

Messenger

News to the churches • 2 August 2013 • Volume 118 • 16

The Aeolians

by Katie Ramharacksingh, SEC Communications department



through music, and we hope that we portray the messages as cleanly and clearly as we possible can – the rest is just icing on the cake. We strive for perfection; we never make it, but just the art of striving is rewarding in itself. The Holy Spirit has kept us going!

In conjunction with the SEC Youth department, the Aeolians gave a special concert for the public on Thursday, 27 June. They performed in the heart of Rhyl, at its town hall, and the show was attended by a variety of people from the community and the nearby SEC camp meeting, held at Pontins, in Prestatyn.

Steve Thomas, SEC Youth director and organiser of the concert, was excited about the impact the evening's performance had made. 'We tried to follow the week's theme of "Making God Known" by going to the community and touching them with the skills of the choir.' After hearing their performance, people from the community requested to come on-site at camp meeting on Sabbath to hear the Aeolians again!

Those who watched the choir's dynamic performance were thrilled at the experience and gave them a standing ovation. Some, like Rhyl resident, Peter Wall, were simply overwhelmed. 'I only think, "wow",' enthused

Peter, who attended the concert after seeing an advert in his local paper. 'I've not heard a choir like that in all my life! You watch those programmes on TV, like *Songs of Praise*, but I would never have guessed that was what it could sound like live; I have a feeling this means my wife will be taking me back to church soon!'

After a week of powerful solos and energetic group performances, the Aeolians mustered up the energy for a full concert on Saturday evening, 29 June, with SEC Music director, Paul Lee, as Master of Ceremonies. The choir sang animatedly, interspersed with other items, including a children's choir, pianist Leslie Riskowitz and vocal group 'Higher Ground'. They introduced the audience to lesser-known songs, like Charles Tindley's 'Beams of Heaven', and performed unique renditions of well-known hymns such as 'How Great Thou Art'. It all climaxed with a wonderful rendition of 'Great is Thy Faithfulness', featuring Victor Acquah, and enjoyed by not only the thousands on-site, but at least 650 viewers watching live online.

(Photos by Darren Allen, Roland Dan & Katie Ramharacksingh)



Conductor, Jason Max Ferdinand

The world-renowned choir, the Aeolians, from Adventist Oakwood University in Alabama, USA, brought their talents to the UK to perform throughout the South England Conference (SEC) camp meeting, from 24 to 30 June.

Led by their director and pianist, Dr Wayne Buckner, and their conductor, Jason Max Ferdinand, the men who helped them to the title of Champions of the 2012 World Choir Games (Spiritual Category), the choir inspired both church members and visitors from the nearby Welsh community.

Jason Ferdinand described how the change of time zones had left them slightly sleep-deprived, but that the energy of being at camp meeting had kept them going. 'Our inspiration is always just to share the love of Jesus



NEC
Day of Fellowship
7 September 2013

All-day Event commencing 9 am

Sheffield City Hall
Barkers Pool
Sheffield
S1 2JA

Entrance is by ticket only, to book follow the instructions on www.necadventist.org.uk

Guest Speaker
Dr. Israel Leito
Inter American Division President

Rebuilding the 'Walls'
Rebuilding People
Restoring Relationships
Inspiring Excellence



Enhancing Health

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

Cancer: the facts – part 3k

Examining causation and risk factors

Smoking and cancer

Analysing global research on lung cancer causes, Cancer Research UK has posted the following facts on its website:¹

- Smoking accounts for one in four UK cancer deaths.
- Smoking causes more than four in five cases of lung cancer.
- Lung cancer has one of the lowest survival rates of all cancers, and is the most common cause of UK cancer deaths.
- Smoking increases the risk of other cancers, including cancers of the mouth, larynx (voice box), pharynx (upper throat), nose and sinuses, oesophagus (food pipe), liver, pancreas, stomach, kidney, bladder, bowel, cervix, one type of ovarian cancer and some types of leukaemia.
- Tobacco smoke contains more than seventy cancer-causing substances.
- When smoke is inhaled, these chemicals enter the lungs and spread around the body.
- These chemicals can damage DNA, changing key genes, which causes cancer by making cells grow and multiply out of control.

Dear Readers,
The issue of *MESSENGER* scheduled for 16 August has been rescheduled to appear one week later on 23 August. This is being done to allow our hard-working team to enjoy a well-earned 'sunshine' break! Subsequent issues will appear as per schedule.

THE EDITOR

Clerks to the Governors

- Hyland House Primary School • Newbold Primary School
- Fletewood Primary School

The governing bodies of Newbold Primary School in Binfield, Berkshire, Hyland House Primary School in London and Fletewood Primary School in Plymouth wish to appoint three individuals to function as clerks to the governors of these schools, to begin in September 2013. There will be at least three sessions per year. If you wish to contribute to the success of the school by taking on this part-time stipendiary position and can offer the following:

- Good organisational skills
- Good secretarial skills
- Good communication skills
- Good grasp of constitutional and organisational procedures, although training will be given
- Willingness to update training
- Ability to keep confidences and follow protocol

Your rate of remuneration will be £100.00 per session, comprising £89.23 basic pay plus £10.77 holiday pay.

Please contact Jacqui Crawford for an application form or further information at: jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk or telephone 01923 656514.

Applicants are required to have the right to work in the UK; all necessary checks will be carried out.

Closing date for applications: Friday 30 August 2013

Passive smoking and cancer

A health report from *Mail Online* by Rachel Ellis published 6 May 2013 carried the headline: 'Why does lung cancer strike women who have never smoked?'² The report quotes Dr Michael Beckles, consultant respiratory physician at the Royal Free Hospital and the private Physicians' Clinic, London, who says: 'Anecdotally, we are seeing more female patients who have never smoked being diagnosed with lung cancer compared with ten years ago.'

The report highlights that, although the chance of non-smokers developing lung cancer is much lower than smokers, recent figures reveal that of the 41,500 new lung cancer cases annually in Britain, around 6,000 (14%) are unrelated to smoking. Women were suggested to be more vulnerable biologically, with Asian women appearing to be at higher risk.³

The report stated that non-smokers living with a smoker have a 31% increased risk for developing lung cancer.

Some suggested causes for cancer in non-smokers are: genetic susceptibility, exposure to cancer-causing substances such as asbestos, radon gas, solvents, diesel exhaust fumes, other people's tobacco smoke, radiation treatment to the chest, or scarring of the lungs from a previous medical condition.⁴

Stephen Spiro, retired professor of respiratory medicine and deputy chairman of the British Lung Foundation, explains the difficulty in trying to achieve an early diagnosis:

'The problem is that the lungs have no pain fibres. . . . Sadly, by the time you get an irritating cough that won't go away, the disease has often advanced.' Therefore persistent coughs must be promptly investigated.

Good health!

¹<http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-info/healthyliving/smokingandtobacco/smoking-and-cancer> ²<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-2320393/Why-does-lung-cancer-strike-women-whove-smoked-BBC-star-Robert-Pestons-wife-victim-51--toll-rising.html> ³*Ibid* ⁴*Ibid*

editorial

The drivers among us will agree that the rear-view mirror is a vital piece of motoring kit – one we couldn't easily drive without. And should you think I'm overstating the case, then just imagine how difficult life on the road would become without one.

