

# Messenger

News to the churches • 15 April 2011 • Volume 116 • 8



Photos: Victor Hulbert, Bert Smit and Dan Sabatier

November 16, 2008, will be etched on my mind for the rest of my earthly sojourn. 'Your office is on fire' was the message conveyed to me during a meeting in Montenegro. It wasn't April Fools' Day, so the likelihood that it was a practical joke was remote: yet it took me a while to come to terms with the gravity of the message. It was not until a few minutes later, when I saw live pictures of the burning building on-screen in the meeting room, that the enormity of what was unfolding on Stanborough Park registered with me.

Returning home as soon as I could, I met staff members who were shaken but courageous. Their positive attitude was an important factor in helping us as leaders to cope with some of the exigencies that accompanied the disaster.

In a relatively short time we found a building which we decided to use as a temporary office. Working together in an

## Serving the Church Serving the community

**Celebrating the work of the headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles**

open-plan office had an amazingly cohesive effect upon staff, despite the lack of much personal space. However copious the blessings of our wilderness years, we were glad to return to Stanborough Park and to surroundings that were familiar to us. Sunday, 13 March 2011 was a particularly moving experience for me and the rest of the office staff, as we joined our General Conference president and our Division president in dedicating the rebuilt office.

While we are delighted to have a new and pleasant working environment, we must keep reminding ourselves that the building is not an end in itself, but needs to be a place in which the lives of leaders are touched daily by the power of the Spirit: a place in which ideas and plans arise from a dynamic spiritual experience, and a focused understanding of the mission of the Church.

The building symbolises the work to which God has called the Church: from the ruin and destruction of 16 November 2008, there now stands a beautiful edifice that is representative of our heavenly Father. Likewise, God takes broken and sinful lives and transforms them into things of beauty – vessels fit for his use and his Kingdom.

DON W. MCFARLANE, BUC PRESIDENT



# Megapixels of creation

Are you a keen photographer? Then please read on. *MESSENGER* will run a four-part series during the next twelve months entitled *Megapixels of Creation*, offering our photographers the opportunity to have their nature photography published in the magazine.

Whether you are a 'casual snapper' or a 'budding pro', it matters not (and neither does your age). All you need to do is send us your finest-quality nature photos – landscapes, wildlife, cloud formations, close-ups – anything in the UK that you think shows God's creation at its best. Please tell us where your picture was taken, and what equipment you have used. If your submission is really good, it might even appear in our devotional calendar.

This is not a competition, and the only reward will be to see your photography in print!

These are the conditions under which we will receive submissions:

- Only digital submissions will be accepted.

- They must be in the form of high-resolution jpg files.
- Each photo must be accompanied by a separate caption indicating the location and time at which it was taken. (Please avoid digital date-stamping on the photos.)
- By submitting the photo the contributor agrees that The Stanborough Press Ltd may use it in one of the four double-page displays that we have planned for *MESSENGER*, and in any other of our publications, without payment.
- Photos must be submitted to [dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk](mailto:dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk) by these closing dates: spring photos (21 June); summer photos (23 September); autumn photos (21 December); and winter photos (20 March, 2012).

Happy snapping!

DAVID BELL, MESSENGER DESIGNER

## Enhancing Health

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

### Knowing your body – part 2b Adrenal health

In this issue we conclude our focus on the adrenal glands by taking a look at the risk factors and causes of poor adrenal health, and share preventive health practices to improve it.

There has been much debate around the term *adrenal fatigue*. Dr Todd Nippoldt, an endocrinologist at the Mayo Clinic, states: 'Adrenal fatigue is a term applied to a collection of non-specific symptoms, such as body aches, fatigue, nervousness, sleep disturbances and digestive problems . . . but it isn't an accepted medical diagnosis.' Dr Vicky Wade, an associate professor of pharmacology, shares her perspective: 'Although there is increasing physician awareness, many are not familiar with adrenal fatigue as a distinct syndrome.'

Health researchers, however, agree that adrenal fatigue has not been easy to diagnose in the past, as doctors generally look for the extreme signs of adrenal malfunction. For example, when the adrenal glands fail to produce enough cortisol, Addison's disease is diagnosed, and when the glands produce excessive cortisol, Cushing's syndrome results. It is increasingly recognised by health experts, however, that individuals can have a low enough cortisol level to produce the symptoms described in *MESSENGER*, 1 April. These symptoms are linked with poor adrenal health.

Where chronic symptoms persist, adrenal function can be ascertained by taking a cortisol measurement. This can be useful in determining whether a patient may have decreased adrenal function. The investigation involves testing blood levels of cortisol, potassium and sodium.

Most research in this area indicates that the onset of adrenal fatigue, or adrenal exhaustion, as it is often called, occurs because of prolonged stressors like drug use, emotional stress, financial pressures, repeated infections, eating processed foods with high sugar and fat content, smoking, unemployment and a variety of other stressors. It is through experiencing many of these lifestyle events and health challenges over a long period of time that the adrenal glands tend to produce less cortisol. This reduces the body's ability to cope with any level of stress, be it physical or emotional.

#### What can be done?

The following lifestyle modifications can help to fight adrenal fatigue:

- Routinely go to bed early and sleep up to nine hours.
- Exercise in moderation, not in highly competitive events.
- Laugh.
- Power nap or take frequent rests.
- Eat regular, healthy meals.

**Good health!**

## editorial

In the same week that the Chancellor of the Exchequer graciously granted us a penny's respite at the pumps, he announced that the enforcement of the Libyan no-fly zone would cost the UK 'tens of millions of pounds'.<sup>1</sup>

Alex Barker, writing in the *Financial Times*, quoted 'military experts at the Royal United Services Institute' who 'put the cost of the intervention at about £2m-£3m a day'.<sup>2</sup>

#### War may be unavoidable

Yes, it may be unavoidable – especially when innocent Libyan civilians face imminent death in Benghazi. It might be the lesser of two evils when rogue regimes threaten world peace. It could even be the heroic destiny of a nation such as ours, which holds that the basic rights of all men, everywhere, are sacred. But none of that changes the brutal fact that war – justified or not – always leads to incalculable loss.

