

WOMEN'S ENLIGHTEN

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Women of grace and beauty

Sandra Golding reports on the British and Dutch women's retreat at Staverton Park

'Because I am a woman God created me to grow in grace and beauty.' That was the theme for the joint British and Dutch women's retreat which took place from Friday 19 to Sunday 21 March at Staverton Park.

On the way to Staverton Park

There were over 300 women present at the weekend, including thirty-eight from Holland. The colourful array of cultures blended together in unity was a reminder of what Heaven will be like. Dr Monica Reed, Chief Executive Officer of Florida Hospital's state of the art facility, Celebration Health, was the main speaker.

Dr Reed has dedicated her professional career to promoting health, healing and wellness. This includes being a physician, speaker, author and medical news broadcaster. In recognition of her accomplishments, Dr Reed was recently awarded one of the USA's Top 25 Minority Executives in Healthcare in 2008 by *Modern Healthcare*.

Dr Reed was accompanied on this trip by her husband, Stanton Reed. Focusing on Genesis 1:26-28, she started the weekend by reminding the women that they were created in the image of God and that they have an 'unnatural ability, unnatural character and unnatural commitment'.

She shared the story of Hilda Crooks from Loma Linda who climbed Mount Whitney (the highest peak in the lower 48 United States) at the age of 91. She had a tenacity that stayed with her >16



Dr Monica Reed

WU Women's Ministries Retreat

Staverton Park - 2010

Women of the British and Dutch Unions



Jan Paulsen honoured

GC president Jan Paulsen was congratulated on his seventy-fifth birthday and honoured for his thirty-five years in denominational leadership prior to his conducting the worship service at Loma Linda University church.

Pastor Paulsen, who was accompanied by his wife Kari and son Rein Andre, was presented with a 463-page book entitled *Exploring the Frontiers of Faith* by two of its authors, Borge Schantz and Reinder Bruinsma. The book – called *Festschrift* in German – is a collection of twenty-eight articles written by Adventist scholars, all of whom had worked with Pastor Paulsen, especially to commemorate his birthday. Among the contributors were B. B. Beach and B. W. Ball, as well as co-editors Schantz and Bruinsma.

The preparation of the book had taken place entirely without Pastor Paulsen's knowledge, as was the involvement of the University of Tübingen professor under whom he had earned his doctorate.

The *Festschrift* – German for 'celebration writing' – brought a wide smile to Pastor Paulsen's face. He said he was 'speechless'.

Pastor Paulsen, president of the GC since 1999,

was also presented with the presidential medal by Richard Hart, president of Loma Linda University.

The 463-page *Exploring the Frontiers of Faith*, published by the German Adventist publisher Advent-Verlag, is available for purchase.

Jan Paulsen, formerly Newbold principal and

president of the Trans-European Division, has served as a mentor for leaders in our Union and Division. He will be guest speaker at The Stanborough Press Open Day on Sunday 5 September.



Borge Schantz and Reinder Bruinsma make their presentation to Pastor Jan and Mrs Kari Paulsen with their son Rein Andre looking on

Enhancing Health

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

A little wine for the stomach's sake?



The Bible passage found in 1 Timothy 5:23 has been the centre of debate for centuries. The apostle Paul, writing to the young Timothy who was suffering ill health at the time, states: 'Drink no longer water, but use a little wine for thy stomach's sake and thine often infirmities.'

Some use this Scripture passage to advocate the drinking of alcohol, while others contest that it was unfermented wine – grape juice – that was being spoken of. I agree with the latter. While this article is not written to expand the debate, it will shed light on the benefits of red grapes and their unfermented juice.

Previous researchers have voiced what they regard as health benefits from the consumption of red wine and attributed its cholesterol-regulating effects to its alcohol content. Yet other health experts have refrained from encouraging consumption of a beverage that is

associated with health risks such as addiction, brain impairment and damage, poor cardiovascular health, strokes and cancer. Recent research outcomes, however, have suggested that the *anthocyanins* in red wine that were associated with heart health benefits are actually absorbed more easily from red grape juice than from red wine.

German researchers conducting a study on red grapes versus red wine found 28% higher anthocyanin levels in grape juice drinkers' urine compared to red wine drinkers. Additionally they found that levels of antioxidants and their activity in the blood of the grape juice drinkers were higher and remained higher than that of the wine drinkers. Our bodies respond better to the natural rather than the fermented.

Grapes are rich sources of fibre and vitamins such as A, C, B6 and folate, as well as essential minerals like potassium, calcium, iron,

phosphorus, magnesium and selenium. Grapes contain flavonoids that are very powerful antioxidants, such as resveratrol found in the skin and seeds of red grapes. Research has also identified the Concord and Welch's version of red grape juice as the most beneficial in terms of antioxidant effects and heart health benefits.

Red grapes are thought to have the following benefits: Alzheimer's disease protection, anti-bacterial activity, anti-cancer properties, anti-inflammatory effect, asthma protection, blood cholesterol regulation, blood clot risk reduction, breast cancer prevention, cataract prevention, constipation ease, fatigue fighter, heart disease protection, indigestion soother, kidney disorders, macular degeneration protection, migraine prevention.

Good health!

Met any terrorists lately?

I don't mean Bin Laden. I'm thinking about Bin Grumblin, Bin Criticisin and Bin Cynical. Any one of those fellows can be destructive. All of them at once can be catastrophic.

So how do they get started in that line of work?

It crept up on Bin Grumblin. Beverley did not view herself as a grumbler. 'Me? Grumble?' she protested to her husband. 'Yes. You grumble!' he replied. 'You grumble about the traffic, you grumble about your boss and your work. . . .' 'I thought I was just *sharing*. . . .' said Beverley. 'You don't stop with your work,' he continued. 'You turn the same harsh attitude on the family, on the pastor, on the church.' Beverley still couldn't see it as grumbling, not exactly, until her husband came in with: 'It comes over in your tone of voice and your body language.'

Beverley realised she had become a grumbler without realising it. Years later she wrote an article. It had become a negative pattern of habits and attitudes, she admitted. And it had to be broken. 'Now,' she wrote, 'when I'm tempted to launch into a monologue about my woes, I remind myself that I don't want to quench the Holy Spirit – but to harness his power.'

Grumbling is a terribly contagious condition: one dog can set the whole kennels howling.

Bin Criticisin rarely works alone. They usually work in cells, some of them under cover. Bin Criticisin, also known as Bin Judgemental, has two favourite targets: *the pastor and the youth*.

Jonathan Edwards, under God, led the revival in New England that became known as the Great Awakening. But he had to contend with critics carping at every turn. It was not unknown for Edwards to be dismissed from his pastorate by church board action. That is why his farewell sermons make such fascinating reading!

'Avoid contention,' he told one congregation. 'A contentious people are a miserable people. You have been contentious since I first became your pastor. It has been the greatest burden I have laboured under in all of my ministry; but worse than the contentions you have had with me, are the contentions you have had with one another. . . .'

Bin Judgemental has a deadly effect on youth. After you've flagged up 40, the lure of the Thumbs-down Taliban is all but irresistible. The Thumbs-down Taliban will be making a big issue about short skirts, long hair, high heels, flat heels, baseball caps, baubles, bangles and beads, but behind their

with David Marshall, editor

Watch out, terrorists about!

fatwas is the cry, 'You're young – and it's hard to forgive!'

The DTD slam doors in the face of returning prodigals and, instead of calling, 'Bring the best robe and put it on him,' they're faulting their trendy gear. For, by contrast with the prodigal of the story, twenty-first-century prodigals, in my experience, show up at church wearing the best in their wardrobes and smelling of Lynx, not pigsties.

The problem is, of course, Bin Judgemental does not look beyond the surface. He's the ultimate fashion policeman and he's wanting to recognise the fashions of his own distant youth. By contrast the Father looks at the heart and sees only a scared youth in his best togs who for months has been screwing up the courage to come back to the Father's House.

Why can't we practise the Father's embrace when the prodigals come home? The hairdo, the eye shadow and the gleaming stud in her nose are near irrelevant features that God will take care of. All that matters now is this: *She's home!*

Ever read *The Youth Builder* by Jim Burnes? 'Build up our young people with affirmation and trust,' it says. 'For every critical comment we receive, it takes nine affirming comments to even out the negative effect on a life. Most young people receive more critical comments a day than encouraging ones. You can have a very positive, life-transforming effect when you develop a ministry of affirmation.'¹

Remember. When you throw mud at somebody, you're the one who loses ground.

