Prayer, Praise and Podcasts at 25th Anniversary Camp Meeting

by Victor Hulbert and Jon Gendle

With the largest attendance for many years, the twenty-fifth anniversary of South England Camp Meeting was an action-packed spiritual feast, a multi-streamed programme with strands for adults, youth, teens and various ages of children. Even with an extra marquee pitched for the teens, space is becoming an issue with 120 children turning up for the exciting Juniors’ programme.

Camp Meeting started even before the campers arrived. Tuning their radios to 87.7 FM they heard a feast of programmes ranging from topical issues, life-changing stories, drama and simply relaxing inspirational music, all co-ordinated by Mike Johnson. Pastor Richard Daly stated, ‘It was a joy to enter chalets, not necessarily seeing people glued to the TV programmes that we normally watch each day but rather tuning to the Splash radio channel.’

Celebrations In a series of programmes celebrating twenty-five years of the re-establishment of Camp Meeting, from the first very rainy event in Poole, Dorset, through a variety of venues across England and Wales to the current venue in Prestatyn, former BUC and SEC president, Pastor Cecil Perry shared his memories with the campers. He reminded them that in 1982 the Falklands war...
Sister Stephens sees her 105th birthday on 6 June. On Sabbath 9 June the church acknowledged this great achievement. When invited to come from her regular seat at an irregular point in the day’s worship, she initially protested as her diminished hearing prevented her from keeping up with events. The congregation sang a bountiful 600-strong chorus of ‘Happy Birthday’ and the ‘Good Lord bless you’. Sister Stephens was presented with a large bouquet of flowers and Pastor Jeff Nicholson read out a letter of congratulations from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. But when handed the microphone, Sister Stephens paid tribute to the mighty King of kings who indeed has blessed her in childhood and since she came to the UK in 1965. She asked God to bless the church and was thankful for the neighbourliness shown by members who visited often.

With a rising level of longevity in the UK and western population it is hoped that many of us will live to see 105, if the Second Coming of Jesus has not pre-empted this.

Men caught in hypocrisy

David Marshall

The cast of characters included a manly, half-dressed woman, a heaving herd of lawyers and professional churchmen, a few onlookers, and Jesus.

The setting was the outer temple compound, at that time a building site with plenty of loose masonry.

The story was of a woman caught in adultery, an angry herd of men caught in hypocrisy, and a number of Pharisees asking about what they should do.

The half-dressed woman ‘caught in the act’ and glowing with shame and humiliation was thrust by the outraged Pharisees into the presence of Jesus. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say? They demanded of Jesus: What did he say? Very little, nothing at all, at first. That is significant. Jesus was showing us what to do. Tread cautiously. Pause. Think. Pray. Jesus knew all things, but was not quick to rush to judgement.

What were his options? The outraged Pharisees expected him to tell the woman, ‘Your sins are forgiven’. Had he done so, they would have accused him of being soft on God’s Law, soft on sin. If — and this was his other option — Jesus confirmed their recommendation of the death penalty, they would have enjoyed an opportunity to murder the woman who had a monopoly on death sentences. Further to that, had Jesus recommended that the woman be stoned, he would have lost the devotion of the ordinary people who loved him because he was merciful.

This was a no-win situation with a touch of the Catch-22s.

Either Jesus condemned adultery or he took on Rome and lost his popular support at the same time.

When Jesus stopped and began to write in the sand, the story of the adulterous churchmen may have thought he was ignoring them.

To us it might seem odd that Jesus wrote on the ground at all but, in the centuries before blackboards were invented, teachers often did that. Jesus did not do it on any other occasion, suggests that what he was writing was very important. In fact the standard verb ‘wrote’ (γράφω, to write) means ‘to write something’. That Jesus did not do it on any other occasion suggests that what he was writing was very important.

In the standard verb ‘wrote’ (γράφω, to write) was not used here. The verb used is more specific (Ἀργαγγέλω, to argue against) against that is so suggestive of what Jesus wrote that several manuscripts, some commentators and the book Desire of Ages suggest that Jesus was writing down the sins of the woman’s accusers.

It was a setup. The Church knew what it had; they had no choice.

‘When they kept on questioning him, [Jesus] straightened up and said to them, “If you of anyone is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”’

To me, that seems like a risky strategy. Jesus was giving permission for the stoning to begin under certain valid moral conditions. These men had loose masonry in their hands. They were on a hypersensitive high. It would have taken only one of them to use his masonry as a missile. . . Jesus took the risk because he takes Law seriously. The same finger that wrote in sand had written the Law in stone.

For the second time Jesus swept down and wrote on the ground.

The masonry was dropped, not thrown. ‘One by one, with bowed heads and downcast eyes, they stole away, leaving their victim with the pitying Saviour.’

Jesus straightened up and asked the woman where her accusers were, ‘Has no one condemned you? ’

She replied ‘No one, sir’, in some confusion — ‘Then neither do I condemn you’. Jesus declared, ‘Go now and leave your life of sin.’

That verse takes my breath away. If you want a definition of grace check it out.

