

# Messenger

News to the churches • 12 November 2010 • Volume 115 • 23/24



## Stanborough Summer Camp hosts more than 150 students

by Vanesa Pizzuto, Stanborough School's Public Relations Officer

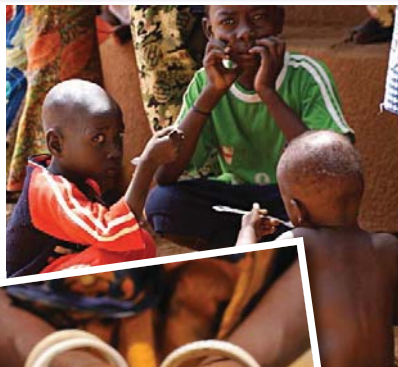
More than one hundred and fifty students attended Stanborough Summer Camp. Coming from a wide variety of countries, including Austria, Brazil, China, France, Hungary, Martinique and Poland, among many others, the teens brought us their unique international flavour and excitement, making the summer of 2010 truly unforgettable.

During the last fifteen years, Stanborough School has hosted more than forty summer camps. Yet we never cease to be amazed at the youngsters' love of friend-making, their gusto for life, and their eagerness to learn. We enjoyed watching them 'owning the scenario' at talent show nights while improving their language skills at every step of the way. In fact, this summer more than 85% of the students who attended our camps passed their City and Guilds International ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) exam, making us really proud of them.

Once again, we saw the students' eyes open wide at the view of Buckingham Palace, and again while punting on the Cam in Cambridge; and it filled us with joy as well. But the icing on the cake was sharing Jesus with them. Since more than 75% of the students attending our camps come from non-Christian backgrounds, we believe we had both a great opportunity and a great responsibility. Thus, we organised captivating, teen-friendly morning and afternoon workshops for them. We also had a special Sabbath programme, in which we taught them songs, played and laughed together.

It was indeed a blessed summer! On behalf of Stanborough International School, we want to give a big thank-you to all the teachers and staff members who made Summer Camp 2010 a great academic, social and spiritual success. It was a privilege to be able to count on such a motivated team. Special recognition goes to all the volunteers and students who freely gave their time to make Summer Camp possible.





## Food for the children in Niger

A serious famine is threatening the lives of tens of thousands of children in Niger. The children there will benefit from the 2010 Shoebox Appeal: however, those wishing to donate money to help with food supplies for Niger should visit [www.adra.org.uk](http://www.adra.org.uk), or contact Hilary on 01923 681723 for further information.



### 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 or a related subject is preferable. Applicants should have at least four years' direct experience in development work, preferably in a developing country, and proven understanding of development issue: theory and practice. Strong analytical, verbal and written communication skills, as well as 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](http://www.adra.org.uk). Alternatively, email [info@adra.org.uk](mailto:info@adra.org.uk) or write to Recruitment, ADRA-UK, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts. WD25 9JZ, England.

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

The deadline for receipt of applications is 2 December 2010

## Enhancing Health

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

### Boosting energy Part 8



#### Physical causes of chronic tiredness

In previous articles we highlighted the various causes of low energy. This issue deals with some of the physical causes of chronic tiredness. Ongoing tiredness needs to be investigated, as it could be related to an underlying medical condition. A visit to your general practitioner and subsequent tests may verify this.

Some people experiencing long-term debilitating tiredness have been diagnosed with a condition known as myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) or chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS). This disorder is characterised by profound fatigue which does not improve with bed rest and worsens with physical and mental exertion. It is identified as a physiological illness, involving dysfunctions of the neurological, endocrine and immune systems, and requires specific interventions for recovery.

**Cardiovascular disorders** – People with heart disease can experience severe tiredness while

undertaking normal household duties and everyday activities. This occurs because the heart has to work harder than usual to undertake tasks that people with healthy hearts do readily. Lifestyle changes, medication and therapeutic interventions are necessary to combat heart disease and help restore energy.

**Dehydration** – Another cause of fatigue is dehydration. Body cells need adequate water to function efficiently; without it, individuals can experience both mental and physical exhaustion. Sipping water throughout the day is one way of keeping yourself adequately hydrated.

**Diabetes** – people who are diabetic have abnormally high levels of sugar remaining in their bloodstream instead of entering the body cells where it can be converted into energy. This results in the body running low on reserves, no matter how much is eaten; hence the feeling of constant tiredness. Lifestyle changes in relation to diet, exercise and medication

assist the body to better process the sugar.

**Infections** – Some infections have obvious signs; for example, urinary tract infections usually cause symptoms such as pain or a burning sensation with a frequent urge to urinate. However, in some hidden urinary tract infections the only sign present may be fatigue, so the infection can go undetected for some time. Prompt treatment of infections is crucial.

**Weight** – Being overweight or underweight has an impact on energy levels. Overweight people have to work harder than usual to accomplish everyday tasks. Underweight individuals have less muscle strength and tire more easily.

Other conditions like anaemia, insomnia or an overactive or underactive thyroid can also affect energy levels, and require the intervention of medical practitioners.

**Good health!**

The 'sexual abuse of children by priests in the Catholic Church has been at a level considerably above that in any other organisation.'<sup>1</sup> In part this has been made possible by Vatican policy. That policy has been one of non-reportage and non-co-operation with the forces of law and order, a policy to handle the crimes of the priesthood as sins to be dealt with by Church authorities in accordance with 'Canon Law'.

'Dealt with' how, exactly?

By 'forgiving its criminal priests when they have confessed and claimed to be repentant' – and agreed to say prayers and do penance (charitable work, often).

In accordance with most legal systems – certainly those of the UK and Ireland – that is outrageous.

Why?

'Forgiveness is generally reckoned to be the prerogative of victims, not of those who employed and tolerated their abusers.'<sup>2</sup>

How does the Roman Church defend its position?

It believes in the possibility of redemption for the worst of criminals, even those with the propensity to re-offend. And it believes that that redemption is within its gift.

Notice that word re-offend. The rate of recidivism (re-offending) among child-abusers is notoriously difficult to calculate because the majority of cases are not reported at all, and many are not reported until twenty or thirty years after the offence. However, the rate of re-offending is generally regarded as way higher than for any other offence. Dutch Professor Franken expects that more than ninety per cent of sex offenders will, given the

freedom, re-offend.<sup>3</sup>

That is an important part of the reason why organisations other than the Catholic Church leave it to the forces of law and order, custodial sentences and the Sex Offenders Register.

Why?

The interests of the victims, or potential victims, supersede all others.

Our society takes the sexual abuse of minors more seriously than it takes most other offences.

All of which brings up the whole question of forgiveness. Somebody told me: 'We are most like the beasts when we kill. We are most like men when we judge. We are most like God when we forgive.'

But how do you begin to forgive a child abuser? What do you think? I am obliged to leave that to God alone. After I've done my citizen's duty and reported what I know to the authorities, that is. The best interests of the offender, let alone the victims, are sidelined if we accept the roles of court, judge and jury, pronounce 'Not guilty' – and, further, smother everything under a cloak of secrecy.

Am I saying, 'Forgiveness is a lovely idea, until there is something to forgive'? No. I am saying that it is not our place, or

the place of our Church or anybody else's Church, to pronounce forgiveness. It is God's place. And, as God grants his grace to him, the victim may reach the point where he can relinquish the hurt. Any institution that takes up God's role or usurps the victim's role is not occupying the moral high ground but abandoning it and, at the same time, losing all credibility and sense of what is right and just.

'To know all is to forgive all,' they tell me. *Only God knows all.*

As an individual I must pray for God's grace to forgive wrongs – *to me.*

There are two basic meanings of 'forgive': 1) to remit the guilt; 2) to relinquish resentment. Only God can take care of guilt; and that because of Calvary. God grants me the grace to relinquish resentment; if for no other reason, for my own health's sake.

Forgiveness is not easy, but it is necessary.

Anti-slavery campaigner Hannah More wrote, 'A Christian will find it cheaper to pardon than to resent. Forgiveness saves the expense of anger and the cost of hatred.' The expense that would otherwise be borne by his emotional, spiritual and physical health.

Forgiveness is a cancer that destroys relationships, eats away at one's own body and brain, and wastes God's grace.

Forgiveness is the liberation that comes when I surrender my right to hurt you for hurting me.

C. S. Lewis said it better:

'Real forgiveness means looking steadily at the sin – *the sin that is left over without any excuse, after all the allowances have been made* – and seeing it in all its horror, meanness and malice, and, nevertheless, being wholly reconciled to the man who has done it.'

Is that possible in the case of a victim to an abuser?

Only by God's grace.

### What does it mean to forgive someone?

David Augsburger, in his book *Caring Enough to Forgive/Caring Enough Not to Forgive* (published by Ventura), suggests that forgiveness is a 'journey of many steps' taken 'carefully and thoughtfully':

- To see the other person as having worth again, regardless of wrongdoing;
- To see the other as equally precious again, in spite of the pain felt;
- To cancel demands on the past, recognising that changing the unchangeable is impossible;
- To work through the anger and pain felt by both, in reciprocal trusting and risking, until genuineness in intention is perceived and repentance is seen to be authentic;
- To drop the demands for an ironclad guarantee of future behaviour;
- To reach out – to feel moved by love and compassion and to celebrate that right relationships have been achieved.

Augsburger was not writing about forgiveness for abuse, but forgiveness in a more general context. Did he get it right? Feel free to share your perceptions and, if you wish to, to share your own experiences of forgiveness. [EditorDNM@mac.com](mailto:EditorDNM@mac.com).

Should you wish to read more about forgiveness, I would recommend R. T. Kendall's *Total Forgiveness: Achieving God's greatest challenge* (Hodder and Stoughton, 2001)

<sup>1</sup>Geoffrey Robertson QC, *The Case of the Pope* (Penguin, 2010), p. 6. <sup>2</sup>Ibid, p. 7. <sup>3</sup>[http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Libra/About\\_recidivism.htm](http://www.ipce.info/ipceweb/Libra/About_recidivism.htm)

# The 'problem Pope'

Over the summer, when plans for Pope Benedict XVI's state visit to Britain were well under way, Penguin Books received a hot manuscript from Geoffrey Robertson, QC, Master of the Middle Temple and one of Britain's leading Human Rights lawyers. So hot was that MS that Penguin turned it round in record time so that it could be published before the Pope arrived as a *Penguin Special* – the first for 21 years.

My colleague, Patrick Boyle, drew the book to my attention a week ago. I acquired it via Amazon and have read it since. Its title, *THE CASE OF THE POPE: Vatican Accountability for Human Rights Abuse* (ISBN 978-0-241-95384-6), made me wonder if it might be 'hard going'. Sadly, I understood every word. I wish I could say I had not.

It confirmed what I already knew about the child abuse scandal in the Catholic priesthood, but added a great deal more, including evidence for a chain of responsibility that (Geoffrey Robertson argues) links to Joseph Ratzinger as the architect of the cover-up. Joseph Ratzinger, in case you have forgotten, is the proper name of the present pope.

