Brixton’s 1,000th member

by Valerie Moodie

Brixton church started with a trickle of fervent members in the early 1950s and that trickle has now turned into a torrent of more than 1,000 on the church membership records. This has come about through consistent Bible study and annual campaigns under the guidance of Pastor Hamilton Williams and his team. It was during the ‘You’ve got a friend in high places’ campaign in March that Delroy Campbell became the 1,000th candidate to be baptised. Being the 1,000th person to be baptised is a cause for celebration in itself, but the events that led up to Delroy’s decision reveal that the Lord is at work.

He had heard the message ever since he had married Elaine, a most unassuming and modest person who has served the church while praying with and for her husband throughout their entire marriage. He attended church very occasionally and was always willing to pick Elaine up when church finished whenever he could. He had created his own routine of Bible study and personal worship but he would not take the final step, even though he knew in his heart that the Adventist Church was the right one.

On the evening of 21 March, unknown to him, a baptism was planned at Brixton church which was to be the first fruits of the campaign. On that evening, Delroy was sitting in a shop in Brixton having something to eat and a soft drink when he felt compelled to go to church and pick up his wife. As he entered the church he heard the singing evangelist Clarence Scott from Montego Bay relate a personal testimony and, although he said he tried to resist getting up, he was drawn to move to the front. He pushed past the people, but deep within himself he was holding back a secret. The Lord had been speaking to him through dreams. However, he had put him off again and again. On that evening he was unable to deny the overriding voice of the Lord.

Elaine was on usher duty and also made her way to the front to see her husband standing there with the rest of those who had given their lives to Christ, but could only pray that today would be different for him. Perhaps today he would give in to the Lord. As the Bible workers took those who had responded to the call into the pastor’s vestry and closed the door, Elaine continued to usher people to their seats until Pastor Williams came out and made an announcement for Elaine to come to the vestry as he had some good news for her.

That was the night that would change Delroy’s life and his relationship with the Lord as he was plunged beneath the waters and came up renewed, refreshed and ready to embark on his journey with Christ. Although Delroy became the 1,000th member, the baptisms did not stop there, for after Pastor Fitzroy Jackson from the USA preached the Word night after night, at the end of the campaign a total of twenty-six men and women were accepted into the fellowship of the body of Christ.
The Vatican will call upon Catholics to boycott the cinema follow-up to The Da Vinci Code, Italian newspaper La Stampa believes. Angels and Demons is released worldwide on 15 May and, like The Da Vinci Code, stars Tom Hanks, who, give time on a mission to save the Vatican from destruction by antimatter. The Vatican is far from feeling grateful, though, having been answered by a church's organisational theory that Jesus secretly married Mary Magdalene, and been upset by its portrayal of the Opus Dei Catholic movement as a murderous organisation. Whether the Vatican will actually act on a boycott for a or not, I don't know. Personally, I see such films as useful conversation starters with non-Christians as a lead-in to spiritual matters. However, what has caught my attention about this film is the concept of ‘antimatter’.

Does antimatter actually exist? Apparently, it does. As to exactly what it is, I don't know, and the explanations I have seen, frankly, I don't understand. One thing about antimatter is that it is said to be the most costly substance in existence, with an estimated cost of $62.5 trillion per milligram! This is because production is so difficult. Having gone to extreme expense, does it serve any practical purpose? Well, possibly, one usage, at least in theory, is that it could be used as fuel for such things as interstellar travel. So far, though, the ability to produce an incredible amount is not quite up to much. One researcher said, 'If we could assemble all of the antimatter we've ever made at CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research) and annihilate it with matter, we would have enough energy to light a single electric light bulb for a few minutes.'

The other problem is in storing it, as it can't be stored in a container made of ordinary matter, because antimatter reacts with any matter it touches, annihilating itself and the container. This leads to what is, to me, the inevitable question: 'Why bother making antimatter?' It reminds me of the Scripture: 'Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters, and you who have no money, come and buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without cost, and eat what you desire without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.' Isaiah 55:1, 2.

Why do we spend our resources on useless things? That is what the passage seems to be saying. Apart from antimatter, we could think of many other examples. You and I may each have our own personal antimatter, something that we spend time or money on that is worthless. We would do well to take this Scripture seriously and to take into our lives only that which will actually nourish.

At the Cross

David Marshall

Where were the men at Golgotha?

There were soldiers, of course. A centurion is mentioned. And a typical Roman execution squad contained four men chosen for their experience and cold-bloodedness.

There were priests and other members of the religious establishment. Most of them were there as spectators or to make sure Jesus was dead at the finish.

But did Jesus have no friends? True, he won over the crucified thief and offered him eternity. But what about those well-known male disciples of Jesus? Where were they?

Judas had taken his own life.

The others had run from Gethsemane. Subsequently, at the trial before the high priest, Simon Peter would seem to have given himself a whack across the bill. Until, despite the sword-waving bravo in Gethsemane, he denied his Lord—three times!—in an exchange initiated by a moment of weakness.

After that, we hear no more of the most outspoken disciple, or of any other disciple, until the dying moments of Jesus when John appeared on the scene.