The very earliest motor vehicles ran on steam (1769), then on 'fuel gas' (1806), and since 1885 on petrol. They began to roll off production lines in Germany in 1888¹ and by 1913 around 450,000 were produced in the USA alone!²

No rear-view mirrors

That's a lot of vehicles, with 410,000 of them being classified as 'gasoline pleasure cars', the forerunners of our modern motor cars.³ Interestingly, however, not one of them possessed a rear-view mirror. At that stage there wasn't a manufacturer in the world that fitted them. In fact, these motoring essentials first appeared on production line automobiles in 1914!⁴

The first record of a rear-view mirror being fitted to a motor vehicle was during the 1911 'inaugural' Indianapolis 500 road race. It was a one-off attempt by Ray Harroun, who fitted one to his Marmon racing car but found that it 'vibrated constantly due to the rough brick surface, rendering it largely useless'.⁵

A woman gets the credit

I have heard it said that if women ruled the world it would be a much safer place: defence spending would drop dramatically; gun control laws would be imposed in the US before you could say 'bite the bullet'; female circumcision would be criminalised worldwide; and a lot of 'patriarchal' extremists would need to queue for proper 'employment'!

That may be speculative, but it's still a woman who gets the credit for the 'earliest known use and mention' of the rear-view mirror. Believe it or not, this universal safety device was the brainchild of Dorothy Elizabeth Levitt, a champion of 'female independence, female motoring and motor racing, the most successful female competitor in Great Britain, victorious speedboat driver, holder of the water speed record, and holder of the ladies' world land speed record'.⁶

She was the first English woman to compete in a motor race, and in 1906 she

'"carry a little hand-mirror in a convenient place when driving" so they may "hold the mirror aloft from time to time in order to see behind while driving in traffic"'



The 'rear-view'



Julian Hibbert
Editor

raised the women's land speed record to a flashing 90.88 mph at the Blackpool Speed Trial – for which Fleet Street hailed her as the 'Fastest Girl on Earth'!⁷

But it was in *The Woman and the Car: A chatty little handbook for all women who motor or who want to motor* (1906) that she suggested that women ' "carry a little hand-mirror in a convenient place when driving" so they may "hold the mirror aloft from time to time in order to see behind while driving in traffic" '.⁸ Fortunately, car manufacturers eventually caught up with her innovative thinking – eight years down the track!

A distraction

I am glad for rear-view mirrors and the countless lives they save, but I know that for some they are more of a distraction than a safety device. In fact, many tailgate collisions are precipitated by poorly timed glances to the rear – something I have come perilously close to myself!

During a recent Andrew Marr interview, David Miliband, CEO of the International Rescue Committee (IRC), made a comment that nudges this discussion beyond mere motoring: 'We've got to *never* lead our lives by looking in the rear-view mirror; that is a disaster for anybody!'⁹

Here he echoes Paul, arguably the New Testament's sharpest mind, who said: '*Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.*' (Philippians 3:13, 14, NIV-UK.)

Reflection – never preoccupation

Reflection is vital. But preoccupation with the past – 'what is behind' – can be hazardous. Paul knew this. He knew that he couldn't allow his thoughts to be mired in the past. There were just too many negative memories lurking there, things he was not proud of:

- That dreadful moment when, with his sanction, his fellow zealots slaughtered Stephen for outlining the 'gospel truth' about the Messiah – the One he would also later come to believe in (Acts 7:57-58 and 8:1).
- His extensive and relentless persecution of innocent believers, simply for professing faith in Christ (Acts 8:1-3).
- The day that he harshly refused to let John Mark redeem himself after his youthful failure as a missionary, and acrimoniously separated from Barnabas, his faithful travelling companion (Acts 15:36-40).

There was a lot to forget. A lot to keep submerged in the blood of Jesus. Paul wanted to keep it there. Don't we all!

'Forgetting'

What does Paul really mean when he speaks of 'forgetting what is behind'? Is he referring to some form of amnesia? Is it a state in which we no longer remember those bad, wicked or unmentionable things we once did? No, I think that the secret of 'forgetting what is behind' lies in verses like these:

'I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more.' Isaiah 43:25, NIV-UK

'For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.' Hebrew 8:12, NIV-UK.

They make it very clear that it is *God* who must forget our sins, based on His limitless grace. His act of *forgetting* is an act of *forgiving*! He literally 'defuses' our sins, strips them of their power to haunt us, and sets us free to 'forget what is behind' because it no longer matters to Him!

Miliband is right – 'We've got to *never* lead our lives by looking in the rear-view mirror; that is a disaster for anybody!'

¹http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_automobile

²<http://www.earlyamericanautomobiles.com/americanautomobiles13.htm>

³*Ibid* ⁴http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rear-view_mirror ⁵*Ibid* ⁶http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothy_Levitt ⁷*Ibid* ⁸<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-23307068>



Are you a mighty man of valour?

by Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt

When you hear the term 'low self-esteem', which gender do you naturally think of? In most cases people will say women. For generally, low self-esteem is not seen as a man's issue. Men are all too easily typecast as 'macho': 'assertive, self-conscious, or dominating'.^{*} The fact is, however, that with the changing face of our fast-paced society, men, both younger and older, are subject to self-esteem issues perhaps just as much as women.

What is self-esteem? Well, the word 'esteem' comes from the Latin word *aestimāre*, which means 'to estimate' or 'to value'. So self-esteem is all about how one estimates or values oneself.

How a man regards himself may be affected by the usual factors such as unemployment, the loss of a significant relationship, ill health, and so on. These are common causes that often lead to a lack of self-esteem. However, it is more likely that the real issues behind lack of male self-esteem go much deeper than the usual measuring sticks mentioned above.

In fact, a man's self-esteem is directly affected by the way in which he believes his

primary care giver/s view him. Sadly, the reality is that, for many men, the ghostly shadows of a low self-esteem often appear and reappear as the voices of the past, voices that make comments like these: 'You are such a failure'; 'If only you looked more like . . .'; 'Oh why are you so clumsy, why are you so slow, it's a pity that you are so fat, you're not so bright are you?'; 'Huh, you're just like your father'; 'Why can't you be more like your brother or your sister?' In such cases the core of this male low self-esteem lies deep in the heart, the wounds of childhood, still fresh and hoping to be healed.

Today, there is hope and healing from the ancient, worn, but still relevant pages of the Old Testament in the story of Gideon (Judges 6). Take time to read this chapter: it is very powerful. Here you find a young man, with some serious self-image issues, whose story teaches three points. Firstly, Gideon was from a poor family. He knew the humiliation of poverty, and the degradation of social esteem that it causes. Secondly, he was the youngest in his family, and thus not esteemed in the sibling pecking order. Thirdly, he was not greatly esteemed in the

eyes of his parents, and likely had a low opinion of himself. Hence, it is not surprising that in chapter 6 Gideon questions the Lord several times as to his fitness to do the job that God had called him to do. Basically Gideon's view of himself had been shaped for so long by the views of others, by what they thought about him, and by his negative, unaffirming childhood experiences, that Gideon did not value himself enough to believe that the Great God of Heaven wanted to use him for a critically important task.

Hear how God first addressed him: 'The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.' (Verse 12, ESV.) Notice, God did not say, 'I am with you, O poor soul.' God did not say, 'I am with you, you sorry so and so.' No! God addressed him as a 'mighty man of valour'! He was, therefore, loved and valued in the eyes of God, someone whom God could use.

Today, whoever you are, hear these words: 'The Lord is with you, yes you, O mighty man (or woman) of valour.' Let go of any vestige of the past that may have taught you to look down on yourself. Stop believing the lies about you that were told to you by others. Instead, hear and feel the power of God's approval and His restorative love that says to you, 'You are a mighty man in My sight, a man of courage, ability and power.' Know that God loves you and addresses you as a powerful person made in His image to be someone of great influence, an unconquerable force for good through the power of God's Spirit at work in your life. Today, change your refrain and reframe your self-esteem; realise and verbalise God's word to you: 'I am with you, O mighty man of valour!'

