

Messenger

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Falklands 'invaded' again

by Julian Hibbert

April 2 marked the thirtieth anniversary of Argentina's invasion of the Falklands, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, which are British dependent territories located in the South Atlantic, east of Argentina.¹

*'The resulting conflict lasted 74 days and ended with the Argentine surrender on 14 June 1982, which returned the islands to British control. 649 Argentine military personnel, 255 British military personnel and three Falkland Islanders died during the conflict.'*²

As a result of the fierce battles that were fought to regain this territory, names like Goose Green, Port Stanley, San Carlos Bay and Mt Kent have been written into our military history.

Those who saw the conflict played out on television will remember the horror of HMS *Sheffield* burning after an Exocet missile strike on 4 May, making her *'the first Royal Navy vessel sunk in action since World War II'*, with the tragic loss of twenty of her crew.³ Many will also remember that the Argentine cruiser, General Belgrano, was torpedoed with great loss of life just two days earlier.⁴

Tensions revived

This all happened thirty years ago, but despite the 'normalisation' of relations between the two countries in 1989, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, Argentina's president, has recently been blowing on the embers of this old conflict, sweeping up national and regional support for a ban on vessels flying the Falklands' flag, and so on.⁵ As Neil Tweedie of *The Telegraph* puts it, she *'is currently taking a warm bath in anti-British rhetoric, accusing the UK of militarisation of the South Atlantic.'*⁶

Where is this all heading? Does Fernández de Kirchner have the intestinal fortitude to carry out her threats, or is she just using *'a well-worn tool for political distraction'*, as did General Galtieri three decades ago?⁷

They've landed already!

You've been following the news – and you know all of the above anyway. But what the networks don't know yet is that some 'insurgents' have landed already!

Yes, they touched down at Port Stanley armed with boxes and boxes of *The Great Hope*. This time the 'invasion' was from Punta Arenas in Chile, and the six-member team had their sights set on every 'Falklander' willing to receive a copy of the book – the same one that is available here in the UK from The Stanborough Press.

The distribution started on 21 March and culminated on Sabbath, 24 March, and they hoped to personally hand over 400 books in English and 200 in Spanish. This winsome team visited homes, shops and offices – and the streets – smilingly



sharing hope with whomever they met among the 3,140 islanders.⁸

Let's hope that this 'invasion' was a real success!

Editor's note: Those involved in the 'invasion' were Pastor Oscar Gill (Chilean Union Publishing director); Pastor Christian Alvear (Southern Association of Chile Publishing director); Roxana Failla (South American Publishing House); Gustavo Jeraldo (cameraman); and Linda and Leonard Westermayer (teachers at the Adventist University of Chile) who live on the Falklands. Readers can see a brief Spanish video of the event at . . .

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCl1wADHO_o.

¹<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/southamerica/falklandislands/9163002/Falklands-anniversary-Dont-lie-to-me-Argentina.html>.

²http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falklands_War.

³[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Sheffield_\(D80\)#The_sinking_of_HMS_Sheffield](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Sheffield_(D80)#The_sinking_of_HMS_Sheffield).

⁴http://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/general_belgrano.htm.

⁵<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/southamerica/falklandislands/9163002/Falklands-anniversary-Dont-lie-to-me-Argentina.html>.

⁶*ibid.*

⁷*ibid.* ⁸http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falkland_Islands.



ADRA UK
Annual Appeal 2012

Annual Appeal 2012

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



Organ donation support grows – NHS media release

Leaders representing Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Jainism and Sikhism participated in a panel discussion about the social, cultural and ethnic influences on deceased donation in the UK, at the UK's first national Organ Donation Congress, held by NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) on 8 March, 2012.

Sally Johnson, NHSBT's director of Organ Donation and Transplantation, said: 'This is the first time that representatives from all the major religions have met to discuss organ donation, and it is hoped this event will assist in dispelling any myths and concerns that people in these communities may have relating to this matter.'

NHSBT collaborated with a wide range of leaders from a number of faiths to review the religious guidance on the principles of organ donation, and this

has been instrumental in developing a new set of leaflets on the subject.

Sally Johnson said: 'We are grateful to the faith leaders for their time and input into developing the new leaflets, which we hope will help to inform and reassure religious communities that all the major religions agree to organ donation. We hope to see more people sign up to the Organ Donor Register as a result, so that more lives can be saved.'

Although all the major religions in the UK support the principles of organ donation, religion and culture can sometimes be barriers to people joining the ODR, and the reason why some families choose not to agree to donation when faced with the decision.

Currently, people from black and minority ethnic communities are under-represented on the ODR, with only 1.4% of asian origin and 0.4% black – and yet

they are three times more likely to need a transplant. This is because they are more likely to develop conditions such as diabetes and high blood pressure, which can lead to kidney failure or heart disease.

Finding a match can take longer, meaning that people from these communities on average wait a third longer than others for a transplant. There is also a much better success rate when transplants are carried out within the same ethnic group.

The new leaflets are available to order in print or for download in English from: www.organdonation.nhs.uk/ukt/how_to_become_a_donor/religious_perspectives/leaflets/Christianity_and_organ_donation.asp.



Leaflets in other languages will be available for download shortly.

To add your name to the NHS Organ Donor Register, please call 0300 123 2323, text REGISTER 84880 or visit: www.organdonation.nhs.uk.

Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health director, was one of the invited speakers at the congress and she told of the various projects and initiatives involving our members in support of organ donation. In response to her presentation, Tasmin May of the NHSBT made this observation: 'It is evident that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is already being dynamic in promoting organ donation through its network of followers. . . .'

Enhancing Health

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

Golden eight – part 6 Diet – are you eating right?

'Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power – these are the true remedies.' Ellen G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, page 127.

Agreeing on what constitutes 'proper diet', as indicated in the quotation above, has been an ongoing debate among various medical professionals and health enthusiasts.

With easy access to the internet we currently have unlimited information from diverse sources at our fingertips, some medically approved and well researched – some not. All claim to have the answers about what we should eat, why, and how it will benefit us. Our challenge is to know which information to trust. What is a *proper diet* anyway?

On 20 May 2012 the BUC Health Ministries department will host a nutrition conference where these questions relating to a proper diet will be answered by the renowned Professor Winston Craig. If you want to settle the arguments around soy, web scams, raw food diet, herbs and spices, superfoods and how to interpret research, then contact the BUC on 01923 672251 and register to attend the conference.

We often hear media reports and research indicating that 'eating

right' is equated with good health outcomes. One such report, featured in an article by Dr Franchesca Harper published by *Livestrong.com* (14 October 2010), states:

'Good eating habits may help people look younger longer, reduce risks for disease and even keep the brain healthy.'

Additionally, the 12 March 2012 edition of *Proper Diet.com – Diet and Nutrition Simplified* reports:

'People today are becoming increasingly aware that a **proper diet** is the foundation of good health. If we don't have a regular diet of wholesome food and the essential trace minerals which it provides, we don't have the fuel or the formula to perform at our best.'

How does E. G. White's book *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, written over 150 years ago, match up to current research? In our next issue we will answer this question.

Homework:

Here are some resources to investigate, which are well researched and will help you decide whether you are eating right. Check them out before the next instalment of *Enhancing Health* as we continue the series on diet:

- The CHIP programme, with its emphasis on the benefits of a plant-based diet – <http://www.chipuk.org.uk/chipvideo>;
- Dr Clemency Mitchell's latest book, *Understanding Nutrition*,* available from The Stanborough Press and ABC bookstores;
- The Adventist Discovery Centre health course titled: *Your World of Good Food* – www.discoveronline.org.uk.

Good health!

*To order your copy of *Understanding Nutrition*, call the ABC on 01476 539900, Mondays to Thursdays, 8am-5pm, or contact your Personal Ministries secretary today.



editorial

'Dear Lord, please watch over each of us today, and bring us safely together this evening.' That request is a common component of countless daily prayers. You've prayed like that yourself, haven't you?

But do we ever give that prayer another thought during the day? Do we send God a reminder at the first red traffic light: 'Dear Lord, don't forget to keep us safe . . . all day, please!'

