Beginning a New Year gives us the opportunity to reflect upon the past year and examine our aspirations for the year ahead, and change is always a hot topic. Some individuals feel the need to exercise more, or gossip less, work harder or ease up a bit! Change can be driven by the need to keep pace, and our environment usually serves as the catalyst for improvement. Organisations, as well as individuals, need to change and move in order to remain relevant and effective in the society around them. But this need should not make us rush into change for its own sake. It takes time and thought to see where we are aiming for growth, and how that growth can be achieved.

There have been revolutionary changes in the business world in the last twenty years. The digital revolution and global economics have combined with other factors to create a rapidly-changing environment which encourages competition. It is essential that we adapt and change in order to compete, but this idea of competing can seem like a foreign concept to us as a Church. Yes, we strive to become more Christlike in our thinking and behaviour, but we are not in competition with anyone in this. Yet the Man we strive to be like, Jesus, did compete. He died in an effort to win your soul — my soul — didn’t he? Satan played the cosmic battle for our souls with the sole aim of winning at any cost. And Jesus Christ paid that cost. Make no mistake, Our Lord is a competitor. He competes for you. Here at The Stanborough Press we believe that good literature has always been important, but will be of increasing importance in our work for souls in the end time battle in which we’re involved. It is therefore imperative that we prepare ourselves now, to ring in the changes to ensure that we are operating effectively as we seek to do the Lord’s work until He returns.

The Stanborough Press is the sole Seventh-day Adventist publishing house for the UK, and despite many challenges and changes, remains strong and active in the Church and in the wider society. There has been, of necessity, a period of consolidation, during which we have strengthened our organisation in order to serve our constituency in a manner that befits the Lord’s service, not only now, but moving forward into the future.

We are now firmly set to pursue the goal, this New Year and beyond, of serving the United Kingdom and Ireland more effectively, broadening our remit, and expanding our services into unreached areas. When most companies talk of growth, the aim is to acquire ‘silver and gold’. Not so, here at the Press. The Stanborough Press is a registered non-profit-making charity, which means that our aim is efficient service, not profit. We are owned and operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and are the only publishing house in the UK endorsed by that Church.

We consider it an honour to be permitted to operate under the banner of the Adventist Book Centre — the global Church literature movement — and our aim in the New Year, as it has always been, is to provide quality and service to the Church.
A Youth Ministries Feature

Health Evangelism

The health message is the ‘right arm’ of the Gospel, then we should be practising health evangelism on a major scale. This describes health ministry which positively impacts lifestyles, enabling individuals to make choices which enhance their health.

In the USA, I recently witnessed a number of excellent health programmes that have been used successfully as evangelistic tools with good community uptake. These programmes include the following research-based NEWSTART principles, which focus on the prevention and reversal of lifestyle-related diseases. This incorporates Nutrition, Exercise, Value, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest and Trust in divine power as fundamental natural remedies to optimise health.

The Adventist Lifestyle Centre in America in Oklahoma is an excellent example of effective health ministry. It provides physician-supervised residential programmes focused on prevention and reversal of diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, stress-related illness and smoking cessation. This is undertaken using a plant-based diet, cooking classes, personalised exercise, counselling and spiritual devotionals.

Another successful programme has been the Coronary Heart Improvement Project (CHIP) run by the Adventist CHIP Association. This world-class programme is replicated in schools, hospitals, corporations and churches internationally, with excellent reviews in numerous medical and scientific journals. Dr Daniel Mark from Loma Linda California, and founder of CHIP reported that a number of individuals who had undergone surgery had become Adventists. (Additional info at wwwCHIP.org)

Having observed the success of these programmes, a team is currently looking at the possibilities of delivering such programmes to young people.

We sat down to talk about the evening’s events, pretty pleased that the first meeting had gone so well, but also a little apprehensive about next week’s turnout. ... home, our hearts and more importantly our God to a group of young people who would probably never set foot inside a church.

So, in the face of terrorism, wars, high cost of living and other challenges that are encountered during the course of 2007. The year lies before us like untrodden snow. However, the One who loves us exceedingly has an all-encompassing promise!

