

Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

Messenger

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Dublin gets hugged!



As the Dublin City of Hope outreach project gathers momentum, young people from the churches around Dublin recently descended on the city for a Youth Impact event with the theme: 'You Are Not Alone'. They filled the next 48 hours with numerous fun, high-energy projects designed to 'make God known, cheer up lives, and make friends'.

It started on Sabbath afternoon 19 April with a group of young adults visiting a nursing home in the north side of Dublin, where they sang Christian songs and hymns to the delight of the residents. As the young people departed they gave roses and small cards with Bible promises to the residents. Elida Leite, one of the impact co-ordinators, said, 'We really enjoyed our time with them. The elderly residents were happy to have us and we'll definitely visit them again.'

Later that day, around seventy young people enthusiastically descended on the centre of Dublin, wearing green and orange T-shirts boldly offering 'Free Hugs' and a message that 'You Are Not Alone'. For more than two hours, the group opened their arms and warmly hugged hundreds of surprised and delighted Dubliners and even tourists. One hug recipient happily commented, 'This is the best thing that happened to me today. Thank you very much.' It was amazing to see how a simple hug could bring the most beautiful smile on people's faces and send a message of hope that they are not alone.

The event also opened a wonderful opportunity to hand out hundreds of *Celebrations* magazines promoting healthy lifestyle, and *You Are Not Alone* flyers with the Adventist and City of Hope logos. Some people even expressed interest to join the Free Hugs event in the future. A girl living in Dublin sent a message expressing disappointment that she was not able to join the Free Hugs that day. She wrote on the event Facebook page, 'Are you going to do more of this? I hope I'll be able to make it next time.'

The weekend's activities ended on Sunday afternoon 20 April with a group who went out distributing Neighbourhood Prayer Watch cards and more *Celebrations* magazines around the Ranelagh area. The beautifully designed prayer cards invited people from the community to 'pray, relax, let go and let God take over' with details on how to send their prayer requests and get a free Bible.

Pastor Ben Pontanar, who co-ordinated the activities, commented: 'These events were meant to send a reassuring and comforting message to the people of Dublin: You Are Not Alone. The activities were simple and non-threatening. Nevertheless, we believe lives have been touched.'

The weekend is over, but Dublin is not resting. The churches are gearing up for the next big City of Hope event of the year: ten days of life-enhancing presentations in the Ballsbridge Hotel, led by Mark Finley, Michael Hasel, and three other evangelistic teams from the United States, starting on 17 May.

DUBLIN CITY OF HOPE TEAM



Fourteenth annual ASNA respite and training weekend

'It's the first time I have been able to have a break and to worship with such wonderful people. It's good to meet people with similar experiences to mine – it's wonderful.' 'I cannot wait till next year . . . can it be longer?' So said some of the 96 delegates who attended the

annual ASNA respite weekend (11 to 13 April) at the Pioneer Centre in Shropshire.

The theme 'Celebrating God's Love' flowed through the weekend. Workshops provided by Pastor Paul Liburd (NEC Family Life director/ASNA padre) and Grace Walsh (NEC Disability co-ordinator) included lessons in how to love each other unconditionally and how to love ourselves as carers by managing stress. A first-time attendee, who is also a visitor to the local High Wycombe Church Disability Ministry support group, was amazed at how her 17-year-old son, who usually finds it hard to be with



other people, was so calm and settled. 'I can feel the love and care you have here; he seems so calm and happy,' she expressed.

Activities for children included arts and crafts, music therapy, zip wire, big bounce, caving and an opportunity to express and use their talents during the annual all-inclusive celebration concert led by ACT 4. The words of an 8-year-old brought tears to many eyes as he expressed the love he had for his disabled sister. 'I am so glad my sister came into this world.'

ASNA would like to thank all the volunteers who gave their time to support the adults and children with varying and challenging disabilities during the weekend, and for showing God's love throughout to the families. For more information about the work of ASNA, please visit www.asna.info or see them on facebook or email info@asna.info.

SOPHIA NICHOLLS (ASNA TRUSTEE/SEC DISABILITY MINISTRY DIRECTOR)



digestive system. . . . For some people it will cause constipation and for some it will even cause diarrhoea. Be aware of your mood when you're eating and try to eat when you're more calm.¹⁴

- Don't compensate for a stressful day by indulging in sugary treats. This can worsen stress by increasing blood glucose levels, which can give rise to insulin resistance and negatively impacts steroid (stress) hormones.

Do more cooking at home

- Avoid takeaways, processed foods and junk foods. Aim to do more home cooking for the rest of 2014.
- Nutritionist Lisa Guy suggests: 'Write a list of the meals you are going to make for the week so you are organised with the ingredients.'⁵
- To create interest and fun, decide on a new recipe to try each week in order to maintain variety.
- Planning meals ahead helps to avoid unhealthy spontaneous purchases.

Always have healthy food options on hand

- Spring-clean your kitchen cupboards to ensure a good stock of healthy foods. Just think about it; a well-stocked cupboard of healthy food options gives less space for junk food. 'If the bag of crisps isn't there, then you're more likely to reach for a snack from the fruit bowl,' says nutritionist Lisa Guy.⁶
- Supermarkets are great for fresh foods to stock up on.
- Travelling with healthy snack options also helps to avoid the temptation of 'unhealthy' treats.

Good health!

¹<http://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/health/ten-health-resolutions-to-make-in-2014/story-ineuzle5-1226796364341> ²<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/changeempower/201010/why-diets-dont-workand-what-does> ³<http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/weight-loss-guide/Pages/losing-weight-getting-started.aspx> ⁴<http://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/health/ten-health-resolutions-to-make-in-2014/story-ineuzle5-1226796364341> ⁵ibid ⁶ibid



Enhancing Health

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

Healthy food habits

In the last three 'Enhancing Health' articles we looked at the impact of exercise on well-being. Now we turn our attention to healthy food habits that enhance well-being and take another look at 'Ten Health Interventions' by Tania Gomez from bodyandsoul.com.au. In her article, titled 'Ten Health Resolutions to Make in 2014',¹ food featured four times. Here are some of her suggestions:

Give up dieting

- 'Being hyper vigilant about what you eat and constantly worrying whether you've exceeded your calorie intake for the day gets exhausting and isn't sustainable in the long term.'
- Don't overcomplicate. When it comes to your diet, naturopath Mim Beim says, 'Just develop a few simple rules that you know you can follow and stick to them.'
- Recent research demonstrates why diets fail,² and advocates instead the importance of making healthier food choices along with an active lifestyle.³

Don't eat when you're stressed or angry

- 'Stress chemicals such as adrenaline and cortisol really affect your digestion,' Beim says. 'There's basically less blood going to your

editorial

Thank you, Stephen!



Julian Hibbert
Editor

Under these circumstances one easily becomes intensely self-aware, self-preoccupied. Your world shrinks.

Then suddenly . . .

Then suddenly, a single BBC news item has your full attention. No! It has nothing to do with the Boko Haram abductions in Nigeria, the dreadful mine disaster in Turkey, or the fact that Oscar Pistorius has been sent for a psychiatric evaluation midway through his trial. It has to do with a British teenager, Stephen Sutton, who was able to introduce himself and his circumstances like this on his fundraising page:

*'Hi! My name's Stephen and I'm pretty much like your average teenager – except for the last three years now I've been battling cancer. The current opinion voiced by my doctors is that my disease is incurable, and as a result I want to spend as much time as possible raising funds for a charity very close to my heart.'*³

Wow! Stephen, a brave teenager tottering precariously at the edge of life; just nineteen years old; decides to devote the rest of his life – no matter how brief it will be – to fund-raise for the Teen Cancer Trust. He wants to help people he will never meet, and ease the suffering of teenagers who will never get to thank him for his painful efforts.

