Last weekend I saw a skateboarder vandalising a school. I ran over and found him sobbing.

‘What’s up?’

He said his father was the top local estate agent, but never home. His mother was a ‘closet drunk’ and ‘had affairs’. ‘I want my parents to ask where I go, what I drink, when I get home. I’m 14!’

I wish he were a lone case, but Generation Y (today’s teenagers) are paying for their parents’ choices. The greed lifestyle, sexual revolution and drugs are damaging families; psychology professor Martin Seligman believes we’re seeing the most addicted, clinically depressed generation in history.

Adventists have God-given insights that can help. Perhaps we feel shy, as if we personally have little to offer. Perhaps we don’t realise how much people need care, friendship, spiritual guidance. It’s time we got out more!

After spilling for an hour, the skater said, ‘You’re a Christian, right?’ ‘Actually, yeah. Why?’ ‘Christians are the only ones who give a [bleep] about me.’ Turns out he’d met another Christian and been enjoying youth group.

Whenever I see his father’s sign, I pray for him, and Christians who are willing to be missionaries near home. Will you be one?

‘ “Look around you! Vast fields are ripening all around us and are ready now for the harvest.” ’

John 4:35, NLT.

purevoice: Runaway success
by Marge Malcolm

The policemen were friendly but they wanted answers to their questions. What was this crowd of people doing outside the Shaw Theatre in London? The two on-duty policemen were attracted by the blue flashing lights worn by cast members of the musical theatre production Purevoice. This was Saturday night, 11 October. They said they would be back to investigate. They came back the next evening with two more colleagues to see the show and buy their own flashing blue lights! Result of their investigation? ‘Fantastic! We’ve never heard or experienced anything like this before.’ They weren’t the only ones. Rudolph Walker, star of EastEnders, said it was ‘Brilliant’, except for one little point. He wanted to be in it!

Kuljit Bhamra, composer of the music for films Bend It Like Beckham and Bhaji on the Beach, said it was ‘Brilliant’, except for one little point. He wanted to be in it!

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The Stanborough School Experience

by Bjorn Kjarlman

ore than any other night on the Stanborough Secondary School calendar, the annual Speech Night has always possessed the ability to draw stu-
dents, former pupils of students and friends of the school to recognize achievement at Stanborough. This year’s Speech Night took place in the school gymnasium on Thursday 16 October, with no exception. An estimated 100 visitors turned up for an evening carefully prepared speeches, music and awards presentations - all made in celebration of the experience that is Stanborough School.

The theme for the last academic year was “Caring Hearts.” Pupils and staff were encouraged to make the most of the time given to them and seize the day to utilize every opportunity,” said Stephen Rivers in his head-teacher’s report. The emphasis on the positive atmosphere at Stanborough School as he said, “The dedication that each and every pupil has to this school is tremendous. The true rewards of this year were the pupils and staff were encouraged to make the most of the time given to them and the staff and pupils were encouraged to make the most of the time given to them and seize the day to utilize every opportunity,” said Stephen Rivers in his head-teacher’s report.

The awards given on this night included an array of recognition for academic achievement, contribution to the community and character development. Among the achievements that were celebrated were the PTA award for outstanding year, the Citizenship Award for exemplary contribution to school life, and the Sportswoman of the Year award for distinguished athletic performance.

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Adventist artist commissioned to paint the largest ship in the world

A
dventist marine artist Gordon Bawean has been commissioned by Cunard Line to create a set of original paintings for its new Queen Mary 2, the world’s largest ever passenger ship. When this mammoth order first came through, Gordon had to battle the elements, or rather, the weather, to complete the first of his drawings of Queen Mary 2 in time for a late September delivery.

When asked which was the shortest way to London, a traveller replied, “The shortest and best route is by plane, with good company.” The same could be said for those journeying to the kingdom of heaven, where Basildon church fellowshippers spend time together in worship and fellowship. Each week, the church enjoys fellowship more than the members of the Adventist Business and Professionals’ Association.

Founded in 1983, this organization has continuously held two or three gatherings each year to provide spiritual, food, and an opportunity to exchange ideas for a variety of church members who mainly occupy managerial positions in their workplace.

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Jesus is Coming campaign

For the first time Preston church has had a father and son evangelistic team. They conducted a three-week campaign from 2 to 12 August. International evangelist Pastor Don McNaul, who has conducted previous campaigns in Preston and other parts of the UK, was joined by his son Benjamin, who was on his way home after completing a successful campaign in Zambian.

The Jesus is Coming Again campaign attracted the largest ever number of visitors. Some came on a regular basis and received gift Bibles before they attended at least eight meetings.

