tism by immers

Pass it on

When Rob Hughes met Bathsheba Mapiki she brought him to the Grantham church. Rob began serious Bible study. After a new study, he would visit his mum, Cindy, who had joined the Church of Latter-day Saints in the year 2000, questioning what she believed and had been taught, Eventually, Rob invited her to Sabbath School to learn more about what the Bible teaches. Cindy enjoyed the discussions and stayed for Divine Service too, but was not yet fully convicted and could not always come to church because her workplace would not give her Sabbaths off work.

One day, on an outing to Derbyshire, Roxanne Gardner asked Cindy if she would like to begin regular Bible studies. Soon Pastor Sam Gardner began a course of studies with her.

Last September, Jim Ayers, the Press Open Day visiting speaker, spoke at Grantham Church, recommending the book *Ten Commandments* Twice Removed. Cindy read the book and was convicted about Sabbath observance. She asked her employers once again if she could take Sabbaths off and move her hours to Sunday; this time there was no hindrance.

When Rob and Sheba were baptised at the end of 2013, Cindy made a commitment to prepare for her own baptism. Grantham Church members were overjoyed to witness this baptism on 2 August 2014, conducted by Pastor Solon Kyriacou.

Just as Sheba brought Rob to church, Rob brought his mum Cindy, and now Cindy brings her two granddaughters.

ELISABETH CARNELL

Combined Sabbath district baptisms

On 19 July, the Weston congregation delighted in a baptismal service for four district members.

Pastor Wayne Erasmus baptised John Thompson of Yeovil Church. Then, ministerial intern Julian Thompson baptised Sean, Thabo and Gugu of the Wenyika family from Taunton Church.

Friends and family members of the candidates formed a choir and delivered a resounding rendition of 'We Shall Never Part Again'.

J. NASH, COMMUNICATIONS, WESTON







Another baptism at Romford

On Sabbath 2 August, following a three-week evangelistic campaign, Ruth Bignall and Mary Zuwaradoka were baptised and became members of Romford Community Fellowship. There was double celebration by both the heavens and the members at Romford! God is indeed calling His people home. Thank You Jesus! ANGELIQUE CHARLES



Continued on page 10

with Dr Dina Borges MD

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.

Dina Borges is a general physician with experience in clinical practice; clinical trial management & development; pharmacovigilance: business/competitive analysis and medical communications.

SPM: Dr Borges, thanks for accepting to do this interview. Firstly, please give our readers an outline of your medical background.

DB: I am a general physician with additional training in cardiovascular disease and psychotherapy. I qualified in Mexico, where I spent several years in clinical practice followed by two years working in clinical research for a leading Swiss pharmaceutical company. For this my speciality was Cardiovascular Disease and Metabolism (Diabetes).

Since coming to Europe I have worked primarily as a consultant in the international healthcare industry advising on clinical development programmes. I am also an adviser to a specialist carer agency which focuses on quality-of-life issues for the terminally ill and those with severe debilitating diseases.

SPM: What was your inspiration to go into medicine?

DB: Since I was a small child I wanted to be a doctor. On several occasions, my mother had to chastise me for cutting up my dolls to see what was inside them! It is hard to say what specifically inspired me: I just knew I wanted to be a doctor -I must say that God led in the fulfilment of that

SPM: What are some of the common health conditions that you have to deal with?

DB: Over the last few years I have been dealing primarily with terminally ill patients, many of whom have chronic degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, dementia, COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), and cardiovascular disease. I have also spent some time as a volunteer in the oncology unit of a leading London hospital.

SPM: How would you describe your approach to treatment?

DB: In my opinion the patient has to be treated holistically, with both pharmacological intervention and lifestyle advice.

health screening. Why?

DB: In the UK we have a surge of cardiovascular disease and diabetes that the NHS does not have the resources to cope with. Earlier diagnosis is a key to preventing long-term complications and costs associated with these diseases. It is estimated that the NHS presently spends £25,000 a minute on what is – in many cases

- a self-inflicted condition.

Recognising that our church in Bournemouth has several members who are healthcare professionals, we decided to set up a team to support the community in this area. Over the last year this team screened more than 600 people for cardiovascular disease, diabetes, lung function and obesity. Of these, 28 had to be referred for immediate medical follow-up.

SPM: That is wonderful news! Tell us more.

DB: In our first screening we were visited by the Mayor of Bournemouth and his wife, both of whom have type 2 diabetes (they have given permission for this to be reported). He was so impressed by the service offered that we were then invited to meet with him and the director of public health for Dorset. As a result of this the council has offered locations in the city to hold future events, particularly in deprived areas. The public health director also wants us to work with him on future health initiatives and this is under discussion.

SPM: Well done. Would you like to see more of our churches involved in such outreaches as health screening and health expos?

DB: Yes, but I think it is important here to differentiate between health screening and health expos. In my opinion, health screening involves the screening of individuals for specific disease states using defined medical parameters and reacting according to the outcomes. Health expos. on the other hand, involve advising people on lifestyle, diet, and so on. In all cases relating to health screening, the process is completed by the participants having a consultation with a qualified healthcare practitioner who is fully conversant with the implications of the findings.

SPM: Recently you told me that some of those your team has screened are now enjoying better health outcomes. Can you share any of these testimonials with our readers?

DB: As you appreciate, patient confidentiality is important, but I can share two examples with you **SPM:** I understand that you have a keen interest in for which I have permission. The first one is a member of our own church in Bournemouth who went through the process as a volunteer and was found to be pre-diabetic. Following advice and referral to her GP, she was able to modify her lifestyle without any pharmacological intervention and her glucose level has come down to normal in less than three months. The second case was a young woman in her mid-thirties, a single parent with three children, whom we identified as having

high blood pressure. She returned to a subsequent screening to say 'Thank you' for referring her to her GP. Her family had a history of cardiovascular

disease and she thought she was too young to have problems, which thankfully today are under control. Situations like these make the screening very rewarding.