Initially he set himself a wish list (commonly known as a 'bucketlist') of 46 things he wanted to do before dying – 'a mix of the weird and wonderful' things that included: skydiving for charity; going busking; writing a book; getting a tattoo; meeting Jimmy Carr; attending another music festival; meeting someone with more surgical scars than he had; appearing as an extra in a film or music video; and having his portrait drawn. Later, however, as his condition deteriorated, Stephen lost interest in everything on his list besides the fundraising for others.

At first he wanted to raise £10,000 for TCT, but that figure was soon revised as donations began to pour in. He then reset it at £1,000,000. At the last count the fund has soared to a staggering £3,930,743.98, made possible by the kindness and generosity of 169,950 donors – each one touched by this man's amazing attitude to life.⁴

Thank you, Stephen

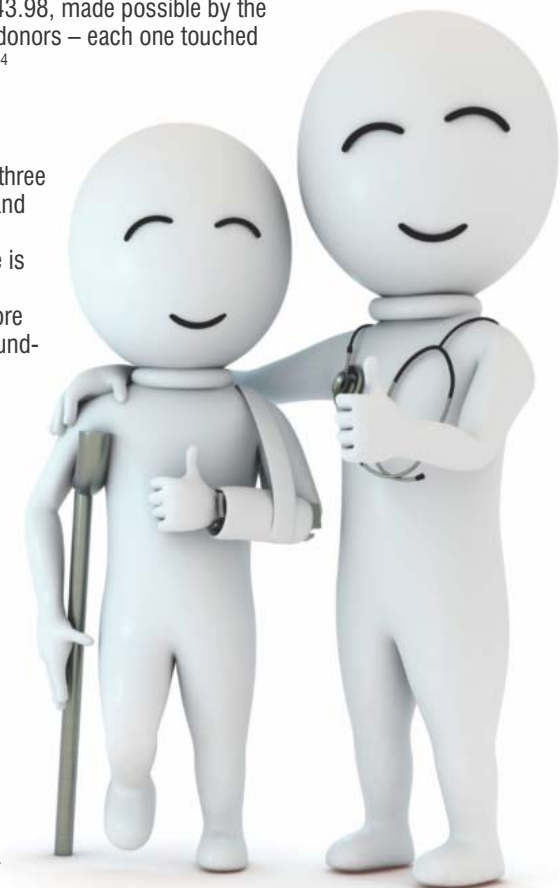
Sadly, but not unexpectedly, Stephen Sutton passed away on 14 May, just three weeks ago. His dynamic, optimistic and positive personality is no more – his infectious smile is gone and his voice is silent.

For me, however, Stephen was more than just a dynamic and successful fund-raiser. He helped to raise my spirit too. Adversity, pain and protracted discomfort are things that naturally make us self-aware and self-preoccupied. Such circumstances tend to shrink our world, but people like Stephen remind us that to live successfully, to recover fully, we need to shift the focus from ourselves to others.

Like the dying Jesus, we should never stop adding value to the lives around us.

¹<http://www.patient.co.uk/health/Perthes-Disease.htm> ²ibid ³<https://www.justgiving.com/stephen-sutton-tct> ⁴<http://stephensstory.co.uk/bucketlist/>

Editor's note: I wish to thank Dr David Marshall for acting as guest editor for the previous issue of MESSENGER. I am still not able to spend a full day in the office, but hope to be back there once cleared by my consultant on 3 June.





Getting it right

by Karen Shelbourn, a recently retired research nurse (still working part-time)

The events on which my thoughts are based are familiar to most of us. It was Passover time once again and Jesus had warned His disciples that His earthly ministry was about to end – abruptly, with His crucifixion.

Notice how Matthew records the unfolding drama in chapter 26: 'When Jesus had finished saying all these things, he said to his disciples, "As you know, the Passover is two days away – and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."' (Verses 1 and 2, NIV.)

What now becomes interesting is to observe how the different parties react to this announcement of His imminent death. Now if you had been around at that time, what would your priorities have been? To protect Jesus? To persuade Him to fight? To learn as much as possible from Him before He died? To get Him out of the city to a safe hiding spot? To persuade Him to perform a miracle to prevent it happening?

Take a moment with me to consider the priorities of those

who were the closest to Jesus, highlighted so beautifully in Matthew 26:6-13 (NIV): 'While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. "Why this waste?" they asked. "This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor." Aware of this, Jesus said to them, "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."'

For Mary, her priority was clear and simple. She wanted to take what might be her last opportunity to do something for Jesus whom she loved so much. I think we can assume that she

was fully aware of what Jesus had meant about His imminent death, and her gift to Him was a very expensive oil infused with perfume, possibly from India, worth a year's wages. She poured it on His head and feet, and was obviously very emotional. Why? Well, Luke's account indicates that she was deeply grateful that Jesus had repeatedly forgiven her many sins.

But unfortunately the story seems to show the disciples were easily distracted from such priorities. When Mary poured that very expensive perfumed oil over Jesus, His disciples' priority was to be critical. Didn't Matthew record that they were 'indignant' at what they considered to be a waste of money? You can imagine the scene: them whispering, nudging each other, pulling faces and saying how much better it would have been if the oil had been sold and the proceeds given to the poor. How virtuous they appeared, but was this an appropriate priority under the circumstances?

In John's Gospel (chapter 12) Judas is portrayed as the one objecting to Mary's lavish and wasteful gift. Perhaps he was the most outspoken – perhaps he stirred up the matter in the first place.

John's comments expose Judas's priorities. Apparently he didn't actually care for the poor, but was a thief, who stole from the money box that had been entrusted to him. One of Judas's priorities seems to have been the acquisition of wealth for himself. John records this story of the woman at the feast, and Jesus' defence of her generosity, as being the last straw for Judas.

The next thing we read about him is him going to the chief priests and telling them he is ready to deliver Jesus up to them – for a price. And so he acquires some more personal wealth – 30 pieces of silver – and his personal priority is clear.

Now the Jewish religious leaders had their priorities too. Jesus was a thorn in their flesh. He challenged them, He rebuked them, He showed them how their thinking and attitudes should be

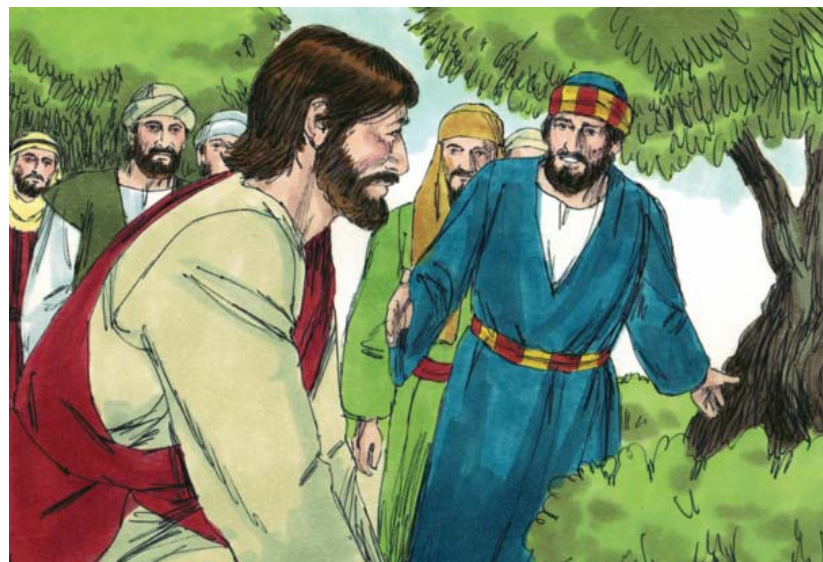
changed, and He always matched their traps with questions they could not answer without making themselves look foolish. And He wasn't afraid of them or intimidated by them. Their priority was to eliminate Him: 'Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill Him.' (Matthew 26:3, 4, NKJV.)

