

# Messenger

News to the churches • 27 September 2013 • Volume 118 • 20

## MTTC: London – an update



Just one hundred years ago, only '2 out of every 10 people lived in an urban area'.<sup>1</sup> Today, however, the demographic landscape looks totally different, and here is the World Health Organisation's assessment of it: 'Urbanisation, the demographic transition from rural to urban, is associated with shifts from an agriculture-based economy to mass industry, technology, and service. For the first time ever, the majority of the world's population lives in a city, and this proportion continues to grow . . . as of 2010, more than half of all people live in an urban area.'<sup>2</sup>

Urban environments hold many advantages, but these often come with a considerable price tag. Cities can be dehumanising, in the broadest sense of the word, and it is from the need to take Christ's message of hope to these vast pools of humanity that Mission to the Cities was born.

'Mission to the Cities is the Seventh-day Adventist Church's five-year emphasis on sharing Jesus' love and the hope of His soon return with people in some of the world's largest cities. Starting with New York City in 2013, Mission to the Cities is a holistic approach to sharing the Gospel in urban settings. In 2014, each world Division will focus on a city in its territory. Each Union will focus on a city in its region in 2015.

Outreach activities will be as varied as the characters of each

city, with everything from LifeHope centres, community events and seminars to small groups and reaping campaigns. Please pray for Mission to the Cities. . . .'<sup>3</sup>

London is our City of Hope, and to read more about the Church's rapidly unfolding initiatives there, please turn to pages 8-10.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church  
presents: **HOPE** with Kelly McCottry  
3-19 October 2013 - 7:15pm  
Baker's Seventh-day Adventist Church  
Surrey Street, London SW1R 9PS  
missiontothecities.org.uk  
YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO MISS IT!

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.who.int/gho/urban\\_health/situation\\_trends/urban\\_population\\_growth\\_text/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/gho/urban_health/situation_trends/urban_population_growth_text/en/index.html)  
<sup>2</sup>ibid <sup>3</sup><http://missiontothecities.org/>

# Megapixels of creation

## Let there be light . . . !

This is a stunning picture, taken by Yvonne Bauwens, demonstrating the use of light in photography. I love it.

So now we move into autumn, with the excellent summer we have had feeling like a distant memory. But autumn is good; it means colour and light – with the low sun, the landscape takes on different shapes as the trees shed their leaves. Take the dog for a walk, but don't forget your camera, and then send your pictures in to me for 'Megapixels of creation'.

Please send in your photography to me at: [dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk).

Just remember to keep it 'hi-resolution'. Happy snapping!

DAVID BELL,  
MESSENGER DESIGNER

To see more of your images, go to: [www.adventistpictures.org.uk/megapixels](http://www.adventistpictures.org.uk/megapixels)

\*Pictures sent in to Megapixels may be used by us at our discretion on other projects. Note: The new masthead picture on the cover was taken by Luisa Hulbert.



## Enhancing Health

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

### Chemotherapy

This form of treatment uses drugs to kill cancer cells by interfering with the process of cell division, which stops them growing. This happens by damaging cell proteins or the DNA itself. Unfortunately, this procedure also damages healthy cells, causing side effects such as sickness and hair loss.

### Hormone therapy

Hormones have been implicated in the development of some types of cancer. For example, oestrogen encourages faster growth in some breast cancers. Drugs are therefore used to adjust hormone levels to inhibit the growth of some cancers or even kill them.

### Immunotherapy

Antibody-based drugs like Herceptin are used to trigger the immune system to kill cancer cells. Cancer Research UK is trialling vaccines that stimulate the immune system to recognise cancer cells, and is currently testing a vaccine for treating pancreatic cancer.

Other invasive cancer treatments include interventions such as bone marrow and stem cell transplants.

### Gene therapy

A new type of treatment – gene therapy – aims to repair or replace damaged genes in cancer cells, subsequently causing cell death. This intervention is at an early stage and currently being tested in clinical trials.<sup>1</sup>

### Herbal remedies

Studies have shown that around 6 out of every 10 cancer patients (60%) use herbal remedies alongside conventional cancer treatments.<sup>2</sup>

Early studies on therapeutic plants such as sorrel have found that they can kill cancer cells in laboratory research.<sup>3</sup> Other animal and laboratory studies have also found that curcumin, an antioxidant in turmeric, has demonstrated some anti-cancer effects. However, clinical trials are currently being undertaken to ascertain its effects in humans.<sup>4</sup>

### Good health!

<sup>1</sup><http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-info/cancerandresearch/all-about-cancer/what-is-cancer/treatingcancer> <sup>2</sup>[www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-help/about-cancer/treatment/complementary-alternative/therapies/herbal-medicine](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-help/about-cancer/treatment/complementary-alternative/therapies/herbal-medicine) <sup>3</sup><http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20020323/lead/lead2.html> <sup>4</sup><http://www.cancer.org/treatment/treatmentsandside-effects/complementaryandalternativemedicine/herbsvitaminsandminerals/turmeric>

## Cancer: the facts – part 6

### Treatments

Following a diagnosis of cancer, several factors may influence the efficacy of treatment. For example:

- The stage at which the cancer was detected
- How aggressive the cancer is
- How quickly a malignant tumour grows
- The likelihood of it spreading to other parts of the body
- How well this type of cancer responds to treatment.

When deciding on treatment options, doctors consider varying factors such as history, lifestyle and age in order to decide what is best for each patient.

Common treatment interventions are:

### Surgery

Cancer patients having surgery usually do so to have tumours removed. Additionally, they may also have chemotherapy before or after surgery, as well as radiotherapy or other treatments as necessary.

### Radiotherapy

This procedure kills cancer cells by targeting high-energy rays precisely on to designated areas. This causes damage to the cell DNA and proteins, thereby causing the cells to die. Approximately 40% of cancer patients receive radiotherapy.

# editorial



Julian Hibbert  
Editor

## 'Rock Bottom' camp

A good few years ago, Elize and I had the opportunity to join some of our church members on a weekend campout. Unfortunately, I had a preaching appointment, which meant we could only join the group late on the Sabbath afternoon.

By the time we had located the camp parking area and donned our hiking kit – thick socks, boots and backpacks – the sun was already sliding towards the horizon. So, anxious to avoid the hazards of picking our way through the African bush after dark, we set off at a brisk pace.

According to the sketchy map at our disposal, we had more than an hour's hike ahead, with two water crossings, but it seemed doable. What we didn't know, however, was that the stream was swollen because of heavy rain closer to its source!

The first crossing didn't pose much of a problem, and we soon had our boots back on. But this is where my wife did something 'unforgivable' – she made the point that it might be easier and faster to follow the broad jeep track than to skirt the stream's sodden banks.

### We will do as I say . . .

My hackles were suddenly erect, and I immediately took the male default position: 'We will do as I say on this one!' Which is male-speak for a variety of things,

including: 'I know more about hiking than you . . . because I'm a man!'; 'Don't challenge me, it degrades my status!'; 'Be quiet! I don't actually feel confident about my decision!'

With the matter so easily decided, we veered off the drier jeep track onto the slushy 'official' trail that led along the banks of the stream. But it didn't take long for me to realise that she had been right – not that I was ready to admit it.

She trod lightly as the slippery path took us perilously close to the swirling stream. I didn't! And in the blink of an eye the bank gave way under me and, weighed down under my pack, I plunged feet-first beneath the brown water!

Elize stared back in disbelief – all that remained was my floating floppy hat. Then, to her relief, she saw her know-it-all husband pop back into that hat, buoyed to the surface by the air trapped in his large backpack!

### She helped me out

With her assistance, I clambered quickly back to firm ground. Initially – very briefly – she radiated concern. Then the giggles started . . . lasting deep into the night as she regaled the church members at 'Rock Bottom' camp with her version of my watery mishap.

Yes, it was truly a case of sermon in the morning and baptism in the afternoon. I certainly paid a heavy price for asserting my cocksure male ego that Sabbath afternoon. I squelched into the camp after dark, still wet and uncomfortable, with a ruined mobile phone in my pocket!

### It's not easy

It's not easy to take advice – especially for the self-assertive male (and perhaps for a few women too). Why is this? Why do we balk at advice? I am sure you have your opinion about this. Frankly, here is what I think could be the problem: **no one wants to be wrong.**

From as far back as we can remember it's all about getting it right – in everything – from potty training to GCSEs. When we receive unsolicited advice, however, it strongly suggests that we are inadequate – that we've got it wrong. That sense of inadequacy is highly corrosive. It eats away our self-confidence, status and authority.

This is very difficult for men to handle, especially when we have grown to see ourselves as leaders in the family, community, workplace or church. After all, aren't leaders supposed to have the answers? Shouldn't we be making the decisions and giving the advice?

