

Messenger

News to the churches • 6 July 2012 • Volume 117 • 14

Down in Cornwall 'the surf is up'!

A report by Steven Hulbert, SEC Frontier Evangelist



As I drove towards the National Christian Surfers' Conference on Friday, 15 June, there was a small sadness in my heart at having to leave behind all the fun and real spiritual beauty I had experienced while helping out with the teens at the SEC camp meeting.

But here I was, driving through torrential rain in my van, about to go camping near Woolacombe, North Devon, on a weekend along with more than ninety other Christian surfers from around the UK. I was there to represent LIVE-St Austell, an Adventist church-plant where surfing is a significant part of our ministry.

Cornwall is the lively heart of the British surfing scene, and we have managed to meet and make friends with many surfers through our basketball programme in St Austell.

Why go to this national conference?

Christian Surfers is a worldwide organisation focused on reaching the millions of surfers and surfer communities that exist today. Here in the UK we have more than 300,000 surfers, but as the British Surfing Association becomes more organised and focused this number is bound to increase – especially as more and more competitions boost the profile of this sport.

'Not always waiting for the perfect conditions' was the theme for this year's conference, and the event focused on the importance of stepping out in faith and trusting God to bring everything together. Many inspiring stories and testimonies were shared throughout the weekend. The surfers also prayed for one another and shared God's Word together, giving each other encouragement for all they are doing in their towns and communities.

The weekend inspired us and helped us create a new network of friends throughout Cornwall, Devon, and Wales. We feel encouraged to continue what we have started and to trust God to bring about positive results.

New team formed

A final bit of news is that LIVE-St Austell has now teamed up with the group from Newquay and plans are underway for various combined projects, starting with a beach clean-up on 30 June. Projects like this bring our group to the attention of both surfers and the local community, helping us make friends and reach them for Christ. Please pray for our unique mission.



SECmedia presents

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New email contacts at the press

Good news – there are now several new ways available to church members of contacting staff at the Stanborough Press!

If you wish to make a purchase: In addition to the sales telephone number 01476 539900, you can also email us at: sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk.

If you wish to make a general enquiry: The new email address for any questions or queries you might have is: info@stanboroughpress.org.uk.

If you wish to fax something through to us: Our fax number is 01476 515900.

Both email addresses have been placed on the back page of MESSENGER, where they will continue to appear every issue. For article submissions via email, please continue to use the addresses: editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk (for text) and dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk (for large files, including high-resolution photographs). We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Enhancing Health

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

Golden eight — part 7b

Water: how much is enough?

If you are an adult, your total body weight will comprise of 55-70% water. All our body systems depend on water. For example: water carries nutrients to our cells, flushes toxins out of our vital organs, and provides a moist environment for tissues such as those found in the ears, nose and throat.

We lose water daily through breathing, perspiration, urination and defecation. That is why it is essential, for the optimal functioning of the body, that its water supply be replenished daily through the consumption of fluids and foods.

We acquire water from three sources: fluids (plain water or other beverages); foods (particularly fruits and vegetables); and as a by-product of chemical reactions in the body.

There are varying recommendations as to how much water is enough. A BBC News online article dated 2 April 2008 compared recommendations from the Food Standard Agency and the British Nutrition Foundation, which revealed the following:

In the UK, the Food Standards Agency's 'Eatwell' website recommends that we drink six to eight small glasses of fluid a day –

which is equivalent to 1.2 litres. This was, however, based on studies of fluid lost daily by the body, rather than suggested 'health benefits'.

The British Nutrition Foundation suggests slightly more and advises individuals to take between 1.5 and 2 litres daily.

Most people have heard other advice, like drinking eight 8-ounce glasses of water daily (around 1.9 litres). The Mayo Clinic states: 'Although the "8 by 8" rule isn't supported by hard evidence, it remains popular because it's easy to remember. Just keep in mind that the rule should be reframed as: "Drink at least eight 8-ounce glasses of fluid a day", because all fluids count toward the daily total.'

Other observations from the Institute of Medicine recommend higher amounts: 'The Institute of Medicine recommends that men consume 3 litres (about thirteen cups) of total beverages a day and women consume 2.2 litres (about nine cups) of total beverages a day. These guidelines are based on national food surveys that assessed people's average fluid intakes' – *About.com Sports Medicine* (6 February 2008).

Factors influencing fluid requirements:

- Exercise
- Environment
- Illness and health condition
- Pregnancy and breastfeeding.

In the next instalment we will review the Mayo Clinic's recommendations on these elements. We will also examine the consequences of dehydration and the risks associated with excess water intake that can lead to water intoxication.

Good health!



editorial

From time to time, usually without warning, I meet people who are truly unconventional. They do not conform cheaply to public opinion or queue to follow fashion. Their attitudes, values, thoughts and objectives are refreshingly different.

Art in the park

Why are these unconventional people so special? What do they bring to the party that others don't?

Have you ever wandered through an outdoor amateur art exhibition? Frame after frame filled with anything and everything. Landscapes, portraits, still life and nude studies – in every available medium, and combination thereof. It's all there, but nothing speaks to your soul. Nothing whispers: 'Take me home!'

Until, on the fringe of it all, you see something quite common, mundane, even boringly familiar, painted from a fresh perspective. An old theme infused with new vitality – something that will never seem the same again because of that artist's special touch.

Such is the gift that the unconventional give society. They help us see the world differently and discover new possibilities of being, thinking and doing.

Just yesterday . . .

Just yesterday, I met one of these unconventional individuals in the NEC camp meeting bookshop. There was nothing about her that made any initial impression on me. No stylish 'camp' coiffure, elegant outfit or recent pedicure.

'Hello,' was my opener, as she approached the till, 'isn't it a beautiful sunny day? But it won't be like that for long. They are forecasting cold, wet weather by Thursday.'

'Oh, is that so?' she replied with a broad, warm smile. 'The weather doesn't much bother me. I am too tied up and wrapped up with Jesus to mind much about the weather. I just accept whatever He sends us!'

I had just met my first 'tied-up-and-wrapped-up-with-Jesus' person.

