Last October I visited the project ADRA has been running in Madagascar. We are near the end of the three-year project there and the results are very good.

Visiting the many small communities that are scattered over the Fandriana region, I see with my own eyes that we have made a difference. This project, called SMART*, has impacted the lives of its beneficiaries. When I ask people what ADRA has done for them, they reply with one voice that SMART has changed their lives. Farmers say they produce more rice now and can sell the surplus on the market. The introduction of new vegetables has improved their diet and benefited their health. Health instruction has helped them understand how to improve their lifestyle. New methods of producing crafts have increased income. The benefits are all around them. ADRA has also offered farmers additional income generation projects. They can choose from four additional activities: fishery, poultry, beekeeping and fruit trees. The project also introduced soya beans as part of new kitchen gardens. We visited the Talamalaza community, where I was amazed to discover that in their first year they had produced more than 1,000 kg of soya beans. They have also been taught how to process the tiny little bean into some of the best soya products I have ever tasted. I sampled sweet soya puddings and a beautiful creamy soya milk and learnt how the community sold all their soya products within one hour at a recent fair. Warren, the project manager, tells me that next year the community expects to produce twenty tons of soya beans. When we leave the area, we are stopped at a police checkpoint. The police officer looks at the ADRA logo on our car and smiles. 'ADRA?' 'Yes,' we reply. 'Ah, the SMART programme,' he says. 'You have helped my family. Thank you so much!' It is ADRA = hope

*French acronym for Alleviating Poverty through Improved Livelihood and Health in Fandriana.

The special Children’s Pages in the centre of this Messenger have been designed to provide children and families with a range of spiritual activities. Some can be completed in church and others are included to enrich your family worship times and Sabbath afternoons. These pages are not designed to occupy the children during the whole sermon period. Pastors, parents and local church leaders can obtain sets of copiable and printable worksheets from the BUC Children’s Ministries department by asking for The Story Pack which has 150 Bible story worksheets for £10. Other worksheet packs with different activity sheets are available for a small price from the SEC CM department (email: amclarty@secadventist.org.uk) or some can be downloaded for free from websites such as www.lightlifef.org and www.ms4crafts.com. Thank you for helping the children in your church to enjoy their Sabbath.
Follow the Bible in 2009 Visit the Follow the Bible webpage: http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/followthebible

How the Bible came together by David Marshall

The Bible is a library of sixty-six books divided into two testaments. The Old Testament has thirty-nine books. The New Testament has twenty-seven. At least twenty authors were involved in the writing process; and the books were written over a period of 1,500 years.

No individual or committee of individuals compiled the Bible. The Bible genre, this principle applies to both testaments. The unity principle that makes the Bible a living thing in Jesus Christ. Jesus was the fulfillment of messianic prophecy scattered throughout the Old Testament.

In the course of a clean-up in the temple in Jesus’ reign, the Book of the Law was discovered. The King read passages aloud to the people. The presence of Leviticus 25 and Deuteronomy 28 and 29. From this it has been deduced that the Book of the Law represented the first five books of the Bible.

During the seventy years of the Exile, the worth of the prophets, then extant, came to be regarded as a great treasure. The nation had ceased to exist, and with its law and its Law. But there was still the Book of the Law – and there were the Books of the Prophets.

The Jerusalem authorities assert that Ezra, who led the people at the end of the Exile, undertook the collecting and editing of the Law and the Prophets. It also suggests that a ‘Great Synagogue’ was convoked and in a period of all the Law, the Prophets and the Writings came under discussion. Hence the work of forming the Old Testament began early as around 450BC. Most scholars accept that by the time of Christ the Old Testament existed in its present form.

The 1650s The Bible was first complete in the 1650s. The first complete English translations were: the Authorized Version (1604); the Geneva Bible (1560); the Great Bible (1539); and the English Version (1539-1539). These versions were based on the Latin Vulgate and the Greek New Testament.

The 1740s The first complete English translation of the entire Bible was completed in 1744 by John Wesley. This translation, known as the 1745 Bible, was the first complete English translation of the Bible to be published in England.

The 19th century The 19th century saw the development of the first comprehensive critical history of the Bible. This was undertaken by scholars such as Albert M. Lyman, who published his work in 1849. The work of Albert M. Lyman was followed by the work of F. W. Farrar, who published his work in 1877.

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The Bible and translations

by Pastor Gifford Rhamie, Newbold College

The Bible is the most translated book in the world and still is the ‘Number One Best Seller’. This is largely because of the depth of its spirituality told through stories, but more so because of its central character, Jesus Christ – the one who is the cause of the division of history into BC and AD, and the division of the Bible into the Old Testament and New Testament. Because of the booming thousands of translations, Jesus has become accessible to millions of people around the world. Yet history has taught us that the day translations become censored is the day when Jesus would be put in a box and attempted to be monopolised and ‘copyrighted’ by the censoring group. Hence, the Bible must continue to be preached throughout the world to all people groups by all people groups.

