



Children's ministry on the Isle of Man

by Pastor Patricia Douglas, NEC Children's Ministries director

Recently a Children's Ministries team from the North England Conference caught the ferry from Liverpool to the Isle of Man to run a special child-focused event for the members there. Fifty percent of the team's members were children and they were under the guidance of Pastor Patricia Douglas. They were warmly welcomed by Pastor Noel Apugan and his wife, Susan.

'God made us a family' formed the theme for the weekend, and it covered all the twists and turns of family life through the story of Jacob's family. The meetings began in earnest on Friday evening, and songs of praise soon filled the air as praise team leader, Samantha Chuduza, led out in worship. Pastor Douglas presented the bleak reality of Jacob's family: it was a family in bad shape; a family that typifies much of the dysfunction that many families experience today.

Pastor Dan Majaducon continued the study of this family, emphasising that in many ways, Joseph's experience reflected the maltreatment of Christ. Joseph could have been excused for wallowing in self-pity; he could have been excused for not giving his all; but he clung to God and lived for Him; all of which was evident as he served in Potiphar's house, as a prisoner, and, later, as governor of Egypt.

The children were an integral part of the weekend programme. They read the Scripture readings, presented special items and even acted out the parable of the wise and foolish builders, exploring what it meant to build on the rock as opposed to building on the sand. The Children's Ministries team also presented a drama about Joseph as a child and his experience of family worship, a vital element which enabled him to withstand the enormous pressures in his life.

Pastor Carlton Douglas presented the 'Big Read' in the afternoon, during which the children enjoyed reading stories together with the adults (who enjoyed them too). This was followed by three workshops: the arts and crafts one; the one on drama; and another on narrative preaching.

In the show-and-tell session that followed, each of the groups presented feedback about their workshop. The children and youth presented amazing pieces of art, illustrating the story of Jacob's family. The drama group dressed up and enacted parts of Joseph's story; while the narrative preaching group presented feedback on the steps necessary in the preparation of a sermon.

Sunday morning was off to a flying start with a session of creative church, during which Pastor Dan Majaducon concluded the story of Jacob's family. God loves families and He is able to work in families, irrespective of the situation. Although we will have to face the consequences of our actions, God is able to heal and restore. He can turn things around for the good of the family, because God wants to save all His children.

Being a wet and windy day, it was initially too cold for an afternoon of games on the beach, but as it began to dry the youth played various sports and the children managed to enjoy some games. Pastor Aquoi Karbah's final appeal later that day led a large number of youth and children to respond positively. What a great end to a wonderful weekend!

On Monday morning the team boarded the ferry at 6.30am, and we all felt the way Pastor Noel Apugan expressed it: 'It was really, really a blessing for us all, not only for the children but also for the parents and the whole church!'



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Enhancing Health

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

Going natural Part 7a – Herbal health cautions

Herbal remedies are any substances made from plants, trees or fungi which are taken orally or topically (for example, liquids, tablets, powders or creams) to treat illness or promote health.

We assume that because herbal remedies are considered 'natural', they are then safe for general use. This is not always the case.

Among the reported concerns about herbal remedies are the following:

- **Contraindications** – a reason to withhold a certain medical treatment due to the harm it would or could cause the patient (for example, during pregnancy).
- **Side effect** – secondary, typically undesirable effect of a drug or treatment.
- **Interactions** – where the administration of one medication (whether herbal or not) affects the action of another medication.

Regarding herbal remedies, the NHS advises the following:

'Herbal remedies, just like pharmaceutical medicines, will have an effect on the body and can potentially be poisonous. They should therefore be used with the same care and respect as pharmaceutical medicines.'¹

They also provide the following guidance regarding such remedies:

- 'Look out for a Traditional Herbal Registration (THR) marking on the product packaging – this means the herbal remedy has been assessed against quality standards, and you'll have information about how and when to use it.
- 'You can find THR registered products in your local health shop,

pharmacy or supermarket (there will be a THR number on the packet).

- 'The claims made for THR products are based on traditional usage and not on evidence of the product's effectiveness. Using them for more serious conditions could put you at risk, especially if you delay seeking advice from a medical practitioner.'

Woodland Herbs Complementary Medicine Centre, based in Glasgow, UK, provides this advice: 'While we believe that herbal medicines are safer than many medicines that originate from a laboratory, this is only true if they are used appropriately. Inappropriate use of some herbs could be dangerous. This includes combining them with prescription medicines or using them to treat serious illness without the help of a professional.'²

The National Institute of Medical Herbalist (NIMH) is the leading professional body regulating medical herbalists in the United Kingdom.³ It exists to promote the benefits, efficacy and safe use of herbal medicine and carries out a range of activities to ensure that its members undertake the highest standards of herbal medicine practice. It also provides a list of qualified and reputable medical herbalists.

In the next issue we examine more cautions for herbal use.

Good health!

¹<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/herbal-medicines/Pages/Introduction.aspx> ²<http://www.woodlandherbs.co.uk/acatalog/cautions.html> ³<http://www.nimh.org.uk/>

editorial

There are a good number of Seventh-day Adventists, preachers and laypersons alike, who have spent recent months speculating on what Pope Francis will say and do during his US visit. Some of what they say is highly likely to happen, especially when one looks at various statements he has made. For instance, as recently as 12 August, during his weekly General Audience, he dedicated his 'catechetical reflection' (lesson or instruction) to the following:

*'The obsession with economic profit and technical efficiency puts the human rhythms of life at risk. Moments of rest, especially on Sunday, are sacred because in them we find God. The Sunday Eucharist brings to our celebrations every grace of Jesus Christ: his presence, his love and his sacrifice; his forming us into a community, and his way of being with us.'*¹

Plainly put, this statement makes participation in the weekly 'Sunday Eucharist' (mass) of critical importance to the confessing Roman Catholic. It marks what the Vatican Radio calls his opening of 'a new phase in the series of reflections on the family, to three specific facets of family life: celebration, work and prayer.'² Work and prayer are what they are, but 'celebration' is really Pope Francis' code for Sunday worship – worship that **must include** the Roman Catholic Mass, which is regarded by them as 'the source and summit of the Christian life.'³

The pope's position

So we have Pope Francis clearly positioning himself here, not only as the global champion of wholesome family life, but as someone who also holds the key to the restoration of the 'human rhythms of life', the essential balance between work and rest.

