

# Messenger

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## Sixty-first session of the NEC

Article and photography by Katie Ramharacksingh

Tears welled up in British Union Conference president, Pastor Ian Sweeney's eyes, after the first report from the nominating committee was returned at the sixty-first North England Conference session, held at the Cheltenham Race Course from 13 to 14 September. The report, and subsequent vote, established that his older brother, Pastor Cyril Sweeney, would not be returning as president of the NEC for the next four years.

However, the tears were not of sadness, but of brotherly love. They continued as Ian spoke of Cyril's work for the NEC during his short term as president. He was replaced by Pastor Lorraine Johnson. Pastor John Ferguson was appointed as executive secretary and Rejoice Kampengele was returned as treasurer.

Pastor Johnson was on holiday in Jamaica when he received the nominating committee's decision, and his text response was partially read to the delegation by Ian Sweeney: 'Indeed, all of yesterday afternoon and until the early hours I have been restless and praying . . . it is truly only God's will June and I seek; we will move forward . . . let the will of God be done.'

Beginning his ministerial career in the NEC, Pastor Johnson interned at Camp Hill Church, was chaplain at the Harper Bell School and continued on to pastor churches such as Handsworth and Nottingham. In 2006, he left to become part of the Adventist Frontier Missions programme, returning to the UK in 2009 where he currently serves in the Aberdeen district of churches with his wife, June, and three children, Darren, Daniel and Rebecca.

John Ferguson has been pastor of the Grantham church and Rejoice Kampengele has served one full term in the treasurer's office since 2008. Rejoice admitted, 'Although it's a spiritually fulfilling experience working at the Conference, it's also a challenge, and I relish a challenge; so I'm looking forward to the next four years of challenges and building on what we have started.'

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Top left: Incoming executive secretary, Pastor John Ferguson.

Top right: Returning treasurer, Rejoice Kampengele.

Right: Outgoing president, Pastor Cyril Sweeney.

Below, left to right: Pastor Paul Haworth, Pastor Cyril Sweeney, Rejoice Kampengele, Pastor John Ferguson, Pastor Raafat Kamal and Dr Bertil Wiklander.







## Enhancing Health

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

### Protein – how much is too much?

In this issue we recommence our focus on current UK health news by looking at some emerging research on protein supplements.

A BBC Health News online report (*Newsbeat*), 3 September, 2012, carried the heading: 'Dieticians say extra protein can do more harm than good.' The article, written by *Newsbeat* reporter Rick Kelsey, advises caution as to how much protein we ingest.

Commenting specifically on protein supplements used by gym users and sports enthusiasts, he highlights the warning against overusing these supplements, which can often cause harm. He states: 'The British Dietetic Association (BDA) says high levels of additional protein can cause side effects, which can include nausea as well as kidney and liver damage. . . . It wants clearer warnings about what is in the powders and tablets.'

Confirming this caution, Jane Griffin, a former British Olympic dietician speaking for the BDA, states: 'The more protein in your diet, the more you have to get rid of. People who have these high-protein diets are now running into problems with their kidneys because of the amount of protein they must get rid of.'

Rick Kelsey reports, however, that in response to this statement

manufacturers claim: 'Consumers are well protected, with only 11 reported reactions in 11 years.'

One gym enthusiast, and previous heavy protein supplement user, is 22-year-old Richard from Chesterfield, who shared with *Newsbeat* the negative effects he encountered. According to him: 'It felt like I was on drugs . . . I was shaking and I got angry. It also had an effect on my girlfriend, who didn't want to be around me when I had taken it.' Richard told *Newsbeat* that he had been taking supplements for four years, but had a bad reaction to one of them. He reports that although he still takes some protein supplements, he has now cut down significantly.

Gym supplements are scrutinised under our food laws, which indicate that they have to be adequately labelled – however, the products and content can vary. This is different to medicines, where the legal requirements are that they specify the content according to rigorous guidelines.

Guidance from the Department of Health is that adults avoid consuming more than twice the recommended daily intake of protein (55.5g for men and 45g for women). *Newsbeat* found that some protein and creatine supplement users exceed this guidance simply because they are taking in excess of what is stipulated on the packaging of the actual supplement.

Always follow dietary recommendations.

**Good health!**



# editorial

I am sure that you have heard this ecclesiastical wisdom before (normally attributed to 'unknown'):

*'To live above with saints in love,  
O that will be the glory.  
But to live below with saints we know,  
O that's a different story!'*

Does that resonate with you? Have you ever suffered at the hands of the saints? I'm sure you have.

To 'live below with saints we know' can be a formidable task. But why – why should it be difficult for people who share so many spiritual assets to live in harmony?

#### The problem isn't new

The 'simmering saint' is not new. Believers have been difficult and moody since the earliest days of human worship. Remember Cain, and the unhappiness that settled over his soul? 'So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.' (Genesis 4:5, NIV.)

Some forms of tension within the Church are quite simple to understand. They are natural consequences of church growth. For instance, in the rapidly growing Jerusalem church the disbursement of welfare support became a bit chaotic. 'In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.' (Acts 6:1, NIV.)

The apostles were quick to defuse the situation through a mutually agreed-upon plan of delegation – and it seemed to work.

#### Paul and Barnabas

It wasn't just the widows who fell out with each other in the Early Church though. Paul and Barnabas, those two great icons of mission, clashed over the future of John Mark. Barnabas wanted to give the young man another chance, but Paul would have none of it.

