

Messenger

News to the churches • 24 May 2013 • Volume 118 • 11

Gospel choir steals judges' hearts

by Pastor Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist

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'It was so good it made me want to go to church!' Such were the sentiments of *Britain's Got Talent* judge, David Walliams, after the audition of Gospel Singers Incognito.

He was talking to the ITV audience on Saturday evening, 13 April. All four judges were clearly moved by the gospel choir's audition.

Seventh-day Adventist members from Luton and London make up half the choir, while the rest are from a variety of churches. Co-director and co-founder Gail Windrass is overwhelmed by the reaction: 'We can hardly take in all the positive feedback we have been getting – we are simply in awe over the entire experience.'

The choir is used to 'singing gospel' in unusual venues. It formed seven years ago from a group of friends who would come together in Luton to do 'gospel in the pub' – singing hymns, praise songs and gospel songs. So why not on *Britain's Got Talent*?

Gail explained that every year she tells her friends, 'We should go up there and sing some gospel songs.' This year the response was, 'Why not!' 'We thought we would just go up there,' she explained, 'see what happens, and hope that someone would be inspired. Never in our wildest dreams did we imagine the response we got. As a choir we are simply in awe.'

It took the choir some time to choose songs and think through their performance, because they wanted to be true to themselves and to what they believe in.

'It's great just to go on stage in such a big arena and sing gospel,' said

Gail enthusiastically. 'It isn't going to happen very often, so we recognised it as a unique opportunity. Of course we were nervous, but we were able to spend a time of worship and singing backstage before we went on. You cannot underestimate the power of singing songs of worship beforehand. It really made a difference.'

The choir was not expecting such positive comments from the judges, who found their performance powerful, moving and soulful. 'The choir was in awe at such a positive response to gospel on a major TV show,' Gail explains. 'We are simply grateful that the judges saw something in us as a gospel choir because we know we are so different to the other acts that audition.'

The choir is now awaiting the next stage after receiving four 'yes' votes from the *Britain's Got Talent* judges.

Social media has expanded the Gospel Singers Incognito's reach. The audition has been shared widely, with more than 1 million views on GodVine and a further 320,000 on YouTube.

While Simon Cowell called them one of the best choirs ever to be seen on the show, Gail is simply grateful that people found it to be inspiring and uplifting. She states, 'That is what we really want to do. We want to bring something different to people, as there are a lot of people hurting, and we aim to bring hope into their lives with our music.'

To see the audition, visit the choir's Facebook page or view it on <http://www.godvine.com/Simon-Cowell-Made-Fun-of-This-Gospel-Singer-Then-Everyone-is-Blown-Away-3177.html>.



For your bookshelf

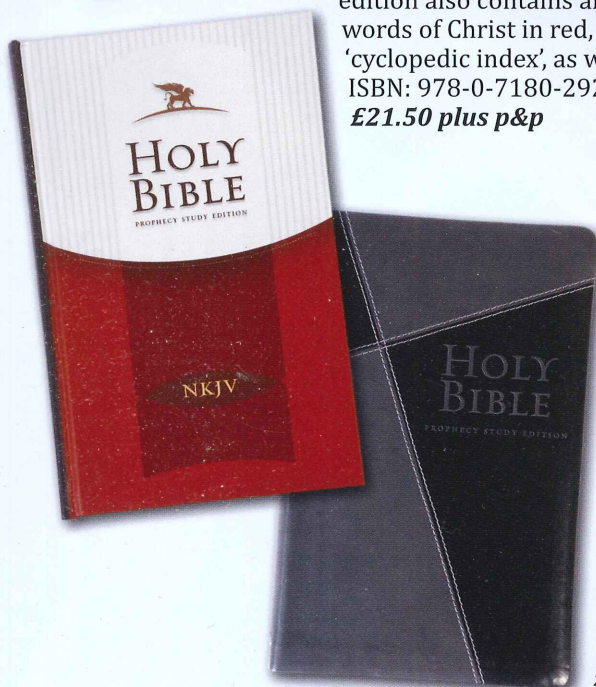


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Enhancing Health

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

High-glycaemic-index foods

Food that has a high glycaemic index (raising blood sugar quickly) could be a risk factor for kidney cancer, according to a 2009 study by Dolwick et al³ published in the *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*. The study found a threefold-increased cancer risk associated with white bread, white potatoes, and other high-glycaemic-index foods, explaining that high-glycaemic-index foods affect insulin-like growth factors, which impact tumour development.

Dairy products

- There is some evidence that a high intake of dairy foods causes a slight increase in prostate and ovarian cancer risk (*Cancer, Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention*, 2007; 16(12):2,623-30 [www.cancerresearchuk.org]).
- Reporting on a study published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, a BBC News health report on 15 March 2013 carried the headline: 'Full-fat dairy intake affects breast cancer recovery'. The US study researchers found women consuming one or more servings per day of high-fat dairy produce had a 49% increased risk of dying from their breast cancer, and suggested a possible link with high-fat dairy products, which contained more oestrogen than skimmed or low-fat versions.

Good health!

¹Parkin, D. M., and Boyd, L., 'Cancers attributable to dietary factors in the UK in 2010: Low consumption of fruit and vegetables', *British Journal of Cancer*, 2011; 105 (S2):S19-S23

²Aresu et al 2009, 'Health Survey for England 2008: Physical activity and fitness', The NHS Information Centre for Health and Social Care

³Dolwick, Grieb, S. M. and Theis, R. P. et al., 'Food groups and renal cell carcinoma: results from a case-control study', *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*, 2009; 104:656-667

Cancer: the facts – part 3f

Examining causation and risk factors

Dietary factors (part 3)

Low fruit and vegetable intake

On 7 December 2011 BBC Health News reported on a study by Parkin et al¹ entitled: 'Cancers attributable to dietary factors in the UK in 2010: Low consumption of fruit and vegetables'. The study, published in the *British Journal of Cancer*, estimated that during 2010, about 5% of cancers in the UK were possibly linked to people eating fewer than five daily portions (400g/day) of fruit and vegetables.

Evidence from the WHO in 1990 concluded that populations consuming at least 400g of fruit and vegetables daily could reduce the risk of deaths from chronic diseases such as heart disease, stroke, and some cancers. However, data from the 'Health Survey for England' show that the average number of portions consumed is less than the Department of Health's recommendations, with men consuming 3.5 portions and women 3.8 portions (Aresu et al, 2009).²



Julian Hibbert
Editor

Perhaps the Pope has a point

I recently heard a new term, new to me at least: 'living with fraud'. Pope Francis used it back in 2010 when he was still Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio.¹

'Living with fraud' – what does that really mean, simply? Well, *fraud* is commonly understood as 'wrongful or criminal deception intended to result in financial or personal gain',² or to 'damage another individual'.³

There is also another, less forensic, way in which we use the term, namely: 'He is a fraud!' In this context it implies that someone is 'false or deceitful'.⁴ Certainly not something that I would like to have said about me!

What did the Pope mean?

According to Mark Oppenheimer in *www.nytimes.com* the reference was to those 'who think of themselves as Catholic but don't make time for their children'.⁵ So, in the mind of this pope, you live with fraud when you claim an identity or a status that is not genuine.

Have you ever been guilty of that? Have I?

Ananias

Acts 5:1-11* records the story of Ananias and his wife Sapphira, a couple in the early Church who sold a piece of their property with the declared intention of donating the entire proceeds to the cause of the fledgling Church.

This was their decision. Nobody had coerced them into it. Ananias, however, began to have second thoughts about their generosity, and with 'his wife's full knowledge he kept back part of the money for himself, but brought the rest and put it at the apostles' feet', leaving the impression that he had fulfilled his undertaking.

And this is where Ananias and his wife start 'living with fraud'. This is where they begin to practise deceit for personal gain. A 'gain' that appears to have two parts to it:

- By keeping up the pretence of sacrificial giving they gain the respect of their fellow believers; and
- By retaining a portion of the sale price they secure their financial safety.

Then Peter steps boldly into the frame, saying: 'Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.'

Practising deceit

Practising deceit – 'living with fraud' – a dangerous place to be. But Ananias foolishly puts himself there, in a position where he is lying not 'just to human beings but to God'!

