



## 'Joyful endings' at Balham

### Balham church – Past, Present and Future

by Alison Hylton-Thomas and Clinton Monfries

Photos by Brian Ferguson

#### Friday evening programme

It was a sight to behold as people entered the new Balham church building at Balham. As members from the past, present and possibly future took their seats in the auditorium,

you could sense the suspense and happiness at the prospect of finally being able to worship in the recently completed church.

The 'Past, Present and Future'

programme began with a heartfelt prayer from Pastor Vaughn Thorpe. His prayer mentioned the long road that Balham members had travelled and the exciting one that they were yet to travel! He reminded us that we should always remember how far God had brought us to this wonderful place.

Past Balham member, Carmen Massiah, who returned from Barbados, conducted a rousing song service with many of the traditional hymns that Balham knew and loved. It

was almost like being transported back in time.

Balham elder Joseph Clem showed a PowerPoint presentation called 'One small step for mankind', paralleling major historical events between 1969 and 2009 for Balham church, which was both thought provoking and insightful, especially for those who did not know the history behind the Balham building project.

A time of reflection followed in which we were reminded of those who have passed away during the forty years since Balham was formed. It was a very special moment.

The Balham Senior Choir took to the platform and gave a rousing performance of 'Beautiful'. The choir consisted of members from past and present, some such as Clinton Monfries Sr, his wife and others who had travelled from overseas in order to be there for this special occasion.

To conclude the evening Pastor Don McFarlane, BUC president, made a presentation relaying his personal appreciation of the role that many had played in completing the

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I heard on the radio last week, during an interview with what I thought was a union leader, that the reason for the postal strike was because postal workers were being asked to walk for five hours a day on their deliveries, and that was against health and safety. 'That's ridiculous!' I thought. 'Walking is the best exercise you can get, and these workers should be pleased that their job enables them to get such healthy exercise.' I met a postman a few days later and told him what I had heard and his response was that walking for so long wouldn't be so bad if it wasn't for the heavy weight of the mail carried on his shoulder. He had a point. Later, I went to check the story on the 'Listen Again' facility on the BBC's website, and I realised that I had only absorbed a small part of the story. The truth was, the interview I had heard was, in fact, with a regular postman, not a union leader. Also, the reason for the strike was not really about the increase in delivery hours but had more to do with loss of pension and other issues.

Have you ever done that – heard something,

formed an opinion, then realised you had misunderstood?

Jesus was sometimes misunderstood. There was an occasion when Jesus was angry with people for selling livestock in the temple. After that the people asked what miraculous sign he would use to show them his authority to do such things. Jesus replied: 'Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days.' John 2:19. His listeners were amazed and responded that it had taken forty-six years to build the temple. How could he possibly rebuild it in three days? The account doesn't say if Jesus corrected them. However, it does say that the temple he had spoken of was his body and that after he was raised from the dead they remembered his words. Presumably, up until his resurrection, they would have misunderstood his statement. Admittedly, Jesus did often speak metaphorically, such as the time when the disciples urged him to eat and he responded: 'I have food to eat that you know nothing about.' John 4:32. So those he spoke to could be forgiven for not immediately understanding what he meant.

with Jonathan Barrett

## Use your 'Listen Again' facility



We may not understand why those who listened to Jesus were not able to understand his words, as his meaning seems clear to us. Don't forget that we have the explanation and the context spelled out to make it easier.

I think the truth is that many of us have spiritual misconceptions. Perhaps we have heard a snippet here, a phrase there, and we have internalised it and made it into a belief about life and God. Our understanding may be correct and spot on. On the other hand, like my perception of the postal strike, it may be a distortion of the truth. Fortunately, we have our spiritual 'Listen Again' facility – the Bible. Let's use it – thoughtfully, prayerfully, frequently – to discover how things really are.



# Power to demolish strongholds

David Marshall

*'The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. . . . They have divine power to demolish strongholds.'* 2 Corinthians 10:4.

For seven or eight years for all practical purposes Anita and I had a family of four: two children, two adults, all female. To accommodate them I had to graduate from an Escort to a Cortina, then, as they grew, to a Sierra. The younger child was the more wrigglesome, and the older child the more vocal. Usually, anyway.

Before they all fled the coupé – and I downsized to an Astra – they had taught me many things. I remembered one of those things this morning. We were all on a journey to Torbay but before we reached the Leicester ringroad somebody had asked, 'Are we there yet?' So we were playing 'What if?' To be precise, 'What if you could be anyone, who would you be?'

For a brief while Princess Diana, Blondie and a Charlie's Angel were in danger of identity theft. I became aware that the wrigglesome junior had said nothing and pressed her for a response: 'Who would you like to be?'

'I'd like to be me,' she said in a way that implied that that should have been obvious even to me. 'I like me,' she affirmed.

From that moment I felt good about that child's prospects. So, has she gone on to make a fortune? No. That has been her more vocal sibling. The wrigglesome one is using her 2:1 in Psychology to run a number of women's refuges (temporary homes for abused women). Currently she is based nearby. She lives alone in a little terraced house, which is her own. More importantly, she is her own person. The person she is happy to be. Herself.

It makes a refreshing change in a world in which it is said, 'We are not what we are. We are not even what others think we are. We are what we think others think we are.'

All of which conveniently brings up the subject of low self-esteem.

'My name is Martha Bowers Taft,' said the young celebrity. 'My great-grandfather was president of these United States. My grandfather was a United States senator. My daddy is the US ambassador to the Irish Republic. And I am a Brownie.'

We're apt to think in grades, degrees, ranks, offices, strata of importance. It isn't surprising. At age 11 I went to a school which, on the basis of an examination we took on the morning of our arrival, allocated us to one of six streams graded A to F in descending order of perceived giftedness.

We are part of a highly stratified Church based on the idea of election by a number of different constituencies, but in which the majority of us do not appear to be enfranchised. Of course, when we *are* enfranchised – to vote in the officers of our local congregation – we make the most of it. But are we right to take the whole ladder of stratification as seriously as we do? People ring in and say, 'I am an elder/deacon/PM leader/whatever of such-and-such a congregation' as if it is their only claim to significance. It isn't. It doesn't affect worth one way or the other. Your value is intrinsic. In yourself.

Then there are the destructive value systems of our society that dictate that you must be beautiful or highly intelligent. James Dobson writes, 'If you're pretty or handsome or if you're highly intelligent, you've got it made in our society. But God help you if you're dumb and ugly. . . .' Dobson declares war on all that, concluding: 'I reject the notion that inferiority is inevitable. Although our task is more difficult for some children than for others, there are ways to teach a child of his genuine significance regardless of the shape of his nose or the size of his ears or the efficiency of his mind.' Those are Darwinian considerations; po mo refinements of the survival of the fittest.

Our value/worth is not in being 'the fittest', howsoever fitness is measured. The devil's strongholds include fear, anger and false guilt. But his most unyielding stronghold is low self-esteem. To give us a sense

of inadequacy, the devil works on our feelings of low self-worth. He uses childhood experiences, or a perceived lack of good looks or social skills, and works them up into a full-blown complex.

Remember the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30? One fellow was immobilised by fear and feelings of inadequacy. He was so afraid of failure that he failed to invest a single talent. He buried it in the ground and called it playing safe.

The Holy Spirit is the Great Encourager who helps us to dream bold dreams and see exciting visions of what God wants to do with us.

Low self-esteem causes dreams and visions to self-destruct. It also ruins relationships.

Low self-esteem means that you think badly of yourself. That, in turn, implies that you think badly of the way God has made you and the provision he has made for your redemption. You were made in God's image. You were redeemed by the personal intervention of God's Son.

'We use God's mighty weapons, not mere worldly weapons, to knock down the devil's strongholds. . . .' (2 Corinthians 10:4, NLT.)

But those strongholds have got to go.

By the standards of her time Susanna Wesley was an enlightened parent. She gave an excellent education to her many children. Sadly, however, she was a victim of bad religion and, in a sense, made her children victims, too, by teaching them that perfection was imperative for salvation. But two of her sons broke out of this stronghold to embrace the gospel of grace. In the words of one of his hymns, Charles Wesley traced the progression of God's healing grace against the low self-esteem stronghold perfectionism had built:

'Arise, my soul, arise;  
Shake off thy guilty fears;  
The holy sacrifice  
In my behalf appears.  
Before the throne my Saviour stands;  
My name is written on his hands.'

## Messenger photography

From 1 January 2010 we shall be looking for higher standards in the photographs we choose for publication. Set your camera on maximum resolution and, when the pictures are emailed in, please make sure they are not reduced in size. Following the same practice will improve your chances of having your photographs published in your local newspaper, too.

