LIFE.info – have you tried it yet?
by Lee Gallaher

LIFE.info is finding its way into court waiting rooms, Chinese take-aways, and hotel bedrooms. People are picking it up in hospitals, local libraries, dentists’ and doctors’ waiting rooms. It is being pushed through letterboxes, handed out at coffee mornings, and picked up in staffrooms – and the magazine is making a difference to people’s lives.

Non-Christians are finding in the magazine relevant, interesting content. There is down-to-earth advice and support. It is a refreshing change from the tabloid-style gossip and sensationalism that fills many of the magazines in the racks in Asda, Sainsbury’s and TESCO.

There is also spiritual content aimed at piquing the curiosity of pre-Christians, offering Christian options and solutions which they are starved of in most other forms of media.

LIFE.info is an excellent evangelistic tool but it cannot get into the hands of its target audience (not yet Christians) unless the people who already know about it make the effort to get it to where it’s needed.

And it does require effort and personal commitment. It even requires a tiny amount of financial sacrifice. You may think that because you faithfully pay your tithe and give regularly to your local church budget that all evangelistic materials ought to be free. Well, I disagree. Count your blessings. Has God been less than generous to you? I don’t think so.

LIFE.info costs just 20p per copy.* That’s less than the cost of a muesli bar! – something you can unwrap, consume and forget about in minutes. For the same price you could give someone a magazine that might start some thought process that leads them on a journey to the Kingdom. It’s true, the emphasis has to be on the word ‘might’, but for just 20pence it’s quite an opportunity!

So, give LIFE.info some serious, prayerful consideration. Take time to ask God if he’s got anyone in mind whom he’d like to touch – with your help.

For the second year running, the SEC’s Health Ministries department represented the Adventist Church at the Vitality Show. From Thursday 7 to Sunday 10 April, over 40,000 people from all over the country flocked to the Vitality Show at the Grand Hall in Olympia to discover how they might improve their lives, physically, but also mentally, socially and spiritually.

The Health Ministries department, under the leadership of Mrs Elsie Staple, screened 814 people and gave out over 6,000 copies of the recent health edition of the FOCUS. When I spoke to Elsie after the show, she was, to say the least, ecstatic. As well as the magazines, she also gave away over 100 Bibles and 100 copies of Ministry of Healing and God’s Little Book of Prayer – and she received 434 subscriptions to FOCUS magazine.

‘It was so good to mingle with people and hear their experiences about their health,’ Mrs Staple stated. She continued by saying that exhibiting at the Vitality Show...
School of Evangelism training event

‘A Heart for the Lost’ was the theme for the weekend at the High Leigh Conference Centre, 28-30 January, organised by the Pastoral Ministries and Sabbath School departments of the SEC. The very successful event was attended by over one hundred members from over forty churches.

The spiritual tone was set on Friday evening with an interesting visual presentation by Pastor P. Coates. The purpose-driven Sabbath school format suggested by Pastor A. Vondrauls was simple but very effective. We were also challenged by the powerful message of Pastor H. Walters.

On Sabbath afternoon we were the recipients of an enthusiastic presentation by J. Murray and N. Nichols from Oxford church, sharing how they reach people in their community through health following. This was followed by workshops on How to Give Bible Studies, Small Group Leaders and Coaches, Community Involvement, Spiritual Gifts and Purpose-driven Sabbath School.

The Sabbath day was a delight as we fellowshiped and relaxed, making friends from other churches. Worship throughout the week-end led by the Rogers family from the NEC, and Lavene Byng, was very inspiring.

Saturday arrived with a twinge of sadness that we had to part after such a warm and fruitful weekend, but the Lord did not let us part without a special event.

The spiritual tone was set on Friday evening with an interesting visual presentation by Pastor P. Coates. Finally we reluctantly parted company with the confidence that our God is able to give us all we needed to develop a heart for the lost.

As pastors, we need to experience a complete change in our hearts and lives to show the kind of love and compassion that our Heavenly Father expects from us.

