Planning for the trip began in November when students from Stanborough School submitted their applications to participate in the humanitarian trip to India. Fundraising events, such as 24-Hour sponsored badminton and carol singing in the local shopping malls, were organised. Meetings with parents and students to advise them on the project, travel plans and conditions were completed. Finally the departure day, 12 February, had arrived and as planned all students and staff met at Stanborough School at 5am for the journey to Heathrow Airport.

The six students, three staff and David Balderstone were on a mission sponsored by STOP International, to paint, decorate and carry out maintenance work on the BESSO Children's Home, which was funded and completed by STOP International in 2002. After four years, 75 young, active children had inflicted much wear and tear on the living facility and the building required repair internally and externally.

The team got to work the day after they arrived in the town of Hosur. The first task was to paint the girls' dormitory and the kitchen which the team efficiently completed on the first day. On the second day they tackled the boys' dormitory and the director's office. The third day the large hall was done, and by Friday the large utility was painted, too. The daily routine was intense, with a 6 am wakeup call, team worship and breakfast at 6:30, followed by a fifteen-minute walk to the BESSO Orphanage for worship with the children before they left for school. Work began soon after that and continued until 5pm and then a weary walk back to the Adventist campus where the team stayed for the two weeks. All of this helped to strengthen friendships and bond the team together to accomplish the objective successfully.

There were more relaxing items on the tight agenda, which included a two-day sightseeing trip to Mysore to see the magnificent Maharajah's Palace during the day and the spectacular illumination by night. A visit to a bird sanctuary to see thousands of migratory birds nesting with many other members of the avian species was special. The hour-and-a-half row-boat ride was made more exciting as our guide took our small floating vessel as close as four feet to one of
Making the most of your church’s website

by Brenda-Louise Pretorius

D uring the last few months, a team of volunteers have been thinking about how we could make the Leamington Spa Adventist church more open and accessible to regulars and visitors, churchgoers and unchurched people alike. We also wanted a way to keep in touch with distant friends and family members. In the age of technology, one medium stood out as being the perfect tool for this purpose: our church website. And so began months of creative brainstorming, technical expertise, hard work, long hours and lots and lots of writing and rewriting, but we can finally present the finished product.

Making the most of your church’s website

The website is a particular feature on the Alpha course and a compelling testimony from a new Christian on his experience of the course and its impact on his life. There is also a renewed focus on the importance and objectives of small group ministry as a way of deepening church members closer together but also of reaching out to friends and unchurched people. This links in well to the goals and objectives of the Life’s theme, and as a group we have identified the website as an important part of outreach and evangelisation within the secular world.

The website also touches on more personal and practical things such as who we are, what to expect when you come to visit Leamington, why you should be a member of our church. This includes the addition of an events calendar, prayer request corner, sunset calendar, secure members’ section, and this is all backed up by a quarterly e-newsletter. It is hoped that a facility to download audio sermons will be made available in the near future.

The team behind it: Special thanks go to Phil Gillhurst for technical development and creative design. Tristan Simmonds as lead content developer and positioning. James Haslam on technical management and IT, Peter Dobson, Cliff Proctor, Kristen Pearce and Bryony Pretorius on content development. Contributions from a team of reviewers, but not limited to, Terry Layland, Dan Vine, Alan Lanham, Claire Peacock, Andy Castellino, Rob Grinton, Rob Walker, Anna Simmons.

Here’s a taste of what we have in store:

• ‘Brief encounters’ page. As we grow in number, take the chance to get to know each other better. Sometimes, we’re so rushed off our feet during our weekly Sabbath service, that we never get time to mince our words, get to know new faces or even catch up with the old ones (faces that fall), here we’ll have a light-hearted page that will give people a chance to tell the world a bit about themselves.

• Web streaming. Technology permitting, we hope to explore live web streaming, so if you cannot attend church one week, watch parts of the service on the internet.

• Audio Sermons. Technology permitting, you will be able to download and listen to sermons recorded at the Mission. So you don’t have to miss out.

