You've got the best tent I've seen all day!' exclaimed a young boy after Eifion Paul from the Swansea church finished painting the Welsh flag on his cheek. During the second week of August church members, mostly from the Swansea church, ran a booth at the Welsh National Eisteddfod at Felindre, Swansea. Situated among a variety of sellers and business promoters, the church's booth offered free services such as face painting, body mass index and blood pressure consultations, as well as helium-filled balloons. This gave church volunteers the opportunity to talk to hundreds of people about family life, healthy living and faith.

One such person was Peter Hain, Labour MP and Secretary of State for Wales, who had his BMI and blood pressure taken. Then, like most of the visitors to the booth, he received literature about Adventists, a LIFE.info and a Focus magazine. Another influential person who passed by the booth was the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams. The Archbishop was glad to receive a copy of the Focus magazine on Celtic Christianity. This was a particularly relevant magazine at the Eisteddfod as it gives evidence that early Welsh Christians kept the Sabbath for many centuries.

A notable feature at the booth was a prayer wall. Visitors were invited to write their prayer request on a post-it note which they placed on the wall. At the end of each day volunteer church members would pray for the requests. Interestingly, out of all the age groups that visited, it was mostly teenagers who used this service.

The Eisteddfod was a great experience. The Adventist Church has around 16 churches and 500 members in Wales. To many we are an unknown quantity. Our booth gave us the opportunity to put ourselves on the map. The TV cameras probably helped us out a little also. Firstly, BBC Wales, who filmed some Welsh-speakers at the booth. The second time, fluent Welsh-speaker Duane Saunders from the Swansea church was interviewed for S4C, the Welsh-speaking television channel.
Many ways to say ‘Welcome’

by Angela Matthews

The message for the weekend came over loud and clear - Welcome to Newbold! The College, church and Newbold Student Association (NSA) worked together to provide information, activities and workshops to help new and returning students settle into college life quickly and easily, with as much fun as possible. Volunteer assistant dean and Brazilian Breno Marquart, and his team, apart from finding the right noonmatres for students, organised a traditional English cream tea on Sabbath afternoon. There were welcome packs from the NSA, and, following registration, a barbeque in the gardens.

Registration Update

• Overall, more than 280 students registered for Newbold programmes this term. There are 236 full-time students and about 50 part-time.
• This term has seen the largest ever enrolment in the Department of Theological Studies (DTS). ‘Some 140 students are taking classes through the department,’ said Un J Balldam, director of Academic Affairs. Head of DTS, Dr Gunnar Pederson said, ‘We are delighted to have such a strong intake this year. It’s very promising for the future of the department, the college and the church.’ This boost in student numbers is partly as a result of the new programmes introduced to the theology department’s curriculum: Newbold in the City and the Youth Leadership programme. Another registration in October of part-time MA students will further increase this number.

Newbold in the City

The College, church and Newbold Student Association (NSA) worked together to provide information, activities and workshops to help new and returning students settle into college life quickly and easily, with as much fun as possible. Volunteer assistant dean and Brazilian Breno Marquart, and his team, apart from finding the right noonmatres for students, organised a traditional English cream tea on Sabbath afternoon. There were welcome packs from the NSA, and, following registration, a barbeque in the gardens.

Healthwise

We laced

A new EU report shows that 90% of all 15-16-year-olds in Europe have drunk alcohol at some point in their life. The average age at which drinking starts is 6.12, with much of the same children being drunk for the first time at age 14. The UK tops the binge-drinking figures for Europe, and binge-drinking is now more common among teenage girls than teenage boys. On average, adult Europeans drink 13 litres of pure alcohol a year, which is over two-and-a-half times the rest of the world’s average.

For the first time, a recently-issued survey of fifty-four published papers on alcohol use stated that alcohol is without medical value and should not be promoted. It goes further by blaming the medical profession for giving out potentially damaging advice which has led to alcohol misuse and ill-health. The cardiac protection from ‘a little drop of alcohol’ has been grossly overstated, according to the survey report. Abstinence has suddenly become attractive (ironically), the survey results have been published just as a new Charity, The Drinkware Trust, is coming into being. Largely a product of the drinks industry, its programme is an educational campaign to promote sensible drinking.

New rules on alcohol advertising came into effect in July this year. Factual information about the drink can be given, but advertisers are not allowed to make any type of health, fitness or weight control claims. In fact, if the ad implies a diet or health claim, it must make it clear that the product is not suitable for diet or health purposes. The regulations fail short of any health warning as carried by cigarette packets. Telephone lines in South Korea have invented a telephone that can detect whether or not a user is under the influence of alcohol. LG Electronics’ LGR190U10 telephone - dubbed the ‘sobriety phone’ - has a sensor that measures the user’s blood alcohol level along the lines of a breathalyser.

