

Newbold College 2015 Awards Ceremony

On Sunday 14 June, Newbold College of Higher Education graduated 30 students and awarded the rank of Principal Lecturer Emeritus to four retired lecturers at its 2015 Awards Ceremony. Guests included the Deputy Mayor and a councillor from Bracknell Forest Council, alumni, staff and family and friends of the graduands.

Newbold's principal, Dr John Baildam, highlighted that it is part of the largest Protestant Christian education network in the world, and that its alumni enjoy high positions both inside the Church and among external organisations worldwide.

Newbold's graduands, representing seventeen countries, had successfully completed their studies in Theology, Religious Studies, Business Studies, and Liberal Arts. Graduating Business student, Saskia Heibutzki, said, 'What I appreciated most about my time here is the joy of being around people from all parts of the globe, learning about the different mentalities and cultures, and making friendships that transcend any cultural differences. I really think this experience will be a bonus in the business world.'

The guest speaker was Pastor Raafat Kamal, President of the Trans-European Division of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and chair of Newbold's board of governors. He reminded the graduands of the precious friendships they have developed with people they will forever be linked to through the mantra of 'learning to think for yourself'. Pastor Kamal said, 'I want you to take a good look at these wonderful people who will support your passions, be your network of contacts, and, if need be, catch you when you fall.'

Himself a Newbold alumnus, Pastor Kamal said that Newbold encouraged independent learning, thinking, and the freedom of choice – even the choice of his own wife!

Pastor Kamal then shared four insights from his personal experience. Firstly, we must keep asking, 'Why?' We must discover the purpose, cause or belief that inspires us. Then believe it, memorise it, embrace it, be passionate about it and constantly keep our focus on why we exist

and do what we do. His second insight was that attitude is the most important choice one can make, citing Holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl, who wrote that 'everything can be taken from a man or woman except one thing, the last of human freedoms – choosing one's attitude in any given set of circumstances'. Another example was Joseph's response to his brothers who sold him: 'You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.' (Genesis 50:20, NIV.)

Pastor Kamal's third point was that most of the problems that we face in life are perceptual, and the solution is not doing something differently, but thinking about the problem differently. His fourth point was a challenge for us to see the unknown and the ambiguous as opportunities. He also challenged the graduates to pursue a life that is biblically based, Christ-centred, Holy Spirit-driven and community-focused, to the glory of God and for the good of His creation.

On behalf of the graduating students, Saskia Heibutzki responded to the charge made by TED Director of Education, Dr Daniel Duda, 'to live the life of the kingdom of God in this present world, to love God and your neighbour as the Lord commanded, to respond to the needs of others with all the skills, dedication and commitment that your alma mater represents'.

At the end of a day which was overflowing with happy sentiments, Theology graduate Sebastian Matula, beaming with delight, said: 'During the last three years at Newbold, I have understood what it means to be human: to be a follower of Jesus Christ, to let His love shine through my life and to prepare people for the imminent return of Jesus.'

Dr Baildam said that it was a pleasure and privilege 'to see the joy of accomplishment and achievement on the faces of all our graduating students . . . I know that some visitors looked on with envy – but just a quick contact with our admissions office might ensure that one day they too can be part of a future ceremony,' he added.

RELEASED BY JUDITH MAKANIANKHONDO, COMMUNICATION ASSISTANT, NEWBOLD COLLEGE



Learn more about Newbold at www.newbold.ac.uk, and view photos from the 2015 Awards Ceremony on the Newbold College of Higher Education Facebook page.



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Enhancing Health

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

Going natural Part 4 – Assessing your home environment

In the last issue of Enhancing Health, we referred to the Natural Living Ideas website (www.naturallivingideas.com), which gives information about including natural options into your daily life to enable you to live in a healthier environment.

In this issue we raise some questions designed to heighten your awareness of your living environment. The exercises at the end of each segment will challenge you to take stock of your household items in order to see if there are any potential health hazards associated with their use. In a later issue we will discuss how to know which research to trust, but for now it would be good to explore some of the reports on the nature of products we currently use.

Bedroom: On average people sleep around eight hours per day, which amounts to an average of 229,961 hours in a lifetime – approximately one third. That is a significant amount of time spent in one room, so ensuring that it is a healthy environment is important.

Exercise: • Make a list of the natural products used in your bedroom. How many did you find? • Think of alternative natural products that you could be using if are not happy with those on your list.

Bathroom: Personal products are among some of the household items that can impact our well-being due to their ingredients.¹ The Centres for Disease Control (CDC) currently monitor the levels of ingredients from cosmetics and other products in the bloodstream of randomly selected Americans in order to direct public health discussions.²

Exercise: • How many of the products you are currently using are 100% natural? • Make a list of all related products and their ingredients and check out their pros and cons.

Kitchen: Take time to go through the contents of your kitchen cupboards, comparing and contrasting the healthiest and the least healthy food items. • Take note of all the 'natural' food items and resolve to eat more of those products. • Make a list of any food items with artificial colours, preservatives or additives and research them.

Living room: Our relaxation space should be comfortable, enjoyable and an addition to our well-being.

Exercise: • Are you sitting comfortably? Does your sofa help you maintain a healthy posture? • How often do you damp-dust? • How close to your TV and other gadgets with high electromagnetic fields do you sit, and for how long?

Homework: Visit the following website (www.naturallivingideas.com) for exposure to more natural options to improve your green living at home.

Good health!

¹<http://healthychild.org/chemicals-to-avoid-in-your-personal-care-products/>
²<http://www.webmd.com/health-e-home-9/healthier-hygiene>

editorial

'Hmm, this doesn't look like France.' This is what the intrepid 'aviator' Jonathan Trappe posted on his Facebook page approximately 12 hours into his 2013 attempted crossing of the Atlantic. Trappe had achieved 'lift off' on 12 September by using a cluster of 366 'giant' helium-filled balloons and was expecting the Westerly winds to power him along to France, some 3,000 miles away.*

He had been waiting 100 days for the right weather conditions. In his own words, 'It was nail-biting waiting for a weather window that would allow me to get up into the air and catch those transatlantic winds we'd been seeing. I need[ed] to get on them and ride them across like a conveyor belt.' And had things worked to plan, Trappe would have floated across to France in about six days at between 18,000 and 25,000 feet above sea level, dangling inside a small yellow lifeboat.

Just imagine

Try to imagine being crammed into that lifeboat surrounded by '60 litres of water, 38 litres of Gatorade and 60,000 calories-worth of food, as well as shelter and exposure gear' – not to mention a satellite phone, iPad, GPS, torch, extra batteries and a 'porta potti'! Certainly not an adventure for the faint of heart, was it?

Jonathan Trappe is certainly no novice. He appears to be the world's most experienced long-distance 'cluster' balloonist. In May 2010 'he became the first man to fly over the English Channel in a cluster balloon system and in 2011 he became the first person to fly over the Alps.'

On his website, www.clusterballoon.com, he explains that his 12-hour feat amounts to the longest flight ever undertaken in such an aircraft – 466 miles, 318 of which were over open water. Fortunately for him, he recalculated his ballast requirements while crossing the Gulf of St Lawrence. The new results were based on the actual usage so far and Trappe realised that he would have to ditch in mid-ocean if he continued –

'Hmm, this doesn't look like France ...'

1,500km from his destination – with potentially fatal consequences!

The choice was a no-brainer and he decided to crash-land his cluster balloon on the clifftops of Newfoundland, Canada, the last piece of solid ground before the deep Atlantic began.

How does it work?

