

MESSANGER

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

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World Church meets in Atlanta

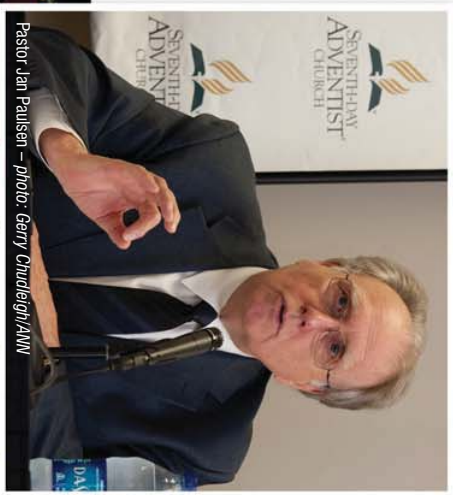
by Victor Hulbert, with Edwin Manuel Garcia/ANN

'They sent us to Atlanta so Adventists could experience hell!' That was the jovial quip from one GC employee as we drove through the burning heat and high humidity of a scorching June day to joyful, air-conditioned coolness of the Georgia Dome — venue for the 59th World Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was a quip — for Atlanta is anything but hell. The area is renowned for its Southern hospitality, and the

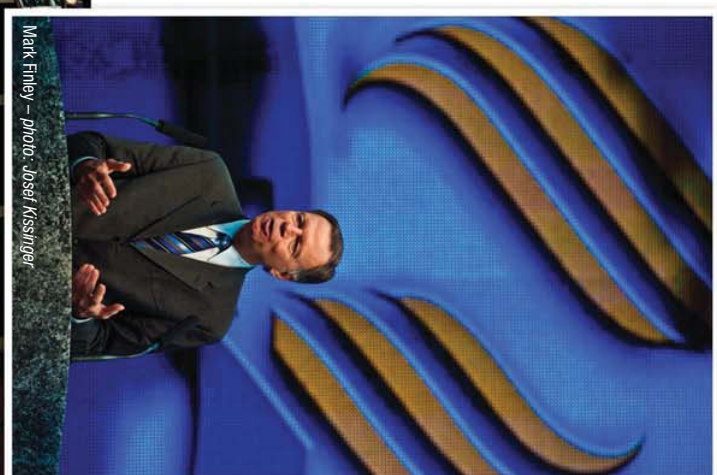
many restaurants in the locality of the Dome went out of their way to provide appropriate cuisine for the tens of thousands of Adventists who descended on the city from 23 June to 3 July to debate the business of the Church, elect leaders for the next five years, and feast on a rich variety of music, preaching and worship experiences.

Fifteen delegates* from the UK and Ireland joined the more than 2,400 delegates — a colourful and diverse group speaking many languages and covering almost every country on the planet. Other UK staff came in supporting roles. Paul Hammond has taken a lead role in the large ABC bookstore at the last several sessions and was in high profile once again.

Victor Hulbert and Ray Allen, along with his son Seth, joined

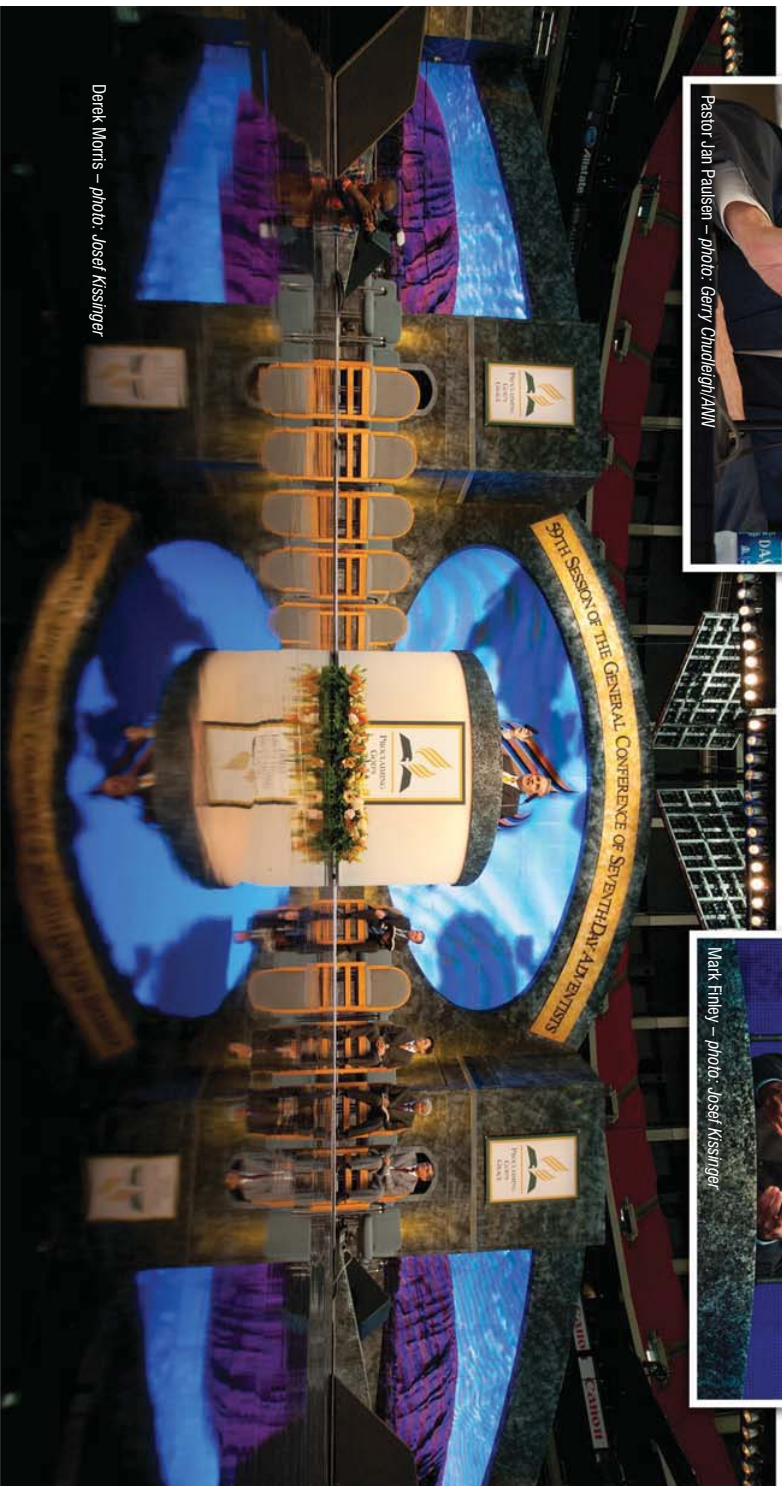


Pastor Ian Paulsen — photo: Gerry Christel/ANN



Mark Finley — photo: Josef Kissinger

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FOCUS and LIFE.info standing orders



Financial strictures have made it necessary for the British Union to subsidise only *three* issues of FOCUS in 2010 (instead of the usual four) and only *three* issues of LIFE.info (instead of the usual five).

Since both FOCUS and LIFE.info are heavily dependent on BUC subsidy, there will, therefore, be only three issues of each magazine in 2010.

Those who have standing orders for FOCUS and LIFE.info will find that their 2010 standing order will also pay for some of the 2011 issues (one in the case of FOCUS subscribers and two in the case of LIFE.info subscribers).

The second issue of the new A5 FOCUS – THEME: CHOOSE LIFE and A SHOT IN TIME? How near are we to a ‘magic bullet’ for cancer?

FOCUS is intended to be given away or sold by the hundreds (small churches) and by the thousands (larger churches).

D. W. McFarlane, president, BUC

FOR MASS DISTRIBUTION THIS SUMMER

Press vacancy

The Stanborough Press Ltd, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL

WANTED: an experienced secretary who will work with the Editor and the Head of the Production department.

Applicants should be well qualified, have considerable computer skills and be capable of typing speedily and accurately.

The vacancy exists from Monday 6 September.

Applications should be sent to the General Manager before Thursday 20 July.

admin@stanboroughpress.co.uk.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applications must be by mail or email.

A man needs a wife, because otherwise there would be just too many things to blame on the government!

Here are some excuses received from the car insurance people.

‘The guy was all over the road; I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.’

‘An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my vehicle and vanished.’ ‘The direct cause of this accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth. . . .’

We are all manufacturers. Some make good. Some make trouble. Others make excuses.

Jesus told a story about making excuses. Isaiah had described the Kingdom of God as ‘a wonderful feast for all the people of the world’. (25:6.) Does that appeal? Jesus thought so and built a story around the idea. Read the story in Luke 14:15-24.

