

# MESSIAH

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## Ivan's New Testament

When Pastor Stephen Wilson was bringing the Galway Daniel seminar to a close, Ivan Klokov was one of the young people who came forward to request baptism.

Visiting 14-year-old Ivan at home, Pastor Stephen found him hand-copying the New Testament. He is now almost through the gospel of Luke. He is following a good example. His Russian father has already copied three quarters of his Russian Bible and has also started through his English New Testament to improve his English language skills.

Ivan is just one of seventeen who have requested baptism during Stephen's two simultaneous Daniel seminars in Galway and Ballinastole, Ireland.

JOHN DURKE



## GC appointment for Petras Bahadur — SEC Adventist Muslim Relations director

by Dr Richard de Lisser, SEC Communication director

From 1 July Pastor Petras Bahadur, currently serving as the Adventist Muslim Relations (AMR) director for the South England Conference, will be working on 50% time as the associate director for the General Conference Adventist Muslim Relations department. Pastor Bahadur was born in Pakistan and was schooled in the Adventist education system. He

completed a BSc and MBA from the Philippines and began working for the Pakistan Union as an accountant, business lecturer and later as head of the Department of Business.

Pastor Bahadur came to the UK in 1998 and began studying for Community Development. He also worked as an accountant in London for five years before responding to

the call to ministry in 2003 and pursuing studies at Newbold College for an MA in Theology.

In January 2006 he became involved in the ministry at the SEC as director of the Adventist Muslim Relations department. After one year, he was influential in establishing the first Asian church in London, which he has also been pastoring to the present.

Pastor Bahadur is married to Musharaf, and together they have four children.

While he is involved with the General Conference work, he will continue assisting the SEC with the AMR work here, as well as leading the London Asian church, an initiative begun by the AMR department.

## Adventist designer exhibits at Grand Designs Live

by Richard de Lisser, SEC Communication director

Eno Itauma is an inspiration! Baptised in 2006 at the Stratford church but now attending Kennington Community Fellowship, she is an innovative, upcoming new designer. Eno designs for the unique and modern interior décor market with inspiration from ignored elements and mathematical concepts. Eno has been designing since the age of 11 and has just completed a BA Honours degree in printed textiles.

Eno Itauma, after exhibiting at New Designers 2009 in Islington, was contacted by the magazine *ICON* who had seen and liked her designs on the pages of *New Designers Online* and her website [www.enoitauma.com](http://www.enoitauma.com). Following this she featured in the magazine's notice-board for young designers and was subsequently contacted by Grand Designs Live to exhibit her work in the New Designers section of the exhibition held in May 2010.

Eno's 'Botanical Geo's' home furnishings collection ranges from sophisticated wallpapers to bespoke and hand-embroidered curtains.



Speaking about the exhibition, Eno states: 'Exhibiting at Grand Designs Live was a blessing but it was also a test of faith as many people wanted me to be there on the two Sabbaths of the



exhibition, but God has been so good to me, how could I let him down? I exhibited during the week and found myself in church on Sabbath to give thanks to God!

These days I don't preach without a litre bottle of water to hand. That is a habit I learned the hard way some years ago.

I had written a book on a controversial topic and was invited by a friend to speak on that topic to half the ministerial worker force. 'You have an hour,' my friend said. 'Allow forty-five minutes for your presentation and fifteen minutes for discussion.' 'OK,' I said. And that is what happened.

At the end of the hour I was exhausted, my mouth was dry and I was looking forward to coming into contact with the wet staff. None handy.

Then something awful happened. When one half of the worker force ambled out, the other half (who had been listening at another lecture) filed in. From his seat on a raised platform, my friend signalled to me that another hour had now begun and that a repeat performance was called for! Horrified and parched, I hand-signalled back that I needed a drink. But my friend was talking enthusiastically to someone. He hadn't seen my signal!

Reflecting that, a few years previously, I'd done a job that required me to talk all day, I thought, 'I'll survive.' My spirit was willing but my body, like everyone else's, give or take a brain, a few bones and organs, is a big balloon of water. We're all 80% fluid and need regular refuelling.

The effects of dehydration are both embarrassing and unnerving. The obvious one is extreme dryness of the mouth which makes it first difficult then impossible to speak. Other effects include the inability to think coherently, and a splitting headache.

Thankfully that second half of the ministerial worker force included one young pastor who could reason back from effect to cause – and eventually went and fetched me a tall glass of water.

Since that event I've had a sneaking sympathy for the Israelites who panicked a bit because they could not work out what they would use for water in the wilderness. I can imagine their relief when water gushed out of that rock!

No wonder that the significance of water for their prophets was so great.

For Isaiah it stood for the salvation on offer to the 'whosoever will'.<sup>1</sup>

For Jeremiah God was the sole Source of the living water that man could not hope either to create or, without divine help, retain.<sup>2</sup>

For Ezekiel God's living water brought cleansing and new life.<sup>3</sup>

with David Marshall, editor

## You missing something?



To Joel living water was a fountain that would erupt in the temple when Messiah came.<sup>4</sup>

To Zechariah Messiah's fountain of living water that would erupt in Jerusalem would wash away sin and guilt.<sup>5</sup>

That was the basis of the new-birth teaching of Jesus. He told Nicodemus, 'No-one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh [natural birth], but the Spirit gives birth to spirit [second birth].'<sup>6</sup>

Not long afterwards, Jesus offered 'the water of life' to the five-weddings-and-a-relationship Samaritan woman, adding, 'The water I give is like a fountain that gives eternal life.' Messiah had come and, as the prophets had foretold, was the Source of Living Water. And that water was not the exclusive preserve of Jews. They despised women and they despised Samaritans. Jesus offered a woman who was a Samaritan – with a past – the water that gives eternal life.

Tabernacles was the Jewish festival that celebrated the water-from-a-rock miracle. During the eight-day feast all the living water messianic prophecies were read and discussed. Each day a priest with a golden pitcher would solemnly walk from the temple down the steep street to the Pool of Siloam, fill his pitcher with water, process back to the temple and pour his water over the altar.

'On the last and most important day of the festival' at which Jesus had, thus far, been conspicuous by his absence, there was a magnificent fulfilment of prophecy that no one could ignore. On that second Sabbath, known as the Day of the Great Hosannah, seven priests with seven pitchers processed for water to Siloam. As they processed back to the temple, rams' horn trumpets blew and a Levite choir sang the *Hallel* 'Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord.' To that surround sound the priests poured the seven pitchers of water around the altar.

As they did so there was a disturbance

at the heart of the vast throng. A majestic figure strode up the temple steps.

It was Jesus.

When he spoke his voice was impassioned:

*'If you are thirsty, come to me and drink! Have faith in me, and you will have life-giving water.'*<sup>8</sup>

Messiah had come. At the high point of the high day at the temple he did what the prophets had prophesied. He offered the water of life to all who are thirsty.

Everyone turned. Everyone heard.

When John recorded the event, in case anyone should lose the significance of what Jesus offered, he added, 'Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit, who would be given to everyone who had faith in him.'

'There in the presence of the assembled multitude [Jesus] set Himself apart to be smitten, that the water of life might flow to the world.'<sup>9</sup>

Jesus offered Calvary's cleansing and new life to every penitent. And he offered the revitalising refreshment of the Holy Spirit.

As the body depends on water, the spirit depends on the Spirit.

If aching heads and dry mouths are the result of *physical* dehydration, are there symptoms of *spiritual* dehydration in our midst? Resentments. Insecurities. Irritability. Negative thinking. Pessimism. Cynicism. Guilt. Negative talking.

If you recognise these or any other symptoms of spiritual dehydration, it may help you to know that the words addressed by Jesus to the multitude actually mean *'Keep coming to me; and keep drinking.'* One tall glass will not do it. Keep drinking. Religion won't do it. Only Christ can do it. Jesus said, 'Keep coming to me.'

Are we missing something? If so, why? We know what.

References  
<sup>1</sup>Isaiah 55:1, 2. <sup>2</sup>Jeremiah 2:13. <sup>3</sup>Ezekiel 36:25-27; chapter 47. <sup>4</sup>Joel 3:18. <sup>5</sup>Zechariah 12:10; 13:1; 14:8. <sup>6</sup>John 3:5, 6. <sup>7</sup>John 4:14. <sup>8</sup>John 7:37, 38. <sup>9</sup>CEV: DA, 454.

## Enhancing Health

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

### The 'D' factor



It has recently been stated that the hottest topic in medicine is not the newest drug, the latest surgical procedure or medical device: it's vitamin D.

Research data is revealing that many of us are not getting sufficient levels of vitamin D to maintain good health. One study, for example, a 2007 research of childbearing women in the Northern US, found insufficient vitamin D levels in 54% of black women and in 42% of white women.

#### So why is vitamin D important?

Our body requires vitamin D in order to absorb calcium and promote healthy bone growth. Inadequate vitamin D results in soft bones in children (rickets) and fragile, misshapen bones in adults (osteomalacia). However, research continues to demonstrate the vital part vitamin D plays in other body functions.

Overwhelming evidence points to the following:

- **Vitamin D deficiency** has now been linked

to conditions such as breast cancer, colon cancer, prostate cancer, heart disease, depression, weight gain and other debilitating illnesses. The study results suggest that people with higher levels of vitamin D have a lower risk of disease. However, these reports state that the findings do not definitively prove that lack of vitamin D causes disease or that vitamin D supplements would lower risk. The evaluation is that there is a clear association or link.

