

Messenger

News to the churches • 30 March 2007 • Volume 112 • 8

What great Christians do

by Pastor Don McFarlane, president, British Union Conference

The names of the overwhelming majority of Christians will not appear on the pages of their country's *Who's Who*. In fact, the names of most of the members of the British Union will never appear in the pages of the

Messenger. Yet in the eyes of Jesus many ordinary church members are great people.

They are great not because they have acquired knowledge, public recognition, wealth or power. They are great because in the normal course of

their lives they take the time and the opportunity to serve others. Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant." (Matthew 20:26.)

It is clear from the New Testament that the most meaningful expression of our faith lies in serving others. Not merely praying for others but giving of one's time and means to improve the quality of life of others. It is of significance that in Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus presents service to others as a decisive factor in the judgement:

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Our Annual ADRA Appeal (formerly known as Ingathering) provides us with a wonderful opportunity to be of service to others. This year the money collected will go towards the funding of a number of projects which will provide fresh water for some, basic education for some, a source of food supply for some, and access to hygiene and sanitation for others. Some of the funds raised this year will also provide seed money for a number of UK inner city projects and, as in the past, help to fund our Special Needs Camp.

ADRA is dependent on the support of church members. Together we can make a difference in our world. Together we can ease the burden of poverty for millions of people, by changing one life at a time and helping one village at a time.

I, along with many of my colleagues in the Union office, will be out on the streets collecting. We will be doing so not because we have to, but because we *want* to make a difference. We want to have the joy of knowing that an hour each day for two or three weeks has helped to bring a sparkle into someone's eye, has put flesh on the bones of emaciated children, has provided dignity and a sense of purpose for some downtrodden soul, and has given to many the gift of self determination, which we take for granted.

Let us be great in the sight of Jesus. In the end it is only his approbation that is worth having. And remember these words of his: *"And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward."* (Matthew 10:42.)



MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Grantham 'christens' Newbold's new youth facility

On the first weekend in March, a group of young people from the East Midlands were the first to try out Newbold's newest facility for youth groups.

With their pastor, Dr John Ferguson, and their youth leaders Steve and Rosemary Bull, the 17 young people between the ages of 13-21 came from Grantham and Skegness to check out the College and 'christen' the new accommodation especially set aside for the use of visiting youth groups from schools and churches.

After an early start from Grantham on Sabbath morning, the group arrived

at Newbold for the Moor Close worship service where there was a baptism of four young women. Lunch at the College was followed by a visit to Windsor and Eton, where they participated in the Evensong Service at St George's Chapel in Windsor. In the evening, they came back for Moor Close Nights in the Newbold Church Centre. On Sunday morning they enjoyed a leisurely start and a Newbold Brunch, and later in



the day made their way home.

The group stayed overnight in the two large dormitory-style rooms which have been made available in Newbold's Neo-Tudor Mansion, Moor Close. Equipped with large modern bunk beds, the two rooms make it easy for young people on a low budget to stay at the College. Each room sleeps twelve. The charge for an overnight stay is £10 per person. 'This new facility was a boon for us,' said Dr Ferguson. 'It made it possible for us to come and see Newbold and the surrounding area at our own pace without breaking the bank.'

'The Adventist grapevine seems already to have spread the news that the accommodation is available and bookings are coming in fast,' says Kay Choudary, Newbold's Events manager. **Kay Choudary's contact details are:** Email: kchoudary@newbold.ac.uk; Tel: 01344-407581; Mobile: 07930-119271.

Faces of Adventism

On 17-21 April, Newbold will devote a week of special lectures and other events to thinking about Seventh-day Adventists: who they are, and what challenges they face.

On the Tuesday, Thursday and Friday evenings, Dr Roy Branson, a distinguished Adventist academic, has been invited by the College's Centre for Religious and Cultural Diversity to give three lectures on 'Faces of Adventism'. On Sabbath morning, 21 April, he will preach in the Newbold Church Centre.

On Sabbath afternoon, Dr Branson will be joined by other 'Adventist-watchers' and academics for a facilitated conversation: *Shoulder to Shoulder – Are Adventists in Europe and the USA facing the same challenges?*

Dr Branson is Professor of Ethics and Public Policy, and director for the Center for Law and Public Policy at Columbia Union College. He was founding editor of *Spectrum*, the journal of the Association of Adventist Forums – a post which he held for over twenty years.

Joining Dr Branson for the Sabbath afternoon conversation will be Dr Reinder Bruinsma, president of the Netherlands Union, and Keith Lockhart, journalist and co-author of *Seeking a Sanctuary, Seventh-day Adventism and the American Dream*.

For details of the programme go to: www.newbold.ac.uk. People requiring meal tickets for these events should contact Pat Dyckhoff Tel: 01344-407583 Email: pdyckhoff@newbold.ac.uk.

The Real Deal

David Marshall



People everywhere are desperately searching for something that is real.

In the last half century the goalposts have been shifted and the rules changed in Adventist outreach.

At one time it all seemed to be about proof texts: *being right*.

These days, in response to a barrage of proof texts, people are apt to say: 'If that works for you, go for it!' Then they will tell you what works for them.

