Gloucester church has held an Appreciation Service to say thank you to the emergency services for their dedication and help during the floods of July 2007.

In his address, Robert Hinds pointed out that while the Appreciation Day was to say thank you for all the work done on the community’s behalf during the floods, in reality the services were working on our behalf throughout the year, combating crime, policing our roads, dealing with fires and traffic accidents and attending to the sick and injured and transporting them to hospital. ‘We owe them all, the men and women who serve us so selflessly, a deep debt of gratitude and appreciation,’ he said. The representatives were assured that we value them greatly. They were asked to convey this message to all who served with them in providing the services we often take for granted.

The Council, represented by the Lord Mayor, was thanked for providing all the essential services and for the funding and support of the emergency services, and in particular the distribution of water and food supplies during the floods, so essential to so many. The Lord Mayor was thanked for his initiative, together with the Mayor of Tewkesbury, in setting up the Flood Relief Fund which now stands at £1.3 million. In his address the Mayor spoke of the high regard he had for the Adventist Church, its schools, hospitals and institutions, and thanked the Gloucester church for their help and care during the floods and for the contribution of £2,000 from ADRA-UK to the flood relief programme. Each representative was presented with a plaque and gift as a memento of the day.

The emergency services were represented by Dr Timothy Brain, Chief Constable for Gloucester Police, Mr Nick Griffin, deputy Chief Fire Officer, for Fire and Rescue, and his wife, Mr Kevin Dickens, for the Great Western Ambulance Service, and the Lord Mayor of Gloucester, Mr Harji Gill. The guest list included many from the community, and other denominations were also represented, together with the local press.

The Pathfinders, Adventurers and Colour Party led the procession and recess. The service, conducted by Pastor Ilie Tarlev, consisted of praise and worship through music and song. In his sermon Pastor Ilie addressed the question: ‘Where was God?’ – a question many ponder during times of suffering and trouble. Our guests were given refreshments before leaving and the day ended with an afternoon programme of wonderful music provided by our own local musicians and the St Mark’s Quartet from Newbold College. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day a success.

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Gloucester says ‘Thank you’ by Robert Hinds

Representatives from the various emergency services, and the Lord Mayor of Gloucester
FOCUS is one of the two outreach magazines published by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the British Isles. The other is LIFE.info.

Every issue of FOCUS centres on one major Bible teaching. This issue is concerned with the Bible: why it is the Word of God. FOCUS also contains a healing story, an exciting feature on how a Christian escaped from Communist China, a feature on salvation through Jesus Christ and the regular health feature.

ES buys a box of 20 copies of FOCUS. Order EITHER directly on our credit card hotline: 01476 539900 OR through your local Personal Ministers Secretary.

Editorial

‘If worried, why is the problem, what is the solution?’

David Marshall

That was the question one reader had for me. And it is a good one.

We have shared our mutual frustration with what the experts say about worry. The experts are agreed that worry is bad. The doctors have come up with a lengthy list of potential medical consequences of worry. Scripture says that Jesus and Paul came out strongly against worry.

Clearly, worry is a problem, so what is the cure?

Before we progress from diagnosis to prescription let’s put worry under the microscope.

Temperament comes into it, and, arguably, not all consequences of worry are bad. Worry can prove that we care, work hard, take life seriously, and can prove to be creative. But Jesus does say that ‘the worries of this life’ interfere with God’s ability to work with us.’ Clearly, worry will add to life’s discomfort. It hinders the spiritual activities and impedes the flow of God’s grace to us and through us to others. It stunts our fruitful seed.

What do we worry about?

The newspapers have it all wrong. Ten years ago the top five of the Top Ten Anxieties were said to be AIDS, drug abuse, nuclear waste, the ozone layer and the incompetence of the government.

Tell me, when was the last time the ozone layer or the government’s incompetence ate into your night’s sleep or damaged your digestion?

Recently I read that global terrorism had, since 9/11, soared to item one in our worry agendas. I recall being very worried when, packed into a rush-hour train between Russell Square and King’s Cross, I spotted a young man with a well-padded jacket. However, I all but forgot him by the time I’d caught my mainline train. I was really worried.

When she checked it out the phrase ‘appalled her. ‘There was nothing – but nothing! – to be thankful for.’

It stymies our fruitfulness.

