Journal of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the United Kingdom and Ireland

## **God is alive and well** says eminent scientist

News to the churches • 12 September 2008 • Volume 113 • 20

#### by Pastor Bob Rodd

he members of Crieff church were thrilled when over fifty non-members turned up for the lecture by Professor John Walton tracing the rise of atheism. At the close of his lecture entitled 'Why doesn't God stay dead?' there was sustained applause from an appreciative audience. Professor Walton, who is a very modest man. rather surprised his listeners by beginning his lecture with a list of his academic gualifications. These included a BSc. a PhD and a Doctor of Science degrees. Currently he is Research Professor in Chemistry in the Science Faculty of St Andrews University. Professor Walton is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He said he had listed these qualifications, not to boast, but to show that he was a true academic with equal or superior qualifications to those of Dr Dawkins, for example, who wrote the following: 'Those who reject the molecules to man's evolutionary scenario are ignorant, stupid, insane or wicked, but I would rather not consider that.' He said that there are now many scientists who accept Intelligent Design and the possibility of God.

Professor Walton then went on to trace the rise of atheism from Nietzsche, Darwin and others, right up to the present time, and Dr Dawkins' book, *The God Delusion*. In a profound lecture he went on to show that the odds against the random formation of a biologically

useful DNA (or RNA) sequence necessary for life were astronomical. As scientists began to discover the cosmological fine-tuning that would be needed to sustain life on this planet, they began to ask questions such as. 'Where did the laws of physics come from in the first place?' and 'Why are they so fine-tuned as to sustain life and intelligence?' Because of these questions, many front-rank scientists began to reach the conclusion that there must be a Designer. Professor Paul Davies wrote, 'It seems as though someone has fine-tuned nature's numbers to make the universe. . . . The impression of design is overwhelming." Professor Walton went on to give

Professor Walton went on to giv fascinating examples of the case for design by looking at irreducibly complex biological machines such as blood clotting, which had to be present already for life to survive, and could not have evolved. Although many in the audience probably struggled to keep up with this profound lecture, they were encouraged to know that such evidence of design caused one of the world's leading atheists, Andrew Flew, to change his mind, and he now believes that 'this universe's intricate laws manifest what scientists have called the Mind of God'.

Professor Walton concluded his lecture by saving that the case for Intelligent Design did not necessarily prove God, but made it very possible to believe in God. and, for himself. felt that all who are willing to follow the evidence from nature and from inspiration wherever it leads will find that God is alive and well and full of grace. There followed a fascinating question and answer time. An MP3 file of this talk and a copy of the PowerPoint can be found on the church's website. www.crieff adventist.org.uk. The Crieff members felt grateful and proud that the Church has such an eminent scientist who is willing to share his scientific knowledge and Christian belief, and feel that he could be used much more by our churches.



## **Dinosaur Day**

#### by Peter Jeynes

Spend a little time with a 6- or 7-year-old boy and you will soon find yourself discussing dinosaurs in some depth. Where once all you knew was Tyrannosaurus Rex, soon you discover the intricacies of the Camarasaurus and then the Ultrasaurs. Sabbath morning worship is supposed to involve all our age groups, so the idea of Dinosaur Day at Middlesbrough church was born.

The word went out to the children, 'Bring your dinosaur models.' Sure enough, many rubber and plastic models arrived at church – along with a collection of books about dinosaurs. Anna, who has recently been given the all-clear after a long battle with cancer, was right at the heart of things with beautiful dinosaur books that her caring Grandma had bought and encouraged her to read.

As morning worship began – with a story about Fred the T-rex who had died just before Noah's Flood – the younger children were introduced to the idea of fossils with a practical demonstration of how fossils were formed. The sermon was entirely focused on dinosaurs, and featured information and ideas from the book written for children by Elaine Graham Kennedy, *Dinosaurs, where did they come from and where did they go?* published by Pacific Press. Instead of having restless children wondering when the man will shut up, our large audience of children – including visitors who came just for the day and said, 'Can we come back next week?' – our 5- and 6-year-olds had an interactive experience of worship.

The adults, of course, were not left out. While intently examining fossils from local beaches and those donated for the day from the local museum, they were strongly encouraged to take Creation studies seriously, because our children are exposed to evolutionary thought from their first day at school.

### Pastor's Page



with Jonathan Barrett

## Team GB

As you watched the Olympics, what were your feelings? Glad that your country did well? Disappointed that it didn't do as well as you had hoped? Enjoyed the drama? Admired the skill and determination of the athletes? Sorry for those who didn't succeed? Bored with the whole thing and couldn't wait for it to finish?

I have to confess that my overall feeling was one of relief that team GB did well. I say 'relief', as just before it started, sports minister Gerry Sutcliffe said 'It is vital' that

Team GB reaches the target of forty-one medals. I groaned when I heard that expectation expressed so strongly, as I could just imagine the negative press afterwards if it were not achieved. I find all that depressing to listen to.

Interesting how we got so drawn into it though, isn't it? Even if you aren't a sports fan, chances are you were rooting for your country to do well. In fact, it would be really odd if you didn't feel that way. Why is it that we are so keen to see our country succeed? The psychologists could, no doubt, give a better answer, but my guess is that our own sense of well-being is linked, to some extent at least, to the fortunes of the group we identify with. In this case it happens to be a country. If we see our country doing well, then we feel better about ourselves. simply by association. It doesn't make much logical sense really, as you are not a better person in any sense just because your country happens to win a few Olympic gold medals. Nevertheless it does seem to work that way.

It works that way in other areas of our life. We like to do well in order to feel good. This may be in the area of sport, work, looks, finances, intel-

#### GC archive site History of the SDA Church in Britain and Ireland

Are you interested in finding out many of the historical events that have taken place in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Britain and Ireland during the past one hundred and thirty years or so?

Then click on to 'Archives' at the General Conference website. This website contains The Missionary Worker, 1902-35, and the British Advent Messenger from 1936 up to the late 1960s.

On the same site are a large number of Adventist periodicals from around the world, as well as the *Review*. Some of the more important books produced by the Church are also on the site, including the Prophetic Faith of our Fathers and Conditionalist Faith and many others in their entirety. Early entries for Britain and Ireland can be found in the *Review*. To access the site you will need to download the DiVu reader (from the GC site). This has a greater compression ratio than Adobe. The text is clear, but not the photographs. The site has a good search engine. DR B. P. PHILLIPS

ligence or relationships. In just about any area you can think of, we like to do well, and if we do, we feel better. How about the spiritual area - is it true there? I think it is. It could be through responsibility in the church or spending time with our Bibles frequently or through regular church attendance or being able to convert people, to name a few possibilities.

Some of us may even use our inbuilt desire to do well and to succeed in the spiritual arena. We may then start to rate ourselves and try to get our strokes from good performance. The fundamental truth about Christianity, though, is that merit cannot be earned: 'The Spirit himself testifies

with our spirit that we are God's children.' Romans 8:16. There are so many places in the Bible that say similar things – that

we are children of God, that our acceptance with God cannot be earned, that God loves us and forgives us freely, without our meriting it. Whether your country has done well or badly, God still cares about vou! Let that thought shape your sense of well-being, rather than how some athlete may have done!

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## Enhancing Health

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

**Brain Health Series** Part 9b

#### Mental Well-being

#### **Overview**

Mental health encompasses the emotional. spiritual and social resilience which enables us to achieve our full potential, enjoy life, and have the flexibility to deal with life's inevitable challenges, disappointments, pain and sadness. It is having a positive sense of well-being and a belief in the dignity and worth of self and others.

Both psychological and scientific evidence increasingly points to the importance of building emotional well-being. Findings reveal that when individuals engage in activities designed to build self-esteem, coping skills and social support, both individuals and communities benefit. This is

demonstrated in terms of emotional stability, positive physical health, enhanced social well-being and improved community cohesion. Our minds are intricately

connected to all aspects of our well-being. The field of psychosomatic disorders (which looks at the mind-body relationship and resulting illnesses) highlights the state of mind affecting the health of the body and vice versa.

Additionally, our personal relationships and work abilities are affected by both mental health and physical issues. In assessing emotional well-being, the

following categories and examples are useful for self-analysis.

#### **Emotions** – Do you have a general sense of well-being and contentment?

**Attitudes** – Do you have the resilience to be able to deal with life's stresses and bounce back from adversity? Do you experience a zest for living or have the ability to enjoy life, to laugh and have fun?

Life balance – Do you experience a sense of balance in your life - between work and leisure, solitude and sociability, sleep and wakefulness, rest and activity, exercise, and so on? Do <u>you see yourself as well-rounded – giving</u> equal attention to mind, body and spirit? **Relationships** – How easily do you care for yourself and others and enjoy positive relationships?