Today Christians have to be more than right: *they have to be real*.

Of course, from God's point of view, Christians have always had to be real. That is why Jesus said, 'Unless you do better than the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.'¹

Those Pharisees and legal eagles were great on externals and experts on finesse. But not only did that not impress Jesus; he used it against them! He told them that they were all whitewash outside but, at the core, they were rotten.² Indeed, Jesus reserved his harshest language for those religious experts.³ He saw past the polish, through the veneer, to the woodwork. 'Frauds!' he called them, adding, 'Your lives are roadblocks to God's kingdom.'⁴ Jesus prioritised the real, the authentic.

These days, those are the selfsame qualities the world is looking for, too. People cannot see to the heart, of course. But they can sense what works and what doesn't work.

The challenge of Christian outreach is to demonstrate that Christianity works in practice.

'Authentic Christians do more than *speak up* for Jesus, they *show up* for Jesus. They showcase Jesus for a secular world looking for proof that Jesus lives.'

The world wants you to be real, authentic. And it will listen to you when you are.

'You are the light of the word,' Jesus said. 'A city on a hill cannot be hidden. . . . Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.'⁵

If that bit about seeing 'your good deeds' has made you think about spit-and-polish externals it's because you have not understood the word 'good'.

When Jesus uses the word *good* to describe 'deeds' the word in my Greek New Testament is *kalos*. *Kalos* deeds are deeds done which are consistent with what Jesus would do. He is the light, you reflect the light that comes from him, are lit up by him.

Elsewhere the word for good is *agathos*. Here it is *kalos*. *Agathos* is about rules. *Kalos* is about reflecting the light that comes from Jesus. And that's a matter of *relationship*, not rules.

Peter put the *kalos* principle at the core of the strategy of living for Jesus in a non-Jesus world: 'Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good [*kalos*] deeds and glorify God.'⁶

In the words of Joseph Stowell, '*Kalos* lights

your world with attention-getting works that arouse the curiosity of a watching world.'⁷ The same writer says that *agathos* goodness causes the Christian to walk past the porn shop with his nose in the air. By contrast *kalos* goodness causes him to pause further down the street to pray for the people who are inside the porn shop.

Kalos works have a power more compelling than words can ever have. Early Christians were often held in contempt by pagans.

Because people misunderstood the communion service, Christians were often accused of cannibalism. But they engaged their world with the light of the '*kalos*-power' of their good deeds. The world sat up, took notice and, over time, changed.

A senior pastor was asked recently what he would do differently if he did his ministry all over again. In a flash he became animated and said, 'I'd say more about *relationship* and less about rules. Authentic Christianity is about more than protecting the faith and keeping the rules. It is about a living relationship with the Risen Christ. *That* is the real deal.'


Those with that living relationship, engage the world on Christ's behalf with '*kalos*-power'. They do more than *speak up* for Jesus, they *show up* for Jesus. They showcase Jesus to a secular/pagan world looking for proof that Jesus lives.

The Church is not an exclusive club focused inward. It is the only organisation that, in the words of Brian McLaren, 'exists for the benefit of its non-members, as well as its members.'⁸

Authentic Christians do not hibernate with the chosen few, they actively engage the world with '*kalos*' goodness. That way the world will see that they are the real deal and that Christianity is real because it works.

References:

¹Matthew 5:20, our paraphrase. ²Matthew 23:27. ³Read Matthew 23:1-39. ⁴See Yerse 13 in MESSAGE. ⁵Matthew 5:14-16. ⁶1 Peter 2:12. Joseph Stowell, *The Trouble with Jesus* (Moody Publishers), page 101. ⁷*A New Kind of Christian* (Jossey-Bass).



Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald RGN, RM, RHV, MSc,
Health Ministries director, BUC

LONGEVITY (part 3)
AGEING GRACEFULLY

Living a long life is admirable, but living it in relatively good health is even more so. Minimising the effects of ageing is less about science and more about body maintenance. Thomas Edison wrote: 'The doctor of the future will give no medicine, but will interest his patient in the care of the human frame, in diet, and in the cause and prevention of disease.'

Factors influencing a healthy long life:
Diet The word is out! The anti-ageing diets are the Japanese, Mediterranean, and vegetarian. The vegetarian diet promotes healthier ageing and

less disease because of its plant food base.

Exercise enhances longevity by improving the circulation, increasing endorphins and maintaining overall health.

Blood pressure rises as we age, so keep salt intake low as it can elevate blood pressure which can impair mental function.

Metabolism slows with age, causing increased weight gain. Most people put on 2-4kg per decade. Monitor weight.

Dehydration can contribute to depression in older people.

Mental agility

- Reading, doing puzzles and watching factual programmes enhances mental faculties.
- Selenium helps detoxify the body, improving cognitive function. Oats are a good source.
- Red grapes contain polyphenols which appear to help slow brain ageing.
- Mangoes, apricots and flax boost memory and guard against Alzheimer's.

