

Messenger

News to the churches • 15 October 2010 • Volume 115 • 21

What really matters

by Don McFarlane, president, British Union Conference

My recent article regarding the visit of the Pope has drawn a larger response than usual. While I am happy that many have understood my intent and found the article helpful, on reflection I think the intent could have been more clearly stated. My aim was to make a distinction between the Pope as a person and what he represents, and also to urge a more constructive approach in dealing with Catholics and others who do not share our faith.

In writing again on the subject of how we relate to Catholics, there are four points I wish to make:

Adventists have an end-time message. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is an end-time movement, which God has commissioned to maintain the purity of the Gospel in an age when, due to gross misrepresentation by Christians, the modern world is spiritually confused and grossly misunderstands the sinner's relationship to the Saviour. Our Church has been raised up as a corrective force in Christendom and a voice of hope to those lost in sin's darkness. The three angels' messages, which form the basis of our understanding of our mission, are designed to shed light, to emphasise our accountability to our Creator, to distinguish between truth and error 'masquerading as truth', and to warn of the consequences of rejecting truth.

Truth is Jesus Christ. Truth is a word that is important to

Adventists; but what is it? I studied Spiritual Formation with John Dybdahl, an esteemed theologian in our Church. I and other 'aged' men were often in tears in those classes as we realised that ministry is much more about who we are as individuals than about what we do and say. As ministers, we do need to preach, teach, visit and so on: but spending time discovering the God of the Bible, and allowing the Saviour to transform our hearts, makes ministry more than mere formality; it allows God's presence to work in our lives. Truth is not merely a compendium of teachings or a set of doctrines: *truth is Jesus Christ*. Unless Christ rules our lives, affecting our plans, ambitions, attitudes and our view of others, we are not in possession of the truth. As Adventists, we constantly face the danger of seeing truth merely as knowledge, instead of seeing it as Christ and his likeness. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Adventist-Catholic relations. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is no 'friend' of the Catholic Church. We oppose its distortion of truth, particularly its misrepresentation of the provision made by God, through Jesus, for the redemption of the human family. This accounts for the fact that I did not accept an invitation to attend a reception for the Pope at Westminster Central Hall. While not being a friend of the Catholic Church, though, we should be friends of every Catholic, as we are of Anglicans, Baptists and others of different religious persua-

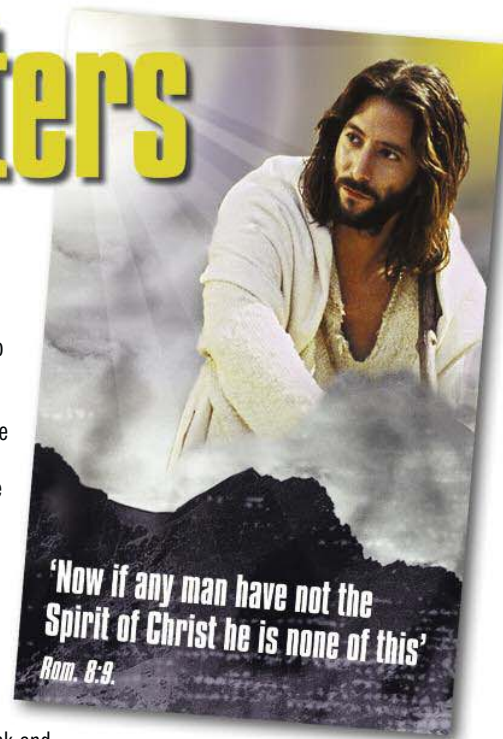
sions, including those who claim to follow no religion. By coming close to people and treating them with love and respect, we are able to show them the face of Jesus.

There is much prejudice in our world, and most of it has arisen from forming judgements on people without taking the time to discover how they think and what they believe. We need to fight the tendency to label other people; we should take time to discover whether or not what we think of them is accurate. I heard recently of a Sabbath School class in which most of the members of the class described Muslims in very negative terms, except for one young lady, who had been a student missionary. Asked for the basis of her disagreement, she replied, 'I have spent time with Muslims and have found many of them to be loving, courteous, helpful and God-fearing people.'

'The Lord wants His people to follow other methods than that of condemning wrong, even though the condemnation be just. He wants us to do something more than to hurl at our adversaries charges that only drive them further from the truth. The work which Christ came to do in our world was not to erect barriers and constantly thrust upon the people the fact that they were

wrong.' (E.G. White, *Testimonies*, vol. 6, p.121.)

Love your neighbour. Most readers are familiar with the 24 September Sabbath School lesson entitled, 'All the rest is commentary.' This lesson was the cause of heated debate in some churches, and some members said the Church's standards were being lowered. The author of the lesson was merely saying what Christ said in different words: '*Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?*' *Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.*' (Matt. 22:37-40, NIV.) The purpose of the entire Bible is to foster closeness with



<1 God and closeness with his children.

Folk will be lost clinging to various brands of theology and various interpretations of Scripture. It is conceivable that the entire spectrum of doctrinal views will be represented among those who are lost, and, thankfully, in Heaven also. We will not be judged on whether we were liberal or conservative Adventists, or on whether we held to the pre-fall nature of Christ or the post-fall nature. We will be judged at a more basic level—the genuineness of our relationship with God, the outworking of which is heartfelt love for all his children.

My understanding of Scripture has led me to believe that the way we treat people is the most accurate measurement of our relationship with God. This view arises from Jesus' own words: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the peo-

ple one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?" The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:31-40, NIV)

Commenting on that passage, Ellen White says, "All who have been born into the heavenly family are in a special sense the brethren of our Lord. The love of Christ binds together the members of His family, and wherever that love is made manifest there the divine relationship is revealed. "Everyone that loveth is born of God," and knoweth the standards, when Jesus says that this is what Christianity is all about. This is the purpose of the Law, the Prophecy, the Gospels and the Epistles. Doctrinal and prophetic knowledge should lead us to Christ and make us see our fitness and unworthiness in the presence of the One who is, altogether pure and who gave his spotless life for our sinful lives.

If, at the end of my time as president of the British Union, I leave the Church more accepting of those who are unlike us, more respectful of views that are not in accordance with ours, more compassionate to those who are hurting and more Christ-like in our efforts to bring the lost into a saving relationship with our Lord, I would be of all men most happy.

required. Their works are evidence that the Holy Spirit has touched their hearts, and they are recognised as the children of God." (*Desire of Ages*, p. 638)

It is a matter of concern that an emphasis on our relationship with God and with our fellow human beings is construed as lowering standards, when Jesus says that this is what Christianity is all about. This is the purpose of the Law, the Prophecy, the Gospels and the Epistles. Doctrinal and prophetic knowledge should lead us to Christ and make us see our fitness and unworthiness in the presence of the One who is, altogether pure and who gave his spotless life for our sinful lives.

On the eve of the Reformation, the Bible was 'the Church's best-kept secret'. The new printing technology was a god-send to the Reformation, but not to the pre-Reformation Church. They believed that they had everything to lose by getting the message out there. The scholars and the reformers believed that they had everything to gain by getting the Gospel out there.

For a thousand years the Bible had been locked up in Latin. That limited to the priests who read Latin the advantage of deciding and declaiming the message it contained. To claim that advantage, the English establishment (Church and state) successfully retrieved from the public the great majority of the handwritten Wycliffe Bibles — translated from Latin to English by the followers of John Wycliffe (c. 1330-84) — and burned them.² The invention of printing in the century after Wycliffe would make that task difficult, if not impossible, should the Bible be printed and published. A scholar called Erasmus stressed that such a venture was vital, if only because the thousand-year-old Latin Vulgate included many mistakes. To make that imperative possible, Erasmus published more accurate versions of the Bible in both Latin and Greek.

