

Messenger

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Sports Ministry: is there really such a thing?

by Errol Anderson, Balham Communications

There is a new phrase that I have heard bandied about recently: namely, Sports Ministry. At first I was a bit sceptical about the phrase – I mean, sport is sport and ministry is ministry – why confuse the two?

Over the last few years, three ladies (Joanne Passley, Kaye Oshodi-Glover and Wendy Coppin) have worked tirelessly to develop sport at Balham Church, largely in athletics and football – driven by the desire to get their own children and others to realise that church can be fun, and to reach youth who are on the fringes of the church – or have left!

They have not only been involved in sports competitions with other Adventist churches, but have led out in organising athletics, table tennis and football competitions with teams from the community.

This is how Joanne and Kaye see the ministry: 'Football breaks down language barriers and is a sport that many young people enjoy. Balham has been able to capitalise on this by inviting both members and non-members to training sessions, friendly matches and competition events in and around London. The sports ministry especially targets young people who have left church or are sitting on the fence. In fact, some of those who left have brought their friends to take part in the competitions – and some have begun attending some church activities again!'

Wendy Coppin, who is a trained athletics coach, also had some thoughts on the matter: 'Our annual Sports day is an opportunity for former members to join us in a day of fun. Sports day is a way of witnessing to our friends. Each year we witness to people we have invited; they attend church, and slowly become a part of us. They ask questions about our faith and slowly you can see an interest developing. I

was drawn to the Adventist faith through sport being enjoyed in a Christian environment. I now try and use the

opportunity to encourage any young person who enjoys sport to realise that being a Christian and being in a Christian environment can be fun.'

So is there such a thing as Sports Ministry? Well maybe we can quibble about the word 'ministry', but one thing is clear: that it has become a way to break down barriers between us and some members of the community, and to draw back our youth who are on the fringes of

the faith. It has brought about a new camaraderie among the youth and provided an outlet for energetic minds and bodies. Whatever you call it, it has been worth pursuing. Maybe it is a shame that we couldn't get some of the men to lead out in this area, but well done to the three ladies who have taken up the sports baton and are still running with it.



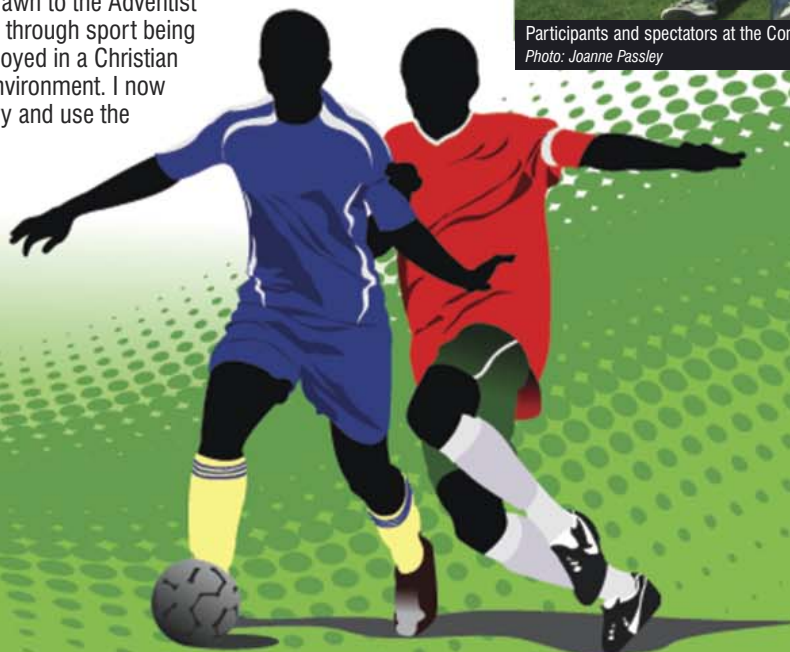
The Earliteens team – Area 6B church event
Photo: Brian Ferguson



The Juniors football team
Photo: Joanne Passley



Participants and spectators at the Community Athletics event
Photo: Joanne Passley



WakaWaka brightens Burkina Faso

by Bert Smit



The initial handover of twenty-four WakaWaka lights in rural Burkina Faso was a great success. BUC president Pastor Ian Sweeney travelled with CEO Bert Smit to this country to film a forthcoming documentary on the work of ADRA-UK there. They handed out the WakaWaka lights to farmers to help their children study at night. The small solar lamps are already changing how people live in remote areas of the country. Children can now study in the safe light of a WakaWaka. The feedback is very good, with these new users commenting that the lights are very efficient and bright.

Based on this pilot project ADRA Burkina Faso have requested more WakaWaka lights to distribute as part of the Shoebox appeal this year. Please help us to bring light to Burkina Faso – donate £20 for each light and we will arrange to put them in the hands of people living 'off-grid'. You can donate here: <http://is.gd/grUjP5>.

Enhancing Health

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

How green is your mobile phone?

Do you remember an *Enhancing Health* column published in the 14 May 2010 *MESSENGER* entitled 'Mobile Phones – Help or Harm'? It cited a thirty-year-long British scientific study to establish the health impact of mobile phone use. The research project, called Cosmos (Cohort Study on Mobile Communications), was launched in April 2010 and will utilise the expertise of medical and science professionals to monitor the health of 250,000 mobile phone users over a period of 20-30 years.

On 26 April 2012 a BBC Health News report carried the headline, 'Mobile phones: "Still no evidence of harm to health"'. The UK's Health Protection Agency (HPA) commissioned a major safety review analysis of all the key studies on mobile phone exposure, and reported that they found no conclusive links to impaired brain function, cancer risk, harm to cardiovascular health, or infertility.

The HPA, however, continues to recommend that excessive mobile phone use by children be discouraged.

The researchers stated that, although this current report was

'reassuring', very little was known about any associated risks with mobile phone use for longer than fifteen years, as most people began using mobile phones in the late 1990s. The chair of the review group, Professor Anthony Swerdlow, highlighted that it was important to continue reviewing research in this area and monitor the findings. He states:

'Even though it's relatively reassuring, I also think it's important that we keep an eye on the rates of brain tumours and other cancers. . . . One can't know what the long-term consequences are of something that has been around for only a short period.'

For many years there has been speculation about the health effects associated with the use of mobile phones, and with the disposal of mobile phones, including their toxic waste.

A *Mail Online* report titled 'Chemical breakdown: The toxic substances inside your mobile phone', published on 22 October, 2012, states:

'Ubiquitous electronic gadgets harbour a staggering array of toxic chemicals, from hazardous flame retardants, PVC and bromine to heavy metals like lead, tin and chromium – and even mercury and cadmium.'

These findings were based on an analysis of thirty-six phones. Motorola enthusiasts will be pleased that the Motorola Citrus was ranked as the least toxic, followed by the iPhone 4S and the LG Remarq. The new iPhone 5 ranked fifth – ahead of its main competitor, Samsung's Galaxy S3, which ranked ninth.

If you want to know how your mobile phone measures up, visit 'Best & Worst Picks: Mobile Phones' at: www.healthystuff.org.

Good health!



editorial

Do you ever have heroic dreams? You know what I mean – those silly daydreams in which you imagine yourself doing something brave? Pulling a baby from a burning wreck. Convincing an armed hostage taker to surrender. Well, believe it or not, I have.

Unfortunately, life has been reluctant to place me in situations requiring such courage. The best I can remember is unlocking someone's car door with a wire coat hanger! A dubious skill, which usually begs the uncomfortable question: 'Where did you learn to do that?'

Sadly, I must admit that I have never been the knight in shining armour to a damsel in distress. But wait a minute – I did once help a heifer that was literally in 'dire straits'.

It happened like this

While serving as pastor in a coastal city, I sometimes took an afternoon off to go fishing with three or four of my retired members. One of them kept a cabin cruiser permanently moored on a stunningly beautiful estuary, and this became my haven of refuge from the cares of pastoral life.

(Now, before someone writes me a letter about it, let me say categorically that – unlike the disciples – I don't eat fish and that I am a 'catch and release' enthusiast.)

So it came to be, early one afternoon, while heading down towards the estuary mouth, that we saw the heifer in distress. She was mired up to her belly on a muddy prawn bank, with the tide rising swiftly around her!

We steered in her direction to see if there was anything we could do to save her. But the situation was not good. Her legs were submerged in the mud and there was no way we could use



His plans changed

The decision changed the Samaritan's plans. The injured man got to ride his donkey; drink his precious water supply; slow his journey to a dangerous crawl; and cost him a pretty packet in accommodation and medical expenses. Do you remember his assurances to the innkeeper? 'Look after him,' he said, "and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have." (Luke 10:35, NIV.)

