Nec Youth Advance
by Gideon Kumi

A first for Seventh-day Adventist youth world-wide, some 600 young adults came together over the Easter break to study Christian Apologetics. Meeting in the Paragon Hotel, Birmingham, the ‘Advance’ conference gave delegates opportunity to learn from workshops designed to enable them to reach secular people along with adherents of other faiths such as Islam and Judaism. There were also plenary sessions that focused on defending Adventist beliefs like the Sabbath, the state of the dead and the sanctuary doctrine.

Advance was the brainchild of Pastor Alan Hush, North England Conference Youth Ministries director. He said, ‘We have found that our youth need strengthening in certain areas. One of the areas . . . is giving them back confidence in their own church and the core beliefs of their own faith.’

That was a vision that Andrew from Bolton found helpful. ‘I have a lot of friends who are atheist whom I want to reach for God,’ he stated. ‘I don’t feel equipped. I’ve come to gain some understanding and techniques and can go away prepared.’

Living in a society where the belief that God created man, or that the Earth was called into existence labels us fundamentalists, makes it hard for young people to stand up for what they believe in, for fear of standing out. Advance provided roughly 300 conference delegates, and by the weekend over 600 attenders from across Europe and America, with the opportunity to challenge the secularist view. Top speakers such as Clifford R. Goldstein, editor of the Adult Sabbath School lessons, Randy Skeet, a church planter and evangelist, a youthful Jeffrey Rosario, and Jude Jeanville, Dean of Men at the University of the Southern Caribbean, Trinidad, were among the many to provide intellectual insight and counsel.

Andrea from South Wales attended the conference as someone who has been a church member for five years. ‘However,’ she says, ‘I do feel the struggle to defend my faith.’ Tamara, from the Leeds church, has recently graduated from university. ‘I have to be here as I have a work to do,’ she insists. ‘I’ve been there three years and none of my friends has been reached.’

Pastor Hush believes that the conference was a success, noting that there was a thirst among the youth for the knowledge and expertise that the speakers brought to help them survive within the ever-increasing secular environment. Pastor Des Baldeau, Youth Ministries director for the BUC, was impressed with the balanced presentations. ‘In the church we tend to have factions,’ he said. ‘I’m not experiencing that here. This encourages young people to think about the practical issues. For me that is a positive thing.’

As the first conference of its kind, Hope Channel-UK was present to film parts of the programme for a documentary on ‘Advance’. This should be available on the web at www.hopetv.org.uk within the next two weeks and on satellite at a later date.
It doesn’t do to channel-hop after 9pm. You’re apt to see things you don’t want to see and learn things you would rather not know. A near-failure proportion of Jesus’ statements was that for every publicized abduction like Madeleine McCann’s there were thousands every year that received little or no publicity. The reason that the media directory took the form of film footage illustrative of the existence of a global slave trade in children. After that I went to bed and tried to sleep, but, not surprisingly, couldn’t.

SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT
North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Notice is hereby given that the Nineteenth Session of the North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held from Wednesday, 26 June 2008 at The Spa Conference Centre, Scarborough.

North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Advice:
- Plan a few quiet time to help you to pace and let still.
- To your friends God to fill you with his peace as you experience your presence.
- Relaxing in a calm environment allows you to slow down and reach your goal.
- Deliberate your life by giving rose of healthy habits.
- Exercise daily.
- Get a prayer partner for support.

Good health!
Bungreave Seventh-day Adventists took a lead in speaking out against gun and knife crime in Sheffield on Sabbath, 13 March. Last October the church provided support to the family of 16-year-old Jonathan Matondo who was gunned down in a nearby playground. That support has continued with the latest move being to demonstrate that people in the Bungreave area of the city are opposed to the minority who are involved in gun and knife crime.

A Pathfinder drum corps led the march of some 200 people through three areas of Bungreave that have been the scene of violent crime in the last year. Nine churches were involved as well as community workers, youth leaders, council members and friends of Jonathan. Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt, pastor of the Adventist churches in Sheffield, organised the march in association with Bungreave Churches Together and other community groups. He strongly reflected the feelings of the community, stating, ‘Bungreave is a safe multicultural place to live. The strength of response from the local community in supporting this march has clearly identified this.’

According to the Sheffield Star newspaper, the aim of the Bungreave Bouncing Back march was ‘to help unite the community and encourage young people to make the right decisions’. Pastor Rashford-Hewitt was reported in the Yorkshire Post as saying that ‘he hoped the move would change people’s perceptions of the area and encourage young people to stay away from violent crime’. He was joined in the march by Reverend Dr Indrjeet Bhogal, OBE, director of the Yorkshire and Humber Faiths’ Forum.

