Stanborough Park made a brief appearance in history as far back as 1348, when in a charter it appears as Stanbrughulle, a name which occurs in several other parts of the country and probably means ‘stone hill’. Thereafter we must fast-forward nearly five and a half centuries to about 1890 when the mansion known as The Stanborough (the Adventists later added an ‘s’ for the name of the Hydro) was built when the estate was owned by a Miss Cottrell. In 1906 the house and estate came on to the market. A new era in Seventh-day Adventism in Britain was about to begin.

Hitherto the British Union institutions had been scattered. In 1899 a health food factory had been opened at Horley near Redhill in Surrey. It was destroyed by fire in 1900 and the factory moved to Birmingham. In 1901 a training college for ministers had been started in North London and in the ensuing six years had operated successively at three different locations. The Press, known as The International Tract Society, had been at 451 Holloway Road, North London, since 1887, near to the church headquarters. After an abortive experiment at Redhill in 1899–1900, a more permanent sanatorium had opened at nearby Catterham in 1903. This, in fact, overlapped the purchase of Stanborough Park and lasted until 1921.

It was felt that considerable advantages could accrue from a more centralised operation and, as there were specific Ellen White comments about the work to be done for London as well as the desirability of rural locations, one of the latter, but not too far from the capital and with easy rail access to it, seemed indicated. In these respects the Cottrell estate at Garston, just north of Watford, appeared ideal.

Two descriptions of Stanborough Park as it was in its early Adventist days have come down to us. The

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The LORD thunders at the head of his army; his forces are beyond number, and mighty are those who obey his command.” (Joel 2:11)

*by Curtis Murphy, Publishing director, BUC*

It’s his book Apocalypse! Has the Countdown Begun? David Marshall writes: ‘The followers of Jesus told the world of his Gospel. From an intensely hatred centre of burning zeal, a vast field of lava was thrown out to the limits of the Roman world. And the world was changed.’

I like the last five words – ‘And the world was changed’. Whenever the Gospel was shared, the power of the Holy Spirit changed lives, families, communities and the world. But can the Gospel ‘do it again’? Is there a role for the Gospel now? Post-moderns cry out for the very things they have rejected. They have overthrown one world view and appear to be awash in a meaningless sea of pluralism, living out hectic, stress-filled and often dysfunctional lives. Yet they are made in the image of God. In the ‘Great Commission’ Jesus gives a receiver over to hear the good news. And the good news is a Person whose salvation is a gift, whom to know is joy, assurance, strength, vision, certainty and eternal life, and whom we all must encounter when he comes.”

The adrenal gland may become overactive due to these contain varying amounts of caffeine which acts as a stimulant. Avoid coffee, tea, cola drinks and chocolate as you need today! God’s does not work on the con

The trouble with ‘experts’

David Marshall

Here’s what the experts say about worry: ‘It is the interest paid on tomorrow’s troubles.’ ‘It is putting question marks where God puts full stops.’ ‘It is a form of atheism because it betrays an absence of faith in God.’ Which experts said those things? Interesting, that. Not one of them left a calling card. A. N. Onymous strikes again, and again, and again!

I won’t get ‘twitter and bisted’ about this, but I have a mental picture of Expert ANO. He’s one of those chops who has had life easy and consequently, feels no need to dish our grub, thoughtless pronouncements whenever he spots someone in the grip of a problem. Infuriating, or what? Not all that helpful, certainly.

Do you know any ‘experts’?

I had a bout of flu in the late 80s. When I returned to work I was seriously behind with my correspondence. One young man was, I felt, owed an explanation for why I had taken two weeks to reply to his letter. I mentioned I was back after the flu. I shall never forget his reply to me.

No good Adventist, he told me, catch the flu! That I had done so proved that I was not faithful to Adventist health principles and had (his words) ‘sin in the life’. God works on the conscience of man. He takes an active part in all aspects of school life and extra-curricular activities; be willing to support and encourage the Christian ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. If you would like to join this enthusiastic and caring team of staff, please contact the school for an application form on 0121 803 7742. A visit to the school is welcome.

Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 19 October 2007.