SPM: You have a passion for delivering health care to a high standard and this has been demonstrated in the health screening events under your supervision. Can you tell us some of your plans with regard to the documentation that you currently use and how you would like to see it develop?

DB: Recently the NHS extended its own health screening programme to cover patients over 50 years old unless they have specific exclusion criteria. We know from our own screening that there are major health issues with patients far younger than this age group, so we would like to see screening extended to them too. In relation to the screening process, what we are doing is bringing our parameters as much in line with the NHS programme as possible. And we are amending our documentation in accordance with this.

SPM: What advice would you give to our Health Ministries leaders and health professionals who may be interested in being part of these health outreach initiatives?

DB: I think what is important for our church is that we are consistent in the service we provide, the quality of that service, and the way we react to the outcomes. It is important when we undertake health screening to remember that we are in the public eve. For this reason we must demonstrate a high degree of professionalism, not only for the benefit of the public, but also for the integrity and image of the church. What I would like to see is that the church standardise its health-screening strategy across the country to ensure this consistency of message and service.

SPM: Dr Borges, what is your next project and what do you hope to achieve through it?

DB: At the moment I am working on the next health screening, which will take place before Christmas. I am also advising other churches about health screening in their areas. From a more personal perspective, when I get the time, I am writing a book about the 'Process of Forgiveness' and its implications for both male and female

SPM: I am certainly looking forward to the publication of your book. Thank you for sharing your expertise with our readers in this way. I know that you are happy for us to pass your details on to the churches who want to know more about improving their screening initiatives and I will also be working at BUC level to encourage this.

To contact Dr Dina Borges for information about how to shape your local church Health ministry please contact her on tel: 07717757630, or by email at: drdinaborges@yahoo.com

editorial

Do you ever doubt God's existence? Do you ever wonder if He is really up there somewhere – actually interested in humanity's ups and downs?

It may come as a surprise to you, but the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, recently admitted to BBC Bristol's Lucy Tegg that he has his periodic doubts about the existence of God. In his candid response to her question – 'Do you ever doubt?' – the leader of the world's 80 million Anglicans gave this example:

'The other day I was praying as I was running and I ended up saying to God: "Look, this is all very well but isn't it about time You did something – if You're there" – which is probably not what the Archbishop of Canterbury should say."

Doubt is a *human failing*

Now, before any of us begin hyperventilating, possessed by the thought that this is 'just another solid prophetic proof that "Babylon the Great" has fallen!' let's cautiously remind ourselves that doubt is a *human failing* – as easily found among Adventists as it is among Anglicans! You disagree? Then pause a moment with me and consider what Welby was actually saying.

When we listen to another part of the interview we hear him make this comment:

'There are moments, sure, where you think. "Is there a God? Where is God?" '2

This is not the comment of an atheist, the scornful utterance of an unbeliever. He is merely articulating an issue that men and women of faith have grappled with throughout the ages: 'God, I believe that You exist, but I am struggling to see You at work!'

Job had those same divergent feelings and for 41 dramatic biblical chapters (Job 1-41) we are privileged to eavesdrop

> on his raw, intimate reflections about faith and doubt. Deep down in his heart he knew that God existed; that He was the Creator; and that He was 'theoretically' on Job's side. But, like Justin Welby, Job couldn't clearly see Him 'at work' – until that touching moment in Job 42:5 when he exclaims:

> > 'My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you. (Emphasis supplied.)

I am sure that we all have our moments of doubt - times when God becomes 'invisible' because of the dense clouds of adversity that swirl around us.

Job and Justin are in good company

"Look, this is all

very well but isn't

it about time You

did something - if

You're there"

We don't need to travel far down Scripture's timeline before we see the

Have you ever doubted God's existence?



Julian Hibbert

'faithful' wrestling with doubt. Abraham and Sarah were not 'novice' believers. Their faith had been tested before. But now God was in their camp, telling them that they would soon be the parents of their own child. How did Abraham react?

'Abraham fell face down; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" ' (Genesis 17:17, emphasis

It wasn't long before another Visitor made reference to their imminent parenthood, and this time it was Sarah who couldn't conceal her doubt:

'Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. **So Sarah laughed** to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?" (Genesis 18:10b-12, emphasis supplied.)

Yes, Job and Justin are certainly in good company, and there are other prominent 'doubters' we could mention – followers of God who really struggled to see Him actively involved on their side during times of adversity; or, like Abraham and Sarah, failed to see His plan for them as viable. David wrote many psalms that illustrated his personal struggle with doubt, and his passionate desire for God to be more visible on the battlefield of life. Psalm 86:16, 17 provides an example:

'Turn to me and have mercy on me; show your strength on behalf of your servant; save me, because I serve you just as my mother did.

Give me a sign of your goodness, that my enemies may see it and be put to shame. for you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.' (Emphasis supplied.)

Perhaps it would be good for us to pause for a moment at the foot of the cross and listen to Christ's last words. A dreadful gloom had settled over the city and its surroundings. Behind Him lay a blinding haze of brutal abuse. He was close to death.

The taunting jeers of the crowd wafted up to Him. But from above there was silence. No fluttering symbol of divine sanction. No whisper of encouragement or approval. Just ceaseless waves of unimaginable pain!

'From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land. About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, Iema sabachthani?" (which means "Mv God. my God, why have you forsaken me?").' (Matthew 27:45, 46.)

'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' How would Matthew Weaver of *The Guardian* have reported that 'official statement' . . . had he been around? Would he have viewed it as a sign of doubt? Would his evening headlines have screamed, 'Christ's Mission a Dismal Failure: Jesus admits disbelief in God!'?