The march climaxed outside Sheffield Town Hall where a very impressed Lord Mayor, Councillor Arthur Dunworth, commended the Pathfinders for their positive activity, encouraging young people to make better choices. He was also positive about the role that the churches and community workers are taking in making Sheffield a safer and better place.

Pastor Rashford-Hewitt believes the day has set a precedent at Southall’s baptism

On 22 March, initially, three people publicly gave their lives to Jesus and were baptised at the Southall church. Church family, visiting friends and relatives rejoiced as they witnessed sisters Susan and Masada Marks’ decision to allow the Lord to guide their footsteps. The Marks are third generation Adventists and, in particular, their grandparents, Mr and Mrs Belling, have been instrumental in their Bible studies.

The third candidate, Ganine Eshun, who has been attending Southall’s newly formed branch, Northolt Community church, also decided to enter the baptism. Pastor Everett Picart led the candidates into the baptismal water. Pastor Picart then made a call from the baptistery for anyone who was not baptised to make a decision. Suddenly there was a joyful sound from the congregation as they witnessed Kingston Murray’s triumphant march towards the front of the church. Kingston, who had been attending Southall for some time, answered the call and entered the baptistery there and then. This set a precedent at Southall.

Shortly after, Isaiah Harriman headed the call and was also baptised. His daughters read Isaiah 44 and his wife, Avril Harriman, sang, ‘Thank You, Lord.’

An excellent exposition on the story of Philip and the Ethiopian was presented by Claude Alexander and special music was performed by the Bungreave family and friends and relatives of Ms Eshun.

The candidates were examined, after which the song ‘Never Give Up’ was beautifully rendered by Ullanda Alexander.

A presentation was made to the newly baptised members who were then welcomed into Southall’s church family

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Disappointment turned to joy

A Croft teenager who found she was too young to join a mission trip to Romania turned her disappointment to joy for others. Talented musician Yvonne Bauwens decided, instead, to record her own and others’ compositions and sell CD copies. Her generous gesture and strong determination raised £1,200 towards the mission’s cost.

This selfless act was recognised at the Easter Weekend Three Missions Youth Retreat at Loch Lomond. One hundred and fifty Adventist youth from ... Adventist Youth celebrations the General Conference decided to recognise youth who had achieved something extraordinary.

Named after the World Church’s first Youth director, this selfless act was recognised at the Easter Weekend Three Missions Youth Retreat at Loch Lomond. One hundred and fifty Adventist youth from ... Adventist Youth celebrations the General Conference decided to recognise youth who had achieved something extraordinary.

Yvonne was one of two nominees in the Trans-European Division to receive the M. E. Kern Award. In the form of a cheque presentation, Again, the award represents the GC’s theme of ‘Time’ – time for young people to be involved, time to get connected, time to use their talents. Pastor Tompkins said, ‘Yvonne represents young people giving their talents for God.’

‘The power of ...’ – West Midlands teens

Enthusiastic singing, a Saturday evening social and the excellent food all added to the joy of teenagers from the West Bromwich, Smethwick and Walsall Youth churches.

Tea Break: Yvonne speaks out against gun and knife crime.

Above: The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Sheffield take the Adventist march against gun and knife crime and make speeches outside the Town Hall.

Left: A Pathfinder drum corps led the march through the three areas of Sheffield which have seen the most violent crime.

Below: the march culminated at the Town Hall. ‘Street pastors and youth workers are doing a fantastic job to help young people in the three areas of Bungreave that have been the site of violent crime,’ said Pastor Rashford-Hewitt.

Another seminar presenter was Des Boldeau, BUC Youth Ministries director, assisted by his wife Cathy. Despite being restricted on crutches with a broken leg, he presented three seminars, ‘The Power of Dreams’, ‘The Power of Youth!’ and ‘The Power of Potential’, centred around the story of the life of Joseph in Genesis 37-43. Des encouraged the youth not only to dream about their future, but to put strategies into action so that their dreams ‘can become reality’.

Drawing on illustrations from the life of Dr Martin Luther King Jr, Colonel Sanders (the founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken) and, most importantly, Jesus Christ, he spoke to the hearts of the teenagers and he passionately pleaded with them to consecrate their lives to God.

