

MESSANGER

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Can the Adventist Church Welcome Pope Benedict to Britain?

by Don McFarlane, BUC president

God will work in their behalf. Those who have had great privileges and opportunities, but who have failed to improve their physical, mental, and moral powers, and have lived to please themselves, refusing to bear their responsibility, are in greater danger and in greater condemnation before God, than those who are in error upon doctrinal points, yet who seek to live to do good to others.

'Do not censure others; do not condemn them. If we allow selfish considerations, false reasoning, and false excuses to bring us into a perverse state of mind and heart, so that we do not know the ways and will of

>16

Pope Benedict XVI will be visiting Britain from September 16-19, 2010. This is reported to be only the second time a pope has visited Britain, the first being in 1982 when John Paul II came to our shores. John Paul's visit was pastoral in nature while Benedict will come as Head of State – the Vatican state.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, has said of the forthcoming visit, 'I am sure I speak on behalf of Anglicans throughout Britain, in assuring him that he would be received with great warmth and joy'. This statement seems quite remarkable coming from one who represents a body of Christians that broke away from the Roman Catholic Church nearly five hundred years ago.

The archbishop's statement has led me to think about the message that I should be giving to the Adventist community in the British Isles in connection with the pope's visit. Should I be telling members that the pope is an enemy of Seventh-day Adventism, and that he represents the 'Little Horn Power' in Daniel and the first beast that stands in opposition to God in Revelation 13? Should I remind members that he represents the power that distorts God's provision of salvation in Jesus Christ – the power that changed what God intended to be a simple approach to Christ through personal faith into a complex sacramental journey? Should I encourage all our churches to be open each night during the period of 16-19 September and present stirring messages regarding the pernicious nature and beguiling methods of the Catholic Church? We might even engage in a poster campaign against the Catholic Church, as one state in the USA did a while back.

After reading one of Ellen White's statements

on how we should relate to Catholics, I find that the archbishop's statement expresses sentiments fairly close to those that I and other Adventists should be expressing over Pope Benedict's visit:

"It is true that we are commanded to "Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins." [Isaiah 58:1, KJV] This message must be given; but we should be careful not to thrust and crowd and condemn those who have not the light that we have. We should not go out of our way to make hard thrusts at Catholics.

Among the Catholics there are many who are most conscientious Christians, and who walk in all the light that shines upon them; and



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Foreword by Clifford Goldstein

Great for sharing with family and friends.

Anita and I were based in Jerusalem. We had made friends with an English bank manager and his wife. Indeed the whole thing was made a hundred times worse because they were both with us in the car when it happened.

The car was a small Nissan. The day I hired it, the owners of the Bonus franchise stressed, 'You must solemnly undertake not to go anywhere near the Lebanese border!'

The front page of the next morning's *Jerusalem Post* provided the explanation why the boys at Bonus had been so edgy. Overnight, Israeli forces, under orders from Menachem Begin's Government, had invaded Lebanon. As we aimed the Nissan northwards that morning, I had so much confidence in the bank manager's navigational skills that I let him navigate to Caesarea Philippi. He had been before. He knew the way.

I followed his directions. We were climbing. Indeed, some of the inclines were so steep that the Nissan laboured to haul four adults and itself ever upwards.

The bank manager was feeling sufficiently confident of the rightness of the road that he decided that now was the time to share his mistaken impressions of Adventism. So I aimed the juddering vehicle upwards on the ever-narrowing road that had been cut into the mountain like a narrow shelf, and I defended the faith at the same time.

When these events were subsequently called into question there was a feeling in the backseat that the driver and navigator had been too absorbed in theological debate when their principal preoccupations should have been, respectively, driving and navigating.

No one has ever accused me of being a brilliant driver. I aim for 'safe' and leave the fancy manoeuvres to those with fancy cars. There must have come a point on the shelf road round Hermon when a double track road became a single track road, and when the single track road lost its overtaking places.

What obliged me to stop the car was a pill box, a chain across the road and a soldier with a machine gun aimed at the windscreen. Nervously I asked him 'Are we anywhere near the Lebanese border?'

with David Marshall

Facing worst-case fears



He glared at me, and replied: 'Zees eez zee Lebanese border!' We were within a mile of the fighting.

With withering contempt, the one-man army indicated that I had no option but to head back the way I had come.

It was at that point that I realised I was facing my worse-case scenario – that this was the Granddaddy of all my nightmares.

The worst-case scenario had little to do with the soldier, but quite a lot to do with the view from the passenger window. We were in a left-hand drive car – and the view from the right window was one I would have only been comfortable seeing from the safety of an aeroplane. My worst-case scenario was that the situation necessitated my reversing for a considerable distance along a road barely wider than the car, to find some sort of gap in the sheer rock on the driver's side which might enable me to wriggle the car round until it faced the opposite direction. Four lives at stake.

In *The Complete Worst-Case Scenario Survival Handbook* there was nothing about doing a three-point turn in a Nissan Micra on the narrowest of roads with a sheer drop into infinity on the right-hand side.

What do you do when you are in the grip of your worst-case scenario?

Jesus faced his one Thursday night in the Garden. It was greater than anything you or I will have to face. Worse than the knowledge of the following day, Jesus was already experiencing what was humanly impossible. The collective sin of all time was crushing the life out of him and – worse – had created an immense gulf between himself and his Father.

God had become flesh and he was feeling fear full-bore. What did he do? He 'fell to the ground. He prayed that, if it

were possible, the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by. 'Abba, Father,' he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine" (Mark 14:35-36, NLT).

Facing, his worst-case scenario, Jesus prayed. It was a torn apart prayer, but he showed us what to do with our own worst fears.

As I reversed along that narrow rock do shelf, I prayed a silent, eyes-wide-open prayer. It took a lot of scary reversing and, when time came to turn, it was not just a three point but a thirty-three point turn.

In the thirty years since then much has changed with me, worst-case-scenario-wise. Nevertheless, simple prayer still enables me to face down my worst fears. I'm sure it will work for you.

Notice, please, the actual words Jesus prayed. Nothing grand and dignified. No one can do 'grand and dignified' in a crisis. Though feeling totally isolated from the Father he called his Father 'abba'. 'Abba' is a homespun name a child would call his father when clambering onto his knee because he was frightened. Years later (Romans 8:15,16) Paul was to say that this is the spirit in which we may all approach the Father.

The spirit of a frightened child seeking help and strength from his Daddy.

Whatever the current crisis is – medical, financial, emotional, relational – prayer is the appropriate response. Talk to God about your fears. When you have put them into words, you have disrobed them. Fears can look pretty silly when they are disrobed.

Remember the 'abba Father' connection. It is your invisible means of support. And there may come a time when that is the only support you have.

Enhancing Health

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

Boosting energy Part 5



Dietary habits and supplements

Food boosts energy in three ways. It:

- provides adequate calories,
- releases stimulants and
- raises your metabolism to burn calories efficiently.

Food combinations

The word 'food combination' refers to a combination of the different food groups – proteins, carbohydrates, fats, etc. Most nutritionists would advocate a balanced diet; this means a diet in which we keep the food groups we consume in proportion. Dr Marilyn Glennville, the UK's leading Female Health nutritionist, has written extensively on diet-related health. She advocates a combination of protein and carbohydrate at every meal for optimum energy, saying: 'This helps raise your blood sugar, steadily supplying you with constant energy'.

Meal times

Ellen G. White, in her books *Ministry of Healing* and *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, speaks against late-night eating and the consumption of many different types of

food in one sitting. These lead to an overworked digestive system which saps energy and weakens the immune system, making you vulnerable to disease. The metabolic system slows down by 7pm in the evening, so eat early if you want to get a good night's sleep and stop gaining weight!

Monitor your nutrients

Many individuals with low energy suffer from an iron deficiency. Sufficient iron is vital as it transports the energy-boosting oxygen around your body. Iron-rich foods for vegetarians include dark green leafy vegetables and dried apricots.

Keep hydrated

Your body requires sufficient water for all its organs to function effectively. You can feel yourself flagging even early on in the day if you are not adequately hydrated.

Fasting

This assists the body in eliminating toxins, increasing energy and mental clarity. Medical

advice is necessary if you are on medication.

