

Messenger

News to the churches • 10 December 2010 • Volume 115 • 26



Welsh Mission Session report, Sunday 21 November 2010

Report and pictures
by Victor Hulbert
BUC Communications dept.

Left: The Cardiff church, location of the session.
Middle: Jeremy Tremeer.
Right: Pastor John Surridge.
Below: Sara Sheppard.

Newly baptised make an impact at Welsh Session



important but not exciting, Timothy's joy was clear to see. He was delighted to be among the seventy-six delegates who had registered and were ready for worship at 9:30 am on Sunday morning.

Morning worship began with a love story. The BUC president, Pastor Don McFarlane, used his own experience of being 'Grandma's favourite', while his outdoor, sporting cousin was 'Grandpa's favourite', to illustrate the story of Jacob and Esau. Looking at the two brothers' reconciliation in Genesis 32, he noted that Jacob became the man he was because, prior to the reconciliation, he had spent time alone with God, had wrestled with God, had demanded much more than a token blessing from God and, as the sun rose, had seen God face-to-face. In today's world, Pastor McFarlane told an attentive congregation, 'we see God face-to-face in the life of Jesus, both through prayer and as we take time to read his words.' He then added, 'When we see God face-to-face, we cannot be the same again.'

Concluding his devotional he emphasised that, while all of us may be good people, it is not enough to be good on our journey to Heaven. 'We need an unforgettable experience with God – an encounter where God deposits his grace within us,' he said, adding, 'I pledge today that I will take time to wrestle with God each day, that I will look into his face.'

As worship moved to business under the General Conference theme, 'Tell the world: Proclaiming God's grace', Pastor Surridge used a raft of photographs to demonstrate how amply grace is being shared in the Welsh Mission. Photos of evangelism with Jeff Youlden, the establishment of the

A change of editors

Introducing the Hibberts

Elize and Julian Hibbert are the most charming couple you are ever likely to meet. And you are likely to meet them, because both have been appointed to the Editorial department of The Stanborough Press. Julian will be Editor and Elize will be Editorial Secretary and Afrikaans Translator. The present Editor, who is retiring after thirty-two years in the job, has stated that there is no one with whom he would prefer to be succeeded.

Julian became a Seventh-day Adventist minister in South Africa in 1974. In the last thirty-six years he has worked as a church pastor, departmental director, editor of the *Signs of the Times* outreach magazine, publishing house manager and, most recently, associate secretary of the Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division.

Elize is a language teacher (English and Afrikaans) who worked as a secretary for the past eight years that they spent at the division office, firstly in Harare (Zimbabwe)

and then in Pretoria (South Africa).

The Hibberts have a son, Neil, who is a nurse and currently working in South Korea, and a daughter, Jeanè, who is employed as a social worker in the UK.

Julian's father was born in Bolton, Lancashire, and journeyed to South Africa with his family in the early 1920s. Years later, Julian's mother began receiving *Signs of the Times* from an acquaintance and this led the family to accept Adventism.

Elize was born in Kenya, where her parents served as missionaries. However, her Adventist roots go back to the early part of the last century. A group of Dutch Reformed Church members in the Langkloof area of Cape Province were expelled from their congregation for keeping the seventh-day Sabbath. Bible study had convicted them of the Sabbath truth. These Sabbath-keepers set up their own congregation and, for some years, worshipped believing that they were alone in their Sabbath

conviction. Then, one Friday afternoon, they were 'discovered' by a passing Adventist minister who, not wishing to travel on the Sabbath, went in search of accommodation among the local farms.

Besides his ministerial qualification from Helderberg College, Julian graduated from the University of South Africa with a BTh degree, and an Advanced Counselling Certificate and a BA Hons from the University of Port Elizabeth. In addition to a teaching qualification from Helderberg College, Elize has a Higher Educational Diploma and a BA Hons from the University of

South Africa.

Elize and Julian – Pastor and Mrs Hibbert – will be meeting with as many of our pastors and members in the UK and Ireland as possible in the course of the coming year. Pastor Hibbert will be editing *MESSENGER* from the first issue of 2011.

Since the deadline date for the new issue will be 2 December 2010, all *MESSENGER* copy and correspondence from now on should be sent to editor@stanboroughpress.co.uk.

David Marshall, *Editor 1978-2010*
Julian Hibbert, *Editor 2011-*



Thinking of home



with David Marshall

“Home”? Where’s that?” he demanded. And I felt I had given offence by using the word.

The man I met by the river had, apparently, been let down by everyone: mother, father, siblings, wife, children, friends. ‘Home’ was an illusion, he maintained. And ‘life’, he said, was what happened while you were making other plans; and it always ended in tears.

I’ve been wondering about ‘home’ ever since that conversation. What is ‘home’? Is it a house? A community? The place where the family is? Where your suitcase is? What?

Approaching me through the busy shopping precinct of a nearby city was the senior elder astride a grocer’s boy’s bicycle. You know: the sort with a metal container meant to hold a basket at the front. His familiar, smiling face instantly made me smile. How could I do otherwise? To avoid running pedestrians down, he was not pedalling the bike but ‘padding’ it with his feet touching the pavement. The sight of him was rendered almost regal by three flags sticking out of the front of the metal container: Union flags on either side, and the Jamaican flag in the centre. Was he confused about his ‘home’? Not a bit of it. He was going there – and it wasn’t Great Britain or Jamaica.

Next day I preached in my ‘home’ church. In the community that surrounded it, there wasn’t a face I recognised. Not surprising, perhaps, after a half-century’s absence. Inside, the church was, as ever, homely: all the familiar faces. But, commencing our return journey, I chose to drive down the road that contained the grey house in which I was born and raised. The present owners had sought to freshen up its appearance by colouring it cream; but my father’s hardy perennials, notably his Japanese anemones, were still flowering. But was it ‘home’? Far from it. Unlike their ‘hardy perennials’, my parents ceased to blossom a long time ago, and the house has been empty of Marshalls for more than thirty years. Home is more than the house we were raised in or the house we live in.

Remember the time Jesus spoke about home?

With the departure of Judas from the Upper Room, the trap was sprung. The succession of events – arrest, trial, crucifixion – was set in motion. Jesus had said, ‘*Now is the Son of Man glorified*’, but ‘glorious’ was the last word the disciples would have chosen to describe the atmosphere in the Upper Room at that point.

Unmistakably, Jesus was talking about leaving them. There had been mention of betrayal in the course of the supper, and the departure of Judas had been marked. Peter had caught the mood and, vociferous as ever, expressed his intention of laying down his life for his Master². The response of Jesus – ‘*I tell*

you the truth, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times’³ – must have been unsettling in the extreme. If macho, militant, mettlesome Peter was to be a broken, Christ-denying coward when the imminent crisis came, then what manner of crisis was it to be exactly? Perhaps, finally, the disciples began to be aware of the dark and terrible forces at work in Jerusalem that night. ‘Fear fell upon them. They pressed close about the Saviour’⁴.

We are apt to leave the narrative there and not take it up again until Gethsemane. The Apostle John did not. There are four chapters between the bombshell in the upper room and the Gethsemane narrative. They include the most hopeful ‘famous last words’ anyone ever uttered. What did Jesus say to those heart-troubled men? Let’s look at how he began:

‘*Set your troubled hearts at rest. Trust in God always; trust also in me. There are many dwelling-places in my Father’s house*’⁵.

