

London Day of Celebration

by Pastor Ebenezer Jones-Lartey

Objective

The objective of this event is to celebrate 300 persons baptised during the 'Mission to the Cities' campaign in London. The day of celebration will give us the opportunity to showcase the talents we have in music, culminating in a musical concert to end the day. The day of celebration will achieve three things:

- To communicate the urgency of the soon coming of Jesus;
- To plan our next strategy in line with SEC evangelism plans;
- To enter into a bond of agreement to focus on evangelism.

How will we achieve our objective?

Between July and August 2014 all London churches will be involved in public evangelism, at the end of which there will be baptisms in all the London churches on 2 August. The following is the baptismal target for each area:

- Area 6A
75 persons to be baptised;
- Area 6B
75 persons to be baptised;
- Area 6C
75 persons to be baptised;
- Area 6D
75 persons to be baptised.

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9th AUGUST 2014

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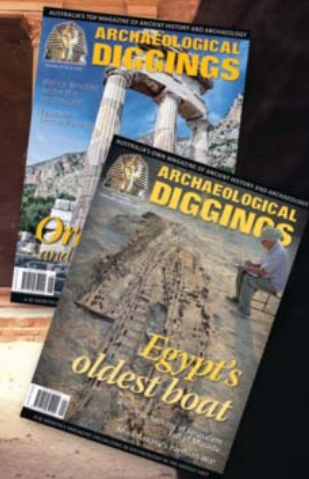
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editorial



Julian Hibbert
Editor

But this woman has done nothing wrong!

This is an extract from the Amnesty International (UK) website:

'Meriam Yehya Ibrahim is eight months pregnant and currently in detention with her 20-month-old son. On 15 May her death sentence was handed down by a court in Khartoum, the capital of Sudan, after she refused to recant her religion. She had been given three days by the court to recant her faith after being convicted of "adultery" and "apostasy" on 11 May. Meriam was sentenced to death by hanging under Article 126 of the Sudan Criminal Code for "apostasy", and to 100 lashes under Article 146 for "adultery".¹

Those few words provide the gist of the situation facing twenty-seven-year-old Dr Meriam Yehya Ibrahim – a helpless and innocent victim of 'Sharia (Islamic) law' and its 'Criminal Code'. According to this law you become an apostate 'either by refusing to follow Islam, or through being a believer of an alternative religion'.²

What has Meriam done wrong?

Under Sharia law a child's religion is determined by the faith of the father. If he is a Muslim, his children are to be regarded as Muslims, and for them to reject that is apostasy (death). In Meriam's case, although her father is a Muslim, he was 'absent during her childhood' and her mother raised her as an Orthodox Christian.

To make matters worse, Meriam then married a Christian and once again fell foul of Sharia law. This time she was 'guilty' of adultery because it does not permit the marriage of a Muslim woman to a non-Muslim man!

Sadly, it seems that one of her relatives (possibly a brother) reported her to the authorities and her ordeal began.

Two years on death row

Effectively, she is now on 'death row' in Omdurman Women's Prison in Khartoum, with Martin, her 20-month-old son, and Maya,

her baby girl, as cellmates. According to the Associated Press her lawyer has appealed the sentence on the grounds that her trial involved 'procedural errors'.³ Hopefully, this new legal initiative, along with the mounting international pressure on the government of Field Marshal Omar Al-Bashir, the Sudanese president, will have a positive outcome for her.

If it doesn't, she faces two more years in prison . . . to nurse little Maya and deepen her bond with Martin . . . then she will have to say a tearful farewell to them before stepping out to meet the hangman!⁴

And let's not forget that sometime during that period she will also have to face the pain and public humiliation of 100 lashes, just for marrying the man she loved – who, by the way, is wheelchair-bound.

They need support

Meriam is the innocent victim of perverted morality – of evil masquerading as 'law' – in the face of which most will agree with Manar Idriss, Amnesty International's Sudan researcher, that:

'The fact that a woman could be sentenced to death for her religious choice, and to flogging for being married to a man of an allegedly different religion, is abhorrent and should never be even considered.'⁵

Much is being done by a variety of human rights groups and foreign embassies to draw attention to this injustice. For the rest of us, Amnesty International has organised an email petition that is really simple to participate in. Just go to their website (www.amnesty.org.uk) and click on 'Sudanese mother facing execution', then on 'Take action', and it will provide you with an email letter template. All you need to do is put in your first name, surname and email address and click 'submit'.

Just doing this will make a difference. So will your prayers and any other support you may wish to give. Perhaps you can organise a prayer vigil in your church – not just for Meriam and her little family, but for all the other victims of such injustice.

Three fateful days

In our reflection on Meriam's situation, however, there is something else to bear in mind. 'She is a prisoner of conscience. . . .⁶ She could have stepped free of the apostasy charge, and thereby the death sentence. The court gave her three days to make up her mind as to whether she was a Muslim or not. She could have relinquished her Christian faith and stepped quietly out of the noose – as a number of other Sudanese have done in recent years – but she didn't!

Her husband knew that the court officials were wasting their time:

'I know my wife. She's committed,' he said. "Even last week, they brought in sheikhs and she told them, "I'm pretty sure I'm not going to change my mind."'⁷

According to www.oxforddictionaries.com a 'prisoner of conscience' is someone 'who has been put in prison for holding political or religious views that are not tolerated in the state in which they live'. Technically, a 'prisoner of conscience' is someone who is a criminal by conviction – who chooses to uphold a belief or value even though it unjustly turns him or her into a 'criminal'.

Don't forget Calvary

Don't forget the haunting dialogue between those crucified with Christ in Luke 23:39-41 (NIV):

'One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!"

'But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong."'

Whatever that appeal court says . . . I hear a dry desert wind whispering: 'This woman has done nothing wrong!'

¹https://www.amnesty.org.uk/sites/default/files/fi11814_1.rtf ²<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/sudan-woman-appeals-apostasy-death-sentence-24003634> ³Sharia law as practised in Sudan prohibits carrying out the death sentence on an expectant woman until two years after she gives birth. ⁴<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/05/30/world/africa/sudan-apostasy-husband/> ⁵<http://www.amnesty.ie/content/sudan-mother-sentenced-death-and-flogging> ⁶<http://edition.cnn.com/2014/05/30/world/africa/sudan-apostasy-husband/>



Enhancing Health

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

Top tips for food safety

The World Health Organisation Food Safety fact file¹ states:

- More than 200 diseases are spread through food.
- Millions of people fall ill annually and many die as a result of eating unsafe food.
- Diarrhoeal diseases kill an estimated 1.5 million children annually, mainly attributable to contaminated food or water.
- Proper food preparation can prevent most foodborne diseases.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) records the UK having more than 850,000 reported cases of people experiencing food poisoning a year. Subsequently, *NHS Choices – Your Health, Your Choices* has produced the following guidance titled, 'Ten ways to prevent food poisoning'.²

1. **Wash your hands** – Prior to and after handling foods, hands should be washed thoroughly with soap and hot water and dried. This is crucial after handling raw foods (meat, fish, eggs and vegetables) – also after touching the bin, using the toilet, blowing your nose, or touching animals.
2. **Wash worktops** – Wash worktops with hot soapy water before and after preparing food, particularly after they've been touched

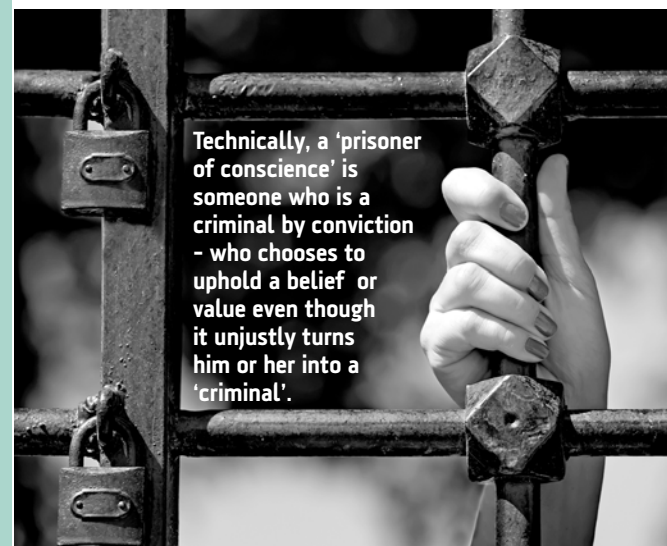
by raw meat, raw eggs, fish and vegetables.

