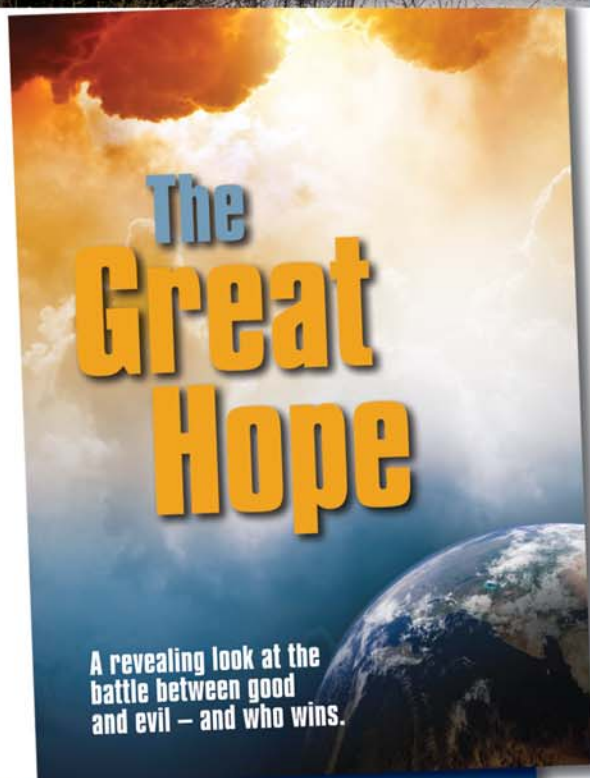


Messenger

News to the churches • 3 February 2012 • Volume 117 • 03



It's here . . .

Last year we made you a promise that we would have *The Great Hope* available to those churches and individuals who might want to use it. This is what we said on the cover of *MESSENGER*, 28 October, 2011, 'The Great Hope project':

'The Stanborough Press has arranged for a large quantity of these books to be available for distribution here in the British Isles.'

'It will appear early next year in a compact, four-colour format – ideal for easy distribution to family, friends, neighbours and strangers. It will likely be paired with another outreach booklet to give your witness added impact.'

These books are now available just as we promised, and you can order them from our ABC under the following deal:

Buy from 1 to 199 copies of *The Great Hope* at 50 pence each, plus postage and packaging.

Buy a case of 200 copies of *The Great Hope* and we will give you a case (100 books) of *When God said Remember*, by Mark Finley, free of charge – and we will pay your postage and packaging too!

(You can also buy full, unabridged copies of *The Great Controversy* for £1.45 plus p&p.)

Please remember

This is a service rendered directly to the BUC membership by the Stanborough Press. It is not meant to replace any special projects that are currently being developed by the Trans-European Division, or any departments of the British Union Conference.

For those with 'Pads' and 'Pods'

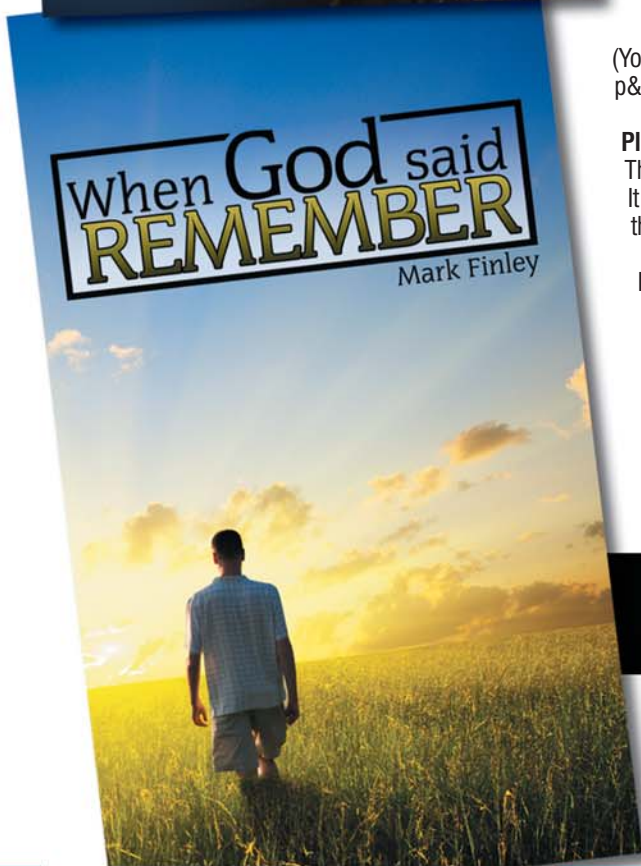
For those of our members with iPads, iPods or iPhones – or any similar devices – remember that you can download your own 'high-tech' version of *The Great Controversy* from the official website, as an app (application). Visit the official website, www.thegreathope.org, for more information.

Take time to read it

And finally, *The Great Hope* project is also an opportunity to get every Adventist to read the book too – either in this version, or its unabridged form.

When God said Remember, by Mark Finley, is an excellent book to give to those who are interested in the Sabbath. It is a recent Missionary Book of the Year.

To order your books to 'scatter like leaves of autumn', please phone **01476 539900** from Mondays to Thursdays, 8am to 5.30pm.



ADRA UK
Annual Appeal 2012

Annual Appeal 2012
31 March – 15 April
(extends to 22 April in London)



Megapixels of creation has been very successful throughout 2011. I have received many favourable comments from readers, and many contributions, so, once again, thank you very much.

For 2012, Megapixels of creation will take on different themes based around creation and nature, not just seasons, so please continue to send me your photography, scenes, flora and fauna, birds, animals and insects – anything that you feel portrays the power of creation.

If you have enjoyed all these great pictures, how about sending me yours, to: dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk – just remember to keep them 'hi-res' Happy snapping!

DAVID BELL, MESSENGER DESIGNER

Go to <http://adventistwebministries-org-uk.adventist.eu/megapixels> to see a larger selection of your photos

Megapixels of creation

Enhancing Health

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

Golden eight — part 4b

Rest – do you get enough?

Presently I am experiencing some 'enforced rest' due to an injury. Making the transition from a generally overflowing weekly agenda to one of relative 'stillness' has been challenging. However, I'm getting a lot of practice at living the balanced lifestyle to which I teach others to aspire.

Rest is so important to wellbeing that Jesus gave a directive to His disciples to pause from the busyness of life to be rejuvenated: "And He said to them, "Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while". For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat" Mark 6:31 (NKJV).

Getting the balance between work and rest right is more of a challenge than people think.

Whenever I run a session on *Preventing Burnout*, there are always individuals in

attendance who state that they are often too busy in the working day to even take a lunch break. Among the list of over-busy individuals are people in the caring professions who often take their work home with them or find it hard to 'switch off' outside of work; individuals in ministry; and those in pressurised environments working to daily deadlines.

Under the caption 'Work-life balance biggest health concern' The British Psychological Society published an online article on 6 January 2012 which indicated that the work-life balance was the top concern for some employers. It reported on a survey by the Group Risk Development (GRiD), which found workers stressed by their working hours, workload and expectations of delivery that interfered with their ability to balance work deadlines and the demands of home life. This impacted negatively on their health and work attendance.

