

# Messenger

News to the churches • 1 January 2011 • Volume 116 • 1

## BUC President's message

Pastor Don McFarlane



Bishop Fulton Sheen, an American who died in 1979, had a way with words. Reading an address that he delivered in 1940<sup>1</sup>, I was struck by his insightfulness, his faith in the triumph of good over evil, and the arresting manner in which he stated his convictions. 'Our disillusioned prophets of progress are now as useless as sundials in the night. A few professors in our universities still talk about progress, but with the same hopeful enthusiasm that bald-headed men hope that their hair may yet grow again.' He went on to say in the same speech, 'The liberals who trusted so much in man's reason, science, and education, and who thought that religion would be needed only temporarily as an ambulance to care for a few mentally immature [individuals] until material security arrived, now find that it is they who need the ambulance.'

The lines in Sheen's speech that had me saying 'amen' are, '... the Church teaches that progress in a straight line is a myth. The only reason "modern pagans" can use the term "progress" in speaking of man is because they have changed its meaning. "Progress" originally meant movement toward a fixed goal, but pagans changed both the direction and the goal and still called it progress. They have erroneously assumed that all change is progress. A rotting apple is not a progressive apple; a step forward is not necessarily a progressive step – sometimes we may progress by going backwards like a wheel. That is why we in the Church call a prolonged examination of conscience on our past failings a "retreat".... The Church teaches that there is a difference between progress in quantity and progress in

quality. Can we honestly say there has been a qualitative advance in social justice, in purity of national morals, in business honesty, and in neighbourliness?

... Man's trust in himself has broken down; he can be saved from his propensity for suicide and war only by a power outside himself, namely, by the intervention of something supra-human and supra-historical – something beyond man and beyond history. If man can look nowhere but to himself and to his time-machine, he is doomed to perish. His only hope is in a Power beyond him who can do what he cannot do, and give him a truth which he does not know. Though this Power must be divine it must at the same time be human: otherwise how can it be one with us, how can it share our woes and our ills? Amen!

Although Sheen's address was given seventy years ago, nearly every word of it still rings with clarity and relevance. One could be forgiven for concluding that Sheen is a contemporary figure who is commenting on our present-day society, its mirages that pass for reality and its empty promises that spawn false hopes.

We have iPhones, iPods and iPads, but there is no modern machine or gadget of which I am aware that promotes happiness and fills the void that inhabits the deep recesses of the human heart. Many are waiting for that big invention or discovery that will make the difference and somehow bring the fulfilment and happiness that they desire. The *Daily Mail* of Monday 29 November carried an article about the development of a process that can reverse ageing. Some of us who are rapidly advancing to the extremity of our mortality

might see some hope for ourselves in this discovery, and might dream of being able to run a hundred metres again in under thirteen seconds. However, longer lives might also mean prolonged depression, prolonged pain, and prolonged disillusionment.

What man really needs is not an extended lifespan, but extrication from a sin-bound world. He needs to be rescued from a world in which disasters unexpectedly end the lives of hundreds of thousands at a stroke, and where millions are so poor that they can hardly feed themselves. He needs release from the bondage of selfishness and the harness of greed. He needs a new kind of world where true equality exists, where each human being is treated as a child of God and valued: a world that 'beats with one pulse of harmony'. As it was in Sheen's time, so it is in ours – the heart of man is crying out for someone bigger than himself to help him and to lift him up. Though he may not readily agree, the heart of man is crying out for God and for salvation. We are no different from David when he wrote: **'As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.'** (Psalm 42:1)<sup>2</sup>, even though some are unconscious of this yearning.

What the Seventh-day Adventist Church teaches may not be popular but, in the end, it is the only real hope that there is for our world. Sadly, many from our ranks have become bedazzled by the bright lights of the world and the sweet and soft entreaties of the enemy of our souls, and have mistakenly come to see the Church as a relic of the past and as an institution that is out of touch with the needs of society. The truth is the very opposite. The Church is the one organisation that understands that society is on a downward spiral despite its seeming advances and technological strides.

So, the Gospel may be less popular than the *X-Factor* in our modern society, and may not command crowds as big as those that turn up for a football match at Old

Trafford on a Saturday afternoon, but it is what we all desperately need. Like the Apostle Paul, after he had experienced severe hardship and stiff opposition because of the Gospel, we too must be able to say, 'For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation ...' (Romans 1:16). More than ever before, Christians need to stand up and be counted. We need to let our voices be heard above the din of confused voices around us. More importantly, we need to let the transforming power of the Gospel be seen in our lives, without which no one should believe what we say about its power.

Mahatma Gandhi is reported to have said, when asked what he thought about Christianity, 'It's a good idea.' He also said that he would become a Christian if he ever met one. It is such a pity that, in Ghandi's long association with professed Christians, he never met one whom he considered to be the embodiment of the teachings of our Lord. No doubt, there were many around: but somehow Ghandi did not meet them.

Like Ghandi, there are many in our society who would become Christians if they met one. They are not looking for people who talk about Christianity. For that matter, they are not even looking for people who can predict the future. They are looking for people whose lives are spiced with the grace of God, filled with the joy of the Spirit and imprinted with the character of Jesus.

As we embark on another year, let us first of all thank God for the knowledge of salvation that he has given to us and for the substantive hope that we have for a renewed earth. Secondly, I appeal to you to cherish the faith that we embrace. This is not a time to cringe about what we believe and what our Church stands for. It is a time to let our modern society see that there is a deeper and more meaningful reality than the glitz, superficiality, floss and dross that lie around us. Finally, I urge us all to be whom we say we are – at home, in the workplace and in our community.

In this new year, every Seventh-day Adventist in the British Union is asked to stand on his or her watch with pride in our

heritage from the Lord, humility in the grace of God, determination in our mission, and confidence in our hope. **'Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.'** (Hebrews 10:35-37).

<sup>1</sup>'War and the Shattering of Illusions', 22 December 1940, [www.fultonsheen.com](http://www.fultonsheen.com)  
<sup>2</sup>All Bible quotations taken from the King James (Authorised) Version

#### Changed your email address?

*BUC News*, the free online news service of the British Union Conference, has been providing you with news and information since 1996. A recent update of the database has removed over 200 non-functioning email addresses, many of them dating from 2004/05. If you have recently changed your email address, or you would like to receive a weekly email copy, then please send a blank email to [bucnews\\_pdf-subscribe@adventist.org.uk](mailto:bucnews_pdf-subscribe@adventist.org.uk) for the illustrated pdf version, or [bucnews\\_txt-subscribe@adventist.org.uk](mailto:bucnews_txt-subscribe@adventist.org.uk) for the plain text version. *BUC News* can also be read online at [www.adventistnews.org.uk](http://www.adventistnews.org.uk).

## Enhancing Health

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

### New year – new you!

Are you hoping for a healthy year ahead? Well, here are a few tips for achieving wellbeing throughout 2011.

#### Emotional health

Ellen White, in *Mind, Character and Personality* vol. 2, p. 403, states: 'A person whose mind is quiet and satisfied in God is in the pathway to health.' Interestingly, The Mental Health Foundation published a report in 2006 which demonstrated the positive mental health outcomes in individuals whose faith was active.

#### To encourage emotional resilience:

- Ask God for wisdom to balance each aspect of your life so you don't feel overwhelmed
- Pray for a positive mindset
- Learn how to manage stress
- Practise forgiveness
- Schedule some 'quiet time' daily.

#### Physical health

Your lifestyle is the most significant influence on your health. One researcher

states that it is twice as influential as your genes on your longevity. Health and fitness tsar Gwen Foster is quoted as saying: 'Faulty genes load the gun, but lifestyle pulls the trigger'. You can take charge of your life with wholesome health habits.

#### For increased vitality and optimum health:

- Ask God for the power of self-control
- Eat wholesome food daily
- Undertake regular exercise
- Get eight hours of sleep each night
- Schedule alone time to ensure restoration.

#### Spiritual health

Spiritual development is an integral part of the Christian's life. 1 Peter 2:2 advises: '... *crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation*' (NIV).

#### For building faith and nurturing the spirit:

- Begin and end the day with God in prayer, devotion and Bible study
- Memorise 'promise' Scriptures and repeat them throughout the day
- Pray for wisdom in your daily decisions
- Pray for opportunities to witness.

#### Social health

Many factors influence our lives and the way we interact with others. Scripture gives good advice for our social wellbeing: 1 Timothy 4:12 states: '... *but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity*' (NIV).