### What's the solution?

Is there a solution? Yes, I think there is, and it has two vital aspects to it:

Firstly, **we must humbly accept our fallibility.** None of us are infallible – we all make mistakes. Which is why the Scriptures stress this fundamental point: 'To God belong wisdom and power; counsel and understanding are his.' (Job 12:13, NIV.) We don't have all the answers, but God does. We may say or do unwise things, but He never does. Acceptance of this basic concept is liberating. It has the power to set us free to live God-led lives.

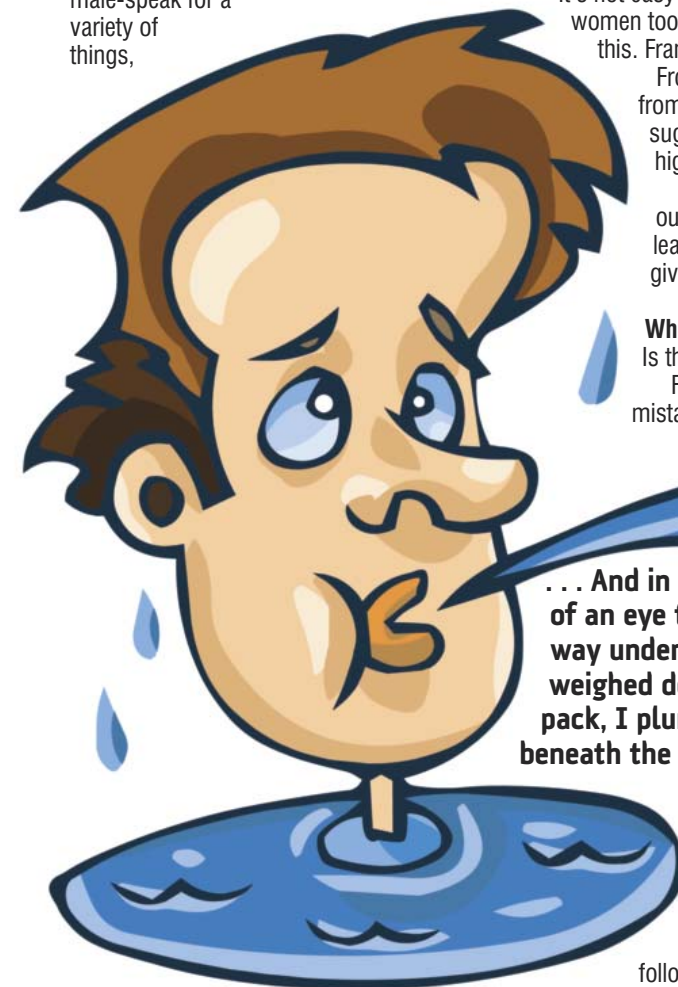
I have a hunch that this is the discovery that set the prodigal son free. It was when he accepted and confessed his fallibility ('Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you' – Luke 15:18, NIV) that he could finally return home.

Secondly, **we must humbly accept His promise to guide us 'into all truth'** (John 16:13, NIV 1984).

This takes the pressure off us. We no longer need to have all the answers off pat, but we do need to be all ears!

Jesus makes it clear that the Holy Spirit – the Advocate, Counsellor and Adviser – will lead us as we journey by faith into the future. He will provide the answers . . . and they may often be spoken to us in the words of those we love.

In retrospect, perhaps I should have listened to Elize when she suggested we follow the jeep track instead of the riverbank!





## Too late

by Sarah Jarvis

Thomas Jefferson said: 'Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today.' On the same subject, Mark Twain said: 'Never put off till tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow.'<sup>1</sup> We smile, but the first piece of advice, although we may wholeheartedly accept its validity, we often fail to follow, while the second, we often, if not always, tend to put into practice. The trouble is, when we get into the habit of putting things off, we can sometimes leave things until it's too late.

Some people just don't like to rush things. They like to weigh all the pros and cons of any situation and wait before they 'jump in with both feet' to make sure they're doing the right thing. That is all well and good up to a point, but the Roman orator Quintilian said, quite rightly: 'While we are considering when we are to begin, it is often too late to act.'<sup>2</sup>

And some of us delay purely and simply because we're too complacent or lazy to act. We don't ever see a sense of urgency until the eleventh hour, and then there follows a frantic period of frenetic activity to do whatever it is that needs doing to meet the deadline. Shakespeare's advice is sound on this topic: 'Better three hours too soon than a minute too late.'<sup>3</sup>

When Ted was a boy he visited the World Trade Fair in Seattle,

Washington, in 1962. He went with his parents, but met up with one of his friends while he was there. The theme for the fair was science – this was the era of the space race – and exhibits gave a glimpse into what science might bring to tomorrow's world.

One of the chief attractions was the Space Needle. This was a tall structure with an observation deck some 520ft up, which afforded fantastic panoramic views of the city and the mountains beyond. An added attraction was a revolving restaurant at the top. This was a must to visit, but there was one problem. An estimated 20,000 people a day used the elevators, so there was a considerable queue to get there. The wait for entry was four hours. *Four hours!* You can imagine what an eternity that would seem to a young boy.

He and his chum hit upon a plan. He asked his father, 'Dad, can we go and have a look round while you all wait in the queue?' His father agreed. 'But, remember, you must be back before the four hours are up.'

Four hours to explore! No rush at all then. That was an eternity!

The boys had the time of their lives, looking, sampling, asking questions. The time just flew by. Ted was having too much fun to think about the appointment he had made with his father, but, fortunately, his friend reminded him that in half an hour the four hours would be up.

'Too early yet,' said Ted. 'Time to have a look over here first.'

The friend, although a little anxious, gave in to Ted's wishes and off they went to another stand.

Ten minutes later there was another reminder.

'Oh, there's still plenty of time. We can run there!'

Still Ted refused to go and became engrossed with something he found particularly fascinating.

Suddenly, both boys looked at their watches. Only five minutes, and they knew that the Space Needle must be some distance away. They ran as fast as their legs could carry them.

'It's OK anyway,' Ted puffed as they ran. 'Dad'll wait for us.'

They arrived at the queue and scanned the row of bored and weary faces. No dad, no mum, no sister. They went right to the front of the queue and started scanning again. No sign of anyone. Then Ted heard his name called. His dad had spotted him. He was waiting near the entrance to the building, but was not in the queue. 'I told you to be back. Where were you?'

Ted apologised, saying that he hadn't meant to be late. 'It was just that the exhibits were such great fun. But we can go up the tower now, can't we?'

'Too late,' Dad replied. 'We waited and waited, letting other people go before us, but in the end it was too embarrassing to wait any longer. Your mother and sister have gone up, and I've had to stay here and wait for you.'

Not only had Ted missed his own chance, but he felt doubly guilty because he had spoiled it for his dad too. Nobody had any intention of queuing for another four hours. It really was too late. The opportunity had passed and would never present itself again.

Ted learned a valuable lesson that day: the importance of not

putting things off, because delay can be costly.

In what ways does this story parallel our own experience? Have you ever missed out on opportunities that came your way because you failed to grasp them sufficiently quickly? While all this might give us a sense of regret, there's a much more significant opportunity that delay could cause us to miss out on.

Jesus had quite a bit to say about it. He told a story about some wise women who made sure they were ready for the bridegroom's return, while a group of foolish women behaved a bit like Ted, thought there was no hurry, lost their focus, fell asleep and missed the big event. And there was no late entry to the wedding celebrations. They weren't ready, so they were excluded. And there were other stories like that one.

'It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back – whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: "Watch!"' (Mark 13:34-37, NIV.)

So that's the warning to us from the Master Himself: Watch! Be ready for when I come back!

Like Ted, it's all too easy for us to get caught up in the exhibits at the fair – the attractions or distractions life has to offer. We become so engrossed in the pleasures or allow the worries to occupy all our attention that we lose track of the passing of time. In effect we're saying: 'I'm too busy to worry about my spiritual life. That'll have to wait till I get some of the temporal issues sorted first.' Jesus was really telling us to refocus. If our focus is in the wrong place when He comes, it'll be too late then to make any eleventh-hour alterations to our lives.

Is delay worth the risk? Think of the prize that's promised if we keep ourselves in a state of readiness. What did Paul say to whet our appetite? 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him' (1 Corinthians 2:9, NIV 1984). In other words, the future God has in store for us when Jesus

## 'Postmodern' challenge

Dear Editor

I really appreciated the report in the 2 August edition of *MESSENGER* (p. 12) on a programme at Cardiff that addressed the 'postmodern' challenge. Pastor Pujic's sermon brought out many key issues that we do not normally take into account. I believe we should always be ready to see ourselves as others do and base our outreach on this. We also need to pay more attention to the many whom we bring in the front door of our churches and then allow to slip out through the back door.