*dictionary.reference.com/browse/macho?s=t

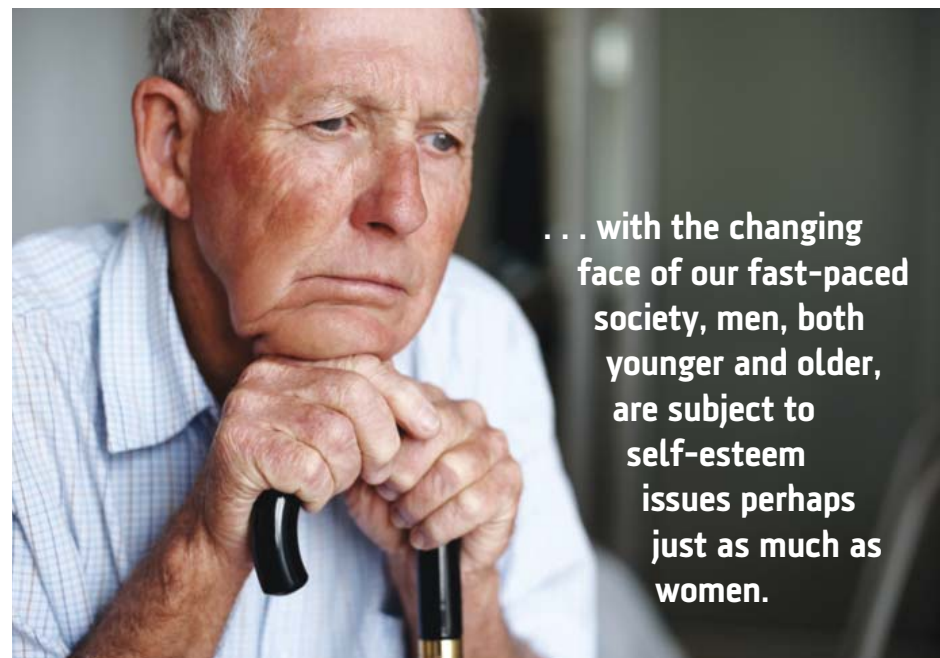
Irish Mission of Seventh-day Adventists Triennial Session

Notice is hereby given that a Triennial Session of the Irish Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on 2 and 3 November 2013, at Belfast Seventh-day Adventist Church, Belfast, County Down.

Delegates should note that registration will commence at 6pm on Saturday evening. The opening of the Session is scheduled for 7pm.

Delegates are required to have registered prior to the commencement in order to participate in choosing members of the Recommendation Committee.

*D. R. Neal, president
P. Lockham, executive secretary*



... with the changing face of our fast-paced society, men, both younger and older, are subject to self-esteem issues perhaps just as much as women.

Shabby

Dear editor
I recently attended another Adventist church in the company of a family member. I saw that the church, which had been beautifully refurbished just two or three years previously, was now looking shabby.

We were the first to arrive so I was privy to the observations of the senior members concerning the deterioration. They commented on the state of the church: broken furniture; badly scuffed walls; carpets stained by spillages; debris from previous activities just left in rooms rather than being tidied up – and much more. The reason: according to them the current situation existed because 'the young people treat the church badly; they jump on and off furniture; they put their feet on furniture and walls; they use what they like without cleaning up; they rarely attend church cleaning days' and 'nobody wants to upset them'.

I was shocked at this permitted lack of care and disrespect, and I could see that a number of the local members, who have invested significantly, feel that their efforts have been trashed!

Surely something can be done to stop this sad situation.

GLENOR ROBERTS

White socks

Dear Editor,
Thank you for your editorial (7 June 2013), 'Noel's white socks'. You have expressed my very thoughts. So much time seems to be spent majoring in minors, things that are not relevant to our salvation. I totally agree with you that our only concern on the matter of dress should be whether we are clothed in the robe of Christ's righteousness.

May God continue to inspire you.

LESLENE PEAT-BROWN



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

'What thinking goes into the logos we use? Why not just the cross? Why does the Women's Ministry logo have only one eye?' – F. Chidume

A You're not the first person to ask these questions! For that reason, the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists has web pages specifically devoted to answering them. According to the General Conference website:

'The choice of the Church's logo reflects the core values that Seventh-day Adventists are committed to.

The foundation is the Bible, the Word of God, shown open since its message must necessarily be read and put into practice. Central to that Biblical message is the Cross, and [it] is also central in the logo. Above the Cross and the open Bible is the burning flame of the Holy Spirit, the Messenger of Truth.¹

The website goes on to offer a diagram, annotated with helpful insights into each element of the logo: the Bible is 'portrayed in a fully opened position', suggesting a 'full acceptance of God's Word'. The shape of the flame, 'symbolic of the Holy Spirit', is 'formed by three lines encircling an implied sphere. The lines represent the three angels of Revelation 14 circling the globe and our commission to take the Gospel to the entire world', with the lines at the top suggesting 'a continued upward momentum' symbolising 'the resurrection and ascension to Heaven at Christ's Second Coming'. The cross is 'positioned in the centre of the design to emphasise Christ's sacrifice, which is the central theme of our faith'.²

The Women's Ministries logo is also described. It represents: 'women of all ages'; 'women of different ethnic origins'; 'women working together'; 'women with a book – it may be a Bible'; and 'women supporting and caring for each other'. The book may also be 'a literacy book'. The women 'may be learning for themselves or teaching others. . . . It may be that the women are studying leadership or mentoring other women. Or it may be a book on any of the other areas of interest to women, but women are growing and sharing.'³

The original aim of the Women's Ministries logo was to provide 'a symbol, a statement about Women's Ministries – something that would say something without words or need translation'. Unfortunately, occasional complaints were received: 'some groups of women felt left out, smaller, behind'. This was especially regrettable, since 'the purpose of the logo was to show the equality of women'. Because of these complaints, division directors and departmental directors took 'a sizeable chunk of time' to improve the logo, and modified it slightly.⁴

Surprisingly, the General Conference website gives no reason for the fact that the women in the logo have only one eye open each, and searching the internet for clues doesn't immediately yield any reliable answers. However, the logo's creators were 'Rose Otis, director of Women's Ministries', and 'Jeff Dever, of Dever Designs, an Adventist designer near the General Conference', should you wish to contact them.⁵

¹www.adventist.org/world-church/logo/ ²bid.adventistwomenministries.org/index.php?id=10 ³bid.adventistwomenministries.org/index.php?id=10 ⁴bid.adventistwomenministries.org/index.php?id=10 ⁵bid.adventistwomenministries.org/index.php?id=10

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.

creative adventism

SDG: Soli Deo Gloria!

During the Reformation, Protestant theology was built on five important pillars known as *Sola scriptura*, *Sola gratia*, *Sola fide*, *Solus Christus* and *Soli Deo Gloria*. Simply translated from the Latin they suggest that our Christianity must be based on the Scriptures *alone*, grace *alone*, faith *alone*, and Christ *alone*, while giving glory to God *alone*.

It was during this era that great composers like Johann Sebastian Bach and George Frederick Handel used the fifth of the five *solae* to dedicate their impressive musical works to God alone – signing them off with the abbreviation SDG: *Soli Deo Gloria*!

Today we begin a series of articles – which will appear periodically – about local Adventists who similarly sign off their God-given creativity with SDG: *Soli Deo Gloria*!

Floral design par excellence

Based on contributions from Audrey Balderstone, Bronwen Atkinson and June Coombs

Audrey, wife of the late David Balderstone, is no stranger to the art of floral design. She organised her first flower festival at Stanborough Park Church in 1981 and has subsequently convened a further thirteen. All of them have been special, but one of the most memorable was held in the Beechen Grove church in 1999 to welcome the millenium – at the request of the churches of Watford.