#### For boosting relationships:

- Associate with a prayer partner, mentor or buddy
- Respect boundaries
- Participate in outreach ministry or support groups
- Schedule special time for family and friends
- Enjoy fun and relaxing activities or hobbies.

**Good Health!**

# editorial



## Carrying the card

During early October I stood breathless among a restless crowd, scanning the arrival and departure board at Kings Cross Station. The underground workers were on strike and I had just spent three hours battling my way across the city from Heathrow.

I had dragged my heavy luggage behind me, queued impatiently in London's drizzle, unwillingly exchanged DNA and carbon dioxide in a grossly overcrowded bus, and now I was faced with a confusing mass of moving orange text from which to locate my destination: Grantham, Lincolnshire. I found it – then sat on my suitcase to wait.

It was from my suitcase seat that I first noticed the man carrying the card. At least six feet tall and well built, he moved around among the waiting travellers, arm aloft carrying the card. Others had noticed him too and some began to stare, roll their eyes, even whisper.

The card carried one word: 'Jesus'.

The woman behind me commented light-heartedly: 'He may have to wait awhile!'

People smiled. I smiled too.

He disappeared into another part of the station but soon reappeared, with the 'Jesus' card held high. What was he doing? Was he waiting for an actual person by the name of Jesus: a friend, relative or business associate? Was he a religious freak?

He had my attention. My curiosity was aroused. Whether I liked it or not I was thinking about Jesus.

I was also wondering about this man. Was he a committed Christian? Surely he had to be... and I had to find out!

Moving forward through the crowd, I touched his arm gently: 'Excuse me, Sir, but are you a believer too?'

Joy lit up his face and his fist closed around my hand with brotherly warmth: 'PRAISE GOD! Yes!'

'Who are you and why are you carrying the card?' I asked.

'Just call me John of Ireland,' he said, 'and I'm witnessing for Jesus while waiting

for someone to arrive by train. I used to be an earthmoving equipment mechanic but now I just travel the British Isles, from north to south and east to west, sharing my faith in Jesus! I've let my house, and the rent pays for me to travel in my camper; witnessing wherever God leads me.'

'But why are you carrying the card, John?'

'Well, Jesus does say, "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32 (KJV). I am lifting up his name – making people think about him. But also because the police don't usually chase you away from the station if you are waiting for someone, and I am waiting for Jesus!'

With that, the big, burly Irishman put his arm around my shoulder and prayed for me.

I left him to his mission – and he left me wrestling with this thought: *am I carrying the card in the crowd?* Am I distinguishable as a believer? Does my behaviour lift up Jesus? Does my daily conversation – at home and work – give people a glimpse of him? *Am I carrying the card in the crowd?*

Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me  
 All His wonderful passion and purity  
 Oh my Saviour divine, all my being refine  
 Till the beauty of Jesus be seen in me

[www.biggerpraise.com/lyrics](http://www.biggerpraise.com/lyrics)



Julian Hibbert  
 Editor

### OUR COMMITMENT

From the opinions I have heard since arriving in the British Union it is clear that *MESSENGER* plays a vital and appreciated role within our community of faith for the following reasons:

- It nurtures our faith.
- It connects us with each other and our leaders.
- It fosters the discussion of important issues of faith in a dignified manner.
- It announces forthcoming events and activities.
- It provides us with regular and relevant church news.
- It achieves this via a well-designed and attractive magazine.

As the new editor, I will do my best, together with the rest of the *MESSENGER* team, to maintain this tradition. We will also continue to depend on you, our loyal readers, to send us your contributions. Your news items, photographs, letters and articles are sincerely appreciated and wherever possible we will publish them.

I have also asked Dr David Marshall, our retiring editor, to retain his connection with the *MESSENGER* by becoming a contributing editor, and he has graciously accepted this role.

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to Pastor Don McFarlane, the BUC president, and his administrative team, for their continued and generous financial support for the *MESSENGER*.

Warmly, JGH



The *MESSENGER* Team, left to right: Andrew Puckering (Proof Reader), David Bell (Magazine Design), Elize Hibbert (Editorial Secretary) and Julian Hibbert (Editor)  
 Photo: David Bell

# The Adventist Discovery Centre

MESSENGER's editor paid the ADC a visit and this is what he found. . .

Photography by David Bell and Victor Hulbert

**Editor:** 'Pastor Des, there is a story behind every desk – what is yours?'

**Pastor Rafferty:** 'I have been a pastor for the last twenty-two years, and up to December 2006 all my ministry had been in the North England Conference. I had served in a variety of posts and my promise had been that I would serve God in any which way he wanted me to. I have since learnt to be very careful when I make promises like that!'

'For in January 2007 God led me to take over this position as principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre here at the BUC head office. . . .'

**Editor:** 'Any regrets, Des?'

**Pastor Rafferty:** 'None Julian! None whatsoever! If you were to know my heart you would understand. . . . none whatsoever!'

'This has been a tremendous opportunity, but also a tremendous challenge. The ADC is quite a large organisation in terms of what we have in the United Kingdom, and when you think of it in pastoral terms I could probably say that, because of the number of students we have, our team pastors the largest "congregation" in the BUC!'

'I say that in jest because the students are not necessarily church members, but they are important to us and many go forward to become members.'

**Editor:** 'Speaking of students: how many do you have, Des?'

**Pastor Rafferty:** 'Julian, we have 29,000 students registered at the centre, and of that figure 15,000 have been active in the last twelve months.'

Traditionally we serve only the UK and Ireland but we do have some students over in Africa. It is a group in the Kabwe Maximum Security Prison in Zambia.'

**Editor:** 'Members are like shareholders – they like to know the "bottom line"! Please give them the ADC "performance" figures in a nutshell.'

**Pastor Rafferty:** 'Well, they are actually shareholders, and they have a right to know the results of our work.'

'This year we despatched 144,100 "Take Jesus" cards from our office to the churches of the union. In addition to which, between July and September this year, we shipped out another 345,530 enrolment cards to the constituency for use as part of the "Power of 31,000" initiative.'

'So far, for the year, we can report that 895 students have graduated from our courses, twenty-one of whom have been baptised. What we cannot at this stage quantify is the number of students enrolled in the 105 satellite Bible schools being run by our local churches. Neither do we have their baptismal figures.'

'It would be a great help if they reported this information to us on a regular basis.'

**Editor:** 'I believe that the ADC celebrates a special anniversary this year – is that correct?'

**Pastor Rafferty:** 'Yes, the Voice of Prophecy Bible School was established in the British Isles in 1945, and so this year marks our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. And during those sixty-five years we have had eleven principals – includ-

ing one who served for around three decades, and one who stayed for only one week before he was called away to the division!'

'I have personally known some of those past principals – Pastors Elias, Stickland, Taylor and Hamilton – and deeply appreciate the faithful service they gave to the VOP/ADC.'

**Editor:** 'Des, I am sure that you are not going to waste God's money on a big 65<sup>th</sup> birthday bash. . . . but if someone out there wants to send the ADC a "birthday" gift, what would you use it for?'

**Pastor Rafferty:** 'Julian, we would welcome any "birthday gifts" because ADC always needs a little extra for things like the development and printing of new lessons, growing postage and telephone costs, and advertising.'

'In fact, it seems as though one family has already done just that. Where they normally give us £1,000 per annum, this year they have raised it to £2,000!'

**Editor:** 'I was thrilled to see a young minister as part of your team. Tell us more about him.'

**Pastor Rafferty:** 'Yes, we are really grateful to have Pastor Andrew Willis as part of our staff. He is theologically trained and looks after the lesson marking. We specifically asked for someone like Andrew who could respond in a meaningful way to the students, not just with a rote "yes or no" answer to questions, but with the type of responses and guidance that can bring people to a belief and faith in God.'



Pastor Des Rafferty

did fifteen lessons in three months. Was he just intensely curious or have you seen him grow spiritually? What was the outcome?'

**Pastor Rafferty:** 'We still have contact with him. One of our pastors in the North England Conference has contact with him. I cannot say that he is a baptised member yet but there is a process on the go.'

'We encourage the pastors to view the student database for their regions on-line. They have 24-hour secure access to each student's progress. This allows them to target the students for visitation.'

'We don't encourage visitation follow-up for our Health courses because confidentiality is a very sensitive issue here in the UK, and we also need to ensure that whatever health support is given is from a health professional.'

