An ordination in Ireland
by David Neal, Irish Mission president

Every member – a minister is a phrase that often falls from the lips of preachers. The statement is true, and the stronger it becomes, the better we shall be. But at the same time, Seventh-day Adventists still practice the “setting apart” of people exclusively to devote themselves to prayer and ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4). Adam Keough, born 23 July 1977, is one such life devoted to ministry of the Word and prayer. Now aged 31, his calling to ministry was affirmed on Sabbath 25 April in a service of ordination at Belfast church.

His appointment to the Belfast and Larne district commenced in 2002 with a two-year internship under the supervision of Dr Mart de Groot. It was a time together when, as Mart shares, they ‘explored the mysteries of soul-winning and church management.’ In 2004, Adam became a licensed minister and was invited to continue his ministry in Belfast. In addition, he was appointed Irish Mission Youth sponsor. In one sphere of ministry he serves as the pastor of an urban and increasingly diverse membership. In Youth Ministries he’s working with a new generation of Adventists.

At ease working with both young and old, he handles his dual role well. Both require prayer and ministry of the Word. His youthful looks belie his spiritual depth. Study Scripture with him in personal Bible study or the pulpit and you will find him digging deep to know the mind of God. Take, for example, a recent series of sermons he preached on the doctrine of the sanctuary. One regular Belfast worshipper, reflecting on the series, said that ‘his detail is easy to understand and always gospel-centred.’

At the ordination service the words of 2 Timothy 4:1-5 were brought to life by Pastor Alan Hodges, BUC Ministerial Association secretary. Prove the Word… do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.’ The key moment in this ordination service, as in all, was the laying on of hands — symbolising a fresh coming of the Holy Spirit in new power to help meet the task at hand. BUC president Pastor Don McFarlane prayed, seeking strength from Heaven for Adam. No empty form was this, but a symbol that aids God’s people in depending more completely upon the ministry of the Holy Spirit. In his response, Adam thanked the members of the Belfast church for their patience, for the freedom they gave him to try new ideas, and forgiveness for the mistakes while maturing.

Adam is married to Heather (née McCormac) and they are blessed with a daughter, Olivia, born in 2007. Heather shares Adam’s ministry, not only supporting him with a happy home life, but particularly supporting the Youth Ministry side of his work. Both Adam and Heather have a strong faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

It’s thrilling that there are still men and women today who are willing to devote themselves exclusively to ‘prayer and study of the Word.’ Adam’s ordination confirmed that the Church recognises his calling. Through growing together, the Belfast church and Adam are stronger today than perhaps they were a few years ago — and praise the Lord for that. Adam’s early life had some shaky beginnings, as he will be the first to admit. But with the nurture and love of his father Anthony Keough, he has grown and matured into a strong disciple of Christ. As the British Union leaders placed hands on Adam last Sabbath, the writer could not help thinking, ‘What a miracle!’ The story is not only about Adam, but what God has done and will continue to do through him.
We continue with the BBC report in April 2009 that identified a significant increase in the incidence of allergies in the UK.

Why allergies occur
Any substance that triggers an allergic reaction is called an allergen. An allergy develops when an allergen triggers the immune system, the body’s natural defence against germs and viruses. The immune system wrongly assumes that allergens are harmful. It then releases antibodies to attack the allergen, thinking it is a foreign invader. The allergens trigger an allergic reaction in people who are allergic to them.

We are allergic to many things, such as foods, pollen, dust, mould, and pollens. The immune system has evolved to protect us from harmful substances, but in some people, it mistakes harmless substances for a threat and reacts by releasing chemicals called antibodies. When antibodies combine with allergens, they cause symptoms such as sneezing, a runny nose, coughing, or wheezing.

Asthma
Asthma is a chronic condition characterized by inflammation and swelling of the airways, leading to increased airway responsiveness and symptoms such as wheezing, shortness of breath, chest tightness, and coughing.

Allergens
An allergen is any substance that triggers an allergic reaction. Common allergens include:

- Pollens
- Animal danders
- Dust mites
- Mold spores
- Insect bites
- Foods
- Medicines
- Environmental chemicals
- Rubber

Allergic reactions are divided into five types, based on the severity of the reaction:

Type I: Immediate hypersensitivity reactions
- These are the most common type of allergic reactions. They occur within minutes of exposure to an allergen and can be life-threatening.

Type II: Cytotoxic reactions
- These reactions involve the destruction of cells by antibodies.

Type III: Immune complex reactions
- These reactions occur when antibodies bind to an allergen and form complexes that deposit in the body's tissues, leading to inflammation.

Type IV: Delayed hypersensitivity reactions
- These reactions occur over a period of days to weeks after exposure to an allergen.

