

Messenger

News to the churches • 19 March 2010 • Volume 115 • 6

You + ADRA = solutions



Praise God and praise ADRA

by Eglan Brooks, BUC Personal Ministries director

'Praise God and praise ADRA.' This was the chant that I heard continually as I visited the twelve villages in the Bazenga region of Burkina Faso as the people thanked us for assisting them in changing their lives.

The local ADRA team informed the residents that Pastor Bert Smit (ADRA-UK director), Godwin Benjamin (ADRA Annual Appeal co-ordinator), Pastor Terry Messenger (SEC Personal Ministries director), Pastor Mike Simpson (NEC Personal Ministries director) and I were coming. We were greeted with singing, dancing and enacted plays – the villagers' way of showing respect and saying thank you for the dramatic impact made on their lives. We were also given a traditional welcome drink made of local herbs and spices, a selection of peas and live chickens and goats that unfortunately we could not bring back with us.

So why were we there? The purpose of our mission was to investigate and prove that the money given during the ADRA-UK Annual Appeal goes to designated projects and is providing long-term benefits.

Burkina Faso faces enormous problems that can't be overstated. The country is being damaged by its weak environmental structure. The 'water table' is eroding, water retention is poor, and the villagers are destroying the forests because of a lack of education on how to use

its natural resources economically. Survival for them means depleting the natural resources of the country. Many of the women spend their whole day looking for wood for fires.

You: In order for ADRA-UK to help the people of Burkina Faso, they called on you to help them. You were the one who volunteered to go door to door to collect much needed funds, or gave a personal donation or organised a fundraising initiative or project. Without you, ADRA-UK could not continue its work.

ADRRA-UK wanted to help preserve natural resources by building two dams and eleven wells. They planned to educate women on how to cook on more fuel-efficient stoves and to teach the villagers how to care for the trees effectively and minimise the way they get firewood from the trees. They also wanted to implement a restoration project by planting thousands of trees in the Bazenga villages.

Solutions provided by you + ADRA are astounding. ADRA-UK was able to build two major dams, eleven wells and educate the villagers to be economical with their natural resources. The villagers in the Teng-Koglogo area are enjoying a better quality of life: women who used to spend hours finding water and collecting wood now only walk a few kilometres to the nearest ADRA-UK well.

Communities have now developed a natural organic way to re-fertilise the ground using a new plant ADRA-UK introduced to that area a few years ago. Women have been introduced to a more efficient way of cooking, thus enabling them to spend more time with their families; some villages have even started teaching the women how to read. Life in the Bazenga Province of Kombiserie is changing; the health of the community is improving and people are beginning to appreciate the God of ADRA-UK.

On behalf of ADRA-UK I would like to say a heartfelt 'Thank you' for participating in the Annual Appeal event. I hope you now know a little more about what your small gifts can achieve in the lives of people who are truly less fortunate than we are. In Matthew 25:40 Christ says, 'Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' So the next time you put on your badge, gather your leaflets and rehearse your lines, do it with confidence, knowing that people all over the world are being touched by the work of your charity, ADRA-UK. Lives are being changed and marvellous opportunities are being created for those less fortunate. It is true, certainly for the people of Burkina Faso, that you + ADRA = solutions.

See Burkina Faso pictures on p. 12



ADRA UK
Annual Appeal 2010

Ingathering dates 2010

METROPOLITAN AREA: 27 March - 18 April
PROVINCES: 27 March - 11 April

Who does your church appeal to most – men or women? In most churches, women strongly outnumber men. Is that because the Christian faith appeals more to the feminine nature, or is it because church services gear themselves more to women? My suspicion is that it has more to do with the former, but the latter has also to be taken into consideration. Consider this article that appeared in January:

'Church services and interiors need a more macho makeover if they are to attract men aged under 30, Christian Vision for Men (CVM) believes. A questionnaire on the movement's website found that men cringe with embarrassment at much of church culture. Songs declaring Christ to be the "beautiful one I love" use words "many men wouldn't sing to their wives", CVM director Carl Beech explains. "Feminine" decorations such as banners and flowers, robed vicars, action songs and kids' plays, and "pastorally driven" sermons and discussions all alienated young men who "want to know about Jesus' great decision making and leadership".'

There is one mega-church in the United States that took this on board some years ago and aimed all its services at 35-year-old males. Their success is, no doubt, due to many things, but it would probably include this factor.

There were plenty of things Jesus did that were particularly attractive to men. He was a strong leader, called for decision, spoke of self-sacrifice. Jesus often went against the authorities of the day. He got angry at injustice and hypocrisy. He also wept when his friend died. Jesus was a man who challenged, confronted, and focused on justice and people. He was also in touch with his emotions and able to express them.

Consider this account of Jesus' life and notice the kind of confident, strong leader that he was:

'After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the

good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." ' Mark 1:14-17.

Anyone who thinks that Jesus was anything less than a strong leader who stood up for a cause and called people to follow him is mistaken. Perhaps we should ensure this is reflected both in our services as well as in our understanding of who Jesus was. If we do, young men may come flocking to our churches!

¹<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article7004861.ece>

with Jonathan Barrett

A strong leader



God's Nail

Lord, make me a nail upon the wall, Fastened securely in its place. Then from this thing so common and so small, Hang a bright picture of Thy face; That travelers may pause to look Upon the loveliness depicted there, And passing on their weary ways, Each radiant face may bear – Stamped so that nothing can efface – The image of Thy glory and Thy grace. Lord, let not one soul think of me.

Only let me by a nail upon the wall, Holding Thy picture in its place.

Mildred Hill

with David Marshall, editor

The old pandemic



Alone and sick, the sound track to Donne's days was of funeral bells tolling:

'Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee.'

As late as 1665 a plague outbreak killed 100,000 Londoners. The carnage seemed to end when the winter came early. And a cruel, long and bitterly cold winter it was. It was so cold that the Thames froze, and stayed frozen for weeks at a time. The ice was so deep that Londoners held community events featuring bonfires upon it.

Among the unnumbered casualties of the 1665-66 winter were the 'plague fleas'.

At the height of the 1620s outbreak John Donne believed that there was an older, more virulent contagion than the plague. No nation was without it. No city was without it. No home was without it. No heart was without it. It was sin.

Sin, Donne believed, was self-centredness, as opposed to God-centredness. Sin was not about the occasional slip-up. It was a condition. It was the result of consciously or unconsciously viewing the world without God: not taking God into account.

God said, 'Love'. Man chose hate. God said, 'Forgive'. Man chose vengeance. God called for self-control. Man went for self-indulgence.¹

By distorting God's image or ignoring God altogether, men left themselves open to every kind of depravity. (Romans 1:21, 24.) Joseph Alleine, a near contemporary of John Donne, wrote: 'O miserable man, what a deformed monster has sin made you! God made you "little lower than the angels"; sin has made you little better than the devils.'

The infection of the individual could lead to the corruption of an entire population. Sin was a pandemic.

That fact made the cure all the more astonishing. This is how Paul expressed the prescription:

'One died for all, and therefore all died. And

he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. . . . God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.' (2 Corinthians 5:14, 15, 21.)

In that 'highly compressed but extremely profound statement',² Paul describes how God made salvation possible: *Christ, the sinless, became sin so that we, the sinners, could be counted sinless.*

To John Donne, who had viewed the plague up close, it was as if Christ said, 'Touch my hand. Let me take your disease, that you might receive my health.'

Christ responded to universal sin with a universal sacrifice. That universal sacrifice made possible a whole new creation in which all plagues, including the old pandemic, were vanquished. The new creation begins when you accept Christ and is completed when you meet him in glory.

So there is a sense in which Calvary brought winter to an end, and Resurrection Sunday was the beginning of a better-than-springtime new birth. But we Adventists long for the everlasting summer that will begin when the heavens depart as a scroll; and every mountain and island has been moved out of its place (Revelation 6:14) and the new heaven and the new earth are in place (21:1).

Until that day dawns is there anything good to be said about winter?

God says, 'Be still and know that I AM.' Winter obliges us to slow down, quiet down and gear down our lives. It gives us time for quietness, thought, prayer and soul-searching. The still small voice – which never shouts – can be heard then. We see how petty and insignificant differences are, and how big God is. And even on the bitterest day, there is the promise of springtime.