May the Lord smile on Pastor Pujic's mission and influence us all to be aware of the factors he raises. Certainly I look forward to hearing him first-hand before too long.

Yours sincerely

ALLAN KISSACK

## Coaxing

Dear Editor

I have noticed a common theme in many of the recent Inbox contributions from readers. The letters make unfavourable comments about a variety of things such as people's timekeeping, their behaviour in church or their standards of dress. What such letters all have in common is that the writer is commenting on how s/he thinks other people should behave. Put a different way, it's about what 'others' should do, not about what 'I' should do. They would be much happier if they relax and adopt the view that as long as it's safe, decent and legal, other people's behaviour is none of their business. We do not go to church to coax others into upholding our own standards.

DAN ROBINSON

returns is unimaginably wonderful – beyond our wildest dreams.

And when that day comes – the one that we're all determined to be ready for – the day when He comes in the clouds and catches us up to meet Him – we'll be literally and figuratively walking on air! On that day we'll be

justified, sanctified, glorified – and satisfied.

Editor's note: The Ted described in this devotional is none other than Ted Wilson, our General Conference president, and Sarah heard it told first-hand some years back. <sup>1</sup>Memoranda by Mark Twain, *The Galaxy*, July 1870 <sup>2</sup>Marcus Fabius Quintilianus, *Institutio Oratoria*, vol. XII, 6.3, AD 95: 'Dum deliberamus quando incipiendum, sit incipere iam serum est.' <sup>3</sup>The Merry Wives of Windsor, act II, scene 2

## ADRA-UK vacancies



ADRA-UK seeks to appoint the following full-time staff members:

### 1 Volunteering Programmes Officer

ADRA-UK requires an innovative and enthusiastic person to lead their new volunteering programme. Applicants must be able to establish, promote and run ADRA's volunteering opportunities, both in the UK and abroad, and lead out in creating a catalogue of small development projects for churches and groups to adopt. The successful applicant will work very closely with the Seventh-day Adventist churches in the British Isles.

### 2 Communications Officer

ADRA-UK requires a full-time, professional Communications Officer, who is highly skilled, self-motivated and dynamic, to lead out in their public relations, marketing and social media activities. The successful applicant will help to foster goodwill and understanding between ADRA-UK and its supporters.

ADRA-UK pays a decent wage too! Full information packs for both positions, including a complete job description and application form, are only available on the ADRA-UK website, [adra.org.uk](http://adra.org.uk) or <http://jis.gd/YSp8UJ>.

If you are interested and have what it takes, why not submit an application form for the position of your choice before Tuesday, 15 October 2013.



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

'Where are the guardian angels (Matthew 18:10) of children who are abused? Please answer without recourse to Ellen White, as this question comes from a non-Adventist.'

B. J. Gammon, Watford

Child abuse is a truly terrible crime, one that God does not condone in the slightest. In the text that you mention, He warns us very clearly: 'Take heed that you do not despise one of these little ones' (Matthew 18:10, NKJV). Jesus always has time for children, because those who humble themselves like children make up the Kingdom of God (Matthew 18:2-4; 19:14). The thought that someone might be tempted to harm them horrifies Him so much that He suggests even self-mutilation would be preferable to such misdeeds, if through it they could be avoided (Mark 9:43-48).

Yet, as Matthew 18:10 reminds us, children have angels who always see the face of the Father in Heaven. A similar angel delivered Peter from prison (Acts 12:5-16), and was referred to as 'his angel' (vs. 15, NKJV), suggesting that each of us has an angel assigned to us. Jesus Himself was attended to by angels more than once (Matthew 4:11; Luke 22:43). Could they not prevent children from being abused?

Sometimes they do – in Lot's time, angels did protect a family from sexual abuse. However, on another occasion they didn't (Genesis 19:1-11; Judges 19:22-25). To be honest, I also struggle to understand this. Jesus Himself said such things 'will always happen' in this world, that they 'are bound to happen' (Matthew 18:7; Luke 17:1, GNB) – they are to some extent the inevitable result of sinful human beings abusing their God-given free will by choosing to act against their fellow creatures. That doesn't mean He approves of such actions, though, for He goes on to say: '... but woe to him through whom they do come!' (Luke 17:1, NKJV) – in fact, Jesus says: 'Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.' (Matthew 18:6, NKJV.)

Peter had to be thrown into prison before he could be released from it (Acts 12:3, 4). Angels came to Jesus, not to prevent His suffering in the wilderness and Gethsemane, but to help Him cope during and after it (Luke 4:2; 22:44). Likewise, angels come, not always to prevent suffering from occurring, but to sustain us and sometimes deliver us while we're already going through it. Jesus' prayer for His disciples in John 17:15 shows that, even should we experience troubles in this world, His highest concern is to prevent us falling victim to the devil.

To rescue us from this, Jesus suffered more abuse than we can ever imagine, and, since he knows our pain, 'the Father of mercies and God of all comfort ... comforts us in all our tribulation' (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4, NKJV): 'But those who suffer he delivers in their suffering; he speaks to them in their affliction' (Job 36:15, NIV).

However, although He suffered terribly for our sakes, His own response was not to condemn His abusers, but rather to forgive them (Luke 23:34), and He asks the same of us (Luke 17:3, 4). God is going to come and make all things new, and there will be no more pain or tears, and He reassures us that these words are true and can be trusted (Revelation 21:1-5). Someday soon, all abuse will cease.

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](mailto: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.

Suddenly, both boys looked at their watches . . . !





## Beyond the veil

by Conrad Vine,  
president of Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM)

'It's beautiful . . . so beautiful!'

She looked at me over the table, her eyes moist with joy and with an inner peace radiating across her face. Before her was an open Bible, where she had just read Romans 5:8: 'But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us' (NRSV). After a pause, her face lit up once again as she repeated: 'It's beautiful . . . so beautiful!'

After days of studying with the group, I was exhausted! Long into each night, we had been studying and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ together. I stared wearily back at her, but then a smile slowly broke over my tired face. Of course the Gospel is good news – joyous news – for all people.

Two years earlier, she had found a copy of the Gospels in her local language. Studying in secret, her family had compared it with the Koran, and together they had been deeply touched by the love of Jesus. And in His

mysterious way, despite the international rumblings of war, the dire economic situation and the danger of discovery, the Holy Spirit had reached beyond the veil of Islam and brought this family to conversion!

Initially, her family had approached a Roman Catholic priest about their growing faith, but he told them about Mary and the adoration of the saints – none of which they recognised from the Gospels they had read. They then flew to a nearby Middle Eastern country, praying that they would find a Christian to help them.

Fortuitously, we have an AFM worker and a Global Mission pioneer who meet visitors and invite them to study about Jesus. They also hang out at the grocery stores that these visitors use. This is how the contact with Adventism was made.

Together with a missionary colleague, I then worked with them through each Adventist fundamental belief as expressed in the

Gospels. In John 1:1-5, Jesus is our Creator. In John 1:29, Jesus dies for our sins. In Mark 2:1-12, Jesus forgives our sins. In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus is our Judge. In John 11, Jesus has the authority to call each of us from the grave. . . . Oh, what wonderful news!

As we studied together, the wonder and beauty of the Gospel captured each of our hearts . . . some for the first time and some afresh. Their hunger for Jesus Christ was humbling! Their subsequent baptism and acceptance into the worldwide Adventist family provided a moment of solemn joy! Then, shortly thereafter, I returned home to a land of religious freedom, while my new brothers and sisters remained literally in the 'valley of the shadow of death' for daring to bear the name of Christ.

Many years ago, God revealed to us the spiritual needs of the unreached.

*'I feel intensely over the needs of foreign countries, as they have been presented before me. In all parts of the world angels of God are opening doors that a little while ago were closed to the message of truth. From India, from Africa, from China, and from many other places is heard the cry, "Come over and help us."'* Ellen White, *Gospel Workers*, p. 465.

Today, Adventist Frontier Missions has missionaries serving in all of these regions, courageously reaching beyond the veils of Islam, the crumbling walls of Communism and the mantras of Hinduism, simply because precious souls are anxiously searching for the Saviour . . . for Jesus Himself!

How can we share in the joy of mission? Firstly, through daily intercessory prayer – both for the missionaries and for the unreached. Secondly, why not consider serving as a front-line missionary yourself among the unreached? Check out the opportunities at [www.afmonline.org](http://www.afmonline.org).

Finally, you can share in the joy of mission through sacrificial support. We read as follows:

*'An American business man, who was an earnest Christian, in conversation with a fellow-worker, remarked that he himself worked for Christ twenty-four hours of the day. "In all my business relations," he said, "I try to represent my Master. As I have opportunity, I try to win others to Him. All day I am working for Christ. And at night, while I sleep, I have a man working for Him in China."'* Ellen White, *Gospel Workers*, p. 466.

