

Messenger

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Changing lives in Nepal

When Devimaya, 27, was studying to become a nurse, she never imagined being involved in party politics: but in December of 1999 she was suddenly escorted off campus by a police officer, charged with providing support to Maoists and their activities.

After fourteen months of mental and physical torture, she was finally released. Once home she was persecuted by locals who continued to believe her to be a Maoist supporter.

Udaya Oli was 10 years old when his father was assassinated by one of the conflicting parties. He was unable to attend school for months, suffering from psycho-social problems.

These problems only increased when he transferred into secondary school; he had to walk several hours to school, and immediately return after classes ended in order to work and provide food for his family.

Devimaya and Udaya are among thousands of children and young adults who have suffered from the decade-long civil conflict in Nepal. Though it ended five years ago, many young people are still struggling to overcome the repercussions. But this is where ADRA and its partners are effecting change.

Part of ADRA's current initiative in Nepal, co-financed by the European Commission and ADRA-UK, is to educate and empower young people through literacy and vocational training, and provide psycho-social support. Through the help of its local partner, ASTHA, ADRA Nepal is training district counsellors and community psycho-social workers in order to provide psycho-social counselling and education.

In September 2010, ADRA met with Devimaya. She had been suffering from a number of psycho-social problems, including anger, trouble concentrating, and headaches. She also was suffering from loneliness, since she had distanced herself from the rest of the community and her family.

ADRA provided her with a safe social environment, which allowed her, for the first time, to share her experience and feelings with others. ADRA also provided counselling for her family, and education about psycho-social care, helping re-establish Devimaya's family as a source of support in her life.

With this help, she is now comfortable sharing her problems with her family and others she trusts. Devimaya's relationship with her friends and family has improved, and

she is even trying to participate in different social activities.

When ADRA came in contact with Udaya, he avoided interacting with others, was afraid to leave the house, had become an insomniac, had lost appetite and weight, and was convinced his father's killers would return to kill him too. Moreover, he was struggling with memory loss, unable to remember simple facts or tasks; for example, he would leave home to get water from the tap, but return without the water jar.

Through the counselling ADRA has provided, he has received the emotional support he needed. Udaya is making significant progress; his behaviour, relationships with others and memory are all improving. This has enabled him to recognise his problems and learn coping methods. He is actively taking part in community activities, as well as attending classes. Udaya has a set of goals and a plan of action for his future.

Over the next eighteen months, ADRA and its partners will provide psycho-social support for 2,000 such children and young adults. This project in Nepal, and the other life-skills education, literacy and vocational training, will give 4,000 young people the opportunity to begin a new stage in their lives.

For more information, go to: www.adra.org.uk.

EDITED BY KAITLYN RASMUSSEN



Dear Readers
I have just clocked up seven months as editor of the *MESSENGER*, and it is now time for a few apologies. Up to the 24 June issue of the magazine we had a fairly good track record regarding such things, but in that issue the proverbial wheels 'came off'! We offended some of the nicest, most salt-of-the-earth people you could wish to find: our members in Northern Ireland.

This offence was caused by the following:

1. The use of a Gaelic typeface on the front cover, the old name for Belfast, and a closing blessing in the Irish language.
2. The mention of a number of acronyms which have political overtones.
3. The fact that some important information was edited out of the report on the renovation of the Belfast church (page 14).

When editors offend people's consciences they are usually on target, but when they offend in matters of language and culture they should apologise without reserve. So to my friends in Belfast, please accept my sincere apologies.

For the cover I can do little more than apologise and be more sensitive in the future. For the news item glitch, I have arranged for some prominent restitution to take place in a forthcoming issue.

THE EDITOR

Bramble doesn't Gamble!

Dear Readers
While we are on the subject of mistakes, let me also confess that Mr Charles **Bramble** recently became a victim of the elusive 'printer's devil', when his name appeared consistently on pages four and five of the 24 June *MESSENGER* as Charles **Gamble!** I have apologised to him on behalf of *MESSENGER* and he has taken the misprint in good spirit.

Charles has been promised a follow-up feature on the granoVita/Wellingborough project, once the building gets under way. At that point we will make sure that we get it right!

THE EDITOR

Corrigendum: Laura Prescott's name appeared incorrectly in Messenger 8 July, and the article is reprinted in this issue. The *MESSENGER* editorial and design team would like to thank all news contributors for the care they take when submitting the names of those mentioned in their news reports. We rely on your continued diligence and accuracy in this regard.



Julian Hibbert
Editor

Milk is not good enough

All of us cherish special dates, and I have a few good ones in my memory bank. My baptism date was 24 August, 1968, and I got married on Christmas Eve 1974 – memorable and definitive moments. There are others too, but I'll not bore you with them.

Let me tell you about what happened on 26 December, 1975, something that made me part of a select group: those who have come 'face-to-face' with *Hemachatus haemachatus*.

My wife's family had gathered for the marriage of her older sister, scheduled for the next day, and most of the adults were busy with preparations.

Suddenly there was the squeal of sharp braking from the street, and a woman's shrill voice calling: 'A big snake has just crossed the road into your yard . . . and there are children there!'

Growing up in Southern Africa with its proliferation of large, aggressive and very poisonous snakes, I knew the danger that suddenly faced us. My brother-in-law helped me get the children to safety, after which we went in search of the snake.

I had selected a long piece of 2x2 timber as my weapon, and upon finding the snake I took a swing at it. The timber snapped in two, leaving me facing an angry snake with a short-range weapon!

Undeterred, I struck again and again. The large snake appeared to be stunned and was lying on its back. 'I've got him!' I shouted.

It spat first

I then raised the timber for the *coup de grace*, but it spat first – two streams of venom that struck me in both eyes, causing intense burning and seriously blurred vision.

I became disoriented and stumbled across the lawn. Then someone took my arm and led me into the house. My mother-in-law, accustomed to medical emergencies in remote places, sat me on the floor and poured cold milk into my open eyes!

Milk wasn't enough!

The milk helps to dilute the large quantities of venom that this snake spits, but the family knew that I would need further treatment – *milk wasn't enough!*

The Ring-necked Spitting Cobra, commonly called the 'Rinkhals',

has a neurotoxic venom¹ which, when it enters the eyes, 'causes great pain'.² That pain is unique. It is like burning, coarse sand beneath your eyelids. If left untreated, it can cause a significant deterioration of the victim's eyesight, even blindness.

I was pretty helpless by that stage of the game. I couldn't see clearly. I was in considerable pain. I was drenched in fresh milk – *and milk wasn't enough!*

A pair of eye patches

The family bundled me into a car and sped across town to the hospital, where I received immediate attention, including anti-venom eye drops that seemed more painful than the snake spittle!

I left the hospital with a pair of Johnny Depp eye patches and a caution to keep them on for a few days.

The anti-venom was essential

One thing is clear to me about that 'face-to-face' encounter with *Hemachatus haemachatus*: the milk was *helpful*, but the anti-venom was *essential*.

And I think that is what Jesus was trying to tell Nicodemus in John 3:14-15 (NKJV):

'And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.'

He was drawing on the powerful imagery of Numbers 21, where rebellious Israel is suddenly at the mercy of 'fiery serpents' that slither through the camp on a killing spree.

The desperate Israelites plead urgently with Moses for God to intervene, and he does. Moses is ordered to make a ' . . . fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live.' (Verse 8, NKJV.)