Thanksgiving

The country’s reservoirs are full or nearly full! That has to be good news, doesn’t it? Do you remember the summer of 2003? It was a big news story during that summer. There were frequent photos of nearly empty reservoirs and criticism of the government and water authorities for not building more reservoirs. There was a lot of discussion about hosepipe bans and how much water industry and household use. That is all long forgotten. Although the reservoirs are not in the news, I just thought it might be interesting to mention a few non-current issue for a change. Funny how we tend to forget the good news, isn’t it?

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We concluded the afternoon with a plenary session on how we can after which we settled down to hear reports from the representatives from Birmingham, Nottingham and Sutton. We were all ministries. In many cases, the outreach ministries were the only way in which the church had contact with the community.

The afternoon session commenced with praise time led by Pastor Murphy, After a welcome from our Community Services leader, Jean Gregory, we Fellowship for the East Midlands Community Services.

On Sabbath 6 October, Sutton-in-Ashfield church hosted the area Day of Services Day of Fellowship Fellowship Joanne Lewis took her stand for Jesus and was baptised at the St Austell church. Joanne is the wife of Dwight Lewis. Joanne Lewis, who was just 21, stood in front of the congregation, surrounded by members and friends who had come to witness her stand for Jesus. Before her baptism the Hatton family sang a song for her. The writer baptised Joanne, afterwards inviting her to become a member of the St Austell church. Joanne was welcomed into the family of the world church by Pastor Nathan Stockland and Takis Massialas. December 4.

The prison population in the UK stands at 80,000 and is expected to rise by 2030 to 109,000, while the world prison population exceeds 9,000,000.

The ministry of the spoken Word and messages in song to inmates is highly praised by all the chaplains who have invited us to serve in their institutions. So far, we are aware of fifteen people who have come to Christ through baptism; one was a delegate at the recent SEC Session. We believe many more have come to know Christ as their Lord as a direct result of the dedicated ministry of our volunteers.

They may be excluded from society, but nothing can exclude them from the love of God.

Dr Sharat Babu Nakka with the baptismal candidates

Nine baptised following campaign by blind evangelist by Dr O. Manenga

On 10 November, packed to full capacity that Sabbath afternoon, Plaistow church saw nine souls baptised. The Plaistow pastor, Mohan Rao Abbadasari, was assisted by Pastor Leslie Ackie from East Ham and Walthamstow churches. Both endured an unrelenting baptismal heat that afternoon, albeit warmed by the harvested souls.

This was a harvest from a two-week campaign from 27 October to 10 November by Dr Sharat Babu Nakka from Spicer Memorial College in India. Dr Sharat Babu Nakka has been teaching at Spicer Memorial College for eighteen years. A son of a pastor, Dr Babu has been blind since the age of 10. Nevertheless, he obtained a doctoral degree and teaches in the School of Religion to graduates and non-graduates, specialising in the books of Daniel, Revelation, Exegiology and Last Day Events. Dr Babu is vitally passionate about the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and loves to share the good news with everyone he comes into contact with. Dr Babu’s explanation of the seven last plagues was so moving that many people in the audience were moved to tears. People who have come to Christ through baptism; one was a delegate at the recent SEC Session. We believe many more have come to know Christ as their Lord as a direct result of the dedicated ministry of our volunteers.

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Sunday 16 December was a day of celebration for the South England Conference. Seventy members from different parts of southern England graduated as lay preachers at the Advent Centre in Central London. This represents the largest class ever to graduate in one year in the South England Conference. They included five young people—husband and wife George Singo and Glory Gondwe, brother and sister Siphe and Menze Mokhonta, and Nzala Chimuka—on their decision for Christ.

A measure of the Clydebank membership’s impact on the local community is the local Baptist church’s willingness to make their baptismal facilities available for the occasion. The capacity congregation, including several non-members, enjoyed musical contributions from the Glasgow groups, Praise, Helping Hand, and Gospel Flow.

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For an engaged couple at our special moment. Preparing for marriage amid the wedding plans and normal working life, we were able to take time out and focus on one another. We were not the only ones who felt this way. Apparently, it’s not only engaged couples who feel the stress of life. All the married couples at the retreat remarked how good it was to take a break from day-to-day life and focus on one another.

The wonderful thing about a ‘Water into Wine’ conference is that the couple is the focus. Yes, you are there with eighteen other couples in the beautiful surroundings of Moor Close, but the two of you have a great opportunity to connect and spend time together. This goal was achieved with the help of Karen and Bernie Holford, as well as Leslie and Irina Ackie, who guided us through the development of relationship skills including communication and forgiveness. Chris and Susanna Rogers, with their daughter Asha, led in very meaningful worships.