Thank you so much for partnering prayerfully with AFM that hearts and homes beyond the veil may find the Saviour too!

### Breaking news . . .

Adventist Frontier Missions has just had a breakthrough. Their only missionary in the country of this family's origin is to be issued a three-month visa, allowing him longer to quietly witness and develop clandestine contacts during each visit. This brave man's upkeep costs AFM \$1,500 per month. If you would like to help then email directly to Pastor Conrad Vine at: [cvine@afmonline.org](mailto:cvine@afmonline.org). You can also visit: [www.afmonline.org/missionaries](http://www.afmonline.org/missionaries).



## open day



### Attendance down: spirits up

Attendance may have been lower than normal at the Stanborough Press Open Day, Sunday, 1 September 2013, but that did nothing to deter the spirit of church members who thronged the isles, filled the performance marquee, and chatted together in the warm summer sunshine.

That 'chatting together' is an essential element for Press manager, Paul Hammond. At almost any moment of Open Day he could be found in conversation with a church member, a pastor, or members of the Vauxhall Male Voice Choir, who provided a morning and a lunchtime concert.

'It's wonderful to be at occasions like this,' he stated. 'It is a time when members can come together to be spiritually fed and to go away with literature that is hopefully going to make a difference.'

Dwain Esmond, vice president for editorial services at the Review and Herald, was one of the speakers who shared a deep spiritual message, highlighting the leadership skills of Jesus and other biblical characters as outlined in the book, *As I follow Christ*.

Jim Ayer was the other speaker, a more familiar friend to viewers of Hope Channel. Working for Adventist World Radio, he shared tales of the miracles God is doing to reach people in the hard-to-reach corners of the world. While on the sales floor signing his books, he also listened to testimonies and experiences, sharing words of counsel and praying with those who felt the need for it.

Alternative events in other parts of the country, the lure of the outdoors in the bright summer sunshine, or the complication of disruptive roadworks in Grantham's town centre may have distracted some from attending. Yet for those who were there, the smiles were evident and the carloads of books and health foods – despite a 30% decrease in sales from last year – testament to the fact that Press Open Day and Adventist literature still have a future.

Get a taste of the day by watching the BUC News video report at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-UfCSWKabQ&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-UfCSWKabQ&feature=youtu.be), or by enjoying a selection of photos in the Adventist Church picture gallery at: [adventist.org.uk/news/gallery/gallery-na/stanborough-press-open-day-2013](http://adventist.org.uk/news/gallery/gallery-na/stanborough-press-open-day-2013).

VICTOR HULBERT



Photos: David Bell



Dr Deborah Harris is a renowned Women's Ministries speaker for events across the USA. She is an expert business trainer and organisation consultant. She works with businesses, non-profit organisations and schools as a trainer, presenter and consultant. She has also served as the Women's Ministries director for the South Atlantic Conference. Because of her willingness to serve, shaped by her encounters with God, He has given her a powerful worldwide ministry – 'Praying For Our Children'.

[www.prayingforourchildren.org](http://www.prayingforourchildren.org)

### BUC Women's Ministries retreat 18-20 October 2013

Theme  
Women of Virtue

Guest speaker  
Dr Deborah Harris

Venue  
East Midlands Conference Centre & the newly built four-star Orchard Hotel

For more information  
[www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk)  
Women's Ministries Department

Dawn Tompkins – [dtompkins@adventist.org.uk](mailto:dtompkins@adventist.org.uk)  
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FUNDING ADVISORY: £25 FROM LOCAL CHURCH + £25 FROM YOUR POCKET + £25 FROM AREA LAY ADVISORY

This update covers two of the four initiatives associated with the MTTC London event and the TED Field School of Evangelism. In one of the October issues of *MESSENGER* we hope to feature the Uxbridge and Potters Bar programmes, more about the 'Sabbath sofa' activities, and reports on the CRAVE, HEROES and TED Field School of Evangelism initiatives.

## The Brixton initiative



To get a real feel for the MTTC programme unfolding in London's southern boroughs, known as Area 6B in the South England Conference, the *MESSENGER* editor recently attended one of their district meetings. There, under the chairmanship of the district co-ordinator, Pastor Keith Boldeau, the local pastors met to discuss various aspects of the outreach.

Subsequently, Pastor Boldeau has been kind enough to answer some important questions about the Brixton initiative.

**Editor:** Keith, how many congregations support the programme in Area 6B?

**Pastor Boldeau:** There are 29 of them – churches, companies and groups – and they're all doing their bit. The biggest is Brixton, with over a thousand members, and their facilities will be used for the main campaign.

**Editor:** Please tell our readers a bit about the research that your plans are based on.

**Pastor Boldeau:** Sure, Julian. We studied the NHS reports for the seven boroughs in our territory, which revealed many of the health and social needs of those within them. This is why we have placed strong emphasis on running health expos during this year and the next. In fact, we are expecting the larger congregations to run at least two per year.

**Editor:** Forgive me asking this, but where do you get the resources to run such expos?

**Pastor Boldeau:** Well, firstly, we have quite a number of willing health professionals among our members. They provide the backbone expertise for our expos. Secondly, we have many loyal members who provide invaluable support whenever they

can. We have also benefited from the excellent health training provided by Sharon Platt-MacDonald and Elsie Staples. The first phase was for health

professionals and the second was aimed at the leaders in our local church departments.

**Editor:** Keith, what about the funding for these expos? Surely they don't come cheap.

**Pastor Boldeau:** You are quite right. They are expensive to run. It costs us at least £2,000 to run a large-scale expo because there are the test materials, free literature, advertising and location hire expenses to cover. But I must say that they are an excellent way of building positive relationships within the community.

By the way, we have also run family life seminars in the Wallington church, including topics like anger management, parenting and the causes of divorce. And, Julian, what pleased me particularly was the fact that we had good attendance from among the indigenous British.

**Editor:** Now, Keith, tell us about the preaching campaigns scheduled for this year. How many and where?

**Pastor Boldeau:** Well, there have been some supporting campaigns in the district already, but the main one is scheduled from 5 to 19 October at the Brixton church, with Dr Kelby McCottry of the USA as speaker.

**Editor:** How are these meetings being advertised?

**Pastor Boldeau:** In a number of different ways. Obviously by word of mouth and handbills – the traditional ways. But we have also stepped out in faith to do something else – use London bus adverts.

**Editor:** Really? That's a novel approach. Tell me more.

**Pastor Boldeau:** We will have sixty bus adverts running between 16 September and 13 October. Each bus will have an advert on the back costing £110 for the 28 days. The total cost is £7,200, with 15 buses running from each of the four depots daily, covering our entire district.

**Editor:** Keith, how do you feel about this important evangelistic initiative?

**Pastor Boldeau:** Evangelism has always been my passion – through 38 years of ministry – and my enthusiasm hasn't dimmed. I am looking forward to what is coming!

### What will the MTTC London project cost?

These are the organisational contributions\* towards the project:

- General Conference: £106,250
- Trans-European Division: £120,225
- British Union Conference: £70,000
- South England Conference: £70,225

\*Data supplied by Dr Janos Kovacs-Biro, Personal Ministry director of the TED.



## The London Central initiative

This is also known as the MTTC Youth project and falls under the supervision of Pastor Steve Thomas, South England Conference Youth Ministry director, and the London Youth Federation.

According to Pastor Thomas, this initiative is aimed at the 16-plus age group from all cultural backgrounds. It will be held in the Advent Centre, 39 Brendon Street, London (W1H 5HD), and will run on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays (Sabbath) and Sundays between 5 and 26 October (possibly extending to 2 November).

The general theme of the presentations will be 'Making God Known' and the speakers will include the following pastors: Rebecca Davis, Roger Bernard, Vandeon Griffiths and Laurent Grosvenor. JAM Ministries will also be involved in the presentations.

This year's activities are geared at getting the youth of London to connect with the Church. This will flow over into 2014, which has been designated as the Year of Youth Evangelism, during which all the SEC youth groups are being challenged to engage in definite outreach projects of their own.

Training in various forms of outreach is an important part of the initiative and this is taking place weekly during regular sessions at the Advent Centre (Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6.45 to 9pm).



### Innovation . . .

Although *MESSENGER* hopes to report in more detail about this unique approach in the next issue, we thought we would whet your appetite with this snippet of information about it taken from the TED website:

*"In addition to traditional billboard and Underground posters, a clever advertising campaign includes the "Are You Tired?" project. Adventist young people will place a "Sabbath sofa" on a city pavement and offer to let passers-by sit and rest. It's an opportunity to ask what they would do with a 24-hour break each week, introduce the concept of Sabbath, and invite them to an upcoming meeting nearby. The goal is to have 50,000 people sit on the sofa over [the] time leading up to meetings."*

If you want to be inspired by this new approach – one that awakens interest in the Sabbath and the whole concept of spiritual rest and revitalisation – then google *the sabbath sofa* and watch the videos that display on the search page. You can also try <http://sabbath.org.uk>.

