On Friday morning 12 June, the Governor General of Jamaica, His Excellency Dr Patrick Allen, accompanied by his wife, Her Excellency Mrs Patricia Allen, had an audience with Her Majesty the Queen and was knighted by her at Buckingham Palace.

As Governor General and the Queen's representative in Jamaica, it is part of the protocol that the Governor General be knighted. Following the ceremony, The Most Honourable, His Excellency Sir Patrick Allen and Her Most Excellency Lady Patricia Allen left the palace to attend a reception held in their honour at the Jamaican High Commission in Kensington.

Among the guests at the reception were politicians, entrepreneurs, High Commissioners of a number of other Caribbean islands, church leaders, community leaders and a number of relatives and friends of their Excellencies Sir Patrick and Lady Allen.

After an introduction by the Jamaican High Commissioner, Mr Burchel Whiteman, Sir Patrick spoke of his vision for Jamaica as a nation and called on the Jamaican diaspora to support their country and pray for its progress and success.

The SDA church in Britain was represented by Pastor and Mrs C. R. Perry, Pastor and Mrs Don McFarlane, Pastor and Mrs E. Francis, Pastor and Mrs S. Esson, as well as a number of church members and friends.
**Surviving your crisis**

David Marshall

The greatest test of the Christian life is to live with the silence of God. The challenge is to go on trusting when things have gone wrong and when the visible sign that God is intervening on our behalf.

Unemployment comes, and every job applicant assumes that a dire diagnosis occurs; and we pray that God will heal.

Life circumstances continue negative year on year; we pray for improvements.

If job offers are slow to come, the disease appears to be advancing and there is no change in our life context -- how do we feel? Bible characters expressed those feelings.

The psalmist cried, ‘How long, O Lord? Will you forget me for ever? Why is my pain unending?’

Job’s response: ‘ “You’re talking like three friends decided that what he needed was a guilt trip and some cold moralising (affirmation, sympathy and warm compassion might have worked better). The three friends urged that Job should view his sufferings and Heaven’s silence as forever.

One final thought. It took a long time and many mistakes were made but, eventually, I got my Registration Document. With God, whatever we have done, despite the consequences for us and others, there is always forgiveness and that, by the way, is immediate. with Jonathan Barrett

One ‘mistake’ leads to another . . .

Enriching Health

by Sharees Platt-McDonald RN(G), RM, RWK, MSc

Health Minister, BBC

Allergy extra

In view of the numerous questions received on the previous allergy articles and the level of interest in the subject, I have added this extra article.

Since the BBC report in April 2009 indicating the increase in allergies in the UK much discussion has ensued in the media and health arenas about this rising health challenge.

Risk factors

Suggested risk factors for developing allergies include: having parents with allergies; being birth date coinciding with the pollen season; early-life diet consisting of high levels of dairy and wheat products; hormonal, vitamin and mineral imbalance; cigarette smoke/passive smoking; dog owner; living in well-insulated, double-glazed houses, providing well-ventilated environments that encourage allergens such as house dust mites; overexposure to toxic stresses and environmental pollution.

Excessive cleanliness – Many researchers and some doctors suggest that a certain level of dirt is beneficial, particularly during infancy and early childhood, when the immune system is maturing and exposure helps to build resistance against allergies in the future. Research states that our current obsession with cleanliness reduces the young’s exposure to bugs. This affects the efficacy of T-helper cells which assist in building immunity.

Vaccinations – Children are now vaccinated against a wider range of diseases. There is some evidence that vaccination alters the ratio of T-helper cells and T-suppressor cells. This possibly has an effect on the vaccinated child’s susceptibility to allergy reactions. Research shows that the most vaccines stimulate the branch of the immune system concerned with the more extreme immune reactions to invaders.

Food overexposure – New research suggests that the availability of certain foods all year round could cause a predisposition to allergies. Since soy has become a common ingredient in many processed foods, there has been a dramatic increase in people experiencing soy allergy.

Technological developments – Increasing use of plastics, formaldehyde, benzene and so on have led to overexposure to a larger range of chemicals. Modern insulated offices increase inhalation of chemicals or perfumes which may be irritant.

Environmental pollutants – Chemicals in diesel fumes are known to damage the outer membranes of pollens. Subsequently, when the pollen is breathed in, the pollen proteins are immediately in much closer contact with the delicate membranes in the mouth, nose and lungs, resulting in a more severe reaction.

Electromagnetic pollution – Increasing exposure to electromagnets is blamed for sensitive reactions to computers, mobiles, power lines and so on.

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**Nutrition** – Eating more processed, nutritionally compromised foods can increase allergic reactions in sensitive individuals.

Be vigilant!
**NEC Camp Meeting 2009: Kingdom Living**

by Jeff Nicholson, Communication director, NEC

This was the best Camp Meeting yet, commented Maxine from Birmingham and Jeff Nicholson, Communication director, NEC. North England Camp Meeting 2009 started with the opening session looking like what we would usually have on Friday or Sabbath services in years past, commented one camper.

