

# Witnesses

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**BUC Communication director, Victor Hulbert, provides a critical review of the film**

## 'The Adventists'

'O would some Power the gift to give us, to see ourselves as others see us!' wrote Scotland's Robert Burns. Adventists tend to be self-critical and sensitive to the views of others while holding to our conservative Christian beliefs and theology. So when an experienced documentary film-maker turns his attention to the Seventh-day Adventist Church — and does so in favourable terms — it is easy to understand that Adventists are delighted. Across North America they have come out in droves to auditoriums for previews and meetings with the director, Martin Doblmeier. The film, 'The Adventists', aired on PBS TV in North America and is available on DVD.<sup>2</sup>

Since 1983 Doblmeier has produced more than twenty-five award winning films combining his lifelong interest in religion with his passion for journalism. This latest seven-year project looks at the apparent paradox between a conservative Christian Church with a strong 'end time' theology, yet one that is on the cutting edge of modern health care, and whose members tend to live substantially longer than the national average. He explores this with re-enactments from the early days of the Millerite movement, the American Civil War and, in particular, the health vision of Ellen White given in 1863 that turned her from a lover of meat and white bread into a health reformer. He talks about Dr John Kellogg and the start of the Battle Creek Sanatorium, comparing Adventist health principles with some of the outdated therapies current in the day.

Adventist voices are very prominent in the documentary. Historian George Knight of Andrews University, Roy Branson and Richard Rice from Loma Linda University, Charles Scriven, Rebekah Wang and Frank Perez of Kettering Medical Centre join with Cindy Tuttsch of the Ellen White Estate, Charles White, the great-great-grandson of Ellen White, and others in presenting a very positive and pleasant picture of the Adventist Church. Gary B. Swanson, writing positively about it in *Adventist Review*, calls it 'fair and well balanced'.<sup>3</sup>

But how would a British viewer relate to this clearly North American production? I actually slipped it into my DVD player with some scepticism yet was pleasantly surprised to find a well made and engaging documentary. The historical re-enactments were generally well done. There was a good pace to the programme and a logical sequence. It made me feel good about my Church and I would have little hesitation to share it with my non-Adventist friends.

Were there any disappointments? Well, yes. Given that we are a Church of over 16 million members world-wide, it was disappointing to find no reference to membership outside of North America. There is silence on Adventist mission. ADRA is conspicuous by its absence. An uninformed viewer would think that Adventism is an exclusively American religion consumed with issues of health. Nor does it tackle any of the 'Adventist hot-potatoes'. No dissenters to the Adventist viewpoint are interviewed, no really hard questions are asked. Issues such as the evolution/creation debate, family values, or developments in Adventist theology do not appear. To me, that detracts from the authenticity of the documentary. Doblmeier seems to have been slightly too sympathetic to the Adventist view.



Claudia Escarcaga embraces her son David after a successful paediatric heart transplant



Martin Doblmeier (centre) directs actors for a scene in 'The Adventists'



Meredith Garrison portrays Ellen White



Dr Leonard Bailey (centre) performs paediatric heart transplant surgery at Loma Linda University Children's Hospital



Paediatric heart surgeon Dr Leonard Bailey holds one of his patients, David Escarcaga, featured in the film



# The 'Fourth Angel's Message' and the 'gospel' according to 'that church brother'

There is much that each member of our church can learn from the Bible each day. Unless we are growing in knowledge and faith we become stagnant. I admire those who usually have something fresh and exciting to share from the Bible.

However, there are some 'members', who appear to be eager to share a new idea from the Bible in order to confuse and sow seeds of doubt about our beliefs in the minds of other

members. They are shadowy figures who are often present at church but not actively engaged

in the ministry of the Church. Like hungry lions they look for vulnerable prey and attack when the 'park wardens' are not looking in their direction. These people are usually critical of church leaders and encourage others to believe that the Church is in apostasy.

A friend of my family reported to me recently that she attended one of our London churches and sat beside a young lady during the divine

## 'Another Jesus. . . . A different spirit. . . . A different gospel.'

'I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not received, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted' - BEWARE!

'For such are false prophets, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.' (2 Corinthians 11:3, 4, 13, NKJV.)

service. That young lady took copious notes during the sermon but made a number of disparaging remarks at the end of it. In the final prayer members were asked to hold hands and pray. The young lady refused to hold hands and said in a dismissive and holier-than-thou tone, 'Only witches hold hands to pray.' After the service the young lady charmingly told my friend that she attended that church on alternate Sabbaths but met with others who were eager to study the Word at a separate venue on other Sabbaths. My friend was given an invitation to attend. I am so pleased that she contacted me about that invitation, so that I could warn her about the corrosive and pernicious nature of such individuals in the Church.

Another ardent and respected member reported that a visiting 'brother', who appeared reasonable and normal at first, soon showed his true colours by trying to introduce strange fire to a group of believers in the form of 'the Fourth Angel's Message'. I was encouraged when told that our visiting brother was stopped in his tracks. We do not give dissenters a platform.

The story that 'takes the giddy biscuit' is one in which a young lady kept complaining that the sermon she was listening to was 'milk' and not 'hard food'. When she was rebuked about her complaining and negative attitude, she said that the only gospel she was prepared to listen to was the 'gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_' [here she mentioned the name of a certain 'brother' well known in the British Union].

Many of us will not soon forget how David Koresh mesmerised scores of members in the British Union and other places in the world with strange but ear-tingling teachings, only to see many of his followers perish in the flames of Waco. Some were prepared to listen only to the 'gospel' that he preached. Unfortunately, the David Koresh syndrome is still plaguing our Church and, sadly, many are being beguiled by the confusing teachings of those who mean them no good. In some cases the dissenters are laying claim to the title of their followers.

Doctrinal dissent is not a modern development in the Church. It was a factor in the life of the apostolic church. The Risen Christ commended the church in Ephesus for not tolerating dissenters: 'I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have

found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.' (Revelation 2:2, 3.)

It is clear that the church in Ephesus had to confront a lot of spurious ideas and false representatives of Christ. Ephesus was a hub of international travel and as such attracted people from different places, many of whom came with strange ideas about Christ and the Gospel. The church was diligent in testing these ideas and exposed false beliefs and those who peddled them for what they were. For the church to have been able to do this, they would have had to know the truth of the Gospel for themselves. Paul did a very good work with them. Dealing with false apostles and false doctrines was wearisome for the church in Ephesus, but they stuck to their guns and would not allow these new ideas to gain a foothold in their midst.

One of the groups identified as causing problems in the church was the Nicolaitans. Who

**Offshoots tend to target new members and young people not fully conversant with the teachings of the Church.**

were these people who sought to lead God's people astray? One cannot say for certain who they were or what specifically they taught. What can be said, however, is that they were an obnoxious bunch of people. The name may have had one of two origins. *Nico* in Greek relates to conquest or victory and *laitan* to people (from the same root as *laos* from which we get laity). It is possible that the Nicolaitans were a bunch of people who were hungry for power and who wanted to lord it over others. If this is the meaning of the word we can conclude that the Nicolaitans are as much in the Church today as they were back in Ephesus.

The other possible origin of the word Nicolaitans is that they were followers of Nicolas, believed to have been an arch-heretic who propounded Gnostic ideas that were diametrically opposed to the Gospel. One of the church fathers, Irenaeus, took the view that the Nicolaitans were a Gnostic sect: 'John, the disciple of the Lord, preaches this faith and seeks by the proclamation of the Gospel, to remove that error which by Cerinthus had been disseminated among men, and a long time previously by those

termed Nicolaitans, who are an offshoot of that "knowledge" falsely so called, that he might confound them, and persuade them that there is but one God, who made all things by His Word.'

Gnosticism emphasised the primacy of knowledge. Simply put, knowledge could elevate one from what would normally be a basic existence to a level where one is reunited with the 'great Spirit'. Gnostics also believed that matter is evil, which led to the view that whatever is done in the body or with the body does not affect the soul. Consequently they taught that, for example, fornication was merely a bodily function and had nothing to do with the mind and soul. If so, one can then understand why God opposed the Nicolaitans and why the church in Ephesus worked assiduously to protect members from their corrosive influence.

The history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is littered with 'Nicolaitans' of various kinds. There was John Harvey Kellogg and his pantheistic views which affected a number of our members back in the late 1800s. The older members among us will remember the Brimsmead followers and their joyless teachings that made Adventism akin to a prison sentence. Robert Brimsmead eventually recanted but many of his followers chose to continue peddling his discredited views. The Shepherd's Rods, the Branch Davidians and Firm Foundation are names of other offshoot movements that are somewhat etched on our memories.

Many of the offshoot groups today are not internationally or nationally known such as those mentioned above. However, they are no less pernicious. Adherents tend to target new members and young people who may not be fully conversant with the teachings of the Church. They are usually present at major church functions distributing literature and trying to get the ear of anyone prepared to listen to them. Instead of spreading joy in the Lord, they are messengers of alarm and doom.