EDITOR



## Enhancing Health

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

### Artificial light impact on health

A report published on 23 October 2009 became the latest in a series of research studies and discussions on the impact of artificial light on health.

Artificial light has increased societal productivity by extending the length of the productive day, offering more work and recreational time for activities that require light. However, when artificial lighting becomes excessive, ineffective and unmonitored, it is known as 'light pollution'. Some environmentalists, naturalists and medical researchers regard light pollution as one of the fastest-growing and most pervasive forms of environmental pollution. Additionally, an increasing body of scientific research suggests that light pollution can have lasting adverse effects on both human health and wildlife.

Generally, living organisms have biological rhythms that are linked to the sequence of light

and darkness. Over ten years of research has produced studies which suggest that artificial light may have a negative impact on our circadian rhythm and immune system. The reasoning is that artificial illumination is fooling the body's biological clock into releasing key wakefulness hormones at the wrong times, which negatively impacts emotional and physical health.

Recent studies suggest that women who work nightshifts and out of sync with natural light have higher rates of breast cancer.

The recent report in *Health Day News* (23 October) examined research which suggests that exposure to too much light at night may cause depression. Lead author Laura Fonken, a graduate student in psychology, reports on the negative impact of artificial light at night and the benefits when it was removed. She states: 'The ability to escape light seemed

to quell the depressive effects.'

Co-author Randy Nelson (professor of Neuroscience and Psychology) added, 'The increasing rate of depressive disorders in humans corresponds with the increasing use of light at night in modern society. Many people are now exposed to unnatural light cycles, and that may have real consequences for our health.' He also noted that hospital intensive care units are brightly lit throughout the night, which may have a negative effect on patients. . . . 'This research is important for people who work nightshifts, and for children and others who watch TV late into the night, disrupting their usual light-dark cycle.'

God intended a cycle of light and darkness both for ecological and health benefits. Genesis 1:5: 'And God called the light day and the darkness he called night.'





# Empowering women is crucial

by Don McFarlane and Ian Sleeman

Receiving immigrants with love and equality, including youth in elected church leadership and empowering women were among the issues in a keynote sermon delivered by the Adventist World Church president on Sabbath 10 October. Addressing an audience of world church leadership, he stressed the need for reconciliation and ambassadorship in service.

The 2009 Autumn Council is the last gathering of church leaders from around the world before the GC Session in Atlanta next year. Consequently, the focus of the agenda was preparation for the GC Session. A revamping of the *Church Manual*, with a view to making it more mission centred, more user-friendly and a shorter document, occupied a considerable amount of time.

During the attendant discussion delegates kept returning to a key issue – the role of women in the life of the Church. Many church leaders, including the BUC president, were of the view that the time is long past for women to be excluded from any leadership position in the Church. The fact that current church policy prevents the ordination of women as pastors was considered by many to be out of line with the new humanity instituted by Jesus, in which there is no Jew nor Gentile, bond nor free, male nor female. Many delegates asked for the matter of the ordination of women as pastors to be placed back on the agenda for discussion. Two developments regarding the role of women in the Church that encouraged the hearts of many delegates were: 1. A recommendation that deaconesses be ordained, as deacons are, in Divisions where this is approved;

2. An action that consideration be given to removing the restrictions from policy which prevent anyone who is not an ordained pastor from serving as president at the various levels of the organisation. What led to this particular action was a desire by many of the delegates that the Church does not exclude women from the most senior position of leadership in their respective fields. It is important to emphasise that this, unlike the action regarding deaconesses, is not a recommendation to the GC Session. It is merely a request that consideration be given to removing the current restrictions that exclude women and other unordained individuals from certain positions. Our Church should be setting an example in demonstrating the all-inclusive nature of the body of Christ.

Still on the theme of equality for women, delegates voted unanimously to embark on a campaign, 'End It Now', to highlight the need to end violence against women and girls. ADRA and Women's Ministries have joined forces to collect a million signatures for presentation to the United Nations in an effort to urge this influential organisation to use its good offices to bring to an end what one could describe as institutional violence against women and girls. The approximately 300 attendees were the first to register their signatures. The Adventist Church is saying clearly that it does not accept culture as an excuse for the mutilation of girls, the sexual exploitation of women and girls, the denial of education to girls based on their gender, domestic violence which is directed against women, and so forth. Delegates were told that one in three women around the world is a victim of physical or psychological violence.

More than 135 million girls and women have been forced to have genital mutilation. An additional two million are at risk each year. In the United States one woman is battered every fifteen seconds by her husband/boyfriend. One in five women around the world will be the victim of rape in her lifetime. Adventists say no to violence against women and girls.

Other news from the Autumn Council: on Wednesday, the Indian Church was finally given a government licence to broadcast the Hope Channel all over that vast populous country. This was after a five-year wait.

The Church is growing fast. Over one million people have been added each year for the last six years.

The new theme song for the GC Session next June was distributed on Wednesday and practised by the executive. Pastor Ian Sleeman states, 'I think it is a fantastic song and I will bring it back to my church and hope we can learn it before the Session.' Sleeman was also thrilled by a report of Paulsen's recent visit to China. He says, 'It brought tears to my eyes. The Adventist message is growing there in leaps and bounds.'

Is this a valuable time? Sleeman responds as a local church pastor involved in the leadership of a world Church. 'Loads of church policy items were voted and some minor points laboured at times. Hey-ho! That is a small price we pay for being a representative democratic Church. Yes, it is expensive. Yes, it is time consuming, but . . . I am very proud of my Church and the way it operates to spread the Good News to every tribe on Earth.' For more on the Annual Council visit <http://news.adventist.org/2009-annual-council>.

# Feedback

## Kingdom dress code

Dear Editor, Every Adventist should read this article [*MESSENGER* 25 September] and allow the Holy Spirit to penetrate our hardened hearts and convict us of the sin of legalistic judgementalism that is growing, not diminishing, among us.

SARAH GOUDA-MAKA, Ontario

Dear Editor, The whole question of acceptable dress would be made less complicated if the church leadership gave periodic reminders to congregations. There has got to be a happy medium between those who turn up to be baptised immodestly dressed, on the one hand, and the over-zealous (often male) church officers who take it upon themselves to wag the forefinger at the young women. Couldn't we, at least, be sure to discuss the expected dress code with baptismal candidates BEFORE the actual day of their baptism? To send young candidates 'home to get changed' before immersion hurts everybody.

Name withheld, Church elder

## Miss Guntrip

Dear Editor, Before my Dad [Pastor Oscar M. Dorland] was married he lived in West London in a

room let to him by Mrs Guntrip. He thought that her daughter would make an excellent Bible worker and talked 'College' to her so much that he lost his digs – because Mrs Guntrip did not want her to leave home!

The first 'home' of the West London (Chiswick) church was in the Guntrip house in Askew Road. Subsequently they found a wooden building near the railway line.

Miss Guntrip did go to college. She became a very faithful Bible worker, working with my Dad in both Bristol and London. He said she was 'as good as a second minister in a church'.

Prior to moving to The Dell she lived at Downend, Bristol, with Mrs Robbins and another lady. It could have been Dora Watson.

RUTH DORLAND HULBERT, Stanborough Park

## The silence of God

Dear Editor You correctly stated [17 July], 'The greatest test of the Christian life is to live with the silence of God.' I hold on despite the pain and, at times, anger with God. I want an instant solution to my problem and, if not instant, I want him to tell me when the problem will be solved. Your words were precisely what I needed.

BEN, Sidcup

# BUC 'moving home'

Victor Hulbert, Communication director, BUC

Just twelve months after the fire that devastated the Headquarters office of the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, staff are delighted to be 'moving home'. Builders are on target to have completed stage two of the rebuilding programme by the end of November. The current plan is for staff to move from their temporary premises in Frogmore back to Stanborough Park, Watford, in the week starting Monday 14 December.

During the relocation process the office will be busy packing, moving equipment and restocking the new building. IT and phone systems will also be moved between premises. As a result the office will be closed to the public from noon on Friday 12 December, reopening at 8.15am on Monday 21

December. There will be no phone or email service for part of the week.

The completion of phase two means that staff will once again all be working in the same building. Adventist Discovery Centre and Media Centre staff had moved back in April. There will still be no boardroom or meeting rooms but working conditions will be better than in the temporary offices where staff have been working since January.