While attending health retreats and presenting talks on wellbeing I have tried many useful 'rest tips'. In addition to a good night's sleep (around eight hours), try the following:

Practical tips:

- Plan your working day ahead to include a break;
- When working at your desk or computer, take a short break each hour – stand up and stretch, or walk around the office;
- Get outside daily in the open air for some deep-breathing exercises to rejuvenate mind and body;
- Have a 'prayer break'. Punctuating my day with brief moments of prayer is restorative;
- Take a power nap (preferable during your break);
- Plan weekend breaks away;
- Holistic activities, like regular exercise, massage, country walks, relaxing music and managing stress, enhance rest.

Good health!

editorial



Julian Hibbert
Editor

Proudly, a 'Friend of sinners'

Paolo Veronese (1528-1588) was a leading painter of the 16th-century Venetian school, known for his 'huge, vastly peopled canvases' that were usually 'set in a framework of classicizing Renaissance architecture'.¹

Veronese was a gifted artist whose work was much sought-after. One of his commissions was to paint the Last Supper for the convent of San Giovanni e Paolo in 1573. This he did, but it wasn't long before this canvas drew the unwanted attention of the Holy Tribunal of the Inquisition, and he was charged with heresy.²

Why?

Why would they take offence at a painting of the Lord's Supper? For the simple reason that 'certain details in the work were considered irreverent' because he 'included dogs, a cat, midgets, Huns, and drunken revellers in the mammoth canvas'.³ The inquisitors were unimpressed with his defence that his was 'no art of thought' but one that 'is joyous and praises God in light and colour'.⁴

Eventually, sensing that he would lose the argument – and, potentially, his life – he apologised and placed himself at the mercy of the Church. Then, after the tribunal's deliberation, and 'to his profound surprise, he was told that he was free, but that he must paint out the dog, paint the Magdalene in its place, and blot out the German soldiers, within three months' time'.⁵

Did he?

No, Paolo Veronese did nothing of the sort. For, as the story goes, 'once outside the dread Inquisition, [he] shrugged his shoulders, breathed a sigh of relief, and never touched the picture again.' That is, with the exception of one small detail – he immediately changed the name of the canvas from **The Last Supper** to **Feast in the House of Levi!**⁶

The inquisitors were happy

This move seemed to keep the Church happy and Veronese was able to paint on unhindered. But what had the inquisitors really achieved? Had they really kept the 'vile sinners' away from Christ? No, because by changing the name of the painting, Paolo Veronese had symbolically put 'sinners' where they were welcome to be with Jesus – in the home of the notorious tax collector, Levi Matthew:

"Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and 'sinners?' " "

Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." " Luke 5:29-32, NIV.

Proudly, a 'Friend of sinners'!

No one can keep Jesus away from sinners –

or sinners away from Him. The scribes, Pharisees and priests of His day failed. The inquisitors of Veronese's day were just as unsuccessful. This is, in fact, one of the great theological realities of the New Testament: Christ is, proudly, a 'Friend of sinners'!

Every human being is a sinner, but not all acknowledge that sinfulness. Technically, theologically, Christ has died for each of us – but practically, unless we are **conscious of, and convicted about**, our sinfulness, His grace will remain an unclaimed gift.

That grace . . .

That grace – with its measureless mercy and forgiveness – is driven by a love for sinners that is more powerful than anything else 'in all creation'. Paul discovered that grace – he experienced that love – and he expressed it in these terms:

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38, 39, NIV.

Paul's hands were stained with blood. He had approved the savage actions that led to Stephen's death. He was carrying death lists, and warrants of arrest, when Christ confronted him on the road to Damascus. But nothing in that terrible past could stop Christ loving him. Nothing!

And it is the same for each of us – nothing 'in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord'. Hallelujah!

Don Francisco

Don Francisco is one of the pioneers of contemporary Christian music and, as most of us know, he tries to write his ballads 'from the point of view of Bible characters who were surprised by God's grace'.⁷

One of those songs, entitled 'I Don't Care Where You've Been Sleeping', is based on the parable of the lost son of Luke 15. It touchingly tells the story of that young man's wasted life. But what really gets to me, every time I hear it sung, is the chorus:

*'I don't care where you've been sleeping,
I don't care who's made your bed,
I already gave My life to set you free;
There's no sin you could imagine that is stronger than My love,
And it's all yours if you'll come home again to Me.'*

Yes, Don, sing it again and again . . .

'There's no sin you could imagine that is stronger than My love, . . .'

¹<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/626374/Paolo-Veronese>. ²http://www.law.harvard.edu/faculty/martin/art_law/feast_in_the_house_of_levi.htm. ³ibid. ⁴ibid. ⁵ibid. ⁶ibid. ⁷<http://www.rockymountainministries.org>.



Standing on principle

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Deut 6:4, 5, NIV.



In the context of global tensions and disasters, a dispute concerning the shape of Cornish pasties might appear a little trivial – but it might give an important insight into human nature.

It seems that a European ruling has awarded the Cornish pasty the protected status enjoyed by Champagne, Parma ham and Stilton cheese, but the regulations defining a genuine Cornish pasty are very rigorous. These regulations do not just include where it is made, but also its contents and, wait for it . . . its shape.

This is what is causing some of the trouble. To get the stamp of approval the pasty must be crimped along the side, not over its top.

A certain Cornish woman takes exception to this. Ann Muller's pasties are crimped along the top, as have been all the pasties made by every generation of her family in living memory. She refuses to conform to the new ruling on principle – 'it would just be preposterous and silly.'

Now, we might be indignant at European bureaucrats for their interference – how dare they tell Cornish people what a Cornish pasty is, or is not!

Or, we might admire the Cornish baker – thinking that maybe we need more people to take a stand on principle. But, can standing on principle sometimes get matters out of all proportion?

Friendships of twenty years break on 'matters of principle'; neighbours bankrupt themselves taking to law a dispute over a hedge on 'matters of principle'; and, of course, wars are frequently fought on 'matters of principle'.

According to George Bernard Shaw, Englishmen are particularly prone to acting on principle. To quote him, 'You will never find an Englishman in the wrong. He does everything on principle. He fights you on patriotic principles; he robs you on business principles; he

enslaves you on imperial principles.'²

What does Scripture say that may be relevant here? According to the New Testament, Jesus got into a dispute with a group of religious leaders who were frequently known to act and judge on matters of principle – the Pharisees.

They obviously made Him see red. . . .

Woe to you . . . you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices – mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law – justice, mercy and faithfulness. . . . You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.' (Matthew 23:23, 24, NIV).

Let it be understood – Jesus is not saying that we shouldn't act on principle. He just points us to the fundamental principle – love God with all your heart and soul and mind, and love your neighbour as you love yourself.

We should beware of any secondary principle which seems to be in conflict with this.

I need to take this to heart myself – this principle of 'standing on principle'.

A friend, whose opinion I respect, told me recently that I may have been unkind to someone. I'm wrestling with the 'principle' that if I go around apologising for matters about which I think myself to be innocent, it might make me look weak and indecisive.

I'm not sure how the dispute about the Cornish pasty will be resolved. I've got more important things to sort out. And maybe you have too?

¹This is where the great pasty revolt begins', *The Independent*, 27 February 2011. ²*The Man of Destiny*, 1897.

With acknowledgement to *Thought for the Day*, BBC Radio 4: 1 March 2011, The Rt Rev. Tom Butler.



by John Ferguson

inbox

Sabbath scandals

Dear Editor
The recent *MESSENGER* article, 'Are we still Adventists?' (*MESSENGER*, 16 September 2011) by Pastor David Neal was timely but disturbing. It has challenged me to reflect on some aspects of church life – here are my thoughts.