A. L. McGinnis is a business consultant. Large companies call him in to reverse negative trends. He writes, 'They call me to work with low-producing managers and sales persons, the people who are failing but whom they'd like to reclaim. As I sit with these men and women and listen to their conversation, I'm always struck by how pes-

simistic and cynical their talk is. . . .' Did you spot the word *cynical*? Bin Cynical is the most insidious of all the terrorists.

McGinnis claims that one loser can launch a pattern of negative talk. He recommends that we monitor our conversation. Whether we acknowledge it or not, we all 'spin'. Since all our conversation is 'spun', says McGinnis, let's at least choose to experiment with an optimistic 'spin'.²

Criticism, like rain, should be gentle enough to nourish a person's growth without destroying their roots.

Benjamin Franklin said, 'Any fool can criticise, condemn and complain, and most fools do.'

The apostle Paul refers to encouragement as a gift (Romans 12:8). The early church sent out people specifically to encourage the churches (Acts 15:32; Ephesians 6:22; Colossians 4:7, 8). Among them was Timothy who, with Paul, understood that to give encouragement was to give strength (1 Thessalonians 3:2, 3).

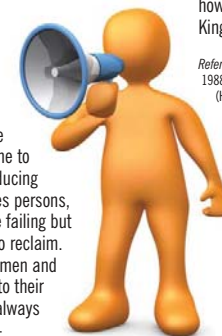
This was Paul's prayer for the Christians in Thessalonica:

'May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.' (2 Thessalonians 2:16, 17.)

Bin Grumblin, Bin Criticisin, Bin Cynical: they stand *condemned*. They prove Satan has Bin Workin.

Bin Trustin, Bin Prayin, Bin Affirmin, Bin Encouragin: they stand *commended*. That's how the work gets done. That's how the Kingdom comes.

References: ¹Jim Burnes, *The Youth Builder* (Harvest House, 1988), page 54. ²A. L. McGinnis, *The Power of Optimism* (Harper and Row, 1990), pages 134-141.



BEWARE!

The thumbs-down Taliban at work



The papacy down the centuries



The papacy is a disgraced institution that should have collapsed at least a millennium ago. The amazing thing is that it not only survived but in 2010 has a billion followers worldwide.

The eleventh was, like most, a fairly unifying century in papal history. Hildebrand became 'reforming' Pope Gregory VII. In 1075 came his *Papal Dictats*, the most powerful statement of papal authority heard up to that time: 'the Pope may absolve subjects of obedience to unjust men'; 'he may depose emperors'; 'only the Pope may use the imperial insignia'; 'the Roman church has never erred nor ever shall to all eternity'.

After an initial failure to unseat the Pope, Emperor Henry IV went to meet him, stood barefoot in the snow and repented before him. Ironically, Pope Gregory set in train the events that 'unpopped' him by accepting the Emperor's repentance. Nevertheless, the kings of Europe came to terms with the fact that the popes were beginning to wield the authority they had always claimed to have.

The eleventh century also saw the beginnings of what one historian called 'the most extraordinary outbreak of psychotic hooliganism ever to wear the cross of Christ': the crusades. 'Let those who were brigands become soldiers of Christ!' urged Pope Urban II. They began the siege of Antioch by catapulting Turkish heads over the wall. When they took Jerusalem they charged through the streets murdering every man, woman and child they saw. The Jerusalem Christians only survived because the Muslims showed them out when they saw the crusaders approaching. The Jews and Muslims were slaughtered. By contrast when the Kurdish Muslim leader Saladin retook Jerusalem at the time of the Third Crusade (1187), his armies did

not loot houses or kill civilians.

The folk memory of the crusades in the Muslim community is an important reason why the twenty-first-century West still suffers at the hands of groups operating on Islam's fundamentalist fringe. And it is hard not to hold the papacy responsible for the crusades.

Pope Innocent III told the patriarch of Constantinople that he had been given 'not only the worldwide church to govern but the entire world'. Subsequently he declared himself 'the vicar of Jesus Christ, successor of Peter, the Lord's anointed, Pharaoh's god, set between God and man, lower than God but higher than man'. Previously the Pope had been 'the substitute of St Peter'; now he was 'the substitute of Christ'. One of the few titles Innocent III would *not* appear to have given himself is the one beloved of the old evangelists: *Vicarius Filii Dei!*

Innocent III overruled the divorces and marriages of kings. When England's King John tried to appoint his own archbishop, the Pope both excommunicated and deposed him, and called all English priests out on strike. He also declared Magna Carta void. The fact that most people took little notice isn't the point. The Pope claimed to have the power. He was more successful in hunting out and arresting heretics in France. In 1231 another Pope set up the Inquisition to find and try heretics, then hand them over to the state for execution.

The fourteenth century saw Pope Boniface issue a proclamation to the effect that, 'It is absolutely impossible for anyone to be saved without being subject to the Roman pontiff.' At one stage there was an embarrassment of popes: one in Rome, another in Avignon.

Elsewhere in Christendom there were great scholars and pure spirits. Ireland was in the vanguard. But at its core the papal system was

about power. England's Wyclif and Bohemia's Hus had plenty to complain about. And after the infamous Rodrigo Borgia bribed his way into the papacy in 1492 and began to divide the best preferments among his eight children, everyone had lots to talk about.

Five centuries on and the papacy has learned a great deal. Among the things it has learned, sadly, is: When scandal breaks priority one is secrecy!

Unless information comes to light to the contrary, it is wrong to give the blame for the current child-abuse scandal to Pope Benedict XVI. It does, however, appear that at one stage what mattered to him most about it was concealment, not the committing of abuse. Is it significant, ponders one journalist, that child abuse is a crime for which no one has ever been excommunicated?

MESSENGER readers have sent me copies of the pastoral letter written by the Pope to Irish Roman Catholics. Among the things that arrested my attention was that he seemed to be blaming the sins of the priesthood on 'the lax moral climate', 'modern liberalism', and on very recent social changes in Ireland. The evidence, on the contrary, appears to suggest that sexual abuse was prevalent decades ago. He ignores the fact that he has already had to apologise to US and Australian victims of abusive priests. He overlooks the 250 cases which have come to light in his native Germany. When the Pope was Archbishop of Munich he allowed the notorious paedophile Peter Hullermann to go on working as a priest. Hullermann was not suspended even when under active investigation – until mid-March this year!

Before Cardinal Ratzinger became Pope he was head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (previously known as the Inquisition). In 2001 that organisation was tasked with taking over from local bishoprics responsibility for investigating charges of child rape and torture. Among the things Cardinal Ratzinger did was to write 'to all bishops warning them, on pain of excommunication, not to share any evidence of abuse with the press or with legal authorities'.²

Revelations of paedophilia among the priesthood have emerged in Mexico, Brazil, Holland and Austria, as well as the countries already mentioned.

Irish thought-leader and singer Sinead O'Connor has called Benedict XVI's pastoral letter 'a study in the art of lying'. She calls upon the Vatican to address the cover-up attempts.³

It does not look as if the twenty-first century is going to be much better for the papacy than the eleventh. Indeed, it could be a great deal worse. In the eleventh century not one in a hundred knew about the abuses at the Vatican. In the twenty-first century everybody is going to find out sooner or later.

EDITOR

References

¹The Week, 27 March 2010, page 8. ²Ibid., *Independent.ie* Sunday 21 March 2010. Article by Liam Collins.

Christian standards

Dear Editor,
Following the pictures of the Area 2 Youth Federation's banquet, and letters concerning standards [see letters column on page 6, 16 April issue], I would like to respond by offering some other perspectives. Standards are important, but we often complicate things when we try to impose our standards on other people. Our Christian standards are there to guide us, personally, in our behaviour, not to measure other people against and find them wanting. When we look at the life of Jesus, we watch him come into contact with all kinds of people whose standards are not the same as his: the woman caught in adultery; Zacchaeus the tax collector; and the woman at the well. It's worth taking the time to study what happens in these three cases:

Jesus never condemns or criticises, even though there are very obvious 'standards' issues. He accepts the fragile person totally, even at the point of his/her greatest failure. Paul invites us to 'accept others as Christ has accepted you' (Romans 15:7). This is a powerful relational commandment, and our churches would be transformed if we could learn how to follow this in our everyday lives. The children and young people in our church communities desperately need us to accept them, especially when their standards are different from ours. Accepting a person is not the same as condoning his/her behaviour. Jesus accepted these three people without a word of condemnation or criticism, and it was his loving acceptance that gave them the power and courage to turn their lives around on the spot. Ellen White also tells us that Jesus never uttered a word to hurt or criticise a sensitive soul. (*Desire of Ages*, page 353.)

