

MESSANGER

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Pressing together in Ireland

A report on the Irish Mission Session in Banbridge, 24 October

by Victor Hulbert, Communication director, BUC

So keen were the delegates at the Irish Mission Session on Sunday 24 October that the whole session kicked off a few minutes early. Sixty of the eighty delegates had already registered by 9.50am.

They had travelled from as far as Dublin, Cork and Coleraine in sub-zero temperatures to arrive at the Banbridge church for a day of reports, reflection, plans and elections. With the sun shining brilliantly outside, the Recommendations committee was already in action at 9am, and within thirty minutes had a list of names for the various committees of the day. However, voting on those names had to wait while Pastor Don McFarlane, the BUC president, shared a devotional thought around the theme of the day: 'Press together'. Basing his message on the parable of the ten virgins, he noted that all the virgins had a purity of doctrine; all were waiting for the bridegroom; all had a lot that was positive about them. The difference between the two groups was that those called foolish did not have enough oil in their lamps. Noting that oil represents the Holy Spirit, Pastor McFarlane stated, 'We are saved by the blood of Christ but it is the Holy Spirit who keeps us connected to Christ!'

Pastor McFarlane noted that unity cannot be mandated but comes when believers are filled with the Spirit and attitude of Jesus. This led into the business of the day – starting with the appointments of the Nominating committee and the Credentials and Licences committee.

Considering the growth in the Irish Mission, it was agreed to increase the size of the Nominating committee to eleven.

The Irish Mission president, Pastor David Neal, then introduced his report by quoting William Temple: 'The Church is the only organisation that exists for the benefit of its non-members.' In Ireland the emphasis is on mission; while the Church has grown numerically, 'we have only dipped our toes in the water when it comes to connecting with the community, when it comes to evangelism, when it comes to reaching out.'

Pastor Neal gave some excellent examples of good practice, including a minister's wife who plays the organ for another church on Sunday to link with the community, healthy eating clubs, a major health expo that has led to massive requests for follow-up, and a pioneer family that has been working in Waterford for five years and rejoiced in the first resulting baptisms this summer. During the next termium the team will focus more specifically on youth, health, elder training and evangelism.

In the secretary-treasurer's report, the theme of



Top left: IM president Pastor David Neal.

Top right: Pastor Don McFarlane on the need for the Holy Spirit.

Middle: Health Ministers with Edith Samambwa. Bottom: Pastor Eric Lowe with Irish Mission Youth leader Pastor Adam Keough.



ADRA provides 160,000 meals

Living in the Sahel, one of the most chronically food-insecure areas of the world, is a serious challenge. For people in Niger, the world's poorest nation, things have become even worse with failing harvests due to drought – and now the food has run out.

By the end of October, ADRA had provided more than 160,000 meals to 2,000 schoolchildren in the capital, Niamey, in just eight weeks. This project is funded by ADRA-UK and implemented by ADRA Niger. However, with 380,000 children under the age of 5 at risk of severe malnutrition,

our work is not done.

Bert Smit, the ADRA-UK CEO, says: 'The fact that hunger continues to affect so many people in a world that produces enough food to feed all 6 billion inhabitants is a tragedy. We need to continue to work to push back the devastating effects of hunger and poverty and save lives. We are currently working in Ghana and Niger to help fight hunger directly, but we need all the help we can get.'

ADRA's food programmes come in various shapes and forms – they provide daily meals for schoolchildren, help farmers acquire good seeds for planting, assist malnourished children with food, and teach communities to produce food more efficiently. But,



ultimately, the goal is this: to give families access to the right nourishment and to a better way of life.

Enhancing Health

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

Boosting Energy Part 10

Lifestyle factors
In this issue we conclude the series on boosting energy by taking a look at some more lifestyle management tips:

Information overload
How do you manage the volume of information that comes to you on a daily basis? Emails, letters, books, magazines, news from the various media outlets: these all require time and energy to process. Deciding what is important enough to demand your attention makes your time more manageable.

Life experiences
At times life becomes so pressurised that it can leave us feeling overwhelmed. The human brain has the lifelong task of processing all the information and experiences it receives. A mental detox enables us to take control of any information or experience we feel may negatively affect us, and allows us to deal with it in a way that enhances our mental wellbeing.

Overcommitted?
Too many commitments can bring on exhaustion. An overflowing agenda can leave you struggling to meet commitments, which drains you physically and places so many demands on your time and energy that it leaves you feeling flat. Attempt only a few manageable tasks at a time. Organise these into essentials, prioritising the ones which need your most immediate attention.

Good Health!

Delegating what can be passed on to others also helps. A job done well often doesn't need doing again: this saves you energy.

Balanced lifestyle?
Think about your life at present. Are you enjoying a good balance of emotional, physical, spiritual and social wellbeing? An imbalance can affect your vitality. Think about what you can change to enjoy a more balanced, more energised and less stressful lifestyle.

Detox
Feeling sluggish, experiencing low moods or fighting repeated ailments? Then perhaps it's time for a detox! Research has shown that the process of detoxification can invigorate you by boosting your body's natural defences.

A final word
At the beginning of this series, I recommended keeping a diary to track your level of vitality, highlighting specific times and situations when you noticed a peak or dip in energy. Writing down the list of things that make you feel tired helps you to identify whether they are related to your lifestyle, family, work or health, to that you can address them. Remember, an ongoing lack of energy needs investigating: so always be prepared to seek medical advice.

Christians often use the word 'prodigal', but do they know what it really means?

Do you?

'Prodigal' means *overgenerous to the point of wastefulness*.

Does that shock you? It did me.

The word had previously conjured up a picture in my mind of a rich young man throwing his money away on gambling tables. It came with the force of a revelation that I was missing a significant point. The first and major part of the definition is *overgenerous*. Only the subsidiary part implies that, taken to excess, overgenerosity *may* lead to wastefulness.

This being the case, if we consider the loveliest parable ever told, as recorded in Luke 15:11-32, which one of the cast of three can we best describe as 'prodigal'?

We usually give the starring role to the younger son. But wasn't he merely a prodigal in the secondary sense of the word? He was wasteful of his father's love when he said, 'I don't want you. I just want my share of your money.' Then he was wasteful of his father's money. The Narrator (Jesus) said that the younger son 'squandered his wealth in wild living' (15:13). Even allowing for the Hooray Henrys and Henriettas always around to help separate profligates from their lucre, we need not imply that the squanderer was 'overgenerous', merely scandalously 'wasteful'. If the older brother was right to assume that his sibling had squandered his father's property with prostitutes (15:30), the charge was still 'scandalously wasteful', not 'overgenerous'.

Was the *older* brother 'prodigal' in any sense?

You will recall that he stayed out in the fields, working hard to win his father's love. His return to the homestead coincided with the welcome-home party given in honour of his brother. He refused to go in to the party. His response to his father's pleading (15:29, 30) must have been as cutting to the elderly man as the words of the younger brother when he first left home.

The news that the lost younger brother was found brought out anger and disapproval in the older brother. Fundamentally, these feelings were aroused when he became aware of his father's grace towards his younger brother. Grace theology invariably brings embittered, resentful older brothers and sisters in from the fields. They say to the Father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders' (15:29). All that effort to win

The prodigal of the parable



with David Marshall

the Father's love – which they have had all along! Surely, effort such as that qualifies older brothers and sisters to tell the Father whom he can admit to his home? No! But the father taught the older son a home truth: 'You are always with me, and everything I have is yours' (15:31). So, the older brother has experienced maximum exposure to his father's love and grace. Should he not, therefore, in return, be loving and gracious?

But he isn't. That makes him a crushing disappointment. Why? Because he failed to welcome his brother and refused to celebrate his return? Not entirely. Though that does qualify him as a prodigal: he has wasted his father's love and grace, which have been lost on him. Above all, he is a crushing disappointment because he failed to go in search of his younger brother when he was away. Having failed to reflect the father's love and grace, he has not felt compelled to go in search of his lost brother. His sibling has had to 'find' himself – in the pigsty.

Jesus told his three stories (the lost sheep, the lost coin, the lost son) after the Pharisees had said of him, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them' (15:2). In the first two stories he established a pattern: the loss, the search, the joyful finding. Jesus told the three in sequence, expecting us to look in the third (the lost son) for the pattern he had established in the first and second (lost sheep, lost coin). We do that and we find the middle phase missing: no one goes in search of the lost son. The only person who could have been the older brother and, short of going in search, he actually failed to welcome and celebrate when the lost son found his own way home to the embrace of the father.

So who was the most prodigal – *overgenerous*, remember – in the cast of three?

It had to be the father.

The father didn't boot the younger son off his property when he asked for 'my share'. He allowed him the freedom to choose.