On Sabbath 26 March, members of the Central Lancashire District were pleased to welcome Pastor Cyril Sweeney and his wife as they joined the congregation for worship at Preston church.

All were intrigued by the title of Pastor Sweeney’s sermon ‘Community Service Volunteers – A good for nothing People’.

My special thanks to the many people who were involved in the planning of this event including:-

- Prof. William B. Riley (Principal Head Town Methodist Church, Montserrat)
- Rev. John Bell (Senior Pastor, Leeds Metropolitan University)
- Rev. George B. Riley (Principal Co-ordinator MDS 0212 241 7318)
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- Rev. John Bell (Senior Pastor, Leeds Metropolitan University)
- Rev. George B. Riley (Principal Co-ordinator MDS 0212 241 7318)

Montserratian Day of Fellowship

Sabbath 28 May

High Town Methodist church
45-47 High Town Road, Luton
Luton LU2 0BW, Bedfordshire

with Pastor Derek Foster, NEC
Contact William B. Riley (Principal Co-ordinator MDS 0212 241 7318)

Meet Dean and Sandra, our new staff, who will be able and willing to help you with your purchases and orders.

The interior will be panted to install the coin-operated machinery. Telephone (if they are needed) will now be available to the exterior of the box.

As around 60% of BT’s 70,000 kiosks are running at a loss, we can expect to see more of these bright red sweetboxes across the countryside.

A few may be converted into walk-in ‘jukeboxes’ with downloadable tracks.

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It has to be an occasion when both NEC and BUC presidents, the BUC Executive secretary and local minister Pastor Kevin Johns are gathered together in one place. So it was on Sabbath 12 March for a Bible Conference at Preston church, where a warm welcome was given to our visiting speakers – Pastor E. Francis, NEC president, Pastor C. Perry, BUC president, and Pastor E. C. Lowe, BUC Executive secretary. Why a Bible Conference? Because we cannot study too much of God’s word.

The format for the day was split into three presentations, interspersed with special musical renditions: The importance of unity (Pastor Francis), Truth on trial (Pastor Perry), Witness to the truth in the life of Jesus (Pastor Lowe).

The Importance of Unity
Pastor Francis outlined the meaning of unity as ‘togetherness, solidarity, completeness, and strength’. The disciples were trained by Jesus. His wish was for them ‘to be one’. Even though they had different personalities and were from different walks of life and had different limitations, Jesus had great faith in them. He looked at their qualities, not at who they were, but for who they could become if they followed him.

“Today we can experience the same Pentecost experience the disciples had,” said Pastor Francis. “It’s free if we approach God in humility and put away our differences. The apostle Paul emphasises the need for unity among the church by using the parts of the body as an illustration. The church is made up of people from various ethnic origins, cultures etc. and we were asked to embrace our diversity. Irrespective of where we come from there is commonality, one Lord, faith, baptism, commission to share.”

Truth on Trial
Some people are afraid of the word ‘judgment’, said Pastor Perry. “You don’t always find truth in a human court because words are manipulat- ed to make the innocent look like the accused.”

Pastor Perry asked us to imagine a courtroom scene, the stage: the Universe, Heaven, the unfallen worlds. The accuser: Satan and his emissaries, and the defendant: God.

In heaven, the environment was just right until Satan developed the wrong attitude and iniquity was found there. He made charges against God, e.g. laws impossible to keep, God’s love is God-centred or self-serving. Satan is fracturing the Church today! The BUC president: ‘God’s love is true on trial.’

The Witness to Truth in the Life of Jesus
Pastor Lowe spoke of Jesus’ being the light of the world. What did he expose by his light? Jesus’ main conflict was over the Sabbath. The day created to be a blessing had been turned into a curse. The Sabbath Maker was being accused of being a Sabbath breaker! Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. He needed to help people recognise that this was a special day. Sabbath should be the happiest day of the week. It was symbolised when Jesus ‘restored’ on the Sabbath.

“We have a responsibility to uphold the Sabbath,” concluded Pastor Lowe.

The Lord kept the pool warm
On 29 January the Lord kept the baptismal pool warm enough for Lydia, Louis and Mary to be baptised in the evening.