In the middle of this doomed and dying people, God introduces the quintessential³ anti-venom, a bronze serpent, symbolic of the crucified Christ, and tells them to look at it and live! And it works! In fact, it's the only thing that works to counteract the venom of sin, with which every child of Adam is poisoned.

For 6,000-odd years, ever since that fateful encounter with the serpent, humanity has staggered blindly and painfully through history. We have tried our treatments and remedies for sin – the 'DIY' packages – but none of them work. Here and there they may bring a little relief to the sinner's conscience, but they do not cure!

The only cure is to be found, by faith, in the 'lifted up' (crucified) Christ. His saving grace is the only anti-venom . . . and it's ours for the asking.

¹<http://goafrica.about.com/od/africasafariguide/tp/Africansnakes.htm>.

²<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rinkhals>.

³'Ultimate', <http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/quintessential>.

Enhancing Health

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

Knowing your body – part 5b

Nervous system health

In this issue we highlight some disorders affecting nerve tissue, and the factors which help to enhance its function.

A healthy brain functions automatically and effectively. However, when aspects of our wellbeing are compromised, the nervous system can be affected. Here's how:

Diseases and their effects

- Cardiovascular disease – *Stroke and vascular dementia* • Convulsive disorder – *Epilepsy*
- Degenerative diseases (adults) – *Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease* • Developmental disorders – *Cerebral palsy* • Infectious diseases – *AIDS; dementia* • Metabolic diseases – *Gaucher's disease (type 3, affecting the brain)* • Neurogenetic disorders – *Huntington's disease; muscular dystrophy* • Trauma – *Head injury; spinal cord damage.*

Here are some common conditions affecting brain and nervous system function:

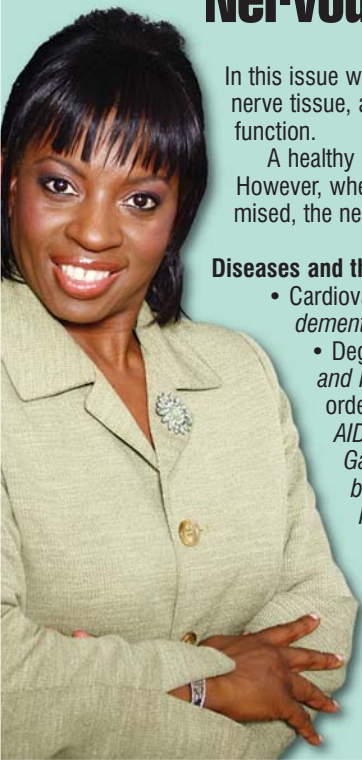
- Subdural haematoma – a collection of blood on the surface of the brain. This is more common in the extremes of age (very young or very old). It can occur as a result of repeated head injury, recurrent falls, anticoagulant medication (blood thinners, including aspirin) and the long-term abuse of alcohol.
- Epilepsy – recurring seizures brought on by abnormal over-activity of the cells of the brain, affecting different regions of the central nervous system. This may result in physical convulsions.
- Brain tumour – abnormal growth that involves the brain itself or its surrounding structures. This can upset vision, balance, co-ordination and cognitive function.
- Parkinson's disease – a degenerative disease leading to progressively worsening neurological symptoms, generally related to movement, with tremors and rigidity.
- Spinal disease – any pathology affecting the spinal column, cord or nerves. This can range from skeletal disorders to primary nervous system disorders resulting from compression of the spinal cord or nerves (as the result of a traumatic injury such as a fall or motor vehicle accident). Degenerative spine disease is used generally to describe time-related changes of the spine due to both normal ageing and wear and tear of the vertebral column. Herniated disc disease is one example.

Health tips

Ensure optimal nutrition: in particular, eat enough foods that contain omega 3. The brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves are coated with a layer of fat, called myelin, which provides insulation to your nervous system. Good fats rich in omega 3 nourish the brain and myelin. Vitamins D and E may protect against some degenerative brain disorders, and B12 enhances memory and assists in slowing the progress of Alzheimer's disease.

Engage in exercises stimulating motor and sensory pathways: writing, drawing, brain games and sensory awareness exercises.

Good health!





ASI-UK sponsors Creation seminar

The *MESSENGER* editor talks to Jim Cunningham, chairman of Adventist Services and Industries (UK), more commonly known as ASI-UK.

Editor: 'Jim, ASI is not as well-known as one would hope. Please tell our readers a bit more about it.'

Jim: 'Julian, ASI was formed in the early 1980s, with the primary aim of sharing Christ in the marketplace. Its membership consists of business people and those from a professional and managerial background who are prepared to give time, effort and resources to support the challenge of effectively sharing the Gospel in a very secularised culture. They also help with other projects, mainly of a humanitarian nature.'

Editor: 'What is your current membership?'

Jim: 'The membership is about seventy-five, including students. The fact that we accept students is unique among the European chapters of ASI. We even have two on our committee.'

'Unfortunately, there is a myth affecting the UK organisation: namely, that it is 'a white, rich man's club'. Both Audrey Balderstone, the previous president, and I have tried to alter this perception by reaching out to the other groups within the Church, but without much success so far. ASI-UK needs the passion and enthusiasm that these other ethnic communities will contribute, and we look forward to applications from them.'

'I have come to realise that a number of our African immigrants come from countries where ASI is very active, and we could benefit from their membership and experience.'

Editor: 'I remember you mentioning that some of the members who contact you about ASI seem to misunderstand the purpose of joining.'

Jim: 'Yes, some who make

enquiries ask what is in it for them! Essentially ASI is a service-oriented association. People join it in order to serve, not receive! There are tangible benefits besides the thrill of doing something for your fellow man, though. For example, our weekend conventions are a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, reflection and spiritual growth.'

Editor: 'What are your objectives for this year?'

Jim: 'Currently, we have three clear, short-term objectives. The first is to increase our membership. Secondly, we want to create a project that will be effective in getting our unique Adventist message across to people generally. Thirdly, we want to help curtail the haemorrhaging of young people from the Church; hence our intention to sponsor a seminar on Creation and evolution at Newbold College on Sabbath, 17 September, from 2pm to 5pm. Young people in particular are invited to this seminar, but all interested parties are welcome, free of charge. Just register your seat by contacting me at: j.cunningham.323@btinternet.com.'

Editor: 'Jim, why this choice of topic for the seminar?'

Jim: 'Julian, for me, one of the most important Bible texts is Genesis 1:27, where it states that we were created in God's image. This compels me to have profound respect, both for God and for my fellow man. It is the rationale behind the Ten Commandments. It answers the questions, 'Who am I?' and 'Why am I here?' It provides the clearest insight into why Christ is obsessed with our salvation.'

'As a headteacher, I served a mainly white, working-class area that suffered from poverty, social dysfunction, substance abuse

SECmedia

Stefan Stanciu is employed by the South England Conference as their media technician, and serves as team leader under Dr Richard de Lisser (SEC Communication director). The following is his synopsis of SECmedia's development and the 'stuff' they do. . . .

SECmedia was set up exactly three years ago after Dr Richard de Lisser, Pastor Sam Neves and I sparked the dream into existence. A small group of us visited *Stimme der Hoffnung*, the German 'Voice of Hope' studio, which set a standard for us, something to which we could aspire. That visit convinced us that anything we did would have to be of the highest quality. The team started forming in 2008 and it has been growing ever since. We are actually part of the SEC Communication department, but our team has spread beyond the conference office. We now have a core team that works closely throughout the year on various projects, assisted by a growing number of volunteers from across the SEC.