Scripture tells us that they 'had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, but Paul chose Silas and left' for Syria and Cilicia. (Acts 15:39-41, NIV.) The Greek word Luke used to describe this 'sharp disagreement' is the same one from which we derive the term 'paroxysm' – 'an uncontrollable outburst of emotion'.<sup>2</sup>

Perhaps the outcome was inevitable, and ultimately the best, but was this 'ecclesiastical huff' necessary? Were these leaders modelling good anger-management skills? I think not.

#### It's not always obvious

Sadly, not all congregational 'simmering' appears to have such obvious causes – or such clear-cut solutions. Often there are no

## 'Simmering' saints



Julian Hibbert  
Editor

seismic warnings before the pot boils over. It just seems to happen.

This is what I witnessed at a Sunday afternoon board. During the discussion, without warning, two of my elders had a 'sharp disagreement'! The cocky, short, bald fellow on my right disagreed belligerently with the tall, silver-haired ex-marine on my left. In response, the ex-marine leaned forward, shook his sizeable fist and spat out: 'John Smith, you are as thick as a brick!'

Most men know how quickly testosterone turns verbal abuse into a brawl, and I had only seconds to prevent one. 'Stop gentlemen – stop!' I demanded. 'Take this outside immediately! And when you are reconciled you can come back!'

Grim-faced, with drooping shoulders, the two shuffled from the room like naughty schoolboys bound for the head teacher's office.

#### 'Pastor, may we come back?'

Minutes later there was a respectful knock on the door. Outside stood the two subdued men: 'Pastor, may we come back please?' 'Is it sorted? Are you reconciled?' 'Yes, pastor!' They took their seats quietly and the meeting continued.

#### What causes saints to 'simmer'?

Is it caused by competition for position, status or power? Wounded pride? Jealousy? Or is it just a symptom of badly managed blood pressure, indigestion or PMS? I guess we could finger them all as culprits that could cause saints to 'simmer'.

But revisit that first recorded outburst of human anger with me for a moment. For there might just be another cause for some of our 'simmering'.

'The LORD looked with favour on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favour. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.'

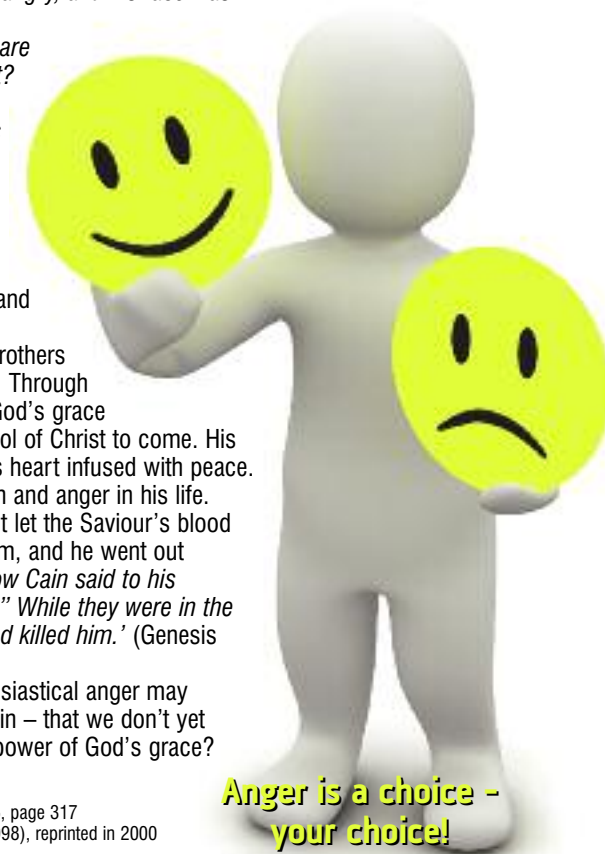
'Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it." ' (Genesis 4:4-7, NIV-UK.)

Cain's anger flared up because God rejected his worship. Why did God do that? Simply because Cain's theology and worship rejected God's grace!

The difference between these two brothers lies in their relationship to God's grace. Through his worship, Abel trustingly accepted God's grace through the sacrifice of a lamb – symbol of Christ to come. His guilt was removed; his sin forgiven; his heart infused with peace. Grace smothered the fuse of contention and anger in his life.

Cain had not tasted grace. He hadn't let the Saviour's blood extinguish the fires that raged within him, and he went out spoiling for a fight with his brother: 'Now Cain said to his brother Abel, "Let's go out to the field." While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.' (Genesis 4:8, NIV.)

Is it possible that some of our ecclesiastical anger may share a common cause with that of Cain – that we don't yet understand the transforming, calming power of God's grace?



**Anger is a choice – your choice!**

<sup>1</sup>Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, volume 6, page 317

<sup>2</sup>Collins Compact English Dictionary, new edition (1998), reprinted in 2000



# devotional

## Adventism and the Kingdom

Devotional for the NEC session, Chelmsford, 13 September, 2012



by Bertil Wiklander

I am a Seventh-day Adventist because God has revealed to this Church the Gospel of the 'entire life' possible in God. This is the eternal Gospel, which is:

- Rooted in the concept of Creation and celebrated on the seventh day throughout the cosmos,
- Based on the Bible as a whole,
- Embracing history as a whole,
- To reach the earth as a whole, and
- With consequences for man as a whole.

We stretch ourselves towards the fullness of this entire life which is possible in God. Not a reduced life, but a full life in Him! Christ has made known to us that God's Kingdom and this full life are built on:

- Giving instead of taking,
- Humility instead of pride and arrogance,
- Valuing others instead of valuing oneself, and
- Communion instead of egotism.

The devil's 'kingdom' has already failed universally – cosmically. It was based on the opposite of the values of God's Kingdom, namely:

- Taking from others,
- Pride,
- Arrogance, and
- Egotism.