Anybody who is familiar with the Plumstead Community church knows that part of the building is currently under reconstruction. The church decided to use the newly-constructed baptismal pool downstairs for baptism on this winter day. Every effort was made to heat the pool from Friday evening.

On Sabbath morning the church realised that the pool was rippy because the electrical heaters had tripped off the system. After the midday service the heaters went into the pool again. They worked for less than an hour and tripped off the system again. The elders decided to cover the pool to preserve heat. The baptismal service began at 10.30. On this occasion the three candidates blew the fuses in the church, planning the precise, into darkness. It was amazing to see the whole church, including the number of visitors who had come to witness the baptismal service, sing in the dark while electricity was restored.

It was time for the immersion. Around 7pm. Anybody who placed his hands in the pool acknowledged that the pool was cold. However, when the pastor stepped into the pool it was not very cold. Each candidate testified that the pool was warm enough.

It pays to advertise
A group of Brazilians has begun to worship regularly at Ballinasloe, about eighty miles east of Galway in Ireland. The contact began with a Yellow Pages ad that the church placed early in 2004. There was a family of four from Brazil living in Ballinasloe who were all baptised members of the Adventist Church in Brazil. They had looked for the Adventist church and had not found any for one year. Suddenly they found Galway church listed in the Yellow Pages, and began to attend.

Seeing potential for a group being planted in the Ballinasloe, Athlone, Birr area, Pastor Kongari initiated the idea of having a place of worship that would be suitable and convenient for the believers in that area. The group was organised under the leadership of Enidre DeSantos. The week 27 March to 3 April was a special time of prayer and meeting; both were held every night, with a total attendance every day of between 17 and 20.

One family of four, taking charge, has made a difference in Ballinasloe and brought over twenty people to attend meetings and know about the Adventist faith.

The Hackney Three
Three people fully gave their hearts to the Lord in a baptismal service held at the Hackney church on Sabbath 19 February.

Hannah Mai Bartham, 8, followed her brother Jamie Bartham, 13, to the baptismal pool while their mother and father, Miriam and John Bartham, proudly looked on. Church elder John Mathieu, uncle to the two young people, remarked that from an early age Jamie had always had a strong desire to be baptised, and Hannah-Mai had always followed his brother and looked up to him, saying, ‘If it’s good enough for my brother then it’s good enough for me.’

Michaela Mathieu-Marius, 19, cousin to the two young people, sang ‘I’m Running Back to You’. Also baptised was Michael Lynch. Michael’s mother did not live to see the step that her son made, and his family are dispersed throughout the Caribbean and America. Although he has no family in England, he says, ‘I am now part of the big family of God.’ Special items were given by Sister Kirleen and Sister Carmen Villard Graham on behalf of Michael.

The baptismal programme was co-ordinated by the elders and pastor of the church, Michael Mantrix, who immersed the three candidates.

Eggciting Witness
An eggciting afternoon of family fun was organised by the LlundPow Wells church plant over the Easter holiday. Fifty-four people turned up to search for 200 eggs hidden in a local park. Family fun events and kids’ clubs are part of the DNA of this new plant as we endeavour to reach the families in the community. Thirty new names of people wanting more information about our family activi- ties were added to our database.

But more important than that were the comments of thanks and appreciation received. It also led to offers of funding from community schemes as the community becomes increasingly aware that we are ‘committed to caring for them’.

Bradford baptism
Sabbath 26 February was a cold wintry day, but the temperature was high in the Bradford church as Mandlenkosi Bule dedicated his life to Jesus. He was baptised by Pastor Ian Sweeney assisted by local pastor Jeff Cousins. The address was given by lay preacher Charlotte Twyman, who had given the Bible studies, and the theme was ‘Let this mind be in you which is in Christ Jesus’. Mandlenkosi has a beautiful singing voice, and often joins in with Africans to enhance worship – as he did at his baptism. Mandlenkosi says, ‘I was born in an Adventist home in the rural Matabeleland in Zimbabwe. I always had a desire to do God’s will, but as I grew up I served him out of fear. I thought God was always waiting for me to do wrong and punish me. The result was that there was an increasing gap between what I wanted to do and what I was doing. In my search to find God I discovered a God who is love. That is the reason why I decided to restart my life.’