#### Health implications

- A scientist-led group, The Vitamin D Council, promotes vitamin D deficiency awareness and suggests that vitamin D treatment may be useful for treating or preventing conditions such as autism, autoimmune disease, cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic pain, depression, diabetes, flu, hypertension, neuromuscular diseases such as multiple sclerosis and bone diseases like osteoporosis. However, there have been no definitive

clinical trials to ascertain certainty.

- In 2007 a study showed that people taking normal vitamin D supplements were 7% less likely to die than those who didn't take the daily supplements.
- A major study in 2008 found that women with low vitamin D levels who developed cancer had a much higher chance of dying from their cancer than women with normal levels of vitamin D.
- As dark skin absorbs less sunlight, people with dark skin require more exposure to sunlight to create vitamin D than light-skinned people.
- A key 2010 study suggests the need for vitamin D supplements, particularly in vulnerable groups.

In the next issue we examine more evidence on vitamin D and the debate around supplementation.

#### Good health!

# Islamophobia and Christianophobia — a case of too little knowledge?

When it comes to Islamophobia and Christianophobia, it is possible to take the view that since the 11 September attack in the USA Islam has received and continues to receive bad press. The counter-attack on this seems to be Christianophobia: some Muslims are saying. Do not focus on us, take a good look at yourself.

Ultimately, when one is looking at

es that our Western culture is undermined by violence and erosion of the family... but Western culture is also liberal and its liberalism can 'absorb other cultural values, such as the traditional sobriety of Islam'. 'Islam itself needs to expand and enrich itself' and 'some Islamic cultures have become dominated by narrow, legalistic interpretations. But in much of the Islamic world, including parts of the Arab world, Islam is

mixture of success stories alongside instances of relative deprivation. Whilst the vast majority of Muslims live peacefully with their neighbours, there is a very small group of British Muslims who have been engaged in acts of terrorism. While radicalisation as a whole is still not well understood, it is argued that violent extremism is at root a social and political phenomenon, rather than an intrinsically religious one.

'The report presents the group's conclusions and aims to act as the basis for a wider discussion with other Muslim leaders and communities around the UK. In time, it is hoped that this will lead to the development of a virtual "House of Wisdom", providing space for discussion among both Muslims and non-Muslims on how Islam should function in modern Britain and contribute to wider society.'

We all need each other, and perhaps sometimes a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. Islamophobia is for the ignorant and thankfully it is practised by the very few. Hopefully the newspapers will be a little more careful in their portrayal of Islam.

As far as the differences between Christianity and Islam go, the main

tolerant and varied — Islamic Pakistan, for example, has had a woman leader, something that in the main western powers only Britain has achieved.'

In October 2009 a Cambridge University research project, in association with the Universities of Exeter and Westminster, produced a report entitled 'Contextualising Islam in Britain: Exploratory Perspectives' which noted that the 'British Muslim

**Sayeeda Warsi, Baroness Warsi PC, is the first Muslim woman to serve in the cabinet. She serves as Chairman of the Conservative Party and Minister without Portfolio. She is a good example of a Muslim who has been integrated into British society.**

community has grown from some twenty thousand in 1950 to around 2 million at present, or about 3% of the population. Muslims are the largest religious minority in Britain, accounting for just over half of the country's non-Christian religious population. Great ethnic and theological diversity can be found in British Muslim communities. In fact, there are communities within communities, each containing a multitude of different talents and needs. Within these communities, there is a

ones are as follows: Muslims believe that Jesus was a prophet and he did not die on the cross. They suggest that a disciple died in his place. They assert that Jesus went straight to Heaven and that there was no resurrection. Muslims do not believe in the Trinity, rather, they believe in one substance, one person. They do not believe Jesus was the Son of God.

Clearly there are significant differences between Christianity and Islam.

# The horizontal syndrome

Recently I preached a sermon with the title 'The horizontal syndrome'. The point I wanted to make was the danger of not knowing the difference between what is important and what is trivial. It was a disappointment to be asked after the sermon what was the point of the title.

It is unfortunate but some people do not appear to distinguish easily the difference between a peanut and a football; all things are horizontal, everything the same, no verticals.

We see this in radio or TV programmes which detail the awful carnage of a tsunami, earthquake or a terrorist crime. It is followed by a slapstick comedy or a programme on some trivial matter. The incongruity does not appear to strike the programme arranger or the viewer, who keeps on watching the slapstick. The serious item disturbing him/her not a whit, they perceive no difference.

Most of us have and perhaps do suffer from the horizontal syndrome. The recent death of the philosopher Anthony Flew and his obituary in several newspapers suggests, from his self-confession, he had a serious problem with making one important distinction.

Professor Flew was a philosopher of stature, and a non-believer in the existence of God. For the major part of his life he wrote, taught and published the 'gospel' of atheism. He was a rational thinker and reasoned there was no place in rational thinking for a transcendent God. He was atheism's renowned champion. One of his oft-quoted statements asserted:

'We reject all transcendent supernatural systems, not because we've examined or could have examined each in turn, but because it does not seem to us that there is any good evidence in reason to postulate anything behind or beyond this natural universe.'<sup>1</sup>

To the amazement and astonishment of his fellow philosophers, at the age of 81 he confounded them by changing his viewpoint and declaring there is a God. He wrote a book about his changed thinking called *There is a God: How the*

*World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind*. He said he wanted to try to correct any damage he may have done with his atheist philosophy.

He changed his mind because the same rational thinking which led him to atheism made him conclude there must be a God. If it is a mark of integrity to admit you were wrong, and to explain why, then Professor Flew is a fine example. He came to recognise that the incredible complexity of life, especially the structure of DNA, demanded Intelligence in its creation; the logic is compelling. Also it is provable that only life begets life. Life does not come from non-living matter.

Sadly, from a Christian perspective Professor Flew's rethink did not lead him to Christian faith. The god he came to accept was a human construct. He did not come to know and believe in the God of the Bible.

There are some lessons to be gained from the experience of Anthony Flew. Solomon's observation about human thinking is salutary.

'There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.'<sup>2</sup>

None of us has a monopoly on truth, especially Christians. There are so many different churches, all professing to have the truth, all claiming the Bible as the source of their authority yet strongly disagreeing with one another. As a non-Christian friend of mine chided me recently, 'Pat, you can't always be right.' His observation raises the questions, 'How do we arrive at truth?' and 'Can we know we have the truth?'

**The House of Humility**  
Perhaps the House of Humility is the place to begin looking for answers to these questions. Obviously, reason and intelligence are important; however, the truth which Jesus brought into the world is what Christians call *revealed* truth. That is, truth beyond the ability of man to discover, but which God has made known. How the world was created, and the Incarnation, Jesus is God in human flesh. The resurrection from the dead, the truth of the new earth,

all of these can be known only by revelation. This kind of truth and knowledge we come to know by faith. Indeed *all knowledge begins with faith*. We do not begin our thinking with *conclusions*; we start with *faith* in ideas and theories which we then set out to prove or disprove.

Jesus declared that if we want to prove his words true then we have to make an act of faith.

'If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own.'<sup>3</sup>

The book of Hebrews perceptively notes the same truth in different words:

'By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.'<sup>4</sup>

Faith exercised in God's Word finds it to be true. We test what we believe by measuring it by what the Bible says, then we make an act of faith and order our lives by what we believe. All true Christians function along these lines and make choices and commitments out of their understanding. It is always sensible to be open to correction. A blind faith leads nowhere.

Perhaps as Seventh-day Adventists we need to enquire if we are making the right choices and distinctions in life. Is what we believe individually authenticated in God's Word? Do we distinguish between what is important and what is trivial? Between time spent watching TV, fiddling with the computer and our spiritual devotions and responsibilities? Is it possible that like Professor Flew we may have illumination but at the wrong end of our lives?

There are obvious truths which can easily escape us, such as the prophet Micah's declaration:

'He has showed you, O man, what is good, And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.'<sup>5</sup>

The knowledge of Christian truth is essential. The way to discover it may direct us to a path we find difficult to follow. Giving priority to

humility and faith, before reason and intelligence, does not come easily to the human spirit. The distinction is important.

References:  
<sup>1</sup>Daily Telegraph, Times 14.4.2010. <sup>2</sup>Proverbs 14:12. <sup>3</sup>John 7:17, NIV. <sup>4</sup>Hebrews 11:3, NIV, emphasis supplied. <sup>5</sup>Micah 6:8.



# Keziah and Gerry baptised

There was great rejoicing at Southall church on 14 November when the second baptism of our 'God has Big Plans 4U' youth campaign took place. Family, friends, and members packed the church to witness the baptism of Keziah Noel and Gerard Fleary. Southall elder Troy Joseph preached a rousing sermon on Matthew chapter three, where Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan River to be baptised by him. 'Heaven was pleased with what Jesus did! And every time someone gives their life to God Heaven celebrates, along with families, the church family and friends; but, most of all, Jesus is happy and rejoicing to see you walk in his footsteps.'

