

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

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Newbold College Award Ceremony 2014

On Sunday, 15 June, Newbold College of Higher Education welcomed guests from around the world to witness the academic success of 35 students at its 2014 award ceremony.

Among them were the Mayor of Bracknell Forest, alumni, staff, family and friends of the graduands, and of the Newbold community. Graduating student Melissa Myklebust was joined by her grandfather, Finn Myklebust, who graduated from Newbold exactly 50 years ago!

The event truly proved to be a family affair when graduand Mervi Kalmus played the violin accompanied by her father, Mr Rein Kalmus, on the piano. Their piece, 'Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart', was a perfect expression of the feeling of the graduates.

Newbold's diversity was reflected through the graduates, who represented sixteen different countries. These students had successfully completed their studies in one

of the following disciplines: Business, Theology, Religious Studies and Liberal Arts.

Dr Bertil Wiklander, president of the Trans-European Division (TED) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and chair of Newbold's Board of Governors, had the privilege to introduce the guest speaker of the day, Mrs Audrey Andersson, executive secretary of the TED.

She addressed the audience with the lines, 'Life is real, life is earnest', taken from Longfellow's poem *A Psalm of Life*. She continued by pointing out that by celebrating the graduates' achievements, life is indeed real and earnest.

Mrs Andersson reminded the graduating students of the sentiments Paul expressed in 1 Corinthians 15:58: 'Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain (NIV-UK).

She also urged the students not to settle for less or be satisfied with small things, but to focus on the eternal perspective, no matter what their chosen profession will be. She encouraged them to give themselves fully, completely, absolutely, entirely to the work of the Lord. She also added, 'Make your life count; have high ideals; be committed to the ideals; fulfil your potential by giving yourself fully to the work of the Lord!'

On behalf of the graduating students, Danilo Puskas responded to the charge made by TED Education director, Dr Daniel Duda, to live the life of the kingdom of God in this present world; to love your God and your neighbour as the Lord commanded; to remain open to the needs of others; and to make Jesus known through lips and heart, by witness and service. This was a fitting end to a heartfelt award ceremony.

Learn more about Newbold at: www.newbold.ac.uk, and to view photos from the 2014 award ceremony, visit: www.facebook.com/newboldcollege.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT





This feature will appear periodically in *MESSENGER*, giving Sharon Platt-McDonald, our BUC Health director, an opportunity to converse with various health professionals on topics that will interest our readers.

Angelette Müller is a nutrition therapist and culinary health specialist, and she enjoys cooking good food. She has experience as a teacher, practitioner and chef, and is currently writing a book for parents and practitioners who have to care for children with autism.

SPM: Angelette, please tell our readers what inspired you to go into this field of work.

A. Müller: I've been interested in natural medicine for as long as I can remember. As a child we used natural remedies in our home, including skin brushing, hot and cold water treatments and monthly herbal detoxes. We cooked from scratch using natural whole ingredients. I was always reading the medical encyclopaedia, and knew I wanted to learn how to use natural remedies to promote health. God opened an opportunity for me to study nutrition at the Institute of Optimum Nutrition, an MSc in Clinical Neuroscience and Immunology, and then an MSc in Nutritional Therapy. I also trained as a chef and raw-food chef.

SPM: What are you doing currently?

A. Müller: I work as a nutrition consultant in my own private practice.

SPM: Angelette, in your area of specialism, what are the cases you are most likely to deal with?

A. Müller: I work mostly with patients with autism, digestive disorders and multiple food sensitivities. But I also support people who have metabolic conditions (such as diabetes), weight loss and energy issues.

SPM: Have you noticed an increase in these conditions and, if so, what do you attribute this to?

A. Müller: Yes, Sharon, I have. The reasons for this are complex, but they include the fact that people are not coping with life as well as they used to. Our bodies were designed to move but people generally are less active. Our diet is often over-processed, and our food is generally more depleted due to growing and storage methods. We are social beings and need each other for health, but our emotional and social support systems are reduced.

Martha Herbert, paediatric neurologist, talks about the impact of poor diet, toxins, stress and infections in the course of disease. I think that each of these things has a big

impact on both mental and physical health.

We are also spiritual beings and long for something more powerful and greater than ourselves, which, if missing, can have a negative impact on our health too.

SPM: How do you normally detect when a patient has a lifestyle-related issue?

A. Müller: Fatigue is a common problem. An example could be a person with symptoms of mid-morning fatigue, poor concentration, an afternoon energy slump and no energy after work.

After checking out that there were no red flags requiring their referral to a GP, I would recommend breakfast with quality protein and low-GI/high-fibre foods (for example, wholegrains, vegetables, and fruits like berries) and a little quality fat or healthy food with natural fats (flaxseed oil, nuts, coconut, avocado). I would encourage eating at regular times, so the timing of lunch and supper would be important to help the body regulate the blood sugar. I would also suggest that they cut down or completely avoid high-sugar foods and stimulants (sweets, caffeine, foods with additives, alcohol, and so on). Suggesting plenty of water throughout the day would also be beneficial. I would encourage lifestyle change, beginning with finding ways to relax (warm bath, walk, relaxing music, hobby). If they were open to spiritual things I would encourage 'promise medicine' three times a day, where they could choose promises from the Bible to be read before each meal: for example, 'casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you' (1 Peter 5:7, NKJV). Also, thankfulness: three things to be thankful for when your head hits the pillow. Of course there are many more things I could recommend, but you want to help a person at a pace that is doable.

SPM: That's a very comprehensive and holistic approach. I imagine that your treatment options will vary a bit for children.

A. Müller: Yes. Children can be quite selective in their eating, so trying to get them to try new foods is the biggest challenge. Adults tend to

have other barriers; one of the biggest barriers is the time and energy to prepare foods and the money to buy the best foods.

SPM: Can you give us an overview of any dietary links that may be associated with autism?

A. Müller: There isn't any 'one diet for all', but one of the most popular diets used in autism is a gluten- and casein-free diet. Unfortunately it is a diet that is quite processed. But I try to recommend less-processed alternatives. The difference can be as big as a child calmly sitting at the table, where before they would be throwing tantrums. Both autoimmune diseases and autism can be impacted by food sensitivities and allergies, so we work on that. It is a complex process.

SPM: You have been working with the BUC in the implementation of the Community Cooking Hubs, which has been a success so far. Can you share your plans for its development?

A. Müller: Community Cooking Hubs has trained 40 people in the conducting of healthy eating and cooking demonstrations. We have dates for Brixton (London) and Dundee (Scotland) for later on this year. We would like to train 400 people in total, and hope that some will attend our specialist workshops on how to run cooking schools, how to change from a meat to a plant-based diet, how to optimise plant-based diets, and cooking with children. We want to have more cooking schools running in our churches.

SPM: Angelette, what is your final bit of advice for us?

A. Müller: I would say cut out or reduce high-sugar foods, replace drinks with water, eat more vegetables, eat more natural plant proteins (most of the time), and choose wholegrain foods. Make time to cook food from scratch and to educate yourself about health and cooking healthily.

SPM: In closing, please tell us about your forthcoming book.

A. Müller: My book is on autism – a cookbook with a bit of science. It is a real challenge to deal with some of the symptoms associated with autism, such as night waking, screaming, hyperactive behaviour, pain and head-banging. I have seen children respond positively to dietary changes with a reduction or elimination of some of these symptoms. Hopefully it will improve their quality of life, which is invaluable. The book is a full-colour cookbook, available from early 2015.



