The first Adventist tent community outreach project of the 21st century, entitled Power in The Park, took place at Mabley Green opposite Kingsmead Estate in Hackney, London. The London Area Advisory Council as a community outreach project conceived the Power in The Park concept. This consisted of a series of workshops, evening seminars and promotional days. The workshops that were put on for the community free of charge included: Starting a Business; Money Management; Parenting Skills; Let’s Talk about Sex; How to be a Playa; Performing Arts; Music Production; Management Matters (men only); Healthy Eating on a Budget.

The speaker, Mildred Robinson, was the first Adventist female lay-evangelist to hold a major tent campaign in this country. She was born in Montserrat but lives in the US Virgin Island of St Thomas. She recently held a series of meetings in Trinidad and baptised 250 people. Power in The Park attracted...
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genetic and environmental factors interact to cause depression. Identifying specific genetic markers could help in the development of targeted treatments.

The exact genetic cause of depression is not yet fully understood, but researchers are making progress in this area. Some studies have linked depression to variations in certain genes, such as the serotonin transporters and the brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) gene. These variations can affect the way the brain processes stress and regulates mood. Understanding the role of these genes in depression could lead to more effective treatments by allowing healthcare providers to tailor treatments to the individual's genetic makeup.

In summary, the genetic basis of depression is complex and multifaceted, involving interactions between multiple genes and environmental factors. Continued research in this area is crucial for advancing our understanding of the disease and developing more effective treatment strategies.

References:
Adventists in civic celebration

The Advent Singers from the Ipswich Adventist church recently participated in a service in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Ipswich.

The annual service brings together the various faith cultures of the town. The media often portrays cultural unrest. This was a time to show people of all faiths together as a community of believers.

The service, attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Ipswich together with the councillors of the town, takes place in one of the local town centre churches, and representatives from each faith group are invited to contribute to the programme. Representatives came from the Buddhist, Bahá’í, Islamic, Pagan, Jewish, Hindu, Unitarian and Christian faiths.

This year the theme was our neighbours, and each spoke of how we should respect and love our neighbours. We may have different beliefs, but each faith group showed how they wanted to build a close and loving relationship with one another.

We considered the Christian song, “Jesus put a song into our hearts”, which spoke of the theme running through all the beliefs for everyone living in harmony and as a family in the town.

Bedford and Milton Keynes Baptisms

On 20 May three people were baptised at Milton Keynes church. The candidates, one from Bedford Central church and two from Milton Keynes, were prepared for baptism by Pastor C. Stewart and Bible worker Margaret Stewart.

The sister church of Bedford Central through the pastor, Milton Keynes church family were more than happy to accommodate the candidate from Bedford.

Bongi’s family were there at the church to witness the occasion and her mother, Bongi looks forward to getting involved in church life, through her role in building a strong youth movement in the church.

The other candidate, Sheba Webb, had been prepared for baptism by Margaret Stewart, the Conference-assigned worker for Milton Keynes and Bedford. Sheba had been attending the Milton Keynes church for about a year. She hasn’t had time to get involved in church life, the church family were more than happy to accommodate the candidate from Bedford.

Prayer Warriors

Patrice Rock says . . .

Prayer Warriors has been running now for seven years. The venue for the weekend, Alton Castle, the aim, to give young people a better understanding of the power of prayer, the importance it plays in our lives, and how we can then apply it to our lives.

I had been to Prayer Warriors twice before, this being my third year, but this year’s was better than the other years, a totally new experience. May not be for the same reasons as everyone else, I felt Alton Castle with a new aim. I think this was the first year I realised just how important Prayer Warriors is, and just how important a role the youth have in witnessing to others.

People go to Prayer Warriors for many different reasons. Some want to grow closer to God, some to share their knowledge and joy of God, some don’t know what to expect, and some just end up there. That last category was mine a few years ago. Whatever the reason, it is not by coincidence that, of all the places we could have been on 2-5 May, it was Prayer Warriors.

The socialising was great, meeting with old friends and making new ones; the worship, sharing together, the sharing of our lives, the worship sessions a blessing also; but this weekend I learned and felt the true importance of prayer. In one of our group meetings we spent about an hour praying.

We weren’t counting down the minutes until it ended; I felt the presence of the Lord in that room, and I know I wasn’t the only one.

Keisha Armstrong says . . .

The four days I spent at Alton Castle for the Prayer Warriors weekend was truly a life time to remember. This was my first visit so I didn’t know what to expect, but my feelings of hesitation and uncertainty soon changed. I can honestly say that the people, atmosphere and activities within Alton Castle were most welcoming and it was a true pleasure to meet, witness and participate.