The Samaritan probably missed appointments and valuable business deals that day. As a matter of fact, his commitment to the man's well-being was no 'flash in the pan'. He intended to 'return' and take full responsibility for this man's recovery and 'any extra expense' it might take!

His summary

Priest, Levite or Samaritan: who really cared? The lawyer was obliged to answer: 'The man who gave him practical sympathy. . . .' (Luke 10:37, J. B. Phillips).

Jesus concurred, and laid down His challenge to us: "Then you go and give the same. . . ." (Ibid).

Being a Samaritan is a **choice**, an **inconvenient risk**, a **drain on your resources** – and a **Kingdom mandate**. But remember that you can't be one . . . if you're allergic to mud and thankless heifers!

The heifer

the boat to pull her out – that would just have dragged her into deeper water.

There was only one possible tactic. Four of us would have to get into the mud next to her, pass ropes under her, and try to lift her from the sucking mud.

Thirty minutes at most

We dropped overboard and waded onto the mud bank, up to the frightened animal. The rising water was already lapping around her. Quickly we groped in the black goo beneath her, struggling to pass the ropes under her quivering body.

My legs and arms are short – a great disadvantage under such circumstances – and I began to sympathise with the poor heifer!

Eventually the ropes were in place and we began to lift. 'One, two, three, lift! One, two, three, lift!' But nothing moved except the rising tide.

Again and again, and again – we heaved – and breathed our quiet prayers.

We couldn't dislodge her – but we couldn't desert her either. We were her slender lifeline – she had less than thirty minutes left!

Then she moved

Then, suddenly, she moved her legs vigorously and the mud's suction broke. This was our chance and we moved quickly – lifting, pulling, pushing, and dragging her towards firmer ground, until she could heave herself to her feet and safety!

So our 'damsel' was a heifer and our 'armour' wasn't shiny! She couldn't say 'Thanks!' But it wasn't necessary, because doing good deeds has its own quiet reward.

Was it really different?

Was it really different for the Samaritan of Luke 10 – the iconic do-gooder? While on his way to other things, he was suddenly confronted by a raw and urgent need. Someone was suffering. A battered human life hung in the balance.

But we are Samaritans by choice. We could have cruised on, stayed in the river's main channel, and gone fishing. He could quickly have followed both priest and Levite to Jericho. He chose, however, to get involved.

Involvement of this nature involves inconvenience and risk. To get a heifer off a mud bank you have to go barefoot and get dirty. You risk rusty hooks, cans and broken beer bottles. The Samaritan risked his life as he crouched over the lacerated body of a nameless traveller. At any point the highwaymen could have struck again!



Julian Hibbert
Editor



False teachers unmasked — part 1

by John Surridge

Working alongside the Seventh-day Adventist Church are numerous 'supporting ministries' that add strength and value to our shared mission. Unfortunately, there are also some 'independent ministries' that engage in activities that may be harmful to your faith – and your relationship to the Church. In this insightful two-part article, Pastor John Surridge, Welsh Mission president, helps us to identify their methods.

Over the last month or so I've been listening to a lot of false teachers. Purely for the purposes of research, of course. Don't worry, I haven't been wasting valuable study time, just downloading podcasts and listening to them in the car. I'm also not recommending this as an exercise for everyone, because it can be quite tedious and rather depressing. I've done it so you don't have to!

Now I could come up with a list of the names of people who are currently operating within Adventism to spread their false teachings, but I'd be bound to miss some out; and also, by naming them, I might actually generate more interest in them – which I certainly don't want to do.

Instead I've come up with some general themes, principles and patterns that I've seen emerging from the way that these false teachers teach. See if you can spot any of these among the DVDs and podcasts you may have received.

I suppose we should start out by asking why we have false teachers in the Church in the first place. Well, the Bible says that this will be a problem in the Church. There's a text in 2 Peter 1:21 that we're all familiar with: 'for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit'. What we may not be so familiar with is the very next verse, which says this: 'But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction' (2 Peter 2:1). In the light of the great controversy between Christ and Satan, we shouldn't be surprised at this. When God inspires people to speak, we can expect Satan to bring in a counterfeit.

But what about the people themselves? Don't they realise that they are being used to undermine God's work? Well, among those that I have listened to there appear to be two groups: the first, who seem to be in it for some kind of personal gain – money, influence, fame, whatever. But the more worrying group is those people who really believe what they are saying – so deluded that their minds have become closed to the possibility that they might be wrong!

The question is, how do we spot these people, and how can we prevent ourselves and others in our churches from being deceived by them? Here are some pointers:

1. Hermeneutics. Seventh-day Adventists have a well-recognised, tried and tested system of studying the Bible. It is logical, straightforward, and should be understandable by everyone who wants to study the Bible. Without going into detail, just think of the Sabbath School lesson: how carefully it is structured and how easy it is to follow. In fact, don't just think about it; study it! If someone tries to sell you some new teaching and you can't figure out their logical reasoning, then alarm bells should start ringing.

One quite common false hermeneutic that I've picked up is *allegory*. Although we are comfortable with parables and illustrations, Adventists

feel that an allegorical interpretation of the Bible goes too far. To make up an example off the top of my head, if someone tells the story of Lot's wife and how she was turned into a pillar of salt and then tries to say that this is referring to the 'pillars of our faith', and the salt refers to the Church because Jesus said, 'You are the salt of the earth', don't listen to them. That's allegory.

2. Pattern matching. Human beings are very good at spotting patterns in things. You've probably had the experience of registering with certain websites and having to type in the letters that appear in a box – all jumbled up and in funny writing. We can usually spot the letters quickly, but a computer would have real difficulty. On the other hand, we also have the ability to see patterns when there's nothing really there! Think of the times when you've stared up at the clouds and seen elephants, crocodiles, faces and the like (I hope it's not just me that has done this!). Sometimes you don't see them at first until someone else points them out; then suddenly it all becomes clear. It's all very well in the clouds when you *know* it's not really a pig flying by, but if someone comes and tells you they've found a new and amazing pattern in the Bible, and it's vital to your salvation that you see it too, then seek a second opinion!

3. Misuse of Scripture and the writings of Ellen White. We're all familiar with digital pictures these days – for example, the excellent 'Megapixels of creation' that we have in the *MESSENGER* from time to time. Digital pictures are made up of lots of tiny blocks (pixels are the smallest ones you can get), and the more blocks there are, the more detailed the picture is. Now you could take a beautiful, high-resolution picture of a horse, say, then carefully rearrange all the blocks and make a picture of a dog! It would be exactly the same blocks, but telling a completely different story. Three factors are relevant to this process: the size of the picture, the size of the blocks and the amount of rearranging you do. The Bible contains 66 books, 1,189 chapters, some 31,100 verses, and about 783,000 words, depending on which version you are using. I suppose the equivalent of pixels in this case would be the individual letters themselves, of which there are some 3.5 million! No one in their right mind would dream of rearranging the letters in the Bible to say something else and then claim that the result was still inspired, but it's interesting to see how far some people go in rearranging words and verses. Even if you take whole verses, but string them together in long and convoluted sequences, you can make the Bible say something it was never intended to in the first place.

With the writings of Ellen White we enter a whole different dimension. During her lifetime she wrote some 100,000 pages containing a total of around 25 million words. With this ammunition, using the technique outlined above, the false teachers can (and do) make inspiration say whatever they want it to.

To make sure you get the correct picture you need to look at the largest chunks that you can. If you can, study the whole Bible, or at least a whole book at a time. With the writings of Ellen White, make sure that you've read the whole *Conflict of the Ages* series before delving into the other books. Compilations are sometimes necessary, but be wary of people who jump quickly from quotation to quotation, giving no background or context.

4. Secret wisdom. The early Christian Church was plagued with one



particular heresy, which was called 'Gnosticism'. In short, this was the idea that there was a hidden level of wisdom which only certain people could understand. It entices people with a sort of flattery – they have been singled out to understand this special wisdom – but then ties them up with all kinds of complex ideas that they can't possibly understand. I actually heard this technique on one of the podcasts I listened to, where the speaker told his audience that 'most Adventists don't understand this special truth which I'm revealing to you today, but you, as students of prophecy, will see it clearly.' In a way this is nothing more than Hans Christian Andersen's tale of 'The Emperor's New Clothes', with the gullible being sold a lie but thinking they're part of an exclusive group that can see the truth.

