

# MESSSENGER

News to the churches • 2 April 2010 • Volume 115 • 7

## Dr Luxton appointed provost at Andrews University

by David Marshall



**D**r Andrea Luxton, one-time BUC Education director, Stanborough School head teacher and Newbold principal, has been appointed provost of Andrews University.

Dr Luxton, one of the most gifted Adventist scholars produced by Britain, is, however, so much more than a scholar. In Britain, at the General Conference Education department, and as president of Canadian Adventist University, Andrea has been known for her excellent people skills and for her wonderfully warm, rounded and inclusive personality. She is a disarmingly brilliant communicator.

Announcing Andrea's appointment on 2 March, Niels-Erik Andreassen, Andrews University's president, said, 'Andrea Luxton has many years of experience in higher education,' adding, 'I believe she will bring extraordinary gifts to the provost position at Andrews.' 'Andrea is the second woman to hold the provost position,' reported *Spectrum*. 'She replaces Bill Richardson who has served in that position after the university's [previous] provost, Dr Heather Knight, became president of Pacific Union College.' *Spectrum* identifies Englishman Dr Roy E. Graham as a person who served as Andrews provost until his death in 1984.

Andrea was the daughter of Ronald and Maureen Luxton, both of whom taught at Stanborough School during the years in which

she was a pupil there. During the headship of Dr Hugh Duntton, Ron and Maureen were, respectively, senior master and senior mistress at the school.

During Andrea's years in the sixth form she emerged as one of the student leaders. She did a brilliant job editing the school magazine and, with contemporary James Astleford, led in what, in retrospect, can be seen as a spiritual revival among the students. Mentored by Conference Youth director Pastor Doug Sinclair, Andrea and James rejoiced at the resultant baptisms of a number of previously non-Adventist contemporaries.

Andrea began her higher education at the University of Ulster, Coleraine, before transferring to Newbold College where she took her BA in Theology and English. Following her MA in English from Andrews, Andrea courageously taught and did her PhD research at the Catholic University of America in Washington DC.

Prior to commencing her doctoral studies in 1982, Andrea had taught English and Speech at Stanborough School for three years. That meant that a number of those who had taught Andrea became her teaching colleagues. Those did not include her parents, however. Her father had died and her mother became an associate Education director at the General Conference, a position she held for three years prior to her own untimely death.

Following her PhD graduation, Dr Luxton

became chair of the English department at Newbold. At the 1991 Harrogate session, she was elected Education and Sabbath School director of the British Union. In 1993 she returned to Stanborough School as head teacher until becoming principal of Newbold College in 1997. In 2001 she became an associate director of Education at the General Conference before becoming first vice-president then president of Canadian University College.

Dr Luxton is also president of the Adventist Association of Colleges and Universities.

Speaking to *MESSSENGER* about her appointment, Dr Luxton said, 'One of the attractions of working at Andrews University is its internationalism. That always brings a richness to community and in my leadership it is important to me to help build a vibrant and connected community.'

**GC SPECIAL OFFERING ON  
10 APRIL SUPPORTS  
WORK IN THE FAR EAST**

see page 7



ADRA UK

Annual Appeal 2010

**Gathering dates 2010**

METROPOLITAN AREA: 27 March - 18 April

PROVINCES: 27 March - 11 April

The General Election is coming up. Do you plan to vote? Will your vote, as a Christian, make a difference? I was surprised by the following article, which suggests that Christians could be more influential than we might have imagined.

'The results of the next General Election could be determined by which party can appeal best to Christians, theology think-tank Theos has claimed. "We're in hung parliament territory," Theos director, Paul Woolley, said. The survey revealed Christians almost evenly split with 21% thinking the Conservatives have been most sympathetic to them and 20% feeling this about Labour. "Labour is in a position where it could benefit from reaching out especially to Christians," Mr Woolley said. Christian attendance at the ballot box is usually strong – with 48% saying they are "absolutely certain" to vote. And 81% of 18- to 24-year-old Christians told an Evangelical Alliance survey they would be making use of their first vote.'

Sources: *Church of England Newspaper* (26/2); *Church Times* (26/2).

This article said that 'a lot' of Christians intended to vote. I hope that more than 48% do so, as that number doesn't seem particularly large to me. In recent elections only 60% of those who are entitled to vote have actually done so. That has come down from over 80% in the 1950s. It's a shame that a high percentage do not vote at all. Perhaps they feel that there is little point. As a Christian, do you feel that perhaps voting is something that you shouldn't get involved in? The Bible doesn't have anything to say

about this. In Jesus' day, and for hundreds of years afterwards, the Roman Empire was in control, and the ballot box had certainly not even been dreamed of at that time!

Are we as Adventists only to be interested in church and spiritual matters and to let the affairs of state pass us by? I don't think so, although I would affirm that our primary goal is to prepare people for the return of Christ. On more than one occasion, the apostle Paul told Christians to make the most of the opportunities that presented themselves:

'Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.' Colossians 4:5.

The context of that statement was about sharing the good news of Christ. The principle is, though, that opportunities come our way, and they are not to be wasted. Life is dynamic, constantly changing. We have the chance to influence events and people. We may not change the world by casting a vote, but it is an opportunity not to be missed, to have our say in what kind of government we want. If enough of us keep voting according to our conscience, governments will listen, especially in a situation like this, where, apparently, the Christian vote *can* make a difference.

with Jonathan Barrett

## Get out and vote!



There's a natural disaster. Mud slide. Flood. Earthquake. Hurricane. Or there's a particularly horrible example of human barbarousness.

Readers ask questions.

Some ask the question, 'What can I do to help?' That *has* to be the right question for anyone on the Jesus trail, hasn't it? The late David Balderstone asked that question and spent much of his life responding to the answer.

For everyone who asks the 'What?' question, there are at least two who ask the 'Why?' question.

Behind that question is the assumption that somewhere there is a formula of words which explains why God permitted the disaster or barbarity. For preference those who ask the 'Why?' question would like the formula of words to come from Scripture, and to form the basis of an argument they can dish out to others.

The Bible says astonishingly little in answer to 'Why suffering?' It concerns itself far more with the *mastery* than the *mystery* of suffering.

Is that because when the tsunami strikes, the earthquake shakes, and the levies give way and let in the flood, the real need is for something more important than a formula of words to 'explain' the catastrophe? Is it because what is needed is *help* and help is more likely to come from those who ask the 'What?' question? The second birth, spiritual growth process is meant to condition Christians to ask 'What?' Those who ask 'What?' are the only ones of use to God – or anyone else – in a crisis.

Save the 'Why?' question for long winter evenings.

Jesus said (John 13:7), 'What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.' What I take from that is that the full 'Why?' answer is only revealed when we stand before God's throne. Then not only shall we be shown the full picture, we shall have the mental capacity to grasp it. Until then, there are always going to be more questions than answers.

Glib responses when the crisis impacts – 'This is the will of God', 'It just shows that these are the last days', and 'They had it coming' – hover around blasphemy, reflect an unloving attitude and are simply unhelpful.

Our response to crisis is to *trust* and to *help*.

What follows is meant to help us trust while we help. Not to give us the basis for glib pronouncements.

Let's start with the role of Government.

with David Marshall, editor

# Asking the right question It's 'What?' not 'Why?'



While Scripture exhorts us individually to make a difference for good in the world, it also underlines the importance of civil authority. The right civil authority will restrain evil. The book of Judges shows what happens when civil authority is weak. 'Everyone did as they saw fit.' (21:25.) Unless there is a responsible civil authority to curtail evil, individuals will become more brazen in their greed and barbarism.

The individual Christian in a democratic society has a role to play in support of civil authority. Among the responsibilities of the individual, the Church and Government, is the care for the poor and the underprivileged nationally and internationally.

Jesus said that when we hear of wars, famines and earthquakes we are not to be 'alarmed' or 'troubled' because 'the end is not yet' (Matthew 24:6-8). That does not mean that we can accept war as inevitable or become complacent about natural disasters. The roles of the Christian include peacemaker and responsibility for 'the least of these' the Lord's brothers and sisters – the famished, the sick, the victims of injustice, the wretched of the earth (Matthew 25:31-46).

Is it any part of the Christian's duty to heap blame on victims of disaster? Please read how Jesus answered that question in Luke 13:1-5. Someone suggested that the Galilean victims of one of Pilate's minor bloodbaths were being punished for their sins. Jesus answered, "Do you think these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them – do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish."