One might be inclined to reach the same conclusion if it were only Matthew's report we had to

'And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.' (Matthew 27:50, emphasis supplied.)

Fortunately for us, Luke's investigations reveal just a little more. He tells us what those last words of Jesus were:

Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last.' (Luke 23:46, emphasis supplied.)

It is about what we 'do not see'

Wrapped up in those last two exclamations of the dying Christ, you have the solution to our conundrum: a) we may seem to have every human reason to doubt God's presence or His involvement in our lives (as did Jesus); b) but our faith can still transcend the most hopeless of human circumstances (as did that of Jesus) and with a 'loud voice' pray, 'Father, into your hands I commit my life.

After all, isn't faith by definition an 'assurance about what we do not see'? (Hebrews 11:1, emphasis supplied.)

1http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2014/sep/18/archbishop-canterbury-doubt-god-existence-welby 2lbid

Editor's note: All verses are taken from the New International Version, UK edition (NIV-UK).

devotional



Doing the right thing

by Karen Shelbourn

Philip Scholz

Thirty-five-year-old Philip Scholz was a senior marketing manager for a company in Silicon Valley, California. While waiting to catch the train home one evening in January this year, he saw a stranger standing on the track. He lay down on the edge of the platform and tried to reach the stranger and pull him onto the platform. Just at that moment, a passing express train hit them both, killing him, and badly injuring the stranger.

Philip Scholz didn't hesitate to help the stranger; he did it because he was, as his friends described him, not one to stand by when someone was in trouble. To his wife it was important that people not say that he was 'in the wrong place at the wrong time', but that he was doing the 'right thing' when the accident happened.

Dirk Willems

Dirk Willems died in 1569. almost 450 years ago. He was an Anabaptist, living in Holland at a time when they were being persecuted because of their strongly held belief in 'believer's baptism' by immersion. They rejected infant baptism, believing that a baby or child is not able to understand the concept of repentance and the significance and meaning of baptism. Today we are free to practise baptism by immersion, whereas, in sixteenthcentury Europe, it was a dangerous thing indeed. Many Anabaptists also rejected the form of worship in the established churches, believing they could approach God directly in their homes or other buildings rather than a church.

Dirk Willems had been found guilty of allowing worship services in his home and performing baptisms, and was imprisoned for these offences. But on a cold winter's day, he managed to escape and was making his way across a frozen pond or lake when one of the guards spotted him, and gave chase. Dirk managed to get across the ice, probably because he was lighter due to the prison diet. His guard, however, not having had these privations, was not so light and fell through the ice. In danger of drowning, he cried for help. At this point, Dirk Willems had freedom ahead of him, and a drowning man behind him. What should he do?

Well, he did what he believed was the right thing, his 'Christian duty'. He turned back, helped the guard out of the water and thereby saved his life. So what reward did he get for doing the right thing? He was promptly re-arrested and sentenced by the magistrate to be burned at the stake. The sentence was carried out on 16 May 1569.

I expect the magistrate thought that he was doing the 'right thing'. It is not recorded what Dirk Willems thought of as he waited for his sentence to be carried out, but I hope his faith sustained him through the ordeal.

Three young men

The story of Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah is about 2.000 years

older than that of Dirk Willems. When these men were young, they fell into the hands of the Babylonians, and were given new names. They became Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego and their story is found in Daniel 3.

There are some parallels between their story and that of Dirk Willems. Their faith was at odds with the faith of most of the people around them, and they were faced with laws that they could not in good conscience keep. They also did the right thing, and were punished as a result.

You will remember that they twice refused to bow down before Nebuchadnezzar's golden image, even in the face of a fiery death.

Like Dirk Willems, they defied evil and did the 'right thing'.
Unlike Dirk, their lives were spared, but not before they had shown their willingness to die for their faith.

'Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us from Your Majesty's hand. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up" '(Daniel 3:16-18. NIV-UK).

Jesus Christ

We move on about 600 years to the first century AD, and the life of Jesus. You could say that the purpose of Jesus' mission on Earth was to do the 'right thing'. He came here to show us what God is like; to demonstrate His love for us; and to show us how to live right.

From the outset He found
Himself at odds with the ways
of Satan and the laws and
traditions of men. Even the holy
men of His day – those trained in
the law and will of God – were
unwilling to do what was right. He
didn't have to do any of this – He
wasn't forced or coerced – but
He was motivated by His deep
love for each of us.

Each time He said or did
the 'right thing' the opposition
intensified against Him. They
shouted Him down; tried to stone
Him; and laid plans to arrest Him
and put Him to death.

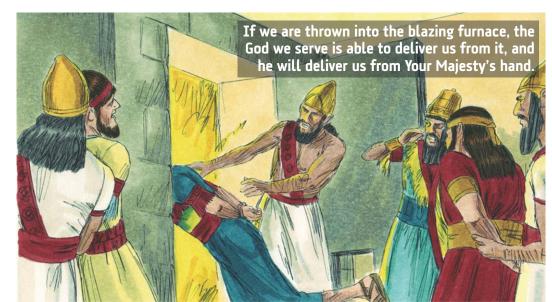
Without any doubt, Satan was His primary enemy. At the very beginning of His ministry, it is recorded that he made three very specific challenges to Jesus, to sway Him from His mission (see Matthew 4). Each time He was challenged to divert from doing the right thing, He looked to Scripture to answer the challenge.

We must not for a moment think this was easy for Jesus. Mark records that in Gethsemane His soul was overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death (14:34); and we are familiar with His prayer, 'Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will' (14:36, NIV-UK).

But despite all this He was determined to do what was right in order to secure our salvation – He 'steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem' even though He knew this was going towards His death (Luke 9:51, NKJV).

