The members of Crieff church were thrilled when over fifty non-members turned up for the lecture by Professor John Walton tracing the rise of atheism. At the close of his lecture entitled 'Why doesn’t God stay dead?' there was sustained applause from an appreciative audience. Professor Walton, who is a very modest man, rather surprised his listeners by beginning his lecture with a list of his academic qualifications. These included a BSc, a PhD and a Doctor of Science degree. Currently he is Research Professor in Chemistry in the Science Faculty at St Andrews University. Professor Walton is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He said he had useful DNA (or RNA) sequence necessary for life were astronomical. As scientists began to discover the cosmological fine-tuning that would be needed to sustain life on this planet, they began to ask questions such as, ‘Where did the laws of physics come from in the first place?’ and ‘Why are they so fine-tuned as to sustain life and intelligence?’ Because of these questions, many front-rank scientists began to reach the conclusion that there must be a Designer. Professor Paul Davies wrote, ‘It seems as though someone has fine-tuned nature’s numbers to make the universe… the impression of design is overwhelming.’

Professor Walton went on to give fascinating examples of the case for design by looking at irreducibly complex biological machines such as blood clotting, which had to be present already for life to survive, and could not have evolved. Although many in the audience probably struggled to keep up with this profound lecture, they were encouraged to know that such evidence of design caused one of the world’s leading atheists, Andrew Frew, to change his mind, and he now believes that ‘this universe’s intricate laws manifest what scientists have called the Mind of God’.

Professor Walton concluded his lecture by saying that the case for Intelligent Design did not necessarily prove God, but made it very possible to believe in God, and, for himself, felt that all who are willing to follow the evidence from nature and from inspiration wherever it leads will find that God is alive and well and full of grace. There followed a fascinating question and answer time. An MP3 file of this talk and a copy of the PowerPoint can be found on the church’s website, www.crieff.adventist.org.uk. The Crieff members felt grateful and proud that the Church has such an eminent scientist who is willing to share his scientific knowledge and Christian belief, and feel that he could be used much more by our churches.

Dinosaur Day
by Peter Jeynes

Spend a little time with a 6- or 7-year-old boy and you will soon find yourself discussing dinosaurs in some depth. Where once all you knew was Tyrannosaurus Rex, soon you discover the intricacies of the Camarasaurus and then the Ultrasaurs. Sabbath morning worship is supposed to involve all our age groups, so the idea of Dinosaur Day at Middlesbrough church was born.

The word went out to the children, ‘Bring your dinosaur models.’ Sure enough, many rubber and plastic models arrived at church – along with a collection of books about dinosaurs. Anna, who has recently been given the all-clear after a long battle with cancer, was right at the heart of things with beautiful dinosaur books that her caring Grandma had bought and encouraged her to read.

As morning worship began – with a story about Fred the T-rex who had died just before Noah’s Flood – the younger children were introduced to the idea of fossils with a practical demonstration of how fossils were formed. The sermon was entirely focused on dinosaurs, and featured information and ideas from the book written for children by Elaine Graham Kennedy, Dinosaurs, where did they come from and where did they go? published by Pacific Press. Instead of having restless children wondering when the man will shut up, our large audience of children – including visitors who came just for the day and said, ‘Can we come back next week?’ – our 5- and 6-year-olds had an interactive experience of worship.

The adults, of course, were not left out. While interly examining fossils from local beaches and those donated for the day from the local museum, they were strongly encouraged to take Creation studies seriously, because our children are exposed to evolutionary thought from their first day at school.
Messenger

2

3

tolerate opposition...

onslaught of Darwinian

– Do you experience a sense of
to deal with life's stresses and bounce back from adversity? Do you experience a zest for living or have the ability to enjoy life, to laugh and have fun?

well-being and contentment?

Good health!

Brain Health Series

Part 9b

Mental Well-being

Overview

Mental health encompasses the emotional, spiritual and social resilience which enables us to achieve and maintain a good quality of life. We have the flexibility to deal with life's inevitable challenges, disadvantages, pain and setbacks. It is having a positive sense of well-being, belief in the dignity and worth of self and others.

Both psychological and scientific evidence increasingly points to the importance of mental emotional well-being. Findings reveal that when individuals engage in activities designed to build self-esteem, develop spiritual and social support, both individuals and communities benefit. This is demonstrated in terms of emotional stability, positive physical health, enhanced social well-being and improved community cohesion.