Here are some quotes from members on their highlights of the campaign: “The clarity of the presentations was very good due to the use of the overhead projector.” “The meetings were spiritually uplifting, educational, encouraging and motivational.” “Three weeks went by too quickly.” “It was good to see so many visitors attending night after night.”

On the final day of the campaign the church was full to capacity as members, visitors and friends came to witness the baptism of a young lady who, when travelling on the bus one day, was given an invitation to attend the meeting. Paula Robinson attended several of the meetings and felt impressed with the message and the work to the Lord.

The volunteers put together a fun-filled programme which included the animal man, drama, cooking, horse-riding, climbing and abseiling and a day trip to Southend-on-Sea, Destiny.

The programme is currently completing registration documents so that it can be approved by OFSTED and operate during all the school holidays. A week after Playcheme ended some of the volunteers were working again, this time running a Youth Activity Week for 13-16-year-olds. This event came about after numerous requests from children who were no longer attending the Playcheme.

Handsworth youth outreach

During August volunteers from Handsworth church were once again busy preparing for the summer Playcheme. Handsworth Playcheme has been running a Bible-focused activity programme for children aged 5-12 since 2000. This year the theme was “Pirates: The Story of the Apostle Paul.” A total of 52 children registered with 50% coming from the local community.

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Having costed the event before hand the organizers knew they needed over £1,000 to run the programme at minimal cost to the youth. After much prayer and effort they were able to find sponsors and secure funding for the entire project from a local organisation and the local church.

On Monday 28 August twenty youth registered, including thirteen from the local school and all stayed for the entire week. Each day began with a devotional about ’Being Young and Bargaining with Christ’ and the challenges faced by young people. The rest of the week included team games, workshops on sexual health, drugs and alcohol, and African dance, as well as canoeing, archery and a day out at Drayton Manor Park.

Jennifer Davies

Southall baptism

Family and friends gathered together on the Sabbath afternoon of 27 September to witness and support the baptism of five children.

Tanya Morris was the youngest at the tender age of 4 years. Brother and Sister Morris who have worshipped with us at Southall for the past two years. It was good to see this young one deciding to follow Jesus because ‘she wanted to be saved’. Her father sang a special song for her while she was in the pool.

The service was led by Pastor Nqobile and Nonsikelelo Ndlela and was a sister from brother and partner from Zimbabwe and have been worshipping with us and their family. The mother spoke of her joy and read a passage of scripture before they were baptised.

Sandra Abraham of Trinidad received her baptism in the presence of the late Pastor Joseph. Following this, in the footsteps of her father and uncle who are members of our church.

Last and by no means least was Camala from Gambia. Her aunt, Rebekah, has been a regular and has been attending church since. She encouraged Camala to visit us on Saturday morning and she made the decision to take the leap to the Lord.

Pastor Vivian Aquilai officiated and on behalf of the Southall church warmly welcomed these members into fellowship.

Elaine Aldridge

Joyce’s baptism

Joyce Nwosumotawa arrived in England from Zimbabwe in January this year and began attending with the members at Barnsley. Joyce has a smile like the sunshine of the country from which she originates. She came to England to continue her studies and returned home before leaving her homeland. Soon after her arrival in Barnsley Joyce expressed her desire to be baptised.

Pastor Ron Edwards, who has come out of retirement to care for Barnsley and Doncaster, spoke to Joyce and she began having baptismal studies. Joyce has a simple faith in her Lord and Savour Jesus Christ, and arrangements were made for her baptism.

God’s provision and guidance have been evident in this past year and the way and on the 12th July Joyce’s 30th birthday, the Barnsley church hosted her family and many friends including some from Doncaster, made their way to the local Baptist church. It is the third occasion in recent years where we have utilised their attractive church for a baptism.

We were blessed by beautiful musical presentations played for us on the piano by Peter Crossley, who was visiting Barnsley from Mexico, by the sweet singing of Barnsley church choir, and by a wonderful solo from Simeon Allans. The sermon was given by Pastor Edwards who then baptised Joyce.

Joyce married Klimo, also from Zimbabwe, in Barnsley in 14 August. We wish Joyce and Klimo much happi- ness and God’s blessings in their life together.

Barnsley SCIOs

Happy birthday, Mr Butlers!

by Bjorn Karlman

O
h no, this was a trick!” exclaimed Stanborough School head of art, John Kinghorn, when he was presented with a special cake by pupils, who invited him from taking his seat in Margerison Hall. He had just offered the prayer before what he thought would be a school-wide assembly for a serious disciplinary matter. Instead, the theme music for “This is Your Life” was played, and what had thus far been a sombre affair transformed into an impersonation TV show in celebration of the 60th birthday of the well-liked teacher.