It's really silly when you think about it. To believe that you can dupe an omniscient God

is but self-deceit. And yet, time and again, we find Christians who try to beat the odds. There are some who juggle priestly piety with illicit passion, under the illusion that such things stay between the sheets forever. There are others who deftly manipulate the church's resources, seemingly oblivious to the fact that God keeps books too – accurate ones!

Peter

There is a very subtle truth about 'living with fraud': it is not always that easy to detect . . . especially in our own lives. There is Peter for instance, the very man who called Ananias to account for his deceitfulness. Do you remember those times when *he* boldly **professed** what turned out to be a **pretence**?

Take what happened in the city of Antioch, where Peter had been freely associating with the Gentile believers, in accordance with the consensus of the Jerusalem Council (circa AD 49). Suddenly, upon the arrival of some Jewish believers from Jerusalem, things changed drastically.

Here is Paul's version: 'For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.' (Galatians 2:12, 13.)

At the council Peter had passionately supported the position that all Christians are equal before God and saved in the same way. So why then does he suddenly avoid the Gentiles? Could it be that this iconic Christian leader was also guilty of 'living with fraud' – of appearing to be something he was not?

An authentic life

For me, this reflection on the lives of Ananias and Peter highlights two things:

- **The critical importance of an authentic life.** One in which we strive for truth and integrity, while avoiding the practice of fraud and deception.
- **The difficulty of living such a life** – even when we may be counted among the 'pillars' of the church, as Peter was.

It also makes perfect sense out of Jeremiah 17:9: 'The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?' And, for that matter, it gives meaning to Ezekiel 36:26 too: 'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.'

Perhaps Pope Francis has a point.

*The Bible verses quoted in this editorial are from the New International Version (NIV).

¹http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/27/us/pope-francis-has-a-few-words-in-support-of-leisure.html?pagewanted=all&_r=2&

²<http://oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/fraud>

³<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fraud>

⁴<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/fraud>

⁵http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/27/us/pope-francis-has-a-few-words-in-support-of-leisure.html?pagewanted=all&_r=2&



devotional



It's all about gardening and baking

by Pastor Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist,
SEC Communication director

The United Kingdom is famous for its gardens. The British take pride in their gardens, and there can be beauty in all of them – from the small back garden to grand ones cared for by the National Trust. But not mine. I'm not a gardener, and although I love an outdoor space my garden is a disgrace. Plants that I don't know sprout up; sometimes they're flowers, but mostly they are nothing I want to keep in my so-called garden.

It's different when it comes to baking though. My grandfather was a pastry chef, and I loved watching him decorate cakes and make marzipan figures. I grew up with a passion for baking, and I started baking cakes and bread as a teenager. According to the present proliferation of cooking shows on TV, there is certainly a renewed interest in baking.

Two very mundane activities – baking and gardening – not things that usually evoke images of a grand Kingdom. Why then do we find such images of the Kingdom in the Gospel of Luke?

In Luke 13:18-21 (NIV) Jesus asked the question, 'What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to?' He then compares the Kingdom with two images from daily life. First, that of a man sowing a seed in his garden – the smallest seed possible. Second, that of a woman adding yeast to the bread she is baking. Here Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to baking and gardening – not grand palace living, but the things from the daily mundane lives of ordinary people.

Apparently the mustard shrub wasn't an overly attractive plant. In fact, at times people regarded it as a bit of a weed. You didn't dare plant it in your garden because it would crowd out all the other plants and literally take over.

Jesus suggested that the mustard seed illustrates how the Kingdom, from small beginnings, would grow and spread, with great consequences for the entire world.

Every gardener will tell you that to have a good garden you need to give it special attention. It needs water and fertile soil, but no matter how much you attend to each plant, it will grow at its own pace and into its own shape.

Perhaps Jesus chose the mustard seed because it is so small, so seemingly insignificant. But when God sows a seed,

however small, it will grow much larger than its initial size would suggest.

Jesus also compares the Kingdom of God to another daily task: the baking of bread. The adding of yeast to flour and water is how basic bread is now made, but in the days of Jesus you had to take a piece of today's dough and keep it for the next day's baking.

I remember the first time I came back from school with the intention to bake French bread – the way we had learned in cooking classes. I did as I thought I should, but forgot to put in the yeast and ended up with long, very flat and hard bread. It was more like Ryvita than French bread! However much you try, you cannot add yeast to only a designated part of the bread. As bread is kneaded, yeast permeates the entire loaf; the entire bread rises . . . perhaps suggesting that the Kingdom of God rises to something far greater when God's Spirit is at work in our lives.

Just think of how the Christian Church has grown from a handful of followers 2,000 years ago to a world religion, or how Adventism has grown from a small group of believers in America to a global church. Who would have expected that? Certainly not the disciples of Jesus or the Adventist pioneers. None of them could have imagined the global growth of the message of God's Kingdom.

On an individual level, how often in our own lives have we regarded the mundane everyday tasks as unimportant for the Kingdom of God? Yet it is in that daily and ordinary routine that God sows the seeds of His Kingdom. That is where His Kingdom grows – this is where it makes a difference, in the here and now.

It's in our work clothes, not our prom dresses, that we go into the garden or bake bread in the kitchen. In this parable Jesus reminds us that His Kingdom is growing, not through pomp and circumstance, but through the faithful performance of our daily Christian duties.

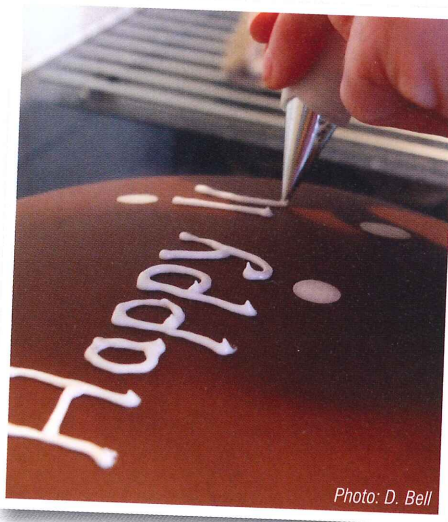


Photo: D. Bell



Passionate about ADRA

Zdenka Bollom is the ADRA representative of the tiny Weymouth church, where there are only four active members. Not deterred by that, she set them the goal of raising £2,500 for this year's Appeal!

Was it achieved? Yes, and against all odds, but with the loyal help of members from the Bournemouth and Southampton churches. In fact, Zdenka and her team are already looking forward to next year's Appeal!

ALZBETA KUCERAKOVA



Hampton Court

Photo: Esti Pujic

Reform Movement

Dear Editor

I read with interest the article on the Reform Movement in the *MESSENGER* of 12 April 2013. I first heard about them from one of their members who regularly visited our church. When she first came I invited her to sit in the Sabbath School class and asked if she had a lesson book. She replied that she studied a different lesson because she belongs to the Reform group.

Some time later she showed me this book, and I was shocked and amazed at what I saw. As the article shared, they do use 'copy-cat' tactics to confuse the vulnerable and unaware. The lesson book followed a similar format to that used by our Church. It was published by the Seventh-day Adventist Reform Movement Sabbath School department, printed and distributed by the Reformation Herald Publishing Association in Roanoke, Virginia, USA. They have offices also in Australia and South Africa. The lesson study follows a similar format to the one we know, with questions, Bible references and notes, though all the notes are E. G. White quotations. They do not refer to any other authors.

If, as your article indicates, they hold several beliefs that are contrary to Ellen White's teachings, then what are they doing with her writings and how are they using them in their publications?

These are serious times in which we live, and there are agents within (and outside) the Church who seek to undermine the work of

the Gospel and the salvation of souls by causing distractions and diversions, and the most dangerous ones are always those from within.

