Christianity is not a unique way of thinking, but a unique way of linking,” Miroslav Pujic told participants at a LIFEdevelopment retreat organised by Pastor Eglan Brooks, Personal Ministries and LIFEdevelopment director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the UK and Ireland. That ‘linking’ became evident from the sharing among participants, including a Muslim and a self-professed atheist. The devout Muslim started the weekend by checking the prayer times and direction of Mecca from our location in Slovenia. She is devout but is open to looking at other religions and viewpoints. Invited by her friend, Ellen, to the weekend, she stated that she was ‘overwhelmed by the amount of love she was shown’. She wants an invitation to any future events.

The weekend of 8-11 November saw a diverse group of 68 individuals travel to the cool, luscious climes of Slovenia for LIFEdevelopment training in Rogaska Slatina. As this was the first ever LIFEdevelopment retreat, and with a number of sceptics in attendance, evaluation reports at the Sunday close stated, ‘LIFEdevelopment is beautiful’ and ‘At last I understand what this thing called LIFEdevelopment is all about.’ Both in discussion and in practice the programme also crossed cultural boundaries as participants, all resident in the UK, represented over thirty nationalities. All were excitedly examining how the programme would work best for them in their locality.

Dr Miroslav Pujic, the director of the Centre for Secular and Postmodern Studies, led the group from finding people where they are, through to how to connect with them and how to lead them into a deeper experience with God. Pastor Brooks then showed how LIFEdevelopment fits into the regular church evangelistic system. ‘LIFEdevelopment does not replace our evangelism, it complements it,’ he stated.

The morning and evening devotionals were special times when speakers were
**What do you think about the recent report that eating red meat and drinking alcohol, even in small amounts, increases the risk of developing cancer?**

My guess is that your reaction to that depends on whether or not you eat red meat and drink alcohol! If you don’t partake, then you probably feel good about yourself, and proud of our Church’s teachings on these things.

If on the other hand, you either eat red meat or drink alcohol, you may feel that this is just one more statistic that is probably wrong.

*Isn’t it strange the way we respond to information? There may be those among us who think that we are all objective, rational beings who sensibly weigh the facts and respond accordingly. Unfortunately, many of us respond in rather a different way. Self-justification seems to be common, as is self-satisfaction.*

It is true that different surveys come out with different results, which does give some weight to the argument that this is just another survey which may be disparate by other surveys. It does seem to me, though, that over the years there tends to be a large amount of evidence that supports this current study. Also, this study took five years to complete, and was put together by the World Cancer Research Fund, so it isn’t as if this was a business that had anything to gain by slandering the evidence in a certain way.

Now, how do you respond to that survey and, indeed, to others, especially if they challenge the way you think or live? When Jesus said to Pilate: ‘I came into the world to testify to the truth,’ Pilate responded: ‘What is truth?’ (John 18:37, 38, NKJ) Pilate was faced with an uncomfortable decision as to what to do with Jesus, and he avoided the issue by hiding behind a philosophical question.

*What do you and I do with truths that apply to our lives? It may be the issue of what we eat or drink but it may be something else. Are you able to look at issues honestly, openly, with vulnerability, as a disciple of Christ who is genuinely interested in growing?*

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**History’s Headliners**

David Marshall

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**Stress**

*The Cost of Caring*

One in eight British adults is a carer and there are an estimated 6.5 million carers in the UK, with over 200,000 carers being under 18. Although most carers are women, about 42% are men.

What does a carer do? Carers look after people who, due to frailty, illness or disability, are unable to look after themselves. Care can include providing physical, mental or terminal illnesses like cancer or AIDS. Nearly half of all carers juggled their role with paid work.

**Stress impact**

Although the nature and extent of caring varies among carers, stress is a common experience to most. A study by Carers UK, published in 2004, entitled *Invisible?* found that carers providing high levels of care were twice as likely to suffer ill-health as non-carers. Another Carers UK study, entitled *Invisible?* found more than half of UK carers have been treated for a stress-related illness since becoming a carer. Additionally it was found that if they don’t get a break, carers are twice as likely to suffer from mental health problems.

The stress in informal carers of Hospitalised Elderly Patients, published in 1995, found that 47% of carers suffered depression.

