

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

Witness

News to the churches • 20 August 2010 • Volume 115 • 17



Photo: Ailure Aysarov



25000 spins 2010

by Bert Smit, CEO ADRA-UK

Nobody wants to see another banana – for now! Watermelon, banana, falafel and tomato were among the foods provided in abundance to help twenty-four cyclists travel from London to Paris in just four days.

Accepting their personal challenge, the twenty-four riders raised over £28,000 for multiple charities, including ADRA-UK. The group started at Garsington railway station in London and finished four days and 350 km later at the foot of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris. This was the second such trip for the organiser, Craig Shipiton. 'This year's trip has improved on last year's,' he said. 'The rider group is larger which brings its own challenges but the ride has been a tremendous success. What matters is that so much money has been raised that will help people in need.'

Two support vans accompanied the riders and provided water, the bananas, and lunch, in addition to technical support.

Riders could choose to support UNICEF, Compassion or ADRA-UK. Twelve riders supported the work of ADRA-UK and raised over £18,000 for the charity.

ADRA-UK CEO Bert Smit commented: 'Cycling for ADRA-UK is a fantastic way to raise funds for the suffering world. We hope that next year's ride will be even more successful. This ride is not organised by ADRA-UK but by someone who has a passion to help people in need. What a great way to help.'

Donations to the riders are still accepted at <http://www.justgiving.com/adra-uk> – just look for the riders in the supporters' pages. One hundred percent of what is donated will go to projects that will benefit children. Information about this and next year's ride is available at <http://25000spins.com>.



All set for Sabbath 25 September?

There are 31,000 Seventh-day Adventists in the British Isles. On Sabbath 25 September every member is encouraged to distribute 31 pieces of literature thus reaching millions with the message. Joint project of the Youth department and the Church Growth and Personal Ministries departments, with the Adventist Discovery Centre.

DES BOLDEAU, EGLAN BROOKS, DES RAFFERTY

with David Marshall

Adventist families



It was commonplace a few years ago to read in our news columns that a baptismal candidate was a 'fourth-', 'fifth-' or 'sixth-generation Adventist'. Predictably this led to a reaction.

What is important is Christian conversion. That, we reminded ourselves, happens on an individual basis and is the result of the work of the Holy Spirit on an individual's life. 'Faith', we were told, 'is not something you can inherit. . . .'

That is one of those truths we hold to be self-evident.

And yet, *and yet* . . . the story of Adventism in many countries is the story of families. Families in the sense of quasi-dynasties: that is, a series of generations within each of a number of families.

If you listen carefully at funerals, or drop in on Newbold graduations, or have a detailed memory for the names of people who serve on committees at sessions, you become acutely aware that we are one of the countries with an infrastructure of 'dynasties'.

Ten years ago an expat departmental director, working over here, got on to this – and deplored it! However, as long as we remember that salvation is on an individual basis and take care to keep our tribal loyalties in check, is it necessarily a bad thing? *You say!*

It is a particularly wonderful thing when *anyone* gives his/her life to Christ in baptism. It is marvellous when that 'anyone' comes from a non-Adventist background. Perhaps even more so when they come from a totally secular background. But none of that diminishes the wonder when the son or daughter of praying Adventist parents is baptised. Nor is it entirely insignificant if that daughter or son has Adventist grandparents.

These things are obvious for folks whose come-from is an African country. However, the Adventist dynastic influence has impacted British Caribbean Adventist communities in the sixty years since they have been in the UK (as it probably did before they came). Then when you come to look at the indigenous Scots, Welsh, Irish and English an analysis of membership is apt to throw up the same surnames over many generations, and evidence of marriage among families.

When I first went to work at Stanborough Park forty-odd years ago I was warned, 'Be careful what you say! Everyone is related to

everyone else!' I managed to stay out of trouble until, perhaps ten years later, I complained to someone about an absentee church elder – only to hear his distinctive tones on the phone ten minutes later providing detailed (and valid) reasons for his sixth month's absence, plus the intelligence that the 'someone' to whom I had spoken had been a distant cousin of his and that familial loyalty was a strong point in their particular tribe. Ooops! It's tough to be an outsider!

In the early '60s Anthony Sampson's book *The Anatomy of Britain* provided compelling evidence of the existence of a 'British Establishment' which generally ran things and closed ranks in the face of opposition. As a young person I wondered if that phenomenon had a counterpart in British Adventism. If it had, the phenomenon disappeared in the ensuing twenty years. While it lasted it was not nearly as politically driven or exclusive as we might have thought at the time. Otherwise, how would you account for the appointment of an outsider as editor?

The truth is, of course, that the family is the basic building block of the church, as it is of society. It takes exceptional courage to be the one Adventist in a family (or school, or workplace). It takes still greater courage for a woman to raise her children in the faith without the support of an Adventist husband. Nevertheless, the continued preponderance of women in the majority of congregations suggests that that level of courage is by no means uncommon.

The expression 'The Great Advent Family' was worn to a cliché by visiting speakers from the GC in the '50s and '60s. It rightly fell out of use. Nevertheless, the infrastructure of Adventist families is, I would argue, a factor that helps hold the Church together. Somewhat to my surprise, my own extended clan became a part of it.

A realization of my parents' vision, their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are all, in their terms,

'in the Truth' thirty-five years after their death.

Nothing to be proud of? Not necessarily for me. Though there is some satisfaction in it. To get carried away with it, however, would be rash in the extreme, in face of the forces destructive to faith against which each member of each new generation has to do battle.

God chose Abraham 'so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord' (Genesis 18:19), and, by so doing, he challenged every father. Deborah was called 'a mother in Israel' (Judges 5:7) and may provide some inspiration for mothers who prepare their offspring for a violent, drug-ridden society where spiritual forces do battle against them (Ephesians 6:12). Nothing exceeds in importance the role of the mother. (AH, 238.) The only close competitor, apart from the father, is the individual who introduces someone to Christ. That was why Paul called the Corinthians 'my dear children' and wrote, 'Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel.' (1 Corinthians 4:14, 15.) Among Paul's spiritual children was Timothy (verse 17). Nevertheless, in his final letter to Timothy, Paul was careful to note that the 'sincere faith' of his younger disciple 'first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice' (2 Timothy 1:4-6). 'From infancy,' Paul reminded Timothy, 'you have known the holy Scriptures.' (2 Timothy 3:15.) Paul wrote his second letter to Timothy because Timothy was timid, in the grip of 'the spirit of fear'. A paraphrase of Paul's opener to Timothy could be, 'Remember the faith of your grandmother and your mother, Timothy! Theirs was a faith to live up to!' (Who said Paul disdained women?)

A fine parentage is one of the greatest gifts we can have. Paul wants Timothy, and us, to be thankful for that gift, and never bring dishonour to it.

Enhancing Health

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

Boosting energy Part 4

The food factor	Research demonstrates a clear link between the foods we eat and how we feel. Studies show that your diet can alter your metabolism (chemical process within your cells which impact how energy is stored and used up) and brain chemistry. These processes subsequently impact your energy level and mood. Here are some must-have foods for a daily energy boost.
FOOD	How it provides energy
Almonds	Rich in high-powered fatty acids omega 3 & 6 which promote mental alertness.
Apricots	A handful provides a natural sugar boost, immediately.
Bananas	Packed with potassium to maintain nerve and muscle function.
Beans	Rich in potassium, fibre and complex carbohydrates which stabilize blood sugar levels.
Brazil nuts	High in selenium – a rich mood booster.
Broccoli	Provides energy due to its fibre, folate, vitamins A, B2 and C and potassium content. A good source of antioxidants.
Brown rice	Rich in magnesium, B1, B3, iron and fibre, an energy stabilizer.
Cashews	High in magnesium which converts sugar into energy; provides copper for energy production.
Lentils	High in B vitamins, iron, magnesium, potassium, zinc, calcium and copper; good fibre and calorie source.
Oats	Rich in calcium, potassium, magnesium, vitamins E and B and protein. Helps to combat stress and tiredness.
Oranges	Valuable source of vitamin C, increases iron absorption, and boosts energy levels.
Pumpkin seeds	High in magnesium to fight fatigue and iron to nourish cells with oxygen.
Sesame seeds	Rich in copper, calcium, magnesium and zinc. Good source of vitamin E, which strengthens heart and nervous system. Also an antioxidant.
Spinach	One of the highest nutrients – good energy source. High in flavonoids which protect against age-related memory loss and rich in folate for boosting mood.
Walnuts	Full of potassium, protein, iron and zinc, a great energy resource plus omega 3 for heart and brain health.
Water	Dehydration and fatigue are linked as water loss slows metabolism and saps energy. Adequate water intake increases alertness, enhances cell function and boosts energy levels.
Watermelon	Rich in vitamin C, iron, lycopene and potassium, which are great fatigue fighters. Also a good water source.
Wholegrain bread	Good source of B vitamins, vitamin E, magnesium, iron and fibre. With a low glycemic index it metabolises slowly, generating a continuous stream of energy and keeping sugar levels stable.