Super-foods

- **Pulses** can lower blood pressure and cholesterol level, assist in helping to avoid weight gain, balance blood-sugar levels, and decrease risk of heart disease and cancer.
- **Yellow and green vegetables** contain lutein and zeaxanthin, which protect against

age-related macular degeneration (affecting vision).

- **Tomatoes** are rich in lycopene, and help prevent cancer.
- **Blueberries** are rich in antioxidants, and combat cancer.
- **Seeds** are rich in zinc for energy.

Skin and body care

If it wrinkles, sags or droops, the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industry claims to be able to 'cure' it. Reversal ageing is topical. Research indicates that creams rich in vitamin C & E nourish and preserve skin due to their antioxidant properties which protect against cell degeneration.

Advice

- Include at least 4 servings of pulses in your diet weekly
- Eat at least one tablespoon of nuts or seeds every day
- Replace saturated fats with unsaturated fats
- Replace meat protein with vegetable protein like beans and lentils
- Exercise to improve circulation, co-ordination and balance
- Drink 2 litres daily to boost brain function
- Moisturise skin daily

Long life!

Roadblocks to God's kingdom



iStockPhoto/lisafx

Glasgow 'Takes the High Road'

On 24 February, ten minutes from the M8, across the Erskine Bridge and near to, as the song goes, the 'high road to the bonnie, bonnie banks of Loch Lomond', Faifley parish church became the venue for Scotland's first church plant this century. A Glasgow church branch, it comprises five families – 8 adults and 15 youth and children – all current members of the Glasgow congregation. Led by Britius Habwangabwanga, a Scottish Mission Bible worker, the branch will engage in outreach to the local community which includes a large immigrant population.

Scottish Mission president Llew Edwards led out in Sabbath School, and Glasgow church pastor Clifford

Herman preached on Christ-centered personal and community life. Revd Gregor McIntyre, the parish church minister, was present for the entire morning and was invited to participate with the Mission's pastors in the dedication of deacon Jepheth Chobe. Musical items were provided by the group *Praise*, and husband and wife duo Francesca and Gilbert Vaudein.

Pastor Edwards said afterwards, 'It was wonderful to sense the humble enthusiasm and passion for the growth of God's kingdom in Faifley. May God bless "exceeding abundantly above all that" they desire.'

JOHN WILBY
Scottish Mission Communication sponsor

Women's International Day of Prayer

Bournemouth church participated in this year's Women's International Day of Prayer on Sabbath 3 March, and *everyone* was involved. Poems were read, special prayers offered, and promise scrolls were handed out to the congregation. The children presented their own rendition of 'Kumbaya, my Lord'. Alison Sleaman told a wonderful children's story about heroes, and all were enriched

by this very special service. So much so, that the women in Bournemouth now intend to enjoy a 'ladies breakfast' shortly.

This renewing focus has certainly been an inspiration. The ladies of the church would like to thank Alysse Fraser and Leigh Sleaman especially for leading out in this event.

JUDITH CASSIDY

Yarmouth reaches out

The Great Yarmouth church has recently become a member of the BWCF, the Borough Wide Churches Forum. There are currently sixty churches listed on the database. The chair, Peter Paine, is also Chaplain for the Great Yarmouth Port, chair for Churches Together, Chaplain for the Sea Cadets, and Industrial Chaplain. Close to his heart, though, is the Seafarers' Mission of which he is also the Chaplain.

Just before Christmas, Peter came to our little church and gave an impressive presentation about the BWCF and also the work of the Seafarers' Mission. In the photo you will see him on the right being welcomed by Pastor Michael Walker. It

is so easy to take for granted the goods we see and buy in the shops; however, 80% of it actually comes to us by sea.

Great Yarmouth, Gorleston and district churches have recently launched an innovative portal website aimed at bringing the area's Christian community closer together. The new website, www.networkyarmouth.co.uk, is packed with news, events, features, and directories. The site has been designed by Keith Morris, communications officer for Network Norwich.

The website obviously has to be maintained and Roger and Yvonne Hill have been selected to be part of the team. Roger is responsible for the photography and Yvonne is one of the webmasters. It is her job to liaise with other churches and write up their news items and publish them on the net. At first, some of the church leaders were a bit cool when they discovered we were Adventists, but they have become much friendlier and seem pleased that our church has shown a willingness to help in their work. We have also been accepted by the Great Yarmouth Churches Together Group. Initially there were a few problems but thanks to Pastor Victor Hulbert, Pastor Alan Hodges and Peter Paine they have been resolved.

YVONNE HILL



Leicester Central: Teens baptised!

Two teenagers dedicated their lives to Jesus on 2 December in Leicester Central.

Best friends, 17-year-old Abigail Fifield and Alex Dublin, made their profession of faith to [pictured] Pastor Paul Liburd, church elder, Willma Bartlett and the church, in an

emotional service which saw dozens of their friends and youth jubilating in the aisles.

The girls' families had patiently waited for their decision to follow God and many travelled hundreds of miles to witness their baptism by immersion.



W. G. DACRES

Baptism at Hounslow Cornerstone

It did not matter how sunny the weather was outside on 6 February. It was always going to be sunnier *inside* as six young people carried out their decision to follow the Lord and be baptised. They were supported by a full and excited church of happy parents and families, friends and church family, and visitors and regular members alike.