In 2007 she staged a floral festival in Brentwood Cathedral on behalf of the Home Counties Area of the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies (NAFAS), of which she is currently the president.

Beyond the aesthetic

Audrey loves flowers – and the God who gave them to us in such lavish and splendid abundance. But her festivals are designed to bring Him glory in another way: they raise funds for worthy causes too. So far, they have gathered in excess of £100,000 for charity!

But more important than this, her commitment to the art of floral design is a powerful witness. Many of her floral designs have an inescapable moral, spiritual or biblical theme to them. Through them, Audrey is right out there, on her own personal mission to keep an awareness of God and the beauty of His handiwork alive.

Let the flowers speak

Another way in which Audrey practises *Soli Deo Gloria* is through her unique floral sermons. A recent example of which occurred in the Stanborough Park church on 8 June, when, after a brief sermon, the preacher turned the platform over to her for a visual representation of 'how different people, in diverse ministries, can create something beautiful for God'.

Starting with an urn of greenery, Audrey spoke of the work of the pastoral team, the



board of elders and the deaconate. As she spoke, representatives from each of these ministries gave her a flower that she added to the greenery . . . saying a little about each as antirrhinums, stocks, roses, carnations and gerberas splashed their colours over her floral canvas. Then, last but not least, the children came forward with sprays of gypsophila representing the joy and happiness they bring to life and worship. At that point, with the platform filled with people and flowers, Audrey stepped to one side, revealing a gap down the middle of the arrangement.

'*"We can make all the plans in the world, and people can work hard in all our ministries,"* she said, *"but unless Christ is at the centre; unless He is guiding and directing us; unless we are following His vision, our plans will come to nothing."* As she spoke she inserted Longiflorum lilies, representative of the pure life of Christ, down the centre of the arrangement. *"Christ shed His blood for us,"* she said as she wove blood-red roses through



the centre of the design, *"and unless we accept His gift of salvation and pray for the blessing of the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us, our efforts will be in vain."*

SDG: Soli Deo Gloria

Audrey's next flower festival, 'Ode to Joy', is scheduled for 12-15 September this year at the Stanborough Park church, where at least forty arrangers from churches in Watford and the flower clubs of the area will use spectacular flower displays to depict their favourite hymns. For the full programme, including the preview evening, gala dinner, 'river of roses' event and 'Hymns of Praise and Joy' closing concert, contact Audrey Balderstone on 01923 260270, or visit the website at: http://www.keech.org.uk/get_involved/events/get-involved/2013-09-12-stanborough-church-flower-festival.



ADRA UK

It never rains – but it pours!

A report by Tom Pignon, ADRA-UK Programmes officer



As part of a recent trip to Myanmar, ADRA-UK's chief Finance officer Helia Mateus and I spent several days in what is called the Dry Zone. This is where our ADRA-UK project is working with people from fifteen villages of the Pakokku township. Located close to the ancient site of Bagan, people from these communities struggle to find livelihood opportunities that would provide an income for them and their families.

In a region that is one of the most vulnerable within Myanmar, people are faced with drought, unavailability of land for farming, and the migration of many young people away from their villages to find work. As a result communities here struggle to survive.

ADRA is working here to help people overcome poverty through providing livelihood opportunities for the community. We are setting up food-processing industries and training people in small-scale business and entrepreneurship skills. In addition to setting up these small-scale industries, ADRA is also raising awareness of HIV/AIDS within the community and training people on practices



that can reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters.

Some of the challenges these communities face were highlighted on one of our visits to a village where twenty men and women were undertaking an ADRA class in food processing. After travelling by car, canoe and finally an ox and cart, we were welcomed by children from the local school lining the path,

who stepped forward to hand us flowers as we passed. The village suffers from extremely dry conditions, but when it does rain the whole village is flooded. Only a few years ago they had to relocate the whole village due to regular flooding, but the situation has

worsened and the new location now receives regular flooding when it rains. To cope, the community build their homes on stilts and just wait for the waters to subside.

With few other livelihood alternatives, this training from ADRA is helping people set up businesses and generate a small profit. But this is only just the beginning: for in the second and third years of the project, ADRA will help people form co-operatives and connect them with markets in the larger provincial towns, which will provide them with opportunities for a better life.

For more information and to support ADRA-UK's mission please visit: <http://www.adra.org.uk/about/projects/myanmar/>



camp meeting

A camp to remember

This year, the South England Conference camp meeting saw many firsts: the first performance of the Oakwood University choir, the Aeolians, at camp meeting; the first School of Evangelism graduation; and the first on-site US versus UK basketball match!

At the beginning of the week, SEC president Pastor Sam Davis was enthusiastic about the variety of speakers and the atmosphere at camp meeting, which ran under the theme, 'Making God Known'. 'I think that God is really blessing us; members have said they feel we've excelled this year. I think there's a standard that's come to be expected at camp meeting, but I feel it's important that there's a spiritual atmosphere and that we're all being blessed in some way or another.'

While the US versus UK basketball match didn't quite go in the UK team's favour, with the US men winning 11-9, the Pathfinder march around site and out into the nearby town was a display to be proud of.

Pastor Maureen Rock was also inspiring, leading out in the morning devotional on Thursday 27 June. 'Do not let anyone put out your fire,' her pastor had said when baptising her 19 years ago. Today, Pastor Rock doesn't believe in excuses – her advice is to not let anyone stop you making God known.

She reminded those gathered that the fellowship and excitement of camp meeting is not its only purpose: it is also where we learn how to do the work of the Lord back at home. Camp meeting shouldn't stop at the sermons and workshops; the practical part needs to start when we go home, with no more excuses.

All age groups were catered for throughout the week. From the Youth programme iRelate, where they discussed how males and females perceive each other, to the Teens programme, where SEC Teens director, Dejan Stojkovic, and Pastor Paul King-Brown challenged the young people about how they convey their beliefs to others. The juniors happily kept active with specially designed fitness classes and devotionals, while the younger groups got creative with arts and crafts and learnt about Bible stories through exciting activities.

As well as the popular daily health talks from Dr Chidi Ngwaba, who admitted to having had a Dunkin' Donut weakness, there was an interesting mix of workshops available in the adults' section.

SEC treasurer, Earl Ramharacksingh, was pleased to see each programme had its own designated area. 'Having been here for twenty-one years, I can honestly say each year gets better and better. This year was special because, after a ten-year period, we have finally been able to have the rooms in the main building for all of our Teens, Juniors, Primary and Toddlers sections. We are blessed to have these facilities indoors as they provide a better environment for our young people.'

The speaker for the adults' Communion Service on Friday was Pastor Simon Martin. He described how Christ's disciples had suffered from 'misplaced greatness' as they clamoured to be the person who would take over the reigns from Him.

To explain his point, he told this story about the boxer Muhammad Ali: 'I am the greatest': do you remember him – Ali?' asked Pastor Martin. 'He was on a plane one day and the hostess told him to buckle his seatbelt, otherwise they wouldn't take off. Stubbornly, Ali said to the woman, "Superman don't need no belt," to which she replied, "Superman don't need no plane!" – misplaced greatness.' He reminded the audience that, on the Cross, Jesus took every sin we have ever committed, and that we need to strive to be a community that is a witness of that every day.

As the week drew to an end, President Sam Davis announced that speakers for the 2014 camp meeting would include Pastor Steve Riley and Dr Ranko Stefanovic.

In closing, the commitment speaker, Pastor Lawrence Dorsey Snr, reminded the congregation of their mission. He commented that their choirs may not be able to sing like the Aeolians and that their praise teams might not be as good; however, 'We all know that the same God that is in the midst of us here, at camp, is in the midst of our life when we go home, to allow us to do what He has given us to do: to make God known.'