Harper Bell Adventist School, Birmingham

KZS Teacher required for January 2009

One part-time teacher, two-and-a-half days a week, Harper Bell is a small but growing Christian primary school, with a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Successful candidate should have:

- Core QTS and up-to-date professional knowledge
- Have the potential to be an excellent teacher, committed to good pupil progress and active learning
- Take an active part in all aspects of school life and extra-curricular activities
- Be willing to support and encourage the Christian ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

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Closing date for applications: 12 noon, Monday 19 October 2007.
Meeting Jesus for the first time again at Brecon
by John Surridge, president, Welsh Mission

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ostr Mike Logan was the guest speaker for the Welsh Mission’s Family Camp, held over the weekend of 7 to 9 September at Aberystwyth, near Brecon. Following his interview on the Hope Channel’s ‘In Conversation’ programme, a number of people had asked to hear more of Pastor Logan’s fascinating life story, and in his series of talks entitled ‘Meeting Jesus for the First Time Again’, he expanded on the way that he had been led to Christ.

Dr Logan was brought up in the Republic of Ireland in a large Catholic family with connections to paramilitary organisations. His understanding of God in his younger years was as a ‘cosmic monster’ – someone to be afraid of rather than a friend or loving Father. After going through some difficult and dangerous situations, as well as experiencing personal problems in his life, Dr Logan spoke of how it was probably his fear of God, and the potential consequences of perjury and hell, that kept him from suicide.

However, things changed when, through a series of encounters with genuine Christians, he was led to a true understanding of salvation. In his Sabbath morning sermon Mike illustrated the joy of coming to Christ through the story of Zacchaeus, imagining how he could possibly have met up with several others whose lives had been changed when they encountered Jesus for the first time.

Warm weather over the weekend allowed a pleasant Sabbath afternoon walk and an evening bonfire on the riverside, and also enabled the campers to enjoy nature in ways not usually possible for town and city dwellers. A well-fed hedgerow invaded at least one tent at four o’clock in the morning, fish could be seen jumping from the river, and a large heron was witnessed attempting to reduce their numbers. A clear sky on Friday night revealed the Milky Way and numerous constellations in stunning detail. The closeness of nature and its impact on those at the camp is perhaps best expressed in the prayer of an 8-year-old at morning watch: ‘Ower Jesus, thankyou for the owl we heard last night.’

There is always a good atmosphere at the Brecon Family Camps. They are open and relaxed, and an ideal place to bring non-Christian friends. Many people have met Jesus for the first time there and even more can say that the renewal they experience at Brecon Family Camp has led them to meet him for the first time.

More than 100 pictures from the weekend can be seen in the gallery section of the Welsh Mission website at: www.adventistsבעל.co.uk

The ‘In Conversation’ video interview with Mike Logan can be seen in the Hope Channel’s Media Library at: www.hopetv.org.uk

The New President

Dr Richard DeLisser interviews Pastor Sam Davis at the TED Ministerial Council, 14 September

In his first interview since becoming the South England Conference president, Pastor Sam Davis shares with Dr Richard DeLisser, the new SEC Communication and Stewardship director, the story of his humble beginnings, his journey to pastoral ministry, his overseas service, and his surprise at being asked to serve as the SEC president.

Pastor DeLisser: Pastor Davis, you are the newly-elected president of the South England Conference. Could you tell me something about your background and where you are from?

Sam Davis: Well, I was born in Jamaica and came to the United Kingdom when I was 8 years old. I finished school and went on to train as a heating engineer. I then worked as a heating engineer and subsequently I met and married Rowena Davis (Anderson). Rowena always knew that I wanted to be a minister. It was with her support and a young family in tow that we headed to Newbold. Graduating in 1985, I interned at the Bristol SDA church. My first district was Edmonton and Harrow. Subsequently I started the Brentfield church. Following that I went on to pastor the Hackney and Stratford churches, respectively. In 1996 I was asked to serve as the SEC Youth director for London as well as the Advent Centre manager and the Community Services director. In 2003 I accepted a call to serve as pastor for the Saxon church in Johannesburg, South Africa, returning to England in 2008 where I pastored the Hutton and Chelmsford district of churches for three months before being called to serve at the Holloway church.

DeLisser: How did you feel when you were asked to serve as the SEC president?

