevertheless satnav is only as good as the latest list of church addresses. A while ago it

led me to a building in east London where the windows were all broken and there was every sign of dereliction. Clearly the congregation had moved to new premises. I had left my mobile at home and, in any case, it was about 9.45 on a Sabbath morning and folks might already be going to church. I remembered an old trick and resorted to kerb crawling. You heard me! I cruised the district as slowly as I dared until, eventually, I saw what I hoped I'd see. A dressed-for-church Adventist with a Bible and lesson book underneath her arm. Then there was another, then another. I thanked God that not all Adventists are on time for Sabbath School! There was also, I recall, a warm glow because Adventists still stand out from the crowd!

It's not everywhere that the rustle of India paper has ceased to be the around sound in the sermon. I suspect that the members who rustle their leaves in church are the ones who rustle them at home too.

But surveys indicate that the habit of daily Bible reading is not as common among us as it used to be. The secularism of our mass culture has absorbed many Adventists. The BBC iPlayer has made the unmissable unmissable. And that is sad at many levels. Principally it is sad because we 'need to get a life': *a spiritual life*.

In discussion I occasionally pick up indicators that the purpose of Ldi was misunderstood. Because it encouraged methods of outreach that did not involve immediate recourse to Scripture, many have put their Bibles in their glove compartments and left them there. Ldi is not about the content of belief or the means of grace to the world. It is about outreach methods in light of some fundamental social changes.

When we lift up Jesus people are drawn to him. And the Person of Jesus speaks most compellingly through the Word.

So keep those leaves rustling! And not just in church!

References

¹2 Timothy 2:15, NLT. ²1 Peter 2:15; Jude 3. ³2 Timothy 2:15, KJV. ⁴Donald Guthrie, *The Pastoral Epistles* (revised edit. IVP), page 159.

Enhancing Health

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

Allergies Part 3

It is estimated that one in three of the UK population is affected by allergies at some point in life.

Common allergy symptoms: Itchy eyes, ears, nose and roof of mouth, watery eyes, dark circles under eyes, runny nose, pressure in nose and cheeks, ear fullness and popping, sneezing, stuffy nose, sore throat, cough, asthma, hives, headaches, fatigue, irritability and depression.

Common treatments for allergies

- Avoidance of triggers – to eliminate the allergen.
- Medication – Most common medications are antihistamines, decongestants, anti-inflammatory medication, steroids, steroidal sprays and drops. These only treat the symptoms, not the cause. Most allergy medications are associated with side effects such as fatigue, dry mouth, high blood pressure and so on, and when the medication is stopped the symptoms can worsen.
- Allergen immunotherapy – regular injections to desensitise.

The April 2009 BBC report on allergies revealed an increasing number of individuals turning to complementary-alternative medicine (CAM) as a treatment option for allergies in order to reduce the unwanted side effects of conventional medication. However, caution is always advised to prevent contra-indications by alerting health professionals of additional treatments.

One relatively new well-researched alternative treatment for hay fever and asthma is a breathing technique called *buteyko*. Although reports demonstrate effective results, caution is advised in asthmatics not to stop taking conventional medication without medical advice.

Other natural interventions for allergies include: increasing intake of onions, apples, citrus fruits and teas as natural antihistamines; sea water nasal sprays, ionisers, eucalyptus and menthol steam inhalations to assist breathing; cold chamomile compress to soothe irritated eyes; herbs like pycnogenol and calendula (anti-inflammatory), chamomile (soothing); non-petroleum gels safe for nostrils to combat pollen effects, and wrap-around sunglasses

to prevent pollen getting into the eyes.

Allergy checklists

Practitioners at some allergy clinics develop checklists to look at the potential stressors impacting the immune system. Checklists include: electromagnetic stress from computers and phones, food, household and work chemicals, mercury in teeth, personal care products, pollution (home or work), mental and emotional factors, water and so on. Using checklists like these, clients are encouraged to observe the reactions to these elements, explore limiting them or analysing alternatives to encourage the reduction of symptoms and enhance well-being.

Support

Allergy UK exists to represent the views and needs of people with allergy, food intolerance and chemical sensitivity. The Allergy UK Helpline: 01322 619898 is accessed by numerous allergy sufferers on an annual basis.

Good health!



Involving children in your church

Get children on your welcome team

by Karen Holford,
Associate director, Children's Ministries, SEC

How do the children in your church feel welcomed each week? Do they get ignored by the welcomers on the door? Do people know their names, what they like to do and what their gifts are? Do they hear 'No!', 'Shush!' and 'Stop that!?' Or do they hear 'God loves you!', 'You are special!', 'I like the picture you drew during the sermon – tell me about it,' 'How can I help you?'

Jesus knew how to welcome children. Read Matthew 18:1-14 and listen to what he says about those who turn children away from God with their harsh words and hurtful behaviours. How can you welcome a little child in your church this week?

Ten ways to involve children in your church's welcome and blessings

1. Train children as part of your church's welcoming team. They are often very good at smiling and greeting people and they can easily give out bulletins and Bibles.
2. Children on the welcoming team can greet the other children who come to church. Children may prefer to be welcomed by other children, and they can be given their own children's bulletin or sermon-related worksheet to encourage them to listen to the morning's message. They can also be offered a children's Bible to use during the service. Perhaps your church could purchase a set of colourful and interesting Bibles that have been especially designed for children.
3. Trained children can be a part of the welcoming team at the opening of the divine service, and invite the church to enter a spirit of worship. They can work

with a mentor to write out their words and practise them so that their welcome message is appropriate and clear.

4. Children can welcome visitors by giving them a small gift such as bookmark or a flower.
5. Every child can be paired with a senior member of the church and be given the responsibility of welcoming their 'adopted' grandparent to church each week, in a personal way. This can be done informally in the time between the services, or the child and older person can meet briefly after the service. It is best practice when a parent or guardian keeps an eye on their own children to make sure they are safe when relating to other church members.
6. Children can help your church deaconesses distribute the flowers from the Sabbath arrangements to those in your congregation who will be blessed by them.
7. If your church serves drinks and snacks after a service, two children a week could be involved in helping to pour drinks and collect cups or tidy away afterwards.
8. Station a trained child by the church doors to say goodbye to the children leaving after the service, and to say something encouraging and appreciative to each child.
9. Think about how your church manages the benedictions and blessings at the end of the service. Try different ways of involving the children in these times. Adults can stand and hold hands in a circle around the children as they are blessed, or lay hands on them.
10. Children can receive a special short prayer of blessing during

The Year of Evangelism

The Missionary Book of the Year 2009 — He is Coming

The last innings

110,000 gone, 90,000 to go

by Curtis Murphy, Publishing director, BUC

It seemed like journey's end. Jesus died on a cross, was buried in a tomb, and their world had ended. But that wasn't the end of the story.