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Those who have interacted with Karen and Bernie before will know that creatively surrounds them, and this weekend was different. The climax of the weekend was a special communion service. This was the culmination of a conference filled with spirituality, learning, conversation and, most of all, relationship building. There could have been no more fitting culmination to an event such as this.

Our advice: If you get the opportunity to attend the ‘Water into Wine’ marriage retreat, go for it. You will be surprised at what you will learn about yourself, your partner and your relationship. This is a real opportunity to connect in a spiritual way to the person you love. Please contact the Family Ministries department at the SEC on 01923 232728 or email fm@secadventist.org.uk to register your interest in future marriage enrichment events.

Water into Wine marriage retreat at Newbold
by Tabitha Cummins and Jeremy Cedenio

I guess the big test for any marriage retreat is men. Did the men enjoy it? Would they do it again? The answer was a resounding yes from the men who, with their spouses, attended the Water into Wine marriage retreat organised by Newbold church with the SEC from 16 to 18 November. For an engaged couple at our first marriage retreat, this was a special moment. Preparing for marriage amid the wedding plans and normal working life, we were able to take time out and attend to the serious business of our relationship. We were not the only ones who felt this way. Apparently, it’s not only engaged couples who feel the stress of life. All the married couples at the retreat remarked how good it was to take a break from day-to-day life and focus on one another.

The wonderful thing about a ‘Water into Wine’ conference is that the couple is the focus. Yes, you are there with eighteen other couples in the beautiful surroundings of Moor Close, but the two of you have a great opportunity to connect and spend time together. This goal was achieved with the help of Karen and Bernie Holford, as well as Leslie and Irina Ackie, who guided us through the development of relationship skills including communication and forgiveness. Chris and Susanna Rogers, with their daughter Asha, led in very meaningful worships.

There were so many little things that made this conference special, but one thing that all the couples agreed on was that conversation with their partner was the most special. The hosts fostered an environment in which you felt safe and were guided towards having much-needed conversation with your partner. Throughout the course of the weekend, Bernie and Karen emphasised the importance of reflecting a Christlike love towards our spouses in order to improve our relationship, not just with our partners, but with others as well.

While learning skills to enhance our relationship were at the centre of the retreat, there was more to it than that. On Saturday evening the couples enjoyed an intimate and romantic banquet with their partners. All dressed up and given the tools of communication, the couples were treated to live music, great ideas and wonderful displays of appreciation by some of their partners.

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It is time to pray
27-30 March

It is time to grow in grace and to become more like Jesus in character. It is time to draw nearer to God. It is time to experience the fire of the Holy Spirit in our lives, empowering us to witness for him. It is time to place all our talent and possessions on the altar of sacrifice—ourselves, money, time, talent and possessions.

More Prayer, more Power. Little Prayer, little Power. We welcome you to come to Prayer Harvest Ministries’ Annual Residential Prayer Retreat. Our Theme is BLAZING 2008. Stir up the flame within you. Come and learn how to BLAZE ABROAD what Jesus has done for you.

Come and pray for the REVIVAL, REFORMATION, THE OUTPOURING of the HOLY SPIRIT and the HARVEST. COME. Our advice: If you get the opportunity to attend the ‘Water into Wine’ marriage retreat, go for it. You will be surprised at what you will learn about yourself, your partner and your relationship. This is a real opportunity to connect in a spiritual way to the person you love. Please contact the Family Ministries department at the SEC on 01923 232728 or email fm@secadventist.org.uk to register your interest in future marriage enrichment events.

Autumn baptism at Stanborough Park

Members of Stanborough Park church were delighted to welcome two young ladies into fellowship following their baptism on Sabbath 20 October. Both Rima Barrett and Amanda Brown come from Adventist homes and decided, following a short period of Bible studies, that now was the right time to be baptised. Rima (23) studied with Paula Camillo and was baptised by her father, Jonathan Barrett. Pastor Barrett is the minister at the neighbouring St Albans church and her mother, Mary, is an elder and part of the pastoral team at Stanborough Park. Amanda (13), who was awarded Pathfinder of the Year 2007 (St Albans at the church’s summer Investiture, studied with our pastoral assistant, Mary Barrett, and was baptised by our senior minister, Pastor Ian Steenan.

Faithful Faifley celebrates first baptisms

Just ten months after its planting the thirty-strong Faifley congregation celebrated its first baptisms on 1 December. Five young people—husband and wife George Singo and Glory Gondwe, brother and sister Siphe and Menze Mokhonta, and Nzala Chimuka—on their decision for Christ.