Builders will shortly start work on the boardroom end of the building. Planning permission for this section was granted by Watford Borough Council on Thursday 8 October. 'There is a very evident boost to staff spirits,' notes Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication director, who witnessed the broad smiles on faces when the announcement

was made in a Monday morning worship. More importantly, moving back into permanent premises and work starting on the final section of the building will significantly help the Church to move forward in providing better resources and training for our members across the UK and Ireland. BUC president, Don McFarlane, is excited about the new building: 'Every crisis presents an opportunity. We will have a better facility than previously. So out of the ashes will come beauty, and as a result we will have a better building that will serve the mission of the Church more effectively.'

The boardroom end of the building was the section most seriously damaged by the fire. A new design for this end of the building increases the number of meeting rooms, adds a more appropriate reception area and provides much needed office space. It is anticipated that this third phase of the programme will be completed by next summer.

For continued updates and news on the building programme visit: [www.adventistinfo.org.uk/build](http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/build).





## Wanted! Bone marrow match

I am trying to find a bone marrow match for an SDA young man named Jermaine from the Clapton SDA church who has been diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia (AML). He has a 1 in 100,000 chance of getting a match. Therefore I am hosting a programme at the Clapton church on 21 November to register possible donors. The greater publicity we get, the more people who come forward to register, the greater Jermaine's chances will be to find a suitable match.

Richard DeLisser, Communication director, SEC

### Jermaine's story

I am 25 years of age and I live in Hornsey, north London. Last year I was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML). I need a bone marrow transplant to survive. I became ill in May 2008, although I was only diagnosed with AML in November 2008. I suffered a relapse of the disease in mid August.

I love football and have hopes of playing pro or semi-pro football or maybe a career in music. Before being diagnosed with leukaemia I was a healthy and very active young man. The leukaemia has definitely stopped me in my tracks and put all hopes of a productive future on hold.

My family are obviously devastated but remain positive and supportive. Finding a donor would mean the world to me and my family. To live a normal life again is my ultimate wish.

I feel it is very important for the public to register as donors. It doesn't take long and could save someone's life. One thing I must stress is that this disease can strike anyone of any age at any time.

Don't wait for it to happen to someone close to you. Had I been white British my chances of finding a match could have been as good as 1 in 5. As it stands, my chances are 1 in 100,000, simply because not enough of the black and mixed race community have registered.

Please come together as a people and a community and help me or someone like me and let us build the strongest donor register ever.

★ HEROES ★  
 WANTED

**Venue:** Clapton Community Seventh day Adventist Church, St. Pauls Church, Chelmer Road, Hackney E9 6AY  
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# Where would we be without Paul?

by John Surridge\*

**'The aim of Paul was to take the Gospel from the Jewish context and to put it in a context that the whole world can understand.'**

If you've been 'Following the Bible' using the daily reading guide, you'll know that we're about to hit the block of letters written by the apostle Paul. We've been introduced to Paul in the book of Acts where Luke tells us about his amazing conversion and subsequent missionary exploits, but it is only through Paul's letters that we begin to get a feel for his character, personality and theology.

Some people find Paul's writings a bit heavy, but the understanding of God's character which Paul gives us is a very necessary part of the New Testament. Certainly we have the full Gospel in the other books, but without Paul Christianity wouldn't be what it is today.

For a start Paul leans much more towards the Greek culture than the other writers. His mission is to take the Gospel to the Gentiles – in other words, to translate the Gospel from its Jewish context and put it in a context that the whole world can understand. During his lifetime Paul did this in a practical way through his travels and his preaching, but through his writings the process has continued up until the present day. If it hadn't been for Paul, it's just possible that Christianity might have remained as closed and exclusive as Judaism had become.

### Grace

Throughout his writings Paul seems to have one dominant theme: *grace*. There is good reason for this. As human beings it is incredibly difficult for us to accept that we can be given something we don't deserve. Although Christ's birth, life and sacrificial death were all about grace, even his own disciples struggled to grasp the concept. So Paul hammers home the message again and again that, yes, God does justify the ungodly and undeserving (see Romans 4:5, for example). Just how he does this can only be understood by understanding God's grace and love towards his children – 'the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus,' as he puts it in Ephesians 2:7.

### Freedom

Closely allied with grace in Paul's writings is *freedom*. For Paul, grace is something that is given freely by God and acquired freely by his children. In Ephesians 1:6 he talks about God's 'glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves'. In Romans 3:23, 24 he says that, even though we have all 'sinned and fall short of the glory of God', we are 'justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus'.

But grace goes even further than this: it gives total freedom to those who truly accept God's gift of grace. 'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free,' Paul says in Galatians 5:1. 'Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.'

Of course, such a radical view, to Jewish, Greek, and even modern minds, was bound to cause a stir. One very positive outcome was that Christianity spread like wildfire across the Roman Empire and further. This was genuine good news, unparalleled by any other major religion, and people really wanted to hear it. It transformed lives, cultures and politics, and led eventually to Christianity becoming the largest of the world religions.

However, the marvellous message of God's grace and the freedom that we have in Christ was, even during Paul's lifetime, twisted and corrupted by some. In some cases this was because they couldn't accept that God could be so generous; in others it was because they loved their sins more than they loved Christ. Sad? Yes, but if Paul had not written about how to combat these two opposite and equally wrong reactions to God's grace, we might not know how to tackle those who still champion them today.

\* Pastor Surridge is president of the Welsh Mission

# Mental Wellness Strategy

Launched by BUC Health Ministries department

by Sharon Platt-McDonald

The BUC Health Ministries director and Special Needs co-ordinator launched a Mental Wellness Strategy in March. A key part of the strategy is the production of a handbook which is now available titled: *Mental Wellness Handbook – Supporting Churches In Raising Mental Health Awareness and Encouraging Emotional Healing and Wellbeing*.

The handbook is divided into three sections: Part 1 deals with mental health and illness, part 2 concentrates on emotional healing and part 3 addresses achieving emotional wellbeing.

This comprehensive manual aims to deliver the following:

- To provide insight into how improved mental health awareness can enhance greater understanding and support for individuals with mental health challenges.
- To assist churches to embrace individuals with mental health challenges and assimilate them into the family.
- To highlight some key aspects of mental wellbeing and the factors that impact it.
- To provide a foundation on which to undertake future workshops to learn about the mind/body/spirit connection and how it relates to general wellbeing.
- To encourage the Church to be more sensitive in its outreach and provision of services that are accessible to all.

As part of the Mental Wellness Strategy launch, Sharon has produced other resources for the churches in the UK and Ireland. This includes a book she has authored entitled: *Healing Hearts; Restoring Minds – The A-Z of Emotional Wellbeing*, a range of affirmation cards and the development of a support network called CARE.

The area of mental health is not readily discussed and adequately addressed in our churches. As a result, we are not always sure how to support people with mental health challenges. Subsequently these individuals and their families are often left feeling marginalised and isolated. We need to open the dialogue with a range of products to assist in raising the awareness of mental health issues and attempting to break down barriers which exist in this area. The manual will seek to do this. Additionally, it aims to equip members with some basic skills in reaching out to individuals in a caring and sensitive way in order to meet their needs. The CARE network is to support and encourage individuals going through challenging life experiences.

CARE is an acronym for: **Compassionate Action for the Restoration and Encouragement of individuals**. Recognising the need to address emotional wellbeing as a key aspect of our journey through life, CARE exists both as a supportive outlet for challenging times and a tool for encouragement. It is a network ministry which seeks to harness the support, understanding and skills of individuals and other agencies to assist those who are facing crisis and life challenges.

CARE can be accessed via the BUC Health Ministries page on the BUC website or via *C-A-R-E-adventist.org.uk*.

There are three key aspects to CARE:

- prayer ministry (including prayer requests and testimonies to answered prayer)
- support ministry (including resources and details of relevant referral agencies)

- affirmation cards (a range of inspirational cards to encourage and affirm individuals)

### Prayer ministry

**Prayer link.** The prayer section is interactive. You can submit your prayer requests and also post the praise report when you have received the answer to your prayer.

**The 24-hour prayer clock.** Sharon developed the 24-hour prayer clock as a tool for intensive prayer sessions. It has been designed for use in prayer vigils, for consistent prayer cover over the duration of a crisis, and for ongoing seasons of prayer.

For example, it has been used successfully to cover an individual undergoing life-threatening surgery and during the period of their recovery; for an individual in intensive care until they were discharged; and for individuals experiencing strongholds/severe spiritual warfare who require immediate breakthrough. A copy of the prayer clock is available for downloading.

### Support ministry

This section highlights useful books and other resources which can assist the individual in addressing the various challenges that he/she faces. This includes various publications for individuals experiencing emotional challenges, trauma or mental health crises and identifies relevant referral agencies which they can turn to for assistance.