The stuff we do:

Our main strengths are live event production and web streaming. We do this either from our well-equipped studio or from our mobile broadcasting unit. More recently we have tried our hand at studio productions and short documentaries. Our team has members with the following skills: iPhone application development; web development; audio & video engineering; graphic & systems design; post-production; script writing and DVD authoring and duplication.

Where to watch:

Our productions can be watched on www.secmedia.org, www.youtube.com/secadventist, and *Revelation TV* (Freesat channel 692).'

Hopes and dreams:

We've seen how God has helped us grow this far and we are reassured of the fact that he is going to stick with us for many years to come! Our dream is to bring fresh, Adventist programming to the UK and we hope for increased collaboration with other Adventist media entities.



'See www.skydream.tv for more details.'

and family breakdown. What those young people wanted more than anything else was respect. Our God provides that for them. We ditch the doctrine of Creation at our peril.'

Editor: 'Tell us a bit more about the two speakers for the event.'

Jim: 'John Walton is Professor of Reactive Chemistry at St Andrew's University and has spoken and written extensively on Creation and evolution. John's

scepticism of evolution is based on his profound scientific insights, and he will share some of these with us.'

'Dr Alistair Noble is the director of the Centre for Intelligent Design, and has organised national conventions and conducted seminars on the topic. He is an excellent communicator with huge experience in this area.'

Editor: 'Jim, thanks for sharing with us, and God bless your preparations.'



Main team members: Darren Allen, Valentin Buliga, Clive Coutet, Andraé Johnson, Karl Johnson, Katie Ramharacksingh, Stefan Stanciu and Laith Wallace



The SECmedia team

Darren Allen: 'I have always been passionate about technology, and I am excited about using my skills in this field to further God's work. I enjoy knowing that what we do affects thousands of people around the world.'

Val Buliga: 'I'm really passionate about media stuff. I see my role as an opportunity to use what I love to do. I'm happy working with SECmedia because it gives me a chance to spread what we have experienced on a small scale to a wider audience. It is the ultimate way of spreading our message in this era.'

Clive Coutet: 'Matthew 24:14 drives me to work for SECmedia, as well as a passion for what I do . . . which is video editing! I love the people I work with as well as the various jobs I do throughout the year – I couldn't work without those two things.'

Andraé Johnson: 'Sound and



electronics have always been part of my life, since watching my dad fix things as a child. I love sound! And it is an honour to serve God and my Church with SECmedia.'

Karl Johnson: 'I have a passion for media ministry, and I love the fact that we're using this media to reach individuals who may never enter the four walls of a church.'

Katie Ramharacksingh: 'I love being creative in an area that counts. As the only female on the SECmedia team, I try to balance out the testosterone while attempting to convey my ideas and creativity to a bunch of technical, analytical and logical men! My favourite role is acting as interviewer; through this I have been able to interview some fabulous people: church members, speakers, musicians – even athletes!'

Laith Wallace: 'Working for SECmedia develops my craft and my ability to learn new skills. My role has become important to me because it is a different way to keep me active in the Church. I love that we get to travel to new places and interact with lots of different people.'

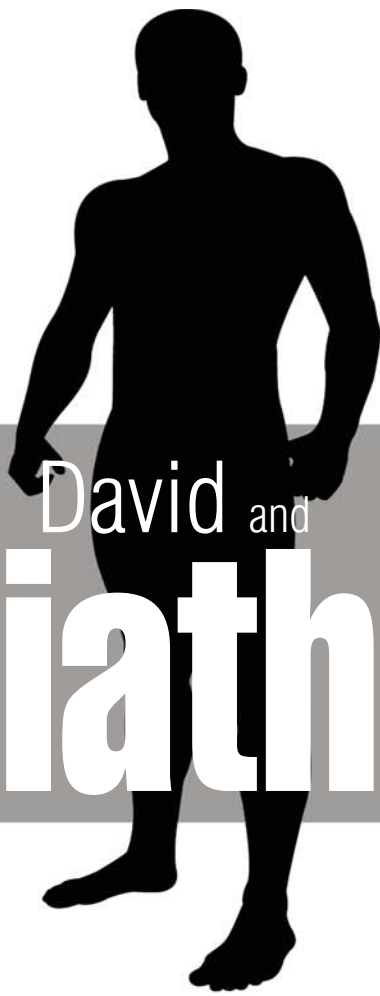
An awesome impact. . . .

Dr Richard de Lisser recently shared these revealing facts with us about the impact of SECmedia.org during the camp meeting period, 12-18 June:

- The site received 24,068 visits, 7,568 unique visitors, and 87,024 page views.
- An average of 600 people watched the main programme each evening, with a further 200 viewing the youth events.
- The website's peak viewing was on Sabbath, with 860 viewers for the main auditorium events and 350 for the youth.



by Kevin Cox*



David and

Goliath

The phrase 'David and Goliath' is often used to describe a situation where someone small or weak

defeats someone intimidating and powerful. Recently a boxer by the name of David has made quite a name for himself by beating a modern-day giant.

David Haye is a boxer who is neither small nor weak; he's six foot three and extremely powerful. However, on 7 November 2009 he sized up against Nikolai Valuev, who dwarfed him in every possible statistic:

Height:
David Haye – 6ft 3ins
Nikolai Valuev – 7ft 2ins

Weight:
David Haye – 15st 8lbs
Nikolai Valuev – 22st 8lbs

Reach (finger tip to finger tip):
David Haye – 81ins
Nikolai Valuev – 88ins

Wins:
David Haye – 22
Nikolai Valuev – 50

Haye stayed with Valuev through each round, and at the final bell was declared the heavy-weight champion of the world. An amazing story, but not quite as amazing as the events recorded in 1 Samuel 17:4-11 (NIV):

'A champion named Goliath, who was from Gath, came out of the Philistine camp. He was over nine feet tall. He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore a bronze coat of scale armour weighing five thousand shekels; on his legs he wore bronze greaves, and a bronze javelin was slung on his back. His spear shaft was like a weaver's rod, and its iron point weighed six hundred shekels. His shield bearer went ahead of him. Goliath stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why do you come out and line up for battle? Am I not a

Philistine, and are you not the servants of Saul? Choose a man and have him come down to me. If he is able to fight and kill me, we will become your subjects; but if I overcome him and kill him, you will become our subjects and serve us." Then the Philistine said, "This day I defy the ranks of Israel! Give me a man and let us fight each other." On hearing the Philistine's words, Saul and all the Israelites were dismayed and terrified.'

Would you have fought Goliath? How would your stats measure up against the giant of Gath?

The contender

Let me introduce you to the contender: David, a talented musician, an accomplished shepherd and a reliable delivery boy. David was not renowned as a giant-slayer. Instead he spent his days playing music, looking after his father's sheep and delivering food to his older brothers in the Israelite army. It was during one of these delivery runs that David heard Goliath insulting the army of Israel. No Israelite was brave enough to fight him, not even King Saul – who, as we know, stood head and shoulders above every man in Israel.

Was David afraid of Goliath? Not according to 1 Samuel 17:32 (NKJV):

'David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; Your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."'

The Israelites lacked bravery, confidence and faith; David had all three in abundance.