Supplements

It is generally stated that unless you have a specific vitamin or mineral deficiency, or have a long-term or acute illness, you do not need to take nutritional supplements: particularly if you are eating a healthy daily diet. This is because taking isolated supplements (particularly at high doses) can in fact interfere with the absorption or action of other vitamins or minerals. If you do require a supplement it is always better to ingest it as a multivitamin or mineral compound.

Herbs & stimulants

These are commonly used to boost energy levels but can have side-effects – particularly on those with asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, hypertension or blood clotting disorders. If you are on medication you need to alert your practitioner before taking any complementary preparations.

Good Health

Tithing: do we send it or bring it?

I was talking to an African evangelist friend of mine recently about the financial crisis which the North England Conference is currently facing. During the conversation he asked me why I thought so many members of the conference were not returning tithes. When I told him that many people were still sending their tithe back home, his reply surprised me.

My friend said that people think they are returning tithe to their home countries but they are not. He wouldn't expand upon that, so I was forced to go back to the Bible and re-evaluate what I thought I knew about returning tithe.

And my friend was right. People may think they are returning tithe to their home nations, but such action does not conform to what the Bible describes as a tithe. That is to say, every recorded biblical instance of returning tithe is accompanied by the word,

or idea, of bringing the tithe. Tithe is *brought*, it is never *sent*. For example, Genesis 14:16-20 records that Abraham brought a tithe to Melchizedek. Even with all his large retinue of attendants and soldiers, Abraham brought the tithe personally.

Other examples of bringing tithe include Deuteronomy 14:28; 2 Chronicles 31:5, 6, 12; Nehemiah 10:37, 38; 12:44; 13:12; Amos 4:4, (cf. Matthew 23:23; Luke 18:12; Hebrews 7:5-9). God said, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house." (Malachi 3:10, NIV). Sister White said, "The tithe is sacred, reserved by God for Himself. It is to be brought into His treasury to be used to sustain the gospel labourers in their work" — *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 249 [emphasis supplied]. Although God did not say 'send your tithe', there are exceptions in the case of house-bound people who want to return tithe.

Tithe, I believe, is not a test of faith, but an expression of love. Why do I say that? Well, Jesus and the apostles consistently linked law and love; and wickedness increases because love grows cold (Matthew 24:12). So when I preached on the subject of *Loving Obedience*, I included the subject of returning tithe as a response of love. That is, because we cannot have love without obedience (see for example, Matthew 22:37-40), then returning tithe in accordance with the command (see Malachi 3:10) is an expression of our love for God. Our freewill offerings are therefore understood as an expression of our faithfulness.

'Tithes and offerings for God are an acknowledgment of His claim on us by creation, and they are also an acknowledgment of His claim by redemption. Because all our power is derived from Christ, these offerings are to flow from us to God. They are to keep ever before us the claim of redemption, the greatest of all claims, and the one that involves every other. The realisation of the sacrifice made in our behalf is ever to be fresh in our minds and is ever to exert an influence on

our thoughts and plans. Christ is to be indeed as one crucified among us.' — *Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 479.

When I asked folk what they got out of the sermon, I was surprised by a few of the answers. One person, whom I understood to have been returning tithe to her home nation, said she had stopped tithing altogether out of neglect. Another admitted to sending money back home to her family believing it was tithe, and still another had not returned any tithe for years. However, my shock was softened by the ones who had returned a faithful (should I say, loving) tithe during all their years in this country.

If I take this small sample and expand it across the conference as a whole, and perhaps even the country, I wonder if I would find similar results. From what I understand, there is more than enough tithe in the pockets of the members to almost double the number of 'gospel labourers in their work'. Sadly however, an alternative course of action was forced upon the Conference administration because tithe has not been returned.

JEFF COLIZINS

ideals of democracy and human rights. The religious authorities in Iran have postponed the stoning of a woman accused of adultery. However, the woman, Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, could now face execution by hanging.⁴

In Pakistan, the killing of a British husband and wife from Birmingham (because they refused to force their daughters to marry their cousins) raises questions about the nature of Islam. The Muslim Council of Britain condemns these practices and says they are not sanctioned by Islam. However, the perception of these incidents among Westerners is altogether different. The events raise negative and sometimes extremely hostile attitudes towards Islam.

Seventh-day Adventists view these and other behaviours, which we might kindly call dysfunctional, with a belief that they indicate the nearness of Jesus' return. Current affairs press upon the Church the urgency of fulfilling its mandate to proclaim the three angels' messages of Revelation 14 to the world, the last warning message prior to the Second Advent.

¹Time, 30 August. ²Guardian, 15 August. ³Church Times, 13 August. ⁴Telegraph, 13 August.

Appropriate dress for church?

One Sunday morning, an old cowboy entered a church just before services were to begin. Although the old man and his clothes were spotlessly clean, he wore jeans, a denim shirt and boots that were worn and ragged. In his hand he carried a worn-out old hat and an equally worn, dog-eared Bible. The church he entered was in a very upscale and exclusive part of the city. It was the largest and most beautiful church the old cowboy had ever seen. The members of the congregation were all dressed with expensive clothes and fine jewellery. As the cowboy took a seat, the others moved away from him. No one greeted, spoke to or welcomed him. They were all appalled by his appearance and did not attempt to hide it.

As the old cowboy was leaving the church, the preacher approached him and asked the cowboy to do him a favour. 'Before you come back in here again, have a talk with God and ask him what he thinks would be appropriate attire for worship in church.' The old cowboy assured the preacher that he would.

The next Sunday, he showed up for services wearing the same ragged jeans, shirt, boots and hat. Once again he was completely shunned and ignored. The preacher approached the cowboy and said, 'I thought I asked you to speak to God before you came back to our church.'

'I did,' replied the old cowboy. 'And what was his reply?' asked the preacher.

'Well, sir, God told me that he didn't have a clue what I should wear. He said he'd never been in this church before.'

PATRICK BOYLE

Gospel Melodies

Dear Editor

In addition to the *New Advent Hymnal*, the Weymouth church uses *Gospel Melodies and Evangelistic Hymns* (1944) published by the Review and Herald Publishing association in USA. At present we have but a few books to share, so we would love to obtain some additional copies. Unfortunately *Gospel Melodies and Evangelistic Hymns* seems to be out of print.

So we were wondering whether anyone has some spare unused copies that they would be prepared to sell to us. Do please let us know: we would be delighted to hear from you.

ALLAN KISSACK, Weymouth church
Email: kissack66@tiscali.co.uk
Postal address: Edzell, Somers Road, Lyme Regis, DT7 3EX

Are we over-managed?

Dear Editor

It is sad to read that the employment of some ministers in the NEC is to be terminated due to financial constraints. It is doubly sad that eliminating a tier of management was not the preferred option. For a Church as small as ours in the UK we are grossly over-managed and spend too much of our income paying for that management.

Here in Southampton we have a lively and growing church. Our minister, elders and Personal Ministries team are all about half my age and work together most effectively. Remove our minister and we should feel the loss. Remove one tier of management at Union or Conference level and I doubt that anyone here would even notice.

But, as Pastor Ian Sleaman famously said in a similar context, 'turkeys don't vote for Christmas.' Surely there is a better way to address the financial problems of the NEC. It is never good in times of famine to eat your seed corn. I write, not in anger, but in sorrow.

KEN HAMMOND, Southampton

Tiber, not Tigris

Dear Editor

I wondered whether your 'What Phoebe did' piece (*Messenger* 115.16) was a displaced April Fool's exercise aimed at increasing the editorial post-bag with replies from topographically inflamed readers complaining that you had diverted a Mesopotamian river to

the Eternal City. In the end I figured that you had written the piece as a 'filler' when you were about to rush off on holiday and that your geographically unsure proof reader perpetrated the river-switch.

JACK MAHON

Editor

Yes, I know that the *River Tiber flows through Rome*. Nevertheless I wrote 'Tigris' — twice! — and, even more surprisingly, subsequently failed to spot that I had done so. We can't blame the proof reader. After three years of sterling service the esteemed Sarah Jarvis left us on 30 June and her replacement Andrew Puckering, a Cambridge graduate, began work in early August. The Phoebe story was written and published in July so it's a case of 'my fault' and 'profound apologies'.