ANTONIA CASTELLINO

Dress

Dear Editor

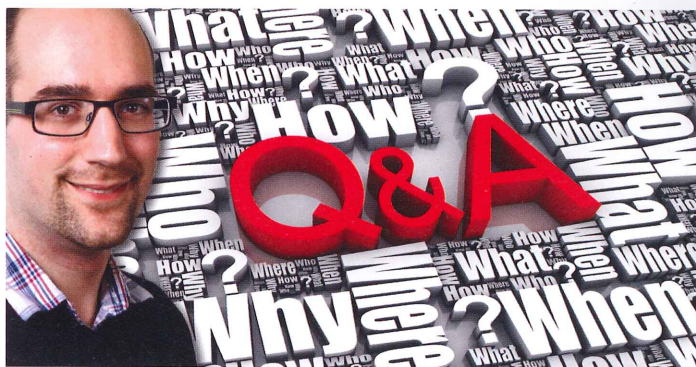
I appreciate the articles regarding the Reform Movement and the teachings of the 2520 that are currently being shared as so-called 'new' light, particularly among those who are young and new in the church.

However, there seems to be some other negative activity taking place in some parts of our Conference that gives me cause for concern.

I refer to statements from our pulpits regarding the length of dress of some of our female members, referring to them as being 'naked' or 'prostitutes'. The comments were untrue and inappropriate – made in public at a time when anyone, not only members, but children and visitors, would hear.

I could say more about this kind of behaviour that is taking place in some of our churches, such as attitudes to members in regard to food for fellowship lunches or disrespect for the culture of the church where people are worshipping. At a time when so many need to hear good news, these actions will not encourage attendance and may even discourage those who are searching for Truth.

PASTOR PAUL HAWORTH



Ever had questions about our faith, doctrines or practice that you want to see resolved? Each week I'll be hosting Q&A in an effort to answer them.

Andrew Puckering

At what age is a child too young for baptism?

A

This sensitive and delicate question is nevertheless of great significance, and relevant to every member with believing children. For this reason we asked seasoned veterans of pastoral ministry to give their views: *Pastor Des Rafferty: 'The Church Manual does not specify an age, but rather a level of understanding. All candidates should understand what they are doing and the reason for their actions. In the absence of such an understanding there will be no longevity in their commitment to Christ or His Church. If the child, having been carefully tutored, then makes a request to be baptised, we should welcome the request and baptise him or her at the earliest opportunity. Far too often children's requests are brushed aside. But children who have had their questions answered and have been encouraged to contemplate their relationship to the sacrifice of Jesus as their Redeemer . . . as with the Ethiopian eunuch, let nothing hinder such from being baptised. Baptism then becomes the start of their journey of discovery with Christ, not a reward at the end of some task.'*

Pastor Paul Haworth: 'Children are old enough when they can make a decision in response to the appeal of Jesus to be His follower. I do not believe there is a set age, as children vary so much in their development and therefore some may well be ready long before others. The danger here is that, because we consider them too young, the moment may pass with the result that they won't make that choice again. In the same way, some are ill-baptised because they are old enough but have not made a heart-commitment to Jesus.'

Pastor Sam Davis: 'It's difficult to be prescriptive. . . . We could arbitrarily put an age of, say, 10, and find that many 10-year-olds, or 11- or 12-year-olds, do not understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When I was baptised at 12 it was the result of a member poking me in the back during an appeal. Consequently, at my baptism I really did not understand the Gospel as I should have done: a situation I later rectified with re-baptism.'

'Some years later, when my sister decided to get baptised at 13, I was strongly opposed, based on my own experience. It turned out that I was wrong, and she was very aware of what she was doing and fully prepared. The answer to this question is therefore not to be based on the age of the child, but on the youngster's understanding. Does he (or she) understand that Jesus Christ is his Saviour, and that He died to redeem him from his sins? I was in church one Sabbath when a 5-year-old child was asked to pray. I was blown away by the intelligence and understanding of one so young. Let's not put an age on it, but allow our pastors and parents to gauge their response depending on the level of understanding they are dealing with.'

Q

Return your tin – take a tin home!

We would like to give a special 'thank you' to all our supporters who have been collecting from door to door during the 2013 ADRA Appeal. Please make sure you have returned your tins to your agent for counting and banking.

Why not take a tin home? Your agent can provide you with a special home tin for donating your small change during the year. These tins have a special label for use in the home.

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Do you have a question you'd like to see answered in Q & A? Why not send it in to us at: editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk? If your question doesn't appear in the next issue, don't despair – we will deal with it in due course.



Fulfilling prophecy

Pastor Patrick Boyle, retired, takes a thought-provoking look at some things that we just might have lost sight of.

A major purpose of Bible prophecy is that God uses it to communicate to His people something of His will and purpose, before He works it out in history. 'Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.' (Amos 3:7, NIV.)

We see this principle in Noah's time. He was told by God to warn of the coming Flood. God told Moses He was going to deliver Israel from Egyptian bondage. Isaiah foretold the coming destruction of Assyria. Jeremiah foretold the Babylonian captivity. Daniel's prophecy foretold the times of the Messiah, His atoning work on the cross, the commencement of the judgement in Heaven, and His return to Earth in power and glory.

John the Baptist fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy and prepared the way for the ministry of Jesus. Our Lord foretold the destruction

of Jerusalem and the world conditions that would prevail before His appearing. He warned of the possibility that deceptions would mislead the careless and foolish Christian.

Prophecy generally falls into three categories:

Fulfilled prophecy: which confirms faith in what has already taken place.

Unfulfilled prophecy: which has yet to take place, like the creation of a new heaven and earth, and the end of evil.

Fulfilling prophecy: things happening around us. In this area credulous and shallow thinking can easily lead to unhappy consequences, such as time-setting, and the identifying of communism or capitalism as the anti-Christ.

Signs are foretold which will be indicators to encourage our faith and support the hope that our Lord's return is near. These

indicators ought to stimulate serious study of those Scriptures that speak significantly to the end times: Daniel, the Gospels, Thessalonians and Revelation.

At present there appears to be a convergence of some major lines of prophecy, which invite careful study. The ongoing economic instability that plagues the Western World is one of them. It raises the question: What possible developments could emerge from a collapse of the world economy?

Then there is worldwide violence. The increasing acts of violence, especially crimes of murder, rape, and sectarian hatred, mirror the times of Noah, which Jesus spoke about. 'As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.' (Matthew 24:37, NIV.)

How the papacy has emerged as a major influence in the contemporary religious and

political spheres is another issue. The papal visits of Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI have energised the right wing of the Catholic Church. The growing influence of the papacy and the harrowing exposures, worldwide, of paedophile priests suggest God is sending a message, to those who will hear, that reveals the true nature of this power.

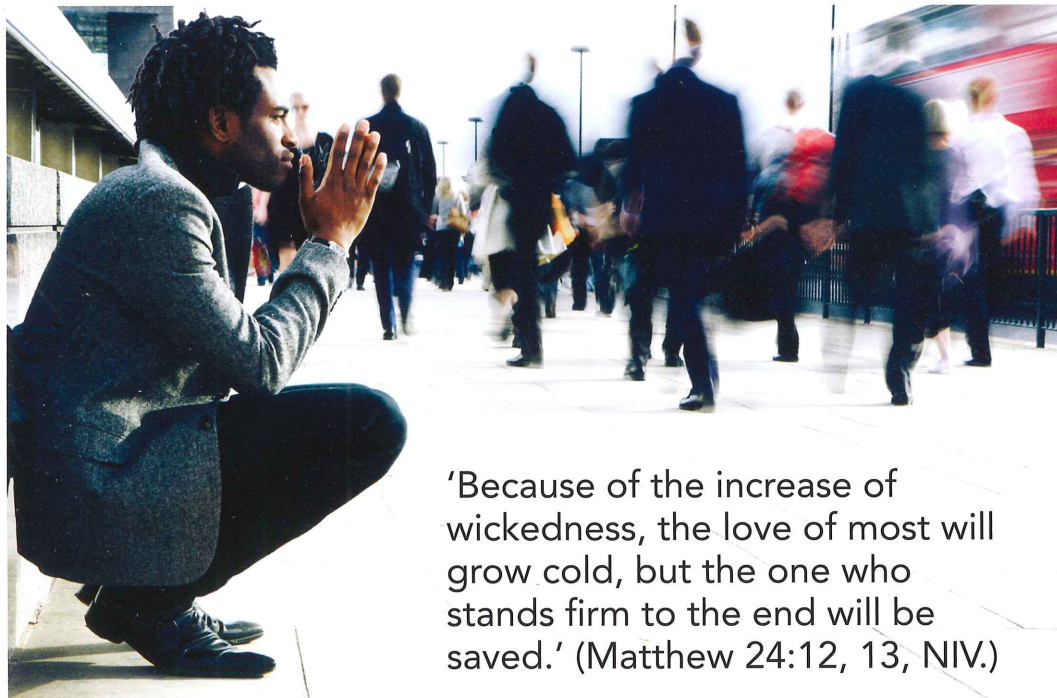
The moral collapse of Protestantism is another line of fulfilling prophecy. Same-gender relationships in ministry, the move to allow these relationships to be solemnised in church – these things can only baffle those who read the Bible and believe its teachings. Protestantism's embracing of evolutionary ideology not only undermines the biblical record of man's origin, but makes the atonement of Jesus irrelevant.