Pastor Alan Hodges, in his address, reminded the students of their solemn responsibilities as preachers of the Word and that they should not be afraid to proclaim the whole message of God. Dr Emmanuel Osei charged the students to remember that they are Seventh-day Adventist preachers with a distinctive message to give to the world. Pastor C. Perry dedicated them to service during his prayer. John Anderson from the Isle of Wight, who gave the class response, gave thanks and credit to those who had organised and taught the course, and vowed that they would be true to their calling.

There must have been much rejoicing in Heaven to witness another ‘seventy’ ready to be sent out by King Jesus to perform great exploits for him!
The youth department of the British Union Conference held its second Conference on Teenagers during the first weekend of December at the Staverton Park Hotel in Daventry. The main purpose of the conference was to assist parents, youth and family workers to understand the mindset of twenty-first-century teenagers in order to help them in their faith and life journeys.

The main speaker at the conference was Neals Chitan, who is the president and founder of MOTIV-8 For Change International in Canada. His first presentation was based on his life story and how he was originally a victim of bullying before he became a bully himself. He then related how the loving faith of a teacher enabled him to turn his life around. His second presentation focused around negative messages and how these influence the lives of teenagers, and the third presentation was entitled ‘Voices of Change’. This plenary session detailed a child’s life from birth to late teens and described how through each phase there are different ‘voices’—methods of communication between parent/guardian and child. Prior to this appointment at the Conference on Teenagers, Neals spent time in London speaking with pupils and teachers at the John Loughborough School. He preached in Balham and Lewisham Central churches and made presentations in the Brixton church and in the highly successful Kennington’s ‘Food for da brain’, as well as being interviewed by Choice FM.

Val Bernard, a lecturer in sociology at Newbold College, presented two plenary sessions in the form of case studies on spiritual sociology as it relates to African-Caribbean people, and explored the reasons why many of the black teenagers in UK society behave as they do. These presentations were well received, especially against the backdrop of the bicentenary of the abolition of the slave trade.

Paul Boldeau, programmes manager of a team of mentors in London, presented a solution focused approach to working with teenagers. Des Boldeau, BUC Youth director and conference organiser, delivered the opening presentation on the mind of teenagers, and Paul Tompkins, TED Youth director, spoke on the challenges that parents face when dealing with teenagers, and he also explored how as Seventh-day Adventists we could ‘reclaim and retain our teenagers’. Other workshop presenters included Sarah Brightton, deputy director of Hope UK, a Christian drug prevention and education organisation in the UK, Pam Millington, a Neighbourhood Contracts manager who works with hard-to-reach young people, and Lynthia Grant, a Family Project manager. Presentations on the Government’s strategic initiative, Every Child Matters, and the new Safeguarding Act and their impact on faith communities were also delivered.

One of the highlights of the conference was the arrival of six teenagers from Little Eden High School in West London. As well as performing an entertaining sketch depicting the relationship between parents and teenagers, the teens were also interviewed about what they appreciated about their parents and what aspects of the parent/teen relationship they found challenging.

The John Loughborough School held its annual Speech Day on Sunday 25 November at the Gladesmore Community School in Tottenham with over 300 people in attendance. The keynote speaker for the occasion was Kwame Kwei-Armah, an actor famous for his role as Finlay Newton in BBC’s Casualty. He urged the young people to live ‘extraordinary lives’ because they live in ‘extraordinary times’. He deliberated on the fact that as a young person, he did not have to face the issues that today’s teenagers experience. Dr Keith Davidson, BUC Education director, commenting on the speech, said, ‘The challenge from the guest speaker was deeply moving.’

Head teacher Dr June Alexis spoke of the successes of the school during the past year. ‘Despite the challenges we have faced and are facing, God is still here with us and has blessed these young people to complete their GCSEs.’ There were several pupils who achieved outstanding results, notably, Jeni Vitali-Obin (13), Joshua Asante (13) and Lemar Lococke-McGrowder (13). These young people received A* to C grades and a further 17 received five or more A* to C grades. Mayor Councillor Sheik Thompson and his wife, Mrs Kyoko Thompson, attended the event and were pleased to accept a cheque of £142.27 for the Mayor’s Fund raised by pupils from the school. They personally thanked the students for their kind donation.