This is appealing stuff. This is what billions of people passionately desire.

And this is



Reflections on the Pope's US visit



Julian Hibbert
 Editor

undoubtedly the core concept that Pope Francis will promote when he visits Philadelphia on 26 and 27 September for the World Meeting of Families, an event organised and sponsored by his Church.

A quick glance at the event's website (<http://www.worldmeeting2015.org/>) will give you some idea of its magnitude and the obvious appeal that it will have. With an estimated attendance of a million and more, the event dwarfs our recent General Conference Session.

Beneath the face paint

Beneath the face paint of this glitzy extravaganza one can see that the papacy's primary objective hasn't changed. Its strategy and tactics may have adapted well – they have enormous contemporary appeal – but the ultimate prize is the same. Pope Francis desires universal compliance regarding Sunday worship as much as his predecessors did!

He may euphemistically refer to it as 'celebration' – celebration of the Sunday Eucharist – but it is as firmly founded on this false premise as it ever was: *'The Church is above the Bible and this transference of Sabbath observance from Saturday to Sunday is proof positive of that fact.'*⁴

Reflect with me

Take a moment to reflect with me again on the Pope's use of the word 'celebration'. According to him, *'The Sunday Eucharist brings to our celebrations every grace of Jesus Christ: his presence, his love and his sacrifice; his forming us into a community, and his way of being with us.'* What does he really mean here?

Well, this is how I see it. It is not just **worship on Sunday** that invests the 'celebrations' with all the good things that he describes. It is participation in the **Sunday Eucharist** (Mass) that opens the door to these special blessings. To understand what is meant here we need to define what the Eucharist is. On the surface it may appear to be the Roman Catholic equivalent of the Lord's Supper, but it isn't.

We need to notice that something crucial is missing from every Mass. Grape juice (wine in their case), the symbol of Christ's blood, is not usually shared with the participants.⁵ They come forward to receive only the symbol of his ravaged body, the broken bread (a thin wafer in their case). And yet Christ couldn't have been clearer in what He said: 'Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, **"Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."**' (Matthew 26:27-28, NIV, emphasis supplied.)

Paul seemed to understand Christ's intention perfectly too, as is clear from this: *'In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."*' (1 Corinthians 11:25, NIV.)

So Rome has modified Christ's mandate, replacing it with its own version of this special event. One that considers the Eucharist to be 'a true sacrifice, not just a commemorative meal, as "Bible Christians" insist.'⁶ This means that Christ's body and blood are present at each Mass, not **physically** but **substantially!** Thereby implying that He forfeits His life each time it is celebrated – over and over again.

What is the bottom line?

So exactly what is the bottom line when it comes to Mass? What is its purpose? Here is the answer:

*'Question 574 of the Baltimore Catechism defines a sacrament as follows: "An outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace." Sacraments are signs, they are figures; but they are not mere signs and figures, for they give a thing, namely they give grace.'*⁷ (Author's emphasis.)

And here was I (and you too, no doubt), naively thinking . . . like Martin Luther, and the Apostle Paul for that matter, that the *'righteous will live by faith'* in Christ – not by the 'blessings' dispensed during Sunday Eucharist by fellow sinners!

'For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."' (Romans 1:17, NIV.)

¹http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2015/08/12/pope_francis_at_audience_celebration_work_and_prayer/1164589?lbid
²[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass_\(liturgy\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mass_(liturgy)) ³The Catholic Record (London, Ontario, Canada, 1 Sept., 1923) ⁴For exceptions to this practice see the following: <http://catholicism.about.com/b/2008/04/11/reader-question-why-do-catholics-receive-only-the-host.htm> ⁵<http://www.catholic.com/tracts/the-sacrifice-of-the-mass> ⁶<http://newtheologicalmovement.blogspot.co.uk/2011/04/how-mass-is-sacrifice-and-why-so-many.html>



The 'Laughing Man'

Lynette Allcock shares a special set of memories she made while an Adventist Frontier Missionary (AFM) in South East Asia.

When I was 18, I moved to a small country in South East Asia as a student missionary. There were quite a few things that scared me, especially at first. It was a communist country, where sharing the gospel publicly was illegal, so when I came through border control I felt like I had 'missionary' stamped on my forehead, and I was afraid the authorities would find out and make trouble for me. I was scared of getting hit by crazy drivers

who didn't seem to follow any traffic rules. I was scared that the ants in my house would eat the hard drive of my computer, as they had reportedly done to that of a student missionary before me (thankfully that didn't happen). And the 'Laughing Man' scared me too. He was a homeless beggar who had stationed himself not far from my house, sitting in the scorching sun day after day, rocking back and forth with grubby outstretched hands, his hair permanently matted, his clothes ragged and filthy. He was mentally disabled and unable to speak, but he had a very disturbing laugh, and he would laugh and laugh whenever someone passed him.

That was what terrified me. I knew spirit possession was a real thing in this country, and I secretly wondered whether this man was demon possessed. It didn't matter to me whether I had spare change in my pocket or spare food in my house; it didn't matter to me what Jesus would have done; I always tried to give the 'Laughing Man' a wide berth. One day my teammates and I were having lunch, the tempting smells of rice and vegetable curry wafting out of our open front door onto

the street, when suddenly we heard a strange chuckle. The 'Laughing Man' was right at our door!

