Harper Bell talent night, graduation and baptism

Harper Bell talent
by Jacqueline Halliday-Bell

‘Harper Bell has talent’ was an event staged by Key Stage 2 children, full of singing, instrumentals, mime and a special acrobatic choreography by head boy, Samuel Edwards. The event showcased the God-given talents of the students and raised funds for drama group costumes and the PTFA. The generous-sized audience enjoyed a pleasant evening.

Harper Bell Adventist school in Birmingham held two graduation programmes in July. The first on 14 July covered Nursery to Year 5 students and the second on 17 July was particularly to recognise the success of the Year 6 students who have recently moved on to their secondary education in a range of schools across the Midlands. At both programmes, certificates were presented to those who were moving from one foundation to another. For each year group, certificates were awarded to those whose behaviour and performance had excelled. The audience of parents, relatives and friends celebrated all the presentations with cheers and clapping.

Birmingham City Councillor, Ms Hamilton, presented some awards and commended all the children, not just the prize-winners, for their efforts and good work. Marcus Dove supported the event and said a few words of commendation to the children, explaining that in his previous role as BUC treasurer for fourteen years he was more often used to dealing with figures than words.

The school theme song, ‘A More Excellent Way’, closed the proceedings. A few days later, on 19 July, a baptism took place at Camp Hill church. Fourteen souls were baptised, an event witnessed by a packed church of friends and family supporters. Some of these had travelled from as far away as Holland and Venezuela to be present.
Justin Thyme asks before it’s too late

Tew old men, sitting on a park bench. The sun was shining, trees blossoming and the beautiful green grass and the beautiful green grass and the beautiful green grass and the beautiful green grass...ty.”

“Ere Fred,” says Jim, “Spring ain’t ‘arf bootiful!” “Fus...” says Fred, “sex is more bootiful!”

“True!” says Jim. “Yet spring comes more often. Can create much more beautiful memories.”

We all experience emotional pain at some point in our lives, and stressful moments are common to most of us. However, persistent stress, mental fatigue and anger affect our mood and behaviour and, ultimately, our outlook on life.

Impact

Male or female, to be ‘the greatest among your sex’ is the greatest challenge. Being second is a form of idolatry. God knows the sacrifice of publically, publicly and the sacrifice of humiliation. His crowning glory is not honoured by unnatural acts of sex, perversion and shameful, animal-like behaviour. If you’re in any doubt (God forbid) then look up the verse that says: ‘Who told you that you were naked?’

No comment.

Exercise

1. Identify your feelings, thoughts and beliefs and how they impact your response to life events.
2. Identify your feelings, thoughts and beliefs and how they impact your response to life events.
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Seven simple steps to get your children to enjoy healthy food

1. Learn to enjoy healthy food yourself.
Example is the best teacher. Training yourself to like healthy eating will also give you the confidence to guide your children on the same path.

2. Curb their taste for processed sugars.
Sugar keeps children on an emotional rollercoaster, causes disagreeable behaviour and continually sets off cravings for more and more sugar.

3. Teach them to like pure water.
Children need liquids, but they don’t need calorie-laden, high-sugar soft drinks and juices.

4. Substitute whole grains for the processed ones.
Wholesale breads, brown rice and whole-wheat pastas should be your grains of choice. You may have to start with half and half and keep adding more of the good stuff until you eventually reach 100% whole grains.

5. Eliminate random snacking.
Some say that only alarmists attempt to give food only at regular intervals, particularly in the case of young children, because the stomach is small, and because the system can better digest food when there is no other food around to interfere. Food should be given at regular intervals.

6. Help them learn to like nutritious foods and vegetables.
Carrots and apples only taste sweet to children who don’t eat a lot of sugar. Serve vegetables when children are hungry and fresh fruit for dessert.

7. Offer only good, healthy choices.
Don’t give them anything but nutritious foods. If their only choices are natural whole foods, they’ll eventually prefer them.

Food for thought about food for children

Submitted by Dr Clemency Mitchell

The following material is taken from the chapter ‘The Child in the Ministry of Nutrition for England’. While the book which was the inspiration for the NEWSTART programme, it was written in 1905 and, although the language may seem old fashioned, the simple principles it teaches are timeless. A reminder to these ‘old fashioned’ principles would go a long way towards our current health饮食ing epidemics of obesity and eating disorders.

