

# Messenger

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## Park Pathfinders

Words and pictures by Johnson Wong

On Sabbath 7 November a fully packed church came to witness and celebrate a special service. Over ninety Adventurers and Pathfinders, all wearing their smart uniforms, marched up and down the platform to receive their various awards and honours from our guest speaker, Pastor Nathan Stickland from the South England Conference. It was estimated that over 500 awards and honours were presented to these young people. This is surely a well-deserved icing on top of the cake, as only two weeks ago six Pathfinders were baptised in the same church.

Events of such nature do not just happen. Much credit must go, first, to the parents who send these children regularly to Sunday meetings and other additional functions, and those exceptionally devoted leaders who have made great personal sacrifices in giving their time, energy and even money to ensure we have a thriving and

exciting programme for these young people. The church was very pleased and duly proud to send a team of some twenty delegates to the recent International Jubilee in Oshkosh in the United States earlier this year. Then there are the other church members who prepared and organised various fundraising activities such as Sunday morning sales, a car wash, musical concerts and others.

At a meeting this morning, just one day after the Investiture, nearly a hundred parents and children lined up to register for the programme for 2010. The church members here at Stanborough Park firmly believe that these precious young people are the potential leaders of our Church in the future years.

Photo one shows our smiling and contented Pathfinder club leader, Bernell Bussell, receiving a special personal award from Pastor Nathan Stickland.

Photo two shows the large number of those who received their awards and honours on Sabbath 7 November.

Photo three shows the six candidates who were baptised on Sabbath 17 October.



## Devotionals 2010



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**Y**ou never know what listening might do. The following story comes from the United States (where else could it have come from?) and is an account of something that happened there in late October.

A robber went into a cheque exchange store brandishing a gun. He threatened the cashier with the gun and demanded money. The cashier began to cry and started talking about her grandchildren, and spoke to him about God, at which point the robber, Gregory Smith, got on his knees and asked her to pray for him. They ended up hugging each other. He said afterwards that he had been desperate, depressed and suicidal. He stayed on his knees for ten minutes before leaving the store. He did still take the clerk's mobile phone and \$20. The robber, Gregory Smith, was caught on camera and he later gave himself up.

What I found interesting about this story was what prompted the robber to pray. He said that he could relate to what the cashier was talking about, and he began to think about his own

daughter. He said that the teller was the first person he had ever opened up to about his fears and the first person who understood his pain. He said that God put the right person there at the right time.\*

If ever you are held at gunpoint, that is one option you have; do some on the spot counselling using understanding and reflective listening! The cashier was scared by the sound of it, and yet she also seemed able to understand this man's pain and was able to help him. I wonder if we can learn something from this about how to relate to people to awaken a spiritual response?

I spoke to an administrator from a largely African evangelical church recently about working among white people in this country. She said the only way they had found to get anywhere was to work with those in desperate situations, such as drug addicts and prostitutes, as the majority of the population were just not responsive. Jesus said this to those who were aware of needs in their lives: 'Come to

with Jonathan Barrett

## Effective listening



me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.' (Matthew 11:28-30.)

Jesus' invitation to his Kingdom is for everyone. However, it does seem that those most likely to respond are those who are in real need and aware of it. As we pray with and for people, especially those in some kind of pain, an approach that seeks to understand and empathise with them is most likely to succeed. \*<http://news.sky.com>



# Ephod, iPod or the Promises of God

David Marshall

**E**ver wished you owned an ephod? I have. An ephod? What's that? you may ask. Are they in stock at PC World, or should I try Jackson Shipley?

What is an ephod? The latest in the Toyota range? The fashion accessory that no one can afford to be without?

An ephod is something I would frequently find extremely useful. You, too, I think.

Should you decide to shop for one, do be picky. Ephods were things worn by Israelite priests. Common or garden priests wore ephods that were no more than linen waistcoats. The only ephod worth having would be one worn by the high priest. That would be an altogether more colourful affair. The front and back panels would be artistically embroidered with gold, blue, purple and scarlet. The two panels would be joined together by shoulder straps. On each would be an onyx stone and on each stone would be engraved the names of six of the tribes of Israel. Attached to the front panel would be the 'breastplate' bearing a further twelve precious stones. (Exodus 28:7-30.)

If you're still wondering of what possible use an ephod would be to you – except to sell on eBay – it is because I have omitted one vital particular.

Also on the breastplate would be the Urim and Thummim. These were the objects used by the high priest to ascertain the will of God.

The Urim and Thummim would have been at least as useful as the pillar of cloud and fire. Can you see that?<sup>1</sup>

In general I have a good sense of direction. But in large cities one wrong turn can make me feel like a blind man in Hampton Court maze. Wife + Map can be a solution, but not an infallible one. On the way to a friend's funeral – as per directions – I was navigated to the High Street, found the parish church, took the third on the right as indicated. . . . The problem was we were in Uxbridge, and the funeral was in Southall. . . . That was when the company bought me a SatNav. But that always makes me feel like Columbus who, you will recall, didn't know where he was going when he left,

didn't know where he was when he got there, and didn't know where he had been when he got back. Ever had that feeling?

One of man's most obvious missing components is a built-in direction finder.

I'm not just talking points of the compass here, I'm talking directions at the great crossroads of life. Life-directions, not just place-directions.

On the run from Saul and possessed by hunger, David found himself pleading for provisions from the priests at Nob. That David ate the consecrated bread, we remember. That the priests gave David Goliath's sword that, since his early victory, had been stored in their sanctuary 'wrapped in cloth behind the ephod' (1 Samuel 21:9), we might just recall. That Saul subsequently massacred eighty-five priests 'who wore the linen ephod' plus the whole human and animal population of Nob (1 Samuel 22:6-19), we could hardly forget. That Abiathar the son of the high priest survived the massacre and joined David (verses 20-23), I vaguely recalled. That he brought with him the ephod with the Urim and Thummim I had forgotten. (1 Samuel 23:6.) And that David subsequently used it to ascertain the precise will of God in certain tight situations (23:9; 30:7) had passed me by. Until recently.<sup>2</sup>

Following Saul's death, 'David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?" . . . The Lord said, "Go up." David asked, "Where shall I go?" "To Hebron," the Lord answered.' (2 Samuel 2:1.)

Now, do you see why I could use an ephod? Not as an infallible SatNav only; but as a SatNav for life.

At the stage of his life when he was accompanied by Abiathar and the ephod, David made a habit of running his options past God before he reached a decision.

Since I learned that, I've been wanting an ephod. I mean to say, you have an iPod, he has an iPhone, they have an iMac – so why shouldn't I have an ephod? You, too, for that matter.

The truth is that we do, in a manner of

speaking. God doesn't change. His promises are valid. In a world in which the Pound Sterling is no longer what it was, the banks can no longer be depended on and you can no longer 'always trust bricks and mortar', God's promises are still blue-chip.

Dr E. R. Storms writes, 'The Holy Scriptures contain a grand total of 8,810 promises, 7,487 (85%) of which are promises from God to man. How do I know? I counted them.'

J. I. Packer wrote, 'We never face any life situation for which God has not provided specific promises that give us grace and mercy to help in time of need.'

Could you use a few promises on account? Try these. 'The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you." ' (Psalm 32:8, NLT.) 'Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.' (Proverbs 3:6, NLT.)

This is not about SatNav – though my wife tells me that God has guided us to more places than the peremptory female voice from the little box – it's about life-directions.

You have no ephod, but you have a Bible; so read it. You have no Urim and Thummim, but you have friends who are men and women of prayer; so consult them.

From the foot of the Cross, where there is penitence and pardon, the lines between Earth and Heaven are always open; so use them, frequently.

Remember God's promise in Deuteronomy 31:6 which he repeated in Hebrews 13:5-6. 'Be strong and of good courage, do not fear; . . . for the Lord your God, he is the one who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.' NKJV.

'Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.' (Philippians 4:6, NIV.)

Words to live by. Who needs an ephod?

### References:

<sup>1</sup>See items Ephod and Urim and Thummim in the *SDA Bible Dictionary*. <sup>2</sup>See M. J. Evans, *The Message of Samuel* (IVP, 2004), pages 129-130.

## Every picture tells a story . . .

. . . and if it's about a photographer who sends low-res images to *MESSENGER* because he or she does not take the time to handle the camera properly, the story is a sad one. High resolution pictures only for *MESSENGER* please!