But in Christ, God has defeated the devil and thrown him out of Heaven!

### The devil's kingdom

On the other hand, the devil has built his kingdom on this earth. In 1 John 5:19 (NASB) we read: 'We know that . . . the whole world lies in the power of the evil one'. And who can doubt that? By news and fiction, modern media reflect his power with an almost overwhelming force. It is shaping and destroying our children and youth.

Despite the fact of the devil's defeat, God's mission is not yet complete. Jesus has left with His disciples the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20:

*'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'* (NIV-UK.)

Let's look at the content and logical progression of this mandate for a moment.

1. God has given all authority in the world to Jesus Christ. On what grounds could He do that? Philippians 2:5-11 explains why: *'Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in*

*appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross!*

*'Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, [so] that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.'* (NIV 1984, emphasis supplied.)

Christ's mind was humble, like God's mind. He did not exploit His equality with God, but chose to become nothing, a slave, a human like us, and humbled Himself in obedience even to the point of His death on the cross – this attitude of Christ is the foundation for our faith. Because of Christ's attitude and life of service and humility, God elevated Him to the highest place in Heaven and Earth. And for what **purpose**? So 'that the whole world will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, **to the glory of God!**' The purpose of our lives is to glorify God!

2. **With all the authority in the world, Christ has commissioned us to go and make disciples of all nations** – for the Kingdom of God is now spreading in the world! This Kingdom of God is established wherever:

- He is recognised as God,
- His will is the law, and
- He rules the minds and relations of men.

Therefore, we are to teach all people to obey **everything that Christ has commanded us**: that is, what the Creator wants for us.

3. When we do God's mission, Christ is with us **'always, to the very end of the age'**. What does it mean that **God is 'with us'** in Christ? Remember the purpose of God's mission according to Revelation 21:1-5? God's mission is to:

- Have His home among mortals;
- Dwell with them as their God;
- Have them as His people;
- Wipe every tear from their eyes; and
- Rule them so that death, mourning, crying, and pain will be no more.

When Christ is with us now, He gives us a foretaste of this experience. **This new life in Him** is what He wants us to share with other people, so that they will see His glory, in the creation, in Christ, in the Bible, in us, in true love and in true communion.

### The Church defined

The Seventh-day Adventist Church has arisen in response to this calling. Through many struggles, God led our Church pioneers on a straight path to understanding His mission and becoming part of it. This is Ellen White's perceptive definition of the Church:

*'The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organised for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. . . . The church is the repository of the riches of the grace of Christ; and through the church will eventually be made manifest . . . the final and full display of the love of God.'* (Acts of the Apostles, p. 9.)

1. **This is what we are:**  
God has made us an 'agency for the salvation of men' and the 'repository of the riches of the grace of Christ'!
2. **This is what we do:**  
We are 'organised for service', and our 'mission is to carry the Gospel to the world'.
3. **This is what we are to become:**  
Through our loving communion, God will manifest the 'final and full display of His love'.

The meaning of life is to recognise who we are, what we are to do, and what we are to become.

### How do we go about it?

**A gold medal winner** in the Olympic Games was asked how he was able to accomplish his victory. He answered: *'Because I love what I do.'*

Jesus gives us the same key to a victorious faith in His last conversation with Peter. He asked him the same question three times in John 21: 'Do you love Me, Peter?'

The wife of one of my colleagues recently said that when she and her husband were young and had just met and become 'an item', she received an Ingathering brochure from him without any comment or greeting. (They lived in different countries. He simply thought the brochure was nice, so he decided to send it to her, too.) **But there was no message for her that made her feel special!** So, she phoned him and asked: 'Do you love me?'

Think of all we do **not** say and do. How often doesn't Jesus have reason to call us and say: 'Do you love Me?'

This is the key question today. What is the meaning of life? The answer is found in the greatest commandment, according to Jesus Christ (Matthew 22:37, NIV, emphasis supplied):

*'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'.*

'Heart, soul and mind' is a way to describe **man as a whole** in Israelite culture. 'Loving' somebody means to put that person **first**. But doing so with all my heart, all my soul, all my strength, and all my mind means that **all I want and think, all I am and live, and all I have and own** is governed by my allegiance to God. Because I see myself **as living in His Kingdom**. Not in the kingdom of **man**. Not in **my** kingdom. But in the Kingdom of **God**.

It is when we do so together that we are His people, citizens of His Kingdom, and participants in His mission. And that is why we exist in the world today!

## ADRA seeks Trustees



ADRA-UK wishes to recruit two new Trustees who would be willing to help the charity to steer towards the future. They should have:

- Commitment to the organisation and its values
- Understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of a trusteeship
- Some experience of international development work
- Good, independent judgement and willingness to speak their mind
- Willingness to devote the necessary time and effort
- UK residence.

The new Trustees will bring additional expertise to our board, preferably in one or more of the following areas: accountability of civil society organisations, food security, alternative energy, natural resource management, NGOs at international level, international financial institutions, international and/or charity law and the media.

Based in Watford, we are a registered charity in the UK. Trustees are unpaid. If you are interested, please visit our website at: <http://adra.org.uk> and download the application pack in the Our Work/Get Involved section, or email: [info@adra.org.uk](mailto:info@adra.org.uk) requesting an application pack.

Closing date: 3 December 2012.

