

They come in all colours, shapes and sizes, and nothing makes Heaven happier than new believers!

MESSENGER has been flooded with baptismal reports during the past few weeks, so we decided to run them together as a feature in this issue, giving our readers good reason to rejoice at what God has done – with your help!

Some churches have reported large baptisms, others just one or two, but in each case there was a decision for God – a courageous commitment made, probably under difficult circumstances or in the face of intensely negative peer pressure.

As you look at these brave new members, take time to read their names and pray for them. They are not just statistics - they are our 'new-born' brothers and sisters in Christ. If they are from your church, why not 'adopt' one of them discreetly as your special

> responsibility. Then you can ensure that they are encouraged, nurtured and retained for eternity! FOITOR

> > continued on pages 6 & 7

### Baptism and church-plant in Manchester!

Twelve souls were baptised in Manchester following a two-week evangelistic campaign – in total, twenty-three gave their lives to Jesus! The campaign was led by the London Ghana church at the request of a group headed by Pastor Isaac Amofa and supervised by Pastor lan Sweeney.

The renowned Adventist evangelist, Pastor Andrews Lawrence Ewoo, spoke for fourteen nights on the theme, 'New Life In Christ'. It was certainly a new life for the church-plant that came at the end of the campaign – the Manchester Picadilly Seventh-day Adventist group. COMMUNICATION DEPT

Candidate names: Florence Aboagye, Emmanuella Akosua, David Boansi, Emelia Owusu, James Boakye, Margareth Gyasi, Francine Knight, Jacqueline Mcooke, Jacqueline Dempster, Paula Bryant, Andrews Hagan, Gyeabour Abrefa.



### Seven baptised in Lea Valley campaign

At the end of a Spirit-filled three-week evangelistic campaign conducted by Pastor Lewis Quaye of Lea Valley (Ghana) Church, seven souls were baptised at the John Loughborough School on Saturday 6 August.

Senior Pastor Fergus Owusu-Boateng, who conducted the baptismal service, welcomed the members into the fellowship of the church.

To God be the glory!

ERNEST OSAFO

Candidate names: Mark Oppong Agyei, Osei Acheampong, Peter Jackson Adu, John Nsiah, Celestine Asare Mensah, Charlotte Wuruche Mantor, Gladys Adu



# Olympus E-30, Kenkester Murray, Rugby 210mm Megapixels of creation

Messenger is currently running a four-part series over a twelve-month period entitled Megapixels of creation, offering our photographers the opportunity to have their nature photography published in the

So far we have covered the spring season. Summer has come and gone, so now I am inviting you to send me your summer photography for our next issue.

This is not a competition, and the only reward will be to see your photography in print!

Please send your photographs to me at: dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk, or upload them to me through www.mailbigfile.com.

Happy snapping!

DAVID BELL, MESSENGER DESIGNER

# **Enhancing** by Sharon Platt-McDonald RGN, RM, RHV, MSc

**Golden eight** — part 1b

In the last issue we shared a testimony about an asthma sufferer whose lifestyle change reduced her asthma symptoms. In this issue we highlight research which examines the impact of breathing techniques in asthma patients and provides some interesting facts about the effect of poor air quality on our health.

Researchers from the Department of General Practice and Primary Care at the University of Aberdeen performed a randomised controlled trial (research designed to examine whether one method is more effective than another) to determine if formal breathing training improves quality of life and the control of asthma. One group received breathing training from respiratory therapists, while the other group received standard asthma education

The follow-up examination after six

months indicated a significant improvement in the quality-of-life scores in the group which had received training in breathing exercises, compared to the group which had just followed traditional asthma education. Additionally, the levels of anxiety and depression were also decreased among those who had received respiratory training.

The study, published in the journal *Thorax* (2008), concluded that, while the research did not demonstrate a decreased need for asthma medication, breathing training could benefit patients whose asthma impairs their quality

So why is correct breathing so important? Deep breathing expands the diaphragm, increasing the flow of air into the lungs and the uptake of oxygen by our cells. Deep breathing is most beneficial when done in natural environments, with clean, open-air spaces, where the air is less polluted.

Individuals with asthma, lung disorders and heart disease are more at risk of an adverse reaction from poor air quality. They can experience a range of symptoms, including respiratory discomfort, breathing difficulties

The World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality and Health Fact Sheet No. 311 (September 2011) highlighted the following facts:

- Air pollution is a major environmental risk to health. By reducing air pollution levels, we can help countries reduce the global burden of disease from respiratory infections, heart disease, and lung cancer.
- The lower the levels of air pollution in a city, the better the respiratory and cardiovascular health of the population will be.
- Indoor air pollution is estimated to cause approximately two million premature deaths annually, mostly in developing countries.
- Urban outdoor air pollution is estimated to cause 1.3 million deaths

The WHO has set guidelines for reducing air-quality-related deaths. (View these by typing WHO Air Quality Guidelines 2010 into Google.)

In the next issue we will conclude this segment on air with tips for improving air quality.

Good health!

# editorial

As I write this editorial, there is palpable tension in the media regarding the future of the ailing euro, the eurozone, and the global economy. In fact, I have just heard some experienced economists on a BBC talk show addressing the question: 'Is it time to call for a global state of emergency?"

Take a moment to let that question sink in. What usually happens during a state of emergency? How could it affect your life? Having lived for a few years in a country where such things occurred, I can answer that question for you.

### A state of emergency

There may be severe restrictions on those things that we regard as normal. I have experienced restrictions on travel; roadblocks manned by armed and grim-faced soldiers; strict limits on how much fuel I could buy, or the amount of my cash I could draw from the bank each day.

I have seen house prices fall; shares plunge; retirement funds falter and currencies soften. Daily life can be disrupted by a whole raft of shortages: bread, flour and milk; water and electricity. Oh, and don't forget the soap!

Unemployment follows and ordinary people, like you and me, inevitably suffer further personal hardship because of this.

Then at some point the authorities usually feel the need to forestall widespread panic. and possible civic unrest, by 'managing' the news. Censorship is introduced to prevent you knowing just how bad things are. Email slows down – allegedly because it is being monitored – and Rumour (Unlimited) becomes the 'news agency' of choice.

Magistrates impose 'detention without trial'; ambulances wail mournfully in the night; there is the distant rat-tat-tat of automatic rifle fire . . . and dissenters begin to disappear, mysteriously!

