Sometimes it is easy to see God’s hand at work. This was one of those occasions. When I began dreaming of this project, I never thought God would open it up in such a massive way. My colleagues Eddie Hypolite and Nathan Stickland backed me in this project, as did the special committee and the Teen and Pathfinder leaders who worked so hard to make it a success.

All day Friday 6 June reporters and journalists were on the phone wanting information and requesting interviews. On Sabbath 5,000 gathered in Trafalgar Square with their LIVE banners: Living Intentionally Versus Existing. As many as a thousand of our number may have been non-Adventists. Streets closed, buses were held back, and tourists pulled out their cameras as the youth, supported by Pathfinder drums, marched from Trafalgar Square, down Whitehall to the Houses of Parliament and then across the River Thames to a major rally in Kennington Park. Their purpose was clearly displayed on countless banners: LIVE.

The LIVE march was not just a protest against gun and knife crime. It presented a positive alternative – an alternative that the media were ready to hear. There was massive press, TV and radio coverage.

‘O when the saints go marching in’, they sang.
I doubt whether Jeremy Paxman would win many popularity polls, but he is a stimulating writer. Nevertheless, his book The Political Animal: An Anatomy makes very uncomfortable reading for politicians, his On Royalty would be a rough read for Prince Charles and his The English may be said to have been enjoyed rather more by the near neighbours of the BBC than by the English themselves.

For all that, the picture of the fellow countryman Paxman reflects reality. And, towards the end of the book and in a backhanded way, he concedes a few points in their favour.

England, Paxman goes so far as to say, enjoys some advantages over other countries. Among these are the trade links their now defunct empire left them with. Others are the English characteristics of (relative) tolerance, lawfulness and business acumen which have made London an attractive base for foreign business people to live. Did you know that the murder rate for England and Wales is eight times lower than that in Scotland and twenty-six times lower than that in the United States? The greatest advantage England has, says Paxman, is that England became a global language. One quarter of Earth’s population can speak English to some degree. Two-thirds of the world’s scientists use English. Four-fifths of all data stored on computers is in English.

The reasons for the universality of English are examined carefully and presented persuasively by Paxman. He also points out that Paxman of Christian bias or having a sensi- tivity to the feelings of Christians. Indeed, one of his main gripes with the monarchy is the ‘religious aura’ that surrounds it. Hence, when he reaches the core of his explanation for the spread of English as a global language and of the reasons for the acceptance of a number of English ‘plusses’ – from ‘our toler- ant democracy’ to ‘our formidable universi- ties’ – I picture Paxman as seriously annoyed with himself. Why?

The root Paxman identifies for the English success is the English language. How are we to connect with whatever they hope for and point them to what Christ promises?

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Camp meeting 2008 began with 3,000 but swelled to a weekend crowd of over 4,000. Once again we converged on the Welsh town of Prestatyn for a week-long spiritual feast. Our theme was Signs of Hope. The summer arrived right on cue as an added blessing to all!

The service was conducted by Dr Perry and in the prelude to the service the Chelmsford church inspired the congregation to get out into the community and provide a service that makes a difference!

Divine service
The Sabbath festival began with a regal fanfare played by Tony Best on the keyboard. The divine service commenced with the procession of the massed choir as they marched in to the tune of ‘We are marching in the light of God’.

Following the worship service a baptism was conducted over at the site swimming pool, as fourteen individuals demonstrated their commitment to commence a new journey with God.

The pastoral prayer was a solemn and dignified service. Pastor David Burnett spoke about Christ being the Bread of Life.

The Sabbath School
Dr Perry Messegere led out in an excellent Sabbath school and introduced Dr Kwabena Donkor who ably took the lesson study. The highlight of the morning was the Ingathering awards, with top honours going to district 2b with a total in excess of £65,000. The couples from the church once again the Crawley church with a total of £31,500. Finally, the top collector for the SEC was Joyce Morrison from the Hampstead church, who collected a total of £3,322.

Church planting is alive and well in the SEC as can be attested by the presentation made by Pastor Acis Vontzalidis during the mission spotlight, prior to which the Chelmsford church inspired the congregation to get out into the community and provide a service that makes a difference!