In addition, Des was part of a panel who answered numerous and varied questions from the young people. The enquiring minds required answers regarding issues such as jewellery and the wearing of trousers, and, in terms of sexual relationships, ‘How far is too far?’ Teenage sexual relations was the hot topic of the interactive session, ‘The Power of Sex – Can I touch you here?’

Gそenda Augustine, public health practitioner and a member of the West Bromwich church, led out in this part of the weekend together with Pastor Barry Gordan, weekend co-organiser and pastor of the three churches. Speaking about ‘How far is too far?’ Gそenda stated that young people ‘should know their boundaries and not be pressurised into engaging in sexual acts that they may regret later on’.

Another seminar presenter was Beulah Flunke, lecturer in Psychology at the University of Birmingham. A lay preacher and member of the West Bromwich church, she spoke about the ‘The Power of Self-concept’ on Sabbath afternoon and ‘The Power of Study’ during Sabbath School. Drawing on her vast experience in the field of education, she promoted the concept of using school study skills to study the Word of God. The young people were totally engaged during this session.

COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Precedent set at Southall’s baptism

M 4

Messenger

Messenger
A taste of vegetarian dishes

What a wonderful six-week course we had at the Croscombe church. We were greeted at the door as we arrived and offered a glass of juice. Because we were a small group, we soon chatted and got to know one another.

The evening started with a welcome and we were shown a short educational documentary giving us insight into the nutritional/health values of the ingredients we would use that evening.

The team demonstrated four different dishes each week, ranging from a delicious spiced soup, quorn casserole, burgers, vegetable pie to pear/kiwi slice, puffed rice, pineapple and lemon puddle pudding, and many other exciting dishes.

As quickly as they finished the demonstration, the previously prepared, now cooked dishes, was brought for us all to try. What wonderful organisational skills! A lot of preparation and planning before the evening was soon all brought together.

On the final night the table was prepared, we sat and were presented with the final four dishes of the evening. Music played, people chatted and we all went away feeling better for attending the course.

A big thank you to Martin, Elizabeth, Rita, Philip, Sarah and others in the kitchen who cooked and washed our plates constantly, and also to Marcel who was in charge of DVD and music, and Richard who always greeted us with a smile.

We all look forward to the next sessions and will continue to explore the very healthy vegetarian way of life.

Many, many thanks from all who attended.

A TEAM

Walthamstow Pathfinder Day with a difference

The Walthamstow Pathfinder Club from East London had an invigorating day with a difference recently. They had the usual kind of day dedicated to Pathfinders but in addition they decided that they needed to add something extra. They wanted to do something that sent a message to the local community about the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Walthamstow Pathfinders organised a march through Walthamstow to raise awareness of the church. The whole thing was done very professionally with a police escort and plenty of chaperones for the young Pathfinders. Hundreds of the church information cards were given out (available from the BUC website in batches of 1,000 cards for only £20 including postage and packaging).

There is no point having a march without some kind of music, so the Brixton Pathfinder Drum Corps kindly came to assist with the event and led the march with some rousing renditions of popular Christian songs.

The Walthamstow Pathfinder Club is a fairly large one with a dedicated team of counsellors and leaders. The club also has a significant number of people doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award. An excellent award for young people as it teaches skills that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Chiswick children help Lesotho

A meal a day, a coat to wear and soap to wash with. These are some of the things that will be provided for more than thirty orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in the village of Pongoro, Lesotho. They will have a slightly better future ahead of them thanks to the children of the Chiswick Adventist Church. Together with friends and relatives, the children’s Sabbath School there has raised £1,200 to support a small project in Lesotho, part of the outreach of the Maluti Adventist Hospital.

The aim of the ‘Bruce Baisden Garden Project’ is to grow vegetables and maize in a community garden. Members of the community take turns to work in the field to help the children who are taught farming skills on the land itself. The produce is used to feed the children and the surplus is sold in the market. The overall objective of the project is both to ensure that the children have food but also, in the long run, to create a fund from the sale of produce that can cater for the OVC’s other needs such as educational materials, warm clothes and hygiene items like soap.

ADRA-UK has helped to fund this small project, endorsed by ADRA Lesotho, adding a further grant of £800 towards it. The £2,000 grant will allow the small garden to operate for twelve months.

* In memory of Bruce Baisden, a very active member of the Pathfinder Club, he enjoyed assisting in their fundraising events and is looking forward to Pathfinder camporee this summer. All three express their appreciation to the Aberdeen members and their families for the utmost support they received in preparing for this day.