Modern day-context

If this had been a modern boxing match, it would not have been allowed to go ahead. Goliath would have qualified for the heavyweight division, while David would have qualified for the super-featherweight division. That would leave at least nine weight divisions between them. Imagine if you will: 'In the blue corner, weighing in at 25 stone, standing nearly 10 feet tall, with 40 wins and 40 knockouts, the champion of the Philistines, Goliath of Gath. And in the red corner, weighing in at 10 stone, standing short of 6 feet, with some limited experience against wildlife, the contender, David of the Israelites.'

God's perspective

From a human perspective, this

fight was already over. David was doomed to fail. However, David's faith helped him look at Goliath from a different perspective. Goliath was a mortal man defying an immortal God, and David knew that those stats did *not* weigh up in Goliath's favour.

If we look at 'giant problems' from a human perspective, they may seem intimidating and impossible. However, if we look at giant problems from God's perspective, we soon realise that giant problems become small problems, and the impossible becomes possible.

Facing giants

Giants can be physical or mental. They can be multiple or singular, and they can come in any shape or size. Sometimes a giant can be a person who intimidates or undermines you. At other times a giant may be a challenge that requires your resources and time. Giants can be disabilities, giants can be financial, and giants can be personal. We all face our battles: the breast-plate of righteousness. Battles against giants in our lives have to be fought with righteousness, prayer and faith.

Remember the size of our God

The Israelites were terrified of Goliath because of his incredible size and strength: but David knew that Goliath was out-classed. Compared to God's size and strength, Goliath looked puny (1 John 4:4, KJV): '... greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.'

It couldn't be clearer: God is greater than anything in this world. A giant-killer must have faith; he (or she) must recognise that God is greater than any giant.

Fight with God's weapons

The next step to overcoming giants is to fight with God's weapons.

David defeated Goliath using the assets that God had given him. We don't need human weapons or human armour to defeat our giants. Let's read what Paul has to say in Ephesians 6:10-12 (NIV):

'Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of

evil in the heavenly realms.'

In short, human weapons and armour are useless. We need to realise that, because our battles are spiritual battles against Satan, we need to fight differently. Most of the giants we face are not human. Paul recognises this in Ephesians 6:13-17:

'... put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.'

David had the best set of armour available to him, and we have the same armour available to us for our battles: the breast-plate of righteousness. Battles against giants in our lives have to be fought with righteousness, prayer and faith.

What does David say in 1 Samuel 17:47 (NIV)?

'All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands.'

When we face our enemies using God's weapons, we are a testimony to the amazing power of God. When you wear the armour of God your giants will fall. Remember, the **second** step to overcoming giants is to **fight with God's weapons**.

Run towards your giants

The final step to overcoming giants is to run towards your giants.

Let's read 1 Samuel 17:48 (NIV):

'As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him.' (Author's emphasis.)

David did not think twice; he accepted the challenge from a man twice his size and ran towards him. David was confident he was going to win this fight. Where did he get that invincible confidence from? The answer is simple. He got it from the same Source that we can get it from today: a

relationship with Jesus Christ.

Nobody challenges a 10-foot war machine to a fight without some experience. Faith doesn't work that way. Faith grows as we trust God to help us overcome everyday challenges. When we take on a challenge and see God's work in our lives, our faith grows. David had seen God work to vanquish lesser adversaries in his life in the form of bears and lions.

If you take nothing else from this article, take this analogy with you:

David knew God could be trusted on the battlefield because he had learned to trust him in the sheep field.

The question is, 'How do we handle the sheep fields in our lives?' Notice Jeremiah 12:5 (GW):

'If you have raced against others on foot, and they have tired you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in open country, how can you live in the jungle along the Jordan River?'

His message was simple. Get the small things right and the big things will follow.

A famous proverb advises that the best form of defence is attack. That is particularly important when fighting giants. The longer you wait, the bigger the giant appears. The sooner you attack, the easier the battle. If you have a difficult phone call to make... do it **now**. If you have an apology to make, do it **now**. If you have friends who have stopped attending church, and you are worried about contacting them... do it **now**.

Whatever the problem – **run** towards your giants.

Conclusion

I don't know what giants you are facing. Maybe a problem at work, an issue with a friend, a problem with finances, or a recurring sin. Whatever it is, however big your giant, God is saying:

'Grab your sling, pick up five stones and stand up for me. I'll take it from there! Trust me. Your "giant" is small fry. This battle is mine!'

*This article is based on a sermon preached recently in Grantham Church by Kevin Cox, who gives credit to *Lessons to Help You Fight Giants* (by Michael Cassara) and the film 'Miracle 2004' for many of his ideas.

with Andrew Puckering



The foreigner

The elders of Bethlehem trembled. Samuel was coming! Nervously, they asked him whether he came in peace (1 Samuel 16:4). One has to wonder why they were so scared – Samuel was well-known in Israel as a prophet (1 Samuel 3:19-4:1). He had been judging Israel since the Ark returned from the Philistines, and following his intercession God defeated the Philistines for Israel (1 Samuel 7:2-14). Samuel went on a regular circuit throughout Israel, judging the people on the LORD's behalf (1 Samuel 8:15-17). Why were the Bethlehemites so afraid of him?

Maybe they feared him because he had denounced King Saul (1 Samuel 15:22-29). Even though Samuel turned to Saul again and allowed the king to worship, the two of them never spoke again until he died (1 Samuel 15:30, 31, 34, 35). That made Samuel afraid of Saul's wrath (1 Samuel 16:2); but why were the Bethlehemites worried? Maybe it was because Samuel had personally hacked a man in pieces before the LORD at Gilgal (1 Samuel 15:32, 33). If you'd done something wrong, then you would not want Samuel to judge you! Did the Bethlehemites have something to hide?

One of the Bethlehemites, Jesse, did. He was the grandson of Boaz, who married Ruth – a Moabitess (Ruth 4:9, 10, 13-17; Matthew 1:5). To put this into context: while the Israelites were in the wilderness, the men had been seduced into following idols by Moabite women, and the LORD sent a plague among the men, and ordered their judges to put them to death (Numbers 25:1-9). For this reason the Israelites were ordered to attack the Midianites (another name for Moabites) (Numbers 25:17, 18; 31:1-11), and Moabites were forbidden from entering the congregation of the LORD, even to the tenth generation (Deuteronomy 23:3-5). One can understand Jesse's apprehension, then, when Judge Samuel walked into town!

Imagine the Bethlehemites' consternation when Samuel invited Jesse to a sacrifice (1 Samuel 16:5). Jesse was the very man whose grandmother was a Moabitess! What was Samuel going to do? Verses 6-13 of 1 Samuel 16 tell us that he anointed the youngest of Jesse's sons to be the next king of Israel.

Was marriage to foreign women (including Moabites) no longer an issue? Actually it was – Moabite women presented a danger to the Israelites two generations later, in Solomon's time (1 Kings 11:1-13), and they remained a live issue centuries later, when the Israelites returned from Babylon (Ezra 9; 10; Nehemiah 13:1-3, 23-27). Why, then, did the LORD show mercy to Ruth's family?

Ruth 1:16, 17 gives us the answer – Ruth publicly acknowledged the LORD as God, adopting the God of the Israelites rather than returning to her own nation's gods, as her sister had done and as Naomi had advised (Ruth 1: 14, 15). We can see the LORD's approval of her consequent marriage to Boaz in Ruth 4:13, where '... the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son' (NKJV). Would he have blessed their union if he disapproved of it? As Romans 2 points out, the Gentiles (non-Jews) often had God's law written in their own hearts, as their conscience will show on the last day. In other words, it was not the race of the Moabites that was the problem, but their religion – a religion Ruth had renounced in favour of the LORD, and for that demonstration of faith God accepted her – a Moabitess – into the family of Christ.