I respect our servicemen and women, especially those on dangerous tours of duty. I applaud their efforts to bring peace and stability to Iraq, Afghanistan and Libya. And every time Helmand province claims another life, my thoughts go out to those who will personally bear that loss for years to come.

#### My father

My father enlisted in the Royal Durban Light Infantry soon after the outbreak of World War II; sailed by troopship to Egypt; then fought his way to Tobruk, only to be captured by Rommel's Afrika Korps. He buried some of his comrades in the Libyan Desert, and a few more in the POW camps of Poland. He suffered dysentery, malaria, black water fever, frostbite and malnutrition. He worked at bayonet-point in Polish coal mines, and dragged his frozen feet on a three-month-long winter 'death march' that ended in liberation – for those who survived with him!

He will always be my hero for what he did, and the sacrifices he made. But when all is said and done, my father lost six precious years of his life in doing so!

But that is only the brief story of one life's loss. What about the countless who were maimed? What about those who lost their relatives? What about those who did not

survive? According to estimates – no one has definitive figures – some 60 million died during that war, about 20 million soldiers and 40 million civilians.<sup>3</sup> Surely this must qualify as history's most obscene loss of human life – war at its worst!

#### Did someone throw a stone?

Revelation 12:7, 8 breaks the jarring news that not even Heaven was spared the obscenity of violent conflict:

'And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven.' (NIV.)

How did it start? Yes, we know that it began in Lucifer's mind, with delusions of grandeur<sup>4</sup> and an obsessive jealousy of Jesus' role as Creator of this world,<sup>5</sup> but who initiated the violence? Did someone throw a paving stone to spark the conflict? Did the dissenters scream abuse at God and hurl flaming Molotov cocktails at his loyal angels?

#### War in Heaven

We have not been given a detailed enough record of that sad event, so we can't answer my questions. We can claim, however, that the phrase 'war in heaven' is a great and tragic paradox. War is destructive, degrading, dehumanising and utterly wasteful. Heaven, by contrast, is the one place that should be beyond war. It is that place of total peace – that ultimate haven of refuge for sin-weary humans.

Perhaps this explains the decisive manner in which God eventually dealt with this rebellion, once his attempts at reconciliation were spurned. Notice the language used to describe his forceful actions:

'The great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.' (Revelation 12:9, NIV.)

Satan is 'hurled' out of Heaven! He and his angels are swept from the presence of God with force. Conflict does not belong in God's presence!

#### What about war in the Church?

Conflict in the Church is another tragic paradox! In some congregations members practise 'cold' war, aloofly icing out their opposition. In others there are hotbeds of smouldering factional conflict.

Shockingly, I recently heard that some of our members are better at the 'left jab' and the 'round-house right' than they are at humility and anger management. I fear too that some have torn 1 Corinthians 6:1-8 from their Bibles:

'If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?' (Verses 1, 2, NIV.)

In the place of this wise council, we have those ready to engage the services of a good solicitor at the first sign of conflict (or injured ego).

#### Just imagine if we took Jesus seriously

Just imagine what would happen if these **offended, offensive** and **litigious** members took Jesus seriously:

'Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift.' (Matthew 5:23, 24, NIV.)

In Matthew 5, Christ's Sermon on the Mount spells out the principles of his earthly Kingdom. He tells us what he expects his Church to look like, and live like. And there, right in the heart of our mandate, lies his insistence that **reconciliation precedes worship!**

Jesus is saying: 'Take the initiative, reach out to those you have offended – be reconciled to them – and let there be real peace among my people!' Can you hear him?

<sup>1</sup>Libya no-fly zone cost could hit \$1 billion in months: analysts', by David Alexander, Washington, 22 March, *Reuters* (US Edition), [www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com). <sup>2</sup>Bill for Libya war put at tens of millions by UK', by Alex Barker, 22 March, *Financial Times*, [www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com). <sup>3</sup>World War II, casualties and war crimes', Wikipedia, [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org). <sup>4</sup>Isaiah 14: 12-15. <sup>5</sup>Patriarchs and Prophets, by E. G. White, p. 35.



Julian Hibbert  
Editor

## War – cause of incalculable loss





The British Union Conference (BUC) office is the headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles. It is situated in North Watford, Hertfordshire, on acres of beautiful park and woodland known as Stanborough Park.

The BUC office houses the Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC), which is a health and Bible correspondence school, and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA-UK), an independent humanitarian agency established by the Seventh-day Adventist Church for the purpose of individual and community development and disaster relief.

The Adventist Media Centre is also located in the BUC office, as is the BUC Leadership Institute, a training centre for church leaders, and the ABC Bookshop that stocks a wide range of Christian literature for both adults and children, as well as CDs, DVDs and gifts.

At the upper end of the park are Stanborough Secondary School and Stanborough Primary and Nursery Schools, catering for children from 3 to 18 years of age. Next to the BUC office is Stanborough Park Church, with a 700-strong congregation.

BUC STAFF



1. The three presidents (Don McFarlane, BUC/Ted Wilson, GC/Bertil Wiklander, TED).
2. Paul Godfrey (Cosmur Construction).
3. Ted Wilson with Councillor Alan Burtenshaw (Watford).



# The building is a statement

Victor Pilmoor, BUC treasurer

Great cathedrals speak to us about the connection between spiritual symbolism and architecture. Norman L. Koonce suggests that their goal is to make 'transparent the boundary between matter and mind, flesh and the spirit',<sup>1</sup> and Richard Kieckhefer observes that 'entering into a religious building is a metaphor for entering into spiritual relationship'.<sup>2</sup>

Though our headquarters could rightly be seen as 'the seat of a bishop' or other such religious leader, we intend no such grandeur. For many years we have operated a *cloister-missionary* model, where church leaders do their reflective work in small offices, then emerge to distribute and proclaim their findings in print or public speech. Under this model, while the building might be expected to be congenial to spiritual thought, its presence had little representational value.

