BC News 24 was broadcasting a severe weather warning for Lincolnshire for Sunday 7 September. But Adventists don’t frighten easily. The Open Day crowd was bigger than ever. The draw this year was Ken Burton’s Adventist Vocal Ensemble and Nancy Van Pelt, world-renowned author of bestselling books on marriage and the family. AVE went down a storm and sold out of their brilliant new CD. For two talks — one on marriage and one on parenting — Nancy held the marquee crowd in rapt attention. There were long queues when she signed copies of her new books HIGHLY EFFECTIVE MARRIAGE and TRAIN UP A CHILD. Nothing more than showers of blessing.

EDITOR

New students, new semester, new principal
by Helen Pearson, Newbold PRO

In her first two weeks at the College, Newbold’s new principal has begun to meet many of the groups who form the Newbold community. She seems to be enjoying her new role in all its varied glory!

Dr Jane Sabes, Newbold’s new principal, received her visa and arrived on campus in mid-August, in time to greet the incoming students warmly. She spoke briefly at The Experience, a student-led worship on the first Thursday of the semester, and shared insights from her life’s journey. On the first Sabbath morning, she preached at two services attended by congregations of staff, students and community members in the Newbold Church Centre. She shared a meditation on the gospel stories of the cleansing of the temple — a house of prayer for all peoples — and encouraged the congregations at two services to make prayer central to their lives.

Later in the day, Dr Sabes and other staff and students, new and old, were invited to get to know each other better at two social events. The first was a traditional English cream tea in the sunshine of Moor Close Gardens; the second event was Scottish dancing in the gym. A visiting team of specialists successfully encouraged staff and students to try their hands (and feet and arms and legs!) at the ancient pastime!

On Sunday, the new principal joined a group of new students for a tour of London led by Management lecturer, John Crissey. ‘English weather, but spirits high,’ said John Crissey, ‘and we burned some calories en route!’

At the first College assembly of the year, Dr Sabes focused on the first verses of Genesis 1. ‘Just as the Spirit was hovering over the darkness and chaos in the beginning, so that same Spirit is hovering over each one of us now,’ she said. ‘We want to reach up to be touched by that Spirit.’
Muddy boots and high heels welcome

That is the sign on the door of a cafe in Watford. It certainly made me look twice, as it was meant to. I went inside to talk to the person who had placed the note. ‘It was just put there thinking this might be something people want,’ said the lady who seemed to be in charge, who was also the cook, said she was too busy to talk about it. At least the cafe was busy.

Now there is something for us to think about. Generally, we are not too bad at accepting visitors into our churches, as we want to grow, so there is nothing more pleasing to us than to have strangers in our midst. On the other hand, too often, how good we feel when we accept people who are very different or even difficult to be near! It was once pastor at a church attended by a person who didn’t smell nice. People began to avoid sitting near this individual. Understandably, you may say. Yes, from our point of view, but what message of acceptance was that sending?

If we were to put the sign ‘Muddy boots and high heels welcome’ on our church door, we would have to mean it.

We will be ready when God is the most

We can all live in a state of readiness for the coming of our Lord. If we couldn’t, he would have said, ‘But understand this: the owner of the house knew at what time the night watchman came. But he kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.’

I left Southall that day mulling over that statement. It is true that an athlete on her block can be in a state of readiness for only a limited period. If the gun went, she would be running at top speed, but after a fairly short time. But as Christians we are enjoined to be in a constant state of readiness. How can that be done?

I reckon one of the best ways is to become wrapped up with God and what he is seeking to accomplish in our lives. I left Southall that day mulling over that statement. It is true that an athlete on her block can be in a state of readiness for only a limited period. If the gun went, she would be running at top speed, but after a fairly short time. But as Christians we are enjoined to be in a constant state of readiness. How can that be done?

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Young people take a stand

Leicester Central witnessed six of its young people publicly commit their lives to Christ on 30 August. Before their baptism each of the candidates made heartfelt testimonies as their loved ones and a wider church family proudly looked on.