5. One Bible version only. I don't want to start yet another discussion on Bible versions – that's been done before, and I think we all know the pros and cons of the different versions that are around today. It's interesting, though, that all the false teachers I've listened to use the King James Version. Exclusively. Now don't get me wrong, I'm not saying the King James Version is bad. Far from it. But there's something about the language and the history of the KJV which the false teachers can use to their advantage. Think about it, which sounds more authoritative: 'This is what the Lord says' (NIV) or 'Thus saith the Lord' (KJV)? Somehow we have gotten used to seventeenth-century language having the 'ring of truth', and in the hands of unscrupulous false teachers it can trick the unwary. To be on the safe side, check all Bible quotations in a variety of different versions.

To be continued in the next issue of *MESSENGER*.

Reliable sources of information:

www.adventist.org – General Conference website, containing our official statements and guidelines.

www.adventistbiblicalresearch.org – Biblical Research Institute, explaining current Adventist theology.

www.whiteestate.org – The Ellen G. White Estate, the final word on all things to do with Ellen White.

www.grisda.org – Geoscience Research Institute, containing the latest Adventist research in matters of evolution and creation.

www.adventistarchives.org – Adventist archives and statistics, with all the latest facts and figures about the Adventist Church, as well as numerous archived publications.

Note: All texts quoted in this article, unless otherwise stated, are from the New King James Version.



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On to Jerusalem

The apostle Paul, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila, came to Ephesus after missionary work in Antioch, Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea and Athens (where he addressed the philosophers) and a long stay at Corinth (Acts 15:30-18:19). Entering the synagogue, he spoke to the Jews, whose reaction seems to have been more favourable than the Jews of Corinth, because they asked him to stay with them a little longer: Paul, however, said he must be on his way (Acts 18:5, 6, 20), and the reason he gave¹ was that he needed to go to Jerusalem (Acts 18:21).

If he did wish to go to Jerusalem for a feast, however, he didn't do it immediately. From Ephesus he went to Caesarea, then to Antioch, then all over Galatia and Phrygia; then back to Ephesus, during which time Alexander the coppersmith caused him problems he never quite got over (Acts 18:22-19:41; 2 Timothy 4:14). Here again he expressed a wish to go to Jerusalem, and also to Rome (Acts 19:21): but first he went to Macedonia, Greece, and Asia, stopping off at Philippi, Troas (where Eutychus fell out of a window), Assos, and Miletus (Acts 20:1-15). Now close to Ephesus again, this time Paul chose to sail right by the place, determined not to be distracted from his journey to Jerusalem any longer (Acts 20:16)!

Why did he want so much to celebrate Pentecost there, at Jerusalem? After all, as he explained to the Ephesians when they came to see him, this was going to be the last time he saw them, because chains and troubles waited for him in Jerusalem (Acts 20:22, 23, 25, 38). Disciples from Tyre, inspired by the Holy Spirit, warned him not to go there (Acts 21:4). The Judean Agabus bound his own hands and feet with Paul's belt, imploring him not to go, and his friends begged him to stay away (Acts 21:10-12). Maybe it was to fulfil a vow (Acts 18:18; 21:23, 24), or to take the collection money back to support the Church (Romans 15:25-31), or because there were God-fearing Jews from all over the world there at that time, whom Paul had a passion to reach with the Gospel (Acts 2:9-11; Romans 11). Whatever the reason, his arrest at Jerusalem was eventually used by God to give Paul a chance to witness before the Roman Emperor himself (Acts 21:33; 25:10-12; 27:24).

Consciously or unconsciously, Paul's determination to go to Jerusalem, in spite of the fact that he could be arrested, put him on the same path as Christ (Luke 9:51-53): a path he was always keen to tread. In writing to the Corinthians about his concern for the salvation of others, he said, 'imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ' (1 Corinthians 11:1, NKJV). Later on, while in prison, he told the Philippians to 'Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who . . . became obedient to the point of death' (Philippians 2:5-8, NKJV). As Peter also said, we are to follow Christ in serving others, and not fight back against our persecutors (1 Peter 2:18-25). Since He suffered for us, we should be prepared to suffer for others, too, and by so doing we demonstrate His forgiveness for our sins (1 Peter 4:1).

Suffering for Christ is nothing to be ashamed of – in fact, it's commendable (1 Peter 2:19; 4:12-14). While running life's race – like Paul, doing good in spite of suffering – we should commit our lives to Jesus (Acts 20:24; 2 Timothy 4:7; 1 Peter 4:19). The world really has nothing to offer, but He will give us citizenship, not of Rome, but of the Kingdom of Heaven (Philippians 3:7-9, 20). As Paul says in Romans 8:18, what's a bit of earthly suffering when compared with eternal life in Christ?

- What kind of crown will the Lord give to those who love Him? (2 Timothy 4)
- Should Christians be surprised at persecution? (Matthew 10)
- How did Paul feel about dying for Christ? (Philippians 1)
- How did he wish others to feel?
- In which chapter did Jesus command us to turn the other cheek?

¹ Some manuscripts, however, omit the words, 'I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem'.

Readers' gallery

Megapixels of creation

... every one a winner!

1



- 1. **Pink rose.**
Alex Fegidero, Nikon D3000.
- 2. **Sunset over Kilberry Camp.**
Tony Welch, Fujifilm S5700.
- 3. **Autumn colours.**
Elona Hlatshwayo, Nikon D3100.
- 4. **Approaching storm.**
John Butters, Canon EOS 400D.
- 5. **Swan family.**
Esti Pujic, Sony DSC-TX10.
- 6. **Juvenile chaffinch.**
Garfield Lynch, Nikon D300.

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

Such a high standard!

I am delighted to be including pictures from two new budding photographers, who have been encouraged by your photos. The standard has been high from all of you, and I appreciate the time taken to send in your pictures. Thank you.

Of course, you don't have to go out specially (but why not): it could be that you have stock photos – 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 – just remember to keep them 'hi-res'.

DAVID BELL

I can do all things through Christ, because he gives me strength.
Philippians 4:13 (NCV)

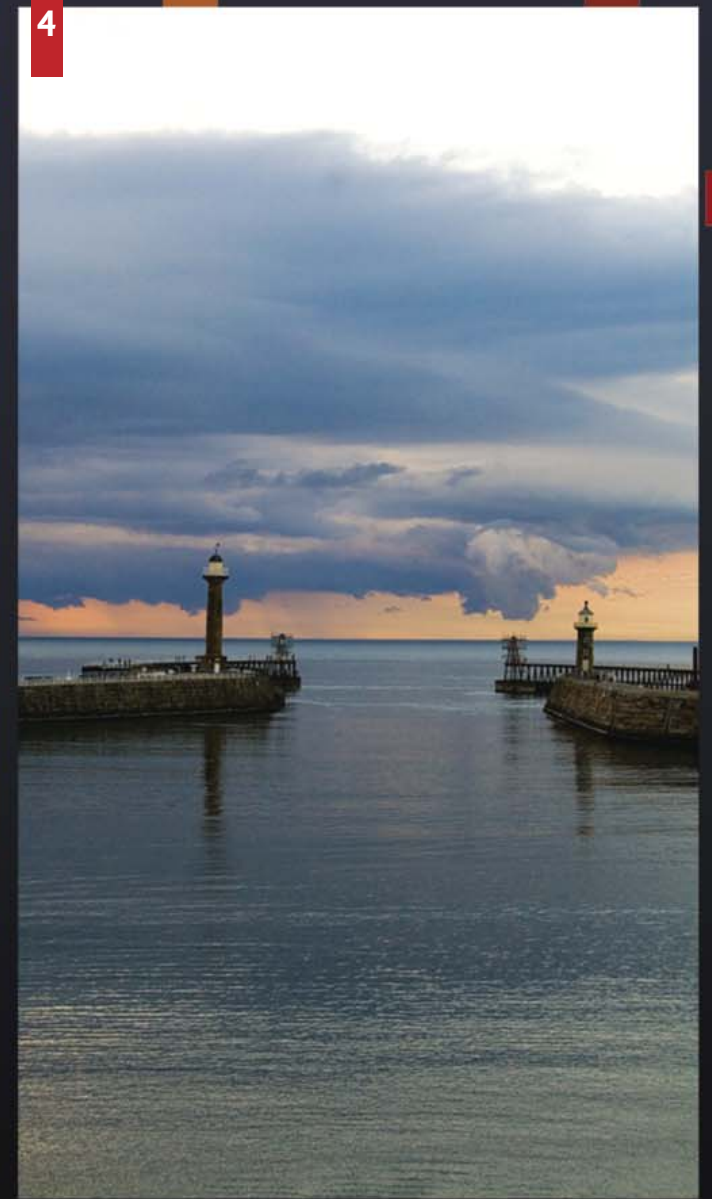
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RSVP ASAP

by Sarah Jarvis

Do you like being invited out? Do you get many invitations to events? Weddings? Birthdays? Anniversary celebrations? Parties?