**Editor:** 'I imagine that you lost a vast stock of lessons during the BUC office fire. How have you coped with that?'

**Pastor Rafferty:** 'Yes, we did! But the fire also brought a blessing with it! We were able to switch over to a state-of-the-art digital printing process which allows us to print and bind four-colour lessons, adverts, and so on, on demand.'



Pastor Des Rafferty in conversation with Julian

We no longer need to keep large stocks of most of our lessons – which is a real cost-saver. We can also update our lessons at the proverbial drop of a hat!'

**Editor:** 'Des, every organisation has a weak spot – something that could be changed or improved in some way. What would you like to improve here at the ADC? Speaking of migrant or immigrant populations, do you have special lessons available for them in their various languages?'

**Pastor Rafferty:** 'Julian, I know that we need to improve our resources for migrant and immigrant groups in the BUC territory. There are lessons available in some languages, but this is an area of deficiency at this point in time. We have had some tremendous offers from individuals who are willing to translate courses and we need to follow them up.'

**Editor:** 'What about relevance? Surely you need to do lots of research and development regarding the relevance of the lessons for our UK population.'

**Pastor Rafferty:** 'You are so right! Relevance is of prime importance and we are lucky to have the experience of Pastor Richard Willis to draw on here.'



Richard spends some of his time revising our existing courses, but he is also on the lookout for new material.'

**Editor:** 'Finally Des, please define the Adventist Discovery Centre mission for our readers.'

**Pastor Rafferty:** 'We accept the Church's mission of "carrying the Gospel to all the world in this generation" but we try to specifically convey a sense of love, hope and security as we do so. That is what we are looking to share with our students, whether migrant or indigenous. When they come to the ADC they must sense God's love, they must sense his hope,

they must sense his security through the messages they receive from us. And we believe that this has meaning for post-modern people.'

## At noon. . .

Each working day at noon, the ADC staff meets briefly to commit scores of prayer requests to God for his intervention. Students across the territory know of this prayer ministry and value the fact that they can submit their personal requests. ▶



Noon prayers



ADC uses state-of-the-art digital printing and binding equipment



### Pastor Richard J.B. Willis, Course Development, Research and Liaison Officer

'It is a challenge to make our course materials user-friendly. Before introducing new courses we have to set about editing, adding to, re-illustrating and reformatting our existing courses. This is largely complete and we have simultaneously started on some new programmes. One of these is the online course *Relationships*, another is *Understanding Islam*, written by Dr Borge Schantz. We are also planning to have a new Health course aimed at the specific questions most frequently asked by our students.

'Another challenge is to have ongoing front-line contact with our students, satisfying their enquiring minds with solid answers. Through all this it is wonderful to see the progress they make, often starting off with an interest in bettering their health, then moving on to Bible study courses and personal commitment. Their struggles and their testimonies are an inspiration which rewards our patience over our prolonged contact with them. By meeting these needs we feel sure that there will always be a role for the ADC.

'We have found that the best way to market these programmes is by member recommendation, and that can be maximised by members doing the courses themselves so that they know what they are sharing with others.'



### Thelma Hodges, Office Manager

'I always felt that I would like to spend some time working at the VOP (Voice of Prophecy), as it was then called, and when we moved to Watford there was a vacancy at the Adventist Discovery Centre . . . and I was able to slip into the job that I had always wanted to do!

'I really enjoy answering the telephone and it gives me the opportunity to build relationships with some of the students. They get to know you and will share problems that they have – and not just about the lessons. I enjoy listening to them, and it is wonderful to see how their lives change as they work their way through the courses.

'We have had some students in prison who have actually shown aggression initially before becoming more placid. You can actually see the Lord at work in them, and to work in an environment like that is a real thrill!'



### Paula Yunuen Carrillo, IT Support & Web Development, ADC & BUC

It is a great pleasure for me to share God's love in this world through technology. My desire is that everyone will find hope, salvation and peace in their lives. When I help a colleague resolve the issues with his or her computer, network or printer, I know that I am part of a much wider work being done for God. When I keep the websites updated, I know that people need this vital information to find faith in God. When I upload a new online Bible or Health course, I know that this gives people the opportunity to nurture their faith, improve their relationships or enhance their health. I thank God for using me in this field of work that I truly enjoy. Please keep visiting [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk) and [www.discoveronline.org.uk](http://www.discoveronline.org.uk).



### Pastor Andrew Willis, Course Tutor

As I watch people gain a deeper understanding of God's Word, I know I am part of something amazing.

### Phillip Anderson, Accountant

I have worked part-time for ADC for over six years since I officially retired, and I enjoy the opportunity to keep in contact with this ministry of sharing Jesus with people everywhere.



# inbox

Dear Editor,

Thank you for your courageous article, 'The problem Pope' (*MESSAGE* 12 November 2010) and also for the clarity of the accompanying editorial, 'Forgiving the unforgivable'.

Allow me, however, to take issue with the quotation from C.S. Lewis which you included: 'Real forgiveness means looking steadily at the sin . . . and being wholly reconciled to the man who has done it'. According to the OED, the word *reconcile* means to 'make friendly after estrangement'. While reconciliation is an aim of forgiveness, it is not necessary in order for genuine forgiveness to occur. If the sinner has no desire for reconciliation, then the abused party can still forgive him or her. Jesus prayed for forgiveness for his persecutors (Luke 23:34) but we cannot assume that all of them will be reconciled to him. His forgiveness was genuine (or 'real' in the words of C.S. Lewis) nevertheless.

It is important to make this distinction because churches are sometimes faced with the highly complex issues involved in dealing with abuse. Because of the difference between forgiveness and reconciliation, it is perfectly possible for a church to extend forgiveness to a paedophile while at the same time refusing him fellowship (reconciliation). It is just as important for Adventists to understand this as it is for Catholics.

We should not make the same mistakes as others . . . and use a cheap definition of forgiveness as an excuse to cover up sin. On the other hand, we do not need to call genuine forgiveness into question in cases in which reconciliation has not occurred. PAUL WRIGHT (PASTOR), SWITZERLAND P.S. Many thanks for a fine magazine.

**Editor's note:** If any member is not able to obtain a printed copy of *MESSAGE* please visit: [www.adventist-news.org.uk/messenger](http://www.adventist-news.org.uk/messenger) and enjoy a cyber copy.

### Are we over-managed?

Dear Editor,

I have noted a number of letters in the *MESSAGE* of late commenting that the Church in the UK is over-managed, but none that I have read offer an alternative management structure. For many years now it has been apparent to me that the conferences are a wasteful luxury that we can no longer afford and which are completely outdated. To my personal knowledge they have been in existence since the early 1940s and I suspect that they were instigated some time between the world wars.

At that time road communications were poor and cars expensive, telephone costs went up at about 30-mile intervals and 'trunk' calls took time to get connected, all accounting had to take place manually and salary and expenses cheques had to be sent out

by post – and the further away the recipient was, the longer they took. These conditions have now changed dramatically. Yet still, when a church treasurer receives a donation for ADRA he has to send this to the conference, which then passes it on to the union, which then forwards it to ADRA! What an inefficient way of doing things!

I worked for a large American company that, in 1968 or '69, recognised that their four regional offices were no longer needed or economical and closed them, centralising all their services. We now have instant emails and texting; computerised payrolls and direct credit transfers can be sent from one central source.

For many years I have been advocating the abolition of the conferences and the development of the districts with the appointment of district leaders or 'bishops', each with about ten pastors reporting to them. These leaders could allocate responsibility for the various Church departments to those pastors who had special interests or gifts in that area, and these could be changed from time to time to give the pastors broader experience. The area leader could have a small church of his own but should also be a person capable of providing 'on-the-job' training and support to his staff.

When I was a regional sales manager, I was commissioned to spend 60% of my time out with the salesman, making calls with him, sitting in on his group presentations and seminars, assisting him with his small local exhibitions and helping him with any problems in the field. I was then in a position to provide a fully-informed annual appraisal. I believe that if this, or a similar system, were initiated in our Church it would raise the standard of our ministry, and areas of weakness (including staff) could be addressed at an early stage.

Some years ago a Lay Advisory committee was formed, the chairman of which asked me to let them have my ideas as laid out above. This I did, and I am told they were presented to the BUC but rejected on the grounds that, under Church policy, if there were no conferences there could be no union, and the GC would only refund financial support via unions. If I may quote my old company again, they had many policies that had to be adhered to, but one of those policies was that, if a policy was costing the company money, or making it difficult for any part of the business to progress, that policy could be changed as long as it was lawful and ethical to do so.

