

MESSANGER

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Decision time at Chapel Porth

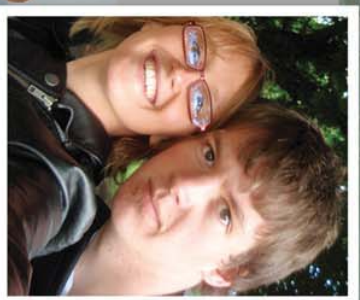
by Andrei Balan

It was summertime and the crowds headed to the coast to enjoy the British summer. Among them, on the last weekend of June, were more than one hundred members and friends of the London Russian-speaking church, along with fifteen children. They came to enjoy a good social time and to get away

from busy London. This also allowed them to get to know twenty-five new friends to the church who came with them to enjoy the hot weather and amazing waves of the Atlantic Ocean. During the weekend they had the opportunity to gain an understanding of what 'their friends the Adventists' believe and how they

practise their Christian lifestyle. An additional blessing was a baptism on the beach. The church members had been planning for a baptism since January and were praying for at least one candidate – but the final total was eleven! One lady, Lubba, came from the Baptist Church but wanted to get rebaptised and to dedicate her life to spreading the unique message of the Adventist Church. Another candidate, 10-year-old Victor, has an amazing

knowledge of the Word of God. They joined the others in the spectacular surf of Chapel Porth beach. Then, after sunset, the church praised God and celebrated Communion together with the newly baptised members. Pastor Balan stated, 'There was a unique and very special atmosphere.' As a result, many of the twenty-five visitors have shown an interest in commencing Bible studies. There may be a need for a return visit to Chapel Porth beach.



St Austell Project baptism

by Silje Møller

It can be a risky thing giving out your phone number! I was a Danish girl, a volunteer on the St Austell Project, but I needed a job. I headed towards the world famous Eden Project where many people were queuing to get their magic five minutes with the manager. In front of me stood a younger guy. He was around 17 and, because the line took forever, we ended up chatting. His name was Steven Webb and by the end of a ten-minute conversation we had swapped phone numbers. I left Eden thinking I would get a job. I did not, but Steven did. And he also started to join the project's activities – beginning with the film night but gradually moving towards the spiritual. The volunteers on the project befriended and supported him, and just over a year ago he decided to start Bible studies with Pastor Mick Smart, Steven Hulbert and, in the final stages, Pastor Chris Peake. 'If it had not been for people like Steven Hulbert,' Webb said at his baptism, 'I would not have met Christ.'

I was leaving the project in July to return to my studies in Global Health and Nutrition in Denmark, so I was delighted that he chose to be baptised before I left. Sabbath 3 July was a beautiful afternoon at Chapel Porth. The crashing surf on the beach almost did the baptism on its own. Friends from Newbold church, Exeter, Watford and St Austell were present and so were Steven's mother and grandparents. Quite a few of the visitors witnessed an Adventist baptism for the first time. It was a really special day for all of us. Steven Hulbert, the

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current project leader, reflected: 'For me, 3 July has been a great and special day — and the best thing is, it is not the end. At least one other person has now made a decision for Christ!'

Standing at Chapel Port beach looking back on Steven Webb's two-and-a-half-year journey, I was amazed at the outcome of my job interview in Eden! Being a part of the project has made me think a lot about God — in my life and my future, and also in the way he is leading with the project. I am so excited to know that God has not finished his work down in St Austell. He is calling on more people and they are listening.

Silje is a student from Denmark who volunteered to spend seven months on the project. She then went back to Denmark to continue her studies but so enjoys what the project is doing that she volunteered another three months this summer. While Silje is planning for a career in Global Health and Nutrition she is also aware of God's leading and believes that she will find herself involved in similar experiences in the future. If you want to find out more about the St Austell Youth Witness Project then email Steven Hulbert at steven@hulbert.org.uk

An Irish Pastor remembered

Pastor Mike Logan died in Ireland in 2008 as the result of a brain tumour. While sick he made a request — to spend some time at Kilnasoolagh, Southern Ireland's Adventist retreat centre. This year when the Newmarket-on-Fergus pastor, Tony O'Rourke, paid Mike's sister Kathleen a visit, she suggested planting a tree in his memory. She wanted it planted on Mike's

birthday in the back garden of Kilnasoolagh.

After the church service on 26 June, Kathleen placed the tree in the prepared hole. Pastor Alan Hodges, BUC Ministerial director, was present. He had also been there two years earlier for Mike's funeral.

Mike had a Roman Catholic upbringing. After a bad car crash he was asked the question, 'Were you ready to die?' He started to search for a meaning in life and was finally baptised by Pastor Don Vollmer. Everyone liked Mike. When his employer refused to give him time off for his new Sabbath, all his workmates threatened to go on strike! They say he didn't just kiss the Blarney stone — he swallowed it!



Mike served for sixteen-and-a-half years as a pastor in Ireland, South England and Wales. His sister Kathleen, niece Cathryn and daughter Joy were present on Sabbath to remember Mike. Many people will continue to remember this friendly Irish pastor and will thank God for a life well lived.

JOHN DUROE

Pastor John Duroe, Cathryn, Pastor Alan Hodges, Kathleen, Joy, Tony O'Rourke

What would have happened if Phoebe had not delivered the letter?

What would have happened if she had said to herself, 'I'm a deaconess. It's not part of my duties to deliver letters. Anyway, it's a long way to Rome. Seas to cross. Long roads to walk. Robbers. Bandits. I'll tell you what. I'll just add the letter scroll to all the other scrolls in my scroll collection in case I find time to read it one day.'

What if Phoebe had taken a sneak peek at the letter and said, 'This Jew from Tarsus is a scholar. He's not like me. He's not one of my people. This letter to the Romans is complicated. I spent all of five minutes with it this morning, and I couldn't understand it! Why should I make that hazardous journey to Rome? I'm staying safe indoors.'

Thankfully, Phoebe didn't consider that option. She considered her commission. And that was? To carry Paul's letter all the way from Cenchrea to Rome. Phoebe may or may not have known that somewhere towards the end of his letter Paul had written, 'I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a deacon in the church in Cenchrea. Welcome her in the Lord as one who is worthy of honour among God's people. Help her in whatever she needs, for she has been helpful to many, and especially to me.' (Romans 16:1, 2, NLT.)

Phoebe had different gifts from Paul and was of a different nationality. What about the people to whom she was taking the letter? Were they people like her? No, actually. But if you had pointed that out to Phoebe she would not have understood you. In her mind the Good News was for all, and all were one in Christ Jesus.

So it is for your interest that we add a picture of the Church at Rome.

Rome, you will recall, was a city built on seven hills. Only the wealthy people could live on those hills. When Phoebe made her journey to Rome, Nero's palace occupied one entire hill. If Phoebe didn't know a single Roman, she would know about Nero; and it was all bad. But Phoebe had her letter to the Romans and her commission. So she went. To Rome.

The letter was not written to a large congregation of respectable, well-off Romans. It was written to the poorer sort of Romans; and they worshipped in house churches. Where were the houses? Not on any of the seven hills. On the flood plane below them. 'Quite likely the different houses would be groupings of Christians from different backgrounds. . . .'¹

The important thing is that Phoebe took the letter to the church groups and was present while it was read.

Rome had a million inhabitants in the year

with David Marshall

What Phoebe did, and what happened next



Phoebe arrived. However, the number of Christians, scattered among the house groups, may not have been much more than a hundred. As Paul observed elsewhere, Christians tended not to be wealthy or wise (in the eyes of the world), God having chosen people despised by the world to reach the powerful and worldly-wise.²

The homes of the Christians would have been among the poorer districts by the River Tigris. The first time Paul's letter to the Romans was read aloud it would have been in a crowded room in a low-lying home in the poor district — just across the river from the Roman seat of power. Paul's vision of a different Kingdom with a different King, a different hope and a different faith was shared with Roman Christians 'under Caesar's nose'.³

Paul's letter is the most important piece of correspondence in the history of this planet. Why? It contained the nearest we have to a systematic exposition of the whole gospel. Martin Luther called it, 'the purest gospel' and said that it was the only book in Scripture that explained in full how God made possible mankind's salvation. Bible translator William Tyndale famously said that 'Romans lights the way to the whole Bible.' 'If you don't understand Romans,' he wrote, 'you really don't understand the Bible.' F. F. Bruce said, 'Beware when you begin to study Romans. *Anything can happen!*'

On one side of the Tigris was Nero, the most powerful man in the world, whose titles included 'son of god', whose birthday was hailed as 'the good news' and who claimed the allegiance and loyalty of the greatest empire the world had ever seen.

On the other side of the river, in crowded homes, Phoebe heard them read a more radical Gospel. It presented Jesus as the rightful world ruler, and said they needed to know his story and live by it. Paul called Jesus the true 'Son of God'. And Phoebe, together with all who heard, would have been left in no doubt that that put all Nero's claims into the shade. Jesus came from a royal house far older than Nero's. David's. The crucifixion and subsequent resurrection from death of Jesus were the means of mankind's salvation. Nero

couldn't beat that. Nero could, however, terrorise the whole world with the menace of death. But Paul said Jesus had trumped that, too. He had taken Death, the final weapon, and broken it. As a consequence the day would come when every knee should bow to Jesus, including Nero's.

