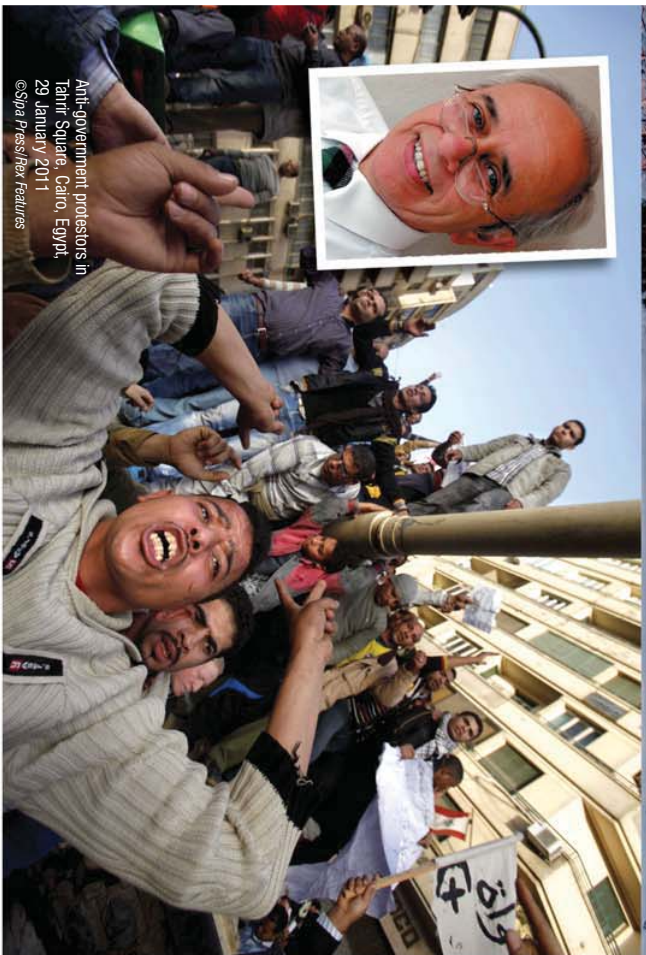


Messenger

News to the churches • 4 March 2011 • Volume 116 • 5



Anti-government protestors in Tahrir Square, Cairo, Egypt, 29 January 2011
©Spa Press/PAW Features

What about the Adventists in Egypt?

The following is an edited version of a 6 February dispatch received from Pastor Llewellyn Edwards, Egypt field president.

We have some 700 members in a country of around 85 million people. We have twelve pastors and around thirteen churches. None – to my knowledge – have been involved or hurt in the present events. Certainly the churches outside of Cairo and Alexandria are meeting regularly. One of the Upper Egyptian pastors told me that as soon as the events in Cairo began he started a series on prophecy, and his meetings are full each night.

The two churches in Cairo – the one in Heliopolis and the other in Ramesses Square – were open today (5 February), as was the church in Alexandria. Pastor Anwar Eskander, executive secretary and Heliopolis pastor, reports that, although attendance was lower than normal, a good number attended at each venue. Pastor Sameh reported that around sixteen attended at the Centre church. Karin and I went to Nile Union Academy on Friday morning to support the staff and students there. We held services on Friday night and this Sabbath morning. They were

services consisting of singing, Scripture promises, prayer, and Bible study. It is a very great privilege to witness their courageous and joyful faith.

None of our churches have been damaged or affected by the troubles. There was an attempt to break in to rob one of our churches in the city of Assuit, Upper Egypt, but an army unit quickly arrived and captured the men, and there was no damage.

Expatriates are safe

All the 'foreigners' working in Egypt are now safely outside of Egypt. Most are in Athens, some in Beirut and a couple in Canada and Latvia.

Nile Union Academy

The school was suspended shortly after the unrest began and the Egyptian students were sent home as their families requested. The only ones to remain were Egyptian nationals (who are on the staff) and some Sudanese students, for whom NUA is home.

We are indebted to these staff families and students who guard the academy around the clock against possible looting.

Alexander Prodbreszy, who teaches IT at

Suddenly something whizzed between them and struck the ground at their feet – a bullet!

NUA, had a narrow escape while standing talking to a student. Suddenly something whizzed between them and struck the ground at their feet – a bullet! I recall watching Arabs on TV news, firing shots into the air, as if they thought the bullets stay up there someplace. Alex knows that they don't – and we thank God for guiding it back to earth!

The boot is on the other foot

The day the police inexplicably disappeared, the street militias took over! Armed with steel pipes, wooden bats and the odd firearm, they menaced anyone who came down their section of street.

Vigilantes rule!

Each night some of us would go out into the street and talk with our vigilante 'street guards'. Most of them are Muslim, with a sprinkling of Christians. In the absence of law and order, we were grateful to these community vigilantes for the security they gave us, as well as our office block and our neighbouring church in Heliopolis. There are other areas within walking distance where looting and arson took place, but God's property was safe.

This showed me how very important it is for us to make good friends with our non-Adventist neighbours.

The prayers of the saints

Finally, I want to thank those who sent the numerous emails, and made the Skype and phone calls we received. The assurances of prayer from all over the world – Scotland, England, the USA, Latvia, Australia, South Africa, Sweden, Brazil, Greece, Cyprus, Lebanon and our church family in Egypt – were a great encouragement. Thank you all!



2 an initiative...

Launch of the BUC Health department's strategy for older adults

by Sharon Platt-McDonald*

Now also when I am old and greyheaded, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come. (Psalm 71:18, KJV)

The BUC Health Ministries department will launch its Older Persons' Health strategy on 5 March 2011.

Recognising the need to respect and care for the older members among us, this strategy seeks to raise awareness about age-related wellbeing. It also aims to increase the level of support required to address the health needs (emotional, physical, spiritual and social) of older members in our Church and community.

The following key aspects will be addressed in workshops:

Emotional – Alzheimer's and dementia, food and exercise for the brain, preparing for and dealing with retirement, and befriending;

Physical – health screening, nutritional advice, general health, and mobility-enhancing exercise;
Spiritual – nurturing spiritual wellbeing, and support programmes;
Social – visitation programmes, benefits, and social activities for older adults.

A Needs Assessment document has been formulated to help health leaders, and other supporters of older persons' care, to deliver support to vulnerable older adults.

Training events and workshops will also be delivered to address the health needs in the four areas identified above.

Relevant resources developed by, and available from, the BUC Health Ministries department include:

- A leaflet entitled *Embracing Age*;
- *The Little Book of Health for Seniors* (also available from The Stanborough Press).



©iStockphoto/AlexRaths

We have a biblical directive to treat our elders in a particular manner. Leviticus 19:32 (KJV) states: 'Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.' We can honour our older members by providing for them and caring for them. It is hoped that this will help our older members to feel valued, included and nurtured all the days of their lives.

*Sharon Platt-McDonald previously worked as an NHS Service manager for Older Person Services at Lambeth NHS Primary Care Trust.

Enhancing Health

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

Knowing your body – part 1

Lymphatic health

In this issue, we commence a series titled *Know Your Body*. It will aim to give some insights into aspects of our physiology – what harms and what helps – and highlight the latest research in those specific areas of health and wellbeing. We begin by shining the spotlight on the lymphatic system.

What is the lymphatic system and how does it affect our wellbeing?

- The lymphatic system is composed of a series of vessels running throughout the body, which carry white blood cells.
- This white-blood-cell substance is a clear fluid called *lymph*.
- Lymph fights infection.
- Lymph also removes waste products from the cells and empties them

into the bloodstream, where they are eventually broken down through your body's natural elimination system.

- Lymph nodes are very small organs which form part of the lymphatic system. These nodes are located in various areas of the body but are mainly clustered around the arm, underarm and groin areas. It is estimated that there are between 500 and 700 lymph nodes in the body. If you become unwell and pay a visit to the doctor, he/she sometimes examines the 'glands' (lymph nodes) in areas such as the neck, underarm and groin; for when they are raised it is an indication of infection or disease.
- The lymphatic system's key role is to protect the body from disease.