If you think I am exaggerating, drop me a line and I'll send you a reading list.

### It may not happen

Yes, it may not happen. By the time you read this. Greece may have got its act together and made credible commitments to repay its national debt of €340 billion – just €31,000 per citizen!2 But let's not be hard on the Greeks – they're not the only ones trying to stay out of debtors' prison! And even if the euro stabilises, there is one thing that is certain: civilisation will continue to stagger from crisis to crisis until Jesus comes.

If crises are inevitable, then it makes sense to be prepared for them. In fact, it makes more sense to exploit them.

### Exploit a crisis – what do you mean?

I mean just what Barack Obama's chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, meant back on 21 November 2008, when he said: 'You

# Don't waste Julian Hibbert a good crisis!

never want a serious crisis to go to waste."3

He explained it as follows: 'Things that we had postponed for too long, that were long-term, are now immediate and must be dealt with. This crisis provides the opportunity for us to do things that you could not do before."4

Simply put, in a crisis situation the status quo is normally disturbed, and life cannot continue properly without major adjustments. Those adjustments, if managed carefully, become enhancements, and the crisis is the catalyst for positive change.

### James had a similar view

Strangely, James also held the view that 'a serious crisis' should never 'go to waste'. Notice how he put it: 'Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.' (James 1:2-4,

What a statement: 'Consider it pure joy . . . whenever you face trials of many kinds. . . . ' It is so different from the way we normally approach life: 'Dear Jesus, thank you for all our many blessings, especially the prosperity, tranquillity and peace we enjoy, amen.

Usually we rejoice in the 'good life', don't we? But James turns this on its head by telling us that trials 'of many kinds' will enhance our spirituality and bring us the purest joy.

### How?

What is there about a trial or crisis situation that can enhance our spirituality? The text contains the answer: 'because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.'

We all need to trust Jesus daily for his gifts of forgiveness and righteousness. But beyond that, how much 'faith' does the average UK Christian exercise to get through each day? Buses. trains and planes run pretty much to schedule. Shops are stocked with food and the energy

The NHS offers a better medical service than you will find in most parts of the world. Policing and emergency services are of a high standard. The RAC and its competitors seem to offer a good and prompt service.

### Not enough!

So, how much faith do we need when our lives are so safe, secure and protected? Not enough – and that's the apostle's point!

Waves of crisis, trial and difficulty develop our faith as nothing else can. They make it robust and resilient. They develop the quality that

James prizes so highly in our text -'perseverance' - the willingness to carry on trusting God, no matter how badly life batters you!

Are we ready (and willing) for 'a state of emergency' - personal, national or

'Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.' (James 1:12, NIV.)

<sup>1</sup>The Bottom Line, 24 September, 2011 (BBC Radio 4 rebroadcast). 2http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-13991135. 3In Crisis, Opportunity for Obama' by Gerald F. Seib, *The Wall Street Journal* (Digital Network Edition) (Capital Journal), Friday, 21 November, 2008. <sup>4</sup>Ibid.



# nurture

### In the hands of God The recession





s there any place about which you are patriotic? Say, a hometown or home country?

and you

Until recently I've not been the patriotic type. However, the last time I returned from an overseas trip, I took my usual turning off the A1 and saw Grantham down there in the Witham Valley. towered over by 'the finest steeple in England', unequalled 'even in glorious Somerset', and I realised that, after thirty-three years' residence, I'm mightily fond of this little town.

Pathetic? Substitute Grantham with whichever place is the focus of your patriotic impulses, then. Let's call it Hometown.

You've been travelling – sav. for a few years - and you return to Hometown. It has been devastated, as if by one of those August riots that did for the shopping centres of a number of English cities. Windows have been smashed. Homes have been torched. Church roofs and civic buildings, having had their lead stripped away, have fallen in. Every bit of copper piping has been stolen. Every building has been looted, including the church. The spire has been toppled, and in place of the stained-glass windows there are ugly black holes.

There is no sign of a single human being in the ruined and rubbled-over township. The only sign of life is feral cats and dogs.

If that had happened to the place in which all your instincts of belonging had been invested. how would you feel?

Really? That's just how the people of Jerusalem felt when they returned after the Exile. In their absence they had fondly thought of it as 'Zion' and themselves as 'the people of Zion'. That notion had kept them going.

On their return it was tough to locate streets, let alone individual homes. There was no sign even

of the most imposing buildings. There was Temple Mount, but no sign of the Temple

Summed up in a few words, their feelings were: 'God has abandoned us. He has forgotten we ever existed.'

After that there might have been a time of quiet while God absorbed their anger. When it was over, God's reply was impressive: 'Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands'.

One of the Lord's bedrock messages! Yes? In the best possible sense: strong language!

That strong language remains true even when our lives have been reduced to heaps of rubble. When we blame God for everything and, in our anger, think he has forgotten us – those are the words he wants us to hear.

Can a mother forget her child? Mother-love is earthly love at its strongest and purest. But God's love for his people is infinitely stronger because infinitely purer. God's attachment to his people is bonded with a strength beyond the finest of mothers.

God has great, mighty hands. The picture behind his words in Isaiah 49:15 is of those great hands fast-closed around a treasure too precious to be exposed. Slowly, those hands begin to open so that we can see the treasure. As he unclasps his hands, no inscribed parchment fragment is revealed. Our names have not been inscribed in wood or stone. They have been cut into the flesh of God's own hands.

No one, but no one, can erase that engraving!

Jerusalem's lament was, 'God has forsaken and forgotten us!' Why? The city in which their homes, their names, their actual

identities were invested was in ruins. Could the home, the name, the identity ever be restored?

Since the start of the credit crunch much of what we have trusted has been reduced to ruins. Ask a pensioner.

Ask those who cannot sell their homes even when the price has dropped by thousands. Ask the unemployed and the victims of cuts

Once people could say, 'You can always trust bricks and mortar!' That seemed to be true even in times of inflation and somersaulting share and money markets. No longer. Channel Four's Jon Snow said: 'Communism collapsed in the late '80s. Is capitalism going to tumble twenty years later?'

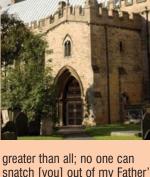
In common with the returning Jerusalemites, we are feeling decidedly vulnerable these days.

