

# Messenger

News to the churches • 2 September 2011 • Volume 116 • 19

## The Horn of Africa drought is the WORST in sixty years

### An ADRA International report

*'There is no food to take care of our needs and water is scarce',* says Fatima, with tears streaming down her face. She is one of the thousands of displaced people flocking to camps for food, water, and hope.

More than 5 million children are now close to starvation in the Horn of Africa. The worst drought in sixty years is drying up water points and destroying crops. Food prices are soaring, making it impossible for parents to buy even what little food is available for their children.

There are already 10 million people in crisis in Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Djibouti. The number is increasing on a daily basis, with no hope of respite until 2012. ADRA is already supplying food, water, shelter, and livestock feed.

Fatima is a 39-year-old widow and mother of eleven children. She lives in eastern Kenya, on the border of Somalia. In 2005 Fatima's family was very wealthy by Somali standards.



Her husband, Alkadir, had camels, sheep, cattle, goats and donkeys, but a severe drought struck and he lost three quarters of his flock.

*'My husband and his friend decided that they wouldn't wait until their entire flock was gone, so they crossed the Ethiopian border in search of pastures and water – only to meet a worse situation there. The remaining livestock died, and they came back with just their walking sticks.'*

With tears streaming down her sun-scorched cheeks she continued, *'When my husband came back, he fell into a severe depression that later developed into a stroke, and after five years of struggle he died. After his death, his friends and relatives gave five camels, ten cattle, thirty goats, twenty sheep and five donkeys to my children and I. We struggled with life on our own . . . and we managed to recover almost a quarter of the flock we used to have. However, as fate would have it, the same "Satan" has*

*mercilessly struck again. . . .'*

Fatima then breaks into an anguished cry of hopelessness, and through heavy sobs says, *'We have lost half of our flock, we have no means to take care of them, there is no food to take care of our needs, and water is scarce.'*

Fatima is single-handedly taking care of her children. Currently they are blessed if they have one meal a day, and they often go without food for days at a time. She sent her dwindling livestock to Ethiopia in search of pasture and water. Now she doesn't even have a goat to sell for food.

ADRA is providing food, water, and emergency non-food items to families like Fatima's. You can help now by giving a gift that will save lives in countries like Kenya, Somalia and Uganda. For more information visit: [www.adra.org.uk](http://www.adra.org.uk).

ADRA accepts donations to the ADRA-UK Horn of Africa Appeal:

By SMS: text 'ADRA04 £10' to 70070 to donate to ADRA-UK online;

With BT MyDonate: <http://mydonate.bt.com/events/adrauk/51335>.

One hundred percent of your donations made by SMS or via BT MyDonate will be used for the relief effort. **Make a difference today!**

### Famine facts

(Taken from various Reliefweb reports.)

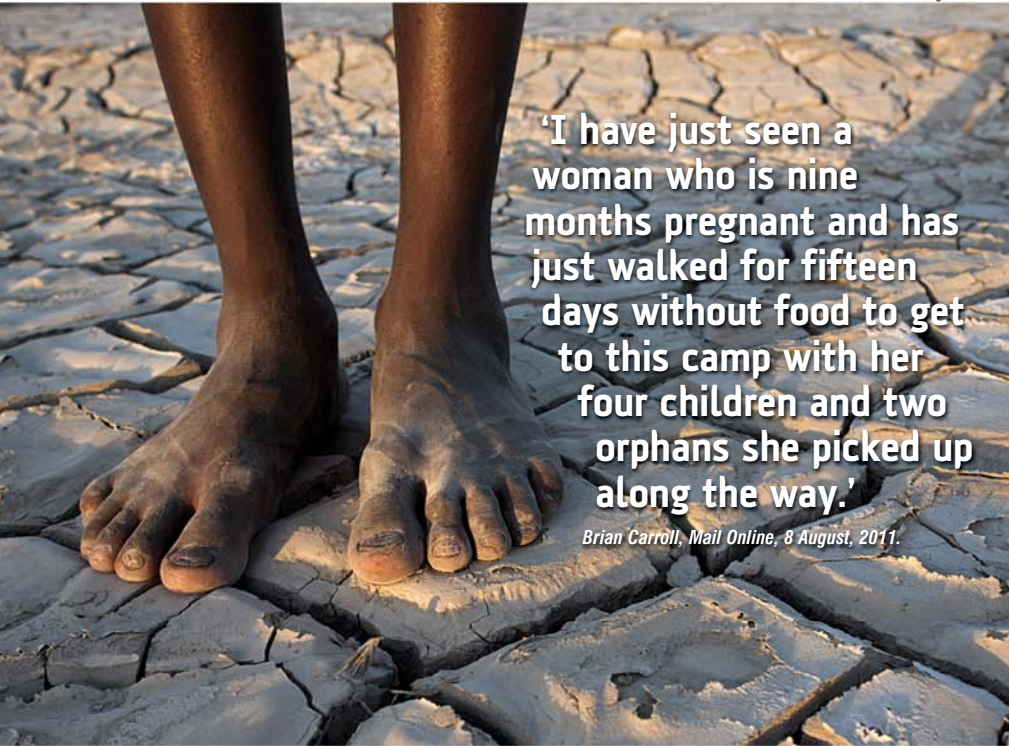
- The Dadaab camp (Kenya) currently holds more than 400,000 famine refugees – a population similar to that of the Metropolitan borough of Liverpool (434,900)\*
- During July the camp received 40,400 new arrivals – 1,303 per day – the highest monthly intake in its twenty-year history.
- An estimated 100,000 'displaced people' moved into Mogadishu during June and July because of the drought and famine.
- Relief organisations are only reaching about 20% of the 2.8 million people in urgent need of food aid in southern Somalia.

\*[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_English\\_districts\\_by\\_population](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_English_districts_by_population) (Office for National Statistics, 2008 mid-year estimate)

**Please consider helping now!** 'With over twelve million people in need of immediate humanitarian assistance in the Horn of Africa, we have a Christian and moral obligation to help. We cannot ignore the plight of the people in this part of Africa. Your financial help will save lives!'

BERT R. SMIT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, ADRA-UK

Andrew McConnell/Robert Harding/Rex Features



**'I have just seen a woman who is nine months pregnant and has just walked for fifteen days without food to get to this camp with her four children and two orphans she picked up along the way.'**

Brian Carroll, Mail Online, 8 August, 2011.

**It is possible!**

Dear Editor  
 President Ian Sweeney's inaugural address to the BUC, published in *MESSENGER* 22 July, gives us excellent encouragement to share the Gospel – and I have some more encouraging news. Pastor Sweeney mentioned that some naysayers may say the task of each Adventist reaching out to 1,958 persons 'appears impossible', at least on the surface – but by God's grace I put 200 tracts through letter-boxes in Grantham last Sabbath, and it took me less than two hours. If each member in the UK did the same for ten weeks, we could easily reach out to every single person in the British Isles in less than three months!  
 The tracts I used came in packs of 100, available for £3.50 from the ABC – it would cost only £70 to contact 2,000 homes. Maybe we could make this a BUC Evangelism initiative, similar to 'The Power of 31' last year!

A. P.

**Are you ready for the Power of 32,000?**

Sabbath, 24 September 2011 is the planned distribution day.  
 Contact your local conference or mission Personal Ministries department for more details.

**Megapixels of creation**

Dear David Bell,  
 Just a quick word to say thank you! The culmination of the 'Megapixels of creation (spring collection)' in *MESSENGER* 5 August is just superb!

Without exception, each picture brilliantly praises God's creative genius.

It's difficult to pick out any favourites, as the quality is so outstanding. I absolutely adore the cheeky squirrel, the family of geese, the amazing colours of the Savill Garden and, of course, Loch Katrine, Scotland and Durdle Door, Dorset. You do realise that I shall have to visit Savill Garden, the Trossachs and

Dorset, now that you have whet my appetite?

ANGELA HUNTER

Praise indeed, which can only go to the photographers in question. The standards have certainly been high, which made my choices for the spread all the more difficult. By now, you will have seen the 'Spring collection 2' in *MESSENGER* 18 (19 August). Equally as good. But this is not the end of Megapixels. Please get busy with your camera and send me your summer photography to: [dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk](mailto:dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk).

DAVID BELL, MAGAZINE DESIGNER.