The value of Scripture

A cynic', said Oscar Wilde 'knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.' On Tuesday 4 May a painting by Picasso sold at auction for \$106.5 million. This was a world record auction price for a work of art. Picasso painted it in one day. There were six bidders and the auction was over in eight minutes and six seconds. It is amazing that God's word, which is priceless, is largely ignored, misunderstood or abused while incredible prices are paid for items of art, which are, relatively speaking, useless.

It appears Wilde's comment may have application to some of today's Christians. Dr Henry Blackby commented that in forty years of ministry this present generation is the most biblically illiterate he has ever known.¹ In other words, they place no value on Scripture.

A survey by NPO² of 1,000 people in 2004 highlighted an astonishing ignorance of the Ten Commandments. Ten percent didn't know that they exist. Forty percent of those aged 15-24 could not cite a single commandment. The best known commandments were 'Thou shalt not steal' and 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.' Fewer than one in ten knew that telling lies is forbidden. The least known commandment was 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.'

If a similar survey was taken again, I suspect that the results would be even more depressing. In part it's down to poor education. Many of those who left school last month³ lacked basic skills and knowledge. Employers spend around £69 billion a year to train staff in an effort to correct poor schooling.

Success and achievement in life do not come by chance. The same is true of salvation; it doesn't just happen, it begins with repentance. The desire to repent, to go in a new direction, may arise from a variety of situations, but it is the Word of God which takes it forward to the life of faith. Jesus pointed to repentance as the way

to God's kingdom when, beginning his ministry, he declared, 'Repent and believe the good news'. Peter, at Pentecost, likewise told those convicted of sin to 'repent and be baptized'.⁴

It used to be characteristic of Seventh-day Adventists that when they went to church they carried four books with them: Bible, hymnbook, lesson book and pocket book. Some had a fifth book, a notebook.

Today few members come to church with any book. Vacant faces in Sabbath School are

circumstantial evidence that many members do not know the value of God's book. Scratching in handbags, rooting in pockets – these indicate a discontinuity between pocket book and offering plate. Hymn books – now that is another issue. With words projected on to screens, who needs them? Is there a relation here between the phasing out of hymnbooks and the decline of part singing?

It is impossible to grow in grace and knowledge of the will and purpose of God without a serious involvement in the daily reading and study of Scripture. The presence, power, love and grace of Jesus is mediated to us in large measure through the

revelation of him which we find in God's word. If we neglect to acquaint ourselves with him in his word we deprive ourselves of a rich and joyful Christian experience. As Jeremiah⁵ expressed it, 'When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight.' To paraphrase Oscar Wilde, 'The Christian knows the value of God's Word. But is he/she aware of the high cost of neglecting it?'

References:

¹Newsletter@crosswalk.com. ²The Times, 3/9/2004. ³Telegraph, 17/5/2010. ⁴Mark 1:15; Acts 2:38, NIV. ⁵Jeremiah 15:16, NIV.

Random violence?

'The curse causeless shall not come.'¹ An apparently normal man shoots dead twelve innocent people and wounds twenty-five others. Police, psychologists, innocent victims and others all ask the same question – 'Why did he do it?' One observer noted that, when Derrick Bird took his own life, the answer died with him. We may well enquire, Is there an answer? This kind of unbelievable horror has happened two other times in the UK in the past twenty-five years: once in Hungerford when Michael Ryan killed fourteen people including his mother. The other in Dunblane when Thomas Watt Hamilton shot and killed sixteen children and a teacher. Like Derrick Bird, both these men took their own lives.

Specific answers as to why these men acted as they did may never be found. Causes explaining their actions may not be identified. Whatever their personal lives, nothing justifies or explains the wanton, mindless killing of innocent people. However reality confronts us, random violence, both nationally and abroad, is a reality of life. Violence is not going away and there is little likelihood of it being controlled.

When volume XII of the *New Cambridge Modern History* was published it was initially titled *The Era of Violence*. The second edition of it was retitled, *The Shifting Balance of World Forces*. Was the original title was more accurate? Especially since the introduction highlighted that the violence of the twentieth century was the most cruel in world history.

Violence is endemic in our world, just as it was in the world before the Flood, and violence led to that world's destruction. How poignant are the words in Genesis: 'The earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. . . so God said to Noah, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them."² This leads many Bible students to see violence as evidence of the

imminent end of the world and the return of Jesus as he predicted in the Gospels.³ Violence is not isolated to the horrific acts of men like Derrick Bird. We see it in all levels of life: war in Iraq, Somalia and Afghanistan, domestic violence, robberies with violence, drunken brawls after Saturday night drinking. The abuse and rape of women, the exploitation of children and verbal violence, all are a part of daily life, rarely absent from the newspapers and news broadcasts.

What is perplexing is how an apparently ordinary, sensible person can go berserk. There is a cause, even if it cannot be defined. There is also an antidote. It is found in the sanctifying power of a fellowship with Jesus of Nazareth when in repentance and sorrow we turn our lives over to him and allow him to transform them.

The apostle Paul was a man of extreme violence⁴ until Jesus entered his life. He could then write: 'The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.'⁵ Anger, brutality and rage are common to our sinful nature.⁶ The devil watches to push us into acts of violence. In our sinfulness we are prone to violence. When man separates himself from God the manifestation of violence is inevitable. Our security is found in God's Word because it not only informs our minds and teaches us of the grace of Christ, it also acts as a prophylactic. In an increasingly violent world we need large and daily doses to protect us from ourselves. How right the psalmist was to write 'Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.'⁷ 'The curse causeless does not come.'

References:

¹Proverbs 26:2, KJV. ²Genesis 6:11, 13, NIV. ³See Matthew 24; Luke 17:26-37. ⁴Acts 9:1-2, 21. ⁵Philippians 4:7, NIV. ⁶Galatians 5:19-21. ⁷Psalms 119:11, KJV.

* Pastor Boyle was raised in Dublin, educated at Newbold and Andrews University and worked as a Seventh-day Adventist pastor. He has retired at Stanborough Park, but continues to be active in soul-winning.

BUC says 'Thank you' to Gene Kol, CHIP co-ordinator

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

Fulfilling a two-year contract to work as the National CHIP co-ordinator for the British Isles, Gene Kol's role in this capacity concluded on 18 July. Gene has developed the CHIP vision and progressed its work extensively over the past two years with further training, structure and organisation. Visiting ninety-two churches across the UK and Ireland, her influence has enhanced the profile of CHIP and engaged many churches and communities in this health evangelistic programme. With two baptisms as a direct result of this programme and many individuals showing an interest in other aspects of our church life, CHIP is indeed proving to be an effective outreach programme.

The BUC Health Ministries department wishes to thank Gene for her significant contribution to health ministry within this area and the commitment she has demonstrated in this role.

As part of her 'leaving do' Gene was treated to a 'CHIP lunch' at a local restaurant. Following that, we had a special presentation at the BUC where Gene was presented with a card signed by all the BUC staff and another card from the BUC Executive board members.

The BUC Health Ministries department presented Gene with a card and a gift in addition to a large floral bouquet. To complement the occasion, we enjoyed a variety of culinary delights which, though not all CHIP approved, gave plenty of 'healthy choices'.

BUC Health Ministries director Sharon Platt-McDonald gave a brief address thanking Gene for her contribution to the expansion of CHIP in the British Isles. She had also arranged for a special message to be delivered to Gene from the US Adventist CHIP Association and Dr Hans Diehl (founder of CHIP). Mirroring the praise Gene has received for her work, the message recognized the extent of her impact. The following is an excerpt from that message:

'The Adventist CHIP Association in North America and LMI send our warmest gratitude to you for so ably nurturing CHIP in the UK these past few years. . . By God's grace you have made a world of difference in Adventist churches around the UK who continue to bring health and healing to scores of individuals. Only Heaven keeps an accurate account, but we are confident that one day you will hear the words, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant! Enter into the joy of thy Lord." We want to be there along with you to hear the rest of [the] many CHIP stories that would never have been told if you had not said, "Yes! Here am I. Send me!" Thank you, Gene. You have more than fulfilled our hopes and dreams. We respect, admire and love you.'

We too echo these sentiments and wish Gene the very best for her future as she continues to contribute to the healing and restoration of lives in her professional role as a psychotherapist.

Thank you to all who have supported Gene in her role and to those who have participated in the MicroCHIP and CHIP programmes.

NB: The next phase of CHIP now commences with the newly formulated Adventist CHIP Association-UK & Ireland (ACA-UK & Ireland). Both the website: www.chipuk.org.uk and an email address: info@chipuk.org.uk are now operational for further contact. Rose Gomez, the ACA-UK & Ireland chairperson, will be dealing with strategic issues relating to CHIP. However, Valerie Pearce will continue to take CHIP enquires and orders at the BUC until December 2010.

