In the footsteps of Paul
by Dr Richard de Lisser, Communication director, SEC

On Sunday 12 October, seventy-two church planters from the South England Conference travelled to sunny Greece to the ancient city of Athens to walk in the footsteps of the great church planter, the apostle Paul. They visited such sites as Mars Hill, where Paul spoke about ‘the unknown God’, and ancient Corinth where he preached ‘Christ and him crucified’. The modern-day church planters were welcomed to this historic setting by Mission president Pastor Apostolos Maglis and Trans-European Division Personal Ministries, Sabbath School and Publishing director Dr Michael Hamilton.

The first ever SEC church planters’ ‘X-Change’ was organised by Pastor Aris Vontzalidis, SEC Church Growth director, and his wife Sophia, and was held at the hotel Mare Nostrum in Vravrona, Athens, under the theme ‘Mission Possible!’ The keynote address was presented by Pastor Paul Lockham, Executive secretary of the SEC, who challenged the church planters to be all things to all men in order to win some. He ended his address by surprising Aris with a birthday cake to celebrate his sixtieth birthday on that very day.
Contemporary Comment
Should Islamic extremists frighten us?
asks Justin Thyme

Years ago I got to know a Muslim god quite well. Well enough for him to ask me: ‘What makes a Christian tick?’ A tall order. Managing to convey the salient precepts, so much so that he admitted that it sounded good, before adding, seriously, I could never change of course. They’d KILL me!

At the time I assumed his statement was an exaggeration. But since then ‘honour-killings’ have occurred, suicide-bombings become commonplace and Islamic extremists have spread worldwide terror. When the recent news broke of a young Christian charity worker being murdered in Afghanistan – supposedly just because she was a Christian – an icy hand gripped my gut.

Perhaps many of us feel ambivalent towards Islam, yet, as Borge Schantz tells us (Islam in the Post 9/11 World, p.1103), Jesus, Christians and Muslims all have Abraham as their father spiritually and, perhaps, physically too. How can we live with that? Accept that God loves all his children and is not willing that any should perish. Paul, as I understand it, in the first chapter of Philippians, 27-30, is reiterating one of his favourite themes: ‘For I live, to me, means simply – Christ!’

So as a result, our behaviour, conduct and all aspects of our earthly life should surely be worthy of the Gospel of Christ.

God’s amazing grace, once fully understood and accepted, will transform the life of a Christian. We should now accept that we no longer own our lives, but have been bought with an inestimable price.

Our Lord even thanks the Father for giving us to him, his redeemed (John 17:6.7), and prays that we may all be just as the Father lives with Christ and lives in the lives of us. Consequently, if we identify ourselves with Christ, deny our ‘self’, and aspire to live in the image of God, we can know assurance of salvation. But God gives that experience to those who are ‘in Christ Jesus’ (Romans 8:1). But those who are not truly converted are not then (in God’s words through Jeremiah) ‘safe to do all these detestable things’ symptomatic of rottenness at heart.

Yes, it is possible to experience the healing of the Great Physician. There must be trust in him, the Healer who will apply the balm of Gilead. The disease of sin. To take that medicine we have first to open our mouths – physically, not verbally. ‘Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?’ (8:22.)

What was the cure for the disease from which Judah was suffering, sin? What is the cure for the sin which is in the eyes of God? The Hebrew word translated ‘healing’ is not the same as the one translated ‘health’. Arukah is Hebrew for the new flesh that grew over an old wound. Jeremiah is saying, ‘The sin of Judah is great, but the Physician of the soul is greater. So why does that open wound not heal over?’ There was not an absence of cure. There was ‘a method of medicine to apply it. So why could the healing process not begin?’

The SDaB Commentary (Volume 4, pages 394-5) says that the people were too proud to accept the remedy, and thought they could cure themselves. Perhaps they had grown to love the disease. At any rate they would not look to the Healer and live.

Whatever the reason, they were refusing to repent. Healing could not begin until they repented. The writer做不到 was bleak because ‘they would not look to the Healer and live’.

There is a balm in Gilead to make the sin-sick soul whole.

To apply that balm we have to repent in the hearing of the Great Physician. It takes four seasons to make a year. So why could the healing process not begin?

