



UK youth take up the challenge

Catherine Anthony Boldeau reports from the Pan-European Youth Congress in Munich

One hundred and twenty-seven Adventist young people and their leaders from the UK and the Republic of Ireland attended the Pan-European Youth Congress in Munich, 5-12 August. 'It's Your Turn' was the title of the Congress, which included nearly 4,500 delegates from both the Trans-European and Euro-Africa Divisions and further afield.

The UK was well represented. Trainee minister Andrew Davis, son of SEC president Pastor Sam Davis, was one of the two moderators who hosted the majority of the programmes. Andrew's humour and joviality enhanced the proceedings throughout the four-day event. His co-presenter was Linda Schulz from Germany.

Eddie Hypolite, associate SEC Youth director, was the speaker for the opening service. His message focused on knowing Jesus so you can tell others about the Gospel. He was also the speaker for the Sabbath afternoon commitment service, in which he invited the young people of Europe to make a decision for Jesus. 'It's your turn now to take the Gospel to the world,' was his closing remark. And during the week, an 'afterglow' service of praise, worship and testimony was led by a praise team comprising young people from the London area. Joel Holford carried the Union Jack on behalf of the BUC.

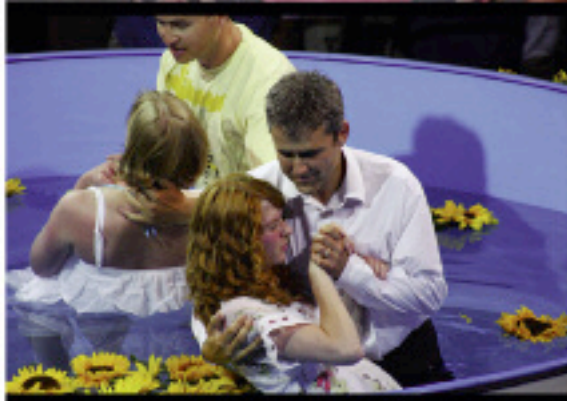
The highlight of the week for the UK was the performance of Austin Blackburn from

the St Austell church in Cornwall. With deftness and dexterity he elevated the humble saw from a work tool to an instrument of beauty with his performance of 'Bridge over troubled water' at Friday afternoon's Arts Festival. It was a flawless recital that deserved the standing ovation that it received.

Other features during the week were the Fun Run in the centre of Munich that raised nearly 10,000 euros for a local charity, the baptism of eighteen young people on Friday evening, and the prayer walk on Sabbath afternoon.

The focus of the Congress was on allowing the young people to participate in the mission of the Church. At a press conference church leaders issued 'The Munich Statement'. The statement was a call for increased youth participation in the Church, especially at leadership level, in local churches, nationally and internationally.

Paul Tompkins, TED Youth director, stated, 'We welcome the participation of the young people and hope to have an ongoing dialogue and partnership with them.' Commenting on the Congress as a whole, Des Boldeau, BUC Youth director, concluded, 'We all had a Spirit-filled time. I believe that God blessed everyone and, from the feedback I had from the youth, they had a great time. My prayer is that those who attended the Congress are inspired to go out and make it their turn to spread the Gospel.'



At her coronation, Queen Elizabeth, like British monarchs before her, promised to 'maintain the laws of God and the true profession of the gospel'. But today, Britain is at war with the Gospel and with itself. British Christians who take their faith into the workplace risk being demoted or fired. The government continues to push an aggressive gay rights agenda, while threatening to criminalise Christian speech and practice.

At one time, Britain was the missionary base for the entire world, even sending missionaries to the new American colonies. But today, the cases of anti-Christian bigotry and discrimination have risen sharply. Islam continues to advance in the UK in large part because the government and media give it almost a protected status, while essentially persecuting its own state religion, Christianity.*

This is, indeed, a strange state of affairs. Perhaps it was inevitable, given the fact that the amount of people currently attending church weekly is put at around 6%. The truth is, this is now a secular country. Also, if some projections are to be believed, in a few

decades Islam will be the majority faith here.

Turning aside from that, though, are there any parallels with you and me? Are we still as Christian as we once were? Is there a danger that we are like this country, which was once Christian, but now has to face the fact that this was in the past. The New Testament doesn't address this issue much, as a lot of the time it is busy dealing with issues relevant to an emerging church in a time of persecution. However, in the prophetic book of Revelation it does look forward to what was then the distant future, and it has some words of advice that seem relevant: 'I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have. . . . Him who overcomes. . . . I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were one or the other!' (Revelation 3:11-15.) These words were written to the churches in Philadelphia and Laodicea. Our understanding is that these words apply to Christians now.

Can you and I recognise the dangers we face as Christians today? The church has been around a long time. We may have been Christians a long time. Our attention needs to be on our current standing with God. It is no good remembering

with Jonathan Barrett

Anti-Christian discrimination



what we used to be like. Our focus has to be on what we are like now, today, when it comes to our faith. If that can be our focus, then no matter how much this country may be at war with the Gospel and itself, at least that will not be true of us.

*www.cbn.com/cbnnews/world/2009/July/Britains-War-on-Christianity-Americas-Future-Fight

GCAS (TEA) – Auditor vacancy

General Conference Auditing Service (Trans-European Area) will have a vacancy for a travelling auditor (ACCA qualified or near qualified). The successful candidate will have a minimum of three years' post-qualification experience or five years' audit experience if near qualified. Working knowledge of Caseware is required.

Requests for further details and applications (with CV) to S. Richards Grice at 119 St Peter's Street, St Albans, AL1 3EY or email: grices@gcasconnect.org.



It can't happen . . . until it does!

David Marshall

Some folks are made with a built-in resistance to change. Worse than that: they claim it as a virtue!

'Pastor,' an elderly member said to a colleague, 'if God were alive today, he would be shocked by the changes you are trying to bring about in our congregation.'

But the idea of change is basic to Christianity. The change that Christ can make in a life. The change that Christianity can bring about in the community and in the world. The decisive change that will occur at God's final intervention in Earth's affairs.

This year is the twentieth anniversary of, arguably, the greatest year of change in history: 1989. Some would argue for 1848, the great year of revolution in almost every European country. But I would respectfully point out that by the end of 1849 the old order had been largely re-established. By contrast 1989 saw the end of an old order which, twenty years later, has not been re-established. And Christianity was pivotal in removing that old order.

When attempts were made to introduce freedom in Eastern Bloc countries before 1989 – in 1956 in Hungary and 1968 in Czechoslovakia – masses of Soviet tanks arrived to crush them. In 1989, however, the winds of freedom were blowing so fiercely that the Soviet Union's Mikhail Gorbachev took the view: 'If your horse is dead, for goodness sake – dismount.'

'By 1989, all but the most calcified Communist leaders knew that at the most practical level – providing a decent standard of living to their people – their god had failed.'¹ By contrast the God whose followers Communist regimes had done their brutal best to rub out was, evidently, very much a success. That fact became massively evident the minute 'the dictatorships of the proletariat' were brought down.

The first evidence that the world had shifted on its pivot was when free elections were allowed in Poland – and Solidarity won virtually every seat in the parliament. Multinational business, technological innovation and, crucially, *personal faith* are said to have been the three decisive forces for change.¹

Even in China, where pro-freedom demon-

strators were being massacred in Tiananmen Square at the same time Solidarity was winning the Polish election, Marxism was being replaced by consumerism as the principal influence on policy. And anyone who has missed the story of the massive revival of Christianity in China has missed the most important development in Christian history since the Reformation.²

No plan existed to bring down the Berlin Wall. The East German regime had tried to disguise the extent of Communist losses in the May 89 elections, but most knew they had happened. When East Germans went on holiday that summer many planned never to return. Those who took no holiday and those who returned used Christian churches as opposition centres. Soon power was on the streets.

Avalanche politics brought down the regime – and the wall. Ten thousand Berliners demolished it, and had a party while doing so.

The contested elections for the Congress of People's Deputies on 25 May 1989, in retrospect, marked the beginning of the end for the Soviet Union. It soon became obvious that the party apparatchiks had lost control. In conversations with the first George Bush, Gorbachev acknowledged the role Christianity had played in exposing the ideological bankruptcy of Communism.