\*<http://www.ted-adventist.org/news/mission-to-the-cities-initiative-creates-zeal-for-evangelism-in-ted>

### Adventist stats\* for the London area:

2002: 49 churches – 9,957 members  
2013: 75 churches – 14,687 members

Presently there are 62 ministers, interns and Bible workers in the area. With 1,039 members, Brixton is the largest Adventist church in London.

\*Data supplied by Dr Terry Messenger, executive secretary, SEC.

### The president's vision

Over eight million people live in London, a city that is always on the move. It's the fastest-growing city in the UK and has large and diverse communities, making it the right choice for the TED's Mission to the Cities initiative.

I am excited that a number of our churches are already involved in various evangelistic outreach projects. In addition to which, in just over a month, eighty pastors and students will arrive in London for a Field School of Evangelism. They will be able to visit some of the projects we have been running in Potters Bar and Uxbridge, as well as the other two evangelistic sites in Brixton and Central London, giving them first-hand exposure to this type of work.

Evangelism is the lifeblood of the Church and we are seeing some innovative evangelistic approaches this year. There is the Sabbath sofa concept being pioneered by Vili Cotesco. This is a refreshing and non-threatening way of introducing strangers to the Sabbath. Pastor Sam Neves is pioneering the Heroes evangelistic series and its online game app – a fun way of introducing youngsters to biblical themes.

Pastor Keith Boldeau, in South London, has been preparing for the MTTC by running health fairs in order to engage with the community. Several youth events have also taken place under the MTTC banner.

Ellen White writes, 'The message that I am bidden to bear to our people at this time is, Work the cities without delay, for time is short.' (*Evangelism*, page 33.) Let's take up her challenge and unite in taking London for Jesus.

PASTOR SAM DAVIS,  
SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

**Get involved! Text to 70500: 'Mission 5' or 'Mission 10' to donate £5 or £10 to the project**



MISSION TO THE CITIES



### If you want to help . . .

. . . by sponsoring some to the costs of a London health expo, or paying for one or two of those London bus adverts (at just £110 per bus), then please feel free to contact Pastor Keith Boldeau at [kboldeau@hotmail.com](mailto:kboldeau@hotmail.com) or 07825250658, or the SEC treasurer at [eramharacksingh@sec.adventist.org.uk](mailto:eramharacksingh@sec.adventist.org.uk) or 01923232728 for more details.

## New kidney brings Jew to church

Mr Malcolm Lawrence, a retired dental officer, paid a special visit to the Palmer's Green congregation on 20 July to tell the story of how he, a white Jew, had received a kidney from a Jamaican woman, and to share the fact that he and his family will never be the same again.

That woman donor was Annette Robinson, a local Adventist, who had worked with Malcolm for years. She woke at 5am one morning in March 2012 and heard a voice at the end of her bed say, 'You have to give Malcolm a kidney.' That same evening she called Malcolm and, without any preamble, said, 'Do you want a black kidney?' He is reported to have replied, 'I don't care what colour it is, so long as it works.'

This is what Malcolm had to say that Sabbath afternoon: 'I've come to say "Thank you" twice for the miracle that occurred last year. Annette rang me up one day and said, in her straightforward no-nonsense kind of way, "I want to donate a kidney to you." This was a most magnificent gesture. It was what we Jews call a "mitzvah" . . . a very good deed.'

Malcolm continued, 'Annette's

faith told her that her kidney would be biologically compatible with me. The odds of two people being compatible is quite small. Neither my wife nor my children were found to be suitable for donation.

'I want to say "thank you" twice. Firstly, of course, to Annette, who did this wonderful thing without any coercion. She made this altruistic donation of a kidney in a marvellous and selfless manner. I tried to dissuade her . . . I did not want to cause Annette distress. But she was resolute, and so the miracle took place.'

Malcolm now had everyone's attention: 'Secondly, I want to say thank you to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, for it is against the background of the spiritual and moral values of the Church that Annette has developed such a fine character. Thank you.'

Classifying his experience as a miracle, Malcolm explained that he had lost one kidney through cancer and the other had deteriorated over a period of ten years, necessitating haemodialysis: five hours, three times a week for five years. During this time he became increasingly unwell and lived a



very restricted life: unable to socialise and with dietary restrictions, including a minimal fluid intake because of his poor kidney function. He had many sleepless nights and sometimes he felt suicidal. 'During the few months before the transplant I could not even look forward to the new life that was being held out to me. . . . My future seemed very bleak,' he said.

'A transplanted kidney, especially from a living donor,' Malcolm continued, 'can restore one's life. It has been completely so in my case. . . . You can understand that, when I received that call from Annette, she was literally offering me a new lifeline – one for which I will be forever grateful. . . . I am a miracle standing before you.'

But it was not all plain sailing for Annette. She was rushed back to theatre for emergency surgery, and now sports additional scars on her chest and on both legs, from knee to ankle. She was hospitalised for three weeks and was gradually reintroduced to work after four months.

Did she regret her decision because of this? 'No. No. I was told by God to do it,' she

responded, without a second thought.

Malcolm continued his testimony with a rhetorical question: 'Whose kidney is it anyway? Annette's or mine? The truth is, it is both. This shared possession has created a bond between us that can never be broken. Indeed, I also feel it has created for me a bond with the Seventh-day Adventist Church as well.'

Then he jolted his audience with this thought: 'Here am I, a white male Jew receiving a kidney from a black female Christian. So much for prejudice, so much for making distinctions [based] on the superficial premise of the colour of one's skin: or indeed for using such terms as "black" and "white" at all – terms I have always detested.'

This is how Malcolm brought his testimony to a close: 'Thank you again, Annette. Thank you all again, friends, for allowing me to have the privilege of talking to you today and of expressing my profound gratitude to you all.'

What a story. What a sacrifice. Please pray for Malcolm and his family.

ALBERT A. C. WAITE, PHD

## Fifth-generation Adventist baptised

On 6 July, Eva Papaioannou, aged 14, was baptised by her grandfather, Pastor Peter Papaioannou, whose maternal grandparents were the first Adventists in Greece, about 1900. This makes Eva a fifth-generation Adventist. She is the oldest child of Dean, associate treasurer of the Trans-European Division, and Anna, who teaches English as a second language.

According to Eva, 'One of my close friends got baptised last year. How genuinely happy she was! Her face appeared shining and she couldn't stop smiling. I left the church yearning for the same sort of happiness that only God could give. After six months of Bible studies with Pastor Karin Wieczorek, I felt the urge to get baptised and publicly show my love for Christ. . . . Also I wanted to be part of the many outreach programmes Stanborough Park Church provides for people who want to learn more about Jesus. I want to serve God, the church, and the wider community, and to spread the Word of God to everyone I can.'



PHOTO: KISH PODDAR

Eva is pictured above with her grandparents, Pastor Peter and Mrs Revel Papaioannou, her parents, Dean and Anna, her brother Andreas and little sister Thespina.

BRONWEN ATKINSON

## Dedication at Darlington

Emmanuel Kachoka, firstborn child of Tumpale and Kingsley Kachoka, was dedicated by Pastor Colin Woodford in the Darlington church on 13 April, 2013.

ESTERY, CHURCH CLERK  
[EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS IS A LATE SUBMISSION]



## Crieff Festival of Floral Art

During the recent August bank holiday weekend the Crieff church held a Festival of Floral Art.

Under the direction of Dorothy Logan and Moyra Rodd, the church was totally transformed, exhibiting thirty-two beautiful displays for all to enjoy. Moonlight, sand, coal and wood, to name but a few, took on a whole new creative meaning under the theme, 'Treasures of the Earth'.

Open from Sabbath afternoon until the end of the bank holiday Monday, the church was delighted to have more than 200 visitors enjoying the festival. The café in the church hall provided welcome refreshments, as well as an opportunity to browse an art exhibition and take a look at our Helping Hands stall.

During the event £700 was raised for two very worthwhile local charities – Perthshire Women's Aid and Canine Partners.

CHRISTINE BAUWENS, COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



## Pathfindering 'exported' to Holland

When Chavelli Brewster moved from Holland to London to attend university she had no idea how much her life would change. She attended London Metropolitan University, which is next-door to Holloway Church. After passing the church every day for some time her curiosity got the better of her and she decided to step inside. She was blessed and returned the next week, became a regular visitor and eventually joined the Bible study class. Within a year Chavelli took her stand to follow Christ and was baptised. She joined the Pathfinders and became an active member of the club.