Diagnosis of allergies
A doctor can diagnose allergies by:

- Asking about symptoms
- Conducting a skin prick test
- Conducting a blood test
- Observing a reaction to a challenge test

Treatment of allergies
Treatment options for allergies include:

- Avoidance measures
- Medications, such as antihistamines, decongestants, and steroids
- Immunotherapy, which involves gradually increasing exposure to allergens to build tolerance

Prevention of allergies
Preventing allergies involves:

- Identifying and avoiding allergens
- Avoiding second-hand smoke
- Maintaining a clean and dust-free home
- Using air filters
- Wearing masks and goggles during allergy season

Allergies can be managed, and with proper care, many people can live full and healthy lives.

References:
**Swine flu update**

Sharon Platt-McDonald RGN, RM, RHW, MSc
BUC Health Ministries director

In response to the outbreak of the influenza A/H1N1 virus (swine flu) the BUC Health Ministries department commenced the distribution of information bulletins and health documents to church pastors, health directors/sponsors and Health Ministries leaders across the British Isles. Keeping the membership abreast of the WHO’s guidance on the outbreak, Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUC Health Ministries director, has been placing updates in the BUC newsletter.

Direct.gov gives 383 confirmed cases of the A/H1N1 virus in the UK with a further 257 under investigation. Although there continues to be a steady increase in new cases worldwide, the impact of the virus has been much less severe than was first feared. The research on the viral impact continues on three levels: Epidemiological — studying the disease impact in various countries and the demographic spread among varying cultural and age groups; clinical impact — looking at symptoms of the disease manifested in different individuals worldwide; and virological — studying the science of the virus, observing its development, assessing its ability to mutate and seeking a suitable immunisation to combat it.

The current level of pandemic alert issued by the WHO remains at stage 5 (indicative of an imminent pandemic as a result of human to human transfer in more than two regions), but this could decrease to level 4 if the spread of the virus slows, or be increased to level 6 following significant community outbreaks in other regions. As a result of these figures, the WHO has been providing updates on the global status of the A/H1N1 virus.

**Q. If I get swine flu, am I uncanny?**

A. The biblical directive to abstain from unclean meats (pig flesh being one of them) has no relation to swine flu. The influenza A/H1N1 virus, although originating as a respiratory infection in pigs, is spread via an airborne virus through coughs, sneezes and touching surfaces where the virus has been deposited. Scientists studying the virology of the disease have indicated that it is not spread through pig meat.

Unless you have a pig in your home that you have been handling and are of Jewish persuasion, you will not be ‘ceremonially unclean’! Jews are currently campaigning for the name to be changed from swine flu to Mexican flu, where the disease first originated.

**Q. Should I take Tamiflu or a vaccination when it is available? Isn’t a healthy lifestyle better protection?**

A. For preventative measures and to enhance well-being, I always favour maintenance of a healthy lifestyle and alternative treatment over conventional medicine. So at this point, boosting the immune system with natural products like garlic, antioxidants and omega 3 in the diet, adequate exercise, sufficient rest, increased water consumption and stress reduction are key, as well as adhering to strict hygiene principles.

If you feel a cold coming on, echinacea and golden seal are also useful, as well as the application of hydrotherapy treatments.

However, emergencies and life-threatening illnesses require medical intervention. In a pandemic situation becomes one of emergency, and immunisation is generally advised, although some debate the efficacy of immunisation at that stage. Additionally, problems with Tamiflu have been reported, and some people have reacted badly to it in the past. While Tamiflu has some success with pre-existing influenza epidemics and is currently being used effectively for mild swine flu symptoms, virologists are concerned that the influenza A/H1N1 virus may mutate, making Tamiflu ineffective. Due to this fear, scientists are currently racing to develop a vaccine for swine flu.

It is also important to note that most deaths from swine flu worldwide have been in the under sixties, with the average age between mid-twenties to thirties in the developed world. This has been due to underlying medical conditions rather than age. Studies in the US have shown that up to 20% of people age 18-44 are asymptomatic carriers of the virus.

**Q. What will happen to church services if a pandemic should hit Britain?**

A. We are currently at phase 5 in the level of pandemic alert. In the event of a pandemic (level 6), it is likely that ‘social distancing’ will come into effect. This would raise the level of restrictions on public gatherings where large numbers of people congregate. On the list would be churches and the advice to resume public church services once the pandemic alert level returns to phase 5. The recent document (sent out by the BUC Health Ministries department) entitled Faith Communities and Pandemic Flu: Guidance for faith communities and local influenza pandemic committees can be accessed at www.direct.gov.uk and gives more information on what it would mean for churchgoers.

Should we reach that stage, we shall not need to suffer at home alone. The Communication department currently provides worship resources online and, hopefully, this will help us engage. Additionally, the ‘Follow the Bible’ project gives ample time for some serious reading. However, if you are not online to access the worship resources, a good singalong always lifts the mood, but please remember the neighbours who may think otherwise.

**Concluding comments**

While the manifestation of the influenza A/H1N1 virus has been milder than expected in the developed world, the WHO continues to predict an approach to the inevitable pandemic. This, they believe, will surface in the autumn. They have advised, ‘We must not be complacent. It is too soon to assume it will be a mild infection. We don’t know the profile of the virus and we are closely monitoring each case that comes up.’