Unconventional thinking

As we chatted, it became clear that she was not someone to waste time on our traditional weather pleasantries. For her the great blessing was that Jesus had put another day at her disposal – the weather He packaged it in was inconsequential!

This is typical unconventional thinking, and she is right! The real blessing is life and vitality – not clear sunny skies (much as we do appreciate them).

Unconventional action

I quickly found out that she was a Literature Evangelist, and that she had been selling our books from door to door for at least thirty

All tied up and wrapped up . . .



Julian Hibbert
Editor

years. Then she surprised me with another flash of unconventional thinking – and doing.

Last year as we were swept up in the excitement of another royal wedding, that of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, she had other thoughts.

The late Princess Diana's son was about to get married. What could she do to guide these newlyweds, helping them avoid the pitfalls of his parents' marriage? The answer soon became obvious. She would send them two relevant parenting books as their wedding gift.

So, while many of us were entangled in the romance and pageantry of the grand event, her unconventional approach to life led her to think with the wisdom of a godly mother and the passion of a missionary!

Wasted effort?

The Court of St James courteously acknowledged receipt of the gift – and she excitedly showed me the letter. But the sceptic inside me started mumbling something about there being 'no guarantee that they will be read – it was probably a wasted effort!'

'Yes, but what if they are read?' says another voice? God has taken on the odds before and won! After all, who expected Christ to rise on the third day?

John Stuart Mill

The nineteenth-century economist and philosopher, John Stuart Mill, made the following observation: 'That so few now dare to be eccentric [unconventional] marks the chief danger of the time.' He is right, and we need them in the Church today, too. We need those who think 'outside the box'. We need them to help us re-think our Adventism – thereby ensuring that it is always the authentic faith that God wants it to be.

Now, I will be the first to admit that not everything that is unconventional is necessarily good, or even better. Similarly, not every unconventional voice within the Church has its best interests at heart.

So how do we 'dare to be eccentric' while staying loyal to our Church?

All tied up and wrapped up with Jesus . . .

I think the lady I met in the bookshop has the recipe: she was 'all tied up and wrapped up with Jesus'.

This attitude is brought vividly to life in John 12:1-8 by the actions of Mary, Lazarus's sister. During her family's 'dinner' in honour of Jesus, she 'took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.' (Verse 3, NIV.)

This is unconventional behaviour at its best. It broke with tradition; left the onlookers speechless; set tongues wagging; and angered Judas because of its extravagance.

But none of this mattered to Mary, because she was 'all tied up and wrapped up with Jesus'. She was living out 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV 1984: 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he [or she] is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!' She was caught up in that 'Remain in me, and I will remain in you' experience of John 15:4 (NIV 1984), which is the safest place for anyone to be!

If we're 'all tied up and wrapped up with Jesus' the Church will be a safe and exciting place – for everyone – especially the unconventional 'saints' among us.



¹http://thinkexist.com/quotes/John_Stuart_Mill



Brave people

by Roy Adams, in *Adventist Review*, 28 February 2008

Perhaps like many of you reading this article, I feel I've lived a very sheltered life. For whatever reason, I've managed over the years to find myself well removed from the hotbeds of breaking trouble. During the dangerous civil rights marches and demonstrations of the 1960s, I was always far away from the epicentres of the conflict. When the FLQ (political) crisis hit Quebec in October 1970, leading to the imposition of Canada's War Measures Act, I'd already left the area for Ontario. And while hundreds of thousands, risking life and limb, took to the streets of Manila in 1986 in the (so-called) People Power Revolution that toppled President Ferdinand Marcos, my family and I were ensconced in relative safety some 90 minutes away from the storm.

My lot thus far has been to watch, from the safety of my television, others getting shoved around, others getting beaten, others getting arrested. My nose has never been punched out of joint or my head bloodied for standing up for anything. I feel like a spectator on the sidelines of history, smugly observing the courage of those who man the barricades, face down the tear gas, and stand up to the pepper spray and water cannon for a cause they support.

These thoughts came to me some time last month as I followed reports on a garbage crisis – of all things – gripping the city of Naples in southern Italy, where some 100,000 tons of rubbish had piled up in the streets, scandalising the entire nation, and even getting the attention of the European Union.

But what struck me most

profoundly about the story was a dimension brought out by veteran reporter Sylvia Poggioli, senior European correspondent for National Public Radio, about the role played by Italian author Roberto Saviano.¹

After scouring court records, the 28-year-old writer went undercover to infiltrate the Camorra (the local mafia), eventually exposing the group as the wicked culprits behind the garbage crisis. His book, *Gomorra*, documented the Camorra practice of combining 'dangerous toxic wastes' from companies in the north of Italy

with 'cement, non-metal car parts, and even the remains of the dead . . .', and then dumping the lethal trash into landfills in Naples. The billion-dollar business, says Saviano, has created a 'silent plague that has killed hundreds and hundreds of people.'

Today, Poggioli said, 'Saviano goes everywhere with a 24-hour police escort. For more than a year, he has been living under a Camorra death sentence triggered by his book.'

And that's what caught my attention. Here's a young reporter with the courage to take on the mafia in a region that, according to the report, 'has the highest murder rate in Europe.'

Could I have done that? And more to the point, would I?

Far-fetched, you're probably saying? Then let's bring it closer to home. You're in a group of Adventists on a Saturday night where a movie is in progress with four-letter words and other obscenities flying – are you brave enough to object? You're part of a group in which racial slurs are being thrown around in jest – what do you do? You're on a committee where the reputation of someone not present comes under vicious attack – do you remain silent?