In an image- and media-driven century one expects things to be different. Both the Church and the greater public expect to be able to come into the cloister, both virtually and in person. Our space, in this new building, therefore adopts the dynamic of a **college** and **studio** rather than a **production centre**. Our



book centre now becomes a treasure trove of discovery rather than a supply point, and our communication systems have a global reach far beyond the rounds of the local postman and the parochial over-the-desk chat. Committee rooms are centres of conversation and learning rather than parlaments of power.

The devastating fire of 2008 gave us the opportunity to reflect on these values and to build with the future in mind.

Our first concern was to establish a sense of connection and transparency with the passing public. We felt it important that real people see church leaders in a work-a-day context, and essential that we reflect beyond the spiritual aura to the needs of people hustling and bustling through life. To this end we oriented our southern face to the street to make our presence 'un-missable'. Our reach is around us.

Secondly, we wanted the profile of the building to say, 'Look up'; to this end the bricks, windows and sun filters are mostly vertical. We want to remind people that there is 'One' who is above.

In contrast to those who separate the spiritual from the corporeal, the Advent faith is about the harmonious development of the whole person. Our object is to be rounded in character, belief and destiny. We speak of perfection as a process that removes the 'rough edges', and as such we aspired to project roundedness throughout the construction.

As a moving people, our journey begun in Eden, a place of labour, beauty and rest, leads to our destiny in the earth-made-new. While our campus will never match such serenity, we wish for our public to be reminded of the wonder of creation and the timelessness of eternity. Our boundaries have been adjusted to invite people to capture our view, to see what we see.

To change the building has had its challenges, short-term as they were: to be changed ourselves first, then to offer that invitation and inspiration to others, is the work that remains to be done.

<sup>1</sup>'Erasing the Boundary Between the Physical and the Spiritual', *The AIA Journal of Architecture*, January 2006. <sup>2</sup>*Theology in Stone: Church Architecture from Byzantium to Berkeley*.







## History of the British Union Conference headquarters

by Brian Phillips

Since the beginning of our work in the British Isles in the 1870s, the headquarters has played an important role in co-ordinating the Church's progress.

The first headquarters, of what was then the British Mission of Seventh-day Adventists, was in a property called Ravenswood, Shirley Road, Freemantle, in Southampton 1. It had a hall that seated 200, and fifteen additional small rooms. Extraordinary work was done by John Loughborough and his helpers from this building; in particular, the production and distribution of Christian literature. When he returned to the United States in 1884, the headquarters and the printing press moved to Heneage Road in Grimsby 2.

After just three years the headquarters and the printing facilities were moved to the Holloway Road area of North London, where they remained for twenty years. In that area of North London the embryo of a ministerial training college was to develop at Duncombe Hall 3 and Manor Gardens.

Through the work of A. A. John in Grimsby, Ulceby and Wales, William Hutchinson in Ireland, and others like Judson Washburn, public evangelistic services brought in many new members. Literature distribution by new converts in Bath, Southampton, Cardiff, Swansea and Balham (South London) led to many new members in those areas.

The growth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the first twenty-five years encouraged the leaders to renew their search for a site on which to build the necessary institutions for the advancement of God's work. They purchased the Cottrell Estate in Watford, Stanborough Park 4, in 1906, and established

a health food factory, a printing press, a college for the training of ministers, a farm and a sanatorium. Overlooked until 1922, however, was the provision of a building to accommodate the headquarters' staff.

In 1901 the world-wide Adventist Church was reorganised and, in 1902, the British Isles were divided into these territories: North and South England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. For a year, however, due to the opposition of a group of members led by E. J. Waggoner, editor of *The Missionary Worker*, the Church was without a recognised organisational structure. Then, at a conference in Southsea in 1903, it was agreed to follow the organisational structure set up for the Church by the General Conference in 1901, and the British Union Conference was born.

The British Union Conference became the umbrella organisation for the North and South England Conferences and had direct supervision of the three missions in Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Since that time and throughout the various changes in territories, this pattern of governance has remained. Through the decades a number of institutions have also been under the direct supervision of the British Union. Up until 1923, the mission work in East and West Africa was administered by the British Union Committee. Through the inter-war years many British-trained ministers have worked in Africa, as well as other locations of the world.

After the First World War there were many changes to the territorial boundaries of conferences and missions. The college, despite the financial difficulties of the Depression, moved north to Newbold Revel, near Rugby,

in 1931, where a 400-acre estate replaced the facilities lost through the sale of two thirds of Stanborough Park. Eventually, it was moved south after the Second World War to Binfield, near Bracknell, in Berkshire. It was not the only institution to move away, or disappear, from Stanborough Park.

The printing press caught fire on 3 January 1964 and, two years later, The Stanborough Press Ltd recommenced work in Grantham, Lincolnshire. The sanatorium closed on 31 August 1968 and was eventually demolished; and the denominationally owned food company, Granose, moved north to Northamptonshire and was sold in 1990. There was also growth, however, when in 1991 on 14 November the new Stanborough Secondary School building was opened.

When provision was made for the headquarters in 1922, it soon became apparent that the increasing number of departments would not fit into the small building. The situation grew worse after the Second World War, when studios and offices were needed for the Bible Correspondence School in 1947, under Pastor J. A. McMillan. It was only when McMillan became president of the British Union in 1961 that all the departments were housed under one roof.

Today, we are blessed to have a rejuvenated headquarters building, one of which our members, the BUC staff and the surrounding community may be proud. We trust that God will bless the work that takes place in this building.

## Interview with the GC president

The General Conference president, Pastor Ted Wilson, granted *MESSENGER* this exclusive interview during his recent visit to the UK.



Pastor Wilson illustrating a sermon point.

**Editor:** Pastor Wilson, please tell our readers a bit more about Ted.

**Pastor Wilson:** Julian, it is good to see you again in this new role as *MESSENGER* editor. I grew up in Cairo, Egypt, where my parents were missionaries for about fourteen years. I still consider, in many ways, that the Middle East is my 'home'. There are many wonderful people in that important region of the world, and we need to share this precious Advent message with them.