3. **Wash dishcloths** – Dirty, damp cloths encourage bacteria to breed. Wash dishcloths and tea towels regularly and let them dry before re-use.
4. **Use separate chopping boards** – Raw foods can contain harmful bacteria that spread very easily on contact. Use separate chopping boards for raw food and ready-to-eat food.
5. **Keep raw meat separate** – It is crucial to keep raw meat away from foods like salad, fruit and bread. These foods won't be cooked before you eat them, so any bacteria that get on them won't be killed.
6. **Store meat on the bottom shelf** – Always cover raw meat and store on the bottom shelf of the fridge, where it can't touch other foods or drip onto them.
7. **Cook food thoroughly** – Check that food is thoroughly cooked and piping hot all the way through. All meats must be cooked until steaming hot, with no pink meat areas.
8. **Keep your fridge below 5°C** – Keep fridge temperature below 5°C. Keeping food cold prevents the 'bugs' that cause food poisoning from growing.
9. **Cool leftovers quickly** – Cooked food that won't be eaten immediately must be cooled as quickly as possible (within 90 minutes) and stored in the fridge or freezer. Use any leftovers from the fridge within two days.
10. **Respect 'use-by' dates** – Don't eat food that's past its 'use-by' date label. Scientific tests have demonstrated how quickly harmful bugs can develop in packaged food.

Good health!

¹ http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/food_safety/facts/en

² <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/homehygiene/Pages/Foodpoisoningtips.aspx>



Is there always a second chance?

by Jim Ayer, Vice President for Advancement, Adventist World Radio



Removing the Zig-Zag paper from my pocket, I packed it with marijuana, rolled it and lit up – the way I had done hundreds of times before. But all of a sudden, I was enveloped in what I can only describe as a Transformer-like movie! My postage-stamp-size room felt as though it was unfolding and expanding into a massive basketball auditorium, planting me on a top row of seats from where I peered down on the court below.

Facing each other, at court side below, were two individuals in deep conversation. They needed no introduction: one was the devil; the other was God. I couldn't make out what God was saying, but I understood every word spoken by the devil. He was engaged in a heated debate with God over me – why I should be his. I never could understand what God was saying, but each time God spoke, the devil was immediately silenced. This exchange continued for some time, and then, poof, it was over and I was back in my tiny room, stone-cold straight and sober.

I had always prided myself on being able to handle any kind of mind-altering drug, but this was different. *What just happened to me?* I thought. As my mind grasped for answers, a voice, as clear as a bell, said, 'Jim, you have a short time to decide.' *Decide what?* I thought.

It would be two years before I would fully have my answer, or should I say, choose to listen to what God was telling me. Fast-forward to a wife and child.

Janene and I had been with friends in a distant city for most of the day. I had been partying so hard that she had to drive the tedious two hundred miles home.

Once home, I headed for the bedroom to check on my stash of drugs while Janene changed our baby. The moment I reached into the cabinet to grab some marijuana, a voice seemed to surround me: 'Jim, tonight is your last night to decide.'

Neither I nor Janene had any Christian background but I knew immediately what this meant. I had ignored this voice for far too long, but now it was decision time. My choices were clear: one path led to eternal life; the other, to eternal destruction.

I grabbed the drugs, walked into the kitchen, and told Janene, 'Honey, I have to get rid of everything.' She was stoned now too and with a smile responded, 'Sure.' I headed to the toilet, whereupon I threw everything in, pulling the lever. Whoosh!

In that brief moment, it was like the weight of the world was lifted from my shoulders – a weight I didn't even know I was carrying until that moment of surrender. I sunk down in a heap of tears, grabbing onto that cold, white porcelain bowl. I turned and saw Janene standing in the doorway with tears in her eyes. God had spoken to her too.

I rose from my knees and said, 'Honey, would you join me in a prayer?' 'Yes,' she responded. We headed into the living room, arm-in-arm, where I softly spoke these few words to

the One who had pursued me for so many years: 'God, I'm sorry it took so long.'

I'd like to say the story ended there with, 'And they lived happily ever after.' But there is far more to our journey than I have space to share. However, let me give you a brief glimpse. We fell in love with the study of God's Word, which, in turn, brought us to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Our joy in the Lord ran deep, and our greatest fun was always found in sharing Christ with others.

I eventually felt an inner call to full-time ministry, but I was already experiencing a problem. I was studying my Bible less and praying less. This always causes difficulties because less time with God means less power to walk in the direction He asks us to go. Although I did enter school with the goal of becoming a minister, I was no longer listening to His voice saying, 'This is the way, walk ye in it.'

One day, a church leader – a conference president – called me and invited me to pastor a brand-new church. My response was, 'No.' You see, I was no longer listening to God's voice. Shortly after, I accepted an invitation to join a new real-estate sales office.

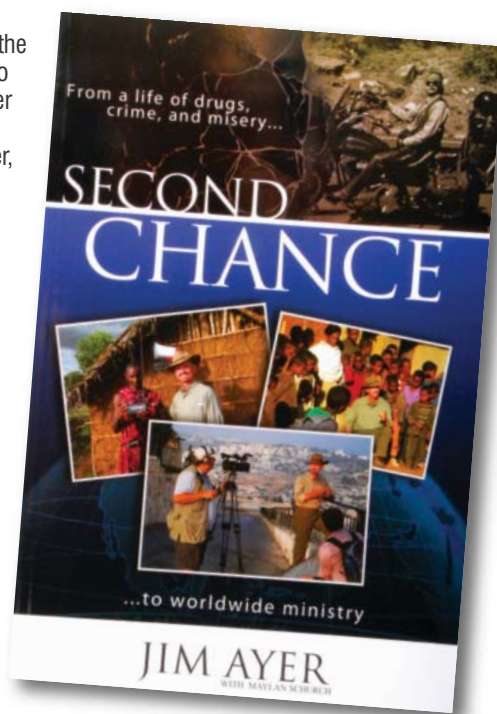
As a real-estate broker, I rose to the top 4% of all Coldwell Banker agents in all of North America. I was rolling in success – and money. I had my own radio talk show, I was on TV, I wrote a column for the newspaper and I spent time in our nations's capital rubbing shoulders with US congressmen and senators. Yes, I had it all – according to the world's standards!

Sitting in church one Sabbath, dressed in my nice suit – looking and acting good – a voice said, 'Jim, the Holy Spirit may be poured out all around you and you will never recognise it or receive it.'

At that moment I realised that having my name written on the church books did not mean my name was written in the Book of Life. I had been pretending to be a Christian for many years. Yes, I looked the part and acted the part – why, I even preached the part – but on that day I knew that if God had come to Earth to take His children home, I would not be among them. It was a startling revelation that changed my life forever.

Is your name written in the Book of Life? Have you heard the voice of God speaking to you and are you listening and following that voice? If not, now is the time. You will never be sorry you responded. . . . It will be life-changing! I speak from experience.