Someone commented that the greatest need in the Seventh-day Adventist Church on a Sabbath morning is for a good sermon – to which may be added, also an encouraging lesson study.

Is it unreasonable to expect of pastors or lay people that, when they stand in the pulpit, they will deliver, in a clear voice, a twenty-five or thirty-minute sermon on a biblical subject which relates to their hearers?

Similarly, is it unreasonable to believe that people who have accepted the responsibility of standing before a congregation will give some thought to what they are going to say, how to say it, and its relevance to the congregation? Is there any excuse they can offer which might justify or excuse them for failing to do so?

PowerPoint presentations; a series of stories strung together; videos; lectures – all have their place, but not in the pulpit. Nor is there a place for recitals of the preachers' personal lives. The first law of preaching states: 'For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.' (2 Corinthians 4:5, NIV.) For many, the preaching service is not a blessed experience of divine grace but an exercise in endurance. It is what the psalmist described as the 'destruction that wasteth at noonday' (Psalm 91:6, KJV).

Equally tragic is the Sabbath School teacher who has not prepared the lesson, but who uses it as a pretext for telling us how sinful we all are; or the teacher who begins the study by reading the lesson introduction word-for-word; then goes on reading the subsequent sections – including Friday's – without reaching a conclusion. Doesn't it occur to them that the class has read the lesson during the week and is eagerly wanting something more?

However, the fault is not always the teacher's. Many members do not study the lesson at all. Even the best of teachers will have difficulty obtaining a response from people who do not bother to obtain a lesson book, let alone study it.

Irrelevant sermons and Sabbath School classes, which within minutes induce a semi-conscious stupor, are a soul-destroying drug. It's a scandal that some pastors, lay preachers and Sabbath School teachers ruin what should be renewing and uplifting spiritual worship on Sabbath mornings.

The call has gone out from the General Conference, again, for *Revival and Reformation*. But we need more than Revival; this only brings us back to where we were before we fell. We need a Reformation. We need it in the pulpit. We need it in the Sabbath School class. We need it now. We need to listen to sermons which feed the hungry soul, encourage the downcast, lift up the

fallen, comfort the discouraged. We need sermons which are the product of study, hard thinking and much prayer; sermons that break into our comfortable world and make Jesus real and relevant; sermons which prepare people for real Christian living.

We need to recapture the energy, power and optimism of the New Testament. We need to recapture the power of the love of Jesus. When the preacher enters the pulpit we want to listen with expectancy to hear a word from God. We do not need shouting, prancing around, waving of hands like a windmill, everything short of cartwheeling and tumbling. The sheep come for food, and so frequently go away hungry.

It might be that this little moan will offend some pastors and some lay persons. I express sorrow if that is the case. However, remember that when we preach or teach a Sabbath School lesson we are not doing God a favour. The opposite is true. In allowing us to speak for Him, God is bestowing a high privilege upon us. The scandal lies in failing to recognise this privilege. To speak for God and make Him seem irrelevant is not only a scandal; it is a tragedy.

PATRICK BOYLE

Fidelity

Dear Editor
Regarding the Berean column in *MESSENGER* 25 November entitled 'Fidelity', I think the girl was right to leave such a dreadful man who did not love her and just used her.

What a pity she took him back! Perhaps she had no alternative, as her father and the Levite appeared at first to be gangling up against her. I think her father soon saw what a selfish man the Levite was and tried to keep an eye on him as long as possible. It is clear to me that the cowardly Levite had no love for the girl, as he callously gave her to the mob to save his own skin. In my opinion, he would have left next morning without her if she had not been lying in his way. Even then he did not take her into the house to see if she could be revived. Instead he told a version of the events making himself out to be whiter than snow, a version which resulted in the deaths of more than sixty-five thousand young men, as well as countless women and children in the towns which were destroyed.

Some people might call the story an example of fidelity; I call it an example of sheer lust.

MOYRA MACDONALD

Children and Communion

Dear Editor
I would like to thank Jacques Venter for his excellent article (*MESSENGER*, 25 November 2011) on introducing children to the Communion Service. The daily activities are fun as well as instructive, and should capture a child's imagination.

It is my prayer that the parents in our Church will take advantage of what has been prepared and use it to assist their children in understanding the Lord's Supper. Deuteronomy 6:6, 7 makes it clear that parents are the primary spiritual educators and enablers of their children – not the pastor, the church school, or the Sabbath School. This material is very useful to that end. Thank you for publishing it.

VALERIE FIDELIA, CYPRUS

with Andrew Puckering



The peacemaker

'Blessed are the peacemakers,' said Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount, 'For they shall be called sons of God' (Matthew 5:9, NKJV) – but Abner had lived a life that was anything but peaceful. Abner, whose name in Hebrew means 'My father is Ner' (or 'light'), was indeed the son of Ner (1 Samuel 26:5, 14), who was the son of Abiel (whose name, incidentally, means 'My father is God'). Abiel was also the father of Kish, the father of King Saul, making Abner and Saul first cousins (1 Samuel 9:1; 14:51), and so Saul, maybe because he knew he could trust his cousin, made him commander of his army (1 Samuel 14:50). This wasn't just a cushy job for a family member, though, because Saul's army was perpetually at war with the Philistines (1 Samuel 14:52).

Abner soon found a young colleague in the shepherd boy David, who first became Saul's armour-bearer, then a national hero, then a captain in Saul's army (1 Samuel 16:21; 17:55-58; 18:13) – and he did very well for himself, even too well, making Abner's boss Saul envious in the process (1 Samuel 18:28-30). Saul tried, with some success, to provoke his men's jealousy against David (1 Samuel 22:6-9), and Abner was there with his king when Saul took out an army to hunt him down (1 Samuel 26:1-7, 14-17).

Abner failed to save his master, however, when Saul and three of his sons fell in battle against the Philistines at Gilboa (1 Samuel 31:1-4). David was quick to step into the power vacuum, being anointed king in Judah at the LORD's direction. Abner responded by making Saul's surviving son Ishbosheth (also called Esh-Baal in 1 Chronicles 8:33; 9:39) king over the rest of Israel (2 Samuel 2:8, 9). Civil war ensued (2 Samuel 3:1).

This war, though, contained several events which marked Abner out as more than just a bloodthirsty warrior. First of all, Abner was the one who suggested that the two armies resolve their differences by letting an equal number of champions from each side compete, rather than permitting a full-scale bloodbath (2 Samuel 2:14). When a fierce battle nonetheless broke out, Abner fled, and tried to convince his pursuer Asahel to save himself by relinquishing the chase (2 Samuel 2:17-23). When Asahel's brothers continued the chase, Abner called out to them and convinced them that continuing the slaughter would be pointless (2 Samuel 2:25-28).

Abner did more than that, though – he sent messages to the elders of Israel and Benjamin, and went to David, and promised to end the war and bring the whole nation together under David's banner (2 Samuel 3:12-21). Tragically, Abner was murdered by Joab before he could complete his mission (Joab hadn't forgotten his brother Asahel's death – 2 Samuel 3:22-30); but even in death Abner set in motion a train of events leading to peace and the reunification of Israel (2 Samuel 4:1-5:5). The man of war knew when not to fight. However questionable his motives might have been, he eventually turned out to be a peacemaker. Maybe there's hope for even the most belligerent of us – why not make peace with your enemies today?