To appreciate the translated Bible we have in our hands is to appreciate the long history of sacrifice, serendipity and divine providence on the part of thousands of people throughout the ages. The production of the Bible could be best divided into six stages: revelation, inspiration, autograph, transmission, preservation and translation. In this brief article we are concerned with the final stage – translation or Bible versions.

Translations

Since the writers of the Bible were thought-inspired, the early Christians felt at liberty to translate it into their own languages. Among the early translations were the Latin (Italy), the Syriac (Syria), Coptic (Egyptian), and the Ethiopic (Ethiopian) Bibles – all produced by the sixth century AD. However, the continuing desire to have the Bible read, explained and thereby translated in the local vernacular of (and by) the different people groups was suppressed for several centuries by the Roman Church. Nations, particularly in the West, were simply not allowed to translate, much less read the Bible in their own language. Hence, the Roman Church – the censoring group – monopolised and ‘copyrighted’ a particular understanding of the Bible and, by definition, of God.

Yet one can only suppress the will of a people for so long before a prophet arises from among them to uphold justice and give voice to that will. So it was that men such as John Wycliffe and William Tyndale began to translate the Bible into the English vernacular from the fourteenth to the seventeenth centuries AD. By the seventeenth century change had swept over Europe and birked the stronghold of Catholicism. The Reformation was proceeded by the invention of the printing press. The first printed English translation was Tyndale’s. The best of the Authorised Version, commissioned by King James I and published in 1611, incorporated the work of Tyndale. No other translation (and, perhaps, piece of literature) has helped to shape the life and times of an empire like the KJV. Four centuries later you will still find its influence in the UK, underpinning the rule of law, the practice of commerce, and idioms of common speech.

Since the KJV, many New Testament Greek manuscripts have been found, particularly in the Middle Eastern region. These are found to pre-date the manuscripts used for the translation of the KJV. Furthermore, there have been huge developments in the English language. Language is never static. It is dynamic – always changing. Therefore, with the discoveries of new manuscripts, coupled with the growing desire to have the Bible translated, read and understood in contemporary language, there has been a plethora of English translations. With so many translations, some confusion has arisen over which are most reliable. In light of this, I wish to suggest some pointers that will help with the choice of translations or Bible versions for personal reading or study, whether formal or casual.

- **Self-disclosure.** Most Bibles declare their hand as to what the translators of their particular volume are trying to achieve with their new translation. You must, then, read the preface of the Bible in order to discover what the translators are trying to do.

- **Literal translations.** Some translations set out to give a very close reading of the original text of the Bible, such as the KJV, NKJV, RSV, NRSV, ASV and NASB. These are known as literal translations. They are particularly useful for personal Bible study and/or doctrinal study. The KJV is particularly useful for memorisation, as it has uniquely retained the metre and cadence of the poetry within the Bible.

- **Moderately dynamic translations.** Some translations set out to give a dynamic reading of the original text of the Bible, such as the NIV, NCB, NLT and JB. These are known as dynamic translations, since the translators attempt to retain the original meaning of the text while giving it a fresh, present-day English didactic feel. These are good for personal, reflective study, though some caution must be applied when studying for serious doctrinal purposes.

- **Dynamic paraphrase translations.** Some translations set out to give an impressionistic reading of the original text of the Bible, such as The Message, The Clear Word, The Living Bible and Phillips’. These are known as paraphrase translations, because they attempt to retain the essence of the meaning of the text while paraphrasing it in a way that is more accessible for the reader. These are using them for doctrinal study, as that is not what this particular set of translations has purposed to accomplish.

- **Paralleled versions.** Some translations set out to give a very close reading of the original text of the Bible, such as the KJV, NKJV, RSV, NRSV, ASV and NASB. These are known as literal translations. They are particularly useful for personal Bible study and/or doctrinal study. The KJV is particularly useful for memorisation, as it has uniquely retained the metre and cadence of the poetry within the Bible.

- **Read several translations at a time.** Short of reading the Bible in its original languages – Hebrew and Greek – it is useful to have several translations in view, to juice the essence of the meaning of the text. Those of you who are bilingual would know that there are some sayings that are impossible to translate smoothly into an English equivalent. In your original language, people may laugh (because of rhyme, alliteration and so on), but when translated the same wry phrase may draw only blank faces. So it is with all translations, including that of the Bible. However, you might begin to see the sense of what is being communicated in the original by putting several translations together side by side.

We must be thankful to the providence of God that we have many translations today. Nevertheless, we must remember that, however we read the Word of God, it is meant, in the words of my colleague and friend Jean-Claude Verrecchia, “to shock, to disturb and to shake up’ the reader. Or, as Hebrews 4:12 says, ‘For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a dis-cerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.’
The year 2009 is a special one. Not only has it been designated as the worldwide Year of Evangelism for our Church, but it is also the 30th anniversary of the International Year of the Child. Research indicates that the churches which are involving children in their services are among some of the fastest-growing churches around the world. Working with the children already in our churches, and evangelising the children in our communities, are the two most inspiring and fruitful mission fields that we have available to us. Did you know that 30% of the children who learn about God before they are 8 will choose to remain life-long followers, but only 8% of people who learn about God after they are 13 will choose to follow him? We need to put our effort and finances into the most effective evangelism available to us, and Children’s Ministries can help us to do that.