Science poses difficult questions for Bible-believing Christians. We cannot ignore them. Our youth demand better of us. Our faith is neither blind nor ignorant. There are substantial objections and flaws in evolutionary belief, and these should be laid bare. As Hebrews 11:3 (NIV) expresses it: 'By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command'. All knowledge begins with faith. We do not begin our search with conclusions, but assumptions. Science is a problem when it moves beyond its role and denies the possible existence of God. In this sense it contributes to signs of the end.

The rise of militant Islam, its disregard for human life and its intolerance of dissent also suggest that God is sending a clear indicator of its true character. A religion which tolerates, and even promotes, suicide bombing reveals a profound absence of moral and ethical principles.

No comment is necessary about the increase of earthquakes and disasters, natural and man-made.

Among many Seventh-day Adventists, the understanding of why God has called our Church into existence and the nature of its role and mission is diminishing. 'Social Adventism' is becoming the norm. We go to church on Sabbath, enjoy the fellowship and wait to repeat it the following Sabbath. A concern for lost souls is being marginalised in favour of upbeat worship services for the converted.



'Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.' (Matthew 24:12, 13, NIV.)

Many among the membership have a frail grasp upon our major truths, which we hold to as a Church. Forty years ago you could expect most members to be able to repeat the Ten Commandments, the three angels' messages, the Beatitudes and 1 Corinthians 13. The same is not true today. This state of things appears to echo the truth of Jesus' words:

'Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.' (Matthew 24:12, 13, NIV.) One might be led to think that the more evil manifests itself, the easier the believer will see it as a sign of the nearness of Christ's return. Such is not the case. The overt expression of evil tends to sleep rather than wakefulness; it blunts our awareness of the serious nature of wrongdoing.

As is so often the case, Ellen White's writings speak to our times. In *The Great Controversy* we find this pertinent observation: 'Only those who have been diligent students of the Scriptures and who have received the love of the truth will be shielded from the powerful delusion that takes the world captive. . . . To all the testing time will come.' Page 625.

It is sobering to reflect that frittering away time today on irrelevant matters may result in eternal loss: while diligence in studying God's Word today can have eternal benefits when Jesus returns. There is clearly a convergence of some major trends outlined in the prophecies, which should lead us to a diligent study of God's Word. We must be prepared for our Saviour's return. For when He comes, it will be, as He said, 'like a thief in the night' – unexpected!

Newbold choir in Crieff

It was a bitterly cold night on Friday 22 March in Crieff, but for those who braved the icy winds, a wonderful evening of music from the Newbold College Choir was in store. Crieff Church was the first stop on their weekend visit to Scotland. Thirty young people from fourteen different nations performed classical and contemporary works, ranging from Handel to Andrew Lloyd Webber. Conducted by Miriam Mirilov and accompanied by Sandra Rigby-Barrett, the young choir was a great blessing to the church members in Crieff.

CHRISTINE BAUWENS



Young writers shine at workshop

When NEC Communications director, Pastor Peter Jeynes, asked his workshop participants if any had had their writing published before, he did not expect an 8-year-old and a 12-year-old to raise their hands.

Matipa Mashiri stunned the twenty-two participants at the Journalistic Writing Workshop, sponsored by the North England Conference, when she revealed that an article of hers had been published in her school newsletter when she was 7.

Another pleasant surprise was from 12-year-old Ethan Marata, who had a poem published in the local newspaper, *The Chronicle*, at the age of 10.

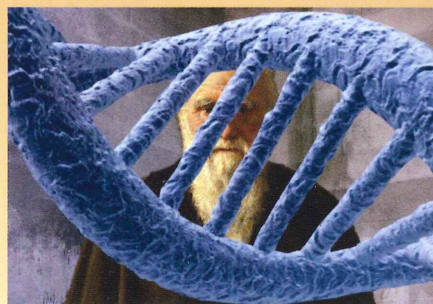
The discovery of this young talent set the tone for the rest of the workshop at Newcastle Seventh-day Adventist Church on 28 April. More than two thirds of the participants were between 8 and 20 years of age, and were eager to develop their news-writing skills.

In fact, this article is a product of one of the writing exercises undertaken during the training. The young people produced some impressive stories during the writing exercises, including one by Liseli Samwinda, another 8-year-old participant.

Two teenagers, Jan Andrada and Taonga Muchanagumbo, were

A seminar on the ascendance of the design paradigm sponsored by ASI-UK (Adventist-laymen's Services)

EVIDENCE OF DESIGN



Saturday 1 June 2013, 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.
at Stanborough Park Church
 609 St Albans Road, Garston, WD25 9JL

Two leading scientists bring the latest thinking to bear on the age-old question "Is Nature all there is?" The perception of design is becoming ever more alluring as nature gives up its secrets and as the Intelligent Design paradigm establishes its mathematical and scientific credentials.

The speakers are:

Dr John Walton

Research Professor at St Andrews University

Dr Alistair Noble

Director of the Centre for Intelligent Design

The talks will be streamed live to the internet on the link <http://stanboroughpark.adventistchurch.org.uk/evidence-for-design-1-6-2013>.

If you plan to arrive before lunch you may book a place at the seminar and enjoy some Soup and a Roll style refreshment by completing the form online at the link:

http://adventistwebministries.org.uk/forms/3264/form_submissions/new

Dr John Walton has two doctorates and is Research Professor of Chemistry at St. Andrews University. He is a Fellow of both the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Royal Society of Edinburgh and also chaired the RSC Electron Spin Resonance Group. He has written and lectured extensively on science and origins in the UK and overseas. Dr Alastair Noble PhD, BSc is Director of the Centre for Intelligent Design. He did chemistry research at the University of Glasgow and followed a career as a high school teacher and adviser, a schools inspector and educational administrator. He is now an educational advisor in broadcasting and local government services.

commended by Pastor Jeynes for developing very good stories during the workshop.

All of this is testimony to the fact that one is never too young – or too old – to learn a new skill.

DR VICTOR SAMWINGA & GIRLIE MAE ANDRADA

Plumstead's youth are energised!

Plumstead Community Church youth began 2013 with renewed energy and commitment. They want to get involved in their church's programme of evangelism as never before.

For the first time their youth week of prayer was run by the youth themselves. They adapted the readings to suit their needs, and some youth provided musical items for the first time – much to the surprise and joy of the older members.

NDUMIE MAFU, YOUTH LEADER



Readers' gallery

Megapixels of creation

... from the youngsters!

1



1. **A fly on a yellow flower.**
Robin Beamish (14), Fujifilm S3280.
2. **Moss, Aberdeen, Scotland.**
Daniel Johnson, Canon IXUS 115 HS.
3. **St James, Jamaica.**
Le-Jhel Williams, Canon 5D mark 2.
4. **Crocuses.**
Whitnell Anderson, Canon Powershot SX230.
5. **Sun in Aberdeen.**
Daniel Johnson, Canon IXUS 115 HS.
6. **Bloody-nosed beetle.**
Rowan Beamish (11), Olympus X43.
7. **Flower.**
Rebecca Johnson (12), Sony DSC-W50.

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

Sunshine at last!

Wow, what a bank holiday! Lots of sunshine, and very strong signs that spring has finally arrived . . . my hostas are starting to sprout, ducklings are on the river, lambs are in the fields and great swathes of yellow show the oil-seed rape coming out. I just love this time of year; so much colour and new life! Why not explore your local countryside and see it all for yourselves, and take some pictures for me while you're there!