Julian Hibbert
Editor

You can't find what isn't there!

Just over a year ago the BBC published a report by Alan Strathern on the deteriorating relationship between Buddhists and Muslims in Burma and Sri Lanka. In fact, the situation in Burma was so bad that it had flared into savage violence, claiming at least forty lives.¹

Interestingly, both countries had small and peaceable Muslim minorities, and neither country was facing a militant Islamist threat. Buddhists are usually the last religious group to be involved in any form of violent conflict, for at the heart of their faith is the obligation to 'refrain from taking life (non-violence towards sentient life forms), or *ahimsā*.'²

In the *Dhammapada*, which are Buddha's thoughts in verse, he raises the bar even higher by stressing: '*Hatred does not cease by hatred at any time: hatred ceases by love, this is an eternal rule*.'³ Traditionally Buddhists make an effort to adhere to these teachings. Unfortunately, however, a year on and the situation in Burma is much the same. According to the United Nations, during mid-January this year 'more than 40 Muslims were killed when a Buddhist mob stormed a village in an isolated corner of western Myanmar . . . hunting down residents with knives and machetes. . . .'⁴

What has gone wrong?

How come a religion committed to non-violence and the elimination of hatred finds itself directly involved in such brutality? What has gone wrong?

According to their 'theology' Buddhists are urged to meditate on 'loving-kindness', letting this state of mind permeate and moderate their behaviour. This is how one of their sources explains it:

*'True loving-kindness is a natural faculty concealed under the heap of greed, hatred and ignorance. Nobody can give it to us. We must find it out within ourselves and cultivate it mindfully. Mindfulness discovers it, cultivates it and maintains it.'*⁵

This may sound good, but it isn't true. This is Buddhism's 'Achilles heel'!

You can't find what isn't there!

Buddhism shares this fatal flaw with most world religions (including some brands of Christianity) and every form of humanism – they underestimate the malicious nature of man, and credit us with an inherent goodness we don't possess. They have it dead wrong when they claim that '*true loving-kindness is a natural faculty concealed under the heap of greed, hatred and ignorance*'. It isn't.

I know that by personal experience – and so should you. Let me illustrate with reference to our recent visit to relatives in Watford, where we celebrated their youngest son's birthday in a local park. There we found a table, near a stream, with the right blend of sun and shade to grace a summer afternoon.

We had just drunk a toast to the little fellow's health and were eyeing his cake with

growing interest, when a black dog bounded into our family circle . . . sniffing at his pram and slobbering around our picnic hamper. Then, before we could do anything, his owner crashed our party too. She stepped among our things, seized the mutt by the collar and dragged him off without so much as a 'by your leave'!

Something deep inside me stirred, uncomfortably.

Chatting pleasantly on we forgot the incident, until the black dog suddenly reappeared at our picnic table and things got very personal: he set about licking our hostess's leg!

Something inside me stirred again.

Due perhaps to the mellowness of the afternoon and the quality of the conversation, we overlooked this second infringement. But what happened next did not go unprotested. Minutes later the animal was back to snatch one of the little fellow's gifts – an expensive cuddly toy!

Instinctively we took off in hot pursuit – three males and an irate mother! We snappily retrieved the toy . . . and I fired off a few *emphatic* observations at the 'indifferent' owner about her dog being a public nuisance for the third time!

Sometimes the truth needs to be candidly told . . . but this time, perhaps my anger blunted its effectiveness.

They've got it wrong

Experience tells me that the Buddhists have got it wrong – the wrong way round. 'True loving-kindness' is not '*a natural faculty concealed under the heap of greed, hatred and ignorance*'. It is more likely to be a veneer concealing a '*heap of greed, hatred and ignorance*'!

Is this why Jeremiah wrote these words? '*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: Who can know it?*' (Jeremiah 17:9, NKJV.) Is this what compelled Paul to exclaim:

'There is none righteous, no, not one; There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.' (Romans 3:10-12, NKJV.)

The 'secret'

Like me, through the harsh reality of human experience, King David discovered *that you can't find what isn't there!* Human nature is not benevolent, or even benign; it is malevolent, and we need to be saved from it in two ways. Firstly, there is that deep, merciful cleansing that David refers to:

'Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.' (Psalm 51:1, 2, NKJV.)

That gracious cleansing restores our relationship with God by neutralising the past – no matter how forbidding it may have been. But this needs to be followed by the creation and preservation of a 'pure heart':

'Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.' (Psalm 51:10, NIV.)

The type of 'heart' that would have behaved a bit differently in that Watford park . . . or on the roof of David's palace.



¹<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/magazine-22356306> ²<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism> ³<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dhammapada> ⁴*The Times of Israel*: <http://www.timesofisrael.com/un-myanmar-buddhists-kill-more-than-40-muslims/#ixzz351YmjDJ> ⁵http://www.bhavasociety.org/main/resource/meditation_on_loving_kindness_metta/

Don't make my brown eyes blue

by Pastor Jeff Couzins

This story is set in an African country that was going through a time of trouble and tribal bloodshed. A white woman, born in that country, was somehow caught up in all the violence. She knew that if the perpetrators found her she'd be killed for sure because there was systematic violence against white people as well as the tribal warfare.

In utter desperation she decided to disguise herself as a local tribeswoman by blackening her skin.

While she was busy doing so, the woman remembered that when she was a child she had hated the colour of her brown eyes. Another white friend, a little girl in the same class at school, had blonde hair and blue eyes. She recalled how she had just wanted blue eyes. In fact, she used to cry herself to sleep while she prayed for God to change her eyes to blue.

But for now she was caught up in a dangerous situation and had to focus on what was happening around her. Then suddenly, she heard the frightened voice of an African friend calling, 'Hurry up, the soldiers are coming!'

The woman joined her black female friends, all wrapped up apart from a bit of skin around the eyes, and they hustled out of the building. But it was too late and the soldiers caught them in the street. The soldier in charge looked at the women one by one, and when he came to the white woman with blackened skin, took one look at her brown eyes and ordered them all on their way.

Suddenly it dawned on her: her brown eyes had saved her



Suddenly it dawned on her: her brown eyes had saved her life! After that she couldn't thank God enough for giving her brown eyes.

life! After that she couldn't thank God enough for giving her brown eyes. 'I'm so glad You didn't listen to my prayer as a child. Now I know that You know what's best for each one of us.'

Why?

How often have you asked God, 'Why did You make me this way?'

Maybe you don't like the colour of your eyes, the tone of your skin, your height, the shape of your body, or even the sound of your voice. I know I would be different if I could. I would change the tone and texture of my skin, my speech impediment and the need to shave every day!

It's not that I don't like myself: I just wonder if I couldn't be better than I am. After all, there's nothing wrong with self-improvement, right? Studying to improve our knowledge and our minds is scripturally sanctioned. In 2 Timothy 2:15 (NIV) the apostle Paul wrote, 'Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.' The truth referred to in that passage refers to the Bible, right?

God calls us to improve ourselves. No reasonably minded person would argue with that.

The danger

But can we improve on what God has made? Wasn't that the reason for Lucifer's fall? Didn't he want to be better than how God had made him?