Music was provided by year 10 girls and also Antonio Francis and Louanne Sampson, teaching staff at the school. Reflecting on the Speech Day, Dr Davidson concluded: ‘After such a momentous event, we are left feeling that we can move forward despite difficulties experienced.’
The London Ghana church’s ability to raise money for the Lord hit a record high this year with members raising over £100,000 during the church’s annual fundraising programme. Dubbed ‘The Annual Harvest’, members are encouraged by church leadership to count their blessings over the past year and accordingly offer a ‘harvest’ to the Almighty God for his protection, forgiveness of sin and blessings.

The giving spirit of the nearly five hundred members has been fantastic and inspirational since the establishment of the London Ghana Adventist church.

Members of the church have made a tremendous financial contribution in order to acquire their own place of worship. The temple, which was opened this year, saw many prominent figures of the worldwide church and Ghanaian diplomats grace the occasion.

The ‘harvest’ was preceded by a three-week Stewardship Capital Campaign led by Pastor Emmanuel Paakwear, an experienced and successful church stewardship campaign consultant from the church in Accra in the South Ghana Conference.

The church’s financial records indicate that over the past five years there has been a substantial and steady increase of nearly 30% every year in the monies raised by members, and it would not be an overstatement to say that the £100,000 raised this year in the ‘harvest’ will go down in the history books of the church worldwide.

This provides tangible evidence that the church is growing from strength to strength and from grace to grace. The church has been able to expand its facilities.

The sermon for Dr Emmanuel Osei, observed that the giving spirit of church members, to a large extent, is determined by their level of spiritual growth. ‘With the unity and love that has prevailed in this church over the years, we can do no more than we are doing now to the glorification of God,’ he acknowledged.

The members clad in a cloth designed purposely for the official opening of the church in June 2007, the atmosphere was just inspirational.

The Holy Spirit was at work and the beaming faces of members, including children and the youth, were testimony to the Lord’s presence among his people.

At the end, some members observed that as we are progressing every year in our giving to the Lord with almost the same numerical strength, then by God’s grace we will hit about £130,000 or more next year.

Oxford Street robing ceremony

‘Working with Jesus in white, beautiful robes we shall wear’ was the title for the Sabbath afternoon meeting on 5 January. On this day the Oxford Street senior choir dedicated themselves and their new robes to God.

After a reading of prayer and worship session, Pastor Fry gave a warm welcome to all. Mark Palmer then led us to consider the origin and history of robes and duties of the church choir. Also joining the service were Wednesfield church choir, Great Barr church choir and the Oxford Street Youth Choir. As well as singing, of praise to God and words of encouragement to the congregation. As well as singing in the choir, which I looked at the wrong choices that we as young people sometimes make. But I know that as a Christian young person we should stand up for our beliefs and choose the right path to Christ.

Enoch encouraged us not to focus on celebrities such as Oprah, 50-cent and Jay-Z but on God. ‘They might be rich with houses and cars, but we can be rich in Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit,’ he said.

During 2007 the choir was led by Viv Palmer. We would like to thank him for all her hard work. We know that Sister Linda and her team will continue this high standard as we sing our way to Heaven.

St Albans baptism

On Sabbath 1 December seven people reflected a life-changing decision when they were baptised at St Albans church by Pastor Jonathan Barrett. The candidates, Mweneke Monga, Makaya Kampenge, Andre Fernandes, Mpaneia Maamblo Chibanga Kampenge, Veronica Getzmann, Shingira Nyakumwa, and Joan Prosper accepted Jesus into their lives on profession of their faith.

This baptism was witnessed by family and friends as the candidates entered into a covenant relationship with God. The speaker, Dejan Stojkovic, spoke about the significance of not only looking for treasure but finding it.

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What on earth is going on?

This was the theme of our youth day at Wolverhampton Oxford Street on 22 December. During Sabbath School the youth focused on family values and the church discussed the issues facing our youth today, and how the church family can support young people during these last days.

During divine hour our 32-children were the future and they would be helping to shape tomorrow’s world. She quoted Psalm 8:2: ‘Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength.’

Nadhera reminded the congregation that children do not focus on others but on God. ‘They might be rich with houses and cars, but we can be rich in Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit,’ he said. During 2007 the choir was led by Viv Palmer. We would like to thank him for all her hard work. We know that Sister Linda and her team will continue this high standard as we sing our way to Heaven.

RACINE GREEN

Tottenham’s Children’s Day

Sabbath 27 October was Children's Day at Tottenham church. The theme was ‘Christian Children’. The: bible text chosen was: ‘Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.’ (Proverbs 22: 6). The children were in charge of the day’s programme. Sabbath School, divine service and R&F. ‘Family and friends came out in their numbers to support the children and they were well supported.