Jesus looked for the best in the other person and saw them through the lens of their potential, not their mistakes. He saw what each of these three social outcasts would achieve when the power of the Holy Spirit transformed their lives. By the end of the day two of those people had become amazing missionaries. I wonder what power would be released in our churches if we focused on the good in our children and young people and empowered them to use their gifts to reach the people in their circles of influence.

In two of these biblical cases Jesus asked the other person for help. He wanted them to feel valued and respected and to believe that they could change and do something good and worthwhile. So he humbled himself and asked for their help. In doing so he honoured them

above himself (Romans 12:10). This is a powerful experience for people who have been rejected, criticised and despised. Criticism comes from our own sense of pride that we are in some way superior to the other person. It alienates people and pushes them away from God. How can we show humility and honour the young people and children in our churches above ourselves, above the critics, above the people who do not understand their needs? What might our young people achieve if we showed our confidence in their abilities and gifts?

We know that humans are sinful, but we also know that God said it is not good for people to experience aloneness (Genesis 2:19). God is the person who deals with each of our sinfulness – not us. We try to do the work of the Holy Spirit, and maybe we grieve him, when we try to deal with each other's sinfulness, or different standards, in our time, and not God's time. This hurts God, because when we demand that people change when we want them to, to meet our needs, we can damage their relationship with him and with us.

Our churches are nurseries for people who are growing in Christ. Sometimes we grow green leaves, sometimes we grow fruit, but sometimes we wither, shrivel and look dead, just like a winter tree. But the tree is still a tree and with each year it grows taller and stronger as it cycles through the seasons of life. And God's grace holds on to us, through the seasons of our own spiritual experience.

Churches are not places for perfect people who wear perfect clothes. When we focus on these external features it may be hard for us to witness. The person in the street does not look at the people in our church who wear jewellery, or who wear various heights of necklines, or whose relationships are broken and tight. 'Oh dear, just look at that church! It has such low standards! They are more likely to think, 'Look at that church! They accept people just the way they are! That's what Christians are supposed to do. Maybe they'd accept and love me just the way I am, too. . . . Maybe there's hope for me. Maybe it would be safe to go inside and learn more about God's love, too. . . .'

We are all on different stages of our spiritual journeys, whether we are a child, a young person or an adult. It is not for us to look at where the other people are on this journey and try to drag them to where we are. But what God *does* call us to do is to love the other people on the road, wherever they are. His transforming work in their lives is a

thousand times easier when we lovingly and patiently accept each other. We need to behave in ways that invite people to stay on the road to God, rather than in ways that might push them off the road and into the ditches.

The most important gift we can give our children and young people is the gift of our love. Their experience God's love through their interactions with the adults around them. They will be drawn closer to God, or be pushed away, by the way that the adults in their lives treat them.

How do we love them? First Corinthians 13 is an excellent set of guidelines against which to measure our behaviour in response to other people's behaviour. Are we being patient? God doesn't always transform people overnight – he takes time, sometimes years, to work in people's lives and bring them closer into his likeness. We need to be patient with their mistakes, as he is patient with ours.

Are our words and actions kind? Do they offer warm encouragement, or do they hurt and discourage the children, young people and other growing Christians? Jesus had strong words for anyone who dared to hurt a child's spirit: something about millstones and necks (Matthew 18:6). He also told us not to despise children and young people, because their angels in Heaven always look on the face of God (Matthew 18:10, 11).

Are we being rude towards others or respectful? Are we feeling proud that we are not like them? Are we demanding our own way, and what we want, rather than trying to understand where they are coming from and being gentle with those whose standards are not the same as ours?

Love keeps no record of wrongs. When others make mistakes it is God's job to transform them in his time and so we let the errors of others disappear from our minds and focus on working with God on our own imperfections. Love rejoices about whatever is good, especially the fact that this child or teenager or young person is still coming to our church, no matter what they are wearing. God looks on their heart and we are hopelessly distracted from seeing the children as God sees them when we look at their clothes and jewellery.

Love never gives up, it keeps hoping, looking at the person through God's eyes and looking into the future to see the transformed child of God. Love sees the person today as a sculptor views the piece of marble on which he is

working. At the moment it is a rough shape, a general outline. Perhaps there is a section here or there that is almost finished, or almost perfect. But as the sculptor works patiently and slowly, the picture of what he hopes to create is always in his mind. The casual passer-by may look and criticise the shape of the uncut stone, but the sculptor only sees the end result. And the sculptor knows he is making an angel.

Yours in Christ,
KAREN HOLLFORD

Cut them some slack!

Dear Editor
I write in response to the letters published in the 16 April issue (Shocked! Pained! etc.). I find it concerning that, instead of celebrating that there are young people who are still interested in coming to church, we are condemning them about what they wear. I would ask the writers if they would really rather the young people in question not attend church at all? I, for one, would rather encourage them to stay in a loving church 'family' by any means necessary – whether they come in low-slung jeans and piercings, or beautiful ball gowns – really makes no odds. Let's try to get over ourselves and cut them some slack.

A. MURPHY

What the blue blazes . . . ?

Dear Editor
I write in response to the two letters that appeared in *Messenger* No. 8, 16 April 2010.

Quite frankly, I was 'Shocked' by what I was reading. Had I just been teleported back in time to Victorian England? After double-checking the pictures in question, what was all the fuss about? All I saw was a very beautiful young woman, looking radiant and very happy, in a lovely blue ball gown, which I should imagine took her ages to choose, on the arm of a very dashing young man.

Who are these people who get so hung up on these issues? With all the problems in the world today, all they want to do is wag the finger at our young people, who are only trying their best. Reading these letters simply reaffirmed my own twenty-year-old disillusionment with the Church. You need to 'Wake up and smell the coffee,' be proud of the fact that these young people still want to come along to church. If all you can do is criticise, then you will drive them away, or is that what you want?

Monique Henderson, you looked lovely, and I bet your parents were and are very proud of you. Don't let these people get you down.

DINGBATZ9

Adventist education and home-schooling events

by Neal Lawrence, BUC Home Schooling advisor

In November a series of Adventist Education and Home Schooling programmes were sponsored by the BUC Education department.

Area 5 (SEC): 7, 8 November (Newbold College)

This event was attended by Area 5 members as well as those from other places. All were challenged to consider the higher ground that God is calling us to in education.

The presentations were wide-ranging and included: 'Case Studies in Education that Produces a God Passion' (Newbold principal Jane Sabes); Home Schooling ARCs (Ann-Marie Jack); 'Your Vision for Your Child' and 'Principles and Practices of Adventist Education' (Neal Lawrence). Families shared their home schooling experiences. Kimberly Ham-Ying shared a moving testimony of her spiritual journey through her varied home schooling and church school experiences in childhood.

The legal side of home schooling

and the practicalities of setting up an Adventist curriculum were also considered. The need for a distinctive Adventist approach to home schooling became more and more evident and also the need for good support structures for families. By the end, it was apparent that this was just the beginning of a process that must be continued to meet the growing needs of families desirous of something better in the education of their children.

Home Schooling Day: 15 November (Stanborough School)

The day brought together current and prospective home schooling families from a wide area. Along with the presentations, there were resource providers sharing information about their materials, including: Ministry Helps (family life and educational books and DVDs); Thy Word (educational books); True Education Ministries (SonLight curriculum). Again it emerged that there is a need to understand and put into practice

God's principles of education. The need for training days to look at curriculum issues in more depth was also evident.

Kim Tello who was instrumental in conceiving and organising the day said, "We were blessed with a wonderful day where the Holy Spirit's presence was overflowing. There were families present who had just started home schooling."