KATIE RAMHARACKSINGH, WITH KIRSTEN OSTER-LUNDQVIST, IOANA SANTA & TIHOMIR ZESTIC

PHOTOS: ROLAND DAN

(The main speakers' presentations from camp meeting are now available to watch online, through the SECmedia channel on YouTube at: www.youtube.com/user/secadventist.)



SEC School of Evangelism Graduation

© Roland Dan

The first graduands of the South England Conference (SEC) School of Evangelism were decked out in elegant caps and gowns for their graduation ceremony, held at the SEC camp meeting, on Saturday, 29 June.

The course, advertised at the camp meeting in 2012, ran from September 2012 until June 2013 as an initiative led by the SEC Personal Ministries and Sabbath School director, Pastor Kirk Thomas. There were six different courses available, each a strand of evangelism in its own right: Women to Women; Church Growth; Lay Preachers; Lay Bible Workers; Lay Bible Instructors; and Health and Community.

Pastor Thomas spoke of how he had looked forward to this graduation, not because it was the end of the school year, but because it marks the progress made by course tutors and graduands alike. 'I'm excited; this is historic and we're having this graduation after a great first year. All the students have laboured hard for this one year and we're graduating 101 students across six courses: they're excited too! We started at camp meeting last year, launched and advertised in 2012, and so today is also about promoting the School of Evangelism and showing that, yes, it does make sense!'

Many of the graduands explained that they had enrolled in the School of Evangelism to improve their skills in presenting God to those around them, whichever course they had taken. One man who was graduating as a Lay Bible Worker said that he had frequently asked himself, 'How am I relevant to those around me?' and that it was this question that drove him to complete the course.

As a student of the School of Evangelism, and also of Queen Mary, University of London, Krista Vecvagare spoke on behalf of the entire graduating class. She gave special thanks to God, and to Pastor Kirk Thomas, for creating an opportunity for each of the graduands to grow personally and spiritually.

She later expressed how positive the experience was of completing the course. 'It was really good doing the course; I had no idea it would be so interesting,' enthused Krista. 'We went into so many different modules, like *Emotional Intelligence*, *Disability and Bible Preaching*. We even did a practical and had to prepare a 10-minute sermonette. I was slightly nervous, but we were in a small room preaching to each other . . . and, by God's grace, I got good feedback at the end!'

Krista explained that she pursued the course because, a few years ago, an elder at her church in Greenwich had approached her about preaching. Although she had preached a couple of times previously, she knew some of her friends had completed the course in a different setting and she was eager to improve her pulpit skills, something she knew she could accomplish through the Lay Preaching course.

Krista will have graduated twice this year, once with the School of Evangelism and then again with a Bachelor's degree in English Language and Linguistics from Queen Mary, University of London, and she is keen to put her newly learnt skills into practice.

The rest of the graduating class were also enthusiastic about applying what they'd learnt in their churches, or even by starting new church-plants.

The graduation ceremony highlighted this drive to do God's work across the SEC. Course directors Pastor Aris Vontzalidis, SEC Church Growth director, Malika Bediako, SEC Women's Ministries director, and Elsie Staple, SEC Health and Community Ministries director, each expressed how hard the students had worked throughout the year.

Already anticipating the enrolment in the School of Evangelism for 2013, Pastor Kirk Thomas encouraged anyone who has a passion for evangelism, whatever form it takes, and is interested in learning new skills, to get in touch with the SEC Sabbath School and Personal Ministries departments!

KATIE RAMHARACKSINGH

(PHOTOS: ROLAND DAN & KATIE RAMHARACKSINGH)



BUC President Ian Sweeney presents Krista with her certificate



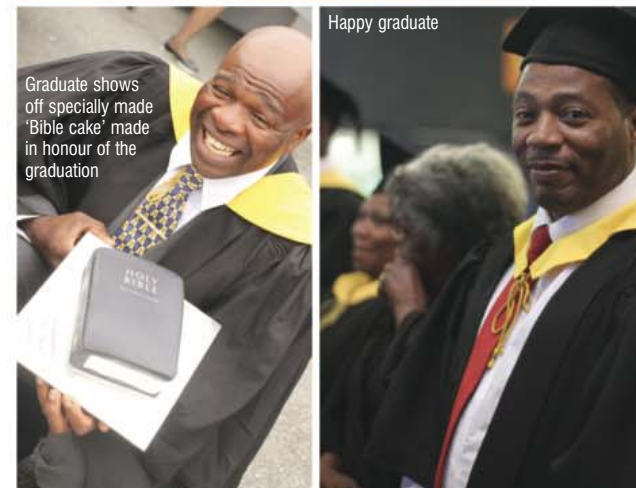
All the graduates



Left-right: Kirk Thomas, Elsie Staple, Malika Bediako, Aris Vontzalidis, Ian Sweeney, Sam Davis, Paul Lockham



Graduands repeating the School of Evangelism motto, 'Go SEC!'



Graduate shows off specially made 'Bible cake' made in honour of the graduation

Happy graduate

camp meeting

'You are in this for eternity'



by Pastor Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist and Katie Ramharacksingh

Pastors Gerald Smith, left above, and Sam Davies, right above, were ordained at the South England Conference camp meeting, in Wales, on Saturday, 29 June. Hundreds of people witnessed the service where the two ordinands officially transitioned from licensed ministers to ordained ministers.

'Sometimes these things can come across as a basic formality, but for me it was a spiritual blessing,' enthused Pastor Jerry Smith. 'I'm still reflecting upon it and its implications in my churches. As I have young children, I would probably use simple terms to explain it to them, maybe saying that the people of the church are happy with what Daddy is doing and they want him to continue working hard for Jesus!'

'You are in this for eternity,' charged Pastor Emmanuel Osei, director of the Ministerial Association at the SEC. His address during the ordination, a service that officially affirms pastors to the ministry, skilfully balanced humour with the serious elements of being a pastor.

Pastor Aris Vontzalidis, SEC Church Growth director, introduced Jerry Smith as 'an excellent preacher and teacher' who felt a call to ministry shortly after being baptised in his early 20s: a call that scared him to death. He now holds an MDiv from Andrews University, Michigan, and has pastored in the SEC for five and a half years. He is married to Olivia and currently pastors the Chatham and Riverway churches.

'Jerry loves to dig deep into the Word of God and give it to the people,' continued Pastor Vontzalidis. 'Possessing a mission-heart for the community, he evangelises by planting churches. Jerry is continually training his members to reach into the community.'

Pastor Cecil Perry, former president of both the British Union Conference and the South England Conference, described Sam Davies as a good Christian and a serious young man. Pastor Davies felt the call of the ministry from the age of 12 and now holds a BA in Theology and an MA in Journalism, from the University of

Westminster. He is currently working on his MA in Theology through Newbold College. He is married to Marcia and is pastor of the Bedford Central and Milton Keynes International churches.

'He is very skilled in communication and, as ministry is about positive communication, Sam Davies is a good pastor,' said Pastor Perry. 'It was good to have a younger man with more energy to work with and he was a good person in visiting; the church saw the results of his hard work in the growth of the church-plant in Stonebridge.'

'I think, in a way, the seriousness of the occasion made it dawn on me that I have a commitment to the vision I have had since I was young,' admitted Pastor Sam Davies. 'In many ways it is with a sense of trepidation that I take on this serious charge, and on the other side I also feel like thanking God for the confirmation of a road I've taken from the age of 12. A good number of my friends and family watched online in Spain, Iceland, Ghana and the UK! As well as their support, I have my wife, who is just as excited about this step in our lives, and we are looking forward to picking up this challenge together.'