From the sinful lawyers and churchmen: consider this thought: ‘A person whose mind is quiet and satisfied in the world is a man of peace. Grace is pardon and power for the penitent. To say the words “Neither do I condemn you” is a moral act. Some suggest that the opportunity to contemplate the truly abominable exercise in which they were engaged. Less hardened cynics than these might even have been brought to repentance.

The lawyers and churchmen were right in saying that circumstances existed in which the Law of Moses would have inflicted the death penalty on an adulteress. But in those circumstances the adulterer would have to die. Part of the game-plan was that the male in the adulterous union had been permitted to escape. Either that, or he was, as some commentators suggest, among those expressing hypocritical moral outrage.

There is a second male who is conspicuous by his absence from the narrative: the woman’s husband. Since the husband was required to bring an action against an adulterous wife, his absence may be important. The role of witnesses, such as the Pharisees, was not to initiate the action. Circumstances did exist in which they could carry out the sentence. However, valid witnesses must have neither connived in any way in the sin, nor been backward in trying to prevent it! These ‘outraged’ persons did not qualify as witnesses! To recap, then:

A bunch of hypocrites on a self-righteous high. A manly woman. The Saviour of the world writing in the sand.

Before an especially irate Pharisee, I see him writing ‘sadist’. Beneath the next set of sandals in the semicircle I see him writing ‘malicious’. Then ‘arrogant’. After that ‘deceiver’ and ‘libertine’ and ‘gossip’ and ‘bully’. In front of the most ‘smouldering’ Pharisee, did he write ‘adulterer’?

On a high level of hypocrisy in the UK and western population it is hoped that many of us will live to see 105, if the Second Coming of Jesus has not pre-empted this.

References:


Bruce Milne, The Message of John (WIP). See also Desire of Ages pages 460–462. John 8:7, NIV. ‘One by one, with bowed heads and downcast eyes, they stole away, leaving their victim with the pitying Saviour.’

John 8:6. ‘Neither do I condemn you’.

John 8:7, NIV. ‘One by one, with bowed heads and downcast eyes, they stole away, leaving their victim with the pitying Saviour.’

John 8:10. ‘Go now and leave your life of sin.’

John 8:11. ‘Neither do I condemn you’.

Sister Stephens was given the title ‘A Mess of USA Today’ by the USA Today. An article in The Stanborough Press Ltd has a vacancy for an Administrative Secretary at its Grantham office. Applications, together with CV, should be submitted to the Financial Director, The Stanborough Press Ltd, Ama Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: 01476 591700; Fax: 01476 577144.

Sister Stephens was given the title ‘A Mess of USA Today’ by the USA Today. An article in USA Today entitled ‘A Mess of USA Today’. The South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is looking to recruit an accounts assistant to work at their Head Office in Watford, Hertfordshire.

The role requires the successful candidate to carry out general accounting duties such as data processing, management of the income ledger, management of a subsidiary organisation, local church audits, month end and reconciliation services, trust services and further clerical and accounting duties.

The successful candidate should have at least two years work experience in the field and an accounting degree. A study package can be offered to a successful unqualified candidate. Knowledge of accounting software (currently using SUN systems), Microsoft Word, Excel and the ability to communicate effectively is essential.

An analytical mind and the ability to resolve issues is needed, as well as the ability to work as part of a team, whilst showing initiative when working all alone.

Applicants should be discreet, welcoming and sympathetic to the ethos and values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church with a view to a longer term financial role within the organisation.

Salary upon application will be based upon qualification and experience and will be in line with the denominational wage structure of the organisation.

Letters of application and CV should be sent to Ms Jacqui Grant, Human Resources Manager, Suite 510, 2 St. Johns Road, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD17 1PZ or email grant@secadventists.org.uk. Closing date for application: 31 July 2007.

**S M E S S E R**

**GUIDING HEATH**

By Sharon Pate-McKibbin RN, BN, WHS, MSc, Senior Health Adviser, SEC

**STRESS**

**General overview**

In this issue, we begin a new series on the topic of stress. We will look at the causes of stress, its impact on health, foods which help to alleviate or aggravate stress, environmental triggers, suggestions for combating stress and living a more balanced lifestyle. We will also explore the spiritual renewal we find in Christ as we are reminded in 1 Peter 5:7, ‘Cast all your care upon him, for he cares for you.’

**What is stress?**

Stress is the body’s natural response, psychologically and physiologically, to events, both positive and negative, that disrupt our personal balance in some way. We call these events or demands ‘stressors’ as they force us to adjust or bring an element of change. We cope with these stressors by using our coping skills and capacity to adapt and we experience the body’s biological stress response.

When facing a highly pressurised situation, the body produces higher levels of hormones like cortisol and adrenaline which disrupt the body’s equilibrium and are not good for our health, because the disruption of normal functioning has consequences. The body begins to prepare for a ‘fight or flight’ response and in doing so there is increased breathing and rapid heart rate. Numerous other signs and symptoms can also occur which we will explore in the next issue.

