UK youth take up the challenge

Catherine Anthony Boldeau reports from the Pan-European Youth Congress in Munich

One hundred and twenty-seven Adventist young people and their leaders from the UK and the Republic of Ireland attended the Pan-European Youth Congress in Munich, 5-12 August. ‘It’s Your Turn’ was the title of the Congress, which included nearly 4,500 delegates from both the Trans-European and Euro-Africa Divisions and further afield.

The UK was well represented. Trainee minister Andrew Davis, son of SEC president Pastor Sam Davis, was one of the two moderators who hosted the majority of the programmes. Andrew’s humour and joviality enhanced the proceedings throughout the four-day event. His co-presenter was Linda Schulz from Germany.

Eddie Hymel, associate SEC Youth director, was the speaker for the opening service. His message focused on knowing Jesus so you can tell others about the Gospel. He was also the speaker for the Sabbath afternoon commitment service, in which he invited the young people of Europe to make a decision for Jesus. ‘It’s your turn now to take the Gospel to the world,’ was his closing remark. And during the week, an ‘afterglow’ service of praise, worship and testimony was led by a praise team comprising young people from the London area. Joel Holford carried the Union Jack on behalf of the BUC.

The highlight of the week for the UK was the performance of Austin Blackburn from the St Austell church in Cornwall. With deftness and dexterity he elevated the humble saw from a work tool to an instrument of beauty with his performance of ‘Bridge over troubled water’ at Friday afternoon’s Arts Festival. It was a flawless recital that deserved the standing ovation that it received.

Other features during the week were the Fun Run in the centre of Munich that raised nearly 10,000 euros for a local charity, the baptism of eighteen young people on Friday evening, and the prayer walk on Sabbath afternoon.

The focus of the Congress was on allowing the young people to participate in the mission of the Church. At a press conference church leaders issued ‘The Munich Statement’. The statement was a call for increased youth participation in the Church, especially at leadership level, in local churches, nationally and internationally.

Paul Tampkins, TED Youth director, stated, ‘We welcome the participation of the young people and hope to have an ongoing dialogue and partnership with them.’

Commenting on the Congress as a whole, Des Boldeau, BUC Youth director, concluded, ‘We all had a Spirit-filled time. I believe that God blessed everyone and, from the feedback I had from the youth, they had a great time. My prayer is that those who attended the Congress are inspired to go out and make it their turn to spread the Gospel.’
A 7 her coronation, Queen Elizabeth, like British monarchs before her, promised to maintain the laws of God and the true profession of the gospel. But today, Britain is at war with the Gospel and with itself. British Christians who take their faith into the workplace risk being demoted or fired. The government continues to push an aggressive gay rights agenda, while intent on denying its own state religion, Christianity.

This is, indeed, a strange state of affairs. Perhaps it was inevitable, given the fact that the amount of people currently attending church weekly is up at around 6%. The truth is, this is a new secular country. Also, if some projections are to be believed, in a few decades Islam will be the majority faith here. Tuming aside from that, there are any parallels with you and me? Are we still as Christian as we once were? Is there a danger that we are like this country, which was once Christian, but now has to face the fact that this was in the past. The New Testament doesn’t address this issue much, as a lot of the time it is busy dealing with issues relevant to an emerging church in a time of persecution. However, in the prophetic book of Revelation it does look forward to what was then the distant future, and it has some words of advice that seem relevant. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have. . . . Him who overcomes. . . . I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were one or the other! Revelation 3:11-15. These words were written to the churches in Philadelphia and Laodicea. Our understanding is that these words apply to Christians now. Can you and I recognise the dangers we face as Christians today? The church has been around a long time. We may have been Christians a long time. Our attention needs to be on our current standing with God. It is no good remembering

with Jonathan Barrett

Anti-Christian discrimination

what we used to be like. Our focus has to be on what we are like now. Today, when it comes to our faith. If that can be our focus, then no mat-

ter how much this country may be at war with the Gospel and itself, at least that will not be true of us.

*www.crazytimes.ch/news/2013/06/27/Libya_ko_\_Christians_A seventimes_Failure.html*

It can’t happen... . . . until it does!
Euthanasia and assisted suicide

by John Ferguson

I am not unfamiliar with controversy. Nevertheless I do not relish the prospect of discussing controversial issues with any degree of relish. With words like Dignity, autonomy and assisted suicide featuring regularly in our newspapers and news bulletins, it is time, I think, to address these issues. We could, of course, bury our heads in the sand, ostrich-like, and hope that the whole uncomfortable issue will go away. But it will not, of course.

The names of Debbie Purdy, Daniel James and Diane Pretty have sent these issues to the top of our attention agenda.

Debbie Purdy, you recall, is a woman who suffers from an aggressive form of Multiple Sclerosis, which is likely to kill her. She was successful on 30 July in getting the Law Lords of this country to rule that our Directive of Public Prosecutions must make it clear under what circumstances he would prosecute someone for assisting suicide.

The DPP has not yet prosecuted any of the 115 cases on his desk. Nevertheless, it is wise not to take that to mean that her husband would not be prosecuted should she choose to help her to end her life.

Surely, the Stammer, the DPP has been ordered to spell out exactly in what circumstances he would prosecute. Hence Debbie Purdy has been successfully in getting the law clarified. Nevertheless, we may fairly say that we were left with euthanasia made legal in this country.

Daniel James was a 23-year-old rugby player from Loughborough University. An energetic, sporting lad, an England under-16 international. Daniel was paralysed from the neck down after a rugby scrimmage collapsed on him. He was left with the constant, with no hand function, in constant pain in all his fingers and suffering uncontrollable spasms in his legs and upper body. He needed twenty-four hour care.