A team of researchers reporting in the journal Science agrees and states that the virus is likely to spread around the world in the next six to nine months. ‘The virus really does have full pandemic potential,’ states lead researcher Professor Neil Ferguson in his recent interview with the BBC.

In spite of these predictions, we are advised against mass panic and ask that you follow the precautions in the leaflets sent out to your home in order to assist in reducing the spread of the influenza. If you have any further questions, please email me at splattmcdonald@adventist.org.uk.

The WHO remains at stage 5 (indicative of an imminent pandemic as a result of human to human transfer in more than two regions), and should the spread of the virus slow or be increased to level 6 following significant community outbreaks in other regions.

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**International student licence for Newbold**

by Helen Pearson

Students needing more information about visa requirements should visit: [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk) and [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reb029T9uks](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=reb029T9uks)

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The holiness of beauty
John Baildam, Registrar, Newbold College, on the Song of Solomon

J ohn Gottfried Herder (1744-1803) argued that all poetry is divine revelation. God’s original revelation to us is in the poetry of the Old Testament, the pinnacle of which is the Song of Songs.

Herder rejected the allegorical interpretation of the Song, upon which its inclusion in the biblical canon was justified. He was well aware that the frank sensuality of this collection of poems could give offence to some, but for him the tone of the whole was so patently innocent as to be inspiring to true morality.

While acknowledging the Bible as the Word of God, Herder claimed that God had to reveal himself in human language – adopting the imagery and simile mode in which he was speaking, with particular reference to the historical and geographical situations in which they lived (cf. 2 Peter 1:21). Yet how often do we literally apply those many (symbolical) biblical texts which were intended for a specific time, place and culture, rather than adopt the principles held within?

Thus Herder regarded the Bible as a collection of texts written by humans for humans. Yet, he stressed, the more God’s Word is read in a human way, the closer the reader will come to the purpose of its instigator, the One who created us in his own image.

For Herder, the function of the poet (and we might include here the creative artist) was to make known God’s purpose, and to interpret the universe and nature by re-creating them and making them live again. Shakespeare, whom Herder regarded as a ‘creator’ and ‘dramatic god’, taught him that the role of the poet was to lead the human race to a deeper understanding of God’s ordained plan for the world.

The Bible contains doctrine, proof, correction and instruction (2 Timothy 3:16), but includes poetry, legend, history, biography, prophecy, apocalyptic, prophecy, sym- bol and allegory. Like many works of creative art, it contains much imper- fection – enhanced by great beauty. Arguably, all creative art, whether architecture, painting, music or architec-ture, emanates from that creative spark provided by the Creator.

Humans write, paint, compose and design as they are moved. . . . Sometimes beauty is corrupted by evil, just as the Bible contains dark passages – but if art can reveal something to us of God, of our place in His Creation, of our salva-tion through Christ, then surely it is as indeed ‘inspired’. We must not reject art because of its human imperfec-
tions – to do so would force us to ignore sections of the Bible, whose bloody battles hardly fill us with an understanding of God’s love.

Conservative Christianity has traditionally shunned the arts, yet they provide us with opportunities to explore human frailty and to reflect on God’s plan for us. I challenge you to study biblical references alongside works of art, and to find ways in which they complement each other.

Go to your nearest museum and note how much is biblically based or leads you to spiritual reflection. Read works of poetry or prose and find the truths contained therein.

Visit the theatre and prepare to be challenged, amazed and uplifted. Attend a concert or opera, and note how many works (from Bach and Handel to Britten and Adams) are based on the Bible, the human con-dition, and the theme of redemption. In his music drama Parsifal, for instance, the grandiose offering complete restoration to a world gone wrong.

In divine service, the BUC’s Pastor Edjan Brooks informed us that the Core of Adventism programme, began in the Hartlow church, has grown in the SEC and has now spread to the NEC and the Irish Mission. Pastor Mike Simpson, NEC Personal Ministers director, introduced us to a number of Conference Task Force workers doing great things for God.

Pastor Kidder’s sermon broke the pattern. He told his own story of how he travelled from Nineveh to the US and changed from engineering to pastoring.

It resulted, but the heart of the story was seen in that later the lady was asked how she had brought fifty-seven people to baptism. When she revealed that she had prayed night and day for them, all joined in prayer with Betty for friends, relatives and neighbours.

Both Pastor Kidder and Dr Diop were telling us that it is God who creates change. God moves and affects things. That was at the heart of the sermon. We weren’t hearing an exposition of the Word of God. Instead we were hearing of the living revelation of the presence of God in the life of an ordinary person. Such a story was bound to be followed by an impact.

The afternoon programme started in the usual order – Prayer, Song Service and then a temporary break while a computer was encouraged to speak to a video projector. Our preacher, Pastor Kidder again, highlighted the personal aspect of church growth, evangelism and witness.

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The Sabbath of the Core of Adventism weekend saw a change of venue from Camp Hill church to Wolverhampton Oasis Hall. Sabbath School diverted from the regular lesson study. Daniel was again the source, but again Dr Diop wanted to be close to his family, the congrega-tion. Our speaker, fluent in ten lan-guages, painted a picture of Daniel getting out to reveal to his genera-tion, and to ours, the picture of God offering complete restoration to a world gone wrong.