A big thank you to Martin, Elizabeth, Rita, Phillip, Sarah and others in the kitchen who cooked and washed our plates constantly, and also to Marcel who was in charge of DVD and music, and Richard who always greeted us with a smile.

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Job vacancy – Management Accountant

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The successful applicant will be an individual motivated by a desire to spread the Gospel and will need to become fully conversant with Excel/Outlook and have a working knowledge of year-end account preparation. It is also expected that the successful applicant will have a strong commitment to the ethos of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Salary and allowances according to the denominational wage scale. Letter of application with current CV and addresses of two referees should be sent to: The Financial Director, Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 8SL. Email: stanbodg@aol.com.


Forward in faith at Aberdeen by Sonja Elkum

Every single pew was filled to capacity at Aberdeen church on Sabbath 29 March to witness the baptism of three young men who stepped forward in faith. They were close friends Mwai Mukumuka, Kevin Sukati and Ian Kay. Pastor Brian McCormac set a spiritual tone when he spoke about ‘What must I do to be saved?’

Ian has been attending Aberdeen church intermittently for the past couple of years. However, he has found his gift and is now a truly dedicated ‘Man on a Mission’. Recently, while on a research trip to Zambia, he observed the tremendous work that when Women’s Ministries and associated groups do. Among other things, they have set up feeding stations for families, an HIV Clinic and Mothers’ Shelters. Ian was so impressed with the work that he dedicates himself to helping support causes like those in Zambia. In June he planning to cycle from Galway to Aberdeen to raise funds for the women’s group in Zambia.

Kevin’s baptism follows a move to Aberdeen nine years ago with his parents. He is a very committed member of the Pathfinder Club and his musical talent includes playing the saxophone. However, this was both a happy and sad occasion.

Because their visas have expired, Kevin and his mum will be leaving Aberdeen church and moving back to Africa to join his father.

During his baptismal classes, Mwai enjoyed challenging Pastor McCormac and constantly questioned him about what they were studying. A committed member of the Pathfinder Club, he enjoys assisting in their fundraising events and is looking forward to Pathfinder camporee.

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Newbold College Annual Appeal 2008

About this time of the year, many churches give a special ‘Newbold Offering’. Here’s why!

Newbold College is the senior college for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Northern Europe. It offers a variety of degrees and one-year courses. Most readers of Messenger will have benefited from the work of Newbold in one way or another. Some will have been to the College themselves as students or supported members of their family or church as they studied there. Many will have been members in churches led by pastors trained at Newbold.

At some time everyone will have listened to a preacher or Sabbath School teacher who trained at Newbold. The Annual Appeal offers us all the chance to offer financial support to young people (and some older ones too!) who are taking time to grow in mind and spirit while they study at the College and who will, in their turn, enrich the church where we worship and fellowship every week.

There are a variety of ways we can do this:

The Bridge Fund

As the pound sterling gets stronger and Christian education gets more expensive, aspiring students continue to face financial challenges. The Bridge Fund supports first-year students from the Trans-European Division who need help to get a foot on the educational ladder. Once here, many of them can earn the rest of their fees.

Business Alumni Student Scholarship Fund

This particular Scholarship Fund has grown fast during the last year. In a gesture of confidence in the future of Business courses, Newbold’s own Business alumni, since their reunion in July 2007, have raised almost £20,000 to support future students of Business. Funds raised go to support gifted senior students, especially those seeking to use their skills to make a continuing contribution to business administration within the Church.

Sylvia’s Garden

Many visitors to Newbold value Sylvia’s Garden as one of the College’s unique attractions. Last year, opening it to the public through the National Gardens Scheme brought over 400 visitors on campus to share in its delights and learn more about the College. Financing its renovation is an ongoing challenge and a favourite project for friends of the College.

Classroom upgrades in Murdoch Hall

Gifts from various sources have made possible the refurbishment of the Homiletics Centre in Murdoch Hall including the installation of new furniture and lighting and electrical points for laptop computers. Mobile audio-visual carts and video equipment to be used both in the Centre and other classrooms are enriching students’ learning experience. The need for upgrades to other classrooms is ongoing.

Keough House – Men’s Hall of Residence

In our latest phase of fundraising, we are looking to refurbish Keough House. This will involve a major upgrade of two corridors including flooring and furniture and a full refurbishment of the other corridors and lobbies.

Thank you, in advance, for your donations to Newbold College. Staff and students are always grateful for the ongoing support of alumni and friends. You can keep up to date with news of the College at the website: www.newbold.ac.uk.