Paul's Good News was that something had happened that changed everything. What God had done in Jesus made everything different. Paul wrote with passion: 'For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes. . . . This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. . . .' (Romans 1:16, 17, NLT.) Imagine the 'Amen's' that rumbled round the humble homes on the flood plane when those words were read. Did they carry across the river to Nero's ears?

Romans was a book that changed the world. Had Phoebe left it on her bookshelf you might never have heard of Christianity. Every revival and reformation in Christian history — including the Reformation and the revivals that began with the preaching of John Wesley — began with a study of Romans carried from Cenchrea to Rome by deaconess Phoebe in AD56.⁴

Don't let the Good News languish on bookshelves and in dusty heaps in the vestry. You don't have to undertake long journeys as Phoebe did.

When you announce Christ crucified and risen, *something happens*. God's power gets to work through your faithful witness: new life enters the hearts, minds and lifestyles of those who hear.

You have a commission to fulfil, but your journey need not be nearly as long as Phoebe's was.

Note. If the Sabbath School lessons on Romans are not working for you, get a copy of Per Bolling's *The Gospel According to Paul: A Plain Man's Guide to Romans* (Autumn House, 2009).

References: ¹Tom Wright, *Paul for Everyone: Romans 1-8* (SPCK, 2004), page 7. ²See 1 Corinthians 1:26-29. ³Tom Wright, *op cit*, page 6. ⁴W. W. Wiersbe, *Romans* (Scripture Press, 1977), page 14.

Enhancing Health

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

Boosting energy Part 3



Energy drainers

Tiredness, also known as fatigue, affects most people at some point in their lives. However, after a period of relaxation and a good night's sleep the feeling of tiredness usually goes, leaving you refreshed and ready to continue with routine activities.

However, if you are experiencing ongoing tiredness you may also be experiencing symptoms such as:

- daytime sleepiness
- difficulty making decisions
- lack of motivation
- poor concentration
- constant lack of energy
- feelings of depression

In this issue we begin our look at some of the reasons for poor energy.

Diet — Food is your fuel. If your diet is not adequate, your energy levels will be affected. Poor nutrition from empty calories and processed

foods, excess sugar and saturated fat are known to sap energy.

Emotions — Your usual mood is one indication of your emotional stability. We all experience down times at some point. However, if this is ongoing it can make you feel drained and have little energy. Research demonstrates that for individuals experiencing tiredness, 9 out of every 100 will be due to a physical cause and 75 will be due to an emotional cause.

Lifestyle — Stimulants such as alcohol, nicotine and caffeine are energy drainers. They can affect vitality by putting extra demand on your system, causing overload. Exercise is excellent for boosting energy levels and gives the feel-good factor from increased circulation to vital organs. The resulting oxygenation leaves you feeling vitalised.

Physical illness — Chronic illness can take a toll on the body's energy reserves. However, if your medical condition is well controlled you can

adapt your lifestyle to ensure you get adequate rest, suitable exercise and sufficient nutrition to maintain energy.

Sleep — Your sleep pattern indicates whether or not your quality and quantity of sleep is adequate. You are bound to feel exhausted if you are not experiencing good quality and sufficient sleep. Routine and an ambient environment are essential.

Stress — Your management of stress indicates how well you are coping with whatever life presents. Ongoing, poorly managed stress is a major vitality drainer as your nervous system is put under constant strain. Regular relaxation and effective time management are essential to combat stress. It is important to get help with the root issues that cause stress.

We will discuss each of the above in more detail through this series. In the next issue we will look at the foods that boost energy.

Good health!

Sixteen hundred years ago: Rome and Britain

The fall of Rome sixteen centuries ago provided an opportunity for the further growth of the Celtic Christianity of Patrick, David, Gildas and Illtud

by Brian Martin*

From exhibitions to lecture theatres up and down the land, a unique commemoration is on this year.

2010 marks sixteen centuries since the fall of Rome and effectively the end of Roman Britain.

Beleaguered Roman Emperor Honorius had fled north to Ravenna. Meanwhile Visigoth general Alaric laid siege to Rome. On 24 August 410 the wretched populace on the point of starvation flung open the city gates. Rome had capitulated to the barbarians.

A few months earlier, amid ongoing disasters, Honorius had received a desperate appeal from far-away Britain for immediate military aid to drive back invaders from land and sea at every compass point. But the terse wording of his *Rescript* of AD410 made for bitter hearing back in an exhausted Britain: 'Honorius wrote letters to the cities in Britain, telling them to look after themselves.'¹ As the last military units pulled out and headed for Gaul, the *Pax Romana* was over. *Britannia* was on her own.

For Roman churchmen, the impact of the fall of Rome to Alaric the Visigoth struck like a hammer blow. The impossible had happened. On hearing the news the revered Jerome (translator of the Catholic *Vulgate* Bible) lamented: 'Life and property perishing together . . . she is a captive, that city which enthralled the world.' A seasoned observer from North Africa saw in the fall of one 'eternal city' the rise of another which he called 'The City of God'. The man was Augustine, bishop of Hippo. Rome's dire fate impelled him to embark on writing his *magnum opus* – *The City of God* – in which he set out a system of religious thinking which would dominate the Church for a millennium and beyond.

In reality, Rome's demise marked the end of an era in which the city itself had embodied the essence of Western imperial Christianity – religious compromise coupled with rank secularism. Augustine himself had seen it all from boyhood, and it had all but killed off the living spirit of Christianity. In the process Roman

Christianity had become syncretistic; the trend exemplified in the decor and mosaic flooring of Roman villas, where Christian artwork and symbols are blended in with figures from pagan myths.²

The empire itself, in terminal decline, tottered on for another sixty-six years. With Britain beyond Roman control, the situation in Britain remained obscure. Gildas³ reported the land being split apart by civil strife and the populace slaughtered by invading Angles and Saxons. This selective perception of a defenceless Britain, isolated from outside influences and sinking wholesale into the misery of 'Dark Ages' chaos and butchery, has been revised in recent years. It now seems clear that some religious exchange and cultural influences among Celtic peoples and with Gaul continued on in spite of political upheaval.

In all of this, the Church of Rome as leader of Western Christianity never lost interest in Britain! After the fall of Rome, Britain became the personal concern of the Papacy, and Pope Innocent I perceived that Britain was harbouring heresy! Pelagianism, listed among the heresies of the post-Nicene era, went through various portrayals. As for Pelagius himself, he was British and Irish by education, trained in law and theology, with a keen understanding of social issues. Well-equipped as a lecturer he left these shores to work in Rome and, by 394, he was renowned for his holy life and the clarity of his Bible teaching. This latter gift brought him into sharp conflict with the Papacy, and Augustine in particular. Augustine's neo-Platonist salvation-doctrine of divine grace with 'original sin' at its centre came into collision with Pelagius's teaching. Both men condemned the catastrophic moral laxity and spiritual poverty of Christianity in Rome, but their methods of reforming the Church were poles apart. In contrast to Augustine's doctrines of 'original sin' and 'double predestination' of the righteous and the wicked, Pelagius consistently emphasised grace and freedom of individual choice. Humans are thus

responsible for their own deeds!

Though Pelagius's views represented the theological orthodoxy of the early Church up to that time, Rome's heavyweight theologian-philosophers, Augustine and Jerome, condemned his views. By 418 councils held at Carthage had declared him a heretic. Britain viewed him differently. 'But although the church in Britain eventually embraced Rome, the ideas of Pelagius remained popular. Indeed, as the first major theologian Britain had produced, he provided the intellectual and moral framework in which Christianity flourished in Britain during the Celtic period.'⁴

Pelagius's theology, expressing both his practical regard for function of the law of God in salvation experience and freedom of the will, continued on to influence non-Catholic Christians down to the present.

The Pelagian movement had spread to Britain about the time of Rome's fall. Pope Innocent I dispatched Bishop Germanus Auxerre to cleanse the British Church and return her to the arms of her Catholic mother. According to Bede (d. 731), he did just that. But evidently this was not enough, and in 449 the now-aged Germanus was back to try again. We know little of the outcome of this pastoral visit.

The shock fall of Rome and the decadence of the imperial Church stimulated the rigorous spiritual response of monasticism in the West. A new venue for satisfying the hunger of the spirit and biblical learning sprang up around 410 in southern Gaul under former soldier Honoratus. Among the Romano-Britons to find collective spiritual inspiration and learning on the Lérins islands were Faustus and his student Patrick.

In northern and western Britain, Christianity had a continuous history from Roman times.⁵ The names of the martyrs Julius and Aaron at Caerleon remind us of this fact. It is significant for us here that within a few generations of the departure of the Roman army, an invigorated Christian gospel came afloat in Wales. In the south the learned Illtud founded a vibrant monastic settle-



ment in Llantwit Major, which focussed on fervent mission work and devotion to learning. Celtic saints David, Samson, Gildas, Paul Aurelian and others studied and were inspired here. Nearby, other such centres were founded by Docco and Cadoc. In the extreme west, where vital seaways intersected, David founded a house of spiritual learning. From these powerhouses of spiritual energy a constant stream of missionaries took Christianity across to the south-west peninsula, to Brittany, into north Britain and beyond.

Many of their core beliefs and practices anticipated the Reformation. Adventist Christians can justifiably claim a part of this heritage that emerged consequent to the fall of ancient Rome.