The happy event was the culmination of a series of baptismal classes taken by the elders, and was conducted by Dr Horace Taffe, who stressed the importance of the decisions that each person had made. He also commended the candidates for taking their decisions while they were young, and encouraged them to remain committed to Jesus despite the distractions that the world might offer.

There was sunshine again on the following Sabbath, as Cornerstone's newest members publicly thanked those elders who had given them Bible studies and also their parents for their support.

MAX JONES



From left to right: Dr Horace Taffe, Gwen Makosana, Anita Njadu, Rufaro Shoko, Leniah Ettienne, Danielle Russell and Nathan Russell

Sylvia says thank you

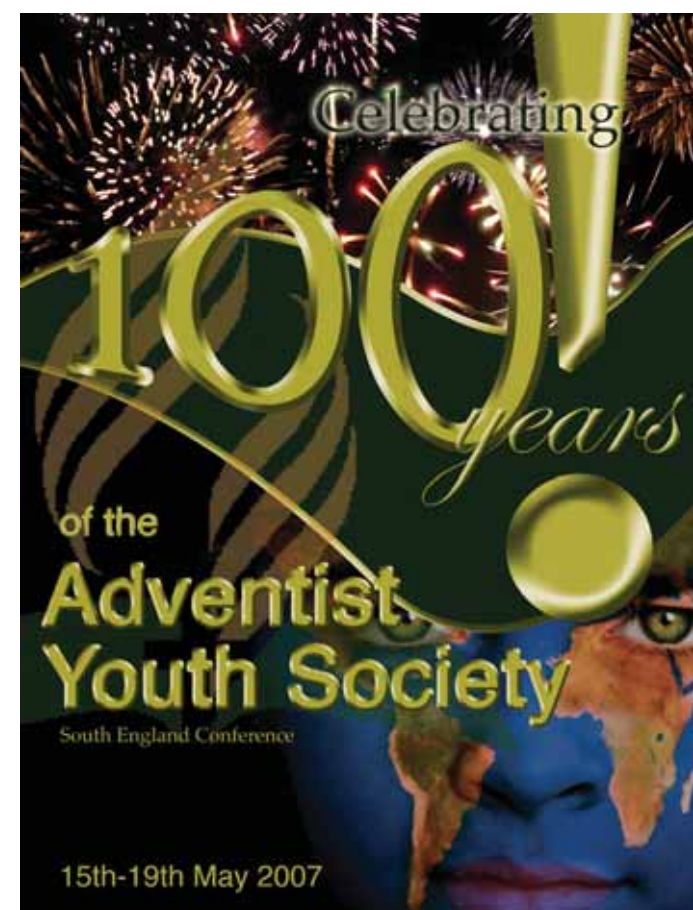
It was a blessed day at Wallasey church on 3 February. We were able to present a second cheque for £180 to Sylvia Wensley, Children and Family Service Team Leader from Henshaw's Society for the Blind and Partially Sighted in Liverpool. We presented the first one last year.

This year Sylvia came in person to receive the cheque and to say thank you on the children's behalf, bringing with her some pictures of the children who looked so happy with all the care they are given by Sylvia and her team.

Pam Gittins, Community leader, presented the cheque, thanking all those who had helped, especially Winifred Parkes who is 92. Pastor Barry Stokes thanked her also for her very interesting talk. We were all then invited to go over to Liverpool and meet the children at some future date.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

The photograph shows Sister Parkes, Sylvia, and Sister Pam Gittins. Sylvia is holding the cheque and the sack, which contains some items and toys that the blind children can hold and feel which helps them at storytime.



Youth Department's 100 Year Celebration, 15-19 May

Westminster Central Hall
Doors open 2pm

by Colin Stewart, Youth director, SEC

This is one of the most exciting prospects for the UK Church. The SEC Youth department will celebrate this event on 15-19 May and by doing so, hopes to impact the local church youth department and set a course for a healthy future. From a recent AGM Youth Leaders' meeting, the consensus was that we plot forward as a department, focusing on Training, Evangelism and Community Outreach.

'All Change'

A group of around 40 attendees participated in the Adventist Youth Council Meeting in Watford. There was excitement in the air as we looked forward to the lively discussion that was to take place. Youth Leaders are in the front line of ministry and thus they will always have a lot of input to make at any youth meeting. Leaders from outside and inside the London areas were present. The question was asked, 'In these most challenging times how do we make God more proud of the AY department?'

How can we make it more exciting, revolutionary, dynamic, impacting, and get youth to commit to its cause? How do we keep pace with a world not interested in being saved? These are truly tough times, times for a modern, relevant AY department that is as much for the Community as it is for the Church.

Some AY departments are breaking the mould and

doing well; these seem to be the ones that focus on community and local outreach. I agree that if it is not broken, don't fix it, but some Youth leaders are already busy creating a climate of change in the AY. They are up for it. They want you to join the ranks of those who make us even more proud of the AY.

One of the blessings of being in the youth department is the excitement of change. If we fail to keep pace with change in the world then we will be passed by. The time has come to make the AY better.