I have had many pictures sent in from young budding photographers, so now I felt it was time to feature their work. But, young or old, or somewhere in-between, I still want your pictures.

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

'He made all kinds of beautiful trees grow there and produce good fruit. In the middle of the garden stood the tree that gives life and the tree that gives knowledge of what is good and what is bad.'

Genesis 2:9 (GNT)

2



3



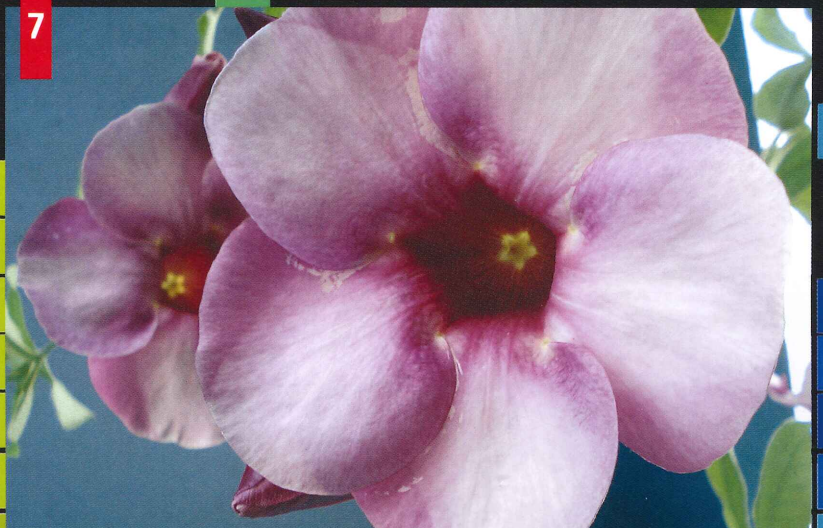
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7



6



baptisms



Harvest time in Swindon

It was an emotional Sabbath afternoon at Swindon Church on 20 April as eight baptismal candidates accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. After a lot of activities, programmes and hard work, now it was time for the harvest. There were tears of joy as parents, spouses, relatives and friends saw Paul, Eric, Kevin, Alberta, Nicholine, Louise, Luyanda and Columbus being baptised by Pastor Rudi Puskas. What made this event so special was that it was an outcome of a 'Revival Campaign' that took place at the church in February, as well as Bible studies by Pastor Puskas and the Personal Ministries team.

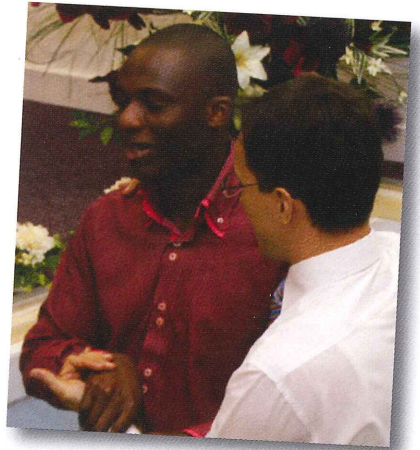
Fifteen years ago Swindon had around ten to fifteen people attending the church. Four and a half years ago, when Pastor Rudi Puskas moved to Swindon, there was only one church and the attendance was around eighty-five. Now there are three churches in Swindon with a combined attendance of around 150! To God be the glory!

FRANCIS MAKONESE

Dundee baptism

On Sabbath 13 April the congregation of the Dundee Seventh-day Adventist church rejoiced at the baptism of 28-year-old Laud Kodji. He had been christened and brought up as a Presbyterian in Ghana, but lost interest as he grew older. For a long time he had no church at all. Then a young lady suggested he attend the Dundee Adventist church. Although he had heard of the church he was very sceptical at first, but, after repeated invitations, he decided to give it a try. He found it very different at first, particularly to sit through a whole day of services. But he grew to understand and appreciate the teachings, particularly after he had Bible studies with Pastor Marcel Ghioalda and Johnny Addai-Peprah. Abigail Tetty-Addo crafted a special baptismal cake depicting the event. Later, the sugar figures of Pastor Ghioalda and Laud from the cake were auctioned to raise £75 for ADRA.

PROFESSOR JOHN WALTON



Willesden's special baptism

An understandable air of excitement hovered over Willesden Church on Sabbath 13 April, as nine young people were baptised.

Many friends, family members and church members witnessed Jordan Samuel, Kelly-Mae Samuel, Kenan Shepherd, Monique Carridge, Melody Brooks, Kyle Brooks, Jasper Brooks, Parbattee Chawira and Arianne Boldeau enter the pool.

It was particularly moving to see young family members being baptised together – especially when Pastors Des Boldeau and Eglan Brooks baptised their own children.

Jordan Samuel said: 'I was excited throughout the day. Getting baptised with my sister made my day extra special, because it's quite rare to get baptised with a sibling, plus cousins, so I was well chuffed.' He further observed: 'I found it a great privilege to get baptised with other young people – it was quite reassuring. The fact that people made a decision to get baptised is good, but to get baptised with fellow youths was a blessing.'

God's presence was felt throughout this deeply moving service, and people responded to the pastor's call to give their lives to God. Catherine Boldeau's text message about her daughter was true for all nine of these precious young people: 'Her faith journey starts today and I wish her well!'

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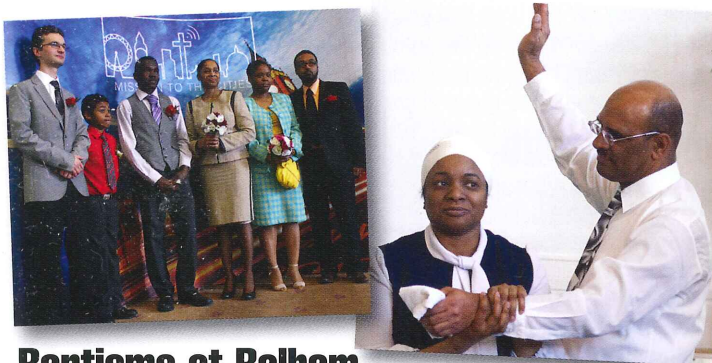


Medical doctor baptised

'I wouldn't have come to know about the Adventist Church without her,' admitted Leo Thanikkel, referring to his fiancée, Sharon Harris, prior to his baptism on 27 April. Leo, a doctor, grew up in Vienna and met Sharon through mutual friends. Having grown up at Stanborough Park she introduced him to her church, and he has been attending services regularly with her for two years.

Brought up in a Christian home, Leo began studies with Pastor Jim Huzzey six months ago, which led to his decision to be baptised. He was baptised during a special Sabbath afternoon service conducted by Pastor Jacques Venter and witnessed by Sharon, family on both sides, friends and fellow members. Pastor Jim Huzzey took part in the service, as did Sharon's father, Lloyd, who read the Scripture reading, and her mother, Claudette, who led the congregation in prayer.

JUNE COOMBS



Baptisms at Balham

During Balham Church's annual evangelistic outreach the preaching of local pastor, Keith Boldeau, and the BUC president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, led to two baptismal services in April, with a total of seven candidates. Here are the stories of two of them.

Damien Blicz (22) grew up as a Roman Catholic in Poland until he was 16, then he left the Church. His parents became Adventists about five years ago, and even though he occasionally attended with them, he didn't show much interest. That is until he arrived in England in November 2011 looking for work. Out of curiosity he searched the internet for the address of a nearby Adventist church and came across that of the Balham congregation.

He attended Balham, and was invited home and befriended by an elder, who subsequently started Bible studies with him. He began to realise that 'There is nothing better than Jesus.' He considered being baptised during Summer Camp in Poland, but couldn't wait that long: so his parents flew over from Poland for the joyous occasion! Damien believes that Jesus is watching over him, and that 'No matter what, you're a winner with Him!'

Nathan Gordon (18) used to attend church with his foster mum, Sophia, but stopped at 15. Fortunately, he decided to respond to Sophia's invitation to give church another try and kept coming. After much thought, he decided that baptism was the best choice to make, as he wanted to get to know God better and find greater purpose in his life.