## Enhancing Health

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

### Depression linked to fatty and processed foods

**D**r Andrew McCulloch of the Mental Health Foundation states: 'The UK population is consuming less nutritious, fresh produce and more saturated fats and sugars.'

Recent research reveals the impact of such dietary habits. On Monday 2 November BBC Breakfast TV carried a news report with the heading: *Eating a diet high in processed food increases the risk of depression.*

British scientists studying 3,500 adults over a five-year period found a correlation between diet and emotional wellbeing. The University College London team studied data on the eating habits of middle-aged civil servants and analysed their emotional health. The participants were split into two study groups. One group ate a diet consisting mostly of whole foods, which included fruit, vegetables and fish. The other group ate a mainly processed food

diet, such as sweetened desserts, fried food, processed meat, refined grains and high-fat dairy products.

After accounting for factors such as gender, age, education, physical activity, smoking habits and chronic diseases, researchers found a significant difference in depression risk five years later. It was found that those who ate the processed-food diet had a 58% greater risk of depression than those in the other group. By contrast, those who consumed mostly whole foods, fresh produce and fish showed a 26% lower risk than individuals in the group with the least healthy diet.

Although the study subjects had no previous diagnosis of depression, the researchers also suggested that depressed people may have a tendency to eat more junk food.

Commenting on the findings, Margaret

Edwards at the mental health charity SANE states: 'Physical and mental health are closely related, so we should not be too surprised by these results, but we hope there will be further research which may help us to understand more fully the relationship between diet and mental health.'

Once again modern science is confirming what Adventists have known about dietary impact for over 150 years.

In the chapter 'Diet and Mind' under the caption 'Unhealthy Food Stupefies the Conscience', EGW states: ' . . . under the influence of unhealthy food . . . the mind is darkened, and its susceptibility to impression is impaired.' (*Mind, Character and Personality*.)

**Be vigilant!**



# Unpicking the Reformation

A decree issued by Pope Benedict in October means that any Anglican group – a congregation, a parish or even an entire diocese – could enter into communion with Rome *en masse* without sacrificing their Anglican liturgy and traditions.

Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, appeared in a joint press conference with the Catholic Archbishop of Westminster to have been ‘bounced’ (in public, at least) into accepting the Pope’s plan. Only later did he complain about the ‘peremptory’ manner of the papal decree. Michael Nazir-Ali, ex-Bishop of Rochester, went so far as to welcome the Pope’s offer, promising to consult his parishes when more detail had been received.

It took former Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey to denounce the lack of notice (two or three days) given by the papacy as ‘inexcusable’. To senior Anglican pastors of Carey’s calibre, the papal decree was a rather obvious attempt to attract the wing of the Church of England currently disaffected by issues such as female bishops.

The Church of England has represented an historical compromise between Catholicism and Puritanism (sixteenth and seventeenth centuries)/Evangelicalism (nineteenth to twenty-first centuries). The catch-all intent of the 1559 settlement was

never remotely successful in its attempt to ‘comprehend’ all religious groupings. The periods when it appeared most nearly successful were when church attendance was enforced by a system of fines and other penalties for non-attendance. The value of the Church of England to the Protestant cause became evident in the brief reign of James II (1685-88) when a majority of its senior figures, lay and clerical, opposed the moves of the court to re-impose Catholicism. In doing so they implicitly accepted the demands of the nonconformists for religious toleration which, along with limits on the powers of monarchy, were the principal results of the 1688 Revolution.

Paul Stanford in *The Independent on Sunday* labelled the Pope’s ‘bombshell’ overture to disgruntled Anglicans as a ‘brazen’ effort to unpick the Reformation settlement in England and said he understood why Evangelical Anglicans were ‘incensed’. However, he concluded that the Pope’s opportunistic poaching, by unravelling ‘the Catholic and Protestant factions of the Church of England’, might leave the Church clearer about its identity.

The top-end estimate is that as many as 1,000 priests from the high-church Forward in Faith faction might defect. But Paul Valley in *The Independent* recalled that there



were similar predictions in the run-up to the ordination of women priests in 1992 but that, in the event, only 441 Anglican priests had converted. Scores of them had, said Valley, ‘since returned disillusioned’.

Currently – and for the last forty years – the real life in the Church of England has been on the evangelical side. In the 70s and 80s they looked to John Stott and Richard Bewes of All Souls, Langham Place, for a lead.

These days they are more likely to look to Tom Wright, Bishop of Durham. In the last ten years Wright has published (with SPCK) the accessible *Everyone* commentaries on most of the books of the New Testament. Wright has also set out

his Second Coming belief in *Surprised by Hope* (also SPCK). When that book was published Sholto Byrnes interviewed Wright for the *New Statesman* (14 April 2008). On that date Britain’s favourite left-wing weekly was published with the cover headline ‘JESUS WILL APPEAR AGAIN AS JUDGE OF THE WORLD AND THE DEAD WILL BE RAISED.’

Yes-s-s!  
Do you think Tom Wright should be the next Archbishop of Canterbury? It might happen if the Anglican high-church faction defected to Rome. ‘A consummation devoutly to be wished?’

EDITOR

and Cambridge University Presses in 1989) makes the last clause of Daniel 2:43 read: ‘... but such alliances will not be stable: iron does not mix with clay.’

Recently Dr Jack Blanco of the School of Religion, Southern Adventist University, who produced the *Clear Word Bible*, has issued *The Easy English Clear Word*. In that edition he puts Daniel 2:40-43 together:

‘The fourth kingdom will be as strong as iron and will crush anything that stands in its way. But it will split into ten little kingdoms. Some will be strong and others weak. Sometimes they’ll marry together and sometimes they won’t. The children

of these kings will marry each other to help unite the kingdoms, but it won’t work.’

Below is the explanatory paragraph on ‘shall not cleave’ from the *SDA Bible Commentary*, volume 4, page 776:

‘The prophecy does not specifically declare that there could not be a temporary union of various elements, through force of arms or political domination. It does declare, however, that the constituent nations, should such a union be attempted or effected, would not become organically fused, and that they would remain mutually suspicious and unfriendly. A federation created on such a foundation is doomed to crumble. The temporary success of some dictator or nation must, therefore, not be labelled a

failure of Daniel’s prophecy. In the end Satan will actually be able to achieve a temporary union of all nations (Rev. 17:12-18; cf. Rev. 14:14; GC 624), but the federation will be brief, and in a short time the elements composing this union will turn on one another (GC 656; EW 290).’

Am I saying that the EU is ‘Satan’s federation’? No. What I am doing is giving you the sources from which you can formulate your own answers. I’m saying: Go figure! I’m also reminding you, in conclusion, not to stop reading at Daniel 2:43. Do go on to verse 44 – ‘And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed.’ That is the part of the prophecy that has a crystal clear meaning.

EDITOR

## The John Loughborough School (VA)

### HEAD TEACHER

Required for April 2010  
Group 3 school  
L18-L24  
NOR 260  
Age range 11-16



The governors wish to appoint an inspirational and committed practising Seventh-day Adventist head teacher to lead our school. Our aim is to be a beacon of excellence in the community by providing a holistic education and developing every child’s talents and abilities to the maximum.

Our school community is looking for someone who:

- has a clear vision and commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist ethos and the inclusion of all learners.
- has a strong personal faith which will enrich the life of the school.
- has proven leadership skills to enable him/her to encourage, support and challenge the work of the school and bring new innovative ideas to further improve our practice.
- is an effective communicator with good interpersonal skills who will support and inspire pupils, staff, governors and parents/carers and forge stronger links with the community and offer use of facilities.
- will reflect our vision for the future in line with BSF to improve the school’s learning and social spaces and bring learning into the twenty-first century.

Our school community offers:

- upgraded facilities throughout the school, resulting from BSF funding amounting to £4m.
- a rich and diverse intake of children and their families.
- a friendly, dedicated staff team committed to the school and its community.
- a supportive governing body, Church and local authority.
- an exciting opportunity to lead in shaping the future of the school.

Visits to the school are warmly welcomed. For an appointment, please contact the school office on: 020 8808 7837/0563 and speak to Verona Hoilett, PA/Office manager.