Other organs that help the lymphatic system to produce the white blood cells (lymphocytes) that fight infection are the bone marrow, the thymus and the spleen.

Did you know?

- An unhealthy lymphatic system can seriously affect your health.
- Research demonstrates that poor lymph function is associated with conditions such as fibromyalgia, bloating and poor digestion, chronic fatigue syndrome, generalised aches and pains, some auto-immune diseases and even cancer. Other studies have shown that an unhealthy lymphatic system can contribute to cellulite, fatty deposits and obesity.
- If our bodies are overloaded with toxins, the lymphatic system's work of filtering bacteria, dead cells, micro-organisms or other unwanted substances is impeded and the lymph nodes can become blocked. This weakens the body's immunity and decreases its ability to resist disease.

[In the next issue we will look at the foods, exercises and lifestyle habits that enhance the efficacy of the lymphatic system.]

Good health!

3 editorial



Julian Hibbert
Editor



Mr Deacon

I count myself among the few Adventist pastors who can claim to have had a head deacon by the surname of Deacon. This coincidence occurred during my tenure at a large church in the city of Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Winston Deacon and I became good friends and shared many memorable experiences during the eight years I was his pastor – one of which has a bearing on the subject of this editorial. It happened during my first communion at that church. Winston, one of the city's prominent retired businessmen, arrived at church early that day in his stately, big green Rolls Royce. As he stepped from his car, immaculately turned out in his tailored suit and shiny shoes, he was nothing but the epitome of wealth and dignity.

We greeted, then busied ourselves with the routine Sabbath morning activities and the special preparations for the Lord's Supper.

It was only as the men converged on one of the church's upper rooms for the foot-washing ceremony that I came face-to-face with Winston again. 'Pastor, may I have the privilege of washing your feet today?' he enquired.

'Sure Winston! I would like that. Thank you.' I felt grateful that this eminent senior member was ready to wash my feet, and moved quickly to find him a chair and place a bowl of water at his feet.

He sat. I knelt. He slipped off his right shoe . . . and both of us gaped, for protruding through a massive hole in the sock was his big toe!

He laughed. I chuckled respectfully. Then the left shoe was removed to expose another embarrassed big toe!

The irony

That moment was pregnant with irony – I will never forget it. The green Rolls Royce, immaculate suit, shiny shoes and dignified demeanour were brushed irreverently aside at the sight of those socks.

At that moment, I instinctively sensed a great spiritual truth: Winston had holes in his socks and mine were fine, but all of us are actually barefooted waifs in the presence of the Almighty.

Nothing we inherit or earn; nothing we save or spend; no knowledge we learn or skill we acquire – nothing covers the naked reality of our bared feet during the ordinance of humility.

Why does God embarrass us so?

Does he really? Who embarrassed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden? The answer seems obvious from God's response to them as they huddled before him clutching their uncomfortable fig-leaf lingerie: 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?' (Genesis 3:11, NKJV)

They were aware that they had disobeyed God. They sensed with dread that their innocence was gone – stripped away by sin.

Don't we really embarrass ourselves? When Peter protested so vehemently against Christ washing his feet, was it over what the Saviour was about to do, or what Peter had left undone?

I think he felt guilty that he had not stepped humbly forward to do the servant's work. A guilt that was about to be compounded if Christ washed his feet.

Our bared feet are symbols

To me, during the foot-washing ceremony our bared feet become symbols of *our collective inadequacy*. Symbols that strongly proclaim Paul's message that 'There is no one righteous, not even one. . . . Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know.' (Romans 3:10, 15-17, NIV)

When, however, we become aware of *our collective inadequacy*, real humility has the chance to permeate our fellowship. And where such humility prevails, the Holy Spirit can guide us into forgiveness, reconciliation and unity.

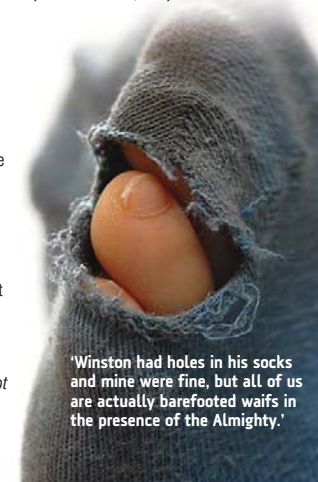
At this ceremony our bared feet also become symbols of *our individual contamination* by this world. They carry us to those places we shouldn't go, and away from the duties we know God wants us to perform. We are not carried out on stretchers to do evil! We get there on foot – by our own choice – and we must take responsibility for that.

God always has a remedy

God never abandons inadequate, contaminated, sinful men and women to their fate, though. He always has a remedy, and this time it is symbolised by the water of the foot-washing ceremony.

When we wash each other's feet as prescribed in John 13:1-17, we are unleashing the power of grace to those with the faith to receive it. Through that simple symbol, Christ refreshes the experience we had at baptism. He reminds us that we are his blood-bought children; lets a glorious sense of forgiveness settle over us; and inspires us to rise up and live confidently as heralds of his coming Kingdom.

Jesus said: 'Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.' (John 13:14-15, NIV)



'Winston had holes in his socks and mine were fine, but all of us are actually barefooted waifs in the presence of the Almighty.'



A faith that hasn't been tested can't be trusted

by Dr David Marshall

I doesn't seem long since I was 'the youngster at the press', and suddenly I'm 'the old man'. How did that happen?

For that matter, it doesn't seem that long since I was 22 and starting work as a teacher at Stanborough School. Though long since demolished, with the rest of the school, Room 20, where I taught full-time for ten years, still exists in my memory. It is intact in my subconscious, too, because I occasionally dream about it. And they are dreams, not nightmares, for memory focuses on the good times and skips over the tough stuff.

The day I first sat on the Union committee is etched in my memory: not, however, because it was a 'good time'. Perpetual membership of the Union committee was an aspect of the editor's job that no one had thought to warn me about. They were an august assemblage, then, and (it seemed to me) took themselves terribly seriously. On my first day I was in danger of being over-awed. These tall, dignified Scotsmen – Ken Elias, Ernest Logan and Colin Wilson – appeared to be the main problem – but I soon discovered that such dignity may mask an engaging sense of humour. Mellow Englishman Don Lowe was the one who went out of his way to make me feel at home.

That first day on the BUC Exec does not, however, seem 'just like yesterday'. I am very conscious of the passing of time. As I look at their photograph I am very much aware that only one of them was black and around seventy per cent of them are dead.

To get a sense of the passing of time I have to begin to review the 840 issues of *MESSENGER* I have edited. Those aside, the years have flown. And I have a sense that I have been privileged to have been salaried by the Church for teaching, preaching, writing and editing – the things I most enjoy doing. No one who has ever served with me on a committee, however, would expect me to pretend that I enjoyed those experiences. I am convinced that God never intended me to be a committee man!

Of course, it is only the exercise of my selective memory that enables me to have 'warm glow' recollections of all my years as a teacher and an editor. There have, of course, been tough times when faith has been tested. But a faith that hasn't been tested cannot be trusted.

Paul catalogued his tough times,¹ and as we review the items in the catalogue there are a whole lot that we are spared these days. A few items, sadly, have remained constant across the centuries. There have been times when I have

felt alone and exposed. However, just as God sent Titus to encourage Paul when he suffered 'conflicts on the outside, [and] fears within',² so he has invariably sent help to me in the form of encouragers. Such people have played vital roles in my development of coping mechanisms. Right in the midst of one of my toughest times I would occasionally receive a beautifully handwritten letter from a friend in ministry. Sometimes the encouraging messages took an unexpected form. One referred me to a newspaper story relating to Mr Mates, a member of Mrs Thatcher's cabinet then under severe pressure, who had received the exhortation, 'Don't let the [bleepers] grind you down!'

