

# Messenger

News to the churches • 11 May 2012 • Volume 117 • 09/10



## ... brings things to a standstill

Based on a report by Monique Simpson

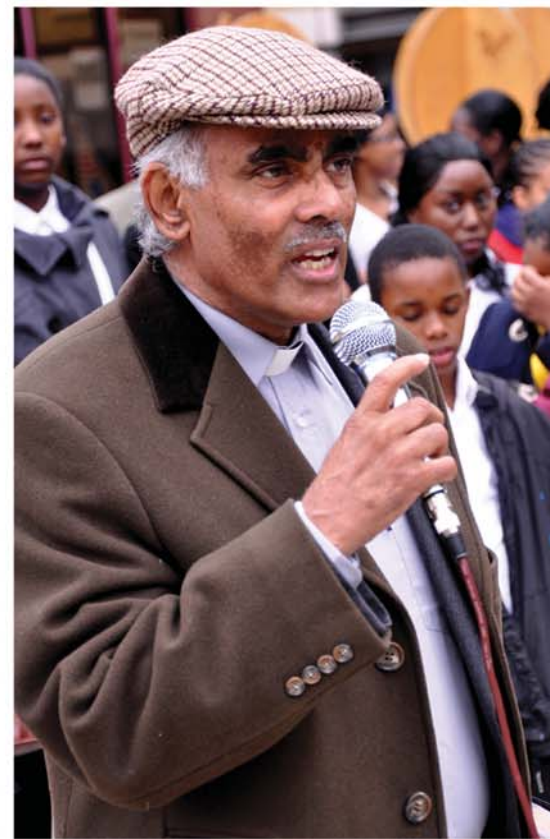
On Sabbath, 7 April, Willesden members brought the community to a standstill during their march to the local library.

Led by the Pathfinder drum corps and our national flag, more than a hundred members of all ages marched through the streets, sharing smiles and literature with all they met. At the Willesden Green Library Centre the members led out in a service of praise and worship, followed by a short message from Pastor Des Boldeau proclaiming that 'Jesus is alive!'

The purpose of the event was to let the community know that the church was there for them – and it seemed to work. One of them, Dave, summed it up like this: *'The whole event has brightened up the community. It was very good. The word from the pastor, the singing – it was all excellent!'* (Dave marched back to the church with the members – now he knows where the church is, maybe he'll visit again one day.)

One of our teenagers, Oksana, a Pathfinder who was marching behind the band, had this to say: *'I think it's a good thing for the community that they are made aware of our church and about God. The parade also shows young people being disciplined and getting involved, and that not all of us wear hoods and carry knives!'*

Well done Willesden – you brought the streets to a standstill over the Easter weekend, created a festive atmosphere, and gave the community something spiritual to think about. When BUC president, Pastor Ian Sweeney reads this he'll say: **'Full marks Willesden – you made a positive impact for Jesus and His Church!'**



# Scottish Mission members, this is exclusively for you . . .

## The Stanborough Press will hold the following book sales in your territory during May:

- Aberdeen** – church hall  
Wednesday, 23 May, 5.30-8.30pm
- Dundee** – church hall  
Thursday, 24 May, 2-8pm
- Edinburgh** – church hall  
Friday, 25 May, 1-6.30pm
- Glasgow** – church hall  
Sunday, 27 May, 10am-2pm

The press will provide the best selection of titles they can under the circumstances, but should you wish to avoid disappointment by ordering specific items ahead of time, or place bulk orders for missionary literature, please do so by contacting Stuart Sly at: [ssly@stanboroughpress.co.uk](mailto:ssly@stanboroughpress.co.uk), or on 01476 591700 as soon as possible. If you visit [adventistbookcenter.com](http://adventistbookcenter.com) you will get a good idea of the range of products we stock. Please let him know by Thursday 17 May.



# Enhancing Health

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

## Golden eight — part 6b

### What's on your plate?

I hope you found last issue's homework on dietary resources helpful. Over 100 years ago E. G. White gave some useful advice regarding dietary intelligence:

*'Grains, fruits, nuts, and vegetables constitute the diet chosen for us by our Creator. These foods, prepared in as simple and natural a manner as possible, are the most healthful and nourishing. They impart a strength, a power of endurance, and a vigour of intellect that are not afforded by a more complex and stimulating diet.'* (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 296)

Today, at least one medical journal, *The Lancet*, has come to a similar conclusion:

*'Eating a diet rich in plant foods, in the form of fruits, vegetables, and whole-grain cereals, probably remains the best option for reducing the risk of colon cancer, and for more general health protection.'* (*The Lancet*, 3 May, 2003: 361, 1448)

So, what's on your plate? At the 2010 North American Division health summit, the 500-plus attendees received a book titled *The Full Plate Diet*. Although not a purely plant-based book, it relates to the

portions we should be eating from each food group, and how to eat more fruit, vegetables, grains, seeds and nuts while cutting back on animal products – all in the move to a more plant-based diet. It focuses on increasing fibre in the diet. ([www.FullPlateDiet.org](http://www.FullPlateDiet.org))

*The Full Plate Diet's* top five fibre-rich foods in each food group are:

#### Top five fruits:

1. Raspberries/blackberries: 1 cup (8g fibre);
2. pears: 1 medium (6g fibre);
3. apples: 1 medium (4g fibre);
4. oranges: 1 medium (3g fibre);
5. bananas: 1 medium (3g fibre).

#### Top five vegetables:

1. Avocados: 1 medium (14g fibre);
2. broccoli: 1 cup (5g fibre);
3. spinach: 1 cup (4g fibre);
4. sweet potatoes: 1 medium (4g fibre);
5. carrots: 1 cup (5g fibre).

#### Top five beans:

1. Navy beans: ½ cup (10g fibre);
2. lentils: ½ cup (8g fibre);
3. pinto beans: ½ cup (8g fibre);
4. black beans: ½ cup (8g fibre);
5. kidney beans: ½ cup (6g fibre).

#### Top five nuts and seeds:

1. Flax seeds: 1oz (8g fibre);
2. almonds: 1oz (4g fibre);
3. sunflower seeds: 1oz (2g fibre);
4. peanuts: 1oz (2g fibre);
5. walnuts: 1oz (2g fibre).

#### Top five grains:

1. Wheat: 1 cup (8g fibre);
2. pearl barley: 1 cup (6g fibre);
3. quinoa: 1 cup (5g fibre);
4. oats: 1 cup (4g fibre);
5. brown rice: 1 cup (4g fibre).

**Eat up!**



# editorial

During our second year of ministry, I had the dubious honour of being the 'associate' pastor of a large church in Johannesburg's central business district (CBD). Due to its location, the side streets around this church tended to be quite deserted on Saturday evenings, after the regular church 'socials'. In fact, for many blocks, the city was effectively a ghost town – except for a smattering of vagrants, bedded down in doorways and stairwells.

As 'associate' pastor, I soon got the hang of the job: closing windows, stacking chairs, folding tables, sweeping up and any other 'associated' tasks. It may sound like a chore, but the deacons and deaconesses were a jolly lot and Elize and I enjoyed their company.

One such evening, after a chorus of noisy 'goodbyes', I nosed my beige Peugeot 404 out of its parking bay and into the dimly lit one-way streets that led south, out of the CBD. We threaded our way between shadowy buildings, stopping at deserted traffic lights, until we reached the four lanes that were soon to merge with the motorway.

#### Suddenly . . .

As if from thin air, there was a beam of bright light in my wing mirror and an impact against the right passenger door!

A car had sped out of the darkness and rammed us from the side.

I was trusting . . . naïve . . . stupid – not ready for the danger lurking in the city that night.

Instead of flooring the pedal, jumping the next set of lights, and speeding off to the safety of the motorway – I stopped the car and got out!

So did four men from the car that had just rammed us!

#### We were in trouble!

Deep trouble! These men were cool, calculating 'carjackers', with every intention of doing us harm. I can still see them in my imagination – advancing menacingly like gunslingers from a spaghetti western!

Then there were more bright lights, and two cars slid to a halt behind the 'carjackers'. Doors slammed again in the silent street. Four more men advanced on us . . .

But they were men with names I knew: Wally, Robert, Graham\* and Roy. Four strapping deacons from the church we had just left!

Now, with the odds firmly in our favour, the ne'er-do-wells left as quickly as they could.

#### It was a close call!

Through the years my pastoral work has taken me to places where, I will admit, I have had cause to look over my shoulder more than once. But this was the worst.

Things could have turned out so differently if hadn't been for Wally, Robert, Graham and

# Wally, Robert, Graham and Roy



Julian Hibbert  
Editor

Roy. And sometimes they do. (God's faithful followers were never promised blanket immunity from the maliciousness of Satan, or the consequences of life's random dangers.)

But what really blows my mind in this particular case is **God's impeccable timing**. I know that He has given us various assurances along these lines: *'He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.'* (Psalm 91:15, NIV)

The strange thing is this. That night things didn't work like that. I can't remember anything about praying as that gang strode towards me. **There was no time to call.** I was just swamped by a flood of fearful thoughts.

#### 'Before they call . . .'

I think God's promise through Isaiah is closer to the reality of what happened that night in 1975: *'Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear.'* (Isaiah 65:24, NIV)

Had our four friends passed us two minutes earlier – or arrived two minutes later – things could have been so different. But they didn't. The timing was impeccable, leading me to believe that **there will be occasions when He will have the answer before we make the request!**

I am not the only one who can testify to God's impeccable sense of timing, and His ability to anticipate our needs. Do you remember the king of Aram's desperate campaign to capture Elisha? He was convinced that this wily prophet was the only obstacle that stood between him and sweet victory over Israel. But Elisha had evaded capture and kept providing the king of Israel with vital 'intel' about the Aramean troop movements (2 Kings 6:8-12).

