Sunday 14 July was possibly the first real day of summer this year and an appropriate date for the All London Sports Day. This annual event was organised and hosted by the Sports Committee of the London Youth Federation and the Youth department of the South England Conference.

In charge of the event was Roz Parsons, a PE teacher from the Walthamstow church, and her team of experienced and skilled volunteers. Roz has planned this event with each Youth director for the past twenty years. Her organisational skills are second to none.

Teams from the London churches participated enthusiastically in the day and were supported by at least 1,400 teaching and administrative staff, Pastor Eddie Hypolite, the school chaplain, and Mr Keith Davidson, Education director of the BUC, as well as parents, friends and school governors.

The South England Conference wishes the Year-11 pupils all the best in their future lives. We hope and trust that, in accordance with the day’s theme, they will be successful and accomplish their dreams.

On Sabbath 13 July the John Loughborough School held their annual Thanksgiving Service at the Holloway church. This special day, organised by John Loughborough head Ms Edwena McFarquhar, and teachers Mr Bwoga and Mrs Clarke, was designed to say goodbye to the Year-11 pupils (15- and 16-year-olds). These young people have only recently sat their GCSE examinations and are awaiting their results.

The guest speaker in the morning was Pastor Des Boldeau whose subject, ‘OK and What if?’ was based on the current Honda advert, The Power of Dreams. The afternoon speaker was Mr Howard Jeffrey who works at the City and Islington College. In his address he urged the twenty-six young school leavers to do their best in the ‘outside world’.

In attendance to support the pupils were the John Loughborough School teaching and administrative staff. Pastor Eddie Hypolite, the school chaplain, and Mr Keith Davidson, Education director of the BUC, as well as parents, friends and school governors.

The South England Conference wishes the Year-11 pupils all the best in their future lives. We hope and trust that, in accordance with the day’s theme, they will be successful and accomplish their dreams.

All photos by Stefan Burton-Schnull

by Catherine Boldeau
SEC Communication co-ordinator

Top right: London Sports Day, the race begins.
Top left: Spectators enjoy the day.
Bottom left: Thanksgiving speaker BUC Youth director Pastor Des Boldeau.
Bottom right: All London Sports Day.

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Top right: London Sports Day, the race begins.
Top left: Spectators enjoy the day.
Bottom left: Thanksgiving speaker BUC Youth director Pastor Des Boldeau.
Bottom right: All London Sports Day.
DStaph Outing

The one visited and many others beside? [1] can be passed onto others quite easily by kissing but not everyone gets infected with the toxic antibiotic name ‘methicillin-resistant’. Some MRSA respond to the toxic antibiotic which specifically target staphylococci; hence its name methicillin-resistant. Including the methicillin group of antibiotics, the MRSA are the most dangerous ones. [2] Tony immediately got out of the cab to see if there was anything he could do for the driver of the car. The car itself was very seriously damaged and at first Tony thought that the driver had been killed. However, he noticed some movement and a pattering sound and started running. Tony had been very impressed by the speed at which they arrived and took control of the situation, he said. As Tony was severely shaken by the whole event, the German police arranged for him to be taken to Luxembourg airport. From there he got on a flight to Heathrow where he was met by ADRA-UK volunteer transport manager Dave Balderson. Back in the ADRA-UK office Tony was feeling much better, but was still quite upset by the whole affair. ‘I’ve heard a lot about the other driver,’ he said. ‘We know that he was taken by air ambulance to a specialist hospital in the UK and have not heard anything more since.’ [3]

The ADRA-UK tory was covered by insurance and at this stage it is not known whether it can be repaired or will have to be replaced. If it has to be replaced there will be considerable costs above and beyond the insurance value.

Tony driving the ADRA-UK lorry involved in a serious head-on collision in the B8 autobahn near the city of Mergel, Germany. He was returning from Belgrade where he had just delivered a full load of textiles, shoes, toys, household furnishings and building materials. Having set his cruise control to the standard 85 kph, Tony was travelling along a three-lane section when a car approaching from the opposite direction suddenly veered right across the middle lane and into the path of the lorry. Tony took emergency evasive action but could not prevent the crash. ‘There was an almighty collision,’ he reports. ‘Everything went was thrown around the cab. My right-hand wheels went into the soft earth of the verge and the tractor unit jack-knifed right round into the trailer. Fortunately I was not wearing my seatbelt at the time. When the vehicle came to rest it took me a few moments to gather myself, although I was completely unhurt.’