*'THE CASE OF THE POPE'*, says the book jacket, 'delivers a devastating indictment of the way the Vatican has run a secret legal system that shields paedophile priests from criminal trial around the world.' Read it only if you have a strong stomach! Since it costs only £6.99, it is likely to achieve a wide circulation. Aside from my central concerns about the whole papal system (based on theology, its history, and our scheme of prophetic interpretation), I am praying that that wide circulation will include many decent, fair-minded Roman Catholics who will use it as the basis for a ground-up movement • to remove the present Pope, and • to reform the system that left him in a powerful position from 1981 to 2005 and then, with much of the evidence known, made him Pope. If what I pray for happens, it will be an historical first.

From 1981 to 2005 Cardinal Ratzinger was the Prefect of the Vatican-based Congregation of the Doctrine of Faith (CDF), the organisation that replaced the Inquisition. In that capacity he issued the series of Vatican directives which required all sex abuse complaints to be processed in absolute secrecy and withheld from all police forces and legal systems. In addition, Geoffrey Robertson QC makes a strong case that Ratzinger was also responsible for the 'trafficking' of paedophile priests from the

parishes where the offences were committed to parishes where their records were unknown, thus hiding them from criminal justice and making it possible for them to re-offend.

Further, that the trafficking crossed national frontiers – many offenders being sent to Latin America and Africa; a traffic made possible by the Vatican's status, thanks to Mussolini, as an independent state (a status which Robertson believes to be indefensible), of which the Pope is 'in law, the absolute monarch'.

Ratzinger's control and cover-up of paedophilia in the priesthood was relatively successful until 2002. It was then that a series of exposés was published in the *Boston Globe* which alerted other American newspapers, notably the *New York Times*, to an evil which had been present in Catholic society for decades. To date, court settlements in the US exceed \$1.6 billion. While the Catholic Church set up a Catholic bishops' conference and their report recommended referring accusations to

most of the countries affected by the scandal, one feature of which was the payment of 'compensation' to the families of victims 'in return for keeping quiet' (Robertson, 30). 'In 2010, the [Australian] media revealed that [a commissioner specifically, and unusually, appointed by the Bishop of Melbourne] had ordered payments in respect of the sexual molestation of children by 300 priests, only one of whom had been defrocked' (Robertson, 32).

Lord Nolan's report dealing with paedophile priests in the UK established the 'paramount principle' that the interests of the child should always come first (Robertson, 34-35). Nevertheless, a review in 2007 found that, thanks to the influence of the Catholic hierarchy, Lord Nolan's recommendations had been widely ignored. What comes first for the hierarchy, thanks to Ratzinger's CDF, is no co-operation with the forces of law and order, absolute secrecy in the interests of the Church's reputation, and keeping the assets of the Church intact.

Hans Kung, the foremost Catholic intellectual and a former friend of Ratzinger, has no doubt that the Pope has a case to answer. The case set up a Catholic bishops' conference and their report recommended referring accusations to

## A case to answer?

**Under Cardinal Ratzinger's direct authority, a policy was implemented between 1981 and 2005 pursuant to which complaints against perpetrators were hushed up by secrecy oaths and confidential settlements: priests known to be guilty were sent to other parishes or other countries, despite knowledge of their propensity to re-offend; guilty priests were normally forgiven after penances of prayer and restriction of movement – very seldom were they defrocked and there is no case yet identified where the Vatican urged its bishop to submit the matter to the competent authorities for investigation and prosecution.**

Geoffrey Robertson QC  
*THE CASE OF THE POPE* (Penguin Special, 2010), page 121.

the police, Cardinal Ratzinger's CDF vetoed the report and recommended that everything be kept inside the Catholic system and dealt with according to 'Canon Law'.

In subsequent years, there were major scandals along the same lines in Australia, Malta, Germany, Mexico, Canada, Norway, Austria, and the Republic of Ireland. There were three judicial inquiries in Ireland, one of which – headed by Justice Sean Ryan – delivered a massive five-volume report that concluded molestation was 'endemic' in Catholic boys' institutions, reformatories and orphanages (Robertson, 24).

Where the truth emerged and justice was done, it happened despite the best efforts of the Vatican's CDF under both Ratzinger and Ratzinger's successor after he became Pope. Indeed, Robertson identifies a pattern across

the papal system – has been made by one of the most prominent lawyers in England, Geoffrey Robertson. It is hard to believe that the Catholic hierarchy itself has the checks and balances to hold a pope to account. It will be down to the decent-minded Catholic laity to organise and hold their leader to account.

To spare you the horrifying details of what has happened to thousands of Catholic children over many lands and many decades (centuries?), I have dealt in generalisations here. Those with the stomach for it will read Robertson's book.

The first step to righting countless thousands of wrongs would be to oblige the Vatican to accept and enforce Nolan's principle: that the interests of the child must always come first.

EDITOR



# The best news story of 2010

Stephen Holden reminds us that good news stories still occur

One event was current, front-page news across the world for two months, and was concluded successfully in the early hours of 13 October. It can truly be classed as 'good news'.

Just after 3am on that day, British time, the first of thirty-three miners, trapped underground when part of the San Jose mine in Chile's Atacama desert collapsed, was winched to the surface amid scenes of jubilation.

On the surface, families and relatives of those entombed some 624 metres below ground had been waiting since the collapse occurred on 5 August, anxious to be as close as possible – praying that the ordeal might soon be over and that their loved ones might be restored to them.

Entire families had shifted their lives to the minehead, eating, sleeping and washing at a makeshift settlement called 'Camp Hope', where night-time temperatures, we were told, fell to near-freezing.

Seventeen long days and nights after the collapse, the seventh of the bore holes, each of which had been probing for any sign of life, led to the detection of an audible knocking and, shortly afterwards, broke through to the underground shelter where the survivors were located. Communication had been established.

One single bore hole became the channel through which a metal cylinder carried messages of encouragement and support, along with essential supplies to those trapped below. Through this lifeline the miners were able to send messages of love and reassurance in return. The rescue effort was then concentrated on making an escape shaft wide enough to bring the men up from the deep.

The first of the three drilling operations to rescue the trapped men began on 30 August, and the

first bore hole capable of being used broke through to the chamber on 9 October.

After that, engineers were busy installing a metal casing to line the first 60 metres of the shaft, to prevent crumbling surface rock from breaking away and impeding operations. The rest of the shaft had been bored through solid rock.

This was followed by a successful test run of the rescue capsule, known as Phoenix. It had gone down to within 14 metres of the trapped men. All the necessary equipment

along with three others. Officials had identified them as being the most stable and experienced miners, in case something went wrong en route. The next ten were those who were weak or ill – those suffering from hypertension, anxiety or diabetes, and those with dental and respiratory infections or skin lesions caused by the intense humidity in the underground chamber, where the temperature was ninety degrees Fahrenheit.

For their journey to the surface, the miners wore 'biometric'

Hugo Infante/Government of Chile/Rex Features



Samuel Avalos is number 22 of the 33 rescued miners from the San Jose mine

had been installed to ensure safety before the dramatic rescue could actually begin.

The rescue operation began when a technical mining expert, Manuel Gonzales, was lowered down the shaft. He was supposed to return to the surface and report on the condition of the shaft and then repeat the journey before handing over to a paramedic. But live video feed from the underground refuge where all the miners were gathered showed Florencio Avalos, the first man to be rescued, preparing to be winched up immediately.

He was chosen to lead the way,

harnesses, designed for astronauts, which monitored heart rate, breathing, temperature and oxygen consumption.

The miners, in the main, were deeply religious men and had been able to survive the ordeal because they had pinned their trust on God.

Mario Sepulveda – the second man to be rescued – said that his faith in God had sustained him and that he had had full confidence he would eventually be rescued.

Alicia Campos, the mother of another miner, spoke of her son Daniel's rescue in terms of his being 'reborn'. She said their lives

'would never be the same again'.

The public had been able to follow the entire rescue like a reality TV show – with live pictures from a video link into the chamber and a real-time minute-by-minute twitter on the BBC website, hosted by Tom Wilcox. We awoke on the morning of 14 October to jubilant celebrations on screen as the last of the thirty-three miners was rescued.

Unlike this mining incident, and way before a rescue mission for mankind was required, God made provision through his Son for our salvation – referred to in Revelation 13:8 (KJV) as 'the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world'.

As with the Chilean rescue, our rescue mission involves a process by which each of us is saved individually, independent of anyone else, even though the means of salvation in Christ were made *once and for all, free at the point of delivery and need – a gift to all who accept it by faith.*

We are all trapped, as it were, in a 'dark place', where 'sin abounds', but are lifted up out of darkness, not by some mechanical Phoenix, but by the compelling love and grace of a Saviour who dispels darkness by his very presence in our lives – because he is light and 'in him is no darkness at all' (1 John 1:5, KJV).

A song entitled 'Grace', by a popular hymn writer, says of the One who would rescue us –

'There is nothing I can do to make you love me more,

To make you love me less than you do!'

From this underworld, Christ brings us back into the light of life. He is our constant Source of strength and hope as we encounter problems and difficulties in our lives, and we are promised that he has gone to *prepare a place for us* – our own 'Camp Hope', if you will – not some makeshift settlement, but a permanent home for eternity when the rescue mission is complete.

At that time there will also be tears of joy, and an emotional reunion with the One who gave all for our rescue.

Good news indeed!

Just as the reports indicated that all thirty-three miners had been saved – Christ wants none to be lost, but all to find salvation in him.

# Young people reflect on 'Camp Esperanza'

by Willie Tafadzwa Chinyamurindi and Edith Samambwa

Once in a while, stories make the news headlines that leave a lasting impression on our minds and force us to think. One such story was the rescue of the miners in Chile at 'Camp Esperanza' — 'Camp Hope'. There, thirty-three miners were rescued after nearly two months underground. The news of the rescue occupied much space in the newspapers, and a large global television audience watched the rescue with bated breath. We reflect on this news story from 'Camp Esperanza' by exploring narratives from young people in the BUC territories. How has this event affected their lives? Can we unearth some spiritual nuggets from the event? As the narratives will show, we noticed that young people and their leaders alike were able to link it with aspects of the great controversy between good and evil. Most significantly, the narratives revealed personal and spiritual realities.

## Hope of rescue

Kerri Muldrew from Northern Ireland reflects on the hope of the Chilean miners. 'Although the miners were trapped for a long time underground, I think they had hope of being rescued', she remarks. Kerri then applies this event to her own life. 'I know that, no matter what happens, I have that hope, and I know that I will be rescued from my situation by God.'

In a similar vein, Samuel Olajuyigbe from the Castle Knock church in Dublin says, 'Miracles still happen; all we need is a little more hope.' We need to continue to encourage each other throughout the 'Chilean' experiences of our lives. Shannelle Hall from Bedford defines this hope as 'believing in a positive outcome in the midst of adversity by trusting in God.' The apostle Paul put it succinctly: this 'hope does not disappoint.'