**Megapixels of creation**

So far, so good. But now I want your summer photos. Send me your hi-res pictures by 23 September for the next spread of 'Megapixels of creation'. Please email me at [dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk](mailto:dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk). If you have multiple large files to send, use: [www.mailbigfile.com](http://www.mailbigfile.com).  
 DAVID BELL

**Enhancing Health**

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

**Knowing your body – part 6b**  
**Warning signs (continued)**  
 Sharon Platt-McDonald

Your body's systems have several ways to alert you to danger and the need for treatment or lifestyle change. For example, a skin rash may indicate an allergic reaction to something; and vomiting may indicate the presence of infection, poison or an underlying disease.

Here are two areas that warrant our attention.

**Pain**

Whenever we experience pain, it's helpful to ask ourselves: 'What is my pain trying to tell me?' Pain is the body's way of telling us there is something wrong, so acute pain usually indicates a new injury (for example, we fall and hurt

ourselves) or the onset of an illness (for example, gastroenteritis). Our nervous system sends a pain message to the brain alerting us and prompting us to respond. Acute pain will then subside once the cause of the pain has been treated.

Chronic pain is pain that lingers long after the injury or initial diagnosis. It could be associated with an old injury, the deterioration of an existing condition, or wear and tear associated with ageing.

**Medication reaction**

All medication may cause side effects. While some side effects are common and present little risk, others can be serious. The following is worth remembering:

- When given a new prescription, always read the leaflet thoroughly, taking careful note of the side effects and interactions.
- Note the side effects which require immediate attention, and take prompt action if they occur.
- Notice any changes to your body – for example, skin changes, altered sleeping patterns, or changes in your levels of concentration or mood.
- If you have been on long-term medication, read the leaflet to see whether you have developed any of the side effects associated with such use.
- Always report any changes to a health practitioner.

Interaction between multiple medications can also occur. Therefore, if you are taking more than one medication, you need to keep track of the potential side effects of each, as well as be alert to the possibility that the drugs could interact with each other to create another level of problems.

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle, which includes the right balance of the eight natural doctors (nutrition, exercise, water, sunlight, temperance, air, rest and trust in God), will definitely help to enhance your body's resilience.

**Good health!**



**Julian Hibbert**  
 Editor

**Time to affirm**

The non-conformist was back for more!

He could have been chatting up one of the many pretty faces at the camp, or using his shirt for its intended purpose, football. But he chose to worship and listen to the Word.

**Scene three**

I don't often get to worship in my own church, but the Sabbaths I do are usually very special. Do you know why? Because of four young people, who form the major part of a brass and wind ensemble that leads our singing most weeks.

When they perform, our worship is transformed.

Not only do they add vigour and enthusiasm to our singing, but they also play a postlude after the benediction – an outburst of musical praise that always keeps us willingly and reverently trapped in our seats a little longer!

**What do these scenes say?**

They drive home the intrinsic value of our Adventist youth, illustrating some of the ways in which they enrich our congregational life. They tell me not to become fixated and angry about the looting 'hoodies' out there, but rather to give a regular thank offering for the fantastic youth that we have in our churches today.

I listened with interest to a BBC video clip, filmed on 9 August. It contained a brief statement by Jane Ellison, Conservative MP for Clapham, which ended with these stern words for the parents of her constituency: if you find any stolen goods brought home by your children, 'march them to the police station . . . and start explaining to them the difference between right and wrong'!

Aren't we fortunate that most of our youth know the difference between basic 'right and wrong'; that they generally respect the Ten Commandments; but, most importantly, that most of them love Jesus and want to live and act like him! Isn't this something to rejoice over?

**A reminder to affirm**

Perhaps these sad August events are a reminder for us to openly affirm our precious youth for their value, for their loyalty to God and his principles under difficult circumstances, and for the pure joy they bring into our lives each week.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-14644134>, 'MP: "March your children to the police station"', 9 August, 2011.



**Here's how . . .**

**Things that affirm our youth:**

- Learn their names and greet as many as you can each Sabbath.
- Give them a **practical** part in the life of the congregation (reading Scripture, collecting offerings, operating the AV systems, and so on).
- Don't just ask them once and forget them – they will think they failed!
- Encourage them to contribute to the services in music, song, drama, personal testimony and preaching.
- Plan after-church activities **with them**, full of things they can identify with and enjoy.
- Hold a youth celebration Sabbath for the older members to affirm them and the role they play.
- Hold a banquet for them, affirming that it is good to have them around.
- Sponsor them to attend training activities and camps. Remember: **camps change lives!**
- Work with them to **find and fund** some exciting and practical community or mission project in which they can work for the less advantaged.
- Impose a **ban on youth criticism in your church\*** – direct concerns about youth to them via assigned mentors.

\*This is not meant to restrict parents in their normal parenting responsibilities.

# Well-oiled machine or the Body of Christ?



by David Marshall

A wounded German soldier was sent to a Berlin military hospital for treatment. He checked in at reception and was pointed to the right of the foyer where he had the choice of two doors: 'For the slightly wounded' and 'For the seriously wounded'. He still had the use of his legs, so he went for the first door.

Beyond that was a long corridor, and at the end of it he had another choice of doors: 'Officers only' and 'Other ranks'. He went through the second door and down another long corridor that ended – you guessed! – with another choice of doors. This time: 'Party members' or 'Non-party members'. He went through the latter – and suddenly he was back on the street.

Nearby was a tram stop. He caught a tram to the Berlin suburb where his mother lived. At home his mother asked, 'How'd you get on at the hospital, son?'

'To tell the truth, they didn't do a thing for me,' the soldier replied, before adding, 'but you should see their superb organisation!'

Can Church be a bit like that? Can the operation of 'the well-oiled machine' become an end in itself? Are we apt to forget what the machine is for?

The New Testament word-picture for the Church is not a 'well-oiled machine' but 'the Body of Christ'. When Jesus ascended to his Father, he left a visible Body on Earth. Paul explains at some length how it works and what it's for, four times.<sup>1</sup>

The Church is what is visible of Christ in the world, and three functions are assigned to it:

- The Church, following baptism (1 Corinthians 12:13), is the fellowship in which we grow and mature spiritually (Ephesians 4:13). It must, therefore, be a fellowship *conducive* to spiritual growth.
- The Church must be an environment in which the gifts of

its members are identified and co-ordinated 'to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up' (Ephesians 4:12, NIV).

- The Church is responsible for discharging the Gospel Commission. Its members are nurtured for outreach. The Church is the only Body on Earth that exists for the benefit of non-members. Isolationist churches die.
- The last Bible book contains seven letters from the Risen Christ to seven specific congregations.<sup>2</sup> In our masochistic eagerness to identify with the letter to Laodicea, we tend to overlook many important things about these letters from Heaven.

First, that they were originally sent to seven specific city congregations in Asia Minor; each contains local knowledge.

Second, that, aside from their relevance to seven consecutive periods of Christian history, *all seven* messages have relevance somewhere at any given time.

In forty years of preaching I have preached at all seven churches, most of them several times over. Some of my ministerial colleagues say the same. And none of us has preached in Asia Minor. . . .

All seven messages reward study. All seven diagnoses and prescriptions are still relevant. Is it possible that there is a morphology of churches? *Types* of congregation that the Risen Christ foresaw and for each of which he provided a diagnosis and prescription? It's worth thinking through.

There is a pattern to each message: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea. If there are good things to affirm about the churches they are introduced by the words, 'I know your deeds. . . .' When there are bad things they are, in most cases, listed following the words, 'This

much I have against you. . . .'

Two letters stand out as especially deprecatory: Sardis and Laodicea.

Sardis is the church with the *superb organisation* (a well-oiled machine), but which is no longer fit for purpose without radical corrective therapy.

The general impression left by Sardis is of a machine with all parts functioning. But viewed as a living organism – as opposed to a working machine – Sardis just *isn't*. Isn't *living*, that is. Part of it is dead. The other part dying.

*But there is hope!* The letter would not have been written had there not been hope! Hope resides in the application of radical resuscitation therapy!<sup>3</sup>

In Paul's 'Body of Christ' picture, the Head is represented by Christ.<sup>4</sup> Every action of the body originates in the brain and is carried to the body member via the central nervous system.