Nearly everyone carries the MRSA (colonization) and the bacteria with you that could endanger the elderly, and others with open wounds or having had recent contact with the body fluids. So far MRSA has managed to stay away from the various antibiotics used to control its spread, including the methicillin group of antibiotics which specifically target staphylococci; hence its name methicillin-resistant. Some MRSA respond to the toxic antibiotic vancomycin.

While driving the ADRA-UK lorry, volunteer driver Tony Welch was involved in a serious head-on collision in the B8 autobahn near the city of Mergel, Germany. He was returning from Belgrade where he had just delivered a full load of textiles, shoes, toys, household furnishings and building materials. Having set his cruise control to the standard 85 kph, Tony was travelling along a three-lane section when a car approaching from the opposite direction suddenly veered right across the middle lane and into the path of the lorry. Tony took emergency evasive action but could not prevent the crash. ‘There was an almighty collision,’ he reports. ‘Everything went was thrown around the cab. My right-hand wheels went into the soft earth of the verge and the tractor unit jack-knifed right round into the trailer. Fortunately I was not wearing my seatbelt at the time. When the vehicle came to rest it took me a few moments to gather myself, although I was completely unhurt.’

Studies in the UK indicate that the antibiotic properties of tea tree oil used in place of the more usual chemical antiseptics offers real promise in MRSA control. Active Manuka honey from New Zealand may have similar properties. The honey is collected from hives where the bees have pollinated the rare Manuka bush (found only in NZ). Some, but not all, of the honey contains what has been called the Unique Manuka Factor (UMF). Each batch of honey is tested for this factor in the laboratories of the University of Waikato and can only be used for the antibiotic properties if the UMF is certified by them.

Around 100 patients a year die of MRSA out of approximately 80,000 patients annually infected by it after admission to hospital. People who are particularly vulnerable include the very sick, elderly, and others with open wounds or having tubes in situ. People who are generally healthy are least likely to be infected although they can carry the infection to others. It is a good precaution when visiting to wash one’s hands before and after visits, especially to the very sick. Carrying disposable wipes in the car or briefcase will help if it is not possible to wash one’s hands. Rigorously observing any masking or sterile procedures required in visiting some patients will ensure that the bacterium has little point of contact. While it may be friendly or polite, visiting ministers should avoid shaking hands with everyone around, especially where the reason for hospitalisation is not known. By taking a few simple, sensible precautions the spread of MRSA can be halted and the staph denied a possible fatal outing.

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There are two crucial keys to the new evangelistic initiative we call LifeDevelopment.info, and we must each get a grip on those two keys if the Lord is going to make best use of us. In it:

1) Those crucial keys are – firstly, a recognition that evangelism is a long-term process, not a single event, and secondly, the building of lasting friendship with all kinds of people who come into our lives and into whose lives we come.

Our problem is we have been raised in a ‘fast food’, ‘quick-fix’ society that wants results – plenty of them and in double quick time, if you please, or we’ll give it up as a bad job. Ideally, we want to have the church to provide ‘instant evangelism’, rather like cuppa-soup, so that all we have to do is open it up and hey presto – instant baptisms with the least possible investment on our part! Hey – if you haven’t realised it yet, sorry, but it works less and less that way!

I am of a mind that, to be effective, communicatory of the Gospel has to be done on the receiver’s terms and not on the broadcaster’s terms. Does that make sense? Let me try to explain myself. The majority of folk ‘out there’ do not have the Gospel high on their priority list. They see no need of it in their lives, and though they may be courteous, they really couldn’t care less. ‘To quote a lovely word I learned recently – they are insouciant!’

By contrast, we are very focused and somewhat impudent. We naturally want to find a way to break through that indifference, and we kind of feel that if we fail if we cannot break through. We want to make full use of our ‘friendship’ to bring the Gospel to the top of their agenda – maybe to force it a bit if we can. Well, the truth probably is that we cannot. So our task is to build and maintain friendships that they may make use of when something happens in their lives that causes the Gospel to rise to the top of their priorities. In other words, we make friendships for them to use, not for us to force.