Unfortunately, cluster ballooning is a somewhat imprecise sport; for once you have lift off your whole system is at the mercy of the prevailing wind. This meant that Trappe's next sight of land could have been anywhere from Iceland to Morocco!

This piqued my interest in this extreme sport. 'Just how do you fly a cluster balloon?' was my question. John Ninomiya, another of the world's top exponents, provided this crisp answer:

'To control the altitude of the cluster balloon, the pilot takes off with more balloons than needed to lift his or her weight, and carries ballast (water or sand) to balance out most of this excess lift. To level out or descend, the pilot releases or bursts balloons. To slow the descent or ascend again, the pilot releases ballast. The number of times the cluster balloon can ascend or descend is limited by the amount of ballast and extra balloons carried. . . .'
(<http://www.clusterballoon.org/intro/intro.html>)

Simply put then, one's success in getting airborne and keeping aloft is dependent on having the right balance between **ballast** and **balloons**.

A fine metaphor

What a fine metaphor for life in general: 'Keep things in balance.' Some of the most successful and influential people I know have lived balanced lives. They've stood consistently on level ground, well away from the extremes and excesses on either side. They live above much of life's nonsense because they know when to **release ballast** or **burst a balloon**!

In the late 1950s Pete Seeger wrote a song entitled 'Turn! Turn! Turn!' based on the oldest surviving lyrics in the world – 'To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven . . .' – the inspired words of Solomon from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (KJV). The Byrds turned it into an international hit late in 1965; and although used as an antiwar protest song by many, at its core the lyrics call for us to live lives of balance.

Jesus

In a deeply spiritual sense I see that same quality of balance exemplified in Jesus. Notice how John announces His incarnation: 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.' (John 1:14, NIV.)

From the outset, John identifies Jesus as possessing two outstanding qualities, 'grace and truth'. These are the **balloons** and the **ballast** of His life and ministry. They featured in His daily engagements with people. For example, when the Jewish leaders brought a woman accused of adultery before Him, challenging Him to endorse her savage execution, He spoke few words, but those He did were 'full of grace and truth': 'Then neither do I condemn you [grace], Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin [truth]."' (John 8:11, NIV.)

Balloons and ballast

Yes, it seems that successful living has a lot to do with **balloons** and **ballast** – with achieving balance. A balance that helps us rise above as much of life's nonsense as possible – a balance that closely mimics that of Jesus . . . who is 'full of grace and truth'.

*Sources:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/northamerica/usa/10306400/Balloonists-attempt-to-cross-Atlantic-ends-after-only-12-hours.html>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstudies/weirdnews/10304890/Man-attempts-Atlantic-crossing-with-cluster-of-balloons.html>
<http://www.clusterballoon.com/>
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2418598/Jonathan-Trappe-IT-manager-attempts-cross-Atlantic-simply-clinging-helium-BALLOONS.html>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turn!_Turn!_Turn!



Julian Hibbert
Editor

Katrina in Cambodia

A report by Pastor Michael Walker on Katrina Walker's work with Raw Impact in Cambodia

In September 2013, Katrina Walker flew out to Cambodia to serve as a volunteer missionary for one year, later extended to 18 months. Katrina attends Hemel Hempstead but her parents, Michael and Pearl Walker, attend our church in Great Yarmouth. We have kept Katrina in our prayers and so it was not surprising that she was invited to come over and share her experience with us. Which she did on Sabbath afternoon, 13 June, to a church filled with members and visitors eager to listen to her experience.

She illustrated her talk with photographs and gave us a brief background on Cambodia, including information about the tragic genocide campaign that was instigated by the infamous Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge, which has left an indelible scar on the history of the Cambodian

people. We were shown Tuol Sleng Prison in Phnom Penh, where several millions of victims were held, tortured and finally 'processed' before being taken out during the hours of darkness to the killing fields. Men, women and children were butchered at the rate of 300 a day. It was a macabre and cruel regime. We were shown the rules of the prison, which are still on display. They state such regulations as: 'While getting lashes or electrification you must not cry out at all'; and, 'If you disobey any point of my regulations you shall get either ten lashes or five shocks of electric discharge.'

It has been a struggle for the people of Cambodia to emerge from this dismal past. Somehow life just goes on. There are many things needed to improve their lifestyle. We were shown a short video clip of the traffic in Phnom Penh – it was a conglomeration of motorcycles weaving in between other vehicles. Traffic lights appear to be ignored. Frequently vehicles are driven on the wrong side of the road. We got the impression that health and safety had not yet caught up with Cambodia! The only person required to wear a crash helmet was the driver! Pillion passengers on a motorcycle often numbered

up to half a dozen people, and included animals such as pigs and bundles of live chickens hanging over the back wheels! Someone was even seen carrying a large pane of glass as he sat on the pillion!

Poverty is rampant in that country. The only possessions that some families have are a few items of clothing and bedding in an empty room. There are children whose only toys are empty plastic bottles, sticks and cans. Katrina became tearful as she described the abject poverty of many of these poor people.

Katrina went to work with Raw Impact, an Australian-based organisation that was set up by an Adventist. It is a young organisation but is expanding rapidly. Among her personal activities she attended our church in Phnom Penh, where she was based, and joined the choir. Three times she was mugged while driving her motorcycle. They snatched her shoulder bag as they drove past, pulling her off her bike. She related how, upon reflection, although she was cut, bruised and badly shaken, God had miraculously taken care of her. With a mass of vehicles flying past in either direction while she was down in the road, she could have been run over. Yet she

was kept safe. Her greatest loss – more valuable than keys, camera, phone or money – was her precious Bible, received at her baptism. It was carried away by the thief in a bag-snatch! We only pray that God will place that Bible in the hands of someone who will find Jesus.

As she told us of the work she engaged in, it soon became clear that she had been a 'jack-of-all-trades'! As a fully trained nurse she accompanied the medical team along dirt roads to out-of-the-way villages. The people came for medicines and treatment. One was a leper. She explained that they were unable to do much for him but she took him aside, removed his filthy bandages, bathed his rotting feet and put some ointment on the hole in his foot. Then she placed fresh, clean dressings on his feet and legs. She knew they would soon be filthy again within a few minutes as he trundled through the mud; but tears ran down his face in gratitude. She explained that he, like many others, just wanted someone to show love and care for them.

Her skills and experience enabled her to organise projects for health improvement, hygiene awareness, and to bring medical personnel up to date with a better standard of work. Hospitals are in a pitiable state. One such place was an accident and emergency room: it contained one bed, a chair,

an oxygen cylinder, and just two or three surgical implements! The ward had one bed with a torn mattress. Patients had to provide their own bedding, otherwise they just lay on this torn plastic mattress in a stuffy room. In another hospital, men and women shared the same ward. There was no bedding and no privacy screens. One of her tasks was to assess the needs and see what could be done to alleviate them. She also spent time visiting doctors' surgeries out of the city to see what could be done to help improve their procedures. On one occasion when they were with a doctor in his surgery, they noticed that the floor was covered with rat droppings. In Cambodia it is the custom to remove your shoes when entering a building!

The police in Phnom Penh were completely untrained in how to arrest people. They had no handcuffs, just batons. When arresting criminals they would first beat them unconscious, then cart them off to the cells! It was soon after Katrina arrived in Cambodia that the team signed a contract with the police to train them. They arranged for them to have at least the basic handcuffs, but also organised training on how to arrest someone without injury or rendering them unconscious.

Lots of village houses are built on stilts because vast areas are subject to annual flooding. On one particular occasion, while building some houses, the river began to swell and the team were soon



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 Puckering

'Why do some people suffer many troubles while others live a life of apparent ease?' William Johnston

A Firstly, we should recognise that troubles came into the world as a result of sin, introduced by the devil (Genesis 3:14-19).