The theme chosen for Camp Meeting 2009 was ‘Kingdom Living’. After introducing the main presenters, NEC president Pastor Ian Sweeney gave the keynote address, based on Christ’s command in John 13:34, 35, he challenged the campers to take to heart the fact that the command of Jesus comes Sir Patrick and Lady Allen to Camp Meeting. All week long they lifted the hearts of the campers in worship, praise and fellowship as the newly knighted Governor General of Jamaica, His Excellency Sir Patrick Allen, visited the camping grounds and extended his greetings and best wishes. His entrance was greeted with rapturous applause. Sir Patrick reminded the congregation that it was not long ago that he was here with them as a guest preacher. ‘I know that many of you are asking if I can still be a Seventh-day Adventist Christian and serve the Lord in this position,’ Sir Patrick said. ‘I am the same person,’ he continued, ‘just called to serve in a different position. Like Daniel I have been called to serve the Lord in a different capacity, and I seek for your continued prayers.’

Abraham regularly reminded people that King James was a Saxon, and thus the Bible in Scots (the language of the East Coast) was the same as the Bible coming home. ‘It brought it home to me, it writing it out,’ he said. He found a Scots Bible in the Dundee library and is now searching around to try and buy one. Arthur was baptised in the Dundee church back in January and is enthusiastic to share the Bible with his fellow Scots.

The ‘Scottish Adventist Bible’ attracted considerable attention at the Scottish Mission Day of Fellowship as members poured through the pages to see who had contributed and in which languages. More importantly, as part of ‘Follow the Bible’, Pastor Llew Edwards hopes that this initiative has helped Adventists in Scotland to appreciate their Bibles more, not just as a historical heritage but as a life-changing book to cherish and share. He has experienced that ‘somehow, actually writing the text of Scripture out yourself has its own way of “speaking” to you as you write.’

For more on Follow the Bible visit www.adventistinfo.org.uk/followthebible. Pictures of the Scottish Bible are available on the BUC picture gallery, along with photos of the Scottish Mission Day of Fellowship www.adventist.org.uk

**Visit of Sir Patrick Allen**

After the service of baptism, the waiting congregation had a special treat as the newly knighted Governor General of Jamaica, His Excellency Sir Patrick Allen, visited the camping grounds and extended his greetings and best wishes. His entrance was greeted with rapturous applause. Sir Patrick reminded the congregation that it was not long ago that he was here with them as a guest preacher. ‘I know that many of you are asking if I can still be a Seventh-day Adventist Christian and serve the Lord in this position,’ Sir Patrick said. ‘I am the same person,’ he continued, ‘just called to serve in a different position. Like Daniel I have been called to serve the Lord in a different capacity, and I seek for your continued prayers.’

Nevele Peter and Mark Bunney were the special guests at this Camp Meeting, with groups going on three-, five-, and nine-mile walks. The most subscribed physical activity was the massage machine, in which one received a dry water massage fully clothed. Over four days it served more than 800 people. Janet from Wolverhampton, coming back for her third massage, said, ‘I have had my most pain-free night after my massage and wish I could take the machine home.’

**Commitment speaker**

The commitment speaker for the adult programme was Geoff Youlden, an Australian evangelist. The theme of his presentations ‘Last we forgot’ was based on 1 Corinthians 10:11. The experience of the children of Israel on their journey to the Promised Land was presented as a mirror of our journey to the heavenly Canaan.

**Health**

The Health Ministries department promoted physical activities at this Camp Meeting, with groups going on three-, five-, and nine-mile walks. The most subscribed physical activity was the massage machine, in which one received a dry water massage fully clothed. Over four days it served more than 800 people. Janet from Wolverhampton, coming back for her third massage, said, ‘I have had my most pain-free night after my massage and wish I could take the machine home.’

Right around the corner from this was the Newbold promotional booth. Dr Sabens, the principal, addressing the attendees, said that Newbold is about ‘more than just education and degrees; we are training for service, training for eternity’. The Newbold team further made an impression by feeding the youth at their barbecue with 600 vegetarian burgers, which went down a treat.

**The cricket match**

This year the pastors versus the members cricket match was a proper affair and took place at the Kendale Cricket Club. The match was held on Thursday and the weather was very good. The members were determined to give the ministers a beating. The ministers won. An excellent time was had by all.

**Sabbath highlights**

The Sabbath programme is always the highlight of the Camp Meeting. None could help but be impressed with Randy Sneath’s powerful presentation and be challenged with his ability to learn and recall the words of Scripture with such ease. There was a report on the activities of the Taskforce working in Rochdale and Sheffield, highlighting the challenges and the successes. On the Sabbath afternoon we witnessed the baptism of one of the contacts from the Rochdale outreach.

One special feature on the Sabbath afternoon at Camp Meeting was the service of baptism. There were three persons scheduled for baptism but, as always with the proclamation of the Gospel, there are always some to respond. In the end, rather than three candidates, twenty-seven people were baptised.