¹Zosimus: *History of Rome (Historia Nova)* Bk. VI.10.2, circa AD518. 'For example at Lullingstone, Chedworth, Hinton-St-Mary, and at Roman Bath.' ²'The Ruin of Britain' (*De Excidio Britanniae*) 19.4, 20.1 circa AD550. ³'The Letters of Pelagius', 'Celtic Soul Friend', ed. Robert Van de Weyer, p.1. 'Nora Chadwick: *The Age of the Saints in the Early Celtic Church*, pp. 59, 60.

* Brian Martin is a retired Seventh-day Adventist pastor living in Emersons Green, Bristol.

The challenge of global poverty

by Patrick McKerron

Poverty is an international shame in a world of plenty. Millions die annually from extreme poverty because they are too poor to stay alive. We know that we have the ability to stop this.

At the beginning of the new millennium, world leaders set up projects and initiatives to try to cut poverty by half by 2015 (UN Millennium Declaration). Speaking at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs on 30 March 2005, Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs, author of *The End to Poverty* and director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, said: 'There is no excuse. The deaths are on our watch. The deaths are in our name. The deaths can stop.'

He continued: 'The reason people die of extreme poverty is that they have nothing. They don't need a lot to stay alive, and they don't even need a lot to start the process of economic development. It would not require heroism on our part in order to help save those lives and help to promote economic development where it is not occurring now on the planet. It would just take having our eyes opened. It would take some attention. It would take a breakthrough in our country from doing nothing to doing something, because we really are, essentially, doing nothing right now. That is the sad, hard fact.'

In his Nobel Lecture on 11 December 1964, Martin Luther King noted: 'There is nothing new about poverty. What is new, however, is that we have the resources to get rid of it. More than a century and a half ago people began to be disturbed about the twin problems of population and production. A thoughtful Englishman named Malthus wrote a book that set forth some rather frightening conclusions. He

predicted that the human family was gradually moving towards global starvation because the world was producing people faster than it was producing food and material to support them. Later scientists, however, disproved the conclusion of Malthus (Thomas Robert Malthus, 1766-1834, *An Essay on the Principle of Population*, 1798) and revealed that he had vastly underestimated the resources of the world and the resourcefulness of man.' (Martin Luther King won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.)

While it is clear that we have enough resources to share among us, it would seem the message expressed so profoundly by Jesus Christ about who is our brother remains unheeded. This is what Dr King called a 'poverty of the spirit'.

Dr King explained all those years ago: 'There is no deficit in human resources; the deficit is in human will. The well-off and the secure have too often become indifferent and oblivious to the poverty and deprivation in their midst. The poor in our countries have been shut out of our minds, and driven from the mainstream of our societies, because we have allowed them to become invisible. Just as non-violence exposed the ugliness of racial injustice, so must the infection and sickness of poverty be exposed and healed – not only its symptoms but its basic causes. This, too, will be a fierce struggle, but we must not be afraid to pursue the remedy no matter how formidable the task.'

In the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu: 'I think people are beginning to realise that you can't have pockets of prosperity in one part of the world and huge deserts of poverty and deprivation in another and think that you can have a stable and secure world.' ('Tutu: Poverty fuelling

terror', CNN, 16 September 2007.)

Mary Robinson, who was the first woman president of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, notes that 'Poverty . . . is a form of violence. Extreme poverty robs people of all their rights: their right to health, to education, to dignity, to equality of opportunity and often of the right to life itself.' ('The UN's Poverty-fighting programme lacks teeth', *The Guardian*, 15 June 2010.)

Here in the UK matters may look difficult right now following the election, but poverty cannot be a side-show. We have to resolve to help those who are less well off in our world. Writing about a 'new and nasty normal' in *LSE Connect* (Summer 2010), Tony Travers (director of LSE London, a research centre at LSE) says: 'The general election took place against a vaguely articulated understanding of the gravity of the financial/economic situation. . . . The new Parliament will have to confront the electorate with a number of nasty realities, including the need to push up taxation and reduce public spending for a period of five or more years.' Despite these difficulties, which many world economies are facing, the need to address poverty remains very urgent, and rightly so.

Jesus says:

³¹Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?" ³²"When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?" ³³"When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

³⁴The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:37-40, NIV)

Salmon: Not unclean

Dear Editor
The brother who labelled salmon 'unclean' clearly got it wrong (Letters page, 23 July issue, page 5). The Bible is very clear. Clean fish have fins and scales, which salmon most certainly do. I would not recommend it because of pollution and what is widely practised in 'farming' salmon, but it is a mistake to say that it is 'unclean'.

DR CLEMENCY MITCHELL
Dr Mitchell is a family doctor based near Newbold and advises the editor on Health matters.

False teachings

Dear Editor
I commend Pastor McFarlane on his article on false teachings, pages 2 and 3 of 28 May *MESSENGER*. I was a member of the Newbold church at the time of the Koresh episode. Koresh and Schneider came for several weeks and held meetings in a darkened room. One of the young people who became involved, and subsequently perished at Waco, was known to me and fits Pastor McFarlane's description of a vulnerable, newly baptised person, not fully conversant with Adventist teaching. Following a dramatic conversion experience, he came to Newbold hoping to find a vibrant spiritual community. Instead he found what he thought of as a Laodicean situation. Instead of patiently and prayerfully settling down to his studies, he became an easy prey to the sensationalist ministry of Koresh and Co who worked in an intimate small-group setting. Although the teaching and behaviour of Koresh were what we are warned about in Matthew 24:23-26 – secret meetings in a closed room with a self-proclaimed 'sinful messiah' – I heard no warnings from any pulpit. We need to have in-depth Bible studies for when baptismal studies end so that new members can feel that they belong, receive sound teaching and encouragement and enter a vibrant prayer life and evangelistic programme.

DR CLEMENCY MITCHELL



Life at the Halls

Enter the Hall residence and one hears a cacophony of stringed instruments playing at the same time. Listening carefully, one hears the individual instruments practising pieces of music in preparation for performances at the 2010 General Conference in Atlanta. It has been three years since the churches in the UK have heard the Halls play music. They have been living in Monterey, Tennessee, and blessing churches with their musical talents. Ola and Jerry Hall have been teaching at Heritage Academy. Ola has been teaching Biology, Chemistry and Health. Jerry has been teaching Music Appreciation, Maths and Physics, as well as being IT manager for the school's computer network.

The youngest Hall, Antoinette, 9, plays the largest instrument in the family. Antoinette's cello is almost as tall as she is. She is not intimidated by the size of her cello or her audiences. Antoinette has been playing the cello and piano from the age of 3. Her cello playing complements the Halls' string quartet and adds body to their sound.

Victoria, 11, plays the violin and piano. She has been playing the violin from the age of 3. Lately, Victoria has been practising the Violin III part for the Halls' performance at the GC. Ever a professional, Victoria demonstrated her unflappable dedication to music when the G-string popped during a performance and she continued to play as if nothing had occurred.

Elizabeth, 14, also plays the violin and piano. She concentrated on the Violin II part for the GC orchestra for an average of three hours a day. Elizabeth has been playing the violin from the age of 2½. Taking cues from Reuben, she and her brother have played together in countless recitals and churches in the UK and the USA.

Reuben, 16, practised the viola for an average of three hours a day in preparation for participation in the GC orchestra. An accomplished musician, Reuben also plays the violin, the piano, hand-bells, percussion, and clarinet, in addition to singing tenor. One of his hobbies is to compose music for orchestra and small choirs. Currently in his last year at Heritage Academy, Reuben anticipates entering the university in the autumn of 2011 to read music.

In addition to performing in the GC orchestra, Reuben and Elizabeth were guest players with the Fountainview Academy Orchestra from British Columbia, Canada, on the Hope Channel and Advent Missions stages in the Exhibition Hall.

Students of Chris Rogers, Reuben, Elizabeth and Victoria learned their lessons well while attending Camp Hill. By the age of 4, all were performing music in church and various string ensembles.

REBECCA STEFANESCU, Heritage Academy choir director

Gloucester street witness

The Sabbath service was an unusual one at Gloucester on 3 July in that the service was shortened with an inspiring sermon by Elder Saunders entitled 'Can I have a witness?' that

set the tone for the congregation to leave the comfort of the church and witness to the shoppers of Gloucester. During the one-and-a-half hours in the city centre,



ROBERT HINDS

shoppers were treated to inspirational singing from the church members and soloists, using well-known hymns and choruses that the passersby could appreciate and join in with, and many did so.

At the same time, 2,000 *Steps to Christ* and 2,000 *When God Said Remember* were distributed around Gloucester and Cinderford by the Personal Ministries team.

After the street witnessing, members returned to a pot-luck lunch before watching the final service of the GC on the large screen. All who participated agreed that it had been one of the best Sabbaths ever, and we prayed that someone might have been touched by either the singing or the booklets.

ROBERT HINDS

Mili's journey

When Mili de la Torre met a good-looking Irish guy in her home country, Argentina, she had no idea what



Sheffield CHIP

Paul J. Meyer wrote, 'Whatever you vividly imagine, ardently desire, sincerely believe, and enthusiastically act upon... must inevitably come to pass!' After several leadership training seminars and two MicroCHIP programmes, the final countdown for the Sheffield CHIP programme began earnestly in January and the Lord opened many doors for us to take our health message into various venues, including preaching appointments and seminars in Sunday-keeping churches, and workshops at a large multi-denominational conference for women.