Isaiah 14:13, 14 (NIV) says of Lucifer (who after his fall became Satan), 'You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars

be, or use any of my other potential to achieve, then I am in danger of trying to improve upon God's handiwork.

Now don't get me wrong. If a person is born disabled, and an operation or some form of therapy can enhance one's quality of life, or even remove that disability, then God be praised. It means that the person is moving towards the potential God placed in him or her. If that disability cannot be lessened at this time, then, as the apostle Paul says

of God . . . I will make myself like the Most High.' Talk about arrogance – is there any other as bad as he?

My point is this. If God's creation is perfect (or very good, as described in Genesis 1:31), then any change to that perfection means it becomes . . . imperfect, right? I can imagine that the more Lucifer strove to improve upon his perfection, the more he distorted it, moving further away from what God had created towards the Satan he became. In this way God is in no way responsible for Satan's evilness.

That sounds like a warning not to change. No, that isn't what I'm saying. So how do I know whether I'm changing what God has created, or whether I'm improving myself? The answer is, I believe, straightforward.

Reaching our potential

If I have the potential to improve myself, then I am not changing what God has created when I do so. I am merely employing the faculties God gave me. However, if I want to be something that I cannot study to be, exercise to

elsewhere, 'I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation. . . . I can do all this through him [Jesus] who gives me strength' (Philippians 4:12, 13, NIV).

If we can improve ourselves, then let's do it. Let's celebrate the potential God has placed within us. But let us not try to improve on what is beyond our potential. Body sculpting, tattooing, and so forth are not within our natural (or innate) potential. But don't get me wrong: God's forgiveness reaches everywhere human possibility can take it.

As the woman in Africa could give thanks for brown eyes, when for years all she wanted was blue, we can also give thanks for what we have – for how God has made us. As Crystal Gayle sang all those years ago, 'Don't it make my brown eyes blue.'

My prayer for all of us is, Lord Jesus, You have created each one of us perfectly. We can improve ourselves to attain to the potential perfection You created in our minds, our bodies, our emotions, and our spirits. But may we never become something You did not intend us to be.

Gift Boxes for TOGO

Order your gift boxes online by the 31st of July!
adra.org.uk



9,000 gift boxes togo . . .

This year ADRA-UK's annual Gift Box Appeal involves sending boxes to the beautiful country of Togo, for 9,000 primary school children.

The Gift Box project is a great activity for the whole family to support, and after the tremendous effort of the church and the wider community last year we know this year will be another great success!

Something new for this year is that our packaging suppliers will ship out the boxes to the ADRA agents, and so all orders for boxes will need to be submitted by 31 July.

For further information on the ordering process please visit adra.org.uk. There is also a chance for you to get involved and be a part of the Gift Box Appeal! This year, we're looking for volunteers who are ready and willing to check our boxes in order to give them the final seal of approval before the kids in Togo get a peek at them. If this is something you're interested in doing, then please contact volunteering@adra.org.uk.

Get involved with #teamadra.

UKZAF Mass Choir

All UKZAF Mass Choir members are invited to attend a rehearsal on 12 July 2014 at 2.30pm at the Stevenage Seventh-day Adventist Church, Methodist Church Hall, Sish Lane, Old Town, Stevenage, SG1 3LS, United Kingdom. New members are most welcome.

Contact Kaloshi (fostinokaloshi@yahoo.co.uk) for more details, but before Wednesday 9 July please.

Free to WORSHIP

British Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Religious Liberty Festival

16 AUGUST 2014

BETHEL CONVENTION CENTRE
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10.00-17.30

GUEST SPEAKER
Dr Barry Black
 USA Senate Chaplain

live streaming by
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There will not be any separate children/youth meetings! Please bring a packed lunch
 Please visit www.eventbrite.co.uk (maximum 10 per booking)
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TICKETS



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

'What is triple (or triune) baptism, and why do some churches practise it?'

Apparently, Christ's command to baptise 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' (Matthew 28:19, NKJV) has been understood among some denominations as an instruction to immerse candidates once for each Member of the Godhead, for a total of three times. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 'Baptism is performed in the most expressive way by triple immersion in the baptismal water . . . accompanied by the minister's words: "N., I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." . . . At the invocation of each Person of the Most Holy Trinity, the priest immerses the candidate in the water and raises him up again.'

Orthodox believers point to the triple immersion's 'strong case for being an apostolic tradition', claiming it to be 'a universally received practice that needed no justification. . . . Triple immersion is connected with the three-day burial of Christ.'² Thomas Aquinas in *Summa Theologiae*, citing Augustine and Gregory, also makes similar points: 'The triple immersion signifies the three days of the burial of Christ and the Trinity of Persons.'³

However, there is no biblical evidence that the apostles went around baptising each convert with three immersions, or that Jesus was baptised with three immersions: rather, 'Jesus' water baptism represented a prophetic enactment of His suffering, death, and burial (Mark 10:38; Luke 12:50) and His emergence from the water spoke of His subsequent resurrection (Romans 6:3-5)⁴ – singular events that were not to be repeated in His life.

Just as Christ's baptism foreshadowed His death, burial and resurrection, so we too are 'buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead' (Colossians 2:12, NKJV). Therefore, 'Baptism not only signifies the separation through death of the sinful nature and the burial of that nature, it also signifies the birth of a new creature in Christ Jesus'⁵ – an event that should happen once, not thrice, in the life of a Christian. In John 3:3-8, Christ speaks about being 'born again . . . born of water and of the Spirit' (NKJV), a clear reference to baptism, but nowhere here does He suggest that we should be born three times out of the baptismal waters to new life – on the contrary, Jesus told Peter that he needed only one complete cleansing, followed by subsequent washing of feet (John 13:5-10).

Christ died and was buried *only once*, and rose again from the grave *only once*, and so to be submerged in water and come out of the water three times, rather than once, seems to detract from the unique, once-and-for-all, death-and-rebirth symbolism of Christian baptism. It is hard to reconcile a triple immersion with such Christian symbolism, which suggests one immersion (being crucified with Christ), and one rising from the water (to newness of life).

¹www.vatican.va/archive/ccc_css/archive/catechism/p2s2c1a1.htm ²www.orthodoxanswers.org/answer/674/ ³Volume 57, Baptism and Confirmation: 3a. 66-72, Cambridge University Press, 2006, p. 35 ⁴*Seventh-day Adventists Believe . . .*, Review and Herald Publishing Association, Hagerstown, MD, 1988, p. 184 ⁵*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 7, p. 203

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 ongoing dialogue regarding issues that may be of concern to our denomination we have published a number of submissions about women's ordination.

Today we close that topic for the foreseeable future with an article by Pastor Mark Finley that appeared recently in the *Adventist Review* of 18 June, 2014.

Reflections on the TOSC deliberations

by Pastor Mark Finley

For the past two years I have participated in the Theology of Ordination Study Committee (TOSC). In the last three meetings we have especially focused on the subject of women's ordination. Although I have my own convictions on the subject, I have a different purpose in this editorial. My purpose is to share with you three vital, life-changing lessons I have learned in the process.

The first is simply this: although I have deeply held and what I believe to be biblical convictions, there are others who cherish different views which they believe are rooted in Scripture as well. Those who take different positions on the subject of women's ordination argue that their position is most faithful to Scripture.