Pastor Osei's wife, Laura, focused on the families supporting the ordinands. She spoke to Marcia and Olivia with a similar mix of humour and serious advice.

'Comfort your husband, but you are also the one to give him a wake-up call,' said Laura Osei. 'You are together, like the song "Stand By Your Man", but don't only stand by your man: kneel down in prayer for him.'

'I really appreciated what Laura said to us,' commented Olivia Smith. 'She's just such a funny person and was able to get her point across and make us laugh at the same time. I wasn't nervous about any of it and as the ordination was happening I just felt happier and happier! I didn't feel like I was in the spotlight; there was a kindness in the air and in everyone's gaze.'

The service concluded with ministerial colleagues laying hands on the newly ordained pastors while Pastor Ian Sweeney, British Union Conference president, prayed for them, their families and their walk with God.



The baptism



Baptism is always a special time, not only for the baptismal candidates, but also for the churches they become a part of. There was no exception to this at the South England Conference camp meeting, where six individuals were baptised by Pastors Petras Bahadur and Kwadwo Kwarteng-Ampofo, on Saturday 29 June.

A former Muslim family of four were baptised into the Adventist Church alongside Aisha Palmer, from Horley Gatwick Church, and Pamela Joseph, of the Ipswich church. 'It was a lovely service,' commented Andrew Davis, intern pastor at Ipswich Church. It was moving and the testimonies given from each of the candidates were really encouraging.'

Those gathered for the baptism were told the amazing story of how the previously Muslim family had come to accept Jesus in their lives. SEC president, Sam Davis, was present throughout the service and expressed how he was especially proud to witness the baptism. 'It was wonderful to hear how these candidates have come to the Lord and how our churches have welcomed them. Listening to the story about the family that were baptised together today is truly inspiring and I look forward to telling their story across the Conference – God can make a way, even when we as humans can't see it.'

The path to baptism for the family of four had begun with the son of the family, who found himself walking into the South West London Ghana Adventist church

during their evangelistic campaign, in March 2013, which was presented by Pastor Kirk Thomas, Personal Ministries and Sabbath School director at the SEC.

The son was thrilled with what he heard about the beliefs he shared – our health message – specifically regarding the eating of clean foods as outlined in Leviticus. He then brought his father, then his mother, and eventually his younger sister to attend the South West London Ghana church.

'I really felt the Spirit of the Lord moving during the baptism,' commented Pastor Kwarteng-Ampofo, pastor of his church. 'It just shows that God can always find His own way of guiding those who need Him to His Church.'

Living in a predominantly Muslim area, the family encountered conflict between the community they had previously been a part of and their new-found Christian beliefs. They found that moving from the area allowed them to celebrate their beliefs openly.

It was from their new location that they were able to take Bible studies with Pastor Petras Bahadur, director of Adventist-Muslim Relations in the UK. They used different ways of doing this, including the phone, Skype and other internet applications. After several months of study, father, mother, son and daughter decided to be baptised together at camp meeting – what a way to make God known!

KATIE RAMHARACKSINGH (PHOTOS: ROLAND DAN)



Your views of camp meeting

Georgina Francis on Youth programme, iRelate: 'I felt uncomfortable at first, but then everybody started opening up and I realised so many other people my age feel the same way I do! One guy even stood up saying that he has more respect for girls that respect themselves, and I think that was important for lots of the girls to hear.'

Peter Martin on Friday's devotional speaker, Dr Charles Wesley Knight: 'I think the term "spiritual amnesia" is spot on. Sometimes great things happen to us and we are full of praise to God, and then, just like Nebuchadnezzar, the next moment we completely, 100% forget what God has just brought us through!'

10-year-old Shannon, on the Juniors programme, by joint speakers Andrew Davis and Anthony Fuller: 'They were trying to show us what it's like to be loyal to God. It was so funny when they made three of us act like Daniel and his friends from the Bible; they had to walk against us in a crowd coming from the other way. It looked so hard! They had to fight their way through all the crowd until they were safe.'

Dr Chidi Ngwaba on Dr Chidi Ngwaba's morning health talks about milk: 'The market inside the South England Conference camp meeting has gone bankrupt because of me. The shop assistants told me that nobody had been buying milk from the shop since I exposed its dangers!'

SEC executive secretary, Pastor Terry Messenger, on Sherry Grace's morning Prayer & Praise sessions: 'One thing I observed was that the quality of speakers was excellent, right the way through from the morning speakers to the evening speakers. I did a lot of running around during the week, but one thing that I thought was really beneficial was the morning Prayer & Praise service, with Sherry Grace, simply because she was very real when talking about her own experience.'



Top: Members browse through the numerous resources that Pastor Pujic brought. Left: Local pastor, Jeremy Tremear, looks through the resources. Right: Pastor Pujic showing the new *Escape* and *Connect* magazines that will be used in the Church's 'Power of 35,000' campaign later this year.

Cardiff responds to postmodern challenge

There's nothing like the challenge of evangelism to get an Adventist congregation excited. Pastor Miroslav Pujic runs the Ministry to Postmoderns department at the Trans-European Division office in St Albans, and on Sabbath 6 July he challenged Cardiff members to proactively reach out to their community.

In his morning sermon Pastor Pujic stressed the importance of making the best use of every single day: 'Take your chances because you can't catch them once they're gone.' 'We need to keep healthy,' he said, 'but relationships are key. It's better to eat dark chocolate with friends than broccoli alone!'

Our relationships with God and with those to whom we witness are much more important than tempting distractions.

In the afternoon programme Pastor Pujic described the changing culture in which we live: for example, although people are able to assimilate information much faster than they were a century ago, their attention span is much less – about 7 minutes on average. This contrasts sharply with the length of a typical Adventist sermon! Similarly, GPS navigation systems illustrate the way that people are used to having many different choices in their lives. If you miss one turning, it's no problem because you'll be rerouted down another one. Again, this is in contrast to the Adventist message – with just one way, and a narrow one at that!

While affirming the teachings of the Adventist Church, Pastor Pujic insisted that we must become more skilled at presenting them. 'We say that we have the truth, but this comes across as exclusive, complacent and arrogant. We say that we are the fastest-growing church, but the truth is that we are not very good at keeping people in the church. We say that we have the best knowledge of the Bible, but we don't know how to put it across to people who are more interested in relationships than facts.'

In concluding, Pastor Pujic said that if we are to meet the postmodern challenge today we need to 'tell the story of Jesus like lovers and artists, not like lawyers and salespersons!'

For more information see: www.ministrytopostmoderns.com.

PASTOR JOHN SURRIDGE



Top: Gemma Proctor exhibiting her face-painting skills. Above: Antonia Castellino, who organised the event, Tilley Harrison and Arunus and Daiva Taskunas manning the stall.

Church presence at Peace Festival

Balloons, face painting, prayer requests and Bible study were enjoyed at the Leamington Spa Church stall at the local annual Peace Festival, on 15 and 16 June.

For the fourth year running the Personal Ministries team and members of the Leamington Spa church gave away free balloons with the church name, logo, address and website printed on. The free face painting and a craft activity for the children provided opportunities to engage with parents and other passers-by and to offer free literature and DVDs.

Some people wanted to know more about the church and what it stands for. Three people requested prayers, one of which took place on the spot, and Antonia Castellino had a conversation about Jesus' second coming with a member of the Bahá'í faith, continuing the next day as a mini Bible study!

We pray that God will speak to the people through the literature and personal contacts.

ANTONIA CASTELLINO



Sutton-in-Ashfield Church baptism

Sabbath 29 June was special for the Sutton-in-Ashfield church, due to the baptism of Diane Morton by Pastor Paul Haworth.