It does seem to me that our Church is very slow to change to meet the changing conditions in which we operate. I believe that, if the suggestions outlined above were initiated, a large amount of money could be saved and the performance of our church pastors improved.

TONY WELCH

## the Berean column

with Andrew Puckering



'And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These . . . searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.' (Acts 17:10-11, KJV)

## The Gibeonites – servants of the LORD?

Towards the end of 2010, the Sabbath School study guide focusing on Rizzpah introduced us to the Gibeonites. The Gibeonites were Hivites (Joshua 9:7), 'remnants of the Amorites' (2 Samuel 21:2, NKJV), and, as such, were enemies of the Israelites, who were to drive them out of Canaan (Exodus 34:11; Deuteronomy 20:17). The Israelites were warned not to fraternise with them (Exodus 34:12), but the Gibeonites, through deception, fooled their invaders into making a peace treaty with them (Joshua 9:15). Saul, in his zeal for Israel (2 Samuel 21:2), started killing them centuries later, in a manner that caused God to call his house 'bloodthirsty' (2 Samuel 21:1, NKJV). For this sin, Saul's 'house' (his family) received its wages (2 Samuel 21:9).

However, the Gibeonites became more than just an enemy people-group dwelling among the Israelites. David actually begged them to bless Israel (2 Samuel 21:3). Joshua said they would become woodcutters and water bearers for the house of God (Joshua 9:23), and so they were (Joshua 9:27).<sup>1</sup> Why would Israel's leaders accord them so much honour?

Yes, the Gibeonites lied (Joshua 9:9-13). But, when Joshua asked them the reason for their deception (Joshua 9:22), they expressed both their faith that the LORD would fulfil his promises to Israel (Joshua 9:24) and their submission to his will (Joshua 9:25), and so Joshua continued to uphold the covenant with them (Joshua 9:26), despite the fury of the Israelite rank and file (Joshua 9:18). God then used the Gibeonites to demonstrate his glory in the further conquest of Canaan (Joshua 10).

But wait – there's more! The Gibeonites would later become custodians of Israel's most treasured religious artefact . . .

When Eli's sons died fighting the Philistines at Aphek (1 Samuel 4:1-11), they lost the Ark of the Covenant, a symbol of God's presence so powerful that even the Philistines shook with terror! (1 Samuel 4:5-8.) The Philistines took the Ark to Ashdod (1 Samuel 5:1). But God showed his power everywhere the Ark went, smashing idols and causing outbreaks of (possibly bubonic) plague in its wake (1 Samuel 5). Finally, the Philistines returned the Ark (1 Samuel 6), and God directed it to Beth Shemesh (1 Samuel 6:12-14). But the men at Beth Shemesh profaned the Ark, bringing divine wrath on themselves (1 Samuel 6:19), and they asked men of Kirjath Jearim, a Gibeonite city (Joshua 9:17) to relieve them of it (1 Samuel 6:20-7:1). Thus the Ark and the Tabernacle (1 Chronicles 16:39) – the holiest symbols of God's presence among the Israelites – were in the care of Gibeonites living in Judah until David returned the Ark to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 13:6).

The history of the Gibeonites is a powerful life lesson for every man, woman and child on this sin-sick planet. It seems to illustrate the central truth of the Gospel: that even sinners slated for destruction can, if they repent and humble themselves before him, become servants of the LORD.

- What were the names of the four Gibeonite cities?
- What artefacts did the Philistines send when they returned the Ark?
- Where was the Ark in the reign of King Saul?
- What sign did God give when Joshua fought to defend Gibeon?
- What happened in Dagon's temple when the Ark was brought there?

<sup>1</sup>Although the Gibeonites were to be forced labour for Israel, the fact that the labour was for the house of God accorded them a place of honour alongside the Levites.

... Dr David Norman Marshall

We share these brief observations about the life and career of Dr David Marshall as a tribute to his 32 years as Editor of MESSENGER



From an Adventist pioneer family David Norman Marshall was born into a family of five (two sisters, two brothers), all of whom were and remained Seventh-day Adventists. The same is true of both the children and grandchildren of David's siblings.

But the Adventist roots of his family lie deeper than that, for his father and grandfather were baptised in 1917 at Stockton-on-Tees along with his stepmother. On David's mother's side the Adventist connection takes us back into the previous century, to 28 August 1887, when his grandmother was baptised as a result of the work of pioneer evangelist A.A. John. Mary Ann Snowdon was one of twenty-two new believers who joined the Ulceby church, Humberside, during the 1880s, less than a decade after the Advent message reached our shores at Southampton in 1879.

In the year of her baptism, Mary Snowdon had the singular privilege of meeting Ellen White when the latter visited the Armstrong family in Ulceby for a few weeks, en route to Europe. In later years she reported that Sister White practised economy of words "and never spoke idly". Mary passed on the torch of faith to David's mother, who met and married his father in 1929.

A man of letters emerges

David was a keen and promising pupil who excelled throughout his scholastic and academic career. He was soon noticed by



Pastor George Bell who, on one occasion, turned up at his school dressed as a parson - clerical collar and all - and requested an interview with the headmaster. His opening remarks were straight to the point: 'Marshall is one of my boys - and he should be in a better school than this!' And in a remarkably short time he was. According to David, he soon 'won a place at the College of Further Education where the emphasis was on scholarly excellence', and he responded well. On the basis of his GCEs he was offered places at the Universities of Wales, Leicester and Hull.

He chose Hull because of its excellent reputation in the humanities, largely due to the eminence in those days of Professor J.P. Kenyon (History) and the poet, Philip Larkin. There he read for an Honours degree in History and Politics which he completed in 1968.

The most outstanding of his university teachers was Professor J.P. Kenyon, then known as the most eminent scholar in the field of Seventeenth-Century British History. Kenyon offered to supervise his research towards an MA, but the relationship actually continued until David was awarded his PhD, ten years later, for his research into 'Protestant Nonconformity in England in the Reign of James II, 1685-1688'.

It is interesting to note that, despite this important work in the field of history,

David considers theology to be his first and lasting passion.

To teach

David was drafted into teaching at Stanborough Park School upon completion of his first degree, where he served as full-time History Master under another of his mentors, Headmaster Hugh Dunton. From day one he found History teaching 'aston-



This is the first MESSENGER over which David presided, with his first editorial beneath it

ishingly enjoyable and the children very keen on the subject'. He continued to teach history at Stanborough for eleven years in total.

Anita

Anita and David began an enduring friendship in the late sixties that matured into marriage in July 1970. Anyone knowing the couple cannot escape the feeling that they belong to each other - and that she has, in her own unique and courageous way, contributed to David's success with the writer's quill.

MESSENGER

David edited his first MESSENGER in early December 1978, before moving to Grantham in March 1979 - but continued to share his time between the school and the press until July of that year.

Let David's own words pick up the narrative at this point: 'The move to The Stanborough Press Limited involved me in a substantial amount of retraining. There was something curious about that. It was clear to me that, from the time of my arrival, it was assumed that I was already an expert - rendered so by the fact of my appointment and, possibly, because (unusually among church workers then) I had a PhD. I had a very great deal to learn, but I enjoyed learning it.

'The part of retraining that I enjoyed the most was the immersion in theology that the new job required. It was rendered a

priority because, from 1979, the Des Ford controversy obliged us to define and defend the faith. To the questions Ford had raised were soon added the issues raised by Walter Rae in The White Lie.'

David's role at the press has involved him in many ventures, including the launch of the FOCUS and FAMILY LIFE magazines - with FOCUS still appearing three or so times a year. He has also played a major role in the birth and development of the Autumn House range of books, something which has not only brought revenue to the press, but also established it as a significant Christian book publisher in the UK.

David's own contribution to this venture has been more than twenty titles, and he was rewarded for his efforts by being nominated as Christian Author of the Year in 1993, at the Christian Booksellers' Convention.

The turn of the new millennium saw the press introduce the new 'little book' series, of which numerous books were the work of David Marshall. In the last decade millions of these have been sold in the UK, Africa and North America.

In David's own words

'The editing of MESSENGER is a task I have undertaken fortnightly since December 1978. However, the proportion of my time it has occupied has grown from one day a fortnight to a half of all my work time. The challenge to be 'a pastor to the whole constituency' is one I have taken seriously. The

task has become more complex as a result of the immigration from the African and Eastern European nations that has occurred over the last fifteen years. The Editorial page has aimed to provide spiritual sustenance and encouragement as often as it has addressed contemporary issues. Feedback by phone, e-mail and 'snail mail' comes more in response to editorials than to anything else in the magazine. The editing of MESSENGER has been made more fulfilling since we moved into colour and expanded to a regular sixteen pages.