Where were the disciples when Herod mocked, the mob roared, ‘Crucify!’ and when the heavyweights soldiers laid on the thirty-nine lashes? Where were his friends when, his back in ribbons, he stumbled under the weight of the crossbeam? Nowhere to be seen. Simon of Cyrene’s experience, the media have had to be pressed into service. Where were his friends when executioners with arms like steel hauled the crossbeam, massive iron nails? Jesus had put great store by his friends. So where were they when he needed them most?

That does not mean that, even there, even then, Jesus was friendless.

As Simon of Cyrene carried the crossbeam for Jesus, a crowd in which women predominated followed behind. (Luke 23:26–31.) So harrowing was their grief on Jesus’ behalf that, despite his trauma and disorientation, he paused to speak, addressing them as ‘Daughters of Jerusalem’.

The men, then?

When, having shared out the clothing of Jesus, the execution squad sat back on their haunches ‘and watched him there’ (Matthew 27:38). Did they then adopt an approach dutifully to give succour to his Master? Not one. It was the execution squad who ‘offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall’ and ‘heard him refuse it. (Matthew 27:34.)

On the spot now. You are among his friends. Where would you have been right then?

Two days later, when Mary Magdalene, running and out of breath, came to the disciples to say, ‘I have seen the Lord,’ she found them locked doors ‘for fear of the Jews’. John’s account suggests they were still in the same place and for the same reason on the evening of Resurrection Sunday when they heard the words, ‘Peace be with you!’ (John 20:19.) Did you catch that? Jesus came to them!

The fourth gospel does make mention of a tiny bunch of loyal followers clustered near the cross when Jesus died. There was Jesus, his mother, his sister Mary, his mother and Mary of Clopas and Mary Magdalene. (John 19:25.) In addition, ‘the disciple whom he loved [was] standing nearby’ (Verse 26.) John, son of Salome, was probably a headstrong late teen who did not look like a threat to anyone.

The remaining four of the loyal few were female. Three of them were called Mary. Of Mary the mother of Clopas nothing is known. Mary, the mother of Jesus, was there because no power on Earth could have prevented her; though she could not understand, she could love. The presence of her sister Salome, was to be harder to explain. Salome was the wife of Zebedee and the mother of James and John (who, like John the Baptist, must, therefore, be assumed to have been cousins of Jesus). Just prior to the last Supper, Salome had tried to secure a promise from Jesus of a top place in his kingdom for her son. Jesus had rebuked her. Her presence as one of the loyal few next day speaks volumes about the loving way Jesus rebuked her.

Finally, there was Mary Magdalene. Jesus’ love had rescued her from a life of sin, and she had already lavished the word ‘esus’ on his man’s annual income on an outrageous act of gratitude to him. No one could have kept her away.

So, at the ninth hour, when the Son of God surrendered his life for the sin of the world, ten of his closest male friends were in hiding. Some Bible commentators excuse the absence of the men and explain the presence of women by saying that men might have

At the Cross

According to the New York Times report of 11 May, the Vatican is considering a boycott of the film At the Cross. In 2003, the film At the Cross was not due to the fact that they were so unimportant that no one would notice them; their presence was due to the fact that perfect love casts out fear.

The same love drew many women to the early Church. Their perceived threat value was such that, as soon as the Jerusalem establishment began its systematic persecu-

David Marshall

Relevant


The Da Vinci Code

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The source of intelligence? by Colin Mitchell

Why are some countries richer and more successful than others? This has always been a live issue. We have generally put it down to the luck of the draw, abundance of good soils in a favourable climate, good supplies of minerals, a conscientious labour force with good education, healthy and a clean lifestyle. But this does not adequately explain the enormous differences between the Gross Domestic Income (GDI) of different nations, some many times greater than others. In 2008 they ranged from Luxembourg with a mean annual per capita income of US$77,760 down to Mozambique with US$340.

Two researchers have sought a new explanation for these differences. Dr Richard Lynn is Professor Emeritus of Psychology at the University of Ulster, and Dr Tatu Vanhanen (father of the prime minister of Finland) is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Tampere, Finland. They have written two books: IQ and Global Inequality: Why Some Countries flourished while Others Fell Behind, and IQ and Global Inequality 2: IQ and Intergroup Differences. They argue that these differences are due to both genetic and economic factors so that low IQ can both cause and effect from low GDP. This thesis has been challenged from several fields, some of it enthusiastic and some of it dismissive. Criticism has focused on the reliability of their data used on their defining of IQ and economic success.

They arrive at the IQ of nations by using published statistics on, where these are not available, making estimates based on values from neighboring or similar nations. They use the UK as a base with a value of 100 and assign values which range down from 70 for Hong Kong to 59 for Equatorial Guinea. In related studies, Lynn and a co-worker claim that males have higher intelligence than females. The IQ scores for males are 104 and, using data from Lynn and Vanhanen, Temple and Arkawa (2006) conclude that higher IQ is correlated with lower mean temperature.