He laughed, held out his hands, and bent towards the ground in a polite and pleading gesture of greeting. He may not have been able to speak, but his wretched expression was eloquent. There was something in his eyes that broke my heart. 'We should feed him,' we whispered to each other, 'but can we be sure that he's safe? He's so strange and creepy. Here, Chris, you give him some food.' We handed a bowl of rice and vegetables to one of our male colleagues, and he somewhat hesitantly approached the 'Laughing Man'. The beggar's eyes filled with tears as he bowed to us gratefully. He devoured the food as if he hadn't eaten in days. Indeed, he probably hadn't. From that moment on, we shared our food with the 'Laughing Man' as often as we saw him. My fear gradually faded as I began to see him as a person to whom I could reflect God's love, a precious soul for whom Christ died.

In fact, over time my basic, blue-tiled kitchen became a hub of activity as the student missionary team frequently cooked large pans of food not only to feed ourselves, but to share with our school security guard and his family, our scholarship students who slept in the church and lived on next to nothing, and of course, the 'Laughing Man'.

The Bible challenges us not to give way to fear. 2 Timothy 1:7 says, 'For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.' My fear almost robbed me – and this beggar – of an experience that was good for us both. Don't allow yourself to give way to fear – fear of the future, fear of people and their opinions, fear of what might happen – whatever fears nag at the back of your mind. Don't let fear stop you from doing whatever God is calling you to do. Instead, pursue the adventure He had in mind when He created you in a spirit of power and love.



He devoured the food as if he hadn't eaten in days. Indeed, he probably hadn't.

Food for thought . . .

The kindness to others described by Lynette Allcock on the previous page certainly begs the question: *Is there a 'Laughing man' in my life?*

How do you relate to the noble concepts of charity, philanthropy and compassion for those less blessed than you are? Here are some examples of what others have suggested down through the years, courtesy of the National Philanthropic Trust's website. * Perhaps there is something here that will inspire you to express your concern for others in a more tangible way.

It is more blessed to give than to receive. *Acts 20:35*

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. *Aesop*

I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver. *Maya Angelou*

A man there was, though some did count him mad. The more he cast away, the more he had. *John Bunyan*

When you stop giving and offering something to the rest of the world, it's time to turn out the lights. *George Burns*

Nothing brings me more happiness than trying to help the most vulnerable people in society. It is a goal and an essential part of my life – a kind of destiny. *Diana, Princess of Wales*

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another. *Charles Dickens*

I would rather have it said, 'He lived usefully,' than, 'He died rich.' *Benjamin Franklin*

Wealth is not new. Neither is charity. But the idea of using private wealth imaginatively, constructively, and systematically to attack the fundamental problems of mankind is new. *John Gardner*

Charity looks at the need and not at the cause. *German Proverb*

Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need. *Kahlil Gibran*

If you haven't got any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble. *Bob Hope*

My father used to say, 'You can spend a lot of time making money. The tough time comes when you have to give it away properly.' How to give something back, that's the tough part in life. *Lee Iacocca*

Philanthropy is commendable, but it must not cause the philanthropist to overlook the circumstances of economic injustice which make philanthropy necessary. *Martin Luther King Jr.*

The greatest pleasure I know is to do a good action by stealth, and to have it found out by accident. *Charles Lamb*

Do your givin' while you're livin'. . . then you'll be knowin' where it's goin'. *Ann Landers*

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. *Margaret Mead*

He who gives only what he would as readily throw away, gives without generosity; for the essence of generosity is in self-sacrifice. *Sir Henry Taylor*

If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one. *Mother Teresa*

With a generation of younger folks who have thrived on the success of their companies, there is a big opportunity for many of us to give back earlier in our lifetime and see the impact of our philanthropic efforts. *Mark Zuckerberg*

* <http://www.nptrust.org/history-of-giving/philanthropic-quotes/>

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Bodmin Church surprises itself

by Pastor Clifford Herman

It all started with what seemed like an unlikely, laughable idea. I suppose it was not such a far-fetched idea to some, but at the time it did seem rather challenging. At Bodmin we were contemplating an outreach event that would positively represent the church, while at the same time provide a blessing to the people in that community. While we were walking across the square on Bodmin's high street, a fellow pastor made a suggestion that we have a health event on that same square in the summer.

What made the suggestion challenging was that Mount Folly Square is a prime location for special and important promotional events in the community. Spaces like this usually come with an expensive price tag, and are more

likely to be limited to exclusive users only.

Despite our misgivings we agreed to approach the council well in advance, expecting either a negative answer or a positive one with an expensive price tag. Surprisingly, though, the response was positive and the use of the whole square was offered to us free of charge, including the use of electric outlets! What we later learned was that the council appreciated what we were planning to do, and saw the event as a positive contribution to the Bodmin community.

The answers to our prayers did not end there. The church did not possess suitable shelters to host the free health checks, so we approached a local tent-hiring company,

expecting their quote to be high. Instead, they offered us two large gazebos at a third of the cost, once again in appreciation of what we were offering to the community.

On 17 and 18 July, the members from Bodmin, along with volunteers from neighbouring churches, converged on Mount Folly Square. Armed with balloons for kids, free toothbrushes and toothpaste donated by a dental practice in Scotland, and all the necessary equipment to offer free health checks, we engaged very positively with the community. So positively that at times during the day there were queues outside the tent as people came to benefit from the event.

After they had been through all the various health checks, the people happily took our health literature, including some describing the beliefs of the Adventist Church, including the Sabbath.

As we had hoped, numerous positive and appreciative comments were received from those who attended. Some people made sincere promises to visit the church. Others made it clear that they had come to view Adventists in a totally positive light. A recently retired nurse even provided her address details and offered to volunteer with us the next time we do a similar event.