Jesus began building up the nucleus of his Church by talking about Home: his and theirs. Jesus knew ‘that Satan’s craft is most successful against those who are depressed by difficulties’⁶, so he focused the gaze of his embryo Church away from ‘*what is seen*’ to ‘*what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal*’⁷. He focused their gaze on Home.

‘Home’ is a powerful word. ‘It will draw the wanderer from the ends of the earth; it will nerve the sailor, the soldier, and the explorer with indomitable endurance; it will bring a mist of tears to the eyes of the hardened criminal, and soften the heart of stone’⁸.

So where is home? In the Father’s house. In the Father’s presence. That is where there is a place for you. *That’s home. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am*⁹. Earth is a place of sojourn. Heaven is permanent: its foundations are as stable as the throne of God. God-planned, God-built – God’s Home. And Jesus has prepared a dwelling-place for every

disciple there. You included.

Bible translators have debated whether the places prepared are ‘mansions’ (AV) or ‘rooms’ (most other translations). Neither appeals to me. What does appeal is the exposition of D. A. Carson (*Jesus and His Friends: An Exposition of John 14-17*, page 21): ‘The return to his Father’s house is not a retreat into splendid isolation, but a journey to prepare a place for his followers . . . [The departure of Jesus] is for the purpose of establishing for them *permanent dwelling-places in the very presence of God*’ (my italics).

Every other instance in which ‘*My Father’s house*’ was mentioned, referred to the temple. The temple was understood to be the place where men could enter by means of sacrifices offered to atone for sin. The sacrifice Jesus was about to make was nothing less than his own body. Through that sacrifice Jesus would make a Way into the very presence of God. There believers would find dwelling-places for eternity. Jesus was explaining why his ‘going away’ by way of the Cross must happen. The words of Jesus offer peace and encouragement to disciples – then and since – against a background of the events of that upcoming, momentous weekend in Jerusalem. Jesus was not abandoning his followers. Through his physical departure by way of the Cross, Jesus was opening up the way home for ‘*whosoever believeth in him*’. ‘*I must needs go home by the Way of the Cross/There’s no other way but this*’¹⁰.

Jesus is the Way home to the Father’s presence. That is the Gospel that gives life meaning. Jesus has never let anybody down. He made the way home. He has made dwellings for disciples there. What is left is for us to make the journey there on that great day when the victorious Christ gatecrashes time.

¹John 13:31. ²NIV. ³John 13:37. ⁴John 13:38. ⁵*The Desire of Ages*, p. 662. ⁶John 14:1, 2, REB. ⁷DA, p. 662. ⁸2 Corinthians 4:18, NIV. ⁹F. B. Meyer, *The Gospel of John*, Oliphants Lakeland Edition, 1970, p. 210. ¹⁰John 14:3. ¹¹Jessie B. Pounds, *The Blue Book No. 177* (1906).

Enhancing Health
by Sharon Platt-McDonald RGN, RM, RHY, MSc
Health Ministries director, SOC

Mental wellness — the prosperity factor

On 15 November a *Guardian Online* report carried the following headline: ‘More money, less happy: Europe’s wellbeing falls as incomes rise.’ Social affairs editor Randeep Ramesh, reporting on a new study, highlighted increasing evidence demonstrating that psychological health is worsening despite rising living standards.

The findings emerged in the wake of the Coalition Government’s announcement of its intention to gauge the level of happiness in the UK via national household surveys. In addition to existing questions in the household survey carried out by the Office of National Statistics, the Government intends to ascertain whether people feel they are reaching their ‘life goals’.

The Government’s decision arose following Nicholas Sarkozy’s announcement last year of his plans to include the aspect of wellbeing in France’s measurement of economic progress. Mirroring France’s move, the UK Government has stated that there was ‘widespread acknowledgement that GDP is not the ideal measure of wellbeing’.

According to recent research, Europeans are becoming less ‘emotionally prosperous’, despite the ongoing rise in living standards. The research, due to be published in the *British Journal of Industrial Relations* in December 2010,

highlights the decline in psychological health and mental wellbeing across Europe.

Andrew Oswald, Professor of Behavioural Science at Warwick University and a member of Sarkozy’s commission, investigated the relationship between happiness and prosperity. He states: ‘We are seeing happiness indicators – what I call emotional prosperity – actually decrease. It means that, instead of making time for friends and family, we are looking to make more money or acquire consumer goods for our status.’

The study demonstrates that, while Britain became richer by more than 40% between 1993 and 2007, measures of ‘neurotic symptoms and common psychiatric disorders’ rose during the same period. Analysis of NHS surveys revealed that 15% of adults (one in seven) in 2009 were suffering from at least one mental disorder. Additionally, 15-year-olds were suffering more anxiety and depression than in the 1990s and 1980s.

Oswald cautioned against the ‘three main things that go wrong as a country gets richer’. These he identified as: 1. Extreme pressures of modern work; 2. Comparisons of self with other people; 3. ‘People may make bad choices and do things that, despite what they think, will not make them happier’.

An 'unlikely story'

www.irrefutablefacts.com/?m=200911

It is truly heartwarming to know that millions of people around the world believe in Santa. Sure, most are under four feet tall, but still it's amazing that so many believe in the big guy in the red suit. Consider the following: around the globe today live approximately two billion children. Santa wouldn't visit all of them, of course.

Subtracting the number of Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, or Buddhist children reduces Santa's Christmas Eve workload to 15% of the total, or 378 million children (according to the Population Reference Bureau). At an average (census) rate of 3.5 children per household, and presuming that there is at least one good child in each home, Santa would have to visit about 108 million homes.

Santa would have about 31 hours of Christmas to work with, thanks to the different time zones and the rotation of the earth, assuming he travels east to west. This works out to 967.7 visits per second. That means that, at each household with a good child, Santa would have around one thousandth of a second to park the sleigh, hop out, jump down the chimney, fill the stockings, distribute the remaining presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks had been left for him, and get back up the chimney, jump into the sleigh, and get on to the next house. For the purposes of our calculations, we will assume that each of these 108 million stops is evenly distributed around the earth, although, of course, they aren't. We're talking about a trip of 0.78 miles per household; a total trip of 75.5 million miles, not counting bathroom stops or breaks. To cover that ground in

31 hours, Santa's sleigh would have to move at 650 miles per second – 3,000 times the speed of sound. By comparison, the fastest man-made vehicle, the Ulysses space probe, moves at a poky 27.4 miles per second, and a conventional reindeer can run (at best) 15 miles per hour.

The payload of the sleigh adds another

booms in their wake. The entire reindeer team would be vaporised within 4.26 thousandths of a second, or right about the time Santa reached the fifth house on his trip.

Not that it matters, however, since Santa, as a result of accelerating from a dead stop to 650 miles per second in 0.001 seconds, would be subjected to centrifugal forces of 17,500 Gs. A 250-pound Santa (which seems ludicrously slim) would be pinned to the back of the sleigh by 4,315,015 pounds of force, instantly crushing his bones and organs and reducing him to a quivering blob of pink goo.

Considering all this, it's

amazing that some children (and even a few adults) have no problem believing in Santa. By comparison, the story of the little baby in the manger is relatively easy to believe. The life of Jesus Christ is a fact, recorded not only by biblical writers but by secular historians as well. Some historians declare that there is more evidence for the birth, death, and resurrection of Christ than there is evidence that Julius Caesar ever lived at all.

Even in the face of the written testimony of eyewitnesses, many people refuse to believe in Jesus. They consider him nothing more than a myth. But for those willing to believe, Jesus promises an inheritance of the Kingdom of God (Mark 10:14).