Glasgow church: 21, 22 November

No families are currently home schooling in the Glasgow church, but there is a serious interest in establishing Adventist education for their children and young people. The connection between education and redemption was presented and the effects of secular education run counter to this. Parents raised real concerns over what their children are facing in state schools. On the Sunday, we were joined by some families from the Crieff church. The home schooling model with groups of families working together is seen

as a possible way forward. More follow-up work is to be done this year to address the practical issues involved in setting up a suitable Adventist education programme.

SonLight Curriculum Seminars: 23-30 November (Northampton church)

This seminar series was conducted by Genie Cook from the USA who was instrumental in setting up the SonLight programme. This curriculum is Bible-based and seeks to teach different areas of learning from the Bible and writings of Ellen White. It has a central focus on Christian character development and preparing young people for missionary service.

The seminar was consistently attended by a core group of families throughout the week with more families joining at the weekend. Parents were challenged to make their own and their children's character development the focus, above academic pursuits, qualifications and the expectations of others. In the SonLight programme, character building is very deliberate and not incidental and it is not content-driven. Angela Woodburn who helped to put on the seminars said, "Many families attended and were richly blessed as we were shown how to raise our children in a distinctive Adventist Christian way."

Several home schooling families in Britain are already using the

SonLight programme and from this year it is to be made available free of charge in a downloadable format. The need for local persons to carry out SonLight training sessions is something being considered.

New initiatives

At these events a number of new initiatives being planned were shared, including the following:

Home schooling ARCs

The ARCs plan is for groups of home schooling families to work together using local church facilities in a type of semi-school model for a few days each week under the direction of parents and teachers.

Adventist curriculum framework

This framework will be a part of the new SDA Home Schooling Handbook. It is not a prescriptive curriculum, but rather an outline structure based on Adventist education principles. It can be used to shape a distinctly Adventist education programme and inform as to appropriate resources to use.

Personal education portfolios

The many and varied activities and experiences in an Adventist home schooling programme could be documented and serve as a detailed assessment and comprehensive audit of educational progress, character development and learning over the years. This can be done in a digital format possibly linked to a website with personal login areas. There would be a broad validation process with appropriate accreditation opportunities.

Lifework guidance programme with mission focus

This programme is to support parents by facilitating their older children in finding out God's purpose for their lives. As their talents become more evident, opportunities can be given for them to explore the best routes to take in the direction of God's calling with a mission focus and the necessary entrepreneurial skills.

Home Schooling Association relaunch

The idea of the association is to foster a sense of belonging and help to encourage and facilitate an Adventist education focus in home schooling. Membership cards will enable families to show educational authorities that they are a part of a



Chip training in Ireland

Ireland is famous for a number of things. Among them are emerald green rolling fields, more than three million sheep and the potato. So it was not at all strange for a group of Health Ministries leaders in Ireland to spend three days learning about CHIP! Not only is the chip a popular staple on Irish dinner plates but it may also be the reason why many people are now in need of the Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP). March 5-7 saw six-teen Health Ministries leaders from across the Irish Mission meet together in the idyllic setting of Kippure Estate in County Wicklow to undertake CHIP leadership training. The training, led by Gene Kol, the BUC CHIP co-ordinator, was the first of its kind in Ireland. The three-day training equipped leaders to undertake CHIP training within their churches and communities.

larger body and a Church that has an important educational mission in this country.

Adventist education & home schooling forums in church areas

Forums can operate in Conference Areas around the country on a monthly to quarterly basis as best suits the needs. They can promote an understanding of Adventist Christian education, highlight and address practical educational issues facing our children.

Please join me in regular prayer for the presence of the Holy Spirit in this redemptive work of Adventist education and home schooling in Britain.
BUC Home Schooling advisor
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Email: homeschooling@adventist.org.uk

Participants were able to learn about this programme that has helped thousands in the United States, Canada, India, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom to reduce dramatically their risk of heart disease, stroke and related illnesses.

Albert Einstein (1879-1955) once said, 'A table, a chair, a bowl of fruit and a violin; what else does a man need to be happy?' The bowl of fruit in this instance came in the form of delicious meals prepared by three professional chefs from Dublin church – Rachel Nteta, Thobekani Ndebele and Cindy Manuel. The food not only got the CHIP thumbs up from Gene Kol, but received the taste seal of approval from all those

present. The weekend training was punctuated with relaxing walks around the estate, invigorating early-morning hill climbing led by Gene and a music-filled worship service led by David Neal, president of the Irish Mission.

With the backdrop of the high Wicklow Mountains, the beautiful purple hues of the sunsets and the inspiring CHIP stories, one could not help but feel the enthusiasm that has been seen all over the world where CHIP has been conducted. Veaceslav from the Dublin Romanian church declared that he would 'take CHIP to Moldova and make it available to everyone', while many lamented that the training had been only three days. It appears that most people were eager for more CHIP(s), and with that zeal we should see CHIP training programmes all over Ireland soon!

EDITH SAMAMBWA

Interest co-ordinators workshop

'I am so glad that I've come to this training as I've learned a lot I never knew before,' was one of the comments from one of the attendees at the Advent Centre on 21 March. It has been recognised over the past two years that the role of the Interest co-ordinator in the local church has been sidelined or not seen as that important. Both the BUC and the SEC have sought to address this by running training workshops. The South England Conference held their first workshop at the Advent Centre with over sixty people in attendance.

Terry Messenger, Personal Ministries and Sabbath School director at the Conference, spoke about relating successfully with people and implied this was crucial for the role and responsibilities of the Interest co-ordinator. It was important that visitors were greeted warmly and that some form of follow-up was quickly established. Cliff Hilton, Men's Ministries co-ordinator at the conference, spoke about the actual role of the Interest co-ordinator, saying that they were like a customer services manager ensuring customer satisfaction. He went on to describe how the role was that of a link person connecting with all the departments in the church to ensure that visitors' names are recorded and established on a database so that nobody slips through the net.

TERRY MESSENGER

Montserratian day of fellowship

Sabbath 29 May
at the Mount Zion Community Church
The Dream Centre, 70 Thomas Street, Aston, Birmingham, B6 4TN.
Guest speaker: Pastor Ian Sweeney, NEC president
For further information contact William Riley on 0121 241 7318 or email: williamriley@hotmail.co.uk



Some of the attendees at the Newbold weekend



Left to right: Monique and Clive Smith, Farayi Mukada, Taz Majaya, Pastor Steve Palmer, Pastor Paul Liburd

Baptism at Coventry Central

There was a lot of excitement at Coventry Central on the Sabbath of 13 March. Four souls gave their lives to Jesus. These are Clive and Monique Smith (husband and wife), Farayi Mukada and Taz Majaya. The local pastor, Pastor Paul Liburd, who hurt his foot a few weeks ago, invited his colleague and former pastor of Coventry Central, Pastor Steve Palmer, to help with the baptism. Pastor Palmer was honoured to baptise his former flock. The candidates asked the church to continue praying for them as they start their new journey with Christ.

NONMBULELO MOYO

Erdington's triple baptism

On 10 October Erdington witnessed the baptism of three young people. They were T. Melbourne, K. Melbourne (both from the same family) and C. Ngongola. The occasion was solemnised and witnessed by church members, the immediate members and friends of the two families and church leaders from the district. Pastor Ron Davey baptised the people. Behind the scenes and for twelve months, Pastor Holder, the district pastor for the Erdington church, gave the three candidates Bible studies to underpin their carefully nurtured faith in God.

Every baptismal candidate has a story to tell.

T. Melbourne testified that he had been writing music for the secular world but that now that God has taken over his life, his only way to praise God was to surrender himself to Christ through baptism and to write music for the Lord.

K. Melbourne gave a testimony that God continues to be faithful to her. On one occasion, she recalled that she lost her bicycle and after fervently praying for the return of the bicycle, the good Lord answered her prayer and the bicycle was returned the following day.

C. Ngongola's faith in God has been reinforced by his relationship with a Moslem friend who has accepted Christ as his personal Saviour. As a young Moslem, this friend did not understand why young Moslems had to pay to be taught Arabic and the Koran. Now, as a Christian, he has learned that the Word of God in Christian churches is a free gift to everyone who is willing to accept it.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG



Left to right: Pastor O Holder, T. Melbourne, K. Melbourne, C. Ngongola and Pastor Ron Davey

Willesden evangelism

At the beginning of 2009 Pastor Kirk Thomas and the leadership team set out to evangelise. Evangelism translated into revival meetings, evangelistic weekends, campaigns and seminars. The goal was for fifty new members to be added to the church. The Holy Spirit touched the tongue of Pastor K. Thomas and gave him remarkable energy. There were systematic appeals at the end of each sermon; a revival meeting which took place in July; a campaign of nurturing.