Lynn and Vanhanen back up their IQ assess-ment with a new index called the Quality of Human Conditions (QHC). It does this for each country from 5 variables: purchasing power per capita, adult literacy, tertiary education, life expectancy at birth, and level of democracy. Values of this index range from Norway at 89 to Burkino Faso at 10.7, with the UK in the sixties. They claim that this correlates with national IQ.

One of their findings is that northern Europe has the highest IQs. They argue that this is related to the genetic inheritance of the Ashkenazim Jewish people. For example, Rev. 13:18. They also claim that the low IQs in Africa reflect the impact of European colonisers and that the low IQs of the Muslim countries reflect the impact of the Islamic faith.

Summary

The authors conclude that the IQ of a society is a measure of the intelligence of the people living in it. They also claim that IQ is heritable.

References


Suggestions for further reading


Children matter series

Dear Editor

I am a young Adventist. I lost my mum last year. She was my best friend. I fled my country to the UK due to political reasons. She died in a car crash in February last year while I was on my way to church. I was so sad. I told God that I was giving up on church and that I would never come back. I know this is not what God wants. I feel like I can’t continue living this way anymore. What do you think I should do?

Yours sincerely,
[Name]

Dear [Name],

I am so sorry to hear about your loss. It must have been an extremely difficult time for you and your family. It is important to remember that God is with us during our times of sadness and grief. In the Bible, we are told that God will provide comfort and strength to those who are grieving. Hebrews 13:5 says, “Through this we can be bold, even though we are full of weakness.”

It is okay to feel sad and to grieve. God understands our pain and he knows how hard it is to lose someone we love. In John 16:20, Jesus says, “These griefs and sorrows are temporary, but your joy will be forever.”

I encourage you to seek comfort and strength from God through prayer. You can talk to him about your feelings and your worries. He promises to provide you with peace in your heart (John 14:27). You can also find comfort in the words of others who have gone through similar experiences. There are many resources available online and in local churches that can offer support and guidance.

Remember, God never leaves us. He is always there for us, even in our times of grief. Philippians 4:6 says, “Be joyful in hope, patient in suffering, persistent in prayer.”

I pray that you find peace and comfort in your grief. May God’s love and grace be with you during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,
[Your Name]
Newbold lowers tuition fees
by Helen Pearson, PRO, www.newbold.ac.uk

Newbold College is simplifying its fee structure and lowering tuition fees by £1,000 for many of its students. Students from the Trans-European Division and the European Economic Area will find that tuition fees for the Gap War, the new degrees in Film and Media, and Arts and Humanities and all the short undergraduate courses will be lower from the beginning of next semester (August 2009). This is the beginning of a series of moves scheduled to create parity between Newbold tuition fees and those in other UK colleges and universities. Tuition fees for students of Theology will stay at the current 2008-9 level while the administration monitors the effects of the new tariff on non-theology degrees. As curmudgeons circulate in the media about the possible doubling of tuition fees in universities and colleges, Newbold’s tuition fees look like a good deal. The new fee structure means the price of studying for a degree at Newbold even more competitive with UK universities and puts short courses like the Gap War within the reach of more students and their families,” says Newbold’s principal, Dr Jane Sabers.

The College is also streamlining its fee tariff to make it simpler for students to understand and more convenient for them to pay. We want to make it easier for students to come to Newbold and succeed at their studies,” says the College’s registrar, Bert Lisle.

To read the full interview with Newbold’s registrar, Bert Lisle, and get more information about reductions and other student discounts, go to www.newbold.ac.uk.

Gardeners’ Question Time at Newbold

The Newbold church centre was full of about 300 gardeners on Monday night when BBC Radio 4 recorded two editions of Gardeners’ Question Time. The event was organised by the Ballyfield Gardeners’ Club with the encouragement of Newbold’s former head of Humanities, Harry Leonard, a former secretary of the club. The gardening experts, Matthew Biggs, Bob Flowerdew and Anne Swift, in tandem with their chairman, Eric Robson, dealt with a variety of horticultural questions on many aspects of organic and environmentally-friendly gardening, growing blueberries and sweet potatoes, and making figs ripe. The panel chose the questions and questions, one of which was asked by the head of Newbold’s School of English, Erica Hake, who asked about methods for repotting orchids.

Harry Leonard, chairman of Newbold’s Moor Close Garden Committee, was delighted to be part of this occasion for a number of reasons. ‘It’s great to have all these gardeners from our local community on campus,’ he said. Everyone who came received a leaflet about Newbold and Moor Close Gardens. Many Newbold alumni donated generously to building the church centre as a venue for, among other things, community events like this. It’s good to see it being put to one of the uses for which it was intended.’

The Gardeners’ Question Time programmes recorded at Newbold can be heard on BBC Radio 4 on 22 May (repeated on 24 May) and on 10 July (repeated on 12 July). They will also be available on the BBC Radio 4 website after those dates. For pictures go to www.newbold.ac.uk.

Adventist Muslim Relations seminars

On Sunday 8 February, the first day of the three-Sunday training course, the Adventist Muslim Relations (AMR) team arrived at the Advent Centre ready for action! AMR director, Pastor Petras Bahadur, had worked hard training his team for this event. They were encouraged by the long queue of young people who had come to get acquainted with each other, as well as learn more about this new ministry.

