

Messenger

News to the churches • 25 January 2013 • Volume 118 • 02

God hasn't given up on our cities yet!

Although it may seem otherwise, God hasn't given up on our cities yet! Why not? For the simple reason that they are still packed with people who need to know about His saving grace.

At first they may appear indifferent, resistant, impervious to truth. But as this brief testimony by Kevin Lynn of Londonderry Church reveals, they are not beyond God's reach.

Kevin was baptised by Pastor Claudiu Popescu on 15 December last year, during the second week of the Belfast riots. Let him tell his story* . . .

**This is an edited version of his original testimony.*

I'll be honest, I've spent quite a lot of my early life trying to disprove the Word of God. I met a number of Christians while involved with online gaming. They seemed convinced that their Jesus was different to mine. He was a Creator Jesus, and they didn't believe that He 'designed' by natural selection and blind chance.

So I began to look for ways to disprove their silly ideas, first through evolution, then philosophy, archaeology, physics and theology. I suppose I resented this God who felt He had the right to judge me!

So I searched for a way out. Some way that I could comfortably deny this 'new' Jesus – this Person who actually wanted to play a part in my life. A Jesus who wanted more from me than a quick 'dial up' prayer spiced with a 'Hail Mary', two 'Our Fathers' and a 'Glory be', before I hung up on Him.

Surely this different Jesus didn't exist? I decided to investigate, so I could comfortably put the matter behind me.

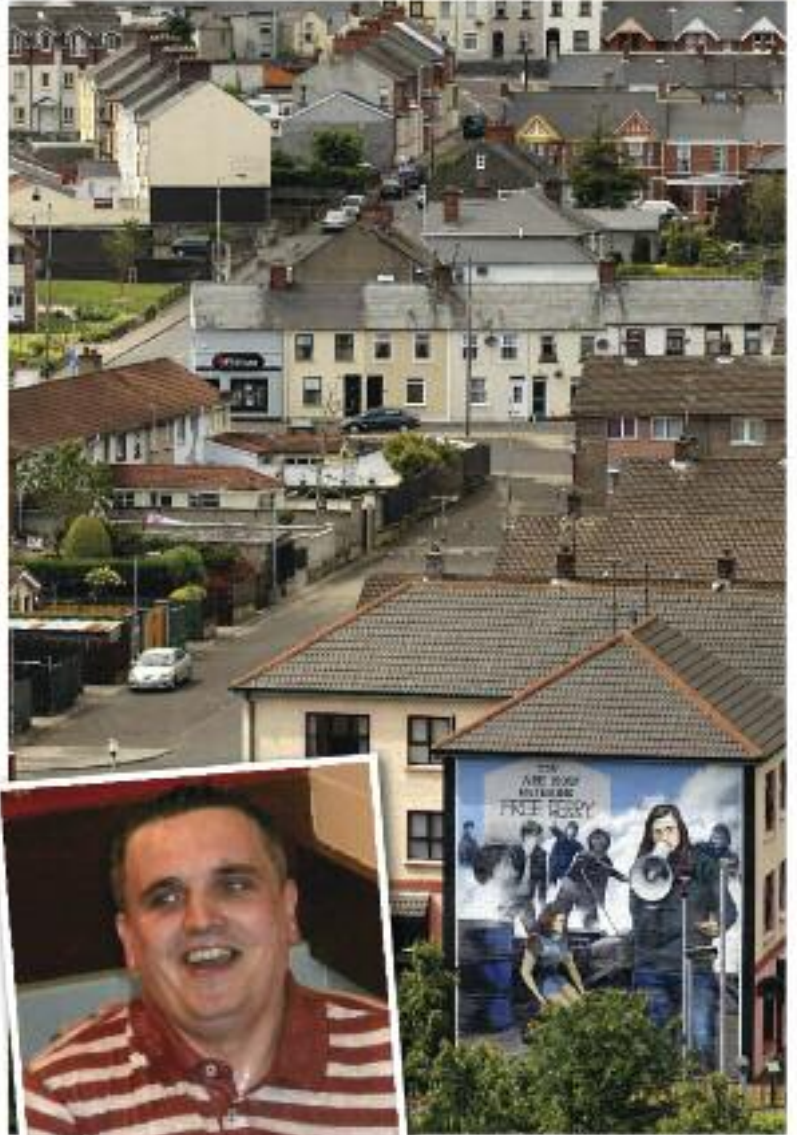
I guess the reason why I'm an Adventist is because I like to be thorough. I'm the type of person who will watch a big news story on Fox, then switch to CNN, then switch to Al-Jazeera – and that's before I decide to turn on the laptop. This was the method I used, as I set out to disprove this 'Creator' Jesus.

So what was it that brought me to Christ, and to this Church?

I grew up here in the city. My family and my wife's family have not escaped the troubles many have experienced while growing up in Northern Ireland. I have felt the hatred tearing our community apart, resulting in displays of some of the worst behaviour that a world lost to the hope of Christ can achieve.

So who's to blame? Where's the focus?

Eventually I realised it's a trick meant to focus our attention here. For me, a Catholic boy, growing up in Derry, it took a while to realise that we need to stop looking locally for someone to blame. We need to see the big picture, to realise that the blame doesn't lie here or there, but, to quote Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV), it lies with 'the rulers of the darkness of



this age', with 'spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places'.

I've discovered that the Solution to this problem is Jesus.

Seriously, as I said earlier, I've taken a long, hard look at the Bible. And I've spent a considerable amount of time studying the book of Revelation, after I discovered the value of Scripture.

Do you know, I'm pretty sure we've got it. Here in this Church, it's my humble opinion that we've understood the message correctly.

It is now my sure testimony that I was wrong. Jesus *is* the Creator!

I've not led a sinless life: quite the opposite. I won't go into detail, but one of the reasons I came to the Adventists is because we offer a kind of 'university' course on how to walk the Christian life – how to be sanctified. I place my eternal destiny in the hands of Christ's atonement alone. I feel our only hope in the heavenly courtroom is Jesus; however, He did say to us: 'If you love Me, keep My commandments.' (John 14:15, NKJV.)

And that's really the end of *that* argument for me.

Megapixels of creation

Fast food

This astonishing picture was submitted by Peter Dutton of Crocombe Church. He had put his budgie outside for some fresh air, but this sparrowhawk thought he had opened up a new 'fly-through' restaurant.

Please keep sending me your pictures of all things nature.

Send them in to me at:

dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk.

Just remember to keep them 'hi-res'. Happy snapping!

DAVID BELL, MESSENGER DESIGNER

To see more of your images, go to: <http://adventistwebministries-org-uk.adventist.eu/megapixels>

*Pictures sent in to us for Megapixels may be used by us at our discretion on other projects.