When the younger son, having lost everything, returned home, the father first ran out and embraced him. Then he gave him shoes for his feet, a ring for his finger and 'the best robe' to cover him. The younger son was not turned away, nor was he received back as a hired worker, which had been the height of his ambition. He was received back as the son he had been on the day he left. *And* a big celebration was held because 'this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found' (15:32).

Those words end the father's appeal to the elder brother to enter the celebration. The story ends there.

By casting a Pharisee as the elder brother, Jesus wants us to look for a True Elder Brother. An Elder Brother who would share the character of the Father and, like the Father, be overgenerous. Whether that means 'overgenerous to the point of wastefulness' depends on whether the grace of God is wasted on us. . . .

When we see the Father – arms outstretched, running to embrace the returning wastrel – our hearts are lifted.

When we see the True Elder Brother, who shared the character of the Father, searching for lost ones in the Far Country, and giving his life like the Good Shepherd to make possible their return, our hearts are broken. If that won't do it, nothing will.

'He whose heart is filled with love for Christ because he himself has been sought for by the Saviour and brought back to the fold, knows how to seek the lost. . . . By the ministry of such ones many prodigals will be brought to the Father.' *Ministry of Healing*, page 179

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**Irish Mission
Session report**

growth continued. Victor Pilmoor called the 24% growth over the last three years a success story. With a recorded increase of 125 people, 59 by baptism and 96 by profession of faith or transfer*, the Irish Mission membership is at last growing – with substantial increases in the two capital cities, Belfast and Dublin. Together with that, tithes has almost doubled over the past six years, supporting a positive pastoral team which works well together, as well as allowing for improvements to the Coleraine and Belfast churches and investment in the Kilnasoolagh camp ground at Newmarket-on-Fergus. Kilnasoolagh has hosted the Irish Mission's camp meeting for the last two years.

Finance is difficult in Ireland at the moment, and many of the questions focused around how churches can be properly supported with a tightening budget. Concerns were expressed over the size of the ministerial workforce, and over the amount being invested in Kilnasoolagh.

Pastor Adam Keough, who cares for the Belfast church, spends forty per cent of his time with Youth Ministries. He reported that numbers at summer camps and retreats have increased even with the tight budgets – but providing more activities has encouraged a higher turnout in an atmosphere where the youth benefit both socially and spiritually. This is particularly important for those youth who are often isolated in small churches. Adam noted that thirty per cent of the children who come to the camps are on the fringe of the Church. He said, 'These quality events help give them spiritual highs.' A lively debate led to a plea for open acceptance of youth and children in the local churches.

Both before and following a sumptuous lunch where Irish hospitality abounded, Edith Samambwa presented her Health Ministries report. Even though she only holds the role for one year, she enthusiastically reported how the health emphasis is making a difference, both in the lives of members and as an outreach in the community. At 2.30pm the Nominating committee reported, and the following names were voted to serve for the next three years:

Executive committee:
under the chairmanship of David Neal (President) and Victor Pilmoor (Secretary-Treasurer):
Gavin Anthony (Pastor), Ruth Hamblin (Banbridge), Jeason Kanaraj (Dublin), Adam Keough (Pastor), Raymond Little (Belfast), Ross McAuley (Londonderry), Betty O'Rourke (Galway), Edith Samambwa (Dublin), Muriel Twantwa (Cork)

Sponsors:
Adventist Discovery School – Brad Bushey,
Communication Sponsor – Weiers Coetsier,
Health Sponsor – Edith Samambwa,
Stewardship – David Neal,
Trust Services – Dr Mart de Groot,
Women's Ministries – Referred to Executive committee,
Youth Sponsor – Adam Keough

Twenty minutes later, the delegates returned to business with an impassioned plea from Pastor Stephen Wilson for members to 'stand up for those with no voice' by supporting the work of ADRA. The need for establishing better national links with ADRA was also noted.

This led to a time of joy as the Cork and the Dublin Romanian congregations were welcomed into the sisterhood of churches, while Killkenny and Waterford became companies. A further surprise was a special gift of an Andrews Study Bible to two outstanding servants of the Church in Ireland, Dr Mart de Groot and Evelyn Wilson.

The remaining part of the day – including an extended discussion period beyond closing time – was one of animated discussion on retaining the size of the ministerial workforce, emphasising the need for Days of Fellowship in addition to Camp Meeting, and a call for grace when there are differences in the Church. In inimical Irish style, Alex Hill from Dublin summed this up: 'Love makes for passion. How we express that love matters. People with issues are people that love the Church.'

In his closing remarks Pastor McFarlane challenged every delegate to 'leave with a determination to put our arms around those who are hurting,' and made a call for revival and reformation in our churches. Pleading for delegates to take this seriously, he said: 'Revival and reformation can't be by legislation or



Top: Belfast's Ray Little and Pastor McFarlane respond to humour from BUC Treasurer Victor Pilmoor. Right: Tony O'Rourke based at Kilnasoolagh in County Clare. Below: Dr Mart deGroot and Mrs Evelyn Wilson receive copies of the Andrews Study Bible in recognition of their long and distinguished service. Bottom: Delegates down to business.



command. You – we – need to inspire one another.'

The day closed with prayer and a warm round of applause for David Neal and his wife Marci, in recognition of their leadership in the Mission.

The Irish Mission report, 'Press Together', and the financial report can be found on the Irish Mission website along with a selection of pictures from the day. The Irish Mission website is: <http://irish.adventistchurch.ie>

*All figures and statistics published as presented to the Session by the secretary treasurer.

Letter

Are we over-managed?

Dear Editor,
I refer to your correspondent's conclusion (Letters, 15 October) that our Church in the British Isles is over-managed. In support, he cites his own organisation's present focus on reducing management layers and not 'coalface' jobs, and questions whether an area the size of the British Isles needs six different administrative structures for management.

I believe that most organisations (our denomination included) would benefit from regular, formal reviews of their overall purpose and aims, and how they can best organise themselves to accomplish these. Certainly, the present economic crisis is a sufficient enough prompt to do so. However, while it is perfectly in order to be informed by the actions of other organisations in this respect, and while the decision-making principles involved may be common currency, each organisation has to determine for itself, and with significant reference to itself, whether or not it is over-managed.

The Church's six administrative bodies represent its infrastructure and it is difficult to see how this number could be reduced to good effect. Joining the two conferences together would likely leave one unwieldy unit. Attaching missions to conferences has been tried and rejected by the membership (witness the disbandment of the North British Conference in 1991). The joining together of three missions into one 'Celtic' mission was unsuccessfully mooted a few years back. Whatever the permutation, none, to my mind, appears to be as suitable as the current configuration.

In any event, the Church's administrative infrastructure is not the same as its management structure. Despite the interrelationship between the two, the size of one is not necessarily a commentary on the size of the other. It is, for example, quite possible (even if uncommon) to have an over-elaborate infrastructure within which operates an underweight management, and vice versa.

As concerns the management structure, an earlier correspondent (Letters, 17 September) doubted whether the removal of a tier of management at union or conference level would even be noticed – at least, in his own church. It would have aided consideration of this assertion had 'management' in this context been defined.

If what may be termed 'senior management' was meant (that is, the Church's executive officers), then I wonder how their numbers

could be reduced, let alone removed, at either union or conference level.

My experience and observation over the best part of four decades' service in denominational administration was one of an ever-increasing burden on senior management. The Church is growing, changing, and ever-more complex, while the legislative and regulatory environment in which it operates is increasingly demanding.

If by 'management' the departmental directors were envisaged, I would propose that while they have a managerial element to their responsibilities (some more than others), these servants are for the most part trainers and facilitators. Working aright, these are coalface workers too. This said, whether quite so many departments are required, and whether they each need to be represented at every organisational level, are questions that appear to be valid and ripe for the asking.

It seems worth noting here that the BUC and its constituent entities did, in fact, go some way to rationalising the number of departmental positions in the mid-1990s. The vote of various succeeding Session meetings has largely undone this work, however, and even added to the number of departmental posts.

Perhaps the point here is that the reference to 'turkeys not voting for Christmas' (ibid.) is singularly inapplicable. Employed management (both senior and departmental) is elected. It does not vote for itself, and is easily out-voted both on the Executive committee and at Sessions. Whatever infrastructure and management structure we have is effectively in the hands of non-managers and laity to decide. Some may protest that they simply vote for what is proposed to them, but they don't have to. If there is an issue here then it is one of governance rather than management.

The biblical principles involved in organising God's work in both Old and New Testament times, as well as in our own Church's experience, indicate administrative structures robust enough to support and promote the work. They also provide for 'manageable management'. The question of departmental directorships apart, I am not persuaded that either our present infrastructure or our management structure are inappropriate.

M. R. DOVE
NOTTINGHAM

Editor: M. R. Dove served the denomination as a treasurer for many years and, with his wife Ann, is now living in much-deserved retirement.