In advance of his great banquet the King sent heralds with invitations. Those who heard Jesus tell the story knew that big banquets could last for days, took a lot of preparation and represented a major investment by the host. When the preparations were completed and the table groaned beneath the weight of much food, the King would send out his heralds for a second time. Then they would tell the guests, ‘Come, the banquet is ready.’¹ How did the invitees respond?

Was there a stampede to the table?

‘But they all alike began to make excuses.’ (Verse 18.) Can you believe that?

The excuses were as lame as they were transparent:

One man said he had bought a field, wanted to go and inspect it and, politely, asked to be excused.

Another man had bought five pair of oxen and wanted to try them out.

The third man tersely responded: ‘I have just got married, so I can’t come.’ (Verse 20.)

Excuses!
Jesus’ audience would have enjoyed the humour – until they realised that he was talking about how they treated God’s invitation.

How many people buy a field and then go to check it out? None. It was only as they checked out the field that they knew how much it was worth.

How many bought ten oxen and then

with David Marshall, editor

Excuses! Excuses! Excuses!



went to check them out? None. They checked them first and then decided how much to bid.

And the third excuse; what was that about? The man who made his new bride the excuse does not provide the first known evidence of She Who Must Be Obeyed. No. He was appealing to a law in Deuteronomy which stated that when a man had just got married he could not be called upon to serve in the army. Here that law did not apply. The King was not inviting him to serve in his army – but to feast at his banquet. And his new wife was free to attend, too!

So what were the folk who made the excuses really saying?

Not everyone makes it!

That’s one sobering message we get from the Parable of the Excuses, Luke 14:15-24.

We’re apt to think of life as if it were a game of chess. If you make wrong moves and lose the game, you can put the chess pieces back in the box and play again another day.

In this parable Jesus invites us to be mature about things. We have to live with the consequences of our negative choices.

Be careful about those excuses.

Answer:

We don’t really want to attend.

That’s what they were really saying.

The excuses were trumped up and transparently so.

The King knew that, and immediately sent his heralds to find poor, disabled, forgotten people to invite instead. When there was still some room, he sent his heralds again: ‘Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.’ (Verse 23, NLT.)

Having rudely snubbed the invitation to attend the King’s banquet, the original invitees had to live with the negative consequences of their negative decisions.

Worse than that, the original invitees had to make way for those who had no standing in society. Jesus was already defending himself against the charge of taking the Gospel to the ‘tax collectors and sinners’. (15:1-32.)

Before he does so, however, Jesus invites his hearers to count the cost of discipleship. Discipleship means a person’s readiness to put the claims of Jesus above land, possessions and even family. (14:25-35.) Business, cars (and other novelties), friendships and even closer relationships cannot be permitted to usurp the claims of Christ.

There is something about all this that makes us uncomfortable. What is it?

Is it that those whose priorities are chiefly materialistic, secular and hedonistic don’t make it?

Do we sense that this story does not just address those who perceived themselves the spiritual elite of Jesus’ time? That, perhaps, it addresses all self-proclaimed spiritual elites who believe they have everything sussed and sorted, and have a right to a monopoly on all the seats at the King’s Table?

Excuses! Excuses! Excuses!

Every excuse covered an altered priority. Does the

banquet lose its appeal to those who are ‘rich, increased with goods’ – and sometimes think they have outgrown their first enthusiasm for the King’s food and the King’s presence?

To such people the King still says, ‘Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.’ (Revelation 3:20, NLT.)

Apparently there are still vacancies at the table. The next time you make an excuse, listen to what you are saying.

Reference:
¹Jesus actually told two stories about a banquet. This week we’re dealing with the one in Luke 14:15-24. We’ll keep the other story (told in Matthew 22:1-14) for another time.

Enhancing Health

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



Boosting energy Part 1: Overview

In this issue we begin an in-depth series on what impacts the level of energy we experience – its boosters and the things that deplete it.

In this fast-paced and sometimes pressurised life, it is not uncommon at times to feel in need of energy – physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. However, persistent lack of energy needs to be followed up, as ongoing tiredness can become a chronic health issue which severely impacts quality of life.

Data from Bupa’s information team published in March 2008 highlighted that at any given time, one in ten people have persistent tiredness, significant enough to affect their day-to-day activities. In line with past research, the data indicated that women are more likely to be affected than men.

So what impacts energy? The reasons range from varying causes, such as food, lifestyle, and

physical and emotional illness. The following list gives an idea of some of the culprits.

- Anaemia
- Dehydration
- Diabetes
- Fibromyalgia
- Food allergies
- Shift work
- Toxic environments
- Caffeine overload
- Depression
- Emotional stress
- Food intolerance
- Hyperthyroidism
- Sleep pattern variation
- Urinary tract infection

As a background to this series and some homework before our next issue, I invite you to undertake some personal research on your own levels of energy and what impacts them. Get yourself a notebook and pen to document how you feel throughout the day for the next two weeks. You may notice that at varying times of the day your energy levels differ. This could be related to your body clock but may also be

due to dietary habits, physical or emotional wellbeing and lifestyle choices. Rate your level of energy from 1-10 three times a day: morning (6-12), daytime (12-6) and evening (6-12). Divide the page into three columns. The first column will indicate the time of day you are recording – morning, afternoon, evening. The second column will indicate the range of energy you are experiencing, for example, 1 for low or 10 for high. You may notice a pattern emerging or note that certain foods, activities or emotions affect your energy levels. Jot these findings down in the third column.

This information may become quite useful in the ensuing issues as we examine the spectrum of causes of lack of energy and highlight the steps to combat it to boost your stamina. Are you ready for the journey? Then let’s begin.

Good health!



What is your higher purpose?

by Steve Holden*

In 2 Kings 6:8-17 Ben-hadad, king of Syria, has declared war on Israel and his battle plan involves setting up a series of ambushes, taking Israel entirely by surprise. He decides upon appropriate locations for these with his military commanders but, much to his annoyance, each time a site is chosen, Israel seems to have advance warning of it and is well prepared.

Ben-hadad, who is by now extremely angry, quite naturally assumes there are spies in the camp. When he questions his officers, they explain that there is an Israelite prophet named Elisha residing in Dothan who is privy to everything the king is planning. Determined to put a stop to this nuisance, Ben-hadad sends a contingent of soldiers, horses and chariots to capture Elisha. They arrive during the night, and when the prophet's servant wakes in the morning, he is terrified to see that the city is totally surrounded by enemy forces.

Seeing his fear, Elisha reassures him. We pick up the story in verse 17. 'Then Elisha prayed, "O Lord, open my servant's eyes so he can see." The Lord answered Elisha's prayer and his servant looked outside and saw the surrounding hills full of horses and chariots of fire.'

In one of the many magazine inserts which now seem to pad out the weekend papers, HSBC – *the world's local bank* – has published four magazines which cover '100 thoughts' on global perspectives and local opportunities in business.

I want to refer this morning to 'thought 85' entitled 'What is your higher purpose?' presented by Sue Siddall, the managing director of IDEO(UK), described as a design and innovation consultancy.

She starts by stating that as we emerge bruised from the recession, consumers are fundamentally rebooting their values and choices. The brands they choose to spend time with need to prepare for the consequences.

Sue goes on to say that IDEO works with companies around the world to help them innovate and grow. While many ask, 'How do we sell more?' she believes the more fundamental question they should be asking themselves is: What are we giving our customer beyond the product or service we are selling?

What is our higher purpose?

Not enough businesses ask themselves that, she states, but it has powerful consequences when they do.

Sue goes on to give an inspiring example of this thinking in practice.

The founder of Aravind Eye Care in India – Dr Govindappa Venkataswamy – was motivated by the fact that over 80% of the developing world's blindness and impaired vision is needless. His ambition was to become the McDonalds of eye care and use standardisation and efficiency to reduce

costs and increase access.

While a typical ophthalmologist might perform 250 surgeries annually, an Aravind doctor will average 2,000. As a result, they now provide comprehensive eye care to over two million people who could not otherwise have afforded it.

Businesses, Sue concludes, are uniquely positioned to create change. If they can define a 'higher purpose', they can play a consequential part in people's lives.

As we consider our business model – our mission to tell others of the Gospel of salvation through Christ and of his soon return, through the books and other literature we sell and distribute – I thought the example of Aravind Eye Care a good parallel. Working in partnership with God we, too, have a 'higher purpose' – one in which we can be instrumental in opening the eyes and minds of those who are either blind or have impaired vision when it comes to spiritual matters and seeing God. If 80% of the developing world's blindness and impaired vision is, as 'thought 85' states, in a physical way 'needless', then this is certainly true in the spiritual realm also.

But this 'higher purpose' isn't just a collective company measure. We, too, on a personal level, need to define and practise it in our own lives.