We believe that Jesus is coming back to this earth a second time – this time in glory and triumph, to put an end to sin and death. Before that happens, we believe that there will be trouble, and much of that trouble will centre on worship.

Webster's Dictionary (1828) defined worship in this way – worship is to honour with



extravagant love and extreme submission. Did you catch that? It is both an *attitude* and an *act*. We don't just worship on a Sabbath morning, but through our daily actions too.

It is in doing the right thing in little things that we are prepared to do the right thing in big things. Dirk Willems, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego all faced many small challenges before being confronted with the major, significant, life-threatening challenges for which they have become known. A life of faith had gradually prepared them to step up to the mark and do the 'right thing'.

What about us?



Diversity lecture, autumn 2014

Tuesday 11 November 7.30pm

Lecturer: Dr Jean-Claude Verrecchia,

Principal Lecturer in New Testament, Newbold College

Title: 'A Diversity of Witnesses: can we really know what God says?'

For more information please contact:
Helen Pearson, Diversity Centre Co-ordinator,
Newbold College
Tel: 07775 612610
Email: hpearson@newbold.ac.uk

God of Science

and

Our Purposeful Existence Saturday October 25th, 3pm – 8:45pm





The Chance or Design team present a thought provoking programme

Did a Good God make Bad Bugs?

John Mackay – International Director, Creation Research

The Re-emergence of Intelligent Design
Dr. Alastair Noble – Director, Centre for Intelligent Design

Discovering the Invisible Qualities of God through Science

John Harris – Director, Living Waters (Europe)

Includes two exciting workshops by Apologetics: UK

Belief in God - Jesus Christ –

Only for the Senseless? Historical or Mythological?

Venue: The Stanborough Centre, 609 St Albans Road, Watford, WD25 9JL info@chanceordesign.com www.chanceordesign.com/registration/



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

Andrew Puckerin

'Genesis 1:31 says that everything God made was good, but Genesis 2:17 refers to the tree of the knowledge of good and evil – did God create this tree? This has puzzled me from childhood to my 92nd year of life!'

M. Doreen Bull

Thank you, Doreen, for writing in! There's a short answer and a long answer to this question. I suspect you already know of Genesis 2:9, which in the King James Version, the Amplified Bible, and Young's Literal Translation states that God made all the trees, and the tree of life in the middle of the garden, and the

tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Other translations add words to the effect of 'they were there as well', which make it read as if these two trees were also present, rather than saying that God also created them – although these words aren't present in the Hebrew.¹ So the short answer is, 'Yes, He did, according to the most literal reading of Genesis 2:9' – but the point you made remains unaddressed. If everything God had made was 'very good', why was one tree endowed with 'the knowledge of good and evil'? Where did this 'evil' come from?

There was nothing 'evil' about the tree *per se* – rather, it 'was good for food . . . pleasant to the eyes' (Genesis 3:6, NKJV), in common with all the other trees God had made. Ellen White says, 'There was nothing poisonous in the fruit itself.'2 Rather, eating of the tree could give the partaker knowledge, which the serpent made out to be a good thing – 'your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil' (Genesis 3:5, NKJV) – and Eve desired it, to make her wise (Genesis 3:6).

The problem was, it wasn't just any knowledge that eating from the tree provided. According to the *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*: "The" before the word "knowledge" signifies that the tree could not provide any and every kind of knowledge, but only a certain sad knowledge of "evil" in contrast with "good". "It was the will of God that Adam and Eve should not know evil," says Ellen White. The knowledge of evil — of sin and its results, of wearying toil, of anxious care, of disappointment and grief, of pain and death — this was in love withheld."

Why, then, did God place the tree in the garden? 'He gave them the power of choice – the power to yield or withhold obedience. And before they could receive in fullness the blessings He desired to impart, their love and loyalty must be tested.'5

Adam and Eve chose to sin, and it was this conscious rebellion against God, rather than any harmful property in the tree itself, that caused them to know evil: 'the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked . . . and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God' (Genesis 3:7, 8, NKJV). Although the fruit itself was good, breaking God's command not to touch it opened their eyes to evil — and they were never again able to close them.

¹lf you have internet you can see this for yourself online at: *qbible.com/Hebrew-old-testament/genesis/2.html* ²Education, p. 25 ³Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary, vol. 1, p. 224 ⁴Education, p. 23 ⁵lbid

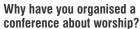
Do you have a question you'd like to see answered in Q & A? Why not send it in to us at: editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk? If your question doesn't appear in the next issue, don desnair — we will deal with it in due course

feature

SEC/TED Worship Conference and Day of Fellowship

Miroslav Pujic of TED Media answered these questions about the forthcoming SEC/TED Worship Conference . . .

and so on.



Worship is the essence of our Christian life. We want to bring back the understanding that the purpose of our worship is to glorify, honour, praise, exalt and please God. This is not to please us; it is not a time to perform. Our worship must show our adoration and loyalty to God for His grace in providing us with the way to escape the bondage of sin, so we can have the salvation He so much wants to give us. The nature of the worship God demands is the prostration of our souls before Him in humble and contrite submission.

What aspects of worship will be on the agenda?

The Essence of Worship Conference is designed as a special opportunity to experience biblical worship; to learn why we worship; and to understand the role of music in worship – its meaning and significance. (See advert no. 1.)

Who are the speakers?

The Sabbath speakers for the Day of Fellowship (see advert no. 2) are Bill Knot (Adventist Review), Daniel Duda (TED) and Lilianne Doukhan (Andrews University professor of music); while from Sunday to Monday we have other specialists such as Kleber Goncalves, Tihomir Lazic, Kart Lazic, Gabriele Giuga, Ken Burton, Karl Johnson, Renate Hazel, Miroslav Pujic, Geert Tap and Sam Neves. They will approach worship from different aspects and standpoints, such as history, culture, psychology, communication and technology.