Too much importance cannot be placed on eating the right kind of food at the right time. Those who are tired out, or worn out, or suffering from an illness should be given food only at regular intervals, particularly in the case of young children, because the stomach is small, and because the system can better digest food when there is no other food around to interfere. Food should be given at regular intervals.

Food is not an end in itself. The many of the people of God find themselves on the brink with them, caught up in the human side of the crisis. There are those who will be changed and those who won’t. They, too, will have to face the events that were foretold in the records of history, in discerning the changing seasons of world affairs, and in recognising when his coming was near.

Food and the people of God

Ever since the earliest times, the strength of power-conditioned nations, nations become ‘distressed’ when their wealth, might or morale was diminished. The sin is true today. Little can distress a nation more than the onset of an econ-omic crisis that threatens its ability to maintain its place and status in the community of nations. Perplexed or afraid, they tend to ignore the signs when the chaos remains resistant to revival. Amazingly, financial markets have been behaving like other 20th-century prophets of doom foretelling deepening crises ahead. This

Adapted from Miss Greene at www.drcreatemore.com 5.10.08

Dr Lowe discusses the economic meltdown and concludes: ‘Is it time that important things should give way to essential things?’

These are indeed distressing and perplexing times. If we were not living through such dramatic moment in our lives, we could be forgiven for thinking that we’ve been saddled onto a million-dollar movie set designed for a fantasy thriller. The scenes that we are witnessing could scarcely be more alarming or dramatic. But this drama, an epic tragedy, is like no other in recent history. The protagonists of its key actors are graded as awesome. idolised for their high intellect, high earnings, and the high-prime, site-scarclays they occupy, the investment bank managers who held centre stage. These con-jurers of wealth, versed in what most others seem like sayings from a different dimension. ‘ailure mantras like ‘securitisation, default-swaps, and capitalised-out debts’, causing entrenched deviates, otherwise known as serious investors, to vector, clouding their wagers. Those were the good times. Few publicly acknowledged that lesser times were at hand and, when the puck was stagnant with un-expectected force. In response, governments around the world fought desperately to fend off bank meltdown. Stock markets continued to nose-dive, wiping billions off share values. Investor confi-dence collapsed and mind-numbing sums were infused to shore up the battered system. There was panic and some loss of control. Obsessive Bible students have long recognised that the conduct and control of international affairs and the terms of trade and finance were intrinsically linked to end-time events. In the past few months, the strength of power-ful, secular nation states was determined by their military competence and social cohesion. Wealth was the measure of a society. A nation’s economic strength, the wealth of its people, remunerates the military, and ensures the exist-ence of a so-called ‘middle class’, the educated strata of middle-class, upper class and upper-middle class, of successful secular societies. Nations became ‘distressed’ when their wealth, might or morale was diminished. The sin is true today. Little can distress a nation more than the onset of an econ-omic crisis that threatens its ability to maintain its place and status in the community of nations. Perplexed or afraid, they tend to ignore the signs when the chaos remains resistant to revival. Amazingly, financial markets have been behaving like other 20th-century prophets of doom foretelling deepening crises ahead. This

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Miracle building for New Life
by Augustus Lawrence

After searching for a permanent home since its inception in 1987 the New Life church in north London now has a new miracle home. Finding suitable and affordable property for a church in north London is almost impossible. Members cannot compete against property developers in this highly priced market. The members had been looking at a former YMCA building situated on Lennox Road, Finsbury Park, which was on the market at a price of £1.1 million. With £400,000 in their building fund it was an unreachable goal. Nevertheless, members recognised the need for a home the property went to auction on Tuesday 7 October. However, a few minutes before the auction began the auctioneers put it out for building. Earl Ramharack Singh got expert advice to make a pre-auction offer. After a few minutes of adrena-lin rush caused by our anxious wait-ing for a response from the vendors, the offer of £890,000 was accepted instantaneously. The members are replacing in answered prayer and looking forward to refurbishing their new home. Watch this space!