Finally the time was 7pm, the date 4 May, the place Burngreave church hall – and so began the inaugural Sheffield CHIP programme. We had fifteen participants and a number of observers each night. Eight of the participants were non-Adventists. Some had travelled from as far away as Leeds and Doncaster.

The CHIP programme took the form of seminars that ran for three nights a week for five weeks. These seminars encouraged participants and reminded team members to take charge of their health by daily exercise, eating plant-based foods, drinking water, getting adequate sunlight, fresh air and rest, and also

addressed emotional health by looking at social support, forgiveness and self-esteem. Each night the programme included video presentations from Dr Hans Diehl, live health presentations, and mouth-watering food samples. Commenting on the food, one participant said, 'After eating such tasty food, I don't feel I need meat.'

Exercise sessions were conducted by our fitness trainer, fondly known as 'Gluteus Maximus' after the area she encouraged us to squeeze during exercise! Sticking to a daily exercise programme is the strongest indicator that participants will maintain the new lifestyle, so participants were encouraged to make use of their pedometers by walking daily. Each evening miles walked and exercise taken were collated and plotted onto a map. Collectively we walked a total of 421 miles – which virtually would have taken one of us from Sheffield deep into France.

By the second week of the programme participants were eating more and weighing less (incredible but true). They no longer felt bloated and were waking feeling refreshed and more energetic in the mornings.

One participant said, 'After a week of drinking water my headaches have gone and I'm not shouting at the kids as I used to.'

At the end of the five weeks, the results in the participants were plain

changes were about to happen in her life. It was not long before she changed continents. She moved to Spain and, eventually, to Northern Ireland. She got married and gave birth to two children.

Living far away from her familiar surroundings, Mili was very happy when her sister-in-law invited her to go to church on a Saturday morning. The fact that these people worshipped on a different day from what she was used to did not matter. She enjoyed the friendship and company that she found at the Banbridge church and soon she requested Bible studies.

Mili embraced everything that she learned. When she travelled back to Argentina, she even made contact with the local Adventist church there and introduced them to her mother. Mili decided to stop working on Sabbaths and requested to be baptised.

The special day, 17 April, was filled with highlights. The baptism

was followed by a child dedication ceremony for two families. Mili's girls, Lucia and Isabella, were dedicated. She was joined by Donna Toland, a new member of Banbridge church from the Philippines who also had her son Caiden dedicated.

As a further highlight of the day, the Banbridge Women's Ministries used the opportunity to launch an outreach project. Mili's mother, who was visiting from Argentina, was presented with a gift of £450 to take back to the Adventist church in her home town in Argentina. This money would be used to do essential renovations to their church building.

Aaron swims for Haiti

Aaron Blake is 12 years old and worships at the Manor New Start Community church in Sheffield. On seeing the earthquake that hit Haiti and caused so much suffering, he decided to raise funds for ADRA. Aaron is a talented swimmer and so



for all to see: healthy, glowing complexions, weight reduction and a proud sense of achievement. The results from the final health screen attested to the fact that blood sugars, blood pressures and blood cholesterol had also significantly reduced.

It was then time to celebrate achievements. The graduation ceremony was held on 8 June and was attended by participants and their friends and family. The ceremony was opened by Gary McCulloch, Health Improvement principal for Sheffield Primary Care Trust, who was impressed with the results and encouraged the participants to stay healthy by choice. Grace Walsh, NEC Health director, together with Pastor Victor Marshall, awarded certificates and gifts to the ecstatic graduates.

A friend of one of the graduates remarked to her: 'How come you are so energetic? I want some of what you have.' Evaluation comments included: 'I would recommend this programme to everyone. It was professionally delivered and everyone

was so loving and friendly. This is one team I would be happy to work with.'

We would encourage every church to reach out into their community. Health programmes are a gentle introduction to the church. People are concerned about their health and when they come to realise the cause and effect of many diseases they are more willing to make the necessary changes. In the supportive environment of CHIP, lasting friendships and contacts are made.

Val Grossett, Sheffield CHIP coordinator, said: 'All my previous experiences and all the things that I have learned, achieved and attained by the grace of God were used for the CHIP programme. With Christ no experience is wasted.'

Many people are already asking when the next programme will be. Well, after a well-earned rest, by the grace of God we will continue to spread the Gospel through CHIP in May 2011.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



swam for a total of twenty hours over a period of two weeks and raised a total of £111. We congratulate Aaron on using his God-given talent to help those in such desperate need.

ANDREW YESUDIAN

Two books published

Ex-minister Marc Rasell, 37, of Bugle, Cornwall, has published two books so far this year. The first was entitled *Exploring the Heavenly Sanctuary*, and the second *Nehemiah the Sabbath Reformer*.

Marc spent about five years researching his books but told *The Cornish Guardian* that it has taken him only six months to write each book. He told the *St Austell Voice*: 'Exploring the Heavenly Sanctuary looks at our unique doctrine that there is a temple in Heaven where Christ ministers as our High Priest, and when he has finished his work, he will return to Earth.'

To obtain copies of Marc's books visit www.amazon.co.uk.

Newbold church's baptismal stream becomes a river

by Kirsten Oster Lundqvist

On five different Sabbaths this spring, Newbold church members celebrated as they saw youth commit their lives to the Lord. The Newbold church evangelistic strategy is about process. Thus, quite intentionally, the pastors do not gather all candidates into one baptism but spread them throughout the year. This has added up to an average of twenty baptisms per year over the past four years. About one third of these are from non-Christian backgrounds, people who have come in contact with members and especially church youth. Pastor Patrick Johnson's belief is that one baptism during a church service leads to another, and is of itself a powerful witness as the candidates share their testimony.

The spring baptismal season began in April with the baptism of 20-year-old Valentina Vartsaba. She had consciously chosen not to get baptised because of peer pressure, but she found the constant questions about her faith from friends at school and college led her to study the Bible and make a personal decision for herself. After studies with Pastor Kirsten Oster-Lundqvist she was baptised by her father, Pastor Vasil Vartsaba. Then the baptismal pool was opened again for the Polish UK fellowship when, on 29 May, they celebrated their first baptism.

Newbold's contemporary service was celebrating again just a week

later when, on 3 June, Adrian Tarlev, a pastor's son originally from Moldova, was baptised by Pastor Oster-Lundqvist. He had been studying the Bible with theology student Vissen Moosootamy. Again, one week later, on 12 June, Pastor Patrick Johnson baptised Emi Shimizu. Her background is English and Japanese and, via school friends, she had come into contact with Newbold youth several years earlier. However, while her older sister had become involved in church life, at first she had no interest. Her atheist father was strongly opposed to any religion within their family. Yet, on her journey with the youth and through various Bible studies, she got to know Christ as her

Saviour. Both Adrian and Emi attend the contemporary service at Newbold. The final baptism was in the Newbold family service when Lison Verrecchia, who originates from France, was baptised by her father, Dr Verrecchia. Lison had been studying extensively with Pastor Oster-Lundqvist. The baptismal service concluded with Britt Celine Bageni, originally from Uganda, sharing how she had faced all kinds of challenges in her life. She decided to turn back to God and give God a chance.

Each baptismal service was a special time. Appropriate music and personal testimonies demonstrated how these young people had come to have faith. It was inspiring to church

members and the pastoral team to see how God works in young hearts and helps them overcome the struggles they encounter. Growing up in the church and as pastors' children is no guarantee that they will decide to follow Christ, so there is jubilation when they make the choice. Equally, as a church, we should never underestimate the witness of our teens and how they are bringing friends to church. We must affirm them in their outreach. Newbold youth are part of that process and between them have brought many of their friends to faith. As pastors this is truly a blessing. The moving testimonies of the newly baptised can be found on www.newboldchurch.org.



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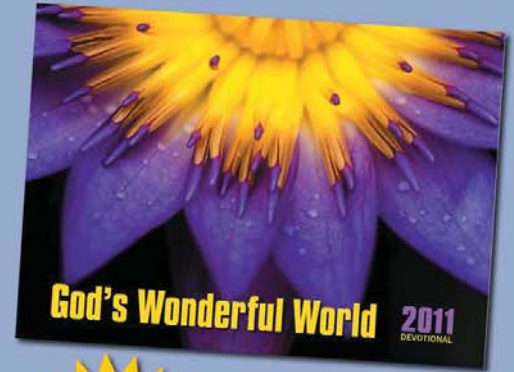
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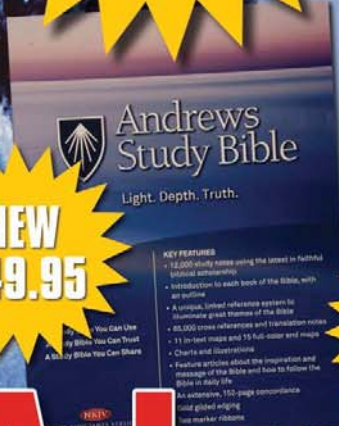
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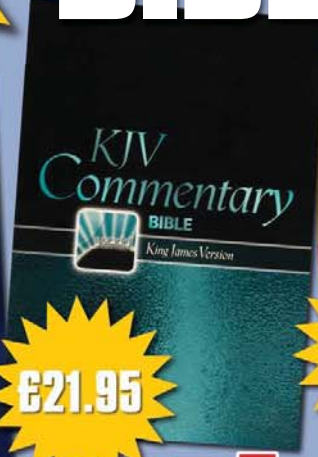