References:

¹John Stubbs, *DONNE: The Reformed Soul* (Penguin, 2007), pages 397-422. ²Colin Kruse, *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries: 2 Corinthians* (IVP), page 128.

Enhancing Health

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

When the 'natural' may be hazardous



The side effects from many conventional medicines are becoming of increasing concern. As a result alternative medicines have grown in popularity. It is estimated that up to half of the British population has tried some form of alternative therapy at some point in their lives, and over £450 million annually is spent on these treatments. Many have espoused the virtues of these treatments in terms of alleviating their symptoms without the side effects that conventional medication causes.

With several reports celebrating the efficacy of these natural alternatives, many patients have continued taking natural interventions which on their own have so far shown to have little or no known side effects. However, ongoing research continues to show that some of these reported 'harmless' herbs or alternatives when taken with specific drugs may become harmful. Earlier reports demonstrated that some herbal

medicines can counteract drug efficacy by cancelling the effects of certain prescription medicine.

On 2 February *The Times Online* headline read: Herbal remedies 'can work against heart drugs.' In the article David Rose, health correspondent, highlighted the warnings from US research and the British Heart Foundation with regard to the devastating effects of drugs and herbal interaction in vulnerable patients. Particularly at risk were the elderly, those with kidney or liver disease and patients with an increased bleeding risk.

Rose reports: 'St John's Wort, commonly taken for depression, anxiety and sleep disorders, is known to interfere with medication prescribed for irregular heartbeat, high blood pressure or high cholesterol. . . . Ginkgo biloba, which is said to improve circulation, raises the risk of excessive bleeding in those taking warfarin or aspirin. Garlic, taken in high concentra-

tions in pills, could also interfere with warfarin.'

Drawing from research findings documented in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, the key danger relating to the majority of drug interactions was a lack of communication between patient and doctor. It was found that patients failed to inform their doctors that they were taking herbal supplements, and doctors had not asked patients about alternative or complementary medicines.

In the book *God's Pathway to Healing – Herbs That Heal*, Reginald B. Cherry MD examines a wide range of healing herbs and how to utilise them safely to avoid harmful drug interaction. We will analyse some of these herbs in the next Enhancing Health article.

Advice: Always inform your medical practitioner of all herbal or alternative therapies that you undertake.

Good health!

A reader from Scotland wrote to Tom Wright, Bishop of Durham, to compliment him on his inspirational commentary, *Luke for Everyone* (SPCK). At the same time he asked the bishop, 'Why does science seem to be attacking our Christian faith?' The bishop replied, 'I don't think our Christian faith is really under attack from science. There are many, many wonderful world-class scientists who are devout Christians. There are simply some writers who are using their expertise in science as a screen behind which they hide their rejection of God, which is quite a different thing.'

RONALD V. EDWARDS* would agree with the bishop, but he has found evidence in his own personal experience of the reality and power of

The living God

In generations past our ancestors were able, to a large degree, to anticipate the weather. So wise sayings grew up that accurately forecast the weather. In more recent times it has become possible to make meteorological observations, using satellites, on a far wider scale than previously; which means that modern weather-forecasting can be very accurate.

Where does this recent development leave the wise old weather-saws of yesteryear? It does not invalidate them or diminish their accuracy one iota. It is no less true today than yesteryear that, for example, 'A red sky at night is the shepherd's delight', anticipating fine weather the next day; or 'A red sky in the morning is the shepherd's warning', anticipating that the weather will turn wet. Each is an observable reality of our weather system; the one 'local', the other the consequence of the capacity for more universal weather observations.

Nothing has altered in the weather, but our observations have advanced. The old sayings are no less true on that account. The larger picture does not invalidate the 'local'. Neither is one 'natural', while the other is not; both are derived from observations of weather patterns, one more comprehensive, the other 'local'; each may complement the other, but they cannot contradict.

As in the case of the weather, so with the wider picture of the universe — as our capacity for its observation expands (for

example, the new satellite observation telescope 'WISE' thrilling scientists with unprecedented visions of the universe), it complements those realities which we have hitherto been able to observe. The two are all part of the same picture — one in minuteness, the other in magnitude.

One thing we may never do is to deny observable reality. Of one thing also we can be no less sure — *truth has nothing to fear from what is true*. We may have to adjust our opinions, but truth never has anything to fear from what is true. It ever behoves us, therefore, whether we be scientist or theologian, not to be proscriptively dogmatic, lest we stumble ever over an 'obstacle' that is not there.

The universe (and life) contains the self-evident postulate that we are here. This is a reality, and inherently implies purpose of which our presence is the undeniable consequence. If we were not here, if all were total vacuity, no purpose could be assumed but only on the basis that there was nothing. The moment there is something, inherently purpose is implied and inescapable by the very existence of that 'something'.

Our present scientific knowledge notwithstanding, there is that of which we have scarcely begun to conceive, not just in the observable marvels of creation, but totally beyond the possibility of our human comprehension in respect of the Creator. The structure of the atom, the beauty of the wayside

flower, the miniscule (from our viewpoint), bear just as clear testimony to the care, the wisdom and the power of the Creator as do the mightiest stars and most extensive galaxies. God's hand is equally at work in both. The truth about the larger does not diminish or negate the truth about the lesser. However more vastly our vision may expand makes no difference to this simple principle. Science is the study of physically observable realities and intellectually comprehensible postulates: the contemplation and study of the physical universe, both living and inanimate, present and past, with possible future conjectures. It deals with both the tangible and visible, as well as unseen realities (for example, laws and constants, gravity and invisible radiations), the objective and observable. But science does not enter into the sphere of what is termed the 'metaphysical', that is, supernatural and spiritual, that of inner experience, the subjective and personal. Science (true science, not speculative philosophy) does not deny these. They simply are outside of its frame of reference, its remit of investigation.

When I see a benign Providence active in human lives and in my own experience — in answer to specific prayer, directly intervening to the precise need, for the very real benefit of those who seek its aid — then I say, truly there is One who knows and who cares. There is One who is outside of and above our mere human, physical environment, independent of it, indeed, in control of its every circumstance, One who determines and directs events to accomplish his benign purpose. I need no other 'proofs', though countless more exist, of God's existence and activity.

As the physical, so the spiritual. The spiritual realities we experience are not a whit less valid in view of the larger picture of creation we perceive. One thing is very sure: when it *seems* the very foundations are being shaken, only one thing will hold us secure — a personal, intimate relationship with God. While our knowledge *about* God should always be increasing, our primary necessity is to become acquainted *with* him.

When we read in Scripture the experiences of patriarchs and prophets whose lives were directed by a majestic providence transcending all human power, nothing we may discover in the material world ever can confute, contradict or negate such spiritual realities. The very contrary: the greater the wonders discovered ever advances and enhances our apprehension and appreciation of the greatness of the God we serve, yet who cares for our lowly concerns!

*Pastor R. V. Edwards is a retired SDA minister who lives in Lincolnshire

Music4Children

by Diane Sinclair,
NEC Music advisor

Learning to play a musical instrument can be compared to spiritual development. It is not something that you can fake; regular, daily participation is needed. Whatever your instrument, or if you're a singer, the day-to-day custom of taking out your instrument, practising and playing regularly is what we need to do with our faith. Bible study and personal devotions are not simply tools for our own development and personal pleasure, but should be used to share the Good News with others around us. The discipline of playing an instrument can make us good disciples, as many musicians will agree. It involves commitment and an investment in time and money, a joy in developing skills that bring progress and a pleasure in communication.

Some of our best musicians from across the NEC have made themselves available over the Easter break to work with children from our churches and the surrounding communities. Our children are not only the Church of the future but are serving communities today. Those of us who have been involved in various community services are passing on some of the experiences and using our influence in training up a child in the way he should go. Over this weekend for children aged 8 to 15 we encourage spiritual development through lively Sabbath School discussions, team work and creative worship using instruments and voices. House parents, well-known in their areas, have come from Camp Hill, Windsor Street, Leicester, Nottingham, Leeds and Bradford churches. The small family-like atmosphere encourages children to work together and support one another, keeping to Bible standards of behaviour.