Karen Holford, associate director of Children’s Ministries in the South England Conference, has put together some ideas for helping you to involve children in your church services. Each month ten fresh ideas will be published to enable you to transform your church and to help the children discover that they are an important part of your Sabbath morning services.

Ten fresh ways to involve children in the congregational prayer:

1. A group of children could write different sections of the congregational prayer and then pray them in sequence.
2. Older children and teens could be invited to participate in writing prayers and then to pray them. They could be invited to come forward and post their prayers into the relevant bag. Then pick up each of the bags in turn and read a selection of the prayers inside. This is a prayer that involves everyone.
3. Ask the children to bring objects that represent the things they want to thank or praise God for. Make a collection of the objects on a table at the front of the church, and interview the children about their choices. Use these objects to inspire a prayer of thanks.
4. Older children and teens could be invited to participate in writing prayers and then to pray them. They could be invited to come forward and post their prayers into the relevant bag. Then pick up each of the bags in turn and read a selection of the prayers inside. This is a prayer that involves everyone.
5. Give each child a piece of white play dough (or model magic – which is a very clean and light dough). Ask the children to make a model of something they want to thank God for, give it to him, or say sorry for. They can reshape their dough several times during one prayer or bring their sculpted objects forward as part of the prayer time. They can make shapes that represent the things they want to say sorry for, and then reshape them into white heart shapes, to represent the way God takes away our sins and gives us a pure heart again. Adults often enjoy this prayer activity too.
6. Find a small ‘tree’: a bare, twiggy branch that you can place in a pot. Give everyone, including the children, green card leaves that have a hole punched in one end, and a short piece of raffia or string attached. Invite people to write the names of all those who are sick and need healing on the leaves, including some brief details of their illness or injury. The leaves can be brought forward and fed to the tree, and the whole tree of healing prayer requests can be presented to God. The tree can have a place in the church and, when healing has occurred, a coloured paper flower can be stuck to the leaf representing the person who has been healed. If someone dies, a white flower can be attached to their leaf, and talk about how wonderful it will be when Jesus raises them from the dead.
7. Invite the children to write a prayer to God. Give them lots of large photos of nature scenes (such as those from calendars) and let them choose one and take it home. Ask them to write a prayer or sing praises of God for the things they can see in the picture. Then let them hold up their picture for everyone to see, and say their praises as part of your prayer time. Remember that it’s all right for us to pray with our eyes open! God doesn’t mind!
8. Ask the children in your church to tell you their ideas for ways in which they could be involved in your prayer times. For further ideas see 100 Creative Prayer Ideas for Kids and Grown-ups Too! Karen Holford, 2003, Pacific Press, available from the ABC.

The BUC Health Ministries Nutrition Conference

Excellent presentations, ‘The day was extremely informative and inspiring,’ ‘Brilliant! Well worth the early start and journey!’ ‘Excellent programme. Encourages me to try more things and share with others and my church.’ ‘Very well organised and very inspiring event. The food was excellent.’ These were just a few of the comments from the enthused seventy plus individuals who attended the BUC-sponsored Nutrition Conference held on Sunday 1 March.

Conference organisers – Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries director, Angelette Muller, nutritional consultant and lecturer in therapeutic nutrition, and Fay Lingo, food demonstrator – facilitated the event. The caption for the conference was ‘Renewing our Vision for Health – a Dietary perspective.’ The conference theme was developed in line with the ‘how to’ of nutrition rather than taking the usual route of explaining what was good and not so good to eat for healthy living.

For the day the lunch had a Moroccan theme, and participants were able to see the making of dishes like aduki bean koftas and spiced, marinated olives, which were also part of the lunchtime plant-based meal. Dessert was a delicious pina colada or berry nutty vegan ice cream. Sorry you weren’t there to taste it!

As a step to transferring the learning on their return to local churches, attendees were challenged to consider the nutrition that is involved in their local church meals, and to discuss the questions that come up as they consider the impact on our well-being. This segment of the conference asked participants to examine these questions, encourage discussion and share possible solutions.

In discussing the morning, Sharon and Angelette shared with conference participants their plans for the development of a cooking school and nutritional resources being developed for churches, schools and the community.

With the launch of this first stage of the Nutrition Strategy at the conference, the presenters highlighted options to support churches and health teams in enhancing the health and well-being of the membership and communities they serve.
It's amazing!
Spring is coming and flowers are blooming and birds are singing and building nests for their eggs. The world is full of beautiful things that God has made. What do you think is the most amazing thing God created? I like grass. It's not big and fancy, but it's lovely and soft and it keeps on growing even after you cut it down. It's a lovely colour for covering the world and it feeds lots of animals. Even though there are many more amazing things in the universe, I could never make a blade of grass, however hard I tried! So I find grass incredible! What about you? What amazes you? Think about the answer and then write a letter to God thanking him for his amazing Creation.