After that we moved back to the US where I attended Washington Adventist University, the seminary at Andrews University, and the School of Public Health at Loma Linda University.

From there I worked as a pastor in New York, and then as a full-time urban evangelist in the same city, before . . .

**Editor:** Pastor Wilson, sorry to interrupt, but surely, somewhere in all of that work, there must have been time for a little romance.

**Pastor Wilson:** Yes! You are right. I met my wonderful wife, Nancy, who is a physiotherapist, while we were at Loma Linda together.

And we have three happily married daughters, and four wonderful grandchildren, with

another to arrive any moment! We praise the Lord for our children and their husbands, and their love for Jesus, his precious Church, and its mission.

**Editor:** Thanks for that little glimpse into your family life. You were telling our readers about your employment history before I interrupted you.

**Pastor Wilson:** After New York we served for about nine years in the Africa-Indian Ocean Division, based in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire. That was followed by a stint in the General Conference Office of Secretariat, then three years in Moscow for the Euro-Asia Division. After that I spent time at the Review and Herald Publishing Association, and most recently – for the last ten years – back at the General Conference.

**Editor:** I know that your job, as chief executive officer of our world Church, is run to a gruelling schedule, but do you ever get time to 'chill'? And if so, what do you do?

**Pastor Wilson:** Yes, Julian, the pace of work and travel is hectic. When I do get some time off, which, unfortunately, is not often these days, I enjoy hiking, mountain climbing, biking, garden work, carpentry, and home repairs. I have purposely planned

some time for hiking in the next few months. If I don't carve out the time, it won't happen.

**Editor:** Those who have listened to you speak will know that you have a passion for mission and revival. Speak to us about these things, please.

**Pastor Wilson:** I believe that God has called the Seventh-day Adventist Church to a unique proclamation of the three angels' messages. We know that we are living in the last days of Earth's history and that Christ is coming soon. What an opportunity to allow the Holy Spirit to use each of us in a powerful witness for him as we lift up Christ; his life, death, resurrection; his current intercession as our High Priest in the heavenly Sanctuary; and his soon return. This is our mission!

Regarding the question of revival, let me quote from *Selected Messages*, Book 1, page 121, which says: 'A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. . . . A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer.' As we participate in the Church's 'Tell the World' initiative, we need to realise that little will be achieved without the Holy Spirit's power. We cannot produce revival and reformation; that is the work of the Holy Spirit – but we can pray for it!

**Editor:** Capture briefly for our readers the essence of Adventism as you see it.

**Pastor Wilson:** Firstly, the Word of God should form the foundation of our beliefs and our Christian practice. And as we lift up his Word, we should also use the wonderful gift of the Spirit of Prophecy to deepen our understanding of Scripture.

Secondly, Christ is our all in all. Therefore it is imperative that

we lean on Jesus every day, in everything! To know Christ personally, and daily accept his robe of justifying righteousness, and the Holy Spirit's sanctifying power, is crucial for every Seventh-day Adventist.

Thirdly, we have a unique message to share with the world – that of the three angels of Revelation 14, with all that it embraces, including the creatorship of Christ and the Sabbath truth.

And then there is the blessed hope of Christ's return. I recently lost my precious 90-year-old father. He was a strong church leader, a wonderful father, and one of my best friends. I miss him, but I know that the separation will not be for long. Jesus is coming again, and that is good news for this death- and disaster-weary world!

**Editor:** Finally, is there anything that rises above all else in your theological understanding?

**Pastor Wilson:** Yes Julian, there is. It is so important that we lift up Jesus in all that we do – in our words and actions.

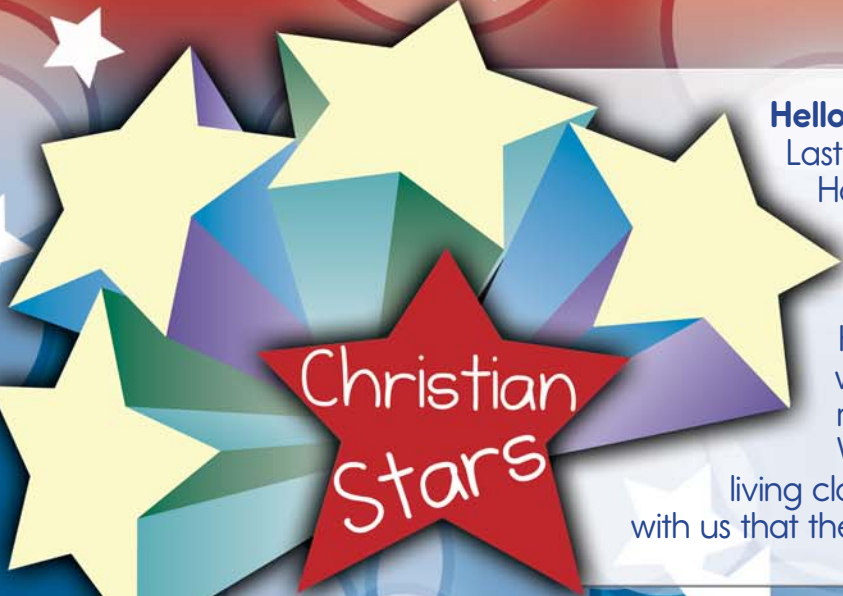
Christ, and his righteousness, is to be the focal point of our lives, and of our witness to others. The righteousness of Christ is our salvation! When we accept Christ, we accept his justification, which covers us with his gracious robe of righteousness.

When we accept this righteousness, we also accept Christ's sanctifying power at work through the Holy Spirit. We let him make us more and more like Jesus each day. Our responsibility is to be humble and teachable, allowing the Holy Spirit to work in our lives.

**Editor:** Mr President, thank you for your frank and open response to these questions. Please accept the prayers and support of our BUC members for your challenging work.