Stanborough Park church: A new era begins
words and photos by Natalie Davison

On Sabbath 13 September, Stanborough Park church started a new era in its long life. For the very first time it ran two worship services at 11am on the same premises. The traditional family service continued as usual in the sanctuary with an inspiring sermon by church elder Brian Davison and a musical contribution from the Stanborough choir who sang ‘God and God Alone’. The children were told the remarkable story of the parking ticket machine which tried to claim £1,500 from Cecilia Davison! Meanwhile, in the Cedar and Sycamore church halls an air of anticipation was growing as the chairs laid out for those attending filled up rapidly. The children were delighted with the crayons they received (courtesy of Pizza Hut in Garston) to colour in the picture handed out by the ushers. As Pastor Nathan Stickland stepped up to the microphone the hubbub died down as we all were welcomed. We then listened while he explained the purpose and aims of the new service. Following praise time everyone received a ‘life-saver’ sweet, much to the surprise and delight of the adults as well as the children! As mouths were quiet we listened to Pastor Dejan Stojkovic who explained the story of the spider family and the vacuum cleaner. Dejan had everyone laughing with him and then, as usual, he expertly wound up his sermon with the message that Heaven isn’t obtained by our own efforts.

The intention of the ministerial team was not to make the church members choose one camp over another but, instead, to increase the options for Sabbath morning worship, taking account of the differing styles of worship suggested by the more than 300 attending members and regular visitors. Supported by the entire ministerial team, the organisers of the new services have fully involved the youth of the church, with youngsters taking on jobs such as ushering, audio-visual responsibilities (sound, PowerPoint, lighting and so on), praise team participation, music accompani-ment and worship committee participation.

The services do not run every week. The whole church membership meets in the main sanctuary once a month for a youth service; and on special occasions, such as harvest thanksgiving, communion, baptisms and so forth, everyone is united in the main church.

The following is more informal setting in which lapsed members and friends can feel comfortable worshipping. There is a growing number of 20- and 30-somethings who, after many years, are now returning to church to bring their babies, toddlers and young children to Sabbath School. Some still haven’t quite made that step back into church, preferring instead to send their children with the grandparents! However, it is this folk that the parallel service organisers would especially welcome. They hope that the format and setting will make them feel more at ease, while still facilitating meaningful worship.

The next service was held on 25 October with speaker Nathan Stickland. Future speakers are Mary Barrett (8 November), Phil Yates (15 November), Joanna Evers (22 November), and Paul King Brown (29 November). Please feel free to attend on any of these dates or see the church website for more information: www.stanboroughchurch.org.

Pastor Nathan Stickland explained the purpose of the new services.

I’ll do my best not to talk about global financial pain. It has been covered elsewhere.

Instead, something else in the news caught my attention. First of all, a question for you. Which four people (within the last hundred years) would you say best represent goodness and compassion? According to the Swedish public, they were Angelina Jolie, Nelson Mandela, Mahatma Gandhi and U2 singer Bono. I was surprised at the choice of Angelina Jolie and Bono, until I did a bit of googling and now realise that both of them have been busy, not just as an actress and singer respectively, but also in humanitarian work.

Anyway, photographs of these four people have been used in a new glossy magazine-style Bible called Bible Illuminated. The Book, when published in Sweden, the edition boosted Bible sales by 50% in 2007. The New Testament version of The Book will be released here soon. If we follow the example of Sweden, it will be sold in fashion shops, art galleries and design stores.

Will it be as popular here as in Sweden? It could be, as our level of secularism is similar to theirs, and I suspect our choice of photographs of people representing goodness and compassion is likewise similar.

I said I would try not to talk about financial issues, but I am going to allow myself just a few words. I wonder, in these changing times, if the British, mostly non-church-attending public will be more open to spiritual things than they were a few months ago? Could it be that Christianity, if it has the kind of packaging that is likely to appeal to them, will now begin to have a place in their lives?

Packaging has a small but nonetheless important role. What is of more value is what the Bible actually has to say to people. On that score, the words of Jesus are always relevant, but maybe especially so to those who are looking for security in something other than finances: ‘I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.’ John 6:35.
Members of All Saints, Wokingham, an Anglican church about three miles from Newbold, can see more of their churchyard than they could a week ago. The transformation is thanks to a group of students and staff led by groundsman, Andreas Lamberth, Newbold Students’ Association president, Dr Jane Sabes. Last Friday, eighteen students, accompanied by the groundsman and the principal, and armed with gardening implements, spent an afternoon in the graveyard of All Saints Church. Many of the headstones date back to the early nineteenth century and have become overgrown with the passage of time.