Our minds are intricately connected to all aspects of our well-being. The field of psychosomatic disorders (illnesses which look at the mind-body interactions) and the resulting illnesses (syndrome) illustrate the state of mind affecting the health of the body and vice versa. Additionally, our personality and mental abilities are affected by both mental health and physical issues.

In order to assess emotional well-being, the following categories and examples are useful for self-analysis.

Emotions – Do you have a general sense of well-being and contentment?

Conformity – Do you have the resilience to be able to deal with life’s stresses and bounce back from adversity? Do you experience a zest for living or have the ability to enjoy life, to laugh and have fun?

Life balance - Do you experience a sense of balance in your life - between work and leisure, routine and spontaneity, sleep and wakefulness, rest and activity, exercise, and so on? Do you see yourself as well-rounded - giving equal attention to mind, body and spirit? Do you see yourself as well-rounded – giving equal attention to mind, body and spirit?

Relationships – How easily do you care for yourself and others and enjoy positive relationships?

Prospective thinking – Do you look at the future with hope and see possibilities? Do you view your potential and personal abilities with optimism and potential?

Adaptability – How flexible are you to life’s changing circumstances? Do you feel that you are able to adapt and cope with a range of feelings that accompany change?

We deal with varying feelings and emotions on a daily basis. Sometimes our feelings are natural and sometimes they develop from other causes. Sometimes they develop from other causes. We deal with them by understanding our mental emotional well-being and how we manage coping mechanisms to deal effectively with them.

Good health!

With Jonathan Barrett

Team GB

As you watched the Olympics, what were your feelings? Glad that your country did well? Disappointed that it didn’t do as well as you had hoped? Enjoyed the drama? Admired the skill and determination of the athletes? And what about those who didn’t succeed? Bored with the whole thing and couldn’t wait for it to finish?

I have to confess that my overall feeling was one of relief that Team GB did well. I say ‘relief’, as just before it started, sports minister Greg Smith said ‘It is vital’ that “England shines at these Games”. I have to confess that my overall feeling was one of relief that Team GB did well. I say ‘relief’, as just before it started, sports minister Greg Smith said ‘It is vital’ that “England shines at these Games”.

But isn’t there something more we could be doing? Charles Darwin was born in Shrewsbury and the Darwin bicentenary celebration will centre there. That is why the Shrewsbury Advent church is launching a series this autumn – involving a number of different speakers – which will explore the theory of Evolution.

What use can we make of CRISIS OVER ORIGINS? It’s a series designed to inform everyone of the scientific, historical and theological basis of the Darwinian theory of evolution and to encourage people to think critically about it.

We sing ‘Stand up! Stand up for Jesus!’ (or, at all) at which evolutionary science was the only science taught and ridicule was the principal argument used against my faith-based beliefs. Only at university did I discover an environment in which I felt I had the freedom to express my own views.

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Darwin, Dawkins and Fortress Evolution

by John C. Walton, PhD, DSc, FRSE
Professor of Reactive Chemistry, University of St Andrews, Scotland

Last week Channel 4 screened the last in a series of three programmes billed as The Genius of Charles Darwin, hosted by Richard Dawkins. I was hoping that the superb production expertise of the twenty-first-century media would treat us to a colourful and dynamic account of Darwin’s achievements. As so often, the hype surrounding evolution turned out to be hollow. There were no entertaining demonstrations of the power of Darwinian evolution at work advancing medicine for the sciences.

Dawkins himself seemed a thoroughly retro- figure, endlessly recycling tired old evidence of micro-evolution, while accompanying this with fulsome repetitions of his favourite refrain. ‘Evolution is fact’, ‘Evolution is demonstrated fact’, ‘Evolution is plain truth’. He implied that every fossil discovery was incontrovertible evidence of evolution and even flashed up Ernst Haeckel’s long discredited drawing of human and animal embryos. Virtually all he only peeks into modern science touched off his flayed assertion that recent DNA sequencing has beautifully confirmed evolutionary lines of descent. He seemed unaware of the puzzling contradictions among these molecular phylogenetic trees and their disagreement with fossil-based analogues. Such confusion has arisen in this area that some scientists have even dared to suggest the history of life cannot be represented by a tree at all! The programmes were all defensive of ‘Fortress Evolution’ and displayed nil ‘Enterprise Evolution’.

