A sharp ear-piercing crack shattered the silence and woke me from my peaceful sleep. I rushed to my bedroom window, convinced that one of the nearby Jubilee line trains had been bombed. I pulled back the curtains, but instead of seeing billowing black smoke, I saw the sky momentarily light up to reveal a calm sea of pointed rooftops. Just sleepy London waking from her slumber.

Did you hear it? Wednesday 5 July at 6:30am – the deafening clap of thunder?

I stumbled back to my bed. It must have been that the one-year anniversary of the London bombings was on my mind: just two days later, on 7 July, London remembered. At midday I stood, together with my class of year-10 students, in a two-minute silence, so that the horrific events of that day, the lives taken, the injuries sustained, would not be forgotten.

The voice of our deputy headmaster came over the tannoy: ‘One year ago today, four suicide bombers struck in central London killing 52 people and injuring more than 770. Three bombs went off simultaneously at 8.50am on underground trains just outside Liverpool Street and Edgware Road stations and another travelling between King’s Cross and Russell Square. A final explosion was around one hour later at 9:47am on a double-decker bus in Travestock Square. At Russell Square 26 people had been killed and 340 injured. On the bus explosion, 13 people were killed and 110 injured. Aldgate saw 7 people killed and 171 injured, and at Edgware, 6 people had died and 163 had been injured.

As I listened to what could have been just a list of meaningless numbers, I pictured the face of a victim that I’d seen on the front page of a newspaper; I remembered an interview with a lady who survived the bombings but who had lost her legs; I thought of the family members who had lost loved ones: the woman who had lost her husband, the father who had lost his son, the brother who had lost his sister; and I tried not to let my students see the tears threatening to spill out of my eyes.

On 10 August, wandering down Oxford Street, I spotted a newspaper headline: ‘Heathrow Terror Plot’ and, later that evening, discovered that a plot to blow up as many as ten planes in mid-flight from the UK to the US had been discovered. As I watched the news that night and listened to Home Secretary John Reid saying that if the attack had gone ahead it would have caused a loss of life on an ‘unprecedented scale’, I wondered. What sort of world are we living in?

The third London Live meeting took place last month with Pastor Japhet de Oliveira (until recently our South England Conference Youth Ministries director) as the speaker. The theme of the evening was ‘Desperately Seeking’, and Japhet delivered a powerful message about how God is desperately seeking us. During the talk, it occurred to me how utterly heartbreaking the London bombings and other such terrorist attacks must be for God.

He loves us all so passionately and knows each one of us intimately – how must he feel? Japhet spoke about the feeling he had when he held his son Joshua for the first time. He described a powerful feeling of union, an intense bond that he compared to the feeling God has for us, his children. As our Heavenly Father, God not only created us and cares for us but he is actively seeking a relationship with us. The signs that God loves us and is desperately seeking us are everywhere. We can see them in a brilliant crimson sunset. We can feel them as a gentle breeze breaks the blazing heat of summer. We can hear them in a perfect four-part harmony.

The evening also featured worship through song. Led by Nicolas Thompson, we enjoyed some heartfelt singing, and the London Live Creative team were back with another entertaining drama that, once again, presented the theme in a fresh and innovative way.

Voice of Prophecy Rally Day
Sabbath 23 September

Give sacrificially
‘God so loved . . . that he gave . . .’

How much do you love?

The Adventist Discovery Centre/Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School is funded largely by individual donations and bequests.

In memory of Pastor Dalbert Elias, principal of the ADC/VOP, who died on 2 July 2006.
Heart to Heart
Dr W. B. Cannon (1871-1945) and Hans Seyle (1902-1982), pioneers in stress physiology, showed that changes in our emotions are paralleled by changes in heart rate, blood pressure, respiration and digestion. The mechanism for these changes is mediated from the brain via the vagus nerve and other nerve fibres in the spinal column.

Today the advent of heart transplants has shed a new and surprising light on the neuronal pathways involved in emotion and memory. A trickle of anecdotal accounts of memory changes in heart transplant patients has led to a relatively new field of research – neurocardiology. During the 1960s and 70s, researchers John and Beatrice Lacey observed that the heart communicates with the brain in unexpected ways. The results of their initial communication has become the subject of the author’s recent book, “A Heart’s Journey: How the brain affects the heart.”

The Lacey’s discovered that the heart’s own particular logic frequently diverged from, or overrode, information coming to it from the autonomic (automatic) nervous system. So in some instances the brain “obeyed” the heart and affected the individual’s behaviour. This would appear to be the physiological proof for the words of the wise man: “For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7).