Please complete an application form available online (BUC website) and email to [cliff.mallinder@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:cliff.mallinder@haringey.gov.uk)  
**Closing date:** Monday 9 December 2009 (noon)  
**Interviews:** 7 January 2010

Haringey Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All successful applicants will be required to undertake a criminal record check via the CRB before they can be appointed.

## Children Matter — Ten ways to involve children in dedications and baptisms

Karen Holford, from the SEC Children’s Ministries department, concludes her series on how to involve children in church services.

In this issue we explore ways to involve children in the special celebrations of dedications and baptisms. Involving children in baby dedications helps them to treasure and bond with the younger children in church. Finding a way for them to understand the beauty of baptism may inspire them to be baptised one day.

1. Invite the children to welcome new babies to your church by gathering around the baby and whispering together, ‘Hello (name of baby)! Welcome to our church family! We’re so glad you’re here!’ If the baby’s parents are happy, you could let each of the children stroke the baby’s hands or feet.
2. Use a computer to print a page with the letters of the baby’s name, one letter to a line, down the left hand side of the paper. Give one of these to each of the families in your church and ask them to write a simple blessing for the baby, where each word begins with one letter of the baby’s name. Add the name of the family who wrote the blessing, including their photo if possible. Compile the pages into a folder to give to the parents.
3. During the dedication, ask the children to pray a silent prayer for the baby or think of a special blessing for the baby.
4. Create a picture for the baby’s bedroom. Mark off a 20-30cm square in the middle of the canvas and ask the children to leave that blank. Then ask the children to write prayers, blessings, favourite Bible verses and messages around the edge of the canvas, together with their names. Then ask an artistic adult to paint a picture in the central square of the large blank canvas. The design should incorporate the baby’s name and a Bible promise. This could be given to the parents at the time of the dedication.
5. Gather the children around the baby being dedicated, and then gather another circle of parents and adults around the children. Invite the adults to bless the children by placing a hand on their heads during a special dedicatory prayer for all the parents and children in your congregation.
6. Create a safe place for the children to come and watch the baptisms in your church so that they can see what happens. Find a simple way to involve them in the process, such as dropping rose petals into the water of a female candidate. Or they can drop battery-operated bath lights into the pool, to add a glow to the water.
7. Cut OHP acetate sheets into shapes like gingerbread men. Give the children non-permanent acetate marker pens and ask them to list some of their sins on the acetate person. Half fill a large bowl of water and place it where the children can easily reach it. Cover the floor around the area to prevent any water damage and let the children ‘baptise’ their person in the water. Give them a piece of kitchen paper so that they can dry their person and wipe away any residual ink. Tell them that when we ask for forgiveness Jesus washes away all the sin marks in our lives so that that we can be clean and pure again.
8. Provide plain white index cards, or unprinted business cards, and ask the children to write one of their favourite Bible verses on each of the cards. They can also decorate the verses with stickers and pictures if they wish. The cards can be collected in an attractive gift box to make a special promise box for the person being baptised. Adults can also add their favourite Bible verses to the boxes. If everyone adds their name to the back of the cards the recipient can pray for the writer of each promise when they choose a card from the box.
9. Invite an artistic or creative person in your congregation to help the children design and make a banner or a back-cloth for your baptisms. Perhaps they could choose a design with a dove or water, or they could make a riverside picture to place on the wall behind the tank. This can be painted or stitched on cloth, canvas or wood.
10. Make sure you tell a children’s story during the baptismal service. Choose a story of grace and forgiveness. Or use a football analogy. The baptismal candidate is like a person joining a football team. There will be weeks when he scores goals and weeks when he is sent off the field and sits on the sidelines, but he doesn’t stop being on God’s team. This helps children to understand that they will still make mistakes and sin after they are baptised, but they can still be on God’s team, as long as they are willing to let God be their coach. Or use a book from the ABC to help you explain baptism to children!

<sup>i</sup> Daniel asks about Baptism and Communion, Heather Hanna, Pacific Press, 2005, ISBN 0816320837.

## What do we think about the European Union?

The Irish Republic’s ‘Yes’ vote to the Lisbon Treaty, the subsequent reluctant assent of the Eurosceptic Czech president Vaclav Klaus and the consequent decision by Conservative leader David Cameron not to go ahead with his plans for a referendum here, has some Adventists worried.

‘What do we think about the European Union?’ asked a reader. ‘We?’ I responded. ‘As a Church,’ he said. ‘What do we think as a Church?’

In his mind was the last part of Daniel 2:43: ‘... but they shall not cleave one to another, even

as iron is not mixed with clay’ (KJV). This is how the NIV renders the full verse: ‘And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.’ The NLT has: ‘This mixture of iron and clay also shows that these kingdoms will try to strengthen themselves by forming alliances with each other through inter-marriage. But this will not succeed, just as iron and clay do not mix.’

*The Revised English Bible* (published by Oxford



# It's a Revelation

Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication director

I guess I was about 17 when I first sat down and read the book of Revelation through in one go. My interests were already moving into audio-visuals and the idea of recording the whole book with sound effects and appropriate music appealed to me. I never did make the recording but the hour and a half I spent reading Phillips' translation of Revelation was, well, 'a revelation'.

Up until then I had studied the book in good old Adventist fashion. I'd sat in Bible class and identified the seven churches, the seals, the trumpets, the little book and the little horn. I'd learnt the year-day principle and saw how it took us up to the last days of Earth's history. I'd pondered the millennium and the phases of judgement, and hoped I'd eventually make it through to the last two chapters to have the tears wiped from my eyes. I'd studied it, verse by verse, chapter by chapter. What I had never done was read it as a whole.

That is strange. The very purpose of a letter is generally to read it in one go. When John dispatched his missive across the sea from Patmos to the seven churches, his recipients, many of them illiterate, would have sat or stood around

the walls of their house fellowships and listened carefully to this, the Revelation of Jesus Christ, read out loud, in one go. And, in listening, they would have gained the big picture – exactly the same as I did reading Phillips' translation that Friday night long ago.

And what is that big picture? It is one of triumph! John is sitting in lonely exile on a remote island but is whisked off in vision to something fantastic. The Church may be persecuted, things may not seem to be going too well with mission, the devil may seem to be winning – but that is superficial. That is the world's eye view. In vision John gets the 'God's eye view'. Things are very different from this new perspective and he realises that, while he and his people may be struggling, God is in control. We can be encouraged and so stay faithful. The final showdown between God and Satan is imminent. Satan may increase his persecution, there may be perilous days ahead, but the victory is secure in Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the one who counsels and guides the seven churches. Jesus is the only one who can open the seals on the scroll. Jesus is the one to

be worshipped and adored by the elders, the angels, the 144,000 and the great multitude. He may have fought with the dragon. He and his Church may have had to run to the wilderness, but the promise is there, 'Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!' (Revelation 5:12, NIV.)

There is a time to study the book of Revelation in detail. There is value in checking the Greek, studying the symbolism, analysing all the references to the Old Testament (and there are more of them than you think). Studying the book in detail will certainly be a mind expanding and positive exercise. However, as we climax this year of 'Follow the Bible' and reflect on the journey we have taken from Genesis, through the histories, the wisdom literature, the prophets, the gospels and the letters, take time at the end of the year to read through Revelation with a sense of awe and wonder. Leave the commentaries and analysis to one side and simply rejoice in vision: 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.' (Revelation 11:15, NIV.)

I had a revelation of this big picture while I was still young. I've studied the book much more since then – but I still rejoice in reading it as a piece of triumphant literature, and when I do I cannot help but find myself joining in and agreeing with those closing words, 'Yes, I am coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.' (Revelation 22:20, NIV.)



Richard DeLisser



London Male Voice Choir

Sabbath rain and Sunday sunshine bathed the grounds of Potters Fields Park near Tower Bridge, London, for the Black History Festival, from 23 to 25 October. The Seventh-day Adventist Church took an active part in the programme with stands emphasising Education and Health, volunteers distributing literature and a team providing live worship over Sunday lunch.