#### A nasty turn

Suddenly, however, the prophet's fortunes take a nasty turn. The king of Aram discovers that Elisha is hiding in the town of Dothan and takes decisive action: *'Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city.'* (2 Kings 6:14, NIV)

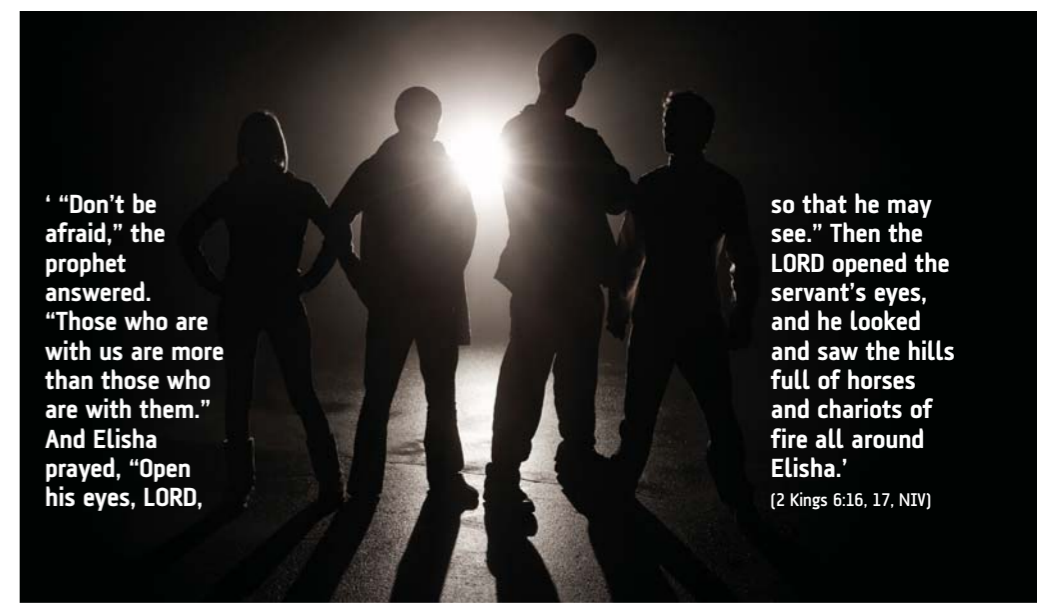
Imagine the shock and horror of Elisha's servant when he goes out early the next morning: *'When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?" the servant asked.'* (2 Kings 6:15, NIV)

But Elisha was not surprised. He was familiar with God's 'before they call I will answer' technique: *' "Don't be afraid," the prophet answered. "Those who are with us are more than those who are with them." And Elisha prayed, "Open his eyes, LORD, so that he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.'* (2 Kings 6:16, 17, NIV)

#### When things get tough

When things get tough, we need to remember that *'those who are with us are more than those who are with them'* – and keep our eyes open for Wally, Robert, Graham and Roy!

\*The Graham of this incident is none other than Graham Barham, formerly the financial manager of The Stanborough Press Ltd. At that stage he was living in South Africa.



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(2 Kings 6:16, 17, NIV)

# nurture



## 'Someone isn't listening.' Who?

**A devotional message recently presented by Dr David Marshall at the Stanborough Press.**

In preparation for this morning, I dipped into *Nelson's Complete Book of Quotes*. One quote took my attention. Hours later it still had my attention, but I was no longer sure if I had fully understood it at the first reading. Let me share it, and you see what you make of it. The quote, then: *'No generation in two thousand years of Church history has produced the task force necessary to reach the world. Is this because God has not called adequate numbers? Or is it because someone is not listening? The truth is, less than one percent of full-time Christian workers are engaged in evangelistic ministry among the unevangelised of the world. Is this the way a Commander-in-Chief would deploy his troops? Or is someone not listening? With the need so vast and the labourers so few, why do we not go? Someone isn't listening!'*

Ted, a Christian businessman from the US, was travelling through some of the most needy mission fields of the world. He found himself in Northern India near a leprosarium. There he saw something outside the gate that took his breath away. A beautiful, but impossibly fragile, young nurse was attending to the needs of a leprosy beggar. The beggar had just shown up and had not yet been admitted to the leprosarium. The businessman had an expensive video camera but he could not bring himself to film what he saw. In fact, he involuntarily went back a few feet, as if scared of catching something nasty. Tears filled his eyes as he blurted out these words to the young nurse: *'Young lady, I wouldn't do what you're doing for a million dollars.'*

Without a pause, the nurse turned and said:

*'Sir, neither would I.'*

But she did it, anyway. You have heard of Billy Graham; but I wonder if you have heard of Ruth Bell Graham, his wife? In her book *It's My Turn* she shares some stories of what it was like growing up as a missionary's kid in pre-Communist China. This is one of them.

One of the big global oil companies was looking to spread their operation to China. They wanted a suitable man to manage the Chinese operation. They would have to choose carefully but felt certain that this would be a brilliant career opportunity for the right man.

They wanted someone who was a graduate, and was young enough to be excited by the challenge. The man would have to be a proven leader, and fluent in the main Chinese languages.

They found the man they were looking for. At 28, he had all the qualifications and was already working in the city where the oil company were planning to build their head office. They asked the young man how much he was earning, were amazed that it was such a modest sum, and confidently opened negotiations with a view to hiring him. He was a missionary.

The oil company offered him ten times his current salary. He turned them down. They upped the offer. He turned them down again. They offered him still more. For the final time he turned them down like a bedspread.

Finally, the company agent said, *'What will it take?'*

*'It's not a question of salary,'* replied the young missionary. *'The salary is tremendous. The trouble is with the job. The job is too little. I feel that God has called me to preach the Gospel of Christ. I would be a fool to quit*

*preaching in order to sell oil.'* *'Such were the giants,'* recalls Ruth Bell Graham, *'among whom I grew up.'*<sup>3</sup>

### Is it time to return to the age of giants?

Is God looking for giants? If so, how will He find them? Where will He find them?

Last time round, the Lord found eleven men in an upstairs room. They weren't giants. Not at first. But He must have seen in them the makings of greatness.

To me, it isn't obvious. The room was locked and dead bolted because of their fear. Faith was in scarce supply. There was no sense that the eleven were about to bring the kettle of history to the boil.

Jesus repeated, *'Peace be with you'* three times before they began to loosen up. But once they started . . . (see John 20).

Something happens to men in the company of Someone last seen dead who is unmistakably alive. Something stirs in the souls of those who stand within inches of God. And that something is hotter than gold fever and more permanent than passion.

Something happens when we get close to the risen Saviour. That's where giants are made.

The same men had descended from the supreme excitement of Palm Sunday to the abysmal horror of Good Friday. They had witnessed His agony as His lifeblood ebbed away. It had been too much to cope with.

Risen, He was telling them to return from deepest despair to highest hope again. And the Christian Church is proof positive that they made that journey.

Again God is looking for unlikely prospects with the makings of greatness. Anybody listening?

The Indian nurse wouldn't tend leprosy sufferers for a million dollars, but she would do it for Christ.

The China missionary wouldn't stoop to sell oil when God was calling him to more important work.

The Upper Room Eleven found that the Gospel 'burned' within them, and, Spirit-driven, they brought the kettle of history to the boil.

Again the search is on for would-be giants. **Is someone listening?**

<sup>3</sup>Attributed to Robertson McQuilkin's pamphlet, *Who's Calling?* <sup>2</sup>Ted Engstrom, *What in the World is God Doing?* (Word), p. 208. <sup>1</sup>*It's My Turn* (Revell), pp. 20, 21.



## Community kitchen earns top review!

Jonathan Bubbs and Andrew Hall celebrated their baptisms at the Ipswich church, Rope Walk, Ipswich on 31 March.

Twenty-eight-year-old Andrew is a team leader for Tesco and is married to Grace, and they have a baby daughter. Grace introduced him to the church two years ago.

Forty-seven-year-old Jonathan was plunged into a crisis following traumatic separation from his Filipino wife and complications surrounding her visa application. It all proved too much, and this post-graduate computer science consultant sank briefly into homelessness and dependency upon a local soup kitchen.

He found himself wandering the streets of Ipswich aimlessly, cold, hungry, and with the constant pain of his separation from his wife and new-born baby. But his friends helped him get a small flat and his recovery started, gaining new momentum when he stumbled across the church's 'community kitchen' – something they run every Sabbath afternoon. There he got a good meal and found friendship. 'I couldn't believe how they listened, supported, encouraged and nurtured my recovery, never once judging me', he said.

Soon he was helping in the kitchen and serving the visitors himself, with a profound sense of belonging.

He looked like the happiest man on earth at his baptism. Speaking of the church and its pastor, Jonathan said: 'These people probably saved my life – but more than this, they pointed me to God so that my soul could be saved too.'

He describes a realisation that the material support was only second to the spiritual fulfilment he found with the church, and it was that that sealed his recovery.

'The Philippines changed my life', he says smiling, something that would have been impossible for him to say so positively only six months ago. 'The church saved it' – he smiles again – 'I am the luckiest man on earth.'

TREVOR HARRIS



Andrew Hall and Jonathan Bubbs

## the Berean column

with Andrew Puckering



### A lasting heritage

Last time we saw that Zadok and Abiathar's father Ahimelech are both described in Scripture as 'son of Ahitub' (1 Samuel 22:20; 2 Samuel 8:17) – this could lead us to suppose that Ahimelech and Zadok were brothers, and that Zadok was therefore Abiathar's uncle. However, we also mentioned in a footnote that it was debatable whether Zadok's father Ahitub could be identified with Ahimelech's father Ahitub. Although they were both Aaronic priests of the same period, they might not have shared a common line of descent – Zadok is described as being descended from Eleazar, and Ahimelech the son of Abiathar (apparently a grandson of Abiathar's father Ahimelech) is described as being descended from Ithamar (1 Chronicles 24:3-6).

These are the same Eleazar and Ithamar, sons of Aaron, who served as hundreds of years before, during the Exodus (Numbers 3:1-4; 1 Chronicles 24:1, 2), which means that Ahimelech and Zadok were probably not brothers. This would explain why Eli (Ahimelech's forefather) was left out of the priestly family tree of Zadok in 1 Chronicles 6, and would also show fulfilment of the LORD's warning to Eli that the priesthood would pass from his family (1 Samuel 2:30-36) – the priesthood passed from Eli's family (descended from Ithamar) to Zadok's (descended from Eleazar). This also means the priesthood must have passed from Eleazar's son Phinehas (Judges 20:27, 28) to Ithamar's descendant Eli during the period of the judges (1 Samuel 3; 10; Acts 13:17-21).

One might be tempted to ask why it matters – after all, as the apostle Paul noted, 'endless genealogies' can 'cause disputes rather than godly edification' (1 Timothy 1:4, NKJV)! On the other hand, 'All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable . . .' (2 Timothy 3:16, NKJV), and the Word of God 'lives and abides' and 'endures forever' (1 Peter 1:23, 25, NKJV) – including Scripture's genealogies. So are the intricacies of Aaronic descent important for us after all?