So, for the record then:

- the River Tigris is in Mesopotamia;
 - the River Tiber is in Rome.
- Thanks for your vigilance.

Muslim outreach

Dear Editor

This is written as a reply to K. A. P. Yesudian's question in *Messenger* 9 July.

The aim of AMR worldwide is to bring the Muslims we meet in our jobs, at educational establishments, as neighbours or as friends, to a knowledge of the Jesus we know and love.

We are trained not to offend or alienate them while trying to win them to Jesus. That is our duty in life. I fully believe that I am put on this earth by God to do exactly that; to introduce someone to Christ who either has a flawed understanding, or none at all, of Jesus' saving grace. I introduce them to Jesus. What the person does after that is their God-given choice. The Holy Spirit does the convicting, not me. If they choose to join the Church, then God. But if the person feels it is not for them, that is also their God-given choice. I cannot stand in their way.

The benefits for the Kingdom are massive! There are (former) Muslims in this country who have studied and been baptised into the Church, and are successfully passing our message on to others. This is still a young department, so it needs to be given time to grow.

ADRIAN LETHBRIDGE

Time of trouble

Dear Editor

This letter was printed in our local *Evening Herald* last week; its title was 'Tyranny of Faith'.

'Our laws still allow us freedom of religion, to worship what God we believe in, or none, and to express our views without hindrance.

'Attempts were made by the previous government to amend the Religious Hatred Act 2006 in such a way as to curtail this freedom of expression, but these were unsuccessful.

'There have also been numerous examples in the last few years of individuals and organisations encountering attempts by some local authorities and others to stifle the expression of Christian views in the workplace and elsewhere.

'However, within the United Nations a much greater menace to our freedom is looming. Each year since 1999 the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, linking 57 countries which have majority or significant Muslim populations, has attempted to have a Defamation of Religion resolution adopted. Supporters claim it protects religious freedom, but in reality it does the opposite. It would allow governments the power to determine which religious views can and cannot be expressed, and to punish those who express 'unacceptable' religious views.

'If this resolution is adopted, it would have the effect of legalising religious persecution and stifling free speech, and every government including the British Government would come under pressure to adopt it.

'A petition to the United Nations has been initiated seeking to achieve the defeat of this resolution. Go to <http://www.opendoorsuk.org/> then click on the *Campaign and Latest Campaign* tabs.'

If this resolution were adopted where would it leave the proclamation of the three angels' messages? JOANUPE

Mackerel

Dear Editor

In *Messenger* 20 August, Jessie Allotey suggests that mackerel is an unclean fish. If you buy a mackerel you will find that it does have fins and scales, although the scales are very small.

NIKK SOBERS

The mosque, the pope and women

by Patrick Boyle

Religion is acquiring increased attention in the media. The cover of a recent *Time* magazine features the question, 'Is America islamophobic?'

The plans to build a mosque near the site of the 9/11 disaster have sparked serious protests. The *Time* poll indicated that 26% are in favour, 13% don't know, and a massive 61% oppose it. (Another poll shows that 24% of Americans think President Obama is a Muslim!)

These facts suggest that islamophobia may be present in mainstream American politics. This may adversely affect Muslim integration into the American way of life.

In this country, Pope Benedict's visit has commanded attention. Terry Sanderson, of the National Secular Society, opposes the visit of Benedict XVI and his record on the equality of women, criticism of homosexuals, child abuse among priests and democracy.

There will be a march and a rally near

Downing Street on 18 September, the day Benedict is due to conduct a prayer vigil in Hyde Park.² Peter Tatchell and Richard Dawkins also plan to protest during the visit.

A discussion³ of the possible appointment of the former MP Ann Widdecombe as Ambassador to the Vatican, in the *Church Times*, raised an important issue. The writer believes Roman Catholics are subject to two rival sovereignty claims, one to the Vatican as a secular state, and one to the Papacy as a religious institution.

The writer, Tim Collard, a diplomat of twenty years, cites the Papal Bull *Unam Sanctam* (issued by Boniface VIII in 1302) which states, 'It is essential to salvation that all men are subject to the Roman Pontiff.' He connects this with the papal claim to infallibility at the first Vatican Council in 1870. At the council the decree of infallibility became retrospective.

Both the Papacy and Islam maintain attitudes to women which are inimical to the



Anniversary celebrations at Stanborough Secondary School

Saturday 25 September will mark the beginning of Stanborough Secondary School's seventieth anniversary celebrations. We take this opportunity to invite you to join our celebration of God's faithfulness.

Stanborough opened its doors in 1919 as a primary school and in 1940 as a secondary school. Though there have been many changes, our values and commitment remain the same. We still hold on to the same principles that fuelled our pioneers' dreams: providing Christ-centred education within a biblical framework.

Please come and join us for this special day of fellowship! We would like to praise God with you.

Schedule: Saturday 25 September

Sabbath School: 10am, Main Service: 11am, Lunch (provided by the school): 1pm

Afternoon service: 3pm

For more information, please email: director@spsch.org

With thanks
The Stanborough Park church wishes to acknowledge the receipt of the Lord's title to the sum of £6,000 (cash) from an anonymous source.
M. SABATIER, Treasurer

Congratulations
to Jennie Hall on graduating with a 2:1 BA Honours in Geography with Media Arts from the University of Plymouth.
Glenda Augustine

Forty years of Pathfinding

The congregation was called to attention and silence reigned for a minute before the resounding beat of drums heralded the entrance of the colour party, followed by the adventurers and pathfinders. The last to enter behind the uniformed bodies was Joseph and his wife Edris. Representatives of Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs from around the West Midlands and the SEC gathered at the West

Bromwich church to join Joseph Spencer in celebrating forty years of Pathfinding. Joseph's love for Pathfinders began in 1970 when he became an active member of the New Carmel club in Montserrat. By 1975 he had completed the Master Guide course and was the club's director. Twenty-two years later, in 1997, with a history of running two clubs and being area

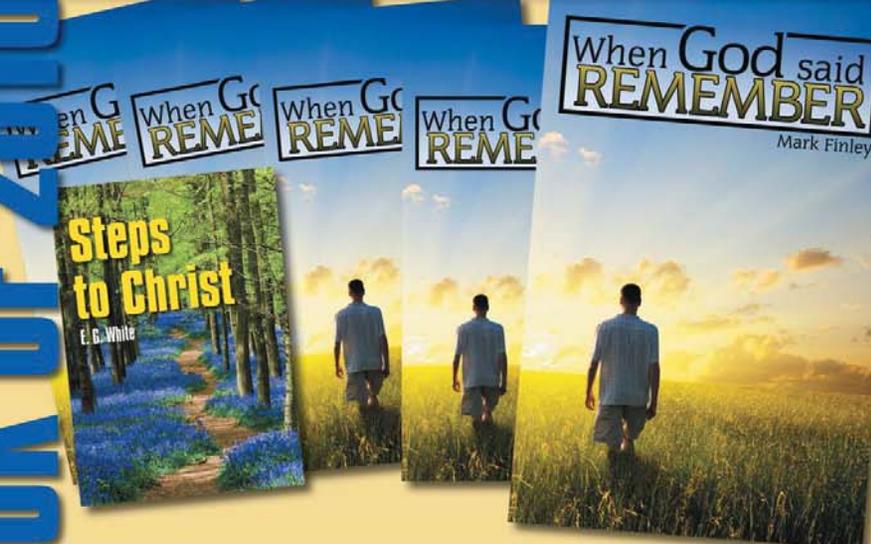


co-ordinator, Joseph was forced to move to the UK by the volcano. The West Bromwich church benefited greatly from his experience as he supported the Pathfinder club on his arrival. In 1998 he became its director. The club moved from having indoor experiences and nature walks to embracing the rigours of camping, winning the gold award at their first camporee.

During the afternoon programme his former pathfinders (who are now directors) led out and told of their experiences with the rigorous activities in which they participated. These included fund-raising ventures, which afforded them the opportunity to visit different countries including Antigua, St Kitts and Guadeloupe. Their many stories were accompanied by a picture slideshow, which made it very apparent that Pathfinding was a fun and memorable lifetime experience.