## Love finds a way

Pastor Eddie Hypolite, an associate Youth director within the SEC, reflects on the theme of love. 'Love always finds a way to reach us', he comments. The extent to which love was willing to go to reach those deep down in an uninhabitable mine was amazing. Love was expressed through the waiting wives, the expectant children and the love of an entire nation and world: all piercing through rocks of resistance to issue a lifeline. Luzil Joy Pontanar from Ireland adds,

*'Every bit of the Chilean rescue speaks to me about the plan of salvation and how God's glorious love rescues us from this sin-sick world.'* The love experience is given expression in the inspired writings of E. G. White: *'Nothing less than the infinite sacrifice made by Christ in behalf of fallen man could express the Father's love to lost humanity.'*<sup>2</sup>

## Tap into faith

Other young people prefer to use metaphors and expressions to describe the experience of the miners. Iphithule Mhlanga, who is a Youth leader in Dublin, views the mine as similar to the *'destructive and obscene nature of sin.'* Adam Keough, the Irish Mission Youth sponsor, compares the rescue aspect of the event to the *'greatest rescue effort when Jesus Christ descended into the darkness and gloom of this sinful world to rescue humanity.'* Borislav Drljaca comments on the nature of the help given to the miners: *'The miners could not get out except by help from outside. We can't get out of sin except by help from God.'* Busi Msipha views the rescue as a modern day re-enactment of the *'Hebrew boys of Daniel'* who showed that *'resilient people tap into their faith and trust God for help.'*

In addition to the themes of hope and love, our respondents see the outreach aspect of this rescue event. Though we acknowledge that atheists did not believe that the rescue was down to God, we observe that the much-publicised event showcases the Christian faith. Heather Keough from the Belfast church observes the effect of this event on her little daughter Olivia who, like her parents, watched the rescue on the news bulletins. Having seen one of the men emerge from the mine to thank God, little Olivia would ask her mum about *'The men that Jesus looked after in the mine.'*

World leaders and celebrities responded to the Chilean mine rescue. Steve Jobs, from Apple, gave the miners iPods. Oakley gave the miners a brand of expensive eyewear. Sir Alex Ferguson looks forward to welcoming the miners to Old Trafford. Real Madrid sent the miners gifts. What did the Adventists give the miners? While he was trapped, Renan, one of the rescued miners, told a Brazilian news magazine: 'Give thanks to those who sent us the Bibles . . . [they] gave me so much



faith that I will leave here.'<sup>3</sup>

For some, the most compelling aspect of this story is that although some in the search team gave up hope of finding the miners after five days, the families of the miners never gave up hope and encouraged the search team to keep trying. We believe God honoured their faith and hope, teaching us never to give up on those among our friends and family who have strayed, backslidden or even lost the faith.

We conclude with the words of Nomonde Ngwenya from Wimbledon International Church: *'God's timing is perfect.'* The experience of the Chilean miners showed that God's timing was perfect, and is still perfect, and will be perfect until the end. So, as the popular maxim says, 'Keep hope alive!'

The authors are old friends who served the Lord in the Irish Mission. Willie Tafadzwa Chinyamurindi is now a member of the Milton Keynes church, and Edith Samambwa is a member of the Dublin church.

<sup>1</sup>Romans 5:5 (NIV)  
<sup>2</sup>Steps to Christ, page 14  
<sup>3</sup><http://1news.adventist.org/2010/08/adventists-mini-bibl.html>

# We stand on giants' shoulders

by the students of Newbold College: Black History Week, 11-16 OCTOBER

During their Black History Week, Mervyn Weir challenged the students of Newbold College to think about who they inspire. Their response to the week's programme reflects how deeply that question resonated within the student body.

Tuesday, 11.03am: The presentation 'I Shall Not Be Moved' was our introduction to the week's speaker, Mervyn Weir. His experience in inspirational speaking was revealed by both his talk and the play that followed it. Actors Yonah Odoom and Chris Tranchell performed a version of the Rosa Parks story, highlighting the fact that Rosa probably did not realise the future potential of her actions that day.

Tuesday, 7.31pm: The evening play involved a dialogue between an African gentleman and a Catholic priest, and fitted well into the evening's theme of 'The Lost Gospel of Africa'. The African man tried to explain to the priest that, by bringing Africans over to work as slaves, the Church was using the Bible in the wrong way, for its own purposes and benefit. Although the priest responded defensively, the

African character ended the play by stating that you can draw Jesus with blonde hair and blue eyes, but he would still be Jewish. We left understanding the importance of learning about people instead of judging them. — by Maja Topic.

Wednesday, 5.36pm: The main focus of the afternoon was 'the message'. To Mervyn, it is the message that takes precedence, not the format in which it is presented. The programme created an atmosphere of relaxation in which the students of Newbold could discuss issues related to Black history. The conversation flowed and the students were encouraged to participate: it was a dynamic discussion! — by Luke Whyte.

Thursday, 9.02pm: The title of the evening presentation, 'Stained-glass iPod', is what captivated me initially. I left thinking about the fact that God gave all of us different talents, and that our focus should be on discovering and developing them. There are so many types of communication now, such as film, the internet, acting and photography, and all of these can be used effectively in our min-



The Diversity team, from left to right: Mike Pearson, Val Bernard-Allan, Helen Pearson and Gifford Rhame



Left to right: Mervyn Weir, Yonah Odoom and Chris Tranchell Photos: Kay Choudury

istry. A final thought of the evening was that if Jesus accepts everyone just as they are, so should we. — by Jelena Zecevic.

Sabbath, 11.17am: One of the defining features of the Sabbath programme was the passion expressed through the music. It showed how important Spirituals have been, and still are, to Black history. Mervyn's presentation emphasised how important it is for us to be living examples of what Jesus can do in one's life, and

made it clear that he had been transformed by this message. By drawing on the way in which the Israelites erected stone monuments to mark significant occasions, Mervyn encouraged us to be landmarks in people's lives, to which other people can point when mapping their own spiritual journey. All in all, considering how much we learned from the giants that have gone before us, this was an inspirational and spirit-filled week. — by Luke Whyte.

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# Visiting Sister White

by Andrew Puckering\*

Some months ago, I was in the Napa region of California, USA. We were journeying to Elmhaven, the home of Ellen G. White. Words cannot describe the serenity of her house. It is situated in the premier wine-growing region of California, and is surrounded by vineyards. Needless to say, Sister White had the wine-producing grapes pulled out of the area around her home, and replaced with the larger juice grapes!

The area gets a lot of sunshine, and the countryside is quiet, making the home a sun-kissed and tranquil haven of peace. As we walked through the door, the friendly volunteer guide greeted us and started to show us the family photos, telling us that Sister White was the most widely-published author in the entire world, ever. He described how she would write page after page, and how her secretaries would pick up the manuscripts as they fell from her desk and type them up carefully.

The home contained a number of surprises. Sister White, it turns out, was very fond of all the latest modern technology – she had electric lighting, an Underwood typewriter, and a food warmer; all cutting-edge innovations at the end of the Victorian era. If she were alive today, she might have had a smartphone, a laptop and a Bluetooth earpiece! There was also a fireplace, covered with tiles illustrating the legends of King Arthur's court. Sister White delighted in telling the young children in her family of these stories; being careful, of course, to remind them that they were works of fiction.

There was the huge family Bible that she lifted up for over an hour on one occasion. There were the books on Daniel and Revelation by Uriah Smith. There was the bed at the foot of which she saw Jesus one night, the night on which the neighbours said they could see an unearthly glow coming from her room. The guide showed us a picture of Jesus that Ellen White said most closely resembled the Man that she saw.

There was the typewriter upon

which her manuscripts were set, there the desk at which she wrote, and there the Bible that she used for reference, while the dappled sunlight filtered through the window past her cedars of Lebanon.

Sister White is highly regarded in our Church. Much is said by her detractors, and much is said in her defence. I would therefore like to share a few simple points to keep in mind when quoting this inspired lady:

Firstly, although inspired, she always took great care not to place her writings on the same level as Scripture. The Bible is always our source of truth; Sister White was the 'lesser light'. The 'greater light' comes from the Word of God. She did not wish to be called a prophetess. The object of her writings was not to put forward her own interpretation, but to encourage people to study the Scriptures for themselves, so that they could clearly see on their own the truths that were evident to her. The writings of Sister White were to be supplementary to the Word of God, not to replace it.

Secondly, it must be recognised that not every word that Sister White ever spoke was inspired. Think of how many words a prophet speaks in his lifetime, compared with how many are recorded in Scripture. You could, with a little effort, recite the entire book of Isaiah in a single day, and yet the words which Isaiah must have spoken over the course of his ministry were many more than these: thus it is with Sister White. We should not count shopping and laundry lists and off-the-cuff remarks as coming directly from Heaven. She was human, and was therefore (like all of us) fallible (1 Kings 8:46). The fact that we recognise her humanity does not mean that we deny her inspiration – on the contrary, it enables us to respond boldly to her critics.

Finally, Ellen White's writings must always be read in their appropriate context. Her letters requesting more shellfish (written before she received the health message) cannot be compared with her stren-



uous efforts to maintain a vegetarian diet (years later). And if Ellen White's life changed so much, how much more the rest of the world in the years since her death – we have suffered two world wars, the rise and fall of Communism, the threat of nuclear holocaust and the ascendancy of the microchip. Bicycles are no longer considered extravagances, and theatres are no longer shameful and filled with vice. Many foods which were in her time unsafe to eat are now safe and plentiful, and likewise foods which were once considered safe have now become contaminated. What would Sister White have

made of genetic engineering, cloning and nanotechnology? We can only guess.

One thing I do know: I encountered such blessed peace at Elmhaven, and I know through Sister White's writings that she was a kind and God-fearing woman whose words shine with the love of Jesus and his love for humanity: such words are especially relevant today. We would do well to reflect this love, as Sister White did, and to share it with those around us.

\*Andrew is a Cambridge graduate who takes care of the jots and tittles at The Stanborough Press.

## GUEST EDITORIAL

# What defines a true Seventh-day Adventist? WHERE IS THE CENTRE GROUND?

By John Surridge, president, the Welsh Mission

Some weeks ago I listened with interest to Andrew Marr interviewing the new Labour leader, Ed Miliband. When asked if his election on 25 September signalled a 'lurch to the left' for the party, he replied, 'No. I'm from the centre, but we need to define where the centre is.'

The Seventh-day Adventist Church prides itself on being a global Church. Despite major cultural differences around the world, there is still a remarkable degree of unity among the Church's sixteen-million-plus membership.

### But what defines a true Seventh-day Adventist? Where is the centre ground?

Many of us tend to look at ourselves and say, with Ed Miliband, 'I'm from the centre!' In other words, 'my particular way of looking at the Church is the correct one, and everyone else is slightly out of line.' Put like this, the answer is laughable, but it does touch on a reality: humans are naturally self-centred.

In order to maintain unity within the Church, it is important for us to see the big picture. We need to learn from our fellow Adventists in different congregations and different countries. We can do this by meeting them and talking to them – which is why events ranging from Days of Fellowship to General Conference Sessions are so important. But we can also achieve considerable unity – of values and purpose – by using the other forms of communication that are available to us: print, radio, television and the internet.

As Christians, we all share the same primary source material: the Bible. The revelation of Jesus Christ in both Testaments should have been a unifying force for the Church throughout history, but sadly this was not the case. When the Seventh-day Adventist Church began in the second half of the nineteenth century, it determined to have 'no creed but the Bible'. Of course the pioneers recognised that their understanding of the Bible would develop over time, and they used the phrase *present truth* to define what Adventist beliefs were at any given point in time.

That is where we still stand to this day. We have no formal creed (apart from the Bible), but we do have twenty-eight fundamental beliefs, and a number of other statements and documents, which state what *present truth* is to us today. These are all studied and researched in great detail by various committees, but the final decision as to what constitutes mainstream Adventist understanding lies with the delegates to the General Conference Session, which

is held every five years.