Ashley Stanley Kongari

Preston Bible Conference

Rebirthday
Jennie Hall and Jane Hasaki provided a fantastic witness to friends, family and members of their rebirth in Jesus through baptism on Easter Sabbath 26 March at the Plymouth church. Both shared their moving personal testi monies, supported by family and friends. It was a double celebration for Jane as it was also her birthday.

Pastor Ron Clenower emphasised that because of the events that signify Easter, Heaven is open to all, and on this day there was great celebration because of ‘Jennie and Jane’s acceptance of Jesus’ sacrifice for them. While Pastors Ron Clenower, Ken Clenower and Marc Rassell, and church elders Dennis Hall (grandfather of Jennie) laid hands on the candidates, Ken prayed for the Holy Spirit to anoint them both so they too will go and share their joy with others.

Joy in Peckham!
Sabbath 26 February was a beautiful start to the year as Heaven increased its book numbers and Peckham increased its membership numbers.

Three candidates, Verona Anderson, Camay Griffiths and Carol Drake were publicly surrendered their lives to Christ in the presence of their friends and families. It was a wonderful day as these three ladies had been friends of Peckham for some time.

Verona came to the end of a long journey and was supported by her daughter all the way. Camay could not escape the fifteen years of praying by her mother, Sister Gray, a long-standing member of Peckham; and Carol was a ‘Peckhamite’ returnee who knew she had been away too long and finally joined her mother and daughter back at Peckham.

There was joy in heaven, but there was also much joy in Peckham!

NEWSBRACK

NEWSBRACK
A Healing Miracle

In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:6.)

Many years ago my father and mother and my sister and I were in Shanghai, China, where my father was working as the representative of the National City of New York. Mother was a very devout Anglican Christian and sent us off to Sunday School every week. I have very vivid memories of those services, for excellent visual aids were used to get across to us children the lessons the teachers wanted us to learn.

Quite unexpectedly my mother became very seriously ill. Dad took her to the family doctor, but after examining her he shook his head and said: ‘I am afraid there is nothing I can do to help her.’

Those same words were repeated again and again as my father took my mother from one doctor to another. When every local doctor had been visited, my father in despair went back to the family doctor and said: ‘There must be someone we can go to. Please, please, tell me.’ The family doctor’s reply was: ‘Well, there’s that crank in charge of the Fabian Social Sanitarium – you could try him.’

So to Dr Harry Miller at the Adventist hospital my mother was taken.

Dr Miller gave her a very thorough examination and then, looking at my father, shook his head and said: ‘I would not be able to do anything to help her get better, but I am quite prepared to offer my hands to the Lord so that he can heal her if that is his will.’

And to those who knew my mother as she passed through the years since then, you will know that the Lord did indeed heal her, using Dr Miller’s hands. As a result of this amazing experience my mother became an Adventist and taught my sister and me to be Adventists too.

Just a few days ago I was going through an old photographs album that had belonged to my sister, and which Dr Woodfield passed on to me. Within its pages I found this letter, which was a copy of the letter my mother wrote to members of her family (she was one of eleven children).

To my sister, and which Dr Woodfield passed on to me. Within its pages I found this letter, which was a copy of the letter my mother wrote to members of her family (she was one of eleven children).

I am persuaded to leave my own doctor and go to see the very clever Seventh-day Adventist, Dr Miller (American), who immediately told me the serious condition I was in, so the very same day I went into hospital, and the following morning the operation was performed. It certainly was a struggle this time, but the whole hospital – doctors, nurses and everyone – were praying for me, with the result that I was called “the marvel” for making such a wonderful recovery. Everyone is a Christian in St. Bar’s Sanitarium, and it is a wonderful place to uplift one spiritually – apart from the material side. Before they commenced, they asked me the doctors offered up a prayer.'