The causes of stress are individual and can be placed into three broad categories of stressor, namely: personal, organisational and community. If these stressors involve central aspects of your life or persist for extended periods of time, they may be likely to cause stress which impacts on our physical and mental health.

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Power on the beach.

One of the unique features of Camp Meeting is the early morning Prayer, Praise and Testimony time. This well attended meeting is normally in the main hall but Wednesday morning saw a stream of around 1,000 campers heading out the gate for ‘Power on the Beach’. Led by Pastor Mike Pyle, the group sang praises, shared their stories and to pray. The Rev. Dr. B. W. Baker led in the ‘Prepare the Way’ prayer, asking the audience to consider ‘Are you prepared to do the work of the Lord?’, followed by a time of prayer for the harvest. A special song was sung by the Hair of the Sheep Choir, followed by several testimonies, and the day started with a bang as Pastor Perry gave his morning sermon. The sermon was based on Proverbs 5:15, ‘For by love and delight thou shalt build a house; and by skill in hand shalt thou build a room.’

Pastor Perry noted that over 300 souls have been baptised at Camp Meeting over the years and stated, ‘The day will come when we will not be meeting in this fashion and needing more space or larger venues, for as John 14:1-3 states, God has prepared a place for the greatest camp meeting. He then threw handfuls of silver confetti up into the air. As they glittered against the lights and cascaded to sparkles bringing spontaneous applause from the audience, he affirmed, ‘We’ll meet again in the great camp meeting in the sky!’

Speakers

Miroslav K. Kish

Miroslav Kiš, professor of ethics at Andrews University, used his storytelling skills to share biblical ethics including the big question, ‘Why does God allow evil?’ Many people were touched by his clear and well-reasoned arguments.

Aris Vontzalidis, Brenda Rutherford and Elsie Staple, the campers rejoiced in the 6am opportunity to sing praises, share their stories and to pray. ‘How Great Thou Art’ has a unique ring to it in the special atmosphere of the beach with the calm sea in the distance and the early morning sun endeavouring to break through the clouds. As the early morning commune in God’s nature drew to a close, participants made their way back to the main hall where GC General Vice-President, Mike Ryan, continued sharing his stirring messages of acceptance and community. Early morning prayer sessions have become an important part of the Camp Meeting programme and are seen as the ‘high point’ of many people’s day.

Workshops

Workshops were also well attended with a choice of up to twelve each day. Tom Evans, the Church Planting and Stewardship director for the Texas Conference, shared his passion for church planting, giving seven reasons why planting is important, including that a new church grows ten times faster than an established church, that new churches are full of life, and ‘it’s exciting to do things in new ways, but fun is the way to reach many today.’

Pastor Willie and Elaine Oliver shared practical advice both in their daily ‘Family Focus’ spot and in their workshops. They emphasised Proverbs 5:18, ‘Rejoice in the wife of your youth,’ quoting research that first marriages show a much greater degree of success and that moving from one marriage to another just brings the problems with you. As well as variety, the many workshops offer a great opportunity for dialogue and interaction with others. When the topic is music you can be sure this session will draw a crowd.

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Unfortunately, he said, ‘the devil appeals to part of us.’

Youth
In a packed hall the youth were challenged by the words of Dumiso Matschazi in the morning and Sean Dowding each evening. Older Matschazi, originally from Zimbabwe, is currently serving in South Africa and took his theme from Exodus. Pastor Dowding, originally from Jamaica, is pastoring the largest church in Paris. Seminars presented by Ashwin Somanassaran — Twenty-first-Century Evangelism, Bobby Bovell — The Intentional Church, Matthew Vincent — The Marriage Metaphors in the New Testament, Nalissa Maberly — Community Building, and Patrick Johnson — Homosexuality and the Seventh-day Adventist Church, all provided additional learning opportunities.

The praise team has an important role in leading worship both during the main programmes and especially during Afterglow. Afterglow has been a particular source of inspiration and encouragement, with fabulous worship, much of it spontaneous, and many testimonies of God’s grace and faithfulness.

Nyasha-Mercy Magwanyamwanya stated that she enjoyed every single seminar and every praise and worship. The praise team did a wonderful job leading the singing. ‘She added, ‘When I had been touched so much by the words I would just start praying and most of the times I would not plan for this. The Spirit of the Lord would move me.’ She also really enjoyed the early morning Prayer and Praise.

The baptismal group
Pastor Perry and Pastor Lockheart break bread

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What was really meant by foot-washing, or the more traditional adult service where BUC president, Pastor Don McFarlane, based his sermon around the experience of Jacob, stating that being good is not good enough. Pastor McFarlane said that the basis for the change in Jacob from a deceptive and conniving person took place at Jabbok on the night before meeting his brother. There he was alone. There he wrestled with God. There he was blessed by God. There he saw God face to face. Each one of us needs to have a similar experience with God. ‘We cannot see the face of God and remain the same.’