**Prospective thinking** – Do you look at the future with hope and see possibilities? Self-realisation - Are you able to participate in life to the best of your ability, engaging in meaningful activities and pursuing your full potential? Adaptability – How flexible are you to life's changing circumstances? Do you have the ability to adapt, grow, and cope with a range of feelings that accompany change?

We deal with varying feelings and emotions on a daily basis. Sometimes these are fairly easy to cope with and sometimes they become challenging. In the next issue we examine the factors that influence our mental well-being and how we engage coping mechanisms to deal effectively with them.

#### Good health!



## Stand up for Jesus!

**David Marshall** 

### Be ready always to give a reason for the faith you have. Refuse to be browbeaten.

Intelligent Design has so rattled the cages of Charles Darwin's present-day popularisers that they are going for Christianity's jugular!

The scholar's equivalent of the Geneva Convention has been abandoned, and all methods including the scholarly equivalent of boots and eve-gouging - are permitted.

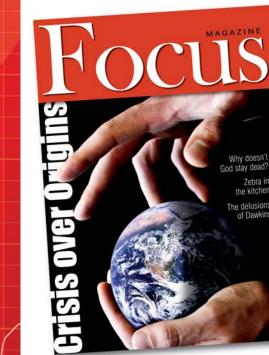
So what *is* Intelligent Design? ID people refuse to accept that life is the result

of an accident that came out of a Big Bang and a chance dance of chemicals. They lack the faith to believe that Time plus Matter plus Chance make a world. They maintain that just as a watch must have a designer, so we can deduce that our much more complex world had a Supreme Designer.

At all sorts of levels and across a number of scientific disciplines the ID enthusiasts note the order, function, complexity, purpose and beauty in the natural world. They see enough design to suggest a Designer, enough beauty to suggest an Artist, enough of scientific structural, functional and mathematical complexity to suggest an Infinite Intelligence.

And that is what galls the orthodox evolutionists of the stripe of Richard Dawkins. Dawkins and Co. insist that they already have the full explanation of how everything evolved. To have any alternative theories of origins discussed makes them first uncomfortable and then intolerant.

Professor Dawkins' world-view depends on a negative association between Christianity and human well-being. It is, therefore, important to him to demolish Christianity. Hence his bestselling *The God Delusion*, his antichristian diatribes in certain of the broadsheet newspapers and his recent TV and radio programmes.



Dawkins and other 'new atheist' authors are infuriated that, since the 60s, a growing number of intelligent thinkers, including top-flight scientists, have reached the conclusion that God is not dead after all. 'Christians should just shut up!' Dawkins has said. Are they not aware, he asks. that even the Pope has expressed a belief in evolution?

Why are Dawkins and 'the new atheists' receiving so much exposure at present? Because we are in the run-up to the 200th

birthday of Charles Darwin. More than twelve months ago most branches of the media and some local education authorities

began to gear up to give the author of *The Origin* of Species a great 200th commemoration. Professor Dawkins has never worked so hard. Charles Darwin's 200th birthday is actually on 12 February 2009. But the plan is to make it last all year.

Our Church in the British Isles is fortunate to include among its members a number of top-flight scientists. These include Professor John Walton of St Andrews University, Scotland; Dr Colin Mitchell who has both Cambridge and Harvard degrees and has made the case for biblical Creationism in print: and Dr Mart de Groot. long-time chief of the Armagh Observatory.

Twelve months ago I made contact with all three men, and many others, and enlisted their help in producing a magazine on origins that would represent an appeal for tolerance of the Intelligent Design perspective. The magazine titled CRISIS OVER ORIGINS was prepared and scheduled for publication in early October. That was when God took a hand.

God knew that the onslaught from the evolutionary fundamentalists would impact our TV screens as early as July 2008. Somewhat to our shock and surprise CRISIS

Brace yourself! The biggest ever media onslaught of Darwinian fundamentalism is on the way, and Professor Dawkins is in no mood to

OVER ORIGINS arrived on a container lorry from our printers in the Far East three months before it was expected! But just when it was needed!

Editoria

General Conference Sabbath School editor Cliff Goldstein and Welsh Mission president John Surridge joined our top-flight scientists in presenting a powerful case for Intelligent Design. a plea for tolerance of alternative views of origins and a comprehensive demolition of the Darwinian fundamentalism of Dawkins' The God Delusion.

In the belief that we can see God's hand in the early delivery of the issue of FOCUS: CRISIS OVER ORIGINS we have placed it ahead of the scheduled issue and made it available immediately.

Prepare for a diet of Darwinian science on TV for the next few months. Brace yourself, too, for the continuance of the anti-God, antichristian crusade of which The God Delusion was the opening salvo.

But isn't there something more we could be doing? Charles Darwin was born in Shrewsbury and the Darwin bicentenary celebration will centre there. That is why the Shrewsbury Adventist church is launching a series this autumn - involving a number of different speakers – which will explore alternatives to the Theory of Evolution.

'What use can we make of CRISIS OVER ORIGINS?' you ask. To begin with, you owe it to yourself and your young people to read it yourself and master the case for ID/Special Creation. In addition (given that £12.50 buys you 50 copies) you owe it to the people in your community to give them a copy. If £12.50 reminds you that the credit crunch is impacting, then why not suggest to your Personal Ministries leader that part of the PM budget be set aside for mass distribution of the magazine?

Like most of you, I went to schools (three in all) at which evolutionary science was the only science taught and ridicule was the principal argument used against my faith-based beliefs. Only at university did I discover an environment in which I felt I had the freedom to express my own views.

We sing 'Stand up! Stand up for Jesus!' (or, at least, we used to!) The next sixteen months will require us actually to stand up and not just sing about it.

RASS MA

### Issues

## Darwin, Dawkins and Hocins **Fortress Evolution**

### by John C. Walton, PhD, DSc, FRSC, FRSE Professor of Reactive Chemistry. University of St Andrews. Scotland\*

ast week Channel 4 screened the last in a series of three programmes billed as 'The Genius of Charles Darwin', hosted by Richard Dawkins. I was hoping that the superb production expertise of the twenty-first-century media would treat us to a colourful and dynamic account of Darwin's achievements. As so often, the hype surrounding evolution turned out to be hollow. There were no entertaining demonstrations of the power of Darwinian evolution at work advancing medicine or the life sciences. Dawkins himself seemed a thoroughly retrofigure, endlessly recycling tired old evidence of micro-evolution, while accompanying this with futile repetitions of his favourite refrains: 'Evolution is fact'. 'Evolution is demonstrated fact', 'Evolution is plain truth'. He implied that every fossil discovery was incontrovertible evidence of evolution and even flashed up Ernst Haeckel's long discredited drawing of human and animal embryos! Virtually his only peek into modern science touched off his flawed assertion that recent DNA sequencing has beautifully confirmed evolutionary lines of descent. He seemed unaware of the puzzling contradictions among these molecular phylogenetic trees and their disagreement with fossil-based analogues. Such confusion has arisen in this area that some scientists have even dared to suggest the history of life cannot be represented by a tree at all! The programmes were all defensive of 'Fortress Evolution' and displayed nil 'Enterprise Evolution'.

#### Hate mail

Rather quickly in the series, Dawkins slipped into his normal operational mode, that of caricaturing and denigrating religion. For programmes supposedly extolling Darwin's genius it was amazing how much time was taken up by his obsession with fringe fundamentalism! He relished browbeating and ruthlessly interrupting bemused believers. **4** Messenger

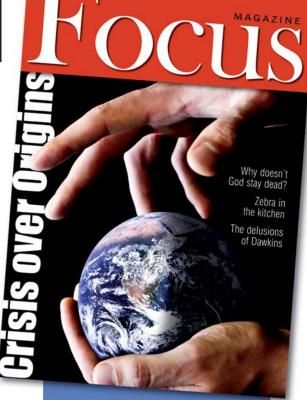
but how this was supposed to validate Darwinism remained a mystery. He took delight in reading abusive extracts from the hate mail he receives from misguided opponents. It's shameful that supposedly Christian correspondents respond in this despicable way, and many genuine Christians will want to join me in apologising to him. Perhaps there is a crumb of comfort in noting that Christian authors, critical of Dawkins, receive equally hateful mail.

#### Arm-waving

Neo-Darwinism is virtually devoid of rigorous quantitative explanations, relying instead on woolly scenarios. Nobody does arm-waving scenarios better than Richard Dawkins, but his fabled eloquence faded into incoherent equivocation as he tried to distance evolution from its involvement in dark-side eugenics. As the originator of the 'selfish' gene idea. Dawkins showed he is troubled by the widespread manifestation in nature of all kinds of co-operative and altruistic behaviour. The explanation he seemed to be proposing was that selfish genes are somehow 'misfiring' when they permit selfless and self-sacrificing actions! No wonder critics say evolutionary scenarios are flexible to the point of meaninglessness! Apparently, even self-contradictory explanations are acceptable – so long as they come with the label of evolutionary science!