All having sinned (Romans 3:23), we all would receive sin's natural consequence, death, were it not for the mercy of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (Romans 6:23), who died for us while we were yet sinners (Romans 5:8). Part of His mercy comes in the form of loving corrections, even as a father corrects his children when they go astray (Hebrews 12:3-13). Alas, we often rebel against His discipline, causing ourselves much pain and hardship (Hosea 7:15, 16). Despite this, God sends such blessings as sunshine and rain *irrespective of whether we deserve them or not* (Matthew 5:45). Since He is more gracious to each of us than we deserve (Ezra 9:13; Psalm 103:10), it's not ours to ask why He chooses to have mercy on any particular person in this life (Romans 9:18-26).

Why, then, do some have more troubles than others? Although we often bring troubles on ourselves (Proverbs 12:21), Jesus tells us they don't necessarily come because we're worse sinners than anyone else (Luke 13:1-5) – that bad things do happen to good people is attested in the psalms (see, for example, Psalm 88), and the book of Job. Such troubles may feel particularly acute when it seems that those who show less respect to God have it easier than we do (Psalm 73:1-14). We're advised not to be jealous of them though (Exodus 20:17; Proverbs 24:1), because unless they repent and turn to Christ they will receive the consequence of their sins (Psalm 73:15-28).

How do we deal with the pain of these apparent injustices? We can take some comfort from knowing that they are not always due to our sins, but that they might help others to see God's power at work in our lives and believe (John 9:1-7; 11:6-15) – wrapped up in the great controversy, we have been 'made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations' (Hebrews 10:33, NKJV), 'a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men' (1 Corinthians 4:9, NKJV). If, having witnessed our troubles, someone believes and accepts Christ's free gift of salvation to eternal life, then they would be worthwhile, for 'the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us'; 'For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory' (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17, NKJV).

Just take Joseph, for example. Sold into slavery by his own brothers; falsely accused and thrown into prison; left there to rot for two years by a man he'd helped – Joseph surely had cause to fume at life's injustices. Yet God used those very circumstances to make him governor of Egypt and save a whole nation and his own family from famine (Genesis 45:4-11; 50:15-21). Could it be that, in like manner, God might be working through our troubles to bring us to heaven, where troubles will be no more (Romans 8:28; Revelation 21:1-4)? A 'far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory' – I'm looking forward to it!

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.



Village school



Team-built houses



Village on stilts



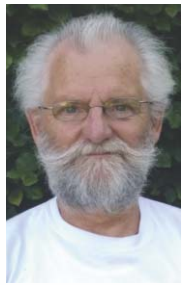
Presentation at Great Yarmouth Church



Building the playground



Finished playground



A foreigner's view on mission

by Cor Sanders, once a 'foreigner' on British soil

I remember the first time I set foot on British soil in 1976. We, my brother with his soon-to-be wife and I, landed in Sheerness by ferry from Vlissingen, Netherlands, for a ten-day tour of the British Isles by motorbike. I still recall how weird it felt to ride my bike on the 'wrong' side of the road, but soon adapted to it. My Dutch motorcycle lessons that had taught me to 'keep right and pass left' were soon adapted to the British rule of 'keep left and pass right', a real lifesaver! This experience is actually the basis of the thought I would like to share today.

It is often seen as desirable to go abroad while still keeping a tight hold of the ways of your homeland. This is not just true when on holidays, but even when people emigrate. We all want to hold on to our identity – the ways in which we were brought up – and in a sense that is quite OK. I found later, after I moved to the UK permanently in 1993, that I would far rather practise Scouting with the local church youth than do Pathfinders: after all, I was brought up with Scouting and had the Scouting Wood Badge. I knew my way around Scouting. Strangely though, after completing the Pathfinder Master Guide course I noticed that there was actually no real difference between the two. Being brought up in the Dutch church I got used to Scouting, but in Britain they did Pathfinders, and I just had to live with it. After all, in the end it is (or should be) a method to help adults tell youngsters about Creation and Jesus in a fun way, whatever we may call it.

Is it that important?

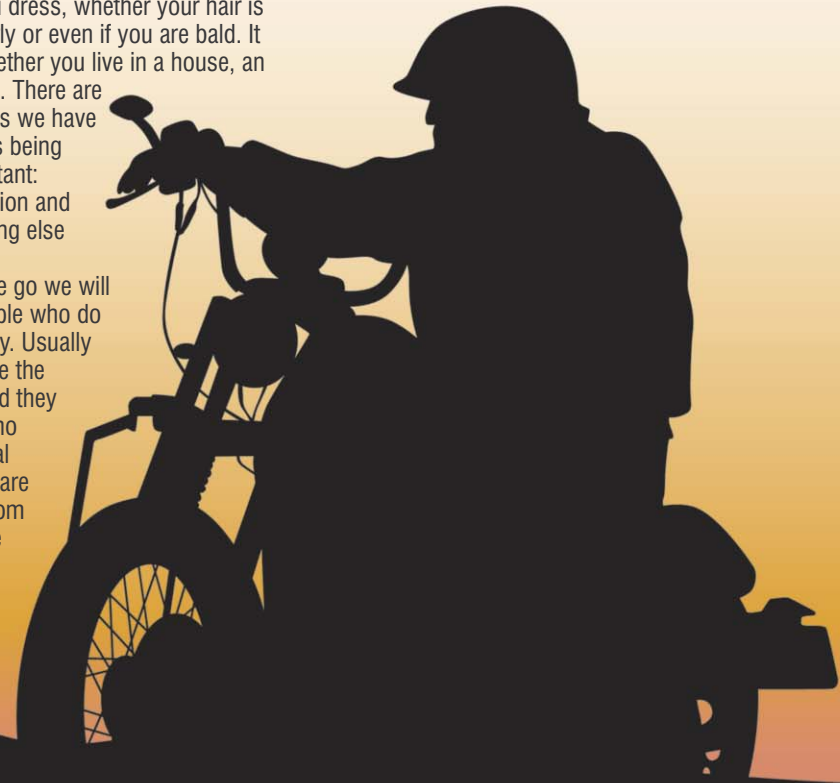
Have you ever thought about this: is it really that important for us to hold on to our old values, our old ways, so much that we can't adapt to the ones of the people in our new-found 'homeland'? Is it OK to move to another country without adapting to the methods and values of that nation? For example, going back to 1976, should I as a Dutchman have tried to pay for the fuel for my motorbike with Dutch guilders? Should I have insisted in addressing people here in my mother tongue, Dutch?

Or should I have learnt the local language, changed my guilders to pounds sterling and, most important of all, driven on the left-hand side of the road? Ask yourself this question: what would leave the most positive impression with your new-found friends?

Perhaps as Christians we should look at life in this way too. We are all travelling. This country is not my land and neither is it my final destination – aren't we all on our way to a New Land? As Christians we have a task at hand, a task given by our Lord Himself to evangelise, bring His message to *all* people. Not that we can personally reach everybody, but we can and should concentrate on those around us, here where we are.

This way of looking at life actually opens up a completely new perspective for me: it does not matter who you are or what you are. It does not matter what colour your skin is or what your family history may be. It does not matter what you eat. It does not matter what your level of education is. Neither does it matter how you dress, whether your hair is long, short, curly or even if you are bald. It matters not whether you live in a house, an igloo or a tepee. There are only three things we have to remember as being crucially important: 'Location, location and location'. Nothing else matters.