**Causes of stress**

- Juggling work and caring
- Financial difficulties if having to give up paid work
-工作压力太大

**Support for carers**

A range of support and services for carers may help prevent and manage stress. These include:

- Information: on services, support groups, benefits, etc.
- Advice and advocacy: to access and negotiate with local services
date time off for holidays, day trips or just a break from routine
- Meeting others: talking to other carers can be a healing experience
- Stress-relief therapies like massage, exercise
- Emotional support

**Sharon Pratt-Connell**

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**Enhancing Health**

*Part 8*

**The Cost of Caring**

by Sharon Pratt-Connell RN, RM, RMN, MSc, Health Matters Director, NIOC

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**Adventist Outreach Magazine**

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**Focuses on Good Food**

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**Why Jesus matters – really, really matters – to you**

for mass distribution in your area during December.

Order through your PM secretary

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**Kings, generals and politicians too often make headlines in history**

When 2007 is taught, Tony Blair and Gordon Brown will be the names on the blackboard. Yet, how do we get there?

Two centuries ago, the Duke of Portland and Spencer Percival were the Blar and Brown. Ever heard of them? Why should you have?

How about Napoleon – the Numero Uno, two hundred years ago? He had smashed the Austrians, Russians and Prussians in battle and gained control of Portugal and Spain.

A pessimistic English columnist confidently predicted that Napoleon’s Continental System would ‘inevitably throttle the life’ out of a British dependent on trade.

Few things are ‘inevitable’ except to newspaper columnists. Two hundred years ago, who would have bet on that rank outsider Arthur Wellesley (later called Wellington)?

‘Often the ‘inevitable’ does not happen. Britain did not surrender to Germany in 1940.


Robert Mugabe’s prediction of ‘reversal of roles’? Jesus, in centuries unborn, reigning in the hearts of millions? Augustus, known by millions only for his part in accounting for the location of Jesus’ birth?

The Roman historian Suetonius wrote of the Roman historian Suetonius wrote of Augustus, made possible by a birth in an out-house, a birth serving as the hinge of history.

In Rome – distant in all dimensions but four years – the writing was on the wall. Augustus was about to break the *Prohibiting Amendment* ‘just could not happen’. That point, a voice over the announcer announced that it just had! Goliath, huge, armed and dangerous, was ‘inevitably’ the winner in the contest with the stone-throwing teenager. Trapped in the desert between a large mechanised Egyptian army and the deep Red Sea, the unravelling fleeing slaves were ‘inevitably’ done for. Golgotha was ‘inevitably’ The End for a firm conviction that at that very time the East was to be torn, and rulers coming from Judaea to acquire universal empire: Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome – and Judaea?

Ludicrous! There was only one nominee for the Messiah – Augustus!

The Roman historian Suetonius wrote of the fear of fever in those years leading up to the birth of Christ. ‘There had spread over the Orient an old and established belief, that it was fated at that time for men coming from Judaea to rule the world.’ Herod the Great, of course! The contest for his own family, determined that he would be Judaea’s Great Headliner. So why did the magi take the Bethlehem Road?

The Jews, wrote Josephus Flavius, had a belief that ‘at that time one from their country would become governor of the habitable earth’. Balaam had said, ‘There shall come a star out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel.’ Jacob had spoken of one who would arise from the House of Judah and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.’ The calculation of the timing was based on Daniel’s arithmetic, and the location on Micah’s indicator.

Prophetic writings were of a minority interest, as Augustus had demanded a census so as to measure and maximise income from taxation. That political decision was important to God. He wanted Joseph and Mary of Nazareth in Bethlehem. God could use even Augustus to establish His Kingdom!

While Augustus and Herod made headlines, God arrived in the person of a baby. Jesus was placed in the sharp straw of a manger. Under a star, in Bethlehem. ‘So Virgil’s “golden age” * became the Age of Grace, made possible by a birth in an out-house, a birth serving as the hinge of history.* Who would have thought of that great reversal of roles? Jesus, in centuries unimagined, reordering the hearts of millions? Augustus, known by millions only for his part in accounting for the location of Jesus’ birth?

What will hit the headlines when, in the final role reversal, Jesus returns in all auspicious circumstances?

*In the face of all that is ’inevitable’ and ‘obvious’ –* Echo it hilltops! Proclaim it ye plains!’ – *Other family members feel neglected* – *Strain on personal relationships* – *Inability to take a holiday or arrange short breaks* – *Difficulties caring for carers* – *Self-justification seems to be common, as is self-satisfaction.*

It is true that different surveys come out with different results, which does give some weight to the argument that this is just another survey which may be disparate by other surveys. It does seem to me, though, that over the years there tends to be a large amount of evidence that supports this current study. Also, this study took five years to complete, and was put together by the World Cancer Research Fund, so it isn’t as if this was a business that had anything to gain by slandering the evidence in a certain way.