## the Berean column

with Andrew Puckering



## The other song of Moses

The Children of Israel were camped right by the River Jordan, in the wilderness (Deuteronomy 1:1). They had been wandering there for forty years, following their fathers' refusal to enter the Promised Land, and nearly all of them had been wandering since they were teenagers, if not all their lives (Numbers 14:4, 29-35). They had defeated Sihon, king of Heshbon, and Og, king of Bashan (who was a giant with a very large bed – Deuteronomy 2:26-37; 3:1-11), and they had taken possession of all the land of Gilead and Bashan for the Gadites, the Reubenites, and half the Manassites (so long as they helped their brothers to get settled as well – Deuteronomy 3:12-20). They had tried and failed to conquer Canaan; rebelled against Aaron's priesthood; been refused safe passage by the Edomites (in theory their brothers); been bitten by serpents (and healed); and committed idolatry in the plains of Moab – and suffered for it (Numbers 14:39-45; 16; 20:14-21; 21:4-9; 25). In short, they had been through a lot. Now, finally, they were about to cross over into the Promised Land (Joshua 1) – for real this time!

Moses would not be going with them – he was 120 years old, and the LORD had forbidden him anyway (Deuteronomy 31:1, 2). The LORD would be leading them though, and Joshua as well (Deuteronomy 31:3): a man who, if the many exhortations given to him are any indication, may have been in need of some encouragement himself (Deuteronomy 31:6-8; Joshua 1:5-7, 9, 18). Now Moses was about to give them one last message, in the form of a song (Deuteronomy 31:30) – something to teach their children (Deuteronomy 31:19), something by which they were to remember him – his 'famous last words'. Would they be gentle words of encouragement? Would they be like Moses' song forty years before, celebrating divine deliverance in the past and confidently expecting the same in the future (Exodus 15:1-18)?

Not exactly. While Moses does recount the LORD's blessings to Israel (Deuteronomy 32:7-14), he also goes to great lengths to describe their ungratefulness and unfaithfulness to Him. 'They have corrupted themselves; They are not His children, Because of their blemish: A perverse and crooked generation.' (Verse 5, NKJV.) 'But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; You grew fat, you grew thick, You are obese! Then he forsook God who made him, And scornfully esteemed the Rock of his salvation.' (Verse 15, NKJV.) Reading through the whole song, it's clear that the Israelites' blessings were filling them with pride, and that they were prone to abusing God's gifts in the most horrific way – and that God would punish them for it, limited in His anger only by what their neighbours might think (verses 22-27).

Moses, however, does not end his song there – and thank God that he doesn't! The last verse, 43, is especially significant: 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people . . . He will provide atonement for His land and His people' (NKJV).

How amazing is that! Right at the end of a song about how badly God's people had failed Him, and how badly they'd scorned His salvation, and how much they deserved destruction – right at the conclusion of all this, we see a promise to all nations, that God would provide atonement for their sins: a promise that has since been fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

- Can anyone say he's pure from sin? (Proverbs 20)
- What similarities can you find between Moses' song and Deuteronomy 8?
- What parallels exist between Moses' song and Ezekiel 16?
- Who sings the song of Moses in Heaven? (Revelation 15)
- Which of Moses' songs is being sung here?



(Continued from page 1)

These decisions came at quite a late stage in the process, almost halfway through the second day of proceedings – but, by the close of business at 6.27pm that day, not one name had been referred back to the nominating committee and the voted list of directors was:

- Children's Ministries – Pastor Patricia Douglas
- Church-planting & Church Growth – Pastor Michael Simpson (re-elected)
- Communication – Pastor Peter Jeynes
- Community Services – Mrs Grace Walsh (re-elected)
- Family Ministries – Pastor Paul Liburd
- Health Ministries – Mrs Grace Walsh (re-elected)
- Personal Ministries – Pastor Michael Simpson (re-elected)
- Ministerial Association – Pastor Richard Jackson (re-elected)
- Sabbath School – Miss Beulah Plunkett (re-elected)
- Stewardship – Pastor Curtis Murphy
- Women's Ministries – Mrs Geraldine Farmer (re-elected)
- Youth – Pastor Adam Ramdin (previously director of PEACE)
- Assistant Youth & Pathfinders – Pastor Alan Hush (previously Youth director).

The most debated topic of the session was a proposed amendment to the NEC constitution, late on Friday afternoon. The constitution committee, whose duty is to scrutinise any proposed changes to this constitution, had recommended that Article 6, Section (b), which deals with regular delegates at session, include a point about capping the number of regular delegates at 350, just short of the 374 attending this year. The arguments against included the effects of membership growth and church expansion and the possibility that, if capped, delegate numbers would no longer represent a growing church. The final decision came down to a vote resulting in 91 'for' and 87 'against', which sent the proposal back to the constitutional committee. Ironically, it was a vote that left some wondering where the other delegates were whose places were being fought for!

There were various points of contention throughout the session, starting with the allocating of time to various reports. Pastor Garry Gordon argued that there be more time for reports and questions because of the larger expenditure in both the Youth and Church-planting departments. A motion to that effect was approved, thereby allowing more time for both departments.

There was more lively discussion over the Communication report. For example, Mr

Hines, from Bulwell, Nottingham, stated: 'When I want to know about a company, I look at their website. The way a website is run shows me how good things are. Are there any reasons why we can't make ours up-to-date?'

Director Jeff Nicholson replied that there was no reason for it not to be kept current, as there are ways for churches to update it and submit their events. He also added that the NEC departments do 'try desperately hard to get their events out there'.

Some departments, such as Geraldine Farmer's Women's Ministries, sailed through their reports; and, when no one came forward at the end, Pastor Cyril Sweeney quipped, 'Geraldine's done an excellent job; there are no questions!'