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The service was conducted by intern Rebecca Pedersen who led in announcing the candidates to be immersed, and Pastor Ashwin Somasundram, in the reading of the Scripture. Presenting the Scripture reading were Pastors Jon Gendle and Sharon Platt.

In the adult meeting Dr Emil Dean Peeler, pastor of the Dupont Park church, Washington DC, challenged us to break the generational curses, stating that the trials of the parents will become burdens of the children unless the parents put an end to those trials in their own lives. Dr Peeler began every night with a rousing call to the congregation and a cry of ‘Devil! Get out of here...’ Three times he led the congregation in the chant as they rose and loudly echo the call, with their Bibles raised in defiant hands; before Dr Peeler concluded – ‘...because the Holy Ghost is in the house.’

In the youth meeting Pastor Paul Hunt, a native of the UK who currently pastors in Dallas, Texas, challenged the audience with the statement, ‘Those who believe in God do not need miracles to sustain their faith. Miracles are for unbelievers. God wants us to go further and deeper with him.’ He shared with the 300-strong audience his transatlantic experience, in particular his battle with leaving the music industry to pursue the ministry, which reminded us that when God calls us, there is always a sacrifice.

In the teen meeting Anthony Fuller, a native of the UK and a prospective ministerial graduate from Oakwood, called the teens to order by making the Gospel basic and asking the question, ‘What does it mean to be in Christ?’

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Pastor Eddie Hypolite presented a workshop on Seeing, Hearing and Declaring, drama/creative arts, conducted by experienced teams from various churches. In the service, the Armour of God (Ephesians 6:13-16) and of how having even one piece missed entitled ‘Soldiers roll call’, which reminded them of the need to have the full armour of God. The service ended with special prayers for those youth in positions of leadership.

The procession was led as follows: United Kingdom, Angola, Antigua, Bermuda, Botswana, China, Dominica, Ethiopia, Ghana, Granada, Guyana, Greece, Holland, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malawi, Mauritius, Montserrat, Nigeria, Nor way, Philippines, Portugal, Russia, Rwanda, Singapore, South Africa, St Kitts & Nevis, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Columbus, Sierra Leone. As Jamaica entered, the decibel levels increased significantly as fellow Jamaicans (who probably wished they were marching) responded enthusiastically. This was matched by Ghana who had enough people in their procession for an entire church congregation! The passionate cheers from the audience encouraged the Ghanaian group as they swayed and sang in their native tongue ‘Our God is coming’. South Africa also received an oxenburst and prolonged welcome as they carried their flag to the stage. However, the sound barriers were broken when the Zimbabweans made their entrance. Reflecting the changing demographics of the UK, the rich mix of cultures displayed throughout the procession and within our Church community, SEC president Pastor Sam Davis gave an engaging and inspirational address. He highlighted the importance of both valuing and celebrating diversity. He asserted, ‘When we look down on other cultures or despise individuals because they are of a different background, we are anti-God, anti-Christ; because diversity is God-ordained, it was a divine idea and our lives are enriched because of it.’

In the closing song we were invited to learn a few words of Mandarin. However, the gift of tongues was evident in the closing prayer, as six individuals representing their respective countries prayed in their mother tongue. The celebration of cultural diversity ended as it had begun – on a high note of celebration. Before leaving the platform each flag bearer gave a note of thanks and final greeting in their language and then marched out to the beat of the fanfare for an official photo call.

Heaven must have been rejoicing at this wonderful demonstration of unity and appreciation of God’s creative power. This is truly a Sign of Hope for our world.

Youth and teens

Reporters: Ranette Prime and Sanya Brown

In the young adults’ worship service on Sabbath morning the congregation could be heard singing in one accord. Praise and worship, led by the camp meeting praise team and band members, was certainly a reflection of the spiritual journey each member of the 500-strong congregation had taken during the week. Highlights of the week included one of two workshops led by Pastor Gifford Rhamie entitled ‘Making Disciples’. Pastor Rhamie proposed that central to the great commission given to us in Matthew 28 was trust each other. And, essentially, the text is calling us to be ‘mentors’ to the people to whom we witness. We need to help them develop their relationship with Jesus Christ. Participants were persuaded that, in effect, mentoring another in the ways of Christ Jesus was key to each of them remaining successful Christians themselves.