A PowerPoint presentation showed pictures of family and friends as well as video footage of family based in the Philippines, was shown to Mr Butlers, his teaching colleagues and the approximately 150 students present.

His wife Jane was the first special guest to be called by Martin who hosted the programme. Speaking of her first memories of her husband, she said: “I don’t think I’d ever met anyone who was so kind, caring and so gentle – we’ve had thirty-one incredibly happy years together.”

In between memories about John’s life, twelve more people were invited to join him on the stage and share memories with the audience. “He’s been a wonderful friend and continues to be. You’re very lucky to have him as a teacher,” said David Oakley, who, along with his husband John, had recently flown from Utah, USA, for the occasion. Three former students were also part of the panel, sharing fond memories of school days with their teacher. The biggest highlight of the last guest to be called onto the stage, Jim Wilkinson was a childhood friend whom he had not seen for thirty-one years. “He was at my wedding and that was the last time I’d seen him!” said the teacher.

John described his reaction to the special programme as one of being “Gobsmacked . . . I was just amazed . . . I had no idea whatever whatsoever was going to happen!” Expressing his appreciation for those behind the programme, he said, “I’m particularly grateful to Deborah St Cyr (a former student) for all the very hard work that she obviously put into it, as well as the rest of the staff and my wife – I knew that she did a lot of work, too.”
**SITUATION VACANT**

Lladrindod Wells

A new initiative to get connected with the householders of the 400 new houses (that’s approx 1,600 people!) that are being built in the community has just been launched by the Lladrindod Wells Company in Mid-Wales. Church members, local business people and members of the community gathered for a launch party that also provided the opportunity to explain in detail how the scheme would operate. The evening consisted of a Powerpoint presentation about the Mission statement, values and various elements of the scheme. The children put on a puppet show about being a good neighbour and there was also a demonstration of how to grow a new garden. The evening finished with networking over a delicious tea prepared by the church members.

The scheme uses a folder containing money-saving offers from local businesses, local information, the ADC and various other resources. It is delivered to each new household by a ‘spotter’.

At the event Pastor Rhamie recognised the fact that some of the men have been removed from our roles of responsibility because the devil has left us for dead. In our own individual tombs, for which society has encased us. Jesus is waiting to call us and encourage us men to help those who can. Each person to return to our families to undertake our roles of responsibility, leadership and prayer. For example, in our churches, community and homes, the pastor said. And he concluded by acknowledging the hard work and dedication of the men and notable successes in areas which give justice and peace, which they legally successfully did.

For further information about the work of ASNA please call 07709 835 088 or email info@asna.org.uk

**So you think you are a man?**

Report on the NEC Men’s Day of Fellowship

Pastor Cyril Sweeney, NEC Men’s Ministries co-ordinator

This was the question which faced men who had gathered from all corners of the NEC on 28th September for the third Men’s Day of Fellowship held at the Pendleton church in Salford. One of the highlights of the evening was a demonstration of ‘Seize the moment’.

After a sumptuous meal with plenty of food for seconds, thirds, fourths, we resumed our afternoon with an excellent presentation by Pastor Gillford Rhamie, Senior Lecturer at Newbold College. He used the illustration of Lazarus who, through death, left his family seat and table. Jesus called him from the tomb, asking for him to be loosed from his burial wrap so that he could take his rightful seat at the table in the home. Pastor Rhamie recognised the fact that some of men have been removed from our roles of responsibility because the devil has left us for dead, in our own individual tombs, for which society has encased us. Jesus is waiting to call us and encourage us men to help those who can. Each person to return to our families to undertake our roles of responsibility, leadership and prayer. For example, in our churches, community and homes, the pastor said. And he concluded by acknowledging the hard work and dedication of the men and notable successes in areas which give justice and peace, which they legally successfully did.

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**Understanding disability**

A report on the ASNA second Disability Training Awareness conference by Sophia Nichols

ASNA held its second Disability Awareness conference on 12 October at the Stanborough Centre, Watford. This year’s conference theme was ‘Understanding Disabilities and Special Needs: Meeting the needs of the community’, and consisted of lectures and group discussions.

SEC president Pastor Don McFarlane and his wife Mary were also in attendance. In his opening presentation, Pastor McFarlane expressed his support for the work of ASNA and presented his own experiences of disability awareness. He noted in his presentation that ‘we are all affected by disability in some way.’

The theme for the conference, ‘Seize the moment!’ was suggested by Pastor McFarlane in his presidential address, after stepping out to present issues of living with a disability.