Men like Andrei Sakharov, Lech Walensa and Vaclav Havel were emerging as the sort of people to lead the post-Communist Eastern Bloc countries. At that stage no one would have tipped the former KGB men who lead Russia today for roles in the future of their country. In December 89 Vaclav Havel was elected president of Czechoslovakia and Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania was deposed and shot.

The records of the South Africa's Intelligence Service indicate that, in the course of 1989, there was a series of meetings between President F. W. Botha and Nelson Mandela. Mandela was still on Robben Island (until February 1990) but the minutes of the meetings suggest that he was already being treated as the leader of Black South Africans and a future president. The ground was being prepared for the dismantling of Apartheid. Yet another triumph of grace over gravity.

The idea that steam locomotives could travel

twice as fast as stagecoaches was described as 'palpably absurd' by *The Quarterly Review* in 1825.

In 1889 *The Literary Digest* stated that 'the horseless carriage' (the motorcar) would 'never, of course, come into as common use as the bicycle'.

Popular Science declared in 1901 that air travel would never 'begin to compete with the railroad'.

'The past,' it has been said, 'is another country.' It is a country in whose knowledge, beliefs and assumptions we too easily seek refuge.

We must be open to the change God wants the Church to work in the world. We must be agents of that change.

A reader asked me recently when hymns first came into common use in Christian worship. The answer has much to do with the life of Isaac Watts. The youthful Watts was challenged by his Puritan father for his lacklustre singing in church. Watts protested. There was, he said, no music in the psalms and, what's more, they didn't rhyme. For centuries it had been the role of the clerk to read out the psalm line by line for the congregation to sing after him.

The older Watts told his son to write his own worship songs since he clearly thought he was cleverer than King David.

Watts rose to the challenge. In doing so he began an innovation in worship practice for which we are deeply indebted to him: hymn singing.

He could have gone along with past practice. But he didn't. He opted for change, and God used him as the agent for change.

Another way of looking at change is *growth*. Think of that next time you are tempted to defend something because 'we have always done it that way'. Our God is alive. If his Church plans to stay alive, it must be open to change. God works through change. Let's be his agents for change.

It can't happen – until it does. And sometimes God may want to use you to *make* sure it does.

References:

¹*Time*, Vol 173, Nos 26/27. ²*FOCUS*, Vol 28, No 4; Vol 29, No 1.

Enhancing Health

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

Eco health — Going green

In a recent health magazine an article carried the title 'What shade of green are you?' The researcher went on to highlight the varying categories of 'green health' practices with a self test to analyse one's compliance in this area. The categories ranged from recycling habits to the products we buy, their contents and manufacturing processes. I took the test and was happy with my score, which indicated that I was at the mid-green level of the scale, indicative of green consciousness and good compliance.

Does 'going green' really matter and how important is it anyway? At the Global Health Conference held in Geneva this June, Per de Lange, Health Ministry director for Norway and consultant to the Regional Office of Health in Norway, gave a presentation on Ensuring Environmental Sustainability. He highlighted the problems and solutions of key environmental issues such as global warming, toxic waste, air, water and soil pollution and occupational safety. He identified the

physical, psychological, environmental, economic and social cost on a global scale of ignoring our current ecological challenges. He also reminded us of our spiritual accountability to be good stewards of what the Lord has entrusted to us, including how we care for our world and the things that harm it.

Over the next few issues we will examine some eco-health practices and how they can enhance our well-being. As a starter, examine the following list of suggestions to give you some homework over the next two weeks or until you get your hands on the next copy of *Messenger*. Also visit the identified websites for extra information.

- **Appliances.** Be energy efficient. Before buying another appliance, check out suitable alternatives. www.coolproducts.eu or www.which.co.uk
- **Electricity.** For green energy visit www.greenelectricity.org
- **Foods – local over imported.** For

seasonal products try www.farmersmarkets.net

- **Grow your own.** Allotments, herb and vegetable gardens are great for organic products. www.nsalg.org.uk
- **Heating.** Turn down the thermostat. Try www.eco-boiler.com
- **Junk food.** Most fast foods, takeaways and ready meals have excess packaging and a high carbon footprint. Avoid them. Get cooking with inspirational cookbooks!
- **Plastic bags.** Reduce plastic waste and stock up on reusable bags. Visit www.plasticbagfree.com
- **Recharge.** How to reuse, repair, reduce or recycle batteries. Visit www.recyclethis.co.uk
- **Walk more.** Don't use a car for short journeys.
- **Vintage.** Forget latest fashions and visit www.clothesagency.com and www.fashionexchange.co.uk

Good health!



Euthanasia and assisted suicide

by John Ferguson*

I am not unfamiliar with controversy. Nevertheless I do not approach these controversial issues with any degree of relish.

With words like *Dignitas*, *euthanasia* and *assisted suicide* featuring regularly in our newspapers and news bulletins, I think it is time, and timely, to address these issues. We could, of course, bury our heads in the sand, ostrich-like, and hope that the whole uncomfortable issue will go away. But it will not, of course.

The names of Debbie Purdy, Daniel James and Diane Pretty have sent these issues to the top of our attention agendas.

Debbie Purdy, you will recall, is a woman who suffers from an aggressive form of Multiple Sclerosis, which is likely to kill her. She was successful on 30 July in getting the Law Lords of this country to rule that our Director of Public Prosecutions must make it clear under what circumstances he would prosecute someone for assisting suicide.

The DPP has not yet prosecuted any of the 115 cases on his desk. Nevertheless, Debbie Purdy does not take that to mean that her husband would not be prosecuted should he choose to help her to end her life.

Keir Starmer, the DPP, has been ordered to spell out exactly in what circumstances he would prosecute. Hence Debbie Purdy has been successful in getting the law clarified. Her objective, we may assume, was to get euthanasia made legal in this country.

Daniel James was a 23-year-old rugby player from Loughborough University. An energetic, sporty lad, an England under-16 international, Daniel was paralysed from the neck down after a rugby scrum collapsed on him. He was left incontinent, with no hand function, in constant pain in all his fingers and suffering

uncontrollable spasms in his legs and upper body. He needed twenty-four-hour care.

Daniel's parents helped him to travel to the Dignitas Clinic in Zurich, Switzerland. There he ended his life by swallowing a liquid drug called Nembutal. Within a few minutes of taking it last September, he fell asleep, his head on the pillow, and passed away.

Diane Pretty did not travel to the Dignitas Clinic. She passed away in May 2002 in a hospice near her home in Luton. Like Debbie Purdy, Diane Pretty had wanted the courts to rule that her husband could not be prosecuted if he helped her to die, but she was unsuccessful in her attempt. She died two weeks after the European court failed to uphold her appeal.

At this point we need to pause and think.

These are all difficult cases. One difficulty I have in dealing with this topic is that this magazine is read by children. We avoid using words such as death, suicide and euthanasia in the presence of children.

Nevertheless, I appeal to wise, caring and good parents to encourage their children to talk to them about sensitive issues such as those we raise here. You are a family. We are a family. Good families, strong families, balanced families – talk things out.

What does the Bible say?

What does the Word of God say on suicide and euthanasia?

Quite a bit. And not a lot!

Quite a bit. The belief that human life is sacred is clear in Genesis 9 and in the Ten Commandments. In Genesis 9:6 God says, 'Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be

shed; for in the image of God has God made man.'

Exodus 20:16 says it straightforwardly: 'You shall not kill.'

The Bible says a great deal about the sanctity of life and about the holiness of life. Psalm 139 states that God knew us even before we were born. 'For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb/I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;/your works are wonderful, I know that full well. . . .Your eyes saw my unformed body,/All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.' (Verses 13, 14, 16.)

There are definite implications in this statement. '*All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*' God knows the length of our lives. The implication is clear: God alone should determine when that life ends.

The New Testament reference that might be cited by Christians against suicide, or assisted suicide, would be 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17. 'Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.'

Some Christians, however, do not understand this as referring to suicide and euthanasia. Rather, they see it as referring to destroying our bodies through harmful substances and what we eat or drink or smoke.

Not a lot. Whether it is a case of one man taking another man's life or us destroying our bodies through self-indulgence, God's Word says something about it.

