Have you ever wanted to do evangelism but were too afraid to try? Has anyone ever taught you how to do evangelism? Does your church have a visitation programme? These are some of the questions that were mulling over in my mind for a while, and therefore I was quite excited about the Art of Evangelism week organised by the British Union Conference and hosted at the University of Nottingham.

During the week of 5-12 July the BUC with Amazing Facts studied ‘The Art of Evangelism’. In the first ever week-long BUC evangelism training event, pastors and lay members were taught how to run an evangelistic campaign effectively.

All the aspects of effective evangelism were taught from the Gospel Commission found in Matthew 28:19, 20 and Revelation 14:6-12. This focused on the lives of individuals who practise it. Many of the members reported that the week will see them having a new desire to use the training they received to involve the local church in more evangelism. Pastor Eglan Brooks said, ‘We have done something significant this week. Not only have we placed valuable resources in the hands of our members but we have also reignited ‘The Art of Evangelism’ in the lives of these 115 members.’

Jean Ross was unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances. However, he sent his resources that were distributed to the participants. The event was recorded by ‘Ministry Media’ and will shortly be available for sale from the BUC Personal Ministries department. Pictures of the event were taken by Kish Palmer and are available for viewing at www.adventist.org.uk.
Polyamory seems to be an emerging trend. In recent years we have heard a great deal about same-sex marriage and cohabitation. However, we may be in for another shock in the area of relationships. Consider this article.

Terri and Matt and Vera and Larry — along with Scott, who’s also at this dinner — are not swingers, per se, they aren’t pursuing casual sex. Nor are they polyamorists of the sort portrayed on HBO’s Big Love, they aren’t religious, and they don’t have multiple wives. But they do believe in ‘ethical non-monogamy’, or engaging in loving, intimate relationships with more than one person — based upon the knowledge and consent of everyone involved. They are polyamorous, which means they try to use the language of multipartner families like theirs, and they wouldn’t want to live any other way.

I checked out the website www.kovemore.com and saw what people who practised polyamory had to say for themselves. What struck me about all that they said was how reasonable it all sounds.

Their take seems to be that marriage clearly doesn’t work for many, so why not try a different model? Many married people commit adultery, they say, so why not be open about it?

On the one hand, that sounds plausible, sensible and pragmatic. On the other hand, to anyone who has some understanding of the book of Genesis and the way God intended family relationships to work, it sounds totally wrong.

... a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. Genesis 2:24. It is true that divorce rates are very high, and even in our own Church marriages are often not as happy as we might wish. My own parents divorced when I was a teenager, and that caused incredible pain to all the family, so I am well aware of the effects and damage divorce brings. However, to look for a solution in such things as cohabitation and polyamory will not solve anything.

As Christians, the best way we can refuse these alternative lifestyles may not be so much by moralising, but by demonstrating that marriage can work. For those of us who are married or intending to marry, it will mean doing whatever is necessary to live up to that biblical injunction to stay ‘united’ to our husbands or wives. That may mean willingness to get counselling help, both before and during marriage, and an openness to let the Holy Spirit work in us at a very deep level. Wouldn’t it be something if we could counter the arguments people put forward for such lifestyles as polyamory by demonstrating that strong, successful marriages between a man and a woman are on the increase in our church community!

Did you know?

• In the UK more than 40% of CO2 emissions come from domestic energy and travel.
• We would reduce 40 million tonnes of CO2 emissions annually if everyone in the UK made simple domestic changes such as turning off appliances and insulating their homes.
• It is estimated that we could save approximately £6.8 billion on energy bills every year by making our homes more energy efficient.
• There are several available grants which you can access for energy efficiency in your home and you don’t necessarily have to be on benefits to qualify.

Next issue we look at tips for going green. Good health!

EcoHealth
by Sharon Platt-McDonald RNin, RM, RN Misc.
Health Ministries director, ACS

Current research indicates that lifestyles such as the obesity virus are on the rise. SARS, H1N1, Swine flu and Swine flu 2 have all resulted from ecosystem changes caused by human activity. The sobering message is that some of these diseases have high death rates and few effective therapeutic interventions to combat them.