On her return to Holland for the summer, Chavelli faced her own challenges, being the only Adventist in her family and not knowing any Adventists in Holland. She searched for a church and found Rotterdam International Church, where she enjoyed Sabbath worship but not the absence of a Pathfinder club. Upon enquiry she was told that in Holland there had been no Pathfinder clubs for fifteen years. Pathfinder clubs are not supported by the Union in Holland and all former Pathfinders were encouraged to join the Scouts. To try and maintain some aspects of Pathfinders at Rotterdam International Church without a club, the Pathfinder curriculum is taught within a Bible study group. This was a disappointment for Chavelli.

Upon her return to England, she expressed her desire to help Rotterdam International Church start a Pathfinder club to one of Holloway's deputy Pathfinder directors, Sharmaine King. They started planning the Holloway Pathfinder Exchange Programme, and in May forty Pathfinders went to Holland to promote both the spiritual and practical benefits of being a Pathfinder. Since the visit some members of Chavelli's family have expressed an interest in learning more about her new-found faith. To continue the exchange programme thirty-four Dutch 'soon-to-be-Pathfinders' attended Holloway's camp at Thiftwood in July, and were exposed to another aspect of Pathfinders. They returned to Holland with the determination to start a Pathfinder club in Rotterdam International Church. They recognise there will be an uphill struggle, but believe with God's help they will attend the TED Camporee in 2014 as a fully functioning Pathfinder club.

Thank God for the witness that Chavelli has been to the Church in Holland and to her immediate family!

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

## Doctor leaves for New Zealand

Dr Sarah De Vos, who has worked as a registrar in palliative medicine in Leicestershire and Northamptonshire, is leaving for New Zealand. She grew up in the Northampton churches and has attended the St Matthews Adventist church in Leicester quite regularly.

Recently she was presented with a leaving gift by Anaselia Morris on behalf of the Northampton Harlestone Road church members, who will miss her, but wish her well with the move.

ANASELIA MORRIS

**Aberdaron:** 2014 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NEC's Aberdaron campsite. We will be running a special report in the *MESSENGER* to mark this occasion, but, strangely, we have no photographs. So I am asking if you would kindly send us any pictures you may have, past and present, showing the site, the area and the staff and campers. If you prefer to email, make sure your files are good quality and in high resolution. If you want to send me prints, please include your return address so that we can send them back to you. Email me at: [dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk](mailto:dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk).  
DAVID BELL, MAGAZINE DESIGNER



### 'Iron sharpens Iron'

Sunday, 28 July, saw hundreds of men make their way to the Emirates Stadium, home of Arsenal Football Club. However, they were not gathering to worship 'the beautiful game' or its 'superstars'. Instead, they gathered to praise the Lord and encourage each other to rise higher for Him. They had come from all over the British Isles to attend the third 'Iron Sharpens Iron' men's day of fellowship.

The morning began with a wonderful praise and worship session led by Paul Lee, South England Conference Music director. There was something special about hearing 400-plus men singing praises to God – and possibly making more noise than the regular 60,000 spectators!

Pastor Richard de Lisser, SEC Stewardship director, gave everyone an opportunity to reflect on how and why we are spending the money that God has blessed us with in a talk entitled, 'Money, Men and Me!'

'Don't go broke trying to look rich. Act your wage!' is a statement that we'll all remember the next time that we are tempted to make one of those vanity purchases.

Pastor Ian Sweeney, British Union Conference president, has always been a great support to the Men's Ministry department, and his talk, 'I Blame the Parents', reminded us all that we are heroes to the young ones around us.

A big part of the Men's Ministry objective is to allow men to develop a deeper relationship with other men. This will lead to greater confidence and trust within our churches and communities. For this reason, there was plenty of time to socialise and encourage each other during the day, especially in the lunch break.

After the break, Dr Chidi Ngwaba, SEC Men's Ministries co-ordinator, shared a few words on how men can save their lives, the lives of those close to them, and their marriages, by getting control of their anger and resentment. During his talk, 'Homicide, Suicide, You Decide!' he encouraged the men to partner up and take the 'anger test', eleven questions that assess how angry you are.

There was never a dull moment. All the talks were short and to the point. This was much appreciated, especially by the non-Christian attendees, of whom there were many. This is one of the reasons why the Emirates Stadium was used for such an event. Men, young and old, were drawn to the event sometimes just because it is a venue they have always wanted to visit. Members feel at ease inviting their work, college or school friends to such an event. It is less intimidating than church. The result for many attendees was that they left with a greater understanding of who God is and what He wants to do in their lives, and with several new friends and mentors in the Lord.

Pastor Sam Davis, SEC president, ended the day on a high note by reminding the men of their responsibility to their families, churches, communities and God in his talk, 'Adam, where are you?'

Many men have already reported back personally to say that it was just the push they needed to be more involved with their families, to look after their health or to get closer to God.

DR CHIDI NGWABA



### SEC Junior Camp

A special visit to a bird sanctuary was one of the highlights of SEC Junior Camp, held at the Chapel Porth campsite in Cornwall from 28 July to 4 August. Organised by the South England Conference Treasury department, the camp was packed with daily activities from zip-wiring to cycling.

'I think Camp was fun!' enthused Esther Bhola. 'My favourite activity was bike riding because I felt I could ride the whole trail and was very happy that I could ride on my own.'

A typical day involved a 6.30am wake-up call to get ready for worship and breakfast, then on to off-site activities by 9am. The week was an exciting mix. The children, aged 9-12, handled birds at the bird sanctuary on the Monday; went coastering at the beach on Tuesday; cycled several miles on Wednesday; spent time at a leisure centre on Thursday; and visited Crealy's Adventure Park on the Friday!

The whole site, campers, cooks and counsellors alike, worshipped together at the nearby Redruth Adventist church on the Sabbath. SEC treasurer, Earl Ramharacksingh, accompanied some of the praise and worship on the organ, followed by a sermon by associate treasurer, Wederly Aguiar.

'My favourite activity would have to be the bonfire on the final night,' commented counsellor Marisa Ferguson. 'It was the culmination of the week's fun, bonding and spiritual content. All the kids and counsellors were able to sit around this huge fire, roast marshmallows and reflect on the amazing week we'd just experienced together. Looking forward to Junior Camp 2014!'

KESLE BOLDEAU



### Eight take the plunge

Sabbath, 22 June, was a particularly joyous day for the Brighton and Hove congregation. For several months, a number of people have been having regular Bible studies, eight of whom took the plunge through baptism that day.

Pastor Jonathan Burnett, who has been shepherding Brighton and Hove for just over a year, had the privilege of baptising (left to right) Delphine, Nyonyo, Bessie, Malebong, Sehlapi, Rowena, Marjorie and Claudius.

Since the members at Brighton and Hove have outgrown their own building, the day's event took place at the Oasis Christian centre in Handleton.

YVONNE SEETAYAH, SECRETARY

### Teen Camp

Seven teens made the decision to get baptised after an action-packed week of physical, mental and spiritual challenges at the South England Conference's Extreme Teens Camp, Cornwall, 19-25 August.

Pastor Dejan Stojkovic, organiser and SEC Teens Ministries director, was enthusiastic about how the week went. 'I am so pleased to say that, as well as the seven young people who made a life-changing decision to follow Jesus, fifteen others have requested Bible studies.'

The week turned out to be both life-changing and challenging, as daily activities kept both campers and counsellors constantly on the move. Activities included everything from kayaking to biking, and rock climbing to hiking.

Erjarn Gomes enjoyed the camp's activities and the chance to make new friends. 'I liked the biking during the week specifically, because it was such a challenge; that really appealed to me. I definitely was blessed by the camp's activities and also the preaching.'

Jonathan Holder, a theology student at Newbold College of Higher Education, was the main speaker for the week and his messages made a big impact on the campers.

During the week, an unofficial theme for the camp emerged: 'A Plan and a Purpose'. Counsellors and teens took the theme on board, with Steven Hulbert speaking about it on Friday night after a programme filled with personal testimonies that highlighted the extreme struggles the teens are facing.

The testimonies ranged from the impact of absent parents to how God has brought some of them through life-threatening situations. The counsellors also spoke out about their own struggles, encouraging the teens to remember the week's unofficial motto when they feel they are alone or struggling.

The week ended with a banquet on Saturday evening, which included a concert, prizes and a quiz. Everyone left for home with happy memories and lasting friendships.

KATIE RAMHARACKSINGH



Left to right: Garry Commings, food pantry organiser; Lennox Lowe, charity shop manager; Edna Malcolm, GBK Community leader.

### GBK starts Food Pantry

During the month of March, The Great Brickkiln church's Community department launched a charity shop at their church, where the homeless and underprivileged are catered for. Their pantry is well stocked and the charity clothes shop is in full operation. The team are awaiting approval to offer the needy a supper on Wednesday evenings as well.