Dane’s parents helped him to travel to the Dignitas Clinic in Zurich, Switzerland. Dane ended his life by swallowing a liquid drug called Nembutal. Within a few minutes of taking it last September, he fell asleep, his head on the pillow, and passed away.

Diane Pretty did not travel to the Dignitas Clinic. She passed away in May 2002 in a hospice near her home in Luton. Like Debbie Purdy, Diane Pretty went to the courts to rule that her husband could not be prosecuted if he helped her to die, but she was unsuccessful in her attempt. She died two weeks after the European court failed to uphold her appeal.

At this point we need to pause and think.

These are all difficult cases. One difficulty I have in dealing with this topic is that this magazine is read by children. We avoid using words such as death, suicide and euthanasia in the presence of children.

Nevertheless, I appeal to wise, caring and good parents to encourage their children to talk to them about sensitive issues such as those we raise here. You are a family. We are a family. Good families, strong families, balanced families – talk things out.

What does the Bible say?

What does the Word of God say on suicide and euthanasia?

Quite a bit. And not a lot.

Quite a bit. The belief that human life is sacred is clear in Genesis 9:5 and in the Ten Commandments. In Genesis 9:5 God says, ‘Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for in the image of God has God made man.’

Euthanasia is, therefore, not straightforwardly ‘You shall not kill.’

The Bible says a great deal about human life and about the holiness of life. Psalm 139 states that God knew us even before we were born. ‘For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb; you knew me when I was not;’ (verse 13, 14, 16.)

There are definite implications in this statement. ‘All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.’ (Verse 16.)

Let me begin to answer that by asking another question. What do Satan, euthanasia and the Old Testament have in common? Answer. They all committed suicide.

In 1 Samuel 11, 5 we see Saul, who has been wounded in battle, calling for his armour bearer to kill him with his sword. Saul did not want his enemies to have the satisfaction of killing him. However, the armour bearer refused to take the life of Saul. So Saul fell on his own sword and died. Seeing that, the armour bearer also committed suicide in the same way.

In 2 Samuel 17 we read about Athithopher. Athithopher was dis- tressed at not having his advice taken by Absalom. So distressed, in fact, that he hanged himself. (2 Samuel 17.23.)

‘Zimri, like Absalom, was an Old Testament schemer who tried to elevate himself to kingship. When this failed against him he entered the king’s house, set on fire and perished in the flames. Read that in 1 Kings 22:48. Either one of their cases does not have the Bible comment on the morality of what they did. The Bible records what they did, but does not make a moral judgement about it. The Bible does not say that what they did in taking their own lives was wrong. If simple records that they did it.

That is why I said that the Bible does not say a lot about suicide. And it says nothing at all about euthanasia.

Reasons for opposing suicide/ euthanasia

If it can be argued that the Bible, to some extent, is quiet on suicide/ euthanasia, why, then, is Christianity in general so vocally opposed to it?

Enter Catholic theology.

In AD413 – four centuries after the resurrection of Jesus – Augustine, a famous man in the history of Catholic theology, taught that suicide was a sin. Further, he taught that suicide was a sin that should exclude a person from Heaven. His teaching was not nec- essary, as he was not writing from what he considered to be reason and logic. Augustine taught, and the Catholic Church accepted his teaching and has held it ever since. Augustine also taught that we must confess our sins in order to have forgiveness. Nothing wrong with that, if we accord Scripture, ‘If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unright- eousness.’ (1 John 1:9.)

But Augustine went on reason was to this. If a person commits suicide, he/she does not have time to repent of that sin, and so the sin remains unconfessed, thus barring that person from Heaven.

Have we the practice of Catholic priests being called to the bedside of a dying person in order to hear his/her confession and pronounce the person forgiven of sin?

But what if a person dies sud- denly, without warning? What if it happens that somebody gets hit by a bus? Are his sins not forgiven?

John Donne was a preacher, poet and theologian who lived between 1610 and 1651. Born in a Catholic family, Donne was converted to Protestantism and, at the end of his life, the dean of St Paul’s Cathedral. Donne argued persuasively against Augustine’s teaching. Here is what John Donne wrote.

‘Death, be not proud, thou art not so

Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not

For whom thou think’st, thou dost overthrown

Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me. I

One short sleep past, we wake eternally.

And Death shall be no more. Death, thou shalt die!’

John Donne challenged Augustine’s thinking. Donne argued that such thinking placed a limit on God’s grace. Donne argued that God can forgive the victim of suicide.

So where do we stand on this one?

In 1 Samuel 11, 5 we see, at the same presented case, I might also see it, both for and against euthanasia.

For in that some people reason that the Bible is silent about it. Saul, Athithopher, Zimri and Judas attracted no biblical condemnation of their action.

Against that in the Bible very much upholds the sanctity, the holiness of life.

I suspect that everyone will make up his/her own mind on this one.

For the record, our Church does make a definitive statement on the matter. It does so in the book (Statements, Guidelines and Other Documents.) The same book con- tains statements by our Church on many ethical issues including abortion, climate change, human cloning and racism. But in its statement on ‘Care for the dying’ it reads that ‘Christians love and seek to lead to the withholding or withdrawal of medical interventions that only increase suffering or prolong dying.’ Seventy-advances Christians do not practise ‘mercy killing’ or assist in suicide. (Genesis 9, 5, 6; Exodus 20:13.)

They are opposed to active euthanasia and the intentional tak- ing of the life of a suffering or dying person.’

This is a tough subject. The tough subjects always take time. No one is going to like feeling too carthys of joy all the way home. But I do hope you can see that it has been an important subject for us to consider.

* Dr Ferguson pastors the Grantham and Skegness churches. He has a Doctor of Ministry degree and has pastored churches in Battersea and the Northamptonshire churches prior to his move to Grantham.