A thank-you note from All Saints churchwarden, John Smith, says: ‘The difference in the section that has been cleared is dramatic. It is a long time since we’ve been able to see the monuments and tombs in that part of the ancient churchyard. We hope now to be able to get a mower in to keep the re-growth down in much of it and to cut back other re-growth before it takes over again.

The tending of the formal flower bed and the cutting of the grass has also made a big difference and means that our own volunteers can move on to other tasks at our next work day.’

Newbold College principal Dr Jane Sabes welcomed the students and made sure their stay was full of activity. Newbold lecturers Peter Baldenstone, Tabitha Cedenio, Steve Currow and Marirko Markov gave the teenagers a taste of the subjects they teach – Shakespeare, Diversity Studies, Theology and Business Management, respectively. A library tour (in Norwegian?) led by Newbold’s librarian, Per Lisle, gave them a taste of student academic life with a Scandinavian accent!

As an alumnus of Newbold, Robert Lindsay is keen to bring his students to experience the college and enjoy its Christian academic environment. He said, ‘Everyone has been so nice. The students were very positive about the trip to Newbold. They were really chuffed with the Shakespeare hour with Peter Baldenstone. They all, without exception, loved Newbold food! Even the carnivores loved the food. They thoroughly enjoyed the Sabbath services too. My feeling is that Newbold has a lot to offer. Being met at the station, a warm welcome, and a good programme goes a long way!’

Newbold College regularly welcomes church and school groups for short-term and extended visits. If anyone is interested in bringing a group to Newbold College, please contact Tabitha Cedenio on 01344 407492 or email tcedenio@newbold.ac.uk.

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Lotz on repentance

The 2008 Beach Lecture had a provocative question in its title: ‘Is repentance the path to mission and unity?’ ‘Yes’ was the clear and resounding answer from the guest lecturer, Dr Denton Lotz, General Secretary Emeritus of the Baptist World Alliance, as he addressed the audience of staff, students and church members in the College’s Moor Close Chapel.

Dr Lotz’s wide-ranging lecture began with an exposition of the story of the reconciliation of Jacob and Esau, followed by a look at God’s call to ancient Israel to repent as a prerequisite to the healing of their land. Dr Lotz talked about the New Testament call to repent addressed not only to individuals but to cities and nations, and he completed his biblical survey in Revelation with the admonition to the church at Ephesus: ‘Repent and do your first works’. ‘Forgiveness and reconciliation,’ he said, ‘are a biblical imperative.’

More contemporary sources were the focus of the second half of the lecture as Dr Lotz quoted wisdom about reconciliation from the psychiatrist Paul Tournier, the post-war Stuttgart Declaration of Reconciliation, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. Modern prophetic insights from Abraham Lincoln, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Martin Luther King and George Carey focused on the necessity for repentance both as a cathartic prerequisite for individual and national reconciliation and for the development of the Kingdom of God. Dr Lotz focused particularly on corporate repentance in the Church with regard to racism and called on Western missionaries to give up their colonial activities and turn to a theology of repentance.

‘The day of Christianity in the southern hemisphere is dawning,’ he said. And he asked another significant question: ‘Are Western churches prepared for repentance or do they want to continue as before?’

‘I have given the question to lotz for a prepared response, but I don’t know whether he knows the answer or not. ’

A lively half hour of questions followed the lecture. Questions raised discussions on, among other things, the election of Barack Obama as a national act of repentance, and a decline in its place in liturgy and preaching. ‘Do contemporary Christians want faith without repentance?’ asked one participant. ‘We’re telling the world to repent but they don’t see us repenting,’ said Dr Lotz.

Worship in a diverse Church

The Newbold Diversity Centre began its eighth year with a lecture by one of the Centre’s founding team.

Dr David Trim, at present fulfilling his obligations as the Walter C. Utt Visiting Professor at Pacific Union College in Angwin, California, returned to Newbold and was invited to give the September Diversity lecture. His title was: Liturgy and Community: Worship in a Diverse Church.

In his lecture to fifty staff, students and community members, Dr Trim began by recognising the varieties of language, class and ethnicity in most contemporary churches. He claimed that most of our church debates on worship but rather wanted to ask two questions: ‘What do we intend to do in worship?’ and ‘What are we trying to accomplish?’