So what did I mean when I said earlier that the Bible says *quite a bit, and not a lot* on this subject?

Let me begin to answer that by asking another question. What do Saul, Ahithophel and Zimri in the Old Testament have in common?

Answer: They all committed suicide. If I had thrown in Judas from the New Testament you'd have guessed that right away.

In 1 Samuel 31:4, 5 we see Saul, who has been wounded in battle, calling for his armour bearer to kill him with his sword. Saul did not want his enemies to have the satisfaction of killing him. However, the armour bearer refused to take the king's life. So Saul fell on his own sword and died. Seeing that, the armour bearer also committed suicide in the same way.

In 2 Samuel 17 we read about Ahithophel. Ahithophel was distressed at not having his advice taken by Absalom. So distressed, in fact, that he hanged himself. (2 Samuel 17:23.)

Zimri, like Absalom, was an Old Testament schemer who tried to elevate himself to kingship. When things went against him he entered the king's house, set it on fire and perished in the flames. Read that in 1 Kings 16:18.

The story of Judas is the one with which you are probably most familiar. Judas hanged himself in distress and shame at having betrayed the Lord.

What do the stories of Saul, Ahithophel, Zimri and Judas all have in common, apart from the fact that they were all suicides?

In not one of their cases does the Bible comment on the **morality** of what they did. The Bible records what they did, but does not make a moral judgement about it. The Bible does not say that what they did in taking their own lives was wrong. It simply records that they did it.

That is why I said that the Bible does not say a lot about suicide. And it says nothing at all about euthanasia.

Reasons for opposing suicide/euthanasia

If it can be argued that the Bible, to some extent, is quiet on suicide/euthanasia, why, then, is Christianity in general so vocally opposed to it?

Enter Catholic theology. In AD413 – four centuries after the resurrection of Jesus – Augustine, a famous man in the history of Catholic theology, taught that suicide was a sin. Further, he taught that suicide was a sin that should exclude a person from Heaven. His teaching was not necessarily from Scripture but from what he considered to be reason and logic.

Augustine taught, and the Catholic Church accepted his teaching and has held it ever since. Augustine also taught that we must *confess* our sins in order to have them forgiven. Nothing wrong with that; it accords with Scripture. 'If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.' (1 John 1:9.) But what Augustine went on to reason was this. If a person commits suicide, he/she does not have time to repent of that sin, and so the sin remains unforgiven, thus barring that person from Heaven.

Hence we have the practice of Catholic priests being called to the bedside of a dying person in order to hear his/her final confession and pronounce the person forgiven of sin.

What is wrong with that? From Scripture, principally this: There is One, and only One, who can pronounce sins forgiven.

But what if a person dies suddenly, without warning? What if it happens that somebody gets hit by a bus? Are their sins not forgiven?

John Donne was a preacher, poet and theologian who lived between 1572 and 1631. Born into a Roman Catholic family, Donne was a convert to Protestantism and, at the end of his life, was the dean of St Paul's Cathedral. Donne argued persuasively against Augustine's thinking and against Augustine's thinking. Here is what John Donne wrote:

'Death, be not proud, though some have called thee

Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so;

For those whom thou think'st thou dost overthrow

Die not, poor Death; nor yet canst thou kill me. . . .

One short sleep past, we wake eternally,

And Death shall be no more: Death, thou shalt die!'

John Donne challenged Augustine's thinking. Donne argued that such thinking placed a limit on God's grace. Donne argued that God *can* forgive the victim of suicide. So where do we stand on this one?

I have presented the case, as some might see it, both **for** and **against** suicide/assisted suicide.

FOR in that some people reason that the Bible is silent about it. Saul, Ahithophel, Zimri and Judas attracted no biblical condemnation of their action.

AGAINST in that the Bible very much upholds the sanctity, the holiness of life.

I suspect that everyone will make up his/her own mind on this one.

For the record, our Church does make a definitive statement on the matter. It does so in the book *Statements, Guidelines and Other Documents*. The same book contains statements by our Church on many ethical issues including abortion, climate change, human cloning and racism. But in its statement on 'Care for the dying' it reads:

'While Christian love may lead to the withholding or withdrawing of medical interventions that only increase suffering or prolong dying, Seventh-day Adventists do not practise "mercy killing" or assist in suicide. (Genesis 9:5, 6; Exodus 20:13.)

'They are opposed to active euthanasia and the intentional taking of the life of a suffering or dying person.'

This is a tough subject. The toughest I have addressed for some time. No one is going to feel like doing cartwheels of joy all the way home. And yet . . .

I do hope you can see that it has been an important subject for us to consider.

September 12 is GC Bible Day

by Victor Hulbert, Communication director, BUC

As 'People of the Book' Adventists across the UK and Ireland will be demonstrating their faith on Sabbath 12 September. From small churches in remote areas to major events in larger conurbations pastors and members are planning to highlight how central the Bible is to Adventist faith. While Adventist worship is always Bible focused, on this particular Sabbath churches are being encouraged to place an even stronger emphasis on the Bible both inside and outside the walls of the church.

The day coincides with the specially commissioned General Conference Bible visiting the British Isles. With each of the sixty-six books in a different language, this large 'Adventist Family Bible' is travelling the world until the GC Session in Atlanta, USA, in July 2010.

On Sabbath 12 September the Bible will be on display in special worship services at Newbold and four churches in London. The following day Dublin will be the venue for a special high-speed presentation of twenty speakers in three hours who will share their joy in the Bible. Archaeologists, theologians, historians and clergy from several churches will join with church members and invited guests from the community to rejoice in the difference that the Bible still makes in lives in the twenty-first century. A 350-seater auditorium has been rented in a prestigious hotel to accommodate the expected guests.

Newbold College and church are working together to provide a weekend of programmes, including Friday night vespers and Sabbath services. The Bible Society will be involved both at Newbold and in four London churches. The College library will be displaying its historic collection of Bibles with guided tours not only explaining the heritage but demonstrating how accessible the Bible and Bible study tools are in the electronic age. The 'Newbold Family Bible' will also be on display with annotations from church members and drawings from the children.

Pastor Clive de Silva will be using his motorcycle skills to deliver the GC Bible to the Central London, Brixton, Holloway and Clapton churches during the afternoon. Special programmes in these churches will build on the local emphasis in the morning.

The North England Conference is taking a different approach. Here the focus is on Bible knowledge. A specially designed interactive sixty-minute quiz 'How well have you followed your Bible?' will be used. This PowerPoint Bible quiz will challenge and enlighten our members and community and promote greater reading of the Scriptures by all ages. Other churches are taking Bibles to the street to 'meet people where they are'.

The essence of Follow the Bible is not on the event itself but in the culmination of many events, many churches and 30,000 church members across the UK and Ireland, praying and sharing how the Bible is making a difference in their lives.

For more on Follow the Bible, along with suggestions for activities in your church, please visit www.adventistinfo.org.uk/followthebible.

* Dr Ferguson pastors the Grantham and Skegness churches. He has a Doctor of Ministry degree and has pastored in Dublin, Banbridge and the Northamptonshire churches prior to his move to Grantham.

Ten ways to involve children in thanksgiving and harvest services

KAREN HOLFORD, from the SEC Children's Ministries department, continues her series of creative ways to involve children in your church services.

When your church is putting on a special service of celebration, it is often easier to do something a little different to involve the children. Take the opportunity to involve children in your thanksgiving or harvest celebrations this year by trying one of the following ideas.