Hence a church like Sardis that is dead or dying is cut off from the Source of Life, Jesus Christ. In common with Laodicea, Sardis has left Jesus outside the door, knocking for entrance.<sup>5</sup>

The resurrection therapy Sardis desperately needs begins with the admittance of the Risen Christ. When Paul calls Christ 'Head' of the Church, he means more than 'Leader'; he means *Source*. To be the Source or Brain of the Body, Jesus must not just be allowed over the threshold. He must chair the board and originate its strategies, not just be called upon to bless them when they're already up and running. And he must occupy the pulpit. 'Lift up Jesus, you that teach the people. . . . Lift Him up, the risen Saviour, and say to all who hear, Come unto Him. . . . Bring nothing into your preaching to supplement Christ. . . .'<sup>6</sup>

Christ must be up front in preaching and practice.

Historically, Sardis represents the post-Reformation Church, when the successors of the reformers had hunkered down into organised, established Christianity. It ended with the Great Awakening.

The Church is more than a functioning machine. It is the Body of Christ himself, his Person and his Power.

References:  
<sup>1</sup>Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Ephesians 4:1-16; Colossians 1:15-23. <sup>2</sup>See Revelation chapters 2 and 3. <sup>3</sup>On Sardis read Revelation 3:1-6. <sup>4</sup>Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 1:17-19. <sup>5</sup>Revelation 3:20. <sup>6</sup>*Gospel Workers*, p. 160.

## Laura's story

### The conversion of Laura Prescott, as told to Dr Richard de Lisser



'When I was young my parents had their own company and were never home. I spent much time alone, but I developed a love of reading and my choice of books must have been guided by the Lord. The books of C. S. Lewis (the seven-book series on Narnia) were my favourites and I read them over and over again, but with no idea that they bore such a close resemblance to those in the Bible. These books, together with my other favourite, Heidi, shaped my character and gave me a strong love of animals and nature. I loved God so much that when life became intolerable in my twenties, after my dog died, I attempted suicide in order to be with the Lord – I felt he would understand that I just couldn't bear it any more down here.

'I felt I was a good person who would go to Heaven. Nobody in my family was religious, so I have no idea where my unshakable belief in God originated from.

'Joining a church was not an option for me. Some of the nastiest people I had known professed to be born-again Christians, and, although I loved the atmosphere in the old buildings, when guitar-toting vicars came along and introduced 'happy clappy' type services I wanted nothing to do with it.

'I've always known about the Ten Commandments, and, even though I struggled with the Fifth Commandment, I tried to keep them in my own way. For some reason I never questioned the Fourth Commandment – I was aware that the seventh day was Saturday, but, curiously, the anomaly of Sunday-keeping never occurred to me.

'I knew about God; I talked to him constantly, but had no idea about Jesus. When my second dog died, although I had planned to follow her, I changed my mind and decided to surrender to God. I didn't want anything to jeopardise my chances of getting to Heaven and seeing my dog again.

'Since that decision, my life changed considerably – for the

better. I moved to Scotland – a lifelong ambition – and eventually managed to get my own home. Ten years ago I would never have believed these things possible, but God had obviously been waiting for me to give up and let him take charge of my life.

'Things were not completely plain sailing after this decision. I've been bullied in almost every job I've had in Scotland, which eventually led me to work from home – and this proved to be a blessing in disguise. The work I did involved extensive web research and, while trawling through the mire of the internet, I came across things which turned my world upside down. I discovered that just about everything I had learned and come to accept as truth was a lie, and things were definitely not what they appeared to be – everything was back to front – but the Lord was guiding me yet again. His infinite mercy led me to the videos of Professor Walter Veith – his *Total Onslaught* series made me very sad and angry at the scale of deception in the world. Pastor Doug Batchelor's sermons on the Sabbath truth really astounded me too – most of all that such a huge lie (Sunday worship) could be accepted by most of the world for so long without question.

'I now know that the Bible is the Word of God, and is ultimately the only thing I can wholeheartedly trust. I believe it from start to finish and no longer think that parts of it are fairy stories. I've learned that Darwin's theory of evolution is just that, a *theory!* I have uncovered more truth in the last two years than I had in my whole life till then, and my main intention now is to come out of the world with all its unsatisfying worldly lusts and desires, and

## people

share the information I have learned with others who might also be as deceived as I was. I want to be a good witness for Jesus and serve him faithfully in whatever way he decides.

'Learning all this has made me take a long, hard look at myself and my life, and I was ashamed. I spent many months in tears, being totally convicted by the sermons I was listening to. I claimed to love God, but I never knew him. I had thought I was a good person, but in truth I was a wretched sinner. I was doing so many things that God hates. Yes, he would have 'winked' at my ignorance, but that's not the point. Because I love him, I want to do the things which please him. And I can't claim ignorance now that he's led me to the truth.

'I then realised that I had no choice but to join the Seventh-day Adventists. These people were the only ones telling the truth. I'd had enough lies in my life up until then, and, although I went to my local church once on a Sunday, it felt wrong and I decided not to go back. The next problem I encountered was the lack of Adventist churches in my area – the nearest one was 100 miles away in Aberdeen, so I contacted the *Adventist.org.uk* site for advice and they passed my details through the Scottish Mission to Pastor Johnson in Aberdeen, who visits Inverness once a month. My first time in church meeting everyone was a bit scary, but I have come to look on everyone now as family.

'I gave up my unsuitable job, and with the Lord's help I quit smoking, and started Sabbath-keeping with the help of Michael and Molly Walker. I was baptised on 23 April . . . and thank God for what he has done in my life.

'But this is only the beginning of my story. . . .'

**Are you ready for the Power of 32,000?**

Sabbath,  
24 September 2011  
is the planned  
distribution day.

Contact your local  
conference or mission  
Personal Ministries  
department for more  
details.

## the Berean column

with Andrew Puckering



## Samaritans

'Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.' (John 4:9, NKJV.) This is how the Bible tersely records the strained relationship between Samaritans and Jews in Jesus' time. Some Jews tried to insult Jesus by calling him a 'Samaritan' (John 8:48). But who were the Samaritans? And why was there such enmity between the two groups?

We know through John 4:9; 2 Kings 17:28, 29 and Luke 17:11-16 that the Samaritans were so called because of their relationship to Samaria, the region in which they dwelt. The region Samaria, however, is usually associated with the city Samaria – the capital city of the northern kingdom of Israel (1 Kings 16:28, 29). Samaria wasn't the first choice for Israel's capital city. . . .

Jeroboam, Israel's first king after its rebellion against Rehoboam and secession from Judah (1 Kings 12:1-20), initially chose Shechem as his first city: the very place where Israel had previously hoped to make a more lenient Rehoboam king (1 Kings 12:25). Baasha, the man who killed Jeroboam's son Nadab (1 Kings 15:25-31), reigned over Israel from Tirzah (1 Kings 15:21, 33), apparently after having to halt building work on Ramah (Samuel's home town – 1 Samuel 7:17). So did his son Elah, who was killed by one of his own generals, Zimri. Zimri in turn was besieged by Omri (the other general) and burned the Tirzah palace down around himself rather than surrender (1 Kings 16:8-20). Omri, better known as the father of Israel's most wicked king, Ahab, was the one who bought the hill of Samaria and built his capital city on it (1 Kings 16:23-30).

After that time, Samaria (like Ephraim) became synonymous with the northern kingdom as a whole, and particularly its ruling elites – just as London fulfils a similar function for Britain today (Isaiah 9:9; Hosea 8:1-8; Amos 8:14). Its rulers had always worried that the Temple was in Jerusalem, Judah's capital city, setting up their own forms of worship as an alternative (1 Kings 12:26-33). Samaria therefore became renowned for wickedness and idolatry – for which reasons the LORD allowed the Assyrians to capture the city, and indeed all Israel (Micah 1:5, 6; Jeremiah 23:13; Ezekiel 16: 23; 2 Kings 17:22, 23). The Assyrians exiled most of the native Israelites, resettling Samaria with other idol-worshipping people groups, but retaining Israelite priests to teach them 'the rituals of the God of the land' (2 Kings 17:23-41, NKJV) – thereby creating an unholy and polluted mixture of ideologies that the Jews returning from Babylon found repugnant and fought hard to repel (Ezra; Nehemiah).