#### Dawkins' 'New Testament'

The sensitivity and humanity of Charles Darwin as a father and husband was painted in a most sympathetic way. However, Richard Dawkins was eager to enlist Darwin as an atheist sympathiser and to identify Origin of Species as the Old Testament of evolutionary naturalism. Dawkins' own relentless selfpromotion made it abundantly clear that he regards his own book The Selfish Gene



Read John Walton's response to Richard Dawkins in 'Why doesn't God stav dead?' in 'Crisis over **Origins'**, prepared for mass distribution in your district. ABC sales hotline 01476 539900. £12.50 buys 50 copies.

as the New Testament!

Dawkins didn't engage with any of the devastating critiques of his books, but anyone feeling challenged by this series would be well advised to dip into one or more of the compelling rebuttals of the The God Delusion. Alister McGrath's The Dawkins Delusion. John Cornwell's *Darwin's Angel*. David Robertson's The Dawkins Letters, Thomas Crean's A Catholic Replies to Professor Dawkins and John Lennox's God's Undertaker: Has Science Buried God? are all worthwhile.

\*Professor Walton is senior elder at the Dundee Adventist church.



## by Barrymore Bell Photo: David Bell

Elsie joined the Church in 1950, and that same year became a member of the staff at The Stanborough Press, then located on Stanborough Park. She moved to Grantham. Lincolnshire, in 1966 when the plant relocated after the fire that did so much damage to the buildings and equipment. Leaving employment there in 1973, having worked at the Press for twenty-three years, she took on work in pastures new (pun intended). Elsie has now lived in Grantham for forty-two years, and is a valued member of the church there. She recently received her medal, together with a signed letter from the

Prime Minister.

address her

the Grantham church

## Day of Fellowship: Shrewsbury, Telford, Wrexham in the children's Sabbath School,

Shrewsbury, Telford and Wrexham churches, all part of the Welsh Mission, under the leadership of district minister Pastor Clyde R. Moore, came together for the inaugural Shropshire Day of Fellowship on Sabbath 5 July. Anette Moore led out

while the adults were led in a study of Paul by Shrewsbury's first elder. Peter Bayliss. It was engaging, and members enthusiastically participated.

Anette Moore caused the congregation to gasp as she created a visual representation of what



## A well-earned medal

'girl' in the Grantham church - well, a Woman's Land Army girl - recently received her medal for work on the land during World War II. Miss Elsie Phillips was born in Bermondsey, London, in 1920. She left there in 1940 to work on farms in the Rickmansworth and Croxley Green areas. On hearing that recruitment was taking place for the Land Army, she went along and signed up as a member. She was sent to work on a farm at Borehamwood. Fistree, where she remained until the end of the war. In fact, she continued working there for some time afterwards.

At the beginning of this item I called her 'girl' - and that is how a lot of her friends

Well done, Elsie, and thank you for what you did for us in those troubled times.

Satan had done to God's creation. Each child was given a personal model to take away, and some adults also asked for their own copy.

The speaker for the day was evangelist Costa Vaggas. He will be remembered for his enthusiastic. zealous and timely sermon. He is an internationally renowned speaker. having conducted campaigns in Bermuda, South Africa and Britain. He was accompanied by his wife. Nadia. a native South African.

His theme for the day and the title of his sermon was 'Hero' and was based on 2 Corinthians 5:21.

After a picnic fellowship lunch for which the sun came out and gave opportunity for children and adults alike to stretch their legs, we commenced the afternoon with the ordination as Telford elder of Elva Brooks. The church was again almost full to capacity as Elva's close family members witnessed this special service: her mother, a brother and three sisters, two daughters, two sons, three grandchildren and nieces, together with the Telford church family. Pastor Moore delivered the homily entitled 'Servant Leadership' in which he reminded members and ordinand alike of the ingredients of true leadership. Sister Brooks was invited to kneel at the front of the church and Pastor John Surridge, Welsh Mission president, gave the prayer of ordination.

The day concluded with a fellowship supper at the home of Sister Brooks who closed the Sabbath by

## Sabbath to remember

A cool summer's day in July heralded the first Area 4 Children's and Family Day of Fellowship hosted by the Ashford and Canterbury churches under the auspices of Pastor Vartsaba. The local children gave scintillating presentations in mime, song and skit. The children also put the adults to the test with a guiz about the countries which were the beneficiaries of last quarter's mission offering and, to the delight of the children, they knew more than the adults did.

The theme for the day was 'Creation Sabbath' and the main presenters were Pastor Bernie Holford and his wife Karen, who were given a warm welcome by Pastor I. Williams, leader of Area 4. They both ministered in unique ways that included the children in the service and made the day of worship truly a joy and delight for families. The afternoon programme was a delightful journey around tables. tasting sumptuous items of food and engaging in activities as families or in small groups, sharing past experiences that have made the Sabbath a special day for each person. MARGARET McBEAN

reading Romans 5:1-11 which contains her favourite text: 'But God commendeth his love toward us. in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.' Romans 5:8. PASTOR CLYDE MOORE



## **Crieff helps Romania**

More than 21 cubic metres of urgent supplies have been transferred from the Adventist church on Gwydyr Road, Crieff, into a large truck destined for Romania.

Furniture, bedding, carpets, cutlery, plumbing equipment, office

supplies and many other useful materials were donated by members of the church and the community for four impoverished care homes in northern Romania.

The project initiator, Ruth Farrer, said, 'I am very thrilled by this amazing response, and with the good number of helpers who turned up to pack and load the goods.' Ruth will be travelling out to Romania at personal expense to ensure that the supplies are delivered satisfactorily.

In addition to material aid, the Crieff Adventist church is sending £4,000 each year for three years to assist a sector of the Romanian population which is still marginalised. The organisers are greatly indebted to another Christian charity, Blytheswood Care (based in Ross-shire), which will be responsible for the logistical arrangements.



## Bright futures: ASNA project for young carers by Sophia Nicholls

'My time here was good. . . . I got to meet new people and do new things. . . . I had a good time here, especially when we went off site. . . . I also like the people that were here, especially the adults and the food. . . . I also like the activities we did like zip-wiring, rock climbing and many more. . . .'

Just a few of the statements from the young people who attended the first ASNA residential week held from 18 to 22 August for Siblings of disabled children, Young Carers and their Friends (SYCAF). Twenty-three people (fifteen young carers, aged 8-17, and eight adult volunteers) attended this exciting week which took place at Avon Tyrell UK Youth

National Activity Centre in the New Forest.

Young carers and siblings of disabled children have limited access to leisure and other social activities, as most of their time is spent looking after loved ones or being left out because they have brothers or sisters with high dependency needs or challenging behaviour.

The aim of the residential week was to give young carers an opportunity to meet new friends in similar situations, thereby providing a network for social, emotional and mental support. The week also provided an opportunity for spiritual development during the daily Power Time sessions, and physical development during the outdoor activities. Young carers took part in outdoor challenges such as the zip-wire, abseiling, climbing, adventure course, raft building and much more. The off-site visit to the beach and local shops ended with a great time bowling. The week ended with a 'Banquet with a Difference' where the young carers had a sumptuous candlelit meal provided by Cynthia Goodman and Caroline Kamara. The young carers and friends also presented their skills and talents during the banquet through poetry, comedy and music.

Essential training, funded by ADRA-UK, for the adult volunteers supporting the young carers during the residential week took place earlier in the year. This project is also supported by the SEC. 'Bright Futures' provides young carers with opportunities for spiritual, emotional, physical and mental

development and support.

The organisers of this week would like to thank all the volunteers -Caroline Kamara, Cvnthia Goodman. Alan and Yolande Hudson, Nigel and Sophia Nicholls. Lerov and Nervin Goodman - and supporters – ADRA, SEC, ASNA members and donations - of this project and look forward to their continued support for this and other Young Carer programmes planned for the rest of the

year and in 2009. We also thank God for his presence with us during the week as he kept us safe from possible dangers and near misses!

If you would like to volunteer for ASNA or you would like further information about 'Bright Futures' and other ASNA projects, please contact 01491 833395 or email *asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk*. All donations to ASNA are welcome and can be made payable to ASNA and sent to 65 St Helen's Avenue, Benson, Oxon, OX10 GRU.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The treasurer of the British Union Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Lord's tithe £5,500.00 from anonymous, hand delivered to the BUC on 31 July 2008. MARITZA S. SABATIER TREASURY ASSISTANT, BUC

# More than lentil soup

Why would a world-famous American progressive rock artist find himself performing at Newbold Church Centre in Bracknell? Known in the music scene for bands such as 'Transatlantic' and 'Spock's Beard' and his guest appearances on other artists' albums, Neal, an atheist from birth, told worshippers on Sabbath evening 9 August that he found himself worshipping the god of music – but the more he worshipped, the more he found himself depressed. 'Like Esau,' he discovered, 'you need more than lentil soup.' After a long journey, which he shared with his Newbold audience, he gave his life to Jesus in 2002.