September 2 is GC Day

by Victor Hubert, Communication director, BUC

A s ‘People of the Book’ Adventists across the UK and Ireland will be demonstrating their faith on Sabbath 12 September. From small churches in remote areas to major events in larger towns and cities, each church is planning highlights that central the Bible is to Adventist faith. While Adventist worship is always Bible focused, this particular Sabbath churches are being encouraged to place an even stronger emphasis on the Bible both in worship and outside the church.

The day coincides with the specially commissioned General Conference Bible visiting the British Isles. With each of the sixty-six books in a different language, this large ‘Adventist Family Bible’ is travelling worldwide the GC Session in Atlanta, USA, in July 2010.

On Sabbath 12 September the Bible will be on display in special worship services at Newbold and four churches in London. Each of those follow- ing days Dublin will be the venue for a special high-speed pres- entation of twenty speakers in three hours who will share their joy in the Bible. Archaeologists, theologians, historians and clergy from several churches will join with church members and involved guests from the community to rejoice in the difference that the Bible still makes in lives in the twenty-first century. A 350-seater auditorium has been rented in a prestigious hotel to accommodate the expectation.

Newbold College and church are working together to provide a weekend of programmes, including Friday night vespers and Sabbath services. The Bible Society will be involved both at Newbold and Sunday at King’s College. The College is deploying its historic collection of Bibles with guided tours not only explaining the heritage but demonstrating how accessible the Bible and Bible study tools are in the electronic age. The ‘Adventist Family Bible’ will be on display to students and church members and drawings from the children.

Pastor Clive de Silva will be using his motorcycle skills to deliver the GC Bible to the Central London, Brixton, Holloway and Clapton churches during the afternoon. Special programmes in these churches will build on the local emphasis in the morning.

The North England Convention is taking a different approach. Here the focus is on Bible knowledge. A specially designed interact- ive sixty-minute quiz ‘How well have you followed your Bible?’ will be used. This PowerPoint Bible quiz will challenge and enlighten our members and community and promote greater reading of the Scriptures by all. Undergraduate and postgraduate students are taking Bibles to the streets to ‘meet people where they are’.

The essence of Follow the Bible is not on the event itself but in the culmination of many events, many churches and 30,000 church members across the UK and Ireland, praying and sharing how the Bible is making a difference in their lives.

For more on Follow the Bible, along with suggestions for activities in your church, please visit www.adventistinfo.org.uk/followthebible.
Ten ways to involve children in thanksgiving and harvest services

KAREN HOLFORD, from the SEC Children’s Ministries department, continues her series of creative ways to involve children in your church services.

When church is presenting a special service of celebration, it is easier to do something a little different to involve the children. Take the opportunity to involve children in your thanksgiving or harvest celebrations this year by trying one of the following ideas.

1. In advance of the harvest service, invite the children to choose an object that fills them with gratitude and bring it to the service. Give them plenty of time to think about what they will choose. Ask the children to talk about their choices during the service, or arrange the items on a table with a card from each describing why they chose to bring that particular object to the thanksgiving service.

2. Try an alphabet prayer of thanks. Get the children to help you go through the alphabet, asking them to name the different things they want to thank God for that begin with each of the letters, such as:

- angels, avocados, ambulance, bonnie, bears, brownies, cats, cherries, cars and so on.

3. Be very courageous and creative! Ask the children in your church to come dressed to illustrate something they want to thank God for. Supply a few extra costumes in case some children attend your church on that day without a costume. Invite the children to come and stand at the front of the church and say a sentence prayer, thanking God for the object that they are representing.

4. Supply the children in your church with child-friendly ‘thank you’ cards. If possible, find outline designs that they can colour in themselves. Ask them to fill it in and bring it to church with them. Ask you prayer inside the card to draw some pictures of the things they like best. Make a display of the cards or let them read out their prayers during the service.

5. Buy a small ‘thank you’ tree, such as bay tree or young fruit tree. Incorporate the tree into the harvest display. Give the children plump, ripe fruits for decoration, or show them how sweet they want to thank God for. They can cut picture from magazines or draw their own pictures. They can also write a message to God on the reverse of the label. During the service invite the children to come forward and hang their tags on the ‘thank you’ tree.

6. Invite the children to choose an item of fruit from the harvest display and to say why they like that particular fruit and why they are glad God made it for us. Provide a small bag for each child to take home their chosen fruit.

7. Ask the Children’s Sabbath School teachers or Pathfinders leaders to help the children prepare a special song, poem or short sketch about thankfulness which can be presented during the service.

8. Be thankful for the children in your congregation, they are the fruit of your harvest, too! Bring all the children to the front of the church and pray a short prayer of thankfulness over each of them.

9. Provide each child with an empty basket a couple of weeks ahead of your harvest service. Invite them to fill the basket with an attractive display of fruit, vegetables and other foods. Display the baskets during the service and then ask the children to take their food baskets and distribute them among the elderly or needy people in your congregation and community.

10. Find some small cloth or paper bags in which you can hide a range of different fruits and vegetables from the harvest arrangement. As part of the service, invite the children to come to the front and see if they can identify the fruits and vegetables by their smell or touch rather than their taste. Thank God for the wonderful harvest of God’s Creation through all of our God-created senses. Ask the children in your church how they would like to be involved in the harvest service this year.

Sixty years and counting: Celebrating the Diamond Wedding of Ken and Esmé Hammond

If ever two were one, then surely we...

(Anne Bradstreet, from ‘To My Dear and Loving Husband’, 1650)

Ken and Esmé achieved the grand total of sixty years of married life on 23 August this year. I am delighted to be able to tell their story and celebrate their very special partnership.