This is illustrated well in a book I have recently been reading: The book is the record of the friendship and dialogue of two Christian men, as they pray and talk through questions of what it means to be a Christian in our times. Dr (or) Oliver, a Jamaican pastor-turned-science teacher, converses with Brian (Daniel) McLaren, a white evangelical pastor in the USA. At one point in their conversations, Dr Oliver continues: ‘I always used to feel so tense when I was with people from outside the church. I guess there was always this threat in the air – either I was going to be put down by their bad behaviour, or I was going to judge them and preach to them, it was unpalatable for both sides. I felt tense, and they probably did too. I don’t feel that way any more at all.’

‘Don’t you ever feel when you just meet a person, “I mean, isn’t there a time when friendship evangelism has to move on to the evangelism?”’

‘Pardon me, Daniel, but I am not too fond of that expression, “friendship evangelism”’. It can prostitute friendship, which in my mind then invalidates the evangelism. If I’m going to pretend to be somebody’s Reformed Brother in Christ, so I can try to proselytise them, well, I might as well be selling soap. No, it’s worse than that. At least when I’m selling soap, I’m not degrading the soap by exploiting the friendship. I can’t tell you how much that term bores me.’ Dr Oliver continues. ‘If there’s one thing I wish I could tell every Christian about evangelism in the post modern world, it would be about that word ‘conversation’. I would say to stop counting conversions, because our whole approach to conversion is so, I don’t know, mechanistic and consummator and individualistic and controlling. Instead, I’d encourage us to count conversations, because conversation implies a real relationship, and if we make our goal to establish relationships and engage in authentic conversations, I know conversions will happen. But if we keep trying to convert people, we’ll simply drive them away. They are sick of our sales pitches and our formulae.’

I take the commission of Ezekiel as being relevant in this matter. The Lord said Ezekiel that he was not sending him to people with a foreign tongue or foreign culture, but to his own people. But he warned that they would not listen or respond. Ezekiel’s job, therefore, was simply to be their building contact and make himself available. The Lord said, ‘At the end of the day, they must know there has been a prophet among them – that’s all I ask of you!’ (Paraphrased from Ezekiel 3: 7: 3 ) So that what Ezekiel did – just kept drip-feeding the people with messages from God sometimes in the form of charades. When a crisis forced God high up onto their agenda, they came to the one person they believed had contact with the Lord, and they asked him for counsel and prayer. (As suggested by Ezekiel 8:1 and 14:1.)

This proposes that the measure of our success, so far as the Lord is concerned, is whether or not we built a bridge – not how many people crossed it!

LifeDevelopment.info is an invitation to you to change your attitude to witnessing. There are uncounted kinds of methods, many of which you have tried and found to fail, but it is the attitude that most requires our careful attention. This is about committing indifferently to being available to others as a reliable and trustworthy friend. At first, this may seem unremarkable, or even a complete waste of time, because we don’t get many instant results. But I believe the Lord wants us simply to ‘let our light shine’ to those around us even when he is not high on their agenda. Then, when his offer of love rises higher on their inventory, they will know a reliable and non-threatening person to whom they may go for safe help.

LifeDevelopment.info is all about committing to being available permanently as a bridge. But remember, if you set out to become a bridge, you’re likely to get walked over from both ends before you fulfil your ‘bridge’ role. Let people take up your offer when they are ready. Usable friendship is something our friends use to reach Christ, and not what we use to get to them. Their terms, not ours.

* This guest editorial was written by Pastor Mike Stickland, director, Adventist Discovery Centre.


3
New things at the Wilmslow/Sale church replant

The Sale church decided after much prayer and searching to replant itself in a community centre, members saw an opportunity to do something for the community but the mettle in us that counts’.

Ministry is conducting ‘Operation Dominica’ in three areas.

between 24 August and 8 September

Open programmes:

We will be looking forward to working with the youth within the local community to create awareness and highlight the needs of the community. This will involve feeding and the homeless, supporting the current church building project and the provision of food, unemployment, teenage pregnancy and self-esteem.

For more information please don’t hesitate to contact Insignia Sign Ministries, Battersea SDA Church, Prince Wales Drive, Battersea, London SW8 4BL.

The BBC’s ‘East Midlands Today’ had invited schools throughout its region to submit songs to be judged by the viewers.

and support in her life, and the ways
development through prayer.

Jubilee song

It isn’t often that one gets the opportunity to write a song for a royal occasion, but this was the challenge offered to Esme Sutton, head elder of the Grantham church.