The day started with Emil Shehulume and Jay Brainthwaite recounting the history of AMR and revealing how the Lord has blessed the AMR ministry thus far. The students then took part in ice-breakers, discussions and break-out sessions. Throughout the day, their concerns, dreams and visions slowly unfolded.

As a ministry, Muslim Relations had seemed a no-go zone, yet it began to be simplified by the skilful and Christ-oriented presentations of Pastor Petras. Many of the senior students mentioned how their children had felt drawn towards the Islamic faith and how there had been no one to turn to. A renewed understanding of how the Lord could now help them to have a better relationship with their children and bring them back home to the faith was a great source of joy to those parents. The lunch period was buzzing with discussions, and in the afternoon the fears and concerns and misunderstandings of the Muslim faith were dealt with by one by one. Everyone went home better equipped after the first day of training.

On the second Sunday, John Bishop and Dean Jenna helped the young people to have a real desire to approach their friends to bring them to a better understanding of Christ. The ministry update discussion periods and the feedback sessions clarified the specific needs that the young people had with this delicate but important outreach. They were amazed to learn that an online facility was available for them to log on to, superheated by Beng. Pastor Petras and the core team members answered some questions that were brought up and helped to clear up so many misunderstandings. Some of the attendees had had relations leave the Church and take interest in the Muslim faith, and much was achieved for them. As the Lord turned angularlooks into faces of joy. It was a thrill to see the young people joining hands and asking for prayer at the end of this second session.

The final session was on Sunday 15 March and, despite the sunny weather outside, the youth came in force, armed with their folders of notes, eager to complete their training. Adrian Louthridge opened the morning session with a presentation on the understanding of Sharif and Adab. College Stewart, SEC Youth director, presented the morning devotional based on Isaiah 60:1-5. Pastor Petras Bahadur, director of the AMR department at the SEC, then took the training to a new level with the study of the ‘Seven Signs.’ This core material helped all those who attended to understand how to demonstrate to ‘our brothers’ the plan of salvation based on Christ, through the use of the Quran itself. A lively group discussion then took place, hosted by the core committee, to see what the young people had achieved since the last meeting and the meetings were taken by surprise at the way the young people had been blessed in their new ministry.

The afternoon took a different approach, as testimonials were presented one after the other, and all realised that the dream of the AMR department had now become a reality. The vision had been captured by the young people, as they testified how they were now able to witness and build a common platform with their work colleagues and their friends. What was achieved through the efforts of the AMR team members, as it was obvious that the Holy Spirit was now taking over the ministry and directing it heaven-bound.

MC for the day, John Bishop, reminded us that this was not the end of the journey, but merely the beginning. The closing remarks by Pastor Des Bouldeau, the BUC Youth director, were very powerful as he charged the young people to take this ministry by the horns, and to move forward the great achievements gained thus far.

The AMR department and Pastor Petras are requesting that each reader of this article pray for opportunities of witnessing to our Muslim friends in the communities around churches. The AMR department is using the common platform of sharing our faith and is hoping that the Holy Spirit will guide many more to prepare to meet Christ at his soon return.

Report and photos by Danny Julie.

Training sessions were organised by the Adventist Muslim Relations department of the South England Conference in conjunction with the British Union Conference Youth department. Enquiries to: asianrelations@googlemail.com.

Certified Training for Adventist Muslim Relations

The Adventist Muslim Relations department at the South England Conference is organising a six-month course on Islam for pastors and lay people who would like to have a good understanding of Islam in order to be able to reach their local communities.

The six-month course, which is heavily subsidised, will cost only £125! The course will take place as follows:

Frequency: Once a month (every 3rd Sunday of the month)
Dates: 17 May 20 September
21 June 18 October
19 July 15 November
Graduation: 20 December
Venue: The Advent Centre, 12 Crawford Place (off Edgware Road), Westminster, London W1H 5HD

This very special course called Encountering the World of Islam, in conjunction with World Mission Institute, USA. You will receive a certificate at completion. Every topic will be covered by professors and scholars coming from across the world to lead in the presentations. These presenters are authorities on Islam and evangelism. Topics covered will be: History of Islam, Evangelism of Islam, Spiritual World of Islam, Cultural Barriers, Theological Issues and Approaches to Evangelism.

Places are limited, so please register for one course to avoid disappointment.

Please email: sventzalidis@secadventist.org.uk or call the South England Conference on 01923 237278

 suger

www.newbold.ac.uk
Something to celebrate!

There is something wonderful about being invited to a party or having a party with your friends! It’s exciting to plan the food and to think about what you’ll do, what you’ll wear, what the cake will look like, and whom you’ll invite!

God knew that we would need to have something happy to look forward to, so he gave his people in the Bible lots of different festivals to celebrate things like harvests, their freedom, his forgiveness and his loving care for them.

Which celebration do you like the best? Is it Bonfire Night, remembering Jesus’ birth or death, your own birthday, Mother’s Day, Pancake Day, the first day back at school, or a special celebration that reminds you of your country?