The church was blessed with three sermons from Ryan Donaldson (age 11), Nadhera Edwards (age 12) and Quinland Anderson (age 15). Ryan, who was baptised in 2004, spoke about being an Adventist. As a student he had to be different, not following what others were doing, but doing what was right. He kept himself anchored in God by studying his Bible and praying.

Nadhera reminded the congregation that children were the future and they would be helping to shape tomorrow’s world. She quoted Isaiah 54:13: ‘All the mountains shall breed as an heritage, and all the hills shall drop down the little ones as an inheritance.’

The ATC took the form of a concert by the children and they displayed a range of singing talents which their ages did not permit. The concert the Junior Sabbath School superintendent, Carol Mc Donald, awarded some Sabbath School prizes. There was an individual and family prize for ‘100% Punctuality’. The individual prize was awarded to Nathaniel Awet. The family prize was awarded to two families, the Edwards family – Abib, Nadhera, Miranda, Melissa; and Brother Maxwell’s grandchildren, Sanchez and Shaquillo.

The major ‘behaviour’ was awarded to Victoria Sorrow and Rhea Strachan for the ‘Most Improved Sabbath School Class’. There were none, however, none of the children left empty-handed as they were all provided with goodies.

MELZINA WALKER

Oxford Street Senior Choir has started the year with a positive, encouraging in-reach programme led by the AY leader Mark Palmer, have started the year with a positive, encouraging in-reach programme led by the AY leader Mark Palmer, have started the year with a positive, encouraging in-reach programme led by the AY leader Mark Palmer.
**Seventh-day Adventist members in fraud case**

by Richard DeLisser, SEC Communication director

National and local press have given substantial coverage to a case at Southwark Crown Court concerning four young men who have been charged with communicating an invitation or inducement to engage in investment activity between 3 October 2003 and 5 April 2004. One of the four has also been charged with 'fraudulent trading', carrying on an unauthorised investment business, and one count of money laundering between 31 July 2003 and 1 March 2004. The prosecution alleges that up to one thousand people, many of them members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, have been affected by the case, many losing substantial sums of money. The four men, all from the London area and members of the Adventist Church, are denying the charges. The case is expected to continue for several weeks.

Our hearts and prayers go out to all those who have been affected by this case. The British Union Conference and South England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists want to assure members that the Church will continue to provide positive stewardship counsel both at national and local level in order to equip our members to make reasoned choices in their financial planning.

As the court case is continuing, it is impossible for the Church to make further comments, except to ask our members to pray for all concerned. The Church will make a further statement once the case is concluded.

**Death of Ivan Dave Wright**

by Victor Hubert, BUC Communication director

Churches in the Bristol area spent special time in prayer on Sabbath 19 January in support of Angela Wright and her family who lost their beloved husband and father in a devastating house fire on Tuesday 15 January. Ivan, an elder of the Bristol North Seventh-day Adventist church and a second year theology student at Newblood College, was found dead after a fire at his home in Holford, East Brisol. Ivan’s wife Angela was at work at the time and his two younger children were at school. He has one daughter, who flew back to England from her work in Korea, and two older children.

Local pastor, Richard Daly, says that Angela and her family have been overwhelmed with the support and the prayers of church members. Members from the Bristol area, friends at Newblood, and the South England Conference office, have all contributed to help a family that has lost almost everything in the fire. Pastor Daly reflects the emotions of the Bristol members when he says, ‘It has been a numbing shock to all of us that he passed away in such a tragic way. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife, Angela, and his four children. We have courage to know that despite his untimely death he had a hope that we share that one day we are going to a place where atrocities and tragic accidents like this will be no more and he will be in peace.’

As the court case is continuing, it is impossible for the Church to make further comments, except to ask our members to pray for all concerned. The Church will make a further statement once the case is concluded.

**Music Day at GBK**

Music Day on 10 November was presented by Dr Diane Sinclair from the NEC. Her sermon was based on the following: music, musicians and musical instruments used in the Bible. The congregation was blessed and inspired as Dr Sinclair highlighted the purposes of music and its place in worship to God with highest praise.

The four choir groups – the Sanctuary Choir, the Messengers, Chorale and Children’s Choir joined in resounding songs of praise.