This year I was one of those delegates and, although I didn't agree personally with every speaker who made a contribution from the floor, or even with every one of the decisions that was made, I agree with the process. I am happy to accept that the centre ground for Adventists is what comes out of the democratic process which takes place at General Conference Sessions.

Now this does not mean that, as Adventists, we all have to hold exactly the same position on everything. Certainly not. As in politics, there is a wide range of opinion within the Church; left and right wings, and probably only a small percentage genuinely occupying the centre ground. However, knowing where the centre ground is helps us to understand where we are in relation to the Church, and should help to keep us humble when we talk about 'our views'.

So, where can you find the very latest in Adventist *present truth* today? Well, I've mentioned our fundamental beliefs, and these are published in the book, *Seventh-day Adventists Believe*. You can also find them on the General Conference website, [www.adventist.org](http://www.adventist.org), together with a collection of official statements and guidelines. More generally, you can get a feel for the centre ground of Adventism by studying the Sabbath School lesson regularly, reading the *MESSENGER* and *ADVENTIST WORLD*, and, if you have the facilities, watching the Hope Channel and listening to Adventist World Radio.

There are those who would like the Seventh-day Adventist Church to be something other than what it is. Some people would like to take a snapshot of the Church at some point in its history – say, 1888, 1901, or 1956 – and use that as the definition of what Adventists should be. Others paint a picture of their ideal Adventist Church using a restricted palette from the writings of Ellen White. Still others follow the latest ideas of certain high-profile Adventist personalities who promote their ministries through various DVDs and websites.

The bottom line is that we are a Church made up of individuals. With the biblical revelation of Jesus Christ as our Foundation, and the Holy Spirit as our Guide, we do our best to live out God's will for his Church today. The Adventist Church is not perfect, but I believe that it is the best representation of God's remnant Church in existence today.

May God bless you as you serve him to the best of your ability through his Church.

### Who's being deceived?

Dear Editor  
Surely any impartial observer, with a knowledge of Bible prophecy and of Christ's example when responding to controversy, could not help but question who, in the ongoing Papal debate, is actually being deceived? [Letters, 15 and 29 October]

We can clearly see Revelation unfolding around us... 'so your problem is?' Making this the focus of an aggressive and uncharitable outreach denies the essence of Christ's love and grace. Instead of allowing the devil to manipulate us into displaying the most characteristics of human nature, shouldn't we instead rejoice and draw comfort from witnessing God's promises being fulfilled?

JOHN WILBY, GLASSOW

### 400th anniversary of the KJV

Dear Editor  
I liked your idea about celebrating the four hundredth birthday of the KJV. We plan to give a Bible to everyone in our street, together with a specially-produced bookmark featuring: LOVE, FORGIVENESS, PEACE, in aid of our charity, Thirsty Africa: [www.thirstyafrika.com](http://www.thirstyafrika.com).

It would also be good to find out what the Bible Society is doing and join in with that.

PASTOR ROY CHISHOLM, BEDFORD

### Over-managed

Dear Editor  
I have read with interest the letters questioning the management structure of our Church in the British Isles.

It is quite understandable in the current economic climate that the Church (alongside the Government and the rest of society) is struggling to balance its books. We have a clear duty to ensure that the Church can function on a firm financial, as well as spiritual, foundation for the generations to come.

Having said this, I am concerned when our answer seems to include laying off ministers and 'salami-slicing' here and there. Surely we must take a look at how we are managed. I tend to agree with David Wright (*MESSENGER* 15 October) that we have a top-heavy management structure, with much duplication between the layers. Cut-backs in the outside world usually involve a fundamental review of overheads. There would seem to be no reason why the Church should be an exception. We all must agree that we want as many workers at the 'coal face' as possible. Having duplicate functions at the NEC, SEC and BUC must be inefficient. The Lord requires workers in the harvest field, not in the head office.

ALLAN KISSACK, WEYMOUTH

## Newtown/Aston's new church purchase

On Thursday 14 October, Pastor Richard Jackson received the keys to the new church building for the Newtown/Aston church. This marks the end of a long saga for the Newtown/Aston congregation. The original group, which came out of the Handsworth church some forty years ago, worshipped in the early years at William Cowper School in Newtown, and later in the St James' Anglican church in Aston. During this time they prayed and saved and dreamt of having a place of their own in which to worship. Finally, in 2000, under the leadership of Pastor Jeff Nicholson and Iclida Mardner, they bought a large house which they refurbished as a place of worship, but soon outgrew the facilities. In Birmingham, the Methodist Church (which is closing down non-

viable congregations and getting rid of surplus buildings) put its most modern building in the Erdington circuit on the market, and the Newtown group purchased it.

The circuit's treasurer, handing over the keys, said: 'I am very happy that the building will continue being used as a place of worship. We had to close it as our membership here has been in terminal decline.' Pastor Richard Jackson, speaking on behalf of the church, said, 'The members are overwhelmed and are giving thanks to Almighty God for providing this new church home for them. They just cannot believe that they won the bid for such a wonderful church building.'

The Newtown/Aston members came out in their numbers on the following Sunday to do the gardening



and necessary housekeeping in readiness for moving in. The Sanctuary seats about 180 members and has a modern full-sized kitchen, several meeting rooms and a two-bedroom apartment. The building also housed a shop which Pastor Jackson hopes in the future will be used as an ABC bookshop for the West Midlands area. The church's address is Lichfield Road,

Aston, Birmingham, B6 5SX. It is easily accessible by public transport, being situated immediately adjacent to the Aston train station, with a bus stop nearby.

JEFF NICHOLSON



## Indian summer

Sabbath 9 October was an Indian summer day in Watford. Over 200 southern Asians, from Hull to Yeovil and from Chelmsford to Bristol, gathered at the Stanborough School auditorium for their annual day of fellowship. Extended families of infants, children, youth, parents and grandparents huddled into the overflowing auditorium. Nepal, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Pakistan and India were all represented. Over a dozen languages were spoken on the day.

After a rousing song service by the young people from Harlow and Chelmsford, children, youth

and adults had their separate Sabbath School classes. The adult lesson took the form of a panel discussion moderated by Kish Poddar, and the children and youth were taught by Anita Samuel and Alwin Luke respectively. The Sabbath School programme was conducted by Robert Thottimpuri.

Pastor Maywald Jesudass, the Ministerial and Education director of the Middle Eastern Union, was the speaker for the Divine Service. He challenged everyone not to be seduced by the idols of careers, wealth and power, but to be committed to Jesus.

After a sumptuous Indian meal, which reminded us of the feeding of the 5,000 by the Lord, people gathered again for an afternoon of music in different languages, compered by Sekhar Babu Thananki from Yeovil. Sunil Tete, Moses Rajashing, Johnson Jacob and John Varghese provided the behind-the-scenes support for the smooth running of the day.

O. P. CHACKOCHEN

## British missionaries honoured by UK southern Asians

Pastor Peter Cooper from Louth, Lincolnshire, and Mrs Betty Cooper from Torquay, Devon, who celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 2009, dedicated twenty years of their life together in service of southern Asia. Pastor Peter Cooper was a student at Newbold College, and a



## Stoke Newington: Sister Val at 90



On Sunday 11 April, family, friends and church members gathered at Sister Elma Valentine's home to celebrate her ninetieth birthday. Sister Val, as she is known, is the widow of Verley Valentine (Brother Val), and in 2002 they celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary, which was featured in *MESSENGER* and other publications. Sadly, Brother Val died in 2005.

In her more active days, Sister Val was Stoke Newington's head deaconess and, although now confined by infirmity, she is still loved, respected and remembered.

Sister Val has been blessed with eight children, sixty grandchildren, twenty-eight great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

Sister Val is the second member of our church to celebrate a ninetieth birthday, and we at Stoke wish her many more birthdays.

FLO SUTHERLAND

## Honoured by her students

Born on 4 September 1913, Joyce Stella Ballantyne completed her teacher's training in Madras, and has been a teacher all her life.

She was baptised into the

Seventh-day Adventist Church in February 1952, by Pastor Sorensen, in Visakhapatnam. The Church wanted her to start a school there; but she had no experience as an Adventist teacher; hence the plans to open the school failed. God opened the way for her to join the Adventist school on Spencer Road in Bangalore, so she moved with her five children to Bangalore and started teaching there in 1953. In Bangalore she learnt much about how an Adventist school should be run, and only then did she realise why God did not want her to open the Vizag school, as she had no experience of how an Adventist school should be run.

In 1958 her father, who was in Vizag, broke his leg, and she had to go and be by his side as he was 86. She opened the Vizag School in January 1959.

After five years of her teaching in Vizag, the Rice Millers Association in Palakol, West Godavari District, heard about her and wanted her to start an English medium school for them in their village. So the Andhra section lent her services to them and, in 1964, she opened an English medium school in Palakol.

After two years, the Andhra section asked her to open a school in Vijayawada, so she started the Adventist school on Bunder Road with seven pupils.

In 1969 she came to the UK, but India was still calling out for her. In 1971 she returned to India, this time to Lowry Higher Secondary School in Bangalore. Here she taught and was

in charge of the CCF; as a result of which, many children benefited and many were baptised.

In 1974 she was transferred to Nuzvid Hospital, where she worked as the house mother and was in charge of the nurses. She has some very happy memories of all the nurses, and many of them are in touch with her even now. While she worked as the house mother she was asked to teach at the Nuzvid School. As

teaching was her first love, she gladly accepted the teaching job. She soon started a branch Sabbath School in a village on the outskirts of Nuzvid, in a place called Kandrika. Every week when she went there, she would see that all the children in the village were eager to come to Sabbath School, but unfortunately they could not attend any school.

She soon had a bright idea. In November 1980, she hired a house in Nuzvid from a Mrs Sudarshanam. She went to Kandrika and put all the children into this small hostel. These children were able to get a Christian education in our Nuzvid school. Many of them are baptised members of our Church today. In 1982 she opened a church in Kandrika.

Before the end of 1982, Joyce left Nuzvid and came to the UK. She left behind many students and friends in India, but several of them have caught up with her here in the UK. She keeps in touch with many of her students and nurses, either by phone calls or letters. She never fails to reply to anyone who writes to her. God has spared her to see her ninety-seventh birthday, which she celebrated in September.

O. P. CHACKOCHEN



Pastor Peter and Mrs Betty Cooper

graduate of Atlantic Union College and Andrews University. Mrs Betty Cooper graduated from Newbold College as a Bible instructor.

They arrived in India in 1960, and served in different parts of the country. They began their service in Kolkata, and then moved on to Patna, Shillong, Delhi, Kottarakara and Bangalore. During these years, Pastor Cooper served as pastor, evangelist, principal, and publishing director. Mrs Betty Cooper, apart from being a full-time mother to their four children – David, Stephen (the current ADRA director of TED), Aloma and Philip – assisted her

husband by conducting health programmes and cookery classes. She also served as a teacher. After an absence of fourteen years from southern Asia, they returned there in 1991. Pastor Cooper served as president of the Sri Lanka Union from 1991 to 1994, and as associate ADRA director of Myanmar Union from 1994 to 1998.

The UK southern Asians, during their annual day of fellowship in Watford on 9 October, honoured them in a traditional Indian manner by covering them with colourful shawls.