Our Church today should take a leaf out of the book of the church in Ephesus in dealing with dissenters. While we ought to be understanding and tolerant of those who are genuinely seeking truth, we should give no space or time to those who are deliberately seeking to draw disciples after them, confuse members and cast doubt on the teachings of the Church, which have been arrived at through years of ardent study, earnest prayer and Spirit-led discussion and agreement by the Church at large.

I appeal to church leaders to protect the flock from the ravenous wolves. It is important for members to understand what they claim to believe, so that they are not blown away by every wind of doctrine that comes along. Pastors and elders should ensure that time is found in the church programme each week for in-depth Bible study, when the great truths of Scripture can be uncovered, the three angels' messages explained and members can be fortified in the Gospel according to Jesus, and not according to 'that church brother'.

## Enhancing Health

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

### Sun therapy



With the rise of skin cancer and its reported links with overexposure to the sun, the message to cover up, increase sun block use and seek the shade has been taken seriously. So much so that scientists now believe we have gone too far.

Increasing research now points to the varying significant health risks associated with lack of sunlight.

#### Health risks:

- vitamin D deficiency
- prostate disease in northern countries
- heart disease
- osteoporosis
- depression (associated with low levels of the mood-controlling hormones, melatonin and serotonin, which are suppressed with lack of sun exposure)
- overeating (lack of sunlight interferes with the hormone leptin, which tells us when the stomach is full)
- myopia (sunshine causes the retina to release more dopamine, slowing myopia development)
- cancer

#### Current research

- Scientists at Idaho State University have suggested that poor exposure to sunshine can lead to vitamin D deficiency, which may increase prostate cancer risk.
- Another research study found that modern adolescents who spend too much time indoors are becoming increasingly sluggish. Mariana Figueiro of the Lighting Research Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York, who led the study, states: 'They miss out on essential morning light needed to stimulate the body's twenty-four-hour biological system, which regulates the sleep-wake cycle.' Teenagers were given glasses that blocked blue light. By the end of the five-day study, they were going to bed an average of half an hour later than usual. Figueiro's report explained how this impacted the body clock by interrupting the timed release of the hormone melatonin, which determines the onset of sleep.
- When deprived of sunlight, the pituitary gland in the brain is less stimulated. This causes us

to sleep more, remain indoors, be less sociable, eat more of whatever is available, while avoiding exercise. This causes weight gain. Scientists undertook research at the University of Aberdeen where 3,100 women in the northeast of Scotland were studied. Findings revealed that one in five were overweight and those clinically obese had 10% less vitamin D than those of healthy weight. Analysing the outcome, Dr Helen Macdonald of Aberdeen University states: 'The link is significant. We think obese people are not getting enough sunshine.'

#### Advice

The British Association of Dermatologists and National Osteoporosis Society's joint guidance on daily sun exposure recommends that we should get around 10 minutes for light skin and 20 minutes for dark skin.

#### Good health!

## SEXUAL PURITY

Dear Editor

Much of the feedback regarding the appropriateness of a young lady's dress at an Area 2 event has tended either towards 'love the young people and don't worry about their dress', or to being 'shocked and pained' about the standards of dress. (See 16 April, 30 April, 14 May issues.)

We suggest that our young people, and indeed all people who attend our churches, should always be loved and accepted for who they are but that we also need to educate particularly our young people about the effects that their actions have on everyone around them. For example, what responses will the way I dress provoke in someone of the opposite sex? Consider the ruinous effect that the distorted view of sex has on our society. We do not want our young people to remain spiritual infants but to grow and become wise.

Jesus always loved but he addressed behavioural standards as well. He forgave the woman caught in adultery but also told her: 'Go and sin no more.'

The Bible tells us to love one another but it also advises on standards, and for good reasons. Either God's 'word is a lamp unto my feet' for the Christian or it is not. We cannot cherry pick the bits that suit us.

Please note that this is not a criticism of the young lady in question, or even of young people in general; it is a request to all our churches to both love and lead our young people.

As young people's leaders in our church (in Area 2) and parents of children not far off their teenage years, we were concerned on seeing the original photos, so we contacted the Area 2 Youth Federation to voice our concerns, namely:

- The example set to our youth should they attend such events in the future. (The parents of a lot of the young people at our church would probably not be comfortable with this.)
- The wisdom of the competition judges.
- The wisdom of the *MESSANGER* in publishing photos that would be contentious.

We received what we deemed to be a very sensible reply from the Youth Federation which said something to the effect that they took the issues raised very seriously. It was also mentioned that the young lady was wearing a shawl to cover the low neckline during the competition.

It was also pointed out that the Youth Federation have organised a Sexual Purity Event for young people.

MIKE and VICKY BEAMISH

## IN MOMENTS

Hello

Maggie Nyberg gives me her *MESSAGERS* and I love reading your editorials.

The latest one in the 30 April issue was especially good. I work with youth every day and agree totally that we can make or break people in moments.

INGRID GUSTAVSSON (in the Sunday)

## WE ARE ALL SINNERS!

Dear Editor

I cannot believe that the editor of *MESSANGER* would print the letters of the people complaining about dress code or at the very least without someone else having a better comment on the same page, because anyone picking up this magazine is immediately going

4 Messenger

## Pornography — a letter to my teenage son

by Danny Robinson

If you wanted to look at pornography, I couldn't stop you. You are probably curious, it's easy to find, and I know that you would be able to get around any barriers I put onto the computer.

And I can't simply make you promise not to look, because that is emotional blackmail. I could appeal to your Christian faith, telling you that you oughtn't to do something just because it is wrong and un-Christian. But that approach doesn't equip you for later life — it just treats you like the child that you once were, not like the grown-up you are about to become.

What I can do, though, is to explain why those pictures are not what they seem, and I can tell you about the damage those pictures do. Then you will be able to make your own decision.

### Why women do it

Let's start with the women who appear in these images. Why do you think they choose to do that? In fact, they almost certainly don't get to choose at all. They are in those pictures or movies because they are being exploited by someone else who is more powerful than they. Maybe they are illegal immigrants, people who are not in a position to say 'no' to whatever demands are made of them. Or maybe they are deeply in debt, or are addicted to drugs. Whatever the reason, it certainly won't be because they like what they are doing — they won't like it at all but they have to pretend they do for the camera.

### Attitude to women

Do you think looking at pornography will affect your attitude to women? I can assure you it will, and it will affect your attitude for the worse. Pornography treats women as objects, not as people. You will not be able to have a healthy relationship with the opposite sex if you cannot think of them as people who deserve respect. Pornography will do nothing to help you develop respectful attitudes to women, but you will need these respectful attitudes if you are to have a successful marriage when you get older.

### Damage to the computer

Whose computer might get used to access these images? You probably will want to keep it a secret from the owner of a computer if you use it to access pornography. But the sites you visit and the files you view might introduce viruses or other malicious software, to the detriment of the computer's owner. While the damage is being done, he won't know it's happening. Or the sites you go to might leave traces in the browsing history waiting to be discovered later. Whoever discovers these traces won't know who was actually responsible, and someone else might get the blame — possibly with disastrous implications for their own job or marriage.

I hope I have enabled you to make a more informed decision about pornography. What you go on to do is now up to you. I hope you are able to see that what might seem like a harmless bit of exploration can have consequences that reach far beyond just you, and far beyond just now. Pornography taints everybody, including the viewer. It will taint your outlook on life, and you deserve better.

to the words and rejoiced in the fact that the young are still writing worship songs. The last song was 'All to Jesus I surrender'. How would the group play that hymn? In the event, they played it so straight that I was so overcome by emotion I couldn't sing, the reason being it was in that church and that building I decided I wanted to follow Jesus at the age of 10, when I also promised to be Christ's faithful soldier to my life's end. The thrust of the morning's service was what commitment to Jesus might mean. After the service, the vicar invited me to participate in the Lord's Supper which was conducted in the usual respectful Anglican manner. The vicar knows I am a Christian of the Seventh-day Adventist persuasion.

**'Those pictures are not what they seem and they do great damage.'**

## Mental health first aiders

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries director and Disability Awareness co-ordinator

In a medical emergency first aiders are trained to assist a sick or injured person in order to preserve life, prevent the situation from deteriorating, keep the patient comfortable and stabilise the situation until appropriate help arrives. But what is mental health first aid? What does one do as a mental health first aider? Well, fifteen individuals (eight pastors, two health professionals and five members) were the first group in the SEC to undergo this unique training and become skilled in assisting someone in a mental health crisis.

The Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) course was originally developed in Australia at the Centre for Mental Health Research at the Australian National University in Canberra. The English version was developed and funded by the National Institute for Mental Health specifically to underpin a national drive to improve awareness of mental health problems in England. We are pleased that these fifteen mental health first aiders now have a quali-

fication which is recognised both nationally and internationally.