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**Responding to truth**

What do you think about the recent report that eating red meat and drinking alcohol, even in small amounts, increases the risk of developing cancer? My guess is that your reaction to that depends on whether or not you eat red meat and drink alcohol! If you don’t partake, then you probably feel good about yourself, and proud of our Church’s teachings on these things.

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JLS students meet Jesse Jackson
by Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health director

At noon on Monday 12 November, the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland hosted a reception in honour of Civil Rights leader Jesse Jackson as part of the celebration for the bicentenary of the abolition of the Slave Trade. This was followed by a press conference with the Revd Jackson when a number of reporters and political and social activists were invited to interview him.

Among the invitees were representatives from the John Loughborough School and Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries director.

Accompanied by head teacher Dr June Alexis, three students from the John Loughborough School – Asher McKenzie, Carla Edgecombe and Rumbidzai Sithole – were invited to participate in a round table discussion with the Revd Jackson, who stated, ‘The object of our fight was not freedom, but equality.’ Then he reminded us that with freedom comes responsibility. He asserted: ‘Freedom may be the absence of chains but freedom gives us choices. Do not use your freedom to degrade yourself.’

In reflecting on the event, the John Loughborough students were invited in to listen to the round table discussion and were impressed with the response and advice Revd Jackson was able to give to the various people who spoke with him from their area of expertise.

Revd Jackson responded by explaining how he encourages the black churches across the US to invite the mobile blood units to their church where the members, led by the pastors, can be encouraged to donate blood. He spoke about his call to the bishops to endorse HIV testing by having their HIV blood test in front of the congregation – in the pulp! He hastened to add that, while the test was public, the results were given in private. This leading from the front has helped to break the fear, remove the taboo and encourage more engagement of the black churches in regards to health and social issues.

As a learning experience, the John Loughborough students were invited in to listen to the round table discussion and were impressed with the response and advice Revd Jackson was able to give to the various people who spoke with him from their area of expertise.

In reflecting on the event, the three teenagers expressed their delight at the opportunity to meet with Jesse Jackson and hear what he had to say on social issues impacting minority groups. They all found him inspirational.

Asked what they would take with them from this event, the students responded by quoting from the Civil Rights leader: ‘If you believe in something, stand up for it, stand up for yourself and fight for what you believe in.’

Dr June Alexis, JLS head teacher, spoke of Revd Jackson’s ‘inner strength’ and ability to inspire and empower individuals to value themselves, realising that no one should be denied as everyone is entitled to fight for their beliefs. Dr Alexis felt privileged that they were the only school who had been invited to the event and saw that as a positive highlight for the school. She was equally pleased that it had been a very positive experience for the children and reported how excited and emotional they felt and amazed that so much interest had been shown in them.

An afternoon session ensued with a separate list of invitees to the Christ Church venue on Blackfriars Road. This event was captioned: ‘Entitled to...’

For more information on Stanborough School or to see photos of Speech Night 2007, visit the school’s website at www.scspch.org.
Empowering leaders, equipping churches, embracing difference
by Sharon Platt-McDonald (BUC Health director & Special Needs co-ordinator) and Sophia Nicholls (Training Development co-ordinator ASNA)

Excellent, a long-awaited event,’ Very welcoming,’ An eye-opening experience,’ Very informative,’ Well organised.’ These were just a few of the many comments made by the delegates at the first BUC/ASNA Special Needs co-ordinator’s conference held on 4 November at St Abans church. In the words of Apeoss, ‘in you there is strength and, together, ASNA and the BUC have identified a need to support the church with this much-needed training conference.

This historic event was undertaken to offer training, share the learning and experience to develop the role of the newly-appointed co-ordinators and celebrate the work of those who care for individuals with special needs and disabilities.

The key goals for the conference were defined. Firstly, to provide delegates with adequate training and support to enhance their experience as Special Needs co-ordinators and encourage greater understanding of their role. Secondly, to provide relevant information to raise the profile of disability awareness in their churches and facilitate the development of the co-ordinator’s role. Thirdly, to enable delegates to challenge barriers that hinder compliance with the Disabilities Discrimination Act as it relates to churches.