I believe that our AY will stand the test of time. It may look different from the one that our pioneers established, but at its core it must be 'the hands and feet' of the church. It must be known outside the walls of the church. It must train, evangelise, and be an organisation that brings the Gospel of Jesus to a world in need.

Let's not forget our aim: 'The Advent Message to all the world in this generation.'

The Day of Fellowship will take place on the 19 May at the newly-refurbished Westminster Central Hall. We will celebrate the contributions of past and present and even future youth leaders, directors and Youth at the grass roots now.

We have some special plans for the morning, that will be relayed to youth leaders. The formal meeting at Westminster will be an afternoon/night affair. We have an exciting plan for the morning. A large group made up of the whole youth department

will be marching from Hyde Park to Westminster Hall. More information will follow.

General Conference youth director Baraka Muganda said: 'It's great that your conference will be celebrating the 100 years of youth ministries.'

Among the youth who have contributed to the work of the Gospel are:

* John Nevis Andrews, began preaching the Advent Message at 21; * John Norton Loughborough, began preaching the Advent Message at 16; * Uriah Smith, ordained minister age 21; * Ellen White, first vision at 17.

The day of fellowship will begin as a day of thanksgiving, and will end in recommitment as we pledge ourselves to more dedicated service to God and man.

The full programme agenda is being formulated now but we would like you to send us stories of any youth community outreach taking place in your churches; past pictures, past stories, as we want to include this aspect on the day. This Day of Celebration will not be the same as previous ones; it will be different in a good and inspiring way. Your church must have a part to play. We pray that God will continue to bless the Youth Department of the South England Conference.

I can be contacted at the South England Conference office, 01923 232728, cstewart@secadventist.org.uk, or mobile, 07956931469.

Fire!

Have you ever had the Sabbath School lesson put to the test right before your eyes? We did at Tottenham on Sabbath 3 March. The title of the lesson was 'Seeing through a glass darkly' and one of the topics the lesson covered was 'Keeping the King's Commandment'. The lesson stated that a principle of Christian citizenship was for us to obey the laws of the land where they do not conflict with God's laws.

So what happened? Our Health & Safety Officer, Janette Joseph, who is responsible for ensuring that the church complies with health and safety regulations, had an unannounced fire drill. When the alarm went off the church was full, for there were many visitors who had

come for a baby dedication. A few people forgot the lesson they had just studied regarding honouring the laws of the land, or felt that a fire drill should not take place on the Sabbath, so they remained seated. The majority made their way to the assembly point, remembering that only a few months earlier when the fire alarm went off on a Sabbath it was because there was a *real* fire in the building. After receiving the 'all clear' we returned to the sanctuary and the Sabbath programme continued as if nothing had happened.

The blessing of baby Donnella Aldoreen was a beautiful affair. Alvin and Donneth Just, surrounded by family and friends, stood in front of the congregation and presented their daughter to God.

MAXINE DONOVAN

The first of four articles on the Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade

Wilberforce and the Advent Narrative

by Victor Pilmoor, treasurer, British Union Conference

The Abolition of Slave Trade act was given Royal assent on 25 March 1807 after a 17-year parliamentary campaign by William Wilberforce.

The focus of the Advent narrative as most frequently presented concentrates on contributions to the Reformation leading up to 1844 which was to be the year of our Lord's return.

Adventists derived their identity by concluding that this date in the architecture of eternity represented a watershed in Christ's sanctuary ministry. It represented the period of final judgement on God's mercy in the great controversy between Christ and Satan. For many Adventists the narrative is about a personal relationship with Christ as demonstrated in loyalty to God's commandments and our personal preparedness for Christ's Second Coming. That we should become a spiritual and inclusive community, the new Israel of God, has at times been less clear.

Nebuchadnezzar's vision, described in Daniel chapter two, is a narrative about the rise and fall of world empires. Much emphasis has been laid on the role of papal Rome and its influence during the period represented by the feet made of 'iron and clay'. Less emphasis, however, is placed on the 'empires of clay'. The British Empire, built on the slave trade and fuelled by the industrial revolution, embracing at its peak one third of humanity, surely qualifies as one such empire. The distasteful exploitation of men, materials and machinery becomes the subject of God's attention.

'Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said unto him, "I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation."' Daniel 2:25.

There are people who try to include every nuance of socio-political history in the end-time picture. To avoid this, one needs to reflect on the patterns of redemption in the Old Testament story. The cycle begins with the children of Israel departing from God's way. Exile and slavery follow, then deliverance and exodus, consummated with either the establishment of the sanctuary or the rebuilding of the temple, sealed with the reinstallation of Sabbath observance.

Secondly, Daniel, Ezekiel and Jeremiah received their visions in the context of exile and slavery. It seems reasonable to presume that their lamentation will finally be heard.

Then, Jesus said in Luke 4:18, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.'

The abolition of slavery was always part of the redemption plan.

'And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. . . . Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.' Exodus 20:1, 2, 8.