**Tottenham’s community outreach**

On Sunday 16 December the doors of Tottenham church were opened to welcome the local community to a Community Outreach Day. Over fifty non-Adventists attended, the majority being Eastern European. Although the event was scheduled to start at 11.30am, visitors started to arrive from 11. They wanted to be there on time to choose clothes, household items, toys and books donated by church members. The day was bitterly cold, so visitors were provided with a selection of hot beverages and biscuits while they waited their turn. After the visitors had selected their items, they were provided with a three-course meal. In addition, Sister P. Wiggan carried out health checks and visitors received food packages to take away.

Tottenham church has been holding this event twice a year since 2001. Councillor Brian Haley attended in December 2006, but sent his apologies this time. Also that year the Mayor of Haringey, Councillor Gina Adams, who was unable to attend, sent a special message: ‘Thanks to all those from the church involved in organising this event. This Outreach Day is very welcome, especially at this time of year, as it gives so much support to those vulnerable members of our society. Best wishes for the day.’

**West Bletchley baptism**

West Bletchley Community church was pleased to celebrate the joyous occasion of a baptism on 6 October. At this event, Isaac Addaih and Patience Mangora were baptised by Pastor Alonzo Wagner III, the local minister. As usual, it was a wonderful occasion that attracted the support of family, friends and acquaintances.

Milton Keynes district baptism

The congregation in attendance for the combined baptismal service for West Bletchley SDA Community and Milton Keynes Central churches received great blessings on Sabbath 15 December at the Central church. The district minister, Pastor Alonzo Wagner III, immersed five candidates following his address. In addition to the joy of the occasion itself, moving testimonies were shared, songs of praise were raised to God and fine fellowship was enjoyed.

**Mayor at King’s Cross Christmas lunch**

Every year the members from King’s Cross Adventist church arrange a spectacular lunch for the senior citizens of their local community. The menu is mouth-watering, from the traditional turkey and stuffing to a delectable vegetarian option, not to mention all the other goodies that go with it.

The lunch is prepared by the ladies at King’s Cross and is served by the youth, so everyone has a chance to get involved. This year we were privileged to have as guests the Mayor of Islington and her consort.

They both enjoyed the meal and felt the warmth of Christian fellowship. They thanked us for giving them the opportunity to be involved in our community event. The Mayor’s consort made us smile when he said, ‘It is very rare to eat Brussels sprouts and carrots that are not overcooked.’

As the court case is continuing, it is impossible for the Church to make further comments, except to ask our members to pray for all concerned. The Church will make a further statement once the case is concluded.


Ernest entered Newbold College where he graduated from the Ministerial course in 1949. He was then appointed as a local preacher in Stanborough Park church, where he served for 19 years. During this time, his strong leadership and dedication to the church were acknowledged by his fellow members, and he was elected as one of the national church officers. He remained in this position until his retirement in 1968.

His ministry was marked by his ability to communicate effectively, both in speaking and writing. He was known for his dignified bearing and style that seemed to be present in all aspects of his life. Church members to whom he ministered recalled his presence and style that seemed to be present in all aspects of his life. Church members to whom he ministered recalled his presence and style that seemed to be present in all aspects of his life. Church members to whom he ministered recalled his presence and style that seemed to be present in all aspects of his life.

Ernest was born into the Logan family in 1897. He was the eldest of five children. His parents, James and Marion, were well-known and stalwart members of the Adventist Church in Scotland. They were active in the church and devoted to their faith. Ernest was a dedicated and thoughtful person, with a strong sense of purpose and duty.

Ernest was particularly known for his work in the church's Women's Missionary Union (WMU). He served as the president of the WMU for many years, and his dedication to the organization was recognized by his fellow members. He was known for his self-forgetfulness and thoughtfulness, and he was often called upon to give advice and support to others.

Ernest was active in many other areas of life, including community service and social work. He was a member of the local council and served on various committees. He was known for his kindness and generosity, and he was always willing to help others.

Ernest's passing was a great loss to the church and to many friends and family members. His memory lives on through his legacy and the example he set for others. His family, friends, and fellow church members were deeply saddened by his passing, but they also knew that he was in a better place, with God, and that he would always be remembered with love and admiration.

Our Christian love and our prayers go out to every member of the extended Logan family. Their first daughter, Angela, was born while they were still in Belfast. In 1952 they were seconded to the Vanderdonk Evangelical Church in Belgium, where they served together, working to spread the message of Jesus Christ. They were deeply committed to their work and to each other, and they remained devoted to their faith throughout their lives.