On Friday, he had surrendered his life. The night was dark with sorrow and great fear. The disciples had forgotten his promise. He would shatter that darkened tomb.

The spiritual declares, 'Ain't no grave gonna hold this body down!'

As his birth came on time so, too, his death, and after his death, his resurrection. After his resurrection he appeared to many. But for some this was still not enough to convince them that he was the risen Lord. Matthew tells us: 'The eleven students travelled to . . . the

the communion service – as the adults are being served, the children can wait in line to be blessed by a person who is good at communicating with children. Encourage the person to give each child a different and personal blessing.

Ask the children in your church for

their ideas of different ways they can be involved in the greetings and blessings that take place in your church.

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

mountain, which Jesus had selected for them. When they saw him they accepted him as their Lord, but some couldn't make up their minds. Jesus came over to them and said, "Every right to rule in both the spiritual and physical realms has been given to me. As you travel, then, make students of all races and initiate them into the family of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to live by all that I outlined for you. And you know, I am right in there with you – all the time – until the last innings." ' (Cotton Patch Paraphrase, Clarence Jordan.)

Today, in excess of 63 million people live in the territory of the BUC. Many millions have either not heard or are doubting the promise of Jesus. He said that he would leave us, go and prepare a place for us and then come once again to be with us forever. He said to his followers, "Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father,

Son and Holy Spirit.' (*The Message*.)

Our missionary book for 2009 – *He is Coming* – gives a clear analysis of the signs of that coming. We rejoice that at the time of writing we have now supplied 107,500 copies to our churches, but there is still a work to be done. People need to be made aware of Jesus' imminent return.

The time is near when he will say, 'Enough!' 'He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.' (Revelation 22:11.) And that time is not far off. We need to tell everyone in our territory the great news that he's on his way.

I am encouraging every church to be a part of this evangelistic explosion and make sure that they have ordered their copies of this limited edition, and that church members are giving it to their family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues.

OFFER

- Orders up to 50 copies will be 50p per book + postage and packing.
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'Soul-winning is what we're here for,' says Pastor Murphy.

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

He is Coming

by Alejandro Bullón



THE BUC MISSIONARY BOOK OF THE YEAR ORDER FORM 2009

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Harper Bell Adventist School welcomes pupils for the coming academic year 2009/2010.

The mission of Harper Bell Adventist School is to help each child receive a balanced intellectual, social, cultural, emotional, physical and spiritual education. With God as the source of all moral value and truth we aspire to prepare our pupils for life in this present world as well as life in the earth made new. We continually enjoy spiritual and academic success. Last year we were pleased to have eight pupils commit themselves to the Lord and be baptised. Our academic results are compared below. We give God the glory for the great things he has done through the committed and caring staff of HBS.

SATs results: 2008			
Percentages of pupils achieving level 4 or above:			
	English	Maths	Science
HBS	94%	94%	100%
Birmingham	76%	75%	85%
National	81%	78%	88%

Come and be a part of the success of HBS. For further details, contact the school on 0121 693 7742 or harperbellsdaschool@hotmail.co.uk

Sponsored cycle ride to Paris, then to Athens

Craig Shipton is involved in a sponsored cycle ride to Paris and to Athens. He is one of 16 cyclists who have already raised £12,203 and hope to raise £25,000 – for UNICEF, for ADRA and for Compassion.

If you want to know more, visit <http://www.25000spins.com>



Proverbs — The treasure hunt

by Bernie and Karen Holford,
directors of Children's and Family Ministries, SEC

Tucked into the centre of your Bible, directly after psalms, comes the book of Proverbs. It is jam-packed with pearls of concentrated wisdom, like a jar of high-potency vitamins. You might wonder whether a book of wise observations written thousands of years ago might be outdated and irrelevant in the hi-tech world of the twenty-first century. But you don't have to dip into many chapters before you realise that this slim guide to happiness is as relevant today as it was in Solomon's time. As a father ponders his own life and considers the mistakes he's made and how they could have been avoided, he devotes several chapters to warning his son about the dangers of sexual temptation and

immorality. Maybe a father today would also warn his son about Internet pornography, but the main principles for protecting oneself against the many dangers of pre- and extramarital sex are right here in a book written centuries ago.

The book closes with the elegant chapter 31, in praise of women. In many Jewish homes this chapter is still read as a blessing on wives and mothers at the beginning of every Sabbath. The verses describe a picture of exceptional female liberation — the woman who cares for her employees; the one who runs her own business; the one who is skilled with her hands, or grows her own crops; the one who mothers her children well; the one who makes sure her family are warm and well

fed; the one who is respected in her community and the one who protects her husband's reputation. Maybe the chapter was written to celebrate women in general, and not one single amazing super-woman. Maybe it honours the different kinds of lives women lead, even today. You decide.

Sandwiched between the warnings against seductive women and the praise for good women is plenty of practical advice for living the Christian life. If you want to know how to get on with people; parent effectively; have a good marriage; run a successful business; be a respected community member; enjoy good physical, emotional and mental health; and live a long, peaceful life with few regrets, then you'll find many quirky and memorable quotes to inspire you.

The book of Proverbs is also the comedy section of the biblical library. Many of the proverbs evoke startling, humorous, cartoon-like images. 'It's better to live on the corner of the roof than with a nagging wife.' Or 'Like one who seizes a dog by the ears is a passer-by who meddles in a quarrel not his own.'

We live in a world overflowing with knowledge; we can discover

almost anything about anything with a few clicks on our computers. But God's wisdom lies deep in the rocks, like veins of precious silver, nuggets of gold or richly-coloured emeralds. It's not always at our fingertips. It's not always discussed, and it doesn't win Oscars. And sometimes you have to dig for it. But when you open the book of Proverbs, it's like opening a long-hidden treasure chest. The ancient and beautifully crafted jewels are there in handfuls for the taking and they are as beautiful and valuable today.

Looking for some fresh ways to help you read the book of Proverbs? Try reading one chapter of Proverbs each day of the month (there are 31). Illustrate a favourite verse by creating a mime, picture, short sketch, limerick, poem or display of items. Pray as you read and ask God for the pearls of wisdom you need for the challenges you face today, in this very moment. And know you are not alone. You are not the first person to struggle with this issue. Centuries ago someone grappled with a similar problem, struggled, learned, condensed his wisdom into the capsule of a verse, and wrote it down. Treasures from God, hidden in the heart of the Bible, waiting for the hunters.