I'm sure that most of us pray that morning prayer about God's daily protection – for ourselves and our families. But I am equally confident that most of us don't have too much more to say to Him during the average working day.

Why is this?

As I see it, there could be two reasons. **Firstly, because we may have an unshakeable faith in God's intention to protect us.**

I have always comforted myself with the thought that I am a 'man of faith'. Once I have put my trust in Him for the day, I get on and live. For, surely, reminding Him of the obvious throughout the day is just a sign of hesitant faith – which isn't faith then, is it?

And, as I imagined it, the last thing that God wants is a 'paranoid' petitioner who gives Him a serious responsibility – then checks on Him constantly!

But I have begun to see a **second** possible reason for our silence: **that we just don't give Him another thought for most of the working day!**

We become blasé

We become blasé about life because we 'get the hang of it' after a few years of practice. For most of us life tends to be predictable. It is full of routes and routines that we repeat until they are simply second nature.

And it's probably that predictability that fools us. It lulls us into forgetting about the tenuousness of human life. It camouflages the fragile nature of our existence.

He didn't come home

During a four-year stint in Zimbabwe (2003-2006) I rekindled my high school friendship with



'In the midst of a life of active labour, Enoch steadfastly maintained his communion with God.'

Not just 'petitions' and 'post-mortems', please!



Julian Hibbert
Editor

Gerald. He loved that country. It was his home – despite the idiosyncrasies of its ailing economy. His life was predictable. He lived in a quiet Harare suburb; made a comfortable living; took regular fishing trips and doted on his dogs.

Then one morning in 2007 he drove down to the business area in his pickup. It was one of those trips that should have taken but an hour or so – it didn't. Hours passed without a sign of Gerald or an answer from his mobile phone.

His wife – frantic with worry by then – drove in search of him along that network of quiet, safe, tree-lined roads. She found him easily – on the route he had travelled countless times before – slumped lifeless over the wheel of his pickup.

It's a jungle out there

Yes, life cannot be taken for granted – 'it's a jungle out there!' Not everyone comes home safely.

Now I am not suggesting that you start worrying about whether God is worrying about you! Neither am I suggesting that you become a 'paranoid' petitioner. God doesn't need you to clog up the 'prayer-ways' with a daily flood of fretful prayers.

But I am suggesting to myself (and to any reader like me) that there is more to a 'living relationship' with God than just that morning prayer for safety, security and sustenance – no matter how great your faith is!

What does He expect?

What does God expect from us between our morning and evening prayers?

In her book *Steps to Christ*, Ellen White devotes a whole chapter to prayer that is really worth reading. And near the beginning, there is a passage that speaks to the matter of God's expectations for our 'in between' prayers:

'In order to have spiritual life and energy, we must have actual intercourse [communication] with our heavenly Father. Our minds may be drawn out toward Him; we may meditate upon His works, His mercies, His blessings; but this is not, in the fullest sense, communing with Him. In order to commune with God, we must have something to say to Him concerning our actual life.' *Steps to Christ*, page 93 (emphasis supplied).

God obviously wants our prayer to go beyond the formal pleasantries and formulas of certain types of devotional or worship-type prayer. He wants conversation with us about the details of our daily life – 'our actual life' – especially while we are busy living it.

He is keenly interested in conversing with us in the classroom; in the boardroom; in the kitchen; or on the factory floor. But sadly, all too often, what He gets is a sleepy 'post-mortem' report at the end of the day.

Why is He interested?

I think the answer to that is two-fold. **Firstly, God craves our friendship. He likes to talk to us.** It's as plain and simple as that.

Secondly, I think God wants to have 'real-time' involvement in our daily decisions. After all, isn't that what made Enoch such a special Bible character? *'Enoch walked faithfully with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.'* (Genesis 5:24, NIV.)

White describes Enoch's 'walk' with God in this way: *'In the midst of a life of active labour, Enoch steadfastly maintained his communion with God. The greater and more pressing his labours, the more constant and earnest were his prayers.'* *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 86 (emphasis supplied).

I think that this is a significant part of what she meant with that statement: *'In order to commune with God, we must have something to say to Him concerning our actual life.'* She was talking about 'walking' with God as Enoch did; of having His ear throughout the day, for anything and everything; of asking His opinion before speaking or acting; of feeling His hand of restraint, or His gentle prod, when facing dilemmas; of sharing a chuckle with Him over the natural comedy of life.

Yes, I suspect that God wants us to pack the time between our morning 'petitions' and our evening 'post-mortems' with lots of interesting dialogue about 'actual life' and 'active labour'. Let's give it a try!

4 nurture

The Pavement Artist

by Anita Marshall

Having no canvas, the Artist painted His pictures on the pavement. He painted people – the people who crowded round to get a glimpse – because when they saw their likenesses they often beamed with pleasure. The faces looking back at them reflected a beauty and grace which the originals didn't possess, and they went away feeling clean and whole.

Those who looked closely enough saw the glory of the timeless place shining out of His pictures, and when they looked at Him they saw it in His eyes. As He painted He talked to them about His Father, and they caught an echo of their almost-forgotten past in His voice too.

But some of the people were too busy, too tied to their way of life to look at His pictures and listen to what He had to say. They had their own paintings, heavily detailed and sombre, which made the ordinary folk weary just to look at them. They reflected life as it was, hard and cruel. The experts dismissed the Artist as a dreamer. Rival dogged His steps from the beginning, and with the passage of time his evil subtlety had become almost an art form. The most terrible lies were made to sound like truth, and truth itself died when it touched his lips.

He sidled up during the painting of a particularly poignant subject,

and sneeringly pointed out the difference between the original and the painting.

'You've missed the sensuous glint in that woman's eyes. Don't you know she's a prostitute?'

And the Artist paused, and looked at His subject with a smile.

'I see only a child of Yar-way.'

And the prostitute went away knowing she didn't have to live that way because somehow her picture of herself and her relationship with Yar-way had been put right.

But Rival was not prepared to stop at harassment. He stirred up the other artists. The ordinary people were no longer visiting their exhibitions but were spending whole days in the square.

The real trouble started when the Pavement Artist painted someone nobody recognised.

'Who's that?' a boy asked.

'Yar-way', He answered.

'He doesn't look like that in our pictures', the boy argued.

'Your pictures are wrong', the Artist explained gently. 'I know, because He's My Father.'

The crowd began to murmur.

'His Father?'

'Yar-way – His Father?'

'Yar-way the Unknowable – how can He say such a thing?'

Choosing his moment carefully, Rival threw in his pennyworth:

'We all know that Yar-way is Lord of Time. If He had a Son,

He certainly wouldn't be a penniless Pavement Artist – like You!'

In the shouting and confusion which followed, a small child edged her way slowly and painfully to the Artist's side and slipped her thin hand into His.

'I've been ill for so long. Paint me well', she begged.

The Artist left the picture He had been working on and started a new one.

Incensed at being ignored, Rival called the people out of the square for a council of war. The time had come to put that upstart Artist back in His proper place! Son of Yar-way indeed! Trying to make Himself out to be better than they were! After a suitably inflammatory speech he spurred the angry, yelling mob back into the square.

When they had gone, the Artist lay dead across His half-finished picture of the child.

The prostitute sank down beside the only Man who had ever made her feel worth anything, and looked at the child whose body lay still under the Artist's outstretched arm.

'It's no use, lovey,' she said, 'we can't win. You're better off dead. At least now you'll get some peace.'

She woke in the morning, cold in the shaded alley where she had spent the most miserable night of



her life. Then she remembered that the square always caught the first warming rays of the sun. As she made her way there, she hoped someone had removed the bodies.

She could see the sunlight, dazzling in its freshness, even before she rounded the corner – but nothing could have prepared her for the sight that met her red-rimmed gaze.

The Artist was finishing His picture of the child, while she, apple-cheeked and laughing, was turning cartwheels all around a square filled with sparkling sunlit doves, circling and wheeling.

'But You're dead', the woman cried. 'I saw You – touched You!'

The Artist turned and smiled. 'So did my Father.'

He pointed to a new, larger picture. 'He paints too. Do you like His picture?'