In the end, the volunteers of Bodmin Church agreed that *implausible ideas* can become *positive realities* if we offer to be of service to God and are willing to bless other human beings.



Ninety-year-old attributes good health to dancing

by Pastor John Surridge

Of all those who visited Telford's Community Health Day on Sunday, 2 August, local resident, James Onions, was perhaps the healthiest – for his age. Born just seven years after the end of the First World War, James was looking far more sprightly and dapper than anyone could reasonably expect, and I wanted to find out why.

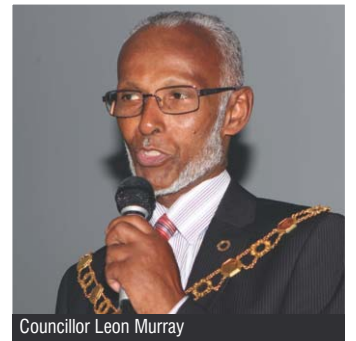
When I first saw him he was sitting at a booth that was recruiting for a newly-opened local gym. Surely not, I thought to myself! In fairness he was just having a rest, but I caught up with him as he was having his blood pressure taken and managed to ask a few questions. What was the secret of his vitality? How could a 90-year-old member of the public emerge from an Adventist-run health day with what turned out to be a health age of just 82? The answer, surprisingly, was dancing. 'It's not something I planned,' said James, 'but I've always kept my

weight down. Oh, and I used to do a lot of dancing when I was younger.' Slightly too quick off the mark, I suggested that with his current state of health he might consider taking it up again. 'I'd love to,' he replied, 'but my wife died two months ago.' Eyes moistening he continued, 'We'd been married for 67 years, you know.'

With the expertise of our Health Ministries leaders in the Welsh Mission, events like this are now almost routine, commonplace, not really news. But the fact is that they make a huge impact in our communities. This is the third year running that Telford member Hezron Ottey has organised a major health day, and, once again, we were privileged to have the mayor and mayoress, Councillor Leon Murray and Mrs Barbara Murray, in attendance. After a welcome from our new district minister, Pastor Nenad Didara, Councillor Murray, a lifelong Methodist, and

a good friend of Adventists, gave his welcome. A further welcome was given by Councillor Kuldip Sahota, himself a Sikh. To complete the multi-faith picture Hezron disappeared for an hour or so to give a brief presentation and invitation to the worshippers at a nearby mosque!

Building community relations means mixing and making friends



Councillor Leon Murray



Councillor Kuldip Sahota having his blood pressure checked

with people of different faiths, worldviews and values. Health education is one area where this can happen naturally. We would like to say a big thank you to all of the Adventist health volunteers who helped to make the day a

success, but also to: the British Heart Foundation, the Stroke Association, HealthWatch, the Terrence Higgins Trust, Age UK, and the other organisations who exhibited with us in Telford on Sunday.



The team from Age UK



James Onions

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Newcastle 'family' baptises eleven

Newcastle Church recently baptised 11 young people during a special service, with the seating rearranged to create a united family feeling. Excitement rippled through the congregation that afternoon because this was the largest baptism the church has ever held.

Pastor Jaynes, obviously excited himself, joyfully welcomed the congregation and the visitors. He then introduced the young people to the congregation by name and gave a brief biography of each one – including some special moments that he had shared with each of them during their baptismal classes. This was followed by short testimonies from each of the children. Some sang, while others showed their speaking talents through speech and poetry.

The baptism itself was a wonderful affair, filled with tears of joy and hymns of praise. It was made all the more special because these were children who had grown up in front of the members, and who were now becoming their younger brothers and sisters in Christ.

NGONI MATSVIMBO (WITH PHOTOS BY JOHNSON MUKANGANKI AND IAN LABRO)



Baptism at Hemel Hempstead

On Sabbath, 8 August, Pastor Robin Lewis baptised Sarah de Wet at the Hemel Hempstead church, and here is her testimony.

'I was a bit nervous before the baptism as I am afraid of water, but Pastor Robin assured me that he would not let me drown. But I was still scared. I was happy in myself for going through with the baptism to show that I love Jesus. I do not feel any different but I am happy to be a child of Jesus.'

'It seems that everybody was happy to have a new sister in the faith. I felt accepted as everyone was saying nice things like "God bless you" and "Congratulations".'

'Everyone just seems so lovely and this is the reason we chose to come to Hemel Church. I did not feel judged at this church and I therefore feel I can be myself. As a "traveller" I always felt judged by everyone.'

'I would like to become more involved in the church in the future and want our baby, little Sarah, to enjoy the children's class.'

'Both our mums were crying. My mum felt that something different happened at my baptism – something that was so good – and that is why she cried. She has not had such an experience in her own church. I am the first person in my "traveller" family to be baptised.'

When I asked Pierre what his experience was, he said: 'I was very proud of Sarah taking this bold step in being baptised, but I was also nervous for her as she is very afraid of water, but in the end she managed it well.'

JOHN BUTTERS



Bible Speaks outreach

The Edmonton Central and Tottenham churches celebrated the baptism of seven precious souls on Sabbath, 1 August.

A number of the candidates had attended the Bible Speaks outreach conducted by Donald Yearwood (18 July-1 August) at the Edmonton Central church.

Among those baptised were three from the Onyeanus family: Naomi (8), Joshua Onyeanus (13) and Esther (14). Three other young people – Kundai Kwenda (11), Romell Hunter (10) and Jamsine Enti (6) – were also baptised.

The other candidate was Gulshen Turktas, affectionately known as Rose at the Tottenham church. Rose, who is wheelchair-bound, has been visiting and studying for nearly three years. She was lifted into the pool by deacons, while seated in her wheelchair, and then baptised by Pastor Valentine Roach. All present were deeply moved by this event, which took much courage on Rose's part.

