



WESSINGER

The road to Salahley



by Bert Smit, ADRA-UK executive director

Why run a diesel pump when, with solar power, you can do the same for free? Renewable energy is at the forefront of many discussions as we enter a new decade. While we in the West struggle with carbon footprint reduction, ADRA is helping people in the developing world to have access to new forms of energy.

James Shepley, one of ADRA-UK's programme officers, was recently in Somalia to observe progress in one of our projects. To reach the remote village of Salahley in Somaliland, North West Somalia, he had to traverse a vast plain, covered in thin grassland, the food source for herds of goats and even the occasional camel. As many as half of all Somalis are nomadic pastoralists, and in a land that has seen more than its fair share of civil war the risk of land mines is great.

Salahley is the major centre in the area. There is a school with 460 children and ninety boarding students. The school is supported largely by generous members of the Somali Diaspora who are trying to rebuild their country.

ADRA, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, installed solar lighting three years ago at the health centre in the village. People walk as far as 70km to get to the clinic. Before the arrival of solar lighting, the midwife had to assist births at night with a kerosene paraffin lamp or a pocket torch. Sometimes the batteries would run out in the middle of childbirth.

Those days are past. With solar lighting, the pharmacy opens until 8pm, well after sunset, and operations can take place at

night uninterrupted.

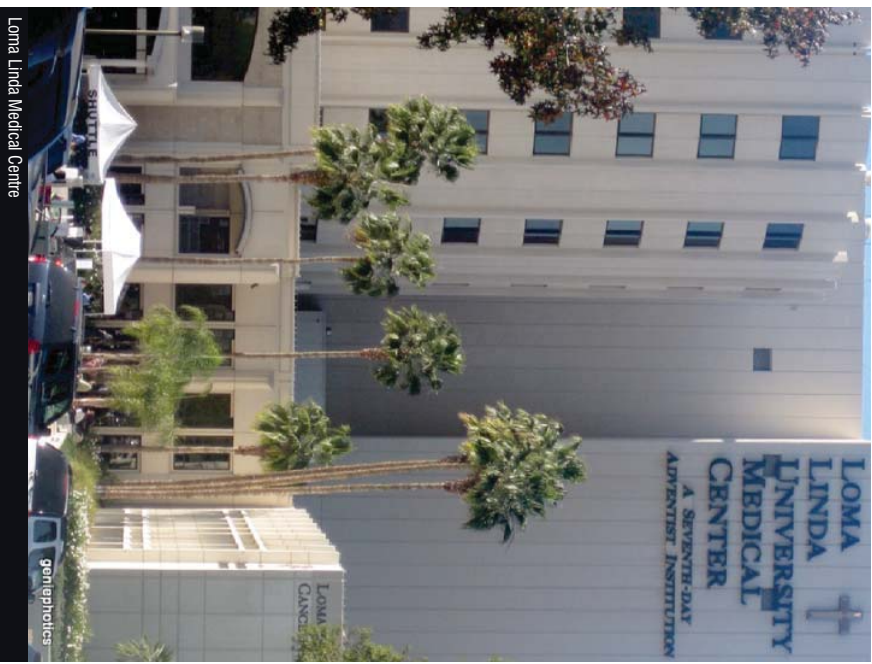
Next door at the school things are not so good. The head teacher describes how soaring fuel bills mean that the school only switches the diesel generator on to print important letters, or for very occasional IT classes. The ninety boarders in the four dormitories have to study by kerosene paraffin lamp, and there is often not enough fuel to go round.

Twenty-one-year-old Ibrahim is from a nomadic family. He is like many of the other kids at the school. He has been there for ten years. His dream is to become a doctor. Ibrahim, another boy, complains that because of the rationing of electricity ten kids crowd around each keyboard at those exceptional times when the computers are switched on. A hundred adults are attending night classes at the school, but right now classes are poorly lit with kerosene lamps and lanterns.

Salahley is one of sixty-three locations across Somaliland and Puntland where ADRA Somalia is now installing renewable energy technology over the next twelve months, with the support of ADRA-UK and the European Commission.

The solar system that ADRA will install here will help provide electricity to the school, and upgrade the existing system in the health clinic. This will power the refrigerator to conserve vaccines for polio or measles, as well as allowing night use for the microscope, enabling testing for malaria and thus an earlier start to treatment.

Thanks to ADRA, with the new source of power, schoolboys like Ibrahim will have a better chance of realising their dreams.



Loma Linda Medical Centre

CHP 'Summit' at Loma Linda

by Gene Kol, national CHP co-ordinator

Loma Linda University Adventist Health Science Centre was established a hundred years ago for the purpose of training medical missionaries for Christian service around the globe. Today, Loma Linda University gradu-

ates continue that tradition, serving their neighbours both in the United States and abroad, fulfilling the institution's motto, 'to make man whole'.

The holistic approach of the Coronary Health Improvement

Why Leslie left his Bible in China



Job Vacancy at ADRA-UK
ADRA-UK is looking for an experienced Programme Officer to join its team.
 Gross salary: from £30,758 p.a. (inclusive of London Weighting)
 Location: Watford, Hertfordshire
 You will play an essential role in the ADRA-UK Programmes team. Key responsibilities include investigating, sourcing and monitoring funds from government, public and private donors; supporting ADRA-UK's implementing partners on proposal

The story began three years ago when Leslie of the Croydon church surprised his mother Sally by opting to study Chinese.

In 2009 Leslie began to consider a visit to China in order to experience the culture and make use of the language before his GCSE. The cost seemed a problem but, says Sally, 'to our surprise money came from all over the place, including the school'.

The visit to China, with a school party, began in late October. Leslie, with his friends, had lodgings with a family.

Each Sabbath Leslie stayed behind in the digs and read the Bible Sally had given him for the purpose, while his friends went shopping in Qianmon Square. That attracted the attention of the family with whom he was lodging. The father, through his 17-year-old son, asked Leslie what it was he was studying. As a result the 14-year-old found himself giving a Bible study.

Before Leslie and his party left to return to London, the father asked if Leslie would consider leaving his Bible so that he could learn more about Jesus.

Leslie phoned home about that. 'Leave the Bible,' said Sally. 'In fact, leave all the books.'

Since Leslie's return to Croydon, the 17-year-old son of the family with whom he stayed has been emailing him. The family is fascinated by the Person of Jesus. Arrangements have been made for the 17-year-old to visit London.

EDITOR from material supplied by Sally Amanquah of the Croydon church

development, donor compliance, monitoring and evaluation, and donor reporting; and provide backstopping to ensure that ADRA-UK's projects are successfully planned, conducted and completed.

Applicants should have the right to work in the UK prior to submission of the employment application.

A full application pack and application form is available on the ADRA-UK website at www.adra.org.uk. Applications deadline for this post: 1 February 2010.

Pastors' children have always had my sympathy. None more so than Sally.

Sally's Dad had a taste for the more blood-curdling passages of the Old Testament. He specialised in the retribution meted out to Amalekites, Hivites and Jebusites. Sally winced whenever he brought up the matter of Jael, the hammer, the nail and what happened to Sisera in the tent. But one Sabbath morning, Sally was visibly distressed. It seemed to her that Dad, in his sermon, was holding God responsible for the mass butchery of men, women and children.

When the service was over, Sally had a question for Dad and asked it in a carrying voice: 'D-a-a-d,' she trilled. 'Was all that before God became a Christian?'

I would have paid good money to have heard what Sally's Dad said by way of answer. What do you think he should have said? 'That God was in Christ . . .?' 'That in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body?'² All the fullness of God. Not part of it or one aspect of it. All.

Eugene Petersen says you don't need 'a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to see the fullness of God' in Jesus. Rather, 'You can see and hear him clearly.'³ There he is — God! — and he is unmistakable.

Let's hope Sally's Dad had a stab at explaining that to her. A tall order, I know. At the very least, let's hope he told her that God has always been a Christian!

The apostle John faced a similar problem. John could remember when in the immediate post-Pentecost period the early Church was largely made up of converted Jews. But the Gospel had gone to the Gentiles, and part of what that meant was that the Gospel had to be communicated in terms intelligible to people who were culturally Greek. John, whose centre of evangelistic operations was the Greek city of Ephesus, faced that challenge every day.

Even when the gospels of Mark, Matthew and (the Gentile) Luke were in circulation they contained many key concepts alien to the culturally Greek. Take the idea of Jesus as 'the Messiah', for example. John needed a whole new way to tell the Romano-Greek world about Jesus. And John hit on one! That, more than anything else, accounted for his launch of the fourth gospel from Ephesus forty years after the other three were written.

John, with a long lifetime's experience of preaching Jesus to the Gentiles behind him, came up with an idea that both Jews and Greeks could relate to: *the Word*. Jews knew that the all-powerful Word of God had spo-

with David Marshall, editor

What would you say to Sally?



ken Creation into existence. Greeks looked out on that same Creation and found evidence of order and patterns. To explain it to themselves they had to reach beyond their pantheon of gods for a larger Idea. That was *Logos*, which meant both Word and Reason.