The first coping mechanism was to make a positive choice of attitude. I learned that the choice was between the Genesis 42:36 attitude and the Romans 8:28 attitude. In the first Jacob wails, 'Everything is against me!' In the second, Paul writes, '... in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.' God is at work. He 'co-operates for good'. That does not mean that he is responsible for everything that happens. It means that God is the ultimate Expert at bringing good out of dire circumstances. Every day there is a choice: to be beat-up, or to be up-beat.

Where is hindsight when you need it? When you do, finally, have the hindsight perspective on a situation, you can often recognise God's *modus operandi*. Suffering seasons are sifting seasons: when the Christian loses his chaff, God doesn't waste suffering. Reflecting on one such time Hudson Taylor wrote, 'What circumstances could have rendered the Word of God more sweet, the presence of God more real, the help of God more precious?' (*A Retrospect*, ch. 9, 'Early Missionary Experiences'.)

God has not promised us an easy way, but peace in the midst of a hard way. Isaiah 43:2 says, 'When you pass through the water ... , not 'fl'.

However, experience leads me to challenge the commonly held view that our sufferings and trials are 'by God's appointment!' (Many tough times result from sinful choices, whether on the part of ourselves or other people.) But I do believe that we are in God's keeping – as well as his company – in a very special way during times of trial. When I am able to look back on those times I realise that I have also been under God's training. I am convinced, finally, that in God's good time he can end our trials.

Before they had had any first-hand adult experience of pain and loss, both C.S. Lewis

and Philip Yancey 'rushed into print' with books that sought 'to explain things'. Both men lived long enough to be haunted by the gibbness of their earlier outpourings. 'Pain is God's megaphone' doesn't help when your wife has bone cancer. David Watson's *Fear No Evil: A Personal Struggle With Cancer* and D.A. Carson's *How Long, O Lord? Reflections on Suffering and Evil* are books I have found helpful. With the latter, however, I preferred the second (2006) edition.

In his book *Knowing God*, so eminent a scholar as J.I. Packer suggests that the 'two ways of handling the trials of life' are 'First, by taking them as from God, and asking ourselves what reactions to them, and in them, the Gospel requires of us', and 'Second, by seeking God's face specifically about them'. While I endorse the second course of action, and have only survived because I have taken full advantage of it, I have issues with the first. Especially if it means, 'It happened, so God must have made it happen'.

The first chapter of John's Gospel, arguably the most profound in all Scripture, denies us the option of viewing God as One who operates from a safe distance, sending tsunamis, mud-slides and other rough stuff to 'teach us a lesson'. Jesus, the Word, was 'in the beginning ... with God, and the Word was God'.³ Jesus came to show us what God is like – and has always been like. In God there is no un-Christianity at all. That being the case, while we should not be upset and discouraged by the unexpected onset of trials, we are not at liberty to view them as having originated with God. What we can do is to ask for and expect God's presence and help in them, and to hope that God will use them to make something of us. 'Fellowship with the Father and the Son is most vivid and sweet, and Christian joy the greatest,' experience had taught J.I. Packer, 'when the cross is heaviest'.

Finally, permit me to thank all *MESSENGER* readers who have been my encouragers through the years, and to suggest that Pastor Hibbert may also need your encouragement from time to time. We serve a God of encouragement.⁴

If we have 'a spirit of fear' and seek to instil that fear in others, we are not doing God's work. 'For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind'.⁵

¹ 2 Cor 11:24-28 (All Dr Marshall's direct quotations, unless otherwise stated, are taken from the NIV.) ² 2 Cor 7:5-7. ³ John 1:1. ⁴ 2 Cor 7:5-7. ⁵ 2 Tim 1:7. NKJV

Church structure

Dear Editor

I think that we should terminate the NEC and SEC altogether. I propose that we have a BUC president, with two secretaries – one for the NEC and the other for the SEC. I would have one treasurer each for the NEC and SEC within the BUC structure. That is where it ends. This new BUC structure would then have all the departments such as Personal Ministries, Communications, Sabbath School, Youth/Pathfinders, Ministerial, Health, and so on. Having these only at Union level is called 'streamlining' and would avoid duplication of these departments at lower levels. Those ministers could then return to the field, perhaps as area co-ordinators.

GARFIELD MCINTOSH

Re: The 'indigenous deficit' (*MESSENGER* 4 February 2011)

Dear Editor

My impression is that many indigenous churches are lacking in the zeal, enthusiasm and faith of our many immigrant counterparts.

I have been greatly encouraged hearing black Londoners praying with passion; seeing them listen to and encourage their youth; seeing Afro-Caribbeans with an enthusiasm for the Lord and their Church. I have been discouraged by hearing indigenous people criticise the Church leadership and the beliefs and teachings of our Church – sometimes in the presence of youth and non-Adventist visitors.

I'm sure that these roles are at times reversed, but overall I wonder if reality may not be too far from my general impressions. Is this why the indigenous membership is not growing?

The recent call for revival among all is good. I am sure we all need to spend more time in prayer, and step out in faith to do things which to us look impossible, but to (and with) God are greatly possible. Let us pray that we all, indigenous and immigrant, will increase in faith and activity so that all communities in the UK can be reached with God's love.

VICKY BEAMISH, CHELTENHAM

PS: Vicky is 'an indigenous person, naturally of shy English reserve: but, with prayer and encouragement and a passion for families and children, she is eager to step out and do more for the community around her church.'



Relay 2012



The drama of a relay race! Britain's sprinters blew their reputation as relay champions – and more than £500,000 of funding – with a botched baton exchange in the Beijing Olympic Games of 2008. In the worst possible end to the games for Britain's sprinters, Craig Pickering raced from his mark far too early for the final handover, leaving Marlon Devonish with too much ground to make up. Pickering slowed to a virtual standstill to receive the baton before scampering to the line to finish second. It was all in vain. Within minutes, the team had been disqualified for an exchange that took place outside the designated area.

As we all know, 2012 is a special year, as the Olympic Games come to the UK for the first time since 1948. As a Church we want to capitalise on this event to reach people for the Kingdom of God. As a result of this, the concept of *Relay 2012* has been conceived, with the view of leading people to Jesus and increasing the evangelistic involvement in our churches. There is to be a 'relay' in 2012, with consecutive evangelistic programmes in each area throughout the South England Conference during the months leading up to the Olympics. Each area will pass a torch to the next area, culminating in the torch being passed on to a Festival of the Laity, where all the achievements will be celebrated. The South England Conference has set a goal of 2,500 baptisms for this initiative and they are confident that all churches will take part.

As we are aware, the success of any athlete is down to the months of preparation before the event. Therefore this year – 2011 – is preparation for the Relay. Churches are being encouraged to run training and equipping events, leading to sowing events, culminating in the reaping events in 2012. The South England Conference will be running its own training events during 2011 but success really depends on the local churches. Pastor Sam Davis, the SEC president, states: '2012 is a wonderful opportunity for us to become involved with the hundreds of thousands of visitors who will through our streets. Let's open the doors of our church halls and invite the community in to watch the games over drinks and biscuits. Make our churches user-friendly places where people can drop in, especially if you are in the location of one of the venues. In doing all of this we want the visitors to encounter Christ by interacting with us who know him.'

Let us mobilise for the Olympics and, unlike the British relay team in 2008, let us not be disqualified for the prize!

TERRY MESSENGER

LifeConnect – a dynamic solution for a digital age

LifeConnect is a BUC/TED initiative aimed at placing the Gospel at the crossroads of society. With LifeConnect, a small army of dedicated digital missionaries (DM) can interface with interested contacts or casual observers. Under the guidance of a web-pastor at the Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC) the LifeConnect website can be used to start conversations on topics relevant to the communities in which we live.

The DMs, using their media skills, can create eye-catching content which in turn will be uploaded to the LifeConnect website and other social media sites. In addition, the LifeConnect website already hosts articles and interactive media on topical subjects, responses to which will be monitored and followed up.

We are currently looking to recruit a team of DM volunteers who will donate small quantities of time to making this interface a vibrant and dynamic place for questions and dialogue.