They were hugely important to the ancient Israelites. The LORD was the One who called Aaron and his sons to be priests before Him (Exodus 28:1), and He called their descendants after them forever (Exodus 28:43). Meat from the sacrifices was to be given to Aaron and his sons the priests as food – again, forever (Leviticus 7:28-36). Their conduct was to be holy and clean, forever, throughout their generations (Leviticus 10:8-20). The descendants of Aaron had to be a breed apart, consecrated, and subject to the most stringent regulations (Leviticus 22:1-16) – and so it was vital to know who was the son of whom.

In Paul's day, it seems this topic was argued over by those obsessed with disputes, arguments and useless wranglings, from which came only envy, strife, reviling and evil suspicions (1 Timothy 6:4, 5). The topic had ceased to be relevant in the way that it once was, because Jesus, our eternal High Priest, is more worthy of our offerings than any son of Aaron, and does for us what no son of Aaron could ever do – completely forgive and remove our sins – and ministers for us, not just for a few years, but forever (Hebrews 7). Jesus came as our ultimate High Priest – the consummation of the Aaronic priesthood. The Old Testament priesthood was a symbol of the new one (Hebrews 9), and the Aaronic priesthood is therefore useful for our understanding of the ministry of Christ.

- Who did Jeroboam install as priests in Israel's idol worship?
- What happened to the exiled Levites returning to Israel who couldn't prove their lineage? (Ezra 2)
- Which priest warned a king not to burn incense in the LORD's house, and what reason did he give?
- What was the king's name, and what happened to him as a result of his disobedience?
- List some of the advantages of Christ over other high priests.



## Equal civil marriage consultation

The equal civil marriage consultation initiative of the UK government is controversial and has elicited widespread comment, both for and against, with Christians lined up on both sides of the issue.

Here we expose our readers to two relevant position statements issued by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, two letters received by the *MESSENGER* editor from high-profile members at the BUC office, and a brief editorial statement about the issues involved in the current controversy.

### What are the real issues?

Well, to answer that we need to start with the proposal that the Government intends to implement after the consultation period is over (14 June, 2012) – during this sitting of parliament.

According to the Home Office's own summary the changes will be as follows:<sup>1</sup>

'Same-sex couples are currently eligible for:

- A civil partnership on secular premises
- Civil partnership registration on religious premises (on a voluntary basis for religious organisations).'

### But after the change . . .

'Same-sex couples would be able to choose:

- A civil marriage ceremony on secular premises
- A civil partnership registration on secular premises or on religious premises
- Couples in existing civil partnerships would be able to convert their civil partnership to a marriage.
- Couples would not be eligible for a religious marriage ceremony on religious premises and through religious means.'

### Issue 1

The first issue that concerns many Christians is the use of the term



Julian Hibbert  
Editor

## GOVERNMENT POSITION

### 'Principles for change:

1.9 The Government aims to address the following issues as part of this work: . . .

ii. **To make no changes to how religious organisations solemnise marriages** – that is, marriages solemnised through a religious ceremony and on religious premises would still only be legally possible between a man and a woman. The Government is not seeking to change how religious organisations define religious marriage and any subsequent legislation would be clear that no religious organisation could conduct a religious marriage ceremony on religious premises for same-sex couples.'

Equal civil marriage: a consultation, March 2012 (<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/equal-civil-marriage/consultation-document?view=Binary>)

'marriage' to describe something that Judaeo-Christian marriage has never included: gay and lesbian relationships, no matter how caring or enduring they may be.

The whole concept of homosexual 'marriage' is a negation of the authority of God and His right to have us follow His clear ordinances for optimum social life.

It is commonly held by many Christians, including most Seventh-day Adventists, that this will lead to a further degradation of marriage and family life – something this country can ill afford!

### Issue 2

The April issue of the online magazine *SEC Family* points out another reason. It makes the point that 'while on the face of it' the intended changes 'may appear to safeguard the rights of religious organisations not to perform same-sex marriages', there is a latent danger lurking in the Government's consultation questionnaire:

'Question 5: The Government does not propose to open up religious marriage to same-sex couples. Do you agree or disagree with this proposal?'

If sufficient people disagree with the proposal, it could 'provide a mandate for the Government to extend the legislation to require religious organisations to perform same-sex marriages.' This would pose a severe restriction on the rights of those Christians who oppose the intended changes.

### You can make a difference

The best advice for those wishing to do something positive against the Government's intended course of action is to 1) sign the Coalition for Marriage petition at [c4m.org.uk](http://c4m.org.uk), and 2) complete the Home Office equal civil marriage consultation questionnaire at [www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/equal-civil-marriage/](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/about-us/consultations/equal-civil-marriage/) without delay.

<sup>1</sup><https://www.homeofficesurveys.homeoffice.gov.uk/v.asp?i=48356xh1qw>

## Seventh-day Adventist Response to Same-Sex Unions – A Reaffirmation of Christian Marriage

Over the past several decades the Seventh-day Adventist Church has felt it necessary to state clearly in various ways its position in regards to marriage, the family, and human sexuality. These subjects are at the heart of many pressing issues facing society. That which for centuries has been considered to be basic Christian morality in the marriage setting is now increasingly called into question, not only in secular society but within Christian churches themselves.

The institutions of family and marriage are under attack and facing growing centrifugal forces that are tearing them apart. An increasing number of nations are now debating the topic of 'same-sex unions', thus making it a world issue. The public discussion has engendered strong emotions. In light of these developments, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is clearly restating its position.

We reaffirm, without hesitation, our long-standing position. As expressed in the Church's Fundamental Beliefs, 'Marriage was divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship.'<sup>1</sup> Though 'sin has perverted God's ideals for marriage and family', 'the family tie is the closest, the most tender and sacred of any human relationship', and thus 'families need to experience renewal and reformation in their relationships' (*An Affirmation of Family*, 1990).<sup>2</sup> God instituted 'marriage, a covenant-based union of two genders physically, emotionally, and spiritually, spoken of in Scripture as "one flesh"'. 'The monogamous union in marriage of a man and a woman is . . . the only morally appropriate locus of genital or related intimate sexual expression.' 'Any lowering of this high view is to that extent a lowering of the heavenly ideal'. (*An Affirmation of Marriage*, 1996).<sup>3</sup>

Homosexuality is a manifestation of the disorder and brokenness in human inclinations and relations caused by sin coming into the world. While everyone is subject to fallen human nature, 'we also believe that by God's grace and through the encouragement of the community of faith, an individual may live in harmony with the principles of God's Word' (*Seventh-day Adventist Position Statement on Homosexuality*, 1999).<sup>4</sup>

We hold that all people, no matter what their sexual orientation, are children of God. We do not condone singling out any group for scorn and derision, let alone abuse. However, it is very clear that God's Word does not countenance a homosexual lifestyle; neither has the Christian Church throughout her 2,000-year history. Seventh-day Adventists believe that the biblical teaching is still valid today, because it is

### Re: Deafening silence!

#### Dear Editor

I noticed the letter from Allan Kissack in the 13 April *MESSENGER* complaining about the 'deafening silence' from our Church on the Government's consultation on same-sex marriage.

We are not quite as silent as Allan makes out. The 9 March *BUC News* (<http://www.adventist-news.org.uk/news771.pdf>) encouraged members to sign the 'Coalition for Marriage' petition quoting Family Ministries director, Heather Haworth. On 16 March (<http://adventistnews.org.uk/news772.pdf>), *BUC News* carried a much fuller article at the start of the Government consultation period, noting the submission made by the Adventist Church to the Scottish Parliament last year, plus a submission made by the Communication department to Baroness O'Cathain in the House of Lords concerning a debate last year that opposed civil partnership ceremonies in churches. Pastor

Ian Sweeney also makes a very positive statement within the article:

'As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we stand firm in our biblical belief and conviction that marriage is a sacred union between a man and a woman and is the best foundation in which children are raised. While we respect moves for equality and eradication of discrimination against any groups, the Bible is our rule of faith. This proposed change in legislation is also a personal challenge to us as Seventh-day Adventists, in that, in promoting the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman, we should demonstrate in our practice that our marriages and homes actually reflect what we believe.'

A statement on the Government proposal (<http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/about/reference/Statement%20on%20same-sex%20marriage.pdf>) on same-sex marriage has been on

anchored in the very nature of humanity and God's plan at Creation for marriage.

<sup>1</sup>*Seventh-day Adventists Believe – A Biblical Exposition of 27 Fundamental Doctrines*, doctrine 22 on 'Marriage and the Family'

<sup>2</sup>Public Statement, *An Affirmation of Family*, released 5 July, 1990, at the General Conference session, Indianapolis, Indiana

<sup>3</sup>Statement voted by the General Conference administrative committee on 23 April, 1996

<sup>4</sup>Statement voted by the annual council of the General Conference executive committee, 3 October, 1999

*This document was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists administrative committee (ADCOM), 9 March, 2004.*

## Seventh-day Adventist Position Statement on Homosexuality

The Seventh-day Adventist Church recognises that every human being is valuable in the sight of God, and we seek to minister to all men and women in the spirit of Jesus. We also believe that by God's grace and through the encouragement of the community of faith, an individual may live in harmony with the principles of God's Word.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that sexual intimacy belongs only within the marital relationship of a man and a woman. This was the design established by God at Creation. The Scriptures declare: 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh' (Gen. 2:24, NIV). Throughout Scripture this heterosexual pattern is affirmed. The Bible makes no accommodation for homosexual activity or relationships. Sexual acts outside the circle of a heterosexual marriage are forbidden (Lev. 20:7-21; Rom. 1:24-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-11). Jesus Christ reaffirmed the divine Creation intent: 'Haven't you read,' he replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one' (Matt. 19:4-6, NIV 1984). For these reasons Adventists are opposed to homosexual practices and relationships.

Seventh-day Adventists endeavour to follow the instruction and example of Jesus. He affirmed the dignity of all human beings and reached out compassionately to persons and families suffering the consequences of sin. He offered caring ministry and words of solace to struggling people, while differentiating His love for sinners from His clear teaching about sinful practices.

*This statement was voted during the Annual Council of the General Conference executive committee on Sunday, 3 October, 1999 in Silver Spring, Maryland.*

the front page of the BUC website for over a month, and a submission will be made direct to the consultation from the Church. Pastor Sweeney and others have attended a number of meetings in this regard and consulted with other churches that have a similar biblical viewpoint to ours. The *BUC News* Facebook and Twitter feeds have carried additional information and conversation on the debate and have encouraged members to become involved. Those feeds have then been shared across the social media by active church members.