And what of Jesus' priorities? He knew His betrayal and unjust death were imminent. But He continued to demonstrate compassion and forgiveness, offering grace and understanding to all who would accept it, even to the very end. He continued to challenge the thinking and behaviour of those He was with. He continued to teach and pray for His disciples and for all those who would follow them. And, committed to God's plan, He submitted to crucifixion.

So what of our priorities? There are some things we can do any time, and there are some things we can do only once. If we miss that one opportunity, we have missed it forever. If at the time of Simon's feast Mary had had other priorities and decided to keep the jar of oil and perfume for another occasion, or she had felt too embarrassed or fearful, she could have lost her only opportunity to anoint Jesus' head and feet and the story would never have been recorded. But her story is recorded in all the Gospels, and, as Jesus predicted, wherever the Gospel is preached, what she did has been told as a memorial to her.

If Judas had had different priorities – if he had surrendered himself to Christ, rather than going his own way – the story could have been told in a different way. If the Jewish leaders had been openly supportive of Jesus. . . . Well, there are a lot of 'ifs', and maybe some 'if onlys'.

For those of us who are by nature procrastinators – that is, we do not always get our priorities right – here is a great lesson. For we need to grasp the moment, pray for and take opportunities as they are presented to us, because we may never get another chance. If you haven't yet decided whether you should commit to Christ, then I would urge you to consider what your priorities are. Don't allow yourself to be in the position of saying 'if only' when Christ returns. Get your priorities right!



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

Andrew Puckering

'Did any of Ellen White's contemporaries among the Millerite believers also have the prophetic gift?'

Yes indeed. Although many believe there were several, we can examine two today. 'William E. Foy, a member of the Freewill Baptist Church, who was preparing for the ministry, was given two visions in Boston in 1842,' according to the White Estate – 'In the first of these revelations, Foy viewed the glorious reward of the faithful and the punishment of sinners. Not being instructed to relate to others what was shown him, he told no one of his vision; but he had no peace of mind. In the second revelation he witnessed the multitudes of Earth arraigned before Heaven's bar of judgement; a "mighty angel" with silver trumpet in hand about to descend to Earth by "three steps": the books of record in Heaven; the coming of Christ; and the reward of the faithful. He was bidden, "Thou must reveal those things which thou hast seen, and also warn thy fellow creatures to flee from the wrath to come."' Upon a pastor's request, he testified of this to the Bloomfield Street church in Boston – not without trepidation, because of his colour and the prevailing racism of his country in those days. He then preached to 'crowded houses' for three months, only stopping to support his family, and resuming the work as soon as possible.¹

Foy met Ellen White in 1845, and 'jumped for joy' at the similarity of her visions to his own – much later, in a 1906 interview with C. C. Crisler and Doris Robinson, White recalled his 'genuine experience'.² John Loughborough wrote that Foy became proud, leading God to withdraw the prophetic gift from him, followed shortly after by his sickness and death.³ However, Delbert W. Baker, Foy's biographer, shows that he actually died at an advanced age on 9 November 1893, after devoutly pastoring several churches throughout Maine and Massachusetts.⁴

Equally intriguing is the story of Hazen Foss, 'a well-educated, personable young man' who had repeated visions, and 'was bidden to tell his people what had been shown him' – but he refused, partly because of his fear of rejection,⁵ but also because he was bitterly affected by the Great Disappointment.⁶ After his refusal, he heard a voice, saying, 'You have grieved away the Spirit of the Lord.' Horrified, he repented and tried to relate his vision to a group of believers, but then exclaimed, 'It is gone from me; I can say nothing, and the Spirit of the Lord has left me.' Eyewitnesses called it 'the most terrible meeting they were ever in'.⁷

Three months later, the morning after hearing the teenage Ellen White speaking about her vision and recognising it as his own, Foss told her: 'I believe the visions are taken from me and given to you. Do not refuse to obey God, for it will be at the peril of your soul. I am a lost man. You are chosen of God; be faithful in doing your work, and the crown I might have had, you will receive.'⁸

¹www.whiteestate.org/books/pay/PAYAXA.HTML quoting from *The Christian Experience of Wm. E. Foy, Together With the Two Visions He Received* (1945) ²Quoted from a slideshow compiled by Delbert Baker, displayed online at www.spectrummagazine.org/blog/2011/03/03/unknown-prophet ³J. N. Loughborough, *Rise and Progress of the Seventh-day Adventists*, quoted online at www.spectrummagazine.org/blog/2011/03/03/unknown-prophet ⁴Delbert W. Baker, *The Unknown Prophet*, 2013, Review and Herald Publishing Association: Hagerstown, Maryland, USA ⁵Arthur W. Spalding, *Origin and History of Seventh-day Adventists*, 1949, Review and Herald, pp. 57-60 ⁶E. G. White Letter 37, 1890 ⁷ibid ⁸Spalding, pp. 60, 61.

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.

In our 2 May issue of *MESSENGER* we published an article by Josephine Vine on Women's ordination, inviting those who felt differently about the issue to respond in a 'spirit of cordial openness'. Four such responses were forthcoming, two of which appear below. The others will be published later.

Anyone who takes a different position to those expressed below and is able to present it in a coherent and dignified manner is welcome to contribute to this dialogue, but kindly ensure that the submission does not exceed 1,000 words. Anonymous submissions will not be considered.

'Headship Theology' in the Adventist Church

by Pastor Islwyn Rees

The editor made an invitation (2 May 2014) for contributions to the discussion of the ordination of women in the Church following Josephine Vine's submission on the subject which appeared in the same issue.

The GC chose 108 people to re-study the theology of ordination and the place of women in ministry. I have read four articles on the subject; one was 72 pages long! There is a lot of material to go through if you have the inclination! I did find the articles I have read helpful.

Additional to delving into the 'ordination archive' I read (free online), *A Short History of the Headship Doctrine in the Seventh-day Adventist Church* by Gerry Chudleigh (Communications secretary of the Pacific Union Conference). I would say this should be required reading for anyone wanting to participate in the discussion.

Apart from reading the TED contribution to the study by Dr Bertil Wiklander, I found two documents that analyse the opposing views most helpful. One is by Carl Cosaert (the New Testament scholar who gave us the study on Galatians in the last quarter of 2011, and professor of biblical studies at Walla Walla University), and the other is by Ángel Manuel Rodríguez (church theologian and director of the Biblical Research Institute).

Both Cosaert and Rodríguez seem to address and analyse all the difficult texts, including those addressed by Josephine Vine. They concur with each other in their analysis, except that Rodríguez is perhaps more critical. From the section, 'Headship and the Godhead', from page 9, he sees the redefinition of the Godhead as a deviation from Adventist doctrine, bringing us closer to polytheism. In her article, Josephine Vine illustrates for us the problem Rodríguez addresses on 1 Corinthians 11:3. She says, 'Jesus Himself does not ask us to do something that He is unwilling to do. Jesus accepts the leadership of God the Father.' For Rodríguez this implies not a temporary submission in the plan of salvation but a submission and subordination

that is eternal, a deviation from Adventist doctrine that affects the doctrine of the atonement.