In keeping with the celebratory atmosphere of the week, the adult divine service commenced on a high note of praise to God. Prefaced by a fanfare, the platform party led in a processional followed by the camp meeting massed choir singing ‘Majesty.’ SEC president, Pastor Humphrey Walters, gave a vibrant address to the campers, congratulating them on their attendance at this historic twenty-fifth anniversary of the reinstitution of Camp Meeting. He asserted: ‘This is a wonderful community — the Advent people of God. It is a joy to belong to such a wonderful family. How I wish all the members of the South England Conference could be here to share the blessings of this notable occasion and catch the wonderful inspiration of this hour.’

Campers were transported to heavenly realms, catching a glimpse of our heavenly home as the camp meeting choir sang ‘Beulah Land’ under the direction of Camille Dantzie, accompanied on keyboard by Tony Best, with solos from Paul Lee and Susan Watt.

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Pastor Calvin Preston presented an engaging sermon under the caption ‘Contrary winds’. Using a storybuilding approach, he dramatised the story of Peter walking on the water to demonstrate how God watches us in the eye of life’s storms and uses situations to get our attention, keeping us focused on him.

There were no storms, only rejoicing in the swimming pool as forty-one individuals demonstrated their commitment to commence a new journey with God. ‘How does one sum up twenty-five years of Camp Meeting? Perhaps with the closing words of Pastor Preston’s Sabbath sermon: ‘I have no new Gospel. Just the same old Gospel. That if you hang on to Jesus, it will be all right.’ Or perhaps with the words of one young person, Nyasha: ‘I thank God for giving me this beautiful opportunity to experience an unforgettable event.’
Waterfront Memorial Service by Victor Hulbert

Liverpool’s docks stretch for miles along the banks of the river Mersey. Today, much of that space is turned over to the leisure industry. Other sections are under re-development and in some areas the old warehouses that stored sugar, rice and other commodities from Britain’s colonial empire stand derelict. Liverpool has a proud 800 year history and in 2008 will be the European Capital of Culture. But there is one part of its history of which it is not proud. It was a major player in the slave trade with much of the city’s wealth in the eighteenth century deriving from this barbaric trade. It is estimated that some 5,000 slaving voyages were made from the port of Liverpool.

A service on board the Royal Navy’s HMS Albion on Sunday 17 June, reflected on this tragic part of Liverpool’s history. With music from the African Children’s Choir, the Adventist Vocal Ensemble, the Salvation Army band and Liverpool Lighthouse’s ‘Love and Joy Gospel Choir’, the emphasis in this service was not on the abolitionists, but, as Dr Tani Omobude stated in her welcoming address, ‘on the people, the pain and their amazing faith, courage, unquenchable spirit and, of course, their music.’ As the hot sun shone down on a packed deck, one of the most moving parts of the service came when actor Israel Odelumade recited extracts from Olaudah Equiano, sharing the horrors of being taken captive at age 10. The journey across the Atlantic, and his eventual commitment to God and to freedom. The Adventist Vocal Ensemble (AVE) provided a sensitive vocal backing to the recital and as Equiano’s words came to an end, led naturally into the singing of ‘There is a balm in Gilead’.

Counsellor Paul Clark, Lord Mayor of Liverpool, noted that his city was the very first in the UK to apologise for its role in the slave trade. On 23 August Liverpool will be opening a museum that tells the story of this part of its history. As with so much else in this bicentennial year of the abolition of the slave trade, the emphasis will be not just on the first century, but on stopping slavery exploitation in the twenty-first century. The service being on a Royal Naval ship also emphasised this point, both in the role the Navy took to enforce the abolition of the slave trade, but also the role it continues to perform today through the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea to provide humanitarian aid, debt relief, combat illegal narcotics and protect people trafficking.

In this joint memorial service linked with Charleston, S. Carolina, Mobile, Alabama and Accra, Ghana, resolutions of apology were made with a strong emphasis, as Sir Richard Chettleham, a former Cabinet Minister of the Barbados government put it, ‘on healing, reconciliation and forgiveness’. Pastor Victor Hulbert, Communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland, represented the Church at the service. He was impressed by the service and its aim to ‘build on the bridges of history to lead to a future of equality and opportunity’. Recognising that we all have past histories made him reflect on the untiring words of the apostle Paul, ‘Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come’ (2 Cor. 5:17, NKJV). With the growing diversity of Liverpool’s two Adventist churches, they will also be able to play their part in making a difference in Liverpool and beyond.

Organised by Liverpool’s Love and Joy Ministries group, and with a clear international message of peace, justice and equality, this was a positive statement to the world of the impact Christians can make working with their various communities.

Where Are You Going?

Pastor Andrew Rockford-Hewett, creative, outdoor witness

S
ome 100 campers arrived at Porton’s holiday campsite, Arslesdale, Southport, for this year’s North England Conference Camp Meeting, 11 – 17 June. ‘This is the largest Camp Meeting attendance in recent times,’ commented North England Conference president, Egyerton Francis, as he welcomed campers and guests to the first of the evening Commitment Services, and the start of the Camp Meeting. It was announced that the daily menu of morning worships, prayer breakfests, Bible studies, workshops, health spot, Power Hour and Commitment Service was to be augmented during the week by Youth Vespers, a day trip, street witnessing, and a social. Campers knew they were in for a good week of rich blessings through worship, fellowship and witness.