Hence when, on the eve of the Reformation, English scholar William Tyndale told a bishop that he aimed to make it possible for a ploughboy to know more of the Bible than the bishop did, it was fighting talk. He was aiming to translate the Bible from its original languages into contemporary English — and get it printed and published.

Tyndale asked for sponsorship from the Bishop of London, a friend of Erasmus. Big mistake. The bishop had too much to lose when the bright light of readable Scripture illuminated the cobwebbed beliefs, practices and institutions which kept him in business.

With backing from merchants, Tyndale made a start on translation anyhow. In a very few months England became too hot for him. He escaped to Germany.

In Germany the great reformer Martin Luther was translating the Bible into vigorous, decidedly current German. Among the cities Tyndale visited while completing his translation of the New Testament was the one where Luther lived. By the end of 1525 Tyndale's English New Testament had been published and was being smuggled by merchants, via Antwerp, to England, and was being enthusiastically read. I have read it



with David Marshall

Your Bible's 400th birthday

But the translators had been given specific instructions. They did not begin to translate with blank pieces of paper in front of them.³ They had been told that they were 'standing on the shoulders of giants'. Anyone who has read Tyndale's New Testament and then reads the New Testament of the King James Version knows the name of the greatest of those giants.

The Bible had originally been translated into Latin because Latin was the language of the Roman Empire. Since the Reformation, scholars have gone back to the original languages of the Bible — Hebrew and Greek — and translated and published Bibles in the current languages of Europe. They have done this because, like Miles Smith (who wrote the introduction to the King James Version), they saw the importance of rendering the Bible into the everyday language of the people. Why? Let Miles Smith speak for himself:

'Translation it is that openeth the window, to let in the light; that breaketh the shell, that we may eat the kernel; that putteth aside the curtain, that we may look into the most Holy place; that removeth the cover of the well, that we may come by the water of life.'

The King James Bible was first published by Barker's Printing House in Aldersgate Street, London, in 1611.

That means that next year — 2011 — represents its 400th birthday.

The King James and New King James Versions continue to be the Bibles most frequently purchased from our Adventist Book Centre and used in Adventist churches.

Don't you think we should plan something special to commemorate the 400th birthday of your Bible? Please contact me with your ideas at: Editor/DMM@mac.com, or via our postal address.

¹Henry Reed, *REFORMATION: The Dangerous Birth of the Modern World* (St Andrews Press, 2009) p. xiv. ²Nevertheless, 170 handwritten manuscripts of Wycliffe Bibles survive. Benson Bonick, *The Making of the English Bible* (Phoenix, 2003), p. 46. ³Henry Reed, op. cit., p. 62. ⁴Miles Smith, *In the Beginning: The Story of the King James Bible* (Moberg & Shoultan, 2001), pp. 114-125; *ibid.*, p. 176.

Enhancing Health

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

Boosting Energy Part 17

Environment
Your living space can impact your energy levels. Research from the American Demographic Society found that cluttered, disorganised and unpleasant surroundings are energy drainers. Their data revealed that Americans waste more than nine million hours daily looking for lost and misplaced items! This, they indicated, was a source of emotional and physical drain.

Research on the impact of sights, sounds and smells has yielded interesting data. For example, citrus smells were found to help overcome feelings of tiredness by releasing an energising brain compound called norepinephrine (also called noradrenaline) which has a revving effect.

Tips:

- De-clutter
- Include living plants and natural smells in your home and work environment.

Good health!

Rest and environmental factors
How have you been getting on with the energy diary? Have you noticed the times when your energy levels are better than others, or what the triggers were? Well, in this issue we look at three factors that may be impacting your levels of energy: these are your patterns of rest, your patterns of work and your environment.

Restful Sleep?
Sleep does not necessarily mean rest. If, in your sleep, you toss and turn throughout the night, or sleep intermittently, then even eight hours in bed can give you insufficient sleep. This results in an energy drain.

Sleep enables the body to repair and restore itself, providing a key source of energy. Research indicates that one night of poor sleep can impact your levels of energy, alertness, concentration and creativity for up to two days. Restful sleep is shown to stave off tiredness during the day. Additionally, studies have found that sleeping longer than usual on weekends can disrupt your body's natural sleep schedule, leading to more

tiredness (Sleep Disorder Centre, New York, USA).

Tips:

- Go to bed when Sleepy and get up at the same time each morning to maintain your body clock
- Sleep in a restful environment void of energy drainers like bright lights, noise, action movies or late-night work, in order to wind down before bedtime.

Overwork
Consistent overwork drains energy reserves significantly, leading to chronic tiredness. This can cause you to burn out or develop medical conditions such as adrenal fatigue.

Tips:

- Balance work and home life
- Schedule relaxation as a priority
- Power nap when necessary. This gives a short-term energy boost to brain and body.



Fighting our frontiers

by Steve Holden*

A shrill yowling sound broke through the tranquility of the early morning.

Mutley, my much-loved cat, had engaged in yet another border confrontation. Without sight of the trespasser we instinctively knew our normally sweet-natured old 'moggie' had once again entered into a territorial dispute with one of the many neighbourhood ruffians that surrounded his domain. 'Mutley', whose name was recorded in a capsule attached to his collar when he moved in with us in '92, was in semi-retirement. Nevertheless, he still rose to the challenge when unwanted visitors of the feline fraternity dared to step over his boundaries – boundaries which he continually patrolled, day and night.

This 'repelling-of-boarders' resulted in a number of 'war-wounds' over the years he has with us. None was too serious, but several required costly visits to the vet to patch-up and make good before Mutley could be re-introduced to what current journalists would refer to as the 'theatre of conflict'.

Boundaries where people are concerned are often hotly disputed, too. Although they are not always so clear-cut and obvious, we all operate within boundaries and limiting factors of one form or other in just about every aspect of our lives.

We distinguish ourselves by race and culture, by acquired knowledge, or the lack of it, by gender, by age, by social skills, by physical and mental abilities – the list goes on. People, too, can be injured by others attempting to push out their own boundaries – seeking to extend their influence at the expense of others.

wide open spaces of your freedom – I find I can stretch and walk and run in your great plains of liberty, kicking my heels with joy – all restraints gone!

Christ encourages us not to live in isolation behind walls of partition and division, but to break barriers down by our attitude towards others, demonstrating love in action to our neighbours.

Luke 6:31-35 reads like this in the contemporary language of the Message: 'Here is a simple rule of thumb for behaviour. Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them! If you only love the lovable, do you expect a pat on the back? Run-of-the-mill sinners do that.

If you only help those who help you, do you expect a medal? Garden-variety sinners do that.

If you only give for what you

hope to get out of it, do you think that's charity? The stingiest of pawnbrokers does that.

I tell you, love your enemies. Help and give without expecting a return. You'll never – I promise – regret it. Live out this God-created identity the way our Father lives toward us, generously and graciously, even when we're at our worst!

God is saying, then, love those who cross your boundaries – don't build a wall or plant a hedge to keep undesirable out, but go the extra mile to ensure their needs are met, like the Samaritan who was deemed Good!

Perhaps our thought for this day should be the commission Jesus gave to his listeners at the close of the passage on the Good Samaritan, when he said to them all, 'Go and do likewise.'

* Stephen is the Production manager of The Stanborough Press and gave this as a morning worship on Thursday 23 September.

Protestant rites?

Dr Patrick Lowe*



pleased that their leader has come to see them.' Will these sentiments, written by the head of the Adventist Church in Britain, be regarded by Rome's media men as an unexpected coup?