The weekend programme sought to acknowledge and celebrate the diversity and richness black history



has brought to our society. Dr Keith Davidson, BUC Education Director and main organiser for the Adventist presence at the festival, was pleased with the Education display that he manned on Friday evening and Sabbath. He stated that he had

# Adventist witness at Black History Festival

by Sharon Platt-McDonald



Sharon Platt-McDonald

volunteer health expo trainer and facilitator, eager, friendly and skilled team members ministered to the public for five hours. Using the NEW-START format, the colourful large-scale panels and booths highlighted the eight 'natural doctors' and principles of good health. Greeters at the entrance to the marquee attracted attention and distributed leaflets. A series of activities around the booth emphasised health principles alongside a corresponding screening test. The participants were treated to the following: Nutrition – body fat analysis; Exercise – Harvard step test; Water – water challenge; Sunshine – blood pressure recording; Temperance – health age appraisal (based on reported health habits); Air – peak flow (lung capacity test); Rest – massage; Trust – counselling.

Special thanks go to Grace Walsh, NEC Health Ministries director, and her team of volunteers. Their expertise was material to the success of the expo. The team were pleased to be able to share with the 167 registered participants additional information on our health message and the health programmes that they could access from Adventist churches in their local areas.

#### Charity trustees needed

ASNA is a small user-led charity that supports the needs of people living with disabilities and provides disability awareness training to enable leaders and volunteers to ensure access for all. We are keen to hear from interested parties who would like to be involved in the strategic direction and management of this growing charity. If you would like to volunteer your time and skills, please contact ASNA on 01491 833395 or 07768 298 297. To find out more about ASNA, visit the website at [www.asna.info](http://www.asna.info) or call for more information or send an email to [asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk)

#### ASNA in Ireland

ASNA will be taking a disability training and awareness programme to Ireland on 28 November 2009. The morning sermon will be presented by Sharon Platt-McDonald (BUC Health director), supported by the members of the Dublin Adventist church. The awareness programme will address the issues and barriers facing people living with disabilities and how the church can ensure that all members of the church community are included in worship and leadership. For more information contact Dorothy Mulenga or Helen Batten on 01491 821104 or email [asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk)

# Youth volunteer stabbed outside anti-crime youth event

by Dr Richard DeLisser

An event co-sponsored by South England Conference and Jesus and Ministry (J.A.M.) ended in tragedy in London on Wednesday night 28 October when a volunteer intervened outside the venue to prevent a street fight. He was stabbed more than nine times and is critically ill in hospital, though he has since improved.

The stabbing occurred at around 9.15pm at the end of a three-day seminar designed to help young people deal with the negative aspects of youth and street culture and make positive decisions about their future.

The programme was attended by over a hundred young people nightly at the Albany Theatre, Deptford in South East London, but was marred by violence on the final evening. A

gang of approximately thirty local young people, intent on causing trouble, attacked Simon Somerville, a youth worker who was attending with his group of young people. Simon, while attempting to shield his young people from danger, was stabbed more than nine times. Police said a second victim, a 16-year-old boy, suffered stab wounds to his lower body when he stepped in to help the man. He has been treated and discharged.

Simon is the brother-in-law of Pastor Eddie Hypolite, director of Teens Ministries at the SEC, (the brother of Yvonne Hypolite). He is a family man, a husband, and a father of four. Pastor Hypolite told an *Evening Standard* reporter that Simon, a former amateur boxing

champion, was 'a hero' who had stepped in to shield the children from a violent gang.

Scotland Yard said a 16-year-old boy has been arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and is in custody.

As a Church we request special prayers for the full recovery of Simon. Prayer is also requested for all of those caught up in these acts of violence and those who are seeking to help them change for the better.

Pastor Hypolite, as part of the SEC Youth Ministries team, has been working hard over the last two years to empower communities to make positive choices, including the LIVE marches and festivals in London, Dorset and Cornwall, as well as

mentoring programmes. His extended family, including Simon, has been a part of this initiative. These acts of violence will not deter the Church from its ministry to the community. The Church will continue to endeavour to find ways to fix the fault-lines that exist in our communities and help to bring about healing, wholeness and forgiveness as we strive together for a better society.

## FEEDBACK

#### CHILDREN AT COMMUNION

Dear Editor,  
Useful as Karen Holford's suggestions are (*Messenger* 16 October, pages 4, 5) as to the problem of families staying away from communion services, they are nothing like radical enough. Yes, communion services tend to be long – and too often timed to coincide with thirteenth Sabbath.

While not urging that things be rushed, a great responsibility rests on all up front. Are the serving elders and deacons in place? If so, then let





### The gift of giving

This is a time of year when many people are wondering what to give each other for Christmas. Usually they look for presents that will make the other person feel happy and loved.

What's the best present you were ever given? Why was it so special? How did you feel when you received it?

What's the best present you ever gave to someone else? Why were you so pleased about being able to give a gift like that? How did it feel when you decided what to give, how to make or buy the present and how to wrap it up? How did you feel when you saw how happy the person was when they opened your present? Jesus said that it's better to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). I wonder why he said that. What do you think?



### Presents for your family

What would you like to give the people in your family if you could give them the best gift ever? A plane ticket to a special place? A self-tidying house? A horse? In the space below draw some pictures of the presents you would like to give your family if you could. Show them what you have drawn.



### Star verse

The verse to learn this month is: **For God loves a cheerful giver.** 2 Corinthians 9:7. Learn this verse by writing it neatly at the top or bottom of several sheets of plain writing paper. Arrange your pencil crayons or felt pens in the order that colours appear in a rainbow – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple. Write each word using a different colour so that the words look like rainbows and then decorate the paper with pictures of presents. Use this paper to write thank you letters whenever someone has given you a gift.

**For God loves a cheerful giver. For God loves a cheerful giver.**



### Giving generously

*Every good and perfect gift comes from above.* (James 1:17.)

Do you enjoy giving presents? Here is one you can give that will bring a smile to everyone. Today you can do this with your friends at church or at home with your family. Give everyone a sheet of paper and a pencil. Ask them to draw a picture of themselves and write their name on the top of the paper. Then everyone swaps pictures and writes at the bottom of the picture the special gifts that they think God has given that person. Some might have the gifts of being kind or helpful or being a good friend.

If you have time, pass the picture around so everyone can add to the list of gifts. Give the pictures back so you can read about the gifts that other people think God has given to you. Collect them up and pass them out again for a special prayer time. Each person thanks God for the wonderful gifts he has given the person on the picture they are holding. When the prayers are ended give everyone back their picture. People usually smile when they read about their gifts. (100 Creative Prayer Ideas for Kids by Karen Holford, Pacific Press)

### 3D stable scene

Collect some Christmas cards with pictures of the nativity. Choose some of your favourite ones and make a stand-up scene of the story of Jesus' birth. Find a small box, such as a cube tissue box. Cut it in half diagonally so that you have a square base, a square back, and two half-triangle sides that rise from the front of the base to the top of the back. Paint or stick paper onto the box to give it a starry night sky and grassy hills. Create a stable shape on the background. Draw a simple outline around each character and add 1cm of extra space below their feet. Then cut the characters out of the cards, bend back the extra tabs at the bottom, and use a glue stick to attach them to the base of your scene.

You can use Christmas card characters to help you make scenes from other Bible stories, too.



### Reverse Advent calendar

If you have an Advent calendar with boxes, bags or pockets, use it to collect money to help others. Ask your parents if you can do a little job every day to earn some money to put into your calendar. See how much you can collect, and then enjoy giving the money to ADRA, buying something to help a poor family in another country such as a chicken or a goat, or giving a special present to a child who doesn't have many toys. Find out more on the ADRA website [www.adra.org/kids](http://www.adra.org/kids)

### Star spies

Explore *Messenger* and see if you can find any stories where someone gave something to someone else. How many did you find? \_\_\_\_\_







On 31 October the Russian Speaking Adventist church in London celebrated one of the great events of the year – the Harvest Festival. This special event marked the harvest of

a very eventful year as well as the culmination of an evangelistic series organised by the Russian Speaking church for the Russian-speaking community of London and the UK.

## Harvest Festival at London's Russian Speaking church

Almost nine years ago, the Gospel had been seeded into the hearts of few Russian-speaking people who came to the UK from the former USSR. The Spirit of Christ united their hearts, and they decided to get together and began to worship as a small group and give Bible studies. After some years, they invited Pastor Mikail Lutso, and together they have continued spreading the Gospel, and now that small group of Russian-speaking believers has grown into a good-sized, Russian-

speaking Adventist church in London. On 4 July the SEC president, Pastor Sam Davis, received the Russian Speaking church as part of the church family of the South England Conference. On 11 July, in accordance with the decision of the SEC, Pastor Andrei M. Balan was invited to serve the Lord and lead his people.