Read John Walton’s response to Richard Dawkins in ‘Why doesn’t God stay dead?’ in Crisis over Origins, prepared for mass distribution in your district. ABC sales hotline 01476 539900. £12.50 buys 50 copies.

Day of Fellowship: Shrewsbury, Telford, Wrexham

Shrewsbury, Telford and Wrexham churches, all part of the Welsh Mission, under the leadership of district minister Pastor Clyde R. Moore, came together for the inaugural Shropshire Day of Fellowship on Sabbath 5 July. Anette Moore led out the service in Shrewsbury, with a Telford, Wrexham church supper at the home of Sister Brooks who closed the Sabbath by reading Romans 5:1-11 which contains her favourite text: ‘But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.’ Romans 5:8.

The day concluded with a fellowship supper at the home of Sister Brooks who closed the Sabbath by praying: ‘Satan had done to God’s creation. Each child was given a personal model to take away, and some adults also asked for their own copy. The speaker for the day was evangelist Costa Vaggas. He will be remembered for his enthusiastic, zealous and timely sermon. He is an internationally renowned speaker, having conducted campaigns in Bermuda, South Africa and Britain. He was accompanied by his wife, Nadia, a native South African.

His theme for the day and the title of his sermon was ‘Hero’ and was based on 2 Corinthians 5:21. Each child was given a personal model to take away, and some adults also asked for their own copy.

The theme for the day was ‘Hero’s Day’ and as families or in small groups, sharing past experiences that have made the Sabbath a special day for each person.

The Selfish Gene

John Lennox’s powerful book is one of the best rebuttals of the Darwin-Dawkins series. Dawkins was eager to enlist Darwin as an atheist sympathiser and to identify Darwinism as the scientific basis for his own atheism.

Darwin’s ‘New Testimony’
The sensitivity and humanity of Charles Darwin as a father and husband was painted in a most sympathetic way. However, Richard Dawkins was eager to enlist Darwin as an atheist sympathiser and to identify Origin of Species as the Old Testament of evolutionary naturalism. Dawkins’ relentless self-promotion made it abundantly clear that he regards his own book The Selfish Gene as the New Testament!

Dawkins didn’t engage with any of the devastating critiques of his books, but anyone feeling challenged by this series would be well advised to dip into one or more of the compassionate rebuttals of the The God Delusion. Alister McGrath’s The Dawkins Delusion, John Cornell’s Darwin’s Angel, David Robertson’s The Dawkins Letters, Thomas Crean’s A Catholic Replies to Professor Dawkins and John Lennox’s God’s Undertaker: Has Science Buried God? are all worthwhile.

*Professor Walton is senior elder at the Dundee Adventist church.

Sabbath to remember

A cool summer’s day in July heralded the first Area 4 Children’s and Family Day of Fellowship hosted by the Ashford and Canterbury churches, all part of the Welsh Mission, under the leadership of district minister Pastor Clyde R. Moore, came together for the inaugural Shropshire Day of Fellowship on Sabbath 5 July. Anette Moore led out the service in Shrewsbury, with a Telford, Wrexham church supper at the home of Sister Brooks who closed the Sabbath by reading Romans 5:1-11 which contains her favourite text: ‘But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.’ Romans 5:8.

A girl in the Grantham church – well, a Woman’s Land Army girl – recently received her medal for work on the land during World War II. Miss Elsie Phillips was born in Bermondsey, London, in 1920. She left there in 1940 to work on farms in the Richmondshire and Cleeveley Green areas. On hearing that recruitment was taking place for the Land Army, she went there and signed up as a member. She was sent to work on a farm at Borehamwood, Elstree, where she remained until the end of the war. In fact, she continued working there for some time afterwards.

Elsie joined the Church in 1950, and that same year became a member of the staff at The Stanborough Press, then located on Stanborough Park. She moved to Grantham, Lincolnshire, in 1965 when the plant relocated after the fire that did so much damage to the buildings and equipment. Leaving employment there in 1973, having worked at the Press for twenty-three years, she took on work in pastures new (pun intended).

Elsie has now lived in Grantham for forty-two years, and is a valued member of the church there. She recently received her medal, together with a signed letter from the Prime Minister.

At the beginning of this item I called her ‘girl’ – and that is how a lot of her friends address her. Well done, Elsie, and thank you for what you did for us in those troubled times.
The treasurer of the British Union Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Lord’s tithe £5,500.00 from anonymous, hand delivered to the BUC on 31 July 2008.