If the individual is ‘over the limit’, the phone screen displays a picture of a swerving car. Some 200,000 of these phones have already been sold in South Korea. Perhaps sales of the phones world-wide will become a new measure of alcohol misuse rather than the statistical devices in current use.

Drinking-wise, he was clean, that the life with loose women had been left behind, and he sensed that the Father would welcome him home. Traditionally, the only thing that seemed to matter to a vocal minority of the congregation was the baseball cap. The pastor said, ‘Of course it would have been better if Rick hadn’t had that on, but I doubt if Heaven was lying awake wondering about it.’

Jesus was up against the Pharisees in his day too, of course. It is easy to focus on external and fault youth for what they look like on the outside. The kind of religion that focuses on appearances is convenient for those dishing out the condemnation. It gives them a spiritual high by giving others an all-time low, and has the added benefit that it diversifies attention from their own character faults. But God, you will recall, looks beyond the baseball cap to the heart. The pastor was determined to catch his son doing something RIGHT for a change. He rejoice that some of his congregation saw past the Big Baseball Cap Issue, and welcomed his son. The prodigal in the story Jesus told still stank of the pigsty when the Father welcomed him home. How does the story go?

When the Father, sitting in the porch, recognised the shape of his wastrel son in a distant dust cloud – he ran with outstretched arms to meet him. RANI! The boy wanted to say, ‘Don’t think of me as family, Dad, just a job’, but the Father was so glad to see him home he just embraced him. Then he called over his PA and arranged the biggest street party ever. At some stage – probably before the party – the prodigal had an appointment with the shower. But that was not a priority when his father first embraced him.

He was just glad to see him home. Rick’s tragedy, of course, was that he met the Elder Brother before he could meet the Father. Elder Brothers (and Elder Sisters) commit spiritual murder on a regular basis. The ungraced are invariably ungracious. Salvation is by grace through faith, regardless of where you stand on the Big Baseball Cap Issue.

So many things stand high on our agenda do not figure on the Father’s agenda at all. God’s agenda prioritises pride, arrogance and greed every time. When you have all that sorted, move on to earnings and baseball caps.

As Rick’s father said, ‘It would have been better if he had not worn it, but I doubt if Heaven was lying awake wondering about it’. Lo Debar (The Place of Brokenness) and Golgotha (The Place of a Skull) are the only two points of spiritual geography between the Far Country and the Father’s House that are non-negotiable. Prodigals stroll at Lo Debar but their route to the Father’s House must go via Golgotha. Pray that when they arrive at the Father’s house prodigals will meet the Father before they meet the Elder Brother. The Father is more interested in the heart than the head.

* Care for the Family has produced a video/DVD with the title Praying for the Prodigal. If you would like a free copy of this presentation write to Mrs Heather Hewat, Family Ministries director, BUC Offices, Streatham Park, Wofford, WD3 9EZ enclosing a cheque for £5 made out to ‘British Union Conference’. Please mark the letter ‘For the attention of Heather Hewat’ and specify whether you require a video or a DVD.
62 Baptised in Pavilion of Hope Campaign

Natasha Gunter

Leasemere Park in Smethwick was the new location for the annual West Midlands Campaign in 2006. Two prayer nights were incorporated into the planning, and the first was attended by thirty people from churches across the West Midlands. Pastor Egan Francis, NEC president, presented a message from Luke 5, and told us that the experience of the disciples, when they let down their nets, should motivate and re-energise us, even though the waters may seem too deep at times.

Pastor Selburn Fry, the evangelist for this year’s campaign, emphasised the message that evening on Acts 1:8 and, by using the illustration of how a single stick may be broken easily but that many bundled together could not, illustrated perfectly how the Holy Spirit can bond faithful individuals into an ‘unbreakable’ unit.

On the second prayer night, Pastor David Foster took us off on a walk through the book of John, and during the course of the evening we were reminded of the simple but powerful prayer of John 3:18 found in 1 John 4:1-10.

Despite the poor weather, attendance at our first Sabbath under the canvas cathedral was high. The semicircular layout of chairs created a warm intimate atmosphere around the platform, and the ‘Question time’ panel presented an excellent overview into the church’s findings that people are happier if part of a church group and faith helps us to have balance in our lives between materialistic priorities and spiritual ones: having a God focus.