**Do you remember our overseas missionaries?
by a recently returned missionary**

While working overseas, the topic of conversation one day among fellow missionaries veered towards our home churches. To my surprise, some missionaries had received very little contact from their home churches and most had received none.

I was shocked: but this was my experience too. Facial expressions and tones of voice told of the emotional hurt in the room. I had waited weeks for a word from my home church. 'Why was this?' we asked. That day, the message came to me loud and clear: something needs to be done for all the missionaries working away from home.

This seems to be a trend across the Church, worldwide. I wonder if our home churches believe and value the fact that missionaries genuinely leave home to work for Jesus? Every Sabbath, Personal Ministries leaders call for workers to go out into the community to seek lost souls; but my question is, 'If we can't take care of the family that we already have, then how can we take care of more family members when we bring them in?'

I feel strongly about the younger people. Being out in the mission field and experiencing extreme loneliness, young people, in particular, often have not yet learnt how to deal with such loneliness and the temptations that come with it. I began to understand why I had witnessed many of them straying from the field and beginning to do things they would not do if they were in their home countries. In addition, there is insufficient spiritual nurture for missionaries, most of whom are overworked. Some even stray off the path.

I began to question as many missionaries as I could on the subject. I also decided to ask the reasons why missionaries went out into the field.

Q Why did you leave home and travel so far when there is mission work to do at home?

A A combination of things really. I was asking God what he wanted me to do. Strangely, everything around me was highlighting missionaries abroad. Bible studies, 3ABN, Hope Channel, magazines: all highlighted sacrificing all for Christ's sake, for the sake of lost souls. Some have never heard of Jesus, some had never even seen a Bible. There is a need of missionaries to help. Every Sabbath I sang with my church, 'I'll go where you want me to go dear Lord. . . . Then, one Sabbath, the sermon was about sacrificing all; how much are we willing to sacrifice for God? That sealed it for me.

Q What are the most prominent things in your mind about your experience over there?

A I thank God for using me to touch lives by befriending, giving out Bibles and other literature, Bible studies, seminars, presentations, song services and other wonderful things.

Q Does your church keep in contact with you?

A No, not really. I have been contacted once by only one member of my home church. You see, it gets very lonely out here!

Q But one may say being a missionary abroad is like being on an extended holiday, wouldn't you agree?

A Absolutely not. In fact, my experience is the opposite. God is blessing me with touching lives in ways I had only dreamed about, while at the same time I face many, many difficult and challenging times. It's true that sometimes I get the opportunity to take part in some wonderful leisure activities and see some amazing places but, more often than not, the work is intense and full of lonely and trying times.

Q What do you do when you feel lonely and stressed?

A Well, of course I pray and read a word from God's wonderful Book. At first, after praying when missing home, especially my church, I used to check my e-mail for a word from someone, but I realise now that's not going to happen. When I first arrived, even though I was enthusiastic and grateful for the opportunity, I would sometimes get a lump in my throat. It would have helped just to hear from someone.

Q What can you learn from this experience?

A To keep that connection with those who have gone away; my family members. To let them know that I am praying for them, that I remember them. To send them something from home, something they can't get while away. To show them I love them, not just in words, but also through actions. This is an important ministry.

Will you contact your missionary today?



Tract and treat

On the evening of 30 October, when many people would have been preparing to turn the clocks back, a group of children from the Huddersfield church and the Fartown mission came together for their annual tract and treat party.

Dressing up warmly for the cool night air, the children gathered together with their parents for prayer and then, armed with magazines and sweets, they went door to door giving out tracts and treats to those who opened up to them.

Those who opened their doors were actually surprised to be getting something at a time when most people are demanding things from them. In return, they happily gave sweets to the children after the children had given them their tracts and treats.

The children returned very excited and quickly ate the food that was prepared for them.

The evening ended with a lovely fireworks display. Every child left with some of their hard-earned sweets!

The following night was filled with trick-or-treaters but they were given sweets and the parents were given *LIFE.info* magazines.

We should not see 31 October as a night to spend in the dark hoping that the doorbell won't ring, but rather as an opportunity to meet our neighbours and give out tracts without even leaving the comfort of our homes.

SARA SHAKES

Bring back the glory!

Sabbath 9 October saw the beginning of Stratford's 'Bring Back the Glory' campaign with guest speaker Pastor Calvin B. Preston from Atlanta, USA.

The aim of our speaker was to encourage us to go back to basics through the Word of God as it is written in the Bible. The opening night saw the church full with members as well as visitors from the local community. The topic for the evening was 'The Bridegroom Cometh'.

The opening evening set a pattern for the week, as each night the church was filled to capacity with folks eager to listen to the powerful messages from the evangelist. The evangelist himself voiced his surprise at the number of people who came out on Sunday and Monday evening, as this does not normally happen in America.

Throughout the week there were some interesting and thought-provoking topics, including 'Can I Live with my Lover and Still be Saved' and 'Is God That Particular?', and the theme for the final Sabbath was, 'Can One Thing Keep Me Out of Heaven'.

There was great joy on the final Sabbath afternoon when four candidates – André Simon, Derrick Gayle, Jodie LaTouche and Zachary Gambah – gave their hearts to Christ and entered the waters of baptism.



An additional six members were welcomed to the Stratford church through the right hand of fellowship on their profession of faith.

BLOSSOM GILLIN, STRATFORD COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY

Breath of Life's first decade

Sabbath 16 October was a day of days at the Breath of Life church. The theme of the day, 'Faith brought us this far', was embraced as the church took a trip down memory lane. After Charmaine Morgan prepared our hearts to receive the message by singing 'He's been faithful to me', our guest speaker, Pastor Cecil Perry (the former BUC president), inspired us with his sermon entitled 'Journeyming by Faith'. The church was pleased to witness Pastor D. Mashin (the founder pastor) and Naomi Watson (the wife of Pastor Malcolm Watson) present the remaining founder members with commemorative plaques.

The church was moved by the testimonies of those who had been baptised over the years. Karl Foster spoke of how his late cousin, Pastor Delroy Foster, had been a source of encouragement in making his decision for Christ. Andrea Francis told us of how she had been taking her time in making a decision for Christ, until a car accident led her to take immediate action; within a week she was baptised.

Among our guests was Pastor Garry Gordon, one of Breath of Life's former ministers. E. Windrass, who has been the head elder since the



church was formed, reminisced over various high points and low points along the church's journey. As only he could, concerning the church's future, he quoted from Ronald Reagan, saying: 'You aint seen nothing yet.'

Marcelle Riley, the main co-ordinator of the day, put together an afternoon programme which incorporated many members from different sections of our church. We experienced joy and reflective sadness, and witnessed displays of various talents from both the senior and young members of our congregation. We were also blessed with special music from friends of Breath of Life.

PATRICK HERBERT

Fireworks at Grantham anniversary

November 13 marked the fortieth anniversary of the dedication of the Grantham church. A packed congregation celebrated the anniversary on the weekend of 5-6 November. They began with a sacred concert on the Friday evening and continued with a special service of celebration on Sabbath morning, a commemorative service on Sabbath afternoon and a firework display in the evening.

The mayor and mayoress of Grantham, Councillor Rob and Mrs Delia Hearnson, were guests of honour for the morning service. The mayor's speech reminded the Adventists that the move of many of them to Grantham had been occasioned by the fire at the Watford premises of The Stanborough Press. Having explored a variety of alternatives, the Church leadership had decided that Grantham was the most appropriate place to which to relocate. The fire had been in 1964, but it had taken until 1966 to complete the move. There had, said the mayor, been a major influx of Seventh-day Adventists into the Grantham community. He paid tribute to the outstanding contribution that Seventh-day Adventists and The Stanborough Press have made.

As the mayor continued, it became clear that he enjoyed an excellent relationship with the Grantham minister, Pastor John Ferguson, who had organised the big day, and with Pastor Bob Rodd who, with his wife Moyra, were guest speakers.

Pastor Rodd was one of an impressive number of former Grantham ministers who were present. Among these were Pastors Philip Anderson, R. V. Edwards, and David Markham. The first Grantham minister, the late Pastor John Handsides, was represented by his widow Leila, his son-in-law Carl Benz and his daughter, Dr Cynthia Benz.

The commemorative afternoon was organised by the church elder, Karen Shelburn. It came as news to some to learn that there had been Adventist families in Grantham – the Burroughs, the Goddards and the Browns – before the arrival of the Press crowd in 1966. Dr Benz said that there had been meetings in Colsterworth which had been pastored by her father. Following the arrival of the many Press families, Grantham's Oxford Hall, the Press chapel and the ballroom at the Guildhall had all been used for Sabbath services. An old building on the Press site had served as the first Adventist primary school in Grantham.