It is possible that these new physiological insights underpin other Bible texts that name the heart – not the brain or mind – as the seat of our emotional and spiritual responses and commitments. The biblical account may be nearer to the truth in this matter than was previously suspected.

When a heart is transplanted the nerve fibres are severed and may diverged from, or overrode, input from the brain. This means that the heart’s own particular logic will be unsevered. This will have an important effect on the transplant. The heart is unique. We would do well to heed David’s words: “Stand in awe, and sin not; commune with your own heart, and be still” (Psalm 4:4).

Have a real heart to heart!

Rwanda: Hungry for Hope

It was about 9.30 on a Friday evening. There are “times that try men’s souls,” and that Friday came after a time that had been more trying than most.

It began with the results of a biopsy. “I’m afraid it is cancer,” the surgeon told my wife. Eight weeks on and the operation was over. It had been performed on the Thursday afternoon. I had visited Anita not more than an hour after the end of the op, and there she was, bristling with tubes, unnaturally pale, and breathing with the aid of an oxygen mask. By visiting-time on Friday evening things were beginning to look a little better. For one thing there were fewer tubes. And, after the end of visiting, I felt like taking a walk before resuming my duty by the telephone at home.

I chose to walk home via a circular road along the outer limits of the hospital grounds. My mind was a jumble of pictures.

One of the pictures that surfaced was of a lesson on the London Blitz I had taught years before, my description of the fear among those who hid from bombs in air-raid shelters and the response of one of the pupils: “Well, sir, they knew we would win in the end, don’t they?” The point had been, of course, that they had not known. And neither did I know now.

Another picture that sprang to mind became a whole sequence of pictures. The morning worship crowd at the Stanborough Press praying for Anita from the altar. The wider circle of praying people as the bad news spread: my good friends in Ireland, Watford, Balsam, Brighton and Nottingham. Prayer support from overseas: my friends Roy Adams and Bonita Shields at Adventist Review, Per Boiling in Sweden.

Then there were the very special prayers that had taken place at the annexing service. The operation day had been fixed. We had arranged a week’s holiday in the Yorkshire Dales immediately prior to it to ‘take our minds off things’. But when we returned it was to the news that the pathologist had revealed a large cancer than the ultra-sound had found, together with a second, smaller one. The first operation had been cancelled and a date fixed for a more major one. That second date seemed an eternity coming. In fact it had been less than two weeks), but now one. That second date seemed an eternity coming. In fact it had been less than two weeks), but now one. That second date seemed an eternity coming.

For the present: God’s peace. For the future? Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to destroy. Leaving him behind, I heard him resume singing.

Yes, I know I should have asked him his name.

Lord of an All-Hopeful Place

Lord of all Hopefulness

David Marshall

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On 23 July a baptism took place at Wednesfield church conducted by Pastor Richard Jackson, when two young people surrendered their hearts to the Lord. Crystal Coleman and Michael Smith affirmed their acceptance of the Bible beliefs and received literature to assist them on their spiritual pathway. In addition, they were presented with framed certificates as a constant reminder of the day that they gave their hearts to Jesus. Special songs were rendered, followed by words of encouragement from our dear Mother Smith from Brickhill church. As the grandmother of Michael she prayed that, by faith, he would stay on the path of righteousness until he reached his home. She further prayed that the Lord would protect him and put his loving arms around him. Mother Smith ended that part of the programme with an item, ‘My Heart Can Sing’.

**SANDRA FRANCIS**
Mick became very interested in this. Mick flew out to the Philippines to
attend a safe place to experience God's love through
exercise, warmth, shelter and safety. They take
care of their emotional needs for encouragement,
appreciation, support, comfort, acceptance,
and respect. They take care of their spiritual
needs by showing them a true picture of a loving,
graceful and forgiving God. Loving people speak and
act kindly towards children. (Philippians 4:5.)

Love is humble
Loving people honour children above themselves (Roman 12:10), and respect, as
princes and princesses in the Kingdom of God.

Love is polite
Loving people respect children and do not humili-
at them or put them down. They only speak
words that build children up and show them how
much God treasures them, not words that damage
their confidence. (Ephesians 4:29.)

Love is generous and unselfish
Loving people do not use their own physical,
spiritual or emotional advantage. They do
what is best for the child, and are willing to make
sacrifices for the child’s benefit. (John 15:13.)