Ken and Esmé first met on 29 October 1947 when they were both students at Southampton University. After a chance encounter on a crowded playing field, things moved fast and their first official date was just a week later in Winchester on Guy Fawkes Day, an occasion they have remembered and celebrated ever since.

Their romance continued to blossom on a rainy 23 August 1949 they were married at St Paul’s Church in Bury, South Yorkshire. For some time after their marriage, Ken, his Uncle Mick supplied his classic MG TC sports car along with a supply of petrol in the vain hope that, invaluable in those post-war days. Since then, journeys to various destinations have been a key feature of their sixty years of marriage, making our family holiday to Barbados in August a perfect way to mark the latest milestone in their adventurous route through life.

The itinerant couple set up their first home in Thetford, Norfolk, arrive on the 1950s motels that took them everywhere — until the birth of their first daughter Penny in 1952 made four wheels essential. Here in Thetford Ken began his initial career as a teacher of maths and French at the local grammar school, and here, too, their second daughter Rebecca was born in 1955.

Two years later, a radically new job in the business world required a move to Leicester. Soon after, the family faced a further relocation to the south, to the headquarters of the GC Executive Training Company, where, as one of the first laymen on the committee, his extensive knowledge of the business world was put to good use. Others took them to the Gambia, Kenya and South Africa in search of wildlife, a passion they have always shared. But above all, in these latter years they have loved and supported their family, including their three grandchildren, Keiran, Birdie and Ben have enjoyed a unique relationship with Grandma and Grandpa that continues to enrich their lives immensely.

So what is the secret of Ken and Esmé’s successful partnership? Some might point to their shared love of Scabbie, others might suggest Ken’s passion for golf and Esmé’s complete indifference to it; or perhaps the secret lies in their mutual respect and good humour when faced with the pressures of work and family. Generous, outward-looking spirit and their ability to enjoy whatever life sends them. In all these things and more, they set the gold standard for marital success, a rare achievement nowadays. Their shared Christian faith has been the cornerstone of their relationship and, like Anne Bradstreet, each can say: ‘My love is such I can no way repay. The heavens reward their manifold, I pray.’

Thanks, Ken and Esmé, Mum and Dad. You continue to be a model for how to live well, and we wish you many more happy years together.

 communemen\n
New agricultural training school for Peru

by Bert Smit, Executive director, ADRA-UK

Most people think of Peru as a tourist destination. Featuring the famous ‘City of the Sun’, Machu Picchu, the Cusco region, however, is one of the poorest areas in the country. With an overall population of nearly 1.2 million, 65% of the people are estimated to be living in poverty.

ADRA Peru has proposed to address this situation systematically. It has identified a number of living conditions, ill health and inefficient agricultural methods.

With financial assistance from ADRA-UK ($US150,000) ADRA Peru is now supporting an agricultural training centre (ATC) just outside the central location of Chupakuchana on the main road from Cusco to Puno. The training centre will serve the four districts of Chocacara, Cusuquipa, Cusipata and Quiquiapa.

The centre will teach and illustrate by example advanced agricultural production systems, better health and nutrition practices, better use of materials for construction, and management of surplus crops for profit purposes.

The training centre will enable representatives from private and public institutions to play a part in improving the daily practices and living conditions of the people whom they represent. Training of teachers is important in passing on knowledge. Theoretical and practical courses will be offered to introduce the best organic agro- silvo-pastoral productive system and practices in approved irrigation project for the area by AECID. The combination of the two projects will create excellent opportunities for many small farmers.

The new agricultural training centre will have the potential to become a major centre of development for the area.
Caring Stars for Jesus

If Jesus came to your home today, what would you like to do to help take care of him? Would you tidy up, would you help make some dinner for him, or would you make him a special drink? Did you know that Jesus said that whatever you do for others, you are doing for him? So, whenever you are kind to someone, you can imagine that you are being kind to Jesus. And whenever we do something mean or hurtful to a person, we are hurting Jesus, too. How can you be a Caring Star for Jesus this week in your home, at school, in your neighbourhood?

‘Taking care’ prayer

Dear woman, here is your son! From that time on John took care of Jesus’ mother. (John 19:25, 27)

Even when on the cross Jesus was considerate. He asked John to take care of his mother. We can be like Jesus and be considerate to our parents, too. One way of doing this is to do jobs in the home. Praying can turn boring chores into a more enjoyable time. Write a list of the jobs you do each week. Then write next to each job the name of a person/people you will pray for when doing the chore. Next to washing up you could put the name of a friend who will soon be baptised. When you tidy up your room and put away your clothes, pray for the children who live on the streets and own nothing.

(Adapted from 100 Creative Prayer Ideas for Kids, by Karen Holbrook, published by Pacific Press)

How will I care for others?

Someone in my family

A Friend

Someone old or sick

Here are three squares. In the first square write the name of someone in your family. In the second, write the name of a friend. In the third box write the name of someone you know who is sick or old. Then, in each of the squares, draw a picture of something kind you could do for the person whose name you wrote in the box. How can you do these kind things in real life?

- Took a message from the father to the brothers who were working away from home
- Told a foreign employer how he could be healed
- Looked after the family’s sheep
- Shared a packed lunch with thousands of hungry people
- Pulled up enough water from a well for lots of camels to drink (and camels get very thirsty)
- Encouraged the people to rebuild the temple of God

Feedback from children who visit Christian Stars Children’s pages – or from self-parents – is well come. The address is church and ministry, Aimee Haworth, Children’s Ministries director, BBC

Caring for others

In this word search you will find twelve ways we can care for people. Use the clues to help you, and then circle the words when you find them. The clues tell you which row and column contain the first letter of the word, and the length of the word or phrase. There is also a special message hidden in the word search that will tell us how we will naturally want to do these things. These extra words will not be circled when you have finished the word search, and the final clues will tell you in which row you will find these extra words.