Just as with Elisha's servant, we can, on occasion, feel surrounded on all sides by the enemy, with no obvious way of escape – threatened, oppressed, even discouraged. In situations like these we need to pray that our own eyes will be opened to God's love, his care and his protection in order to allay our fears and receive that support and encouragement that is always available to us.

We need to focus on his 'saving power' and remember that those who are with us far outnumber those against us.

With the thought of a 'higher purpose' in mind, I'd like to close with a few verses from Paul in Ephesians 1:15-18. *The Clear Word* reads like this:

When I hear of your confidence in Christ and how much you love and care for each other, I can't stop giving thanks to God for you, remembering you in my prayers. I pray that God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, will continue to give you wisdom and reveal more of himself to you as the days go by. I pray also that the eyes of your heart will see more and more of what Christ has done for you and that you will realise the hope to which God is calling you – the inheritance that awaits his people.

PRAYER THOUGHT

May our eyes be opened to reveal more and more of what you have done for us – and may this revelation motivate us to want to share this with those whose vision is still somewhat impaired, that they, too, might come to know you, whom to know is life eternal.

*Steve Holden is Production manager at The Stanborough Press Ltd. This is the text of a morning worship he gave in June.

Is England 'Mary's Dowry'?

by Patrick Boyle*

Two news items which won't go away are the oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico and the troubles of Pope Benedict XVI and the Vatican. *Time* magazine has Benedict on its cover* with an eight-page article detailing the worldwide scandal of child abuse and the problem for an infallible Pope to say, 'Sorry.'

The Pope's planned visit to Britain in September has run into a series of administrative roadblocks which may reduce the scale of planned events. David Cameron has appointed Chris Patten, former governor of Hong Kong, to address the issue from the government's side. He is a high-profile Catholic who can intelligently dialogue with the church in smoothing out any problems.

Media interest in the visit is indicated by Channel 4 TV's commissioning Peter Tatchell, the prominent homosexual rights campaigner and critic of the Vatican, to make a documentary about Benedict XVI.² This has angered the Catholic community and promises to be controversial.

BBC Two³ has also commissioned Mark Dowd, a freelance television producer, to make a film about the Pope. Mr Dowd is a gay Catholic.

It is significant that protest with regard to the papal visit is coming from secularists and not Christians.

To prepare Catholics for the Pope's visit, the Catholic Truth Society has produced a booklet with selected prayers, devotions and guidance to help them approach this event meaningfully.

The contents of this publication raise issues which have to be of no small concern to Christians who base their faith upon the Holy Scriptures.

Central to prayers for the Pope's visit is the request that Catholics pray to the Virgin Mary that her Dowry may be restored to her. This idea has its origin in a ceremony in Westminster Abbey in 1381, when King Richard II dedicated England as 'Mary's Dowry'. The recovery of this will be England's return to the Catholic faith.⁴

Benedict XVI's visit is intentional. He comes not to speak pious platitudes but to further the aim of bringing England, Scotland and Wales back into the fold of the 'one true church'.

To this end we have a prayer to the Virgin Mary for the conversion of England, asking her to 'intercede for our separated brethren, that with us in the one true fold they may be united to the supreme Shepherd, the Vicar of thy Son'.⁵

A prayer to God for Wales: 'Have mercy on the people who dwell in Wales. Grant to them the precious gift of faith, and unite them in the one true church founded by thy divine Son'.⁶

A prayer for Scotland: 'Lord, win over the minds of our countrymen so that all men . . . see your spirit, truth and life in the one true church which you have founded'.⁷

One has to admire the clarity and openness with which the Catholic Church declares her intentions. No one could accuse her of ambiguity or deceit in this connection. This openness is

a challenge to all who have a different understanding of salvation. For make no mistake, from the Catholic perspective

there is only one way to truth and it is not the biblical way: 'The task of interpreting the Word of God authentically has been entrusted solely to the Magisterium of the Church, that is, to the Pope and the bishops in communion with him'.⁸

No role here for the Holy Spirit to enlighten and guide the individual Christian in truth.

Church historian Jaroslav

Pelikan in his book *The Riddle of Roman Catholicism* made the pertinent observation: 'Roman Catholicism as we know it is the product of twenty centuries of history. To understand it, we must try to understand this history'.⁹

It is a sad and tragic fact that ignorance of the history of Catholicism is matched with ignorance of the teachings of the Bible concerning salvation and truth. The issues of salvation by faith, the eternal nature of God's law of Ten Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath, both of which are denied and distorted by the papacy, ought to be defended. Surely it is essential that Bible-believing Christians, who are loyal to Jesus of Nazareth, exert themselves to know what God's Word teaches and stand in defence of its truth.

References:

¹Time, 7 June. ²Telegraph, 4 June. ³The Tablet, 5 June. ⁴The Catholic Herald, 15 June. ⁵The Pope in Britain. Preparing for the visit with prayers and devotions, p. 10. ⁶Ibid, p. 11. ⁷Ibid, p. 13. ⁸Ibid, p. 56. ⁹Ibid, p. 20.



LETTERS POLICY

It is not our policy to publish letters sent in anonymously. Many letters (both pro and con) are sent in on the subject of 'Mono ethnic churches'. Many, but by no means all, have something new to add to the discussion. If you want them to appear in print we must have the name of the writer and the name of the congregation of which he/she is a member. Should you want them to appear in print without a name, that is something we will consider. However, the request 'publish without my name' must be made explicitly.

Letters should not exceed 200 words. Hence, rather than including long quotations from sources to which all readers have access, simply give the references.

We want to hear from readers, but they need to be sufficiently confident of the validity of their viewpoint to share their names with the editor.

EARLY BRITISH CHRISTIANITY

Dear Editor

Free from regular commitments at local church level since my retirement, I have been fired up to do more research into early British Christianity, especially in the south-west.

As you know, this year marks the sixteen hundredth anniversary of the official end of Roman Britain and the sacking of Rome. Apparently there are special conferences and commemorative events planned up and down the country to focus on this, and no doubt we shall hear more as August approaches.

Would there be any mileage in bringing something of the significance of the 410 period to our membership? Some implications from that time are of particular importance to us as Adventist Christians.

The fall of Rome was deeply symbolic for the empire and for Christianity as a whole.

The end of Roman Britain coincided with the lives of at least two notable British Christians – Pelagius and Patrick. Pelagius's understanding of 'free will' and personal salvation, though supported by numerous churchmen of his day, was

soon outlawed as 'heresy', very largely because it stood against Augustine of Hippo, whose theology went on to dominate church life in the middle ages and survives down to our time. Thus, countless millions of people have known no other than the Augustinian Catholic formula of salvation and 'original sin'. The secular dismissal of Christianity in our time has been aided by this traditional Catholic doctrine and its implications. Augustine himself says that it was the dreadful impact of the fall of Rome to the barbarians in 410 which impelled him to begin writing his definitive work 'The City of God' just a few years later.

At the same time, on the Lerins islands of southern Gaul, the spiritual and intellectual move away from the core of Roman Christianity proved a powerful stimulus to the church in Britain. Whatever did (or didn't) happen to Christianity in Britain during the mid-fifth-century 'dark age', we know that within a few generations of the fall of Rome in 410 Christianity came alive in the remoter west of our land. This left a legacy with much to be cherished, as you have well documented.

The two recent Issues articles by our colleague Patrick Boyle have provided a helpful background for the Pope's forthcoming visit. Perhaps the picture of Christianity in Britain would be enhanced by some reference to those events around 1,600 years ago.

PASTOR BRIAN MARTIN, Bristol

STREET COLLECTING

Dear Editor

I read with interest an article in *Messenger*, 11 June, 115.12, page 13, about the Southend street witness.

I have supported the work of ADRA every year since I started collecting in pubs with my mother as a young teenager and fully support the work that ADRA does. However, I was a little concerned to see that in Southend they were collecting in the streets. I thought we had permission only to collect from door to door. Maybe they had special permission, or maybe the rules have changed. I hope so. I would not want ADRA to be in trouble with the law.

Can you shed any light on this?

JOHN MCGOLDRICK, Bradford

ADVENTIST MUSLIM RELATIONS

Dear Editor

'Adventist Muslim Relations' (front page news, *Messenger*, 11 June 2010) has been going on for several years now. What has been the benefit either to the Church or outsiders? It is time to examine now. Can someone explain in one paragraph the benefits accrued so far for the enlightenment of the church members? The money spent on this department could be used to help build churches in the UK and strengthen the ministry.

The leader of such a department in the [] Division told me in a private conversation that he is totally frustrated with such an unfruitful enterprise and he is looking for some public and personal ministry instead. Now our leader of the SEC will be shuttling between London and Washington DC, for what purpose I do not understand. If possible, all our church members should have some basic knowledge of the major religions of the world so that we can grasp the uniqueness of our Saviour and his teachings. Let us make an effort to this end.