Adam and Eve hunt!
See how many Adam and Eve words you can find in this puzzle:

Choose two names, one from the plant world and another from the animal world. Build your own puzzle from those words in the blank grid.

Creation prayer
For you make me glad by your deeds, O Lord. I sing for joy at the works of your hands. Psalm 12:4
Find a picture of an outdoor scene. Often there is one on a calendar or in a magazine or you can even download one from the Internet. Use it as an unusual way to write a prayer inspired by the wonderful things God has made. Write your praises on different parts of the picture. For example, on the grass you can write, My God is very clever, he created a soft, colourful covering for the earth! While you do this you can sing, My God is so big, so strong, and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do. The mountains are his, the rivers are his, the stars are his handiwork, too. My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do, for you.
(Adapted from 100 Creative Prayers for Kids, by Karen Holford, Pacific Press Publishing Association)

Memory verse activity
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1
Write out this verse, one letter to a line, down the left hand edge of a page. Then write one thing God created beginning with each of the letters i – iguana, n – nectarine, t – tortoise, h – horse, and so on.

Creation numbers
Read the story of Creation in Genesis 1:1-2:4. Take it in turns to roll a dice. Look at the number on the top face of the dice and then say something that was made on that day in creation week. Try not to say the name of something that has already been suggested during the game. Water was created on the second day, but you can say river, stream, brook, sea, lake, waterfall and so on. Name different flowers, trees, types of light, land formations, animals, planets and so on.

Creation mobile
Find a simple wire coat hanger and some strong black thread. Then search for seven different things that represent something that God made on each day of Creation. You could find a feather for day five when God created birds, or a shell. Perhaps an interesting twig for day three, a star for day four and so on. Make sure that you can hang each object. You may have to find an adult to help you make holes in things and then tie them to the coat hanger with different lengths of thread. When you have finished, thank God for everything he has created. Hang your mobile in a place where it will remind you to praise God for everything he has made!

Operation Clean-up Creation
With your family, choose a small place near your home that often looks untidy. Take bin bags, wear thick gloves and use pick-up sticks to remove the rubbish from the area.

Contributors: Karen Holford, Anne Pilmoor and Heather PhDreth
A church is born

On the last Sabbath of January 2009, the members of Northolt and visiting friends assembled together to witness a Spirit-filled, memorable and auspicious occasion. The Northolt group became Northolt Seventh-day Adventist Community Church of the South England Conference.

A well-prepared day was in store as the Sabbath commenced with lively congregational singing led by Winston Noel. The theme for the day was “Experience God’s Power.” The lesson discussion was very interesting and well presented by Bert Ackie and was followed by beautiful singing from Jennifer Philips.

The organisation service started as Dr Richard de Lisser, the main speaker, gave us words of admonition and encouragement. He asked the members of Northolt questions in relation to Adventist Church beliefs. The members were then called together for the church organisation, where Godwin Benjamin, the church clerk, called the members and additional members together.

Battersea elders

by Pastor Simeon Esson

On Sabbath 7 February three elders, including two ladies, were ordained by Pastor S. Matthias Esson to serve in the Battersea church. They are Mrs Dorothy Durant, Mr Basil Lumsden and Mrs Leila Blake. All three have given outstanding service to the church in various leadership capacities for many years.

Leila Blake, after serving as an associate leader for some time, began her first term this past January as the first elder. Prior to this she served the church as PM secretary, church pianist and Sabbath School teacher. Basil Lumsden, prior to his ordination, also served as associate leader for many years. His portfolio of offices includes AV sponsor, Communication and Technology. He is committed to the development and mentoring of youth and children, a passion which led him and Kristal Greenland to form Hands of Praise, a mime and sign gospel group of young adolescents. This group has been a credit to the church.

Dorothy Durant brings to the leadership team all her expertise from the Treasury, Sabbath School and Stewardship departments. She is a pivotal member of the church choir and is committed to the progress and forward thrust of the church.

Taking part in the ordination service along with Pastor Esson were church elders Stephen Adams and Denzel Harris. Stephen Adams served for many years as first elder for the Battersea church and the Mitcham group. Denzel Harris is currently serving as the first elder for the Plumstead Community church.

The children at Manchester South

Saturday 21 February. Jesus said, “Do not turn the children away, for the kingdom of God belongs to them” (Luke 18:16). While the presence of young people in some churches in the UK is decreasing, we in Manchester South are proud of our young people. It was a very special day in Manchester South when children under 15 years old took the whole day’s service from opening the church door to closing it after the service. The whole day’s service was based on the theme “What are you doing with your talents?” This was the day when children had the opportunity to use their talents to glorify God.

Nomsa Mumba, 11, was the speaker of the day. Her sermon was entitled “Talent or no talent, God wants you.” She reminded the young people and the entire church family of our duties to use our talents, no matter how small, regardless of our talents. At the end of the service all the young people pledged to use their talents to glorify God.

Happy 99th birthday

Sister Christie!