The Church is taking a positive stand. Our thanks to Allan for helping us to raise the profile of that stand more fully.

VICTOR HULBERT

### Dear readers

To lend further weight to what Pastor Victor Hulbert has shared with you, at a consultation meeting with fellow concerned Christian leaders that I attended on

Thursday 29 March, the other leaders encouraged us to have our church members respond individually, for the simple reason that the Government already knows what we believe about homosexual 'marriage', but is largely dismissing it.

At this meeting it was stressed that the Government is more likely to take notice of our position if it is inundated with individual responses from Christians all over the UK.

One of the best things that you can do is go online to <http://c4m.org.uk> and support the Marriage Coalition campaign statement, which is very clear and biblical: 'I support the legal definition of marriage, which is the voluntary union for life of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others. I oppose any attempt to redefine it'.

Join me – give them your signature too!  
Blessings  
IAN SWEENEY

Growing up in twentieth-century Britain, I recall that I was constantly called a 'Bible basher' for being a Christian. Even the slightest hint of anything spiritual would elicit this response, and the meaning was clear: people didn't like what I had to say and wanted to shut me up!

At the same time there was another, far more insidious form of bashing taking place, one that no one seemed to make any fuss about: that of the gay lobby bashing the rest of us – the heterosexual community – over the head with their agenda, until we are at a point today where our Government is pushing for gay marriages. How did we get here? I will return to this question later.

### Acceptance

On the one hand, during our ministers' meetings, and as we have talked generally about diversity, I have repeatedly encouraged our pastors to ensure that members of the gay community, who declare themselves as such, should be welcomed into our churches. They should not be shunned, ostracised, or alienated.

On the other hand, can we water down the biblical teaching on homosexuality? No, we can't. The Bible is clear – the model for sexual expression will always be through the marital union of male and female. 'Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.' (Hebrews 13:4, NKJV)

In the seminar *Learning to Love*, acceptance is defined in the following way: 'Acceptance is not agreement. Acceptance is not endorsing ideas or behaviour. Acceptance is affirming the infinite worth of another person no matter who she is, or what he has done. Acceptance is keeping our heart, our mind, and our hands open to the life of another human being.'

There are many gay people among us who are looking for acceptance, but dare not declare themselves as such because they know that rejection is what will follow. Would Jesus accept a gay person? Yes, He surely would. I hear Him saying to the quivering, shaking prostitute who expected stones to rain down on her any minute, 'Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more' (John 8:11, NKJV). Acceptance has a high standard. I don't believe that we are very good at the 'go and sin no more' bit. That needs to be handled with care and sensitivity, and is best given time and space.

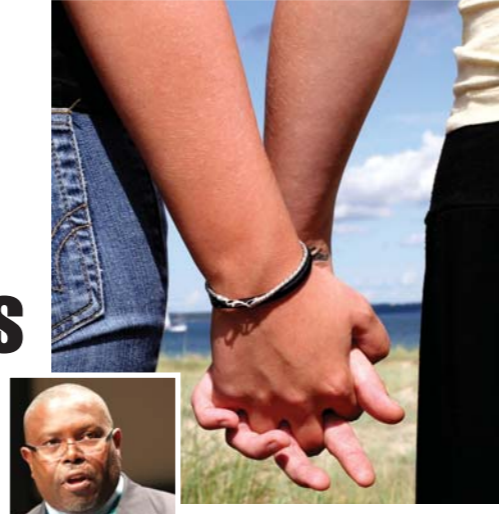
So, how did we get here?

### The advance of the gay cause

Seven years ago, while I was living in South Africa, that country passed laws enabling same-sex marriages to take place from 2006.

## Homosexuality's onward march

by Pastor Sam Davis



It was the first country in Africa to do so, and today the British government is inexorably heading in the same direction.

Sadly, however, not many have really questioned the apparent reversal of fortunes for the homosexual community. Where twenty-five years ago it was disgraceful, sinful, and shameful, now in certain circles you could lose your job just for expressing a dissenting view. Indeed, the Government has so protected this practice that one has to be very careful how one speaks about it anywhere.

The advance of the homosexual community to a place of prominence today has not been by accident, but by careful strategic design. For a group that represents only 1.5% of the nation according to the ONS, they command a clout way beyond their number.<sup>1</sup> How so?

### Their strategy

In 1989 a book was published that was to alter the way the entire world looked at, and treated, homosexuality. In their book, *After the Ball: How America Will Conquer Its Fear and Hatred of Gays in the '90s*, the authors, Marshall Kirk and Hunter Madsen, were very clear about their objectives: 'In the past, gays have tinkered ineptly with the engine of prejudice. Is it possible to tinker more favourably? We present (in order of increasing vigour and desirability) three approaches (which are vastly better than what we've tried in the past).'

It is also important to note the background of these two men. Kirk had a PhD from Harvard and was a researcher in neuropsychiatry, working at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Madsen had a doctorate in politics from Harvard, and was an expert on public persuasion tactics and social marketing. These two men were eminently qualified in the art of public persuasion tactics.

Some of the tactics we are well familiar with. A quick overview of the points can be found at the following website by Albert Mohler. In the 'comments' section, sixty-three tactical points are listed from *After the Ball* that are well worth reading: <http://www.free-republic.com/focus/religion/1147428/posts>.

These include:

- 'The homosexual agenda can succeed by conversion of the average American's emotions, mind, and will, through a planned psychological attack in the form of propaganda to the nation via media (page 153);

- Make victimisers look bad by linking them to Nazi horror while helping straights to see gays as victims and feel protective towards them (page 221);
- It is acceptable to call people 'homophobic' or 'homohaters' if they do not agree 100% with homosexual views, opinions, or behaviour (page xxiii);
- A media campaign should portray only the most favourable side of gays (page 170);
- Show others accepting gays and homosexuals (page 241);
- Heterosexuals are like Aryans and people who are against homosexual behaviour are 'Nazis' and 'Klansmen';
- Homosexual persecution is identical to Jewish persecution (pages 57, 62);
- Homosexual persecution is identical to racial prejudice against black people, Asians, and Hispanics (inferring inborn) (pages 62, 73).<sup>2</sup>

Their three key strategic pillars were:

1. Desensitisation; 2. jamming; 3. conversion. A quick overview of the three will suffice.

**Desensitisation.** Their main point here is that if gays will just present themselves as a low-level disturbance instead of the loud and aggressive protests of the past, 'straights' will eventually get used to them.

'If, however, gays can live alongside straights, visibly but as inoffensively as possible, they will arouse a low-grade alert only, which, though annoying to straights, will eventually diminish for purely physiological reasons. Straights will be desensitised. Put more simply, if you go out of your way to be unendurable, people will try to destroy you; otherwise, they might eventually get used to you.'<sup>2</sup>

**Jamming.** Jamming is a little more sophisticated, and I have actually witnessed this in operation. While listening to a radio debate about homosexuality, I heard a Christian come on to express his view – only to be shouted down by the homosexual, in an aggressive manner, who called him a bigot.

'Turning associative conditioning and direct emotional modelling against themselves, we jam by forging a fresh link between, on the one hand, some part of the mechanism, and, on the other, a pre-existing, external, opposed, and therefore incompatible emotional response. Ideally, the bigot subjected to such counter-conditioning will ultimately experience

two emotional responses to the hated object, opposed and competing. The consequent internal confusion has two effects: first, it is unpleasant – we can call it 'emotional dissonance', after Festinger – and it will tend to result in an alteration of previous beliefs and feelings so as to resolve the internal conflict.'<sup>3</sup>

**Conversion.** Clearly the objective of Kirk and Madsen is not just to desensitise and jam, but ultimately to convert the masses to their way of thinking. 'It isn't enough that anti-gay bigots should become confused about us, or even indifferent to us – we are safest, in the long run, if we can actually make them like us. Conversion aims at just this.'<sup>4</sup>

Well, I wouldn't say that this 'conversion' is now universal, but it is certainly well advanced! Using the might of the state, David Cameron has threatened to withdraw aid from anti-gay countries.<sup>5</sup> If Kirk and Madsen were selling computers they would no doubt be as rich and as famous as Bill Gates and Steve Jobs. If nothing else, they have been as successful in selling their particular brand.

### The problem for Christians

The problem for Christians living in the UK is that the instrument of government was wielded quite unfairly by the Blair government to push the gay agenda, to the detriment of the Christian fraternity. It is Christians who are being dismissed from their jobs for their non-acceptance of homosexuality and their unwillingness to counsel gay couples or support adoption by gays.

While Christians are not the only group who are theologically opposed to homosexuality they are, for some reason, the only group who appear to be targeted. I have not heard of any Muslim losing his job for speaking out against this practice, although Muslims are opposed to it.

The other problem for Christians is that we do not speak with one voice. While the Catholic Church continues to stand firm on this point, the position taken by many others is not biblical and leaves a lot to be desired. The biggest problem for Christians, and Seventh-day Adventists in particular, is that the onward charge of the homosexual lobby now places our children clearly in its line of fire.

Ellen White makes the statement that 'by beholding we become changed'.<sup>6</sup> Madsen and Kirk stated quite clearly that in order to achieve the stated aims they would have to use the media. At the forefront of the media drive is Hollywood, with numerous gay-themed films thundering out the message that it is an 'alright lifestyle', even 'cool'. Our secular schools and colleges peddle the same message. It is not surprising, therefore, that young Adventists are being changed by the blatant marketing of homosexuality and the fact that the Christian voice of opposition has become so muted.

<sup>1</sup>The Guardian, Thursday 23 September 2010. <sup>2</sup>[http://www.article8.org/docs/gay\\_strategies/after\\_the\\_ball.htm](http://www.article8.org/docs/gay_strategies/after_the_ball.htm). <sup>3</sup>Ibid. <sup>4</sup>Ibid. <sup>5</sup>Express.co.uk, 'UK Aid Threat to Anti-Gay Nations', Sunday 30 October, 2011. <sup>6</sup>Ellen White, *Selected Messages*, vol. 1, p. 335.

The opinions expressed in this article are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the position of the BUC or MESSENGER staff.



## Where are the men?

by Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt

At the start of the twenty-first century, the British Army was facing difficulties in recruiting new personnel, mostly men, to become soldiers. A number of measures were then implemented to address this problem and so enlist more men into the army. Such measures were: more advertising (TV commercials and TV documentaries), encouraging Commonwealth enlisting; more expert officers in recruitment shops; and in January 2007 extension of the maximum recruitment age from 26 to 33. A report from 2009 indicated that the recent recession had helped to increase recruitment levels (*Telegraph*, February 2009). Today, while recruitment levels remain an ongoing issue, the intentional measures implemented have paid dividends, with more men signing up to serve Queen and country.