Throughout the weekend, from their excited arrival, children have exclaimed over the joys of music. Musical skills involve aural skills, playing by ear, developing technique and playing for worship. They listen to the staff perform, play music notation games and traditional musical social games involving listening, rhythm, co-ordination and vocalisations. It has been a real pleasure for the volunteer staff to share the joys that children experience. Our final concert on Sunday

EVANGELISING IN MULTI-ETHNIC BRITAIN

Dear Editor

One of your readers asserts (5 February, page 5) that his brethren 'find it appropriate to establish their churches where they will feel comfortable to worship God'. This is part of the problem. Churches are not constructed for the comfort of believers, unless I am mistaken. It is very important for us in these times to look for ways to reach the secular mind in the indigenous population who remain untouched by the gospel message that we are supposed to be delivering! Cultural insularity is to be avoided. Numerical and financial strength will not take us very far unless we understand that the Gospel is for all 'nations'.

MARK GITTENS, Impact Chadwell Heath

TONGUES

Dear Editor,

I have read the articles with regard to speaking in tongues issues 22 January, 5 February and 19 February. I am not a theologian or a linguist, but as I read Acts 2 it seems to me that most people consider the speaking in tongues of the disciples and their addresses to the crowd as one and the same occurrence. Yet verse 1 says they were all together in one place. That is just the disciples, as verse 2 says, 'a violent wind from heaven filled the whole house'. (NIV.) They saw the tongues of fire falling on their friends and heard them speak in other tongues. Verse 6 says that when the Jews staying in Jerusalem heard the sound (presumably of the rushing wind) a crowd came to see what it was all about. A crowd could not get into one house so the disciples must have gone outside to address them. Therefore there must have been a time interval between the Holy Spirit filling them and each speaking in tongues to each other, and the disciples addressing the crowds.

As Ken Clothier points out, this crowd, probably at least fifteen different language groups, all 'heard in their own language'. Did all the eleven disciples, and at least six other supporters, stand up and address different sections of the crowd all at the same time in the language of that group or did one speaker address the whole crowd and they all 'heard in their own language'? It seems to me that it was the latter. This makes a very great difference. Was the miracle the fact that uneducated men could suddenly speak in a foreign language, or that the listeners heard in their own language?

When passing through Germany on my numerous trips in the ADRA truck, I used to try and time my return journey so that I

afternoon serves as a showpiece to demonstrate the variety and sensitivity of these young ministers of music, many of whom return to their local church with more purpose and confidence. Please support this programme with your prayers. If you would like to support us financially, payments should be made to the North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

could spend Sabbath with some old friends who lived near the Austrian-German border. They attended a little church in a nearby town. On one occasion I was asked to lead out in the divine service prayer. I only know about six words of German so I spoke in English. Yes, I spoke slowly and as distinctly as possible, but afterwards an old lady came up to me and excitedly and in very broken English told me she had understood every word! Could it be that this was a miracle in the ears of the listener and not in the mouth of the speaker? If so, this concept largely negates the 'speaking in tongues' experience of the Pentecostals.

TONY WELCH, Kettering

Editor. The nibs are telling me that that accounts for 'tongues' in Acts but not in 1 Corinthians.

Dear Editor,

Many thanks for including my comments on tongues in Acts in the 5 February and 19 February issues. In the 19 February issue there is a spelling mistake in one of the Greek words I used.

On the eighth line it has γλωσσα. It should have been γλωσσα.

My entire emphasis was on the correct meaning of this word. I lose credibility with scholars if the key word is not spelled correctly.

KEN CLOTHIER, Teignmouth

Editor. Apologies.

TROUBLING RULING

Dear Editor,

There is growing concern with respect to legislation that could pose a major difficulty to us as Seventh-day Adventists when it enacts laws that violate our beliefs and values. Such legislation, in seeking to uphold the views of others who do not share our values, would most definitely be a violation of religious liberty.

The 'Premier Reports' (electronic newsletter) dated 22 February 2010 reported a recent case when a former church leader, Bishop Michael Reid, took his church 'to an employment tribunal after claiming he was forced out when he admitted an affair'; but 'his claim was thrown out after the tribunal ruled that leaders of religious organisations should lead lives that comply with that organisation'.

In an earlier news link by 'Premier', dated 5 February 2010, David Cameron was calling for more gay rights within the Church of England; and a voice recording reported him stating that if the Tories got in as the next government, they would 'make faith schools teach homosexuality as nor-

mal'. This is disturbing; and if that or any other moral obstacle should confront us by whatever political party is responsible, then surely the ruling of the tribunal mentioned above should also apply when it comes to making churches go against what they stand for.

I am not making this point as a political stab against one particular party since they all, in one way or another, appear to seek political gain at the expense of moral principle. Since these 'Premier' articles appeared, the party concerned seems to have shifted its position slightly. The point I am making is that legislation can often be a violation of human rights and religious liberty when it is expedient.

PASTOR MICHAEL I. WALKER

UNCLE ARTHUR

Dear Editor,

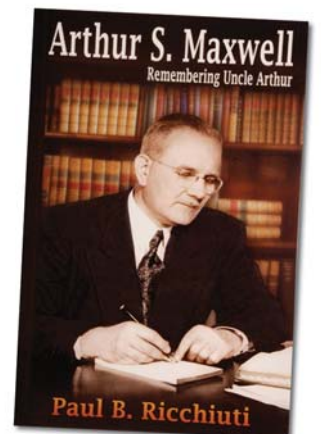
In the 6 February issue of *PEOPLE'S FRIEND* the following letter appeared under a feature titled 'A Right Good Read':

My favourite books to read during the war years were *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories* by Arthur S. Maxwell. This series of children's books was published annually after 1924. I had many of them, but I have lost them all apart from one. I treasure it because it was given to me by my mother.

The letter was signed 'Mrs B. A., Chesterfield.'

DAVID LOWE, Barnsley

Editor. Thanks for that. For anyone interested in Uncle Arthur's life and ministry — his books reached more people than any other Adventist author apart from E. G. White — the newly published biography *Arthur S. Maxwell: Remembering Uncle Arthur* (Pacific Press, 2010) would prove a fascinating read. It is by Paul B. Ricchiuti and is available from the Adventist Book Centre at £9.25 + p&p.



Music4Children 2010 — Residential Music Weekend

Children aged 8 to 15 are invited to come along with their instruments to sing and play at this residential sacred music weekend. Led by a team of experienced musicians and house parents, they will learn music that they can play in church and at local events. April 2-4, 2010 promises to be a fun-filled weekend with a focus on sacred music, where young musicians can improve technique, gain a better understanding of music, as well as interact with their peers in a group setting.

The venue is the Malvern St James School in Worcestershire (WR14 3BA) and the cost is £55 (£50 for second child). Please book by Monday 29 March, 12 noon.

For more information, please visit www.necadventist.org.uk/music.html or email dsinclair@necadventist.org.uk

Dundee Adventists in the pink

by John Walton

The awful news was out in the open! The Dundee church board was aghast. The beautiful new church building we so desperately needed would cost **half a million pounds!** The mood turned sombre and despondent. Slowly Pastor Marcel turned to each committee member, inviting their opinion. All thought the same thing. Space for the children was a crying need, a proper kitchen was long overdue, a venue to hold outreach events was desperately needed, there was a longing for a new ambience to promote meaningful worship, but only £50K funds were available! There was no way a small church on the UK Adventist periphery could possibly reach such a target! It was an impossible pipe dream. One member after another suggested drastically downsizing the plans or shelving the project till better times. It was unanimous; until the Pastor reached the final board member. He had an altogether different vision. He pointed out that God already knew our needs and that in reality the unlimited resources of Heaven were available to us. If we didn't ask, how could we expect to receive? He voted to move forward in faith and reach out for the full scale project. In some strange, unaccountable way the whole mood of the board changed! One member after another switched their opinion right round. In just a few minutes the committee was transformed, stood on its head, and unanimously voted to proceed with the whole plan!



'Those guys are crazy,' 'They've got a tiger by the tail,' 'They'll bankrupt the Scottish Mission,' were some freely expressed opinions! But miraculously the funds started to come in. Local members dug deep; found it didn't hurt as much as they feared, and dug deeper. The Scottish Mission gave incredibly generously. Betsy Ross persuaded the Thistle Foundation in the USA to send a wonderful \$80,000 and, because of a timely blip in the exchange rate, this yielded more pounds than expected. Generous folk across Scotland took the project to their hearts. East Kilbride with its tiny membership (blessings on them!) sent an amazingly large-hearted donation. A former student who hadn't been heard of for 30 years suddenly emailed, visited the church again, and sent two large cheques! Bishop Snee of the neighbouring church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints arranged for us to meet rent free in LDS premises during the building phase. The things hoped for became material substance. The impossible became possible. Faith saw the fulfilment of God's promises. After only about two years the new church was built, decorated, furnished and debt free!