Jesus did not assume that those who suffered under Pilate or were killed by the collapse of the Siloam tower 'had it coming' or 'deserved what they got'. Twice he said, 'I tell you, no!' By telling his hearers that

unless they repented they too would perish, Jesus assumes that *all* death is indirectly the result of sin, and therefore deserved. But he is emphatic that those who suffer are not more wicked than those who do not.

At some point or other in our journey we have got to try to get our heads round the idea of *the sovereignty of God*. I say 'try' because hefty tomes have been written on it, and I am acutely aware that those who have given the idea the 'light' treatment have embarrassed themselves – and probably God, too.

All I can do is to deal with first principles.

The sovereignty of God is about God's royal authority. At its centre is the word *reign*. God has veto power over everything that happens.

Jesus said this to Pilate during his trial, 'You would have no authority at all over me... if it had not been granted from above.' (John 19:11, REB.) Rhetorically, Jeremiah had once asked, 'Who can speak and have it happen if the Lord has not decreed it?' (Lamentations 3:37, NIV) Nothing has ever taken God by surprise (Psalm 139:16; Daniel 4:35).

Paul wrote, 'You have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him.' (Philippians 1:29, NLT.) But no struggle will impact your life aside from the purpose, plan and permission of God. Even when it has impacted your life God reserves the right to make it work out to your eternal advantage (Romans 8:28).

Beliefs are not for stacking in the warehouse of the mind; they are to be handled and applied in the challenges of life and discipleship. Christians need more than the assurance that their beliefs are consistent. More than anything they need strength from the living Lord himself, from the Spirit whom he has graciously given and from a renewed experience of the love of God in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 3:14-21). In the worst experiences of suffering and evil, no formulas of words offer consolation. The living Lord does that.

## Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald RGN, RM, RHV, MSC  
Health Ministries director, BBC

### Herbal cautions



In the last issue we looked at some natural remedies that become hazardous when taken with certain prescription drugs. This issue examines additional herbal remedies, their reported usage and their possible side effects.

Dr B. Cherry, in his book *God's Pathway to Healing – Herbs That Heal*, examines a wide range of healing herbs and how to utilise them safely to avoid harmful drug interaction.

If you are having medical treatments and using herbal alternatives, the following cautions may be useful.

Herbal remedy	Reported use	Possible reaction
<b>Dong Quai</b>	Used for menopausal symptom control.	Interacts with anticoagulants and antibiotics.
<b>Echinacea</b>	Boosts immunity/fights colds and flu. Aids wound healing.	May cause inflammation of the liver if used with some medications, such as anabolic steroids, or other drugs.
<b>Feverfew</b>	Used to prevent migraines, relieve arthritis, rheumatic disease and allergies.	May increase bleeding, particularly in patients on certain anti-clotting medications.
<b>Garlic</b>	Used for lowering blood cholesterol, triglyceride levels and blood pressure.	May increase bleeding, especially when taken with some anti-clotting drugs.
<b>Ginger</b>	Used for reducing nausea, vomiting and vertigo.	Could increase bleeding in patients on certain anti-clotting medications.
<b>Ginkgo biloba</b>	Used for increasing blood circulation and oxygenation and for improving memory and mental alertness.	May increase bleeding, especially in patients already taking certain anti-clotting medications.
<b>Ginseng</b>	Increases physical stamina and mental concentration.	May cause decreased effectiveness of some anti-clotting medications. Can increase heart rate or high blood pressure. Could cause bleeding in menopausal women.
<b>Goldenseal</b>	Used as a mild laxative and anti-inflammatory.	May worsen swelling and/or high blood pressure. Avoid in pregnancy.
<b>Hawthorn</b>	Used to prevent angina attacks.	Do not take with heart medication.
<b>Kava-kava</b>	Used to treat anxiety, restlessness/nervousness, insomnia and as muscle relaxant.	Interacts with anti-epileptic medications and anaesthetics. Could enhance the effects of alcohol. May also increase the risk of suicide for people with certain types of depression.
<b>Liquorice</b>	Used for treating stomach ulcers.	Some liquorice compounds may cause high blood pressure, swelling or electrolyte imbalances.
<b>St John's Wort</b>	Used for mild to moderate depression or anxiety and sleep disorders.	Avoid if on antidepressants or anaesthetic agents. Interacts with cardiovascular medicines.
<b>Valerian</b>	Used as a mild sedative and sleep-aid. It is also a muscle relaxant.	May increase the effects of certain anti-epileptic drugs or prolong the effects of some anaesthetic agents.

Advice: Always inform your medical practitioner of all herbal or alternative therapies that you undertake.

Good health!

# Are you afraid of Gift Aid?

by Dr Richard de Lisser, SEC Stewardship director



At this time of recession you would be surprised to know that the government is giving away free money! Free, yes, free! If you are signed up to the Gift Aid programme the government will give back 28 pence for every pound you give to the church in tithe and offerings. It's that simple and it is free.

For each new Gift Aider who signs up we can, by consulting our records, claim retrospectively for up to four years.

Last year the South England Conference Stewardship department designated Sabbath 5 December as Sign Up Sabbath! On that special Sabbath, pastors, elders, treasurers and Stewardship leaders, armed with the necessary Gift Aid forms, encouraged church members who were not yet Gift Aiders to Sign Up! And those who were inactive to Wake Up! To date over 700 new Gift Aiders have signed up, with a potential of over £250,000 of claims in the pipeline.

Each new Gift Aider has received a free copy of the Stewardship resource 'The Credit Crunch Christian', and the top three churches that have signed up the most new Gift Aiders will receive a grant of £4,000, £2,500, and £1,500 towards a church project of their choice. The cheques will be presented to the respective churches at this year's SEC Camp Meeting.

Don't be afraid of Gift Aid. Why not sign up today!

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# God and Government

Should Christians vote in the General Election? Does a single vote matter? by Patrick Boyle\*



Someone said (I wish I knew who), 'Two percent of people change the world. Eight percent watch the change. Ninety percent are not aware change is taking place.' True or false, it would be a dull person who was unaware of the changed relationship which exists today between Christianity and British society compared with that of fifty years ago. The change has far-reaching implications for individuals and the Christian church.

Previously a person going to work with a cross or chain round her neck would not have raised an eyebrow. Today it can create controversy, as Nadia Ewedia discovered when her employers British Airways dismissed her for this cause. Feeling this was unreasonable, she took the issue to law, and the courts ruled against her. This and the attack upon similar Christian behaviour reflects the new tension which exists between contemporary society and the Christian faith.

Last year the SPCK publishing house issued a most interesting book *God and Government*. It is a series of essays by Christians of various denominations discussing how the church should work to create government awareness of bibli-

cal principles. They lay out in print a series of relevant Christian ideas which, if the government implemented them, would improve the quality and function of society as a whole and allow the church to contribute to the creation of justice and righteousness in the life of the nation.

The Nadia Ewedia incident is a reminder to Christians that they do not have the option of ignoring the relation between the church and the State. The ways in which governments legislate affect all of us, Christian and non-Christian alike.

What exactly is the relation between church and government? Who decides it? How is it determined? What is its nature? Does it matter? Ten scholars with academic and professional skills address issues from a wide spectrum of Christian viewpoints. These include a barrister, university lecturer, church leader, business leader and a college principal. While they are not represented in this book it would be of interest to have a perspective on the subject from Jewish, Islamic and Hindu scholars.

Some of the chapter headings indicate the topics discussed. The Bible and government. Equality and government. The common good and

government. This last by Clifford Langley is particularly interesting on the subject of religious pluralism in society.

Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, notes in the foreword that society faces two crises, one of faith, the other of politics. The revelations about expense fraud in Westminster and the European parliament will have implications for the ballot box in local and national elections.

There is a lot of helpful discussion in this book, none of which is related to specific political parties. What it does focus on the bigger issues of how the church can make governments aware of the biblical teachings of justice, equality, the use of wealth, caring for the poor, the sick and aged in society. Governments and politicians have responsibilities and moral obligations to God and society. The church has a duty to draw governments' attention to them.

In every sense the church should practise what it teaches. More than politicians and governments, church leaders, pastors and congregations have imperative responsibilities to God, to each other and our neighbours. The church must mirror what

it preaches.