O. P. CHACKOCHEN

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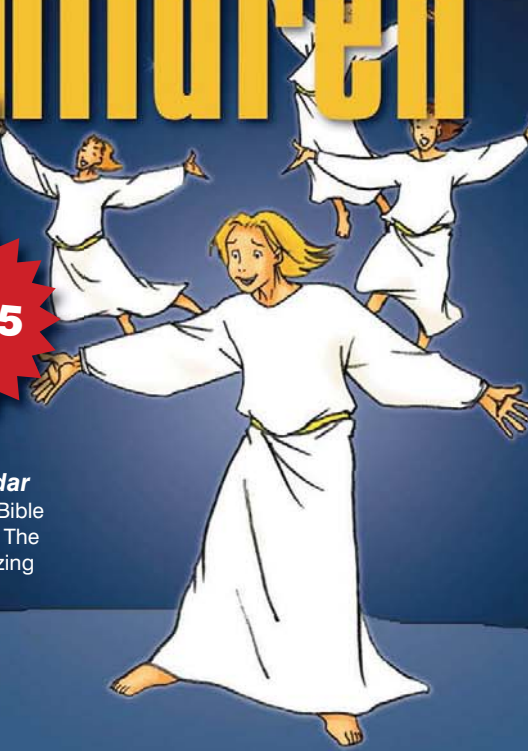
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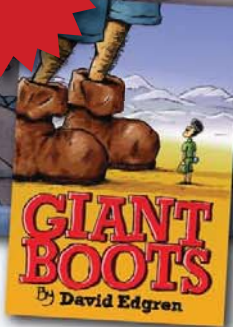
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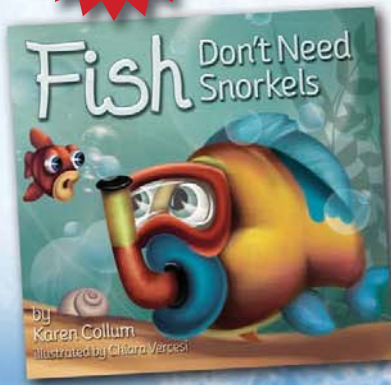
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## Wellingborough baptism

Nestling in the heart of the rolling Northamptonshire countryside is the town of Wellingborough, home to granoVita UK and the Wellingborough Adventist church.

2010 has seen the members of the church witness two significant baptismal services. The latest saw five people immersed in the portable baptistery, owned by the Conference Pathfinders and borrowed for the day.

Possibly unique in the UK, the Wellingborough church meets in an industrial unit owned by granoVita. The Sanctuary is upstairs and could easily become an office again. The youth hall, a recent extension, is downstairs.

Our service began upstairs with the usual formalities of Sabbath worship, but this time included the reading of baptismal vows. The preacher for the day, Norman Hopkins, reminded the congregation to seek to do what Jesus did.

Baptismal services at Wellingborough take place downstairs, so halfway through the morning a large part of the congregation moved to follow the pastor, elders and candidates to the pool in the youth hall.

Maurice, a 70-something-year-

old candidate, was dedicated many years ago in Lucknow by newly-baptised parents. Military service, marriage and 'life' got in the way of fulfilling the promises made at the dedication. However, some fifty years later, Pastor Brian Robinson re-introduced Maurice to faith and worship. Bible correspondence courses deepened knowledge; helpful brothers and sisters deepened faith – but this year saw that old commitment come to fruition.

Takudzwa follows the family tradition into faith. Studies with the pastor and his wife preceded the big day, which arrived after a summer in Zimbabwe. Takudzwa, a young man who recently started senior school, is setting out now to follow in his father's footsteps.

Elizabeth is a mother who described her three teenage children, while standing in the pool, as her 'blessing from God'. All three – Tino, Tak and Givens – were baptised earlier in the year, with Mum following into the pool later in the year. The family home in Wellingborough has been left for a new dwelling in Halesowen, where we expect the family to be, once more, a blessing to church and community alike.



Noel was described by the church's senior elder, Charles Bramble, as a 'boy born as a man'. Noel's early life seemed threatened by a stroke, but a limp is all that remains, and a faith that is more easily seen, in a young man who seems destined to serve and to use his spiritual gifts to God's glory.

Tracey's relatives are members in the Northampton area. Her story again reveals that the journey to faith may take several twists and turns. Married in the Kettering church to Leroy, her husband's recovery from a serious accident

helped Tracey to recognise God's real power and presence. A re-acquaintance with the Church through her sister-in-law Pauline encouraged Tracey to ask, 'Can I be baptised – soon?'

Wellingborough is a church for families. To reinforce the concept, friends from around the world sent greetings to new brothers and sisters. The likes of Pastor Paulsen and Anthony Kent from the Ministerial Association in America added to further greetings from Egypt, Greece, South Africa and Norway.

PETER JEVINS

## Racing for life

by Sara Sheppard

In June, six of the ladies from the Newport church, under the organisation of Tania Courtney, got together for a bit of socialising and raising money for charity.

Chioma Chigbo, Lornique Green, Whitney Maison, Sara Sheppard, Duska Rancić and Tania Courtney started training and walking in preparation for the 5km 'Race for Life' for Cancer Research UK.

On the morning of 28 June they all met at the church to ride together for the event; due to an injury the ladies decided that this year they would complete the course in Cwmbran in the walking group. The event gave them a much-needed chance to talk and get to know each other, as many of the group were newcomers to the Newport church. The wonderful sunshine of the day meant that the 5km walk was by no means easy, but the ladies made the complete course in just over an hour. They had great fun and rejoiced at the cheers of spectators at the finishing line.

The end of the race for life was celebrated by a short stop for lunch, before all the ladies returned to their homes.



## The Upper Room church

It was great to see everyone in uniform: the pastor, the elders, the Community Services members and the Adventurers. Our minister (Pastor Cyril Sweeney), our elders (J. Muchina and P. Griffiths), and Community Services leaders (K. Muchina and P. Carey) all looked especially smart, as did our Dorcas ladies' choir. The Community Services members prepared and served lunch.

In the afternoon one of our members, Charmaine Dube Dickson, wore a different kind of uniform: a university cap and gown. Charmaine had recently graduated in Health and Psychology.

All – men, women, youth and children – are united in service to the community. Our outreach has already resulted in one baptism. Four of our contacts are receiving Bible studies and two attend church regularly. We hope to have five baptisms by the end of the year.

The Upper Room congregation became a church on 9 May 2010. Our 'Dorcas' ladies meet twice a month, identifying those in need of help and organising help accordingly.

TAMUKA HWARARI



## Newport Pathfinders Club Camp

by David Ranci

Newport Pathfinders Club had its first camp for many years: some would say 'the first one in this millennium!' After the club had been re-established in 2009 and the Investiture had taken place in February this year, Pathfinders and their Guides were looking forward to the summer camp that had been planned for 23-26 July 2010.

Pathfinders enjoyed their camp (situated near Bristol) and overlooking the Severn Bridge) as they were able to use the facilities of Avon Scouts Training, Activity and Camping Centre. The weather was fantastic, the setting was great and, with around twenty teenagers full of energy, the camp was buzzing.

This was the opportunity for Newport Pathfinders to learn new lessons, to accomplish new honours and to meet new friends. Friends came from Grays Church – around

ten of them including their parents. The groups gelled instantly and everyone in the camp had a great time worshipping together, giving a friendly and helpful hand in pitching tents, having fun, and doing sports activities and honours. Worth mentioning are the kitchen staff, who provided good food, and the Pathfinders who helped to prepare meals (and eat the food, most importantly).

However, the highlight of the camp was not the honours or the bonfire on the last night, but a 'Tug of War', the game that the boys lost to the girls, not once, but twice! I promised the girls, who fought bravely, that the whole BUC would find out that Newport and Grays boys lost to girls from the same churches.

At the end, this was the first camp for Newport Pathfinders, with many more to come.



## A teenager's quest to beat the bulge

by Dr Jane Nyakundi, CHIP director, Manchester South

The Manchester South CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project) programme, held in April and May, was a huge success story for the majority of the participants who attended. One such participant was Jack Lavelle, who is drawing attention not only because he successfully completed the programme but because he is the youngest CHIP participant in the world.

I first met Jack with his mum in my clinic, after he had been referred to me by his GP with concerns over his weight. When I met Jack his weight was 216 lbs with a body mass index (BMI) of 36, almost double the normal BMI for his age. I struck a chord with Jack and his mum Karen. Over the following year we tried a number of programmes and interventions, including regular input from the dietician, the MEND programme, and the A2A programme and *Be Active*, with very limited success.

The last time I saw Jack in my clinic was in April, when his weight was a staggering 235 lbs with a BMI of 37. At this point I was disturbed by his poor progress in terms of weight control, and I thought neither Jack nor I had anything to lose by trying something unconventional in the paediatric realm. Fortunately, the Manchester South church was planning to start a CHIP programme the following month. I recommended the CHIP programme to Jack and Karen. My only concern was that the programme was not free and, since I was involved with running it, I did not want to appear as if I was recruiting patients to a money-making project. As the programme was not for profit, and relied heavily on a subsidy from the local church, I did not see myself as being at loggerheads with the law. In the end I was very open with Jack and Karen, and they willingly decided to try the programme.

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**<15** After Jack had attended the information session prior to the start of the programme, he was even more determined to join in; but, as Jack was now 13, legally he could not sign the consent forms: invasive procedures like blood sampling require consent. It was agreed that Jack could join the programme if his mother joined as well, and she could then give consent and be with Jack throughout the four-week programme. Karen agreed to the proposal, and the rest is now history.

Jack and Karen successfully finished the programme, attending each evening and participating in the exercises organised by Paul Elleston. I shared the table with Jack, Karen and three other participants over the course of the programme and loved the enthusiasm shown by Jack, who was the recipient of the coveted prize whenever our table won. It was indeed a pleasure to see Jack receive his certificate, and he gladly gave a speech at the graduation ceremony. He said that he had made a choice to eat healthily, and had made a permanent lifestyle change. He lost 11 lbs during the four-week period, and said he felt much better.

A few weeks after Jack had finished the CHIP programme he was seen by his dietician in the hospital, who told him he had lost a further 4lbs, indicating that Jack continued to live the CHIP lifestyle.

**Karen's story**

In 2008 I became concerned about how much weight Jack was gaining and how unhappy he was. I mentioned it to Jack's GP, who referred him to Dr Keengwe at Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport. Jack and I got a lot of support from Dr Keengwe, who introduced us to a dietician and the A2A programme, encouraging Jack to be more active and to look at his diet.

In 2010, Dr Keengwe invited Jack and I to a seminar in Manchester to hear about the CHIP programme, which Jack was very enthusiastic to join. It has been a wonderful experience and has been an education to us both. The CHIP programme has truly made the difference. Since the four-week programme, there has been a significant change in Jack's level of energy as well as mine. There is a definite visual difference in Jack. This has helped Jack to stay motivated and excited to attend his appointments with the dietician, and to talk about the changes he has made. The dietician has been intrigued to see the difference in Jack's life and is always very keen to talk with Jack about the CHIP programme.

KAREN LAVELLE

**Jack's story**

In May 2010 I joined the CHIP programme, supported by Dr Keengwe. This has changed my whole lifestyle and taught me to know why it is important to eat healthily and exercise regularly. I knew I was seriously overweight and realised I needed to do something about it.