Thanks to the DIY genius of Pastor Neil Robertson and the resourceful energy of Pastor Marcel Ghioalda, by Sabbath 6 February the bills were paid, the last leak in the roof was sorted, the last spills of paint were cleaned, the last washroom was sparkling and the last drain had been unblocked! We were ready for the Dedication Day.

Visitors arriving at the church for the first time are always surprised by the rosebud pink exterior facing the road. It is certainly distinctive. Neighbours have reacted favourably, saying it harmonises well with sunsets. Almost 200 well-wishers entered the pink portals to show their support and solidarity. During the Sabbath School, Scottish Mission

president Bernie Holford developed the theme of friendship and challenged every participant to perform at least one random act of kindness before the day was out. Then the Lord Provost of Dundee, John Letford, arrived in the state car wearing his historic gold chain. He won everyone over with his ready smile, his compliments on the attractiveness of the building and his easy accessibility. He even gave a hug to our longest serving member Mrs Nora Myles. Once the flash photography of the ribbon cutting ceremony had died down, the Lord Provost and platform party proceeded through the glass vestibule and into the bright and spacious new auditorium. Crossing the heather coloured carpet, between the lavender coloured chairs, they mounted the platform and took their seats.

Pastor Marcel welcomed the congregation and guests and traced the development of the building project from inception to completion. He warmly thanked all who had helped with their time, labour, good advice and prayers. He singled out contractors Hadden Construction, who were represented in the audience by Doloretta Clarkson, for special thanks. Bishop Snee and his wife were also in attendance and received enthusiastic plaudits.

Next, Dundee singing group Advent Melodies delighted us with a beautiful rendering of 'Press on, it won't be very long.' Professor John Walton gave a brief overview of nearly 100 years of the history of Seventh-day Adventism in Dundee. He identified Mrs Helen Barrie with a group of about eight ladies, who started the church in 1917, as the true successors of the Celtic Sabbath-keeping tradition. He mentioned key events like the Kenneth Lacey campaign in the early 50s and the 'dial-a-prayer' service in the 70s and told some real life stories of former members and ministers.

In his address the Lord Provost emphasised the good role played by churches in Dundee. He warmly invited Adventists to join the Dundee interfaith group. He called the SDA church a new home of learning and wished us a strong voyage of discovery in love and friendship with

the community. He ended by invoking God's blessing on the city of Dundee.

Next, the children listened enthralled as Karen Holford took on the role of a baker who also happened to be the mother of the lad with five loaves and two fishes. In a droll Yorkshire accent she told of how she feared competition from new superior bread available from Jesus and of her joy at finding it was really her own bread multiplied. The moral she drew was for everyone to share what they have, ask God to bless it and wait for the miracle. It was a very apt parallel to the coming together of the Dundee church project.

In his deep, resonant voice BUC president Don McFarlane set out five roles that the Dundee church should play in the life of its community. It should be a symbol of God's presence; showing he is in touch with all human experience. It should be an ever open place for all people to come and pray about life's situations. It should be the upholder of law in the community by the honesty, truth and fidelity of its members. It must be a place where practical love is demonstrated to all. Finally, the church should proclaim salvation to the lost so that members of the community will find rest in Christ and the hope of eternal life. The take-home message, he emphasised, was, 'The most accurate barometer of our relationship with God is our relationship with one another.'

The ceremony was solemnised by Pastor Holford leading the congregation in an expressive litany of dedication. The entire congregation gave voice to their inmost aspirations as they proclaimed: 'Father, we unite in dedicating this building to the glory of the Father who has chosen us, to the glory of the Son who has redeemed us, and to the glory of the Spirit who has sanctified us.'

At the close of the service the Lord Provost, guests, visitors and local members migrated through the folding partition into the freshly redecorated church hall where a lavish buffet awaited them.

Each day the news media seem to show the modern world in a race between Christianity and catastrophe. In Dundee the SDA church now has the infrastructure in place to make a serious impact on secular Scottish society. A variety of outreach programmes designed to achieve this has already started.

Scottish Mission: Our core business

by John Wilby, Communication sponsor



Pastor Bernie Holford, Scottish Mission president

More than forty lay church leaders from across Scotland who attended the Mission's Training Day in Crieff on Sunday 21 February were blessed with an informative and spiritually enriching day. Workshops were led by BUC directors Eglan Brooks (Personal Ministries), Des Boldeau (Youth), Victor Hulbert (Communication) and by ADRA Annual Appeal co-ordinator, Godwin Benjamin. They were supported by Pastors Bernie Holford, Bob Rodd, Jimmy Botha, Lorraine

Johnson and David Hatch.

Other workshops included Children's Ministries (Jennifer Oroko), Women's Ministries (Judith Martin), Family Ministries (Karen Holford) and Child Safety (Carole Peacock).

In his keynote address, Pastor Boldeau referred to changes in the Church and, with it, changes in leadership style. He said

there are good principles in the business world that can be adapted and adopted but that what was needed was spiritual leadership. He pointed to the life of Jehu in 2 Kings 8-10 who was an instrument to accomplish God's purpose but was not a servant of God – all the time continuing to worship Baal.

'What kind of leaders are we?' he asked. 'Am I, at heart, listening to what God is saying? Am I studying his Word? Am I praying that some time in the day I can find a slot



where I can spend time with God? Spiritual leaders must spend time with God because that's where we learn,' he said. 'We also have to be united in a common goal. That common goal is not to hasten Christ's return but to bring the Good News to people out there – to help them know God.'

In summing up the day's events, Mission president, Bernie Holford, continued this theme, 'We are not in the business of just doing "good church". We are not in the business of just trying to get converts. We are not in the business of just making sure our finances are in shape or our building looks nice. Our core business is knowing God, loving God and letting that love so fill us that it overflows to our love for one another



– both within the community of fellowship and out in the community. If we are not being a loving example of who God is, then why on earth are we here? As we leaders, today, recognise that core, we are one Church with one mission, one focus – and one purpose.'

Judging by the comment from one departing participant, the day achieved its objective. He said he now felt better equipped to meet the personal, practical and spiritual challenges of church office.

Newport's investiture day

by David Rancic

Sabbath 13 February was a great day for the Newport church as the many guests and members present witnessed something they had not seen for a long time – a Pathfinder investiture.

Pathfindering has a long history in Newport, but over the last few years the church has not had an operational club. There were children in the church, and there was a need for a Pathfinder club, but there was no one with the time, experience or skills to run it. That all changed last year when Mrs Chipo and Mr Ndaba Ndebele, along with their two teenage children, moved from London into the Newport area and became members of the church. They gladly accepted the challenge of establishing a club because of the love they felt for children and the experience they had from their previous church.

With a lot of interest from the children, fantas-

tic support by the parents, and backup by the church board and pastor, the club began its activities in late August 2009. The leaders ran intensive courses and children started attending the meetings two or three times each month. They wanted to start the calendar year with an investiture so that the children could get new enthusiasm for further meetings and achievements.

So Sabbath 13 February had to be special – and it was! The Pathfinders themselves organised both the morning and afternoon services, under the theme 'The Day is Coming'. In the morning they sang, took part in a drama presentation, and gave a number of short speeches. They even had the sermon, with Elphine Ndebele and Taryll Viviers, Elphine's friend and guest from London, reminding the congregation that the day of Christ's Second Coming is very close.

BUC Youth Ministries director Pastor Des Boldeau was present for the investiture and he gave out the various certificates, pins and badges that had been earned by the young people. He was

assisted by Master Guide Jan Penny, who had the joy of seeing her grandson being invested, along with Chipo and Ndaba Ndebele as club leaders.

In the afternoon service the Pathfinders had the chance to demonstrate some of their newly acquired skills. Parents, church members and guests alike enjoyed the colourful and creative presentations on subjects which included knot tying, dogs and personal hygiene.

The Pathfinders made an impressive sight as they marched in, and later marched out, to the sound of their song, 'Onward Christian Soldiers'. They were the same children that we knew from last year but a little bit older and with new knowledge, new skills and new awards. It is left to us who are a bit older to admire their youthful enthusiasm, pray for them and support them as they mature and grow as Christians in the service of the God they love.