K. A. P. YESUDHAN, Sutton Coldfield

JLS teacher wins Egan Teamboard

by Dr Richard de Lisser, SEC Communication director

Moses Arendse, a teacher of English at The John Loughborough Seventh-day Adventist School in Tottenham, London, has won the coveted first prize award of a Teamboard in the *SecEd* (Secondary Education) magazine. The mobile Teamboard has a wide range of functions that make the normal interactive whiteboard appear archaic. The students and entire staff are excited about the new Teamboard and hope it will enhance their teaching and learning experience.

How did this all happen? Mr Arendse saw the editor's competition in the *SecEd* magazine and entered

it. The competition involved writing a letter to the editor in which you had to qualify the reasons why you or your school needed the Teamboard more than any other school in England. Mr Arendse never dreamed that he would be the first prize-winner, as he had only hoped to scoop one of the ten third prizes: £50 for the school. He said that he wanted to buy five £10 gift vouchers at W. H. Smith's for the school's Student of the Week Awards (if he had been a third prize winner). But then God intervened. . . and he is no third place God. Out of all the secondary and primary school entries in

England, Mr Arendse's letter to the editor was selected as the winner!

The manager of Egan Teamboards, Peter, came all the way from Sweden to install the board at The John Loughborough School on Friday 27 May. Mr Victor Lammy, the school's BSF (Building Schools for the Future) and Mr David Alexander, ICT manager, were present at the installation and congratulated Mr Arendse for having acquired a spectacular teaching resource for the school.

Mr Moses Arendse is currently an elder at Hampstead church, where he holds the position of Religious Liberty leader. He is also the school's Communications Faculty head and holds a BED in languages and an MA in Social Justice and Education.

Pastor Ian Sweeney, who lauded the women of the North and assured them that God touches both men and women to enable them to minister together to the needs of his people.

After the president left for other duties, the president's first lady, his wife Jennifer Sweeney, reminded us that it's not so much about the woman behind the successful man, but about the Man, Jesus Christ, behind the successful woman.

Excellent presentations were delivered by Sociology lecturer Valerie Bernard-Allen, BUC Health Ministries director Sharon Platt-McDonald, business consultant Sandra Golding, and Pastor Patricia Douglas, all experts in their fields. All the topics were very relevant to women in our day and age and included good, godly advice on managing our personal finances, women's health issues and using our words for the growth of Christian sisterhood.

The gathering was well fed, literally and figuratively, as women were able to browse the exhibition stalls after an excellent lunch, provided by the university conference centre, with exhibitors' offers ranging from professional photography, health products, health screening, books and even underwear. The vegetarian lunch was good, the atmosphere was positive and, all in all, a wonderful day was had by all.

The first Women of Excellence Award nominees were Edelle Christie, Muriel Elson, Winifred Anderson, all from Nottingham, and Vimal Sable from Birmingham. Certificates were awarded for outstanding contribution to community and church life.

The response to this event was very encouraging as, without

Women Together Conference

The first Women Together Conference in the NEC was held on 25 May, a beautiful, sunny day in Nottingham's East Midlands Conference Centre. The warmest day of the year to date saw women arrive from as far afield

as Newcastle, Liverpool – and even the South England Conference. Many were clad in colourful traditional outfits, echoing the diversity within our conference.

Excitement mounted as a back-

drop of colourful flags was raised in preparation for the parade of nations in which a group of women marched in carrying flags from around the world. This colourful display was followed by the opening address by



Pastor Patricia Douglas



Valerie Bernard-Allen

exception, this year's attendees voted to keep this day as an annual event. Comments included, 'A very good and enjoyable day', 'Engaging', 'Excellent content', 'A very good conference', 'It brought me alive to a lot of issues. I recommend it.'

The Women's Ministries department looks forward to continued and improved support for this event in the years to come.

The next Women Together Conference is planned for Sunday 15 May 2011.

GERALDINE FARMER, NEC Women's Ministries director
Pictures: P. Jaynes

Camp Hill health emphasis

by Jeff Hall and Jacquie Halliday-Bell

With only eight weeks' preparation and planning time the newly elected Health Ministries team for 2010-2011 organised a day-long programme for Camp Hill church under the theme 'Fit to serve' and under the leadership of Dr Jacquie Halliday-Bell. The advisory elder, Dr Pasi Gutti, delivered a timely and

thought-provoking sermon covering the eight laws of health principles. He touched on the NEW START programme, which has been successful for numerous people across the region. His wife Tendai presented a children's story. During Sabbath School, the church was introduced to all nine members of the Health Ministries team. Most took a few minutes to outline their health sub-projects for the current biennium. Projects including a health expo, cooking classes, exercise classes, a coping with cancer workshop and a mental health conference are all under construction.

The divine service was blessed by special music from David Bramble and Sharon. We were reminded that David is a 'son' of Camp Hill now residing and worshipping in London. The service was well attended. The option of lunch added to the health experience as the team pooled their culinary skills with the aid of chef Alan Smith. Joy Thompson, Terry Hull, Gloria Sewell and Margaret Beacon-White prepared a healthy and tasty meal. Not a scrap was left.

Fasting in Ireland

Eight young people in Ireland decided to fast as their baptismal day approached. Believers from twenty-five different countries crowded into the Galway church to see the eight young people baptised. The candidates had been fasting since the previous afternoon but, after the baptism, we all joined them to celebrate with a giant baptismal cake, specially made and decorated by one of our Brazilian members. Sabbath 29 May was the culmination of two simultaneous Daniel seminars held by Pastor Stephen Wilson. Another four people were preparing for baptism at the end of June, and four more requested baptism, after the call.

Ivan, the 'Bible Writer' (see *Messenger* front page, 11 June), was one of the young people baptised. Ivan is hand-writing the New Testament and is nearly through the gospel of Luke. He is following his Russian father's example. He has handwritten three quarters of his Russian Bible and has started on the English New Testament to improve his English skills.

Because Ireland had recognised 'Africa Day' during that week, we also celebrated 'Africa Day' that Sabbath, and all our African friends turned out in their national costumes. We are grateful that David Neil our Irish Mission president joined us in our celebrations.

JHON DUROE, for the Irish Mission



Ivan is baptised by Pastor Stephen Wilson



Silent for ADRA

Some of the children who attend the Torquay church decided to keep still and quiet for the whole main church service to raise funds for ADRA. All the church members were aiming to raise as much as possible through door-to-door collections, donations and sponsored slims and walks. Denesia Clarke, Dannica Clarke, Danielle Clarke, Martha Moikeenah and Sean Nazareno were delighted that they managed to sit for over an hour without moving or speaking. Other children joined the adults in a sponsored walk along the seaford, and one or two members completed a sponsored slim. Some members have been putting their loose change to one side over the past year for ADRA. Our target had been set at £1,200, with our faith target at £1,400, but we decided to aim even higher this year, and our small membership managed to send the wonderful total of £1,823 to ADRA-UK.

JEN READ



Core of Adventism

Words and pictures by Cathy Boldeau

While the people in the United Kingdom were listening to the rhetoric of the three political parties as each made a last desperate attempt to secure votes at the General Election, members of the Adventist Church in London, Reading and Ireland listened to presentations about the fundamentals of their faith.

'A most interesting, thought-provoking and much-needed presentation and discussion,' were the sentiments of Pastor Don McFarlane, president of the British Union Conference. This followed an informative seminar by Dr Kwabena Donkor on 'The Remnant'. Donkor is an associate director of the Biblical Research Institute at the General Conference.

The Core of Adventism kicked off on Sunday 2 May with an all-day Conference at the Greenwich Adventist church. As well as Dr

Donkor, those attending were blessed by the ministry of Dr Francisco Gayoba, ministerial secretary of the North Philippine Union Conference, Dr Orlando Moncrieffe, pastor of the First Adventist Church of Teaneck, New Jersey, and Dr Bertram Melbourne, pastor of the Rockville and Gaithersburg churches in Potomac Conference. They spoke on the Sanctuary, the Church as the Family of God, Prophetic Interpretation and Membership versus Discipleship, respectively. Dr Sharath Babu, associate professor of Theology from Spicer Memorial College, gave the devotional.

These five speakers were joined by others during a week of daily seminars to the clergy and elders and nightly presentations to the members. Pastor Kristopher Loewen, Youth pastor at Walla Walla University church, spoke during the week about working with youth and,

nightly, he and Micah Campbell spoke to the youth at the New Life Adventist church in North London. He accompanied Pastor Gifford Rhamie, lecturer at Newbold College, to the Irish Mission on Sabbath for a special service. Pastor Rhamie spoke about the rise in fundamentalism within the Church, and Pastor Loewen once again addressed youth matters.