If we're content to stand down

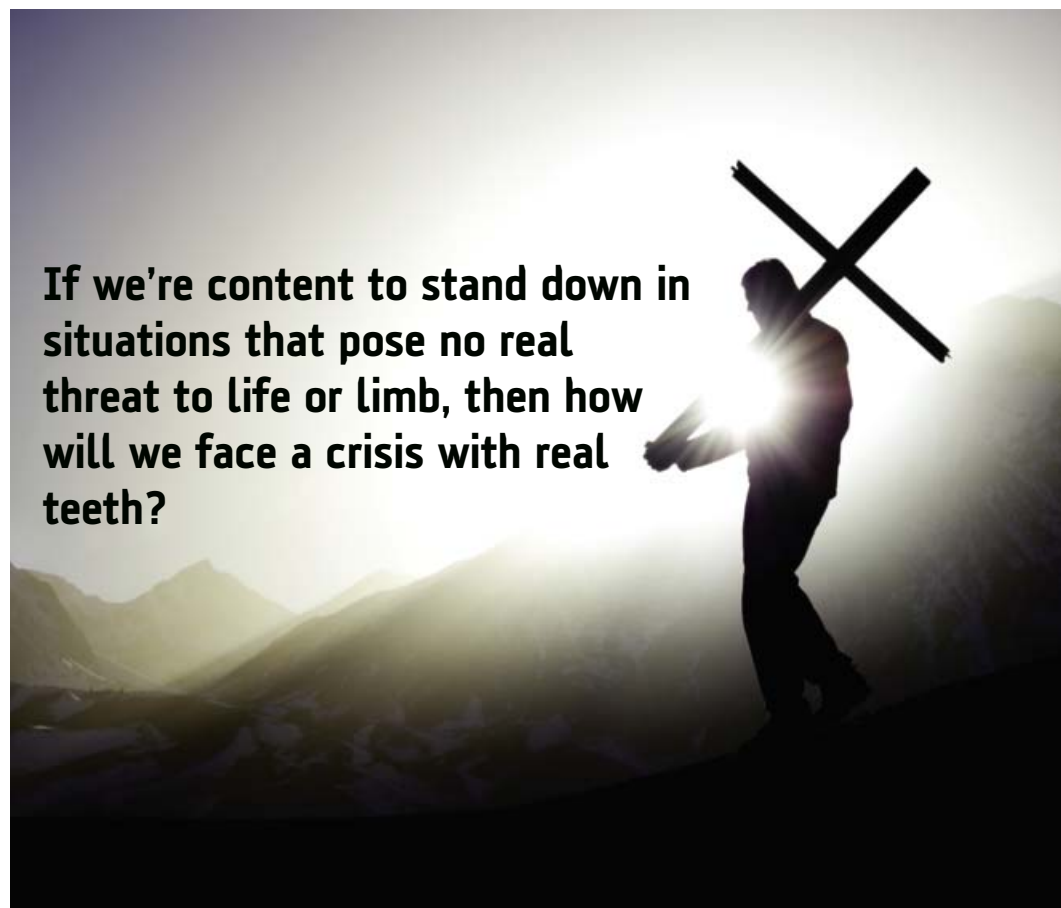
in situations that pose no real threat to life or limb, then how will we face a crisis with real teeth? Many of us, in cowardly neutrality, await 'the time of trouble' – the big one, when we'll demonstrate to all and sundry what stuff we're made of. But 'if you stumble in safe country, how will you cope in the jungle of the Jordan?' (Jeremiah 12:5, paraphrased.)

Perhaps 'brave' is not the best word for the Christian setting. For in the spiritual realm it's really not our personal bravery that matters, but the power of God. I use the word, however, to make the point that often I see in 'people out there' a quality I believe God wants His people 'in here' to possess.

I see it in a prominent opposition leader holding firm under house arrest for more than a decade. I see it in a man standing in solitary defiance in front of a high-powered machine gun in a huge city square. And I see it in a young attorney hanging on to his convictions while languishing in a South African prison for twenty-seven long years.

Brave people – courageous, daring, fearless. Am I a member of their tribe? Are you?

¹www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=18028075



If we're content to stand down in situations that pose no real threat to life or limb, then how will we face a crisis with real teeth?

outreach

Olympic Outreach Timeline App



After months of hard work and earnest prayer, the **Official Adventist Church Olympic Outreach App** is here. A team of volunteers has collated all the summer evangelism plans from churches across the South England Conference. These have been uploaded to the iPhone app, a timeline that shows events happening during all aspects of the London Olympic Games.

With the torch relay visiting more than 1,000 towns in the UK, many churches have taken

the opportunity to meet their communities through festivals and street parties.

There are more than eighty events reported so far, spanning the whole Olympic period, and some months beyond that. Health expos, Holiday Bible schools, cookery clubs, boot camps, sports tournaments and youth cafés are just a few of the exciting ways churches are planning to share Jesus during this special time.

Download the app now to see what's happening near you! Send it to a friend or neighbour as a 'gentle' way to share the Gospel. And don't forget to rate and show your support for Olympic outreach in 2012.

Keep in touch at: www.live-uk.org, or send us details of your events at: sdaolympicoutreach@gmail.com.



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).

with Andrew Puckering



Tough love

When the time called for it, Jesus properly laid in to the scribes and Pharisees – he called them hypocrites, pretenders, and sons of hell (Matthew 23:13-15); blind guides, fools and whitewashed tombs (Matthew 23:16-27); serpents, vipers and murderers (Matthew 23:33-35). He didn't hold back from giving them a thorough, accurate diagnosis of their condition. We might assume – since He started the passage by speaking 'to the multitudes and to His disciples', referring to the Pharisees only in the third person (Matthew 23:1-12, NKJV) – that He wasn't speaking directly to them. However, when at the house of a Pharisee, Jesus said the same things in his hearing – and when a lawyer complained that he felt hurt, Jesus said lawyers were just as bad as the Pharisees (Luke 11:37-52). This echoes similar comments made by 'Elijah who is to come', the one sent to prepare the way for Jesus, John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-12; 11:14, NKJV).

Such condemnation is never without a purpose, though. Look what Jesus said right after denouncing the Pharisees in Matthew 23: 'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!' (Matthew 23:37, 38, NKJV.) He clearly cared a lot for those same killers that He was denouncing, and the denunciation was to help get them back on track – whom He loves, He chastens (Hebrews 12:5-11).

Compare this with the time when Jesus' tax was due. Jesus, while explaining to Peter that He was under no more obligation to pay tax to the Pharisees than was a prince to a king, nevertheless provided a miracle to pay it with the words, 'Nevertheless, lest we offend them' (Matthew 17:27, NKJV). He didn't want to upset their feelings when He knew it wouldn't do any practical good, in accordance with other Scriptures telling fathers not to provoke their children (Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21).