ROGER CHARLES



Baptism at Watford Town Church

It was on a warm summer Sabbath afternoon (27 June) that the members and friends of the Watford Town church and the Romanian church (London) joyfully welcomed two precious new members into their fellowship.

Maurice Smith (Watford Town) and Vasille Liber (Romanian) were baptised by Pastor Andrei Balan.

Maurice came to Watford Town after being visited in a door-to-door programme, conducted as part of that congregation's monthly outreach programme. He has been a faithful and regular visitor/friend for a number of years, and after much prayer, both by the membership and himself, he made the decision for baptism. His mother and two sisters were there to witness the event.

PAMELA COLEMAN



Vasille came to know Christ through his association and fellowship with the Romanian church. His fiancée was there to witness his baptism and they look forward to getting married in the near future.

PAMELA E. COLEMAN

A potter accepts the faith

On 1 August Mark Titchiner was adopted into the Norwich church family on profession of faith. He was introduced to the Adventist Church by his friend Katie, and was baptised in the river

near his house on 17 August 2013 by Pastor Bertie de Nysschen, who had studied the Bible with him. After Pastor de Nysschen returned to South Africa, Pastor Michael Walker continued to study with Mark. It was Pastor Adrian Peck who admitted him into membership. Mark, who is a potter, has been coming to the Norwich church for a long time and his formal membership has been joyfully received by the Norwich church family.

MARTY DEWING



Dundee baptism

Toby Houlton came from the Epping Forrest district to study for a doctorate in facial anthropology at Dundee University, in the famous department that reconstructed the face of Richard III. Samu, a friend he had met in South Africa, kept in touch via the internet, and encouraged him to attend an Adventist church. He liked the warmth of the friendship extended to him by Dundee church members and kept coming to Sabbath services. What especially impressed him was the way everyone in the church was involved in learning what the Bible teaches and how everyone delved into Scripture and thought things through independently.

He studied with Dr Bankole Davies-Browne, as well as with Pastor Marcel Ghioalda, before asking for baptism. The decisive factor for him was an understanding of the true meaning of Christ's sacrifice. On the baptismal Sabbath Dr Davies-Browne preached an intriguing sermon on the theme of reconciliation. Toby gave a moving testimony, using 1 Corinthians 13 as his text, and emphasising the importance of Christian love. Pastor Ghioalda was joined in the baptistry by Dr Davies-Browne as Toby publicly declared his faith through baptism. He is pictured holding a stylish baptismal cake made by Abigail Tetty-Addo and flanked by Pastor Marcel Ghioalda and Dr Bankole Davies-Browne.

Toby graduated with his PhD a few weeks ago and will be taking up a post at Witwatersrand University in South Africa in the near future.

JOHN WALTON





'Smart Love' in Newcastle

The Newcastle church first heard about 'Smart Love' from Pastor Patricia Douglas, the North England Conference Children's Ministries director, during the early months of 2015. They took what she said seriously and planned to hold one of these training courses during the last weekend of July. This was the opportunity for their teens and young people to hear Glenda and Ray Augustine share material that is designed to help Christian youth understand sexuality and intimacy as God expects us to, leading to their commitment to sexual purity.

During the workshops the teens made positive steps in their personal growth with God and towards the choice of a lifelong marital partner. At the same time their parents heard how they should be developing their children's self-esteem. The parents also learned that they should truly get to know their children.

A number of parents said that they wished they had had such a programme when they were growing up. The youth were glad that their church cared enough about them to plan such a programme. Contact Pastor Patricia Douglas if you would like to run a 'Smart Love' workshop in your church.

PASTOR PETER JEYNES



CHill Summer Club

Camp Hill Children's Ministries hosted CHill

Summer Club this year. The club catered for children aged 5-11, both from the community and the local church. It provided a great opportunity for the children of Camp Hill to reach out by inviting their friends.

Each morning began with prayer and a devotional time called Inspire, during which the children explored the themes of helpfulness and sharing, and they were encouraged to apply these attributes throughout the day.

Every day was filled with fun and exciting challenges, including creative junk modeling, bushcraft, bowling, go karting and T-shirt design. This meant that there was something every child could enjoy.

Positive comments came from staff, children and parents – along with the request that, next year, the club be extended to two weeks.

On Sabbath, 1 August, an amazing week was brought to a spectacular end through powerful and refreshing child-led worship

during Camp Hill Church's Children's Day. The theme was 'Open Hearts, Open Hands'.

The day's music was excellent, especially that of the Young Hope Children's Choir, the musically gifted two-year-old Cienna Rey, and the talented Isaiah Hayden (10) on the drums.

Three of the children preached during the worship service: Grace Mutemwa (8), Dante Sappleton-Brooks (10) and Kedre Anderson (9). The day ended with a concert in which the children showcased their talents, and were suitably acknowledged with words of appreciation and gifts. Pastor Herbert observed that, as a result of Chill Summer Club, some members of the community had joined our Sabbath worship, and spoke highly of the whole venture.

DENISE BAINES



Cienna Rey



Scottish Mission women's retreat

'Who can find a virtuous woman?' This was the theme for the Faifley Community church's annual Women's Ministries retreat held at the Three Angels Farm, 10-12 July, in the picturesque Scottish village of Sorn. 'Mama' Joyce Chengeta demonstrated what it truly means to encourage and affirm excellence by her in-depth and interactive delivery from the *Women of Virtue* manual, produced by the BUC Women's Ministries department.

It was not just theory! 'Wow! And did all the virtuous women with breath praise their God,' enthused Yvonne Blake. Marica gave the most beautiful rendition of 'Trust His Heart'. The Zimbabwean quartet and The Paisley women's group sounded angelic as they sang songs in the Shona and Luganda languages.