About eighteen months ago, Diane just walked into the church hall while we were busy with our Bread of Life café and said, 'I've come to help you and do the washing up!' This was the beginning of a special relationship, during which she attended church services, evangelistic meetings, prayer meetings and all the church social functions. Although already a baptised Christian of another denomination, Diane felt that she had learned so much more since attending the Sutton-in-Ashfield church that she wanted rebaptism.

Pastor Haworth commenced regular studies with her in November last year, which culminated in her baptism. Diane's two daughters, Kayleigh and Nicole, and their children, as well as Diane's dear friend, Carol, witnessed the baptism.

We believe that Heaven's choirs were singing with us as we rejoiced during this event.

EUNICE MASON, SENIOR ELDER



'His angels were protecting us . . .'

'Fusilier Lee James Rigby, or "Riggers" to his friends in the army, was an extremely popular soldier. A larger-than-life personality, . . .' So began the eulogy to this 'fallen comrade' at his recent funeral in the Bury parish church.*

His death has shocked our nation and deeply saddened many. It also had an impact on two people who attend the Plumstead Community church who were close by on that fateful day. One of them, whose name I cannot mention for legal reasons, experienced the whole incident. As soon as he heard the car crash he ran out to assist, but soon realised that his services were not required when a gun was pointed at him. He then ran off to call for security. He has been deeply affected by the incident and has requested the church's prayer support as he struggles with its effect on his life.

Another Plumstead member, 9-year-old Marie, who attends the nearby Mulgrave School, put the experience across like this: 'I was returning from a trip to the library and saw helicopters and loads of police. I did not know what was going on. It took a while for us to return to school. The road was blocked off and it was not safe for us to use the usual route. It was a no-go area. One of my TAs (Teaching Assistants) went to check what the problem was, but she did not tell us what it was. We could see two men walking up and down in the distance. One of the men had a silver thing in his hand.'

'The police wanted to make sure that we avoided the area. Eventually we got permission to return to school. When I got to school the TV crews were present and people were interviewing us. School finished very late that day. When we came home we saw on the news what had happened. Thank God nothing happened to me or any of my friends. His angels were protecting us.'

V. E. TAYLOR – PLUMSTEAD COMMUNITY CHURCH

*Drummer Lee Rigby – eulogy in full, guardian.co.uk, Friday 12 July



Erdington prayer conference

Pastor Steve Palmer of the Erdington, Ladywood and the Sutton Coldfield churches brought Erdington members together for a prayer conference from Friday 26 to Saturday 27 April, together with prayer co-ordinators Maude Murray and Frederica Reid.

In peace and solemnity, they shared Scriptures, prayed and spoke about the various prayers in the Bible and how to pray today.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG

PHOTO: MOSES JAMANDA

Mohap day retreat

Bright spring sunshine welcomed attendees to the MOHAP day retreat, hosted at Newbold Church, Binfield, on Sunday, 26 May 2013, as did soothing piano music.

The day was a blessed blend of prayer, praise and worship, where the Lord's presence was sought in prayer sessions led by Shiloh Harmitt and Pastors Cecil Perry, Vicentiu Dranca, Ian Sleeman and Bertie de Nysschen. Many were blessed by an attendee's testimony of miraculous healing.

Pastor Terry Messenger, SEC executive secretary, focused on Mark 1:40-45 in his devotional, outlining that God is more than willing to restore us. Dr Christopher Levy, emergency physician and lifestyle doctor, provided a thought-provoking presentation on the 'body-mind connection'. Janet Hamilton, MOHAP founder and director, discussed how God can work through medical science. Dr Colin Gordon examined the causes of stress and included a short stress test.

Pastor Emmanuel Osei, SEC Ministerial and Prayer Ministries director, offered the prayer of consecration for the participating pastors. Each pastor also provided pastoral prayer and brief one-to-one counselling for those requesting it. Fen Braithwaite led a passionate Spirit-filled praise, worship and testimony session during the anointing service.

It was hoped the retreat would provide an oasis of inspiration and peace. One attendee said it was 'another refreshing and uplifting experience – praise God!'

The MOHAP annual retreat runs from Friday 30 August to Monday 2 September 2013, at Wokefield Park, Reading. For details and to make a booking, see <http://www.mohap.org>, or phone 07407 692 256.

JANET HAMILTON

Sabbath School Week of Study

Seven days, seven speakers, seven lessons and one theme: 'Behold the Word'

The North England Conference Sabbath School Week of Study (18-25 May) was the longest Sabbath School ever held in the NEC, maybe even the BUC. The class lasted seven days and was led by seven teachers: Pastors Gary Swanson, Clifford Goldstein, Michael Hamilton, Lorraine Johnson and Victor Marshall, assisted by Alexander Douglas and Craig Gooden).

The purpose of the Sabbath School Week of Study was to encourage members to read and study the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy more regularly, in compliance with one of the strategic goals within the NEC four-year plan. The subjects covered were intended to re-ignite interest in the pillars of our faith; teach members to recognise the importance of Sabbath School; and show how learning can be improved with interactive methods.

The 'cone of learning' was used to illustrate how we learn, and that talking alone or reading alone without experience reduces the chances of remembering, understanding and learning. We want Sabbath School to be a place for active, purposeful learning that is transposed into real understanding, which is life-changing.

Participants were challenged to memorise Bible passages, and one of them was able to recite Genesis 1:1-2:3, Revelation 1, the Beatitudes, and the three angels' messages by the end of the event. Pastor Swanson taught for the first five evenings of the event, and his presentations were truly a blessing.

Clifford Goldstein arrived for the Friday evening session and successfully dealt with a barrage of questions on the sanctuary, prophecy, the investigative judgement, and Ellen G. White.

Each participant received a pack with the book *1844 Made Simple* by Clifford Goldstein, and *Bible Marking Guide* by John Earnhardt, along with Personal Evangelism record cards and pledge cards (newly developed), plus much more.

The event went as planned, with two lessons being taught each night: one on how to teach and learn from the Sabbath School, and the second on one of the pillars of our faith. This event marks the first of this type of study week to be held by the NEC Sabbath School department, and the next one is planned for 2015, hopefully to be held in Manchester to link with the Mission to the Cities project.

BEULAH PLUNKETT, NEC SABBATH SCHOOL DIRECTOR

On the 'whit and wild' side



Final summer concert

What better way to close a summer Sabbath evening than with a sacred concert?

Members and friends clearly thought the same on 29 June, when around 130 people attended Stanborough Park Church for a music programme entitled 'Sing the Wondrous Story', organised by the church's Music department.

The programme's theme was 'Heaven' and the musical contributions, performed by a wide range of talented singers and musicians – playing violin, cello, piano and saxophone – were heavenly. Even the congregation were given the opportunity to raise the roof with song as Pastor Philip Anderson conducted them, at intervals, through the singing of three fine Welsh hymns, concluding with 'Guide Me O Thou Great Jehovah'.

Adding a spiritual narrative, Pastor Paul Clee spoke twice during the programme about 'The Gift of Heaven' and 'The Broad and Narrow Ways to Heaven'.

Every item of music performed and every solo and duet proved inspirational. These, coupled with Paul's thought-provoking words and the singing of uplifting hymns, made for a memorable and blessed experience.

By way of appreciation the congregation responded generously to an appeal that raised £1,100 in support of the church's Development Fund.

PAUL BELLAMY

PHOTOGRAPHER: JOHNSON WONG

At the Aberdaron 'Whit and Wild' camp, 24-28 May, more than seventy people of all ages and backgrounds enjoyed North England Conference Youth director, Adam Ramdin's messages on Revelation and its relevance today.