### Affirmation cards

This is an exclusive range of affirmation postcards, with 12 assorted scenes and texts, designed to encourage and affirm members, family and friends. Do you know someone who is in need of encouragement or who would value being appreciated? Here is an opportunity to send them an uplifting message set against a vibrant background.

Under the categories of **encouragement** and **support** are the following 7 cards: 'Missed you at church'; 'Thinking of you'; 'Praying for your healing'; 'Trust God'; 'For such a time as this'; 'Are you discouraged?'; 'Remembering'. Under the category of **acknowledgement** are the following 5 cards: 'Thanksgiving'; 'Appreciation'; 'A friend like you'; 'Friends'; 'Happy Anniversary'.

The postcards are assembled in packs of 12 and packs of 6. The pack of 12 postcards includes the full range (one of each of the 12 cards). This comes with 12 envelopes in a cellophane package at a cost of £4.00 per pack.

The pack of 6 postcards includes 6 of the same design (in the **encouragement** and **support** range) with 6 envelopes in a cellophane package at a cost of £2.50 per pack.

When you enter the CARE website via *C-A-R-E-adventist.org.uk* we encourage you to browse each segment and utilise the identified resources.

In attempting to assist church members and community individuals in addressing life's challenges which impact emotional wellbeing, we need to be both sensitive and supportive in our approach, demonstrating genuine care and concern. It is my prayer that individuals accessing these resources will find direction, strength and comfort to face life's challenges and assist others in doing so.

## Mfune comes to say 'Thank you'\*

On Sabbath 3 October, the president of the Malawian Union, Dr Saustin Mfune, passed through Coventry Central on his way to the General Conference. He came to say thank you to Wonderful Voices (a singing group of Malawians living in various

parts of England). The group donated a car (7-seater) to the Malawi Adventist Radio to help with its work on preaching the Gospel.

The Malawi Union has this radio as a project to help spread the Gospel and when they asked for

donations, the Wonderful Voices thought the car would help in terms of transport as they need to cover the whole of Malawi.

NOMBULELO MOYO

\* Dr Saustin Mfune is the author of *The African Adventure Stories*





# Beachballs and Jesus

I am a Liverpool supporter. I have been since I was a young boy and I will be either until the day I die or until Jesus returns – hopefully the latter. Over the past few weeks my club has gone through a bit of a rough patch, to say the least. On 29 September we lost 0-1 to Fiorentina in the Champions League Group. On 4 October we lost 0-2 to Chelsea in the Premier League and then on 17 October we lost 0-1 to Sunderland when the now infamous ‘beachball incident’ took place. Then, to make things worse, we lost a few days later on 20 October to Lyon again in the Champions League Group Phase, by 2 goals to 1. But today life just got better!

Those of you who follow football will know of the rivalry between Liverpool and Manchester United. It’s been a long rivalry which I’m sure will continue for many years into the future. It’s funny how sometimes the chips can be down and then something happens which can make everything better. And today, everything just got better! Despite the hurt of the past few weeks, today I am celebrating Liverpool’s 2-1 win over Manchester United in the Premier League. Suddenly it seems as though the past few weeks can be forgotten. The losses, the embarrassment of the beachball goal – it is now all a distant memory as I, along with all of Liverpool FC’s other fans, celebrate our win over United.

As I recall the past few weeks of being a Liverpool supporter, I am reminded of a number of things. Firstly, life has many ups and downs. For some of us at the moment life will be on one of those ups, but for some of us it will be the opposite. There are many things that trigger these downs in our lives, whether it’s the death of a loved one, bad grades at school, having been dumped by the one we loved or something very different – sometimes it’s hard to see when the bad times will end, but they will. The comforting thing is that Jesus says, ‘I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’ (Matthew 28:20.) No matter whether you’re on an up or a down, Jesus promises that he is there right beside you – all the way; even when others may have deserted you.

Secondly, it seems to me that

inside every one of us is the desire for victory – the desire always to have our team (in my case, Liverpool) win! There is no doubt that Jesus was a winner. The New Testament teaches us that Jesus has gained the victory over the devil and over sin on our behalf, and through faith in him we also can be victorious. ‘But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.’ (1 Corinthians 15:57.)

Finally, to me football is all about passion. I could never be a Man Utd supporter, or even an Arsenal supporter for that matter, because Liverpool is the team that I am passionate about, and that will never change, whether my team loses, draws or even (hopefully) wins! Jesus’ passion for us was evident as he died on the Cross, and I believe it is his passion that we will have that same passion for him, that same unwavering commitment to be on his side, as for the team we love – whatever team that might be.

ADAM KEOUGH, Youth sponsor, Irish Mission

## Southampton high day

Sabbath 10 October proved to be a particularly high day for Southampton church as three candidates publicly demonstrated their desire to follow Christ by being baptised. The event, which was Pastor Douglas McCormac’s first baptism since taking over in Southampton, was witnessed by a packed church. The candidates, Mick, Tenby and Robyn, have been attending the church for some time and have been following Bible studies with Pastor Douglas and youth leader, Seth Adjare. In fact, Robyn has already been an active participant in several youth days, so it was with great rejoicing that many of the youth were present at the baptism. Tenby has become a familiar face as she is one of the members of the Ladies’ Choir. And Pastor Douglas had dedicated Mick’s son, Tyler, as one of his first official duties when he arrived in Southampton twelve months ago. The service was enhanced with a special item given by church elder Rio Espulgar and was concluded with an altar call. After the service, the new members were personally welcomed by regular members and friends. We praise God for the bless-



# Media Arts: A new area of study

by Taylor Bajic, Newbold’s PRO/Web editor

Newbold College has launched a new four-year BA degree in Media Arts through Andrews University this year, introducing a new course leader and lecturer, Karl Da Silva. Within those four years, students will fully explore

the exciting field of Media Arts through practical hands-on training, critical analysis and theoretical underpinnings. Combining knowledge, critical thinking and specific skills, this degree will produce Christians who are efficient and competent creatives in Media Arts. They will be equipped with industry-compliant skills and knowledge, ensuring employability as professionals and specialists in the ever-expanding world of media and beyond. Further, a BA (Honours) Media Arts, in partnership with a UK provider, is on schedule to be launched in September 2010.

This degree is divided into three main areas: Design, Audio and Film, covering all aspects of the field of communications and media. With topics ranging from animation to film production and analysis, digital to print media design, audio to photography, radio and web-based media, students will soon be investigating not just words, images, sounds and the world around them, but how these things are constantly being interpreted and translated for public consumption. The implications of all these things for a Christian professional in Media Arts are essential areas to be explored, as the elements of ethics, morality, creativity and message are combined with the latest knowledge and skills to engage directly with the world around you.

Karl Da Silva, a Christian multi-media specialist, was born in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, then moved to Scotland twenty years ago and has lived in the UK ever since. He is primarily from an arts and literature background. Upon leaving school, he embarked on an art portfolio preparation course at NC

(National Certificate) level, where he learned different aspects of art, from print and design to life drawing and painting. By the end of this course, he decided to go and study music, as he was also by this time an avid student of music, specialising in the guitar. After two years on a music performance HND (Higher National Diploma) course, he took a year out, and there encountered Christ. ‘Although born into Adventism, it was at this point, after a difficult period of time, that I gave myself to the Lord,’ says Karl.

The following year, he entered into the University of Abertay, Dundee, to study BA Honours Computer Arts. ‘Because I was interested in art, music, film, scriptwriting, this course was ideal as it incorporated all of these elements.’ There at Abertay, Karl later obtained his Masters in Science Information Technology, gaining skills in project management, research and computer administration. Up until accepting his current position as Media Arts Course leader and lecturer at Newbold, Karl worked for two years as Audio Lecturer at University of Abertay and has done a large amount of freelance work with music production, film, web and multi-media design, as well as participating in several volunteer mission trips.

Regarding Newbold’s new degree, Karl states, ‘I have strong ideas of what a course like this can achieve, not only in creating skilled Christian professionals in the field of multi-media, but ultimately creating professional people that God can use to further his Kingdom and proclaim his soon return. What better way to do this than to use the technologies that are available today?’ His vision for this course is not to create robots, to tell students what to do or what not to do, but to create a haven where they can learn and create in a Christian environment, to nurture their own gifts. Media is extremely powerful in what it can do with words, music and images, and holds a great influence over today’s world. In this degree, students can analyse different styles, effects and approaches within each medium and study their ultimate influence on consumers and how they can use each aspect to glorify God.

ings of the day and await with eagerness the next group of candidates.

ALTHEA JONAS

## Sonia’s story

On 5 September John Horton Rojas-Francis was dedicated at St Austell church. This event was completely unforeseen by his parents two years ago.