Enhancing Health

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

- daily exercise • Ensure adequate nightly sleep of 8 hours
- Schedule some quiet time daily • De-clutter – get rid of excess

Outcome:

- Body in balance • Good body maintenance • Improved overall health and longevity • Increased energy and zest for life • Rejuvenation of mind and spirit • A healthy functional environment

Spiritual Action:

- Begin and end the day with God in prayer and devotion • Memorise 'promise Scriptures' and repeat often • Pray for daily strength • Pray for a forgiving spirit • Connect regularly with a prayer partner

Outcome:

- Increased faith in God and more reliance on Him, not self
- Assurance that God has a 'word' for every situation to sustain and assist you • Peace and hope in times of challenge and trouble
- Ability to forgive readily and move on • Spiritual and emotional support

Social Action:

- Associate with a mentor/prayer partner/buddy • Share in a ministry, outreach or community initiative • Make time for family/friends • Enjoy fun and relaxing activities/hobbies • Learn something new

Outcome:

- Good social and emotional support with added inspiration • A sense of purpose and the achievement of common goals • Enriched sense of belonging, value and connectivity • Balance and diversity in your life • Self-development and increased productivity

Good health!

Health tips for a vibrant 2013

What would you like 2013 to yield in terms of your emotional, physical, spiritual and social well-being? In recent years I have used a 'Transformation Worksheet' in my *Healthy Lifestyle* seminars. Why not give it a try and see the result for yourself?

Emotional Action:

- Ask God for wisdom to balance each aspect of your life • Pray for a positive mindset • Learn to manage stress • Assess your thinking
- Practise forgiveness • Schedule 'me' time

Outcome:

- Reassurance of God's empowerment • Emotional resilience and an optimistic outlook • Decreased stress and irritability • Mental clarity and alertness • Peace of mind • Space to reflect, de-stress and 'recharge'

Physical Action:

- Ask God for self-control • Eat wholesome food daily • Take regular

editorial



Julian Hibbert
Editor

Time to 'trespass'?

One of the highlights of my recent vacation in South Africa was the chance to browse in some really great bookshops. What made the experience even more pleasurable was the family's mandate to 'go and buy yourself some books we can give you as Christmas presents!'

And that's how I ended up in a branch of Exclusive Books, staring at a large poster that read: 'Life begins at the end of your comfort zone' – Neale Donald Walsch.¹

Since then I have reflected on that simple message repeatedly, wondering whether it has any relevance for me, today.

What is a 'comfort zone'?

It's that unique space around all of us in which we feel relatively safe. A space that determines how 'adventurous' we will be in each dimension of life: physical, spatial, mental, emotional, relational or vocational.

We create and define these 'comfort zones' to protect ourselves from failure, embarrassment, ridicule and injury. And fair enough; as such they can play a positive role in our lives. On the other hand, though, inflexible comfort zones may unnecessarily limit our potential for personal growth and development.

Chaucer said something similar

Geoffrey Chaucer said something quite similar in his *Canterbury Tales*: 'Nothing ventured, nothing gained', which today's 'cool' English has contracted to 'No pain, no gain'.

I am sure that we have all read or heard of people with this philosophy. Not content with life as it is, they have 'trespassed' beyond their comfort zones in search of something new. Explorers, sportsmen and women, designers, inventors, artists, authors, thinkers, musicians and missionaries – most, if not all, have lived by the motto, 'Nothing ventured, nothing gained', and our world is a better place because they left the safe orbit of their comfort zones.

Brian was such a man

You are unlikely to have heard of Brian Peckham before. Just weeks after his A-levels Brian's life changed drastically. He swerved to avoid a dog, rolled his vehicle and became a paraplegic, in a matter of seconds! All of which left him with a very small comfort zone.

But Brian adopted that 'Nothing ventured, nothing gained' approach to life. He learned to write again, with two hands clasped together. He enrolled for a distance-learning BA degree, and learned to drive again with what grip his hands still had. He obtained employment with a regional education authority. Then he took further studies in law and eventually ended up as a senior lecturer at Rhodes University, South Africa.

Brian also married – then adopted two boys – all the while remaining a faithful member of our Church. In fact, Brian did everything he could to 'trespass' the boundaries that generally restrict those with his condition.

Sadly, the paraplegia shortened Brian's life, but he remained positive to the end and ready for the physical freedom resurrection will bring.

Noah

Scripture is replete with narratives that involve the leaving of comfort zones. Just think about that 'landlubber'² Noah, standing at the door of the ark, urging his family to swap the fresh air, blue sky and sunlight for the foetid air of its dingy interior. Just imagine Mrs Noah's thoughts as she struggled up the dung-plastered ramp into her new home.

Noah's voyage to the postdiluvian world wasn't for the faint-hearted. It was no idyllic Mediterranean cruise. After 120 years of boatbuilding he was suddenly placed in charge of a huge floating zoo – the biggest ever!

He faced month upon month of potential motion sickness, trapped in a massive barn, with the ceaseless daily chores of watering, feeding and stall cleaning.

God's instructions were very clear: 'You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.' (Genesis 6:21, NIV-UK.) None of those animals were on diet!

Mr and Mrs Noah were far beyond the safety of their comfort zone!

Moses

Moses had spent forty years shepherding sheep and goats. He had adapted to the various routines of the pastoral life. He was a respected member of his community, happily married with children. He had no natural inclination to trek to Egypt and put his life at risk in a showdown with the most powerful ruler in the world – especially one who lived under the illusion that he was divine.

Then there was his criminal record. He was a murderer. Going back to Egypt would force him to face a past he had tried hard to forget – perhaps they would reopen the case against him.

But despite these mitigating factors, 80-year-old Moses breaks through that comfort zone and returns to Egypt – an act that propels him from obscurity to the centre stage of ancient history.

Moses becomes one of history's iconic leaders. He defies the Egyptians with impunity – his only visible weapon, a battered shepherd's staff. Then leads at least a million slaves to freedom under miraculous circumstances. He gets to meet God in person, hear His law codified for the first time, and cradle the Almighty's handwriting in his arms.

He sets up a religious system that anticipates every significant aspect of the Messiah's life. Then, after all this, he dies quietly on a barren mountaintop, lies in an unmarked grave, and ultimately becomes our first proof of bodily resurrection.

So what about me?

Am I going to 'trespass' beyond the boundaries of my comfort zone this year? Am I ready for something 'adventurous'?

Yes! I have made some choices. What about you?

¹Author of *Conversations With God*

²An 'unseasoned sailor'



They're coming, Mr Noah! They're coming!



Signposts or weathercocks?

by Sarah Jarvis

Some time ago I was listening to an interview that concluded with this remark by Tony Benn: 'I divide people into one of two groups: signposts or weathercocks.'

While we're not all leaders, we are all called upon to be signposts or pointers to the Way – the one Way, Jesus Christ. But, in order to do that, we need to be heading in the right direction ourselves. How well are we doing?

Once when Billy Graham was in England to conduct meetings he stopped a young man in the street.

"Please can you tell me the way to the post office?" he enquired.

The young man paused, looked slightly puzzled, and then replied: 'If you don't know the way to the post office, how can you possibly know the way to Heaven?'

While Billy Graham did know the way to Heaven, do we always behave as if we do? In other words, is our behaviour sometimes inconsistent with our profession? Here's an example of someone who doesn't have any idea of the direction she needs to take. Do we ever behave like this?

"She was a little startled by seeing the Cheshire-Cat sitting on a bough of a tree a few yards off.

"The Cat only grinned when it saw Alice. It looked good-natured, she thought: still it had very long claws and a great many teeth, so she felt that it ought to be treated with respect.