CONGRATULATIONS to Joanna Swain (née Parmanandham) on receiving a First Class BA Honours degree in Primary Education (Science) from Kingston University. Praise and thanks to our Creator God for his leading thus far.

Mistaken identity

Dear Editor
I wish to take this opportunity to correct a mistake among my Ghanaian friends in the Church about the fish called SALMON (ref. the letter from William Adjei, 115.15 'Unclean Food'). The fish salmon is not a species found in the Ghanaian waters, but MACKEREL, which is unclean, is common in Ghana. Mackerel is called SAMAIN in the Ghanaian languages. Hence the mistake. Salmon has fins and scales and is a clean fish.

JESSIE ALLOTEY

The Pope and Ireland

Dear Editor
Thank you for your editorial of 2 April which carries a quotation on suffering. 'It [the Bible] concerns itself far more with the mastery than the mystery of suffering.' It very aptly summarizes the subject.

I also want to thank you for the series of articles written by Pastor Patrick Boyle on the Pope and Roman Catholicism which is timely, important and educational to all Adventists and other Christians who should learn a little church history to understand the Bible and the present.

In 1381, when King Richard II dedicated England as "Mary's Dowry", he said "The recovery of this will be England's return to the Catholic faith."

We should also note that "Pope Adrian IV, in 1155, "granted and donated Ireland" to Henry II to be held by him "in hereditary right"'. (*The Church in Medieval Ireland*, by John Watt, page 28.) What should we make of this?

K. A. P. YESUDIAN, Sutton Coldfield

Early British Christianity

Dear Editor
Pastor Brian Martin's comments (*Messenger*, 9 July) about Pelagius and Augustine were confused. Pelagius denied that Adam's fall had any effect on his posterity apart from setting them a bad example. There was an apparent failure to recognize that Adam was not merely a physical ancestor of the human race; he was also its covenant head. This truth is expressed in such passages as Romans 5:12-19 and 1 Corinthians 15:21, 22; through the sin of one man death passed on to all, in Adam all die.

BARRY GOWLAND, Milton Keynes

Early British Christianity

Dear Editor
Barry Gowland is right to say Pelagius denied that Adam's fall brought humanity under the dominion of sin. The problem was one of lack of clarity, rather than ignorance. There were, of course, sound and unsound features in the theology of

both Augustine and Pelagius. Perhaps the following clarification might be in order:

'In my attempt to briefly sketch the religious and social climate of the early fifth century I omitted the important point that Pelagius denied that Adam's fall brought humanity under the dominion of sin, but emphasized personal responsibility and freedom of choice. In the context of the decadence of the age it also seemed appropriate to cite some of the positive moral features of Pelagius whose career has received considerable re-appraisal in Britain over the past half century.'

PASTOR BRIAN MARTIN, Bristol

Llandrindon Wells

Dear Editor
I am writing about the item in the 11 June *Messenger* concerning a 'new group in an old Welsh town'. Our Welsh Mission president writes, 'It really is progress that we now have a group right in the heart of Wales.'

We have had such a group for more than eighteen years, and its members – past and present – have put much devoted effort into spreading the Advent Message in mid-Wales. You are welcome to worship with us any Sabbath. Sabbath School: 2.30pm. Divine Service: 3pm. Seventh-day Adventist Church, Christchurch, High Street, Llandrindod Wells, Powys.

IFOR GIMSON, elder

Government backing for atheist schools?

Dear Editor
I am deeply concerned about an item in today's *Daily Mail* (29 July) titled 'Coalition Backs Atheist Schools'.

The item began, 'Schools could be run by atheists under government plans to broaden parental choice over education. Michael Gove [Education Secretary] yesterday backed proposals by the prominent atheist Professor Richard Dawkins to set up his own "free school" funded with taxpayers' cash.'

Mr Gove stated prior to the election that atheists should have the chance to set up 'free-thinking' state schools. On the Andrew Marr show (14 February) he spoke derisively of the teaching of any but the Darwinian explanation of origins.

What on earth will Mr Gove be doing/saying next? *Name supplied, Watford*

Editor: When I first saw the item from the *Daily Mail* I feared that its editors had been the victims of a 'wind-up'. However, upon conducting a little research, I found that they had accurately reported the intentions of the Secretary of Education.

Hampstead church collects record-breaking £40,000 in ADRA appeal to mark 40th anniversary

by Humphrey Walters



A few weeks ago, the faces of the Hampstead church members were entirely wreathed in smiles as they handed over a cheque for more than £40,000. Bert Smit, ADRA-UK director, was their guest for Sabbath afternoon, 27 May, and he was also full of smiles as he took receipt of the handsome donation, with the local press in attendance.

Hampstead members were in good spirits because, against all odds, they'd reached their ADRA goal for this year. And how! Over

£40,000 – only recently, they were typically landing below £10,000. However, this North-West London congregation has now rung the changes where the ADRA appeal is concerned. And evidence of this is not far to seek: in 2008 they collected £20,000; in 2009 this went up to £30,000; and now in 2010 they've broken all records with a massive £40,000 total.

As heartening as it is to reach targets and break records, Hampstead church members

recognize that the ultimate objective of the ADRA appeal is to improve the lives of people who are in need. This was one of the points made by Bert Smit as he congratulated the church on its accomplishment. Quite apart from the satisfaction of having exceeded all previous records, then, what gives Hampstead the greatest satisfaction is being able, through its involvement with ADRA, to play a part in assisting those less fortunate than themselves.

2010 is actually a special year for the Hampstead congregation. It marks the 40th anniversary of their establishment as a church. The congregation is marking this fact by pursuing a number of objectives centred around the number 40. For example, in keeping with their conference's drive on reclamation ministry, for 2010 Hampstead church is seeking to reclaim at least forty of its inactive members. A number of other 40-based goals are also being pursued. Hence the church's slogan, 'Forty for our Lord in our 40th year'.

It was against this background that the church's hardworking and dedicated local agent and her team proposed that the congregation aim

to collect £40,000 for ADRA. Understandably enough, perhaps, church members at first appeared less than excited about this 'faith goal'. In other words, they harboured serious doubts regarding the sanity of those sponsoring such an unrealistic target! Yet it proved to be a target which was actually well exceeded. No wonder that, as the ADRA director passed on his commendations, church members gave such full-throated treatment to the song, 'To God be the glory'.

Although preceding months of 2010 have been marked by an anniversary emphasis, the signature piece for Hampstead's banner year will be featured over the weekend 3-5 September. Under the theme 'Becoming who we are', special anniversary services are being held at the church: 1) 7pm Friday evening; 2) 9.45am Sabbath morning; 4pm Sabbath afternoon, and 7.30pm concert Sabbath evening; 3) 11am-6pm Sunday. Dr Errol Lawrence (formerly of SEC, now with Ontario Conference, Canada) and others, as well as the London Adventist Chorale, will be present. Our evangelistic campaign, Better Living Seminars 2010, will commence immediately after 7.30pm on Wednesday 8 September and will continue through the month. The question everybody's asking is, Will it be forty souls won in Hampstead's fortieth year? Watch this space.

Singing in Basildon

The Basildon church fellowship, with its blend of international voices, is well known in the district for its inspiring congregational singing. For the past four years it has been the wish of the members to form a church choir with the sole purpose of being an important instrument for evangelism.

Owen Skerrit, whose main contribution to the church is his music, started choir practice at the beginning of this year in his capacity as choir director. He is greatly to be

admired for his patient and dedicated approach to the difficult task of putting members through their paces, as the attendance number gradually began to grow.

Sabbath 12 June was a much-anticipated occasion, as the Basildon Community Choir marched to the front in an orderly fashion for their inaugural performance in the Divine Service. They looked professional and performed in a like manner while the audience listened reverently.



In the afternoon our friendly neighbouring church, the Holy Trinity Methodist Church, was celebrating their Golden Jubilee. Having heard the good singing of the Basildon fellowship on Sabbath mornings, the Basildon Community Choir was

given centre stage in their Sabbath afternoon celebratory programme. As a mark of appreciation, they were given a heartfelt standing ovation by the congregation.

MARC SABADIN

Adventist youth sing at the Oraclez World Music Festival

On Monday 31 May, Asher and Lois Moodie from Brixton church sang at the Oraclez World Music Festival event in the Wembley Arena before some ten thousand people. Not only did the audience enjoy their talent but so did Ce Ce and Be Be Winans from the USA, who were headlined to appear on the show. Asher and Lois were down to sing during the band change-over, just before Ce Ce and Be Be. It so happened that after performing Ce Ce and Be Be were asked them to come on during their performance and do a number with them. After the show they were contacted by Premier Radio, BET and the Revelation Channel and had a telephone interview with Premier on their Tuesday morning breakfast show. They were asked to come in again for a second interview to be aired on Friday 4 June during the breakfast show.