That the secular powers have a place in the plan and purpose of God is clearly laid out in the epistles of Paul, notably in Romans 13.

In the pastoral epistles\* we are urged to pray and intercede with God for those in authority over us that we may lead peaceful lives. If we do not make ourselves aware of how the civil powers function it is difficult to imagine how we can sensibly intercede for them.

Shortly a General Election will be held in the United Kingdom. It suggests some issues for Christians. Does it matter if I do or do not vote? Am I obliged to vote? How should I vote? Does my vote matter? The responses to these questions will find their best answers when we have considered the available information. *God and Government* is informative on these questions, but it is in God's Word that the soundest position is to be found.

The world is changing. If we are not among the 2% who are changing it, we ought at least to understand it is changing and live and act with wisdom and insight that insofar as we are able we co-operate with the will and purpose of God for society.

\*1 Timothy 2:1-8; Titus 3:1-2; also 1 Peter 2:13-17.

Note: The book *God and Government* is available cheaply on Amazon books.

\* Pastor Boyle was raised in Dublin, educated at Newbold and Andrews and was a successful pastor and evangelist in Ireland and England. Since his retirement at Stanborough Park he has continued to conduct evangelistic campaigns in the British Isles, the African continent and North America.

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West Indies Union Conference

Young Adults & Teen Speaker: Pastor Alex Bryan,  
Walla Walla University Church

Church Growth Speaker: Pastor Peter Roennicht,  
Victorian Conference Australia

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## Letters

IT'S TIME TO MOVE ON

Dear Editor

I should like to comment on the article featured in *Messenger* 5 March regarding the elders' retreat. It saddens me to read that members are still debating old-fashioned issues such as the wearing of jewellery, female elders and the dedication of babies born out of wedlock. Perhaps they should put their efforts into looking at how we can make the Church relevant in the twenty-first century. We should not be an old-fashioned Church offering old-fashioned worship styles. Yes, I agree, the Word of God never changes and becomes more relevant as we see end-time events happening. What we should be looking at is how we adapt ourselves to reach the unchurched in our communities. Jesus reached out to such people by meeting them where they were in the marketplace, not in comfortable churches. This Church has to move on and adapt to the needs of local communities or the message of hope will not reach those in most need – the poor, hungry, the prostitutes, the homeless, the bereaved, the prisoners, the depressed, single parents – with the good news of Jesus and what he did for them. We need to get involved with projects such as Hope 90, ADRA, show compassion and join with our fellow Christians in sharing the good news of Jesus. CHIP was the best and most successful outreach programme our church has done. We had more non-members attending than church members. We must think outside the box and move on.

A. KOWARI

## ELDERS' WEEKEND: MAJORING ON MINORS

Dear Editor

As a lifelong Adventist, I was horrified to read the article in *Messenger* 5 March 2010, Vol 115-5 about the SEC elders' retreat.

While it was probably a productive weekend, I could not believe that time had been spent in groups discussing the subjects mentioned in the article. There is little wonder that our young people are leaving the Church when this is the kind of issue being debated by lay leaders during the church weekend which was focused on 'Reclaim'.

Why aren't we discussing going out into our communities and loving people – whoever they are – as Jesus did? Why don't we concentrate on making our children and youth feel loved and accepted so that they feel they have a spiritual home to come to, whatever they do?

When we are going to look outward and follow the command Jesus gave us to 'love our neighbour', instead of discussing what should be done when we or others fail to come up to our expectations?

As a lady elder in Cheltenham church I cannot see why anyone should even have to think twice about dedicating an innocent child born out of wedlock. I think the mum should be congratulated for wanting her child to have a relationship with God. What happened to 'Suffer the little children to come unto me? Did Jesus check their parentage before he sat them on his knee?

As for lady elders, I think this is an issue for each congregation to decide for themselves based on their needs.

Majoring on minors and the criticism that ensues is destructive and drives people away. . . . I know this happens from personal experience.

LYN MORRIS

# STOP

INTERNATIONAL

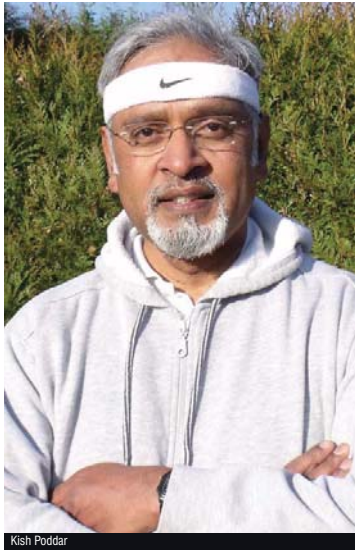
• SAVE THE ORPHANS PLEASE •

## Three run London Marathon for STOP International

by David Burgess

Can you imagine how hard it would be to spot your family member or friend out of a group of 50,000 people standing in front of you? Not so hard? What if they were running and not standing still, and what if there were a million other people trying to do the same thing at the same time? That's exactly what the family and friends of three people will be doing in London on 25 April when two members of Stanborough Park church, Paul Godfrey and Kish Poddar, plus a work colleague Matt Pugh, will be running the London Marathon to raise funds for STOP International.

The London Marathon is the largest charity fundraising event in the world and Kish, Paul and Matt want to exploit this to raise funds for the latest STOP International project. They are prepared to train whatever the weather (and in Britain we get lots of weather) for months and months, just so they can give themselves a chance to complete the 26 mile and 385 yard course. They feel so passionate about helping children who cannot help themselves that they are prepared to face pain, blisters, dehydration, more pain, aching legs, aching everything and yet more pain! You can sponsor Kish and Paul at the following links [www.justgiving.com/Kish-Poddar-for-STOP](http://www.justgiving.com/Kish-Poddar-for-STOP) and [www.justgiving.com/Paul-Godfrey2010](http://www.justgiving.com/Paul-Godfrey2010).



Kish Poddar

STOP International is a registered charity ([www.stop-intl.org.uk](http://www.stop-intl.org.uk)) that seeks to help orphaned and abandoned children by giving them a safe place to live, food to eat, an education – things we all take for granted. Orphans and abandoned children feature at the bottom of life's ladder – exploited, ridiculed, isolated – without any prospects in life, yet full of potential. It's hard to imagine anything worse. But for these children what STOP does is life-changing. Its latest project is to open a vocational training facility that will offer carpentry, building, sewing and horticulture diplomas and give those orphans aged 16 and over the chance to learn a trade and earn a living. Each step

Paul, Kish and Matt take around London will mean more money raised and another child given a better future.

On 25 April please pray for Kish, Paul and Matt that they complete the course, please pray that they raise substantial funds from their efforts and please pray for the children who will benefit. If you are watching on TV, please keep an eye out for them and if you are in London watching, please give them a cheer. Prayers, cheers and donations – what a powerful combination to make a difference!



## US\$1.4 million for Haiti

by Bert Smit, Executive director, ADRA-UK

Supporters in Britain and Northern Ireland of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) are providing much-needed health, sanitation and education activities for people in Haiti affected by January's devastating earthquake.

Through their support of ADRA-UK's Haiti Earthquake Appeal, people in Britain and Northern Ireland are providing two mobile medical clinics, including medical equipment and primary health supplies, 50 shower wash stations, 15 solid waste disposal areas and 15 classrooms, including teaching supplies, for thousands of earthquake-affected people in Port-au-Prince. ADRA-UK is also supporting the operations of the ongoing response efforts.

### On behalf of the people of Haiti, we say 'THANK YOU'

'On behalf of the people of Haiti, we say, "Thank you," to all who have supported ADRA's response efforts through donations to our appeal,' said ADRA-UK's Chief Executive Officer, Bert Smit. 'Our supporters in Britain and Northern Ireland are compassionate and generous people. Their outpouring of support for ADRA's work in helping Haitians recover from such a terrible disaster is evidence of that. Their gifts are helping with medical and health activities and important schooling for affected children. All are doing their bit to help these people begin to rebuild their lives and, again, we say, "Thank you!"'

In addition to the funds raised in the UK and Northern Ireland, ADRA-UK attracted a grant of €800,000 from ICCO Netherlands for the work of ADRA in Haiti. With this grant the total contribution of the ADRA-UK office to the Haiti operation will be in excess of US\$1.4 million.