**Hello Christian Stars!**

Last month's activities reminded us that the Holy Spirit helps us in every part of our lives. In this edition we will begin to look at each of the fruits of the Spirit. When we promise to follow Jesus the Holy Spirit comes to live in our hearts and we receive the fruits as gifts. The fruits are really virtues or qualities of God's nature. We can't grow the fruits ourselves. It is by living close to Jesus and allowing him to interact with us that the fruits will develop and grow.

**Unravel the clues to find the text where the fruits of the Spirit or virtues are listed in the Bible**

1. I am in the ninth book of the New Testament
2. Find the smallest three-digit number possible
3. Subtract 50
4. Divide by 10  I am chapter:
5. Now find the verses: Find the largest three-digit number possible
6. Subtract 899
7. Divide by 4
8. Subtract 3  I am verse:  and add 1, verse:

Look up the text to find out what the nine fruits of the Spirit are. Write them in the spaces:

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<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>



**Spot the differences:**

There are ten differences between the two pictures – can you find them all?

see page 16 for answers

**Unravel these clues to find which fruit we are looking at this month**

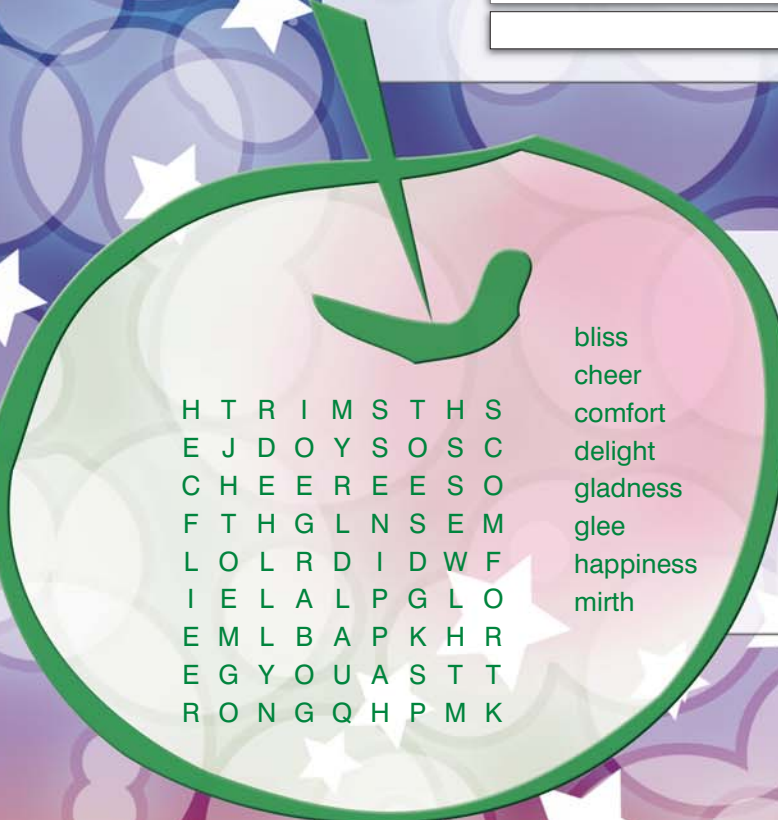
I have three letters,  
My second letter is the fourth vowel of the alphabet,  
I am the second fruit in the list in Galatians,  
I am the fruit of the Spirit called:

**JOY**

When someone we love dies, we feel sad. Jesus knew we would feel this way and promised the Holy Spirit would give us the gift of joy. We can start to change our sad thoughts by asking God to give us joy.

- J
- O
- Y

At Easter we can thank God that Jesus promised to give eternal life to Others, and that includes Yourself too. Till next time, have a blessed Easter!



H T R I M S T H S  
E J D O Y S O S C  
C H E E R E E S O  
F T H G L N S E M  
L O L R D I D W F  
I E L A L P G L O  
E M L B A P K H R  
E G Y O U A S T T  
R O N G Q H P M K

- bliss
- cheer
- comfort
- delight
- gladness
- glee
- happiness
- mirth

**Wordsearch**

See how quickly you can find the eight words in the 'Joy family' wordsearch, and then find the hidden text about joy in Nehemiah 8:10. Write it down in the space and try to memorise it:

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<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>





## the Berean column

with Andrew Puckering

### Staying alive

Young Josiah was only 8 when he became king (2 Chronicles 34:1) – his father Amon was an evil man who reigned only two years before he was murdered by his own servants (2 Chronicles 33:21-25), and his grandfather Manasseh did even more evil than the nations surrounding Judah; worshipping idols, burning his children, turning to the dark arts of sorcery and witchcraft, and filling Jerusalem with the blood of innocents (2 Chronicles 33:1-9; 2 Kings 21:16).

All this makes it pleasantly surprising that Josiah did what was right in the sight of the LORD (2 Kings 22:1, 2)! But by the end of his grandfather Manasseh's reign (when Josiah would have been about 6), his grandfather had repented of all his evil (2 Chronicles 33:10-20), and the memory of this may have compelled Josiah to seek God in the eighth year of his reign, when he was about 16 (2 Chronicles 34:3). From the thirteenth year of his reign onward, Jeremiah began to preach (Jeremiah 1:1, 2), and five years later Josiah gave orders to repair the Temple (2 Chronicles 34:8).

So young Josiah was shaping up very well! But after finding out from long-lost Scriptures just how badly his fathers had sinned, he started to panic (2 Chronicles 34:15-19) – had Judah gone past the point of no return? He sent a delegation to Huldah the prophetess to find out: and she had bad news. Josiah's reforms couldn't purge the evil that Judah had become, and the country would be wiped out (2 Chronicles 34:20-25). But – and this is crucial – because Josiah himself was repentant on behalf of his people, his country would be alright while he was still alive (2 Chronicles 34:26-28).

Judah would be OK while Josiah lived – it would, therefore, have been phenomenally stupid of him to risk his life in a pointless battle with a neighbouring superpower, right?