The baptism of Keziah was a joy for her family as she had been wanting to be baptised for a while. Her mother and aunt read her favourite text, Psalm 23, her brother sang 'Lord, I'm available to you', and her grandmother escorted her to and from the pool. Her family was very proud and honoured as she took her stand for the Lord. As a student of Little Eden School, she was supported by her fellow pupils, teachers and head teacher of the school. Pastor Emmanuel Osei (SEC Ministerial director), who has known Keziah from her childhood, was there to support.

Gerry Fleary, before being led to the pool by his father (church elder David Fleary), shared a touching and emotional embrace with him, after which his father read from Isaiah 12, and expressed his personal thanks to God for this moment in time which he had waited for, and the pride of seeing his son baptised.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

\*Patrick McKerron did postgraduate studies in computing at the London School of Economics. He has worked at British Aerospace (now BAE Systems), Dalgety Plc and local government.

\*\*Pastor Boyle was raised in Dublin, educated at Newbold and Andrews and was a successful pastor and evangelist in Ireland and England. Since his retirement at Stanborough Park he has continued to conduct evangelistic campaigns in the British Isles, the African continent and North America.

# Adventist Muslim Relations Retreat 2010

What do you think is the key message we need to communicate to our Muslim brothers and sisters?

by Sujoya Paul Bullock

This was the intriguing question with which Dr Ganoune Diop, General Conference director for Adventist Study Centres, sparked off the discussions on Friday evening at the 6th Adventist Muslim Relations (AMR) Retreat in Northampton, 9-11 April. This event was organised by Pastor Petras Bahadur, director of Adventist Muslim Relations, and Mrs Sophia Vontzalidis, secretary of AMR at the South England Conference. There were approximately seventy delegates in attendance, with pastors, lay members, young and old and ex-Muslims.

## A radical revolution

In his first presentation Dr Diop observed that Jesus Christ came to remove the barriers between man and God, such as temples, priests and rituals. Instead he made it possible to approach God directly. Dr Diop, an ex-Muslim, who came in contact with an Adventist tutor while studying flute at a French Conservatory, had dreamed of being God's slave, when one day he was shown that he could be a child of God.

Dr Diop explained the name 'Jesus' from the Hebrew – *Yehoshua*. *Haya*, the first part, 'to be', 'I am', LORD, JHVH; and the second part,

*yasha* meaning 'to save'. Why does God choose to refer to himself as the Father, to Jesus as the Son, and to us as his children? He desired, from Eden, to have a holy family and gave us the freedom to choose so that the relationship would be one of love, not duty or fear.

## The essence of Islam

He mentioned that the main teaching of Islam is that humans need to walk on a Straight Path, and every activity a Muslim engages in should facilitate the remembrance (*dhikr*) of that Path. The values of Islam are righteousness (*taqwa*) – those who ward off evil and have a mind full of God; equality of all persons before God and the need to fight injustice; and the oneness of God (*tawhid*). The implication is that there is no original sin and that humans' worst problem is only that of forgetfulness, thereby making atonement and sacrifice uncalled for, and man can work towards the Right Path through works alone.

He compared Christianity and Islam and presented Adventists as being the restorationist movement, to focus on Jesus as the High Priest, as the complete antidote to all our human and spiritual ills. 'There are wonderful things in Islam but there

are obvious needs, and God has raised Adventists to help them complete their restoration to the true religion of Abraham. Only in the Word of God, in human flesh, in Jesus Christ, do we have the complete character of God and the solution to the world's problems.'

Continuing the theme, Dr L. Merklin, GC AMR director, who has worked in Pakistan and the Philippines, posed the question, 'How far do we go in allowing completely different forms of church and believe it is God's way of worship?' In such cases Ellen White states, 'Err on the side of mercy and tolerance.' (*Testimonies*, Vol. 4.) We need to realise that God has different ways of reaching different people.

## Highlights

The attendees were blessed to hear Dr Merklin's report on Adventist Muslim Relations' work going on around the globe, how people of both faiths are working together on health programmes and education. Pastor Petras Bahadur spoke of the AMR work in the SEC and was keen to point out that nobody is excluded, that his job is to bring all talents and abilities together and to help facilitate the work for God. He went on to speak of the Mercy in the first

chapter of the Qur'an, the *Fatiha* – and pointing in the Qur'an to how Jesus answers that cry when he, comes as the Mercy of God (Qur'an 19 verse 21).

Another highlight was the opportunity of sharing heart-felt testimonies. An attendee praised God for how the youth of his church are forming an AMR team to work in their locality. A teacher also spoke of the many Muslims in her classes and her need for prayer to be a witness to them. One lady shared how a severely depressed and stressed Muslim friend asked her to help her with her children, and the Muslim lady couldn't believe how caring she was and called her her 'true sister'.

Sujoya Paul Bullock led the attendees in a discussion on two themes from the Qur'an – Wedding and Sacrifice – and how to relate them to the Bible practically.

Throughout the weekend, the attendees were blessed by relevant and thought-provoking devotionals by Pastors E. Osei, A. Vontzalidis and T. Messenger and workshops led by Laverne Byng with Beng Tang on the guitar. The rest of the AMR core team, Elizabeth Kavanagh, Adrian Lethbridge, John Bishop and Emil Shelufumo, facilitated each session admirably, considering the time constraints of such a packed weekend.

If you would like to know more or be engaged in this ministry, please contact the Adventist Muslim Relations department at the South England Conference at [amr.relations@gmail.com](mailto:amr.relations@gmail.com) or visit the SEC website at [www.secadventist.org](http://www.secadventist.org). God bless you.

# Simple Church weekend

by Asha Wije

What sort of church did Jesus dream of? Would our local church survive if we lost the building? Is church becoming an indoor spectator sport? Is church characterised by consumerism, for example, if you don't like the preaching you switch church? Have we stopped asking what it means for every member to be a minister?

These were some of the uncomfortable questions that were asked at the Simple Church weekend on 23-25 April. Held at the De Vere Conference Centre in Berkshire, 150 people attended from over fifty churches across the SEC and four from the Scottish Mission, including their president, Pastor B. Holford. It was organised by Pastor Aris and Mrs Sophia Vontzalidis of the Church Growth department of the SEC, and on Friday evening the SEC president, Pastor Sam Davis, gave an inspired and challenging keynote address.

There were two parts to the weekend. The first focused on Growth Groups, which are mission-oriented small groups that are linked to a church, and the second part was an introduction to the Simple Church, which is a lay-led Simple/House Church focusing on reaching secular people.

Much of the teaching at the weekend was carried out by Dr Milton Adams and a lay member, Darren Yates, both from the Florida Conference, who highlighted the fact that God ordains the ordinary and constantly seeks to break us free from whatever holds us back to lead us in missionary work. 'I'm on fire,'

and 'I can't wait to start,' were some of the comments from the weekend that had at its core the simple words of Jesus to 'Go' and make disciples of all nations.

So what is 'Simple Church'? Well, Simple Church, we learned, is not, as the name could suggest, simplistic or easy. Nor is it just a smaller version of conventional churches. Rather, Simple Church is a whole new way of being church, a way of living that is focused on loving relationships, outreach, lifestyle and fundamentally being connected to God, each other and everyone else. Simple Churches meet in the home, eat together, study together, pray together, worship together, serve together and they ensure that everyone is involved – like members of a choir, so that no one goes to their grave without having sung their song. They require commitment, are lay-led and focused on front-line missionary work. Their members believe that there is no longer an excuse just to sit in seminars to learn about what they should be doing. It's time to get active as there is an urgent mission to be accomplished before Jesus returns.

It was very moving to see how the Spirit of God worked on the hearts of those attending. When Pastor A. Vontzalidis made an appeal for those who wanted to start or be a part of Growth Groups or Simple Churches to come forward, almost 100 lay members responded, and the Conference closed with a moving prayer session offered for

# Weston outreach

February 13 was a happy day at Weston-super-Mare. Our Sabbath morning speaker was Pastor Terry Messenger, SEC Sabbath School director. After a delicious fellowship lunch there was an afternoon where ideas were presented and discussed on how to make Sabbath School more appealing to the public as well as to members who, for various reasons, choose not to attend. The evening saw everyone back in the church hall enjoying a fun social and pancake evening. This event was used as an opportunity for members to invite friends, and also an invitation was given to everyone who comes along to Weston's successful cookery club, which is now running well into its second year. Invitations were accepted, and we were pleased to welcome and spend social time with seventeen visitors. Our minister, Pastor Wayne Erasmus – a great cook himself – made the batter, and helpers were kept busy cooking piles of pancakes. A collection for the ADRA-UK Haiti earthquake disaster appeal had already been taken up at church, but our children decided that they, too, would like to do something to help. They drew some lovely pictures to give as a thank-you for donations and also during the evening sold cakes, resulting in £62 more for the needy people of Haiti.

MAUREEN REES

God's enabling and leading so that we would all be used to extend his Kingdom across the SEC and beyond.

Dr Adams stated that, in the US, 60% of Americans under the age of 40 have not walked into a church building. UK figures are likely to be much worse. With a population of over 60 million but poor church attendance across many

denominations, perhaps Simple Church is a way forward?

Attendees were helpfully provided with resources and did exercises on how to start Growth Groups which is the first phase of the Simple Church training. If you would like more information, please get in touch with the Church Growth department through the SEC website [www.secadventist.org.uk](http://www.secadventist.org.uk).