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Contact: Mary at the BUC: 01923 672251. Deborah on 07816 517924; Eric Hocking on 07933 236902. Email: calling@menzclub.org.
8 million street children in Brazil
ADRA-Ireland director visits Brazil

ADRA-Ireland Country director Alan Hodges made his fifth visit to Brazil in connection with projects funded by Ireland Aid, the Irish Government Agency for foreign development aid. Ireland Aid has funded nineteen ADRA projects in Brazil, the largest country in South America. Eleven of the projects are centred around children’s Day Care Centres that are spread throughout central Brazil. Four other projects are centred around the Karaja Indian tribes of central Brazil and include a Development Centre, a Cultural Centre, a Sanitation Project and an Agricultural Project.

During his recent visit from 7-24 September, three Children’s Day Care Centres were opened, a ground-breaking ceremony took place for the most recently approved project in Campo Limpio, São Paulo City, and an extension on an existing centre was opened. The latter extension was funded from ADRA-UK Ingathering funds which were collected last year. The new centres are located in Itaheem, Engenheiro Caetano, both in São Paulo State, and the third was opened in Planaltina, Goiás, which is close to Brasilia. The new extension was opened at Project Amar (Project of Love) in Galinha, in Goiás State. A second extension funded by ADRA-UK will be opened in January 2004 at a centre built several years ago in Nito Grosso.

The needs in Brazil are great. There are 8 million street children and they cannot benefit properly from state education. Many do not attend school and therefore have little chance of what we would define as a normal life. The Day Care Centres offer the children who attend the opportunity of a better future. In the Brazilian education system children either attend school in the morning or afternoon and so the Day Care Centres cater for two groups each day. In the state of Goiás one centre has 250 children attending in the morning and 250 in the afternoon. Both groups are given a meal and then attend classes. This centre is over-stretched numerically as it was designed for a maximum of 100 children. In addition there are 1,000 children on the waiting list. The local Mayor is seeking ways to secure further land next to the centre so that ADRA can extend its work.

Most of the centres are supported by local government and ADRA has been praised widely in every city where they have been established. ADRA-Central Brazil has been commended by the Brazilian Government as the top charity for aiding children in Brazil. Pastor Hodges had the opportunity to revisit the first Day Care Centre, which was funded by Ireland Aid and opened in February 1999 in Ria Claro, São Paulo State. The local Mayor told the Director of the Centre that if she needed anything, she should call him. She did and he has provided food and equipment for the centre since its opening. He has also built a school next door and a clinic next to the school, all this in the poorest part of the city, and now in the same area an Adventist church is being built.

While visiting Brazil a very profitable meeting was held with the Second Secretary from the Irish Embassy. It is the desire of those involved that the work of ADRA will continue and be extended throughout Brazil, where poverty is so prevalent. We are hopeful that ADRA-Ireland will continue to receive the support of Ireland Aid.

This was the last official visit to Brazil by Pastor Hodges as ADRA-Ireland Country director. An action was taken at the ADRA-Ireland Board on 25 September to appoint Pastor Curtis Murphy as the new director and we wish him well as he continues this important work.

Notice of NEC Constitution Committee
The North England Conference Constitution Committee will shortly be meeting in preparation for the Session in 2004. Any items for the Committee’s consideration should be submitted no later than 12 December 2003 to Pastor Paul Marlow, NEC Constitution Committee, North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 20 Jule Brunswick Road, West Bromwich, B70 0QA.

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Notice of NEC Constitution Committee
The North England Conference Constitution Committee will shortly be meeting in preparation for the Session in 2004. Any items for the Committee’s consideration should be submitted no later than 12 December 2003 to Pastor Paul Marlow, NEC Constitution Committee, North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 20 Jule Brunswick Road, West Bromwich, B70 0QA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

EVENT
Starry Night Banquet
Gospel Concert Fund-Raising Event

WHEN
20 November, 8.30pm
Saturday 6 December

WHERE
Nechells, Birmingham
Harper Bell School, Ravenhurst Street, Camp Hill, Birmingham

WHO
Nechells Community Centre
Hosted by Mark Palmer, Fellowship Choir (Wolverhampton), Providence, Teens Choir (Wolverhampton)

HOW
Fund-raising event for community minibus
and much more

DEC 5 3.53 4.05 3.50 3.41 4.00
DEC 21 4.04 4.17 4.02 3.56 4.14

Value:
£20 couple, £15 single.
First 50 people £5 discount.
£20 couple, £15 single.
First 50 people £5 discount.
£20 couple, £15 single.
First 50 people £5 discount.

Contact Judith on 0121 544 3990 or Lois on 0121 608 6101.
Tel. Verina Blake 0121 356 9370.

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