Our schools and colleges struggle to stay open. Health institutions go under. Overseas publishing houses collapse.

What does God have to say to his people these days?

Earthly cities, either figuratively or literally, are in ruins and in slavery to a harsh economic system. 'But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother.' (Galatians 4:26. NIV. my italics.) No matter how many heaps of rubble our lives have been reduced to, our tenancy here always had only a short-term lease. We have citizenship rights in an eternal city: '. . . our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control' (Phil. 3:20, 21, NIV), assures us that whatever it is that seems to be over our heads is, in fact, under his feet.

When Jesus came the first time, he spoke about his Father's hands, just as the Father himself had done through Isaiah: '. . . no one can snatch [you] out of my hand'. Jesus said. 'My Father. who has given [you] to me, is



snatch [you] out of my Father's hand' (John 10:28, 29, NIV).

'If that's what God's love is like, isn't it totally unrealistic?' I have been asked.

God's love is totally realistic. It is based on prior knowledge of the worst about us. No discovery can come to light now that can disillusion God about us in the way that we sometimes disillusion our friends and ourselves.

We know God because he first knew us. and because he continues to know us.

The most important thing to remember is not that you know God, it's that God knows vou. Your name is cut into his hands, the very hands in which he holds vou. You are never out of his mind. His attention doesn't wander and his care never falters.

'God has not promised skies always blue, Flower-strewn pathways, all our lives through; God has not promised sun without rain, Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

'But God has promised strength for the day, Rest for the labour, light for the way, Grace for the trials, help from above, Unfailing sympathy, undying love.' (These two verses are from the work of Annie Johnson Flint.)

'Simon Jenkins, England's Thousand Best Churches (Penguin, 2000), pages 376, 377. <sup>2</sup>Author's own paraphrase of Isaiah 49:14. <sup>3</sup>Isaiah 49:15. 16 (NIV)

## **ISSUES**

# **Postmodernism** and worship



by Rudy Dingjan, Church Growth director,

The editor invited Rudy Dingjan, Church Growth director of the Netherlands Union, to continue our series on membership retention by sharing his personal experience regarding postmodernism and worship.

espite the fact that I am a 'baby boomer' from 1952, my three children born in 1976, 1978 and 1982 – have made me an 'expert' on postmodernism! To keep my expertise in shape, I only need to stay in close contact with them, which is not hard, since my wife and I regularly function as baby-sitters for their growing number of

When Remco (1978) started attending secondary school, he kept on attending church. He had friends there, and he never really got God out of his system. But he stopped singing completely. Yes, he would rise with the congregation, and look at the little red hymnal from a distance, but no sound would leave his lips. At this moment. however, he is the worship leader of the Uniek church-plant in Utrecht, Netherlands, and sings his heart out. How come?

### Authenticity

Firstly, as a child of his time, authenticity was, and still is, of utmost importance to him. This means that the 'inside' and the 'outside' should match. As a teenager, singing from the Dutch Advent Hymnal did not at all express what lived in him. For one, most lyrics were in a language that wasn't his. They were worded like poems he studied for classes in Ancient Dutch literature. Secondly, the other 'language' of hymns, the music style, was foreign to him. Only in church did he ever hear this way of arranging notes and rhythms. Again, they belonged to what you study in a History of Music course. To Remco, worshipping God the best way we can did not match the way we as a church worshipped. He did not skip church, but he refrained from singing.

I am happy we never pressed him to sing along (even though we didn't understand the process at that time). That would have forced him to be a hypocrite – something both he and God find distasteful. Postmodern people possess a well-developed antenna for anything that smells, feels, sounds, looks or tastes even slightly inauthentic. And as soon as they pick it up, they will run from it!

To them, worship can never be a performance, a going-through-the-motions, or the singing of words without meaning and experiencing them.

### Content counts

When on Facebook I asked for reactions. Erik wrote to me: 'If you also practise what you sing, it will appeal. . . . It's not just singing some songs: the content of the songs counts.' To postmoderns, worship must relate to daily life. The acid test for worship is whether it results in concrete actions and attitudes. Often you see that churches and church-plants that accommodate postmodern people will support social work, not only with their money, but by actually going to help out.

Authenticity calls for directness. No beating about the bush. Lofty but intangible wording and extensive formulas will not be part of their prayers, nor of their worship lyrics. I remember a young woman from an unchurched background in Copenhagen's café church, who would participate in the conversational prayers of her small group

with expressions like: 'Yes Lord, you are my Number One'.

The lyrics of their worship music will have sentences like: 'I want to be like you; you are my King.' But they will also include emotional language, passionately expressing adoration, thanksgiving and love to God. Whereas some traditional hymns contain almost complete lectures or Bible studies, you will not meet these in contemporary worship songs.

To be able to match their 'insides' and 'outsides', postmoderns will look for the music styles in which they can most intensely experience what they sing. The majority find this in contemporary music styles. But others might use Gregorian chants, for example, because that is *their* language of music.

Having a match between your 'inside' and your 'outside' affects the way you worship. Your body language needs to express what is in you. Dancing, clapping or raising your hands, shouting, jumping, and prostrating yourself, but also sitting down and being silent, are seen as quite appropriate, as long as these actions really express what you experience inside. This means that you cannot exert pressure to make everyone act in the same way. Respect for one another's experience is of utmost importance within the postmodern context.

### Rules of engagement

Whether we like it or not, these are the accepted rules of engagement postmoderns work with. And, as far as I am concerned. they are quite biblical! To Jesus there was no greater sin than hypocrisy. Integrity and honesty are values the Bible uplifts. Only the 144,000 can sing the song of the Lamb. because only they have gone through their unique experience.

So how can we make sure that the non-churched and our young adults can have a genuine encounter with God in our Adventist worship services? Give them room, respect their experience and invite them to have input in the way we plan our worship. The faith of their fathers has to become their faith, relevant to their world and experience. Try this and you might be surprised - you may be reiuvenated too!