There was no doubt that it was of the town – she recognised the square – but instead of the dull business places, the pubs, the litter, the run-down streets and dirty alleys, there were beautiful, spacious homes in boulevards lined with stately trees. Flowers and birds were everywhere. And so many happy, healthy people were enjoying it all.

'That's how it will be again', He said, standing up and wiping the chalk from His fingers. 'But right now I have an appointment with My Father. Look after the child.' 'You can trust me', she said. 'I know.'

'Must You go?' she pleaded. 'We need You here so much.'

'I'll come back', He promised. 'And when I do we'll make everything right.'

Then, taking her hands in His, He led her in a laughing, leaping dance round and round the square among the fluttering doves and cartwheeling child. As they flew over the flagstones the woman felt His grip slacken until she found she was keeping pace with nothing more substantial than an incredible kaleidoscope of colour. She slowed to a stop and called to the child.

'He's coming back, lovey. He promised.'

'I know', called back the child, halfway through a cartwheel. 'He can do anything!'

The inspiration for the above parable was the story of the woman taken in adultery. I love the gentle way Jesus dealt with her, drawing or writing in the dust (which made me decide to make Him a Pavement Artist), then getting rid of her enemies and giving her the hope that she didn't have to go on sinning. It occurred to me that all the time He was on Earth Jesus was painting a picture of what His Father is really like, and He went about showing people what they could be.

inbox

Deafening silence!

Dear Editor

I am concerned at the deafening silence from our Church on a great moral challenge facing this country . . . of the Government's proposal to legislate in favour of same-sex marriage. My opposition to this proposal is not based on any homophobic views, and recognises that same-sex couples already have the opportunity for same-sex civil unions.

I firmly believe that marriage from earliest civilisation has been based on a union between a man and a woman. As such it has been a vital foundation for an orderly and responsible society, best suited to family life. It is clearly the best

environment in which to bring up children. This has been recognised by our society for thousands of years.

In addition, most religions, including our own, consider such a redefinition of marriage to be firmly against religious belief and teaching. Some religious groups have come out in clear opposition to the proposal. In contrast there seems to be a deafening silence from our leaders.

I would hope that our leaders would make clear, unequivocal statements on this and encourage members to join in protests while there is yet time. These could include writing to MPs and signing the petition organised by the Coalition for Marriage. We should all endeavour to do our parts to try and stop this ungodly legislation. Indeed, it gives the opportunity for the Seventh-day Adventist voice to be clearly heard.

ALLAN KISSACK

A dream . . .

I dream that every Seventh-day Adventist church has a Sabbath School where all the children attend regularly – even if there is only one child.

I dream that children love their Sabbath School so much that they wake their parents early every Sabbath morning in their eagerness to get to church.

I dream that all parents make every effort possible to get their children to Sabbath School regularly and on time.

But reality is harsher than my dream – because it seems that, in Britain, well-run and well-attended Children's Sabbath Schools are no longer as common as they used to be.

There are some churches, with children ranging in number from one to nearly thirty, which do not run a children's Sabbath School. These children are sitting in an adult lesson which means very little to them.

There are other churches where the teachers are there on time with interesting activities they have spent time preparing in order to help the children enjoy and learn – but very few make it on time, and many don't come until Sabbath School is over! How do you think those teachers feel? How much are your children missing? These are golden opportunities to learn about our faith and to make Christian friends.

So, what are the benefits of a good Children's Sabbath School?

Faith reinforcement. Learning about God and the Bible in another place besides home strengthens a child's beliefs.

Enthusiasm for church. The main worship service may not touch many younger children, but Sabbath School can. Bear in mind what one little boy recently said to his mum about the main church service: 'This is your church. Sabbath School is my church.'

Friendship. In Sabbath School children spend time with others, with whom they will make lasting friendships, giving them more reason to stay in church.

Mentorship. A Sabbath School teacher can be someone to love you, someone you can look up to, someone to share joys and woes with.

Support for parents. Many of us have gained good ideas from being in Sabbath School with our little ones, and the teachers can also be a great support to parents.

What you can do:

- Make sure you take your children to Sabbath School, bright and early, every week.
- If you are not happy with your Children's Sabbath School at present, talk it over with the teacher and offer your help if needed.*
- If your church offers no Children's Sabbath School at present, request one – or offer to do it yourself.
- And if you are able to run a Sabbath School for other people's children, please offer to do so if you see the need. If you can train up another teacher, please do that too.

Please join me . . . share my dream for Sabbath School.

VICKY BEAMISH, CHELTENHAM CHURCH

*Anyone intending to teach children should first get a CRB check.

the Berean column

with Andrew Puckering



The house of Eli

' . . . I will perform against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end', said the LORD to Samuel (1 Samuel 3:12, NKJV). That news must have made Eli tremble: indeed, God told Samuel that the ears of those who heard it would tingle (1 Samuel 3:11). Eli's boys were bad, and he had tried to warn them, but not sternly enough (1 Samuel 2:12-29). Now judgement was coming upon Eli's house for their sins (1 Samuel 2:31-36). When the judgement came, and Eli's sons and the Ark of the Covenant were lost, the shock was so great it killed Eli (1 Samuel 4:11-18) – but this was more than just a personal loss. With God's priests dead, and the symbol of His presence captured, it must have seemed like God had abandoned Israel completely! The naming of Eli's grandson Ichabod, whose name meant that God's glory had departed from Israel, signified the despair of those who were left (1 Samuel 4:21).

God had not abandoned His servants completely though, and had left a remnant alive: Ichabod's big brother, Ahitub, whose son, Ahijah, was priest in the days of King Saul (1 Samuel 14:3). By the time David was on the run from Saul, Ahijah's brother Ahimelech was ministering, and Ahimelech gave David bread – an action commended by Jesus (1 Samuel 22:6-12; Matthew 12:1-8). This resulted in further tragedy for Eli's house, as Saul, in a fit of paranoid rage, ordered his men to kill them all. Yet again, however, God preserved a remnant alive – Ahimelech's son, Abiathar, who helped David to know God's will on several occasions (1 Samuel 22:16-23; 23:9-12).

Abiathar stayed by David's side, helping him through thick and thin (1 Samuel 30:6-8; 2 Samuel 15:24), and worked with Zadok his fellow priest, who was, apparently, yet another son of Ahitub, and therefore Abiathar's uncle (2 Samuel 8:17).¹ Their sons, Jonathan and Amihaaz, were instrumental in helping David when David's son Absalom staged a coup (2 Samuel 15:27; 17:15-22) – and, when David's army won the battle against Absalom, the watchman saw Zadok's son Amihaaz and exclaimed, 'He is a good man, and comes with good news' (2 Samuel 18:27, NKJV). Ironically, the exact same thing was said about Abiathar's son Jonathan in 1 Kings 1, when he and his father supported the attempt of another of David's sons, Adonijah, to make himself king (1 Kings 1:42) – a decision that divided Abiathar from his uncle, as Uncle Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anointed Solomon king (1 Kings 1:45).

We can trace the labyrinthine priestly lineage down through the ages in 1 Chronicles 6:1-15, from Levi all the way down to Jehozadak, who was carried into captivity by Nebuchadnezzar. Was this, finally, the end of the Aaronic priesthood? No! Yet again, God saved a remnant: Jeshua the son of Jehozadak (contracted to Jozadak in the book of Ezra) was serving as priest among the captives who returned to rebuild Jerusalem (Ezra 3:8). It's worth noting that this same Jeshua (spelled Joshua in Zechariah) was seen in vision to be accused by Satan but pardoned by God (Zechariah 3). His filthy garments were replaced with clean, rich clothes, a fitting symbol of the restoration that Christ offers to all those who trust Him – His modern-day priests (1 Peter 2:9). Now, as in the past, God offers His servants a way of escape, and a chance to repent and be restored.

- Who became priest after Zadok? (1 Kings 4)
- What relation was Zadok's grandson Azariah to Amihaaz? (1 Chronicles 6)
- The names of Eli and his sons Hophni and Phinehas are blotted out of the priestly honour roll in 1 Chronicles 6. What warning can we draw from this?
- Why was there a need for a new priesthood? (Hebrews 7)
- Who is our eternal High Priest?