After four weeks of the CHIP programme, I lost 11 lbs in weight and my energy level had increased significantly. I cannot begin to explain

how much better I feel, and also how my fitness levels have improved. This has given me more confidence as I have lost several inches all around my waist and I am beginning to feel happier with my body. I also feel motivated when friends and family comment about the change in me and ask about the programme.

CHIP will always be part of my life. I will continue on this journey to a healthier and happier future. I would like to thank Dr Keengwe and everyone at the CHIP programme for their support, and for giving me the knowledge which has enabled me to change my lifestyle.

JACK LAVELLE, 13

**Conclusion**

The CHIP programme has been found to be successful in reversing disease and giving individuals a second chance all around the world, especially in the USA, Canada, Australia and Europe. CHIP is not about diet; it is a lifestyle. There are thousands of CHIP graduates around the world who have experienced the profound benefits of this health-promoting programme. This four-week programme, which incorporates video-based lectures, clinical rounds, regular support from staff, regular exercise, cookery demonstrations and food sampling, was to Jack and Karen the start of a life-changing journey. I will be seeing Jack in my clinic soon and, although he is still my patient, he will always be a fellow graduate in the CHIP fraternity.

I will say, like Paul, 'Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth'.

Good Health everybody!

DR ISAAC NYAKUNDI KEENGWE

# Bath Church Dedication: the past and present challenge

by Colin Hurlow

September 4 was truly a high Sabbath for the members of the Bath church. The morning programme included a communion service conducted by our pastor, Vicentiu Dranca, which held special significance for us. It was a time for remembering God's incredible gift and for re-dedicating our lives to his service, while also anticipating the afternoon programme – the dedication of our new church building.

We've been using the new church since October 2008, but July this year saw the completion of a two-phase renovation and building project to provide a larger hall, improved kitchen and toilet facilities, and a new entrance. Many members, visitors and friends of the church have invested time, effort and money into the project, so this day was eagerly awaited.

After a delicious lunch (prepared in our new kitchen and consumed in our spacious hall), we gathered in the Sanctuary for the dedication programme. Following Pastor Dranca's welcome, Dr Brian Phillips enthralled members and visitors alike with

stories of the early work of the Adventist church in Bath. His meticulous research has uncovered events dating back to 1886, when a local man, George Stagg, returned to Bath from the USA, where he had joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. By 1890, through his efforts selling the *Present Truth* magazine, there were six members worshipping together in the Staggs' home. Late 1891 saw the arrival of an American evangelist, Judson Washburn, and things really started to take off. A series of meetings was held in the Assembly Rooms and, after starting with modest attendances, soon the 500-seat hall was full each evening. As a result of the campaign, more than eighty people were baptised... in the Roman Baths! Many of these converts became heavily involved in spreading the Advent message near and far. So Bath played a significant part in the early work of the Church in the south-west, the rest of England and beyond. Pastor Phillips told an interesting story of two young brothers from south Wales, who heard about the meetings and wanted to attend but couldn't afford the trip. After praying about it, they happened to spot a reward poster for a missing cat. Shortly afterwards they spotted the cat, too, and were able to

make it to Bath. One of these boys later emigrated to South Africa to spread the faith there, and is also the great-grandfather of a current Bath church member!

Our main speaker for the day, Pastor Sam Davis, caused a few anxious moments by his absence at the time the service started. However, it all worked out fine, as he arrived, almost unnoticed, during Pastor Phillips' address. In fact this was a good analogy for the building project – not everything went perfectly to plan (these things seldom do), but everything worked out for the best in the end, a clear sign of God's leading throughout the process. In his sermon, Pastor Davis urged us to find creative ways of reaching out to people in our community. He said that people are eager for greater meaning in their lives, and will respond to genuine, prayerful attempts at outreach, despite the fact that Christianity is becoming increasingly marginalised in our society.

Another common theme throughout the dedication service was that a church is more than just bricks and mortar, and it is not mainly these which are dedicated during such a service: it is people. So the members are committed to finding new opportunities for witnessing. For example, we have been out in the centre of Bath for the past few Sundays, handing out mineral water (apt for this city) and literature, and making contacts. Inspired by the history of the church in Bath, we fully believe that, with God at the centre of everything we do, just as he was back in the 1890s, we can see our small group increase greatly in number in a short time. And now we have a lovely church building to which we can welcome them!



## Families For Peace

On 16 October, many gathered in St Martins Church, Birmingham, for the annual memorial to gun and knife crime victims, organised by Families For Peace. This organisation supports those bereaved by Gun and knife crime and other violent crimes. The theme for the day was 'Peace and Love'. Among the many speakers were Bishop Joe Aldred, Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Michael Wilkes, and one of our own, Caroline Bailey, from the Breath of Life Adventist church.

Caroline Bailey suffered the loss of her son Michael, who sadly committed suicide while in prison on 24 October 2005. The trauma surrounding this loss, combined with all the inquests, court cases, and the shameful failures of the prison service, left Caroline in need of a group that shared the experience of this type of loss and understood her own loss. Hence Caroline became acquainted with Friends For Peace. Caroline also belongs to another community help group, Prison Link, in which she is quite active.

Becoming very emotional as she stood up to speak, Caroline's message was, 'We need to support those who have lost loved ones in this way, because the pain does not go away.'

As Caroline will tell anybody, if she did not have her faith in God, she does not know how she would cope. She believes her son repented of his sins, and she holds on to the hope that we have in the Resurrection. So she looks forward to the Lord's coming, knowing that then all the pain of our loss will be over.

PATRICK HERBERT



## Shoebox Festival in Dundee

More than fifty well-filled and colourfully-wrapped shoeboxes were collected by the members of the Dundee church for the orphans and disadvantaged children in Niger. A prayer of blessing was offered over the boxes before the start of their long journey to Africa. The picture shows Pastor Marcell Ghioalda and Mrs Jane Walton holding a cheque for ADRA to go towards the shipping costs.

JOHN WALTON



## Ingathering Feast

Leviticus 23:33-43 gives us a brief description of the Feast of Tabernacles, or Ingathering Feast, which God instituted through Moses. The Israelites were to celebrate this every year for a full eight days!

The Barnsley church had their own 'booth' (or tent) set up in the Sanctuary. The Harvest Festival service was led by our elder, David Patrick, and all the produce was given to the local Women's Refuge.

HAZEL SCHOLES



### Corrigendum

The front cover of *MESSENGER* 15 October contained a passage from Romans 8:9, which should have read: 'Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is none of his.' *MESSENGER* staff strive for accuracy, particularly regarding Bible verses.



Grace Kwarteng giving a testimony at the London Ghana church

## 14-year-old victim survives knife attack

by Nana Sifa Twum

God has miraculously delivered an Adventist youth from death after a gang of teenagers pounced on him and stabbed him several times in the legs and arm.

Kwarteng Sarfo Junior, a member of both the John Loughborough School in Tottenham and the London Ghana church, was on his way home from school with friends when he saw the gang mercilessly beating a school-mate.

As a good Samaritan, Kwarteng decide to persuade the gang to spare his friend. Before he could finish the first sentence the youths turned their wrath on him, and all three youngsters pulled knives and started stabbing him indiscriminately. He screamed for help, but his friends, in fear of their lives, stood at a distance and watched the horrifying moments with fear and emotional anguish.

The mother of Kwarteng, Grace Kwarteng Sarfo, in a testimony at the London Ghana church, was full of praise to the Lord for the protection of her first-born child, and also thanked the volunteers who took Kwarteng Junior to the hospital.

Narrating the incident, Kwarteng said that within a few minutes the attackers had inflicted severe knife wounds on his arm and legs. He said that passers-by hired a taxi and sent him to the North Middlesex University Hospital in North London, after the knife-wielding gang had fled.

Kwarteng, 14, who lives with his

mother Grace and two younger sisters, said he thought at the moment of the attack that he was going to die, adding, 'It is only by the grace of God that I am still alive today.'

'I had no bad intention. I only wanted to ask to them to leave the guy alone, but little did I know that they were armed and meant to cause havoc,' he said with tears. He added, 'The streets of London have become extremely dangerous, especially to us as teenagers,' and he called on the authorities to work hard to stop the menace. He also appealed to the youth to support all programmes in the fight against weapon crimes in the city.

A statement released by the Media and Communications manager of the Haringey Borough of the Metropolitan Police Service, Michelle Mercer, confirmed the story and said that detectives from Haringey CID Robbery Squad were 'investigating the matter'.

The police statement said, 'An attempted robbery took place in Factory Road N17 in which a teenager received injury and lacerations.' It said the police were called at 1639 hours on Thursday 16 September 2010 to reports of a stabbing in N17. The officers, the statement noted, attended the scene to find that the victim, a 14-year-old male, had been taken to the North Middlesex Hospital by a member of the public. 'The police believe that the injuries were inflicted when the victim intervened having seen three

black males attack a friend.'

Enquiries are still ongoing, but no arrests have been made as yet.

The police are appealing to the general public to help provide infor-

mation to DC Lee Davison of the Haringey CID Robbery Squad on 020 8345 0870; or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

## Praise for London Ghana

by Nana Sifa Twum

The president of the South England Conference of the Church, Pastor Sam Davis, has praised the London Ghana church for the appropriate use of technology in the advancement of the Gospel and in worship services.

He observed that the use of technology in the church was 'far advanced', and commended the communications team for its efforts.

In his opening remarks before the delivery of his sermon – which saw thirty-five souls responding to his appeal – Pastor Davis expressed his particular delight with the simultaneous screening of the names and pictures of baptismal candidates in the Sanctuary, adding, 'It is superb because everybody, including those at the back, will see all the candidates. I have not seen this elsewhere.'

The church's communication technology has been developed over the last three years since the church moved from its former place of worship at the John Loughborough School to the present church complex.

It provides a closed-circuit television system from the Sanctuary to the main hall when there is an overflow of worshippers.

There are LCD screens, with one giant screen hanging high – thus providing clear vision of all hymns, Bible texts, orders of service, announcements and shots of worshippers and participants throughout every service, each of which is also recorded onto CDs and DVDs that are ready immediately after each service.

Pastor Davis's commendation came at a time when the church was about to broadcast a live Divine Service via its attractive and inspiring website. Exactly a week after the project started, the president of the Trans-European Division, Pastor Bertil Wiklander, preached and held a Communion Service at the church.

After his sermon, Pastor Davis sat on the podium close to the baptismery; the church minister, Pastor Fergus Owusu Boateng, baptised nine souls while the cameras beamed the solemn and emotional scenes onto the screens.

## Wiklander Visit

by Nana Sifa Twum

Trans-European Division President Bertil Wiklander has indicated that, as from next year, elected deaconesses will be ordained just as their male counterparts always have been. This will be one of the major changes in the 2010 edition of the *Church Manual*. Pastor Wiklander stated that it had been agreed at the General Conference session held in Atlanta, USA, during the summer.

Pastor Wiklander made the statement at the annual discussion programme on church elections at the London Ghana church, where he had spent the whole Sabbath. He led the Communion Service and also preached the sermon. The discussion programme is held annually to herald the election of officers, which begins in October.

## Milton Keynes mayor at organisation of new church

by Nana Sifa Twum

An impressive ceremony has been held in Milton Keynes to commemorate the organisation of yet another Adventist church there.