Paul Lee, Music director for the SEC, said of Asher and Lois – 'They were a great representation of the future of Adventist music; in the gospel arena they equipped themselves well and were not fazed by the large stage and displayed a maturity far beyond their years, they sang with confidence and conviction.'

It was around this time last year that Lois sang at the Jamaica High Commission for the Governor-General of Jamaica, Sir Patrick Allen. Evadney Campbell of the BBC slipped a card into the hand of Sister Moodie and asked if Lois would be interested in singing at the World Music Festival in 2010 with her brother Asher.

Both young people had a good time at the event and thanked God that they were able to contribute.

Oraclez World Music Festival is the biggest indoor gospel event in the UK.

DR RICHARD DE LISSER, Communication director, SEC



Homecoming day at West Bromwich

by Dr P. A. Herbert

After much planning and many invitations, the Homecoming Day, 17 July, was deemed a success. Under the leadership of Rose Kerr (Sabbath School superintendent) and her team, the church was filled to capacity.

Pastor Paul Liburd, a former minister of the church, brought a thought-provoking message entitled, 'When God Left Home.' When the father saw the prodigal son returning home, the father left home to meet him. We were encouraged by the stirring way in which we were told God still leaves home to meet us.

Throughout the day there was participation from all age ranges within the church. Two special items could not be overlooked: Sister Bailey's poetry recital drew our thoughts to when we get to Heaven. Also a male group, who at least twenty years ago were known as 'New Dimension', brought us an animated version of the song 'Gotta do right'. The congregation called for an encore and some donated generously to our building fund to hear the song again.

As part of the day's programme there was a slide-show presentation of photos that took us down memory lane. Pictures reminded the church of previous pastors, events, and high points in the church's journey.

The overall theme for the day was 'Nothing to fear for the future', and the day climaxed with a short message from Dr Patrick Herbert, who asked the ultimate question, 'What have we laid up for the future?'

Many attended our homecoming day who are no longer in membership or regular attendance. Our hope is that the Spirit of God will fan anew upon them and lead them to a new start in Jesus Christ.

PATRICK HERBERT



Don does it again!

Don Parker, who is the leading ADRA collector at Erdington, has done it again this year. Despite having a double heart bypass operation in September 2009, Brother Parker was able to go from door to door collecting for ADRA's good causes. His total for this year was £2,215.93, 51% of the church's combined total of £4,328.70.

His message to the church remains the same – 'Make many good friends; be faithful to them and they will be faithful to you in donating to the Lord.'

Rachel Batchelor, who also collected a substantial amount of money for ADRA through a sponsored swim, encourages young people who are not keen on collecting door-to-door to explore other fundraising avenues to raise money for ADRA. Sister Batchelor is a keen swimmer.

The local ADRA co-ordinator, Iris Thompson, wishes every collector a blessed harvest next year.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPOG

Jonah hits Balham with a splash

by Tunji Oshodi-Glover



Months of rehearsal had all been about this night. The cast waited backstage, both nervous and excited at the same time. The doors opened and the crowds streamed in. This was Balham Community church's first drama production targeting the community since the opening of the new church and the whole church had caught the vision.

The musical started in Nineveh where Jonah preached and the people did not listen, and when the Lord requested him to go back and preach he refused, ran away and had to pay the price.

The lead role of Jonah was played by Jonathon Clarke, whose performance was outstanding. The cast was made up of Balham youth aged 3-15; they were supported by the children's choir and Balham's gospel choir. All performed to an extremely high standard and thoroughly enjoyed taking part.

The community came in their hundreds. The show was sold out and the deacons had to rush around to find extra chairs. The best news of all is that many non-church goers who attended the play commented that the production (all led by Balham members) was a huge success and that they would love to come back to Balham to see more productions like this – some also expressed an interest in coming along to our church services.

Hands up for puppets!

by Yvonne Cummins

The air was buzzing with excited chatter and laughter as Willesden church conducted its first Puppet Ministry workshop.

It featured the puppetry skills of Anette Moore, joint Children's Ministry and Family Ministries sponsor for the Welsh Mission, with the support of her husband Pastor Clyde Moore.

We were nervous and excited at the same time to see what six months of planning would achieve, especially since it was Anette's first engagement after falling from a ladder and injuring herself.

About sixty excited people, including adults and children from pathfinder groups, children's ministries, and vacation Bible school groups, travelled from as far as Bristol, Birmingham and Peterborough to attend the workshop, which Anette Moore says was the biggest workshop she has conducted so far.

Willesden's Pastor Kirk Thomas opened the workshop with prayers,

before a wide-eyed audience watched with amazement as Anette demonstrated how a puppet could be used.

As the workshop progressed, Anette taught the participants a wide range of puppetry skills; after which everyone had the chance to practise before performing in groups in front of an audience.

Some children were even adventurous enough to perform using their own scripts.

What surprised all of us was the amount of energy it takes to hold a puppet in position. Many of us complained about our arms aching after less than a minute, but Anette gave tips to help us combat this type of fatigue. Wow! It really is a skill that demands a lot of practice.

Everyone who attended the workshop was interested in finding out how puppets are made and it was wonderful to see how quickly Anette was able to make a puppet before our very eyes; she then gave one person the chance to win it.

One positive comment: 'This is another way of telling people the good news.'



Stanborough Press

OPEN DAY

2010

Sunday 5 September
8.30am-4.30pm

Special Guests

- * Pastor Jan Paulsen, president of the General Conference, 1999-2010
- * Various musical groups: Charmaine Morgan, London Ghana Choir, and others

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

Coach to Open Day

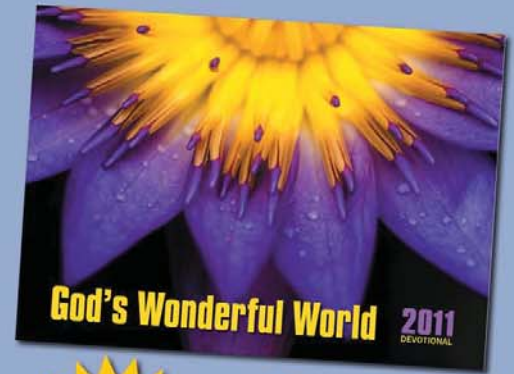
Coaches coming from the West Midlands
(Wolverhampton, Camp Hill, West Bromwich, Dudley, Handsworth and Windsor Street)
Phone 01384 213803, 07789 206171, 07736 509625, 07868 288310.

Introducing the
8 Volume Bible
Commentary



£125

2011
Calendar
only
£1.70



While
stocks last -
great prices
on Bibles

**BIBLES
BIBLES
BIBLES**

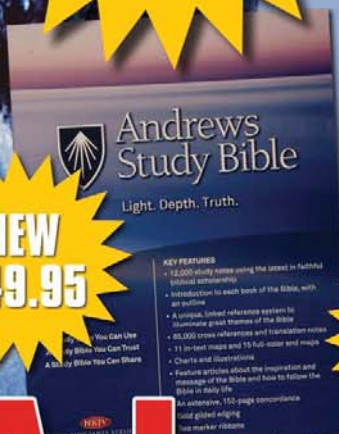
A large range of Bibles
for all ages and tastes

£15.95

£11.95

£9.95

NEW
£49.95



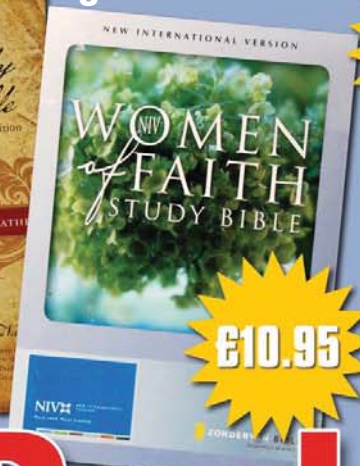
£21.95



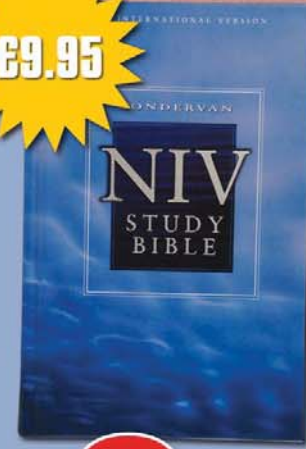
£24.95



£10.95



£9.95



£9.95

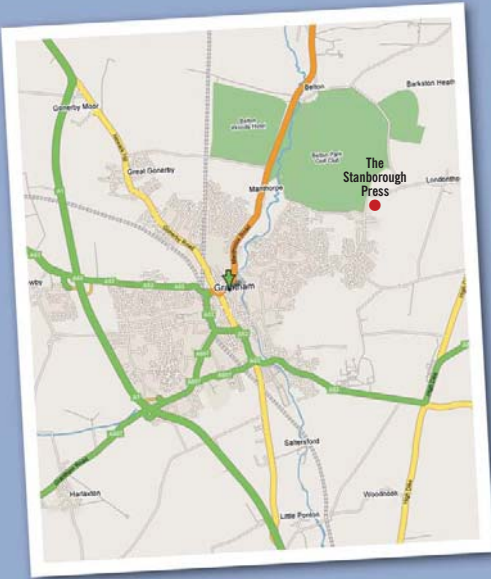


Adventist Book Centre

COME AND JOIN US

The Stanborough Press,
Alma Park, Grantham,
Lincs, NG31 9SL

For a great day of
fun and fellowship



The Adventist CHIP Association UK & Ireland

by Sharon Platt-McDonald and Rose Gomez

Under the leadership of Sharon Platt-McDonald (BUC director for Health Ministries and Disability Awareness) and Gene Kol in her role as BUC CHIP co-ordinator, the CHIP Steering Group was established early in 2010 to plan for the future development of CHIP in the UK and Ireland. The conferences and missions are represented on the CHIP Steering Group by their designated officers, SEC Health Director Elsie Staple, NEC Health Director Grace Walsh, Welsh Mission Health Sponsor Lil Saunders, and Scottish Mission Health Sponsor Pastor David Hatch. Members of the Steering Group include CHIP directors from across the BUC territory, pastors and Adventist health professionals, all of whom are experienced in facilitating the CHIP programme, which has become a regular feature in our church publications.