Highlight the words and then write them in the special spaces to find the secret message. Have fun!

Star verse

Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me. (Matthew 25:40, NIV)

Find some coloured paper or card. Cut it into shapes of clothing – dresses, trousers, T-shirts, and shorts and so on. Write each word of the memory verse on a separate piece of paper ‘clothing’. Find some clothes pegs and ask an adult to make a short washing line for you out of string. See how fast you can peg the words of the memory verse onto the line in the correct order.

Caring Stars

Match the children in the Bible to the way they helped by drawing a line between them.

- Samuel
  1 Samuel 2:18
- Naaman’s maid
  2 Kings 5:2-5
- Joseph
  Genesis 37:13-17
- Rebekah
  Genesis 24:15-20
- David
  1 Samuel 16:11-13
- Young boy
  John 9:5-13
- Joseph
  2 Chronicles 24:1-5
- Rebekah
  Genesis 24:15-20
- David
  1 Samuel 16:11-13
- Young boy
  John 9:5-13
- Joseph
  2 Chronicles 24:1-5
- Rebekah
  Genesis 24:15-20

Contributors
Karen Holbrook, Aimee Plimsoor and Heather Haworth

Messanger
CHIP: ‘The best thing that has come to Bury’

A s plans were underway for the Bury CHIP programme, doors were opening in unexpected places. Prominent locations around town were offering our free information sessions. Conference rooms at the Bury Fire Station, the Earlsfield Hospital and a local community centre. Not forgetting the morning and evening information sessions at the CHIP venue, the Fishpool SDX Community church.

The free one-hour information sessions give interested members of the public an opportunity to see what the programme offers. They include a powerful PowerPoint presentation, showing graphic pictures of the silent killer that grows menacingly within that can be reversed by simple lifestyle choices; an introduction, via DVD, by CHIP’s founder, Hans Diehl; and a personal testimony, ‘How CHIP changed my life’, by a CHIP alum. The meeting’s central part of the session is the discussion time when participants share the health concerns that aroused their initial interest in the CHIP programme.

CHIwP is an acronym for Community Health Improvement with Primary prevention. It offers a free, confidential health assessment for people and suggests targets for improved lifestyle, for all adults aged 18 to 75.

The health checks provide an insight into health and lifestyle, and are free of charge. The health checks include a basic health check, a 12-minute consultation, and a programme of exercises.

For further information, please call: 01254 448301.

Riverway outreach

Riverway church in Sidcup, Kent, is not merely a place of worship. During July some of the members, armed with blood pressure and lung monitors, went into the community with the firm intention of making a difference.

The church has a health promotion tent at the Dartford Festival for the last five years, and on Saturday and Sunday 18 and 19 July several hundred people at the festival were screened for blood pressure and carbon monoxide levels. In addition, thousands of pieces of health and Christian literature were given out to visitors to the festival and to the public. Advice on diet, exercise and other health issues was given.

Special thanks to all those who helped to make the last five years such a resounding success.

Riverway Outreach

ASJ Youth4Jesus/Prophecies of Hope baptismal service

Following on from the Prophecies of Hope evangelineic series, due to the commitment and dedication of the local Jesus Bible workers, an early harvest of candidates was garnered into the baptism of the Nottingham Central church on Sabbath 25 July. The candidates were not only from the district of Nottingham, but one, having been touched by the series, made the journey from Tamworth.

These are just seven of the forty persons who specifically requested baptism, and those forty are only a small percentage of the contacts continuing with Bible studies following the intensive collaboration of the ASJ Youth4Jesus and the local churches.

As a conference-wide phenomenon, this service was populated by local and national cms members from Tamworth, Tattenhall, Walsall and Birmingham. Pastor Alan Hulst (NEC Youth Director) looked on proudly as he saw that the work of the youth had brought the following to Jesus: Michelle Sprague, Andre and Shelter Dangira (daughter and mother respectively), Lorraine Dube, Michelle’s mother, and Matthew Nkathi. The seventh candidate, Eric Lawrence, came from Tamworth, bringing many of the Tamworth Fellowship, including Pastor Orlando Holder, with him to witness his

Sahaja just let a tear drop, and Marjorie couldn’t stop smiling. Shelter and her daughter Anelise listened to the latter daughter sang ‘I know that my Redeemer lives’ and vowed to follow them into the waters soon. Eric, the final candidate, also shed a tear of joy while he was blessed with a solo rendition of ‘Fallin’ in love with Jesus’, sung beautifully by Sarah Brooks. After being issued with their certificates and mini-libraries, the new babies were prayed over by NEC’s Pastor Egonit Francis. He also praised Pastor Hulst and his wife for their vision and the Bible workers for their tireless efforts, which led, in great part, to the baptisms.

Many of the Youth4Jesus crew have now moved on to continue this work in other cities. But the baptisms are planned in August and September, and the work they started is now being continued by those they leave behind.

Riverway Outreach

NEC Pathfinder Rally Day, 19 September

Pastor Trevor Thomas, Pathfinder director, NEC NEC Pathfinder Rally Day is close. This year we will be at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool on Sabbath 19 September. Each year Rally Day has proved to be a spiritual blessing and high day for all those who attend.

As Adventurers, Pathfinders and church members gather from every club and church in the North England Conference, we are truly a sight to behold, superbly dressed in our uniforms and Sabbath best. This year we plan to have one service beginning at 10am through to 12.30, which will include reports on the Pathfinders who are ‘going about their Father’s business’ in their communities. Our speaker this year is none other than our Conference president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, a friend and guide to all young people. He will be speaking on our theme for the day: be a beacon.