Davis: Honestly, I was totally surprised. Firstly, to have been chosen to sit on the nominating committee and, secondly, to have been asked to serve as the secretary for the committee. As the names for president were being suggested and my name was called. I started to write the number of votes received for each nominee and realised that my name was the one that was getting the most votes. It was at that time that my hand started to shake. I was taken by surprise because I had not come to the session with any expectation. However, I had heard rumours that my name might be suggested but my wife and I had prayed that, if this was to be the case, that it must be from the Lord.

DeLisser: Now that you have been elected to serve as the president of the SEC, what are some of your plans for the future of our Conference?

Davis: Well, it is still early days and I have not started to formulate any concrete plans. However, one of my first priorities will be the growth, development and well-being of the ministers who serve in our Conference. I shall promote a ministry that is dynamic, enabling pastors to pursue their own career development that will foster a sense of hope and commitment. If our pastors are happy and contented, then our members will all receive a better service.

Another priority will be raising the profile of the Church on all fronts. At present, the profile of our Church in the community is very low. I would like to see each church involved in its community in some project that will raise its profile, thus creating a warmer-friendly atmosphere around the church as the community realises that we are there to serve. We need to be impacting lives because this is the mission of the Church. One of the things I admire about our former president was his evangelistic thrust, the planting of churches, encouraging evangelism everywhere and to everyone under the banner of ‘Tell Southern England’. This is one initiative that we will continue to promote in our Conference. That evangelism was alive and well in the SEC. The Church exists to serve and to reach souls for the kingdom of God. If we lose sight of this, then we lose sight of our reason to exist.

I am also coming to the presidency at a time when the Church is at its most diverse. We have burgeoning ethnic groups that are being formed all over our Conference. A part of my vision for the SEC in the next four years will be to have our membership embracing and celebrating the diverse family that we are. Inclusiveness rather than exclusivity will be a refrain in the next four years.
Hilton Samuel

Stoke Newington church, the first female black MP, Diane Abbott, not only welcomed the assembly to her constituency but stayed to enjoy fellowship with the celebrating preacher, Mildred Robinson, reminded them that in God’s City there will be ‘no volcanoes, no pyroclastic flows, no hospitals, no terrorists’.

Evangelist and Holy Ghost-filled friends convened in London on Sabbath 2 June. The theme for the seventh annual gathering was ‘Revival and Reclamation’. The event was planned and orchestrated by a team headed by William B. Riley, who initiated the Montserrat Day of Fellowship. The programme for the day was very well received by Adventists as well as the large number of non-Adventists in attendance. Three of the four candidates were Adventists. Each was saluted as they were baptised, and their favourite Bible verses were also read, followed by the Pathfinder march at the end. At the baptismal service, Pastor Picart, three precious souls raised their hands for baptism. Members remarked that the week’s programme culminating in the baptism, was very uplifting, powerful and enjoyed by all.

Claude Ackroyd

Montserratians. The Deputy Speaker of the London Borough of Hackney, Cllr Faizullah Khan, also felt it was a joy to have the islanders worshiping in his neck of the woods. Other officials attending the service included Ms Jeanette Arnold AM – North East London Assembly Member and Mrs Janice Panton MBE (Head, Montserrat Government UK office). A special progress report of spiritual developments and happenings on the island was delivered by one-time chief minister Austin Bramble, who reported the reconstitution of the SDA school, Samuel Academy. He said that very limited resources were threatening to parcelise growth. He asked that members here give their full and continued support to their nearest educating the island. Also reporting on the state of affairs on the island was government representative, Mrs Janice Panton, MBE.

The music and singing, which was nothing short of glorious, was complemented by the rich voices of The London Male Voice Choir (a regular feature at the Newport Golden Wedding).

The programme for the day was very well packed and fast moving with clubs arriving at 8.45 for the beginning of Sabbath School at 9.15. Before the main service all our Adventurers and Pathfinders assembled outside the Wolverhampton Civic Hall and ceremonially marched into the hall at 11am. There were cheers of praise from parents and church members attending, as they marched in with discipline and order to the sound of our marching bands. The Lady Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Trudy Bowan, was moved to tears and in her address told us that the event reminded her of her childhood in the Girls’ Brigade. Following a hearty lunch we were joined by nine police officers who assisted us on the procession. We had originally planned to walk on the pavement, through the centre of Wolverhampton, to the bandstand on West Park, however, the police thought it easier to manage our group by motorbiking on the road itself.