Jubilee service

Tallulah emigrated to the UK with her family in 1959 and dedicated her life to Jesus and her family.

beikm at the end of the current school year. We wish her well.

Leamington Spa

baptism

June 29 saw the baptism of two young people into Christ’s family.

Leamington Spa mission

Lakshmi and Talibam Lumin have chosen to dedicate their lives to Jesus and their baptism represented a joyous occasion for themselves, family and friends.

permitted in hands, and feet, were shot, were ready to embark on the fortuitous 40-GRA Appeal (grouping). They went from area to area, from street to street, from house to house, collecting money and reaching for their goal.

The BBC’s ‘East Midlands Today’ had invited schools throughout its region to submit songs to be judged by the viewers.

Insignia Sign Ministries (ISM) is from Battersea Adventist church and was founded in 1998. Their vision is to use the art of British Sign Language (BSL) to teach people with hearing and speech difficulties about the love of Jesus and of its healing power. We aim to foster a sense of belonging in the community by showing them that someone cares, and that God’s love is for all people.

It is not only that we need special needs the Gospel more than any other else, but that we need to present it in a way they can understand – the same as any other culture or people group requires. Insignia strives to master the art of BSL to help us to convey these messages effectively.

Between 24 August and 8 September ISM is conducting ‘Operation Dominica’ in three areas.

Scottish Women’s Ministries retreat

For the fourth year running a group of around thirty women from Scotland and Northern Ireland met at the beautiful garden retreat centre in the wooded grounds, at Hawick in the Scottish Borders.

We were blessed this year with two visiting speakers, Heather-Dawn Small from the General Conference and Anne-May Williamson from the TID. Heather Haworth, Women’s Ministries director for the BUC, had planned a weekend filled with teachings for us. The theme was ‘Hang On To Your Joy’ which Heather-Dawn took up.

In the end, we not only exceeded our goal of £6,000. In the end, we not only reached our goal but exceeded it by £500 plus a tremendous £5,531.

Sydney Denham, 90 years old, collected most with £622.13; Pearly Francis was the second highest collector with £648.97; Jacelyn Deloupe, youth and first-time collector, £189.50. Eugene Murrin collected £391.41; finally, the man of faith Maxwell Thompson collected £449.13.

Scottish Women’s Ministries project

After the first week everyone doubted whether we would reach our goal, but one man (Maxwell Thompson) held on in faith believing that we would reach our goal of £6,000. In the end, we not only reached our goal but exceeded it by £500 plus a tremendous £5,531.

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Emerald: Fact-finding Mission in Ireland

by Vicky Murphy

Some might argue that the most important building on the way into Galway is the Galway Crystal show-room, but I would suggest that it is in fact the Granich House Seventh-day Adventist School just next to it, and that is where our whistle-stop tour of the Irish Mission began on Friday 26 April, Norman Goodwin, president of the Emerald Foundation, and Don Roth, member of the board and General Conference representative, and Richard Weismeyer, the editor for the Emerald Newsletter, came to see everything and do it all in ten days! So the journey began.

As school started that Friday, we all assembled in the school hall for a very special programme. Welcoming us, Mrs. Rhoda Roberts, principal, expressed grateful thanks to the Emerald Board for their continued support, and she delighted in having both Norman and Don at Granich House School, so that they could see for themselves the tremendous impact Emerald’s investment in the school is having.

As always the pupils were stars. Everything was done with great enthusiasm, and also to perfection. It also offered an opportunity for Norman and Don to present Ieuan Bessell with an award for her ten years of service to the school, and to recognise the outstanding contribution that Mary O’Halloran has made over the years.

It was a whirlwind tour that took in every district and almost every church in the Irish Mission. Where possible they met the congregations and visited each pastor in his district. This was indeed a fact-finding mission. They wanted to see first-hand the issues that each pastor had to face. On Monday 29 April all the workers came together for a brainstorming session and a time of fellowship before the Emerald Conference executive committee met. We discussed many ideas and shared a common goal for the future to see a church of power and influence.

The Irish Mission is truly indebted to the Emerald Foundation for its continued support. Its faithfulness and resources – time, effort and finance – enabled us to operate an educational programme, keep a presence both at Neenwater-on-Fergus and Emmetkilk, and also provide a place where our young people can hold their youth camps.