The Mayor of Slough, Councillor David MacIsaac, opened the meetings.

Ray and Barbara Creeer celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on 26 May. After the service at the Riverway church in Slough, their children, Susan and Angela, surprised them with a lovely anniversary cake which was enjoyed by all present, along with hot and cold drinks. The celebration was an extremely joyful occasion, accompanied by memories. Barbara was presented with cards and a beautiful floral bouquet by one of her granddaughters.

Ray and Barbara are dedicated members who have contributed many years of service to the church in various capacities, bringing up their two daughters in the church and now their six grandchildren. This golden couple have been a blessing to the church family.

They both thanked God for bringing them to this point in their lives and we, as a church, thank God for sustaining them in their marriage. We all wish Ray and Barbara joy and happiness and God’s grace, peace and blessings in their marriage for years to come.

JEREMY KIRKLES

50th Wedding Anniversary

Answers in Genesis at Brecon Camp

Over the weekend of 8-10 September more than fifty people attended the Welsh Mission’s Family Camp at Brecon. Speaker for the weekend was David Wright, a highly experienced educator and a well-informed speaker on the subject of creationism. In his ‘Sermons’ David kept his old enthusiasm, and informed with his magic tricks and his in-depth exploration of the early part of the book of Genesis.

Making the most of the weekend’s fine weather, David also burned a Sabbath afternoon walk by the canal into a practical lecture – his students finding out what it was like to see through the eyes of a fly and leap through the tree canopy like a squirrel. Later, round a blazing campfire, we took time to talk individually with those who were particularly interested in the things he had to say.

Although not as large as the highly popular Spring Brecon Camp, the September Camp provides an excellent opportunity for fellowship and family-style worship for members in the Welsh Mission and their friends from further afield. Sitting in a marquee, singing to accompaniment of trumpet, clarinet, flute, clarinet, and violin, and the lowering of cattle from the nearby cowshed, may not be everyone’s idea of a perfect worship service, but for quite a few it is the next best thing to heaven.

Those wishing to pursue the subject of creationism may like to start by visiting the Answers in Genesis website at: www.answersingenesis.org.

TED Camporee

by Catherine Anthony Bohdeau

From Wednesday 26 July to Thursday 3 August, 3,000 Pathfinders came together for the Trans-European Union Camporee 2006 at Sleivingshus in southern Denmark. The participants were from 26 countries. The British Union Conference was represented by 1,000 Pathfinders and staff from this territory. They were responsible for running and providing resources for 18 of the 60 activities.

Highlights of the camporee included eighteen subjects (dating, sex, direct, as was evident from his choice of projects in Greenland. The contribution was 26,000 Danish kroner (£2,300), and this will go towards launching community youth projects in Greenland.

The main speaker for the event was Grenville Kent, of Sydney, Australia. Grenville is dynamic, open and direct, as was evident from his choice of subjects (dating, sex, marriage and life) and their delivery.

When asked about his thoughts on the Camporee, Paul Tompkins, TED Youth director and overall organiser of the event, commented: ‘The Camporee helps act as a memory event for our Pathfinders, a meeting place for those both within and outside our Division, and it provides a significant spiritual opportunity for all those present to come closer to God.’

Commenting on the success of the Camporee, Des Boileau said, ‘I thank our Heavenly Father . . . for his protection for the 3,000 young people who were here. We had rain, we had floods, and we had fire – the beautiful campfires. I would also like to thank my

Pathfinder administrative team, Mike Toy, Ken Burt and Valerie Clarke Eccles, who manned the BUC office so efficiently, I would also like to thank the medical staff and the catering staff as well as all the other staff who, as volunteers, gave us as much as two weeks of their time to assist in setting up, running and closing down the campsite.’

J. WILLIAMS

Mayor at Community Day

The Mayor of Slough, Councillor David MacIsaac, accompanied by his wife, the Mayresses, Mrs Elizabeth MacIsaac, were guests of honour at the Slough church on 27 May. The occasion was the church’s Community Guest Day – a time when church’s Communications officer, Jennifer Williams, in her speech, referred to the church’s involvement with its local old people’s homes such as Slough and Eton House, and Upton Hospital with seacommits. She also mentioned that the church had floods, and we had fire – the beautiful campfires. I would also like to thank my
The death that does not speak its name

I’m in the early morning of my father’s death after a long and draining illness. I feel that we have told everyone how it happened and we are all eaten up. The blank faces and blackness of the end. We are in a medical profession and the knowledge that my family had about the nature of my father’s illness was passed on to all of us who loved him. We tried the conventional treatments – antibiotics and chemotherapy – but my father’s cancer would not be defeated. He had lived for too long and his time was up.