I would like to add a few words of my own now. I want to thank God from the bottom of my heart for giving me in such a wonderful way some very good news, for shortly after she left the hospital she and my father decided to make a journey back to England so that she could meet up with all her family members. Just a few weeks after we returned to England my father died, very unexpectedly, but Mother was there for us. It was a terrible tragedy for me, for Dad was my very best friend. However, Mother guided us into making a decision to join the Church she belonged to. I thank God for his leading in my life ever since.
The John Loughborough School
25th Anniversary

The John Loughborough School celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. In that time, the school has moved from an Independent School to a Voluntary Aided School with government funding of 80%.

Aided School with government funding of 80%.

The school offers a wide curriculum, inclusive of the three core subjects: English, Mathematics and Science. Information Communication and Technology, generally referred to as ICT, is particularly popular among students, and they would like to spend all day in the two well-equipped modern suites if given half a chance.

Students learning French are particularly proud of the new language laboratory, which is well equipped to enhance the tasks of teaching and learning.

The other areas of study, which are grouped together under the umbrella of Humanities, Expressive Arts and Technology, offer students a wide range of subjects from which to choose their options. Bible and Religious Studies are offered as integral to the curriculum and this in line with the Christian ethos of the school. Students work in an atmosphere where a high premium is put upon care for the environment, respect for each other and activities based on Bible-centred principles.

We are seeking to work with students whose parents not only want a secure educational environment for their children but who seek to have them develop their spiritually in favour with eternal values, everlasting goodness and sanctified love.

Please send for an application pack from:

The Secretary, The John Loughborough School, Holcombe Road, London, N17 9AD.

Celebration events

The 25th anniversary celebrations of the John Loughborough School began in April. April 1980 saw the opening of the first Seventh-day Adventist School in London. The school is situated in Holcombe Road, Tottenham, and was once the site of a Catholic school. Now in 2005, The John Loughborough School can celebrate twenty-five years of successful delivery of secondary school education to the community. The school and church communities of the Seventh-day Adventist Church organisation have decided to mark this milestone in the history of Adventist education at the school by a series of activities. The aim of the celebration will be to remember, reflect, recognise and rejoice in the goodness of God in this mission of educating children for service. A list of coming events is shown here. The Steering Committee in seeking to contact as many past students and personnel as possible to become involved in the events of celebration.

The celebration promises a year full of events and we look forward to many delightful surprises. Why not join in the celebration and make this 25th anniversary a time to remember?

 Miracle at Adventist Hospital

Some people wonder, but I strongly believe, that miracles take place in the goodness of God’s institutions even in these modern days. One such miracle took place at Karachi Adventist Hospital (KAH) at 9.30pm on 10 February when a lady was rushed to our Emergency Room fighting for her life from complications suffered after the birth of her baby boy.

This young lady was bleeding profusely and was semiconscious, only responding to painful stimuli. On examination she was found to be in deep shock with no recordable blood pressure and pulse and the only sign of life was that her pupils sluggishly reacted to light.

The doctor in ER declared an emergency and the whole medical team was actively involved in resuscitating the young lady. The patient received a hystereotomy operation and was administered many blood transfusions. As blood is hard to come by, employees of the hospital took an active part in donating the seventeen units of blood that were needed in order to save her life. After twenty-four hours the patient was moved to the Intensive Care Unit where she was monitored vigilantly. She gradually improved and was eventually discharged on 18 February in a satisfactory condition as she returned to her family of seven small children.

I consider that saving this patient was nothing less than a miracle. The family were very thankful for the dedication and prayers of the doctors, nurses and paramedics. God truly answered our prayers and used KAH as an instrument for his glory.

DONALD JACOB, ANR

ABC BOOK SALES

May

West Midlands 10am-2pm
15 John Loughborough 10am-2pm
27 National Seminar 10am onwards

June

9-12 NEC Camp Meeting Cardigan Sands Mon-Thu 20-26 NEC Camp Meeting Southport

July

3 John Loughborough 10am-2pm
11 West Midlands 10am-2pm

Messenger

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