Chiedza Maisiri-Gwelo said she was 'inspired at the retreat, and learnt that God calls me to be a virtuous woman; a woman with moral strength, strength of character, physical abilities and power as I watch over my household and refuse to eat the bread of idleness.'

'Mama' Joyce added, 'I've learned more in this series than in all the other years of my womanhood.' That was also true for Susan Kanyoka. 'I am still meditating, so that I may allow God to mould me into this virtuous woman, and that these attributes will be rooted in me, not blown away by the strong winds,' she said.



Audrey Mutongi had always known that the characteristics of the woman in Proverbs 31 were to be desired but, she said, 'to be honest, I didn't completely understand what exactly this woman did or how she did it.' The weekend of training changed that and now, she says, 'I'm grateful that "Mama Joyce" took time to share with us these lessons that are very necessary requirements in today's world.'

'I was astounded by the realisation that the heart of the virtuous woman is an altar!' Yvonne added. 'On Saturday night the rich symphony of our unified intercessory prayers filled the room like sweet incense.'

The amazing love story in the book of Ruth came to modern, twenty-first-century life as the Cocketts' testimony revealed how Rossana met her Boaz, who was confined to a wheelchair for seven years! Today, her husband is completely healed, and together they own and operate the Three Angels Farm.

Scottish Mission Women's Ministries sponsor, Judith Martin, spoke to the women on 'what Women's Ministries means to me'. She shared her passion for the movement and the importance of the retreats, telling of how she had left the church and only returned after she accepted an invitation to attend a Women's Ministries retreat. It was at that retreat that she understood for the first time that God was a merciful God and that His love for her was unconditional.

It was truly a weekend to remember!

YVONNE BLAKE

Beauty on display

Why does it always have to be the same people doing the flowers for Sabbath morning? Well, it doesn't!

In Cheltenham, Leigh Anderson had the brilliant idea of inviting the ladies and children to a flower-arranging session on Sabbath afternoon, 18 July. Most were doing it for the first time, including some grannies and the younger children – especially Asser and Naomi who were only eight and seven.

Everybody brought flowers and greenery and after ten minutes of practical explanations on the different types and shapes of bouquets; on how to manipulate the oasis and choose flowers; position stems and balance colours – and other practical hints – everyone had a go.

It was a moment of great bonding where troubles and stress were forgotten for a moment, as all concentration was required to create artistic bouquets. By so doing, we were also reminded of the Greatest Artist of all, who created all our flowers in their exuberant colourful array and exquisite shapes.

At the end, Abi (13) and Joanna (11) were the first to volunteer to go on the new flower-arranging rota, but everyone else soon wanted a slot too. The rota for the next quarter is already full! It is going to be exciting to come to church every Sabbath and enjoy God's beautiful creation. Thank you, Leigh!

HÉLIA MATEUS





'Good grief' at West of Ireland family camp

Is there such a thing as 'good grief'? Two brothers certainly think so, and shared their views on the subject over the Irish bank-holiday weekend, 30 July to 3 August, at the Adventist campsite at Newmarket on Fergus. Their audience consisted of brave campers, staunch Irish Mission Adventists and their friends, who are not afraid of the unpredictable Irish summer. Over 60 people attended the West of Ireland family camp to be immersed in this fun- and activity-loaded weekend, and that number more than doubled on the Sabbath.

The organisers of the event, Pastors Tony O'Rourke and Jeff Freeman, were an inspiration and motivation for everyone. Through their tremendous hard work, they ensured that everyone had a pleasant and enjoyable stay.

During the Sabbath morning worship, guest speaker, Pastor Bryan Gallant, shared a vital and moving message as he delved into the depths of his own soul to relive and explain the raw grief he and his wife, Penny, felt when they lost their two children in a fatal car accident in December 1994. Bryan was able to share the experience of brokenness, pain, and despair. But with it he told of the journey of recovery, that climb up the 'grief' mountain, and the pitfalls on the way upwards. 'Yes,' said Bryan, 'joy does return again'.

Bryan has served God in the USA as well as in Micronesia, Cambodia and Indonesia. His heart-touching sermon had an unusual title: 'Good grief! What amazing grace'. It intertwined tears and laughter, bringing listeners through the amazing journey of Bryan's life.

The sermon was closely linked to his recently published book, *Udeniable: An Epic Journey Through Pain*. Now married for 25 years,

with four children, Bryan dedicates his life to showing how life can be enjoyed at its best, and experienced to the full, noting that 'Gratitude is the attitude that sets the altitude of life.'

His journey was an inspiration for every listener, especially those who recently have had to deal with loss in one form or another. It helped them to see that through the valleys in life, God allows 'all things to work together for good'.

Another beautiful testimony was shared by Bruno Basil, who told of how God had miraculously answered his seven-year-long prayers and reunited him with his daughter in Ireland.

The rest of the programme was a rich mix of worship services, songs, workshops, lectures, games, sports and amazing food. The variety ensured that nobody felt bored or excluded. Every camper and visitor joined the activities that suited them the most. Lectures presented by pastors on the Sabbath afternoon 'fed' people spiritually, multiple workshops ensured that everyone had something new to learn, while camp-fires warmed up tired bodies on chilly evenings. A ten kilometre (seven mile) long hike contributed to some sore muscles, and outdoor games left muddy stains and smiles on participants' faces.

The reunited brothers, Jeff and Bryan, entertained everyone by sharing their stories and making sure that the atmosphere at the camp always stayed filled with fun and joy till the very last visitor left. The camp was a real blessing to everyone who attended, portraying through pastor Bryan's teachings that the glory of God shines bright even in the darkest times of our lives, and that He is there for us even at times when we think He's too far away.