Known as the Milton Keynes International church, it is made up of nearly one hundred members. Forty-two of them are baptised members. They form the official nucleus of the new church. There are some more whose memberships are elsewhere and are yet to be transferred in before they are accepted formally into the church. Many more are in the baptismal class awaiting baptism.

The church, predominantly of Ghanaians, also includes some other nationals from Europe and from African countries other than Ghana.

Two members of the Hamburg Ghanaian Adventist church, who migrated from Germany some three years ago, decided to worship on their own in their own culture and

language. The two-member group started growing and, when it became apparent that the swelling membership was outgrowing the worship venue, they sent a 'come over to Macedonia to help us' message to the South-East Community church for assistance. This decision was based primarily on the fact that some members of the Milton Keynes group had Adventist contacts in the South-East church.

Evangelistic campaigns, purposely targeting Ghanaian Adventist backsliders in the area, yielded much fruit.

According to the first elder of the church, Richard Boadi, a survey conducted in the area indicates that there are still potential members in the targeted district.

The president of the South England Conference, Pastor Sam Davis (who conducted the service)

expressed his delight in seeing the group grow into a fully-fledged church. 'I have followed the group with keen interest because it is so dear to my heart,' Pastor Davis indicated. He took the core members through the tenets of faith and beliefs of the Church.

In his heart-warming and inspirational sermon, Pastor Davis assured the members and all present that the Church is very special to God. 'The Church is the apple of God's eye and he is very particular about it. He loves it and cares greatly for it, and whoever touches it touches God himself', he emphasised.

The mayor of Milton Keynes, Debbie Brock, was the guest of honour. She praised the Adventist church for standing by the truth in the Bible and teaching people to obey it.

## Making sense of special needs

The story of Jonah had a complete makeover on Special Needs Day at the Reading Central church on 25 September. Reading Central's Special Needs Ministry team used an array of



Michael Hyton tells his experience of an accident that left him unable to walk for several months



Derek Lindo gets a 'sinking feeling' as he plays Jonah for the children's story

props, such as electric fans, textile fabric, water and even perfume, to engage the senses of an excited group of children during the programme.

The seemingly elaborate displays were used to show how the team bring to life Bible stories for people with disabilities. Team member Virginia Williams said: 'We've been focusing on presentations that include the five senses. Each prop used is designed to tap into one of the senses. For example, during the story, we used perfume for smell, and fans for touch.'

Ms Williams explained that her interest in ministering to people with disabilities came about after being invited to Reading's Special Needs Sabbath School. She said: 'I realised there was more I could do, and saw that resources, namely time and commitment, would be valuable to the ministry.'

Michael Hyton, who was unable to walk for several months following an accident earlier in the year, shared his experience with the church. He said: 'Situations can arise which can change your way of life without warning. It is these situations that draw us closer to God and remind us of our need to support one another and bear each other's burdens.'

The Special Needs Ministry team in Reading has come a long way since the early 2000s. Turning Reading Central into a church where people with disabilities can feel welcome is just one of their many achievements. A spokesperson for the team said: 'We hope that members gain a deeper understanding of those who are affected by disabilities, whether mild or severe, born with or gained. God accepts them just as they are, and we should too.'

CLIVE MALCOLM



Left to right: Melissa Rahiman, Sophie Bah, Nontsikilelo Kunene, Robert Anderson, Paul Cookson, Kiara Pietersen, Brian Cautivar, Alexandra Browne, Andrew Cookson, Kevin Cautivar, Javen Rahiman, Cleo Cautivar

## Riverway: three youth baptisms in three months

by Raheli Paris

Isn't it marvellous when earnest prayers are answered and extraordinary things unfold?

At the Riverway church this year, the Holy Spirit has been working among our youth. In three baptisms, thirteen young people at Riverway have been baptised. On 10 July Andrew Cookson, Paul Cookson, Robert Anderson, Nontsikilelo Kunene and Ben Lombart were baptised. Another dip into the baptismal pool for Pastor Israel Williams was imperative as he baptised a further five youth on 31 July: Sophia Bah, Melissa Rahiman, Javen Rahiman, Kevin Cautivar and Cleo Cautivar. On September 18 we saw three pastors – Pastor Israel Williams, Pastor Patrick Boyle and Pastor

Alan Hart – take to the waters and baptise Brian Cautivar, Alexandra Browne and Kiara Pietersen. Two more young people have also expressed their wish to be baptised, subject to completion of baptismal lessons.

First Elder Ray Creer stressed the need to have a personal relationship with Christ. Referring to various discussions with Riverway youth during Bible study sessions that he led, Church Elder Dr Ben Bruneau said, 'Frank discussion with the young people is fundamental to promoting dialogue in order to recognise their diverse needs.'

In the interim, evangelist Costa Vaggas preached a series of intriguing, thought-provoking sermons and

conducted youth programmes at Riverway last quarter, progressively studying the Bible and the Church's fundamental beliefs from a young person's perspective. It has been wonderful to witness how these young people reached a decision point, and willingly considered baptism.

A common thread in Pastor Israel Williams' sermons during these baptisms has been the importance of the Church as a community to nurture new believers. He reminded the newly-baptised members to be on guard, to be in prayer, and actively to study the Word, as the adversary (Satan) is out to divert their attention even more than ever.

## Milton Keynes baptism

Another member was added to the growing number of Adventists in the Milton Keynes area – now estimated at 350 or more – when 20-year-old Ngina Mwende, a young woman from Kenya, took the step of baptism on Sabbath 23 October.

Afterwards, an appeal from Pastor Augustus Lawrence, who conducted the baptism, resulted in at least half a dozen responses. With another baptism due in December, there should be more to report. Every one counts in the contest between good and evil.

BARRY GOWLAND

## Hope Community Fun Day

On Sunday 25 July the hopes of many at the Hope Community church were realised as they held their annual Family Fun Day at the Croydon Recreational Ground in Beckenham.

God blessed the event with wonderful weather as Rachel Gray and her team organised bouncy castles, live music, face painting, hair and beauty products, a youth forum and even a puppet ministry. Throughout the day there were community games, including football and the highly competitive tug-of-war battles. Caterers provided delicious hot food and there were cake stalls, iced drinks and popcorn.

As an evangelistic event, it was especially pleasing to see the church stall so well attended. The grand finale was our 'Beckenham's Got Talent' competition, at which singers, dancers and even rappers performed!

The day was a blessing to all involved and there are plans for a Hope Community evangelistic campaign in October.

SOPIA PRINCE

## £2,000 raised for multiple sclerosis

On Sunday 4 October, a charity concert organised by Ralph and Matthew Lombart of the Canterbury church was held at the Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys in Canterbury.

The hall was packed with people who had come to hear a variety of high-quality singers and musicians. Many performers donated their time freely to support the event. A former Royal Opera singer, Pamela Smith, came from London to accompany two of her voice students who performed classical arias at the concert. Renato Paris, of the Riverway church, performed songs that were very well received.

The chairman of the Kent Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre, Tony Meire, was pleased with the turnout for the event and with the money raised, which at present stands at £2,000. This will be donated to a new Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Canterbury.

Canterbury pastor, Vasyil Vartsaba, attended the concert and was pleased to see how the Adventist Church can make a difference in the local community.

RALPH LOMBART



## Dudley House School's 40th Harvest Festival

On Thursday 7 October, Dudley House School performed its fortieth Harvest Festival service in front of parents, friends of the school, and members of the Adventist church. A wide variety of produce, donated by the children, formed a beautiful backdrop to the celebration, along with flowers and a water fountain. Tomatoes and beans were plentiful as these had been grown on site as part of Dudley House's gardening club.

A variety of songs celebrating the harvest and thanking God for his gift of love were sung by the children, solos being performed by many. Poetry

was recited, and a short play in the form of a 'news sketch' was performed by Class 4, highlighting the plight of those still devastated by the monsoon rains in Pakistan. Prayers were said in thanks for this year's harvest and to ask for God's blessing on those in need.

After the service, children packed up the produce and, with the help of staff, delivered harvest gifts to members of the church community.

Having learnt of the importance of fresh drinking water and the continued need for aid in Pakistan during the term, the school chose to hold

a harvest supper to raise funds for ADRA, to help those still homeless in that area of Asia.

The school hall was transformed by church governors into a restaurant with ambient music and dim lighting. Pastor John Ferguson opened the event with a prayer, before volunteers performed their waitressing duties. The menu comprised a variety of soups, bread and a choice of delicious desserts. Entertainment included a quiz and, of course, a time to share together and relax. The supper raised £176 for this worthy cause.

V. WHITE

## 'Donut' fun in Loughborough

At the Loughborough church, our children love to sing. A particular favourite is the music of a Christian children's performer, Rob Evans, who is also known as the 'Donut Man'. The children were, therefore, very excited when they learned that the Donut Man was coming to Loughborough, and that he had asked them to be his choir and sing on stage with him.

Weeks of practising followed for our children, aged 3-11 years, as they learnt the lively songs and accompanying actions to get ready for the performance. Not only did they learn the songs themselves, but they also brought five friends along to join the choir.

Posters were displayed, leaflets were distributed and personal invitations given to friends and neighbours. Five-year-old Benjamin

invited his school classmates to the concert during Show and Tell time. 'But why is he called the Donut Man?' one child asked. 'Because he fixes doughnuts!' Benjamin was able to explain, using the words to one of the songs to help: 'Life without Jesus is like a doughnut, 'cause there's a hole in the middle of your heart! But when Jesus fills your life, he satisfies your soul, like a pastry nugget in a doughnut hole!'

Sunday 19 September came around quickly and, despite our worries, God calmed our nerves and everything ran smoothly. About a hundred and thirty people came, nearly all of whom were visitors from the local community, and everyone who came enjoyed this great celebration of God's love. To see so many smiling faces was a tremendous blessing for our small

church. The children all remembered their songs and actions, and even managed to smile.

As well as being a highlight of their own journeys with Jesus, this event has given the children of our church another opportunity to tell their friends about him. It has enabled us to reach out to our community in a way that is fun

and relevant, and to establish links with other churches and community groups in our town. Already, some of our visitors have started to ask about future children's programmes, and others are taking steps towards returning to God. We thank God for his many blessings to us here in Loughborough.

VIVIANE BARRATT-PEACOCK



# Children's Day of Fellowship in London

by Doreen I. Fray (Tottenham church)

The sun was shining behind the clouds, intermittently peeping through, as the long-anticipated second annual Area 6a Children's Day of Fellowship arrived on 7 August.

The children, aged 12 and under, came from nineteen churches in north and central London. They had been looking forward to the first Sabbath in August, when they would use their talents and gifts creatively to worship and praise God.

'This Little Light of Mine' was the chosen theme for this year's Day of Fellowship, and words on the promotional and colourful posters on display encapsulated the vibrancy of the event: 'talented children praising God.'

Children, siblings, parents, grandparents, guardians and friends soon filled the venue at the Highbury Grove School in north London.

There was a 'best behaviour' buzz as the Children's Praise team from the Holloway church began the Sabbath School session at 10am.

## The concept

The initial concept was that of the area's pastoral team, led by Pastor David Burnett of the Tottenham and Edmonton Central churches. The vision was to have a day when the

area's children would meet, share, interact and worship with each other.