How shall I relate to those who think differently than I do? Should our different views build walls between us? Should different opinions about the reading of the biblical text divide friends? Ellen White's meaningful comment is insightful here: 'One man blunders in his interpretation of some

portion of the Scripture, but shall this cause diversity and disunion? God forbid. We cannot then take a position that the unity of the church consists in viewing every text of Scripture in the very same shade of light.* This statement does not open the door for theological pluralism, where people can believe whatever they want. It simply means that on some aspects of Scripture we will not always see all things the same way. We are united in Christ through the Holy Spirit on the eternal, timeless truths of God's Word as expressed in our 28 Fundamental Beliefs. A worldwide church organisation with a divine commission to take the Gospel to the entire planet to prepare people for our Lord's soon return unites us in a mission far greater than ourselves. I have come away from the study committee with the settled conviction that what unites us is far greater than what divides us, and to me this is reassuring.

Christ calls us to love people, not label people.

Second, throughout this process I have been impressed to truly listen to and respect others who share a different

theological point of view than my own. It is far easier to listen to discover flaws in someone else's argument than it is to really listen to what they are saying. Pride of opinion is a fatal spiritual malady. God often teaches us through others who think differently than we do. One of the questions I have had to ask myself is, 'Am I willing to let the Holy Spirit speak to me through others with whom I disagree theologically? Am I so wedded to my personal opinions that my sole purpose is to convince others that I am right and they are wrong? In my attempt to maintain my convictions, is it Christlike to label people as being either "liberal" or "conservative", "progressive", "moderate" or "traditional" by putting them in a box and assuming my characterisation of them is true?' During this process I have again been impressed that labels are unfair characterisations of others. Christ calls us to love people, not label people. For me, the deliberations have been an appeal to humble my heart, confessing my arrogance and pride of opinion.

Third, if the discussions over women's ordination are merely a theological debate rather than a call to deeper spirituality, we have missed the point. Could it be that irrespective of ordination, the Holy Spirit is appealing to the entire church – young and old, male and female, those with more and those with less – to use the gifts He has given to participate with Him in His mission of reaching a lost world? Is it possible that one of God's priorities in allowing this entire discussion to surface is to focus our attention on the need for leadership on all levels of church organisation to re-emphasise Christ's call to every member to witness of Christ's grace and soon return? Maybe if our eyes are open and our hearts are sensitive to the moving of the Spirit, we will see God doing something we did not expect.

As recorded in Acts, the Holy Spirit was poured out without respect to either gender or ordination. Most of the 120 believers who met in the upper room that Pentecost were not ordained, and yet God's power was unleashed upon them and they changed the world. The Holy Spirit will be abundantly poured out again in latter-rain power on all who seek Him with their whole heart. We should never mistake appropriate biblically assigned roles and functions for the power of the Holy Spirit.

God's call to our hearts is much more than a resolution to ordain or not to ordain women: it is a call to know Him intimately, unreservedly commit ourselves to following His Word, and unite in the power of His might to share His end-time message with the world. I came away from two years of deliberations at peace, knowing that God is still leading His church. I am confident that as we pray, study, discuss, and ultimately vote on this issue, God will guide our collective decision for the glory of His name and the advancement of His kingdom.

*Ellen G. White, *Manuscript Releases* (Silver Spring, MD, USA: 1993), vol. 15, p. 150

We are united in Christ through the Holy Spirit on the eternal, timeless truths of God's Word.



The perfect call!

by Etienne and Carolyn Guenin

While we were dating, Carolyn and I extensively discussed our future plans: number of children, country to live in, standard of living, spiritual life routine and so on. We covered a lot of subjects, probably because planning is something I like (and need) to do. However, not long after we got engaged, I expressed (out of nowhere) my willingness to work as a missionary in a foreign country. Before I'd finished my sentence, Carolyn's eyes lit up! I knew she was excited and willing to serve God through overseas mission work. It was such a good feeling to be on the same wavelength.

And so, in 2012, we asked God to provide an opportunity to do mission work in a French-speaking country, in Africa, where we could both plant churches and use our skills – Carolyn was eager to teach again and I was keen to use my IT knowledge. We agreed not to search for posts until after our marriage, but we kept on praying.

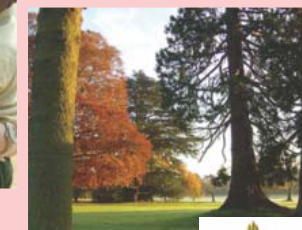
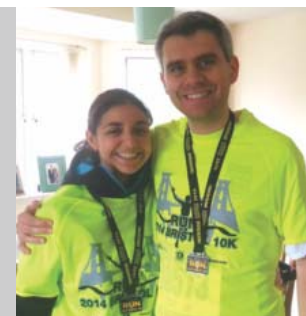
After we married Carolyn accepted a job as a PA at the Trans-European Division. This enabled Carolyn to discover more about mission work, including the different opportunities that were on offer.

In October 2013, we decided not just to pray for, but to actively seek, mission opportunities. We searched . . . but in vain. Nothing seemed to fit what we were looking for. One day last November Carolyn found a magazine from Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM) in the office mail. She flicked through it, reading some of the articles, and then came to the back page entitled 'The Call'. It gave details about a project in Benin, which Carolyn soon learned was a French-speaking country. She sent me a picture of the page and went online to find out more, as this fitted with one-third of our prayer. That particular project was in fact looking for people trained in health care, so wasn't suitable, but while Carolyn was on the AFM website she noticed another call for a different project in Benin. When she clicked on that one, it said that the needs of the project were . . . church planters who could work as English teachers/IT teachers! Carolyn immediately emailed me the link, along with the words 'Oh my dear . . . this looks perfect!'

We couldn't quite believe how precisely God had seemingly answered our prayers. What's more, we knew that a family at our church, Pastor and Mrs Allcock, were working as career missionaries with AFM, so we were quickly able to find out more about the organisation and the application process. It was very exciting to hear the stories they had from the mission field, so we did not wait long before responding to the call. The last hurdle we faced was when the response to our application stated that the project we had applied for was only looking for one individual to join them. But as it is written, 'Ask and you shall receive.' God blessed us once more, and within 24 hours AFM had approved a change to the call so that we can now both go!

Throughout these last few months we have witnessed the goodness of God in providing for the desires of His children. Thank You, God, for answering our prayers. Please use us to help Your love and goodness reach more people.

As short-term missionaries with AFM, Etienne and Carolyn need to raise £13,000 to cover the costs of their training in the USA and their living expenses and project costs while in Benin. As a result of the generosity of friends, family and church family, so far they have raised about 50% of this goal. This includes £1,000 they raised by running the Bristol 10km race in May! Their blog is <http://guenin.blogspot.com>. If you feel inspired to help this project you can make a transfer to the following Lloyds account: AFM, Lloyds Bank, sort code 30-99-21, account number 55208360. Once having made your generous donation please email John Simon (jsimon@afmonline.org) confirming the deposit (donor's name, amount, date and project to be benefited).



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Stanborough School, Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire WD25 9JT – www.spsch.org.

NEC Children's Ministries training

by Lungani and JoAnne Sibanda (NEC Media team)



Right: Dr Linda Mei Lin Koh



Pastor Patricia Douglas



Eirlys Broome



They may be church leaders, but you never forget the art of 'cutting & sticking'

To summarise the North England Conference Children's Ministries Level 1 training the only word that comes to mind is 'supercalifragilistic-expialidocious', a phrase coined in the 1964 Walt Disney children's film *Mary Poppins*. It was an eye-opening and life-changing experience for many of us, leaving us equipped with a skill-set which hopefully will change our practice when it comes to working with children in our churches. The Children's Ministry core team under the leadership of Pastor Patricia Douglas put together a classy and informative training session with speakers who were passionate, experienced and well versed in what they represented.