In divine service, the BUC’s Pastor Edjan Brooks informed us that the Core of Adventism pro-

The Core of Adventism
Words and pictures by Peter Jaynes

D iop set the tone for his ministry at the ‘Core of Adventism’ weekend in the West Midlands with the words, ‘I feel lonely on stage’. He simply wanted to be close to his brothers and sisters in church that evening and put his thoughts into action as he left the platform, not for the last time that weekend.

According to our other key speaker, Dr Kidder, an Iraqi Seventh-day Adventist from Nineveh, the aim of the meetings was to look at serious theological issues, and then discuss ways of applying God’s presence in our lives, our witness and our worship. The aim of the weekend is not only to present great theology and good Bible study, but to help us have lifestyles that reflect our theology.

Dr Diop, a Senegalese pastor who spoke with a French accent, was introducing the book of Daniel to us with a view to exploring the prophetic word and its effect on our lives. Speaking without notes, Dr Diop reminded us of the prophets God gave his people up till the time of Daniel. The core of the Adventist ethos is a God who communicates through prophecy.

Dr Diop, theologian, linguist and accomplished musician, revealed his sense of humour as he negotiated extra time with the next speaker, Dr Kidder.

Dr Kidder’s approach was strongly pastoral. He looked at the linked theme of prayer, witness, church growth and of hope in and from God. He reminded us, though, that such wonderful church programmes don’t grow churches. God grows churches.

Taking Acts 1:8 as his starting point, he guided us to prayer as the source of power that needed to do God’s will, with the admonition that ‘The Lord is willing to bless, but will not do what is not prayerfully desired’. Telling stories was Dr Diop’s method on the Friday night – and most compelling was his early morning as he revealed how a young man, not an Adventist, repeated Jonah’s call in reverse and moved from Nineveh to serve God, first as an engineer

Dr Diop

Dr Kidder

Brit snags ‘Best Drama’ SONScreen Award
by Colin Anderson

A pril 16-18 was the time. Adventist Media Centre, Los Angeles, California, was the place. Filmmakers, film fans, guests and friends had gathered over the three-day period. They had watched student films, professional films, interna-tional films, spanning the genres of comedy, drama, ....

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CAMP HILL: CHILDREN’S MUSIC WEEKEND

For thirty kids, this weekend was full of praise and exaltation. The range of instruments was amazing, from violins to flutes, keyboards to a harp! With these instruments came the glory of God. There were beginners through to grade 6 violin. The first thing we did was to introduce ourselves and which instrument we play. The night ended with smiles all round and a positive attitude. The leaders thought we kids would get right to sleep. No chance! Late into the night, talking and giggling could be heard. The house-parents had a lot to cope with.

Sabbath was a great day. First worship and Bible discussions, then games and singing. After a nice lunch, all the residents, children and adults went for a walk. Some people found it easy, others not so. But we all enjoyed it nonetheless! Following the walk we all had a much-needed rest, but the work was soon coming!

KOREAN BLESSINGS

Sabbath 23 May marked the joyful baptism of Su-jin Kweon, a student at the Stanborough Secondary School. Su-jin is a Youth pastor, Degan Stojikovic, in the presence of a full Stanborough Park church. Over the past years, the Park church has been well blessed with the arrival of many young Koreans studying at Stanborough and other local schools. It was therefore a great occasion for us to witness this young girl take her stand for Christ.

These Korean young people have also brought their musical talents to the worship of our church. Those of us who have already benefited from their performances can testify that they have very high standards in their individual fields of music. Under the able leadership of Ji-Eun Ahn (an accomplished violinist in her own right and a teacher of Music at the Stanborough School), we now have a Park choir and orchestra that give performances, not just in our own church, but also in other concerts. Recently, they gave a performance at the St Albans church on Sabbath 13 May. Then they performed on Sabbath 30 May at our own Park church to celebrate the completion of the new entrance to the sanctuary. Those of you who are planning to attend the Alban Arena Civic Centre, St Albans, will have the opportunity to enjoy their musical talents for yourselves. Let us praise God for these young Koreans and their witness!

NEC’S MUSIC4CHILDREN WEEKEND

Abingdon Road, the headquarters church in recent years, has witnessed a number of other local schools. It was therefore a great occasion for us to witness this young girl take her stand for Christ.

On 17 April, children aged 8 to 14 arrived in Beaumont Manor Hall to attend the NEC’s Music4Children Sacred Music Weekend. Excitement bubbled in the air as attendees registered and found their assigned sleeping quarters for the next three days. After we had settled, we gathered together with our instruments, in the outdoor classroom. After tuning, we had games to introduce ourselves and get to know one another. There was a large assortment of instruments, from a harp to an oboe, with violins, flutes, singers, key-boards, a cello and a clarinet in between. Lenory Grant, who plays almost all instruments and has a wide range of expertise with bands, groups and orchestras, led us in a session designed to improve our ability to play by ear.