The period between 1910 and 2009 has seen many great events. King George V was crowned as King of Great Britain in 1910. Two years later saw the tragic voyage of the Titanic. World War I spanned the years 1914-1918.

In 1915 the first trans-continental phone call was made from New York to San Francisco by inventors Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas A. Watson. In 1917, Dean Jeena, the leader of Northolt, was ordained an elder. The Golden Chords blessed the listeners’ hearts as they ended that part of the service with joyful music.

The afternoon programme featured presentations, talks and a continuation of heavenly music from local artists and the Golden Chords, who told us that we should be ‘connected’ and ‘keep the faith’. Weddy Agius also presented a talk and reminded the members that they should always shine their light, especially in the community.

Northolt group started in July 2009, when Leonard Muaya, the founder and leader of Northolt back then, said that the time was right to branch out and start somewhere new in the Northolt area. Pastor Agius was the minister at the time and supported the group until he moved. Along with Leonard Muaya were young vibrant men, namely, Dean Jena, Jason du Pont and later Reedaan Jena. Then members from Southall and Hanwell churches started attending the group and have continued ever since. Pastor Robert Vine replaced Pastor Agius and was instrumental in the development of Northolt. Pastor Everett Picart is currently the pastor of Northolt church.

Over the last two years, Northolt has had two baptisms. A total of ten precious souls have been added. The work continues.

For the blind and partially sighted

We in Wallasey church, Wirral, had a really happy and special Sabbath day on 13 February. Our church had collected money week by week for the blind and partially sighted children to enable them to get some special equipment to aid them in their learning at Henshaws BP Sighted Centre in Liverpool.

Our minister Pastor E. Daniel welcomed Mrs Hannah Frith, FS worker, as she came to collect her cheque for £180. She thanked us and told just a little of the very important work Henshaws do for all the children. She showed us some of the special toys used to help them feel and smell as stories are being read to them, which made us feel pleased that we could play even a small part in this important work. Mrs Frith then went on to tell us that her husband was a minister in the local Baptist church. We enjoyed her company and, on leaving, her words were, ‘Many thanks, and I too have learned a lot from my visit to your church.’

Happy Birthday to her to mark this landmark occasion in her life.


All of these events show how the world has changed over the last ninety-nine years, and on Sabbath 21 February Izetella Christie celebrated her 99th birthday at Chiswick church. During her lifetime all of the above world events have taken place.

She has been a pillar of strength in Chiswick church for many years and is dearly loved by all. The church sang a heartfelt Happy Birthday to her to mark this landmark occasion in her life. Chiswick has truly been blessed with the support and membership of Izetella Christie over the years. May God continue to bless her as she continues to serve and love the Lord.
**Granborough School humanitarian trip to India**

by Kish Poddar MSc, Science teacher

On a bitterly cold 15 February a group of students and staff from Stanborough School, including a few volunteers, exchanged the snowy winter of England for the tropical warmth of India. The group was to be involved in a two-week IB CAS humanitarian project sponsored by STOP International. The project for the small team this year was to paint and decorate the newly-constructed orphanage block for the Captain Azariah Orphanage. The construction was funded by STOP International and built by local builders prior to the group's arrival on Indian soil.

The team had no problems adjusting to the tropical climate in spite of a ten-hour flight. The work of painting began from the following day. All the materials were in place and the team began with sanding down the walls, after which they primed them for the last two coats of paint. Then some of the team whitewashed the outer walls. The temperature got up to 34°C but the group kept going, drinking gallons of water to prevent dehydration. Windows, doors and railings all received two coats of paint.

After the first four days of work the building was transformed, appearing bright and homely. The building was made of two sections. Each section had a cupboard room, an en-suite bathroom and a large bedroom. 'You just can’t put a price on it’ said one student. ‘This building was funded by STOP to serve the babies, to give them a home and a future’.

The second week of work mainly involved painting murals of cartoon characters on the bedroom walls. This work was constantly interrupted by babies and toddlers seeking attention. The beautiful, cuddly babies were difficult to resist and some of the team members made little effort to get off their charming appeal. It was a sight to behold as a group of students and staff from Stanborough School worked on their lap, drawing pictures of cartoon characters on the wall. The work was constantly interrupted by babies and toddlers seeking attention.

The third week was dedicated to the children of the orphanage. The children were a little nervous on the day as some had not done anything like this before and Granborough in a large church. However, all gave their best and enjoyed sharing what they had been learning.

The service was based around the theme of God communicating with us. The stories of three Bible characters were chosen to illustrate this. Firstly, the 9-12 year olds presented a play detailing Saul’s conversion on the road to Damascus. Following this, the older children used hand-bells to play the hymn ‘God speaks to us’ before the congregation joined in with singing. Next, the 6-8 year olds acted out the story of Jonah while the other children sang a lively song about Jonah. They particularly enjoyed doing this, using scenery that they had painted previously. Finally, it was the turn of our under fives, who acted out the beautiful story of God speaking to Samuel in the temple. The older children sang about Samuel with great enthusiasm, while the younger children were ‘Samuels’ running to Eli.