Dr Linda Mei Lin Koh, the keynote speaker, delivered animated presentations drawn from her years of teaching, as well as being a mother and a Christian. She has a sharp wit, energy and a sense of humour, which had us hanging on her every word. The presentations were interspersed with discussions, exercises and children's songs.

What was strikingly different about this conference was that it was solely about working with children. It was about the fact that children should be included in every aspect of our services; they should be treasured and disciplined, so that they grow to become disciples of Jesus and will not leave church when they come of age. One of the commendable aspects of this training was the visible attendance and participation of some of the pastors of the NEC, which means that these good things can be cascaded directly from church leadership.



The kids demonstrate their command of the building blocks



Heather Haworth

There were presentations by various speakers throughout the weekend. Eirlys Broome, a Special Educational Needs co-ordinator, presented the need to embrace all children; while Heather Haworth made an impassioned plea for us to keep our children safe. There were many highlights, but for many Sabbath was the day when the participants saw how much fun and enjoyment our services could be. Sharon Pryce led out in an arts and crafts session, which saw all the participants giggling with glee as they made works of art and played games. It was a joy to learn that we do not have to lose our childhood sense of playfulness under the guise of being 'all responsible and grown up'.

Delegates were treated to a dramatisation of Mark 10:13-16 by the Children's Ministries core team: the atmosphere was amazing as Pastor Cyril Sweeney, the newly elected BUC Children's Ministries and Family Ministries director, acting as Jesus, shouted, 'Let the little children come to me.' Pastor Dan Majaduon later presented a devotional thought on this text: of how God wants us, as helpless little children, to come to Him, trust Him, rely on Him. It encapsulated the purpose of the Level 1 Certification training.

One delegate commented, 'Children are very important in church and their salvation should be taken seriously.' Another was impressed with 'everything from the praise team, devotional, lectures, group dynamics, media team and more. . . .' When asked how the training will impact the local church, there was this response: 'We will be more active and ensure that all our activities are age-appropriate.'

The weekend training ended with a graduation ceremony.

Cornwall's 'Heroes'

by Steven and Victor Hulbert

Photos: Victor Hulbert

Heroes can be found everywhere, and for one special weekend over one hundred of them were to be found on a campsite in Cornwall. The May bank holiday camp on Chapel Porth Adventist Campsite is a highlight of Ilona Jackson's annual calendar. She fills a caravan with children, parents and even grandparents. 'We go to the camp as a family and greatly enjoy the worships with their refreshing modern style. This year the worship talks were meaningful and applicable to our everyday lives – even our 10- and 14-year-old boys enjoyed them! We learnt that we all have a hero inside of us somewhere and that God can always use us and we can rely on Him totally.'

Pastor Sam has a story to tell. A story of heroes. 'Heroes' was our theme as Sam Gungaloo, intern pastor at Stevenage and Potters Bar, shared stories of Bible heroes and how conflict changed each of their stories from a good one into an epic one. 'The worships always leave you feeling empowered in some way and that has to be a good thing!' Ilona added.

Jo Vicary first found faith and Christian friends through the LIVE St Austell project, and though she has now moved to north-east England, she is glad she travelled back down for this camp: 'From this I now have a personal relationship with God, who has done some amazing things in my life. There is an amazing feeling of oneness with God during times of worship through music, singing, talks and prayer. The talks were really inspiring and related to me in different ways, making me realise I can be the hero in my own life story.'

'The concerts were great!' states Jenny Hall from Plymouth. 'I especially liked Daughters of Davis – they have such a great sound; and Philippa Hanna was fantastic because she presents her passion for Christ in every song she writes and performs!' Other fantastic musical moments on the camp included Jader Feijo, whose amazing voice and inspiring lyrics climaxed many of the worship talks. Arianne Haran shared her unique and creative song writing, and the Grenaways, a local Christian folk band, inspired 30 extra visitors to visit the camp on the Saturday night. They finished up the night playing their song 'Brother' around the campfire. It was beautiful to see everyone come together worshipping, sharing, laughing, and encouraging each other.

It is that atmosphere, including the music, that is important to Louis, a musician in his own right: 'I went to camp because I believe in the ethos of LIVE, and I think it's important to support the local community with live music events and friends in ministry.' Louis, while not an Adventist, is very much 'part of the family'. He says, 'I see the camp as a great way to meet other like-minded people who don't need to drink or completely be out of their heads to enjoy really good music. . . . It's a really positive event in the community and shines a really bright light on many different levels!'

Perhaps that is why so many come and fill the site to capacity, not just from Devon and Cornwall, but from Somerset, London, Newbold, Wales and beyond. Camp leader Steven Hulbert enthused, 'If I could sum up the feeling of what camp was like I think "freedom" would be the word. This was a Seventh-day-Adventist-run camp but not everyone who came was Adventist, and not all were Christian, but the freedom all experienced there allowed everyone to have an openness and an honesty that is often hard to find.'

Jenny agrees. 'It's a great environment to bring friends and family to who don't believe in God, because it doesn't force anything on them; it gently introduces them to the idea of God and hopefully it will lead to a greater interest in the future.'

First-timer Tamsin Martin will definitely be back next year. 'From the start, I appreciated the relaxed and friendly atmosphere. The food was delicious and given with a generous spirit, and of course the music was fabulous. I will come again because I want Amelie [my daughter] to start to build relationships and to form a positive body of experience of church. I would definitely recommend this to friends, even non-believers, because I am confident that they would receive a warm welcome.'

Photo memories from the camp can be found on the Adventist Church photo gallery at: adventist.org.uk/news/gallery/gallery-sec/heroes-camp-in-cornwall.



Pastor Sam Gungaloo



Taking in the view



Philippa Hanna



Satisfied!



The candidates with Pastor Richard Daley and the elders

Baptism at Greenwich

On Sabbath 26 April, John Kamalli, Claudio Harris-Peres and Funmi Ogundiran were baptised at the Greenwich church. In attendance were Pastor Terry Messenger, former Greenwich pastor and current executive secretary of the SEC, and Pastor Guthrie, former pastor, who offered the prayer of consecration for the candidates.

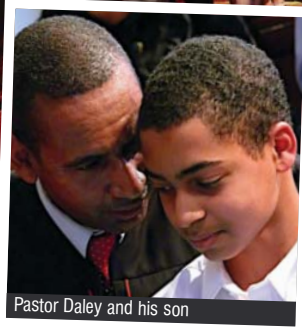
Pastor S. Matthias Esson, minister of the church since 1 January this year, conducted the baptism after having preached the sermon.

The candidates were examined by one of the elders, Nathaniel Zaka, and well supported by all the members of the church.

S. M. ESSON, COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Elder Zaka with the candidates



Pastor Daley and his son

daughter attending church for the first time for a baby dedication. The series ended on a high as 11 candidates were baptised by Pastor Daley: sisters Iman and Renee Wright; husband and wife, Christian and Claudia Panaitescu; Kai Banton; Leon Jackson; Lloyd Kashimba; Donna Robinson; Sindy Cameron; Milna Matala; and the pastor's own son, Ryan.