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‘Now is the Time’ – Health Ministries in Wales

Over the Easter weekend approximately twenty people attended a Welsh Mission Health Retreat in the Hebron Hall Christian Centre, Dinas Powys, near Cardiff. The theme for the retreat was ‘Now is the Time’ and the guest speaker was BUC Health Ministries director, Sharon Platt-McDonald.

In her opening talk Sharon pointed out that the positive impact of an Adventist lifestyle has hit the headlines in the last few months, with articles appearing in the newspapers, as well as on television. She also highlighted the interest that is now being shown by the scientific community. Although much of this interest has focused on the predominantly plant-based diet recommended by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, faith and hope also play their part. Sharon underlined this aspect of the Adventist lifestyle by liberally illustrating her talks with relevant quotations from the Bible.

The health retreat was organised by Welsh Mission Health Ministries sponsors Irving and Lil Saunders. In addition to their administrative duties, Irving and Lil, together with Gerrard Fordham from the Carmarthen church, also did the cooking. Other helpers included Evan and Lorna Green from the Newport church and Eric Lawrence from the North England Conference.

The retreat formed part of an overall Health Ministries strategy in the Welsh Mission to refocus the minds of church members on the benefits of the Adventist lifestyle. Although Adventists have a wonderful heritage in the area of health, this is not always evident in the lifestyles of members. Over the last two months Lil and Irving Saunders, who are both healthcare professionals, have been running a ‘MicroCHIP’ programme in the Port Talbot church. The weekly meetings have been well attended and the lectures, together with the healthy food, regular blood pressure checks and weigh-ins, have had a tangible impact on most of those who have attended. One lady with diabetes saw her blood sugar level drop from a dangerous to a relatively safe level, and several have lost weight.

Welsh Mission president Pastor John Surridge is fully behind Lil and Irving’s Health Ministries strategy and has attended several of the events that they have organised. Speaking after the weekend he said, ‘Health is an ideal topic for the church to promote at the moment. Everyone is interested in their own health and, especially since Jamie Oliver’s TV series on healthy eating in schools, diet has become a major talking point. The supermarkets are getting involved as well with food labelling spelling out the nutritional value of their products, and we’ve never seen so much vegetarian food on display.

The Adventist church was a major force in the anti-smoking movement’, he continued. ‘That went mainstream and now we are seeing the same thing happen with other aspects of healthy living. It would be a terrible shame if our present Adventist church members, who are looked to for values by people of how to lead a healthy lifestyle, were to miss out on the great benefits that the traditional Adventist lifestyle has to offer.’

Note: Photos from the Health Ministries Retreat and the CHIP programme can be seen in the gallery section of the Welsh Mission website at: www.adventistwales.org.
Olga Cockle at 100

Olga Cockle was a remarkable figure who dedicated her life to the care of orphans. Born in the West of Ireland, Olga became the matron of a Cork orphanage while she was still in her twenties. Olga, the daughter of a Church of Ireland clergyman, devoted her whole life to orphans. Born in the West of Ireland, Olga became the matron of a Cork orphanage while she was still in her twenties. Olga, the daughter of a Church of Ireland clergyman, devoted her whole life to orphans.

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The organisation ceremony was conducted by Pastor Paul Lockham, the SEC executive secretary. In his address he told the congregation that the church is an assembly of God’s people after reaching a certain stage in their growth, and a functioning part of the body of Christ. ‘Christ is our Rock and it is only when the church takes him as its cornerstone will it stand,’ he stated. Assisting Pastor Lockham was Godfrey Benjamin, the SEC church clerk.

Present for the big day, among many other one-time orphans whom Olga gave a new start in life, was Captain Freddie Cockle of Dublin. Seventy-five years ago this friendly sea captain was a very vulnerable orphan in Matron Olga’s care. Olga realised that Freddie’s only chance of a successful life was out of the orphanage. Accordingly, Olga prevailed upon her married sister, a medical doctor, to adopt Freddie. ‘That was the making of me,’ he told the writer. Tremendous opprobrium was attached to illegitimacy in the Ireland of the 30s. It attached to both the mother and the child. It was a stigma that stuck on both for life. Olga saved me from that. If ever a body deserved to live to a hundred, it is Olga... Another orphan who owed her life — in a literal sense — to Olga Cockle, was Vera Miller. As a newly born baby Vera was left to perish at the open orphanage window in winter by her mother. Vera’s birth had been overseen by Olga. On the night in question a voice spoke to Olga, ‘Go to another ‘Protestant ascendancy’ family from Southern Ireland, the Shackletons. Among Olga’s close relatives present for her one-hundredth birthday were the surviving members of the family of Antarctic hero, Sir Ernest Shackleton. One of them was Sir Ernest’s biographer, Jonathan Shackleton.