Discover more about Jim's incredible story of redemption in *Second Chance* – phone 01476 591700, 8am-5.30pm, Monday-Thursday. Available while stocks last!



Dear Editor

I would like to add my bit to the *Girling* story – the *Girlings*, as we affectionately called them, were members of the Luton church and they spent many a happy Sabbath at my parents' home after church. I remember him talking about his shoe business. When I decided to attend Newbold College for a year he invited me to his shop to choose anything I needed for the year – they were a lovely Christian couple!

PAM DAVIES (NÉE CADY)

Re: 'Pantomime Adventism?'

Dear Editor

The *MESSENGER* 2 May letter entitled 'Pantomime Adventism?' by Barry Gowland covered a number of points to which I would like to respond, but before that, for those who know me, I am *not* the Yorkshireman who moved down to Taunton!

Barry, after introducing his concern about our worship style, then covers a number of points and first refers to a watchword he says we once held dear – 'Reverence My Sanctuary'.

Now over the years I have visited a considerable number of our churches and there are a few that have these words in large letters at the front of the church, so I know what Barry means when he says it has been a 'watchword'.

However, I would challenge Barry and your readers to consider this. . . . What does the phrase 'Reverence My Sanctuary' (which comes from Leviticus 19:30) refer to? The answer, is to the Jewish tabernacle, and not to our churches in which this statement has been painted or hung today!

Now we know that the temple was completely destroyed during the Roman siege of Jerusalem in AD 70; and then in 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20 the apostle Paul teaches us that we should honour God with our bodies, which are now the temple of God, not some structure of wood or stone. In a similar way Jesus, in the Gospel of John, said that our bodies would be the residence of the Holy Spirit.

I point this out because sometimes some people treat bricks and mortar (our churches) with more respect and reverence than they show to other people! Though I can appreciate that we need to have some manner of respect/reverence during the occasions when we meet together in our places of worship, I think that our priority is to first show reverence not only to our own bodies but also to one another.

PASTOR PAUL HAWORTH



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

'The US Navy says Passover in AD 31 was on a Wednesday. We say that Christ died on a Friday on Passover AD 31. How do you explain the difference?' David Robbins

A Our belief that Christ was crucified on a Friday is based on, among other texts, Luke 23:54-24:1, which refers to it as the preparation day. Grace Edith Amadon, writing in the *Ministry* magazine of May 1942, records that the argument for a Wednesday crucifixion 'is chiefly based upon an erroneous interpretation of a letter issued by the US Naval Observatory. This letter was in reply to a request for a list of "paschal" full-moon dates during the crucifixion period.' She goes on to say: 'No generally recognised Jewish calendar for the first century is available . . . if one were to ask the United States Almanac Office for a series of paschal full moons relating to the time of Christ, a table of the first full moons after the vernal equinox would doubtless be sent in response. Such full moons are called *equinoctial* moons. . . . But they can be understood as *paschal* only in the sense that modern Jews and Catholics alike employ the first full moon after the spring equinox as a basis for computing Passover and Easter. This, however, is no evidence that such was the observance in the first century.'

Basically, the modern astronomical techniques now used by Jews for calculating Passover were not used by Jews of Christ's time, and so extrapolating backwards from modern data to determine the date of the crucifixion simply won't work! In a 1929 letter, Captain W. S. Eichelberger of the US Naval Observatory – who listed the *equinoctial* full moon for AD 31 as Tuesday 27 March – clearly states that it wouldn't help enquirers to determine the *paschal* full moons. Amadon notes that any March Passover would be a month too early, since the barley required for the subsequent wave offering of the firstfruits (Leviticus 23:5-12) would not yet have been harvested.³

Why then argue that Christ was crucified on a Wednesday? In Matthew 12:40, Christ said He would be in the grave 'three days and three nights' (NKJV). 'Proponents of the Wednesday crucifixion theory are adamant that "three days and three nights" must be understood to mean . . . at least 72 hours. This would obviously make a Friday afternoon crucifixion impossible. . . . On the other hand, a Wednesday afternoon crucifixion, with Jesus rising from the grave late on Sabbath afternoon, would be three full days and three full nights.'⁴

However, that "three days and three nights" could mean only part of the first and third days was apparently well understood at Christ's time, because . . . *The Jewish Encyclopedia* says that "in Jewish communal life part of a day is at times reckoned as one day."⁵ Therefore, the Friday crucifixion is consistent with Matthew 12:40.⁶ Neither the US Navy nor Scripture give us any reason to doubt that Christ was crucified on a Friday.

¹<https://www.ministrymagazine.org/archive/1942/05/the-wednesday-crucifixion-argument>
²Ibid ³Ibid ⁴'When Was Jesus Crucified?' Marvin Moore, *Signs of the Times*, April 2011, available online at www.signstimes.com/?p=article&a=40056419881.692 ⁵Ibid ⁶For more detailed information on inclusive reckoning and Christ's resurrection, see the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, pp. 248-251; for the timing of the Passover, see also the additional notes on Matthew 26 in vol. 5 of the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, pp. 532-537

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.

As part of our commitment to dialogue regarding issues of concern within the Church, here are two more submissions on the subject of women's ordination. They represent different positions, both of which have a right to be heard.

Ordination and 'women's rights'

by Jodi Yeboah

I have been on the fence regarding the issue of women's ordination but have recently settled on the side which does not support the ordination of women, mainly based on the following:

1. Motivation of advocates for women's ordination

As I listen to those who strongly support the ordination of women, I am keen to understand the passion behind their position. When I have queried them on their position, I have been disappointed to find that it is motivated by their belief that women should have the same rights as men. I am disappointed that their position is motivated specifically by societal ideals such as the rights of the individual rather than spiritual zeal.

2. Dangers of following societal ideals

It is a dangerous practice for the Church to adopt societal ideals which have been established by the secular *zeitgeist*. Western society in general holds ideals which conform to individualism, a cultural concept that stresses that the individual should look after his or her own interests in spite of the consequences that pursuing the ideal has on the community. The Bible, however, presents a very non-individualistic approach to life whereby God would have us conduct ourselves in ways that would benefit society as a whole, rather than in ways that serve to please the individual (Acts 2:45).

It is clear for even the secular mind to see that the 'women's rights' movement is influenced by the individualistic mindset. For example, whereas, traditionally, a woman had a vital role as the one raising the children while her husband went to work, this movement told her that such a role was too menial and that it was her right to pursue a job outside of the home. As you would expect, with a movement built on individualism, the outcome was damaging to the structure of the family and therefore society at large. I implore the reader to ponder on what pursuing this ideology has done to society. My question then is, why, when the undesirable effects of following an individualistic ideal are so obvious, would the Church want to follow the same ideal?

Indeed, God's Word shows that women should be respected, should have great

responsibilities, and should have a valued voice in society, yet God is clear in His directions for the family hierarchy (Ephesians 5:24). The direction for wives to submit to their husbands would seem completely at odds with the women's rights movement and many would like to ignore these instructions as archaic and irrelevant. Yet when one understands the collectivist ideals behind God's instructions – familial security, societal security and spiritual security – it is clear that God has the best interests of His people, both male and female, at heart when He directs husbands and fathers to be loving spiritual leaders in the home and for such men to be spiritual leaders in the church (1 Timothy 3:4). Just because secular society has 'moved on' and accepted the notion that women and men should be able to do the same job doesn't then mean that we should ignore or reinterpret the values presented in the Bible as culturally irrelevant.