In 2007 Sonia Rojas arrived in Cornwall from Lima, Peru, to work as a volunteer at Churchtown Farm in the village of Lanlivery. It is a centre in Cornwall operated by Vitalise to provide outdoor activity holidays and respite care for disabled people and their carers. A day centre also provides for local people.

Paul Francis had been working at the farm for a number of years, and when asked wasn’t too reluctant to provide the occasional lift for Sonia to the St Austell church for singing practice on Friday evening, in prepa-

ration for Sabbath services. He had known about the denomination for many years, having heard the singing as he walked past the Bodmin church on the way to do his shopping each week.

When Sonia asked Paul for a lift to church on Sabbath, and to attend the service, he agreed. To cut a long story short, friendship led to romance, Bible studies led to baptism for Paul, and last year they married.

Both of those services had been conducted by Pastor Ron Clemow, and he needed little persuasion to return to Cornwall for the dedication of baby John. The church was decorated to complement the child-focused service, and the parents, members and friends undertook to provide encouragement and guidance for the growing child.

Two years ago had seen Sonia looking to improve her use of English, and so improve her CV, before returning to Peru. In his

employment, Paul had been supporting families with difficulties and wasn’t expecting anything to change. Only God knew the future, and today sees a happy family at home in the St Austell church family.

A last word from Paul: ‘You need an invitation. I would never have thought of just going into an “odd” (Saturday not Sunday) church without an invitation.’ So, invite, invite, invite!

STEVE GREAVES

## Gloucester baptism

The afternoon of 22 August saw one of the biggest baptismal services Gloucester church has seen in recent years. Six people were baptised; namely, the Hylton twins (Joseph and Jasmine), Ceanell Daughma, Lutz Rentel, Anita Foster and Michael Adams.

Pastor Tarlev, much to everyone’s amusement, told the congregation that he had promised the candidates

he would not preach a long sermon and so, in keeping with his promise, he would only say a few words. He talked about the wonder of baptism; how one always learns something new from baptismal services and how even Jesus, who had no sin, chose to be baptised. For Jesus, it was the beginning of his earthly ministry and for the candidates it was a public testimony of their decision to follow Christ and thus the beginning of their journey with him. In closing, Pastor Tarlev reiterated that Jesus did not die on the Cross to give us a licence to sin; instead, he died to save us *from* our sin, and we should all thus take the opportunity to live our lives by his grace.

The candidates were well supported by friends and family. Anita chose Psalms 64 as her favourite text and this was read by her friend Dana Saunders and followed by a musical item from her sister Dionne.

Ceanell chose Romans 8:38 and

# Bring the family back

## Area 6c Day of Fellowship

19 December

Walthamstow Assembly Hall, Forest Road, London E17 4JD

Enjoy an exciting Spirit-filled day that we can ALL enjoy. It is a day not to be missed.

Sabbath School 9.30am

AYS play 4.30pm ‘Break the Code’

Concert 7.30pm

**Food on sale**

**Free parking**

Come and let us with the help of God redeem our families from the enemy.

A day for all to fellowship. Don’t miss it!

Nearest tube station Walthamstow Central, Blackhorse Road. Buses 123, 212, 275, 251.



39 as her favourite texts and these were read by her brother Aaron and followed with an item of music sung by her brother, parents and grandparents.

Jasmine chose Psalms 34:4-8 as her favourite text, while her brother Joseph chose James 1:2-4 and Psalms 139:23. These were read by their mother Selina who gave a moving and often funny account of their lives up to this point and thanked the church and family members who had helped in bringing up her children. This was followed by a beautiful instrumental item by Vicky and Serge.

Michael chose Psalms 23 as his favourite text and this was beautifully recited by his 4-year-old daughter Marianne. His wife Donna spoke on

his behalf about how God has been at work in their lives since they gave themselves to Christ and how her family back home in South Africa had not been surprised at Michael’s decision to be baptised because they had been praying for him.

Lutz chose Psalms 119:41-48 as his favourite reading; this was read on his behalf by Brother Wynter. Gloucester church first elder, Robert Hinds, spoke on his behalf and recounted how he had visited many churches from the north of England all the way to the south west where he had finally found love in Gloucester church and decided to have Bible studies which culminated in his baptism. This was followed by a musical item sung by Michael and friends.

ANGELA CONNICK



# A real-life come-as-you-are banquet

Summer 2009 at Wimbledon International SDA church (WISDAC) was a memorable one for many of the young people. Having graduated from university, a group of friends devoted their time to serving their God through teens ministry!

It wasn't until the end of a teens service on relationships that the group began to understand the mission set before us. We were struck by the vast number of teens who attended our church, and how much they had to say. There was a lot of work to be done and friendships to be built. Hence the launch of the summer youth club. God blessed us with enough ideas to fill seven weeks. Eventually the doors opened to the teens and youth of the church and local community every Wednesday.

Highlights of the youth club include the 'Amazing Race' whereby teams had to navigate their way to Kingston by bus, having taken pictures of specific landmarks in surrounding boroughs. This particular

outing ended with a game of bowling, which encouraged team working, and was the beginning of friendships we see blossoming today.

Another memorable Wednesday involved a lot of falling over during roller-skating at the O2 arena. This activity proved very popular with the young people, despite the fact that it was the first time most of them had attempted it. Great effort and determination was demonstrated by all in what was an exhilarating two-hour session!

In the following week, the tables were turned as the teens volunteered their time by hosting a lunch for the over 55s of the church and the local community. This was the most meaningful day. We were reminded that God is always in control and that he may have a plan we might not be aware of. We were certain that we had promoted the event sufficiently – bulletin announcements, use of church email system and visiting local residential homes with invitations. Lunch was to be served at midday. We were confident

that the seats would be filled.

However, at 12.45pm, this was not the case. It was then that one of the leaders suggested that we go into the streets and personally invite people to a delicious roast lunch at their local Adventist church. We prayed. Then the teens organised themselves into pairs and led the way to Wimbledon Broadway. One by one, people trickled in and, an hour later, every seat was filled! We were, and still are humbled and amazed by God's plan for that afternoon. The young people demonstrated zeal and pulled together wherever they were needed, whether it was in the kitchen, the dining hall or in the streets. In particular, two teens were so committed to the street ministry that they spent over two hours out and about, inviting people to the dinner, before being called back to the church! This day was an opportunity for the young people to form bonds with older members of the church they rarely spoke to.

Other events included a drugs talk presented by the local police, playing social, board and video games, as well as watching a film and discussing its relevance to our calling to live in the way of Jesus.

A black and white themed banquet marked the end of the summer youth club. As well being served a mouth-watering three-course meal, the young people were presented with awards in recognition of their contribution to an amazing summer, including 'best game-player', 'worst roller skater' (for which I was a runner-up), and 'happiest person'. As we reminisced about the journey God had started us on, we couldn't help but think that this was a big part of ministry; getting to know people in social settings and finding out where they are at. If not, how are we going to help them get to where God wants them to be? This was the core message of the 'Come As You Are' teens ministry fundraising concert held on 5 September. We praised our living God for accepting us for who we are and loving us too much to leave us that way. Acts on the night included drama by the WISDAC teens, a powerful testimony by a teens ministry leader, and music from Dedicated, Gugu Ngwenya, Faith Vocal, Lauren Ackie, and Rachel Rose, to name but a few.

WISDAC youth club runs during term time. Please check the church's website for dates and other details: [www.mywimbledon.org](http://www.mywimbledon.org).

MIVANDA NAMAKANDO



## Family baptised

On Sunday 27 September at the Great Brickkiln Street church, a husband, wife and two daughters made a public demonstration of their decision to follow the Lord's example in baptism.

In the baptismal pool it was an awe-inspiring scene to witness husband and wife as they stood together spiritually single-minded.

Husband and wife Vassell and Nadine Buchanan with their two daughters Leshawn and Shenelle had most of their Bible study preparation with one of the local lay preachers, Mrs I. Johnson from GBK. Vassell at a brief interview following baptism reflected on the past. He stated that it has been his greatest desire to become more involved with Christian teachings and he was prompted by his wife Nadine to take the spiritual steps forward. Both made the final decisions for a new life. Their example led their two daughters also to follow where the Holy Spirit leads.

DELVA M. CAMPBELL



## North Wales celebrates

Family and friends joined the congregations of North Wales churches at Rhyl on a beautiful Sabbath morning, 10 October, to witness and celebrate the baptism of Mrs Elzbieta Piechocka.

Ela, as she is known to her friends, has been working in the laboratory of the local hospital in Llandudno for the past three years and was introduced to the Adventist faith by her husband Piotr.