The ADRA network will provide a further 15 school classrooms, 1,500 school kits, 400 latrines, 50 hand wash stations, 15 laundry stations, health and hygiene training, and essential household items, including blankets, tarps, cooking utensils, mattresses, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper, wheelbarrows, spades and mosquito nets. ADRA will also continue to provide clean water, including Trekker water purification units, shelter and food supplies from the World Food Program and other donors. This entire response project, including ADRA-UK's contribution, is valued at more than \$3 million and will provide vital support to approximately 36,000 people for three months.

The ADRA network, including ADRA-UK, will continue to work with affected people in the long term and provide additional support as the efforts move into the reconstruction phase.

## Lighting a Path of Hope

Raafat Kamal introduces the project for the special GC Year offering to be taken up on 10 APRIL

The grainy video flickered as the bulldozers moved forward and walls began to collapse. Seventh-day Adventists around the world watched with dismay as a government in central Asia demolished the church where some eighty Adventists were meeting each Sabbath. The crumbling debris seemed to extinguish the last fragile flicker of their long-cherished dreams. From the darkness of despair came a light of hope. A few years ago, this same government granted the Seventh-day Adventist Church official recognition. Resolve rekindled, church members began renewed efforts to reach hearts in this challenging region – a region that was once an integral part of a network of trade routes.

Centuries ago, merchants made the perilous overland journey between the trading centres of Europe to the Orient. Silks, spices and other goods flowed overland – the danger of the journey offset by the high price these goods commanded. Along with trade goods, these travelling merchants opened the world to an exchange of ideas, technology and culture.

This year the Seventh-day Adventist Church is collecting a special offering called *Lighting a Path of Hope*. Every five years, the Church chooses a special project or emphasis to be supported by the General Conference Session offering. In the months leading up to the session, Adventists around the world are given an opportunity to give to that special offering. In the past, the offering has helped establish the Adventist World Radio station in Guam, focused attention on the 10/40 Window, and helped establish work in major cities of the world.

The 2010 General Conference Session offering will focus on territories covered by ancient trade routes through the Middle East, central Asia, southern Asia

and China. For the Seventh-day Adventist Church, this area still represents the least reached area of the world. In recent years, new opportunities have opened in some of these regions. The newly opened Global Mission pioneer school in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan, trains dozens of people each year from Southern Asia and sends them to unentered territories and unreached people groups. Encouraged by the success of the Tokmok School, other missions are now working on opening their own Global Mission pioneer schools.

No one knows how long it will be before these opportunities slip away. Or if the decisions we make today will determine if doors stay open. On Sabbath 10 April your gift will help light a path of hope along these ancient trade routes through education, media and literature, Global Mission pioneers, health ministries, and humanitarian care. Thank you for your prayers and support of Adventist Mission.

For more information visit [www.AdventistMission.org](http://www.AdventistMission.org).





**Dear Christian Stars!**

Meet Peter. Peter was the best known of all the disciples because he was bold and courageous. Peter wasn't always that way, though. Do you remember the time at Jesus' trial when Peter tried to pretend that he didn't have a clue who Jesus was? It was only when he heard the cock crow for the third time that Peter realised he had let his best friend down very badly. He was so ashamed of himself that he turned things around completely. From that time on he stood up for the right, he was honest and brave. Are you sometimes embarrassed to stand up for the right, to be honest and brave? Ask God to give you the courage of Peter and to help you change from being scared to brave. We hope you will enjoy all the 'Peter' puzzles and activities on the Stars page this month.

**The Christian fish symbol**

Between the first and third centuries, Christians started using the Greek word for 'fish' as an anagram for 'Jesus Christ God's Son, Saviour'. After Jesus ascended to Heaven, the Christian Church had grown very quickly, and it did not take long before the Romans and Jews started persecuting them. Because their lives were in danger, Christians had to meet in secret. When two strangers met and they thought they might both be Christians, one would draw the upper half of the fish symbol in the ground. If the other person was a Christian, he would add the bottom half and complete the drawing of the fish.

The fish outline is very easy to draw. With just two strokes, it could be drawn quickly. Work out what Jesus said to Peter by writing inside the fish the jumbled words so that the sentence makes sense.

I make  
me fish  
will people  
you and  
follow for



*Think:*  
In what ways could you 'follow' Jesus?

**A prayer idea:**

Try this out. You will be very surprised at what happens. Use two sheets of A4 paper. On one write 'Gift of forgiveness', on the other 'Gift of the Holy Spirit'. With one hand hold one sheet at the top and the other sheet at the top in the other hand. Hold them 15 centimetres apart and level with your chin. Now, give a good blow down between the two sheets of paper. It is quite amazing to see the paper change direction because of the power of the wind you blew. Peter saw a change in his life when he allowed the Holy Spirit to change the direction of his

**Make a moving picture**

Peter was a fisherman. He was mending his nets on the shore when Jesus asked him to become a 'fisher of men'. Peter dropped everything and learned about sharing the 'good news' from Jesus.

**Try to make this fun moving picture:**

You will need:

- Paper plate or draw round a plate on some sturdy card and then cut it out
- 1 lolly stick
- Felt tip pens, crayons, or coloured pencils
- Scissors
- Glue

What you do:

- Draw the sea, sky and a boat on the plate. (Remember to put sails on the boat and Jesus standing in it.)
- Draw Peter on another piece of paper. (Make sure to make him the right size for your picture!) Colour it in and then use scissors to cut out the shape.
- Cut a horizontal slit in the sea and make it wide enough for Peter to fit through the slit.
- Glue 'Peter' onto the lolly stick and push it through the slit.
- When Peter looks at Jesus make him walk on the water. As you tell how Peter started to feel proud of himself, pull the lolly stick down and watch Peter disappear under the water.



life. In Matthew 26:69-75 you read how Peter was a coward and denied knowing Jesus. The miracle of Jesus forgiving him and giving him the gift of the Holy Spirit was a message he shared all the rest of his life. Now is a good time to pray; it is as easy as blowing into the pieces of paper. Thank Jesus for forgiving you and for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Like Peter, you will be able to tell others that Jesus is your friend.

# Adventist-Muslim relations

Just twelve months ago the Adventist Muslim Relations department launched the 'Encountering the World of Islam' programme. This was the first time the AMR department of the South England Conference had initiated the training programme on an academic level. It was organised by the World Mission Institute in the USA. On the launch day, 17 May 2009, Pastor Petras Bahadur welcomed representatives from twenty-eight congregations, together with seven pastors and elders, in a classroom of fifty students. Steve Bell, director of Interserve, stressed that 'Go into all the world and teach all nations' included reaching the Muslim population.

In the afternoon session we were taught about Muhammad. We were given the first batch of homework, which involved thirty days of internet research and forty pages of course work.

Our second session started in June. To put the class in the right mindset, Danny Julie built a delicate balance on Genesis 17:1-3. The main morning presentation was by Dr Usama Hasan, a scientist in Intelligence Science at Middlesex University and a very well-versed Imam from Leytonstone. The very detailed study started from Muhammad and expanded to the whole Islamic faith.

John Bishop moderated a ques-

tion period. There was only a handful of questions from the class who were shy of addressing an Imam. Some of the answers the Imam gave opened up our minds to a new level. We began to think in terms of both a 'common platform' and 'building a bridge' for witnessing.

The afternoon session was taken by Mufti Abdul Kadir Barkatulla, a senior Imam from north London, as well as financial advisor and lecturer in Islamic studies in Whitechapel. The afternoon session covered the Five Pillars and the Basic Conviction, as well as a cross-section of the structure of the Islamic faith.

The session recommenced in July. We were blessed by a new speaker, Andy Bannister, a lecturer and a PhD in Islamic Studies at the School of Theology, north London. With charts and graphs showing the impact of growth, he showcased a number of matters of concern to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He also gave us an understanding of the Sunni-Shi'a divide. For the afternoon session we were welcomed by Asif Mall who was concerned with 'Everyday life for a Muslim'. Asif Mall is well known from the series on Sky TV, 'Operation Mobilisation Ministry'. Originally from Pakistan, he holds degrees in both English Literature and Theology. He took us behind the scenes and highlighted the differences between Eastern



and Western culture.

The course recommenced on 20 September. The topic was 'The Spiritual World of Islam'. It was presented by Richard Cook. Richard trained for Anglican ordination and specialised in Far East Outreach. His vision and target is to build bridges. He presented vivid PowerPoint presentations and left us amazed. In addition Steve Bell, a speaker and course trainer, took us through the complex characteristics of cultural barriers.