The unity of the singing and testimonies on Sabbath morning matched the intensity of the fellowship that took place on Friday evening for communion, where, once again, over 400 youth gathered in groups of four around tables to share their experience of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in their lives. The duane hour was yet another highlight of the week filled with reverence and true reflection, as Pastor Paul Hunt drew attention to young leaders in ministry in his final sermon: ‘It’s not business, it’s personal’. Using the example of Jesus in the temple, he emphasised that whatever ministry God has called us to, it is not to be a platform for us but for Jesus Christ. The service ended with special prayers for those youth in positions of leadership.

Camp meeting for the teens was a spiritual trip back to the beginning. It was led by main speaker Anthony Fuller of Balham church, London, and a prospective ministerial graduate from Oakwood. With the theme, ‘Living The Last Mile’, the teens were challenged to think seriously about their relationship with Jesus. And, essentially, the text is calling us to be ‘mentors’ to the people to whom we witness. We need to help them develop their relationship with Jesus Christ. Participants were persuaded that, in effect, mentoring another in the ways of Christ Jesus was key to each of them remaining successful Christians themselves.

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Witnessing for Jesus

by Fred Mapp and Victor Hulbert

Photos: Victor Hulbert

Martin and Natasha Shaw are excited. For most of the year they worship in a congregation of six. Together with their young son, Nathaniel, they purposely chose to move to Southport, Lancashire, to help revive a church whose membership was dwindling rapidly towards zero. But once a year that membership leaps. For the last week they have been surrounded by around 1,250 Adventists, with the number rising to approximately 1,800 on the weekend.

The Shaws live three miles from Pontins, Ainsdale, on the outskirts of Southport, venue for the North England Conference annual Camp Meeting, 9-15 June. Martin is a consultant in the local hospital. Natasha’s excitement bubbled over as I met her by the bandstand in the town centre. ‘This is great!’ she told me. ‘The witness of our members here makes a real impact.’ Surrounding her were Adventist youth and adults handing out literature and invitation cards to the local Adventist church which currently meets at the Unitarian Church, Portland Street, Southport. Conversations were taking place with school children, shop workers and retirees enjoying the afternoon sunshine and the music. Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt co-ordinated a varied programme of music and testimony — with an unexpected entry from one passer-by who had recently given her heart to Jesus and rejoiced to see a large group of Christians active in the town.

Witnessing at the bandstand is part of the NEC camp meeting tradition. This year they added door-to-door visits and they are already planning for a more sustained witnessing effort next year to help grow the church in Southport.

Each time campers sang the 2008 NEC camp meeting theme song ‘Witness for Jesus’, written by Tochi Anurukem, Michael Edwards, and Natasha Windsor, they reinforced their commitment to witnessing and the desire to return home and reach out to their community. However, witness is just part of what has been a very positive week for campers at Southport.

In the adult commitment meetings, Dr Ron Smith, executive secretary of the Southern Union Conference in the USA, took practical lessons from Bible stories such as the creation, the prodigal son, and Samson, then turned the messages around with hard-hitting, practical applications for twenty-first-century, Christ-centred living.

Dr Elaine G. Kennedy’s informative mid-morning ‘Studies in Creationism’ integrated faith and science in a fresh and challenging way: ‘Data proves nothing. It is the interpretation and the use of the data that tells us something. And this latter is affected by our world view.’ Dr Kennedy is a research scientist and adjunct professor of geology at the Southwestern Adventist University dinosaur field station in eastern Wyoming.

Dr Sharon M. Robles MD received a steady stream of enquirers after her morning health presentations. Campers have come to love and appreciate her insightful presentations on aspects of healthful living. Dr Robles, a returner to NEC camp meeting, currently practices internal medicine and endocrinology in a New York City public clinic.

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Witnessing for Jesus

by Fred Mapp and Victor Hulbert

Photos: Victor Hulbert

Martin and Natasha Shaw are excited. For most of the year they worship in a congregation of six. Together with their young son, Nathaniel, they purposely chose to move to Southport, Lancashire, to help revive a church whose membership was dwindling rapidly towards zero. But once a year that membership leaps. For the last week they have been surrounded by around 1,250 Adventists, with the number rising to approximately 1,800 on the weekend.