Throughout his time in Pathfinders Joseph has assisted a number of local, national and international clubs in various activities through the development of both camping skills and activities such as archery. He has spent time with Pathfinder clubs in Canada, St Thomas and the USA. This service celebrated the impact of Pathfinders on the life of Joseph Spencer, who is currently a Pathfinder area co-ordinator, but who has plans to return to club directorship. One of the goals of this event was to raise funds for the New Carmel club and other Pathfinder clubs in Montserrat.

MISSIONARY BOOK OF 2010



It is God who says 'remember' — right?

by Curtis G. Murphy, BUC publishing director.

We all remember. Some memories are happy ones. Others bring pain, regret and discouragement. Some things are easy to remember; some we readily forget. As a nation, we remember VE day, VJ day, Remembrance day, Christmas, Easter and many others — days set aside with a specific reason for remembering.

As a Church, we quote the words of Mrs Ellen White, words of encouragement and warning. 'We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history.' {Testimonies vol.9, p.10.} But above all come the words of God, who says 'Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.' Exodus 20:8, 11, NIV.

In all of our remembrance, there still remains one day that is ignored, sidelined, shunned, forgotten, yet it is the greatest Remembrance Day of all, and that is the Sabbath day.

We erect monuments of remembrance, rolls of honour, spaces of commemoration throughout our world, and this is good and right; but God has in place a day to remember him and his great acts of creation. Isn't it right and just that his day is also honoured and respected?

We live in a world that is constantly in a rush. There is no time for anything except work and worry with a few hours snatched in between for sleep, but God has provided a whole day to recharge our batteries, refocus

our minds and revive our relationship with the Creator. And so many have forgotten his wonderful gift! Isn't it time that we remind our family, friends and neighbours of this matchless gift? Right now you and I have the opportunity of putting into the hands of everyone in our circle of influence the book *When God said Remember*, by Mark Finley. Right now we can give someone a reminder of God's priceless gift, a weekly holy day, his Sabbath. Someone is waiting for you to share your blessings with them. Someone very near to you needs to know about God's Remembrance Day. Are you going to disappoint, or will you be that messenger of good news? It is so simple. Right now you can purchase your supplies of the book from Stanborough Press Ltd.

If you order more than fifty copies, you will receive the same number of *Steps to Christ* free! This is the deal. Quantities 1-49 cost 50p each, plus p&p. Quantities 50-99 cost 50p each, with matching quantities of *Steps to Christ*, plus p&p. ANY three-figure order prices the copies at 50p each, with matching quantities of *Steps to Christ*, and in addition there will be NO p&p charges. Can we afford to miss this unique opportunity of putting into the hands of the people for whom Jesus died his invitation to remember him? I'm sure that you will agree that this truly is something special, so why not act now? Don't wait another month, or another week; do it now. Get involved. Revelation 14:12 (NKJV) reminds us, 'Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.' Remembering the Sabbath day to keep it holy is still something God expects of us. Let's tell our community.



Cliff Tomos

Welsh language literature outreach

This summer more than ten thousand Welsh language evangelistic books have been distributed throughout Wales. This is believed to be the largest Adventist literature outreach to Welsh speaking people for twenty-five years.

Several years ago, the former Welsh Mission president, Pastor Brian Phillips, secured permission from Mrs Connie Vandeman Jeffery to translate a book written by her late father, evangelist and broadcaster Pastor George Vandeman, into Welsh. The book chosen was his

popular work on the Sabbath, *A Day to Remember*, or, in Welsh, *Diwrnod I'w Gofio*.

First written in the early 1960s, *A Day to Remember* targets a questioning, post-war generation, searching for identity and meaning in the face of conflicting ideologies and moralities. It was printed in vast quantities and distributed around the world from the mid-sixties to the late seventies, establishing itself as a classic work of Seventh-day Adventist literature. More than forty years on it is still regarded with affection within the Church and

serves as something of a landmark in the Church's apologetic development. A re-reading of the book reminds members, and explains to other interested parties, the reasons why Seventh-day Adventists are so passionate about the Sabbath.

The initial translation was carried out by Cliff Tomos, a member of the Ystrad Mynach church, and the Stanborough Press took a great deal of care to arrange the most economical printing possible. As a result twenty thousand copies were printed, half of which were distributed this summer.

'We printed plenty so that we can give them away freely to our Welsh-speaking friends and contacts,' says the current Welsh Mission president,

Pastor John Surridge. 'Our approach is not so much to launch an attack on their own religious practices but to help them understand why we take the stand that we do on the Sabbath.'

The initial distribution was carried out by a mass-mailing company which used a special database to try to target Welsh speakers as effectively as possible. 'Obviously with this number of books being sent out we knew that we wouldn't get a hundred percent success in reaching Welsh speakers,' Pastor Surridge continues, 'and this resulted in a number of interesting telephone conversations and letters! In most cases though we were able to send a copy of Pastor Mark Finlay's *When*

God said Remember, as an English language alternative.

'There is a great deal of evangelistic work to be done in the Welsh-speaking community,' Pastor Surridge concludes. 'It is a growing but almost unreached people group as far as [the] Adventist Church is concerned. We are grateful for the specialist work of individual Welsh speakers like Kendall Down in North Wales, and also for those who have contributed to our Welsh language development fund. However, much more needs to be done. If we could get the resources, more books could be translated and this outreach effort could be repeated every year.'

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

makes her ministry so real and so touching. She sang six songs in the first half of this stunning concert; most people say it was started promptly and the standard was perfect throughout. She featured the *Higher Ground* acappella group from London in her song 'God of the impossible'. In the second half she featured Millicent Stephenson, an exceptional saxophonist from Birmingham, in her song 'Dignified'. In this song there was an orator, Isilo, and also a children's choir from the Bournville church called *Angels' Praise*. The second half also saw a spine-tingling duet by Mahali and Charlotte Bramble (also from the Wellingborough church). One of the highlights of the afternoon was the Sesotho song 'Morena a bokwe.'

Outreach in a Welsh castle

Wales is not short of castles, but it's pretty rare that you can give out Adventist literature in one. However,

that's exactly what happened on Wednesday 18 August when five members of the Lampeter company

set up a stand inside Margam Castle, near Port Talbot.

The opportunity came through a series of connections. This year Jack Rayne, one of the longest standing members of the Lampeter company, began writing articles about Adventist beliefs in his local Llandovery-based newspaper, *The Post*. With a circulation of around 4,500 Jack was not optimistic about getting much feedback. However, one of the people who did respond was Mrs Valerie Wood-Gaiger MBE, who runs an organisation called 'Learn With Grandma'. Jack gave Valerie a copy of *The Desire of Ages* and also showed her some of the other Adventist literature and DVDs that he regularly promotes. In return she invited him to run a stand at a couple of her events. The first of these events was in the National Botanical Gardens of Wales, on Friday 13 August, and the second took place in Margam Castle.

Speaking during the event Jack Rayne said, 'These days we try to take every opportunity for outreach. A lot of what the Church does seems to be focused more on 'inreach' but outreach is what he's put us here for. He gave us this opportunity in Margam Castle and we're going to make the most of it.'

Admittedly Margam Castle is not as old as some of the other castles in Wales. In fact it is a nineteenth-century manor built in the Tudor Gothic style – but it's still pretty impressive. Youngest member of the group Ellen Williams (13) seemed to be in her element as she explored the dark corridors and other nooks and crannies – as well as helping on the stand of course.

Events at the castle attract thousands of visitors and the Lampeter members were able to make numerous contacts and give away lots of magazines, books, pens and DVDs.

JOHN SURRIDGE

Baptismal dominoes fall at Wimbledon International

Words: Adam Ibrahim
Pictures: Bridgett Nkomo

It all started last year as Mavis Mtshede watched her friend, Bridgett Nkomo, surrender her life to Christ through baptism. It was the first time she had been to an Adventist church. The warmth with which she was met surprised her. One year later, inspired by her friend, convicted through Bible study and watched by her new church family, it was her turn.

The baptism had been postponed so that Mavis and her friend Hope Kapitao, a regular attendee for some time, could be baptised together in front



of their families. Hope was very keen to be baptised, but her new friendship meant so much that she agreed to wait. They are so close now that Mavis stayed in the pool after her baptism, determined to be there for her friend as she came out of the waters.