1. In advance of the harvest service, invite the children to choose an object that fills them with gratitude and to bring it to the service. Give them plenty of time to think about what they will choose. Ask the children to talk about their choices during the service, or arrange the items on a table with a card from each child describing why they chose to bring that particular object to the thanksgiving service.
2. Try an alphabet prayer of thanks. Get the children to help you go through the alphabet, asking them to name the different things they want to thank God for that begin with each of the letters, such as: angels, avocados, aeroplanes, bunnies, beans, brownies, cats, cherries, cars and so on.
3. Be very courageous and creative! Ask the children in your church to come dressed to illustrate something they want to thank God for. Supply a few extra costumes in case some children attend your church on that day without a costume. Invite the children to come and stand at the front of the church and say a sentence prayer, thanking God for the object that they are representing.
4. Supply the children in your church with child-friendly 'thank you' cards. If possible, find outline designs that they can colour in themselves (try good stationers and toy shops). Ask them to write a thank you prayer inside the card or to draw some pictures of the things they like best. Make a display of the cards or let them read out their prayers during the service.
5. Buy a small 'thank you' tree, such as bay tree or young fruit tree. Incorporate the tree into the harvest display. Give the children plain white luggage labels to decorate with a picture of something they want to thank God for. They can cut pictures from magazines or draw their own pictures. They can also write a message to God on the reverse of the label. During the service invite the children to come forward and hang their tags on the 'thank you' tree.
6. Invite the children to choose an item of fruit from the harvest display and to say why they like that particular fruit and why they are glad God made it for us. Provide a small bag for each child to take home his/her chosen fruit.
7. Ask the Children's Sabbath School teachers or Pathfinder leaders to help the children prepare a special song, poem or short sketch about thankfulness which can be presented during the service.
8. Be thankful for the children in your congregation; they are the fruit of your harvest, too! Bring all the children to the front of the church and pray a short prayer of thankfulness over each of them.
9. Provide each child with an empty basket a couple of weeks ahead of your harvest service. Invite them to fill the basket with an attractive display of fruit, vegetables and other foods. Display the baskets during the service and then ask the children to take their food baskets and distribute them among the elderly or needy people in your congregation and community.
10. Find some small cloth or paper bags in which you can hide a range of different fruits and vegetables from the harvest arrangement. As part of the service, invite the children to come to the front and see if they can identify the fruits and vegetables by their smell or touch rather than their taste. Then thank God that we can experience the wonderful harvest of God's Creation through all of our God-created senses. Ask the children in your church how they would like to be involved in the harvest service this year.

Sixty years and counting: Celebrating the Diamond Wedding of Ken and Esmé Hammond

If ever two were one, then surely we.
(Anne Bradstreet, from 'To My Dear and Loving Husband', 1650)

Ken and Esmé achieved the grand total of sixty years of married life on 23 August this year. I am delighted to be able to tell their story and celebrate their very special partnership.

Ken and Esmé first met on 29 October 1947 when they were both students at Southampton University. After a chance encounter on a crowded playing field, things moved fast and their first official date was just a week later in Winchester on Guy Fawkes Day, an occasion they have remembered and celebrated ever since.

Their romance continued to blossom, and on a rainy 23 August 1949 they were married at St Paul's Church in Barry, South Wales. For their honeymoon tour around the UK, Ken's Uncle Mick supplied his classic MG TC sports car along with a supply of petrol coupons, invaluable in those post-war days. Since then, journeys to various destinations have been a key feature of their sixty years of marriage, making our family holiday to Barbados in August a perfect way to mark the latest mile-

stone in their adventurous route through life.

The itinerant couple set up their first home in Thetford, Norfolk, arriving on the 350cc motorbike that took them everywhere – until the birth of their first daughter Penny in 1952 made four wheels essential. Here in Thetford Ken began his initial career as a teacher of maths and French at the local grammar school, and here, too, their second daughter Rebecca was born in 1955.

Two years later, a radically new job in the business world required a move to Leicester. Soon after, the family faced a further relocation to Hoddesdon and then to Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Ken's company Thomas Hedley, later to become Proctor and Gamble, had clearly realised what an asset it had in this young man despite his odd Sabbath-keeping ways, while Ken had already recognised how invaluable Esmé was to the success of their balanced domestic world.

Esmé had to face a challenge to that balanced world when, in 1967, Ken was asked to work in Sweden

for two years while, now living close to Newbold College, she was left to cope with the daily management of two demanding teenage daughters and a rather disobedient golden retriever. Five years later, with daughters grown up and away from home, Ken and Esmé both accepted the challenge and ultimately the thrill of a three-year work placement in Japan where they adapted with ease to a very different culture.

As in all their previous locations, they became stalwarts of the local church, sharing their five-star hospitality with the young Adventist staff and student missionaries teaching in the Osaka language school. Ken and Esmé are renowned for their willingness to invite both strangers and friends into the warmth of their family home.

After a return to Newcastle for Ken's remaining years in the working world, retirement finally called in 1985 and they chose to settle in Ken's home territory of Hampshire, at first in a cosy cottage in the New Forest and then in an apartment with fine views of the Isle of Wight.

This 'more relaxing' pace of life included considerable activity, from Ken's golfing to their many shared church duties. Esmé continued her involvement in the voluntary sector (she was recognised recently for her fifty-year service to the WRVS) and now Ken could join her as they carried out regular Meals-on-Wheels duties, a task they have only this year relinquished.

Despite or perhaps because of their peripatetic life together, their pleasure in travel continued, and they have explored many countries in these rich retirement years. Some trips were linked to Ken's six-year membership of the GC Executive Committee where, as one of the first laymen on the committee, his extensive knowledge of the business world was put to good use; others took them to the Gambia, Kenya and South Africa in search of wildlife, a passion they have always shared.

But above all, in these latter years they have loved and supported their family, including their three grandchildren; Kieran, Bridie and Ben have enjoyed a unique relation-



ship with Grandma and Grandpa that continues to enrich their lives immensely.

So what is the secret of Ken and Esmé's successful partnership? Some might point to their shared love of Scrabble; others might suggest Ken's passion for golf and Esmé's complete indifference to it; or perhaps the secret lies in their mutual respect and good humour when faced with the pressures of work and family, their generous, outward-looking spirit and their ability to enjoy whatever life sends them. In all these things and more, they have set the gold standard for marital success, a rare achievement nowadays. Their shared Christian

faith has been the cornerstone of their relationship and, like Anne Bradstreet, each can say:

*Thy love is such I can no way repay.
The heavens reward thee manifold,
I pray.*

Thanks, Ken and Esmé, Mum and Dad. You continue to be a model for how to live well, and we wish you many more happy years together.

PENNY MAHON

(Dr Penny Mahon was a teacher of English Literature at Newbold College for almost twenty years, with roles as Chair of the Humanities department and Dean of Students. Currently she is teaching in a school in West Berkshire.)



New agricultural training school for Peru

by Bert Smit, Executive director, ADRA-UK

Most people think of Peru as a tourist destination. Featuring the famous 'Lost City of the Incas' at Machu Picchu, the Cusco region, however, is one of the poorest areas in the country. With an overall population of nearly 1.2 million, 65% of the people are estimated to be living in poverty.

ADRA Peru has proposed to address this situation systematically. It has been perpetuated by poor living conditions, ill health and inefficient agricultural methods.

With financial assistance from ADRA-UK (US\$185,000) ADRA Peru is now building an agricultural training centre (ATC) just outside the central location of Chuquikahuana on the main road from Cusco to Puno. The training centre will serve the four districts of Checacupe, Combapata, Cuspipata and Quiquijana.

The centre will teach and illustrate advanced agricultural production systems, better health and nutrition practices, better use

of materials for construction, and management of surplus crops for profit purposes.

The training centre will enable representatives from private and public institutions to play a part in improving the daily practices and living conditions of the people whom they represent. Training of teachers is important in passing on knowledge. Theoretical and practical courses will be offered to introduce the best organic agro-silvo-pastoral productive system and practices in

hygiene, cooking and construction.

The project also has the potential to be extended to include rural tourism, which could become an income-generating element to the facility.

The Spanish Agency for International Co-operation for Development (AECID) recently approved a four-year \$1,000,000 budget for an irrigation project for the area.

Walter Britton, ADRA Peru director, comments: 'We have been working on the plans for the agricultural training centre for more than a year. It will make a big impact in the area and will permit ADRA Peru to develop in a better way the already



approved irrigation project for the area by AECID. The combination of the two projects will create excellent opportunities for many small farmers.'

The new agricultural training centre has the potential to become a major centre of development for the area.

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CHIP: 'The best thing that has come to Bury'

As plans were underway for the Bury CHIP programme, doors were opening in unexpected places. Prominent locations around town hosted our free information sessions. Conference rooms at the Bury Fire Station, the Fairfield General Hospital and a local community centre. Not forgetting the morning and evening info sessions at the CHIP venue, the Fishpool SDA Community church.