Tell someone about the celebration you like the best, what you most enjoy about it, and how you could use the celebration to share the love of Jesus with someone else.

Celebration search!

Look through Messenger and count how many celebrations you can find! Look for weddings and parties, anniversaries, special baby dedications, baptisms and other happy events. Write the number of celebrations you found here.

Celebration crossword

God’s people from Old Testament times had lots of different celebrations. See if you can find out what they were. The clues are in the Bible texts.

Across:
5. Deuteronomy 16:1, 2.

Down:
1. Leviticus 25:8-10.
2. Deuteronomy 16:9-12.

Celebrate and pray!

‘Celebrate this as a festival to the Lord ... as did the Israelites when they escaped from Egypt. I am the LORD your God’ (Leviticus 23:43).

Do you like celebrating happy events like your birthday or going on holidays? Pretend you are thanking God for one of the seven holiday celebrations described in Leviticus 23. This is the one where you have a week’s holiday, not in your home but in a booth, a tent. It is a bit like going to camp meeting where you stay in a small chapel.

Drape a sheet or a blanket over a couple of chairs to make a tent. If the weather is dry, ask your parents to help you be like the Israelites and make your ‘tent’ outside. While sitting in your tent, remember this is a holiday to celebrate God taking care of his people. Invite your family to join you. Ask each person to tell a story of a time when God took care of them. Celebrate with singing and saying a special prayer of thanks to God.

Jesus loves parties!

Did you know that the first miracle Jesus did was at a party? Look in the book of John chapter 2 to find out what kind of party it was and what Jesus did to help everyone celebrate. After you’ve read the story, try this activity with your family. Take a piece of paper and fold it so that you have three columns. In the first column, write a list of all the different characters in the story. In the second column, write how they might have felt before Jesus did the miracle, and in the third column, write how they might have felt after the miracle. How would you celebrate if Jesus did a miracle for your family?

Design a celebration!

Think of something special that God has done for your family. Or maybe you want to celebrate a time when God answered your prayers, or protected you, or perhaps the anniversary of a baptism, or just a day when you want to celebrate God’s love for you. Then design a special way to celebrate with your family.

When will you celebrate, and why? Who will you have the celebration for? What will you do, say, sing and so on? And what would be good to eat? Who will celebrate with you?

What would be the most wonderful part of the celebration?

Tell us about your plans for a celebration by 30 June 2009, and the best ideas will win prizes and may be added to our website of ideas. Email your ideas to childrensadventist.org.uk.

Contribute: Karen Holford, Anne Pilmoor and Heather Haworth
Making a difference

Easter is a time when we remember the death and resurrection of our Lord, and what better way to do this than by heeding his command: ‘This do in remembrance of me.’ Members of Ashford United, Canterbury and Folkestone churches joined forces with Most Housing to make a difference for seventy children and over twenty parents in the Stanhope Ward of Ashford Borough.

This took the form of an Easter party organised by a committee of dedicated members. There was a variety of activities for the children, which included a bouncy castle and games. After a tasty lunch the children were treated to a demonstration of the meaning of Easter by CBS, a local puppet ministry group from Folkestone. The local paper, The Kentish Express, was represented. The day came to an end with each child receiving a bag of goodies. Given the overwhelming response, we hope to make this an annual event and to expand our numbers. With God all things are possible.

Special thanks to Pastor Israel Williams, Area 4 Co-ordinator, who took time out to spend the day with us.

Baptism at Leicester Central

On 28 March, the Leicester Central church family celebrated the baptism of five new members. Mayamiko Jali, Ida Chimanga, Janique Dennis, Maud Papaya and Miton Campbell happily made a commitment to become disciples of Christ in response to the call to accept the teachings of the Church presented by church elder Sylvia Ham-Ying.

Each candidate selected favourite hymns and Bible readings, which held significant meaning and provided spiritual encouragement as they met challenges in their Christian experience. These were shared with the congregation as each one entered the baptismal pool. Songs included ‘Burdens are lifted at Calvary’, ‘Edwin Hawkins’ gospel song ‘I’m Happy Day’, ‘In times like these you need a Saviour’, and one of the readings was John 15:4 which expresses the call to ‘abide in Christ and bear fruit’.

We were uplifted by a vocal solo entitled ‘Just Pray’, presented by Tina Brooks, who also accompanied herself beautifully at the piano.

From Skegness to Leicester: Sponsored cycle ride for ADRA-UK

A team of six cyclists, led by Vernon Dublin, rode the distance of 90 miles from Skegness to Leicester on 5 April in a sponsored cycle ride to raise funds for the annual national ADRA-UK appeal. The other members of the team were Vince Halliday, Ivan Browne, Sam Roberts, Andrew Dublin and Andrew Saddler.

One of the cyclists is a member of the Leicester Central church on

Salvation Associate required at The Stanborough Press

The Stanborough Press is seeking to recruit a Salvation Associate to join the existing team in Grantham, Lincolnshire. Applicants should possess good organisational and inter-personal skills, and be enthusiastic for the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The role will cover a wide range of sales administration roles and contribute towards the sales team’s initiatives to increase the flow of literature into the UK. Training will be given on the computer software packages used within the organisation.