ERROL ANDERSON (COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT)

Loughborough youth baptised!

Sabbath 30 March was a day of great rejoicing as four of Loughborough's young people were baptised at the Grantham church, as their usual meeting place does not have a baptistry.

Benjamin Barratt-Peacock (8) was baptised by Pastor John Ferguson, who had dedicated him as a baby. Benjamin was very definite that this was the right decision for him, and he had invited many friends, school teachers and family members to share the occasion with him. 'I will always remember this special day,' Benjamin said. 'I want Jesus to be my forever Friend.'

Twin sisters, Alicia and Olivia Middleditch (10), entered the water together. They were baptised by Pastor Cyril Sweeney, Loughborough's new minister. The girls recently demonstrated their willingness to stand up for Jesus by making arrangements to sit the entrance exam to their secondary school, scheduled for Sabbath, on a different day of the week.

Mandi Mapako (14) was baptised by Pastor Roman Smejkal, Loughborough's previous minister. Mandi had studied with Roman before moving with her family to Bradford in January, but was eager to return to be baptised with her friends. Mandi is eager to share her faith with school friends, often bringing them to church and posting 'I love God' on her Facebook page for all to see. It was a very special day for Roman, as this was his first baptism and a great reward for his hard work at Loughborough Church.

The candidates had all completed a nine-month series of Bible studies based on the excellent children's introduction to our twenty-eight Fundamental Beliefs called *What We Believe*.

VIVIENNE BARRATT-PEACOCK



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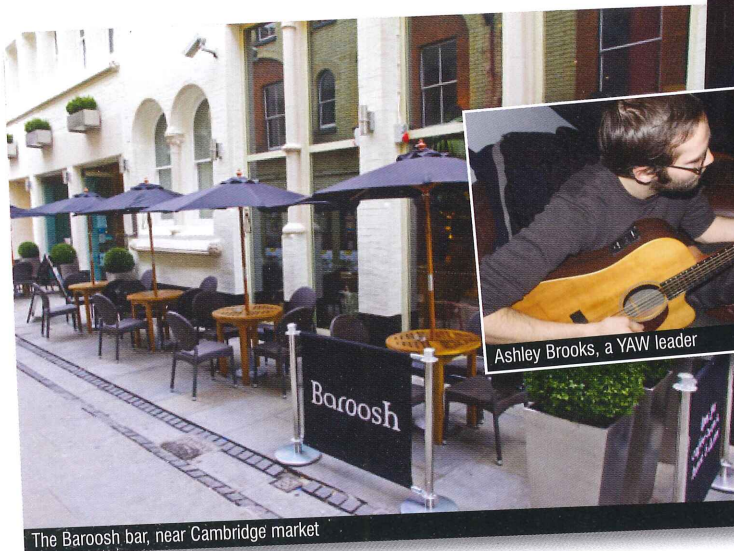


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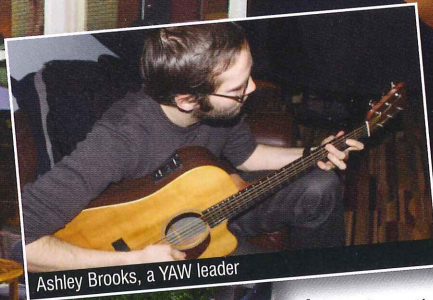
Rebeto Samuel-Ouadj: RSamuel-Ouadj@secadventist.org.uk - 01923656533



witnessing



The Baroosh bar, near Cambridge market



Ashley Brooks, a YAW leader



Young worshippers

YAW above a pub

Being the student town it is, a plan for outreach and evangelism in Cambridge should include going to the heart of the city. Like Jesus, the young adults of Cambridge Church wanted to be among the people they wanted to reach, sharing their love for God and showing how they can worship in a modern way.

On 14 December 2012, the first Young Adult Worship (YAW) service took place above a pub on the main high street. The speaker, Greg King, from Southern Adventist University, gave a special Christmas message to more than thirty young adults from Cambridge and the surrounding area. Since then the services have been held once a month, growing

from strength to strength. The programme has now developed into three hours of food, fellowship and worship. April's service ran under the theme of 'Back to the Heart of Worship', and it was just that. A number of the young adults present that night don't regularly attend church, but they especially enjoyed singing together. The worship was enhanced through interpretive dance and mime, resulting in a truly renewing worship experience.

The good news is that after five services, more than 50% of the young adults now attending are not from the church.

There is a different crowd every time, because many students move away as they finish their studies – but it seems they have been spreading the word before they do! Friends who have been invited by the Cambridge youth continue to come. They feel comfortable attending a place where they can just enjoy listening to gospel singing, hearing about Jesus and asking questions.

Praise God that the students of Cambridge Church have been able to worship God openly, in a bar full of students and young adults who otherwise may not have had this opportunity. So as plans get underway for the next service, they are truly involved with mission to their city!

COLIN STEWART

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'Dinner with the Doctor'

On Saturday evening 27 April the Health Ministry team of the Bournemouth church held the first 'Dinner with the Doctor'.

It was part of a series that has been developed to increase the general public's understanding of key health issues.

This first seminar, entitled 'Coping with Depression and Sadness', took an in-depth look at the differences between sadness, anxiety and depression, and gave advice and guidance on how to deal with each.

The seminar was led by Dr Dina Borges, Bournemouth Health Ministry team leader, and supported by other medically qualified personnel from within the church. It included a 30-minute question-and-answer session following Dr Borges's presentation.

Dr Dina Borges is a GP with additional training in psychiatry and psychotherapy. Following several years in medical practice, she gained extensive clinical research experience working with a multinational pharmaceutical company in the fields of cardiovascular disease and endocrinology. Dr Borges is fluent in English, Portuguese, Spanish and Italian.

The event attracted more than fifty participants, some of whom had travelled over 40 miles to attend, who were treated to a wholesome buffet prepared by the church's hospitality team prior to leaving.

The next 'Dinner with the Doctor' seminar, entitled '7 Steps to Improve Your Health', will be held on Saturday 8 June at the Bournemouth church, 84 Alma Road, Winton, Bournemouth BH9 1AN, commencing at 6pm.

Those wishing to attend should book in advance by texting their name, plus 'DWD' and the date, to 0771 775 7630.

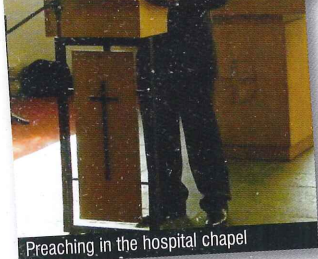
CHRIS HARRIS



Easter service at Great Yarmouth Church



Cookery demonstration



Preaching in the hospital chapel

Reaching out in Great Yarmouth

In this day and age it is not easy to find people who are interested in attending church, but Great Yarmouth Church is trying every possible method. One of these is a monthly

newspaper, appropriately called *The Link*, aimed at their church neighbours, keeping them informed of what is happening in their local Adventist church. Another is the use of various religious seasons and events as an opportunity to invite friends and members of the community to special worship services. During their Easter service they had a visitor who has since also attended one of the vegetarian cooking classes.

These cooking demonstrations are run on a bimonthly basis with between fifteen and just over twenty in attendance. Pearl Walker has been responsible for arranging them, but several members have responded willingly to the invitation to present a recipe. A few people from the community have attended, but one particular lady attended the first one and has been coming to our church ever since – to the weekly evangelistic series, the prayer meetings and the Sabbath services. In fact, Christine also took part in the last cooking event as one of the contributors.

Each person who attends receives a printed copy of the recipes so that in time they are able to build up a sizeable collection of vegetarian dishes. After the food has been prepared, everyone enjoys the inevitable feast of good, wholesome vegetarian cooking!

The church is also periodically invited to take the Sunday afternoon half-hour service in the James Paget Hospital chapel, Gorleson. Roger Hill has been responsible for organising these events as a result of his contact with Christians Together. The service is broadcast on the hospital radio so that those patients confined to their wards are also able to listen to the service. Several members attend as a team and often take part in various ways. During their 14 April visit they had two special musical items before their minister, Rio Espulgar, preached his message and concluded with a solo of his own.