On 18 October Jay Smith, who encounters thousands of Muslims at Hyde Park Corner and has twenty-seven years of experience and two Masters degrees in Islamic Studies behind him, introduced us to a range of materials. Testimonies were given by Mohammed Sameer Khurwolah from the Eastbourne church who has been a Muslim for thirty-four years and is very active in the AMR team support. The afternoon session began with a DVD called 'More than dreams', a very deep and moving story about Khalil who was converted to Christianity. The afternoon was taken by Greg Livingstone who provided a brief history of missions to Muslims.

Sunday 15 November was the last session. It was a day packed with presentations. Colin Edwards, a medical doctor from New Zealand, spent years of outreach ministry in Bangladesh. He also gives studies to 325 families in one go through Interserve.

Contextualisation was the morning theme. There is a level of misunderstanding and confusion with regard to this delicate subject. The next morning presentation was on the topic of church planting.

On Sunday 20 December we finally reached the awards ceremony. Pastor Sam Davis, Pastor Don McFarlane and Pastor Aris Vontzalidis assisted in the ceremony. There was an address, a charge and the presentation of certificates. The most moving part – it had us in tears – included the testimonials from ex-Muslims who had attended the course. One said, 'The course has brought us closer to Christ, and through this course we now understand Islam more than when we were Muslims.' For 2010 the AMR department requests the full support from the churches. Though a small department, we have a large responsibility – to reach 60% of the population in the TED territory.

DANNY JULIE

## The Press at Northampton

Northampton, and the Seventh-day Adventist church there, doesn't often feature in *Messenger*. The members there quietly beaver away doing the Lord's work. A recent large baptism, a newish church plant and a very active musical side to their worship are a testimony to the good work of pastor, elders and members working together to God's glory.

A first-time event was the visit of the Stanborough Press to the church on a Sunday in mid-February. The team, Paul Poddar and Stuart Sly, had their racks of books and health foods set up in no time. While the crowds attracted were not large, the book sale was important to the community. Paul, smiling as usual, spoke of the visits to small churches as a concerted effort to help the smaller churches feel able to access good Christian literature easily, while Stuart Sly, one of the newer members of the Press family, spoke of the potential evangelistic benefits of the Press visiting a church. Members could invite friends who would not fail to be impressed by the quality of the books and the warmth of the reception from the staff behind the till.

The fellowship was also important, as Pastor and Mrs Roy Hulbert called in to buy books, stock up on food and dispense wisdom to friends old and new.

One visitor, Ingrid Sharpe, well known to many in the Conference, described how she had been using her regular copies of *FOCUS* in evangelism. One co-worker, who receives his copy of the paper by works mail delivery, continues to be appreciative of his copy of the magazine.

The Northampton church may well be small but certainly appreciated the visit of two fine members of the Press family.

PETER JEYNES

## Darlington celebrates

December 26 was a memorable day at Darlington church.

The church had seven nations represented. We were all surprised because we have been worshipping as one nation, but on this day it was revealed that we come from very diverse backgrounds. We celebrated unity in diversity. As we entered the church it was beautiful. There were seven different big national flags flying on the windows. The environ-

ment had changed. Members came in, dressed in their national costumes. When Sabbath School started, it was beautiful as each nation participated by giving out something about their countries of origin such as how they worship, current membership in the church, church history, sang some songs in their language, and many other items.

It climaxed at lunchtime when there were several dishes from different countries. People went round tasting different foods as the owners of the dishes explained what were the ingredients and how they had prepared them.

The whole event reminded us of the New Jerusalem where there will be all nations who have been saved; Revelation 21.24 says, 'And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it.' Let us start now to live together and walk together in

the light we have been shown.

Lots of thanks to our Sabbath School superintendent, Sister Karen Ham-Ying, who organised all this.

Praise be to the Lord God who wants us to live in love and peace with everyone.

ESTERY MWAJOKA

## Bringing the family back

December 19 was a very memorable day in East London since it was the first area day of fellowship for many years. The theme was 'Bringing the family back'. There was heavy snow and it was a very cold day, but members came in from all the churches and the Walthamstow assembly hall was full with around 1,250 members.

We had a wonderful Sabbath School headed by Timothy Clairmont and Dagenham church members. The lesson was presented in the form of a play.

Dagenham youth promoted the Kids in Discipleship Ministries by performing a play. An acronym for the word family was presented by six kids from various churches.

We had inspirational singing for the divine hour setting the tone for the Word of God. Our guest speaker for the day was Pastor Richard Holder whose title was 'Home at last'. His sermon was taken from Genesis 49 regarding Jacob blessing his sons. He spoke about the character of each of his sons and the blessings and advice given to them.

In the afternoon a thought-provoking play was enacted by the members of the Hackney and Stoke Newington churches. We saw Satan and Beelzebub meeting and discussing the destruction of mankind. They talked about man's weakness and how God's flaw was to give man

choice. They picked individuals or families that were borderline in their faith and planned devices and various scenarios to catch the families or individuals out. Recognising that his time is short, Satan focused more on breaking the church and its doctrine through unprepared and thus unsuspecting individuals. The final scene resulted in the infiltration of the church leadership by Beelzebub himself as he was elected as the president of the conference!

In the evening a wonderful programme was put on by the Hyland Barnes children. Though they were small kids they presented such a wonderful programme that really opened our eyes to see how the children are observing us adults behave in the church and what they expect us to do to help them love God.

PASTOR MOHAN RAO ABBADASARI

## Huddersfield 7 — Wakefield 1

No, it's not the latest result from these two Yorkshire teams, it is the number of people who joined these churches on 13 February. With Wakefield elder, Dr Sam Farmer, looking on, and with support from family and friends, Dion Sampson, aged 29, daughter of Brenda, joined the Wakefield church by profession of faith.

Pastor A. Karbah preached at the baptism at Huddersfield in the afternoon and encouraged us all to accept the birthright that God has given.

Christopher Chambers, from St Annes, near Blackpool, was first to be baptised. His parents were present, as were his next-door neighbours, Brian and Mary Richardson, leaders of the Blackpool church. Chris was recently awarded a PhD in Chemistry from Huddersfield University. He had been led to Christ by Nicole Rafferty, daughter of Pastor and Mrs Desmond Rafferty. Pastor Rafferty is director of the ADC.

Husband and wife Irene and Steven Barnes were next in the pool. They were married at the Huddersfield church in October last year and have now united their lives in Christ. Irene is from Bulawayo in Zimbabwe, and Steven was born in Darwen, Lancashire.

Jamal Gilling, 14, was also buried with Christ in baptism. His proud parents looked on and many family members and friends from Huddersfield and Nottingham were present to witness his baptism. Jamal is a Pathfinder and plays the saxophone in church.

Joining the church by profession of faith were David and Linda Muzamhindo and Irfan Mwanaz. David and Linda are from Zimbabwe, and Irfan is from Pakistan.

MAVOLEY ROBINSON

## Romford baptism

Sabbath 5 December was a historic day at the Romford Community Fellowship. Eight precious souls were baptised. This was the biggest baptism we had had since the group started in April 2007.

Happiness and joy shone on their faces as they arrived in a convoy of cars to their mother church – Plaistow.

A rousing song service led by sisters Shirley and Maxine set the stage for what was to follow. Pastor Mohan Abbadasari reminded the candidates of the great love of their heavenly Father who gave his only Son Jesus.

As Pastor Mohan entered the water, the families and friends gathered around the pool to witness this great event in the lives of their loved ones. First into the water were the Madzikanda family, mother Sithabile, teenage daughter Samantha and 9-year-old son Stanslous. Next were husband and wife Michael and Monique Semper. They smiled at each other and at their children standing nearby. A Scripture passage was read, chosen by Monique, which reminded us that there is a time for everything. Next Rachel Khan wept tears of joy that at last through all her difficulties and the various obstacles the devil had cast in her way she was now surrendering all to Jesus.

Rachel Morgado and her son Ian Bougadelis were given the right hand of fellowship and welcomed with the others into the world Church of Seventh-day Adventists.

GLORIA HUDSON





## Does your church need a face lift?

by Sandra Golding

This was one of the many thought-provoking questions raised at the joint Communication and Stewardship Leaders' AGM held at the Advent Centre on Sunday 7 March. The AGM began with a challenging devotional conducted by Pastor C. R. Perry. Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication director, led out in an inspirational training session for SEC Communication secretaries.