Pastor Sam Neves challenged us all with a bold sermon from Revelation, but perhaps his most powerful line was an observation of what had happened. 'Last year you were watching, now you are in the pool. Next year, you will be watching, and I wonder who you will bring to the pool. Every believer must be a disciple, and have a disciple.'

After a beautiful meal, friends and family gave testimonies and encouragement to Mavis and Hope. These two friends have already inspired many, and we look forward to their ongoing ministry here at Wimbledon as we bring our friends to Christ.



Mahali live in a Kettering theatre

An afternoon of inspiration
by Dr Molapo Selepe

People flocked to Kettering from across the UK on Sunday 1 August, to hear Mahali Selepe from the Wellingborough Stanton Close church sing. A lot of people in Kettering and the surrounding area got more than they bargained for: an ordinary Sunday afternoon introduced them to a young woman who has personally tasted the love of Christ.

Mahali has had a successful year, but those who know her from Wales will remember the loss of her little son in January 2009. Although badly bruised from the recent loss, she was happily telling those present that 'God is a God of second chance!' This year in June, supported by Integrity Music, she got to the semi-finals of Gospel Rock, a gospel music talent show in Manchester. Though not initially in the finals, the executive of Gospel Rock later took a decision for her to go to the finals in London. Although she didn't win the finals, a lot of people were moved by her music and she got a roaring ovation. She was well received at both the SEC and NEC camp meetings this year.

The Kettering concert was a brilliant expression of her cumulative experience with the Lord. Her humble and genuine personality



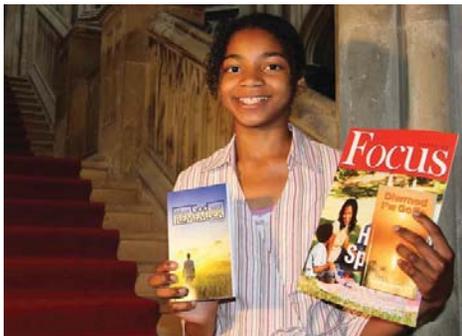
Request to ADRA

Dear Editor,
It was gratifying to learn of the amazing £40,000 raised in the ADRA-UK appeal at Hampstead, and of Don Parker's total of £2,215.93 at Enderington. What tremendous devotion to our Lord!

But as an isolated member I have been looking for the total sum collected by the efforts of our UK Church to be published in the *Messenger* for some years now, without success. Maybe this year!

D. M. EVANS, Warrington

Editor:
We have contacted ADRA-UK and ascertained that the final total is still being collated due to late donations; however, we will publish this information as soon as it becomes available.





The power of 31,000

By Eglan Brooks, PM director, BUC

Once upon a time there was a church near a beautiful lake in the middle of nowhere. The people who attended were considered to be good people by the people in the nearby town as they didn't drink and didn't smoke. Most believed in a healthy lifestyle and the majority were vegetarians. They were religious in the fact that they attended church at least once a week and the very pious made a special effort to attend the regular mid-week prayer meeting.

But although the people in the town respected the people of the church near the beautiful lake in the middle of nowhere, they knew nothing of them and were a little suspicious. The church-goers only socialised with each other and spoke to the town people about becoming members of the church.

One day there was a fire in the village school and several children became trapped inside their classroom. The members of the church near a beautiful lake in the middle of nowhere held a prayer meeting

to ask God to help to deliver the children, but no-one from that religious community came to assist. Unfortunately, one little girl of five died. On hearing of her death, members from the church near a beautiful lake in the middle of nowhere sent her family cards and flowers and letters of condolence, and invited her mother to be part of their congregation, where she could obtain comfort. They even offered to hold the funeral service at the church.

To their surprise, she refused. 'When I needed to see the Gospel, you weren't there. You stayed in your church near a beautiful lake in the middle of nowhere, but you never came to me.'

Too often, we stay in our churches and they become fortresses. Imagine if, like the disciples, we moved from the comfort of our religious environments and took the word of Jesus seriously, to 'Go' and take the Gospel to others.

On 25 September 2010, the BUC PM department (along with

the BUC Youth Department and the Adventist Discovery Centre) are encouraging all 31,000 Seventh-day Adventist members in the United Kingdom to make 31 contacts by distributing literature, doing community outreach, taking part in door-to-door witnessing or any appropriate witnessing activity.

Did you know that if every member were to make 31 contacts that would add up to nearly a million people being reached with the Gospel in the United Kingdom? What do you think would happen if the SDA Church in the United Kingdom could get its 31,000 members actively engaged in sharing the Gospel with their family, friends and immediate community? Can you imagine the power of 31,000? I mean, thousands of Pathfinders in full dress uniform marching through our streets giving away literature, thousands of community service personnel in uniform handing out food parcels? And thousands of youth passionately sharing

their faith with their peers?

Just imagine if, on 25 September, every member of our Church was actively providing opportunities for someone to find Christ – like knocking on a door, sharing our faith with immediate family members, friends and neighbours, giving away food parcels in the community, making personal donations to the work of evangelism in the BUC or simply offering up prayers so that God's Spirit would have access to the lives of loved ones in the community? Could you imagine it?

Have you stopped to think that if each were to gain 31 new contacts as a result of what will happen on 25 September, it would change the destiny of the Church? On 25 September each member of the SDA Church in the UK has been asked to reach out to 31 individuals. The information has been sent out and the churches are busy making plans; literature has been secured; all that's missing is you! Are you ready to be part of the power of 31,000?

Are you prepared to leave the comfort of your church environment to fulfil the Gospel Commission?

September 25 2010 is your chance to make a difference!

NEC cuts

A précis of the text of an interview with NEC president Ian Sweeney, conducted by Jeff Nicholson, the NEC Communication director, first published in BUC News, 13 August 2010.

'The time has come for us to have a radical rethink about how we can manage our limited resources and take the Conference forward,' said Pastor Sweeney.

The term 'financial realignment' was used. Steps had been taken to make budget savings of around ten percent, said the NEC president. It was unsatisfactory, in view of a pension deficit and an increase in appropriations to higher organisations, to have inadequate reserves. Every organisation, including the Conference, needed to safeguard working capital to ensure survival should crises arise. The NEC was, therefore, obliged to make painful cuts in its worker force to ensure its long-term health.

Pastor Nicholson asked if it was the case that membership and, it should follow, tithe income were increasing. Pastor Sweeney confirmed that NEC membership had grown to a total of 8,724. He praised God for this but added that, in the face of an increasing number of congregations, 'it would have been good to have seen a corresponding parallel increase in financial growth'. The cost of servicing the needs of a growing membership had far outstripped any increase in income. The costs of the various ministries, of camp meetings and of the conference session had escalated. Membership had expressed concerns that pastors were serving too many congregations. That had placed tremendous pressure on the NEC 'to grow the worker force'. It was the accumulated effect of that policy on the balance sheet that had made restructuring imperative.

Pastor Nicholson asked Pastor Sweeney to explain in layman's terms why it was so important to increase reserves. 'Working capital is the lifeblood of an organisation by which it meets day-to-day operational requirements and

meets unforeseen challenges,' responded Pastor Sweeney. The NEC had been living 'from hand to mouth'. Policy required it to have reserves equivalent to twenty percent of annual operating expenditure. 'That is not just a policy requirement,' said the NEC president, 'but it is sound financial management.' A continuation of hand-to-mouth methods would lead to a situation in which the Conference could not meet the salary bill. That would lead to insolvency. To address that situation required the NEC to budget surpluses for future years. Hence reductions in expenditure were called for; and the principal outlay for the Conference was employee costs. Those costs had to be brought within the NEC's current level of regular income – tithe funds.

Pastor Nicholson asked – since the only way to balance expenditure was to trim the workforce – what 'kind of numbers are you thinking about?'

Pastor Sweeney replied, 'We are seeking to reduce the annual wage bill by some ten percent or £400,000.'

Seeking to reflect membership's views, Pastor Nicholson asked if 'balancing the books' in this way would hinder the primary purpose of preaching the Gospel.