Writing his gospel, John lost no time with preliminaries. He introduced his big Idea in the first sentence. By the sixteenth verse of the first chapter he had built the foundation for his whole gospel for the Gentiles. More than that, he had provided a brilliant answer to Sally's so-important question, and a whole lot of other questions beside.

The gist of the big Idea shows every evidence of being the product of both a lifetime's mature thought and of the Holy Spirit's inspiration.

The Word was not just with God at Creation. He was God, and was the agent of Creation. He was the Life and Light to the dead, dark chaos before Creation. And he was Light and new Life to the darkened Creation at the turn of the eras (1:1-10). His light and life through new birth were for all 'who believed in his name' (11-13).

What thrilled John most, however, was that the Word became flesh and blood and was born — not in some distant galaxy — but in our neighbourhood (vs 14). That same thrill had been there when John had begun his first letter: 'That . . . which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched — this we proclaim' (1 John 1:1). Later, writing his gospel of the Word made flesh — what Paul had called 'the fullness of God' 'emptied' into a human form' — John added, 'and we have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father' (vs 14).

So, then, the Word who became flesh in Jesus was not created, but was there *before* Creation. He was not part of the world of time; he was part of the eternal world.

How does that help Sally?

The fact that the Word was part of the eternal scheme of things means that *God was always like Jesus*.

No one can show us what God is like as Jesus can. No one can reveal more of the heart and mind of God than Jesus does.

Michael Ramsey (1904-1988), the one hundredth Archbishop of Canterbury, was known as a great Bible scholar. He was once asked, 'What is the most profound theological idea you have ever had?' His face became bright, his smile grew, and his eyes widened. The nervous questioner thought he had asked a clumsy and, perhaps, pompous question. That was not how the Archbishop received it, much to his relief. Ramsey's reply?

'In God there is no unChristlikeness at all!' he beamed, with some enthusiasm, before continuing: 'And if you think there is, it's because you have misunderstood something. Jesus is the perfect revelation of God.'

Don't you wish Sally could have heard that?

'No one knows the Son except the Father,' said Jesus, 'and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.'⁵

In the next breath Jesus said, 'Come to 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.'⁶

One last time, then.

In God there is no unChristlikeness at all. If you think there is, you've misunderstood something.

In Christ is all the fullness of God. Would someone say that to Sally?

References:
² 2 Corinthians 5:19. ³ Colossians 2:9, NLT. ⁴ Colossians 2:9, Message. ⁵ Colossians 2:9, NLT; Philippians 2:7, NRSV. ⁶ Matthew 11:27. ⁷ Matthew 11:28-29.

Enhancing Health

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

Body Clock part 3 — Chronic symptoms and illness



Disruptions in the body clock — which influences much of the body's chemistry — have been linked to many diseases.

On December 2009 a team of Japanese researchers reported on a new study which suggests that cardiovascular disease is connected to disturbances in the circadian clock (body's 24-hour clock).

From the study the Japanese team found that a genetic risk factor for a form of high blood pressure was influenced by the circadian rhythms. This was due to the disruption of the body clock negatively impacting a hormone which affects blood pressure, making it harder to control. Some people with high blood pressure have high levels of aldosterone (hormone) which appears to be sensitive to body clock changes.

Lead researcher Professor Hitoshi Okamura also stated that shift workers, long-distance flight crews and people with sleep disorders have an increased risk of certain cardiovascular disorders

like heart disease and high blood pressure. This was linked to the disruption of the circadian rhythms.

It is suggested that timing of medical treatment to synchronise with the body clock may significantly increase efficacy and reduce drug toxicity or adverse reactions. For example, in the late evening when blood pressure rises, particular types of antihypertensive medication may reduce nocturnal blood pressure as well as aid cardiac function.

Additionally, some types of cancer treatments have been shown to be more effective if given at a particular time of day.

Chronotherapy, a relatively new field of medical intervention, synchronises healthcare with the internal clock and times medication for best effect. Recent studies in this area have discovered the following:

- Patient reviews in the management of chronic health problems such as asthma, fibromyalgia

and arthritis demonstrate that timing of medication impacts on symptoms.

- For most people pain threshold appears to be lowest early in the morning.
- US research suggests that chronobiology is one explanation for the apparent increased seasonal manifestation of certain illnesses; some relating to cyclical hormonal changes. For example US data reveals that in autumn a higher proportion of post-menopausal women (through self-examination) detect breast lumps which turn out to be malignant. Studies also show that multiple sclerosis tends to worsen in late spring and summer, and more diagnosis of testicular cancer is made during winter.

Look out for the next body clock article to find out how to work with your body clock for optimum wellbeing.

Good health!

Paul, we have a question: What do you mean by 'speaking in tongues'?

The editor thanks Dr Jean-Claude Verrechia of Newbold College for writing this excellent, authoritative article.

Spiritual gifts are not a problem for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They are acknowledged and valued. Numerous workshops and seminars are organised on a regular basis to facilitate the discovery of everyone's gifts. But surprisingly, and for different reasons, two gifts are a bit problematic in our midst: the gift of prophecy and what is called 'the gift of tongues'. According to Paul, the first one ranks at the top of the list: 'Pursue love and strive for the spiritual gifts, and especially that you may prophesy.' (1 Corinthians 14:1.) As far as prophecy is concerned, aren't we, Seventh-day Adventists, the best? We were given a prophet at the very beginning of our history. We have the 'testimony of Jesus', that is 'the spirit of prophecy' (Revelation 19:10). Though I am not sure what sort of reception another prophet would be given in church. The poor guy would have to pass two exams in order to qualify: the Bible test and the Ellen White test! As for the gift of tongues, we are rather silent. We are scared. We are more comfortable with a soft interpretation of the texts, according to which the gift of tongues would refer to speaking a foreign human language. Most of us would be uncomfortable if anyone started to speak a strange, non-human language in a church setting. But some of us – a minority for the moment, but I guess a growing minority – might not feel the same. They would argue that, at least, the latter rain had come upon the faithful remnant. This question of tongues and/or languages is not a new one. The believers in Corinth asked it of Paul. His answer will surely considering. Let me pinpoint some leading ideas.

1. This topic is difficult

Hundreds of books and articles have been published on the topic of spiritual gifts in general and on the gift of speaking in tongues especially. Easy and radical answers are probably irrelevant. This short article does not claim to provide the final answer but aims at giving the reader some tools for further consideration.

2. Paul before Luke

Two texts of the New Testament deal with the gift of tongues: Acts 2:1-13 and 1 Corinthians 12-14. We usually start with Acts 2. I prefer starting with 1 Corinthians, for at least two reasons. First, this letter was written probably twenty years before the book of Acts. Second, Luke, the author of Acts, was a co-worker of Paul. I assume that he was influenced by Paul's understanding of the gift of tongues when writing the Pentecost narrative. Accordingly, the first and main idea on the topic is from Paul.

3. A tension between two cultures

In the Old Testament, the tongue (*lashon*) is not given a high status. It is often connected to sin. One becomes a sinner through the tongue. It explains why one must exert oneself for the training and the control of the tongue (see Proverbs 10:19-20; 15:4; 18:21; Psalm 34:13). This tradition has pervaded the New Testament. It is obvious in the letter of James: 'no one can tame the tongue (*glossa* in Greek), a restless evil, full of deadly poison' (James 3:8), as well as in the contrast between speaking and doing made by Jesus himself (Matthew 7:21), and in the words of John: 'Let us love not in word, or speech (*glossa*) but in truth and action.' (1 John 3:8.)

But there is also another trend in the New Testament: the one Paul was confronted with in Corinth. Plato, the Greek philosopher, had long ago made the point that divination was possible, but not in a rational way: 'No man achieves true and inspired divination when in his rational mind, but only when the power of his intelligence is fettered in sleep or when it is distraught by disease or by reason of some divine inspiration.' (*Timaeus* 71e.) In the Hellenistic Mediterranean world, 'prophets', 'seers' and 'proclaimers' were rather numerous. One of the most popular examples of divination through ecstatic language was the Pythia of Delphi, whose headquarters was less than a hundred miles from Corinth. Seated on a tripod over an opening in the earth, this lady would fall into a trance and start raving. Her oracles exerted an influence far beyond Greece. Even though this cult was in decay at the time of Paul, her sanctuary was still open at the time of the New Testament. It was closed by Theodosius in AD395.

Actually, in Corinth, Paul faced a dilemma: on the one hand, the Jewish wisdom, for which the tongue was dangerous and evil; on the other, the Hellenistic mindset, for which raving, speaking an ecstatic language, was common. This dilemma explains the tension in the texts, and mainly why they are difficult to understand and to interpret. Paul is first of all a pastor. It would have been easier for him to utter the truth in a very straightforward way. But it is by no means certain that the Corinthians would have been able to understand it and to adhere to it.