Pastor Philip Anderson, the eldest son of a good Adventist family from North Lincolnshire, was sent to pastor the new Grantham church and oversee the building of a large new church and church school. He mentioned that, following the purchase of a suitable site during the Handsides pastorate, the church membership, organised in working parties, helped to clear it and prepare it for building. The clearing of the site involved the demolition of the large, Victorian Dudley House.

The tight budget imposed by the Conference enabled the contractors to do no more than construct the shell of the building. Much work had been undertaken by Sunday working parties comprising Stanborough Press workers. The impressive woodwork which made the interior of the Grantham church distinctive had been undertaken by Barry Bell, Glyn Meredith, John Sutton and Mervyn Whiting, among others.

The construction had, as a result, come on budget and the balance owing to the Conference was paid in a surprise presentation, by Paul Hammond, then church treasurer, to the Conference president. That had meant much to the membership at the time.

Pastor John Ferguson, forty years on, provided a bright picture of the part his congregation continue to play in the Grantham community. The spirit of co-operation which Pastor Anderson had noted as making possible the building and refurbishment of the church and school was, said Pastor Ferguson, still a major characteristic of his growing congregation (the majority of whom are not now press workers).

It being 6 November, a fireworks display was an appropriate way to end the day of celebration.

DAVID MARSHALL

1. Grantham pastor, John Ferguson and Mrs Esmé Sutton (Elder) greet the mayor and mayoress on the steps of the church. 2. Members and visitors. 3. Platform party, left to right: Pastor John Ferguson, Pastor Bob Rodd, Mayoress Mrs Delia Hearnson, Mayor Councillor Rob Hearnson and Mrs Rosemary Bull. 4. Visiting speaker and former minister, Pastor Bob Rodd. 5. Former minister, Pastor Philip Anderson.

Photos: David Bell



Swansea celebrates past and future

by Lily Kidwell

Swansea has a deteriorating church building. As a result, services stopped there in the summer, and on a temporary basis the members are meeting at the local Holy Trinity church, as well as doing some evangelistic outreach in the area. However, as we had never taken the chance to hold a special leaving service, the decision was taken to hold a day of celebration involving everyone who has a connection with the church, from the past until the present.

It had been a while since the building was used. The wall cracks appeared to be getting worse, and there were other maintenance problems. The utility supplies had been discontinued except for the water. Health and safety was an issue. However, the church family wanted a special service to reflect and finally say goodbye to our dear old Swansea church.

Sunday morning, 24 October, was indeed a very beautiful time for members and friends of the church. Many people turned up despite the cold autumn weather. Organisers hired a generator and gas heaters. Jackie Jones and Irving Saunders liaised with the members to provide light refreshments following the service. Eifion Paul, with the help of his father Asu, a keen photographer, worked hard organising all the pictures from the past.

Our *Afterglow* musicians, Chris



Some Swansea members with the old church behind

Kidwell, Eiddon Paul and Duane Saunders, started the service with lively congregational singing. Danielle Rees said the opening prayer. Welsh Mission President Pastor John Surridge, our church pastor in the previous years, outlined the spiritual history. Erica Cameron shared a 'family portrait' of the Rees family as one of the pioneer families of the church. Mary Paul read the memories of Pastor Vine and his family during their time of ministry in Swansea. Special music from our talented musicians added to the atmosphere.

Pastor Jeremy Tremeer, now Welsh Mission Youth sponsor and minister to the South Wales East district, expressed his gratitude



The old Swansea church viewed from Sketty Cross

composed of people was highlighted, and as Luke Marshall read from Acts 2:41-47 they noted the importance of a meeting place for people to mingle and fellowship with each other, sharing Bible studies and learning to know God.

We all paid tribute to the people who have contributed to the church, because without their sacrifices this church would not have been possible. Kirsten Collier also shared her own brief version of her life in the church, played the piano and sang 'What would Jesus do?' while some pictures of the past appeared on the screen.

Pastor Jovan Adamovic concluded this special service for the Swansea church by 'Looking into the future'. There is a greater task ahead, which he likened to keeping a car on the road. It will need its regular maintenance and care. The Swansea church to him is a family. He is encouraging everyone to take part in the renewal and rebuilding of this church. Now we look to the future and our new building.

for his time in the Swansea, Carmarthen and Port Talbot churches when he came to help Pastor Ed Sammons. They were both fresh from Newbold College but did a wonderful job with the young people. He reminisced about regular 'waffle' Friday evenings at Ed and Shana's home and other church activities that may have led to some baptisms. He recalled a baptism at a beach on the Gower.

Others added their own memories and stories. The Latchman family spoke about their appreciation of being a part of this church family. Lily Kidwell recalled that church life was like a rollercoaster, and thanked God for all the good and not so good times. The fact that churches are



Three generations: David and Erica Cameron were married in the Srian Sees church. They are pictured here with their daughter, Elisabeth Beguin, and granddaughter Molly

Watford mayoress applauds Stanborough students

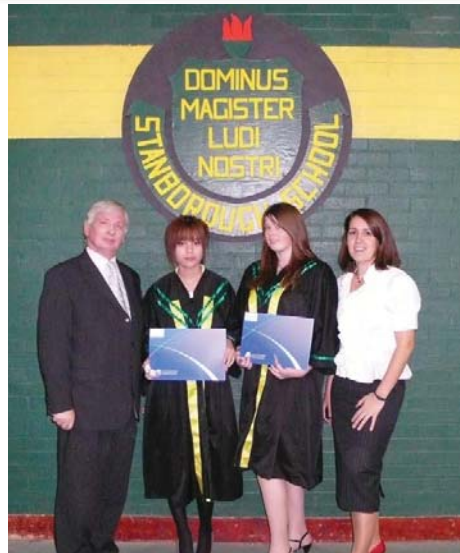
by Miss V. Pizzuto

Photos: J. Wong & T. Naskov

On 21 October, Stanborough School held a historic speech night, celebrating not only the successes and achievements of the pupils throughout the academic year 2009-2010, but also the 70th anniversary of the school's foundation. Dorothy Thornhill, the mayoress

of Watford, was pleased at the students' exceptional success and applauded their achievements.

Dorothy Thornhill was the guest of honour. Her inspirational speech focused on the fact that small decisions and sheer determination – such as she exhibited at the age of



13, when she campaigned for the local by-laws that prevented her from working as a paper girl to be changed – can pave the way for bigger accomplishments in life. She exhorted the pupils to aim high.

Mayoress Thornhill also participated in the presentation of awards and prizes, conducted by Mr Kish Poddar and Mrs Gabrielle Leonce (both assistant heads at the school). In a very emotive moment, she presented Gordon Walton, a former student, with the Fletcher Cup – given to those who have shown remarkable courage and unquenchable determination in the face of adversity.

The headmaster, Mr Roger Murphy, gave his annual report, pointing out that GCSE grades had been even better than usual. Following the trend of previous years, an outstanding 91% of the students achieved five or more GCSE A* to C grades (86% including

Maths and English). The headmaster commended the students for performing well above the national average, and inspired them to show the same commitment this academic year.

The headmaster also highlighted the international nature of Stanborough School, pointing out that, during the academic year and Summer Camp sessions, over 500 international students were hosted. Mr Murphy reflected on the importance of providing an opportunity for both British and international students to develop bonds of peace and mutual understanding.

The Stanborough secondary choir and string ensemble performed impeccably, giving speech night an air of colour and dignity that was appreciated by all. The voice of the students was represented by the head boy, Joshua Roberts, who closed the evening with a whole-hearted vote of thanks to all teachers and staff members.

Scotland bids for European Youth Congress 2013

by John Wilby

The city that will host the 2014 Commonwealth Games recently welcomed three leaders of the Adventist Church. Youth Directors Paul Tompkins (TED), Stephan Sigg (EUD) and Des Bouleau (BUC) flew into Glasgow last week in response to Scotland's bid to host the 2013 European Adventist Youth Congress.

They were joined by SM President Bernie Holford, Youth Sponsor Marcel Ghioalda and Communications Sponsor John Wilby. Together they toured the city that has won the UK's Best Conference Centre Award for two successive years. The whistle-stop tour took in the Scottish Exhibition & Conference Centre, places of interest and a wide range of low-cost hotels.

Pastor Tompkins said afterwards, 'Adventist Youth Congresses are very special opportunities for fellowship, nurture, worship and mission. Although 2013 seems a long way off, our work in assessing the strengths of each possible host city begins now, and this autumn we will visit each of the very good potential venues.'

Scotland is one of three countries bidding for the event that should attract more than three thousand delegates. A decision on the successful bid is anticipated in early 2011.



Over the summer of 2010 *MESSENGER* carried a series of articles advertising an outreach project for Sabbath 25 September, to involve every Seventh-day Adventist congregation in the British Isles. The idea was put to Eglan Brooks, the BUC Personal Ministries and Church Growth director. Also involved in the planning were BUC Youth director Des Boldeau and Adventist Discovery Centre director Des Rafferty.