Thames brings new life Adriana Stancu's dream to be 'baptised in a river' came true recently at a service in the River Thames. The officiating minister was Vlado Godina, assisted by first elder, Nigel Nicholls, and well-supported by the Oxford congregation. Adriana is from Romania, but has found a warm SOPHIA NICHOLLS



### Thirteen Holloway Church baptisms

The 'Change is Coming' evangelistic series conducted by Pastor Kirk Thomas and singer, Anthony Whigham (USA), at Holloway Church, climaxed in the baptism of thirteen people on 20 August in front of a packed church. Here the candidates pose with the evangelistic team.

Candidate names: Anika Austin, Althea Bailey, Angelina Barclay, Daedria Duncan, Arnold Champo, Ashante Samuels, Josette Peterson, Rebeccah Hawthorn, Delroy Lindsay, Natahsha Lindsay, Wanda Halley, Beverley McKenzie, Nokuthula Moyo.

ANESHA WEST





### Twenty-four baptised in London campaign!

Dr Alanzo Smith conducted meetings on 'Building Stronger Families

Candidate names: Festus Asante, Melody Obeng, Leslie Essel, Adrianna Dwomoh, Ebenezer Mensah, Nicole Adjei, Michael Boahen, Manza Homiah, Andrew Dwomoh, Avola Homiah, Michael Dankwa, Danielle Abrokwah, Hanna Mensah, Joshua Arthur, Anita Annan, Frank Asuming, Doris Antwi, Kwabena Sarpong, Rita Agyei, George



and Relationships' at the London Ghana church from 20 August to 3 September.

The enthusiastic audience poured into the church night after night. Melody Obeng, a visitor who made a last-minute decision to be baptised, said, 'I did not plan to get baptised any time soon. But when I heard the story about the 16-year-old girl who died two weeks after refusing to give her life to Jesus, I asked myself: What am I waiting for? After all, tomorrow is never guaranteed.

Festus Asante, who is from a Catholic and Presbyterian background, had been attending church with his Adventist wife for the past four years. He said, 'I felt compelled to give my life to Jesus. What more excuses did I have not to surrender?

Dukar, Gideon Duah, Kwarteng Sarfo, Samuel Mensah, Arnold Amofah. RUBINA ARTHUR

age." Amen.'

Bunnet Gupo, Humphrey

Humphrey Katotoka came from Zambia to study at Sussex University. Regular attendance at the Brighton and Hove church,

research at Birmingham University he contacted Pastor Milan Gugleta to learn more about the faith of a fellow student. They met

> On Sabbath 27 August Pastor Leslie Hill also baptised Elihudi Urassa at the Oasis Christian Fellowship in Hove. COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



Leeds/Bradford harvest of twenty-five!

church by Pastors Williams and Mwasumbi was a great

Mphango Simwaka, Jane Mithole, Slyvia Hobwani, Polite

The 'Minutes to Midnight' evangelistic series held in the Bramley

success, with the following twenty-five people being baptised in

two services: Unessa James, Shirley Lourd, Sithembile Ndiweni,

Muzenda, Exebia Ncube, Nontobeko Donga, Tendai Zinyemba,

Patricia Downs, Nonduduzo Moyo, Ombi Mushinka, Kangwa

Mwamba, George Mwasumbi, Emmanuel Muzenda, Conrad

Angus Mushinka, Mucai Mbugua, John Mbugua, Phillip

Topereso, Chama Mwamba.

Ntshese, Wonga Tafatatha, Charlton Gashu, Immanuel Nkomo,

PASTOR IKWISA MWASUBI

### Norwich baptises four

On Sabbath, 10 September, an excited and joyous Norwich church witnessed Pastor Bertie de Nysschen baptise Musah Nkomo, Andrea Chua, Christel Mohan and Christoff Mohan: four new, young, precious members! WENDY GRADY



### **Palmers Green baptisms**

Pastor Victor Hulbert ran a unique series of meetings in Palmers Green called 'The Journey', during which he experimented with a post-modern approach to evangelism. He was ably assisted by the church pastor, Maslin Holnes, who baptised Yvonne Robinson-Solan and Tamara Nunes, with more to come. One person who came directly from the community also requested baptism.







'And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All

authority has been given to Me in heaven and on

earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the

nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father

to observe all things that I have commanded you;

and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them

and lo. I am with you always, even to the end of the

July when three young men were baptised:

Katotoka and Dr Trevor Askwith. Bunnet had been a regular attendee at church, but made his decision after studies with Pastor Leslie Hill.

and studies with Pastor Hill, led to his baptism. Dr Trevor Askwith had been an atheist, but during his doctoral

weekly in a pub to study the Bible, and he gained a conviction of

him. The student who sparked his curiosity in the Bible, Louise Hill, became his wife!

Matthew 28:18-20, NKJV.

Jonathan Seetayah and

# Christian Stars stand out and be different to the rest of the people.

**Hello Christian Stars!** 

Faithfulness, as one of the fruits of the Spirit, can be a little tricky to understand. Being faithful means keeping your promises, being a loyal friend (even when it is hard to be loyal!), being trustworthy and doing the things you said you would do.

Daniel's faithfulness to God: The story of Daniel in the Bible shows us that he was faithful in three different ways:

First, he stayed faithful to God by worshipping and praying only to him. Even when he knew he could be shredded by hungry lions, he still prayed to God.

Second, he stayed faithful to God's Word by only eating the foods God had told him were good for him. It must have taken great courage to turn down the king's fancy food; to

Third, Daniel stayed faithful to his **responsibilities**. He was wise, hard-working and trustworthy. In fact, he was so faithful that at least two kings asked him to look after their kinadoms.

Daniel's story reminds us that we should:

Firstly, be known for our faithfulness to God.

Do our friends know about our faith in Jesus?

Secondly, be known for our faithfulness to God's Word.

> Thirdly, be known for our faithfulness to our responsibilities.

Do we live differently to those around us?

Do we avoid sloppy attitudes to our work and learning, unfinished tasks, and broken promises?

Use the clues to help you complete the crossword. The important words in the crossword can be found in Daniel 6:4. The text tells us what Daniel's enemies said about his faithfulness.

### Across

- 1. People who work against
  - 3. Law
  - 6. To report dissatisfaction; reason to moan

### Down

- 2. Mistakes, wrong doing
- 4. A Hebrew boy who remained faithful, even when in captivity in Babylonia
- 5. Trust, have confident belief in the the truth

Even Daniel's enemies could not find any fault in Daniel. Could our enemies say the same about us?