As usual, after lunch 2pm we will order ourselves for a street procession. We are expecting over 2,000 to take part this year. We will be led by our drum corps along the High Street and through the marketplaces of Blackpool. Pastor Mike Simpson and his team will be distributing 4,000 of the Hr Es Coming ‘Missionary Book of the Year’ to the onlookers and shoppers in Blackpool.

We also plan to have an outdoor baptism service as a witness and testimony that Jesus is still alive and relevant in 2009. Following a closing ceremony the day will end at 5pm.

All are invited to this day of worship, fellowship, evangelism and witness. We have changed the registration process this year to make it easier for everyone. The club director or a delegated person from each club should collect £1 from each person who wishes to attend and then register the group number online at: http://necpathfinders/day/eventinfo.htm or google NEC Pathfinders and follow the link. Once registered, the club director or delegated person will receive the appropriate number of wristbands which will serve as tickets on the day. The NEC Rally Day handbook will also be sent directly to the club director or delegated person.

Grace Walsh, NEC Community Services director, and I have agreed that all churches members dressed in their Community Services formal dress uniform will be able to march with the Adventurers and Pathfinders.

Again we invite and welcome all Adventurers, Pathfinders and church members to worship, fellowship, evangelism and witness on Sabbath 19 September at Blackpool Winter Gardens for NEC Pathfinder Rally Day 2009.
Holloway outreach initiative

June 7 marked the date when Holloway’s Personal Ministry department committee to a ‘field day’ outreach initiative that would be comprised of four meetings in the local area.

The aim was to carry out the somewhat daunting task of knocking on doors within the surrounding community in order to make personal connections with the residents, share literature and raise the profile of the church. The PM team is diverse in age and professional interests, but united in its passion to share the relief that Christianity can bring in such uncertain times.

There was no set hour or effort, but rather a systematic approach which divided the team into groups, who were given an assignment of literature and allocated to specific streets on which to discharge their mission.

The launch of the programme was marked mainly by visits to homes. We knocked on doors and rang bells and conversed with willing resi-

dents. In addition shops were visited and pedestrians were approached. Members of the public who engaged with the PM team were presented with a variety of Pastor’s options, including titles such as ‘He is Coming, Resolve your Stress and Focus’ magazines. The happiness booklet proved to be a firm favourite. Erica Rajanovski, newly baptised and an enthusiastic member of the PM team, who originally hailing from Madagascar, shared her experience of the third mission day. She explained that her most interesting experi-

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750 baptised in ‘Share him’ campaign

At Muluvi and Mima Leli churches, and Winston Williams also did two sites nightly, one indoors and one outdoors, at Mimu Town and Nzozi churches, and scores of souls were gathered. It was a time of test for both people aged 12 and 13 years old from the USA took sites, and God was glorified and through them as scores of people made decisions and were baptised in their meetings.

The volunteers also were involved in clinics that Dr Llewelyn Williams organised and brought medications to supply. Over 600 people were also educated in these clinics for illneses ranging from high blood pressure and diabetes to AIDS, mainly promoting sustainable lifestyle changes.

The participants who were involved at various sites were mostly from North America and included a 67-year-old German banker based in Canada, a medical doctor, a young nurse, many students, three adolescents of 12, 13 and 15, a Ukrainian student based at Andrews University, a pastor who teaches at Oakwood and many others from a wide variety of backgrounds. The mission was put together by two Dobos who used to be a missionary in Tanzania many years ago. Winston and Khamar would like to thank everyone who was involved in sponsoring and supporting them, in particular the wife who left behind to cope with four children.

If you would like to be involved, go to www.insight.org or if you cannot personally, you can pro-

vide sponsorship. You can get more information at woodfordgreenchurch.co.uk and Dr Winston and Khamar would be willing to share their experiences during AES and were interested in these learning more about the ‘Share him’ experience. It would be good for each church to sponsor to one person, young or old, in this year of Evangelism to go out there and share their faith, not only with a burning desire to share him more effectively at home.

It was not all hard work. We had a day at the beach and a day on safari.


eight young people from the Crief church have just returned from a community building project in Romania.

As well as the hard work, we all had a lot of fun,’ said Shirley Froude, one of the volunteers.

Because conditions in many rural areas in Romania are still very primi-

tive, the local work party decided to focus on reconstructing two houses for old people in Serata and Pidus – villages located 150 miles north of the capital city, Bucharest. Linking

up with fifteen other young people from all over Europe, this interna-

tional team achieved their goal in just ten days.

It was a great experience in so many ways because we learnt some building skills. It was also great to work in an international team, and we enjoyed the taste of life in Eastern Europe,’ said the Bennett.

Following an eight-hour work shift each day, the Scottish young folk then joined the local village kids for volleyball, football and table-


Three angels at the fair

On Sunday 2 August, the hour of opportunity arise for Derby Adventist youth to lift up a wave of noise in the Derby Community Fair.

Early in the morning, as the sun shone on the bright birds song, God’s providence led one of the youth to stumble across the assembling of a fair in the local park.

While pondering in prayer he was inspired to take this opportunity to witness. He set off with miles from across Derby could make a whole day of it here with kites, face painting and ice cream, how much more could we make a whole day of evangelism here, he thought, ‘by sharing the three angels’ message through brochures, Final Events DVDs, songs and people to talk.

However, with no prior booking arrangements, no acquaintance with the organisers, and no stall to stand by he seemed to have no hope. Prompted by a voice to the con-

science, ‘There must be a way . . . ‘I can be’, he went to make enquiries.

After several enquiries, and almost surely angels labouring to work out an opening of circum-

stances, we were given permission to set up a health booth. Providing qualifications and insurance could be viewed.

What others had to pre-

book months in advance, God gave us on the very morning of the fair.

After a phone call to the rest of the team, the youth collected their brochures and health kits and just forty minutes later went into swift action to spread the three angels’ message from their new booth at the Derby Community Fair.