While still acclaimed for his musical prowess by his secular fans, Neal's music now focuses on worship, with its centre pointing towards God. As the penultimate performance of this summer's European tour, he chose Newbold Church Centre as the venue, since a number of Newbold members are among those who have been blessed by his music and ministry. Nick Barclay is one of them: 'I was a fan of Neal Morse's music and wanted to see what his worship-style sessions were like, as opposed to a concert.' The result for Nick was a new meaning to worship. 'His dedication to the Lord and his ease at praying to the Lord whenever he felt the occasion for it really impressed me.' Espen Johnson came not knowing what to expect: 'He was very sincere in his love for God, the way he prayed and the way he sang his songs. . . . It is awesome and I hope there are going to be more [such concerts].'

The evening was organised by Newbold church youth leader, Steven Hulbert. He says, 'Neal Morse is my favourite Christian musician and expresses a true love for God and a great testimony in his music. It was great to meet and worship with him at Newbold.'

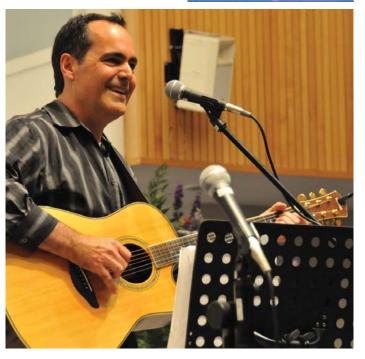
The event was not so much concert as testimony and worship. Tired at the end of a summer's touring, Neal still shared from his heart. Edit Liebhardt came to organise the refreshments, but found herself enchanted: 'I liked how many of his songs applied to me as well. He talked about a lot of the emotions all

## Blackpool witnessing programme

G od certainly does answer prayers. Although the week began with very unsettled weather, heavy rain and blustery winds, Blackpool church members prayed that God would send some sunshine on Sabbath 19 July as they had arranged for a witnessing programme to take place at the scenic Stanley Park in Blackpool. The morning started off wet, cold and windy but, sure enough, in due time the rain stopped and the sun came out in short bursts.

The young people from Preston church came to lend their support and used their singing talents to enhance the programme. The Balogh family from Hungary, who worship at Blackpool church, also taught us a couple of choruses in their language. As passers-by stopped to listen, we hope that their hearts were touched by our ministry in song. One Blackpool member said, 'A good time was had by all and we look forward to a repeat performance soon.' JENNY JEFFERS





Christians go through like doubt and wanting God's guidance.'

Steven feels it is good to expose the Newbold community to other Christians who have a real faith and testimony to share. At the same time, the worship evening opened up the Newbold community to others who drove up to three hours to attend, 'Newbold has great facilities. We had a lot of visitors from outside the Adventist Church come because Neal came.' Nick adds. 'It can build relations between other non-Adventist Christians and, more importantly, help to break down the mental security blanket many Adventists seem to have.

Since his conversion Neal Morse has gone solo with the strong feeling that it 'was God's will in his life'. Now he has written many worship songs and still continues to write Christian albums, his latest being 'Sola Scriptura'.

This is the second concert of its kind organised at Newbold Church Centre by the youth department. Programmes like this are seen by the church as complementing FOCUS, the Teen church led and run by Newbold youth that is making a positive impact on the teen community surrounding the College. *VICTOR HULBERT* 

http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=49433&I=6 c0a1&id=575539501

## John Loughborough School



## **Thanksgiving Day** at The John Loughborough

School by Laura Osei, Gina Abbequaye, Victor Lammy

## A new chapter opens

abbath 5 July was a high day at The John Loughborough School. It was the first time in many years that Thanksgiving Day was hosted at the school, having been held at Holloway church for over fifteen years. The annual thanksgiving service took place in the school gym. This gave opportunity for the Year 11 senior students, at the end of their compulsory schooling, to thank God for his blessings and to show appreciation to parents, staff and friends for their encouragement, prayers and support during their school years. The service was eagerly

awaited. Every effort was made to give our students a special send-off as they move on to further their studies and training. They had worked hard to meet the new GCSE A\*-C targets that include English and Mathematics. Some were determined to put in extra effort to achieve a higher than average performance in their GCSE coursework tasks and exam test papers. The executive head teacher Mrs Laura Osei wanted the service to be extra special for the students who had performed under very demanding circumstances during the school year.

Year 11 students had many misgivings and doubts about the venue because of the state of the gym. Mrs Anne Phillips, deputy head, Mrs Laura Osei, executive head, and Mrs Gina Abbequaye, SEC Interim Education director, met with the students to encourage them to trust in their artistic talents and DIY skills to recreate the gym.

The students with grim faces took the chance to believe in their vision and on Thursday 3 July, the staff, support staff, students, namely, Julia Jones, Judith Jones, Quason



THE JOHN LOUGHBOROUGH SCHOOL



A Seventh-day Adventist **Christian School** For Learning + building Good character

> Matthews, Michaela Whiteley, Latique (ex-student), Alpha and Afia Wilson (ex-students), and Mrs Osei and Mrs Abbequaye spent many hours through the night on scaffolding in the gym, weaving, stapling and hanging 600 metres of satin and organza to transform and recreate it into a banqueting hall. Mr Lammy also gave many hours of his time in preparing flyers and the programme.

It was a stunning, mindblowing transformation. Many people described the gym as having the 'Wow factor'! The gold-padded banqueting chairs, offset with the cream background covering the walls which were swathed with gold, copper, chocolate and dark brown organza was a sight to behold. We had comments such as 'beautiful', 'wonderful' 'marvellous' and 'glorious' to describe the decor. A number of guests remarked that the whole setting reminded them of Moses' temple in the wilderness.

The school's gymnasium was thus transformed into a sanctuary fit for worship. The committed and persevering effort of staff and present and past students made this possible. The students were splendidly attired for the occasion

Over 500 people attended the day, including family members, ex-pupils, church members, pastors, teachers, pupils, and well-wishers who came from far and wide to celebrate the graduating class's special day. There was standing room only!

The Sabbath School programme was special, with two experienced teachers, Mr Brian Macfarlane and Mr Moses Arendse, presenting the Sabbath School lesson. The excellent PowerPoint presentation by Mrs Christine Geohagen (associate assistant head teacher) gave a wonderful overview of the highlights of

the school year. The graduates participated in leading out in the first part of the day.

The divine hour was a thrilling experience as the graduates marched in pairs into the gym to glorious singing and music. All present were astounded by the sight and their co-ordinated steps. They looked resplendent in their cream and brown flowing gowns and tuxedos as they took their seats at the front. Miss Sampson and four of the graduates led out in the praise and worship with Miss Francis accompanying and singing a delightful and soul-stirring solo.

Staff. associate head teacher Ms

## John Loughborough Schoo





## John Loughborough School

Oveta McInnis, guest speaker Pastor Enoch Adu, and the SEC president. SEC Interim Education director and treasurer expressed heartfelt thanks to God for his grace and goodness to the students throughout their years of learning at the school.

Pastor Sam Davis, SEC president, joined the Year 11 as he encouraged and charged them to achieve their best as they step out into the future. Our guest speaker. Enoch Adu, summa cum laude Religion graduate from Oakwood SDA College in Alabama, USA, thrilled the audience with his electrifying and motivating presentation. With responses and affirmation of 'amens' the graduates were directed that they cannot achieve their best without God as their guide and mentor. Enoch Adu spoke from his past experiences with God and the Year 11s were enraptured by his delightful and thought-provoking sermon.

After many photographs and good wishes, the graduates congregated outside in the playground to catch up with old friends, after which they and their guests sat down to a delicious lunch prepared by Sister Eglantine, school cook.

In the afternoon Mrs Laura Osei, executive head teacher. shared with the students various aspects of what a new chapter in the graduates' lives would actually entail. The students gave thanks to God. They were charged by Pastor Sam Davis and Mrs Osei always to exemplify Christian conduct and be good role models to their peers on leaving school. God's continued watchcare, guidance and blessing was thus implored to assist them in this effort.

Parents and teachers were given tributes and flowers, and Mrs Phillip, who ensured the smooth running of the day's programme, received a special tribute and presentation for her long-term support of the school. The day ended with the graduates finally receiving their Records of Achievement Certificates from Pastor Davis. Mrs McInnis, Mr Earl Ramharacksingh and Reverend Griffiths, the church minister of one of the pupils.

Truly an interesting chapter in the life of the Year 11s has closed. but a more thrilling and exciting one has just opened.

## John Loughborough School's excellent GCSE results make it the most improved school in the borough by Gina Abbequaye, Through strong leadership, staff member for Children and Young







SEC Interim Education director

raise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God, How pleasant and fitting to praise him! Psalm 147:1. After a turbulent and challenging school year. John Loughborough School experienced the greatest joy on 21 August when their successful GCSE results were issued. These are the best results that the school has ever attained and there has been joy, laughter, hugs and singing glory to God

for his mercies towards a hurting school. The Interim Executive

Board (IEB) was put in place in January 2007 and it began a major work of ensuring that a number of intervention strategies were put in place as a result of the Ofsted visits. The past term's mock results were their initial focus.

