

Onwards and Upwards at SEC Camp Meeting

It was 'Onwards and Upwards' for the South England Conference Camp Meeting in Prestatyn, which ran from 23 to 28 June. The theme manifested itself through a balance of outstanding preaching and inspiring music, which was a blessing to those in attendance.

A unique opportunity had presented itself when Pastor Ted Wilson, General Conference president, became available to preach on the Sabbath morning. Having just attended meetings at the Trans-European Division headquarters in St Albans, Pastor Wilson and his wife Nancy travelled up to Prestatyn for a 'high Sabbath' celebration.

Pastor Wilson reiterated the church's teaching on the three angels' messages to a packed hall, saying, 'God is calling the Seventh-day Adventist Church to this unique time and place in history to lift up Jesus.' Recognising the specific challenges of the United Kingdom, he urged his listeners to 'contextualise how you witness. Share [it] with them in loving tones.'

Many people had travelled up to north Wales for the day especially to hear the General Conference president in person, and the queue for photos with him was long. In his morning interview with BUC Communication director, Victor Hulbert, Pastor Wilson shared how he continues to emphasise the importance of prayer and Bible study for the time we live in. Pastor Vili Costescu managed to convince Pastor Wilson to share a testimony on the Sabbath sofa, closing the recording with 'I'm Ted, and I'm taking a break on the Sabbath sofa.'

(Continued on pages 8 and 9)

General Conference president Pastor Ted Wilson





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School

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Enhancing Health

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

Food for fitness

In an earlier *Enhancing Health* series we examined the value of exercise for holistic well-being. Both regular exercise and the types of food we eat impact our health. In this issue we look at the foods that enhance our fitness but also boost energy when we exercise.

In a BBC Good Food article entitled 'Our Top Ten Fitness Foods'¹ Katie Hiscock (a fitness writer and sports therapist) spotlights the foods that work best for an active lifestyle. Here are 6 of them:

Bananas

- An excellent fitness food, good for releasing energy or refuelling before, during and after a workout.
- They are also packed with potassium, which is reported to help with muscle cramps during exercise.
- The whole banana (with the skin) in a smoothie provides extra potassium, mood-boosting serotonin and eye-protecting lutein.

Blueberries

- These are lower in calories than other fruits, but high in carbohydrate-packed sugars which provide quick energy to our muscles.
- They are an excellent post-exercise fruit to replenish muscle glycogen (energy) stores.
- They're a good source of antioxidants to fight free radicals, which damage body cells, cause disease and trigger premature ageing.

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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

There will not be any separate children/youth meetings! Please bring a packed lunch
Please visit www.eventbrite.co.uk (maximum 10 per booking)
No internet access - contact Jacquei Johnson on 01923 672251

TICKETS

Brazil nuts

- These are a good source of fibre, minerals and vitamins. They also contain 'good fats' which help to lower 'bad' cholesterol levels and help to curb hunger pangs following exercise. Eat them in moderation due to their high calorie content.
- Brazil nuts are one of the few foods that provide a good source of selenium – a mineral and micronutrient that assists in maintaining a healthy immune system.
- They are also reported to help protect against heart disease and some cancers.

Dried fruit

- Dried fruits like apricots, mango and raisins are high in natural sugars and provide a concentrated source of high-GI (glycaemic index) carbohydrate to boost energy. They are also good during long runs or before a race.
- They are rich in fibre, phytonutrients, potassium, minerals and vitamins.

Green vegetables

- Choose green vegetables like broccoli, green cabbage, kale and spinach, which are nutrient-dense foods and rich in antioxidants.
- They are a good source of calcium for bone health and especially helpful for endurance sports.
- These are also a great source of folate, which is good for heart health and for any women planning a pregnancy.

Sweet potatoes

- Whether you mash, bake or make them into a pâté, sweet potatoes are a healthier choice than regular (white) potatoes and an excellent source of beta-carotene.
- They are good for a carb-loading diet in preparation for long races or marathons.
- Sweet potatoes are also high in the electrolyte potassium, which is useful to help ward off muscle cramping during exercise.

Good health!

¹<http://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/our-top-10-fitness-foods>

editorial

I won't forget that evening. In fact, the events are as real to me now as they were then. It was all so novel, unexpected, and over so quickly . . . that I can't remember feeling any panic, just a sense of the surreal.

It happened precisely at 22h03 on 29 September 1969, just as I stepped into the quiet and deserted passage. The floor beneath my feet moved, as if alive. The walls and ceiling convulsed with them. Light fittings swung on their chains.

Fleeting seconds of silent animation were followed by a rumbling I had never heard or felt before, but instinctively knew to be the 'voice' of an earthquake.

I stepped back into my dormitory room and shouted for my roommates to get under their heavy iron bedsteads, put down my toothbrush and stepped back into the passage to warn others. But that wasn't necessary . . . because earthquakes have a way of taking care of it themselves!

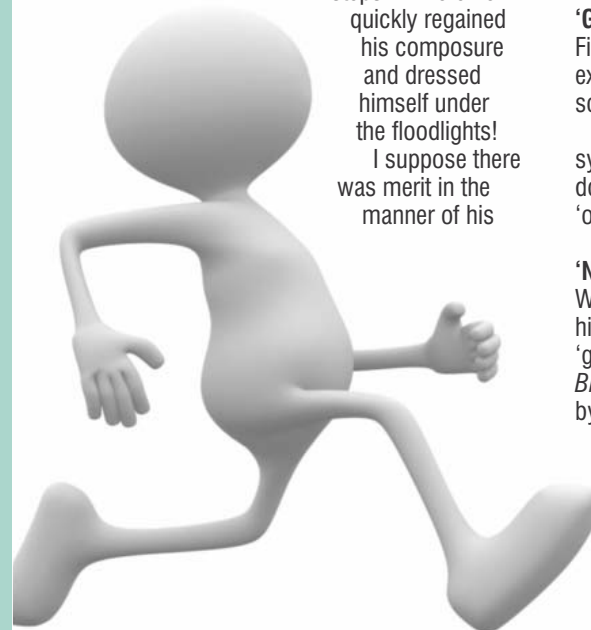
The first boy out . . .

Now I am aware that '30 per cent of Britons wear nothing at all when they are in bed', but while I was at boarding school the wearing of pyjamas was vigorously enforced.¹ But there were always those few chaps who kept them under their pillows purely for appearance's sake (and the odd room inspection).

I am not sure whether his pyjamas were for 'use' or 'show', but the first fellow to burst from his room that evening was not wearing them. He had them in his right hand as he made his fleet-footed au naturel exit from the shuddering building!

It was a comic scene, to which I was the only witness. He sprinted down the passage, flitted through the foyer and pounded down the dorm's imposing front steps – where he quickly regained his composure and dressed himself under the floodlights!

I suppose there was merit in the manner of his



Fumbling under the floodlights



Julian Hibbert
Editor

speedy exit – after all, when one has just seconds to decide between safety and modesty, modesty will surely always be the loser!

The Ceres quake

This geological event became known as the Ceres earthquake, South Africa's most destructive ever. It measured 6.3 on the Richter scale and caused widespread damage in an area just north of Cape Town. Its effect in the town of Tulbagh was particularly bad 'with in excess of 70% of the buildings suffering damages and over half of the local population being left homeless'. Sadly, at least 11 people died as a direct result of the quake, which was felt up to 1,000 km away.^{2,3 & 4}

Lessons

That quake lasted just 15 seconds but it led me to two simple convictions. Firstly, in an emergency I don't want to have to choose between safety and modesty. I value both, so I wear pyjamas!

Secondly, that there is something hauntingly biblical about that young man who didn't! Jesus told an interesting story about those God had invited to join Him in His Kingdom. In Matthew 22:2-14 He compares them to a group of wedding guests who flatly reject their invitations to the wedding of a king's son. He patiently issues another set of invitations, urging them to attend because the preparations have already been made. Some give feeble and insulting excuses for their lack of interest; others become abusive and violent towards the royal messengers. Eventually the king uses force against these rebellious subjects and destroys them.