After seeking advice and guidance from the BUC administration on how best to ensure the future growth and development of CHIP in the UK, and with much prayer for divine guidance, the Steering Group met to select officers of the Adventist CHIP Association for the United Kingdom and Ireland in May 2010. The following members were voted to serve as the ACA Executive: Chairperson – Rose Gomez, National Trainer – Pastor David Hatch, Trainer (North) – Dr Jane Nyakundi, Trainer (South) – Millie Williams, Treasurer

– Janice Hatch, Secretary – Beverley Ngandwe, Pastoral Role – Pastor Malcolm Watson. ACA Contacts: email: info@chipuk.org.uk. Website: www.chipuk.org.uk. Tel: 07931 338449.

In June 2010 the BUC executive received a report from Sharon Platt-McDonald on the development of CHIP in the UK 2007-2010 and the formation of the ACA as a supporting ministry to carry CHIP forward.

From July 2010 the ACA will administer the CHIP programme throughout the UK and Ireland, with the continued secretarial and administrative support of Valerie Pearce at the BUC office until December 2010. (To order CHIP materials contact ValeriePearce@adventist.org.uk Tel: 01923 672251). The work of the ACA volunteers will greatly reduce the financial burden on the union, freeing resources to progress this arm of health evangelism. In recognition of this the BUC has generously donated resources to assist the launch of the ACA. The association will work closely with the health directors, sponsors and local churches to promote CHIP and also to provide training and administrative support to existing and new CHIP chapters.

CHIP has seen a rapid expansion in the British Isles since its launch



Left to right: Sharon Platt-McDonald, Gene Kol, Valerie Pearce. A presentation was made to Gene Kol as a token of thanks for her two years as BUC CHIP co-ordinator

in March 2007, with around eight hundred individuals having participated in a MicroCHIP programme and a further three hundred and fifty having graduated from a CHIP programme. Representatives from over one hundred and forty churches participate in CHIP and it has proved to be an excellent holistic outreach programme. With numerous reports of chronic lifestyle diseases being reversed, and individuals reducing or eliminating prescription medication on doctors' advice due to positive health improvements, CHIP has indeed transformed lives.

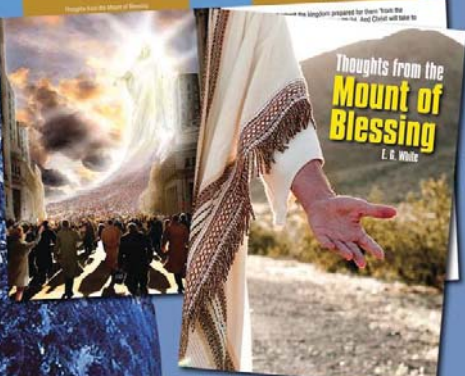
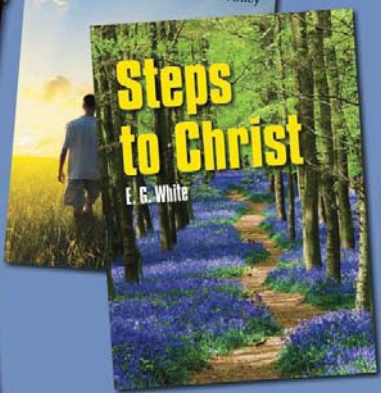
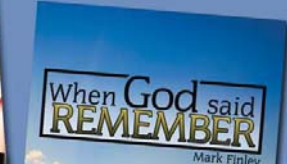
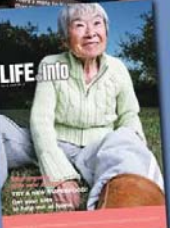
Additionally, its efficacy and relevance as a health evangelistic tool is celebrated in two baptisms of members of the local community who

graduated from the programme. Several others are still in contact with our church, many visiting on a regular basis, attending monthly CHIP alumni meetings, additional health programmes and other seminars. Equally encouraging have been the requests for Bible studies, prayer and health correspondence courses. We commit these individuals to prayer as they seek to maintain long-term friendships with our church members and come to find the God who brings not only healing but redemption.

We pray that you will join us in interceding for the success of this ministry as we bring the message of health, hope and healing to individual lives, to the glory of God's name.

Missionary Book 2010

Buy on Open Day to avoid p&p



FOR MASS DISTRIBUTION

A box of 100 copies of *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing* for £50

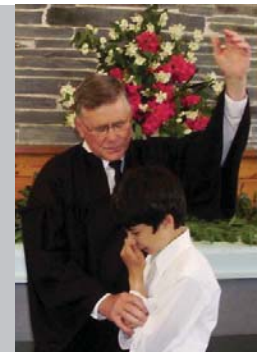
(or individually for 60p)

Bodmin baptism



On 19 June John Rasell and Julie Blackburn were baptized in the Bodmin church, Cornwall, by Pastor Bob Bell. John is son to Marc and Mia Rasell. Julie is the daughter of Graham and Abigail Blackburn. The group photograph shows the candidates with Pastor Bob and Mrs Heather Bell. The other photograph shows John being immersed by Pastor Bell. We welcome these two fine young people into our fellowship at Bodmin and pray that God will watch over them in their Christian walk.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Manchester South Chippers

by Dr Jane Nyakundi, Health Ministries director, Manchester South

What had started as a daunting trip into the unknown for most of the participants proved to be a life-changing experience for all.

The Manchester South church recently ran a successful and remarkably well co-ordinated Coronary Health Improvement Project (CHIP) introductory course for thirty-four participants, fourteen of whom were non-Adventists. This was held over four weeks during the months of April and May at the Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Centre in the heart of Manchester, a stone's throw away from the world-famous 'Curry Mile', the bustling universities, John Rylands Library and the art gallery situated on Wilmslow and Oxford Roads in Rusholme.

Speaking at the colourful graduation ceremony, one of the 'chippers', Clinton Robinson, told of how an innocuous enquiry had culminated in the best blessing he had ever received in his life. Against a kaleidoscopic background of a photographic slide show depicting the month-long journey of the chippers, Mr Robinson told the audience of the remarkable improvements he had experienced in his health: he had lost ten pounds within a month, without even trying to, just by following a healthy lifestyle. He had previously considered himself to be in extremely good health until he joined the CHIP programme, and experienced significant, life-changing reductions in his blood lipids, including a fall of 22.2% in cholesterol levels, and a whopping 44% drop in his triglycerides.

'My decision is to follow this new lifestyle because it is clear that it offers the best option for a realistic investment in good health,' he concluded, much to the appreciation of Andrea, his wife, and Milan, their son,

who added the spice of a truly human touch to the graduation ceremony with his childlike spontaneity.

Loswell Freeman, one of the oldest participants, described CHIP as being a one-hundred-and-ten percent good programme, before he made an impassioned plea for all guests to avail themselves of any opportunity to join CHIP in the near future because it had exceeded his expectations. He catalogued how he had been unable to walk even short distances before he started the CHIP lifestyle, but could now walk for one hour with ease, and was able to go up flights of stairs with little problem. By following a healthy lifestyle, he had lost a stone in weight, and a recent assessment by his doctors had shown that his blood sugar levels were so low that he was scheduled to stop using insulin totally by the end of the next week, a huge improvement on his condition before he became a chipper. 'My doctor is very keen to get in touch with the doctors in this CHIP programme because he has never seen such a remarkable improvement in someone before,' he said.

It was refreshing to hear Mr Freeman recommend the CHIP lifestyle to all present at the graduation, because he and his wife had found it fantastic to be able to eat as much food as they wanted, without worrying about fats.