Over two days we will worship and fellowship together and you can receive hands-on training using content creation tools, discover the discipleship pathway using internet contacts, and much more.

Are you:

- Interested in getting involved?
- Skilled in online media production?
- Keen to learn how to be an effective Digital Missionary?

Then join us for the launch of LifeConnect in the BUC!

2-3 April 2011, 10am
BUC office, Stanborough Park, Watford, WD25 9JZ

Call the ADC on 01923 672606,
or email: drafferty@adventist.org.uk or awillis@adventist.org.uk

Lifetime Achievement Award for David Marshall

by Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication director

Photography: Victor Hulbert and David Bell

A surprise reception on Sunday, 6 February gave us an opportunity to thank Dr David Marshall for his thirty-two years of service as the Editor of The Stanborough Press, in addition to his eleven years as a history teacher at Stanborough School.

The event, held at the Stanborough Centre in Watford, attracted former BUC presidents, current and former work colleagues and the *Adventist Review* editor, Bill Knott, who flew in from Washington on his way to Seoul in order to honour Dr Marshall with a Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of the Communication department of the World Church.

Pastor Knott called the award 'a rare commodity in the life of the Adventist Church', noting the inscription thanking David for 'spiritual leadership, intellectual insight, and dedicated service'.

The former



David receives his Lifetime Achievement Award from Review editor, Bill Knott



Julian Hibbert, David's successor, interviews David on his 32 years of service



BUC president, Pastor Cecil Perry, reflected that Dr Marshall was 'a provocative person' – stimulating with his editorials, an intellectual writer and a good preacher. The current BUC president, Pastor Don McFarlane, noted that over the thirty-two years of his editorial leadership David has been 'the most influential pastor in the British Union'.

The press manager, Paul Hammond, stated that 'David is the longest-serving editor the press has ever had, and has published more books than any previous editor', noting that he had developed a loyal readership both in the UK and abroad. A sprinkling of humour filled the day, with David's nephew, Peter Marshall, providing much of the entertainment.

A standing ovation at the end of the celebration demonstrated deserved respect for a man who has greatly influenced the Church for over three decades.



David with his wife Anita



Pastor Perry talks warmly about his time working with David



A mind alive

An edited version of the tribute paid by Bill Knott, the editor of *Adventist Review*, to Dr David Marshall at his farewell dinner.

More than twenty years ago, I was asked to visit a major Adventist college in the US to interview theology students for possible placement in the conference – in my church, working with me, as an intern.

In the space of just twenty hours, I interviewed a total of thirty junior and senior theology majors – all of them in their three-piece suits, with blow-dried hair, clean fingernails and, where possible, a pretty wife or fiancée on their arm.

After the first ten or twelve, I concluded that I was going to learn very little by asking them questions about their interests in biblical studies, archaeology, preaching, or public evangelism. They were all deeply committed to Greek (the usefulness of which in pastoral life I did, and still do, have some doubts); they were all eager to hit the sawdust trail as evangelists; and none of them could think of anything more exciting to do on a Sabbath afternoon than to give Bible studies to poor immigrant children on the trumpets of the Book of Revelation! In short, I needed some device to break apart that small and cloistered world in which safe questions were answered with even safer replies. And I finally landed on something.

'Tell me,' I said to number thirteen, 'if you accidentally got locked in the college library overnight and could not get out, in what section of the library would we find you in the morning?'

Back came the appropriately righteous answer, delivered with all the smug assurance of a 22-year-old theology student: 'In the New Testament section, of course.'

I revised the question with number fourteen: 'If you were accidentally locked in the public library overnight and could not get out, in what section of the library would we find you in the morning? And no,' I said, anticipating his righteous reply, 'they don't have a Biblical Studies section.'

There was a long pause from the candidate. 'Well,' he finally said, 'I guess you would find me in the section dealing with politics

and government. That's what I really enjoy reading about.'

'Really!' I exclaimed, and my heart skipped a beat or two. My dilemma was solved, for I had found some evidence, however tiny, of a mind that was truly alive, a mind that could slip out from behind the confines of an ecclesiastical life to notice what else was going on in the world.

I knew – I even expected – that all these budding 'theologues' would be devoted to the things to which pastors are supposed to be devoted. But what I really wanted to know was whether the young man in front of me had the intellectual and practical wherewithal to open up a dialogue with a car mechanic, or a salesman, or a yoga instructor, or the news junkie hooked on CNN. For ministry in Jesus' name is all about the interface between the eternal Word of God and the daily words that men and women use to express their hopes, their joys, their fears, and their sorrows.

I have the distinct impression that if David Marshall had been one of those prospective hires sitting in front of me twenty years ago, I would have instantly circled his name in red at the top of my list. For it is impossible to spend much time around this man or to read what he has written without encountering a mind that is truly alive – a mind that ranges across a dozen academic disciplines to find that gem of a story, that quotation from Dickens, that odd bit of the daily news, that fresh look at an old Scripture. As I sat on the plane last night and scanned the more than fifty articles that David Marshall has penned for *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World* magazines in just the last twenty-five years, I found myself smiling in spite of the insipid aeroplane food.

History, art, literature, current events, hymnody, theology, politics, biblical studies, environmentalism – all flow together in his thought to produce a lively and lovely style. There is no ponderous re-telling of things familiar in his writing: even well-known Bible stories are examined from fresh angles and through new lenses.



Opinion – yes, I said it, opinion – is never far away in his columns: you find yourself always caught by the thought, 'What will the good man say next?' If you fall asleep while reading a David Marshall article, my friends, you are suffering from sleep apnoea and need to see a good doctor. David Marshall is a mind alive to the interface between the Word and the words.

Unless you are sitting on a tremendous pile of somebody else's cash or are the heir to a fortune in some off-shore bank, you don't survive in the editing business unless you quickly learn what to keep and what to throw away – for that is the essence of editing.

David Marshall has thrown away many things in his forty-three years of serving the Adventist Church: he has thrown away pretense and superfluity; he has thrown away punctiliousness and pontification; he has thrown away the foolish attempt to be all things to all people.

And he has kept the things that matter most to Christians and to Adventists: he has kept candour; he has kept humour; he has kept a love of language; he has kept an abiding love for the Word of God. And yes, my friends, David Marshall has kept talking about grace, grace, grace, and more grace – all his career, in virtually every column and article I have ever seen from his hand.

Today, on behalf of that endangered species known as professional editors in the Adventist Church, and on behalf of hundreds of thousands – yes, David, even millions of Adventist Christians – who have come to know your lively mind through the decades, I salute you. Your mind, your pen, and your heart have been great gifts to the Church you love, and today we all say, from the bottom of our hearts, a deep and lasting 'Thank you!'

with Andrew Puckering



Who's your daddy?

We all know Caleb as a leader of Judah (Numbers 34:18, 19), who spied out the land of Canaan (Numbers 13:2, 6), who was one of the two returning spies who brought back an encouraging report (Numbers 13:30; 14:6, 7), and who survived according to the word of the LORD (Numbers 14:38; Joshua 14:9, 10) to receive his allotted portion in the promised land (Joshua 14:14). He pre-empted the negative conclusions of his fellow spies (Numbers 13:31) by telling the Israelites that they were 'well able to overcome' any obstacles that came their way (Joshua 13:30, NKJV), thus wholly following the LORD his God (Joshua 14:8). But Caleb had more reason than most to receive his allotted portion – for his portion was Hebron (Joshua 14:13), and Caleb was the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite (Joshua 14:6).

Kenizzites were not of the twelve tribes of Israel. They were the descendants of Kenaz, the grandson of Esau (Jacob's brother), and his wife Adah (Genesis 36:10, 11), a Hittite (Genesis 36:2). However, Caleb, although a descendant of Esau, shared a common ancestry with the Israelites through Isaac (Genesis 25:20-26) and Abraham (Genesis 21:1-3). In other words, Caleb – just like the Midianites (Genesis 25:1, 2) and the Ishmaelites (Genesis 16:15), and even the Amalekites (Genesis 36:12), who attacked the Israelites in the wilderness (Exodus 17:8) – was an 'outsider' with distant family connections to the Israelites. And those family connections were buried at Hebron (Genesis 23:19; 25:9; 35:27-29).