Sabbath 24 November 2007 was a joyful day for members of the Kingston company when they were formally organised as a church. The group was founded twelve years ago at Kingston-upon-Thames in Surrey by the first elder, David Atwan, and a few other members. The membership has grown from strength to strength over the last few years. They were all initially a part of the Wimbledon International church and Arthur Campbell, who cares for Kingston and Mitcham, took over the leadership about five years ago. The organisation ceremony was conducted by Pastor Paul Lockham, the SEC executive secretary. In his address he told the congregation that the church is an assembly of God’s people after reaching a certain stage in their growth, and a functioning part of the body of Christ. ‘Christ is our Rock and it is only when the church takes him as its cornerstone will it stand,’ he stated. Assisting Pastor Lockham was Godfrey Benjamin, the SEC church clerk.

Dr Greta Wijeyesinge, an elder from the Wimbledon church, also took an active part in the programme. She presented the lesson study during Sabbath School and conveyed greetings and warm wishes from Wimbledon (the mother church) during the organisation ceremony. Several members from Wimbledon, Mitcham, Fulham and other neighbouring churches also attended the service. After a fellowship lunch, there was an ordination service in the afternoon for two elders and a deacon. Malcolm Parr and Steve Hamilton were ordained as elders for Kingston and Mitcham respectively. Paul Nimis, a Kingston member, was ordained as a deacon. Pastor Lockham shared some of the wonderful and interesting experiences he had had over the years in church ministry. He started his pastoral career at Wimbledon church and went on to serve in different parts of the UK, including the Welsh and Irish missions. He was also the NEC executive secretary for a couple of years. ‘If you allow God to touch your life and are willing to let him lead you, you will have an amazing experience. Our Daddy is a gracious, loving God.’

Arthur Campbell and members of the Kingston church would like to thank those who came together to make this a memorable occasion. Many thanks to all the preachers who have visited Kingston over the years and contributed to the development of the church.

From Kingston company to Kingston church

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LIFE.info

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 explains in easy English why the Bible can be believed and how it gives meaning to life and hope for the future. It also outlines the Bible’s recipe for dealing with the worries of life.

£5 buys a box of 20 copies of FOCUS.

Elders’ Training Event

Professional Training for Local Church Elders

Sabbath 24 May 2008 from 3:30 to 7pm. Brixton SDA church, Sarfey Street, Clapham, London, SW4 7QG. All local church elders and spouses, plus lay leaders, are invited to participate in a dynamic training event hosted by the General Conference Ministerial Association to enhance the effectiveness of church leaders. This event is free of charge, no registration required.

For more information please contact Ricardo Bacchus at 01476 539900 or at rbacchus@adventist.org.uk or through your Personal Ministries secretary.
Reading in the News

by Corinne Felix

Major renovation

The Reading Central church has undergone a magnificent change. Over the past six to seven weeks major renovation works were undertaken, including plastering and painting of the walls, supplying of a floor to house the pastor’s study, installation of windows in the schoolroom and additional female toilets. The renovations were undertaken by contractor Brother Minil and his team in conjunction with Pastor Steve Thomas and church elder June Thompson, an accomplished interior designer.

This project, which has been on the drawing board for the past five years, has now come to fruition. In the interim the church family held its worship services at Reading University and on 8 March they returned to their beautifully renovated sanctuary. The change, as described by many members, both young and not so young, was: ‘Wondrous! Marvelous!’ ‘Great change.’ ‘Very warm.’ ‘Much brighter.’ The colour of walls and chairs has made the church more welcoming.

Comfortable – no more hard chairs.

Many members came together a week before the reopening of the church to assist in the clearing of rubble, cleaning and decorating. It was with pride and joy that this task was undertaken and completed.

Although this magnificent change has taken place, there is still the problem of accommodation. The church was packed beyond capacity on the day of reopening and rededication of the building. Whether it was members from other churches visiting to celebrate with Reading Central, or new visitors, the challenge – although a good one – is there.

The dedicatory service was conducted by Pastor Steve Thomas and the theme surrounding the day was taken from 2 Chron. 6 and 7, a reflection on the dedicatory prayer offered by Solomon after the completion of the temple.