More than a hundred photos from the day can be seen on the Welsh Mission website at: www.adventistwales.org.

ACTS — A day of renewal

by Taylor Bajic, PRO and Web editor, Newbold College

Newbold's long-anticipated Youth Day of Fellowship became an exciting reality on Sabbath 20 February. And what a day it was! Newbold College welcomed 835 youth from throughout the United Kingdom, in fact, from all over — England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and as far away as Denmark — to fellowship and come together in Jesus Christ.

In the words of Newbold's principal, Dr Jane Sabes, the day was 'designed to bring youth together, to be able to warm one another's hearts and strengthen each other in the Lord, through preaching by and for youth, relevant workshops, music and simply through socialising. We want to remind youth that, though they might be from small churches, they are in fact part of a 17-million-strong movement.'

The day began with back-to-back preaching by seven compelling speakers on the theme of 'Renewal'. The assembly was worshipfully led in the Word, in song and in interactive activities alike, and was even treated with special musical items by 4-year-old Vuyo Ransom from Swindon church and from the Slough youth choir. The morning programme concluded with a call to be 'super heroes' for Christ, renewed daily in him.

Head chef, Zak Ambrus, and his Newbold team provided hot meals before the afternoon activities commenced. There were nineteen workshops from which to choose on relevant topics from 'Using Art Therapy to Sort Out Emotional Baggage' by Belinda Stojanovic to 'Does Ellen White Have Anything Worth Saying to Youth of Today?' by Dr Radisa Antic. Jonas Raabjerg, Newbold MA student in Theology, presented a workshop on 'Bridging the Gap: Creating Authentic Community' and shared his thoughts on the subject: 'I chose the topic because I am passionate about doing church in new ways and trying to reach people in the culture around us.' Carole Williams, Newbold Theology graduate and Christian politician, presented a workshop on 'Christians Running

Denmark Union, came together in one afternoon to rehearse and beautifully perform two selections during the concert. 'The concert was better than X-Factor and the group "4 Christ" could've beaten JLS hands down!' claimed



for Public Office? Get Real!' She stated, 'The aim was to get young people thinking more broadly about the various ways that God can use us all in our careers even when they do not seem to be related to the work of the Church.'

The Sabbath concluded with the baptism of Tatenda Mushunje from Coventry church, as he was warmly welcomed into fellowship with family and friends gathered for this celebration. Sam Neves, pastor of the Wimbledon church, conducted the service.

The evening was full of festivities and treats, complete with a Christian book and CD sale. There was an array of food booths, from Caribbean cuisine to popcorn, with

each stall raising money for a worthy cause.

The evening concluded with a sacred concert organised by Trevor Johnson, with the best sounds from around the UK. There was a large variety of talented musical groups — vocal solos and instrumental arrangements. A group of young people, relatively unknown to one another prior to this day, under the direction of Tihomir Lazi, doctoral student in Theology at Oxford University, and Thomas Rasmussen, Youth director,

one of the attendees.

Kay Choudary, co-ordinator of the day's events, said, 'I was very happy to see ACTS revived after six years and to see everyone enjoying Newbold College's campus. It takes a lot of organisation, but just to see people smile and be happy is well worth the effort.'

It was indeed a day to remember. And it isn't the last! Mark your calendars for next year's ACTS: Newbold Youth Day of Fellowship on 26 February 2011. Come and join us! We can't wait to host you!



Stewardship summit

by Dr Richard de Lisser
SEC Stewardship and Communication director

On Sabbath 13 February fifty stewardship leaders, treasurers, elders and pastors converged on the Reading Whitley church for the first South England Conference Stewardship summit. The congregation swelled to over 300 as individuals travelled from as far away as Thetford and Ipswich.

The day began with lively singing and an interactive lesson study conducted by the SEC Stewardship director Dr Richard de Lisser. During the divine service the congregation was blessed with fine music from the Whitley youth and senior choir respectively. The host for the day, local pastor Dr Steve Thomas, kindly welcomed the Stewardship leaders and encouraged them to come again. The main presenter for the day was the associate director of the Stewardship department for the General Conference, Pastor Jean-Luc Lézeau.

Pastor Jean-Luc Lézeau is a French national,



Pastors de Lisser and Jean-Luc Lézeau

born in Algeria. He and his wife Eileen have three children, two girls and a boy, and five grandchildren. Jean-Luc studied at the universities of Collonges (France), Newbold (England), Grenoble (France) and Webster (Geneva). He has served in several capacities from conference to division level in the denomination, including school principal, business manager, treasurer, departmental director, and president of various church entities both in Africa and Europe.

Pastor Lézeau preached a challenging message entitled 'God as he longs for you to see him', encouraging us to look at God in a different way, not just as the Almighty but as one who is love and wants to be with us. Only then will we truly have a relationship with him.

The Stewardship summit ended on a high with the Stewardship leaders charged and ready to go to lead God's people on to the next level!

Let there be love

On Friday evening 12 February, the young people of Bournemouth church gathered once again for an Agape Feast. There were thirty-three present this time, our second such evening, and everyone agreed it was a very uplifting experience with good food, both spiritual and temporal.

The theme was Jesus in the wilderness, the crucifixion and resurrection, and so the tables were

laid in the shape of a Cross. We began with prayer and a reading from Luke 4. Then our Youth leader, Rodrigo Cerencovich, passed around the Agape loaf after a short prayer, and this was followed by various young people reading from the book of Luke.

Our theme song 'Let there be love' was sung with everyone joining hands, and then we ate the food —

pancakes with savoury and sweet fillings, salad, cheese and biscuits, followed by fruit salad and cream.

Everyone was given a 'goodie bag' to take home containing a wrapped satsuma, a Cadbury's Creme Egg, plus several small Easter eggs and an illustrated cross bookmark with a text. Judith made everyone a booklet containing all the dates from Ash Wednesday until Easter Sunday, with space to write down what people felt Jesus was thinking at that particular time.

As the evening wore on, the

atmosphere grew more and more relaxed. People mingled and chatted, several brought their friends, and altogether it went very well. We believe the Lord is blessing these gatherings and one young man remarked that it felt 'just like a family'. This is how church should feel! We prayed that God would bless everyone present and strengthen us to share our faith with others. A further three Agape Feasts are planned, one each quarter, to the end of the year.

JOY ELLIOTT

British delegates attend Orlando Health Conference

by Sharon Platt-McDonald with Adventist News Network



Under the caption 'Optimal health in the twenty-first century' the North American Division and Inter-American Division hosted the annual Health Summit in Orlando from 29 January to 7 February. With a delegate attendance of over 500, the eleven-day intensive training event received very high commendation from its feedback session and evaluations.

Although the majority came from thirty-two states in the US, the event attracted attendees from countries as far afield as Korea, Africa, Europe, Canada, Brazil, South America, Mexico, and several from the Caribbean. Attending from the British Isles were fourteen delegates who



Left to right: Mufalo Akayombokwa, Lwindi Naali, Nakula Yuyi, Angelina Mukwamataba, Ruth Sentenga, Grace Walsh, Chipema Chitambala and Cecily Mwaniki

undertook training in the physical, emotional, spiritual and social aspects of health.

The event hosted a broad spectrum of thirty-two workshops designed to train local church leaders to run church and community seminars on topics such as depression, divorce and grief recovery, forgiveness, breaking free from addictions, smoking cessation, nutrition, family, gender and cultural health classes and a range of healthy lifestyle programmes.

With a packed programme there was no time for sightseeing. However a tour of the Florida Adventist Hospital organised specifically for the delegates proved very popular as we observed medical and pastoral care services at their best.

Organiser Dr DeWitt Williams, Health Ministries director for the Adventist Church in North America, stated: 'We want every church to become a community health training centre.' Also reflecting on the event, Dr Peter Landless, associate Health Ministries director for the world church, pointed out that for church members who are not health professionals, the Orlando summit provided ideal training for learning the latest evidence-based practice. He also stressed its value in helping people to understand how to be extensions of Christ's grace and love in a world that is hurting, physically and emotionally.

The delegates from the British Union are committed to take back the learning to their churches and communities. Building on the Mental Wellness Strategy launched last year by the BUC Health Ministries department, a number of the British delegates took classes in the Depression Recovery programme, Forgiveness seminar, Divorce and Grief Recovery programmes and Living Free – Finding Freedom from Habits that Hurt.