Conway Arscott was chosen as the theme for the conference, as our ultimate goal is to create an environment within our churches and communities where individuals feel that they are welcome and their diverse needs are met in the services and programmes offered. Under the caption, ‘Empowering leaders, Equipping churches and their communities, Embracing difference,’ a series of presentations and workshops were created which provided both theoretical knowledge and practical insights in how we can better embrace the needs of diverse individuals in our communities.

Excited and keen to learn, delegates came from far and near across the British Isles – the furtherst from Aberdeen.

Since the launch of Newtown ASNA welcomed the delegates, noting that this was an exciting day for the Church. An exciting day in which they had an opportunity to witness ‘God’s call to act, not just to come. Disability co-ordinators from Aberdeen, Bristol, Cardiff, Dorset, Dublin, London, Wolverhampton, Birmingham and many other areas answered the call to act in the service of making the Gospel accessible.

Joy Bussey followed the chairman’s introduction with a presentation about the annual BUC Special needs needs fund which is held at Aberdeen, Wales. This week-long event takes place in the summer and provides a residential activity camp for adults with disabilities. Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Special Needs co-ordinator, welcomed the delegation and encouraged them to help implement these challenges. Concerns and fears included the challenges of overcoming the difficulties to meet the needs of the disabled in their community, having a wealth of experience about their role and the inability to implement change. Examples of good practice were highlighted.

An excellent and sumptuous lunch provided by Cynthia Goodman and her team refuelled the delegates for the afternoon workshops.

All the workshops were specifically developed to support church ministry, to challenge and to equip.

Causway presented a workshop on Developing a Ministry for People with Learning Disabilities. This explored the practical and attitudinal steps needed to take to create a welcoming environment for people with special needs and disabilities.

Supporting Carers and Raising Awareness about Mental Illness, run by Anne Lefman, was an insightful workshop which gave an in-depth look at support networks and services for carers. It also highlighted how to recognize signs of mental distress and illness and so relate effectively to individuals experiencing this challenge.

Removing Barriers to Access, provided by Margaret Wilson, a Consulting Trustee of ASNA, allowed the delegates to examine the barriers provided by their churches and how to remove them. Terry Messenger, SEC Personal Ministries director, gave an experiential presentation, again encouraging the delegation to see this mission as an essential part of their work.

The second keynote presentation was by David Bendor-Samuels of the Causeway Prospects Charity. He highlighted the work of Causway and the importance of taking the message to the disabled as essential to the life of the Church. His words, ‘A Church without a disabled, left a lasting impression on those who attended. His presentation on the different models and how we see people with disability stuck home with many. One delegate commented that ‘his eyes had been opened’ by the theological model of disability which presented a holistic approach to the work of the Church and its members.

Sophia Nicholls, honorary secretary and Training Development co-ordinator of ASNA, highlighted the two main barriers to accessing services within the Church, these being individual and environmental barriers. She encouraged delegates to examine their personal perspectives on accessing services in people with disabilities. Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Special Needs co-ordinator, welcomed the delegation and encouraged them to help implement these challenges. Concerns and fears included the challenges of overcoming the difficulties to meet the needs of the disabled in their community, having a wealth of experience about their role and the inability to implement change. Examples of good practice were highlighted.

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Croydon: 38 baptised after Gospel Renaissance campaign

by David Billett, first elder

"Attitude determines your altitude" was the motto that Pastor Ainsworth Joseph hammered home during a two-week revival campaign held at Croydon church from 22 September to 6 October.

Pastor Joseph is a native of the West Indian republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and new pastors and maintains a dynamic ministry at the Kingsboro Temple Seventh-day Adventist church in Brooklyn, New York.

Night after night the call was made for men, women, young people and children to change their attitude and determine a spiritual altitude based on the mighty power of an awesome God.

During the family service on the final day of the campaign, Elder David Billett announced that twenty people had decided to affirm their faith by baptism during the service planned for that Sabbath afternoon. The number of candidates had risen from ten to twenty since the preceding service on the previous Wednesday evening, and many more had expressed a desire to know about Christ through further Bible study. Elder Billett also testified that the Holy Spirit continued to work in a mysterious way which made planning the baptismal programme difficult, and he could only now 'let go and let God'.

Pastor Joseph's final message focused on the promise of an eternal life with Jesus. This was followed by a Spirit-filled appeal that also encouraged parents to lead their children to Christ.