The outcome bore many beautiful fruits: twenty-five baptised in August followed by five new candidates in November. Husband and wife and a record number of young men and teenagers entered the baptismal pool. There was much elation from the congregation, families and friends.

Was the mission of baptising fifty souls completed? No, but thirty new creatures have now shifted their allegiance to God and joined the throng of those marching to Zion.

The candidates' names: Mr Aiyob Akram, Miss Natasha Antony, Miss Caroline Cummins, Mr Emmanuel Dunn, Mrs Aurvine Essien, Master Philip Essien, Mr Nathaniel Henry, Mr Gerald Heslop, Mrs Jackie Heslop, Mr Gerald Heslop, Mr Timisier Dacian Ioan, Ms Dolores Lewis, Miss Dawn Mears, Ms Euphemia Scott, Ms Gloria Sela, Mr Jason Simon, Ms Youthlyn Staines, Miss Eva Uwimana, Ms Angela Wright, Riche Campbell, Mr Dwight Cummins, Mrs Janelle Cummins, Schallaci Esterene, Mrs Lorna Warburton (recommitment), Mr Roderick Ward, Mrs Cheryl Grant, Monique Mahendra, Mr Delroy Morris (rebaptised), Martha Ncube (rebaptised) and Mr David Watts.

MICHELLE RONDORF

Ileuan branches out

Every Sabbath a tall, quiet young man attends the Maidenhead church in Berkshire. He is 26 years old and began to attend church with his foster parents, Leslie and Miriam Wood, when he moved from High Wycombe to live with them at the age of 12. He is soon to move on, to house-share with daily support to care for himself, shop, cook and clean. Ileuan has learning disabilities and autism, so he needs extra help to look after himself and to study and work.

Ileuan has been very busy, especially in the last year or so. He completed more than forty Bible lessons with 3ABN and received a certificate and a Bible as a result. He continues to work part-time in the warehouse at the local branch of Argos, where he works hard and is very popular. He also goes to Ravenswood Village two days a week to study computing, pottery and to play football. Just over a year ago he met the Queen when she went to open a new building in the village. A photograph of her with him, admiring the large garden pot he was making, was in *HELLO* magazine. Later Ileuan sent the pot as a gift to the Queen and received a letter of thanks from one of her ladies-in-waiting.

Last year Ileuan went with a team from Ravenswood to the Special Olympics in Leicester where he won several medals during the week. Rather than attend the Opening

Ceremony on Sabbath, Ileuan chose to attend church with Iris Johns, who picked him up in the morning and returned him to the stadium at the close of Sabbath for the evening events.

Every Sabbath, as well as attending church, Ileuan enjoys listening to Christian music, looking at nature websites on the internet and watching Bible story DVDs. Recently he bought a complete set of DVDs that tell stories from the Old and New Testament.

Ileuan is now busy learning practical things to assist him in his future. He has just had an excellent report from Ravenswood, especially noting that he is assisting other people in his class. Also his workmates at Argos say how diligent and honest he is, and they are helpful, caring and kind to him.

MIRIAM WOOD

Community Fun Day

Yardley church offers an open invitation to all to their day of fun activities, including stalls, sports, crafts, health checks, music and much more. Be prepared to experience something different as we share the Good News with the local community. Entrance is free.

Venue: Small Heath Park, Waverley/Tennyson Road, Birmingham

Date: 23 May 2010

Time: 11 am-4 pm

For further details ring Anolin Stevens on 07950 800875 or email ann.stevens@yahoo.co.uk



Photos: Andreas Hunzinger

Church of Refuge

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is losing far too many of its youth. Something radical needs to be done!

Pastor Des Boldeau reports on one such initiative.

Church of Refuge is a twin-need strategy designed to retain those still attending church and reclaiming those who were once regular attendants and members of the Church.

Thus history was made on 11-14 March as over fifty individuals from across Europe gathered at Oud Zandbergen, Holland, for the first Church of Refuge (CORE, Church Of Refuge Europe) conference. This initiative is the result of the collaborative efforts of the Youth directors of the Dutch, Norwegian and British Unions under the leadership of the TED Youth director, Dr Paul Tompkins. All who attended are involved in a reclamation ministry specifically aimed at young people and students. They came together to exchange experiences of how the concept was working out in their

respective territories in Britain, Holland, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Norway.

BUC churches were well represented with fourteen interested persons from Stanborough Park, Wimbledon, Newbold and the Portuguese churches in attendance.

These are churches which are either working on implementing the CORE values or which are seeking to become such a church.

The Church of Refuge is about creating a church that intentionally seeks to make its environment and services youth/student friendly, providing a welcoming, caring, supportive atmosphere where these young adults can nurture their faith in God.

You may ask, what's different about this approach that is not already being done in some

churches? The answer rests partly in the fact that our church is losing too many of our youth and young adults. In many of our congregations there is a vacancy age range. These are the 20-35 year olds. The largest loss is when students leave home to undertake studies at universities across Britain and the Republic of Ireland. There is an urgent need for all concerned to maintain contact with our youth in these circumstances. Failure to do this gives the impression that we don't care and they are not valuable to us.

Together we must seek to find a workable and viable strategy to

redress this haemorrhage of young people away from the Church, hence the emphasis on the reclamation of young adults and students. We also need to change what youth often perceive as a harsh and increasingly uncaring attitude – one of the reasons why some leave the Church. Rather, they need to see the church as a warm and caring environment – a strong indicator demonstrated in the recent Valuegenesis Europe survey. It clearly shows that the feeling of church warmth actually decreases from age 14. The CORE church seeks

to use the ten criteria to help in creating such an environment of acceptance in churches: Accept, Vision, Expect, Contact, Commit, Pray, Lead, Integrate, Meet and Resource. These criteria are not static or mandatory for those who wish to subscribe to the values of CORE.

The excitement was very evident at the conference as one church group after another reported on initiatives being introduced into their worship and the changes taking place in the mindset of people from all persuasions within the church membership.

Dr Paul Tompkins commented, 'The church throughout the centuries has always been recognised as being a place of refuge – a place where all can find healing and restoration in Christ and among his people. It can be again today, and the Church of Refuge programme is designed to make this a reality.'

If you are interested in more information, please visit the CORE website: www.churchofrefuge.eu or contact the BUC Youth department on 01923 672251 or bucyouth@adventist.org.uk.





Main speaker, Troy Fitzgerald

Three Missions Youth Weekend in Wales

by John Surridge

Over the past few years young people from Scotland, Ireland and Wales have got together each Easter weekend for fellowship and fun as well as inspiration and spiritual renewal. This year the Welsh Mission hosted the event at the Hebron Hall Christian Centre in Dinas Powys, near Cardiff, and approximately 100 people attended.

The main speaker for the weekend was Troy Fitzgerald, associate pastor of the Walla Walla University church, Washington State. A natural with young people, Troy soon made friends of the diverse Three Missions group and was able to speak openly and candidly about many of the issues facing them. In a workshop on 'Discovering God's Will' he pointed out that God's will for people's lives is not so much a particular end point but more of a general direction that one's life takes. An illustration of this is the fixation that many young people have with finding the right person to marry, or their 'soul mate'. Troy explained that for the Christian, 'a soul mate is not someone that you find, it's someone that you become'.

In his Sabbath morning devotional Troy spoke on the theme of 'Making Your Way Home' and asked the question, 'Why does life seem to be so anaemic these days, even in the Christian church?' His answer focused on the issues of sin and trust. 'These days,' Troy said, 'we don't like using words such as sin and evil.' Like the Patagonian Toothfish which sells better as the 'Chilean Sea Bass'; prunes, which are somehow more palatable as 'dried plums'; and the Chinese Gooseberry, which is now universally known as a 'Kiwi Fruit', we minimise sin and find other ways of talking about it. 'Unless we see sin for what it is, we will never see the grace of God for what it is,' he continued.

In a final illustration Troy spoke about how the Israelites were reluctant to leave Egypt and head for the promised land. Then, taking a cup of hot water and a teabag he proceeded to show young people from the British Isles how to make

a cup of tea! 'We've got to choose to start the journey home,' he said, dipping the teabag into the water. Immediately withdrawing it he held up an anaemic looking brew before making his final point: 'But we've got to stick with it. We have to stay with Jesus long enough for the message of freedom to sink in.'