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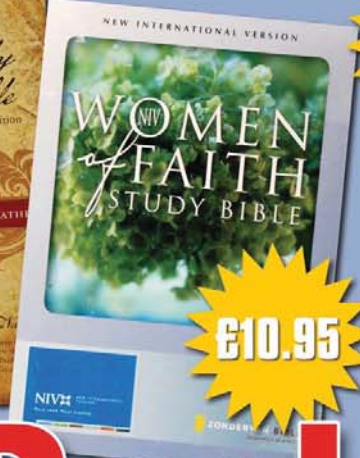
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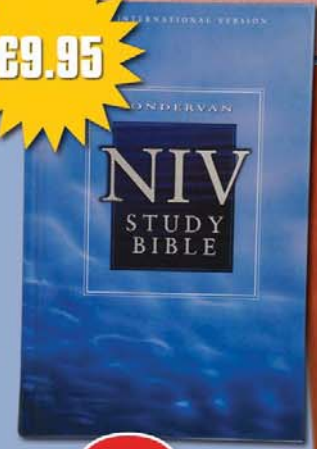
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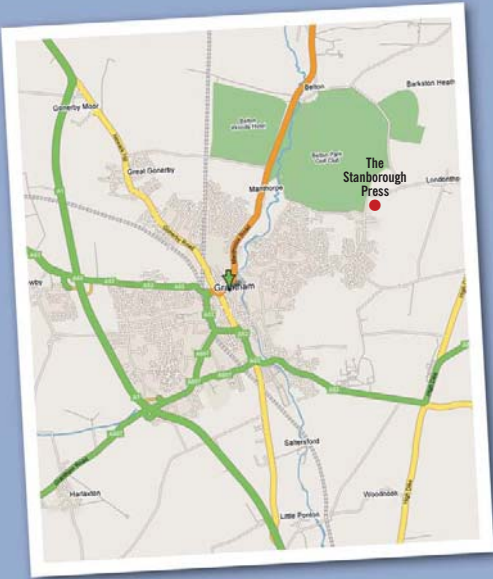


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Why am I here? John Wilby reports on the Scottish Mission's camp

This was the question posed by Jeff Freeman, family counsellor and guest speaker at the Scottish Mission church camp near the idyllic and remote west coast village of Kilberry from 2 to 9 July. It was a question that might have been in the minds of forty Pathfinders as they struggled on arrival to erect their tents in driving rain and occasional near-gale-force conditions.

But, just as the glorious sunny spells were enjoyed in the days that followed, so Pastor Freeman captivated daily worship audiences with a self-revealing journey that left no doubt about the answer to that question. He led a step-by-step exploration of Christ's Beatitudes, with animated biblical stories and riveting personal testimony.

On Sabbath morning, Pastor Bernie Holford, Scottish Mission president, enlisted the help of several young ones who donned a variety of caps depict-

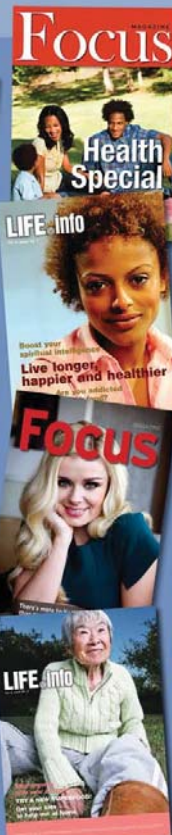
ing the many facets of God's character and personality. He said, 'The good news about God is that he comes to us in different ways at different times, according to our needs.'

For more than half the youth present this was their first experience of the Christian-owned site in a natural unspoilt environment. A communal hike over some low-level challenging terrain tested some but was judged by most to be a great success. A full recreational programme included indoor and outdoor sports and movie and talent nights.

At a time when families are counting every penny, there was no surprise when a vote for next year's venue received popular support for 'next year in Kilberry'.

Missionary Book of 2010

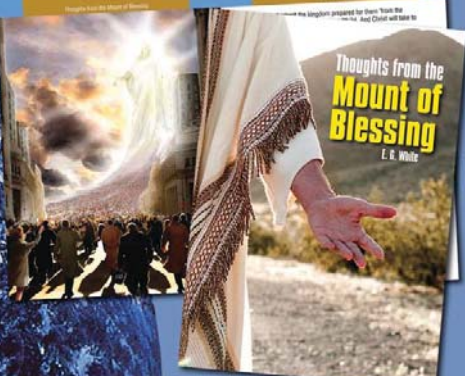
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Leytonstone's children's banquet

On Sunday 30 May Leytonstone church hosted a prestigious event: The Children's Banquet 2010. In order to accommodate our VIP children of today, the church leaders of tomorrow, the most amazing transformation took place. Twenty-eight of Leytonstone's children exclaimed their delight and wonder as the magnolia walls of the church vanished behind quantities of tulle, ribbon and voile, and sparked with twinkling fairy lights.

The tropical paradise theme was complete as seahorses and butterflies adorned the walls, and a myriad of flowers and foliage lined the hallways and floors. Having dined on crudités, lasagne and a sumptuous sponge cake creation, which was provided by our generous church members, the children were entertained by our resident comedian Fitzroy Morris, who ensured that the church rang with peals of laughter at his lovable character in 'Grannie's antics'.

The evening finally climaxed with individual and group photographs taken by a professional photographer so the children could have a memento of this auspicious occasion. With cupcakes in hand, cheers on lips and peace and blessings in hearts, the evening drew to a glorious close with a prayer of thanksgiving.

DR RICHARD DE LISSER, SEC Communication director





Slough youth meet the community

Slough youth embarked upon what would be one of its biggest challenges to date. We talk about meeting our community, but we decided to meet them on their own turf. Slough and Eton School opened its gates to the 'Survival Sports and Social Committee' to host a Family Fun Day. They, in turn, invited our church to let the community know who we are and what we stand for. This would involve the youth entering a secular environment to reach out to the community – and we had to be prepared.

Led by Pastor Ron Clemow, we armed ourselves with literature and DVDs. We set up a stall and set about meeting and greeting members of the community. Our message was simple: God is faithful, Jesus loves us and he is coming soon.

Since it was a Sabbath afternoon, the youth were initially apprehensive and were not keen to venture far away from the stall that had been set up with all the church materials. After some coaxing from the pastor, we met the Royal Berkshire Fire Brigade and even had an opportunity to sit in their fire truck and try on

their helmets. We had an interesting conversation with the Thames Valley Police Officers who are keen to recruit more ethnic minorities into the force. They gave valuable career advice to the youth. We now have a contact for anyone interested in forensic sciences. In return, we explained who we are and gave them copies of *Steps to Christ* and *Why God Said Remember*.

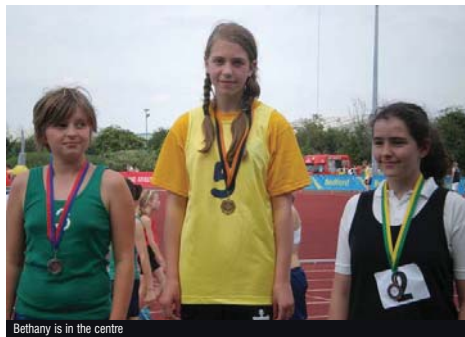
Many people approached the stall – people who had heard of the Adventist Church, had family who had been members, or were just curious to know who we are. All were welcomed and were not allowed to leave empty-handed.

The climax of the afternoon was for the youth to take centre stage during the fun day to make a fifteen-minute presentation about who we are and what we stand for. Pastor Sasa Gutu shared a brief synopsis of who we are and our fundamental beliefs, and extended an invitation to come and 'taste and see'. Finally, representatives of our budding choir, Slough Central Offers Up Praise (SCOUP) presented a special item, 'Faithful' by Hezekiah Walker, in line with our theme for this year – Reclamation. Kish Palmer, Michael Takavarasha, Darren Connor, Naomi Duncombe, Nozi Connor, Catherine Palmer and Leeza Murray were part of the Gospel Corner set up for the day.

Our Pathfinder leader, Kish Palmer, saw the afternoon as 'a well-organised event and a great opportunity to meet our community', while one of our younger members, Chantelle Khoza who actually attends Slough and Eton School, appreciated the event but found it a bit 'awkward because it was a fun day and we were dressed in our smart church clothes while everyone else was dressed in their skimpy summerwear'.

We pray for every individual who heard the message we presented that afternoon that God will lead his sheep back to him through the literature we have distributed.

NOZIPHO CONNOR



Bethany is in the centre

Stanborough gets gold and silver at Independent School's Athletics Championships

Stanborough School had a record number of students qualifying for the Independent Schools Association (ISA) National Athletics Championships held on 24 June at Bedford International Athletic Stadium. Altogether, nine students represented the School: Sharnae (80m, 150m and relay team), Abigail (relay team), Fonah (relay team) and Maleah (relay team) on behalf of the primary school; and Emmanuel (long

jump), Shalom (high jump), Emmanuel (800m), India (long jump) and Bethany (discus throwing) on behalf of the secondary school.