"Cheshire-Puss," she began, rather timidly, as she did not at all know whether it would like the name: however, it only grinned a little wider. "Come, it's pleased so far," thought Alice, and she went on. "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?"

"That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.

"I don't much care where . . ." said Alice.

"Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat.

" . . . so long as I get somewhere," Alice added as an explanation.

"Oh, you're sure to do that," said the Cat, "if you only walk long enough." (Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll.)

Where are we heading? Do we have an ultimate destination? Are we striding purposefully towards it (like one of Tony Benn's signposts) or merely drifting, going with the flow (like a weathercock)?

Not to stretch a point too much, we can see similarity between the Cheshire Cat and the devil. Apart from the teeth and long claws, he, too, would lull us into a false sense of security, making us believe that it doesn't much matter which way we go.

I have absolutely no sense of direction and road signs are not always the help that they're supposed to be either. I have particular difficulty with B roads. Have you ever noticed that, if you're lucky enough to find a signpost to your destination, often, at the next cross-roads or T-junction, the town or village doesn't get a mention and you're supposed to know by instinct which way to take? If there's a choice of two, I will invariably take the wrong one and then have to backtrack.

During the war in May 1940, all signposts were removed to confuse the enemy in case of an invasion. I can't imagine what it must have been like then, as I have difficulty even with signposts, but I suppose, because of petrol rationing, joyrides in the countryside were, presumably, one of the unnecessary luxuries

that wartime forced people to forego.

Is there a similarity between this and our behaviour sometimes? Is our witness – our pointing of others to the Way – inconsistent? Sometimes we do OK, and then at other times, the signpost disappears, or even, worse still, points in the wrong direction.

I remember as a child going on one of our regular trips to our static caravan at Overstone Park in Northamptonshire. One morning, on our return from the village shop we saw an antiquated-looking signpost that said: 'Stow on the Wold'. We thought this rather strange, as the Cotswolds are at least some 70 miles away. Why would there be a signpost to Stow on the Wold in the middle of a small Northamptonshire village? My mother was a big fan of the Cotswolds so, against her better judgement, she defied logic and decided to take a chance and see how long it took us to get there from this unusual starting point. You may already have guessed that the signpost was someone's idea of a joke. We ended up in the middle of a field several miles from our starting point. That illustrates the fact that sometimes our lives are like signposts pointing in the wrong direction, leading others up the same dead end.

Like it or not, when we profess a Christian faith, we are being watched. We are signposts pointing one way or the other. Are we pointing to the Way, Jesus Christ? Or are we weathercocks blowing wherever the wind or our will take us? Do we allow situation ethics to dictate our behaviour? Do we compromise our principles for a quiet life? Do we rationalise that the easy way is often the best way and it'll get us to where we want to go in the end?

We have a choice, well illustrated in the following poem by Robert Frost:

The Road Not Taken
Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that, the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I –
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

It's up to us to decide now whether that sigh Frost talks about is going to be one of relief or despair.

Is your signpost pointing towards the broad way (the way of the many) or the narrow way (the way of the few)?

inbox

Dear Editor

This is my response to the article, 'False teachers unmasked' (MESSENGER, 23 November, 7 December, 2012). I support Pastor John Surridge entirely. This is a grave danger, and the deceit that we are dealing with is such that even the 'elect' may be deceived, but for the grace of God.

At first I was very happy to listen to the sermons from one particular group, for so much that was said was plain truth and very helpful to my spiritual life. However, eventually I realised that things were not as they seemed. I found myself listening to some sermons several times to try to understand them . . . then I realised that I did not understand the logic because 'cognitive dissonance' was at work. I was uneasy because two sets of cognitions (ideas, beliefs or values) were actually in subtle conflict with each other.

May I point out other dangers that I perceived: the group subtly undermined the mainstream Adventist Church – its members, pastors and organisations. However, it also took a long time before I realised this. It was so subtle; a sentence here, a sentence there. I realise that there are faults in our Church, but at the end of the day, whose Church is it? It's God's, and therefore it is His responsibility to look after the apple of His eye, and we must trust that He is big enough and mighty enough to cope with the faults we humans inevitably create.

Another danger is that such a group can be extreme and very prescriptive about the finer details of our lives, condemning anyone who does not do things (at the lifestyle level) as they do.

As Pastor Surridge says, E. G. White and the King James Version are misused to teach unbiblical but highly persuasive interpretations of Bible teaching, especially about prophecy.

These groups have websites that mirror the mainstream Adventist websites in many ways. Indeed, it was only after about eight months that I realised that the group was not in fact Seventh-day Adventist. They have Sabbath School and Divine Service, just the same as in the mainstream Church. They promote

mainstream Adventist websites and some Adventist preachers alongside their own, so one assumes they are Adventists: but they are not.

God helped me personally to see the truth during a conversation with one of their leaders. When the person replied to one of my questions I thought, 'That doesn't sound right,' and immediately I heard an audible voice speak to me in my mind: 'He is lying.' I knew it was God because of my past experience with Him – I knew that voice, and I immediately turned away from this group as I did not dare to take such a huge spiritual risk and disobey God. Since that moment I have realised the dangers as outlined above.

Our own Seventh-day Adventist Church has many God-inspired pastors and others who publish sermons and books, as well as the writings of E. G. White. We do not need to go 'abroad' looking for truth when it is right here with us.

JOSEPHINE VINE
NORTHAMPTON WEST CHURCH

Two equals one

In response to a mathematical challenge posed in Pastor John Surridge's article, 'False teachers unmasked – part 2', MESSENGER, 7 December 2012, we received three answers. They were from Victor Pilmoor, Rowlando Morgan and Okantan Ayeh (15 years old) – all of which were correct. This is how Victor Pilmoor worded his answer:

Dear Editor

Since you invite answers:

If $a = z$,

Then $a^2 - az = 0$.

Division by zero is not permitted.

VICTOR PILMOOR

MESSENGER adverts

If you're sending in an advertisement for the MESSENGER, and you're sending it to us as a PDF – please proof-read it thoroughly first! Sometimes we notice errors in your adverts, but a PDF is hard for us to alter: and we don't want to let you down by publishing your adverts with grammatical errors, or hassle you by asking you to send them in again.

PROOF READER

with Andrew Puckering



Topsy-turvy

Rachel lay dying. She had craved sons so much (Genesis 30:1-24) – but her labour had been difficult, and she called her second natural son 'Ben-Oni', *Son of My Sorrow*. His father Jacob, however, called him 'Benjamin', *Son of the Right Hand* (Genesis 35:16-18).

This name change is not without significance, because the right hand in Bible times was traditionally associated with power, strength and authority (Exodus 15:6, 12; Isaiah 62:8; Jeremiah 22:24), and also with wisdom and righteousness (Ecclesiastes 10:2; Matthew 25:33). More particularly, the father's right hand – the place of honour and power – usually would be where the firstborn would sit, the one who would receive his birthright, his inheritance (Luke 22:69; Colossians 3:1). However, Jacob's firstborn son Reuben, Benjamin's half-brother, had slept with his father's concubine: and Jacob made it clear that by doing so he'd forfeited his birthright (Genesis 35:22; 49:3, 4). As it turned out, Reuben's brother Judah became father of the greatest tribe among his brothers, the royal tribe, and the birthright went to Benjamin's brother Joseph (Genesis 49:8-12, 22-26; 1 Chronicles 5:1, 2).