Alongside the website we have launched an e-newsletter. This will be sent out on a regular basis to anyone who joins the mailing list and will keep you up to date on current events, highlights and general news. To sign up for the newsletter simply visit our website, www.themission.org.uk and click on the ‘in touch’ link that is in your details.

New Leamington Spa Website

www.themission.org.uk

Spring is a State of Mind

David Marshall

Rich in Christ

A pompous lawyer was about to read aloud from the grave that he might become the heavenly advocate (in the words of Warren Wiersbe) ‘to make sure that the terms of the will were correctly followed’.

When Jesus wrote his last will and testament for his Church, he made it possible for us to share his spiritual riches. Instead of spending it all, Christ paid it all.

He wrote us into his will, then he died so that will would be in force. Then he arose from the grave that he might become the heavenly advocate (in the words of Warren Wiersbe) ‘to make sure that the terms of the will were correctly followed.’

The wretched said we were in for a bad winter. For once, he was right.

The Thames didn’t freeze over as it did to us in my country. Nor was the county suffocated in a six-foot-thick blanket of freezing snow for three weeks as has happened in living memory.

The winter was bad because it saved its worst excesses for its final phases. And, above all, because I didn’t know when to quit. It just kept on and on.

Up to the end of March winter hung on like a cantankerous bitch with sharp teeth.

Then the first April weekend came and ‘bade the lake, beneath the trees,’ ‘Fluttering and dancing in the breeze’ – swathes were out everywhere! Even some of the pink blossoms were beginning to show, albeit a bit shyly.

They were right to be shy! Mid-April, and thick crusts of frost are needed to be removed from cars at 7am, and Press reports are arising breathless and at the last minute for our 360-weeks.

Nevertheless, by mid-May, the daffs and shy blossoms have been found to have survived. The blue tits and assorted other non-psamintic have remembered that it’s meant to be spring and are playing fly in seek outside the office window; they’re either madly in love or viciously flicked on with one another.

But a hard frost is forecast for tonight and, once again, the north wind will be blowing tomorrow.

Nevertheless, by faith I can accept that God’s annual urban renewal programme will be happening outside in a week’s time. Winter’s monochrome is done. For the rest of the month it will be rainbow city out there: buds, blossoms and all manner of colour in the park, and every tree in leaf.

Is it a bit like that? The blizzard blasts of winter do a numbering off on our minds. Helplessness and hopelessness rule the news. ‘Family, domestic, global’ – is all of worse, depressing, even murdering. Will Bush and his band of NeoCons really go there that they need a nuclear strike against Iran? That Iraq may, perhaps, have been the wrong target? Blood and poisoning.

Then there’s the work front. All kinds of battles, not worth fighting at other times of year, are suddenly of monster importance. And all because that sullen old bitch, winter, refuses to release her tight bite.

Bottom line. Will things ever change for the better? Will the sun ever glow from a cloudy sky? At this stage - with the north wind increasing its strength - it is strictly a matter of faith. That God will clear the gate, and in will shine May.


Morning. An excess of ‘juice and joy’ – and hope for entering in is dissatisfaction with the winter of spiritual hibernation – Operation Survival – and get a grip on grace.

Let’s try again. That’s the sun out there. God’s Invention of Grace remains the same as when Isaiah expressed it:

‘Hey there! Are you thirsty? Come! Come anyway! Buy and eat! ... Buy without money – and everything’s free.’

The same invitation was repeated four times in the final paragraph of the final book of Scripture. ‘Come!’ say the Spirit and the Bride. ‘Whoever thirsts! Come!’

Is anyone thirsty? Come! All who will, and come to drink.

‘Come!’ ‘The water of life – the life – the living water.’

The only qualification to drink the Water of Life to grasp – grace – is thirst. Need. Spring is a state of mind. The only qualification for entering is dissatisfaction with the winter of sleep and hibernation. Leave the legalism of winter, with its hypocrisy and depression, and step into the fresh breezes and bright colours of God’s great springtime.

‘Cherish has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery upon you.’