### Faithfulness Wordbuilder:

Faithfulness is the longest name of a fruit of the Spirit. See how many words you can make out of its twelve letters.

Just as there are lots of letters that make up this word, there are lots of ways you can show faithfulness. When you read the story of Ruth in the Old Testament you will find many ways to be a faithful friend. Ruth chose to believe in God, so he helped her look after the lonely widow, Naomi. When you help to look after a lonely person, remember to pray for the gift of faithfulness.

Faithful heroes in the Bible: See if you can match the right hero with the right clue

**Daniel** 

Moses

John

Abraham

I stayed faithful to God, even after I became a queen.

I was a faithful disciple of Jesus. He asked me to take care of his mother after his death.

I was faithful to God and would not even let a giant frighten me.

would rather be eaten by lions than be unfaithful to God.

I stayed faithful to Jesus after he told me I would never be thirsty if I drank the water he gave me.

FAITHFULNESS

My brother killed me in anger because I offered a faithful sacrifice to God.

Abel

**David** 

Mary

**Esther** 

I travelled to an unknown destination when God told me to leave Ur.

I was faithful to my promise to lead my people to the Promised Land.

I stayed faithful to my mother-in-law, Naomi, and worshipped her God.

Ruth

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Feedback from children who visit Christian Stars Children's pages – or from their parents – is welcome. The address is children@adventist.org.uk. Heather Haworth, Children's Ministries director, BUC & Heather Hawort

n 11 September, while the world remembered the Twin Towers, The Stanborough Press Ltd held its annual open day in Grantham. The event was more than a massive book sale. It was a chance for hundreds of visitors to meet old friends and make new ones.

The visitors also listened to an inspiring sermon, a family life presentation and some excellent Adventist singers.

Many children, and some 'sporting' adults, joined in the face-painting fun arranged by our Design department. There were also long queues at the various food stalls, such as the one run by granoVita.

### **Total sales**

At the beginning of this year it was clear that publishers and bookshops would be in for a rough time, especially with music and book retailer HMV planning to close sixty outlets in twelve months – 'roughly ten percent of the group's UK High Street presence' – including twenty Waterstone's branches!

It came as no surprise, then, when we found our open day sales total roughly ten percent down on that of last year. This is to be expected as long as the recession continues to erode the money our members have to spend on religious literature and

There were 987 till transactions that day. The literature sold included 169 Bibles; 1,555 Spirit of Prophecy books; 332 Sabbath School study guides; 492 children's books and 1,498 calendars.

### **Books change lives**

All in all, 6,996 books were sold, many of which were for evangelistic distribution, while others were bought for personal growth and spiritual quidance.

It is difficult to know just where the influence of these books and Bibles will end, but we are sure that they will have a very positive impact on many lives in the months ahead after all, books change lives, don't they?

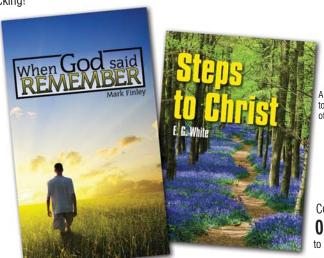
### **Books change lives!**

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Book of the year: reprinted due to popular demand

# in the Church, for whom I have a great respect, claimed that the youth were leaving the Church in

Dear Editor I write in response to 'Worship styles – can some tension be good?' (Messenger 27 May, article by Dr David Marshall).

Up to a point the answer has to be an emphatic YES. Though we share a common faith, our backgrounds and experiences are all unique. We differ in age, religious background, ethnic complexion, and so on. I am a native-born Englishman of 68, of nominally Methodist background, and I lean towards the more simple type of worship, with the public exposition of the Scriptures having the bulk of the time. I admire what seems to be 'the golden age of English language hymnody', in which the figures of Isaac Watts, Charles Wesley, James Montgomery, Thomas Kelly, Frances Ridley Havergal and Fanny Crosby loom largest, together with contributions from the Celtic Rim, courtesy of the Scottish Psalter, William Williams and Horatius Bonar. As one whose father was an organist, again my leanings are very much to the praise accompanied on an organ, voiced very much as J. S. Bach would have relished it.

Another complicating factor is a division that arose in Protestantism as to what was acceptable in the worship of God. One view says, 'If it isn't forbidden, it's allowed', while the other claims, 'If it isn't commanded, it's forbidden'. Both have problems. Either they open the door to innovations that may well be innocent in themselves, and possibly even edifying, but which can degenerate into tyrannous impositions - or they lead to the imposition of modes of worship that either are unnecessary or make no sense outside the culture within which they originated.

Let me focus on the 'Pastoral Prayer'. Again, I find my hankering for simplicity clashes with the current fashion. My own practice is to go up to the desk and simply say, 'Let us pray'. It seems to me quite unnecessary to bracket it with a preliminary prayer and a supplementary prayer, as seems to be an increasingly common practice.

Another aspect is the increasing 'technologicalisation' of our services. There is nothing intrinsically wrong with the use of projectors, screens, and laptops. Many can remember the preaching of Daniel and Revelation, where weirdlooking creatures were displayed. It can also help to bring alive the narrative portions of the Bible.

Now for the real issue: to drum or not to drum? One young person

droves because of the old-timers' attitude to the use of drums. I must however, differ from her analysis. Were they so used to six days of mimicking this or that pop idol that they had no taste, come Sabbath, for the solemn worship of the Sanctuary? Whether we like it or not, we *must* publicly worship God in a manner that is free from distraction.