Humanly speaking one would think that the king had done enough. But Jesus is illustrating something far deeper than human politeness and patience here. His story has much more to it:

'Then he said to his servants, "The wedding feast is quite ready, but those who were invited were not good enough for it. So go off now to all the street corners and invite everyone you find there to the feast." So the servants went out on to the streets and collected together all those whom they found, bad and good alike. And the hall became filled with guests. But when the king came in to inspect the guests, he noticed among them a man not dressed for a wedding. "How did you come in here, my friend," he said to him, "without being properly dressed for the wedding?" And the man had nothing to say. Then the king said to the ushers, "Tie him up and throw him into the darkness outside. There he can weep and regret his folly!" For many are invited but few are chosen.' (Vss. 8-14, J. B. Phillips.)

'Good and bad alike'?

Firstly, God's invitation to join Him in His Kingdom is open to all, 'everyone you find', with no exceptions. That invitation is so broad and magnanimous that it includes 'bad and good alike', something that the Jewish spiritual leaders couldn't stomach.

Their theological descendants still struggle with this graciousness. If this great wedding feast symbolises the judgement, the Second Advent or the Kingdom itself, then what are the 'bad' doing there? How can God allow the 'bad' in with the 'good'? If the 'good' are those who have 'overcome' sin, then who are the 'bad'?

'Not dressed . . .'

When I look at the story, being 'good' or 'bad' actually appears inconsequential. It all seems to hinge on that 'wedding garment' – somehow, we desperately need it, whether we are among the 'good' or the 'bad'. Which makes a lot of sense when one reads what the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* says about Matthew 22:11: 'The special wedding garments were provided by the King himself. . . . Like the guests in the parable, we have nothing suitable of our own to wear. We are acceptable in the presence of the great God only when clad in the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ, by virtue of His merits.'⁵

That quake lasted 15 seconds – times of trouble and imminent danger are not the best opportunities for clear thinking. Perhaps now is the time to put on that 'wedding garment', and keep it on – not while we are fumbling under the floodlights, au naturel!

¹<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2414527/One-sleep-naked-revealed-buttoned-Brits-likely-nude-night-nations.html>
²http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_earthquakes_in_South_Africa ³http://www.geoscience.org.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1612:historical-earthquakes ⁴<http://www.stormchasing.co.za/articles-and-news/historic-weather-archive/184-tulbagh-ceres-1969-earthquake> ⁵*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, volume 5, page 480.

devotional



The girl from Moab

by Anita Marshall

We're used to the word 'famine' these days – maybe even *over-used* to it. We certainly hear it most days on television. The inhabitants of Bethlehem didn't need television to tell them that there was a famine. They hadn't had enough to eat for a long time, and things didn't look like getting better.

So it was with regret that Elimelech took his wife and his two sons and left Bethlehem, heading north-east at first; then, after skirting the top of the Dead Sea, turning due south and dropping down into the land of Moab.

Things must have been better there because the family stayed for more than a decade. Obviously what little news there would have been from Judah hadn't encouraged them to go back.

So long were they in the new land that both sons took Moabite women as their wives. This was

after their father Elimelech had died. Maybe if he had lived they might have been prevailed upon to find women back in their own land, but that wasn't how things worked out.

The years following the death of her husband must have been hard for Naomi, but when Mahlon and Chilion married they weren't the only ones lucky in their choices. Their mother had two lovely daughters-in-law and her life took on new purpose.

She and her sons must have told the girls about their own land, its customs and its God. Because when her sons died the two daughters-in-law decided to go with Naomi back to her homeland.

And now we get to my favourite part of my favourite Old Testament story. 'So they left the place where they had lived and started back on the way to the land of Judah.' (Ruth 1:7, author's translation.) And it

suddenly occurs to Naomi that it might be selfish of her to want to hang on to these two lovely girls. So she advises them to return to their mothers, thanks them for their kindness and gives them God's blessing. She also expresses the hope that one day the Lord will give them new husbands.

Whenever I read the story I always pause about there, because I can almost hear the tears in Naomi's voice during that little speech, and I can see quite clearly the girls hugging their mother-in-law with weeping and protestations.

Their tears were real: for the one, because she was being torn in another direction; for the other, because she was being pulled from *her* land in the direction her mother-in-law was headed. Both had good reason for tears. In the end the one left, and the other, Ruth, poured out her heart in one of the most beautiful affirmations of love and faith anywhere in the good Book.

'Don't ask me to leave you. Don't beg me not to follow you. Every place you go, I will go. Every place you live, I will live. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God. And where you die, I will die. And there I will be buried . . . only death will separate us.' (Ruth 1:16, 17, author's translation.)

Naomi must have been quite a woman to have inspired such an outburst. And the picture of God

she had given must have been very appealing. Yet this *despite* the fact that when she *does* reach home she tells people not to call her 'Naomi', which means 'happy, pleasant', but 'Mara', which means 'bitter, or sad'. She even goes so far as to tell her old neighbours that 'God All-Powerful has given me much trouble.' (Ruth 1:21, author's translation.)

But whether He had or not, her faith must have remained strong, or how could she have inspired Ruth to such a declaration?

That to me is the nub of the story. Naomi's God was so *real* to her that she could take it even when He wasn't working things out the way *she* wanted. She knew that even though things had happened which had hurt her badly, she recognised God's blessing in the new relationship she had found with Ruth.

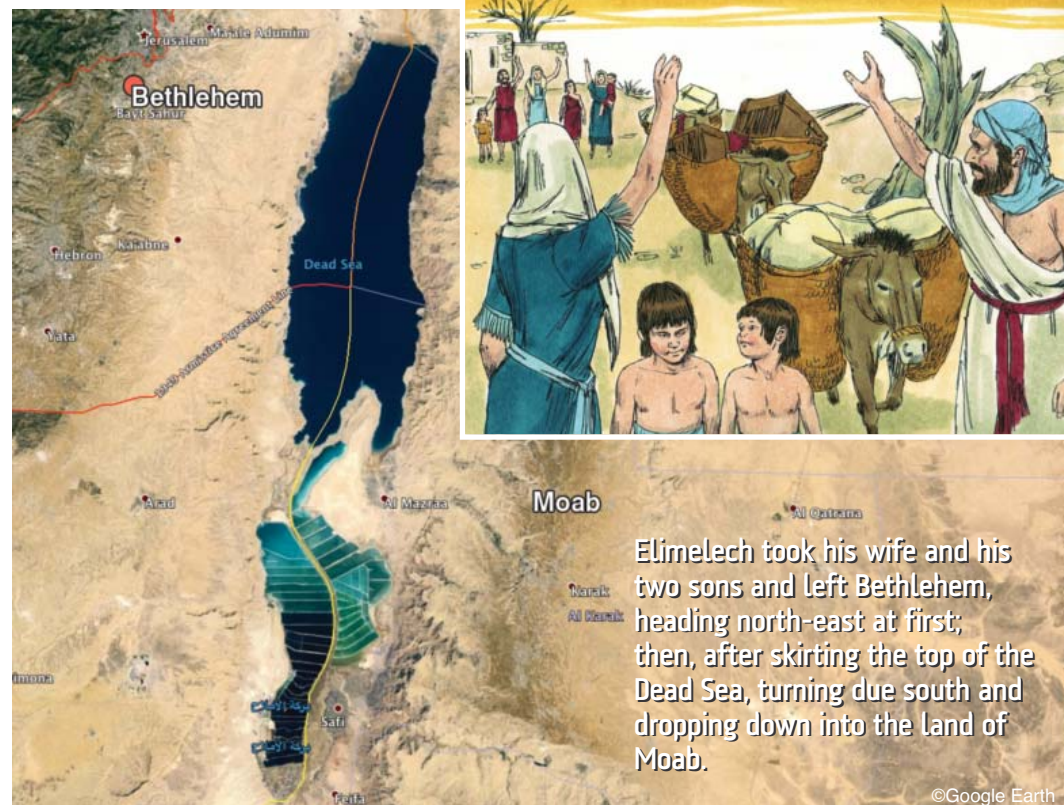
She didn't give up on God. She not only *didn't give up*, but actually inspired another woman to throw in her lot with Him too. The longer I have to do with God, the more I long for that sort of relationship. Not a God I can order about. Not a God I can contain in a dogma. Not a God who can be swayed by *my non-insightful* thinking. But a God who knows the end from the beginning, and who leads me the way *He* sees is best.