'The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish.'

John 1:14 MESSAGE paraphrase.

interesting element. Assuming that each child gets nothing more than a medium-sized Lego set (two pounds), the sleigh would have to carry over 500 thousand tons, not counting Santa himself. On land, a conventional reindeer can pull no more than 300 pounds. In air, even granting that the 'flying' reindeer could pull 10 times the normal amount, the job couldn't be done with a mere eight or nine of them – Santa would need 360,000 of them. This increases the payload, not counting the weight of the sleigh, to roughly seven times the weight of the *RMS Queen Elizabeth*.

Six hundred thousand tons travelling at 650 miles per second creates enormous air resistance – this would heat up the reindeer in the same fashion as a spacecraft re-entering the earth's atmosphere. The lead pair of reindeer would absorb 14.3 quintillion joules of energy per second each. In short, they would burst into flames

almost instantaneously, exposing the reindeer behind them and creating deafening sonic

It is the prayer of the Editor and staff of MESSENGER that we may catch a glimpse of 'the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth' this holiday season.



What being a Seventh-day Adventist means to me

by David Shenfield, London

I love belonging to a Church whose mouth isn't somewhere else.

When I was courting my wife I was not going to join her Church. I was baptised again into the Seventh-day Adventist Church after we got married so that no one could claim my reasons for baptism were ulterior. That was over ten years ago.

These are my reasons.

There was one aspect of my Christian walk that the Seventh-day Adventist Church fully supports.

That is daily Bible study. It

doesn't have to be promoted to members. It is a key feature of the Church's Sabbath School. It is not something only done by the devoted few.

Two aspects of theology I always queried are answered by the Church.

Why do most Christians not worship on the same day as Christ did? I now know that the Bible says we should keep the same Sabbath as Christ.

People should be warned that judgement can come at any moment, for we cannot predict when we will die. Though I have doubts about the imminence of Christ's return, the preaching about it keeps us alert. I have no doubt that each second of life could be the last one God has set for us. When I die, then I will see Christ coming again. For death is a timeless sleep until the Resurrection.

Three things impressed me about the Church.

Doctrines that contradict the fact that 'God is love' are not taught. That isn't just because of doctrinal decisions, but because the Bible shows these doctrines to be false. The dead are not looking down from Heaven helplessly as their heirs go wrong. No – the dead are asleep and 'know nothing'. Those that do not make it to Heaven will not go to a hell where the fire burns but does not consume. Unlike the

crematorium fire, there is no more resurrection from that fire which permanently consumes.

The health message shows that God is interested in our whole being. It is not taught to make us holy. It is preached because God cares for us, and so must his Church.

The evangelical mission of the Church is constantly at the forefront of the denominational administration, and not the burden of fringe ministries. The Church's media outreach is central to its operations.

However, there are a few things I am disappointed about:

Sabbath School teachers do not always use the resources provided by the General Conference by going through the week's lesson day by day.

Some Adventists quote Ellen G. White as if she were as important as the Bible. Yet I have seen this challenged by insisting on quotation rules, such as: 'You cannot quote

Ellen G. White without giving the reference'. We don't quote the Bible without stating from which book, chapter and verse we are quoting.

Some congregations deny there is a Church culture, insisting that they worship in the same way everywhere else. I have worshipped from San Francisco to Cape Town, so I know that worship styles vary.

Yet I am impressed by the Conference leadership.

It provides resources to enhance the Sabbath School experience.

It honours Ellen G. White, but only as the lesser light as she always preferred.

The founders and history of the Church are not forgotten; they are not only remembered by ministers.

Conference leadership consistently says there is not a defined way to worship.

Yet, despite the diverse worship styles, the message and doctrines are the same.

I have been a Christian for more than forty years, and been in many denominations. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is the only denomination to gain my loyalty. Whenever I travel, I ensure that each Sabbath is spent in one of our churches. I am proud to be a Seventh-day Adventist Christian.

Terms of endearment

Dear Editor

If your correspondent (1 October 2010, page 5) is worried about the decreasing use of Brother or Sister as a way of referring to another church member, I myself found it a bit of culture shock after being made an elder, finding myself having to get used to being addressed as 'Elder'. It was something that I had never heard at any of the churches. I do realise, however, that our African members are used to it where they come from, and that it stems from their tribal background.

We do have other terms of endearment: such as, for example, when a child in the congregation adopts you as 'Uncle' or 'Auntie'. And, of course, the ultimate in terms of endearment is to be addressed by your first name!

BARRY GOWLAND, MILTON KEYNES

The King James Version

Dear Editor

I was both very excited and very interested to read your article in *MESSENGER* 15

October, regarding the anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible next year. Not only is it the Bible that many of us were brought up with, but it was also a staging post – alongside the works of Shakespeare and Cranmer's Prayer Book – in the development of the English language. Just as important was its contribution to one of the pillars of the Protestant Church: that we all should be able to read the Bible for ourselves in our own language.

For all these reasons, the 400th anniversary of its publication is an event to celebrate, and celebrate with great enthusiasm. I intend to explore what we can do in our local church to mark the occasion.

ALLAN KISSACK, WEYMOUTH

Standard of preaching

Dear Editor

Since returning to the Adventist church after an eighteen-year absence, I have been dismayed by the general standard of preaching in our churches. In no way is this entirely the fault of lay preachers. There has

been a 'dumbing down'. What I am hearing are shallow, ill-presented pseudo-sermons. Preachers have a duty to feed their congregations. If we are not inspired by a decent sermon from time to time, then it becomes difficult to survive spiritually and, frankly, not easy to find reasons to attend.

ALLAN SPENCER

Overmanagement

Dear Editor

I most heartily agree with Allan Kissack's letter regarding the over-management of the Church in the British Isles (*MESSENGER*, issue 23/24). A number of people I have talked to are of the same opinion and feel that we only need a British Union Conference.

As an Adventist of 57 years I am wondering how much more of our hard-earned money is going to be wasted on duplication. Surely now in this era of austerity it is time that we took a long hard look at the 'management set-up' and did something about it as a matter of urgency.

VERA WRIGHT, STAFFORDSHIRE

(The Stanborough Press does not accept all of the content of the website from which this article was taken: it is, however, a source of humour.)

Welsh Mission Session report

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Irving and Lil Saunders



John Meredith



Victor Pilmoor and Bryan Phillips



Pastor McFarlane



Mrs Wells

Cardiff North church, family camps, youth activities and a selection of the 43 baptisms brought a sense of warmth and purpose to the delegation. Although he wished the baptism numbers could have been even higher, he noted that this is still significant growth, and that each baptism is a big occasion and a cause for those involved to rejoice.

The previous three years saw a high turnover of pastoral staff, with only Pastors Jeremy Tremeer and

Clyde Moore remaining; the others had retired, relocated elsewhere, or, in the case of the much-loved Mike Logan, passed away until the joy of the Resurrection. However, the Mission also welcomed new life in the youth and talent of Pastors Jovan Adamović and David Rancić. Several retired pastors also continue to give stalwart voluntary service.

Pastor Surridge also noted how the CHIP and Health Fair programmes had really taken off in Wales, building real bridges into the community.