On Thursday Clifford Goldstein, editor of the *Adult Bible Study Guides*, gave an in-depth but clear presentation on the sanctuary during the day for the ministers and delivered the same subject on the Friday evening at the Reading Central church. Along with Dr Paul Tompkins, Youth director at the Trans-European Division, Pastor Goldstein spoke at the Reading District day of fellowship the following morning, addressing issues such as righteousness by faith and the remnant. Dr Tompkins spoke about the Church, God's City of Refuge, and the need for Continuing Your Family Heritage of Faith.

'I was blessed and inspired by the quality of the speakers at this year's Core,' stated one pastor. 'I now understand issues surrounding my core doctrines more.'

During the week, one of the key points delivered by all speakers was 'the Core of Adventism is Jesus Christ'. It was emphasised that in all of our debating, discussing and deliberating, it is Christ whom we serve, and he is the author and finisher of our faith.

Reflecting on the week, Pastor Eglan Brooks, BUC Personal Ministries director and organiser of the event, stated, 'Our ministers and members need to know what they believe so that they will feel confident to share their faith with others.'

Are you ready for the great day?

On Sabbath 25 September the BUC, in conjunction with the Conferences and Missions, is asking every church, every member, to set aside **two** hours to share the good news of salvation. Churches should meet and agree the most appropriate method of sharing faith in their local context. This project is co-sponsored by the BUC Personal Ministries, Church Growth and Youth departments and the Adventist Discovery Centre.

31,000 PEOPLE, 31 PIECES OF LITERATURE, 1 DAY

Can you imagine what could happen if every member of our Church was engaged in sharing their faith on the same day in their local communities? Can you imagine the kind of impact on this nation if 31,000 Adventists decided to share their time and faith with thirty-one different people on the same day, effectively reaching nearly a million people for Christ? Imagine the power of 31,000!

This lay-led initiative represents a fantastic opportunity to engage the whole Church in ministry for our loved ones, friends, colleagues and the local community by sharing our message of hope. It can be achieved in a variety of ways, using resources such as literature, DVDs or using the friendship evangelism model of a simple prayer or doing something practical to help someone in need. What an opportunity for ministry! There will be many thousands of people who would have a life-changing experience if we would just share a word of hope with them. What is crucial to the survival of the Church is that we regularly seek ways to effectively engage in evangelism. This is our gospel commission.

Every member is asked to set aside two hours to share the good news of salvation on Sabbath 25 September. How can this be done? Churches should meet and agree the most appropriate method of sharing faith in their local context. One suggestion is to have a shortened service on Sabbath and to spend a couple of hours in the community with each person sharing the Gospel or visiting at least thirty-one loved ones, then return to church to pray, testify and reflect over a meal. Each church is free to implement the plan according to its local needs and what the members feel impressed by the Spirit of God to do. We ask that the local churches use the resources that are readily available from the Stanborough Press, the Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC), Conference or Mission offices, or BUC office.

Please prayerfully commit your time, talent, personal effort and influence into the hand of God to work in a distinctive, exponential manner as we seek to touch the lives of others. Sabbath 18 September could be used as a day of prayer for the forthcoming week.

May God bless you and your church as you purpose to show Christ Jesus in all of his glory and see the power of 31,000 Adventists touching lives for eternity.

Co-sponsors EGLAN BROOKS, DES BOLDEAU, DES RAFFERTY



No cult at Cult

John Wilby reports on the Scottish Mission's Day of Fellowship

There may have been a few raised eyebrows and humorous reactions when it was announced that a Scottish Mission Day of Fellowship was to be held in the Aberdeen suburb of Cult – and at the Cult Academy! But there was nothing else inappropriate about 5 June, when 400 members, their families and friends enjoyed the blessings of togetherness in modern, pleasant facilities.

In fact, Newbold College lecturer and keynote speaker, Dr Gifford Rhamie, addressed two very topical issues affecting the Adventist Church in the British Isles. His morning sermon 'Whose man is he anyway?' was based on Mark 3:31-35 in which Jesus uses his response to his family's presence as a metaphor for the extended family of God. Developing the theme of community outreach, he said, 'You cannot put God in a box, you cannot own him, because if you try to do that he will only look like you at the end of the day and stop being the Jesus of Scripture that you ought to be.'

In the afternoon he turned to the controversial subject of 'Fundamentalism', subtitled 'The myth of righteous-

ness by fact'. He included in a list of attributes of his dream church one that 'interprets truth in terms of spirit'. The difference between fact and truth was explored with the letter and spirit of the law highlighted in 2 Corinthians 3. Emphasising that there should not be a contradiction between the letter and the spirit, he said, 'Your truth only amounts to what you live, and your belief is only evidenced in what you live.'

Judith Martin, Women's Ministries sponsor, hailed the enditnow campaign as the most important stand the Adventist Church has taken against violence to women and young girls. She invited Mission president, Pastor Bernie Holford, to be the first signatory of the Mission's contribution to a petition to be submitted to the United Nation's Secretary General.

There was a poignant moment when Pastor Jimmy Botha made an illustrated appeal for Dunfirmline church's condemned and uninhabitable 'third-world building'. 'Our buildings are our front window, our advertisement to the world of who we are,' he said. The subsequent offering raised several hundred pounds towards the cost of a new church building.

As the coaches and cars departed south from Britain's northermost membership, one left not only with a great sense of belonging, but deep reflection on our relationship with others and our spiritual approach to matters of faith.

Friends Together at Kilkenny

For many years Kilkenny had just a few members and they would hold meetings once a month. Things changed when, in 2008, a group of Sudanese people arrived in Ireland. Evelyn Wilson, who took care of the group, heard that many of the Sudanese were Adventists. She was very happy, because now they could have weekly Sabbath services. On Sabbath 15 May over eighty people gathered together in their little but happy church, which usually hosts less than thirty. They celebrated a Friends Together Day. People from many different churches were there, including two Pentecostal pastors. Members from the Ballinacrow church attended and contributed to the day. All enjoyed a beautiful service led by Evelyn Wilson and stayed for refreshments afterwards. With such a great attendance in the house of God, we hope and pray that this is just the beginning of many more. Evelyn said that many doors were opened as she talked to people, and some expressed the desire for Bible studies.

NOMA TILLM

Rochdale Youth Day

Rochdale's first ever Youth Day, held on 22 May, was a big success, and much hard work went into its preparation. We would like to thank



Manchester Central youth and all the members for helping us stage such a monumental event and for their financial support. A big thank you, too, to all the members at Rochdale church for their continued support and prayers for the youth.

The theme for the day, 'Healthy Relationships, Choosing 4 Life', helped us focus and tackle issues affecting both young and old. We realise the danger when any form of relationship breaks down, and

Celebrating our senior citizens

Leicester Central Family Life department organised a day of celebration to commemorate the lives and the work of our senior citizens, who have made a very valuable contribution to the life of our church.

Patience Chimwala, leader of the Family department, said, 'We wanted to show appreciation for our

Satan is stepping up his attack, especially on family life. Our guest speaker, Clive Palmer, and his team did well to shed some light on those burning issues and offer practical, Bible-based advice for successful relationships.

Rochdale Youth department – 'Reaching up to God, Reaching out for God'. For more details please visit the church website: www.rochdale-sda.org.

DES MARASHA

senior citizens so that our young people could understand the contribution that they have made and are still making to the work of the Lord today.'

The day was organised to enable our senior members to be able to participate in the various activities of the day, by offering them opportunities to lead a song service, say a



Our respected former Union president, Pastor C. R. Perry

public prayer, relay reflections on times past through an interview, coordinate a congregational discussion of the Sabbath School lesson, tell a children's story and be a part of the platform party.

We were honoured to have Pastor Cecil Perry (retired BUC president) and his wife with us on the day. His sermon was entitled 'Lord of our years'. Although he spoke facetiously about the ailments of the elderly, which made tears stream from our eyes, owing to his humorous take on this subject, there was a serious message.

Psalms 90:1-10 was the focus of his reflections, recognising that God as the Creator sustains us, guards, guides and enables us to live life to the full. Nevertheless, there is a call to live within the guidelines that God has set out for our benefit, to enjoy his blessings. We were reminded of the need to look after the elderly in our communities and learn from the wisdom that they have gained through their experience of life. Pastor Perry spoke of the task that God has given each one of us, stating that we are not finished till we have finished this task.

We were reminded of some of the oldest people who have lived on

Earth, such as Enoch and Elijah, who were eventually translated. In addition, reference was made to the reassurance of the resurrection that we have when we die as believers in Christ. The sermon closed with soul-searching questions for those at the end of a long life. These included: Did I live life with Jesus? Am I able to connect with young people? For what achievements will my life be remembered?