The two-day course was an intensive one which combined lectures, group work, exercises, DVDs, role play and questionnaires. On the last day of the course I had the opportunity to ask each participant how they found the course and was pleased to hear that everyone found it both relevant, timely and interesting.

I asked Elsie Staple, SEC Health Ministries director, what she thought of the course and she responded: 'In keeping with the BUC Mental Wellness Strategy this is an excellent follow up for us. We had the theory in the Mental Wellness Handbook, now we are being given the practical aspect with this course. This now equips us to provide a better service to our members and community.'

With eight pastors on the course, I was interested to hear what they felt. The following are some of their comments:

Pastor Blake: 'Relevant, long overdue . . . my ministry will be

more informed as a result.'

Pastor Claude Lombart: 'All pastors should go through this course, because it will help them understand mental health issues that are relevant to themselves as well as their congregation.'

Pastor George Howson: 'Excellent! Every pastor should do this as we have to relate to these experiences and we are now equipped to handle them better.'

Pastor Jon Gendle: 'Very good, very professional. It has equipped us immeasurably for the work we do among the addicts and homeless and those on the edge of society. This is very relevant.'

Pastor Patrick Johnson: 'This is long overdue. In fact it is one area where we have needed a lot of practical help and now we are getting it. This is a very useable course. I am glad I have been a part of it.'

Grace Walsh, NEC director for Health Ministries, Community Services and Disability Awareness, led out in the training accompanied

by her tutor Bernie who was there to evaluate her teaching skills. Having undergone the Mental Health First Aid specialist training to be able to teach the course, Grace is one step ahead and after her next assessment will become a qualified trainer in this area.

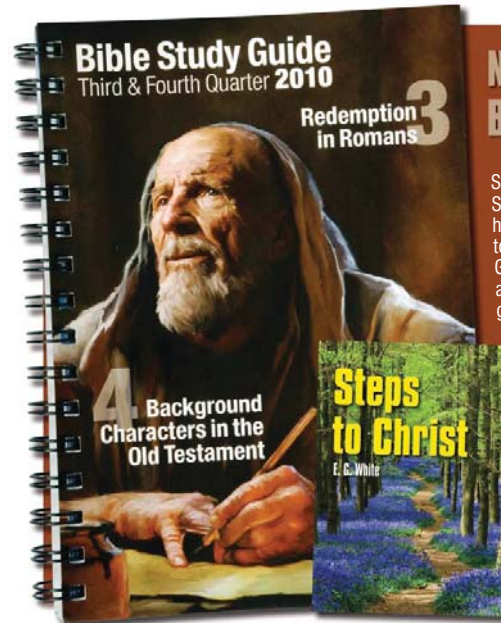
Mental health problems are more common than most people realise. Research demonstrates that in any year one in four British adults experiences some form of mental illness. Added to this, the World Health Organisation forecasts that by 2020 depression will be the second leading contributor to the universal cost of tackling disease. With these alarming statistics, the Mental Health First Aid course was indeed a very timely one.

**For more information on Mental Health First Aid or to undertake training, contact Grace Walsh on 0115 9606312 or Sharon Platt-McDonald on 01923 672251.**

### Welsh Mission Triennial Session

Notice is hereby given that the Triennial Session of the Welsh Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on Sunday 21 November 2010 in the Cardiff Seventh-day Adventist church. Registration will take place in the church from 8.30 to 9.30am, and delegates must register before participating in the proceedings of the Session.

J. SURRIDGE (president) and V. FILMLOOR (secretary/treasurer)



## New spiral-bound Sabbath School Bible Study Guides!

Starting from the third and fourth quarters of this year, the Bible Study Guide (six monthly) and the adult teachers' quarterly have been given a fresh new look. No longer will you struggle to keep your study guide and Bible open at the same time. Gone are the days when you lose your page while looking up a reference. The inclusion of the spiral means a user-friendly guide that you will enjoy using even more. To celebrate the launch of this new feature you will receive a free illustrated *Steps to Christ* with every senior Bible Study Guide (six monthly) ordered for the final two quarters of this year.

Senior Bible Study Guide (six monthly) — £5.25 plus p&p  
Adult Teachers' Quarterly — £4.50 plus p&p

Order through your church PM secretary or telephone the ABC sales line on

# 01476 539900

# Go — teach and preach

The gospel commission to 'teach and preach' is well known to Seventh-day Adventist ministers and Bible workers. The North England Conference ministerial team attended a three-day teacher training course delivered by Beulah Plunkett, Sabbath School director and assistant director of PEACE.

Beulah, a qualified lecturer from the University of Birmingham, brings to the North England Conference her expertise in teacher training in further and higher education. She has customised the Certificate in

Education course to meet the needs of the ministerial team and has delivered part one of the course thus far.

'Learning is the change in attitude, knowledge or skills derived from teaching,' said one student in a flash of inspiration during one of the teacher training classes run for the ministerial team.

The pastors' teacher training classes were held in three Areas of the Conference to accommodate the ministers from all six Areas, over three weeks. The course has been

well attended and well received. The teaching was highly instructive, very interactive, widely varied and modelled many teaching styles for the pastors to adapt in their teaching.

The pastors, in particular Pastor Isaac Liburd, are now well on the way to understanding that the student is 'king', when it comes to planning lessons. It is crucial that the needs of the students are considered first so that what is planned accommodates their learning need.

This is a key objective gleaned from the course and one which created much discussion.

The officers of the NEC have been engaged in a concerted effort to equip pastors in their differing roles by helping to develop knowledge, change attitudes and increase skills. Pastor Egerton Francis, the Ministerial Association director, said, 'We are equipping pastors to enable them to give positive service and leadership to local elders and members.'

The Conference, like all institutions, has to develop its resources. The resource at the heart of the Conference's activity is the people — and the Conference recognises the need to equip the ministers so that they can equip each and every member with skills, new attitudes and a real knowledge of God, to help them to convey God's message to their communities.

BEULAH PLUNKETT with PETER JEYNES



# County Clare baptism

God sent much needed sunshine to bless the first baptism of 2010 at the Newmarket on Fergus church in County Clare.

Visitors attended from the Dublin and Galway churches to witness the commitment of 35-year-old Isaac Guerrero, a native of Spain now studying in Ireland. Isaac had previously attended both the Dublin and Galway churches before arriving in Newmarket in 2008.

Isaac was warmly welcomed and nurtured by the Newmarket members before the Holy Spirit impressed upon him the need to undertake in-depth Bible studies with Pastor Tony O'Rourke in preparation for baptism. He took his stance for

## New pastor at Langley

May 8 saw the official welcome of Pastor Sohan Gill to Langley church as the successor of Pastor Dalbir Masih who retired from service at the end of 2009. Pastor Gill has previously served in India and Fiji. He has a wealth of experience that he draws upon as he continues God's work within the West Midlands. He has two children and four grandchildren and serves the ministry with his wife continually by his side. He is a keen member of the Langley adult choir and contributes by singing and occasionally playing the tambourine.

On 8 May Pastor Paul Haworth of the NEC introduced Pastor Gill as the official minister for the Langley, Oxhill, Kidderminster and Walsall churches.

ALFRED MASHI



## Teacher vacancy for Year Six Class, Stanborough Primary School

The head teacher and governors at Stanborough Primary School are seeking to appoint an excellent classroom practitioner (ideally with experience of teaching Year Six) for September 2010.

Stanborough Primary School is a small, friendly SDA school, situated in the idyllic surroundings of Stanborough Park. Through dedication and teamwork, we provide a safe, happy and stimulating environment in which every pupil is encouraged to excel.

The successful applicant will:

- have QTS
- have excellent organisational skills
- be a reflective practitioner
- be reliable and professional
- be a team player
- be an excellent communicator
- be flexible and creative
- be committed to the School's Christian ethos and the education of the 'whole' child

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All appointments are subject to a satisfactory enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure check.

To request an application form and pack, please contact the secretary, Laura Harris, at Stanborough Primary School, Appletree Walk, Watford, Hertfordshire, WF25 0DD. Tel: 01923 673291 info@stanboroughprimary.org.uk

The closing date for applications is Thursday 3 June 2010.

# LOVE IN ACTION

An appeal Gospel concert in aid of Haiti

Featuring: The London Adventist Chorus, Gemma, Christ, Reading Community Gospel Choir, Rachel 'The Poet' Odora and many many more...

7:30pm SAT. 29 MAY 2010 @ THE OXFORD TOWN HALL ST ALBATE'S, OXFORD, OX1 1BX

Tickets: Adults: £7 - Students + Children: £5

For tickets and more information contact: Nana - 07817 384 950, James - 07810 852 987, Allan Hudson - 07959 211 214, Rippon Williams - 07968 659 003

in association with ADRA

# Hull University witness

It's not often that someone walks in off the street, approaches the pastor and tells him that he's been convicted of the truth of the Bible that this church champions — and that he wants to be baptised. That's how it was with Fabien Brissett, a young man from Waltham Forest in London studying at Hull University. Fabien had come to know about Adventists through the Amazing Facts website in 2009 and wanted to find a church that reflected what he'd found. When he walked in and made his request, the pastor was delighted to start the baptismal Bible study course straightaway. Fabien's hunger to know more of God's Word meant that

even the summer break didn't deter him from continuing the studies by email.