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Nevele Peter and Mark Bunney were the special guest musicians at this Camp Meeting. All week long they lifted the hearts of the campers in worship, praise and adoration to God. An evening of praise led by Nevele Peter, Mark Bunney and a host of other artists carved what was a wonderful day. The concert, with stage management under the able control of Aaron and Aaron Shute, provided an exciting affair that culminated in an inspiring song with Nevele Peter and a well-trained and rehearsed youth choir.

**Follow the Bible webpage:**

For more on Follow the Bible visit http://www.adventistinfo.org.uk/followthebible. Pictures of the Scottish Bible are available on the BUC picture gallery, along with photos of the Scottish Mission Day of Fellowship www.adventist.org.uk

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Cardiff Field School of Evangelism

‘The danger is that we’re not going to have trouble in the time of trouble because no one knows we’re here!’ (Larry Laredo)

John Surridge reports on the three Missions’ Field School of Evangelism.

O n Sabbath 30 May Pastor Geoff Youlden, television presenter and evangelist for the Australian Union Conference, came to Cardiff for the start of a week-long Field School of Evangelism. For many years Geoff has had a keen interest in evangelism in the British Isles and when invited to run the school in Cardiff he readily accepted. In Sabbath presentations to the Cardiff and district members Geoff focused on the importance of being faithful to our calling as evangelists. ‘We have a responsibility to share the message we have,’ he said. ‘We’re to be held accountable for this. Not everyone will accept it, but plenty will.’ Regarding the practicalities of public evangelism in the twenty-first century he pointed out that the basic evangelistic strategy of sewing, cultivating and reaping has not changed since New Testament times. However, things have changed since the big reaping campaigns of fifty years ago, he said: ‘Today we need to spend much more time in sowing – through leaflets, personal contacts, health seminars – but primarily through door-to-door work.

On Monday 1 June twenty-two ministers and lay evangelists from Scotland, Ireland and Wales arrived for the main part of the Field School. Over the next few days, through lectures, practical door-to-door sessions and evangelistic presentations in front of the whole group, they practised and developed their existing skills and learnt about new approaches to proclaiming the Gospel. In particular they practised using the ‘New Beginnings’ evangelistic series, which is being made available to all churches within the British Union Conference.

On Tuesday 2 June Pastor Larry Laredo, another highly experienced Australian evangelist and a friend and colleague of Geoff Youlden, gave a special presentation. Larry had come to Cardiff with his daughter Jenny and son Grant as part of their vacation in the UK and Europe – a trip they tailored especially to enable them to attend the Field School. Commenting on the need for evangelism in these latter days and throwing down a challenge to ministers and members with a Laodicean mindset, Larry warned, ‘The danger is that we’re not going to have trouble in the time of trouble because no one knows we’re here!’ However, he went on to give encouragement with the words, ‘Seeing people come into the Kingdom is what revitalises the church.’

Larry Laredo has recently been suffering from cancer and, although he is currently in remission, he recognises that every day is now special. In a particularly poignant moment he paused in his lecture and invited Welsh Mission president Pastor John Surridge to the front. ‘I have a gift from an elderly couple in my home church,’ he said. ‘When they heard that I was coming all the way to Wales to talk about evangelism they gave me this.’ At that point Larry handed over an envelope containing a thousand Australian dollars – proof of the commitment that so many Adventist members still have to public evangelism.

A key component of the Field School was the test running of two dinners, laid on for the public at the Cardiff Holiday Inn. Members were asked to invite as many of their unchurched friends as possible to an evening dinner, which included a special presentation by Geoff Youlden. More than eighty people came on the first night, and just over sixty on the second, and some thirty or so new contacts were made. For his presentations, Geoff gave a brief overview of the three angels’ messages, urging people who wanted to know more to attend the forthcoming New Beginnings series in the Cardiff church.

The final Sabbath of the Field School BUC president Pastor Don McFarlane came to Cardiff to give his support. He explained the rationale behind the current General Conference ‘Year of Evangelism’ and stressed the need for Adventists to be passive but to go out to the public with the Gospel.

In the closing session on Sabbath afternoon the team members spoke of their experiences and Geoff Youlden summarised the lessons that had been learnt during the week. Perhaps the most important lesson learnt was that door-to-door work can be easy, fun and painless. It can also bear much fruit – in just two sessions of one hour each, more than twenty-eight contact names were obtained. ‘Just imagine what would happen if that were repeated every week in every Adventist church in the UK and Ireland!’ Geoff concluded.

First full CHIP programme in Wales

by Lily Kidwell

D uring May the Swansea church hosted a full CHIP health programme. Although the Welsh Mission has run a couple of MicroCHIP programmes over the past year, the ambition has always been to run a full programme. This was finally achieved in Swansea, thanks to Welsh Mission Health Ministries, sponsors Lil and Irving Saunders, who, along with a number of dedicated church members, gave up their time to support this important evangelistic work of the church. Eight participants committed themselves to the intensive and quite expensive programme which ran for four weeks and included blood tests for cholesterol and blood sugar, as well as blood pressure and body mass index (BMI) checks.