The free one-hour information sessions give interested members of the public an opportunity to see what the programme involves. They include a powerful PowerPoint presentation, showing graphic pictures of the silent killer that grows menacingly within that can be reversed by simple lifestyle choices; an introduction, via DVD, by CHIP founder Dr Hans Diehl; and a personal testimony, 'How CHIP changed my life', from a CHIP alumni. The most interactive part of the session is the discussion time when participants share the health concerns that aroused their initial interest in the CHIP programme.

The final part of the session is registration; fees are paid and participants receive their CHIP pack complete with textbooks, workbooks, curriculum and other CHIP essentials.

The first early-morning HeartScreen appointment is scheduled when tests for blood glucose, LDL and HDL cholesterol and triglycerides are taken. Blood pressure, pulse, height, weight and body mass index are recorded, together with a detailed lifestyle evaluation, including average food and drink consumption in a typical week, rest, stress, exercise, illnesses, medication and health history. Laboratory results are provided for the participants and their physicians, and throughout the thirty-day programme they are encouraged to keep their doctors informed of their progress, using the pre-course and post-course test results. The simple yet significant lifestyle changes participants implement as they progress through the programme often directly affect the levels of prescribed medication they require.

In so many ways the Lord has blessed this pioneering health outreach in Bury. Managers at the local indoor shopping centre were so impressed with what the CHIP programme offers that they gave us the £1,000 a week premier promotion stand to promote Bury CHIP, free of charge. Blood test analyses that can cost up to £150 a person were done



for us at the local hospital laboratory for £1.50. Nothing in the preparation was exempt from the Lord's blessing; even the make-up of the team. Doctors, nurses, Bible workers and multi-discipline professionals from Bury, Bolton, Manchester North and Manchester South churches together formed the Area 2 CHIP team. In their distinctive white polo shirts sporting the CHIP logo, the medical team of two doctors and eight nurses conducted the two HeartScreen events.

Heart-healthy meals were provided every session by the nutrition team, who excelled themselves in cooking, serving, demonstrating and teaching. Some of our guests were so impressed with the quality of the 'new' food and the expertise of the chefs that they wanted to pay more! Two extra-curricular events were well supported by several of the nineteen participants; the nutrition workshop, where several tasty vegetarian dishes were demonstrated and then eaten for lunch; and the shopping tour, which evidenced just how easily food-as-grown and

ASI Youth4Jesus/Prophecies of Hope baptismal service

Following on from the Prophecies of Hope evangelistic series, due to the commitment and dedication of the Youth4Jesus Bible workers, an early harvest of candidates was garnered into the baptistry of the Nottingham Central church on Sabbath 25 July. The candidates were not only from the district of Nottingham, but one, having been touched by the series, made the journey from Tamworth.

These are just seven of the forty persons who specifically requested baptism, and those forty are only a small percentage of the contacts continuing with Bible studies following the intensive collaboration of the ASI Youth4Jesus and the

healthier option ingredients can be purchased locally.

'Chippy' our exercise mascot was the prized nightly possession of whichever 'table' notched up the highest mileage on the exercise chart. Our six teams amassed a total of just over 2,000 miles of exercise throughout the thirty-day programme; and were blessed by our special guest, personal trainer and fitness instructor, Louise, who enhanced the CHIP experience with some fun exercises for all.

Daily updates on the wonders of CHIP by a member of staff led the head teacher of a local school to ask if we could bring CHIP to a staff training day. 'This is the best thing that has ever come to Bury!' said Malcolm, an enthralled resident. 'I thought I was feeding my husband well until we came to CHIP!' said Shirley, a happily enlightened wife. Eddie, CHIP champion on the weight-loss scales, positively beamed as he shared the news that he had lost almost a stone (7kg), not by dieting but by the simple lifestyle changes he began to make during the thirty days of CHIP. Healthy by choice, not by chance!

The CHIP graduation took place on Sunday 23 August. Monthly alumni meetings commence on Sunday 6 September with an outing to the Stanborough Press Open Day. On that day Bury CHIPPERS will meet the man who has found his way permanently from the big screen into their hearts, Dr Hans Diehl.

ROSE GOMEZ

local churches.

As a conference-wide phenomenon, this service was populated by ministers from Nottingham, Tamworth, Manchester and Birmingham. Pastor Alan Hush (NEC Youth director) looked on proudly as he saw that the work of the youth had brought the following to Jesus: Michelle Sprague, Andile and Shelter Dangirwa (daughter and mother respectively), Lorraine Dube, Shanique Roache and Marjorie Wignall. The seventh candidate, Eric Lawrence, came from Tamworth, bringing many of the Tamworth Fellowship, including Pastor Orlando Holder, with him to witness his

Riverway outreach

Riverway church in Sidcup, Kent, is not merely a place of worship. During July some of the members, armed with blood pressure and lung monitors, went into the community with the firm intention of making a difference.

The church has had a health promotion tent at the Dartford Festival for the last five years, and on Saturday and Sunday 18 and 19 July several hundred people at the festival were screened for blood pressure and carbon monoxide levels. In addition, thousands of pieces of health and Christian literature were given out to visitors to the festival and to the tent. Advice on diet, exercise and other health issues was given.

Special thanks to all those who helped to make the last five years such a resounding success.

ESME HERCULES



physical and spiritual trek to this moment.

Indeed, Eric's journey in particular was seen by Pastor Cyril Sweeney, as they stood together in

the pool, to be reminiscent of the expedition Jesus took from the district of Galilee to reach the site on the River Jordan where John was baptising. In his pre-baptismal



NEC Pathfinder Rally Day, 19 September by Pastor Trevor Thomas, Pathfinder director, NEC

NEC Pathfinder Rally Day is close. This year we will be at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool on Sabbath 19 September. Each year Rally Day has proved to be a spiritual blessing and high day for all those who attend.

As Adventurers, Pathfinders and church members gather from every club and church in the North England Conference, we are truly a sight to behold, smartly dressed in our uniforms and Sabbath best. This year we plan to have one service beginning at 10am through to 12.30, which will include reports on the Pathfinders who are 'going about their Father's business' in their communities. Our speaker this year is none other than our Conference president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, a friend and guide to all young people. He will be speaking on our theme for the day: Be a beacon.

As usual, after lunch at 2pm we will order ourselves for a street procession. We are expecting over 2,000 to take part this year. We will be led by our drum corps along the High Street and through the marketplaces of Blackpool. Pastor Mike Simpson and his team will be distributing 4,000 of the *He Is Coming* 'Missionary Book of the Year' to the onlookers and shoppers in Blackpool.

We also plan to have an outdoor baptism service as a witness and testimony that Jesus is still alive and relevant in 2009. Following a closing ceremony the day will end at 5pm.

All are invited to this day of worship, fellowship, evangelism and witness. We have changed the registration process this year to make it easier for everyone. The club director or a delegated person from each church should collect £1 from each person who wishes to attend and then register the group number online at: <http://necpathfinderrallyday.eventbrite.com> or google NEC Pathfinders and follow the link. Once registered, the club director or delegated person will receive the appropriate number of wristbands which will serve as tickets on the day. The NEC Rally Day handbook will also be sent directly to the club director or delegated person.

Grace Walsh, NEC Community Services director, and I have agreed that all church members dressed in their Community Services full dress uniform will be able to march with the Adventurers and Pathfinders.

Again we invite and welcome all Adventurers, Pathfinders and church members to worship, fellowship, evangelism and witness on Sabbath 19 September at Blackpool Winter Gardens for NEC Pathfinder Rally Day 2009.

address, Pastor Adam Ramdin spoke of this 70-mile journey that Jesus undertook by foot over several days, probably alone. Even though there may have been stops and encounters along the route, Jesus had to make the journey so that all righteousness could be accomplished (Matthew 3:15). Pastor Ramdin emphasised the symbolism of baptism (Romans 6:1-11) and how it is related to repentance and being born again (John 3:10).

As the candidates entered the cool pool on that warm summer evening, they were encouraged by family and friends from both work and play, and their new church family. Special songs were sung live or played on CD. A thrill of calm happiness pervaded throughout as Michelle, whose parents and younger sister had been long-established members at Nottingham, hugged Pastor Cyril Sweeney with delight as she rose out of the water in front of her daughter Emma.