During the summer period, the RSC in London distributed almost 15,000 Russian Christian newspapers and more than 8,000 fliers,

leaflets and posters throughout London, inviting people to their special events. The evangelistic events took place every Sabbath in October, offering everyone who took part a free medical examination, family advice based on Christian principles, special lessons based on Bible teaching and spiritual advice, and a large variety of Adventist music and books.

Therefore, 31 October had a multiple purpose. First of all, all the Russian-speaking Adventists and their friends and visitors united in the Spirit in thanksgiving and prayer for the future. Secondly, we thanked God for the great success of the evangelistic campaign attended by some twenty-five newcomers. Moreover, on the Harvest Day, we enjoyed the first fruits of spreading

the Gospel through the internet via Facebook – as a result of which a young mum with her three children became good family friends with Pastor Balan and, by following RSC's events on Facebook, she had decided to come and enjoy the harvest day of fellowship.

Therefore, RSC is inviting everyone, young and adults, children and parents to come and worship with us. At present we are planning to begin Bible classes for everyone who desires to study the Word, to prepare for baptism and to begin a new life in Jesus Christ. We aim to find lost members of our community and, at the same time, we are encouraging everyone to be part of small group Bible studies that are established throughout London.

We extend our special invitation



to everyone to come and worship with us every Sabbath from 10am at Selly Hall, **St Pauls Church, 63 Chillerton Road, Furzedown, London SW17 9BE.** As a courtesy

for our visitors who do not understand the Russian language, we have our interpreters who will translate our service into English.

PASTOR ANDREI M. BALAN

## 'Colourful' Ghana day attracts police attention

by Dr Theophilus Gokah

On Sabbath 10 October nearly two hundred members and guests of the South Wales African Adventist Fellowship converged on the newly rented St Andrews Methodist Church in Birchgrove for a special Day of Fellowship. SWAAF now has twenty-eight members on the books, and weekly attendance can be double this, but for special days friends come from other parts of the United Kingdom, including, on this occasion, Telford, Reading and London.

It is on these special days that the full colour of our culturally diverse church is seen, and it was the vibrant colour that attracted public attention on Sabbath. The area of Birchgrove, where the St Andrews Methodist Church is located in Cardiff, is a fairly quiet and conservative district. As the African members began to arrive in their beautiful kente cloth robes and headdresses, the neighbours started looking out from behind their curtains. Pretty soon a good-natured policeman arrived on the scene to see what was going on. After assisting with some parking issues and chatting with a few of the members, he went on his way again. Later in the day two more police officers came, this time in a squad car, and again they spoke with the members and visitors. They asked about the event, the numbers of people, and above all, those beautiful colours!

That's how the day looked to some of those on the outside. Those inside the church heard the key message being delivered by Union Committee member K. T. Abbequaye who works in the City of London. He drew the congregation's attention to the experiences of Daniel in a foreign land and urged all Adventist Christians to position themselves in such a manner that they would be worthy ambassadors for Christ and the Church.

The focal point of the day was the dedication of baby Yaw Nyarko Boakye, son of Pastor George and Mrs Joyce Asiamah. Pastor Kwadwo Kwarteng Ampofo dedicated Yaw to the Lord and charged all present not to neglect their traditional responsibility of training and nurturing Yaw Nyarko. Yaw was officially admitted onto the roll of the Sabbath School department by the superintendent, Mrs Margaret Mwangalika, and was presented with a number of generous gifts.

There were other eulogies from friends of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Cardiff, who referred to Pastor Asiamah not just as a minister for the Adventist church but for all Africans in Cardiff. This is truly the aim of SWAAF – to draw together Africans from all over Cardiff and South Wales and help them to find fellowship, hope and truth through the community of the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Throughout the day music was provided by the Reading Youth Choir, Charles Boahene and the New Herald Singing Group. For a flavour of the day, and a look at all those colours, visit the gallery section of the SWAAF website at [www.swaaf.org.uk](http://www.swaaf.org.uk).



## Rochdale's first baptism

It was a lovely day of worship and fellowship in Rochdale on Sabbath 19 September when the first baptism and baby dedication services were celebrated. The members at Rochdale church plant, which opened on 4 October 2008, were excited to experience these services just short of a year since the plant began.

We were privileged to have Pastor Robert Williams, the local minister for Rochdale, conduct the dedication service for the children of Daniel and Grace Kungu following a timely sermonette in which he emphasised the need for parents to follow the 'best manual in the world' in the raising of children – the Bible. Brother and Sister Kungu were supported by 'guardians' to their children, as well as the Rochdale congregation at large, who were admonished to take seriously their influence in the guidance of these children. Both children, Presley, 4, and little sister Lovevinier, 8 weeks, had a prayer of dedication made for them with the laying on of hands by Pastor Williams and church elder Reid.

Rochdale church plant's first baptism was a great success in which four young people gave their hearts to God. The candidates had all been receiving Bible studies and had even participated at various times in supporting the taskforce workers and church members in outreach within Rochdale. The service was conducted by Pastor Williams and Pastor Felix Jack and the four candidates were Illank De, Collins Bunjira, Eduardo Nicolau and Zulmira Nicolau. After their baptism, all four were welcomed into the fellowship of the Rochdale church plant by the pastors, elders, taskforce workers and members and were presented with gifts. Members from the surrounding areas joined the service and the support from the taskforce workers in Wakefield was very much appreciated.

CHRISTOPHER BLAKE



## Carmarthen witness

On 26 September and 17 October the Personal Ministries team at Carmarthen had a table in the main shopping area in Carmarthen giving out health materials. We were able to give out over 350 FOCUS magazines, mostly the health special, plus 120 health DVDs and other literature. On the second occasion the young people from the church had painted some stones with things such as 'Jesus loves you' and 'God cares'. These proved quite popular with the shoppers as they came by.

SHIRLEY FORDHAM

## Manchester South Health Expo

On Sunday 13 September the area Health Expo held at Manchester South church was a great success and provided a great opportunity to represent ourselves in the community. The theme was based around Temperance, Nutrition, Air, Exercise, Water, Rest and, above all, Trust in God. This was an example where various departments in the church contributed towards the event. Volunteers from the Pathfinder club were there to usher visitors to the Health Expo tent. Community Services played their role in spreading the word in the community. Members of Health Ministries were at their desk giving advice to members of the public on how to lead a healthy life. The Women's Ministries team was there to provide refreshments to all visitors. The Personal Ministries team, too, took advantage of this event and they set up a stall to distribute free literature and books.

PRABHU SAHAI





## Belfast baptism

Sabbath 26 September was a very memorable day in the Belfast church. We had a baptismal service that was well attended by friends and family and was a very moving service and a great opportunity for witness.

Five candidates in all were baptised. Two young people, Chilengo Mvula and Beenzu Mvula, a brother and sister, entered the water of baptism together and were first to be baptised by Pastor Adam Keough, our Belfast minister. Their baptism was one of both joy and sadness as that particular Sabbath was one of their last in Belfast as they have now gone to live in London. Our prayers go with them and the rest of their family as they continue their journey with Christ.

Next to be baptised was Phyllis Thompson. We have all enjoyed getting to know Phyllis over the last couple of years. Phyllis recently married Tom who was already a church member in Belfast and

through his witness Phyllis has come to know the Lord Jesus as her own personal Saviour and has joined with God's remnant people.

Cara Mckee was next into the water, a young person who we are so pleased has given her life to the Lord Jesus. Cara is a fourth generation Adventist and it is great that she, too, has made her decision for Christ.

Lastly but not least, Shannon O'Brien, niece of our pastor, entered the waters of baptism. Another fourth generation young person who has borne witness of her faith in Christ.

The church choir enthusiastically sang 'There's a new name written down in glory', indicating the joy in the assurance of salvation for all those who come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour.

We wish all the newly baptised members of the Belfast church God's richest blessings as they continue to walk the road of life with him.