EcoHealth focuses on providing both practical and innovative solutions to assist in the reduction of negative health impacts of ecosystem change or even reverse the damage. Addressing this challenge, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is urging everyone to make the change to a ‘greener culture’, in which environmental responsibility is everyone’s responsibility.

Reducing our eco-footprint is really about changing our attitude. Banquets took time to prepare because they catered for a great many people and lasted several days. Hence, in addition to the initial invite, it was necessary for the King’s servants to announce when all was ready and it was time to ‘come to the banquet’. When that happened, invitations made up all kinds of excuses not to attend.

The King told his servants, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys...’ and make them come in, so that my house will be full.

Those who came included the poor, the lame, the blind and the ashamed. However, one of those who came was rejected by the King because he had offended the royal dress code. He was, you will recall, the man without a wedding garment.

The chief curse of the Church is judgementalism. Judgementalism is the principal by-product of legalism. Legalism and legalism are: two isms among us that need to be ‘wasms’.

Legalism is obsessive attention to the requirements of the law with little or no zeal for the church. Legalists respond to the offer of the riches of God’s grace along these lines: ‘Don’t want it? Don’t need it! I’m rich enough already! I can achieve my own salvation!’

For the risen Christ says: ‘You say, “I’m rich, I don’t need anything!” But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked.’

Pharisees are called Laodiceans these days. And there are two scary things about Laodiceans. First, there’s a lot of self-righteousness: ‘Second, they’re likely to be unsaved.’

EcoHealth focuses on striving to provide logical, physical, social and economic environments and analyses how these changes impact human health. Current examples...
Seeking wisdom and remaining faithful to God regardless of the circumstances of life is important.

The book of Daniel, though classified among the minor prophets in our English Bible, is found among the ‘writings’ in the Hebrew canon. Daniel’s ministry in Babylon recalls Joseph’s role in Egypt and can be viewed as a triumph of the Kingdom of God over the nations of this world. This theme will be further developed in the New Testament, especially as an apocalyptic book, so it uses various apocalyptic symbols to proclaim the prophetic message about the triumph of God’s Kingdom and a general resurrection at the end of history. The apocalyptic nature of the book is similar to Zechariah and the New Testament book of Revelation.

Restoration

The prophetic rebukes of Israel are based on the Sinai covenant and especially criticise the Israelites’ idolatry and failure to respect the people (see Deuteronomy). What God is seeking is justice as simply found in the Torah. The prophetic book records warnings of coming judgement but they also contain prophecies of restoration after the judgement. God will pardon his repentant people (Hosea 2; Jeremiah 18:18-20), the two kingdoms will be reunited and Israel’s name will be exalted in the nations (Jeremiah 30:11; Eze 37:15-22; 48:1-29) and enabled to obey God in a new way (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 11:16-21; Zephaniah 3:9-13). Jerusalem and the temple will be rebuilt (Joel 2:45-46; Zech 2:5-7; Ezekiel 40-43), with God dwelling once again in the temple (Ezekiel 43:1-4; 48:30-35). A king from David’s house will rule the temple justly (Hosea 3:5, 11-12; Micah 5:1-5; Jeremiah 33:1-6; Ezekiel 37:24-28), the nations will throng to the temple, and the waters of the Dead Sea (47:1-12), or Isaiah’s vision of a new heaven and new earth (Isa 65:17-29; 66:1-23). Israel’s restoration is described in resurrection language (Ezekiel 37:1-14, Hosea 6:1-3). Israel’s restoration is seen as part of a larger picture, the renewing of creation and the blessing of the nations, in fulfillment of God’s purposes in calling Abraham.

It is clear that the events after the return from Babylonian exile, as described in Ezra and Nehemiah, are not a full realization of the hopes expressed by the restoration prophets. Each of the post-exilic prophetic books contains with passages which in different ways restate or develop the earlier prophecies of restoration (Haggai 2:1-4; Zechariah 8:1-15; and Malachi 4), indicating that a complete fulfilment is still awaited. Ezekiel 47-48 speaks of all twelve tribes dwelling in the land again, the new ‘land of Israel’ will be more extensive than even described in the Old Testament promises, and no exact boundaries are specified (48:1-29). This is Ezekiel’s way of saying that Israel has a future that will be glorious and abundant from Israel’s past, but it will also be qualitatively different from anything Israel has experienced so far.