The results of the mock exams held in December 2007 were as follows:  $A^* - C = 28\%$ 

A\* - C with Maths and English = 11%The GCSE results this year 2008 are as follows:  $A^{*}-C = 58.92\% - \text{this is a}$ 27% improvement on last year. A\* - C with Maths and English = 39% – this is a 27% improvement on last year.

These results are 'awesome'! Every child has left JLS with qualifications to aid them in higher education – their passport for their future! All praises must be given to the God we serve!

working collaboratively, hardworking students, a determined focus on the curriculum and meeting the needs of individual students, John Loughborough School has been able to achieve this wonderful result.

'Both students and staff at our school deserve tremendous credit for their work. The biggest gains made by John Loughborough School show a remarkable turnaround since the high level intervention by our Children and Young People Service. We look forward to JLS sustaining that improvement,' said Councillor Liz Santry, cabinet

People of Haringey.

This is, indeed, a turning point for the future of JLS. We shall continue to strive to be 'A Beacon of Excellence'.

Let us thank all students for their hard work.

Join me in thanking all staff for their perseverance, determination and hard work.

Let us thank the JLS leadership for their focus and vision

Finally, join me in giving praises and thanks to God for all that he has done!

John Loughborough School WELL DONE!



Executive head, Mrs Laura Osei, and associate head, Mrs Oveta Moinnis



News Break



## Two men surrender to Jesus

Friends and family joined members of the Cambridge church on 9 August to witness the most important milestone in the lives of Geanny Da Silva and Paul Lewis – their commitment to God in baptism. Pastor Lombart gave a sobering talk on the meaning of baptism in the life of a Christian and highlighted the importance of letting 'the old man die'. He encouraged the candidates in their decision and joyfully baptised them. Head elder Althea White. who welcomed the new converts into the family of God and the Cambridge church family, entreated them to be careful to make manifest the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. She reminded them that their baptism was the beginning of their journey and they would encounter many challenges, but she wished that, whatever happened, God would give them joy in their journey. Our prayer is that Geanny and Paul will grow stronger each day in their walk with God and their lives will be testimonies of praise to all around them. DELOCIA WHITE

## Cambridge children discover `power labs'

On Sabbath afternoon 16 August, Cambridge church members gathered for a special children's feature: a spotlight drama of the events of Vacation Bible School 2008, held from 4 to 8 August. The drama opened with the VBS theme: 'Power labs: discovering Jesus' miraculous power', and featured more than twenty children engaged in various laboratory activities that emphasised main themes about the power of Jesus in their lives. Each day the children carried out lab activities that focused on a specific outcome of Jesus' power, and they sang songs that reinforced the discoveries they made. By the end of the week the children had made five discoveries: namely, that Jesus' power can make them thankful, helpful, brave, live forever and share God with others. The spotlight drama confirmed the success of this year's VBS, ably conducted by Sister Bafanah, the VBS director, and her team. To recognise the children's attendance, Pastor Lombart presented them with certificates of participation, after which Sister Bafanah solicited greater participation and contribution for next year's VBS. DELOCIA WHITE

## **Stafford: Abundant Life**

The Abundant Life Health Roadshow is a programme that seeks to promote healthy living in order to prevent many disorders linked to obesity

The Adventist church in Stafford used our distinctive health principles, which formed the foundations upon which the Roadshow is based.

A 'Fat Map' revealed that 'The UK's obesity hotspots remain concentrated in the northeast, the east and the west Midlands.

The free personal health checks, conducted by health professionals, informed members of the public as to their current state of health. They were offered advice on how to achieve and maintain a healthier lifestyle. Many thanks to all the Abundant Life Medical Team who donated their time, talents and finances to support this programme.

While parents relaxed with a head, neck and shoulder massage, the children were able to enjoy the bouncy castle, helium balloons and hugs from Bunny the Bear!

The Abundant Life Health Club will continue the work of the Health Roadshow by offering vegan cookery demonstrations, healthy living advice and aerobic workouts. For more information please call: 07535407884. DANA SUDWORTH

## **News Break**

## **Car-jacking crisis** by Victor Hulbert

A security checkpoint, a car-jacking and armed militia transformed parts of the Newbold College campus on Wednesday 13 August. Explosions And gunfire brought ADRA staff on a personal security training course into realistic situations, where individually and as teams they were forced to plan and think on their feet for both their own and their team's safety.

The simulation exercise climaxed four days of training organised by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency's UK office (ADRA-UK) on behalf of the ADRA network. ADRA staff in donor offices frequently travel overseas where they are managing development and relief projects. Much of that work takes place in areas of the world that can be insecure, thereby putting staff at risk. ADRA-UK director, Bert Smit, developed the training initiative after two staff were ambushed eighteen months ago while on assignment overseas. He says, 'From experience we know that learning how to keep secure in different situations we may be facing is important. In addition, ADRA-UK has a "duty of care" for its staff, and this Personal Security Training meets the UK legal requirements for providing protection for our staff.'

For more about ADRA visit www.adra.org.uk. For Newbold College visit www.newbold.ac.uk.

## North Wembley baptism

It was a high day at North Wembley church on 26 July when four young men gave their lives to the Lord. At a time when young men are in the media for knife and gun crime and terrorising the streets in gangs, these four young men are seeking to be used in warfare by the Lord.

The story began when one of the young men started to have Bible

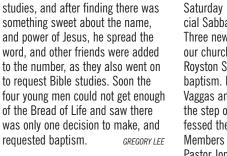
something sweet about the name, and power of Jesus, he spread the word, and other friends were added to the number, as they also went on to request Bible studies. Soon the four young men could not get enough of the Bread of Life and saw there was only one decision to make, and requested baptism.



## From the home of good music

Among the recent visitors to Crieff was Engelbert Hatzingeer, former treasurer of the Austrian Union and publishing house manager. In addition to his church responsibilities in Vienna, Engelbert played in several orchestras throughout his homeland.

With this background, a cello was borrowed locally to enable 77-year-old Engelbert to inspire the local congregation with Handel's Largo. He was accompanied on the piano by Tony Spearing, a retired Fleet Street man who, with his wife Otti, worshipped at the Stanborough Park and Grantham churches prior to moving to Comrie in Perthshire. JOHN ARTHUR





## Wood Green and Barnet baptism

Saturday 12 July was an extra special Sabbath at Wood Green church. Three new members were added to our church family as our own Pastor Rovston Smith conducted his first baptism. Marjorie Clarke, Roulla Vaggas and Batsirai Mandeya took the step of faith and publicly professed their commitment to Christ. Members of Barnet church, led by Pastor Jonathan Barrett, also joined us on this memorable afternoon, as they witnessed the baptism of Stanford Sango and welcomed him as a member of their church.

Throughout the day we were blessed by the ministry of Pastor Eric Lowe from the British Union Conference. His first sermon was entitled 'The Open Door' and was centred around Christ's message to the Philadelphian church in Revelation 3:7-12: '. . . I know thy works: behold. I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it.' He went on to illustrate how God presents us with open doors in our lives – opportunities for us to serve him.

In his second sermon, before the baptismal service. Pastor Lowe spoke about 'Wearing the Badge'. He demonstrated how being baptised into the church can be compared to a 'badge' that we can wear, symbolising our dedication to Christ. The baptismal candidates were encouraged as 'badge wearers' to become ambassadors for Christ. CAROLINE MANDEYA

## Hope Community heavenly celebrations

While many may have been celebrating the first official day of summer on 21 June, the Beckenham Hope Community church was engaged in celebrations of a heavenly kind. Four precious souls were about to demonstrate publicly their decision to walk with the Lord through baptism, and another was given the right hand of fellowship.

As the church came together for worship there was a sense of anticipation for the coming baptismal

and communion services. Pastor Owusu-Boateng gave a rousing sermon encouraging the baptismal candidates along with the church, reminding us of our need for Christ. He also spoke of Jesus as the centre of these two ordinances and explained how they reflect his ministry. At 5pm that afternoon the

visitors' area of the West Wickham swimming pool was filled to overflowing by the family and friends of

## Sunshine in Dublin

by Willie Tafadzwa Chinyamurindi



One of the curious things about Ireland is the weather. It's supposed to be summer and yet the climatic conditions have a mixture of scents of spring, chills of autumn and pockets of the summer sunshine. July 12 was one of those days characterised by morning rain and a cold breeze from the Irish Sea, yet for Jan Isaic and the Lotcas, Marian and Adrian, the day was very special and unique.