¹Assuming that Ahitub (Zadok's father) is the same person as Ahitub (Ahimelech's father) – a reasonable assumption, given that Ahimelech and Zadok were both Aaronic priests of the same period, although it's debatable.



'The real trouble started when the Pavement Artist painted someone nobody recognised.'

Nothing works and Salvation by works!

by Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC president

I would like to make two bold declarations: first – when it comes to evangelism – *nothing works!*

Second: the Church in the British Isles needs to embrace and believe – *salvation by works!*

Now that I have your attention – but before you write your letters of objection – permit me to offer some clarification.

There are congregations and leaders who truly believe that when it comes to reaching the majority ethnic population of the British Isles: *nothing works!* Those to whom I refer have tried everything: tract and magazine distribution, public evangelistic meetings, seminars – and so on – without results. No increase in church attendance or any baptisms. So they have concluded that *nothing works.*

Seeing poor results is not new. We should recall that Jesus said we may enter a place with an evangelistic fervour only to receive a cool or hostile reception (Matthew 10:14). However, whether we are received with open arms or not, we still have a responsibility to share Christ's love, even with an indifferent audience.

Our evangelistic activity may not lead to a full church on the following Sabbaths, but that is only one of two possible results. We may not have a full church, but our community will no longer be ignorant of who we are and what we represent.

During all of the years that Noah committed to sharing the end-time message, there were no accessions to the ark. If judged only by the measure of accessions, it might really appear as though nothing worked in Noah's day either. On the other hand, however, when the raindrops began to fall, people were quick to make a connection between them and the preaching of a 'crazy man' who was building a boat! Noah's preaching did make an impact in his community. It brought people out of ignorance, even though they did not respond positively by going into the ark.

Congregations that truly believe that *nothing works*, and then follow up their belief by *doing nothing*, are guaranteed a success rate of 100%! If our congregational goal is to do nothing to support and improve our local community and nothing to share our message, we are guaranteed success and will 'prove' to ourselves that *nothing works!*

If our goal is to do *nothing*, we are going to be successful in reaching it.

My second declaration is that I believe in *salvation by works* – but by this I am not referring to my own salvation. If we want to see people in our communities find a saving relationship with Christ, we are going to have to work!

To *save others*, we are going to have to put in some hard work.

Christ's commission is for us to *go* so that people might *come*. (Matthew 28:19, NIV): 'Therefore *go* and make disciples of all nations' (emphasis supplied).

We often want people to *come* to our churches without us first *going* out to meet them where they are. Should we honestly expect our community to be interested in coming to join us, when we have not been interested in going out to meet and serve them?

Salvation by works is hard work in so many ways. Permit me to quote from the *Church Manual* (18th edition, 2010), pp. 124, 125:

'The Gospel Commission of Jesus makes evangelism, proclaiming the good news of the Gospel, the primary function of the Church (Matthew 28:18-20). It is, therefore, also the primary function of the board, which serves as the chief committee of the church. When the board devotes its first interests and highest energies to every-member evangelism, most problems are alleviated or prevented, and a strong, positive influence is felt in the spiritual life and growth of members.'

Our church board meetings should make evangelism their first interest! If you are a member of your church board who does not attend, it is hard work to make the time to attend the meeting. If your church board agenda does not place evangelism as its first item, it is hard work to change that culture and tradition.

The British Union Conference executive committee wants to lead by example by consciously placing mission and evangelism at the top of its agenda, thereby affording them significant time for discussion and prayerful reflection. As simple as this may sound, it is difficult to accomplish, for the Union board meeting, like that of a local church board, has many pressing and competing items to deal with in its limited



and precious time. But as the *Church Manual* wisely counsels, if we concentrated on how we should reach the lost, many of our problems would be alleviated!

Salvation by works is hard work, because it is about facing up to our responsibilities. The British Union board is calling upon every pastor, church board and congregation to embrace the challenge of how we can reach the people of the British Isles. We want you to prayerfully ask the question in board meetings, members' meetings and the like: 'Lord, what do you want our congregation to do to reach our local community and town?' If we are not asking this question, we may be showing that we have embraced the principle that *nothing works!*

Salvation by works is challenging, because it will lead to mission/evangelistic intentionality in all that we do. For example:

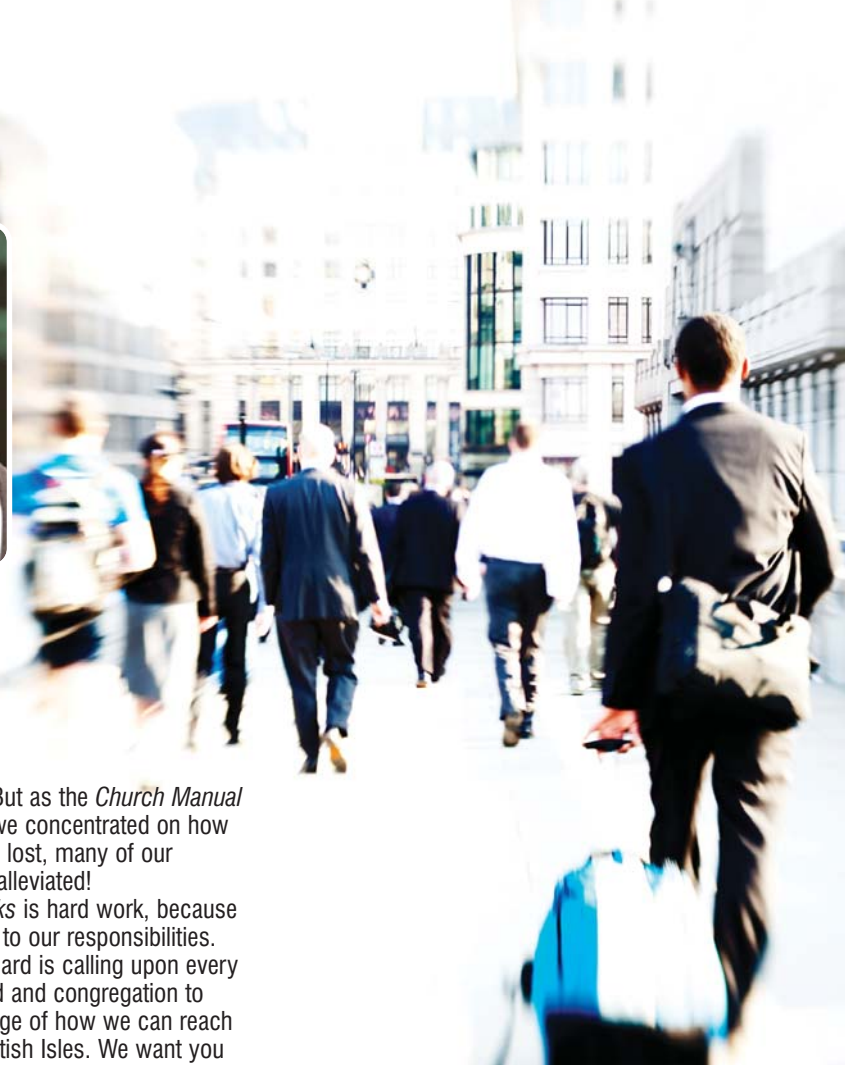
It is because we believe that first impressions count that we will ensure that our church premises are presentable and well signposted, so we will each dedicate a couple of hours to help on the church 'clean up' day.

It is because we desire people to be led to Christ through our preaching that, when we are assigned a preaching appointment, we will prayerfully ask God to lead us to be more effective in designing the sermon's content, message and length. Our preaching should not be regarded as an embarrassment and/or an endurance test by the congregation, but rather as an opportunity for them to bring their friends, family and neighbours to have their souls stirred through an encounter with Christ.

It is because we want non-Adventists to come (and return) to our services that we will ensure that they start in accordance with advertised times! We expect trains and buses to be on time; we expect shops to open on time; and so we will ensure that our services run according to their advertised times.