The speaker we had for the weekend was extremely inspiring and she really helped me to stop and take a closer insight on how I live my life and how important a role I allow God to play in it. I believe that she seriously touched the hearts of everyone, and the testimonies that people were brave enough to give sincerely motivated me to try to live and love a better life in Jesus Christ.

Alycia Hanson says . . .

Another spiritually-uplifting weekend was spent at Alton Castle as approximately 150 young people gathered to spend time dedicated to prayer and worship.

The weekend started with ice-breaking exercises to get us acquainted. As the weekend progressed, friendships grew and we became united. This was especially evident in Sunday evening’s worship and sharing session with candlelight and a wooden cross with the burdens of the young pinned to it, symbolising decisions to surrender and redevote our lives to Jesus.

It was emotional when our voices united in ‘O, Lord, How Excellent!’ with our theme song, ‘Lord I Want To Know You More’, ringing in our ears, we waited for pictures to exchange contact details.

I can’t wait till next year!

Adventists attend ‘Christians in Politics’ launch by John Surridge

On Tuesday 17 June Pastor David Neal and the writer attended the launch of a new ‘Christians in Politics’ poster campaign at Premier Radio’s headquarters in London. Taking in the launch were the Rt Hon John Battle MP (Libour), the Prime Minister’s Envoys to the faith communities, and Revd John Kennedy, co-ordinating secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland’s Church and Society Forum. Dave Webb MP (Liberal Democratic Party co-sponsor of CIP) chaired the event, and guests included Andrew Sxeus MPS (Parliamentary chairman of the Conservative Christian Fellowship).

The poster is designed to be placed on church notice boards, to encourage churchgoers to discover more about CIP. Drawing on a baseball, it points out that it is the ‘batters’ who join mainstream political parties that mainly influence ‘the course of play’—by determining the party’s leader, elect candidates and parties. The poster also highlights the support that is available, through Christian fellowships in the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democratic parties, once Christians have joined the party of their choice.

Speaking after the event, Pastor Neal, who is a keen follower of all things political, said, “We would be failing in our responsibility as Adventists if we did not listen to the voices of the world around us and then go beyond being concerned. It was C. S. Lewis who said, ‘Christians, who have so much hope for the next world, are the most effective in this.’ Getting involved in local, or even national politics, is one way of being effective in our world.”

More information about the launch, as well as details of how to get hold of copies of the new poster, are available on the Christians in Politics website at: www.christiansinpolitics.org.uk
yielding to scientific investigation. Recent research has shown that the production of two factors through which music operates; how much we like a piece, which might be expected, and the magnitude of its arousal potential, which is not.

Understanding Music’s Emotional Power

The Bible shows just how powerful music is.

Psa 150:3-5, 9-11

Praise God in his heavenly dwelling. . . . Praise him with a blust of the trumpet, praise him with the loud sound of the horn. Praise him with the timbrel and dancing, praise him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise him with clashing cymbals, praise him with loud clashing cymbals.

If this is what scientific studies show and what the Bible tells us, then we have major competition on our hands and we are being left behind. We all know that by beholding we become changed, so let me conclude with some encouragement for those of you who wish to embark on this journey. The battle is not yours, it’s the Lord’s. Fight for your children, encourage your church to do likewise, for in the hands of your children, let the Lord lead you! In the words of Fanny Crosby:

“\nThe way all my Saviour leads me;\nChoirs! each winding path I tread;\nGod heeds me in every measure;\nFeeds me with the living bread;\nThough my weary steps may falter,\nAnd I may be,\nGushing from the Rock before me,\nI, a spring of joy my soul.\n
Fanny Crosby – All the way my Saviour leads me.


Power in the Park
continued from page 1
media interest, and over 700 people came out each evening of the week, increasing to 1,100 at the weekends. Numerous people were baptised throughout the campaign at the four different baptismal services. At the time of going to press the total number was 96, which is one of the highest figures in a very long time. There were many many prayers for good weather and they were answered with much sunshine.

Alongside the event were many attractions to encourage members of the general public to attend which included: a café consisting of different stalls selling a whole host of different vegetarian foods; a fun day with bouncy castles, a mechanical bull, merry-go-round, main stage with live music, food, health checks, etc; a community football tournament in the park; a health drive; and gospel music to close.