It reminds me of something in C. S. Lewis's book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, where someone tells the children that the lion Aslan (a Christ substitute figure) is 'not a *tame* lion'. No more do I want a tame God. I want a God who is in charge. I want a God who inspires the passionate sort of outburst that Ruth had!

Naomi's faithfulness – and that of Ruth – encourages me more than almost anything else I read in the Bible. And nothing *discourages* me more than when people decide that God isn't tame enough and they've grown tired of trying to order Him about. That they can manage without Him after all.

I'm sure the faithfulness of these two women was the reason God was able to bless them. Not just with a new husband for Ruth, but with their love for each other and their shared commitment to God.

In an age when we are tempted on all sides to give up when the going gets tough, I believe the story of Naomi and Ruth is exactly what we need to hear.



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.



Stanborough School Vacancy

Stanborough School seeks to appoint a meticulous General Maintenance Manager, with an eye for detail, to replace its current manager who is retiring after more than 10 years of outstanding service. The role entails assistance with a wide variety of maintenance activities: the addressing of immediate operational and/or safety concerns; assistance to skilled trades; and ensuring that tools, materials and vehicles are maintained in good working order. The successful applicant will have general oversight for maintenance at both the primary and secondary school sites.

Applicants should note that they should be able to demonstrate their ability/experience in the maintenance field as well as their managerial experience.

The salary for the position is: £21,934 per annum.

Stanborough School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment.

The closing date for applications is **8 August 2014** and interviews will be conducted in the week beginning 11 August 2014.

If you think that you have the drive and vision to fulfil the position, hold the relevant experience and have authorisation to work in the UK, please email the head teacher, Mrs L. Dixon, on ldixon@spsch.org with your CV and request the Job Specification and Application forms or telephone 01923 573268.

The offer of employment in respect of this post will be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure Certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service.



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

'Are dinosaurs mentioned in the book of Job?'

Reading across the description of 'Behemoth' in Job 40, it's very tempting to picture a dinosaur in the mind's eye, especially in verses 16-19: 'Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly. He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together. His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron. He is the chief of the ways of God . . .' (KJV). Allan Steel, writing for *Answers In Genesis*, notes that 'Behemoth' is a plural (as denoted by the Hebrew suffix *-oth*) and that 'practically all commentators and translators have agreed that here we have an intensive or majestic plural, so that the meaning is something like "colossal beast".'¹

Not all scholars believe this beast was a dinosaur: Raul Esperante, writing in the *Ministry* magazine, says, 'Most Bible scholars do not accept this explanation, and the words "behemoth" and "leviathan" are usually translated as "hippopotamus" and "crocodile", respectively, and therefore are not related to dinosaurs.'² The Amplified Bible, the Contemporary English Version and the Clear Word (1994) are three Bible translations that call the behemoth 'hippopotamus', although 'elephant' is used in the Clear Word (2004). The *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, again noting the 'intensive plural referring to a mammoth beast', states, 'Most authorities think that the term refers to the hippopotamus. However, there are those who refer to it (1) the elephant, (2) some extinct species, (3) an emblematic representation.'³

However, Steel, giving attention to the way the behemoth's 'tail' moves like a cedar tree in verse 17, says, 'The elephant's and hippopotamus's tails are . . . completely inappropriate for such a comparison. But in contrast, the idea of a dinosaur with a very large tail is quite appropriate. In particular, specimens of sauroptiles have been found which have very large tails worthy of comparison with the cedar tree.' He concludes, 'Behemoth was a large animal, now extinct, which had a large tail. Thus some type of extinct dinosaur should still be considered a perfectly reasonable possibility according to our present state of knowledge.'⁴

It's worth mentioning that Ellen White also refers to massive, now-extinct creatures: 'There were a class of very large animals which perished at the flood. God knew that the strength of man would decrease, and these mammoth animals could not be controlled by feeble man.'⁵ Is it possible that these were among the 'confused species which God did not create, which were the result of amalgamation . . . destroyed by the flood'?⁶ She also writes that this was a sin that 'called for the destruction of the race by the flood', 'the base crime of amalgamation of man and [of] beast which defaced the image of God, and caused confusion everywhere'.⁷ It may be tempting to think that by this she meant dinosaurs. However, having no other evidence, we can only call such thoughts speculation.

¹Allan Steel, 'Could Behemoth Have Been a Dinosaur?' 1 August, 2001 ²Raul Esperante, 'What Does the Bible Say About Dinosaurs?' *Ministry* magazine, December 2009 ³*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 3, p. 606 ⁴Steel, 2001 ⁵*Spiritual Gifts*, vol. IV, p. 121 ⁶*Ibid*, vol. III, p. 75 ⁷*Ibid*, p. 64 – the word 'of' here is suggested by the White Estate – www.whiteestate.org/issues/amalg.html

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.

God had their phone number

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



The entire family, many of whom have accepted Christ because of listening to AWR.



Helen and Romeo receiving a new battery-powered radio because their old one quit working.

I recently met a family whose main diet had once consisted of snakes and skunks, which they hunted and killed by using bows and arrows.

Despite their very primitive lifestyle of surviving on a Philippine island, they have a mobile phone that one of them takes to the nearest city to charge . . . on occasion. Helen and Romeo are members of the Pureg tribe, and I can tell you with assurance that God has their mobile phone number. . . .

One day, the Adventist World Radio (AWR) producer, Pastor Mani, dialled his aunt, who lives on the island of Mindanao – over a thousand kilometres away – but the person who answered the phone was not his aunt. As a matter of fact, she was a belligerent stranger who was extremely upset by his call! And she lived in the opposite direction, in the foothills of a range of dangerous mountains. Unfortunately for her it was only the first of

many ‘wrong number’ calls his phone was to make to that number.

According to Pastor Mani, ‘After three days of getting connected to the same wrong number, this person called me and said, “Why are you calling us all the time – it is three days you are calling.” She said, “Where did you get our number?”’ Pastor Mani assured her that he was not actually trying to call her; he was calling other people, but the call kept connecting automatically to her phone!



The son posing with his bow and arrow . . . the ones he was ready to shoot his father with!

Pastor Mani continued the story: ‘At that time, she and her companion were both drunk, so I hung up on them because I didn’t like the shouting and foul language. But she phoned back and told me that my voice sounded very familiar. I told her that maybe she had heard the AWR radio programme that I produce: to which she exclaimed, “Yes, we are hearing it.” She stopped speaking, and I could hear her crying. Then, when she spoke again, the tone of her voice was calm as she said, “Please come visit us if you are serious about what you are telling us. We have listened to your programme for a long time.”’

The pastor was nervous about going to the area, because it is known for its violence. But he gathered his courage, took a friend, and soon began a series of Bible studies with the couple, named Helen and Romeo. The studies also attracted others who had been listening to the radio programmes. Some time later the family moved from the mountains to a lower elevation, where they were joined by other tribesmen who wanted to receive Bible studies too. The results: 15 of the group have accepted Christ and been baptised . . . all because of a ‘wrong’ number.

I asked Helen and Romeo, ‘Is your life different now that you have found Jesus?’

‘Yes,’ Helen responded. ‘We were always quarrelling; every night we would drink and fight. If we had not accepted Christ, maybe our children would have killed us.’

That really got my attention! I discovered that, for these tribes, it is normal for a family to kill drunken parents who make trouble . . . with the same bow and arrow used to kill animals for food.

