

Messenger

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Olympic prayer focus

Sabbath, 23 June 2012

By Pastor Eglan Brooks (BUC Personal Ministries director) and Mrs Heather Haworth (BUC Prayer Ministries sponsor)

As Peter and John entered the temple they found a crippled man begging at the gate. This was Peter's response: 'Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.' Then they helped him up and he went with them 'walking and jumping, and praising God. (Acts 3:6, 8, NIV.)

Our nation's focus, when it comes to 'walking and jumping' and other such athletic acts, is the 2012 Olympics. But like the beggar of Acts 3, we want our fellow countrymen to discover that there is more to life than gold or silver medals. We want them to discover the good news about Jesus Christ!

To make this happen, the British Union Conference (BUC) has planned a special Olympic Prayer Focus on 23 June. This will be our chance to pray for the various outreaches and to make sure we have ours carefully planned.

Evangelism without prayer is like a stick of dynamite without a burning fuse – and we can help light that fuse on 23 June!

One way will be to pray for those who have chosen to connect with their communities through the health ministry. For more information see the www.adventist.org.uk home page and click on *Olympic Live*. There are also resources and news of events on www.live-uk.org, including an evangelism pack with a variety of ways of sharing Jesus.

There are further resources on www.morethangoldresources.org.uk, and don't forget that the Children's Ministries department has suitable materials on a sports theme for Holiday Bible Schools. This is also a great time to hand out our Bible Discovery Centre invitation cards – or motivate your church to run its own Discover Bible School (DBS) (www.discoveronline.org.uk).

Another way is to pray for the South England Conference programmes that are connecting with the *More Than Gold* project. The Youth department has trained young people to participate in religious activities during

the Olympics. Family and Health Ministries are linking together in the Torch-Relay evangelism in the church districts of Peterborough, Norwich, Chelmsford, Reading, Ipswich and Colchester.

You can also pray that the excellent resources shared at the BUC 'ShareHim' training session by Pastor Robert Folkenberg, a former GC president, will not sit on a shelf and collect dust. Include the Church leaders and ministers in the BUC in your prayers – ask God for them to help you fulfil your evangelistic potential by working with you in the use of these resources.

In the account of the healed man doing 'holy aerobics', it was his praising God that really caught the attention of the crowd. If our evangelism is to just catch people's admiration then it is not accomplishing its aim – focusing people on Jesus. The only way to successfully bring people to Jesus is to do the same as Peter and John did: pray. Yes, it was no accident that it was at the time of prayer that a miracle transformed the cripple's life. The early disciples based their ministry on prayer. For them prayer came first!

The *More Than Gold* Olympic prayer team has developed a prayer guide, available on www.morethangold.org.uk/prayer, where they

suggest five 'P' topics for the Olympic prayer focus:

Planning. Pray for the London organising committee as they prepare and run this event.

Places. Pray that the various places around the UK, where the Games are being hosted, will be touched with the presence of God.

Participants. Pray that those participating will do so honourably and encounter the living God.

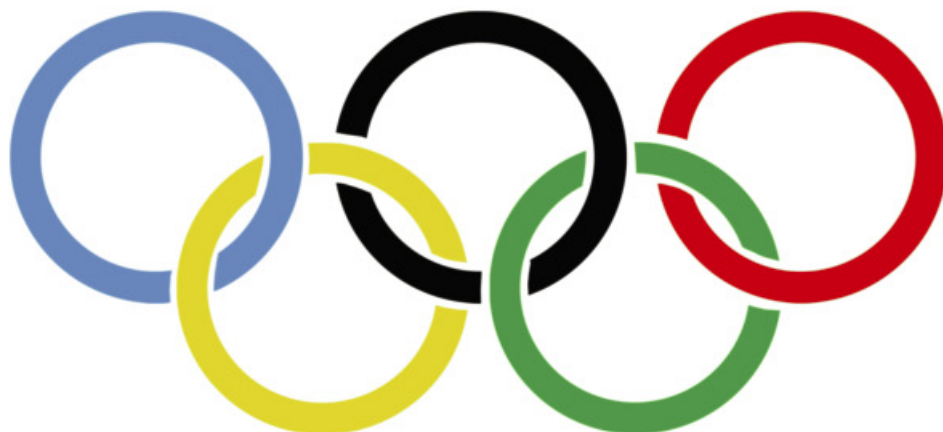
Power. Pray that all Christians will 'seize' this opportunity to speak and show the love of Jesus.

Purpose. Pray that '*your kingdom come and your will be done*' will relate to every aspect of the Games.

Other ideas for a prayer ministry in your church are available from the Olympic Prayer Guide, on the Prayer Ministries page on the BUC website, www.adventist.org.uk.

We encourage you to engage your church in the forthcoming projects being promoted across the BUC – and, most importantly, we would like to invite you to pray for God's guidance during the Olympics. Don't just pray for the five 'P's, but also for the safety of our country, for the opportunity to see God glorified through the achievements of the Olympians, and for our Church to make a positive impact in the community.

Be sure to join us on 23 June when, as a Church, we will engage in a prayer ministry for the Olympics – for something more valuable than gold or silver medals: the spreading of the Gospel!



To put you in the picture . . .

During the early hours of Monday morning, 30 April, a gang of thieves broke into our building and stole the computers used by our prepress, editorial, proof-reading and design team.

Fortunately, most of the work was safely backed up, but the loss of this equipment has severely affected the production schedule of our magazines and books.

Before our team could do anything, they had to clean up the mess! Then there was the process of obtaining replacement quotes, clearing them with the insurers, buying and installing the new equipment, then getting it all to work smoothly again.

Besides the usual Microsoft Office software, we use a variety of very specialised design packages, all of which needed to be carefully restored to each workstation. This has been done successfully and this morning our designers were able to get back to their normal work for the first time!

The first job for them to finish is this *MESSENGER* (issue 11) that was due to reach you on 25 May. Immediately after that we will complete the second issue of *FOCUS* for 2012, hoping to get it off to the printers by the middle of next week. Then we will try to

get the *MESSENGERS* due on 8 June (issue 12) and 22 June (issue 13) out as close to their publication dates as possible.

Please pray for our team of designers, David Bell and Abigail Murphy – who, between all these magazine deadlines, still need to find the time to finish the books they have been working on. Spare a thought too for Stephen Holden, who manages our prepress department, as he tries to get things back on schedule. He has been under immense pressure.

Lastly, we appreciate your patience, and wish to assure you that we are doing our best to meet our deadlines.

Warmly

JGH, THE EDITOR

A special note:

MESSENGER is scheduled to appear twenty-six times per annum. Twenty-four of these issues are sixteen-page magazines, while two of them



have twenty-four pages each. The magazines appear approximately every second week, but in May we usually have only one issue of twenty-four pages in order to make up for the shorter working weeks caused by Easter and certain bank holidays. Later in the year we run another 'bumper' issue of twenty-four pages, but this is usually at the editor's discretion, and allows us to process the backlog of news or run something on a special theme.

Enhancing Health

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

Golden eight — part 6c

One of the best-known quotations on the therapeutic value of food is the following:

'Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food' (Hippocrates, father of medicine, 431 BC).

Analysing the concept of food as medicine, I spoke recently with Angelette Muller – a nutrition consultant working in an integrated medical clinic – to get her perspective. Here is what she said:

'If you asked me if food was medicine, I would ask what are the similarities between the two? We know that medicine includes treatment and prevention: and diet-related research shows that food can be used for managing conditions as well as to reduce the risk for certain diseases. Take migraines, for example – we know there are many triggers for migraines, including bright lights, stress, dehydration and nutrient deficiencies. But in some people specific foods can trigger a migraine, such as chocolate, wine and cheese.'

'In my clinical setting, I have seen people with severe joint pains improve in weeks through cutting out specific foods from their diet.'

Also with autistic children, I have been amazed at the power of food to calm aggressive behaviour, increase concentration, and even improve communication and connection.

However, I would say that food is not a replacement for medication; as food can affect both the types of medication and the levels of medication needed. So if you are on medication, working with your doctor alongside a nutritionist is recommended.'

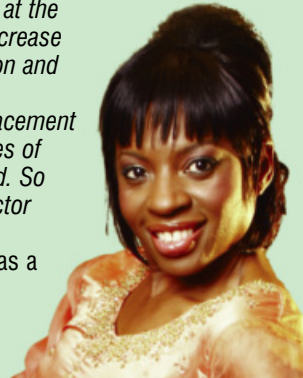
Angelette's example of using dietary advice as a form of therapeutic intervention is borne out in emerging research.