Derby Chester Green prays for the Police

Thursday 21 May was the National Day of Prayer for the Police. As a result, the leadership team of the Derby Chester Green church sent an invitation to the main headquarters of the Police in Derby to come and visit us at Chester Green on Sabbath 23 May. We all met and parted with the Lord through music, hearing techniques, songs and much more on our instruments. It also helped increase my knowledge of musical notations. All of these were successfully done. Friends were made, music was played and, most of all, the Lord was praised!
Holloway’s yeast walk

The youth of Holloway anticipated something good, but not as overwhelming an experience as it turned out to be. March 8 to 14 marked Holloway’s Youth Week of Prayer, entitled ‘Acloser walk with God’. Taking inspiration from the message to Laodicea, it aptly described the current experience of our young people. Holloway’s youth are at a pivotal stage in their lives, with football careers, relationships and other aspirations competing with God for priority one status.

Andrew Davis and Micah Campbell were our speakers. As we soon discovered during the course of the week, the two are long-time school friends who met at Stannborough Park School. Fast-forward ten years and they now share desks as Theology students at Newbold College, moments away from entering pastoral ministry. Their lives proved to be an open book from night to night, as they shared their personal struggles to submit to God completely. Impressively their ministry did not begin and end in the pulpit, but continued with each and every person who requested further prayer and Bible study following the nightly programmes.

In his first sermon, ‘Not now, Lord. come back tomorrow’, Micah shared his personal fears and initial reluctance to submit to God’s call to ministry. Although he had been preaching at 14, he had led a double life, captivated by the pleasures of the world. He said it was only following a long restless night talking to the Lord that he finally submitted to his call and that he has never looked back.

Micah went straight to the core of our relationship with Jesus and our ‘affair with the devil’, as he revealed the spiritual warfare over our hearts and minds. In his sermon entitled ‘I don’t see nothing wrong’, he exposed how the subtle methods of the enemy have left us trying to justify our sins. He demonstrated this by breaking down the definition and objective of the entertainment industry to dull our senses to hearing and responding to the will of God. Andrew reminded us that spiritual things are spiritually discerned. The sermon ended with an anointing service for those requesting strength from God to defeat the strongholds in their lives.

The youth of Holloway shared the blessings of the Youth Week of Prayer. As night after night they responded to the altar call and the mid-week anointing service, it was clear that many who attended were not regular members. Their active participation was evident, from the filming and set-up of the live streaming of the programmes from the Holloway website to the nightly drama illustrations. These, entitled ‘One way out’, were performed by Holloway’s fifteen-strong drama team, led by teen Angeline Barclay. They portrayed the very real experiences of young people as they face challenges in their relationships with family, friends and, ultimately, with God.

The culmination came on the final Sabbath with our Youth Day, which included an ordination service of five deacons, two of whom were Duane Davidson and Leon Barclay. Both young men have served the church for most of their lives—Duane Davidson as Audio Visual and Communications leader and Leon Barclay as church musician. Rather than acknowledging the start of their ministry, it marked its continuation and was an opportunity to thank God for blessing their lives and the positive influence they have had on others, both young and old. Special thanks are also extended to the AYs team, led by Kathryn Johnson Lewis, as they embark on future YWOP programmes throughout the year.

Welcome at WISDAC

W hy did the baptism of 26 April 2009 at Wimbledon International Seventh-day Adventist church make such an impact on all present? Perhaps it was the joy in witnessing the first baptismal service at WISDAC since the appointment of Pastor Sam Neves in July 2008 and hearing from him a message that challenged fundamental Christian faith. Perhaps it was the stirring ministry through song of Faith Vocal and Jader Feijo that caused many to connect on a deep spiritual level. Perhaps it was the stirring ministry through song of the Youth Choir that caused many to connect on a deep spiritual level. Perhaps it was the stirring ministry through song of Faith Vocal and Jader Feijo that caused many to connect on a deep spiritual level.

Whatever the reason for the beauty of the day, it had a loudly expressive, positive, joyous and hopeful ‘something good, but not as overwhelming an experience as what the youth of Holloway anticipated’. Something good, but not as overwhelming an experience as what the youth of Holloway anticipated. Something good, but not as overwhelming an experience as what the youth of Holloway anticipated.

On 16 May Area 8 got together for their first youth day, which took place at Christ Church in Bickley. Each church was involved in the planning for the day, with Sue Sampson (Area 8 president) overseeing the plans made by each church.

The day began with a very diverse Sabbath School, organized and led by Chelmsford, based around an army training camp, with the major, Chisha, leading the session. He told us that we must wear the armour of God and trust in Jesus because he will never fail us. Sabbath School was concluded by a wonderful mime and the Chelmsford renowned ‘Weakest Link’.

During the afternoon programme started at about 3.30pm and was a mixture of games, songs, movement and some promotions from Colin. Overall the day was a great success, and over 200 people came from all over Area 8 (and some from London) to enjoy the first of many youth days.