Well . . . that's exactly what happened next (2 Kings 23:28-30). Pharaoh Necho was passing by on his way to Carchemish, minding his own business, when Josiah charged right at him (2 Chronicles 35:20)! Necho pleaded with him to stop, saying he was on a mission from God, but Josiah wouldn't listen, ploughed right in regardless, and was fatally wounded in the process (2 Chronicles 35:21-24). He had reigned for thirty-one years (2 Chronicles 34:1), so his death came at the tragically young age of 39.

But the story doesn't end there – Pharaoh Necho took time out to replace the following king of Judah with another of Josiah's sons, Jehoiakim (2 Chronicles 36:2-4), who ended up resisting God's message (Jeremiah 36:27, 28). Furthermore, Necho had been on his way to Carchemish (2 Chronicles 35:20), ' . . . to the aid of the king of Assyria' (2 Kings 23:29, NKJV).<sup>1</sup> Who did this alliance eventually face at Carchemish? None other than King Nebuchadnezzar at the head of the Babylonian army (Jeremiah 46:1-12) – the very force that was going to crush Judah (2 Chronicles 36:5-21).

If Josiah hadn't charged at Necho's army, would Necho have fared better against Nebuchadnezzar at Carchemish? That might have bought Judah another few decades of peace under a long-lived King Josiah, in accordance with the word of the LORD. And would Judah's end have been more bearable if Jehoiakim hadn't become king? The full extent of the damage caused by Josiah's rash, impulsive, stubborn act of aggression may never be known.

- What feast did Josiah keep after the Temple had been restored?
- How many feasts like this had been held since Samuel's time?
- Who mourned for Josiah?
- Who was deposed by Pharaoh Necho, and for how long did he reign?
- Who found the book of the law? And who was his son? (Jeremiah 1)

<sup>1</sup>Translations differ, but even the translations that say Necho was going 'against' Assyria (KJV) needn't imply he was warring against it – see 1 Samuel 9:14, KJV.

## news



### Welling Super Eight

On Sabbath 13 November 2010, members and friends at Greenwich Church witnessed the baptism of eight people by Pastor Johns. The service was conducted by Pastor Des Boldeau, and the baptismal vows were read by Elder E. Samuel.

Dimples Pitter was the first candidate to be baptised, followed by Michael Mazura, mother and sons, Liz, Sasha and Xavier Pickart – a very emotional moment for Liz – then brothers Jessie and Christian Samuel, sons of Elder Allan and Ishbel Samuel, and Aaron Johns, son of Pastor and Margaret Johns. Pastor Johns said it gave him great pleasure to baptise his son.

The 'super eight' were then officially accepted as members of the church.

BETHENE WITTER WHITE

### Celebration in Fulham

On Sabbath afternoon, 12 February, Fulham church members welcomed their new sister in Christ – Ethlyn Brathwaite.

A dream had revealed to her that she would meet a woman who lived near a river. The dream did actually come true, and it was this woman who introduced Ethlyn to our church family in Fulham. Two of our Bible workers, Lydia and Andrew, studied the Bible with her, and she was baptised by the Fulham pastor, Michael Mannix.

Previously, Ethlyn had been attending churches of different faiths, and at times was welcomed and accepted, but she felt that something was missing. She says that she always 'felt like an orphan'. At night she was restless and could not sleep, but now she has found peace.

DEBORAH EARLE



### Couples' night at Hemel Hempstead

On 19 February, Hemel Hempstead's Social committee organised a couples' night. However, all singles were welcome to come – as long as they dressed up! We were privileged to have 'Nelson Mandela' and his wife with us, and also 'Posh and Becks'. 'Ozzie Osborne' was another character who joined us.

JOHN BUTTERS



### Norwich praise

On Sabbath 19 February, following visits from Grace and the Southern Male Voice Choir the preceding week, Pastor Terry Messenger came to the Norwich church with the Gospel Arts Choir, which performed a number of songs. Lunch was served before an afternoon programme on evangelism, in which Pastor Messenger outlined preparations for Relay 2012.

WENDY GRADY



### Sabbath School leaders' retreat

About seventy Sabbath School leaders from the South England Conference converged over 11-13 February for a retreat entitled, 'Looking Forwards and Upwards'. Throughout the weekend, Dr Michael Hamilton encouraged attendees to take the initiative and also to promote bridge-building and reconciliation. Faith Crumbly, editor of the LEAD Sabbath School magazine, emphasised that teaching should be relevant, fun, interactive and exciting.

TERRY MESSENGER





## Stanborough School students teach in India

Eleven pupils and two teachers left for subtropical India on 20 February to teach at the primary school in BESSO Children's Home for two weeks. The Year-10 and Year-12 pupils from Stanborough School had been preparing to teach the BESSO students since December.

This was a new experience for these pupil teachers. Some seemed nervous, but others slipped into it seamlessly. One said, 'It was a nerve-racking experience because I had never taught anyone before, but the kids were really responsive. They were very polite, especially as they called me "Uncle". It made me feel really welcome.' It was interesting for the staff to observe how they were developing into budding teachers!

The BESSO pupils were thrilled to have 'teachers' from England. The little children began to bond with the volunteers, and responded to their teaching enthusiastically. Every day the delivery was more enjoyable, committed and passionate than

the day before.

Philip Hussey (Year 10) was the Chief Guest, and Nhimba Mwinga (Year 12) was the Special Guest. Both gave confident speeches. Wook Hwan Bae (Year 12) was given the Best Teacher award, and Olajide Olatunji, Naomi Thelwell, Amber Best, Nhimba Mwinga, Philip Hussey and Wenyan Bi were highly commended for their teaching.

One Year-12 student said, 'God has a crazy way to show his power. When I failed my A-Levels last year, I basically thought it was the end of my life. . . . Coming to Stanborough has quite possibly been the best thing to happen to me. And my visit to India has been the most inspirational time of my life. . . . God will always make a way.'

If you would like to know more about the International Baccalaureate Diploma course at Stanborough School, call the registrar on: 01923 673268. God always makes a way.