But Fabien wasn't content to keep what he was learning and experiencing at Hull church to himself. He shared his faith, and he brought a succession of friends from the university with him from week to week, especially as his baptism came closer. On the happy day he was accompanied by four other young people who came to witness his stand for God's Kingdom. After the message encouraging the congregation not to get too comfortable in this world, Fabien was baptised by Pastor Kyriacou. At the appeal, all four of his friends came forward to declare that they, too, wanted to follow in this happy young man's footsteps.

It's a testimony to Fabien's witness and influence, which still leaves him amazed and humbled, that his friends are already engaged in the studies which will lead them to baptism and full commitment to Christ.

Fabien will be leaving Hull in the summer, but we know that wherever he goes he'll be a great asset to the Church and a powerful witness to the grace of God.

PASTOR S. KYRIACOU



how the members worked together as a team. This lady promised to visit again and should have left by 3pm to attend another appointment but remained until 4pm discussing her impressions and asking questions about the beliefs of the church members.

After Pastor Tony welcomed Isaac into the membership of the Newmarket church, Pastor John Duroe closed the service with special prayers for Isaac. Pastor Duroe will be working in Ireland for three months to support the west of Ireland churches. May God bless him and his wife Irene as they serve him here.

BETTY O'ROURKE

## Golden opportunity for Pathfinders to go public!

by Des Boileau, BUC Youth & Pathfinder leader

I have just been reading the latest publication of the *Children & Young People Now*\* journal online and was very interested to read of the tremendous growth which the Scout Association is experiencing in the UK, especially among teenagers.

'Since 31 January 2009, 16,568 adult and youth members have joined the Scouts, including record numbers of new teenagers, according to the Scout Association figures.' That being so, there is a case for the Adventist Church with our greatest success story also to go public – into the communities of our local churches. What is even more interesting to read from this lead article is that over 13,500 new places have been created this year because of the 2,871 new adults volunteering their time to local groups. Despite this, there is still a waiting list of over 33,500 young people wanting to take up membership in a Scout group in the UK.

That statistic is one on which our local Pathfinder clubs could easily capitalise. By making an adjustment to the way the curriculum is taught, the potential exists to attract some of those young people who are waiting to join local Scout groups. Simply by fine-tuning the faith-building portion of the Pathfinder programme to accentuate the character-building aspects, and by increasing the activity elements, community children (as well as our own children) will be able to experience the fun, excitement and challenges of the Pathfinder club and will be encouraged to grow into strong citizens of character and integrity.

So why not look a little closer at this opportunity afforded us through this new surge of youth in the UK who are interested in the outdoor and activity-orientated aspects of the Scouting movement and instead introduce them to the exciting and equally challenging Pathfinder movement?

\*<http://www.cypnow.co.uk/News/Email/1997659/Scout-Association-reports-record-growth/ES3467FFB01BF8CE8C8543C6C9944424>  
Article: 'Scout Association Reports Record Growth' by Ross Watson, *Children & Young People Now*, 19 April 2010

## In conversation: Great stories make compelling viewing

When your 16-year-old daughter watches a programme and says, 'You've done well, Dad,' you immediately recognise it as high praise! This was the experience of Dr Timothy G. Standish, the first guest on the latest series of 'In Conversation' on the Hope Channel.

Tim, who works at the Geoscience Research Institute, Loma Linda, California, wrote, 'Yesterday my daughter... watched the interview. She was very impressed and said you are the best interviewer I've ever had.' Conversely, the production team at the Adventist Media Centre in Watford were so impressed with his contribution to the debate on Intelligent Design that they recorded an extra interview with him, now

available on the [www.hopetv.org.uk](http://www.hopetv.org.uk) website.

His interviews have set a standard followed by many of the subsequent guests. For instance, Mike shares how, from an early age, he dealt with the issues of identity and depression – a serious car accident at the age of 12 turned his mind towards God. Anne shares how caring for a severely disabled father as a child may, unknowingly, have prepared her for her passion in life, and Marjukka, who grew up in a 'good' Adventist family, openly shares her struggle with drugs, rebellion and acceptance. Other conversations work around issues, including jazz musician and theologian Alex, and Special

# Newbold students question GC VP

by Helen Pearson

In London, British politicians spent the second weekend in May discussing the future of the country with each other. At Newbold, Elder Lowell Cooper, vice-president of the General Conference, spent the same weekend discussing the future – and lots of other things – with three groups of people.

Needs campaigner, Sophia Nicholls.

'Our members have such a variety of interesting stories to tell,' states programme host, Victor Hulbert, adding, 'I am constantly surprised and excited to hear their experiences.'

Asked about why 'In Conversation' is so well received, he says, 'The key to a good programme is listening very carefully to the guest and probing just enough to allow them to give of their best.' He equally recognises that it is the whole team that makes for a successful programme. Without the composite studio skills of AMC manager, Wes Kapon, and the acute ear of sound engineer, Chris Doggett, the programme would not happen. However, this small team working together has generated a successful and well-established programme that is purposely designed to be a 'soft entry' to the Gospel. As guests

On Sabbath morning he preached on the topic, 'Facing the Future' at Newbold's Family Service. After a brilliant children's story drawn from his ministry in India, he talked about the importance for the future of the Church of members' relationship to culture. Comparing the attitudes of three Old Testament characters –

becomes engaged in the story, coming to the recognition that God is also interested in his/her life.

Filmed in the recently refurbished studios with new high-definition cameras, the latest programmes are receiving critical acclaim from viewers in the UK and around the world.

'In Conversation' is available for 'broadcast on demand' or for download from the [www.hopetv.org.uk](http://www.hopetv.org.uk) website, making it an ideal programme to share with friends, or even to promote with a simple link at the end of an email or to post on Facebook.



Victor Hulbert interviews Dr Timothy Standish

Esther, Jonah and Daniel – to the culture of their time, he suggested that we should follow the example of Daniel who was 'Chaldean in everything that didn't matter'.

In the afternoon, he spent about three hours in conversation with about twenty undergraduate and postgraduate students from the College and the church. For the first hour or so, the group, invited by principal Jane Sabes to eat with Elder Cooper, shared a buffet meal. A no-holds-barred question and answer session followed with questions first of all on the GC itself: 'What is the point of the General Conference (GC)?' and 'What does a GC session cost – both in financial and carbon-footprint terms?' To 'How can the GC help with the problem of accountability in the Church?' As

Elder Cooper replied with personal anecdotes, insight, honesty and humour, the questions broadened: 'Why doesn't the GC support drama and other creative arts?' and then, 'What is your strategy for keeping the youth of the Church together?' 'How is the Adventist Church perceived by the UN and other global authorities?' and finally, 'Can a woman be GC president?'

Elder Cooper declared after an hour and a half, 'I'm enjoying this!' and, as the formal session ended, spent another forty-five minutes with individual young people discussing their questions and comments. The world leader shared his understanding of the nature of the GC as a not-for-profit organisation whose product cannot be measured. On the question of unity, he said, 'We are not like businesses, held together by concern for the bottom line. We are held together by structure, theology and a sense of mission. It's impossible to keep the Church together by regulation. As a voluntary organisation, we have to



Lowell Cooper together with Newbold students and staff

win oneness.' And he told the young people, 'We have to beware of triumphalism. You don't build trust by denouncing what others hold dear.'

Elder Cooper, an experienced chairman of nine Adventist Boards in the USA, including ADRA, Loma Linda University and the Pacific Press Association, spent part of Sunday afternoon training the twenty-seven members of the Newbold College Board of Governors who were present from around the Trans-

European Division and challenging them to improve their operations. 'Effective group decisions do not arise spontaneously,' he told them. 'They result from deliberate designs in structure and social dynamics.'

'Lowell Cooper's time spent with all three groups at Newbold and his honest responses to difficult issues were an investment in the future of the Church,' said one Board member. 'His visit has enriched the Newbold community.'

## Stanborough School: The 'mini United Nations' ten years on

by Vanesa Pizzuto



One of the first things that I noticed when I moved to England was that this country is truly cosmopolitan. Walking around London you can hear almost every language being spoken and taste the most delicious ethnic food from around the globe. But even immersed in such a multicultural nation, the experience of working at Stanborough School brought cultural diversity to a whole new level for me and gave me the best geography lesson of my life.

In fact, the first thing you will see when you walk into the boarding school is a big atlas hanging on the wall. This atlas is covered with little orange arrows pointing to the countries where the students and staff come from. From Argentina to Hong Kong, and from Albania to Nigeria, the arrows cover the globe, making it smaller and more connected. The atlas on the wall is the perfect symbol of the school community, diverse and united.