Shanique just let a teardrop fall, and Marjorie couldn't stop smiling. Shelter and her daughter Andile listened as her other daughter sang 'I know that my Redeemer lives' and vowed to follow them into the waters soon. Eric, the final candidate, also shed a tear of joy while he was blessed with a solo rendition of 'Falling in love with Jesus', sung beautifully by Sarah Brooks.

After being issued with their certificates and mini-libraries, the new babes were prayed over by NEC's Pastor Egerton Francis. He also praised Pastors Hush and Ramdin for their vision and the Bible workers for their tireless efforts, which led, in great part, to the baptisms.

Many of the Youth4Jesus crew have now moved on to continue this work in other cities. Further baptisms are planned in August and September, and the work they started is being continued by those they leave behind.

SHAUN DOUGLAS

Holloway outreach initiative

June 7 marked the date when Holloway's Personal Ministry department committed to a 'field day' outreach initiative that would be comprised of four mission days.

The aim was to carry out the somewhat daunting task of knocking on doors within the surrounding community in order to make personal connections with the residents, share literature and raise the profile of the church.

The PM team is diverse in age and professional interests, but united in its passion to share the relief that Christianity can bring in such uncertain times.

Theirs was no ad hoc effort, but rather a systematic approach which divided the team into groups, who were given an assignment of literature and allocated to specific streets on which to discharge their mission.

The launch of the programme was marked mainly by visits to homes. We knocked on doors and rang bells and conversed with willing resi-

dents. In addition shops were visited and pedestrians were approached. Members of the public who engaged with the PM team were presented with a variety of literary options, including titles such as *He is Coming*, *Resolve your Stress* and *Focus* magazines. The *Happiness* booklet proved to be a firm favourite.

Erica Rajaonarivelo, newly baptised and an enthusiastic member of the PM team, originally hailing from Madagascar, shared her experience of the third mission day. She explained that her most interesting observation was the fact that people were far more willing to accept the books *Happiness* and *Resolving Stress* than those such as *He is Coming*, which made direct reference to Jesus. She noted that local homes seemed to be mainly inhabited by single professionals and found that females aged 50 and over were the least willing to engage in conversation.

The grand climax to the PM outreach emphasis for the summer came in the form of a Health Expo on 26 July.



An invitation was extended to members of the public to take their health in hand by receiving complimentary blood pressure and cholesterol checks, while also having the opportunity to have a basic screening for diabetes. Several members of the public simply attended in direct response to an invitation, and there was a significant non-Adventist presence.

ANNELL SMITH

Three angels at the fair

On Sunday 2 August, the hour of opportunity arose for Derby Adventist youth to lift up Jesus at the Derby Community Fair.

Early in the morning, as the sun shone and the birds sang, God's providence led one of the youth to stumble across the assembling of a fair in the local park.

While pondering in prayer he was inspired to take this opportunity to witness for Jesus. 'In fact, if families from across Derby could make a whole day of it here with kites, face painting and ice cream, how much more could we make a whole day of evangelism here,' he thought, 'by sharing the three angels' message through *He is Coming* books, *Final Events* DVDs, songs and speaking to people.'

However, with no prior booking

arrangements, no acquaintance with the organisers, and no stall to stand by, this seemed but a naive hope. Prompted by a voice to the conscience, 'There must be a way . . . there must be,' he went to make enquiries.

After several enquiries, and almost surely angels labouring to work out an opening of circumstances, we were given permission to set up a health booth, providing qualifications and insurance could be viewed. What others had to pre-book months in advance, God gave us on the very morning of the fair.

After a phone call to the rest of the team, the youth collected their Bible and health resources and just forty minutes later went into swift action to spread the three angels' message from their new booth at Derby Community Fair.

To entice the fair attendants we offered massage of head, neck and shoulders, while 'massaging' their ears and their hearts with a combination of live scripture songs and hymns on the guitar. Before a massage began we often had a prayer with the person in the name of Jesus to establish whom we represented. Every person was given a copy of the *He is Coming*

book and a *Final Events* DVD.

We found that people who were initially resistant to receiving spiritual material became more receptive after experiencing the health booth through massage and song. One man with his dog said, 'No, don't wanna pray. Don't wanna hear bout God,' but sat down to have a massage. He was handed a book and DVD but he put them aside on the ground with no intention of leaving with them. After the massage and

song, which he loved and appreciated so much, he picked up the book and the DVD and said, 'If that is the blessing I will get by going to your church, I want to know more and I'm going to read this.' Another lady said, 'Just being here in your presence near this stall relaxes me like there are angels close by.'

Altogether nine health correspondent students signed up for the ADC and one Bible study student in just three hours.

MANJIT BIANI

NEC music weekend

Southport, the weekend before NEC Camp Meeting, and the Musicians weekend organised by Dr Diana Sinclair. The aim was presenting music ministry in a practical setting, so the members of the growing Southport church were gathered in the Royal Clifton Hotel on the seafront, along with three Taskforce workers from the Conference and Dr Cheryl Wilson-Bridges.

Dr Diana reminded us that musicians are ministers and that music ministry doesn't mean a song service with a selection of old favourites, and a divine service hastily collected together with no discernable theme in a last-minute effort to fill the spaces before the sermon.

The three Taskforce workers, Kimberley Ham-Ying, Tony Byrne and Chris Louth, outlined what they had been doing to meet people in Southport – and then went out on the streets with musicians

to invite people to an evening concert in the hotel.

Dr Cheryl spoke to us about the importance of music from a very positive setting. There was no list of don'ts and more don'ts; instead, sound bites that made us think. 'The kind of music you play determines the God you worship,' and, 'In worship there is only one genre. Words



750 baptised in 'Share him' campaign

Two Woodford Green church members, Khama Menyere and Winston Williams, joined 'Share him' for an evangelistic campaign in the Mbeya and Iringa region of Tanzania from 15 June until 7 July. We arrived in Dar Es Salaam on 16 June. We travelled overland to Mbeya Region on 17 June, had orientation on 18 June and started preaching on

19 June, finishing on 4 July. Over 750 precious souls have been baptised, with additional hundreds who have made decisions and, if worked with properly, can be baptised in the coming months. Due to the lack of preachers, Elder Menyere, who initially signed up to help as an associate, preached at two sites nightly, both indoors and outdoors,



at Mbalizi and Mlima Leli churches, and Winston Williams also did two sites nightly, one indoors and one outdoors, at Mbeya Town and Nzovi churches, and scores of souls were baptised in their meetings. Young people as young as 12 and 13 years old from the USA took sites, and God took over with and through them as scores of people made decisions and were baptised in their meetings.

The volunteers were also involved in clinics that Dr Llewellyn Williams organised and brought medications to supply. Over 600 persons were treated in these clinics for illnesses ranging from high blood pressure and diabetes to AIDS, mainly promoting sustainable lifestyle changes.

The participants who were involved at various sites were mostly from North America and included a 67-year-old German baker based in Canada, a medical doctor, a young nurse, many students, three adolescents of 12, 13 and 15, a Ukrainian student based at Andrews

University, a pastor who teaches at Oakwood and many others from a wide variety of backgrounds. The meetings were organised by Pastor Dobias who used to be a missionary in Tanzania many years ago.

Khama and Winston would like to thank everyone who was involved in sponsoring and supporting them, in particular the wife who was left behind to cope with four children.

If you would like to be involved, go to www.Sharehim.org and if you cannot personally go, you can provide sponsorship. You can get more information at woodfordgreenchurchclerk@yahoo.co.uk and both Winston and Khama would be willing to share their experiences during AYS to any church interested in learning more about the 'Share him' experience. It would be good for each church to sponsor at least one person, young or old, in this Year of Evangelism to go out there and share him. Hopefully, they will return with a burning desire to share him more effectively at home.

It was not all hard work. We had a day at the beach and a day on safari.

DONNA SIMPSON-WILLIAMS

Hard work and fun in Romania

Eight young people from the Crieff church have just returned from a community building project in Romania.

'Besides the hard work, we all had a lot of fun,' said Shirley Froude, one of the volunteers.