William winter last forever?
David Marshall

Last night’s deep frost did for my dahlias. Since they’ve already gouged huge banks of colour in the garden.

On Sunday I’ll be out there with my secateurs, chopping them back in preparation for another year. The sun is there and it’s springtime. It’s a Jeremiah 8:20 situation. The harvest (in April) had been a failure. The fruit harvest (in September) had been disastrous. The last of the summer had faded and fallen. What could save them from disease and disaster now?

It’s a Jeremiah 8:20 situation. The harvest past; the summer: well and truly ended. ‘And we are not saved.’

If we are too proud to repent we shall be devastated as my dahlias. And there will be no springtime.

Excessive cortisol can affect thinking ability and memory formation and retrieval. Excessive cortisol can affect thinking ability and memory formation and retrieval. Cortisol is secreted from the adrenal glands during stress. Once in the brain, cortisol remains much longer than adrenaline, where it continues to affect brain cells.

Jordan which was well known for the medicinal plants and shrubs that grew there.
New irrigation methods increase food supply in Mali

by Bert Smit, Executive director, ADRA-UK

S touded inland on the edge of the
sahel region in Western
Africa, food production has been
entirely dependent on weather. For
years, ADRA has been working on
projects that can help increase food
production in the area. By using new
irrigation methods, ADRA is able to
create conditions that are
favorable for crop growth, even in
times of drought. This is
increasing food security in the
region and improving the lives of
people who live there.

Church planting and the power of God

L eaves in Barnsley’s Visitors’ Day
sermon at the Great Gallery on
Saturday 25 October.

Lowe’s sermon at Barnsley’s Visitors’ Day on Sabbath 25 October.

The Louis Field story

A ristotle Vontzalidis, Church Growth,
Life Development and Mission Awareness Trust.

The Louis Field story tells the story of a man named Louis Field, who was a Holocaust survivor. Louis was taken to a concentration camp during World War II, where he was subjected to harsh treatment and starvation. Despite this, Louis managed to survive and eventually return to his homeland.

After the war, Louis began to feel a sense of emptiness and searching for a purpose in life. He started to read about Christianity and was drawn to the message of hope and salvation that he found in the Bible. He made a decision to follow Christ and began to share the gospel with others.

Louis continued to serve the Lord by helping others who were struggling with addiction. He founded a ministry that focused on helping people overcome their addictions and find freedom in Christ.

The story of Louis Field is a powerful example of the power of God to redeem even the most hopeless situations. It serves as a reminder that no matter how seemingly hopeless a situation may be, God can use it for good and bring about unexpected blessings.
Volunteer befriending opportunity

My name is Angela Wells and I am a member of the Cornerstone/Hanworth fellowship group in Area 6D. I am a manager of a drug and alcohol rehabilitation unit for women and their children based in south-east London. Women who reside with us remain for approximately six months, and we teach them skills and techniques to enable them to remain drug and alcohol-free once in the community. We offer a six-month after-care programme in the community for these women to help them make the transition to successful community living without illicit substances.

Many of the women who come to us are recovering together with their family and have developed dysfunctional relationships with drug-users or friends from prison and therefore need to break these ties to enable them to lead a positive life. This results in many of the women feeling isolated in the community, which potentially results in the risk of them falling back into their old lifestyle and relapsing.

The women who come to us receive all over London and some return to other areas in England. However, all need to be supported in some way, whether it be by a phone call or face-to-face meeting.

I am looking for other women who have an interest in providing practical, emotional and spiritual support in this way. Any volunteers could meet with a client at the project in the first instance and maybe go out for a herbal tea, walk in the park, shopping, visit church and so on.

The idea is that the volunteer is able to reveal Jesus to these women in an informal way, supporting them where they are at, introducing them to a new way of living or supportive friendships.

Can you spare 1-2 hours a week to befriend someone in need and share the Gospel in a practical way with them?

The Maya is a drug and alcohol rehabilitation project providing therapeutic care and support to women with drug and alcohol problems.

We are looking for volunteers who are willing to provide informal/practical and spiritual support to these women on an individual basis, making friends with them, supporting them and introducing them to Jesus, meeting them where they are at.