Young people from the Swansea church provided a lively band for each of the main workshops, and a number of workshops catered for a variety of interests. David Wright, from the Winchester church, spoke on 'Chance and Probability', highlighting the incredible 'coincidences' that can be found in Bible prophecy. Eifion Paul occupied those with an artistic flair during his workshop on 'Creativity', while Duane Saunders led out in a workshop called 'The Heart of Worship', dealing with the issues and hype surrounding Christian music. Other workshops included the provocatively titled 'Spiritual Sex' by Sam Neves and 'Forty Days Wild' by

Social activities are an integral part of the Three Missions Weekends – this time there were trips to Cardiff Bay as well the National Museum of Wales, set in the beautiful 100-acre parkland of St Fagans Castle. On Sunday evening the ever popular Ceilidh provided the dual benefits of social interaction and an aerobic workout, and those with any energy remaining played board games into the early hours.

Unlike the two Conferences in the British Union Conference, the Missions do not have very many young people and fellowship events are a really important part of the church calendar. Our thanks go to the many volunteers who make the event possible every year, particularly to Pastor Jeremy Tremeer who was the chief organiser this year.

Pictures from the event can be seen on the Welsh Mission website at www.adventistwales.org.



Duane Saunders presenting a workshop



Chris Kidwell on guitar



Jane Taft-Bayliss in the kitchen

Newbold Choir on tour

by Taylor Bajic

The Newbold College Choir's annual tour focused on Northern Ireland and Scotland for six days in the latter part of March 2010. As much of the tour took place during the days leading up to the Easter weekend, the choir's tour programme, chosen by choir director Sandra Rigby-Barrett, consisted of the musical 'Behold the Lamb of God' by Don Kreuger.

Henrik Jørgensen, head of Student Services, and Erica Hole, head of the School of English department, also accompanied

the choir and served as narrators for the Easter musical, while Colin Hole conducted the visual aspects of the programme, richly enhancing the experience.

The choir visited destinations not previously visited in the history of its various tours. The first concert of the tour was to the most north-westerly SDA church in the British Isles, Londonderry, where a warm welcome was given by the small but growing church community.

The last Sabbath of March was spent revisiting the Belfast church

where the Larne, Londonderry and Banbridge churches combined for a special Day of Fellowship service in the morning, followed by a performance of the musical to a large and responsive congregation in the afternoon.

Calm weather provided for an early morning ferry crossing from Belfast to Stranraer on Palm Sunday for the choir to commence its tour of four Scottish Mission churches – Glasgow, Crieff, Aberdeen and Dundee. The cosmopolitan city of Glasgow was another first for the College choir to visit where the warmth and generosity of the regular church members was evident.

The Crieff church has received several visits over the years from previous College choirs as well as

members' delight at the choir's visit to their pride and joy was palpable. The choir was treated with great generosity everywhere they went.

'The beautifully-prepared and delightful meals will remain a highlight of the tour,' said one member. Annet Johnston, a long-standing member of the choir and Admissions Officer at Newbold College, reflected, 'There was such a warm and positive interaction between the church families and the choir. We felt very warmly welcomed and invited by all the churches and were received with such generous spirit. I greatly enjoyed meeting all the different people and being able to give a little back to them with the music we shared.'

Most importantly the choir experienced the fulfillment of reaching out to the audiences in a very special way by delivering the Easter message in music. 'The opportunity to also reach out to the un-churched members of the audiences that attended the musical in the Aberdeen, Londonderry and Glasgow churches was particularly enriching,' said Dr Sandra Rigby-Barrett.



Weymouth: God rewards faithfulness

Rose DeLeon, a regular member of the Weymouth congregation, has been studying hard for a diploma in Care Home Management. When she successfully completed her studies recently she decided to seek an appointment in this field. Everyone was praying for her.

Last week she was offered an appointment as a Deputy Care Home Manager and it looked as if our prayers had been answered. However she was told that the duties involved working on Saturdays. What was she to do? Compromise her religious beliefs or forego the advancement?

Like the true Adventist she is, Rose decided to turn down this opportunity so she could continue to keep the Sabbath.

Just when it looked as if her big chance had gone, a few days later the employer had a change of heart. They were so impressed by her dedication that they made an improved offer which allowed for work free Sabbaths. Imagine her delight which she was able to share the news with us all on 3 April. There was rejoicing all round that her dedication to the Lord was rewarded.

ALLAN KISSACK

Your memories of youth work in the BUC needed urgently!

Pastor Des Boldeau, BUC Youth director, is compiling a history of the youth work in the BUC and is sending a further request for pre-war and post-war memories from those who were the young people/youth leaders in the Church at the time.

Did you attend any large youth events – camporees, marches, congresses, summer camps, holiday Bible schools and so forth? Do you remember any campaigns taking place in the metropolitan areas such as Birmingham, Manchester, London? For those living in the missions, what are your memories of the youth work there? How was the youth work for those migrating into the BUC territory?

Were you a student at the time? Were there any campus ministries you can recall? Or perhaps you were a minister/youth leader and were responsible for introducing new initiatives into your territory? Were you introduced to the Church through any youth event or activity or institution? What drew you to the Adventist Church?

Any photos, clippings, mementoes or written memoirs would be appreciated and will all be returned to you. You can either post to: BUC Youth Department, Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JZ or email bucyouth@adventist.org.uk.

smaller groups of musicians, and its internal and external beauty will live long in the choir members' memories.

Sunny, calm and warm weather at the end of March is rare in central Scotland, so the choir was fortunate to have one such day as they travelled north from Crieff to view one of the most spectacular of the many beauty spots in Scotland – Queen's View, near Pitlochry – en route to Aberdeen, the most north-easterly Adventist church in the British Isles. At least 30% of the full-to-capacity audience were guests from the surrounding area and served as a great witness and provided a boost to the current seminars being led by the Aberdeen pastor, Lorraine Johnson.

The final destination was the miraculous, newly-built church of Dundee of which its members are enormously proud and rightly so. Still smelling of freshly decorated walls and brand new furniture, the

Excitement in the Land of the Eagles

by John Arthur *

Albania never ceases to be a place of interest. This was my fifty-first visit to what used to be Europe's poorest country – but progress is being made, and Albania is now second from bottom in the economic league table! The capital city, Tirana, is like a mini Dubai with buildings shooting up at a phenomenal rate.

Out in the rural villages, however, the situation is still the same. It is like moving backwards into the Victorian era. But this is where ADRA is making its mark. Forty school buildings and health clinics have been reconstructed during the past ten years, mainly under the leadership of Lamar Phillips, the current national director. Volunteers from many countries have also played an important role in this modernisation programme.

A health centre on ADRA's compound in Kombinat – one of the more deprived areas of Tirana – was opened by Dr Liri Berisha, director of the Albanian Children's Foundation and wife of the Prime Minister. This event was covered in the main news bulletin of TOP Channel – Albania's most popular TV station.

One hundred and twenty members and friends from all parts of the country assembled for an ADRA rally at the central church on Sabbath 13 March. Retired BBC TV journalist, Bill Hamilton, gave an inspiring talk on the 'Love of God' (Romans 8:28), while Pastor John Arthur presented PowerPoint lectures entitled 'Celebrating Albania's Progress' and 'An Even Better Day is Coming'.

The main purpose of the visit was to try to resolve some issues relating to ADRA's 0.49 hectare site in Tirana which was made available to the agency on a 99-year lease in 1993. Several key players were contacted, including the Prime Minister, Dr Sali Berisha. A decision will be made by the Council of Ministers in due course.

* Pastor Arthur suffered a major stroke on his return from Albania. That he has been able to prepare this report with the help of his daughter Christine indicates that he is recovering his communication skills!



Pastor Arthur with Albania's Prime Minister, Dr Sali Berisha



120 members attended the ADRA rally

Windrush generation turns 100

Hounslow Cornerstone church member Elizabeth Mitchells has celebrated her 100th birthday surrounded by family and friends in the West Middlesex Hospital. She was among the first Jamaicans to arrive in England as part of the Windrush generation, travelling here after the Second World War to look for work. Trained as a seamstress, she arrived in England with her late husband, Wesley, and their five children, initially staying in squalid bedsits in Harlesden and Kensal Rise, before moving to her current home, where she has spent the last forty-five years.