As Conference director I am very pleased with the growth of Pathfindering in the North England Conference. Each year we grow in size, in professionalism, and most of all in our commitment to Jesus Christ.

NEW PATHFINDERS: Jesus is the Way

by Pastor Trevor Thomas, Pathfinder director, NEC

I was a wonderfully warm Wolverhampton day on Sabbath 8 September. From all over the North England Conference Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs came to celebrate 100 years of youth ministry at the Pathfinder Rally Day. From Newcastle to Northampton, from Huddersfield to Handsworth, from Camp Hill to Coventry, they came by cars, coaches, trains and buses. In total, just over 2,000 attended in uniform, waving flags and banners.

The theme for our Rally Day was: Jesus is the Way. Our speaker, 17-year-old Bev Mambwe from Sheffield, Burngreave, who is currently completing her Master’s Degree in Management, added a further flavour of patriotism, as most of the group was attired in the Montserrat national dress.

As a result of Rally Day we have already had a number of individuals who wish to join Pathfinders and have signed up for our training courses, which began on 5-7 October. For application forms, contact Dawn on 0115 960 6312.

As Conference director I am very pleased with the growth of Pathfindering in the North England Conference. Each year we grow in size, professionalism, and most of all in our commitment to Jesus Christ.
1. The official opening of The Hydro in 1924.
2. At the centre of the 75 acres of woodland and open fields...erid. As the sanctuary old lady, and...in 1906 was renamed The Stanborough Press Ltd., and food company openin...ing place on the 28th with 200...in the main entrance or on the landing. 

An issue of The Missionary Worker, 20 November 1907, gave the details of the service of dedication under the chairmanship of the president of the British Union Conference, Pastor E. E. Andross, who also gave the address.

The dedication prayer was offered by W. H. Wakeman, one of the teachers at the college. Not only were the Press, the food factory and the college (which had moved into the mansion four weeks earlier) dedicated, but also the beautiful estate with its seralised places under the wide-spreading branches of the stately forest trees, evoking the child of God to communin...ion with his Maker, were solemnly dedicated to God and His service, while the specific blessing of heaven was sought that every part might...it in connection with the work that centres here, in...blishing, the education of labourers, the preparation of the printed page, or the manufacture of health foods, might be wholly surren...ed to God moment by moment, that His purpose in the establishment of this centre for the Union Conference may be fully accomplished."

That was a very long sentence, the aspirations of which were—sadly—to be undermined by many later events. The Press building was destroyed by fire in 1964 and the Press was subsequently moved away from the Park and later ceased to be a printing works.

The health food factory (extended in 1926 and 1958) was demolished in 1969 and a new factory opened elsewhere. This was soon afterwards sold and denominational manufacture of health food in Britain came to an end.

The mansion had insufficient room for all 87 students of the college and so 17 were accommodated on the top floor of the Press building which was divided into ‘bedrooms’ by temporary partitions. Even with this relief, potential students had to be turned away and so plans were laid for a new building. This began to take shape in August 1909 to designs by the manager of the Press, the ecclesiastically named William Conqueror Slie. By June 1910, the building (later to become an annexe to the Hydro and later still the secondary school and demolished in 1989) was complete and was dedicated on 31 July. It cost £4,940. After an initial drop, the enrolment picked up greatly and in 1920–21 an extension was added to the left-hand end of the building.

When the college vacated the mansion, it was voted to begin health work there. By 1912 two additional floors had been added. That and other work cost £5,950 and in May of that year The Stanboroughs Hydro opened. There were further extensions in 1921, 1926 and 1959–60, but in the long term the Hydro was not a financial success and it eventually closed in 1968, the building being later demolished.