G. M. Trevelyan, writing on the abolition of the British slave trade, was unequivocal. It was, he said, 'one of the turning circumstances in the history of the world.' Surely it deserves to be marked in the annals of the Great Controversy.

Having released his people from bondage in Egypt and given instruction for the building of the sanctuary, God gave his command to reinstate the observance of the Sabbath day.

The Sabbath is described by Rabbi Heschel as 'a cathedral in time', indeed a sanctuary of sanctified time. It is a celebration of the eternal God in contrast to worshipping the gods of space and things. The Sabbath commemorates not just deliverance from slavery but restraint from the exploitation of materials in manufacture. While this

may not have been seen as significant in the heady days of the nineteenth century, we now appreciate the consequence of consuming Earth's resources beyond capacity for restoration.

Slavery represented a blight on the dignity of man, with the inference that all men are not born equal. Indeed, the movement toward abolition came in time to pre-empt the conclusions of Charles Darwin which, taken to their logical end, affirm the rightness of might. The restoration of the Sabbath affirms God as Creator, the son-status of men and the universal brotherhood of mankind.

While the abolition of the slave trade and, ultimately, of slavery are of undoubted poignancy to persons of African descent, they are equally significant to those whose forebears engaged in the oppressive trade. Like most sin, transgression damages the transgressor. Abolition enabled Christians to view those they had formally oppressed as the objects of God's love rather than man's subjugation. The missionary movements of the nineteenth century represent a renewed dispensation equivalent to the extension of the Gospel to the gentiles, and the Macedonian call that brought Christianity to Europe. This perception does not deny that the Christian faith had arrived in Ethiopia or India in earlier times; it affirms God's intent that the Gospel should be preached throughout the world. Neither does it deny the reality that many slaves discovered a form of faith in their restricted condition. Indeed, the outcome of both the Reformation and the abolition of the slave trade enabled individuals to come before the Righteous Judge with Christ as Advocate without vicarious representation of priest or patriarch.

In the garden of Eden, mankind was given dominion over plant and animal. Dominance and subjugation were not part of that plan. However, from earliest days of sin we find hierarchy and rivalry as characteristics of patriarchal communities.

The abolition of the slave trade is part of God's working in history. It is essential to the Advent narrative and stands alongside other landmarks leading to Christ's return. God really does desire that all should come to a knowledge of salvation. The delay in Christ's return is surely the hiatus for us to become more inclusive.

VIOLET CUNNINGHAM (1924-2006) d. 27 August. The proverb about being friendly in order to have friends (Proverbs 18:24) is a maxim that was well proven at the funeral of 'Vi' in Grantham church on 4 September 2006. With a large number of attendees who did not share her church affiliation, and indeed several from an altogether non-church background, Vi's very many friends heard her son, Jim, speak with composure and dignity of a mother whose love and devotion remained constant throughout a life visited by several griefs. Vi was born in Mearnsland, Co. Donegal, in the early summer of 1924, and grew up in that beautiful part of northwest Ulster, marrying a local man, Samuel, and being blessed with two children, Iris and Jim, before moving to the tough district known as The Gorbals in Glasgow shortly after the Second World War. A third child, Gordon, was added to the Cunningham family, and their cramped, rented accommodation was eventually changed for a property for which Vi and Sam had been diligently saving. Moving on to better accommodation in the Langside district of Glasgow in the early 1960s, Vi attended meetings conducted by the evangelist Kenneth Lacey, and shortly thereafter became a member of the Adventist Church, a membership of which she was proud, and a Saviour to whom she was faithful for the remainder of her life. Vi and Sam moved to Grantham around 1983, where her faith in God and education in 'The University of Life' continued to be displayed in her canny ability to read characters, as well as deal with the untimely deaths of her dear daughter Iris (1990), faithful husband Sam (1994), and beloved grandson Darren (1995). Vi's love for her family and her unshakeable trust in God, as well as her patent ability to develop and maintain many friendships, were attested to in a service conducted by the writer, assisted by local elder Mrs Karen Shelbourn. Vi's smile, her inimitable chuckle, her straightforward and profound faith in the God of love, mercy, and compassion, are testimony to a woman much loved and much missed, not only by her sons Jim and Gordon and the family circle, but by a large number of people in the town of Grantham, and well beyond. Maranatha! Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

PASTOR JOHN FERGUSON

ALLAN WALTER KIDD (1934-2006) d. 24 October. The devotion to duty and faithful attention to the needs of his wife Gattienne and son John were among the tributes paid to Allan Kidd at his funeral service in Grantham church on 2 November 2006, conducted by the writer and assisted by first elder Mrs Esme Sutton. Allan, a lifetime skilled employee of The Stanborough Press Ltd, was a man whose character and personality are typified by words such as reliable, honest, caring, hardworking and helpful. His health, while never robust in recent years, deteriorated markedly within the last twelve months of his life, to the point where he passed peacefully to sleep in Kingscourt Nursing Home, Grantham, on

24 October. This excellent, caring, home is where Gattienne has resided for the past seven years. Typical of Allan's reserve and self-effacement, and according to his own request, he is buried in Grantham cemetery in an unmarked grave, the location of which is available from the writer to anyone wishing to pay their respects. The God whom Allan served so faithfully most surely knows where he lies and will, according to his gracious power, call him forth from that grave one glorious day. May that day be soon.