Sunday 30 June was a significant day at Wednesfield Baptist Church, Wolverhampton. Two young people, Jacylin Deloerique (17) and Stacey Rebecca Ferguson (16) publicly declared their commitment to serve God through the Baptist church, expressing their ultimate joy as they took this step. Songs of praise and thanksgiving were rendered by Wednesfield’s innovative adult choir as well as a group of our young people. Pastor Richard Jackson presented the message of encouragement to the candidates as well as to the waiting congregation, after which Pastor E. Francis, NEC president, performed the baptism.

Wednesfield baptism

Obituary

Joan D. Thompson (nee Harvey)

It is with sadness that we report the death of Joan D. Thompson, of Wednesfield Baptist, who passed away peacefully on 22nd June at her home. Joan was the wife of David Thompson, who predeceased her in 1999. Joan was a member of the local church for many years and was a dedicated and active member of the choir. She was well known for her lively spirit and her love for music. The church family and her many friends will miss her dearly.

Mrs. Thompson was a kind and gentle soul who touched the hearts of many. She leaves behind her daughter Helen, her son David and her grandchildren. The family request that donations be made to a charity of their choice in memory of Joan.
New Youth pastor for Belfast

Back in September 1997 Adam Kesugh began training for the pastoral ministry, little knowing that five years later he would be returning to Northern Ireland. Adam had left the Belfast Lame parish when he was 12 years old after his father had served in the Irish Mission for a number of years. Adam began his appointment as youth pastor to the Belfast and Lame churches, on 1 July. He has recently finished his studies at Newbold College and has only his Masters thesis to complete before he graduates in 2003. He is exploring the synthesis of Church and technology and the way the Church can expand through the Internet.

Although having lived near Belfast as a CNS, Adam had few memories and felt that he was coming to a new country. He said that it was going to be hard leaving behind friends but he was equally excited about the future.

He commented on the vision and the energy that consumed the young people and looked forward to his ministry there. There are many different challenges, Belfast is a progressive city and so are the young people who make up a part of the local congregation.

Branch Sabbath School at Hackbridge

The newly-formed Hackbridge Branch Sabbath School, daughter of the Hackbridge Branch of the London Conference, celebrated its first anniversary on Sabbath 13 July. The speaker for the divine service was Pastor James Philip who, through his message of praise and thanksgiving, little knowing that five years later he would be returning to Northern Ireland. Adam had left the Belfast Lame parish when he was 12 years old after his father had served in the Irish Mission for a number of years. Adam began his appointment as youth pastor to the Belfast and Lame churches, on 1 July. He has recently finished his studies at Newbold College and has only his Masters thesis to complete before he graduates in 2003. He is exploring the synthesis of Church and technology and the way the Church can expand through the Internet.

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When two young ladies made their separate ways from Macedonia to Britain as au pairs, neither would have guessed that by leaving the homeland of Alexander the Great, they would end up not only learning about, but knowing personally the King of Kings.

Sanja Filopoška arrived first in Berichte and began to attend Bracknell and Wokingham College. There she met an Adventist couple from Yugoslavia who invited her to attend Newbold church. She came along, and attended Moor Close Community, the ‘contemporary’ student and young adult church at Newbold. She felt a warmth and a relevance there that touched her heart, and in the past year and a half has barely missed a service.

A few months after Sanja began to attend Moor Close Community, she met Mirjana Iliškoska, another Macedonian au pair who was learning English at Bracknell and Wokingham College. Mirjana was new to the country and Sanja befriended her and asked if she wanted to go to church with her. Mirjana decided to take up the offer, and she has now been attending for over a year.

At Newbold there is a thriving South Slav group which meets together for worship on Sabbath afternoons and for social events. It was in this caring context that Sanja and Mirjana began to study the Bible with Mirjana Korčanac, a Yugoslav pastor who is at Newbold doing further study. Mirjana thoroughly introduced them to the doctrines and beliefs of the Adventist Church, during which time they began to consider baptism.

Their special day came on 11 May when they were both baptised. Having become ‘like sisters’ since they first met at college, they entered the baptismary together, where pastoral couple Gv and Vic Marley were waiting for them.

They were welcomed warmly by Moor Close Community and the wider Newbold church. They had come to learn English, but ended up learning something much more important – the language of Heaven which is the love of God, and salvation through Jesus Christ.