This was followed by a sumptuous lunch prepared by the hospitality team. The afternoon service was also dedicated to the celebration of the senior citizens. In their honour children recited poems, music was performed, and, in a thanksgiving ceremony, framed certificates of appreciation were presented to them. Pauline Matturi presided over a PowerPoint presentation with photographs of our senior citizens in their younger days. Pastor Perry spoke of the imminence of Eternity, and that we have one opportunity to live life as God intended, as indicated in Ecclesiastes 9:10, 'Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might: for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.'

PHILIP HERBERT

Burngreave news

Pathfinder Day

Pathfinder Day celebration at Burngreave, Sheffield, took place on 10 April. The sermon was preached by Tawanda Muguzo, who was a Pathfinder and is at present a student at Manchester University. He reminded the Pathfinders and congregation that our mission is not to do our own will but the will of God. At the end of the service the Pathfinders marched out of the auditorium with drums beating. The Pathfinders' Proclamation

March followed in the afternoon. The Pathfinders marched around the Burngreave area, proclaiming 'Jesus Saves', and distributing gospel leaflets.

To end the day they presented Sister May with a bunch of flowers and a luxury camping chair. She had just had her 70th birthday and helps in the Pathfinder department.

Music Day

Music Day was held at Burngreave on 27 February. Shirley Grant from Greenwich church, London, was the main speaker for the day.

She based her comments on King Jehoshaphat's outstanding demonstration of trust in God when facing a war with overwhelming odds against him.

The afternoon programme consisted of testimony and song with the Burngreave church choir and other groups rendering special musical items. Sister Grant gave her own testimony of deliverance by God from lurking danger of which she was unaware. She left her congregation with the text: 'All things work together for good to them that love God.'

ROSEMARY BLENNAN

Baptism follows health witness

During 1-15 May, at the Leicester Central church, there was an evangelistic outreach programme, where evangelist Enoch Adu centred his thoughts on the theme, 'A Prescription for Healthy Living'.

Enoch spoke earnestly about serious decision making in the Christian life, where a daily battle is being fought to gain control of the mind. A key message made it clear that every day of our lives we make decisions which have eternal consequences. Talks on important aspects of healthy living were given by a number of experienced health professionals from the Leicester Central church. There was also a daily quiz, led by the quiz master Mthabisi Thebe, to refresh and consolidate what had been learned from the various presentations each evening.

As a result of this outreach programme, four individuals, David Ward, Desire Ncube, Nomusa Dlodlo and Matthew Turrell, chose to surrender their lives to Christ in a baptism that took place on 15 May.

PHILIP HERBERT

West Brom Guest Day

Sabbath 17 April was a joyful day for the congregation at West Bromwich church. The speaker for Community Guest Day was Pastor Patrick Johnson who grew up in this church. The focus of the first part of the day was to invite guests from the community to come and fellowship with us. This was an effective part of the evangelistic outreach that is currently being undertaken at West Bromwich church.

The second highlight of the day was the four individuals who had decided to say goodbye to this world and to begin a life with Jesus. The individuals were Hazel Crooks, Demeika Thorpe, Rachel Pennicott and Chiku Chilufya. It was an extremely proud day for all the immediate families and also the church family who had watched these individuals grow on their spiritual journeys.

Pastor Patrick Johnson was delighted to be able to baptise his niece Rachel Pennicott.

The other candidates were baptised by Pastor Moses Msimanga. The candidates' families all shared the same sentiment – they were glad that their loved ones had made the right decision. 'This is the best thing that they have ever done.'

JUANITA CRAWFORD



Enoch Adu (left) and Daniel Wkepe

Sales Associate required at the Advent Centre, London

The Stanborough Press is seeking to recruit a Sales Associate to staff the Adventist Book Centre (ABC) retail outlet within the Advent Centre in central London. Applicants should possess good organisational and interpersonal skills, together with an enthusiasm to further the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Some experience of working within a retail environment would be beneficial; however, training and support will be provided for ABC operating procedures. The role is undertaken on Sundays between the hours of 11am and 3pm and also from December to February after sunset on Sabbath until 8pm.

Salary and terms of employment will be in keeping with denominational policies and are available upon request. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Paul Poddar, UK Sales manager, for an informal discussion on 01476 591700. Alternatively, you can email your CV through to Paul at ppoddar@stanboroughpress.co.uk or post it to Paul Poddar, The Stanborough Press Ltd, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is 31 July 2010.

For those who want help with their photography

www.adventistnews.org.uk/messenger/guidelines.php

We would still like to see an improvement in the standard of photography submitted for publication.

Editor

InSpirit on the Lord's day in Swansea

by John Surridge

On Sabbath 12 June members of the Swansea church, along with members from other Adventist churches in South Wales and guests from even further afield, were treated to a special concert of worship and praise by the InSpirit Men's Chorus.

InSpirit is a non-profit music ministry comprised of singers from southeast Tennessee and north Georgia. They come from different denominations and professions but are united in Christ and in the determination to spread his love through song.

At home, InSpirit comprises forty plus singers, and some twenty-four of these, together with wives and

families, were able to take part in this spring's European tour. Having sung in Salisbury Cathedral and stayed at Newbold College, the Chorus came to Wales to conclude their tour by singing at a benefit concert with the Morrissett RFC Choir on Saturday evening.

With a Sabbath morning free, InSpirit generously offered to sing for the Adventist church in Swansea – an offer the members swiftly accepted and made the most of. They hired a community centre, invited friends, and prepared a fellowship lunch for all.

A worship experience in itself, the Chorus's performance replaced the



usual morning service. InSpirit's director Gerald Peel, whose father and brother also sing with the Chorus, created a unique programme for the day. Beginning with 'Jesus, Yesterday, Today, the Same Forever' and concluding with 'Who Will be a Witness?' the songs led the audience on a journey of spiritual commitment. On the way they explored different cultural styles, ranging from 'I Have Decided to Follow Jesus', which originated among the Garo hill tribe in north-eastern India, to spirituals, which originally developed among slave peoples for their own encouragement but are now firmly embedded in general Christian culture. Especially moving was their rendition of 'In the Morning When I Rise', arranged by Roland Carter. Welsh culture was, of course, included, with the inevitable *Cwm Rhondda* being sung by the entire congregation. This was particularly well performed, thanks to Gerald's conducting, which made every member feel a part of the Chorus.

All of the fifteen songs performed had their own unique characteristics. The variety of keys, tempos and styles made each one memorable. However, one in particular struck a

chord with the Adventist members of the congregation. 'The Greatest Want of the World' was a special arrangement of the famous quote from Ellen White's book *Education*.

Others in the Chorus who should be mentioned include the soloist Martin Young, and the accompanist Ethan McGrath, whose skills in musical improvisation on the piano managed to bring a truly inferior instrument under at least some measure of control.

In addition to the music there was another touching component to the day when Pastor Jovan Adamovic, his wife Hajdi and their 3-year-old daughter Hana, brought the newest member of their family, baby Masha, to be dedicated. Following the dedicatory prayer Masha was presented with a certificate, card and present by Mrs Margaret Howells, a much loved mother figure in the church.

More than 130 photos from the day can be seen in the gallery section of the Welsh Mission website at: www.adventistwales.org.

Links:

www.facebook.com/pages/inSpirit-The-Mens-Chorus/215693448991
www.inspiritmenschorus.com/

Heather's baptism

The Larne church welcomed Heather Johnston into its fellowship on Sabbath 5 June. Heather grew up in the Larne church and remembers many children's stories told and activities organised for young people. When Heather reached her 20s, however, she arrived at a period when church was not very important to her. But in the past two years she felt drawn towards a life of faith again. She believes that it was the investment that the church had

made in her as a child that kept having an impact on her and eventually brought her back to church. She requested Bible studies even though she knew most of the doctrines and after several months of studies she could wait no longer and insisted on being baptised as soon as possible.

The Larne church has a weekly attendance of twenty people. On the occasion of Heather's baptism the church was full. More than eighty

Ladywood baptism

On the morning of Sabbath 5 May at Ladywood church, Birmingham, preparations were underway for yet another special event. The baptismal pool had been erected. A speaker had been chosen. Two very special young people were anxiously awaiting that ceremony in which their heartfelt decisions would become public declarations of their love for Christ. Zhonia Porter, 17, and Kamilah Jeffers, 15, stood before the congregation and made those all-important promises of dedication to a life in Christ. In his address, Pastor Richard Brooks uplifted these young people and those in the congregation when he asserted that their names were now written in the book of life alongside other mighty men.