The three, who hail from villages in Romania, decided to give their lives to Jesus Christ and to affirm their decision with baptism. For Jan, the Adventist church was 300 miles away and, in any case, he wanted nothing to do with it. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, Jan started being serious in his walk with God when he came to Dublin. Similarly, the Lotcas worked in Israel and decided to commit their lives to God when they moved to Dublin.

The service was conducted by senior pastor Douglas McCormack, who braved the chilly conditions to help with the baptism. Associate pastor and leader of the Romanian group of the church, Pastor Octavian Cureteu, acknowledged that 'there was joy in heaven when a person decided to come back to God'. The three were warmly welcomed into the fellowship of the church with hugs and kisses from congregation members. To end the service, the hymn 'There is sunshine today' was sung, and, indeed, there was sunshine in a cold Dublin.



the candidates, some of whom had come from as far as France. It was with great joy and singing that these four candidates took their stand for Christ

Following the baptism the church was invited to return to Beckenham

and partake of the Agape meal/Communion service. The day was truly Spirit-filled, and the Hope Community members are looking forward to many more heavenly celebrations by the grace of God. FRIC HENRY

## Four more for Jesus: Handsworth celebrates

A s the senior choir sang 'He Touched Me', the hearts of the members, visitors from other churches and supporting friends were being prepared for the wonderment that is naturally inherent when people give their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ through the act of baptism. Miles Roberts, Nathan Hutchinson, Terese Richards and Carmen Wilson were the souls who had decided to begin a forever friendship with Jesus.

It was the candidates' good fortune to be addressed by the Turks and Caicos Mission secretary Pastor Richard Jackson, who was taking a short vacation. He addressed the candidates with a rather thought-provoking sermon entitled 'Can you handle your pre-ordained purpose?'

In his rousing sermon. Pastor Jackson reminded both the candidates and the congregation that Jesus' life was pre-ordained and predisposed. He was born to die and to save the world. His parents could not choose career paths for Jesus such as medicine, dentistry or law, because no one could change his path. In light of this, he instructed the candidates that they were not put on this earth just to build their own nest eggs, to write a critically acclaimed book, to lead political marches or to help the poor in Africa. They were to achieve these things, but what should be paramount in their lives was to know the will of God for their lives, and when this was known, they were to accept it and serve God until time will be no more.

The candidates were immersed by the resident pastor, Pastor Mackintosh, who was supported by Pastor Almeida. All candidates were voted into membership in the Handsworth church. NOVA BANTON



## **Coral island challenge**

In one fell swoop five of Dundee church's young people have accepted the challenge of spending a year as volunteers on the remote Pacific coral islands of Palau and Yap. Mark and Konrad are on their way to work in Palau Mission Academy. Emese, Adam and Efraim are setting out for the Yap Seventh-day Adventist School. In the dedication service held in the Dundee church the young people briefly described their plans for service and told of the remarkable way doors had opened and finance had become available. Their departure will leave a sad gap in Dundee, but they can be assured of the good wishes and prayers of all their fellow believers in Scotland. IOHN WALTON



13 Messenne

## **News Digest**

#### Inter-faith fair

When we first became aware of the Cambridge Inter-Faith Fair, we knew it was the perfect opportunity for us to meet different faith groups and people, and introduce Seventh-day Adventists — a people of hope — to the Cambridge community. For us it was going to be more than just a display of our literature; we were attending, not to share a religion, but to share Jesus, to 'tell Cambridge' of the hope we hold dear and want them to find in Jesus.

It was therefore appropriate that we identified materials and literature that would arrest attention and cause them to stop long enough to listen to our wonderful news. Consequently, we prepared pictorial information on ADRA and the health message. Our display included health books and materials on the CHIP programme, bookmarkers displaying our fundamental beliefs and NEW START, and FOCUS, LIFE.info and the *HUB* magazines. Also on display was a rich variety from the Home Health Education department, ably run by Annette Bailey-Sargeant.

As we entered the Friends' Meeting Room on that Sunday afternoon of 28 June, we realised two significant things: we were the only young people and the only black people. It was obvious that others were curious. They observed us as we prepared our display and their quizzical looks told us they were wondering to what faith we belonged (perhaps Rastafarian?). Soon our banner that read 'SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS – a people of hope' and our rich display drew them closer to our stall. The question asked by nearly every person was, 'Who are the Seventh-day Adventists?'

Others enquired about our hope, our beliefs, our worship and the work of ADRA. Many showed a keen interest in the health materials and particularly the CHIP programme. Equally, folks were drawn to the display from the Home Health Education. We happily shared with them and offered materials for them to take away. We provided materials to teachers of religion, and bookmarkers to the many people who were interested in our beliefs. We distributed other gifts to our other visitors. Applying literally the meaning of Matthew 28:20 - 'Go ye' - we took turns to visit the other stalls. As we learnt about their faiths, the Spirit of God enabled us to identify common ground from which we were able to share our faith.

We praise God for this wonderful opportunity to be engaged in presence evangelism and to share Jesus with others. All seven of us (including our pastor, Claude Lombart, and head elder, Althea White) were challenged by the enormity of the mission we have to 'tell Cambridge'. We are excited about the opportunities presented through meeting our

#### Multicultural festival

Following a series of town centre outreach activities in Folkestone, the invitation by the town centre partnership to participate in their annual multicultural festival was warmly received. Together with the choir from the Lewisham church, the members from Ashford, Canterbury and Folkestone churches, alongside district pastor, Vasyl Vastarbara, made their way to the town centre on Sabbath afternoon 14 June.

Much to our dismay the allocated spot was taken, but this did not deter the group who soon set up outside the new mall. God moves in a mysterious way because that is where he wanted us to be. The large crowd in and out of the mall provided just the right audience as they stopped to participate in the singing. This was certainly an afternoon of community outreach. The tremendous participation from community members was inspiring. On numerous occasions the microphone was taken by onlookers as they sought to join in the singing. The highlight of the afternoon was an elderly gentleman who, encouraged by the crowd of onlookers, bellowed 'How great thou art' in his very strong baritone voice.

Amid the steel pan stood the keyboard; amid calypso, gospel shone; despite the antics of the devil, Christ reigned supreme. The church now has an open invitation from the town centre partnership in Folkestone, one we will endeavour to use to reach this community in east Kent.

#### Community health outreach in Great Yarmouth

On Sunday 17 August we presented the citizens of Great Yarmouth, as well as many holiday-makers, with an opportunity to participate in a health screening carried out by the members of the local Adventist church.

Elsie Staple (SEC Health Ministries director) and her husfriends of the various faiths – Baha'i, Shamanist, Hindu, Buddhist, Christian Science, Church of the Latter Day Saints, and others. Already we are looking forward to sharing the basics of our faith at the Cambridge Faith Forum on Sunday 16 October.

band, Eldon, came down to sunny Great Yarmouth all the way from London to supervise the programme and train the staff, and their help was greatly appreciated.

The health screening took place in The Market Gates shopping mall; we were there at 9am and ready by 10 when the doors opened. Over 100 members of the public came to have their BMI, blood pressure, carbon monoxide, blood sugar and cholesterol tests taken, and were deeply touched by the fact that the programme was free of charge, as well as by the friendliness and interest that the church members had in their well-being.

It has certainly built a lot of bridges and painted a positive image of our church in the local community. Evaluation forms were filled in and many positive comments were made, some of them including sentences like 'Excellent idea,' 'We need more programmes like this,' and 'This programme is really excellent. The church staff are fantastic, very helpful, caring people. Thank you very much for your help.' Some members of the public recognised in this ministry a true Christian attitude in following Jesus' example - meeting people where they are. Others asked questions about our beliefs and enquired about the location of the church. One person has asked for Bible study. IZARFI A CLARRY

#### This is my story

The theme for the service was 'This is my story' as five young people, all with a different story to tell, were baptised in a full Newbold Church Centre on Sabbath 12 July.

Sisters Kelechi (16) and Eberechi (14) Anucha have had a difficult few years during the illness and death of their mother Nma, from cancer. Their father Zach, an elder at Newbold church, spoke about how proud he was of his daughters and the significance of their names. Kelechi means 'Praise God' and Eberechi means 'God's mercy'. He said, 'God has never left our family, even through the hard times.' It was an emotional occasion and both young women wanted to honour their late mother's memory on their special day. Kirsten Oster-Lundqvist, associate pastor of Newbold church, baptised the sisters.

Alistair Guy (14) is somewhat of a miracle child according to his mother, Newbold church elder Althea Roskams. As a baby he stopped breathing and spent an anxious time in hospital. Now 'almost grown-up', he has made a firm decision to commit his life to Jesus Christ, but not before giving the pastor a workout with some challenging questions and Bible study sessions. He was baptised by Pastor Patrick Johnson. His favourite verse is Psalm 40:1.

Miriam Johnson sang 'Renew me before being baptised by her father, Newbold church pastor Patrick Johnson. The 13-year-old decided that she wanted to be baptised after seeing her older brother Espen enter the water last year. Her parents wanted her to wait, but Miriam was determined.