The secretary-treasurer's report from Victor Pilmoor noted that a number of church refurbishment projects had taken place in Newport, Hereford and Cardiff. A larger rebuilding project is currently in the planning stages for Swansea. Victor also noted that, although there had been a decline in total tithe giving during the three-year period, this had been due to those who had contributed tithe from the 'Welsh Diaspora'. Core giving from those in Wales had actually increased. Part of the discussion that followed focused around the need for encouraging responsibility in returning tithe

and the development of more stewardship programmes. Questions were also asked about why the high level of evangelistic activity in Wales had not translated into more baptisms. It was suggested that maybe some new methods needed to be explored and that, in some places, soul-winning was more difficult than in others. Commenting on the positive attitude of the Welsh leadership towards evangelism, Victor stated that it would be great to see more results, while emphasising that evangelistic responsibility comes to each of us as individual members.

Pastor Clyde Moore presented the Family and Children's Ministries report, noting that he and his wife Annette had recently qualified as certified Family Life educators. Included in the debate over children's issues was the need to train people to tell children's stories, the need to share more information, and the need for more family worship.

The Nominating committee reported back to the delegates just minutes before lunch. Pastor McFarlane quipped that this would give people something to chew over during their meal. However, since the delegates were generally happy with the good work that sponsors had done over the previous three years, there were few changes.

A healthy lunch in the spacious, renovated hall was followed by the afternoon session. Irving and Lil Saunders reported on the success of the CHIP programme in Wales, as well as the health fairs. They are currently contacting GPs to enlist support for CHIP.

In the Youth report Jeremy Tremeer stated that he was impressed by the active involvement of teens, youth and young adults in church life. He stated that there are a lot of pressures on young people today, and some of the Welsh youth are quite isolated. Therefore his programme will provide fellowship and social activities, and build up the church community. A discussion ensued on how to balance fun and spirituality. Pastor Tremeer said the two were complementary. By way of an illustration, he talked about the five-a-side football game at Cardiff the previous week in which half the team were non-Adventists; there, he was able to have a spiritual discussion with a young boxer.

The business of the day concluded with a look at plans for the next triennium. The outgoing Executive committee presented general plans in four areas: Evangelism, Training and Development, Church Planting and Growth, and Media Ministry.

In addition, delegates discussed ideas about how to support and spiritually nurture students, placed an increased emphasis on small group training, and suggested that there should be a Personal Ministries sponsor for the Mission.

In his closing devotional, Pastor Surridge emphasised that we must never be sidetracked from proclaiming God's amazing grace.

Martin Walters, like Timothy Hope, was another special delegate. Baptised in the river at last year's Brecon Family Camp, his association with the Church over several years has led to a tremendous transformation in his life. Today he is a vibrant young person, filled with joy and considering a course at Newbold College. He was the last delegate to speak before the end of business.



He challenged delegates to think not so much about what the Church can do for them, and more about what each of us can do for the Church. That seemed a fitting thought to

consider, both for the drive home through the stunning Welsh countryside, and for the Mission in the next three years.



Mrs Alice Allen

Licensed Minister credentials:
Mr David Rancić

Lay Preacher credentials:
Mr Tim Barber
Mr Duncan Bayliss
Mr Peter Bayliss
Mrs Erica Cameron
Mrs Ina Douglas
Mr John Down
Mrs Veronica Down
Mrs Ruth Frederick
Dr Theophilus Gokah
Mr Monickam Jacob
Miss Sheila Johnston
Mr Solomon Mangeni
Mr Victor Mbvundula
Mr Jon Meredith
Mr Jonathan Nyengani
Mr David Parker
Mrs Joyce Phillips
Mrs Duska Rancić
Mr Leslie Riskowitz
Mrs Wendy Sammons
Mr Irving Saunders
Mrs Lil Saunders
Mr Clifford Tomos
Mr Malcolm Turner
Mrs Jean Watkins
Mrs Catherine Jane Wells
Mr Stanley Wells

Recommendations committee report:
Nominating committee:
Pastor Don McFarlane (chair)
Mr Tim Barber (Cardiff Central)
Mr Gerrard Fordham (Llampeter)
Dr Theophilus Gokah (Cardiff North)
Mrs Claudette Harris (Telford)
Pastor Roger Neal (Welsh Mission)
Mr David Rancić (Newport)
Mrs Lil Saunders (Swansea)
Mrs Geraldine Turner (Rhyl)
Mr Bryan Watkins (Ystrad Mynach)

Credentials and Licences committee:
Pastor Eric Lowe (chair)
Dr Brian Phillips
Mr Jon Meredith
Mrs Rosemary Hodgkinson
Mr Stanley Wells
Mrs Erica Cameron

Nominating committee report:
Sponsors:
Brecon Camps
Communication
Family & Children's Ministries
Health Ministries
Stewardship
Trust Services
Women's Ministries
Youth Ministries
Youth Ministries Associate
Pathfinder Ministries
Pastor Jeremy Tremeer
Pastor John Surridge
Pastor Clyde & Mrs Anette Moore
Mr Irving & Mrs Lil Saunders
Mrs Wendy Sammons
Dr Brian Phillips
Mrs Jane Wells
Pastor Jeremy Tremeer
Pastor Jovan Adamović
Mr David Rancić

Executive committee:
Pastor John Surridge (chair)
Mr Victor Pilmoor (secretary)
Mr Tim Barber
Mrs Veronica Down
Mr Gerrard Fordham
Pastor David Foster
Mr Victor Mbvundula
Miss Tracy Ndiweni
Mrs Lil Saunders

Credentials and Licences committee report:
Ordained Minister credentials:
Pastor Jovan Adamović
Pastor George Asiamah
Pastor David Foster
Pastor Clyde Moore
Pastor Jeremy Tremeer



Wonderful Christian Stars!

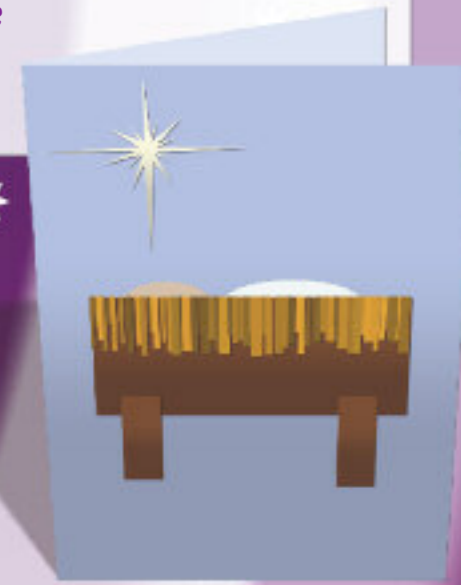
When the weather is cold and it gets dark early, we begin to plan to celebrate the birth of Jesus. You may have a baby in your family. You would have been excited to see the baby for the first time and enjoyed the special meal after the baby's dedication service. The baby would have been at the centre of everything your family would do – like shopping for clothes, feeding in the day and night, and making sure the baby would always be safe.

There is a big difference between your baby and baby Jesus. Jesus is God as well as human. He came as a baby to understand what it is like to be like you. This meant Jesus would know the best way to rescue you from Satan's wicked plan. This is why we sing praise songs and carols at this time of the year. You could write a carol about how special Jesus is to you or draw a praise picture. Put your name at the top of the paper and draw a picture of yourself. Draw a big circle in the centre and write the name Jesus. On your hands, feet, hair, mouth and so on, write a sentence to praise God. Every day of the year Jesus can become the centre of your praise.