- Who was Boaz's mother?
- What issue did Jesse's grandson face with Moabite women?
- Who gave David his wives? (2 Samuel 12)
- What was Ezra's reaction upon hearing of Israelite intermarriage with pagans?
- What were the political advantages to marrying foreigners? (1 Kings 3)

Readers' gallery Megapixels of creation

Spring collection 1



1



2



6



3



4



7



8



5

... thanks

Well, it took a little while to get going, but you came through in the end. A big thank-you to all who have sent in their photos for Megapixels of creation; I appreciate all your efforts, but please keep them coming – and, if anyone out there has been thinking about it, maybe this crop of fine pictures will inspire you to get involved. The standard has been very good so far.

DAVID BELL

1. Loch Katrine, The Trossachs, Scotland.
2. Grey Squirrel.
3. Fungi.
4. Family of Canada Geese.
5. Tulips.
6. The Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park.
7. Butterfly in my garden.
8. Durdle Door, Dorset.

Yvonne Bauwens, Fuji E550
Dan Trueman, Canon PowerShot Pro1
David Anderson, Nikon D70
Ketyana Camatchee, Nikon D3000
Ryen Ham-Ying, Sony A580
Esti Pujic, Sony DSC-TX10
Felicity James, Fuji S602
Andrew Daryl, Nikon D700

'Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. . . .'

Genesis 1:31 (NKJV)

NEC taskforce in action

Pastor Ian Philpott and two young taskforce workers, Joe Philpott and Aaron McKenzie, have been tirelessly going from door to door throughout Dalton-in-Furness all year.

With the intention of consolidating some of their work, the young men organised a charity concert. They designed and then distributed cards throughout the town, and gave special invitations



to those with whom they are studying. Many turned up for the event and were at ease mixing with church members. The quality of the singing from Yvonne Lee, Kerith Martin, Laura, Nomsa,

Natalie, Anna Burton, Jeharna South and Simon Rose blessed the appreciative audience, and after the collection the local hospice received a cheque for £354.

KEITH HAMILTON

Carterknowle community health project

by Muriel Bussue

In May 1999, the Carterknowle community health project was

launched by Sister Bussue and three other members.



The project included a 'Drop In Centre', targeting the over-55s within both the church and the local community and supported by members from the Carterknowle, Burngreave and Manor churches.

Sadly, about eighteen months ago a serious illness struck Sister Bussue. The weekly meetings continued for a time, but eventually they ceased. On 19 May 2011, Sister Bussue organised a twelfth-birthday celebration meeting, specifically inviting all those who had attended and helped during the previous twelve years. Meetings are now planned to resume, even if they are less frequent.

Does your flame still have a flicker?

Pastor Mike Simpson and his team visited Middlesbrough and Darlington during the weekend of 14-15 May with the ABN film crew, and ignited more than a →

Education day

On Sabbath 2 April, Hyland House School took the programme at Holloway Church for the church's education day. Students took part in choruses, poems and sermonettes. Their theme, 'Every Child Matters', was shown in every performance.

Holloway Church was well-attended by supporting families and friends of the students, and members were impressed and eager to learn more about the school! The Hyland House praise team opened the service with rowdy choruses, and Mrs Abbequaye (headteacher) and the Education leader of Holloway Church welcomed and prayed for visitors. Both teachers and students took part, and sermonettes were rendered by Tyreka Williams, Samara Williams, Tia Maria Fuller, Jared Samuel-Adams and Jordan Abbequaye.

After a lunch provided by the Holloway Education department, the afternoon programme included solos, instrumentals and a presentation of the school.

ANESHA WEST

Bournville's youth retreat

The weekend of 6-8 May saw the Bournville youth in Worcester on a retreat entitled: 'Let's Connect! Get Connected!' Pastor Hush (NEC), Diane Sinclair (NEC), Symon Burgher, Leakey Mbaya, Dionne Brown and Stephen Stewart presented topics based on music, lifestyle and using our spiritual gifts, to name but a few. The youth enjoyed workshops hosted by Pastor Brooks, elders and other church members. Thanks to Cathy Boldeau who wrote the theme song, encouraging youth to stay connected to Christ. Everyone enjoyed the food! The event was organised by the AY leader, Horace Radcliff, and his team. The youth cannot wait for the next retreat!

MURETT MENDEZ



few flickering flames!

Sabbath school started with the singing of Clarissa Lewis and the teaching of Craig Gooden (on how to give a Bible study), before Pastor Simpson gave a sermon titled: 'A basket of summer fruits', based on Amos 8:1-14.

Members were reminded that the fruit is ready and waiting – we need to get outside and start

talking, door-knocking, befriending, feeding and sharing our fruit. We can't keep what God has given us to ourselves any longer. We have the food, so we must feed the hungry. There are people behind doors, just waiting for you to knock.

In the afternoon Craig Gooden continued his talk on how to keep people interested in Bible study, while Clarissa Lewis talked

New president for North England Conference

by Jeff Nicholson, NEC Communication director



Pastor Cyril Sweeney is the new president of the North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The appointment became necessary after the election of former NEC president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, as BUC president.

Pastor Cyril Sweeney has extensive leadership experience, having served previously as NEC Youth, Community Services, and Family Life director. Presently he is a pastor of the Nottingham district of churches.

Edinburgh Church's witness

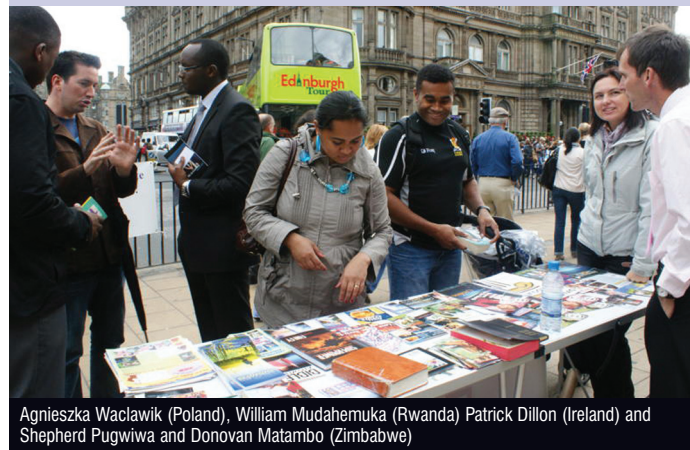
A call for evangelism initiatives at the Scottish Mission's triennial session last year convinced Patrick Dillon that there was an opportunity in the heart of Scotland's capital city. Various organisations displayed their wares on one of Edinburgh's busiest thoroughfares. 'Why shouldn't the Seventh-day Adventist Church be there also?' he reasoned.

Following prolonged prayers, a small team of members opened doors and overcame obstacles. The city council granted permission and the church board approved the budget, banners, books, DVDs and thousands of tracts, to be distributed on Princes Street on Sabbath 12 June. The initiative has continued once every two weeks ever since.

'Engaging the public has been a rich experience for our outreach team', says Patrick. 'People who stop at our table for a chat are often surprised that these Christians who go to church on Saturday not only preach salvation through Jesus but offer a wide selection of Bible information on health, diet, lifestyle, family issues, and the benefits of Sabbath rest. They see a whole lifestyle package for everyone in a Church that has no equal in this field.'