There were four programmes each week during which health books were given out and instructional and motivational DVDs shown on subjects such as vegetarian cookery and healthy lifestyle practices. These were backed up with many practical demonstrations by the team members, and the tasty and nutritious food was enjoyed by all. A regular programme of exercise was also encouraged and, with the arrival of the summer weather, all participants have been spending more time walking.

Mercy Mwanjoka as they declared publicly their acceptance of Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. The next day was a very special Sabbath afternoon and public baptism, at which health books were given out and instructional and motivational DVDs shown on subjectssuch as vegetarian cookery and healthy lifestyle practices. These were backed up with many practical demonstrations by the team members, and the tasty and nutritious food was enjoyed by all. A regular programme of exercise was also encouraged and, with the arrival of the summer weather, all participants have been spending more time walking.

On Monday 15 June friends and family of the participants attended the graduation ceremony. Before the more formal part of the programme the graduates shared a meal and spent some time socialising together. At the graduations were presented with their certificates they were congratulated and everyone wished them well. At least one of the visitors was very impressed and is considering taking part in the next Swansea CHIP programme, planned for October.

Many people contributed to the success of this CHIP programme but the support of members from the Lampeter church was particularly appreciated as they had to travel far so. Their catering skills in providing a wide variety of healthy vegetarian food was second to none. The next day was a very special one for Darlington church as well as the whole of the North East. Sunday

Darlington: first baptism

It was a wonderful and blessed Sabbath day at Darlington church. May 30 began with a beautiful morning. Darlington church was full of joy as the youth started the day’s Sabbath School programme. The church was packed and full of the smiles of the members, friends and visitors who joined together to praise God. The youth also took the divine service and the church received the Word of God delivered by Callum Ham-Ying and Anganile Mwanjoka, 11 and 12 years old respectively.

 Nicholas Nyamayedenga is a science technician working at a high school in Wakefield. His wife Evelyn is a full-time student at Bradford University, studying Social Work. The Nyamayedengas, originally from Zimbabwe, are now members of the Welshfield church, and Alana and Nathan join the growing number of young people at Huddersfield church.

Huddersfield baptism

Nathan Grant is on a gap year, seeking work experience before com- pleting his final year in accounting at Huddersfield University. Nathan Nyamayedenga is a sci- ence technician working at a high school in Wakefield. His wife Evelyn is a full-time student at Bradford University, studying Social Work. The Nyamayedengas, originally from Zimbabwe, are now members of the Welshfield church, and Alana and Nathan join the growing number of young people at Huddersfield church.

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It was a historic after- noon at Darlington as the church and the local community witnessed the first baptism conducted by Pastor Callum Woodhead. His first baptism since becoming a pastor. We witnessed Bwighane Bruce Mwanjoka and Anganile

field school participants in the youth room of the Cardiff church

left to right: Jacqui Jones and Jovan Adamovic present Asu Paul with his certificate

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Great churches in Scotland

Scottish Mission Day of Fellowship, 20 June 2009

Words and pictures: Victor Hulbert

‘Take his life and let it be consecrated Lord to thee,’ the Dundee Vocal Band sang as new Scottish Mission president, Pastor Bernie Holford, stood in their midst during an induction ceremony at the Scottish Mission Day of Fellowship, Sabbath 20 June. The words of the hymn were slightly modified to blend with the focus of Pastor Holford’s commitment address, in which he emphasised that he had ‘come to minister, to join a team’. Recognising his change in direction from the family life role he has carried for the last twelve years, he reflected on the call of Abram from Haran and the need to ‘stretch out and do something different for God’.

The induction service climaxed a high day in the life of the Scottish Mission members. Surrounded by stunning countryside in the grounds of the newly-built St Modan’s High School, Stirling, around 250 members from the ten churches in Scotland defied the temptation of the sunshine outside to be blessed by quality singing, moving preaching and real testimony.

The testimony came from Adventist Volunteer Workers, Mark and Konrad Szalos-Farkas. The brothers had just returned from spending the last year teaching and mentoring at Palau Mission Academy in the South Pacific. Recounting his experience in front of an enthralled congregation, Konrad said, ‘The experience brought me closer to God. My devotional life increased and I saw prayers answered daily.’

Music was supplied in ample abundance by not just the Dundee Vocal Band, but also the King’s Advent Messengers from Glasgow, brothers Maroia and Bosire Oroko with their violin medley, the Fairley youth group, ‘Destined For Greatness’, and a congregation that had the ability to harmonise with every hymn.