Wherever we go we will find lots of people who do things differently. Usually these people are the 'indigenous' and they are the ones who need our special attention. They are the ones to whom God's message may need to be told and retold, often with



great patience. We don't necessarily need to cater for foreigners or those of our own nationality. Our first and foremost attention should be focused on these indigenous people.

As soon as we understand this, when we put our lives in the hands of the Lord, He will suggest to us 'where to go and what to do', whom to speak to and how to approach them. Therefore, when you find yourself in a country with people unlike yourself, you will know that God wants you to bring His message to *them*. They are the ones that matter. Others may enjoy 'the crumbs that fall off the Lord's table'; as long as these indigenous people can enjoy the main meal, that is fine. The beauty of this way of thinking is that wherever one goes His message will be delivered by you or someone else – even in your own home country!

So, here is the challenge: 'Are we willing to go out and take God's message to the people around us, wherever we may be? Are we willing to sensitively tell them about the Good News, have fellowship with them, become part of their lives and live the way they live? Will we be able to subject our own interests to the needs of the indigenous others? For us here in the UK it means the indigenous British people, the English, the Scots, the Northern Irish, the Welsh, and so on. Once we *all* put our shoulders under this task we can expect blessings from above in abundance and many will have the opportunity to make – or remake – their choice of a lifetime. For them it could be a lifesaver.

Editor's note: the opinions reflected on Perspective pages are those of the author, and may not necessarily reflect those of either MESSENGER staff or the BUC.

My Dutch motorcycle lessons that had taught me to 'keep right and pass left' were soon adapted to the British rule of 'keep left and pass right', a real lifesaver!



Job vacancy at ADRA-UK

ADRA-UK is looking for an experienced Accountant to join its team in Watford. Key responsibilities include preparing all financial statements and reports, accounts payable and receivable, reconciliation of accounts, general ledger work and procurement. The accountant will also provide project budget analyses and reporting support to the Programmes Team. We would expect you to have ACCA accreditation (or equivalent). Applicants should have the right to work in the UK prior to submission of the employment application.

A full application pack, including a detailed description and application form, is available on the ADRA-UK website at adra.org.uk/contact/work-adra.

Applications deadline for this post: **15 September 2015**.

Dementia support

There are currently around 850,000 diagnosed dementia patients in the UK, but estimates are that they represent only 44% of those who are living with the condition. This would raise the tally to a staggering 1,930,000, each in need of special attention, love and care.* But what about their life partners – the ones who have to sit by and watch the disease run its sad course?

Johnson Wong of Stanborough Park Church is one of them, who for the past four years has seen his beloved Anneli deteriorate in this way. He knows that there are excellent support groups around but wondered if there was anyone, like himself, who felt the need for some spiritually oriented support – even if it is just to be on someone else's prayer list. If so, don't hesitate to link up with him by email at ajaws@hotmail.co.uk. * <http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/statistics>

Fletewood School Position vacant

The head teacher and governors of Fletewood School invite applications for the post of deputy head teacher starting in September 2015. Fletewood prepares students for the 11+ examination and is highly regarded in the local community and by inspectors for its Christian ethos and high academic standards. Our aim is to provide a holistic education and develop the talents and abilities of every child.

Our school community is looking for someone who:

- Has a clear vision of and commitment to the Seventh-day Adventist ethos and the inclusion of all learners. As we are looking at succession planning, with a view to the successful candidate taking over the headship of the school in 2016, the successful candidate is required to be a practising Seventh-day Adventist;
- Has a strong personal faith which will enrich the life of the school;
- Has proven leadership skills and the ability to encourage, support, and introduce new ideas to further improve our practice;
- Is an effective communicator with good inter-personal skills who will support and inspire pupils, staff, governors and parents/carers;
- Can provide evidence of excellent classroom practice across the curriculum;
- Has experience of working with gifted and talented pupils, as well as with those who have additional needs;
- Has a clear philosophy and the ability to put it into practice;
- Is hard-working with a good sense of humour;
- Has experience in the UK school system and has the right to work in the UK.

If you feel called to join the team in this successful school please request an application form, job description and person specification by either emailing: jcrawford@secadventist.org.uk or writing to Mrs Jacqui Crawford, South England Conference, 25 St John's Road, Watford, Herts, WD17 1PZ.

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GC Session 2015 – A personal perspective

by Victor Hulbert

Take the entire membership of the Adventist Church in the British Isles. Double it and then fill Wembley Stadium. Add some top choirs and performers, Adventism's best preachers, a bank of translators and a myriad of national costumes and you get some idea of what the closing Sabbath of a General Conference Session looks like.

It was a day that inspired Croydon pastor, Richard Daly, as he watched the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas gradually fill to capacity, then heard the audience of 74,000 singing the anthem, 'We have this hope'. According to Philip Emm from Ringway Life Church, Altrincham, 'The music was astoundingly brilliant and I didn't know there were that many choirs in the world, let alone Seventh-day Adventist ones'.

Having now reported on a total of four GC Sessions, I can say that the music is inspiring, the morning devotionals and evening Division reports motivational, and the diversity of the Church impressive, but what strikes me most is how connected we are as a Church.

Many mealtimes I ate in a 5,000-seat dining room with total strangers, only to find out after a few minutes that we had connections, mutual friends, and common interests. One lunchtime I sat with a group from the North American Division and discovered that one of them shared a room with Pastor John Ferguson while a student at Newbold College. Another day I found myself making friends with the originator of Bible Answers, a man I had only known through email until that time, and on a third occasion I found myself immersed in South American

culture – discussing the big issue of the week, women's ordination.

'One of the great aspects of the GC Session is experiencing the diversity of thought and expression in Adventism from across the globe,' states Pastor Ian Sweeney, President of the Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland. 'This is something we can resonate with, being a Union of many different cultural, national groups.' What did he learn from GC Session? 'As part of the mission focus . . . we need to reach *all* people groups in a nation. The focus was upon people groups. This is something that the BUC is increasingly aware of and needs to respond to.'

Mission is the purpose of a General Conference Session – and this was clear from the motto, 'Arise! Shine! Jesus Is Coming!' Every devotional and much of the business focused around the hope of Jesus' soon return.

Even what was, for some, the most disappointing debate of the ten days, whether or not individual Divisions should be empowered to ordain women pastors, was seen in a context of mission. For those supporting the 'Yes' vote it was pictured in terms of trust. 'Can you trust us enough to see that this is the best way forward within the culture and society where we live, even though it may not be appropriate at this time in your part of the world?' For those supporting a 'No' vote it focused around unity. 'We are one Church with one mission. We must not divide ourselves on this issue.' The motion was eventually voted down. (See adjacent page for more details.) Some saw this as Divine Providence. Others pointed out that every time such a vote is taken the percentages move in the direction of change.

Pastor Raafat Kamal, President of the Trans-European Division, made the following comment regarding the 'No' vote. Recognising that there are 60+ female pastors in the TED alongside a further 30 female administrators, he reflected that he saw this 'as a global decision affecting a local context'. Supported by all the Union

presidents in the TED he has written a personal letter of encouragement and understanding to those directly affected. 'We need to support our female pastors, their constituencies and their congregations,' he said.

One of our delegates, Pastor Mary Barrett, reflected, 'I was very saddened by the ordination vote, as I think that the "No" vote will affect the appeal of the Gospel to young people in particular, in our Church and outside our Church, who feel that we need to be treating men and women equally.' Despite that, Mary would still encourage any woman wanting to embark upon ministry to do so. 'If you know that God has called you to ministry, do not let anything stand in the way,' she says.