On page 11 he says, 'If the Son had been eternally under subjection to the Father, then this is what defined Him; this is who *He is* and *not* what *He does*. He would have always existed in subordination to the Father. Here nature and function coalesced. Unlike the Father, He exists unable to fully exercise His divine freedom and this is who He is. Being and acting are inseparable. What we do reflects who we are. There is no dichotomy here. The distinction between nature and function is no longer valid within the Godhead.'

This descending or ascending order in the Godhead is reflected in humanity even before the Fall. Christ's 'eternal' submission to the Father is the example or pattern for humanity; it is not intended to be a voluntary submission. Eve was created to be under Adam; it was the created order, she could do nothing about it. Just as there is an ascending order with the angels – Lucifer was the head of the angels, the archangel – so husbands are the head of their wives.

On page 17 Rodríguez tells us this recent introduction of the 'headship' of pre-Fall Adam into the Adventist Church has been influenced by 'evangelical scholars'. Rodríguez is not impressed with this theology. He argues for the Adventist position of our first parents being created equal. On page 40 he is not slow to state that he sees 'a serious weakness in their argument and hermeneutics'.

Gerry Chudleigh in *A Short History of the Headship Doctrine in the Seventh-day Adventist Church*¹ goes further than Rodríguez and tells us the source is Calvinist – a theology that Adventists would not entertain as Arminians. Chudleigh names high-profile Adventist leaders who have not only accepted and promoted 'Headship Theology' in the church, but also been invited to take part in the biblical studies on the subject of ordination.

Listening to TED president, Dr Bertil Wiklander, sharing his presentation to the study at Newbold College, one had the feeling of Wiklander being surprised by some of his findings, as well as feeling passionate about them, which suggested that his research began with an open mind. However, Chudleigh leaves the reader wondering if the Headship Theology proponents could be at all impartial and if this would bias the outcome of the study? But, reading Coeart and Rodríguez, one gets a feeling of assurance that those analysing the contributions to the study will contribute to an 'honest-to-Scripture' outcome. Having found Chudleigh's book somewhat troubling, one must hope that it will also be given critical attention so that we, the constituents, will feel all angles in and around the subject have been comprehensively addressed.

A quote from the TED president, Dr Bertil Wiklander's presentation to TOSC is insightful: 'Ellen White was not ordained by imposition of hands in the Adventist Church, which is to be expected in a social setting where it was not considered "a woman's proper place" to be ordained for the pastoral ministry. However, Ellen White claimed she was "ordained by God" and she accepted church credentials as an ordained minister, which proves that she accepted that her gender was not a hindrance for holding the authority of an ordained minister in the Church. In her letter of 1901 on "His helping hands", she abolishes gender distinctions but lifts up the Spirit of Christ as the decisive qualifying element for ministry. She quoted Isaiah 61:6 [KJV] and applied this prophecy regarding the Christian Church to men and women: "ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God". She recommended that women should serve as pastors, and in evangelising the big cities she even stated that women should be set apart by prayer and imposition of hands as "gospel ministers".'²

Which of course is what is happening freely with the 400,000-strong membership of the official Adventist Church in China, where it is said that half of church pastors are women. 'Church planter Zu Xiu Hua, who started 380 congregations in the northeastern province of Jilin, spoke with Paulsen through an interpreter during his visit. Her congregations, now attended by more than 20,000 members in the province's mostly rural region, are served by dozens of volunteer women whom she trains to conduct Bible studies, preach, and offer spiritual care.'³

One might ask what would happen to the mission in China if 'Headship Theology' should find its way there?

In what I have read my concern is that the Holy Spirit is not seen to be gender-selective in handing out spiritual gifts: He 'distributes them to each one, just as he determines' (1 Corinthians 12:11, NIV), for the building up of the community of faith.

¹<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/433232>

²<http://www.adventistarchives.org/brc-trans-european-division-presentation.pdf> #news.adventist.org/ru/all-news/news/go/2009-05-18/adventist-presidents-visit-to-china-first-by-a-top-church-leader-in-decades/

Man, head of the church?

A reflection on the article 'Women's ordination', by Josephine Vine, which appeared in the *MESSENGER* of 2 May 2014.

by Pastor John Lorencin

It was an interesting article; however, I have a problem with the premise on which this conclusion was reached. The Bible clearly states that man is the head of his household (Ephesians 5:22-25) and Ellen White agrees that he should be 'in one sense the priest of the household' (*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 1, p. 547). Where in the Bible do we read that man should be, or is, the head of the church? Are we right when we transfer the biblical arrangement for the home organisation to the church organisation?

The Bible states that Christ is the Head of His church, and that the church, with all the believers, constitutes His body (Ephesians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 13, 27). Does the church have more than one head: one Christ and the other man (actually many men)? Do we subscribe to the doctrine of some Christian churches that Christ is the invisible head and that the priests in the Christian churches are the visible heads? Here is the Roman Catholic view: 'Through ordained ministry, especially of bishops and priests, the presence of Christ as head of the Church is made visible in the midst of the community of believers' (G. Chapman, *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, p. 347, 1999). What do we read in the Bible – who were the 'priests' in the Apostolic Church?

As 'priest' of his home the duty of the father, the man, is to gather his household for worship. When the father has to work away from home for several days, or he leaves home very early in the morning while his children are still sleeping, should his wife take his place and organise family worship or shall they go without it because the 'priest' is not present? Does it mean that his wife has usurped his place if she organises the family worship, or should she abandon it lest it may be

interpreted that she is by that act declaring herself the 'priestess' of the home?

According to the Bible what is the duty of an elder in the church: is it to be the head of the church, or is it a spiritual gift of teaching and administration (1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11, 12) given to him, by which he should serve the body of Christ – His Church? Speaking of spiritual gifts, are some gifts reserved for men only and others for women only; and who decides which ones they will receive? What does the Bible say about it?

When we become Christians are we not all equal in our relation to Christ and His Church, regardless of nationality, gender, or whatever else, or are some followers in a somewhat different position? If they are, how does the Bible identify them and on what grounds do they have that special relation with Christ and His Church?

The Bible states that the elder must be 'the husband of one wife', and that he must have 'faithful children' who behave well (1 Timothy 3:2, 4; Titus 1:6, KJV). This text is frequently quoted when discussing the ordination of women. Are we right when we elect men for eldership who have not a wife, or who, having one, have no children, because the Bible says that they should have both? Was the church in Antioch wrong when the elders laid hands on Paul (Acts 13:3), ordaining him, because he was not married (1 Corinthians 7:7, 8), and therefore was not 'the husband of one wife'?

All these questions are begging for a biblical answer so that we can come to the right conclusions when ordination is in question.

Submissions to the Issues pages express the views of their contributors, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of either *MESSENGER* staff or the BUC.



A 'noble' tradesman

These are the rest of the responses we received from our request for information about the noble role played by bootmaker W. A. Girling in providing work for numerous Sabbath-keepers during the 1930s. Thank you for your interesting contributions.

Dear Editor

I have just had a look at the latest *MESSENGER* and was surprised to see the photograph on page 5. I first saw this photo when Angela and I went to visit Halifax church member Doreen Jones, shortly after the death of her husband Mansel. She had been going through old papers and had found the picture. Doreen is second from the right, front row. It was taken before she was married; her maiden name was McGoldrick and I think some other family members are also in the photograph.

According to Doreen several members from the Bradford area found jobs at the works after they lost their jobs for refusing to work on Sabbath.

Doreen now lives in a care home in Halifax. Her nephew John McGoldrick is a member of Bradford Church and he will probably be able to fill in a lot of the details. Doreen is still pretty good with most things from the past, even though she is well into her nineties now!

DAVID PATRICK

Dear Editor

I see that you are seeking information about the W. A. Girling boot and shoe company. The man who would have been my father-in-law, had he been still alive, Arthur Mudford, worked there and is also in the picture.