Well, I don't. But this year I received a very special invitation card. It was to a summer party to be held at the home of one of my school friends who lives quite some distance from me, so I don't see her very often. She lives in a big mansion, commensurate with her large bank balance. I was so delighted at the honour that I put the card on my mantelpiece and it was up there for several months. I wanted any visitors to see that I had been considered worthy to invite to a posh do! (You could tell it was going to be posh by the style of the invitation card and the pukka address on it!)

Well, although I don't get invited out very often, I'm usually very dilatory in responding to invitations. But there was no way I was missing out on this one. I RSVP'd ASAP. Then there was the momentous decision of what to wear. Not difficult, really. It just had to be the very best my wardrobe had to offer.

When I arrived at the party, I immediately realised that this wasn't good enough! My clothes betrayed my inferior social and fiscal status and I looked like a fish out of water! Small talk is not my forté, and I soon found myself wishing the time away, longing

The invitations have gone out – to you, to me, to everyone. Refusal is unthinkable and delay could be costly. RSVP ASAP. He's waiting to hear from you.

for the moment when I could decently say, 'Well, I'd better be off now as I've a long journey home and have to be up early for work in the morning.' What a relief to get in the car!

Have you ever looked forward to something, only to be extremely disappointed? Have you ever been somewhere where you really didn't fit in? Well, then, you know how I felt. I wished I had made an excuse and refused the invitation in the first place.

And thinking of excuses reminded me of a story Jesus told. There was a man who gave a great feast and sent out invitations well in advance of the event. I'm not sure whether or not he asked invitees to RSVP, but he was certainly expecting them to attend.

Came the day and he asked his servant to go to each of the guests and tell them all was ready. And then came the excuses:

'Oh, I've just bought a new house and have to go and check it out. Sorry, I can't come.'

'I wasn't quite sure of the time and I've just closed a deal with another farmer over some cattle. I just have to go and look them over. Can't put it off as I might miss out. Sorry!'

'Well, since I got the invitation,

I've got married. As you can imagine, I'd rather be with my wife on my own just now. Sorry, some other time!'

Feeble excuses! And they obviously didn't realise what it was they were missing out on.

Jesus Himself proffered many invitations, collective and individual. He invited His disciples to 'Come, follow me . . .' and straightaway, without hesitation, they left their former lives and occupations and did just that. But His invitations weren't always so readily accepted. Think of the rich young ruler. How sad that, like the people in the parable, his mind was set on the things of Earth rather than those of Heaven.

Jesus is still offering invitations. He invites us every day to 'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.' (Matthew 11:28, NIV.) Then, of course, we've all been sent invitations well in advance to the banquet of banquets, the wedding feast of the Lamb. And there's no need to worry about what to wear. The gracious Host has provided the appropriate apparel for us. Remember the story of the wedding garment?

And like the servant in the earlier parable, Jesus wants us to let others know about the invitation. Just as I put the invitation on my mantelpiece for all to see, Jesus wants us to advertise the fact that we're invited to the best party in the world, ever – and to tell others that the invitation is extended to them as well.

In the here and now, the most eagerly anticipated events more often than not disappoint. I was disappointed at my posh summer party; I felt that I didn't belong – my clothes, my face and my voice didn't fit and I just didn't want to be there. But the party God has planned for His people will not disappoint, and no one, but no one, will feel out of place. You can take that to the bank.

Yes, we're all invited to the heavenly banquet – the ultimate celebration – but is our response akin to those who refused in Jesus' parable? Are our minds so preoccupied with earthly concerns that we have no time to prepare ourselves for the biggest event of Earth's history?

The invitations have gone out – to you, to me, to everyone. Refusal is unthinkable and delay could be costly.

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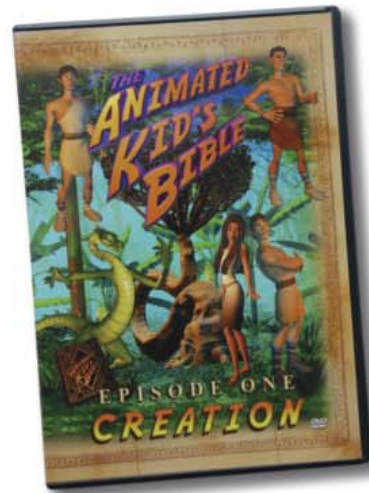
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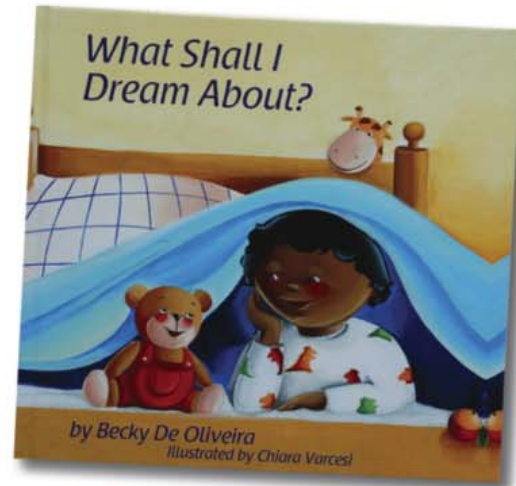
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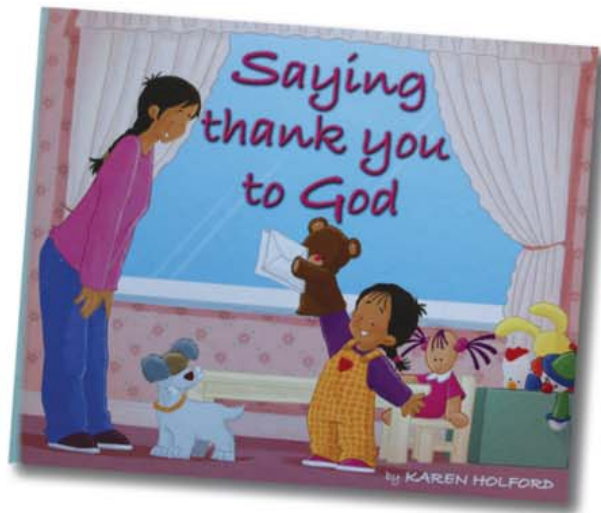
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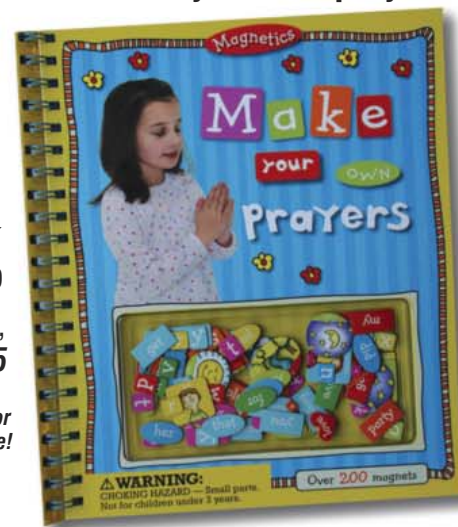
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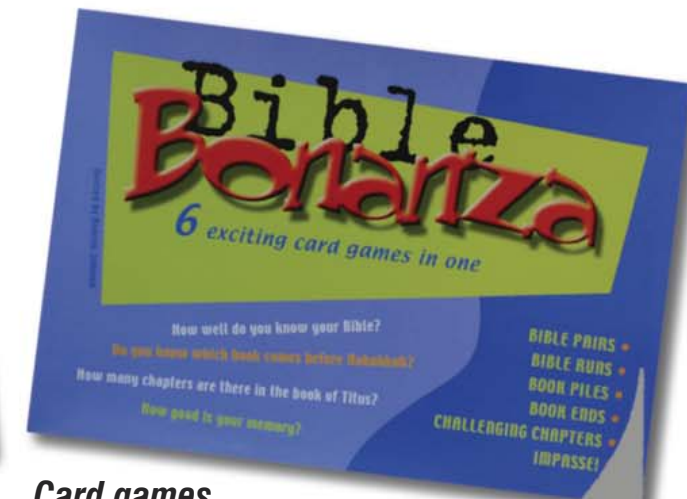
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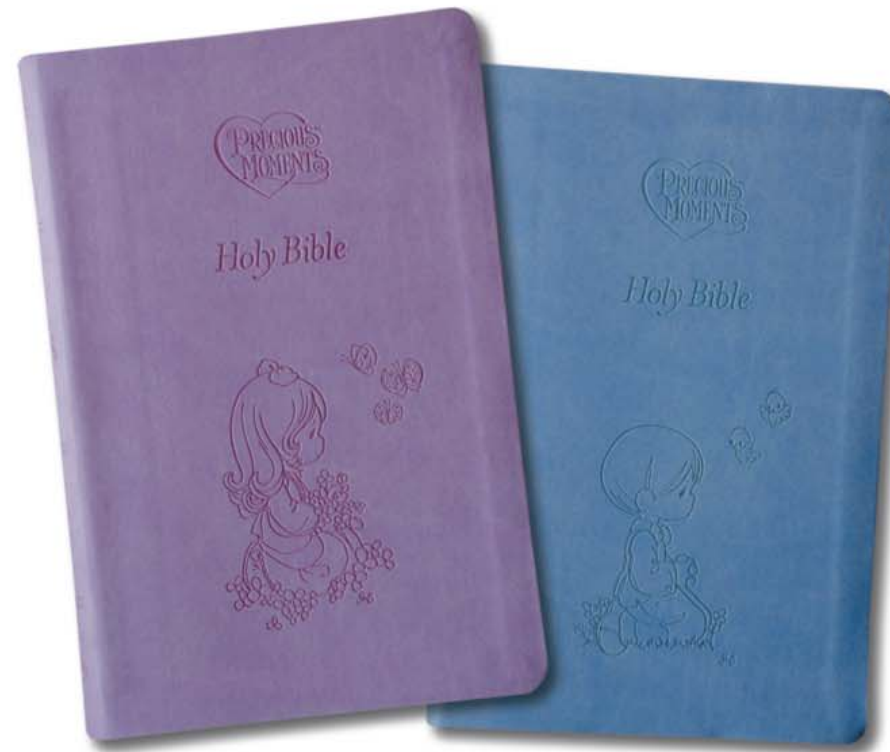
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ways to witness