These are just three simple examples of the hard work that is implied behind *salvation* (for others) *by* (our) *works!*

The challenge we face in the British Union Conference is immense – however, it is not a



challenge that will make us throw up our hands in despair and cry 'nothing works!' It is a challenge that will have us prayerfully engage in '*salvation by works*', as God leads our congregations in how we will serve and make an impact in our local communities.

Leading the way . . .

At the British Union Conference executive committee held on Thursday 15 March it was voted at the conclusion of the evangelism agenda item:

1. That every local congregation be challenged to ask how they can improve their community impact and awareness and how they can reach the majority ethnic population with the Adventist message;
2. That the following mission emphasis be adopted for 2012-2014:
2012: Great Hope evangelistic initiative (in conjunction with Revival and Reformation) and preparation for Mission to the Cities,
2013: Union-wide evangelistic meetings led by the British Union pastoral team,
2014: Union-wide lay-member-led evangelistic meetings;
3. That the president, administrative officers and Union directors continue their work of networking and responding to invitations from government committees and other official bodies so that the voice of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is heard and represented on a national level.

Are you a Seventh-day Adventurer?

by Elisabeth Carnell

When I heard about the relatively new indoor market in Grantham, I felt strongly impressed that this was an opportunity to have a Christian bookstall in the community.

On receiving the blessing of the church board, I visited the market and spoke to the manager. The reaction was, 'It's not too religious, is it?'

'Oh no,' I quickly replied, 'mostly children's Bible story books and a few books for adults as well.'

And so it began . . . for the month of December, you could find me on a Wednesday and Sunday at the indoor market.

The market is new – not many people know about it yet and it can be very quiet, but even so I think there has only been one day when I neither sold nor gave away a piece of literature – and even on that day, I had a number of conversations about our Church and about belief with fellow stallholders.

Let me share some encounters

The *Advent Calendars* proved to be popular: one man told me his daughter came running to him every morning to read the next story; another man told me how he had to explain to his granddaughter who Zacharias was; another lady told me how much her grandchild loved the little books in the *Advent Calendar* too.

One of the stallholders during December was from Community Books. He came to me one day and asked if I was an Adventist. 'Yes,' I said, 'what gave it away?' He had noticed that the *Advent Calendar* had 'Stanborough Press' printed on the back, and told me they still get Bible story books coming into Community Books. He himself was happy to share that he bought a whole set of Bible story books for his children in monthly instalments years ago, and still has them.

A young man with a slight learning disability became a regular customer during December. When I offered him a small book, *101 Proverbs for Life*, as a free gift with a purchase, he said: 'I've already got that one.' *How could that be?* I thought. Then it clicked. A few years ago, we helped out for a couple of years running the Churches Together stand at the freshers' fair at Grantham College. We supplied quite a lot of the 'little books' for giving away. They were very popular, especially with the students. He had been one of those students and had now brought a friend with him to the market stall –

she now has her own 'little book' to read.

A couple who are regular visitors to the market stopped to chat one day and asked me what church I go to. When I told them they thanked me for a lovely food parcel they had received from the Adventists at their luncheon club.

How interesting to realise that the very mission outreach from the past that we may have thought bore no fruit actually had made an impact on the people I am meeting in the market.

One stallholder remembers working with someone who asked for Fridays off work. Two other stallholders requested that we pray for them during our Worship Service.

In the new year I was greeted with a big hug from one of the stallholders. I've been accepted into the family – the Christian Bookstall is now a part of the market.

I went in on the first Wednesday in January and I asked if I could have a stand that day: 'Of course you can!' was the reply, with a beaming smile. What a difference to the first time I asked for a stand!

Just before Christmas, two ladies were looking at the books on display when one of them suddenly realised what she was looking at: 'Oh – you're a Christian stall.' 'Yes,' I replied. 'How lovely to have a Christian presence in the market!' she exclaimed.

Yes, it is lovely to have a Christian presence in the market. Please pray that the literature sold and given away will help the recipients have a closer walk with God, and that the children who receive the story books and sticker books will grow up to know and love God.

Finally, I must share with you what one young man, a bit of a joker, told me he calls us when he learnt what Church I belong to. 'Oh yes, I know, you're **the Seventh-day Adventurers.**' So, can we live up to the name?



Readers' gallery

Megapixels of creation

... as we see it

1



2



1. **Herring gull.**
Bethany Baker, Nikon D5000.
2. **Mute swan.**
Whitnell Anderson, Canon PowerShot SX230.
3. **Ostrich, are you looking at me?**
Michael Walker, Fuji S8000fd.
4. **Lambing time.**
Lindita Vani Wilson, Sony DSC-T300.
5. **Hover fly.**
Marrick Schoonraad, Canon EOS 40D.
6. **Kangaroos, Perth, WA.**
Austin James, Fuji S602.
7. **Mallard, Rutland Water.**
David Bell, Fuji S9500.
8. **Blue tit.**
Piotr Nikiel, Canon 50d.

... you dare to complain?

I had a complaint the other day, via email, from a reader who was very disappointed that her eagerly awaited *MESSENGER* had no Megapixel spread (*you know who you are*): so here we go again!

For 2012, Megapixels of creation will take on different themes of creation and nature from around the world – not just seasons, as we did last year. So please continue to send me your photography – scenes, flora and fauna, birds, animals, insects and close-ups – anything that you feel portrays the wonder of creation.

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

DAVID BELL

'Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.'

Genesis 2:19 (NIV-UK)

3



4



5



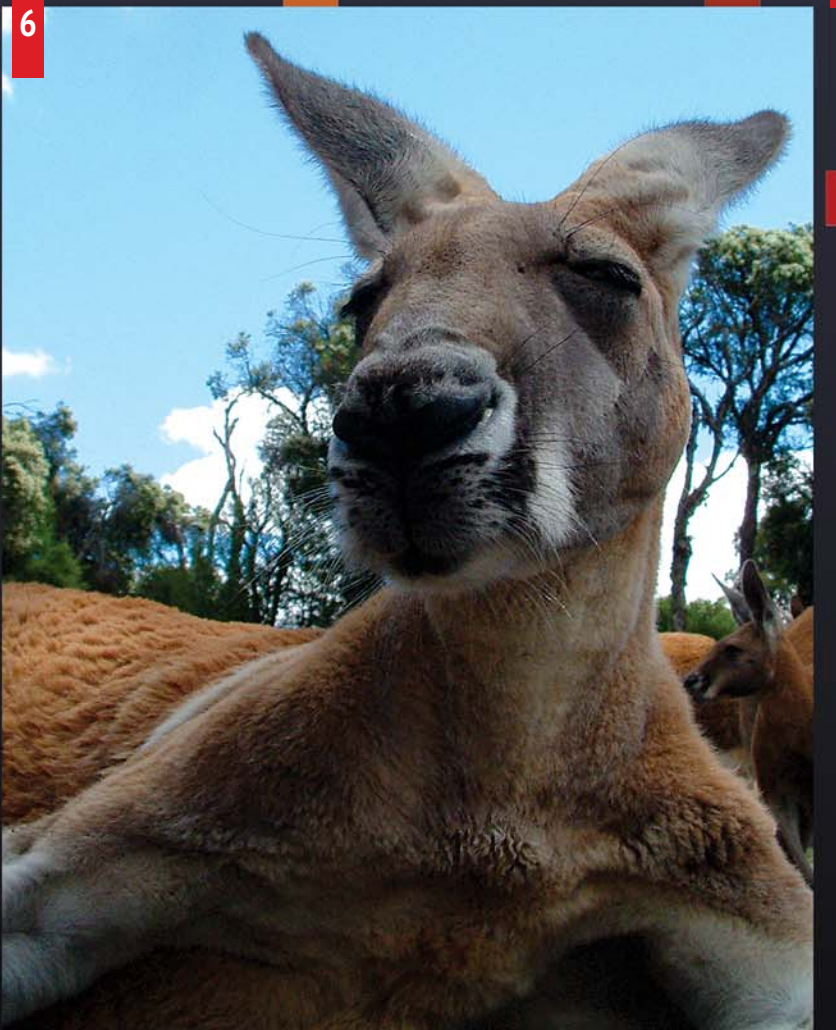
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8



6



Please visit: www.adventispictures.org.uk/megapixels, for more pictures.