We were reminded that the responsibilities of the local church Communication secretary are great, for they touch the public. The participants were left with a lot of key ideas and solutions to take back to their local churches about the way in which we communicate the Adventist message not only to our churches but also to the people in our communities.

One of the key factors was always to approach our church buildings and our communication to the community from a non-Adventist viewpoint. We need to ensure that what we communicate is understandable to the general public. For example, some of our churches have clear and well-presented church signs that are easily understood by the public about the type of worship services and so forth that we have. On the other hand, some churches had signs that were out of date, untidy and were not clear. Good presentation is one of the key principles to engage with people and we need to ensure that our churches are good examples.

Pastor Hulbert encouraged us to learn to think outside the box and come up with creative strategies

that will engage with the people in our communities, for example, serving refreshments and making food an opportunity to attract people to our meetings.

Seeing that one third of people's leisure time is currently spent on the internet gives us a greater advantage in communicating with people through the internet and by emails. Victor took us through the advantages of having a corporate website design for our churches by using *netAdventist*. It was an opportunity to explore how effective this media tool can be for our churches. Some of the churches at the training session were already utilising *netAdventist* websites and shared

## Basildon baptism

Some six years back, the Basildon Church Fellowship had shrunk to some six regular members and a few visitors. Today, our regular attendance is nearing a hundred with vibrant Junior and Senior Sabbath School and Pathfinder departments. With our continuous growth, very

their experiences.

Meanwhile Raafat Kamal, Global Mission, Stewardship and Field secretary for the Trans-European Division, led an energetic and interactive session on the principles and practicalities of good stewardship in the local church. It was emphasised that, like communication, good stewardship pervades every aspect of church and personal life.

Finally the training ended with a question and answer session. The participants were all inspired and geared up to go back to their local churches to help make a difference. The tips that were shared will definitely help us to carry out our role more efficiently and effectively.

soon we shall need to move into new premises.

Last November, five of our young people, who have been nurtured in our Junior Sabbath School department from an early age, decided to give their lives to the Lord by going through the waters of baptism. For



The newly baptised members, from left to right, are Tinasha Motiwa, Taffi Muchirahondo, Tendisi Motiwa, Tatti Muchirahondo and Rodney Mukomboramba. Photo: Tyrone Waldron

# Prayer and Faith Conference (PFC 2010)

Prayer and Faith Conference 2010, well, what can we say? Youth + God = Prayer and Faith Conference (PFC). This year Thames Valley Youth Federation definitely delivered once again with yet another spiritually uplifting programme, which was held at Chantemarle Christian Resources and Education Centre. Upon arriving, we were met by the seemingly uncivilised and yet calming breeze of the countryside, to which many of us had hitherto been strangers.

The venue set the stage for a truly Spirit-filled experience. Our journey began with a delicious Jamaican favourite of rice and jerk chicken or vegetarian alternative as the main course, topped with a tasty salad on the side to provide a healthy, well-balanced meal. From the tasty food we moved to the uplifting praise and worship service. A marvellous sound echoed through the centre, as well over 150 young people lifted their voices to sing praises to God. There was a gather-

two years our Canadian born minister, Pastor Jerry Smith, studied methodically with them, making sure that they had a sound understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and its relevance for today's youth. The baptism ceremony was held at the Grays church, witnessed by members and friends of the Basildon Fellowship.

Rodney, who was quite emotional at the time said, 'This is the happiest day of my life.' One parent, who had come especially for the baptism, thanked the teachers for the wonderful support they had given to her twin daughters.

From January 2010 these five young people have been actively serving as deacons and deaconesses in the congregation every Sabbath. We praise the Lord for re-energising his church in Basildon, as we look forward to many more young people joining the new baptismal class. Our prayer, as we try to nurture these young lives for the Lord, is that he will protect them from the evil influence.

MARC SABADIN

ing of young people from all over. They came from Ipswich, Aylesbury, Oxford, Reading, Bracknell, High Wycombe, Slough, Basingstoke and London. God had brought each and every one of us here for a purpose.

Jeremiah 29:11: 'For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'

The week provided timeless

reminders of God's grace and love for mankind. These Spirit-led words were spoken from the pulpit where Dr Andrew Ewoo rattled off some powerful messages about the book of Daniel and on 'Becoming a friend of God'. The week brought a variety of workshops which were put in place to deal with the weightier matters young people face every day. Ranging from topics such as

Relationships and Purity, Dealing with Peer Pressure to Time and Money Management.

Surely there must be a PFC3 as this one gave us all a blessing and many of us as young people were delivered. God had spoken to us and we believed his words. Now it is our responsibility to go out day by day and live for Jesus.

TATENDA, CHISOLA, RUMONA and JULIETTE



## Ipswich concert helps with drug addiction

by John Mann

It came about because of Pastor Sam Ouadio. When he first came to Ipswich Adventist church he told the congregation that he was nervous because the town at that time was so much in the press for the murder of five young prostitutes.

Pastor Sam approached church member Tomisha Kersey, asking how the church could get involved in helping people who were on drugs. As Tomisha says, 'Let's face it, many of the prostitutes would not be prostitutes if it weren't for drugs.' She found a local drug rehabilitation

project, Icen. After meeting with them and a subsequent Sabbath afternoon presentation, a number of the members then volunteered with Icen. A fundraising concert on Saturday 6 March was then a natural consequence.

The concert was well attended and featured local artists Nicky Saunders, Stan and Sophia Sigawale, Maggie Long and the Ipswich Adventist Gospel Choir, as well as Rachel 'The Poet' Oduro and Michael 'The Lyrical Soldier' Ageyi from London. Patrick Palmer and

Glenn Robinson from Icen gave short presentations about the work done at Icen and the need for additional funds so that they are able to go the extra mile in helping people. Icen was the Guardian Charity Award winner in 2008 and has some of the highest success rates in treating drug addiction of anywhere in the country. Patrick explained that their success comes from creating a family community at Icen where people are genuinely cared for as individuals.

The quality of the performances was exceptional. Some of the many highlights were the gospel choir singing the beautifully quiet 'Lord's Prayer', and the powerful gospel anthem 'I need you to survive', The Lyrical Soldier's performing his new single 'Closer', Sophia Sigawale singing 'Personal', Maggie Long's touching poem 'The Prisoner' and the rap-poem of Rachel 'The Poet' Oduro, 'Not My Body', that she wrote especially for the concert. We also witnessed a miracle as Nicky Saunders – although barely able to speak due to a throat infection – was still able to sing beautifully throughout the concert.

In total the concert collected £667.23 for Icen, of which £423 was given as Gift Aid and so eligible to an additional 28% from the government, so in total Icen should be receiving £785.67 as a result of the concert.

## Spreading the light

Croscombe decided to try to reach the community in a slightly different way last Christmas. The church purchased and the members wrapped 250 eco light bulbs – one for every household in the village of Croscombe! These were labelled with the words: 'Jesus is the Light of the World! Happy Christmas! From the Seventh-day Adventist Church.' They were distributed by the members who knocked on every single door in the village on the afternoon of Sabbath December 12. Everyone took part, even the very youngest child aged just 3 who had to be persuaded to give her gift to the householder! The gifts were very well received with many people being pleasantly surprised and also impressed with their gift. The church has since received several letters of thanks, a donation to the work of the church and many verbal messages of thanks and support to a member who lives in the village.

I. JACKSON

## Gloucester anniversary

The Gloucester Adventist church will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sabbath 17 April, and cordially invite old friends, past members and acquaintances to join them on a special day of fellowship. After a special Sabbath service, with local dignitaries invited, and following a fellowship lunch, an afternoon programme of celebration and reminiscing will take place.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

## Bridging the generations

by Errol Anderson

How do you bridge the gap between the different generations in the Church? This has been one of the challenges for the men's group at Balham. The programmes we plan come under the heading 'Just For Men'. It has caused many discussions with women who asked, "What do you talk about?" and expressed a desire to be a 'fly on the wall'. Perhaps not a good idea, because when I see a fly on the wall my instinct is to swat it, but let's not go there!

Throughout last year, through quiz nights, prayer sessions, discussions, worship and of course food, we have attempted to get all ages together. We even decided to treat the mothers of the church to a Mother's Day breakfast when men of a wide age group put on their aprons (men's style of course), cooked and served, and it was much appreciated by the mothers who came. The women were not only impressed by the food and the service but welcomed being 'pampered'.