For further information or if you would like to express an interest, please contact Angela Wells on 07764 815 228 or email me at a.wells@addaction.org.uk or angellawells73@hotmail.co.uk.

Youth Leadership Convention – on a cruise liner!

by Pastor Colin Stewart, South England Conference Youth director

• We have a ‘Young Adults’ Day of Friendship taking place in Bristol. The address is Carmel Christian Centre, 817a Bath Road, Brislington, near to the M32, BS5 9NL.

The theme for the day is ‘Leading from the front. Stand up and take your place’. We expect about 1,000 from all over SEC to gather in Bristol to worship, to recreate and to rededicate themselves to God in a new and dynamic way. We believe we will have a full house as we witness powerful drama, preaching, seminars, multi-media presentations and outreach reports from all eight areas of the conference. We also will be blessed by community and youth choirs. Certainly this will be a Sabbath of difference. Tickets are free and can be ordered from the SEC youth website, www.secyouth.co.uk or ordered direct from the conference office.

• On 29 June to 4 July 2009 we will be holding our sixth annual Youth Leadership Convention, otherwise known as ‘YLC’. This training programme will take place in Greece and will be themed as ‘Paul’s Missionary Journeys Today’. The whole convention will be geared towards youth Pathfinders, teens and young adults over 18 to learn, trace and apply today the missionary exploits of the apostle Paul.

The whole YLC programme will take place on a cruise liner and we will have exclusive use of the on-board conference facility. We will also have enough time to take in the sights and sounds of the five different islands we will visit, some of them where the apostle preached and taught.

Please mark the dates on your calendars and avoid disappointment. The cut-off date for cheapest prices is that held for us in mid-December.

Pathfinders are invited to ‘Paul’s Path’ and can register for this on the SEC website. Pastors and youth leaders from La Sierra University, Dr. Herbert Thompson, president, Northern Caribbean University, Dr. Leslie Pollard, vice-president, Loma Linda (LLU), and Pastor David Cox, in presenting the sermon for the morning, spoke of the trials of a church planter. Genesis 12:1-5, he spoke of Abraham being the first church planter, stating that ‘God called him to leave behind family and friends. He did not know where he was going but when God calls a church planter they must leave their comfort zone. Abraham knew that God was leading him. Abraham integrated the call of a church planter. Once you’ve come out don’t look back at what is left behind you. It is necessary for you to have a win-lose mindset which will not allow you to look back.’

At the close of the Sabbath Pastor Davis and Lockham led in a commissioning service, sending out the church planters to higher, greater and wider service in the mission field of God, calling upon each one to be active and not passive, to be soldiers on the battlefield ready to go!

On Sunday 19 October SEC church planters left Greece to make footprints of their own that others would follow.

Yeovil project (Yeovil), Impact (Chadwell Heath), Focus (Newbold College), and Sureway (Clayhall).

Each day began with a morning devotional and ended with evening worship, the finale being the SEC media team summarising the day’s events in video and pictures.

As the Sabbath drew to an end, Pastor Davis led the whole cruise to watch the sunset and welcome in the Sabbath with pastor prayer and worship. Thereafter, the theme for the day was 'God’s Wonderful World' themed for the day’s events in video and pictures.

Youth day at Oxhill

Oxhill church, Birmingham, is a pre-eminently Asian Adventist youth from around the UK. Friends arrived from Walsall, Langley, Manchester, Watford, Harlow and Yeovil. It was uplifting to see the support and enthusiasm of all the young people, especially during the afternoon’s programme of musical praise. There were musical contributions in various languages including English, Urdu, Punjabi and Hindi (the national language of India). It was particularly heartwarming to see the unity in collective praise. Teenagers and young adults combined their talents to uplift the name of Jesus. It was also encouraging to be supported by the seniors of the youth. The church minister, Pastor D. Mash, thanked all who participated in the events of the whole day. People unite with one accord, the Spirit of the Lord can clearly be felt, and we pray that the youth will continue to be encouraged and make a valuable contribution to the work of the church. We hope that there will be able to be united with us in future events.

www.secyouth.co.uk
**The First Lord of the Treasury**

I was his first day in office as he stood with his wife on the steps of number 10 Downing Street amid the flurry of activity from the assembled world media. As the camera focused on him and the door of this most famous of addresses, one could not help but notice engraved on the well-polished brass letter box another title that comes with the office of Prime Minister, that of First Lord of the Treasury. Created in the seventeenth century, the First Lord of the Treasury is a role with an important executive, strategic, and political role for the country, with the Chancellor of the Exchequer serving as Second Lord of the Treasury.