KAREN BENJAMIN, CROYDON COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Croydon baptism

On 29 March a packed Croydon Church congregation witnessed the baptism of five precious people: Alison Dunkley, Trisania Bailey, Myra Pascal, and Tony and Shanice Johnstone (father and daughter). In a beautiful and deeply personal service the candidates were invited to share their testimonies prior to baptism. They were then joined by their spiritual guardians who shared invaluable words of encouragement with them. The service was conducted by Pastor Richard Daley and special music was provided by David Billett and Everol Dixon.

BOBBY BARKER



Left to right: Kevin, Gareth, Tanya and Lauren Courtney

Welsh Youth Day of Fellowship baptism

A Youth Day of Fellowship always means a very full day, but on Sabbath 15 March the day was full to overflowing! Cardiff Central Church was the venue, and church members, together with young people from far and wide, arrived early so that no time would be lost. The day was a feast of music and lively singing as well as spiritual and physical food.

Following Sabbath School there was an extra event. Lauren Courtney, 18, from the Newport church, who had been studying the Bible with Pastor David Rancic for quite a while, was baptised.

Lauren gave her testimony before being baptised and it was an excellent witness to everyone. Her parents, Kevin and Tanya, and brother Gareth were present, together with her grandparents, Leslie and Miriam Wood.

Lauren is a fourth-generation Adventist, as four of her great-grandparents were faithful church members at Rhyll Church, North Wales, Slough Church in Berkshire, and later at the Dell in Lowestoft.

Lauren was presented with flowers and welcomed into the family of God by Pastors Tremeer and Rancic, and visiting speaker for the day Pastor Paul King-Brown. The main service followed with a powerful sermon that inspired everyone, causing one happy worshipper to comment: 'I was sitting on the edge of my seat. He could have gone on speaking for hours, as far as I was concerned.'

At lunchtime it was a case of feeding the 5,000, or so it seemed, with the youth eating upstairs and the rest of the congregation relaxing downstairs. Thank you so much, wonderful ladies! Then as the sun was shining a large group of energetic people enjoyed a walk through the park and returned for another session with Pastor King-Brown.

After the close of Sabbath there was still plenty of time left for the young people to eat, this time a pizza feast, followed by conversation and games. What a wonderfully inspiring day! Thank you to everyone for such an inspiring time.

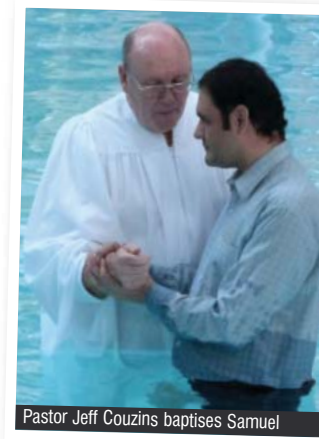
More pictures from the event can be seen on the Welsh Mission website.

PASTOR JOHN SURRIDGE, WELSH MISSION PRESIDENT

Unusual baptism

On 31 May the Blackburn church conducted a very unusual baptism. Their baptismal pool was out of commission so they approached the nearby Waves Water Park for the baptism of Samuel Khan. Permission was granted and that Sabbath afternoon the members walked from the church to the centre – just five minutes away – where Pastor Jeff Couzins conducted a memorable baptism.

BEN MARSDEN



Pastor Jeff Couzins baptises Samuel

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The Bulgarian 'mustard seed'

On 24 May the Bulgarian 'mustard seed' officially germinated after more than a decade of gentle nurture. At least 170 Bulgarians were present to witness the wonderful event in Palmers Green, London, under the leadership of Pastor Sam Davis (president) and Terry Messenger (secretary), both of the South England Conference.

The new church's origins go back to Newbold College during the 1990s, but about ten years ago it became a regular group with about 20 members. Currently its worship services are attended by about 130 people.

The church organises regular events for



the local Bulgarian community, including English courses, health expos, Bible seminars, children's activities (including messy church), excursions and fun evenings – some of which are run together with the Bulgarian Embassy.

The 'germination' of this church is an inspiration and provides a witness to the power of Christ's example, where 'He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me."'

MICHAEL GARKOV



Bolton's Soup Kitchen success

A man who five years ago planned to leap to his death off the cliffs at Beachy Head is now an active participant at the Bolton church's soup kitchen. God intervened in his life and his main aim is now 'to develop spiritually and experience the gentle and quiet spirit'. In appreciation of the soup kitchen Joe quoted the words of Brian Wilson: 'God only knows what I would be without you.'

That was not the only testimony during a Community Services day at the Bolton church on Sabbath, 17 May. The mayor, Councillor Colin Shaw, welcomed the Soup Kitchen project. He thanked the local pastor and the Community Services team for opening their doors to serve and be part of the community. Applauding their good example, he stated that it should be emulated by other organisations and agencies. He went on to say that 'the benefits of this kind of project cannot be underestimated or over-emphasised, because it goes beyond feeding the hungry. It encompasses the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of people.'

Key leaders for the soup kitchen are Christina, the Community Services leader, Lesley Noakes, one of the elders, and Pastor Paul Jayaraj. The project operates on Sunday, when other soup kitchens are closed, but Bolton Church has been doubly blessed because they now have visitors coming on Sabbath as well. The project has been running for about 6 months.

'We are on this planet for a purpose greater than having a career, paying the bills, loving our families and fulfilling our role as upstanding citizens,' states Pastor Jayaraj. 'Even going to church and worshipping God, important as this is, sometimes leaves us feeling that something is missing.' The solution? 'God wants us to become contagious Christians. This is His primary plan, the one Jesus modelled so powerfully to spread God's grace and truth.'

GRACE WALSH



Haverhill health expo

Orange T-shirts and brilliant smiles were ablaze at the Arts Centre in Haverhill, Suffolk, this past Sabbath as the Haverhill fellowship held their third annual health expo. An army of youth, Haverhill Fellowship members and volunteers from Cambridge Church were on hand to network with the public and demonstrate the health message in tangible terms.

The event was entitled 'Your Health MOT' and saw participants receiving free blood pressure checks, back massages and complimentary smoothies as they completed their health profiles. In all 54 members of the public completed the test, with many expressing an interest in the group's community cooking classes and lifestyle seminars. This was nearly double the number of participants compared to the previous year, and they are already looking forward to next year's event.