Lastly, the worship service is no occasion for any would-be J. S. Bach to show off keyboard expertise. Rhetorical flourishes before or after hymns are out of place. As for 'special' music, let it be kept that way: for special occasions only. RARRY GOWLAND

### Re: 'Ted Wilson's first year'

Dear Editor Pastor Neves's article, 'Ted Wilson's first year - a pastor's review' (which appeared in Messenger 19 August and Spectrum 28 July), was very thought-provoking. It's reassuring to see such a wholehearted endorsement of the traditional values of our GC president – especially from one who was initially sceptical. I'm glad that Pastor Neves has recognised that he and Ted Wilson aren't so different after all, and I hope his article inspires others to see the samel

I must say I was dismayed at the

ANDREW PUCKERING

### Dear Editor

article from Sam Neves – an article from one of our pastors, at that. It is messages like these that give rise to conspiracy theories. Does Sam Neves realise that he is not talking about some political leader? He writes as if he is not aware of the process of how our leaders are elected. It should be obvious to him that this is a leader God has chosen at this time to lead the Church. How could he say he does not know him? Was Sam Neves recently baptised? Upon his election, the president preached a sermon, not a speech. Brother Sam. you sound as if he was some political leader who just got elected. When the president speaks he speaks to the world, not to Europeans. Adventists are peculiar people – the Bible says that. Finally, Pastor Sam, we are God's remnant Church, not a political party with a political system. When a number of members at my church read this article they were not happy at all. I wonder what the response of the leadership of the Church to this article will be. Pastor Sam Neves, you need a lesson in collective responsibility. ANTHONY SAUNDERS

### the Berean column

with Andrew Puckering

### Peace, be still!

I'm sure vou've been caught up in an argument before. The apostles argued too (Luke 22:24) after all, no one's perfect (1 Kings 8:46; Ecclesiastes 7:20)! Paul had to rebuke Peter for hypocritically withdrawing from the company of Gentiles when other Jews came knocking, and even Barnabas followed Peter in his hypocrisy (Galatians 2:11-13). Paul had also argued with Barnabas about taking John Mark with them on another missionary journey, after John Mark had left them once before in Pamphylia – and the contention was so sharp that they parted company (Acts 15:36-40). Such arguments should not divide believers, as Paul himself acknowledged: envy, strife and divisions are the marks of the carnal, not the spiritual (1 Corinthians 3:1-4).

Some arguments were very serious, and required the Church leaders to address them directly – such as the argument over the practice of circumcision, which the Pharisees who believed in Christ thought was still necessary, not just for Jews but for Gentiles, as well (Acts 15:1-6).

God commanded Abraham, the father of the Jews, to circumcise his son Isaac (Genesis 21:4), in fulfilment of the covenant made between God and all of Abraham's descendants (Genesis 17: 1-12). God said that the failure of Hebrew fathers to circumcise their sons would constitute a breach of the covenant, and the uncircumcised child was to be 'cut off' from his people (Genesis 17:12-14, NKJV). Four hundred years later, God very nearly killed Moses, whom he had asked to lead the Hebrews out from their slavery and into the Promised Land, when Moses failed to circumcise his sons. Moses' wife was severely displeased (Exodus 4:24-26).

The Gentiles, however, were not Jews – and their hearts, the apostles agreed, had been purified by faith. God had made no distinction between them. The Gospel was to go to Gentiles, who didn't circumcise, just as much as to the Jews, who did, and Paul and Barnabas had seen first-hand how God worked for the salvation of the Gentiles (Acts 15:7-18). The argument was resolved when the Church leaders agreed to put aside the differences between Jew and Gentile, and they wrote the Jerusalem decree to say that Gentiles didn't need to be physically circumcised (Acts 15:19-29)

How far, then, should we take Paul's counsel to avoid strife and division? Does it mean that we as Christians should say nothing when we see our brothers sinning? What about God's command to Ezekiel to be a watchman and warn people of the dangers of sin (Ezekiel 3:16-21)? Well, Christ gave us very clear instructions about what to do when we see a brother in church sinning. We should mention it to his face, privately, not behind his back or publicly - only introducing others if he absolutely refuses to listen (Matthew 18:15-17).

As for 'doubtful issues', where there is no clear consensus, where the Bible gives little instruction and arguments so easily arise – Paul couldn't be plainer. Don't argue over doubtful things; let not the 'Pharisee' judge the 'backslider', and let not the 'backslider' despise the 'Pharisee' (Romans 14:1-3). Give thanks to God for your Christian liberty, but, if your brother is offended by something you do, be sensitive and don't do it (Romans 14:6, 15, 21). The Kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy – so let's work for peace and edification (Romans 14:17-19). There's enough trouble in the world, without creating more in the Church!

- · What did Paul agree to give up if it would make his brother stumble? (1 Corinthians 8)
- In which context did Paul tell believers to ask 'no questions for conscience' sake'? (1 Corinthians 10)
- What are the elect of God called to put on? (Colossians 3)
- What did Jesus say comes from the good treasure of the heart, and what did he say comes from the evil treasure of the heart?
- If there are divisions in a church, according to Paul, is the church capable of receiving spiritual 'meat'?







# **news** Worthy is the Lamb

### Vegetarian cookery outreach

The 'Eating Better, Paying Less' vegetarian cookery club, run by members of the Weston-super-Mare church as a community outreach, recently completed its third year of successful programmes with a vegetarian barbeque on 18 August. More than thirty members ate a very enjoyable spread of food in the comfort of the church hall.

The club will start its fourth year of programmes on 6 October. Nearly twenty members of the public regularly attend, and some have come to several Christmas and Easter programmes, Harvest Festival services and social events. Some are even fundraising for the new church hall! Please keep this project in your prayers. CYNTHIA SOUTHCOTT

This year at one of the largest festivals in Britain, the St Paul's Carnival. Bristol revellers heard a Gospel concert at the Bristol Central church. The six-hour concert was organised by Dennis De Cordova (chair of Community Sounds Limited and a member of

Bristol Central) and was entitled 'Worthy is the Lamb'. Visitors and church members alike enjoyed the sacred music: supporting singers came from Gloucester, Wolverhampton and London churches. ANGELA VICTOR









Congratulations to three friends from the Grantham church who recently completed their medical studies: Dr Samuel Cunningham (MB ChB) – Liverpool; Dr Katie Cunningham (BA Hons, MB BChir) – Cambridge; and Dr Anna Holden (BDS) - Birmingham. We wish them well in their choser

### **Congratulations**

On Sunday, 26 June, Douglas Cox married Olivia Bowerbank in a beautiful ceremony in St Peter's Church, Lenten. Douglas is the youngest child of Graham and Christine Cox, of the Grantham church. Graham retired from The Stanborough Press Ltd after a lifetime of service to the Church – more than 48 years. Olivia's parents, Malcolm and Delia, run a craft-shop in Grantham. On behalf of the Press family we wish the happy couple God's richest **EDITOR** 

**NEC Family Ministries dept & Singles Ministries presents:** 

### A workshop for single adults

'My Lord and I: the single life - what next?'