3. Slippery slope

If the Church's proposal to ordain women is built on the rights of the individual, it opens the floodgates for anyone's rights to be upheld by the Church. Ordaining women on the basis of their 'rights' rather than biblical principle will pave the way for honouring the rights of all who may apply to be ordained, even those who espouse ideals that are unambiguously at odds with the position of the Bible. Even if we entertain the idea that there will be no negative consequences in ordaining women, I believe the Church should always make decisions based on biblical principle, rather than the rights of any individual, to avoid being carried away into a place to which it never intended to be taken. Such movements tend to start innocuously enough but often pick up momentum like a speeding train, and we find we cannot stop things progressing beyond the limits that have been set. Who could have foreseen the effects of the Western individualistic women's rights movement on our society today?

Conclusion

I came across these quotes in my morning devotion this week and thought how fitting they were for this topic I have been preparing. They are from the writings of Ellen G. White, indeed a woman who was given great

responsibility by God. The first quote supports the point made about the non-individualistic nature of God's principles for living. I stress the parts most salient to this position:

'Eve had been perfectly happy by her husband's side in her Eden home; but, like restless modern Eves, she was flattered with the hope of entering a higher sphere than that which God had assigned her. In attempting to rise above her original position, she fell far below it. A similar result will be reached by all who are unwilling to take up cheerfully their life duties in accordance with God's plan. *In their efforts to reach positions for which He has not fitted them, many are leaving vacant the place where they might be a blessing.* In their desire for a higher sphere, many have sacrificed true womanly dignity and nobility of character, *and have left undone the very work that Heaven appointed them.*' *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 59.

And another quote which illustrates the position against following 'progressive' worldly ideals (again, the emphasis is mine):

'Such has been Satan's work from the days of Adam to the present, and he has pursued it with great success. *He tempts men to distrust God's love and to doubt His wisdom.* . . . Satan tempts men to disobedience by leading them to believe they are entering a wonderful field of knowledge. But this is all a deception. *Elated with their ideas of progression, they are, by trampling on God's requirements, setting their feet in the path that leads to degradation and death.*' *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 54, 55.

Biblical authority

by Charles Lethbridge

I have been following the debate on women's ordination for some time now and am interested to see further articles on the subject covering the two main areas of discussion: the question as to whether a woman should have the authority of a pastor (Josephine Vine, *MESSENGER* 2 May, page 15), and if authority isn't an issue, then should she be ordained for the role?

While Josephine Vine has argued against the authority of women I believe the Bible has more to say about authority in general. The biblical culture is not a man-centric one, as one might be led to believe when reading some of Paul's writings in isolation, but a patriarchal one, which is not quite the same thing. A woman could not have authority over her husband, but also a son could not have authority over his father or his mother. If we take the same reasoning as Ms Vine laid out we must also ensure that when a pastor's parents or grandparents are either present or resident in his congregation he must cede his place and authority to them.

While not necessarily literally applicable today, Numbers 30 lays out a pattern of authority for other purposes and is a clear example of a widowed or divorced woman

being her own authority and not answerable to any man. No mention is made of her sons taking control once the father has passed away, and verse 9 explicitly forbids this.

Based upon this kind of evidence found throughout the Bible, I do not believe there is an automatic authority problem with women having authority over men – only that man is head of his wife. A woman other than my wife could have authority over me such as Deborah had as judge over Israel, just as there are men over whom I have authority and there are men who have authority over me.

I believe that the patriarchal model of a man and his wife as heads of an extended family or camp is an appropriate analogy from the Old Testament of how we should work with our ministers in our churches. With this I believe that, ideally, both husband and wife should be pastors and both should be ordained. So long as the husband is still priest in the home ministering to his wife, I don't see an issue with his wife then being the pastor at church, having her authority over her own flock. Much like the ideal woman of Proverbs 31 she is able to organise her own life and her husband is blessed by her work. The husband in Proverbs 31 has no need to interfere with any of the varied tasks his wife does because he trusts her judgement – the same should be the case with ministry and he should never be given reason to use his authority over his wife at home to influence her in her role as pastor.

With regard to ordination itself (such as we use it today), I strongly believe it should be much broader in its scope and all members should be ordained for their own wide and varied personal ministries such as Ellen White talks about here:

'Women who are willing to consecrate some of their time to the service of the Lord should be appointed to visit the sick, look after the young, and minister to the necessities of the poor. They should be set apart to this work by prayer and laying on of hands. In some cases they will need to counsel with the church officers or the minister; but if they are devoted women, maintaining a vital connection with God, they will be a power for good in the church. This is another means of strengthening and building up the church. We need to branch out more in our methods of labour' (*Review and Herald*, 9 July, 1895).

BUC 'Women of Virtue' is born

by Sharon Platt-McDonald
BUC director for Women's Ministries

On the weekend of 26 and 27 April the BUC Women of Virtue programme was launched with more than 600 women in attendance by its founder and director, Sharon Platt-McDonald. The concept for this programme was sown in 2007 when she presented a PowerPoint presentation on the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31, in which presentation she outlined thirteen of her key attributes. According to her, 'In 2011 when I was elected to serve as the Women's Ministries director for our churches in the UK and Ireland, I spoke to God about my desire to produce a programme for women that would build them up in every aspect of their life. God showed me that I already had the tools to do so and referred me to the presentation I had been using over the years on the purposeful and productive life of the virtuous woman of Proverbs 31. However, I realised that creating such a programme would be a huge task and began praying earnestly for God to show me someone with whom I could work in the delivery of such a programme. Sandra Golding was the person God led me to and she is now an associate director of the programme.'

These enthusiastic women have since produced a 282-page *Women of Virtue Programme Manual* and a host of supporting literature such as the *Programme Brochure*, *Spiritual Journey Journal*, *Gratitude and Prayer Diary*, *Prayer Series*, *Financial Tips for Women* and *Theme Song* bookmark. This whole range of programme products was on display for the perusal of attendees over both days of the event.

The Day of Fellowship on the Sabbath was a rich mixture of uplifting music, worship songs, powerful preaching, dynamic presentations, monologues, sketches and special items.

Commencing with a lively Sabbath School led by Thembe Masingire, participants were encouraged to take a comparative look at the woman of virtue and the woman of vice, both portrayed in the book of Proverbs. Lessons were drawn from both lives.

Guest speaker, Dr Deborah Harris, preached a powerful sermon entitled '*It's a Matter of the Heart*'. She also gave an inspiring presentation on her organisation – Praying For Your Children – which prefaced its UK chapter's launch later in the Sabbath afternoon. This was followed by a moving exercise in which women were invited to write out their prayer requests for their children and place them on the prayer trees at the front of the auditorium.

The weekend was packed with beautiful music and uplifting song, along with dramatised Scripture readings and some powerful monologues on Bible women by Catherine Anthony Boldeau. A special moment was the unveiling of a commissioned sculpture of the woman of virtue skilfully crafted by Andrea Rashford-Hewitt, depicting women in different life stages as singles.

Equally poignant were the awards in appreciation of women who have made a significant contribution to their church and community:

- The Heather Haworth Award for women who have demonstrated excellence in leadership within Women's Ministries in their local



Dr Deborah Harris

church, conference or union.

- The Julia Smith Award for innovation in Women's Ministries and the empowerment of women.
- The Dr Deborah Harris Award for women who are contributing significantly to the wider community through leadership, business ventures or any other forms of success.
- The Women of Virtue Award for a woman who has shown outstanding development in several aspects of her life and is a role model to other women.

The Sunday event provided an opportunity for attendees to hear an in-depth outline of the programme, with an explanation of each chapter of the manual and the seminars, which will accompany the roll-out of the programme.

Attendees were again blessed through powerful presentations from Dr Harris and the time to reflect on them. Equally enriching was the 'Talk Time' with Dr Harris led by team member Hyacinth Gale, where the attendees' questions were answered in an open and engaging manner.