Conversion is an act of emancipation. Christ is our liberator. ‘Christ set us free. Let’s be free’. Grace. Grace vivaciously.
Tell Southern England: Update 2
by Pastor Humphrey Walters, president, SEC

MISSION: Possible. The Advent Message to all southern England - in this generation!
Here in the SEC we continue to press all agencies, resources, and facilities into service 'to seek and save the lost' for Christ. As such, all our congregations are now on 'high alert' to engage in all-out evangelism and spiritual nurture.

Evangelistic campaigns: one by a layman, the other by a pastor
For the past few months Pastor Michael Walker, supported by our Area 8 ministerial team, has been busy conducting three mini-series of evangelistic meetings in the town of Thetford. Among those attending have been, as well as an enthusiastic group of other non-Adventist visitors. Adventist businessman and church leader, Brian Davis, the featured speaker for an evangelistic series taking place at Stanborough Park Church, Watford. Each evening’s meeting is preceded by a meal, with a creative blend of musical selections and audio-visual presentations following. So far the attendance has been encouraging, with deacons on duty having been required to provide additional seating.

Church planting continues apace
Andrew Leonce (Luton) and Michael Mbui (Hayes and Beckton) are among the first of our pastors to achieve the conference’s vision of establishing enlarged, multi-church districts. Both of these church leaders now supervise four conglomerate apostles, whereas until recently only one pastor's district comprised only two churches. They have worked hard in church planting endeavours, and encouraging results have ensued. Pastor Richard Daly is about to launch the Bristol South congregation. As the main seedbed for this project, he started out with Bristol Central. Out of that congregation he planted Bristol North. Out of that congregation he is now planting Bristol South. As Pastor Daly continues where his next church plant should be located, he hardly needs us to say it: ‘Go west, young man.‘

Spiritual growth through greater emphasis upon prayer
More and more of our leaders and members are taking time to organize special seasons of prayer for revival and reformation. In this connection, not long ago I had the privilege of participating in a pastorate all-night prayer meeting. More recently I shared with our Chingford church the blessings of their all-night prayer convocation. In a couple of weeks I, along with my fellow leaders (at the SEC headquarters officers and departmental directors), will be assembling for our very own all-day prayer service. Questionably this will be the very first meeting of its kind. Many more examples could be cited to show that prayer in the church is increasing - becoming a leading priority in the development of our Tell Southern England agenda. This is, of course, exactly as it should be: only as we are both filled with the Holy Spirit and blessed by his guidance will we be able to accomplish our mission.

Tell the World initiative
’Tell Southern England’ is an initiative of the SEC South England Conference, and has as its aim the goal of providing an opportunity for all those living within its territory to hear and respond to the good news of salvation.

Tell the World initiative update
The visit was packed with educational lectures relevant to the student’s future careers. On the first day, Mario Oliveira, (Acting Director of the EU Liaison Office) spoke about ADRA’s organisational structure, project writing, donor requirements, and the office’s mission and purpose in raising EU funds. The next day, the students received an interesting lecture at the EU Commission – its history, role and plethora of institutions. In the afternoon, the group was given an educational tour of the Parliament buildings of the European Union. Since the EU is a key entity in business and charity work, Newbold’s future businessmen and women were given an insider view which will stand them in excellent stead for life after Newbold. Marko Markev (Head of Department), felt that the ‘trip was useful; many new things were learnt, it was relevant and very enjoyable.

How did they get there on a student budget? Partial costs of £200 were raised at a dinner organised by Newbold Business students (26 March) which included keynote talks by Adventist businessmen Victor Barendse and John Rees-Stoner, who gave short presentations on successfullife in business with an international bent. The students presented a cosmopolitan menu representing their many nationalities and the guests also enjoyed a selection of multi-ethnic music played by Greek marimba, balalaika, bouzouki, and electric guitar.

The Department of Business Studies at Newbold is implementing suggestions and recommendations made by the strategic planning day held at the beginning of 2006 - Newbold Business Studies: The Way Forward.

End of Term Letter Box

God is blessing the outreach of the Newman School. It has been planned to focus on Homecoming Day on 11 March was well supported by church members and people from the community. God’s provision of an aunt and niece – neither of whom knew that the other planned to attend – was reunited. The adult Sabbath School department and the Youth department joint forces to present a timely play titled ‘The End Times Letter Box’.