The response of the adults in the church was to thank the children and show support and appreciation for the children’s efforts. ‘We’ve never had anything like that before, have we?’ was the remark made by one member. ‘It went so quickly I’d like to see it all again!’ said another.

**Did you go to Stanborough Primary School?**

Did you ever attend Stanborough Primary School? If so, the school would love to hear from you! Stanborough Primary School gain from an experience like this? It may seem obvious but when one hears the reflections from the students themselves, the value of a humanitarian project like this becomes hugely relevant. When asked what was the best part of the trip, following the lovely, happy orphan children were unanimously voted the highlight. In fact, that sentiment was consolidated when one student said that he had to interrupt playing with the children to do some work. One student was so impressed by the quality of the care and facilities given to the orphans that he asked, “Do you have to be an orphan to stay here?" Two other students said they did not want to go home, and one asked me to call her mother to allow her to stay longer.

We praise God for his care during the two weeks but, above all, for showing the Stanborough School team the blessedness of the Christ-ordained philosophy of service.

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**A double blessing for Erdington**

Two thousand and eight saw the baptism and the wedding of Mr Jonathan Woods and Miss Lenesha Smith in the Erdington church. Mr Woods and Miss Smith were baptised by Pastor Ron Davey on 12 July 2008 and on 3 August the couple tied the knot in the presence of the Lord. This special occasion was witnessed by members of both families, including the parents, Mr Jeff Johnson and Mrs Smith, and Mr and Mrs Woods, and the entire church members and friends of the families. The wedding was solemnised by Pastor Paul Havorth, the NEC Executive secretary, with his wife, Heather Haworth, the BUC Family Ministries director, in attendance. Pastor Orlando Holder of Erdington had a double responsibility for the overall services on both occasions.

Until 1200 CE the site was an idyllic setting by a river where the lunch was cooked on an open fire by the older orphans, while the younger ones swam and played in the river. The hot sun made playing in the cool river even more enjoyable. At lunch the children sat in the water and ate their meals. The picnic celebration was the icing on the most blessed cake for the Stanborough School team who will remember it for a long time.

During the two weeks the team visited four other orphanages sponsored by STOP International. The BESOSS orphanage invited them to participate in their annual prize-giving celebrations, in the Love Home they were treated to delicious fresh coconut water. In the Blessing Home the children sang songs to charm the group, and the team spent the whole of Sabbath at The Way To Life Orphanage.

What do the students of Stanborough School gain from an experience like this? It may seem obvious but when one hears the reflections from the students themselves, the value of a humanitarian project like this becomes hugely relevant. When asked what was the best part of the trip, following the lovely, happy orphan children were unanimously voted the highlight. In fact, that sentiment was consolidated when one student said that he had to interrupt playing with the children to do some work. One student was so impressed by the quality of the care and facilities given to the orphans that he asked, “Do you have to be an orphan to stay here?" Two other students said they did not want to go home, and one asked me to call her mother to allow her to stay longer.

We praise God for his care during the two weeks but, above all, for showing the Stanborough School team the blessedness of the Christ-ordained philosophy of service.

**Stanborough School**

**humanitarian trip to India**

by Kish Poddar MSc, Science teacher

On a bitterly cold 15 February a group of students and staff from Stanborough School, including a few volunteers, exchanged the snowy winter of England for the tropical warmth of India. The group was to be involved in a two-week IB CAS humanitarian project sponsored by STOP International. The project for the small team this year was to paint and decorate the newly-constructed orphanage block for the Captain Azariah Orphanage. The construction was funded by STOP International and built by local builders prior to the group’s arrival on Indian soil.

The team had no problems adjusting to the tropical climate in spite of a ten-hour flight. The work of painting began from the following day. All the materials were in place and the team began with sanding down the walls, after which they primed them for the last two coats of paint. Then some of the team whitewashed the outer walls. The temperature got up to 34°C but the group kept going, drinking gallons of water to prevent dehydration. Windows, doors and railings all received two coats of paint.

After the first four days of work the building was transformed, appearing bright and homely. The building was made of two sections. Each section had a cupboard room, an en-suite bathroom and a large bedroom. ‘You just can’t put a price on it’ said one student. ‘This building was funded by STOP to serve the babies, to give them a home and a future’.

The second week of work mainly involved painting murals of cartoon characters on the bedroom walls. The world was constantly interrupted by babies and toddlers seeking attention. The beautiful, cuddly babies were difficult to resist and some of the team members made little effort to get off their charming appeal. It was a sight to behold as the children sang songs to charm the group, and the team spent the whole of Sabbath at The Way To Life Orphanage.

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**A double blessing for Erdington**

Two thousand and eight saw the baptism and the wedding of Mr Jonathan Woods and Miss Lenesha Smith in the Erdington church. Mr Woods and Miss Smith were baptised by Pastor Ron Davey on 12 July 2008 and on 3 August the couple tied the knot in the presence of the Lord. This special occasion was witnessed by members of both families, including the parents, Mr Jeff Johnson and Mrs Smith, and Mr and Mrs Woods, and the entire church members and friends of the families. The wedding was solemnised by Pastor Paul Havorth, the NEC Executive secretary, with his wife, Heather Haworth, the BUC Family Ministries director, in attendance. Pastor Orlando Holder of Erdington had a double responsibility for the overall services on both occasions.