Because conditions in many rural areas in Romania are still very primitive, the local work party decided to focus on reconstructing two houses for old people in Serata and Podis – villages located 150 miles north of the capital city, Bucharest. Linking

up with fifteen other young people from all over Europe, this international group achieved their goal in just ten days.

'It was a great experience in so many ways because we learnt some building skills. It was also great to work in an international team, and we enjoyed the taste of life in Eastern Europe,' said Che Bennett.

Following an eight-hour work shift each day, the Scottish young folk then joined the local village kids for volleyball, football and table-



Eight young people sponsored by the Crieff church recently returned from a community enhancement programme in Romania. Back row (L to R): Alex Podbrezsky, Maz Walker, Shirley Froude, Yvonne Bauwens; Front row: Che Bennett, Arran Quinn, Marc Walker, Pumesa Yekani

tennis – plus a few water-pistol battles!

The female members of the work party were occasionally allowed time off from mixing cement in order to operate a children's holiday school which involved folk songs, face-painting, baking and model-making.

This 'People Helping People' programme was greatly appreciated at the Romanian end, and several of the Crieff volunteers were interviewed for radio and TV.

Members of the church on Gwydyr Road were thrilled to detect the excitement of the team as a

PowerPoint presentation was given. Plans are now in the pipeline for a similar project in Albania next year.

JOHN ARTHUR

Situation vacant RECEPTIONIST

The Stanborough Press has a vacancy for a receptionist. The person appointed will have office skills, people skills, IT skills and an excellent telephone manner.

Those interested should email their application and CV to the Press finance director: gbarham@stanboroughpress.co.uk.

Deadline: 14 September



Karen stands by as Nico is baptised by Pastor Hill

Worthing: Karen and Nico baptised

Sabbath 25 July was bright, sunny, hot and, for Worthing members, a day to remember filled with joy, love, happiness and God's glory as Nico and Karen Jansen van Rensburg declared their love for the Lord. Brought up as Christians in South Africa, they came to England. Doubts about their Christian journey and an intelligent quest for truth began as they checked Bible prophecy, watched DVDs and scoured the Internet. Their searching led them to the Worthing church and they decided to come home.

Pastor Leslie Hill arranged the service. As a surprise for Nico and Karen, he invited Pastor Alan Hart to be the guest speaker. He read passages from the Bible in Nico and Karen's mother tongue – Afrikaans. Pastor Garth Anthony read the baptismal pledge. Our hearts were uplifted by the singing of the group 'Unlimited' from our sister church, Brighton and Hove. We were privileged to have Ken Burton play, which inspired the congregational singing.

Pastor Leslie Hill baptised Karen and Nico, having studied with them for months beforehand. The Worthing church is grateful to the Lord for bringing these two wonderful Christian people to our small but growing group.

EDDIE WISEMAN



Wakefield church relaunch

On 18 July Wakefield church started its Sabbath worship services again – after an absence of six months – at its new home of the Belle Isle Christian Centre (Wakefield Baptist Church). Through a combination of factors, many of the Wakefield church's members had to leave the

city, and the dwindling numbers eventually forced a temporary suspension in January 2009.

We have been blessed by the North England Conference support-ing Wakefield by finding five full-time Taskforce volunteer workers to relocate to our city as part of NEC's



Ava-Gaye, Brother Parson and Alphon Brown complete one of their many laps

Smethwick fundraising

'It's amazing what can be achieved when people are inspired and empowered to accomplish their task, regardless of the limitations they face.' This was probably at the forefront of the minds of about twenty-five members of Smethwick church for the first half of 2009 as they focused on ingenious fundraising efforts to boost their church building fund. The main events focused on were an edible fruit auction and dumplin social, sponsor-a-brick, individual pledges, sponsored walk/bike ride, and a Mothers' Day dinner where the men, yes, ladies, the men did ALL the cooking.

The most notable events were the sponsored walk/bike ride and the Mothers' Day dinner.

The sponsored ride and walk took place at the reservoir in Edgbaston, Birmingham. Senior and younger members alike met for prayer, worship and exercise, with Alphon Brown completing the most (twenty) laps on her bike. Other members completed combined laps of walking and riding, managing to raise a total of £300. They were supported by the presence of their pastor, Dr Patrick Herbert, who cheered on whole-

heartedly from the sidelines. As a result of this activity, the church now has a group that meets early every Sunday morning to walk and/or ride, promoting a healthy lifestyle and spreading the message of the Gospel in the wider community.

Since February the church has managed to raise a whopping £3,000. With this small, dedicated group of members in this time of recession, it is heartening to see their devotion, enthusiasm and perseverance in raising monies towards the church building fund.

The members have also been able to put together donations of Bibles, Bible study series, youth magazines, books, educational toys and supplies, children's clothing and food in two barrels being shipped off to an orphanage in Kenya.

In conclusion, the planned events were not only about raising funds; they were also intended to raise the profile of the church in the community in order to accomplish evangelistic outreach. This objective has been a success as they now have four people currently receiving Bible studies and even more requesting Bible studies. *V. PARSON*

Mission Possible programme. Mission Possible provides volunteers to a city or town to plant churches, revitalise and organise and/or run outreach programmes.

Since the arrival of Madelon, Jacqui, Winston, Elaine and Rob in April, our core members feel revitalised and remotivated. We hold prayer meetings on Friday evenings, share cars to get as many as possible to other churches on Sabbath and we are planning a number of outreach programmes this summer.

We have also been wonderfully supported in earnest prayer from our brothers and sisters in nearby churches.

We have formalised a community arm of the church – Life180 – and the Taskforce volunteers will be delivering services based on their skills – children's holiday clubs, youth activities, support for health services, mentoring small business owners in planning and marketing, helping the unemployed and being catalysts in the community, linking

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Merseyside baptism

Following a wonderful baptism held earlier this year, the Liverpool Central and Stonecroft churches had the joyful privilege of welcoming two more members into fellowship through baptism on 30 May. Pastor Egerton Francis, NEC Ministerial director, officiated at the service.

Mandisa Ndlovu, a young lady who has been attending the church since autumn 2008, had sealed her decision to accept Jesus following her attendance of ADVANCE 2009 in Nottingham. She had already been having Bible studies with the Youth department at the church. She continues to show an insatiable appetite for Bible truth and has become an active member of the Youth department. She also traces her first contact with the Church to her childhood,

with council and other groups. As we will have our Taskforce volunteers for a limited time, we are also working on fundraising activities to make this outreach a sustainable feature in Wakefield and the surrounding Five Towns District.

Please come and see us to worship and fellowship with our congre-

after which she was separated from the Church following a move to a different country. She sees the Holy Spirit's leading in her recent reintroduction to Christ and the Church through her granny and her aunt, who are members of the Liverpool Central church.

Sibongile Dlodlo has for many years attended the Adventist church as a regular visitor, having grown up in the church and seeing it as her spiritual home. However, she finally succumbed to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and gave herself fully to Christ earlier this year. She cites the influence of the warm fellowship at the Stonecroft church, the spiritually uplifting friendships she developed there, and the positive influence and concern shown for her son and her-