This would be the equivalent in our church structure today. One would like to suggest more than ever before that these exacting economic times require our local churches, our prime ministers, our pastors, as first lords of the treasury, to stand up and hold high the stewardship standard for our members to rally around.

Enriched in our eighty-two fundamental beliefs, stewardship is perhaps the least spoken about doctrine in the Church. In economically fluctuating times stewardship is seen as less important. However, in economically lean times, stewardship, by definition, becomes most important.

Indeed, any financial downturn will adversely affect the Church’s ministry and frustrate the Church’s mission. It is vital that we are reminded regularly of the twenty-first fundamental belief of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We are God’s stewards, entrusted by him with time and opportunities, abilities and possessions, and the blessings of the earth and its resources. We are responsible to him for their proper use. We acknowledge God’s ownership of all our resources. We should be responsible for the care of our land and the use of our natural resources. Twenty percent of the Church’s budget is reserved specifically for stewardship and distribution.

The pastor stands at a pivotal point in the life of the Church to lift up the banner of stewardship and ensure that by precept and by example the benefits of our faith are not forgotten. In these fearful financial times we are called to faith and faithfulness. Let the first lords of the treasury set the economic stewardship strategy for our local church through meaningful ministry, passionate preaching, and dedicated service. Then, and only then, will we all benefit in these turbulent economic times.

**By Richard G. Collier, SEC Stewardship director**

**So how are we doing?**

The credit church has highlighted some very important points about stewardship. Our peace of mind, our livelihood, our welfare and security are all dependent upon the good stewardship of others. About eight months ago I had a brainwave. I decided that I would track the Internet and find the bank that was offering the best interest on savings. I didn’t have to search very long before I came across a bank that was out in front, offering 6% on savings. The rate was also similar to those who had reached a certain age.

After briefing my wife with my plans and getting her blessing, I transferred some of our savings into the online savings account. Everything appeared to be in order until one Sabbath afternoon I happened to be driving towards the news as they talked about Northern Rock being in trouble. To tell the truth, I had never heard of Northern Rock before joining. Now, here were scenes of people withdrawing their money in droves. I decided to wait to see what would happen. Eventually, the Government’s assurance that no one would lose their money in the bank persuaded me to leave it where it was. Since that time many other banks have gone to the wall.

People have been incredulous at the thought that those who were entrusted with all kinds of our hard earned money had been so cavalier in the way they used, lent and invested it. This became evident when the American Congress rejected the $700 billion bail-out of banks and financial institutions in the States.

‘Under the terms of the $700 billion bail-out bill the US Government was to take on bad banking debts. It was hoped that this would rescue beleaguered banks that would then be free to begin lending again.’

‘However, American politicians were growing increasingly wary that some banks would reject the scheme as using the taxpayers’ money to save wealthy Wall Street banks which should be allowed to fail.’

At the heart of the Congress’s rejection of the plan was the feeling that taxpayers were being asked to bail out ‘fat cats’ who had acted irresponsibly. No one was bailing out the poor house-owner whose house was being repossessed or the worker who was losing his job as a result of the actions of Wall Street bankers.

Clearly we are all concerned about the stewardship of those we put in charge of our goods. Simply put, a steward is ‘one who manages another’s property, finances or other affairs.’

On this side of the Atlantic one of the biggest surprises was when one of the giant financial institutions, HBOS, was found to be in trouble and had to be rescued by Lloyd’s TSB. The head of HBOS, Andy Hornby, has now been recruited to help Lloyd’s TSB embarrass or shield up to 20,000 jobs in order to make a saving of £1.5 billion. For his services Mr Hornby will be paid a staggering £60,000 a month.