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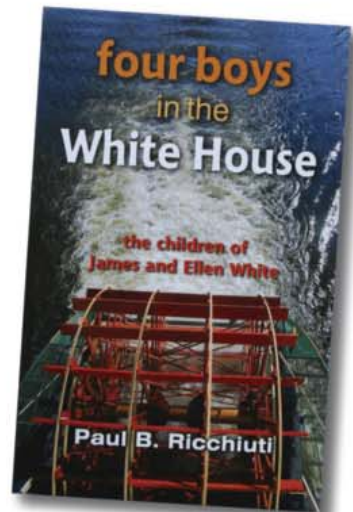
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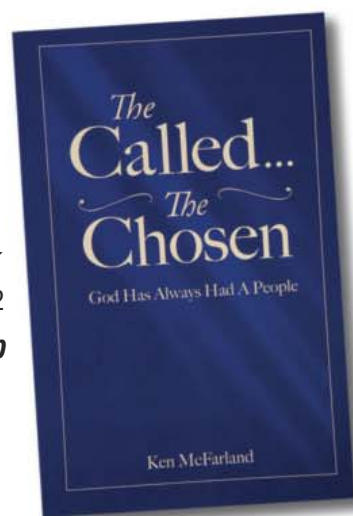
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'Christ-cards'

Wendy Forrester has found an innovative way to witness. It was a process triggered off by her realisation that, although many of us 'may or may not celebrate Christmas', the fact is that millions do!

They may 'celebrate' it very nominally, but celebrate they do. They buy presents for each other, wear funny hats and enjoy turkey roasts – not to mention the mince pies and Christmas pudding. And we shouldn't forget that other custom that many of them still adhere to: they send out cards.

Four years ago Wendy realised that the cards that come on sale at Christmas time are very shallow. Sweet as they may seem, drawings of the baby Jesus and the nativity scene don't really portray the full picture of God's gracious activity on our behalf.

It was there and then that she decided to put her skills to work for God. She decided to create cards – not Christmas cards, but what she calls 'Christ-cards' – cards that are intended 'to draw people to Christ, or at least make them think about spiritual things'.

Well, is it working? Let Wendy give her own answer to that question: 'For the past four years, as well as giving them to my friends, neighbours, doctor and dentist, I've also been selling them for others to share. I don't know if any of the recipients of my cards have found Christ, but I do know that we are called to keep on planting seeds, regardless of who reaps the harvest, and when.'

Well, that is innovative. Perhaps you have a story to tell. If so, let us know and we will publish it in this 'Ways to witness' feature. If you would like to know more about Wendy's cards and her 'Christ-card' ministry, go to her website at: www.christ-cards.co.uk or email her at: mail@wendyforrester.com.

Disabled 'man on a mission'

An interview with Pastor John Arthur



Julian: Hi John, I believe that you have been up to something challenging.

John: Yes, Julian. I had a major stroke in March 2010 which left me paralysed down my left side. Nevertheless, I have since attempted something new – writing a book manuscript, the one-finger way – and I've called it *Man on a Mission*.

Julian: What motivated you to do this?

John: God has been very good to me, especially while I was connected with ADRA. I wanted to share a few experiences that would keep alive the spirit of the Good Samaritan.

Julian: What is the main focus of your book?

John: *Man on a Mission* is mainly about people helping people. It highlights the work on ADRA's front line and the magnificent support they receive from the public and our members.

Julian: Who is the book's target readership?

John: The book is designed for the man in the street. It includes stories about mishaps and miracles along the humanitarian highway. Heart-breaking episodes are contrasted with rewarding surprises – and there is good coverage of the humorous side of the aid worker's life.

Julian: I believe that Albania is close to your heart.

John: That's correct, Julian. I visited there fifty-one times and fell in love with the country and its people. In fact, I am very honoured that the nation's prime minister, Dr Sali Berisha, has kindly written an endorsement for the book. Following the collapse of Communism in 1991, ADRA was the first Western agency to deliver aid to this impoverished land, and ADRA Albania is still very much alive and well. Much more remains to be done to conquer the country's poverty; therefore, any profit made from the book, together with my royalties, will assist ADRA's ongoing projects to restore run-down rural schools and health centres.

Julian: How soon can I get a copy?

John: By the end of November . . . from the ABC, for just £5.99, plus £2 postage and packaging. If anybody is thinking of a small Christmas present for a relative, neighbour or friend, *Man on a Mission* could well be your answer!

ASI-UK convention (1-3 February 2013)

I should like to personally invite you to attend our next ASI-UK convention, which will once again be held at the popular Staverton Park Conference Centre at Daventry, Northampton, a fairly central location for those from the Midlands, the north, and the south.

Those who came along to this year's convention were very impressed with excellent speakers and vibrant group discussions, and many who heard the reports from those who attended were sorry they missed the blessing.

In February we will consider some vital aspect of our faith in more detail – such as Creation and the Sabbath – and how they affect us, our young people, the Church at large and those with whom we come into contact.

Our conventions are not just about discussing important issues, but we thoroughly enjoy meeting old friends and making new ones, eating very well and having a great weekend break in very congenial surroundings. We have managed to obtain excellent rates again.

If you are interested in finding out more about ASI (Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries) with a view to attending the 2013 Convention, please contact Christine Manners-Smith at christinemanners_smith@yahoo.com soon to avoid disappointment.

Yours very sincerely
Jim Cunningham
President



Newbold College Vacancy
Business Development Manager

The College requires a full-time **Business Development Manager** to manage its real-estate development projects in order to diversify the college's revenue base in support of its operations. The college estate comprises 80 acres with 39 buildings of varying size that are used for a variety of purposes.

Selection criteria:

- At least five years' experience in planning and managing multiple real-estate development projects and in the utilisation of existing real-estate assets;
- Proven skills in all phases of real-estate property development and building construction;
- Thorough understanding of complex debt financing and equity sources for housing and mixed-use development projects;
- Ability to work well with government, investors and lenders, community organisations, stakeholders, and so on;
- Knowledge concerning environmentally sustainable construction materials and practices;
- Minimum of an undergraduate degree in construction management, business, urban planning, architecture, community development, asset management or related field.

Note: applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have the right to work in the United Kingdom.

Starting date: 1 January 2013, or as negotiated with the successful applicant.
Salary as per the denominational salary scale.