Baptism

‘To crown what was truly a “high day in Israel”, four precious souls dedicated their hearts and lives to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, through baptism. After the rededication of the church building and recommitment of the congregation to the service of Christ, the church family came together in a fellowship lunch which was a prelude to the wonderful experience about to take place in the afternoon’s programme. These four souls, Robert Bezuidenhout, Trudy Ockeridge, Taciana Oakley and Paga Wilkinson, have been studying the Word of God over the past year with the Bible worker and elders of the church. Family members and friends celebrated and the church was packed to capacity once again.

In his sermon Pastor Thomas talked about the dedication of the paralytic’s friends in bringing him to Christ for healing, and reiterated the importance of our call to teach and preach the Gospel, regardless of who we are or where we are from, for we are working together to bring people to Christ, side by side and step by step. He further stated that even though the friends met with disappointment, they were determined to try anything to get their friend through the crowd. Jesus rewarded the faith of the friends and the paralytic and healing took place.

Golden Wedding

Peter met Jean in Birmingham from 1962 onwards Peter has worked as a director of finances at Granose Foods, the South England Conference, Stanborough Park, and the TED. Jean has always been near-by, working at Granose for fourteen years and at the TED offices for thirteen more. On first retiring, Jean accepted the position of headmaster’s secretary at Stanborough Secondary School for two years, but stayed for seven!

Over these fifty years Peter and Jean have happily added to their family three sons, Adrian, Lionel and Philip, six grandchildren, and recently, the special joy of one great-granddaughter.

Jean and Peter have given unselfishly of their time and talents to the church they love. Stanborough Park church is richer for Jean’s talented and devoted service.

The Deviled defeated

The war between Christ and Satan recently became very real for ‘The Church’, Enfield. The battle was at its fiercest the week prior to the baptism of Zoe Dust and Louis and Sarah Field. Satan targeted the baptismal candidates, the worship team, the congregation and the equipment. It was a hard-fought fight and we were left feeling battered, but God was the victor, and the baptism went ahead on 23 February at Suffolk Baptist Church in Enfield.

Before being baptised by Pastor Jon Gendle all three candidates were interviewed. Zoe Dust, niece of Graeme and Nina (and sister to Charlotte), told of her excitement at being baptised and her enjoyment in being part of the worship team and a member of ‘KidzChurch’. Zoe plays an important role in the life of the church and is a real blessing to all.

It was Zoe’s father, Graeme, who introduced Louis and Sarah to ‘The Church’. It all began a few months ago when Louis asked Graeme what he did at St John Methodist Church on Saturday mornings (having seen his van outside), expecting Graeme to say he was working there. Instead he told Graeme was not working but worshipping, because that’s where The Church meets! Louis was invited along and a few weeks later arrived with Sarah, his wife, and the following week with their two children, Ellie and Bonnie.

When interviewed at the baptism, Louis spoke of how God had helped him overcome his addictions, stating: ‘Ten months earlier at this time of day I would have been drunk.’ Both he and Sarah went on to say how they loved God, how he had changed their lives and how they just want to ‘shine for him – leading others to find what we have found’. Louis is now a leading light in the ‘Addicted2Life’ ministry run by The Church.

The baptism was attended by more than seventy people, many of whom were non-Christians or believers.

Tears flowed as the testimonies were given – tears of wonder and joy at what God had wrought in the lives of all three candidates.

Sisters in Christ

It was a very proud day for Philip and Toshi Walker when on 23 February their three daughters Shereen, aged 16, Whitney, aged 14, and Sabeeya, aged 12, all decided to give their lives to Christ. The baptism of these three beautiful girls was a fitting end to the joint revival campaign for the Oxford Street and GBK churches in Wolverhampton. Under the leadership of Pastor Fray, meetings were held over four weekends in February. We were blessed with words from Pastor Nicholson, Pastor Manombe, evangelist Gary Harrison and Pastor Augustus Lawrence.

For over a year Shereen, Whitney and Sabeeya received Bible studies from their father and church elder Mark Palmer as a way of preparing them until we came to the decision ourselves’, said the girls.

The girls are already members of the 'Youth' and are active in the church. They know that God is going to use them in a big way in the future.

DANNA R. PALMER
**Global Warming**

Eileen Irvine* gives her perspective on climate change

Don’t be deceived simply because there seems to be a scientific explanation for these things. The devil’s genuine concern extends much further than what we are told behind the scenes by those who are in control. The devil’s true agenda is to create as much confusion as possible and lead people away from the truth. People are being told that the environmental movement is a form of resistance against the cause of global warming. This is simply not the case.