We can see that it is in the personal story of our lives that the effects of sin all around us, it is the bitterest foe of healthy Adventism. How could this be? How is it that we do not know that the power of God needed to be seen in him?

Jesus’ reply, in John 9:3 (NLV), gave the disciples the answer: ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’

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13-9: Loving – Improving your health.

23-5: Where does the future head?

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Speaker(s): W. P. D. Smith, W. J. H. Smith, R. P. L. Rose

Free gifts, invitations, scholarship, marriage/relationship/financial advice.

14-12: Forty years – A celebration of the work of the original Hamsonian Community Church.

Gloucester’s sadness and joy

Grace did not know the world of the young people in the early years, ‘only that the Church’.”

Gloucester had come to the final service and baptised the young man who had decided to step out and set an example to other people.

P. NEW

WELFRID CPTH 1951-2006

Bermuda of all places.

The celebration of her life took place on 20 June at Watford Baptist Church, with the committal and cremation at Aintree Crematorium. Wilfred was laid to rest at Watford. Pastor Wilfred Surridge, her son-in-law, delivered the eulogy.

WILFRED “WELFRID” CUPIT 1951-2006

A letter of application, together with a current CV and the addresses of three referees, should be sent to Pastor Dale Munro, ADRA-Sudan, PO Box 621, Khartoum, Sudan on or before 31 October 2006.

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Robert’s baptism
On 3 June Colchester was blessed with another baptism. Robert Markham was born into the Adventist church, and attended The Revelation of Jesus Christ seminars presented by Pastor Leo Schreven. Afterwards Robert decided he wanted to have Bible studies with Pastor Paul Smith, and when he had made the commitment to follow Jesus and be baptised, he asked Pastor Paul if he could be baptised in Colchester church, even though his parents were members of Ipswich church and that is where he had mainly attended.
We were happy that he wished to join Colchester, and as we get to know him better we are sure his gifts will be a blessing to the church.

ELIZABETH MARSHALL

Youth ‘takeover’
Almost every day we read about multi-million-pound takeovers in the business world. A takeover of a different kind took place at Stanborough Park on Sabbath 16 September, when the church’s young people took full responsibility for the planning and conducting of a special divine worship service which focused on the baptism of four young ladies.
A group in their teens and early twenties enlivened proceedings as they led out in the congregational singing of the candidates’ favourite hymns. Judy McKie offered the invocation; and one of the church’s junior elders, Christian Guenin, offered the main prayer during which he invoked the blessings of God not only on the ladies being baptised, but also the sick and the ‘chronologically advanced’. Siblings and friends of the four candidates read their favourite passages of scripture.
Youth pastor Matthew Vincent presented the sermon, during which he referred to the main character in the Wizard of Oz losing his heart. ‘Today, a huge battle is taking place for the human heart, and it is great that four young people are publicly giving their hearts to Jesus,’ he said.

The only part of the service which did not involve the youth was the immersing of the candidates, for which four different ministers were commissioned. Naomi Burgess was baptised by her grandfather Pastor Roy Burgess. Emma Lim, the 13-year-old daughter of Dr and Mrs Sin Lim of Hemel Hempstead, was baptised by Pastor Ian Sleeman. Megan Macintosh, formerly of South Africa and now living with her parents in Aylesbury, was led into the water by Pastor James Huzzey. Finally, Tristan Cuniah, long-time elder of the Wood Green church, had the joy of baptising his granddaughter, Alexandria Magee.

JOHN ARTHUR

TREASURER WANTED. ASNA is expanding! We are keen to invite a volunteer to support the administration of the charity’s finances and to manage its future financial security plans. For more information or to register your interest, please contact ASNA office 01491 833395 or send a CV by email to asna@special1.fsnet.co.uk or mail to 65 St Helen’s Avenue, Benson, Oxon. For more information about ASNA, visit www.asna.info or send for information pack.

Sophia Nicholls

Photo: Johnson Wong

ABC BOOK SALES
Oct 26 West Midlands 10am-2pm
Nov 20 John Loughborough 10am-2pm

NOTICE OF BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE LONDON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST YOUTH FEDERATION
Notice is hereby given that a Biennial General Meeting of the London Youth Federation will be held at 8pm on Saturday 14 October 2006 at the Advent Centre, 37 Brenson Street, London W1H 5JE for the purpose of electing new officers and ratifying a new constitution.
More information is available on the LYF website: www.londonyouthfed.org.uk
By order of the Constitution Committee

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