She sold her sewing machine in Jamaica to fund the trip and find a new life for her family. Her granddaughter, Barbara Hemmings, told

the *Hounslow Chronicle*: 'When she came to England, lots of places had signs saying "No blacks" and she had to take the worst bedsits, with rats running around and damp covering the walls. She also got a lot of abuse hurled at her.' However, things changed for the better over the years and the church was one centre of her life. It is partly her faith that today makes her a proud grandmother with seventeen grandchildren, twenty-seven great-grandchildren and five great-great-grandchildren.

Local pastor, Clive de Silva, says, 'She is the oldest Adventist I have ever met and a living example of the blessings that come from putting God first. The Hounslow Cornerstone church is very proud to have

amongst their ranks a mother to the mothers of Israel.' Barbara described her grandmother as a

woman of simple pleasures, but full of 'old-fashioned Caribbean charm'.

DR RICHARD DE LISSER



Picture: Hounslow Chronicle

Dundee in pictures

MESSENGER 19 March contained the wonderful story of how half a million pounds was raised for the rebuilding and refurbishment of the Dundee church in the Scottish Mission. We were disappointed that so few pictures were available to illustrate the story. These have now arrived courtesy of Pastor Neil and Mrs Paula Robertson and we provide a selection of them here.

1. The outside of the new building
2. Mrs Nora Myles, one of the founder members of the Dundee church, with the Lord Provost
3. Ribbon-cutting on dedication day by the Lord Provost of Dundee, John Leford, together with Union officers, the Scottish Mission president and some Dundee members
4. The Haddon Construction Company hand over the keys of the new building to Pastor Marcel Ghioalda and Pastor Neil Robertson
- 5/6. Pictures of the interior of the new sanctuary



It's time to support CWD: Conference Wide Development

by Paul Haworth, Executive secretary, NEC

We have all been baffled from time to time when we see an acronym we do not recognise. Some we see all the time, but do we know what they mean? Take, for instance, UNESCO or OXFAM or NATO or RSPCA or the TUC. And then what about WGGB or CWD? Well, for those who do not know or who need reminding, UNESCO = United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation; OXFAM = Oxford Committee for Famine Relief; NATO = North Atlantic Treaty Organisation; RSPCA = Royal Society for Protection of Animals; TUC = Trades Union Congress. A more difficult one, WGGB = Writers Guild of Great Britain, and now CWD. Never heard of that one, you say. Is it Chronic Wasting Disease, or Cool Web Design? No, it is Conference Wide Development.

Ever heard the adage 'Out of sight, out of mind'? Well, Conference Wide Development is suffering from that problem! As an offering it has gone completely 'out of sight and out of mind.' In over twenty-six years in the NEC I can think of only one person who has ever written out to the pastors and churches to promote CWD. Just one person and then only once in twenty-six years! So what is it? It is an offering.

As I write this article I am pleased to share this good news. The North England Conference is a growing conference. We are growing in membership and also growing in congregations. Presently we have 8,566 members and 117 congregations (as of 31 December 2009). This represents a growth of 460 or 4.44% on 2008. We added 313 by baptism and 136 by profession of faith. As last year was a year of evangelism, this report of baptisms is indicative that many pastors and churches were actively involved in evangelistic outreach in 2009. May we be able to continue and even build on what we achieved last year. If each church which was involved in evangelism in 2009 continues in 2010, and every church which did

not get involved in evangelism in 2009 was added, then under the blessing of God I am sure we could see a total which far exceeds 313. Of those 117 congregations, thirty-five have their own building to worship in, whereas the rest rent halls from week to week. For those in the thirty-five category, the vast majority of members in those churches are now enjoying the sacrifice that was made by those who went before them. Many come from Sabbath to Sabbath and enjoy sitting in their own building and they forget that it was the sacrifice made by others that made it possible for them to be able to worship in a place which is theirs. At the same time, as we sit in our pew and worship God there are sixty-five congregations in our Conference who rent a hall. For those who worship in their own buildings what does that mean? It means coming early to set up church (tidying the hall, setting out chairs and so on).

At the Conference we are regularly getting calls from individuals and pastors because a property is found on the market, and you know, Mr Conference Treasurer, it would be a wonderful place to worship and would be a fantastic asset to the Conference. Now that may be true, but unfortunately they do not give these places away; they cost and they cost a lot. So what has CWD got to do with this problem?

First of all, the Conference Wide Development offering cannot be just one line in the local church annual budget. I have seen churches give a modicum sum, but even if 100 churches gave £500 each, that would still be only £50,000 – a good sum but hardly enough to purchase another church building!

Secondly, Conference Wide Development offering needs to be supported by everyone if we are to make the dream of owning our own church buildings a reality. Just suppose of those 8,566 members that just 3,500 committed to give £10 per month: we would see in one year

a total of £420,000. Now with that amount of money we could see a significant change in the acquisition of churches, at least one if not two each year. Given time, we will begin to see the Seventh-day Adventist name on buildings all across our territory. If you wish to be a part of this exciting vision, why not set up a standing order with your bank (for details contact the Treasury department at the NEC) or set aside funds each month to give to your local church treasurer, clearly marked CWD.

NEW DATE

The BUC Health Ministries' *Food for Mood* interactive seminar and workshop day will now take place on **20 June 2010** (commencement 10am). The location remains the same: Stanborough Community Centre, 609 St Albans Road, Watford, WD25 9JL.

Cost £35.
Booking in advance only – create@nutrition@gmail.com
Contact Angelette on 07599 199948

JOB VACANCY AT ADRA-UK

ADRA-UK has a vacancy for the position of **Office Secretary** from 1 August 2010.

The charity is offering this position in the first instance as a one-year contract. Gross salary from **£18,931 p.a.**

A full application pack is available on the ADRA-UK website www.adra.org.uk, in the 'Our Work/Get Involved' section, or by emailing info@adra.org.uk

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

The deadline for receipt of applications is **31 May 2010**.

BERYL MAUD FLOWERS (1931-2009) d-August 2009.

Beryl Maud Flowers was born in the parish of St Catherine, Jamaica, to Beatrice and Walter Lewis on 24 October 1931. Sister Flowers' very existence was a living witness of God's love for humanity. In her own quiet and unassuming way Sister Flowers did what was necessary to support the wider community. Sister Flowers' significant financial contribution to the building of the Ilford church contributed to the secure physical foundation of the church which now acts as a beacon to all who would experience the love of God. Her wise counsel crossed the generation divide, and in fact with her there was really no such divide. Young and old were blessed by her presence and by the experience of knowing her. She noticed the little things that made a notable difference in people's lives, and was always able to make time to lend a helping hand or offer an encouraging word. Sister Flowers lived her Christianity in so many ways, whether it was through sharing a meal, offering a listening ear or providing financial support. Her personal witness and her Christianity in action touched the lives of many individuals and brought many people to know God as their personal Saviour in this world of turmoil and distress. In the words of the Pathfinders' Pledge, Sister Flowers was indeed 'a servant of God and a friend to man', and in the words of the wise King Solomon, her very being is encapsulated in the following:

'A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver or gold. Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her... she will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She stretcheth out her hands to the poor; yea she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates. Her children arise and call her blessed.' Proverbs 22:1; 31:10-31.

Sister Flowers is survived by her husband Clinton, daughter Marcia, son Barry and 'adopted' daughter Sam, in addition to a host of relatives and many church members who were privileged and blessed to have known her at the Ilford, Leytonstone, Chingford and Chadwell Heath churches. After a spiritually uplifting service, conducted by Pastor Humphrey Walters, a son and former member of the Ilford church,

Sister Flowers was interred at the City of London Cemetery on Friday 28 August 2009.

DOANNA JOSEPH

PREM PRASHER (1926-2009) d. 5 December.

Mr P. Prasher was born on 26 November 1926 and slept in Christ on 5 December 2009. He was a great ambassador of Christian witness and found deep joy in praising God. He leaves behind two daughters and three brothers and nine grandchildren.

ALF MASHI

VERA DIETZ (1917-2009) d. 30 December.