Candidates to submit a CV (resume) and letter of interest, including names, email addresses and phone numbers of three referees, as soon as possible, but no later than **Friday 30 November 2012**, to Dr Philip Brown, principal (pbrown@newbold.ac.uk).

To request a copy of the full position description, contact Dr Philip Brown on +44 (0) 1344 407400.

Newbold College of Higher Education
St Marks Road, Binfield, Berks, RG42 4AN
United Kingdom

14 baptisms

God's fifty-year wait

On 8 September, Grantham and Skegness congregations joined together to celebrate the baptism of Sean Newman of Grantham and Mick Bryan of Skegness, along with the welcome into fellowship of Mick's wife, Jenny.

Mick and Jenny Bryan have a long connection to the Church. Jenny was brought up an Adventist and baptised as a young woman. Her husband, Mick, had studies for a time but chose not to join the Church, and Jenny stopped attending. However, when her daughter-in-law began working for Skegness small-group leader, Stephen Pain, she occasionally visited the church in Skegness.

In December 2009, following a traumatic year, Mick and Jenny asked Pastor John Ferguson to visit. They both began attending Skegness Church regularly, and brought another couple along too. They took a course of ADC lessons to re-familiarise themselves with the fundamentals of the Christian faith and our Adventist beliefs. Then, after fifty years, Jenny was overjoyed to see Mick baptised and herself



Left to right: Pastor John Ferguson, Mr & Mrs Newman, Sean Newman, Jenny and Mick Bryan

welcomed into the fellowship of the Skegness group.

Whereas Mick and Jenny are retirees, the other candidate for baptism, Sean Newman, was just 10 years of age. His mother became an Adventist some years ago, but Sean's life began to change for the better when he became a pupil at Dudley House School. He asked to be baptised, and Pastor Ferguson began the Bible studies that led to his baptism.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Mark Chandler's journey

Mark Chandler's journey to full membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church began when he met Ramute Baltadone, an Adventist member from Latvia who became his girlfriend – later his wife – and a few years ago they began visiting the Gloucester church.

When they moved to Hereford in early 2011 Mark and Ramute again found a very supportive group of friends in the local Adventist church. They also got on well with the pastor, David Rancić, who visited the couple regularly and had a thorough series of Bible studies with them.

Mark was baptised on 12 May 2012 in the Gloucester church, partly because the Hereford church does not have a baptistry but mainly because both churches wanted to join in the celebration. David Rancić performed the baptism, but he paid tribute to Pastor Namushi



Mark was presented with books by Bruce Khumalo and Helen Toney

Namuchana (minister) and Robert Hines (head elder) of the Gloucester church for their part in making the day a success.

Mark himself gave a candid testimony after the baptism, describing himself as a man who once 'had it all', but still felt empty until he found Jesus Christ. Today his favourite text is 2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV): 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come!'

BRUCE KHUMALO

'Kiwi' fruit at Harvest Festival

Arriving at Stanborough Park Church for the annual Harvest Festival service on 6 October, worshippers were surprised to find an unusual twist. For, in addition to the traditional produce on display, there was also a 'harvest of souls' as Alesha Thomson publicly declared her intention to follow Jesus by baptism.

As Alesha says, she was not brought up a Christian in her native New Zealand but 'had always felt a pull towards God and that maybe one day she would be part of His plans'. That plan was to take thirty years and span three continents – from New Zealand to Australia, and then to London via Kenya!

It was while volunteering at a Kenyan orphanage that Alesha first came across Adventists. For not only were the couple running the orphanage church members, but also some friends she made there who were running a dental surgery in the Masai Mara. Passing through London on their way back to America, these dentists met up with an old Adventist dentist friend who agreed, with his family, to be a contact for Alesha when she arrived in London.

Upon arrival she soon made contact with them, which led not only to her becoming the dentist's receptionist in London, but also to her attending Brian Davison's campaign meetings, 'Faith According to Jesus', and taking Bible studies with Pastor Jim Huzzey. She was baptised by senior minister, Pastor Paul Clee.



Pastor Everett Picart with baptismal candidates Kory Pemberton and Henry Martin

Autumn baptisms at Hanwell

On Sabbath afternoon, 13 October, Hanwell Seventh-day Adventist Church added two more precious souls to their membership, following a sermonette by one of the elders, Dukal Daley.

Kory Pemberton and Henry Martin were both baptised by Hanwell's Pastor Everett Picart, watched by a packed gathering of church members, family and friends. Both candidates had touching stories. Henry Martin had been prayed for, for more than thirty years, by his wife, Ruth, before the Holy Spirit won over his heart. Before he was immersed she read a poem appropriately entitled: 'Is This the Day of New Beginnings?' Kory had drifted away from church but was encouraged back by church friends and the 'Jesus Paid It All' Youth Campaign meetings that took place at Hanwell this year. The powerful messages he heard from Dean Cullinane and Andrew Fuller contributed to him finally making up his mind, once and for all, to be baptised. Kory's mum and grandparents sang 'I'm Free' for him.

ANGELA PINNOCK, COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

First baptism for Newtown Company

On Sabbath afternoon, 13 October, Joshua Watt (11), Zibusiso Moyo (13), and Nyasha Mwamuka (14) from the Newtown company were baptised in the Shrewsbury church. Visitors came from Wales and the West Midlands to witness the event, and local members were thrilled to see their church filled with people.

Their minister, Pastor Roger Neal, also included Omar McKenzie in the preparatory studies, and he will be baptised shortly in a church in the West Midlands. Together with Pastor Neal, these four young people worked through all twenty-eight of our fundamental beliefs.

All of these young people come from strong Adventist homes, and



Alesha Thomson with Pastor Paul Clee

Unfortunately, we will not have much time to get to know our newest member, as her visa expires in the New Year and she will be returning 'Down Under'.

JUNE COOMBS



Left to right: Zibusiso Moyo, Joshua Watt, and Nyasha Mwamuka

already play an active part in the running of the Newtown company. Pastor Clyde Moore, minister of the Shrewsbury church, prayed for the baptismal candidates, and Welsh Mission president, Pastor John Surridge, performed the baptisms. All present were overjoyed to see young people, with their lives before them, making a stand for Jesus Christ. We wish them God's continued blessings as they walk the highway to His Kingdom.

JOHN SURRIDGE

New member at Leamington

On Sabbath, 29 September, the Leamington mission welcomed Titus Taskunas as a member of the church. Titus, a young man of 17,

returned to his home country of Lithuania this summer with his parents and sister for a Family Camp holiday near Siauliai. While there, Titus was one of six young people baptised in a nearby lake on 13 August. His father, Arunas, who recently graduated with a theology degree from Newbold College, had the privilege of baptising him. We pray that God will bless Titus in the years ahead.

LORRAINE GLINTON



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SNAP family retreat

Hill House Christian Retreat Centre in Somerset was the setting for the first Support Network for Adventist Parents (SNAP) family weekend (26-28 October). Fifteen families from near and far came to share, learn, worship and network together. The facilitators were Pastors Wayne Erasmus and Jacques Venter, along with SNAP co-ordinators Mike and Vicky Beamish.

We began on Friday evening with an introduction to SNAP and a sharing of thoughts as to why we had come and what we hoped to gain from the weekend.

Sabbath morning worship involved early Israelite history and found us wearing paper chains on our wrists and crossing the parted Red Sea (blue shiny cloth), picking up stones on our way and making an altar on the other side. This was followed by celebration in song with tambourines and other percussion instruments – and the breaking of our paper chains to signify freedom. We then learned about the Ten Commandments. These were visually displayed in family groups using drawings, playdough and a tableau for each commandment.

Following this, the children were creatively nurtured by Pastor Julian Thompson and Kathy Dalton, while the adults learned about the spirituality of children from Pastor Jacques Venter.

After, everyone went out into the glorious sunshine and crisp autumn air to follow a Bible treasure trail, designed to encourage spiritual conversation between family members.

In the evening, while the youngsters enjoyed an active social time together, the parents had a lively discussion, mostly on the subject of discipline.

On Sunday morning, we found an elaborate feast set out on the front tables in the worship room, and a piece of blue cloth stretched across in front of it. Wayne and Jacques continued the story of the journey toward the Promised Land. When we arrived at its borders, dramatic music sounded as five 'spies' checked out the Promised Land, sneaking us back samples from the table. And so we followed the story through . . . learning that God is not always able to do with us what He would like to while we are complaining.

In our last full session, the children were again looked after as parents discussed relevant issues relating to information technology and the potential impact, both positive and negative, that it can have on our families: especially our children.