The young ladies, Thenjiwe Banda and Marilyn Mthimkhulu, barely left a dry eye in the house as they spoke about their love for their families and how important parents had been in guiding their lives. Takudzwa Chiongotere just managed to compose himself as his mother spoke of her pride in seeing ‘her rock’ and the son who encouraged her to take his stand for the Lord.

August 9 had been circled on the Handsworth events calendar for a long time, and that he was eagerly looking forward to the Sabbath School department months of prepa-ration under the guidance of Winston Brown to bring together and to pre-pare the programme for the regeneration day. It was a day that will never be forgotten by those who attended. Unchristened people were present, among the ex-members whose walk through life was no longer Christ-centred, and those who had moved away and were worshipping elsewhere. The visitors’ welcome opened the ceremony in the Sanctuary. The Sabbath School was taught by Pastor John Melki. The speaker for the divine service of the Sabbath School was Pastor O. P. Chackochen. The speaker for the event was Pastor Gary Gordon.

The emphasis of the day is for the church to connect with the wider church family for supporting him with both encouragement and the necessary telling-offs he needed. Takudzwa Chiongotere just managed to compose himself as his mother spoke of her pride in seeing ‘her rock’ and the son who encouraged her to take his stand for the Lord.

The zusammen of the day to an end with Handel’s ‘Hallelujah Chorus’.

Community Fun Day

Nuns in Action, a Watford based voluntary organisation, hosted their annual fun day on Monday 23 August at the grounds of Stanborough Park. The event attracted over 1,000 people – the majority from the local community of Garston and North Watford.

Representing the Watford Borough Council was Jan Brown, who is the chair, accompanied by her husband Ian. Sam Davis, president of the SEC, was also present at the event.

‘The emphasis of the day is for the church to connect with the community,’ said Barbara Lawrence, co-founder of Nuns in Action. Local community groups such as The Watford Lions, The Watford Chinese Association, Mums against Knife and Gun Crime, and Watford Sheltered Housing had stalls with information leaflets, services and fundraising products. The local constabulary and fire service were also present and provided the community with a more ‘hands on’ feel to their critical services.

Entertainment was provided by a horse and gypsy horse from a fire service, and the church has the capacity to accommodate its new facilities on the campus. The church has the capacity to accommodate its new facilities on the campus.

Red carpet treatment for Jennie and Seeance

Jennie Logan and Seeance Bennett were two of the fifty-one representatives from Scotland who attended the recent BUC Sabbath celebration, fellowship, and for some good Indian food. It was a time for some long-lost friends to cross each other’s paths. Many exchanged addresses, telephone numbers and email details, and made arrangements to visit each other in the future.

The Scottish Mission. Adult volunteers enlisted for a range of duties, and various fundraising initiatives took place at the event. The church was a centre for the Handsworth’s Homecoming Day.

The church has the capacity to accommodate its new facilities on the campus.

Special Needs Day at Handsworth

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Teaching your children how to forgive
by Karen Holford, Family Ministries department, SEC

Oh Thomas, what a beautiful picture! Yellow and pink swirled together across the blue-marble sky of a sunset, and the colours tinted the light on the mountains and reflected in the lake. Thomas had spent hours working on the picture for a competition at school and it was the best picture he’d ever painted. Mum was surprised. She didn’t know that Thomas was so gifted at art, and she’d never seen him so dedicated to a school project. Let’s leave the picture on the table to dry, so that the paint doesn’t run or smudge,” she said.

Thomas carefully cleaned his brushes and washed out the water jar, and then he went outside to play with his basketball. Half an hour later he came back in to check on his painting. As soon as he saw the picture he began to yell, and then tears poured down his face. Mum and Dad came to see what was wrong, and they stared in horror at Thomas’s painting.

Tom shreds of painted paper were strewn under the table.