His sixty-minute lecture focused on principles which, he said, were fundamental to worship regardless of cultural bias. Worship is God’s primary requirement and is an important part of his life. But this comes second to his decision to follow Christ and have a daily walk with him.

Baptism at St Albans

It was a happy day when three young people were baptised at St Albans church. Left to right, Nyasha Rugube, Kerhys Sterling and Debbie Millsop publicly declared their decision to follow Jesus. We give God thanks for young people who are willing to answer the call to follow Jesus and dedicate their lives to his service.

The candidates were given words of encouragement by family members, and there was a glow on their faces as they came up out of the water. Kerhys has now taken up a place at the University of Birmingham where she will be studying Geography. She told us that her spiritual life has always been important to her and that she has experienced Jesus Christ working in her life. Debbie was dedicated as a baby in St Albans church. She has also taken up a place at the University of Arts in London to complete her BA degree. She told us that it was at summer camp where she took an active role in singing that she decided to accept Jesus into her life. Nyasha is 14 and has an active interest in sports which, he says, is an important part of his life. But this comes second to his decision to follow Christ and have a daily walk with him.

Yulia’s story: from Jakarta to Guildford

Yulia’s dream came true on the afternoon of 21 June when she was baptised by Pastor Sinisa Horvat.

This is how she told her story. ‘My mother is a Seventh-day Adventist, along with my aunt, my grandmother and my great-grandparents (now deceased). My grandmother and my aunt attend the Kramat Puluh Adventist church in central Jakarta, Indonesia. I was born in Jakarta, and I remember attending children’s Sabbath School. I loved to sing action songs.’ She continues, ‘Ever since I can remember, I’ve been taught in the ways of Christianity and told the stories of Jesus. Since June 2007 I have wanted to dedicate my life to Christ. I began studying with Pastor Vlado Godina. I hope to offer my services fully to Jesus and his work when I am out of full-time education. I have been studying with Pastor Sinisa Horvat since January. He has helped me to understand the principles and message of the Bible more clearly. He educated my father and me in the history of the Adventist Church. On the afternoon of 21 June, at Newbold College, Guildford church members prepared a beautiful baptismal service for me. Two important items that touched me were when my father read a special Bible passage and a verse from a special gospel music. Julia concludes: ‘I am really glad to have confirmed my faith in front of Guildford church.’

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News Break

Yulia’s story: from Jakarta to Guildford

It was a happy day when three young people were baptised at St Albans church. Left to right, Nyasha Rugube, Kerhys Sterling and Debbie Millsop publicly declared their decision to follow Jesus. We give God thanks for young people who are willing to answer the call to follow Jesus and dedicate their lives to his service. The candidates were given words of encouragement by family members, and there was a glow on their faces as they came up out of the water. Kerhys has now taken up a place at the University of Birmingham where she will be studying Geography. She told us that her spiritual life has always been important to her and that she has experienced Jesus Christ working in her life. Debbie was dedicated as a baby in St Albans church. She has also taken up a place at the University of Arts in London to complete her BA degree. She told us that it was at summer camp where she took an active role in singing that she decided to accept Jesus into her life. Nyasha is 14 and has an active interest in sports which, he says, is an important part of his life. But this comes second to his decision to follow Christ and have a daily walk with him.

Yulia’s dream came true on the afternoon of 21 June when she was baptised by Pastor Sinisa Horvat. This is how she told her story. ‘My mother is a Seventh-day Adventist, along with my aunt, my grandmother and my great-grandparents (now deceased). My grandmother and my aunt attend the Kramat Puluh Adventist church in central Jakarta, Indonesia. I was born in Jakarta, and I remember attending children’s Sabbath School. I loved to sing action songs.’ She continues, ‘Ever since I can remember, I’ve been taught in the ways of Christianity and told the stories of Jesus. Since June 2007 I have wanted to dedicate my life to Christ. I began studying with Pastor Vlado Godina. I hope to offer my services fully to Jesus and his work when I am out of full-time education. I have been studying with Pastor Sinisa Horvat since January. He has helped me to understand the principles and message of the Bible more clearly. He educated my father and me in the history of the Adventist Church. On the afternoon of 21 June, at Newbold College, Guildford church members prepared a beautiful baptismal service for me. Two important items that touched me were when my father read a special Bible passage and a verse from a special gospel music. Julia concludes: ‘I am really glad to have confirmed my faith in front of Guildford church.’
Newcastle church booked their 2009 retreat nearly a year in advance. The event will take place at the famous Aberdaron campsite from 25 to 31 May 2009.