In 1918, in one room of the college, a church school (the second in British Adventism) commenced operations; it later moved to an ex-army hut and then in 1928 to Magrath—now renamed Sheepry—Villa. Eventually, with buildings in 1967 and 1973–74, the primary school secured its own home and in 1990–91 a new school was added. In 1940 a secondary school was also founded in Sheepry Villa and in 1936 it moved into the old college building; the college having moved to Newbold Revel in 1931 and the annexe to the Hydro having closed on the outbreak of war in 1939. A new school was opened in 1991. The offices of the Union Conference were originally in the Press building, but in 1922, a bungalow (later the office and recording studio for the Voice of Prophecy) was erected and served until the present offices were built at the St Albans Road end of the Park in 1962 (extended in 1990).

When the building for the college was put up, the Watford church (membership 94 in 1911) was able to transfer from rented quarters to its chapel. This arrangement persist...ed until 1921, when the Watford town church was built. The Stanborough Park church was eventually erected off the St Albans Road in 1927–28 and was greatly extended in 2000.

Needless to say, all this expansion cost money and this was largely raised by sales of land. At first, however, there was a huge expansion of land-holding adjacent to Stanborough Park. In 1913, the neighbouring Kingswood estate, consisting of 163 acres, a large house, four smaller houses and a farm, was put up for auction. The denominational bidding of £16,200 (less per acre than that for which it had been sold for a printing works in 1906) was successful. Two years later the church authorities began to reduce their indebtedness by selling Kingswood land and by 1930 the whole estate had gone, realising some £40,000 in all, over 100 times what had been paid for it and that in a non-inflationary environment.

Two years later (1912), the series...
Before saying “Amen”, think first,” Roy Adams, associate editor of the ADVENTIST REVIEW, told an attentive audience in the Press Open Day marquee. “Too often,” he said, “we listen to a preacher without processing what he is saying and checking that he is correct.” In an entertaining but thought-provoking message on “Interpreting the Times,” Dr. Adams stated that when writing or speaking in public we need to ‘put things carefully’, because ‘we are speaking for the Lord’. In a message based around the first 14 verses of Matthew 24 he pointed out that for over a thousand years there have been reports of earthquakes, wars, famines and pestilences – and while these may indicate something of history, the real clue to the return of Christ is the message of verse 14, “This Gospel of the Kingdom must be proclaimed to all the world.” Personalising the message, he pointed out that all the other signs of Christ’s return in Matthew 24 are passive, that we are just observers. However, the sign of verse 14 is active. God has chosen to use us. Adams was at the Stanborough Press Open Day to promote his new book, From the Heart, looking back through some of his REVIEW editorials with issues facing the Church and society. Many coaches and cars parked on the grass outside emphasised the continuing interest in the site for housing, but eventually, the denomination, aided by a change of administration in 1970, decided not to sell. In the century since its purchase and dedication, Stanborough Park has changed enormously and shrunk dramatically, but it retains the place it acquired in 1907 as the nerve centre of Seventh-day Adventist work in Britain and Ireland. In 1962 I wrote a piece for the 75th anniversary (published as a ‘souvenir pull-out’ to MESSENGER, vol. 87, no. 5/10, which concluded with the words: “Those who purchased it would be surprised if they knew of a seventy-fifth anniversary. Perhaps their present-day descendants ought to be surprised – and dismayed – if..."
Tongan Levites choir, who sang in their native tongue, and the Holloway youth youth team leading the congregation in popular hymns. This welcoming address, Pastor Sam Davis, then Holloway’s pastor, expressed a wholehearted appreciation for the choir’s magnificent renditions, describing the atmosphere created as one which seemingly transports the church to heaven.

The special guests each expressed the honour they felt at being present at the service as part of North London’s Seventh-day Adventist ‘Impact London’ initiative.

A visual projection and commentary provided insight into the invaluable social, welfare and spiritual work being undertaken in Islington within the programme, particularly by young Adventist Christians. The current advisory, support and community work programme at ‘The Link’ community project, Holloway, was one such initiative highlighted.

As regards the Sabbath day service, the Mayor, herself a Catholic, said how delighted she was at being in a ‘full church’ on a Sabbath, in the heart of Islington, when people are otherwise shopping in department stores and markets nearby. Her contact echoed the sentiment of the pleasure experienced from their attendance and association with the Adventists. Both commented on the numerous times they had driven past the church. Emily Thornbury MP; Islington South, said that her presence at the service represented the Government and thus demonstrating their commitment to local churches. The Mayor reminded the congregation that ‘15 people signed up for the basic English language class with others already in the elementary class.