Reuben was not the only firstborn son whose birthright Jacob displaced though. Prophetically, he intentionally placed his right hand – the hand of the greater blessing – on the head of Joseph's youngest son Ephraim. Joseph thought his father Jacob must have been making a mistake at first, knowing full well the symbolism of the right hand – but Jacob did it that way on purpose, saying Ephraim would be greater than his older brother Manasseh (Genesis 48:8-20): a prophecy fulfilled to such an extent that 'Ephraim' became synonymous with the Northern Kingdom of Israel, whom God called His 'firstborn' (Jeremiah 31:9).

In fact, we find in Jacob's family tree several instances of the firstborn losing his birthright to his younger sibling – usually, like Reuben, as a result of his own malpractice, although also fulfilling prophecy in the process. Abraham's firstborn son Ishmael, for example, mocked his half-brother Isaac, the son of promise, causing himself and his mother to be sent away (Genesis 21:8-21). Isaac's firstborn son Esau despised his birthright, valuing it the same as some bread and dahl, and as a consequence his younger brother Jacob took it, as prophesied (Genesis 25:21-34; 27).

Is there a lesson for us in this? Yes! Paul quotes Isaac, and Jacob and Esau, to demonstrate that God's 'firstborn' (Israel) were in danger of losing their 'birthright' of salvation to the Gentiles, their 'younger brothers' in faith (Romans 9). In Galatians he compares legalists with Ishmael's mother Hagar, and those who rely on righteousness by faith alone with Isaac: legalists will lose their inheritance just as Ishmael did, but salvation belongs to those who accept it by faith, just as Isaac was a child of promise, not human effort (Galatians 4:21-31). More than once, Jesus made a similar point, saying that the unbelieving descendants of the patriarchs will be cast out of the Kingdom, while believers from all the earth will come in: that the 'first' would be 'last', and the 'last' would be 'first' (Matthew 19:30; 20:1-16; Luke 13:28-30).

The firstborn lose out, while the youngest get the inheritance? Although foreshadowed throughout Israel's history, Jesus' teachings turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6)! What a message of hope they present to 'younger brothers' in faith – and what a warning to all God's 'firstborn'!

- To Whom do the 'firstborn' belong? (Numbers 3)
- Which tribe did God require from the Israelites instead of their firstborn?
- What material blessing was to be the Levites' inheritance? (Numbers 18)
- What greater inheritance did the Levites have? (Deuteronomy 10)
- Can you think of another of Jesus' parables in which a younger brother was redeemed?



ways to witness

Inspirational texting

by Val Grossett

At the end of 2011 I asked God to show me how I could witness for Him from the comfort of my own home.

He impressed me to send out inspirational text messages based on my reflections of the goodness of God in 2011.

It worked. The response from both Christians and non-Christians was overwhelming. So I pledged to continue with weekly reflections.

A selection of my text messages has been published in tract form by the BUC Women's Ministries department as *Reflections from a Country Walk*.

Ask God to help you find your way to witness in 2013.

*Contact valgrossett@hotmail.com for more information about her unusual ministry.



Pastor trusts his youth

Pastor Keith Boldeau, who has a passion for youth, entrusted his pulpit to Balham's dynamic quartet – Solomon Coke, Andrew Fuller, Kessle Boldeau and Stephen Fuller – during a recent youth evangelistic series.

The results speak for themselves: seven were baptised on the last Sabbath of the series, 15 September 2012.

These are some of the candidates' comments:

Rudolph said, 'My friend went on holiday one day and was dead the next day! No way was I going to die without giving my life to Christ – so I made up my mind to get baptised. Since then I have even taken my baptismal certificate to work as proof, and now I get all Sabbaths off.'

Saudia: 'I am blessed, and it's the right decision because Jesus has kept me all these years for a purpose.'

Godwin: 'I experienced the calling through conversation with different people from different churches – I also feel at peace at church; it's like being at home – the right place and time to progress in my Christian walk with the help of my spiritual guardian.'

JOAN ROBINSON, COMMUNICATION
MARK GREY, PHOTOS



Alsager carol service

Alsager Church was full to capacity with members and friends from the community on 8 December for a feast of carols and readings.

Keith Mosedale had assembled a local ensemble of musicians to accompany our singing, while our minister, Dr Patrick Herbert, once again challenged our thinking as he led us through the first advent to the cross, and then on to the glorious second advent. This was evangelism at its best – followed by a spread of delicious refreshments.

VERA WRIGHT



Oldest member still active

On Sabbath, 17 November 2012, Aberdeen Church's oldest member, Vi Buchan, celebrated her 92nd birthday with her church family. An avid user of email who keeps busy by helping others, Vi regularly visits CLAN, a cancer support charity in Aberdeen, sharing her pancakes and her company with the residents. She is also known for her book of poems, called *The Pearl of Great Price*, which she makes available to the members for free distribution.

JANICE SAVIZON, COMMUNICATIONS



Left to right, Back row: Pastor K. Boldeau, Saudia Lloyd, Godwin Akinyemi, Rudolph Bent, James Anderson-Monfries. Front row: Patricia Watson, Winifred Wint, Marsha Emanuel.

'Frontline missionaries' meet

by Katie Ramharacksingh, with Laura Rupsaite

Maria has stopped smoking as a result of attending a Simple Church group, in Reading, almost every Saturday. Her story was one of many told as Simple Church leaders from around the South England Conference gathered at Newbold Primary School, in Bracknell, on Sunday 4 November, 2012.

As a type of church-planting, Simple Churches are formed around three to five Seventh-day Adventists holding church in their homes on Sabbath, solely to evangelise non-Adventists. Programmes include Bible studies, prayer sessions and discussions, combined with social events during the week. The leaders are chosen by the SEC Church Growth department, and they then invite colleagues, neighbours and other contacts to their homes for the weekly meetings.

According to Pastor Aris Vontzalidis, SEC Church Growth director: 'Establishing Simple Churches, and general church-planting, is for lay people who are seriously committed to the mission of the Church. Simple Church leaders are frontline missionaries; and we are looking for such people to go into communities and do what God has asked of us.'

As the leaders shared music, food, challenges and experiences, it became clear that the strategy is working. For example, the Simple Church in Epsom has been working with a very sick lady for almost a year, and during that time her health has improved and she has become more connected with the church. Other groups have people doing regular Bible studies, with some being baptised!

To find out more about Simple Church, visit: www.simplechurchathome.com or email: avontzalidis@secadventist.org.uk at the South England Conference.



'Halloween' mission

Eliana, Benjamin and Caleb of Loughborough Church knew that some children would knock on their door on 31 October. They wanted to take some positive action, rather than just turning them away. So, inspired by a mission story, they made bags saying, 'Smile, Jesus Loves You!' on the front. The reverse bore the message, 'We love Jesus so we do not celebrate Halloween, but we are happy to share some sweets with you.' Inside their bags, they placed a few sweets and an invitation to the 'Bible Stars' club that they attend at church.

VIVIENNE BARRATT-PEACOCK



BBC live . . . on Sabbath!