To entice the fair attendants we offered massage of head, neck and shoulders, while measurings ‘their ears and their hearts with a combination of live scripture, songs and hymns on the guitar. Before a mas-


song, which he loved and appreciated so much, he picked up the book and the DVD and said, ‘If that is the blessing I will get by going to your church, I want to know more and I’m going to read this.’ And then he said, ‘Just being here in your pres-

ence near this stall relieves me like there are angels close by.

Altogether nine health correspon-

dent students signed up for the AOC and one Bible study student in just three hours.

An invitation was extended to members of the public to take their health in hand by receiving blood pressure and cholesterol checks, while also having the opportunity to have blood tests for HIV screening for diabetes. Several members of the public simply attended in response to an invitation, and there was a significant non-Adventist presence.

NEC music weekend

Southport, the weekend before NEC Camp Meeting and the Musicians’ weekend organised by Dr Diana Sinclair. The aim was presenting music ministry in practical setting, so the members of the growing Southport church were gathered in the Royal Clifton Hotel on the seaside, along with three Taskforce workers from the Conference and Dr Michael Wilson-Bridges.

Dr Diana reminded us that musici-

ans are ministers and that music ministry doesn’t mean a song serv-

ice with a selection of old favourites, and a divine service hastily collected together for taskforce workweek in a last-minute effort to fill the spaces before the sermon. The Taskforce Taskforce workers, Kimberly Ham-Ying, Toby Byrne and Chris Louth, outlined what they had been doing in Wellington with the band and – then went out on the streets with musicians that exist the dignity of music and God that has the ability to enhance noble and pure emotions.’

The evening concert attracted a crowd – a small crowd – but it was often of a case where the weight, feel the quality. Visitors arrived, a German lady with her German, a crew who have a health food shop coming back to God. A lady who said after the con-

cert that she would be doing a lot of work and would be among people who are everywhere else – and passer-by who were impressed with the saxophone of Mark Burney, the singing of the ladies’ quartet, the clean sound of the worship band from Nottingham and solos by Zena Taylor and Diana Sinclair.

The pattern, in given in lecture and in networking, was that our worship is to be enjoyable, should appeal to both mind and ears and 서비스 the visitor who may come to meet God and his people in a real spiritual setting – no matter what style of music is being played.

Peter Jones

Eight young people from the Crief church have just returned from a community building project in Romania.

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Following an eight-hour work shift each day, the Scottish young folk then joined the local village kids for volleyball, football and table-


tennis – plus a few water-pistol battles.

The female members of the work party were occasionally allowed time off from music contest in order to operate a children’s holiday school which involved folk songs, face-painting and simple cooking.

‘People Helping People’ programme was greatly appreciated by the Romanian end, and several of the Crief volunteers were interviewed for radio and TV.

Members of the church at Gwydir Road were thrilled to detect the excitement of the team as a

PublicPowerPoint presentation was given. Plans are now in the pipeline for a similar project in Albania next year.

Situation vacant

RECEPTIONIST

The Stanmore Press has a vacancy for a receptionist. The person appointed will have office skills, people skills, IT skills and an excellent telephone manner.

Their interested should send in their application and CV to the Press Manager at

grobalbar@standard.co.uk

Deadline: 31 August
Worthing: Karen and Nico baptised

Sabbath 25 July was bright, sunny, hot and, for Worthing members, a day to remember with love, happiness and God’s glory as Nico and Karen Janssen van Rensburg declared their love for the Lord. Brought up as Christians in South Africa, they came to England. Doubts about their Christian journey and an intelligent quest for truth began as they checked Bible prophecies, watched DVDs and scanned the Internet. Their searching led them to the Worthing church and they decided to come home.

Pastor Leslie Hill arranged an interview for Nico and Karen, he invited Pastor Alan Hart to be the guest speaker. He read passages from the Bible in Nico’s and Karen’s mother tongue – Afrikaans. Pastor Garth Anthony read the baptismal pledge. Their hearts were uplifted by the singing of the group ‘Unlimited’ from our sister church, Brighton and Hove. We were privileged to have Ken Burton play, which inspired the congregational singing.

Pastor Leslie Hill baptised Karen and Nico, having studied with them over months beforehand. The Worthing church is grateful to the Lord for bringing these two wonderful people into our small but growing group.

Briegee Jordan

Smethwick fundraising

It’s amazing what can be achieved when people are inspired and empowered to accomplish their task, regardless of the limitations they face. This was probably at the forefront of the minds of about twenty-five members of Smethwick church for the first half of 2009 as they focused on ingenious fundraising efforts to boost their church building fund. The main events focused on were an edible fruit auction and raffle, sponsor-a-brick, individual pledges, sponsored walk/bike ride, and a Mothers’ Day dinner where the men, ladies, even 6-year-old cooking.

The most notable events were the sponsored walk/bike ride and Mothers’ Day dinner.

The sponsored ride and walk took place at the reservoir in Edgbaston, Birmingham. Senior and younger members alike met for prayer, worship and exercise, with Alphon Brown completing the most (twenty) laps by bicycle. Other members completed combined laps of walking and riding, managing to raise a total of £110. They were supported by the presence of their pastor, Dr Patrick Herbert, who cheered on white,

Mission Possible programme

Mission Possible provides volunteers to a city to plant churches, revitalise and organise and run outreach programmes. Since the arrival of Maudu, Jacqui, Winston, Elaine and Rob in April, our core members feel revitalised and are an absolute joy. They host prayer meetings on Fridays evening, share cars to get as many as possible to Sabbath and provide meals and we are planning a number of outreach programmes this summer.