EILEEN IRVINE

## Birthday celebration with a difference

Since hosting the first Irish family camp meeting, the Newmarket church has continued to be blessed by attracting more and more visitors. Sabbath 24 September was no exception. Branford Yeaboh, a native of Ghana, celebrated his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday by inviting more than thirty of his friends and relatives to church. Some came from as far away as Amsterdam and many were visiting an Adventist church for the first time. No one wanted the service to end as the singing was powerful. Sister Rhoda sang a lovely song for Branford in their native language. We may not have been able to understand the words, but one thing for sure, the rhythm was wonderful and the song must have meant a lot to Branford as it brought tears to his eyes. We were also blessed by a special song from one of the visitors. Pastor Tony O'Rourke gave a wonderful sermon titled 'I once was blind but now I see'. After the divine service the large crowd retired to the new church hall to join Branford in the cutting of the birthday cake. It was a blessed Sabbath for all, but especially for Branford, his wife Comfort and their three lovely children. We were also blessed by the weather.



Branford Yeaboh

LILIAN COOPER

## Brixton: Education weekend

Education is like the fibres of life on which we hang our knowledge and experience, and a true appreciation of what it can offer enables an individual to grow in wisdom and spiritual wealth.

On Sabbath 9 May the Education department, under the leadership of Joan Read, honoured those members who have been successful in their studies. Some of these achievements were for Undergraduate, Masters, Doctoral degrees and other skills and courses. All teachers, including Sabbath School teachers, were also honoured for their contribution to the church and community. Dr Karen Richards paid tribute to them all by mentioning that teachers should be acknowledged and respected for what they do for the church and the community.

The Education department did not limit itself to the church only but sent out letters of invitation to educators who had made an impact on the lives of church members. We wanted them to spend some time in worship with us and receive a token for the way that they had allowed their gift of teaching to enhance someone else's life.

On Sunday 10 May, the upper

hall was transformed into a buzz of activities as a number of stalls were erected in readiness for the demonstration of practical skills. This array of activities heralded the continuation of the Education department's weekend theme of 'What's in your toolkit?' The primary focus was to showcase various professions of a practical nature where participants would be able to 'learn by doing'. Some of the demonstrations included Electrical Installation (Dennis Newell), Dining and Etiquette (Percy Fraser), Computer Programming (Shane Daniel), Flower Arranging (Leonora and Donna), Mechanics (Delroy Campbell), Painting and Decorating (D. H. Clarke), and Farming and Gardening (Roy Moodie), to name a few. There was also a display of aloe vera health products with information about their usefulness by Leslene Peat Brown (Croydon church).

All who were present attested to the overwhelming wealth of experience that they had acquired and that they were now more aware of many things of which they had been ignorant. The session proved to be of great benefit to all who attended.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



## Healthy minds

Dr Andreas Bochmann, an Adventist German theologian, spoke on the topic of the Mind of Man in one of the eight Monday evening lectures at Newbold. This series has been produced to enhance and encourage the average church member to have better health and happiness. But for others, this is a golden opportunity and a glorious revelation to overcome disappointments, depression and disease.

The relationship between the body and the brain is called psychosomatics and is a hybrid of two natures, the flesh and the spirit. These messages of 'Creation Health' hark back to the Genesis record of the Garden of Eden that later involves man's genes and genetic 'T' cells called 'CD4' that cause ill-health in varying degrees.

Kirsten Oster-Lundqvist, Newbold pastor, interviewed Taylor Bajic, while sitting on high chairs, to discover the secret of this cheerful girl's perpetual happy smile.

The take-away tips from the evening's programme were (1) to look for the good, (2) to learn to forgive, and (3) to assume a practical responsibility for the daily lifestyle, which in turn will mould the future life of tomorrow.

COLIN MITCHELL

## 50th wedding anniversary

Brother and Sister Aaron Smith celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on 9 August at the Brixton church. They attributed their long life together to being friends to each other and servants of God. They encouraged the gathering to put God at the forefront at the difficult periods as well as the good times.

The day was made special when they were transported to the church in a specially arranged car where they were welcomed by family and friends from around the world to add to the happiness of the occasion.

The service at the church was conducted in a wedding-like style by Pastor James Phillip, a former pastor of the church. He reminisced on their past achievements with humour and commendation as he asked the couple to comment on some of the things that they enjoyed doing for each other.

The celebration ended with a delicious meal and speeches which conveyed thankfulness to God for his leading in their lives and for his many blessings.

JOAN READ



## Street Pastors initiative

Following a number of shootings that occurred in the Burngreave area of Sheffield over the past two years, Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt and a number of church members and other non-Adventist churches got together to start work on the Sheffield Street Pastors initiative.

Following a successful march last year against crime entitled 'The Burngreave Bouncing Back March', which saw Pathfinder clubs and drum corps support Sheffield in marching against guns and crime, a mentoring scheme has since been set up with the input of Pastor Andrew, and now the Street Pastors scheme has been launched.

With the kind invitation of the Lord Mayor, the scheme was launched at the town hall on 28 October with the Chief Inspector of Police, a council head of youth, the

Lord Mayor himself, Pastor Andrew and a rep from the Ascension Trust who run Street Pastors nationally, as well as volunteers from other churches and some from the Carterknowle church. The launch also saw £12,000 being committed to the initiative by the Police and Sheffield Council.

Claire Fox, Wilton Blake and Randolph Prime from the Burngreave church are all avid supporters of the Street Pastors programme which will train people to engage with young people on the streets to share the love of God in a listening and supportive manner.

Claire, Randolph and Wilton believe that this is one of the ways Jesus would try to interact with the youth of today were he here. 'In this way, we are bringing the church on the streets and showing the positive contribution Adventists are making



## 65th wedding anniversary

On 4 October Jim and Joan Frost celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary when members of the Gorleston church gave a party to mark the occasion, with members of their family – children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Jim and Joan first met at a South England Conference meeting held in the Holloway Baptist church, where Jim and his friend were working as ushers. They were instructed to work up in the balcony, and it was there that he first saw Joan. It was love at first sight, but when he asked Joan for a date she replied that she couldn't go out with a man she did not know. However, Jim was not going to give up so easily, and eventually they got together and were married in the Walthamstow church on 24 September 1944. They have devoted themselves to the Lord's service. Their marriage was blessed with five children, and for many years Jim was an active and effective lay evangelist in various parts of the country. He still preaches today, not only in Adventist churches, but also in the Methodist church, where his Bible-based messages are much appreciated. Over the years many have also been blessed by Jim and Joan's ministry of music, in the many duets they have sung together. Pastor Michael Walker brought an evening of happy memories to a close with a prayer of thanks to God, asking that he would continue to bless Jim and Joan with good health and happiness.

VERA COWLEY

in this and other cities,' says Pastor Andrew. He goes on: 'However, as we do so we must do all we can to ensure that the youth we have at

present in our churches are nourished biblically and socially and so don't stray from the fold.'

PASTORAL TEAM





## All-night prayer at Leicester Central

From 8pm to 6am on 26-27 September a programme of all-night prayer was hosted at the Leicester Central church centred on the theme: 'Power in the Word'. The idea was to elevate an important theme – that only God's Word can transform our lives. It was an event in which all generations of the church were actively engaged by presentations that were relevant to the experience of the church family, including a hearty breakfast at 6am! There were a number of themes that were presented by a variety of speakers, including Pastor Liburd, Sally-Ann Felmmings-Danquah, Pastor Kumi, Naomi Watson, Grace Nichols, Pastor Holder, Dumisani Papaya, Pastor Roman, Sane Thebe and Pastor Walter Pearson via a DVD.

The evening was interspersed with praise and music led by the worship team, directed by Pauline

Matturi and Dr Desaline Simon. There were special vocal renditions performed by Spiritual Addiction, Kaine Gospel Choir, the Mass Choir, the Church Choir and a solo from Janique Facey-Sinclair; contrasted with instrumental music from Vernon Dublin who played a trumpet solo, and Mark Bunney, a saxophone solo. The all-night prayer service was introduced by our hosts, Mthabisi and Michelle.

The all-night prayer service has become an annual event at Leicester Central and is preceded by a prayer walk. This is a walk out into the community that surrounds the church, while silent prayer is offered – asking for God's guidance to be equipped to meet people in the community with an effective response to their needs. Participants in the walk knock on doors and engage people of the community in conversation about the church's mission. They also ask

individuals of the community if they have concerns about which they would like to pray. These requests for prayer are brought back to the church community so that the prayer can be offered for the neighbours of the church in the community.