Today, our churches across the British Isles are facing a similar recruitment problem: that of winning men to the service of King Jesus. In most, if not all, of our churches there is a significant shortfall in the number of men available for active service for the Master. Anyone who has served on a nominating committee will have felt the helplessness of our situation when trying to place appropriate male figures in children's departments or in other posts in the Church. Which raises the question, 'Where are the men?'

There is no easy answer to this complex question. But we do know that on any given Sabbath many men are at work or doing chores, or following a football game or some other leisure pursuit. Essentially, most men don't see that the Gospel has anything relevant to offer them. Furthermore, and sadly so, a small but significant proportion of males are detained at Her Majesty's pleasure – incarcerated.

Realising that we have this problem of a lack of men in our churches, perhaps it is time for us to be more intentional in the way we focus our outreach and our ministries. It seems that our evangelism is often too general and non-specific. Sometimes our worship and its themes just appeal more to women than men. Perhaps it is time for us to emphasise those biblical motifs that naturally appeal to the male mindset, and develop strategies that will more readily motivate men to explore the impact that God may have on their lives.

The situation is this: either we carry on as we have been doing and continue to see the numbers of men in our churches decline, or we become intentional, specific, active and prayerful about this issue. Then by God's grace and the influence of His Spirit we will see a change as more men choose to enrol in the Master's service. This is not to say that nothing is currently being done to reach men – in fact, some excellent initiatives have been tried over the last few years\* – but I am sure we would all agree that more needs to be done.

So, what might an intentional method of ministry for men be?

Here are a few suggestions:

- Find the common social interest of the men you aim to reach.
- Plan a social event for those men around that common interest.
- Plan a men's night out and go and have a pizza together.
- Do what some of the men at my church do: from time to time they plan a weekend away together for walking, boating, mountain biking, football or whatever you all like to do.
- Plan a prayer breakfast together as some men in one of my churches do.
- Have a team of men praying for those you wish to reach.
- Hold a men's day at your church (but make sure there is plenty of food!). Remember that 'a hungry man is an angry man'.
- Plan a series of messages looking at topics specifically related to men, such as 'men and depression'. Having such sessions together as men only will help to foster male camaraderie.
- Discuss the community needs and services that can be offered to a target age group of men, and share such concerns with your pastor.
- Develop a strategy of networking men in your church and community to establish a fraternity for male support and personal development.

These are just a few suggestions. You may have some good ones of your own.

The Ministry of Defence, as it sought to turn around the decreasing trend in the numbers of recruits, coined an advert slogan that said, 'Army – Be the Best'. In a similar vein, and for reasons much more significant than loyalty to Queen and country or mere personal development, I suggest it is time for us to create our own slogan, initiatives, strategies or ministries to encourage men of all ages to become the best that God can make them for His service.

\*Such as the NEC's 20-22 April 'Dimensions of a whole man' retreat.

# Readers' gallery Megapixels of creation

... a floral tribute!



1. **Busy bee.**  
*Jennie Hall, Sony DSC-TZ5.*
2. **Red rose.**  
*Prince Ayeah, Nikon D5000.*
3. **Spring daffs.**  
*Joshio Mridha, Sony SLT-A33.*
4. **Spring blossoms, Newbold.**  
*Victor Hulbert, Nikon D300.*
5. **Ready for take-off.**  
*Kerry Wreford-Bush, Canon Power Shot SX200.*
6. **Spring tulips, St Albans.**  
*Esti Pujic, Canon Power Shot SD950 IS.*
7. **Frosty roses, Crieff.**  
*Ruth Farrer, Fuji S5000.*

Please visit: [www.adventistpictures.org.uk/megapixels](http://www.adventistpictures.org.uk/megapixels) for more pictures.

### ... everybody loves a flower!

The response to this project has been amazing, and I thank you. A lot of you seem to enjoy photographing flowers and close-ups, so I thought it high time we showcased your work.

I know the weather has not been so good lately, but I still need you to get out there with your cameras and shoot what you see around you – 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](mailto:dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk) – just remember to keep them 'hi-res'.

DAVID BELL

'Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labour or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith!'

Luke 12:27, 28 (NIV-UK)



# Christian Stars

## Hello Special Stars!

Imagine you are on a boat in the middle of a storm. There are gigantic waves, and the winds are at gale force. The boat is battered by the water and wind. Now think how you would feel if you knew that all the world was covered by water and there was no harbour. This is the situation Noah and his family encountered – but they were not afraid. Find out why by reading these letters, starting with the 'G' at the end of the line and reading backwards.

.mih dlot doG gnihtyreve did haoN :22:6 siseneG



People did not believe Noah's message of salvation because Satan had convinced them that following him was better than trusting God. Satan is a liar. By using this code you can work out his biggest lie.

o	r	l	a	d	e
i	t	w	y	u	n

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



Noah was 600 years old when God warned him there would be a dreadful disaster coming to this world. The only way they could be saved from the flood was by going into the ark.

How many times can you find the word 'ARK' by going up, down, across or diagonally?

A R K A R K K R A A  
 A K A R R R K A R A  
 R A R K A A R K A R  
 A K A R A R K K A R K A  
 A R R R A R R K K R A K R R K K  
 K A K R K A R K R R A K A A A R  
 R R R K A A K R A R R R R K  
 A K A A K R A K K A K R  
 R R R R K R A K R R



God wanted everyone to be saved so He waited many years before the earth was flooded. When you have filled the blanks with the numbers, put a circle around how long Noah preached.

The animals entered the ark   
 The ark was  metres long,  
 metres wide and  metres high.  
 Noah preached  years.  
 Noah waited for rain  days.  
 It rained for  days.  
 There were  people saved.

Because Noah warned people of the flood they laughed at him. They did not believe they would die. The animals were wiser than the humans and went into the ark. Search for a:

- bear
- camel
- cow
- deer
- fox
- horse
- leopard
- lion

A R A E B E Y N M  
 M Y B Z D N O I L  
 K Z Y C R R E E D  
 M E J H A Y S X M  
 L S A X P M Y C W  
 C R Z P O F E L W  
 O O I Y E X O L O  
 W H U C L A M X V  
 X I O G D W C W G



140 7  
 23 2 by 2 13.5  
 120 8 40

Noah rode the waves like a winner because he trusted God. He must have been reminded of this every time he saw a rainbow. When we see a rainbow we can praise God: we can trust Him too.





**Julian Hibbert, MESSENGER editor, interviews one of our accomplished pastors, Richard Daly, about his Olympic connections.**

**Editor:** Richard, you are well-known among our London Adventists as a minister, preacher and writer – but I am not sure that everyone knows your passion for athletics, or your involvement with the Olympics. Tell us about Richard the athlete.

**Richard:** Well, Julian, my sporting journey began in my teens when I joined the Newham and Essex Beagles Athletics Club. Triple jump was my event – the one they call ‘hop, skip and jump’ – where you land in a sand pit! From there I progressed to national level competitions at venues like Crystal Palace, competing alongside greats like Daley Thompson, who became one of our Olympic decathlon champions.

**Editor:** I’m anticipating a ‘Sabbath problem’ at some point in your story, Richard. Was there one?

**Richard:** Oh yes! It came when I moved into the men’s senior league. The competitions were on Sabbath!  
I stuck with it for as long as I could – participating only in mid-week and Sunday events – but they were few and far between. Eventually my coach realised that I had reached the point where it was ‘either my athletics career or my faith’. I gave up athletics.



**Editor:** Richard, it must have been a heart-breaking moment for you. Are you comfortable about sharing it with our readers?

**Richard:** Julian, at the time it was a sad moment. I was tipped to be successful and my club did have high hopes for me. They had also put a lot of resources into

improving my performance. I experienced a high degree of internal conflict. I didn’t want to let them down, but deep down I knew that it wouldn’t work. My conscience even troubled me when I attended some events on Friday evening. As it neared the beginning of the Sabbath, I would feel uncomfortable and restless. I knew that even if I performed on Saturdays I would not be able to do my best because of guilt. My coach was disappointed in my decision and subsequently left himself – probably due to frustration with me!



Britain’s Olympic 400m winner, Christine Ohuruogu with Richard Daly



Richard Daly with Usain Bolt, Olympic world record holder



Britain’s Men’s Olympic 4x400m winners 2004, with Richard Daly

**Editor:** Wow, Richard! You made a tangible sacrifice to follow God’s commandments. You gave up something very, very precious for God. Has that left you empty and unfulfilled?

**Richard:** Strangely, when I left the club there was no initial feeling of relief or peace . . . I went through a really sombre experience. I had to consistently remind myself of why I was giving up something I enjoyed so much. I had to reaffirm my faith in God and review what the Sabbath really meant to me. It was a time of deep personal introspection. Later, as I grew more committed to Christ I discovered my true calling in life and accepted the path to ministry. And in that ministry I found I have found real joy in pastoring, counselling and writing.

**Julian:** Richard, speaking of writing, so far you have published eleven books and another one is about to appear. . . . Tell us about it, please.

**Richard:** *The Christian Race* is a book about how we can live successful Christian lives, ‘running’ along the path God wants us to follow. Although it is not directed specifically at

non-Christians – but to seekers trying to understand the meaning of Christianity – I believe that it can be used to ignite an interest in Christianity among our secular friends, especially during the Olympic Games. By using a sporting theme, I have tried to outline the main tenets of the Christian life, describing how to take the first and subsequent steps as a Christian.

**Editor:** Richard, from what I understand, a lot of the material in your new book is actually drawn from your experience as a top-level athlete – am I right?

**Richard:** Yes . . . it includes some of my personal experiences, as well as encounters with those in the sporting world. I have drawn on specific events and experiences and tried to see the spiritual parallels.

Having attended the Olympics in the past, I have met some Olympians who have achieved inspiring feats and listened to their stories. On one occasion, I was in the media section when American athlete, Allyson Felix, silver medal winner, was so distraught at not winning gold that she collapsed in tears right in front of me. I had the opportunity to comfort her and somehow provide words of reassurance and hope. She thanked me for

the encouragement – and just three days later she ran her second final event, and this time won gold!