Love always protects
Loving people do nothing that will cause harm to
a child’s body. They do not use physical punishment in
anger, use violent or harsh words, treat them cruelly
or misguide them. Just as perfect love casts out
care, fear casts out perfect love. (1 John 4:18.)

Love always trusts
Loving people believe what children tell them,
even when the children tell lies, are worried
shocking. They accept what the child has said and
seek to help the child find protection and safety,
even from their family members or fellow church
members. (Psalm 10:16-18.)

Love never fails
Loving people never let children down by betraying
their trust, or failing to protect them from emotion-
al, spiritual, or physical harm. Through their
constant, unselfish love, children come to
know their Father God who will never fail them.
(1 John 4:11, 12.)

Loving people handle children gently. They take
care of their physical needs for food, drink,

Michael’s baptism
God’s “mysterious ways” even include internet chat rooms! Michael Jones
was a keen member of Watford Church. One day he entered a chat room which
included a nurse in the Philippines. Someone else was also a little new to the
room and he asked her if she had joined in. She had, and they started to
chat. Later that same day, a young lady and discovered she was
a Seventh Adventist. Gradually their friendship
developed over e-mail and roman. They married and
set up home together in Milton Keynes. Shari wanted to worship in
an Adventist church and together they visited the ones in Milton
Keynes, Northampton and Wellington. and finally,
they retired Pastor Roy contacted them and Mick was welcomed into the
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from the Philippines.

Dorothy Taylor

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event will be taking place on 9 September and will be in the form of a river cruise on the Thames. But if a river cruise is not your thing, come along to our next meeting – Friday night 13 September at 7.30pm – 275 Oxford Street.

**London Live Sport:** If you enjoy playing sports, spectating or simply sitting in the shade and chatting, join us for our next London Live sports afternoon. Last month, over 20 people enjoyed a great game of volleyball in Hyde Park. Come along on 10 September at 1pm for volleyball, football and frisbee. Visit mylondonlive.com for directions and a map.

**Desperately Seeking**

In a world like ours, in a city like ours, there is a need – now more than ever – to reach out to those who are searching. To lead people to look for answers in the right places. To encourage people to answer the ‘desperately seeking’ advertisements and signs that God puts all around us. If you, or someone you know, is also desperately seeking some answers and feel it is time you found some, come along to London Live and invite a friend.

Up and coming events:

**London Live**

- **River Outing:** The next London Live event is a river cruise on the Thames. But if a river cruise is not your thing, come along to our next meeting – Friday night 13 September at 7:30pm – 275 Oxford Street.

**London Live Sport:** If you enjoy playing sports, spectating or simply sitting in the shade and chatting, join us for our next London Live sports afternoon. Last month, over 20 people enjoyed a great game of volleyball in Hyde Park. Come along on 10 September at 1pm for volleyball, football and frisbee. Visit mylondonlive.com for directions and a map.

**NEC PARENTING WEEKEND**

13-15 October

Robinson Centre, Wyboston Lake, Bedfordshire

Covering topics such as: General parenting principles; Teens; Adulthood and the transitional journey; Blended families (adoption/step-parenting); The empty nest syndrome; Education and Finance

Contact Pastor C. Sweeney for further details on 0115 9606312

**HEALTH & HAPPINESS DAY OF FELLOWSHIP**

Sabbath 7 October

The Great Hall, Aston University, Birmingham

For more information on this upcoming event contact: Fred Evans: 07938 684759, Gary Harrison: 07956 380321, Yvonne Howell: 0121 240 4101

**SEC CONSTITUTION**

The South England Conference Constitution Committee is meeting in November of this year. Members in the South England Conference are invited to send suggestions by 1 November for consideration to:

Office of the Executive Secretary,

South England Conference,

25 St John’s Road, Watford,

Hertfordshire, WD17 1PZ;

Tel: 01923 656500;

Fax: 01923 250582;

email: secretariat@secadventist.org.uk

[www.secadventist.org.uk](http://www.secadventist.org.uk)

**NEC Inter Session Meetings**

To review the progress of the Conference between sessions. We would encourage two representatives from each congregation in the NEC to attend.

10am Sunday 24 September, Manchester Central Church, Cross Lane, Pendleton, Manchester

10am Sunday 1 October, Camp Hill church, Birmingham

Lunch will be provided and it is hoped that the meetings will conclude in the early afternoon. Tel: 0115 9606312 for more information.