According to Helen, ‘To become Christians was absolutely life-changing – life for our children, for the whole family, the way we deal with each other, has changed. Faith in God and service to Jesus have become first!’

Romeo finished by saying, ‘I will cry if I am separated from my God; I will cry.’

Yes, there is no doubt that God has their phone number . . . and I’m sure He has yours too. Has He been trying to call you lately?

Footnote: Adventist World Radio aims at providing Christian radio broadcasts to the ‘hardest-to-reach people groups of the world’ and distribute solar and wind-up radios to them where necessary. For more information on how you can help, visit: www.awr.org.

Ghanaian Day of Fellowship

On 31 June the Ghanaian churches’ Day of Fellowship was held at the Globe Theatre, Reading. The event showcased the proud heritage of all Ghanaian Adventists in the UK and was broadcast live on the internet.

More than 1,500 Ghanaian Adventists gathered at the Globe, primarily from the UK, but some travelled from Europe to attend. The London Ghana church was organised on 18 April 1992 with a membership of just 47, but there

are now 14 Ghanaian congregations in the BUC with over 2,000 members – all in little more than two decades.

After a warm opening welcome in the Twi language special guest Pastor Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist (SEC Communication & Media director) took the opening address. This was followed by Pastor Ian Sweeney’s (BUC president) sermon on the theme of ‘Awaiting the Bridegroom’, which



MOHAP report

Three experienced and enthusiastic presenters undertook to make the MOHAP day retreat on Sunday, 25 May at the London Advent Centre thought-provoking, inspirational and informative, and the attendees were not disappointed. They came mainly from the South England Conference, with a few from the North. The day was interspersed with opportunities for reflection, prayer and testimonies.

Pastor Emmanuel Osei was the devotional speaker and he encouraged attendees to receive God’s forgiveness, and by faith be made whole. Dr Nyjon Eccles spoke on ‘What doctors won’t tell you – “Food as Medicine”’, and Leslene Peat-Brown presented ‘Overcoming rejection’.

Pastor Vince Goddard directed the anointing service and provided a short introduction regarding its purpose. There was also opportunity to receive anointing, pastoral prayer and brief counselling.

Claudia Gouveia shared how in 2011 she was diagnosed with pseudomyxoma peritonei (PMP) – a rare form of aggressive cancer affecting only one in a million – while undergoing a laparoscopy for suspected endometriosis. Apparently the tumour was in its early stages and was successfully removed. However, the endometriosis, which can cause infertility and is unrelated to PMP, was confirmed and Claudia was strongly advised to have a hysterectomy, which she was reluctant to have. But after much prayer, she finally relented. However, Claudia, along with her friends, family and church, continued to trust and pray

highlighted the importance of God’s children preparing for the second coming of Christ.

He went on to explain the importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit as we await the Bridegroom, all of which was happily received by the enthusiastic congregation.

The afternoon programme was also a great success, with the CCC Mass Choir proving to be nothing less than an international treasure. Clothed in traditional brightly patterned fabrics that seemed to ripple with movement, the group’s 300-plus members used choreographed motion to enhance the rhythms and words. The musical concert reflected the meaning of the word ‘grace’.

The programme was well supported by excellent choir performances from across the UK – not to mention the individual contributions of the likes of Alex Acheampong (Reading Ghana), Charlie Barnes (London Ghana), Nana Kwasi Amakwah Tiah –

Ekaa De (E&C Ghana) and others.

The day of fellowship was run simultaneously in three sections, the other two being for the youth and children. The youth listened to a great sermon by trainee pastor Kwame Sarpong, who had just returned to the UK from Jamaica, where he is studying Theology. His message was clear and strong, explaining the significance of the parable of the ten virgins. He explained how the youth should be positive, diligent and prepared every day for the second coming of Christ.

The youth programme was also concluded by a music concert that included various youth choirs performing worship songs that were a mixture of traditional and contemporary items.

The gathered Ghanaians enjoyed every minute of the event and were able to take away some important spiritual messages with them.

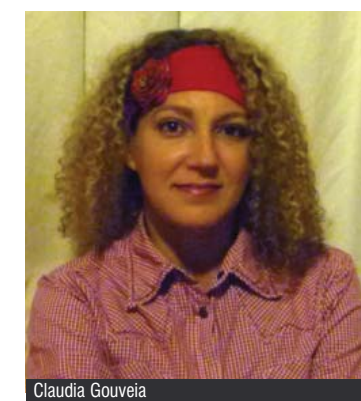
GRACE MANSAH-OWUSU



earnestly for God’s intervention during the time leading up to her surgery. According to a joyful Claudia, ‘The surgeon decided to review my scans again and became convinced the procedure was not necessary and cancelled the surgery. Amazingly, this occurred after I was prepped for surgery – on the theatre trolley, en route to the theatre. If I did not have endometriosis, which is still active but of which I now have only a few symptoms, I may never have known about the PMP until it had spread. I have now changed to a vegan diet and have adopted a healthier lifestyle, and I trust that God will one day allow me to have children. My yearly hospital checks have all come back NED (‘No Evidence of Disease’) and I did not need to have chemotherapy or radiotherapy. God answers prayer – He is in control of my life; I can’t stop praising Him.’

This year’s annual MOHAP retreat takes place between 29 August and 1 September, at De Vere Venues, Horlsey Park, Surrey. The booking closing date is 23 July. Please see www.mohap.org for more details.

JANET HAMILTON



Claudia Gouveia

SEC camp meeting

(Continued from page 1)

For the four ministers who were ordained at the recent South England Conference camp meeting – Daniel Thompson, Kwesi Moore, Paul King-Brown and Namushi Namuchana – it was a rare privilege to have the General Conference president offer the prayer of ordination. Mrs Wilson addressed the ministers' spouses, welcoming them to a new adventure.

These four ministers well reflect the diversity of pastors in the SEC. Britisher Daniel Thompson was brought up going to church, but left at 16. Years later he came across a Bible his mother had given him. He was gripped by reading the story of Genesis and fell in love with Jesus while reading the Gospel of John. Encouraged by his youth pastor, Japhet De Oliveira, Daniel started ministerial studies at Newbold, where he met his wife Hilary. When he commenced his ministry, his mother shared with him how, during his dedication as a baby, his late grandmother had stated, 'He will serve as a pastor one day.'

Daniel and Hilary shared that 'after five years in the ministry the necessity of ordination eluded us. Having now experienced it [however] we see that it is an important milestone, a right of passage that reminds us we are not alone in this fight. The most meaningful part was recollecting the care and kindness of friends and colleagues we've met along the way, and their recognition of our hard work in ministry. The event was refreshing and felt like a recommitment service, blessing us in our continued life of service.' Daniel pastors in the Bournemouth and Weymouth districts.

According to Paul King-Brown (also British), the journey to being a pastor could only be God's idea. From trainee nurse to actor/musician, to sales director and eventually to pastoring; being called to serve in full-time ministry is an exciting and challenging God-led experience. Like Daniel, Paul also had a praying mother, who kept praying for him after he initially left the church.

Paul King-Brown was presented for ordination by Pastor Eddie Hypolite, who described him as a person who thinks the church, who loves the church, who loves this country of his birth and his city of London. 'I

know that the SEC will be made better, that ministry will be made better, as the Lord ministers through him to the church and to the world,' said Pastor Hypolite, who had travelled from Australia to introduce his friend and mentee at his ordination.

'The gravity of an ordination is one to be experienced. The calling of God is a life-changing encounter,' said Paul. 'The support and encouragement of our institution and that of other pastors was incredible and very affirming. Yet, the thing that stood out most on this glorious day was the love poured out to me by my church, family, and friends. They travelled 250 miles, by coach, trains, and automobiles. Pastor Eddie Hypolite and his family flew over from Australia. And as such, I was overwhelmed by those who wanted to let me know that they cared; that they valued me as a person; that they valued my ministry. Being surrounded by love is an awesome experience.'