Great Britain’s Christine Ohuruogu was a 400m gold medal winner in Beijing. I had the opportunity to get to know her a bit better because she is a Christian. On the morning of her final race I sent her this SMS: ‘She can do all things through Christ who strengthens her’. After her race she expressed her thanks for the text and told me how it had spurred her on!

**Editor:** Richard, you are still involved in the Olympics, aren’t you?

**Richard:** Yes. I have been accepted as a chaplain for the London Games. This involves working in the Olympic village, where there will be a chapel. I will be part of a team offering spiritual counsel, services, prayer and Bible studies to interested athletes, staff members and other volunteers.

A number of Christian athletes from around the world will be at the Games, and many will want to continue their faith

experience. There are also others who may need a listening ear if they have underperformed, become anxious or just need encouragement.

**Editor:** I believe that you met Usain Bolt before Prince Harry did – is that so?

**Richard:** Yes – quite unexpectedly – I just happened to be in the tunnel behind the track when he went through after receiving his gold medal in Beijing. It was good chatting to him. He was respectful of the Seventh-day Adventist faith, having grown up in the Church himself, and his mother still being a member.

**Editor:** Richard, do you still run today, or have you hung up your trainers for good?

**Richard:** I still enjoy trying to keep fit. I have challenged myself to go jogging and have entered a few 10k races.

Running early in the morning brings me a great sense of energy and vitalisation. The crisp cool air and the scenic route I run take me close to nature. As I run, my mind is cleared of various daily issues. Sermon ideas flow, and problems are solved. It leaves me feeling ready to face the day.

Daily exercise regardless of one’s time commitments is something I recommend to everyone . . . it’s part of our health message.

**Editor:** One last question, Richard: are you really glad to be running the *Christian Race* you’ve written about in your new book?

**Richard:** Absolutely. The wonderful thing about the apostle Paul’s Christian race is that Christ is not on the sidelines cheering us on; neither is He at the finishing line saying, ‘You can do it’ . . . He is running with us in the race, with His arm around us, saying, ‘We can do this together!’

Contact ABC Sales on  
**01476 539900**  
to purchase your copy  
at 99p plus p&p.

**Footnote:** Richard Daly presently pastors in Croydon, South London. He is married to Maxine and they have three boys: Ryan (12), Simeon (9) and Liam (7).



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## What's on TV?

A number of exciting Seventh-day Adventist programmes will be worth watching over the coming weeks: on Revelation TV, in *Viewpoint* at 8.30pm on Monday evenings, we'll see:

- 'God in a Cruel World' on 14 May;
- 'Business Ethics and Christianity' on 21 May;
- 'The Christian and Personal Finance' on 28 May;
- 'Is Violence Ever Acceptable?' on 4 June;
- 'What Is Truth?' on 11 June;
- 'Is Technology Good or Bad?' on 18 June; and
- 'End of Life Choices' (repeat) on 25 June.

At 8.30pm on Thursday evenings, Revelation TV will be screening *Adventists in Conversation* (repeated on the following Friday evenings at 8pm on Hope TV):

- On 17 May, Michael Omolewa (former president of UNESCO) will talk about his work (repeated on 18 May);
- On 24 May, Tom Pignon will talk about moving from Sussex to Africa (repeated on 25 May);
- On 31 May, Elvira Pearson will show us what a missionary heart looks like (repeated on 1 June);
- On 7 June, Lutz Rental will testify of his escape from spiritualism and suicide (repeated on 8 June); and
- On Thursday 14 June, Robert Hinds will speak on farm tragedies and faith (repeated on 15 June).

Happy viewing!

PATHFINDER  
CUB

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Cost : £80

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email: kjohns@secadventist.org.uk  
website: www.secyouth.co.uk



Left to right: Cardiff North elder Dr Theo Gokah, Port Talbot elder Mr Luther Gregory, Jonathan Mwangalika, Pastor Newton Kawiliza, Claudiu Strunbaru, Bryan Rowe, Pastor George Asiamah (pastor of the Cardiff North and Port Talbot district).

## Baptism at Cardiff North

Friends and well-wishers gathered at Cardiff North on Sabbath 25 February to watch the baptism of Jonathan Mwangalika, Claudiu Strunbaru and Bryan Rowe in the church's new mobile baptismal pool, and the dedication of Jessica Mwangalika.

THEOPHILUS GOKAH



## Baptism at Leeds Central

On Sabbath 11 February three precious souls gave their lives to Christ. The candidates, Samantha Lawrence, Nympha Balagtas and Gaesennge Gaesennge, were baptised by Pastor Mwasumbi. Each candidate had family and friends present who are members of the Adventist Church.

VANESSA MAYNARD



PHOTO: DENNIS EDWARDS

## Stanborough gets reading!

On 1 March, Stanborough School joined in the celebration of World Book Day. From periods 4 to 6 all classes were suspended, and the time was devoted to reading. Students, many of whom came to school dressed as book characters, chose books from the school library or brought their own from home.

Naomi (year 11) shared her experience: 'World Book Day was amazing! The time we got to read was good because many students are so busy they never get a chance to really enjoy reading.'

The students – even a French group from Collonges – also enjoyed a speed-reading competition.

As a result, on 2 March eighteen students received book awards. Congratulations to Luca, Stanimir and Olufikayo, Eva and Abigail, India and Hanaa, Ryan, Aaron, Joshua and Rohan, Emanuel, Amber, Lukonde, Marvin, Vinicius and Juliane and Benjamin.

Each student also received a token for a free book from the participating bookshops. A big thank-you to all teachers, students and parents for making World Book Day a success!

LIJUVB MILLIS-HOPA (LIBRARIAN)

## Newbold College partners with University of Winchester

For the past few months Newbold College has spent much time preparing for institutional approval to become a partner institution of the University of Winchester. The college received such approval on Wednesday 28 March 2012 and so is now permitted to submit its Theology programmes to the university for validation.

'We are delighted that so much hard work has resulted in this recognition of what we do at Newbold College', said Dr John Baildam, deputy principal, who met with the institutional approval panel in Winchester. 'We very much look forward to preparing our programmes for validation and to being part of the university's Institute for Theological Partnerships.' Professor Lisa Isherwood, director of the institute, stated that she was 'absolutely delighted, as I know we will have a wonderful partnership that is flourishing for both parties'.

'Partnering with the University of Winchester and now being able to present our degrees for validation is an exciting development', said Dr Philip Brown, principal. 'Having our quality undergraduate and postgraduate Theology programmes validated will allow all eligible students to get a student loan to cover their tuition costs in full each year.'

The University of Winchester lies just 45 miles south-west of Newbold College in the ancient capital of England. Its roots as an education provider extend back to 1840, with university title being bestowed in 2005.

The university celebrates its Christian foundation, encouraging those living within the Christian faith, while also welcoming those who live within other faiths and those with no faith. It includes within its ethos such values as intellectual freedom, social justice, diversity, spirituality, individual well-being, and creativity.

**Educa International.** We are a small, Adventist, registered charity, founded in Malta. Our aim is to give disadvantaged children a good education and a better future. Currently we have two projects in India and Burundi. Funds are raised through sponsorship of children (10 euros monthly), by donations and fundraising. Should you sponsor a child, you will receive newsletters and mail from your child, twice a year. A full portfolio is also available.

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Our web page is [www.educainternational.org](http://www.educainternational.org). Thank you.



## Twenty-two Adventurers invested in Luton Central

Twenty-two Adventurers were invested and awarded honours at Luton Central on Sabbath 10 March, with some receiving up to seven honours.

Inspired by the investiture, twelve new children joined the club the next Sunday. Luton Central now

heaves with activity on Sundays, as teachers mould Pathfinders and Adventurers for the Kingdom, and to be a blessing to their families and communities.

JUNIOR GITTENS



## Four baptised on trip of a lifetime

Jennifer Grant, Jefferson Melki, Jaine Melki and Philip Chackochen were baptised in the River Jordan during their recent visit to Israel. The baptism was all the more poignant since three of them were baptised by their fathers, Pastors Melki and Chackochen. Jennifer was baptised by Pastor Elliott Williams.

This was just one of the highlights of Pastor Chackochen's most recent Holy Land tour. If you

would like to experience a Communion Service at the Garden Tomb, walk through Hezekiah's tunnel, visit the home of Zacchaeus, float in the Dead Sea and climb to the fortress of Masada, then contact Pastor Chackochen on: 07748417460 or at: [chacko@onam.co.uk](mailto:chacko@onam.co.uk) for details of his next tour (18-25 February 2013).

BY JANICE PHILLIPS

## A 'tearful' exchange

From 5 to 14 March 2012 a group of twenty-three students, representing more than twenty schools in Croatia, Romania, Hungary, Poland, Norway, Germany, Sweden, France and Spain, visited Stanborough School for the annual scholarship exchange programme.

For ten days they acted as ambassadors, sharing traditions and ideas from their home countries. They also participated in lessons to improve their confidence in speaking English and took tours to discover London and Cambridge. When the time to go home arrived, neither students nor teachers could keep their eyes dry!

Experiences like this foretell the

beauty of Heaven, when all nations will be one. A special thanks goes to the team leaders, Joshua Roberts and Jason Poddar, for their fantastic work!

VANESA PIZZUTO



PHOTO: DENNIS EDWARDS

# Youth raise £1,137.13



Wolverhampton Central's Youth department have organised a fundraising event as part of their youth day activities. On 17 December last year, and with the support of the members of the church, a total sum of £1,137.13 was raised and donated to Wolverhampton City Hospital to purchase medical equipment.

On 21 January a cheque was presented to Zoe Lea, from the children's ward. Zoe expressed her gratitude to the youth and the wider church, saying: 'The money will go a long way in providing improved medical services for the children's ward.'

DOREEN BARRETT

## And There Was War – bigger and better

One year ago the war in Heaven was depicted on stage at the Kennington Community Fellowship church. On 7 and 8 April director Jermaine Lee Wong and the rest of the cast and crew put on a bigger and better performance at the Albany Theatre in Deptford.

Based on the skit *And There Was War*, by Scott Fogg, this year's performance by Final Call Productions featured some of the same characters as well as some new ones.

From the words of the director:

*'And There Was War* is the story of the events surrounding Christ's birth, death and resurrection but portrayed through the invisible battle that rages with the

"good and fallen angels".

'The play portrays the reasons for the "fall" of the angels. It follows the intimate challenges of a pregnant virgin Mary and her betrothed Joseph. Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah and his sons, the Crucifixion; all of these famous stories are interwoven creatively to tell an inspiring story.'