The young people from Preston church came to lend their support and used their singing talents to enhance the programme. The Balogh family from Hungary, who worship at Blackpool, brought their singing talents to the programme. The young carers and siblings of disabled children, Young Carers and their Friends (SYCF). Twenty-three people (fifteen young carers, aged 8-17, and eight adult volunteers) attended this exciting week which took place at Avon Youth UK Youth Centre.

The young carers and siblings of disabled children have limited access to leisure and other social activities, as most of their time is spent looking after loved ones or being left out because they have brothers or sisters with high dependency needs or challenging behaviour. The aim of the residential week was to give young carers an opportunity to meet new friends in similar situations, thereby providing a network for social, emotional and mental support. The week also provided an opportunity for spiritual development during the daily Power Time sessions, and physical development during the outdoor activities. Young carers took part in outdoor challenges such as the zip-wire, abseiling, climbing, adventure course, raft building and much more. The

Bright futures: ASNA project for young carers by Sophia Nicholls

Off-site visit to the beach and local shops ended with a great time bowling. The week ended with a ‘Banquet with a Difference’ where the young carers had a sumptuous candlelit meal provided by Cynthia Goodman and Caroline Kamara. The young carers and friends also presented their skills and talents during the blacktie through poetry, comedy and music.

Essential funding, trained by ASNA UK, for the adult volunteers supporting the young carers during the residential week took place earlier in the year. This project is also supported by the SEC. ‘Bright Futures’ provides young carers with opportunities for spiritual, emotional, physical and mental development and support.

The project initiator, Ruth Farrer, said, ‘I am very thrilled by this amazing response, and with the good number of helpers who turned up to pack and load the goods.’ Ruth will be travelling out to Romania at personal expense to ensure that the supplies are delivered satisfactorily.

Crieff helps Romania

More than 21 cubic metres of urgent supplies have been transferred from the Adventist church on Gwydyr Road, Crieff, into a large truck destined for Romania.

The Crieff Adventist church has gone solo with the strong feeling that it ‘was God’s will in His Name. Now he has written many worship songs and continues to write Christian albums, his latest being ‘Sola Scriptura’.

Since his conversion Neal Morse has gone solo with the strong feeling that it ‘was God’s will in His Name. Now he has written many worship songs and continues to write Christian albums, his latest being ‘Sola Scriptura’.

ALEX STURGESS

If you would like to volunteer for ASNA or you would like further information about Bright Futures and other ASNA projects, please contact 01451 833355 or email alex@special1.fsnet.co.uk. All donations to ASNA are welcome and can be made payable to ASNA and sent to The National Activity Centre in the New Forest, 01491 833395 or email alex@special1.fsnet.co.uk.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Treasurer of the British Union Conference acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the Lord’s tithe £2,500.00 from anonymous, hand delivered to the BUC on 31 July 2008.

More than lentil soup

Why would a world-famous American progressive rock artist find himself performing at Newbold Church Centre in Blackpool? Answer in the music scene for bands such as ‘Transatlantic’ and ‘Spock’s Beard’ and his guest appearances on other artists’ albums, Neal, an atheist from birth, told worshippers on Sabbath evening 5 August that he found himself worshipping the god of music – but the more he worshipped, the more he found himself depressed. ‘Like Esau’, he discovered, ‘you need more than lentil soup’. After a long journey, which he shared with his Newbold audience, he gave his life to Jesus in 2002. While still acclaimed for his musical prowess by his secular fans, Neal’s music now focuses on worship, with its centre pointing towards God. As the penultimate performance of this summer’s Excursion Tour, the chosen Newbold Church Centre as the venue, since a number of Newbold members are among those who have been blessed by Neal’s music and ministry. Nick Barclay is one of them. ‘I was a fan of Neal Morse’s music and wanted to see what his worship-style sessions were like, as opposed to a concert.’ The result for Nick was a new meaning to worship. ‘His dedication to the Lord and his ease at praying to the Lord whenever he felt the occasion for it really impressed me.’

The evening was organised by Newbold church youth leader, Steven Hubert. He says, ‘Neal Morse is my favourite Christian musician and expresses a true love for God and a great testimony in his music. It was great to meet and worship with him at Newbold.’

The event was not so much a concert as testimony and worship. Tired at the end of a summer’s touring, Neal still shared from his heart. Editor Liebhardt came to organise the refreshments, but found herself enchanted: ‘I liked how many of his songs applied to me as well. He talked about a lot of the emotions all Christians go through like doubt and wanting God’s guidance.’