Pastor Foster discovered that she was a most intelligent and faithful student, who always came up with new searching questions during her baptismal Bible studies.

Originally from the city of Zabrze, South Poland, and from the Catholic tradition, Ela was happy to be joining the Llandudno Junction company as part of the Welsh Mission Church.

She was welcomed into membership by Welsh Mission executive member Malcolm Turner, and into

## Scots on the road to Finland

What's the connection between Scotland's largest town, which brought the world the famous Paisley pattern, and Iso Kirja in Finland? It was an objective that concentrated the minds of Paisley's Pathfinders when, last Sunday, they packed groceries at one of the town's busiest supermarkets. They were raising funds towards the cost of attending the 10<sup>th</sup> International Camporee next year.

The uniformed youth manned bright orange buckets displaying the Pathfinder logo and the strap lines 'Community Service + Camping + Crafts = Character Building'. Their smiles and eager attention brought forth an unexpected response from the busy shoppers, many of whom enquired about the club's activities.

The youngest present was 4-year-old Eager Beaver, Tamara Masaya, who accompanied her mother, Virginia.

A few hours later the group emerged full of gratitude for what was to far exceed their earlier expectations. When the counting was completed the club had raised more than £700 towards the journey to Finland. Pathfinder director, Jennifer Oroko, said, 'We were overwhelmed by the generosity of the customers and the help and kindness of the checkout staff. Customers were keen to know who we were and what motivated our young people to be out and about so early on a Sunday morning. What else but "the love of Christ that constrains us"?'

JOHN WILBY

## Gemma: 'Where I belong'

On Sabbath afternoon 10 October Mrs Gemma Harries was baptised and accepted into membership in the Cardiff Central church. Her journey to full membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been long and winding.

Born and raised as an Anglican in Trinidad, West Indies, Gemma first found out about the Sabbath when she was 16. 'My mother always encouraged me to ask questions and to find the answers for myself,' she said. 'When I told her that I thought I was keeping all of the Ten Commandments she asked, "Are you really?" She then told me to read the Bible and find what day the Sabbath actually fell on. It meant reading right from the beginning until I found the answer, but I eventually did and knew from then on that Saturday was the true Sabbath.'

Although the question of the

Sabbath was at the back of her mind, Gemma joined another Sunday-keeping church and it was not until she came to Wales, around twenty years ago, that she began to think about the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She married a Welshman whom she met through her work in Cardiff, but sadly he died after they had spent just ten years together. By this time her mother and older sister had joined the Adventist Church back in Trinidad, and Gemma now determined that she, too, would try to find her nearest Adventist church.

Her initial contact was with Pastor Clyde Moore, then serving as the minister of the Cardiff Central church. He came to see her at work and actually took her to see where the church was. Since then Gemma has been a faithful attender – not only at the Sabbath morning services, but also at the mid-week prayer meetings and virtually all of the evangelistic meetings that have been run at the church this year. In fact, following the 'New Beginnings' campaign that ran for twenty-six evenings over the summer, Gemma was awarded a prize for attending every night.

At the baptismal service Pastor Moore spoke of how Gemma had started attending church and he conducted an interview with her on the platform.

Although she does not normally enjoy standing up at the front, Gemma was eloquent in telling the congregation of how she had found the Lord and how she had now pledged her life to serving him. Pastor Jeremy Tremeer, the current Cardiff Central pastor, took her through the baptismal vows, and Pastor John Surridge, Welsh Mission president, performed the baptism itself.

It was a day of joy and celebration for all who attended, but mostly for Gemma herself. 'This is where I belong,' she said.

JOHN SURRIDGE

the Llandudno company by Pastor Foster.

Ela is already proving to be a tremendous asset to the church as God continues to build up his people in North Wales.

DAVID FOSTER





# If Jesus is the answer, then what is the question?

Tottenham and Edmonton Central churches baptise five in youth-led evangelism

During August and September Tottenham and Edmonton Central churches baptised five individuals in a pre- and post-baptism to their evangelistic programme.

Just prior to the September campaign entitled 'If Jesus is the answer, then what is the question?' three individuals were baptised and affirmed in both churches.

An afternoon full of celebration took place downstairs at the Tottenham church where the pool was disturbed for the fourth time this year.

Taking their stand for Jesus on the afternoon of Sabbath 16 August were Allie Ahmed Jaward, Shanyse Johnson and Meggan Commock.

The event set the pace for the beginning of the campaign due to start early in September.

This was just a prelude to the upcoming campaign where the question 'If Jesus is the answer, what is the question?' was answered.

The speakers for the campaign were all hand-picked by a committee set up months previously. All came from the youth departments of both churches. They were Adrian Lee, Max McKenzie-Cook, Asher McKenzie, Eugene James, Christopher Campbell, Damaris Muturi (a dynamic female speaker) and of course our pastor, David Burnett.

Subjects to answer the title 'If Jesus is the answer, what is the question?' included: What caused this mess? How do I know Jesus existed? What makes Jesus so special? Why do people love money? Who moved the stone? Why did we kill him? Is he the answer to Muslims, Jews, Hindus and atheists as well? And many, many more were all answered with clarity and integrity.

There was excitement throughout and many felt the presence of the Holy Spirit as they were moved by the enthusiasm and the way the Word was presented by all the speakers.

Throughout the month, in addition to evangelistic presentations, there were health promotions with back massaging and juicing on the Sunday afternoons as well as plenty

of health tips and advice. There were also testimonies and moving stories of encouragement presented nightly before the spoken Word. Music was provided by members from both churches.

When Tottenham and Edmonton Central churches pull together there are always surprises. This year there were two weddings and a birth.

Ali Ahmed Jaward (after over three years attending Edmonton Central church) was wedded to Yvette James on Sunday 30 August in Oxford.

Time was also set aside for the wedding of John and Aterah Robertson on Wednesday 9 September. It was a beautiful ceremony at the church.

Then along came baby Aleshia Annakay Lee on Friday 18 September, the evening when daddy Adrian Lee was due to preach on the Word! Thankfully, baby Aleshia arrived, not disturbing the Sabbath, truly giving mum that well-earned Sabbath rest.

Programme manager and co-ordinator Patrice Gordon said, 'The campaign and baptism came as a real blessing to me. I really enjoyed all of it.'

On the evening of Sabbath 26 September, after a moving final sermonette by Chris Campbell, two further souls were baptised.

That evening marked the joyful baptism of beautiful 6-year-old Denadia Bogues and teary-eyed Keisha Golding. Yes, I said 6. Flanked by her family and friends, little Denadia was full of praise and



excitement as the vows were being read out by church elder Ben McKenzie-Cook. Keisha Golding, surrounded by her family, went down in



the water with tears in her eyes and came up with more tears of joy.

If you missed the campaign and want to find out the answer to the question 'If Jesus is the answer, what is the question?' you can still get the DVD which is available by contacting the Tottenham church's 24-hour telephone service on 020 8802 1477, leaving your name and contact details.

ROGER CHARLES



## A better hope

A report on a day of fellowship by Dr E. O. Sackey and Pastor K. Kwarteng-Ampofo

The South East London Ghana church, Elephant and Castle church, All Nations church and Milton Keynes Ghanaian Fellowship organised a day of fellowship at Milton Keynes on 1 August prior to a four-week campaign aimed at evangelising the city. (This campaign titled 'The wonderful words of life and health series' was held from 21 August to 12 September.)

Present at the day of fellowship were BUC president Pastor Don McFarlane and the Deputy Mayor of Milton Keynes, Mrs Derby Brook.

Pastor McFarlane spoke about 'A better hope'. Hope is the engine of life, he said. It is the desire for something better in the future. Hope is what keeps us going. Some place their hope in science, others in winning the lottery. But Christians have a better, more certain hope.

The prophet Jeremiah reminds of this hope in Lamentations 3:22-26: 'It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his

compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.'

The greatest hope we can have in this life, he said, is the hope that comes from God. This is not a transient hope, but one that is certain and sure.

Jesus gives us two kinds of hope. The first is to restore man's relationship with his Creator and the second, to redeem man and give him life in the new earth.

The story of the woman caught in adultery illustrates the fact that, no matter what we have done, Jesus offers us the hope of forgiveness and a new start.

The second hope is found in John 14:1-3 - the hope of a better place in store, far surpassing anything the

world can offer, when he returns. 'I will come again and receive you to myself; that where I am, there you may be also.' While the world at large sees a bleak future ahead, we see a bright and glorious one in Jesus Christ.

In her address, Deputy Mayor Mrs Brook recognised the fact that things may often seem hopeless, but pointed out that there were still things to be hopeful about if we look for them. She encouraged us to look for and seize opportunities to do all we could to support our city. 'We must not ask what the city can do for us,' she urged, 'but rather what we can do for the city.'