Paul currently pastors at London Live and Kennington Community Fellowship.

'If Namushi Namuchana weren't here today,' said Pastor Terry Messenger in his introduction to the third ordination candidate, 'you might have seen him at Centre Court this week in Wimbledon.' With a promising career in professional tennis, Namushi Namuchana used to play for his native Zambia. At 22 he was faced with the choice of continuing a promising tennis career or serving God in ministry. He chose ministry, and gave his trophies away. Namushi studied theology and worked as a pastor in Namibia before coming to Newbold College in 2002.

'It was indeed a great blessing for such a Holy Spirit-powered camp meeting to culminate in ordination,' said Namushi. 'It served as a reminder that ordination has little to do with the individual and everything to do with the community of believers that affirm God's work in our lives. We will remember the love that has been given so freely by God and the great cloud of witnesses that affirmed our life-long calling. Prisca and I have experienced that love and support; the words of encouragement and admonition were genuine and heartfelt, and this will be memorable.' Namushi now pastors in the Gloucester, Chalford and Yate district of churches.

Kwesi Moore was baptised during an evangelistic series in Buxton, Guyana, by Pastor Hilton Garnett. So was Michelle, who later became his wife. Pastor Garnett travelled to Camp Meeting and was able to escort Kwesi and Michelle to the platform as well as give the address at the ordination. While involved in an evangelistic campaign Kwesi received a call to ministry, but resisted. It wasn't until he relocated to England that he left working as a motor vehicle and marketing technical and vocational teacher to study for the ministry at Newbold.

'The memorable moment in the ordination service for us was the special musical item rendered by the pastors, including our president,' said Kwesi. 'The sermon, which challenged us to be true to duty even in the face of physical danger; the charge that impressed upon us the elevated responsibility of ministry; and the crowning prayer of Pastor Ted Wilson, also meant a lot. We will always remember the words of experience from Nancy Wilson, enhanced and made even more meaningful by the item presented by the ministerial spouse choir. What a day we have had.' Kwesi currently pastors in the High Wycombe district of churches.

Pastor Hilton Garnett charged the ordination candidates to reflect the character of Christ through prayer and Bible study. 'There is a pre-eminent and paramount task to which every one of us preachers has been called. That is to facilitate the restoration of the character of Christ in every believer,' he said. He held up the apostle Paul as the model to emulate, with his commitment and his passion in the proclamation of the Gospel. 'There is power in the Gospel to transform the lives of men and women. It is the Word of God that makes the difference.'

Throughout the week the music and worship were both of excellent quality. The Camp Meeting praise team was led by Serena Maurice-Nwokoye, and the band by Everoll Corea. A highlight of the worship was when the entire congregation were taught how to sign the theme song 'Onwards and Upwards' in British Sign Language. Attendees were also blessed by the music ministry of Jaime Jorge, a Cuban professional violinist, which lifted all who heard him upwards to Heaven. The

London Adventist Choral added to the festivities on Sabbath, lifting worship to a higher level with their majestic voices. In recognition of their ministry they were given an award for service to the church, along with the Adventist Vocal Ensemble, Croydon Gospel Choir and Ken Burton.

The week's presenters also proved to be well-received. Both Dr Steven Riley and Dr Ranko Stefanovic were invited back by popular demand. Dr Riley was back from the South Caribbean Conference as the Commitment speaker, sharing God's Word every evening. Dr Stefanovic, a professor from Andrews University, Michigan, USA, led the Bible Study programme in the adults' section. The author of a detailed verse-by-verse commentary on Revelation, as well as a shorter resource titled *Plain Revelation*, Stefanovic chose to delve into the book of Revelation during the camp meeting as well. Dr Stefanovic discussed what this biblical book tells us about the time in which we live, bringing a message of good hope and solid teaching. 'Dr Stefanovic has made me fall in love with the Book of Revelation,' said Ashie Abbequaye from London Ghana Church. 'Before, it was just about animals and beasts. Now, I see that it can be used as a devotional.'

Pastor Royston Philbert, secretary and Communications director at the North Caribbean Conference, spoke at the early-morning praise and prayer sessions, which were popular despite the early hour. Songs and testimonies added to the spiritual experience.

In addition to the general speakers, there were also great presentations for specific target groups. 'Marriage is a team sport, it's a partnership between equals,' stated Buford and Carmen Griffiths, respectively, Family Ministries and Women's Ministries directors at the Southwestern Union Conference. This husband-and-wife team led the family life segment through the week, addressing topics like singleness, and the ways a marriage can be either a business or a covenant. With their unique style they were able to communicate important principles for families with clarity, humility and humour, something the SEC Family Life director, Pastor Les Ackie, found to be very appealing to the attendees.

Friday was devotional time with a difference, as Pastor Victor Hulbert shared his research into Adventist conscientious

objectors from World War I. Specifically highlighting the plight of sixteen young men from Stanborough, Pastor Hulbert has unearthed some amazing testimonies from those who lived through this experience and who came out with their faith intact. The devotion opened the eyes of many to the history of the church here in the UK, and the sacrifice so many have made for religious freedom. 'I had no idea' was the general comment afterwards, as people reflected on the presentation. The overall feeling was, as Pastor Namushi Namuchana expressed it, that 'It's important for us to know this history our church here in the UK is built on.'

Youth and teens combined their programmes during Camp Meeting, and were blessed with Dr Charles Wesley Knight from Atlanta, USA as one of their speakers. With a combination of relevant workshops and presentations throughout the week, the teens and youth did much more than just sit and listen. In addition to the traditional basketball games, the youth and teens took to the streets of Rhyl to witness. This had a clear impact on the community, as at least one young woman came looking for Pastor Dejan Stojkovic. She had remembered him and the teen programme from last year. Friday night Communion for the youth was 'the best part of Camp Meeting', according to Albert Gardiner. 'It was so Spirit-filled.' Volunteering with the media team in the youth, Espen Johnson shares that he wasn't expecting much from the meetings because of his duties, but he felt his relationship with God strengthened: 'The I-relate topics were challenging and Pastor Knight's preaching made me reflect on my own actions and belief.'

Ministerial intern Sam Gungaloo spoke to the juniors about the stories of heroes, also asking the timely question, 'Can football save the world?' Drawing from various Bible stories, the lesson was clear: 'God thinks you are a hero, and places a huge value on your life.'

The children's Holiday Bible Club had fun with Pastors Jacques Venter and

Cliff Herman doing simple science experiments. The lab was set up to explore the events of Creation. To demonstrate the God-created forces that separate the sea from the atmosphere, these pastors illustrated centrifugal force and air pressure using simple household items like buckets, drinking glasses and cups. A big laugh erupted from the whole group as one of the experiments went wrong, spilling water all over one of the pastors! The experiment was quickly corrected and worked perfectly the next time.

Some of the children thought the experiments were 'magic', but were reminded that God created all these forces, which keep everything in the universe in its place. Ultimately, just like the natural forces all around us, these activities reinforced how God uses His love and Holy Spirit to 'constrain' us, to help us choose Him.

A special moment was set aside on Sabbath afternoon to recognise the 91 people who graduated from the SEC School of Evangelism, with the Pathfinder Drum Corps leading a procession. It was encouraging to see so many graduating, as it reflects a keen interest in evangelism among our members. Pastor Kirk Thomas, course organiser, thanked teachers and students for their hard work, informing the audience that before the year is out 200 students will have graduated.

'I have been very blessed by the 2014 Camp Meeting,' expressed Pastor Sam Davis, SEC Conference president. 'It has truly been a spiritual feast, and it was indeed a privilege to have General Conference president, Pastor Ted Wilson, with us for a memorable Sabbath.'