The Adventist table display is becoming a familiar sight in the city centre. Relations are being established with other Christian groups, and members can answer many questions about our beliefs. 'A new confidence is showing in our church, with every arm growing, empowered through Christ by a sense of what is possible', Patrick says.

COMMUNICATION DEPT



Agnieszka Wacławik (Poland), William Mudahemuka (Rwanda) Patrick Dillon (Ireland) and Shepherd Pugiwiwa and Donovan Matambo (Zimbabwe)

about effective door-to-door evangelism.

On Sunday the programme continued at Darlington Church, and members paired off to practise Craig Gooden's Bible study techniques.

After hearing Clarissa Lewis talk on personal testimonies,

some of the members shared their own stories before lunch with Marie Steward.

God calls his people from all backgrounds to feed his children. What are you prepared to offer? Is your flame a flicker or a lighthouse?

JUDY, MIDDLESBROUGH CHURCH



Left to right: Davina Sly, Jacqueline Kelly, Catherine Sly, Natasha Cox and Philip Anderson

Doing nothing is not an option

This was the challenge presented to Grantham Church at the January TGIF (Thank God It's Friday) meeting.

The theme of the programme was Christian action, specifically raising funds for ADRA.

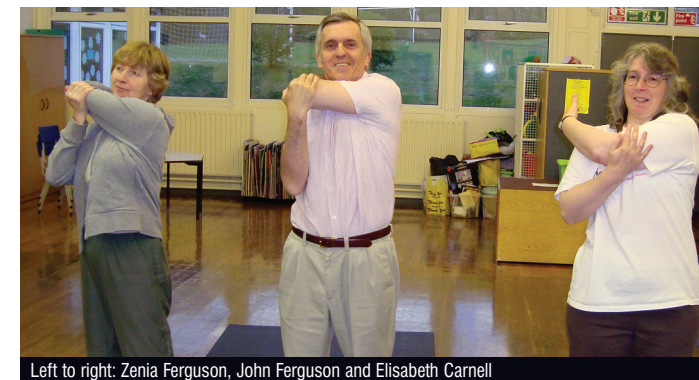
Natasha Cox asked members to choose their favourite hymns and choruses, the musicians practised and a music night was arranged. Elisabeth Carnell and friends decided to slim for ADRA and formed the Slimfit Club. For ten weeks the group met to encourage each other, weigh in and exercise. Kristina Hammond,

a physiotherapist, put together an exercise sequence, and before long the group was 'losing lbs for £s'. Pam Davies decided to prepare two delicious homemade soups with bread rolls for a 'poor man's supper'.

For all of these events, invitations were extended to the wider community to attend – and a number of visitors did so gladly!

Door-to-door collection and personal giving were not neglected, but the fundraising activities generated a fun opportunity to witness using spiritual gifts.

ELISABETH CARNELL



Left to right: Zenia Ferguson, John Ferguson and Elisabeth Carnell



Stanborough School is seeking to fill the following position for September 2011:

Boarding School Preceptor (Housemaster of Stanborough Boarding School)

The school is seeking to recruit a supportive, caring, friendly and experienced Preceptor to care for Stanborough School's boarders aged 10-18 (KS3, KS4 and IB). This is a senior position, and the post-holder will be responsible for the smooth operation of the boarding school. Preference will be given to pastors or individuals who possess a background in social work, counselling or youth work. Stanborough School is committed to safer recruitment and the protection of children. Please email shall@spsch.org in order to obtain an application pack. The closing date for applications is **Sunday 10 August 2011**.

Tel: +44(0)1923 673268.

SHANNELLE HALL

Kilkenny church company explodes

Ladislav Billy and his wife Juieta now know why God led them from the Czech Republic to Ireland – in 2007 Evelyn Wilson, the leader of the company in Kilkenny, knocked on their door with literature and DVDs. A few months later, Evelyn suggested Bible studies, and they committed themselves to Jesus in baptism on 30 April 2011! They are already giving Bible studies to their friends.

Four members of the Sudanese community were also baptised – Marcellina Labwa began reading the Bible when she arrived in Ireland, and, in Bible studies with Evelyn, Marcellina's granddaughter would translate – she also requested baptism, and in total four Sudanese were baptised with Ladislav Billy and Juieta by Pastor Ben Pontanas at the Ballinacrow church in County Wicklow.

EVELYN WILSON



And wo(men) gathered . . .

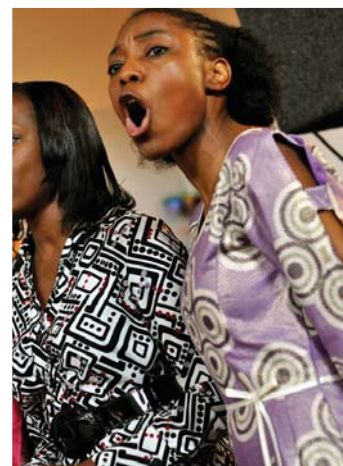
Mary McFarlane, Louise Clarke, Debbie St Cyr and Marashaline Matthews formed a 'loose women' panel for the first SEC Area 7 women's day of fellowship at High Town Methodist Church in Luton on Sabbath, 30 April. More than 250 women and men came together for a lesson synopsis from visiting speaker Elder Eric Salisbury from Seattle,

a mission spotlight from two local women (Casena talked about becoming a newly baptised Adventist and Lorraine talked about starting to attend the Adventist Church and enjoying Bible studies), an anointing service by Elders Gail Masondo, Mike Johnson and Eric Salisbury, and a message from Elder Gail Masondo, who spoke from Luke 8:1-3 about Mary Magdalene.

The praise team, the Luton Women's Choir and others sang from the heart, and in the afternoon programme Sue O'Driscoll, a specialised midwife from the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, gave a talk about AIDS and HIV.

Photos from the day can be viewed at: <http://www.adventistpictures.org.uk/gallery/2001/WomenDOF/index.php>.

SANDRA GOLDING



Left to right: Weiling Tang, Genevieve Haynes, Laura Prescott and Tarrick Haynes, flanked by Dr Richard de Lisser and Pastor Lorance Johnson. Back row are Aberdeen and Inverness elders.

Baptism in Aberdeen

On Sabbath 23 April the Aberdeen congregation witnessed the baptism of Genevieve Haynes (who had once walked with God but fell away, and had reached the point of suicide prior to finding God again), Tarrick Haynes (Genevieve's son), Weiling Tang (who came from a non-Christian background in China), and Laura Prescott (who had been searching for a church which followed the Bible when she contacted an Adventist website which connected her with the group in Inverness).

Pastor Lorance Johnson immersed each of the candidates. The short sermon on Psalm 23 was given by the visiting pastor, Dr Richard de Lisser.

JANICE SAVIZON

Women of Spirit

'Women of Spirit, Not Easily Broken' was the theme for the women's empowerment conference held on Sunday, 1 May at The Advent Centre, organised by Malika Bediako (SEC Women's Ministries director). More than ninety women arrived for a day that included devotional and praise sessions, a debate and discussion time with artist Elder Eric Salisbury (from the USA), a lecture from Life in Recovery counsellor and author, Gail Masondo, and a talk from Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries director. SANDRA GOLDING



'Come Dine With Me'

This was the name of the district revival series for the West Bromwich, Breath of Life and Great Barr churches that occurred from 7 to 14 May, with Pastors Carlton and Patricia Douglas. Visitors were treated with preaching on the biblical feasts and the marriage supper of the Lamb, followed by portions of fruits provided on various nights.