Will they provide practical advice, or just theory?

Both. The theory will be based on the teachings of the Bible and E. G. White about worship, but there will also be a strong practical emphasis during the conference



Will this be helpful to those seeking to reach special target groups through their worship? It is going to help worship leaders in the local churches, in small groups, and those using worship as evangelism.

For more information see http://www.essenceofworship.org

To register, please speak to your pastor or contact the South England Conference without delay

In your opinion, who should on the worship models; how to prepare and lead worship; the use attend this conference? of technology, music, drama, art, It is a must for all pastors, church Worship leaders and musicians.

as seats are limited.



For more information about the programme, go to www.essenceofworship.org

Kingdom training

Wimbledon International Church's Holiday Bible School was well attended by children and teens from the church and their friends, age 0-18. It ran from Monday 11 to Thursday 14 August. Each day began and



ended with a song service and devotional. All age groups enjoyed getting creative and designing their own Holiday Bible School T-shirts to wear on the Thursday outing, and all followed the theme: 'Kingdom Training – The Armour of God'.

The younger groups had fun learning about and making the different armour, and learnt about maintaining health with SEC Health Ministries director, Elsie Staple. They quickly put what they had learnt into practice with some obstacle course games, and even Kung Fu!

The older teens looked at the armour of God from the perspective of good career choices, and good decisions in their careers. They learnt interview techniques, how to write effective CVs, and business planning skills. Each had a personal session to identify their skills and potential future study. On Wednesday they all gave a presentation, *Dragons' Den* style! This was valuable practice for both university application and the

On the last day of the Holiday Bible School, all groups came together for a trip to Chessington World of Adventures, where great fun was had

On Saturday, they received a certificate and showed the church what they had been working on during the week. Plans are already in place for next summer's Holiday Bible School, and we're sure that it will be TAMMY GRIFFITH

Day of Fellowship

Sabbath, 18 October 2014

Programme

10:00 Sabbath School

11:00 The Essence of Worship: The Lamb of God Speaker: Bill Knot

15:00 Biblical Foundation of Worship Speaker: Daniel Duda

15:45 Music in the Bible and EGW Writings Speaker: Lilianne Doukhan

18:00 Music, Praise, Commitment Ken Burton & Co. and music groups from abroad

The Dominion Centre, London

Ticket entrance (free). Please, contact your pastor or the SEC office.

www.essenceofworship.org





COMMUNITY COOKING HUBS

Location: Dundee SDA Church, Scotland 2-day foundation Health Ministries course

Sunday 2 November & Monday 3 November 2014 Time: 9.30am-4pm Limited places: 20 places

Attendance by advance booking only

To book or obtain more information email: createnutrition@gmail.com

Community Cooking Hubs is a training course designed to equip Health Ministries leaders and their teams to effectively promote healthy eating through community cooking demonstrations.





Baptisms

Holloway Game of Thrones campaign

With open arms Holloway welcomed Pastor Matthew Herel and his new wife, Kiera, to conduct his first campaign, from 13 to 26 July 2014. Pastor Herel was an intern pastor at Holloway from September 2011 to February 2013.

Pastor Herel, using the popular TV series Game of Thrones as the theme for the campaign, spoke about who will sit on the throne of our lives. Each night he presented reasons for why and how we can make Christ the head of our throne (our heart). He used the story of Zacchaeus as an example. Pastor Herel's sermons were inspiring and uplifting, and all who attended were truly blessed.

The evenings had an added touch of Amazing Facts presentations and a guiz based on the previous night's sermons. The well-attended campaign ended with a baptism on 26 July, with two young people, Stefan Decoteau-Grant and Jordan Corniche, giving their lives to Christ.

HOLLOWAY COMMUNICATIONS





Three Manchester teens **baptised**

On 30 August three teenagers were baptised at Manchester South Church, It was the birth of three teenagers: this was not a baptism show; rather, the church bore witness to and became culpable for three teenage souls.

Joshua Jackson from the Gorton branch was first up. He is just 15 but is already known as a spiritually studious young man. He was raised as an Adventist and according to his testimony had 'always believed in God' and wanted to 'give my life to Him'

Next up was Davinia Questel-Lewis from the Manchester South





church, who is also 15. She too was raised in an Adventist family.



While she was receiving Bible studies from Rose Gomez (the Bible instructor for Manchester South and surrounding churches) she attended a music seminar called 'The Distraction Dilemma Music Seminar'. During the seminar she found out what the Bible really says about music. As a direct result of this experience, she felt a conviction that other young people should be exposed to this particular seminar, so she suggested that all of the youth at Manchester South should attend this series. She shared her testimony with the church, which led to 40 young people signing up, including some non-Adventist students.

The third candidate was Aneesha Rayavarapu, a 16-year-old from the Southern Asia branch, described as a smart, spiritual teenager, and a talented Christian singer. Her father is an elder and she has been brought up as an Adventist. Now, she has decided to make that next step in her journey with the Lord: 'I thank God for being with me throughout my life, . . . and today I commit myself fully to Him, trusting that He will be with me forever.' Aneesha then sang while her father played the piano.

SARA FRANCIS, COMMUNICATION LEADER



Baptism at Latimore

On 6 September Rachel and James Lal from Langley Church got baptised at the Latimore church in Birmingham.

The baptism was the result of a Bible study at the church on the book of Daniel. At the end of the three-week study, cards were given out, asking if anybody would like to give their lives to the Lord, and as a result siblings Rachel and James (parents Rita and Roger Lal) were baptised by their grandfather, retired pastor Dalbir Masih.

ROHEET SUBRAI



Baptisms mark new era at **Stanborough Park**

Baptisms are always joyful occasions but the one at Stanborough Park Church on 5 July witnessed the end of an era. The baptistery, used by countless people since 1928, was used for the last time as three teenage girls gave their lives to Jesus.