Newbold Choir on tour in Middle East
by Sujoya Paul Bullock
Newbold Communications

Would you like to walk where Peter and Paul walked? How about witnessing in the deep hinterland of Lebanon...witnessing in the only Catholic cathedral in the Middle East...climbing snow covered heights of the Troodos Mountains? Over the mid-semester break this is what Newbold’s college choir of thirty-three, representing fifteen nationalities, did. Sandra Rigby-Barrett’s team of singers and instrumentalists performed for Newbold prior to their departure and received a lovely farewell at the Newbold Church Centre. From 9-16 March, the team flew to Lebanon and then on to Cyprus for a spiritually and physically invigorating week, performing in many parts of the world: (it is also known as the place where (Sophia was supposedly spit out by the whale!)

The choir was asked for repeat performances in many parts of the world: massive networks of hall and vestibules. The Catholic youth who were meeting for an all-night prayer vigil joined Newbold in the famous and moving ‘Via Dolorosa song (depicting Jesus’ journey to Golgotha). One of the priests exclaimed that it was ‘so beautiful and wonderful’. He actually opened the main cathedral and set up the whole PA system just for them. So, instead of one concert, Newbold performed four – and five hundred people in all. Kay Choudary commented: ‘The local young people were so moved, people were crying’. The choir sang at the Shrine of the Saints in Sidon, built in the eighth century on the site where Peter and Paul met (Acts 27:3); and St Paul’s Pillar Church in Paphos. The audiences were mostly from the 20,000-strong Anglican ex-pats’ community living in Cyprus. ‘Starbucks’ had a hand in Newbold’s choir tour this year, since the company sponsored the Cyprus Anti-Cancer Society charity for which Newbold raised over $1,200 in its last two concerts.

Awareness was raised about Newbold College and the Adventist faith. The choir director appraised over whether she should take the choir into Lebanon or not, but Sandra commented that, ‘it became an amazing spiritual journey, my fears didn’t materialise and everything went enormously smoothly. We experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in the small churches.’

Newbold Business Students in Brussels
Interesting things are happening in the Newbold Department of Business Studies. Sixteen Newbold students made the journey from Bracknell to Brussels for a two-day field-trip (4-5 April) to learn about the ADRA’s EU office as well as the EU Commission and Parliament.

The students were delightful ambassadors for Newbold College and raised considerable awareness for our Church: in front of enthusiastic audiences representing numerous denominations,” said Alex Elmadjan on behalf of Valerie Fidella, MEU Music Co-ordinator. Several audiences in the famous Catholic Basilica complex on Marissa Hill heard the Newbold choir. The planned concert to only one audience could not take place and so the choir decided to visit the ‘Shrine of the Orient’ or the Sanctuary of the Lady of Lebanon which is a place of pilgrimage for Catholics from all over the world. It is also known as the place where (Sarah was supposedly spit out by the whale!)

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**Job Vacancy - ABC Sales Manager**

The STANBROOK PRESS LIMITED is seeking to appoint an ABC Sales Manager. Based in Mission House, Grantham, Lincolnshire, key responsibilities include managing ABC sales, in conjunction with the communications department. 

**Job Vacancy - ABC Sales Clerk**

The STANBROOK PRESS LIMITED is seeking to appoint an ABC sales clerk, also based in Mission House, Grantham, Lincolnshire. Key responsibilities include direct contact with ABC consultancies, and contact with local church members on a daily basis via telephone in a busy environment, and additionally include general clerical duties. Sunday work will be required in conjunction with sales work conducted in local churches. 

**Job Vacancy - ABC Sales Manager**

The successful applicant will have a proven moderate background prior to a Marketing degree, experience with training of staff in a relatively small but challenging environment; strong analytical, verbal and written communication skills; and a strong commitment to the ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. 

Salary and allowances according to denominational wage scale. 

Letter of application with current CV and addresses of two referees should be sent to The Manager, Stanbrough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9YX. Email: stanbrough@aol.com. 

Interviews will be held in June. 