The youngest chipper was Jack Lavelle, a teenager, who gave a moving testimony of his experiences. He was flanked by his youthful-looking mother, Karen, as he thanked all the staff – especially Dr Isaac Keengwe, who introduced them to CHIP. He reiterated his commitment to healthy eating as a permanent lifestyle from now on.

'Nothing would have prepared

me for the surprising experience of enjoying such wonderful health benefits. From the challenge of the first week, to the immediate effect the jump-start programme had on me... ' was Verna Davis's testimony at her graduation. She was the manageress of the Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Centre, and had found being a chipper rewarding because she now enjoyed so much higher energy levels than before that even her colleagues had noticed it. She was happy to report that during a recent stay at a Hilton hotel, the hotel had obliged when she requested that they prepare CHIP-friendly food for her. Mrs Davis promised to seek funding to support future CHIP programmes in and around Manchester, through the local Primary Care Trust.

'Within a few days, I felt energised, and full of life... and the food was fantastic! I will encourage all my patients to avail themselves of any opportunity to start the CHIP lifestyle for more permanent good health benefits,' she concluded, after thanking her husband for his support. Like the other chippers, she had also noticed a significant reduction in her weight, cholesterol and triglycerides.

Gene Kol, the previous BUC CHIP Association co-ordinator, praised God for his work in her life and in the lives of the many chippers who had benefited from the CHIP lifestyle training she had overseen during the past three years. She appreciated the support given by the Manchester Royal Infirmary medical laboratories, who had been pleasantly surprised at the huge changes in the various test results during the month-long programme. She thanked the Manchester South church leadership for organising such an effective CHIP training programme, with special thanks

to Dr Jane Nyakundi, the CHIP director at the Manchester South church, and her support teams, including the nutrition team and those helpers she termed 'recyclable staff'. She informed those present that this would be her last official appointment before passing the mantle on to Rose Gomez, who will have a support team of seven to oversee the CHIP programme in the UK. She told the participants that they were the most intelligent people in Manchester because they had realised the true value of a healthy lifestyle, and had started on this new journey with thousands of like-minded people worldwide.

Rose Gomez, the incoming BUC CHIP Association co-ordinator, was thrilled by the wonderful testimonies of all chippers, especially that of Jack Lavelle. She praised God for the success of the chippers in their new journey, and stressed the need for participating in the alumni meetings, since these would provide salient ongoing support in their new lifestyle, just as an unborn baby depends on the umbilical cord which links it to its mother.

'No one can deny your testimony. Therefore spread the word, both by word of mouth and through your lifestyle and dietary habits. Do so in such a way that you win their hearts and minds, and help them wish for the same benefits as you have started enjoying,' she concluded.

The atmosphere surrounding the actual graduation ceremony was electric, from the heart-warming smiles and obvious joy of the chippers to the laughter and mimicry of children in attendance; the audience clapped as each graduand was called to the podium in alphabetical order by Gene Kol, while Rose Gomez affixed the CHIP badges onto the chippers' lapels.

Paul Elleston, 'Mr Motivator' to the chippers, singled out a few participants for their outstanding achievements during and even after the CHIP programme had ended. Carmen Gayle had not

only walked over 150 miles during the CHIP month, but had added 187 more miles from the end of the programme to the time of the graduation. Interestingly, she had managed to invest in a pair of trainers only the day before the graduation! Gene Kol attested to her own experience of so much travelling throughout her job as the BUC CHIP co-ordinator, yet with very little fatigue, due to the CHIP-friendly lifestyle which she herself followed.

Vera Gordon had been physically active through useful work in her garden at home, and Mr Motivator commended Andrea Gumbs for what he termed 'stickability and determinability' to complete the training despite her very busy role as a nursing mother.

Of note was the fact that Manorama Kate had dispensed with her elbow crutches by the day of her graduation, a month after starting her new lifestyle.

Nono Mwimbi was named the star marathon walker of this group of chippers considering that she had walked a staggering 380 miles during the four-week programme.

Myrtle Vernon, a wheelchair-bound chipper, thanked God for helping her to go through the CHIP programme successfully.

Jonathan Njoku, a multi-talented young man, had used his technical and culinary skills while successfully completing the CHIP programme, as a way of ensuring

that he would stay healthy for as long as possible.

Rohan Steele, one of the many non-Adventist chippers, could not attend the graduation in person, but he had left a moving testimony of how CHIP had impacted his life in a very positive way.

Indeed, from the teenager to the octogenarian using a walking stick for mobility, all chippers gave a clear testimony concerning the efficacy of the CHIP lifestyle in changing their lives for the better, and in ensuring much better health.

The graduation ended with Gene Kol calling all staff to a group photograph on the stage, before all participants went outside for further photographs.

Nutrition co-ordinator Dimplets Taylor thanked all members of her team, especially Jonathan Njoku, whose legendary smoothies were veritable crowd-pullers at a recent NHS-sponsored tasting day. She reported how the CHIP stand enjoyed extreme popularity, with the longest queues of people waiting to sample food which was clearly much healthier than the other wares on offer.

Dr Isaac Keengwe, one of the Manchester South church elders and a physician who had been a key player in the CHIP programme, told the graduands to guard their health because too many people did not appreciate the value of good health until they lost it for good. He told of a young

person who would have given anything to live a day longer, but who could not get any more help from his doctors due to a terminal illness. Dr Keengwe thanked all staff, especially his wife (Dr Jane Nyakundi), the nutrition team and the many hands that had been extremely helpful in running the programme. He also thanked Gene Kol, the previous BUC CHIP co-ordinator, Rose Gomez, her successor and, of course, the chippers' families. He encouraged the chippers to continue using the pedometers as a way of gauging their progress, besides attending the alumni meetings and programmes so as to ensure the maintenance of a CHIP-friendly lifestyle. He closed with the profound statement that an even better legacy than wealth is that of good health: one which any parent should pass on.

The graduating chippers' vote of thanks was made by Pauline Delglyn, who, during this CHIP programme, had learnt that the body is the temple of God.

'To my fellow chippers,' she continued in her heart-warming manner, 'You are what you eat! And to all future chippers, the truth shall set you free. While to all of us, it is good to realise that nothing beats the beautiful experience that although your veggies may go in hard, they come out soft!'

This cheerful and pleasant graduation ceremony was followed by a sumptuously

nutraceutical meal, held at the Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Centre, before participants dispersed.

The chippers now keenly look forward to their exciting journey of discovery and adventure in a lifestyle of good health and renewed *joie de vivre*, as they participate in future alumni meetings and programmes.

List of graduands: Absalom Myrtle, Alma Dhebe, Joan Breda, Dorret Brown, Brigitte Bryan, Verna Davis, Pauline Delglyn, Carol Douglas, Dorothy Evans, Loreene Fagan, Loswell Freeman, Marie-Anne Freeman, Carmen Gayle, Vera Gordon, Peggy Greenidge, Andrea Gumbs, Lastone Kamwendo, Manorama Kate, Jack Lavelle, Karen Lavelle, Grace Mahmasani-Fagan, Ndola Maloney-Morris, Clarissa Morris, Brenda Mureri, Nono Mwimbi, Jonathan Njoku, Thelma Njoku, Errol Norman, Marcia Oliver, Clinton Robinson, Diamond Sathe, Rohan Steele, Yvonne Thomas, Lorean Thomas, Myrtle Vernon.

List of volunteer staff: Pastor Frederick Mapp, Dr Jane Nyakundi, Dr Isaac Nyakundi Keengwe, Dr Xovi Mwimbi, Dr Sujay Chavan, Dr Sunil Kandulna, Dimplets Taylor, Monnette Burrell-Morris, Martha Simango, Lorraine Questel, Ben Hutton, Silethokuhle Nyoni, Lynnette Evans, Carmen Liburd, Lloyd Muyoka, Victor Velasi, Paul Elleston, Jennifer Mercer, Brian Onsembe, Mabel Murmu.





Celebration at Ystrad Mynach

by Joyce Phillips

During the first weekend in July, a flower festival was held at Ystrad Mynach to celebrate 200 years of worship in Twyn Road. In 1810, the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists began services there in a single-story building, later to become the home of the minister, and now the home of Pastor Brian Phillips and his wife, Joyce. Bethania, a sturdy chapel, was built in 1866 and its history reveals that attendance increased as the result of Welsh religious revivals. The congregation dwindled to single figures in the early 1970s and the few remaining members joined their sister chapel in the village.

Adventists have worshipped in various buildings in the Rhymney Valley since the first decade of the twentieth century and were able to purchase Bethania Chapel in 1978. Following alterations and redecoration it was reopened in July 1979, when the Caerphilly and Gelligaer congregations joined and the Ystrad Mynach church was formed.