TINASHA MARANDURE

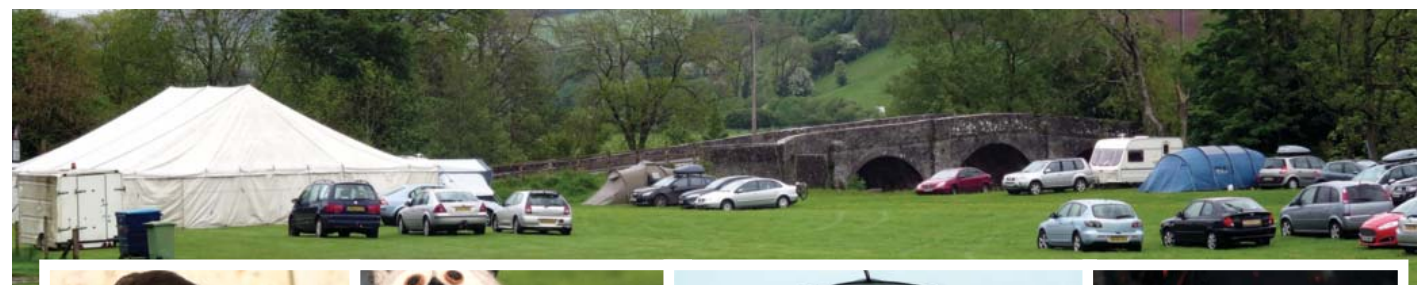


BUC president visits Aberdeen

Sabbath 26 April marked the first day of fellowship for the Aberdeen District of Churches under the theme of 'In Christ Alone'. The members came from the Aberdeen church as well as its satellite groups in Bucksburn, Elgin and Inverness. The lesson was conducted by Mission president, Pastor Bernie Holford. The

children followed with highlights from lessons they had learned during their time together. Pastor Ian Sweeney then spoke on Matthew 5, showing that as 'salt of the earth' and 'light of the world' we are to be an example to others – namely, to be in the world, but not a part of it. He illustrated this with a true story of some dogs that lived outside a certain city. In order to get the best scraps of food the dogs took the train into the city and stayed there all day scavenging. Once the day was over these dogs would take the train back home again, thus being in the city but not part of it. After lunch there were more musical items, and another presentation by Pastor Sweeney. The day was a great inspiration to all.

JANICE SAVIZON



Pastor Marcel Ghioalda



The children enjoyed the craft activities



Fellowship around the bonfire



Roasted marshmallows, yummy!

When *your* world turns upside down

by Pastor John Surridge, Welsh Mission president

Pastor Marcel Ghioalda, from the Scottish Mission, was the speaker at this year's Brecon Camp. His theme for the somewhat wet spring bank holiday weekend of 23 to 26 May was how we as Christians can learn to cope when our world turns upside down.

Marcel was not previously known to most of the 80 or so attendees at the camp, but they immediately warmed to him when they saw the effort he put into speaking to the children present. Each of the six programmes he presented began with an extended children's story, plus a craft activity of some kind prepared by his wife, Claudette. Equally enjoyed by parents and children alike, the stories included tales of: a church-attending monkey; a child who stole Maltesers from a supermarket; a brother who teased his sister unmercifully; a little girl who got the carpet covered in paint; a cat which fed a prisoner; and a boy who found a lost wallet. All of these were graphically portrayed with Marcel standing on chairs, pulling faces, distributing chocolates, getting the children to participate, and generally causing great amusement before delivering the punchline to his totally

attentive audience.

As the children completed their craft activities Marcel turned his attention to the adults, speaking candidly about the many times in our Christian experience when things go catastrophically wrong. An underlying theme throughout the whole weekend was, 'Follow the bubbles' – an illustration from scuba diving where sometimes the only way to be sure which way is up is literally to follow the bubbles. This theme was fleshed out from Marcel's own unique and dramatic life story – from his upbringing in Romania, through a disastrous relationship, to working in Israel, studying in South Africa, and finally working as a minister in Scotland. Citing numerous answers to prayer, and many occasions when God's last-minute timing had him floundering in the depths of despair, Marcel painted a picture of God who is always there for us.

The theory was backed up with much sound advice from the Bible: trust God, rejoice always, forget the past, reach out to the future, press on for the prize and remember that God is with us now just as much as He has been with His people throughout history.

Marcel concluded by reminding the campers that everyone has a different story. Although others may have amazing stories to tell, we should never wish for another person's experience.

Brecon Camp is always an experience in its own right. This year will be remembered for protracted periods of rain, but also for the very well-attended and much-appreciated meetings. There was also an amazing bonfire which generated so much heat that the rain had no effect on it, or on the crowd of people standing around it. But the warmth that will be remembered most is that which came from the fellowship - regulars and newcomers, old and young, Adventists and friends from other persuasions. Everyone is welcomed at Brecon and made to feel part of the family.

If you would like to experience Brecon Camp for yourself you are welcome to attend our next camp, which will be held from 22 to 25 May 2015. You can reserve a place now by contacting the camp master, Pastor David Foster, on: 01352 771489.

For more pictures from the camp see the Welsh Mission website at: <http://wm.adventist.org.uk>.

Three churches – one park

When was the last time you received something free? There is a great sense of satisfaction when you give someone something totally free. No fine print, no contract, just free to take and enjoy.

Whether it was a bag of fresh fruit, a bottle of water or a selection of literature (to name a few gifts), Smethwick, Breath of Life and Community of Hope church members lavished their generosity and warmth on the visitors to Victory Park. The three churches of the Smethwick district collectively provided a first-class service to the adults and children who were in the park on Sunday, 8 June. Shoppers at the local ASDA supermarket were also encouraged to meet our lively group in the park for essential health advice and more freebies.

When you check the weather report the day before a planned outdoor event and you see 'sunshine and showers' the only thing you can do is pray, which is what we did. Our prayers were answered and the clouds came and passed, allowing the puppet show, fitness class and bouncy castle users to enjoy the very organised health expo. The sunshine was a blessing and it made a great difference to the number of visitors registered.

The firefighters attracted a lot of attention: especially when the

Adventurers were allowed to hop into the fire engine and try on helmets!

This health expo was a bit different this year because, along with the familiar seven stations representing NEWSTART, we had additional ones for hand massages, a fruit/veg display (with opportunity to sample) and a goodie bag collection point set up in and around the Park Hub. The Hub is a building in the centre of the park where we were visible to all. This served our intention to make the community positively aware of our presence in the area.

TASHA HOLNESS (COMMUNICATION LEADER)





Basingstoke community witness

Early in 2014 the Basingstoke church was required to leave their old place of worship due to the need for it to be extensively refurbished. They located a new place of worship in a community hall within the Popley area of Basingstoke, which provided them with new witnessing opportunities. The members recently undertook a community survey to ascertain the needs of the Popley area and found that a number of individuals wanted Bible studies, which are being administered via the Adventist Discovery Centre.

Another opportunity to witness occurred at the Popley community festival held recently on a sunny Sunday, 18 May. Their two-fold objective was to improve the church's profile in the community and to raise funds for the Music Ministry department. The church members enthusiastically wore 'Basingstoke Seventh-day Adventist Church' T-shirts and occupied two stores, one for a car boot sale, the other to sell a selection of home-made cakes and food, along with literature and face painting for children. The face painting was very popular and kept the six face painters fully occupied. It was a successful day and £190 was raised for the Music department.

BASINGSTOKE COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



Open-air worship and outreach

On 3 May a combined congregation of Slough and Bracknell church members, led by Pastor G. S. Dadey, enjoyed open-air worship at Virginia Waters and Resort Park.

At first, however, they split into two groups, each taking a different direction around the lake – eventually meeting at the totem pole after two hours of walking. Along the way, each group studied the Sabbath School lesson, read Bible passages, sang songs, admired nature and distributed tracts among the other visitors to the park.

The congregation finally proceeded to the Saville Centre, where they had lunch and a rest before listening to a short sermonette by Pastor Dadey. The Sabbath ended with prayers.

F. K. OPPONG

obituary

Gladstone George Pusey. Hundreds turned up to Willesden Church on Thursday 22 May to pay their final respects to Gladstone George Pusey, more affectionately known to the church community as 'Brother' Pusey.