If you would like more information about how these seminars/programmes can be run in your church, please contact Sharon Platt-McDonald, Health Ministries director, at the British Union Conference on 01923 672251.

Disability champion turns 60

On Sunday 17 January at the Stoke Newington Community Seventh-day Adventist church, friends, relatives, and well-wishers gathered together to celebrate Pauline Wiltshire's 60th birthday. Pauline, disabled from birth, has never allowed her disability to hold her back or to keep her down. Born on the island of Jamaica in 1950 and coming to England in the late 60s, she has single-handedly brought up her son David in spite of her disability. Pauline is the author of three books: *Now I live in England*, *Living and Winning* and her most recent work, *Legs of Iron* published by Mandra Publishing. She has featured in newspapers and has been interviewed on radio both at home and abroad.

Pauline describes herself as a fighter and a champion for the rights of the disabled. She states, 'I have written these three books to let people understand that some disabled people can live a normal life and that we need to leave the Dark Ages of our understanding and learn to live with the disabled and not treat them as second-class citizens.'

'"Retarded" is how my first passport labelled me. Now it is "Disabled". Which describes me more accurately?'

'My hope is to help society to start to understand that I do not want them to apologise for my disability, or look away embarrassingly when I am around. I am who I am and will be the best I can. No pity. No bad treatment. No dehumanising. Is that too much to expect from an intelligent and civilised Western society?'

Happy birthday, Pauline. Keep fighting!

DR RICHARD de LISSER, Communication director



Antonette and Mark

Antonette and Mark entered the waters of baptism on 12 December to close the Year of World Evangelism at Pendeford church. Both candidates distinguished themselves as keen Bible students at a Bible class taught by the local elders and pastor.

They took their baptismal vows in the presence of friends, relatives and church members after Pastor Egerton Francis, the Ministerial Association director of the North England Conference, preached a Spirit-filled message. Pastor Nceku Moses Msimanga, the local pastor, conducted the baptism. The church was full to capacity and visitors were given some free literature and invited to join the church fellowship.

Pendeford church responded with great enthusiasm to Pastor Ian Sweeney's call for local churches to do evangelistic programmes. Different departments ran some inreach and outreach programmes. The Personal Ministries department ran the Millennium of Prophecy DVD series conducted by Pastor Doug Batchelor for four weeks during the month of July. This led to a campaign in October which was conducted by the local pastor. There are ten people in the Bible class preparing for baptism.

SUE FARRELL

What does P.E.A.C.E. stand for?

The aim? For you to consider choosing to enrol on a course that could change your life.

PETER JEYNES

Picture this. The big idea – you have to sell it. In the past you set up a poster and gave out handbills. These days you make a video.

The big idea was to sell the PEACE evangelistic training course, a North England Conference initiative, to church members around the world. The South England Conference media department came on the scene to make a video trailer to promote the concept.

So it was that a small team headed down the M1 to Watford. PEACE, the Pan-European Advanced Centre of Evangelism due to commence its work this year, is to be headed by Adam Ramdin. With help from ASI and Amazing Facts the course, run by the North England Conference, sets out to equip people for excellent service for God and potentially to help transition people into possible full-time ministry for God.

The video, produced by Sam Neves and filmed by Villi Costescu, attracted the comment, 'I like the energy, I like the different dynamics.' With Ian Philpott, currently working as a mission pioneer in Carlisle, Leah Sweeney, 'Youth for Jesus' worker in Yardley, and Lemuel Morgan from Handsworth taking different roles, the aim was to show that ordinary people can aspire to the new course. An edge to the video was provided by the acting skills of Jader, Nicole and Dorling who showed that there would be people

wanting this type of opportunity to fulfil God's call in their lives.

'That's a wrap' was called late on Wednesday night. The end prod-

uct will be coming to a DVD, a web-site, Facebook – or whatever media can be managed – to enthral you in the near future.



Dorling and Sam Neves



Leah Sweeney



Lemuel Morgan



Ian Philpott and Sam Neves

Don't miss the Fun Run!

by Terry Messenger,
Personal Ministries and Sabbath School director, SEC

We've had a very cold winter but the good news is that those daffodils will soon make an appearance and warmer winds will soon blow our way. Of course, this is also the time when those red and green canisters make their annual appearance on our streets with many of you carrying them! Yes, the annual Ingathering Appeal is about to get underway.

I was privileged in October of last year to visit Burkina Faso with Bert Smit, the ADRA UK director. It was marvellous to see firsthand what the ADRA funds had done to help the people of this poor country. Many wells had been constructed in many of the villages so that the people had easy access to drinking water instead of having to travel many miles in some cases to fetch water back to the village. Dams had been built to provide irrigation to the parched land. As we visited village after village the people came out to greet us.

The annual Fun Run is a great way to raise funds. It will take place at Crystal Palace Park on 18 April. We are trying to expand the Fun Run to as many people as possible, and so whether you are young or old, fit or unfit, you can take part. We are proposing the following:

- Golden mile (for youngsters and the slightly older folk)
- 3 miles (two laps) for the walkers
- 6 miles (four laps) for the faster ones
- 9 miles (six laps) for the sporty types
- 12 miles (eight laps) for the really keen

If you wish to take part please obtain a sponsorship form which has been sent to the churches or download it from the SEC website. There's no need to register – just turn up on the day!

Let's do our bit this year to relieve some of the suffering in the world.
See cover story



Upper Room in Nottingham

by Wendy Forrester

Photo: Justina Blackwood

On Sabbath 6 February a symbolic 'foundation' of stones was laid for the 'Upper Room' (formerly Hyson Green) branch Sabbath School, Nottingham, as it was officially organised as a church.

'Unity in Fellowship' was the theme of this special day. In Sabbath School, the Mission Spotlight consisted of members' own testimonies, sharing inspiring stories of how they have grown spiritually and as a family through their weekly fellowship. In a special presentation, the children also described the Upper Room as a place where they could develop their talents for God.

The sermon was delivered by NEC president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, who turned the attention of the well-known Jonah story away from Jonah and the fish to the benevolent, merciful God who is ever in control and seeking every opportunity to give life

to his disobedient children. It was a message that seamlessly echoed throughout the rest of the day – that the God-given purpose of this new-born congregation is to be a shining light in the surrounding community, bringing the life of God to the people.

The formal organisation service began at 3.30pm and was officiated by Pastor Paul Haworth (NEC executive secretary), Pastor Ian Sweeney and Rejoice Kampengele (NEC treasurer). During this time, charters were signed by the founding members, musical gifts of praise were given, and Pastor Haworth reminded the newly formed church of its foremost responsibilities: to go and make disciples for the Kingdom of God and to live the lives of disciples by loving one another.

Among others, the founding pastor, Dr Patrick Herbert, was recognised for his vital contribution to the establishment of the new

church and was presented with a certificate of recognition by elders Robert Mokoya and Joseph Muchina.

The day ended with a summary of all that had been accomplished by the Upper Room, as well as what they plan to accomplish in the

future. On behalf of the new leadership, elder Paul Clarke summed up the ultimate vision for the church – to learn through Bible study, teach through evangelism and to baptise and make disciples through further teaching and study.



Founding pastor, Dr Patrick Herbert, was recognised for his vital contribution

Over 40 years of Pathfinder service

by Joanne Passley

Pastor Nathan Stickland on 2 February 2008 attended Balham Pathfinder and Adventurer club's induction programme and presented Master Guide Myrtle Stirling (affectionately known as Auntie Myrtle) with a pin which marked her fortieth year of service in the Pathfindering programme. It was opportunity for her friends and church family to acknowledge her outstanding achievements and commitment to children's ministries.

While preparing for the International Camporee 2009 'Courage To Stand' event to be held at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA, our club secretary Kaye Oshodi-Glover came across some documentation which would give an opportunity for

any staff member attending this event to earn a certificate of recognition. So some detective work had to be completed, and the club director managed to complete this form and send the required details off to the Pathfinder historian who was in charge of issuing the Adult Staff Recognition Certificates. With one amendment to the originally submitted form, Auntie Myrtle would be receiving a certificate that stated that she had completed forty-one years' service for the Pathfinder programme.