There are currently 31,000 Seventh-day Adventists in the British Isles. The idea was that each of the 31,000 was to give out 31 pieces of outreach material. It was left to local congregations to decide what outreach literature was most suited to soul-winning in the communities they served. Some distributed *LIFE.info* magazines. A total of 140,000 copies of *FOCUS* magazines were distributed. Countless VOP/ADC cards were given away, and some tracts.

A few congregations reported their experiences to Pastor Eglan Brooks at the British Union. Pastor Brooks gave these reports to Cathy Boldeau for editing, and Cathy has submitted them for publication in *MESSENGER*.

EDITOR

The Power of 31,000

Scotland

by *Crieff Communication dept.*
 "We have already received a call from someone to whom we gave a *FOCUS* magazine. They want to visit our church in Glasgow," reports Pastor Clifford Herman. "We need to start giving out literature like this more regularly," said one of the Crieff members, returning from distributing his 31 magazines. During September, all the churches in Scotland have been engaging in literature distribution. "The Power of 31,000" provided a major incentive for many people who ended up enjoying the witnessing opportunities. "It gave me a wonderful opportunity to meet the church neighbours, local doctors and friends of the church who appreciate what we are doing in Crieff and for the needy around the world. I loved it!" said Pastor Bernie Hoford. "This is going to become a regular part of our church outreach ministry."

Wales

by *Theophilus Gokah*
 "... be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you



Sabbath 25 September. The emphasis of the day was to draw people's attention to God's instruction.

After the congregation had gathered for Sabbath School lessons and digested the wisdom of Paul's admonitions, the church prayed for God's guidance in his service. While Cardiff Central was required to focus on reaching populations in the Cardiff area, the Cardiff North church headed for Pontypridd, twelve miles north of Cardiff.

Pontypridd has had a turbulent past, but also has a fascinating historical and cultural background. It is now host to the University of Glamorgan, as well as various commercial, industrial and tourist attractions. The presence of a university makes it a natural home for many students from across the world. It is not surprising that the day's activities started from the precincts of the university and its surrounding communities.

Following Jesus' method, members of the congregation worked in blocks, within which members worked in pairs. "It was fun", said one first-timer. The church wit-

nessed God's leading presence before and during our time in the field. Brother André Taylor, an optical physicist who had just arrived from America and was fellowshiping with the Cardiff North church for the first time, joined the effort with zeal. His interaction with students at Glamorgan University showed how God works when his people are determined to yield to his command (Matthew 13:23). Sister Ezimme is also new and comes from Germany. Upon her discovery she joined the congregation with cheer to work for the Lord.

The volunteers from Cardiff North made around three hundred contacts who were each presented with a well decorated invitation card. They were also given a copy of Mark Finlay's book, *When God said Remember*.

Shropshire

by *Clyde Moore*
 As you travel along the M54 into Telford, the sign says, 'Welcome to Telford, the birthplace of Industry.' On Sabbath morning 25 September, members of the Telford church were certainly industrious in their wit-

nessing. While some did the traditional door-to-door evangelising and some went to the market, others were very creative. They caught the train from Telford, travelled to Shrewsbury and returned the same way. While on the train they witnessed to their 'captive audience!' Those unable to go out, or not involved with the latest communication methods of mobile 'txt msg' or emails, Facebook, Twitter, Bebo or Plaxo, remained at the church and had a time of study and prayer for those who were outside.

When the missionaries returned, they shared their experiences and all were blessed. One member said, 'I was really nervous about going up to strangers but, having done it and seen how easy it is to witness about Jesus, I am going to do this more regularly'. There are plans to do this kind of witnessing on a regular basis.

Nottingham Central

by *Ian Sweeney*
 'How can we have a Sabbath without a Divine Service? It just doesn't seem right!'

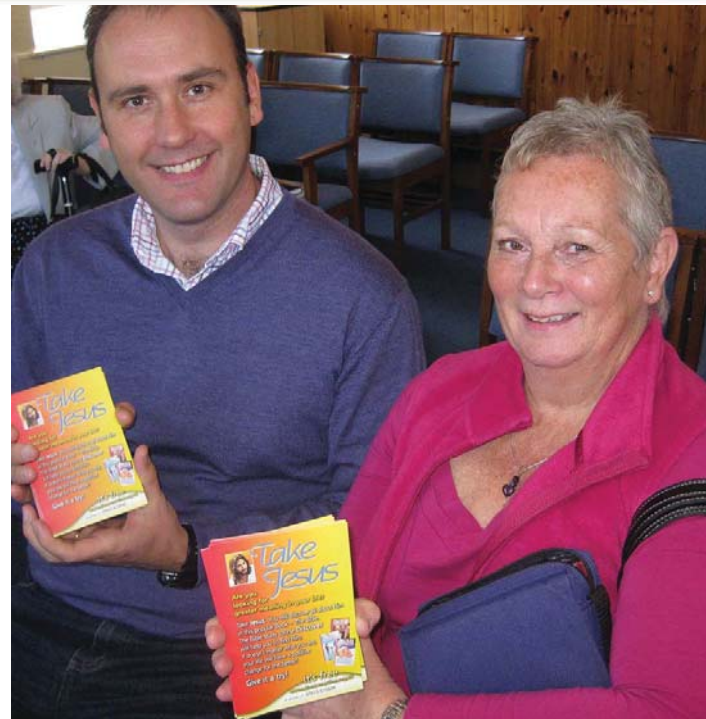
This was the question directed to his father by a young member of the Nottingham Central church who could not understand why Pastor Cyril Sweeney, along with the church board, sanctioned that they had no preaching service on Sabbath 25 September but opted instead to distribute Adventist DVDs, *FOCUS* magazines and other outreach material as part of the Power of 31,000 campaign.

After receiving their street assignments, and following a brief training session from the Personal Ministries department leaders, the members (some reluctantly) began pounding the pavements at 12 noon.

Ninety minutes later, as members began to drift back into church for testimony and reflection, the comment was made: 'Dad, we have got to do this more often, I loved it!'

This young lad's comment (yea, conversion) has echoes of an incident in Jesus' time when, after sending out 72 disciples, Luke records their return by stating: "When the seventy-two disciples returned, they joyfully reported to him, 'Lord, even the demons obey us when we use your name!'" (Luke 10:17, New Living Translation).

The Power of 31,000 was a tremendous filly to thousands of NEC members in our congregations who experienced the joy of evangel-



istic ministry among the people God has called upon us to reach, as they joined in The Power of 31,000.

Reading Central

by *Steve Thomas*
 With joy, we celebrated the distribution of the Power of 31,000 with the Power of Effective Leadership.

Sabbath lunchtime saw tract distribution and a baptism. Even though I was on my Sabbatical, I was glad to maintain the Bible studies and to get involved in the baptism preparation visits. I worked on four Wednesdays in September, to make sure the final pieces fell into place. We were happy to baptise ten precious souls, with a further baptism set for 25 December. In addition, Whitley is also working towards another baptism.

New Life Community

by *New Life Communication dept.*
 The Power of 31,000 was welcomed by the ten-week-old New Life Community Fellowship church plant. As the Holy Spirit hovered over this church plant in Hilltop, West

Bromwich, it would have been hard to constrain its members from reaching out to witness for Jesus. This was no new venture for New Life, as this church plant has a weekly door-to-door and street witnessing programme. But this particular Sabbath gave us an opportunity to meet the masses, host the Mayor of Sandwell and evangelise through song at the afternoon 'community fayre' that was held in the park where we worship.

The leader of the group, Winsome Brown-Baadjes, was approached by the local councillor who requested the presence of a gospel group at their community fayre. The fayre was originally scheduled for August, but that particular day it rained and the event was postponed until 25 September.

'God knew the plans he had for us,' said Winsome, 'and it was like music to my ears when I heard the date coincided with the Power of 31,000. The plan was for the group to distribute literature in the park during the singing by the choir.

The local organiser contacted

Winsome to enquire whether it would be possible for the mayoress to stop by the community centre for tea and sandwiches; Winsome's initial response was that it wouldn't be possible as our worship service would be in progress. She later asked God whether her decision was the right one. Inspired by the Spirit's response, she said, 'I believe that Jesus would have said "Yes" ', and she used this as a way to share the Good News. In so doing she contacted the local organiser and agreed to host the mayoress and dignitaries that Sabbath morning.