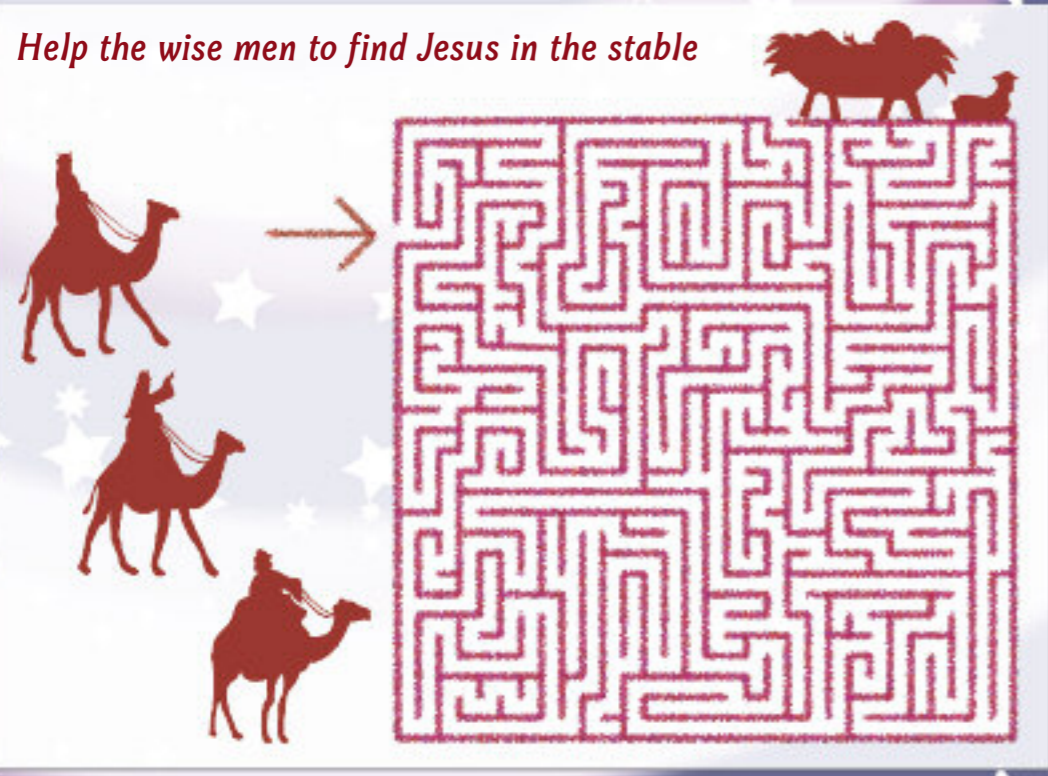
Jesus in the manger
 Make a Christmas card sharing the news of the Saviour's birth.

You will need:
 A sheet of card folded in half, one star shape, one large brown paper rectangle and two small brown paper rectangles to make the crib, one large semicircle for the baby's body and a smaller semicircle for the baby's head, and lots of yellow paper strips for the straw.

How to make it:
 Glue the large brown rectangle half-way down the card. Glue the two small rectangles below it to make the crib legs. Glue the yellow strips at the top of the crib; you can bend some over to give it a 3D effect. Then glue the semicircles on the straw to make it look like a baby lying in the crib. You can draw hair, eyes and a nose and mouth on the small semicircle. Glue the star in the top corner of the card. Write a special message or Bible verse inside the card. Give the card to a neighbour in your street who seems lonely.



Help the wise men to find Jesus in the stable



Find the special memory text on the Christmas tree.



Shine brightly Christian stars! Just as the star led the wise men and shepherds to Jesus, may your light lead your friends to Jesus too. The Good News is that Jesus came for all!

Wordmaker:
 How many words can you make from the letters in this Christmas message from Luke 2:14? Start with one-letter words, then two-letter words and so on. What is the longest word you can make?

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST



SEC Drilling and Drumming Day

It was a wet but fresh autumnal day when the Adventurer and Pathfinder Drilling and Drumming troops across London and the South-East congregated at Dulwich Scout Centre in South London.

Sunday 31 October saw the SEC Pathfinder Drilling and Drumming Corps celebrate its session of training and skill-sharing. Many clubs were represented from the area, including Balham, Brixton, Chatham, Croydon, Greenwich, Holloway, Lewisham, Luton North, Luton

Central, North Wembley, Plumstead, Hackney, Plaistow and Stratford – as well as drill instructors from the North England Conference.

The day started with a devotion conducted by Pastor Holness, who reminded us that the years of our youth are the best ones. Trevor Harewood, a Pathfinder veteran, then reminded us of the importance of devotional time and displaying Christ-like behaviour at all times.

This exhortation was followed by an exercise session to ensure that

all Adventurers and Pathfinders were fit for the day's activities. The drill instructors separated the young people into groups according to their drilling ability: Beginners and Advanced. The young people rehearsed their manoeuvres, guided by the commanding tones of their instructors. For the beginners it was the learning of a new skill; for the advanced it was the revision of past lessons learnt.

A lunch was shared by the Adventurers and Pathfinders,

refuelling them for their afternoon session, while the leaders had a working lunch.

Among drizzly showers, the established drum corps practised its pieces. In a true spirit of *camaraderie* the clubs who owned drums shared theirs with the aspiring drummers to facilitate learning.

To close the day there was a drumming display by the experienced clubs.

SOPHIA LINDSAY-ROBINSON, MASTER GUIDE, GREENWICH ADVENTURER AND PATHFINDER CLUB

Worthing — saving lives and reaching out

by Louise Askwith

On 24 October, the Worthing church spent a Sabbath day out in the community armed with balloons, health stands and prayer. It was the second year running that the Worthing church has had a visible and active presence at the Heene Road Community Centre Open Day. Pastor Leslie Hill was helped by a team of helpers from the Worthing church, Dr Isaac from the Hove church, and John Wilson and helpers from the Canterbury church. Together they set up health stands and provided local people with free blood pressure, BMI and lung capacity tests. A literature stand was also set up, providing *FOCUS* magazines, *Discovery* Bible study cards, the Gospel of Mark and small pamphlets containing both healthy lifestyle facts and information about a loving God in a chaotic world.

Health checks were carried out throughout the day, and

participants received free water bottles and fun postcards highlighting the beneficial properties of the various vegetables and fruits. While people from the community waited for their tests, Pastor Hill, helpers and local church members enjoyed warm conversations with participants of all ages.

One amazing story that came out of the day involved a middle-aged lady who entered the health-check room and announced, 'I wanted to thank you all – you saved my life.' It turned out

that she had received a health check, from the Worthing church at the Heene Road Community Centre Open Day in 2009, which revealed dangerously high blood pressure. She was advised to see her GP immediately and, thankfully, received effective treatment. She said that if it hadn't been for attending the church health check, she may not have been alive today, and she wanted to tell the Church how grateful she is.

As the Worthing church continues its outreach in the community through door-to-door evangelism and other projects, we ask you to remember us in your prayers. As the above story illustrates, you never know where a conversation will lead, or how much, by God's grace, you can make a difference where you are.



Lewisham: an act of remembrance

by Dr Petula Peters

Sir Steve Bullock, the mayor of Lewisham, personally invited the Lewisham church Pathfinders Club to participate in the borough's official Service of Remembrance on Sunday 14 November. After hearing of the good work the Pathfinders have carried out in the community, the mayor asked the Drum Corps to join the annual parade this year marking the seventieth anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

At 10.30am Lewisham Pathfinders marched proudly from the town centre down Lewisham High Street, accompanied by Pastor Phillip, church members and parents. Drivers stopped to admire them and pedestrians took photographs as the drummers, marching in perfect cadence and rhythm, caught the attention of passers-by. This was a great opportunity for witnessing as hundreds gathered at the final destination, the town's war memorial, to remember lost loved ones and to honour the brave men and women who died in the First and Second World Wars and more recent conflicts.