This was a very successful but not trouble-free event. First was the incursion of gypsies onto the site. They left after two days in answer to our prayers. Then disaster struck when a man cut down the tent at 6.30am and was held and charged by police.

The main organisers of the event were Pastor Richard Delcore, Susanna Kivel, Tabitha Cummins, Annette Robinson, Edna Wedderburn, Pastor Simon Essex and many others, including the support of the members and local churches (Hackney and Clapton).

Additional information
Over 40 people came out on two Wednesday mornings for prayer. The London Area Advisory Council was approached by a Pentecostal church to help plan a praise-in-the-Park event on 30 August 2003 in Hyde Park.

Sabbath morning 28 June saw the Open Church brought to the Hackney area in order to promote the Power in the Park campaign. In an answer to many prayers the weather was perfect for frontline evangelism. Two hundred and fifty balloons were given out and 3,000 flyers promoting the campaign. Hundreds of people stopped to watch the Open Church, which was performed in the square in front of Hackney town hall. The commuters at the bus stop in front of the town hall and those on the buses were mesmerised by the morning’s presentation. Performers came from all over London to take part in the evangelistic effort. There was also a prayer walk on Kingsmead Estate and Hackney Marshes.

In testimonies two ladies stated that they had been about to commit suicide prior to hearing about and attending the meetings.

The Open Church represents a modern, professional approach to what we have traditionally called ‘street witnessing’. In order to get the public’s attention and at the same time give our church some good publicity, Open Church involves the following: the collection of singers is replaced with a choir; a professional PA system is used (powered by a generator) replacing the tape recorder; it takes place on the streets or in the shopping centre in the morning (when it’s convenient for the public as opposed to being convenient for us); a professional stage is hired; the Puppet Team and Mirror Team are booked; additional musicians are booked to perform; an existing band is booked; a team of people is on hand to give out literature and engage people in conversation; a pastor is present to give a 10-minute sermon; balloons (with Jesus Loves You printed on them) are given to all children passing by; in addition you have a security team, logistics team, road manager, video and photographer person and refreshments for all staff and performers; everyone dresses in casual clothes.

In other words Open Church involves an open air concert with a short 10-minute sermon at the end aimed at the unchurched.

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT WHEN WHERE WHO HOW

 Disability Ministry Programme 13 September Sheffield 6DA Church ARM For further details Tel: 01481 835056

Day of Fellowship ‘Do you think you’re a sheep?’ 27 September Former Pendleton Adventist church, Salford NEC Men’s Ministries For further details Tel: 0191 890 8312

Turning Water into Wine – Special retreat for married couples 10-12 October Priory church Pastor Bernie and Karen Hulford Karen Hulford, SEC 25 St John’s Road, Watford, WD17 1PZ Tel: 07983 207260

Please submit advertisements in this format. Please make the church connection clear. For a complete list of upcoming events check out our website at www.adventist.org.uk.

ABC BOOK SALES 2003

ABC Youth Department is preparing a manual on youth leadership for the UK SDA Church and would like to hear from members to help fill in the huge gaps on the history and development of the youth work in our church. Please contact Des G. Boldeau at the BUC, Stanborough Park, Garston, Herts, WD25 9JZ. Telephone: 01923 672251, Fax: +44 (0)1344 407404; Email: des.g.boldeau@adventist.org.uk. Stop International needs 20 volunteers for orphanage project in India, 25 July to 8 Aug 2004. Details: telephone: Rash Prabhu, Project Manager, 7 The Canyons, St Albans Park, Watford, WD2 8RP or send an email to stopinternational@supanet.com.

STOPI International

EVENT WHEN WHERE WHO HOW

23 Sept 2003

Sept 5 7.39 7.51 7.45 7.58 8.07
Aug 22 8.10 8.22 8.17 8.34 8.41
Aug 23 8.25 8.11 8.11 8.26 8.37
Aug 30 8.31 8.18 8.07 8.21 8.32
Sept 5 7.39 7.51 7.45 7.58 8.07
Sept 6 7.40 7.53 7.46 7.59 8.08
Sept 7 7.41 7.54 7.47 7.60 8.09
Sept 8 7.42 7.55 7.48 7.61 8.10
Sept 9 7.43 7.56 7.49 7.62 8.11

One of the foundations of the Adventist church, and a central concern of the Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, is education. The Messenger devotes a section of each issue to education news. If you have education news you wish to share please send it to: Messenger Education, 160 Watchtower Lane, Adventist Church Headquarters, Lanham, Maryland 20706, USA. Email: b.holt@adventistmedia.org.