**Krisssinder’s baptism**

Sabbath 28 January was the day Krissinder Elliott, 14, took a formal stand for God by being baptised at Nottingham Central church. She was supported by two close friends, Fiona and Andrea. Fiona stood beside Krissinder as she took her vows before being immersed in the baptismal pool. 

Krissinder had been a regular attendee at the Central church from an early age and, following a series of Bible studies, reached her decision because she realised the world had nothing to offer and that God had always been there to help her through. Her decision was reinforced when she heard a sermon delivered by Pastor L. Johnson in 2005. Krissinder felt God was speaking to her through Pastor Johnson; his sermon touched many aspects of her life that she had been struggling with. 

An aunt of Krissinder’s welcomed the young girl to the local community service and Pastors Herbert and Kumi officiated. The message of the hour, everything new, was as new as it had been delivered by Pastor Herbert. Pauline Liburt, who had been giving Krissinder Bible studies, read one of her favourite verses. 

The baptism was truly a family affair. The group Spiritual Addiction sang a song dedicated to Krissinder, and among the members of the group was another aunt, who also made her baptismal gown, and an uncle, whose cousin also joined the group to an uplifting rendition of ‘I bowed on my knees and cried holy’. Her mother and brothers were also present, as were a number of close family members and friends who provided her with additional support. Krissinder was warmly welcomed into the congregation of Nottingham Central church, SISTER MULLINGS-BANTON and SISTER MOORE. 

**Rhyll Day of Celebration**

Sabbath 17 December 2005 was a high day for the Rhyll church in North Wales. Members and friends gathered from the four corners of the British Isles and a number of Scandinavian countries to fill our little church to capacity. Guest speaker for the day was Dr Brian Phillips, the Welsh Mission president, who took the Christmas theme for his morning address. Following a splendid Fellowship lunch, organised so beautifully by our head deaconess Geraldine Turner and her helpers, that not only looked magnificent, but tasted delicious, we commenced our afternoon programme. 

For many of the afternoon programme was the highlight of the day, as we welcomed three new members into our fellowship, two by baptism and one on profession of faith. 

Dr Phillips instructed the candidates on the importance of baptism in his address, and Dr Coghill, a member of the church in Prestatyn, spoke on the importance of the vow of consecration. 

Catholics and churches of various denominations were well represented, and the programme was closed with a powerful sermon by Pastor Dennis, who addressed us on the value of the vow of consecration. 

**Camp Meeting 2006**

**Journey of Hope**

by Catherine Anthony Boldeau 

Come with me, leave the busy streets of London and travel by bus to one of the country’s large cities and towns and journey to the lovely town of Prestatyn, in North Wales, to spend a week with 3,000 similar-minded people. 

‘Come ye yourselves to the water and receive, for ye are clean’, is also the need to have a strong commitment to the ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. 

**Pathfinders soldier on in -6 temperatures**

Over 3-5 March the NEC Pathfinder department held its first Training Camping weekend. Candidates arrived in snow to meet temperatures that would fail to -6° C that night. But this was a hardy group who had taken on board all the information given them on their Level 1 Training and had come prepared for the weather conditions. 

By God’s grace we had our largest intake of Master Guide candidates, 41 in all, and for the first time for many years we began the Pathfinder Leadership Award (PLA) training again with 23 candidates. 

On Sabbath morning the Master Guides led the Morning Watch at 7-45 in heavy snow to warm the words of the chorus, ‘Fire, fire, fire. Fire fall on me.’ On Sabbath the Master Guides learnt Christian story-telling, church heritage and health & safety on a campsite. 

On Sunday they learnt how to saw, chop and split wood; light a fire and cook a meal on the fire. Unfortunately, the breadfruit, sweet potatoes and plantains did not arrive, but there is always next time. 

The PLAs had their eyes opened to the serious business of club leadership, and said that this was a part of their training and development they had had before. 

The second half of the Master Guide and PLA training was held on 14-16 April at Linnet Clough, Manchester, and we are running our Autumn Master Guide and PLA Training Courses in September and October. If you would like to take either of these courses, which are just £30 each, please ring Dawn on 0113 9603112 now. 