- Can you think of an earlier battle that had been decided by champions?
- Why else might Abner have wanted to stop fighting?
- What did Paul say about doing the right thing for the wrong motives? (Philippians 1)
- Can we have peace at any price? (Ecclesiastes 3)
- What happened to the united kingdom of Israel under David's son Solomon, and what did the LORD decide to do to Israel as a result? (1 Kings 11)

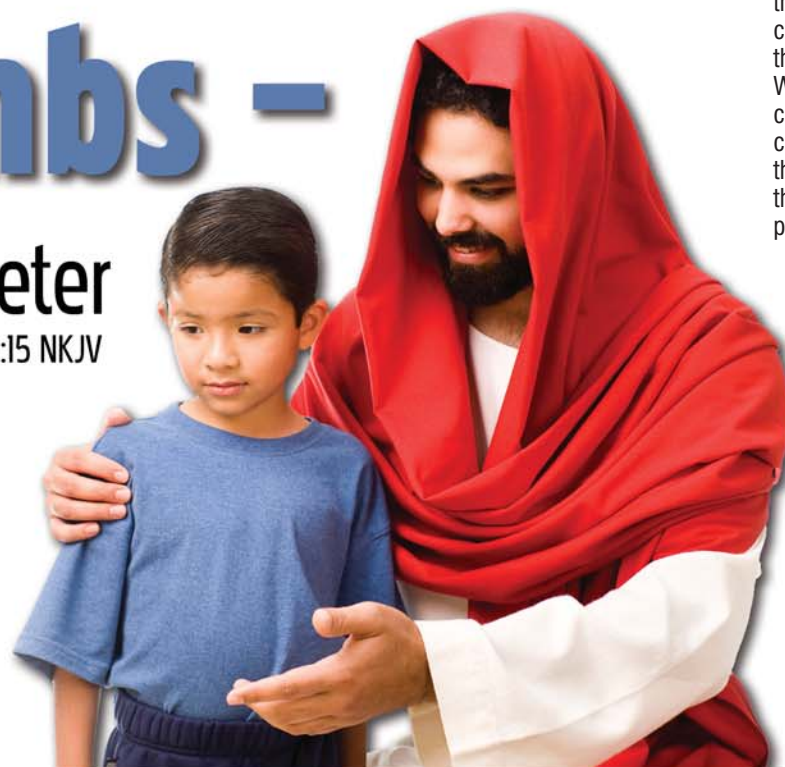
Feed My lambs –

Jesus Christ's mandate to Peter

John 21:15 NKJV



by Heather Haworth
BUC Children's & Family Ministries director
& Prayer sponsor



Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world,' is often sung as the little ones go up to listen to their story on Sabbath. As adults, we fervently believe that Jesus died on the cross so our children can live in Heaven with Him too. In fact, Jesus teaches us that entrance to Heaven is only possible when we have the humble faith of a child (Matthew 18:1-4).

The way Jesus took time out of His busy preaching schedule to bless the children (Luke 18:15-17) is an object lesson for us not to get so engrossed in 'grown up' church issues that we forget the children's spiritual needs. Our children are 'blessed' in some aspects of church life: Sabbath School, Pathfinders, story time in the second service, and so on. But once a quarter we tend to neglect them during the Communion Service.

How can we include the children?

This is not intended to be a theological discussion on whether or not a child can use the Communion bread and wine. It is meant to uphold what we read in the Scriptures and the Spirit of Prophecy, and to find ways to be child-inclusive during this special service.

'When Jesus told the disciples not to forbid the children to come to Him, He was speaking to His followers in all ages – to officers of the Church, to ministers, helpers and all Christians. Jesus is drawing the children, and He bids us, Suffer them to come; as if He would say, They will come if you do not hinder them.' *Desire of Ages*, p. 517. 'Do not teach your children with reference to some future period when they shall be old enough to repent and believe the truth. If properly instructed, very young children may have correct views on their state

'We desire our children to be saved and experience the joy of knowing Jesus as their Friend and Saviour, now and in eternity.'

as sinners and of the way of salvation through Christ.' *Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 400.

Ways to involve children in Communion in your church

Each church may have a slightly different culture about Communion and the involvement of children, and each church may be on a different part of the journey towards making Holy Communion a more inclusive service. Here are some ideas that you can adapt:

- Serve the bread and juice at the front of the church. Ask people to come forward in lines to receive the emblems. Children and other people who do not want to take the bread and juice can come forward and receive a short prayer or blessing from someone who gently places a hand on their heads.
- Your junior or teen Sabbath School class or Pathfinder group can research the meaning of the bread and juice used in Communion Services; then invite them to share their ideas during your Communion Service – maybe even act out the Last Supper.
- The children can help make the Communion bread and wine for the service. They can do this in Pathfinders, at home with their parents, or in the



home of a deaconess. Their adult helpers can create an atmosphere of awe and worship as they create the emblems.

- Set aside a room for family foot-washing so that the children can wash their parents' feet and vice versa. There is no reason why children cannot be part of this service. One pastor washed all the children's feet during the Service of Humility to show them how much Jesus loved them.
- Cut some hearts out of stiff white card and give one to each child. Then give them some black crayons or charcoal and ask them to make their hearts grey and smudgy. During the Communion Service ask the children to show the congregation their dirty hearts, which illustrate the sins in their lives. Then offer to swap the dirty hearts for pieces of heart-shaped unleavened bread, made especially for the children, or fresh white card-hearts. This shows how Jesus takes away our sins and makes us clean through His forgiveness.
 - Find a short, child-friendly DVD about the Last Supper, or Jesus' death and resurrection, and show it to the children during the foot-washing. Select clips from *The Miracle Maker*, or *Friends and Heroes* (series 1, episode 11) which help them to understand the

meaning of the Passover.

- Buy some water-dissolving pens from sewing shops (as soon as water touches the ink the colour disappears). Let the children make marks on their feet with the pens to illustrate some of their sins. When their feet are washed the marks will completely disappear. Let their parents or carers massage fragrant body butter into their feet after they are dried, reminding them of the story where Mary pours perfume over the feet of Jesus.
- Give each child a small piece of playdough or Crayola Model Magic (available from www.bakerrross.co.uk – this is a clean, white, easy-to-use playdough-type material that doesn't drop 'crumbs' and mess up your church!). As you go through the service ask the children to shape their piece of dough into a foot, a piece of unleavened bread, a glass of grape juice, a cross and a heart.
- Give each child a four-page booklet (fold a piece of paper in half) to help them explore the different parts of the Communion Service:
 - Page 1 – Title – Communion or Lord's Supper
 - Page 2 – Foot-washing
 - Page 3 – Bread
 - Page 4 – Grape juice.

Provide pre-cut shapes of feet, bread and glasses of juice that can be stuck onto the pages – or find Bible puzzles that can help them to understand the service.

- Buy every child in your church the book, *Daniel Asks about Baptism and Communion* from the ABC. This was written by Heather Hanna, an Adventist mother living in the UK. This can be read out loud while the adults are involved in foot-washing – or you could make a PowerPoint presentation by scanning the images from the book into your computer.
- Give the children large, brown paper cut-outs of 'bread' shapes and large, purple 'wine-glass' shapes. Invite the children to write their ideas about Jesus and His gift of forgiveness on the shapes. Make a display of the shapes and use it as part of the Communion Service, or place it in the foyer on Communion Sabbath.

(Adapted from 'Creative Celebrations', *Ministry Magazine*, by Karen Holford, 2009.)