‘Hornby has been widely blamed for the HBOS debacle. His going-concern growth plan saddled the Halifax owner with billions of pounds of high-risk private-label and self-certification mortgages. News of the eye-watering fee is bound to encourage taxpayers who are bankrolling the rescue merger deal and reignite the controversy over “rewards for failure” in the city.’

Jesus said, ‘Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to给他们 their portion of food in due season? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.’

So how are we doing?

**Simply put, a steward is ‘One who manages another’s property, finances or other affairs’**

**By Sam Davis, SEC president**

**Health and stewardship**

**The parable of the ten talents demonstrates that God expects nothing less than 100% commitment to the task. Bad stewardship will be called to account.** Good stewardship demands that everything that we have is used to the best of our ability. Our means, our time, our talents, our health – everything belongs to God. The time will come when the Master of the house will return and call for an account.

When the Master learned that the one-talent servant had hidden his talent he was not best pleased. In modern parlance, he laid into that servant, saying, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I do not sow, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. For to everyone who has, more will be given; and he who has abundance, to him a hundred will be added. But from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’


Each one of us has been given talents by God. We are his stewards. One day we will be called to give an account. Maybe it will be that we will hear from his lips the words ‘Well done good and faithful servant.’ Anything else will result in weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. Robert Blundett, www.blightful.co.uk, ‘US economy. $700 billion Wall Street bail-out rejected as Middle Monday 27.” The Free Dictionary by Farlex. ‘Simon Dude & Ben Lawrence, Daily Mail. ’Bos in the park collapse back in £50,000 a month’. p. 6.
**Stewardship of opportunities and abilities**

**Use them. Don’t lose them!**

Multiplication. That’s the name of the game, and God is in the multiplication game. Creation reveals God’s delight in setting off chain reactions. He has endowed each human life with a deposit of faith and talents and an exciting capacity to develop both to the glory of God. Like a good coach he promises to open doors of opportunity so we can experience the exhilaration of seeing these skills multiply as we minister to others. Unfortunately the Creator’s dream is often thwarted. Sometimes we are tempted to feel that God has dealt us a poor hand. If only my fingers could glide along the keyboard like Darren’s. If only I could make people laugh like Rachel. If only I had a fruitful one I could really do something big. We forget that faithfulness in little things is evidence of fitness for greater responsibilities.

What would have happened if Ananias had not seized the occasion to make a challenging visit? What would have been the outcome if the little unnamed maid had decided to keep her head down and her mouth shut? What untold ripples Philip set in motion by recognizing the golden opportunity to introduce a total strangler to the story of the risen Christ? How often Hesekiah must have kicked himself for missing a chance to bear witness to the God of Heaven, misapplying it to show off to his foreign visitors. So use them, don’t lose them! Start dropping your pebbles in the pond of life and watch with excitement as God multiplies the ripples in ever-widening circles of blessing.

**Stewardship of time**

‘The Sabbath is a cathedral in time,’ argues Rabbi Abraham Heschel, and should not be merely worship that is place and space-centred. More than observing the sacredness of Sabbath hours, Seventh-day Adventists recognize a God who strategically intervenes in human history. God is about time and timing. The ‘Seventh-day’ of our name refers to the beginning of time and the ‘Advent’ as conclusion to Earth’s history at the ‘end-range’ of God’s eternal Kingdom. We further regard the Cross and its timing as the pivot around which salvation history revolves. The interplay of these fundamental perspectives influences the value we place on time.

The stewardship of time is, therefore, not just about the efficient use of the twenty-five to thirty thousand days with which we are endowed. Certainly, sloth has no place in our ethic because productive work is part of who we are. Our service is not about survival and self-sufficiency, but about restoring Eden, building community and communing with the Creator; for each person comes to this Earth at a particular time and for a particular purpose. As such, every moment is a meaningful occasion in God’s plan. We take the view that everything we have comes to us by virtue of God’s generosity. Many of us lapse into the belief that we can generate, own and master material things, as if money is something that we can neither generate nor control. It transcends us all. Therefore, the use and offering of our time is critical in reflecting the nature of our spiritual relationship.