**PASTOR TREVOR THOMAS**
Dreams fulfilled by Dionne Whitehall, Stanborough School PR

‘Stanborough is like a dream!’ remarked Lorina, one of thirty students who travelled several hours and thousands of miles to experience education at Stanborough School. These students from Albania, Spain, Hong Kong, Korea, Brazil, and Finland and Poland represented ten partner schools in seven countries, and were fully integrated into classes, projects and worship from 12 to 24 March. Besides forming comparisons between school in England and school at home, the students presented various aspects of their culture and schools to Stanborough’s students, made lasting friendships, and visited some of England’s historic and modern attractions. These attractions included Buckingham Palace, Tower Bridge, the London Eye, The Museum of Britain at War, St Albans’ Abbey, and modern amusements such as bowling, ice skating and swimming. As a perk on this trip the students spent a day at Eurodisney in France and were able to view classes in progress and interact with the poultry shed at the Captain Turner’s home.

Stanborough School Project in 1998, the pilot study at the Captain Turner’s Children’s Home. On the last Friday the team spent the whole day with the orphans of the Blessing Home. Twenty-seven children aged 4 to 14 and staff of this newly-established home were treated to a picnic in the beautiful Nandi Hills, nearly 5000 ft above sea level. The team played cricket, UNO, football and adjourned to the tone with these lovely children, and had an enjoyable time which was made even more hilarious when an opportunist monkey stole a bottle of Fanta which one of our students had left on the park bench. It was pointless giving chase as the clever primate hastily climbed high up a tree, enjoying the beverage at the foolish humans down below.

What is the purpose of a trip such as this? It is mainly to teach our young charges early of the value of community service by a practical experience. Did we get the message across? In their farewell speeches to the orphans these were some of the comments they made. ‘This is the best experience I have had in my life.’ Another said, ‘At home it is boring but this is fantastic.’ Another student said to me that he now knew what his direction in life is; it is to be a humanitarian worker. Another promised to raise ten sponsors to support the orphans when he got back to England. Everyone expressed a sincere desire to return to do more for children either in India or some other developing country.

Stanborough School will be organising another humanitarian trip next year, as part of the new International Baccalaureate programme due to begin in September 2006. STOP International has organised two trips for this summer to begin work on a new Child’s Village Project. For more information email kishpoddar@onetel.com.

Vacancy for Chemistry Teacher at Stanborough School

Chemistry Teacher required for September 2006, to teach Science at Key Stage 3 and Chemistry up to Advanced Level (International Baccalaureate). Applicants should have a Bachelor degree in Chemistry and an appropriate teaching qualification. Teaching experience within the UK is preferable.

Stanborough School is a Co-educational Independent school with students from ages 11 to 18. For more information about Stanborough School visit our website at www.spsch.org

Come As You Are – Teen Church

One Sabbath every month, through games, drama, music and interactive activities, Stanborough School presents a colourful image of God to scores of teens who attend Come As You Are (CAVA), the newly-founded Teen Church.

CAVA begins at 1.30 pm with lunch that has a two-fold appeal, that is, vegetarian burgers, pastries or something fun, but wholesome.

The programme commences at 2.30 with an exciting icebreaker through which teens can demonstrate their athletic or balancing skills and make new friends.

The word is delivered through skits, discussions or some captivating activity that keeps the teens on the edges of their cushions. Yes, cushions! This programme is very informal and encourages teens to take their ‘masks’ off and come as they are in jeans or caps, whatever is the ‘real them’, to meet Jesus who accepts us as we are.

Community Leaders’ visit

On 23 March Stanborough School was visited by over a dozen community leaders who attended a reception hosted by the headmaster. These head teachers and pastors were briefed on the School’s new International Baccalaureate Diploma and other assets of the school, and were able to view classes in progress and interact with the students. Attendees included Pastor Ceci Perry, BUC president, Dr Keith Davidson, BUC Education director, and four teachers and administrators from partner schools in Albania, Hong Kong and Brazil.

Attendees communicated that they were very impressed by the achievements of the school, its facilities, and the high level of education that the school possesses. If you too would like to visit Stanborough School, please contact the registrar at registrar@spsch.org or ring 01923 873 268.