That, said Pastor Sweeney, is the dilemma. However, he noted that the GC session in Atlanta had demonstrated that church growth was highest 'in the places where churches are less pastor dependent and where greater emphasis is placed on Ephesians 4:12.' ('To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.' [NIV])

Pastor Sweeney continued, 'It is my profound belief that every member is entrusted with the responsibility of evangelism, and it is the duty of the pastor and other leaders to equip and train the Church for ministry. Lay

involvement is the only way the mission of the Church, that of proclaiming the three angels' messages, is going to be achieved. That is how the early Church began, with every member taking ownership of ministry where God had placed them, and that is how it is still growing by leaps and bounds in areas where membership are still committed to true discipleship and personal evangelism, and that is certainly how the work is going to be completed.'

Structures had been put in place, said Pastor Sweeney, so that all affected employees and their families would receive every support as they faced painful situations. 'I want those affected by this situation to know that it is my deep conviction,' said the NEC president, 'that their calling is sure and that God's purpose will still be realised in their lives. . . . When things improve, opportunities for re-employment will occur.'

'What steps must be taken,' asked Pastor Nicholson, 'to ensure that the conference never revisits a situation like this?'

When noble plans are made at conference sessions, said the NEC president, 'we must always ask ourselves, "Can they really be afforded and sustained in the long-term by the conference?"' There were always dangers of administrations over-reaching themselves financially. It was important that administrations retained a membership:employee ratio that was realistic in terms of tithe income. 'Looking at it in terms of membership input,' added Pastor Sweeney, 'it is now time for those of our membership not faithfully supporting the cause of God to "step up to the plate".'

Pastor Nicholson thanked Pastor Sweeney and asked if he had some final words. He had. And they were these: 'I would like to ask all our brothers and sisters to continue to uphold in prayer those who are being affected by this process of financial restructuring, as well as this conference. I would also like to thank those who have submitted suggestions and criticisms, for they have challenged us as leaders to re-evaluate our plans more carefully and to be more diligent in the discharge of our duties to God and the constituency.'

All set for Sabbath 25 September?



Cornerstone-Polegate baptism

On Sabbath 24 July there was much rejoicing at the Cornerstone Adventist church in Polegate, when four precious people followed their Lord through the waters of baptism.

We praise the Lord for Bea and Joshua Castro, two young people who have committed their lives to Jesus. It was also a joyous occasion for husband and wife Tony and Barbara Sutton.

All four received Bible studies from Pastor Alan Hart, who also conducted the baptismal service. We give thanks to all those family and church members who have demonstrated their love and support for the candidates. We pay tribute to Shirley, who was instrumental in bringing Tony and Barbara to a knowledge of God and of the Advent message.

Let us continue to pray for all those who are newly baptised.

ALAN HART

Leamington Peace Festival

Every year the town of Leamington Spa hosts a peace festival, which lasts a whole weekend and is set in the grounds of the Pump Room Gardens beside the River Leam. It is a free festival featuring over one hundred and twenty stalls (promoting charities, spiritual groups, crafts and fair-traders), two entertainment areas and tents for workshops and kids' activities.

'Leamington Peace Festival aims to promote peace and equality between people and nations while living in harmony with the environment. The Festival is an opportunity for local artists, campaigners, community groups and Leamington people to come together to share two days of inspiration and celebration.' <http://www.peacefestival.org.uk>

This year, for the first time (and thanks to the initiative of Antonia Castellino, leader of the Personal Ministries team), the Leamington Mission was represented. Antonia said that she had become aware of the annual peace festival when she looked around it last year and noticed that many other churches in the local community had stalls informing the public about their

faith. She thought, 'If they can have a stall, why shouldn't we?' Antonia looked into applying for a stall and discussed the idea with the church board and the rest of the Personal Ministries team. The event was left in the capable hands of Gemma Proctor – unfortunately Antonia was away at the time of the festival.

Many church members were involved, and the stall tent became a base to let people know more about our Church and beliefs. Lots of books, magazines, leaflets and other goodies were given away and loads of people were invited to the ongoing 'messy church' programme for children. We gave away many bright balloons to the children printed with our church name, address, logo and website. These could be seen bobbing around the field as they carried them off. The free face painting was also very popular; there was a permanent queue. It was a great way to witness to lots of people in a relaxed, friendly and fun environment.

A lot of hard work and time went into manning the stall all weekend, and huge thanks go to Antonia Castellino and Gemma Proctor for

Langley baptism

It was a beautiful Sabbath morning on 7 August, not only because of the weather but also because four individuals gave their lives to Christ and took the vows of the baptismal ceremony. Two married couples entered the baptismal waters together – Angela and Samuel Paul, and Nutan and Stephen Joseph. Although the couples have been coming to church for a long time they had not been baptised into

the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The local minister, Pastor S. M. Gill, led the service, with Area Co-ordinator Pastor R. McIntosh as the guest of honour. Welcoming the new members to the local congregation were the retired pastor Mr D. Masih, Elder H. Phares and Mr C. L. Mall.

ALFRED MASIH



The baptism of Luyando Moonga by Pastor Solon Kiryacou – this was mentioned along with the baptism of Beatrice Likupe in the article 'Two baptisms at York', which appeared in *Messenger* 18.

their hard work in organising this successful event. We hope to make it a regular outreach programme in future.

There are many such events

happening all around the country, throughout the year; so if there is one near you, why don't you give it a go and get involved?

HANNAH ROBSON

Prison baptism in a laundry basket

On 7 August the Croydon Prison Ministries department, along with Pastor Richard Daly, made the three-and-a-half hour journey to HMP The Verne, a category C male prison located on the coast of Poole in the beautiful county of Dorset.

This visit was indeed different as

one of the men had requested to be baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. How would this be achieved? – the prison did not have a baptismal pool or even a swimming pool and, despite being surrounded by it, surely access would not be granted to the English Channel due to security reasons?

Community outreach for the disabled

Hungarian-born Erzsébet Majorovics-Gordon, who is now a mother of three children, first came to live in England in 1999 and settled in the Midlands. She had been trained in conductive education at the Peto Institute in Budapest, and when she moved to Exeter in 2006 she wanted to find a way to use her skills within a Christian context to benefit disabled children and adults.

Erzsébet had been convicted that the seventh-day Sabbath was the biblical day of worship while watching Adventist programmes on the television, and she sought out the Exeter Seventh-day Adventist church, where she has since worshipped on a regular basis. She is involved with the children's department and has established a community group called 'Petals', which provides conductive therapy for children with cerebral palsy. She was encouraged to pursue the idea of using the church hall during the week to provide a service for the community when she attended a training day at Newbold College. Malika Bediako led out in a seminar which discussed ways to initiate and fund such programmes. Erzsébet has been to visit other projects to learn from their practice, and is constantly seeking new grants to fund her work.

Erzsébet currently has an afternoon session once a week in the church hall for pre-school children, and once a month on a Sunday she works with older children. This summer she has also conducted holiday clubs. Erzsébet works in other venues with adults who suffer from multiple sclerosis, strokes or Parkinson's disease. She has a number of Christian friends from various denominations who serve on a committee, and Pastor Laszlo Liebhardt, a fellow Hungarian, keenly supports Erzsébet's outreach. Even though Erzsébet has to make a living, she is more anxious that people recognise her group's work as Christians serving the community where they live. She has future plans to educate her clients in healthy eating and the members of the church will be only too happy to support her vision. If you would like to read more about Erzsébet's work, you can find information at: www.pathforthedisabled.co.uk

STELLA JEFFERY

Questions, questions, but our Lord always has an answer.

Upon our arrival at the chapel, volunteers were filling buckets of cold water and pouring it into the laundry basket in preparation for the big event. The team looked at each other and there were audible exclamations of 'A laundry basket! . . . is that the pool?' Pastor Daly walked around the basket, examining each angle as there was only enough

room for one. The Reverend Bill Cave, resident chaplain at The Verne, informed the pastor that he would photograph the event.

Pastor Daly preached to a chapel packed with at least one hundred and fifty men who came to witness the baptism and hear the Word of God. Pastor Daly's sermon focused on the love of God, and he informed the men that God's love is unlimited.