PASTOR JOHN FERGUSON

Dora Elizabeth Olney (1914-2006) d. 21 December. Dora was born on 27 June 1914 in the Borough of Hendon. Brought up by hardworking parents, she suffered the tragic death of her father at the age of 10, which led to extreme hardship for her family and forced Dora to spend long hours of gruelling domestic and agricultural work to keep their heads above water. She was married to John Olney and many happy times were spent cycling along the Bedfordshire lanes on their tandem with oldest daughter Gwen in a sidecar. A second daughter Anne was born after the War. Sadly, John died, leaving Dora a widow at the age of 64 years. She worked in the hat industry in Luton and was an accomplished seamstress. She was a passionate gardener, rearing new stock from seed each year, and she also received a medal for long-term service by the WRVS for their meals on wheels services and was a tireless welfare worker and prison visitor. Dora attended a campaign meeting entitled 'Hitler's Dream' by Pastor Ron Vince, and was baptised by him around 1940, joining the Luton church, where she was a faithful member until her death. She led out in various capacities, including youth leadership, Ingathering, and later, the Welfare department. The writer, as a boy, remembers the Sabbath School classes taught by Mrs Olney, who encouraged him to attend Newbold College to train for the ministry. Failing eyesight prevented her from driving, which she loved, and at the grand age of 92 she passed to her rest on 21 December 2006. The funeral service took place at the Vale cemetery, Luton, in the presence of family, neighbours and many church members. Officiating were Pastors Sleeman, Huzzey, and Leonce. Dora leaves behind to mourn her two daughters, Gwen and Anne, son-in-law Roy and grandsons Adrian and Russell. In the words of one of her grandsons speaking at the service, Dora was 'a thoroughly good woman - who has been loved and respected by all who have had the privilege of knowing her and will be sadly missed by all.' Dora died in the sure hope of the Resurrection. Sleep on, Dora, we will see you in the morning. (SUBMITTED BY PASTOR JAMES HUZZEY)

Thanks Gwen would like to express sincere thanks for all the messages and cards received.

The Principal of the Adventist Discovery Centre (VOP) acknowledges with sincere thanks a donation of £300 received in February.

ADRA Vacancies

Two positions for Finance Directors are available, working for ADRA-Sudan - one based in Khartoum (Northern Office) and one in Juba (Southern Office).

Requirements:

- A minimum of BA in Business Administration or Accounting.
- A minimum of five years senior management experience in accounting, public Administration or business management in the developing world.
- Special skills in organisation, personnel management, budgeting, accounting, computer science, logistics, and procurement. Adaptability in human relations and cross-cultural living.

A full job description can be accessed at www.adra-te.org by visiting the Experience section.

A letter of application, together with a current CV and email addresses of two referees, should be sent to Raafat Kamal, rkamal@ted-adventist.org, ADRA-Trans Europe Regional director, 119 St Peter's Street, St Albans, Herts. AL1 3EY. The deadline for receipt of applications is 30 April 2007.

Newbold Awards Ceremony

The speaker at the Newbold Awards Ceremony on 8 July will be James Standish, director of Legislative Affairs at the World Headquarters of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Why 'Awards Ceremony' not 'Graduation'? And why July and not May or June?

To find out more go to www.newbold.ac.uk.

Area 8 Grand Day of Fellowship Sabbath 5 May, 10am-5pm



Guest speaker:

Dr Jan Paulsen, president of the General Conference

Accompanied by Dr Bertil Wiklander, president of the Trans-European Division

Venue:

Christ Church (United Reformed/Baptist church), Tackett Street, Ipswich

Seat reservations:

Ticket entry only. These will be issued free of charge on a first come, first served basis. To apply, please send a stamped-addressed envelope with a request for the number of tickets you require and your phone number to: Pastor M. I. Walker, 145 Yarmouth Road, Ormesby St Margaret, Norfolk, NR29 3QG.

Crowds expected. Avoid disappointment. Reserve now.



iStockPhoto/Revelarts

Stupid Ideas

by Pastor Robert Hines, Associate Youth director, SEC

A blonde and a lawyer are seated next to each other on a flight from LA to NY. The lawyer asks if she would like to play a fun game. The blonde, tired, just wants to take a nap, politely declines and rolls over to the window to catch a few winks. The lawyer persists and explains that the game is easy and a lot of fun. He explains, 'I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me \$5, and vice versa.'

Again, she declines and tries to get some sleep. The lawyer says, 'OK, if you don't know the answer you pay me \$5, and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$500.' This catches the blonde's attention and, figuring there will be no end to this torment unless she plays, agrees to the game.

The lawyer asks the first question. 'What's the distance from the Earth to the Moon?' The blonde doesn't say a word, reaches into her purse, pulls out a \$5 bill and hands it to the lawyer. 'OK,' says the lawyer, 'your turn.' She asks the lawyer, 'What goes up a hill with three legs and comes down with four legs?' The lawyer, puzzled, takes out his laptop computer and searches all his references; no answer. He taps into the air phone with his modem and searches the net and the Library of Congress; no answer. Frustrated, he sends emails to all his friends and co-workers, to no avail. After an hour, he wakes the blonde, and hands her \$500.