## Giant Bolster weekend on Chapel Porth

Words and pictures: Victor Hulbert, Communication director, BUC

Participants at the SEC Area 1 Youth weekend were surprised to find a local legend coming to life in the form of a giant in a visual re-enactment on the cliffs above Chapel Porth beach on Sunday 2 May. Local villagers from St Agnes, just up the road from the Adventist-owned campsite in Cornwall, re-enact each year the legend that tells the story of the young St Agnes protecting the village against the evil

giant, Bolster. It was an entertaining spectacle for the large crowds that gathered on the cliffs in the gorse and the heather, but the legend illustrates the age-old story of good and innocence overcoming evil.

That is a theme that had some resonance for the Devon and Cornish youth, joined by others from Somerset and Newbold church, who had gathered for a weekend of worship, fellowship and fun. 'This kind



of weekend is really important,' states Area 1 Youth sponsor, Steven Hulbert. 'The youth in the West Country can feel isolated. Bringing them together, along with others from "up-country", helps them develop genuine friendships within the church family.' He was also delighted that a number of youth attending the St Austell Youth Outreach Project also attended, making friends, joining in with the worship and generally finding that Christians are good people to be with.

Worship took three forms. Steven Hulbert led three worship based around sports label themes – Reebok: 'I am what I am'; Nike: 'Just do it'; and Adidas: 'Impossible is nothing'. His aim was to use contemporary illustrations to show how biblical characters found purpose in their lives.

This fitted in well with the Sabbath and Sunday morning themes, when Steven's father, BUC Communication director, Victor Hulbert, used his photographic and storytelling skills to illustrate visually from his personal experience how the Bible makes a difference in his life.



The third worship style was highlighted on Saturday night and Sunday morning with the vibrant testimony by guest artists from London, Lyrical Soldier, Triple O, and Mighty. Their combination of hip hop, grime and gospel allowed them to share a genuine faith and testimony in a contemporary setting that the youth could really identify with.

A stunning Sunday night bonfire, games of basketball and table football, as well as 'water-sports' on the field, along with stunning quantities of amazing food provided by Steven's mother, Luisa, made for a weekend that turned strangers into friends – and even family.

A selection of photos from the weekend are available in the BUC picture gallery, [www.adventist.org.uk](http://www.adventist.org.uk).



## Parallel church

What's Parallel? I hear you ask. Parallel has become almost like second nature to those who attend Stanborough Park church on a regular basis. Over a year ago this contemporary church service began in order to give people who had left the church a place where they could feel comfortable worshipping in a slightly less formal atmosphere. Every Sabbath Parallel's focus is on reclaiming members who have drifted away from our churches by giving them a place to come and reconnect with each other and with God.

On Sabbath 13 February Parallel decided to do something more. They set aside one Sabbath as a special day of Reclamation, handing out 500 invitations, in addition to 100 personal invitation letters, praying all the while that those who received them would feel God was calling their names and inviting them back.

We called it Parallel Connect Day, a day when people could come and connect with each other, and with God. With Raafat Kamal as guest speaker, a children's story, a lively band led by children and, thankfully, enough seats for everyone, around 155 people worshipped together, some for the very first time with us. Many stayed for lunch, and as the afternoon passed there were games, tea and munchies, and plenty of time to catch up. Parallel closed the Sabbath with a short message from Paul Tompkins and some singing, and then we were off to go bowling at Leisure World. About eighty of our friends, old and new, and family came and spent a fantastic couple of hours bowling. It was a wonderful day of fellowship and fun, much enjoyed by new faces and old, children and adults.

We ask you to join us in prayer that the Lord will continue to impress upon the hearts of those who came to Parallel Connect Day, and those who have started attending Parallel on a regular basis, the desire to reconnect with their loving Heavenly Father.

So what's next for the Parallel service? Why not visit our website: [www.parallelservice.com](http://www.parallelservice.com) or, better still, come to one of our services!

JUDY McKIE



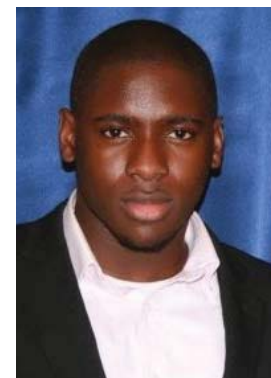
## Lyrical Soldier nominated for Africa Gospel Music Award

London South East Community church member Michael Ageyi has been nominated for an Africa Gospel Music Award in the music category 'Next Big Act' 2010. Michael Ageyi, also known as Lyrical Soldier, is a preacher, singer, rapper and a spoken word poet. He sees himself as a 'Lyrical Evangelist'. Through his God-given use of words both in song and through preaching, he is able to draw and plant a seed of interest in the minds of people as to who Jesus Christ is.

Active in the church from a young age, he started in Pathfinders at the London Ghana church. In 2006 he took part in the 'Hit London' campaign organised by the London Youth Federation. The four-month campaign gave thirteen young preachers the opportunity to preach the same message simultaneously across London. The experience was repeated in 2007. Michael was again a part of it.

In 2008, Michael was given the opportunity to study abroad in the United States where God continued to use him to draw many people to Jesus through the weekly Bible studies he held in his studio apartment.

Upon his return to the United Kingdom and after a spirit-filled Camp Meeting, Michael and his close friends made a startling discovery. They realised that after Camp Meeting the spiritual high they were tended to disappear, meaning they often reverted to their old ways and lost contact with each other. After brainstorming ideas on how to deal with this problem, co-founders Michael and Nana 'Shadrach' Kay decided to start up a Bible study called JAM (Jesus and Ministries). From a small group in 2008, this weekly study has grown into a full-blown ministry, encouraging and empowering youth to know that God can use them



as young people to do his work.

The Africa Gospel Music Awards Celebration 2010 takes place on 10 July at the Zanzibar Banqueting Suite in Sydenham, London. Awards will be handed out in fifteen categories and performances on the night will be from gospel artists both in the UK and Africa.

Voting has already begun on the website at [www.africagospelawards.com](http://www.africagospelawards.com). If you have been touched by Michael's ministry you may wish to vote for Lyrical Soldier in the category, No. 9 'Next Big Act'.

Votes must be in by 20 June.

RICHARD DE LISSER

## Welsh Mission Triennial Session

Notice is hereby given that the Triennial Session of the Welsh Mission of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on Sunday 21 November 2010 in the Cardiff Seventh-day Adventist church. Registration will take place in the church from 8.30 to 9.30am, and delegates must register before participating in the proceedings of the Session.

J. SURRIDGE (president) and V. PALMOOR (secretary/treasurer)

## Sponsored bike ride and walk for Haiti

With good weather for a bike ride, unusual for a Bank Holiday, nineteen people aged from 16 to 62 cycled the 33-mile route from Halifax to Bury on Sunday 2 May. The riders set off from Salterhebble Hill in Halifax, following the path at the side of Rochdale Canal. Although six people cycled back by the canal route, thirteen cyclists ended their journey at Bury Fishpool Adventist Community church on Parkhills Road in Bury.

The event had been organised by Adventist church member, Rio Agnello, to raise funds for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Haiti.

Most of the cyclists were not members of the Adventist Church, but they still wanted to do their bit to help the displaced and suffering people of Carrefour region of Haiti following the catastrophic magnitude 7.0 earthquake and aftershocks that hit the region.

Another cyclist, Tracey, who is

not a member of the church, said of the event, 'Initially I thought a cycle along the canal was going to be easy – flat, straight paths – how hard could it be? In reality, it was quite a testing but enjoyable bike ride. By the end of the ride we all looked like seasoned cyclists, head to toe in muck.'

It was touch and go whether the oldest cyclist, Arlette, would be fit enough for the occasion. A few days earlier she had damaged her knees and had been limping badly. But a homeopathic remedy healed her swollen knees and gave her the energy she needed for the gruelling ride.

Each of the riders wore yellow vests bearing the Adventist Church and ADRA logos on the front, and 'Haiti Sponsored Canal Bike Ride – Halifax to Bury' on the back. When the cyclists reached the church, well-wishers welcomed them back with hot drinks and enthusiastic flag waving.

At the same time as the intrepid

cyclists were getting spattered by mud at the side of Rochdale Canal, a sponsored walk was taking place. Ten people who were not able to take part in the bike ride walked several circuits around a park in Bury (at least one person ran the course, because he arrived late) to swell the funds raised on the day.

When everyone – cyclists and walkers – had gathered, a short service was held for the partici-

pants. Bolton Adventist church choir, Bolton Melodies, prayed and sang two songs following a warm welcome by local pastor Jeff Couzins. The audience, around seventy in all, then watched a video showing the work of ADRA.

After the event Rio said that the church service was excellent and he was overjoyed with the day as a whole. At time of writing the funds raised through sponsorship to help the ADRA work in Haiti is over £1,200 with some money still to come in.

JEFF COUZINS



## Pathfinders: 30<sup>th</sup> year at Hackney

Children and adults belonging to the Hackney church received special awards at the Pathfinders' end-of-year banquet. Some of the awards included: Best-Behaved Pathfinder, Excellence in Outreach, Most-Improved Pathfinder, Parent(s) of the Year, Grandparents of the Year and Pathfinder(s) of the Year.