Our regional champions formed part of the London North Division and competed against the other six divisions in England. On that day, all of the school's athletes performed excellently, but in particular Sharnae, in Year 6, who brought home a silver

My Adventures in Tanzania

by Katrina Walker

During April and May, Katrina Walker, a member of Hemel Hempstead Church whose job at home is an 'Infection Control Nurse' went on 'a mission'. I'll let her tell the story herself.

Life can get monotonous at times – going to work, coming home, going to work, coming home. I thought to myself one day, 'At the end of my life, what can I look back on and say I have achieved?' I decided there wouldn't be much to say. I needed to do something, but didn't have a clue what direction to take, and then I read Psalm 32:8: 'I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.' I prayed and asked God daily to instruct me in the way I should go, and about two weeks later, while I was praying, I

felt impressed to go and do some voluntary work for three months. Wow – God didn't only answer, he gave a fantastic answer!

I contacted a friend 'in the know' and told her I wanted to go anywhere (as long as it was hot!) and do anything (but not teach). I knew God would send me where I would be needed but somewhere that I would not have to make an accept-or-reject decision. A few options came up but nothing worked out and then I was put in touch with the Cradle of Love Baby Home in Tanzania. I contacted the director



medal after completing the 80-metre run. Her outstanding performance was a very proud moment for the school.

However, the best performance of the day went to Bethany, in Year 7, who took first place on the podium after throwing the discus an amazing 21.89 metres. About her experience she said, 'I was a little bit nervous and really surprised with the results because I was the smallest girl there.' But being the smallest surely did not prevent her from taking a gold medal home and making both her parents and the school really proud of her.

Congratulations to all the students who took part this year in the ISA Championships, to the parents,

and to the teachers, Mr Steyn, Mr McKie and Ms Gautran.

VANESA PIZZUTO

All set for Sabbath 25 September?

- 31,000 people
- 31 pieces of literature
- 1 day

There are 31,000 Seventh-day Adventists in the British Isles. On Sabbath 25 September every single member is encouraged to distribute 31 pieces of literature, thus reaching millions with the message.



and before long I was on a plane to Africa.

I didn't have the best start, as the plane was cancelled and I ended up arriving a day late – but I did arrive safely. My luggage wasn't quite as fortunate and got lost, arriving quite a few days later. I was blessed to be sent to a modern building with all 'mod cons' such as a safe tap water, comfortable accommodation and intermittent electricity. Another part of life that I do miss (sad I know) is returning from market with fresh fruit and veg and having to soak it in potassium permanganate to kill anything that could make us ill.

Of course, the reason for going wasn't to soak fruit and veg or sit through power cuts. The Cradle of Love is a home that takes babies up to the age of 2-3 years and is run purely by donations and faith. Some are orphans, some have been snatched by family members or villagers because their mothers were trying to kill them or sell them, but the majority were there because their mothers had died and the families couldn't afford baby milk.

They would bring them to us to wean them and then they would come and collect them when they were about 2 years old. One baby was brought to us at four months old because his mother had died and his father had tried his best to look after him and had fed him cows' milk. Two weeks of that nearly killed him and he was brought to us severely dehydrated and on death's door. I couldn't put him in his cot when he fell asleep because I thought that no child should die alone so I just held him. After a few days in hospital he improved and is now a big boy, drinking so much formula we

couldn't keep up with his demands. I kept telling him his daddy loved him so much and would take him home as soon as he could look after him. There were lots of sad stories and I would get choked up just thinking about what each child had been through.

I repaired literally hundreds of holes in mosquito nets, set up a toy-cleaning rota, which within two weeks stopped all the runny noses, gave a talk on 'infection control' to the nannies and cleaned more than I have ever cleaned before.

I have experienced so much with the children – and socially too. Eating food 'the African way' with my fingers, sleeping with a nanny I didn't know, making wonderful new friends, monkeys in the garden, sleeping in a tent in the Serengeti with lions in the bushes a hundred yards away (Psalm 34:7 comes to mind) – and the list goes on. God performed lots of miracles and kept me safe on numerous occasions.

Someone asked if I had made a difference. Every smile I put on a child's face, every meal I fed, every cuddle I gave, every tear wiped away and, I suppose, every nappy I changed made a difference to that child, so, yes, I did make a difference. It was a wonderful experience and makes me feel so fortunate to live in a developed country and have my family who love me. I hope this is the start of something new as I do want to do it again. I don't know where, but that is down to God.

If this story has moved you and you wish to donate directly to the project here is the website: www.cradleoflove.com.

Story submitted by John Butters, Communications secretary, Hemel Hempstead church

First baptism at the London Asian church plant

by Pastor Petras Bahadur

Usha and Suraj Ramchurn, a Hindu family who migrated from Mauritius, began to attend the London Asian church some two years ago. Usha is a student here who invited her husband Suraj and their son Rahul to join her. When Suraj arrived from Mauritius he noticed that Usha attended church quite often. After a while he began attending with her, but only once in a while as he was often working on Sabbaths. Eventually he joined his wife whenever he was free.

As pastor of the Asian church plant I gave them my attention and support and prayed for their situation. Later I began a group Bible study at the home of Annie Lewis, one of our outreach team members,



and invited Usha and Suraj to join us. Suraj had previously been a leader with a Hindu evangelistic team in Mauritius and was very active in his religion. He was well versed in his scriptures, and therefore had many questions to ask about Christianity and needed a full

explanation before accepting the answers. After a few Bible studies, Suraj started reading the Bible with great interest and making notes. He would type his notes and then make PowerPoint presentations of the new ideas that he was learning. Meanwhile I enrolled the couple

with the Discovery Correspondence School. Both Usha and Suraj enrolled, but Suraj finished the lessons and went on to do the health course and other courses, and attained five certificates from the Discovery Centre.

In February I asked them if they would like to be baptised and both of them agreed as they felt that the Holy Spirit had convicted their hearts. We went through the fundamental beliefs while the date was being set. Finally, on 17 April, both Usha and Suraj were baptised!

The London Asian church had its first baptism since the church had started a couple of years ago. There are young people right now who are engaged in Bible studies and we trust that many more will be baptised in the near future. Please join us in praying that God will continue to bring people to his Kingdom from the Asian community in East London.

Summer by the sea

LIVE Festival, 6-8 August, Eastbourne

For the second year the SEC Youth department invites you to be part of the LIVE Festival, an awesome weekend of music, arts and fellowship!

At its roots the LIVE Music and Arts Festival is a celebration of all that is good and healthy in youth. LIVE always looks for real ways to lead, care and serve fellow young people in our communities and offers an alternative to teenagers and young people who are seeking greater meaning to life.

So why not come away with us to Eastbourne, to an

inspiring location and a town that has lots to offer. The programme includes every type of Gospel and Christian contemporary music, as well as spoken word poets, visual artists, drama, designers and gifted young people as they share their gifts. Something for everyone!

This is the perfect event to bring your Christian and non-Christian friends to, as we get to know, through arts, music, poetry, laughter and fellowship, our best Friend Jesus!

We are still looking for volunteers to get involved! So if you want to get involved or want further information about booking call 01923-232728 or visit the SEC Youth website:

www.secyouth.co.uk

GAIL WINDORASS on behalf of the SEC Youth department

'Preachout' at Breath of Life

On Sabbath 22 May the Breath of Life church was full to capacity. Many had gathered to be present at the Preachout. As the Preachout began, there was an air of expectation as the Breath of Life singing group entered, singing 'The Jesus in me'. The occasion was simply four young preachers speaking back to back. Many who attended declared that there was no finer display of preaching anywhere in our conference on that day. Volney Spencer brought us an uplifting, well-executed message entitled 'Jesus is all you need'. Kay Sudeene exhorted us with a warm message entitled 'Right but not Righteous'. This message made us search our souls. The temperature rose further when Enoch Adu stood up to preach. He thundered home a message entitled 'That's It and That's All', as he reminded us of Jesus the vine-dresser. Our Preachout climaxed with a message from Laurent Grosvenor, a ministerial student currently at Oakwood University. His message, 'Bring it on', was so apt as he emphasised how 'pressure should lead us to be dependent on God'. We were indeed thankful for the way our Preachout was enhanced by the music from groups and soloists such as Derby Adoration, Vizion, Pam and Miriam. One piece of music at the end of our

Thumbs up, children!

by Michelle Rondof

On Sabbath 9 June Willesden's Earliteens led us through the day as teachers, singers, preachers, presenters and storytellers.

They were punctual, to the point, in harmony with each other, ready to bless and ready to give. They honoured their parents, their Sabbath School teachers and their music and choir co-ordinators who had practised tirelessly with them to bring the best out of them.

The theme for the day was 'The Fruit of the Spirit', which they shared with us through acts, poetry and sermonettes. There was plenty of singing too. The praise and

worship group, directed by Livette Scantlebury, united their voices to the children's band, a group of boys aged 5-13 who play guitars, drum kit, organ and piano. The congregation also was delighted to hear the violins played exquisitely by the Brooks family (Pastor Brooks excluded) and guests under the direction of



Music director, Sylvia Samuel. So what did we learn about the fruit of the Spirit? Leah Allan presented 'Patience', and Keana Snagg 'Goodness'. The final sermonette by Solomon Jello explored the characteristics of 'The Good Shepherd' as exemplified in Psalm 23. When divine service finished, it was twelve thirty on the dot, an achievement noted by church elder Darren Pascall who ended the service with a prayer of consecration for the children.