This antagonism continued until Jesus' time, possibly explaining his admonition to the disciples not to witness to the Samaritans immediately, but to the Jews first (Matthew 10:5, 6). Some Samaritans refused Jesus' message, because he was going to the Jewish holy place, but Jesus told the disciples to go easy on them (Luke 9:51-56). When Jesus encountered Samaritans who were willing to listen, he broke Jewish protocol by speaking with them, staying with them, and meeting their needs (John 4), and told his disciples to do the same after his ascension – and they did (Acts 1:8; 8:1-5, 25). What's more, the Samaritans received them gladly (Acts 8:14; 9:31!)

What a testimony this is today! Even those who are 'impure' or 'unclean', whom we perceive to be our enemies and the enemies of God, might yet receive our message if we treat them as Jesus did.

- See if you can find which book and chapter of the Bible contains the parable of the Good Samaritan!
- Who returned to thank Jesus after being healed by leprosy? (Luke 17)
- What question did the Samaritan woman in John 4 ask Jesus once she knew he was a Prophet, and what does Jesus' answer tell us?
- What issues might Jesus' disciples have had about interacting with Samaritans?
- If the disciples had witnessed to the Samaritans first, what effect might that have had on the further success of their ministry?



# Would you like a book?

by Fran MacLeod

I have had the joy of being involved in literature distribution for a number of years now, occasionally with others, and in so doing I have experienced an immense blessing – which is something I would not change for all the world. Largely, I carry out my work of distributing items on buses, on trains and in high streets, where I meet the most beautiful people of all cultures and classes. I have had the pleasure of seeing people actually commence reading literature in front of me, or when I pass them later on to notice them reading the material. God's

Word never returns void! If we cover our activities in prayer and ask Jesus to go before us, we can be sure that he will. I have also had some lovely cues provided by God, which have created the opportunity for me to speak. For example, I was sitting at a bus stop with a Yugoslavian man of approximately 80 sitting alongside me. I had no literature on me at that moment, but suddenly, out of the blue, he asked a question: 'The shops are closed on Sundays in Wycombe, aren't they?' I could not believe my ears, and immediately

# features . . .

used the opportunity to tell him of the Sabbath, and about the Sunday laws that will be coming when the shops will be closed on Sunday, and that it is important to keep the Sabbath as a day of rest, not Sunday. Praise God for the leading of His Holy Spirit.

We are but co-workers! Another amazing cue came when I was standing with a table of literature in Chesham and a Jewish lady, not from Chesham, came running up to me saying, 'I'm so glad you are here. I've recently become aware that Jesus Christ is very important and, although I have never been someone to pray, I find myself waking up praying every morning. Please tell me where Jesus Christ fits in to the Old Testament.' I was then able to share an overview of the meaning of the Sanctuary structure and ceremonies.

She was amazed, and took literature with her. She also asked for a copy of *The Great Controversy* to be sent to her. She has not yet asked for a Bible study, but I am confident that God is working in her life – I have done my sowing and perhaps another will do the reaping.

Another time an Orthodox lady to whom I handed a DVD thanked me, and then asked, 'What about Mary?' This gave me the opportunity to tell her that the doctrine that Mary is divine is not biblical, and I quoted a few Scriptures that she could think about. She was amazed and grateful,

indicating to me that she has been troubled about the Mary question for a while, even though it is part of her faith.

In the last few months, many people have actually thanked me for the literature, whereas before they would simply take it and move on.

Recently, some people have actually put their hands out to receive what I am offering, whereas it used to be that I had to approach everyone myself. A couple of people have also asked to take some items for their families and friends. To me this is a sign that people are beginning to wake up to the fact that something is not right on Earth!

There is another way we can serve, and that is to buy literature for distribution by those who cannot afford to buy their own, so that they can also participate in this mighty work. The items that I find popular are *Final Events* DVDs, *Steps to Christ*, individual Gospels (KJV) and tracts such as *Man's Need of Christ*, *25 Prophecies Fulfilled in the Life of Jesus* and *Bible Facts about The Sabbath and the First Day of the Week*. I also include a *Take Jesus* invitation from Discover Bible School with everything that I hand out, which makes it possible for the people to send away for Bible studies when they are ready.

My contact information is [franmac@webmail.co.za](mailto:franmac@webmail.co.za). Please may I ask that you type 'Evangelism' in the subject line.

# Best of friends for life

Special needs camp 2011, Aberdaron

by Taylor Bajic



Photos: Duska Rancic

The camp exists to provide a safe, caring, fun-loving holiday in a Christian environment for people with special needs, while giving respite to their carers.'

Every year, in the first week of July, the special needs camp takes place in Aberdaron, North Wales, bringing together campers with special needs and volunteer carers and staff from all over the world to enjoy a week together in bonding, friendship and fun. Several of the carers and campers have been coming from a very early age, and the camp's co-ordinator, Joy Bussey, says that this year's camp – the thirty-second – was one of the best she'd experienced! A long-time SNC carer, Caroline Pace, says, 'I smile until my jaw aches, laugh until my belly

hurts, and have been moved to tears (in a good way)!'.

This year's theme was friendship – with each other and with Christ, the best Friend of all. Each day, the worship leaders led the whole group in joyful and active worship. Some of the campers even shared their music and performed drama sketches, and offered prayers for the meals.

Crafts, games, choir practices (for Sabbath), photos, a sports day, outings, the local bowling alley, and the seaside were all immensely enjoyed.

There were additional evening worships for the staff, a fun staff social, and an agape feast! Helena Aragao, a first-time carer from Portugal, said, 'We were like a big family!'.

The camp

banquet and concert showcased the campers' artistic skills, and the campers' special talents were recognised with medals during the awards ceremony. Laurence Clark, a returning carer, says, 'There are so many different characters there, so many incredibly unique personalities, you can't help but smile!'.

The most significant event was the baptism of one of the younger autistic campers, leuan Scott, into the Adventist Church on Sabbath. He has been one of Les and Miriam Wood's three foster children for sixteen years, lovingly brought up in the Church from a very young age. Now all three of their foster children are baptised, and leuan has been welcomed into the Maidenhead church. David Rancic led leuan into the Aberdaron waves where the camp padre, Pastor Curtis Murphy, baptised him. Will Sharp, elder at Maidenhead, spoke of the influence SNC has been on leuan's spiritual journey.

Pastor Murphy shares, 'I believe that special needs camp lives the principles of love enunciated with such great oratory in 1 Corinthians: God chose to bring together a special group of people just to show that all are loved by him!'.

'Best singer' of the week, Stephanie Ceres, confessed, 'I almost didn't come to camp this year, but Heaven appointed me to come and God has sent Heaven to this camp. Everyone here is my friend, my brother and my sister.' Helena Aragao had similar reservations at first, but 'It turned out to be the most incredible experience I've ever had.'

If you would like to find out more about the Aberdaron special needs camp, or if you'd like to help out next summer or donate, visit their website at [www.specialneedscamp.co.uk](http://www.specialneedscamp.co.uk) or contact Joy directly at [js.bussey@ntlworld.com](mailto:js.bussey@ntlworld.com). You can also donate by writing 'Special Needs Camp' in the space on your tithe envelope, as indicated under 'special offerings'.





**Hello Christian Stars!**

The Bible word 'good' has a huge range of meanings, from 'pleasant' to 'righteous'. The English dictionary gives similar meanings. As a fruit of the Spirit, goodness comes from God, who is both 'good' and the Giver of 'good' things to his people. Those who are good are Christ-like in two ways: 1) they are upright – doing what is right, fair and just; 2) they also do good to others – treating them with loving kindness, mercy and generosity.

It is fun to put a clean sheet of paper over a coin and rub a pencil over it. You will see it puts the pattern of the coin onto the paper.

Goodness is like the pattern on the paper. It can only be seen when you do something to show God you love him. Jesus pointed his disciples to one example of goodness – a certain poor widow wanted to give all she had to God (read this story for yourself in Luke 21:1-4)! You will be amazed at the fun things you can do when you pray for the gift of goodness.

**Josiah is king:**

Josiah was 8 years old when his father Amon died. Josiah became the new king. He wanted to do what was right and he wanted his people to worship God. He was still a very young man when he asked his helpers to tear down the idols that the evil kings had brought into God's Temple. He made sure the Temple was repaired and clean. While the men were repairing the Temple they found the book of God's law. Josiah cried when it was found: he was sorry that he and the people had not been following all the laws. After reading God's law, Josiah promised God that he would keep all the commandments. He encouraged the people to do so, too. Josiah has left us a good example of what it means to be 'good'.