As you would expect, reading these MESSINGER statements turned my thoughts to passages in The Great Controversy. One hundred and twenty-two years ago its author penned reflections on how Protestants had... made compromises and concessions which papists themselves are surprised to see and fail to understand.* So what compromises were invoked by the 'welcome Benedict' article? In my view there were at least three.

Firstly, the detailed counsel to 'welcome Pope Benedict in place of what should have, more properly, been detailed counsel on how Adventists could protest with

appropriate etiquette. Secondly, the mistaken but implied assumption that any form of visible protest would somehow be un-Christian, and tantamount to religious hatred against Roman Catholics. And thirdly, the unfortunate counsel to tell Catholics how pleased we are that their leader, Pope Benedict, was here.

Outside Adventist circles, one unsurprising, well-known siren voice refused to be drowned out by the adorning and conciliatory kerfuffle. The news headline identifying him beamed, 'Reverend Ian Paisley leads Pope Benedict protest in Scotland.'* Disappointingly, the MESSINGER article inviting Adventists to welcome the Pope and to be pleased for his parishioners never once mentioned the word 'Protestant'.

The Adventist Church enjoys the distinction (and responsibility) of being entrusted with truths that cap the Protestant Reformation. But could it be that hardly any of us really remember or even understand what a Protestant is supposed to do? Could we have forgotten that we are Protestants because God has called us to protest against the

errors, idolatry and end-time machinations of Rome? Take a look at the language used in the book of Revelation to drive home this point. It includes words like 'blasphemy', 'unclean', 'whore', 'harlot', 'sinclan', 'sins', 'iniquities', 'sorceries' and 'deceit': terms well able to curl the straightest of toes!¹⁰ Yet they are, quite rightly, not among the first phrases one might choose when planning acts of public protest. However, it is clear that in the context in which we find them, they are, undoubtedly, words of protest.

Far too many have become adept at satirising those who seek to give the 'trumpet that often sounds'. Protestors are often dismissed as square-jawed primal fiends, naive, vulgar and boorish, with an inability to adapt to post-modern, intellectual Adventist thought. But true watchmen anticipate and disregard such tags, continuing to cry warnings and point out impending dangers come what may. There are those who are embarrassed or discomfited by the watchman's reproofs. But our watchmen and trumpet blowers must hold their nerve. As one award-winning Adventist preacher

Welcoming the Pope

Dear Editor
I write in response to the article, 'Can the Adventist Church welcome Pope Benedict to Britain?' I think I understand the perspective that Pastor McFarlane came from. However, I strongly disagree with it. He responded to his question in line with the sentiments of the Archbishop of Canterbury: to the effect that the Pope should be 'received with great warmth and joy'. Well, I for one cannot agree with this,

our courtesy, since the term not only expresses good manners but also carries with it the notion of indulgence, consent or acquiescence.²²

Far from letting our Catholic friends know that we are pleased that their leader has come to see them, we are instructed to do the exact opposite: '... The people need to be aroused to resist the advances of this most dangerous foe to civil and religious liberty.'¹³ Ellen White invites us to: '... Look at the growth of iridulism in England and the frequent delections to the ranks of the Catholics. These things should awaken the anxiety of all who prize the pure principles of the gospel.'¹⁴ Furthermore, '... Instead of standing in defence of the faith once delivered to the saints, [Protestant Churches] are now, as it were, apologizing to Rome for their unchristianable opinion of her.'¹⁵

'In 2002 Jan Paulsen [GC President until June 2010], called attention to the risk that Adventists might lose their identity. Adventists are becoming more recognisable as Christians than as Seventh-day Adventist Christians', he said. We lose our identity 'to our own destruction.'¹⁶

* Dr Patrick Lowe is a university lecturer and a senior lay member in the West Midlands.

and I believe that most Adventists would be of a similar view. The Pope comes as the head of an organisation and if our interpretation of prophecy is right, that organisation is in opposition to God. So how is it possible for us to welcome it? Whenever any mention is made of prophecy and the papacy, and their role in eschatology, it seems that within the Church these things equate with 'Catholic bashing'. Nothing could be further from the truth,

our courtesy, since the term not only expresses good manners but also carries with it the notion of indulgence, consent or acquiescence.²²

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as God has called all people to come out of false worship and return to him.

PAUL MARINE

Dear Editor
I was shocked and surprised to read Pastor McFarlane's article, 'Can the Adventist Church welcome Pope Benedict to Britain?' He asks, 'Should I be telling Daniel and the first beast that stands in opposition to God in Revelation 13? Yes, he should! He needs to remind them that despite the public apologies of the Catholic Church, it is a papal policy that Rome never changes. Now before I am accused of making hard thrusts at Catholics – as described at Catholics – as described in the SOP quotation in the article – I wish to say that I am not attacking individual Catholics. I am merely protesting against the organisation of the papacy.'

SHARON BERRY

YES! We are over-managed!

Dear Editor
I think the letters page is one of the MESSINGER's best features, and the range of topics and quality of debate recently have been excellent. Long may it continue and long may it generate discussion. I loved Paddy Boyle's cowboy story – spot on. In response to Ken

Hammond's letter in 17 September edition, the answer to his question, 'Are we over-managed?' is a clear and unequivocal 'Yes'. I currently work for one of the largest local authorities in the UK, and in response to the current economic squeeze its total focus is on reducing management layers and not 'coastal jobs'. The global financial crisis provides the Church with a timely opportunity to ask why an area the size of the British Isles needs six different administrative structures for management – and to consider refocusing its resources onto the grass roots (local churches) – increasing local pastoral support, not reducing it. Heresy or inspiration? Man's extremity often equals God's opportunity.

DAVID MORGAN, MINDERS CROUCH

Revelation 13:3 (RV). 'The Herald, "Pope's highly successful visit illustrates problems facing the Church of Scotland." Al Jazeera, "Pope ends successful UK visit." *Kabikam News*, Indonesia. 'India Times, "Pope ends successful UK visit." *National Catholic Register* (2010). 'Benedict Words Britain.' McFarlane, D. (2010, p.16). 'Can the Adventist Church welcome Pope Benedict to Britain?' MESSINGER, D. (19). 'E.G. White, "Liberty of Conscience Threatened." *The Great Controversy between Christ and Satan* (1888 & 1911, p.66). Nampa, Idaho-Pacific Press. 'Inch Central, "Reverend Ian Paisley leads Pope Benedict protest in Scotland." *Revelation* 17:3-5; 18:2-5, 23 (KJV). 'Swesley (2010). 'The A-Factor', Sermon preached for Day of Fellowship 28 August 2010. Winton Green, Birmingham, UK. 'Courtesy, Dictionary.com Unabridged, Random House, Inc. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/courtesy>. 'E.G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p.366. 'Ibid, p.366. 'Ibid, p.372. 'E. Canale (2010), *Thinking Biblically and the Pastoral Ministry*, Biblical Research Institute, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

A beautiful life

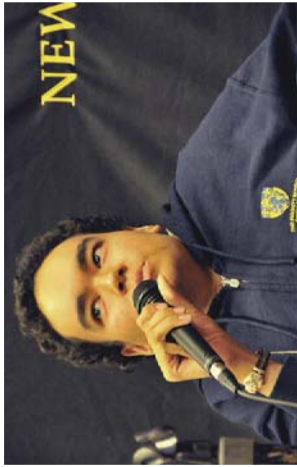
by Helen Pearson

There was hardly a dry eye in the house for Newbold's first diversity seminar of the academic year. The programme focused on disability, featuring a discussion and an award-winning television documentary starring Newbold's senior pastoral family, the Johnsons. The seminar, on Tuesday 14 September, began with a reminder to the three-hundred-plus people in Newbold's Salisbury Hall that 'normality' is a myth, while disability and limitation form a part of family life for most people at some time.