Recounting the events of the eunuch's journey to baptism as recorded in Acts chapter 8, he admonished the candidates to study the Word so the decisions they make will be informed as opposed to being guided by pure emotion. He spoke of the role of Philip as an encourager and instructor but reminded the young people that while our 'Philip' will not always be with us, we can rejoice in the knowledge that God is always there. He then admonished them to be evangelists, like Philip, uplifting others in Jesus' name. After the address we sang songs of praise and consecration as each candidate was baptised and welcomed into the fellowship of the family of God. Without a doubt the angels in Heaven were surely rejoicing with the congregation at Ladywood as these two young people publicly became a part of God's fold.

KENDREA LEWIS



Jeremiah leads the way

As the eleven candidates stood to answer the questions at the baptism that marked the end of the 'Finding Your Life's Purpose and Passion' campaign at Brixton church, my eyes turned to the small figure of Jeremiah whose frame was towered over by the other candidates. They all stood together as they made their decision to follow Christ but for Jeremiah this was an awesome moment in the life of a 7-year-old. However, this was not so much about how old he was; this was about why he wanted so much to be baptised.

Jeremiah's parents had named him after his father's favourite prophet, and he had said that it was his dream one day to preach, as he feels that God has something for him to do. When asked why coming to church is so important to him, he answered. 'If you don't come to church, you don't know what the sermon is about.' He enjoys listening to the Word of God. He also wants to walk with Jesus, and his parents are supporting him along this path.

Pastor Abraham Jules encouraged all who attended the campaign to listen to the voice of the Lord and give their lives to him and, like the Bible characters Samuel, Jeremiah responded in the affirmative: 'Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth.'



VALERIE MOODIE

Renee Clarke (left), Jeremiah (middle) and Trevor Clarke (right)

Coventry baptism

Jesus came into this world 'to seek and to save that which was lost' – this was the crux of Pastor Paul Liburd's sermon as seven publicly sealed their commitment to Christ in Coventry on Sabbath 15 May.

Both churches of Coventry – Henley Green and Coventry Central – united to rejoice with Heaven as Jasmine Bonner, James Kinyanjui, brothers Troy and Shane Tyler, Norman Ncube and Esther Kirugi went through the water of baptism and Theri Mulewa made his profession of faith.

Although Jasmine, James, Esther and Norman were born in Adventist families, they could all testify that there was a turning point in their lives when they made the choice for

themselves to follow Christ Jesus.

Thirteen-year-old Jasmine told friends and families: 'I have been in the church all my life. . . . I have come to know a lot more about Christ in the previous weeks and have truly come to understand his love for me. . . . He has changed my life completely. . . . I want to show publicly my love for him.'

Theri had been baptised in another denomination back in 1985. 'But I wandered away from God. Although the devil tried to pull me back, I kept on my knees. Now I can say that the devil has been conquered indeed.'

As for Troy, he testified of God's power to reach out and save people, regardless of their past history. 'Do



not let anyone tell you that Christ cannot save a heroine addict; I am a living testimony that he can!

And how appropriate was Pastor Liburd's explanation of the three parables of Luke chapter 15. Whichever category we belong to –

the lost sheep, the lost coin or the lost son – Christ comes and searches for us. Some have wandered away step by step like a sheep. Some are lost in the house – the church – and do not even know that they are lost. Others are impatient for instant gratification and want to go their own way. Although our Father knows that we will be hurt by turning away from him, he will let us go, yet will try to help us as best he can. And when we come back, 'that's when God runs'. He runs to us like the father in the parable, so great is his joy at having found us again. That is how much he loves us.

Jasmine, James, Troy and Shane are now the newest members of the Coventry Henley Green church, and Norman, Theri and Esther of Coventry Central.

MURIELLE GALVANI



seats were put out, and they were insufficient. What made this more significant was the fact that more than half of the people who chose to support Heather in her decision for Christ were not Adventists or regular church attenders. Heather and the members of the Larne church put together little gift packs to hand out to all the visitors. Everybody was surprised because they had seen the gift packs and thought that they were intended for the baptismal candidate.

The baptism was conducted by Pastor Weiers Coetsier, the local minister, and Heather's uncle, Pastor Billy Johnston, who came from Switzerland to celebrate the event with her. The Larne church was delighted to accept her into membership.

WEIERS COETSIER

Irish Mission Triennial Session
 Notice is hereby given that the Triennial Session of the Irish Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on Sunday 24 October 2010 in the Barbridge 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.
 D. Neal, president
 W. Plimock, secretary/treasurer

ADRA-UK at Royal Cornwall Show

The demonstration of a working African water pump attracted scores of visitors to the stand of the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the Royal Cornwall Show, 10-12 June. ADRA-UK was invited by Pastor Robert Bell of Area 1 to be part of the church presentation at the annual event. White ADRA-UK helium balloons were a popular giveaway and could be seen across the fairground. Kennedy Habasimbi, former project manager in Zambia for ADRA, demonstrated the water pump and explained to visitors how this pump is helping poor farmers in the Senanga district in Zambia to irrigate their fields. The pump was very popular, particularly with youth and Cornish farmers who appreciated the simple local technology of the diaphragm pump. On the final day of the event, a visiting family returned to the stand with a donation to pay for new pumps in Zambia.

BERT SMIT



Babies, babies, babies

by Nana Sifa Twum

For the London Ghana church, baby dedications are observed as both solemn and joyous occasions. The church sees them as welcoming new and future members of the church family. Dedications are viewed as a foundational step for both the parents of the child and the church family. The dedication establishes the child in the church. On a monthly basis dedications bring together non-Christians and Christians of our and other denominations. As a matter of fact, the church prepares during such occasions to welcome many visitors who join friends and relations who are dedicating their children. There is an Old Testament basis for dedications (1 Samuel 1:27, 28).

This year alone, fourteen children have been dedicated in this church. Perhaps the most memorable was the most recent, when eight babies were dedicated. The event was a record-breaking one. Normally such

a large number of babies would be dedicated to God at camp meetings and other such large gatherings, not in one church. Out of all the parents, one was a non-Adventist. All others were members of the London Ghana church.

It was a heaven-like scene as the church choir ushered the deaconesses with inspirational tunes as they brought the babies together with their parents onto the platform. Then reverently the babies were handed to seven church elders and the head pastor, Pastor Fergus Owusu-Boateng.

As usual there were opportunities to exhibit the church's cardinal values and doctrines to the large



Greenwich on the move!

'Facing Life's Adversities' was the caption under which the Greenwich church marched into its recent evangelistic campaign. Guest evangelist Pastor Royston Smith was from across London rather than from across the seas. Responding to an invitation from resident pastor, Hamilton J. Williams, Pastor Smith addressed the relevant topics of facing the challenges of today's hectic living. The programme culminated with a baptism of eight individuals who are now rejoicing in their new-found faith. Pastor Williams wishes to thank those who faithfully stayed with the programme and saw the answer to their prayers and effort.

TIMON FERMIN



Back row: Pastor Williams and evangelist team. Front row left to right: Nathaniel Joseph, Temilolu OgunDIRAN, Moesha Thomas, Rebecca Bhebe, Sari Kavanen (rebaptism), Elias Bhebe, Krista Veevagare and Never Bhebe.

Willesden health week

'Restoring the right arm' was the theme for the health week starting on 24 April. Ellen G. White wrote that 'the right arm' of the Adventist message is the health message. 'Restoring' means reinstating,

re-establishing, bringing back.

Our Health Ministries leader, Joan Lindsay, brought in two dynamic, jovial, enthusiastic and say-it-as-it-is guest preachers. They stressed the necessity to return to our health message through a u-turn in our diet and lifestyle, supported by Ellen White's counsels on diet, prophecy, admonitions, godly wisdom and knowledge.

Warwick Bryan, an elder in the Coventry church, recounted how he almost lost his life through corned beef. Against this heartbreaking backdrop, he used his tragedy to qualify in nursing and naturopathy.

During his week with us, those present in numbers every night – non-SDA and other church members in addition to church members – learned more about the mechanics of their bodies, the medicinal properties of herbs and plants and the maliciousness of the pharmaceutical and meat lobbies. The advantages of drinking water, and plenty of it, were discussed. Temperance and exercise were covered. Adults discovered or rediscovered the difference between men and women's brains and approach to sex.

Much about our conventional diet and medicine was denounced. Gary Harrison, an international lay preacher, who has baptised three thousand, declared the hatred God has for jewellery and all forms of falsehood.

MICHELLE RONDOP

Holloway Homecoming

by Ranette Prime

Over 500 people responded to the announcement that Holloway church would be hosting a Homecoming Weekend from 14 to 16 May. The atmosphere in the sanctuary was heavy with nostalgia, warmth and welcome. Many from the past and present made their way to the famous blue seats. What was it that brought so many families and friends together to worship at Holloway that day? Many had been born and raised in the church and were now returning with children of their own, while others made new friends and formed new connections.