After the service, the team were able to chat with the patients and their relatives who attended the service. This is another way of quietly reaching out in Great Yarmouth.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER (COMMUNICATION SECRETARY)



Launch of kayak club

After two years of planning, numerous grant applications, constant visits to eBay and nearly freezing to death doing coaching assessments in some of the unkindest weather for years, Rob Parsons finally pushed five people into the water! Why?

According to our local church's mission philosophy, we like to identify the skills of people in our community, match them with a need, and then invite them to join us in making a difference in our town. When we spotted a gap in what was provided by our church and local recreational groups, we realised that we needed to start a kayak club – primarily, but not exclusively, aimed at teenage boys and men.

Firstly, we found an enthusiastic person who was prepared to get the coaching qualifications required by the British Canoe Union. Financial help for equipment and training came from our Area Lay Advisory and a local councillor. A little money went a long way, because we purchased second-hand equipment and then spent time renovating it.

On the launch day, five brave souls battled a cruel wind as they tested our kayaks and the teaching skills of our newly qualified coach.

Their verdict? 'I enjoyed it more than I thought I would.' 'I achieved more than I thought possible.' 'Never having done it before, it was great.'

Over the next few months, using links forged with the local sea scouts, we will be taking people of all ages and abilities out onto Hampshire waters. The benefits have already started flowing in, with friendships strengthened and local links made, and soon we will also enjoy the stunning scenery and wildlife to be found in this part of the UK.

PASTOR ROSEMARY LETHBRIDGE



THE NORTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE YOUTH DEPARTMENT PRESENTS



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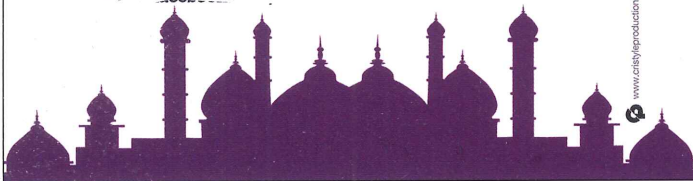
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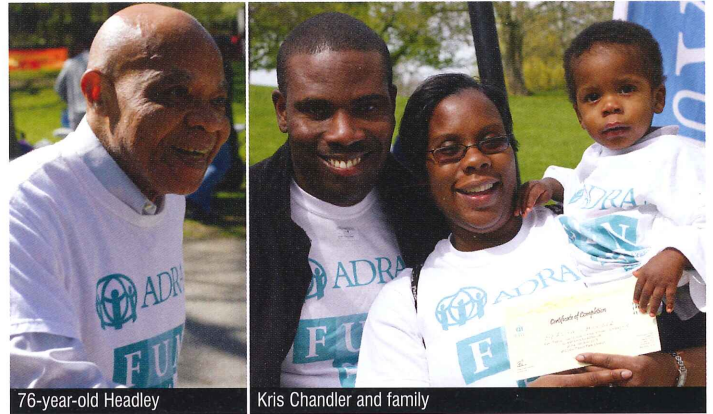
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76-year-old Headley

Kris Chandler and family



Happy runners

Hop, jump, walk or run for fun!

76-year-old Headley was the oldest participant racing around Crystal Palace Park on Sunday 28 April, to raise money for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).

'I am feeling great!' he said. 'I'm running because ADRA is doing a very good job.'

In celebration of 100 years of collecting for ADRA and its fore-runners, more than 350 people joined in the Fun Run, co-ordinated by the Personal Ministries director of the South England Conference, Pastor Kirk Thomas, and his secretary, Mavis Bramble, who were at Crystal Palace Park from the early hours of that morning, getting the course ready.

'Last year it was cold, wet and windy; it was miserable!' commented Pastor Thomas. 'But this year it is already beautifully sunny; unfortunately I won't be able to join the runners today as I'm still coming off an ankle injury, but I might try to hop around a lap later in the day. I just pray no one gets injured and that we have a wonderful day together.'

Participants of all ages and abilities ran, hopped, cycled or walked the 13 miles. There was even a pregnant mum, Kris Chandler, who, with husband Charlie and 19-month-old Ethan from New Addington Church, made a family appearance at the course.

'We've been sponsored. Our ADRA agent, Denise Mafolo, told us about the walk and we just wanted to get out and raise some money,' said the expectant mother. 'The second lap was tough, but then people encouraged me to go around again and I did my third lap. Three laps for ADRA, but no closer to the baby arriving!'

Sporting his 1970s headband, SEC treasurer, Earl Ramharacksingh, took on the course with his wife, Jackie. 'I'm running alongside Jackie . . . because there are so many people who will benefit from the funds raised today.'

Pastors Terry Messenger, Hamilton Williams and Jonathan Barrett completed their run, cheered on by church members – while some church members, participating in groups, were cheered on by their local pastors! Pastor Wilson Lagos was there to support his group from the South Hispanic church, which included people from Argentina, Bolivia, Spain, Ecuador and Columbia.

Judy-Ann Green, from the Central London church, was the only runner of the day to complete 14 miles. 'Everyone who sponsored me last year gave me lots of money and I did 13.5 miles,' said Judy-Ann. 'So this year, I said I'd try to do 14; I want them to be proud and sponsor me again next year!'

To see video clips of the day, please visit the South England Conference's Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/secadventist>.

KATIE RAMHARACKSINGH (PHOTOS: DARREN ALLEN)

BIG 6

30 JUNE 2013

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NECYOUTH

obituaries

Carmen Condirora Graham (née Weathers) (1940-2012) d. 30 November.



Carmen was born in Mandeville, Jamaica, the fifth of Curtis and Clementina Weathers' seven children.

The first Adventist branch Sabbath school in Mandeville was begun in her grandmother's house. As a child Carmen went to live with Dr and Mrs Silburn Reid, and was adopted into their family. The home church of her youth was Montego Bay, and her favourite memory of those days was of singing in the youth choir.

Carmen migrated to England in 1961 and married Cecil George Graham. Together they had five children: Joanne, Fitzroy, Annette, Hermine and Carmen Junior. She also loved and took care of Marjorie, Cecil's daughter. She would be seen everywhere with her five little children alongside her. She quickly settled into church life in London, initially attending Holloway Church and then moving to the Stoke Newington congregation. In 1977 she became one of the founding members of Hackney Church. The education of young people so they could achieve was her passion, and for many years she worked within the church to raise money for Christian education along with her friends Beenis and Burt Bulgin. She also sat on the board of governors at the John Loughborough school.

Carmen worked as a nurse, then later re-trained as a nursery nurse to work for the Save the Children Fund. For her many years of service she was presented with an award by HRH Princess Anne. She worked tirelessly to educate her own children, and was thankful to God that they all went to university and were able to enter professions where they could serve others. Once they left home she enjoyed years of being able to travel. A highlight of that period was her mission trip to remote villages in Mexico.

In later years Carmen became increasingly involved on various community committees. She regularly gave Bible studies, visited the sick and prayed for those who were troubled. She also regularly attended the Prayer Tower at Plaistow.

During her final period of sickness she was shown so much love by so many. Her heart was deeply saddened by the death of her beloved daughter, Annette Rebecca Graham, on 17 November

2012, and as the sun set on Friday 30 November 2012 she too passed away. Her greatest desire was that all those she came in contact with would be saved. Carmen leaves behind her adoptive mother, Leila Reid and family; her children, Marjorie, Joanne, Fitzroy, Hermine and Carmen (Jr); her grandchildren: Maylina, Mia, Xochitl, Niamh, Chloe and Akala; and her brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews.

Carmen's funeral was held on 10 December 2012 at Holloway Church, where more than 700 people celebrated her life and the contribution she made to the cause of God. Donations made at her funeral have been used to set up an academic scholarship at the Hyland House Seventh-day Adventist school for a child in need who has outstanding academic ability. Further donations can be made by contacting the head teacher, Mrs Abbequaye.

DR HERMINE GRAHAM (DAUGHTER)

Thomas Edwards (1931-2013) d. 7

March. Thomas

Siegfried Ferdinand Edwards (known affectionately as Siegfried)

was the first of three children born to his parents – a pastor and his wife who were missionaries on the Gold Coast. His brother Ronald would later become a pastor, while his sister Margaret went on to marry Pastor Martin Anthony.