Several weeks prior to the planned flower festival, we

were blessed by a visit from Audrey Balderstone, who ministered to us by preaching with flowers and later treated us to a master-class in flower arranging. We were inspired by the creativity and dedication of this gifted servant of God. A group of amateurs met to plan displays and interpret their own chosen phrases from the twenty-third Psalm. We were conscious that the Lord, our Shepherd, was among us and rejoiced with each other as beautiful displays developed. A lovely sign was designed and painted by Oana, a young graduate member of the church family, which welcomed members of the public as well as visitors from other churches in the mission. Friendships were forged, questions asked and promises made to worship with us.

The sum of £350 was received in donations for the local hospice, and we agreed that the festival had been a practical and spiritual success. We pray for a harvest of souls, and that the Adventist cause will continue in this historic area of the Welsh Mission, as long as time lasts.

Fire!

At 11.45am on 10 July the fire alarms went off in the Yardley church. There was however no fire; the alarm was set off by church elder Greg Campbell. For several months it had been the plan and aim to run a fire drill during worship.

The fire officer for the church, Chris Louth, had pointed out that as the church was a public building this was something that we had to do and so he met with a local fire chief to find out more.

As a church we needed to know that, should a fire take place, we could vacate the building in a quick and orderly fashion. Ahead of time the church was notified that a fire drill would take place in the near future and the escape routes were highlighted.

So on 10 July, right after the offering was taken, the alarms rang out. The marshals jumped into action, directing the people out of three exits. In order to 'pass' as a safe fire drill we all had to exit the building within two minutes and this was achieved as all members came out within one minute thirty seconds. The fire marshals took another fifteen seconds to make sure all rooms were empty and by one minute forty-five seconds the whole building was vacated. As usual there was a range of ages in the church from young to old, and from able-bodied to those who needed assistance; all were safely evacuated.

The service continued, when we all came back into church, with the children's story.

Pastor Adam Ramdin said, 'This is something that we hope would never happen in our church, but it was good to know that should a fire break out in our church, right in the middle of the main service, we can safely evacuate.'

ADAM RAMDIN



Yardley fire marshals, Andrew Oyaide, Mark Hudson and Greg Campbell

Brixton youth march against drugs and knife crime — AND bring hope

by Valerie Moodie

'Drummers ready!' These were the words that started the march as the Brixton Drum Corps led the way through the streets of Brixton, followed by the children of the church and a large number of people from the community. This was a high-profile march on Youth Day, 24 July, to highlight the need to defeat drugs and knife crime. It was encouraged by the Brixton police, who have struck up a friendship with the Brixton church. PC Errol Patterson spoke directly to the crowd about violent crime in Lambeth and the need to set up a black parent forum.

For our part there was a strong emphasis on taking the message to the community and the march was organized in such a way that there were people at certain points who would engage with those out shopping and introduce them to the message of salvation. People would stop and take pictures while others would wave or smile in appreciation of what the church was doing. Those in the crowd carried placards

with the word LIVE shoulder high in recognition of the potential that our lives have when we trust in the Lord. However, this was not just another march, as the newly created Windrush Square was now transformed into an open air arena so that we could worship in the heart of Brixton.

As the drum corps halted at the square, everyone took up their positions to keep the momentum going. The location was excellent and gave everyone in Brixton the chance to see and hear what we were doing. People would stop out of curiosity but were soon enlightened by those who had tracts or booklets to offer them. The praise team mobilized to sing songs that got everyone moving and the Brixton gospel choir and children's choir filled the air with inspirational singing. Even the audience had a chance to choose their own favourite songs and we were happy to oblige. A mime group was also present, and so were individual singers.

Aldray Barwise spoke directly to the people of Brixton with the message of hope in Jesus, and individual speakers gave brief testimonies of how Christ had changed their lives. There was an atmosphere of expectation and excitement that we were going about our Father's

business in a new era.

As a church we have a responsibility to promote life and there is so much abundant life to offer our community. Under the leadership of Pastors Kavaloh and Thorp we no longer want to remain within the confines of the church week after week. There is so much we can do in our community and the Lord is opening doors to enable us to do so many things. By the grace of God we will take the message of salvation to those around us in more profound ways in the future.



No church, no baptismal pool — no problem?



Earlier this year, Pastor Jimmy Botha highlighted the plight of his 'third world' Dunfirmline church building, condemned as uninhabitable. But this did not deter the 'homeless' congregation from responding to an urgent request for baptism.

Savannah Turner was anxious that her sister, Shanelle, should be present for her baptism before leaving for Adventist studies in the USA. She had always expressed a wish to be baptized in the open. And so, on Sabbath 24 July, members witnessed Savannah entering the cold waters of the Firth of Forth at Kinghorn in Fyfe to give her life to the Lord. Blessed by the beautiful setting and warm weather,

Pastor Botha said afterwards, 'We felt invigorated physically from the water temperature but spiritually also from the occasion itself.'

'We may have no church at the moment,' he says, 'but the Lord has provided plenty of sea around us, so that burials of sinful bodies may bear witness to the power of the Lord.' With a real possibility of another baptism in the next few months, members are praying for a new building. Recognizing that funds will always be an issue, Pastor Botha asks the community of believers in Scotland and throughout the British Isles for their prayers and financial help.

JOHN WILBY



Time to knock on doors

by Terry Messenger,
Personal Ministries director, SEC

About a hundred individuals came together at the Advent Centre for a week-long evangelistic training programme with guest speaker, Tyler Long, assistant director of Amazing Facts. This was a joint venture organized by the BUC, SEC and Area 6 ministers.

Tyler's main emphasis was on door-to-door evangelism which he believes is still a powerful method of reaching people. He believes that we have underused it as a church and have not been consistent in following up interests. Tyler believes in practical training, and on the Sabbath afternoon 12 June everyone went out knocking on doors in the central London area for about an hour. When they came back they shared thrilling reports of people they had encountered with some people requesting further visits. The importance of door-to-door visitation was highlighted recently during the annual SEC camp meeting in Prestatyn,



North Wales, when thirty-four individuals went onto the streets and after just one hour they found six people who wished to study the Bible and one lady who offered to open her home to start a Christian fellowship group. Maybe we need to look again at this tried and tested method of evangelism.

Tyler also spoke on sharing the Bible with people and looked at the most effective ways of doing this. It was emphasized that evangelistic outreach should not simply be event-orientated but a way of life which should permeate the church throughout the year. He spoke of the

evangelism cycle of preparing, sowing and reaping. An evangelistic campaign would be more successful if the work of preparing and sowing (making friends in the community through felt-needs events, door-to-door, Bible studies) had taken place, as the campaign is largely a reaping event.

An insightful presentation was given on trying to reclaim people who had left the church. Sensitivity, compassion and patience were the keywords here.

The whole aspect of nurturing and discipling the new believer was also highlighted. As a church we are

largely successful in our evangelistic endeavours, but perhaps not strong in this area. Statistics show that as many as 37% of people leave the church after their baptism in some parts of the world and in other areas it may be a higher figure than this. Tyler gave practical instruction on how to help a new believer become more established in the faith. It is essential, he said, for new believers to find friends and acceptance in their new church environment.

It was a week that left the attendees buzzing with a determination to implement this practical instruction in their churches.

behalf of the government and people of Montserrat. Thelma Gage and Caleb Greenaway led the congregation in a minute's silence in recogni-

tion of their fathers (George Gage and Joseph Henry Greenaway) who had previously attended these events and were laid to rest this



Thankful Montserratians

by Marcelle Riley

'Thanks!' was the sentiment echoed throughout the tenth annual Montserratians' day of fellowship, held on Sabbath 29 May. Over 600 Montserratians and their friends congregated at the Mount Zion community church in Birmingham for this special day of worship and fellowship. The day's theme was 'How can I say thanks?'

According to principal co-ordinator of the day, William B. Riley (from the Breath of Life church), the Montserratians and Friends day of fellowship was born out of the desire to provide Montserratians and their friends living in the UK with the opportunity to give thanks publicly to God for the protection of lives in the ongoing volcanic crisis in Montserrat. The crisis commenced in July 1995 and the first quarter of this year witnessed an increased rate of activity where some villages were completely destroyed. However,

we still give thanks because God has continued to protect the lives of the inhabitants.

Sabbath 29 May was one of rich spiritual blessings. Shirley Ryner, the Sabbath School superintendent, creatively structured the Sabbath School to relate to the day's theme. Dr Patrick Hebert led us in a thought-provoking delivery of the lesson study on temperance. During Sabbath School, Pastor C.A. Young, resident pastor of the Mount Zion community church, graced us with his presence and warmly welcomed us into his church.