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Nineteen plus four — a record for Scotland

On 21 February and for the second time in just over a year, Drumchapel Baptist church hosted a large gathering of Adventist members from the west of Scotland. But this time a Scottish record in decades was celebrated when twenty-three new candidates from the Glasgow, Falkirk and Paisley churches took their baptismal vows. Nineteen, mostly teenagers, were baptised, and four more entered membership on profession of faith.

‘These commitments or recommitting their life to Christ included husband and wife, Alan and Patricia Spencer, and Phelomen Mukangiliye and her children Benjamin and Alice. Among those who also saw their children enter the waters of baptism were the parents of Chloe, Clara and Cokkine Mwuka and Thandile and Wittombo Madhisa. Sixteen-year-old Benjamin, the oldest son, summed up the day with the comment: ‘It was a blessed day when children’s souls were enriched with God’s Spirit and the fullness of his love.’

Bletchley baptism

One year ago Andrew Webb attended a prayer meeting at one of West Bletchley Community church’s small groups. He remembers feeling the power of prayer. He was scheduled to take his driving test one week later and had requested three prayer sessions to pray to. He passed. On the morning of the test it was raining and he says, by rights, the test should have been cancelled. The fact that it was not was not in itself an answer to prayer, as he went on to pass his test!

Andrew testifies of his mother being a prayerful woman and acknowledges this as being instrumental in making the decision to be baptised on 24 January. His mother, brother Joseph, sister Elithia and a sizeable group of family and friends were present to share this momentous occasion with him.

The ministry for the district of Milton Keynes, Pastor Ashwin Somasundram, gave the address, and his predecessor Pastor Colin Stewart, currently Youth director for the South England Conference, immersed Andrew.

‘A baptismal event is one of the best ways to uplift and rebuke the mission and meaning of a church. It is a time when those who have committed their life through baptism rethink their journey, and those who have not yet accepted the need to follow Jesus rethink their life situation.’

The ceremony was enhanced with songs of praise from the Glasgow group Helping Hands, soloist Francesca Vauclain, and Faitfully youth group, Destined for Greatness.

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Silver medal for Stanborough Primary School Choir

The pupils and staff of Stanborough Primary School were kept very busy recently with a variety of activities. First thing on Monday 2 March, the school took part in a sponsored Jump Rope event to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation. In attendance were a reporter and a photographer from the Watford Observer and you can view the details on their site: www.watfordobserver.co.uk. Details of the monies raised for the event will be available in due course.

On Tuesday 5 March the school curriculum focused on World Book Day. Pupils were encouraged to use the library facilities, and interactive literacy activities were held in each classroom.

On Friday, 7 March, a large church and choir gathering of family and friends met together in the beautiful setting of Salisbury Crematorium to pay tribute to the memory of Dorothy Huzzey, who had passed away a few days earlier at the age of 91. Dorothy, who was a member of the South England Conference church, was born in London and during the Second World War, she was one of ten sisters. The large family struggled during the depression years of the 1930s. Eventually in 1936 Dorothy left home for Hertfordshire and found employment in Leywoods Hospital near to Stanborough Park. Shortly afterwards she met Idra Huzzey outside a local café, and the two of them were married the following year. Their home was blessed with a son, James, later Pastor Jim Huzzey, and during the privation of the wartime years the family enjoyed the fellowship of a wide circle of church friends. Dorothy, with a son James, later Pastor Jim Huzzey, and during the privation of the wartime years the family enjoyed the fellowship of a wide circle of church friends.

On Thursday 5 March the school delivered the spirituals was a hit for the choir, for on Sunday 8 March they won a silver medal at the Watford Music Festival in Scotland will always remember Bernard Howard seated behind his organ. His tasteful choice of music and his harmonious playing enhanced countless church services down the years. But to his family he was the provider of a peaceful and supportive Christian environment where love, patience and care were taught by example. Bernard was born in Amble, Northumberland, and he was the eldest son of Heroz D. Howard, a coloniser, who later was in charge of the literature work in Ireland. Bernard’s family moved to Glasgow when he was 8 years old and he attended Kelvinhall Academy. He showed great aptitude in mathematics and in music, becoming organist to the Glasgow SDX church at 15. Bernard eventually obtained a joint honours BSc/MA degree from Glasgow University in Maths and Physics. His great love of the outdoors led him on many bicycle and walking expeditions and, on returning from these, he would have several musical instruments. Friends still recall the embalmed and variations with which he endowed hymns such as ‘There’s a land that is fairer than this!’ He died peacefully, surrounded by, his family and friends, on Tuesday 5 February 2009. The funeral service, conducted by Pastor Marcel Gishula, was a family affair at Bernard’s home. Family members read tributes, and thanks to the wonders of telephony, relatives in Australia were able to hear the service live and participate with affectionate memories of their own. The words were written by Bernard himself and wholeheartedly endorsed by Bernard’s many friends from the Dundee church and further afield. God knows how much we loved Idia’s funny stories, and we loved him even more. One of them is to do things for him and he was always so appreciative of the smallest thing. I remember one month of his life, his car and his wise advice. Can’t wait to see him and Mum again when he was due to aboard Transmanche to France, having renewed his strong faith in God, tempered by his sense of fun and the ability he gave others to laugh at their progress. Bernard was laid to rest in Kirriemuir cemetery, beside his beloved Agnes, whom he had nursed during the final years of her life.