After a copious lunch the blessing continued in the afternoon with a programme which included a quiz game, delighting the supportive parents and church members. At the end of this joyous day eulogies kept coming down like droplets of refreshing rain about how the children really blessed the congregation by using their talents to praise God.

Children's Day was spearheaded by Claudette Hastings, Children's Ministries co-ordinator.



Lyrical soldier wins 'Next Big Act'

Lyrical Soldier, otherwise known as Michael Agyei, has won the Next Big Act category of the African Gospel Music Awards held at the New Zanzibar Banqueting Suite in Sydenham, London, on 10 July. 'It's such a blessing to have received the award and it still hasn't sunk in fully!' Michael said. However, he is very aware that his primary focus is mission, not awards. He quotes Pastor Eddie Hypolite's congratulatory message: 'Human recognition is good, but recognition from God determines true success!'

An active member of the London South East Community church, Michael is a preacher, singer, rapper and a spoken word poet. He sees himself as a 'lyrical evangelist'. Through his God-given use of words, both in song and through preaching, he is able to plant seeds of interest in Jesus Christ in the minds of people.

The whole evening was one of joy. Gospel music fans reverberated to the new sound of African gospel music at the Awards ceremony. The icing on the cake for them was a performance by giants of African gospel music, namely Sonnie Badu, Gabriel Eziashi, Diana Hamilton and Uche Agu joining hearts, minds and voices together on stage as they led the guests in a time of worship.

The actual awards started with the eight nominees for the 'Next Big Act' category, so Michael's nerves were not held on edge for too long. In his heart-warming speech, Michael thanked God for blessing him with his gift which has allowed him to spread the gospel message through music. He also thanked his family, friends and the church for their continuous support and encouragement throughout the years.

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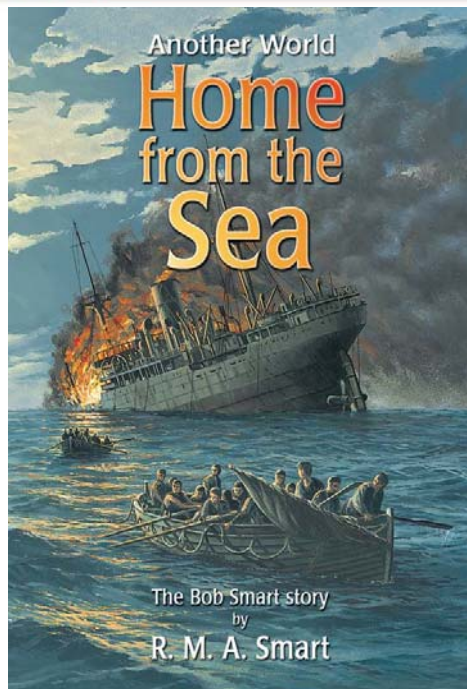
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Joy and Bob Smart with the Queen's Telegram with Counsellor Ann Cowan and Pastor Martin Bell standing behind them

Home From the Sea couple celebrate Diamond Wedding

Pastor and Mrs Bob and Joy Smart celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on Tuesday 6 July. During the war years Bob served as a radio operator in the Merchant Navy and survived two ships torpedoed from under him and the freezing waters of the North Atlantic. He also experienced the first guided missile attack launched from an aeroplane that sank the hospital ship *St David* on which he was sailing.

In 1949 Bob graduated from Newbold Missionary College and he and Joy were married in 1950 in Southampton, the service conducted by Pastor L. E. A. Lane. Their service for the Church took them to the North England Conference, starting out in Bolton under Pastor Ken Elias, and subsequently to the Scottish Mission and the Irish Mission, where Bob was president. They also served as missionaries in Ethiopia, living at 7,600 feet above sea level, where Bob was president and cared for five schools and several churches in the vast area.

Asked what it felt like to celebrate sixty years of marriage, Joy said, 'Unbelievable,' and Bob, in typical nautical language said, 'A

long voyage!' The secrets, they say, to their successful marriage are worship and prayer together, soft answers that turn away wrath, patience, and a clear focus in life. Also being happy at home 'where we grumble the most and are treated the best'. 'Marriage,' says Bob, 'is like going to sea - it's a challenge. You rise to the occasions when storms threaten.'

When they retired Bob said to Joy, 'I will do the cooking if you will do the rest.' And that's pretty well how it's worked ever since. What brings them pleasure? Visits from friends and hearing from friends, and they would like to thank everyone who has sent cards and greetings on this special occasion. They also enjoy 3ABN and the Hope Channel. Bob says, 'Instead of being involved in radio as a radio officer, I am now sitting listening to it for much of the day.' He also thoroughly enjoys the ship magazines sent on to him by his friend and fellow mariner, Pastor Viv Llewellyn.

As well as several church friends visiting their home on 6 July with flowers and cards, they received a card of congratulations from the Queen and a visit from Counsellor

Ann Cowan, representing Perth and Kinross Council, who presented a beautiful flower basket. The Counsellor pointed out that two of the rosebuds had diamonds inserted into them. (I doubt that they were real!) The Counsellor spent an hour with Bob and Joy and they presented her with a copy of Bob's book *Home From the Sea*.

We wish Pastor and Mrs Smart God's richest blessings and every happiness in the years to come.

PASTOR MARTIN BELL

What is Home From the Sea about?

Bob Smart is the best storyteller - bar none!

Home From the Sea is the exciting story of the childhood of this Adventist boy who went to sea as a radio operator - and found himself involved in a World War. On two occasions his ships were torpedoed and sunk by German submarines.

The odds were always against Bob's survival.

These are wonderful stories of the providence of God.

LAURA BRACKSTON (1915-2008) d. 3 August 2008. We apologise for the delay in announcing Laura's death. She died peacefully in Newark Hospital at the age of 93. She was the dearly loved mother of Eve, Chris, Veronica and (the late) Wendy. She was a dearly loved mother-in-law, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother. Veronica writes, 'She was a woman of great courage, strong conviction, wonderful humour and a great spirit. She never envied anyone. Her manners were impeccable. She loved and was fiercely devoted to her family. She was very loyal. Above all, she had an unshakable faith, strong belief and walked daily with God as her Master and Friend.' Laura was a much-loved, and is now a much-missed, member of the Adventist community in Newark. Her funeral was conducted by Revd Richard Hootson and the Methodist minister and Pastors John Ferguson, Ronald V. Edwards and Peter Sayers. Laura was laid to rest by the side of her late husband Major V. E. J. Brackston in Collingham Cemetery and rests in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection.

ROMAN SNEJAL

GAY REDGATE (1924-2010) d. 8 May. Gay was born in Worley, the fourth and much-loved child of Charles and Violet Creswell. She grew up in the Worley and Shirley district. At the age of 14 she started working as a maid in the home of a local doctor, where she also acted as nanny to the children. Her parents did not allow her to go into service during the war so she travelled to Castle Bromwich where she worked in a factory on Lancaster bombers.

Gay's hobbies were reading and gardening but her favourite was dancing, which later became the centre of her life and work. It was at a dance that she met the love of her life, dancing partner and husband Fredrick Redgate. They were married at the end of the war on 22 December 1945, and a year later Rosemary was born. Gay and Fredrick started a dancing school in Bloxwich that was so successful that they moved to larger premises, first at St Pauls in Walsall and later rooms above Digbeth Arcade with the name The West Midlands School of Dance. A number of Gay's pupils went on to become professional dancers. They also held a gambling licence at the school, one of the first in Walsall. Gay was very proud of her achievements as an extremely successful dancer, teacher, and self-made successful businesswoman with a very good quality of life.

It was at this time that they saw a poster advertising a series of programmes: 'Do the stars tell the future?' Although she found out that the stars could not tell the future, the series of programmes changed theirs. They accepted the gospel message and were baptised into Christ and membership of the Wolverhampton Church. They sold their business because the type and hours of operation were now incompatible with their acceptance of Christ. Gay was a founder member of the Cannock church and later moved to Leicester where Fredrick became a colporteur and Gay became a Bible worker. In her time in Leicester, Gay worked with a number of ministers and was instrumental in the decision of many in accepting the gospel. She returned to Alrewas and Burntwood where she continued to enjoy fellowship with family and friends.

Gay lost Fredrick but continued to travel and visit her sisters Margaret and Barbara in Scotland. Her health began to deteriorate over a period of time and she suffered a stroke. Gay is survived by her two sisters and her daughter Rosemary.

MERVYN BRIAN

MARGARET ROSIER (1920-2010) d. 12 May. Margaret was educated at St Silas Church of England School and King Edward VI Grammar School in Handsworth, where she captained the swimming and hockey teams, played a competitive game of tennis, cycled everywhere and, in 1939, achieved university matriculation before entering QE Hospital in Edgbaston to train in nursing.