Pastor McFarlane concluded the proceedings by praying that the new fellowship in Milton Keynes, pastored by Dr E. O. Sackey and Pastor K. Kwarteng-Ampofo, would cling to the better hope in Jesus Christ.

### Yarmouth: Filipino Choir

Sabbath 12 September dawned a beautiful morning. Soon all the seats were filled, and more were added as our Filipino brothers and sisters joined us with their families.

Divine service was led by our Pastor Michael Walker, who also gave a special message to the many children of the Filipinos. We were very blessed with the rendering of two

uplifting songs by the Filipino Choir. Everyone enjoyed the potluck meal and the chats we were able to have before our afternoon service of song. The little children showed us how talented they were, too, and got us all joining in their action songs. The adult choir sang several lovely songs.

JOAN FROST and ELIZABETH FOLKARD

### Banquet for ADC

On Sunday 20 September the Great Brickkiln Street Personal Ministries team organised a banquet at the Britannia Hotel for the ADC students in the West Midlands. It was aimed at people doing the ADC courses and for those who have completed them.

The atmosphere at the gathering was pleasant and relaxing as Pastor Des Rafferty, the ADC principal, demonstrated to the group ways and examples of how to become successful soul winners.

Utilising visual aids, he gave a brief history of the ADC, the challenges encountered and remarkable progress in providing a service to thousands of students. The occasion was an enjoyable experience, with diverse workshop material and posters displaying information on healthy living. Students and accompanied attendees were updated about current events at the ADC.

DELVA M. CAMPBELL

## Gloucester twins

On Sabbath 29 August Pastor Tarlev of Gloucester church dedicated Hannah and Emily Stroud. Hannah and Emily were born on 23 April to Timothy and Tricia Stroud.

Pastor Tarlev expressed the hope that while on this occasion the children were being dedicated at the instigation of their parents, one day they would take their own stand and exchange this service for the service of baptism.

The twins' dedication was witnessed by their brother Dylan, family members and Gloucester church members who all accepted the responsibility of taking part in the Christian nurturing of the two little ones.

ANGELA CONNICK





## Chesterfield: first baptism in 40 years

It was with great happiness that the Chesterfield church celebrated its first baptism on 30 May in the church for over forty years. Yes, there have been baptisms in other churches over the years, but the candidate himself requested that he be baptised in Chesterfield church. So the pastor, Melvyn Ellis, asked around some of his non-SDA ministerial friends to try to find a portable baptistry that we could rent for the day.

The candidate, Jonathan Brendon, came to us after contacting the pastor about four years ago by phoning him to ask if he could come to the church. That doesn't happen very often, especially with a young person, and we accepted him with open arms. We quickly made friends with him and invited him to our prayer meetings and all our other activities, including some of the hands-on practical maintenance work that the church often needs to have done. He soon got to know all of us. About a year down the road he decided to go to Canada as he wanted to learn to fly and it was far too expensive in the UK. He wanted to qualify as a commercial pilot.

While in Canada he didn't forget about God and visited one or two of our churches, but was not enthused with the 'welcome' he received. Meanwhile some of the Chesterfield members kept in contact by email to continue to encourage him. They even sent one or two parcels so he would not feel too much out on a limb. Two years later he qualified as a commercial pilot trainer. He returned home to England because he had to get a new visa in order to continue to work over there. He was also a little uncertain if this really was the type of flying he wanted to do. While here he had to keep up his flying hours each month to keep his pilot's licence. He also lost little time in getting back into fellowship with us, and we were all glad to see him.

Eventually he made the decision to apply for his visa so he could go back to Canada and, as you can appreciate, these things take time. Jonathan continued to come to our meetings and about three weeks before the date he was to leave he decided to ask Pastor for baptism. He had also been enquiring of the Church if there were any vacancies for a pilot overseas in the mission fields as he would have liked to work for them, even on a very low salary. A crash series of Bible studies was undertaken, and eventually preparations to incorporate a small portable baptistry into our youth hall were made. The latter work was done on the Thursday night before the baptism on the Sabbath afternoon. Everyone helped in the preparation for the day and we had a very enjoyable fellowship lunch and a most enjoyable baptism. With no flying job available at the moment with the Church, Jonathan went back to Canada and now has a job as a flying instructor on Prince Edward Island where he is also enjoying fellowship in the local church. He also has Sabbaths free for church attendance. May God bless you, Jonathan, and may he guide in everything you do.

STEPHEN HAM



Jonathan Brendon, Pastor Ellis and Sandra Ham

## 'Joyful endings' at Balham

church building project. His sermon looked at the children of Israel who reached the Promised Land of Canaan.

### Sabbath programme

Eight hundred or more came to witness the occasion of the grand opening of the new church building at Balham.

The Sabbath School was conducted by Pastor Arthur Campbell of the Mitcham and Kingston churches.

As a prelude to the divine service, Pastor Theodore McPherson read the vows to the six baptismal candidates. The Senior Choir began the divine service by singing 'Magnify', which warmed the hearts of the congregation. Pastor Boldeau then welcomed the congregation to the new church, mentioning the special visitors, including our design team from Ireland – David and Siobhan Brown (ARC Design), Paul Hillan and John Conlon (Building Services Design), Pat McAteer (Anderson Williamson) and Tony McCotter and his wife (Caldwells). Pastor Scoon, Pastor Hamilton Williams (Brixton church), Pastor and Sister McPherson, Pastor Des Boldeau (BUC), Sister Verna McPherson (Health director of the South Caribbean Conference), Dr Emmanuel Osei (SEC), Pastor Cecil Perry and Sister Perry, Dr Don King (president of the Atlantic Union) and Dr Louis King (professor at Atlantic College) were present at the occasion.

Samuel Massiah and Stephanie Ferguson did a presentation about the present activities of the different departments that are now running in Balham church.

Sunday – Youth club with dominoes; Tuesday – Autumn Rose club and dominoes; Wednesday – Prayer meeting; Thursday – Church cleaning; Saturday – Sabbath School, Divine service and AYS. Outreach – Door-to-door witnessing, Street witnessing. The LIFT programme – a special outreach programme once every quarter on Friday evenings.

As well as learning about the different departments, Sammy and Stephanie also told the congregation about the different demographics of Balham church. There are an estimated 434 wonderful members at Balham from many nations, including Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, Guyana, Martinique, France, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Poland, St Lucia and Grenada.

The divine service continued with a praise session. The sermon by Pastor Sam Davis, SEC president, was entitled 'Hewn Rocks, Dug Pits, Joyful Endings'. He spoke about the importance of yesterdays as they determine our present. He also added that, while yesterdays are important, we have only *today*. The Scripture was taken from Isaiah 51:1-3.

His sermon included the history of Balham church, speaking of the pioneers who started the church. He spoke about 'looking to the rock from which you are hewn'. He also urged us to leave Balham's secure walls and reach out to the community.

A baptism finished the wonderful service in which six people gave their lives to the Lord – Samantha Brown, Jepheth Grant, Llewellyn McPherson, Felicity Monfries, Rheanne Phillips and Winnifred William.

In conclusion, Balham have a

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## ERNEST CHARLES THROWER (1927-2009) d. 23 August.

Ernie was born in Great Yarmouth, the eldest of three children. His father was a policeman, and his mother belonged to the Salvation Army. As a child they lived opposite the old Adventist church in King Street, and he often wondered why the people went to church on Saturday. When the war came the children were evacuated. Sadly, they were separated – his brother and sister being sent to Reading, and he to live on a farm in Retford. Ernie liked the farm and stayed there as long as he could. About 1945 he received his call-up papers and found himself in the army at a camp near Theford, training to fight in Burma. Thankfully the war came to an end, so he was not required to go, but after his discharge he joined the TA in Great Yarmouth. Ernie was a practical man and worked for several years as a coal merchant. Later he worked for the Great Yarmouth Corporation for seventeen years. Some time during this period he married and had two children, Carl and June, but sadly the marriage broke down. Ernie was fond of dancing and went to dancing



classes, where he met Thelma, and they became very good friends. They both got involved in charity work, and for sixteen years helped the Great Yarmouth Gateway Club for people with learning disabilities, which is also associated with Mencap. Ernie used to drive their minibus, and he also did a lot of fundraising on Great Yarmouth sea front. He loved children, and did a lot of babysitting for Thelma's grandchildren, and supported them in their activities. Thelma used to attend the Pentecostal Church and he would sometimes go with her. Then Pastor David Neal advertised a series of seminars on the book of Daniel, and Ernie, Thelma, her sister and a friend went along. In due course, Thelma and her friend, Margaret Hannant, decided to join the Adventist Church. Ernie lived just at the back of Thelma and would call for her and take her to church, and then come back to take her home. If he arrived before the service ended, he would sit out in the foyer – not wanting to come in because he used to smoke, and knew that Adventists didn't do so – but would still listen to the sermon (or part of it). However, one day he did respond to come in to the service. With a little encouragement, determination, and the work of the Holy Spirit, Ernie told us he had given up smoking. Now he came regularly every