4. Gifts: a Corinthian case only

Paul does not address the issue of spiritual gifts from his own will. He answers a question asked by the Corinthians (12:1). Without this

Corinthian case, it is not certain that we would have known of the gifts in general and tongues in particular! First, we have to bear in mind that the word for gifts (*charisma* in Greek) features seventeen times in the New Testament, only in Paul's letters, and mainly in 1 Corinthians (seven times). Most of the time it refers to God's grace (see Romans 5:15-16; 6:23; 1 Timothy 4:14). Second, the gospels never mention this word, nor does Jesus. Third, when addressing again the issue of the gifts in Romans 12, Paul does not mention the gift of tongues again. In other words, spiritual gifts are a Corinthian problem. Why on earth should this church of Corinth – not the best church in the New Testament – be considered as the paradigmatic church? Why should this problem in Corinth be the norm of any Christian church today?

5. An ecstatic, non-human language

I find it very difficult to interpret the gift of tongues in Corinth as anything other than an ecstatic, non-human language. Paul refers clearly to the former pagan setting of the addressees: '... when you were pagans' (1 Corinthians 12:2). Later, in chapter 14, the apostle makes it clear: 'For those who speak in a tongue do not speak to other people but to God; for nobody understands them, since they are speaking mysteries in the Spirit.' (verse 2.)

6. The logic of Paul's argument

One cannot understand and therefore interpret properly Paul's answer to the Corinthians without considering what he said as a whole. Paul's argument starts in chapter 12 but continues in chapters 13 and 14. The main issue in chapter 12 is diversity or plurality. The Corinthians came with a question on spiritual gifts (plural), but in their mind there was only one gift: speaking in tongues. No way, says Paul: 'There are varieties of gifts... and varieties of services... and varieties of activities.' (12:4.)

All those manifestations are 'activated' by God himself. Nobody can pass a gift to me. It is not something which can be learned, or for which I have to be trained. It's God given, only. God's distribution is democratic: 'to each' (verse 7). How to qualify is never mentioned. It's God grace.

Paul's list repeats only once the word *gift*, for the gifts of healings (double plural, verse 9). When the apostle refers to the tongues, it's at the end of the list, again in the plural form: 'genres of tongues' or 'various kinds of tongues' (10). Surprisingly, those tongues are connected with the interpretation, a point which will be developed later in chapter 14. There seems to be no equivalent in the non-biblical ecstatic experiences of the need for interpretation.

The end of chapter 12 introduces a double hierarchy. I am aware that the word hierarchy does not belong to any postmodernist dictionary. But, I am afraid, it belongs to this text. To

start with, the hierarchy of the ministries (though it was not part of the starting question): number one, the apostles; number two, the prophets; number three, the teachers' (the gifts are not part of this hierarchy). The second hierarchy is introduced by verse 31: 'the more excellent way'...

Chapter 13 is a main element in Paul's answer. Too often, far too often, we consider this chapter as an independent unit, a magnificent and outstanding hymn on love. But it is part of Paul's rhetoric. Love is never described as a gift. But love is number one (13:13), the only number one.

Chapter 14 is the final step in Paul's answer. 'You, Corinthians, would like to know if it is possible to speak a non-human tongue? Yes, it is possible (I can do it myself). But let me set some parameters if you want to do it.'

a. The 5/10,000 ratio

Five words in a normal, human language are better than 10,000 words in an unknown tongue (14:19)

b. Interpreter: mandatory!

'Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray for the power to interpret' (14:13)

c. Two or three max

No more than 2 or 3 believers should be given the opportunity of speaking in tongues in public worship, provided that there is somebody to interpret what they are saying (14:27-28)

d. Take the audience into consideration

Beware of the effect of speaking in tongues on unbelievers!

'If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are out of your mind?' (14:23)

Conclusion

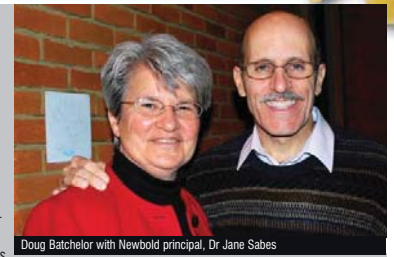
Today, two reasons would favour a charismatic interpretation of 1 Corinthians 12-14. First, the postmodernist mindset, for which the reasonable should not be given the first place any longer, but the irrational instead. Second, the massive growth of the charismatic churches in the world. In order either to follow the cultural trend or to adopt a style which could be productive, as far as church growth is concerned, a soft reading of Paul's answer is tempting. In addition, why not introduce more joy and exuberance into boring services?

It seems clear that Paul does not favour the gift of speaking ecstatic languages or tongues. 'I speak in tongues more than all of you' (14:18) is probably a rhetorical sentence, in which the apostle mocks the Corinthians. The conditions set for this gift in a church context are so demanding that Paul's answer is to be understood as a gentle pastoral NO but still a clear NO. 'Brothers and sisters, do not be children in your thinking; rather, be infants in evil, but in thinking be adults.' (14:20.)

If there is any incentive in these chapters, it's for the gift of prophecy. For the prophetic

Doug Batchelor at Newbold

by Taylor Bajic, Newbold PRO



Doug Batchelor with Newbold principal, Dr Jane Sabes

During the first week of December, Pastor Doug Batchelor, SDA evangelist and author of *The Richest Caveman*, held a powerful revival series called 'Streams of Light' in Birmingham. The series was broadcast in front of sold-out crowds and appeared live on Amazing Facts Television as well as online. On 6 December, Pastor Batchelor concluded his tour in England with a presentation to a packed audience at Newbold College.

Batchelor's presentation explored the relevancy of Seventh-day Adventism for our time, sparking the interest of many present who face challenges on the daily journey as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian in today's world. At the close of his presentation, Pastor Doug responded to questions from the audience and home viewers. Tih Latic, Newbold alumnus and current doctoral student at Oxford University, provided the evening's musical selections along with Belinda Stojanovic.

Joachim Telfer, a third-year Theology student, organised this special visit. 'I don't know whether Pastor Doug could have really appreciated how dramatic this meeting truly was without a background in European Adventism, even though I imagine he has some concept of that. It is the first time... that I have seen Adventism so supported from the front without reservation or timidity but sounding it out, that we do have a truth to be proud of and that all truth is equal with the truth that saves us: Jesus Christ. To let go of one is to let go of the other. He [Pastor Doug] didn't present this in an arrogant way but said himself that it is a difficult balance sometimes to hold truth without being arrogant about it.'

The hall was bursting at the seams with 400 in attendance, from students and staff to members of the community and church. In addition, by request of many off-campus students, the evening presentation was live-streamed on the College's website. As Dr Jane Sabes, principal of Newbold, observed, 'The attendance seemed to demonstrate a hunger as to how one maintains a thriving spirituality within an organised church.' She went on to say that the meeting was, in essence, a 'deeply meaningful conversation with students and community engaging Pastor Doug in the most thoughtful discourse.'

Pastor Batchelor said of the evening: 'I consider my visit to Newbold to be the high point of my trip to England. I hope I can come back with the family sometime and see the campus in the daytime!'

If you would like more details of the evening, visit www.livestream.com/newboldmedia to view the video of the evening's entire presentation and discussion.

Belonging then believing

On Sabbath 7 November we had a baptism in the Torquay church. Pastor de Nysschen preached his sermon from the baptism and then invited Judy Runham to join him in the water.

Judy has been part of the church family for many years. Her first contact with the Torquay church was during an evangelistic series run by Pastor Jonathan Barrett about twenty-two years ago. Talk about first belonging and then believing!

Through the years Judy attended the church whenever she could in her busy life of being a wife, mother and also holding down a full-time job as a carer, which often meant that she would be hard at work while we were in church. During these years Judy faithfully attended every evangelistic programme offered by successive Torquay pastors and visiting evangelists, including the public meetings in the Riviera Centre by Pastor Dalbert Elias.

For all these years she would quietly take her place in church whenever she had the opportunity, and many took it for granted that she was a member.

Her wealth of Bible knowledge is something that she is sharing with a small group that she meets with every week, and our prayers are with her as she reaches out to others in her own way.

It was earlier this year that she expressed her desire to be baptised and the planning for a suitable date started, and on the day she was voted in by a 120% vote as I noticed that some members had put up both their hands!



PASTOR BEATTIE DE NYSSCHEN

movement the Seventh-day Adventist Church claims to be, that's more than relevant. Paul uses three verbs to define a prophet: he/she upbuilds; he/she encourages; he/she consoles. A good programme for the year 2010!

'Have you ever seen a workshop on how to discover your service or how to discover your activity in a church? One may ask the question: Why do we focus on gifts only? Have you ever seen a workshop on those ministries in the Church?'

Greetings from Madagascar!

Red bricks, grey sky... looks familiar. Lizards, rice fields... now that's not the UK!

In August 2009 we, Ben and Gil Senty, said goodbye to the familiar faces of Newbold for a nine-month experience in Madagascar where we are volunteering with ADRA on a food security project. After months of planning and fundraising, here we are, on the other side of the world, living a very different life.