We found that the men's group generally attracted those aged 20-80, with the occasional teen coming along to our sessions. What could we do to reach the teens of the Church? We decided to have a twofold approach. The first was to have a friendship scheme where we go out of our way to contact and befriend the teens, especially those we seldom see at church, and the other approach was to have special projects, which we knew that the teens would welcome and would attend.

This takes us to the plan to hold our first 5-a-side football competition among ourselves in our gym. The idea was to have mixed-age, mixed-ability teams and invite those who wouldn't play at least to come and support. Initially we restricted it to age 13 and above but after some arm twisting we decided to be a bit more flexible. The event started with an obstacle course with the age range from 9 to 45 years old taking place, and we then divided the teams so that guys of different age groups played in the same team. We also encouraged team work among the ages with a sport quiz. Over 30 guys participated and several others, including women and girls, cheered along.

What was encouraging was to see guys who seldom come to church these days or don't come at all turning up and joining in. The younger ones were particularly happy that something had been provided for them and those of us who are over 30 were happy that we found something that enabled us to connect with the youngsters in a non-threatening and fun way and which provided us with much-needed exercise.

Football is of course only one means that we have found that could bridge the generations; we need to look for other ways, including spiritual ones. The older men (over 60, that is – no offence meant to the over 60s who don't consider themselves as old) who have been involved throughout the year as well as the 30-50 year olds will be challenged to look at ways to mentor, befriend the youngsters, pass on their experiences and be a role model which will not only enrich everyone's lives but will strengthen our church.

## Slough aids Street Children

Last summer Leslie Wood visited Adventist friends in Brazil and was very impressed by the work that they are involved in with Street Children. They have founded an orphanage near Belo Horizonte, the third largest city in Brazil. It receives no government aid. Leslie met some of the children and was so delighted by them that he decided to organise a concert to fundraise for the project.

He received private donations from interested Adventist friends at Newbold College and from the senior citizens' club at Slough church. Artists at the concert included Victoria Ballan, violinist, who is studying at the Royal College of Music, London; Slough church youth choir; senior citizens' choir; Tania Markachouk and her children; and Julian, a saxophonist from Newbold College.

The sum of £600 was raised and sent to help feed and educate the children.

LESLIE WOOD

### LINDA CLARK 4 July 1945-

**25 March 2009.** At Linda Clark's funeral on 14 April 2009 many people filled the Southampton church and in the telling of her life story we were allowed into the workings of a quiet, tenacious single mum, nurse, midwife, matron and counsellor, loving Nana and wife. She was a woman whose deeply embedded, inspirational faith kept her strong and full of hope throughout her life.

Linda was born on 4 July 1945, so she arrived amid celebrations and firecrackers, and she most likely spent her life in similar vein. She trained for nursing in Ipswich, and midwifery in London, later becoming cardiac nurse then matron, caring for the elderly.

Debbie and Mark, her two children, told us about their mother and reflected on what a loving and caring mum she was and how she would make sure there was always time for some fun! Like opening the curtains on a bright summer's school day and deciding to get the children out of bed and armed with a good picnic and driving them all down to the beach at Southsea. I'd like to have seen the letter that was sent to the headmaster the next day explaining just why Debbie and Mark missed lessons. This story is made all the funnier as today Mark is a serving Police officer!

Linda loved her annual trips to join the camps at Chapel Porth. On the list of Linda's jobs were nurse and counsellor

and these two skills led to a long and most enjoyable part of her life. Not only did she tape up broken skin on knees and elbows but she also helped with painful hearts and homesickness in her small charges. Age never mattered at Chapel Porth. If you had a problem you went to see Linda; even the pastors, next to the job or not, found a chat and hot chocolate with her went down a treat. Many of those pastors, now with grown children of their own, sat in the church that day to say goodbye to a good friend. Chapel Porth had a special place in Linda's heart with lots of fun memories of time with the family, a tradition that will long continue.

After stories like these from her children, and laughter ringing around the sanctuary, Debbie excused herself from the proceedings and hot-footed it out of the church. More laughter rang out. Strange, you say; whatever was going on? Well, Debbie, heavily pregnant with her first child, had an appointment with the midwife at the local hospital. Young Zackary had been making himself felt from the night before, and now it was time for him to enter the world, arriving at about 5pm. Tears of pain and joy, what a mixture!

Women's Ministries became an important part of Linda's life. She often attended seminars at CWR, Waverley, where she had made many close friends and just loved taking time out to walk around the beautiful grounds. It was

actually on a CWR organised tour where she met Terry.

On 16 May 1999 Linda and Terry were married at the Adventist church in Southampton. Martin Bell officiated and was nobly assisted by Barry Aken. Since then, they cruised to and around many countries, from cool to hot and back again.

The news of Linda's illness came in 2007, and with the love of her husband, children, grandchildren and very good friends, Linda beat the predicted 3-4 months, by living life to the fullest as well as continuing to share her love and kindness for two more years.

Linda Clark lived, always looking after other people's needs. She knew Jesus as her personal Saviour, and simply longed for the day when we will all be

reunited in Heaven as children of the one true God.

WENDY BRADLEY

### FREDRICK GEORGE WARMAN 26 November 1920-10 December 2009.

Fredrick George Warman was born on 26 November 1920 in Bermondsey, but lived in Chiswick, London. At the age of 18 he joined the Royal Marines and served for fifteen years with them. He was stationed on various ships, one of them *HMS Illustrious*, a battleship. He was at various land bases. He took part in sea battles in the Atlantic Ocean and did escort duties for the Merchant Navy during the Second World War. After his time with the Royal Marines he became a fireman with the London Fire Brigade. Upon his retirement, he and his second

wife Dora came to live on the Isle of Wight and settled in Ryde. Pastor Dalbert Elias and Pastor Bernie Holford were running a series of Bible seminars at Ryde, where five people came into the Church. This was in 1991. Pastor Stearman and Vera, his wife, befriended them. Brother Charles and Sister Kay Ruddock had the benefit of Dora and Fred's companionship as well. Dora died some eight years ago. She was greatly missed.

On 10 December 2009 at 11am Fred died after a prolonged illness. The funeral service took place at the Isle of Wight Crematorium at East Cowes on 5 January at 2.15. Pastor Robin Lewis took the service, and members of the Isle of Wight church were in attendance. Brother and Sister Ivor and Pat Gimson, who braved the bad weather conditions, came from

Wales for the funeral.

Fred was always devoted to Dora and saw to all her needs. He always insisted on being at church on time every week without fail.

On Friday 29 January at noon a small group of us met at East Cowes Crematorium, where Fred's ashes were spread in the form of a cross by the side of a walnut tree. There Pastor Lewis spoke of the life of Fred and gave thanks for our time knowing him. But we know that this is not the end. Jesus Christ will return to take all the saints home.

A very special thanks needs to be made to members of Dora's family, Mr Chris Moore, Pat and Tony Moore, who were supportive to the local Adventist church and gave a splendid lunch after the funeral.

JOHN HEARINGS

## VERA MARGARET PORTER 7 April 1920-8 February 2010



Vera Lauderdale was born on 7 April 1920 into a privileged environment. Her father, a banker, was employed by a New York bank which was used by the United States government to negotiate loans

to foreign countries. This involved travel. Hence Vera's sister (who became Jean Woodfield) had been born in Norway, and Vera herself was born in Denmark. The family lived briefly in America before living longer in Manly, Australia, and then in 1930 going on to Shanghai. In those days, Shanghai was in effect two different cities. There was the Chinese city and also a large European-American enclave with its own institutions. There the Laurdales settled. They lived in comparative luxury. In the mornings, the girls would swing their legs out of bed, clap their hands and a servant (where they were) would put their slippers on.

Then in 1933 disaster struck. Mrs Lauderdale became seriously ill. No doctor in the enclave gave her any hope of survival until, as a last resort, her husband took her to the sanitarium run by the Adventist doctor, Harry Miller. He agreed to operate, but, first, he said he would offer his hands to God and pray for success. The whole medical staff knelt in prayer around the patient before the operation. Mrs Lauderdale was cured and she spent most of her lengthy convalescence reading Adventist books. When she left the sanitarium, her husband took her back to England, from which they had long been absent, to see her sisters. On the boat home she read more Adventist books and by the time they docked she was in all but baptism an Adventist.