Spiritual food came from a well-taught and interactive Sabbath School lesson led by outgoing president, Pastor Llew Edwards; a hilarious story of love by Pastor Clifford Herman and puppet ‘Bradley’, who taught the children that love is not a sappy, mushy thing, but a wonderful principle of giving, and then a very personal and practical demonstration of how to grow church by Pastor Janos Kovacs-Biro, Church Growth director at the Trans-European Division.

Quoting 1 Peter 4:7, ‘the end of all things is near,’ Pastor Janos personalised the verse and focused on individual priorities by asking, ‘What if the end of Janos is near?’ He then challenged, ‘Ask it in your own mind and see what it means.’ Continuing the theme of the text he then emphasised that to ‘grow great churches, Christians need to pray and to be self-controlled’.

It was the prayer emphasis that will be...
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Scottish Mission Session

Youth take the reins

Youth Empowerment was a central focus at the Scottish Mission Triennial Session on Sunday 21 June at the Crieff church. The delegates modified objectives set out by the retiring Executive Committee, strengthening their commitment to youth and mission across Scotland.

Among the changes, they voted to ‘Empower and support our children and youth to be involved in the life of the church and to develop innovative evanglistic approaches that transform local communitie’s’.

They also urged churches to equip and support young people who can connect with the majority culture to train to be pastors and Bible workers, as well as encouraging churches to develop local projects that the youth of other churches can support.

These were not just idle statements. The new Executive Committee now includes two youth. Yvonne Bauwens of the Crieff church, 2008 winner of the General Conference Youth department’s M. E. Kern award for young people. She is accompanied by Desiree Gordon. As Glasgow youth leader she has inspired the development of the youth under her care. Pastor Herman states, ‘She is a very capable, talented and quite resourceful young lady who loves the church and especially young people.’

In addition, the Nominating Committee recognised the developing potential for using technology in the ministry of the Church and recommended that New Podmore of the Crieff church take on the role of technical support for the Mission.

Seventy-three delegates were registered at the start of business for the session and were given a special welcome by Provost John Hubert of Perth and Kinross Council. A committed Christian himself and the son of missionary parents, the...
proven great that the delegates from the ten churches that comprise the Scottish Mission and particularly welcomed the presence of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in his area.

Under the theme of the session, ‘Building Great Churches’, TED Church Growth director, Pastor Janos Kovacs-Biro, challenged delegates with the idea that ‘A disciple is someone who loves the Lord Jesus Christ and loves people—great churches bring these two together.’ The morning then moved forward with a rapid selection of the Recommendations Committee, then the Nominating and Credentials and Licences Committees. By luncheon the Nominating Committee reported back and the delegates voted the following names to serve the Scottish Church for the next three years:

### Executive Committee
- Pastor Don McFarlane
- Pastor Eric Love
- Pastor Ilene Whittaker
- Pastor Clifford Herman
- Pastor Neil Robertson
- Owen Anderson
- Yvonne Bowers
- Tuzzo Bretherton
- Nigel Emm
- Denise Gardner.

### Sponsors
- Children’s Ministries: Jennifer Greco
- Church Growth: Pastor David Hatch
- Communication: John Wilby
- Family Ministries: Pastor Clifford Herman
- Health Ministries: Pastor Armita Beita
- Pathfinder and Youth: Pastor I. Marcel Ghiauta
- Prayer Ministries: Pastor Larance Johnson
- Technical Support: Peter Jeynes
- Trust Services and Board Members: [Names to be appointed].

While the Nominating Committee was at work, the rest of the delegation listened to and commented on the president’s and secretary-treasurer’s reports. In his final report before leaving for mission service in Egypt, Pastor Llew Edwards’ presidential report focused on the importance of church as a ‘transparent picture of what God’s grace is about’. He expressed gratitude for the churches where young people feel free to invite their friends—then those friends keep coming. He measures the greatness of the church not just by the sermon but by the welcome, the meal, the people and sense of community—of building together. A presidential report, by its nature, covers a lot of ground, and much of this was reinforced by a twenty-five-minute video documentary compiled by Communication sponsor, John Wilby. This ably demonstrated the amount of activity that has taken place in the Mission during the last three years. Camps, spiritual retreats, prayer conferences and evangelism were all part of the programme. However, what was most significant was the warm expression of thanks from Pastor Llew to the pastoral team and their wives. ‘Over the years,’ he said, ‘we have worked together, teased and had fun together. We have grown together.’ Goodbyes were said to Pastor Llew and his wife Mary who retire in July after having served most of their ministry in the Scottish Mission. The delegation wished Pastor McCormac and his wife every blessing. Pastor Llew gave special thanks to Carole Peacock as Mission secretary and then expressed his joy that Pastor Bernie Hofdor had accepted the call to come and lead. ‘I am handing over to you a fantastic Church,’ he said.