Prayer and Bible conference 2012

From 13 to 17 February 2012, the SEC Teen Ministries department held its fourth Prayer and Bible conference, with up to 109 teens and youths from all over the county, at Stanborough Secondary School in Watford. Teens director Pastor Dejan Stojkovic and volunteers guided the youth through the week, which included a fun-filled ice-breaker, a lively song service, and an inspirational word from the main speaker, Pastor Ryan Simpson (Youth and Pathfinder director of the Bermuda Conference), on Jeremiah 29:11, giants and grasshoppers, the perplexity of prayer, 'Arise and Cross the Jordan', and 'March Again'.

The services continued with morning worship and Bible study, with an afternoon workshop run by Isha Prince: 'Sex and the Sanctuary.' The workshops focused on purity in Christ, and helping teens prepare for their future relationships and marriages.

The recreation included socialising, football, basketball and other outdoor games, and a trip to the local swimming facilities; however, the youth also realised that St Augustine's idea, about filling a 'God-shaped vacuum' with only Jesus and His Gospel, is spot on!

During the conference, twenty young people committed themselves to be baptised in 2012.

THOKOZANI CHIBOWA



Testimony on substance abuse brings Harlow South to tears

A life spent battling addictions is what Michael Oxley spoke of at the Harlow South church-plant's youth day on 4 February. The young man told the youths assembled for a programme on substance abuse how he changed from an addict to a powerful speaker and finally accepted Jesus Christ.

Youth day organiser Del Baxter said, 'Michael's story truly touched the whole church.'

Young people from neighbouring churches and the community joined Harlow South's youth for the programme, which also examined the example of the prodigal son.

Michael's story brought home the power of God in the darkest of hours. An older church member admitted, 'I cried throughout the presentation; several people were in tears.'

Elder Calvin Mazengwe remarked: 'Evangelism can be done by youth. We are encouraging our youth to brighten their corner.'

Harlow South is a new church-plant that already has more than ten candidates for baptism: among these, four are young people.

CALVIN MAZENGWE AND SEC COMMUNICATIONS



Baptism at Great Brickkiln Church

On 1 January 2012, Davina was baptised at Great Brickkiln Church, after searching for the true Church for years – previously she had been attending a Roman Catholic church. Davina was going through a traumatic time when Jason Patterson, a devoted Adventist engaged in personal ministry evangelism, knocked on her door and witnessed about God's mercy and great love for His created beings.

Later, Davina stated that miraculously her prayers had been answered. She began taking Bible studies with Jason, which led to her regular attendance and baptism.

DELVA CAMPBELL



Milton Keynes baptism and farewell

Milton Keynes's Wolverton Branch Sabbath School was pleased to see a recent attendee, Jessica Hamutanga, unite herself with Christ and 17.5 million other Seventh-day Adventists through baptism.

On that day the church family also said farewell to Michael, Ivy, and Abigail Salim, who return to Botswana. They will be remembered for their faithful service, including their offers of books to passing shoppers.

BARRY GOWLAND



Great start to 2012!

Apart from the '80 days of prayer' programme the church has been immersed in, West Bletchley Community Church has already had two wonderful occasions in 2012 – a baptism and an ordination!

Mulenji (15) and Mzati (12) Zapita, a brother and sister, declared their faith in Jesus on Sabbath 28 January, and Vernon Noel, Patience Mangoro and Sylvia Scott were ordained as elders on Sabbath 11 February. Church members have been praying all year, and anticipate more blessings ahead!

PILIRA ZAPITA

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Jaw-dropping joy at Middlesbrough

Eight former pastors of Middlesbrough Church were astounded on Sabbath 10 March – remembering the small, vandalised church they had pastored in a deprived part of Middlesbrough, they expressed wonder at the facilities, decoration, and large congregation at the church's new high-profile property on a leading thoroughfare.

Middlesbrough members welcomed guests from across the country to a commissioning service for their new building, formerly used for worship by the United Reformed Church. Built in 1923, it has been tastefully renovated with additional rooms and a larger hall, useful for Children's Sabbath School, youth work and community programmes, including a weekly sleep-over for the homeless and asylum seekers.

The service was full of thankfulness to God. The congregation had sold their old church and rented accommodation for four years, while the congregation continued to grow.

Finally a building came up for sale, and Adventists secured this property in competition with people who were willing to offer more! Since then, members and friends have worked to renovate the building. Contractors, who worked on the roof and painting and were very impressed, also attended the service of commissioning!

The Reverend Meg Robb and several members of the United Reformed Church also attended, delighted that their church could continue to be used for Christian worship – as did Mayor Ray Mallon, who knows the church does a lot for the socially deprived and respects the Adventist health message. 'Pray for each other, and pray for Middlesbrough', he challenged.

Pastor Cyril Sweeney, NEC president, preached in the morning service, and BUC president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, noted that when Jesus came to church there was always drama! 'Jesus desires to come into this house through His people', he challenged, emphasising that our purpose must be to show God's love to the community.

Photos of the day can be viewed in the BUC picture gallery: <http://www.adventistpictures.org.uk/gallery/2012/Middlesbrough/index.php>.

ROSEMARY WEST WITH VICTOR HULBERT

UK Adventist Medical Evangelism Conference

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Calling all Construction Professionals

Architects, construction managers, surveyors, project managers, town planners, health & safety professionals, estate agents, lawyers, lift engineers, civil engineers, mechanical/electrical engineers, designers, structural engineers, developers.

We are trying to establish if it is feasible to develop a Forum of Adventist Construction Professionals to serve the church. The concept is that we provide assistance/guidance to our churches at least in the first instance when they are making decisions with regard to the built environment and their church facility.

Let's meet to discuss and hopefully make plans to move forward.

Meeting Time 15:00

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13th May 2012

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IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE NEC YOUTH DEPARTMENT AND INSTRUMENTAL

Stanborough School humanitarian trip to India

Following a chance encounter with a former student, Dr Jacob Prabhakar (medical director of the Ruby Nelson Memorial Hospital in Jalandhar, India), Kish Poddar organised a team of eight students and two teachers for the 2012 Stanborough School IB CAS humanitarian trip to India.

Funds had been raised with a twenty-four-hour sponsored badminton session and bag-packing at ASDA and Sainsbury's, and on Sunday 12 February the team met up at Heathrow with several cardboard boxes of clothes, toys, shoes and other items to give away.

Once in Jalandhar, they travelled by minibus into rural Punjab to a *gurdwar* (Sikh temple) where about fifty elderly men and women were waiting to be screened for cataract operations. At each of the stations, Stanborough students assisted the technicians. At first a little apprehensive, they quickly responded to the crash training course and fitted in with enthusiasm and interest! The successful patients were then transported to the hospital for the cataract operation.

Some students were to be with the patients in the waiting room, while others would receive the patients into the anaesthetic room while anaesthetic was injected into the eye socket. The patients were then escorted to the anteroom by another group, and in the theatre a fourth group of students ushered them to a seat and applied antiseptic over their eyes and surrounding tissue. Then the patient was assisted on to the operating table for the two-minute procedure, and assisted to leave the theatre. Another team of students escorted them out, and other volunteers escorted the patients to their beds. The patients and



Student health

The Paisley Company Health Ministries team and several volunteers promoted a healthy lifestyle to students of the University of the West of Scotland in Paisley on Thursday, 29 September 2011.

Pastor Obi Iheoma was offered a space at the university's fresher's fayre – ironically, between the NHS stand and the Domino's pizza booth! The expo was designed to reveal to participants their 'health age', based on the results of a series of health screening tests as well as their day-to-day habits. Students received many helpful resources and personal advice from our pastors and counsellors.

Pastor Filip Bajic and the team, smiling and professionally dressed, received 127 students in four and a half hours; fifty-one went on to give their contact details, requesting more information on upcoming courses.