'Forty-two and one-third years in denominational employment ends for me at Christmas 2010. Eleven years teaching at Stanborough School. Thirty-two years as Editor of The Stanborough Press Limited. The most significant date in those 42-odd years was 11 July 1981 when I was ordained to the Gospel ministry. The most significant contribution I have sought to make is by writing and preaching the objective Gospel. There is no other. Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. As I contemplate retirement on 8 January 2011 I feel as if I have a great deal more to say on that theme.'

And so you shall...

The readers of MESSENGER and all the other publications that have been graced by your 'by-line' wish you a well-deserved retirement and a new quill - for we wish to hear more from you on that majestic theme of God's boundless grace!

## David – apologist and pastor

David Neal,  
Irish Mission president

It was the late 1980s, in my first church, and some saints were angry! During the break between Sabbath School and Divine Service they'd read the latest edition of *MESSENGER* – in particular the editorial – and to show their anger they would slam it down on the pew. It certainly didn't bode well for worship that day!

These were probably the thoughts that upset them:

"The legalist can never know joy. His belief that the way to heaven will be his house goes via Mount Sinai will mean that he is constantly failing. The only way that he can know a spurious kind of satisfaction is in making himself feel good by downing, criticizing others. He becomes an expert on externals, and the young and the new believers can expect to cop it from him. There is no joy in his kind of religion. The joy comes when spiritual poverty is acknowledged, pardon is received and the "robe of righteousness" wrapped around Isaiah is wrapped around us. The essence of joy: the knowledge of salvation." – *MESSENGER*, 01/04/88.

The editorial confronted these saints with the glorious, untarnished, 'Risen-Lord Gospel' – and they didn't like one little bit of it! It was the very opposite of their joyless, rigid and legalistic interpretation of 'truth'. Faithful members, along with their pastors and even church administrators, were perplexed on how to react to such angry saints. But David Marshall was not – for this was nothing less than a full-frontal assault on the Gospel. The battle was supposedly theological, dating back in Adventist history to 1888, but in practice the controversy was a mask to justify poor behaviour on the part of some saints.

For the local pastor, the *MESSENGER* editorials were like having a friend and counsellor to clarify the problem taking place in his church. David would give theological perspective, historical accuracy and a pastoral solution deeply embedded in the principles of the Gospel. I, for one, along with many of my colleagues, am more than grateful for such incisive clarity during those troubled times.



It would do no justice to David's legacy to focus on the role of *MESSENGER* in difficult times alone. His aim has been to nurture members in their Christian growth concerning the implications of the Gospel – past, present and future. His role may have been that of an editor – but at heart he has been a pastor. His loving concern for the local churches rose above all strategic issues.

His chief concern still is the 'prodigals' and their acceptance into the Church family. His fear of members with the 'older brother' syndrome is regrettably still justified at times. His hope that the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland will grow, thrive, and connect with the millions who occupy our lands on behalf of the soon-coming Christ is still a wish to be realised.

## David – influential and inspirational

Pastor Ian Sweeney,  
NEC president

In Leviticus 19:32 'We can read a fuller expression of the Fifth Commandment: 'Thou shalt rise before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.'

While retirement is a time to withdraw from active service and hand over work responsibilities, God, in Leviticus 19:32, made it very clear that the elderly should not be set aside and disregarded. To the contrary, the age, experience and counsel of the 'hoary head' should be both welcomed and sought.

One of my most recent encounters with Dr Marshall's experience was at the North England Conference Session of 2008. With four decades of Church service behind him, he was witnessed, and reported on, the many changes of face in Church leadership. I had just been asked to serve as the North England Conference president, and as I waited for the Nominating committee report to be read and voted, I happened to take a seat in the front row next to him.

He whispered in my ear, 'congratulations, Mr President.' I was puzzled. How did he know that my name was being recommended? He said, 'I have been reporting on Conference sessions for many

years; just about all the presidents have come and sat beside me before the report of the Nominating committee is given!'

With the retirement of Dr David Marshall as Editor of The Stanborough Press, the British Union Conference has lost from formal service one of the most influential and inspirational Seventh-day Adventists to have served the Church on these shores: this fact is shown by the many books he has written, edited and commissioned.

Dr Marshall enters retirement as a 'hoary head' to whom much respect, or, as he might say to a youth audience, 'nuff respect', should be accorded.

## David – man of discipline and deadlines

by Pastor John Surridge,  
Welsh Mission president

Like quite a few of my generation, I first met Dr David Marshall at Stanborough School, where he was the History teacher. David's remarkable storytelling gifts enabled him to hold a whole classroom of unruly youths spellbound with his dark tales of fierce battles and mad monks. Although history was not for me, those stories live with me to this day. I like to think, however, that David's passion for good communication was one of the influences that led me to follow him into that field many years later.

Though some may not realise it, having only known him as the highly professional editor of The Stanborough Press, as a teacher David was a strict disciplinarian. Unlike many, however, he was able to practise personally what he expected of others. David was self-disciplined.

Those who have experience of serious writing will know that self-discipline is one of the criteria essential for success. David's vast literary output over the years of his editorship testifies to his ability to focus on the job at hand and meet deadline after relentless deadline, while still maintaining the creativity, humour and readability of his material.

However, it is undoubtedly David's passion for 'rightly dividing the Word of Truth' that has kept him in his position for the last thirty-two years. As the Adventist

Church has faced theological pressures from both left and right, David has steadfastly steered his course by the stars of *sola scriptura*, *sola gratia*, and *sola fide*.

Regular readers of his editorials can have no doubt as to David's undying loyalty to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but it is a loyalty underpinned by the theology of Paul, perhaps best expressed in Ephesians 2:8: 'For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.' (NIV.)

We wish David well as he enters a new phase of life, and look forward to yet further expression of his creative talents.

## David – sensitive to needs

Victor Hulbert,  
BUC Communication director

I have known David Marshall for many years. He was my History teacher at Stanborough School – and also my Careers master at a time when I was making life choices which ultimately led me to ministry.

One anecdote that perhaps sums him up for me is the following. I had invited him as guest speaker for an SEC Area 1 day of fellowship at a time when I was pastoring in Cornwall. He preached in the morning and was due to take the afternoon programme on an assigned theme. However, during lunch hour he got into conversation with a teenager who had come to perform music during the day, but who was very much on the edge of the Church. In fact she rarely came. David not only engaged her in conversation, but changed his whole afternoon presentation and spoke, eloquently and without notes, with a message that both touched the girl in question and challenged the adults in the church to give space for growth to the youth in their midst. That ability to respond to the need of the moment has always been one of his special gifts.

Since taking on the role of Communication director, I have always found him to be a man who could combine sound counsel – and often a deep historical background that helped explain some of the issues going on today – with practical advice on how to move forward.



# news

## A deeper look

It's a fact that there are times in our Christian walk when we need to be challenged – when we need to be reminded of why we are actually Christians. We all know that there are times when we become a bit too comfortable as Christians. So how do you remedy this? The Chiswick church asked three dynamic speakers to present messages under the title of 'A Deeper Look'. What we didn't expect was a series of Spirit-filled messages that were sobering, refreshing and encouraging.

'A Deeper Look' – split into two sections – ran from 18 September to 9 October. The first section was predominantly aimed at the youth while the second section was aimed at the church as a whole. But even though these two sections had their own specific purposes, the listeners quickly

realised that the messages were relevant to everyone who wanted to hear them. So all the age groups came out together to hear the Word of God preached. The speakers were asked to take a deeper look into God's Word, past the surface understandings to which we have grown accustomed. They took well-known passages and people from the Bible, and the Holy Spirit illuminated them as if we had never heard of or read them before.

The speakers of the first section were two young men, Julian Thompson and Thomas Mwadine. Julian asked Daniel: 'What do you do when it seems that God is losing and the devil is running riot in your life?' And the book of Daniel answered, echoing Jesus, by saying, 'Look up . . .' Thomas showed us the similarities between trying to build a relationship with a



## Senior golfers support ADRA

Situated in the Lincolnshire countryside, close to Grantham, is the Belton Woods golf course. In the seniors' section of the club it has become a custom for the captain to choose a charity that all the players are asked to support for the year he is in office. This year, after reading the ADRA website, Captain Colin Thorton chose to support ADRA. He even took a page from the ADRA website and placed it on the Senior Players' website so they could all see where their contributions were going. On Wednesday 24 November, a cheque for £1,500 was presented to the writer, the only Adventist member of the club, who was able to express appreciation on behalf of ADRA.