Immediately following Sabbath School we received greetings from Professor Sir Howard Fergus, former Speaker of the House in Montserrat as well former Acting Governor and resident tutor at the University of the West Indies. Mrs Janice Pantom MBE, head of the Montserrat Government UK office, conveyed regards on

William (Bill) Woolridge (1925-2010) d. 6 May

Bill died at the age of 85 after a short illness. It was with great sadness that the members of the Worcester church heard of his sudden death and they felt very sad for all his family, and those dear to him. The funeral service was held 17 May, and it was conducted by Pastor Adrian Broome (assisted by Charles Lamont, elder) in the Worcester church, where Bill loved to worship. It was evident from the many people that filled the church to celebrate his life that he was much loved by his family and friends. Three very sad granddaughters (Louisa, Nichola and Ellie) sweetly sang their tribute to him with 'Amazing Grace'. Other tributes were also made of Bill, who was described as being shy, but a true gentleman. He had also endeared himself to all the church members in the short time they had to get to know him, and they miss having him with them when they are in church.

Bill was born in Birmingham, and lived and worked there until he retired, apart from the few years he served his country during WWII in the Welsh Guards. He was sent to France soon after D-Day, and the

tank he was travelling in was hit by a shell. Miraculously he escaped death, but he was left with a serious hearing problem that stayed with him for the rest of his life.

As a young man, Bill married 'the girl next door', Julia, and they had three lovely daughters: Julia, Ann and Ruth. He attended the Camp Hill church for many years and was eventually baptized in 1997, before he and his wife moved to Weston-super-Mare. As his wife's health deteriorated and she became more frail, they moved to be near one of their daughters. Bill continued to attend the church there in Weston, but, sadly, his wife died in 2001. Bill soon moved again, to Worcester, and he settled very happily into the home of Julia (his eldest daughter), her husband Nick, and Bill's two granddaughters, Louisa and Nicola. Bill was very happy in his new home (a small converted barn, called 'Billy's Barn!'), which was surrounded by beautiful countryside. He was very independent; he took good care of himself and made himself useful to his family. He made friends with the neighbours, including two regular postmen who made the village

deliveries. He would always invite them into his home for a little chat and provide them with 'tea and biscuits!' They both attended the church for his funeral service, showing their very high regard for him!

He regularly and faithfully attended church in Worcester on Sabbaths, and loved to join in the Sabbath School discussions.

Bill had a very caring family and many friends who cherished him; many of them said their last farewell at the local crematorium after leaving the church. He is very sadly missed, but Pastor Broome reminded

everyone that God was mourning with them because he is a God of love, and in the near future we can all be united again with those we have loved, when Jesus returns on Resurrection Day.

Our heartfelt condolences and prayerful thoughts continue for his family and loved ones, especially for Julia and her sisters, their husbands, and Bill's seven granddaughters, as well as their extended family. Our prayer is that God will bless and sustain them as they strive to overcome their grief at the loss of their beloved father and friend.

DORES J. LACK

The family of Joy

October 22 2009 was a very special Sabbath at the High Wycombe Sands church, as it marked the day when Joy, along with her two sons Phil and Collins, made their commitment to Christ openly through baptism.

Joy was born into a Christian Anglican family and married a Seventh-day Adventist. God blessed Joy and her husband with two wonderful sons, Phil and Collins. In her early years of marriage Joy learnt many of the Adventist doctrines, and followed Christ both in the home and through her work as a dedicated nurse. However, eventually Joy stopped attending church. In 2004 Joy, along with Phil and Collins, left Zimbabwe and came to settle in England. Joy says, 'I felt that I had lost something special. I wanted to go back to church but I did not know any Adventist churches in High Wycombe.' Fortunately Joy's sister met with a member of Sands

church, Eldon Baptise, through work. Brother Baptise would visit Joy and her sister and they would pray together. Joy became interested and started attending Sands church on a regular basis. Joy now says, 'I have found real meaning to life. I now know the difference between believing in God and knowing him.'

God has brought Joy a long way, and she has been tested with many trials and tribulations, but God has not finished working in the family – as Joy explains, 'God makes a way where there seems to be no way.' Joy's husband was baptized in Zimbabwe and God is working wonders through him.

Joy summarizes her testimony by saying 'Serving God does not mean the absence of problems, but it is the beginning of a life where God is in charge and comes first in everything we do.'

PATSY YAHALOM

year. The late Pastor Delroy Foster was also remembered during this time, as he had been the main speaker in 2005. One of the regular features each year is the update on Adventist work in Montserrat. The audio-visual style of the presentation always captivates the attention of the congregation (see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jUWcabsKc>).

In his sermon entitled 'It is well' Pastor Ian Sweeney, NEC president, delivered a very powerful message through which we all reassured that with God it is always well, regardless of the situation we may face. The message was based on 2 Kings 4:8-26 where the Shunamite woman declared 'It shall be well' in spite of the sorrow she was facing upon losing her son.

Various musical selections added their own unique flavour to the day. The London SDA male voice choir is a regular feature. However, we were also uplifted by special items rendered by the Camp Hill choir and Pearl Ryner. Calvin Riley delivered a beautiful rendition of the song 'How can I say

thanks?' as the meditational.

Music was also the dominant feature of the afternoon's programme. This included a solo piece on the harp. However, a highlight especially for the Montserratians was evangelist Simon Farrell from Montserrat who gave us a taste of the Caribbean with two selections from his latest CD.

For the second consecutive year we were able to use technology to share the day of fellowship across the globe. The service was streamed live over the internet and, in spite of the five-hour time difference, according to reports some individuals in Montserrat chose to share in this worship experience. Reruns of the day can be viewed at <http://www.justin.tv/mratuk/videos>. Also visit us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/people/mratuk-Day/100001191390779> to view pictures, articles and reruns from previous years.

The day ended with vespers by Pastor Sweeney and we were sent away with the command to always offer praises to God as our thanksgiving sacrifice through Jesus.



Jeremiah leads the way



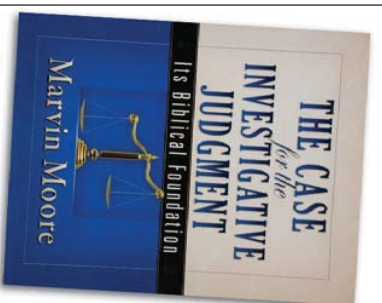
Left to right: Renee Clarke, Jeremiah and Trevor Clarke

The eleven candidates stood at the baptism that marked the end of the Finding Your Life's Purpose and Passion campaign at Brixton church, and my eyes turned to the small figure of Jeremiah, over whom the other candidates were towering. They all stood together as they made their decision to follow Christ but for Jeremiah, a 7-year-old, this was an especially awesome moment. 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 called him Jeremiah because it was his father's favourite prophet, and he had said that it was his dream to one day preach as he feels that God has something for him to do. When asked why coming to church is so important to him, his answer was that 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 I know that his parents are supporting him along this path. The Bible says that you should train up a child in the way that he should go – for Jeremiah, this is the way he wants to go.

Pastor Abraham Jules encouraged everyone who attended the campaign to listen to the voice of the Lord and give their life to him. Like the Bible character Samuel, Jeremiah responded in the affirmative – 'Speak Lord for thy servant heareth.'

VALRIE WOODIE



New book of the week The Case for the Investigative Judgment Its Biblical Foundation

Popular author Marvin Moore has examined the objections of critics and the best thinking of dedicated Adventist scholars. In this book, he aims to help the reader understand this foundational doctrine and gain its spiritual benefits – based on the evidence from Scripture itself.

Contact ABC Sales on
01476 539900
to purchase your copy at £14.25 plus p&h.

ABC BOOK SALES

September
5 Stanborough Press Open Day
19 Newport 10am-2pm

ABC Shows

Watford, BBC
9am-9pm, Monday-Thursday
(Closed for Lunch 1pm-1.30pm)
9am-12pm Friday, Closed on Sundays

Advent Centre

Sundays 11am-3pm

Messenger

Volume 115 • 17 – 20 August 2010

EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL

DESIGN: DAVID BELL

COPY FOR NO. 18 – 30 August 2010

Copy should be sent to the Editor, Messenger, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Gortmum, Lincolnshire, NG31 5SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.

Fax No: (01476) 571744.

Email: Editor@mc.co.uk

Send high resolution pictures to:

dibel@stanboroughpress.co.uk

ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900

Mon-Thurs only, 9am-5.30pm

www.stanboroughpress.com

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Printed in the UK.

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk

ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

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

	London	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Aug	20	8.13	8.25	8.21	8.38
Aug	27	7.58	8.11	8.05	8.20
Sept	3	7.43	7.55	7.49	8.02
Sept	10	7.27	7.39	7.33	7.44

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS

Cost to member supplied in bulk to churches £66. Single copy subscription by post £13. Overseas airmail £27.50

NEWBOLD COLLEGE

is seeking to appoint a
LECTURER IN BUSINESS STUDIES

To begin 1 January 2011 or by mutual agreement

Please see Newbold College website www.newbold.ac.uk for further details. All applicants must have the right to live and work in the United Kingdom.

Salary will be in accordance with the denominational scale. A letter of application along with a current CV and the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to:

The Vice Principal,
Newbold College,

Bracknell,

Berks,

RG42 4AN.

Tel: 01344 407401

Fax: 01344 407404

Email: mpearson@newbold.ac.uk