The international students and the exchange students together, 45 nationalities represented

Photo: Anne Smith

Among the 130 pupils attending the school, there are thirty-eight different nationalities represented. But it is not just the students who come from abroad: if staff members are included in the list then the number of countries represented ascends to almost fifty! No wonder Stanborough was nicknamed 'the mini United Nations'. In 2000 the *Daily Mail* published a whole page article about Stanborough's diverse community, using the nickname for the first time. Today, ten years after, the school still keeps its unique multicultural flavour.

The result of this fantastic cultural richness is shown in the way the students interact, the way they develop bonds of peace and mutual understanding. I really enjoy hearing them learning new words in different languages, trying ethnic food or simply listening to each other's favourite music. The cultural exchange is constant, and the students grow continuously in respect and awe of each other's differences. Stanborough is really a blessed school that provides a unique learning environment.

And because we like sharing our blessing, every year, for the last ten years, we have been running the International Exchange Programme. Through this scholarship programme we give the chance to young students from all over the world to come to visit us, learn English, and have a taste of British culture. This year, we hosted our biggest ever scholarship exchange with thirty-eight students from fifteen different nations, a new record! To celebrate this special event in Stanborough we asked our international students and the exchange students to be together in a historical picture. I love this colourful shot; they look like a happy global family. I hope you enjoy it too!



## Five walkers raise hundreds for ADRA in Mourne Mountains walk

before this weekend. There would inevitably be some rain on this walk. The rain turned out to be hail. Temperatures on the mountains quickly dropped to 1°C. The walkers were well prepared, however. Among them was Pastor David Neal, the president of the Irish Mission, who had completed several advanced Pathfinder outdoor leadership courses in his days as youth leader of the South England Conference. Pastors Adam Keough and Weiers Coetser had just completed a three-day hike across the hills of northern Donegal a few days earlier and were well versed in keeping dry in wet environments, and Steven Jamison, a member of the Larne church, probably had more experience walking in Ireland than all of the other walkers combined. The walkers continued on

at a leisurely pace. They enjoyed panoramic views over County Down and all the way to the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea. After nine hours they walked into the overnight area shortly after the sun had set, happy for some warmth and a delicious meal. The second section was less strenuous. The goal was to cover 7.5 miles before 12. The path meandered through the beautiful forested streams of Tollymore forest park. There was more time for conversation on this section of the route. The conversation naturally turned to the work of ADRA and its fundraising efforts. Stephen Cooper, the director for ADRA in the Trans-European Division, was one of the walkers. He explained that an important aspect of ADRA's fundraising efforts is to build networks of friendships in the

communities where fundraising is being done. Ingathering would never die out if churches saw it as an opportunity to make friends in the community. Stephen Cooper said, 'Pastor Neal did an excellent job of organising the event and I trust it is the beginning of an annual ADRA walk. It is a wonderful way to combine sponsoring a noble cause, interacting with pastors on social issues and enjoying God's nature while getting some much needed exercise. It was great getting to know some of the pastors and members within the Irish Mission.'

The five walkers have recovered well from the exercise and they are currently contacting their sponsors to receive the promised money. More than 500 Euro was raised by the event. This money will support the various projects of ADRA-Ireland throughout the world.

WEIERS COETSER, IM COMMUNICATIONS DEPT

Five walkers dedicated twenty-four hours of the May Bank Holiday weekend to participate in an Irish-Mission-sponsored walk to raise money for ADRA-Ireland. At 12 on Sunday 2 May, they set out from the coastal town of Rostrevor in County Down with the goal of reaching Newcastle, another coastal town on the other side of the Mourne Mountains, by 12 the next day.

Between them lay 26 miles of mountain tracks, wetlands and mountain peaks with names like Rocky Mountain, Hen Mountain Spaltha, Slievenamuck (the highest on the route at 490 metres) and Curaghard. The first section of the journey was going to be the toughest. The goal was to walk 18.5 miles on the first day. Northern Ireland had enjoyed a few good days of sunshine

## Newcastle welcomes SIS

When twenty ladies met on 20 February, it was with a clear purpose to relaunch Women's Ministries at Newcastle church. And this they did with a new name, Sisters in Service (SIS). Asked why they decided to choose a new name, SIS leader, Girlie Andrada, explained that the group needed a name to reflect their new vision, ambition, purpose and identity. She added that SIS intends to reach out to all women in the church and in the community, regardless of age, race and status, uniting everybody in worship, fellowship, discipleship and service.

Exactly three Sabbaths after this relaunch, members of the reborn SIS delivered an inspiring full-day's programme in the local church, as part of the Women's International Day of Prayer. Naturally, prayer was the central theme of the day's programmes.

The morning Sabbath School programme commenced with a lesson on inclusive prayers, presented in an innovative manner using the metaphor of the 'Chocolate chip cookie' recipe. This was a cookery programme with a twist, emphasising the uniqueness of the individual ingredients required to make chocolate chip cookies. Each ingredient represents the different people we encounter daily; individually, some ingredients (or people) may be lovely, spiritually uplifting, and giving colour to our lives, while others can be unpleasant, overbearing and even lead us astray. However, in the right quantities and combinations, they all play a role in our character development and contribute to making our lives what they are. Listeners were challenged to seek to become special positive ingredients that will enhance and enrich other people's lives and always to pray for every-

one within their sphere of contact. The day's main sermon was delivered by the SIS leader, who spoke about the Canaanite woman's encounter with Jesus. Girlie encouraged her congregation to go directly to Jesus for all their needs.

The main highlight from the afternoon programme, following a sumptuous fellowship lunch, was a series of prayer sessions. Two weeks in advance, the congregation had been asked to submit prayer requests in three special boxes



marked 'Thank You', 'Please' and 'Sorry'. These prayer requests were the focus of the prayer sessions which proved to be a very humbling but inspiring experience.

Since the following day happened to be Mother's Day, all the mothers in the congregation were presented with a giant Mother's Day card signed by church members. In addition, a special couple, Johnson and Patience Mukanganiki, who were expecting a baby, were then treated to a surprise but pre-planned mini baby shower. The family has since had a new addition, baby Munyaradzi Timothy Mukanganiki, born on 30 March.

As a memento from the special Women's International Day of Prayer,

all the women and girls were given the 'God Cans'. These are special coin tin cans labelled 'God CAN answer prayers'. The tins were issued with a challenge for the ladies to fill them with prayer requests and thanksgiving offerings. It is hoped that the tins will be opened during a special thanksgiving ceremony at the next Women's International Day of Prayer in March 2011.

Finally, a candle lighting ceremony was used by the SIS leader to illustrate the reality of Christ as the light of the world.

VICTOR SAMWINGA  
(Additional reporting by Girlie-Mae Andrada)

### Worcester reminder

Worcester church will be celebrating another special Sabbath for their centenary (1910-2010) on Sabbath 12 June. Pastor Ian Sweeney (NEC president), previous pastors and friends will be with us for the occasion. Any other visitors will be very welcome to join us for the day. Lunch will be provided, but any extra dishes will be appreciated.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

evening with the message 'Where do we go from here?' the speaker challenged the congregation: 'Going back is defeat, staying put is not an option, we must go forward in faith.'

During the vote of thanks local minister Pastor Garry Gordon expressed deep appreciation to all who had contributed to make the week such a blessing.

AMANDA SIMON, LEMUEL MORGAN and RUTH FLYNN



Pastor Garry Gordon with Alexandra Berry (from Bury, hence the smiles)



The pastoral team with the seven candidates. Front row left to right: Vallera Whyte, Notoya Campbell, Peta-Gaye Grey. Back row left to right: Jennifer Coleman, Judith Dixon, Carlton Loftman and Alexandra Berry

## Handsworth: Bringing back the glory

'Pastor, this has become a mini evangelistic series,' said one member. 'It feels like camp meeting,' said another. Whatever the personal reflections, all who attended the 'Bring back the glory' series at Handsworth church agreed they had experienced something quite special.

From 1 to 8 May, Melvyn W. Warfield Jr, senior pastor of Hillcrest church, Nashville, Tennessee, preached passionately, encouraging and admonishing those in attendance in a stirring week of revival. Night after night (except Polling Day) our regular members and those from in and around Area 5, together with a total of almost 100 visitors from the local community, gathered as hungry souls and were spiritually refreshed and challenged.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, and graduate of Oakwood University, our speaker defined his role as the shepherd and servant, with a duty to equip and empower the people of God through training and example.

The revival was begun with the message 'Broken to be blessed', in

which the congregation was alerted to the value of trials.

During the week, 'God in a box', 'From Babylon to Laodicea' and 'When praise demands a sacrifice' were just a few of the inspiring and thought-provoking messages that challenged the congregation.