If you would like to know more about SNAP, please contact us at snap.sda@tesco.net, or by phone – 01242 890566.

MIKE & VICKY BEAMISH

A season of family celebrations in Exeter

Many members will remember Peter and Miriam Chapman, who once managed Broomhill Conference Centre in Devon, and now enjoy retirement in Teignmouth. On Sabbath 14 July, the Exeter church presented them with a bouquet and card for their golden wedding anniversary, to be celebrated the next day, also Peter's birthday.

It was a doubly blessed Sabbath as Felicia and John Heard brought their baby son, Samuel, to be dedicated by Pastor Ian Lorek. Felicia was



Peter and Miriam Chapman (centre) with the Heard family and Pastor Ian Lorek (right)

delighted that her mother, who lives in Malaysia, was present for this special occasion, as was John's.

It has been a season of celebrations involving marriage and family in Exeter. Angela and Maurice Beckenham requested a wedding blessing in Stoke Woods on 3 June, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Sunday. Pastor Bertie de Nysschen, who officiated, compared the natural environment with that of Eden, where the first marriage was ordained by God.

Kaye Pigott was baptised in Rotterdam South Church in Holland at the end of May, and on 29 June she was married to Cor van der Wijngaard. The couple shared the happy news with Exeter Church members on 21 July, and the church made plans for baptismal and wedding gifts to mark these special occasions.

The following Sabbath, Pastor Ian Lorek and his wife, Romolà, were presented with a card and beautiful flower arrangement to celebrate their pearl wedding anniversary. They met in Exeter Church, when Romolà was a young French teacher in Crediton, and Ian a new pastor who had just served his internship in Cornwall. They have worked in churches from west to east, but it is good to have them back where the romance began!

STELLA JEFFERY

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Seventh-day ADVENTIST CHURCH LYFO TV area

'Hand maids for ministry'

by Peter Jeynes,
NEC Communication director

'Hand maids for ministry' was the theme of the recent women's ministry programme organised by the SEC and NEC.

Each speaker contributed something special that deepened the self-understanding of the participants. Andrea Rashford-Hewitt, potter and pastor's wife, showed the multiple connections between a natural product like clay and God's care for His people.

Geraldine Farmer and Malika Bediako encouraged the younger women present to develop godly lifestyles and beautiful characters. Leah Sweeney and Tashana Samuels announced a mentoring programme for young people called 'Filiae Dei'. Sharon Platt-McDonald prepared the women for their Lord's Supper together by challenging them to have a spiritual 'makeover' – no surgery required, just 'inner rebuilding'!

The women had lots of fun too – especially with the fashion show and photoshoots (Donald McKenzie) which raised money for the Manchester Central church's heating system.

Mary Newman delivered the closing challenge – sending the women away with a strong longing for the next retreat!



Erdington prayer conference

The first sentence of King David's Psalm 133 reads (KJV): 'Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!'

This is what happened on 28-29 September when Erdington celebrated its prayer conference, organised by Maude Murray in collaboration with Freddika Reid.

For two Spirit-led days Carol Douglas, founder and leader of Prayer Harvest Ministries, and her team prayed fervently to invoke the Spirit of God on Erdington. Douglas led out throughout the conference.

On Friday evening the emphasis was on 'The Cross and the Cure', while early the next morning she led out in prayer for the meeting of personal needs and those of the church.

During the Sabbath School session, 'Prayers of Worship', she highlighted adoration, confession, consecration and gratitude. The theme chosen by Douglas during Divine Worship was the 'Power of the Cross'.

During Sabbath afternoon Carol Douglas organised a series of workshops on healing and restoration through 'Divine Exchange!' Her message was simple: 'Pain that's not transformed is pain transmitted!' Her message focused primarily on forgiveness.

Special music for the weekend was provided by the Erdington Community Gospel Choir, led by C. Morgan-Davis.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG

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Seventh-day ADVENTIST CHURCH ministry youth federation area

And the winner is . . . the Coventry Language Café!

My heart was pounding. They were about to announce the winner of the Community Cohesion Award 2012 for the category 'small community group'.

When I started a language café in Coventry in September 2009 my vision was that it would be a place where people of all nationalities and languages could meet and learn from each other. My faith teaches me to value all cultures (Revelation 14:6) and people as equal members of the human family (Acts 17:26); and I wanted to put my belief into practice in a meaningful way that would benefit the people of Coventry. When we pray for our cities, we must be God's willing instruments to bring about change.

On 18 October, that vision was recognised and celebrated at the award ceremony when it was revealed that the winner in our category was the Coventry Language Café. We were chosen because:

'This project champions the diversity of the city and values the cultural mix of the people who live in it, as well as promoting the different languages spoken.'

'The judges thought it was a good example of cohesion and helps create a place where all communities are welcome.'

The way we operate is very simple. People turn up and join a table displaying the name of the language they want to speak. There they make new friends and develop their linguistic skills in a relaxed atmosphere. We now have more than 200 members who meet in groups of about fifteen, twice monthly, for a couple of hours.

Every one of us has a skill we can use in very simple ways to make a positive contribution in our communities. I would encourage everyone to start with prayer and then step out by faith; knowing that we serve a Living God who is able to do above all that we think or hope.

MURIELLE GALVANI

ASNA annual carers' weekend

The seventh annual carers' respite weekend during 12-14 October at the Oxford Belfry Hotel Thame saw carers and ASNA volunteers from all over the UK come together for relaxation and fellowship.

Pastor Paul Liburd, newly appointed Family Life director at the NEC, took carers through the Bible on a 'spiritual health check', saying, 'Difficulties are there to aid our learning' – challenges develop spiritual 'muscles' providing strength to support others going through similar experiences.

Also speaking were carer advisor, Sonia Munroe; Health Ministries and Disability director from the NEC, Grace Walsh; and indoor health walk leader, Joni Blackwood. Carers enjoyed all the sessions, and thanks go to all the volunteers and supporters of ASNA. For further details about ASNA, visit: www.asna.info. Next year's carers' weekend will be 11-13 October 2013.

SOPHIA NICHOLLS



Pastor Paul Cleo with associate minister Pastor Karin Wicorzek.

Paul Cleo retires

At the end of October, Pastor Paul Cleo began his well-deserved retirement following a forty-one-year ecclesiastical career.

A proud Yorkshireman by birth, Paul graduated from Newbold College in 1971. His first appointment was with Pastor Jim Huzzey at Aberdaron Youth Camp (with all his worldly possessions in one tent). From this humble start he worked his way across the North England Conference, ministering at churches in Leeds, Coventry and Camp Hill, Birmingham, as well as at the administrative offices in Nottingham (twelve years), the Welsh Mission, where he spent twelve years as president, and the Trans-European Division in St Albans (ten years).

During this time he covered almost every church department, including a term as field secretary at the Division. His final appointment was, quite literally, on his doorstep as senior pastor at Stanborough Park Church – a role in which he was supported by his wife Barbara, who, as he says, 'came out of retirement from Stanborough Park Primary School to be my invaluable helper, visitor and aide'.

In retirement Paul plans to spend more time on his hobby of photography and with his four grandchildren. He will remain on the SEC preaching circuit and be available to help smaller churches develop health and other outreach activities.

JUNE COOMBS

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TICKETS ARE £10.00 FOR ADULTS,
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obituaries

Hurline Joyce Crooks (1930-2011) d. 8 November.

Known as Sister Crooks by many, Hurline was a devoted and tireless worker for God.

Born Hurline Joyce Corniffe on Thursday 17 July 1930 in Hopewell, Hanover, Jamaica, to Nellie Ann Matilda Corniffe (née England) and Samuel Emmanuel Corniffe, she was the sixth of ten children – six boys and four girls.

After attending Watford Hill Elementary School until 16, Hurline was selected to spend an extra year as a 'monitor' or teaching assistant, and additionally receive two hours of private tuition for the Jamaica Local Exams at the end of each school day.

She planned to work as an untrained teacher, but, because she had started visiting a Seventh-day Adventist church, Hurline was told that she would not get a job at the local Baptist school.

This forced her to move to Montego Bay, where she worked at a printer's firm, but after a few years she was able to return to her first love, teaching.

She became a Seventh-day Adventist in 1956, and later married the love of her life, Clifford Lloyd Crooks, before they emigrated to the UK in the early 1960s – a match that lasted more than fifty years.

Although she loved teaching, for practical reasons she decided to pursue a new career. She trained and qualified as a general nurse, and later on as a midwife. She later became a ward sister, and retired after nearly forty years in the National Health Service (NHS). She worked in Manchester at Crumpsall Hospital, which was later renamed North Manchester General.