Work wise, things are not very exotic. We work in an office, we sit in front of a computer for many hours; but as soon as we step out of the premises, a new world unfolds. Chickens walk on the side of the road alongside the stray dogs; zebras (local cows) and pigs walk across the country towards the capital where they will end up on a plate. The people walk barefoot dressed in second-hand clothes bought on the sidewalk (recently we were surprised to see a young man at church wearing a Royal Mail shirt!). The cars are so old that if they were in the UK they would be in a museum.

No Tesco or Morrisons! We buy everything fresh from the local market where prices are always negotiable. The vendors recognise us now, and we even know some of their names.

On several occasions we had the opportunity to visit some of the remote villages targeted by the project. ADRA Madagascar is working in consortium with three other NGOs in over 500 villages. This represents about 98,500 households. Most people are very poor and they work hard in the fields all day. Having over ten children is common practice, and sometimes the whole family lives in

one room with walls blackened by the indoor charcoal stove. Electricity and running water are a luxury, even in town.

The project aims to improve the lives of the vulnerable population via activities in the following areas: health/nutrition, agriculture/natural resources management, resilience towards shocks (for example preparation in case of natural disasters). One of the greatest challenges is to ensure the sustainability of the newly learned good practices.

As volunteers, we are involved in various aspects of the project. We are still in the strategic planning phase, so there are many things to buy, to set up. Ben has been helping the IT team in renewing their material. He also works with the planning manager and is always looking for ideas to maintain a good team spirit. For instance, he helped organise a two-day team-building event in September and has also set up several social groups. Gil has been using her creative skills finalising the project logo, taking pictures at every event, enhancing PowerPoint presentations and other project related documents. She is also helping the administrative team improve their systems and processes and will soon be implementing a new fleet management software.

We work a minimum of forty hours a week and, fortunately for us, the weekend starts on Friday lunch time. That is when our second life starts. We switch to Sabbath preparation mode and spend the afternoon cleaning the flat and getting ready for our well deserved 'rest'. In the evening, we take the ten-minute stroll to the SDA Malagasy church

for vespers. Everyone comes along to present an item prepared during the week: a story, a song (most of the time there are songs... the Malagasy love singing!).

On Sabbath morning, we teach Sabbath School. As everything is done in Malagasy, we decided to start a French class so that we could also participate. It turned out to be a very popular idea. As for the rest of the programme, we rely on our friends to translate. We have been taking Malagasy classes, but although we sometimes recognise a few words (we're quite excited when that happens), it is not enough to understand a whole sermon.

We also joined the choir... and, yes, we sing in Malagasy. We obviously don't understand what we're singing, but, hey, we're in a church and we trust that the lyrics are uplifting.

On Sunday afternoons we teach English. There are two classes, one for children where we teach simple words, simple songs and play Simon Says, and a more advanced class where we learn more complex words, more complex songs and more complex games. It's fun, and people like it. Some weeks there are about fifty people attending.

We thank all those who encouraged us and who helped us raise the money to come here. We're far from home, we miss our family and friends, but nine months is not much in a lifetime and we are glad to use this time to discover new horizons and help the less fortunate.

BEN and GIL SENTRY

To find out more about our trip, visit our blog: www.bengil.blogspot.com.

The Animated Gospel Choir

Vocalist and puppeteers required. You do not need experience in puppeteering (we can train you to do that) but you must be able to say yes to ALL of the following:

- Be able to sing in key
- Live in or near London
- Be aged 16 years or over
- Be at least 5 feet tall
- Have a passion for evangelism
- Have an email address that you use regularly
- Have internet access at home
- Have an up-to-date passport
- Have a mobile phone

To apply, download and fill in the application form below at www.theanimatedgospelchoir.com/recruitment

and return it by Sunday 31 January.

Change is happening

by Bert Smit, chief executive officer, ADRA-UK

November 2007. I visit the small village of Soulli in Burkina Faso. ADRA-UK has just started a new project co-funded with the European Commission. We meet the village elders under a grand mango tree. We sit in the shade on roughly cut wooden benches with the men. Outside the circle, at a respectable distance, sit the women of the village. We are offered millet drink and discuss the project. For two days I am the guest of the chief, Naba Zoando, and his wife Mariam, and follow their daily routines, committing it all to film.

We seem to bond. Zoando appears to be an envisioned leader who not only speaks about what can be done but actually gets his hands dirty and shows his people how to escape the cycle of poverty. It is with a certain sadness that I leave Soulli behind.

October 2009. Last week I returned to Soulli. What a difference two years can make in the life of villagers in Burkina Faso. For the last two years they have worked with ADRA in improving their situation. Wells have been dug, boreholes are being drilled, new agricultural methods taught, cordon dykes laid and literacy skills improved. We visit a large plot of land that will soon be converted into a fertile market garden. ADRA has provided three wells here – supplying enough water for the land to give ample fruit and vegetables, something that has not grown in Soulli for over twenty years. Food to eat. Food to sell. Money to send children to school. Things are changing for the better.

But the biggest change I witnessed was the new respect given to women in this village. Whereas last time the women sat outside the circle of men at a reverent distance, this time they formed part of the circle. After Chief Zoando spoke he gave the floor to one of the women leaders to address the assembly and speak of the changes that, thanks to ADRA, have affected their community.

Development work is all about creating change. Often change is visible in the obvious: more food,

better education, better houses. This change in Soulli was perhaps more subtle but will have a lasting impact on this small Islamic rural community. Yes, women still work the land, raise the children and do all of the housework. But here in Soulli women have become full partners with the men in creating opportunities for the future. A sharp contrast with most of the other communities in the area.

After the brief visit I left this beautiful village behind me for the second time. I was proud of how ADRA had been instrumental in effecting change once again on a completely different level than we originally intended. A change that supersedes the visible – a



result that will have everlasting implications.

Full credit to Naba Zoando who has a strong vision of what his community should look like and has been planning for that all along. A chief willing to sacrifice the old established customs and venture out into the unknown and accept the challenges of the future. And for some reason I know that in this process of change a woman also played an important role.



Enough is enough!

Hundreds took part in the Not Another Drop (NAD) Peace March to demonstrate their stand against gun and knife crime in the borough of Brent, London.

Members from Willesden church, headed by Bea Jackson, Willesden's Community Services leader and vice chair of NAD, displayed their support by wearing yellow 'Not Another Drop' T-shirts and joined the procession from Roundwood park in Willesden to Jubilee clock in Harlesden, where a small solemn memorial service took place.

The seventy-four gun and knife victims in Brent from 1999-2009 were remembered by locals, the mayor and councillors lighting seventy-four candles held by children, with the victims' names attached. It was a poignant moment as each name was read out, and the candles were placed behind pictures of a 7-year-old girl, Toni-Ann Byfield, who was the youngest victim of these crimes.

The community response to these murders was to march through the streets of Brent towards Wembley Stadium to act collectively against violent crime.

At Wembley Stadium, a mini event took place which centred around the theme 'recreating the village'. It was very much a community affair which included food and drink. Many sectors of the public were represented, including the candidates for all three political parties for Brent, the police, Crimestoppers, and the Fire Brigade, all of whom gave some sort of speech or presentation.

The message was that even extended family members of the murdered victims were adversely affected by these tragedies. Patrick Jacobs, chairman of NAD, insisted that the 'bullet runs forever and hits [the family]', breaking them up.

Families plucked up the courage to talk about their loss and their distress. Two sisters bravely talking about their cousin's murder was an emotional moment which highlighted the gravity of the situation and the realisation that something needs to be done.

MONIQUE SIMPSON





Ninety-nine lay preachers graduate

'I didn't realise there was so much to learn in the art of preaching,' was a comment from one of the lay-preacher graduates at the Advent Centre on 6 December. The course began in May 2009 and finished in November. It was a demanding course in that the students had to complete written assignments and prepare a sermon to be presented and assessed by some of our pastors. One hundred and twenty-seven people began the course and in the end ninety-nine graduated.

Terry Messenger, who organised the course, exhorted the graduates to put into practice that which they had learned and not to be afraid to ask their local churches to open a way for them to do this. Paul Lockham, secretary at the SEC, encouraged the graduates by stating that preaching is a high calling but that God would be with them as they preach for him. Sam Davis, president of the SEC, gave the charge and stated how Paul had mentioned to the believers at Corinth that we preach Christ crucified – a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles but it is the power and wisdom of God to those God has called. Don McFarlane, president of the BUC, stated how some who were in prominent leadership positions in the Church had attended previous courses of this nature. Who knows where God will take the class of 2009? Halcy-Ann Platt, one of the graduates who gave the class response, gave thanks for the opportunity to complete the course and added her determination on behalf of the class to get the gospel message out before it's too late.

Stewardship and Communication graduates

There were also graduates from the Stewardship and Communication courses organised by Dr Richard DeLisser. The Communication course graduates were admonished that theirs was an important task to seek to make the Gospel relevant in today's society, and those from the Stewardship course were charged with the task of reminding the church constituency that all we have belongs to God and we are to live with that thought in mind.

It was noted that this year's class showed much promise. Some of the sermon presentations were outstanding, with a couple of young people performing particularly well, which bodes well for the future in that if these talents are put to use Jesus will soon come!