Interested persons are invited to contact Paul Peddar, UK Sales Manager, for an informal discussion on this post (Tel. 01476 591700). Salary and terms of employment will be in keeping with denominational policies and are available on request.

Individuals are invited to send a CV to Paul Peddar, UK Sales Manager, The Stanborough Press Ltd, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincs., NG31 9SL.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 28 May 2009

My baptism

by Pamela Marie Sobieradzki

In the 10 April issue of Messenger I spoke about my reunion with my mother for the very first time in sixty-two years. Both my Mom and I believed that this was just one of God’s miracles and that he has been watching over us for all these years. We believe that God decided that it was time for us to be reunited after so many years of separation.

Since meeting my Mom I started to attend my local Adventist church in Colchester because I felt that something or Someone was calling me. After two years I now know that what I was experiencing was the Lord’s Spirit talking to me and calling me, beckoning me to come closer to him. In January this year I finally realised that God had touched me in so many wonderful ways and also experienced his Spirit working with me. My faith in God has been restored, and this led me to the decision that I wanted to be baptised.

On the Sabbath of 4 April I was baptised by Pastor Sam, and what a wonderful experience it was. My Mom (who had come over from Bath, specially), my husband, and my good friends were there to witness my union with God and to meet my new church family. I truly believe that I have been blessed with the Holy Spirit and I cannot stop singing God’s praises for his wonderful work.

* See ‘Mother and daughter reunited after sixty-two years’ Messenger 114.8, page 14.

Baptism at Leicester Central

by Philip Herbert

On 28 March, the Leicester Central church family celebrated the baptism of five new members. Mayamiko Jali, Ida Chimanga, Janique Dennis, Maud Papaya and Miton Campbell happily made a commitment to become disciples of Christ in response to the call to accept the teachings of the Church presented by church elder Sylvia Ham-Ying.

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We were uplifted by a vocal solo entitled ‘Just Pray’, presented by Tina Brooks, who also accompanied herself beautifully at the piano.
Experience God in an alternative way . . .

by Kimberly Paulien,
Adventist volunteer at Stanborough Park church

W hen I first arrived at the Stanborough Park church I was excited about attend-
ing my first service. I enjoyed the traditional service with hymns, organ and a children’s story. I am a fairly conservative Adventist and the service was to my liking, though I would have chosen to add a few praise songs. But I couldn’t believe it after a few days I started to hear about the plans for the Parallel Service. This news disap-
pointed me. I really enjoyed the main service! I love hearing hymns being belted out by old and young! But now this alternative service would cause a lot of changes!

I judged the concept far too quickly. I feared this new service meant solely years, drums and ear-
piecing music. I feared the service would throw away basic church tra-
ditions and be only entertainment rather than a deep spiritual service. It would have been crazy to think that even people on the planning committee as I do now, I would never have had those fears. My parents moved to southern California a few years ago. When we arrived we sampled the churches in the area. One church in particular was deemed ‘youth friendly’, it being a youth church led by youth. I was excited to see what this might actu-
ally mean. I was disappointed to learn that it was the sad attempt of a few thirty-ish-age adults to be twenty again. The only area it seemed to strive was unstructured entertainment. I didn’t want all the youth of Stanborough to run from the traditional service to an ‘entertain-
ment high’ that no doubt would not last! Church should be real, thought-
provoking, and bring you closer to Jesus! The sole purpose of church is to experience God!

The day of the first Parallel Service arrived, and to be completely honest I was astounded! Every expectation I had held previously about the service was blown out of the water! Around eighty people were present to participate. I enjoyed the music, creative worship, and Dejan Obijovic’s sermon. I realised that, yes, this service could and would work! As the weeks flew by, more and more people began attending. We have now over 150 people coming each time. The faces are a mix of old and new. People who had quit church years ago now are somehow called to experience God in an alternative way. There are people who are just curious or who come to see friends involved in the service. I am continually impressed, there is a vast array of participants each week.

In the beginning I assumed that the alternative-service would only bring in youth and teens. But there are people of all age groups and denominations worshipping together!

We have a variety! I saw a restaur-

ant yesterday named, ‘Variety is . . .

the spice of life’. What is the point of church if you do not feel comfort-
able? Church is supposed to be a home, a family. There are people who have said they’ve never felt comfortable at a normal church service, but now the difference! People come as three-piece suits, jeans, flip-flops or normal Sabbath attire. Is there a woman who has been attending Stanborough Park church for some time now, but she never entered the church service. She merely came to take her children to Sabbath School. This woman tried Parallel Service and now says! She even participates in the service most weeks! I know of several church members whose non-Adventist friends and family members came to see what the whole hype was about, and stayed! There are quite a few young people who choose to come to Parallel Service instead of sleeping in! God has been truly blessing the service!

The Parallel Service is filling a need. I am truly enjoying this experi-

ence and it is drawing in numbers. I hope you take a moment to come out and see what is happening at the Stanborough Park church!