Single mother Joanne Brittain was born into a non-Christian family and grew up in a council estate in Essex surrounded by drugs and spiritualism. After moving to Bracknell she met musician Luke Brooks, who introduced her to Newbold church. Joanne says that after years of physical and mental abuse she finally found a warm and caring place where she felt accepted. She has been attending church for two and a half years with her son Preston. She was baptised by Pastor lohnson ANITA KEI MAN

#### Willesden Memorial Day

Willesden Andrews Memorial Day nursery teamed up with the Community Services department to organise a fun day on Sunday 17 August. There was plenty for the youngsters: balloons, a bouncy castle, games and face painting, and a children's fashion show.

There were also attractions for the adults: health screening, bric-abrac, books and a workshop run by Willesden church's very own Pastor Kirk Thomas.

In addition there was music, a BBQ and yummy, fragrant and varied Caribbean cooking.

The sociable atmosphere of this fine Sunday extended till late and when the last visitors separated, all wished the venture would return next year. MICHELLE RONDOF

ADA ELEANOR COOKE (Nellie) (1915-2008) d. 23 April. The Shrewsbury church has lost a much loved and respected member with the passing away of Nellie Cooke, aged 92 years. A child of World War One, she survived a sickly childhood when her father was away fighting for king and country. She lived her early years in Ledbury in a tiny stone cottage with the usual primitive facilities. Initially a member of the Apostolic Church, she developed a keen love of music and became an accomplished organist, a skill much appreciated later by the Shrewsbury Adventist church. During World War Two, she worked in an aircraft factory in Worcester before moving to Shrewsbury to live with her cousin, Peter Charles Cooke and his family. There she was employed in the Silhonette factory for the remainder of her working life. Her relationships at work and at church were always warm, thoughtful and considerate, with her lively and impish sense of humour always present. Once she commenced laughing it was always difficult for her to stop, and others would be caught up in her infectious jollity. Fond memories of her sense of humour abound. She would have been particularly amused by the fact that no less than five pastors attended her funeral service, led by Pastor Roger Neal and assisted by the incumbent minister. Pastor Clyde Moore. Nellie was a constant, faithful loving member of this church for over fifty years and was longing for the return of her Saviour During her final days she remained cheerful and was held in high regard by the staff of Crowmoor House where she lived. Her oft-repeated prayer was that she wanted to be with Jesus. We have no doubt that we shall see her again on that great and glorious day. The funeral service was held in the Shrewsbury church, and Nellie's committal was at Shrewsbury Crematorium.

ANDREW SWIFT COLLINS (1923-2008) d. 10 May. Born at Eye, Suffolk, Andrew was raised in a Baptist family. He came into contact with the Advent message through the ministry of Pastor R. S. Joyce in Great Yarmouth, where his mother and grandma became founder members of that church Attending his first Sabbath School in 1932, he remained a life-long supporter. He worked at Granose, Stanborough Park, for a number of vears and was baptised in the Park church in 1942 by Pastor J. M. Howard. Moving to Holloway church he established its Male Voice Choir which he directed until sailing for Australia finally settling in Christchurch New Zealand, with his wife Margery. There he founded the Advent Chorale, which under his direction broadcast over NZBC on several occasions. He attended St Martin's church in Christchurch, using his musical talent and lay preaching ability until he became terminally ill. A memorial service was conducted at St Martin's church on 16 May by Pastor Neil Thompson, attended by his widow, brother Claude (accompanied by his wife Janice) from Adelaide, South Australia, who delivered the eulogy, his daughter Julie, son-in-law Duncan, his two grandsons, Jeffery and Nicholas, and friends from sister churches in Christchurch. He sleeps in Jesus awaiting the glorious resurrection to eternal life when his Lord and Saviour returns

PETER BAYLISS

CLAUDE COLLINS

MURIEL SUDDABY (1917-2008) d. 5 June. Born in Hull, Muriel was the second of five children. She left school at 14 and went to work for a tailor, specialising in finishing, making hand-stitched buttonholes for uniforms. However, nursing seemed to be her calling and it was to become her career. In 1940 Muriel married Leonard Arthur Suddaby, and soon after her marriage qualified as a State Registered Nurse. Maureen, their firstborn daughter, arrived in 1941. With his first daughter still an infant, Leonard, serving in the 1st Battalion of the Royal Scots Regiment.

overseas service before their second daughter Edwina was born in 1942. Muriel decided to train as a midwife balancing her career with the raising of two small children and with hard work gained her State Certified Midwife qualifications. After three-and-a-half years in the Far East, husband Len returned home to his family and was employed in insurance, while Muriel carried on her midwifery career. When interviewed on Radio Humberside, Muriel was asked what her most memorable moment or event had been in her chosen career as a midwife. She replied without hesitation that it had been the delivery of her own grandchildren. Muriel was baptised into the Hull church on 27 November 1976 by Pastor Alan Conroy, following an outreach programme conducted by American evangelist D. D. Dolman. As a church member, Muriel is remembered for her hospitality and for her service to the church, serving as a deaconess, and working in the community services, and particularly the enjoyment she gained makng up parcels and knitting for people. In May 1992 Muriel lost her husband Len. Even for such a strong character, his death took some thing out of Muriel that she couldn't recover. Subsequently, she was to move into several care homes until finally just one month short of her 91st birthday. Muriel passed peacefully away In his address at the Hatemprice Crematorium Hull minister Pastor Solon Kyriacou reminded us all of Muriel's long and fruitful life, of her robust health and of never having been hospitalised. Muriel has left behind Maureen and Edwina, her daughters, brother Cyril and sister Olive. She also leaves two grandsons and four great-grandchildren. We can be comforted that Muriel died believing in her Saviour. Her long pilgrimage is over And so we say goodbye to this lovely lady for now, this lady who brought two daughters into the world and helped to usher in some 2,000 other children too! We thank God for Muriel's life and for the assurance that death does not have the last word in the life of those who have put their trust in him. In Psalm 116:15 the psalmist says these words: 'Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his

was called into service in Burma and left for

PETER WALLER

saints.

#### AGNES MARY CASBURN (1914-2008) d.

30 July. Agnes was born in Woodford. Northamptonshire, to Gertrude and William Abbott on 3 June 1914. After leaving school she became a seamstress. She was contacted by literature evangelist E. E. White and, with her mother and sister, was baptised at the Seventh-day Adventist church in Kettering Agnes attended Newbold Revel, Rugby, graduating in 1943. She married Lennart Ohman from Sweden who had trained for the ministry. They served in Britain for a time before being called to work in Ouebec. Their son Sven was born in 1946 and their daughter Karin in 1951 From Canada they returned to Sweden where Lennart died in 1953. Agnes returned to work as a seamstress to provide for her two children. In 1955 Agnes was called to serve as the cook at Newbold, Binfield, In 1958 she moved to Swindon and for a time worked in a clothing factory. In 1961 Agnes returned to Woodford to care for her mother following the death of her father. 'Mum was a dedicated mother,' writes Karin. 'She worked long hours to feed and clothe us after the death of our father. She was passionate about the Scriptures and encouraged us to pray and to trust God. She taught us the Christian virtue of hospitality. We remember many occasions when Mum would invite people home for Sabbath lunch to share what we had. On Sabbath evenings our home was often full of people.' Agnes loved her church and was actively involved in running the church in Rushden. For nine years she worked as a literature evangelist and never lost her enthusiasm for the publishing ministry. Her

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other great enthusiasm was Ingathering. In addition to door-to-door collecting. Agnes organised fundraising stalls in Kettering market. Even at the age of 93 she collected £50 just sitting in the doorway of the Dove Court Care Home. Consistently she had been one of the most successful collectors in the Kettering church. Thirty-five years ago Tom Casburn became part of her life. In 1973 Tom, a widower, asked Agnes to marry him. She now had someone to share her life with and time to enjoy her grandchildren. 'Her knitting needles were never dormant,' writes Karin, 'and her supply of mint humbugs never ran out.' In the latter part of her life one of her great joys was to watch her two youngest grandchildren. Adam and Abigail, grow up. Over the years she served in most church offices including organist and deaconess. The funeral service was conducted at the Kettering church by Agnes's son Sven Ohman, assisted by her son-in-law Pastor Llewellvn Edwards. Agnes sleeps in sure and certain hope of the resurrection TONY WELCH

JOHN HENRY BUTCHER (1921-2008) d. 29 June. John was born on 3 December 1921 in Kensington, London, and spent his early years in Sussex. He returned to London for his adolescence, and, like most of his peers, he left school aged 14. He then got a job in the aircraft industry. As soon as he was old enough to be accepted, he volunteered and joined the army in the infantry. He then went on to train for the Parachute Regiment and enjoyed being a paratrooper. He finally joined the Medical Corps. John saw active service in Africa, Italy, France and Germany, and towards the end of