The Shaws live three miles from Pontins, Ainsdale, on the outskirts of Southport, venue for the North England Conference annual Camp Meeting, 9-15 June. Martin is a consultant in the local hospital. Natasha’s excitement bubbled over as I met her by the bandstand in the town centre. ‘This is great!’ she told me. ‘The witness of our members here makes a real impact.’ Surrounding her were Adventist youth and adults handing out literature and invitation cards to the local Adventist church which currently meets at the Unitarian Church, Portland Street, Southport. Conversations were taking place with school children, shop workers and retirees enjoying the afternoon sunshine and the music. Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt co-ordinated a varied programme of music and testimony — with an unexpected entry from one passer-by who had recently given her heart to Jesus and rejoiced to see a large group of Christians active in the town.

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Town Centre ablaze for Christ

On Sabbath 31 May around eighty people attended a day of celebration for members and friends of the South Wales African Adventist Fellowship (SWAAF). The event celebrated the first anniversary of the inauguration of the group, but was also an occasion for the organisation to mark the retirement of Jan and David Pearce.

The John Loughborough Seventh-day Adventist VA Secondary School
Holcombe Road, Tottenham, London, N17 9AD
Telephone: 020 8808 7387, Fax: 020 8801 6719
Associate Executive Head teacher Mrs L. (Dr) O. McInnis
Associate Head teacher Mrs D. McConnell

Advanced Skills Teacher
ASL 2 Inner London September 2008 or January 2009

Male and Female PE Teacher
MPS and Inner London Allowance September 2008 or January 2009

Science Teacher
MPS and Inner London Allowance September 2008 or January 2009

The John Loughborough School is a voluntary aided Seventh-day Adventist school for students of all faiths between the ages of 11 and 16 in the borough of Havering. The school is on the OFSTED category Notice to Improve and is aiming to make great improvements to make John Loughborough a special school where all young people achieve and become citizens of whom their parents and the community can be proud.

We are seeking teachers who know what works in effective schools. If you have the skills and experience, you are the person we are looking for. The posts offer opportunities for ambitious, innovative, enthusiastic teachers to make their mark. The successful candidates will have good knowledge in their subject and a commitment to the highest standards of learning and teaching and must subscribe to the values of the school. Experienced teachers are welcome to apply. Come and make a difference at The John Loughborough School. Help us move from ‘Notice to Improve’ to ‘Good’ at our new 11-16 comprehensive, situated in Tottenham.

If you are interested in applying for any of the posts, application packs are available on the school website www.john-loughborough.haringey.lgfl.net or by contacting Mrs V. Gordon, the school secretary. Visits to the school can be arranged by contacting Mrs Gordon.

Closing date: 3pm Mon 7 July 2008. Shortlisting: Tues 8 July 2008.


50 years at the Stanborough Press

A 9.30am on Thursday 5 June the management and workers of The Stanborough Press gathered for a special breakfast to mark the retirement of Jan and David Pearce.

David Pearce has completed fifty years of continuous service with the company. General manager Paul Hammond made a speech covering those years during which most of his work with David.

Assistant general manager Paul Poddar, who has worked with David since 1966, had gone to the trouble (with the assistance of his wife Muriel and local businesswoman NCAA Cross) of preparing a beautifully written scroll in which both humorous and serious aspects of David’s fifty years of service were commemorated in rhyme.

David’s father, Pastor Horace Pearce, served as a commissioner at the Press in the 1930s. For much of David’s youth his father managed Advent Press in Ghana. David returned to England in 1957 and worked for wholesale greengrocer Will Hamley before beginning his apprenticeship as a lithographic printer at the Press, then based in Waltham, in June 1958. In 1963 David married Edna Ruddock. They had two sons, Brian and Russell. There are now five grandchildren.

In January 1964 the Stanborough Press fire made it necessary for the whole printing and publishing operation to move to Grantham in the North England Conference. The Pearce family settled in the village of Great Gonerby where, after a number of years, Edna tragically died of cancer.

David moved from printing to book binding and, with Paul Hammond and Paul Poddar, helped to run a fully mechanised bindery line.