TERRY MESSENGER



Swansea youth baptism

by Lily Kidwell

Sabbath 14 November was a particularly delightful day for members and friends of the Swansea church, because on that day three Welsh Mission young people gave their lives to Jesus through baptism.

The day began with a youth service led by our Afterglow team. During the first half there was a group discussion of certain Bible passages related to baptism. Then our speaker for the day, Filip Bajic from Newbold College, spoke about the parable of the ten virgins, emphasising just how important it is for us all to be prepared and ready to meet our Saviour. Brother Tihi also inspired us with his music.

We were blessed with a full church of people visiting from different parts of the country. These included friends and family of the baptismal candidates and also other visitors from Newbold. The fellowship lunch was very enjoyable and our special thanks go to Hajdi Adamovic, Val Byrd, and everyone who helped out in the kitchen.

The afternoon programme was built around the baptisms of Eiddon, Kandice and Katie.

Eiddon Paul grew up in Swansea church and is committed to serving God through his music – playing drums, his favourite instrument. Speaking before the baptism, Eiddon said that there had been some inspiring spiritual developments in his life recently and he particularly mentioned joining the Street Pastors training and hearing everyone's testimony there. He also mentioned the Afterglow outreach programme and

his Bible studies with Pastor Jovan Adamovic.

Kandice Arriola came to Swansea in recent years and, along with her family, joined our fellowship. Kandice had always said she wanted to be baptised and was hoping to have Bible studies at some stage. Last summer's Youth Congress in Munich, and the tour of Europe with the Welsh Mission youth, helped her to recognise God's presence in her life through Christian friendships and this led to her decision to make a commitment to Jesus. Kandice is one of the singers in the Afterglow team as they continue their ongoing outreach programme in Swansea.

Katie Goodman attends the Lampeter company with her family. She told the writer about her recent experience of attending the 'Advance' meetings run by the NEC. Katie knew then that she really wanted to be baptised and subsequently had Bible studies with Pastor Adamovic. She is blessed to have parents who tutor her at home and she is an active member in her own church. Although she lives a long way from the nearest Adventist church she uses internet social networking to keep in touch with other Adventist young people and friends.

Following the baptisms, Pastor Adamovic presented Eiddon, Kandice and Katie to the congregation so that they could welcome the candidates fully into the church fellowship and pledge their support. Appropriately, the day concluded with a special Mini-Glow session which introduced the whole church to the lively Afterglow service style. In particular, the song 'O Happy Day' was perfect for the occasion and really created a feeling of celebration for the three newly baptised members.



Left to right: Katie, Mary Latchman, Kandice, Eiddon and Pastor Jovan Adamovic

Winning entry

by Richard DeLisser

Alcohol Awareness Week (19-23 October) aimed to raise public awareness of the scale and harm of alcohol abuse and what was being done nationally, and in Haringey, to tackle this. One of the activities aimed at raising awareness about the damage caused by alcohol was an art competition for Years 10 and 11, asking young people to design a poster to illustrate the harm that alcohol can cause to young people.

The response was good, with over sixty entries received from secondary schools. Different media were used, including computer-generated images, collage, photography, hand drawings and paintings. Messages were clear and often hard-hitting. The judges chose the winning entry from John Loughborough School. The winner's painting was contemporary, colourful and contained a striking image. Nicoda Mitchell received the first prize of a laptop at her school assembly on Monday 14 December. The two runners up, Alvaro Ragel Ibanco and Anishka Lawley, both from Fortismere, received a digital camera each.

The winning poster was made into the poster that was displayed at bus stops and in phone booths in the borough over the Christmas period. The poster informed young people about In-volve, the local drug and alcohol service for 13 to 21-year-olds, and HAGA, the local alcohol treatment and advice agency.



Left to right: Ms S Kay, Pastor Sam Davis, Nicoda Mitchell and Dr Uchenna





Stanborough School Speech Night

by Vanesa Pizzuto

In omnia paratus (prepared for all things) was the theme for Stanborough School's 68th Speech Night. The vice president of the General Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Lowell Cooper, provided an insightful reflection that encouraged the pupils to continue to aim high. Travelling especially from Washington DC, USA, to be the guest speaker, Pastor Cooper marvelled at the school's academic, sporting and cultural successes.

Stanborough students have continued the trend of high GCSE results, with 81% achieving five or more grades at A* to C. In his Annual Report, the school's head teacher, Mr Roger Murphy, highlighted that more than half of Stanborough's students obtained grades A* to B in public exams. Mr Murphy also commended the academic results achieved by Year 9 students who took the SAT exams. These students obtained excellent pass rates of 89% in Science, 94% in English, and 95% in Mathematics.

Stanborough's athletic team took first place in the Independent Schools Association Regional Championships for the 100m junior and senior girls' races, the 100m senior boys' race and boys' discus throwing. At national level the senior boys' 4 x 100m relay team took

second place. Tribute was also given to Stanborough's under 15 football team, who competed for the Rensburg Shepherds National Cup for 2009.

The international programmes at Stanborough School continue to thrive. Over 400 students from abroad attended the school's study course during the academic year and summer camp in July and August. Mr Murphy reflected on the importance of hosting students from such a wide variety of countries, thus providing an opportunity for both British and international students to develop bonds of peace and mutual understanding.

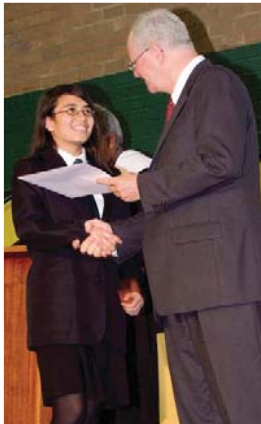
The voice of the students closed the annual Speech Night celebrations. Head boy, Guilherme, and head girl, Tieri, pointed out the highs of the year and expressed their gratitude towards current and former teachers and

staff members. Stanborough's primary school choir, secondary choir and string ensemble performed impeccably and gave Speech Night an air of colour and dignity, which was appreciated by all.

For more information on Stanborough School, please visit our website at www.spsch.org



Headmaster, Mr Roger Murphy



GC Vice president Lowell Cooper presents the head girl with her award



A former student receives her diploma from Vice president Cooper



Stanborough's 68th Speech Night



Opal Johnson-Christie, Education director, SEC



Left to right: SEC president Pastor Sam Davis, head boy Asher McKenzie receiving the Head teacher's Cup, and guest speaker Dr Uchenna Okoye, celebrity dentist of Channel 4 TV's '10 Years Younger'

Dare to dream

A report on John Loughborough School Speech Day
Words and photos by Catherine Anthony Boldeau

Dr Uchenna Okoye, celebrity dentist of Channel 4's '10 Years Younger' was the guest speaker at the John Loughborough School Speech Day on Sunday 6 December. This annual event, which took place in the school's gymnasium, celebrated the achievements of the students during the 2008/09 academic year.

'You need to have the courage to dream and make your dreams a reality,' said Dr Okoye, encouraging the students. Drawing on her own experiences as a teenager, she recalled her dream to become a doctor and concluded that 'everything worth having comes by hard work and perseverance'. She urged them to study hard and not to 'be influenced by friends who are not interested in achieving'.

As part of the Speech Day, the graduating class of 2009 were awarded their GCSEs, along with several outstanding cups. Two young people whose names were heard on a number of occasions and who graced the stage with their presence several times were Asher McKenzie and Victoria Soyam, previous head boy and girl respectively. They were among a selection of high achievers at the school who gained 10 or more GCSEs with A*, A and B grades.

- Victoria Soyam: 12 subjects including 2 A*, 6 A, 2 B grades
- Aishat Otun: 11 subjects including 1 A*, 7 A, 2 B grades
- Kaydean Green: 12 subjects including 5 A, 5 B grades
- Rumbidzai Sithole: 12 subjects including 4 A, 6 B grades
- Sheree Barnes: 10 subjects including 2 A*, 2 A, 5 B grades
- Jason Julien: 11 subjects including 1 A*, 5 A, 2 B grades
- Asher McKenzie: 10 subjects including 3 A, 6 B grades
- Setor Barnes: 12 subjects including 3 A, 5 B grades
- Nola Hopkins: 11 subjects including 3 A, 5 B grades



Dr Uchenna Okoye with Year 9 student Riann Brooks receiving her award

students in the school, especially the graduates. We are also grateful for the dedication of the teachers who work tirelessly on behalf of the school, and the parents for their continued support.'

Laura Osei, acting head teacher, stated, 'I thank God for his leading and guiding over the past year. I believe that if we all work together, John Loughborough School can be a school of excellence.'



Year 11 graduate Claudia Borges

Swindon miracle

by Peter Yesudian

Readers may remember the baptism of Justin Cockett into Swindon church in May 2009. Justin relates his testimony as to God's healing power.