Ten baptised at Bradford

The baptism had the last word as ten souls received Christ. A month of Bible studies and planning culminated in this special day, 16 May, at Bradford church. Among the candidates were a former pastor of a Pentecostal church, Prince Orwine, and his wife, Lydia Orwine, whose testimonies have been a tremendous blessing.

There was also the family group, as we fondly call them—Chippa, his wife, Patricia, and their three daughters, Agnes and two boys. The two boys,蔬菜和Beatrice, in one of the Bible study sessions they had asked, “How, then, shall we dress before God?”

Leicester complementary school raises standards

Philip Herbert

A complementary school has been set up at the Leicester Central church on London Road. It aims to equip pupils of varying abilities with a firm understanding of the requirements and skills needed to secure the best attainment levels for the national curriculum. "I don't see anything wrong", he explained how the subtle methods of the enemy have left us trying to justify our sins. He demonstrated this by breaking down the definition and objective of the entertainment industry to dull our senses to hearing and responding to the will of God. Andrew reminded us that spiritual things are spiritually discerned. The sermon ended with an anointing service for those requesting strength from God to defeat the strongholds in their lives.

The youth of Holloway shared the blessings of the Youth Week of Prayer. As night after night they responded to the altar call and the mid-week anointing service, it was clear that many who attended were not regular members. Their active participation was evident, from the filming and set-up of the live streaming of the programmes from the Holloway website to the nightly drama illustrations. These, entitled ‘One way out’, were performed by Holloway’s fifteen-strong drama team, led by teen Angeline Barclay. They portrayed the very real experiences of young people as they face challenges in their relationships with family, friends and, ultimately, with God.

The culmination came on the final Sabbath with our Youth Day, which included an ordination service of five deacons, two of whom were Duane Davidson and Leon Barclay. Both young men have served the church for most of their lives—Duane Davidson as Audio Visual and Communications leader and Leon Barclay as church musician. Rather than acknowledging the start of their ministry, it marked its continuation and was an opportunity to thank God for blessing their lives and the positive influence they have had on others, both young and old. Special thanks are also extended to the AYS team, led by Kathryn Johnson Lewis, as they embark on future YWOP programmes throughout the year.

Welcome at WISDAC

Why did the baptism of 26 April 2009 at Wimbledon International Seventh-day Adventist church make such an impact on all present? Perhaps it was the joy in witnessing the first baptismal service at WISDAC since the appointment of Pastor Sam Neves in July 2008 and hearing from him a message that challenged fundamental Christian faith. Perhaps it was the stirring ministry through song of Faith Vocal and Jader Feijo that caused many to connect on a deep spiritual level. Perhaps it was the stirring ministry through song of Faith Vocal and Jader Feijo that caused many to connect on a deep spiritual level.

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**AMR* Retreat**

Words and photos: Danny Julie

Friday afternoon, with the rain in full force and the wind blowing, we were on our way to the Adventist-Muslim Retreat at Stanborough Park. A much-anticipated hot meal was waiting for us in the school canteen on our arrival. Pastor Don McFarlane, the BUC president, gave the opening remarks and reminded us that we need to recognize and know our brothers and sisters in God’s family. The evening started with a packed programme introduced by Pastor Petras Bahadur, director of the AMR department at the SEC, and a period of worship led by Rev. Brith Webley. AMR’s purpose was explained to us by Sharon Rahman, who also gave a testimony. The idea of building bridges and having a common platform leads to great things, when left in the hands of God, as he uses these means to prepare our brothers and sisters from the Muslim faith for his soon return.

We were then taken through the ‘Concept Of Adventist-Muslim Relations’ by Pastor Samuel Lumwe who led us into a very deep study. The evening closed after a period of discussion, and Dr Terry Messenger, director of Personal Ministries at the SEC, reminded us that this ministry has great potential, as long as God is in control.

Sabbath morning, Lavene Byng started worship with songs and prayers. Carol Otunno from the Oxford church reminded: ‘I truly have been blessed by this ministry and everyone should take this back to their churches and use it.’

The AMR ministry has changed and expanded and has been richly blessed by new team members from Muslim backgrounds who have a vision of bringing others when they have left behind in their old faith. A movie compiled by Danny Julie took us down memory lane, showing highlights of events throughout the SEC. Further workshops by Pastor Samuel Lumwe took place throughout the day. After lunch a very thought-provoking film was screened by Beng Tang, one of the core members of the AMR team.

The theme of the retreat was to train, enrich and make outreach possible in a humble way. Kathleen Connage and her husband Errol from Dunstable shared their testimonies, and they were not for the faint hearted. After a further presentation and a period of worship, it was mealt ime with more delicious dishes cooked by our Mauritian chef Rajen.

Sunday morning, we had half a day to cover plans put forward by Pastor Petras Bahadur. The retreat would not have been complete without a period of Questions and Answers, chaired by John Bishop, a very able speaker in Islamic topics, with support from the AMR team and Pastor Lumwe. Each student left with a copy of the pocket-sized book ‘Our Creator a loving God’ that came with a wide range of words of encouragement. Over lunch, while talking with Roger Murphy, headmaster of the Stanborough School, it was a pleasant surprise to learn that there is a demand from the Muslim community for places in the school for their children because of the common values and interests that we share.