Moving away from that debate, 14-year-old Samara Burt commented, 'I enjoyed the exhibition booths and didn't realise there were so many Adventist universities all over the world.' The daughter of a delegate, Christine Burt from Birmingham, she says that she even enjoyed listening to some of the business sessions, especially the humorous Dr Ng and his Secretariat report, and made lots of new friends.

But what will our delegates go home with?

Philip loved the music but wondered if there could not have been more diversity. He stated there was 'very little variation in style or delivery, broken only by a couple of steel bands, an amazing bass soloist and a trumpeter. Where were the African harmonies/modern songs/young groups with guitars and drums? If Heaven is all classical music I'm going to be very upset!' On the plus side he complimented the caterers, despite the surfeit of rice and beans.

Pastor Daly was particularly impressed with the chairpersons who 'showed toleration and calmness' while keeping 2,500 delegates in order.

For myself? I felt blessed working together with a small but committed team producing 36 news articles, 22 video reports, and thousands of photographs under the leadership of outgoing TED Communication director, Miroslav Pujic. Being part of the tedNEWS team was a joy. Working together with other media teams, renewing friendships from around the world, and sharing in a common purpose multiplied that joy further. Together with the 2015 delegates we can undoubtedly resonate with the motto, 'Arise! Shine! Jesus Is Coming!'

Clearly there is much more to report from a significant ten-day event like this – and a large selection of news coverage from a European perspective can be found on the TED website: <http://www.ted-adventist.org/news>.



Remember the Alamo!*

by Pastor Don W. McFarlane, former BUC president

General Conference 2015 in some ways reminded me of Christmas. Its anticipation was greater than its reality, though unlike Christmas the after-effects will be longer lasting. In the circles in which I move the topic of women's ordination was a hot topic of conversation in the lead-up to the event. Thirty-five years ago I most likely would have been among the 1,381 who voted no to women's ordination. I would have considered it part of my duty to uphold 'truth' and put the 'liberal and worldly North Americans, Europeans and Australians' in their place. Some back then might rightly have described me as a 'crusading Seventh-day Adventist'. My church was the only religious organisation on earth on which divine favour was bestowed. I was under orders to go out and compel non-members to become part of my church. As far as I was concerned, those who didn't were condemned to eternal death. Not only was my church right and everyone else wrong, but the version of Adventism that I was taught was the only legitimate and acceptable expression of 'the faith'.

My narrow vision of the church changed rapidly when I was invited to work in the United Kingdom. On arrival from Jamaica, I saw practices that were alien to this 'enforcer' of Adventist orthodoxy. For example, I was amazed to see male church officers wearing wedding bands and, in no uncertain terms, I was quick to request, as pastor, that those 'symbols of the world' be discarded.

The summer of 1981, however, had a telling effect on my ministry and changed forever how I view people, my ministry and some of the traditions in my church. It was the first year of my MA programme at Newbold College. A diverse group of students from various European countries and elsewhere made up the cohort. While chatting with fellow student, Terry Jacobsen (a charming Norwegian), over supper one evening, he declared that he frequently went skiing on Sabbath afternoons. I could hardly control myself. Righteous indignation boiled up in me and I shouted, 'You do what?'

Terry remained calm and asked, 'Don, do you go walking on a Sabbath afternoon with your family?'

'Yes,' I said, 'but that's different from skiing.'

'You see, Don, for a large portion of the year in Norway, if I want to go walking with my family on a Sabbath afternoon, I have no alternative but to go on skis.' He didn't need to say another word. I got it! Although we belong

to one church and have certain shared beliefs and hopes, the expression of Adventism in different parts of the world cannot be the same. To enforce such uniformity would be to create an artificially constructed edifice, which by nature would have a number of fault lines running through it. Fault lines that would lead to its collapse. Members in different parts of the world must be *trusted* to relate to God in ways that are relevant to their particular situation.

San Antonio's decision on women's ordination was an attempt to have the church march to the same drumbeat. While a common understanding of our core doctrines (such as the nature of man, the Sabbath, salvation and the second coming) is essential for global cohesion, a shared identity and a joint purpose in mission, the imposition of the *cultural nuances* found in some parts of the world on other parts can only lead to fragmentation and the estrangement of large sections of the global church community from each other.

'My church has left me but I am not leaving it,' is a statement that I have heard with increasing frequency since San Antonio. These comments are made by people who love the church, some of whom have even served abroad as missionaries. Increasingly, they are feeling marginalised in their church and sense that they are being asked to go walking on a Sabbath afternoon in Norway in the depth of winter without skis!

'The Gospel is above culture,' is a phrase that is glibly thrown around by some, but to try and separate culture from the experience of the Gospel is analogous to taking a fish out of water and expecting it to survive and remain as active as when it was in the water. It is going to die unless re-immersed. Sherwood G. Lingenfelter and Marvin Mayers in their book, *Ministering Cross-Culturally*, say that 'culture is the . . . label for the sum of the distinctive characteristics of a people's way of life. All human behaviour occurs within particular cultures, within socially defined contexts.' Worship is meaningful only within the context of one's own culture. Another way of saying this is that *there is no worship without culture*. No amount of preaching and exhortation, or any number of voted actions, can change this reality.

I was privileged to serve the church in the British Isles for thirty-three years, twenty-seven of which as an administrator, ranging from conference secretary to Union president. The United Kingdom is

one of the few places where the composition of the membership of the church is inversely proportional to the composition of the population. In the ethnically diverse British church, I quickly learned that if the church was to survive on all fronts and not become a mono-cultural institution that bore little relevance to the wider public, the majority in the church (immigrants from various parts of the world) had to protect the interests of the minority (native British and Europeans).

The political power of the Seventh-day Adventist Church now lies with its members in the southern hemisphere, who account for more than ninety percent of global membership. It is clear that no major change can take place within the church unless leaders and members in the southern hemisphere desire such a change. At the same time, unless the majority in our global church recognise, appreciate, celebrate and defend the expressions of faith as found in places like Europe and North America, it is conceivable that Adventism could become irrelevant to the majority populations in these countries. The church would appear to be more interested in conducting a dialogue with itself and preserving certain traditions than it is in engaging in a meaningful and constructive manner with a society drowning in hopelessness.

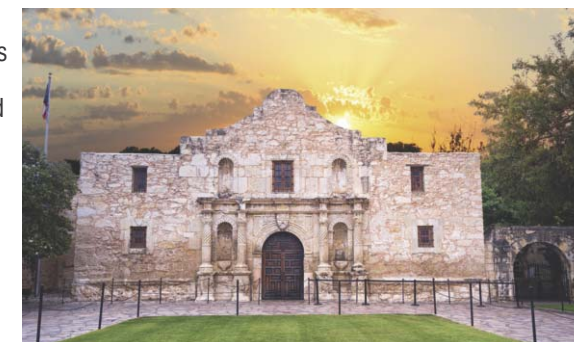
While some will no doubt remember the Alamodome with fondness as the place where the church was kept united, others will recall it with resignation and tears as the place where unity in diversity was overwhelmed by uniformity. In the long run this will prove inimical to genuine unity and mission advancement. It is possible that the unity which church leaders were trying to preserve in San Antonio is actually the very thing that has been damaged. Leaders now need to decide how that which has been broken will be mended and how those who now feel estranged can be helped to regain their sense of identity and purpose.

***Editor's note:** The Battle of the Alamo (23 February – 6 March, 1836) was a turning point in the Texas Revolution. After a merciless 13-day siege, Mexican troops launched an assault on the Alamo Mission near modern-day San Antonio, Texas, killing all the Texian defenders. Those who survived the siege were executed. President Santa Anna's cruelty during the battle so angered many Texians – both Texas settlers and adventurers from the United States – that they eventually defeated the Mexican army and established the State of Texas. Their battle cry was 'Remember the Alamo!' (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Alamo and <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texians>)

(All articles published in the Issues pages express the opinions of their authors, which may not necessarily be those of MESSENGER staff or the BUC.)