We can see how the regularity of the Sabbath creates a rhythm for the music of life. We either choose to live in harmony with the rhythms of God’s grace or to spend our lives jarriingly off-beat.

**Stewardship of money**

Faith. The substance of things hoped for. The evidence of things not seen. And to some extent the loss of faith has been one of the major contributory factors to the current financial crisis. Known commonly as the ‘credit crunch’. For the more technically minded, the ten-year tide of money previously available, with ever cheaper sources of credit, has frozen – with earth-shattering consequences. The seemingly never-ending wall of money allowed the creation and sale on a global scale of very high-risk loan products as economists in both the East and West boomed. The Bible is clear about how faith (trust) can be re-established by hearing (understanding) the Word of God. (Romans 10:17)

Our primary purpose is a heavenly one – preparing ourselves and others for a right relationship with God here and through eternity. On the other hand, God created the world and takes pleasure in it (Psalm 104). He has left it up to humanity to rule it and take care of all Creation (Genesis 1.28). The psalms tell us that Creation is not only given for our use, but that all Creation – animals, plants, hills and sky – is intended to praise and glorify the Lord (Psalm 148).

When humanity, through greed and short-sightedness, weakens and damages the earth, we are guilty of wasting not only a precious resource, but also defacing a beautiful work that God has made. We encourage our church members to consider how their daily decisions are either contributing to healing God’s Creation or to the destruction of it.

**References**


* Deborah Harris has been a Chartered Accountant for over ten years and specializes in investment banking consultancy on Risk Management and Corporate Governance. She is also a tax-exempt director in the NHS and the current Chairman of the London Adventist Credit Union.
Battersea: a winning combination

On Sabbath 25 October Anna Marie and Cameron, a mother and son, rocketed into an unassailable lead when they arranged all thirty-nine books of the Old Testament in canonical order in a time no other parent-child combination could even come close to.

Another mother and son success was that of Melanie Campbell and her son Cyrus when he scooped the Pathfinder of the Month award. Other awardees included Ayprel and Cameron, a mother and son, rocketed into an unassailable lead when they arranged all thirty-nine books of the Old Testament in canonical order in a time no other parent-child combination could even come close to.

Another mother and son success was that of Melanie Campbell and her son Cyrus when he scooped the Pathfinder of the Month award.

The occasion was the showcasing of the newly-revived Pathfinder club, under the direction of Edwardson (Araldo) Davis, who is also the Personal Ministries leader and Sabbath School superintendent of the Battersea church.

Pastor Esson, the church’s minister, was present and took part in the showcasing of prizes and awards to Pathfinders who were outstanding during the past month.

Other awarders included Aygnel Greenland and K’eana Aitcheson. Both received cash awards, respectively, for recording correctly all tests from a previous sermon and for presenting the best-decorated Pathfinder folder. Aygnel and K’eana are not yet baptised. Nevertheless they are active members of Hand of Praise, a performance sign and mime group, which was recently featured in the London Borough of Wandsworth’s Black History Month celebration in association with the African Caribbean Community Library. K’eana lost her grandmother recently but despite this she continues to attend church regularly and has expressed her desire to join the church through baptism.

On Friday 19 September a group from Ipswich, Castlereagh and some from Kent travelled to St Rheeders, Welshpool, for a spiritual weekend retreat. On arrival we were directed to our rooms and received the programme for our stay. On the glass front we noted our theme, ‘Deciphering the Message’, and some Greek writing, plus the picture of a battle washed up from the shore. We realised later that the strange writing was the familiar text from John 3:16. We would like to thank Pastors Paul and Geoff Smith for spearheading the weekend. We enjoyed it. We would also like to thank Area 8 for their financial contribution. The weather was ideal – blue skies and blue sea reminded some of us of the country of our origin. The atmosphere was peaceful, the staff hospitable and the food excellent. At our early prayer session on Sabbath morning, it was suggested that we write prayer letters to our heavenly Father – anything that was on our minds – and at the bonfire in the evening we should place them on the fire, symbolic of our prayers ascending heavenward.