On Sabbath 21 November, Balham's Children Day, it was arranged that Auntie Myrtle, upon return from a well-deserved break, would receive the certificate. The speech was given by the club director, Joanne Passley, and the presentation was made by, Balham's senior pastor, Keith Boldeau.



Auntie Myrtle

The whole event came as a complete surprise to Auntie Myrtle. We did not want the occasion to pass by without letting her know how loved she is and the blessings that she has extended to all with whom she

comes into contact. Auntie Myrtle is known for many things but, as for me, I look forward to tasting 'Auntie Myrtle's soup' for many years to come. May the grace of God continue to be with Auntie Myrtle always.

Rhyl and Llandudno

On Saturday evening 13 February members of the Rhyl and Llandudno Junction churches joined together to have a fun social evening and eat pancakes.

The idea was to pay £5 each and eat as much as you liked.

A great time was had by all as we marvelled at the culinary and juggling skills of Rhyl elder Malcolm Turner, Mrs Lileth Davies and Pastor David Foster.

Meanwhile, Sandra Foster organised games and quizzes which kept people laughing and sharing a great time together.

But by far the most satisfying part of the evening was the £170 raised for the ADRA Haiti appeal, which when added to the £437 previously raised will go to help those in most desperate need.

PASTOR DAVID FOSTER



Rhyl elder Malcolm Turner

'Seed of Life' church plant in Birmingham

by Sidney Almeida

Another church has been planted in Birmingham, West Midlands. The group is identified as Seed of Life Seventh-day Adventist church. The title came with the concept of sowing the seed of the Gospel.

The celebration took place on Sabbath 13 February at the Harper Bell School, with an eloquent message from Pastor Michael Simpson (NEC Personal Ministries director), which was translated by Pastor S. Almeida. The message, 'Who can separate us from the love of God?' emphasised that 'If God is with us who can be against us?' And so with God we should go forward, focus on the everlasting Gospel and 'preach to those who dwell on earth, to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people'. (Revelation 14:6.) The group was dedicated to God with a special prayer by Pastor Simpson.

The group is mainly composed of Brazilian, Portuguese and Angolan people. It came to our attention that some Adventist people, and also some people interested in the Adventist message, were going to other denominations because of the language barrier. To help them, their leaders started seeking contact with Portuguese-speaking pastors in London, but because of the distance it didn't work out. In mid-2009 they wrote an email to pastors in many parts

of the West Midlands asking for help. At that time, Pastor Moses Msimanga replied to the email and opened the doors of Pendeford church for them to be able to worship in their language. Soon after that, Pastor Almeida was introduced to them because he could support them in their language. At the beginning of 2010 the group was organised under the wing of the Personal Ministries department and the NEC, and on 13 February the group was inaugurated as a Seventh-day Adventist group with the name Seed of Life. They will be worshipping in the hall of the Harper Bell School every Sabbath. There are also two small groups meeting on Friday evenings in homes, one in Pendeford church and another in Birmingham.

Although most of them speak Portuguese, the vision of the group is dual. One is to identify Portuguese-speaking people in the West Midlands and bring them to Jesus. Two is to use those able to speak English to identify the English-speaking people in the community and bring them to Jesus.

Already there have been fifteen baptisms at Seed of Life and ten are receiving Bible studies.



Willesden Gospel Extra

An intensive two-week 'Gospel Extra 2009' campaign and a week-long Family Life Seminar series in Willesden church, from 18 July to 1 August and 8 August to 15 August respectively, resulted in two baptisms with a total of twenty-five people accepting God into their lives.

The question, 'Why is this world in such a mess?' was featured regularly as part of a radio advert on Bang radio 103.6 FM in an attempt to invite the local community to the programmes. Leaflets were also distributed to the community with a day-to-day list of a variety of topics to be covered, including 'Why have our streets become unsafe?', 'Duppies, ghosts, obeh, jumbies – are these things for real?' and 'Why do some romantic relationships fail?'

It has been estimated that just over a hundred people from the community attended the seminars, with a fair amount coming from non-Adventist, and indeed non-Christian, backgrounds.

Pastor Kirk Thomas, the pastor of Willesden church, was the evangelist for the 'Gospel Extra' series, while Pastor Alphod Sinclair from the USA was the speaker for the Family Life Seminars. Both were engaging, interactive, insightful and passionately shared God's message in an infectious way.

The whole campaign culminated with the baptisms and with a Spirit-filled and inspiring concert by Kimberly Palmer-Washington from America.

'It was a challenge to do it [inside the church building instead of outdoors] and to make it attractive and welcoming for people to come,' said Pastor Thomas, 'and it was a great success.' He described the need for evangelism.

MONIQUE SIMPSON

Horley Gatwick baptism

About 500 metres from Gatwick's runway 'three first class passengers' prepared for baptism at the Horley Gatwick church on 5 December. Pastor A. Opoku-Mensah admonished the candidates, and student placement minister Sam Gungaloo took the candidates through their baptismal vows. Sister Arnoldis was followed into the baptistry by Julio and Nancy, a husband and wife who had been married the day before.

Earlier in the year Roy Crisp, who had taken studies with both the pastor and our elder Linda Muganga, was baptised at camp meeting. On 9 May Lindsey Mukazi and Jonathan Turay were baptised, together with Susan Hukport of Guildford.

The Horley Gatwick church is situated next to Gatwick Airport off the A23.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

14 Messenger

Sisters Kira and Tia baptised in Bristol

December 26 was a very special Sabbath day for two sisters who decided to dedicate their lives to the Lord publicly in baptism at Bristol Central church. The church was packed full with warm, loving friends and family who were thrilled to be a part of Kira (16) and Tia (13) Samuels' special day. The service was conducted by Pastor Valentine Roach who had been a pastor of the Bristol District churches for a few months, and it was a lovely way to end his time in Bristol. Elders representing the Bristol Central, North and South Bristol churches were present.

As both Kira and Tia entered the pool to be baptised, special Bible verses were read by family members. Tia's favourite Bible passage, Psalm 8, was read by her grandmother who said that she was a very proud grandmother that afternoon. One of Kira's favourite Bible verses,

Jotsam

Got any rivers you think uncrossable?
Got any mountains you can't tunnel through?
God specialises in things thought impossible,
He will do what no one else can do.

Trust him in the darkness,
Trust him when the light is small,
Trust him when simply to trust him
Seems the hardest thing of all.

Submitted by Dr Doreen Bull



Psalm 91:1 and 2, was read by stepdad Lloyd Young. He cited one of the reasons that Kira had made this decision – she was especially influenced by the sermons from

Micah Campbell who had been one of the guest speakers at Bristol Central's youth campaign, which had taken place over two weekends in August.

ESTELLE HARTLEY-McDONALD

STONEBRIDGE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

PRESENTS...

OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY PRAISE & THANKSGIVING DAY

"LOOK HOW FAR GOD HAS BROUGHT US"

ON SATURDAY 3RD APRIL, 2010

AT ST MARGARET'S & ST GEORGE'S UNITED REFORM CHURCH
67 NICOLL ROAD, CRAVEN PARK ROAD
LONDON NW10 8SH

MORNING: 9:30AM
SABBATH WORSHIP
SPEAKER - PASTOR SAM DAVIS

AFTERNOON: 1:00PM
LUNCH PROVIDED FOR ALL

EVENING: 3:30PM
CELEBRATION IN CONCERT

BUS ROUTES: 18, 260 & 266. NEAREST TRAIN STATION: WILLESDEN JUNCTION

David Balderstone

(1942-2010) d. 16 January

On 16 January 2010, David John Balderstone lost his long battle with cancer. Twelve days later, Stanborough church was filled to overflowing not only with church members but with those with whom David had worked in the local community and much further afield. They witnessed David being carried in and out of the church he loved on the shoulders of close relatives and friends. They heard, too, of the difference a layman, dedicated to God, can make in the world.

David, born in Slough in 1942, spent most of his life in the Watford area to which the family moved in order that he and his sister could attend the Stanborough Primary and Secondary schools. Living on a farm made David appreciate the outdoor life. A summer job on Stanborough Park led to work for landscape gardener, Andrew Proudley; David had found one of his vocations. At 17, with a bike, a spade and two shillings and sixpence (the equivalent of twelve and a half pence) in his pocket, he started his own business. From those small beginnings he slowly built up a landscape gardening business that employed many young people and students to whom he gave more than wages: a start in life, and an appreciation of the value of hard work and self-discipline. Many have written to say how this has helped them in their careers since. As the gardening business, Garston Gardens, established itself, David began to diversify into building works and eventually into improving and building care homes for the mentally ill. He was, then, an entrepreneur with a heart.