KIRSTEN OSTER-LUNDOVIST WITH JAMES SHEPLEY, SAM O. DAVIES, CLIFFORD HERMAN, COLIN STEWART AND KATIE RAMIHARACKSINGH



Children's crafts

Youth basketball

Jaime Jorge

The ordinands

General Conference president Pastor Ted Wilson prays over ordinands

Pastor Sam Davis, SEC president

Pastor Victor Hulbert, BUC Communication director



Outreach in Basildon Town

While we were dismantling our tents and packing away the equipment, the Basildon Town shopping mall administrator made the following comment: 'I trust that you will not wait another year before you visit us once again?'

On Sabbath 24 May, a team of nurses, health workers and helpers, drawn from the Basildon District, Chelmsford, Dagenham, Southend Central and Southend Community churches, united to meet the challenges of 'modern evangelism'.

The medical professionals among our members were able to offer the throng of weekend shoppers a wide range of checks: Body Mass Index, blood pressure, peak expiratory flow rate, Harvard step test, health age assessment; plus hand massages and a variety of health advice and counselling. The ladies in charge of the juicing station proved to be very popular with their 'mixed brew'.

The Southend church drum corps and Pathfinders had a mesmerising effect on the shoppers, who stood still to watch the marching youth, which gave the band of literature distributors a great opportunity to hand out the prepared bags of wholesome literature before anyone had a chance to say, 'No thank you'.

When church members experience such a refreshing encounter with the general public it puts the practice of Christianity into a new perspective.

COMMUNITY SERVICES MINISTRY, BASILDON DISTRICT CHURCH



SEC Area 1 at Royal Cornwall Show

One of the highlights on the Cornish calendar is the famous Royal Cornwall Show at the beginning of June every year.

For three days the showground at Wadebridge in Cornwall is transformed into a living town, bustling with life, energy, agricultural displays, entertainment and trade, attended by around 130,000 people.

Every year the Adventist church in south-west England has a presence there as well. In past years they hosted religious and prophetic themes but in the last four years the members have offered a complete health expo. The South England Conference's 'Know Your Numbers' Health Check package has proved to be the most successful tool at these events and people come in their droves to know their health age, their glucose and blood sugar levels and their blood pressure.

The expo visitors have indicated that the major concerns of the public include knowing their cholesterol and blood sugar levels, and whether they are obese or not. The health tests provide an excellent opportunity to discuss both their lifestyle choices and their relationships. The expo staff offer participants the opportunity to attend

follow-up events, enrol in the ADC Health Course, and take the spiritual material they make available. Although no major decisions are made at the show, lifestyle choices are being considered and contacts are being made. Presently various items of follow-up literature are being sent to more than eighty show contacts.

Also, because the showgrounds are situated close to the town of Bodmin, the church in that town decided to run a follow-up 'Health and Wellness Week' which included practical advice and support on the issues highlighted by the health checks, like exercise, nutrition, stress and smoking cessation advice.

Although not many came to the Health Week, it did provide an opportunity to build useful and positive relationships with the Citizens Advice and the NHS Stop Smoking Service.

PASTOR CLIFFORD HERMAN, SEC AREA 1 (PLYMOUTH, BODMIN, LISKEARD)

Pathfinder 'evangelism'

Great Yarmouth Pathfinders held their 2014 induction ceremony on 12 April, the second year since the club began. Just a few years ago there were no children in the church, but things have changed.

The club is becoming more popular among the community youth, for example. Joel Gaspar, who was baptised last December, introduced his friend Leo to Pathfinders. Since then, Leo's brothers, Serjis and Sasha, asked if they could join. 'Their induction brought joy to the Pathfinder leaders,' said Raviro Kumira, 'to see the genuine willingness of these brothers to be part of the club.'

The church is indebted to their pastoral couple, Rio and Maybelle Espulgar, for the effort they have put into starting Pathfinders in Great Yarmouth. A summer camp is once again planned for this year, this time at the Scout camp near Ipswich.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER

Serjis and Sasha are inducted into the Pathfinders by visiting Area 8 club director, Tyrone Waldron



A 'polite' football tournament

It's not often that a football competition includes the occasional expletive quickly followed by a sincere apology. But spectators in Shawlands, Glasgow were treated recently to a four-week five-a-side tournament free of antisocial behaviour.

The event was organised by the Glasgow church and attracted eight teams from the west of Scotland. Goals Soccer Centre referee, Sandy Woods, said, 'Having officiated at many tournaments, I'm impressed by the organisation and how individuals behaved themselves during the tournament.'

Adventist churches in Scotland have organised a series of community and youth events to run up to and during the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in July and August. Under the banner 'Commonhealth & Well-being', this YES (Youth Engaged in Service) project has gained More Than Gold 2014 and Legacy Glasgow status. It includes a series of health expos, a church health club, a children's holiday club, a praise concert and both cycling and walking events.

For further information contact the project administrator, Audrey Mutongi, at: audreymutongi@yahoo.co.uk. JOHN WILBY (PHOTO: IGOR MIHALOV)



Health screening triggers spiritual interest

Following discussions with the local council, the Bournemouth church's medical outreach team, led by Dr Dina Borges, ran its second health-screening project over the weekend of 31 May and 1 June in a vacant retail unit at the Sovereign Shopping Centre in Boscombe – a district of Bournemouth known for an above-average level of drug and alcohol abuse. The location was provided free of charge by the council and the event was publicised in advance by the centre management (on their website, Facebook and Twitter).

During the event the church's team of doctors and other qualified professionals, augmented by qualified volunteers and observers from sister churches in Portsmouth and Basingstoke, was able to provide basic health screening to 168 members of the public – height, weight, Body Mass Index, body fat, blood pressure, resting pulse rate, blood glucose, lung function and lung age.

Following the screening, all participants were asked to complete a lifestyle questionnaire and then interviewed by a doctor or a pharmacist before receiving medical advice. Five individuals were referred for immediate medical follow-up and a further 14 were identified as being at risk of developing type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Also as a result of the exercise, and of equal importance, 13 participants asked to be contacted by the church for spiritual support and guidance. To quote Pastor Dan Thompson, 'I'm so excited and proud of our church and the health team, because moments of medical need can be opportunities to ponder the bigger questions of life.'

The church is now actively following up each of these contacts and the next health-screening project will take place in Winton, in the immediate vicinity of the church.

CHRIS HARRIS (PR DIRECTOR)



Norbury's 'Big Lunch'

The 'Big Lunch' concept is about getting as many people as possible across the UK to have lunch with their neighbours in a simple act of community, friendship and fun. Norbury Church made this happen on Sunday 1 June at Abingdon Road, SW16. It was the first ever street party to take place on the road, and all nationalities came out to enjoy getting to know one another, together with some of the residents from Freeman Court. Philip said, 'I like being here and would like it every year so that I can get out and meet people.'

The vegetarian food on offer went down a treat and the children were well engaged with a cup game, an egg and spoon race, apple bobbing and a bouncy castle. The Norbury Fire Brigade added another 'wow' to the festivities but were soon called away to an emergency.

The music was provided by Empower Life Chapel, who joined us after their worship and put on a barbecue. We also had music with Elvis (Ron) who belted out a few well-known numbers, to the crowd's delight. It was also a fantastic occasion to do blood pressure checks and share information on healthy eating and living. It was a fabulous day and the members are looking forward to putting on more big lunches in the future.

NOMVULA NDIWENI, COMMUNICATIONS SECRETARY

New life at Netherfield

Netherfield, a small village on the eastern edge of Nottingham, grew up with the railways and collieries of the nineteenth century. These days the coal is worked out, the railways now bypass the village and the good times are gone!

Members of the Baptist church in the centre of town welcome other Christians to use their facilities, especially Netherfield Seventh-day Adventist Church, which has a good reputation in the community. As the Baptist elder commented, 'Previous churches have brought hell-fire and damnation. The Adventists have brought the love of God.'

In mid-June the Adventists also brought a large congregation to witness three generations of one family join the church, along with a young couple who were



Bryn Dixon assists in the baptism of his grandson Chad by Pastor Peter Jaynes.