"On Sabbath morning I advised the fellowship group that there may be some disruption in our worship service as the mayoress and other dignitaries would be joining us for tea and sandwiches. How amazing it was to find that, when the mayoress and dignitaries arrived, Audriees Malcolm (our visiting speaker from Croydon) and Eulnette Lee were carrying out praise and worship. Chairs were made available for the mayoress and dignitaries and they joined in. The consulate can be seen > 12



singing along with us when it was time to greet somebody in Jesus' name; this chorus was soon learnt by our dignitaries. It was a beauty to behold; indeed, we were able to share our worship service with our local mayoress and dignitaries as the service continued; they remained for as long as they could, and expressed on departure how blessed they were. It was our privilege to enable the mayoress of Sandwell to be one of the recipients of the Power of 31,000.

Later that same afternoon, the fellowship group members went to the park and performed several items of music, including the interactive 'He's got the whole world in his hands' among others. But the most moving song was 'You raised me up', sung by Patrick Baadjes. While he delivered the Word of God in song, the other members of the group gave out goodie bags containing our worship details in the form of a flyer, a DVD (*Reason of the Heart*) and a *FOCUS* magazine. It was a stellar experience and we were all blessed by being there.

One group member shares how a

particular gentleman said, 'The singing was wonderful. Where do you worship?' She replied, 'Right over there', pointing in the direction of the community centre. 'Oh', he said. She replied, 'The details are in your bag.' 'OK', he said. She said, 'We worship on a Saturday.' He then said, 'That's OK, because I go to church on Sunday, so I can come on Saturday.' She chuckled on her way, praising God for the encounter with her new friend Don.

The fellowship group has since been asked to sing at two events: one at the neighbouring town's Christmas lights ceremony with the mayor, singing carols. When asked how they felt about the whole Christmas idea, they replied, 'It's our evangelistic opportunity to bring Christ back into Christmas.'

Limerick, Ireland

Many churches in the Irish Mission participated enthusiastically in the Power of 31,000, and thousands of magazines were given away. Many contacts were made.

Sinead of the Newmarket-on-Fergus congregation decided that to



give out 31 pieces of literature on 25 September would be 'small potatoes'. She hit on the idea of the mass distribution of *Take Jesus* VOP/ADC cards in the city of Limerick, in which she is one of a small number of Adventists.

Sinead contacted the Press Editor and he telephoned Thelma Hodges at VOP/ADC to ask what could be done. Thelma mentioned that the *granoVita* health food company had provided funding for an entire print run of the *Take Jesus* cards and that the funding also

covered postage. Armed with this information, the Press Editor spoke to his colleague the ABC manager, Paul Poddar. 'GranoVita will pay for a boxful', said Paul. 'There are three thousand cards in a box.'

A very large box was delivered to Sinead's front door two days later. With the aid of a couple of friends from the Newmarket church, Sinead is still busily handing out *Take Jesus* cards. VOP/ADC is braced to receive a bumper bundle of requests for the *Take Jesus* course from Limerick.

EDITOR

Final Events DVDs were given away. Prior to going out, special prayer was offered and parents were encouraged to take their children along with them. BUC Youth Director Des Boldeau, along with his daughter Arianne, gave out 31 DVDs each. Commenting on the afternoon, Arianne said, 'It was good doing something for Jesus. I met so many people and it was great going out with Daddy and my friends. Can we do this next Sabbath?'

Bolton

In the North England Conference, BUC PM Director Eglan Brooks was with the Bolton church, which spent the Sabbath afternoon on the streets giving out literature. The result of its efforts was speedily realised, as two people have already contacted the church and requested Bible studies. The New Life Community church plant in Sandwell was blessed to have the local mayoress as one of its recipients and, due to the presence of the choir, several contacts were made who now want to attend church.

In summary

The Scottish, Irish and Welsh Missions also participated. The

Cardiff church used the day to go out and the members distributed literature. 'It was fun', said one church member from Cardiff who at first was a little hesitant to go out. According to Cliff Herman, a pastor in Scotland, 'we have already received a call from someone who wants to attend the Glasgow church, after receiving one of our magazines'.

According to the reports that are still coming in, the following literature and resources were given away on 25 September: 140,000 *FOCUS* magazines, 3,000 *Final Events* DVDs, 30,000 *LIFE.info* magazines, 144,100 *Take Jesus* cards, and 201,250 other course cards. 'This is the largest movement of advertising cards in recent history', said ADC principal, Des Rafferty. 'We wait in anticipation to see how God will work.' In addition to this, The Stanborough Press gave away numerous boxes of *Signs of the Times* magazines and thousands of tracts.

'The evangelism challenge of the twenty-first century calls for a large vision and major initiatives. The Power of 31,000 will not be allowed to recede into the mist of history but will become a platform on which we

tedMEDIA presents...

by Katie Ramharacksingh

On Saturday 16 October, tedMEDIA brought together 120 people in the St Albans church for a premiere screening of their media creations that can be used by pastors, churches and members in their ministries for nurturing and outreach.

years. Paul Lee, the South England Conference Music Ministries director, described them as 'broadcast quality that can satisfy the highest criteria in the media industry'. The evening's selection included snippets from *Paradigm Shift*, a series created for pastors to use as illustrations, and



tedMEDIA is part of the Trans-European Division (TED), with its headquarters based in St Albans. Before the creation of tedMEDIA, division leaders were challenged to engage media in the proclamation of the Present Truth. 'The premiere proved a testament to the successes that have been achieved by the recently established media team in their response to this challenge', said Dr Bertil Wiklander, the TED president. The evening's programme showcased the variety of fresh and vibrant resources that tedMEDIA have produced over the past three

build for the future', President Don McFarlane of the British Union Conference said excitedly, reflecting on the initiative. 'While we wait to see how the Holy Spirit has used and will use the efforts of God's people on 25 September, we are already seeing huge benefits from the programme. The most obvious is

that the churches have proven for themselves that much can be accomplished when members work together. 'That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it. You spread his love to everyone; you want to pass it on!'

is useful in responding to postmodernists. BUC Treasurer Victor Pilmor commented, 'This series is focused not just on the teachings and doctrines that we share, but also on the stories and experiences that come out of them.'

Miroslav Pujic, the tedMEDIA director (who also holds the position of Communications and Media Ministries director at the TED), formally introduced his team of Jemina da Silva Macedo, Dragana Duval, Frederic Duval and Deana Stojkovic, as the people that have co-ordinated and produced the resources. 'Our mission is to support the efforts of the Trans-European Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in reaching spiritual seekers by integrating creative media technology

and offering resources on the internet and on DVD, and providing material for the Hope Channel', says Pujic.

In reference to these materials, Dr Wiklander concluded: 'Spreading the Gospel using this medium will be an effective step forward for us in these times when society is extremely media-driven. God has blessed us with a team that can pioneer this use of media on a larger scale than we have ever tried before.'

For more information on purchasing and using tedMEDIA resources, please contact Deana Stojkovic at deana@ted-media.org or go to the tedMEDIA website, www.tedmedia.org

Burngreave and Rotherham Day of Fellowship

Three ministers of stature were present in Sheffield on Sabbath 24 July for the Day of Fellowship of the Burngreave and Rotherham churches.

The three ministers were Pastor Don James (associate director of the North American Evangelism Institute and lecturer at Andrews University), Pastor Jonathan Burnett (also of Andrews University, specialising in Small Group Discipleship Training), and Pastor Eglan Brooks (Personal Ministries director of the British Union Conference).

Pastor Burnett conducted the Sabbath School. His was an interactive presentation, consisting of a lesson study, testimonies and an altar call.

Pastor James delivered the sermon of the Divine Service, before which Pastor Brooks offered the prayer.

The theme of the sermon was drawn from Acts 8:26-40, concerning the Ethiopian treasurer in the employ of Queen Candace. He was a 'seeker after God' and God met him. God sometimes meets the seeker in unexpected places. The Ethiopian went to worship in Jerusalem; God met him on the deserted road that 'goeth down from Jerusalem'.

A fellowship lunch followed. Pastor Burnett presided over the afternoon programme, in which he preached on the greatness and goodness of God. He said that, when God faced the agonising dilemma of sparing either mankind or his Son, he spared mankind. 'For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son. . .' (John 3:16, KJV).

The day closed as it had begun – with thanksgiving and the voice of melody.

ROSEMARY BLENNMAN

Burngreave baptism

The membership of the Burngreave church was increased by the baptism of another soul – Keresia Chitadzinza – on Sabbath 4 September. Prior to this occasion, the candidate had received nine months of Bible studies.

The president of the North England Conference, Pastor Ian Sweeney, functioned as 'Baptist' on the day, and the resident licensed minister, Pastor Victor Marshall, preached the sermon: 'Roll that stone away'. The thought was taken from the account in St John's Gospel of the resurrection of Lazarus. 'The stone', the pastor said, 'represents anything that blocks the entrance of Jesus into our lives.'

The Scripture reading, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, and the song 'Higher Ground' were chosen by the candidate to be read and rendered when the rite was about to be administered. A friend read the Scripture and the congregation rendered the song.