Montserratian Day of Fellowship

on Sabbath 23 May

at the New Life Church, The Ridgeway Centre, Featherstone Road, Walsall WA4 4TH

Event speaker: Pastor Sam Davis, president of the South England Conference

Please contact Wilman Riley on 0121 241 7318 or email wbriley@icloud.co.uk

Pan European Adventist Youth Congress

After 30 April – £15 per person
(Credit card accepted by prior arrangement)

See www.messenger.org.uk/departments/youth.php for full details and to download an application form.

S he was only 18 years old when she witnessed the demolition of the old Balham Adventist church. Having just completed her A levels and heading for university to study building and architecture, who would have thought that Siobhan Brown would meet with Pastor Derek Biggin along with her husband David and Irish contractors Chris and Tony McCotter (Caldwell Ltd), would be instrumental in completing the Balham project and helping the church realise a dream of twenty-one years in the making.

On Monday & April the keys of Balham’s entire church building and sculpture were handed over to Balham’s Pastor Keith Boldoe, signifying that all building work had been completed.

In the words of South England Conference (SEC) President Pastor Sam Davis: ‘This is the best building in the SEC! But we should never forget that our business is about saving souls.’

In the beginning I assumed that the alternative service would only bring in youth and teens. But there are people of all age groups and demographics who are enjoying the service. It is a testament to the professionalism and friendship of the project management team and the pastor and members of Balham.

Pastor Sam Davis thanked Siobhan and her husband and the rest of the team for executing the completion of this project in such a professional and pleasant way. He said that today was a proud day for all of us, as it was twenty-six years ago when the old building was knocked down and as an intern pas-
tor at Balham church he was at Pastor Kawalish’s side, looking at the plans of the new building. We can be enormously proud and know that good things come to those who wait.

Now it’s over to the church mem-
ers to use this building to serve the community. Pastor Davis paid special thanks to the SEC treasurer for his personal input and drive, as his contribution has made a significant difference to getting this project completed. To God be the glory!
**Zimbabwean Day of Fellowship**

By Theophilus Gokah

What Christians can learn from soccer fans’ the theme of Pastor Chizhiri at the Zimbabwean Day of Fellowship, held at the Fitzalan High School in Cardiff on Sabbath 23 March. The day was organised by South Wales African Adventist Fellowship (SWAFAF) in conjunction with Impact 79.

Pastor Chizhiri traced the origin of the word ‘fan’ to the Greek language where the original meaning was ‘fanatic’. He wondered how many relationships were destroyed by the obsessive behaviour of their husbands during football matches. The irony of his message was that, while the congregation was held spellbound by his anekdotes, next door to the venue, Depauw rugby match with enthusiastic cheering crowds of rugby fans.

Pastor Chizhiri drew the attention of Christians to the loyalty and faithfulness of their fans. They like to feel that their club and many ‘children of God’ cannot even be identified with the Bible. Fans are great spenders. They fly and book a hotel to watch their team but many Church members do not care if their Church friends are loyal to their team. It does not matter if they are down by a goal, even if it is one minute to end of the game, they think their team will score two goals. Even after the match they talk about what might have been.

The afternoon session featured traditional songs, praise and worship. There was time enough to pray for peace in Zimbabwe and God’s intervention in the suffering faced by families in that country.

Music was provided by Shepherd Quartet from Wolverhampton, Zimbabweans from Bristol, Birmingham and individuals from Cardiff.

**Wellington Pathfinders and the Mayor**

The Mayor of Wellington, councillor Eileen Higgins, and her sergeant-at-arms, Mr Geoff Betts, came to visit Pathfinders and Adventurers at the Wellingborough church. The purpose was to bring the topic of citizenship for Pathfinders and Adventurers to life. The Mayor of Wellingborough, Mohammed Farrow, explained that the pathfinders and adventurers are not the Church of tomorrow—they are the Church of today. For this reason, Wellingborough, very proud of its youth, will provide them such opportunities to develop their talents for the Lord. We look forward with great anticipation to our next Youth Day.

She affirmed that the young people are not the Church of tomorrow—they are the Church of today. For this reason, Wellington, very proud of its committed young people, is delighted to give them such opportunities to develop their talents for the Lord. We look forward with great anticipation to our next Youth Day.

**COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT**

Deborah Samuel and Mariam Mohammed sang a lovely duet for the Mayor and Daniel Brown. Lewis read the Scripture beautifully.

By the beginning of divine service there were many people dressed in their Pathfinder and Adventurers uniforms, had filled nearly half the sanctuary. Tina Bore, already used to being up in front, gave a pack church a warm welcome. Tanya Njobi read the Scripture and Irenasegun Abern and Albert Bell shared the prayer.

There was a further demonstration of the burgeoning musical talent as we listened to a song from a group of the young people called The Way (Wellingborough Adventist Youth) whose aim is to point people through the medium of song to the Way—Jesus.

Charlotte Bramble is not only the musical director of the choir but also the youth leader and at only 20 she is already an accomplished speaker. In her address she recognised that the growing group of young people in sport is ‘focussed’—a fact evident in their commitment to the life and activities of the church. Charlotte explained how young people could overcome the fear some adults have of teenagers. The Mayor advised that they could contribute to the community by wearing their full robes and chain of office, and the Pathfinders who were present were to be congratulated on the young people they are producing.