Merseyside baptism

Following a wonderful baptism held earlier this year the Liverpool Central and Stonecroft churches had the joyous privilege of welcoming two more members into fellowship through baptism on 30 May. Pastor Epterton Francis, NEC Ministerial director, officiated at the service.

Manisha Ndhlovu, a young lady who has been attending the church since autumn 2008, had made her decision to accept Jesus following her attendance of ADVANCE 2009 in Nottingham. She had already been having Bible studies with the Youth department at the church. She continued to show an inquisitive appetite for the Bible and has become an active member of the Youth department.

Alice Tracey, who has attended church full-time with her family, wanted to make a public declaration of her faith. She has been a member of the Church for a number of years and is a member of the choir, and the positive influence and concern shown for her son and her family by many people at the church as having been instrumental in sealing her decision.

The occasion also provided an opportunity for the church to recognise the work of a number of senior members from the Southport church. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to five members of churches in the Merseyside district. Sisters Harriet and Beth Tweedie from Southport, Brother and Sister Gittins from Wallasey and Sister Pat Grim from Liverpool Stonecroft. In addition to this service, two members from the Southport church, Tony Byrne and Kimberley Ham-Fy, were introduced to the church.

Merseyside district

In the presence of over one hundred and fifty believers who gathered in the church there was a marvellous sight of five familes, where she was born, brought up, and the family wish to thank all those who contributed to this event, and especially Olton Community Church for the wonderful floral display.

J Avice

WKFL

On 18 July Worfield church started its Sabbath worship services again after a gap of three years – at its new home of the Belle Isle Christian Centre (Worfield Baptist Church). Through the commitment and interest of many, the new Worfield church members had to leave the city, and the dwindling numbers eventually forced a temporary suspension in January 2007. We have been blessed by the North England Conference support, who have provided full-time Taskforce volunteer workers to relocate to our city as part of NEC’s

Brienne Jordan

themselves.

After the service members from the Southport church, Tori Byrne and Kimberley Ham-Fy, were introduced to the church.
Quintet saves the day

A packed audience at the Crieff church was thrilled by a memorable concert on Sunday evening 2 August. However, it was not the concert they were expecting, because they had come to hear the famous New England Youth Orchestra. Due to a regrettable mistake in travel arrangements, the orchestra found they could not get from London in time for the concert at Crieff. Dr Rittenhouse, the conductor, was desirous not to disappoint the audience, so five members from the brass section volunteered to rush to the station and travel by train to Scotland. They arrived at the church just over half an hour before the concert was due to commence and just had time to set up their instruments and have a short practice. They did not even have the time for their meal.

The initial disappointment of the audience at not hearing the full orchestra turned to delight as they heard the quintet give a virtuoso performance of some of the great works for brass quintets. After hearing two encore they gave a standing ovation and then spent a considerable time taking to the players as they left. Over the years, under their 87-year-old conductor Dr Rittenhouse, the orchestra has delighted audiences in forty-seven countries, including Russia and China. On the current tour they have played in the great cathedral in Salzburg and are also performing in Windsor Castle, St Martin-in-the-Fields and Ely Cathedral before going to Ireland.

Dr Rittenhouse wants to promote great music and share his Christian ideals. She has a special interest in Africa and has gone a number of times with the orchestra to give concerts and workshops for the local young people. At present she is raising money for AIDS orphan victims at the church’s Maluti Hospital, Lesotho. Interestingly, this is the same hospital that the Crieff church has been supporting over the last three years. The audience responded by giving a collection of over £450.

Readers may wonder why such a famous orchestra chooses to come to Crieff. It is because the orchestra is based at one of the Seventh-day Adventist colleges in America, and Dr Rittenhouse has a special love for Scotland so she tries to give at least one concert in Scotland and this is usually at the Crieff church, where they receive one of the warmest welcomes from the audience of their tour. Pastor Rodd feels that events like this really help break down prejudice and make people comfortable in visiting our church, and was certainly delighted when about eighty non-members attended the concert.

Male Voice Choir visits Carmarthen church

June 21, the longest day, brought sunshine to this part of west Wales. A packed congregation gathered in the Adventist church in the evening to listen to the music of the choir and the young lady soloist, Carys Davies. The choir was filled to capacity.

It is the third year that this concert has been arranged, and the hard work of those who had distributed hundreds of invitations in the surrounding area has now been rewarded as they listened to some old favourites and some new hymns and songs, both in Welsh and English. Such words as ‘I heard the angels sing in the sky, with a thousand trumpets and a million voices’, sung from the heart, brought a round response from the audience.

After Carys had drawn the listeners to her by her beautiful Welsh voice, the choir gave us reminders that ‘He’s the lily of the valley’, and told us that ‘the shoes I wear are gospel shoes, and you can wear them if you choose’. They brought the programme to a rousing end with ‘This little light of mine, the light that shines with the light of love, Hallelujah’, Amen.

The programme was not arranged purely for our own pleasure, but as a result of the appeal made for the Cardiac Rehabilitation Centre in the local hospital, over £300 was raised as a donation for equipment, thus making the evening even more worthwhile. As everyone gathered in the church had for refreshments afterwards, it was good to see the happy faces and to hear the conversations between fellow Christians in the community and the host church.

HILDE FREYNER

New book of the week

In the Shadow of the Shekinah

by Roy Geen

(Sababiah School companion book for the fourth quarter)

After delivering the Starbusts from slavery in Egypt, God had to teach them how to live and journey with him. Centuries of bondage had taken a toll on his chosen people, and he worked patiently to transform their hearts to him, despite their chronic rebellion and errant grieving.

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30 Tradestones Open Day 9am-4pm

ABC Shops

Monday-Sunday
9am-4pm

Northside

Monday-Thursday
9am-4pm

Advent Centre

Sunday 11am-3pm

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