ROSEMARY BLENNMAN

It only takes a spark

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau

'It only takes a spark to get a fire burning, and soon all those around can warm up to its glowing'

On Sabbath 25 September, members from all around the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom rallied to the call of 'The Power of 31,000'. The concept behind this initiative was birthed by Fran McCleod, from the High Wycombe district, who believed that it would be a great idea for all Adventist churches to be involved in distributing literature on the same Sabbath. The thought was that if all of the 31,000 Adventist members in the UK gave out 31 pieces of literature, then nearly 1 million pieces of Adventist literature would have been given out on the same day.

The idea was then watered and nurtured by the Personal Ministries department of the British Union Conference, in collaboration with the Adventist Discovery Centre and the BUC Youth department. 'The Power of 31,000' was born.

Tottenham

It is reported that over 90% of the 288 Adventist congregations in the British Union Conference participated in this mobile evangelistic campaign. Some congregations, like the Tottenham West Green Road church, closed their church on Sabbath morning and at least a hundred of the members went to give out literature. SEC President Sam Davis, who Fran McCleod originally approached with the idea, was part of this group. He said, 'It was a tremendous blessing to see our members motivated and taking to the streets with so much enthusiasm'.

Peterborough

Over in the provinces, the three Peterborough congregations joined forces on Sabbath afternoon and targeted the shoppers leaving the supermarkets. In one hour, 3,000

Fifty years of faith

by Patrick Boyle

Some fifty-odd years ago the membership of the Dublin church was in the low thirties. There were a few members in Wicklow, one in Cavan, and, in total, not in excess of forty-five in the whole of the Irish Republic. During the ministry of Pastor Bob Bainbridge, a group of younger people were won to Christ and church membership. Among them were Edith Macnaughton, Patrick and Rosemary Boyle, Betty Fulham, Ben Rothwell and the Hill family from Wicklow.

It was not easy to join the church in the 1960s. Finding work with Sabbath privileges was difficult. Pat Boyle and Edith lost their jobs. Ben, Betty and the Hills all experienced family difficulties; yet all have remained faithful, and each in their own way contributed to God's work.

Betty became the wife of George Sisson and they have recently celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

The wedding of George and Betty was both a joyful and a sorrowful experience. Betty, who had stepped out from the Catholic faith, did not have a single member of her family present. Thankfully the event was one of great happiness, and looking back on it there is nostalgia and humour.

There was nostalgia for the days when the church was a family, when old and young were together in the Young People's services and shared together in all church activities and outreach.

There was also humour, because the Sisson



Left to right: Patrick Boyle, George and Betty, Mary Nix
Front: Amy Browne



George and Betty celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary



Left to right: Lindsay and Michael Elias, George and Betty, Dalbert Elias, Billy McKee and unknown

wedding was not only an event but an occasion filled with laughter. One picture of the wedding cake shows a plate of fig roll biscuits nearby, which led to the wedding being described by the family as 'The fig roll wedding'. The presence of the Elias brothers and friends, who had hitchhiked from Belfast (and, in the nicest way, gate-crashed the event) provided further merriment.

On behalf of their family and friends, we offer congratulations to George and Betty; may the next significant celebration be in the Home where we all long to be, together, with our Lord and Saviour.

Seven baptised at Chingford

Seven were baptised on Sabbath 21 August after the *Reach Out and Touch Him* campaign. The evangelist for the three-week campaign was Costa Vaggas. It was organised by Pastor Bernard Akakpo and his team of dedicated members.

Three children were among the candidates. Romari Piper, at 7 years old the youngest to be baptised, made his choice after having listened to the Word of God since he was a toddler. Tia Williams, 8 years old, and 9-year-old André Dorsett, also decided to follow the Lord. All three responded to altar calls during the campaign, and regularly attend the Chingford church with their parents and relatives. Another special moment came when Sister Lillith Clarke broke down in tears as she saw her eldest daughter, Sandra Ford, also publicly declaring her faith.

ANGELA AUSTIN



Bed-wetting study

I am looking for individuals who would be willing to share their experience of bedwetting, in a confidential, audio-recorded interview.

I am looking for individuals who have been wetting from a young age into adulthood. You do not need to be bedwetting currently.

If you are willing to share your experience, or would like further information, please contact me. A gratuity of £20 will be provided for sharing your experience.

GILLIAN MAPP

Tel: 07950 278324

Email: enuresisresearch@gmail.com

Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/enuresisresearch/>

The investigation is being conducted as part of a thesis for my Professional Doctorate in Counselling Psychology at City University, London. It has been granted University Ethical Approval.

CONGRATULATIONS to Dr Rachel Haworth who graduates in December with a PhD from the University of Leeds. Dr Haworth's area of expertise is Modern Languages. Some years ago she took a First in French and Italian. Since then she has achieved an MA. EDITOR

Name Change Wolverhampton Oxford Street Church is now Called *Wolverhampton Central SDA Church*. The address is: Warwick Street, Horseley Fields, Wolverhampton, WV1 3SD. E. R. FRANCIS

London SDA Male Voice Choir's Festival of Praise 2010

in tribute to *Osric Fitzgerald Decoteau*
4 December, 7pm

at **The Rock Tower**,
49 Tuffnell Park Road, London, N7 0PS

Tickets £10 for adults,
£5 for under-14s and OAPs.

Contact Ken Henry on
0208 764 6366 or
Clinton Delisser on 0208 764 8430,
or visit:
www.londonsdamalevoice.org.uk



Ronald Henry Kelly Literature Evangelist (1933-2010) d. 24 March.

The Welsh Mission has lost a gifted worker. Ron Kelly was a remarkable musician. However, it was through the work of literature evangelism that the Kelly family

came to know the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and it was fitting that Ron would spend his adult life in literature evangelism.

Ron was born on 12 June 1933 in the area around Hawkesbury Upton, a village not far from Chipping Sodbury, situated halfway between Gloucester and Bristol. He attended Newbold College for three years, before becoming a professional literature evangelist. From 1958 until 1981, when ill health prevented him, Ron visited homes in Cheltenham, Gloucester, Swansea, Cardiff, Newport and the valleys of South Wales.

Encouraged by Publishing Director M. C. Roe, Ron began to work in the Welsh Mission. It was not long before he met his future wife, Joyce, in a very unusual manner. They both got on the bus to go to the youth meeting at the Newport church. Joyce was already sitting in the bus when Ron jumped on the bus – and landed in Joyce's lap!

Mrs Anna Louise Russell (1930-2010) d. 19 April. How soon is too soon? Unfortunately, death is always too soon!

Yet as you read this obituary, following the death of my mother Mrs Anna Louise Russell of the Chelmsley Wood church, I invite you to join with my sisters, our families and me as we celebrate the life of our mother, who lived serving the Lord but sadly passed away on 19 April.

During worship our mother would often quote one of her favourite psalms. Reading from Psalm 19, Mum would remind us that 'The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament sheweth his handywork'. Following her acceptance of the Seventh-day Adventist faith in 1960, Mum sought through her life to show us that 'The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul.' (Psalm 19:1, 7, KJV)

After my father's death, she lost her sight in 2005 – but, far from becoming depressed and discouraged, our mother remained a dedicated follower of Christ. My mother showed, as she witnessed to others, that 'the statutes of the Lord not only are right' (Psalm 19:8), but also give hope; and so Mum continued to rejoice in the Lord so that the Lord's statutes enlightened both her heart and her eyes.

Our mother spent a lot of her working life as a nurse and endeavoured to raise us, her children, to love the Lord, to lead an honest life and to be strong individuals, no matter what the circumstances, good or bad, which came our way. Little did she know as she brought us up that her dedication, perseverance and strength of character would propel her to a life of leadership as the leader of The West Midlands Welfare Federation. Today the West Midlands Community Centre in Birmingham, which Mum set up, remains as a testimony of the many years she dedicated to the Lord's service.

Mum worked tirelessly with her team to help provide for the needs of those in the community and the Church. When her health failed, Mum may have handed over the leadership to another but she did not hand over

their faith: on the contrary, she continued to serve the Lord and to witness for him until she died.

My mother, Mrs Anna Russell, leaves us all a great legacy: her life encourages us to serve the Lord. If she were still with us, she would say, 'Be strong and of good courage' (Joshua 1:9).

How soon is too soon? Death is always too soon; but when we choose to serve the Lord, death need not be forever.

SONIA RUSSELL

They were married 51 years ago, on Easter Monday, 30 March 1959. Another literature evangelist – Stefan Bokojemsky – was the best man. Ron and Joyce were to be a blessing to so many in the Church through their musical talents. At meetings with other literature evangelists at Swanwick, Ron not only played the piano and organ but would often sing in male quartets. While living in Ronald Place, Cardiff, he joined with members of the Cardiff church (led by Pastor Peter and Mrs Vera Stearman) in visiting homes for the elderly in many parts of the city. One visitor to Cardiff wrote that the church sang with vigour as Ron Kelly led out with his masterly touch on the organ. Ron used the talents God had given him as he played in evangelistic campaigns at Bristol in 1970 and in Cardiff a year later, when thirty-six souls were added to the Church.