On Sunday mornings, by the pastor, and Bible workers Colin Woodford and Karen Ham-Ying.

The second avenue was through the Polish day held on the last Sunday in August in the Darling Church. While others may have enjoyed ice cream at the seaside or watching the Grand Prix, well over one hundred Polish people gathered for the first time in 50 years, for a Polish day in Darling. Financed by Lloyds Bank and sponsored by the Adventist Church, the event took the idea of Cezary Beda, Pastor Zenon Korszuski and Krzysztof Waznik, who evangelised for Belen, a young man due to start work as a pastor in Szczytno in the very near future.

Seven baptised on 07 07 07

There was no better time for Pastor Brian McCormick to talk about the 4 Spiritual Laws of Survival than the Scottish Mission Pathfinder Camporee 2007. With the Scottish weather beating down on the campers on Friday, the leaders and campers set up camp, wondering how long it would all last. But as the weekend progressed, the weather improved and the spirit of the campers was lifted.

Highlight of the weekend was, without a doubt, the baptism of seven on 07 07 07. With the Scottish weather beating down on the campers on Friday, the leaders and campers set up camp, wondering how long it would all last. But as the weekend progressed, the weather improved and the spirit of the campers was lifted.

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Parenting with Grace

Family Togetherness Week, 20-27 October

by Heather Haworth, Women’s Children’s and Family Ministries Director, BUC

I feel so guilty,” exclaimed one mum, “for the times, before I had children, when I glared at parents during a church service because their children were disturbing my worship. Now that I have little ones myself, disciplining them is not as easy as I thought it would be.”

No doubt some of you are nodding in agreement with her statement. As Christians we also have the added challenge of parenting with grace. Cliff Richard described that as something Christian parents added too much grace to discipline so that some of the worse, undisciplined children became our best friends. If that is the case, then are we not doing the same?

Now, then, in parenting do we find a balance between discipline and grace? The greatest name we have to look at is how God disciplines us. First of all, the Father loves the sinner and hates the sin (John 3:16). He also gave His only Son to die on the cross (John 3:16). Secondly, the Father allowed Jesus to be tempted in the wilderness (Mark 1:12), He allowed Him to be accused, to be beaten and crucified (Mark 14:62). He also allowed Him to bear all our sin and to die for our sins (1 Pet. 3:18). What a tremendous grace!

In the book, How to Help Your Child Really Love Jesus by Dennis Hamer and Andrew Root (Abingdon Press, Publishing Association), she graphically describes four styles of discipline, only one of which portrays both grace and discipline. As you read the story work out which it is.

Authoritative

Nine-year-old Jamie roars in the door from school, breathlessly calling: “You can’t go and play with the guys this time. I know how disappointed you are. From now on I’m sure you’ll remember to do your jobs before leaving for school, won’t you?” Slowly Jamie nods, disappointed clearly showing on his face.

“Come, son, it’s time for jobs done!” Mother explains firmly. “You know that’s not a little boy job.”

He shouldn’t take long. Maybe we’ll have time to put a few balls before I get back.”

Did you guess it was the last one, the authoritarian? “Go with grace. Jamie has done wrong, he did not complete his homework. He knows the consequences.”

Permissive

Three-year-old Susie whines and begs for a chocolate bar at the shop. Her mother says she cannot have one, but finally gets tired of her whining and gives her a chocolate bar. The same scene repeats itself every time she goes shopping.

As far as three family friends are concerned, Susie’s 5-year-old brother, Mike, is a terror. He sweeps in a house, turns all the rooms, picks up clothes and tech things to play with. The parents never say a word of reprimand or attempt to restrict him. Instead, they usually say, “Well, you’re a little boy.”

Mummy points out how he has grown. She brings him around and shows him how his actions have consequences. Mum helps him to do his jobs, even allowing him time to play.