The nightly messages were ably supported with wonderful music and church departments presenting special spotlight features on family matters, education, health, stewardship and emotional wellbeing.

The tone for each meeting was set by the theme song 'I'm restored' which spoke of restoration, reconnection and revival. For many attendees, the lyrics themselves were a source of inspiration even before the delivery of the spoken word. Before being baptised Vallera Whyte stated: 'When I heard the words of the song, I saw my own journey back to God.'

Among the many highlights of the revival the highest point was the final Sabbath morning to afternoon as Pastor Warfield preached his penultimate message: 'Dysfunctional

but not disqualified', which explored Jacob's wrestling experience with God. There were tears of joy as baptismal candidates witnessed family and friends who had come to support them in their decision respond in great number to the appeal for Bible study and baptism.

The baptism was itself a Spirit-filled celebration as seven souls including four young people, Alexandra Berry, Notoya Campbell, Jennifer Coleman, Judith Dixon, Peta-Gaye Grey, Carlton Loftman and Vallera Whyte, stood before the congregation robed in white, proudly declaring their desire to go all the way with Christ.

Carlton, Vallera and Jennifer all felt their need to return to God after straying away for many years due to various life circumstances. Expressing her reasons for being baptised, Jennifer stated: 'It is the sweetest decision I've ever made.'

Notoya, Peta-Gaye, Judith and Alexandra were all introduced to the church by friends and family members and had grown to love God

# A no-limits ministry

## Dalbir Masih at 70

by David Marshall

On 1 June the Masih family will be celebrating Pastor Masih's 70th birthday. Officially he retired five months previously. However, he still leaves home early in the morning, returns pretty late and spends his days serving church and community. This is Dalbir Masih's forty-seventh year in ministry, his thirty-sixth in Britain. Time to recognise his contribution? We think so.

Pastor Dalbir Masih has a no-limits approach to ministry. The Great Commission to him does not merely encompass evangelistic preaching and shepherding little flocks. Though, it must be said, he does all that with outstanding success. It encompasses the social wellbeing of the entire community: all races, all ages, no limits. To achieve that he is prepared to get involved with all manner of organisations – governmental and charity – and work with all manner of people. In the course of a Sunday spent in his company – the aim of which was to cover the opening of an elderly persons' bungalow complex – I met two mayors, three members of parliament, a peer of the realm and more local government officials and dignitaries than you could shake a stick at.

At a grand banquet in the West Midlands town hall I asked Malcolm Watson, 'Who ARE all these people?' He replied: 'They probably have only one thing in common: they all know Pastor Masih!' By the end of that afternoon I had learned that that was true, but that they knew Pastor Masih in a number of different roles and capacities. 'Masih gets things done!' one lady told me, 'and we all help in one way or another.'

Dalbir Masih was born in the Punjab when Gandhi was engaging in passive resistance to the Raj prior to World War Two. Whether he caught it from Gandhi I couldn't say, but there is something of the Mahatma about Dalbir Masih's MO. He is never off duty and is prepared to enlist the help of anyone and everyone. If you said No to one of his suggestions, three more would soon make their appearance.

Until 1958 Dalbir Masih was a member of the Salvation Army. Was that where he learned his social gospel? Probably, but they got it from the Lord's injunction about service to

'the least of these my brethren', so its place of origin could not have been better. Trained for ministry at Spicer Memorial College, Pastor Masih was called to serve in the British Union in 1974.

In the migration from the Indian subcontinent to Britain in the 1960s were many Indian Adventists. A group of Punjabi (Urdu-speaking) Adventists settled in the West Midlands and, wisely, made contact with that most outgoing and inclusive of British ministers, George Bell, then pastoring West Bromwich.

Pastor Bell was, as always, a good visitor and came to enjoy new tastes and flavours. However, although that particular Wexford-born man had spent his impressionable years in Punta Arenas, Chile, Urdu was not a language learned easily at his age. That was the gist of what he shared with the Conference, adding that 'the ideal solution' would be 'to have a pastor from their own country'. He had met gifted Indian pastors who had called to see his Punjabi church in Langley en route to the GC session. Pastor Bell talked to Conference, Union and Division officers and found 'all were of one mind, that for mutual understanding between members and minister the ideal would be to have a pastor from India.'

When Pastor Dalbir Masih visited Britain he was invited to come for interview by the NEC president. A call was placed for his services. The Masih's succeeded the Bells as the pastoral team in March 1975 and Pastor Masih hit the ground running. Within a short time he had arranged for a singing group from his church to perform on TV and radio, reached out to the community through an article in the newspaper and arranged a day of fellowship in a large Anglican building which was attended by 'well over four hundred Indians of various faiths'.<sup>1</sup> When the

Assistant High Commissioner for India and the Mayor of Sandwell presided at the opening of the new Langley church building eight years later 'Dalbir Masih and the Langley members' were commended 'for their tireless work and unstinting sacrifice which have played such a vital part in making this church a reality'. R. H. Surridge wrote that 'on several occasions members brought unopened wage packets for the building of the Lord's house'. Of the Langley members Surridge said, 'Though the English language has to be interpreted, the language of Christian love is clearly understood.'<sup>2</sup>

By the time of his recent retirement Dalbir Masih had ministered at Langley for thirty-five years. At the same time he ministered to many other West Midland congregations. During his Wolverhampton pastorate he presided over the founding of three new churches: Wednesfield, Stafford and Pendeford. During the first of his two periods as senior Camp Hill minister the impressive old building was burnt down. So well known was Pastor Masih in the wider religious community that the Bishop of Birmingham phoned him and, before commiserating, offered the Camp Hill congregation the use of St John's church, Sparkbrook, from the following Sabbath. The Bishop's hospitality continued while the new church building was under construction. The Bishop of Birmingham was a guest of honour when the new Camp Hill sanctuary was dedicated.

In 1988 Pastor Masih 'led the West Midlands Area Advisory to begin' the summer tent campaigns which have been an annual feature of evangelism ever since and 'have reaped hundreds of baptisms and confirmed thousands in the Adventist faith' in the years since.<sup>3</sup> Among the consequences have been the founding of the Breath of Life

and Community of Faith churches. Pastor Masih became both Union and NEC sponsor for Evangelism in the Asian community. A series of new churches has been planted as a result, but by no means all are predominantly Asian: Oxhill, Manchester South Asian, Kidderminster and Walsall. The aim is 'to reach out to and save all seekers'.<sup>4</sup>

Though 'the first Asian worker recruited in this Union to minister to people from the Asian sub-continent', Pastor Masih insists that his has not been 'an ethnic ministry'. 'I have ministered to whomsoever I met,' he says. 'In more recent years I have been very gratified to see the growth of the church in the Asian community and have been humbled that I had a part in it.'

Masih has been recognised and respected across the Asian community and by government as a seasoned and valued leader of that community. He has worked with leaders of other faith groups and enjoyed good relations with them.

Media evangelism has been among his passions. With his son Wilfred, he has broadcast over the Asian networks in Urdu and English and thus reached out to Christians and non-Christians.

Pastor Masih's close to half a century of highly-effective ministry and leadership has been possible because of his close relationship with God and the stable, hospitable home over which his wife Chanti has presided. Their four children – Wilfred, Alfred, Rita and Angela – and four grandchildren have been a credit to him.

Pastor D. W. McFarlane has this to say of Pastor Masih: 'Pastor Masih has been a personal friend for well over thirty years. His disarming and welcoming manner has made him a lot of friends. He served for a number of years on the British Union Committee and on various sub-committees of the Church. I am aware that it was felt by some that others were overlooked in favour of Pastor Masih when it came to committee membership. The truth is that church leaders over the years have been aware that he is an exceptional committee person, who is able to analyse dispassionately a situation or an issue and offer good and impartial counsel as to the direction in which the committee should move.'

'On behalf of the British Union I pay tribute to a loyal servant of the Church, to a man for whom each

challenge is an opportunity and one who always sees the bigger picture of what we are about as a Church. On behalf of the Church I thank him for his service as a church pastor, co-ordinator of Asian Affairs for the British Union, BUC Executive Committee member, NEC Executive Committee member, GC Executive

Committee member, a bridge between the Church and the wider community and a wonderful man of faith.'

References:  
<sup>1</sup>British Indian Church, MESSENGER 80.8. 'New Church for Langley, MESSENGER 87.14.15. 'Jeff Nicholson/Malcolm Watson, Pastor Masih Retires, NEC Communicator 17 December 2009.