A new baptistery is part of the redevelopment of the sanctuary begun in July 2014.

In his address, Pastor Sam Neves recalled that Ellen White was only a teenager when she became involved in the Advent movement and was called to give her visions to others. Mary, too, was just a teenager when she gave birth to Jesus. God is very confident in trusting teenagers and we should be too. Pastor Sam always appreciates their suggestions and ideas.

For the mother of Estée Vitry it was a very special occasion – her third and youngest child was being baptised by her brother, Pastor Daniel Thompson of the Bournemouth and Dorchester churches, conducting his first baptism since his ordination at Prestatyn, Eleven of her family members were baptised in that very spot.

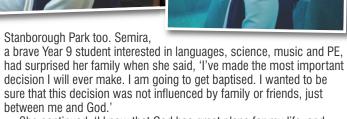
Estée, aged 13, attended Bible Academy and received further Bible studies with Pastor Sam Neves. She is one of an increasing number of fourth-generation Adventists, one of her grandmothers being the legendary 'Nanny Wyn' Snailham. Estée is a group leader in Youth Activities and enjoys art, photography and singing in the choir.

Tiwa Adebayo is a 16-year-old who enjoys sports and music at school: she decided to accept Jesus after three months of Bible studies. Also from an Adventist family, Tiwa hopes to study Law and Theology at university. She states, 'I know that I can give all my problems to Jesus . . . I am hoping to become involved with the Parallel Service as well as the youth ministry here at Stanborough.'

Semira Fletcher-Brian was baptised by Pastor Des Boldeau, former BUC Youth director and the father of her close friend. She also belongs to a family with Adventist roots - her mother grew up at







She continued, 'I know that God has great plans for my life, and knowing that means I approach decisions by asking Him first. Also I know, whatever happens. I am not alone and things will always work out.' She would like to become an osteopath and work with children in the church in outdoor activities.

These three young girls demonstrate that sometimes our youth make important decisions quietly, in their hearts, and we are unaware of their spiritual growth: hence the importance of nurturing them with love and support. Welcome to our church family, Estée, Semira and Tiwa.

JUNE COOMRS YUNUEN CARRILLO

PHOTOS: DANIEL SABATIER/JUNE COOMBS

Area 3 Youth Federation baptism

'Mind the gap' was an evangelistic series organised by the Area 3 Youth Federation with the support of the SEC Youth department. Southampton Church played host to the event from 23 to 30 August, with record crowds in attendance.

On Saturday 30 August more than 270 people witnessed the baptism of 8 young adults who had made their commitment to Christ.

Pastor Roger Bernard, Central States Conference administrative vice-president (USA), was the guest speaker for the event, and he was accompanied by two of his former elders. Carl Curtis and Robert Pruitt. who, along with Pastor Douglas McCormac, answered the guestions placed in the question box each evening. Pastor Bernard's messages challenged the audience to recognise that the void in their lives could only be filled by accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. The meetings were well attended, with 80-plus people coming through the church doors every night.

On the Friday evening, as the series drew to a close, Pastor Bernard shared his testimony on how he became a minister before finishing with a season of prayer, during which the pastors and elders prayed for those who came forward for special prayers.

At the end of the week, 22 people decided to give their lives to Christ and will be starting Bible studies with their local pastors in the coming

One parent expressed the joy of her son getting baptised. She said this series has 'made her the happiest woman alive' and that she had been waiting for this moment for a long time!

MPHATHISI NCUBE (AREA 3 YOUTH PRESIDENT)







Press open day

ombining a total of 105 years of service to the Stanborough Press, Paul Hammond and Paul Poddar were applauded during Press Open Day on Sunday, 7 September.

Outgoing general manager, Paul Hammond, started at the press in 1957 at age 15. He has total commitment to Adventist publishing, and even in retirement he will be lending advice to the new manager, Elisabeth Sangüesa.

While being thanked by BUC president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, Paul himself thanked UK Sales manager and associate general manager, Paul Poddar, who retired this year after 48 years of service.

Both Pauls, popular and warm-spirited, have been familiar figures at Open Day over the years. However, 'warm-spirited' also

describes newcomers to the team, such as Elisabeth Sangüesa, the new general manager – vivacious, with years of publishing experience and a great love of books. Formerly serving at the Adventist publishing house in Spain, for the past four years Elisabeth has been Marketing director for the Stanborough Press. Find out more about Elisabeth in her *In Conversation* interview on

the Hope Channel website.

Charles Bramble comes to the Press from granoVita and is now Finance director. Holloway Church are still mourning the loss of Pastor Samuel Ouadjo. With years of experience in publishing and colporteuring he has taken over as UK Sales and ABC manager. The newest recruit is Carlos Thorpe, who only started as International Marketing director a few days before Press Open Day. With a rich experience in sales and marketing, Carlos is bursting with ideas on how to move the Press forward.

Also at Open Day, NEC members in particular welcomed back their 'son', Dr Jeff Brown, who previously served at Oakwood University, at Newbold College, and as a pastor in the NEC, and his wife, Pattiejean. Together they led an animated presentation on 'The four love seasons' and other family life issues. Dr Brown is currently president of the Bermuda Conference.

The Croydon Gospel Choir (the official TED choir at the General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, next year) stunned the crowd with their harmonies as the shoppers enjoyed excellent reading material, health foods and much more besides.

Photos from the day can be found at: adventist.org.uk/news/gallery/gallery-na/stanborough-press-open-day-2014. A BUC News interview with Jeff and Pattiejean Brown is also available.



















news



'Who I am makes a difference'

This was the theme of the Family Life weekend organised by Brother and Sister Irish for 31 members of Tottenham Church, who spent the bank holiday weekend at a hotel in the Buckinghamshire countryside.