A pleasant smile and a ‘hello’ would make a great difference. Another teen, Mariam, asked how to get a problem with a council service resolved. The Mayor was helpful. After hearing of the issue she advised that the problem could be resolved by contacting a local councillor.

The Pathfinders, all teens, then asked questions. One teen, with a racial colour, asked how young people could connect with the rest of the church in the church with the world in which the church is situated as part of good citizenship and to enhance the relationship of the church with the community.

You can’t allow a civic dignitary to leave church empty handed. The Pathfinders had made a beautiful collage, while the Pathfinders had created an embroidered and printed pillow as gifts.

**PAMELA ELIZABE WILSON** (1929-2008) d. 15 August, Dorset.

Elie Wilson was born on 20 September 1929 in Bagdad, Iraq, and died on 15 August 2008. She was laid to rest in Easthampton Cemetery on 2 September. Her funeral service was conducted by three pastors who knew Elsie well. The service was followed by a memorial service in the church.

**JOHN SURRIDGE** with input from the family of David Broke.

sent cards, messages, flowers and gifts to the British Heart Foundation. They were deeply appreciated.

The family would like to thank all who sent cards, messages, flowers and gifts to support the card campaign. They were deeply appreciated.

**JOHN SURRIDGE** with input from the family of David Broke.
Youth Week of Prayer: ‘Regroup, Refuel, Refocus’

by David Busseau

The youth team under the leadership of Nikki Holmes decided not to do the ‘usual’ this year and, as part of Sheffield Carter Knowle’s wider outreach programme over this next two years, invited Pastor David Zaid from California to be the special speaker for YWOP. The theme for the week was Regroup, Refuel, Refocus.

Things started with an all-night prayer meeting on Saturday 14 March as part of the preparations for YWOP. One of the key ambitions of YWOP was to consolidate the youth at Carter Knowle and to re-establish links with those youth with whom links had been disconnected.

All we knew of Pastor Zaid was that he had been recommended by another pastor, and we had seen a YouTube clip of him. We also knew our God. Well, Pastor Zaid more than delivered!

He ministers at the Westminster Good Samaritan Seventh-day Adventist church in California, USA, and has a vibrant youth team there, which he shared with us here at Carter Knowle. Pastor Zaid had the ability to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ seem so simple, yet exciting. He used humour, real-life situations, and insights into his own life and background to make a point.

During the all-night prayer session, a list of names of youth we wanted to re-connect with was put on the wall. By the Wednesday night fifteen of that list had come out to the meetings, and most of them were coming consistently.

We were blessed with young people making decisions for Jesus Christ to come into their lives and do something different.

Pastor Zaid focused on the lives of young men like Joseph and challenged the church to be radical for Jesus Christ.

He drew attention to the dysfunctionality in families, yet pointed out that this did not hold patriarchy back from doing their all for the Lord.

Pastor Zaid’s telling of the story of Balaam, as a proponent to asking us all what we would do with our second chance should we be given one, stirred the hearts of many to make decisions for the Lord.

One young person who had returned to church said that this was the first time things had been made so clear and simple for her.

Our Anointing Service on Friday evening was one of the most powerful. The men were anointed first and then circled the walls of the sanctuary. The women were then anointed, and they too circled the sanctuary. Then those who had specific illnesses or situations needing anointing came to the centre of the church, and the pastors and elders moved around and anointed them. Our theme song for the week was ‘The Splendour of a King – How Great is Our God’.

After that service the church sang the theme song to close. It had been sung well throughout the week, but never the way it was sung this time.

Contributing to the week’s success were the fellowship lunches held on the two Sabbaths. This allowed time for those who had re-connected to the church to spend time chatting and those who had just made contact with us to see us in a social setting.

On the final Sabbath, after we had expressed our heartfelt thanks to Pastor Zaid for his ministry, we formed a human chain around the church and encircled Pastor Zaid and our well-loved Bible worker Lloyd Lambert, who has been called into the gospel ministry, and our own minister, Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt. It was a fitting end to the YWOP as our pastor prayed a special prayer for Pastor Zaid, and we acknowledged the new call on Pastor Lambert’s life.

Carter Knowle has embarked on a two-year evangelical programme we have called ‘Invest to Save’, which is simply about giving our very best to the Master. The YWOP in this format was the first of our large programmes. God blessed the Youth department and the church tremendously through YWOP. It is our aim and determination not to let this YWOP be just another ‘high time’ but to build on the challenges Pastor Zaid left us with and do all for God’s glory.

Crosscombe pictures

Do you have historical pictures of the Crosscombe church? We would love you to share them in preparation for our future 100th anniversary. We will be happy to copy and return the originals if you make that request. Please send photos to Jean (Hardy) Baerg at Jamaran@hotmail.com or tel. Iris Edwards on 01749 672979 or sienna@talktalk.net.

And Finally... Don’t let your worries get the best of you. Remember, Moses started out as a basket case. Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews. Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors. It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.