We started off as a vain attempt to stop our two teenage boys hanging out on the streets with their friends on a Friday night. We had seen some of these friends before, and would have called the police if any of them had been caught in our tow. You know the type; trossers halfway down their legs, hoods, loud talk and even loud music coming from their mobiles. The type of guys whom you would give a wide berth to if you saw them at the end of your street. But these boys were our sons’ friends and we had to do something.

One night we saw our youngest son with these boys standing on the street corner. As his father, I approached him and asked him what he had been doing. He asked him how he could do this to us? Our pride was injured. What would people think of us as parents, churchgoers? Then our son replied. ‘Well, don’t you want my friends in our house, somewhere else can we go?’ Then it came to us. We would have to leave our comfort zone, swallow our pride and invite them into our home.

We approached these young men and invited them home. I was surprised to find myself inviting them, and they were equally surprised to see me speaking to them much less asking them in. On the first evening, we asked them what they would like to talk about and we would try to find a biblical perspective. We were very, very apprehensive. While we knew a few of them, the others were complete strangers to us. We had even given up hope for the night when his parents had put him out after an argument. The next morning, he had washed all the dishes and replaced the milk he had drunk.

We even encouraged him to try and work out with his parents.

The point we are trying to make is that sometimes churches can be a daunting place for young people, but that should not stop us reaching out to them. They need our help and our wisdom. Most of them are fatherless, their mothers are trying to be both parents. Some of them are the man of the house and so have no respect for authority because they have never been shown how.

There is a reason why they behave the way they do. They are lost and don’t know how to ask for help. This was also a big learning curve, not only for us as parents, but also for our sons, who realised that we were not the tyrants they had told their friends about, that we were loving Christian parents, trying to do our best.

A New Year’s Resolution Business

Health Evangelism

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Having observed the success of these programmes, a team is currently looking at the possibilities of delivering such programmes to young people.

As we start a new year it seems that we are standing today where Carlyle stood that night – at the centre of immensities, at the conflux of eternities.

As the beginning of the year is upon us that we are standing today where Carlyle stood that night – at the centre of immensities, at the conflux of eternities.

The good news for us is that the immensity of God’s grace and promises is bigger than all the immensities that cast a shadow over us. A new year can often be a time of new resolve, confidence in God’s grace, and underscores the quality of that grace. All of us failed to live up to our own expectations, and God’s, during the course of 2006. But whether the failings and disappointments of the past, a new year presents us with new opportunities and new prospects. New Year’s resolutions can usually be a recognition of past failings and a determination or, more precisely, a desire for past failings to be replaced by outstanding success. So, there will be the usual resolution to lose weight, to exercisemore, to save more, to buy less, to pray more, to witness more.

God is in the New Year’s resolution business as well. He wants the best for each one of us. He wants us to have a Happy New Year, a fulfilling, prosperous and successful year. So set us on our way he offers his grace to cover our past mistakes and go on to start afresh with us. The one condition that is required is genuine confession and repentance on our part. Often we do not see or understand, of human or demonic adversities, ‘for who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.’” 1 John 4:4. RSV. Happy New Year!
Revolution in Gloucester

Get ready for the revolution! was the title of the evangelistic campaign that started on 14 October and finished on 27 October in Gloucester church. Dr Ruth Burton, a well-known Adventist evangelist from the USA, spoke every evening except Thursday, when each Sabbath morning, and was inspirational in his presentations. Dr Burton’s final presentation on Sabbath morning 27 October culminated in four people accepting Jesus as their Saviour. They were baptised by Dr Burton. Thirteen others are receiving Bible studies for a later baptismal service.

On the final evening, a Gospel concert was held which featured guest singers ‘Robert and Jeneve Bailey from Jamaica, and Oasis from Birmingham. It was a huge success and a fitting end to a wonderful campaign. Special thanks to the campaign director/co-ordinator Anthony Saunders, the Personal ministry department led by Ken Douglas, all the prayer warriors, musicians, leaflet distributors, and everyone involved in the planning and running of the campaign, and, of course, to Dr Burton.