Communion for all ages

We desire our children to be saved and experience the joy of knowing Jesus as their Friend and Saviour, now and in eternity. Just as attending the Communion Service helps adults to be reminded of God's grace, so we encourage pastors and church leaders to make this service one which includes the spiritual growth of children, too.

For further study on this topic, see the discussion paper, 'Everyone's Invited!' and *Ministry* articles on the Children's Ministries webpage, www.adventist.org.uk.

Daniel Asks About Baptism and Communion, Heather Hanna, Pacific Press 2005, ISBN 978-0-816320-83-7. Ask your Personal Ministries secretary today or phone 01476 539900 on Mondays to Thursdays, 8am-5.30pm.

Met police apologise to Adventist couple

Two years ago Mr and Mrs Richardson found themselves faced by angry police officers at their front door after calling for their assistance when bailiffs wrongly came to clamp Mr Richardson's car.

On Saturday, 7 January, they met Detective Sergeant Nick Westwood of the Professional Standards Department for the Metropolitan Police, at Greenwich Seventh-day Adventist Church, London, as he came to make a public apology to the couple during a morning church service.

DS Westwood took this unusual step following bridge-building meetings between the couple, the church and the Metropolitan Police.

In his apology on behalf of the London Metropolitan Police, he admitted that the police get things wrong occasionally. He went on to say, 'The police entered the couple's address without the powers to do so . . . we've looked at this and it's quite apparent that the police made a mistake. It has been a humbling experience being here today and I hope the apology goes some way to putting things right with Alison and Clive.'

Clive Richardson, first elder in the Greenwich church, along with his wife, Alison, were involved in a dispute with the police when, two years ago, bailiffs came to wrongfully clamp his car. Mr Richardson called the police to help resolve the situation but, on arrival, officers treated both he and his wife badly, roughly handling them in their own home and eventually arresting Alison.

Mrs Richardson was fined and sentenced to 150 hours of community service, ninety of which she served before the judgment against her was overturned on appeal. Due to the original ruling, she lost her CRB accreditation and was therefore asked to step down from church office. When asked how she felt about the apology Alison said, 'I feel relieved but, even though it was a punishment, it was also a blessing. I got to speak to a few individuals there about Christ.'

KATIE RAMHARACKSINGH



'Extreme' Adventurists

Part 1

In this first feature of **Extreme Adventurists** we meet **John Sutton**. He was the designer of *MESSENGER* for many years, and is a gliding enthusiast. Now, at the age of 72, he is a member of the Buckminster Gliding Club, and flies regularly from their base at the Saltby Airfield, Lincolnshire. Here he chats to our editor.

Photos: David Bell

John, thanks for letting us share one of your gliding days with you. How long have you been gliding, and what got you started?

I started back in 1998 – largely at the instigation of my brother, Peter, who pilots microlights.

Coming out here on a wintry morning is not a church picnic! There must be warmer ways to spend your retirement. So, why do you do it, John?

Julian, I enjoy the teamwork and camaraderie of the club. And there is that thrill of being thrown into the air during the launch stage. I just find the whole flying experience exhilarating!

Having a hobby has obviously added value to your life. Do you have some advice for the over-60s, regarding this?

Yes, join some type of service group or club. It is easy to become a qualified 'couch surfer'! Having a hobby or an outdoor pastime doesn't have to cost you a fortune either – regular walking is an example. All you need is a good pair of shoes and your lifestyle can improve!

How long are your flights usually?



Photo: Julian Hibbert



The first in a series about UK Adventurists who live at the edge – doing things that may inspire the rest of us to be more adventurous.

Although some of the activities we will feature may be regarded as 'extreme' or 'adventure' sports, it is not our intention to limit our choice of candidates to those involved in sport only.

In summer, about an hour, depending on the waiting list – in winter, less than fifteen minutes at a time because of the colder surface conditions, which generate less lift.

How do the 'thermals' work, John?

You get your best lift from the thermals – columns of rising air that provide powerful upward movement. But at the edge of the thermals you find cooling, downward-moving air called 'sinks', that have the opposite effect. So you need to push through the 'sinks' to get to the thermals.

Sounds a bit like the Christian life, John – nothing is ever plain sailing, is it? Speaking of which: do you feel that gliding has influenced your faith in any way?

Yes, I have had to pray myself out of tight situations. When you are hundreds of feet up in the air without a propeller to pull you out of trouble, God is your only alternative. I have also experienced an unbelievable appreciation of His creation.

Because our flight is silent we sometimes fly close to kites and buzzards, and they make complex course corrections with a gentle spread of their feathers, or the flap of a wing. Only God could have so perfectly designed those birds!



A replica of the glider that carried the first adult passenger across Brompton Dale.

Gliding – a first for England

Sir George Cayley 'was a prolific English engineer and one of the most important people in the history of aeronautics. Many consider him the first true scientific aerial investigator and the first person to understand the underlying principles and forces of flight.' Cayley, who has been referred to as the father of 'aviation' and 'aerodynamics', designed the 'first successful glider to carry a human being aloft'.

The flight occurred in 1849 in Yorkshire near the family's estate, Brompton Hall, Brompton-by-Sawdon – the first 'pilot' being an unnamed 10-year-old boy! The first flight to carry an adult took place in Brompton Dale in 1853.²

Gliding took another seventy-odd years to develop into a relatively affordable private sport, and since then technology has pushed gliding's boundaries to the place where Terry Delore and John Kokshoorn flew an unbroken 2,501 km over New Zealand on 13 December, 2009. All that kept them up there for fifteen hours was very skilful flying – and the wind under their wings!³

¹http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Cayley. ²Ibid. ³This is the latest and longest gliding record that we were able to find. See: <http://www.gliding.co.nz/latest-news/news/48>

That forward movement is critical in order to start the process of flight. But it must be properly oriented forward movement. Strangely enough, gliders (like most aircraft) must move forward directly into the prevailing wind if they want optimum lift-off.

And that is usually the way the Christian life begins – you have to face the wind to get going. Most new Christians find that their commitment to Jesus meets with opposition. Sometimes the 'prevailing wind' may even feel like a category-5 hurricane. But that is how you get the lift under your spiritual wings – face straight into it and move forward!

It is simply breathtaking to stand near a glider when that winch begins to pull the aircraft forward into the wind. Suddenly, it just soars upwards as the rising air creates lift under those long, elegantly shaped wings. That rising air is like an unseen, mighty hand that plucks the glider into the sky.

That's the way grace works too. There is nothing visible: just an awareness of something supporting you; something carrying you over obstacles; something lifting you above the pettiness of life; something giving you a new and exciting perspective on things – including yourself.

Then, suddenly, without warning, you realise that you are still attached to the cable. If you continue to go forward you will lose altitude and plunge back to earth. You have to pull that yellow knob that releases the winch cable.

You now have to take personal control of the glider. You have to make choices again, about speed, altitude and direction. You have forward motion, and the forces of lift, but you will have to fly this thing yourself. There is no autopilot button on a glider!

After that awesome surge of initial spiritual momentum – many new Christians sense that they have reached a new level of faith and responsibility. They have to take control of their lives and make difficult daily decisions for God. They have to do regular Bible 'readings' to keep on track. God's grace provides the lift, but they have to set and steer the course!

I watched John Sutton go slowly through his six-minute circuit, then bring the glider round for a gentle touchdown.