Steven feels it is good to expose other Christians to other Christians who have a real faith and testimony to share. At the same time, the worship evening opened up the Newbold community to others who drove up to three hours to attend. ‘Newbold has great facilities. We had a lot of visitors from outside the Adventist Church come because Neal came.’ Nick adds, ‘It can build relations between other non- Adventist Christians and, more importantly, help to break down the mental security blanket many Adventists seem to have.’

More than lentil soup

Blackpool witnessing programme

More than lentil soup

Blackpool witnessing programme

More than lentil soup

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More than lentil soup
Thanksgiving Day at The John Loughborough School

A new chapter opens

Sabbath 5 July was a high day at The John Loughborough School. It was the first time in many years that Thanksgiving Day was hosted at the school, having been held at Holloway church for over fifteen years. The annual thanksgiving service took place in the school gym. This gave opportunity for the Year 11 senior students, at the end of their compulsory school years, to thank God for his blessings and to show appreciation to parents, staff and friends for their encouragement, prayers and support during their school years. The service was eagerly awaited. Every effort was made to give our students a special send-off as they move on to further their studies and training. They had worked hard to meet the new GCSE A*-C targets that include English and Mathematics. Some were determined to put in extra effort to achieve a higher than average performance in their GCSE coursework tasks and exam test papers. The executive head teacher Mrs Laura Osei wanted the service to be extra special for the students who had performed under very demanding circumstances during the school year.

Year 11 students had many misgivings and doubts about the venue because of the state of the gym. Mrs Anne Phillips, deputy head, Mrs Laura Osei, executive head, and Mrs Gina Abbequaye, SEC Interim Education director, met with the students to encourage them to trust in their artistic talents and DIY skills to recreate the gym. The students with grim faces took the chance to believe in their vision and on Thursday 3 July, the staff, support staff, students, namely, Julia Jones, Judith Jones, Quason Matthews, Michelle Whiteley, Latique (ex-students), Alpha and Afia Wilson (ex-students), and Mrs Osei and Mrs Abbequaye spent many hours through the night on scaffolding in the gym, weaving, stapling and hanging 600 metres of satin and organza to transform and recreate it into a banqueting hall. Mr Lammy also gave many hours of his time in preparing flyers and the programme.

It was a stunning, mind-blowing transformation. Many people described the gym as having the 'Wow factor!' The gold-padded banqueting chairs, offset with the cream background covering the walls which were swathed with gold, copper, chocolate and dark brown organza was a sight to behold. We had comments such as "beautiful", "wonderful" "marvellous" and "glorious" to describe the decor. A number of guests remarked that the whole setting reminded them of Moses’ temple in the wilderness.

The school's gymnasium was thus transformed into a sanctuary fit for worship. The committed and persevering effort of staff and present and past students made this possible. The students were splendidly attired for the occasion.

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Over 500 people attended the day, including family members, ex-pupils, church members, pastors, teachers, pupils, and well-wishers who came from far and wide to celebrate the graduating class's special day. There was standing room only!

The Sabbath School programme was special, with two experienced teachers, Mr Brian Macfarlane and Mr Moses Arendse, presenting the Sabbath School lesson. The excellent PowerPoint presentation by Mrs Christine Goehagen (associate assistant head teacher) gave a wonderful overview of the highlights of the school year. The graduates participated in leading out in the first part of the day.

The divine hour was a thrilling experience as the graduates marched in pairs into the gym to glorious singing and music. All present were astounded by the sight and their co-ordinated steps. They looked resplendent in their cream and brown flowing gowns and tiaras as they took their seats at the front. Miss Sampson and four of the graduates led out in the praise and worship with Miss Francis accompanying and singing a delightful and soul-stirring solo.

Staff, associate head teacher Ms
John Loughborough School’s excellent GCSE results make it the most improved school in the borough

by Gina Abbequaye, SEC Interim Education director

P raise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to your God, how pleasant and fitting to praise him! Psalm 147:1.

After a turbulent and challenging school year, John Loughborough School experienced the greatest joy on 21 August when their successful GCSE results were issued. These are the best results that the school has ever attained and there has been joy, laughter, hugs and singing glory to God for his mercies towards a hurting school.