PASTOR RON SURRIDGE



Pastor Ron Surridge receives the cheque on behalf of ADRA

Photo: David Bell

girlfriend or boyfriend and building one with God. He highlighted the fact that, as a guy, if he pursued a girl the same way he pursued God, the girl would already have rejected him. We need to want to find Jesus as much as we want to breathe. They reminded us that when it's time for the last bus we start to move with urgency, so we should have the same attitude of urgency when the Bible tells us we are spiritually in the time of earth's last bus. Also, picking up our cross and following Jesus means standing up for him in the face of adversity; each and every one of our experiences puts us in a unique position to share God's Word with others. God spoke clearly and powerfully through these young men to 're-prepare' us for our walk with him.

Pastor Paula Olivier, who pastors the first Adventist church of Montclair, was the speaker for the second section. The Holy Spirit spoke through her with vibrancy and a soul-winning passion to share the Gospel. She showed us, through the simple illustration of the 'fasten your seatbelt' sign on planes, to fasten our seatbelts and stay connected to God when things are rough. She reminded us, through Luke

10:38-42, that Jesus needs to live in our house, not just pass through it. He prefers our consistent Mary-like praise over our sporadic Martha-like extravagance. Pastor Olivier showed us the transformation of Nicodemus as found in John's Gospel; from someone who, in John 3:1-21, only wanted to converse with Jesus on a teacher-to-teacher level, through John 7:45-52, where he stood up for Jesus a little bit, to John 19:39, where he fully recognised that Christ is King. Through the wilderness experience of Jesus, she showed us that our preparation for spiritual battles is directly related to our understanding of how powerful Satan can be. Finally she told us, using Nehemiah 4:1-7, not to quit, even if we feel like it. We should continue to build up our wall against the enemy, even if all around us are angry and ready to attack us, because God promises in Psalm 23 that he is all around us, protecting us.

'A Deeper Look' lifted Chiswick out of its comfort zone and showed us – or maybe that should read reminded us – that now is not the time to be relaxed.

CHISWICK COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

## Scottish ladies lavished with love

The Scottish Mission Women's Retreat was a great blessing to the thirty-eight women who attended it from 12-14 November at the Atholl Christian Centre, Pitlochry, Scotland. The speakers were excellent: Malika Bediako, the SEC Women's Ministries director, spoke on marriage issues; and Karen Holford, well-known author and wife of the Scottish Mission president, spoke on prayer.

Special thanks are due to Judith Martin, the Scottish Mission Women's Ministries sponsor, and Carole Peacock, the SM office secretary, for all their hard work in the planning and organisation of this weekend.

Every lady appreciates a time away from the routine of life, and this weekend more than fulfilled our desires to be pampered, loved and spiritually blessed.

During the weekend we were lavished with love:

- From God, who brought us safely together from many of the churches in Scotland (not forgetting our three special friends from Bolton!) and blessed us with spiritual love in abundance.
- From our speakers, in the form of practical and spiritual advice and ideas.
- From the staff at the Christian centre, who cared

for us and fed us so well.

- From each other, as we renewed old friendships and made many new ones. A special thank-you goes to the ladies from the Dundee church (who comprised over one third of the total number present), who lavished love upon everyone on Sabbath evening with a 'Pampering Evening' of massage, foot spas, manicures, and so on.

We were also lavished with the blessing of the wonderful Scottish scenery (and dry weather!) for our walk on Sabbath afternoon to see the famous 'Salmon Ladder', the River Tay in full flow, and spectacular mountains covered with autumnal leaves.

On Sunday morning, we enjoyed the moving outdoor service and especially the pipe and drum band marching in their kilts and full highland dress! There is nothing like the sound of bagpipes played, as they should be, outside in God's creation.

We were lavished with laughter too – many confessed they had not laughed so much for a long time, especially during our Sabbath evening entertainment.

For the attendees it was a 'heavenly, refreshing fellowship' filled with 'spiritual fun'!

PAULA ROBERTSON



### Congratulations to ...

Dr Trevor Askwith from the Worthing church, who graduated in December 2010 as a Doctor of Philosophy of Medicine (PhD) from the University of Birmingham Medical School. Dr Askwith's studies have involved laboratory research into the field of Type II Diabetes, with a thesis entitled 'Taurine Depletion and Schwann Cell Dysfunction in Diabetic Neuropathy'.

DAVID MARSHALL, EDITOR (RETIRED)

## Launch of faith communities and organ donation report at the House of Commons

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC director for Health and Disability Ministries

Seventh-day Adventists were among the guests invited to the launch of the report on work with Faith Communities and Organ Donation. In attendance was Sharon Platt-McDonald, the director for Health and Disability Ministries in the British Isles, who contributed to the document and reported on work undertaken within the Adventist Church to raise awareness of this issue. Also present was Kofi Osei-Owusu, from the BUC media team, who filmed the event.

Held at the House of Commons, this high-profile meeting included speakers like the Right Honourable Stephen Timms MP (Shadow Financial Secretary to the Treasury), Andrew Stunell MP (Minister for Communities and Local Government), Anne Milton (MP for Public Health) and Liz Kendall (Labour Minister for Leicester). Other presenters included Dr Chris Rudge (National Clinical Director for Transplant) and Sally Johnson (Director of NHS Blood and Transplant).

This event was initiated as an integral part of The Organ Donation Campaign, which is a joint national initiative of the Organ Donation Taskforce and the Department of Health. The 'Faith Communities and Organ Donation' document highlights the key objectives of the national campaign and sets out recommendations to raise awareness and increase the level of organ donations, particularly among black and minority ethnic groups.

Why is there a need to raise awareness about organ donation? Well, here are a few facts that you may find enlightening:

- Black and minority ethnic (BME) people are three to four times more likely to be affected with kidney failure.



- The Organ Donor Taskforce states that 8% of the UK population are of BME origins, yet 25% of patients actively waiting for kidney transplants are from the BME population.
- BME individuals sometimes wait between two and eight years for a kidney transplant.
- BME people are more likely to die waiting for transplants than those of other ethnic groups.
- Only 1.7% of donors are black, 1.6% are asian and 95.6% are white.
- Organ transplantation has brought about a revolution in the treatment of diseases such as end-stage kidney, heart, and liver failure.
- Organs will have a better life expectancy when used for someone from the donor's own ethnic group (this is what we call 'tissue typing').

## CHIP summit votes \$3,000 grant for CHIP UK!

by Executive Director Rose Gomez, ACA UK & Ireland

Three hundred delegates from twenty-three of the United States, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, England and Scotland set the scene for the eleventh international CHIP summit, 17-21 November, at Loma Linda University,

California. Reports were presented by ACA USA, ACA UK & Ireland, and ACA New Zealand. The BUC was well represented by delegates from London, Manchester, Birmingham and Crieff. Delegates from Hampstead,



Tamworth, Manchester Central and Windsor Street completed the pre-summit Basic Leadership Training and are now qualified to serve as CHIP directors at their respective local churches, once they have the approval of the church board.

Nine UK delegates made such an impact on the CHIP summit that the Sabbath morning offering, amounting to \$3,000, was given as a grant to ACA UK & Ireland. We Brits have a special place in the hearts of CHIP leaders across the United States, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. This was the first time such a grant had been made by the Adventist CHIP Association, which sponsors the annual summit and unanimously agreed that the 'homeland' would be the recipient of the first grant of its kind.

How appropriate then that this bumper offering was collected in English police helmets! To anyone who knows anything about CHIP, this will come as no surprise; CHIP creates

lasting relationships from coast to coast and across oceans. How selflessly the ACA USA executive deliberated and made this tremendous gesture, which represents far more than the monetary value of those US dollars. Was there a more effective way in which they could have demonstrated their love and support for Health evangelism through CHIP in the British Isles?

Just weeks before the summit, a CHIP chapter in Greater Manchester voted to donate its monthly alumni subs of £300, to sponsor people from the community to register for the next CHIP programme, early in 2011. They had come to CHIP from 'the community' and they wanted to offer others the same opportunity. When people have been 'healed', physically and spiritually, they reach out to heal others. This is the heart of CHIP: whether £300 or \$3,000, the sentiment is the same, offering to the communities in which we live an opportunity for Health

The work with faith groups is important in raising awareness among BME groups since faith and cultural beliefs and practices often affect the individual's perceptions and influence the decision to become a donor or recipient.