On Sabbath, 17 August, a good number of visitors from the local community attended the GBK Community day programme, some of whom testified about the kindness and help the church had shown them.

**BOOKSALES**

<b>September</b>		
29 John Loughborough	10am-2pm	
<b>October</b>		
5 Stoke-on-Trent (Fijian)	after sunset	
6 Southampton	10am-2pm	
6 Welling	10am-2pm	
13 Willesden	10am-2pm	
20 Nottingham Central	10am-2pm	
27 John Loughborough	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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Canon David Porter is from Belfast where he worked in community relations and peacebuilding. He now leads Coventry Cathedral's international reconciliation ministry and earlier this year was appointed Director of Reconciliation by the new Archbishop of Canterbury.

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**EVENT DETAILS**

- Tuesday 15 October 2013, 7:30pm
- Smith Centre, Salisbury Hall, Newbold College of Higher Education, St Marks Road, Binfield, Berkshire, RG42 4AN
- 07775612610

[www.newbold.ac.uk/diversity-centre](http://www.newbold.ac.uk/diversity-centre)



## 'Natural Church Development' at Holloway

Holloway Church is a substantial congregation of long standing in London, and perhaps not the first place you'd think of when developing strategies for church growth. Look a little closer, however, and you'll see a few more vacant seats on a Sabbath morning than there were five years ago. Listen carefully and you'll hear members who are passionate about reaching a community who largely seem to observe us, and even admire our hats, but from a distance. Listen closer still and you will hear of an ageing and changing membership, some now too frail to attend, others perhaps just tired of the weekly routine.

The services are still vibrant and there are still outreach activities – but the senior pastor, Samuel Ouadjo, has recognised the need for something more. This led to the visit of Pastor Tom Evans, Natural Church Development coach, for a Sabbath of reflection, troubleshooting and sanctified strategising (12-13 July). This followed on from the congregation's use of the Natural Church Development survey, an instrument used throughout the Seventh-day Adventist Church to assess the health of a church's overall performance, identify strengths and weaknesses, and develop a plan to support sustainable growth and vibrance within the congregation.

During the weekend the church was able to reflect on these things under the guidance of Pastor Evans, who also introduced the concept of 'red carpet service'. He suggested that the church should choose four key areas in which to deliver excellence and deliver them consistently.

While Holloway members were pleased to find that they had several high ratings, they were sobered up when they found that one of their worse scores was in an area that most adversely affected church growth. It didn't take a genius to deduce that, if it were not addressed, all efforts to achieve growth would prove futile! And so the weekend of introspection ended and Pastor Evans returned to the US, leaving behind an enlightened and inspired church, eager to change and flourish.

HOLLOWAY COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



## Sutton Coldfield VBS

The Sutton Coldfield church had been working with the Falcon Lodge community for the last few months, in order to involve their children, aged between 4 and 8, in a Vacation Bible School. The programme was successfully conducted by the members of the church recently – in a spirit of excellent teamwork. More than twenty boys and girls enrolled in the VBS, many of whom were from non-Adventist backgrounds.

This also made it possible for some to come and see our ministry. This is Sutton Coldfield's first Vacation Bible School, and many parents were impressed by the event. Plans are now in place to conduct this every year, as parents in the community found it very interesting. Some of the children are now interested in attending church every Sabbath!

JAI KANAK

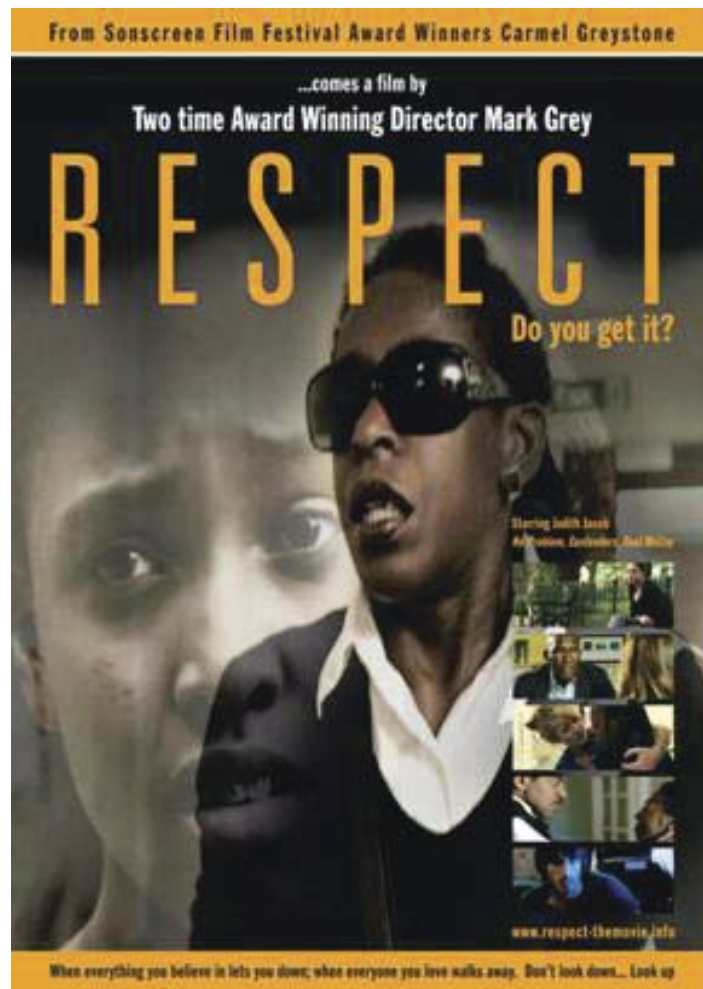


## Wimbledon success story

Wimbledon International Church buzzed with activity from 12 to 15 August, when thirty-seven children attended their four-day Holiday Bible School to learn about the fruit of the Spirit through discussions, art, songs and many other creative ways. Thanks to the many volunteers, they were able to cater for five age groups, ranging from under-5s to 16-year-olds. Activities included the making of appreciation cards, visiting a housebound member, and creating a 'fruit of the Spirit tree'. There were also trips to the Science Museum, Sutton Ecology Centre and the Natural History Museum, as well as some fun time at the park. The true sign of its success was that they kept coming back each day!

All participants (helpers and children) were given customised T-shirts bearing the church name and website. While out on a trip, one group leader was approached by a member of the public who was impressed by the behaviour of the group, and asked if her children could attend next year's Holiday Bible School! The week ended with a visit to Garsons Farm in Esher, where helpers and children alike enjoyed picking (and eating!) the fruits and vegetables. This was Wimbledon's first Holiday Bible School and it was a great success.

TAMMY GRIFFITH



# obituaries

**Merrivale Argyle Bryan (1932-2013) d. 15 May.** 'Murray' (as he was affectionately known) was a loved member of the Ipswich church, whose members, along with his family and friends, gathered to celebrate his life on 5 June 2013.

He was a dedicated member, always willing to serve where he could and use his carpentry skills to benefit the church. Murray is remembered for his quiet nature and his desire to avoid the so-called 'limelight'. Those who knew him when he was much younger remember some of his quaint ways, like him wearing a handkerchief tied at the four corners to protect his head when it either rained or was too hot. He had the gift of infectious laughter, which he often used to the enjoyment of others. One of the things he really enjoyed was to sit and listen to the church choir practise and perform. Murray was also well-known for his faithful Ingathering through the years.

He leaves behind two children, Althea and Jason, and two grandchildren. We look forward to seeing him again when Jesus returns.

TRICIA CAMPBELL

**Sidney Cecil Rose (1918-2013) d. 30 June.** Sidney Rose was born in Wimbledon into one of England's early Seventh-day Adventist families as the youngest of three siblings. His parents, Edwin and Maud, had joined the Church in 1912 and Sidney frequently recalled their venture into selling health foods from their front room in Hartfield Road. A 'Victorian' Dame school, followed by Central School, provided his education until the age of 15. Then Sidney worked as an office boy while attending classes on three evenings each week. A church member later introduced him to an architect and surveyor, who offered him a job as a typist. This was to inspire his choice of career.

He attended evangelistic meetings held by Pastor C. A. Reeves, and was baptised at the age of 16. By the outbreak of the Second World War Sidney was a qualified quantity surveyor, and was able to remain in his job as it had been classified as a 'reserved occupation'. His duties included the supervision of the cost of construction at Air Force and Army bases as well as organising rebuilding work in the bombed-out areas of London.

In August 1947 he married Eileen McLachlan in the vestry of the Stanley Hall, which was all that remained standing following the first daylight Luftwaffe raid on London in November 1940. The reconstruction of the Wimbledon church building was largely due to Sidney's enthusiasm and

professional expertise. His eldership in his home church would span some twenty-six years.