As secretary-treasurer, Pastor Ilene Whittaker reported that the Church in Scotland has grown by 11% in terms of baptisms and profession of faith, with a total net increase of 20%. When transfers in and out of the Mission are included. Two new churches have been planted and while the total membership is only 426, they have been very active. It was a full day of meaningful but good-natured discussion. There was a strong emphasis on mission. An equal emphasis on community, with Dorothy Logan recommending to other churches the CAP (Craft Aid Project) that has seen a church of sixty-nine members raise £37,000 to support projects such as AIDS orphaned in Malawi, Lesotho, and an old folks’ home in Romania. The youth have also been involved in a mission project in Romania, and prayer retreats. Family Life events and days of fellowship have helped nurture the Church. In his closing comments, BUC president, Pastor Don McFarlane, reflected on the way Jesus treated his mother and brothers in Mark 3. Recognising the difficult tensions in the chapter, Pastor McFarlane noted that while his family ‘may have been there to take him out of circulation’, Jesus turned it around and showed that ‘Kingdom relationships take precedence’. He said, ‘Kingdom service is the greatest service we can give.’

As the new Scottish Mission president, Pastor Bernie Hofdor, drew the session to a close, he then challenged delegates to look personally at the objectives agreed for the next three years. He said, ‘I’m excited that you didn’t just accept the plans—you focused, suggested and made them your plans. Then he asked each delegate to choose one commitment for themselves and to make sure it happens. Such commitment and enthusiasm bodes well for the future of Scotland.

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### Mary Barrett commissioned by Sandra Golding

Sabbath 6 June was a special occasion for Mary Barrett from the Stanborough Park church as she was commissioned as a pastor within the South England Conference.

The special commissioning service took place at the SEC Area 7 Day of Fellowship in St Albans, where Mary was joined by family, friends and well-wishers who were there to share in her special day.

Pastor Garth Anthony’s inspiring and challenging sermon motivated us to go back to the Bible. Prayer retreats, Family Life events and days of fellowship have helped nurture the Church.

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### Corby commissioned by Peter Jeynes

‘Corby is the town where many people come to for a new start,’ said the Deputy Mayor of Corby, Ann Brown, as she attended the commissioning of Corby Seventh-day Adventist church.

Many of the members of this young Adventist group have come to the town for the same reason—a new start. Whether of Zimbabwean, Malawian, Filipino or New Zealand or even English origin, the group is seeing a new start in the beautiful county of Northamptonshire.

Pastor Ian Sweeney, NEC president, was present and began worship by commissioning the church. In his short address he reminded the Corby congregation that each member may have had his/her own reasons for coming to Corby. The reminder was, ‘God has given another commission to our members in Corby—to be good for the community.’

Joshua Hammersley, church leader, and his team, had constructed a day’s programme with much variety and interest. Joybells, Dumisan Chorale, Committed, and ‘The Southend Group’ revealed the breadth of friendship and relationship developed by the church and its members.

Mrs Gaye Shaw and her daughter Zelda rejoiced to be there. Gaye had been a Corby resident for many years, had prayed for the people of the town, given out many an Adventist magazine and sought to develop growth in the town.

It was a full day of meaningful but good-natured discussion. There was a strong emphasis on mission. An equal emphasis on community, with Dorothy Logan recommending to other churches the CAP (Craft Aid Project) that has seen a church of sixty-nine members raise £37,000 to support projects such as AIDS orphaned in Malawi, Lesotho, and an old folks’ home in Romania. The youth have also been involved in a mission project in Romania, and prayer retreats. Family Life events and days of fellowship have helped nurture the Church.

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### Walthamstow Life Enrichment Series

Walthamstow church is holding a Life Enrichment Series from 13 July to 2 August at Walthamstow church, 78-80 Boundary Road, Walthamstow, London E17 8BJ.

Speaker: Dr Eikok Williams.

For further information contact: Corren@walthamstowadventistchurch.org.uk.
### Richard’s baptism

**Crooscombe church leaders’ retreat**

_by Terry Messenger, Personal Ministries and Sabbath School director, SEC_

**Montserratian Day of fellowship**

_by Marcelle Riley_

On Sabbath 23 May hundreds of Montserratians and their friends congregated at the Ridge Way Centre in Milton Keynes for the ninth annual Montserratians and Friends of SDA Day of Fellowship. This day provided the opportunity to give thanks to God for the preservation of the island of Montserrat and the protection of lives due to the volcanic crisis which began in July 1995 and is still ongoing with varying degrees of intensity. Under the theme ‘Christ the Essence of our Hope’, we were taken on an uplifting spiritual journey from Sabbath School through to vesper.

During the Sabbath School, which was very ably and creatively led by Thelma Gage, we had several opportunities to lift our voices in praise to the One who is indeed the essence of our hope. Mike Johnson led a rousing Sabbath School discussion on the topic of ‘Rest’.

Following the Sabbath School we received greetings from Ms Lancelle Howes, head of the Montserrat Community Support Trust. Mrs Janice Panton MBE from the Montserrat Government UK office provided a report on developments on the island. A DVD presentation also enabled us to catch a glimpse of the development of the Adventist work in Montserrat.