ANNA BOISKO

Hugs and handshakes at Mitcham

Mitcham Church consists of a small group who feel the call to spread God's Word from their base at South Mitcham Community Centre, which is located on a large housing estate called Phipps Bridge. Their membership has grown by transfer and the return to church of former Adventists, but no one has actually joined from the local community yet.

So, recently, they tried something new, as suggested by Veronica Williams, the SEC Bible Worker for area 6B. She joined them for three interactive sessions to help them look at what they have been doing and how it could be done better. None of what was said was brand-new, but it did give them an injection of new enthusiasm to get them going again.

They were reminded of the 'Jesus method', outlined in *Ministry of Healing*, p. 143: 'Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, "Follow Me".'

As a result of these sessions the members have begun to really mingle with the local community, smiling, listening, sharing their burdens, doing practical kindnesses and practising firm handshakes and warm hugs wherever it is possible and appropriate.

Where possible they will also share their personal testimonies, making sure at all times that what they do and say is compassionate and encouraging.

They were obviously not able to take any 'hugging' selfies with the people they met, but during their debriefing they showed how it was done! (see photo.)

PHILIP MASSIAH (ELDER)



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Children of Ishmael and Adventist Relations

Friday 4 September 2015 – FREE!

Facilitated by Dr Petras Bahadur (Director of the Global Centre for Adventist-Muslim Relations, General Conference) and Dr Lester Merklin (former director of the Global Centre for Adventist-Muslim Relations, General Conference).

Flowers for Worship

Sunday 13 September 2015 – from £31

This is a half-day workshop on flower arranging for ministry, taught by Audrey Balderstone, recent winner of a gold medal at the 2015 Chelsea Flower Show. Flowers are a reminder of God's creative power and should be as much a part of the worship experience as hymns and prayers. They can set the mood or tell a story, and enhance the place of worship. This workshop is designed to help flower arrangers make the most of their limited budgets while producing arrangements which are powerful witnesses to the beauty of creation.

Sabbath School Teacher Training Certificate

Sunday 6 September, 27 September, and 1 November 2015 – from £98 for all three parts

This workshop will be offered over three Sundays in 2015. It is designed to help participants to plan and teach Adult Sabbath School lessons that are interesting, interactive, and spiritually uplifting. The certificate is offered in three parts, with participants able to complete Part 1, Parts 1 and 2, or Parts 1, 2 and 3. All three parts must be completed to be awarded the certificate.

Spiritual Development in Theory and Praxis

Sunday 4 October 2015 – from £24

Explore patterns in literature and match them with persons in the Bible and your own spiritual experience. This workshop, with Pastor Manfred Lemke, will be an opportunity to explore personal spirituality in comparison with the experience of others, be they fellow participants or examples in literature or the Bible.

For more information, or to register, please visit the Centre for Christian Leadership website at www.newbold.ac.uk/centre-christian-leadership. Sign up to our email newsletter to keep up to date with courses and workshops.



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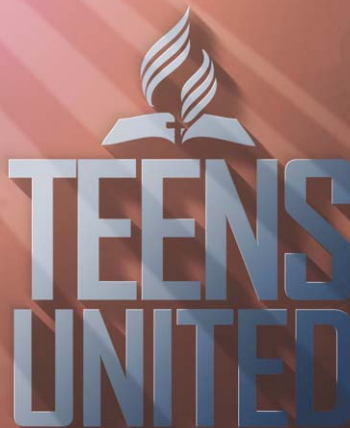
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First Welsh Mission Family Ministries retreat

Over the weekend of 19 to 21 June, six families from the Welsh Mission were blessed with the opportunity to attend the first residential family retreat to be run by the Welsh Mission in recent times. The retreat was held in the popular Hebron Hall centre in Dinas Powys, only a short distance from Cardiff in South Wales. After arrival and registration the families welcomed the Sabbath with some singing and readings from the Bible, and then spent the rest of the evening getting to know each other.

On Sabbath morning the guests congregated in the hall where the guest speaker, Pastor Paul Liburd, led a lively discussion.

During the worship service the numbers were increased by visitors from the Cardiff and Newport churches. The morning topic was 'Getting Connected as a Family', and the afternoon programmes focused on the gifts of marriage and singleness. Pastor Liburd explained that marriage is a gift (though some may at times find it a burden), but also that singleness should be welcomed and not regretted. Not surprisingly, some fiery discussions followed, with both youth and adults getting involved. After closing the Sabbath, there were games and a mini-social, followed by an early night for the adults and, as usual, a much later one for the youth!

Sunday was filled with emotions as people packed their bags, wishing that the retreat could be longer, or wishing that they were one big family living in one house. During the final morning devotion, couples were given the opportunity to share testimonies of how they met their spouses. Some were long, some were funny, but all were inspirational. In his talk Pastor Liburd focused on ambition and managed to ignite ambitious thoughts in the minds of the congregation, though he was careful to point out the difference between ambition and covetousness. A final Bible quiz saw the group divided into families, though for the sake of fairness some families had to adopt children and even adults. One fascinating fact to come out of the quiz was that the longest word in the Bible is 'Mahershalalhashbaz' (Isaiah 8:3). Overall, the retreat was well enjoyed, and questions about the next one are already being asked.

CHIPO NDEBELE

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obituary

Eric Colledge (1920-2014) d. 20 December. Eric Colledge was born in Bolsover two years before his sister, Joyce (later Walker). The family later moved to Doncaster, where they ran a mobile grocer's business to the collieries. They attended the local Congregational church, of which Eric retained some sweet and vivid memories.



During the depression the family business was forced to close because their customers could not repay the credit given, and they moved to Hazel Grove in Stockport. The family attended the evangelistic meetings of Pastor Madgwick, as a result of which Eric, his mother, Marian, and Joyce were baptised in August 1940. Their father, James, accepted Jesus as his personal Saviour and friend a little later.