'John, are you going up again?' called one of his fellow club members.

'I would like to – if that's OK with the rest of you.' And John went up again, and again, while David and I dragged our frozen feet off to the car park.

The Christian life is like that too. You get airborne, but sooner or later you lose that vital lift and you are back on the ground. Do you stay there, looking glum and feeling sorry for yourself? No! Like John Sutton, you have another go . . . and another, because, as Leonardo Da Vinci once said:

'Once you have tasted flight, you will walk the earth with your eyes turned forever skyward, for there you have been, and there you long to return.'

Lessons from gliding

After visiting John Sutton at his gliding club on that cold winter morning, I realised that gliding is a powerful metaphor for the Christian life.

Although there are some gliders with built-in motors which are able to get aloft under their own steam, most become airborne through either a glider tug, which tows them up to the right altitude, or via a ground winch which pulls them into the air.

The basics

I know that there are many important technical aspects of gliding that only a glider pilot will really get to know. What is clear to the casual observer, though, is that gliding depends on the implementation of a few key concepts.

Firstly, the glider must experience **rapid forward motion**, and secondly, it must benefit from **constantly rising air under its wings**.

You can sit in the cockpit of a glider and memorise all the things that you have to do with the limited dials, knobs and levers in front of you – but unless you give the winch crew the 'thumbs up' to start that forward motion, that's where you will stay!

Well, that's just the way it is in the Christian life. At some point you have to say, 'This is it, I'm moving on. I'm making a commitment. I'm moving forward.' You can't sit on the proverbial fence forever.

Revival in Area 5

At the SEC Area 5 day of fellowship on Sabbath, 17 September, Dr Emmanuel Osei and BUC president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, spoke at The Globe and The Abbey School in Reading on the theme of 'Revival'. Area co-ordinator, Pastor Patrick Johnson, reminded the congregations that 200 people have joined our Church through evangelistic outreach across the twenty-two churches!

Pastor Geert Tap conducted the lesson study, and Pastor Osei, SEC Ministerial Association director, preached on bringing dry bones to life in Ezekiel 37.

Children enjoyed the Reading Church Special Needs Ministry children's story, and the Thames Valley Youth Federation brought 500 youth together in The Abbey School for worship and praise and a sermon presented by Pastor Ian Sweeney, who encouraged them that 'Christ can resurrect dead Christianity!'

A selection of photos from the day can be seen in the BUC Picture Gallery at:

<http://www.adventistpictures.org.uk/gallery/2011/A5dof/index.php>.

KIRSTEN ØSTER-LUNDQVIST, SEC COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR



Photos: Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist and Lara Zestic

Four baptised on New Year's Eve!

On the last Sabbath of the year, Holloway Church welcomed Keshinda Gage, JodiAnne Chambers and husband and wife, Brother and Sister King into fellowship through baptism. Pastor Richard Holder preached about the goodness of God's love and the necessity of looking to Jesus.

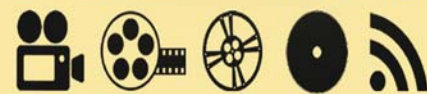
ANESHA WEST



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Hanwell Community Services on the march!

On Saturday 27 August 2011, from 2pm, Ealing and Hanwell witnessed young and old members of the Hanwell church marching for peace, with the aid of the Stratford Church Pathfinder Drum Corp, led by Sister Charmaine.

The sound of the band beckoned locals from their homes, shops, and cafés and turned heads in cars and buses. The marchers stopped to chat and hand out literature to a very interested public. These soldiers for God were well received!

The event was led by the Community Services leader, Sarah Lubanga, and the head elder, Albert Fletcher, assisted by many helpers.

Much appreciation goes to the British Red Cross and the Ealing Police Force.

May the Lord shine upon all those who reach out to share the Gospel.

MISS SIOBHAN WILLIAMS



Two baptisms for Russian-speakers

In June 2011 the London Russian-speaking community headed to Cornwall, where young Andris Melder requested baptism in the ocean. Maris Spalins, a young Glaswegian professional footballer, was so moved by the occasion that he too requested baptism – and was duly baptised on 17 December in Lake Windermere! Many copies of *Steps to Christ* and the *Focus* magazine were distributed to locals, and three more candidates from Glasgow have requested baptism for May of this year!

ANDREI M. BALAN



Manchester Piccadilly youth shine out

Smiles of happiness greeted Manchester Piccadilly Church's first-ever youth and children's day on 19 November 2011, in which the children's choir sang 'Alleluia Yesu Do Me' ('Alleluia Jesus Loves Me' in the Twi dialect of Ghana).

Gabriel A. Kwayie from the Oldham church concluded the morning by preaching about the shepherd boy, David.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Gloucester: Twenty-one baptised in autumn campaign

'Preparation for the Final Crisis' was the theme of the evangelistic campaign held at Gloucester Church from 9 to 24 September by Pastor Lawrence Dorsey and singing evangelists Marie Jones and Mandy Fishley.

Pastor Dorsey urged members to accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, and twenty-one precious souls committed their lives to Christ. The candidates covered every spectrum of the church and community in terms of age, gender and participation in church activities and events. Pastor Ian Sleeman (who conducted the baptismal service) and Pastor Numushi Namuchana also welcomed the members into the fellowship of the church.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Open all hours!

In November, Middlesbrough Church was approached by a local organisation, Open Door North East, and asked to help out asylum seekers and refugees who have nowhere to go. The opportunity to help was seized, and members opted to open up the church on Thursday evenings. The refugees arrive at 8.30pm, are given a hot, freshly-prepared meal and sleep overnight in the church with sleeping bags provided by ODNE. A breakfast is provided the next morning, and, after getting a wash and shave, the refugees leave the church around 8.30am on Friday. Two volunteers from the church stay overnight to attend any needs that might arise, and also to do the cooking.

The first night, Thursday 15 December, was covered by the BBC on the local news channel Look North, which showed Elder Jill Geldart greeting the arrivals at the church hall entrance, the food being served and preparations for the overnight stay. You can watch the report at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O-OgVFtsX2M&context=C3497620ADOEgsToPDSkloTsOHVp-mzAbhiADfoKFW>.

JUDY H.

Hemel talent show

On Saturday evening, 17 December, Hemel Hempstead members and friends gathered for a talent show, and were entertained by seventeen acts including piano, violin, guitar and accordion playing and singing, as well as other displays.

JOHN BUTTERS



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Gloucester: a fanfare for Christmas

'Testify' Gospel Ensemble, a group from the Gloucester church, were invited to sing at the church's charity Christmas concert at Cheltenham College Chapel in December 2011, alongside the internationally celebrated mezzo-soprano, Sarah Connolly, CBE, The Flowers Brass Band and The Cheltenham Youth Choir. The musical programme also included Christmas readings and congregational carols. More than £7,000 was raised for Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres. Maggie's provides support for people with cancer and their families.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Hemel Hempstead Christmas Service

Hemel's Christmas programme took place on Christmas Eve Sabbath, comprised of musical items, readings, carols and the children's nativity play. The offering was taken by the wise men! The leaders of the Childrens' department made a part for every one of the twenty-odd children between 2 and 14 years old – a lovely Sabbath treat.

JOHN BUTTERS



Wednesbury Adventists share Advent message in Catholic church

The members and parish priest of St Gerard's Roman Catholic Church in Castle Vale were delighted when Adventists from Wednesbury shared with them the First Advent message through a musical production at the turn of the year.