We can only imagine Caleb's feelings as he saw Hebron, the burial place of the ancestors he shared with the Israelites, when he spied out the land of Canaan (Numbers 13:22)! No wonder Caleb came to Joshua and specifically asked him for that territory, even though the land was fortified (Joshua 14:12), and full of giants (Numbers 13:33; Joshua 14:12), and even though Hebron was the city of the greatest of these giants (Joshua 14:15). Caleb had waited forty-five years for this moment (Joshua 14:10).

But Caleb had yet further reason to take Hebron. He was descended from Adah the Hittite (also translated 'daughter of Heth' – Genesis 26:34, 35; 27:46). The sons of Heth, or Hittites, who lived in Hebron had been approached by Abraham after Sarah's death (Genesis 23:2-4), and he bought the field of Ephron the Hittite to bury her there (Genesis 23:16). Ephron actually offered to give it to him (Genesis 23:10, 11), but Abraham insisted on purchasing it fair and square (Genesis 23:13); the fact that he did so is repeatedly emphasised (Genesis 23:17, 18, 20). So, by taking Hebron, Caleb was redeeming the land which his ancestors (the Hittites) had legally sold to another of his ancestors (Abraham). He was taking back the land of both his sets of ancestors from the Anakim who currently occupied it (Joshua 14:12).

Caleb therefore had many legitimate reasons to follow the LORD's command to take possession of his inheritance – it was his, several times over, and it had been given to him by God. Although technically an 'outsider', he displayed more zeal than those who were born of Judah, and the LORD rewarded him.

- Caleb didn't take Hebron on his own. Which tribe united with Judah in its struggle (Judges 1), and what does this tell us about the importance of co-operation?
- What happens when we don't trust God and claim his promises? (Numbers 14)
- What was the former name of Hebron, and why?
- What last act of service did Jacob and Esau do for Isaac their father – can grief help to unify us?
- Where was Rachel buried, and which great men would be born there?



With the 2011 Annual Appeal imminent, we asked Pastor Bert Smit, chief executive officer for ADRA-UK since January 2006, to explain the importance of the work of ADRA and how we, as a Church community, can help.



ADRA UK



Editor: Bert, why was ADRA established?

Pastor Smit: I see caring for people in need as an integral part of the Gospel message, something our Church has done from the beginning. ADRA is one important way we keep up this tradition. Through its 120-odd country offices worldwide, ADRA empowers the poor with the resources, skills and opportunities needed to live a better life with dignity and hope. That is why the British Union chose to establish ADRA-UK.

Editor: Can you briefly explain what the ADRA Annual Appeal is?

Pastor Smit: Since 1922 church members in the United Kingdom and Ireland have gone from door to door collecting money for the humanitarian work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Traditionally we called this 'Ingathering', and the monies were channelled through various departments of the Church to help our worldwide mission outreach.

In the mid 1990s the Home Office licence to collect from door to door came under threat with new Government requirements for greater transparency and better accountability.

To meet these requirements, and approach our humanitarian aid in a more professional manner, ADRA-UK was established as a separate charity in 1998.

The old term, 'Ingathering', was replaced by the Annual Appeal. So, for a period of up to three weeks we may collect for the work of ADRA-UK from door to door under special licence from the Home Office.

Editor: Has this new status improved matters?

Pastor Smit: Yes, Julian! There are only forty-three charities in the UK that have this national permit to collect, and it gives us a unique opportunity to meet other people and ask legitimately for a contribution to our humanitarian work.

The new status also permitted ADRA-UK to partner major donors like the British Government (DFID) and the European Commission, thereby attracting more funds.

Editor: What fundraising activities are permitted during the Annual Appeal?

Pastor Smit: The main reason for the Annual Appeal is to ask the general public to help the work of ADRA. Door-to-door knocking is the most effective way of doing that, but these days many employers are willing to support their staff in raising funds for charity. This has increased the number of alternative fundraising activities such as sponsored walks, cycle tours, golf tournaments and so on. Some churches organise alternative events like cake-bakes, car boot sales, car washes or sporting events. The South England Conference Church Ministries department even organises a 'Fun Run' at Crystal Palace Park to help raise funds.

Editor: Knocking on a stranger's door can be scary.

Pastor Smit: Some people are a bit wary of this, and that's understandable. However, knocking on someone's door to ask for help for people in need is a different matter. You are not asking for something for yourself, you are not evangelising – you are simply

asking for £1, or whatever people want to give, to help those in need. Our leaflets are clear for those who want to know more. Our website also has full information on what we do and where, as well as an opportunity to give regularly or by Gift Aid.

Editor: Who will benefit from this year's appeal?

Pastor Smit: The funds raised this year will benefit projects in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mongolia, Thailand, Nepal, Tanzania and the UK. They will also help us to provide immediate assistance when disasters strike. Our team is working on new proposals for other countries and, as the year progresses, we hope to be able to extend our work.

Editor: How much was raised in 2010?

Pastor Smit: I am delighted that, despite the difficulties with the economy, people are still really generous. We raised a total of £621,298 – roughly £25,000 more than in 2009. This is a great result given the current economic climate. Our goal for 2011 is £700,000, but to do that we need all the help we can get!

Editor: Bert, what percentage will go to projects?

Pastor Smit: We have agreed with the trustees that 90% of the Annual Appeal income will go to projects. The remainder is used to promote the Annual Appeal (leaflets, posters, badges and so on). The promotional budget is much lower than that in many charities, and we work hard to keep our costs down.

Editor: Finally, Bert, what is it that excites you about your work?

Pastor Smit: ADRA-UK is a unique agency. We are quite small, but we excel in the work we do, bringing relief and healing to tens of thousands of people.

I have a picture on my wall of a family in Burma I met some time ago. They are all crouching down in front of a goat pen. They are crouching together because the husband, U Zaw, is crippled.

He was born with a birth defect and is paralysed from the waist down. With no wheelchair, he just crawls around using his upper body strength. But he had the most wonderful smile in the world when I met him.

Because of his disability U Zaw was unable to work and the family often went to bed hungry. As part of one of our projects he received eight goats from ADRA. Now, U Zaw is raising goats and his life is changing. His little herd has grown to sixteen, his children can go to school, and food is on the table. I have never seen better-looking goats than at the small farm of U Zaw.

Such experiences excite me and keep me going.

The support from our church members is vital in what we do and, plainly speaking, without their help we could not do our work. ADRA is actively doing what we preach: helping the needy and sharing our vision of hope. When ADRA and our church members work together raising funds we can bring opportunities for a better life to people like U Zaw. There is nothing more rewarding than that!



U Zaw and his family





Can I take your picture?

by David Bell, MESSENGER designer

Digital photography has revolutionised the art of picture-taking. Photography was once the preserve of professionals, keen amateurs and holiday snappers. Now easy-to-use digital cameras have opened up the field to just about everyone. Put this together with the internet, offering sites such as Flickr and Facebook, and suddenly everyone's at it! We all seem to have cameras in our pockets or bags, even if they're only on our mobiles. And why not? They're fun, easy and very accessible.

So, what does all this have to do with the MESSENGER?

Almost every photo published in MESSENGER comes to us in digital form. Some are excellent – and those you see published. However, a large number we are unable to use for various 'quality control' reasons. So here I hope to offer some simple suggestions to help improve your news photograph.

Step 1 – Basic camera settings

It doesn't matter if your camera is an automatic point-and-shoot pocket camera or an expensive digital SLR; always make sure that it is set to maximum resolution. It is pointless having a 10 megapixel camera if you have it set to 1 megapixel.

Step 2 – Composition

Think about where you are taking your pictures. Does the location help tell the story?