KISH PODDAR, ASSISTANT HEAD



## 'Living the Evangelistic Life'

by Terry Messenger

The Personal Ministries leaders' retreat, 'Living the Evangelistic Life' (28-30 January at the King's Park Conference Centre), showed that evangelism isn't simply an event but a way of life. This is the concept behind Relay 2012, during which reaping evangelistic events will be run by all districts and churches in that Olympic year. This year is the preparation

year, with training and sowing events taking place.

Pastor David Klinedinst, resident evangelist in St Louis, Iowa Conference, USA, led out during the weekend. Based on John 4, David stated how the fields are ripe for harvest: there are many people in our communities who are ready to hear about Jesus. It is important to make friends with

the unchurched, to not give too much spiritual information all at once, to listen and be a genuine friend, and to speak about Jesus

whenever we have the opportunity; also to visit people in their homes and to visit the sick, and to share the Bible effectively.



## 'Know Your Future' in Swindon

Justin Cockett

Swindon members began outreach activity at the beginning of March in the town centre, and all church members are reporting the same – it's going much better than they thought possible! The mission was to answer the town's questions by showing them God's Word. Under the theme of 'Know Your Future', members are going out in groups of three and meeting people from the whole spectrum of society – young and old, rich and poor, Christian and non-Christian. Almost all the time is spent simply talking to people – their problems in life, their questions about God – and these discussions can carry on for thirty minutes or more! Then, after these discussions, we send them away with literature and DVDs personally suited to them.

They came, and they kept coming. Last week, an estimated fifty people came. 'I was particularly surprised by how many young people stopped to talk', said one outreach member. One passer-by said the professional-looking stand had encouraged him to stop.

We thank 'InSwindon' for permission for the programme's current eleven-week run, and praise God for touching the hearts of so many of the people of Swindon. We ask that you pray for this programme.



## Assisting London Ghana's witness to Muslims

Rubina F. Arthur

On Sabbath 22 January, Pastor Petras Bahadur, the SEC co-ordinator of Adventist-Muslim relations, shared with the London Ghana church a message that 'The children of Ishmael must come', delivering a series of biblical texts that look at the role of all Abraham's children. Pastor Bahadur (the associate director for the Adventist-Muslim relations of the General Conference) voiced concerns about the lack of people with Islamic origins in the Adventist Church, saying Adventists must fulfil their prophetic role.

Pastor Bahadur said we should think about sharing the love of Jesus in more practical ways, such as giving and helping the needy, and that we should have an understanding of the Quran when talking to Muslims. He said, 'There are many things in the Quran which can be found in the Bible, and we must demonstrate our knowledge about these rather than hurrying to preach.' His last two points focused on cultural habits and hospitality, and learning to ask spiritual questions rather than rambling on. He argues, 'This will show that we are interested in them, and not just showing off'.

According to the 2001 census, a quarter of the population of the London Borough of Newham, the area where the London Ghana church is situated, is Muslim.

## One church, double the witness

A Church of Scotland in the Faifley area of Clydebank, Scotland, has doubled its witness by welcoming Seventh-day Adventists to use its premises each Saturday. The inaugural Sabbath worship took place on 29 January. Rev. McIntyre recalled that when he received the request he said, 'As soon as we learnt that you were seeking to share the love of Jesus, the decision to allow for our church to be used by you became very easy.'

The Faifley church plant grew out of families who started meeting in their homes. The first appointed leader was just 16 years old: she was assisted by adults under the leadership of Glasgow minister Clifford Herman and his colleague David Hatch from East Kilbride and Irvine.

A video celebrating the day, along with a selection of photos, can be seen on the BUC Picture Gallery.

BUC NEWS

## Paisley pattern for church growth

In 2006 a group of members led by Pastor David Hatch were encouraged to form small groups and meet in their local area to plant a church, in accordance with the Glasgow church's mission statement: 'We are Christians with a mission to share this faith by constantly seeking to serve the needs of our community.'

This initiative was rewarded on Sabbath, 5 February 2011, when the upper room of the Christian Growth Centre in Paisley, Glasgow, witnessed the formation of the second Adventist company in just two weeks! Young people were involved in every service of the day, which thrilled all present, including the Scottish Mission president, Pastor Bernie Holford.

PAISLEY COMMUNICATION TEAM



**PRAISE & THANKSGIVING DAY**  
11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."*  
(Psalm 100:4 KJV)

**Saturday 23rd April, 2011**

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

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

LET'S STUDY TOGETHER (9:30AM)  
SABBATH SCHOOL

LET'S WORSHIP TOGETHER  
SPECIAL SPEAKER PASTOR RAY PATRICK

LET'S FEAST TOGETHER (1:00PM)  
LUNCH PROVIDED

LET'S PRAISE TOGETHER (3:30PM)  
EVENING OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING IN CONCERT

SPONSORED BY  
THE BUILDING FUND COMMITTEE OF THE  
STONEBRIDGE COMMUNITY SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTIST CHURCH

PASTOR RAY PATRICK





## Sheffield Manor Pathfinders sent packing!

On a Sunday in March, eighteen Pathfinders and Adventurers led by Mrs Marlene Lee of the Sheffield Manor church spent four hours helping customers pack their shopping, raising an incredible £500. Many commented on their courtesy and helpfulness, and we are very proud of them.

ANDREW YESUDIAN

## Charity fundraising in Wolverhampton

On Sabbath 29 January, the Great Brickkiln Street church presented a cheque for £100 to the local Sheltered Refuge Centre in Wolverhampton, to provide for the underprivileged at the Haven Centre.

The money was raised through collections during an evening of praise. Melanie, a manager at the refuge centre, has attended the church several times.

DELVA CAMPBELL



Left to right: L. McIntosh, Melanie and Sonia.

## BUC treasurer speaks on trust

Victor Pilmoor, treasurer of the British Union Conference, gave a Diversity lecture on trust at Newbold College on Tuesday evening, 8 March.