Those wavering on the edge of decision were also prompted to step out from their pews and follow Pastor Joseph and Pastor Brighton Kavaloh in a walk of worship and praise. Over fifty men, women, young people, and children responded to the appeal and joined the procession.

That evening, with a church packed to capacity, a total of thirty-eight people including eleven children were baptised by Pastor Brighton Kavaloh, assisted by Pastor Dusan Uzelac, and welcomed into the fellowship of Croydon church.

The highlight of the day was the march to nearby West Park, recognised as one of England's finest Victorian parks. The long procession was flanked by uniformed police officers, mainly on motorbikes, who stopped traffic and ensured our safety on the busy roads of the city centre. Our guests – family members and friends – in 'civilian' church outfits gave out flyers telling passers-by who we were and what all the noise was about!

On days like this it is always nice to see old friends and have a sense of 'oneness' as we dress and march in line with God's leadership. I was particularly glad to see Pastor Trevor Thomas in fine form after recovering from an acute illness earlier this year. During the main service he testified how his absolute trust in God had enabled him to stay calm throughout the invasive procedures he experienced while in hospital.

The day ended with an orderly march back to the Civic Hall. We closed in prayer, said our goodbyes and, although we did not want this taste of heaven to end, we had memories of a blessed 2007 Rally Day to treasure.

NEC Pathfinder rally

by Dr Jacquie Halliday-Bell

Camp Hill Pathfinder club, although in the process of some reformation, joined the throng of uniformed members for the annual NEC Rally Day on Sabbath 9 September in Wolverhampton.

Starting outside of the Civic Hall, the various clubs lined up in their ranks and files, and paraded in full-dress uniforms sporting patches that acknowledged their achievements and camping records. In spite of the crowd we marched into the hall on time, to the sound of rhythmic drumming.

The day's programme included Sabbaths School study and a fair share of praise and worship time.

The Mayress of Wolverhampton was the honoured guest for the morning. She was clearly moved by the proceedings, particularly the massed choirs' singing, and admitted to pushing the tip of the Girl Guides' flag accidentally through the roof of the church she attended in her youth! She was a very down-to-earth person and accepted a beautiful bouquet of flowers and other gifts graciously. The divine service sermonette was delivered by a youthful Master Guide trainee who had impressed the NEC department leaders during away weekends with his knowledge and delivery of the Word of God. The staff at the Civic Hall were excellent, making us feel very welcome throughout the day.

The highlight of the day was the march to nearby West Park, recognised as one of England's finest Victorian parks. The long procession was flanked by uniformed police officers, mainly on motorbikes, who stopped traffic and ensured our safety on the busy roads of the city centre. Our guests – family members and friends – in 'civilian' church outfits gave out flyers telling passers-by who we were and what all the noise was about!

Once at the park, a concert ensued, with each club presenting selections of music and singing to give glory to God. The weather was pleasant and the fellowship great, although we didn't have an opportunity to enjoy the boating lake, see the collection of waterfowl or the beautiful floral displays as we centred our worship around the Victorian bandstand.

On days like this it is always nice to see old friends and have a sense of 'oneness' as we dress and march in line with God's leadership. I was particularly glad to see Pastor Trevor Thomas in fine form after recovering from an acute illness earlier this year. During the main service he testified how his absolute trust in God had enabled him to stay calm throughout the invasive procedures he experienced while in hospital.

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Visitors’ Day at Newcastle

What do you do when your 8-year-old tells you he is ready to be baptised? As Robin’s parents we were surprised yet very pleased. Perhaps our surprise should not have been so great because even at his young age, Robin’s enquiring mind was producing lots of questions. From an early age he clearly understood the meaning of the Communion service and was very keen to participate. Even so we were not sure if this decision was a little early, and we sought the counsel of our minister, Pastor Mick Smart. Robin and Pastor Mick discussed together the issues involved in deciding to follow Jesus, which confirmed Robin’s decision that he still wanted to be baptised.

Robin is a young man who knows what he wants. He was quite clear that he did not wish to be baptised in a river or a swimming pool, but in a ‘proper’ baptistery somewhere in Cheltenham. Big problem.

Cheltenham church uses the Friend’s Meeting House, which does not have a baptistery! There followed a few months of searching in the local area until eventually we found the Leckhampton Baptist Church. Revd Citrina kindly agreed to loan us his building for an afternoon.