Scottish Mission Health Ministries sponsor, Pastor David Hatch, said the contacts were most important. TAYLOR BAJIC AND ELIZABETH IHEOMA

Lifestyle centre development

Two years ago, osteopath Andrew Lawson put out an advert via the BUC Health Ministries department inviting Adventist health professionals to contact him in regards to setting up a clinic. To date he is operating four clinics in London and is seeking other health professionals to join him.

Additionally, he now has a vision to establish a lifestyle centre, and is inviting interested parties to contact him. Adventist osteopaths, chiropractors, podiatrists, physiotherapists, doctors, nurses, nutritionists, Christian counsellors, massage therapists, clerical staff, administrators and businessmen and women are invited to contact Andrew on 07984279870 if they are interested in the establishment of a lifestyle centre.



Stanborough students returned to the *gurdwar* for the post-operative assessment and final discharge.

The second eye camp was held in a different village near the Indo-Pakistan border – some patients were totally blind, and all needed hands-on assistance. The screening went on for hours, and more than 500 were screened, 400 of whom were eligible for surgery. The following morning surgery began, and the same routine was followed.

The students continued their roles as volunteers, helping to feed the patients and assist with personal care. However, they also got to see the Taj Mahal, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the Wagah border flag-lowering ceremony and the capital city of India, New Delhi!

This trip was organised as part of the community service ethos of Stanborough School, inspired by Jesus; He knew that there is a double blessing in serving others. If you would like to be a volunteer on a humanitarian trip, come and join Stanborough School for a truly wholesome education experience.

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Music students' charity concert

A classical concert entitled 'An Evening with Minyoung and Friends', at Stanborough Park Church on 10 March, raised £1,050 for the Young Musicians Fund, which helps young music students experiencing financial difficulties.

The concert featured church member Minyoung Bae, a talented young pianist who is a second-year scholarship student at the Royal College of Music. She was joined for the evening by four friends from the Yehudi Menuhin School where she used to study, three of them now fellow students at the Royal College of Music.

The students performed to a very high standard – admission was free, and a collection during the performance raised the funds for struggling students.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

London Ghana turns 20

London Ghana Seventh-day Adventist Church is set to celebrate the 20th anniversary of its establishment this April.

The church, which formed in the early 1960s as a prayer group and a fellowship, finally attained church status in April 1992.

Its beginning was not all that easy. Time, money and other valuable resources have been contributed to make the church what it is today: a fellowship of more than 500 Seventh-day Adventists.

As part of the anniversary, the entire church is soliciting funds for the needy around the world through the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

Pastor Fergus Owusu-Boateng, announcing this to the congregation, noted that the church has been enormously blessed over the last twenty years, and praised the commitment of members who helped to buy a place of worship for £3,000,000.

The 20th anniversary will therefore coincide with the opening of the church's new building, located in Plaistow, East London.

NANA SIFA TWUM

Seventy-two years as church organist

Colin Robson was given a certificate of appreciation by the Carlisle church recently, for his contribution to their worship services of organ playing.

Colin first picked out a tune on the organ at Park Wesley Methodist Church in Middlesbrough, at just 6 years of age!

After attending meetings conducted by the late Pastor Bernard Kinman, the family were baptised in 1940, and Colin was voted in as church organist. He joined the evangelistic team and played at campaigns in Newcastle, Carlisle and Burnopfield.

In 1943 Colin went to Newbold College for three years, and left in 1946 to do his National Service. Since then, he has played the Harrison and Harrison pipe organ in the city hall of Newcastle for campaign meetings held by the late Pastor Fred Pierce; accompanied the contralto singer Kathleen Joyce at a campaign in Carlisle; and had a twenty-nine-stop organ built to his own specifications for Newcastle Church.

Carlisle has enjoyed Colin's organ playing for the last seven years.

BILL KITCHEN



Cheltenham appreciates its children

The Cheltenham congregation is blessed with more than twenty children up to the age of 15, and on Sabbath 25 February older members showed them just how much they are appreciated.

The children were invited to read Bible texts, say prayers, sing, and play music; during the children's story, they were reminded how special they are to the church family and to God, and during the sermonette Pastor Rudi Puskas reminded the adults to show their appreciation, and led in a prayer of blessing.

The children talked about some of the activities, were encouraged to listen out for God, and received certificates recognising their individual contributions.

We pray that God will continue to make our children a blessing.

MIKE & VICKY BEAMISH, JEANÉ BARKER



International women's day of prayer

On 3 March, the international women's day of prayer at Harlestone Road Church was attended by women from eighteen countries, all praying to have the compassion and ability to help others.

The women distributed 568 flyers in their community on 18 February, and 512 *Someone Cares* cards during their prayer walk, letting the community know that they really care, and that their homes were being prayed for on 25 February. Invitations to trust God and contact details for the church were supplied in the flyers.

During the Divine Service, Peace Sibanda from Manchester North preached on 'Faith in Action', and in the afternoon programme, taken by Sheryl Lawrence, Josephine Vine led the women through 'Family Faith in Action'.

The well-attended day was concluded with a prayer chain.

ANASELIA MORRIS AND REISS MOTHERSILL

Congratulations to Pastor Glenford Baxter of Maryland, USA on successfully defending his doctoral dissertation at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI on 5 March, 2012.

Pastor Baxter was born in Jamaica and has been a dedicated member of the Tottenham Seventh-day Adventist church.

VICTOR HULBERT

obituaries

George Edwin Powls (1921-2011) d. 30 October.

Middlesbrough Church members gathered with friends and family on Friday 4 November 2011 to lay to rest their beloved 'Uncle George'. Born on 22 November 1921, George Edwin Powls fell asleep in Jesus just a few weeks before his 90th birthday. George was baptised on 15 November 1935, along with his parents. This was the beginning of his lifelong service to his Lord and Saviour.

While attending Newbold College (then located in Binfield) between 1944 and 1947, George met his wife of over sixty years, Josie. They married in 1948, and lived in Middlesbrough until the Church asked them to move to Glasgow, where George worked as a colporteur. After seven years in Glasgow, Josie was asked to teach in a church school in Walthamstow. This allowed George to fulfil his dream of becoming a teacher also. He trained at Goldsmiths College in London. During this time, their first child, Wendy, was born.

Following the death of George's mother, the family moved back to Stockton to help care for George's disabled brother, Bertie. George taught in the same Stockton school from then until his retirement. George and Josie were blessed with three more children – Sharon, Andrew and Graham.

George held many offices in the Middlesbrough church. He loved children and young people, and was youth leader for many years. His love of nature and the outdoors led to many trips to Roseberry Topping and Aysgarth Falls, usually topped off with his other love – a game of football. The church socials that George organised always ended with a game of 'scavenger', which young and old alike enjoyed. Following in his father's footsteps, George took the role of elder, always reliable and ready to serve his Lord. He loved the Communion Service each quarter, and



was always in his seat bright and early for Sabbath School each week. The children were keen to gather round as 'Uncle George' handed out his treats of chocolate at the end of the morning services every week, all at his own expense.

George preached quite often in Middlesbrough and the surrounding district, drawing on his lifetime experiences to illustrate the goodness and love of God, and how He has led in his life. He prayed with fervour and emotion, especially that those who have fallen by the wayside might return to the fold.

He often stated from the pulpit that he loved his Lord, his wife, and his family, which now includes four grandchildren – Dominic, Samantha, Damien and Faith.

Although weakened by various illnesses, George was able to attend some services in Middlesbrough's new church building, purchased in August 2011. George had for many years looked diligently for new premises in which to worship, and had given great encouragement to others to keep looking and praying for the ideal location.

Uncle George is greatly missed by the Middlesbrough Church family, but we know that this faithful servant of God is only sleeping, awaiting the call of his Lord and Master to whom he was so faithful all of his life. As George always said when attending other people's funeral services – 'See you in the morning!'

JOYCE GILBERT

Phyllis Standen (1915-2012) d. 21 February.

Phyllis was born on 2 April, 1915, in Milton, England, the daughter of Arthur and Minnie (Rossiton) Standen. She was a midwife in England. She earned her Bachelor of Nursing degree from Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, Maryland, and spent twelve years in Africa serving as a missionary nurse and midwife.