The film *ET Walker Liv* (literally 'A beautiful life'), made for Norwegian Television, followed ten years in the life of the Johnsons in Norway and England. It showed the various ways in which Espen, his parents (Patrick and Kan) and his sisters (Miriam and Christel) faced the challenges presented by Espen's development of a rare metabolic disease which affects bone development. Moving scenes of Espen's operations and his determination to walk, in order to surprise his family were mixed with authentic scenes of ordinary life. His brother and sisters were sometimes tender, sometimes argumentative. The audience laughed gently as Patrick taught Espen to shave for the first time and Kan quizzed him about his girlfriends.

After the film, Patrick and Kan Johnson spoke movingly about their reactions as they discovered, in a coldly-worded medical letter, that

their small son was suffering from Morquio's Syndrome – the rare disease which had reduced Espen's mobility, limited his growth and given him severe pain in his hips. The doctors who offered the



diagnosis recognised the rarity of the condition, but gave the shocked and suddenly very lonely parents minimal support. Their daughter, Miriam, had her own very straightforward reaction. She told the audience: 'I don't think about Espen as a boy in a wheelchair. He's just my brother.'

The star of the film and the programme was Espen himself, now almost 18 years old, an experienced

videographer with his own 'waist-high view' YouTube channel and a budding writer who hopes to study law. He shared his gentle insights into people's attitudes to his disability. 'Sometimes they shout down to me, in my wheelchair as if I'm stupid,' he said, 'and people assume that I need help with things I'm well able to do myself.' His best advice to people who want to help is: 'Always

Johnson was long and warm.

A celebration of the nations

The congregation of the Crief Seventh-day Adventist church in Scotland includes a number of people from as far away as Mexico, Argentina, Poland, Russia, the Ukraine and the Philippines, as well as more 'locally sourced' congregants.

On Sunday afternoon 5 September, the church held a 'Celebration of the Nations', which was an extended three-



The group in national costumes

6 Messenger

CAN Music Academy

Supporting children and young people

by Dr Richard de Lisser

The CAN (Children Achieving Now) Music Academy is a community-based project designed to provide children, young people and families with the unique opportunity to unleash their musical potential. The motto is 'higher than the highest for his children'. The aim is to establish the benefits of music in a person: spiritually, academically, through health and holistic development. This is achieved by improving confidence in musical skills, promoting enjoyment through learning, and inspiring through practical examples. The idea is to encourage families to work together and to encourage parents, who are more disciplined, to learn the same instrument as their children, so they can supervise their practice sessions.

The CAN music environment is stimulating, friendly and dynamic. Staff and students focus on eleven benefits of music, and work as a team to learn, enjoy and perform music. The varied repertoire comes

Residential Home, and at Pathfinder and Guyanese days, and have staged concerts at the Clarendon Muse and the Watford School of Music. With community involvement at the heart of their ethos, they were especially proud to have performed with the *Ore Voice Community Choir*, in the presence of the Watford Mayor and three other dignitaries, at the first Watford LIVE! Community Arts Festival.

On 13 June the academy celebrated its second anniversary by hosting a festival of praise and awards ceremony at the Stanborough Centre, to recognise the outstanding achievements of all students and the CAN team. Students received certificates of achievement for their musical

from many genres of music, including hymns, gospel and classical music, selected to inspire the hearers with hope, peace, faith in God, and love. The academy has proved very beneficial to the community. Activities aim to aid community cohesion by bringing children, young people, and families with diverse abilities together to practise and perform. They perform in churches for religious events and in community outreach at residential homes, and collaborate with other community groups to stage events and concerts.

The choir and orchestra enjoy witnessing through music. They have performed at churches in London and Watford, at the St Albans Arena and the Fairhaven



PAULINE MARTIN BELL

bles followed by cassava cake, and, to round it all off, good old Scottish tattie.

The church is eager to demonstrate friendship and support to people from countries outside the United Kingdom who have settled in our part of Scotland, and church members invited twenty-five of their friends who thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. Further friendship programmes are to be planned.

progress and outstanding performances.

The academy currently meets on Sunday, 1pm-3.30pm, every fortnight. The structured activities include vocal training, choir, musicianship, theory, instrumental training and orchestra.

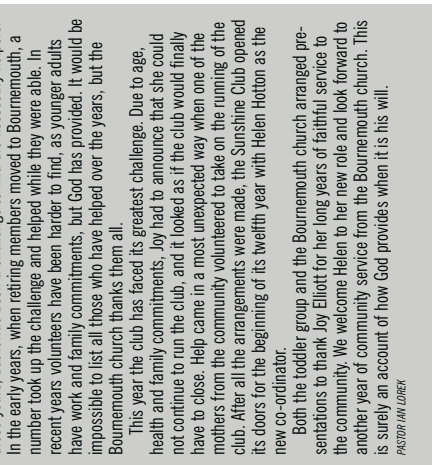
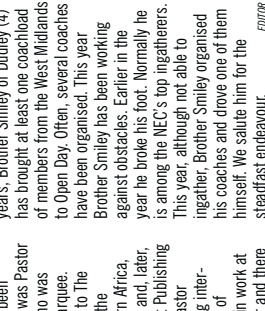
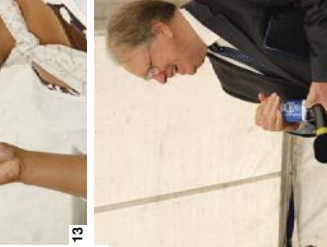
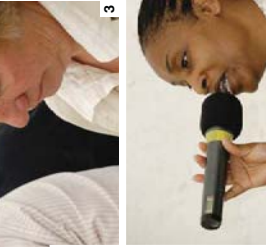
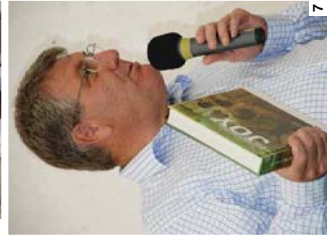
The academy was launched on 27 July 2008 by the CAN team: Donna Kirk-Bernard (director), Tina Brooks (music director), Sofia and Isabella Ashbjornsen (harp and violin teachers) and Susan Watt (public relations officer). They meet at the Stanborough Park Centre, Watford, and the response has been overwhelming, with more than a hundred students from all over the South of England registering an interest in the programme. Currently, the CAN residential sponsors are Mr and Mrs Paul Thompson from the Reading church, Matthew Bethel (violinist and orchestra director), Tony Best (choir director), Leon Barclay (saxophonist), Daniel Sabatier (guitarist) and Song-Ah (violinist) are professional musicians from the church and the local community.

Over the last two years, local professional musicians (Winnie Wu and family) and the Temple band (Reginald Philip and friends from Nottingham) have supported the work of the academy. In addition, CAN has formed links with South Heris Music Services, the Watford CVS, and other community groups.

People have expressed their appreciation for the difference this music programme is making in the lives of their children. Please join CAN in the near future as it provides more opportunities for children, young people and families to unleash their musical potential.

CAN will host an Open Day on 24 October from 1pm to 3.30pm. Please email: CANMusicAcademy@yahoo.co.uk to obtain more information on attending the academy.

THE CAN MUSIC ACADEMY TEAM



Sunshine Club

Eleven years ago, Joy Elliott opened the Bournemouth church doors at 10am on a Thursday morning in September, and put up the new sign, 'Sunshine Club', inviting mothers with toddlers in the local community to a weekly two-hour session of socialising and games. The mothers came, and continued to come, with a number attending for years as new babies were added to their families. Well over two hundred and twenty community families have attended the club over the years — a good number have also attended other church programmes, with a few coming to the children's Sabbath School.