A highlight of the day was the interactive exhibition depicting the 13 elements of the programme, which gave the women a chance to reflect on their lives as they answered questions through the accompanying exhibition workbook.

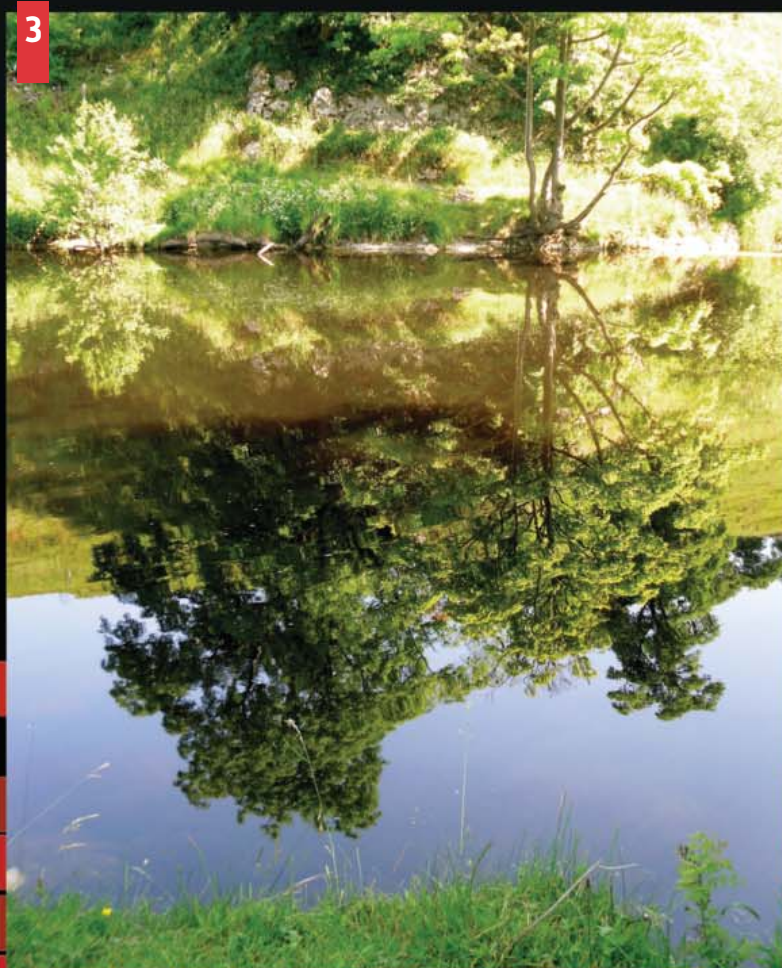
The Women of Virtue signature song composed by Paulette Delisser Marceny and the theme song written by Sharon Platt-McDonald were performed over both days and well received by the women.

We solicit your prayers for God's favour on this programme as we bring it to our churches and communities across the British Isles, as both an in-reach and an outreach tool to equip, nurture and empower our women to achieve their full potential through Christ.

Readers' gallery

Megapixels of creation

... and it was very good!



1. **Green lizard, St Vincent.**
David West, Olympus E-M5.
2. **Herring gull.**
Jimmy Paghastian, Canon EOS 5D mk2.
3. **River reflections.**
Anita Marshall, Samsung L-201.
4. **Fallen leaves.**
Yvonne Bauwens, Nikon D90.
5. **Glacier.**
Robin Beamish, Fujifilm S3280.
6. **Woodland walk.**
Marrick Schoonraad, Canon EOS 40D.
7. **Raindrops.**
Carmen Belei, Samsung Galaxy Note II

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

Don't you just love nature . . . ?

. . . and it's all around us.

Last year, my wife and I got a dog. As with everything, he comes with pros and cons! But one of the bigger pros is that we get out more. He loves his walks and we make a concerted effort to get out into the countryside with him, rather than just walking the streets. And of course, it's an excuse for me to take my camera, not that I need much of an excuse!

I still want to see your pictures, such as the selection seen here, which are all great. You don't have to have a dog to go outside into nature. Grab your camera and go for a walk; the garden can wait.

If you have enjoyed all these great pictures, how about sending in yours to: dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk – just remember to keep them 'hi-res'.

DAVID BELL

'Like valleys they spread out, like gardens beside a river, like aloes planted by the LORD, like cedars beside the waters.'

Numbers 24:6 (NIV)



new members



Three baptised at the Park

Stanborough Park welcomed three young people, Simeon Beckford-Tongs, Gabriel Severi and Daniella Bernard, into their church family by baptism on 5 April.

Each of these three young people had a story to tell to the world. Simeon Beckford-Tongs, baptised by Pastor Sam Gungaloo, is an avid basketball player and a Year 10 student at Stanborough School. He enjoys reading and plays in the string ensemble at school. Although his

grandmother Doris Tongs is a member of the Watford Town church, he was first introduced into the church by his brother, who had attended Stanborough Primary School some years ago.

This is his story: 'Dr Susan Moser (a member of Stanborough Park Church) one day felt a sudden urge to go down the street where she lives (where I also live with my parents) and meet the neighbours. She went to every house, extending an invitation to get together. She came to my home and met my mother, who was and still is very ill. It seemed to be a divine design as we started Bible studies some time later.'

But Simeon's journey was not over and he went through a period of disbelief. He continues, 'Pastor Sam Gungaloo helped me greatly during this period and it was through our theological discussion that I came to a rational belief.'

Gabriel Severi, an IT college student, had taken Bible studies many years ago with a student missionary at Stanborough School, but for several reasons had postponed his baptism.

There was a period when he didn't even think about it any more. It was not until he took Bible studies with Pastor Jacques Venter that the thought crossed his mind again, 'It is up to me to decide for Jesus first, so He can be allowed to work on me.' Gabriel's prayer is that he might be able to relate to others in a way that Jesus would do.

Daniella Bernard is also a student at Stanborough School and a talented musician with a Grade 8 Diploma in Violin. She grew up in an Adventist family and had Bible studies with Pastor Mary Barrett. 'It was a journey of spiritual growth that made me realise I didn't want to wait any more,' says Daniella, whose desire is to have a career in music and use her talents to the glory of God.

PAULA YUNUEN CARRILLO

Hanwell holds baptism

Hanwell Seventh-day Adventist Church's 'Sing a New Song' outreach series, led by Pastor Dusan Uzelac, ran from 8 to 15 March, culminating in a baptism and a Communion Service.

The candidates, cousins Giovanni Ferreira Norton and Vanda Piedade, are from a Portuguese family. They were immersed by Pastor Uzelac during a service that was full to bursting point with their families, church members and friends – all there to support them. The baptism was followed by the Lord's Supper.

Giovanni, who is 12 years old, said he has wanted to be baptised for the past two years so that he could be ready when Jesus comes. He was so delighted to hear he would be baptised at the end of the meetings that he spent that special Sabbath grinning from ear to ear.

Vanda, also from a family of Adventists, strayed as a teenager. She was not ready to be baptised and wanted to be like her friends, who enjoyed themselves by going to parties and clubs. She's been coming to Hanwell Church on and off for the past twenty years but recently began attending again. After coming for a few months she said that it 'felt good being there'. Vanda was convicted that God was calling and drawing her back to Him, especially because her children were getting older and she wanted to be a better example to them.

ANGELA PINNOCK, COMMUNICATIONS



Left to right: Vanda Piedade, Pastor Uzelac, Giovanni Ferreira Norton.

Pastor baptises grandson

'One of the biggest challenges for any teenager is this: What shall I do with Jesus?' said Pastor Michael Taylor just before he baptised his grandson Kieran on 10 May. The venue was the Vejle church, the oldest Seventh-day Adventist church in Denmark.