The police stopped the traffic at 11am as the two minutes' silence began, and flag bearers from the Lewisham church stood to attention alongside members of the Royal British Legion with their standards.

The Reveille and the Last Post sounded, followed by the placing of wreaths.

The service was attended by local MPs Heidi Alexander and Jim Dowd. This was the first time the Pathfinders had attended such an event and they did fantastically well, giving church members the chance to tell non-Christian participants about the Seventh-day Adventist Church and our beliefs.

The Pathfinders enjoyed a buffet lunch at a special civic reception, attended by the visiting dignitaries and the leaders of the eight other cadet corps taking part – including the 1475 Air Squadron Band and the 265 Battery of the Royal Artillery. Pathfinder Master Guides were approached by several organisations and individuals, including the Lewisham Police Cadets, who asked our Drum Corps to join them for their special events. In return they would like to attend our church events; an excellent reciprocal arrangement.

On the Tuesday after Remembrance Day, Councillor Peggy Fitzsimmons visited our church to say how wonderful the Pathfinders were, and complimented our 'marvellous drum corps'. Peggy was very impressed by the way so many people talked so positively about our young people. This, she said, made



Lea Valley: Thirteen baptised in 'Encounter With Jesus' revival

After an exciting and Spirit-filled revival series conducted by Pastor Matthew Bediako (until June, the executive secretary of the General Conference) at the Lea Valley Ghana church, thirteen precious souls were baptised at a colourful baptismal service at the John Loughborough School on Saturday 30 October.

During the two-week Encounter With Jesus revival meetings, Pastor Bediako presented Jesus as the 'Makeover Specialist' who desires desperately to make us anew.

Drawing from biblical stories such as that of David and Bathsheba, Pastor Bediako declared that, while 'God hates sin, he loves the sinner', and urged members of the congregation to turn away from sin and accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour!

Pastor Fergus Owusu-Boateng, who conducted the baptismal service, also welcomed the members into the fellowship of the church. He urged them to devote whatever talents they may have for the furtherance of the Gospel. ERNEST OSAFO

Winter night shelter

by Bea Jackson

On Saturday 5 December 2009, the Willesden church opened its doors to six homeless people who were referred to us by Cricklewood Homeless Concerns. This year the shelter is operating in both the north and the south of the borough; the shelter is running for 15 weeks with a break for Christmas. The south of the borough began running the shelter in December 2009 and the north of the borough began operating in January 2010, while our church looked after the guests on Saturday nights.

Because there were no churches operating on the Saturday and Sunday in the north of the borough, guests from both the north and south of the borough were brought together, and our church and the Harlesden Community church (which ran the Sunday shelter) had more than fourteen people most weeks.

Our guests were quiet and tired on the first night, as they had spent most of the day either walking up and down or trying to find places they could enter in a bid to stay warm.

For 2010, along with the volunteers from the Willesden church, five members from the Stonebridge church volunteered their help week after week. The shelter was very successful this year, as many of our guests were re-housed before the shelter had finished.

her 'extremely proud', as the Lewisham church is in Rushey Green Ward, Peggy's constituency. Living just behind the church, Peggy loves to hear the drum corps practising. Pastor Phillip was so pleased at the outcome of the day that he has offered to buy trumpets for the drum

corps, giving our musicians an exciting new challenge.

Well done to Drum Corps Major Marcus Anti, Shadiya Chambers, the Drum Corps members and all the Lewisham Pathfinders: too many to mention individually.

How God answers prayers in Dublin

by Gavin Anthony, Dublin pastor

Ten years ago there were around thirty members in the Dublin church. A number had been praying for growth for some time, but perhaps had little conception as to how their prayers were to be answered.

As they say, the rest is history. Partly due to the huge influx of people into Ireland from around the world (myself included), the last decade has seen the Dublin church attendance explode. And this has been challenging. It is hard to estimate how many Adventists may be in Dublin, simply because it's only possible to fit so many people in the church building at one time. The main worship room has a capacity of approximately one hundred people, so many others have had to be sandwiched into the hall, kitchen and upstairs room to follow the service on video screens. Many attendees have had to stand in the entrance to the church for worship.

A few years ago, a Romanian group began services, and their numbers now reach around 120 (including children). They were formally organised into their own church earlier this year, and have recently moved to a new location in Tallaght where there will be more space.

Meanwhile, the Ranelagh church building continued to bulge at the seams. While so many people have been a wonderful blessing, such overcrowding has meant that it is rather challenging to invite visitors. I heard recently that, in the United States, a church is considered 'full' at 60% occupancy, meaning that visitors will begin to feel uncomfortable when the numbers climb higher. Challenging indeed!

In an effort to find space to grow the church, a new congregation was established in Castlknock, North Dublin, during May. We were hoping the move would reveal a little space



Top: Three sides of the circle visible. Above: The small group of those here 10 years ago.

in the Ranelagh building. However, while up to ninety people worship in the new Dublin Castlknock church, the Ranelagh building is still full in every room for worship. It seems that as soon as we take people out, more come to take their places! Consequently, on 13 October, we voted to start a fourth church in Dublin as soon as possible. With Drogheda and Ballinacrow, this will take us to six churches in the area.

On 13 November we held a day of fellowship for our Dublin area churches, entitled 'Reflecting Jesus Everywhere'. Over the last decade, people have come from everywhere, and now that we are here, our task

is to reflect Jesus everywhere in Dublin. At the close of our worship service, we called together those who were in the Dublin area ten years ago and asked them to form another prayer circle. Around them, we, who have come from the four corners of the world, joined in an outer circle as we gave thanks for what God has done, and prayed for the character of Jesus to shine out to those who do not know him yet.

We can often pray for many years without apparent answers, but God hears every prayer. We may think we have an idea of how God will answer, but God often seems to delight in answering in ways we could not have imagined.

encouraged by the cause, members of the audience responded well to the evening: 'I'm very glad that we were able to contribute to help those women, and I know that the money raised will go towards making a difference in Serbia' (Catherine Greer). ADRA's work, therefore, continues to make a difference not only in the lives of the beneficiaries of the projects, but also in the lives of those who so generously give. What better way to spread God's love than through worship, fellowship and united action to help those in need?

Adra Concert in Dublin

by Lynn Muldrew

If you want to change the world and transform lives, what better way to begin than to do this one life at a time, or – as the ADRA Ireland team have attempted – one concert at a time? On 6 November, performers from all over the island of Ireland, as well as a guest singer from England, travelled to the Dublin church to fundraise for a safe house (centre for victims of domestic violence and abuse) in Serbia, run by ADRA. The church hosted approximately 250 people, raising a total of €1,365 on the night.

The twenty-two performing artists testified to the diversity and dynamism that ADRA and the Church celebrate. Coming from as far afield as Zimbabwe, Brazil, South Africa and Romania, the performers were as varied as their performances, praising God through mime, liturgical dance, drama and song.

The funds raised will help to open and maintain a new safe house in Serbia, where ADRA provides the main support system for abused women. Stephen Wilson, the Director of ADRA Ireland, informed the audience that ADRA's promise of

€5,000 to fund these centres has inspired the Serbian Government to invest in this project by matching ADRA's promise and donating €5,000, thereby allowing ADRA to extend the reach of its work in the country. During the interval, refreshments and End-It-Now T-shirts were on sale to boost the fundraising effort. There was also a final opportunity to sign the End-It-Now banner which will be presented to the United Nations later this month, along with similar banners from across the world.