Due to popular demand and the positive impact on fellowship, ‘Together as one’ was the theme chosen for this year’s annual retreat for over eighty Newcastle church members who spent the second weekend in August in picturesque Ambleside in the Lake District. For two years running now, the church has organised an annual retreat which provides an opportunity for members to enjoy some leisure time as a Christian family.

The special focus for this year’s retreat was enhancing unity and fellowship within the church family. Newcastle church, like many Adventist churches in the British Isles, has a very diverse membership, with over fifteen nationalities represented, making ‘unity’ a very fitting theme.

However, at Newcastle, unity doesn’t have to mean uniformity! As such, eight families pitched their tents at the Great Langdale National Trust campsite, while twelve families preferred to retain most of their home comforts by lodging in the caravans at Greenhowe Park. Among those who opted for tent camping was the family of Benedict and Mary-Jane Labro, with their six-week-old daughter, Janette, and boys Jan and Sebastian. ‘The caravans are more comfortable, but for a family of five it is more practical and less expensive to stay in tents,’ said Mary-Jane after the event.

The wet weather did not deter the enthusiastic holidaymakers from having a great time. Being a weekend event, it included Sabbath, during which a range of relaxing and yet spiritually enriching programmes were shared. Church leader Pastor Sandy Parman shared a short but insightful message on ‘How beautiful it is for believers to dwell in unity’. On Saturday afternoon, Pastor Sandy led a group of enthusiasts to Hardknott, the site of the Roman fort, via the Hardknott Pass. The winding roads, steep cliffs and descents proved not to be for the faint-hearted. Unknown to the group, the pass on which they travelled boasts England’s two steepest roads, each having a gradient of 1 in 3. However, all who dared to make the treacherous journey up the pass to the historic spot enjoyed the breathtaking views along the way.

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Sabbath morning 30 August was one of the brightest days this summer. Not only did the sun shine, but so did our gratitude and love for each other as we witnessed the baptism of four precious souls won for Christ. Prior to the personal witness of each candidate, Pastor Jan McKenzie spoke briefly on the importance of being free from guilt and the surety of ‘Emmanuel with us’, never again to walk alone, stressing the point that baptism is only the beginning of our walk with God.

Each person entered our newly renovated baptismal pool. They are originally from Rwanda and have now settled in the UK. Talitha, clearly a popular pupil and much loved by her family, was successful in her application to a local grammar school. After studying with Wendy Sammons she decided to join us.

Together as one

Newport baptism

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Following a very happy fellowship lunch, members and friends assembles to witness a service of anointing for three sick members. They were L. Green and T. K. Winkless, whom Pastor McKenzie addressed to the necessity of more prayer for the sick. During his remarks, Pastor McKenzie emphasised the need for more prayer for the sick.
Third member of Stanborough Park church scores a century

Stanborough Park church has just celebrated the birthday of its third current member to achieve a centu-
year, and the second one this year. However, despite the celebrations in mid-
October, the Queen was going to be late with her congratulatory telegram as, just like Yves Vity, an official and an unofficial birthday. Yves was born in the Rose-Belle district of Grand-Port/Savanne in the South of Mauritius on 15 October 1938. However, his birth was regis-
tered as 15 November (common practice at the time to avoid fines for late registration), which is when he will receive his telegram from the Queen. Yves was born into a Catholic family, the fourth of eleven children (six boys and six girls – one boy died in infancy). As a child he didn’t like school too much, but once he left school he was tutored by a local reti-
ed headmaster who helped him to obtain his teaching qualifications, although for his first employment he was apprenticed to a shoemaker. He soon moved on and learned tailoring which he found more interesting and rewarding. By the time he married his wife Liliane in 1948 he was employed as a teacher, a profession which gave him the right to travel abroad. So in 1963 he endured a month travelling on

employment as a tailor at Austin Reed. When the time came to return home he was told that if he wanted to have a permanent job there the company would sponsor him. So after his return home he was surprised to be notified that his work visa had come through and a job was waiting for him at Austin Reed. This was an opportunity he could not turn down so, leaving his family in Mauritius (they were unable to accompany him at the time) and retiring from teaching, he went to live with his sister in Bounds Green.