## Obituaries

the War he was captured. After being demobbed he returned to London and became a glazier. At the cycle club he met Vera and they were married in 1949. Vera died some time ago. They are survived by two daughters. Terri and Lori. John was very proud of his girls and his grandchildren. John joined the Adventist Church following an evangelistic campaign held by George Vandeman. Initially he joined the Wood Green church and was eventually ordained as elder. He served the Adventist Church faithfully for the rest of his life, becoming an accomplished lay-preacher. Later he moved house from Tottenham to Enfield and joined the Edmonton church, where he also served as an elder. He left London and bought a house in Woodley and transferred his membership to the Reading church where he was soon elected as elder While living in Woodlev he was offered employment with the maintenance department at Newbold College where he spent more than ten happy years until his retirement. He was very popular with the students and was always willing to work with them. John attended the Newbold church every week until he became too frail to do so, but he kept his faith and love for Jesus until his death. The writer popped in to visit John in hospital and read some verses of Scripture and sang a couple of hymns to him just a few hours before he died peacefully in his sleep that very same night, aged 86. John had the wonderful Christian virtue of humility and was kind and helpful to everyone. His funeral was conducted by the writer on 10 July and his many friends and his family members look forward to seeing John again in the hereafter. PASTOR IAN SLEEMAN

## The death of Pastor Michael Logan

t is with great sorrow that we report that Pastor Michael Logan passed away on the evening of 26 August following his eight-month battle with a brain tumour. Pastor Logan has given sixteen and a half years of ministerial service in Taunton, Dublin, Cork and Carmarthen. He is survived by his wife Evelyn, daughter Joy, son Mike, grandson Bryan and his family in Limerick, including his devoted sister Kathleen.

A full obituary will appear in a future issue. Our profound condolences are shared with Evelyn, the family and Pastor Logan's many friends. *EDITOR* 

## WEDDING

CRAGGS-HOLFORD The blessing of the marriage of Bethany Holford, only daughter of Pastor Bernie and Karen Holford of the SEC, and Timothy, the eldest son of Drs David and Debbie Craggs of Southampton, took place at St Peter's Church, Petersfield, Hampshire, on Monday 18 August following a civil wedding the previous week. The service was conducted by the Revd Jason Fout, from Tim's college church. Beth and Tim met while singing in the Pembroke College Choir, while Beth was studying for her degree and Tim for his doctorate in Cambridge. The bride looked stunning in a full-length ivory gown decorated with handmade fabric orchids, which had been created especially for Beth by her mother. Her chief bridesmaid was Nicola Jacobs, assisted by Caz Cooper, Kathleen Murray, Megan Macintosh and Niki Davidson, with flower girls Alex Fout and Asha Mattan-Rogers. Ethan Eade was the best man and the ushers included Bethany's two brothers, Nathan and Joel Holford. Jacques and Finlay Holford, cousins of the bride, made very smart young page boys. Bethany looked radiant as she entered the church on the arm of her groom at the head of the procession of all the attendants. After a preface by the minister the groom's father read the words of our Lord as recorded in Matthew 6:25-34. Later, Tim's brother Jamie read a passage from Romans 12:1-2, 9-18. Following the sermon Beth and Tim re-affirmed their vows to each other in this sacred setting and in the presence of all their friends and relatives. During the service the congregation was treated to a rendering of the second movement of Divertimento in F by Mozart by the string quartet that Tim founded and led at Cambridge. On this occasion Chris Rogers stood in for him as the lead violinist. Later, Psalm 121 was sung by the choir in which both the bride and groom sang while at university. Karen Holford led in a prayer for the happiness of the newlyweds while all the children formed an enveloping circle around the bride and groom. The congregation, which included friends and relatives from as far away as British Columbia and Cyprus almost filled this lovely parish church. Later they proceeded to the reception at the Tithe Barn, about three miles from the centre of Petersfield. Tim took up a post of lecturer and research scientist at St Andrews University in Scotland last summer, and so the happy couple will be taking up residence in Fife after they return from their honeymoon in Scandinavia. Best wishes for a long and happy union go with the couple as they set out on life together with the guidance of God from all those present and from their many relatives and friends who were unable to attend in person. TONY WELCH

## Back Page

## **Uni students and young adults** Special focus at ASI-UK's autumn retreat

To show their commitment to university students and young adults, the UK chapter of ASI Europe has invited much-loved friend and mentor Japhet de Oliveira to be the speaker at their upcoming autumn retreat, 7-9 November.

University students and young professionals are encouraged to join ASI members at Staverton Park, Daventry, Northamptonshire, on Sabbath 8 November for a day of fellowship and contemporary worship.

#### Special pre-booking price for university students - just £15

To encourage attendance and show their commitment to students, ASI not only gives free membership to students in higher education, but they will be subsidising this event. To get the special price of £15 you must book and pay by 31 October. (The full price of £50 a day will be charged for those just showing up on the day without prebooking!) £15 includes morning and afternoon drinks, lunch and dinner.

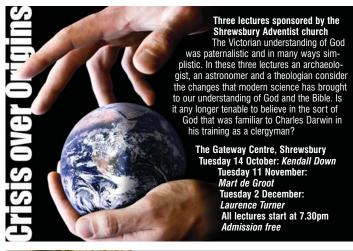
For further information please contact Hannah Robson at *findemir@hotmail.com*, or send your cheque, made out to ASI-UK, to Christine Manners-Smith, 36 Potters Field, St Albans, Herts, AL3 6LJ.

#### Price for non-students

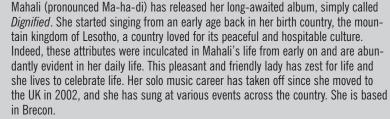
ASI has negotiated a special day rate of £30 for adults and £13.50 for children under 12 years for those who book and pay by 31 October. (Please note the full price of £50 a day will be charged for those just showing up on the day without pre-booking!) The day rate includes morning and afternoon drinks, lunch and dinner.

For those wishing to stay the weekend, the cost for accommodation and all meals from Friday night to Sunday lunch is just £120. Application forms for the weekend are available from Christine. Bookings need to be in by 15 October.

To book for Sabbath, please send your cheque made out to ASI-UK to: Christine Manners-Smith, 36 Potters Field, St Albans, Herts, AL3 6LJ.



## Debut album Mahali (pronounced



In this album one comes to Mahali's secret chamber and gets to bask in the presence of the Master that Mahali loves in word and deed. The title *Dignified* was chosen as this word was the closest she could find to describe her Maker. The music

evokes the timeless beauty, priceless attributes and irresistible love of God. This album is strides ahead of most conventional gospel releases. It is easy on the ear, instructive to the Johnny-come-lately in the music world, and a real treat to the learned in music. In this album Mahali is joyfully giving praise to her Maker. This is not a display of raw talent only; it is the combination of rich experience compressed into melody, the liberty of rowing your own canoe and the genius of an African woman. In this work she has gracefully catapulted herself into the category of the best in the world.

FEEDBACK

### Dear Editor

**THREE CROSSES** The three crosses could have been arranged as Satan's insult to the Trinity.

As it was, of course, one of the malefactors, probably a murderer, spoiled Satan's insult by accepting Christ's gracious offer of salvation and eternal life. Satan failed.

So much about the Cross indicates that what could have been the scene of Satan's triumph was actually the guarantor of his final destruction. JAMES PONDER, Renfrewshire

Thank you

Did you come on the Empire Windrush?

If you are such a person or know of

For Black History Month. Willesden.

ABC BOOK SALES

12 John Loughborough 10.30am-2pm

Watford BUC, 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 10am-2pm

IENNIFER PHILLIPS

10.30am-2pm

llam-3pm

I am looking for a person, or a few

people, who arrived in the UK on the

Empire Windrush on 22 June 1948.

such people, contact me on 07951

953946 or email mattiekezia@

hotmail.co.uk.

October 2008.

October

ABC Shops

Harper Bell

Advent Centre, Sundays

Cassandra Burton of North Wembley Community church would like to thank everyone who supported her with sponsor ship for cancer research 'Race for Life'. She raised a total of £445. Thank you.

Stoke Newington is presenting a Grand Banquet on Sunday 12 October. Starting time: 6pm Location: The Irish Centre, Tottenham, Price: £35 per person Age 18 and over A three-course meal will be provided. Featuring: Best-dressed male/female Eaching above

Fashion show Entertainment galore Contact Nellis Riley on 07960 181009

Auditing Service Vacancy General Conference Auditing Service (Trans-European area) have a vacancy for a travelling auditor (qualified or nearqualified) after 31 August 2008. Requests for further details and applications (with CV) to Sandra Richards Grice at GCAS, 119 St Peters Street, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3EY. Tel : 01727 860331.

#### Messenger

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Oct	3	6.33	6.45	6.36	6.42	6.54

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