Pastor Raafat Kamal



Leamington Mission at Peace Festival (13-14 June)



The marquee was packed and there was a real happy buzz in the air as Leamington Mission conducted its first health expo.

Every year the town of Leamington Spa hosts a weekend Peace Festival, in the grounds of the Pump Room Gardens beside the River Leam. All those present, including the Quakers, Amnesty International, the UN, companies, statutory organisations, craft stalls and the vegetarian/vegan outlets, seek to promote peaceful human existence through the event. Among all these contending voices the Mission has become an established presence.



This year, wanting to try something different and reach more people, the Mission conducted an eight-station health expo. Height, weight, blood pressure, water consumption, exercise, fitness levels, air/lung capacity and dietary measurements were entered into the health age calculator. The current health age was then compared against chronological age and the result indicated how many potential years could be gained by adopting the lifestyle improvements listed on the printout. This was then discussed with participants at the counselling station by a health professional.

The first day was rather wet, but spirits lifted as positive feedback began to trickle in. Visitors sought assurance that the Mission would be back next year for them to compare their results, hopefully for the better!

On Sunday afternoon two young ladies spent considerable time looking for the 'health check tent' that their friend had recommended from her visit on Sabbath. They had trouble remembering the name and eventually went to the event officials. When asked the name, they could only remember that 'seven days' came into it! From that little information the officials were able to direct them to the Mission tent as activities were winding down. Altogether, around 140 people benefited from the health expo, with Mission members and participants happily engaging with each other. Chatting, answering questions, swapping life experiences and sharing knowledge and info on the church and our Lord completely filled the two days.

The whole team put in a tremendous effort to help make the event a success: from Antonia Castellino, who oversaw much of the planning, to Pastor Malcolm and Naomi Watson, who led out in transporting the tables, chairs and equipment, their installation and dismantling, and the provision of lunch for the volunteers. They also used their network of contacts to involve many volunteer health professionals from surrounding churches. A core team of Leamington Mission members spent the entire weekend at the expo, with many others putting in long hours too. Emma Fuller, aged 11, was a 'star' when it came to inviting people in, and Eileen Fong in her 80s enjoyed talking about the merits of drinking plenty of water.

We hope and pray that through this event, and our planned future programmes, the Holy Spirit will open opportunities for many others to know more about God.

COMMUNICATION TEAM



features



'Sceptic' revisits Stanborough School

Forty years to the very month after leaving Stanborough School, Welsh Mission President, Pastor John Surridge, returned to see what has changed at his alma mater. This is his report:

Ask anyone on the British Union Conference Executive Committee and they'll tell you that I have had reservations about Adventist schools. For me, Adventist education is something that should be accessible to all of our members, perhaps through Pathfinders or after-school clubs. My working-class roots incline me to believe that the Church's resources should be spread thinly to benefit all instead of being used to create a centre of excellence for an elite minority.

Not that I didn't benefit from attending an Adventist school myself. In fact I'll admit that I owe a great deal to my own experience at Stanborough School in the early 1970s. It was there that I obtained my GCEs, forged friendships that have lasted to this day, and confirmed my suspicion that I was never going to be a cross-country runner.

But that was 'back in the day'. That was when the boarding school was still run for missionaries' kids. That was when there was

a good chance that your classmate's parents were close friends of your own parents, and of the teachers themselves for that matter. It was all so different back then.

So it was with some scepticism that on Thursday, 4 June, I accepted the head teacher, Mrs Lorraine Dixon's, invitation to join the BUC Executive Committee for a guided tour of the school.

Admittedly, the sun was shining, the grass was cut, and we had a nice meal waiting for us, but it was hard not to be impressed by the imposing facade of the 'new' school. On reaching reception we were welcomed by a line-up of student guides who were to show us around. My group was led by Cherie Chanson, who was the youngest of them.

Of course the Queen thinks the world smells of fresh paint, as they say, so I was prepared for an augmented-reality version of the tour, but after the first few minutes it became clear that Cherie was absolutely genuine as she waxed lyrical about 'her'

school. And I have to admit that the facilities were good, very good in fact. There was an atmosphere of professionalism which I certainly don't remember from when I was a student. The students were smartly dressed and had the kind of confidence which comes from knowing you're at a good school – actually a pretty posh school. When we walked into the classrooms, interrupting exams in one case, the students all stood up! Never in my day. Executive Committee member, Joe Donaldson, was also impressed: 'I was particularly impressed at how courteous the pupils were.'

On many occasions over the last few years Mrs Dixon has told the BUC Executive Committee about the Christian ethos of the school – which to me sounded like a rather vague concept. But as Cherie led us through the corridors and pointed out the various posters, certificates, photos and paintings that adorned the walls I began to see what it was all about. I won't tell you what we wrote on the walls back in my day but it certainly wasn't a clear set of values – each one of which is celebrated by the students and staff for a whole month. Cherie genuinely understood and was proud of these values. That also impressed Scottish Mission President, Bernie Holford. 'I was struck by the clear emphasis on helping children develop Christian character. There were posters reminding students about patience, kindness and joy, and so on. The most rewarding part was to see the students demonstrating this true character education in the warm and friendly way that they interacted with us as visitors.'

As we went upstairs to look at the student accommodation Cherie told us that she herself was a boarder. Forty years ago we pitied these poor souls – isolated from their families, living in squalid dormitories, some with ten to a room – but today it seems that the tables have turned and those who 'live in' are a close-knit family who consider themselves to be the privileged ones. And looking out from their

common-room windows, across the manicured lawns and statuesque trees of Stanborough Park, I could see why. A tiny part of me, reluctantly, felt something akin to jealousy as I imagined myself living in that same environment.

Education is always a hot topic. Today some people are shocked by the number of politicians who went to school together at the country's top, elite, fee-paying schools. People buy houses in order to be in the catchment area for the best schools. When it comes to our children it seems that we'll go to any lengths to secure a good education for them.

Stanborough Secondary School is not going to be for everyone. You'll have to pay, and it's not cheap! Your child will need to be highly motivated. Apart from getting in, he or she will need to have what it takes to fit in with that select group of students who make Stanborough School what it is. Yet, as former student, Philip Emm, reflected, 'The family atmosphere, the quality of work on display and the setting of the school on Stanborough Park beg the question, why would you send your child anywhere else?'

Looking around the BUC Executive Committee it was interesting to see how many of us had been students – some even teachers – at Stanborough School. Many more former students are spread in leadership roles around the world.

No one knows what will happen over the next forty years. But while Stanborough School remains in operation I have no doubt that it will continue to produce high-calibre students, immersed in the ethos and values of Adventism, some of whom will go on to be leaders, in both our Church and our society.

If you would like to learn something of that joy then visit the school website at: www.spsch.org or phone 01923 673268 to arrange a visit.

... it was hard not to be impressed by the imposing facade of the 'new' school.





Happiness in the pool



All the newly baptised members

11 + 3 at Lewisham

During the two weeks prior to 6 June Lewisham Church conducted a series of nightly meetings called the 'New Beginnings' campaign. Its aim was to help the public make sense of difficult spiritual, social and other issues. Visitors and church members alike benefited from the clear, exciting sermons of the visiting speaker, Pastor Rudolph Peters. The climax of the series was, as usual, the baptismal service.