Bryn Dixon assists in the baptism of his daughter Charlotte by Pastor Peter Jaynes.

received on profession of faith.

Bryn Dixon, local head deacon, helped local pastor, Peter Jaynes, baptise his daughter, Charlotte, and grandson, Chad. He also saw his wife, Shirley, return to the church by profession of faith.

At the same time Richard and Sherie Christie rejoined the church by profession of faith. This young couple are a direct answer to Netherfield's prayer for new and enthusiastic members.

The incoming pastor for the churches in Lincoln, Newark and Netherfield, Pastor Sam Gardner, was there to welcome the new members.

PASTOR PETER JEYNES



Area 1 youth event

On 7 June Area 1 of the South England Conference held a Youth Day of Fellowship at Plymouth Church, with 'friendship' as their theme.

The whole day was full of fantastic praise, enthusiastically led by a praise team accompanied by Matthew Herman on the piano.

The writer took the mission story, telling about the importance of the new friends she made while in Melbourne, Australia, last year. They were a great support to her at a time when she needed their spiritual help and guidance.

Steve Hulbert (frontier evangelist with LIVE St Austell) took the Sabbath School lesson, during which he highlighted the fact that God is our Friend (John 15:15). He was followed by Pastor Dejan Stojkovic (SEC Teens director), whose message was entitled, 'Who is watching your back?' – one that kept his audience smiling and laughing along. Based on 2 Samuel 21:15-17, the story of how David's friend came to his help against the Philistine giants, he showed how we all need friends to 'watch our backs' as we take on the giants in our lives today!

After a fellowship lunch together the youth had more time to get to know one another before another lively song service and Pastor Dejan's closing sermon.

JENNIE HALL



Baptisms at Longsight and Levenshulme

On Sabbath 10 May the Longsight and Levenshulme church baptised three new members, with relatives, friends, and church members filling the sanctuary for the event.

Angela Marie Taylor was raised by Adventist parents and baptised while living in Jamaica. She left the Church, but fortunately continued to be a regular visitor with her two children at Longsight and Levenshulme Church. After many years of attendance, she requested Bible studies and rebaptism. On the day of her baptism, Angela's favourite Bible text, Psalm 27:1-14, was read by her daughter (Actavia) and a special item, hymn 422, was sung by Sr Williams. It was touching to see Angela's daughter walk her to the baptismal pool.

Angela was followed by husband and wife, Jonathan and Jamila Ndhrazi. Jonathan comes from a Methodist background, and was introduced to the Adventist Church by his wife. Both have been regular visitors at Longsight and Levenshulme. Although Jamila was born into an Adventist family and baptised in Malawi, she requested rebaptism with her husband, despite the fact of her being seven months pregnant and having a phobia for water.

Pastor Geoff Smith, who conducted the Bible studies and baptismal service, welcomed the new members into the church. Angela, Jonathan and Jamila were presented with their baptism certificates and reading material by two of the elders, Brothers Griffiths and Barker.

The church also accepted Mrs Avani Rose Seelam on profession of faith and voted the transfers of Dr Trevor Simpson, Mrs Elaine Bent-Simpson and Mr Kiran Aramalli.

MARCIA ANDERSON – COMMUNICATION LEADER

Adventurers 'enjoy' NEC Camporee

These shivering Manor Sheffield Adventurers braved the heavy rain and muddy ground to enjoy the North England Conference's recent camporee – especially the animated sermons of Pastor Alan Hush.

LARRISA ANDREWS



Puget Sound Adventist Academy: Impact 14, with first elder Nigel Nicholls.

Oxford day of music and praise: witness and reward

On 14 June the Puget Sound Adventist Academy's choir, Impact 14, took the Oxford church and its visitors 'to Heaven and back'. This 15-strong ladies' choir from the USA made Oxford the first stop on their UK tour, where they were an unexpected blessing. Choir director Estyn Goss, a retired professional opera singer, gave a fantastic rendition of 'In that great getting up morning', reminding all present of the promise of our Lord's return.

Having looked at the Oxford church's website before coming to the UK, the choir decided to make a donation of £400 towards the Oxford Music School outreach project for the community. Nigel Nicholls (first elder) thanked Anita Dorland (choir co-ordinator and tour organiser) for her kind words of encouragement and support, promising to use the funds to improve the resources, enabling the music school to continue its work in the community. Further photos and video can be found on the Oxford church's Facebook page.

SOPHIA NICHOLLS, COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



'Created, not made'

The South West London Ghana church conducted a Disability Ministry emphasis day on 7 June, with the assistance of the ASNA/SEC Disability Ministry team.

The Sabbath School programme examined mental illness and the Christian experience, while the sermon dealt with the subject of disability and the image of God.

During the afternoon there was an opportunity to examine the experiences of youth living with ADHD.

The event was run under the theme, 'Created, not made', and is part of an ongoing emphasis at the church.

SOPHIA NICHOLLS, ASNA CO-FOUNDER, SEC DISABILITY MINISTRY DEPARTMENT

London to Paris for STOP International

Three Stanborough School teachers and a member of the local church cycled from Tower Bridge, London, to the Eiffel Tower, Paris, between 25 May and 29 May, supported by two other teachers from Stanborough School who drove and prepared meals.

Preparation for this STOP International fund-raising event began in September 2013 with the riders all buying new bicycles for the actual ride.

The aim of the ride was to raise the annual school fees for 50 orphan children of the Way to Life Children's Home in Tamil Nadu, India – an amount of £3,200.

At Tower Bridge the group read the wonderful promises in Psalm 121, invoked God's blessing on the event and set off for Dover. They made it in good time for their ferry crossing, having covered the first 74 miles of the ride in 9 hours, including stops.

Day two started on French soil and was to be their toughest ride, covering 80 miles of undulating terrain, with tricky navigation and soaking rain.

On day three they set off under a cloudy sky praying that there would not be another downpour like the day before, and their prayers were answered.

Day four was the final day of riding and the only one on which someone had a puncture. At about 4.30pm the team arrived at the Arc de Triomphe, where they took many photos, then went up to the Eiffel Tower to say a prayer of thanks for the energy and strength God provided and for keeping them all safe.

If you would like to know more about the project please use the following link: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/donate/makeDonationForCharityDisplay.action?charityId=1004073>.

KISH PODDAR





Flowers in Aberdeen

Of the two great institutions given at Creation, marriage is just as important now as it was then. God designed it for mankind to see and appreciate His glory. But marriages and relationships today are in trouble, and that goes for both Christian and non-Christian families.

To promote and enhance happy marriages and relationships in the Aberdeen area a three-day marriage seminar was conducted by Ron and Karen Flowers over a period of three days, culminating on Sabbath 31 May. General Conference Family Life directors Ron and Karen Flowers have authored and co-authored more than thirty books, manuals and family ministry resources, including their book *Family Faith*, which was given to all the couples present at the Sabbath afternoon session. Their presentations facilitated better communication between those couples in attendance and they also took time for private discussions for those with specific problems.

During the sermon the couple spoke on the works of Jesus, particularly on His first miracle at Cana. In the presence of Jesus ordinary water was transformed into an 'elixir' none had tasted before, signifying that with Jesus our marriages need never be the same again. They encouraged the audience to invite Jesus into their relationships for Him to do the same for them.

The Aberdeen congregation greatly appreciated these timely sessions.

JANICE SAVIZON



'Till death do us part'

On Sunday 22 June Mr Shadrach Birth from Manchester South Church celebrated his 80th birthday at the West Indian Centre in Moss Side, where his wedding reception had been held many years ago. Mr Birth is a well-loved member of both the church and the community. He is terminally blind. Despite this he has dutifully looked after his wife over the years and is famous for his Caribbean cooking and cake-making – not to mention his Jamaican fruit punches.

Mr Birth is devoted to his Bible and well able to explain its challenging texts. He has always been there to help a needy cause, just like the Good Samaritan was.