A report by the BBC, dated Wednesday, 28 October 2009, highlighted the outcome of research on curcumin, a bioactive compound found in turmeric. The research was undertaken by Dr Sharon McKenna and her team at the Cork Cancer Research Centre. They found that curcumin started to kill cancer cells within twenty-four hours and cells began digesting themselves, after the curcumin 'triggered lethal cell death signals'.

Dr McKenna reports: 'Scientists have known for a long time that natural compounds have the potential to treat faulty cells that have become cancerous and we suspected that curcumin might have therapeutic value.' She further states: 'These exciting results suggest that scientists could develop curcumin as a potential anti-cancer drug to treat oesophageal cancer.'

Responding to the findings, Dr Lesley Walker, director of cancer information at Cancer Research UK, said: 'This is interesting research which opens up the possibility that natural chemicals found in turmeric could be developed into new treatments for oesophageal cancer.'

Next issue examines current research on suggested 'healing' foods. **Good health!**



editorial

During my ministry I have opened thousands of garden gates – most of which have carried some form of warning about the resident dog (or dogs), but nothing about the residents. In some cases, it would have been more appropriate the other way round, but let me stick with dogs.

That simple sign, 'Beware of the dog', has provided me with more surprises than I care to talk about. They include a bitten ankle, a nipped hand, scratched car doors, shredded ego and more layers of viscous dog saliva than I care to remember – fortunately, however, I have never been mistaken for a lamp post!

A bull terrier

Now, one summery afternoon in a quiet village,¹ while I was doing my best to make sense of someone's heartache, the street outside suddenly filled with the sound of savage barking. My hosts poured from the house, vainly calling their pets by name!

I followed with more decorum – but quickly hurried forward when I saw what was happening. Three nondescript dogs locked together in mortal combat with a bull terrier. Three adults, trying to tear a dog each from the fray – and some hysterical children clinging to their mother's skirt!

What is the parson's duty at a time like this? Take the children to safety? Phone the police? Ask the watching neighbours to join the tug of war? Unfortunately, the *Minister's Manual* is mute on how to handle emergencies of this nature!

The terrier's tail

I chose to grab the terrier's wagging tail! But before you censure my strategy or laugh too loudly . . . by lifting his hind legs off the ground I had weakened his position. He could no longer use his powerful hindquarters to push forward against the weaker animals.

After a few minutes of lifting, the now breathless terrier gasped, and one dog slipped loose. Then, before his jaws clamped hold of one of the other victims, the owners managed to yank them away.

'Thank God,' I thought, 'it's over!'

The terrier growled . . .

Gates banged shut. Silence settled over the street. Then the terrier looked over his right shoulder and growled.

His tail still wagged, but not with the joy of savage combat. He wanted revenge!

I was the last man standing . . . left alone holding his tail . . . keeping those squirming hindquarters in the air . . . but for how long?

My subsequent research confirmed that the average bull terrier weighs in at between 45 and 80 pounds.² I was getting tired!

I have also since learned that bull terrier owners must 'have a securely fenced garden at least 4ft high. THIS IS ESSENTIAL. The thin

The last man standing . . .

*lap wood fencing is no use at all. Bull terriers have been known to go straight through it when in pursuit of a cat!*³ (Author's emphasis, not mine.) Such information, had I known it then, would not have curbed my growing fear!

'Who owns this . . . dog?' I called out to anyone who would listen – biting back an adjective I thought I had forgotten!

Someone pointed at a nearby house. Cautiously I began to steer the grumbling beast towards the gate. It moved reluctantly, just like a wobbly white canine wheelbarrow should.

Eventually, when we reached the gate, I shoved the terrier through and slammed it closed.

The last man standing

It wasn't easy to be the last man standing . . . in that silent street. Alone. Abandoned by those I came to help.

It is never easy to be alone, holding the 'terrier's tail' – the last man standing **for someone, or against something!**

Both secular and sacred history is full of examples of those who chose to be among the last men (or women) standing.

Moses was one of those men. After all that God had done for Israel, the people, aided by Aaron, slipped back into degrading pagan worship. Within sight of His shrouded glory, and within earshot of the rolling thunder above, Israel chose to bow to a golden calf. But not Moses: he chose to be the last man standing! (Exodus 32:19-36.)

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were three more of those men. Hundreds, perhaps thousands of Hebrew youths grovelled in the dust of Durah's plain, paying homage to Nebuchadnezzar's crude distortion of God's revelation. But not these three young men: they were willing to be the last men standing!

They stayed standing!

Now there is something worth noting about the position taken by these three young men that day in Babylon. They stood bravely for what they believed and were ready to bear the king's swift and savage retribution – but he did something almost unheard of in ancient times.

He calls them to him. Addresses them by their first names: *'Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up?'* (Daniel 3:14, NIV.)

Then, in the face of this national affront to his power and dignity, the king does the unheard of – he gives them a second chance!

'Listen chaps, ". . . if you are ready to fall down and worship the image I made, very good . . .", and we'll leave things there – with no offence meant, and none taken!' (Adapted from Daniel 3:15, NIV.) Wow – what an honour. What a special opportunity to enjoy the king's favour!

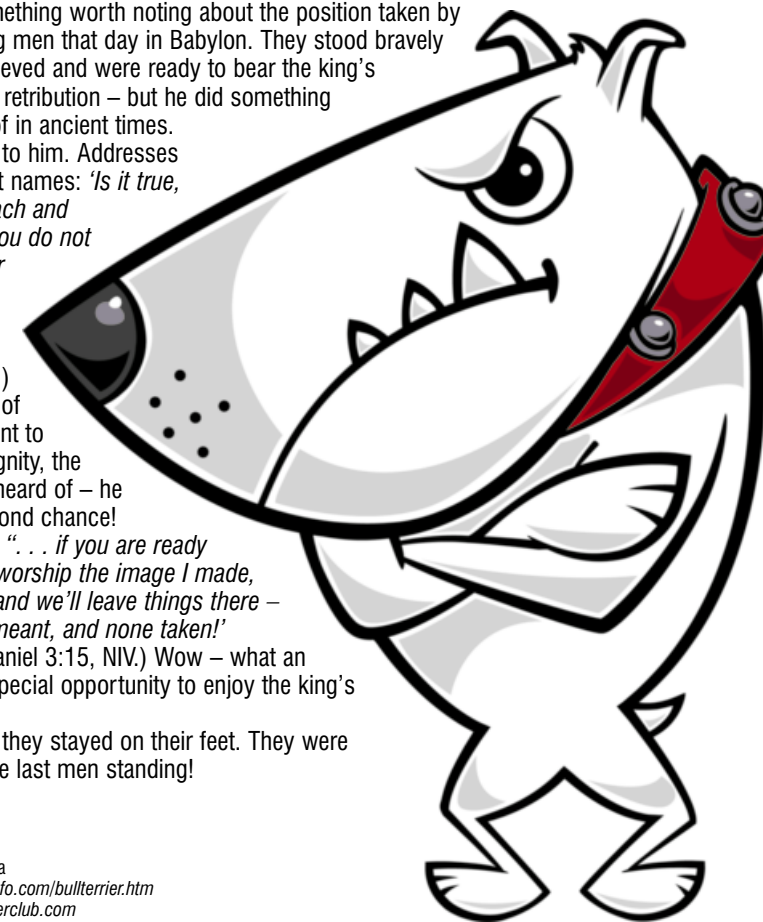
Did they? No, they stayed on their feet. They were prepared to be the last men standing!

Are you?

¹Redhouse, South Africa
²<http://www.dogbreedinfo.com/bullterrier.htm>
³<http://www.thebullterrierclub.com>



Julian Hibbert
Editor





'Show me a miracle!'

by Sarah Jarvis

'Faith is the great cop-out, the great excuse to evade the need to think and evaluate evidence. Faith is belief in spite of, even perhaps because of, the lack of evidence.' 'It is absolutely safe to say that, if you meet somebody who claims not to believe in evolution, that person is ignorant, stupid or insane.'

These two quotations encapsulate the philosophy of Richard Dawkins.

What does the Bible say to refute his argument?

'... the basic reality of God is plain enough. Open your eyes and there it is! By taking a long and thoughtful look at what God has created, people have always been able to see what their eyes as such can't see: eternal power, for instance, and the mystery of his divine being. So nobody has a good excuse. What happened was this: People knew God perfectly well, but when they didn't treat him like God, refusing to worship him, they trivialized themselves into silliness and confusion so that there was neither sense nor direction left in their lives. They pretended to know it all, but were illiterate regarding life.' Romans 1:18-23, The Message.