An appointed Area 6a committee planned, co-ordinated, promoted and managed this special Children's Day. This area committee consisted of three members: Doreen I. Fray (Tottenham), Lorraine Imbrath (Palmer's Green) and Carol Horne (Edmonton Central). These leaders enthusiastically caught hold of the vision, and supported and trained their children in the delivery of a blessed and memorable Children's Day of Fellowship.

The event was sponsored by the SEC Children's Ministries department and Area 6a pastors.

## A memorable Sabbath day

The Kindergarten, Primary and Junior Children Sabbath School classes were conducted while Pastor Burnett led a large adult class in the lesson discussion.

There were approximately one hundred children in the Kindergarten class, more than forty-five in the Primary class and approximately one hundred in the Junior class. We were delighted to see how actively engaged all the children were in the Sabbath School.

To the beat of drums, a banner parade ended the Sabbath School

session. Two children proudly marched in with their church's banner to loud affirmation of the congregation.

## Divine Service

To the strains of 'Holy, Holy, Holy', played on the violin by Nathanael Awotwi, aged 11, the platform party entered and a solemn hush fell over the congregation.

There were three sermonettes, each entitled 'This Little Light of Mine'. Firstly, Kwon Hepburn, 9, told us that 'when we invite Jesus into our hearts we are plugged in to God's power supply and our light will shine'. The second sermonette was delivered by Immanuel Hardie, 12. He re-emphasised that Jesus is the Light of the world. Finally, Kheriann Wiggins, 12, stated that obedience to God's law is Heaven's prescription for joy. Therefore, by trusting and obeying God we will shine for Jesus.

## Arts and crafts display tables

For the second year, each church

had a display table where arts and crafts, made by the children and based on Bible stories, were exhibited. This showcase proved to be a focal attraction during breaks.

## The concert

In the afternoon a concert, composed by children, was a joyous and spiritually uplifting programme. Confidently, the children sang in choirs, groups and duets, and played musical instruments, recited poems and presented mimes.

After a literary award ceremony, the concert exultantly ended with five hundred glow torches waving in the air, to the triumphant sounds of 'Everywhere I go... I'm gonna let my little light shine.'

## Evaluation

In order to evaluate the event effectively, evaluation and feedback sheets were given with the day's programme. The feedback was very positive and suggestions for future events are being analysed and will be considered.



## Ruth Mary Hulbert (née Dorland) (1922-2010) d. 12 August

more than a pastor's wife. She was a keen student of the Bible and a fine teacher. As a consequence, some of the boys and girls that she taught in Nigeria and Ghana were to become leaders of the Church.

On returning to the UK in 1957 she continued her supportive role, both with her own four children, and also with the youth and children of the Church. The family home was often open on a Friday night and Sabbath, and the spare bedroom was used to support those in need. After three years in Scotland, the family moved to Northern Ireland in 1962. According to Ruth, this was the happiest time of their ministry, as she worked with the youth and children in Belfast and Larne. In her memoirs she rejoices that one of the youth she taught there is now a leader in the Belfast church, while another has taught

at Newbold College for many years. Her caring attitude was also apparent in the opening of their home to family and friends for holiday visits. Following six happy years in Ireland, she continued to support Edgar as he ministered in the South England Conference until the time of his retirement in 1983. She also developed a career as a nurse in order to support her children through Stanborough School.

During the funeral service at the Stanborough Park church on 26 August, Pastor Jim Huzzey spoke of Ruth as 'an unassuming but quite remarkable lady', stating that 'she was one of the unsung heroes of the church.' Part of this heroism was her life of service to the church and the quiet, loving way she supported both her family and all with whom she came into contact. Part of it was her smile 'of quiet, humble confidence

and assurance that all is well, for she knew her God.' That is a confidence that she shared even in retirement and after the loss of her husband in 2003. Her quiet word and her comforting hand provided assurance and care for many with whom she came into contact.

She will be sorely missed by her four children: Mervyn, Heather, Rosemarie and Victor, and their families; also by her surviving siblings, Myrna and John Dorland, and her in-laws, Roy and May Hulbert and Joyce Hill. Her serenity has been an inspiration to them and her hope for the future is equally theirs.

VICTOR HULBERT

The family would like to thank the very many people who have provided support following their loss, and those who together donated over £600 in Ruth's memory to support the ADRA child feeding programme in Niger, one of the charities close to her heart: <http://www.justgiving.com/hulbert>.

Wife of the late Pastor Edgar Hulbert and daughter of Pastor Oscar Dorland (former NEC and SEC president as well as Welsh and Irish Mission president), Ruth, one of five siblings, was born with missionary blood in her veins. It was while training as a Bible worker at Newbold College that she met her lifelong partner, Edgar, and, a year after their marriage in 1945, it was with a sense of anticipation and excitement that they journeyed to West Africa, where they served the Church for almost twelve years. Ruth was

## Wilfred George Albert Futcher (1923-2010) d. 22 September



ing on an Extension BA from London University, which he completed in 1947. In 1948, he married Rowena Bird, music teacher and president's secretary at Newbold College. He then taught Maths and Latin at Stanborough Secondary School until 1952, when he and Rowena travelled to east Nigeria to open up a secondary school.

Returning to England in 1954, Wilfred went back to Stanborough School as a Maths and Latin teacher, until he became the headmaster from 1960-1966. In 1956, he and Rowena celebrated the birth of their daughter, Beverley.

In 1966, Wilfred and Rowena moved to Canada, where Wilfred taught at Kingsway College for one year. He then entered the University of Toronto, completing his PhD in Education and Psychological Measurement in 1969.

In the autumn of 1969, Wilfred moved to Andrews University where he taught in the Education and Counselling Psychology department, working as the

departmental chair for several years. One of the proudest moments of his career occurred when he was awarded the Andrews Medallion recognising his 'significant achievement in the advancement of knowledge and education by Seventh-day Adventist teachers'. However, it was the day-to-day contact with his students that Dr Futcher found the most rewarding; and many of those students who live around the world have kept in touch with him over the years. His students, some of whom worried about taking a graduate statistics course, found they enjoyed learning from Dr Futcher, citing his unfailing graciousness, sense of humour, and commitment to every student as invaluable characteristics.

Although he had a demanding job, Wilfred always had plenty of time for family and friends. He and Rowena loved to have an assortment of friends and students, particularly those from overseas, over on a Saturday evening to play board games and noisy games of ping-pong. He also had several golfing buddies, and dur-

ing his last years it was always his dream that he would one day be able to go golfing again. Even though he lived in the States for forty years, Wilfred always kept in close contact with England, spending hours following English football and watching the BBC news every evening.

The surviving family (his wife Rowena, brother Cyril, daughter Beverley, son-in-law David, and grandchildren Jessica, Brendan, and Kimberley) would like to thank those who offered their support during the last few years, and who are continuing to support us during this difficult time. Wilfred's suffering, borne with strong faith and God's grace, ended on 22 September, the funeral taking place in Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, on 26 September. We know that Wilfred rests in the assurance of a home in the New Earth to come.

BEVERLEY SCHIEDER

The family would like to thank everyone for their cards, letters, and prayer support. All were much appreciated. ROWENA FUTCHER



# West London drum march

A report on the Community Services march by S. Williams

On 28 August, at 3pm, some committed members and visitors from the Hanwell Adventist church took to the streets of Hanwell in West London, with the security of Southall police station's finest, all of whom were a pleasure to march with.

The group of marchers stepped along the high road as well as the side roads to the beat of the Holloway Pathfinders Drum Corps, which guided them to and from their destination – Hanwell church. As they marched to the sounds of many familiar sacred anthems, it was not only the sun that came out, but also members of the public – large crowds from nearby shops, cafes, pubs, cars, buses and homes stopped to discover the source of the marvellous sounds.

The marchers did not go empty-handed as they traversed the streets. Magazines, leaflets and books were passed out and welcomed by the public: many of whom enquired of the church and thanked

the members for their service.

Marchers young and old formed a multi-racial rainbow, with their smiles and singing, and thus were able to re-ignite the Hanwell church's services and activities within the multi-cultural community of Hanwell, Greenford, and London.

The event raised such attention and interest that the senior elder, Albert Fletcher, was told by the police that they would be more than willing to assist the church with such an event in the future.

'That was heart-warming,' commented Sarah Lubanga (Hanwell Community Services leader), 'in approximately forty minutes, 510 items of literature were distributed (and we needed more) – that was approximately twelve items every minute: 510 souls were reached in such a short time! Imagine: if every person reached came from a house with an average of two people, it's likely that 1,020 persons were reached in less than an hour on that

day. The story should not end there! Sarah added, 'Our thanks go to the Holy Spirit, who led and inspired us all the way, to the Hanwell Community Services committee for planning and executing this programme, to Pastors Curtis Murphy, Nathan Strickland, Terry Messenger, our own pastor (Everett Picart) and church elders for all their invaluable input and support, Pastor Nathan Strickland for assuring the Drum Corps team even though he was still busy at the Pathfinder Camporee, and Pastor Colin Stewart, who lent us all the visibility jackets he had from South England Conference.'

'Well-done to Alex Slocott and Daniela Pitkin (directors of the Holloway Drum Corps), Olivia Riley, plus their team for their high standards! Thanks go to Sergeant Danny Cummings for his meticulous team of police constables, and to all church members and visitors who collectively made the actual executing of this programme possible!'

## Cheltenham baptism

Gloucester Adventist Church was host to the Cheltenham church for the baptism of husband and wife James and Marie Hayley on the afternoon of 11 September.

This was very much a joyous family occasion as both James and Marie have family connections with SEC. Executive-Secretary Pastor Paul Lockham, who baptised the couple. There were many friends and relatives from the Swindon and Cheltenham churches, and they were joined by the Gloucester church in witnessing James and Marie's public commitment to follow Jesus and accept him as their personal Saviour.

It was a special occasion for all present, particularly as, at the end of Pastor Lockham's appeal, another husband and wife couple stood and announced their decision for Christ, and Pastor Lockham has made arrangements to return in December for their baptism.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT, GLOUCESTER

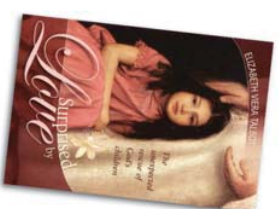


## A journey through sound

On Sabbath 25 September, members and visitors at the Holcombe Road church were taken on the ride of their lives: a journey through sound. The co-pilot who fed us spiritually was Elder Joel Brian Aberdeen, and the pilot was none other than Jesus. The airline of choice was Heaven-Bound Airlines, and the passengers were waited on by beautiful flight angels.

Passengers aboard were blessed by musical items from *Dedicated*, *Poetical Princess*, Candice Cooke, *Blessed Harmony*, Jacinth Todd, *Pearl*, and other acts. Nadine Allen inspired us with her rendition of Smoke NoFruit's 'I need you now'.

ADAM BWOOLA



### New book of the week Surprised by Love

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	12 Nottingham Central	10am-2pm
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(Closed for lunch 1pm-3.30pm)		
9am-12pm Friday, Closed on Sundays		
<b>Advent Centre</b>		
Sundays 11am-3pm		

#### Messenger

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#### SUNSET

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	London	Card	Not	Edin	Belf
Nov 12	4:16	4:28	4:15	4:11	4:27
Nov 19	4:08	4:19	4:04	3:59	4:16
Dec 26	3:59	4:11	3:56	3:49	4:08
Dec 3	3:54	4:06	3:51	3:43	4:01

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