Family Ministries director, Geraldine Farmer, spoke on the marriage enrichment programme her department has co-ordinated: 'These were well attended and indicate the need we have to give our couples a place to go where they can pay attention to their special relationships.' Then Leonard Hays, on the topic of divorce and remarriage, asked, 'What plans do we have in place to address this 'cancer' which is spreading throughout our Church?' The answer was twofold, as Geraldine asserted that this was one of the areas that the new administration would have to take seriously; and her BUC counterpart, Heather Howarth, commented that the BUC has taken this issue 'on board' nationally, and that there truly is a need to understand what marriage commitment is about.

During his report the treasurer, Rejoice Kampengele, told the delegates that £19.2 million in tithe had been received in the previous four-year term – £5,161,661 in 2011 alone. Icilda Mardner wanted this question answered: 'I want to know, are we in the black or in the red?' As well as a few laughs, this brought a serious answer from the treasurer as he described how the Conference, while technically 'in the black', is trying to rebuild its general reserves.

Michael Simpson, in Personal Ministries, Adam Ramdin, director of PEACE (Practical Evangelism and Adventist Christian Education), and Alan Hush each spoke of how their outreach has made an unprecedented impact. Pastor Simpson spoke on how we can bring training to the membership, as opposed to getting members to come to retreats. He stated that 700 people could be trained over one weekend session, as opposed to the seventy or eighty people that would go to an NEC-wide retreat. Pastor Ramdin also spoke of training the laity, commenting on the PEACE goal of 'reaching the reached and the unreached'. Pastor Hush gave practical suggestions on involving those who are reticent to witness.

While Health Ministries, Community Services, Sabbath School and Music

presentations went smoothly, one of the most turbulent topics came when Personal Ministries director, Pastor Michael Simpson, asserted that, because of the alarming numbers of young men converting to the Islamic faith, he would like to see a sponsor allocated to Adventist-Muslim Relations in the NEC.

One of the last items of business was the appointment of the executive committee – the individuals that would carry on the business started at the session: Johnson (chairman), Ferguson (secretary), R. Kampengele, P. Liburd, V. Marshal, G. Kumi, J. Johnson, W. Kitchen, J. Mpopu, D. Bussue, J. Sitole, D. Jackson, L. Aaron, C. Morgan, K. McKenzie, N. Naylor and D. Sander.

Then it was all over – the business concluded – and the delegates went home with the words of Dr Bertil Wiklander, Trans-European Division president, ringing in their ears: 'There is a part for all of us to do in God's mission. If we look at the whole of the book of Revelation, God has one purpose. God's mission is not just to create a new heaven and new earth. Ellen G White says [in *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 9], "The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men." Let us remember this as we leave here.'

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## Session gleanings . . .

The following interesting facts were gleaned from the NEC session report and various presentations during the session. During the term:

- Five new churches were organised (Manchester Southern Asia, Sheffield Manor Newstart, Nottingham Upper Room, Isle of Man and Leeds Beeston), giving the NEC 86 organised churches by the end of the term.
- The number of church-plants has grown from 10 to 21.
- The membership grew from 7,874 to 9,270.
- There were 1,127 baptisms, of which 653 candidates were not UK-born.
- There were only 73 UK-born whites baptised in the entire NEC – approximately 18 per annum.
- The largest congregation remained Birmingham Camp Hill, with at least 654 members.
- Tithe increased by 21.5% over the previous quadrennium, with the per-capita yearly tithe returns for 2007 (£555) and 2011 (£554) just £1 apart.
- At least 52% of the NEC investment in ministries was spent on programmes to support young people.
- The pastoral workforce fluctuated, but at the end it stood at 35 ordained/commissioned pastors, 13 licensed ministers and 1 intern. The Conference also employs 3 Bible instructors.





# NEC schools

Based on the report of Mrs Anne Pilmoor, BUC Education director



### Harper Bell School Voluntary Aided status

At the last quadrennial session in 2008 it was voted to continue pursuing the Voluntary Aided (VA) status for the school, which was achieved in September 2011. The local authority is now responsible for the operating costs of the school, while the upkeep of the property remains the responsibility of the North England Conference. Classroom expansion was an immediate requirement and the NEC financed the necessary construction work at a cost of £400,000. The school has also secured a £171,000 grant towards window and toilet replacement, of which 10% has been met by the North England Conference.

### Staffing

Harper Bell School employs 24 members of staff. The school has appointed a full-time chaplain (NEC-funded) who will assist in the maintaining of the Seventh-day Adventist Christian ethos.

### Admissions

The school's enrolment increased from 109 to 220 in the academic year 2011/2012. The admission quota proposed is to have 80% Adventist pupils and 20% non-Adventist pupils. Not all school year groups are full and the school is encouraging Adventist members to take advantage of this free Seventh-day Adventist Christian education: one of the primary reasons for seeking VA status.

### Achievements

We are pleased that we have been able to meet and surpass the government target of: 80% of children achieving level 4 or more in



Literacy (50% achieved level 5); and 85% of children achieving level 4 or more in Numeracy (50% achieved level 5). (Level 4 represents achievement at the nationally expected standard for most 11-year-olds; level 5 is usually achieved at Year 9 of secondary school.)

The school has continued to enjoy between 35%-50% of its pupils securing places in the local grammar schools.

### Evangelism

Over the last four years around 20 pupils from Harper Bell School have been baptised, with many still continuing to have regular Bible studies. The teaching of the Adventist fundamental beliefs is part of our Religious Education programme.