Try to position your group or individual against a clean background, free of clutter. You don't want a flower arrangement growing out of their heads, or a microphone stand poking out of an ear. Try to get groups to bunch up together: it looks so much better than the usual 'firing-squad' pose. But do make sure that the shorter members aren't hiding at the back. If there is a nice flower arrangement close by, why not incorporate it in your picture, next to your subjects?

Get your subjects laughing and smiling if appropriate, because readers like to see happy people, not miserable people. Try different camera angles. Shooting from elevated positions, for example, can result in an interesting shot. Look for action shots! A Pathfinder making a craft item is more interesting than one holding a certificate.

Get in close. If you are taking a picture of four people at the front, you do not need the whole platform in the picture. Let the four people fill your viewfinder.

Step 3 – Lighting/Exposure

I have put these two subjects together, as one has a definite bearing on the other. Most of us shoot in some form of auto mode these days, so it's important that you get adequate light. Ideally, go outside, weather permitting – but don't make your subjects stare straight into the sun or they will squint. There is no substitute for natural light. What if your subjects are in the shade? Use your flash. This will mean setting the camera flash to Flash-on (Fill-Flash), not Auto. This will help to lighten their faces just enough.

Don't worry if you have to stay inside. Get as close to your subject as you can. Churches are notoriously big



ing is really good – or you have a high-end digital SLR – you will probably always need your flash indoors. If you are in low light and can't use a flash (for instance, during a service), then slow your shutter speed and look for moments when the speaker is not moving. Take a lot of photos and find one or two that are good.

Step 4 – Taking your picture

Give your subjects fair warning, so that everyone is looking at the camera at the same time and not yawning, talking or blinking. And most importantly, take lots of

places, and your average camera flash can't cope over long distances. Indoor lights can be a problem. If your hall lights are fluorescent, and your flash is not up to the job, then the chances are that your picture will have a yellow cast over it: so get up-close and personal. Unless light-



pictures – that way, hopefully, at least one will be a winner, but hopefully more (which will give us a choice).

Step 5 – Submitting your pictures to MESSENGER

Don't be afraid to be critical of your work. If you think that a picture is poor, dump it. If your picture has a 'wow' factor – that is the one we will want to use.

Most people use email to send us their photos. This is fine. But here are just a few points to consider:

- Make sure that your photo application/email is not reducing the size of your photo to make email quicker. This does happen a lot. Also, don't be tempted to reduce the files yourself. I am always happy when the pictures which arrive are 1mb or more, but so often what I get is something around 50kb or less (see picture top right). You may get away with it for a website, but for print it is just not detailed enough.
- So, you have lots of pictures to send to us, but they are too big for your email to cope with. Easy. Upload them to us through the internet. On the PC, select all your files, right-click them, then click 'Send to', then 'Compressed' (or 'Zipped'). On the Mac, 'ctrl-click' your selected files, and click 'Compress'. This will create a single file, 'name.zip'. Now go to your browser, then to www.mailbigfile.com (see picture bottom right) and click the 'Trial' button. From here you can put in your recipient's email address, attach your file (name.zip), and then send

your file. This method totally bypasses your email. Your file is uploaded to MailBigFile's servers; they send a simple email link to your recipient, who can then download the file. And that's it. However, having a lot of photos does not mean you have to send them all to us. Choose the best!

- Please don't print out your photos and then send in your prints. Scanners are designed to scan images that are litho-printed (from a magazine or book). Home printers print in a totally different way, so when I scan your prints the results will not be good.
- Don't import your pictures into your MESSENGER report using Word.doc. All we want from you is a .jpg, just as your camera produced it in the first place.
- Label your pictures. If you want a caption with a person's name you need to tell us.

Please send your photos as an attachment to your email (if not using mailbigfile), to: editor@stanboroughpress.co.uk copied to me at: dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk. You can send them to the BUC for inclusion on their website, or for BUC News, to bucnews@adventist.org.uk.

Photography is fun, so get out there, snap away: you never know, you may be pleased with the results! I hope this guide may be of some help. We appreciate the time taken by our contributors who send us their photography. Keep it coming, but try to make it better. Just remember; if you are not sure of the last shot, take it again!

Additional resources:

<http://www.adventistnews.org.uk/messenger/guidelines.php>
<http://www.adventistnews.org.uk/messenger/photographyhandout.pdf>
 There is also more information on the Communication department page of the BUC website: <http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/departments/communication.php>.

I would like to thank Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication director, for his input to this article.

Left top: Nicely composed, everyone smiling, happy to be there, well exposed using natural light. One of the best pictures of 2010.

Left middle: A good camera angle, close-up to the subject and well lit. This one tells a story.

Left: I was so pleased to get this picture. Shot from above, it's well exposed using natural light and gives bags of colour. Right: This picture caused lots of controversy, but for other reasons. I've cropped it here, to show what can happen in the background. Notice the horns.

I apologise if any of these pictures are yours. I do not mean to offend, but merely to point out what can go wrong.



Top: File size for this picture is 5kb; hence it's pixelated. Aim for well over 1mb.

Left: Avoid putting text across your pictures and turn off the date marker.

Below: As well as being very yellow (fluorescent lights, not enough flash), this is plainly blurred.

Bottom: If you want to scale your photos, make sure you do it proportionally. This picture has been squashed top-to-bottom.



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Church rebranding and the Gospel sales mix

Theophilus Gokah

An important decision by the Welsh Mission to elevate the Cardiff North company to full Church status was implemented on Sabbath 5 February 2011.

Friends and regular members of the church gathered to worship and witness the fellowship become a church, three years after it was organised. The officiating minister was Pastor John Surridge, Welsh Mission president, assisted by Pastors Clyde Moore and George Boakye Asiamah. During the ceremony certificates of acknowledgement were awarded to various people and groups who had in diverse ways helped to nurture and motivate the young fellowship.

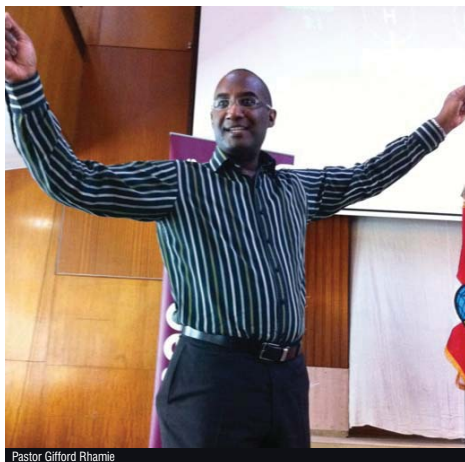
In 2008 the BUC and the General Conference provided funding for an evangelistic campaign among emerging minority communities migrating to Cardiff.

On 31 May 2008, the Welsh Mission named the South Wales African Adventist Fellowship (SWAAF) as a pivot to a grand evangelistic plan in Cardiff. The firstfruit of that plan is the Cardiff North church.

What will be next?

It is suggested that Cardiff North turn its attention to Pontypridd, a town once described as the 'Wild West'. It is host to the University of Glamorgan and many commercial, industrial and tourism attractions. The presence of a university makes it a natural home for many students from across the world. It is also a natural home for Adventist students who travel all the way to fellowship at the Cardiff North church.

For pictures on church organisation visit the church's revamped website at www.cardiffnorth.co.uk.



Pastor Gifford Rhamie

Inspired to serve

More than 300 SEC youth, Pathfinders and teen leaders attended the Youth Leadership Convention Pathfinder AGM on 16 January at the Advent Centre. Breaking all previous records, leaders from across the SEC came together for worship and training and received resources.

This record-breaking group attended a variety of stimulating seminars and workshops on topics such as Theology of Leadership (by Gifford Rhamie), Youth Budgeting and Personal Finance (by Debbie Harris), Faithbook Faith (by Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist), Empowering Young People as Frontline Missionaries (by Aris Vontzalidis), and Self-esteem and Youth Leadership (by Leslie Ackie).

At this YLC the Youth Leadership Awards were introduced. The YLAs are not mandatory but we want to strongly encourage all serving youth leaders and their teams to complete the various modules.