Since becoming blind his church attendance has dropped off because of his challenges but he does his best to remain part of the church fellowship.

Many people, members of both church and community, attended the celebration where they enjoyed a wonderful selection of Caribbean cuisine, musical tributes and a number of speeches from family and friends – the most touching of which came from his wife, who said, 'I'll love you till the day I die!' To which Shadrach replied, 'Thank you for still loving me, and I thank Jesus for keeping me here; I hope everyone stays strong in the faith because Jesus will come again and His reward is everlasting.'

SARA FRANCIS



Called to 'make a difference'

Men from Bristol, Cheltenham, Gloucester, London, Swindon and Reading gathered at the Woodcroft Christian Centre, Chepstow, recently for a men's retreat organised by the Gloucester Men's Ministries department.

In his opening remarks SEC president, Pastor Sam Davis, challenged participants to 'make a difference', to build a closer relationship with Jesus and use their talents in sharing the good news with their friends, acquaintances and loved ones.

There was a wide selection of seminars facilitated by Pastors Jojo Bonnie, Jonathan Burnett, Namushi Namuchana, Dr Sasha Bennett, Ainsley Mitchell, Errol Bryan and Emmanuel Ampofo.

Michael Beamish from Cheltenham Church personally found it very challenging: 'The weekend gave me thinking time and has challenged

me to think about what I do and whether I could do more.'

Ainsley Mitchell found the weekend uplifting. 'The weekend generated a lot of discussion and it was well worth it.' These comments were echoed by Robert Hinds, who added, 'There was good fellowship among those present.'

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT, GLOUCESTER CHURCH

big wedding

Brixton Mass Wedding

The Brixton church recently experienced something extraordinary when 35 couples from the church and abroad decided to recommit themselves to each other during the recent Family Life seminar series facilitated by Layne Robinson, Family Life leader, Brixton Seventh-day Adventist Church. The couples

followed each other down the aisle according to their years of marriage, from the youngest to the oldest married couple. The series was held from 10 to 24 May under the theme, 'Secrets of a Happy Family', with presentations covering a wide range of topics of interest to the married, divorced, widowed and single – everyone! Controversial

topics were covered with sensitivity, including the matter of marital conflict resolution. The point was clearly made that in God's happy family there is no boss; the husband is the head and the wife is the heart. In order for this to work God must be made the Master of the house and the head and the heart must work together. Although the

main focus was on the family unit the singles were left spiritually equipped with practical biblical truths.

This series started on Brixton's annual Homecoming Day and a great number of the church's former members and some visitors turned up for the event, including a number of SEC pastors.

This spectacular recommitment service was presided over by local minister, Pastor Ebenezer Jones-Lartey, and guest speaker, Pastor James Phillip, and followed by a reception where family and friends were able to congratulate the 35 couples.

TANYA ROACHE



New Life Church supports Alzheimer's Society

'I Get By With A Little Help From My Friends' is the new slogan of the Alzheimer's Society and Dementia Friends. It was also adopted by members of New Life Adventist Church during National Dementia Awareness Week, 18-24 May.

On Saturday, 17 May, New Life Church held a fund-raising concert in aid of the Alzheimer's Society in Islington. It featured the sounds from steel pan musicians, Asarbe Asare and Keith Boldeau Jr, and included powerful vocal performances from Troy Wilson and the group 'Resurrection'.

Dementia is affecting many church members, neighbours, friends and family members across the country. Ndidi Okonta, from the Alzheimer's Society, shared information about dementia as members asked questions, highlighting that music is an excellent form of therapy for those suffering from dementia. This was followed up by a subsequent training session on Saturday, 31 May. This was facilitated by Muriel Sawyer and those present became 'Dementia Friends', each receiving badges and a 'Welcome to Dementia Friends' card. A cheque of £360, collected from the initial fund-raising concert, was then presented to the society.

There is presently no cure for dementia, but the money raised will be used for research into its causes and support for sufferers. The programme gave New Life church members of all ages knowledge of how to support and befriend those suffering with the disease.

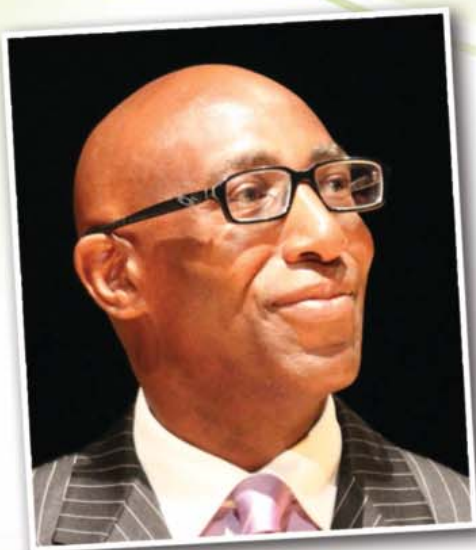
NEW LIFE COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



Stanborough Press Open Day

Sunday 7 September

120 years
in SDA publishing



Guest speaker:

Dr Jeffrey Brown, president of the Bermuda Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and Family Life director.

Music:

Well-renowned
Croydon Gospel Choir.



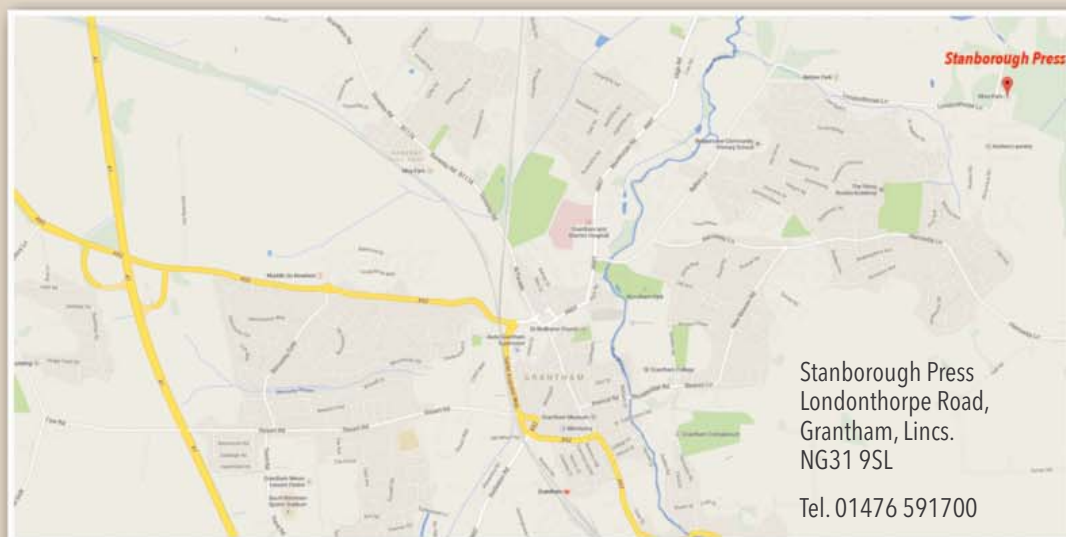
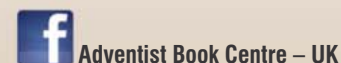
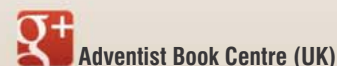
Church stall marquee:

The church stall marquee is back, by popular demand. To book your pitch, contact Charles Bramble on 01476 515901. A small charge will apply!

Stanborough Press Open Day is an opportunity for fellowship, to be able to catch up with old friends, make new friends, to stock up on all your favourite health foods and purchase new titles from our extensive book display.

Mark **Sunday 7 September** in your diary, and plan to come along, . . .

we'd love to see you!



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Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Jul 18	9.08	9.21	9.20	9.45	9.47
25	9.00	9.12	9.10	9.34	9.37
Aug 1	8.49	9.01	8.59	9.20	9.25
8	8.37	8.49	8.46	9.06	9.11

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It's also the 120th anniversary of the Stanborough Press, so why not join in with the celebrations?