Just like the first production, the second was a huge sell-out – in fact, many would-be guests had to be turned away.

The church is very grateful to all who contributed to the success of the production.

K. OWUSU



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## Staying sober

Leicester Central Church recently held a successful health emphasis weekend. One of the elders, Mr Pfende, was their main speaker and he challenged the members to keep their minds sharp.

His main point was the need for us to be mentally alert for God to speak to and through us: 'If our people were half awake, if they realised the nearness of the events portrayed in the Revelation, a reformation would be wrought in our churches, and many more would believe the message. We have no time to lose . . .' (Ellen White, *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 118).

The weekend also included practical discussions on the maintenance of good health and a series of health checks conducted by health professionals from the Leicester Central church. Community members were also invited to make use of the various health checks.

PHILIP HERBERT

## Lay preachers on fire!

After receiving training as lay preachers at the Advent Centre on 4 December last year, sixteen graduates assisted by preaching at revival meetings, held at the Horley, Gatwick and Redhill churches between 28 January and 11 February.

The sermons, under the theme of 'Christ-centred Relationships', covered several important issues affecting the Church in its relationship with Christ, and the church members expressed appreciation for being refreshed and renewed.

WILBUR MUTAMBARA

The Torquay church has a two or three bedroom flat available for rent (one bedroom is partitioned). References are required. For further information, please contact Pastor Ian Lorek on 01626 830727.



Left to right: Pastor Paul Liburd, Linda Larbi, Ted Rugwizangoga, Labo Masiane, Tairro Kapururira, Wandie Mkwanzani and Jennifer Larbi.

## Baptism at Coventry Central

On 18 February the Coventry Central church witnessed the baptism of six new members – four of whom were from the Henley Green branch. It was a happy moment when souls were brought to Christ. The members wish them God's blessings.

MARTIN MPALA

## Baptism at Plymouth Church

On Easter Sabbath, 7 April, three people were baptised in the Plymouth church.

Paul Aluculesei, who has attended the church for some time and was raised in an Adventist home in Romania, had witnessed to Alina, also from Romania, and both made their decision to follow in the steps of Jesus. The recently married couple each gave a testimony just before being immersed by Pastor Robert Bell. It was a joy to hear their testimonies.

Jackie Hall (12) was raised in an Adventist home. Her parents, Julia and Graham, were among the twelve members of her family, including grandparents, who witnessed the event.

The church members welcome them all into the church family.

BERYL HALL



## Baptisms at Fartown and Huddersfield

On 4 February three people were baptised at the Huddersfield, Crosland Moor church: Walaza Nugulwe from the Fartown company, and Tanro Nyamakanga and Rowen Mahlangu from Huddersfield. Pastor Cyril Sweeney, former pastor of the Huddersfield church, preached, and family and friends travelled from far and near to show their encouragement and support.

MAVOLEY ROBINSON

### Welsh Mission Health Ministries Health Summit Equip to Serve

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### International night at the Spa

On Saturday, 10 March, Leamington Spa Mission hosted an international night. Organised by Nigel Clark, this has become an annual event at the church, and is suitable for both members and friends. More than fifty people came to taste and enjoy the native dishes of different countries and regions, including Brazil, Lithuania, Jamaica, St Lucia, Serbia, South Africa, Scotland, Canada and, of course, England. Neil Shuttleworth hosted the evening programme, which included a quiz and a variety of items from the different countries, including songs, instrumental items, video clips, and a poem. Among the instrumental pieces, the playing of the steel drum (Caribbean) and the Samba drums (Brazil) was especially appreciated.

LORRAINE GLINTON

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Cynthia Austin and Pastor Roy Chisholm

### No Easter eggs!

Over the Easter weekend, an outreach event was held at the Clacton-on-Sea church under the title, 'Behold the Man'. The members, under the leadership of Elder Cynthia Austin, promoted the meetings to about 30,000 local residents, and Pastor Roy Chisholm was the main speaker.

TREVOR HARRIS



Anita-Zelina Frazer presenting Mrs Davies with her cake

### One hundredth birthday celebration at Rhyl

On Sabbath, 10 March, Rhyl Church celebrated the 100th birthday of one of its founding members, the much-loved and respected Mrs Eurwen Davies. Pastor David Foster paid tribute to her faithfulness in his sermon and urged the congregation not to ignore our senior members as being less valuable or to think that we are less valuable as we approach retirement.

Mrs Davies has served the Rhyl church for seventy-five years, as Sabbath School superintendent, church organist, church clerk, head deaconess and Children's and Youth Sabbath School teacher, as well as providing beautiful flower arrangements each week.

The celebration included a reception after the Sabbath service, but the cards and flowers continued arriving well into the next week. Among the many well-wishers she received cards from were: Her Majesty the Queen; The First Minister for Wales, the Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AC/AM; the Secretary of State for Wales, the Rt Hon Cheryl Gillian; and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith.

Rhyl Church congratulates Mrs Davies on this important birthday. It is a privilege for us all to worship with her each Sabbath.

(On behalf of the BUC, the staff of MESSENGER wish to share their congratulations with Mrs Davies too – she is surely practising to live for eternity!)

MEGAN RISKOWITZ

### Clapton men treat church mothers

On Sabbath, 24 March, the Clapton Community church's men led the way in honouring mothers at a special Sabbath lunch.

'Have you had enough soup, bread, juice?' and 'No, I'll get that for you' were the words of the men as they waited on the mothers and served them a delicious, home-cooked, three-course meal.

Led by Elder Bertram Patrice, the men, including Pastor David Burnett, took charge of the kitchen, while the mothers were invited to hang up their aprons, rest their weary feet and let the men fuss over them in the nicely decorated dining area.

In his speech, Elder Patrice emphasised that mothers play an 'intricate and valuable role in God's plan', and that they 'are appreciated and will continue to be supported by the Clapton church family.'

It was a memorable Mother's Day lunch. Who says men are useless in the kitchen?

KANDI COX



### Days of fellowship at Erdington

In August last year, the Erdington church men celebrated a special day of fellowship. Special features of the day were the guitar and music service, led by Pastor Murphy on his guitar, and a play entitled *The Cruise of a Lifetime*, which portrayed choosing either the Lord (eternity) or Satan (death and destruction).

On 29 November it was the turn of the Erdington church ladies, who attended a most enjoyable day of fellowship. A special feature was choir music, sung by the ladies themselves, and led by S. Davies as choir leader and A. Bunny as organist. Frederica Reid preached the sermon.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG



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### 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.



### Puppet 'fun' in Denmark

On the weekend of 16-18 March, Pastor Clyde Moore and his wife, Anette, Family and Children's Ministry sponsors for the Welsh Mission, joined more than 100 local church leaders for leadership training at Himmerlandgarden, the Danish Union campsite. Together with Dr Paul Tomkins, TED Youth director, they were there to present seminars and devotionals. A wide range of topics was covered, including 'Making Wills', 'Grief Counselling', the making and use of visual aids for children's ministries, and puppet ministry.

Anette demonstrated how to make a puppet and then donated it to the Danish Union. She is planning to have a website in the future but for now, should anyone wish to order a puppet or invite her to conduct a puppet ministry workshop in their church, use: [anette.moore@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anette.moore@yahoo.co.uk), or 07530 951297.

PASTOR CLYDE MOORE

# obituaries

**Rueben Jack (1955-2011) d. 26 December.**

Rueben Jack died peacefully at the Macmillan unit at Derby Royal Hospital at the age of 56. He was the much-loved husband of Karen and a loving father to Jermaine and Charmaine. He was a cherished son of Adolphus and Rosanna Jack, a proud grandad, a caring brother, a doting uncle and a great friend to many. Rueben will be sadly missed by all.

Karen writes, 'He was a loving husband, who always had a smile on his face – even until the very end he was smiling. He had a great sense of humour and a wonderful spirit. He never let his battle with cancer knock his positive spirit and with his battle he grew stronger and more steadfast in his faith.

Rueben was a beloved (and is now a greatly missed) member of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Long Eaton. He was buried in Nottingham Road Cemetery and rests in the sure and certain hope of the Resurrection. His funeral was conducted by Pastors Roman Smejkal, Emmanuel Bran, and Cyril Sweeney, with the help of Elder Eric Lawrence.

ROMAN SMEJKAL

**Gertrude Olwen Jones (1926-2012) d. 9 January.**

Members at Llandrindod Wells were saddened recently by the death of Sister Olwen Jones, after just a few days in the local hospital. She was born at Llanfaredd in the Wye Valley near Builth Wells on 21 February 1926, and spent much of her life in this area of Mid-Wales. She married Russell in 1947 and they moved to Cardiff for work. Olwen became a 'clippie' on the buses prior to joining her husband at British Rail.

When Pastor David Currie held a series



of evangelistic services in Cardiff they both attended, and were convinced that they should change direction in their lives. They soon made many friends in the Cardiff church, and after studies with these friends Olwen was baptised on 8 March 1980 by Pastor S. Finley. Soon Olwen became a deaconess, church clerk and Ingathering agent in the Cardiff church, while giving generous support to the many activities of the church.

Olwen and Russell decided to return to the area of their origin in Mid-Wales. There Olwen became one of the founder members of the Llandrindod Wells company. She supported all the early evangelistic meetings held there, distributing literature and collecting money for Ingathering. Her cooking abilities were much appreciated by the members, and through a relative she was encouraged to cook for those who attended the meetings of the visually impaired in the town.

On 19 January a funeral service was held at Hereford Crematorium, conducted by the writer, assisted by Elder Ifor Gimson, and Pastors John Surrudge and David Rancic. We thank Ifor and Pat Gimson for the help and support they gave to Olwen during her last illness.

We were pleased to see members of Olwen's family from Yorkshire, North Wales, Devon and Coventry at the service. We thank the Lord for the life of this wonderful Christian lady, and look forward to our reunion with her on the Resurrection Day.

DR B. P. PHILLIPS

**Raymond Leslie Creer (1927-2012) d. March.**

Ray, as he was known to all of us, with his wife Barbara, joined the Croydon church in 1957, aged 30. He served the Lord with outstanding faithfulness and commitment for fifty-four years. An elder in Croydon, he was a founder member and elder in the Bromley church and when the congregation

moved to the Riverway church in Sidcup he was the elder there also.

His funeral service took place in Christ Church in South Nutfield, and his resting place is the nearby Redstone Cemetery.

The service was conducted by Pastor Malcolm Taylor and the writer.