Liliane brought their three younger daughters and son to join him for a working holiday in January 1967. But she developed breast cancer and, with more specialist treatment and better educational opportunities for her family available in England, decided to stay permanently. The oldest daughter joined them the following summer and they set up home in Malida Vale for seven years before moving to Harrow Wood.

By this time Yves had left Austin Reed and was working as a clerk at the Land Registry in Harrow. He was surprised to be notified that his work visa had come through and a job was waiting for him at Austin Reed.

Glasgow baptisms

Sabbath October 4 was a high day for the Kelv family in particular and the Glasgow church as a whole. That was the day Victoria Kelly, aged 13, decided to declare publicly her love for God and her desire to follow him by being baptized. The programme kicked off with a wonderful sermonette by Pastor Ileie Tarlev, based on Mark 16:15-16. Pastor Tarlev emphasized that baptism by immersion was crucial for all believers, primarily because it originated with

God as evidenced by the baptism of Jesus. He further explained that baptism is a public stand for what we believe and also a witness to the world. Lastly, Pastor Tarlev spoke of both births and their death, the first birth and first death over which we have no control, and the second birth and second death over which God gives us the chance. We can choose the second birth by being born again, which thereby makes the second death avoidable.

Cheryl has put her success down to hard work and complete depend-
ence on God. She hopes that her achievements will encourage all our young people to study hard and to give their all in whatever they do. Dr Stewart shares with us the first mathematical equation that she learned from one of her tutors: PRAYER = HANDBALL WORK = SUCCESS; and, to date this equation has never and will never fail. She now practices at the A-G Dental Practice in Croydon, Hatch, under the mentorship of Dr Apolionus Allen, and is thoroughly enjoying her pro-
fession, especially the fact that she is now earning a salary! Cheryl would like to thank her parents Sam and Kathy, sister Caroline and grandmother Phyllis Stewart for their support, and all her many friends and church family (some from other churches) for their constant encouragement and prayers.

FOCUS

by John Surridge

S hrewsbury is famous for being the birthplace of Charles Darwin. Next year it will become the focus of a number of celebrations marking both the 200th anniver-
sary of Darwin’s birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his influential book, On the Origin of Species. In an attempt to get a word in first, the Shrewsbury church has organised a series of three lectures promoting Creationism. Under the general heading ‘Darwin’s God’ these lectures aim to present at least some balance in a society where the mantra ‘Evolution is fact’ reigns almost supreme.

The first lecture of the series was given on Tuesday evening 14 October in the Gateway Centre, a prominent arts venue adjacent to the city’s railway station. The speaker was Kendall Owen, an experienced archaeologist and Bible lecturer. In his presentation, entitled ‘Just in Time’, Kendall showed in some detail how, time and time again, archaeology has proved the reliability of the Bible.

Starting with Voltaire – who in the eighteenth century predicted that the only place Bibles would remain would be in museums – Kendall listed a number of leading figures who had dismissed the Bible as mere myth and of no historical value. For each attack on the Bible, however, archaeo-
logical discoveries and technological advances revealed contrary evidence. After dealing with the Gypsumic Epic, the Moabite Stone and the Dead Sea Scrolls, Kendall concluded, ‘Archaeology supports the authority of the Bible. We need to work with a spade in one hand and the Bible in the other.

Kendall’s lecture style was authoritative and convincing, but also highly entertaining. His collection of photographs from archaeological sites around the world – some of which are no longer accessible – is both his obvious familiarity with and love for the subject, endeared him to his audience. Although he spoke for just over an hour the time passed quickly and a number of audience members stayed after to ask more detailed questions.

Copies of the special ‘Crisis over Origins’ FOCUS magazine were given to all who attended. Several hundred more have been distributed in the community.

Two more lectures in the ‘Darwin’s God’ series are planned, with astronomer Dr Mart de Groot on Tuesday 11 November, and Old Testament expert Dr Lawrence Turner on Tuesday 2 December. All lectures start at 7.30pm. Admission-free. Venue: The Gateway Centre, Shrewsbury.