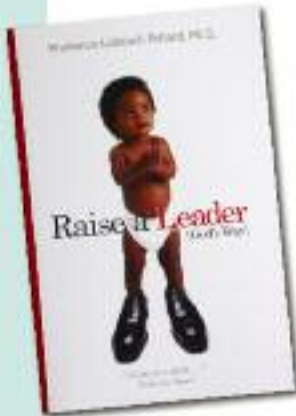
### Dudley House School

Dudley House School has been providing an Adventist education in Grantham for over forty years. It has been a challenge, however, to

sustain enrolment numbers over the past four years as Grantham has been particularly hard-hit by the recession. Fortunately, due to the school's marketing committee, numbers have not fallen in the last three school years.

The children who attend Dudley House continue to achieve well above the national target at Key Stage 2 SATs and move on to the good schools in the local area. Children have achieved 100% level 4 and above at Key Stage 2 for the past five years, apart from 2011 when a child with severe special needs achieved a level 3 in Maths, but, through exceptional teaching and support from the school, gained level 4 in English.

The school's Ofsted report of 2010 included the following comment: 'The school turns out well-adjusted, respectful and tolerant individuals who are keen to give of their best. Pupils have excellent attitudes to learning . . . the care pupils receive is outstanding. Parents hold the school in high regard.'



### Raise a Leader {God's Way}

Prudence LaBeach Pollard offers you sound, biblical principles to help you engage in parental evangelism and raise a leader for Christ! Perfect for raising your own children or as a gift to new parents, this book can be obtained by phoning 01476 539900 from Monday to Thursday, 8am-5.30pm, or emailing: sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk for only £8.75 plus p&p.

Available while stocks last!

## No recession at Press Open Day

Pastor Victor Hulbert, BUC News

While figures released recently show disappointing sales growth in UK retailing during the Olympic summer, there was little evidence of a slowdown at the Stanborough Press Open Day on Sunday, 2 September. Coaches, cars and minibuses pulled into the car park from as far afield as Manchester, London and Plymouth, and by midday, when Dr Leslie Pollard stood up to speak in the marquee, it was standing room only. The president of Oakwood University, Alabama, Dr Pollard is a down-to-earth speaker who immediately endeared himself to his audience with a reference to Usain Bolt and other Olympic winners. With a wry smile he admitted he was 'pulling for Andy Murray' to win gold in the tennis. 'How much public humiliation do you want to have?' he asked. He was making a serious point, noting that the athletes need 10,000 hours of practice for public perfection. Linking his thoughts into the Isthmian Games in Corinth that Paul witnessed and referred to in his writings, he noted that Greek runners practised by running with weights. 'The call to be a dedicated Christian takes rigour and dedication,' he emphasised, noting the words in Hebrews 12 to 'throw off everything that hinders' (NIV). Encouraging his audience to focus, he repeated that even 'a good thing can become a bad thing if it keeps you from the best thing.'

While excellent, Dr Pollard was just a warm-up for his wife, Dr Prudence Pollard, who came to share tips on child development and leadership from the book, she says, she 'did not want to write': *Raise a Leader {God's way}*. 'Ask ten people how to train up a child in the way he should go (Proverbs 22:6) and you will get ten answers – all of them wrong,' she said. 'Each child is unique, and we must remember the individuality of the child,' she explained, as she went on to demonstrate the importance of building trust in the first 18 months and developing the positive purposefulness of pre-school children. 'Tell them their purpose at age 3 to 5 and they will live out that purpose,' she emphasised.

The appreciative audience stayed in their seats and packed the back of the tent not just for these two main presentations, but also for the music of Tessera, the Adventist music group who have regularly raised the profile of the Church on programmes such as the BBC's *Songs of Praise*, and for a humorous and animated half-hour chat with the two Drs Pollard, led by Hope TV programme host, Victor Hulbert. 'It was fascinating to dig into the past and see how, despite their differing backgrounds as children, their families' insistence on good education really set these two up for life,' Victor reflected. That love of learning continues as they imbue both students and staff at Oakwood University with the same aspiration.

By late afternoon the sales hall had quietened down, and the car park started to empty: but the books bought, friendships made and renewed, and lessons learnt – these will last for eternity.





Readers' gallery

# Megapixels of creation

... a lucky dip!



1



2



3



4



5



6

- 1. **Ladybird.**  
*Adoniah Haslam (aged 13), Sony HSC-H50.*
- 2. **Woodland stream.**  
*Ligia Buzac, Canon EOS 1000D.*
- 3. **Junk-food squirrel.**  
*David Bell, Fujifilm X-S1.*
- 4. **Sea view.**  
*Jenny Hall, Sony DSC-TX5.*
- 5. **Lock Tummel.**  
*Deirdre Martin, Fujifilm J250.*
- 6. **Copper beech.**  
*David West, Olympus E-620.*

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

## What a beautiful sight!

There's definitely an autumnal nip in the air, which simply means winter is just around the corner. But, I for one, have enjoyed getting out with my camera! Of course, the changing seasons simply mean there's more to photograph.

So, put your scarf and your wellies on and get out there with your cameras, and shoot what you see around you – scenes, flora and fauna, birds, animals, insects and close-ups – anything that you feel portrays the wonder of God's creation, and, if you can, add a bit of humour into the mix!

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

DAVID BELL

"And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground – everything that has the breath of life in it – I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

Genesis 1:30 (NIV)









### Toddler Olympics Dundee

Dundee Toddler Group recently held its own mini-Olympics specially tailored for toddlers! The kids had great fun, crawling, backward-running, hopping, and completing an obstacle course. They made their own medals in the craft period and delighted the spectators with their exuberance!

This group meets every Tuesday morning in the Dundee Seventh-day Adventist church hall and is proving popular with local residents. Up to twenty children come with their mums and grannies. It is also a good chance for members to talk to neighbours who may be feeling lonely.