"When I was 26 (in 2001) I became ill with a condition that severely affected the functioning of my muscles. It left me unable to walk, use my arms much, read, write or eat normally. I tried all of the suggestions of the medical profession but nothing beneficial resulted. I also then tried a wide range of alternative therapies to see whether they might lead to an improvement, but none came.

"Towards the end of 2008, having spent my life not knowing if God existed or not, my main carer who had become a close friend invited me to a series of talks on Bible

prophecy being held by members of the local Adventist church which she attended. I went and afterwards started going to the local church myself."

Justin was baptised in May 2009, and Pastor Rudi Puskas was asked his thoughts about the baptism at the time.

Q: Pastor Puskas, did you ever baptise somebody in a wheelchair?
A: No, this was the first time.

Q: So how did it go?
A: It was a little bit stressful. The idea was to baptise Justin on a normal chair with Ransom, my elder, helping me. However, on the day of baptism Justin requested to be baptised in his wheelchair. I guess he felt safer that way. We didn't have time to practise the baptism. My idea was for my elder and me to lean the wheelchair backward. We were in the baptistry and Justin had told me that there was a safety mechanism so we could not do it that way. The most stressful part was pulling Justin out of the water. It took two or three seconds longer; however, for me it was like ten to fifteen seconds longer than it should have been. Justin says that he didn't notice it. Regardless of this little stress, it was beautiful.

Justin continues:
"A few months later in the summer, I came to a point where I felt that I had tried every medical intervention worth trying and, having still



found no improvement, began to try and accept that I would probably have to spend the rest of my life in a wheelchair.

"But in September I turned to the power of Jesus. Knowing that walking in my own strength was completely impossible, I asked instead to accept the power that God gives to those who want to follow him. There were times when I struggled to come to terms with what then happened. I was immediately able to walk and in less than two weeks I was walking mostly non-stop for well over an hour, having not stood for many years. My arms also completely regained strength and I can now read and write once again.

"I'm not sure what else I can really say except to convey that I know I did nothing different that time from the thousand times before that all failed. The ONLY difference was made by our loving, kind and merciful God to whom all praise is due."

Silence of the Lamb

Stormy weather was forecast for Sabbath 14 November and, true to form, the day was very dark, windy and rainy. Yet this did not deter members and visitors from attending the Religious Liberty Day programme held at the Hackney church. The theme, 'Silence of the Lamb', highlighted the current issue of Christians not being allowed freely to express their religious beliefs in order to avoid offending other religions. Gospel group, The

Ambassadors, reminded us of our commission not to be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and that we are to share his name. The Hackney Mime Ministries team, led by Nicole Petrie, gave an accomplished performance encouraging God's children to give him the worship and the glory he deserves.

The speaker, Michael Dantzie, based his sermon on the three angels' messages of Revelation 14. In contrast to the *silence of the lamb*, Michael alerted us to the *voice of the dragon* causing havoc in our present world. DARELL PHILIP

Milton Keynes district baptism

Seven is considered in the Bible as 'the perfect number', and it was seven candidates – all young people – who were baptised into the West Bleckley SDA Community and Milton Keynes churches on Sabbath 15 August 2009 by Pastor Valentine Roach and Pastor Michael Hamilton.

It was a doubly special event for Iona Rock, Desta-Daneé Baptiste and Pastor Hamilton, as he was the one who dedicated them to the Lord as babies, on separate occasions, in the same building around a decade ago! The other candidates to join the West Bleckley Community church were Jonathan Addaih and Pax Magume. Joining the membership at Milton Keynes Central church were Karen Mandibvira, Tanatswa Mandizha and Samantha Z. Sibanda. SYLVIE NOEL

Family service at Brighton and Hove

The youth and children of the Brighton and Hove congregation used their talents to enrich the adult congregation in a special family service. The youth welcomed the church with singing – accompanied by pianist and violinist. This was followed by a sketch demonstrating what sin can do to a life and that hope is to be found in God. The younger members wore animal masks to sing 'If I were a butterfly'. Our two speakers were 12 and 13 respectively. Their talks, accompanied by PowerPoint presentations, were about 'Temptation' and 'Christian Friends and Friendship'. Pastor Leslie Hill gave a closing blessing and prayer. YVONNE SEETAYAH

Know-your-church baptism

Stoke Newington has gained two more members after a 'Know your church' teach-in week.

From 29 August through to 5 September nightly our minister Pastor Wilfred Blake outlined our church heritage before he went into the Scriptures with such topics as 'Four marks of the true church', 'Pending your case in court' and 'Who changed the Sabbath?'

On Sabbath afternoon two new members, Ramal Smith and Tanya Simpson, were baptised in front of family, friends and church members. Ramal is a son of the church and

joins his parents and brother in membership.

Tanya was introduced to Adventism six years ago by one of our members, Evol Corea. They met at university, and he invited her to the dedication of his baby nephew. Tanya is a trained nurse, newly graduated. Evol and Tanya's meeting developed into a love affair and they were married on 4 October. The immersion was performed by Pastor Blake, and in his pre-baptism sermon he told them that God calls them to be true representatives of him and baptism is to walk the Christian walk and to talk the Christian talk.

Spiritual mentors were assigned to each candidate. We wish them well in the Christian walk. FLO SUTHERLAND



Candidates with Pastor Wilfred Blake (left) and first elder, Rory Mendez (right)

Young designer

Stoke Newington members congratulated Charmaine Corea who recently graduated in her field of study. FLO SUTHERLAND

Charmaine, one of our children and a former Pathfinder, attended the University of Arts in London and graduated in Surface Designing. The ceremony took place at Centre Hall, Westminster. At her graduation Charmaine had an exhibition of her works on display which produced freelance jobs for her. She is now listed in the London Business Young Designers Directory. FLO SUTHERLAND



Fletewood School

On 3 December the seniors of the Plymouth church were dined and entertained in royal fashion by the pupils of Fletewood School. We were met in the foyer by smartly dressed pupils from Class 4. Our coats, scarves and umbrellas were whisked away before we were led into Sir's office and given goblets of delicious 'fizz'.

Promptly at 1 o'clock we took our places at the table which was beautifully adorned with festive tableware, candles and crackers, also made by the children. The waiters, again girls and boys from Class 4, expertly attended to our every need. All that was missing were the coat tails! We commenced with a delicious starter, followed by a Christmas lunch of roast potatoes, vegetables and two vegetarian entrées with gravy.

The dessert came next – a choice of Christmas pudding or chocolate pear tart, both served with Devon clotted cream. Drinks of the non-alcoholic variety and mint chocolates finished off the meal.

Entertainment by Class 4 followed, the pupils singing a variety of Christmas songs and carols accompanied by the Ocarina group and Sir (John Martin – head teacher) on the piano. For the finale he took up his guitar.



Some of the pupils of the Fletewood School, who gave the seniors of the Plymouth church a Christmas meal to remember

Stanborough Park baptism

Sabbath 22 November was a high day at the Stanborough Park church.

The service began with the baptism of John Hall and Elsie Wasserman. They were the latest fruit from a series of Tuesday Talks moved, motivated and maintained by Pat Walton, the local Church Growth leader.

Both Elsie and John showed great courage in coming forward for baptism. Elsie needed the support of Clinton Quarshie, one of the deacons, and assistance from Pastor Sleeman to enter the pool.

John's commitment was a testimony to the power of God at work in his life. A smoker for years, John quit and now has no interest or desire for cigarettes. His baptism was a great joy to his wife Melady and his friends. PATRICK J. BOYLE



Left to right: Pastor Ian Sleeman, Elsie Wasserman, John Hall and Pastor Patrick Boyle

Darlington baptism

In June I reported the very first baptism at Darlington church. On 17 October we witnessed yet another baptism of four people who publicly showed their commitment to our Lord.

Firstly we have Dorothy who accepted the Advent truth after a long search. In her prayers God revealed to her how to find the Adventist church. She found it when Pastor Colin Woodford was starting an evangelistic campaign (June-July). When she learnt the truth she surrendered her life to Jesus.

Kimberley Ham-Ying, a young lady, also surrendered her life to Jesus. It is beautiful to see young people committing their lives to Jesus. In order to do so Kimberley had to sacrifice a lucrative job. Lastly we have a couple, Dee and Waqa, who both accepted Jesus. Dee and Waqa believe these are last days and want to dedicate their lives to the Lord.

ESTERY

Shoebbox appeal

For several consecutive years a primary school in Stokesley, North Yorkshire, has responded generously to the ADRA Shoebbox appeal by building a wall of shoebboxes in their assembly hall. This year, sisters Ceira (10) and Cerys (8) Hamilton Johansson, who attend Middlesbrough church, arranged for a DVD to be shown to the school, telling of the desperate need in the African nation of Zambia, and encouraged their school friends and families to fill shoebboxes to be distributed to orphans in that area. The deputy head teacher of the school, Laura Graham, said, 'It's good to teach these kinds of values to the children and for them to help others who are less fortunate than themselves.'

On Wednesday 25 November, Middlesbrough church member Dr Andrew West transported the shoebboxes from the school, along with other shoebboxes donated by Middlesbrough, Darlington and Newcastle churches, to Grantham – numbering approximately 350.