The majority of those who were baptised on 13 May are as unique as each candidate. Joan was the first to decide she wanted to take her stand for the Lord. Her husband Errol also struggled with his work rota, which meant that he worked some Sabbaths. However, with the Lord in control, these issues were resolved. Their daughters Elizabeth and Shirley were so moved by what Pastor Telemaque said that they made their decision too. Other pastors were on hand to help Pastor Sweeney baptised his son Liam. An uncle, Pastor Kevin John, baptised five of his nieces and nephews. Pastor Harris was there to witness two of his own grandchildren being baptised. The last candidate to enter the pool was Ruth. She is remarkable. She has struggled with disabling, homesickness and domestic strife. Ruth said she wanted to stand up on three previous occasions to indicate that she wanted to be baptised, but her disability had made this seem almost impossible. Ruth attended the Conference and Pastor Telemaque noticed her hand lifted when he made an altar call. Then Pastor Kumi spent time talking to Ruth about her decision to accept God. Ruth was brought up in an Adventist family and said the valuable lessons taught her as a child have always stayed with her. Through her baptism, she will continue to proscribe the delegates enjoyed some soulful and spiritually uplifting music from Festival City’s resident musicians and resident Praise team, in addition to singing from ‘Spiritual Addiction’ many of whom are natives of Festival City, alongside ‘Heraldos of Hope’ and ‘Unlimited Praise’ from Leeds.

A new branch Sabbath school has been established in the Hyson Green area of the city Central church has been exceeding its capacity for a long time. We plan to develop more Bible studies and outreach programs, and already planning another campaign.

John and Ruth at the Palace

by Victor Halbert

Thursday 23 November will long be remembered by former BUC president Pastor John Arthur. It was the day he travelled to Buckingham Palace to receive an OBE in recognition of his international charity work for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Accompanied by his wife Ruth and two children, Christine and Andrew, Pastor Arthur, handsomely attired in top-hat and tail, was presented to Queen Elizabeth II and shared with her ADRA’s activities in Albania, Sarajevo and Kosovo. In his own inimitable style he encouraged her Majesty, ‘May you not grow weary in well doing.’

While the visit to Buckingham Palace may have been the highlight of the day, there were some surprises to come. More than 130 friends and colleagues from across the British Isles had inside the Stanborough Palace while Pastor Arthur arrived for what he thought was an interview for BUC News. Instead, it was party time with reminiscences and speeches co-ordiated by long-time friend and broadcaster Bill Hamilton. Dr Bert Wiklander, president of the Trans-European Division, commended Pastor Arthur for his passion for the people and for his work.

Representing the British Union, Pastor Don McFarlane told Pastor Arthur he was proud of what he has accomplished through your leadership.

His Excellency Pavli Quesku, former Albanian Ambassador to London, shared his admiration for Pastor Arthur, who, ‘in the days of Kalashnikovs, AK47s and turmoil, said, “Never say die,” but continued...’

His Excellency also pointed out that the first Sabbath would be a prayer conference, Pastor Herbert questioned the fact that there would be no preaching! Pastor Arthur thought it sounded strange to have an evangelist come and not preach, but just to distribute the power of prayer for our Sabbath worship. It was a concept that called for us to ‘let go and let Jesus take care of our worship.’ It was remarkable to see that even though we had no sermon, when an appeal was made for baptism, over twenty persons responded.

On the last Sabbath one highlight for Pastors Herbert and Kumi (our associate pastor) was that they were able to baptise their own children. Pastor Herbert’s daughter Patrice, and Pastor Kumi’s son Emanuel took their stand for the Lord.

The stories of the fifty-eight people who chose to be baptised on 13 May are as unique as each candidate. The youngest was 7-year-old Lavinia. Her mother said she had always been a very spiritual child, and that she had received a very clear vision that prompted her to encourage her children to be baptised.

The majority of those who were baptised were in their teens. Megan, whose family have been working with ADRA for many years, said she had been thinking about her decision for a long time. Assistant Saudi Arabian exhibitor Ali Mohammed said he wanted to be baptised because he wanted to give his life to God. He invited Pastor Arthur and said he had never been baptised but was struggling with his work rota, which meant that he worked some Sabbaths. However, with the Lord in control, these issues were resolved. Their daughters Elizabeth and Shirley were so moved by what Pastor Telemaque said that they made their decision too.