On Sabbath and Sunday morning we were delighted to welcome some local members who live on the island. A sincere “thank you” to Angela who played the piano for us. On Sunday we listened and considered the importance of the spiritual nature of God’s law, followed by our Communion celebration, the highlight of the weekend.

Some of us visited the beautiful scenery, and the able-bodied went on a long, arduous walk to see the Needles.

One of the highlights of the play scheme was the old-fashioned church trip. This was so successful, with over 200 people and large numbers from the community enjoying a day out in Skegness.

On the evening of the newly-revived Pathfinder club, under the direction of Edwardson (Araldo) Davis, who is also the Personal Ministries leader and Sabbath School superintendent of the Battersea church.

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The spiritual side of the campaign was about as high as we have had in Sheffield for many years. Evangelist Costa Vaggas had been one of the speakers during Spring Evangelism and was invited back to minister again for our summer campaign. The preaching and persona of Costa truly impacted the district. Jesus Christ was made real, relevant and radical to both visitors and regular members.

What was striking in this campaign, perhaps more so than others, was that parents of the children who came to the play scheme visited the campaign in the evening, and then kept coming back and also brought visitors with them. Another highlight of the campaign had to be the healing service held on the second Wednesday, when non-church visitors from as far away as Nottingham came. It was standing room only, even with the use of the marquee provided for the purpose of the campaign.

It’s always hard to measure success after these events. Yes, nine precious souls were baptised into the Kingdom, and we give God thanks and praise for allowing us to be part of his programme.

Visitors who started attending during the campaign are still attending and, with God’s help, we’ll love them into the church family.

On average forty-five children and young people attended each day and were engaged in Bible-based arts and crafts, sports and trips out. One of the highlights of the play scheme was the old-fashioned church trip. This was so successful, with over 200 people and large numbers from the community enjoying a day out in Skegness.

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Visitors who started attending during the campaign are still attending and, with God’s help, we’ll love them into the church family.
A Londoneer now living in Alabama was the main guest speaker at Newbold’s Black History Week, a special annual event at Newbold College to celebrate the African Caribbean contribution to the world. At four major events and in many smaller conversations, writer and teacher, Dr Keith Burton, shared the fruits of his research into the importance of Africa in Christian history.

The special week began at the Tuesday morning assembly as Dr Burton asserted that ‘each of the world’s nations, including Africans, brings something to the ‘Christian table’. He suggested that if the biblical concept of Africa was more clearly understood, we would see that ‘the majority of people in the Bible could be seen as Africans’. African-Caribbean food on the Newbold table attracted extra punters for lunch in the College cafeteria and Dr Burton’s Tuesday evening Diversity Seminar was entitled, Africa’s Contribution to the Protestant Movement: Papal Hegemony and the Battle for the Sabbath in Ethiopia.

The General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists published a 20-page booklet, ‘Protestant Movement: Papal Hegemony and the Battle for the Sabbath in Ethiopia’, in 2001. It was entitled, ‘Africa’s Contribution to the Protestant Movement: Papal Hegemony and the Battle for the Sabbath in Ethiopia’. It provided a comprehensive look at the history of Sabbath consciousness in Africa, especially in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church, and examined the conflicts between African and European Christians between the fourth and nineteenth centuries.

Frances Matilda Haylett (1911-2008) d. 21 September. Frances was born in Hadlow, Kent, on 4 June 1911 to a farming family and was educated in the area. She worked for several years as a nurse before taking her training in London. She attended the London Bible College and was ordained as a Seventh-day Adventist pastor in 1955. Frances was one of the early women pastors in the church and was well known for her dynamic preaching, her compassion for the sick and her strong faith. She served in various capacities throughout her ministry, including as a conference evangelist, a college professor and a church planter. She was a dedicated leader and mentor to many women in the church. Frances passed away on 21 September 2008, leaving a legacy of service, dedication and faith that will continue to inspire those she touched. She is greatly missed by all who knew her.