Two weeks later, Mr Lauderdale dropped dead with a heart attack. He left his family in straitened circumstances and from having four servants in Shanghai Mrs Lauderdale was reduced to pumping up water from a well in the back garden of the small cottage near Box in Wiltshire which was all the bank gave her. She coped, but she had one great sorrow. Neither of her daughters showed any interest in her new-found faith. However, three years later, Vera, now 16, agreed to go to the Adventist college at Newbold Revel 'for a year' to please her mother. She was converted in her first year and stayed for four, leaving in 1940 with a college certificate as a teacher.

Her first assignment was to the church school in

Plymouth. This was 1940 and shortly after she arrived in Plymouth the Luftwaffe arrived over it by day and night intent upon destroying the Devonport dockyards. Vera recalled that on several occasions she had to shepherd her small charges down the street to the surface air-raid shelter when the sirens went. Things became so bad that the school closed before the end of Vera's first year. She was transferred and shortly afterwards that shelter received a direct hit and everyone in it was killed.

Her next post was in the primary department of Stanborough School and at her funeral two of her 'little girls', Gill Huzzey and Paulina Rinta-Aho, spoke about her as a teacher. After the war she went to Leaveness Green training college and received her government teacher's certificate. To have that endorsed she taught at Watford Field School. As that came to an end she received a call from the denomination to go to Kenya to train Africans to be primary school teachers. At the funeral that chapter of her life was covered by the reading of a letter from her Kenyan assistant.

She sailed in 1951, and after a brief spell in Nairobi teaching at a school for missionaries' children, found herself at Kamagambo Training College in Kisumu in western Kenya. Her work consisted not only of training the men (no women then), but also of visiting schools over a large area to listen to her pupils teach. She loved her work but was temporarily disabled by a bite from a poisonous snake. The government doctor who first examined her, before she went on to the mission hospital, sent a letter to the latter stating that at best she would lose her leg and at worst she would die, which he expected to be the more likely. She was in terrible pain and breathing only with difficulty.

Then suddenly one afternoon, the pain ceased and she felt a deep sense of peace. She found out later that that was the precise time at which some local African believers, even though they had not heard what had happened, had felt impressed to pray for her. She was in Kenya during the Mau Mau rebellion and was probably the only European in her area who refused to sleep with a revolver under her pillow. Partly because of the danger of travel during the uprising, she did not go to Nairobi when she felt severe internal pains but submitted herself to a local doctor who carried out an operation, which, she was told on return to England, was almost certainly unnecessary. It meant that she could never have children, a great sorrow to her. She came home on leave at the end of her second

term at the end of 1960 and was persuaded to stay for a year to become preceptress of Newbold College, 1961-62. At the funeral Dorothy Taylor spoke about that episode. She fully intended to return to Africa at the end of that year, but while at Newbold met the writer of this obituary, who was coming over from Oxfordshire, where he lived, to help the College with part-time History teaching and we were married in August 1962. Her future now lay in Oxfordshire, not Africa. She taught as a supply in various local schools and then after six years she found her dream home in a thatched cottage in the village of Appleton where we have lived ever since. There she became clerk to the (civil) parish council, later a councillor and ultimately chairman of the council. In that capacity she carried through many projects, for which she is still held in respect and affection. She was able to witness to her faith by declining to participate in any activities proposed for the Sabbath. During this time she also served the church part-time as secretary-registrar of Home Study International based at Newbold. After she retired from these local and denominational positions she devoted herself to other good works in the village and to her beloved garden.

Then in early 2006 her mind began to be affected by Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia and, although she remained placid and gentle, she became unable to do very much and was cared for at home for four years. She passed peacefully to her rest with no signs of pain or distress. Before her illness she had written a paper asking that her funeral be in the village church of St Laurence with the life sketch to include contributions from former pupils and others about the various tasks she had undertaken during her life. These wishes were carried out. The service was conducted by the Rector, the Revd Lyn Sapwell, and Pastor James Huzzey. There were some 180 people at the service, including many from the village. A touching tribute to her memory was given by a large group of ladies of the village who provided all the post-funeral refreshments at their own expense. She was buried in the churchyard where her mother also rests, both 'in sure and certain hope of the resurrection'. Obituaries appeared in both the main Oxfordshire newspapers, both of which mentioned her faith.

She touched many lives and always for good.

There is no one of whose eternal salvation I am more certain.

DENNIS PORTER

I have been greatly moved by the huge number of messages expressing admiration, affection and respect for Vera. It is impossible to acknowledge so many, so I would be grateful if readers of *Messenger* who have written will take this as my sincere thanks.



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# Singing for Haiti

Who can forget the images of an island devastated by a huge earthquake, scenes of horror, collapsed buildings and roads, and bodies lying by the roadside? Hundreds of thousands dead, more left without homes and food, searching frantically for one more survivor miraculously pulled from the rubble. Well, Sabbath 6 February saw Chiswick church in West London doing their bit to send what they could to help the homeless and hungry inhabitants of an island that not many members had come into any personal contact with previously.

Members Bernard and Lynda Saunders organised a fundraising concert to round off a day of special offerings for Haiti, and the church was filled with beautiful pictures of how Haiti had looked before the disaster. Representatives from United Haitians in the UK (UHUK) were invited, and the audience heard about their experiences growing up in Haiti, how the disaster had affected them personally, and what they were trying to do to assist those struggling to get on with living in the aftermath.

The evening began with Chiswick

Gospel Choir singing to a packed house, followed by Audrey Ahwan, Evelyn McKenzie playing the saw (yes, as in the DIY tool), Filipino International Chorale, who although unable to rehearse due to not having any power in their own church still sounded amazing, Antonia Francis, Ullanda Alexander, Chiswick Junior Choir, Mikhail Charles, Nicole and Doring Pereira, Iris Sutherland and family, Ruth Nassa and Vic Boldeo and family.

Despite not charging an entry fee, the evening raised £1,552, with a further £1,400 added to the total from the offerings collected both throughout the day and afterwards.

The proceeds were split between UHUK and our own ADRA Haiti appeal.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Chiswick Gospel Choir

NEC Youth Department Presents

# Big Six

12pm-5pm Sunday 27 June 2010

Basketball  
Football  
Netball  
Badminton  
Table Tennis

Spectator £2  
Participant £4

Venue Armitage Centre  
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Manchester,  
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## Milton Keynes and West Bletchley District

### present Adventist Hot Potatoes

with

Pedrito U. Maynard-Reid, PhD

**Wednesday 28 April:**  
Hot Potatoes: Scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy speak

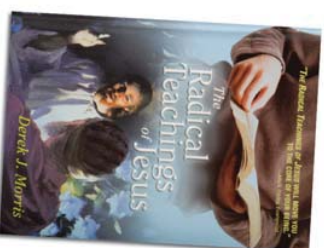
**Thursday 29 April:**  
Adventist Dress: Is there a standard?

**Friday 30 April:**  
Adventist Music: To drum or not to drum?

**Sabbath 1 May:**  
Adventist Perfection: Myth or reality?

7pm each evening  
Sabbath 11am-1pm, 4-6pm  
Venue: Milton Keynes church,  
1 Vervan Place, Fishermead,  
Milton Keynes, MK6 2DH

Dr Maynard-Reid is the assistant to the President for Diversity and Professor of Biblical Studies and Missiology at Walla Walla University



### New book of the week The Radical Teachings of Jesus by Derek I. Morris

From the author of *The Radical Prayer* comes the powerful question: 'Do you believe what Jesus preached?' This book explores his radical teachings and how they transform our lives.

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18 Welwyn 10am-2pm  
25 Southampton 10am-2pm

#### May

17-22 SEC Camp Meeting

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Watford, BUC  
8.45am-5.00pm, Monday-Thursday.  
(Closed for lunch 1pm-1.30pm)  
8.45am-12pm Friday

#### Advent Centre

Sundays 11am-3pm

### Messenger

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#### Sunsat

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	London	Card	Not	Edin	Belf
Apr 2	7:35	7:48	7:41	7:53	8:02
6	7:47	7:59	7:53	8:07	8:15
16	7:59	8:11	8:06	8:21	8:29
23	8:10	8:23	8:18	8:36	8:42
30	8:22	8:34	8:31	8:50	8:55

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