'A life of missionary work', 'Become an evangelist', 'Realise life can go on without a partner', 'Begin a new career', 'Marriage', 'Am I using my spiritual gifts? or 'Foster a child' -Where is God leading me? How do I know where he is leading me?

Join like-minded people at the Northampton church for fellowship, discussions, a delicious meal and activities.

DATE - Sunday 27 November 2011 **VENUE** – Northampton SDA church, 74 Highland Avenue, Spinney Hill, Northampton, NN3 6BQ

**SPEAKER** – Annell Smith from Socialight Ministries **TIME** – 12-5pm

All singles over 25, whatever your circumstances, are welcome to attend this event.

To reserve your place at the event and the delicious meal (£4) please contact:

Julie Crossfield on crossfield12@btinternet.com or 07903223272. or Ursula Jeffers on ujeffers2000@yahoo.co.uk or 07984390120



### **Area 2 youth retreat**

The Area 2 Youth Federation had its first youth retreat from 20 to 22 May, at the Hill House Christian Centre in Bridgwater. Youth from the Bristol Central, Gloucester, North Bristol and Lodge Causeway churches focused on the theme of being chosen by God and chosen for a purpose. Andre Crawford led a Bible study on the remnant, and prayer and worship were central to the weekend.

Throughout the weekend there was an ongoing Bible guiz, and the winners won books by Ellen G. White!

Go to: www.a2yf.com to stay updated with Area 2 youth.



**Corrigendum:** the third sentence of David Alexander Porter's obituary on p.15 of Messenger 30 September should have read as it was originally submitted — 'He served as elder for some years and as treasurer for much of his working life, during which time funds were raised by the faithful church members and under his wise stewardship to build the Cambridge church about fifty years ago.' MESSENGER staff deeply regret any offence caused to the author, and we offer our most heartfelt apology.





### **Outreach at Kent County Show**

On the weekend of Friday 15, Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 July the Kent County Show took place at Detling showground near Maidstone: with health checks given by Seventh-day Adventists.

This event was originally a demonstration of the county's finest agricultural exploits, but in more recent years it has expanded to incorporate shopping, charity stands, entertainment, show jumping, demonstrations of public services and local community association information stands. The Adventist stand was first envisaged by two sisters from the Canterbury church seven years ago.

The free health checks at a large public event were so popular, staff struggled to keep up with demand last year. This year, weather hampered visitor numbers, but a steady stream of people flowed through constantly. Crucially, church members were also able to distribute our biblical literature to an estimated further two hundred people each year! Praise the Lord!

The SEC Health Ministries co-ordinator, Elsie Staple, and Pastor Vasyl Vartsaba led thirty volunteers in performing health checks. Guests were registered, given a medical record card and encouraged to take literature and return the following year. Several people did,

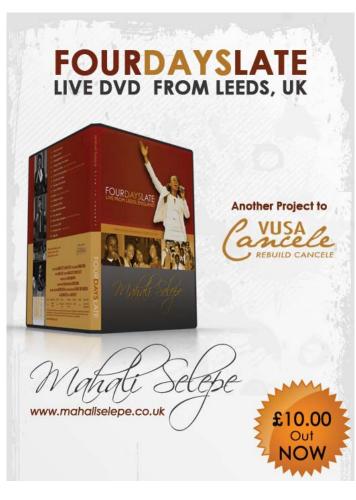
bringing family members and friends with them!

Each day began and ended with prayer, and feedback was very positive.

One woman said, 'I'm not a Christian, but if all Christian groups did things like this I might consider it. I will take your literature and read it with an open mind.

PERRAN FACEY-HAY







A Highlight of Your Child's Journey with Jesus Christ

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Sunday 6 November 2011, 3pm, Newbold SDA Church

St Mark's Road. Bracknell RG42 4AN



### **Aberdeen affirms God as Creator**

On Tuesday evening 16 August, twenty-three souls gathered to hear Bernard Brandstater speak on origins. An anaesthetist from Loma Linda University. Dr Brandstater has presented talks on the topic at academic conferences and churches worldwide. Dr Brandstater assured attendees that evolution is under serious attack these days from other scientists. Following a survey of important thinkers like Jerry Fodor and Timothy Eastman, Brandstater concluded that our Church should preach the first angel's message, and call for the whole world to worship a Creator God.



### **Funds raised through Gospel concert**

On Saturday evening, 6 August, eight members of the Cannock church raised £200 in aid of the East Africa famine appeal. The fundraising concert, organised by Sharmaine and Yvonne Lee, was held at Community Hall, Mill Street, Cannock.

Artists included Elvira Duare, Kia Curtis, Yvonne Lee and others. One of the organisers reminded attendees that 'Giving support and care to those in need is an integral part of spreading the Gospel message'





# obituaries

Denis Young (1919-2011) d. 21 **August.** It is with sadness that we report the death of Denis Young: a well-loved member of the Stanborough Park church. Born in Highgate, London, after the end of the First World War, he was to serve his country in the Home

Guard in the Second World War.

His family moved to Watford, where he met Maureen Pierce - the lady who became his wife. Shortly after their marriage they became members of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Stanborough Park.

Denis's skill as a welder was called into service during the war years, repairing Lysander and Lancaster aircraft. In this capacity he was required to fly all over the United Kingdom on repair missions. His skill in this capacity came to the rescue of the Stanborough Press when their large, cast-iron guillotine cracked and split into two pieces, creating a major problem for the press. Despite the belief that cast iron could not be welded,

Denis did the job. The repaired machine served the press for several years, and when it was replaced it fetched a good price on the second-hand market.

Denis is mourned by his wife Maureen, daughter Gill and grandchildren Julie and Andrew.

The service was conducted at Stanborough Park Church by Pastor Patrick Boyle, assisted by Terry Menkens, a church elder who gave a comprehensive outline of Denis's life. The committal took place at the Vicarage Cemetery. Maureen's brother Jeff, a Church of England minister, told of how, when their home was bombed during the war and their parents lost their lives, it was Denis who rescued him from the rubble. We miss this Christian gentleman and fellow

He rests in peace waiting for the promised return of the Prince of Peace, in whose Kingdom there will be no more death, pain, sorrow or parting. PASTOR PATRICK BOYLE

d. 18 June. John was born in London and was adopted shortly thereafter, along with his older sister Carol, by Enid and Bill Tolman, a loving Adventist couple from Chiswick.