Most people enjoy listening to carols at Christmas – but there are some members of the community who have little to rejoice about. Bearing this in mind I booked the Middlesbrough town centre for three days of carol singing to be led by our church choir. During these events we did fundraising for three local charities: Stages (a men's hostel), the women's hostel and 'In Out of the Cold' (an event for the homeless).

I asked the local BBC radio station to advertise the events, and they invited me to come in and 'go live' one Sabbath morning. I took our head elder, Jill Geldart, along and she invited all the listeners to our 22 December carol service!

The money raised for 'In Out of the Cold' was used to buy hats, gloves, toiletries, lip balm and boiled sweets that were given to the homeless.

JUDY HAMILTON-JOHANSSON, COMMUNITY SERVICES MIDDLESBROUGH
PHOTOS BY IFFY AFONNE



Sing 4 Hope

Wimbledon International Church hosted the Sing 4 Hope concert on 24 November last year, raising £700 for the Wimbledon YMCA sports programme for disabled individuals. It was an evening of poems,

singing and special musical items. Following the concert, cakes, drinks, and delicious snacks were sold in the back hall. It was a great evening, enjoyed by all, and it enhanced the church's positive presence within our local community.

WIMBLEDON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



Bradford



Left to right: Two of Bradford's elders, Lucia, Grace and Pastor Isaac Liburd

Lucia and Grace are keen Bible students, and their faces shone with happiness during their baptism on 17 November last year. Both were baptised by Pastor Isaac Liburd, from whom they had received their studies.

Grace Kabinga was brought up as a Seventh-day Adventist in Kenya, but didn't realise the value of being in Christ. When she completed college she started to dedicate herself to God. Her parents sent her to Bradford University for further studies. On her arrival she met family friends from her village who led her to Bradford Church, where she decided to be baptised.

Lucia Nhandara, from Zimbabwe, was raised a Catholic but started attending the Bradford church with her husband, who is an Adventist – and the rest is history, as they say!

CHRISTINA MCGOLDRICK

Hemel Hempstead

On 8 December last year Akua Agyapomaa rededicated her life to Christ through baptism at Hemel Hempstead Church.

She had drifted away from the church, but recently decided to renew her life in Christ. The church was packed as Pastor Jaques Venter baptised her, after which she was warmly welcomed into membership by the congregation.

JOHN BUTTERS



Manchester



There was much to celebrate on Sabbath 29 December 2012 as seven precious souls were baptised at Manchester South Church.

The candidates, who are from the several churches of Pastor Frederick Mapp in and around Manchester, were Gideon Jacob Daniel, Carlton Lloyd Morris, Similo Ndiweni, Mark Chidembo, Mphatso Banda, Sirchmaa 'Bassra' Bazargur and Vittah Chiyani. Each has a unique story to tell about their journey to Jesus.

The day was particularly special for Gideon Daniel, who was baptised by both his father, Pastor Ebenezer Daniel, and his grandfather, Pastor Shadrach Samuel. Pastor Mapp conducted the other baptisms.

MANCHESTER SOUTH COMMUNICATIONS TEAM



Pastor Frederick Mapp baptises one of the candidates



Gideon Daniel was baptised by his grandfather, Pastor Shadrach Samuel, and his father, Pastor Ebenezer Daniel

Grantham



Pastor John Ferguson baptises Taylor James



Pastor John Ferguson baptises Ken Cornes

There was joy in the Grantham church last year on 17 November – when Taylor James and Ken Cornes were baptised by the outgoing pastor, John Ferguson. Taylor (12) had made his decision after an earlier baptism by Pastor Ferguson and was 'very excited about getting baptised'. His grandparents had flown over from Perth, WA, especially for the occasion, which was a surprise for Taylor and his family.

Ken, who has attended church for three years with his friend, Joyce Xipu, wanted to be baptised because the 'goodness of God' had spoken to his heart!

ELISABETH CARNELL
Photos: David Bell

Stanborough Park



Left to right: Pastor Karin Wiecezorek with Sharon Sinclair and Joanne Gentle

On Sabbath 17 November, Sharon Sinclair and Joanne Gentle shared a day of joy and the culmination of a long journey to Christ.

Sharon has taught art at Stanborough Secondary School for many years, and it has taken her more than a decade to arrive at this point. Her journey started when she drove through the end of a rainbow in Central Watford! From this time she decided to change her life direction, first by training as a teacher and then by taking up her current position in an Adventist school.

For Joanne the road was even longer. Due to a lifetime of low self-esteem, marital failure and numerous other mistakes, she longed for death. Then, at the beginning of 2012, she attended a Communion Service at Stanborough Park Church along with her niece and nephew. On that day her life changed completely. She was home. She says her heart overflowed with joy, the emptiness was filled with love, and for the first time ever she felt at peace: 'From frightened loneliness without hope to a life full of joy, love and peace in just one year.'

Both were baptised by Stanborough Park's associate pastor, Karin Wiecezorek.

JUNE COOMBS, Photo: Johnson Wong

Erdington

Last year Erdington's evangelistic series began with its members praying for five people they wished to invite to the campaign. They also distributed literature and flyers in the vicinity of the church in order to inform the community of the forthcoming event. Then for two weeks, from 6 October to 20 October, the evangelist, Pastor Orlando Holder, preached a series of inspiring sermons. He was well supported by the community choir, which provided the inspirational music during the event.

At the end of the series, the congregation witnessed the baptism of four candidates: Daniel (Danny) Reid, Deborah Benjamin, Chrissie Namanja and Hilda Moyo. In addition to this, Moses Jamanda Kanamangwere was received into membership on profession of faith.

The series climaxed on the next day with a church visit to Blackpool, where members enjoyed the rides, the world-renowned illuminations and the fun-walks along the beaches. It was a fun day for all.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG



NEC PATHFINDER'S DEPARTMENT PRESENTS
APLA TRAINING
17 FEBRUARY | 14 APRIL | 12 MAY

ADVANCED PATHFINDER LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE PATHFINDER WEBSITE AT WWW.NECAADVENTIST.ORG.UK

Baptisms

Rhyl

There was joy in the Welsh air on 17 November last year as the Wrexham and Rhyl churches witnessed the baptism of Mrs Hlengiwe Ncube.

Hlengiwe decided for baptism after studying with Mrs Yvonne David and Pastor David Foster. She is already active at the growing church-plant at Wrexham, and with her family she makes a lively addition to our witness in this part of Wales. **PASTOR DAVID FOSTER**



Norwich



There was joy in Norwich Church on 1 December last year, when Pastor Bertie DeNysschen baptised Linda Mapiya and Anita Nyabunze. Both women have been attending the church for some time with their families. **WENDY GRADY**

Glasgow

On 22 December 2012, Victor Da Costa Sharpe and Maria Brusyanina caused much rejoicing in Heaven and in the Glasgow district as they publicly declared their love for Christ.

Victor, who was received into the Paisley church, started attending there a year or so ago and has since become an active Pathfinder.

Maria, formerly an Orthodox Christian, has become a Glasgow member. She 'accidentally' came across the Adventist Church through an online search. She found that Adventism provided the answers to her questions about God and life. She started to attend church and then received studies from Pastor Obi Iheoma, as did Victor. **ELIZABETH IHEOMA**



investitures



Stanborough Park

Stanborough Park Church closed their Pathfinder year with a weekend of activities on 1 and 2 December, 2012.