These courses will re-define the way youth, teen and Pathfinder club leaders are prepared for the work in our churches.

Level 1 training will help the basic youth team member and associate/potential leader to manage the role. Level 2 training is designed to meet the needs of youth/teen/Pathfinder leaders in demanding churches, and is a must for leaders. Level 3 training is intended to fit leaders for work in a 'youth advisory' and in a 'leader-of-leaders' role.

We invite all interested parties to attend YLC2 on 6 March, 9.30am-4.30pm, at which lunch will be included. Contact the SEC Youth Department for details, or visit www.secyouth.co.uk/yla

COLIN STEWART, SEC YOUTH DIRECTOR



One of the group sessions



Left to right: Berrick Clarke, Joyce Simon, Roy Walfall, Nettle Rushie, Ena Road. Centre: Mitzie Walfall.

Brixton Community Services

The Community Services department at the Brixton church has grasped the commission to help as many people in need as they can. Under the leadership of Mitzie Walfall they have supported an orphanage in Manchester (Jamaica) and various projects in Kenya, Sierra Leone, Trinidad and Nigeria, to name but a few places. Most recently the department sent £2,000 to an infirmary in Hanover, Jamaica, where the building was in desperate need of refurbishment and new equipment was a priority. Closer to home, they also oversee the feeding of the homeless on Thursday evenings with a strong team of helpers who bring physical and spiritual food to those who require it. They have also worked with Oxfam, The Salvation Army and the British Heart Foundation. The church is grateful for such an active department and the great work they do.

VALERIE MOODIE, COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



Launch of the Ladywood Foodbank – 'Labour of Love' 2011

Addressing the needs of people in crisis!

This new initiative is being coordinated by Debbie Morrison (a new convert) and fully supported by the Ladywood church.

The well-attended launch of the Ladywood Foodbank took place at St Luke's Church Centre, Great Colmore Row, Birmingham on Friday 21 January 2011.

Present at the meeting were service providers from the Birmingham City Council, who cover the Ladywood constituency and welfare poverty units, as well as charitable organisations, homeless charities and other religious organisations, with whom the Ladywood members will work closely.

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project and to discuss the needs to be met for those families and individuals, who reside within Ladywood and its surrounding areas, who cannot afford one of their most basic needs – food.

Unfortunately, hunger is not just a third-world problem. Today, many people across the UK struggle to feed themselves and their families. It is estimated that there are 12 to 13 million people living below the poverty line in the UK.

Government statistics show that in the Ladywood constituency 81% of children are living in low-income families, the highest proportion in the UK. Every day people go hungry because of their personal circumstances. In the Ladywood area alone, 36% are living on working class credits and almost half of the adults living in the ward are unemployed. Sparkbrook, Small Heath and Hodge Hill were also among the top ten most deprived wards in the country and have high levels of child poverty. We wish to tackle this problem within the community.

Foodbanks help prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems. Your donations to our Foodbank will help those in crisis. These must be non-perishable items, such as tins and packets – including dried and long-life milk, tinned fruit, and healthy snacks. You can also donate funds to us by making out a cheque payable to Ladywood Foodbank – 'Labour of Love', Darley Road, Ladywood, Birmingham, B16 8TF.

A simple bag of food will make a big difference!

RUTH IRISH, LADYWOOD CHURCH



Pastor Steve Palmer with Ladywood representatives



Holloway baptism

Family, friends, and church members filled the Holloway church on Sabbath 22 January 2011 to witness the baptism of eight special candidates: Rachael Cuffie, Janice Jeffrey, Boaz Tobie, Nile Phillip, Roger Baptiste, Jhenaya Elagoz, and brother and sister, Lientho De'Oyen and La'marisa Barclay. Pastor Holder was the officiating minister. The congregation was particularly glad to see that some of their 'prodigal sons' were among the candidates.

EMEKA NWOKOYE
ASSOCIATE LEADER – COMMUNICATIONS

Baptism at Romanian All Souls Parish Church

The Romanian All Souls Parish Church held a wonderful baptism of nine candidates on 29 January this year. A number of them had no previous Adventist background.

DEMISE ALDEA
COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



Southall baptises eight

There was great rejoicing at the Southall church on 13 November 2010 as eight precious souls gave their lives to the Lord, six through baptism and two on profession of faith. Family, friends, and members packed the church to witness this moving event conducted by Pastor Everett Picart. After the beautiful baptismal service the pastor's appeal yielded another two potential candidates.

SOUTHALL COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



From left to right: Glasmin Clarke (profession of faith), Emma Khumalo, Alpha Marshall Collins, George Collins, Pastor E. Picart, Christian Gomes, Leslie Thomas, Elma Thomas, Lillian Nyabunze (profession of faith).

Middlesbrough counts its blessings

Sabbath 29 January in Middlesbrough was a cold and frosty morning with a -3°C start to the day. Inside the Middlesbrough church, however, the sun was shining brightly for three special sets of parents. Pastor Colin Woodford dedicated three babies at the church that morning.

First was 5-month-old Bryane Khialani, presented by her parents, Bob and Lyan. Next was 10-week-old Mutsanashe Emma Mawere, presented by her mother, Leah. They were followed by 3-month-old Joshua Arturo Chio, presented by his parents, Hanil and Grace.

JUDY HAMILTON-JOHANSSON



Diamond Wedding at Lowestoft

Eric and Jean Baker celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in a surprise party organised for them on 27 December, 2010, by the Lowestoft church. The couple were married in the original church building – a former salt store – on Boxing Day, 1950.

J. SAMPSON



Ordination at Cardiff

Dr Theophilus Gokah, a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK), has been ordained as an elder of Cardiff North Church.

Dr Gokah first came to the UK from Ghana for further studies in 1999 and has been an asset to the church through his zeal and enthusiasm for evangelism, including Prison Ministries.

Pastor John Surridge, Welsh Mission president, assisted by Pastors Clyde Moore and George Boakye Asiamah, led out in the ordination service.

PASTOR GEORGE BOAKYE ASIAMAH AND INGRID ALMA MARTINE VINCENT-GEORGE



obituaries

David Colin Pearce (1942-2011) d. 29 January



Dave's education; something he regretted all his life.

Dave began his working life with wholesale greengrocer Will Hamley, and this involved early morning trips to the Covent Garden markets.

In June 1958 he began what would become fifty years of work at The Stanborough Press, starting as an apprentice lithographic printer, for which he qualified with a Grade A certificate.

After the fire in Watford the press

relocated to Grantham, where operations began in 1966. Moving beyond printing, he worked as a bindery machine operator, works engineer, warehouse operative and forklift driver. He spent many hours coaxing old machines to keep going well beyond their normal lifespans.

In April 1963 David married one of his work colleagues, Edna Ruddock, and they were blessed with two sons, Brian and Russell.

Over the years Dave relied on for advice and assistance by his friends who needed help with their cars. He certainly had a lifetime interest in repairing and rebuilding older cars, but gave up on modern electronics.

Patience was an attribute which was never in short supply with Dave. There was always someone in need of assistance, and without a disparaging word Dave would put down whatever was in his hand, collect his tools or tow rope, and be out of the door to assist – whether it was dark or wet, mealtime or bedtime.

In 1996, sadly, Edna passed away.

Dave may have thought he was to face the future alone, but God had different ideas. Jan Clarke, an Australian, had come to work in the finance

department, and enjoyed four years together. Keisha also filled the offices of church clerk and youth leader at her church.

A tearful Pastor Rashford-Hewitt, senior pastor in the Sheffield area, delivered the funeral address which included the words of the apostle Paul from 1 Thess. 4:16 (KJV): 'The dead in Christ shall rise first.'

The auditorium was packed with mourners and a number of pastors were also present. Among the many tributes was a letter that was read out on behalf of the president of the North England Conference, Pastor Ian Sweeney.