Joy has remained committed to this community programme for all these years, but it has been a challenge to find the necessary helpers. In the early years, when retiring members moved to Bournemouth, a number took up the challenge and helped while they were able. In recent years volunteers have been harder to find, as younger adults have work and family commitments, but God has provided. It would be impossible to list all those who have helped over the years, but the Bournemouth church thanks them all.

This year the club has faced its greatest challenge. Due to age, health and family commitments, Joy had to announce that she could not continue to run the club, and it looked as if the club would finally have to close. Help came in a most unexpected way when one of the mothers from the community volunteered to take on the running of the club. After all the arrangements were made, the Sunshine Club opened its doors for the beginning of its twelfth year with Helen Hutton as the new co-ordinator.

Both the toddler group and the Bournemouth church arranged presentations to thank Joy Elliott for her long years of faithful service to the community. We welcome Helen to her new role and look forward to another year of community service from the Bournemouth church. This is surely an account of how God provides when it is his will.

PASTORIAN, LORKE

will be a period of approximately two months in which the two editors will work together. They have known one another since an editorial council at Columbia Union College in 1986.

Following Pastor Paulsen's address, spiced with humour, he was interviewed by Pastor Peter Leynes. Dr. Lane Sabes made a brief promotion on behalf of Newbold College. Rose Gomez (11) promoted the CHIP programme, which had massive support among the Open Day crowd.

Victor Plimhor (7) announced the launch of a new message book entitled *Experiencing the Joy-42 Bible Talks*. It has been released in conjunction with LIFEdevelopment.info, costs £9.95 (plus p&p), and was written by sixteen different authors, the majority of whom reside in the UK. The aim of the book is to 'unpack ancient biblical values and make them understandable by twenty-first century readers.'

Some things change at Open Day. At least one remains the same. For each of the past thirty-five years, Brother Smiley of Dudley (4) has brought at least one coachload of members from the West Midlands to Open Day. Often, several coaches have been organised. This year Brother Smiley has been working against obstacles. Earlier in the year he broke his foot. Normally he is among the NEC's top ingatherers. This year, although not able to ingather, Brother Smiley organised his coaches and drove one of them himself. We salute him for the steadfast endeavour.

EDITOR

department. Dr David Marshall, who had served as Press editor since 1979, will be retiring at the new year. After a diligent search a new editor had been found. The editor was Pastor Julian Hibbert, who was present in the marquee.

Pastor Hibbert comes to The Stanborough Press from the Division Office in Southern Africa, and has served as editor and, later, manager of the Adventist Publishing House in South Africa. Pastor Hibbert can be seen being interviewed by Angela Patrick of Bamsley (3). He will begin work at the Press on 1 November and there

meets on 5 October, will have to address the vacancy for a Press treasurer.

When he stood to add his words of appreciation for the treasurer's service, Press Manager Paul Hammond made the marquee congregation aware that the winds of change which had blown through the treasury department were also blowing through the editorial

Those warmly welcomed at Press Open Day by Copy Editor Andrew Puckering (6) had come to hear Pastor Jan Paulsen, retiring GC president (5), listen to the London Ghana Choir (10) and Charmaine Morgan (13), and to stock up with books and health foods. They were not to be disappointed. Pastor Paulsen was on form, as were the choir and Charmaine. There were plenty of bargains in the book tent and, as ever, the friendly staff were eager to help (9 and 12).

But the winds of change were blowing. The surprises were not limited to the appearance of our veteran Press manager, Paul Hammond, on the bouncy castle (1) or the appearance of lots of fresh new faces (2). When the crowds assembled to hear Pastor Paulsen, they noticed that the Press management and some prominent board members were with him on the platform. As Press Treasurer Graham Barham stood up to introduce Pastor Paulsen (8), there was something valedictory in the tone of his remarks. Exactly why became evident when Victor Plimhor, the Union treasurer, stood up (7). He thanked Graham Barham for the contribution he had made to the Stanborough Press over the last ten years and wished him well as vice-president for Finance at the Review and Herald, based in the USA.

Prior to his appointment as treasurer at the Press in 2000,

the Press on 1 November and there

The Stanborough Press Winds of Change

Graham had been Trans-European Division treasurer. There he had for many years worked at close quarters with Pastor Paulsen, then TED president. At the time of the General Conference Session this June, there was a sea-change in the management team at Review and Herald. Graham was made the vice-president for Finance, and has already taken up that position. The Stanborough Press board, when it

meets on 5 October, will have to address the vacancy for a Press treasurer.

When he stood to add his words of appreciation for the treasurer's service, Press Manager Paul Hammond made the marquee congregation aware that the winds of change which had blown through the treasury department were also blowing through the editorial

London Ghana: Letting go, letting God

by Rubina F. Arthur



Visitors, baptismal candidates and regular members witnessed a love reunion on 11 September at the London Ghana church in East London.

For the first time, the current SEC president, Pastor Sam Davis, was the guest speaker at a baptism ceremony at the church. Emotions were very high, 'Is something hindering your relationship with God? Make a choice for Christ and cut that thing off', was Pastor Davis's compelling challenge to us.

Nine souls had decided to take a closer walk with Christ. Little did Pastor Davis know that for one of the baptismal candidates, Edmond Osei, the words 'cut it off' literally meant letting go of the past. Wearing his usual mellow smile, Edmond related how he had ended up in his current position, repeating the very vows which he had made to his Lord back in 1987 as a youth member at the Amakom Adventist Church in Ghana.

'Being an active member of London Ghana, especially in the music ministries, many people do not know that I stopped attending church for more than ten years prior to 2004. Despite admitting my mistakes to the Lord in private, I just couldn't stop feeling guilty about all those years of neglecting my first love and I felt deeply in my heart that confessing publicly would be the first step to freedom from guilt', he said.

Finding that many were surprised

'I felt under so much pressure as the only Adventist in my immediate family, I was born in England but, as a result of my parents' getting divorced, was sent to Ghana at the age of three and raised by my uncle, who introduced me to Adventism.

That somebody so dedicated to the Lord's work could actually have left the Adventist Church, Edmond thought it best to explain the circumstances leading up to his departure from London Ghana back in 1994.

One plus One equals . . . One!

The president of the Central Ghana Conference turned basic mathematics on its head during a four-day family revival series.

Speaking at the London Ghana and Lea Valley churches, Ghana's very own 'Dr Love', Pastor Emmanuel Denteh, said that a 'happy successful marriage is possible and that marriage can be a way of salvation' if couples adopted the formula, '1+1=1'. Accompanied by his wife of thirty-eight years, Auntie Leticia, Pastor Denteh said this formula ensures that there's no room for selfishness, but rather results in couples clinging to one another lovingly as God originally planned.

Pastor Denteh's 'heart2heart' dimension, which of topics including the 'Missing Dimension', which focused on the importance of keeping God in the

'When I came back to England as a young adult, in 1988, life became very complex and I found myself unable to cope with the many changes around me. Leaving the Church brought so many consequences to my life but Christ never gave up on me. I always felt a sense of longing which didn't go away until I returned back to God.'

Edmond said. 'Many of the people who knew me prior to leaving had been very pleased to see me, and offered words of encouragement and reassurance. But, unfortunately, not everyone was welcoming. I remember an instance when a prominent member of the church actually stated, "Oh, I see you are back! So what made you change your mind then?". Such comments were hurtful, but, with the Lord's help, I didn't lose courage and here I am, being re-baptised six years later.'