**¥ SYCAF PROJECT**

**SYNCHRONIZATION**

An activity week for siblings of disabled children, young carers and their friends.

**DATE:** 18 – 22 August 2008

**COST:** £30 (£25 ASNA Members)

**LOCATION:**

Avon Tyrell Activity Centre,

Accommodation and meals included.

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New European Business degree at Newbold College

The teaching of Business Studies at Newbold began a new phase this week as the senior management team finalised the arrangements for the offering of a new European degree. From August 2008, Newbold will offer a BA Hons in Business Management through a franchise with the University of Wales, Lampeter, whose Department of Management and IT consistently rank highly in leading surveys of higher education.

This means that, for the first time, students wishing to study Business in an Adventist context in the UK are eligible for the same student loans they would receive at any other UK college or university. Students seeking a fast start to a career in not-for-profit organisations or in the commercial sector will have the opportunity to learn the core business skills in an internationally diverse learning environment – a vital preparation for work in the global economy.

For the first time, Newbold can offer students the opportunity to combine business skills with Christian principles and receive all the benefits of a European degree,’ says Newbold’s principal, Dr David Penner.

For further details email: admissions@newbold.ac.uk

For informal discussions contact:
Marino Malek, Chair, Department of Business Administration Telephone: 01665-407419
email: marino.malek@newbold.ac.uk
or
John C. Crissey, Lecturer in Strategic Management and Marketing Telephone: 01665-407419
email: jcrissey@newbold.ac.uk

To apply contact the Admissions Office Telephone: 01665-407419/511
email: admissions@newbold.ac.uk

Mission to make friends

The Leamington Spa Mission has recently started up a new pre-school club called ‘Little Angels’. The group has developed from a mother and toddler group that has been running for the last three and a half years, also based at the church. Each Wednesday afternoon for two hours the church opens its doors to all children aged 3-5 to take part in activities such as arts, crafts, games and stories.

Little Angels is run by two church members, Gemma Proctor (who has been running the mother and toddler group) and Michelle Guljeta. A third organiser is one of the parents who used to attend the church’s toddler group. Gemma says: ‘There came a point at which the children who progressed to pre-school age were no longer catered for by the toddler group and we spoke to their parents about how to continue to keep these families in touch. Little Angels is what evolved from that discussion.’

There are currently eleven children who attend this group on a weekly basis. Most of these children and their families are not Seventh-day Adventists.

To apply contact the Admissions Office Telephone: 01665-407419/511
email: admissions@newbold.ac.uk

Dear Editor,

Do you mind if I make a correction to an article in the Messenger under the heading ‘The Adventist Advantage’?

In the paragraph about the Five-day Plan to Stop Smoking it reads: ‘The first programme of its kind, pioneered at the New Gallery Centre.’ It was actually pioneered in America by Dr McFarland and a minister whose name I believe was Falkenburg. One dealt with the medical aspect, and the other with the moral and spiritual. The General Conference produced a booklet for each person participating in the programme, and this was copyrighted.

I am pretty sure the two men who pioneered the programme visited the New Gallery and spoke about their programme. I don’t think they actually ran a Five-day clinic at the New Gallery at that time. Where the programme really took off was in Cardiff where I was the pastor (about 1960). By this time it had become established in the USA and Australia. The Rodenbergs read about it in the Australian Record and at that time they were my church members in Cardiff. They put pressure on me to get the programme up and going over here. Ren Elias was the Welsh president and he invited Bernard Kimman, who was the BUC Temperance leader, to head up with the programme, together with a Dr Mera, one of our Cardiff members from Hungary. Howard Parkin was head of the Temperance department in the north, so he came down to Cardiff to see how the programme was run. We had the fullest co-operation from the Cardiff health authorities, who paid for all the advertising and gave us full use of their lecture hall free of charge.

The programme was so novel we had cameras present from the BBC and ITV, and several press men. In actual fact the reporter from the S. Wales Echo joined the course, successfully quit smoking and did a glowing report of the programme in his newspaper. One of the films we showed was entitled ‘One in 20,000’. There was no actual proof in 1960 that smoking caused lung cancer. All we could claim was that one person in every 20,000 who smoked developed cancer. Rough about 1962 the Royal College of Physicians produced a statement asserting that smoking did actually cause cancer, as well as other problems.

We were running Five-day clinics about every six months, and for a long time were not allowed to infringe the copyright established by the General Conference. Eventually we were permitted to make a few adjustments.

Brenda Louise Vine

PASTOR KEN CLOTHIER