Follow the numbers to find what Josiah wore to mark him out as a king. You can decorate it with jewels and precious stones and colour it beautifully.

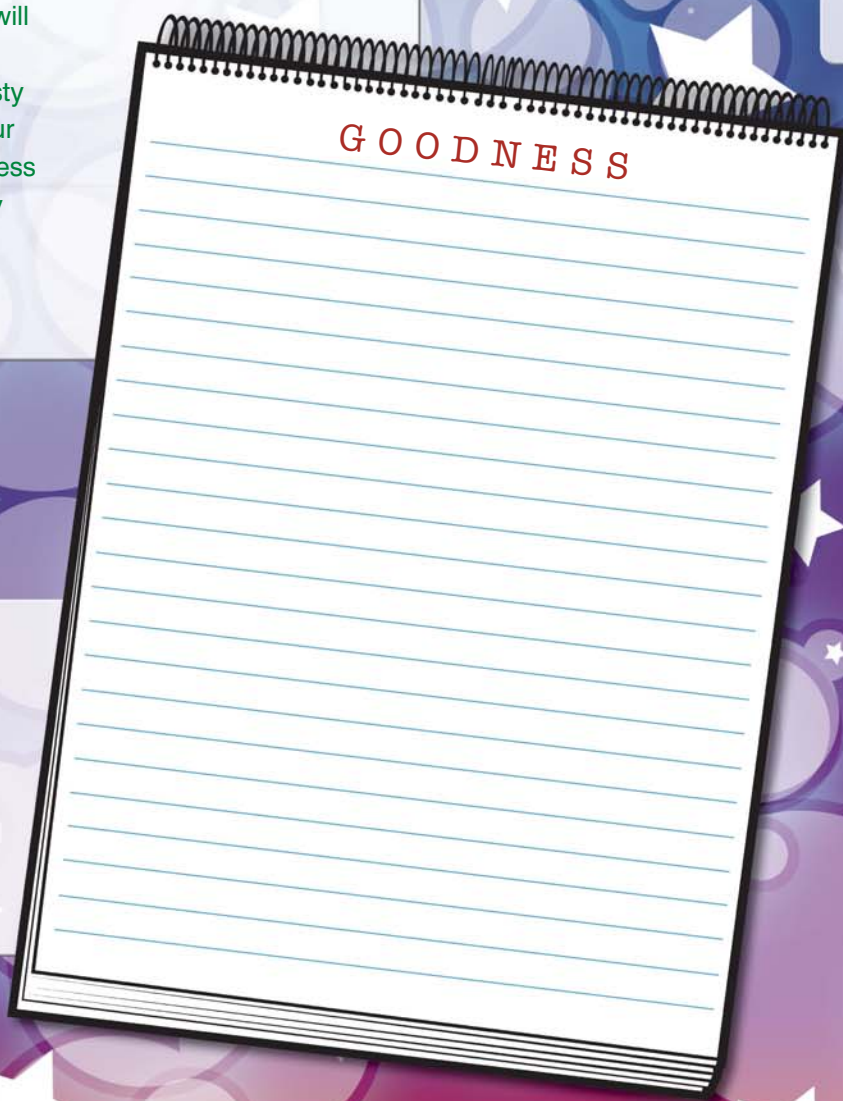


**Goodness wordsearch:** Find eight words similar to 'goodness' in the wordsearch. When you have found them all, find three hidden words that are the opposite of goodness. They will not be circled and will start on the top row going from left to right.

Y E V G I L M E E A	generosity
T N N E U L A V C E	goodwill
S S E N D N I K A S	grace
E S W E I R C K R E	honesty
N D N R U E S S G P	honour
O G O O D W I L L M	kindness
H N N S M X W K E V	mercy
P O B I V Y B R P Z	value
H C K T C B C G Z Y	
D G J Y R Y X K C Z	

God's Word shows us what is 'good': to love others and treat them kindly; to obey our parents and teachers; and to refuse to lie, cheat or steal – even when the people around us act differently.

Re-order the letters in each of the crowns so that they make sense. Now choose the correct word from each of the crowns to complete the verse found in Micah 6:8. This verse helps us understand the type of goodness God expects of us. Why not make this text the motto for your life?



**Starting with goodness:** How many words can you make from the letters in 'goodness'? Start with two-letter words, then three and so on. Write them on the notepad if you like! Are you able to make a new word using all the letters?



'He has shown you, O man, what is \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
 And what does the LORD require of you  
 But to do \_\_\_\_\_ , To love \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
 And to walk \_\_\_\_\_ with your God?





# Wellington boots and suits

## at 'best ever' Irish Mission camp meeting

by Pastor Weiers Coetser

When Lord Wellington designed his famous knee-high boot in the early nineteenth century, it quickly became a popular and fashionable item of clothing among European aristocracy. This vintage fashion item was once again worn with pride at the larger-than-ever third Irish Mission camp meeting at Kilnasoolagh, Newmarket-on-Fergus, 29 July-3 August.

Very few of those boots remained motionless as upwards of two hundred and fifty voices belted out the words of the theme song, 'Revive me, Restore me, Give me a new heart', at the direction of the NEC Music co-ordinator, Dr Diana Sinclair. Policies have been written, sermons preached, and books published on the theme of revival and reformation, but none inspire more than a good song – and we sang.

But the vintage nature of this camp meeting extended beyond the boots and the enthusiastic singing. The meetings were held in tents on an open stretch of farmland, and run like those camp meetings that were a hallmark of early Adventism.

Pastor David Neal, Irish Mission president, summed it up: 'My experience of camp meeting was wonderful hymn singing, testimonies, Bible studies, health gems and great fellowship.'

The keynote speakers focused their messages on relevant Christian issues. Our members, still in the grip of a recession, thoroughly enjoyed Dr Richard de Lissar, SEC Stewardship and Communication director, who highlighted core Christian stewardship principles and urged us to avoid reliance on economic structures that are on the brink of collapse. He closed the Sabbath sermon with a vintage altar call to which a large number responded – some for baptism.

Pastor Julian Hibbert, Editor of the MESSENGER, focused his informative presentations on the hows and whys of wholesome Christian worship. 'What struck me most during his second presentation was the practical way in which he illustrated how



God always wanted worship to be a participative activity, which includes people', stated Coleraine pastor, Dr Maart de Groot. He added, 'Pastor Hibbert showed how the Church in the Dark Ages managed to take opportunities for participation away from people. Thus, today, sometimes our church members are reluctant to play a role in worship.' On Sunday the campers were divided into groups to explore practical ways to enhance worship in their congregations. On Sabbath the leaders of the congregation laid hands upon the Johansson family, visitors from Norway, in a prayer of solidarity over the slaughter of many of their countrymen. The food was vintage Adventist fare. Edith Samambwa, IM Health Ministries sponsor, reflected that 'For me the meals served at camp were a representation of the event. Just like the colourful array of nations represented at camp, there was plenty of colour on the menu to satisfy the eyes and stimulate the appetite.'

On Sunday there was a well-attended



health expo, with much participation – including blood pressure and glucose level checks, hydrotherapy, and so on. There was also time for recreation, including a football game with players ranging in age from 5 to 73!

One of the most touching moments was when some of the 'vintage' indigenous Irish members stood to thank God for sending so many 'new' (immigrant) Irish members to help revive the Church.

Pastor Neal summed it up: 'This Irish Mission camp meeting was the best so far. If members return home with an increased commitment to Christ and his Church – then all the hard work by the staff will have been worth every minute, pound and euro spent on the event . . . I am delighted that our aim to make camp meeting attractive to all cultures seems to be working. It's making the Irish Mission feel like family.'

A comprehensive set of photos is available on the Irish Mission website: [http://irish.adventistchurch.ie/photo\\_albums/1837](http://irish.adventistchurch.ie/photo_albums/1837), and the Irish Mission Facebook group page.

## Family camp a resounding success

This year's NEC family camp at Aberdaron gathered many families together from across the UK to fellowship and enjoy the beautiful LIŷn peninsula coastline.

Pastor Cyril Sweeney, NEC president, was the camp master, and he and Tim Clew ran the camp admirably.

Young campers enjoyed arts and crafts, a bouncy castle, a sand-building competition, a treasure hunt, a water bomb fight and much more, and the Friday night programme included a Communion Service.