The Masih's with the Bells at the opening of Britain's first Indian church



Messenger from that time



The new Langley church on the day it was opened



Pastor & Mrs Masih on a commemoration of their retirement at Camp Hill, 10 January 2010



The wider Masih family celebrate the retirement

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- \* 21<sup>st</sup> May, 19:30 - 'The Tomb in the Womb'
- \* 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 11:15 - 'A Deal for a Meal'
- \* 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 17:30 - 'Scenes from the Genes'
- \* 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 19:00 - 'Messing with the Blessing'
- \* 24<sup>th</sup> May, 19:30 - 'Why Brother with Mother?'
- \* 25<sup>th</sup> May, 19:30 - 'A Son on the Run'
- \* 26<sup>th</sup> May, 19:30 - 'The Sunrise Surprise'
- \* 27<sup>th</sup> May, *Rest night*
- \* 28<sup>th</sup> May, 19:30 - 'The Flight in the Night'

Camp Hill SDA Church, Stratford Road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham, B12 6JP

# uClick iWitness

by Taylor Bajic, PRO, Newbold

As the World Wide Web and other modern technologies are constantly developing and becoming more and more relevant in today's world, there is an ever-growing need for new and fresh media in ministry. With its new Bachelor's Degree in Media Arts, Newbold College is working with that very vision in mind, with the purpose to equip students with the proper skills and the passion to reach today's society in such a way that will speak to their modern minds and hearts.

Using various tools such as photography, live streaming, PowerPoint and film – among many others – both students and church members alike can learn to minister to a wider range of people who may be searching for hope and guidance in Christ.

As media is developing at such a quick and constant pace, up-to-date training is needed. Newbold's Media Arts Course director, Karl Da Silva, and his team of media specialists have therefore organised a one-day media workshop called 'uClick iWitness' which is hoped to provide such guidance and training to all those who would like to pursue media ministry in any capacity.

This dynamic workshop is scheduled to take

place on 20 June at Newbold College. The main purpose of the workshop is to explore media as a very valuable tool for outreach and to provide training for church members interested in applying it. The following is just a sample of the topics for the day:

- 'From a Click to a New Birth' – by Sam Neves, pastor of the Wimbledon church and active user of media in ministry, on why churches need to embrace media as a ministry/evangelistic tool.
- 'This is My Story', – from editing to distribution by Karl Da Silva, Newbold College's Media Arts Course director.
- 'Action! Cut!' – a technical guide to filming and recording by Stefan Stanciu, South England Conference.
- 'Check My Church Online' – a technical guide to free live streaming by Vili Costescu, experienced TV producer of Portuguese Christian programming.
- 'Newbold Media and Your Calling' – by Karl Da Silva.

The event is sponsored by Newbold College, SECmedia and Edge TV/ASI UK and will be limited to sixty participants over the age of 16, so if you would like to attend, be sure to sign up soon. Participants will be asked to give only £30 for the day, which will include all-day seminars, lunch and refreshment breaks, and personal conversations with those actively using media in ministry.

If you are interested in media ministry and would like to attend this exciting workshop, please feel free to contact Karl Da Silva at [kdasilva@newbold.ac.uk](mailto:kdasilva@newbold.ac.uk) or +44 (0) 1344 407 471. He will be happy to answer your questions.



Karl Da Silva, Media Arts Course director

## Manchester South baptism

Sabbath 17 April was the weekend when the skies of Europe came to a standstill due to the ash cloud from an Icelandic volcano. At Manchester South church no ash cloud would have been big enough to stop these nine precious souls taking their stand for the Lord. Eight candidates were baptised on this day, six of whom were young people, the eldest being Brother Forrest and the youngest Brother Cetswayo who is 11 years old. Mandinda Luigu, from our sister church, Longsight, was accepted into fellowship by profession of faith. Music for the service was co-ordinated by Lastone Kamwendo. Pastor F. Mapp performed the ceremony with baptismal vow, dedicatory prayer and introduction of candidates into the church family. Pastor N. Medley, in her sermon 'Doorway to New Life',

reminded the candidates and the church family of the challenges they face ahead and encouraged everyone to stand strong for Christ.

There is a great work for us to do in the city of Manchester as it is said that 'the harvest is great but

### Coaches to Camp Meeting

Brother H. Smiley of Dudley is, as usual, organising coaches to go from the Midlands to NEC Camp Meeting. Please phone him on these numbers to make your booking: 01384 213803, 07868 288310, 07736 509625 or 07789 206171.

### SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



Back row, left to right: Brother Brian, Brother Jack, Brother Daniel, Brother Chilibimiko. Front row, left to right: Brother Forrest, Pastor N. Medley, Sister M. Luigu, Sister Grace, Brother Cetswayo, Brother Zailhwa, Pastor F. Mapp

the labourers are few'. As Manchester South is progressing forward in its outreach with the

gospel commission to teach, preach and baptise, we seek prayers and support.

PRABHU SAHAI

## Wedding

### COX-COFFMAN

Sunday 7 March dawned bright with blue skies and near-freezing temperatures, but around 1,300pm members of Grantham church smiled, put on their coats and jumpers and headed for the Harlaxton C of E church near Grantham, Lincolnshire. Why? Because they had come to witness the marriage of Kevin Cox to his fiancée Amber Coffman from Indiana, USA.

Kevin is the eldest brother to Christine and Graham's other three children, Gregory, Natasha and Douglas. Amber is the eldest sister to Scott and Mindy Coffman's twin daughter and son Amy and Ethan. Indiana, to those who didn't know, is home to the University of Evansville which fields a challenging and successful volleyball team in the United States. The university has a satellite 'extension' in the old Manor of Harlaxton, and Amber had chosen to come to 'our' university for two semesters in 2008/2009. Kevin was, at the time, coaching their volleyball team! What a coincidence! Or maybe not! Their eyes met, and love took its course!

It was almost a fairytale wedding. Shortly after two o'clock (naturally) the bride arrived, wearing a beautiful white satin dress. Her four bridesmaids, Amy (chief), Jami Ditmars (her best friend), Natasha Cox and Erin Bromley, were escorted down the aisle by Greg Cox, Ethan Coffman, Matt Scholes and Douglas Cox, followed by flower girl Jenny Bowerbank. The service was conducted by the Rector of Harlaxton, the Reverend Keith Hanson, and Pastor John Ferguson gave the address. After the ceremony and photographs, guests made their way to the warm open fire of Stoke Rochford Hall, a few miles south of Grantham where, after a time for extra photographs, the reception proceeded. The day finished with more invited guests at an evening of snacks and get-togethers.

We thank the Rector of Harlaxton, Pastor Ferguson, the willing and helpful staff of Stoke Rochford Hall and all the friends and relatives, church and otherwise, who made this such a happy and wonderful occasion. We wish this young couple God's richest blessings and every good wish for a happy and enriched future life together.

GRAHAM COX

## George Stephenson Escoffery — d. 15 March 2010

March 26, 2010 was the last day on this earth for George Stephenson Escoffery as his body was quietly laid to rest at the City of London Cemetery in Manor Park, East London. A large number of relatives and friends said goodbye to one who made a significant contribution not only to his family but also to the Seventh-day Adventist Church and to British society. It was a sad day, yet an occasion to celebrate the life of a pioneer.

From humble beginnings in Portland, Jamaica, George settled in London in October 1959. It was a time of change in the social landscape of the country, and tens of thousands of people from the Caribbean took their places in post-war Britain. I first met him in the 1960s and have observed his activities at Holloway church, London. As one who was always ambitious and keen to take up new challenges, he learned his part as second bass in the Holloway Male Voice Choir, and then soon afterwards attempted to master the initial stages of conducting the choir.

The Holloway church was a melting pot of almost every nationality – British, European, African, Mauritian and Caribbean – and it was the first time that such a mix had taken place in its history. That decade saw the Caribbean membership in the UK becoming the majority, and the search for a pastor who reflected it. Pastor Theodore McLeary was the only black pastor at the time, and he served at Brixton. With evangelistic zeal from the tropics, some members began to seek changes as they saw the need to spread the Adventist message throughout Britain.

In the latter part of the 1960s, the

London Laymen's Forum was founded, and George was among the founder members, playing an important role in ensuring that the Church leadership at every level would reflect the membership it served. It was his wife Millie, whom he married in July 1962, who stood by him as the family anchor during the 1960s as he began studying at evening classes for GCE O and A level examinations. In the 1970s he obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology, and later a Diploma in Social Work. During that decade he became a founder member of the Golden Chords group, which blessed many churches with their rich harmonies. Also, George was a founder member and one of the conductors of the All London Male Voice Choir.

The 1980s would see both of us in a musical outreach to other denominations, a venture that did not find favour with many other Adventists. With the Escoffery Sisters (his three eldest daughters), gospel music was transformed from the Jim Reeves and Heritage Singers' eras to André Crouch, the Edwin Hawkins Singers and others. George and I were founder members of the Black Gospel Association, a multi-denominational organisation, which helped to bring contemporary gospel music to the British public. It was the decade that saw the creation of Black British Gospel music. We were working with the London Community Gospel Choir (leader: The Revd Bazil Meade), the Inspirational Choir (leader: The Revd John Francis), Spirit of Watts (which included Mica Paris) and many other singers. Top American singers would be invited to the UK, we would organise grand events, and British Gospel singers would appear on television programmes. The Escoffery Sisters

**JONATHAN KURT JEAN PRIME (1973-2009) d. 16 October.** Jonathan Kurt Jean Prime was found dead in his home on 16 October 2009. He was the son of Randolph and the late Lynette Prime, and the brother of Randolph David Jr, and of Rannette and Janelle. He attended the Burngrave church in Sheffield. He was born on 26 August 1973 at Lambeth Hospital in Kennington, south London, and was educated at Crawley College of Technology, the Sheffield College of the University of Wolverhampton. Jonathan had an infectious smile, a buoyant personality and was magic to talk to. He was always the centre of any group he was with.