So on 20 October, friends and family gathered to watch Robin publicly make his decision to follow Jesus. Robin, just like the rest of his family, loves music, so we all sang many of Robin’s favourites, which contained messages which spoke clearly of the decision that Robin was making. He also chose two Bible readings showing the great Old Testament examples of Daniel and Elijah, again very fitting for the occasion.

What made this particular baptism a brave occasion was the fact that Robin entered a baptistery of very cold water. Apparently the heater was not working that day but Robin was not to be deterred. He genuinely looked so happy, despite the temperature of the water.

Robin was voted unanimously into the Cheltenham church family and was showered with good wishes, cards and gifts which will keep his already active mind busy for a long time.

In Pastor Mick’s short address to Robin he reminded Robin how pleased his family and friends were that he had made this decision and how pleased he was as well. Although Pastor Mick interjected to remind everyone how pleased he was that he had made his decision to follow Jesus.

Following the service, most stayed to enjoy refreshments and fellowship together while others struggled to pull the plug on the Victory – all adding to the flavour of the day!

Robin sees his future in developing his musical talents for the benefit of the church and we are sure that we will all be blessed by this and in other ways yet to bear fruit. Robin is a very willing and valued member of our church family and we look forward to him using his talents for Jesus.

Robin’s Story

by Michael Beamish, his Dad

Are you ready? That was the question posed by 4-year-old Carl Arif to his audience as he and fellow Filipino International Church (FIC) Kids’ choir introduced their song. Although a well-known song (It is well with my soul), FIC Kids performed it with a difference, using a traditional musical instrument of Indonesian origin, made out of two bamboo tubes attached to a bamboo frame (see picture). The audience was left amazed at the super talent displayed by the kids who were all aged between four and ten.

Newcastle church was full to capacity for both the morning and afternoon programmes during a special visitors’ day on Sabbath 3 November. The FIC Chorale flavoured the special occasion with their presence. FIC’s Rico Guzon in his sermon reminded the worshippers of the need to be Christ’s witnesses of what they have heard and seen. After an abundant, delicious potluck lunch, FIC Chorale, FIC Ladies Ensemble and FIC Kids delivered an amazing musical concert, rightly entitled ‘The King’, a tribute to their beloved and sovereign Lord Jesus.

The two-hour concert featured a range of wholesome music with titles such as ‘In Christ Alone’, ‘What a Day That Will Be’, and ‘Lift Up Your Heads’. In many cases, the outreach ministries were the only way in which the church had contact with the community.

In Pastor Mick’s sermon, Rico reminded us that we are to shine out the message of Christ to others. As a lighthouse shines from inside out, so we are to shine out the message of Christ to others.

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Not a Hallowe’en Party – A Hallelujah Party!

On 31 October, in Manchester Central church, we had a wonderful Hallelujah party when the world was celebrating Hallowe’en. The party included playing games, praise, talk and prayers. Children also had the opportunity to make crafts. Finally everyone at the party enjoyed food and drinks. Jason Chang from Manchester Central conducted interviews with the participants.

Why don’t we celebrate Hallowe’en?

"It’s about the devil." Krystal, 9 years old.
"Cos Jesus is the Light of the world." Joshua, 9 years old.
"It’s a pagan festival." Arlene Roach, trainee elder.

How do you feel about the Hallelujah party programme?

Marie-Clarie, praise and worship leader of Manchester Central, said, "All of them are interesting. It’s good to play with the children."

Why are you bringing your child to the Hallelujah party?

Deborah Lauder-Bell, Sabbath School teacher of Manchester Central, said, “To celebrate light rather than darkness.”

Why are you organising such an event?

Marie-Simpson, Children’s Ministries co-ordinator at Manchester Central, said, "Because children at school keep hearing their friends talking about going to Hallowe’en parties. So I decided that it would be nice for Christian children to have somewhere to go to, so they can witness about going to a Hallelujah party where they will celebrate the Light of the world, Jesus."

Evelyn's baptism

On 20 October at 5pm, Evelyn Henry made her decision to give her life completely to her Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Wednesfield’s Pastor Richard Jackson performed the ceremony and spoke words of encouragement.

On Sunday 16 September the members and friends of the Wokingham Branch Sabbath School had their annual day out. This year we went to the Isle of Wight.