All attendees came in their best suits or dresses and enjoyed a three-course meal while listening to music and telling jokes. The hall was decorated with balloons and photos of some of the activities in which Pathfinders had been involved during the year, including a march from the church

to the local London Fields Park in Hackney.

Special thanks must go to the Pathfinders facilitator, Andrea Simpson, and her team who organised many outreach and teambuilding trips which culminated in the end-of-year banquet.

With Hackney celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> year in 2010 more banquets are to follow after a special investiture service taking place on Sabbath 19 June at All Saints Church on Haggerston Road, where Pathfinders will be assessed and rewarded for the work they have been doing in their curriculum throughout the year thus far. The Pathfinders also plan to do a march to Dalston with full drum

corps in procession, before capping off the evening with a concert.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

## New group in old Welsh town — 'Newtown'

Why Newtown should be called 'Newtown' when it came into being in 1321 is a mystery. Set on the high end of the 200-mile-long River Severn, in the heart of rural Wales, prosperity came to the town though the growth of the textile and flannel industries. The current population of 13,000 makes it the largest town in Powys, just a little over 20 miles from the English border.

In 2009, three Adventist families moved into the Newtown area. Already resident in the area were the retired ministerial couple, Roger and Marilyn Neal. Meeting together weekly for prayer meetings, the four families felt impressed about Newtown being their mission. Since the beginning of January this year, Sabbath worship services have been held at a community centre on a fortnightly basis.

With the intention of reaching the community through health, the CHIP programme was adopted. Under the leadership of Kizuwanda Lawrence, the families recently completed the MicroCHIP stage of the programme. It is hoped that a full CHIP programme will be run for the community at some point.

Commenting on this new church plant, Pastor John Surridge, president of the Welsh Mission,



## Major Adventist presence at Christian Resources Exhibition

by Victor Hulbert

Three stands in different areas of the large exhibition halls represented varying aspects of Adventist work and mission during the four days of the Christian Resources Exhibition, Sandown Park, 11-14 May. The displays gave the Christian public a better knowledge of Adventist resources and books, as well as our involvement in preventative health initiatives and disability awareness.

The main Adventist stand was in a prime location, immediately inside the doors of the main exhibition hall. Two large TV monitors displayed Adventist materials or websites, while staff presented a holistic picture of faith with materials and staff from the Adventist Discovery Centre, Health, Publishing and Personal Ministries departments. ADC principal, Pastor Des Rafferdy, declared how thrilled he was to be there with so many thousands of people passing by, stating, 'What an opportunity in a prime location to be able to share the resources that we have available.' BUC Health Ministries director, Sharon Platt-McDonald, was sharing her range of books on healthy bodies, healthy minds and healthy relationships.

While the stand was undoubtedly in a good location, it does not mean that everyone welcomed it there. 'My first impression was somewhat daunting when even my warmest

smiles were met with expressions of distrust or disapproval,' stated ADC staff member, Thelma Hodges. This is perhaps unsurprising when books written against Adventist beliefs can be found in other parts of the hall. But she recalled a conversation with a casually attired Baptist pastor and his friend enquiring as to how our beliefs differ from other Christians. Along with Julian, a young theology student from Newbold College, she had the opportunity to share with these two men many of our beliefs.

That may be the most positive purpose of having an Adventist presence at such an event. The very fact of having a stand there allows other Christians to question and discover more about the Adventist faith – and for many to discover that we have positive things to offer, especially in the area of health.

Autumn House Publishing, a subsidiary of the Stanborough Press, did a brisk trade with their many publications aimed at the Christian bookshop market. John and Delivon Francis managed the stand. Children's materials seemed particularly popular. 'They love the books we've got,' enthused John. 'The Family Bible Flip Quiz, we've been selling out of those, so it's going very, very well. It's much better than last year. We've done double the sales.' Due to a drop out by another major publisher, Autumn House were able to move

their stand into a prime location, attracting major traffic in the entrance to the Pavilion.

The third stand, ASNA, the Adventist Special Needs Association, was more tucked away – finding itself in a quiet corner of the 'Churches for all' area where various disabled charities asked the question, 'Is your church complete?' Sophia found the week exciting: 'Seeing people praying together, people coming up and asking for prayers and taking part in prayer sessions at the start and close of the day was the most inspiring aspect of the week.'

Sophia Nicholls was delighted with the more than sixty contacts she was able to establish over the four days.

Adventists were also represented elsewhere in the exhibition area. On the ground floor, the Chisholm family ran a small stand raising funds and awareness for their mission project in Kenya, while up on the top floor, the building and architectural firm, Cosmur, used both the Stanborough Park church refurbishment and the British Union Conference rebuild as examples of their expertise. They are hoping to generate more business among the Christian community.

A BUC News Extra video report of this event is available at <http://www.adventistmedia.org.uk/downloads/BUCNews/cre2010report.wmv>.



said, 'It's an early and small start for the Adventist community in the heart of Wales, and we look forward to how the Lord will use these families.' He further stated, 'This is marvellous for the people of Newtown, and a blessing for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Wales. It really is progress that we now have a group right in the heart of Wales.'

The Newtown group meets every

other Sabbath at the following location: Treowen Community Centre, Heol Treowen, Newtown, SY16 1NW.

Sabbath School starts at 10.30am and the worship service at 11.45am, followed by a fellowship lunch. When in mid-Wales, you are most welcome to worship with us. Please call Pastor Roger Neal on 01686 420284 for details of our schedule.

PASTOR ROGER NEAL



# Great Yarmouth: campaign and baptism

by Elizabeth Folkard and Michael Walker

God has called us to proclaim his last warning message. It is with that challenge that the Great Yarmouth members embarked on a mission of great importance. Together with a team of dedicated church members, the pastor of our Great Yarmouth church launched out into deep water. The work has been hard and long but for even one soul it has been worth it. Although we do not know the final result of our witness, we give God glory and praise. Pastor Michael Walker wishes to thank all those faithful members who have supported this effort and given their time and energies by engaging in a corporate task of soul winning.

Rita Norton came into contact with the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the commencement of the 'Amazing Discoveries in Bible Lands' evangelistic series held at the Lecture Theatre in the Gorleston Library, Great Yarmouth, during the spring of 2007. She was not a churchgoer and came to the meetings purely out of interest in travel. As the meetings progressed to Bible topics, Rita continued to attend and began to find God tugging at her heartstrings. She experienced an inward awakening to spiritual things. Her interest in the Bible grew. She enquired about how and where she could pray. As she began to pray, she began to sense God's presence and her life was gradually being drawn closer to him. Eventually she learnt about the Sabbath and how the counterfeited Sunday had been introduced. Now she faced the question: 'How should I keep the Sabbath?' Finally, when the subject of the new birth and baptism was presented, Rita indicated her desire to be baptised.

During the evangelistic series we transferred to the church function room, where, to our delight, all the regular interests came along. Rita explained that she would start coming to church on Sabbaths when she was able to do so on a regular basis, because when she started to attend, she wanted to continue. As a church family we kept her in our prayers. Finally, one Sabbath

morning, Rita turned up at church. She has been coming ever since and has become involved. A regular attendee of Friday evening prayer meetings; joining in the worship group as we take services at homes for the elderly; even attending the young adults' meetings on a Sabbath afternoon. Rita soon integrated into the church family. She has been befriended by several members in particular who have invited her along to their homes. In November last year, we invited her to come with us for a spiritual retreat weekend at Overstrand, near Cromer, where we had as our theme: 'The Centrality of the Cross'. Rita was so grateful for the invitation and expressed her deep-felt appreciation for the weekend retreat and for how much it had blessed her.

Recently, the pastor took several of his members into prison to witness the baptism of a young man with whom he had been studying. Among the group was Rita who wanted to witness a baptism by immersion for the first time. We were to share a baptismal service with those of other faiths. God worked in a remarkable way to turn around a difficult situation, because the baptism had been scheduled for a weekday afternoon when hardly any members would have been able to attend. Then a remarkable thing happened. It was suggested by the lead chaplain that the event take place on the Sunday afternoon, when a team of Adventists from London under the leadership of Pastor Kevin Johns, SEC Prison Ministries director, would be there, and that we Adventists organise and take the whole service. Rita was able to witness this intervention of God and rejoice with us as this young man was baptised and received into the fellowship of our church.

After further Bible studies with Pastor Walker, Rita testified to a packed church of her faith in Jesus as her personal Saviour, as she was baptised on Sabbath 1 May. Among the congregation were some of the people who had attended the evangelistic series themselves, as well



as other interests. At least two other persons indicated their desire to prepare for baptism. Pastor

Emmanuel Osei, Ministerial director for the South England Conference, was our guest speaker for the day.

## Prayer — and fighting?

The saying goes, 'Some things come through much prayer and fasting', but I think I agree more with 'Some things come through tears and fighting!' On Sabbath 13 February, Windsor Street South church had its first ever Teens' Day. Yes, that's right, not Youth Day, not Children's Day; Teens' Day.

The idea first came about in November 2009 because it was felt that the teens in the church are often overlooked. Too old to be classed as children but technically too young to be 'youth', Teens' Day was aimed at those aged 13-16.