Jonathan's death was sudden and unexpected. The coroner was not able to explain why Jonathan died. There was no evidence of drugs or violence, no evidence of breaking and entry into the premises where he lived. On consultation with his GP, Jonathan was not on any medication. He was described by the coroner as a very healthy and strong lad, so why Jonathan died remains an open question. It is the very same question that the family keeps asking itself, with no resolution, except that God, who controls all things, saw fit to take him away. It is better Jonathan is saved eternally than to live on and be lost.

were awarded 'Best Female Group' on several occasions. In 1991, the group, then consisting of Sharon, Sandra, Marcia and Michelle, released their first album on the Atlantic label.

George did not get along with some people. He often wanted to have his own way. Our work together in the 1980s brought the best out of him, as I found a way of making him focus more on joint approaches to achieving many things.

George's health began to deteriorate in the 1990s, but he continued working at the London Borough of Hackney Social Services where he was the Director of Mental Health. He was a great inspiration to his children, and they will always remember the early years. Michelle said, 'My Dad liked fine silks, expensive shoes, sharp suits, silk socks and handkerchiefs. We used to wear his cologne mixed with our perfume! He was stern on the outside, serious face, big softy on the inside. He was a sensitive man who loved his daughters very much. I used to stay up and wait for him to pull up. The low hum of his engine was all the reassurance I needed to know that he was home safe. Then I could sleep.' Marcia said, 'My father was the one who taught us to lift our voices in song and spent many hours relentlessly rehearsing and teaching us to sing in complex harmonies. He was a man of great determination and cause. He gave of himself way beyond the call of duty in his many years as a counsellor, mentor and leader. When I was 18 years old, I had wanted to follow in my father's footsteps as a counsellor but opted to be a Dynamic Chef for fifteen years. However, when Sandra died I found my calling and became a music educator, which encompassed mentoring, counselling and giving of myself boundlessly. Thank you, Dad. You will always influence my

life, as I live on and represent much of what you did.'

He was a man of great presence. You know when he walks into the room. He was a praying, meditating man, strong, wise and passionate. He loved a good laugh and would be telling you a story and tears of laughter would be streaming down his face,' said Sharon.

His marriage to Millie lasted thirty-two years. Sadly, in September 1999, Sandra suddenly died aged 35 and it was a heavy blow to the family. In May 2000 he remarried to Elaine, and she looked after him as his health slowly failed over the years. He passed away at her side in the comfort of their East London home on 15 March 2010. She said, 'George was such a wonderful man – loving, caring, supportive, the perfect husband, partner and friend. He was a gentle giant, always there for me. We were such good friends and we had so much laughter; even through his illness, he was still able to make me laugh.'

George Stephenson Escoffery also left behind two stepchildren, six grandchildren, and five siblings.

RAEYR THORNTON OBE



Not long before his death we were in telephone and email contact. He was 36 years old and planning to complete a course in accountancy. He was thinking of moving to another city and of going on a cruise with the family. He enjoyed fishing. He loved to study West Indian history. He was very bright and did a degree in Fine Arts and Sculpture at the University of Wolverhampton. Very friendly and free, he made friends very easily. Even the police who found him in his bed said he was truly a religious man. He was a baptised member of the Croydon church in London, as is his brother. He was so powerful in prayer, deep, spiritual, fluent and true. Jonathan loved his Bible and his God. He was not married, nor did he have a partner at the time and so died alone. He had just celebrated his 36th birthday.

We as a family are trying hard to find answers to our many questions and trying to search out and find the God we so believe in and trust and accept as our only Saviour, Maker and Redeemer.

Yes, he was really a great and true and honest son. What you saw is what you got. Not only he was physically attractive, he had an attractive personality as well. What a loss! But God knows best.

RAEYR THORNTON OBE



## 'The Adventists'

A former Adventist, LaYonne Nef, reviewed 'The Adventists' for *Christianity Today*.<sup>1</sup> She says, 'This film is more about longevity than theology, and its picture of Adventists is far from complete. You won't learn here, for example, that Adventism is a variety of Bible-believing evangelical Christianity, or that the denomination has many more schools than hospitals, or that Adventists boast nearly twice as many university graduates as the general population. You won't suspect that 94% of the church's members live outside the United States, or that the American Adventist population is 50% non-white and 31% immigrant, or that despite all those surges, Adventists' income levels are decidedly below average.'

Yet for all that it is still worthwhile viewing. Critic Jon Ted Wymne observes, 'In the brief director's interview (one of the extra features on the disc) Dohlmeier says he came to be much more aware of his own lifestyle choices when he was making this film. If provoking the audience to examine their own patterns of behaviour isn't the value of this film, then I don't know what is.

That's why 'The Adventists' is timely, important and most definitely worth your time.<sup>15</sup>

### References

<sup>10</sup> [www.somepowertheapplepie.us/](http://www.somepowertheapplepie.us/). To see ourselves as others see us! [www.gainefilms.com/store\\_product.asp?product=210](http://www.gainefilms.com/store_product.asp?product=210). [www.adventistreview.org/issue.php?issue=2010\\_150&page=18](http://www.adventistreview.org/issue.php?issue=2010_150&page=18). [www.christianitytoday.com/cf/movies/reviews/2010/adventistsdavenage.html](http://www.christianitytoday.com/cf/movies/reviews/2010/adventistsdavenage.html). [www.enidaters.com/news/the-adventists.html](http://www.enidaters.com/news/the-adventists.html).

### HARPER BELL ADVENTIST SCHOOL

29 Ravenhurst Street  
Camp Hill, Birmingham, B12 0EJ

### KS1 TEACHER REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2010

We require a teacher who is approachable, determined to succeed, confident and inspirational. The successful candidate should:

- have QTS and up-to-date professional knowledge;
- take an active part in school life and extra-curricular activities;
- demonstrate Christian faith, with the ability to integrate this faith into the curriculum.

For an application form, contact the school on 0121 693 7742. A visit to the school is welcomed.

### Closing date for applications:

**4 June 2010, 12 noon.**

The successful candidate will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check

**Godless**  
"Therefore, what God has joined together, Let no man put asunder." (Mark 10:9 KJV)

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# Harper Bell

## Seventh-day Adventist School

Located in a quiet cul-de-sac, a stone's throw from Birmingham city centre, is Harper Bell Adventist School. Established in 1988, the school has recently celebrated 21 years. Catering for children aged 3-11, the school adheres to a Christian ethos, integrating faith throughout the curriculum. This ethos is underpinned with an emphasis on respect, discipline and hard work. Its latest Ofsted report commended the staff's commitment to promoting the personal qualities of its pupils with a strong emphasis on citizenship and character building. The mission of Harper Bell Adventist School is to help each child receive a balanced intellectual, social, cultural, emotional, physical and spiritual education. The school continually enjoys academic success, with a high percentage of pupils annually going to grammar schools. Our academic results are compared below.

SATs results: 2008/2009  
Pupils achieving level 4 or above:

	English	Maths	Science
HBS	100%	80%	100%
Birmingham	76%	75%	85%
National	80%	79%	88%

We are currently accepting applications for limited places on a first come, first served basis. We encourage parents of children under 3 years to place their child's name on the waiting list to avoid disappointment when the child becomes eligible. The school is registered to accept the government funding towards the cost of early years (ages 3 & 4) education. The NEC also provides a fee subsidy for SDA members. Be a part of the success of HBS. For further details, contact the school on 0121 693 7742 or [harperbellschool@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:harperbellschool@hotmail.co.uk)



### New book of the week The Gospel Files by Night

by Gerhard Paderatz  
Foreword by Clifford Goldstein

On a night flight from the United States to Frankfurt, Gerhard Paderatz chats at length with a fellow passenger. All night long they explore the most basic questions of life: Why are we here? Where are we going? If there is a good God, why is there so much pain and injustice in the world? How should we live? What happens next?

You will come away from listening in to their conversation enlightened and enriched.  
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<b>Advent Centre</b> Sundays 11am-3pm	

### Messenger

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### Sun set

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

	Land	Coast	North	Edin	Bell
May 28	9:04	9:16	9:15	9:41	9:43
Jun 4	9:11	9:24	9:23	9:51	9:52
Jun 11	9:17	9:29	9:30	9:58	9:59
Jun 18	9:21	9:33	9:33	10:02	10:03

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