Herbert Thomas Farmer (1916-2008) d. 19 October. Tom, as he was known by all, is remembered by the Bournemouth church as a faithful and loyal worker for God. He served the church for twenty-four years as an elder, a much-respected youth leader, head deacon, and in many other offices. He was willing and ready to help with anything he was asked to do, from preaching to working on the fabric of the church building. Tom was an engineer, a popular and trusted employee, ending his career as Quality Control Manager for Harwood Engineering, a large company in Poole. Earlier in his working life he lost the chance of becoming manager at another company, and had a deteriorating sight. He was content to be faithful stand for the Sabbath. Tom was born into a loving family in the Caribbean, and at the age of 24, he met and married Betty, so beginning a loving, dedicated life together, lasting a whole lifetime. Tom was an active member of Bournemouth, having enjoyed post-war holidays in the town. Tom’s skills were needed in the kitchen for their new bungalow, and in designing and growing gardens. When he was ill in later life was to rob Tom of his strength and even his powerful presence. But the dedication of the church and his love that throughout these difficult years of disability, Betty herself cared for and nursed Tom. He died at the age of 92, following one night in hospital, with Betty at his bedside. Bournemouth church gives thanks to God for having had this fine, faithful Christian gentleman in our family, and we look forward to that happy day of reunion, when Jesus calls his faithful servant home.
‘Do you remember? We met at Newbold.’

Seventy retired church workers met for their autumn get-together at Newbold College. Some greeted friends they hadn’t seen in forty years with the words, ‘Do you remember? We met at Newbold!’ One lady in her eighties met up with a friend from student days whom she hadn’t seen in over sixty years. The result was a lot of smiles, warm handshakes, hugs and a few happiness tears.

The group enjoyed tours of the ‘new’ church and were amazed at its Scandinavian-style grass roof. They also enjoyed walking in Sylvia’s Garden. Dr Harry Leonard, in an excellent PowerPoint presentation, told the story of Moor Close and how the owner, Mr Crisp, a prosperous city financier, unexpectedly became a father again and to celebrate, only the rich can, built a garden to commemorate the event, which became known as Sylvia’s Garden. Over the years the garden became overgrown and broken down but now Harry and others are endeavouring to restore it to its former beauty.

Dr John Woodfield followed with a characteristically pithy and amusing talk about his work as a teacher in the early days of Stanborough School. John also showed the group some of the results of talents he has developed in retirement – beautiful oil paintings and exquisite wood carvings.

The retirees were delighted to meet the new principal of Newbold, Dr Jane Sabes. However, at the end of her presentation, when she told the group of some of her plans and aspirations for the College, one of the retirees apologised to her publicly because he had passed her without speaking on the way to the dining-room, thinking that she was a mature student and obviously too young to be the principal. Dr Sabes enjoyed the compliment and gave the confessor a warm hug.

The group enjoyed an excellent meal together in the College refectory and many email addresses were exchanged. It is good that our teachers, pastors, institution workers, colporteurs and office staff from past years have the opportunity to meet like this, share experiences, worship together and laugh together.

It reminds them that they are valued by the Church and are still part of the Adventist family. We thank Newbold for providing such a delightful day.

G. MARVIN BELL

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Retirees meet up at Aberdaron

With the ‘new’ cabins at Aberdaron being such a great addition to the campsite, they made a get-together, such as our week in August for retirees, an ideal get-together.

Our ‘camp director’, Pastor Martin Bell, invited us to worship each morning and evening if we were able to join in, and just about everyone did. The evening devotionals were conducted by former camp helpers and retired pastors and their wives, among them former youth directors. All were deeply spiritual experiences.

After exploring around all the once-familiar areas, often in sunshine, we all agreed that we had enjoyed a lovely week together.

JOANNE BENN

Administrative Secretary to the Treasury department

The BUC is seeking to recruit a full-time Administrative Secretary to serve the Treasury department at the Union office, Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ.

Applicants will have experience working as a secretary/PA. They should be able to demonstrate high levels of proficiency in the use of office systems and technology, English usage and Microsoft Office software. Successful candidates will need strong organisational and interpersonal skills and should be able to work independently without direct supervision, observing the utmost discretion and tact when handling confidential information. Salary £20-22k, depending upon qualifications and experience.

For a job description and an application form write to: BUC Executive Secretary, BUC Offices, Stanborough Park, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD25 9JZ, or email: elowe@adventist.org.uk

Closing date for applications: 12 December.

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