J. C. WALTON

### On Your Marks

'On Your Marks' was the theme for Sutton-in-Ashfield's 5-10-year-old children from the community during the Olympics – and their theme song, 'On Your Marks', focused on Jesus as the Leader in running for God. Each morning the children also enjoyed a craft activity.

At the end of the week, the parents were invited to Sabbath School to see their children sing their theme song, read from the Bible and perform a sketch. The children were all given medals for their achievements, and parents were invited to view their craft work on display.

Special thanks go to Sue Anscombe, who organised the week, and Vera Skocna, games leader.

MORAY STEWART



### Inspire Share Witness

Two TV channels to share the best of British and International Adventist programmes with your friends:  
**Revelation TV** (Sky 581 or Freesat 692) A Christian TV channel sharing Adventist programming twice a week: Thursday 8:30pm, repeated Sunday 1pm.  
**Hope Channel Europe** (Hotbird 6: 11642MHz, [www.hopetv.org.uk](http://www.hopetv.org.uk)) Thirteen hours of English programming daily:

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| English           | midnight – 2am |
| Russian/Ukrainian | 2am – 8am      |
| English           | 8am – 2pm      |
| Russian/Ukrainian | 2pm – 7pm      |
| English           | 7pm – midnight |

Highlights from the UK include:

'In Conversation' – sharing inspiring life journeys: Monday, 12:30am, Wednesday, midnight, Friday, 8pm & midnight. Sabbath, 9am and 7:30pm.

'ViewPoint' – discussing issues of life and faith: Monday, 9:30pm, Wednesday, 8am.

Faithtalks – Tackling the basic issues of faith and Christianity. Thursday, 12:30am, Friday, 8:30pm.

ALSO visit the Hope TV UK website for on-demand programming and exclusive BUC News reports and features: [www.hopetv.org.uk](http://www.hopetv.org.uk)

### Erdington children's focus day

Erdington's Children's Ministries department, headed by Marlene Stewart, organised a special children's focus day on 4 August. The children led out during Sabbath School and Divine Worship, without adult interference.

Beulah Plunkett, NEC Sabbath School and Children's Ministries director, was the guest speaker, with the theme: 'Children, obey your parents, and parents, obey your God.'

During the afternoon session, 4-year-old Gift Pindeni narrated the story of the people of Israel from the time they were in Egypt to the time they entered the Promised Land.

In her workshop, Sister Plunkett concentrated on the need for churches to set up children's evangelism, children's church, children's choir, children's expos and so on.

Marlene Stewart thanks all the members and children, and especially Aston-Newton for their song service.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG



SEC Youth Ministries Presents

# iLead

YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

29th March - 10th April 2013

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY  
@ THE DRADFORD CLEVELAND BROOKS BUILDING

For more info visit: [www.youthadventists.com/iLead](http://www.youthadventists.com/iLead)

### Golden wedding anniversary

On Sunday 19 August, more than forty guests at Stanborough Park celebrated the golden wedding anniversary of Pastor Michael and Joan Taylor, with festivities compered by Paul Bellamy, a close family friend, and excellent food provided by Cecilia Davison, who has known Michael and Joan since their time at Newbold in the 1960s.

During almost twenty years of pastoral ministry, and a similar number of years working in the Treasury department and Discover Bible School at the BUC, Michael and Joan have touched many lives with their harmony and commitment to their family and their church. Kieran and Rebecca Taylor presented 'gold' medals to their grandparents to honour their fifty years of marriage.

ADRIAN TAYLOR



### David Spearing memorial cricket match

Sunday 12 August was the Family Life day for Aylesbury Church, and Oxford members played Aylesbury for the keenly contested David Spearing memorial challenge cricket trophy. The first match was organised in 2004 by Pastor David Spearing and Elders Nolan Victory and Oswald Thomas from Oxford and Aylesbury. From 2007, in memory of the passing of Pastor David Spearing, the challenge trophy was introduced. The Family Life department from each church takes turns to host the contest. This year it was the turn of Aylesbury, and Pastor Ian Sleeman officiated as the umpire. Aylesbury emerged triumphant, although Oxford redeemed themselves in the football.

NOLAN VICTORY



### Forest Drawings Competition: My favourite tree...



### Tree of Life is a winner!



Seven-year-old Benjamin Barratt-Peacock (pictured left) was delighted to return from holiday to find a letter, confirming that he had won the

National Forest Draw-a-Tree Competition. Benjamin has always been fascinated by the descriptions of Heaven in the Bible and, when asked what favourite tree he would like to draw, answered immediately, 'The Tree of Life!'

Benjamin's picture was first viewed by the Lord Mayor of Leicester at his school fête before being sent off to join entries from schools all over the East Midlands. The Mayor was very interested in the unusual subject of the picture.

Benjamin attended the National Forest Wood Fair on 27 August and saw his winning picture on display. It will next be taken to the Derbyshire Arts Festival. Benjamin hopes that his picture will help the 15,000 people who attend these two events to read Revelation 22 and find out what the Tree of Life is really all about!

Evangelism can certainly take many forms!

VIVIANNE BARRATT-PEACOCK

**REQUIRED:** Additional staff to assist in children's activities (up to age 15) at the Support Network for Adventist Parents (SNAP) Family Weekend on the weekend of 26 to 28 October at Hill House Christian Retreat Centre, Otterhampton, Bridgwater, Somerset. Staff must be CRB-checked for Seventh-day Adventist church activities. All reasonable expenses will be re-imbursed. If interested, please contact Mike & Vicky Beamish as soon as possible on 01242 890566, or by email – [snap.sda@tesco.net](mailto:snap.sda@tesco.net).