Derry health expo

by Daniel de Bruyn

What programme is there in the Seventh-day Adventist Church that attracts 100 non-Adventists in a few hours and mobilises over half your church in running it? 'Health expos is the answer,' says Dr Viriato Ferreira. Dr Viriato, the Euro-Africa Division Health director based in Portugal, has been instrumental in training people in health expos in Portugal, where over 100,000 people have visited health expos in the last ten years. He explained how health expos help the church not only to share health information but to demonstrate loving service for their community — the Gospel in action.

The team prayed hard for a sunny day and the Lord answered our prayers. On 19 April the temperature was a cooking 18° in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, which made possible a large outdoor site and a small indoor site at another shopping centre. Visitors took part in an eight-station health expo, including body mass index, blood pressure, peak flow lung test, exercise testing, free chair massage, computerised health checks and free counselling.

This was great training for the fourteen LIGHT health evangelism students to be involved in, and the local church members were ecstatic at how the programme went. For example, the second site was run with one to three volunteers doing height, weight, and computerised health lifestyle evaluation, giving people a health age often older or younger than their real age.

In the end we saw over 100 people across two sites in four hours with a team of twenty-five, including one doctor and a few nurses for the blood pressures. The key was to get council/shopping centre approval way in advance. We have numerous names and addresses to follow up for health programmes as they wrote their name and address on their health age questionnaire and ticked what programmes they would be interested in attending.

It was encouraging to hear people's comments. Some had quit smoking, others stopped drinking, and still others lost anything from a few pounds to four stones. Some of the most obese people came and these had lost the most weight, with

one now actually training to run a marathon later this year. Many commented, 'This expo is really good — you should do it more often.' Two people said that they were interested in attending the church.

Conversations flow easily as people choose to attend the health expo and are receptive to a genuine health service which acts as an entering wedge to lead to spiritual themes and a very positive impression of the Church.

Running a health expo in this



Brecon: Blue skies and baptisms

by John Surridge and Victor Hulbert

The hottest Spring Bank Holiday for years brought out the crowds for a very special Welsh Mission Family Camp at Aberbran Fach Farm in the stunningly beautiful Brecon Beacons. The farmer's field was covered in tents and caravans, but on Sabbath 23 May campers were joined by members of the Ystrad Mynach church and friends from across Wales to witness a Brecon tradition — a baptism in the River Usk.

Martin Walters and Anna Surridge are both 'Brecon devotees', enjoying the camp and the fellowship of families from across the UK whether it is rain or shine. On this occasion they were glad for the 'shine' as they entered the cold waters of the River Usk to demonstrate their decision for Christ.

Martin, the great-nephew of Pastor Brian Phillips, started attending the camp four years ago. During that time he has made many friends. Look on his 'Facebook Profile' and a substantial number of his friends were made at Brecon. A statement on his profile also sums up his testimony. 'I was Damaged, then Restored, and now Good, thanks to the Lord Jesus Christ's sacrifice.'

In baptising him, Pastor Jeremy Tremeer observed, 'In the same way that our eyes are opened to the beauty of nature, his eyes have been opened to the beauty of God in his life.'

Both of the candidates attend the Ystrad Mynach church where Jeremy Tremeer is the pastor, but it was a proud father who led his daughter, Anna, into the water. As Welsh Mission president, Pastor John

Surridge shared that there had been some family difficulties in adjusting to the move from Watford to Wales — but it was the love and friendship of the Ystrad Mynach church family that had helped Anna adjust and had led her to a decision for Christ.

It was an appropriate weekend to welcome two Welsh youth into the church as the camp saw more Welsh youth in attendance than ever before — perhaps partly due to the skilled catering efforts of Jane Toft-Bayliss and her sister Metti Toft-Zumbuhl. Once again this year they provided nourishing and inexpensive food for Welsh, Cornish and Newbold youth, along with smaller groups from elsewhere. Families meanwhile catered for and swapped food with each other. No one went hungry — even those who neglected to prepare sandwiches for the Sunday hike that many took up past the waterfalls above the Talybont on Usk Reservoir. Others enjoyed the river, nosing around the shops in Brecon or visiting the climbing centre at Llangorse.

Worship is an important part of Brecon Camp. A band of musicians formed from across Wales and England skilfully led the worshippers in singing under the leadership of St Austell Youth worker, Steven Hulbert. Practical and very interactive messages on the relevance of Christianity and the realities of church life were presented by Rhyl pastor, David Foster. Summing up the messages of the weekend, he told campers, 'If you don't like the way your church runs, change it! Your pastor will be glad to hear from you.' With the help of his daughter, Becky Omar, he also brought the Bible stories to life with a series of duologues and dramas. Another newcomer to this camp, Jacobus Heyns, stated, 'I particularly enjoyed Monday's presentation as it challenged us to be more engaged with others in our community. Our Christian experience can only be real if we interact in a meaningful way with the broader community.'

Sunday evening was the traditional camp concert. Traditional in its start with the Carmarthen hand bells catching the attention of even the youngest, then moving through a range of music, drama and stories

that allowed the whole campsite to participate. A guitar and Cajun duet by Ashley Brooks and Putri Bahrain was especially memorable with its fast moving finger work. Martyn Latchman, a first-time camper, illustrated the warmth of the concert — and the whole camp — in the way that he introduced his fellow musicians, Eiddon Paul and Chris Kidwell, before their group performance. 'These are not just my mates,' he said. 'These are my best mates.'

What memories are left with the generations that have passed through Brecon over the last thirty years or so? The demographics have changed with time, facilities have improved, but the main thing that people remember and come back for

is the friendship in a relaxed, Christian atmosphere. Whether on the edge of church or in the centre of spiritual activity, Brecon is a refreshing weekend to energise and charge up the batteries. It is a safe environment to bring your unchurched friends to. With the added bonus of wall-to-wall sunshine, all the campers could complain about was, 'How could it end so soon?' No matter, some will be back for a smaller camp the weekend of 12 September. Many more have already fixed it in their diary for May 2010.

More than 300 photos from the weekend can be found on the BUC picture gallery at www.adventist.org.uk and the Welsh Mission website at: www.adventistwales.org.



Martin Walters with Pastor Tremeer



Misty Pearce



Left to right: Martin Walters with Pastor Jeremy Tremeer, Pastor John Surridge and Anna Surridge

Stars

Christian Stars

Sabbath is a gift from God!

Did you know that the Sabbath day is a special gift from God? The Bible said that God rested on the seventh day after creating the world. God probably didn't need to rest, but he knew we would need to. After giving us the gifts of light, air, water and sunshine, food and flowers, fish, birds, animals and people, he gave us the gift of a day to enjoy everything he had made. Sabbath is a day for us to enjoy a special time with God and some special time with each other.

Draw a large present shape on some plain paper and then write on the present all the different gifts that Sabbath gives to you, like rest, time with your family, time to enjoy Creation, and so on. How will you thank God for all the special gifts he's packed into your Sabbath?