'It touched us a lot. . . I will now book you to perform again during the next Christmas in my other parish', said the thankful priest to the Adventist group, led by Pastor Dan Majaducon.

A week before Christmas, they performed at their place of worship and invited the community; and on 24 December they also presented at Camp Hill. The group is now aiming to produce an Easter musical production.

DAN MAJADUCON (PASTOR)



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First investiture at Manchester Southern Asia

The first-ever AYS investiture service for the Manchester Southern Asia church was held on 26 November 2011, almost a year after AYS was launched in January 2011. The entire programme was taken by Adventurers and Pathfinders, with the exception of the sermon, delivered by Pastor F. Mapp.

Twenty-three children were invested into various classes, from Little Lambs to Companions. Area co-ordinator Kathleen Lopuszansky expressed her delight at the team of dedicated teachers, and the young children responded with great enthusiasm!

SUREEN RAYAVARAPU

'The Real Nativity'

'Twas the night before Christmas and Holloway was packed with more than 300 people for 'The Real Nativity' – a free musical production created with the intention of witnessing to non-Adventist friends and family at a time when people are receptive to both Jesus and Christianity. The cast consisted of people of all ages, kitted out in full biblical costumes.

The musical focused not only on the birth of Jesus, but also on the death and resurrection of Christ. The message was that Jesus was born to die and will return one day soon.

The musical was a tremendous success, and the positive feedback was overwhelming! Thanks be to God, who is able to do more than we ask.

TRACY CASTOR



Lamech's dedication

On Sabbath 10 December Lamech Oppong was dedicated at Hemel Hempstead Church by Pastor Jacques Venter. Mum and Dad, Daniel and Comfort, promised to raise Lamech to serve the Lord. Daniel serves faithfully as a deacon in the church, and Comfort assists in the children's Sabbath School.

JOHN BUTTERS

Children's Sabbath School annual award ceremony

On 10 December 2011 the Grimsby children's Sabbath School, consisting of both Seventh-day Adventist and community children, had their annual awards presentation. The children were each awarded a medal for their hard work and effort throughout the year, and also received badges for doing very well in each category. Five children got the highest number of badges, and thus shared the trophy.

MRS CELINA GOGU



Bonfire Night church outing

On 5 November 2011, the children from Grimsby Sabbath School and the community enjoyed craft activities and songs followed by a Christian movie and lunch at church. After sunset, they went to Louth to enjoy the bonfire, fireworks and delicious food.

MRS CELINA GOGU



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The hunt for the oldest Bible

In celebration of the 400-year anniversary of the King James Bible, the North Manchester church joined the Bible society, John Rylands Library (which has the oldest King James Bible in the world), Moston Methodist Church and the local Asda store on a hunt for the oldest Bible in the Moston area of Manchester, with a prize-giving event on 10 December 2011. The search was soon extended across the city, and was supported by radio broadcasts on All FM and BBC Radio Manchester with Leebert Hughes, Danny Wilson (of the Bible Society) and Lesmond Taylor.

A door-to-door campaign offered Bible studies, and a number of requests were made for Bibles. Bibles had been passed down from generation to generation and were well preserved – the oldest one found dated back to 1695, with runners-up dating from 1733 and 1856.

Prizes were awarded at the Moston church-plant, after a presentation on God's sovereign authority from Alex Douglas, and a message from Danny Wilson on the history of the English Bible. Pastor Acquoi Karbah rounded off the session with plans to fight poverty by establishing a community food bank.

The BBC enjoyed the Bible hunt idea so much that they encouraged members to continue the search in 2012, offering to make intermittent announcements and hold a dedicated talk programme regarding their findings!

LESMOND TAYLOR



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Determined to be wise

On Sabbath 19 November, Mr Ailson De Moraes, the Brazilian founder of De Moraes Global Leadership, visited Glasgow, Paisley and Faifley youth at the Glasgow church to encourage the youth to take charge of their own lives, to seek God first in everything and to use their full potential for His purpose. Ailson quoted Proverbs 16:3, and also counts among his favourite verses Matthew 6:31-33 and Ecclesiastes 7:23. He presented an exciting afternoon workshop to thirty-five youth and young adults, especially emphasising the importance of Bible study and the 'harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers'.

For more information, contact Ailson at: ailsonmoraes@yahoo.co.uk or visit: www.ailsonmoraes.com.

TAYLOR BAIJC

Hampstead Adventist Choral Society

Hampstead Adventist Choral Society presented a rendition of Handel's Messiah on 10 December 2011, and the performance was well received by Pastor Humphrey Walters, Mr Victor Pilmoor and many others. Pastor Eglan Brooks called it 'a fantastic event'; it was one of the church's best-attended events ever!

ANTHONY ROBERTS



obituaries

Alma Jackson (1917-2011). Alma was a lifelong member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and a founding member of Lewisham Church. In her teens she attended public meetings at Catford Town Hall. She and her late husband Len were married in the Lewisham church in 1937. Thereafter their lives revolved around their three children and the local Lewisham church.

The early believers in Lewisham did not have a church building, so most Sabbaths were spent in members' homes. Eventually they obtained a church building, a house donated by one of the members. It was at the recent rebuilding of the Lewisham church that Alma was invited, as the only member of the original group, to reminisce about the early days.

Some time in the 1980s Alma moved to worship at the Bromley church – and when

it moved to Bexley to form the Riverway church, she moved with it.

Her funeral service took place at Chislehurst Cemetery, where she now rests in sleep with her husband, awaiting the longed-for return of the Saviour she loved and served so well.

The service was well supported by her son Barry, daughter Ann and grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and a large number of the Riverway members.

Pastors P. Boyle and Israel Williams shared in the service. *PATRICK BOYLE*

Valerie Lucas (1936-2011). Val's desire on leaving her convent education was to become a trained nurse. She was accepted as a student nurse in the school of nursing at Charing Cross Hospital and received her state registration (SRN) on 3 December 1958; by 30 July 1978 she could add the

letters RGN, RMN, RNMH, EN(G).

Val became a Sister on an Assessment of the Elderly ward at the West London Hospital (Hammersmith), where she greatly improved the lives of the elderly patients – from then on they had no bed sores, and the ward was clean and pleasant.

She arranged outings to the theatre, pantomimes, Thorpe Park and so on, which had never happened before. Val has always cared for others. She then became a Sister at Sutton Hospital Eye Department, then Sister on a five-day unit at St Helier Hospital. She took early retirement around 1994.

Her caring for others continued; she helped accident victims on several occasions, distressed neighbours, and others she saw in need.

She was a faithful and active member of the Hemel Hempstead church during her latter years.

During her final illness, her concern to her last day was for her husband, Graham, and boys, Chris and Martin. She will be sorely missed by them all, and by the members of the church.

The next she will know will be the joyous meeting with Jesus, when He comes to take her home for eternity.

JOHN BUTTERS

Victor Speak (1929-2011) d. 25 December. Elder Victor Speak died peacefully in Nottingham Hospital at the age of 82 on 25 December 2011. He was the dearly loved husband of Gwendoline Speak, and was loved by all family members. Victor was a much-loved, and is now a much-missed, member of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Long Eaton, where he served as an elder, treasurer and Personal Ministries leader. The funeral was held on Monday 9 January 2012 in the chapel of Bramcote Cemetery, where he will rest in the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection. Gwendoline would like to thank all those who have sent messages of condolence and who have shown much care and many thoughts.