Pastor Sam Davis, president of the SEC, addressed the day’s theme in his sermon. He shared with us the many avenues through which people unsuccessfully seek hope. In a time when many individuals are losing hope, we were given the timely reminder and assurance that Christ is the only true source of hope – a source that will not disappoint.

The AYS, under the leadership of Rosetta Allen, sang both the youth and the young at heart actively participating. Various musical renditions also enriched the day’s service. The London Male Voice Choir has been a regular blessing. However, we were also uplifted by special items rendered by the Camp Hill SDA choir. Stanley Buffonge and Delthia Harris added a youthful touch with the song ‘Holy Holy’ during the AYS programme.

This year witnessed a technological achievement in that the service was broadcast live on the Internet for the first time. This enabled individuals in Montserrat to join in with the worship experience. Highlight of the day’s service, such as the sermon, can be viewed on http://www.justin.tv/ rmasld-all. Once on the site individuals can also click on ‘channel’ to view highlights in continuous play and also aspects of the Advent work in Montserrat.

There is always a social dimension to this special day as individuals renew contact and exchange contact details, promising to keep in touch. The day climaxed with vespers by Pastor Davis. As we prepared to leave, we lifted our voices in song for the final time with ‘We have this hope’, our theme song for the day.

According to William Riley, the principal coordinator, plans are afoot to host the event in Birmingham in 2010 if the Lord should tarry.

**Baptism at Chingford Community church**

Sabbath 30 May was a remarkable day at Chingford Community Church, and was organized by Pastor Bernard Akakpo to celebrate both Communion and baptismal services on the same day. The morning was a grand Communion celebration when the hearts of members and visiting friends were drawn to God and to one another in sweet Christian unity. In the evening, Heaven came down at the baptismal service as members, family and visiting friends celebrated the baptism of Christopher Blumberg. There were melodious songs, beautifully sung by Chingford Community church choir, Faith Singers, Garnett Sterling and Calvin Johnson, along with a powerful sermon by Pastor Akakpo entitled ‘Rejoice Ye in Heaven’, and a special reading by Christopher’s sister, Rachel, before the immersion, emphasizing that baptism is the doorway to God’s Kingdom and that there was great joy in Heaven that day.

Christopher’s life has been touched by God in so many ways that he was more than ready to take this public step for Christ. Pastor Akakpo, along with church members, heartily welcomed Christopher into fellowship, the first of many more under our new name, Chingford Community SDA Church! **Angela Austin**

Mrs M. Heughebaert – affectionately known as Auntie Margery – completed a ‘not out’ century of years at the Richmond House Retirement Home in Crieff on 2 March.

**Wood Green: Edge of eternity**

_by John Arthur_

D aniel Saugh, pastor of Meadowsvale church in Toronto, returned to Wood Green for another week of prayer in April, entitled ‘Edge of eternity’, the campaign was a blessing to all who attended. During the week, we were reminded that the enemy is attacking the youth with ‘weapons of mass destruction’ and that he is stockpiling ‘d-bombs’, such as deception and discouragement, doubt and defeat, to use against us.

Each evening, Evadene Henry and Arnette Seivwright led out in prayer as both young and older members of the congregation prayed for help with the challenges the youth face in today’s society and asked God to guide them in making wise decisions and standing strong in their respective lives.

Prayer requests included petitions for courage to witness to others, success in exams and safety on the streets.

On Sabbath morning Pastor Saugh’s message entitled ‘Moral Combat’ was taken from 2 Kings chapter 6, where the King of Syria had sent his army to Damascus to capture Elisha. Elisha’s servant was afraid when the army surrounded the city, but Elisha reassured him with the words: ‘Fear not, they that be with us are more than they that be with them.’ Elisha then prayed, and God opened the eyes of his servant so that he was able to see the horses and chariots of fire surrounding Elisha. Pastor Saugh likened this story to the various trials and challenges we all face in life and said that if we would only check the ‘blind spot’ we’d be able to see that God is there already, wanting to deliver us. Pastor Saugh emphasised the danger of being overcome by the enemy if we fail to check the ‘blind spot’ and see God’s victory and deliverance instead of depression, doubt and defeat.

During the series, several young people made a commitment to give their lives to Christ and be baptised, three of whom were baptised at the end of the campaign. It was a joyful day for the Duffs family in particular, as Mel and her niece Chanel were both baptised. Surrounded by her many friends and family who had come to witness her testimony, Nisha Barclay also publicly sealed her forever friendship with Jesus through baptism.

**Auntie Margery at 100**

_by Annette Seivwright_

Mrs M. Heughebaert, affectionately known as Auntie Margery, completed a ‘not out’ century of years at the Richmond House Retirement Home in Crieff on 2 March.

During the weekend four different workshops were presented at three different times. Rachel Plunkett, Sabbath School director at the SEC, presented a workshop on effective teaching and spoke about teaching methods which would truly engage people’s minds. Cliff Hilton spoke about renewing the Sabbath School and how through planning and new ideas Sabbath School attendance would increase. Dr De Lisser’s workshop focused on evangelism and how the Sabbath School plays a vital role in this. Dr Mike Hamilton discussed group dynamics.