The theme, ‘Where are you going?’ challenged all to pause and think.

In his first presentation, commitment speaker, Jamaican born Dr Patrick Allen, president of the West Indies Union Conference and a full-time servant of the Church, addressed the theme from Isaiah 40:31, challenging campers to learn lessons from the eagles and soar spiritually. ‘Our altitude determines our altitude. In another of his presentations, Dr Allen drew lessons from the experience of Job. ‘When God asks a question, it is not because God does not know the answer. It is because God wants us to acknowledge where we are and what we are doing. Pray, Wait, Praise.’ And from Noah’s experience recorded in Genesis 9:19, Dr Allen admonished: ‘Do not allow advancement, accomplishment, or achievement to trick you into believing you have it all. Keep your eyes on the Cross. Keep your eyes on Jesus and you will find your way home.’

Dr Allen was accompanied by his wife Patricia (née Beckford). During the week she addressed the Association of Ministers’ Wives concerning the operation of their sister organisation in the West Indies Union.

Twenty-five-year-old Jeffrey Rosario became a Christian when he was 17 and has been involved in full-time evangelism ever since. He is currently a member of Radiant Living Team, a youth-led evangelistic team, (based in Vancouver, Canada) that focuses on urban evangelism and church revival. His Power Hour messages and his workshop presentations resonated well with the young (and the not so young) people. Sixty-three individuals responded to his appeal to prepare themselves through fast-track evangelism training for active service in reaching others for the Kingdom of God. This response highlights the commitment of our youth. It challenges our leaders to engage the young meaningfully and to points to the need for the establishment of a Lay Training Institute within the territory of the British Union Conference. Such an institute would provide intensive practical training in methods of evangelism and witnessing over a short period to individuals who wish to be active in these areas but without a commitment to full-time pastoral ministry. Rosario’s appeal also revealed that there are church members who are prepared to help finance such training for committed individuals.

As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, we know where we are going. Camp Meeting workshop presentations reminded us of our destination, but they were not preoccupied with describing it. Rather, the presentations addressed issues that concern campers in the here and now. The interactive presentations given, the practical wisdom shared, and the informative handouts distributed, educated and challenged attendees to live their lives, ever conscious of the destination to which they are travelling.

The appearance of personnel from the British Union Conference (President, Don McFarlane; Exec. Secretary, Eric Lown; Youth director, Des Boldeau; Publishing director, Curtis Murphy; ADRA (UK) director, Bert Smith; Discovery Bible School director, Des Rafferty) at various times during the week delighted campers. Representation from the Trns European Division came in the person of Dr Michael Hamilton, Personnel Ministries director, who presented workshops explaining ‘Spirituality Types’ and teaching ‘How to Conserve New Members’. The blazing heat and brilliant sunshine that greeted campers’ arrival at this beautifully located coastal resort on Monday gave way to thunder and a cloudburst during...
Tuesday night. The weather continued somewhat rainy during the week but not even this could dampen campers’ desire for their early morning walk and the morning worship. Successively presented by L.E.T.S., Youth Advisory, Student Association and Prayer Harvest, morning prayer was practical, challenging, and rewarding. Student Association speaker, Monica Kainja, aptly used her childlike request for more dinner to illustrate Philippians 1:6. She related it to our request for more of the Holy Spirit and reminded campers that, “It is considered bad manners to ask for more if you have not used what you have on your plate.”

The next speaker used a similar request to illustrate the necessity for campers to make themselves available to be filled and to be used by God’s Holy Spirit. “Give me some of that,” she requested. “Bring me a vessel to put it into,” was her mother’s reply. Admonition: ‘Keep your vessel clean and right side up.’ Camp Meeting was the right time and place to seek such an experience. Ellen White urges as much. We should improve every opportunity of placing ourselves in the channel of blessing. … The convocations of the church, as in camp meetings, the assemblies of the home church, and all occasions where there is personal labour for souls, are God’s appointed opportunities for giving the early and the latter rain.

Faith I Live By, p.246.

Camp Meetings offered something for every age group. After breakfast, youths and adults went to their respective Bible studies while the children and toddlers went off to their various supervised activities. The adult Bible studies centred around the Holy Spirit (Pastor E. Francis) and Paul’s letter to the Galatians (Pastors J. Nicholson, R. Jackson & S. Nietzsche), while the Youth Bible studies were ably presented by André Crawford (Prophecy Insight), Nadina Brown Tayler (The Lie), Craig Gooden (Apologetics) and Adam Ramdin (Who is Babylon?).

“We have found in Dr Robles another Beloved.” (3 John 2) commented Pastor Francis, concerning the Health speaker, a busy health practitioner from New York. Dr Robles competently but sensitively shared with her audience how to prevent cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic lung disease and diabetes. Her presentations were extremely clear and precise, backed up with the latest information on health and supported by relevant statistics from the UK and from the USA, commented Yvonne Weekes.