The blonde says, 'Thank you,' and turns back to get some more sleep. The lawyer, who is more than a little miffed, wakes the blonde and asks, 'Well, what's the answer?' Without a word, the blonde reaches into her purse, hands the lawyer \$5, and goes back to sleep.

I'm on this internal flight out of Chicago and I'm sitting next to a blonde. I remember my one joke and a stupid idea comes to me. It will never work, I say to myself, trying desperately to justify my cowardice. Anyway, I confess I don't have the courage; I'm chicken at heart. So I dismiss the stupid idea and, with a whimper, it skulks away. And the

blonde and I read and have occasional small talk.

This stupid idea came on the back of a weekend when we celebrated stupid ideas. Yes, there are some ideas which are so wild, so crazy, so off-the-scale that the only way that stupid idea will ever get airborne is if God picks it up and tosses it into the air to fly. Damian Chandler preached up a storm about how God-given 'stupid' ideas can work only with God. This was at our Prayer & Bible Conference and we went away fired-up and determined to allow those 'stupid' ideas to take off and fly.

I have this other stupid idea. This one is more persistent than a car salesman. The stupid idea is of a huge music festival where young people can come together in their thousands and worship God without inhibition. I imagine a fully-kitted-out music stage with all the lights and trappings. I imagine great music, fantastic worship and an atmosphere which is drenched in the Holy Spirit. I imagine our young people sharing their faith, their love and passion for God with a crowd that stretches back into the distance. I imagine teenagers feeling free and confident to invite their school and college friends to this event. I imagine hundreds and hundreds of young people who had no affiliation to the church before choosing to find out what makes our young people so different, what makes them special. I imagine The London Gospel Music Festival – a stupid idea.

Like walking on water, a stupid idea; parting the Red Sea, a stupid idea; or raising the dead, another stupid idea. All of these things can work and *have* worked because God took a stupid idea and turned it into reality. The only way my stupid idea can



really work is if God really wants it to happen.

I also need your help. Managing this event is going to be a logistical nightmare. We had no classes on running logistical nightmares when I was at Newbold College, so I really have no clue. I need volunteers. I need people who know how to put together an event like this. And what's worse, I can't pay you for your expertise, even though I would love to. Yes, I need you to *volunteer*.

I also need volunteers who have no previous experience but who can help to manage the crowds, man stalls, hand out freebies and do countless other jobs. Yes, you'll be volunteers as well, and what's worse, I actually need your help to raise the money that we need to put this event together. The staging, LED screens, fencing, marquees, food, T-shirts, advertising, promotion and

on and on . . . It all costs money. **And we need all our volunteers to raise a minimum of £40.** Just ask friends and family to sponsor you. You are, of course, going on a mission trip, albeit to Hackney. All it takes is for eight people who will each sponsor you for £5.

Together we will be a unique team that turns a stupid idea into an event that transforms the way we see youth evangelism.

Would-be volunteers please contact the writer at 01523 232728. Email: rhines@secadventist.org.uk. www.gmf.org.

ABC BOOK SALES

April
29 Harper Bell 10.30am-2pm

Messenger

Volume 112 • 8 – 30 March 2007
EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL
DESIGN: DAVID BELL
 COPY FOR No. 10 – 16 April 2007
 Copy should be sent to the Editor, MESSENGER, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700. Fax No: (01476) 577144.
Email: Editor@mac.com
Send high resolution pictures to: dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk
 ABC Sales line: (01476) 539900 Mon-Thurs only, 8am-6pm.
 The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Printed in Denmark.
Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk
 ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by the Science Research Council.

	Land	Card	Nott	Edin	Bell
Mar 30	7.30	7.42	7.35	7.46	7.56
April 6	7.42	7.54	7.48	8.00	8.09
13	7.53	8.06	8.00	8.15	8.22
20	8.05	8.17	8.13	8.29	8.36

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS
 Cost to member supplied in bulk to churches \$6.
 Single copy subscription by post £13.
 Overseas airmail £27.50



Respite & Training Weekend 'The Path to True Happiness'

DATE: 13th April – 15th April 2007
COST: £50 (£45 ASNA Members)
Children under 13yrs £20.00
 Accommodation, Resources, Meals included.
Location: Pioneer Centre,
 Cleobury Mortimer,
 Shropshire DY14 8JG

ASNA training and respite weekend for people with special needs and disabilities, their families & carers.

This weekend will also benefit those interested in learning how to work with people with learning disabilities and special needs.

For further details contact:
Patricia Baylis or Sophia Nicholls
 on 01491 833395

Workshops include:

- Support group networks
- Health and happiness
- Music workshops

There will also be a Music and Praise concert.

Outdoor and indoor activities for adults and children include abseiling, high rope climbing, orienteering, challenge course and much more

All children and adults with disabilities will receive 1:1 support for activities from trained and CRB checked volunteer carers.