Yes, the Bible says, the evidence is there for all to see. But people choose to be blind to the blindingly obvious.

One great example of the folly of man in the face of irrefutable evidence of the existence of God is the pharaoh in the Exodus story. From the very beginning, his defiant challenge to Moses and Aaron, and, through them, to

the God they represented, was: 'Prove yourself. Perform a miracle.' Time and again he witnessed the unleashing of God's power in a series of plagues, but, apart from temporary admissions of defeat, he refused to accept the supremacy of God.

While all that happened a very long time ago, Pharaoh's attitude is alive and well today. Peter, foreseeing that there would be such people as Richard Dawkins, reminds us of this fact: 'First off, you need to know that in the last days, mockers are going to have a heyday. . . . They conveniently forget that long ago all the galaxies and this very planet were brought into existence out of watery chaos by God's word.

Then God's word brought the chaos back in a flood that destroyed the world. The current galaxies and earth are fuel for the final fire. God is poised, ready to speak his word again, ready to give the signal for the judgment and destruction of the desecrating skeptics.' 2 Peter 3:3-7, The Message.

Here is a modern-day parable which draws on the Exodus

story, in part, to illustrate the fact that modern man in his arrogance has forgotten God, or, rather, has deliberately chosen to ignore Him. The miracles clearly visible around us are just brushed aside as coincidences or chance happenings.

God and the Prime Minister 'Who are you?' said the Prime Minister, opening the door.

'I'm God', replied the Stranger. 'I don't believe you', said the Prime Minister. 'Show me a miracle.'

And God showed the Prime Minister the miracle of birth.

'Pooh, that's nothing!' said the Prime Minister. 'My scientists are creating life in test tubes and have nearly solved the secret of heredity. Artificial insemination is more certain than your lackadaisical method, and by cross-breeding we are producing fish and mammals to our own design. Show me a *proper* miracle!'

And God caused the sky to darken, and hailstones came pouring down.

The Prime Minister picked up the telephone on his desk. 'Get in touch with the met office and tell them to send up a met plane and sprinkle the clouds with silver iodide crystals, will you?' And the met plane went up and sprinkled the clouds which had darkened the sky. And the

hailstones stopped pouring down, and the sun shone brightly.

'Show me another!'

And God caused a plague of frogs to descend upon the land.

The Prime Minister picked up his telephone. 'Get in touch with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and instruct them to procure a frog-killer as myxomatosis killed rabbits.'

And soon the land was free from frogs. And the people gave thanks to the Prime Minister and erected laboratories in his name. 'Show me another!'

And God caused the sea to divide.

The Prime Minister picked up his telephone. 'Er . . . lob a few ICBMs into Antarctica and melt the ice cap will you, old man?' And the ice cap melted into water, and the sea came rushing back.

'I can kill all firstborn', said God.

'Paltry tricks!' said the Prime Minister. And he pressed a button on his desk, and missiles flew to their pre-ordained destinations, and H-bombs split the world asunder, and radioactivity killed every mortal thing.

'I can raise the dead', said God.

'Please!' said the Prime

Minister, in his cardboard coffin. 'Let me live again!'

'Why? Who are you? Who are you?' said God, closing the lid.

Yes, the truth is there for all who want to see it. And, as both Peter and the parable chillingly remind us, God will have the last word.

As Paul says in the earlier text in Romans, the evidence is so clear that 'we are without excuse'. But believing the evidence alone is not enough. Pharaoh's problem was not disbelief, but rather, his *attitude*, his hardness of heart, to the irrefutable evidence laid before him.

True, but that's not me, we all chorus. We would never echo the arrogant words of the apocryphal prime minister, nor develop coronary problems like Pharaoh. But before we get too smug, we might ask ourselves, 'Are there any similarities? Do we ever get above ourselves and, if not exactly push God out altogether, leave Him on the sidelines, perhaps?' I fancy the answer is often yes.

So, what's the remedy? It's the same for all of us – pharaohs, prime ministers, and you and me. *Remember*. As soon as each plague came to an end, Pharaoh forgot how incontrovertibly it had demonstrated the power of God. One of the problems that gave rise to the

less-than-ideal behaviour of the children of Israel throughout the wilderness years was that they *forgot* – forgot the God who had redeemed and sustained them so spectacularly. Even the disciples who followed Jesus were guilty of the same loss of memory. One day, just after the feeding of the 4,000, they were concerned as they had forgotten to take bread with them in their boat. Jesus rebuked them with the words: 'Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened? Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you *remember*?' Mark 8:17, 18, NIV, emphasis supplied.

Of course, remembering really translates into having sufficient faith to keep on trusting. Yes, we have the evidence of the creative power of God before our eyes. But more than that, we also have the evidence of God's providence in our lives – past and present. Hasn't the One who promised to supply all our needs and never to forsake us proved Himself time and again?

The visible, tangible evidence might prove to clever men like Richard Dawkins that there is no God. Our visible and experiential evidence proves the opposite. Because God has so graciously revealed Himself to us, he deserves to be Number One in our lives. Let's not be guilty of relegating Him to the sidelines. Let's make Him our focus and allow Him to be in charge today – and every day.

with Andrew Puckering



Fallow ground

Judah was in trouble – calamity was coming from the north (Jeremiah 1:14). God was trying to reason with the Hebrews, but they kept on saying they were innocent and not polluted – when God knew very well that they were spiritually filthy (Jeremiah 2). How could He give them a pleasant land (Jeremiah 3:19)? He wanted so much to heal them (Jeremiah 3:22)! Already, though, in the reign of Josiah, their fate had been sealed (2 Kings 22:1, 16-20), because of the wickedness Josiah's grandfather Manasseh had allowed into the country (2 Kings 23:26, 27).

Their fate was sealed – God knew that they wouldn't repent – but their refusal to listen didn't stop Him from pleading with them to return to Him (Jeremiah 3:12-15; 4:1). It's in this context that we first find the phrase, 'Break up your fallow ground' (Jeremiah 4:3, NKJV).

'Fallow ground' was ground that wasn't put to use as farmland – it was resting, unproductive, and unprofitable (Exodus 23:10, 11). The Israelites were commanded to let their land lie fallow once every seven years (Leviticus 25:1-6). They were a bit concerned about this, but God reassured them, saying that He would give them enough food to eat while their land rested (Leviticus 25:20-22). They ignored His promises – their land only got its rest once they'd been taken captive (2 Chronicles 36:21).

In Jeremiah 4:3, however, God is not talking about breaking up physical fallow ground – the next verse calls on the Hebrews to circumcise the foreskins of their hearts. He wanted them to break up the fallow ground of their hearts, to make their hearts useful and productive instead of lounging in laziness. Solomon made this connection centuries earlier, saying that just as food goes to waste in fallow ground overgrown with weeds and thickets, so too laziness causes deplorable waste (Proverbs 13:23; 24:30-34).

This message wasn't new. Years before Jeremiah, Hosea had been preaching it in the last days of Israel (2 Kings 18:9-12; Hosea 1:1). The tribes of Israel loved an easy life, spiritually – they wanted to enjoy the perks of being God's people without having to put much effort in, like an ox that could eat the grain while threshing it – but now God was going to hook them up to a plough and make them do some proper work (Hosea 10:11; 1 Corinthians 9:9). What ground was He asking them to plough, to break up, to make ready to receive seeds of righteousness? None other than their very own hearts – they too were to break up the 'fallow ground' of their own spiritual lives (Hosea 10:12).

So we have two different prophets, preaching at two different times, in two different countries – both facing imminent destruction, and both called by God to 'break up' their 'fallow ground'. How is this relevant for us? Jesus gives us a familiar parable in Matthew 13: a farmer goes out to sow his seed, but not all the seed is fruitful. Some of it lands on the road, where birds eat it; some lands on stony places, and doesn't last long without roots; some is choked by thorns; and some lands on good ground and bears fruit (Matthew 13:1-9). Jesus explains that the seed is analogous to the Word of God, and the differing types of ground represent different types of people (Matthew 13:18-23). Those who have prepared the ground in their hearts can receive and understand His words. Now, as in the time of Hosea and Jeremiah, God wants us to hear what He's saying. Now it's our turn to break up the fallow ground.

- How does God promise to change our hearts? (Ezekiel 36)
- When asked why He spoke in parables, what was Jesus' response?
- Which Old Testament prophet did Jesus quote to the disciples in Matthew 13?
- What other exhortations against laziness exist in Proverbs?
- What fruits of the Spirit might grow in well-prepared ground? (Galatians 5)

'I can raise the dead', said God. 'Please!' said the Prime Minister, in his cardboard coffin. 'Let me live again!'