Edmond's story, although touching, is not unique. Year in and year out, unfortunately many Adventists find themselves leaving the faith for one reason or another. The SEC, at the beginning of the year, declared 2010 to be the year of reclamation. It was a wonderful coincidence that Pastor Davis happened to be present on the day when Edmond took two steps forward to reclaim his first love, Jesus.

Edmond's eyes danced with laughter and happiness as he expressed his high expectations for the future. 'I want to move on. I don't want any burden hanging on my shoulder. This time around there is no turning back. I want to move forward, get married and wait for Christ to come.'

Mr Kwadwo Denasi has eight years of experience in marriage, and said, 'I found Pastor Denteh's seminar to be informative, educational and enjoyable'.

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CONGRATULATIONS to Melissa Taylor of the Tottenham Westgreen Road church, who obtained a B.Sc. in Midwifery from Middlesex University.

to Madeline Taylor of the Tottenham Westgreen Road church, who obtained a B.A. in International Tourism Management with Human Resource Management from Middlesex University.

NORRINA TAYLOR

RUBINA ARTHUR

Effective health evangelism



Jesus, Neil reminded the 700-strong congregation, had spent a major portion of his ministry in the field of health evangelism, teaching the disciples to seek out those who were sick and suffering to make them whole (Luke 9:2).

Disease in the western world is rare, young and old do battle with illness that is congenitally inherited, caught at work, or self-inflicted through lifestyle choices. Stress and mental illness, such as anxiety or depression, is increasingly common. The UK Office for National Statistics highlights that mental illness is the commonest cause of ill health among the working population here', we were told.

Neil and his team, which included Michael and Linda (two full-time health evangelists from the Wildwood Adventist Lifestyle Health Centre in Georgia, USA) were greeted with a healthy lunch provided by able hands from across Area 5. They spent the AYS session teaching all willing potential

health evangelists the practical aspects of assessing individuals for NEWSTART principle compliance. Some of the methods were new, even to the experienced healthcare workers, and they learned the benefits of hydrotherapy and massage.

The important message of the day was that health expositions (or 'health expos', as they are more widely known) that are conducted in line with well-established protocols help us systematically and professionally to identify ill health among the public at large. We can work through expos to engage people who will want to attend health events, and some will seek to establish a connection with Jesus.

I would encourage all Health Ministries leaders (and indeed all department leaders throughout the Church) to explore the health expo concept, if they haven't done so already. All departments, from Pathfinders to Family Life, and from Men's Ministries to Education, can set up cookery demonstrations, fitness classes, parenting and family support sessions, and more skilled sessions such as stop-smoking classes.

These efforts, in conjunction with the health expo, will show the public we mean to make a positive improvement to their wellbeing. For more information on this programme, contact Neil and your Health Ministry leader to consider stepping into the health expo arena. Your church won't look back but will be motivated to keep on following in Christ's footsteps.

DR JOCELYNE HALLIDAY-BELL

With help from our friends

On the morning of 26 July, fourteen excited Pathfinders from the Manor Community Pathfinder club left the streets of Sheffield for the forests of Finland to attend the TED Pathfinder camporee. Many events helped to make this an unforgettable experience, including flying for the first time, swimming in the lake, camping for nine consecutive nights, fishing and gutting the fish, building wooden structures, cooking, taking cold showers, using the prayer toilet, meeting Pathfinders from across the world and worshipping with 2,500 Pathfinders and singing the theme song 'Faithbook'. Special mention must also be made of Becky Pollard (second from left, back row) who made it to the finals of the drill-down.

None of this could have happened were it not for the hard work of our leader, Mrs Marlene Lee, and the many friends of our club who contributed hundreds of pounds towards the trip.

ANDREW YESIDIAN



Weston: Significant birthdays

Two of our senior members, Eileen Bidmead and Laurie Beeton, recently celebrated their birthdays. On 4 September, Eileen reached 94. After attending the Weston-super-Mare church for many years, when she was 90 Eileen was baptised and became a member. As a midwife she had helped deliver about two thousand babies. Eileen still lives in her own home, cared for by Nushie Rusinova, whom she thinks of as a daughter. A regular attendee at church, with her gentle and caring nature, Eileen is loved by all who know her.

It is hard to believe Laurie turned 90 on 31 August, as he is still very active, riding his bicycle around Weston, gardening and decorating at home, where he lives with his wife, Connie. At church he takes his duties as a deacon seriously and arrives early each Sabbath morning to make sure everything is in order before the services begin. So many times it is said, 'What would we do without Laurie?'

MAUREEN REES



'Come Sing With Us'

That was the theme for the Clapton church's first ever outdoor outreach programme, which took place on Sabbath 28 August. This was a forerunner to their campaign, which started on Sabbath 4 September and ran every night at 7.30pm (except Fridays), until Sabbath 25 September. The programme attracted many visitors from the community, who were given an opportunity to join in with the singers from neighbouring churches such as New Life, Stole Newton, Hackney and, of course, Clapton. They also had a chance to meet the evangelist, Donald 'Ironwood', who was the guest speaker for the campaign, and the pastor of the church, Bernard Akapo.

KAREN HARLES-FENTON

Women of Spirit

In the annual programme of the Edington church, 17 May was marked as the official Women's

Ministries Day. On that day all the women of the church came together in solidarity to show to the male members and the community that they were women of substance,



Women of Spirit - left to right: L. Simmons, M. Antonio, A. Kizemba, M. Murray, L. Creed-Walker, M. Grant, J. Hamilton, J. Holder, S. Kohbe, R. Nguma, V. Henry, X. He and T. Henry.

compassion and love. The men had celebrated their special day - Men's Day - the month before, and the women wanted to prove to everybody that they were the other half of the spiritual force in the service of the Lord. This special occasion was celebrated as the Women's Day of Fellowship, and the emphasis was placed on worship, song service, prayer and poetry recital by the teenage women.

The song service was led by *Wonderful Voices*, the African group of music lovers whose membership is drawn from Edington (Birmingham), Leicester, Luton and Watford. The occasion was spiritually fulfilling, solemnly reverent and awe-inspiring.

Soon after divine service, the women provided food and drinks for all the members and visitors who came to support the occasion. It was

an enjoyable occasion for both the members and the visitors who were present.

JONI OSEI-BEAPONG



Family Life Weekend stresses 'duty of care'

The Oxford Street church's Family Life department organised a family life enrichment programme on the weekend Friday 20 August to Sunday 22 August. This was a timely programme, considering the world we live in today; the devil is at war with the church, hitting hard at its very core, targeting the family unit.

The South England Conference's Pastor Augustus Lawrence was the guest speaker for the weekend. The programme's objective was to empower the diverse church community with counsel from the Word, to celebrate being part of the big church family. The pastor highlighted that this could be realised if each family had healthy relations at home. Pastor Lawrence took a very practical approach and gave explicit three-day narratives on issues affecting the Oxford Street church, such as single parenthood, the nuclear family and marriage relationships. He pleaded with the church to stop stigmatising children born out of wedlock and single mums. The pastor explained that he understood the responsibility of the church towards disciplining its members. However, he challenged the church to remember its 'duty of care' to those undergoing censorship or being distellowshipped.

On Friday, the topic for discussion was 'The Woman, the Curse and the Blessing'. This was a powerful service, directed at empowering the single parents and the youth. The speaker drew lessons from Genesis chapters 16, 18 and 21. Hagar's life with her son Ishmael and her 'husband' Abraham were the focus; the emphasis being on God's care towards all his people.

Sabbath School allowed the church an opportunity to reflect on individual roles such as mum/wife,



dad/husband, son/brother and daughter/sister in a home environment. The discussion also highlighted how each of these roles was transferable to the larger church family. Specific people had been asked to prepare well in advance so that they could explain their roles in the church family.