Ron often played at conferences, weddings, funerals and singing festivals. He taught many to play the piano. When not teaching pupils in his own home, he would sometimes travel long distances by bus or train to teach them in their homes. As a faithful lay preacher he was often invited to speak in many churches outside the denomination, and was instrumental in introducing other Adventist preachers to those congregations.

At the funeral service, conducted in the Newport

T. Ernest Marshall (1918-2010) d. 5 September. Family, friends and church members gathered at the Weston-super-Mare church to pay their last respects and tributes, and to thank God for the courage, convictions, generosity and love that Ernest had shown to everyone he met. Born in Greater Manchester, he started life from humble beginnings. Even though he left school at 14, his thirst for knowledge did not stop at the school gates. He was an active member of the local Baptist church, where he served as an elder and lay preacher. There he met and married his wife, Hilda, in 1941. A WOP card through the letterbox led Ernest and Hilda to embrace the Advent message and join the Stockport church in 1953. His passion for the message made him try his hand as a literature evangelist in north Wales. When this proved unsuccessful, Ernest returned to Stockport and the family became members of the Manchester South church. Ernest served many terms there as an elder and lay preacher. His euphonium and rich tenor voice were used on many occasions to bear witness to his Lord. Still wishing to play a greater part in the mission of the church, he became a sales representative for Granite in Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire and finally in the West Country. This led him to become an active member of the Weston church. Following the death of his wife in 2002, Ernest decided to move into a George Muller residential home in Weston, where the staff lovingly cared for him during his final years. Ernest, as well as loving

the Advent message, loved his family – his three children, Miriam (Chapman), Margaret (Lowe) and David (Marshall), and their extended families of grandchildren and great grandchildren. He had the joy of nursing on his lap his newest great-grandchildren – Sienna and Gracie – just a few months before he died. The funeral and thanksgiving services were conducted by Pastor Wayne Erasmus, who brought words of encouragement from Psalm 84: the final passage of Scripture shared by family members with Ernest before he died. The pastor was joined in the service by various family members, including Ernest's son, Dr David Marshall, who gave a moving tribute. The family would like to thank all those who visited, encouraged and supported Ernest over the latter years of his life, not forgetting the staff at Tilsley House. ERIC C. LOWE

Bill Machel (1920-2010), d. 7 September. Shortly before his death, Bill Machel made a commitment to his Lord. He had attended Newport regularly with Vera, his wife of almost 64 years, and to many it came as a surprise that he had not formally joined our Church already. In July Bill celebrated his 90th birthday, and his daughter Camille and son-in-law John came over to visit from Tasmania. Bill was already failing in health and went to his rest after a brief period in hospital. Even in his hospital bed, he was making jokes and trying to tie up loose ends to make life easier for his family. The Newport elder, Mike Sammons, will miss their weekly standing joke about returning to Burton's window after the Divine Service.

At Bill's funeral, the Red Cross Society paid tribute to his faithfulness as a member, former paramedic and ambulance driver. Former Newport pastor, Michael Walker (who travelled from Great Yarmouth to officiate), with the current minister, David Rancic, and Welsh Mission President John Surridge and Paul Lockham (SEC Executive Secretary), gave heartfelt tributes as long-time friends of Bill. With others, including a past Mission presi-

church on 31 March by Pastors John Surridge and David Rancic, there were tributes from Pastors Doug Sinclair and Richard Willis, representing the BUC, who spoke of Ron's extensive work in the Temperance movement in South Wales and the rest of the UK. For many years Ron had played a significant part in the Cory Trust, an inter-denominational fund that supports programmes for alcoholics and drug addicts. Other tributes were given by Mrs C. Miles, from the Newport Temperance Society, and Revd Chris Wood, chaplain at the Royal Gwent and St Woolos hospitals. Ron often gave of his time to play in the chapels at both these hospitals. Ron was also the organist for the past ten years at Tovey Bros: the well-known Newport funeral directors. Each Sunday morning Ron played at the Stow Park Presbyterian church, where he would often suggest that Adventist speakers should be asked to preach.

As in all things, Ron was diligent when it came to working for the Lord. His cheerful nature and smiling face endeared him to so many. At the time of his death, Ron was the church elder at Newport and the president of the Newport Temperance Society, and represented the Church at the meetings of Cytūn (Churches Together in Newport). Ron suffered for many years from ill-health, and was lovingly supported by his wife Joyce: we pray that God's blessing will be with her. We can say of Ron, 'He fought a good fight and finished his course.' We look forward to the day when we will sing together in the presence of Jesus. R. P. PHILLIPS

R. P. PHILLIPS

(Dr Brian Phillips) they had been recipients of his practical skills, good humour and willingness to go the extra mile to help them and the church family. He made a name for himself during his army service by being allowed to take and develop photographs. This was reported in the local South Wales Argus in July 2010, with the headline: 'Soldier's Best Shots were With a Camera'. Representatives from his former regiment were there to lead the way with their standard bearers as the funeral procession entered the church. Bill leaves his wife Vera, daughter Camille and her husband John, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren in Australia. MICHAEL SAMMONS

Proverbs 17:22 (KJV) notes that 'a merry heart doeth good like a medicine'. As a church we praise our Lord for the prescriptions delivered by our much-loved brother in Christ who will never be forgotten. MICHAEL SAMMONS

Ray Bell d. April 2010. Ray Bell passed away in April, leaving a legacy of smiles. Always kind and jovial, Ray served his church in practical ways, supporting several pastors with routine church maintenance issues. Pastor Paul Lockham officiated at the funeral service with the church's current minister, David Rancic, and Welsh Mission President John Surridge in attendance. Ray held the office of Head Deacon and Treasurer (for a short while). He was a well-known face in Newport, where he had a window-clearing business for many years, and he also was a member of the Newport male voice choir, which formed a guard of honour and sang at his funeral. There was also representation and a guard of honour from the army, with which he was associated in his younger days. Ray will be missed by our church, as he made himself known to so many and supported them with his encouraging comments. Always a family man, he will be missed by his wife Avril (our church organist) and their sons Andrew and Michael, daughters-in-law Martina and Dianne, and their grandchildren and Ray's mother-in-law Esther Baker. MICHAEL SAMMONS

Headteacher

Grianach House School, Galway, Ireland

Required for September 2011

Grianach House School is an independent Christian school owned by the Emerald Foundation (USA) and administered by the Irish Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Located in the city of Galway, on the west coast of Ireland, the school currently has an enrolment of twenty-eight pupils aged 5-11. Nearly all come from the community.

Applications are invited for the post of Headteacher. The successful applicant will have:

- Leadership ability necessary to take the school from 'survive' to 'thrive' mode – will be a change agent
- The gift of promoting the Adventist Education ethos in a mission context
- The dedication of an evangelist with a mission worldview
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A letter of application sharing why you believe you are the person who can make the difference, together with a current CV and the addresses of two referees, should be sent to:
Pastor David Neal, President, Irish Mission,
9 Newry Road, Banbridge, Co. Down, BT32 3HF. Tel/Fax: 44-28-406-26361.

Email: david@adventist.ie

Closing date for application: 15 December 2010.


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Small church, big heart

The Rhyll church had already supported the Cymru Community Foodshare through its Christmas tree offering in 2009. It was decided to base the Harvest Service on the collection of dried and tinned goods that could be distributed throughout the north Wales area by the same charity.

Cymru Community Foodshare exists to help 'bridge' the gap between someone being declared redundant and being able to receive state aid. Needy cases are identified by social services, and the Foodshare programme immediately springs into action with a box of groceries. The Rhyll church is pleased to be a partner in this effort to help families in crisis in North Wales – something that will become even more vital in view of the economic circumstances.

Linda later put out a message on Facebook, saying, 'The Seventh-day Adventist church in Rhyll may be small but it has a very big heart – they filled the boot and back seat of my car with their Foodshare donations this morning!'

PASTOR DAVID ROSEY



New book of the week

Bible Brain Teasers

Sylvia Coupland

How good is your Word power? What is your Bible IQ? This book contains numerous crosswords and wordsearch puzzles to test all your family members on their biblical knowledge.

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9am-12pm Friday. Closed on Sundays

Advent Centre
Sundays 11am-3pm

Messenger

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SUNSET

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	London	Card	Not	Edin	Belf
Nov	26 3:59	4:11	3:56	3:49	4:08
Dec	3 3:54	4:06	3:51	3:43	4:01
10	3:52	4:09	3:48	3:39	3:58
17	3:52	4:04	3:48	3:38	3:58

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