What is AMEN?

MESSENGER editor, Julian Hibbert, talks to Dr Christopher Levy, one of the co-ordinators of the recent UK Adventist Medical Evangelism Conference held at Newbold College, about his life and his vision for 'medical missionary work'.

Editor: Dr Levy, when did you decide to be a doctor?

Dr Levy: As far as I can remember from the age of 6 or 7.

Editor: Why medicine?

Dr Levy: My mother was a nurse and she told me stories from work – about the doctors and what they would say and do. I was fascinated, and gradually developed a love for anything to do with hospitals and doctors. I joined the Adventist Church at 16, and later trained at St George's Medical School, University of London. During this time I developed a clearer understanding of the concept of medical evangelism. So in medicine I found not just a career but a calling.

Editor: I understand that you are a specialist – in which particular field?

Dr Levy: Emergency medicine – though I have done training in surgery too.

Editor: Isn't that one of the toughest areas of medicine, with lots of pressure? How do you cope?

Dr Levy: Julian, all specialties are tough in their own way, and have their own kinds of pressure. In emergency medicine you meet people at the 'front door' of the hospital, where they are usually at their sickest and most unstable. You have to be ready to deal with anything, from babies with breathing problems to adults involved in major trauma. The more senior you are, the more is expected of you. It can be full-on with no let-up, and you have to be able to

think on your feet and make the right decision quickly. Quite often I have to decide when a 'crash team' should stop resuscitating a patient after a cardiac arrest. And then there's the difficulty of breaking the news of death to a family. But there are also many rewarding experiences and I have the sense that I am making a positive difference in people's lives.

Editor: Chris, how is the health message relevant in 2012?

Dr Levy: Today we are saturated with information on health, diet, exercise, medicine, and so on, but there is still an epidemic of lifestyle-related diseases. People sense that there must be something more, something better than what they currently have. Our health message not only highlights the link between lifestyle and disease, but points to a better way of living – a way to get the best out of this life. Then to top it all, by giving our lives to Jesus, the Creator, we can ultimately inherit eternal life with Him in Heaven. Now doesn't that sound like good, relevant news in 2012?

Editor: How can health evangelism help reach people for Christ in this secular society?

Dr Levy: It is true that in the UK fewer and fewer people identify with God or religion: but that doesn't mean that Britons are impermeable to the Gospel. Health evangelism is a golden opportunity to practically present the Gospel. So, by providing one-on-one physical care, health screening events, cooking schools, lifestyle seminars, cancer awareness talks, weight-loss programmes, mentoring,

friendship and Bible studies, I think we can make a difference right here and now in Britain.

Editor: Does your Adventism influence the way you practise medicine?

Dr Levy: I think the Adventist doctor's ethos places the emphasis on *wellness* rather than *sickness*, on *prevention* before *treatment*. This doesn't mean that we shouldn't be excellent in our diagnostics and treatment, but it does mean that we feel a great sense of responsibility to make patients aware of the power that is in their hands: power to prevent disease by the choices they make – and that complete wellness includes a spiritual component.

Editor: Some say that the world has 'stolen' our message of health and is spreading it. Do you agree?

Dr Levy: Whatever you find outside the Church, however good it is (and some of it is very good), usually lacks the spiritual dimension. It's not the healthiest people alone who will be saved. There must be more to health ministry than just health, in the same way that there must be more to education ministry than acquiring degrees, and there must be more to stewardship ministry than managing money well. All these are good, but they are not ends in themselves: just the byproducts of living a successful Christian life. What makes our health message unique is that we are not only saving lives – we are saving souls.

Editor: How can our doctors get involved in health evangelism?

Dr Levy: Firstly, you need to be a believer in the health message. Being an Adventist doctor doesn't necessarily make you a practising medical evangelist. Secondly, access useful resources, like some of the books by Dr Neil Nedley for example, the *Vibrant Life* magazine, and the sermons on medical evangelism by Mark Finley. There are plenty more resources available from the ABC. Thirdly, don't try to do it alone. Ask for volunteers, especially among the health professionals in your congregation. Offer teaching and instruction to those interested, and don't forget to include youth, Pathfinders, and retirees. Fourthly, gain the support of your local pastor and church board. It is crucial that the church leadership is committed to health ministries if you are to make a meaningful impact

in your community. Lastly, try to network with other physicians or health ministries teams nearby. That way, you can pool your resources and spread the workload. Another key thing to do is to get involved in AMEN UK.

Editor: What about our pastors – is there a role for them in health evangelism too?

Dr Levy: Absolutely, they have a key role. Ask any pastor how may ill people he has in his congregation, or how much time he spends in visiting, praying for or anointing the sick. As I mentioned, the pastor sets the tone for the church and his or her enthusiasm in one area or another will, to a lesser or greater extent, have a bearing on the evangelistic thrust of the church. Every member should be able to play a part in health ministry, and our pastors should be foremost in fostering this and setting a positive example. If our churches are to be a credible force in health promotion in the community the pastor cannot afford to be indifferent to how he lives and eats, nor to the image portrayed by the church – for example, by the food we serve at our socials.

Doctors should work closely with their pastors, but neither should venture beyond their sphere of competence. Both have unique access to the most personal areas of people's lives, but a Christian doctor has the added dimension of being able to bring sound clinical advice. Pastors should be careful to guard their flock against would-be 'healers' or 'experts' who, with little or no clinical knowledge, are all too ready to offer so-called 'remedies' to patients who may have life-threatening illnesses, when what they really need is appropriate medical care.

Editor: What is AMEN?

Dr Levy: The Adventist Medical Evangelism Network is an organisation of doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals whose goals are 'to restore Christ's ministry of healing to the world . . .' and 'train . . . Seventh-day Adventist physicians and dentists to be effective medical evangelists' (www.amensda.org). The organisation is based in the USA but we are working very closely with them to organise a UK chapter. If your readers would like more information about AMEN UK, they are welcome to contact me at calevy@gmail.com or Dr Clemency Mitchell at

clemency@themitchells.eclipse.co.uk.

Editor: What about those members who are not medically trained? What can they do?

Dr Levy: The two most effective things they can do are to help in any health programmes put on by the church, and to increase their knowledge of health evangelism. Read *Ministry of Healing* or *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, or try the online courses on health run by the Discovery Centre. If you want something more advanced, some of the Adventist lifestyle centres in the US run courses on medical evangelism. Or why not consider studying medicine and becoming a doctor?

Editor: What advice do you have for anyone who would like to be a doctor?

Dr Levy: Firstly, make it a subject of prayer. If you feel convicted that medicine is your calling then go for it with all you've got. Both the training and the work are hard – physically and mentally demanding – but extremely rewarding. The sacrifice will be worth it. I can't think of a more noble, exciting and satisfying profession.

One of the things we hope to foster in AMEN UK is a forum for students and prospective doctors to seek advice and friendship from qualified doctors. I would love to see many more Adventist physicians, and challenge our young people to step forward and join our ranks – I also challenge anyone who is older but is considering a career change.

Editor: Finally then, Chris, tell us briefly about your family and how important they are in your life?

Dr Levy: I am so grateful that neither my mother nor my father pressured me into being a doctor. They gave me the freedom to choose. I will never forget the financial sacrifices they made on my behalf. Long before I was working long hours my father did so without complaining. I met my wife Marlene just before starting medical school. She has been a great source of strength, support and encouragement. She is a Christian psychotherapist and together we are developing our own ministry. Finally my beautiful daughter Gabrielle, who is nearly 6, is a continual inspiration.

Editor: Thank you Dr Levy, and blessings on your work!

The entire front page of *The Times T2* insert on 11 October 2004 depicted an

Disturbing!

by Albert A. C. Waite, PhD



I am disturbed that some banks proposed to pay out millions in executives' bonuses; that hundreds of people who are clamouring for change are being killed in Syria's streets; and that STIs in people aged over 45 years in Britain have doubled in ten years.¹ But disturbing as these things are, a more disturbing fact is that the overwhelming majority of UK young people don't believe in God and do not attend church, out of choice.

I was disturbed when I watched Vili Costescu's video, shown at Newbold Church, of his interviews with university students in London on the questions: 'Do you believe in God?' and 'Do you attend church?' The overwhelming majority said they didn't believe in God and therefore didn't attend church, but qualified this with, 'I used to attend when I was a child.' According to Costescu: 'All have had contact with the church at some point in their lives, yet many gave up believing.'