As a mother in the home, she was an excellent seamstress and a 'queen of the kitchen'. Their home was always open, particularly on Sabbath afternoons. Her specialities were her rich gravies and her apple crumble.

Hurline was in every sense a true 'stalwart', and influenced many to be faithful and hold on when they were struggling.

Hurline sang a sweet soprano in choirs and as a solo. She held many local church offices, including church elder, head



deaconess, treasurer, Ingathering agent and Sabbath School teacher and superintendent.

At the end of her life, she constantly demonstrated these same leadership and caring traits. She faced her illness and incapacity with dignity, a sharp mind and a sense of humour. She was still able to beat relatives at Scrabble, enjoy *Match of the Day*, cook a good Sabbath lunch (with assistance) and laugh with her care team.

She was exceedingly grateful for the care provided by family members, friends, professionals and volunteers, and for the laughter, prayers, singing and fellowship she enjoyed during her last few months.

Hurline fell asleep peacefully in the Lord on Tuesday, 8 November 2011 after a short stay in hospital.

She is survived by her daughters Verina and Vernica, and many grandchildren.

PATRICK MCKERROW

Clifford Lloyd Crooks (1927-2011) d. 17 December.

He was known simply as Brother Crooks, particularly by members of

Manchester North Seventh-day Adventist Church, where he was a founding member. A gentle and kind man who loved his Lord, Clifford Lloyd Crooks was born to Ida McKenzie and Thomas Adolphus Crooks in Jamaica on Sunday 27 November 1927. The fourth of five children (three boys and two girls), he was raised in Jamaica and attended Chester Castle Elementary School before going on to Knockalva Agricultural College.

Having worked as a mason, Clifford left for the USA in the 1940s and found work as a farm labourer. He returned in the early 1950s and worked on his family land, selling animals and other produce.

He fell in love with Hurline, and their marriage lasted for more than 50 years.

Although life was difficult for those who came from the Caribbean to the UK, Clifford was willing to take on any job to support his family. His first job was at Manchester Central Station in the sorting office, dealing with parcels sent by rail. He then worked at a number of manufacturing companies –



mainly in the plastics field as a machine operator, then as a plastics engineer at Ward and Goldstone until his retirement.

Clifford attended open-air evangelistic meetings at the encouragement of his cousin, John Brown of Walsall Seventh-day Adventist Church, who also gave him Bible studies. In 1961 Clifford was baptised, and became a very active and valuable member of what became the Manchester North church.

Clifford and Hurline opened their home for a study group on Bible prophecy, which led to the establishment of Manchester North Branch Sabbath School, and eventually the present Manchester North church. These attributes helped in the sharing of the Gospel, and contributed greatly to the spiritual development of the local congregation.

He served as a deacon, Sabbath School teacher and lay preacher, but was renowned as a

champion Ingatherer.

He was a source of wise counsel and spiritual guidance – respected by all. Clifford was a deep thinker who liked to ponder the complex questions of life, but he also enjoyed a game of dominos.

He often gave practical assistance to those who were in need within the church and in the local community.

His strong faith helped him face the loss of two of his grown children, Leonie and Christopher. When Hurline fell ill he devoted his time to her care until she died on Tuesday, 8 November 2011. They had been married for more than fifty years!

Just five weeks later Clifford fell asleep peacefully in the Lord on Sabbath, 17 December 2011, following a short stay in hospital. This was a great shock to his family, friends and fellow members – especially to his two daughters, Verina and Vernica, and his many grandchildren.

PATRICK MCKERROW

A tribute to Pastor Malcolm Taylor

(27 December 1937 – 2 October 2012)

by Patrick Boyle

'Lovely. That was our dad,' said Matthew, youngest son of Pastor Malcolm Taylor, supported by Nick, his brother.

'Our role model; firm when necessary and always kind, and so supportive of each one of us, even when he didn't share our interest. He taught us, by example, how to be good parents,' said Andrew, the eldest of Malcolm's three sons.

Around three hundred family members and friends attending the funeral of Pastor Malcolm Taylor on Thursday 11 October at Avenue Baptist Church, Westcliff-on-Sea, were not surprised to hear of how Malcolm's pastoral life touched friends and strangers alike. 'The checkout ladies in supermarkets were always surprised and delighted when he asked them how they were, and took an interest in them,' said Margaret, his wife of forty-seven years. The majority of hundreds of sympathy cards and letters said the same thing: 'He telephoned me regularly when I was ill'; 'He helped me through my difficult times'; and his was 'a life of caring and sharing the love of Christ with all whom he met.' Such comments summed him up perfectly.

He was also known to many for his musical talent. Pastor Boyle recounted memories of a particular day of fellowship, graced by a multi-church choir that Malcolm had brought together beautifully. He had composed the opening trumpet fanfare for that event and it reminded the audience of God's greatness.

He was a gifted musician. A master of the piano and organ who used his talents freely to grace many an event and to teach others; so, fittingly, Margaret chose some of his favourite music as a parting memory to her husband. These included organ music by Widor and Saint-Saëns; Debussy's 'Clair de Lune' played on the piano by their niece, Joanna McGregor; and his favourite hymn, 'Let All the World in Every Corner Sing'.

Pastor Malcolm Taylor, always true to his calling, will be missed by many, but his influence will live on, because his life was well lived.

The service was conducted by Pastor Patrick Boyle, supported by Pastor Terry Messenger.





A rare double

The Waite family notched up a rare academic double this year when Alicia Waite graduated from Imperial College, London, with a PhD. Her dissertation was on the subject of Critical Care Medicine. She was following the footsteps of her father, who obtained his PhD thirty years ago, but in a different discipline.

Congratulations to Alicia, Albert and Erselen on this wonderful family achievement!

PATRICK HERBERT

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2012

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Local Youth Leader
FB : Youth Banquet 2012
www.youth.northmanchestersda.org.uk

BOOKSALES

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25 John Loughborough 10am-2pm
25 Croydon 10am-2pm

December
2 Brixton 10am-2pm
2 Bradford 10am-2pm
9 Southend 10am-2pm
9 Stanborough Press Open House 9am-5pm

ABC Shops
Watford, BUC, Monday-Thursday - 12.30-5pm, Friday - 10am-2pm.
Birmingham, Aston-Newtown, Wednesday - 11am-4pm, Thursday - 4pm-8pm, Friday - 9am-1pm, Sunday - 11am-3pm.
Advent Centre, Mondays & Wednesdays - 6.30pm-8.30pm, Sundays - 11am-3pm, Saturdays - November, December, January: After sunset.

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Share the joy!

John Ainsworth and Amy Hulbert were married at Newbold Church on Sunday, 16 September this year, surrounded by a vast array of family and friends and watched on live stream video from Australia to the USA. These distant 'guests' were able to see it all, including the moment the joyful groom exclaimed: 'I am so happy just to be able to spend the rest of my life with my best friend!'

The service was a family affair too: Pastor Victor Hulbert guided the couple through the vows; Pastor Obed Ainsworth offered the prayer of blessing; and Amy's brother, Steven, also a pastor, preached the sermon.

This was all followed by a sumptuous wedding feast incorporating Asian, Portuguese and many other international dishes. You can share the joy by visiting the Hulbert website: <http://hulbert.org.uk>.

PASTOR VICTOR HULBERT

WANTED: Pioneer Evangelism Workers! The North England Conference seeks volunteers for the following:

To set up Bible studies through efforts such as door-to-door work, literature evangelism, distribution of Bible request cards, various methods of friendship evangelism and small groups. Applicants must have a well-rounded knowledge of Seventh-day Adventist teachings, be good communicators and be able to conduct Bible studies, seminars and evangelistic meetings, and prepare contacts for baptism. Their personal lives will reflect the Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle. These are voluntary positions for which full accommodation and a living allowance will be provided.

Starting date: 1 December 2012.

Apply online or to Pastor Michael Simpson:
North England Conference Church Planting
Department, 22 Zulla Road, Mapperley
Park, Nottingham, NG3 5DB
Tel: 0044 115960 6312
Fax: 0044 115969 1476
Email: msimpson@necadventist.org.uk
Web: <https://www.adventistvolunteers.org>
Call ID: TED.NECY.2012.03

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Sunset

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

	Lon	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Nov 23	4.01	4.14	3.59	3.53	4.10
30	3.56	4.08	3.53	3.45	4.03
Dec 7	3.52	4.04	3.49	3.40	3.59
14	3.52	4.04	3.48	3.38	3.58

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