Other pastors were on hand to help Pastor Sweeney baptised his son Liam. An uncle, Pastor Kevin John, baptised five of his nieces and nephews. Pastor Harris was there to witness two of his own grandchildren being baptised. The last candidate to enter the pool was Ruth. She is remarkable. She has struggled with disabling, homesickness and domestic strife. Ruth said she wanted to stand up on three previous occasions to indicate that she wanted to be baptised, but her disability had made this seem almost impossible. Ruth attended the Conference and Pastor Telemaque noticed her hand lifted when he made an altar call. Then Pastor Kumi spent time talking to Ruth about her decision to accept God. Ruth was brought up in an Adventist family and said the valuable lessons taught her as a child have always stayed with her. Through her baptism, she will continue to...
Sexual Orientation Regulations and the School Curriculum

By Don W. McFarlane, president and Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director, BGC

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embers of the Adventist community are well aware of the gathering pace of certain proposals that are likely to become law, with the threat of a gay school curriculum on the horizon. It is important that the church take a strong stand on the issue.

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QUIET CHURCH A Newbold First
Helen Pearson, PRO

Nobody spoke a word during a silent worship service at Newbold College this week. No one sang a hymn, or preached a sermon. There was no music and no collection of an offering. This was a first for Newbold.

Quiet Church was the beginning of a monthly series, offering to students, staff, and the wider community an opportunity to take time out with God and each other in a quiet space. Salisbury Hall, one of the College’s assembly halls, was open and dimly lit for two and a half hours during the evening. Staff, students and community members came and went during the service. One person, initially dubious about the idea, reflected: ‘After a busy, noisy day . . . I wanted peace not company. But . . . something in a home is always begging to be cleaned, folded, ironed, washed, or answered. Peace can be hard to find; even in a quiet place. Somewhat reluctantly, I walked into Salisbury Hall. I left with a quietness and confidence I’ve not felt for a long time.’

The aim of Quiet Church is to provide a peaceful place where people can be with God, ‘said Dean of Students Pastor Henrik Jorgensen, one of the organisers of Quiet Church. ‘In silence we may hear the voice of God, which is so often drowned out by the noise of other activities and other people, even in worship. In Quiet Church we want to give people an opportunity just to be with God and really listen to what God might be saying to them. Our motto for this activity is, “Let God be God.”

Between twenty and thirty people came and went during the service. One person, initially dubious about the idea, reflected: ‘After a busy, noisy day . . . I wanted peace not company. But . . . something in a home is always begging to be cleaned, folded, mended, cooked, washed, or answered. Peace can be hard to find; even in a quiet place. Somewhat reluctantly, I walked into Salisbury Hall. I left with a quietness and confidence I’ve not felt for a long time.’

One day when government reports highlighted the negative roles of teenagers often play in society, and the importance of healthy and functional family relations, MPs, sport celebrities and staff from the National Council for Volunteer Youth Services (NCVYS) gathered at Arsenal stadium to address issues relating to youth work, embracing the voluntary sector and local government agencies. Thursday 2 November saw the AGM for NCVYS attended by over 150 members. Of particular interest was the launching of a special “Youth Active” campaign designed to encourage young people from all lifestyles to become more involved in sports as a career and voluntary support of sporting events.

The Rt Hon. Richard Caborn, an MP for Sheffield and the Minister for Sports, launched the ‘Youth Active’ campaign with support from Paralympian champion Danny Crates and five times World and European champion flat-water canoeist Anna Hemmings. The importance of the two athletes was that they both overcame enormous challenges in their lives to achieve their present heights. Danny lost his right arm in a car accident in Australia and, despite his incapacity, within six months was back on the rugby field. He is the UK’s only amputee rugby player. He picked up a bronze in Sydney in the 400mt but has since moved on to the 800mt for Athens.

Anna was diagnosed by doctors two years ago with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS). However, in February 06, she was back in training. Anna is Britain’s most successful female canoeist with nine world and European championship medals. These two individuals served as inspiration for many other young people and a model of what can be achieved despite physical setbacks.

Sport is a significant avenue through which young people can come together and make a positive impact upon society. The 2012 Olympics will have many service opportunities for such young people, and the many organisations who are affiliated to the NCVYS were encouraged to embrace these opportunities to bring and inspire all young people to participate in the many sporting activities toward the 2012 event.

The ‘Youth Active’ campaign encourages young people to ‘Be active; Be inspired and Be challenged.’

The ‘Youth Active’ campaign encourages young people to ‘Be active; Be inspired and Be challenged.’ Why not take the challenge and encourage your young people to ‘run’ with the campaign?