Graced by the music and



Golden wedding anniversary

by Helen Hirvonen

A charming country hotel nestled in the foothills of the Derbyshire Peak District set the scene for the golden wedding anniversary celebrations of Pastor Martin and Mrs Margaret Anthony.

Guests arriving from Sweden, Germany and Scotland converged on this natural beauty spot to join the golden couple for an anniversary lunch, offer congratulations and share memories.

Martin Anthony and Margaret, daughter of the late Pastor Fred Edwards, were married by Pastor Ken Lacey on 10 August 1960 in the Derby Chester Green church. Sharing the celebration of their anniversary were their two daughters, Helen Hirvonen from Ekebyholm and Wendy Nawrotzki from Munich, with their respective families. Family and friends present included bridesmaid Mrs Olwen McIntyre, formerly an Assistant in Pastoral Care, and the best man, Pastor Bob Rodd.

As the toastmaster, Pastor Rodd regaled the gathering with some amusing incidents from the couple's courtship days which provoked much laughter – especially among those who had been Newbold College students at that time.

Following dinner we took the opportunity to mingle, chat and take photos in the hotel's gardens. Finally the group reassembled inside for the cutting of a celebratory iced cake, and they wished the golden pair many continued



shared moments of happiness together.

One week later at their local church, a lovely floral bouquet was presented to the Anthonys with the members' best wishes. The couple responded with cake and drinks after the service.

Pastor Martin Anthony retired from the Trans-European Division in August 2000 and was assigned responsibility for the Bournemouth district until the new pastor arrived. They continue to play an active role in the congregation.

125 baptised after SEC evangelistic campaign in Kenya

by Gillis Noel

Following the successful evangelistic programme in Mombasa, Kenya in 2009, the team was invited once again to run another evangelistic programme in Malindi, Kenya. The team consisted of Brenda Edwards and Hermine Davis (who

were responsible for Prayer Ministries), Marie Cader and Esther Bisson (for Health Ministries) and Gillis Noel and Hilton Punter (for Children's Ministries).

During the first Sabbath there, we were blessed to be welcomed by the



president of the Kenya Coast Field, Pastor Zacariah Marwa, who also worshipped with us. The programme began on a daily basis; the team met every morning for a devotional before going to the evangelistic site.

The Health team set up a clinic that offered health screening and advice on healthy lifestyles. The children were entertained by different activities during the day. The prayer team played an instrumental part in the programme, and supported the programme during the two weeks by their intercessory prayer and by teaching the principles of prayer ministries to the Malindi Prayer Warriors.

Marie Cader presented the health lectures nightly. The congregation sat attentively as they listened to relevant subjects such as the HIV/AIDS virus, malaria, and the nutritional values of the local fruits and vegetables that are readily available. The team not only attended to the spiritual needs of the people of Malindi but they also brought a holistic message.

The evangelistic theme for the two weeks was 'The King is Coming'. Pastor Emmanuel Osei delivered dynamic nightly sermons which touched the hearts of many. The programme concluded with a baptism of 125 souls. Perhaps the highlight of the meetings was the pleading of two Maasai tribesmen for the evangelistic team to come to their village in Kilimanjaro to preach the Adventist message to their people.

Party in the Park

The Northolt church has endeavoured to raise the profile of the Church in the community by leaflet distribution and door-to-door witnessing. On 29 August it held what was called 'Party in the Park' at Islip Manor Park. The gazebos that withstood the wind housed food stands, face painting and health checks. The health tent enabled twenty-five members of the public to obtain blood pressure checks, BMI readings and basic health guidance, provided by some of the nurses in the church who worked under the supervision of Elsie Staple, the SECs Health director. A needs analysis of the community, conducted in 2008, ascertained that one of the needs of the community was in the area of parenting. Malika Bediako, the Family Ministries director, conducted a parenting class which was instructive, insightful and well-received. A member of the community contacted Malika the following week for a personal consultation. The children were entertained by two bouncy castles and face-painting, and the men of the church led out in the football match for the boys and men of the community. Such an event would not have been complete without various culinary delights, which included vegetarian, vegan, Indian and West Indian food, as soothing gospel music played in the background.

JENNIFER PHILLIPS



Woodford Green church: organised and revived

by O. P. Chackochen

The Woodford Green church was born out of the vision of Pastor Isaac Williams for establishing new churches. Born as a church plant of the Leytonstone church, the

first Sabbath worship of the church was on 12 August 2000 at Etridge Hall. Pastor Isaac Williams and his wife Lois, Raymond Marius and his wife Charlene, David Shenfield, Janet Small and Erma Bellot were present at that inaugural meeting. On 29 November 2006 the group was organised into a company, under the leadership of Pastor Richard De Lisser, with twenty-six

members. Less than a year later, the company was organised into a church with thirty members under the leadership of Pastor O. P. Chackochen. Several have been baptised and added to the church since then.

From 9 to 23 October, Pastor Maywald Jesudass, the Ministerial director of the Middle Eastern Union, conducted a series of revival meetings by powerfully and rightly dividing the Word of God. People were challenged and blessed.

On 6 November, Monica Dowden, Brian McFarlane and Khama Menyere were ordained elders of the church by Pastor O. P. Chackochen.



Baptism in Huddersfield

The Huddersfield church was packed with family and friends to witness the baptism of Joshua Robinson and Angel Adjenghure on the afternoon of Sabbath 2 October.

Pastor Eric Lowe, the BUC executive secretary, preached in the morn-

ing and Pastor Richard Jackson spoke at the baptism.

The first candidate was Angel Adjenghure. Her family moved into Horbury, near Wakefield, early in 2009. The family had arrived in the UK from Nigeria a few years ago and

her father Bernard pursued a degree in Law at Leeds University. Since their move to Horbury God's will has become clear, as they have been a great blessing to the church in Wakefield. Bernard preaches and teaches, and his wife Mabel is the children's Sabbath School leader. Angel, a school pupil, has already let her light shine by inviting friends from school to church.

Girls with a mission

Just one year ago, 14-year-olds Jennie Logan and Amber Fairlie of the Crieff church were given a challenge. Would they like to raise £100 each and take a trip to Transylvania, in Romania? They jumped at the challenge! Their summer holidays from school were going to be too busy with the Pathfinder camporee in Finland and other activities, so the adventure to Romania was scheduled for October 2010. The aim was to spend the £200 in Romania on equipment for two very poor village schools. Parents agreed to pay travelling expenses.

In the meantime the girls each raised their £100 and, in addition, helped first with a two-week charity shop in Crieff, and then with a one-day collection at the local supermarket. Family and friends donated money during the year, their school raised money for them, and Jennie's great-auntie Ruth Farrer, who challenged them in the first place, raided the bank account she keeps for charity purposes. All told, £8,500 was scraped together for this big adventure with God. Did they need so much money just to buy some school equipment?

As it happens, yes, they did. Just before the girls (now 15 years old) left Britain on 12 October with the intention of buying some new windows as well as teaching aids, they were told that the local mayor had some money and planned to do major renovation work on the school building. The girls were asked if they

could pay for windows, doors and plastering materials. We could not promise anything, because we did not know how much money our fundraising would bring in until the very last minute before departure. However, almost enough money was raised to pay for plastering, new windows, new doors, a new ceiling and floor, and electrical work in the tiny village school in Chesau. A total of £7,000 was given towards this work and, although the mayor would have liked more money from us, he did not get it! We had promised to buy some equipment and we were going to keep that promise. In actual fact, though, because the renovation work was not completed in time, we could not buy all we wanted – but the money is being kept in hand until the school has settled down again and their needs have been reassessed. Another project for next summer?