Kieran had given this question a lot of thought and had studied with the Danish Union Conference Youth director, Thomas Rasmussen. Kieran's conclusion was that he wanted to accept Christ as his Saviour and prepare for baptism. Pastor Rasmussen had also given Bible studies to another young man, Tobias, and it was his pleasure to immerse this candidate.

Kieran's parents, Adrian and Susanne Taylor, worked in the Treasury department of the South England Conference before moving to Denmark (Susanne's homeland). Adrian is now the bursar of the Adventist school at Vejleford, where 16-year-old Kieran is a pupil,

studying for his A-level examinations. Prior to living in Denmark Adrian and Susanne were active members of the Hemel Hempstead church. They are now very involved in the Vejle church, and Kieran and his sister Rebecca are active Pathfinders.

Family from Denmark and England, along with many church members and friends, filled the church to witness the happy occasion.

CYNTHIA SOUTHCOTT



Brave North Sea baptism

John (Taffy) Barrington was baptised in the North Sea at Broughty Ferry on the afternoon of Sabbath 17 May. Football used to be his idol and he chose that particular afternoon because it was the time 'his' team were playing in the Scottish Cup. His baptism represented a turning away from the lure of football towards God as the prime mover in his life. His childhood in Wales had been troubled, in and out of foster care, and eventually he dropped out of school, too. Ultimately he wanted to get away from everything and everyone and just walked away from his home.

He travelled northwards through Wales, then North England, to Glasgow (Scotland) and finally settled in Dundee, even though he knew no one there. As he had no money, he was homeless and often had to beg. For no reason at all, he carried a Bible with him,

which he picked up in a charity shop in England, and he would read it occasionally. It became and still is part of his journey. After weeks on the streets of Dundee spent in derelict buildings, doorways, and cemeteries he got a break and was taken into a hostel. There he met Sandra, for whom times were also very hard, and they became good friends.

Another young lady in the hostel mentioned to Taffy that her dad (Bob McPhee), who was part of the Travelling Community, could do with help from time to time. When Taffy met Bob for the first time, he told him that he believed in the Lord, not knowing if his confession was going to be met with scorn or disrespect. To his surprise Bob invited Taffy several times to the local Dundee Seventh-day Adventist church, which he attended. From his first visit Taffy couldn't believe how welcoming the church was and how right it all felt for him. After a number of visits, Taffy felt more and more like he belonged. Along the way, he received help from many people at the church.

Taffy soon began to study the Bible with Pastor Marcel Ghioalda. In the meantime, he obtained steady work, and a flat, and life felt so much more meaningful to him at last. Taffy had tried many churches but everything about the Adventist church felt so 'right' to him: especially the regular and deep engagement with the Bible. Pastor Ghioalda always praises Taffy for the enthusiasm with which he shares his newly found faith with everyone he meets. Taffy is also an amateur poet and communicated his growing faith to the church from time to time in his own rhymes. Eventually Taffy asked to be baptised in as public a way as possible in the sea. After he emerged from the cold waters of the Tay estuary he said, 'I feel so good,' 'I'm born again,' 'God has led me so far,' 'I want to thank so much all the good people who have helped me.' He was particularly delighted that several passers-by showed interest and asked what was happening and what it meant. He thanks the Lord every day, as without Him he was so blind in this world. Taffy is now in the process of composing a poem about his changed life and his baptism.

JOHN WALTON



Chelmsford baptism

On 10 May in the Chelmsford church Katalin Somogyi (Kate) and Aliz Feyer were baptised by John Melki Karunaidas, the local pastor.

Kate and Aliz are friends, and they decided to dedicate their lives to the Lord on the same day following their Bible studies with Pastor John Melki. The event was witnessed by their family and friends from Hungary, Australia and the UK.

According to Aliz, she was one year old when her parents became members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and she was taught how to follow and love God from quite an early age. She started to pray independently before bedtime, and she was eleven when she took up studying the Bible on a daily basis. She saw the grace and kindness of God towards mankind through His words, and she kept them in her heart all the time. When she was a teenager, she gained her first personal experiences about His existence when her family went through a long period of very hard times. Sadly, over the years she has had some 'U-turns' and now regrets that she let herself become lukewarm towards God. Recently, at the point of her repentance, she decided to commit herself to the Lord and let Him lead. Now she believes that we couldn't wish for a better Shield against temptations and attractions than God.

According to Kate, she grew up in an Adventist family in Hungary. As a teenager, she moved to the UK and due to cultural differences and language barriers she drifted from church life. She felt unable to fit into any of our churches for years, let alone think of baptism. However, life challenges through the years strengthened the importance of God in her life and in recent years she has gained a newfound understanding and appreciation of the cultural diversity we have in our British churches. Although she felt hesitant about being baptised, prayer, the work of the Holy Spirit and the hard work and dedication of Pastor Melki paid off, enabling her to fully commit herself to the Lord.

The church is blessed to have Kate and Aliz, and may God bless them and continue to use them for His ministry.

JOYCE SWAMY

All are invited to the
Annual Day of Praise & Worship
hosted by the UK Chapter of Adventist Guyanese (UCAG) & friends

Date: Sabbath 5 July 2014

Theme: 'Touching Lives & Changing Hearts'

Venue: St George Church Building, 4 Vancouver Rd, London SE23 2AF
(10 minutes on the No. 75 bus from Lewisham Rail & DLR station.
Also, the 202 & 181 bus stop is 4 minutes' walk to the venue).

9:30am: Praise and worship

Special speaker: Pastor Des Rafferty

1-3pm: break for lunch. 3.30pm: election & installation of new UCAG officers for 2014-2016. 4.30pm: an inspirational afternoon of gospel music featuring the Croydon SDA Church Youth Choir (a special offering will be collected for two children's homes in Guyana).

Coaches are available from Holloway SDA Church.



For more information please contact:
Florence Allen, 0192 3663596;
Dick Hunter, 0208 9860570;
Terrence Blackman, 0750 7643366



Leicester Central Gospel Cafe

Leicester Central hosted its first Gospel Cafe for this year on 22 March, a groundbreaking local attempt to reach out to those who need spiritual and emotional healing. According to the event organiser, Thenji Banda, around 250 people crammed into the church's basement to enjoy hot drinks, cake and the evening's programme, entitled, 'Speak Life'.

'The theme was drawn from the first part of Proverbs 18:21, which speaks of the power of life and death being in the tongue,' Thenji said. 'This is, in a very literal sense, where what we say can either build someone up or tear them down. In this day and age too many people are walking around broken because of something that was said to them at the age of 6 or 13 or whenever . . . by people who didn't believe in them and told them they were not good enough!'

The programme was designed to help listeners move towards a place of healing through the power of Jesus by looking at their lives through the eyes of God instead of their own.

All types of local and national artistic talent were involved in the event: short videos; poetry; presentations; fine singing and good music. This was followed by an 'after glow' session where the audience could chat over what they had experienced while eating homemade cake and pastries.

Leicester Central first used a Gospel Cafe event as an evangelistic method last year with positive results.

The church is near two universities and further education colleges and at the hub of this East Midlands city, and continually seeks ways to reach the students with the life-changing teachings of Jesus. Hundreds of international students, notably Chinese, choose Leicester as their place of



study, and these outreaches could prove to be their only serious exposure to Adventism.

In an effort to provide a safe haven to Adventist students away from home, Leicester Central allows them space on the church premises for them to hold banquets, socialise, hold discussions and run Bible studies. The church's student liaison service also puts up stalls on fresher days at the universities and makes contact with the Christian Union leadership, as well as the local chaplains. The reception has been very positive from academia and students. The move into supporting students has been backed by the local congregation, who are now seeking to get a more visible presence on campus.