Nottingham Central ADRA celebration

Following a very successful 2010 ADRA fundraising campaign, the children and top four adult collectors at Nottingham Central were presented to the church to receive their richly deserved awards on Sabbath 3 July. The church goal was a staggering £9,483. Undaunted by the harsh prevailing economic situation, the faithful members prayed, rose to the challenge and went out in faith. For the first time in quite a few years some children were so impressed to fundraise that they arranged sponsored events in their neighbourhood and collected a combined total of £77.70. The faith and determination of the adults was richly rewarded as they managed to collect a quite astonishing

£9,078.91 which, when combined with the children's total, amounted to a staggering overall total of £9,156.61. This total, however, was agonisingly short of our goal by just £326.39. The ADRA team for 2010 would like to thank everyone sincerely for their efforts, donations and commitment to ADRA, and we look forward to an even more successful campaign next year.



The congregation was encouraged to open their hearts and let Jesus come in so that they could embrace God.

As the candidate climbed into the laundry basket, to a round of applause and shouts of encouragement from the men, some wondered whether Pastor Daly would be able to fully immerse him – he was over six feet tall, so Pastor Daly had to lower him into the water standing

beside the basket. God ensured that everything worked for his glory as the candidate was fully immersed with only millimetres to spare.

The pastor made an appeal to the men that if anyone else desired baptism and wanted the team to pray for them, they need only step forward: by God's grace three men responded to the appeal.

MARCIA LEWIS,
Prison Ministries team

Hackney Pathfinders honoured

Children and adults belonging to the Hackney Seventh-day Adventist church received special awards at a Pathfinders banquet held at the church. Some of the awards included: Best Behaved Pathfinder, Excellence in Outreach, Most Improved Pathfinder, Parent(s) of the Year, Grandparents of the Year and Pathfinder(s) of the Year.

All attendees came in their best clothes and enjoyed a three-course meal while listening to music. The hall was decorated with balloons and photos of some of the activities in which pathfinders had been involved during the year, including a march from the church to London Fields Park in Hackney.

Special thanks must go to the Pathfinders facilitator, Andrea Simpson, and her team – they organised many outreach and teambuilding trips which culminated in the end-of-year banquet.

Hackney celebrates its thirtieth anniversary in 2010. Our commemorative investiture service took place on Sabbath 9 June at the All Saints church on Haggerston Road. Pathfinders were assessed and rewarded for the work they had done throughout the year.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Stoke Newington senior members honoured

Stoke Newington Sabbath School department has hosted a dinner to honour the church's distinguished members – the senior citizens – who play a very important part in its life.

The proceedings commenced with a short thanksgiving service, conducted by Pastor Wilfred Blake, at which younger members of the church said that they had 'learnt many good values' from the senior members. After the service a sumptuous and mouth-watering meal, prepared by the younger members of our church, was laid on in the beautifully decorated church hall, and everyone enjoyed it. The waiters and waitresses were the younger members of the church, who seemed to enjoy spoiling the seniors.

Each senior was given a small gift to remind them how much they are valued in the church.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Growth at Horley Gatwick

On Sabbath 7 August, a special event took place at the Horley Gatwick church. The Horley Gatwick Church Men's Ministry, also known as AMO (Adventist Men's Organisation), was most delighted to have an addition to their membership. Brother Vusumuzi Nyati, of Crawley Town, Sussex, made a commitment to be with Christ through baptism. He was baptised by the local pastor, Anthony Opoku-Mensa, in Horley.

Church members came to witness the event. Members of the Horley Gatwick church take pride in welcoming all newly baptised members by having a photograph taken with them as a sign of their commitment to support them in their fellowship with Christ.

WILBUR MUTAMBARA



JOB VACANCY AT ADRA-UK

ADRA-UK has a vacancy for the position of Chief Programmes Officer.

The Chief Programmes Officer leads the Programmes Team and will take responsibility for actively investigating, sourcing and monitoring funds from government, public and private donors, supporting ADRA-UK's implementing partners on proposal development, donor compliance, monitoring & evaluation, and donor reporting.

A Masters degree in international development/international relations-related subject is preferable. At least four years of direct experience in development work, preferably in a developing country, and proven understanding of development issues in theory and practice. Strong analytical, verbal and written communication and proven management skills are absolutely essential.

ADRA-UK is offering this position in the first instance as a one-year contract. Salary level: £33,413 to £36,612 (dependent on qualifications and experience).

All details of the position, together with an application form, are available on the ADRA-UK website www.adra.org.uk; alternatively email info@adra.org.uk, or write to Recruitment, ADRA-UK, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts WD25 9JZ.

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

The deadline for receipt of applications is 30 September 2010.

ESTRIANNA CLEOPATRA MUNROE (1954-2010) d. 8 May. Estrianna Munroe was also known as 'Estry' or, as the young people would say, 'Mother Munroe'.

Estry was born on 28 October 1934 in the parish of Hanover, Jamaica. She was the youngest child of Mrs F. Todd-Wilson and Mr A. Wilson, and was one of nine children. Estry attended Churchill Elementary School, and grew up to be an obedient and strong-willed child.

Estry came to England when she was 26 to join her soul mate and husband Thomas Israel Munroe. He died in 1967 and Estry was left to bring up their six children by herself. Things were not easy in the 1960s, but with God on her side and days spent in prayer, Estry was able to look after her children's needs.

Estry was baptised into the Wolverhampton Oxford Street church and was one of the original members there when the church was built in 1960. She became an active member of the church, serving as the church caretaker for many years and often cleaned the whole church by herself. She joined the choir and became a very active member of the community service department, eventually taking on the leadership role. Estry, along with three other members, set up the church's day centre as they saw a need for social interaction between the church and the local community. Estry served as a teacher both in Senior and Junior Sabbath School.

As time went on Estry saw the death of each one of her siblings. She has one remaining sister.

It was a sad day when everyone got calls to say that Estry had collapsed at a bus stop. The hospital called her daughter at 3am in the morning to report that a lady called Estrianna

Munroe had been admitted and they were looking for next of kin. Her son got to the hospital first and identified that it was his mother. The news was shocking. Estry was not going to make it. She had a brain haemorrhage and a stroke; she was in a coma, never to regain consciousness.

On Sabbath 8 May at 8:15am, Estry took her last breath and fell asleep.

The funeral service was held at the Oxford Street church on 25 May. The church was so packed that the church doors had to be left open.

Her children, grandchildren, extended family, niece, cousins, close friends and the wider community all paid tribute and respect to her. Pastors Fray, Francis, Jackson, R. Smith and Elder M. Palmer all participated in different ways, while Pastor Francis gave an encouraging eulogy about the character of Estry Munroe. Pastors Francis and Fray led out at the graveside. Tears of sadness were shed as her two sons, alongside the Douglas brothers, lowered her into the ground at Danescourt Cemetery, Wolverhampton.

Estrianna was a devout Christian, who prayed morning, noon and night for everyone, especially her children and their families. She loved the Lord with all her heart and a few weeks before she died, in a conversation with her son, she told him that she had made her peace with the Lord.

Estrianna leaves behind her children: Collis, Christine, Sonia, Paul, Hubert and Jennifer, and her grandchildren: Melissa, Corinne, Louis, Olivia, Nicholas, Rytana, Mya, Lashae, Cherelle and Joseph.

Her life's journey has now ended and she will be missed, but we hope to all meet up again on that great resurrection morning.

JENNIFER MUNROEDUNHAM

MARY ANN SMITH (1911-2010) d. 15 May. Mary, born in Radford, Nottingham, was the youngest of the four children of Harry and Amelia Ball. Mary's early life was beset with tragedy. At the tender age of 14, Mary lost her father. Harry, a painter and decorator by trade, fell from his ladder. He never recovered. She was later to suffer more heartbreak when her eldest sister died. However, Mary found glimpses of happiness through school friendships, and found a life-long friend in her classmate, Ada. Mary married William Smith when she was 20 years old, and they had two children, Iris and Bryan. Although life was not always easy Mary and her Bill spent fifty-seven happy years together. Together they built a home that was always welcoming to family and friends, especially at Christmas.

It was in 1989, after William had died, that Mary decided to fulfil a lifetime dream to visit her grandson Gary and his family in Loma Linda, California. Tragedy was to strike again; as the plane prepared to land Mary suffered a stroke. She was hospitalised in Los Angeles for two weeks. Then, at the request of Gary and his wife Jennifer, she was transferred to Loma Linda hospital where she would spend a further two weeks. Mary's daughter Iris, in the meantime, had arrived from Gloucester, where her husband, Pastor Ron Davey, had the pastoral care of three churches. After a few more weeks Mary was well enough to return to England. Mary, now unable to care for herself fully, came home to live with Iris and Ron, with whom she was to spend the rest of her life. With tender loving care Mary made a good recovery, regaining both her speech and her strength. Mary believed in God, and he had now placed Mary in a home where she would experience his goodness through the love of her daughter and son-in-law.