During the investiture service, in her short preamble before the distribution of pins, badges and awards, director Florence Allen stated that in spite of all the 'Red Seas' they stood fast, and therefore were celebrating the triumphs.

Forty-one Pathfinders and fifteen Adventurers were invested. Among the Pathfinders were ten Friends, eight Companions, seven Explorers, ten Rangers (all advanced), five Voyagers and one Guide. They also invested some Adventurers: one Little Lamb, four Busy Bees, three Sunbeams, five Builders and two Helping Hands.

All of the children gained honours, but some were outstanding, with Olufikayo Bright and Gabriel Opoku-Mensah obtaining nineteen each and Fonah Thomas achieving twenty. However, the Pathfinder who obtained the most was Aarinola Ayo-Ipaye with twenty-one honours. Aarinola also received an award for 'Outstanding Pathfinder of the Year'. The outstanding Adventurer of the Year was Ron Bernados. Fifteen Junior Counsellors volunteered to help the Pathfinders and Adventurers fulfil their requirements; three were nominated for 'Outstanding Junior Counsellor of the Year', namely Zayne Mueller-Smith, Rhiannon Lee-Murray and Sophie Deane. Zayne Mueller-Smith, who was also responsible for Drilling and Marching in the club, received the award.

After a potluck in the afternoon, the Pathfinders and Adventurers marched into the nearby community to distribute *Stanborough News*. The weekend was rounded off by a concert and a Pathfinder Fun Day on Sunday 2 December.

STANBOROUGH PARK COMMUNICATIONS DEPT

NEC awards service

On 30 September last year the NEC held an investiture service during which eleven Master Guides and six people who had completed the Pathfinder Leadership Award requirements were invested by BUC Pathfinder director, Pastor Nathan Stickland.

Two of those who received their PLAs were Pastors Alan Hush (NEC Pathfinder director) and Ikwsia Mwasumbi (Leeds district). A further twenty Master Guides and four PLA recipients opted for investiture in their local churches.

WENDY WATSON-TEAGUE



Wimbledon awards

On the afternoon of 4 November 2012 Wimbledon International Church held its Pathfinder awards ceremony. The Pathfinder of the Year awards went to Kingsley Karunarathne and Lillian Broaster.

WIMBLEDON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS DEPT



First Pathfinder Sabbath in Great Yarmouth

Sabbath, 13 October 2012 was a momentous occasion for Great Yarmouth Church: they held their first ever Pathfinder and Adventurer induction ceremony. The special guest for the event was the Area 8 Pathfinder co-ordinator, Master Guide Tyrone Waldron, who inspired the club members to uphold their ideals at all times.

COMMUNICATION SECRETARY

Paisley Club invest twenty-four!

The Paisley Adventurer and Pathfinder Club held its investiture programme on 1 December 2012. Twenty-four young people, including club members from Faifley and Irvine, received honours and certificates as a result of a year of hard work.

Scottish Mission sponsor, Clifford Herman presented a short talk on how important it was for them to 'keep a level eye' by remembering who they are and to be mindful of how they represent God.

Two things made the investiture all the more special: firstly, five of the club counsellors had been invested as Master Guides two weeks earlier. Secondly, three quarters of the club counsellors are aged between 18 and 22 in keeping with the local church's policy of encouraging young people to take up leadership



Southern Asia investiture

Manchester Southern Asia Church held its 2012 investiture service on 17 November with thirty-one enthusiastic children invested in various classes, from Little Lamb to Ranger. The guest speaker was Pastor Alan Hush, NEC Pathfinder director, who emphasised the important role of youth in the

church. The church is trying to meet his challenge by providing for its children during their formative years. Pastor Mapp (church pastor), Kathleen Lopuszansky (area co-ordinator) and Pastor Hush greatly appreciated the work of this AYS team. **SUREEN RAYAVARAPU**

'Revival' at Bristol Central

The year 2012 was great for Bristol Central Pathfinder Club. After a lapse of two years, the club restarted in March and had an induction service on 14 July, when fourteen Pathfinders, ten Adventurers, five Eager Beavers and twelve Little Lambs became members. They joined three children who had been Pathfinders before, making up



a club of forty-one children, three of whom are from the community.

Another five children joined at our second induction programme on 2 December: three Pathfinders and two Adventurers. The children are enthusiastic about Pathfinding, and attended the SEC Adventurer and BUC Pathfinder Camporees. **CLAUDETTE BROWN, PATHFINDER DIRECTOR**

positions. Elizabeth Iheoma, the club leader, said, 'It's great to be part of these young people's achievement, which has been the result of a good partnership between the club and the parents and guardians. The church's support has been outstanding this year – we look forward to another good year of pathfinding in 2013.' **ELIZABETH IHEOMA**



Investitures



Leeds Central investiture

Leeds Central's investiture took place on Sabbath 27 October 2012, when seventeen Adventurers, fourteen Pathfinders, and three Master Guides were invested, and another was invested with a Pathfinder Leadership Award. Pastor Hush, NEC Pathfinder director, and a number of area co-ordinators were at the investiture.

During the day the Adventurers and Pathfinders demonstrated their various talents through musical items, marching, drilling, drumming and CPR demonstrations. During Sabbath School the Adventurers performed the parable of the ten talents.

V. MAYNARD

Free offer

Scripture Songs 1 by Josephine Vine (MP4 format) is on offer while stocks last. Songs cover a wide range of key texts ideal for both adults and children to help them memorise Scripture. Email josephineanne@talktalk.net or call 07804 859976 with your name and address if you would like a free DVD sent to you. Josephine is a member at Northampton West Church.

NEC PATHFINDER'S DEPARTMENT PRESENTS
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MASTER GUIDE & PLA 1:
MARCH 8-10 SHUGBOROUGH HALL

MASTER GUIDE AND PLA 2:
APRIL 26-28 BEAUDESERT

MASTER GUIDE AND PLA 3:
JULY 5-7 WALESBY

MASTER GUIDE AND PLA 4:
SEPTEMBER 20-22 WALESBY

MASTER GUIDE AND PLA TRAINING FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE PATHFINDER WEBSITE AT WWW.NECADVENTIST.ORG.UK

news



Olympic evangelism in Wimbledon

During the Olympics and Paralympics, the members of Wimbledon International Church decided to use their international flavour (members from fifty-eight countries at last count) to their advantage.

Wearing T-shirts with their national flags on the front and John 3:16 on the back, and specially prepared medals, they took to the streets and gave out almost 800 pieces of literature including *The Christian Race*, which was extremely popular, *Focus* magazines and other tracts. They also gave out medals to children and parents, prompting some to ask for pictures with them.

ADAM IBRAHIM



Hemel's shoebox appeal

The average income in Burkina Faso is just \$1.25 a day, so the generous Christmas gifts and other necessities packed into Hemel Hempstead's forty-three shoeboxes will mean a great deal to as many children and their impoverished families. Just pause for a moment and try to imagine their joy!