In 1995 Jan Clarke, an Australian, came to work in the finance department of the Stanborough Press. Jan and David’s friends sensed a budding romance. Jan and David were married in 2002.

When the Press management closed the printing and bindery unit in 2002 David assisted Paul Poddar in the warehouse. Helping to deal with many container lorries that brought printed materials to and took export orders from what had become a publishing company.

Jan is an elder and David a deacon at the Adventist church in Grantham. They plan to spend more time touring with their caravan in retirement. Jan, a charted accountant and a qualified nurse, worked in a number of denominational institutions in the South Pacific Division before coming to the Stanborough Press. Before coming to Britain I had five unfilled aims,” Jan recalls. “I wanted to travel, to be my own woman, to work for a publisher, to get married and to write a book.” After a pause, she added: “I’ve achieved four of those aims...” The Stanborough Press wishes the Pearces a long and happy retirement.

Dave Currie
Geoff and Nancy retire

At the end of April Pastor Geoff Dennis retired after 31 years of service to the Church. His first years of ministry were spent in the SEC, where he worked in an evangelistic team with Pastor David Currie. Very long hours and virtually no holidays didn’t discourage him, and to this day Geoff remains an evangelist at heart.

Geoff first came to the Welsh Mission in 1988 and it was here that he spent the larger part of his ministry. His final posting was in the North American district where he cared for the Rhyl church, as well as the Llandudno Junction, Bangor and Wrexham groups.

On Sabbath 19 April Geoff and his wife Nancy arrived in Wrexham to take the service, but they were surprised to find that Pastor Clyde Moore and Mission president Pastor John Summers were also there. Other members of the mission, as well as Karen, the manager of the hall where the group meets, also turned up to pay tribute to Geoff and Nancy and to wish them well. Revealing something of a hidden talent, Clyde sang an appropriate solo. “Where do I go from here?” and Geoff preached an evangelistic sermon based on the story of Peter healing the crippled beggar at the Gate Beautiful, recorded in Acts 3.

The following day Geoff and Nancy were invited to the Welsh Mission Executive Committee in Shrewsbury. Here, formally during the meeting, then informally over a restaurant lunch, BUC president Pastor Don McFarlane, and Welsh Mission secretary-treasurer Victor Pilmore paid warm tribute to the work Geoff and Nancy had done over the years.

Crief declines to ‘pass by on the other side’

One of the best-known parables in the Bible relates to the refusal of a priest to assist a seriously wounded victim of physical violence. Jesus says that he was ‘passed by on the other side’. Thousands are guilty of similar neglect today – but not the members of the Crief church.

When the G8 Summit met, the lead-in from around the world converged at the nearby Glen actresses Hotel in 2005, a campaign was orchestrated to urge the politicians to do more to ease the burden of millions living in the less-developed regions, and to ‘make poverty history’. Adventists at the Ghyll Road church decided to ‘cross over the road’ and become actively involved.

They chose to sponsor two projects relating to people who had become marginalised. One related to assistance to AIDS orphans in the vicinity of Maluti Adventist Hospital in Lesotho, and the other involved the enhancement and enrichment of a care home in northern Romania.

Although the Crief church only has 60 members, there was an unanimous vote to appropriate from the church budget £4,000 each year for three years to each of these projects – a total commitment in excess of £24,000!

Following a recent private visit to southern Africa, Shirley Thomas reported that targets were being met, and scores of youngsters were benefitting by growing their own fruit and vegetables on land which had been made available for the project.

Two committee members also visited Romania at personal expense to evaluate the Chesau Care Home. The aim was to increase the occupancy from 23 to 50 over a three-year period. Now heartening, it was to see this goal realised in only 18 months because of the total commitment of the staff. Moreover, the centre which houses aged and physically and mentally disabled adults is characterised by cleanliness and care of the highest order.

Now that the country is a member of the European Union, the economy is growing at 6.5% each year. Many in the cities are prospering – and the younger age group is particularly interested in developing business and technological skills. Those living in the rural areas, however, are still having a very difficult time. At Chesau the hope is that the Crief church will continue its largesse by supplying 150 wheelie bins to improve community hygiene, and to create a play area for the children.