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**Golden Wedding**

Earlier this year Denise and Eric Winch, members of the Church of Scotland in Scotland, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. Denise and Eric met at the old Camp Hill church in Edinburgh when Eric assisted Pastor Ken Lacey in his follow-up campaign in the church. Denise had attended the Theatre Royal series and she and her mother had been baptised with nearly seventy others, swelling the already established congregation.

Despite Eric’s immediate transfer to Newcastle-on-Tyne, they soon became engaged and married in the spring of 1958. When Denise’s mother died soon after her wedding, Leslie, her 8-year-old sister, came to live with them for the next five years. Five children, Lorraine, Diana, Paul, Valérie and Helen, were born during those early years of marriage.

Eric spent the first fifteen years of his career in the NEC ministry, working alongside Pastors Howard Parkin, Ken Lacey, Fred Pearce, Amos Cooper and Bernard Walton in Leeds, Birmingham, Manchester, Newcastle and Nottingham among other places.

Between 1970 and 1973 Eric studied for three years at Callendar Park College of Education in Falkirk, where he qualified with Merit in the Primary Teaching Course and Upper Primary Associateship.

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**On Sabbath 4 October the Heavenly Melodies Choir from Sheffield Burrenauge descended on the Rotherham church plant to join us in celebrating our first Anniversary. As members of the choir conducted the inspiring Sabbath School, the entire congregation was transported through a variety of songs. Last September, 2007, Pastor V. Marshall, after a long period of sickness from Callendar Park and Doncaster and Sheffield Burrenauge, officially set up a choir to minister to the congregation. Later Rotherham’s children sang their hearts out as they blessed the congregation with ‘This little light of mine’.**

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**FRED BYRON FRANCIS (1926 – 2008) d. 29 July.**

Fred Byron Francis was a well-known Christian who was deeply involved in the church in Scotland. He was a beloved figure who had a great impact on the lives of many people. Fred had a strong faith and a deep love for the Lord, which he shared with others through his powerful sermons and writings. He was known for his faithfulness and dedication to serving the Lord and his congregation. Fred was a man of great humility and integrity, and he will be greatly missed by many. We will remember his teachings and his example of faith and devotion. **FRED BYRON FRANCIS (1926 – 2008) d. 29 July.**

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Adventists welcomed by Churches Together in Wales

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Wales was welcomed into Category B Membership of Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales) at their annual general meeting in Aberystwyth on Tuesday 14 October. Although the Adventist Church has for many years had a good relationship with Cytûn, this formal step was necessary follow-
ing a change in their legal status to a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Pastor John Surridge represented the Welsh Mission at Cytûn meetings for a number of years back in the 1990s and then went on to represent the wider Church at the national ecumenical body, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. Having returned to Wales as Mission president, he is glad to meet up again with former friends from the other churches. Speaking after the meeting he said, I was surprised to see so many people I knew from before at the AGM. Most of them were already familiar with the Seventh-day Adventist Church and a couple of people there even had Adventist relatives.

The Seventh-day Adventist position on ecumenical relations is that where possible we should have observer-consultant status. In the case of Cytûn this is Category B Membership, which allows representatives to attend and speak at meetings, but does not give them voting rights.

Questions for evolutionists

Dear Editor

Thanks for publishing ‘Crisis over Origins’, the latest FOCUS magazine. It was very timely and it was great to read that a belief in ‘God in Creation’ is coming to the fore again, even through scientific discoveries too. I have often wondered about one aspect of evolution which has entered my mind.

During what stage of evolution would it be possible to develop eyes when they wouldn’t know there was anything to see in the first place or to develop ears when they ‘couldn’t realise there was anything to hear either’? The same could be said for the sense of smell. What explanation do evolutionists put forward for this? It all seems impossible to me and helps in establishing my belief in the God of the Bible as our Creator.

Dr Julia Leke

Editorial

May I take this opportunity to thank you so much for your editorials. Fortnight after fortnight you write ... to reflect, but always words that show God in a praiseworthy way. Thank you and please keep writing. Our Church needs you.

Ronald and Edith OBE, pastored right, Chief Executive of Cytûn, welcomes Pastor John Surridge.

Feedback