This particular baptism unfolded much the same as previous services, but after the last candidate had been immersed Pastor Peters went one step further than the usual appeal for a show of hands by those who would like to prepare for the next baptism. He asked if there was anyone who felt convicted enough to be baptised on the spot!

This isn't something we've seen at Lewisham Church before! Before the evangelist could end the appeal a young man stepped up to the front in response to the challenge! He was soon followed by a young lady, and then another young man. This really was an unprecedented event! After establishing that they were ready for baptism, they were escorted to the changing rooms and then to the baptismal pool.

Later in the service, Pastors James Phillip and Otis Lewis confirmed that the three were well known to our church leadership and that they weren't hearing the message for the first time. But nothing could detract from the joyousness of having 11 + 3 brand-new members join our church. This truly was an evening to be remembered!

JUSTIN VICTOR, COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

68 years since his baptism

Thaddeus Hall became an Adventist in Jamaica in 1948 through a Voice of Prophecy card given to him by a friend.

He still attends the Camp Hill church regularly and recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

JAQUIE HALLIDAY-BELL



Ladywood baptises six

During May (16-30) the Ladywood church in Birmingham was the venue for Pastor Jason Morgan's Amazing Prophecy series, which drew members and visitors alike – from both far and near. Pastor Morgan, accompanied by his daughter, Abigail, who ran a parallel children's programme each evening, was visiting from Montana in the USA.

The preacher's method of biblical preaching made a profound impression on the audience, to the extent that one young lady said, 'I have never heard a preacher use the Bible to explain the Bible. I will be back tomorrow night.' Praise God, she was, and was baptised at the end of the series.

At the end of the series the congregation was thrilled when two men and four women were baptised.

GLENDORA LINDSEY

Newcastle honours teens

June was a fairly standard month for the Newcastle church. Four of our young people headed off to Mexico to participate in the ShareHim outreach. Seven of the young ladies preparing for baptism gave their first Bible studies to each other. Unfortunately, we also had to cope with the harsher reality of the church being burgled and the thieves not only taking a fair amount of property, but also leaving an unwelcome mess behind. Then, again in June, we celebrated the 'coming of age' of four of our young men who turn 12 this year. This 'coming of age' has nothing to do with the bar mitzvah ritual that takes place when Jewish boys turn 13. It is our own little celebration based on Christ's informal appearance before the priests and elders at the age of 12 (Luke 2:41-49).

Sabbath School was conducted by the parents of the four young men, part of which involved a video in which they expressed their love and thanks to God and parents. Their parents also expressed their love, pride and desires for their sons. During the worship service Pastor John Ferguson, from the North England Conference, pointed out the need for parents to dedicate themselves to developing mature relationships with their children. The Children's Ministries department honoured each of the young men with a special gift pack of books from the Stanborough Press.

Our four young men, Alex Telpov, Clwyd Hallasgo, Jon Glenn Gavina and Steve Tanajura, then told their stories in a short video. Alex and Clwyd spoke about their role plays during the children's ministry time and their interest in preaching and playing gospel music. Clwyd also thanked his mum for helping him to acquire common sense – especially the ability to be sensible with money. Steve asked the church to keep supporting him.

We are grateful that we could join our worldwide church in affirming that our youth are the leaders of tomorrow's church!

PASTOR PETER JEYNES

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Results in Great Yarmouth

In the past few years we have regularly reported about the health outreach ministry of our Great Yarmouth church. Since October 2012 we have conducted fifteen vegetarian cooking demos at church and a number of health-screening sessions in the town centre at Market Gates Shopping Mall. This has been made possible by courtesy of the centre management, who grant us free use of a prime location.

We make use of their facilities twice a year, and our most recent session was held on Sunday 31 May. Last autumn we also conducted a series of Creation Health seminars, from which we gained some extra interests who now regularly attend the vegetarian cooking programmes. Another health-oriented series will be conducted this autumn by our minister, Rio Espulgar. The series has been written by Pearly Walker, our local church's health secretary.

We are now seeing encouraging signs that our efforts are paying off. At our cooking demonstration held on 14 June we had three extra people attend as a result of the advertising from our health screening at the end of May. In addition to which, one of the interests who joined the cooking demos as a result of attending the Creation Health series came to our prayer meeting the following Tuesday evening (16 June) to listen to one of Mark Finley's evangelistic presentations on DVD. We are also able to report that there are two new ladies attending our church on Sabbaths, one of them bringing her two small children, one of whom has joined our Pathfinder club.

Praise God that His Spirit is beginning to deliver results from our health outreach ministry.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER, COMMUNICATION SECRETARY



Walk raises funds

Stanborough Park was the venue for a sponsored walk in June to raise funds for the £2 million redevelopment project at the nearby church.

Around 30 members, family, friends and dogs set off in bright sunshine to run or walk around one of two courses. The walk was organised by Roslyn Guenin and officially started by personal trainer, Terry Webb, who provided advice to the participants. The walkers were treated to free refreshments afterwards, and were joined by onlookers who came to encourage them.

Senior church pastor, Jacques Venter, and his two young daughters completed nine laps and anticipated raising £200 between them.

Around £1,500 was raised, and Roslyn summed up the event as 'a wonderful day of beautiful weather, fun, friendship and the most delicious afternoon tea ever – so we need to walk again!'

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9:30am - 6:15pm
Sunday, 20th Sept. 2015
10am - 3pm

WHERE: Wolverhampton Central
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Warwick Street, Horsley Fields
Wolverhampton WV1 3SD

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Clair Sanches (TED Children's & Family Ministries Director) & Dr. John Sanches

Contact NEC Children's Ministries Dept. on 0115 9606 312 or visit www.necadventist.org.uk.

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Proverbs 22:6

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obituary

Dr Keith Elisha Burrell (1950-2015) d. 30

March. Dr Keith Elisha Burrell was born in July of 1950 and passed away on 30 March 2015. Keith was born in Bartons, St Catherine, Jamaica, to Mary Jane Burrell (née Allen) and Josiah Theophilus Burrell. According to Keith's uncle, Pastor Jerry Burrell, he was a brilliant and jovial child; a very ambitious student; very attentive when attending church; and had a vision of himself going to Africa to teach souls about Jesus.

Keith's parents migrated to the UK during the 1950s when Keith was 7 years old, leaving Keith and his three siblings in the care of his paternal grandparents. In the winter of 1964, at the age of fourteen, Keith migrated from Jamaica to the UK with his youngest sibling. The other two siblings had moved to the UK earlier in that year. Keith joined his parents and four UK-born siblings in Nottingham. Keith, as the eldest of eight children, took on the leadership role for his siblings. It is this leadership attribute that would characterise his lifelong career path.

Keith achieved many educational and professional

qualifications. He was qualified as a mechanical engineering fitter, registered mental nurse, registered general nurse, and a social worker. He also achieved an MA in Management Studies and Social Science Research Methods and finally completed a PhD in Post Qualifying Social Work Education at Lancaster University.

Dr Keith Burrell worked in many positions throughout his life: psychiatric nursing at Saxondale Hospital; adult general nursing at City Hospital (Nottingham); minority development officer (Nottinghamshire); principal race officer for Manchester, which was a challenging and very political post, requiring well-developed skills in stakeholder management. Keith also worked as a social worker within the voluntary sector. He later took a position as senior lecturer in the Faculty of Health, Medical Sciences and Social Care at the University of Cumbria.

In 2010 he took severance from the university to pursue his own work interests and other personal endeavours. Being self-employed enabled him to control his work schedule so as to devote time to evangelism projects in England and Malawi, as well as to work for his and his wife's



Party in the Park in Northolt

The Northolt Community church recently held their fourth annual 'Party in the Park', which attracted many from the community and raised the church's profile.