Geraldene Farmer, NEC Family Ministries director, said, 'We anticipate a scramble for the limited number of 2012 family camp tickets which will be available at the end of the summer holidays. Details will be on the NEC website from 7 September.' The dates for next year's NEC family camp are 20-29 July 2012.

GERALDENE FARMER



## A healthier community

On Sunday 17 July, Smethwick Church members provided a free health check for their community, using the NEWSTART principles of Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunshine, Temperance, Air, Rest and Trust.

On the Friday, Grace Walsh (NEC) had met with Smethwick members to present health facts.

Young church members and other health advisors from Sister Walsh's team also gave presentations on healthy eating and exercise, and on Sunday morning members set up the hall of the nearby St Albans community centre.

More than 100 visitors came from 10am to 4pm. Each individual was lovingly welcomed and given an information health sheet, before visiting each of the stations.

Many took part in the step tests, massages and health checks, and received advice.

Visitors also learnt about our denomination. Feedback was good, and many asked for similar events in the near future. Smethwick members will work together to reach out and meet the needs of their community.

COMMUNICATION DEPT

## End of an era for Harper Bell

The 21 July Year 6 graduations marked a sea-change for the Harper Bell Adventist School. Twenty-three years ago the NEC established it as an independent school to provide Adventist Christian education in the Greater Birmingham area, and the school now has more than 120 students.

When the school re-opens on 5 September 2011, it will be as a voluntary aided school in the maintained sector. This means that, though the school will continue the provision of Christian education with an Adventist ethos, its day-to-day running costs will be met by the Birmingham Local Education Authority. The primary motivation was to ensure that members of the church community who were previously unable to afford school fees can now benefit from the school's excellent educational provision – and school facilities can be

significantly improved.

This change of status has resulted in a mandatory increase of class sizes to approximately thirty students, and an improvement of classroom facilities. When the school re-opens in September it will have more than 200 students: Mr Solomon Senesie, the school head, reports that: 'All classes are fully subscribed except for Years 1 and 6'.

This year fourteen children graduated, with the majority going on to various grammar schools. The address to the student body was given by Pastor Ian Sweeney. Special tributes and commemorative plaques were given to eleven members of the community who helped to establish the school.

The Parents, Teachers and Friends Association of the school presented a cheque for £850 to purchase three video projectors for classrooms. JEFF NICHOLSON

## Ambassadors minister in Aberdeen

The Aberdeen church was delighted to host the Ambassadors – the recently awarded 'Choir of the World' – during three recent evening concerts, which were extremely well-attended by church members and people from the community. One local resident had expressed her 'very high expectations' and afterwards said she was 'blown away'.

The Ambassadors went out into the community on Thursday to minister to members of a residential home in Aberdeen. After forty minutes of singing, they prayed and talked with residents. The Ambassadors described it as 'a very emotional time'. LORANCE JOHNSON



## Lincoln baptism

Ildiko Bokor was baptised at Lincoln on 9 July – she had travelled to Lincoln from Hungary to study, but she met a young man – and went to church in Lincoln. The members there found it easier to call their new friend Ildi, and a relationship developed.

Ildi's baptism was assisted by the young man who had introduced her to Christ, Bheki Masuku – who is now her fiancé!

Ildi said, 'In 2005 I believed there was some sort of spirit. I turned away from religion . . . but God didn't turn away from me; he was still at work in my life. He protected me during my teen years from drugs, alcohol and smoking.'

'I visited the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the first time in 2008; slowly I found out what they believe and what they offer. The first thing I noticed: Seventh-day Adventists value the study of the Bible – so here I was, introduced to the Scriptures and to Christ. We can't save ourselves, but he can save us. You're never too unworthy to become a Christian.'

PETER JEYNES



## Saving lives as well as souls

On Sunday 26 June fifteen young people aged between 12 and 16 successfully completed a three-hour first-aid course in the Portsmouth church as part of their Pathfinder activity programme. When asked why they wanted to do the training, one young participant replied – 'so we can help to save lives'.

The course was the third recent first-aid course in Area 3 to enable local church members to become first-aiders, whether at home, work or church, or out in the community. Two previous adult courses run at Southampton Church resulted in twenty-two members from the Bournemouth, Winchester, Portsmouth and Basingstoke churches obtaining a nationally recognised Emergency First Aid qualification. These programmes included three non-Adventists, and three people training to become late-night street pastors in Basingstoke.

All the programmes were organised and run by David Wright from Winchester Church, and a nationally recognised NUCO first-aid trainer. Any church interested in having a first-aid programme run for a group of between ten and twelve members, or using one as an outreach opportunity for their local community, would be welcome to contact David at: [taffy60@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:taffy60@hotmail.co.uk) (or 01489 784648 in evenings).

DAVID WRIGHT



## KCF baptism

On 2 July, four Kennington Community Fellowship friends – Tracey Hanson, Gareth Mort, and Karen and Michelle Coles – gave their lives to the Lord through baptism.

Gareth had recently become a regular at KCF, and Tracey was the sister of KCF member, Angela Shorey. Karen and Michelle had also become recent regulars at KCF – one of their first times at the church was when Michael Coles, son of Karen and brother of Michelle, got baptised just a few months before!

KCF's pastor, Paul King Brown, baptised the candidates. The next baptism is just around the corner!

For more pictures, check out: [www.kcflife.com/gallery](http://www.kcflife.com/gallery), or look for Kennington Community Fellowship on Facebook.

K. OWUSU



## Ten years of Holloway Drum Corps!

The Holloway Pathfinder Drum Corps celebrated its tenth anniversary on 16 July. Councillors Alex Silcott and Anita Daley told the church how they had added the drum corps to the club upon their arrival from Montserrat. Trevor Harewood and Kennedy Kundan presented awards to Pathfinders, and an award was also presented to Councillors Silcott and Daley. Since the drum corps was formed, many other Pathfinder clubs have followed suit. Drum corps are an excellent way of witnessing, and make a huge difference to street marches as they easily attract attention! The public are always impressed, and so are interested in learning about our cause.

The service also included special items, a presentation on Seventh-day Adventist pioneers, and three sermonettes by Joshua Roberts (18), Gamaliel Uhuka (12) and Leandra Lee Daley (10). We pray that God continues to bless the Holloway Pathfinders' ministry.

HAYLEY MCKENZIE-SEALY

## 'A Map in Your Hand'

Sabbath 5 March was the first Welsh Mission youth day in 2011. Newport Church, although small, received guests from South Wales churches, Grays Church, the XU group (from Newbold), Oxford and London Central.

The theme for the day was 'A Map in Your Hand'; Pastor Adam Ramdin, the guest speaker for the day, encouraged the congregation to study the Bible.

More than sixty young people stayed until after sunset. They are looking forward to the next youth day!

DAVID RANCIC



## Christ's ambassadors

On Sabbath 9 July, Matthew and Manuel surrendered their lives to Jesus through baptism by immersion.

Matthew had always purposed to become a vicar, but, through Bible study with Adventist friends, Matthew became convinced of new-found Bible truths. His wife, Sweetline, was also received into membership through the right hand of fellowship on the same day.

Both Matthew and Sweetline are ardent evangelists, and they are currently engaged in weekly online and TV evangelism to the Indian sub-continent – reaching a potential target of ten million people with the Advent message!

Manuel, a native of Angola, cites a chance meeting with Pastor Mavala as the ignition of his interest in Bible studies. Manuel's poor command of the English language was overcome as he spent more time in individualised Bible studies.

Pastor Victor D. Marshall, recently ordained at the joint camp meeting, was the officiating minister. Doncaster Church is thankful for the work of the Holy Spirit as more souls respond to the Gospel!

DONCASTER COMMUNICATIONS

## Ten years of community-building in Doncaster

During Doncaster Church's tenth-anniversary thanksgiving service, Pastor Don McFarlane presented a sermon titled: 'The Church and the Community', and Pastor Ian Sweeney gave the afternoon message, challenging the church to become relevant to the community's needs and have an impact on the lives of others.

Music was provided by the youth choir, Golden Echoes, Doncaster SDA Church Choir, Heavenly Melodies, Holy Tabernacle and a young girls' trio (Naledi, Delali and Panashe). Councillor Tony Sockett gave an address that accepted the role of the church as a partner to the Government's efforts in the community.