DENNIS PORTER

Dear Editor

With reference to the photo of those employed by W. A. Girling (*MESSENGER*, 24 January 2014, page 5), my father Frank McGoldrick and two of his sisters are there (Doreen and Eileen); I have named a couple more, but I would think that Pastor Jack Mahon will be able to name them all. I think it was taken in the late 1930s.

Far right in the back row, Jack Mahon. In the middle row from left: persons two to four are Douglas Elias, Frank McGoldrick, and Leslie Lockyer. In the front row from left: persons four to six are Mr Girling, Doreen McGoldrick, and Eileen McGoldrick.

Doreen McGoldrick married Leslie Lockyer. He was killed a few weeks later when their home was bombed during World War II. Doreen was seriously injured. When she recovered she went to work as a secretary at Newbold Adventist College. There she met Mansel Jones and had 63 years of happily married life, mainly in Halifax, until Mansel died in 2010. Doreen, now aged 93 years, lives in a residential home in Halifax. They had two children, Haydn and Marilyn. Eileen McGoldrick went to live in the USA, where she married and had two children.

JOHN MCGOLDRICK

Dear Editor

Having read your request for details about W. A. Girling I mentioned it to my father-in-law, Dr John Woodfield, and his wife on Sabbath. They mentioned that Jack Mahon used to work for Mr G. as a young lad. I think he mentioned the age of 14 years but I could be mistaken.

AGNES WOODFIELD



The 'night life' of a street pastor

by Pastor James Shepley

A few Saturday nights ago, I faced the greatest challenge so far in my ministry. It was 3am and I was standing outside a well-known Cheltenham night spot, as crowds of youngsters spilled onto the streets. Parked opposite each other in the street were a police van and a paramedic unit, as the occasional taxi pulled up to pick up people going home. I could see Pete, a streetwise Baptist from Cheltenham in his sixties, dressed in his blue street pastor's uniform, standing at a distance from the crowd, keeping a watchful eye open to see if anyone was particularly vulnerable and needed assistance.

I was brought up to believe that if there is trouble, it is best to avoid it. Jesus had a slightly different perspective. He didn't go looking for trouble, but he often didn't walk away from it either, because He was looking for those in need. That is the purpose of the Street Pastors initiative. We had gathered together earlier that evening for prayer and a briefing at 9.30pm, at the Salvation Army. In Cheltenham, the Salvation Army serves as the base, a place to retire for a cup of tea and a piece of flapjack between shifts. We were seven people: three teams of two fully trained street pastors, who dedicate one night a month to walking the streets of Cheltenham, and a street pastor observer (me!), complete with a jacket to match, going along with them for one evening to see what it is all about.

It had started quietly enough. But it had been gathering pace all evening, and now, at 3 o'clock in the morning, we watched as a young man teetered and fell

headlong onto the tarmac in the middle of the street, outside one of the nightclubs. From my vantage point, I could not quite see what had happened.

Now, we were walking directly towards the trouble. It came in the form of a young man wearing a white T-shirt, and quite the worse for wear. He was bleeding from the lower lip. 'A bouncer kicked me,' he said in a Newcastle accent. 'Me tooth,' he said. 'I'm missing me tooth.'

'Where did you lose it?' I asked.

'Right there in the middle of the road.' So Jenny, in her mid-50s, also in a blue uniform, with the white letters 'Street Pastor' emblazoned across it, and I found ourselves scratching at the tarmac looking for Andy's tooth. After an astonishingly short space of time, my glove turned up the tooth, and we presented it to the young man. He clutched on to it as though his life depended on it. He was swaying backwards and forwards, and shared that intensity that comes from having drunk much too much, and he was quite abusive. By now, his friends had melted away. Bill, a six-foot-four retired salesman who attends a Church of England congregation in the upmarket Landsdown part of Cheltenham, also wearing a street

pastor's uniform, went round the corner to look for the paramedic. Bill came back suggesting that we usher him to a taxi. The paramedic was treating someone else. 'He told us to get a glass of milk,' Bill said. To put the tooth into, before taking him to Gloucester A&E. As I crossed the street after Bill, to hear him ask the improbable question, 'Do you have a glass of milk?' of a nightclub bouncer, the

young man staggered after me. 'Don't you walk away,' he said with an air of menace.

Pete and Bill led him, at a suitable distance, towards the line of taxis on the Promenade. The taxi marshals looked doubtful. After all, he was bleeding, drunk, abusive, and increasingly emotional. To cap it all, he then proceeded to be sick. I tried to have him sit on a bench, but he resisted. Then all of a sudden, he said he needed to sit down and teetered towards the bench. It was all he could do to make it.

Once slumped on the bench he started weeping. It was a strange sensation watching a grown man cry. 'I want me mam,' he said. In the meantime, Bill was trying to call an ambulance. The ambulance wanted details of what had happened. Bill turned away so that the young man didn't hear what he was saying. It was now nearly 4am. Two policemen arrived. 'You finish at four,' they said. 'We'll take it from here.'

While attending to him, Pete had received a call from another Cheltenham nightspot, but had been unable to respond. Before

turning in for the night, he insisted that we went over there to see what had happened. One of the door stewards, a lady, explained that she had called because a man in a wheelchair, whom we had seen wheel himself into the nightclub with a friend earlier in the evening, had got very drunk, and she had wanted the street pastors to come and stay with him, to help sober him up. By the time we got there, he had already gone home.

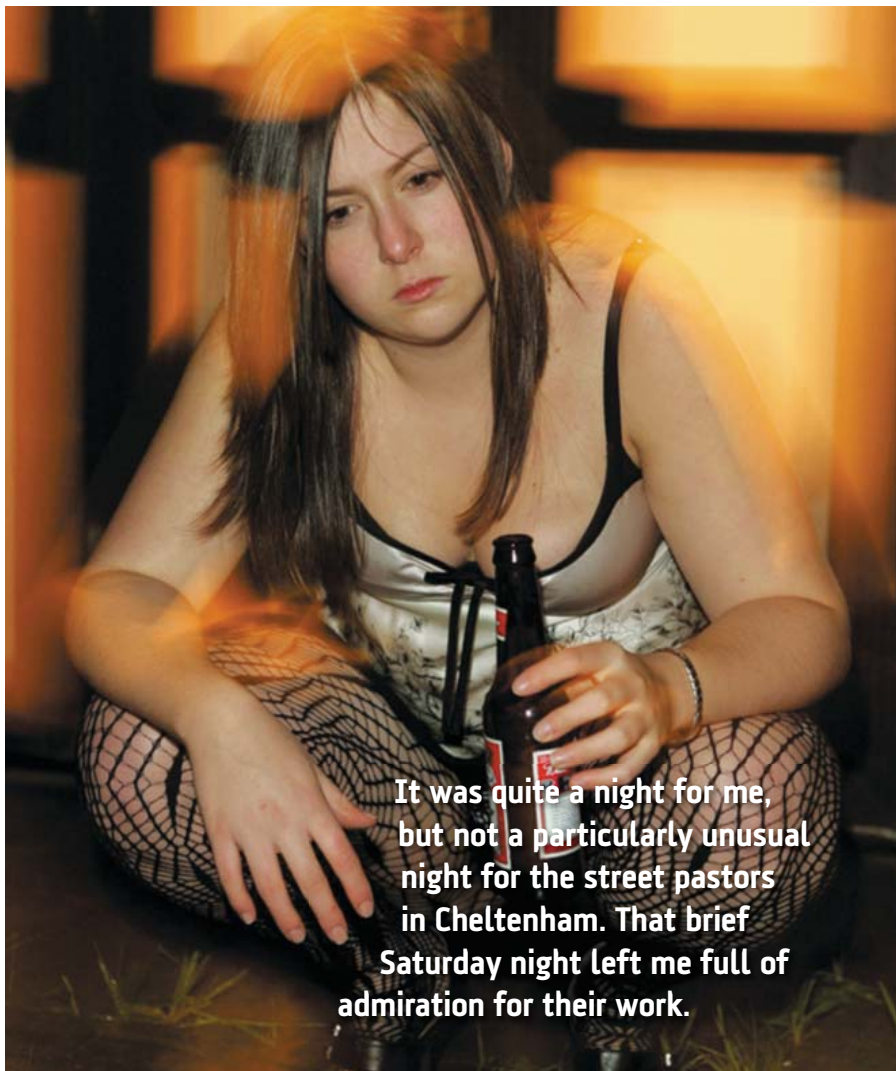
It was an eye-opening evening. I had not imagined how different Cheltenham could be by night. Over the course of the evening, many revellers came up to the street pastors to thank them for what they do. One young lady said: 'I would like to do what you do, when I finish studying.' Another young man wanted to know why the street pastors, all Christians, do what they do.