As a result of this emphasis Leicester Central has regularly baptised young students who go on to other places to further their careers and speak life to all.

W. GEORGIA DACRES
PHOTOGRAPHY: LYNDON SWEENEY

Supper club or super club!

On Thursday 8 May, Ringway Life Building changed its role from spiritual food provider to healthy food provider.

Around 30 people attended the evening, organised by Beryl Emm, to enjoy the food and the company, and to listen to the dulcet tones of our very own wedding singer, Yvonne Hutton. A talk on the benefits of exercise was also on the menu.

Several of the nine visitors were there for the first time, while the rest

were 'regulars' from previous supper clubs and health programmes.

Support was first-class, with members either decorating the tables, working in the kitchen, waiting on the tables or talking to the visitors. Without such support these programmes would not be as successful as they are.

For those interested in the menus and recipes we use, and for future Supper Club bookings, visit www.lifebuilding.org.uk.

PHILIP EMM



The Ringway Life Building Supper Club is a follow-up to their recent four-week RESET (Regular Exercise Sensible Eating Training) programme.

Each week the programme consisted of a practical exercise section, supported by appropriate videos and explanations on technique, the importance of warming up, and how to avoid injury.

The exercise was supported by lectures on a variety of nutritional topics, including the latest fascinating research on microbiomes (the micro bacteria predominantly in our gut); the effects of sugar in the diet; and the benefits of fibre.

Each week's session concluded with a 'taste and see' event that was enjoyed by all – especially the ten or more visitors.

Preacher training class

Any passer-by early that Sunday morning would have wondered why a group of men and women, all holding books, were having their photograph taken on the street outside what looked like a shop but was in reality a church.

Students at the Scunthorpe venue of the East Midlands area preacher training class were just rounding off eight weeks of instruction on how to preach. A photograph to record the event was in order.

From the two youngest participants, Musa and Nontobeko, to Andrew Palmer from Lincoln, perhaps the most experienced preacher present, they all presented excellent short sermons. Musa Dube bravely and powerfully addressed the topic of 'death', revealing what happens when we die. Ugo Naujokat, a Brazilian now resident in Lincoln, crafted a good sermon which addressed the question, 'Why does God always seem to take His time and not work to our time?' Recently baptised Rob Hughes, a 'veteran' preacher already, with two sermons to his name, enacted the life of Peter and truly encouraged the class to go and share the Gospel.

Class tutors Pastors Vernon Nambo and Peter Jaynes worked hard to make the series an enjoyable and profitable event. George Mahachi (elder), commenting after the meeting, expressed the opinion that the



training would really benefit the churches for years to come, but that local churches now need to find opportunities for their new preachers to practise and develop their skill, some in evangelistic settings, others to exhort and encourage members and visitors to our prayer meetings, Sabbath morning services and afternoon programmes.

The North England Conference Ministerial director, Pastor Richard Jackson, has strongly promoted the need for more preachers, of whom these East Midlands members, meeting in Newark, Nottingham, Bulwell and Scunthorpe, are a small sample. More than one hundred new preachers are in training throughout the Conference.

PASTOR PETER JEYNES

Kindness moves centenarian to tears

On Sunday, 13 April, Mr Headley Bennett celebrated his 101st birthday, and Alycia Hanson and Marvette Bennett from Longsight and Levenshulme Church were at his house to honour him. Not being a member of the Adventist Church, he was especially touched by the kindness of the members who had put together a gift basket containing everyday food and essentials, as well as a bottle of sparkling grape juice, a framed personalised poem composed by Marvette Bennett, a *FOCUS* magazine, and a card signed by both children and adults. Mr Bennett was very touched by the fact that even the children had signed his card.

He revealed that he and his wife rarely get visitors, and hadn't seen family members for over a year. He insisted that the framed poem would be hung prominently on his living room wall and

warmly welcomed the idea of further visits from members of the church.

It brought tears and smiles to the centenarian's face as they sang happy birthday, shared Scripture and said a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing over his long life.

The surprise gift basket and visit idea sprang from the AYS Personal Ministries teams, whose aim is to reach out to the local community, sharing Christ in new and creative ways, through fellowship, hospitality, love, kindness and willingness to help one another. We are sure there will be more such stories to follow!

ALYCIA HANSON/MARCIA ANDERSON



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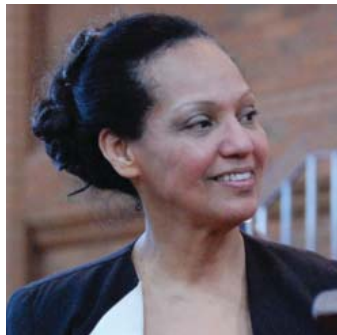
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MARRIAGE RETREAT



Fitness and nutrition at Camp Hill

Joseph and Rita Caines respectively spoke on the topics of running and good nutrition during the Advent Youth Service at Camp Hill Church on Sabbath 29 March. Joseph, a church elder, has been a keen runner for over 30 years, and his jogging 'has taken him around the world'.

Although many athletics events often take place on the Sabbath, Joseph testified that God has always enabled him to take part in competitions and events on other days.

He trains at Sutton Park in North Birmingham, where he runs with a friend at a suitable time of the day in a pollution-free, inspiring outdoor environment, to improve his physical health and enable him to communicate with God in nature.

He went on to explain that people should be cautious when starting out with jogging, checking with their doctors if necessary. Four Bournville members who had been spiritually uplifted through running highlighted the need for good equipment. Shoes, clothing and a water bottle were essential jogging kit.

When done in harmony with the NEWSTART programme running could help control high blood pressure, reduce heart disease and the risk of diabetes, and improve bone strength and lung function. It also reduces stress and aids refreshing sleep.

Rita Caines gave a well-researched presentation on nutrition that emphasised that a wide range of brightly coloured fruit and vegetables in our diet can help beat some modern diseases.

Other Health Ministries teams around the Midlands interested in raising the fitness and nutrition levels in their congregations are welcome to contact the Camp Hill Health Ministries leader, Dr Jacqueline Halliday-Bell, for more information.

DR JACQUELINE HALLIDAY-BELL

God solves Sabbath issue

I was baptised as an Adventist in March of 1990 after several years of visiting the church to listen to the members' melodious singing. There are some ways in which our church is like other Christian denominations, with this exception: our emphasis that the Bible must be our guide in anything and everything we believe and practise. This is why the Church places such a strong emphasis on the Ten Commandments and the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath.

Since my conversion and baptism into this faith, I have never worked during the Sabbath hours. I am currently working at my third job and for each of them I thoroughly prepared for the interviews, especially that point when it seems that the panel is impressed and they ask, 'Any questions?' It is here that I respond by smilingly saying that I am prepared to work on any day, holiday, even Christmas Day, and on any shift required by my employer – except during the Sabbath hours, because of my religion. To which I usually get the response, 'What are the Sabbath hours? Are you Jewish?' My reply is normally simple, and it goes thus: 'My faith is a Christian belief based on the biblical ten

commandments of Exodus 20 and we do no work from sunset Friday till sunset Saturday.'

It so happened that last year in January, due to a change of management, my new manager pushed hard to have this reversed. Despite all my explanations to her that my working conditions were discussed and agreed to at the time of my interview when I accepted the job, she referred the case to Human Resources.

My family prayed, and we asked a group of close friends to pray for us as well. One of my workmates approached me and told me how it was affecting them to hear that I was being taken to HR for my Sabbath convictions. He suggested that I write up a petition and said that they were prepared to sign it, stating that they work well with me and I am a colleague who is always ready and willing to swap shifts and help anybody who was desperate to have a day off.