The prophets predicted the coming of the Day of the Lord. Malachi (3:4) looks forward to a coming purification of the temple by the Lord himself, Jeremiah (31) to a new covenant with God’s people; Ezekiel (36) to a new spiritual and moral spirit in Israel. Joel (2) to a new age in which the Holy Spirit is poured out upon all God’s people, and Isaiah (2: 25; 65-66) to a glorious material and spiritual state, an eschatological banquet and ultimately new heavens and new earth. The end of the historical narrative finds Israel, while restored in a new celebration of the covenant, still subject to foreign nations and with a rebuilt temple whose grandeur pales in comparison with Solomon’s temple (Haggai 2:3). The OT provides an account of the ‘fair beginnings and foul ending’ (D. J. A. Clines) hardly conducive to build faith on. Thus Muslims establish their faith on an optimistic reading of the OT on the basis of the Quran, Judaism on updating it with the Talmud, and Christianity updates it with the New Testament.

The understanding of prophetic books can be crucial for seeing how the NT writers understand and apply the OT promises, and in updating the story line moves forward. Proper understanding of the OT prophe- cies is crucial for appreciating the NT worldview and appreciating the overall story of the Bible.

Footprints Music Project

by Jeff Nicholson

The Footprints Music Project is providing the Bethel church in Derby with a unique outreach opportunity to children and youth in the local community. The project led by Bonaventure Baptist provides free music lessons and instruments to children living in a deprived area of Derby. Music lessons tend to be very expensive, which means that many parents in this area cannot afford them for their children. The project provides free music tuition, as well as instruments and home-learning for the children. The project has attracted the attention of various local agencies such as the Tom Carey Foundation, The Abbey Neighbourhood Board and the Derby Self-help Fund which provides funding to support the project. This funding has been used to buy instruments, music books, pay the guitar teacher and provide transport costs for the violin teacher.

This community outreach project has proved very beneficial as the church is seen as contributing positively to the community. It also has aided in enhancing community cohesion by bringing children and parents from different backgrounds together for instrumental practices and concerts. In providing this service the church seeks not just to develop children’s musical skills but to offer diversification services, thus minimising the risk of their engaging in antisocial activities. Initially the target was children in years 5 and 6 attending three primary schools in the Abbey ward, but because of the demand for music lessons we have extended this to accommodate others outside this age group.

We are currently running two sessions for piano, violin, acoustic and bass guitars, as well as music theory. We have a total of 25 students constituting a good cultural and racial mix. We have also managed to put two successful concerts to showcase the work the children have been doing and to raise more funds for the continuity of the project, the parents, friends and relatives of the children thronged the church for the concert. Currently Footprints is run by a management committee made up of members of the Bethel church and the Community Cohesion Officer for the Abbey ward area.

Visit the Follow the Bible webpage: www.adventistinfo.org.uk/followthebible
Involving children in mission
by Heather Howarth, Children’s Ministries director, BUC

Children want to pass on their faith. The Valeogenesis, and other surveys, have come to the conclusion that children are honest and do not want to be hypocrites when it comes not only to living their faith but also to sharing their faith. They want to be involved in missionary work. A majority of adult missionaries made their decision to be a missionary before 10 years of age. Here are:

Fourteen principles involving children in mission

- Guide the children into a personal relationship with Christ.
- Have a variety of age-appropriate outreach activities for children.
- Realise that children, especially younger ones, prefer group activities to solitary ones.
- Compile a list of missionaries and let the children select the ones they like best.
- Get the children’s suggestions for missionary activities.
- Explain very carefully to them God’s plan of salvation.
- Invent God as a friend of children.
- Train them in different kinds of missionary work, according to their preferences and abilities.
- Practise the principles of Christianity rather than merely teach the doctrines of a religion.
- Emphasise the joy that comes with doing missionary work.
- Admit to them that although missionary work can be difficult, it can also be fun.
- Explain that God expects everyone to be a missionary for him.
- Realise that they are children and not fully-grown missionaries. Allow them the joy of childhood.
- Understand that their personalities influence their relationship with God and how they can serve him.