A healthy process for forgiveness
In order to help your children learn to forgive, you must understand the healthy forgiveness process yourself.
- Be a good example of offering healthy apologies and forgiveness.
- Support the child who needs to forgive and the child who needs to be forgiven – they both need coaching and guidance.
- Allow them time to calm down and think about what happened before you encourage them to follow the apology and forgiveness process.
- Make sure that the forgiveness takes place on the same day as the offence, where possible, or as soon as the offender can.
- The person who has caused the hurt needs to hear how much the other person was hurt by their actions. They probably won’t fully understand what they are apologising for.

One way to help the hurt person talk about how they feel is to encourage them to follow this simple structure:

When this happened (and you tore it up) . . .
I felt sad and angry because I had spent so long trying to get it just right, and . . .
Then the person who caused the hurt to repeat back what they heard the hurt person say. ‘So when I spoiled the painting you made for the competition, I felt sad and sad as well because I wasn’t respecting you and what you had made. Is that right?’ This helps the person who caused the hurt to understand more about the pain they have caused and it helps the person who was hurt to know that the other person has heard their feelings. ‘Then I’m so sorry that . . .’

Family worship activity on forgiveness
You need: A Bible, string cut into long lengths – 3 metres for each person, felt-tipped pens in different colours, scissors, fruit juice cocktails for the final celebration of forgiveness.

Involve each person to take a piece of string and use a felt-tipped pen to add some colour to each end of the string. Hold the lengths of string and tie them all together at a knot at one end. Invite each person to hold the lovely end of their string to see how it fun begins! Each person is to weave around and under the others, holding their string all the time. Be careful that no one gets caught in the web of string, and continue twisting and turning it as much as you can.

When the string looks very snarled, ask each person to pull their end as tightly as possible so that you have a big messy knot.

Take out the pair of scissors and ask everyone what you should do to sort out the mess. The quick fix solution would be to cut through the string to untie the knot, but then all the string would be damaged.

The better solution is to sit down together and slowly untangle the knot. That way all the string is kept safe, and nothing is permanently damaged.

As you work together to untangle the string, talk about times when other people forgive you and how good it felt, or when you confessed and a relationship was healed. Also read Psalm 103 and talk about God’s forgiveness and how wonderfully complete it is.

Sometimes in life we hurt each other. This is a normal part of the human experience. It is different and see things differently, and we’re not always aware of how other people feel about it. We may say something quite innocently that hurts someone else because we don’t know all of their life experiences, fears and deep sorrows. When you have finished untangling the knot together, give each person their original length of string and ask them to make a shape or a word that illustrates how they feel when they have been forgiven. Hold hands in a circle around the shapes you have made with the string and tie them in a knot to say a brief prayer of thanks to God for his forgiveness. Also pray that God will help you live together wisely and lovingly, trying not to hurt each other, but knowing that God can help you forgive and forget the wrongs that happen through his healthy process of forgiveness.

Celebrate together with a refreshing fruit juice cocktail or a simple meal after your worship time.

Cambridge singles ministry
by Althea and Delocia White

On Sunday 17 August thirty-five Adventist single adults converged at Cambridge church for its first Adult Singles social event – a Singles’ Barbecue. The age group ranged from early 20s to over 50s, representing various nationalities of never-married, divorced and widowed singles. Sharon Bruce-Augustine, Cambridge Family Life director, warmly welcomed everyone and commended the Singles Ministry for organising the event and extend- ing invitations to singles in the SEC.

We enjoyed a variety of delicious barbecue food and engaged in informal chats as we became acquainted with each other. It was amazing how easy conversations went! It was as though we had known each other for a long time. The highlight of the barbecue was a passionate and engaging discussion. Men and women eagerly shared thoughts on singleness and qualities they desired in each other. The two-hour barbecue was followed by a week-end activity.