I was disturbed because I know that their lack of faith is the direct outcome of systematic secularisation of society through the books that children are given to read in their early years; their school curriculum; those elaborate TV nature programmes in which scientific facts are fused with fiction and presented as true science; and the deterioration of spiritual values in the home – all aided by a surge of secularised electronic entertainment and peer pressure.

I was disturbed because I know of the systematic dumbing down of the existence of God by the powerful atheistic movement, which propagates evolutionary theory as scientific fact. I know of fresh new university students falling prey to the ridicule of highly respected professors: 'Here are the facts of *evolution*. . . How can an intelligent person reject such indisputable evidence and believe in a supernatural being?' 'To believe in a God is intellectual nonsense.'

believe in God, by Jonathan Miller', who at the time was regarded as 'the fifth brainiest person in Britain' – with Richard Dawkins holding first place. The title of the interview by Richard Morrison, an Anglican, was emphatic: 'There is no God. No afterlife, no paradise'.

Despite these bold claims, the article produced no evidence to support the 'no God' theory – neither has any other author I've read before or since.

Miller revamped the usual arguments atheists call on when trying to demonstrate the impossibility of God: the numerous people massacred in the name of religion (ignoring the fact that more have been massacred at the hand of atheists);² and ridicule: 'I'm amazed that people who can find their way to the toilet without advice can entertain such logically incoherent ideas' as 'paradise' and 'afterlife'. Morrison observed that Miller's 'real objection to belief in God [is that] it is an intellectual nonsense.'

Atheists like Ayer, Hitchens, Miller, Dawkins and Smith are excellent communicators in their specialist fields. They are admired by their students for the clarity with which they explain the fundamentals and intricacies of their subjects. However, when it comes to the question of the existence of God they have no effective answers and so they resort to illogical arguments which are often contradictory.³ John Blanchard, quoting Gould, wrote, 'As far as the existence of God was concerned, "we simply can't comment on it as scientists."⁴

Unfortunately, many students take little time to look at the information that is used to dismiss the existence of God. They are coerced into accepting illogical comparisons, such as equating macro-evolution to micro-evolution and calling the lot 'science'. There is psychological pressure on them to accept the professor's words: 'there is no God'. They are afraid of being dubbed 'intellectually deficient', and so passively accept the doctrine of evolution as credible.

We cannot be comforted

by those who say that of our seven-billion population, six billion believe in God. The fact is, we live in a Western society where the majority of the one billion atheists reside, and they are targeting local schools and universities. It is *our* children who are losing their faith in God. They often attend church up to their late teens, then leave. Could we learn something from the way atheists teach their 'faith' with passion? What if we took the time to illustrate the truth about God and His creation with the same clarity, vividness and technological mastery that they use to illustrate their error? Surely it would make a difference.

Over the past two years I've listened to some horrendous comments (on both sides of the Atlantic) on science and the Bible from both clergy and laity that any GCSE science student would be ashamed to be associated with. Often science is portrayed as an enemy of God, in a way that makes the speaker sound un-intelligent. Do these embarrassing moments contribute to the lack of church attendance by university students?

It can easily be shown that the atheists' view of God is illogical; that even though there is no *proof* (a scientific term) for or against the existence of God, there is overwhelming supporting evidence for His existence.

We need not fear these assaults against God by the so-called 'brainiest people'. Alister McGrath (Richard Dawkins' colleague at Oxford University) is not alone in observing that 'Dawkins' views on the nature of faith are best regarded as embarrassing to anyone concerned with scholarly accuracy.'⁵ No credible academic can deny that there is no scientific proof for the origin of the universe, or even something as common as the source of our reasoning ability. *Yet they exist.*

Disturbed? Our youth are our greatest assets. Let's educate them meaningfully, so they will be able to 'take [their] stand against the devil's schemes' (Ephesians 6:11, NIV) and maintain their precious faith in God!

References:
¹<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-2095668/Number-sex-infections-45s-doubles-10-years-rising-divorce-rates.html?ito=feeds-newsxml>
²John Blanchard, *Dealing with Dawkins*, EP Books, 2010, p. 36
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feature

'Extreme' Adventists

Part 2



Living on the ledge!

The *MESSENGER* editor chats to David West, retired pastor and energetic 'outdoorsman', about his passion for *via ferrata* mountain climbing (and life in general).

Editor: David, I regard you as a prime example of the 'extreme' Adventist – someone who lives a life of wholesome faith – and is always packed and ready for adventure. Take a minute to introduce yourself to our readers.

David: My parents became Adventists in Belfast during the post-war years, so I was brought up as an Adventist. Sadly, however, I'm an only child because my mother contracted tuberculosis soon after I was born: she died when I was about 9.

Editor: That must have been a real setback for you.

David: Indeed. But because my mother was a bed-ridden invalid, I gradually realised how fortunate I was to have good health – of mind

and body. So, as an adolescent, I decided to develop those precious gifts to serve God and others – and in memory of my brave mum.

With the help of the late Pastor Kinman I was able to start the Ministerial course at Newbold College, which was followed by almost forty years of quite varied ministry.

Editor: David, I believe that you speak Icelandic, and that you served in Iceland for eight years. You must be good with languages?

David: Yes, I was fortunate to be born with the 'brain of a parrot'! I spent eight years as a preceptor (dean of boys) both in Iceland and at Stanborough School on two different occasions. Besides that I served various churches in Iceland, South England, Scotland



and briefly in Manchester. The last six years of my ministry were spent in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds, and I retired in 2006 at the age of 63.

Editor: What about the family?

David: Lin and I met at Newbold and were married in Iceland in 1967. We have two lovely girls and five smashing grandchildren aged between 6 and 21.



Editor: Now tell us briefly about your passion for the outdoors.

David: Nature and the great outdoors always fascinated me as a young person. When we lived in Iceland I was enthralled by the rugged, uninhabited interior of the country and I still go back every summer to explore its amazing landscapes.

When we travelled in Europe we usually headed for the mountains of Switzerland, Austria and Italy. Then in 1998 I bought a magazine called *Adventure Travel* that contained a fourteen-page photo article about *via ferrata* climbing in the Dolomites. The photos were absolutely stunning and I started dreaming about doing that myself one day.

Editor: How long before dreams became reality?

David: It took ten years! In 2008, while in the Dolomites I caught sight of a *via ferrata* route

at about 8,000 feet and took a closer look. The following summer, 2009, Lin and I returned, and with hired equipment I took on the challenge.

Editor: What was that first climb like, David?

David: It was an 'out of this world' experience which I will never, ever forget! On the second day I did Brigata Tridentina – 2,000 vertical feet, five hours up and three hours down by a different route. I was hooked! I came home, bought my own equipment, and now look forward each summer to trying different routes.

Editor: Well, David, I have decided to let your photos tell the rest of the story – they will give our readers a real taste of this 'extreme' recreational pursuit. But before I let you go . . . just tell them what *via ferrata* does for your soul.

David: *Via ferrata* climbing high in the Dolomites provides me with thrills – without spills. If I connect the carabiners of my safety harness to the fixed cable I am basically safe, even with a sheer drop of hundreds of feet below me. I still have to exert myself, but I can concentrate on climbing without the fear of falling to my death.

It's a bit like the Christian life, really – we live on the edge in various ways, but with a trusting connection to a trustworthy God we know we are safe as we press on our upward way. God is certainly the strong 'steel cable' in my life. It makes such a difference to be able to take on challenges knowing that I can trust Him – even on the edges and ledges of life. The 'steel cable' (God) won't do the climbing for me, but with the security He gives me I can concentrate on looking up and following the route right to the top.

Like Paul, I ' . . . press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus' (Philippians 3:14). Ellen White highlights the spiritual principle involved here: 'Success is the union of divine power with human effort' (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 509).

Editor: Thanks David. Through *via ferrata* you seem to live life on the edge – or should I say, 'ledge'. Just take care up there!

Via ferrata . . .

Via ferrata – This is the Italian for 'road of iron' and it describes a mountain route 'equipped with fixed cables, stemples [rungs], ladders, and bridges. The use of these allows otherwise isolated routes to be joined to create longer routes which are accessible to people with a wide range of climbing abilities. Walkers and climbers can follow *via ferrate* without needing to use their own ropes and belays, and without the risks associated with unprotected scrambling and climbing.'