When Ron and Iris retired from the ministry they moved to Walsall to be near their youngest daughter Kerie and her family. With time Mary's heart warmed towards Jesus and she began to realise the goodness of God throughout her life. With a grateful heart she decided to be baptised and at the grand age of 99 she stepped into the waters of baptism at the Erdington church in Birmingham, where Ron and Iris are now members. Mary was baptised by Pastor Michael Walker.

Mary was a very fun-loving, generous and caring person. She delighted in her family, which included children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. And she delighted in the Lord Jesus, having found a real and lasting happiness.

The loving respect that the Erdington church had for Mary was shown at her funeral on 28 May. The beautiful service was conducted by her son-in-law Pastor Ron Davey, who was assisted by Pastor Orlando Holder (the minister of the Erdington Church). Her grandson-in-law Cliff Lewis spoke lovingly of Mary in the eulogy, echoing the sentiments of her very close family.

Mary now rests in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection when Jesus calls her from her sleep. Happy are those who rest in the Lord.

CLIFF LEWIS, grandson-in-law

JACK PAIN (1921 – 2010) d. 23 July. Jack was the second child born in a family of three boys: Harry, Jack and Leslie. While they were still children they accompanied their mother to a tent meeting on South Common, Lincoln, at which she was baptised. As her sons grew up they chose to follow in their mother's footsteps. Their father was a Baptist, having been raised in that communion; so the boys were blessed to be brought up in a home of Christian principle.

As Jack matured he went to London for a time to work, after which he returned to Lincoln, taking up employment at Ruston's engineers. Jack had a penchant for practical things, and all his life he manifested a craftsman's mind and skill. Finally he took up chiropody, an honourable occupation which both his brothers, Leslie's son, Stephen, and Jane came to practise.

Jack faithfully and capably fulfilled the responsibilities as elder of the Lincoln church alongside many pastors for many years, most ably supported by his wife Millie, who passed away six years before him. Jack also did a great work for the young people of the Lincoln church.

The service in commemoration of Jack's life was held at the Grantham church, and the Pain family was fully represented, many of which participated in the service. Messages of appreciation came from as far as Australia. Sadly, Valerie, Jack's elder daughter, predeceased him. However, his younger daughter, Ruth ('Primmy'), and Ronald Bannan, together with Valerie's daughter and her husband, were able to be present, having travelled from the Isle of Man. Leslie's widow, Margaret, was also present. Highest tribute must be paid to Anne, both Jack's daughter-in-law and sister-in-law, and also to her daughter Louise, who ministered assiduously and constantly to Jack throughout his increasing infirmity during his final years. With that loving and devoted care came the moral support of the whole Pain family, and his daughters and their families, in whose progress and welfare Jack always took the keenest interest.

Pastor Geoffrey Mapiki, pastor of the Lincoln and district churches, led the cortege; and Pastor Ron Edwards presented the message. It had been Ron's privilege to serve six years as pastor during Jack's incumbency as elder. The interment followed amid the tranquility of Woolsthorpe cemetery, about five miles west of Grantham. Now Jack sleeps, in prospect of the glorious resurrection of the redeemed at the Saviour's return. May it be our blessed privilege to share in that reunion, through the redeeming grace of God.

RONALD V. EDWARDS



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Can the Adventist Church welcome the Pope to Britain?

God, we shall be far more guilty than the open sinner. We need to be very cautious in order that we may not condemn those who, before God, are less guilty than ourselves. - Gospel Workers, pp. 328,329.

It is doubtful that Ellen White was taking an appeasement line when she wrote the above words. She was warning against 'Catholic hashing', a practice that comes too easily to some of us. There is little to gain from that approach as we in the United Kingdom seek to present God's truth for these times. It is more important that we bear in mind that God raised up our

Church for a specific eschatological purpose. Our new president, Ted Wilson, stated this fact more eloquently than I can in his Sabbath sermon at our recent General Conference session: 'With the power of his truth, God has carved out of this chaotic world the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We are to be a peculiar people, God's remnant people, to lift up Christ, his righteousness, his three angels' messages of Revelation 14, and his soon coming'.

What a mandate for our Church! Yet this mandate is best fulfilled by copying the life of Jesus and the way in which he dealt with people. Recently I read Matthew 26 again, and was touched by the warm and accepting attitude that Jesus displayed to people around him, even to those who were considered social outcasts. Verses 6 and 7 had a special appeal. 'While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table.' (NIV)

There is no hint in these verses that Jesus was doing anything out of the ordinary as far as his ministry went. He not only came close to a leprosy sufferer, or one who had been a leprosy sufferer, he actually sat down to eat with him. And while he was at supper with the leprosy sufferer a woman of

ill repute entered the house and proceeded to anoint him with an expensive perfume. Are we getting the picture? Jesus treated people, even those considered to be unworthy and unwanted, with compassion and love. My appreciation of the way Jesus treated people has led me to conclude that even those who do not share our faith and beliefs, those who stand in opposition to what we believe, ought to be treated with respect and love. If we are in the business of being like Jesus we must also be in the business of accepting all people as standing under God's grace, and as potential candidates for the Kingdom of God, be they Catholics, Muslims, Baptists, Jehovah's Witnesses or any other human being.

So I for one welcome Pope Benedict to Britain and will not be

seeking in any way to embarrass him on his visit here. Neither should any Seventh-day Adventist. We could also take the opportunity to let our Catholic friends know that we are pleased that their leader has come to see them. At the same time we must look for opportunities to share with our Catholic friends what we understand as God's message for us and them during these last days: they and everyone else need to know that each of us can approach the throne of grace with confidence and receive forgiveness for our sins — that Jesus has promised a glorious resurrection for those who have died in him when he comes again, and that all God's children are invited to share not only his life through Christ but also his character, through obedience to his commandments.

Prison baptism

by Pastor Michael I. Walker

Sunday 25 April was a day of praise as ten men were baptised by immersion in the prison chapel. The event was shared between the Anglicans, the Baptists and Seventh-day Adventists.

As one of the team of chaplains at the prison, Pastor Michael Walker was requested to visit an inmate who had written to the Adventist Discovery Centre indicating his desire to learn more about the Bible. Weekly Bible studies took place, and a foundation was gradually laid upon which James found the building of a deeper and more meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ. As the weeks went by it was evident that the Holy Spirit was affecting his life. Eventually James requested to be baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Before coming to prison James had been a believer, but it was in prison where he actually found Christ and committed his life to him.

A ministry team of Adventists had been asked to visit the prison to take a Sunday morning service, under the baton of Kevin Johns (recently appointed Prison Ministries Chaplain for the South England Conference). The lead chaplain at the prison very kindly invited our Church to conduct the programme for the baptismal service in the afternoon. We were of course happy to do this, but did so in conjunction with the Baptist pastors who had also prepared people for baptism. A portable baptistry was used. Each of the candidates was introduced as they gave their public testimony, after which James was baptised by Pastor Walker. James was also extended the right hand of fellowship and welcomed into the South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Several members from our local churches were there to offer support and share in the services for the day.

We wish him well as he serves the rest of his sentence, during which he is participating in an Open University course, and he has also been trained as a 'listener' — a role he can play in helping fellow inmates who need someone to talk to. Whatever God has in mind for James, he will no doubt guide him into the future. He, and his fellow inmates who were baptised, have now begun a new life in Christ and been empowered by the Holy Spirit to live that life and share its joy with those around them.

* No photographs allowed for reasons of security: the above article has been approved and cleared for publication in the SDA Church media. The baptism of James was witnessed by a number of Adventists including Pastors Kevin Johns and Bertie de Nyschalen.



New book of the week
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SUNSET

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	Land	Coast	Noit	Edin	Belf
Sep 17	7.11	7.23	7.16	7.26	7.36
24	6.55	7.07	6.59	7.07	7.18
Oct 1	6.39	6.51	6.52	6.49	7.00
8	6.23	6.35	6.26	6.40	6.43

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