Strife with no healing, reconciling purpose is stirred up by hatred, and pride, and anger (Proverbs 10:12; 13:10; 15:18). Those who love arguments love sinning (Proverbs 17:19)! Some of God's children even go through the motions of holiness just to get into arguments (Isaiah 58:1-4) – but true holiness focuses more on meeting the needs of others than riling them for no purpose (Isaiah 58:5-14). It's far better to pursue peace and edify each other than to destroy the work of God by putting stumbling blocks in each other's way (Romans 14:19-21).

This goes both ways, of course – just as we're called not to offend without cause, so too we're also called to turn the other cheek (Matthew 5:38-42); to be slow to anger, as God is (Proverbs 16:32; Psalm 145:8); to stop our ears to things which cause disputes instead of godly edification (1 Timothy 1:4). People who have love in their hearts are not easily provoked (1 Corinthians 13:5), and if you find yourself getting angry at your brother and calling him a fool, you're in very grave danger indeed (Matthew 5:22).

Yes, we're called to reprove and rebuke – but also to exhort, and with all longsuffering and doctrine (2 Timothy 4:2) – not with bitterness and envy. Christ calls us not to be on the attack, not to be so defensive, but to be builders, reconcilers, repairers of the breach, and restorers of streets to dwell in (Isaiah 58:12). This is the way of Christ.

- How many times does Scripture describe God as 'slow to anger'?
- What makes God angry? (Romans 1)
- What does the wrath of man produce? (James 1)
- Which people are best to reprove? (Proverbs 9)
- How do we reprove those who judge others without appearing judgemental?

'God's Way – Our Way'

Reports by Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication director

Scottish Mission day of fellowship

Sir William Wallace, Scottish hero and patriot, is a bit of a celebrity in Stirling. He may have died 700 years ago, but a tower, celebrating his victory over the English armies of Edward I, stands tall and proud above the town. Meeting in Wallace High School, just below the tower, Scottish Adventists also found themselves to be patriots – of a higher King and calling than that of national politics. Under the theme, 'God's Way – Our Way', almost 400 members gathered from across Scotland on Sabbath, 9 June 2012.

The patriotism was clear in the Sabbath School prayer. Mission president Pastor Bernie Holford noted that from a Scottish Mission membership of just over 500, five missionaries were about to head out

on active service to India, Asia and the Middle East. One of those, Alex Podbrensky, shared a vision of his time at Nile Union Academy in Egypt. He is now preparing to take up a role at Middle East University in the Lebanon.

Nearer home, Pastor Obi Iheoma shared how the Faifley church-plant had rapidly become an important part of the Clydebank community. He told how one local councillor, who recently came to the official opening of their new building, has since turned up on a Sabbath morning simply stating, 'I felt like worshipping today.' There are now four Scottish friends who are worshipping regularly with them, including a 79-year-old who is now coming to church for the first time since age 7.

Even as he spoke, members of the Faifley Youth Choir were singing their witness as the Olympic torch passed through their community.

These members clearly were putting into practice the practical message of loving witness shared by BUC executive secretary, Pastor Paul Lockham, during the lesson study. 'Can you command love?' he asked, noting that 'loving one another' is a heart response to the way Christ loves us.

Pastor Ian Sweeney, BUC president, took the dangerous step of borrowing someone else's glasses to start his sermon. The result? The whole congregation was out of focus. He noted, 'You're the same people, but through glasses you look different.' In a two-part presentation he then looked at our Church today through the glasses of Revelation 3 and the message to the Laodicean church. While this can often be seen as a negative message, Sweeney highlighted the fact that, despite the failings of Laodicea, God still loves them. 'Today our Church is being called to be hot because Christ still loves me.'

During his afternoon presentation Sweeney noted that the problem of Laodicea is that it is a 'Christless church'. Christ is on the outside knocking. What is the major problem of the Church today? Sweeney listed everything from the Jesuits to worship style, doctrinal issues and dress codes. However, he stated, the major problem is not these: it is a problem of the heart. And the heart of Christianity is Christ. 'The Saviour is waiting to enter your heart', he stated, quoting the famous Ralph Carmichael song. The appeal was clear: 'Why don't you let Him come in?'

Music through the day demonstrated that the message of Christ was in the hearts of a range of talented musicians and singers, including a West of Scotland choir, groups from various churches, and the highlight of the day, a 'scratch' youth orchestra from the Glasgow area who brought a smile to every face with their rendition of 'Soon and very soon'.

As the day closed and chairs and equipment were stacked away, a number took the opportunity to climb the hill to the Wallace Monument. Deep conversations could be heard around the plateau. Many miles of Scottish countryside came into view, and the question on many minds was on how to implement the message of the day, opening our hearts to Christ, and sharing His love with our community.

A selection of photos from the day can be seen on the BUC website: <http://www.adventistpictures.org.uk/gallery/2012/SMdof/>.

Lifetime Achievement Award for Pastor John Arthur OBE

It was like a family gathering! At a break during the Scottish Mission day of fellowship on Sabbath 9 June, Stephen Cooper, ADRA director for the Trans-European Division, paid special tribute to the work of his uncle, Pastor John Arthur.

He highlighted the vision that Pastor Arthur had had for ADRA over many years, climaxing in his work in Albania, before presenting him with a Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of ADRA International. Hearty applause from the congregation demonstrated their thorough approval. Pastor Arthur, who holds an OBE for his service to humanity, stated that he was humbled at the recognition his life of service has received.

1. Congregation. 2. Pastor John Arthur is presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by Stephen Cooper. 3. Children's activities. 4. Executive committee. 5. Pastor Bernie Holford presents Carole Barratt-Peacock with flowers. 6. Committee meetings. 7. Leafing through the report book.



'Take a chance with us!'

A report of the Scottish Mission triennial session, held on Sunday, 10 June 2012, at Crieff, Scotland.

'Take a chance with us!' pleaded Edinburgh delegate, Patrick Dillon. In the middle of an honest debate on church growth and reaching out beyond our cultural comfort zones he stated, 'Can't get through to Scottish people? I'm Scottish. God got through to me.' Baptised in 1998, Patrick is regularly to be found witnessing on Princes Street, Edinburgh, along with his new friends from the African community that make up the majority of Edinburgh members. His was, perhaps, the most important statement of the day, and provoked lots of positive discussion. However, it was but a reflection of the emphasis in every report and every discussion throughout the seven hours of the session.