Start a new Sabbath tradition!

What Sabbath traditions does your family have? Some families light a special candle at sunset. Other families eat special meals on Friday night and Sabbath. Some Jewish families welcome Sabbath with a party because they're so happy that it's Sabbath again, and they don't have to work!

Sabbath tradition competition

Write and tell us about your family's special Sabbath traditions! The most interesting Sabbath tradition will win a copy of Karen Holford's book *100 Creative Activities for Sabbath* (also available from the ABC). Email your story to: children@adventist.org.uk before 31 August 2009. Put your name, age and address on your email so that we know where to send your prize.

Nuts and raisins!

One family shares nuts and raisins. Each person tells the story of something good that happened to them in the last week. After each 'good' story everyone eats a raisin to celebrate and they all praise God together. Then each person talks about something hard that they may have to do in the week ahead. After each person speaks, everyone eats a nut (or something else hard) and prays that God will help the person with his or her problem in the next few days.

Rest days and holidays!

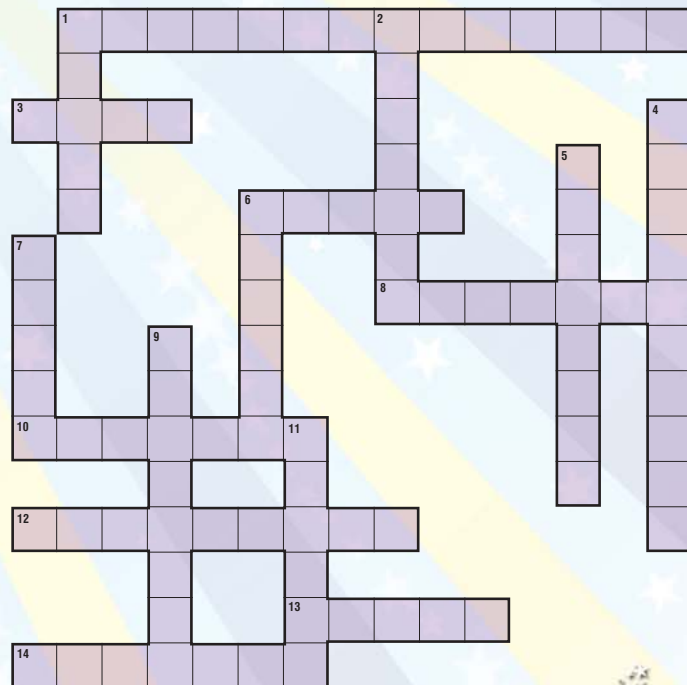
In the crossword you will find all the things that Carl packed in his case for his holiday. What are they? Which one do you think he will read every day? The numbers after a clue show you how many letters there are in each word if the answer has two or more words in it.

Across:

- Clothing for swimming 8, 7.
- Sphere used to play a game.
- God's Word to read every day.
- A device to help you breathe when swimming under water.
- Soft shirts without collars 1-6.
- Rubber footwear to wear on the beach or near the pool 4, 5.
- Used for drying.
- Worn on the face to protect eyes from strong sunlight.

Down:

- A tool used to dig in the sand.
- Used for seeing under water.
- A special book with activities to keep you occupied on the plane 6, 4.
- A bag to hold essential items when hiking. Worn on your back.
- A container used to build sand castles.
- Item made of foam to keep you from drowning when learning to swim.
- Rubberised footwear worn on feet for underwater swimming.
- Trousers that are not long.



Sabbath joy prayer activity

If you call the Sabbath a delight . . . then you will find joy in the Lord. (Isaiah 58:13, 14.) Each Sabbath is the birthday of the creation of the world and birthdays are a days of joy. To make a prayer joy-card you will need a sheet of card and some coloured paper. Tear up the coloured paper into small pieces. Glue the mosaic-sized pieces on to the card so it spells the word JOY.

Think of someone who makes Sabbath a joyful day for you. Each day of this week pray that God will give them joy. Write on the back of the card to let them know that you prayed for them, and give them the card as a gift.

(Adapted from *Creative Bible Learning Activities for Sabbath School*, published by Advent Source)

Best Sabbath award!

Make a certificate for your best Sabbath ever! Design a border to go around the edge of the page and then write:
This certificate was awarded to the Best Sabbath Ever
When was it?
Where was it?
What did we do?
Who was there?
Why was it so special?

Show the certificate to your family and talk about the best Sabbaths you've had and what you most enjoy doing on Sabbath. What ideas do you have for happy Sabbaths in the future?

Twinkle, Twinkle, Sabbath Joy!

To make learning this month's verse really easy, try singing it to the tune of 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star' and you'll soon remember it! Singing words helps them to stay in our memories.

If you call the Sabbath a delight . . . then you will find joy in the Lord.
If you call the Sabbath a delight . . . then you will find joy in the Lord.
Isaiah fifty-eight thirteen and Isaiah fifty-eight fourteen

Sabbath sums

Go through *MESSENGER* and count how many times the word 'Sabbath' is written. If you only have the middle pages, then count how many times people say the word 'Sabbath' during the church service. Write the number here. _____



Dr Pedrito Maynard-Reid

<1 Camp Meeting

such as Pastor Patrick Johnson, senior pastor of Newbold College, Pastor Ian Sweeny, North England Conference president, Pastor Sinisa Horvat, pastor of Basingstoke, Bracknell and Guildford churches, and Pastor Michael Mbui, pastor of

Chiswick and Acton churches.

The morning prayer and praise service proved itself to be an inspiration for many as testimonies were shared and lives were touched.

The morning devotional speaker was Pastor David Klinedinst from the Christian Record Service, a General Conference ministry for the blind headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska.



The Bible study hour was conducted by Dr Pedrito Maynard-Reid from Walla Walla University. He spoke with passion, energy, humour and candour and challenged us to study the Bible, reminding us that we are in an age where Adventists don't study for themselves anymore



SEC Ingathering champion

— less than 50% have a regular Bible study time.

The Family Focus programme was conducted by Drs Alonzo and June Smith who brought to Camp Meeting their wealth of family ministry experience. After beginning with humorously differing recollections of how they first met, the good doctors soon revealed a command of the more serious aspects of marital difficulties. Their in-depth knowledge, drawn from first-hand counselling, ministry, and their multiplicity of work-related roles, was well supported by the expert research they brought to bear in a fact-filled presentation on marital problems.