Vera was born one of five children, two brothers and two sisters. Her sisters, Muriel and Winnie, emigrated to the USA while she and her two brothers remained in the UK. Vera trained at Newcastle General Hospital and worked there as a nurse before working at an Adventist Sanitarium in the UK as well as briefly in the USA.

Both Vera and her husband were active Seventh-day Adventists who loved the Lord and attended church regularly. Vera lost her husband in the late 60s, leaving her widowed.

Vera is remembered for her dedication to cleaning the church and assisting in preparation of the communion service. In addition, she and her sister Winnie enjoyed visiting the elderly members of the church as well as taking them out for lunch and day outings. Her sacrificial spirit and love for God were appropriately reflected in her commitment to 'Intagathering collections, as well as organising jumble sales at her home in Wickham to raise funds for church building.

Despite her loss, Vera battled on with faith and courage. During the last few years, she was increasingly in pain and had lost mobility, leading to her moving into the care of the Dovecot Nursing Home at High Spenn where she spent the rest of her days.

In memory of her life and to honour her wish, Colin Woodford conducted her funeral service at Newcastle church. She outlived all her siblings except for one brother who currently lives in Scotland.

VICTOR SAWHINGA

MRS B. SAMUEL (1920-2010) d. 5 January.

Mrs B. Samuel was born on 1 January 1920 and slept in Christ on 5 January 2010. Her husband, Mr B. M. Samuel, was a church elder at Langley church. She leaves behind four sons and two daughters, twenty-two grandchildren and thirty-three great-grandchildren.

ALF MASHI

JAMES STEWART d. 3 January 2010.

Darlington church mourns the loss of our beloved brother James Stewart, known as Jim, who went to sleep on 3

January after battling with cancer for a few months.

Jim was a husband to our sister Marie Stewart. Although not yet baptised, Jim believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and performed a lot of good works which revealed that he had the love of Jesus in his heart.

He was not nominated by any nominating committee as a head deacon, but he was one in all his deeds. We would like to show our respect for his loving, touching life. I pray that any of you reading this article may be a blessing to your local church by not waiting to be nominated or leaving the work to the nominated members. Let us learn from Jim to love others and the Lord with tangible deeds. The Bible tells us not to stop doing good.

May the Lord look after our sister Marie, who has worked tirelessly, looking after her sick husband and caring for his physical and spiritual needs. A good wife guides you to the Lord Jesus. *CHURCH CLERK*

MELVIN MALL (1967-2010) d. 30 January.

Melvin Mall was born to Mr and Mrs C. L. Mall on 27 September 1967. Born in Chandigarh, India, he came to the United Kingdom in 1968 where he began his musical career at an early age. Those who knew him lovingly called him Raju, which he kept as his stage name.

As Melvin grew up in the Church he was one of the first musicians who encouraged others to join the youth choir. His first instrument was the dholki (Asian drum). He later mastered the bass guitar and keyboard and went on to play in many musical groups within the Asian music industry. Melvin was baptised on 27 April 1985 at Langley church by his uncle, Pastor Dalbir Masih.

During the later years of his life, Melvin had health problems and suffered a serious accident in August 2006 which left him paralysed from the neck down. Many times the family and doctors felt he would not pull through, but only God knew the reason for this event that changed his direction in life. For the next four years he endured great suffering but continued his faith in God and finally slept in Christ on 30 January.

Melvin has left behind a son, Jay, who is 14 years old and a daughter, Sophie, aged 11. He will be missed by both family and friends. *ALF MASHI*

AGNES JOSEPH (1947-2010) d. 30 January.

Mrs Agnes Joseph was born on 24 April 1947 and slept in Christ on 30 January 2010. She leaves behind a husband with a son and four daughters and six grandchildren. During the later part of her life she suffered ill health. She was a committed mother and a loving grandmother who dedicated her life to Christ. *ALF MASHI*

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 new to the job or not, found a chat and hot chocolate when 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 neck 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 Allen. 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

Women of grace and beauty

until her death, aged 101. 'We have to learn to exercise our faith and tell the mountains to move out of our way.'

The hall was already full at 7.30am Sabbath morning. Mary McFarlane, supportive wife of the BUC president and one of the SEC 'mothers' of Women's Ministries, led the early morning praise session, giving an extremely thought-provoking presentation on Rahab the harlot. This certainly left the women with a new perspective on the woman who was a part of Christ's lineage.

Audrey Balderstone from the Stanborough Park church shared her giftedness with the women when she introduced 'Say it with Flowers'. Audrey presented three beautiful floral arrangements to illustrate the love of Jesus for us. The one in particular that stood out was the black wood design made to look like a man which depicted the crucifixion scene and the blood running down on Christ's face by the use of Grand Prix roses. The women were left in awe, wonder and amazement at the fantastic floral arrangements.

Dr Reed continued her presentations on 'Understanding Health Creation' and 'Creating Your Breakthrough' which included a self-assessment test on 'living creation healthy'. The afternoon session certainly had the women laughing and considering how healthy they really were but also left them with some good solutions to ensure that their

total wellbeing would be taken into account and improved, to make them God's women of grace and beauty.

The evening finished with a fun time at the banquet and social including a fashion show by women from the audience who were unknowingly picked to participate.

A special offering was collected for The Middle East Union Project and Students' Bursary Project. The women gave generously and, along with the flowers that were auctioned, collected over £1,400.

At the Sunday morning 'Called to Anoint' service, Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries director and Disability Awareness co-ordinator, shared the need to be healed from the brokenness and spiritual warfare that women sometimes face. Following this remarkable presentation, an anointing service was held for the women who wanted to be restored physically, spiritually, mentally and emotionally. Prayer warriors were positioned throughout the hall, praying and ministering to broken women.

Woman after woman kept coming forward to be anointed by the six elders, and God's presence could be clearly felt. Heather Haworth, BUC Women's Ministries director, said that she had never seen so many women come forward before.

Music plays an important part in worship, and throughout the weekend the music ministry of the praise teams and the different soloists brought tears of joy and sorrow as the women contemplated the words

of the songs and how much they related to them. One song in particular, 'No more night', sung by Joy Pontanar from Ireland, touched the women. Women commented that the soloists sang from the heart and that really made a difference to their ministry. The theme song 'Woman of Spirit' written by Ullanda Alexander was a blessing to all. Special thanks go to Geraldine Farmer, Dr Diana Sinclair (NEC Music sponsor) and Sandra Golding for organising the music team.

We appreciate the support of the pastors' wives who attended the retreat. We were privileged to have the NEC and SEC presidents' wives, namely Jennifer Sweeney and Rowena Davis. They came not only to be enriched but to support the BUC programme and to give encouragement.

The meeting finished with a 'Go and Tell Evangelism Symposium' from Dr Monica Reed, Sharon Platt-McDonald, Audrey Balderstone, Heather Haworth, Clair Sanches and the Mission/Conference directors.

We would like to thank Heather Haworth, the BUC Women's Ministries director, and her team (Malika Bediako, SEC; Geraldine Farmer, NEC; Judith Martin, Scottish Mission; Marci Neal, Irish Mission; and Jane Wells, Welsh Mission) for putting on a wonderful and inspiring women's retreat.

A complete set of DVDs from the weekend is available for sale from the SEC Women's Ministries department. If anyone would like a copy please contact Malika Bediako.

Bank Holiday Praise Concert
7.30 - 1st May 2010

Featuring:
The Stockport Choir
Reddish Male voices, Diadem
From Ireland, Joy Pontanar,
Joybells, Abide
and many other popular artists.

Venue:
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Entrance is free but please come (fund raised)

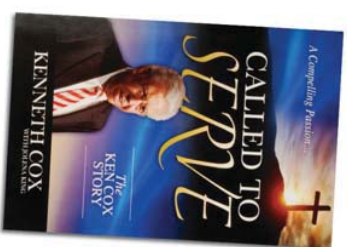
All proceeds to go towards the Stockport Church extension project.
More details are available on the website: stockportadventists.co.uk

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week of prayer 2010



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8.45am-12pm Friday. Closed on Sundays

Advent Centre
Sundays 11am-3pm

Message

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Sign set

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

	Land	Coast	Noon	Edin	Bell
Apr 30	8.22	8.34	8.31	8.50	8.55
May 7	8.33	8.46	8.43	9.04	9.08
14	8.44	8.57	8.55	9.17	9.21
21	8.55	9.07	9.05	9.30	9.33

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