JAMES GELBART

Grays baptism

On Sabbath 28 November Grays church membership increased by four.

A full church witnessed Derissa

Joseph (9), Mckenzie Jones (11), Tarryl Viviers (13) and Hilda Anthony being immersed in the waters of baptism by Pastor F. McPherson. They were supported by their families and friends. All four are active members of the church and we wish them Heaven's wisdom as they continue their walk with the Lord. This baptism came at the end of a fortnight-long evangelistic campaign, 'Let the Bible Speak', by Pastor M. Salmon. Present was Grays senior pastor, Delcina Rodney.

AMANDA JOSEPH

Smethwick makes history

History was made in Smethwick's portable baptismal pool on 15 November. It was our first baptism in the building we worship in. There was certainly 'a sweet, sweet spirit in this place' as the congregation gathered in Smethwick church (corner of Holly Lane and St Paul's Road). Family members, friends and saints from neighbouring churches sat with growing excitement and anticipation as Pastor Patrick Herbert took up his position in the little portable baptismal pool. The expression on the pastor's face showed that it would be a most memorable occasion as our first candidate was escorted into the pool. Yonique Parson sang one of the candidate's favourite hymns prayerfully before Pastor Herbert raised his arm heavenward and the congregation waited – 'And so Sister Valrose Hunt, I now baptise you. . .'

After battling with challenges and overcoming numerous obstacles leading to this day, Valrose Hunt made history in being the first to be baptised in this church hall, and became a member of the Smethwick church.

She was followed by twins D'Wan and Dhonté Smith, young men who have taken their stand for the Lord after completing Bible study lessons conducted by church elder Holness.

D'Wan and Dhonté's mother Sister Smith-Rhule sang along with the Smethwick ladies while our third candidate entered the pool.

We were happy to have one of our pioneers Sister A. Hall present as she has been housebound for some time but was determined not to miss this special event. The baptism was followed by a special fellowship dinner with our candidates, guests and church members.

V. PARSON

Carols in the Valley

In the afternoon of Sabbath 19 December the members, family and local residents gathered at the playing fields in the Chalford Valley. Together with the famous Chalford donkey Ted and his companion donkey Chester, they then proceeded to walk through the High Street in the Valley, singing carols and making their way towards the Chalford Adventist church. This was followed by a specially advertised carol service to which the public were invited. Families local to the area accepted the invite and enjoyed their time singing carols and listening to the story of the birth of our Lord read to them from Scripture. After the service they joined the church members and their families for refreshments and a chat, during which time they were all given a parcel of gifts from the church which included the book *He is Coming*.

RAY CLARKE



Pathfinders pack shoebboxes

Stratford Pathfinders did their bit for last year's shoebbox appeal, Smiles for Zambia 2009. All Pathfinder leaders, children and parents together packed thirty-eight boxes for the children of Zambia. We hope these boxes brought many smiles. Well done to Pathfinder leader Charmaine Weekes.

ERROL REID

Living under the elect of God's grace

Eneresi Mtikani and Cesar Bernard (with the books in their hands in the photograph) became the newest members at St Albans church when they were recently baptised by Pastor Barrett. He had been studying with both candidates and felt that they had responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. The sermon was delivered by TED president Dr Wiklander who talked about the importance of living under the elect of God's grace. He emphasised that the candidates can have a meaningful life because of Christ's death and resurrection, without which there would be no Second Advent or human victory. Now that they have accepted the challenge to come under the elect of God's grace, it means living a life that is internally driven by faith and externally witnessed by others. Those who witnessed this special service were reminded that baptism is not a magical rite, but one that comes with conversion, constant growth, confirmation and a new life in Christ.

Eneresi is not new to the Christian faith, but was a member of the South African Apostolic Church until three years ago. She said: 'I came here one year ago and realised that I needed to be baptised.' Cesar said, 'It took me a long time to get to where I am, but it's an opportunity to move forward for God's glory.'

He follows in the footsteps of his grandmother and other family members.

LYNDA INCE



Auntie Pam

Frances Mary Pamela Weston

(1923-2009)
d. 24 November

Long before there was a Children's Ministries department, gifted people devoted much of their lives to ministering to the needs of children. One such person was Pam Weston, known in Adventist publications such as *Our Times* as 'Auntie Pam'. For most of her working life Pam was employed as a proof reader by The Stanborough Press. She really came into her own in the children's spread known for most of the 1950s, all of the 1960s and well into the 1970s as 'Auntie Pam's Page'. In addition to the story and the 'Dear Sunbeams' letter, Pam also ran a colouring in competition, publishing the names, in the subsequent issue, of every child who sent in an entry.

EDITOR

In much the same way as Auntie Pam invited children to colour in pictures and send them to her, I have been helped by Pam's friends and colleagues, as well as by my own recollections as her pastor for nine years, to 'colour in' the person that was Pam Weston.

Pam was petite, well dressed, well spoken, fastidious, courteous and fiercely protective of the actuality of her age. She was born in Grimsby in 1923 to Alice and Sam Weston. Pam's mother, together with her sister Miriam, attended evangelistic meetings in Grimsby, accepted Jesus as their Saviour and became members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Subsequently other family members, including Pam's father, her cousin Doug Chapman and Pam herself were baptised. Doug Chapman was like a brother to Pam, always ensuring that she had the properly-serviced run-around car so necessary to her independence.

Pam went to school in Grimsby and thence to Newbold Missionary College, then based near Rugby, where her secondary and tertiary education were completed. She worked briefly in Birmingham and for the company Doug Chapman had established in Louth before being employed as an inviolate

The North England Conference is seeking to establish a Centre of Evangelism which will begin operating in July 2010.

Therefore we are seeking two full-time employees to serve in these positions:

1. Outreach co-ordinator
2. Assistant director/Academic affairs/Bursar

The successful candidate will need to have excellent people skills and an aptitude for:

- Bible teaching
- Flexibility/adaptability
- Good organisation
- Team work
- Personal witnessing
- Public evangelism

Applicants must have:

- UK driving licence
- The right to work in the UK

Initially the contract will be for one year. A full job description can be supplied on request.

Application forms available by contacting the executive secretary Pastor Paul Haworth on 01159 606312 or by email to: phaworth@necadventist.org.uk.

Deadline for applications is Monday 1 February 2010.



clerk by The Stanborough Press. She commenced employment on 24 March 1947.

For much of his pastorate in Grimsby, Pastor Ray and Mrs Peggy Vine had lodgings at the Weston home. Pastor Vine, by then associate editor of the Press, was aware of Pam's fastidious use of the English language and was instrumental in her promotion to proof reader in October 1953. Working with a succession of editors, Pam continued as proof reader until her retirement on 31 March 1985. There her attention to detail and precision were at a premium. However, it was her many years as 'Auntie Pam' in denominational magazines that raised her profile and enabled her to minister to generations of Adventist children, as well as to the children of non-Adventist readers. In the 'Auntie Pam's Page' in *Our Times* March 1967, for example, was a list of the children who had entered the previous month's competition. Pam awarded prizes to the two children who had turned in the best pictures but also listed the names and towns of a further forty-five who deserved an 'honourable mention', and a further seventy-nine who had 'tried hard'. In other words, every child who had sent in an entry received a mention.

Kenneth Sidney George Hayes

(1929-2009)
d. 11 November

Ken was born at Hampton, near Hampton Court, one of four children. As a boy he used to earn a few pennies taking folk around the Maze – sometimes getting lost himself! The family moved to Ealing and, during the war, rather than the children being evacuated, their mother insisted they all stayed together. When Ken was 14 he left school and got a job repairing bomb damage. He carried his tools on his bicycle right across London. When he was knocked down by a bus, his mother insisted he change his work, so he decided to learn carpentry. When his time for National Service came, he was stationed in Jamaica for two years and, in 1950, sent out to fight in the Korean war. He was eventually discharged with frostbite in his feet; he lost part of his toe but an Australian doctor managed to save his foot. Back in London in 1952 Ken used to visit a particular shop for screws and other items for his carpentry work. Mr Gibbons, who owned the shop, opened on a Sunday because he was a Seventh-day Adventist and closed on the Sabbath. One Sabbath he invited Ken to go with him to his church in Chiswick. Up to that time Ken had been a non-churchgoer. Enid and Bill Tolman, members at Chiswick, used to invite the young people back to their home for lunch, and Ken appreciated this. He decided to join the church and was baptised in 1954 by Pastor Victor Hall. This was the time of the New Gallery evangelistic centre, and George Vandeman was the evangelist. On his team was a young Welsh lady by the name of Megan, who was a Bible worker. Ken was attending the services and met Megan, and in 1955 they were married. By this time Mr Gibbons' wife had become very poorly, so Ken and Megan kindly offered to live over the shop and look after it so that Mr Gibbons could attend to his sick wife.