Some sources indicate that the first *via ferrate* were laid out in Austria for recreational use during the nineteenth century. The modern *via ferrate* in the Dolomites date back to the Great War. They were put in place by the Italian mountain infantry.²

¹http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Via_ferrata
²www.mountainpassions.com/summer/summer_activities/via_ferrata.html



profile

A question of allegiance

Dr David Marshall uses the life story of Bill Cowin, an Adventist lay preacher for fifty-six years, to illustrate the value and necessity of our allegiance to God.



'When I joined the RAF, I swore allegiance to King George VI', says Bill Cowin. 'Since I became a Seventh-day Adventist in 1955 my allegiance has been to God. It is all a question of allegiance.'

In January 2012 Bill Cowin ended his sermon by stating that it was his final sermon, and that his first sermon had been preached almost exactly fifty-six years previously.

The Church in Britain is very different from the one Bill and Nancy, his wife of sixty-two years, joined when they were baptised by Pastor Bernard Walton in May 1955. Nancy and Bill were two of six baptised at Liverpool. 'God wants quality more than quantity', Pastor Walton had said. 'His words were prophetic in one sense', Bill says. 'All those baptised have stayed in the Church.' Their sense of allegiance has been strong. 'We gave God our allegiance through thick and thin', says Bill.

Bill Cowin was raised in Liverpool, married Nancy Couch, and had his education interrupted by service in World War Two as an air gunner flying in Lancasters. The engineering firm that had employed Bill, Automatic Telephone & Electric Company, took him back when the war ended.

Bill was keen to get on in engineering. His tertiary and higher education, including his engineering degree, was obtained by years at night school. As a consequence, he was appointed assistant chief engineer of his company. Pre-war, Bill's 'chief' had devised the mechanical means of code-breaking that was employed at Bletchley Park to decipher the Enigma and other codes in the course of the war. The code-breaking machine was a basic computer. The first of these machines were made by Bill's company in Liverpool.

In 1966 Bill, Nancy and their family of four moved to Manchester. There Bill was employed in a senior managerial position by ICL and was 'in on the ground' with the computer revolution. The family were Marion, Peter, Debs and Andrew.

I asked Bill if he remembered the subject of his first sermon (preached fifty-six years ago). His recall was immediate: 'It was on the Seven Trumpets in Revelation', he said, before giving me a summary of the content. 'We were all into prophecy in those days', he added.

I asked him what changes he had seen in

the Church over the last fifty-six years. 'The ministers were really dedicated back then', he said. 'Pastor Walton often arrived at 11pm to give me my Bible study. Today the ministry has been reduced to a "profession"; I might almost say a job.' Then he added, 'Not all ministers. . . .'

'These days,' continued Bill, 'the subject matter of sermons has changed considerably. We hear a lot about "relationship". Back in the '50s it was about allegiance and commitment. Sabbath was very important. When I told my employer I was unable to work after sunset on Fridays in the winter, he kept me on tenterhooks over the spring and summer without giving me a definite confirmation. Then, before Friday sunset in October, the boss said, "Right, Bill. It's time you were off now."'

On the theme of commitment, Bill continued: 'I accepted tithing without a question and I tithed my gross salary.' Bill still tithes his pension: 'The Lord has blessed us', he affirms. The sort of discipline which marked Bill Cowin's generation is not nearly as common today.

'Another major change in the Church is the widening gap between ministers and laity which has resulted in the current "Them and Us" situation. Ministers were stretched in the '50s. The Liverpool pastor also cared for Wallasey and Southport. In addition to Sabbath services, some churches (including Wallasey) had regular evangelistic meetings on Sunday. That is why, in less than a year of my baptism, I was pressed into service as a lay preacher on both Sabbaths and Sundays. "If you can preach, you must preach", was the attitude.'

In addition to his local church(es) Bill also preached in Bolton and Blackpool. The best venue, however, was in the open air at the Pierhead in Liverpool on Sabbath afternoons.

'In those days,' Bill continues, 'pastors joined the laity in their outreach activities. On one occasion, when NEC president Pastor E. H. Foster was visiting Liverpool, he stayed and joined us in our Ingathering. One householder seemed to accuse Pastor

Foster of *begging*. "Madam," he responded, pulling himself up to his five foot three inches, "Do I look like a beggar?" "No, sir", the lady responded. "Then you may take it that I am not begging", said E. H. F. with a smile. The lady made a generous contribution.'

After the Cowins moved to Manchester, Bill preached in the Manchester, Bolton and Blackpool churches. They also helped build up the Stockport church. Bill canvassed Bolton and Blackpool, later hearing Pastor Carl Fletcher name him as the person instrumental in his baptism. Bill's Youth Bible Study group at the Wilbraham Road church in Manchester included Robert and John Surridge. Pastor R. H. Surridge later expressed his belief to Bill that the decision to enter ministry on the part of his sons was traceable to those Bible classes.

In the 1970s Bill served on the North England Conference executive committee for two terms – back-to-back – under Pastors Elias and Lowe. Then, as now, the administration grappled with financial problems and had periodic crises. On one occasion Bill, and his friend and fellow committee member Ken Hammond, predicted that the rampant inflation then affecting the country would cause tithe receipts to exceed the administration's forecasts. They were gratified to be proved right!

From the Stockport church the Cowins transferred to the Barnsley church in 1984. For a number of years Bill served as moderator and treasurer of Churches Together in Barnsley. Until six months ago he was a street pastor in the town. He utilised the contacts thus made to demonstrate the acceptable face of Adventism in practical ways, as he did when he served as a town councillor and now as chairman/trustee of the local Alzheimer's & dementia care group.

His preaching area encompassed Huddersfield, Leeds, Doncaster, Bradford, York, Hull and Halifax. Aged 65, Bill finally completed his education with a 30,000-word Master's treatise in Business Administration and started a new career in management consultancy and assessment.

The Barnsley congregation will miss Bill's well-prepared, structured, and thought-through sermons. Thankfully, they do not have to miss his excellent contributions to the Sabbath School lessons that mark him out as an excellent Bible student. Careful Bible study will always be the mark of allegiance, which for him is still the issue.



Pierhead in Liverpool

news



Celebration for the Ilford dozen!

On Sabbath 7 January, eleven were baptised and one accepted through the right hand of fellowship at the Ilford church. Marva Williams had been baptised in a church of another denomination, and expressed her desire to join the local Adventist congregation in Ilford. The eleven baptismal candidates, baptised by Pastor Shepherd Chitura, were Angela Awuah, Emmanuel Awuah, Stanley Chiwapu, Rachael Jean Condappa, Elbinah Hakata, Malachi Jameson, Christine Jean-Pierre, Jeanne Marie Lelence, Flavia Lericke, Kay Mayuya, and Andrea Morlese. Prayers were answered for Emmanuel Awuah, who a few days earlier had been hospitalised for urgent medical treatment; thanks be to God that Emmanuel was able to take a stand for Jesus that day!

SERENA FRANCIS

Good news for single Adventists!

A supporting ministry website is now available for single Seventh-day Adventists in the UK: <http://www.singleseventhdayadventists.com/>. It's a completely free social network in which single Seventh-day Adventists can fellowship and perhaps find life partners.

This can sometimes be difficult, because of the high ratio of women to men in the Church. Many church members have been unequally yoked, and left the Church as a result.

The other problem is that not all singles websites with 'Adventist' in the name are owned or administered by Seventh-day Adventists – and they charge a premium for the service, too. This website will be absolutely free.

Pastor Victor Hulbert (BUC Communications director) and Pastor Paul Lockham (BUC executive secretary) are fully up to speed on the project, as is Heather Haworth (BUC Family Ministries director). Please pray for this website, and if possible put a link on your webpage!

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Forward on our knees!

'Forward on our knees' was the clarion call of the five-day ARME ('arm me') Bible camp run from 5 to 9 April by Alan Hush (NEC Youth director) and Beulah Plunkett (NEC Sabbath School & Children's Ministries director) – both of whom were amazed by the 600 people who came for prayer and Bible study. This was twice as many as expected, and included ninety 4-12s, who had their own programme (Heir Force) – ARME 'veterans' from America said this was the largest heir force they'd ever seen!

People came from all over Britain, as well as Europe, to hear Pastor Ivor Myers (founder of Power of the Lamb Ministries), Martin Kim (Communications director for Adventist Southeast Asia Projects), Adam Ramdin (evangelist and PEACE Centre of Evangelism director), Philip Sizemore (associate director and Outreach co-ordinator for the Lay Institute For Evangelism in Lady Lake, Florida) and Christopher Kramp (PEACE graduate, Bible worker and evangelist).