Central themes in the service covered a broad cross-section of spiritual food for thought. Pastor Kumi paid tribute to the senior members of Leicester Central church. He based his thoughts on Psalm 71 where David says, 'Do not cast me away when I am old.' Following on from this, gifts were given to ten of the senior members as an expression of thanks for the devoted service they have given to the mission of the church. It served as a reminder to younger generations – to remember the legacy they have left for the benefit of the church family.

A number of inspirational testimonies were shared with the church by a number of individuals. One of these was Naomi Watson who spoke of her experience with cancer and the ways in which God intervened in

her life, in order for her to recover and make beneficial changes in her lifestyle.

The main speaker, Pastor Liburd, highlighted the main theme, 'Power in the Word', by stating that it is possible to have a cheque worth millions of pounds, which is worthless unless it is placed in an account where it is authorised for use. Without studying the Word of God continually, we will have nothing to draw upon for the challenges we encounter in our lives.

Sally-Ann spoke about perseverance, illustrated by the process Jacob undertook when choosing a wife. Pastor Holder spoke about trust in God when faced with difficulties – a time when prayer can connect us with God. He spoke of a time when his mother was very ill and how he witnessed the power of God through her improved health. Pastor Roman spoke about determination – a desire to overcome difficulties inspired by the reading of the Word of God. Pastor Pearson's contribution stated that no one is perfect in this

world, but with Christ working in us, beautiful changes will occur. Our youth speaker Sane Thebe outlined that God's Word states that there are benefits not only during life on Earth, when we obey our parents, because obeying God's Word has implications for eternity. Grace Nichols spoke of how God is glorified when his people pray for unity and act in unity. Dumisani Papaya spoke about love, and challenged the church to be sensitive to the needs of our community, living through harsh times in a changing world, as this is what Christ expects of his disciples. Mary Chappi encouraged the church with

reflections on Psalm 37:4: 'Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.'

Many prayers were offered on these themes and more besides. The leader of the Prayer Ministries team, Grace Belgrave, said, 'The Leicester Central church annual all-night prayer service is always met with humble anticipation. In the past and currently, many have had life-changing experiences, that have been expressed through the testimonies, relating to the difficult experiences God has brought them through.'

PHILIP HERBERT

## 'I heard God speaking . . .'

On 25 July Orshe and Graca were baptised at St Albans church after they had made the decision to follow Christ. Pastor Jonathan Barrett led the service and the theme was based around the different positions that Mary and Martha took when Jesus visited their home. He emphasised that Mary's decision to spend as much time as she could with Jesus was an admirable quality. Her determination to be in his presence surpassed her physical needs. This was a lesson he wanted these newly baptised candidates to take away with them.

It was a year ago when Orshe made contact with the church. She says, 'I heard God speaking to me and I wanted to practise and belong to his Church.' She was a Catholic, and had not had any previous contact with the Adventist Church. What remains fixed in her memory is the love, acceptance and sense of belonging she experienced when she visited St Albans. After studying with Pastor Barrett, she took the next step and made the decision to be baptised. She is continuing her Bible studies and says that she wants eventually to become an active member of the church of which she is now a member.

Graca was 13 at the time of her baptism. She says, 'I wanted to get closer to God, because my environment wasn't leading me in the right direction, and I felt that it was time for a change.' Graca has been attending St Albans with her family for the last five years, but she began to see how important it was for her to make a personal decision. Pastor Barrett studied with Graca, following which she decided that the next step was to be baptised. She has been

sharing her faith with her friends and believes that her determination to follow Christ will make 'a huge difference' among her peer group.

While many of us may be like Martha needing others to lend a helping hand, it is of singular importance to follow Mary's example. Orshe and Graca's determination to follow Christ affirms them the right to be disciples and to make a difference. The part that they have chosen will not be taken away from them.

LYNDA INCE



She concluded her talk with a poem especially written for the day by Irene Stockley.

Irene, born on 27 September 1919, was celebrating her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday over the weekend. Irene, wife of the late Reg Stockley, mother of Christopher, Judy and Timothy, and grandmother of Rachel, Oliver, James and Annabel, has been a member of Exeter church for forty-one years. She has been a very active member and was particularly known for her ability as a Communication secretary. Irene cultivated good relationships with the press and achieved many column inches in the past. All the church members shared her joy on this harvest Sabbath when her family came to worship with us. Although the church always has a fellowship lunch after the harvest service, Irene's family kindly printed cards to invite the members to this extra special celebration. During the service, Stella Jeffery paid tribute to Irene before Sheila Allen read a touching poem entitled *The Autumn of Life* by Helen Steiner Rice. Angela Passmore, our resident florist, then presented Irene with a delightful bouquet. Before lunch, Irene cut the lovely cake which had been made by Doris and Michael Bowden and their neighbour, Anne. A picture of the 18-year-old Irene in her nurse's uniform was part of the decoration and reminded Irene of how God had blessed her after she lost her mother at the age of 10. She was then brought up in a Dr Barnardo's home in Yorkshire where they made sure that this bright young girl had a good education which enabled her to train as a State Registered Nurse. Irene praised God for the way he had blessed her life and was very grateful to be well enough to attend this special day as she had been quite poorly recently. In her own words, Irene is a 'fighter and a survivor!' Her celebrations continued the next day when family and friends met together at a local hotel for a birthday lunch.

The writer has celebrated with two nonagenarians this year as her own mother, Kathleen Ruddick, was 90 in March. She is now a member of Great Yarmouth church but from the age of 15 to her retirement was a very supportive member of Edmonton church. The striking thing about these two ladies and many of their generation is their independent spirit and ability to remain committed and faithful to the God who is central to their lives. They have worked hard and overcome many obstacles in life, particularly the loneliness of widowhood, but they have fought a good fight and constantly look forward to the harvest of the world when Jesus will return.

STELLA JEFFERY

## Exeter: double celebration

Sabbath 26 September was a double celebration in Exeter church when the members worshipped together to thank God for the harvest and the ninety years of Irene Stockley's life. The theme for the day was 'Harvest of the world' to reflect the cultural diversity in the church. Members had loaned materials from their own countries and brought examples of their staple foods to add to the harvest display. Several people spoke about the main crops in their homelands and how they celebrate harvest. Traditional harvest hymns were sung with a real sense of praise and gratitude as David Elliott's superb organ playing reverberated around the church to support the singing. He also favoured us with a beautiful piano solo. Stella Jeffery concluded the morning's worship with thoughts about the true harvest of the world, the spiritual harvest, encouraging the congregation not only to be part of the final harvest but to go out now into the Lord's harvest fields and help bring in the sheaves under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



Left to right: Christopher, Timothy and Judy, with Irene cutting her cake

**PASTOR RONALD ARTHUR VINCE (1917-2009) d. 16 July.** Born on 18 March 1917 in London, Pastor Vince died on 16 July 2009 in Sydney Adventist Hospital, NSW. On 30 December 1945 he married Rosa Birgit Christiana (Kitty) Johanson in Watford. He was predeceased by his wife in 1989. On 9 September 1990 he married Helen Elenore Smith/Rosendahl at Galston, NSW. He is survived by his wife; his sister Olive Canright (US); his children Roger and Denise (Sydney, NSW), Kenneth (Sydney), Angela and Bob Saunders (Sydney), and Dianne Jeffs (Newcastle); and his grandchildren, Roland and Amy, Rodney and Hannah Saunders, and Brendan Wilson and Nicole Wilson. Ron served for his first years of ministry in England, first as a pastor evangelist and then as a youth leader of the British Union. His transfer to Australia in 1954 began a long and fruitful ministry, first as Division youth leader for twelve years, and then as principal of Longburn College, South Queensland Conference president and, finally, speaker for the 'These Times' radio broadcast. Ron also headed Christian Services for the Blind. He was greatly loved as a youth leader and preacher, many recalling sermons and stories that proved pivotal in their spiritual pilgrimage. He was possessed of a gentleness of manner and a generosity of spirit that, even in later years, left its impression on many a life. His faith was profound in understanding, reverential in attitude and simple in its reliance on his Saviour's love.