The climax of the revival was the baptism of Tina Mtawali and Louise Powell, who celebrated with an agape feast!

JUANITA CRAWFORD



Tina and Louise in centre with Pastor Carlton Douglas, Elder E. Windrass and M. Moyo.

Baptism of the Sens

Sabbath 19 March was a joyful occasion at the Carmarthen church as Natalie and Aaron Sen committed their lives to Christ in baptism.

On Sabbath the baptistry's heating was a little too efficient, and the Sanctuary resembled a Turkish bath; but by the end of Sabbath School things had returned to normal.

This was only the second baptism at the Carmarthen church; we wish them every blessing in Christ.

PETER MERTENS

Annual Appeal at Erdington



Erdington members collected £4,952.44 for ADRA this year, of which Don Parker collected £2,451.93. The young people, led by the Pathfinders club, collected £113.51. Members were especially pleased when local resident Ms Alison Singer gave birth to Ruby just a few hours after donating! Iris Thompson wishes to congratulate and thank all members who took part in this year's ADRA Annual Appeal.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG



Natalie and Aaron Sen committed their lives to Christ in baptism.

Is this your season?

The Greenwich Women's Ministry committee led a week of revival called 'Seasons of a woman's life' with Women's Ministry director Heather-Dawn Small from Sabbath 23 April. Heather Haworth (BUC), Malika Bediako (SEC) and Lesego Motlogelwa (Greenwich) were also present.

Shirley Grant, Kimmiesha Brown and other praise team members sang praises, and the health talks and free health checks were led by Eunice Whyte.

The churches that hosted the evenings included Croydon, Lewisham, Brixton, Welling and Plumstead. The Greenwich Women's Ministry committee linked up with the Abu Dhabi Women's Ministry department and the Women's Ministry director (Middle East Union), to aid women that live in Abu Dhabi.

TIMON FERMIN



Heather-Dawn Small, Malika Bediako, Lesego Motlogelwa, Cheryl Mamaril and Alison Richardson.

Induction and presentation

On Sabbath 30 April at the Great Brickkiln church, the Pathfinders, Eager Beavers and Adventurers carried out their induction ceremony under the leadership of Karen Campbell and Helderberg Jackson.

The children vowed to let their spiritual light shine as a testimony to others. The newly appointed pathfinders joined the rest in reciting their pledges to God's service.

On the Thirteenth Sabbath, 25 June, children at the Great Brickkiln Street church presented the adult Sabbath School mission report. Each child displayed letters of the alphabet to represent various areas in Russia that are active with missionary work.

A Power Point presentation also showed supportive information, just in case! All the children did very well.

DELVA CAMPBELL



Prayer and faith

The Thames Valley Youth Federation's third annual prayer and faith conference took place during February at Alton Castle, in Staffordshire. The guest speaker was Dr Eric Walsh, from Loma Linda (USA). It was attended by youth from across Area 5, as well as from the local communities.

Dr Walsh spoke about 'How to Know God's Will'. Workshops included 'Finance', 'Health' and 'Relationships'. Cricket, rounders, hiking and football were all on the cards, and staff were able to help students revise.

On the last night, the planned

social was postponed, and the leaders just took a back seat as the youth kept on coming down to testify of the goodness of God, and how God has changed their lives. More than 120 youth attended, and twenty of them responded to Dr Walsh's appeal; seventeen are currently preparing for baptism in their local churches.

The youth thanked Pastor Patrick Johnson, Pastor Sam Ngui, Helen Opoku-Mensah and all the staff for making the conference possible. Most of all they thank God!

JULIAN THOMPSON



Stanborough Press
Sunday 11 September
8.30am-4.30pm

OPEN DAY
2011

Plan to attend – start saving for all those good books and that great music.

Guest speaker for the day will be Dr Clement A. Murray, 3ABN production manager and the producer of *3ABN Today*. He is the author of three books and has recorded his own music CD, *In His Time*, under the Chapel Record label.

There will also be a seminar on Christian family life by UK-raised Paul Rayne, who co-hosts the new 3ABN programme, *Happy the Home*. He and his wife, Carolyn, are the authors of *The Connected Family*.

Don't miss this great Adventist family event at The Stanborough Press Ltd, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL.



Leicester Central youth day

On 21 May Leicester Central Church hosted a youth day themed on: 'God's Imminent Return . . . Are YOU Ready?' The day was aimed at helping young people in the church to reflect on reaching the standard that Jesus sets for young Christian followers.

The speaker was Baraka Butoke, a young man from Reading, studying Theology at Newbold College. He delivered a sermon entitled '1 or 99', encouraging Adventists to take on the Great Commission and be more proactive, just as Jesus was, mingling within our communities, just as Jesus ate and drank with the publican: to reach them where they are, instead of sitting in church preaching to ourselves.

Visitors from Sheffield, Chelmsford, Southampton, Oxford and Birmingham enjoyed the lunch and socialised with both the church and the non-church.

The afternoon concert saw music from Simplicity, Peter Tabornal, Adewale, The Wellingborough Adventist Youth Choir and God's Project. The AYS programme asked how to seek the Lord and find him. Leicester Central hopes to have similar events again very soon.

THENJIWE BANDA

Teens' day at Holloway

On 21 May the youth of the Holloway church (all under 18) offered the Sabbath services under the theme of 'Transformation'.

'Teens' Praise and Rumbi and Co Mime expressed their love through creativity, and the children's story became a skit about Dr J. (Jesus) and Dr S. (the devil).

Nile Phillip, Danelle Cuffie, Ronnel Johnson and Shamaine King offered the sermonettes.

ANESHA WEST



obituary



Pearl Angela Barham (1943-2011) d. 21 April.

Pearl was born on 18 January 1943, into the Adventist home of Frank and Elsie Smith, near Wimbledon. She attended the small church school there,

before transferring to Stanborough Park School in Watford when her father accepted employment at the Granose Food Factory.

She then went to Newbold College to train as a Bible instructor, canvassing in the summer months and working at the Stanborough Press, as well as the Stanborough Hydro, where she developed her lifelong passion for helping others. Consequently, she enrolled at Edgware General Hospital as a nursing student and completed her training in 1965.

On 9 July of that same year, Pearl was married in the Stanborough Park church, by Pastor Charles Watson, to Nigel Barham, who

had graduated from London University with a Theology degree. They soon moved to America, where she remained for most of her life, pursuing her nursing career. She started in Michigan while her husband attended Andrews University, then continued nursing in Canada when he taught at Kingsway College, and finally in Huntsville, Alabama, where he has been a history professor at Oakwood University for the past forty-three years.

On 3 February 1981, her elder sister Ann and husband Don Lale were murdered in Zimbabwe while serving as missionaries. Their two teenage boys, Timothy and Andrew, went to live in Huntsville with Pearl and Nigel, and continued their Christian education at Southern University.

Pearl was a very active church member during her lifetime, singing in the choir, participating at prayer meetings and helping out in the children's Sabbath School, as well as serving as the Women's Ministry leader and head deaconess. She also went on two mission trips, to Nicaragua and Costa Rica, where she used her nursing and witnessing skills.



Pastor Peter Stearman

Congratulations to Pastor Peter Stearman, who turned 90 on 11 May. He and his wife, Vera, celebrated their honeymoon in 1944 with a sea voyage escorted by warships – in the middle of World War Two! Peter has served as a missionary in West Africa, the SEC, Stanborough Park Church, Lewisham and Bromley in England, the Welsh Mission, and Enniskillen in Northern Ireland.