The Interim Executive Board (IEB) was put in place in January 2007 and it began a major work of ensuring that a number of intervention strategies were put in place as a result of the Ofsted visits. The past term’s mock results were their initial focus.

The results of the mock exams held in December 2007 were as follows:

A* - C = 28%  
A* - C with Maths and English = 11%

The GCSE results this year 2008 are as follows:

A* - C = 58.82% – this is a 27% improvement on last year.

A* - C with Maths and English = 39% – this is a 27% improvement on last year.

These results are ‘awesome’! Every child has left JLS with qualifications to aid them in higher education – their passport for their future!

All praises must be given to the God we serve!

Through strong leadership, staff working collaboratively, hard-working students, a determined focus on the curriculum and meeting the needs of individual students, John Loughborough School has been able to achieve this wonderful result.

Both students and staff at our school deserve tremendous credit for their work. The biggest gains made by John Loughborough School show a remarkable turn-around since the high level intervention by our Children and Young People Service. We look forward to JLS sustaining that improvement,” said Councillor Liz Santry, cabinet member for Children and Young People of Haringey.

This is, indeed, a turning point for the future of JLS. We shall continue to strive to be A Beacon of Excellence.

Let us thank all students for their hard work.

Join me in giving praises and thanking God for all that he has done!

John Loughborough School WELL DONE!
### Car-jacking crisis

By Victor Hulbert

A security checkpoint, a car-jacking and armed militia transformed parts of the Newbold College campus on Wednesday 13 August. Explosions and gunfire brought ADRA staff on a personal security training course into realistic situations, where individually and as teams they were forced to plan and think on their feet for both their own and their team’s safety.

The simulation exercise climaxed four days of training organised by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency’s UK office (ADRA-UK) on behalf of the ADRA network. ADRA staff in donor offices frequently travel overseas where they are managing development and relief projects. Much of that work takes place in areas of the world that can be insecure, thereby putting staff at risk. ADRA-UK director Bert Smit, developed the training initiative after two staff were ambushed eighteen months ago while on assignment overseas. He says, “From experience we know that learning how to keep secure in different situations we may be facing is important. In addition, ADRA-UK has a ‘duty of care’ for its staff, and this Personal Security Training meets the UK legal requirements for providing protection for our staff.”

For more about ADRA visit www.adra.org.uk. For Newbold College visit www.newbold.ac.uk.

### North Wembley baptism

It was a high day at North Wembley church on 26 July when four young men gave their lives to the Lord. At a time when young men are in the media for knife and gun crime and terrorising the streets of gangs, these four young men are seeking to be used in warfare by the Lord.

The story began when one of the young men started to have Bible studies, and after finding there was something sweet about the name, and power of Jesus, he spread the word, and other friends were added to the number, as they also went on to request Bible studies. Soon the four young men could not get enough of the Bread of Life and saw there was only one decision to make, and requested baptism.

Saturday 12 July was an extra special Sabbath at Wood Green church. Three new members were added to our church family as our own Pastor Rystyn Smith conducted his first baptism. Marjorie Clarke, Raula Vaggas and Batasia Mandeya took the step of faith and publicly professed their commitment to Christ. Members of Barnet church, led by Pastor Jonathan Barrett, also joined us on this memorable afternoon, as they witnessed the baptism of Stanford Sango and welcomed him as a member of their church.

Throughout the day we were blessed by the ministry of Pastor Eric Lowe from the British Union Conference. His first sermon was entitled ‘The Open Door’ and was centred around Christ’s message in Revelation 3:7-12... ‘I know thy works, behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it.’ He went on to illustrate how God presents us with open doors in our lives — opportunities for us to serve him.

In his second sermon, before the baptismal service, Pastor Lowe spoke about ‘Wearing the Badge’. He demonstrated how being baptised into the church can be compared to a ‘badge’ that we can wear, symbolising our dedication to Christ. The baptismal candidates were encouraged to become ambassadors for Christ.

### Wood Green and Barnet baptism

While many may have been celebrating the first official day of summer on 21 June, the Beckenham Hope Community church was engaged in celebrations of a heavenly kind. Four precious souls were about to demonstrate publicly their decision to walk with the Lord through baptism, and another was given the right hand of fellowship.

As the church came together for worship there was a sense of anticipation for the coming baptismal and communion services. Pastor Owusu-Buame gave a rousing sermon encouraging the baptismal candidates along with the church, reminding us of our need for Christ. He also spoke of Jesus as the centre of these two ordinances and explained how they reflect his ministry.