Pastor Petras Bahadur is very thankful for all the pastors who came and supported this ministry and are taking it back to their churches, namely, Pastor Shepherd, Pastor Toy, Pastor Steve Roberts and Pastor Michael Simpson from the NEC. In the closing period on Sunday morning Pastor Aristote Voutzalidis, Church growth director at the SEC, gave us words of encouragement and left us with thoughts to take away with us.

*Adventist-Muslim Relations*

Merseyside: Fellowship and witnessing

Opportunities for fellowship can also be as evangelistic tools. A fact that was aptly demonstrated in the Merseyside district. On 21 March, the Sabbath 2007 held at a Liverpool high school, Childwall Sports Centre, marked the occasion to the ministry of church members, the churches decided to use it to invite the community to view and take part in the services of the Adventist church. In a military-style operation, the church had embarked on a well-planned distribution campaign around the school a week before the day. Maps were prepared, members assigned streets in pairs, and over 1,500 fly- ers were distributed through every door in the area. The members also used the opportunity to distribute invitations to join the Discovery Bible Study group.

On the day itself, a highly interactive Sabbath School was presented by the youth, followed in the divine service with a powerful sermon addressing the theme for the day – ‘Unguarded! What next?’ by the NEC president, Pastor Daryn Sweeney. The afternoon witnessed the presentation of various well-chosen musical items from local groups and individuals, before a final message from Pastor Sweeney. The service was packed full of support, friendship and members from both churches who were all very happy as the ladies decided to declare publicly their love for Christ and to give their lives to him.

Guest speaker Namushi Namuchana, who had preached in the morning at North Bristol, gave an inspiring sermonette, encouraging us all to hold on and cling to God who is the ‘author and finisher of our faith’ (Hebrews 12:2).

Mark leaves for ADRA International

Leamington Mission hosted two special occasions on Sabbath 1 February. The church was filled to capacity with family members, past members and other friends, as well as Dorrin and the Castellino families.

During the morning divine service Graham and Emma Powls, and with the help of Dorrin and their extended family, presented their daughter Faith Rhiannon to God for dedication. The service was carried out by Nigel Clarke, one of the elders at the Mission. The family was prised to accept Faith’s call to accept God as her Saviour and to grow in his service. Dorrin and all who have children were given the opportunity to hold them as they were dedicated.

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Faith’s family and members of Leamington Mission were particularly special because it included a baptism. Mrs Stormee McCarthy decided that Easter was the right time to demonstrate her love for Jesus. So we made ample time to remind ourselves of what Jesus did to show that he loves each one of us because we are very special to him.

But we all knew that those things, fun though they are, are not the real reason for Easter. So we made ample time to remind ourselves of what Jesus did to show that he loves each one of us because we are very special to him.

By Rosemary Lethbridge

‘Watering Hole’ baptism

The ‘Watering Hole’, a church plant in the SEC, had a very special Easter weekend. We had the opportunity to enjoy all those things that have become associated with Easter – you know, eating lots of chocolate eggs and hot cross buns, giving and receiving cards with rabbits. We were also able to enjoy an organisational egg hunt.

But all we knew that those things, fun though they are, are not the real reason for Easter. So we made ample time to remind ourselves of what Jesus did to show that he loves each one of us because we are very special to him.

Our Easter service this year was particularly special because it included a baptism. Mrs Stormee McCarthy decided that Easter was the right time to demonstrate her desire to follow the Lord. Friends, family and contacts from the community all gathered to witness her decision and celebrate with her. This is the first baptism that we have celebrated since we commenced our church plant two years ago. (The first year was spent praying, planning and preparing to launch and the second year we started community ministries and church services.) Every person in our church plant team contributed in some way or another to ensuring that this event was a memorable one for Stormee.

We also worked together as a team to organise the Calmore Community Egg Hunt and craft activities on Sunday afternoon. ‘Descend an Easter basket’ competition brought more than twenty-five baskets to be judged before starting the whole proceedings with a countdown, followed by a mass mad dash for eggs. Ninety-seven people registered to hunt for 1,300 mini eggs hidden throughout the community centre grounds, the recreation field and woodland beyond. In addition, people searched for various clues to exchange for other eggs. There were prizes for the first family back with their quota of eggs, and everyone searched long and hard for the elusive golden token that would be exchanged for a giant-sized egg.

Pastor Petras Bahadur and the plant team contributed in some way or another to ensuring that this event was a memorable one for Stormee.

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Newbold's new Business lecturer
by Helen Pearson

Newbold's team of Business lecturers has been reinforced this month with the appointment of a Brazilian lecturer, Ailson de Moraes. Ailson graduated from Newbold with a Behavioural Sciences degree in 2003 and has since studied Business in London, both at City University where he gained an MA, and at the Chartered Management Institute.