The major challenges facing the modern family — and Christians are not immune — were elaborated. Topics included managing money, verbal abuse, pornography and unresolved issues. Coping mechanisms and ways of managing the difficulties were addressed in detail. Indeed, the detail of their presentation was such that it would be a great disservice even to attempt to present an outline here. Fortunately, their books make their wisdom available to a wider audience. It is a wisdom which they ably supported with biblical and inspired references — indeed, the Bible is replete with stories of real people and real relationships that speak to us today. They made it clear that, while our goal in life is to be saved, Satan's major effort is directed at destroying families. Often the only solution might be to 'Let go and let God,' as Alonzo said, but some expert help from the Smiths and others whom God has called to family ministry will also go a long way.

Youth and teens

In the teens' programme Pastor Roy

Ice, chaplain of Pacific Union College, challenged the young people to be sure of their faith and come closer to God.

One of the things emphasised by the speakers — and equally by teens in their testimonies — was how they all felt so inspired and touched at Camp Meeting but that when they returned home they felt let down.

Pastor Tim Gillespie from Loma Linda University church spoke to the young adults about doing things differently. He challenged the youth to become faith builders and not settle for the norm or the status quo!

The Sabbath

Sabbath morning dawned beautiful. The rays of the sun trickled through the departing clouds, wrapping their warmth around those who came to receive a 'word from the Lord'.

Sabbath School

Dr Pedrito Maynard-Reid, an experienced pastor, teacher, administrator, musician and author, explored the topic of Stewardship in a convincing and passionate way. He said, 'More than half the world's population lives on less than one British pound a day . . . so we should help others with what we have.'

Mission spotlight

Pastor Aris Vontzalidis hosted the mission spotlight. Joining him were Eddie Samuel, first elder of the Welling church in London, Dr Steve Thomas, coordinator of Area 5, and Leslie King, who is a pioneer missionary in Somerset.

Dr Steve Thomas began his address by thanking God for the sixty-two people who were baptised at the recent Reading district campaign. Dr Thomas believes that the success of the campaign was due to the prayers offered before it started,

'getting connected' with people in the community, the united approach of the clergy in the district, and the open sharing of resources.

Preachers for this event were Dr Alonzo Smith, director of Family Life and Communication at the Greater New York Conference, Pastor Don McFarlane, president of the British Union Conference, Dr Richard de Lisser, Communication and Stewardship director of the SEC, and Pastor Kirk Thomas, a dynamic evangelist who currently pastors the Willesden church. Tribute was given to Pastor George Dadey and ordained minister, Pastor Samuel Ngui, for their co-operation and hard work in the delivery of this soul-winning mission.

There are now over thirty-four church plants around the SEC. The DVD that concluded this session highlighted the work in Dunstable; the Kidz zone in West London; London Live in Regent Street and Notting Hill; Messy Church in a Life Development Centre in Bournemouth; recent baptisms in St Austell and The Church (Enfield); The Living Room in South London and the Watering Hole in Southampton, who have made 300 contacts in the community.

Ingathering awards

Ingathering is a major event in the SEC. The success of the members and churches in collecting over £300,000 is down to their dedication to the Lord and their hard work in giving of their time freely. Dr Terry Messenger, Personal Ministries director, who is responsible for promoting Ingathering, thanked each and every one who contributed to this programme. Acknowledgements and awards were given to those who collected large amounts.

The highest collector in the SEC

was Joyce Morrison from the Hampstead church, who collected £4,668.20. The top church in the Conference was Croydon who collected £33,057.82, and the top Area was 6B who collected £67,628.04.

Thanks were offered for the hard work of the members by Pastor Bert Smit, who said, 'This is helping people in need. As Christians, we have an obligation to those in need. Thanks so much.'

Divine worship

A 150+ Zimbabwean choir graced the platform and sang 'The Battle Hymn of the Republic'. This was a precursor to the arrival of His Excellency, the Governor General of Jamaica, Sir Patrick Allen, and his wife Lady Patricia Allen, who was appointed on 26 February and knighted on Friday 12 June at Buckingham Palace. Prior to his appointment, he was president of the West Indies Union. His Excellency is an ordained minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He holds an MA in Theology and a PhD in Education from Andrews University. Lady Patricia Allen is a trained teacher and nurse.

Introducing the Governor of Jamaica was the BUC president, Pastor Don McFarlane, who opened his greetings to the members by stating how pleased he was to be at Camp Meeting and how blessed he felt by the spiritual atmosphere.

Greetings were then given by His Excellency who assured the worshippers that 'it doesn't matter where you serve, your life has to reflect Jesus Christ'.

Reflecting Jesus Christ was the underlying theme of the SEC president's sermon. Pastor Sam Davis began his discourse with a story about Tony Campolo, a well-

> 16



Bobby Bovell at the Youth meeting



Leslie King



Eddie Hypolite talks to teens



Sujoya Paul Bullock

SEC appoints new Family Life director

On Sunday 31 May 2009 the Executive Committee of the South England Conference (SEC) appointed Pastor Leslie Ackie as the new SEC Family Life director. Pastor Ackie replaces Pastor Bernie Holford who was recently called to serve as the Scottish Mission president.



Pastor Ackie has been in pastoral ministry for almost fifteen years. He graduated from Newbold College in 1995 and began his internship at Brixton church under the supervision of Pastor James Phillip, completing his internship under the supervision of Pastor Brighton Kavaloh while caring for the Kings Cross and Muswell Hill congregations.

He has since served as the East London 6c District coordinator (2003-4) and has pastored the Chingford, Edmonton, Enfield, East Ham and Walthamstow congregations. Pastor Ackie is currently serving the Stevenage and Watford Town churches.

Over the last decade he has developed a passion in the area of family ministries and mental and emotional health. In 2007 he and his wife Irma graduated as Certified Family Life Educators. Their joint ministry has included the presentation of seminars at

home and abroad, particularly in the area of marriage and parenting.

Pastor Ackie also holds an Advanced Certificate in Christian Counselling and has specialised in the area of couple counselling. He and his wife have two children, Maleah (10) and Marlon (4).

Pastor Sam Davis, SEC president, wishes to welcome Pastor Ackie to this position and wishes him all the very best for the future as he continues to grow and develop this vital ministry of the Church. Pastor Davis echoed the sentiments of the Executive Committee when he said, 'Leslie brings to the Family Life department a wealth of experience and has the affirmation of the membership and ministry alike.'

DR RICHARD DE LISSER

Newbold reunion

Fifty-fifth reunion at Newbold from 3 to 5 July for Class of 1954. Norman Gully and Peter Read are making rare visits to the UK for this event and hope to meet many old friends. Please come and join us for an interesting weekend or for a day if you were a student in the early '50s or if you are friends of any of the Class members. For information contact Jean on 01782 625712 or Iris on 01749 672979.

JEAN HARDY-BAERG

Adventurer Camporee is all about heroes

It's early morning and the sun is shining. It's only 5am but it appears that most of the campsite is awake. Some, of course, never went to sleep. The place is the

Walesby Scout Campsite in north Nottinghamshire. The occasion is the 2009 NEC Adventurer Camporee.