The extensive influence and affection in which Ray was held were demonstrated in the large attendance at the service. It was interesting to listen to middle-aged men recall learning astronomy from Ray when they were children in the Croydon church. Others spoke of his ability as a Sabbath School teacher and lay preacher. Ray was more than these – he was an outstanding Christian whose influence was manifested in the respect and care he showed for all who came in contact with him. He was loved and admired for his consistent Christian life and influence. His knowledge of the building industry was applied in advice to congregations in South England when they were building or refurbishing a church. As a student he won a gold medal for the best exam in the county for a paper on the avoidance of wastage on building sites.

Ray survived open heart surgery in 2006, but the last two years of his life were blighted when he was diagnosed with advanced prostate cancer. He fell asleep with a solid, unmovable faith in the Lord he loved and served so faithfully. Of him it can be truthfully said, 'He made the world a better place for the time he spent in it'. Ray has left a gap which it will be difficult to fill.

He is survived by his wife Barbara, and daughters, Susan and Angela, with their six grandchildren, all of whom attend church and show the same dedication to their Lord as did Ray. We look forward to meeting our dear brother when Jesus fulfils His promise and comes again.

PASTOR PATRICK BOYLE

(Photograph supplied, but not of printable quality.)

**Desmond Hubbard (1926-2012) d. 18 March.**

Desmond was born on 9 October 1926 at West Derby, Liverpool, while his parents were in transit from Nottingham to Belfast. After a short stay in Belfast the family moved to Ranalagh, Dublin. After five years in Ireland Desmond's father became ill, and they

returned to England and settled in Bristol. In 1944 at the age of 18 Desmond was called to serve his country in the Coldstream Guards, where he became Second Head Chef in the Brigade of Guards Officers' Mess.

Here he learned his lifelong hobby of making and decorating wedding, birthday and anniversary cakes. Following four and a half years in the army he returned to Bristol, and worked at Bristol Aeroplane Company in the accounts department. He didn't see this as a lifelong career, and, following a general education course at Birmingham Technical College, he was accepted at Bristol University and registered for a course in Economics. Unfortunately, this course was eventually closed due to lack of support. Desmond then decided to change direction, and he joined a North England company as a representative selling directly to the agricultural fraternity. He worked for the company for eighteen years, the last eight as sales manager. He then joined the largest horticultural growers' society in the UK, based in Hertfordshire. Having moved to Watford in 1967 with his two daughters, Darlene and Karen, it meant he could be home each evening at a reasonable time.

Desmond's mother brought Desmond and his elder brother Lionel up as Adventists, and Desmond was a member of Bristol Lodge Causeway Church. Later, when he moved to Watford, he first attended Stanborough Park Church and then joined the Rickmansworth church company, which later joined with the Hemel Hempstead church. He attended Hemel Hempstead for well over ten years, and served as treasurer and head deacon. In latter years he returned to Stanborough Park Church. He had a strong faith, and was a loyal and faithful member throughout his life.

He passed away peacefully on Sunday 18 March, and the funeral service was conducted in Stanborough Park Church on Tuesday 3 April by Pastors Burgess, Clee and Hodges. The interment took place at North Watford Cemetery. Our condolences go to his daughters Darlene and Karen and their families, and we pray that the assurance of the Resurrection will bring them comfort and hope.

ALAN HODGES



## Rugby has a top team!

Members of the Rugby church once again went out on Sunday 15 April, the last day (in most of England and Wales) of the ADRA Appeal 2012, to make sure that all houses around the church were visited. They were led by Pastor A. Bruce, who motivated them to let Rugby know what ADRA does here in the UK and abroad.

ROBERTO DA SILVA



## Who was Trayvon Martin?

Trayvon Martin was a young black 17-year-old killed on 26 February 2012 under suspicious circumstances in Florida, USA, by a neighbourhood watch volunteer who reportedly described him as looking 'suspicious'.

There were no witnesses to the killing and the volunteer has pleaded self-defence, which under Florida State law offers a full, irrefutable defence, allowing the shooter to walk free.

So what has Trayvon Martin to do with us?

Tottenham Gospel Choir (TGC) was invited to participate in an hour-long vigil for Trayvon Martin on the steps of Hackney Town Hall scheduled for Wednesday 28 March at 6pm – but with only two days' notice!

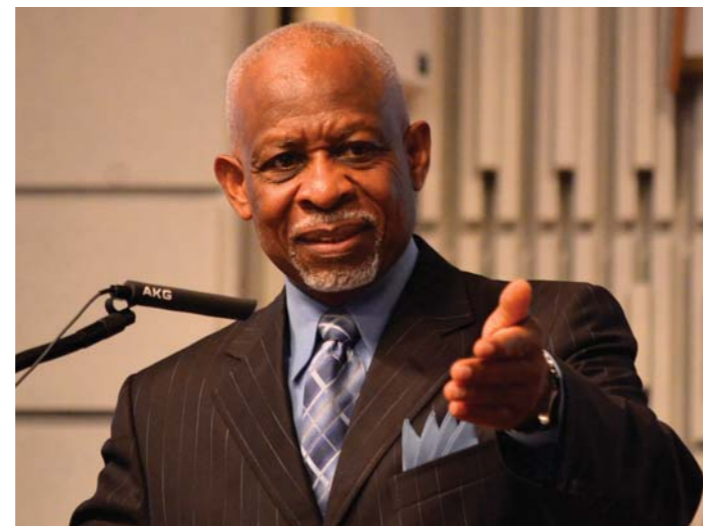
Despite the ridiculous time constraints – and due to amazing teamwork – the event went off without a hitch before a 200-strong crowd. It was an amazingly sunny evening. Molly welcomed everyone. Diane Abbott, MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, instrumental in the fight against the 'sus law' of the '80s, turned up unannounced. The choir held the event together with their songs and praise between each speech or poem. They lit candles and closed the event with a final song, 'This Little Light of Mine', while we handed out our books: *When God Said Remember* and *Steps to Christ*, stamped with our church contact address and TGC cards inside.

So what has Trayvon Martin to do with us?

Although we cannot prevent such injustices from happening, God can use them as platforms to open doors and spread His word. We can't bring the Trayvon Martins of this world back, but perhaps we can bring the community a little closer together.

For footage of the event go to: <http://www.youtube.com/user/TGCworship>.

ANGELA HUNTER



## Parenting seminars in Leicester

Dr Robert Kennedy, a senior pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Oranges in New Jersey, USA, recently presented a very relevant set of parenting seminars at the Leicester Central church. He is the author of numerous books, articles and manuals, including *Parental Advocacy*, on page 174 of which he writes: 'If as parents we are not careful about our God-given task to make Scripture a central source of education, we will leave a heritage of destruction to our children.'

This series led to an interview of Pastor George Kumi by John Florance, of BBC Radio Leicester, who was keen to know more about the seminars in a week when the news focused on the riots of August 2011 and the findings of a recent UNICEF report.

Pastor George Kumi, who is in charge of the Leicester Central church, is keen for the church to talk to the community of Leicester on issues relating to good family life. He said, 'The foundation of any civilised society is the family. It is the first school where values are taught, caught and learned. If the credibility of the foundation is compromised, the building will collapse – regardless of the amount of legislation and rhetoric by politicians, policy makers and well-meaning citizens. The time is long overdue to go back to rebuilding the home on eternal principles of love, respect and care for one another.'

PHILIP HERBERT



## Reading district treasury seminar

Members from the Reading district of churches attended a special accounting seminar on the use of Sage software at Reading Central Church on 11 March. The training, conducted by Ms Alexandra Lewis, was designed to get church officers up to speed with the latest technology in accounting as well as to encourage good accounting practices to meet SEC audit standards.

Paul Thompson, treasurer for Reading Central, said: 'The seminar covered the use of Sage in the context of the Seventh-day Adventist organisation. We already use Sage at Reading Central and it is now being rolled out across the district. The software provides all the necessary safeguards to help protect the financial integrity of the Church and its officers.'

ITUMELENG OSUPENG

## Pathfinders inducted at Kennington

On Sabbath 31 March, new members were inducted into the Kennington Community Fellowship Pathfinder club, supported by family and friends.

Each new Pathfinder and Adventurer lit a candle as they recited the pledge or law. Afterwards, Pathfinder Jordan Taylor presented a beautiful special item, after which Pathfinder Tiah Bernard preached a heartfelt message. All present felt very blessed!

K. OWUSU



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**Newbold College appointments**  
 Newbold College of Higher Education is operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church and located about 40 miles west of London, United Kingdom.

**Director of Student Services** – a senior management position providing vision, leadership, planning, direction, and review of student services operations. The position manages and oversees support programmes necessary to ensure student success and a quality campus life; supports the academic mission and the strategic plan of the college; and plans and implements opportunities for student growth and development. The position also develops policies and procedures for student services and student life programmes; assesses student satisfaction, student growth and development; oversees the family housing community; and supervises the Student Services team and support staff.

**The Dean of Men and Dean of Women** are full-time, live-in professional positions which oversee the comprehensive living and learning environment of Keough House (men's hall of residence) and Schuil House (women's hall of residence), and provide an environment in which the Christian home life of the students living on campus can be protected, fostered and strengthened. (Effective 1 August 2012.)

**The Cashier** is a full-time position and applications are invited from persons who have an accounting qualification and excellent track record in: processing payments; preparing cheques, BACS payments and cash for banking; maintaining daily checks on cash, and managing cash floats; reconciling cash on hand accounts and credit card transactions; maintaining a purchase ledger and liaising with suppliers; issuing statements for internal telephone accounts; and customer service work. (Effective 1 July 2012.)

**For further information** including selection criteria and the application process, please visit: [www.newbold.ac.uk](http://www.newbold.ac.uk). Informal enquiries to the principal, Dr Philip Brown, on +44(0)1344 407400 (email: [pbrown@newbold.ac.uk](mailto:pbrown@newbold.ac.uk)) for the first three positions, and to the bursar, Mrs Berit K. Lisle, on +44(0)1344 407403 (email: [blisle@newbold.ac.uk](mailto:blisle@newbold.ac.uk)) for the fourth. Closing date for all positions **Friday 25 May 2012**.

*Applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have the right to work in England.*



**New books of the week**  
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**Sunset**  
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	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
May 11	8.41	8.53	8.50	9.12	9.17
18	8.51	9.03	9.02	9.25	9.29
25	9.01	9.13	9.12	9.37	9.40
Jun 1	9.09	9.21	9.21	9.48	9.49

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