Parenting with grace is a challenge, especially if you are not rearing your kids to be children of the Lord or of this world. Balancing the two sides of parenting is perhaps the greatest challenge we as parents face. Remember that the greatest guide we have is to look at how God disciplines us. First of all, the Father loves the sinner and hates the sin (John 3:16). He also gave His only Son to die on the cross (John 3:16). Secondly, the Father allowed Jesus to be tempted in the wilderness (Mark 1:12), He allowed Him to be accused, to be beaten and crucified (Mark 14:62). He also allowed Him to bear all our sin and to die for our sins (1 Pet. 3:18). What a tremendous grace!

Sixteen-year-old Carl arrived home half an hour late from a Thursday night date. On the way back his bicycle chain had broken and he had to walk the last two miles home. When he tried to explain what had happened, his father cut him short, shouting: “What about making me say ‘I’m so sorry’? I think it’s time you learn to be responsible for your actions.”


Word on the Street

At St Michael And All Angels Church, Claverdon, near Warwick, on 13th October 2007 followed by juicing and cooking demonstrations. Fred Evans is an expert in the benefits of juicing, plant-based cooking and teaching the benefits of whole fruits and vegetables, nuts and seeds in our daily diet.

On Sunday morning Fred Evans conducted Health MOTs and consultations on the four dimensions of health. The four dimensions of health are mental, physical, spiritual and social health. He said spiritual health was as important as physical health. He said physical health was often found to be a reflection of spiritual health (1 Cor. 6:19). The four keys to spiritual health are: forgiveness, gratefulness, peace with yourself and peace with God.

During divine service David Addo spoke about spiritual and physical health. "The 5 Love Languages of Parenting with Grace" by Karen Holford, "Book of Ages" by Kay Kuzma, "How to Help Your Child Really Love Jesus" by Dennis Hamer and Andrew Root (Abingdon Press, Publishing Association), she graphically describes four styles of discipline, only one of which portrays both grace and discipline. As you read the story work out which it is.

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Ballinasloe Inauguration
Sabbath 1 September was a special day for believers in the West of Ireland. It was the day on which a new Seventh-day Adventist church was inaugurated in Ballinasloe, County Galway. Ballinasloe is a town situated between the cities of Galway and Dublin on the east coast.

The new church is located just off Society Street, in Ballinasloe’s city centre. It is the ideal location for a new church. Adventists in the Ballinasloe area worked very hard to renovate the building for the church and prepare it for the inauguration. Pastor David Neal, the president of the Irish Mission, was present, as was district pastor, Stephen Wilson. Tony O’Rourke, the head elder of the Galway church, welcomed all those who had come for the inauguration service. Tony himself comes from near Ballinasloe and lives in the town with his wife and family. Tommy Mulvey of the Galway church opened with prayer. The day was especially memorable for the beautiful singing of gospel songs in Portuguese by a Brazilian choir, members of which sang duets and solos during the service. Most of the people who had attended the house church in Ballinasloe up to now came from Brazil, so it was very appropriate that the service should be conducted in both English and Portuguese. There was room for Irish as well, with Betty O’Rourke, wife of Tony, speaking some words in Irish prior to the collection of the special offering for the new church.

The chosen Bible passages were read out in Portuguese and English by some of the young people of the new church. These were: Diana Fernandez, Gerardo O’Rourke, Isabe Damacon, Robert O’Rourke and Simillele Damacon. All the congrega- tion sang in the two languages: the well known and loved hymn, ‘How Great Thou Art’, or in Portuguese, ‘Gusta grande es tu’. Pastor Stephen Wilson relayed greetings from around the world on this special occasion. These includ- ed messages from the president of the Brazilian Union via his secretary, from Pastor Don McFarlane, president of the BUC, Erci, local secretary of the BUC, and Victor Pllmro, treasurer of the BUC. Ashley Kongel, former pastor of the western district, sent his greetings from India. Ashley was associated, along with Francisco and Gilma Santos Da Silva and their family, with the establishment of the first Adventist house church in Ballinasloe. Pastor Neal gave the sermon, which was translated into Portuguese by 15-year-old Andre Santos Da Silva, whose sister Francsca also shared in the translation work during the service. The sermon was entitled, ‘Your Church – Cruise Ship or Life Boat?’. Pastor Neal contrasted the idea of luxury and ease on board the doomed Titanic and the modern cruise ship with the work of a life boat, saving people from stormy seas.