In the afternoon interested individuals were invited to send a CV and to request an application form: admin@necadventist.org.uk

The responsibilities will include, among others, secretarial and data entry tasks; secretarial to add to our secretarial pool, a person with good secretarial skills and a commitment to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Previous secretarial experience preferred. Salary and terms of employment will be in keeping with denominational policies and are available on request.

Full-time Secretarial Vacancy at the NEC Office

Closing date for applications: Monday 1 November 2007

From the beginning of January 2009 the North England Conference is seeking a new secretary to add to our secretarial pool, a person with good secretarial skills and a commitment to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The successful applicant will be part of a team working in the NEC Office. The responsibilities will include, among others, secretarial and data entry tasks; secretarial to add to our secretarial pool, a person with good secretarial skills and a commitment to the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Interested individuals are invited to send a CV and to request an application form.

Eulogy

21 September.

Evance Eustace Hector (1937 -2007) d.

21 September.

Born 11 November 1937 in sunny Antigua. He came to England in 1961, transferring his membership to the Walthamstow church, as it overflowed onto the surrounding streets. A man of principle, he is sadly missed and greatly loved.

The Afro-Caribbean Community celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the Windrush

Willesden church will also be celebrating on Sunday 26 October with a fundraising concert followed by a buffet.

Cost: Adults £15, Children from 12 yrs £5

We need to hear from you NOW
Call Michelle on 07852941246

The First SEC Joint Voices’ Choir Festival

Date: Saturday 22 November
Venue: Watford Colosseum, Rickmansworth Road, Watford, WD17 3JN

Time: 5.30pm

This is a FREE event which will include specially invited world-class conductors, along with a massed choir performance. This will be a celebration of the human voice.

Further information on how to get involved will be available on our website: www.secjointvoices.com

Look out for further information which will be mailed to your local churches.

For tickets contact Lilian Francia-Hussey (01892 623 318) or Lynne Siddall (01892 646 422).
Tammy Griffith was diagnosed with a brain tumour at the age of three. It was removed, but had re-grown within seven years. When her chemotherapy was aborted, Tammy was discharged from hospital on a programme of palliative care.

Under these circumstances Tammy took her A levels and became a student at Newbold.

This amazing little book represents a collection of the wise words Tammy has found a source of inspiration and empowerment.

Order 10 copies of WONDERFUL WORDS at £19.90 + p&p and receive 2 copies of COME TO THE QUIET (foreword by Randy Maxwell), absolutely FREE.

Credit card hotline: 01476 539900

With the retirement of Helen Savage
Newbold College is seeking to appoint a full-time PA to the Senior Management Team

To commence by 1 December, or earlier by mutual agreement.

The successful candidate will have:
- A range of well-developed executive secretarial skills
- A range of office management skills
- A mastery of relevant computer software
- An ability to maintain confidentiality
- An ability to communicate with other church agencies
- A good manner with staff, students and visitors
- A willingness to be flexible about working hours

The successful candidate will:
- Perform the general duties of a PA
- Maintain office records
- Act as a liaison with staff and students
- Liaise with a range of external agencies
- Perform a range of tasks relating to the general operation of the College
- Be in sympathy with the ethos of the College

Salary is according to the denominational scale.

Applicants must possess the right to work in the UK prior to appointment. A letter of application, together with a current CV and references of two referees, should be sent to: The Principal, Newbold College, St Mark’s Road, Binfield, Bracknell, Berks, RG42 4AN.

Tel: +44 (0)1344 407400
Fax: +44 (0)1344 407404
Email: jsabes@newbold.ac.uk

The deadline for receipt of applications is 30 September.

REPTANCE
Is it the path to mission and unity?

Dr Denton Lotz
Former General Secretary of the Baptist World Alliance

The Beach Lecture 2008
Newbold Chapel
Newbold College
Tuesday 7 October 2008 at 7:30

For more information, contact:
Helen Pearson
heleen@newbold.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1344 407400
Fax: +44 (0)1344 407404

www.newbold.ac.uk