Patrick argued that we are 'too defensive' as a Church, adding that 'we have a commission to go forth.' Stephen Barratt-Peacock emphasised that he works daily surrounded by Scottish people, and would love more Scottish accents in the Church. Donovan Matambo from Edinburgh asked, 'What are we doing to equip an army that is ninety-percent immigrant to reach out to the Scottish?' One answer came from Cedrene Botha, who noted their involvement with a local sports club where they are building bridges in a community that is almost exclusively Scottish or English.

BUC president Pastor Ian Sweeney's morning devotional, humorously looking at the 'ignoble report' for useless scientific research projects, pointed out that, in all we do, we must be a relevant people.

With eighty-one delegates seated at the start of business, BUC executive secretary Pastor Paul Lockham noted that behind every statistic is a story. With an increase from 426 to 523 over the past three years, his particular joy was to note sixty baptisms. Part of the reason for this, as BUC treasurer Victor Pilmoor noted, was that the Scottish Mission executive committee had made a conscious choice to run with a deficit budget over two years in order to employ an extra minister. However, even with a tithe increase of 12%, this would be a challenge to maintain in the long term.

Amid positive reports and questions on various departments' activities, the main purpose of the day went on in the background. The nominating committee met for most of the day to select an executive committee and sponsors. Near the close they reported with a list of sponsors that added emphasis to Youth and Pathfinder ministry, and also added a sponsor for Community Services, an increasingly important part of ministry in the mission.

The voted leaders for the next three years are:

Sponsors:

Children's Ministries: Mrs Jeniffer Oroko; Church Growth: Mr Obi



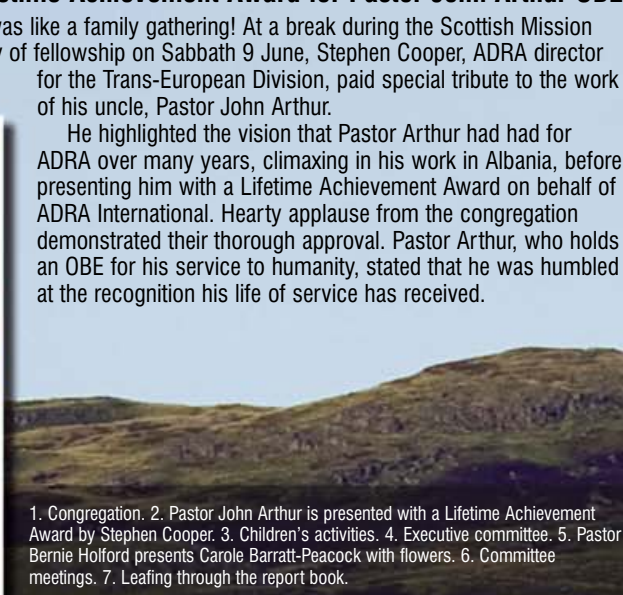
Iheoma; Communication: Pastor James Botha; Community Services: Mr John Wilby; Family Ministries: Mrs Karen Holford; Health Ministries: Pastor David Hatch; Pathfinders & Adventurers: Pastor Clifford Herman; Associate Pathfinders & Adventurers: Mr Filip Bajic; Prayer Ministries: Ms Beavon Sanderson; Trust Services & Stewardship: Pastor Bob Rodd; Women's Ministries: Ms Judith Martin; Youth & Teens: Pastor Marcel Ghioalda.

Executive committee:

Pastor Bernie Holford, Pastor Paul Lockham, Mr Victor Pilmoor, Mr Owen Anderson, Mrs Grace Bull, Miss Martina Emrich, Pastor Marcel Ghioalda, Dr Stephen Logan, Mr Chifundo Makuta, Mr Andy McKie, Miss Audrey Mutongi, Pastor Neil Robertson.

The day concluded with the voting of a Scottish Mission Vision and Outline of Goals statement highlighting spiritual nurture, mission outreach, community bridge-building and leadership development.

A selection of photos from the day and an audio recording of Pastor Sweeney's devotional are available at: <http://www.adventistpictures.org.uk/gallery/2012/SMsession/>.



SEC camp meeting 2012

With standing room only on the opening night, the South England Conference camp meeting of 2012 looked set to be a great success – and it was! What follows is a brief synopsis of the event.

by Pastor Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist, based on reports by Jon Gendle and Sam Davies.

A return to the Brean Sands venue seems to have contributed to the good attendance, with shorter distances to travel no doubt being a significant factor. In fact, when more coaches arrived on Sabbath they even had to use the foyer as an overflow for the morning service.

Nostalgia

This year's event marked the thirtieth anniversary of camp meeting at the local conference level, and there were many nostalgic moments during the week.

One of the highlights was the screening of a video about the history of camp meeting, produced in collaboration by the SEC Communication and Media director and the General Conference (www.secmmedia.org).

But Pastor Perry, one of the early agitators for a South England Conference camp meeting, was not to be outdone, and on the Saturday night, during the concluding interview, he and Pastor Anthony had the audience in stitches with their reminiscences of that first camp. They told of how the rain was so heavy that it poured down inside the main tent, and that the Adventists bought out the local shop's entire stock of wellington boots.

There was also a presentation of photos from past camp meetings – of both pastors and members – much to the amusement of the congregation.

Camp meeting's 'school'

Caroline Kamara was present at the first camp meeting as a 10-year-old child, and she recalled not only the wellingtons and the dreadful weather, but that Stanborough School had allowed them to attend camp meeting in school term, on condition that they 'kept up with their studies' in a special classroom that was set up for this purpose!

Pastor Perry honoured

A video screened in honour of Pastor Cecil Perry's long service to the Church drew this response from him: 'I did not ride down the Thames with a golden "flotilla", but this is my diamond jubilee as an Adventist in this Church!' (Video will soon be available at www.secmmedia.org.)

Pastor Finley

The evening speaker, Pastor Mark Finley, took

the congregation through the book of Revelation, bringing to light the central focus of Christ throughout the book: reminding the church that, in the great conflict between good and evil, God will win.