After four years of work, the street pastors' ministry is well-known in Cheltenham. Many girls get tired of their high heels after a night out, take their shoes off, and walk home barefoot, putting themselves at risk of cutting their feet on broken beer-bottle glass. The street pastors approach them to ask if they would like a pair of flip-flops. Many girls approach the street pastors first. Others, dehydrated, ask for a bottle of water, or a lollipop, the olive branch of friendship extended by the street pastors.

It was quite a night for me, but not a particularly unusual night for the street pastors in Cheltenham. That brief Saturday night left me full of admiration for their work. There are fifty street pastors in Cheltenham, and more than 9,000 street pastors overall serving on the streets of 250 British towns and cities. They come from many different churches and denominations, including Seventh-day Adventists in some places. Nearly all are church members rather than pastors. In Cheltenham, and Swindon, where I work, the street pastors are still looking for volunteers. That could be true for your town or city too.

London SDA Male Voice Choir

This well-known Adventist choir is looking for new voices – especially youthful ones. If you would like to audition please call Roy Smith on 07815908199 or write to: The London SDA Male Voice Choir, 381 Holloway Road, London N4.



It was quite a night for me, but not a particularly unusual night for the street pastors in Cheltenham. That brief Saturday night left me full of admiration for their work.



Godinterest.co.uk offers a Christian alternative to Pinterest

For those who love the social media site Pinterest but want to share within a Christian environment, *Godinterest.co.uk* could be a safe, family-friendly Christian alternative.

Godinterest.co.uk is a new online photo-sharing platform, which strives to have Christian content. It is owned by Dean Jones, a 35-year-old Seventh-day Adventist project manager from London. According to him: 'We are a Christian social networking website and are mindful of the values that Christians are bound by.'

This Christian alternative to Pinterest was created to allow people to post photos within a Christian environment that disallows ill-mannered language and distasteful images.

Jones said, 'Pinterest is no doubt one of the leading social media sites that allow users to share things they like, largely through images. However, the posts on Pinterest are not always guaranteed to be family-friendly. *Godinterest.co.uk* is a platform for sharing and discovering that we hope will

provide an additional cushion of safety. It's a beautiful and fun way to capture and share God's world in moments with friends and family.

Free registration includes access to all of the website's features, including sharing images with friends and following friends' updates.

If you want to maintain your Christian values while still interacting with those on the internet, the Christian alternative to Pinterest could be a great option. With comparable features offered on a platform that is marketed as being safe for all ages, the Christian environment offered on *Godinterest.co.uk* could be just what the Christian community is searching for.

For more information visit <http://godinterest.co.uk>. To connect on Facebook and Twitter click on www.facebook.com/GodInterestUK and www.twitter.com/GodinterestUK respectively.

An edited form of the *Godinterest.co.uk* press release by Dean Jones

Godinterest

14th Annual Montserratians & Friends SDA Day of Fellowship

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Robert Allen (London) 0208292 8174
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Anita Allen (Manchester) 0161342 0032
Peter Kirwan (Preston) 0177251 0366
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Ministerial Director
North England Conference

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Langley rejoices

On 26 April the Langley congregation rejoiced over the dedication of Nicole and Sophia Masih by Pastor S. M. Gill. They are pictured below, along with their parents, Peter and Sakinah, and others.

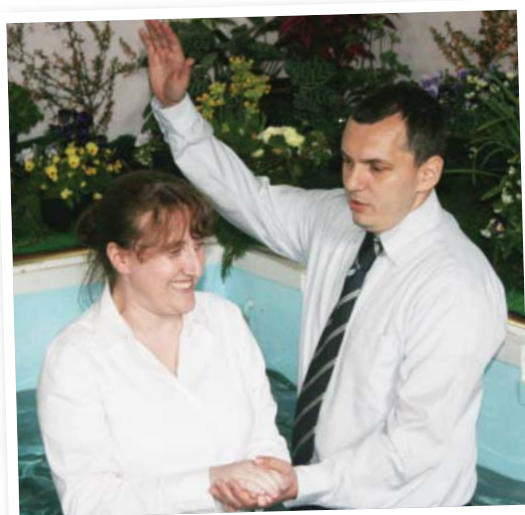


Carmarthen baptism

An extra-joyful Sabbath was experienced by those present at Carmarthen Church on Sabbath 26 April. After many months of church attendance Rachel Evans finally decided for Jesus and was baptised during a special afternoon service. Relatives, friends and church members filled the sanctuary for the event.

The baptistry was beautifully decorated for the event with an assortment of flowers and branches provided by Angela Colledge.

Rachel's grandmother was invited to pray and encouraged the young people



to follow Rachel in committing their lives to the Lord. Some of Rachel's favourite hymns were sung and poems read – one written specially for the occasion.

When she was once again in dry clothes hugs and embraces were in abundance as Rachel was welcomed by those present to her new life in Jesus and to church membership.

We wish her every blessing and, though not coming to church at present, trust and pray that her children, led by her example, will follow in committing their lives to Christ in the not-too-distant future.

PETER MERTENS AND DAVID W. MARSHALL,
CARMARTHEN CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS

PHOTO BY DAVID W. MARSHALL.

Middlesbrough

Middlesbrough Church celebrated two baptisms on the afternoon of 15 February under the ministry of Pastor Colin Woodford.

Bonani Maphosa's baptismal service was very moving. When the time came for him to be baptised he asked his wife, Thembe, to read his favourite Scripture passage. His son, Zayne (5), stunned the congregation when he recited his favourite passage from the Bible – Psalm 23:1-6. When asked why he decided to be baptised, Bonani responded: 'I was raised as a Christian and my parents' faith was my crutch for a long time. Then I realised that my parents' faith would not suffice. I began to want to know God for myself. I decided to give my life to Christ and let the world know that I have chosen to follow Him . . . and it is awesome!'

The second baptismal candidate was Mae Machan. This is her testimony: 'It started as a "Saturday ritual" for me as I was not an Adventist by birth. However, my husband is and the children wanted to have both parents attend church together. Somehow the Lord touched me through the messages I heard, and finally I was rocked to the very core. I knew then that I wanted to follow Jesus and have Him in my life.'

The church also accepted by the right hand of fellowship Agatha Chengeta, Lori-Jane Mendoza, Robert and Majuleta Chikuza, Josephat, Petty and Tatenda Hapazari and Senzeni Jacob.

WIGNII MTOPO AND FARIRAI CHIKENGEZHA.