Campers had the opportunity to express appreciation to Pastor Brian Robinson who after forty-four years of pastoral ministry is changing his area of activity; to Pastor Jude Jeanville who has accepted a call to serve as Dean of Men at the South Caribbean University in Trinidad; and to Pastor Radika Poskas who is leaving the employ of the NEC to return to his native Serbia.

Was this indeed the largest NEC Camp Meeting in recent times? The attendance during the week suggests so and the Sabbath attendance seems to confirm it. The latest information on health and supported by relevant statistics from the UK and from the USA, commented Yvonne Weekes. Campers had the opportunity to express appreciation to Pastor Brian Robinson who after forty-four years of pastoral ministry is changing his area of activity; to Pastor Jude Jeanville who has accepted a call to serve as Dean of Men at the South Caribbean University in Trinidad; and to Pastor Radika Poskas who is leaving the employ of the NEC to return to his native Serbia.

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Interviews with Commitment Speaker and Youth Speaker for 2007 Camp Meeting: Dr Patrick Allen, Central Jamaican Conference Union president, and Jeffrey Rosario, Youth Director.

PA:- At what age did you get baptised?
I was 11.
PA:- What motivated you to go into the ministry?
I went on a Jonah tour to Nineveh in my late teens. After this experience, I went to the Seminary at Andrews.
PA:- What are the joys and challenges of being a Union president in the West Indies?
I am very big on service. It is essential that we mobilise Jesus. The challenges are: human resources – mentoring the weaker ones, the prevailing influence of past modernism and advancing our goal of getting members more involved in service and affirming them in encouraging others in service.
PA:- What is your lasting impression of Camp Meeting?
I have enjoyed my time here amongst the people. This Camp Meeting has been organised in a very spiritual manner. I could sense that the brethren were in contact with Jesus.

NG:- What burden has God placed on your heart for the young people of the Church?
J.Rosario:- For the youth to catch the vision and tap into their potential and rediscover the spirit of sacrifice and commitment.
J.Rosario:- Be actively engaged in personally being a part of the solution and not a part of the problem. Therefore, they can avoid being distracted by the problems.
J.Rosario:- What do you think of your witness?
J.Rosario:- It is difficult for me to answer. Or this interviewer’s humble opinion, Bros. Rosario would be content for everyone to remember the substance of his message even if they forgot about him personally!
J.Rosario:- Do you think the Lord is leading you to train for the ministry?
J.Rosario:- No.
J.Rosario:- What do you see in the future for your ministry?
J.Rosario:- One of my hopes is for the young people to tap into the vision, to explore what God can do with nothing, actively to be involved in the Church, to preach, and to train others to do the same. My vision for the Church of Christ is large: the following things: (1) Saving the Church members and discipling; (2) For the Church membership to be actively involved in public evangelism; (3) For each individual to evangelise the ‘unchurched’.
Cambridge: Biggest ever investiture

Sabbath 24 February was extraordinary in Cambridge. Members and friends gathered to witness the investiture of nineteen children to the Adventurer club. This is the second investiture service held in Cambridge. The church has 75 members and approximately 45 children on record who represent diverse nationalities and cultures. Area 8 was represented by Pastor Mike Toy, the Area 8 co-ordinator, who shared an inspiring devotional in the congregation, and Tyrone Walden from Area 8 Pathfinders co-ordinator, Pastor Toy, with Thabani Bafana, Cambridge’s previous Pathfinder leader and his assistant, Bridget Manasse, presented awards to the children. Also supporting in the service were Priscilla Sammy, the current club director and her assistant, Junior Augustine. We praise God for the efforts of Thabani and Bridget, whose hard work and preparation have resulted in the largest investiture service Cambridge has ever held.

Holloway’s Pathfinders’ Day

‘Stand and be counted’ was the theme for the Pathfinders’ investiture day at Holloway church on Sabbath 3 February.

The divine service began with a thrilling drum roll followed by the procession of Pathfinders. This was the day the Pathfinders shared their achievements and activities of the past year.

Lorraine Johnson (Holloway Pathfinder director) reported on the Pathfinders’ prosperous and fun-packed year. Activities included community projects such as a ‘Spontaneous Silence’, which raised £430 for ADRA, and a sponsored Christmas present for a child in Liberia. Fun activities included cycling in Cambridge, visiting London Zoo and bowling. The Pathfinders also took part in outreach programmes such as parades and street-witnessing in Chiswick, Wimbleden and Gu Ox. Sewing, cooking and baking were some of the life skills learnt throughout the year.

Many of the Pathfinders were recognised for their achievements. Awards were given for good conduct and CCSE passes. Daniell Kuli was given the Adventurer of the Year award. Pathfinders invested were Busy Bee (4), Sunbeam (1); Builder (3) helping Hand (4); Friends (4); Companion (3); Explorers (4); Rangers (8); Voyager (1); Guide (6); Counsellor (6). The Pathfinders also showed their appreciation and presented gifts to Counsellor Day.