The heroes are all over the place. Adult helpers assisting young

children to wash, the club leaders meeting with Pastor Thomas in the marquee to plan the programme for the day. Back in camp counsellors are strict on hygiene and in some cases are soothing one or two home-sick children – and all before 7am.

A change in pace is signalled by the drums – one big bass drum and what sounds like half a dozen rapidly beaten snare drums. The clubs gather, the whole site stirs to the sound of the call to morning watch – on the Sunday morning taken by the children from GBK Wolverhampton. Child participation is the theme for the Camporee. The children pray, the children

sing, the children do the Scripture readings. One of the campers, Jacob, is willingly pressed into service by Pastor Royston to play the lead role as the story of Jacob is lived out in front of the children.

Royston Smith in front of children is a very different person from the Royston preparing to speak in the rear of the tent. He has the children eating from the palms of his hands with questions, activities, responses and calls. There isn't an eye wandering the walls of the tent – for all eyes are on Royston and the Word of God. The children are learning and promising that they are not going to give away their birthright and that they will use their gifts for God.

Humour? The Pathfinder leader after the Sabbath afternoon walk made the comment, 'The walk was wonderful, but I didn't know I had to bring the children back.' Or the child's response, 'That walk was so long it gave me an ulcer!'

Age-appropriate worship? The user-friendliness of the Camporee could be measured by the group of children volunteering to pray on the Sunday morning. It was good to hear a group of five Adventurers praying for the family and their friends, for the Camporee and for more good weather.

The Monday morning followed the almost normal pattern. Morning watch, breakfast, worship – but now the addition of the giving of the prizes. All clubs received awards depending on the marks they had gained in the different inspections – Adventurer uniform, Staff uniform, Administration and Camp Inspection. It was eventually Liverpool who gained the gold award – closely followed by silver for Manchester South and the bronze to Newtown Aston. No competition here – but loud cheers for the winners!

Later that Bank Holiday Monday would see crowds of tired children getting into coaches, cars and minibuses for the trek back home. Many would be tired, asleep before they even left the gates – while the camp staff prepared for a quick turnaround as a fresh lot of campers arrived on site for NEC Pathfinder Camp 2009.

The closing word goes to a Great Brickkiln Street Adventurer who, when asked what he most liked about Adventurer Camporee, replied, 'No TV! That young man has been well and truly brought up.'

PETER JEVNES



Yardley Pathfinders

Asian fellowship

The annual day of Asian fellowship on Sabbath 9 May at Langley church was another fantastic day of praise and worship. As usual, the church was packed with



fellow worshippers from all over the United Kingdom. The message for the morning was themed around obedience and worshipping the one God. What made this year different was the absence of the church musical director Robin Joseph, who sadly passed away last year. The choirs, duets and solo performances were again of superb quality. Some dedicated their items in memory of Robin.

Every year seems to show greater diversity in the Asian languages, where items are performed in a number of languages – Punjabi, Urdu and English all mixed in one. This year also featured a number of items from the Langley church's Youth choir, which ranged from a particular style of traditional Indian hymns to novel, innovative songs to which they can more easily relate. Another great day in celebrating the Sabbath. All eyes are now looking to September for the annual song competition.

ALFRED MASIH

Sabbath School at nursing home

On Saturday 4 April at 10am, one of the Sabbath School classes at the Great Brickkiln Street church, Wolverhampton, organised a mini-programme. It was then transferred to a nursing home in Wolverhampton. The head of the home kindly offered a special hall where the service could be held.

The theme for the morning worship was 'God's love, the fabric of life'. Morning witnessing service was well accepted and some of the attendees happily participated in biblical discussions. Songs, musical items and a



Seated, left to right, residents John, Matilda, Rosie, Arthur and Connie

PowerPoint presentation helped make the occasion a joyous event. At the end of it all, most of the residents made known their willingness to attend the next Sabbath visit.

DELVA CAMPBELL

Coventry children stand up for Jesus

'Stand up for Jesus' was the theme for Children's Day on Sabbath 4 April at Coventry Central. It made a refreshing change to be ushered into the church by two young children who wore vibrant smiles on a nice sunny morning.

Eight children gave sermonettes about children in the Bible who stood up for Jesus. The children's choir also sang a number of songs.

A fellowship lunch was provided, and the children were very happy to serve the food and help clean up afterwards. The children and especially the 'much older' children enjoyed the cake that was made to commemorate their special day, courtesy of their superintendent Mrs Mhlanga.



The children's choir

NOMBULELO MOYO



A special day for a special boy!

by Sophia Nicholls

Thanks to Starlight Children's charity, 12-year-old Matthew Nicholls' dream became a reality.

Matthew and his family attended a star-studded gospel concert and awards ceremony organised by Pure Genius Entertainment and UK Base Entertainment at Wembley Arena, London, on 4 May. Thousands of excited gospel music lovers poured into the arena to hear the music of artists such as CeCe Winans, Mary Mary, Kirk Franklin and many more.

Matthew was born with Peter's Anomaly, a rare genetic disorder. As a result of this condition, Matthew is blind and has learning difficulties. He recently developed an undiagnosed neurological condition which resulted in his having to use a wheelchair to get around. For Matthew, it was a dream come true

to attend a gospel concert and to hear some of his favourite artists perform some of his favourite songs.

Music is one of the few pleasures Matthew can truly appreciate and it is also the means by which Matthew has learnt to communicate. Gospel music brings out the broadest smile and enjoyment for him, so to be able to attend this event brought joy to Matthew and his family who witnessed this special occasion.

The icing on the cake for Matthew was to be invited by the organisers to present the Best Gospel Artist award to Kirk Franklin, who showed great sensitivity and understanding as he bent to whisper greetings and thanks to Matthew while receiving the award.

Splash, Splosh, Splash!

Water, water everywhere, and the 100th length in sight in an incredible time of fifty-five minutes. What an achievement!

A sponsored swim turned into a real challenge as our lone swimmer splashed around in memory of his 82-year-old swimming partner who lost his fight for life days earlier.

The Splash sponsored swimming event was dedicated to the memory of the friendly, fun-loving George Prince of Crumpsal, Manchester, whose fitness startled onlookers each time he entered the pool.

The event took place on 24 May at the North City Sports Centre. The challenge was to swim 50 lengths, a feat only achieved on two previous occasions by our swimming sensation Basil Lopuszansky. Basil was determined to double the number of lengths from 50 to 100 in memory of his dear friend and dedicated his efforts to him. As onlookers cheered throughout Basil kept his composure. On the final length into the history

books he put on a display of power as every sinew, muscle and fibre was called upon as he finished at speed. The celebration and applause of the crowd was a distant din as he staggered from the pool to perform his trademark smile.