Though it seemed the idea would be welcomed and embraced, this was *not* the case. The excuses ranged from 'No one will come,' 'We don't need to have one,' to 'Where are we going to eat?' It became apparent that organising this day would be far from easy.

Many tears, fights and sleepless nights later, after arranging and rearranging the programme multiple times, with acceptances and rejections, the day came. Pastor Eddie Hypolite, SEC Teens' director, agreed to come for the entire day. His words of wisdom and comical anecdotes, as well as his down-to-earth and understanding attitude, enabled him not only to talk to the teens on a perfect level but connect with older and younger members of the congregation, too. He brought the Bible alive with colourful explanations on Ezekiel and the dry bones in a way that showed how we must live intentionally, with a purpose inside to be led by God and to lead others to God.

Looking back, I have to laugh. After all the worrying, we've had not a single ounce of negative feedback yet. It was a tremendous and spiritually uplifting day that was greatly enjoyed by *everybody*. From this day many ideas for outreach have come. Also, many more ideas for programmes geared towards the teens. And we certainly plan to invite Pastor Eddie again!

I honestly now believe that many things come from prayer, fasting, tears and fighting! However, if you believe that it's a God-inspired idea, you'll do everything it takes, no matter the headache or heartache, you'll do it for God.

JERUSHAH JOSEPH-JEFFREY

## Welcome back the Jacksons!

Pastor Richard and Mrs Angela Jackson with their daughter Talitha and son Samuel have been welcomed back to Britain by the Camp Hill Communication team. Exactly two years ago Pastor Jackson was called from a productive pastorate in Wolverhampton to serve as the Executive Secretary of the Turks and Caicos Mission. In the two years spent there, the Mission has seen massive growth and will soon receive Conference status. We welcome the Jackson family back to the West Midlands where Pastor Jackson is ministering at Windsor Street, Newtown and Lozells churches.



## Southend street witness

by SSAPMTEAM (Southend Seventh-day Adventist Personal Ministries Team)

March 27 found the male members of Southend church meeting at both an unaccustomed time and an unusual place: the town centre at six o'clock in the morning. That day saw a landmark in the history of Southend church, namely, the first ever street ministry, complete with public singing, prayer, tract distribution and a sermon from Pastor Terry Messenger, who had kindly agreed to support the event.

But before the centrepieces of the day could be supplied, the hard work had to be completed, and this responsibility fell to the hardy male members, who ventured into the High Street at an hour when even the most hardened shoppers were nowhere in sight and began to put up the gazebo and erect the PA system.

If all this was not enough, the day's organisers, headed by Personal Ministries leader Owen Barclay, were determined to combine the spiritual message with some practical fundraising for ADRA. Accordingly, many members, both young and old, male and female, donned ADRA jackets and badges and started to mingle with the local public, gaining donations and helping those who wished to further their interest in Jesus or Adventism.

However, the heaviest buckets tended to belong to the junior members whose smiling faces were seemingly an effective method of parting people from their money! Many tracts were taken away by interested parties, questions were answered, spiritual and emotional support was provided, and ADRA buckets began to fill up.

And yet, while for so many this was uncharted territory, for one church member it was a very familiar endeavour. Doris Brown, the church's oldest active member, had been handing out tracts in Southend High Street every Thursday for many years prior to this day and had therefore become a well-known sight in the town centre, along with other senior members.

Born in 1915, Doris came into the Seventh-day Adventist Church on 21 December 1946, being brought to the Lord by her rent collector no less (she lived in the same house for over sixty years) and being baptised by Pastor L. Armstrong. From that point onwards she was an unflinching and dedicated servant of Jesus Christ until the day she was taken into his rest on 26 April this year, aged

95. Her dedication was clearly demonstrated by the fact that she was in the High Street handing out tracts on Thursday 22 April and died on 26 April. Every Sabbath would find her taking an active role in Sabbath School (even well into her nineties she always had valuable biblical insights to share), as well as attending divine service and the afternoon programmes, while on Wednesday evenings she faithfully attended prayer meetings. Along with others, she was one of the founding members of the 'Bread of Life' project for feeding the homeless in the local community, a programme that is still in operation. She also was a porteporte for many years, selling Adventist books and magazines throughout the local area. A bike was her mode of transport and remained so, whatever the weather might throw at her or whatever time of the year (or day) it was. She was also a highly successful collector during the annual ingathering campaigns and this year managed to garner £220 for ADRA.

As with all true Christians, Doris's most vivid witnessing for Jesus was not through what she did but, rather, through what she was. Much time can be spent studying the fruits of the Spirit, but any length of encounter with Doris was a much more direct way of grasping what these mean on a



practical, human level. Perhaps most striking of all was her perpetual cheerfulness, a quality she retained throughout, even when old age brought with it physical discomfort. She was always ready with a word of encouragement and never failed to appreciate even the smallest acts of kindness shown towards her. More importantly still, she was ever mindful of what the Lord had done for her. Beloved by church members, she was a particular favourite of the children, for whom she often had small treats. Above all, she demonstrated what it is to live a Christ-centred life, putting Jesus first in everything.



**KERNIEF ALBERT LEWIS (1938-2010) d. 21 November 2009.** Around 500 friends, colleagues and church members from Balham, New Life, Enfield, Wood Green and Willesden gathered with the family to pay their last respects and tributes to Kernief Albert Lewis who died after a five-year battle with prostate cancer. His determination not to let the illness take him resulted in his driving to Willesden church, where he had been a deacon for many years, until he was too weak. In late 2009, he spent more time in the hospital than at home but he did not feel lonely as friends and family daily gathered round his bed to offer him care, support and prayers. His beloved wife Elsa nursed him twenty-four hours a day.

The service was conducted by Pastor S. Roberts, assisted by Pastors M. Holness and K. Thomas on 8 March.

It emerged from the tributes that Brother Lewis, who was Jamaican-born and came to England in 1961, was a good respected man, admired for his sense of dress acquired through his tailoring skills (he started his working life as a tailor). While he could work day and night to get what he wanted he would not cut corners and would not hide away from duty. Above all else he proved to be a man who loved his God, spending time reading his Word. He could be found in the Willesden churchyard reading his Bible at the driving wheel of his car. Brother Lewis was also described as 'a great guy and a good cook'. He is remembered as a model Christian who in good times and bad had encouraged people to smile and when illness and pain became his daily companions, his faculties and faith in Christ remained intact. He is also remembered for his love of singing. He used his gift in the church male quartet. He was often heard singing 'God will take care of you'. These words he held on to until the end.

Kernief Albert Lewis is survived by his wife Elsa, sons David and Peter, daughter Joy and five grandchildren.

MICHELLE Communication department

**ROBERT RAYMOND (RAY) HOWARD (1925-2009) d. 16 December.** Ray Howard was born in Cheddar, Somerset, on 14 April 1925 and, except for his four years in the RAF, lived his whole life in Cheddar. After attending the Grammar School in Wells, Ray went on to pass exams to become a pilot but, on failing his medical with his hearing test, he joined the ground crew based in Germany, where he learned his skills in mechanical engineering. Ray spent most of his working life in engineering, apart from seven and a half years as a rep for Granite Foods. It was during the war years - when Vera moved from Bristol to Cheddar -

that Ray met Vera. Four years later they were married at the Anglican church in Cheddar and the family was made complete with the arrival of their daughter Sarah. In March 2009 Ray and Vera celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

Ray and Vera first came into contact with Seventh-day Adventists at meetings held by Pastor R. H. Bainbridge in Weston-super-Mare, and on 7 November 1965 they were baptised by Pastor F. Stokes in the first baptism to take place at Bristol Lodge Causeway church. In the years that followed Ray faithfully served Weston church in various offices, including church elder, also as a lay preacher and lay evangelist. It was Vera who found a bungalow with a plot of land for sale on which the present church in Weston stands. Ray was very much involved with plans for the building of the church.

Due to ill health Ray and Vera had been unable to attend church for some time but they always had a strong attachment to the church at Weston and an interest in the members and events there.

On 23 December, Pastor Islwyn Rees conducted the funeral service at Weston church. Peter Wells, a close family friend as well as a young boy, gave the eulogy of the man he always knew as 'Uncle Ray'. Pastor Rees pointed out that as a Bible teacher in the church, Ray would have known the wonderful promises being shared of the Second Coming of Jesus and the promise of the resurrection to eternal life. This is not the end, said Pastor Rees: along with Vera and Sarah we are looking forward to a reunion when there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. The service was followed by a committal at Weston Crematorium. Ray now rests, as do all of God's people down through the ages, until Jesus calls him from his sleep at the last day.

As a church family we extend our love and sympathy to Vera and Sarah as they look forward to meeting Ray again on the resurrection morning.

MALVERN REES

**FRANCISCA ADRIANA PALFREY (1923-2009) d. 28 December.** At Gisca Palfrey's funeral on 13 January friends and family bravely braved the severe winter weather to pay tribute to a remarkable and cheerful woman. The reading chosen was 1 Corinthians 13, verses that speak about love, and love being the greatest commandment of all. They were chosen because they characterise Gisca and the way in which she lived her life. She was forgiving, easy-going, independent and strong, bright and

had a great sense of humour; a wonderful wife, mum, grandma, great-grandma and friend to many.