She also earned a master's degree in Public Health from the University of Michigan. In addition to being a nurse, Phyllis was a teacher of nursing at Columbia Union College; Hinsdale School of Nursing in Hinsdale, Illinois; and Andrews University in Berrien Springs.

Phyllis died aged 96, at her home in Berrien Springs, in the USA, and was preceded in death by two brothers, Leonard and Stanley Standen; and a sister, Bertha Standen. She is survived by two nieces, Linda Fox of Niles and Valerie Ang of San Gabriel, California; and by her dear friend and caregiver, Virginia Eakley of Berrien Springs. Because of Virginia's dedicated care, Phyllis was able to spend her last years at home rather than in a nursing home.

VIRGINIA EAKLEY

Eithne Amos Nunez (1931-2012) d. 9 March. Even those who were meeting her for the first time were aware that Eithne was empowered. One of fourteen McNamara children from the West of Ireland, Eithne became a vivacious Irish redhead with the powerful personality of a survivor and an overcomer.

Following her marriage, Eithne moved to Canada, where she heard a Voice, 'clear, distinct and musical', calling her to 'Get up, go home and set your house in order'. She was baptised following an evangelistic series conducted by Ron Halvorsen. Eithne became known as a woman of prayer whose spiritual antennae were fine-tuned to the Lord's leading, and her personality was hardwired to act on it. There is no better source of empowerment.

Eithne returned to Ireland when she heard that her father, a Roman Catholic, was terminally ill. It was typical of the woman to see a need and, instead of looking to others to meet the need, to get on with it herself. She took care of her father's needs, praying with him and reading from the Bible to him. She made each Sabbath special for him and he found himself looking forward to Sabbaths and sweet communion with the Lord of the Sabbath to whom Eithne had introduced him. By the time her father rested Eithne was sure she would meet him again in the Kingdom. Other members of Eithne's family, including her brother John McNamara, were also in the process of coming to the Lord.

Eithne was by 1977 being called by the Lord for full-time, soul-winning service as a

literature evangelist in the Republic of Ireland. At that time Adventist work in the republic was largely limited to Counties Dublin and Wicklow. Eithne's work as a literature evangelist gave her a roving commission across the republic. She began by selling large quantities of the ten-volume Maxwell *Bible Story* set to convents, schools and homes. Throughout the 1980s Eithne was, year after year, declared Literature Evangelist of the Year at the Swanwick Literature Convention; but she also had a library of follow-up books. Soon, in both Galway and Shannon, groups were meeting on Sabbaths with Eithne, at first with only trees for cover. One-time nun Angela O'Brien and young mother Sinead Amarteifio were first to be baptised. By the time she left Ireland there were churches and church schools in both Shannon (Newmarket-on-Fergus) and Galway. Among the pastors who collaborated with Eithne in bringing a host of former Roman Catholics to baptism were Pastors John Freeman and Don Vollmer.

Eithne's story is one of *Miracles Galore*, the title she chose for the stories of her adventures, which, with the help of her son Clive, she prepared and published in 1997. By then Eithne had married Jaime Nunez and, having engaged in soul-winning among the cities and high sierras of Peru, was beginning to contemplate retirement in Georgia, USA. From there she sent a 40-foot container load of message books to the Irish Republic, and returned with a team of volunteers to distribute them. In the recent past a man who had received one of those books began attending the Cork church.

Among those who were baptised as a direct result of Eithne's ministry were the late Pastor Mike Logan and his wife Evelyn.

Eithne's death came after a long illness. Until two months before, she was in regular contact with Sinead Amarteifio. 'Our conversations were always about the Lord and His great love and mercy towards us,' she recalls, continuing, 'I remember Eithne as a woman of great faith and tenacity. Whenever there was a problem or crisis her immediate reaction was to pray. She will be remembered fondly in Ireland for her hospitality and faith – and, most importantly, that she was a woman of prayer. Only in eternity will we know how many lives she touched here.'

It is safe to say that prayer was the secret of Eithne's conspicuous empowerment.

DAVID MARSHALL WITH HELP FROM SINEAD AMARTEIFIO

Bournville youth banquet

On the evening of Saturday 11 February, Bournville members held their first ever youth banquet, dressed up in dresses, suits and bow ties. Singing, dances, a skit and food were enjoyed against a backdrop of the Adventist logo. Bournville members are already looking forward to the Bournville youth banquet 2012!

LOVELLE EDMOND



Whatever you do, do it for ADRA!

Whether you walk, run, cycle or sing – or, if you live in London, whether you're still collecting from door to door, like champion ingatherer Hubert Smiley – whatever you do, do something for ADRA-UK this Easter season. That's the message from Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt, minister of the Sheffield Carterknowle, Manor and Barnsley churches.

Last year he joined eleven other cyclists on the annual London-to-Paris ride organised by an Adventist business man, Craig Shipton (www.25000spins.com) in association with ADRA-UK. With sponsorships from his local church members, school parents, community members and friends near and far (USA and Bermuda), Pastor Andrew was able to raise £2,454.03 – double his target goal! This fantastic achievement, he says, 'was due to the gracious generosity of so many and the blessing of the Lord'.

Describing the ride, Pastor Andrew said it was really a ride of a lifetime, meeting new people and making new friends, doing something

to help others, achieving something out of the ordinary. It was an amazing 'Yes!' moment – a profound sense of great achievement.

This Ingathering Appeal, whatever you may choose to do, do something – because your sacrifice will help some people somewhere to say 'Yes' as they experience that profound sense of achievement and dignity. This year, Pastor Andrew is joining the children of the Pathfinder and Adventurer club of Carterknowle to support ADRA-UK.

PASTOR ANDREW RASHFORD-HEWITT



back page

NEC CAMP MEETING 2012

LIVE & TELL

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VENUE: HAVEN HOLIDAY PARK, HAFAN Y MOR, PWLLHELI, GWYNEDD, NORTH WALES, LL53 6HJ

Vocalists needed: Carl Ferguson is seeking singers to help him record Sabbath songs in every possible language. This is part of a project to raise awareness of Sabbath hymns and spread the Gospel of the Sabbath to all the world. Carl currently has more than 100 Sabbath songs. To find out more, or to help through musical ability or financial donations, email: CSCSFerguson@hotmail.co.uk.

Session announcement:
North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the sixty-first session of the North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on Thursday and Friday, 13-14 September 2012 at the Cheltenham Racecourse Conference Centre, Prestbury Park, Cheltenham.

Sabbath, 15 September 2012 will be a day of fellowship. Registration on Thursday begins at 7.30am and the opening of session at 9.45am.

Aberdaron Advent Campsite 2012 activity weekends

27-29 April: Surf's Up
4-7 May: Walk of History
11-13 May: Challenge the World
18-20 May: Boulders for Christ
25-27 May: Walk the Llyn

These are activity-led weekends specially for those who have an interest in surfing, hillwalking or mountain climbing. For further details visit: www.aberaroncamp.com or Aberdaron Advent Campsite on Facebook. Alternatively, contact us at: Aberdaron Advent Campsite, Glan yr Afon, Anelag, Aberdaron, Pwllhell, LL53 8BT, or phone: 01758 760281.

In the footsteps of Paul

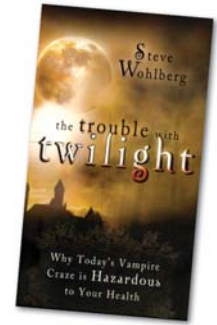
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New book of the week
The Trouble with Twilight
Steve Wohlberg

Are you in danger of being bitten by the vampire bug? Discover the dangers that lurk therein! As Wohlberg explains, even stories in which vampires play the 'good guys' can be very, very dangerous.

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15 Stanborough Press Open House 9am-4pm

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12.30-5pm, Monday-Thursday
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
Sundays, 11am-3pm

Messenger

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Sunset

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

	Lon	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
April 13	7.55	8.07	8.01	8.16	8.24
20	8.06	8.19	8.14	8.30	8.37
27	8.18	8.30	8.26	8.45	8.51
May 4	8.29	8.42	8.39	8.59	9.04

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2012

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