In December 1951, Langdon and Every, his employers, requested his assistance with their expanding portfolio of work in Singapore. This was followed by two assignments in Hong Kong, and his experiences in the Far East became a rich source of reminiscences in his later years.

During this time he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, and would have been offered a partnership had he not refused a permanent relocation abroad in consideration of his wife and two children, Duncan and Deborah.

Back in England, Sidney found time to help build the Brixton church and Salisbury Hall at Newbold College. With retirement approaching he moved to West Sussex, where he served the local churches as a lay preacher.

Sidney was a man never satisfied with facile answers in any area. With a view to enriching Bible study and worship he promoted the idea of a discussion forum within the church. Together with Dennis Porter, his friend and co-founder, the Amersham Study Group was established in January 1981. It has hosted many challenging seminars, with contributions from a wide variety of speakers. Dennis greatly appreciated Sidney's organising ability and remembers him as 'a man of great tolerance and strong convictions'.

In 2008 the American and British branches of Sidney's family combined to celebrate his 90th birthday in the company of friends and neighbours. His pride in, and appreciation of, his family were always close to his lips. Their loving concern and contact enabled him to live independently in his own home to within four months of his death, aged 95.

His funeral, held on Monday 15 July at Worthing Crematorium, was conducted by the writer.

Sidney rests in St Mary's churchyard in his home village of Storrington, where he awaits the resurrection.

PASTOR LESLIE H. HILL

**Ruth Kirwan (1923-2013) d. 30 July 2013.** Ruth had been out of circulation for five years following a stroke. Nevertheless, her son David and daughters, Trish and Sinead, had the good sense to request the use of the large Church of Ireland building close to the Adventist compound at Kilnasoolagh, outside Newmarket, for the memorial service. Even that was packed, with many standing to remember the colourful, outgoing life of the lovable matriarch of the Adventist Kirwans of the

Newmarket-on-Fergus congregation in County Clare.

Ruth Parkes was born on 27 March 1923, and grew up in Killester, Dublin. Her father was Catholic and her mother, Mary Ann Meredith Parkes, was Church of Ireland. Ruth was one of a family of seven: four sisters, a twin brother and a little brother who died in infancy. Her mother had to raise six little ones and care for their father, who was blind, having been exposed to mustard gas in World War One. Ruth's only surviving sister, Ada, travelled from Yorkshire for the funeral with her son and one of her granddaughters.

Ruth married Leo Kirwan in 1947. Their son David, married to Mary, has three children, Shauna, Ross and Kehlan. Their elder daughter, Trish, married to Norman, has Stefan and Laura. Sinead, married to Patrick, had Saoirse, Amerley, Ruth and Alex. Tragically, Amerley died in 2000. The Kirwan family moved from Dublin to Shannon, County Clare, in 1969. At the time of her death Ruth had five great-grandchildren: Finn, Ethan, Amina, Elliot and Qusay.

Pastor Tony O'Rourke officiated at the funeral service. He said that Ruth spoke of Jesus as her Best Friend and put all her faith and trust in Him. Sinead presented the eulogy. Sinead's daughter Ruth gave a tribute to her Nan. David shared warm, happy and funny memories of his characterful mother. Sinead said that Ruth's love was not limited to the family. It was demonstrated in many acts of kindness and missions of mercy. As a schoolgirl Sinead had returned home to find a family of hungry travelling people seated round the dining table devouring her mother's 'beef stew' (which she hated) – and asking for more! When a neighbour was too sick to care for her children Ruth had taken over the care of the baby – feeding him, bathing him and singing to him. Ruth delighted in lightening other people's loads.

When Ruth's husband, Leo, passed away, she channelled her love into her grandchildren and neighbourhood children. She held them spellbound with her tall tales.

Sinead's daughter Ruth said of her Nan: 'She had a reputation for being outspoken and having something to say about everything, but I never heard her say anything unfair, unkind or even old-fashioned. She offered advice, but was non-judgemental. She allowed us to be us.'

Following the death of her husband Ruth was cared for by Trish and Norman, and it was many years before she felt strong enough to return to her home. Even when she did, Trish and Norman cared for her and took her shopping and on tours around the country.

Where Ruth was cared for following her stroke, the nurses and all who visited her spoke of her cheerfulness. The family enjoyed

their quality time with her and visiting friends always found her engaging.

At the memorial service the members of the Newmarket church sang Ruth's favourite hymn, 'Mansion over the Hilltop'. She especially used to enjoy the line: 'in that bright land where we never grow old'. The sisters of the church also provided a meal for the mourners. When the Kirwan family tried to thank them they said: 'Ruth was our mother, too.'

Baptised by Pastor Lyndon Parsons, Ruth lived in Christ. She also died in Christ. One day she will rise, as He rose, to spend eternity with Him.

SINEAD GALVIN AND DAVID MARSHALL



**George McKnight Frazer (1931-2013) d. 16 August.** George McKnight Frazer was born on 18 June 1931 in Banbridge,

Northern Ireland. He was known for his loving, kind nature and gentle humour, conveyed with his characteristic, lilting accent. George sadly passed away at home in Dorset in the arms of his wife, Alysse, on 16 August 2013, after a long decline in health. His funeral was conducted by the Reverend Fraser Smith, a local Methodist minister and friend, at the Poole Crematorium Chapel on 29 August.

The minister told of how he had asked George, on his last visit, about the books on his study's shelves and had asked him which one he would reread if he could. Without hesitation, George had replied, 'the Bible', and had commented that 'Psalms' was his favourite book. In his address, Reverend Smith spoke of how George had touched the lives of family and friends and how he had looked forward to eternity, when he would be reunited with them.

George's faith was firm to the end, and his belief in God's 'Amazing Grace' was echoed by the strains of the bagpipes as the piper played that hymn as the Processional and Recessional to the service. George is survived by his wife, Alysse, and his children, Simon and Karen, and their families.

George and Alysse had wanted the traditional Gaelic blessing to be read at his funeral, and it seems a fitting end to this tribute to a man who was much loved and will be greatly missed.

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face; The rains fall soft upon your fields

And until we meet again, May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

STELLA JEFFERY





## The Bournville report

The Bournville church has been active recently and here is their report. Their first event was a Children's Ministries retreat held at Bromsgrove tented village. The Sabbath highlight was Pastor Isaac Liburd's practical advice on relationships, but they also enjoyed the Bible study and prayer opportunities. This was followed by a Sunday programme packed full of fun activities that left the campers feeling tired but revived.

The church has also just run a successful, week-long Vacation Bible School, which included lessons in maths, English, physical exercise and Bible study. Not only were the children helped with their school work, but, most importantly, they were also drawn to Christ. In fact, two teenage students were so interested that they will be having further Bible studies in preparation for baptism!

In addition to all this, Bournville's Personal Ministries, Music and Youth departments held an outreach programme at Queen's Park, Harborne, Birmingham, where there was singing, praying, preaching, and one-to-one Bible study for the many people relaxing at the park on a glorious sunny day.

SAMUEL AYEH



## Six new preachers

The York and Hull churches have benefited immensely from the lay preachers' course run in their district by Pastor Solon Kyriacou. After many months of study and sermon preparation the budding orators were graduated during a joint day of fellowship on 6 April, which was also attended by Pastor Lorance Johnson, North England Conference president.

The graduates were Timothy Handema; Richard, Gloria and Michael Likupe; Jackson Moonga; and Sharon Puckering. Since then they have been a real blessing to the York and Hull churches through their refreshing sermons.

CLAIRE HALL

*Editor's note: This is a late submission.*



## Langley children's service

The members of Langley Church were recently blessed when their children took the whole Sabbath School and Worship Service – besides the sermon, which was preached by Pastor Patricia Douglas, the NEC Children's Ministries director.

ROHET SUBRAI

THE SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE TEENS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

# SEC TEENS DAY OF FELLOWSHIP

ministry

**SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
**AT THE EMMANUEL CENTRE**  
 MARSHAM ST, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 3DW  
**STARTING AT 10:00AM**  
**EVENING CONCERT - PRAISE GALA**

**REGISTER AT WWW.SECTEENS.ORG**

FOLLOW SEC TEENS MINISTRIES ON FACEBOOK

CONTACT: DEJAN STOJKOVIC 07919 172176  
 OR REBETO SAMUEL-OUADJO - 01923 656533

THE NEAREST STATION IS WESTMINSTER

## Messenger

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## Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Sept 27	6.47	6.59	6.51	6.58	7.10
Oct 4	6.31	6.44	6.34	6.40	6.52
11	6.16	6.28	6.18	6.22	6.35
18	6.01	6.13	6.02	6.05	6.18

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