As a trainee she watched as Birmingham

was bombed and she nursed horrendous casualties. Her war was full of bombs, blood and bodies and it certainly had its effect on her as a person. In her nursing career she rose to Sister, and continued to train at Dunfermline in mid-wifery and as a health visitor in Birmingham, finally in 1956 taking up a lecturing post at Bilston College of Further Education to teach Chemistry, Biology and Physiology and Nursing Maths, a career in which she became deputy head of department, retiring in 1980. She researched and devised her own subject notes and wrote a nursing maths book which, at first, she ran off on the college Gesteiner, and got her 9-year-old son John to collate. The book was eventually published in the 1960s by Clarendon Press and was used in similar courses across the country. She also pioneered the use of oranges to teach the nursing students how to give injections. In the last decade of her career Margaret set up the A level Human Biology course, and spent hours researching a subject that had advanced in knowledge beyond anything she had been taught in the 1950s.

She was also well known in county medical circles. For a time in the mid-1960s she was the St John's county nursing officer for Staffordshire at the rank of lieutenant colonel. She planned the first aid exercises and demonstrations, both for the county and nationally. It was during this time that she hobnobbed with the titled and great of the land, dragging a reluctant John to meet the county knights and their wives, or observe with the county medical establishment rescue demonstrations at New Cross, then a small hospital.

She had a very good visual imagination and considerable spatial and mathematical ability, which she used to organise her department's complex timetables. She had formidable powers of concentration, but did not like disruption and could, on occasions, work all day and late into the night without moving to eat or drink until finished. Then she thought about her famished family and the meal!

She painted in water-colour and oils, had a great eye for shades of colour which she could carry in her head when matching up silk thread. She was a very fine embroiderer and a creatively innovative knitter, every Christmas there would be yet another pullover. She also made her own clothes and took an advanced City and Guilds in tailoring. She could have made a cottage industry from these gifts, especially when, in her retirement, she used to paint with Tri-Chem, which she used to teach others and to adorn her local Adventist church with appropriate paintings illustrating the life of Christ.

She also had two other passions - stamp collecting and Siamese cat breeding. Using her knowledge of genetics she bred cats with characteristics that won rosettes and trophies. She bred champions that went on to breed more champions, though never owned one. She was also renowned in Siamese cat circles.

Her church life was varied. She was raised in an Adventist family, and as a baptised member took a variety of offices in the local church. As a child she met at church, grew up with and eventually married Ken Rosier in 1947, who by that time was an Adventist pastor before he turned to the teaching profession to teach science. She even taught him calculus so he could qualify for teaching college.

In her heyday she could play quite well, too, and was gifted enough to play Beethoven's early sonatas by sight and often accompanied Ken's violin playing. At Cannock church she became church organist which she gave up in the late 1980s. She was also treasurer and head deaconess. She continued making the communion bread until 2007, and regularly attended the Sabbath morning services until Ken had his stroke and gradual ill health prevented her, though her son had to give her a resumé of the sermon when he came home so she knew what had been preached.

While not the most orthodox of Adventists, she was a firm believer in the Christian faith and the efficacy of Christ as her Lord and Saviour. It

was a faith that kept her going through illness and expressed itself in kindness, caring and considerable generosity of spirit. She loved people, loved socialising, was outgoing and had a life that was full of service and packed with activity. A real lady of contrasts, determined, gifted and intelligent, she reached her 91st year only to be overwhelmed in the end. With her passing we have lost a great soul full of humanity without whom we are the poorer. As a believer she now enters into her sleep waiting for the day of resurrection when Christ calls the dead in him to rise.

MERVYN BRIAN, nephew, and JOHN ROSIER, son

STEPHEN JAMES COLE (1928-2010) d. 18 May. Stephen attended Pastor S. G. Hyde's evangelistic campaign held in Oxford in 1957. He was baptised in 1958 and married Margaret Emm, the Bible worker for the team, in 1959.

They located to a beautiful coastal area in Spain in 1987. There were two groups of Adventists in the area - one Spanish and one German. The language problems meant that Stephen attended the vibrant, dynamic Baptist church, supporting their services, Bible studies and prayer meetings.

The entire congregation and choir were in attendance at the funeral service. Many wonderful tributes were paid to Stephen by the church members, neighbours and friends. It was a moving, emotional service, but with the assurance that they would meet Stephen at the resurrection.

MARGARET COLE, nee Emm

ROLLIN MILTON SPENCE (1920-2010) d. 21 May. The Huddersfield church is sad to report the loss of its patriarch Brother Spence. Rollin Spence was born in the Axe and Adge district of Hanover, Jamaica. He was the eighth and youngest child of Zachariah and Eliza Spence and he was educated at Mount Peto All Ages School.

His father was one of the very first to accept the Adventist message in his area of Jamaica back in 1876.

Brother Spence worked as a farmer and spent some time working in the USA. He met his wife to be, Gladys Fray, at an evangelistic meeting at church. They were married in November 1951 and celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in November 2001. Brother Spence came to Huddersfield from Jamaica in November 1960. His wife and family followed four years later. Their marriage was blessed with seven children - three sons and four daughters - Glenville, Wesley, Caroline (who died when she was 7), Claire, Veronica, Ronald, and Angela. They have nine grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

In the UK Brother Spence worked in an iron foundry in West Yorkshire. It was hot and dangerous work. Brother and Sister Spence had an open house and there were always visitors at their home. Brother Spence served as a deacon and he also worked as Personal Ministries secretary for the church. He loved Ingathering and also doing work as a literature evangelist. He was a domino champion and had a dry sense of humour. He was loving and was cared for by family and friends during his final years. He celebrated his 90th birthday in the church in February this year. Many family members and friends were present.

In the last ten years of his life, however, he encountered a number of health problems, which made him a regular visitor to the hospital. The Huddersfield church was full of overflow for his funeral service on 3 June. No less than nine pastors and Conference workers were present, including Geraldine Farmer, Pastors F. Mapp, M. Simpson, V. Marshall, T. Thomas, B. Stokes, L. Sweeney, A. Karbah and A. Grant. Pastor I. Sweeney, NCC president, brought comfort to all present through his powerful message.

The sun bathed the scores of family and friends as Brother Spence was laid to rest with his dear wife in the Almondbury cemetery to await the sure and certain call to life eternal when our Lord returns.

MARGARET ROSIER

IGNITE Birmingham

Birmingham city's largest and busiest park will see the Adventist Church intimately engage with and minister to the community on August Bank Holiday Monday.

Envisioned by a group of young Christians, the event which has been branded 'IGNITE Birmingham' takes a new and more creative approach to ministry, aiming to 'ignite the hearts of the people'.

The event is set to feature a pioneering Christian visual art exhibition where members of the community will be invited to view artwork produced and curated by members of the church. The idea is that the exhibition will be arranged in a way that viewers can be ministered to through the messages from the artwork as they are explained by the artists and supporting students from the Pan-European Advanced Centre of Evangelism (PEACE).

The event will also feature a health expo introducing the commu-

arts
health
community
gospel
evangelism
birmingham



nity to the health principles of the church, as well as many other fun and field activities.

The arts, culture and health are subjects very high on the socio-political agenda within Birmingham city, particularly in the light of its bid to become the UK's city of culture in 2013.

Keiran McKenzie, 21, shared his testimony of how his spiritual experience led him away from his pre-occupation with visual art studies to a place where he now does it for the glory of God. Now his artistic gifts are expressed in ways that not only tell others about the Gospel, but also

help his peers to do the same through his ministry project. **Vision:** *Create: Evangelise.*

The project is mentored by district pastor, Malcolm Watson.

Commenting on the project, he said, 'I think it's important that the church supports the youth, giving them opportunities to lead in God's work. The Adventist Church was founded by young pioneers, and IGNITE Birmingham will be the perfect opportunity to place the Adventist Church in a position to influence a positive change within Birmingham city, but it would not be as effective without the support of the church members.'

The event will be preceded by a weekend of evangelistic activity on 27 and 28 August with an Area 5 day of fellowship and community outreach.

IGNITE Birmingham will take place on Bank Holiday Monday 30 August at the Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham, B12 9QH. Volunteers and monetary support are needed.

For more information, please contact Daniel Byden on 07707 531915 or email: daniel_byden@binternet.com. www.ignitebirmingham.org.uk.

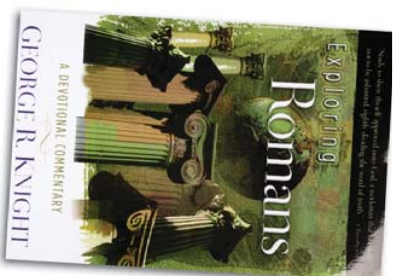
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Thank you so much for the improved ringed quarterly.

No more fighting to keep it open while I refer to the Bible or other references, or to write notes. Now I am able to read my notes.

E. PHILBERT

Congratulations to Christian Guenin, a member of Stanborough Park church, on completing his studies at Kings College London and receiving his BDS Bachelor of Dental Surgery.



New book of the week Exploring Romans

by George Knight

Was there ever a book as on target as this one? We doubt it.

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Sunset

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| Aug 6 | 8.40 | 8.53 | 8.50 | 9.10 | 9.15 |
| 13 | 8.27 | 8.40 | 8.36 | 8.54 | 9.00 |
| 20 | 8.13 | 8.25 | 8.21 | 8.38 | 8.45 |
| 27 | 7.58 | 8.11 | 8.05 | 8.20 | 8.28 |

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IGNITE
Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham
30th August 2010
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be CHALLENGED
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IGNITE is a unique weekend of creative, evangelistic activities aiming to engage & connect the church with the community.

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