After this Pastor Gill baptised Teresa Masih and Dev Kaur. Dev comes from a 'non-believing' background and has been attending church for about a year.

ROHEET SUBRAI



Six new members

On Sabbath 22 March, the Community of Hope (Winson Green, Birmingham) and Breath of Life (Smethwick, Birmingham) congregations joined forces to baptise six new members at the Ladywood church.

Pastor Palmer officiated in the font and local pastor Eric Lawrence provided his support. The six new members are Leroy Mills and Romicia Edwards (not pictured), Sharon and Rex Reason, Shana Stewart, and Tisha Walter.

ROY LITCHFIELD, COMMUNICATIONS

Eight baptised at Manchester South

On 19 April the Manchester South church baptised eight new members, each one with a special story.

Tinotenda, a 20-year-old student from Manchester University, comes from a Methodist background, and was introduced to the Adventist Church by a friend. He claims that the first day he came to the church, it was packed, and that everything that was preached or taught was from the Bible. This impressed him to do some research into the Seventh-day Adventists, but many internet sites branded us as a cult. Tinotenda felt, however, that if everyone is attacking the Adventists they must be doing something right. This encouraged him to study the Bible to seek the truth for himself. This later led to studies with Bible instructor Rose Gomez and his decision for baptism.

Angel Fitzroy Vanriel was born to Adventist parents and brought up in our faith. Unfortunately, he left the church for over thirty years. Then God touched his conscience last June, and he realised it was time to come back. At that point he was living in Gorton and was unsure of where the nearest Adventist church was. When he went onto his iPad and typed in 'Seventh-day Adventist churches', Manchester South appeared and he attended this very church. He came at a time when Pastor Jeremiah Davies was holding a week of prayer seminar, which refreshed his mind. His friend inspired him also to accept the faith again and get rebaptised. When Angel arrived at church he had long dreadlocks, but he cut his locks the day before being baptised. He proudly walked to the front of the church with a new image to become a new man.

Fitz Herbert Lewis started his journey to Jesus a few years ago in another church as a regular visitor, but felt

no real conviction to accept Jesus or be baptised. But Veronica Smith was praying for a soul to bring to the Lord, and God led her to him. He agreed that she could give him Bible studies. He enjoyed them and eventually felt the need for baptism along with the other seven.

Kwaku Amoh was born into the Presbyterian faith, where his dad shepherded seven churches. Amoh admits that he used to attack Adventist churches, and destroy the banners that they would put up. He hated them and the name alone felt like a bitter medicine. But a friend of his persuaded him to put aside his prejudice and come to an Adventist church service. Soon he was attending regularly, but with lots of questions – all of which were answered! In Amoh's own words, 'The Adventist Church is where I am going to die.'

Zosha Kaydian Elleston's father is Paul Elleston, a Manchester South elder. Her grandfather proudly walked her up the aisle after being housebound for several years due to illness. Nothing was going to keep him from this wonderful event. Zosha, who is in her early teens, came to this decision by herself through careful prayer and study. The relationship she felt in her heart for the Lord became too strong for her to hold back any more – she knew this was her call.



Dimpho Leah Mautle, a PhD student from Botswana studying Engineering at Manchester University, is not from an Adventist background but has attended Manchester South Church for two and a half years. During the summer of last year she made some serious changes to her life and requested Bible study, all of which led to her being one of the candidates.

Then, last but not least, there were the Portuguese-speaking Paulo sisters: Teresa and Maria Alena. They decided to begin their spiritual journey together – a really touching gesture indeed! The journey of both was described as being a spiritual marathon, which isn't finished, and they look forward to their lives married to Christ.

The Manchester South church was thrilled to receive these new members.

SARA FRANCIS



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MARRIAGE RETREAT





Special water at Welsh well

We don't hear very much about wells these days but, believe me, they are still about. Nicholaston House, near Swansea, was the 'well' visited by Welsh Women's Ministries from 4 to 6 April. It was originally an old sea captain's house that overlooks Oxwich Bay, and the heavenly scenery has to be seen to be believed.

Sharon Platt-McDonald, Women's Ministries director for the BUC, shared two powerful presentations on restoration and resilience, and Paulette Marcey from London blessed the group with her singing.

The group prayed, listened, shared meals, walked up and down hills, collected treasure from the beach, sang songs of praise, supported each other, took time out to be private and quiet, enjoyed exercise and fresh air, told stories, laughed, cried tears of joy and were uplifted to a higher place as the Holy Spirit touched their hearts.

The weekend focus was 'Body, Mind & Spirit'. On Friday the participants arrived feeling tired and thirsty, but by Sunday they were refreshed, renewed and reinvigorated – able to return home knowing that a new world had opened up for them because – like the woman at the well – they had drunk from the Living Water, Jesus Christ.

JENNIFER ROWELL, WOMEN'S MINISTRIES SPONSOR FOR WALES

Mother's Day brunch

Good food and fine company were on the menu when Stanborough Park members celebrated Mother's Day on Sunday 23 March.

The Family Life department organised a 'brunch' for the mothers of the church and those invited from the local community. This novel event was held one week early so as not to interfere with any Mother's Day family celebrations; it was also designed as a form of outreach in which each church mother was given two invitations, one for herself and one for a mother from the local community. As a result, many community mothers attended the church for the very first time.

The hall and tables were well-decorated with pink and white tablecloths with floral centrepieces, and as the eighty mothers entered they were welcomed and made to feel special. The young children were entertained with puppet shows, crafts and other activities. This allowed the mothers to relax, socialise and enjoy the fabulous international food prepared by the men and served by polite waiters.



Bristol's first joint evangelism day

On 19 April the four churches in Bristol – Lodge Causeway, Bristol Central, North Bristol and South Bristol Church – worshipped together as a precursor to the launch of the School of Evangelism in Area 2.

The well-attended service was organised by the Bristol Joint Evangelism Committee (BJEC) – a Bristol-wide church committee whose purpose it is to promote, co-ordinate and support evangelism projects across the city. Working closely with the SEC Sabbath School and Personal Ministries departments, BJEC seeks to make a success of the Bristol Mission to the Cities (MTTC) project in 2015.

Pastor Eglan Brooks, BUC Personal Ministries director, provided the day's focus by reinforcing the importance of evangelism as each person's responsibility, stressing that we need a 'passion for mission'.

With the promotion of the School of Evangelism for the following day the service continued in the afternoon with a concert, followed by a rousing message of discipleship by Pastor Mbui of Balham Church.

The day was not just a service of celebration – it was the beginning of something exciting for the city of Bristol.

SHILOH HARMITT (MEMBER OF BJEC)

The mothers were serenaded by men on the piano, accordion and flute, and in this relaxed atmosphere they talked, laughed and met new friends. A video with messages from children was shown and many were surprised and happy to hear what their children said.

PAM CHARLES, COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Residential care homes ministry

This year Manchester Southern Asia Church plans to reach out to nursing and care homes in its community, by singing and praying for the elderly. One such place is Hibiscus Court in Whalley Range, where we were invited to sing for them during a function for the residents. After a good song service and prayer for all the residents, the members then distributed twelve Bibles and a number of books like *Steps to Christ*, *When God Said Remember* and *The Great Controversy*, along with tracts about the Sabbath, to both residents and staff of the care home. It was a blessed experience.

A similar programme was recently run at the Chorlton Place care home, where the residents joined in the singing with great enthusiasm, not wanting the songs to cease even after it was time to close. One of those who really enjoyed the event was a retired Methodist woman pastor.

SANJAY SATHE



Heroes a hit in Dublin

A conference room in the Maldron Hotel, Tallaght, Dublin, has been transformed into a battlefield of would-be heroes, every Wednesday night since 12 March.