Early services

Large numbers attended the early morning prayer and praise services led by Pastor Emmanuel Osei and his team of pastors and Bible workers. Pastor Steve Riley's morning sermons were also deeply appreciated, according to Amos Onchiri from Milton Keynes Central: 'Pastor Riley's message made the concept of grace so simple to understand. I was touched by his sermons.' The Friday morning anointing service demonstrated just how many of our members desire healing.

Plain-speaking Brennen

The plain-speaking and witty Pastor Barrington Brennen was an instant attraction on the topic of family life, dealing boldly and practically with intimate subjects normally considered taboo. Zenzo Kumahlo of West Bletchly Church said, 'He is so plain that it's not difficult to understand the topic he is talking about. He took the "taboo" out of these topics!'

Bible study

This year's Bible study programme was conducted by Dr Roy Adams, author and former associate editor of *Adventist Review* and *Adventist World*. He used a friendly approach, with simple stories and personal experiences, and a quiet passion that displayed his desire for us to respond to the call of being evangelists, called by God, to deliver the message to the lost.

Children and Youth ministry

Unlike thirty years ago, the younger children did not have school while at camp, but the BUC's Malika Bediako made sure their programme was exciting and inspiring. The juniors enjoyed Richard Aguilera, an architect by profession, who devotes his spare time to helping children

with those tough questions that Christian children have to deal with in school and society.

It's not only the junior youth who enjoyed these presentations. Pontins staff sat in eagerly on the sessions – and, to use the words of one of them: 'This is really interesting, the staff are talking about these presentations and I was looking forward to my turn to be on duty here.'

'The teens' venue was the place to be Thursday night', according to Pastor Ian Sweeney, who, alongside Pastor Sam Davis, was the main speaker for this group. Pastor Sweeney was not reflecting on his own sermons, but on the powerful testimonies that the teens shared, and how they experienced families being ripped apart by death, divorce and abuse. One teen shared her experience of surviving a stabbing; another young man told about his friend's blood running through his hands as he was holding him after he was stabbed. Twenty teens decided to be baptised in their local church. The teens were not the only ones affected by the testimonies, praise, worship and preaching. The Pontins staff joined in the singing, asking the leaders about God and prayer.

Dr Robert Bushner was the main youth speaker, and through his popular style he was able to inspire and challenge the youth not to be deceived by Satan.

Back to Finley

As always, Pastor Finley took his listeners with him; before moving on, he would repeat the main points covered, to ensure that none of his audience got left behind.

Pastor Emmanuel, who was watching the screen in the overflow area in the foyer, said he still felt involved and enjoyed it: 'It was wonderful. This man has touched my heart. Everything about this service is nice. I've been to many services, but this is spectacular.'

We give the last word to Ms Garnes, from Balham Church: 'Absolutely fantastic. Makes you think; makes you want to do better; makes you want to study more and get more into God's Word.'

This, and much more, was the SEC camp meeting 2012 – make sure you don't miss the next one!



1. Sam Davis interviewing 1982 camp meeting founder Pastor Cecil Perry. 2. A chance to meet with friends. 3. Two members of the Ghanaian choir. 4. A packed auditorium. 5. Kids just wanna have fun! 6. Pastor Mark Finley addressing the adults. 7. Junior game show. 8. Teens staff worship led by Pastor Paul King Brown. 9. Eager note-taking. 10. Sioned Bullock receives her Holiday Bible Club certificate from Pastor Nathan Stickland.



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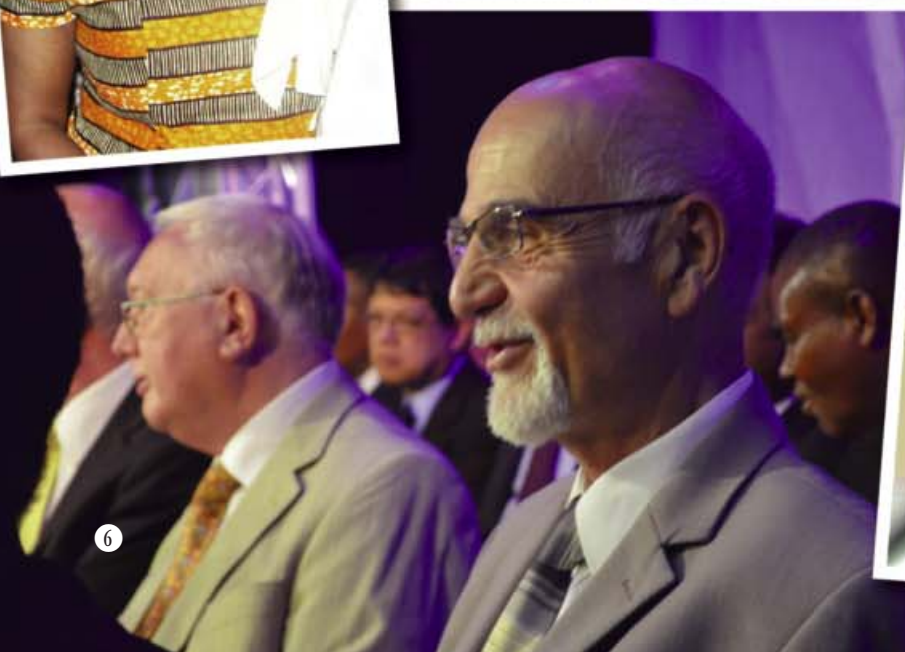
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1. Pastor & Mrs Finley with Pastor Rios and sons. 2. Youth & Adult speaker Dr Rupert Bushner. 3. Matthew and Naomi. 4. Family speaker Barrington Brennen in discussion. 5. Happy to be at camp meeting. 6. Aris Vontzalidis. 7. Dr Rupert Bushner speaking to the youth. 8. Pastor Mark Finley addressing the ordinands and wives. 9. Ordination candidate Pastor Dejan Stojkovic. 10. Ordination candidate Pastor Quaye. 11. Ordination candidate Pastor Juan Carlos Patrick. 12. Pastor Terry Messenger congratulating newly ordained Pastor Kwarteng-Ampofo. 13. Pastors placing their hands on the newly ordained gentlemen.