Francisca Adriana Palfrey was born on 16 March 1923 in Holland, the third youngest of twelve children. Her light and loving spirit seemed to mask the reality of a tough childhood: as a young girl she spent a lot of time in hospital with back problems, but in spite of this set-back, and perhaps as a response to it, she grew up to be a plucky and strong young lady. Attending a Catholic school run by strict nuns, she had a reputation of being quite a character. In school, her older sister would sometimes get into trouble and get picked on, but it was Gisca who came to the rescue, fighting her battles for her even though she was small. She wasn't scared of anyone or anything, it seemed.

After this, of course, came the War and occupation by the Germans. It was a tough time for all the family, and even though their food supplies were rationed by the Germans, her brothers always managed to slip into the fields for potatoes. The farmers would turn a blind eye, happy that Dutch potatoes were going to Dutch families and not German soldiers. Like Gisca, the whole family was spirited and met the hardship of the War with resolve and a plucky character.

It was at this time she met her husband-to-be Bernard. Bernard was introduced to a family full of love who shared their rationing with him, and probably some of those potatoes, whenever he was on leave and came to see Gisca. In 1945, they married in Holland. Philip was born there in 1946, and shortly after they came to settle in Wales. Jan was born, Susan being born some time later.

Gisca worked hard all her life and was always giving things away, as well as her time to others. She crocheted and knitted clothes for her children and her grandchildren. She would often spend hours cooking for anyone who wanted.

Despite her hardships, she learnt to overcome her circumstances and showed real character in dealing with life's ups and downs. She couldn't afford clothes, so learnt how to make them, even designing her own knitting patterns. She taught herself English, and even though it was obviously a challenge for her to leave her family and come to the UK, she just seemed to take everything in her stride. She remained independent right up to the end of her 86 years, riding on buses, keeping her garden (she won gardening awards) and taking up painting.

Gisca is going to be missed by all of us, but especially we think of Bernard, her three chil-

dren, Philip, Jan and Sue, as well as her eight grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

JEREMY TREMPER

**CLARISSA AUGUSTINE JONES (19 November 1932-25 February 2010).** 'Who was this woman of God whose love for Christ showed in the smile on her beautiful face?' These words began a tribute sent by Mrs Ruby Morris (her sister in the US). The thanks-giving service for Clarissa A. Jones, held on Tuesday 16 March at West Bromwich church, was conducted by Pastors F. Herbert, R. Morgan and M. Msimanga. The church was full to overflowing with people who had come from near and far to say farewell to a quiet lady who loved Jesus and whose passion in life was to share God's love.

Clarissa Falconer was born in Jamaica into a loving Christian home. She was an intelligent and creative child but sadly her school days were cut short as she had to help her father in cultivating his fields.

Clarissa grew into an attractive young woman. She married the late Ronnie Ranks Jones on 1 March 1960, and shortly after they left Jamaica for a life together in England. There were financial struggles so to help make ends meet Clarissa (as she was known to family and friends) would make hats, sew clothes, cushions, curtains and line coats. Having been unable to complete her education in Jamaica, she attended courses at night schools and colleges in the West Midlands. The subjects she covered were food technology, sugar craft, cake decorating, millinery, painting, flower arranging, sewing, maths, English, computing and piano lessons.

In 1965 work colleague Evadney Nembhard, along with Brothers Allen and Wilson, introduced her to the Adventist Church. With her three young daughters Clarissa began attending Hands-wrong church and on 9 March 1968 was rebaptised as a Seventh-day Adventist.

After many years of prayer and witnessing, it was with great delight that Clarissa was able to see her husband Ronnie accept the Lord as his Saviour.

With all the envelopes, stamps and sellotape Clarissa bought to send tapes, DVDs and magazines to people her local post office would not be threatened with closure, as she kept them in business! Her enthusiasm in witnessing was a shining example to all. Despite being hospitalised twice during the last twelve months, she continued her witnessing and made sure every doctor, nurse and patient on her ward received a tract or DVD.

Clarissa was a faithful member of the West Bromwich church for over forty years. She has left a legacy of witnessing and as a final tribute to her memory over 300 *Reasons of the Heart* DVDs were distributed at her funeral service.

Jeharna South sang a song in tribute, bringing to a close the celebration of the life of a wonderful mother, sister and friend; a life lived in the service of the Lord.

JUANITA CREWFOOT

**GWENDOLINE VICTORIA SAMUELS (1920-2010) d. 30 March.** The funeral service of Gwendoline Victoria Samuels was held on 22 April at the Tottenham West Green Road church. Gwendoline (Gwen to her friends and affectionately known as 'Sister Sam' by her church family) was born on 20 February 1920 in the parish of St Mary, Jamaica. She was the fourth child of seven and she was greatly admired for her determination to make a better life for herself and her family.

Gwendoline was known for her kind heart, generosity and caring nature. To her friends and family she was a true inspiration and illustrated the truth that valuing the essentials in life can lead to fulfilment. This was her approach to all aspects of life - from her diet, friends and family to the most important facet of her life, her relationship with God.

She came to the UK in 1957 and vowed that she would never take another boat trip, so subsequent trips to Jamaica were made by plane. She frequently told her grandchildren about this with some pride. Her taste for ele-



**Dr Cyril Edward Roe (1924-2010) d. 7 April**

Cyril Roe was born 7 November 1924 in Ripley. His early education included two years at a Quaker boarding school, Roundhay High School, and Newbold College with diplomas in Religion and Education. While at Newbold he roomed with George Crutchfield and had not seen him until three or four years ago when he relocated to the same district.

On 7 June 1950, three days after college graduation, Cyril married Joy Cooper and together they began their life work together that would take them to many places around the world. Cyril's first teaching appointment was at Stanborough Secondary School where he taught Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Geography.

In 1953 life took on new meaning for Cyril and Joy when their son Peter David was born. In those post-war days they did not own a car but Peter gained his aptitude for various modes of transportation by riding between their parents on a tandem bicycle with many excursions, including camping in the country with the young people from the Stanborough Park church.

Cyril desired further Adventist education and arrangements were made in 1955 for the family to go to Pacific Union College where Cyril studied and worked in the College boiler building which supplied underground heat to the campus. Cyril also remembered being up on an electric power pole when a California tremor occurred.

Cyril received his BA degree in 1956 but the highlight of that year was the delight the family had when daughter Veritta Joy was born at St Helena Sanatorium.

The following year Cyril received his MA degree in Education and spent the next eight years teaching in the Napa Valley and two years in Las Vegas, where he received a mission call to teach

organised Community Service days at West Bromwich Town Hall and West Bromwich church.

Clarissa was very passionate about witnessing and always kept a supply of leaflets, small books and end-time DVDs which she distributed at any opportunity. She would make phone calls and write letters to family and friends, giving them with words of encouragement and telling them about the love of the Jesus and his soon return.

After many years of prayer and witnessing, it was with great delight that Clarissa was able to see her husband Ronnie accept the Lord as his Saviour.

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Clarissa was a faithful member of the West Bromwich church for over forty years. She has left a legacy of witnessing and as a final tribute to her memory over 300 *Reasons of the Heart* DVDs were distributed at her funeral service.

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gant fashion began with the fur coat that was given to her by her sister prior to her trip to England. She would explain how she would not take this coat off for several weeks because England was so cold. Subsequently she decided that she could no longer tolerate the heat of Jamaica and so would not be returning there in life. There was the essence of Gwendoline Samuels - a woman who adapted to her environment and was never afraid to air her opinions about the situations around her. This made her an amazing person both to converse with and seek advice from.

Gwendoline had two children, Hazel and David. Although both her children passed away (in 1989 and 2008 respectively), their memories lived on in her heart. Gwendoline strove to show her family the importance of valuing and spending time with each other. Along with her biological family, Gwendoline adopted many valuable brothers, sisters, children, nieces and nephews from the church and other walks of life. She was never short of cards on Mother's Day!

In 1975 Gwendoline was baptised into the Seventh-day Adventist Church and became a devout member of Tottenham church on West Green Road. She especially loved watching the Pathfinders and giving sweets to the children at church. She is remembered as being a key missionary in her church, helping with fundraising to establish West Green Road Church and endeavouring to establish a congregation. This is how she met many of her best friends. She pursued a career in the caring profession as a nurse in Hillside Residential Home in Horsely, where she worked until retirement. Gwendoline was a hard worker and would often teach those around her the importance of getting a good job that you love and having a work/life balance.

On 13 February Gwendoline was admitted to hospital and remained there for six weeks, during which time, surrounded by loved ones, she celebrated her 90th birthday. Gwendoline passed away on 30 March at 1pm.

Taken from the eulogy

ANGELA Communication department

**CHRISTINA LOREK (1926-2010) d. 5 April.** After spending the afternoon with the son, and chatting with him on the phone in the morning, my mother suddenly collapsed and died in the Dundee hospital, where she had spent three difficult months. Her health had been failing for a number of years, and the doctors warned that her heart was very weak, yet she surprised them by improving to the extent that we began to hope that she would regain enough health and strength to be

in the Education department at Spicer Memorial College in India.

At Spicer, Cyril started the Geography department at the college and developed interaction with students from all over India, Sri Lanka, Burma, Pakistan, Thailand, Lebanon and Africa. Cyril and Joy also started the first Pathfinder club at Spicer which was further developed by Dr William Jonsson, previous editor of the *Adventist Review*. During their stay at Spicer, Peter and Nita received their education by home study, the elementary school at Salsbury Park, then Vincent Hill School and Far Eastern Academy in Singapore.