The funeral was conducted by the NEC executive secretary, Pastor Paul Haworth, and Pastor Roman Šmejkal.

GWENDOLINE SPEAK

Campaign at Great Brickkiln

A two-week evangelistic campaign lasted from 26 September to 7 October 2011 at the Great Brickkiln church. The main purpose was to win souls for the Kingdom. Just prior to the beginning of the campaign, however, Pastor Steve Palmer was burgled – then, two days into the campaign, an urgent phone message informed Pastor Palmer that his dear sister overseas only had a few days to live. Bravely, the pastor continued with the campaign, despite his distressing predicament.

A few evenings later, Pastor Palmer announced that his brother had been admitted to the intensive care unit unconscious, with no pending proof of recovery. He said the battle was not his, but the Lord's. As the campaign progressed, he announced that his sister had died.

After the campaign, Pastor Palmer testified of how God had guided him safely through the crises and trials of life. Although there were struggles and difficulties, they were used as soul-healing experiences.

The campaign has secured precious souls for baptism, to be reported in a forthcoming issue.

DELVA CAMPBELL



Sister Frater's memorial service

On 26 November Leeds Central held a memorial service to remember the life of Gerzita Frater, a dear member of the church who died in November 2010. The lady mayoress, Mrs Elizabeth Johnson, was invited to the service and Pastor Mwasumbi, Pastor Royer and Pastor Allcock presented items during the service. The sermon, presented by Pastor Allcock, was titled, 'When God calls you by name'. The service was arranged by Lorna Reid (Sister Frater's daughter) who was also celebrating her 70th birthday on the same day.

V. MAYNARD



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Christine Manners-Smith (secretary) – manners_smith@yahoo.com

South Cumbria's 2011

At the beginning of 2011 Dalton-in-Furness gained first a new minister (Ian Philpott) and then two Task-Force workers (Joseph Philpott and Aaron McKenzie), who have been diligently knocking on the doors for the salvation of souls.

During the summer they were joined by three equally keen young volunteers – Cheri White, Yon Taylor, and Troy Smith – who, within three weeks, had called at more than one thousand doors and handed out 101 *Discover* and *Focus on Prophecy* Bible study guides.

Joseph and Aaron planned a concert to raise community awareness of the church. Nineteen members of the community came, and £354 was raised for St Mary's Hospice.

The Impact Dalton programme in September was an initiative of both Ian and Joe Philpott. Pastors Ian Sweeney and Mike Simpson gave the go-ahead and funded it. Pastors Mike Simpson and newly appointed NEC president Cyril Sweeney are interested in new volunteers for the programme in the summer of 2012 – should you be interested, please contact Pastor Simpson at the NEC office.

After the Impact Dalton programme, Neil Blest (BUC Health Expo co-ordinator) trained church members and regular visitors to co-ordinate a health expo, in which between twenty and thirty people were advised. A campaign, 'Certainty in Uncertain Times', was conducted by 19-year-old Joseph Philpott from the first week in November until the first week in December, for four nights a week. Ten people from the community attended; three have requested baptism, with one more on the brink of decision. Presently Ian and Joe are giving them baptismal classes.

Finally, on Sabbath 3 December the Dalton church saw the dedication of Isabelle Kok, the baby of Daren and Marta. Daren's mother and sister had flown over from South Africa to be there for the happy event. Pastor Ian Philpott took the service.

KEITH HAMILTON



Newbold School will be holding a concert at Newbold Church at 7pm on 11 February 2012 to celebrate the 70th anniversary of its founding. If you are a former pupil or staff member and have any photographs or memorabilia, we would appreciate you contacting us.

Email: andi01kelly@yahoo.co.uk or phone 0778 634 8702.

All are welcome to attend this celebration.

Johannie Gungadoo (school secretary)

Build Me A Church

Ernie Occasion Ltd is proud to announce the Build Me A Church concert, which will be held on 24 March 2012. The venue will be Mount Zion Community Church, The Dream Centre, 70 Thomas Street, Aston, Birmingham B6 4TN. The event will last from 7 to 10pm. Tickets are £10 for an adult and £5 for children (6-15). Tickets bought at the door will be £15 and are not guaranteed. Come and have an experience with us.

Tickets can be purchased via our website: www.ernieoccasion.net on the bottom of the Build Me A Church page. For all enquiries, please call Ernest Bhebe on 07909942956 or email: info@ernieoccasion.net.

Stanborough Secondary School: first-class education, economy-class fees

Stanborough Secondary School offers exceptional value for money as an independent school. Our fees are about 40% less than the average independent school, and all members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are entitled to a further 30% discount.

	Annual Fees	SDA Fees
Years 7 and 8	£8,151	£5,705
Years 9 to 11	£8,706	£6,095
Years 12 and 13	£10,188	£7,130

However, in these times of economic challenge, we recognise that some families may find it difficult to afford the fees. Stanborough School is therefore pleased to introduce a new scheme of scholarships and bursaries aimed to make Adventist education more affordable. Scholarships of up to 50% will be awarded for exceptional students, and seven bursaries will be awarded this year on the basis of merit and financial need.

These multi-annual awards will be made for new pupils coming into the school for Year 7, Year 10 and Year 12 in September 2012. Exceptionally, new Year 8 pupils may also benefit.

The examination will be held on 26 February 2012 from 2pm to 5pm. Candidates must register and pay an administration fee of £10. To find out about the eligibility criteria and receive an application pack, please contact Mrs Sonia Poddar at registrar@spsch.org or call 01923 673 268.

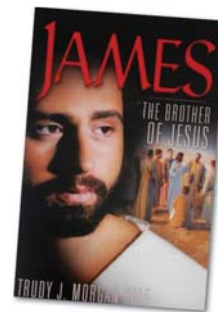
New series for Revelation TV

Viewers of the Monday night slot on Revelation TV will already have noted a refreshing new series to hit the airwaves.

Searching for a God to Love mixes presentation with discussion, aiming to encourage viewers to reflect on God, matters of faith and religious realities. Professor Chris Blake speaks to the 'believing unbelievers' who believe in God but not in the picture they have been presented of God. Each episode in this televised series links to Chris Blake's book of the same title. He presents to us the loving, caring God that many have forgotten or misinterpreted, in a relaxed yet striking presentation. Host for the series, Pastor Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist, states that 'The series maintains a balance between creative teaching, ingenious comedy, deep soul-searching and resolute faith.'

Searching for a God to Love airs Monday nights on Revelation TV (Sky Channel 581 or Freesat 692) and, if you miss an episode, catch up on the dedicated *Searching for a God to Love* website.

SEC COMMUNICATIONS



New book of the week
James
The Brother of Jesus
Trudy J. Morgan-Cole

This isn't the story the author set out to write. Join in her discovery of a man who grew up with Jesus, 'James the Just' – a traditionalist and a man of practical religion, part of Jesus' family but thoroughly shaken by His teachings.

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10am-2pm, Friday

Birmingham Aston-Newtown

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

Advent Centre

Mondays & Wednesdays, 6.30pm-8.30pm
Saturdays, 6-8pm until end of Feb.
Sundays, 11am-3pm

Messenger

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Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Feb 3	4.53	5.05	4.52	4.49	5.05
10	5.05	5.18	5.05	5.04	5.20
17	5.18	5.30	5.19	5.20	5.34
24	5.31	5.43	5.32	5.35	5.49

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