SEC ordination service

based on a report by Pastor Jon Gendle

When South England Conference president, Sam Davis, opened the ordination service he noted that some people had eaten lunch in their seats, so keen were they not to miss the service.

The four ordinands were presented in the following sequence:

Dr Ebenezer Sackey smilingly introduced Kwadwo Kwarteng-Ampofo and his wife Comfort. For years, Kwadwo had travelled from Newbold to London to worship each Sabbath with the Lewisham group, which eventually became the London Ghana church. After just a year Kwadwo was asked to join the team of elders. He went wherever he was sent; showed the spirit of leadership and evangelism; and gave Bible studies night and day – helping out in all the churches that they opened.

Lewis and Grace Quaye were introduced by Dr Andrew Lawrence Ewo, who had flown from Ghana for the occasion. He recalled how, in 1987, while ministerial secretary of his union, Lewis entered his office looking for a place where he could serve. Within just two months, he had seen the qualities of dependability, teachability and humility in Lewis, and a church was placed in his care.

Pastor Duarte introduced Juan Carlos Patrick and his wife, Malle, reminding Juan that 'a man can have no greater honour than to be accepted by God as a minister of the Gospel' and urging him to 'uplift Jesus as the only hope for sinners.'

Dejan Stojkovic and his wife, Deana, were introduced by Pastor Japhet De Oliveira (who had also flown in from the USA) and Ian Sleeman, after a crowd of young adults in the congregation cheered, whooped and clapped them to the platform in a style befitting a pastor who has specialised in working with youths and young adults.

Reflecting the sporting theme of the Olympic year, Pastor Sleeman observed that 'Ministry is not a hundred-yard dash; it is a marathon', and that 'Ministry successes can drain you as much as ministry failures. . . . You are responsible for your own actions and your own response, but not the response of others.'

Mark Finley used the charge of Paul to Timothy in his second letter as the basis for his ordination sermon.

'In these four chapters we have the essence of ministry: in chapter one, the



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essence of ministry is to know the Master; in chapter two, to know the message; in chapter three, to know the moment; in chapter four, to know the mission.'

He continued: 'The minister is an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of Jesus Christ. You know you are called, because you cannot do anything else.'

Among his other points Finley stressed that churches 'expect authenticity and genuineness' and that the pastors needed to 'above all else, know Christ . . . God has not called you simply to watch over the faithful but to call the unfaithful' to repentance.

Quoting William Carey, he concluded: 'Attempt great things for God, and expect great things from God. . . . May this be your calling, may this be your destiny.'

Pastor Cecil Perry prayed the consecratory prayer and the charge was given by BUC president, Pastor Ian Sweeney.



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Waiting for the Second Coming – at Brecon

by Pastor John Surridge, Welsh Mission president

This year's spring Brecon Camp was delayed for a week to coincide with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Pastor Stephen Eastwood, a 'missionary kid' born in Australia but who grew up in England, flew in from California (where he has lived for seventeen years) to speak on the Second Coming of Christ. 'God is moving', he said. 'If we don't go along with Him then He's going to move with other people.'

'Jesus also experiences the pain of waiting for His return', Stephen said. 'I can picture Him going to the Father in Heaven and asking, "Is it today? Can I go now?"'

'Other denominations and theologians are now accepting the biblical teachings on the Sabbath and the Second Coming,' Stephen said, 'but the issues that Jesus talks about are more to do with feeding the hungry, being hospitable to strangers, and visiting the sick and the prisoners. . . . Sometimes the narrow way is to go where the world is, and carry Jesus with you.'

The marquee was decked out in flags, balloons and bunting, and the campers sang 'God Save the Queen' before sharing a Jubilee lunch and the Jubilee quiz (put together by Ross Maidment).

We would like to thank all who helped – particularly Liz and Andy, who ran the kitchen, and Pastor Jeremy Tremeer, who was in overall charge. Our autumn camp will run from Friday 7 to Sunday 9 September. If you'd like to come, please contact Jeremy on: 029 2083 2559.

For pictures from the weekend, visit the Welsh Mission website at: www.adventistwales.org. Pastor Stephen Eastwood has his own blog at: <http://simplepastor.com>.



Two baptised at Wakefield

On Sabbath 2 June, two were baptised at the Wakefield church: a small boy (Serumu Adjenughure) and a young lady (Metiwa Ikowa). With them in the picture are Pastor Barry Stokes and NEC president, Pastor Cyril Sweeney.

ROY ZINYEMBA

Stonebridge praise and thanksgiving day

Praise and thanksgiving were offered at Stonebridge Church on Sabbath 7 April. Orville Braithwaite from Stratford Church took our Sabbath School lesson, with Paulette Marcey singing and Tavanna Green giving a beautiful personal mission story.

During Divine Service, Pastor Mannix introduced the theme of the day, Marie Fletcher led a season of prayer, and Mark Bunney and Janine offered powerful music. The sermon was delivered by Pastor Ray Patrick, who is also the head elder of Stonebridge Church: he said we have to go through storms, but they can make us stronger, and if we hold on to God He will always deliver us.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



Andy Osei; Delroy Francis; Pr Richard Jackson (NEC ministerial secretary); Stephen Afriyie; Sara Francis; Pr Isaac Amofa (Piccadilly); Mrs Punie Sebesagae; Mary Omoako; Pr Frederick Mapp (local pastor); Evelyn Asare; Constance Botchey; Pr Cyril Sweeney (NEC president); David Harvey; Tanaka Ngwenya; Stella Harvey.

Eleven baptised at Manchester South

On Sabbath 6 May, Manchester South Church celebrated the baptism of eleven souls, in a day themed on commitment.

Puni had been grieving the loss of her husband and seven months pregnant, and was in despair as to how to repatriate her husband's body to South Africa. Several members of the Gorton church who lived in her neighbourhood offered prayers and support, both in her home and at the Chapel of Rest. Arranging a monetary collection, the church enabled Puni to repatriate her husband.

Overwhelmed by their love, Puni began attending the Gorton church, shortly followed by Bible studies and her baby's dedication on 28 April. Shortly after, she decided to be baptised.