Impact London 2007

The name of Jesus was lifted high during a memorable weekend that took place in north London from Friday 27 April to Sunday 29 April, as members from churches in Area 6A came together for Bible study (‘Tottenham’, Rally Day; Hamstead & Holloway) and Prayer Breakfast (Tottenham). The Bible study session began at Tottenham on Friday evening with Pastor Nicola Bubu discussing the Assurance of Salvation through Jesus Christ’. Dr Daniel Ouda of the Trans-European Division Ministerial Association gave three presentations on Sabbath morning. The first presentation was on the Kingdom Identity in Crisis’. Dr Ouda discussed the purpose of our existence as Adventists, and our need to tell the world of the Three Angels’ Messages. We were left in no doubt that our identity was found in Jesus Christ.

The second presentation was ‘Why I Follow Jesus’. Using the story of the woman caught in adultery, Dr Duda stated four reasons to follow Jesus. 1. He had always found a path of love in the face of the law. 2. He was always on the side of the helpless. 3. He had no time for religious hypocrisy. 4. He always gives us a fresh start.

His Real presentation was on Investigating the Investigative Judgement. Using numerous Bible texts, he showed that God would be judged by the unfallen beings and the redeemed. The wicked, in the face of the overwhelming evidence, will admit that it was by its own choice that they were not in heaven. By allowing himself to be judged, the council would ensure that sin did not begin again.

Sabbath afternoon saw all AYS programmes in Area 6A postponed, as all were invited to Rally Day at Holloway church. This was the official launch of Impact London 2007, an aggressive soul-winning evangelistic campaign led by young people in five north London venues, to meet the spiritual needs of the London community. Raphael Boyce, 13, and Jamaal Franklin, 17, two dynamic young preachers from the Caribbean, were the mains speakers at the Rally Day. Accompanying them from the Caribbean was Marvaline Franklin, an active member of Mission 2000 and Adventist layperson in service and industry. Pastor H. Walters, SEC president, was present.

The afternoon started with a procession from the Pathfinders with their drums, followed by all the leaders from the church. This was the official launch of Impact London 2007. The overwhelming feeling was that the youth in the UK could do something big for Jesus.

Hearts were touched when Raphael Boyce and Jamaal Franklin delivered their messages. The Holy Spirit moved on the hearts of the congregation and they made generous pledges to help finance the project.

At Ram on Sunday morning the faithful found themselves at Holloway church for the Impact London 2007 Prayer Breakfast. The young people lead out with Medina from New Life church reminding us that Impact London 2007 needed unity, faith, prayer and fasting to be successful. Her prayer partner, Cheryllee, gave a moving testimony before praying. Raphael Boyce gave a presentation entitled, ‘If you can use anything Lord, you can surely use me’. He cited children whom God had used. Naaman’s slave and Kings Josiah and Joash. There was no age or gender discrimination with God; he will use anyone or anything given willingly to him. The last youth speaker was Adrian from Edmonton Central whose presentation was entitled, ‘God’s Chosen Vessel’. He reminded us that our God does not see us as ‘Me’. ‘Man looks at the outward, but God looks at our future’. The prayer session ended with a plea from Pastor Burnett for churches in Area 6A to support Impact London 2007. A sumptuous breakfast was served which all enjoyed.

Correspondent

Maxine Donovan, Impact London

Adventist Talent has Cowell factor

Sunniva Kirlone

‘Seven-day-Adventists have got talent’, according to Simon Cowell. The Animated Gospel Choir (www.theanimatedgospelchoir.com) from Walthamstow church and Jeharna South from Pendeford church in the West Midlands both appeared on the new talent show, ‘Britain’s Got Talent’. The show, which was screened on ITV in June, aims to show the breadth and diversity of British talent.

Thirteen-year-old Jeharna South has already attracted the attention of Simon Cowell. The Animated Gospel Choir impressed the young judge, partly because of their unusual approach to Gospel music. Their performance, which included songs from the New Testament, was a hit with Cowell and the audience. Cowell expressed his delight at the group’s success and said that he was proud to have been a part of their journey.

The show’s judges, Cowell, Alesha Dixon, and Amanda Holden, were all impressed by the group’s performance. Cowell praised them for their talent and said that he was looking forward to seeing more of them in the coming weeks.

Jeharna South was a member of the group behind the hit song ‘I’m Not in Love’. Her talent was quickly noticed by Cowell, who invited her to perform on his show. He was impressed with her vocal abilities and her ability to connect with the audience.

The group’s performance was well received by the audience and Cowell praised them for their talent. He was looking forward to seeing more of them in the coming weeks.

The group’s success in the talent show has given them an opportunity to reach a wider audience with their ministry. They are looking forward to performing more in the future and hope to continue to grow their fan base.

The group’s success has been met with praise from other Adventists in the UK.