The message for the Divine Service tackled the complications that can exist within heterosexual relationships. The pastor highlighted how the devil has corrupted these relationships through marital abuse. He said some people suffer so much abuse that they lose faith in the opposite sex, and he explained how some people have been lured into homosexuality through bitter experiences in heterosexual relationships. The sermon was entitled, 'The Problem with Men and the trouble with Women'.

Another programme was held on the evening of the Sabbath, and was entitled, 'Unto the Third and Fourth Generation'. This programme was for the nuclear family, focusing on family dynamics and the empowerment of young people at home and at church.

By Sunday morning, the Family Life weekend had reached its climax and was crowned with a powerful programme for married couples. Married couples engaged in activities that explored their relationships, with conclusions which most couples found beneficial. A service for the renewal of vows was conducted for sixteen married couples.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPT.

Cambridge VBS 2010

Another week of VBS has passed at the Cambridge church. For the second year the programme was held at a local village centre to accommodate the increasing number of attending community children. The average attendance this year was seventy-five a day, an increase of 36% on 2009!

We went on a fantastic High Seas Adventure, learning that 'God's Word is True, Comforting, Surprising, Life-changing and for Everyone'. These Bible points were illustrated with stories from the lives of Paul and Peter. Games, snacks and crafts reinforced them. Whenever a Bible point was mentioned, all the children would shout 'Let's go!' at the tops of their voices.

In total, ten songs were learned, including 'Your life will change', 'Ha-la-la-la-lá', 'Ancient words' and 'I could sing of your love forever'. Each day children moved around in groups to four different activity stations, so they never got bored; instead they looked forward to the next activity. Although some children, attending for the first time this year, were apprehensive at first, by the end of the first day they were having so much fun that they couldn't wait to come back.

Children came from both religious and non-religious backgrounds, and the responses from both parents and children were that they will be back next year.

Our thanks go out to all our High Seas Expedition volunteers, our church members for their support (in cash, kindness and prayers), the parents for entrusting their children to us, and, above all, God who again gave us the

Dorothy Elmer's story

A s a 5-year-old, I went to the Assembly of God congregational church in Gladstone Street, Darlington. At 7 or 8, with my parents, I went to the Methodist church at the end of Gladstone Street. When I was 15, or thereabouts, I attended the Baptist church in Geneva Road and saw my eldest brother baptised; he was a church deacon.

My husband and I moved down to Thundersley in Essex. My children, as scouts and guides, went for a while to St Peter's church at Thundersley. I did not like this church as the minister had his hands back to the people all the time with his hands in the air. I couldn't understand what he was saying.

During this time, while I was working and bringing up two children, I received the *Good News* magazine, published by The Stanborough Press. I had by this time grown to understand more about the Bible and the wonderful promises Jesus was making to those who would listen. When I came back to Darlington, I looked around the various churches and felt I had to find

the true church of God. Then I saw, tucked away in a corner not far from the Civic Theatre, a little church. I thought it was odd that they were attending church on Saturday.

I went in one Saturday morning - it was very different from any other churches I had known. The people all had Bibles, and were reading and discussing the Word among themselves. I thought it might be right; it was certainly different.

So I went away again; I was still looking when, about three or four weeks later, I visited a charity shop, not looking for anything in particular. Books are my passion. This book was sitting there on the shelf looking at me. It was called: *Our Day in the Light of Prophecy*, by W. A. Spicer, published by The Stanborough Press Ltd., Watford, Herts.

This book made me realise I had been in God's Church for this time - the Seventh-day Adventist Church I had already visited! I have since been baptised, and I know that God's true Church worships him on Saturday, the day he set aside as a glorious memorial for all creation. I think it is a great privilege; God has put me into this Church and here I will stay.



What are you doing with your old Christian books stacked on your shelves? What about your used Christian CDs, DVDs, video cassettes? Did you know that someone is in need of them, maybe a charity shop? One gentleman, Mr Cheshire, said he had learnt of the love of God through an Adventist booklet deliberately put in a Wolverhampton telephone booth. There are millions of ways to reach out.

ESTER JARLINGTON

Three new members at Crief

Sabbath 4 September was special for the Crief church. Isabel McEwan, Anna Konarska and Marek Weclawek were heartily welcomed into our membership.

Isabel had been involved with the church for about sixteen years. Her husband had suddenly died, and as Isabel had no church affiliation at that time, her sister Margaret Greer suggested that the funeral be held in the Adventist church, and Pastor Bob Rodd led out in that service. Isabel then began Bible studies, came to the church and eventually was baptised. As happens in many cases, circumstances seemed to go against her and she left the church, although she did not leave God. She would visit the church on special occasions and for the funerals of the old folk, whom she had continued to visit faithfully. Eventually she started coming to the regular church worship with her sister. She came to feel more and more at home, and we often found her in the kitchen helping to prepare the fellowship lunches – and washing up! Finally, to the delight of everyone, Isabel made her decision to renew her membership with the church family. It now seems that she has never been away!

Anna is from Poland and about six years ago she was baptised, although she did not understand everything. For two years she stopped attending church, although, like Isabel, she did not forget God. She had many struggles during

Music and health witness in Cannon Hill Park

'I woke with trepidation, lifted my voice in prayer. Please Father let the sun shine, the sky be bright and clear. Witnessing in the park today, we've practised and prepared. Dear Lord, please help us sing in tune, your message loud and clear. Blood pressure, massage, exercise, eat five a day, lose weight!'

What a marvellous day 8 August was, as *Eternal Praise and Friends* brought the message of Christ to the surrounding communities, in gospel songs and practical Christian ministry through the health expo in Cannon Hill Park, Birmingham.

Attendees gave the event a big thumbs-up and wanted to know, 'When is the next one going to be?' Others asked: 'Is it possible to do this once a month?' A lady from the city council asked if she could solicit our help in one of the city's 'Be Active' programmes – an opportunity both Grace Walsh and Elma Morgan readily grasped.

A special feature for the day was the 'Health Bus', an NHS initiative provided free of charge by the Wellbeing Partnership. The 'Get Fit With Cishy' gospel calypso exercise programme was also a great hit as young and old demonstrated their agility.

Freebies galore were on offer, from bottled water to fruit and veg, from Christian literature to GranVita health bars and 'Smile, Jesus loves you' balloons for the children.



DOROTHY JAMES
ETERNAL PRAISE CHORUS (TOP)



Our picture shows Pastor Thomas with a group of young people who attended the Sabbath. We knew the Bible, but Pastor Thomas was able to open our hearts to the everlasting love of God and the beauty of the Bible itself. Overall it was a life-changing experience for many of us, and one that we will not forget any time soon.

SHIRAZ FOLLAID

being loving and caring. She had been a nurse but she played an active role in several charities right to the very end. For decades she worked at the Watford General Hospital. She not only cared for her patients, but also took every opportunity to witness. With one hand she cared for the sick and with the other she carried the torch of faith. Most of us only knew her as one of our ingathering stars over the past decade, but few of us were aware of her commitments to other charities both inside and outside our Church.

We send our deepest condolences to her immediate family – Walter, Olson, Neilson and Alex. We also look forward to the Resurrection morning.

JOHN HENRY HALL (1949-2010) d. 5 August. It is with sadness that we report the death of John Hall, a member of the Stanborough Park church. He was recently baptised as a result of an evangelistic outreach led by Pat Walton. This was a happy occasion for his wife, Melady, who is a lifelong church member.

When he was diagnosed with cancer, John knew his illness was terminal. He faced it with dignity

and faith, requesting that the story of his raising of Lazarus be part of his funeral service. This took place on 16 August at Chilthorns Crematorium, Amersham, and was conducted by Pastor Patrick Boyle, with a moving tribute to John from his daughter Melissa.