DONCASTER COMMUNICATIONS

## Best night out in town

Pastor Patrick Herbert introduced Jaime Jorge to the Stoke church on 21 July – the Cuban-born violinist, often seen on 3ABN, treated God and members to select renditions on his violin. Alongside his music he shared his testimony of how the Lord has led him in his music ministry.

Since part of our mission is to encourage non-members, the Stoke church thanks God that a number of non-members entered their church for the first time.

P. A. HERBERT



## Investiture day at Leicester Central

On 9 July sixty-seven young Pathfinders, Adventurers and Eager Beavers, led by Director Pauline Matturi and her team, were invested by Area Co-ordinator Daniel Flemings and Master Guide Joan Fuller. The young people received a range of awards, and were invested as Eager Beavers, Busy Bees, Helping Hands, Friends, Companions, Explorers, Rangers, Voyagers and Guides.

The Pathfinders led the worship services for the day, focusing on 'Taking a Stand for Jesus'. Spencer Williams, Akiel and Vernon Dublin and Peter Tabornal provided music.

Keynote sermonettes were presented by Daniel Kumi and Violet Muchenagumbo. Tsitsi Nyathi recited a poem.

At the end of the service, led by the drum corps with the colour guard, the Pathfinder company processed down Newark as a witness to the community of Leicester.

PHILIP HERBERT



## North Wembley investiture

At the North Wembley Pathfinder club's investiture service on Sabbath 9 July, the children were presented with their certificates and honour badges by the mayor of Brent, Councillor Aslam Choudry, SEC Pathfinder director Nathan Stickland, who also preached, SEC Area Co-ordinators Kennedy Kundan and Noel Vernon, and the resident minister, Pastor Wilfred Blake. Sasha Jones won the Adventurer of the Year award, Elisha Burton won the Pathfinder of the Year award and Courtenay Greaves won the Highest Achiever award.

The club has children from Little Lamb all the way up to Master Guide in Training: every age group is represented.

After lunch on a parade through the streets, the North Wembley Drum Corps were joined by the Holloway Drum Corps.

The parade ended with drilling and drumming displays for the community.

NORTH WEMBLEY COMMUNICATION



**Corrigendum** – the 'Ghana camp meeting' in the ABC book sales schedule on p. 16 of *MESSENGER* 22 July should have read 'Euro-Ghana camp meeting'. *MESSENGER* staff strive for the highest levels of accuracy and will remember this for the future.

## Don't miss out!

We would like to draw our contributors' attention to the 'copy date' at the bottom of the back page – this is the date by which we must receive your submissions (articles and photos) if they are to appear in the next issue. The copy date comes **three weeks before publication**, so if you want your submission to be published on, for example, 30 September, we would need your contribution by 8 September at the latest.

MESSENGER STAFF

## Cornwall knows its numbers

The churches of Area 1 displayed a health stand at the Royal Cornwall Show this year, with help from the 'Know Your Numbers' health check team, led by Elsie Staple. They were grateful for support from the SEC team of eight operatives with supporting cooks, mostly drawn from churches in the London area, who stayed at the Chapel Porth campsite so they could check health indicators and give welcome advice. Over the three days of the show nearly 300 enquirers were dealt with, and a number of good contacts for the churches in Cornwall were made.

PASTOR C. PEAKE



## Women take the lead

Sabbath 11 June was a day the women of Leicester Central Church celebrated leadership. Flowers were tied around the church, with statements on cards about the impact of love. The worship programmes were led by women, including Elder Denise Williams, who explored the theme, 'Love Changes Everything' – just as it did for the Samaritan woman by the well. God's love transcends human understanding.

PHILIP HERBERT



Left to right: Elder Maudestine Graham, Elder Denise Williams and Sister Martha Banda.

# obituaries



**Leila C. Handysides, née Elias (1921-2011) d. 18 April.**

Leila was the third child of Ernest and Helena Elias, with two older brothers, Ken and Stanley, and later a younger sister, Audrey. Soon after Leila was born in York, the family moved to Scotland. She never lost her Scottish lilt, nor her pride in growing up and being educated in Glasgow, then the country's second-largest city. She was clever, artistic, sensitive, and athletic.

At 16 she went to Newbold College, following in the footsteps of her eldest brother, Pastor Ken Elias. The college then occupied the 300-acre Newbold Revel estate near Rugby, complete with stately home, grounds, lake and farm. Leila and her contemporaries loved 'that happy world that was Newbold in the '30s', despite working long and hard hours to pay their fees! During the long summer breaks they canvassed in pairs in different parts of the UK. Leila was an exemplary student and got good grades. She also revelled in the fun and companionship of college life, including horse-riding. Going to Newbold College changed her life once she committed her life to Christ and chose to share God's love with others.

After graduating as a Bible worker in 1941, Leila spent four packed years 'in the work' with Pastors Cannon, Maudsley, and Lamont Murdoch. Leila was fearless, despite the blackouts and blitzes; vibrant and full of energy. She put out handbills, gave Bible studies and rejoiced at baptisms. For more than forty years she was a devoted partner in ministry with her much-loved husband, Pastor John R. Handysides. They met at Newbold Revel and married in 1945. Together they combined personal contact and pastoral care with evangelistic outreach, and baptised many in the UK.

Family life was always a priority, despite the challenges of very frequent moves to nineteen houses. They loved and encouraged their own children, and were also lovingly committed to the church family wherever they ministered.

Leila visited, cared, played the piano and organ, sang, taught children's and adult Sabbath School classes, and gave Bible studies. Her keen eye, ability, skill and confidence enabled her to lead out at prayer meetings or preach from the pulpit on Sabbath mornings. A champion Ingatherer, she collected thousands of pounds over the years – from door to door, from shops and offices – and teamed up with other courageous ladies to collect in pubs and clubs. Caring and kind in thought and action, Leila always wanted to make people better and relieve distress and pain. She once did a spell of part-time auxiliary nursing in Sheffield, which she loved.

Leila Handysides survived her beloved husband by twelve years. She valued her independence, living an independent life with purpose, commitment, love (especially for all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren), and warmth. Leila found joy in reading her Bible, recalling her student days, writing, music, games, smiles, beauty and bargains, watching children play and lambs gambol, walking, and being by water. Never happier than when visiting beautiful gardens, she would exclaim, 'If this is what Heaven is like,

I won't be disappointed.'

In spite of illness, Leila amazed everyone with her resilience. Leila Handysides was laid to rest with her husband in Grantham Cemetery after a funeral service conducted by Pastors John Ferguson and Eric Lowe and Elder Karen Shelbourn, with tributes from the family. The string trio and trumpet accompaniment by her grandsons would have thrilled Leila. Her children (Cynthia, Roger, and Stuart) and her sister (Audrey Nolan) wish to commend Pastor John and Mrs Zenia Ferguson for their warm care and unfailing support over many years, express appreciation for many messages and cards of condolence received, and thank all who attended the funeral service.

CYNTHIA BENZ



**Rona May Walton (1912-2011) d. 6 May.**

Rona was born in Assington, Suffolk, in the year of the Titanic's ill-fated voyage. Her early years were difficult because of the First

World War, the Great Depression and her father's descent into ruin. However, her mother, Louise Wheeler, taught her the principles of Adventism and she attended Newbold College (when it was at Rugby) and graduated in 1933. She worked at the Stanborough Press for a couple of years, but then married Chris Walton and set up home in Bricket Wood. Her three sons, Michael, John and Peter, were born during the Second World War. She struggled to feed, clothe and educate her family during those bleak times of rationing and deprivation. To make ends meet she worked part-time in Goodsons toy wholesaler in Watford, at the Stanborough sanatorium, and later at Granose Foods. She was determined that her boys would be brave, manly, and able to stand up for themselves. When there was a thunderstorm at night she would gather her three boys round an open window to enjoy the pyrotechnics display!

During the 1960s and '70s she supported Chris when he accepted a call to move to Ghana and work, first as a science teacher at Bekwai School, and later in Accra as West African Union treasurer. She loved Ghana, and many of the students from Bekwai School enjoyed successful careers inside and outside the Church. She spent nearly twelve years in Ghana and was very reluctant to leave. However, at the time of life when most people are retiring, she and Chris started work in the Accounts department at Newbold College for fourteen more years, until Chris passed away in 1991.