Keisha's last prayer, as stated by her husband, was: 'May God supply all your needs and may God be with you.' She was praying for him, and he has progressed to become a trainee elder in the Burngreave church.

She was buried in the City Road Cemetery where 'the snow lay round about, deep and crisp' that afternoon.

To her husband, parents, siblings, other family and friends, the Church extends its deepest condolences.

ROSEMARY BLENMAN

Kathleen (Emm) Watson (1919-2010) d. 31 December

Kathleen Mary Watson was born in Wiltshire, England and died on 31 December, 2010, aged 91.

On leaving school she worked at Doctor Shone's Nursing Home in London, before attending Newbold College at both Newbold Revel and Packwood House in Warwick. She graduated as a Bible worker in 1942. On 15 August 1946 she was married in the Reading church to Charles Watson, a young pastor.

Together they worked tirelessly, especially for the youth and those who had left the church. They began in Wales, followed by Nottingham, Watford and Edgware, before becoming missionaries to Ethiopia (East Africa) and Lebanon.

After this they went to Washington D.C. where Charles worked for the Secretariat at the General

department of the press, and a romance developed between them. They married in May 1998. Jan loved her readymade family – Brian and Alyson, Russell and Danny – and was delighted to become Grandma to five young boys all at once.

After an absence of too many years, Dave returned to the Seventh-day Adventist church in which he had been brought up. He really enjoyed his role as a deacon, especially welcoming people as they arrived at church.

Dave and Jan's fourteen years of friendship and marriage were a time of great happiness and new experiences for both of them, including lots of travel.

Sadly, Dave was diagnosed with cancer a little more than six months ago, and after a brave and dignified battle for life he passed away on 29 January this year.

Dave's character and life can best be summed up in the words of a neighbour. Dave had a quiet strength and sense of humour, and rarely complained. He had a nature that restored your faith and set a standard that made life today an easier task to cope with. He was a kind man, a quiet man and an example to us all.

THE PEARCE FAMILY

Conference. Upon their retirement they moved to Deltona, Florida, USA, where Charles passed away in 2009 after enjoying sixty-three wonderful and exciting years of marriage with Kathleen.

She is survived by two sisters, Christine Hall (Scotland) and Margaret Cole (Spain); one 'adopted son', Eric McGraw; and several nephews and nieces and their families.

Kathleen will be missed by many friends in various parts of the world, and this was shown at her memorial service where a large number of messages were read honouring a life well-lived.

Kathleen's love for flowers is well-known, but so too is her love for people, irrespective of their circumstances. For example, at one stage in their ministry, when Charles was also in charge of the Temperance department, he would often trawl through the pubs of Watford on a Saturday night in search of those who had drunk too much. He would then bring them home for Kathleen to 'dry out' so they could be returned to their families sober. She will be remembered as a woman of kindness, courage, faith and fortitude.

REG BURGESS, JOHN OGDEN AND JACK MAHON

Maurice Franks (1930-2010) d. 28 November

Maurice had three sisters and six brothers, and was born in York in 1930. In 1979 he married Dawn Cundle and they were blessed with two sons, Andrew and Peter.

Maurice was baptised in the York church in 1977, where he served enthusiastically as head deacon for many years.

Prior to his retirement he served as an ambulance driver for the mentally handicapped.

He passed away on 28 November 2010, and his well-attended funeral was conducted in his home church by Pastors Roger Neal and Solon Kiryacu.

Maurice leaves his wife Dawn, sons Andrew and Peter, daughters-in-law Stacey and Gemma, and grandchildren, Chloe, Charlotte and Toby – all of whom long for that resurrection day!



First Christingle service for Loughborough children


The children in the Loughborough church held a Christingle service on 18 December 2010 – a new experience for most of the group.

They walked into the church holding their christingles and singing, then explained the meaning of each part of the christingle and shared the history of the illustration before singing the lively Graham Kendrick song, 'Can You See What We Have Made?'

The children then told us about Jesus' birth, placing models they had made onto a large Nativity scene as the story unfolded.

'I like Christingle. Let's do the same next year!' said 8-year-old Alicia after the service – and all would agree. VIVIENNE BARRATT-PEACOCK

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REVIEW

North & South England Conference
joint
 camp meeting
 2011

Guest Speaker Pastor Henry Wright
 of Community Praise Centre, Alcanthra SDA Church, USA

13th - 19th June

Penryn, Presbryn Sands Holiday Centre, Baskley Avenue,
 Presbryn, Denbighshire, North Wales, LL19 7UA

SHARING CHRIST IN THE MARKETPLACE

ASI-UK Convention, 25-27 March

We plan to hold our first convention of the year at the Hunton Park Hotel near Watford in March of this year. As is the normal practice, guests and members can book for the weekend, or for Sabbath only.

The main speaker at the event is Pastor Japhet De Oliveira, who is the director of the Centre for Youth Evangelism at Andrews University.

Costs for the weekend are as follows:

	ASI-UK MEMBERS	NON-MEMBERS
Weekend:	£115.00	£135.00
Sabbath only:	£30.00	£39.00
Sabbath only (students):	£25.00	£25.00

Sabbath application will include lunch and dinner as well as refreshments throughout the day. Weekend applications will include the above with bed and breakfast for Friday and Saturday nights, but also dinner on Friday evening and lunch on Sunday. An outstanding detail!

Deadline: 19 February

For further details contact the secretary of ASI-UK, Christine Manners-Smith: manners-smith@ntlworld.com

Jumble sale at Stanborough Primary School and Nursery!

on Sunday 6 March
 from 12 to 2pm,
 at Appletree Walk,
 Watford, WD25 0DQ.

All profits will go to fund the new all-weather surface of the school's playground.

You'll find bargains for the whole family in our stalls: books, clothes, china, cakes, children's toys, and excellent value café lunches.

Come early to get the best deals!



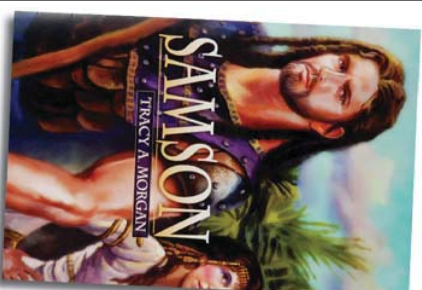
Book now for your meals at this year's camp meeting

NEC/SEC Camp Meeting 2011 will be in Prestatyn, North Wales, 13-19 June. The Sophisticated Catering Company will be working out of the Beachcomber Restaurant (on the Pontins site) to provide food throughout the whole week.

A selection of good, wholesome, vegetarian and chicken meals, plus a variety of other foods, will be on sale to be eaten in the restaurant area or as take-aways.

If you are planning to come down specifically at the Sabbath there are facilities in place so that customers can book and pay for their food in advance, to ensure that after the morning church service their hot meals will be waiting for them – redeemable with a unique Sabbath voucher.

Please email: sophisticated-catering@gmail.com or call Kevin Sterling on 07092040907 for further details.



New book of the week **Samson** Tracy A. Morgan

Set apart for God, Samson is legendary for his strength, but also for his flaws. Read this exciting story anew through the eyes of Tracy Morgan. It's a tale that literally brought the house down!

Contact ABC Sales on
01476 539900
 to purchase your copy
 at £12.95 plus p&p

ABC BOOK SALES

March		10am-2pm
13 Newbold Primary School	20 Peckham	10am-2pm
27 John Loughborough	27 Bristol	10am-2pm
27 Bristol		10am-2pm

ABC Shops
 Watford, BUC

9am-5pm, Monday-Thursdays
 (closed for lunch 1pm-1.30pm)
 9am-12pm Friday
 Closed on Sundays

Advent Centre
 Saturdays, 9am-9pm
 Sundays, 11am-3pm

Messenger

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Sums set

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	Land	Coast	North	Edin	Belf
Mar	4	5.46	5.58	5.48	5.53
	11	5.58	6.10	6.01	6.07
	18	6.10	6.22	6.14	6.22
	25	6.22	6.34	6.26	6.36
					6.46

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