Two delighted teachers, one from Chesau and the other (an Adventist) at the school in Zorenii-de-Vale, were taken out to buy cupboards, and by chance they spied a board with magnetic letters and numbers. A car-and-trailer-load of educational materials from Scotland was taken by Michael Thompson (Crieff), and Tony Welch (Kettering). Big puppets and many other visual aids were made by Dorothy Logan of the Crieff church; flash cards were bought and other visual aids and educational materials were donated and made their long journey to Romania. These

by Ruth Farrer

items were not available in Romania, but if they had been the price would have been prohibitive. Jennie and Amber also visited the two schools to teach the children some English words and songs. A very boisterous rendition of 'Old MacDonald Had a Farm' – with soft animal toys as visual aids – was heard in the next classroom, where Tony and Mike were fitting up shelves and rails on which the children will be able to hang their new towels. The flash cards were in great demand and put to good use with the children sitting in a circle on the floor. A nearby Adventist school in the village of Campenita also received art-and-craft materials, and again Amber and Jennie taught a few English songs and raced around the play area with the children during a PE lesson.

Three doors and a sink unit which had been intended for either of the two schools were not needed there, but a family of five was struggling to build a two-room house, and these items were gratefully received. The family had been living in a tent all summer in order to save money for the building and had just moved, on the day of our visit, into one of the rooms in the house – no doors were on the house, and the weather was turning rather chilly. Our doors arrived just in time.

So, what did our two girls think of Romania? They thought the people were lovely, the hospitality was incredible – and the food? Well, some was great, and some wasn't! They did, however, enjoy a lovely lunch at the Adventist health centre in the little village of Herghelia, and

they were impressed with the programme that this centre offers – so much so that they want to go there themselves for a ten-day session!

What were their emotions? Guilt

– when they realised how much they have and how much many people do not have. Anger – that people should have to live the way they do. Both girls now realise how fortunate we are in this country.



Joshua Courtney Robinson was next in the pool. Joshua, with his twin brother Joel and sister Javene, regularly attends the Aberdaron



Youth camps. After returning from the camp this summer, Joshua said he had made his decision to become a Christian. Joshua is the son of Elder Courtney and Sister Mavoley Robinson. Many family members were present for his baptism, including his uncle, Wayne Robinson, who had flown in from Jamaica. Joshua continues to use his talent as a pianist to enhance the worship services in the Huddersfield church.

The candidates were immersed by the local minister, Pastor Barry Stokes. The platform party and elders from Wakefield and Huddersfield welcomed Angel and Joshua into membership of their churches.

MAVOLEY ROBINSON

Leicester West: Shoebox appeal

The Leicester West congregation has a membership of 29 but, faced with a challenge, they can always be counted on. Once again Wendy Snow came out of retirement to give of her time to the Shoebox appeal. Through weekly encouragement we gathered the largest number of boxes ever this year. It is our prayer that the children of the recipient families will be blessed.

BARRY ROBINSON



What else is there?

Katie Ramharacksingh
Media and PR officer, Newbold College

Newbold Church and College's Festival of Faith concluded with the baptism of three young people on Sabbath 13 November. Alexandra Horvath, Peter Liebhardt and Lila Simon each chose to be baptised at the culmination of the week of prayer which speaker Japhet De Oliveira titled, 'Jesus. All. What Else Is There?'

Peter Liebhardt shared his testimony about how he had worked so actively in the Church that he felt he was losing his connection with God. After being approached by Pastor Kirsten Øster Lundqvist, he started Bible studies and found he was able to rediscover God in his life. Many similar responses were given by those who had either watched online or attended the programmes at the Newbold church; several people came during the week for Bible studies, and many more discovered a new commitment to service.

The Festival of Faith succeeded in reaching out to hundreds through

the help of around forty-five volunteers. Throughout the week, there were around 6,500 visits to the Newbold Media website, with an average of 100 viewers online each day of the week. The power of advertising on Facebook was highlighted by the fact that 75% of online viewers were directed to the website from Facebook links and adverts posted by the team and supporters of the programme.

Those contributing throughout the week included the media team, worship leaders, and musicians. Vili Costescu, a member of the Newbold church and a student of the college, had decided to stream the services live to spread the message even further than the church seats. He was able to gather equipment and help to implement this effective method of reaching people outside Newbold's doors. At the week's high point, forty-seven people were involved in the online chat, all of whom were discussing the programme and

topics. Involving viewers in a live chat was one of the new elements introduced in this year's Festival of Faith: the aim was for the online viewers to play an active part in the programme, and, as we had people joining us and commenting



Geert Tap



Back row: Pastor Kirsten Øster Lundqvist, Geert Tap, Pastor Patrick Johnson.
Front row: Lila Simon, Alexandra Horvath and Peter Liebhardt.

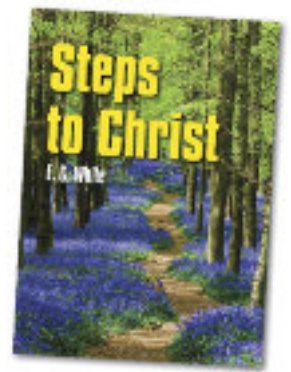
from every continent, we can say that this is something we will be using again! In fact, the Newbold Church has decided to use this from 7pm to 8pm on 4 December at its monthly Moor Close talks, when Pastor Patrick Johnson will answer the question, 'Why Is Jesus the Only Way?'

Pastor Kirsten Øster Lundqvist explained the importance of connecting with those that live outside the campus: 'some of the students that live further away aren't always able to stay involved with these programmes, but, because of the technology involved in this year's Festival of Faith, we were able to reach even larger numbers than the nightly 175 that came to the church service.' Japhet De Oliveira, who is the director of the Centre for Youth Evangelism and the chaplain for Missions at Andrews University, left listeners inspired and refreshed, ready to be followers of Jesus.

The week's videos are still online at www.newboldmedia.org (flash player 10 or higher required).

Andreas Lamberth: Eco Hero

Andreas Lamberth, the manager of the grounds for Newbold College, was given the Eco Hero Award at Bracknell Pride Ceremony on Thursday 4 November. He won this award because of the way he blends the line between inside and outside classroom activity for his students. Newbold College believes that he truly deserves the Pride of Bracknell Eco Hero Award because he is able to teach conscientiousness in work and pride in presentation through his enthusiasm and vision. Although Newbold College confers degrees up to doctorate level, Andreas' efforts as the manager of the grounds inspire the highest 'degree' of work ethic. The college has Level II Historic Moor Close gardens which Andreas constantly studies to maintain their historical context. Both public visitors and Newbold College members are able to appreciate the work that is carried out and taught by Andreas. The appearance he gives to nearly 90 acres of college property has become well known across Bracknell and beyond. During his five years of service, we believe that this tall Swede has become a figure that could rival any found in the classroom!



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(Closed for lunch 1pm-1.30pm)
9am-12pm Friday. Closed on Sundays

Advent Centre

Saturdays, 5pm-8pm
Sundays, 11am-3pm

Messenger

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Sunset

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	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Dec 10	3.52	4.09	3.48	3.39	3.58
17	3.52	4.04	3.48	3.38	3.58
24	3.55	4.07	3.51	3.41	4.01
31	4.01	4.13	3.57	3.48	4.07

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