JOHN BUTTERS



Cheltenham children excel

On 24 November Cheltenham's children took almost the entire church service for the first time. The theme was 'Living for Jesus' and the programme included prayers, songs, instrumental accompaniments, Bible readings, poems and stories. The children's story, about the boy who helped to feed the 5,000, was read by Matthew Hatala (aged 9), while his mum handed out bread and cheese 'fish' for the children to eat.

Another 9-year-old, Rawleka Browne, read a home-written poem, while teenagers, Rebekah Haley and Robin Beamish, spoke on modern people who have lived for Jesus, namely Amy Carmichael and Brother Andrew.

The children excelled beyond expectation and this won't be their last appearance!

MIKE AND VICKY BEAMISH



Stanborough Park's annual toy service

Hundreds of donated toys were delivered to needy Watford children last Christmas thanks to the generosity

of members of Stanborough Park Church.

The annual toy service, held on Sabbath, 8 December, was started over half a century ago by the late Alf Kelly and is continued by his daughter, Pat Walton. According to Pat there were significantly more toys than usual, and the charity representatives were amazed at the selection. They were thrilled to have them to distribute to known families whose economic situation would otherwise make giving their children Christmas presents impossible.

Accepting the toys on behalf of the mayor of Watford, Councillor Ian

Brown said he had attended the event many times before and, for him, it marked 'the beginning of the Christmas spell'. Watford's Member of Parliament, Richard Harrington, also attended the event.

JUNE COOMBS

The principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre (VOP) acknowledges with sincere thanks an anonymous donation of £6 received in November.

Micro CHIP programme

On 30 June 2012 Barnet Church graduated ten members from their first Micro CHIP programme.

A full CHIP programme will be conducted later, both for members and for the wider community.

C. DLAMINI AND DR A. TSOTETSI



NEC PATHFINDER'S DEPARTMENT PRESENTS
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Daniel Seminar graduation

On 8 September 2012, Holloway Church celebrated the graduation of sixty-one students following the completion of the Daniel Seminar. The graduates wore red for the day – symbolic of the blood of Jesus. They had displayed dedication in completing the seminar that started in May, and were now well versed in the prophecies of Daniel. Pastor Matthew Herel reminded those in attendance that although this ceremony represented their graduation day from the seminar, they should also seek to make it their enrolment day for the Kingdom of Heaven.

PASTOR MATTHEW HEREL



Free offer

Scripture Songs 1 by Josephine Vine (MP4 format) is on offer while stocks last. Songs cover a wide range of key texts ideal for both adults and children to help them memorise Scripture. Email josephineanne@talktalk.net or call 07804 859976 with your name and address if you would like a free DVD sent to you. Josephine is a member at Northampton West Church.

obituaries

Veena Subrai (d. 2012).

Mrs Veena Subrai was born in Agra, India, to the late Baldev Raj Capson and Raj Capson. The family then moved to Suranussi, Punjab. Veena had a total of nine brothers and sisters. She was married to Arshad Subrai in England on 23 October 1971, and bore four children: Rakesh, Ravi, Roheet and Jyoti. She led a very hard life, running the home and looking after her in-laws and children, as well as going out to work.

Veena was diagnosed with renal failure and was on dialysis for more than twelve years, three times a week. Sadly, in October 2012, she was diagnosed with bowel cancer, which had spread to the point when the doctors could do nothing much for her.

Veena was very passionate about cooking, especially for others, and this made her feel good about herself. When her children were small, she would hold birthday parties and invite all the children and her neighbours to enjoy the food.

In 2005 the whole family went



to India for her son to get married, and she was very excited about this trip, as it was very special to her. She enjoyed shopping for her grandchildren, whom she adored.

She was the boss of the house, full of wisdom on Indian culture, history and other religions. She was a faithful Christian and loved to go to church every Sabbath, pray and read her Hindi Bible before going to sleep.

Veena Subrai leaves behind four children and five grandsons. She did not live to see her grandson, Akaash, who was born on 3 December 2012.

ROHEET SUBRAI

Roop Lal

(d. 2012). The late Roop Lal was a good choir leader, who loved singing praises to the Lord. He was always

ready to sing a special item if the elder asked him to. He was also a very devoted believer in Jesus, always on time for Sabbath School, and willing to support the church and the youth. He is survived by his wife, Jeeto Lal, who is also unwell.



ROHEET SUBRAI

Pastor R. M. A. (Bob) Smart (1923-2012) d. 27 September & Mrs Joyce Smart (née Howard) (1931-2012) d. 17 October. Bob and Joy Smart were among the most effective ministerial teams in the British Union: for more than five years they were the pioneering Seventh-day Adventist missionaries in Eritrea (then part of Ethiopia), and for a lengthy period led the work in Ireland. Joyce, after a series of heart attacks, died one hour before Bob's funeral. The importance of the roles of their loving and loyal daughter and son, Iris and Malcolm, in holding things together in the final months and days would be hard to exaggerate. Iris's nursing skills and experience, and Malcolm's technical and management skills, were well exercised in their parents' final crisis. Iris was involved full-time in nursing her parents for the last three years.

In common with many other great preachers, Pastor Smart was an outstandingly gifted raconteur. For the stories which made his preaching so effective and memorable, he drew on his early life in Kirkcaldy, Fife, and his years as a wireless operator (or 'sparks') during World War Two. Bob's father was a manager and engineering designer working on a dry dock in Bombay. While his mother was pregnant with Bob, she was suffering from a stomach ulcer and from malaria, and had to return to Britain. Bob was born on 12 March 1923, and his mother died six weeks later. Bob was raised by the Cowpers, foster parents, whom he referred to as Mum and Papa.

Joyce was born at Nursling, near Southampton, on 10 February 1931. She worked as a proof reader before going to Newbold College. From Kirkcaldy High School, Bob went on to Edinburgh Wireless College for his Master's certificate. From 21 October 1941 until 26 November 1945 Bob worked as a wireless operator on twelve vessels. Two of the twelve were sunk: MV *Rothley* by a torpedo, and *St David*, a hospital ship, by a missile in the Anzio landings. During his years at sea, Bob had warm recollections of his elderly Sabbath School teacher, Maggie Jack. She had given him a good grounding in the Bible, as had his foster mother, who placed a 'little blue Bible' among the belongings which she had packed for him to take to sea. It was while Bob was on the North Atlantic convoys that he began listening to the H. M. S. Richards

VOP radio broadcasts, and embarked on his quest for truth. When he left the navy at the end of the war, Bob was baptised at the Glasgow church by Pastor J. A. McMillan.

Home from the sea and feeling a call to ministry, Bob enrolled at Newbold Missionary College. Unbeknown to him, Joy E. Howard had also enrolled. Their romance blossomed in 1949. They were married on 6 July 1950. Bob graduated in 1949 and was ordained at Newbold on 3 March 1956. The Smarts pastored, in turn, at the Bolton, Liverpool and Leicester churches. Between 1952 and 1954 Bob was part of an evangelistic team in Sheffield under Pastor K. A. Elias. In 1954 the Smarts took their talents and evangelistic experience to Northern Ireland, where Bob served under Pastor O. M. Dorland, whom he later referred to as 'my pastors' pastor'. In February 1955 Iris was born in Belfast.