Activities for the children included bouncy castles and face painting. Also on offer were health consultations from professionals; books and other literature; professional massages; food (including a barbecue) and a mid-day music concert with various performers. The second half of the concert was 'Northolt's Got Talent', where members of the community were invited by Brother Sewell, the MC for the day, to take the microphone and perform their favourite songs, accompanied by the band.

The church thanks God for the community contacts they continue to make through this annual event, and that they are able to impact the Northolt community with the all-encompassing love of God and the Adventist health message.

JENNIFER PHILLIPS



MEF annual retreat

The beautiful grounds of Horsley Park Hotel, next to a castle, were an idyllic setting for the recent annual Marriage Enrichment Fellowship (MEF) weekend retreat. The programme, presented by Drs Alanzo and June Smith, was enlightening, enriching, entertaining and very humorous.

Thirty-five couples were in attendance, some young and some more mature. There were couples who had been together for over 20 years and others that were newly married. The weekend included an evening banquet, daily discussions and workshops, powerful praise and worship, a wonderful solo performer and great fellowship. The event climaxed in a recommitment ceremony, during which each couple received a certificate.

The MEF retreat sincerely helped to build stronger relationships and improved friendships between the couples who attended. Although the retreat has passed, our quarterly dinner is coming soon and we welcome couples to join us and enjoy a further investment in their marriages. For more information please contact Nora at

nora.hammond@yahoo.com.

NORA HAMMOND (MEF SECRETARY)

planned retirement in Malawi this year (2015).

Dr Keith Burrell served on the British Union Conference Executive Committee for 10 years. In every church that he attended he would encourage the leaders to get the congregation involved in some form of outreach project. Even in the latter stages of his illness Dr Burrell was a strong witness for God, telling everyone who came into contact with him about God and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In December 2014 Dr Burrell was diagnosed with advanced bowel/rectal cancer and was discharged from the hospital back to his home. Keith managed to hang on to life for a further two months, before making the decision to seek holistic care in Malawi, where he spent three

weeks doing well until his condition suddenly deteriorated. He was then taken to hospital, where he passed away peacefully on 30 March.

On 17 May the church family of the Preston congregation hosted a memorial service for him which was well attended by pastors, friends, colleagues and family, all wishing to pay their respects to a beloved friend and brother, Dr Keith Elisha Burrell. We now, by God's grace, wait faithfully for that morning when Jesus will return to take us all home to where we shall meet Keith again.

Dr Keith Burrell is survived by his wife Alice, daughters Angela and Lynda, stepdaughters Angela and Lucy, granddaughter Georgia-May, his brother, sisters, nephews and nieces.

ALICE BURRELL

Rainham anniversary

Rainham Family Church, a sister church to Stratford, celebrated its eighth anniversary on 2 May at the Royals Youth Centre in Rainham, London. Well over 100 worshippers attended as Brother Hines, a local elder, shared details about the history of the Rainham church and told of how he and others had faithfully pursued their vision to establish this congregation.

Pastor A. Campbell delivered a powerful and appropriate sermon, reminding the audience that it is not by numbers or influence that God's battles are won, but through heaven's secret weapon, the Spirit of God.

In the afternoon Erma Bellot, a member of Rainham Church and a nutritionist by profession, presented a talk on the 'eight principles of health'. There was also excellent music provided by the London SDA Male Voice Choir and Stratford Inspiration Choir.

CHRISTOPHER OCHING

1990S REUNION

7-9 August 2015



www.newbold.ac.uk/1990s-reunion
alumni@newbold.ac.uk

You are invited to Newbold's reunion for staff and students of the 1990s. Reconnect with friends during the worship and social activities over the weekend, including a cruise on the River Thames in Windsor and a special high tea on campus. The sermon on Sabbath will be taken by former Newbold principal, Andrea Luxton.

Registration is now open. There are limited en suite and shared rooms available so book now to secure your place. Full weekend packages start from £90, and include:

- all meals (Friday night to Sunday lunch, including a banquet lunch and high tea on Sabbath)
- two nights' accommodation
- a trip to Windsor with a two-hour steamer cruise on the River Thames on Sunday morning

For more information, please visit: <https://www.newbold.ac.uk/1990s-reunion.html>



Press Open Day
13 September

Plan to be there
with your family!

There will be good music, top-class speakers including Pastor Mark Finley, and lots of great book and DVD specials – and a new range of foods too.



Big Lunch 2015

Marmora Road was transformed for the fourth year running into a picture of summer perfection, with a huge marquee housing large amounts of food donated by neighbours, church members and friends of the Cambridge Romsey community. Since the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Marmora Road neighbours and those from nearby roads have come together to enjoy food and friendship for a few hours on the first Sunday of June every year.

While a large number of the residents look forward to it every year, one of the biggest benefits of the event is the opportunity for people new to the area to make new friends and meet other locals.

Along with the food and various home-prepared dishes, a number of activities went on throughout the day, including face-painting by local resident Doodle Dawn, performances by a local community choir, and a new feature of this year, the Talent Spot. A wonderful array of talent was showcased by local children, singing songs and dancing, which had



everyone in applause. Thank you to our friends on Marmora Road, including Cathy, who provided electricity to make it all possible. Cathy is also part of a local planning team.

The Marmora Road Community Garden, a centrepiece of the day's action, was open for local residents to look around and see all the local produce planted and grown – and an invitation for them to get involved.

The support has been overwhelming, with a number of local residents already signed up to help next year! Several families also stopped to pass on their thanks and gratitude for such a memorable and fun day.

Jonathan, a local resident, said: 'My family and I moved to the area a few months ago and are delighted to find ourselves in such a diverse, welcoming and talented community.'

A charitable atmosphere dominated the event,



Open Day transport

Brother Hubert Smiley is arranging the usual coach transport to the Stanborough Press Open Day this year, from both London (Croydon, Brixton, Battersea and Fulham) and the West Midlands (Pendeford, Wolverhampton, Great Brickkilm, Walsall, Handsworth and Camp Hill). For details, including fares, please phone 07868288310 or 01384213803, or email Hubert.smiley18@gmail.com. Failing those methods, dial 07831958114 or 07736509625.



beginning with special donations made by the local Sainsbury's store, and donations from local residents to the Hobart Road Soup Kitchen.

COLIN STEWART (EVENT ORGANISER)

Brother Alleyne's birthday

Brother Alleyne celebrated his 92nd birthday in May, and the Camp Hill church family presented him with a gift and cards. His advice to the members: 'Love one another and keep walking with the Lord!'



JACQUE HALLIDAY-BELL

OPEN DAY

23

SEPTEMBER

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Stanborough School, Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JT - WWW.SPSCH.ORG - 01923 673268

Messenger

Volume 120 • 15 – 31 July 2015

Editor: Julian Hibbert

Design: David Bell

Proof reading: Andrew Puckering

COPY FOR No. 17 – 6 August 2015

Copy should be sent to the Editor, *MESSANGER*, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.

Fax No: (01476) 577144.

Email: Editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Send high-resolution pictures to:

dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk

ABC Sales line: (01476) 591700

Mon-Thurs only, 8am–5.30pm.

www.stanboroughpress.com

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

For general enquiries, email:

info@stanboroughpress.org.uk

Printed in the UK.

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk

ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

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

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
July 31	8.51	9.03	9.01	9.23	9.27
Aug 7	8.39	8.51	8.48	9.08	9.13
14	8.26	8.38	8.34	8.53	8.59
28	7.57	8.09	8.04	8.18	8.26

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Cost £25 per annum for 24 issues.*

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