We were met there by Brother and Sister Hemmings of the Isle of Wight church, who are past members of our group. Brother Hemmings was our tour guide, pointing out places of interest and directing our coach driver to various destinations where we could browse, stroll or eat.

We were blessed with ideal weather, and we thank God for giving us a leg of our trip. The outing was greatly enjoyed by all age groups, and it was quite an adventure for some of the children as this was their first journey by sea.

We were joined by people from all over the Central church, who are past members of our group. Brother Hemmings was our tour guide, pointing out places of interest and directing our coach driver to various destinations where we could browse, stroll or eat.

Bodmin harvest

"Not with an old horse-drawn binder, but with a pair of garden shears, two wheat sheaves were cut at Mr Griggs' farm at Longstone, St Mabyn (by his kind permission) for the harvest thanksgiving service at Bodmin Seventh-day Adventist church."

Seven baptised in Bristol

Bristol Central and North Bristol churches combined in a baptism service that witnessed seven souls being baptised. The occasion was the culmination of a variety of witness campaigns and Bible studies across the Bristol Central, North Bristol and South Bristol churches over the past six months.

Cardiff’s farewell

September 29 was a very special day in the Cardiff Community church. It was the last Sabbath service in which recently ordained minister Pastor Clyde and Sister Anette Moore were officiating as the local ministerial team. October 1 would see them commence working in the North Shropshire district, with responsibility for Shrewsbury, Telford and Wrexham. The divine service was blessed with the dedication of three newborn babies, all cousins and grandchildren of Community Services director Ellen Nesbitt. In the KIS members expressed their gratitude for the ministry of Clyde and Anette and articulated how they would best be remembered. The week had begun on Sunday 23 October, with a farewell three-course meal served in the youth hall and foyer by the ladies of the church, all suitably attired in black. Following the meal, members said their farewells. Pastor Moore, in response, thanked them for their kindness and encouragement, but most of all thanked them for their Christ-like Christianity and exhorted them to continue in their faithful service to make a kingdom difference in the Cardiff community. Pastor and Mrs Moore were presented with a beautiful handcrafted card, handmade by one of the members, Elizabeth Thomas, and a monetary gift from the church and members’ donations. They also received several personal cards and gifts from individual members. Local treasurer Ian Matthews said, “We won’t miss Pastor and Mrs Moore because we will see them again from time to time in the Welch Mission, but we wish them all the best in their new district.” Pastor Ian McKenzie, currently the pastor of the Newport church, will now also pastor the Cardiff and Barry churches.

GloUCESTER’S LONG-AWAITED DAY

On Sabbath 3 November, after fourteen months without a pastor, Earl Ramharacksingh, SCO treasurer, introduced Pastor Ile Tarley and his wife Veronica and two children Alina and Adrian to the Gloucester congregation. Pastor Ile has been with us for a few weeks, but now he is joined by his wife, and the family have been taken into our hearts as we pray for their ministry in Gloucester and Chalford.

The picture below shows the pastor and his family being welcomed by Ainsley Mitchell, head elder, joined by Brother and Sister Ramharacksings.

On the same day, the pastor and his family and Brother and Sister Ramharacksingh were introduced to three couples who had celebrated fifty years of marriage during the year, a combined total of 150 years of marriage, a wonderful achievement during these times of frequent marriage breakdowns and a testimony to trust in God. In the above picture they are joined by Ronnie Green, who played the piano at the wedding of Peter and Iris Fansone, and has played throughout the married lives of all the couples in the church life in Gloucester, and continues to play each Sabbath for the Gloucester congregation, even though she is in her late eighties.

The picture shows I to r: Sister and Brother P Fansone, Sister and Brother A. Fishey, Ronnie Green, Bristone, Sister and Brother F. Mitchell.

EUGENY WINGE
when we think of stewardship we usually think of money, of tithes and offerings; it is about our relationship with God and the things over which he has made us stewards — our bodies, our time, our planet, our talents, and our treasures. when we see stewardship from a holistic perspective, we can see that we rob God in so many other ways, not least in the area of health.

we may have robbed God of health. in the hotel of my heart there have been many guests coming and going but there has been little or no room for the innkeeper for His attention if we forget to consider the great mysteries of God.

we may have used our bodies as our temples. in the vocabulary of my vocation is my day-to-day dialogue with God. what does the patient, who has no right to change religion or even discuss variant spiritual concepts, it was suggested that the evangel (Gospel) incarnated. The examples from the Bible where Jesus healed without preaching should be followed.

it is with great sadness we heard of delana carroll sober's (1939-2007) death. delana was an adventist nurse in the convocation from a multi-religious hospital in Paris also lectured and narrated details of her interesting and demanding work. in particular, Christian chaplaincy with people from traditional African religions had its challenges.