Two hundred out of Crief’s population of 500 attend the local Adventist church. Nationwide, the church’s membership exceeds 70,000 – the highest concentration of Adventists on the European continent.

Mountains and glens revisited

A son of Scotland and graduate of Newbold, Malcolm Pedlar and his wife, Christine, recently paid a visit to family and friends in their homeland.

Malcolm completed his studies at Newbold in 1964 and initially worked in the Bryan Ball evangelistic team in Wolverhampton, where he met his wife to be. They then pastored churches in Coventry, Cardiff and south London before emigrating to Canada in 1977. After spending twenty-one years in church ministry, Malcolm switched to teaching, and then spent nineteen years in denominational schools on the western side of Canada.

The Pedlars have been blessed with three daughters, all of them now married and living with their families on the North American continent. Now retired from full-time employment, Malcolm and Christine have settled in Sorrento, BC.

They can be contacted on pedlarross@icloud.com.

News Break

News Break

‘If music be the food of love . . .’ by John Wilby, Scottish Mission Communication sponsor

This Quaker quote aptly sums up a dominant feature of Scottish Mission’s Day of Fellowship at the Granary Baptist church, Edinburgh, on 31 May. The Mission’s combined congregations and guests were blessed with a large repertoire of songs and instrumental pieces. They ranged from the country and western style ‘Poor Wayfarin’ Stranger’, to a musical sketch of modern youth’s temptations, accompanied by the secular, but appropriate, ‘Tidal Eclipse of the Heart’. There were also contributions from Glasgow and Dundee gospel groups and solo classical violin and flute renditions. A multi-talented band, complete with sensitive drum accompaniment, complemented the congregation’s songs of praise led by Edinburgh youth.

The inspiring broad musical spectrum reinforced Union president Pastor Don McFarlane’s response to a question about church music in the afternoon’s televised ‘Ask the President’ event. He emphasised that although there is a level beyond which we should not go, the essential element of church music is that Christ is uplifted. Anchored by BUC Communication director Victor Hubert, the programme featured the president being quizzed by a panel of church members on topics including homosexuality, the media’s ridicule of Christian ethics, Adventist broadcasting, and marriage partnerships. (Ask the President’ can be viewed on demand at www.aspetv.org.uk.)

Pastor Alan Hodges, BUC Ministerial Association director, began the day by leading a participative Sabbath School on the current week’s study of the ‘Wonder of Jesus’. It was followed by Pastor McFarlane’s keynote message in which he contrasted the world’s vain search for hope and security with that of the surely found in Jesus Christ. Another edifying memory of the morning session was Pastor Clifford Herman and Natalia Herrera-Cruz’s animated and humorous children’s story.

David Kelbie’s dedication in the afternoon recognised his Mission-wide outreach initiatives and his pastoral leadership of the Irvine and East Kilbride churches. Pastors Hodges and Hubert officiated and were joined by the Union and Mission presidents and local pastors. David’s response was brief but to the point. Jesus appointed twelve that he might be with them and send them out to preach. I believe that God is with me and that he has sent me out to preach. By the power of his Spirit I will do his will.’

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Pavilion of Hope UK’s first CHIP baptism

by Naomi Watson

Upper Room

On a bright sunny Sabbath on 3 May, three young ladies from Donetsk church were privileged to attend an all-day service at the Upper Room church, following the micro CHIP series subsequent to the visit of the Nottingham families to our church in April.

The youth participated in a group Sabbath school discussion. The main worship service was spiritually focused and focused on what’s important in life. Participation cemented her relationship with the Church and the Third Angel’s Message. Two participants sought to achieve the same lifestyle change developed mutually beneficial spiritual friendships that aided them to our church.

As the Church CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project) are designed to reach secular minds and fulfill their needs. All that is required from each one of us, locally, is our personal commitment – with financial, physical and spiritual support.

The huge financial consequences of changing lifestyles, and the provision of membership services. The evidence already exists in several churches and the provision of membership services. The evidence already exists in several churches and the provision of membership services. The evidence already exists in several churches and the provision of membership services. The evidence already exists in several churches and the provision of membership services. The evidence already exists in several churches and the provision of membership services. The evidence already exists in several churches and the provision of membership services. The evidence already exists in several churches and the provision of membership services. The evidence already exists in several churches.