ELSIE SPALL (1909-2009) d. 31 January. Elsie Spall was born on 1 February 1909, the fifth youngest in a family of thirteen children. Her parents were farming in Northumberland and she attended school in the village of Dunston, close to the farm, until she was 14. She then worked on the farm. But she had her sights set on a nursing career and, as soon as she was old enough, left to train as a nurse in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. She had previously met her husband-to-be, Richard Spall, a teacher, when he had brought the Boys Brigade to camp on the farm. When she began her training in Newcastle they renewed their friendship and on 21 August 1934 they married in Embleton church. Two children were born – Rosaleen Gill and Christopher Spall. In their forties Richard died, leaving Elsie to raise two young children alone. She resumed her nursing career as a district midwife. Around this time she attended a campaign run by Pastor Howard Parkin and subsequently joined the Seventh-day Adventist church in Newcastle. She met and was involved in the training of John and Ruth Lennox who were medical students at Newcastle University. At the age of 57, having never left Britain before, she set off on the long sea voyage to Ghana to work with John and Ruth Lennox who were then working in our SDA hospital at Kwahu. She spent eight years there working as midwifery superintendent. The training and responsibility for many young student midwives was part of her responsibility. The students sat the examinations set by Britain, and the pass rate was high, so nurses trained by Kwahu were in great demand by the surrounding hospitals. During those years she also worked with Dr Colin Allen and Dr Alinna Clemond and her husband Leonard, who was the business manager. She retired to Newcastle, keeping herself fit by walking the three miles into the city twice a week. She always told everyone that a good varied vegetarian diet and exercise contributed to her good health. At 91, she needed extra care and spent the last years of her life in a care home close to her daughter in Lincolnshire. Each year she counted down the years to her 100th birthday, which she was determined to achieve. Unfortunately, after picking up a chest infection, she missed her 100th birthday by eight hours. Her daughter, Rosaleen, granddaughter Vicky Robson, and great-granddaughter Hannah Robson were with her when she died. Her funeral was conducted by Pastor John Ferguson at the Grantham church on 16 February and at Embleton parish church, Northumberland, on 17 February. She has left her daughter Rosaleen, son Christopher, granddaughters Vicky and Karin Robson, and great-granddaughter Hannah Robson. She was

buried in Embleton churchyard at the church where she was married and in sight of the farm where she was born. Rosaleen, Christopher and the family wish to thank all those who sent tributes of cards and flowers and especially Grantham church for the beautiful floral display.

ROSALEEN GILL

SARA FERRIER (1925-2009) d. 10 March. Sara Thorne spent her childhood in Crawley with her parents and two sisters. Eventually her father, an army officer, and her mother were given a posting to India. The girls were sent to boarding school to be educated, and holidays were spent with their aunt in Angus, Scotland. Sara served in the WRNS doing her war service and when the war finished enrolled in the Church Army, working in Germany. When spending leave with her aunt in Angus, she met her husband Harry. Harry was a widower with three teenage children, who gave her a difficult time. Harry was a hill sheep farmer. Sara had a very happy marriage and when Harry died suddenly she was devastated. He was a tenant farmer, so she had to leave her home. Having achieved a degree in Home Economics, she was able to take jobs in the various top hotels in Scotland as a housekeeper. Later she worked for the MS Society, little thinking that one day she would suffer from the same crippling disease. Sara was baptised in Edinburgh by Pastor K. A. Elias after attending a campaign conducted by Pastor John Coltheart and Pastor Kenneth Wright in May 1972 and remained a loving, dedicated Seventh-day Adventist for the rest of her life. There were many trips to countries behind the Iron Curtain, Poland, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Russia, where she carried Bibles translated in the country's language and distributed them to various people. Also in her luggage were clothes as in the 70s everything was very scarce in Iron Curtain countries. God was with her as she had some miraculous escapes going through Customs and never once were her cases examined or any Bible confiscated. Eventually MS ravaged her body and for many years she was in a wheelchair. But her spirit was indomitable, and she was a joy to visit, making the visitor sorry to have to leave. Even though she wasn't able to go to church anymore, she kept studying the lesson and sending money to the church for various uses. She fell ill at the end of February and was taken to the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh. She will be missed immensely by those who knew her, and in a passive way by those whose lives she touched with her courage and faith.

NANCY HUNTER

self by many people at the church as having been instrumental in sealing her decision.

The occasion also provided an opportunity for the church to recognise the work of a number of senior members from the Southport church. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to five members of churches

in the Merseyside district: Sisters Harton and Beth Tweedie from Southport, Brother and Sister Gittins from Wallasey and Sister Pat Grimes from Liverpool Stonecroft. In addition to this service, two Bible workers for the Southport church, Tony Byrne and Kimberley Ham-Ying, were introduced to the church. *MERLVIN MOYO*



Quintet saves the day

A packed audience at the Crieff church was thrilled by a memorable concert on Sunday evening 2 August. However, it was not the concert they were expecting, because they had come to hear the famous New England Youth Orchestra. Due to a regrettable mistake in travel arrangements, the orchestra found they could not get from London in time for the concert at Crieff. Dr Rittenhouse, the conductor, was desperate not to disappoint the audience, so five members from the brass section volunteered to rush to the station and travel by train to Scotland. They arrived at the church

just over half an hour before the concert was due to commence and just had time to set up their instruments and have a short practice. They did not even have the time for their meal.

The initial disappointment of the audience at not hearing the full orchestra turned to delight as they heard the quintet give a virtuoso performance of some of the great works for brass quintets. After hearing two encores they gave a standing ovation and then spent a considerable time talking to the players as they left. Over the years, under their 87-year-old conductor Dr

Photo: Mike Lewis



Male Voice Choir visits Carmarthen church

June 21, the longest day, brought sunshine to this part of west Wales. A packed congregation gathered in the Adventist church in the evening to listen to the music of the choir and the young lady soloist, Carys Davies. The church was filled to capacity.

It is the third year that this concert has been arranged, and the hard work of those who had distributed hundreds of invitations in the surrounding area has now been rewarded as they listened to some old

favourites and some new hymns and songs, both in Welsh and English. Such words as 'I heard the angels sing in the choir in the sky, with a thousand trumpets and a million voices', sung from the heart, brought a ready response from the audience.

After Carys had drawn the listeners to her by her beautiful Welsh voice, the choir gave us reminders that 'He's the lily of the valley', and told us that 'the shoes I wear are gospel shoes, and you can wear them if you choose'. They brought the programme to a rousing end with 'This little light of mine, the light that shines with the light of love, Hallelujah, Amen'.

The programme was not arranged purely for our own pleasure, but as a result of the appeal made for the Cardiac Rehabilitation Centre in the local hospital, over £300 was raised as a donation for equipment, thus making the evening even more worthwhile.

As everyone gathered in the church hall for refreshments afterwards, it was good to see the happy faces and to hear the conversations between fellow Christians in the community and the host church.

VALERIE FREEMAN

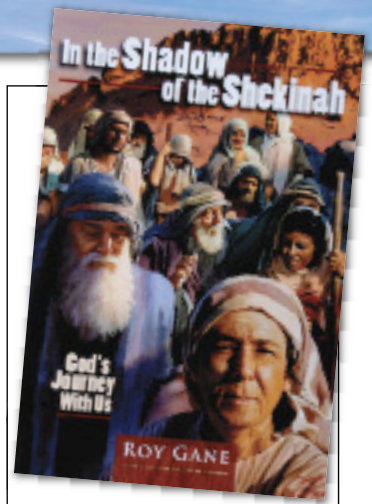


Rittenhouse, the orchestra has delighted audiences in forty-seven countries, including Russia and China. On the current tour they have played in the great cathedral in Salzburg and are also performing in Windsor Castle, St Martin-in-the-Fields and Ely Cathedral before going to Iceland.

Dr Rittenhouse wants to promote great music and share her Christian ideals. She has a special interest in Africa and has gone a number of times with the orchestra to give concerts and workshops for the local young people. At present she is raising money for AIDS orphan victims at the church's Maluti Hospital, Lesotho. Interestingly, this is the same hospital that the Crieff church has been supporting over the last three years. The audience responded by giving a collection of over £450.

Readers may wonder why such a famous orchestra chooses to come to Crieff. It is because the orchestra is based at one of the Seventh-day Adventist colleges in America, and Dr Rittenhouse has a special love for Scotland so she tries to give at least one concert in Scotland and this is usually at the Crieff church, where they receive one of the warmest welcomes from the audience of their tour. Pastor Rodd feels that events like this really help break down prejudice and make people comfortable in visiting our church, and was certainly delighted when about eighty non-members attended the concert.

BOB RODD



New book of the week
In the Shadow of the Shekinah
 by Roy Gane
 (Sabbath School companion book for the fourth quarter)

After delivering the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, God had to teach them how to live and journey with him. Centuries of bondage had taken a toll on his chosen people, and he worked patiently to turn their hearts to him, despite their chronic rebellion and incessant grumbling.

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Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Sept 4	7.40	7.52	7.46	7.59	8.08
11	7.24	7.36	7.30	7.41	7.50
18	7.08	7.20	7.13	7.22	7.32
25	6.52	7.04	6.56	7.04	7.15

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