At 5pm that afternoon the senior choir sang ‘He Touched Me’, the hearts of the members, and partake of the Agape meal/Communion service. The day was truly Spirit-filled, and the Hope Community members are looking forward to many more heavenly celebrations by the grace of God.

### Hope Community – heavenly celebrations

From the home of good music

Among the recent visitors to Crieff was Engelbert Hatzinger, former treasurer of the Austrian Union and publishing house manager. In addition to his church responsibilities in Vienna, Engelbert played in several orchestras throughout his homeland.

From the left: Alan, Mark, Konrad, Eimear and Efrem.

One of the curious things about Ireland is the weather. It’s supposed to be summer and yet the climatic conditions have a mixture of scents of spring, chills of autumn and packets of the summer sunshine. July 12 was one of those days characterised by morning rain and a cold breeze from the Irish Sea, yet for Jan Isaac and the Lotcas, Marian and Adrian, the day was very special and unique.

The three, who hail from villages in Romania, decided to give their lives to Jesus Christ and to affirm their decision with baptism. For Jan, the Adventist church was 300 miles away and, in any case, he wanted nothing to do with it. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, Jan started being serious in his walk with God when he came to Dublin. Similarly, the Lotcas worked in Israel and decided to commit their lives to God when they moved to Dublin.

The service was conducted by senior pastor Douglas McCormack, who bravely the chilly conditions to help with the baptism. Associate pastor and leader of the Romanian group of the church, Pastor Octavian Curteles, acknowledged that “there was joy in heaven when a person decided to come back to God”. The three were warmly welcomed into the fellowship of the church with hugs and kisses from congregation members. To end the service, the hymn ‘There is sunshine today’ was sung, and, indeed, there was sunshine in a cold Dublin.

### Sunshine in Dublin

by Willie Tafadzwa Chinamurindii

Four more for Jesus: Handsworth celebrates

As the senior choir sang ‘He touched Me’, the hearts of the members, visitors from other churches and supporting friends were being prepared for the wondrous that is naturally inherent when people give their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ through the act of baptism. Miles Roberts, Nathan Hutchison, Terence Richards and Carmen Wilson were the souls who had decided to begin a forever friendship with Jesus.

It was the candidates’ good fortune to be addressed by the Turks and Caicos Mission secretary pastor Richard Jackson, who was taking a short vacation. He addressed the candidates with a rather thought-provoking sermon entitled ‘Can you handle your pre-ordained purpose?’

In his soaring sermon, Pastor Jackson reminded both the candidates and the congregation that Jesus’ life was pre-ordained and predisposed. He was born to die and to save the world. His parents could not choose career paths for Jesus such as medicine, dentistry or law, because no one could change his path. In light of this, he instructed the candidates that they were not put on this earth just to build their own nest eggs, to write a critically acclaimed book, to lead political marches or to help the poor in Africa. They were to achieve these things, but what should be paramount in their lives was to know the will of God for their lives, and when this was known, they were to accept it and serve God until time will be no more.

The candidates were immersed by the resident pastor, Pastor Mackintosh, who was supported by Pastor Almeida. All candidates were voted into membership in the Handsworth church.

Car-jacking crisis

Coral island challenge

In one fell swoop five of Dundee church’s young people have accepted the challenge of spending a year as volunteers on the remote Pacific coral islands of Palau and Yap. Mark and Konrad are on their way to Palau Mission Academy, Eimear and Adam are setting out for the Yap Seventh-Day Adventist School. In the dedication service held in the Dundee church the young people briefly described their plans for service and told of the remarkable way doors had opened and finance had become available. Their departure will leave a sad gap in Dundee, but they can be assured of the good wishes and prayers of all their fellow believers in Scotland.

For more about ADRA visit www.adra.org.uk. For Newbold College visit www.newbold.ac.uk.
Our first opportunity to be engaged in presence evangelism and to share Jesus with others. All seven of us (including our pastor, Chris Smart and our pastor’s wife, Helen Smart) were encouraged to share the message. We were excited about the opportunities presented through meeting our friends of the various faiths — Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Christian Science, Church of the Latter Day Saints, and others.

Our great enthusiasm was being galvanized in service for Jesus through our presence in the local community. When the young people were asked what they would like to see happen next year, the majority of them said they would like to see more young people involved in the ministry. Our great enthusiasm was being galvanized in service for Jesus through our presence in the local community. When the young people were asked what they would like to see happen next year, the majority of them said they would like to see more young people involved in the ministry.