So what does all this mean for the future and what could we provide the next generation of church members? We were at the start of a long and happy relationship, resulting in 45 years of marriage. In this regard, a word is worth a thousand. It was the start of a long and happy relationship, resulting in 45 years of marriage. In this regard, a word is worth a thousand. It was the start of a long and happy relationship, resulting in 45 years of marriage. In this regard, a word is worth a thousand. It was the start of a long and happy relationship, resulting in 45 years of marriage. In this regard, a word is worth a thousand. It was the start of a long and happy relationship, resulting in 45 years of marriage. In this regard, a word is worth a thousand. It was the start of a long and happy relationship, resulting in 45 years of marriage. In this regard, a word is worth a thousand. It was the start of a long and happy relationship, resulting in 45 years of marriage. 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The Royal meal

The royal meal

For example, the Glasgow church has a membership of 75, yet the survey showed an attendance of 15 at 10am Sunday service! Well, it does highlight the high proportion of children and youth – hence the considerable effort being expended on Youth activities and the importance attached to the Sunday school.

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Adventists on the march

as they passed Downing Street. The banners gave a strong message: 'Spread love, not bullets', 'Families against gun and knife crime', 'PUSH: Pray Until Something Happens...Put it down'—youth choosing to LIVE. Living Intentionally Versus Existing in a world of gangs, guns, knives and drugs.

An American tourist expressed surprise at Adventists marching on the Sabbath before coming to realise that this march glorified all the principles of positive Sabbath-keeping. The door was more than ajar in Lambeth. People came out of their flats and shops clapping, waving and showing their support.

The march climaxed with a rally in Kennington Park where Adventist youth mixed with passers-by attracted to the positive music and message. In addition to the main stage, there were sideshows with puppets, health displays and information on positive living.

There were messages of support from the Leader of the Opposition, David Cameron, and Cabinet Minister, Tessa Jowell. Christopher Wellbelove, Deputy Mayor for Lambeth, was ecstatic at the turnout. The march comes following the deaths of 16 teenagers in London this year.

There were other lessons learned that people are more important than programmes, that Christ works through the love of his people for others and that a variety of methods are required to reach a variety of people. They learned that sharing food is the universal way of saying, 'Hi! We want to be friends!' and that they must not let non-Christian folks frighten, shock, or scare them with their outrageous statements or denial of our beliefs. 'Love them right where they are at, as Jesus would,' they were told. 'Let them know they are accepted just as they are. Acceptance is more important than conformity when seeking to reveal Christ's love to people.' They also learned that planting takes commitment and time and is not easy. However, the rewards of working for the Lord and for precious souls are literally 'out of this world'.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the realization that small groups of caring, accepting individuals seeking to make an impact for the Lord in the lives of others, cannot but bring fruit for his glory. This, essentially, turns traditional thinking and methodologies of the past on their heads. Plants in Holland have reversed the traditional 'Believe, Behave, Belong' into 'Belong, Behave, Believe'. With these methods they are finding considerable success in reaching a generation that is mostly devoid of any experience of religion, God, or church, and who tend to find anything of the sort irrelevant.

Many in our group were quite challenged by this approach. With much dialogue we took the matter as a personal challenge from God to pray and rethink more seriously about these new ways of building up our churches. The weekend was well worth the time and money to investigate these plants. Now the 27 are excited to begin sharing what we have learned with our home churches, and to begin implementing new approaches in the communities where we live.

July

6 Newbold Graduation
PRESS OPEN DAY Sunday, 7 September
ABC Shops Advent Centre, Sundays 10am-2pm
Alma Park, Grantham, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.

ABC BOOK SALES
6 Newbold Graduation
Fundraising Concert at the nearby Emmanuel Centre, Westminster, raising £6,000 towards establishing a LIVE Centre and community projects right in the heart of where communities are hurting. Photos of the day are available in the BUC picture gallery, stanboroughschool.com.

The programme included step-singers, poets, choirs and moving real-life stories. Mark Prince, father of 15-year-old Kiyan who was stabbed to death...