ADRIAN CRAIG

**MARGERY HEUGHBAERT (1909-2009) d. 26 October.** 'Auntie Margery' passed to her rest at the Richmond Care Home in Crieff aged 100 years. Born in Clent in the West Midlands, Margery was baptised at the age of 17 at Handsworth by Pastor DeAth. She then became an art teacher in Salford and terminated a promising career in order to care for her parents. She moved to Cornwall in 1937 and was instrumental in establishing a house group at St Blazey which gave rise to the church in St Austell. Besides looking after her parents, Margery and her husband Albert (of Belgian descent) operated a market garden. Following Albert's death, Margery initially moved to Grantham and then to Scotland to be near her sister, Kathleen, and her nephew and niece, Pastor Bob and Moyra Rodd. Auntie Margery was renowned for her hospitality and her support for various charities, which included the knitting of over 100 dolls. One of her greatest joys was the recent receipt of a letter from the Queen thanking her for a doll which was sent to the Queen's youngest granddaughter, Lady Lucy. At the funeral service at the Crieff church, Pastor Martin Bell stated that Margery had metaphorically climbed Mount Pisgah and had 'viewed' the Promised Land through her avid reading of the Scriptures. 'She liked what she saw – and one day soon that will be her habitation,' said Pastor Bell.

JOHN ARTHUR

**PASTOR S. LAWRENCE MAXWELL (1925-2009) d. 27 October.** Spencer Lawrence Maxwell passed quietly and peacefully away at his daughter's home in Ellicott City, Maryland. Born in Watford on 13 January 1925, Pastor Maxwell was a pastor, author and editor of *Signs of the Times*, *Primary Treasure*, and *Our Little Friend*. He also began *Junior Guide* magazine and wrote the *Pathfinder Field Guide*, in addition to numerous other books. He is preceded in death by his father Arthur S. Maxwell, mother Rachel Joyce-Maxwell, sister Maureen Maxwell, twin brother Mervyn Maxwell, and brother Malcolm Maxwell. He is survived by daughters Heidi and Heather and his six grandchildren. He will be missed by all.

OWEN TWIST

## The passing of Pastor Delroy Foster

It is with deep regret that we announce the passing of Pastor Delroy Foster after an extended period of illness. Pastor Foster who ministered in the NEC for over seventeen years succumbed to his illness on the morning of Thursday 5 November. Pastor Foster, after graduating from Newbold College, ministered in Handsworth, Camp Hill, Chelmsley Wood and Windsor Street districts. We extend our sincere condolences and prayers to his wife Evelyn and their two children Delavena and Benjamin in this their time of loss. A full obituary for Pastor Foster will appear following the funeral.

JEFF NICHOLSON, NEC Communications director



# Disability Awareness Conference

Sharon Platt-McDonald and Sophia Nicholls

Under the caption 'Enabling Change: Supporting Leaders in Special Needs Ministry', the BUC and ASNA jointly hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Disability Awareness conference at the Pendeford church, Wolverhampton, a flagship church for access for the disabled in the NEC. The key objectives for this year were to facilitate the following: the sharing of good practice; the provision of new ideas; and support for the leaders in making the Gospel accessible.

Following the official welcome, Nigel Nicholls, Adventist Special Needs Association chairman, gave an overview of the work of ASNA and its contribution towards raising awareness of disabilities and supporting those requiring their services.

Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries director and Special Needs co-ordinator, spoke of her delight in reading the reports from the co-ordinators on the work they were doing in their local churches. The reports highlighted developments like more accessible church buildings, inclusion of people with disabilities in church services, the purchase of sensory equipment and better disability awareness among members following relevant training.

Sharon then chaired the 'Sharing good practice' discussions. This offered the co-ordinators a chance to share good practice and ideas of how to support the ministry to disabled people in the church

communities. Theresa Mitchell and Caroline Hutson, Disability co-ordinators from the Ilford church, highlighted some of the changes they had been able to implement over two years, and how their commitment, training and persistence had changed the worship and provision for disabled people in Ilford church.

An inspiring address by Pastor Jeff Nicholson, NEC Communication and Stewardship director, reaffirmed our mission to share the Gospel in an inclusive way.

Phillipa Woodcroft, a 20-year-old Christian volunteer from Through the Roof\*, shared a moving testimony of her life and current work with the organisation. Phillipa, who was born with a condition called bilateral anophthalmia (without eyes), shared her struggles and triumphs and journey to faith. She stated, 'Being born blind may not be the worst thing that can happen, because God in some way will use my life in a significant way to be a blessing to others.' Using a Braille hymn sheet, she ended her testimony with the song 'Some day the silver cord will break'.

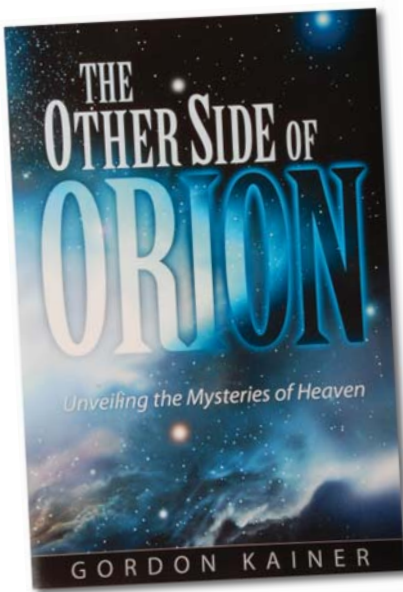
The conference provided the ideal setting for the launch of the Disabilities Pathway within the leadership training course co-ordinated by Grace Walsh, NEC Health Ministries and Community Services director and lead for Disability Awareness.

Tim Wood, Development director



## BUC OFFICE RELOCATION CLOSURE

Due to relocation back to our rebuilt office on Stanborough Park, the British Union Conference office will be closed to members and 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.



*New book of the week*

### **The Other Side of Orion**

by Gordon Kainer

A new heaven and a new earth – then what? What will you do in Paradise? The author has given careful attention to both the Scriptures and the writings of Ellen G. White regarding the new heaven and the new earth. Take time to explore the future you've always wanted.

Contact ABC sales on **01476 539900** to purchase your copy at **£9.25** plus p&p.

of Through the Roof, and Phillipa led a workshop in which delegates learnt new skills in a fun and inclusive way. They dramatised the crossing of the Red Sea using a parachute, and with accompanying sound and gestures we relived the biblical event using our senses of sight, sound, touch and movement. Phillipa provided training in supporting people with sight loss, and Grace concluded this excellent and informative annual conference with one of the Disability modules, Manual Handling, from the leadership training course. The Manual Handling workshop taught participants health and safety techniques when moving or lifting objects or people.

Attendees voiced their appreciation for another excellent event. 'I can now go back with confidence to make some real changes in my church,' one participant said. Other comments included: 'I was so encouraged. It has given me a boost to do something now.'

\*Through the Roof is a registered Christian charity in the UK whose vision is to 'See All Disabled People Be Free To Reach Their God-Given Potential'.

### Streams of Light

A global revival for your spiritual renewal On Wednesday 2 December through to Sabbath 5 December 2009, the North England Conference (NEC) will be hosting the 'Streams of Light' evangelistic series in conjunction with Amazing Facts. This evangelism series, which culminates with an NEC Day of Fellowship and Ordination, will be held at the Bethel Convention Centre, Kelvin Way, West Bromwich, B70 7JW.

World-renowned speaker and evangelist Pastor Doug Batchelor will present a powerful series of faith that will bring spiritual renewal.

This extraordinary satellite event can be seen live on 3ABN and online at [www.AmazingFacts.TV](http://www.AmazingFacts.TV).

Tickets will **NOT** be required for the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evening meetings.

For more information or to book your tickets for Sabbath, please visit

<http://events.necadventist.org.uk>

Tickets go on sale at 9am Friday 30 October.

### ABC BOOK SALES

#### December

6 Harper Bell	10am-2pm
Sheffield	10am-2pm
13 Harlow	2pm-5pm
John Loughborough	10am-2pm
20 Newcastle	10am-2pm
Willlesden	10am-2pm

#### ABC Shops

Watford, BUC.  
11am-5.30pm, Monday-Thursday.  
10am-2pm Friday.

#### NB: Sunday openings as follows:

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

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

## Messenger

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### Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Nov 27	3.58	4.10	3.55	3.48	4.06
Dec 4	3.53	4.06	3.50	3.42	4.01
11	3.52	4.04	3.48	3.38	3.58
18	3.52	4.05	3.49	3.39	3.58

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