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**Uni students and young adults**

**Special focus at ASI-UK’s autumn retreat**

To show their commitment to university students and young adults, the UK chapter of ASI Europe has invited much-loved friend and mentor Japhet de Oliveira to be the speaker at their upcoming autumn retreat, 7-9 November.

University students and young professionals are encouraged to join ASI members at Staverton Park, Denbury, Northamptonsire, on Sabbath 8 November for a day of fellowship and contemporary worship.

Special pre-booking price for university students – just £15

To encourage attendance and show their commitment to students, ASI not only gives free membership to students in higher education, but they will be subsiding this event. To get the special pre-price of £15 you must book and pay by 31 October. (The full price of £50 a day will be charged for those just showing up on the day without pre-booking!) £15 includes morning and afternoon drinks, lunch and dinner.

For further information please contact Hannah Robson at hrobinson@stanboroughpress.co.uk, or send your cheque, made out to ASI-UK, to Christine Manners-Smith, 36 Potters Field, St Albans, Herts, AL3 6LJ.

Price for non-students

ASI has negotiated a special day rate of £30 for adults and £13.50 for children under 12 years for those who book and pay by 31 October. (Please note the full price of £50 a day will be charged for those just showing up on the day without pre-booking!) The day rate includes morning and afternoon drinks, lunch and dinner.

For those wishing to stay the weekend, the cost for accommodation and all meals from Friday night to Sunday lunch is just £120. Application forms for the weekend are available from Christine. Bookings need to be in by 15 October. To book for Sabbath, please send your cheque made out to ASI-UK to: Christine Manners-Smith, 36 Potters Field, St Albans, Herts, AL3 6LJ.

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**Debut album**

Mahali (pronounced Ma-ha-di) has released her long-awaited album, simply called Dignified. She started singing from an early age back in her birth country, the mountain kingdom of Lesotho, a country loved for its peaceful and hospitable culture. Indeed, these attributes were inculcated in Mahali’s life from early on and are abundantly evident in her daily life. This pleasant and friendly lady has zest for life and she lives to celebrate life. Her solo music career has taken off since she moved to the UK in 2002, and she has sung at various events across the country. She is based in Brecon.

In this album one comes to Mahali’s secret chamber and gets to bask in the presence of the Master that Mahali loves in word and deed. The title Dignified was chosen as this word was the closest she could find to describe her Maker. The music evokes the timeless beauty, priceless attributes and irresistible love of God. This album is strides ahead of most conventional gospel releases. It is easy on the ear, instructive to the heart (Johann-Sebastian Bach), and a real treat to the learned in music. In this album Mahali is joyfully giving praise to her Maker. This is not a display of raw talent only; it is the combination of rich experience compressed into melody, the liberty of owning your own cane and the genius of an African woman. In this work she has gracefully catapulted herself into the category of the best in the world.

Email: music@mahaliselepe.co.uk

Website: www.mahaliselepe.co.uk

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**Feedback**

Dear Editor

THREE CROSSES

The three crosses could have been arranged as Satan’s insult to the Trinity.

As it was, of course, one of the malefactors, probably a murderer, spoiled Satan’s insult by accepting Christ’s gracious offer of salvation and eternal life. Satan failed.

So much about The Cross indicates that what could have been the scene of Satan’s triumph was actually the guarantee of his final destruction.

JEREMY PONDER, Northchurch

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**Thank you**

Cassandra Baxter of North Wootton Community church would like to thank everyone who supported her with sponsorship for cancer research ‘Race for Life’. She raised a total of £145. Thank you.

Steve Hawkesworth is presenting a Grand Banquet on Sunday 12 October.

Starting time: 6pm

Location: The Pew Inn, Sutton, London, N17 7DX

Price: £15 per person

Age 18 and over

A three-course meal will be provided.

Funding:

Best-dressed male/female

Fashion show

Entertainment palace

Contact Nella Riley on 07900 181060

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**Auditing Service Vacancy**

General Conference Auditing Service (Trans-European area) have a vacancy for a travelling auditor (qualified or near-qualified) after 31 August 2008.

Requests for further details and applications (with CV) to Sandra Richards Grieve at GCAS, 119 St Peters Street, St Albans, Herts, AL1 3EY Tel: 01727 860331.