The Scottish Mission president, Pastor Llew Edwards, welcomed people from all parts of Britain to the funeral service, held on 28 December in the Crieff church. Pastor Ron Surridge, the family's pastor in Crieff, spoke at the service and remembe...
Britain’s oldest Adventist dies aged 105
by Eric Lowe, Executive Secretary, British Union Conference

It is with sadness we report the death of the person we believe to be the oldest Seventh-day Adventist in Britain, Mrs Irene Osborne (née Himsworth), who passed away on Wednesday 16 January.

Born on 14 January 1903, Mrs Osborne had just celebrated her 105th birthday at The Dell, Oulton Broad, Suffolk. She entered church employment as a Bible Worker in 1925 and worked as such for two years in the Scottish Mission and twenty-two years in the North England Conference. In 1950 she joined the team in the Voice of Prophecy at the British Union office on Stanborough Park where she gave further service until retirement at the start of 1963.

Irene was a Bible instructor at the Voice of Prophecy when a young Valerie Pearce joined there as receptionist. They have been friends ever since. Valerie says, ‘She was such a lovely, warm and caring person. She was so selfless, people were drawn to her.’ Irene brought many people to a knowledge of Christ and even in her later years continued to have a positive influence on others. Valerie states that ‘even when she was in her eigthteens the children in the church were drawn to her.’

The funeral was held on Tuesday 5 February in the Lowestoft church, followed by the committal at Gorleston Crematorium.

Faithful servant. We also wanted to create an opportunity whereby people could come together, have an amazing worship experience, listen to good quality music and singing, and receive the undiluted Word at no cost. Our speaker, Laura Oey, ended the evening of praise and worship with a short message that emphasised the fact that Christ needs to be at the centre of our lives. She reminded us that God requires our lives as a living sacrifice and that building and maintaining a relationship with Christ is the only way in which our salvation can be guaranteed.

‘My Life, My Love, My All’ was put on by Anointed Events & Music Management, a team of vibrant people who have a passion for spreading the good news of salvation. Currently the team consists of Naomi Oey, Olivia Briscoe, Serena Maurice, Alc Garg, Laura Oey, Shola Pyne, Ellen Bryant, Marie Cader, Andran Johnson and Michael Williams. Together they plan to work hard at being an effective witness to this generation, meeting them where they are and introducing them to a relationship that will change their lives forever.

They will be planting a church in the West London area and the first service will be held on 16 February. Log on to www.myspace.com/anointedmanagement or contact the team via email, anointedmanagement@hotmail.co.uk for further information about the projects lined up for 2008.

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My Life, My Love, My All
On 12 January, people from all around London (and beyond) joined together at the Advent Centre for a night of praise, worship and thanksgiving. With the Advent Centre bursting at the seams, the Holy Spirit moved upon the hearts and minds of all who attended, using SAPP (praise team), Spiritual Friends, Friends, Alex Douglas and United Praise Choir (UCP) to reach all who were there.

The night also featured drama which highlighted the human race’s moral decline and the way in which we allow ourselves to move further and further away from Christ, allowing various people and things to take his place. The audience applauded when the drama depicted Christ stepping into the middle of the situation, taking back his rightful position as Lord, causing the sin-sick soul to be free again.

The event was called ‘My Life, My Love, My All’ and its aim was to reinforce the fact that spiritual maturity is not just about going to church week after week, knowing Bible prophecy and Ellen G. White’s writings inside out or holding positions in church. These things are all secondary and will in the end be fruitless if upon Christ’s return we do not hear the words, ‘Well done my good and faithful servant.’ We also wanted to create an opportunity whereby people could come together, have an amazing worship experience, listen to good quality music and singing, and receive the undiluted Word at no cost. Our speaker, Laura Oey, ended the evening of praise and worship with a short message that emphasised the fact that Christ needs to be at the centre of our lives. She reminded us that God requires our lives as a living sacrifice and that building and maintaining a relationship with Christ is the only way in which our salvation can be guaranteed.

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Marriage enrichment at Sheffield
Friday night 19 January saw the end of a three-week marriage enrichment seminar entitled ‘Sweetener than the day before’ devised by Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt in partnership with Family Life director of the NEC, Pastor Cyril Sweeney, and the Family Life department of the Bungmave church.

The programme saw over twenty couples attend the presentations given by Pastor Sweeney. The last week ended on the theme of intimacy in marriage with a very special communion service for couples, led by both pastors. Those who attended expressed that ‘it was very helpful and informative’ and that ‘it made them feel special’. ‘This is just one of the steps we are taking to meet the needs of the various types of families within the district,’ said Pastor Andrew. Many thanks to the Family Life department and the district leadership of Sheffield.

PASTOR ANDREW RASHFORD-HEWITT

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