Faith groups participating in the Organ Donation Campaign included Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists. Various representatives from these groups were invited to attend the launch event held at the House of Commons. They were able to discuss some of the barriers, challenges, myths and cultural and religious perspectives which had previously discouraged individuals from becoming involved in organ donation. However, there were many encouraging reports as a result of the ongoing national campaign.

Five Adventist churches were involved in the project to raise awareness earlier on this year. Leicester, Leeds, Luton North, Luton Central and Southall were involved in interviews and focus groups with key individuals from the Organ Donation Taskforce. As a result of this participation, the Seventh-day Adventist Church was said to have made a 'significant contribution' to the project and the outcome of the document. We give God thanks for the visibility of our Church in national campaigns such as this, and for the positive impact our contribution is making.

Pastor Sam Davies of the Luton Central church reports: 'It was a privilege to be involved in a national programme such as this, and to be able to share the message that Adventists are compassionate people who care about the needs of others. Organ donation is something that we can become involved with as it saves lives. I was pleased also that our church members took part in the focus groups and were able to add another dimension to the findings.'

For more information on the Organ Donation Campaign, and to register to become a donor, visit: [www.theodc.org.uk](http://www.theodc.org.uk). If you would like more information on the work of our Church in this area, or about how you can become involved, you can ring the BUC on 01923 672251 and speak with Sharon Platt-McDonald. Additionally, a video clip of the launch event can be seen on the BUC website.

by Choice, not by Chance!

No one is exempt; none are turned away: CHIP welcomes all who will come, taste, and see that the Lord is good and

that the abundant life he has promised begins here for all who choose. CHIP – Health evangelism at its best.

## Revelation of Hope brings in the harvest at Greenwich

Greenwich Church has just concluded a successful evangelistic programme under the ministries of Pastor Fitzroy Jackson (New York, USA) and Tiffany Campbell-Daley (Toronto, Canada). Tiffany is an international singing evangelist and her music was inspirational. The 'Revelation of Hope' series resulted in the baptism of eight precious souls.

TIMON FERMIN



From left to right: Elsa Correux (re-baptism), Jessica Correux, Retilda Butt, Simon Chauke, Julian Annan-Baidoo, Edmund Mawoko, Danaline Chalmers (re-baptism) and Mervyn Spence (not in photo)

## New Life shines light

On Friday 26 November, the annual turning-on of the Christmas lights took place in Wednesbury town centre. The special guests included Connie Talbot (*Britain's Got Talent* finalist), Sandwell's mayor and numerous councillors. Alongside this group of dignitaries there was a small group representing the cause of God. The New Life Community church-plant (Hill Top, West Bromwich) was invited to participate in the night's programme.

This new church is always looking for ways to minister in the community, and on this occasion they took advantage of the forty-five minutes they were given by presenting the Christmas Story: a narrative including songs and reading, ably co-ordinated by Marie Jones and Patrick Baadjes, along with special guest Jeharna South.

The New Life Community fellowship is blessed with ten children, ranging from 13 months to 10 years of age, who regularly attend. On this freezing cold night they sang their hearts out as they rendered 'Away in a Manger' and 'Happy Birthday Jesus'. However, the song that roused the crowd and engaged their participation was 'Go, Tell It on the Mountain'.

This song really summed up the church's motivation for taking part in this venture, for New Life is all about evangelism in the community. In fact, on that night hundreds of people had gathered, and the church took advantage of this by giving out hundreds of free Bibles to the adults, Bible comics to the children and 'goody bags' which included *FOCUS* magazines, *Forgotten Dream* DVDs, *Matters of the Heart* DVDs and the church's details.

The sole purpose of this venture was to highlight the 'Christ of Christmas' and the fact that Christ is the reason for the season as far as we are concerned. New Life wanted to take advantage of the season to reach the community. As the programme came to a close, the community was invited to pray with Winsome Brown-Baadjes (the church leader) for a blessing upon the armed services (those away from home), the emergency services (whose call-out rate is higher at this time of year), the lonely (as the suicide rate rises during the season) and the bereaved (those who experience 'the empty chair'). This indeed



PATRICK HERBERT

## Songwriting is not just for the experts

by Dr Victor Samwanga

We often think of songwriting as something that only expert musicians can do. However, the NEC Music advisor, Dr Diana Sinclair, demonstrated at a recent Day of Fellowship gathering that non-expert musicians have a song of praise too.

Dr Sinclair was the guest speaker at the 6 November Day of Fellowship for Area 1, hosted by the Newcastle church. The day, which was aptly themed 'Anthems of Praise', was packed with numerous solos, duets, male chorales, children's groups, and church choirs.

One of the memorable performances was by the newly-formed Anklung Children's Ensemble of Newcastle Church. Although their songs were well-known, they performed them with a difference, using their Anklung musical instruments, sourced from Malaysia earlier this year. The Anklung are traditional musical instruments of Indonesian origin, made out of two bamboo tubes attached to a bamboo frame. The audience's applause was evidence of how much they loved the children's superb performance, even though they had only been practising with their unique instruments for two months.

As part of the afternoon programme, Dr Sinclair gave the congregation a taste of the creative process of songwriting. First, volunteers were tasked with gathering the raw material for the new song by asking members of the audience about their journey with the Lord so far. This exercise resulted in a mixture of experiences relating to themes such as work, spiritual growth and God's providence. The input from the audience was collated and used to coin the new, corporate, experiential song.

During the next phase, a team of musicians from the Darlington, Newcastle and Middlesbrough churches, backed by one of the Newcastle church's talented pianists, Myla Abuel, worked together to develop the tune for the new song. When the lyrics and music for the first stanza and chorus were ready, the entire congregation was invited to stand and sing the new anthem of praise, entitled: 'We've Come Together to Sing.' It was an amazing experience to participate in songwriting and to have a 'taste' of the final output of the process.

Earlier in the day, Dr Sinclair used her morning sermon to challenge members of the congregation to reflect on their experiences with the Lord so far, and to look to the future with hope for deliverance. Expounding on the action-packed story of the Israelites' deliverance from over four centuries of Egyptian slavery, Dr Sinclair chose to focus on the song of Moses. She explained that Moses' song was a celebration of God's practical deliverance for his people following a period of much distress in Egypt. She paralleled this ancient event to a time when the redeemed of all ages will join in a special anthem of praise in which Jesus, the Lamb, will be the central character. However, until then, our hearts must go on singing anthems of praise as a testimony to God's continued providence.

An open invitation was made for anyone who is interested in songwriting and poetry to look out for further information on the Songwriters' Weekend, scheduled for February 2011.

was a moving moment.

God is blessing the New Life Community fellowship with avenues in which to share the Good News. On 11 December they worshipped at the Methodist church in Wednesbury for the Rotary Club Christmas Service, and on Christmas Day they put on the Christ of Christmas programme, hosting the homeless and loving the lonely with a Christmas lunch. Our prayer is that, through these efforts, the community will know there is a place to go where they can find help for their physical needs and hope for their spiritual wellbeing.

## Three new members for Gloucester

Sabbath afternoon of 20 November saw three new members welcomed into the Church by the right hand of fellowship.

Grace Mason, a lady well known and respected in Adventist circles and a firm believer in all our principles and doctrines, sought membership by the right hand of fellowship, having been previously baptised by immersion in another denomination.

Grace gave a moving testimony on how the Lord had led her to the present situation. Her life has been one of many difficulties, challenges and tragedies, but throughout it all she had sensed God's leading and

had learned more and more to trust in him. Grace thrilled the congregation when she said that she felt she had at last found her spiritual home on this earth by coming to Gloucester. Ron and Iris Burrows were also welcomed by the right hand of fellowship into the membership of the Gloucester church. Ron and Iris had requested baptism at an earlier occasion, but ill health and an impending operation have caused this to be delayed. Iris also gave a moving testimony of how the Lord has been guiding the two of them. Early connections with the Salvation Army and the Baptist Church, where they had been baptised, had brought them to a point where they had Bible studies, first with an Adventist neighbour and then with Brother N. Kelly. They too both felt they had come home.

Pastor Ian Sleeman, after the reading of the vows, offered the three new members the right hand of fellowship. In his homily, Pastor Sleeman reminded all present that this occasion is about membership not just of a Church, but of a worldwide family of God, where Jesus is the Centre of our lives. Pastor Sleeman then introduced them to the church, which enthusiastically voted them into membership and fellowship.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Left to right: Grace Mason, Pastor Sleeman, Iris and Ron Burrows

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# obituaries

## Dr A. Graham Maxwell (1921-2010) d. 28 November

Graham Maxwell spoke well of God. Thousands would agree with me that his life reflected the graciousness of the God he found in all sixty-six books of Scripture.