From early on it was evident that God had blessed John with an outstanding musical talent. He was just 4 years old when he began playing simple hymn tunes. By age 7 he was playing piano solos at the New Gallery Centre in Regent Street. Seven years later, he even auditioned for the popular BBC TV programme, Opportunity Knocks.

John Bradley Tolman (1954-2011)

In 1968, John gave his life to God at Billy Graham's London evangelistic crusade and was subsequently baptised by Pastor John Shaw in 1969.

John's devotion to God led him to help others develop their musical talents. He played leading roles in forming a number of choirs, including the internationally renowned London Adventist Chorale.

On 27 August, 1978, John married Donnette Smith, with whom he later had two daughters, Leah and Carla. Ten vears after his wedding, he emigrated with his family to Canada and set up home in Vancouver.

Following the breakup of his marriage, he moved to Toronto where he later met Phyllis. They married on 19 October, 2002.

After five years of being happily married to Phyllis, John was diagnosed with an aggressive form of stomach cancer. He courageously battled it for three difficult years, during which he sent regular information to family and friends all over the world via the Care Pages website. This connection to his family and friends became a personal witness to his deep, unwavering faith in God. He always believed that God would heal him, but he also accepted God's sovereignty and will. Facing death was not easy for him, because he felt that he had so much more to accomplish in

When it became clear that God was ready for him to rest, John took great comfort in the words of the songs of hope and promise from his wellmarked church hymnal. He took his final breath and began his rest on Sabbath afternoon, 18 June.

The funeral was held at the Dixon-Garland Funeral Home in Markham. Ontario. Presiding ministers were Pastors Errol Lawrence, Hasley Peat, Sil Lindo and Frank Dell'Ebra. John died eagerly looking forward to the Resurrection morning.

John is lovingly remembered and survived by his wife, Phyllis, daughters Leah and Carla, granddaughter Avery, mother Enid, sister Carol, stepchildren Nadine and Stephan and a host of friends around the world. He rests, awaiting the Resurrection.

Margaret Robertson and family wish to thank all those who contributed to the total of £250 collected for the British Heart Foundation at the funeral of Francis Robertson. They also wish to convey sincere thanks to all those who have helped and sent messages of support.

### **Surprise Tribute for Pastor Leslie and Jill Hill**

The Brighton and Hove church and the Worthing church surprised Pastor Leslie Hill and Jill Hill for a tribute programme at the Oasis Christian Fellowship on 23 July, before Pastor Hill's retirement at the end of August. Following a blessed triple baptism service and meal, photographers took Pastor Leslie and Jill and the baptismal candidates

In the meantime, everyone else swiftly decorated the hall with retirement banners and balloons before Pastor Leslie and Jill re-entered to a standing ovation. Visitors travelled from

around the country from Pastor Hill's previous churches, and tributes of thanks and appreciation were sent from around the world. Newman Gumpo and Dr David Marshall, among others, gave personal tributes.

At the end of August, the churches at Brighton and Hove and Worthing held their own retirement gift presentations. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Leslie and Jill for their faithful service that by God's grace has seen both churches grow substantially during their tenure. We wish them a very happy and blessed retirement. COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



### **End of an era**

Oxford Adventist Church said goodbye to one of its founders and supporters, Mr Dennis Porter, this summer. Mr Porter, a historian and preacher who had been in charge of the seventeenth-century archives at the Bodleian Library (part of Oxford University), moved to Australia in August. Mr Porter served the Oxford church in many capacities and preached in many churches across the Union. OXFORD COMMUNICATIONS



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For enquiries, call 07412426987. 07908008147 or 07540785201, or email music@nkosikandlovu.co.uk.

# back page

### An immediate opportunity has arisen for a Communication &

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Watford, you will report to the Communication director. This full-time opportunity is ideal for someone seeking to further advance his or her already-proven career in the field of communication and media.

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Depending on qualifications and experience, the salary would range from £22,841 to £25,100 per annum. You will be involved in some weekend work.

All necessary checks will be carried out, and the successful candidate will be required to have the right to work within the UK. A full driver's licence will be a necessary requirement, as the job will involve local travel.

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### **Cooked with love**

One hundred and twenty meals served with love have been prepared recently by members of the Bristol Central church for the needy in the community. The finger-licking two-course meals are prepared to a very high standard, and a free haircutting and shaving service is also provided by barber and Personal Ministry leader, Elder Clive Campbell. This feeding ministry operates during the vital holiday season – Easter, August, Christmas and the New Year when the larger feeding organisations are closed. Feeding Programme coordinator Jeanette (Marie) Campbell said that she is involved in this ministry 'because Jesus showed and shared his love towards me: in return I am just giving back to others what God has so generously given to me.' ANGELA VICTOR

### Prayer line ministry available

Chanda Mulenga of Chelmsford Church is currently running a prayer line for broken homes, praying for deliverance, restoration, and healing the pain. This is an ongoing prayer line that will be available every Sunday between 8 and 8.15pm. The prayer line number is 08448 360 360 (calls cost 2p a minute on a BT line).

Alternatively, email: healpainan drestoration@gmail.com, or attend in person at the church: 43 Roman Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM2 0HA (every Thursday between 6 and 7.30pm).

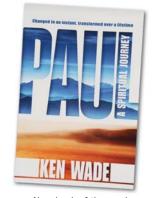
# Great Brickkiln Street Church raises £1,200 for East Africa

On 31 July, sixteen people carried out a sponsored walk through a local nature reserve and raised funds for the Ethiopia and Sudan famine appeal. As the group journeyed on, tracts and booklets from the Personal Ministry department were offered to ramblers and cyclists as they passed by. Most

accepted, and the brief interactions were pleasant experiences.

The money raised was forwarded to ADRA to relieve the suffering caused by the famine in Ethiopia and Sudan.

DELVA CAMPBELL



New book of the week

### Paul: A Spiritual Journey

Ken Wade

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

### Messenger

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### Sunset

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		Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Oct	14	6.10	6.23	6.12	6.16	6.29
	21	5.56	6.08	5.57	5.59	6.12
	28	5.42	5.54	5.42	5.42	5.57
Nov	4	4.29	4.41	4.29	4.27	4.42

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