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invited to share ‘My Story’ of how the Lord worked through them or people they knew. Pastor Victor Hulbert shared how, as a teenager, involvement, rather than being a spectator, led him to commitment, and how his wife, as a hppy, came to an Adventist church that accepted her just as she was, allowing a growing relationship with Christ to change her. Pastor Michael Nhu shared how he was baptised after just hearing a few messages and was involved straight away in public evangelism after his baptism. Pastor Mike Logan told how he baptised a colourful former atheist and alcoholic in Ireland who made a huge impact on his family and community in the six months before he died. Pastor Michael Simpson shared his personal testimony of how God dramatically called him and inspired him to use small-group evangelism effectively before and after becoming a pastor. Sabbath worship was a beautiful experience with moving music, testimony and scripture. Tina Brooks, Thorne Lusis, Ellen Bryant and Sharon McKenzie enhanced the retreat with quality music. Some participants were in tears following a rendition of ‘I can only imagine’. Guests in the hotel corridor stopped to listen on their way to health treatments. Sophia Chichilm shared with us how God can change situations with a toothbrush! Blessing Wokoh told us how she trusted a roughneck taxi man in Ghana, how he was faithful and that it is not how we look that is important, it is our integrity. Netri Freitas shared howa dream and the miraculous events in her life confirmed that she should be paying tithes again. On Sunday morning, Dr Steve Thomas pulled it all together when he merged the story of the woman at the well with the LIFE development principles. ‘At last I fully understand it!’ Betty Nsenga exclaimed.

The weekend left many people convicted to engage themselves in LIFE development on a one-to-one basis. Twenty-one people committed themselves to establishing an LO group and another twelve are aiming to start a LIFE development Centre at different venues across the UK. And our own self-declared atheist friend? ‘It was better than I expected,’ she commented. Using the skills learnt over the weekend, sixty-six people now aim to share that message with a larger world.

ABC Sales UK
Christmas Holiday Opening Schedule
Please be aware that all ABC locations will be closed for stocktaking purposes during the first week of January 2008. ABC sales at The Stanborough Press will close on Tuesday 23 December and reopen on Monday 7 January 2008. ABC Watford will close on Friday 21 December at 2pm and will reopen on Sunday 6 January 2008 from 10am to 2pm.

Bedford Central Church – temporary premises
Due to extensive refurbishment work at our church, we will be worshipping at the following address from 15 December until further notice: 96, London Road (junction of Bartholomew Avenue), Bedford, MK42.

The John Loughborough Seventh-day Adventist School
Holcombe Road, Tottenham, London N17 8AD
Headteacher: Dr June Alexis
Telephone: 020 8808 7837, Fax: 020 8801 6719

Non-Teaching Staff
The governors and headteacher wish to appoint a number of Learning Support Assistants and a Science Technician for the Spring Term 2008.

The school is a co-educational Seventh-day Adventist Christian voluntary-aided School for students of all faiths between the ages of 11 and 16. The school’s motto is SPIRITUS, MENS, CORPUS, indicating that students will be encouraged to aim at the great ideal of spiritual maturity, mental excellence and physical well-being. As an integral part of its mission, the school seeks to be a ‘Leading Edge Institution’ for raising the achievement of all students within the goal of Education Inclusion, irrespective of social, economic, cultural, racial or religious backgrounds.

These posts provide opportunities for innovative and enthusiastic Christians to make their mark by contributing to a dynamic, improving and forward-looking school. The successful candidates should have commitment to the highest standards of learning and teaching and must subscribe to the values of the school.

The John Loughborough School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

All short-listed candidates are required to provide a current CRB disclosure.

We are seeking to appoint:

Learning Support Assistants

- Full-time
- Salary: £14,372

Science Technician

- Full-time
- Salary: £13,782

Further details and application forms are available from the headteacher at the above address.

Closing date: 10 December 2007
Interviews for Science Technician: Week beginning 14 December 2007
Interviews for Learning Support Assistants: Week beginning 17 December 2007

Bedford Central Church
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Pastor Michael Logan
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Pastor Chisholm

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The Editors may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to them if they think it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.