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Bernard Charles Joseph Howard (1918-2009) d. 5 February

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Do you want to make a difference in your community?

The Conwy Health Improvement Project’s Youth Health and Wellbeing Project is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help with piloting CHIP forward into the next phase of its development in the UK and Ireland.

CHIP is a training and peer education programme aimed at young people aged 11-18. CHIP is designed to help schools and youth groups to make a positive difference to the health and wellbeing of young people.

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Benjamin with Pastor Clifford Herman. Below: The baptismal group with Pastor Clifford Herman (extreme right).
Stanborough Park members provide continuing aid for Gucha Orphanage
by June Coombs

‘It’s a wonderful thing, having a mother-in-law,’ said Stanborough Park minister Ian Sleeman, addressing the congregation on 24 January, pausing before... her Gucha Orphanage in Western Kenya during her Christmas break with her family, is certainly no ordinary lady.

In February 2008, Mrs Hewitt, a former missionary nurse in Eastern Africa, appealed to Stanborough Park members for financial help to enable her to continue her work in Africa. Originally she had planned to return to Britain following her retirement but some generous benefactors enabled her to set up a small clinic for HIV patients in the Kisii district of Kenya. However, on her return to Kenya following a brief visit to her family in Britain she discovered that her twenty-four-bed clinic had been commandeered by the local social services and had become home to ninety orphans aged between 3 and 14 whose parents had died from AIDS.

According to Mrs Hewitt, the view in Kenya is that Westerners have access to wealthy Europeans and therefore have no need of funding from a poor African government! This left her to find approximately US$1,000 a month to feed, cloth and educate the children, as secondary education is not state-funded in Kenya. There was also an urgent need for more money to fund the construction of a boys’ dormitory.

Following her appeal, and thanks to word of the urgent need spreading and her extended family’s various creative ways of raising additional funding, the orphans were able to send approximately £32,000 to Africa during 2008 (of which £8,369.51 was donated by Stanborough Park members alone), necessitating the opening of a British bank account for the orphans.

This was certainly no mean achievement and demonstrated how God has blessed the project! The political unrest in Kenya during 2008 meant that Mrs Hewitt was prevented from returning to Gucha until last September. On arrival she found the residents ‘cheerful and in good health’, and soon they had a small baby found in a field added to their numbers. By now the shell of the boys’ dormitory had been completed but needed finishing, and the number requiring secondary education had increased from three to thirteen.

Political and financial circumstances meant that costs of food and so forth had risen in her absence, and finding money to pay this and the running expenses, now requiring a minimum of £600 a month, was becoming an even harder exercise.

Having updated members of the developments at her orphanage over the past year, Mrs Hewitt demonstrated the continuing need for financial help. The orphanage needs twenty-five sacks of maize meal (their staple diet) a month at a cost of 1,000 Kenyan shillings for 70kg, in addition to other foodstuffs, running costs, including the generator, and wages for her five helpers. Boarding and tuition fees and uniforms must be paid for those attending the Magma Adventist High School — a minimum of £245 a year for each child. The boys’ dormitory needs fitting out, there is plastering, plumbing, electrical work to be done (she is currently negotiating for a team of volunteers to carry out this work), in addition to providing the building with furniture, fittings, bedding and so on.

Following her appeal, Stanborough Park members dug into their pockets once again, contributing £1,186.07 (as of 28 February) towards her 2009 expenses.

This has enabled money to be sent to cover the first term’s secondary school fees and expenses, to continue the work on the boys’ dormitory and provide food and general supplies. Mrs Hewitt is now hoping and praying that once again God will bless her project and provide the necessary funding to continue: as her son-in-law puts it, ‘the wonderful work Betty is doing for the orphanage’, alleviating the plight of just a few of the twelve million AIDS orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa.

It is possible to view a CNN broadcast of the orphanage’s work on the Internet by going to video.google.com and entering ‘Gucha Orphanage’ into the search box. Mrs Hewitt can be contacted via email: guchaorphanage@gmail.com.

**WANTED**

If you have any used computers which you would like to sell, please phone 01923 491291.

**MESSAGES**

April

5
John Langborough
20.30am-2pm

5
Bradford
20.30am-2pm

26
Manchester
20.30am-2pm

May

3
John Langborough
20.30am-2pm

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**MESSAGE**

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