In memory of George and the superhuman efforts of Basil, the Manchester North AYS department has pledged to present a plaque to George's family at a time to be arranged.

Basil comments, 'It was really touch and go when I reached 24 lengths. I felt ill and just reminded myself why I was doing this swim. I realised I must have been deluded when I said I would do 100 lengths, but God gave me the strength and focus to carry on for such a worthwhile cause as the church building and my buddy

Baptismal joy at Leicester Central

On Sabbath 30 May there was a sense of joy that bubbled continuously throughout the service in which Kerry Louise White and Julian Francis were baptised. There was a special blend of heartfelt praise, which was expressed in congregational singing, led by a praise band from the St Matthews Branch Sabbath School in Leicester.

Kerry Louise and Julian explained the journeys they had made which led to their decision to be baptised. Their testimonies revealed a sense of careful consideration and heart-searching, which had enabled them to make their commitment to become members of the family of God.

We were very privileged to be able to listen to a range of uplifting music in this service. Antonio Belgrave delivered a very moving saxophone solo entitled 'As the deer', accompanied by Greg Smith. A beautiful arrangement of 'We are one in the Spirit' was performed by an ensemble, including Julian Francis (sax), Antonio Belgrave (sax), Lestroy Weaver (guitar), Earl Lake (bass guitar) and Greg Smith (piano). In addition, Julian played a soulful saxophone solo accompanied by Lestroy Weaver (guitar), 'How great thou art', dedicating it to Kerry Louise and her family.

PHILIP HERBERT

West Yorks baptism

The Huddersfield church was full of family and friends of the five individuals who became members of the Huddersfield and Wakefield churches on Sabbath afternoon, 31 January.

Joining Huddersfield by profession of faith were Sara Shakes and Charles Allen. Sara has recently been elected to serve as the Pathfinder director. Charles comes from Montserrat.

Becoming members of Huddersfield by baptism were Javene Robinson and Duduzile Dlamini.

Javene is the daughter of Courtney and Mavoley Robinson. Duduzile is doing her finals in Psychology at Huddersfield University.

Nicole Farmer was baptised into Christ and became a member of the Wakefield church. Nicole is the daughter of Dr Sam and Geraldene Farmer.

Pastor Ian Sweeney, NEC president and former pastor of the Huddersfield church, spoke of the need of the candidates to maintain their Christian identity in a hostile world.

PASTOR BARRY STOKES



Back left to right: Lesmond Taylor, Marline Simpson, Roselyne Kombo, Karen Kawadza, Belinda Kawadza, Herbert T. Kawadza, Brenda Okioaga and Louise Simpson. Front: Shamiso Elias, Kudzai Elias, Alivia Simpson and Basil Lopuszansky

George who will be sorely missed.'

Through one man's efforts what will we be inspired to give?

The church would like to appeal to 300 brave hearts around the country to swim 100 lengths in a marathon fundraising event. If you're up to the challenge, get in touch with Lesmond Taylor for more details at letsplash.taylor@gmail.com.

MANCHESTER NORTH CHURCH

The hills were alive . . .

. . . with the sound of music.

Sabbath 23 May was the day that the Bristol Lodge Causeway young people, led by Stephanie Anderson, came over the Mendip Hills to Croscombe which, as its name implies, sits in a steep valley under the Mendips. They had come to Somerset to give a musical concert in the church hall in the afternoon by kind invitation of Martin Pugh. During divine service they performed 'Onward Christian Soldiers' on the hand chimes, which sounded beautiful in the little stone chapel.

After the service, the members and their visitors enjoyed time together over a tasty fellowship lunch. It was a beautiful, warm afternoon so, once everything had been set up in readiness for the concert, the best thing was to have the hall doors open to allow in a cooling breeze. The young people, Sophie and Daniel, Katarina and Roman, Philip, Rachel, Joe, Ethan, with local member Marcel joining in on his violin, had a very full afternoon.

Graham Anderson was the morning speaker, and his brother David



Sophie, Katarina and Rachel performed beautifully in Croscombe

was Master of Ceremonies in the afternoon. Philip, David's son, started proceedings off by playing 'Amazing Grace' on his bagpipes. Katarina and Sophie sang a number of items, with Rachel joining them in the singing of 'Holy, Holy Are You Lord'; Roman played the piano, as did also Rachel, Philip and Ethan. Philip played his trumpet for a number of items, as well as the drums. Joe was the main drummer, and Daniel played the bass guitar. Rachel and Katarina also played their flutes. All eight young people played a further two items on the hand chimes

during the programme.

As it turned out, for the Croscombe members the highlight of the day was when a gentleman who lives in a cottage opposite the church came into the hall at the end of the concert and expertly played the drums and cymbals while Philip played along on his bagpipes. This was the first time he had been in the church complex, having heard the bagpipes and other items through the open doors – so the hills were, indeed, alive with the sound of music.

BARRYMORE BELL

Jesus meets the homeless at the Bear Pit

by Angela Victor

'Service in Christ' is an outreach ministry within the Bristol Central church that started out three-and-a-half years ago. The ministry's aim and objective was to feed the homeless, some of whom are ex-offenders and are alcohol and drug dependent. God gave Sister Rosaline a dream while she was attending the Bethel Prayer Band, founded by Angela Victor. Rosaline believes God told her to 'tell my people at the Bear Pit that I love them and that I am coming back soon'.

God also instructed Rosaline to give 5% of her income to support the ministry, which she has done faithfully. Angela Victor is regularly supported in the Bethel Prayer Band. This includes our younger members of the church who are brightly clad in their uniforms and whose ages range from 13-16. One of the young helpers, Shaquilla, said, 'The needs of the homeless made me look at my life and I saw how much I took for granted.' The group are out there in all weathers, faithfully distributing soup and sandwiches.

Many of the homeless say to Angela Victor, 'Why would you do this for us – coming out here in freezing weather for long hours? No one is interested in us; no one cares. They see us as nobodies and we are scum to others. You're the only people who care for us.' Angela

responds by saying, 'Jesus loves you and cares about you, too.' She constantly points them to Jesus to whom she always gives the glory.

The support offered includes counselling, prayers and sharing the Word. Since the ministry started, the behaviour of the homeless and their attitude to the Word of God has improved remarkably. Where they once cursed us and God, they now embrace the love of God and ask us to pray for them. God is answering their prayers. Since the credit crunch we are seeing more people who have lost their jobs and we are now also ministering to them.

The outreach ministry put on a Christmas dinner outside for the homeless. Despite the freezing cold conditions, the spirit of God was there to warm them. A DVD of the event was also produced. A New Year's dinner was hosted inside the church in early January; both were financed and supported by Bristol Central church. Thousands of the Discovery leaflet were distributed to shoppers passing by.