Ken and Megan had three children, Sandra, Russell and Kenny. Soon after they were married they moved to Brighton where Ken was involved in the building trade. From there they moved to Caversham Heights, Reading, and on 9 June 1968 they moved to Newbold College, where Ken served in the maintenance department, and many young men benefited from his instruction. On 1 April 1976 they accepted a call to manage Broomhill House, the Church's conference centre near Exeter, Devon. Megan looked after the catering, and Ken did a lot of building and extension work on the house, using his skills as a builder and carpenter. From 1 April 1982 he took on the job of groundsman on Stanborough Park, and it was there that Megan died in 1983. On 27 August 1985 Ken went to the Dell rest home in Oulton Broad as maintenance engineer and groundsman, but he was so much more than that, as many a resident benefited from his kind, cheerful spirit. He continued there until his retirement on 30 December 1994, after twenty-six-and-a-half years in church



No picture of Pam Weston would be complete without mention of the Lord she served. She was a Christian lady. We can colour in her picture with the vibrant reds, yellows and oranges of a life well-lived – a life of encouraging children, though she was never a mother herself, but to these must be added the greens of courtesy, calmness and composure. There would need to be blue for the times when sadness visited her: the loss of the mother who was very dear to her, the father who was such a larger-than-life character, and the cousin, Doug, of whom she was especially fond. These brought darker colours to her life.

Following Doug's death Pam was cared for by, among others, a former mayoress of Grantham who paid a tearful tribute to her at the funeral on 8 December, Barrymore Bell her fellow proof reader, also present, the Chapman family who shared warm childhood memories of Auntie Pam and, most notably, Matthew Chapman who cared for Pam in her final years. The writer spoke of Pam's heart conviction of the Gospel and fervent hope in the return of Jesus.

PASTOR JOHN FERGUSON

work. It was while working at the Dell that he met Elma, who was taking a church member back to the Dell after a church outing. Ken was feeling somewhat down and lonely after the death of his wife and, as Elma had recently lost her loved one, she understood how he felt, so she wrote him a little note to encourage him, and sent it by the hand of David Neal, the young pastor at the Great Yarmouth church at the time, who expressed the wish that more in the congregation would write kind notes to each other. Ken was impressed with the note and showed it to his good friend Pastor Martin Bell. He encouraged him to pursue it further, with the result that Ken came to the Great Yarmouth church, and in December 1989 they were married. During his years at the Great Yarmouth church Ken served first as head deacon, then as elder and used his skills to extend and improve the inside of the building. He was a hard worker, always ready to help in whatever way he could.

He will be missed by us all. Always cheerful and with a sense of humour, a gentle giant, as one co-worker described him, it was with sadness that we watched Ken deteriorate over the past few years. In spite of confusion in his mind, one thing remained constant – his faith in Jesus. Our love and sympathy go out to Elma, who feels God earmarked her to care for Ken during his illness and who has done this devotedly. To Elma, Sandra, Russell, Kenny, Douglas, Lorna and the rest of the family, we offer our support and prayers and look forward to the day when Jesus will return to claim his own.

VERA COWLEY

Take a Stand
enditnow
Adventists Say No to Violence Against Women

I pledge to . . .

- 1 End Violence Against Women
- 2 Be Bold
- 3 Not Remain Indifferent
- 4 Stand Firm for Peace
- 5 Speak Out Against Abuse
- 6 Promote Civility
- 7 Empower Others to Act
- 8 Mobilize my Peers
- 9 Propose Solutions
- 10 Advocate for Change

www.enditnow.org
SPONSORED BY

CHIP 'summit' at Loma Linda

Project (CHIP) fits in well with the motto of Loma Linda. The contingent of 400 people from eleven different countries shared testimonies of the many who through following the lifestyle changes recommended in the CHIP programme have attained a healthier functioning of body, mind and soul.

At the 10th CHIP Summit held at Loma Linda, 18-22 November, we raised a memorial of gratitude, saying, 'Thus far the Lord has helped us.' Dr Hans Diehl, the founder of the CHIP programme, was a research fellow in cardiovascular epidemiology at Loma Linda. Currently, he is a Clinical Professor of Preventative Medicine in the School of Medicine at Loma Linda University. He was honoured by his colleagues who presented some interesting and challenging research papers.

Gary Fraser MD PhD MPH, who is in charge of the largest Adventist study done on the effect of lifestyle on chronic conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer, Alzheimer's and obesity, commended the work of CHIP stating, 'Dr Diehl's work has now grounded EGW's health message with scientific proof through continued research.'

We heard from well-known speakers such as Dr Neal Barnard, Dr Caldwell Esselstyn and Dr Wes Youngberg. Dr Joan Sabate defended the value of consuming walnuts to significantly reduce serum cholesterol. Jeff Novick with his humorous approach helped us understand that we should 'never, ever, believe what we read on food labels'. Dr Jacqueline Chan presented the results of her study on water intake and prevention of cardiovascular deaths. Dr and Dr Tonstad, a husband and wife research team, reflected on their interest in integrating lifestyle changes with drug treatment for the prevention of cardiovascular diseases.

While the CHIP directors filled their notepads with summaries of the varied and interesting research topics, the newcomers to CHIP were led through the steps designed to enable them to prepare a team and themselves, as future CHIP directors, to conduct CHIP programmes in their local Adventist churches. The United Kingdom was well represented by eleven participants from Scotland, Manchester, London and the British Union Conference.

The summit's four-day programme provided a variety of events, too many to mention, to enlighten, motivate and feed body, mind and soul. After the dynamic presentation of Jesus' miracles by Don Mackintosh, one of the delights of the Sabbath



UK participants with Dr Hans Diehl

House of Praise
 AN EVENING OF PRAISE, WORSHIP FELLOWSHIP AND THANKSGIVING FOR YOU, YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS
 7:30PM - 23RD JANUARY 2010
 Newbold SDA Church
 ST. MARK'S ROAD, BIRFIELD, BRACKNELL, RG46 4AN
 Phone: 07817 394 850 Email: nyfed@gmail.com
 or Visit: www.nyfed.org Facebook: thamesvalleyyouthfederation
 ALL FINES COLLECTED GO TOWARDS YOUTH WORK IN OUR AREA

Prayer & Faith II
 CONFERENCE
 Strictly for ages 13-19
 with Dr. Andrew Ewo
 17th TO 21st FEBRUARY 2010
 @ Chortlemore Christian Resource Centre
 FROME, ST. QUINTIN, DORSET DT12 0HD
 Call: 07817 394 850 Visit: www.nyfed.org
 to download application form
 Email: nyfed@gmail.com
 Facebook: thamesvalleyyouthfederation
 £90
 FINAL DEADLINE FOR PAYMENT: JANUARY 20TH 2010
 DEPARTURE: 12:00 NOON FROM NEWBOLD COLLEGE

£2.95 + p&p



The Fruit of the Spirit
 by George W. Brown
 Need further inspiration to help with the Sabbath School lessons? Then this classic exposition of the Spirit-filled life is for you. Bottom-line Christianity involves a life in which the Holy Spirit dwells. In such a life the fruit of the Spirit will be clearly evident.
SPECIAL OFFER PRICE - £2.95 + p&p
 Contact ABC Sales on 01 476 539900
 to purchase your copy now.

ABC BOOK SALES

January	
28 Giff	6-8pm
30 Edinburgh	5-8pm
31 Glasgow	10am-2pm
31 Harper Bell	10am-2pm
February	
7 John Loughborough	10am-2pm
14 Northampton	10am-2pm
ABC Shops	
Watford, BUC	
11am-5:30pm, Monday-Thursdays	
10am-2pm Friday	
NB: Sunday openings as follows:	
24 January	10am-2pm
7 February	10am-2pm
21 February	10am-2pm
Advent Centre	
Sundays 11am-3pm	
Saturdays after sunset-9pm	

Messenger
 Volume 115 • 2 - 22 January 2010
EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL
DESIGN: DAVID BELL
 COPY FOR NO. 4 - 1 FEBRUARY 2010
 Copy should be sent to the Editor, Messenger, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Gillingham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700. Fax No: (01476) 577144.
 Email: Editor@mmc.com
 Send high resolution pictures to: dnbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk
 ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900
 Mon-Thurs only, 8am - 5:30pm
www.stanboroughpress.com
 The Editor may alter, abridge, precis or expand articles sent to him (he thinks it necessary).
 Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
 Printed in the UK.
 Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk
 ISSN 0309-3654

afternoon was the concert presented by Lily Diehl, wife of Dr Hans Diehl, and some of her young music students. A tour of the Loma Linda campus guided by the historian at Loma Linda filled participants with awe at what had been achieved on this campus through the hundred years of its existence.
 To find out more about this event please visit www.swdachip.org/
 Please take a look at this 3-minute new CHIP: www.chiponline.org/chipvideo.

Single set

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

Jan	22	4:32	4:45	4:30	4:25	4:42
Feb	29	4:45	4:57	4:43	4:39	4:56
	5	4:57	5:09	4:57	4:55	5:10
	12	5:10	5:22	5:10	5:10	5:25

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS
 Cost to member supplied in bulk to churches \$6.
 Single copy subscription by post \$13.
 Overseas airmail \$27.50