Arthur Graham Maxwell was the eldest son of 'Uncle Arthur' Maxwell and was born in Watford on 18 July 1921. His daughter Audrey says, 'Dad loved his English heritage, as well as his excellent early education in England. It was hard for Dad, at 80, finally to become an American. In his heart he remained a true Englishman.' His excellent command of the English language, the mellowness of his character and the sharpness of his wit reminded us that you can take the man out of England, but you cannot take England out of the man!

When in 1936 A.S. Maxwell received a call to serve at Pacific Press, California, he was Editor of The Stanborough Press, then based in Stanborough Park. Graham was 15 and, having won a scholarship, was a student at Watford Grammar School. His sisters Deirdre and Maureen, and his brothers Laurence and Mervyn (twins), and Malcolm all became prominent in Church work in North America.

In California, after a brief time in Mountain View, the Maxwell family settled in Los Altos.

Graham continued his education at Pacific Union College where he took a double major in Biblical Languages and in Ministerial. His gift for Biblical Languages was such that we find records of him teaching New Testament Greek at PUC, a year prior to his graduation in 1943. He received his MA in Biblical Languages from PUC in 1944. Graham met Rosalyn Helen Gildersleeve while an undergraduate. They married in 1943. They had three girls: Lorna, Audrey and Alice. At the time of his death Graham and Rosalyn had seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

In 1959 Graham Maxwell received his PhD, from the University of Chicago Divinity School, for a thesis entitled *Elements of Interpretation in the Translating of the New Testament* (especially in the Book of Romans).

Graham taught Greek full-time at PUC from 1944 until 1961. At the time he moved to Loma Linda University he was PUC's Chairman of the Division of Religion. He taught for a total of twenty-seven years at LLU, for fifteen of which he was Director of the Division of Religion. In 1988 he retired from LLU as Emeritus Professor of the New Testament.

While doing his doctoral studies at Chicago, Graham, following Ellen White's counsel, studied the entire Bible in the setting of the Great Controversy over the character of God. He found in the Bible a complete system of theology and philosophy. On his return to PUC he set to work immediately to make courses available on what he called *The Picture of God in all Sixty-Six Books*. These courses took him to Loma Linda University where he taught these subjects to the medical and dental students. They were also the substance of his teaching and preaching, as they were when he presented the Bible Study spot at the 1986 South England Conference camp meeting.

In the early 1970s Graham's friends began recording his classes, weeks of prayer and camp meeting presentations. These cassette tapes, which included recordings of Graham's regular Sabbath School classes (about 500 attended), were requested and sent to people all



over the world. He taught his Sabbath School class for a total of sixty years. Graham Maxwell authored the section of the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary of the Book of Romans*, but

was deeply uncomfortable with the editorial changes made in later editions.

Dr Maxwell authored three major books, all of which continue in print: *You Can Trust God*, *You Can Trust the Bible and Servants and Friends*. There are also three videos, including *Conversations About God with Lou Venden*.

Graham was a great thought leader and a great family man. Finally, his 'family' included thousands among the generations of those who thinking about God he had shaped.

If Dr Maxwell could have chosen his own epitaph it would have been these words: *He spoke well of God*. He did, and, in doing so, enabled countless others to have a life-transforming relationship with the One he habitually called The Father.

DAVID MARSHALL

Note: A memorial service for Dr Maxwell will be held at the Loma Linda University church at 4.30 pm on 8 January.

## Brother Claude Sookun (d. 2010). A member of the Deptford and Greenwich churches from 1973 to 2010.



Brother Sookun and his family joined our family in 1973 when Deptford Sabbath School was formally declared a company.

He immediately immersed himself in the activities of the company – no task was too small. When the company was organised into a church and a permanent building was bought in New Cross Road, his talents came to the fore: despite his disability, he was always there to help out, welcome visitors, and organise behind the scenes. This was a great feature of Brother Sookun's ministry.

This was evident when we acquired our current church building. Looking around now, you could not imagine the derelict state it was in when we bought it. Along with other members, Brother Sookun devoted much of his time and effort to transforming this building into what it is today.

During his sojourn with us, he was ordained as Head Deacon, a function he carried out with his customary efficiency. Despite his failing health, he still worked tirelessly for the Lord.

Brother Sookun will be remembered for many things:

- His liberal financial gifts to the church
- The open house social gatherings
- Open invitations to the church to share in his family celebrations
- His stewardship and devotion to his family at home and in the church.

If life is measured by the way we live, in the giving of encouraging smiles and Christian love; if you can measure the dedication and forbearance shown despite an ailment that may have caused many others to sit and do nothing; if you can measure the gifts, appreciation and respect given and received cheerfully; if you can measure the hours spent unobtrusively going about the Lord's work: then you have the measure of Brother Sookun.

He will be sorely missed by all of the Greenwich church members, who loved and respected him greatly, and by all who came in contact with him.

May he rest in peace until that Resurrection call of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

TIMON FERMIN



# and finally

## We haven't had one since 1991!

Following a further planning meeting on 18 November 2010 (hosted by Pastor Des Boidreau, BUC Youth director), the Youth directors from all the conferences and missions within the BUC are now busy making further arrangements for the 2011 Youth Congress due to be held at the International Centre in Telford, England. It will be held over the long Easter bank holiday weekend, 21-25 April 2011.

Pastor Boidreau says:

'We haven't had a youth congress in the BUC since 1999 – eleven years ago! Just over 300 people attended that event. We want to triple the attendance to this event!

'We have aimed this congress specifically at youth aged 18 and over who are eager and motivated to share the Gospel message in their communities. We want as many youth and young adults from across the UK and Ireland to start making their plans now to attend. Ask your church if there is any

money in the budget to assist you. Plan fundraising or sponsored events if necessary. Encourage your friends to book places as well, and then speak with your conference or mission youth office about group travel arrangements. We want each young person to have an opportunity to attend the congress – that includes you!'

'The theme of the congress is "I-Change: Be the change you want to see in the world"! It was Ghani who made this statement and, looking back on his life and influence, he certainly made a difference and had a positive impact, not just on the British Empire but on the whole world.

'This theme captures the concept of change, which our Church needs so desperately to experience in this generation in order to bring a relevant message to our friends and families, our neighbours and the communities around our homes and churches. I am hoping that this congress will showcase some much-needed creativity and cutting-edge approaches to ministry, both for and by young people.'

Each day will begin with morning worship, and then everyone will attend workshops led by those who are running successful outreach projects across the country. After lunch, everyone will be out and about within the Telford area putting the knowledge they will have learned during workshop sessions

Worship, More Than Gold (Olympics 2012) and many others. Everyone will be able to get involved and become enthused. This programme is intended to make a real impact – an impact on our youth and through our youth in the local Telford community.

We will also have many exhibitors showing what has been and can be done with various resources appropriate for the task of getting the Word out on the streets.

From 1 January to 28 February, the registration fee will be £45, and from 1 March to 29 March, the fee will rise to £60 – so it makes sense to book ahead of time! The day delegate fee will be £20 per day. The registration cost includes a welcome pack and lots of resources, access to all events at the congress and a complimentary Sabbath lunchtime meal: the rest of the meals and accommodation will be the responsibility of delegates. This event is supported and promoted by your conference or mission Youth department, and it promises to be THE BIG youth event of 2011. Visit [www.adventistyouth.org.uk/congress](http://www.adventistyouth.org.uk/congress) today to register and pay online. Let's congress' like it's 1999 – but even bigger and better!

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INTERNATIONAL ADVENTIST CHURCH

**Dear reader:** if you get the chance to see the BUC News Review for 2010, don't miss it. It is a well-produced survey of the year's events and activities: brief, interesting and inspiring. It made me feel good to be a Seventh-day Adventist.

Just go to your favourite search engine and type in the following: <http://www.hopetv.org.uk/content/media-library/media-story/intl-buc-news-media-archive/intl-buc-news-review-2010>.  
JULIAN HIBBERT, MESSENGER EDITOR



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### Messenger

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Jan	1	4.02	4.14	3.58	3.49	4.08
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Jan	14	4.19	4.31	4.16	4.09	4.27
Jan	21	4.30	4.42	4.28	4.22	4.40

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