# UK Zambian Adventist Fellowship

You are Invited to a DAY OF FELLOWSHIP

Date: 20th October 2012  
Time: 09:30 to 18:00

THEME: THAT THEY MAY BE **ONE**

**SPEAKER**  
Pastor Julian Hibbert,  
Editor of Stanborough Press

VENUE:  
Cloughton Community Centre  
Blowers Green Road  
Dudley, West Midlands.  
DY2 8UZ

RSVP: Elias Chola Kolumba  
Tel: 07957515750 or  
email: [ukzaf.communications@gmail.com](mailto:ukzaf.communications@gmail.com)

Lots of Music  
An inspiring message  
Plenty of Zambian Food  
Adoption of the Constitution  
Networking with fellow believers





ADVENTIST STUDENT NETWORK  
SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE

For all your student related news, information, updates and events.

**Be part of our community**

We encourage: Students, Families, Pastors, Elders and the Church Community to help us keep in touch with our students

register online at  
[www.adventiststudents.org](http://www.adventiststudents.org)

Dejan Stojkovic  
CHAPLAINCY DEPARTMENT  
Phone: 07919 172 178  
Email: [dejan@seoadventist.org.uk](mailto:dejan@seoadventist.org.uk)

ASN ADVENTIST STUDENT NETWORK  
Supported by the BUC Youth Department



## Ladywell Fields Summer Festival

More than a thousand copies of *Steps to Christ* and *Ministry of Healing* were freely given to non-Christians who attended the Ladywell Fields Summer Festival on Sunday 19 August. This annual event, hosted by the Lewisham church, brought together families and friends from the local community for Gospel music, poetry and mime, including a performance from 7-year-old Tiana Gentle.

Nadine Leach, 65, from Ladywell, said: 'There is such a lovely atmosphere here; it's so uplifting to see people of all different races coming together.' Nadine was attracted to the park by the Lewisham Pathfinder Drum Corps, the food stalls and fairground rides and the free health checks.

Six-year-old Katie said: 'I never heard about Jesus before today; I would like to know more about Him.' The evangelistic outreach programme was a great success, and many local people requested further information.

The winners of the football tournament, Kenningwell United FC Reserves, will be receiving their trophy and medals at Lewisham Church: for many, it will be their first visit to a Christian building.

We thank God, and pray that, one day soon, Katie and the other visitors will know Jesus as their Lord and personal Saviour.

PETULA PETERS

## Re-opening of Keough House



On Sunday afternoon 2 September, Dr Bertil Wiklander (chairman, Newbold College board of governors) and Dr Philip Brown (principal, Newbold College) re-opened Keough House (men's hall of residence) on the Newbold College campus, ready for the beginning of the new 2012-13 academic year. A prayer of dedication was offered by Pastor Paul Goltz (college chaplain).

The renovation over the past six months has included the conversion of bedrooms into single and double units with en-suite facilities, and the removal of existing showers and laundry rooms to make way for kitchen and dining areas. All rooms have been completely redecorated, incorporating multiple double sockets and data points, new light fittings, new basins and taps, and new flooring and furniture throughout.

Keough House was named after George D. Keough, a pioneer missionary to the Middle East, and for many years a Theology teacher on campus. Dr Brown expressed the hope that its residents would follow in its alumni's footsteps, and thanked everyone present, and those who contributed time and funds to the refurbishment. Dr Wiklander thanked God for His leading.

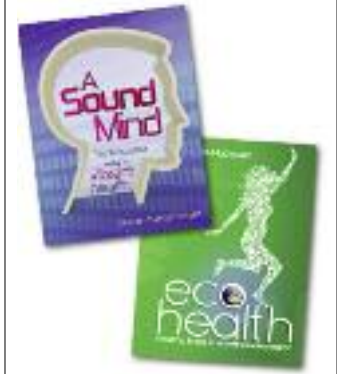
New and returning students are said to be very happy with their accommodation. A final phase of the refurbishment, including improvements to the reception, visitor bathroom, disabled room access and the dean's office, is planned for completion in January 2013.

If you would like to donate towards the completion of this final phase, this can still be done online ([www.newbold.ac.uk](http://www.newbold.ac.uk)), by cheque or by contacting the college directly.

NEWBOLD COMMUNICATIONS

## Medical missionaries and supporters needed

Yahway Health and Wellness is looking for medical missionaries interested in being part of a new Wellness Centre project: Adventist doctors, nurses, pastors, cooks, maintenance personnel, drivers, seminar instructors, assistants, and anyone who can give legal advice. If you have a heart for medical missionary work or would like to support this work financially, please contact Richard on 07955 864 371 or visit our website: [yahwayhealth.org](http://yahwayhealth.org).



New books of the week

### *Eco Health* and *A Sound Mind*

Sharon Platt-McDonald

The BUC Health director gives you two new handy, pocket-sized volumes on health, helping you to get in touch with both your mind and the Lord's creation!

Contact ABC Sales on

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#### September

30 Welling 10am-2pm

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21 Peckham 10am-2pm

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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

Saturdays - November, December,

January: After sunset

## Messenger

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### Sunset

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

|         | Lond | Card | Nott | Edin | Belf |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Sept 28 | 6.44 | 6.57 | 6.48 | 6.55 | 7.06 |
| Oct 5   | 6.29 | 6.41 | 6.31 | 6.37 | 6.49 |
| 12      | 6.13 | 6.25 | 6.15 | 6.19 | 6.32 |
| 19      | 5.58 | 6.10 | 6.00 | 6.02 | 6.15 |

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