After a distinguished career in IBM, a lecturer in Business, says: 'Ailson brings in an enormous amount of the practical experience which is needed to complement the theoretical teaching. He is an accomplished teacher who will make an excellent contribution to the Business programmes at Newbold.'

Ailson – whose wife and two brothers also teach – started his professional life in international firms in Brazil, Argentina, Portugal, Spain and the UK before moving to London. His family moved to Grantham with the Press in 1966. Following a call from the mission field, Keith and family moved to Nigeria in July 1967, where he was appointed to work as the secretary/treasurer of the West Nigerian Mission, based in Ibadan. There, Keith spent the next few years in his main job of correspondence and travelling from the Church to the various land units of the country during the civil war, and administering various departments such as the mission hospital, children's home and orphanage for the blind, and running the local clubs to which he helped to introduce Newbold's College. He also helped to start a local African drama group.

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Keith (the older – by eight years – of two boys) was born to Albert and Laura (née Bartlett) Lethbridge in London on 29 September 1932. Keith married Elizabeth (née Bryanstone) in the early fifties in London. Their three sons (Gordon, Keith and Almondbury) and two daughters were born. Following a call from the mission field, Keith and family moved to Nigeria in July 1967, where he was appointed to work as the secretary/treasurer of the West Nigerian Mission, based in Ibadan. There, Keith spent the next few years in his main job of correspondence and travelling from the Church to the various land units of the country during the civil war, and administering various departments such as the mission hospital, children's home and orphanage for the blind, and running the local clubs to which he helped to introduce Newbold's College. He also helped to start a local African drama group.

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**Baptism on the beach**

The sun shone down on the beach at Aberdaron, and a strong wind did not stop Dave, Iveta and Karolina Picart stepping out in faith into the Irish Sea, protected by wetsuits and sporting special T-shirts to celebrate the occasion.

The service, conducted by Pastor Geoff Smith and witnessed by many family and friends on the shoreline, saw Dave, Iveta and Karolina dedicate their lives to God through the most special of acts, and the setting, down on the Lyn Peninsula, added to the occasion. The event also saw the church membership grow by three, as all of the candidates were welcomed into the Wilmotow and Sale fellowship. Over the past few months we have enjoyed a growing number of regular visitors, whom we no longer see just as visitors, but consider them as part of the church family now. Please keep Dave, Iveta and Karolina in your prayers as they grow in their faith and relationship with him. Please also keep the church, its growth, and the direction in which it is heading in your prayers. Visit www.wilmotowadventists.org.uk for pictures and more information on our church.

**IAN M. CORT**

New book of the week

The Day My World Caved In

by George Mwansa

This is the story of how the tragic events of one day impacted the life of George Mwansa forever. In telling the story, the author lets us know how he handled his loss and the life issues to which it gave rise. He tells how God brought him through this traumatic experience.

Contact ABC Sales on 01476 539900 to purchase your copy at £6.95 + p&p

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**Mark Bruce and Rene Fox**

. . . are new members of Crieff’s faith community.

Crieff church has had the joy of welcoming two new members in the past few months.

Mark Bruce developed an interest in last-day events while serving in the British Army in Iraq. He began searching the Internet, where he came across various SDA sites which he eagerly studied. When he eventually came home to Scotland, he came along to Crieff church and surprised the pastor by asking for baptism on the first time of meeting. Some further studies followed, and on Sabbath 6 December 2008 Mark was baptised. Mark is a vocasious student of the Bible and loves to share his faith in the second advent of Jesus with all he can. Mark has introduced his brother and family to the church as well. He has brought a vibrant outlook to the Crieff church and rejoices in the Advent hope.

Rene’s journey was very different — she is conscious of following the Lord from her childhood days but recalls a strong commitment to the Lord, which led to her baptism in the Baptist church in her thirties. In 2000 she attended some meetings by Pastor Bob Rodd and began coming along to church. After some studies with the pastor, she became a part of the Crieff church family by vote on Sabbath 2 May 2009. She brings to our fellowship a gentle and peaceable love for the Lord. We are privileged to have her as part of our church faith community.

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**TENDERS INVITED TO PROVIDE LUNCH-TIME SCHOOL MEALS AT HARPER BELL ADVENTIST SCHOOL**

An independent day school operated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Harper Bell Adventist School has pupils aged from 3 to 11 years. The meal provider would be required to prepare a weekly menu of vegetarian meals for 100 people and staff, catering also for children on restricted diets. Kitchen facilities are available on-site and the meal provider would be expected to meet Food and Hygiene Standards, Food Safety and Health and Safety Regulations.

Prospective providers should submit their tender, along with a suggested four-day week’s menu, references and copies of relevant Catering and Health and Safety certificates to Mrs D Jackson – Bursar, Harper Bell Adventist School, 29 Ravenhurst Street, Camp Hill, Birmingham, B12 0EJ.

CLOSING DATE: 25 JUNE 2009

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**And finally...**

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Don’t put a question mark where God has put a full stop.

Don’t wait for six strong men to take you to church.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

God doesn’t call the qualified; he qualifies the called.

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**MESSENGER**

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