For some it was as simple and profound as just being invited. It was someone noticing that your presence and contribution had been missing for a week, month or year and acknowledging and informing you that, yes, you matter to us.

Others were taken back by the theme for the weekend: Loyalty Matters: Are you in or out? Just as the prophet Elijah urged the children of Israel to 'choose . . . this day whom you will serve', so Holloway's

waiting congregation was likewise challenged. This was not about loyalty to Holloway: it was about your personal relationship with God.

But for many, particularly those raised in Holloway church during the 1980s, it was the opportunity to be reunited with one of Holloway's ministering couples, Pastor Louis and Dr Janice Preston. Pastor Preston, a second-generation preacher's son born in New York City, had learned to have love and compassion for all people from a young age. This was his first reunion with Holloway since serving as Holloway's minister from 1979 for seven years before moving to Nottingham and then spending four years in Africa, melding cultures and encouraging unity. In his early 30s as the minister of Holloway church, he had instituted a number of improvements to Holloway's communion service and church building, to name a few. He had also baptised and mentored so many of Holloway's youth who credit the loyalty of the Preston family to their church as influencing their commitment to



serve the Lord to this very day.

On Friday night Annell Smith opened the evening with Praise and Worship, welcoming the Sabbath and reflecting on what it means to reverence the Sabbath day. Dr Janice Preston opened the weekend with an inspiring presentation on the history and development of Adventist hospitals in Florida, where she serves as the Chair of the Department of Nursing, and Dr Preston as the Diversity Officer for all eight of its campuses.

'God Redeems, Recycles and Restores,' exclaimed Pastor Louis Preston to a waiting congregation. Using drama, preaching and teaching in his sermon, he demonstrated that God loves the sinner and pointed to what Jesus is doing right now as our High Priest

to ensure we are saved.

The weekend ended with a nostalgic walk through Holloway's Hallway of music and talent from the early 1980s to the present day, featuring the likes of Love Divine, Holloway Gospel Choir and Jane Liburd, through to Praise Choir, Leon Barclay and The Philips' stringed ensemble.

And on Sunday, despite mixed weather reports, families and friends came together for The Homecoming Fun Day at Finsbury Park with team games and activities.

It was an enjoyable time of reflection, but not without a sure reminder from Dr Janice Preston that while the days about which we reminisce are now long gone, Jesus' second coming is drawing nearer: we must be both loyal and ready.

Love in Action

We often talk about loving our fellow men, but how far are we willing to go to demonstrate that love to others?

Through the 'Love in Action' Concert on 29 May the Thames Valley Youth Federation and the Oxford Adventist churches showed that they take the Bible seriously when it says, 'Love thy neighbour as thyself.' The purpose of the concert was to raise awareness of the continued suffering faced by the victims of the recent earthquake in Haiti and to donate any funds received to ADRA to help in their humanitarian efforts.

The concert took place in the grand setting of Oxford Town Hall. It was attended by approximately 500 people from the Oxford community and Area 5. Honoured guests included Lord Councillor and Mrs John Goddard (Mayor of Oxford) and Mr and Mrs Bert Smit (CEO of ADRA), as well as Myriam Breton Jones, a representative from UHUK (United Haitians in the United Kingdom).

The event was hosted by Alan Charles (producer of 'Love Sax and all that Jazz') and Gary Smith (BBC Oxford Radio), who with their humour and dynamism helped to make the evening truly memorable. We were blessed with performances from such groups as The Reading Community Gospel Choir, 4-Christ, The Chiswick Gospel Choir,

Thimior Lazić, Rachel 'The Poet' Ouduro, Felicia Fara and many more.

The Lord blessed and the concert was a great success. Over £2,200 was raised for the people of Haiti and we received a lot of positive feedback from the Oxford community. Donations can still be made at www.TVYF.org. Keep praying for Haiti.

KAREN FRANCIS



Making Lyte of it

At Weymouth we may not have our own church building and we are few in number, but we love to come together to fellowship with the Lord and each other.

On Sabbath 5 June we had our annual hymn writer service. This is where we have a presentation on a particular hymn writer and sing some of his/her hymns. In previous years we have covered Isaac Watts, Fanny Crosby and John Newton.

This year it was the turn of a man born in Scotland, educated in Ireland, who served his ministry in the southwest of England and died in France. It was Henry Francis Lyte.

Even if he is not particularly famous, he has written some well-loved hymns. The presentation started off with 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven'. It concluded with 'Abide with me', which was made famous when King George V introduced it to the community singing before the FA Cup Final in 1914.

The history of the hymn is a sad one. Lyte, who was seriously ill, had to go abroad to a warmer climate in order to survive. He posted 'his final effusion' to his wife from Avignon and died a few days later in Nice where he is buried. It was sung for the first time at his memorial service at Brixham where he had been vicar for many years.

ALLAN KISSACK

World Church meets in Atlanta

another Brit, former BBC journalist and trainer, John Smith, in running a news podcast, 'Atlanta 2010 today' for the ten days of the session. Others are providing staff support to *Spectrum Magazine*, *Newsline* (airing daily on the Hope Channel), and still others have been part of the musical presence during the ten days, including Reuben and Elizabeth Hall. 16 and 14 year olds originally from Camp Hill and Bath who were among the youngest members of the Sabbath morning orchestra. Very many other visitors came from the UK and Ireland simply to join in the worship, meet up with friends, soak up the atmosphere and stock up on resources from the extensive exhibition halls.

The main business sessions were just starting as *MESSENGER* went to press, but at a press conference on Wednesday afternoon, 23 June, Dr Jan Paulsen laid out the Church's goals for the session and answered several questions about the agenda.

The most important discussions, he said, would focus on updating the Church Manual, determining whether some decisions should be made at annual executive sessions instead of at the every-five-year General Conference Sessions, looking into how the Church defines departments inside the Church, and selecting the organisation's leadership.

Updating the language in the manual, which has been amended by 'bits and pieces' over the decades, he said, is challenging because of the World Church's diversity. 'As a global community



Worshippers gather near the stage – photo: Josef Kissinger

there will be many differences inside the cultures,' Paulsen said, 'and somehow the Church has to be aligned where it is, and not so tight that it can't function.'

One part of the Manual that won't be updated, Paulsen said, is the Church's current stance on the ordination of women. Church officials are not expected to recommend changes to the Church's position, he said.

Paulsen also called the Adventist Church 'a strong and rapidly growing community' that is becoming better known among world political leaders. 'In years past, we were . . . just a small community. There's a huge difference between a community of one million and a community of twenty-five million,' he said. The Church currently has 16.3 million baptised members in more than 200 countries.

In the question period Paulsen emphasised his commitment to empowering youth in the Church and noted that progress had been made in this direction over the past five years. He stated that he had put considerable effort into guiding the

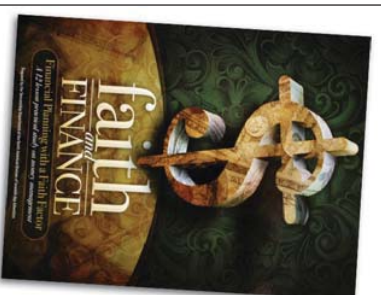
World Church in this direction and through his 'Let's Talk' TV series he had profited before the World Church 'these very, very skilled and spiritually gifted young men and women . . . full of energy and ideas, who should be serving the Church in a much more creative way than they have in the past.' He promised that change would come — and demonstrated that by the way the headquarters' office and various

areas around the world had consciously endeavoured to increase the number of youth delegates. Not long after the news conference concluded, hundreds of delegates flocked to the floor of the Georgia Dome for the Session's first official activity — an afternoon of spiritual emphasis.

They heard from church leaders such as Mark Finley, a General Conference vice president; Angel Rodriguez, director of the World Church's Biblical Research Institute; and Carlton Byrd, pastor of the

Berean Adventist Church in Atlanta. 'We need to be deeply immersed in the Scripture in order to speak with authority,' said Rodriguez, who spoke about the importance of the Holy Spirit.

**Delegates from the UK:*
Pastor Sam Davis, Mr Brian Davison (TED but under BUC delegation), Dr Stephen Logan, Pastor Eric Lowe, Pastor Don McFarlane, Pastor Fergus Owusu-Boateng, Mr Kish Poddar, Mrs Judith Redman, Mrs Joan Saunders, Pastor Geoff Smith, Pastor John Surridge, Pastor Ian Sweeney, Miss Nisha Taylor, Mrs Claudette Membrard (Official Guest), Pastor Ian Steeman (TED but under BUC delegation).



New book of the week

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Gospel Roller Bash 2010

Sunday 22 August

VENUE: DERBY HOUSEWORD
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