As many teens attended as adults, and they engaged in 'spiritual muscle building' with worship, prayer, lectures, and workshops to prepare them for 'spiritual battle'.

The ninety-plus 4-12-year-olds in the Heir Force studied Creation, and sang 'We Are Soldiers in the ARME'. Beulah Plunkett, Rochelle Wilkinson, Lazelle Porter, Thelma Plunkett, Tamara Bloom, Heather Haworth, and others were their 'squadron leaders'. The children created a giant mural of the Garden of Eden and came rushing in each day, insisting that their parents hurry up!

In addition to the camp's spiritual nurture, on Sunday night the chef for the weekend, Michael Graham, made a public proposal of marriage to the NEC Youth department secretary, Rachel Braithwaite – and she said yes!

This was the first ARME event in the United Kingdom. It will not be the last.

To see more of the weekend, go to: <http://vimeo.com/40076975>. DVDs of the weekend are available from www.necmedia.org.

BY JEFF NICHOLSON (NEC COMMUNICATIONS) AND BEULAH PLUNKETT (SABBATH SCHOOL & CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR) PHOTOS BY A. NICHOLSON AND OTHERS





Erdington Church gains new members

After being baptised at Handsworth Park in Birmingham on 3 September last year, as a result of Pavilion of Hope evangelistic meetings, Heather Crewe transferred her membership to the Erdington church where she now worships with her two sons.

Then, on 22 October, Kendrick Fagan and Opal Farrell were baptised at the Erdington church by Pastor Orlando Holder. Erdington Church members wish all three new members blessings in their fellowship.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG



Area 8 day of fellowship

On 28 April, more than 700 Seventh-day Adventists from twelve churches across Suffolk, Essex, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire met at Trinity Park, Ipswich, for their annual day of fellowship.

While the rain was lashing down outside, the members, families and guests, including the mayor of Ipswich, enjoyed presentations, speeches, music, and a Bible quiz.

The speakers were led in by Pathfinders, and the mayor, John Le Grys, thanked the Ipswich church for its work in the town before the main presentation from Pastor R. Bruinsma, from Holland, on how to reach postmodern people. This matched presentations from three churches on evangelism in their communities – Ark, in Rivenall, near Witham, was organising art and craft classes for the local community, the Southend church had a different approach and went on to the streets to give our health message, and the Ipswich church invited the community to a hot meal every Sabbath – every week between seventeen and thirty-eight turn up, and even help to serve themselves. Tracy, one of the members behind the project, said that at a recent prayer week people from the community outnumbered church members!

The day was finished with a Bible quiz – Cambridge Church came first, Great Yarmouth second, Ipswich third, and Colchester fourth out of twelve.

Members thank Pastor Sam Quadjo and his team for organising the event.

TREVOR HARRIS



From left: Pastor John Melki, Robin Antony, Vipooshika Robin, Pastor Paul Willmott, Pavithra Tharmarajasingam, Elder Brother Burton, Roshan Cruz.

Heaven rejoices for two at Wembley

Even though the Wembley International Seventh-day Adventist group had only been around for a year, they had two more baptisms on Sabbath 11 February 2012 – taking the total number of baptisms in a year to 6! North Wembley Church allowed the group to use their church for the baptism of Vipooshika Robin and Pavithra Tharmarajasingam by Pastor John Melki. Vipooshika had been struggling to accept the Sabbath even after her husband got baptised, but the Holy Spirit would not leave her out! Nineteen-year-old Pavithra had made the decision a long time ago, but circumstances prevented her from getting baptised sooner. She could not stop smiling all afternoon, and she says it was the best day of her life! The service was led by Elder Brother Burton (North Wembley), and Pastor Paul Willmott (Wembley International) preached to them in Tamil and English.

PAUL DHANARAJ

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Supported by the BUC Youth Department



Hats off to our youth

The youth of Lodge Causeway hosted a Valentine banquet on Saturday 18 February, to raise money for the Music department.

Twenty-four guests from the congregation attended in a celebration of love, especially of love between God and mankind. Cyril Boureau and Roman and Katarina Joachym provided music, and £220 was raised, with a possibility of more to come!

STEPHANIE ANDERSON



New home for Llandrindod Wells Church

Approximately twenty years ago, Pat and Ifor Gimson started a house group in Llandrindod Wells with Olwen and Beth Jones, and were later joined by Doctor Eric Syme and his wife Cecily Syme (née Kent). At first, meetings were held in members' homes, but later they moved to a school in Llandelwedd, Builth Wells, before renting a small church room from the United Reformed Church in Llandrindod Wells. Membership rose to thirty-three.

Now the company has moved to a chapel school room in Llandrindod Wells. The new address is: The School Room, Albert Hall Theatre, Ithon Road, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 6AS. All visitors are assured of a warm welcome!

IFOR GIMSON



'Flying squad' reaches runway

Twenty-three health ministry enthusiasts from the churches of Devon and Cornwall trained, over the weekend of 21-22 April, to become a new 'flying squad' for the SEC's Area 1. Elsie Staple (SEC Health Ministries director) and her assistants trained each person to operate a public health check programme, and the new team can be called in by any church in the area to run local health check outreach events. The team officially start this role after helping run the area's health check display at the Royal Cornwall Show in June.

PASTOR CHRIS PEAKE



The Erdington nativity play 2011

The Erdington Pathfinders' Club worked hard throughout the year, and finally put on a stunning nativity play last Christmas Eve. The church gives thanks to all the young people, the organisers and the visitors who came together to give glory to God.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG

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Friday night project (FNP) at Willesden Church

Approximately 120 young people from all over London, exhilarating praise and worship, a live band, testimonies and a message of hope – these were the ingredients of the Friday night project at the Willesden church on Friday 6 April.

FNP is, according to Darryn Shepherd, quite simply 'all about worship; experiencing family worship on a larger scale, in church, to a live band. Most importantly, however, it is a witnessing tool wherein young people are encouraged to bring their family, friends and neighbours to experience worship with a difference. You see, here they can be introduced to Jesus in an environment which is not as formal as the "Divine Service" for which they may not be quite ready.'

On this 'Good Friday', the Easter Story of Jesus' dying on the cross for mankind was the focus. Singing and testimonies brought the story alive, leading to commitment and re-commitment of lives to Jesus. And the testimony of the young people attending was that it had been a wonderful blessing!

NORMA ELAINE

Family enrichment at Wolverhampton Central

Sabbath afternoon, 10 March, saw the start of a six-day Family Life series at Wolverhampton Central: 'Straight Talk About Love, Intimacy and Relationships'. The guest speaker was Dr Alanzo Smith, a pastor and counsellor at the Greater New York Conference, USA. Dr Smith spoke on John 3:16 and the need to allow the Holy Spirit to impress the heart.

D. BARRETT



NEWBOLD

COLLEGE of HIGHER EDUCATION



Newbold appoints new college chaplain

Congratulations to Pastor Paul Golt, a 'warm, caring' pastor with 'a clear passion to share Christ and His love' – Paul will be Newbold College's new chaplain starting in the new academic year.

First Newbold College student awarded PhD through research degrees provision

Congratulations to Marko Lukic from Serbia on his successful candidature for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by Research at the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David.

'Marko Lukic will be the first Newbold College student to be awarded a PhD through our research degrees provision', confirmed Dr Philip Brown, principal of Newbold College. 'He will have his degree conferred on 13 July 2012 in Lampeter.' The title of Marko's thesis is: 'Early Adventism and Paradigm Change: A Study of Presuppositions in Core Adventist Doctrines'.

PHILIP BROWN, NEWBOLD PRINCIPAL



North England Conference vacancies Receptionist and Administrative Secretary

Closing date for applications – 5pm Tuesday 12 June
 Interviews will take place on Friday am 15 June 2012

We have two exciting and demanding roles open for energetic individuals who have a commitment to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Receptionist/Office Assistant – a role that demands a person who has a friendly public manner; who will not only answer the telephone but also meet members of the public and tradesmen. Other duties include handling enquiries, preparation of mail, operating photocopier, fax and franking machines, and so on. As front of office, this individual will not only receive and store parcels, but also assist with various back-of-office activities that will involve some *heavy lifting*. The successful applicant will be a person who is willing to be flexible in his or her approach to the work on hand.

Administrative Secretary – responsibilities will include routine secretarial and data-entry tasks and preparation of workshop materials, and will require competency in the Microsoft Office suite. Ability to work with graphics will be a bonus. The role involves working for more than one 'manager', so applicants will need to be able to work under pressure, adapt to constantly changing routines, meet deadlines and assist in the activities of the department concerned.