As a direct result of the outreach ministry, we now have two homeless individuals who have started coming to the church. They are always encouraged to have a fellowship lunch with us.

EDNA MAY ECCLES (1937-2007) d. 19 May. On 19 May 2007, Edna May Eccles fell asleep at the High Wycombe Hospital in Buckinghamshire at the age of 71 years, following five strokes within six weeks. Edna was known at the Amersham, High Wycombe, Lewisham, Sydenham, Plumstead and Riversdale churches. Born in Newport, St Catherine, Jamaica, Edna May Eccles was born the second of identical twins, the seventh of eight children – three brothers and four sisters. Edna was continually inspired by the Word of God, especially those scriptures pertaining to Heaven and the New Earth (Revelation 21 and 22). Edna attended Mt Hermon Elementary School in Hampshire, a beautiful village nestled in the hills of St Catherine and, in her teens, left Jamaica to pursue her nursing career in England, where she became a State Registered Nurse (SRN) and State Certified Midwife (SCM). Despite ill health over many years, Edna continued to fulfil her mission of sharing the everlasting Gospel by offering Spirit of Prophecy books, including *Steps to Christ*, *Desire of Ages*, *The Great Controversy* and *The Ministry of Healing* to consultants, doctors, nurses and other medical and healthcare personnel. Even during the last days of her illness, Edna spoke confidently to the High Wycombe nurses of the soon return of Jesus Christ. Edna will be greatly missed by her son Alfred, her daughter Eva, her grandchildren Bianca Abi and Alicia, her daughter-in-law Ana, John, her brothers Ecton and Cassell, her sisters Yvonne Pearl and Verna, her nieces and nephews, her cousins and numerous relatives and friends who loved her dearly. It was the children's and grandchildren's habit to leave her hospital bedside with the comforting words, 'See you later.' The family awaits the grand reunion with her on the 'Golden Morning'. (1 Corinthians 15:51-57)

ALFRED ECCLES

<11
Camp Meeting

known preacher and sociologist, who found himself in a coffee shop at 2.30 in the morning and who, over-hearing that it was a prostitute's birthday the following day, arranged a party for her. The owner of the shop, when he found out that Campolo was a minister, sneeringly asked him, 'What kind of church do you attend?' Campolo's reply: 'The kind of church that holds birthday parties for prostitutes at 2.30 in the morning.'

Campolo relates this story in his book *The Kingdom of God is a Party*, and 'Building for the Kingdom' was the title of Pastor Davis's sermon. 'All around we see people trying to build kingdoms,' he stated, 'but God has called us to be kingdom builders – building for eternity. While we are building for the kingdom, we have to live as kingdom people who are mission minded,' he said.

Music during the worship service was delivered by the Zimbabwean choir, Faith Vocal and Sujoya Paul Bullock.

Adult baptism

Eight precious souls were added to the church on Sabbath during the adult baptism in the swimming pool on the site. Prior to their immersion, they were examined by Dr Steve Thomas publicly in front of the adult congregation.

They were: Jocelin Asante, London Ghana; Taurai Mandizha, Milton Keynes; Barbara Kutyauripo, Portsmouth; Arthur Tuscan, Romanian Church (entered into fellowship); Jim Otieno, Luton; Sharmila Gunda, Maranatha; Leaves Violet Sipunzi, Southampton; Tendai Musiyiwa, Stoke on Trent. These eight candidates were welcomed into the fellowship of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the membership of their local churches.

Ordination

A packed auditorium, along with Internet viewers from around the globe, witnessed the ordination of Pastors Theo Rios, Sorin Petrof, Samuel Ngui, Rafael Luz, Mohan Rao Abbadasari, Ilie Tarlev, Harrison Mburani, Chris Peake, Vicentiu Dranca and Vasyl Vartsaba. Accompanied by their wives, each ordinand was given the charge by BUC president, Pastor Don McFarlane, to 'take up the full duties

of an ordained pastor in the UK and throughout the world'. They were reminded that, while the high calling to the ministry was one that demanded respect, it is of utmost importance to remember that they are servants of God and of their members and that servant leadership should be the major focus in their lives.

SEC president Pastor Sam Davis in his opening remarks cited 1 Tim. 3, where the apostle Paul advises on the importance of leaders being beyond reproach. Pastor Davis also commented on the high calling and importance of becoming a minister of Jesus Christ.

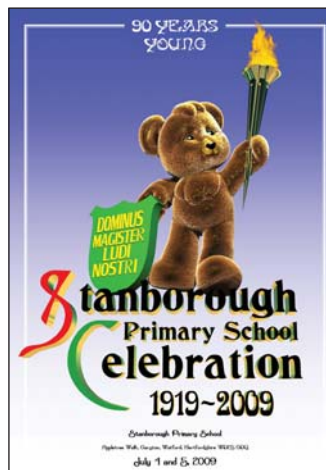
In his sermon 'I see men like trees', Pastor Des Boldeau referred to Mark chapter 8 where Jesus healed the blind man at Bethsaida. These questions were asked of the ordinands: 'Who do you see in ministry? What is your vision for the church and families and, finally, what do you see?' As vision can be distorted and become blurred

because of mentality and misunderstandings, it is most important to prioritise. Becoming a workaholic can also blur the vision and at times it may be necessary to 'put the brakes on in order to be effective in ministry'.

In support of the newly ordained ministers' wives, all current ministers' wives were called to the platform by Rowena Davis (wife of the SEC president), who shared words of encouragement and charged them with their roles as wives to those who have been called to serve. Ministers' wives have an extraordinary task as they support their husbands and each was reminded of the need to be dedicated. 'Wives, it is a big task but we serve a big God,' were her parting sentiments.

The evening concluded with a wonderful musical concert celebrating the diversity of our Conference and the bringing together of the many gifts that we can all enjoy.

Building up, reaching out . . . wherever you are!



Thanksgiving service

The celebration will commence with a worship and rededication service at the school on Saturday 4 July at 10.30am to 12 noon.

School fair

On Sunday 5 July, 11am to 4pm, there will be a Summer Fair featuring displays of the past and a school showcase of current activities. The fair will feature Stanborough pupil talent and achievements, arts and crafts stalls, international food, and a wide variety of events for visitors, parents, and the whole community. If you would like a stall, call 01923 673291

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- Monthly debtor and creditor control
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Messenger

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DESIGN: **DAVID BELL**

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Sunset

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	Land	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
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	10 9.16	9.28	9.28	9.54	9.56
	17 9.09	9.22	9.21	9.46	9.48
	24 9.01	9.13	9.11	9.35	9.38
	31 8.50	9.02	9.00	9.22	9.26

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