Children, youth, and adults have been pitting their knowledge of historical Bible heroes against each other in a series of interactive presentations based on the popular iPhone game, *Heroes: The Game*.

'Much of the programme consists of retelling some of the most-loved stories and the lessons learned from them,' explains programme leader, Pastor Dan Serb. He adds, 'It highlights the difference between fantasy and reality, deception and truth. Participants are encouraged to emulate the heroic traits and lives of faith and true strength of the Bible characters.'

The series has had real appeal among the younger generation. According to Dan, 'We have been encouraging our regular church young people to bring their friends. On one of the evenings children up to the age of 13 played the game in the form of a live competition. The knowledgeable winner became the proud recipient of an iPod Touch (fifth generation)!' Two more competitions are forthcoming.

Despite the competitive element in the *Heroes* series, Dan believes that 'The true prize is learning more about the Bible, who we are, and who God is.' When he asked the young people what they had learned from the Bible heroes they came up with the following suggestions: 'Adam and Eve tell us where we come from and how we got here.' 'Noah believed God in spite of ridicule.' 'Esther was the queen of courage.'

DAN SERB AND IRISH MISSION COMMUNICATION



Appreciation day for Pastor Woodford

On 29 March Area 1 of the North England Conference held an appreciation service for Pastor Colin Woodford, who has faithfully served in the Middlesbrough, Sheffield and Darlington area since 2004. He was baptised in 1995 by Pastor L. Edwards and gradually felt drawn to ministry.

He first held the position of a Bible instructor for both the Sheffield and Middlesbrough districts (2004-2006); then became the licensed minister of the Middlesbrough district from 2009 to 2013, later becoming a commissioned minister. During this time he has been heavily involved in evangelistic work. He now intends to return to full-time Bible work and start a small group in Guisborough. He has had a significant impact on many families in this district.

WIGNI MTOPO



'The Choir!'

Hereford and Newport Women's Ministries joined together and initiated contact with a Hereford nursing home a few months ago. Three visits have since taken place: the third on Sabbath, 12 April. The idea is simple: church members provide entertainment by 'singing'. Most of the residents suffer with dementia but the staff are only too willing to explain the positive ways in which residents respond whenever we visit. They love our singing and even refer to us as 'The Choir!'

The entertainment was followed by a lovely Easter tea and plans for our next visit are already taking place.

JENNIFER ROWELL, WOMEN'S MINISTRIES SPONSOR, WALES

A close shave for ADRA

Diane Morton, 2014 ADRA agent for Sutton-in-Ashfield, decided to go one step further to raise funds for ADRA by having all her hair shaved off. Church members, family and friends sponsored her to the tune of £405.50, which took the church's ADRA total to £1,055.50 for the year! Well done.

MORAY STEWART



Plaistow's week of revival

A youth-led revival ended successfully on Sabbath, 22 March 2014, at Plaistow Church, under the theme, 'Revived to serve the Lord'. This week-long series coincided with the Global Youth Week of Prayer, which ran from 15 to 22 March. The speaker was Xoli Belgrave, an elder of North Wembley Church, who was ably supported by a team of dynamic young boys and girls (7-13) who presented the Junior Youth readings from the pulpit as a prelude each evening.

Xoli borrowed sparingly from the Senior Youth readings, but her informal style, seasoned with appropriate humour and personal experiences, appealed to all sections of the congregation. In response to her nightly appeals, many recommitted themselves to the Lord by writing their prayer requests and resolutions, and posting them on a wall.

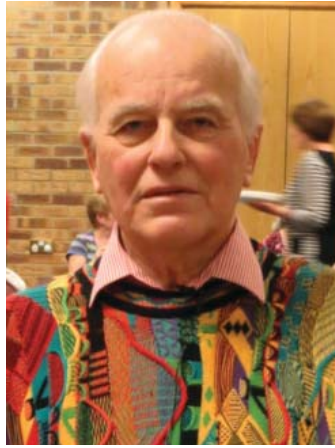
On the final Sabbath her topic was, 'What is so annoying about grace?' and she made use of Exodus 34:5-7 and Matthew 20:1-16 to share new insights about God's grace. She invited her hearers to accept the extraordinary gift of God through Jesus Christ, even if it sometimes confounds the human mind.

One invited guest wanted nothing but 'a Bible to read', and her beaming smile when she received one just said it all!

E. AMO-ADJEI



back page



Garston pensioners' group

Stanborough Park Church runs an outreach programme catering for pensioners living in the local area. Over a hundred people, about a third of them church members, regularly attend the fortnightly meetings at the church and the group has a waiting list.

Currently under the leadership of Mrs Romy Barham, the Seniors Club has built up a reputation over the years for the quality of its speakers at meetings. One of these was Zena Skinner, former BBC TV cook, who returned in mid-March to entertain the members with amusing anecdotes from her days in front of the television cameras; a time when she became a household name.

Now heading towards her tenth decade, Miss Skinner spends her time raising funds for charity. She says that she 'likes to make people laugh' and donates the money she obtains from her public speaking engagements to British medical charities. So far a total of £127,000 has been raised this way and she has no plans to stop the good work!

Earlier in March, the group enjoyed an informative talk and slideshow on King Richard III and the Wars of the Roses by church member Dr Colin Allen. Colin grew up on the Park and served as a missionary doctor at Kwahu Hospital in Ghana before becoming a consultant surgeon at Pontefract Hospital.

New principal for Newbold College

Newbold's board of governors appointed Dr John Baildam to the position of principal at its spring meeting on Sunday, 11 May 2014. Dr Baildam will commence in this role on Tuesday, 17 June 2014.

Dr Baildam has served the College for over 30 years in a variety of capacities, including as director of the School of English and director of admissions and records. Since 1997 he has served as part of the college's senior management team as director of academic affairs and more recently as deputy principal. He also has experience of secondary education, having served as boy's dean and teacher at Stanborough School (1975-82), and as chair of governors for Garth Hill College, Bracknell, since 1999.

Through his involvement with many professional committees and associations, Dr Baildam has comprehensive knowledge of the UK higher education system and a wide network of contacts.

Dr Baildam comes with solid Adventist as well as academic credentials. He is a pastor's son and his wife, Lynda, who serves at the college as associate librarian, is a pastor's daughter.

Dr Baildam feels 'excited by the task ahead as all of us at the college – students and staff – work together to give increasing numbers of young people the opportunity to enjoy the high quality of spiritual, social and academic life at Newbold'. He is already working to significantly increase enrolment with a stronger and more permanent student body by September 2015.

His message to parents and potential students alike is, 'Too many are missing out on the life-changing, faith-affirming experience to be found at Newbold (<http://www.newbold.ac.uk/>)!'

Dr Baildam replaces Dr Philip Brown, who is returning to Australia following a three-year stint at Newbold. College development under his leadership included campus refurbishment, student life initiatives, the introduction of a certificate in health and wellness, and joining the Adventist Colleges Abroad consortium.

KIRSTY WATKINS



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After retiring he decided to develop his love of history and settled on investigating the story behind Richard III, who had strong links with the area where he lives, and attempts to separate fact from fiction surrounding the monarch. Having done much research and visited many sites

associated with the king and the War of the Roses, he has found himself in demand to speak on a subject so close to his heart.

JUNE COOMBS

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Sunset

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	Lon	Card	Notf	Edin	Belf
Jun 6	9.13	9.25	9.25	9.53	9.54
13	9.18	9.31	9.31	9.59	10.00
20	9.21	9.34	9.34	10.03	10.04
27	9.22	9.34	9.34	10.03	10.04

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