It was a sombre affair, considering the circumstances of his disappearance and his death. Questions such as 'Why?' and 'Why so soon?' were asked during the service and were echoed in the minds of those who attended.

It also reminded everyone of the shocking news on Sunday 16

February that he was missing. These reports on national and local news galvanised the community, bringing many together to help find him physically or via social media. This was all followed by the devastating, heartbreaking news that the police had found the body of a man on Thursday 20 February.

Many hoped and prayed that the body was not that of Brother Pusey, but, sadly, it was. The police formally identified his body, much to everyone's grief.

However, despite these sad scenes racing through our minds, and the pain and anguish that the immediate family must have felt

(and are still feeling today), it was comforting and heartening to know that he touched so many people's lives through his kindness and generosity.

In spite of the grief, his funeral was poignantly beautiful – a fitting farewell to a man well respected, both in the church and among his allotment community.

Those who spoke during the service managed to capture his character through their tributes to him – flaws and all – and even caused people to laugh through their tears as some of his antics were retold.

Fond memories were shared, such as the way he used to greet people; the way that he shared packets of 'luxury' biscuits with others when he worked for McVitie's; and the barbeques that he had at his allotment – all the while as people reflected back on

their own personal experiences with him.

Those present gained deeper insights into Brother Pusey's life and how he related to people as a neighbour, a friend, a church brother and a father.

The funeral was a celebration of his life and a true reflection of his character, warts and all.

The service was conducted by Pastors Des Boldeau and Michael Mannix. Pastor Boldeau spoke of 'living in the now', and emphasised the need to live right with family and friends while we wait for Jesus to return.

The family would like to thank all those who have supported them, contacted them and prayed for them during this difficult time.

Brother Pusey, we miss you. You'll forever remain in our hearts. Until we meet again, RIP.

MONIQUE SIMPSON



Wednesfield Music Day

'God's Amazing Love' was the theme of a special music day which took place at Wednesfield Church on Sabbath, 17 May. The morning worship service featured a range of musical items by singers and musicians from the various Wolverhampton Adventist churches, all proclaiming God's love for us.

Complementing the worship in music and song were short presentations by four Wednesfield members. Viv Sterling spoke about how God demonstrates His amazing love through creation, using the hunting activities of the humble domestic cat to illustrate how God sustains the delicate ecosystem of our world. Maureen Thompson explained to children young and old how we need Jesus' help to get to Heaven; we can't do it on our own. Andrew Sudworth revealed the story behind the Bill Gaither Gospel song, 'Because He Lives', and explained how this song is a simple and concise overview of the plan of salvation. Oscar Mhango completed the series of presentations by using the experiences of Joseph in Egypt to illustrate how God cares, and has a plan, for all of us.

To close this special programme, the Wednesfield Church Music Group performed an arrangement of the song 'The Midnight Cry'; a fitting reminder that, because of God's amazing love for us, Jesus is coming soon to take His children home.

In the words of Enroy Vikers from Bilston Church, 'The afternoon programme was soul-stirring and uplifting, made so by the splendid singing and soulful music of the wind and string instruments. It was a lovely time of fellowship.'

ANDREW SUDWORTH

'Word and Pictures' Bible series

From 17 to 30 May, Camp Hill Church members and their visiting friends were really blessed by the 'Word and Pictures' series conducted by Pastor Jonathan Holder.

His Bible-centred evangelistic messages were powerfully illustrated by the use of some relevant and memorable video material. Each night, he also asked five thought-provoking questions relating to the previous evening's topic. These were answered by four volunteers who went head-to-head in a quick-fire, buzzer-pressing test of their retention. Camp Hill's resident pastor, Dr Patrick Herbert, was an ardent supporter of this series and without his zealous support it would not have been such a great success.

The programme also included praise and worship, time during which the audience was treated to beautiful musical items. In fact, each message was followed by a prayerfully chosen appeal song which touched the hearts of many. Those who found themselves in the 'blessed seats' each evening received a special gift. A heart-warming episode from the series, 'Why I am a Seventh-day Adventist', created by Camp Hill's Communications team, was shown each night, featuring members from the church testifying about our beliefs and their experience within the church.

While all this went on in the main service, behind the scenes, a prayer group diligently prayed for the presence of the Holy Spirit and the blessing of God on every aspect of the meetings.

'I really enjoyed listening to the messages and have been blessed by it,' said one brother, Mr Ogun, a comment that reflected the experience of many who attended. Janet, one of the members who did her best to attend every night, invited a friend who reported that she 'thought it was absolutely wonderful' and 'didn't realise this is what church was like'. Her friend went on to invite another friend to the meetings and passed on a book gifted to her at the campaign to her son.

The head elder, Mr Russell, won a study Bible for bringing the most visitors, and one of the sisters, Valerie, picked up the most points for her dedicated attendance. One of the highlights of the series was seeing the enthusiastic 2-year-old Alerice become the undisputed kids-time quiz champion. Teenagers, Donté and Courtney-Jade, won the much sought-after Bibles for their accurate quiz answers along with their high



attendance record. Courtney – Jade's mother – confessed that she had not realised that her daughter was listening and learning so much.

Here at Camp Hill we are now looking forward to the upcoming revival in August, but until then we will keep having fun and fellowship; we will keep on singing praises; we will keep on studying and praying; learning and pivotally sharing the Gospel. We will keep on inviting family and friends to church. We will continue to trust God and take Him at His word, for He makes all things beautiful in His time.

DENISE BAINS

God's smallest creatures discovered

The tranquillity of Stanborough Park, Watford, was broken by the appearance of the familiar blue and yellow marquee, which marked the beginning of the South England Conference (SEC) Adventurer Camporee, held from 23 to 26 May, 2014.

Despite the poor weather conditions on Thursday, committed parents and Adventurer Club leaders arrived to get the campsite ready.

'Over 700 people were present for this annual event!' enthused SEC Pathfinder director, Pastor Kevin Johns. The theme for the long weekend was, 'Consider the . . .', and it focused on some of the smallest creatures in God's wonderful creation. The guest speaker was Clive Palmer from the North England Conference. The Adventurers had specifically requested his return after experiencing his unique style of reaching young people at last year's Adventurer camporee.

Each evening the marquee was filled to capacity as the Adventurers were challenged by his presentations and encouraged to get to know who Jesus is. Each night, the children played an active role in the programme, from leading out in the worship service to offering the evening prayer.

Campers had the opportunity to gain a number of honours, including a new Ant honour, which was produced by one of our very own club leaders. Saturday evening concluded with the construction of an insect zoo and many were surprised at the number of insects found living on Stanborough Park.



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Five inflatable activities arrived on the Sunday, ready for exciting group activities. If that wasn't excitement enough, the local Garston Fire Service paid the Adventurers a visit, bringing their fire engine with them for the children to explore and ask questions about.

By Monday afternoon the serenity of Stanborough Park was restored, as the last Adventurer club left on its journey home, full of knowledge about God's smallest creatures.

KATIE RAMHARACKSINGH, WITH PASTOR KEVIN JOHNS

Messenger

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Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Bell
Jul 4	9.20	9.32	9.32	10.00	10.01
11	9.15	9.27	9.27	9.54	9.56
18	9.08	9.21	9.20	9.45	9.47
25	9.00	9.12	9.10	9.34	9.37

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