David was more than an entrepreneur – he was large-hearted. Working as a volunteer for a number of agencies, while keeping his businesses running, he first experienced the problems of the developing world while working for the Red Cross in Nigeria during the civil war. It was here that he was first held up at gunpoint, held a dying child in his arms, was placed under house arrest on suspicion of being a spy and released three weeks before the civil war came to an end in 1969. Seeing the suffering caused by war and poverty was an experience that never left him and he sought to

share that experience with the young people of the church. Between 1989 and 1991 he took three groups, one to Zimbabwe to build a church, another to Pakistan, and a third to Nicaragua where they helped renovate a school. From this time until his death he became even more heavily involved in relief and aid work. He became volunteer transport manager for ADRA-UK when the charity was formed twenty-two years ago and was its longest serving trustee. He was also a trustee of STOP International, a charity which renovates and builds orphanages in India.

Transport manager. Board member. Trustee. The titles suggest desks, committees to pool ideas, perusing balance sheets, organising others. David certainly had ideas aplenty as well as organisational and fundraising skills. But that is not the full picture. David was a hands-on man, whether it was digging trenches in Africa for a new drainage system or driving HGV lorries into the war zones of the former Yugoslavia. Here he, and others, risked their lives. On one occasion bullets entered the cab of the lorry he was driving, and he was arrested twice by Russian soldiers during the Kosovo crisis. ADRA-UK calculates that he was responsible for carrying or sending 984 tonnes of food and medical supplies to the value of £1.8 million. He also transported goods for SOS Bosnia, whose chairman was awarded an MBE for her services. Dr Laycock told the congregation at the funeral that it was one of her great regrets that David was not similarly honoured. Later she presented a signed photograph from Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia who expressed appreciation of David's work for their country.

David also found time to help form, at the BUC's request for advice on business matters, a UK chapter of ASI, the Adventist business people's association. Later he and his wife were founder members of ASI Europe. And more locally, he was an assistant head deacon and chairman of the Management Committee of the Stanborough Centre.

In November 1998, at the height of the Kosovo crisis, David was



'On one occasion bullets entered the cab of the lorry he was driving'

diagnosed with inoperable cancer. He chose to keep the news to his close family and to carry on helping ADRA-UK and STOP International and managing his various businesses. As brave in his personal life as in war zones, David packed what was to be his last – and largest – ADRA truck load of 8,000 shoeboxes of aid in November 2009. He continued to give estimates to clients until Christmas Eve, took the part of a shepherd in Stanborough Park church's nativity play and fulfilled his deacon's duties in the church over Christmas. He bore his final weeks of pain with courage and fortitude, helped by his loving family and his faith.

At the January funeral service David's sons received a posthumous lifetime achievement award from BUC president, Pastor MacFarlane, and many tributes were made by friends and colleagues to a life well lived. During the service certain words and phrases recurred: 'courage; resourcefulness; vision; infectious enthusiasm; kindness; capacity for hard work; servant leader; "How can I help you?"; honourable; consistent; faithful; uncomplaining – except when it came to red tape!' Pastor John Ferguson reminded us that these were Christlike qualities given to David by the grace of the God who will in the end make all things new. The power of the risen Christ was evident in every part of a service which was positive, uplifting and affirmative.

David was laid to rest in North Watford Cemetery. His good friend, Pastor Martin Bell, officiated at the short ceremony there.

He leaves behind Audrey, his wife of forty-three years who supported him as he did her, two sons, Peter

and Adam, their wives and children, a sister, Ruth, and other close family members. He was immensely proud of them all. May the day not be too far off when the great reunion takes place at Christ's return.

HARRY LEONARD

Thank you

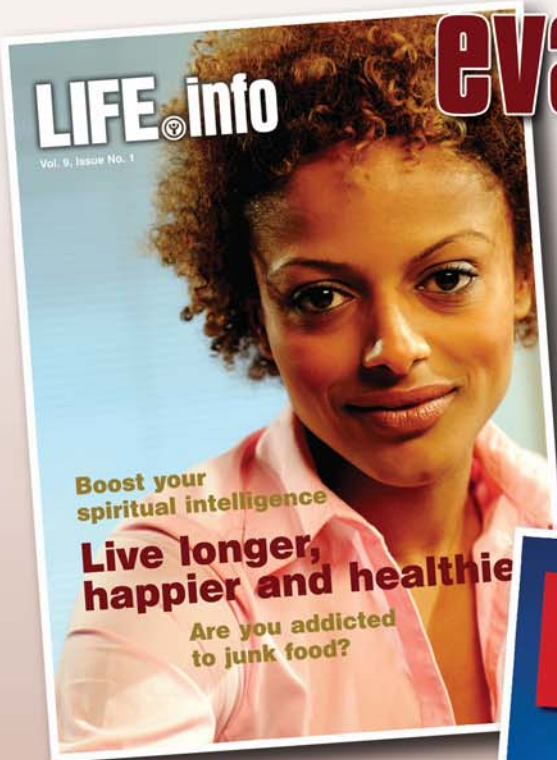
Audrey, Peter and Adam Balderstone and their families, along with David's sister Ruth and the rest of the family would like to thank the many hundreds of people who have sent cards, letters and messages of condolence on the death of David. They would also like to thank those who travelled from all parts of the UK to the funeral and especially those who made special journeys from Australia, America, South Africa, Jamaica, Belgium, France, Norway, Portugal, Romania and Spain. To date, funds in excess of £7,000 have been donated to the two charities of which David was a trustee – ADRA-UK and STOP International. The prayers and support of the church family have been of comfort in this time of great grief, and thanks are extended to everyone.

Death announcement

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Mrs F. K. (Peggy) Foster, the widow of the late BUC president Pastor E. H. Foster. Mrs Foster went to her rest on 1 March 2010, aged 87. Prior to her marriage to Pastor Foster, Peggy served as a Bible worker in the Irish Mission. She gave loyal and loving support to Pastor Foster during his thirty years in church administration. In retirement Peggy has lived in Poole and, with her daughter Cheryl, at Peterborough.

EDITOR

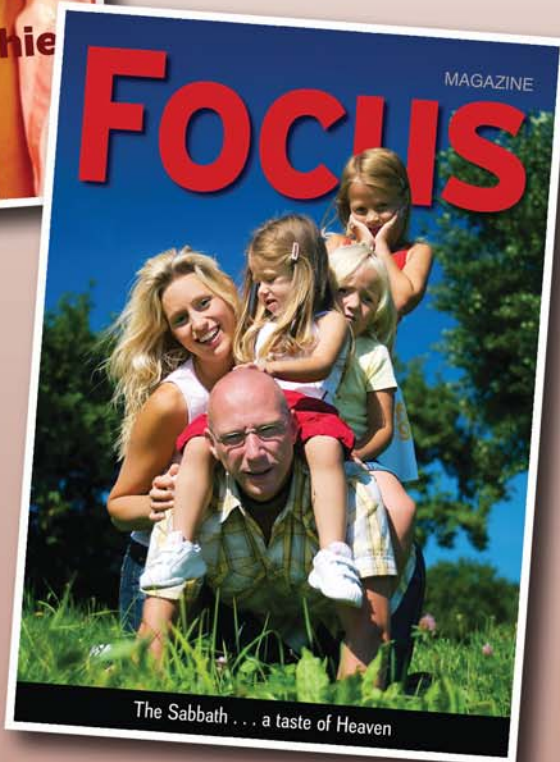
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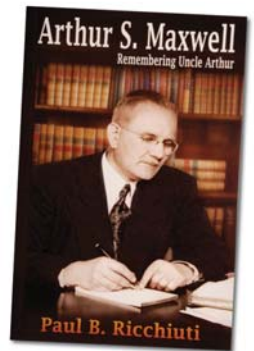
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Sunset

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	London	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Mar 19	6.12	6.24	6.16	6.24	6.35
26	6.24	6.36	6.28	6.39	6.48
Apr 2	7.35	7.48	7.41	7.53	8.02
9	7.47	7.59	7.53	8.07	8.15

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