Salary and terms of employment will be in keeping with denominational policies and are available on request.

Interested individuals are invited to send a CV and a request for an application form to:
 Pastor Paul Haworth, Executive Secretary, North England Conference,
 22 Zulla Road, Nottingham, NG3 5DB.

We apologise for the late notice, but due to circumstances beyond our control the advert was delayed.

obituary

Lavine Monique McReynolds (1989-2012)

All the joy we ever needed was captured in her smile. She filled our world with sunshine, if only for a while.

To those who knew her, Lavine was a truly beautiful young lady. Equipped for life with so little that most take for granted, she was dependent on others for everything, but in return she gave almost the only thing she could – her smile.

Early on her mum and dad were told that she would not live beyond her second birth-

day, so the family decided that they would make that short life the happiest possible. Working together to give twenty-four-hour care, love and laughter, they saw her grow up with a never-to-be-forgotten



smile that won friends wherever she was taken.

Lavine enjoyed her school, the feel of fresh air on her cheeks, music and most of all the cuddles of those she knew. Unable to see, she knew, and would show it, when in the presence of those she liked – or not. Unable to eat, she loved the taste of chocolate placed on her lips. Unable to speak, she could express her feelings with (or without) that beautiful smile. Lavine's life was a testimony to the power of love to overcome all things. The love of her parents Norman and Margaret, her sisters Debbie and Lisa, and her uncle and aunt and family enriched her and gave her an inner strength that she did not have in herself. Love did more than keep her alive against all expectations; it enabled her to enjoy life, to feel safe and secure, and above all to return love to those who loved her – through her smile.

Lavine's funeral service on 13 April in Stanborough Park Church was attended by an army of friends, medical staff and carers from Watford, London and Helen and Douglas House Hospice in Oxford. Beautiful tributes, written by Debbie and Lisa and read by Uncle Peter, told of the many ways their lives had been enriched by hers. Sharing her joy for music, they chose 'You Raise Me Up', movingly sung by Paul Lee, as a memorable part of her funeral service.

A message of comfort and hope reminded us that '... all who live in love', as did Lavine, 'live in God, and God lives in them.' 1 John 4:16 (NLT). Now she rests in the Lord, and the family rejoices in the certainty that they will in the Resurrection Day see her smile again, but then in a body made beautiful and perfect by the Lord who loved her even more than we.
 PASTOR JIM HUZZEY



Running for ADRA

Manchester Southern Asia members participated in the NEC ADRA Fun Run in Leeds on 25 March, being encouraged by Pastor Mike Simpson and Pastor Cyril Sweeney, the NEC president. Their participation reminded them of the pains and struggles for survival that many people face every day, and also prompted a positive response from donors. They look forward to more opportunities to serve the Lord, and would like to encourage other church members to join them in giving for the Master's service.

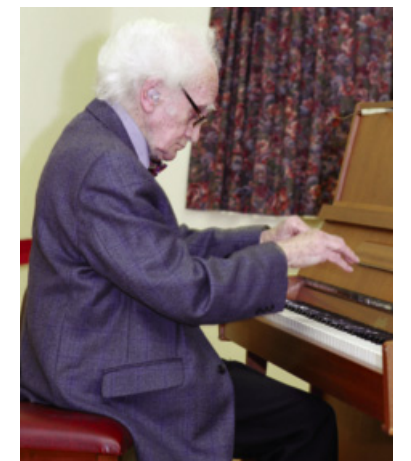
SANJAY SATHE

Piano recital raises funds for ADRA

On Thursday 12 April, Leslie Riskowitz LRAM, ARCM, concert pianist and member of Rhyl Church, gave an inspirational piano recital to raise funds for ADRA at Ffynngroyw Community Centre. Leslie interpreted works by Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Schumann, Chopin and Debussy, including 'Moonlight Sonata' and 'Clair de Lune', to glorify God, Author of musical splendour.

Refreshments were served after the concert, and £95 was given for the ADRA Appeal.

BARBARA GRIFFITHS



Attention: UK Adventists holidaying in Spain

One-bedroom apartment – very private, with own courtyard. Very quiet area 5 minutes from coast (Alicante Province). Long/short bookings. Contact Margaret Cole (Emm) on 0034 660 187117 (*this number was reported incorrectly in previous issues – this is the correct version*).

Welsh Mission Health Ministries Health Summit Equip to Serve

Hebron Hall Christian Centre, Dinas Powys, South Glamorgan, Wales

5-9 July 2012

Cost: £175 all-inclusive, £30 daily rate

Presenters: Sharon Platt-McDonald (BUC Health Ministries director)
 Grace Walsh (NEC Health sponsor)
Topics: Forgive to Live; Stress Management; Food Hygiene nutritional talks; Cookery demonstrations

Irving & Lil Saunders (Welsh Mission Health Ministries sponsors)
 Tel: 01792549412 or 07590042977,
 email: saunderslil@hotmail.com

Book now to secure a place.

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
 www.thewinningway.org.uk

The **Winning Way**
 11th - 17th June
 SEC CAMP MEETING 2012

30th Anniversary



15% OFF
 Until 29 Feb 2012

Mark Finley
 Former General Conference Vice-President
 Main Speaker

Roy Adams
 Previous Associate Editor at the Adventist Review
 Bible Study

Carlton Byrd
 Pastor at Oakwood University Church
 Youth Speaker

with Pastor Ian Sweeney & Pastor Sam Davis as the Teens' Speakers

Pontins, Brean Sands Holiday Park, Burnham on Sea, Somerset, TA8 2RJ



**2012
PATHFINDER
CAMPOREE**
13-19 August 2012
Blackwell Adventure, Blackwell, Bromsgrove, West Midlands B60 1PX

Theme: **RUNNING for Home**

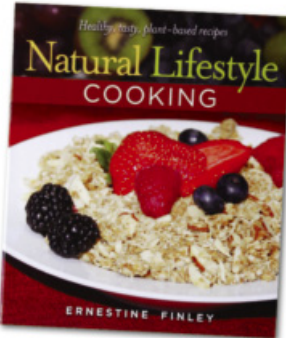
- The guest speaker is Pastor Israel Williams, who ministers in the SEC
- Loads of activities available, including water sports, new honours and tree-trekking
- Day trip to Alton Towers included
- Join 100s of Pathfinders from across the British Union and make friends for life
- Earn Pathfinder honours at camp

You won't want to miss it!

Visit www.bucpathfindercamporee.org.uk for all the details and forms you'll need.
Club leaders must register on the website and pay online for your club.

Remember, final deadline for all ticket sales is 30 June 2012.

For the latest news, sign up to Twoppy.com from your smart phone and search for BUC Pathfinder Camporee 2012.

New book of the week
**Natural Lifestyle
Cooking**
Ernestine Finley

Join Mark and Teenie Finley for dinner in this large, warmly illustrated vegetarian cookbook with mouth-watering wholesome recipes! Teenie has conducted 250 cooking classes, and her nourishing food keeps Mark in tip-top condition. Can you afford to miss out?

Contact ABC Sales on
01476 539900
to purchase your copy
at £17.95 plus p&p.

ABC BOOK SALES

June
11-17 SEC Camp Meeting
18-24 NEC Camp Meeting

ABC Shops
Watford, BUC
12.30-5pm, Monday-Thursday
10am-2pm, Friday

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

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



Exeter stars
Sheila Allen and Angela Waldron have been the star collectors for ADRA in Exeter Church for over a quarter of a century. This year they collected £1,283.01 between them out of the total of £2,086.01 for the whole church!

They cover the same territories every year, and some people expect their annual knock on the door! Sheila and Angela enjoy meeting the people – and, even though both of them experience health issues, they feel compelled to do all they can. Angela said, 'There is so much need in this

world, and that's what keeps us going.' Sheila will be 80 this year, and she tells people, 'At my age I wouldn't be climbing all these steps and walking up and down long pathways if I didn't believe in the charity.' Both ladies are greatly respected for their compassion and commitment in their communities.

STELLA JEFFERY

Transport for NEC camp meeting

Hubert Smiley has organised several coaches to take Seventh-day Adventist members across the Midlands to the NEC camp meeting. For details, phone Hubert Smiley on: 07868288310, 07831958114, 07736509625 or 01384 213 803.

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.

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

	Lond	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
May 25	9.01	9.13	9.12	9.37	9.40
Jun 1	9.09	9.21	9.21	9.48	9.49
8	9.15	9.28	9.28	9.56	9.57
15	9.20	9.32	9.32	10.01	10.02

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