Rosie and Steve Bull led out in a mixture of ingenious and often hilarious evening games, while during the day the collective seamanship skills of those in the group provided lots of interesting physical activities for all.

Beryl Emm and her dedicated kitchen staff provided good camp food throughout.

The campers described the experience as 'heaven on earth' and their appreciation was evident in the way they performed all tasks and chores without being asked to!

All of this activity was enjoyed in and around Aberdaron Camp's wonderful coastal beauty. This is not something to be missed, so plan ahead to attend the 'Whit and Wild' camp in 2014.

PHILIP EMM



Open Day transport Brother Hubert Smiley is now organising the usual coach transport to the Stanborough Press Open Day in Grantham on 1 September. Members from Brixton, Battersea, Fulham and other London areas; the West Midlands (including Wolverhampton and Birmingham); and this year, for the first time, Preston, Manchester, Leeds, Huddersfield and Sheffield are invited to contact him on 07868288310, 01384213803, 07736509625 or 07831958114, or email hubert.smiley18@gmail.com for details.

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Dr Farid Abou-Rahme, Author, Lecturer

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www.chanceordesign.com



obituary

Henry Brian Oliver (1933-2013)

d. 10 June. Family, friends and church members gathered at the Hull Crematorium Chapel to bid goodbye, for now, to Henry Oliver. Brian, as he was commonly known, was born on Christmas Eve 1933, only child of Andrew and Jessie Oliver, on a farm in Goxhill Marsh, Lincolnshire, weighing only 11lb 12ozs (about 800g). He survived that winter smothered in cotton wool and olive oil, being fed Jersey milk through a fountain pen – and with no incubator!

He grew up through the war years and attended Hull Church every Sabbath, crossing the Humber on the ferry from New Holland. He was baptised by Pastor McCrow in 1947 and after school Brian took a theology course at Newbold College, although he'd always wanted to be a steam engine driver, a dream he never realised. He did become a platelayer, having done two years' national service as a hospital orderly.

Brian met Joan Wastling through church when he was 21 years old, and they were married on 25 March 1957. The couple were blessed with two daughters, Mavis and Joy. The girls always remembered their dad for his gift of storytelling, particularly about a 'Little Red Engine' – their very own Rev. Awdry! This close-knit family continued to take the ferry to church each Sabbath until they

moved to Hull in 1973.

Brian served the Lord and his church all his life through lay preaching, leading the Sabbath School department, youth ministry, deaconship and as Communication secretary (not all at the same time though!). And, of course, he was a great children's story-teller.

Brian took delight in his grandchildren, and he and Joan often looked after them while Mavis and Joy were at work. Brian loved playing games with them and taking them to the park. He also loved slapstick comedy and would laugh loud and long at Laurel and Hardy and Norman Wisdom.

He did have health problems, exacerbated by diabetes in his later years. But two things were always foundational to his heart – his family and his church. His faith helped him to bear the difficulties of life, none greater than the loss of his beloved Joan in December 2003. And even in his own twilight days when his mind was often confused, one subject he frequently mentioned was his longing for his Lord's return.

Brian was described by his loved ones as an old-fashioned gentleman – quiet and unassuming, reliable, honest, humble and stoical. We will miss him, and will, as he did, look forward to Jesus' return when we can be reunited.

PASTOR SOLON KYRIACOU

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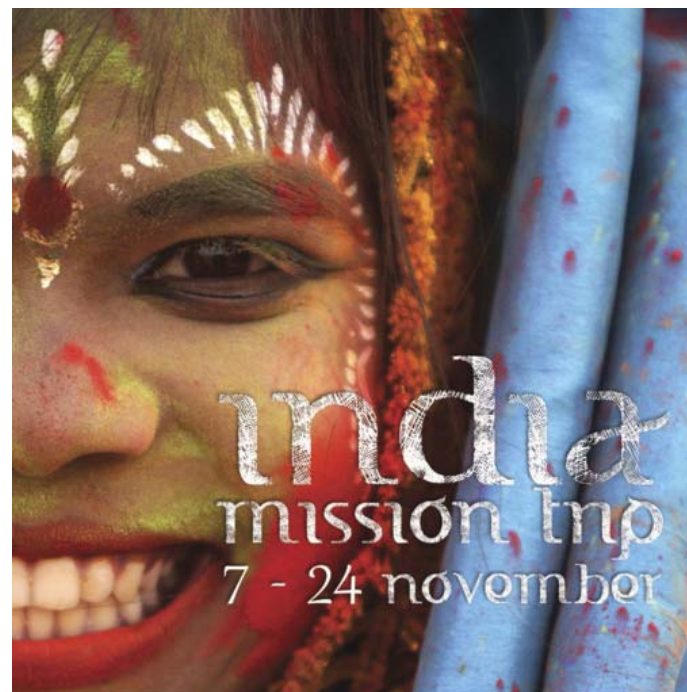


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Pastor Dennis Smith (USA)
Author of '40 Days of Prayer and Devotion' - Spiritual



Colin Hone (Australia)
Director International Holy Spirit Ministries - Spiritual



Dr Magna Parks (USA)
Psychologist, Speaker 3ABN Camp Meeting 2013 - Emotional

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Book online or download booking form at www.mohap.org

For queries contact Janet Hamilton:
email: info@mohap.org or phone: 07407 692 256



Stanborough student wins silver

On Monday 17 June, Stanborough School athletes Angel, Esther, India, Marvin and Shalom participated in the ISA National Athletics finals as champions for the London North region at the Alexander Stadium in Birmingham. Special congratulations go to Angel, who won a silver medal (at national level!) in the Year 8/9 girls 100m race.

Exercise is integral to Stanborough's holistic development of its students.

VANESA PIZZUTO

Community Ministries Federation Day

On Sunday 26 May, the Community Ministries Federation held their annual meeting at the Welling church, introduced by the Plumstead Pathfinder Drum Corps. Pastor Barrett reinforced the importance of community services, and Sister Bernard from Balham gave a testimony encouraging all to stay focused on Calvary, whatever the cost. Community Ministries director, Liz Simpson, also spoke on common challenges and thanked everyone for their hard work.

VALDA TAYLOR, PLUMSTEAD COMMUNITY MINISTRIES



BOOKSALES

August
 4 Sheffield Carter Knowle 10am-2pm
 4 John Loughborough 10am-2pm
 18 Manchester South 10am-2pm
 25 Brixton 10am-2pm

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

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Stanborough School

Are you interested in sending your child to Stanborough Secondary School? Are you worried about transport? CKG Quality Childcare offers a school run transportation service and is currently serving the St Albans, Luton and Watford areas. If there is sufficient demand they would be happy to expand their capacity and route coverage to accommodate your requirements. Please contact them directly at info@ckg ltd.co.uk or text 07956 502 465.

Stanborough Secondary School serves as a conveyer of information only in this matter; therefore please make every effort to ensure the service is suitable for your purposes.

Stanborough Secondary School offers a high standard of Seventh-day Adventist education where 79% of students achieved five A*-C passes in the June 2012 GCSE examinations; with many subjects achieving 100% pass rates. In addition, our students learn in a happy, beautiful and safe environment. Places are still available in Years 7-10, including boarding. Please contact the school at the address below.

Stanborough Secondary School
 Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JT

Tel: 01923 673268, email: spoddar@spsch.org or jdavis@spsch.org

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

	Lon	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Aug 2	8.47	8.59	8.56	9.18	9.22
9	8.34	8.47	8.43	9.03	9.08
16	8.21	8.33	8.29	8.47	8.53
23	8.06	8.19	8.14	8.30	8.37

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