Mention must also go to Fen and Joy Braithwaite who led out in the worship and devotional times so beautifully. It is hoped that this weekend will serve as a catalyst to revive the Sabbath School in the SEC, and that the original purpose of the Sabbath School for strong Bible teaching, mission, fellowship and outreach will be re-established.
Dudley House receives Education Award

Dudley House School was very proud to be presented with an Investors in Education Award in recognition of the high quality work experiences it has provided for young people from the local community. The investors in Education Award was presented during a ceremony hosted by Lincolnshire and Rutland Education Business Partnership on Thursday 30 April in Lincoln.

Dudley House School was one of the 101 businesses from Lincolnshire and Rutland recognising as excellent work experience opportunities for young people and inspiring them in their future careers. Dudley House School was nominated for the award by the students themselves as a thank you for the time and effort put into making their work experience so valuable and enjoyable and as an acknowledgment from the Partnership for all the hard work that this entails.

Mrs Johnson, head teacher, said, ‘We are delighted to receive this award. We welcome students into our school family for work experience, and it is pleasing to know that they find their placements with us so positive and worthwhile.’

The award was presented to Dudley House by the Board of Directors, Jenny Johnson, head teacher, and Hilary Woodman, Work Experience coordinator, by Rob Mayall, assistant director of Children’s Services at Lincolnshire County Council, accompanied by Claire Flavel, Employability manager, Lincolnshire and Rutland Education Business Partnership.

Sutton-in-Ashfield baptism

Sabbath 2 May was a very happy day for Sutton-in-Ashfield church as we witnessed the baptism of Ruth Bembridge. The elderly members of Sutton-in-Ashfield church remember Ruth as a little girl attending church with her mother Carolyn and, more recently, her marriage to Steve in 2006. Ruth’s cheery face and sunny disposition greet us all each Sabbath morning.

Ruth was baptised by Pastor Melvin Ellis, with church elder Eunice Mason assisting. This was Sutton’s first baptism in our recently refurbished church with her mother Carolynn and, more recently, her marriage to Steve in 2006. Ruth’s cheery face and sunny disposition greet us all each Sabbath morning.

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On 26 April the Music department of the London Youth Federation held their first music leadership conference. The target audience was music team leaders and those with music industry experience, the aim of the meeting was to share the LYF vision for music ministry in our churches and for our youth in 2009 and beyond. Attendees included delegates from churches with little or no inclusion of a musician for services, which is a major – yet seldom widely-spoken-about – issue. Also present was the SEC Music director, Paul Lee, who made a valuable contribution to the ensuing discussions. The meeting started off with an address from the LYF Music chair, Roger Baptiste (a role he shares with Thula Mangena), who, along with outlining the responsibilities of the LYF Music department and their agenda, highlighted some other major issues, including over-subscribed and under-utilised musicians, attitudes to music for worship, isolation of certain churches, and the need to get more musicians motivated and involved – particularly the youth. Norman Clarke, a highly accomplished musician, laid out in the main section, teaching on musicianship, taking time out to practise one’s craft, the biblical landscape, challenges faced by many musicians in our churches, and various untapped avenues such as song-writing and production.

After a question and answer period, a prayer session closed off proceedings. The message everyone took away was this: LYF Music and the SEC are actively ... If anyone wishes to stay informed or know how they can contribute musically to the churches in their area, please contact lyfmusic2009@googlemail.com. May the Lord be praised for the success of this first meeting.

ROGER BAPTISTE

London Youth Federation Praise Team Summit

CORONARY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT EVENT
CHIP: An evangelistic tool in the postmodern society

CHIP founder, Dr Hans Diehl, will be visiting churches in the UK and Ireland from 28 August to 6 September. He will be the guest speaker and will conduct some training at the following events:

- North England Conference CHIP training: 26-31 August
- Irish Mission Fellowship and inspiration with Dr Hans Diehl: 1 September
- Scottish Mission Fellowship and inspiration with Dr Hans Diehl: 2 September
- Welsh Mission Fellowship and inspiration with Dr Hans Diehl: 3 September
- South England Conference Get to know Dr Diehl personally: 4-6 September

Please see contact details for individual area programme leaders on the website below.

For further information and/or to register online, visit www.chipuk.org.uk.

Alternatively, contact Gene Kol the BUC CHIP coordinator, email: gkol@adventist.org.uk mob: 07966 713 469

New Book of the Week: The Gospel according to Paul
A plain man’s guide to Romans by Per Bolling

Paul wrote his letter to the Romans before he went to Rome. Hence he does not deal with any local problems. He simply and comprehensively outlines the Christian Gospel from first to last. In doing so, he writes the most powerful single book in all of Scripture. Per Bolling expresses Paul’s message in easy-to-read language, making it accessible to all.

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