Eric obtained an engineer's apprenticeship at Mirlse, making Rolls-Royce engines. With the onset of World War II the firm began making munitions, and Eric gave up his apprenticeship (together with his exemption for joining up) because he did not wish to be involved in making weapons. As a conscientious objector Eric moved to Stanborough Park and joined the team that was 'digging for victory'.

Eric met his wife, Vera, at

Stanborough Park, where he enjoyed singing in the Male Voice Choir. They were married on 18 March, 1946, and were blessed with two children, David and Rosemary, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

The remainder of his working career was spent, firstly, as a gardener on large estates; then as a freelance landscape/maintenance gardener. He took pride in his work – much of which was by recommendation – and worked hard so that his children could receive a Christian education at Stanborough School. Eric's love of gardening continued into retirement and he was still gardening at 94, prior to his short stay in hospital.

Eric attended Watford Town Church for many years and held various positions as caretaker, head deacon and elder. He did not seek church office but carried out his duties for the Lord to the best of his ability. He was a quiet man, with a twinkle in his eye – but could offer wise words when they were required. In the early 1980's he attended Stanborough Park Church where he always had an interesting handshake for children – with a sweet in it, of course!

In 1988 Eric and Vera moved to Wales to live on their son's farm and attended the Carmarthen church, where he carried out similar church duties as before and kept up his love for singing. He had a large garden of

his own and grew a variety of vegetables, lovely shrubs and flowers.

The family thank Pastor John Surridge for conducting his funeral service on Sunday, 11 January 2015. The interment took place on his son's farm, overlooking the rolling countryside. Vera, David and Rosemary are grateful for the support they received and for Pat Eastwood's beautiful rendition of one of Eric's favourites, 'Jesus is always there.'

*'Never a burden that He does not carry,
Never a sorrow that He does not share,
Whether the days may be sunny or dreary,
Jesus is always there.'*

Now Eric awaits the trumpet call of his maker and the chance to enjoy the gardens of heaven!

ROSEMARY WEST



What an achievement!

On 25 July Garnett and Elaine Newton of Camp Hill Church celebrated 72 years of marriage. Pastor Patrick Herbert marked the occasion with a short homily and a special blessing before presenting them with a letter from the Queen.

Garnett and Elaine Newton

were joined together in holy matrimony on 25 July 1943 on the sunny island of Barbados. The couple have six children, twenty grandchildren, twenty-two great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren!

The family have attended Camp Hill Church for more than 56 years.

PATRICK HERBERT



Congratulations, Terry and Jean

Former Stanborough Secondary School teacher, Terry Menkens, and his wife, Jean, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on 6 June.

Originally from Australia, Terry came to Watford in January 1964 to teach at Stanborough Secondary School. Here he met Jean, who was working in the BUC Treasury department. After a number of years abroad they returned to England, where he taught Design and Technology, Maths and Geography at Stanborough Secondary School and Jean worked as registrar at the Voice of Prophecy Bible School, until they both retired in December 2006. Terry now supervises the maintenance of the church building, conference centre and grounds at Stanborough Park Church.

JUNE COOMBS

Congratulations, Ashleigh!

Ashleigh Muza of the Newport church in South Wales recently graduated with a first class BA (Hons) degree in fashion design from the University of South Wales. In addition, she was also one of the top three finalists in a national undergraduate design competition, which secured her a paid internship with George at Asda, designing children's wear.

Ashleigh thanks God and firmly believes in the promise of Isaiah 65:24.

JENNIFER ROWELL



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'Building for eternity'

During the week of 2-8 August 51 Pathfinders and Adventurers of the Tottenham and Enfield churches spent a week camping at Phasels Wood Activity Centre, Hertfordshire.

The theme of the week was 'Building for Eternity', and the group wore specially designed T-shirts, created for the occasion by Master Guides-in-training, Alyssia Rodgers and Kristopher Reid.

The camp's activities included fire building, camp cookery, floral arrangements and fun on the zip wire. Morning and evening worship focused on Genesis 1, reminding the campers that 'God is the only one to make something out of nothing'.

Pastor Valentine Roach led out in the commitment service on Sabbath, 8 August, and the creative and heart-warming week was brought to a close with a lively Saturday night social.

ROGER CHARLES



It is finished!

It is finished! These words of Jesus on the cross formed the theme of the visitor's day at Hackney Church on 27 June. The great controversy was brought to life in the form of a play involving young and old alike. Speaking on the importance of the theme, Sabbath School leader, Maria Vinas, said that it reflected the issues within the great controversy, which began in heaven and continues to this present time. 'The good news is that Jesus has already gone to the cross for us and won, the devil is a defeated foe and through Christ we have the victory.'

During the sermon, John Mathieu further expounded on some of the issues which are central to the great controversy, stressing the need to avoid evil and those who have an evil influence. He suggested that, 'Just as Lucifer was thrown out of heaven, we too may need to throw some people and some things out of our lives in order to maintain a closer walk with God.'

The day's activities concluded in the afternoon with a 'boxing match' between Jesus and Satan, played by Lenval Greer and Darryl Mathieu respectively. A number of rounds were fought in different locations: heaven; the Garden of Eden; and the Garden of Gethsemane. Each round was hotly contested, but Jesus finally triumphed at the cross of Calvary, and declared, 'It is finished!'

DARELL PHILIP (PR AND COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT)

Scottish Mission Session notice

Following a Day of Fellowship in Crieff on Sabbath 3 October, the Triennial Session of the Scottish Mission will commence at 7.30pm in Crieff Church, continuing on Sunday 4 October. Delegates will have been contacted by the Scottish Mission office with their registration information. The report booklet will be made available electronically for the wider membership as well as for delegates. The session will set the strategic goals for the Mission, and elect the Mission Executive Committee and the departmental sponsors for the next three years.

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