Tanaka, a student from Zimbabwe, knew no one, but felt welcomed by the strong student fellowship and was soon adopted into the church family. Tanaka took Bible studies, culminating in her baptism.

Pastor Richard Jackson declared: 'Real commitment is . . . twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week . . . and if you're really committed to God it will show.' The charge of commitment was given by Pastor Cyril Sweeney, NEC president.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

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Wolverhampton's triple Jubilee celebration

On Monday 4 June, Wolverhampton Central celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Jamaica's fiftieth year of independence, and the church's fiftieth anniversary!

The event, 'Building Our Community for God's Glory', was co-ordinated by the community centre and the Youth department, and involved the wider community, with a steel band, Pathfinders drumming, live music and games, and food.

All praise to God – and may He bless the Queen, Jamaica and Wolverhampton Central!

DOREEN BARRETT

National vegetarian week at Barnsley

Barnsley church members made full use of national vegetarian week (21-27 May) by opening the church on two afternoons and evenings for the public to come in and taste a variety of vegetarian dishes.

Free recipe sheets were offered, along with copies of *Vibrant Life* and *FOCUS* health specials. Also available were information books and leaflets supplied by the British Heart Foundation.

All who sampled the various dishes made very favourable comments. Twelve members of the public have already signed up for a follow-up course based on NEWSTART, which will be beginning shortly.

HAZEL SCHOLES



Health and temperance day at Stonebridge

The message of the Stonebridge health and temperance day was brought to us by Joanne Lindsay, who used as proof Jesus' words from John 10:10 (NIV): 'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.' Joanne also reminded congregants that, if we truly desire it and seek the Lord, He will provide for all our needs – so there is no need to worry (Matthew 6:25-34).

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



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Jubilee weekend at Sutton Church

Sutton Church had a busy weekend for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. On Sabbath there was a Jubilee theme in the children's story, by Sue Anscombe: she made heavenly flags and golden crowns for the children, telling them that the greatest Jubilee party of all would be in Heaven with Jesus.

On Sunday, the chairman of Ashfield District Council, Councillor Kenneth Knight, and his wife Janice were invited to our special Jubilee dinner, and to plant a commemorative tree. Members of the public who had attended our previous outreach programmes were also invited to the dinner. Councillor Knight and his wife both said they had enjoyed the evening and would like to be invited back soon.

MORAY STEWART



Jubilee service at Hemel Hempstead

On Sabbath 2 June, Hemel Hempstead Church held a Jubilee service, with lavish decorations, cupcakes, poetry, entertainment, the Hallelujah Chorus, and a reading of the Queen's 2007 Christmas Speech. The children sang, and the Kindergarten group, using tiny bells, gave us the tones of Big Ben.

Karen Plaatjes preached that, as Christians, we are on display and people are watching us: we need to be conscious of this as we live for Christ – just like the Queen!

JOHN BUTTERS

Erdington's Ingathering for ADRA

Erdington's Ingathering for ADRA-UK saw church members collect £4,976.11 this year. Don Parker collected the most – £2,684.48, about 54% of the church's total – by concentrating on the good friends he has made over the years.

Don, in his spare time, works as a voluntary driver for the Bee Line charity in North Warwickshire, taking patients to clinics, hospitals and GPs' surgeries and talking to them as he does so. When Don told one generous 83-year-old lady about the worldwide humanitarian work of ADRA, she donated £40!

There are so many people willing to give if we meet them where they are and provide a service for their needs, rekindling their generosity and love for Jesus.

Local ADRA agent Iris Thompson thanks all members who went door-to-door for ADRA this year.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG



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Diamond Jubilee street party at Erdington

Erdington and the local community held a Diamond Jubilee street party on 5 June in the Wood End Lane area, attended by Councillors Jones and Holbrook of Stockland Green and Erdington, the fire brigade and the locals who helped to organise it and raise money for the occasion. Birmingham City Council donated £500 to support the celebration.

A steel band and DJ provided music, and food and drink, singing, dancing and aerobic sessions were enjoyed in the street. The children also enjoyed two giant bouncy castles and trips to see the fire engines!

The church wishes to thank everyone involved for making the street party a success.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG



Portsmouth members 'see red' for charity

Portsmouth members celebrated Wear Red Day on Sabbath 25 February – supporting the national Red for Heart campaign, led by the British Heart Foundation, by wearing red clothes or accessories to church.

The church undertook many activities in February to create heart-health awareness: its Health Ministries leader, Mary Jacobson, presented a health seminar on heart-healthy lifestyles on the same day, followed by a healthy food-tasting event.

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Lowestoft Church Jubilee fundraiser

Lowestoft Church celebrated the Diamond Jubilee with a fête and barbeque, with donations of £500 going to help 3-year-old Owen Baldry to walk like other children – Owen suffers from spastic diplegia. Many fundraising projects have taken place throughout Lowestoft to raise the £50,000 needed for an operation that can only be carried out in the USA.

Members and friends rallied on Sunday 3 June to erect tents and a bouncy castle at Lowestoft Church, children's attractions, refreshments and the barbeque.

In addition to the funds raised, many from the neighbourhood saw our church for the first time.

JOHN W. SAMPSON



Erdington's Family Ministries day

On 28 April Erdington celebrated its Family Ministries day, organised by Family Ministries leader Joyce Holder and her team.

During morning and afternoon sessions, NEC Family Ministries director Geraldene Farmer spoke on 'From Fear to Faith', interspersing presentations with congregational praise and worship.

The church wishes to thank the organisers, including Joyce, and also the community members who attended.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG

Stanborough Secondary School vacancy Marketing/Fundraising Volunteer

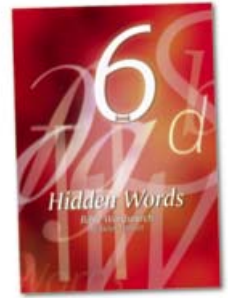
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Messenger

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Sunset

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	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Jul 6	9.18	9.31	9.31	9.58	9.59
13	9.13	9.25	9.25	9.51	9.53
20	9.06	9.18	9.16	9.41	9.44
27	8.56	9.08	9.06	9.29	9.33

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