Cats had an irresistible charm for Rona, and she loved poems about cats. Her recitation of 'The Owl and the Pussycat' opened a window onto her playful personality. She retired at 74, but she missed her husband, her work, her friends and her home. After a spell at the Hollies in St Albans, she and her sister Joan lived closely supporting one another at Victor Smith Court in Bricket Wood. She spent her last three years in care at Houndswood House, near Radlett. A friend summed her up by saying: 'We loved and respected Rona, and think back to the time she was at Newbold with pleasure. Every contact we had with her was a joy. She was a lovely,

gentle, kind, smiling Christian lady; friendly, thoughtful, and one with whom you felt completely at ease.' To her family she was a splendid example of unselfish caring, unstinting giving, and a willingness to listen and communicate praise or censure when due. Her life taught that true love knows no boundaries and is unconditional. She had a very strong faith which stayed with her as long as her faculties remained. One of her favourite texts reads: 'This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.' (Lam. 3:21-23, NKJV). Pastors James Hussey and Paul Clew led out in the funeral service at Stanborough Park Church on 27 May. She is survived by her sister Joan, sons John and Peter, and their families.

JOHN AND PETER WALTON



**Gertrude Vera Cowley (1916-2011) d. 20 May.**

Vera Hardiman was born on 12 September 1916, at Raynes Park, Surrey. She had a younger sister who died in her teens. Vera and

her mum attended an evangelistic campaign in Croydon, conducted by Pastor Ron Vince. For unknown reasons her father was strongly opposed, but she and her mother eventually embraced the Adventist message and were baptised. Although she commenced work in a solicitor's office, Vera soon decided to attend Newbold Missionary College near Rugby in 1939, where she met Albert (known to his friends as 'Bert') Cowley, a Ministerial student, whom she was later to marry.

When she entered that wartime college family of about 120 students and a very limited number of faculty, their foibles and frailties were readily apparent, but Vera's smile never clouded – she welcomed one and all. In short, she was approachable: there were no barriers. During her work in the Church, and later as the wife of a caring minister and evangelist, she exuded a quiet confidence and encouraged many.

After graduating in 1942 Vera served as a teacher at Stanborough Park School, then as

a secretary in the SEC office, and finally as a Bible worker, and she shared many years with Bert as heralds of the Gospel.

On 27 December 1944 they were married at Croydon Church. For the next thirty-nine years, Vera supported Bert's pastoral and evangelistic work in Northern Ireland (where Sylvia and Alvin were born), Yorkshire (where Glenda arrived), Wellingborough, Exeter, Bristol, Norwich, Luton, Ilford, St Neots and Worthing.

They finally retired in 1983 to Exmouth in Devon; but their hearts were in Norfolk, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.' (Lam. 3:21-23, NKJV). Pastors James Hussey and Paul Clew led out in the funeral service at Stanborough Park Church on 27 May. She is survived by her sister Joan, sons John and Peter, and their families.

Vera has been a loyal, reliable, dependable and faithful servant of God. In spite of her remarkable age, Vera made a return visit to Australia with her daughter Sylvia about two years ago, and was driving until just before last Christmas! She was extremely active in church, as church clerk and pianist for the last several years, as well as during Friday evening prayer meetings and other church activities. Evangelism was dear to her heart, and, for the last three to four years, Vera faithfully supported the intensive weekly evangelistic meetings that were held in Great Yarmouth. She always had a smile – and a laugh – but also was a confidante with wise and helpful counsel drawn from her vast experience.

Her health started to deteriorate around Christmas, and she was taken to hospital in March of this year. Her son Alvin came over from Australia to be with her, and this meant so much to her. Vera left this life with the assurance of salvation and grateful to God. The funeral service was carried out in the Great Yarmouth church by Pastor Bertie de Nysschen, Pastor Michael Walker, and Pastor Maurice Musgrave, a lifetime friend of the Cowley family, who had been Bert's college room mate and his best man.

Our heartfelt love and sympathy go to Sylvia, Alvin and Glenda, together with their families.

PASTORS MAURICE MUSGRAVE AND MICHAEL WALKER

## Record medals for Stanborough students

Stanborough students brought home a record number of medals – five! – after an outstanding performance at the ISA National Athletics Championships held on Wednesday 22 June at Birmingham's Alexander Stadium.

Jasper won a bronze medal in the high jump, and (along with Adam, Ayo and Troy) also won a bronze medal in the 4x75m relay: on the same track as the American and Jamaican Olympic teams, who were using it as a training base for the forthcoming Olympics!

Edwin, in Year 10, won a bronze medal for his triple jump, while

Bethany, in Year 8, also won a bronze medal for her performance at throwing the discus. However, the best performance of the day went to Akin, in Year 10, who won a gold medal after jumping 1.68 metres. Congratulations also go to all the other regional champions that represented Stanborough School this year: Danielle, Emmanuel, India, Shane, Shalom, and Tamara. Thanks also to the teachers, Mr Steyn and Mr McKie.

VANESA PIZZUTO



Bethany, bronze medal for discus



## Sheffield CHIP 2011

Thursday 9 June was the date for the second Sheffield CHIP graduation ceremony at the Burngreave church. Eight graduates collected their certificates, and a special award was presented in loving memory of Keisha Andrea Ferrigon. Keisha, who embraced CHIP and became the team's fitness trainer, put participants through their paces until September 2010, before being diagnosed with cancer and passing away in November 2010, aged 32.

The 'Inspirational Keisha Ferrigon' award will be presented yearly for outstanding achieve-

ment on the CHIP programme, and this year it was presented by Dr Sam Farmer and Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt to 20-year-old Israel Allen (who resides in London, but spent four weeks in Sheffield to complete the programme). Clinton Waite, the oldest participant, wore a suit he hadn't been able to wear for years! Shirley Kirkland said that the programme should be shared with everyone – consultants, GPs, nurses, shop-keepers, lecturers, colleagues, families and friends – just as the group had done.

VAL GROSSETT



Israel Allen



### Dreaming of Wimbledon

Roger Murphy, headteacher of Stanborough School, enjoys the school's new tennis court, opened by John Shepley on Monday 20 June – the same day as the opening of the Wimbledon tournament!



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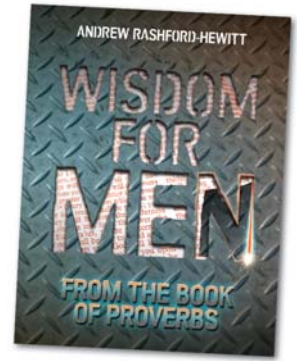
### Kids in discipleship

The 'Footprints for Kids In Discipleship – for Parents or Mentors' programme started at the Leicester Central church on 5 March. Twenty-nine parents and mentors started this series of seminars, attending a graduation ceremony on 18 June.

The aim of the series was to mentor kids to be empowered disciples of Jesus. The leaders were Joslyn James and Lindewe Nsingo, who guided parents and mentors to develop a closer relationship with Christ, allowing the Holy Spirit to enable them to disciple their children.

The next step following on from this programme is to hold a series of twenty-four weekly Bible study lessons with both children and parents, in September 2011.

PHILIP HERBERT



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#### Birmingham Aston-Newton

11am-4pm, Wednesday  
4pm-8pm, Thursday  
9am-1pm, Friday  
11am-3pm, Sunday

#### Advent Centre

Mondays & Wednesdays, 6.30pm-8.30pm  
Sundays, 11am-3pm

### Young preachers at Tottenham

Since 2010 the children and youth of Tottenham Church have been spending Thirteenth Sabbaths presenting the entire Divine Service.

On Sabbath 25 June their theme was 'Love to God – Love to Man', based on the commandments of Jesus in Matthew 22:36-39 and Luke 10:25-28.

Special musical renditions gave praise and the two young preachers, Hellen Oppong-Mensah and Kristopher Reid (both 14), delivered the sermons. Both young preachers concluded that these commands of love are still relevant, vital and valid in our fast-moving twenty-first century.

DOREEN FRAY, COMMUNICATION DEPT



### Messenger

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### Sunset

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by HM Nautical Almanac Office.

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Sept 2	7.46	7.58	7.52	8.06	8.14
9	7.30	7.42	7.36	7.47	7.56
16	7.14	7.26	7.19	7.29	7.39
23	6.58	7.10	7.02	7.10	7.21

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