Sabbath to Sabbath School, divine service and to the prayer meeting, and when asked if he wished to become a member of the church there was no hesitation. He used to look forward to his weekly Bible studies and was received into church fellowship on Sabbath 4 June 2006. Ernie loved his Lord and Saviour and he loved the church to which he now belonged. He was keen to be involved in all its activities, playing an active role on the evangelistic team, running Bible seminars in Gorleston. A kindly, tenderhearted man, Ernie was always ready to give help wherever he could. He served faithfully as a deacon, carrying out his duties readily and happily – he was a good influence in the Great Yarmouth church, an example and encourager. Ernie had been in and out of hospital for the last six months of his life, and always fought back, but, following his last fall, he died in the James Paget Hospital in Gorleston. He is greatly missed by all of us, and our sympathy goes out to his sister Eileen, niece Sarah, and to his good and trusted friend Thelma; but we have the warm assurance – as he did – that one day soon we shall be reunited, when Jesus comes in all his glory, and when sickness and infirmity will be no more.

VERA COWLEY

# Acts

with Susanna Matthan\*

## Follow the Bible 2009

Visit the Follow the Bible webpage: [www.adventistinfo.org.uk/followthebible](http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/followthebible)

A couple of years ago, I was introduced to a group of people with powerful vision and faith in God. Every time we meet we pray for, ask for and expect miracles, and God is always faithful. We walk the streets at night looking for the vulnerable, disorientated, lonely, dehydrated and desperate. We've never had to look far. When God enters our lives, faith combined with his power makes things happen.

The book of Acts is one of my favourite books of the Bible, second only to the Psalms. The excitement is tangible, amazing things happen and no one is surprised. Why? The determined followers of Jesus Christ, the living God, just will not give up.

Totally committed to following an amazing God, they gathered together in unity, and God showed up just as he promised. He appeared in such an intense way that the whole of Jerusalem was buzzing with his tangible presence. Utterly amazed by what they were seeing, some mocked those crazy people and accused them of drunkenness. Peter stepped forward, completely filled to overflow-

ing with the presence of God, fresh from his prayer meeting. Peter's public message of love, repentance and forgiveness spoke to the hearts of thousands of people whose lives were transformed instantly.

Unschoolled, ordinary, courageous blokes just stunned the rulers and elders of the people with words from the mouth of God. To the bystander there was no doubt that they had been with Jesus himself. The opposition was so strong that they faced daily risks to their lives, but they carried on undeterred. The knowledge and wisdom of God does this to ordinary people. The words ringing in their ears must have been, 'We must obey God rather than men!' There have been many nights out on the streets when we, too, have felt this same presence of God, urging us to go where we may not otherwise have set foot, challenging us to speak to those who desperately need the touch of Jesus.

The followers in Jerusalem were growing by the moment, necessitating more organisation among the believers. One of the selected team was Stephen, an unstoppable

man. God's Spirit completely filled him, counteracting all arguments against his wisdom. When charges were made against Stephen, he gave the longest sermon in this book, ultimately leading to his stoning. Saul, one of the fiercest opponents of the followers of Jesus, experienced a one-to-one with Jesus, only to be transformed into the turncoat Paul.

There were more accounts of angels, visions, jailbreaks and miraculous escapes – there really was nothing that God did not do for his followers. Peter's vision toppled his views on purity and cleanliness as an observant Jew. He no longer had authority to call anything impure that God had declared clean, freeing him to associate with Gentiles. In God's eyes, all people were equal, free to accept Jesus and follow him.

Wherever Peter spoke about Jesus, ordinary people praised God and their lives were changed – radically. The same Holy Spirit who fell upon the Jewish believers fell upon the Gentiles, too. Not even sorcerers or the sacrificing followers of Zeus could withstand the outpouring of God's transforming love to

all men and women.

Despite all of these miraculous manifestations, the leaders and elders were not at all impressed. Transformed lives meant nothing to them, as they fought to uphold the purity and integrity of their precious establishment. Their determination was so consuming that they even swore an oath to starve until Paul was dead. Paul's Roman citizenship offered him enough protection to come before Felix, Festus and King Agrippa, spreading the testimony of Jesus even further. His appeal directly to Caesar enabled him to travel to Rome via a sojourn in Malta, where locals were convinced of his genuineness after they witnessed him survive a viper's deadly bite. Every stop he made meant that more lives were exposed to the power of the living God as Paul revealed his glory.

Each encounter in our lives is an opportunity to testify to the power of the living God. Even though Paul was held in chains, he spoke out boldly at every opportunity. He was known, loved and respected by followers of Jesus, regardless of their heritage or gender. What a wonderful testimony and example he is to our lives! Be encouraged that this same Jesus is alive and well and wanting to transform our lives radically today.

\* Susanna Matthan is a wife, mum, home educator, teacher and street pastor who lives in Lincolnshire.



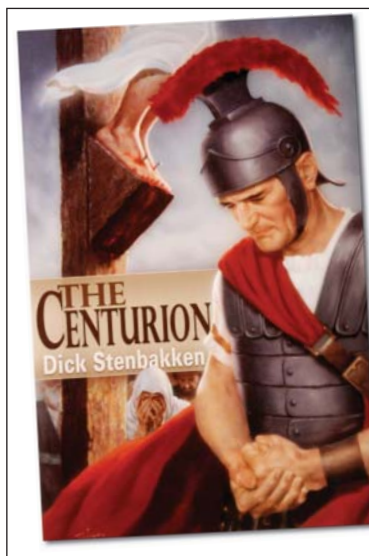


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new church but the same job of spreading the Good News. The new church sanctuary has already been used for our first campaign from 8 to 29 August. The theme of the three-week campaign was 'Jesus is still the answer' by our then associate pastor Vaughn Thorpe. The campaign reminded us that even in 2009, Jesus is still the answer for all our worries, cares and stresses. This ended with three baptisms: a father and daughter, Abigail and Angus Westfield; and Veloria Mullings. We then bade a sad farewell to Pastor Vaughn Thorpe and his family, but we are happy that he is going to progress into

leading his own churches at Kings Cross and Haringey. Pastor Boldeau, the elders and all the members at Balham wish him and all his family every success in his new role.

**Sunday – community outreach fun day**

The Balham Community Fair was the final instalment of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and opening weekend. Although it is an annual event in which the church opens its doors to the Balham community, it was quite different this year. Finally Balham had entered a new chapter in its history in a new church complex! As



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well as the church completion, the Resource Centre was also up and running, many of the rooms finally able to be used for their original purpose.

The day started at 12pm, and the community and Balham members and visitors were treated to various stalls – exercise; face-painting (for the children and/or adults); bouncy castle; massage (to relieve the day-to-day stresses in life); First Aid/health fair; art and design; computer corner, as well as our wonderful food, lovingly prepared by the Balham social team.

The later part of the event consisted of a special concert in which Balham members and our invited guests took part. The MC on the night was Sam Gungaloo.

The Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor Professor Brian Pritchard CBE, spoke at the beginning of the programme. He was followed by Lewisham Pathfinders' Drum Corps who played two pieces that proved very popular; singing teenage group called Young Voices and our own Balhams Children's Choir sang, and Joshua Anderson-Grey read a poem written by his own hand; Patricia Bolger sang a soulful rendition of 'Summertime'; Personify Juniors – our British Sign mime group – performed to Kirk Franklin's 'Believe'. Brother Jones on harmonica finished the concert with a thought-provoking rendition of 'Jesus you are the centre of my joy'.

The final part of the evening consisted of a game show called 'The last man or woman standing!' Winners were able to choose their prize. The programme and wonderful weekend was closed with prayer by Balham elder Errol Anderson.

ERROL ANDERSON, Balham elder

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27 December 10am-2pm  
10 January 10am-2pm  
24 January 10am-2pm

Advent Centre  
Sundays 11am-3pm  
Saturdays 5pm-8pm

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**Sunset**

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	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Nov 13	4.14	4.26	4.13	4.08	4.25
20	4.05	4.17	4.03	3.57	4.15
27	3.58	4.10	3.55	3.48	4.06
Dec 4	3.53	4.06	3.50	3.42	4.01

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