Pastor Keith Boldeau shared his knowledge on the psychology of marriage, life skills, facing retirement and being single, while Audrey Soyam shared how to strike the right balance of being a wife, mother and businesswoman. All who attended were spiritually blessed and revitalised.

S. MUNROE



The end of an era

Recently Stanborough Park's Music department held its last concert in the church's 'old' sanctuary and raised a further £1,450 towards the Development Fund.

The weather outside was dreary for a July evening but the atmosphere inside the church more than made up for it as Stanborough Park members turned out in large numbers to attend the final concert to be held in the building they had come to know and love.

Outside the site, huts were already in place to begin the 'bold vision', as Pastor Sam Neves put it — a ten-month period during which there is to be a partial demolition, extension and general refurbishment of the church building and two adjoining halls. The next concert will be held on a 'concert hall' platform to showcase the huge range of musical talent in the church

The evening's topic was 'Praise Him, Praise Him', with members ranging from teenagers to seniors singing and playing musical instruments to God's glory. Pastor Mary Barrett's talk explained how we should praise God for everything; that music can 'inspire, calm and soothe'; and that 'by working together' as the members of the choir and orchestra were doing, 'It is possible to create amazing music and draw minds closer to God.'

The choir and orchestra certainly did that, performing to their usual high standard under the baton of Ms Jieun Ahn, as did the members of



Music day at Romford

Sabbath 26 July saw Romford Community Fellowship host its second music day of the year, organised by Romford's praise team. Members and visiting friends alike sang in praise and thanksgiving. The main focus was on praising the right Person, in the right way, and at the right time.

Many more music days are planned at Romford for the coming years, with the express aim of lifting up the name of the living God.

ANGELIQUE CHARLES, COMMUNICATIONS CO-ORDINATOR



'When I was hungry, you fed me!'

Manchester Southern Asia Church has for the last six months been experiencing God's blessings in donating food to 45-50 homeless, poor and needy people at a venue run by local charity Barnabus, providing food fortnightly on Thursday evenings. Every month church members cook food at their homes and donate it to the homeless. It has truly been a blessing to befriend the outcasts of society. The homeless and the Barnabus staff have enjoyed the Indian curries and look forward to our next visit!



the Junior Choir. Also providing music was a group of four young musicians called the 'Sixteen Strings', the Male Voice Choir and the Ladies' Vocal Ensemble. Jiae Ahn, Minyoung Bae and Beatrice Dan provided music on the piano/organ.

16



Get on your bike! Or lace up your trainers!

Support ADRA-UK on your own cycling or running challenge! It's time to get fit and start making a difference today!

Across the UK there are many sporting events that look to raise money for charity. As a result, ADRA-UK is considering the launch of 'Sport Team ADRA', where members can participate at (endurance) running or cycling events in order to promote and raise funds for ADRA-UK.

Members of Sport Team ADRA will have access to special training days and other exclusive events! As part of the ADRA team, we will help you prepare for the big day with training plans, diet and nutrition suggestions – all to ensure that you are ready to complete your charity cycle ride or run in record time! You will also have access to a dedicated digital platform to share information and look for new challenge opportunities.

We will charge a yearly registration fee, which will entitle you to a free ADRA-UK jersey (for cycling or running) and free admission to two endurance events per year.

So why not combine getting fit with raising money for ADRA? ADRA-UK needs your help! Contact volunteering@adra.org.uk.

If we have sufficient interest we will launch Sport Team ADRA in 2015!



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Aberdeen's first health expo brings results

When Aberdeen Health Ministries leader Vanrica Searchwell, aided by Janice Savizon, decided to hold a health weekend culminating in Aberdeen's first health expo, the enemy created problems: but God was in control

Sabbath School was taken by Robert and Michelle Sullivan and their family, whose presentation included Bible songs from texts based on health. Divine Service included special items and a sermon on optimum health. Dr Patrick Lowe highlighted the health of British and American populations when Ellen White received two health visions in 1863 and 1865. From these visions *Counsels on Diet and Foods* and *The Ministry of Healing* were written. Dr Lowe concluded that Ellen White's visions were God's way of restoring basic health principles.

Due to the Aberdeen church's location the health team used a main shopping square for the health expo, next to a busy arterial road through the city centre. Prayer was made on site the week before.

The expo, which ran from 10am to 4pm, saw a constant stream of people wanting to know their health age: 121, despite the bad weather. Thirty-eight wished us to remain in touch and left their contact details. Though some were initially sceptical, these left with smiles and welcomed the initiative. One young woman was moved to tears, expressing how much she needed such an intervention. Passersby took literature from our table, covered with Ellen White health books and NHS and British Heart Foundation leaflets.

The Lord Provost of Aberdeen, Councillor George Adams, was very impressed and spent time walking around the stations and interacting with staff. He was presented with copies of *Counsels on Diet and Foods*. The Ministry of Healing and a book about our beliefs.

Special thanks go to God; to Dr Patrick Lowe and Dr Tom Tannassee; to the Sullivan family; and to the team of church volunteers.

Aberdeen Church is excited about how God worked to banish all obstacles. We look forward to the next event and anticipate further blessings from the Lord.

JANICE SAVIZON

Pam's garden party

Each year Pam Davies, a member of the Grantham church, opens her home and garden for her annual garden party. This benefits a different



charity each year. This year her chosen charity was a local unit for adults with learning difficulties, for which attendees raised £300. It was a beautiful afternoon and a happy time was enjoyed by all.

DOREEN BEAMISH



Hutton Church Camp

For Hutton Church, 5-7 September kicked the month off with a blast of nature walks, camp fires, wall climbing and more. In fact, this was the first church camp in decades. It took place in Danbury Park, Chelmsford, and (thankfully) the weather was almost perfect.