He said, ‘When Christians sit in padded pews we have problems. We begin to think this church is made for us, not for the people who need help. We are called to worship God who made heaven and earth.’

Addressing the congregation, Pastor Neal said, ‘You have a vision to reach all the people in this city, that is why you have chosen to come here.’ His message was summed up by the words, ‘The church has to be more like a life boat,’ and he con- cluded: ‘The church modeled on the life boat is modeled on grace.’

Pastor Stephen Wilson then said a few words based on the picture of a church in I Corinthians 3:6. He said, ‘The picture of a seed is a very powerful picture of what the church is to be. One person will sow the seed, another waters it – it is God who helps it grow.’

Many people had laid the foun- dation for the establishment of a church in Ballinasloe. Now the members of the new church signed their names to a scroll as part of a service of dedication. After signing, each new member took a flower and planted it in a flowerbed. Francisco Santos Da Silva spoke of his happi- ness that this day had come and said to those present, ‘You are here because God loves you.’ Then the friends of the Ballinasloe church, those who wished to help the church through their prayers and practical support, added their names to a scroll.

Special prayers were said by Tony O’Rourke, Henry Denacome and Pastor Stephen Wilson. The closing hymn was, ‘We Have This Hope’, or in Portuguese, ‘Oh, Que Esperança’.

EDITOR: D. N. MARSHALL
DESIGN: DAVID BELL
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Greetings from the land that created the colour green, and all the forty shades of it! Could this be why the Irish are so relaxed and calm? I’m glad to report that our little company at Newmarket on Fergus in the west of Ireland is growing. We have a regular attendance of about forty people each week. What visitors like about this company is the warm Christian welcome they receive. So they are happy to invite their friends.

We have started a weekly English language course at our house for mem- bers and their friends who do not speak English. We have five students from Brazil with zilch English knowledge, one of whom is a Catholic lady. This class will get bigger, and all are welcome. I believe we are meeting current needs. The students come twice a week, for two hours at a time. It’s an opportunity to make new friends for our church.

At the moment, I am currently studying with six young people in our bap- tismal class. They enjoy the studies, and are eager to learn. My wife Annette has started a Pathfinders club, which also includes Adventurers. This club meets on Sabbath afternoons and is greatly enjoyed by the children.

The Cork church is going along nicely. It, too, is growing in number. The dedicated members and officers organise the running of this church superbly. It is a joy to work as an assistant to their leadership.

A few weeks ago, I was accused in the church car park by four hardened street alcoholics as I was carrying my materials into the church hall. When I passed them the second time, I was impressed to think that Christ also cares so much for them, too. So I introduced myself as the pastor, but they pre- ferred to call me a priest. They asked me what I preach about in the hall. I told them I preach the same sermon every week. They asked me curiously what that sermon was about. I told them it was ‘The Grace of Christ towards Sinners like us’. They scratched their heads, and one said, ‘Don’t they go to hell?’ I said, ‘That’s exactly what happens!’ The Holy Spirit bores a hole deep in our sinful hearts and fits that bored hole with Christ’s grace. Patrick, a decorated war hero, leaned forward, and asked the question, ‘Tell me more about this grace?’ I illustrated grace using a story that they could identify with in Irish culture. I began, ‘Boys, if a gangster lent you £10,000 euros for one week only, with 50% interest due in seven days, and you foolishly wasted it on drugs and drinks and such like, what do you think he would do to you if you saw that you had wasted his money?’ They replied to a man, ‘Ah, he would have to keep us at least, and we’d be fortunate at that!’ But he could also kill us, and we’d deserve that as well!’ ‘But,’ I said, ‘if the man told you he had forgiven your foolishness and not only overlooked the money you wasted, but then gave you another 10,000 euros as a gift. Then he told you that your friendship was worth more than all the money in the Bank of Ireland! What would you think?’ ‘That’s Grace,’ I said, and I left to preach in the hall. Near the end of the sermon, Patrick quietly entered the hall and sat down, and looked at me like a puppy looks at a dangling steak. I walked over and sat beside him, and he asked emotionally, ‘Tell me more about this grace. It’s troubling me as when I thirst for Guinness!’

Pray for all these poor potential Christians, especially for Patrick. Once again, we are grateful for your dedication to the cause in Ireland.