PAUL BELLAMY

Music day

Heartfelt praise sounded throughout Holloway Church on Sabbath 14 May, as Sister Markham reminded members and visitors of the importance of praise. The praise team, band and mass choir filled the church with singing, as did Creesha Walkinshaw, Audrey Richards, Anthea Davis and Ian Johnson. Anthea, in a sermon called 'Glory to Your Name', explained the origin and power of music.

Born Again Promotions held their first concert in the evening.

ANESHA WEST



Gospel workers' training

The Gospel workers' training weekend was conducted by Pastor Colin Woodford at Burngreave Church, Sheffield, from 15 to 17 April. Pastor Woodford is currently the pastor of Middlesborough, Darlington and Durham, and also the Area 1 co-ordinator.

The training was meant to teach church members the technique of giving Bible studies in homes and in public places. Some of the prominent topics

Unfortunately, Pearl contracted a serious lung disease which prevented her from leaving home, where she died on 21 April. A well-attended memorial service was held in Huntsville Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, officiated by Pastor Chris Barr. Pearl was a kind, loving Christian wife and mother who made many friends at work and in the Church. She will be greatly missed by her husband Nigel, her daughters Adrienne and Denise, her sister Christine, her five grandchildren and many other family members and friends.

NIGEL BARHAM



Minnetta Gwendoline Owen (née Barnes) (1912-2011) d. 25 April.

Minnetta passed away on 25 April following a short illness, aged 99 years. Born into an Adventist family –

her mother being a founder member of the Southampton church – Minnetta remained firm in her love for Jesus all her life. She served God and the Church, working as a nurse and a radiographer in the Sanatorium at Stanborough Park, and for many years in the Adventist Hospital at Denver, Colorado. She retired to New Zealand in 1973 when she married Idris Owen, but later moved back to Britain to be near family; and most recently attended Carmarthen Church in Wales. A gentle, loving person, Minnetta will be missed by family and friends; but we know her faith and trust in God was strong, and we look forward to seeing her on the Resurrection morning.

JON MEREDITH

Nellie Wells (1914-2011) d. 29 April.

Nellie Wells, the most senior member of the Exeter church, was born in 1914 along with her twin sister. They were abandoned at birth, and were brought up in a children's home in London until the age of 14.

Nellie was trained in domestic service and was renowned for her expert ironing. She never married, but had family contacts through her sister's family. Nellie worked hard throughout her life but always appeared content. She was kind to others and maintained a simple lifestyle. During the outreach ministry of Pastor Leclair Litchfield and his wife Shelly in the seventies, Nellie made acquaintance with the Exeter Seventh-day Adventist church. They asked Sister Irene Stockley to befriend her and, as a result, Nellie spent many happy hours at Irene's home. She often helped out with the ironing when Irene was busy caring for her sick husband. For a number of years, Nellie faithfully attended church and was eventually baptised by Pastor Ron Davey on 7 January 1989, to the delight of the members.

The church family remembers Nellie as a cheerful lady who loved nature, and cats in particular, as visitors to her flat would discover when they saw the numerous pictures of cats following a short illness, aged 99 years. Born into an Adventist family – her mother being a founder member of the Southampton church – Minnetta remained firm in her love for Jesus all her life. She served God and the Church, working as a nurse and a radiographer in the Sanatorium at Stanborough Park, and for many years in the Adventist Hospital at Denver, Colorado. She retired to New Zealand in 1973 when she married Idris Owen, but later moved back to Britain to be near family; and most recently attended Carmarthen Church in Wales. A gentle, loving person, Minnetta will be missed by family and friends; but we know her faith and trust in God was strong, and we look forward to seeing her on the Resurrection morning.

Her funeral service, conducted by Pastor Kenneth Clothier, was held at the Exeter church on 27 May. Nellie's niece, Mary, and Mary's son, Mark, had travelled from Portsmouth to mourn the loss of their aunt. In the eulogy, Stella Jeffery included their memories of 'Aunt Nellie', as well as those of Mary's twin brother, David, who was unable to attend the service. Stella concluded with the thought that, when Jesus returns, Nellie will have the best fellowship lunch ever in God's banqueting house.

Pastor Clothier read verses from 1 Corinthians 15, and in his address emphasised the certainty of the Resurrection for those who fall asleep in Jesus, and stressed the saving power of Jesus through his death and resurrection.

STELLA JEFFERY

commented upon were Baptism, Death, Christ's Second Coming and the Sabbath; reviving, edifying and equipping the church for ministry.

ROSEMARY BLENMAN

Deacon ordained

On 14 May, at the Great Brickkiln Street church, Claude Osbourne was ordained as a deacon by Pastor Steve Palmer. He has been an asset to the church through his zeal and committed service for Christ.

D. M. CAMPBELL



Inspirational giving

Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt's two boys gave him 17 pence to support the recent ADRA-UK cycle ride from London to Paris on 20 July.

Recalling the widow's two mites, *MESSINGER* staff were reminded that no amount is too small to make a difference for Christ! See where your donations are used at: www.adrauk.org.

PASTOR RASHFORD-HEWITT AND MESSENGER STAFF



Prayer Explosion!
LETS Prayer Harvest Ministries
Retreat – gathering of prayer groups
 18-21 August 2011
 Conference Aston, Aston University,
 Birmingham, B4 7ET

Together with Pastor S. Telemaque
 (Inter-America Division)
 and Pastor D. Blake (NY, USA)

For a registration form,
 tel: 01902 751715,
 or email: carnationdar@yahoo.com.

For further enquiries,
 tel: 07535618841,
 or email: phministries@talktalk.net.

For revival, the answer is prayer!



New book of the week
Why we need Rest
Getting Through Grief

Both by Richard J. B. Willis

Sometimes we need a comforting shoulder to lean on in difficult moments of grief – other times we just need to take a break. Whichever of these you need, you can find relief in these two books by our former BUC Health director.

Contact ABC Sales on
01476 539900
 to purchase your copy
 at £1.99 each plus p&p.

Micklefield Community launches second church-plant

On the Sabbath morning of 2 April the seeds of a new church-plant were sown in Chesham, a town in the heart of the Chess Valley which is also the final, northernmost stop on the Metropolitan Line of the London Underground.

The mission story for the day told of the current outreach in Chesham and the history of Christianity in the town from the time of the Reformation to the first Adventist presence there.

The men's group from Micklefield sang a song entitled, 'Yes I Know', which told of the sacrifice Jesus made for each sinner and the need for us all to tell others of this. Pastor Felix McPherson, who had returned to the High Wycombe district after a thirty-year absence, used Isaiah 6 for his message. He spoke of the need to see others saved in God's Kingdom: to make this a reality we need to leave our comfort zones and witness in new places.

RAJIV GILL



SEC media
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DARK ROOM
 EVERY THURSDAY
 8:30PM

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Sunday 28 August, 5pm-10pm

Balham Seventh-day Adventist Church,
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Advent Centre

Mondays & Wednesdays, 6.30pm-8.30pm
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Messenger

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Sunset

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	Lon	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
AUG 5	8.43	8.55	8.52	9.13	9.17
12	8.30	8.42	8.38	8.57	9.03
19	8.16	8.28	8.24	8.41	8.47
26	8.01	8.13	8.08	8.21	8.31

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