WALTER BHENGRA

West Bletchley Community Food Bank distributors

Among other community outreach programmes this year, West Bletchley SDA Community Church have joined a community agency to supply regular food parcels to those in need, contributed by the members. The Food Bank is an increasingly popular scheme to provide emergency food supplies for a limited period of time to help people

get back on their feet – for instance, after a period of illness, when benefits are unavailable, or redundancy. It has been described by one client as a 'literal lifeline. I don't know what I would do otherwise.' Earlier in the year a special meal was hosted for those who collected their parcels in an effort to get to know them better.

The photograph shows that our young people are delighted to participate! SYLVONIE NOEL, COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT



On Sabbath 26 July, Fartown Community Church held its first music day, entitled 'Total Praise', organised by Rebecca Whittle (Music leader). The guest speaker was Mike Johnson, presenter

of Light FM, who encouraged members to testify of what God has done for them and showed the importance of lyrics.

Special items were rendered by the Huddersfield SDA Youth Choir and Joshua and Joel Robinson, Jamal Gilling and Michael Anesu.

A grand fund-raising concert entitled 'Gospel Fusion' was held the next day at the Huddersfield Town Hall, organised by Jennifer Fray and compèred by Pastor Des Rafferty. In attendance were the Mayor of Kirklees. Councillor Ken Smith; the mayoress, Mrs Christine Smith; and local magistrate Paul McNulty. This outreach promoted the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church as most of the audience were not Adventists. Musicians included the **Huddersfield Community Gospel** Choir, conducted by Edwin Baker; the London Adventist Chorale, conducted by Ken Burton; Paul Lee; Mark Bunney; the





Huddersfield SDA Youth Choir; Janine Dyer; Colin Williams; and musical group Time. God's name was certainly magnified in each performance.

NEC Youth Day

On 28 June, in Northampton Cricket Club, Sabbath School at the NEC Youth Day commenced with a 'court trial' on the 'prophetic date



1844'. Why did it have to be that date? Why was a prophet needed to interpret it? Robert Latham from Coventry Central Church answered and explained Daniel chapters 2; 6; and 8, and Revelation, despite not yet being a baptised Adventist.

Robert had been searching for the Lord in other churches for some time when he stumbled across the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and is now studying the Word intently. All present were impressed by his articulation on the subject.

During Divine Service, Pastor Randy Skeete preached on the necessity of teaching our children the Word of God, saying that if parents pay for their children to learn a musical instrument, how much more should they give for their children to learn the Bible! If a child can learn to play the violin at an early age, she is not too young to learn the Bible.

Youth from Area 7 were present from Rugby, Coventry, Wellingborough, Leicester, Corby and Northampton. Joshua from the Harlestone Road church preached on Ephesians 6:10-18 regarding the whole armour of God. Adventist youth: be like Daniel, who actually put on the whole armour of God. Stand up and be counted!



back page

Hope in troubled times . . .

'From the ashes a fire shall be woken.

A light from the shadows shall spring:

Renewed shall be blade that was broken.

The crownless again shall be king.' J. R. R. Tolkien, The Lord of the Rings

he words stood out . . . they were black and bold on the front page of the newspaper: 'Woman Beheaded in Edmonton'. My thoughts were mixed. 'Is this for real? Maybe the information is slightly inaccurate . . . I need to say a prayer for the family." During the two previous weeks there had been three murders: a gang-stabbing on the street of my workplace; a drug addict stabbed on the street near my home; and then the one that shook the community the most, the beheading of a senior citizen on Nightingale Road.

In troubled times, you can either bend to overwhelming pressure, or stand tall and be a light even though it feels like all hope is lost. On 6 September, in the midst of a shaken community, the Edmonton church chose the latter. Led by our local pastor, Dr Richard de Lisser, the church felt it necessary and important to be a part of the community. 'The church is God's appointed



agency for the salvation of men. It was organised for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world." So instead of the fancy shoes and frocks of a normal day in church, we wore a heartfelt spirit of togetherness and comfortable shoes to spread hope across the Edmonton area. While knocking on the doors of this small community we heard of a woman whose life was an example to us as Christians. 'She always gave what she had . . she was a kind lady.' Those who didn't know her name still knew of her. Her heart and soul were a reflection of true community spirit. How many of us are known for being light bearers in our local communities?

This day wasn't just for those we call the 'stalwarts of the church'. We all banded together junior Sabbath School children, teens, youth and parents – and took to the streets of Edmonton. The youth became what Ellen

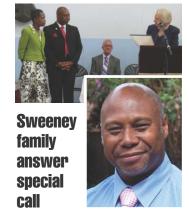
> White called 'a helping hand'. 'With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world!' Education, p. 271.

This tragedy in the heart of Edmonton became the 'flagpole' from

which we could fly the flag of Christ's second coming and the spirit of togetherness. And so pamphlets with the powerful title, 'Hope in troubled times', became the message for the day. We invited the community to join us for a special programme of hope in the afternoon, providing a place where emphasis was on those four letters. A book of condolences was opened and signed in memory of Palmira Silva by all who attended.

'The power of togetherness and hope' were the theme words of the day, and the church became an agent of these qualities. ROSETTA ALLEN

¹Ellen White, Acts of the Apostles, p. 9



On 14 June 2014 the Harlestone Road company said farewell to Pastor Cyril Sweeney and his family, who had ministered to them for eighteen months after his term as North England Conference president. Harlestone Road members describe his 'high standard of care' as 'invaluable', not only for themselves, but also for Northampton Central and Loughborough, their sister churches. Pastor Sweeney and his family are sorely missed, and members want him and his family to know how much they appreciate their work, care and attention.

Pastor Sweeney has taken up a new role at the British Union Conference as Family and Children's Ministries director. ANASELIA MORRIS

Messenaer

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Sunset

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