Raphael Boyce

The phrase ‘The £1,000 man’ was coined to address Clifford Golding, after he had completed 51 years of ingathering. At the age of nearly 83 Brother Golding had surpassed all expectations by raising a total of £1,000 for the annual ADRA campaign. In recognition of his outstanding effort, the treasurer of the South England Conference, Earl Ramchand, was in attendance at the West Bletchley Community Church, Milton Keynes, on Sabbath 13 May, to present Brother Golding with a commemorative certificate of continuous and outstanding service.

A sincere thank you on behalf of West Bletchley church, ADRA and indeed the South England Conference, is extended to Brother Golding for his untiring efforts over his several years of ingathering. May God continue to bless him with the strength to serve in the same exceptional way in 2008.

Maxine Donovan, Impact London

Taster Day

Sabbath 14 July 13.30 at Barford church

Come taste and see that healthy food is FREE ENTRY

Register at www.health.bradfordsrc.org.uk
Enquiries email: health@bradfordsrc.org.uk

Last Contact

The Welsh Mission is trying to locate the following people: Mrs Mabel Dobbs, formerly attended the Taly church; and Mr Ormonde, formerly of 26 Markey Road, Drayton. Please passer Pastor John Summerville on 028 9084 4106 or email jsum@adventistlinks.org if you can supply any information about either of these people.
Jesus is coming again!

One of the most enlivening services took place in Hove on Sabbath 23 April. It was a musical day of praise, thanksgiving and fellowship, with the accompanying theme and theme song, ‘Jesus is coming again’. The day included contributions from a variety of churches. It began with Sabbath School, led by a group from Southend. There was a short drama performance depicting the woman at the well meeting Jesus. Its title was ‘Jesus is coming again. Are you ready?’ Divine service commenced with the opening song ‘When he comes’, sung by the Southend Quintet, who later gave other great performances. By then the church was filled with just over 200 people, some of whom were standing. The children were not forgotten. Annette Moore’s singing puppets were enjoyed by children and the older folks! The children from Hove also sang ‘This little light of mine’ using candle hats and sticks, creatively made from pieces of coloured paper.

The children were not forgotten. Annette Moore’s singing puppets were enjoyed by children and the older folks! The children from Hove also sang ‘This little light of mine’ using candle hats and sticks, creatively made from pieces of coloured paper.

The day was filled with live gospel music, alongside other live music; speeches from well-respected black-British men and women were made; youth were advertising various youth programmes. One of the main points of the event was to have black youths as its hosts. Young people spoke and gave tours of different galleries and events that took place in history. An artist from Benin had an exhibition, ‘La Bouche de la Roi’, which illustrated how the people were placed in the slave ships. I had a space in the great court alongside a sculptor, Sokari. I had eight pieces of oil paints on canvas on display. Many of the paintings were my own depiction of the pride and resistance that took place among black people in slavery. One of my paintings was titled, ‘To pas saw li moyer pour mort. Mi moyer pour mort’, which means, ‘You don’t know how to die. See how to die.’ This was a depiction of an incident from the book ‘Black Jacobins’ by C. L. R. James. ‘Three blacks were condemned to be burnt alive. A huge crowd stood round while two of them were consumed uttering horrible cries, but the third, a boy of 15, bound so that he could not see the other two, called to them in croak, “You don’t know how to die. See how to die.” By a great effort he bitsted his body in his bonds, sat down and, placing his feet in the flames, let them burn without uttering a groan.’

In January, Malika, one of our church elders, approached me asking if I would like to do some artwork for the event. Honestly, I started squealing in church, for quite a long time I didn’t tell anyone, as I thought I was dreaming. I knew it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The day was great; many of my friends, family and teachers from John Loughborough came out to support me and to enjoy the day. I felt like a celebrity, taking photos until I was tired. My work was observed by many, who did not even realise that I was the artist.

* Medina is 19 and a member of the New Life congregation in London.

ENlight Café Church

Is it a church, is it a café?

ENlight is a brand new event held on the second Saturday of the month (except August). It is an initiative by ‘The Church’ Enfield Town, itself a contemporary church plant. ‘The Church’, which meets each Sabbath, sees ENlight as providing a relaxed atmosphere where people can meet, enquire and see what twenty-first-century church is like. Using a café-style format, ENlight offers a culturally relevant experience of church.

Interesting drinks and even more interesting snacks are available so visitors can relax while contemplating a few thoughts presented by the ENlight team. Our objective is to provide a place where people in the local community can get to know each other, church members and most importantly, their Saviour.

You can learn more about ENlight and ‘The Church’ on our website, www.thechurch.nu. Alternatively, we can be contacted on 0208 245 4410. ENlight runs from 11am to 12.30pm at 50 John Methodist Church, Yews Avenue, Enfield, EN1 4QA.

O Happy Day!

It is with great joy that Mickelfield church, High Wycombe, celebrated yet another baptism this year. Following Bible studies, Valerie Allen made a decision to offer her life to the Lord. After attending a series of evangelistic meetings entitled ‘Jesus, a Sinner’s Friend’, led by Pastor M. Anin, a baptism took place on 17 March. The church overflowed with many family, friends and church members to witness Valerie’s special day.