In 1972 the family returned to California where they lived in the Napa Valley so Peter could attend PUC and Nita the academy. Cyril attended the University of the Pacific at Stockton to earn his doctoral degree.

In 1976 Cyril received a call to teach in the Education department at Southern Adventist University where he enjoyed teaching and especially loved the interaction with hundreds of students for almost thirty years. One of his students, Sharon Vandevore, is a teacher in the church school here and she has brought her students to listen to Dr Roe relate some of his stories and see some of his 'boys'.

After retirement in 1992, Cyril continued to teach part time at Southern Adventist University until the time came in 2004 when Peter and Nita suggested, with some insistence, that living close to them would be wise as the progression of Parkinson's Disease made some activities difficult. For two or three years Cyril and Joy spent the summers in their camper in Ohio near their children and the winters at Pine Lake Retreat in Florida. In 2006 Cyril and Joy moved to Ormond Beach when Peter and Vanessa were called to Florida Hospital.

Over the past several years Cyril's Parkinson's Disease and macular degeneration progressed to the point where he required total care. Joy was his primary care-giver throughout his time of declining health. She faithfully ministered to his every need and together they made a wonderful team. Despite his handicaps he was able to enjoy life to the end because of her loving companionship and care. During the last six months of his life a hospice provided the support required so that Cyril could remain at home. Until his fall in the last week of his life, Cyril was gaining strength and had even enjoyed an outing to the ocean with the family.

LAVELLE JACOBS

discharged from hospital. Sadly, this was not to be, and she now rests along with my father, her dearly beloved husband, Paul, awaiting the resurrection call of her Lord.

The funeral service was beautifully planned and conducted by local minister, Pastor Marcel Ghioaladi, who spoke to the congregation - some of whom had travelled long distances - of Sister Lorek's modest and retiring nature, her cheerfulness and optimism even in the last difficult days of her life. He also spoke of her hospitality and her faithfulness as a deaconess who regularly visited the elderly and sick to bring encouragement and help, and of a gracious Christian lady, who loved her family and God's creation. Auntie Chrissie, as she was called by her pastor, was always grateful to those who visited her in hospital, for the care of the nursing staff, and in her quiet way touched many lives over nearly eighty-four years of life.

In keeping with her nature she did not want any 'fuss' at her funeral. Nevertheless, in addition to the tribute paid by her minister on behalf of church members, her sister Nora Myles and the writer also gave testimony to her life and the love she shared. Mrs Myles spoke of the great comfort of the arrival of a little sister, named Chrissie, was to her, having lost her older sister just seven months before. Then of their continued closeness over the years, sharing each other's joys and sorrows and, while their temperaments were different, they blended well together. The writer spoke of a loving, caring mother, who always looked after the home to a high standard, ensuring that good meals were always ready on time. She even took up part-time employment as a receptionist and switchboard operator to help pay for my education. Throughout the years she was always interested in, and supportive of, what I was doing.

God has given us a wonderful gift when He blessed us with memory, especially when we experience the loss of a loved one, and then the hope of resurrection and reunion to come. 'Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord.' 1 Thessalonians 4:17, KJV. PASTOR IAN TAYLOR.

The family would like to thank all those who sent cards, telephoned, prayed and all who attended the funeral. Thank you also for the £170 donated to ADRA.

**LILIAN MARY CRUMPTON (née Wooley) (1918-2010).** The West Bromwich church is sad to report the loss of one of its oldest members. Lilian was born on 3 March 1918 at 20

West Bromwich Street, Oldbury. At the age of 5 she was invited by a little girl from next door to attend the Salvation Army in Oldbury. When she came home she would put on a service for her parents. As a result, she led her mother to Christ.

Lilian took ill with pneumonia at a young age but, in answer to prayer, her life was saved. Having survived pneumonia she believed that God had spared her life for a purpose. She left school aged 14 and went to work as a maid in service. It was while later working in a house in Newbury Lane, Oldbury, owned by J. W. D. Pratt's brickyard, that she met Benjamin Crumpton. They united their lives in marriage on 16 April 1938. They celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in April 1998 and received a telegram from the Queen.

Lilian attended some evangelistic meetings in the Oldbury town hall put on by the SDA church. The speaker was Pastor J. P. West, assisted by the young Iron Don Lowe. Lilian was later baptised by Pastor John Bayliss in Handsworth. Later on she gave support to some evangelistic meetings being held in the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, as an usherette. The evangelists were Pastor Ken Lacey and Pastor Tom Bradley.

In the 1960s Pastor George Bell came into the area and was eager to build a church in West Bromwich. At the time Lilian was working for a firm of builders called Jackson and in the providence of God, these became the builders of the West Bromwich church, which was completed in 1971. Lilian helped with fundraising for the church building selling jars of marmalade, buying a chair in the church, and making credit donations.

At the thirtieth anniversary of the opening of the West Bromwich church in 2001, Lilian was one of the honoured guests at the service and was given a plaque in recognition of the work she had done. Lilian also gave support to a church-planting project in Whiteheath during the ministry of Pastor Roy Morgan. At 80, in 1999, she was widowed, but with good support from her family she was able to live in her own home for another ten years. She took ill and spent the best part of three months in the Sandwell Hospital, entering the Warrens' Hall nursing home in February 2009.

She passed peacefully to her rest one month after her 92nd birthday. The funeral service was conducted by her son-in-law, Pastor Barry Stokes. A tribute was given by Ray Augustine from the West Bromwich church. The interment took place in the Rood End cemetery. Now Lilian lies at rest, to await the sure and certain call to life eternal when our Lord returns.

PASTOR BARRY STOKES

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Applications must be by mail or email. Applications cannot be discussed on the phone.





## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Day/March by Colin Stewart, SEC Youth department

We are excited as we are approaching our 4th Annual Youth Rally/March against Crime. For the fourth year running the Adventist Youth Society of the SEC is taking to the streets to impact the community for good. For the first time our major march/rally will take place outside of London. All roads will lead to Bristol on 19 June for 'Bristol Impact'. We will be marching against crime, and the theme for the day will be 'Leading in Your Community'. The morning will be a day of fellowship in the city.

and then lunch will be provided for all – yes, all.

We want to encourage as many people as possible to get involved in a day of sharing our faith and impacting positively those in the Bristol area. Bristol is the second biggest city in the south, outside of London, and, therefore, should be a major centre for outreach. Bristol and Area 2 in general have supported the last three outreach rallies in London, and so now it's time for the whole youth movement to stand side by side with our Area 2 brothers and sisters as we lead out together.

Two home-grown British speakers will address the crowds for the day. At the DOF, ministerial student, Anthony Fuller, will be speaker, and in the afternoon, another ministerial student, Andrew Davis, will address the community. Bristol and the Area 2 youth have led out in the plans for the day, and I believe that this day will be one of the best to date. A hundred and fifty Pathfinders, including some of the best drum corps from the London churches, will be leading the procession, so come and be a part of this Impact Day. Tickets for the DOF can be posted to you. All you have to do is order them from [www.sec4youth.co.uk](http://www.sec4youth.co.uk).

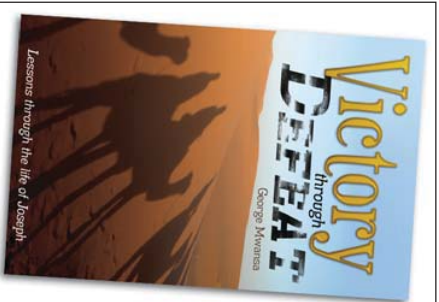
### SEC Day of Fellowship in Bristol

Venue: City Road Baptist Church, Stokes Croft, Bristol, BS2 8TP

Morning Speaker: "Anthony Fuller"  
**10:00am – 1:00pm**  
 Theme: "Leading in your community"  
 Lunch provided for all.

**Impact Bristol:**  
 "The Deaf-Blind/Youth Discussion: 2:30pm  
 "Against Crime, Promote positive lifestyle"  
 Community Outreach Speaker: Andrew Davis :  
**2:30pm – 4:30pm**  
**Bristol Impact:**  
 Town Centre Location: **4:30pm – 6:30pm**  
**Gospel Concert: 9:00 – 9:00pm**

**Contact:**  
[colstewr@sec4youth.org.uk](mailto:colstewr@sec4youth.org.uk)  
[enrypoite@sec4youth.org.uk](mailto:enrypoite@sec4youth.org.uk)  
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<b>July</b> 4 Harper Bell 11 Newbold College	10am-2pm
<b>ABC Shops</b> Watford, BUC 9am-5pm, Monday-Thursdays (Closed for lunch 1pm-1.30pm) 9am-12pm Friday. Closed on Sundays	
<b>Advent Centre</b> Sundays 11am-3pm	

### Messenger

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### Sun set

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by the Science Research Council.

	Land	Coast	Noth	Edin	Bell
Jun 11	9.17	9.29	9.30	9.58	9.59
18	9.21	9.33	9.33	10.02	10.03
25	9.22	9.34	9.35	10.03	10.04
Jul 2	9.21	9.33	9.33	10.01	10.02

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