Pilmoor had originally begun to think seriously about trust when he read the work of Francis Fukuyama, who observed the high correlation between

prosperity and high-trust cultures. He counted the cost to the Church when highly qualified and competent people are not transparent and not trusted. 'When people trust each other, accountability becomes voluntary', he said.

Sense of humour and good conversation are central to the business of trust, Pilmoor emphasised.

He finished by encouraging

## Older Persons' Health strategy launched

Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health and Disability Ministries director

Sabbath 5 March saw the launch of the Older Persons' Health strategy at the Brixton church. The BUC Health Ministries director offered ten copies of *The Little Book of Health for Seniors* and the accompanying leaflet, *Embracing Ageing*, to members who will be trained to support older adults in the areas of emotional, physical, spiritual and social wellbeing. The strategy aims to recognise the need to respect and care for the older members among us, and seeks to raise awareness about age-related wellbeing. A Needs Assessment document will guide health leaders to deliver support to vulnerable older adults. Training events and workshops will also be delivered. The Brixton church has run a senior citizens' club intermittently for more than twenty-five years; it currently runs a weekly club for older adults which is attended by an average of more than forty seniors each week. Lyn Thomas's voluntary work with elderly clients has spanned forty-two years, for which she has won an award from Contact The Elderly, a charitable organisation for the elderly.

**REVIVE**  
North & South England Conference  
joint  
camp meeting  
2011  
Guest Speaker Pastor Henry Wright  
of Community Praise Centre, Alexandria SDA Church, USA  
13th-19th June  
Pontins, Prestatyn Sands Holiday Centre, Barkby Avenue,  
Prestatyn, Denbighshire, North Wales, LL19 7LA

Adventists to make contact with the wider world rather than withdraw from it. 'Is our theology driving us to an unwarranted fear of government, of people who believe differently, of the wider society?' he asked. 'Do not tell me that you care about your

neighbours when you go around frightening and being frightened of them. We need to develop our capacity to engage in the wider world.' The lecture is now available to watch online at: <http://vimeo.com/20828184>.

HELEN PEARSON

## Churches change address

An astonishing number of churches have moved home recently, including Corby (now at the Beanfield Community Centre, Beanfield Avenue, Corby, NN18 0AX), Edmonton Central (temporarily at the Boundary Hall Community Centre, Snell Park, Upper Edmonton, London, N18 2SY), Great Barr (St Paul's Lower Church Hall, 824 Walsall Road, Great Barr, Birmingham, B42 1ES) and Amersham (Coleshill Village Hall, Barrack Hill, Coleshill, Amersham, HP7 0LN). To keep up to date, visit the BUC Churches web page at <http://www.adventistchurches.org>.uk, download the POI for your satnav or check out the iPhone app.

Make sure you make it to

church next Sabbath, not to an empty building!  
BUC NEWS

### Vacancy: Administrative secretary

An exciting and demanding role requiring good secretarial skills, office experience and commitment to the Church's mission. The successful applicant will be well organised, flexible, able to work under pressure and handle confidential material.

Responsibilities include routine secretarial/data-entry tasks associated with the work of the BUC secretariat, and the preparation of reports and workshop/seminar materials requiring competency in the Microsoft Office suite of software applications. Regular denominational employment policies apply. Salary: £20-22.9k. Closing date for applications: 30 May, 2011.

For a job description and application form, write to: Eric Lowe, Executive Secretary, British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Stanborough Park, Watford, Herts, WD25 9JZ. Email: [elowe@adventist.org.uk](mailto:elowe@adventist.org.uk).



## Polish day of fellowship

On Sabbath 5 February the Leeds Central church was blessed with services led by Poles from Scotland, Darlington, Newbold and Leeds. Divine Service was led by Pastor Mariusz Adamczyk, who is currently studying at Newbold College. The services were conducted in Polish and English. The children presented a wonderful item, 'God gave us hands'. The afternoon programme examined anger in the family.

V. MAYNARD

## Merseyside District day of fellowship

On 5 February the Merseyside District held its annual day of fellowship at St Hilda's Church of England School in Sefton Park. Throughout the day all services were led by the youth with spiritual maturity and gravity.

The main service involved Pastor and Mrs Don McFarlane. Pastor McFarlane, the BUC president, also ordained deacons from the Liverpool Stoneycroft church (Pritchard Sibanda, Thembelihle Moyo, Vasilii Kubwalo, Ngqabutho Moyo and Romel Ricarte); Manuel Lorenzo was ordained as an elder for the Liverpool Central church.

Pastor McFarlane highlighted the need for unity through the Holy Spirit in the afternoon.

The Merseyside District thanks St Hilda's School for hosting the event.

MERLINO MOYO



# obituary



**Eric Holden (1921-2010) d. 5 December**

Those who knew and loved Eric knew that catch-phrases personified him; we

remember such phrases as 'Basic instructions before leaving Earth', 'Astronaut in training', 'Behave yourself', and 'Born twice, died twice, to live twice'. Although an elder, Eric Holden preferred to be called 'Brother', for that is who he was to his fellow believers.

Eric Holden, a member of Scunthorpe Church – an elder, father, dad, friend, neighbour, colleague, brother and co-labourer with Christ – was a keen Bible student, as evidenced by the books his family kindly donated to the church. Did he have foibles? Yes; maybe that is why he said he was growing daily in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Pastor R. V. Edwards said during the eulogy that Eric was 'intensely honest in spirit and true in action; his deeds matched his words. He was a man of firm conviction, and lived his faith: a man of integrity and truth. He was a great character and a true friend.'

He will be missed by his families, biological and in Christ; the many people he met in his lifetime; and several churches which he helped to build, knocking on doors, sharing the message of Jesus. As he would have said, 'Repetition deepens impression'.

Brother Eric is survived by a sister (Joyce Macmin), Kathleen and Brian, Mark and Mary Sabina, ten grandchildren (Michelle, John, Aaron, Kily, Liam, Duane, Byron, Sophie, Chloe and Mitzi-lea) and two great-grandchildren (Molly and Orlando) – we look forward to seeing him again at the Resurrection.

HUBERT SMITH-SAMUELS

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