The mourners more than filled the crematorium chapel, a testimony to the affection and respect in which John was held by colleagues, friends and church members. Like all who have trusted in Jesus, John rests until the return of the Lord he loved calls him to life everlasting.

John's wife, Melady, and their daughter, Melissa, express thanks for the prayers and support received during John's illness.

JOYCE ODOR (1920-2010) d. 8 September. Family and friends from far and near gathered at the Bournemouth church to say farewell to a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother of great faith and fortitude. The service was led by Pastor Ian Lorek, who reminded the congregation of the comfort, sympathy and hope which are

always available in Jesus.

Peter, Joyce's youngest son, gave a moving and appropriate tribute to his mother and, while noting that a few minutes cannot do justice to a life of ninety years, he successfully told of a life full of challenges met with determination. Joyce was born in London, the third of four children, one of whom was to become Pastor Bernard Kimman (a respected leader in the Church in Britain for many decades).

Joyce was 19 when World War II broke out, and by the time the war ended she was a wife and mother. Marianne and Juliet were born to her first husband, while John and Peter were born to her second husband. Who, tragically, died at the young age of 49, leaving Joyce with a young family to raise. She met all these challenges with faith and a tremendous strength of character, although her health suffered and in her later years she suffered from depression and a number of breakdowns.

While she would always come through these difficult times, returning to her usual, larger than life, glamorous self and, shunning the illness of with a smile and a joke, sadly, it was something that followed her until her last few life. Right up until her last few days, however, there was always

a momentary sparkle in her eyes letting you know she wasn't beaten.

POSTED BY AN LARK

Wedding Cox-Simpson

The weather on Sunday 20 June wasn't very promising at first, but as the morning progressed the sun came out bright and warm.

Adventist and non-Adventist friends from Grantham and elsewhere converged on the Harlaston parish church to witness the marriage of Gregory Cox and Crystal Simpson. Gregory is the son of Christine and Graham, brother of Natasha and Douglas, and twin brother of Kevin, all of whom worship at the Grantham church. Crystal is the daughter of Anne and Roy, and sister to Ryan. Greg and Crystal 'met' on the internet, and, after a short while, Crystal took the daring decision to come and meet Greg's family in his somewhat busy home. Having coped with that, she was, and is, well prepared to face more of life's challenges!

A few weeks previously, in March, Greg's twin brother, Kevin had married Amber Coffman; this June Greg and Crystal were the radiant couple. The rush of last-minute jobs was forgotten, the waiting was over. To the strains of Pachelbel's Canon, with Kevin playing the violin and close friend Steve Welby playing the piano, Crystal's two bridesmaids, Trudi Summers (chief bridesmaid) and Natasha Cox, and flower-girl Jennifer Bowerbank, made their way down the aisle.

Then came Crystal, radiant and lovely in her flowing dress, arm in arm with her father Roy. The Rector of Harlaston, Reverend Keith Hanson, performed the ceremony and Pastor John Ferguson offered words of wisdom. After the wedding, the guests and church members congregated outside in the lovely sunshine for photographs before moving on to the reception at The Olde Barn in Marston. Greg and Crystal left later for a honeymoon in St Lucia. We wish this lovely young couple every blessing that God can bestow, and all good wishes in their future together.

GETTING ON

Acknowledgement

The principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre (VOP) acknowledges, with sincere thanks, and anonymous donations of £12 and £200 received during September.

Gift Aid in the midst of austerity

Dr Richard de Lisser, SEC Stewardship director

In spite of the economic downturn, the South England Conference Stewardship department launched its Gift Aid drive called *Sign Up Sabbath* on 5 December 2009; the goal being to sign up as many new gift-aiders as possible.

The incentive for each church was a cash gift of between £750 and £4,000 for the church that signed up the highest number of new gift-aiders overall, as well as for the church that signed up the highest number pro rata of their membership. In the former category, Croydon received £4,000, Tottenham West Green Road received £3,000 and London Ghana received £750. In the latter category, Worthing received £3,000, South London Portuguese received £2,000 and All Nations received £750.

To date the SEC is in the process of claiming back over £400,000 for the Lord! This represents the largest uptake in Gift Aid since its inception!

On behalf of the SEC I wish to convey my heartfelt thanks to all of our members who have signed up to the Gift Aid programme: because of your faithfulness in the midst of austerity we can continue the work of God in this Conference. May God continue to bless your faithfulness!

Edinburgh Adventists take it to the street

A call for local evangelism initiatives, at the Scottish Mission's triennial session last year, convinced an Edinburgh member that there was an opportunity in the heart of Scotland's capital city.

While travelling to church every Sabbath he would notice, from time to time, various organisations displaying their wares on the east end of Princes Street, one of the busiest thoroughfares in the city of Edinburgh. A thought took hold: 'Why not the Seventh-day Adventist church? We can be there also.'

Discussions with church members took place, ideas were pondered, months went by and things moved slowly. Eventually, though, a small team was formed, and, with prayer to God and initiative and effort on our side, doors were opened and obstacles overcome. The city council granted permission, the church board gave us the evangelism budget, church members donated, and tables, banners, books, DVDs and thousands of tracts were purchased. Willing volunteers helped the Adventist church to make its first appearance on Edinburgh's streets on Sabbath 12 June, and this has continued once every two weeks ever since.

Engaging the public has been a rich experience for our outreach team: people who stop at our table for a chat are often surprised by

these Christians who go to church on Saturday, who not only preach salvation through Jesus but offer a wide selection of Bible information on health, diet, lifestyle, family issues, the benefits of Sabbath rest and so on. In effect they see a whole lifestyle package for everyone, from a church which has no equal in this field.

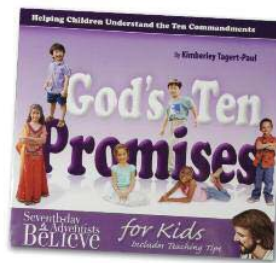
Sure, it's 'early days' yet, but positive results are already showing. Firstly, the Adventist table display in the city centre is becoming a familiar sight in Edinburgh. Secondly,

relations are also being established with other Christian groups who come to see these 'new kids on the block'. They are also often amazed at the scope of our denomination. Moreover, the sound biblical foundations of the Adventist Church and thorough study of Scripture have enabled us to hold our ground convincingly in response to the many questions about our beliefs. Finally, the healthy number of volunteers ensures hundreds of pieces of literature (mostly tracts) are given out to Edinburgh's citizens each fortnight. Combined, these seeds – sown by us and watered through prayer – cannot fail to produce a sure harvest. A new confidence is showing in our Edinburgh church, with every arm growing, empowered through Christ by a sense of what is possible.

JOHN WILBY



Picture of the week, submitted by John SurrIDGE.
Full story in the next issue



New book of the week
God's Ten Promises
Helping children understand the Ten Commandments
by Kimberly Tagert-Paul

In this book you will find a refreshingly different approach to learning about the Ten Commandments, using practical applications to show exactly what they are all about. The teaching tips at the end of each chapter will assist teachers, parents or caregivers to help children recognise that God is love and that his law shows how much he loves us and always wants the best for us.

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Messenger

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Fax No: (01476) 577144.

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dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk

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Sunset

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

	London	Card	Nottingham	Edinburgh	Belfast
Oct 15	6.08	6.20	6.10	6.13	6.23
22	5.53	6.05	5.54	5.56	6.10
29	5.39	5.52	5.40	5.39	5.54
Nov 5	4.27	4.39	4.26	4.24	4.40

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