In later life Siegfried chose to follow the profession of dentistry and studied for it at Birmingham University. During his studies he was called upon many times to stand firm for his deeply held Christian beliefs, in particular the way in which he wished to observe his Sabbath. He took his final examinations at the Royal College of Surgeons, London.

Iris Gay (from Derby) and Siegfried were married in 1956, and in the early years of their marriage they lived and worked in the Pelsall/West Midlands area. Later they were blessed by the births of Annette, Jane and Paul. Siegfried served for a period as a dentist at the Adventist hospital in Trinidad, and later opened a practice in Grenada.

Eventually the Edwards family moved to Wells, in Somerset, where Siegfried and Iris established a practice specialising in orthodontics. At this time they became respected friends and members of the Croscombe church near Wells, and were both actively



involved in various church activities, with Siegfried serving several terms as an elder.

Siegfried did not court the praise of his fellow man, but he knew his Saviour and his faith never faltered, even during later years when he struggled with health problems. During this difficult time Iris lovingly tended to his needs.

The writer himself can personally testify to Siegfried's concern that all men should share in the assurance of a better life to come. A measure of the respect in which he was held was evidenced by those who attended and spoke at the service, held at Mendip Crematorium. Pastor Vicentiu Dranca and Pastor Islywn Reece reminded all present of the hope of the resurrection to come and the 'wiping away of all tears and sadness', and we commend this encouragement to Siegfried's family at this time.

BRIAN BAXTER

Frank Baron (1914-2013) d. 27 March.

Frank (Franciszek) Baron, a very dear and much-respected member of the Blackburn church, sadly passed away on 27 March 2013.

The thanksgiving service in remembrance of Frank was held on 11 April at the Blackburn church, and this was followed by interment at Dill Hall Cemetery in Accrington.

Frank was born on 3 December 1914, and had recently celebrated his 98th birthday. The family of Frank and the late Ruth Baron wish to express their sincere gratitude to the many family and friends for their kind expressions of love and sympathy during this time of bereavement.

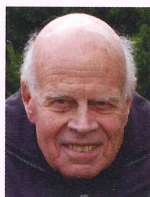
It was the family's wish that in lieu of flowers, donations were to be given to ADRA-UK, and the offerings collected at the service raised £153 for this worthy cause.

Frank and Ruth are survived by their children, Ella, Siegfried and Wilfred; son-in-law, Desmond, and daughter-in-law, Mary; grandchildren, Martyn, Russell, Susannah, Ingrid and Rosemary; and great-grandchildren, Amelia, Jodi, Trevor, Cody, Fiona, Lucas and Sophie.

BEN MARSDEN

Stanley Vincent Maxwell (1927-2013) d. 29

March. Stanley was born in Kendu Bay Mission Hospital to missionary parents. His father, Spencer Maxwell, was one of ten missionary families who went to Kenya in 1920 after the First World War. Stanley grew up in Kenya and lived there until he was 15 years old. After primary education in Nakuru he went to Helderberg College in South Africa, where



he graduated from both the commercial course and the theological/normal course.

In 1948 he joined the Helderberg College staff and taught Typing and Commerce. Later, when Helderberg College offered external degrees from the University of South Africa, and while still teaching, he earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree with honours, followed in 1957 by a Master of Commerce degree with distinction.

In January 1960 Stanley married Phyllis Joan Raitt – beginning a partnership that would last more than fifty-three years, during which Joan was a wonderful help to Stanley. Their children – Alan, Pam and Audrey – made the family complete.

From 1962 to 1966 Stanley taught at Newbold College, then returned to Africa as secretary/treasurer of the Ghana Mission, and two years later became administrator of the Ile-Ife hospital.

Back in England in 1971, Stanley joined the British Union Conference as treasurer for the Welsh, Irish and Scottish Missions. In 1973 he became treasurer for British Advent Missions Ltd, the legal entity of the British Union Conference that later became the Seventh-day Adventist Association. After forty-four years of faithful and wholehearted service he retired in 1991, shortly before his 65th birthday.

Stanley had two hobby interests: photography and gardening. His garden was a delight to family and visitors, and from his travels Stanley prepared illustrated lectures for local camera clubs. The members of the XRR Camera Club knew Stanley as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, a 'very kind-mannered and considerate person who could be very serious but also humorous'.

Others knew of Stanley's ability to befriend those in need, and even take them into his home until they were able to live without support. Stanley was a practical Christian.

Pastor Paul Clee and Pastor Jacques Venter conducted his funeral service in the Stanborough Park church on 23 April. Stanley rests in North Watford Cemetery. Joan, Alan, Pam and Audrey, and Stanley's sisters, Ruth and Enid, have the 'hope that burns within our hearts' that 'soon the heavens will open wide, Christ will come . . . 'with the voice of the archangel and the trump of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will . . . meet the Lord in the air. So shall we ever be with the Lord.'

Joan and the family wish to thank you for the many messages of sympathy and condolence that they have received.

PHILIP ANDERSON

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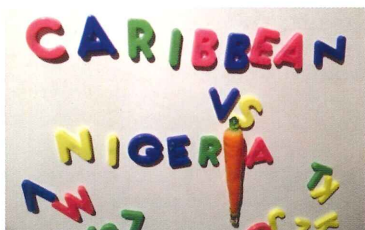
Caribbean-Nigerian cook-off

The seventh-day Adventist student society at Manchester University recently came up with a novel way of developing closer ties between its African and Caribbean members – a cook-off, so both countries could show off their culinary skills, and mix and fellowship together.

The event took place on 17 March at a student house, and all the students from Manchester South Church were in attendance, plus a handful of non-member students from Manchester University. There was lots of good-natured banter about countries and culture; the food was varied, ample and enjoyed; and everyone seemed to enjoy the bonding experience.

Then it was time to vote. Who had won the cook-off? The teams seemed neck and neck . . . until the door swung open, and a Nigerian student came rushing in shouting, 'Wait, I vote Nigeria!' Nigeria won by one vote, but the two groups were closer together than ever before.

SARA FRANCIS



One man and his dog (the sequel)

This is the concluding report in a series on the Oldham church's efforts to support the needy of their community.

An unexpected visitor brought some shocking news while we were having lunch on Sabbath 20 April. She told us that Michael Maloney (Mick) had suffered a massive heart attack and died on Thursday 18 April. She came early, she said, to tell us so that it wouldn't come as a shock in the evening when we were serving meals to the rest of the needy.

Mick was the person we told of in part three of this story – the one who unexpectedly took over and prayed for the whole group one evening. His cheerful face and warm greetings for everyone were infectious, and he had become a group favourite. He was always very appreciative of what our church did for him and had promised to help us fix the church roof when the weather improved. Mick was Irish and had been raised a Catholic. He had recently gone out and bought a rosary and had started praying again. He was one of only two from the group who attended our annual concert. It was obvious that good things were beginning to happen in his life.

Although this was shocking news it gave us a chance to talk clearly to our guests about the state of the dead, the Second Coming and Heaven. We can only hope that Mick had accepted the message of hope we had shared with him in the few short months that he visited our kitchen.

MAUREEN CLARKE



Dedication of Sally Blackburn

On 30 March Pastor Robert Bell dedicated Sally, the sixth child of Graham and Abigail Blackburn, in the Bodmin church. Here the proud parents are pictured with their children (from left to right): Caleb, Debbie, Sally, Julie, Tammy and Ivor.

PASTOR ROBERT BELL

Change of address: The Dudley Seventh-day Adventist church now congregates at the old Methodist church, Parkes Hall Road, Woodsetton DY1 3SH. Sabbath services start at 10am, and the number 82 bus stops very close by. For more details, phone Hubert Smiley on 07868288310.

HUBERT SMILEY

Messenger

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Sunset

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	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
May 24	8.59	9.11	9.10	9.35	9.38
31	9.07	9.20	9.19	9.46	9.48
Jun 7	9.14	9.26	9.27	9.54	9.56
14	9.19	9.31	9.32	10.00	10.01

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