When the day of the meeting came, one of the senior managers spoke up in the meeting: 'Nkosi, we've googled your church and we now know a lot about it, and I must say that it is a respectable organisation. We also know that you are doing

some good work fund-raising for your African school (this was in reference to the charity work I am doing for my former school, Zidulini Primary School, in Nkayi, Zimbabwe). We are happy with you not working on Sabbath and we'll put it in writing in your file for future managers.' Then, as if to put some icing on the cake, she added, 'We'll also make sure that you are excused on Friday late shifts because in some seasons the sun sets quite early.' Fellow believers, I hasten to say that these concessions are not the result of my wisdom; they are the result of God's power in action, and I can only say, 'Glory to His name!'

It is my conviction that when we take a stand for what we believe, we should be kind and polite to our employers and fellow colleagues as we do so; let us avoid being rude and constantly involved in wrangles and fights with colleagues; instead let us work hard and be pleasant and punctual at all times. Rather, with humility, let our actions speak the loudest on our behalf. God is the One who instructed us not to work on Sabbath, so let this be His problem, and ask Him to deal with it, while like Moses we wait and see the salvation of the Lord.

NKOSI KA NDLOVU

Nkosi Ka Ndlovu is a gospel musician who presently works full-time as a nurse.



Stanborough School Nurturing your child's future through quality education!

Stanborough School caters for students from 11 to 16 years of age and is committed to the development of the 'whole person': mental, physical, and spiritual. As a Seventh-day Adventist school, Christian values are the key to our successful and happy community of learners. Respect, courtesy and mutual understanding are the essential values we live by.

Stanborough School offers a caring environment where each student gets the opportunity to excel academically and develop essential life skills. We also seek to develop each one's compassionate nature through active involvement with international charity organisations like STOP International and ADRA. Students can participate in the annual humanitarian trips to India, Community Service Day projects, charity concerts and a variety of other fund-raising events. Progression through the school ensures that strong moral and ethical values are developed, thus preparing each student for the challenges of an ever-changing world.

We are committed to developing a unique learning community that encourages cross-cultural respect and global citizenship. With more than thirty nationalities represented within the student and staff body, Stanborough School is often referred to as a 'mini' United Nations. We provide support for students with English as a second language in all year levels, and foster a range of international links. Educational trips abroad include destinations such as France, Spain, Hong Kong, India and the USA.

Stanborough School offers exceptional value for money as an independent school and our fees are very competitive. However, in these challenging economic times, we recognise that some families may find it difficult to afford the fees. We are therefore pleased to inform you of the following discounts which are available should you choose to send your child to our school:

1. Adventist Families: You receive a 30% discount if you are a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
2. Family Discount: You receive a further 10% discount for each additional sibling who attends the school.
3. Bring a Friend: You receive a 10% discount on tuition fees for each student you refer to us who effectively enrolls in the school.

Students are welcome to join the Stanborough family! Currently spaces are available from Year 7 to Year 10. Flexible boarding is available. For more information, or to arrange a visit, please call Mrs Sonia Poddar, registrar, on 01923 673268 or email spoddar@spsch.org.

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Watford, Hertfordshire WD25 9JT

www.spsch.org

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tune in at: www.brixkidz.org/kidspoint



new online children's
worship series

lively and exciting
praise songs
inspirational stories
biblical verses, prayer
and much more

LAUNCH DATE
30th May 2014

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KidsPoint is a production by BrixKidz (Brixton Seventh-day Adventist Church Children's Ministries Department)



Entrepreneurs Fair "You need to know this" Surviving University

Entrepreneurs Fair

Come and experience the skillfulness of BUC's Entrepreneurs. From chemical free skin products, a variety of wholesome breads, vegan delights including vegan/gluten-free cup-cakes topped with fruit, professional neck and shoulder massage, bespoke decorated cakes, through to web designing. Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1-day-3-events-entrepreneurs-tickets-10950243473>

"You need to know this"
For children and parents

Specifically for children who will commence Years 7 and 9 in September 2014 - 10/11 and 13/14 years of age

Year 7s to be: Understand why it is not too early to set a career goal, participate in a micro Diamond Standard programme, etc.

Year 9s to be: Understand why having a humanities subject and a language at GCSE is important when applying to university. Know which GCSEs to shun, etc

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-1-day-3-events-parents-children-tickets-11517056827>

Surviving University

Advice on planning nutritious meals on a student budget
Recognise the difference between wants and needs. Learn how to set a budget, and minimise your debts
Q&A session with current students and recent graduates. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1-day-3-events-students-tickets-10950291617>

Date: 20 July 2014
Time: 13:30—16:30

Venue:
Ilford Seventh-day Adventist Church
14-16 Coventry Road, Ilford, Essex,
IG1 4 QR

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E-mail: info@lacu.co.uk



This conference is for you!

1-2-3:16 will bring together experts from many fields who will help you decide your next career and study move, answering questions such as:



date: **7-11 July** price: **£75** venue: **Newbold College**
more information: www.adventistyouth.org.uk

back page

Area 3 Women's International Day of Prayer

On 1 March more than 250 women gathered at Leeds Trinity University for the first Area 3 Women's International Day of Prayer. The auditorium's decor was speckled with purple, which complemented the purple attire of the attendees.

The theme for the day was 'Lifter of my head', and the programme included testimonies, video clips, prayer and singing.

The sound of the praise team and the women singing the theme song, 'Thou O Lord are a Shield for me', resounded through the auditorium.

A special offering was collected for a local women's refuge and a prayer scroll was placed at the front of the auditorium, which within minutes became a sea of prayer requests.

Geraldene Farmer (NEC Women's Ministries director) welcomed the women of Area 3 and spoke of listening to the birds singing that morning, which reminded her, 'Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.'

Sharon Platt-McDonald (BUC Women's Ministries director) was the main speaker for the day, and she shared a moving testimony of how, when she was a health visitor, she visited a woman who had fled her country of origin. While heavily pregnant she was gang-raped in a hospital. The gang left her severely injured and her baby had to be delivered early by Caesarian section. When she later found out that she was HIV positive her family rejected her; however, through her encounter with Sharon and prayer she was able to say: 'I feel like I can hold my head up again – even though I feel rejected by the world, God has not abandoned me.'

The sermon resonated with many of the attendees and at the altar call they were invited forwards for individual prayer with the designated prayer advocates. This was a solemn and joyous occasion and the Holy Spirit's presence was felt in the room.

In the afternoon Geraldene presented a message encouraging women that 'we can share good news to whoever God places in our



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01227 769 075

Or visit www.cgcbigcitytour.co.uk

way' and that 'we were born for this purpose.'

Sharon gave the final presentation of the day on resilience, sharing experiences from her own life, which produced much laughter owing to Sharon's gift of storytelling. The powerful message demonstrated how God can make us resilient when we are going through difficult times.

It was a wonderful, Spirit-filled day, attended by many visitors, and a young Christian attendee from Sweden said, 'If my mother, who is an atheist, had been there she would have become a Christian.'

MORVA GREY

Newbold College of Higher Education is hosting a reunion for staff and students from the 1980s on the weekend of 15-17 August. Packages are available for the full weekend (two nights' accommodation, all activities and meals) from £85 per person. If you prefer, you may also purchase tickets for individual activities and/or meals. For more details, and to register, or to access our Facebook group to connect with other former students and staff, and to share photographs, visit the 1980s Reunion page on our website: www.newbold.ac.uk/1980s-reunion.

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
Jun 20	9.21	9.34	9.34	10.03	10.04
27	9.22	9.34	9.34	10.03	10.04
Jul 4	9.20	9.32	9.32	10.00	10.01
11	9.15	9.27	9.27	9.54	9.56

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