Not long after her first birthday Iris accompanied her parents to Eritrea (then part of Ethiopia), where Bob served as president until May 1961. When the Smarts arrived at the Tigre Mission they found only one church and one school – in Asmara, 6,000 feet above sea level – both in a bad state of repair. 'Dad repaired and rebuilt the church and school in Asmara,' remembers Iris. 'Then he added a water system to irrigate the land. He developed several acres of land where food crops could be grown. The boys at the school helped work the land to help with their fees.' The produce was largely exported to Saudi Arabia, and the funds received kept the mission afloat financially. Pastor Smart built two other churches and schools in Eritrea. Dr Tony and Mrs Hillary Jackson were working in the Adventist hospital in Addis at this time. With Dr Jackson, Pastor Smart set up a radio link and helped meet the medical needs of the more remote places. In 1958, helped by funds from Scandinavia and by Catholic nuns, Bob and Joy worked to alleviate the effects of a severe famine. Though by that time head teacher at the British school in Asmara, attached to the consulate, Joy spent a lot of the time at her sewing machine on community projects. When the Smarts returned to Britain in 1961, their first posting was in Norwich, where they initiated the project that resulted in the impressive Seventh-day

Adventist church in the city. Between 1962 and 1966 the Smarts pastored in Glasgow. There Malcolm joined the family. In 1963 Bob assisted Pastor Ken Lacey in an evangelistic campaign. Bob conducted campaigns of his own, and baptised many. Between 1963 and 1966 Joy taught at Easter House Primary School. In 1966 the Smarts moved to Ireland again, where they pastored in Banbridge before Bob became Mission president and moved to Belfast. There the Smarts continued the health programmes they had begun in Scotland: including five-day anti-smoking plans, health and cookery demonstrations, and anti-drug and anti-alcohol programmes in schools. There was at least one major evangelistic campaign, which resulted in VOP contacts and many baptisms. Joy taught at Gleno Primary School near Belfast, and sold books from door to door in the city. From Belfast the Smarts moved to London, where they pastored in Walthamstow, Edmonton and Harlow, and Joy was employed by the gas board in Ilford. Between 1974 and 1979 the Smarts pastored in Crieff, Perth and Dundee. With Colin Wilson, they were instrumental in the purchase of the Roundelwood Health Institute and, with Maranatha, in the building of the Crieff church. Joy worked as a Health Care nurse at Perth Royal Infirmary. After a pastorate in York, the Smarts retired in 1988. They returned to Crieff in 1999. Pastor Smart's funeral was conducted in their home on 17 October by his good friend of many years, Pastor Don Lowe. Joy's funeral was conducted on 1 November by Pastor Bernie Holford at the Crieff church. Joy was buried with Bob. Together they will rise on the great Day of Resurrection when, as Pastor Smart so often preached, Jesus will return to begin a new world.

DAVID N. MARSHALL

Miriam Pattern (1930-2012) d. 1 November. Initially, Miriam lived in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, with her parents, Tom and Dora Henley, and sisters, Joan and Grace. When she was 8 or 9 the family moved to Garston, near Watford, where she later attended our Church's secondary school. During the school holidays Miriam worked at our sanatorium, and upon leaving school she worked at our Granose health

food factory. She learnt shorthand and typing, and eventually became the secretary to Pastor Bonney, the principle of the VOP Bible Correspondence School. While working at Granose Miriam fell in love with Geoff Pattern (her only boyfriend), and they married on 29 June 1952. They were blessed with two daughters, Jacqueline and Marita, plus six lovely grandchildren, Kayleigh, Natasha, Anyetta, Sam, Hannah and Matthew. Miriam worshipped at the Stanborough Park church and was baptised by Pastor G. D. King on 9 December 1944. She was a great music lover and was gifted with a beautiful singing voice. She sang with the church choir, and one of her highlights was when they sang at the Royal Albert Hall as part of a combined choir under Sir Malcolm Sargent. Geoff and Miriam moved to Norfolk in 1972 when his company invited him to look after their interests in Norfolk, Suffolk and Lincolnshire. Miriam's love of music continued and she soon joined the Sheringham Philharmonic Choir and The Tuesday Singers of Sheringham. She also joined a drama group and the Women's Institute of Holt, and enjoyed helping in the Meals on Wheels kitchen when needed. Miriam also loved being in the garden and would sometimes be there all day. Miriam was active in Norwich Church, helping out in the Children's Sabbath School and as church clerk for many years. She also enjoyed looking after the little inner church yard, and kept the front of the church weed-free along with her sister Grace, who had returned from the USA to settle near Sheringham. Her daughters, Jacqueline and Marita, plus their husbands, Stephen and Rob, and their children all came to worship at the Norwich church and used to sing in a group – so the music talents never left the family circle and Miriam and Geoff were so proud of them all. Sadly, Miriam needed open-heart surgery in 2004 and was never able to attend the Norwich church again, but she was cared for by her husband, Geoff, and visited by her friends Audrey and Peter Thirkel and others from church. Unfortunately Miriam spent her last fifteen weeks in Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, with Geoff travelling in every day to be by her side. Miriam loved her Saviour and her faith rested in Him. All her friends in the Norwich church will sadly miss her. Mike Walker conducted her funeral. WENDY GRADY

WENDY GRADY

WENDY GRADY

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Bradford 'musical'

On 15 December, during Divine Service, twenty-five children and youth aged 3-15 years, of Bradford Central Church, put on their version of the musical '1-800 Christmas'. In this story a studio telethon is organised to save Christmas, and the mission is to count 1,000 good deeds by Christmas. The children acted and sang extremely well, and the church thoroughly enjoyed their performance.

The children were also asked to sing the collection of songs from the musical at Bradford Interchange the following week to share the good news of Christmas with the whole of Bradford.

MARIA HLABANGANA AND CHRISTINA MCGOLDRICK

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Ryan Kishore

On 24 November 2012, Ryan, son of Ajay and Sonia Kishore, and grandson of Anand and Vijay Kishore, was dedicated to the Lord at the Langley church.

ROHEET SUBRAI



Dedication is 'streamed live'

On 17 November 2012, Pastor John Ferguson performed his nineteenth baby dedication in the Grantham church. Daniel Jansen van Rensburg was brought for blessing by his parents, Nico and Karen, and the touching service was streamed live to their family in South Africa. Nico is the finance manager of the Stanborough Press and Karen is an optometrist.

ELISABETH CARNELL

PHOTO: D. BELL



Dedication at toy service

Something really unusual occurred during Stanborough

Park Church's annual toy service – Pastor Sam Neves and his wife Amie had their son Joshua dedicated by Pastor Patrick Boyle. The Neves couple were married at this church, and Amie and her parents were dedicated there too!

JUNE COOMBS



Elder Baron with Elder Lunan

Ninety-eight years young!

Frank Baron, born on 3 December 1914, celebrated his 98th birthday with the congregation at Blackburn Church, where he is a very long-standing and much-loved member.

NICOLA HARGREAVES AND BEN MARSDEN

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Sunset

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

	Lon	Card	Not	Edin	Belf
Jan 25	4.38	4.50	4.36	4.32	4.49
Feb 1	4.50	5.03	4.50	4.46	5.03
8	5.03	5.15	5.03	5.02	5.17
15	5.16	5.28	5.17	5.17	5.32

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