Children who are involved in mission are the least likely to reject Christ and his Church.

Six styles of being a missionary

GIVERS They use their money, time and talents to help people learn of Jesus. Children can be encouraged to be givers by helping to raise funds for orphan children overseas.

PRAY-ERS They are children who show concern when they hear of needs. They would be the first to ask Jesus for help. These children can pray for missionaries in difficult foreign fields so that the gospel story can be shared with others. Use a prayer walk in their neighbourhood to pray for different families.

WELCOMERS These children belong newcomers and help them adjust to their new environment as they share the story of Jesus with them. They are curious and are keenly interested in other cultures. They love to ask questions about how others live. Encourage them to befriend children who are different from themselves, or who children are difficult to get along with.

SENDERS They partner with missionaries by carrying, playing and giving to meet their needs. They can help missionary families before or after they leave.

CONNECTORS Do you have children who love to organise projects and who encourage others to be involved? These children can be the connectors. They can organise missionary projects for others to share the gospel story, too.

GOERS They are children who love to take the Gospel to others. Many children already possess this same faith and will find it easy to talk to their friends about Jesus. Suggest a variety of ways to do this missionary work.

FREQUENTLY, the word mission is linked with serving Jesus in foreign countries. But mission is also to take place in one’s own country. The Gospel is needed here and abroad.

Twelve ways to be a ‘home’ missionary

- Children often love to help distribute outreach cards. Teach them how to be good witnesses by only walking on pathways and being courteous. Always have an adult close by.
- Encourage children to pray regularly for the conversion of a few people they know.
- Have a theme party for your child’s birthday, such as Noah’s Ark, and show a Bible story DVD at the party, and give tiny books about Noah in the party bags, with plastic animals, rainbow stickers and so on.
- Invite all their friends to Holiday Bible School.
- If a new baby is born, check the Adventist Children’s Mission Project (CM) Book Centre for a gift book for the parents.
- Develop a really lively and interesting family worship service, and the children can invite a friend for support and to share in the worship time. Create a cozy atmosphere.
- If your children are in a special event at church, invite non-Christian relatives along to share the occasion, or video the event and show it to family members.
- Buy or design and make a witnessing T-shirt for your children to wear. Make sure it is tasteful and attractive. (see religiousshirts.co.uk)
- Use computer skills to create posters, cards and so on.
- Preach at Pathfinder and youth evangelistic meetings.
- Get permission from the paediatric unit, old folks’ home or hospital to do Christian story-telling and singing for the patients once a month.

Supporting missionaries abroad

Sabbath School includes a mission story, so children are hearing about what is happening in other countries. To involve children in more than just listening to stories is the children’s leader’s responsibility. The Adventist Development & Relief Agency will have projects for children to support, as well as the annual ADRA appeal.


Launch a project by holding a mission fellowship lunch.
- Plan a potluck featuring the country you are going to support. Invite the children’s families and friends and the whole church. Label the foods by name and country of origin so people will know what they are eating. If you have people in your area from the country you have chosen to help, ask them for recipes or decoration ideas.
- Plan interesting things for the children to do when they first arrive. This will encourage the children to arrive on time so they won’t miss any of the fun! Learn words of the language of the country you are helping.
- Show a mission DVD from that country.
- Create a collage of your child’s story. Decorate your Sabbath School room with these flags or mount them on dowels and use in the theme party. Provide a Bible so that the children can find the verses.
- Make a cosy reading corner with a bright rug and cushions. On a low table or shelf, display picture books concerning the country chosen. Check the children’s travel sections of your local library for interesting books. Make a missions’ bank. Provide jars, stickers and labels reading ‘For the children of the country you have chosen’. Have the children don’t take the ‘banks’ home and fill the jars with coins during the quarter. Each week show

...picture books concerning the country chosen. Check the children’s travel sections of your local library for interesting books. Make a missions’ bank. Provide jars, stickers and labels reading ‘For the children of the country you have chosen’. Have the children don’t take the ‘banks’ home and fill the jars with coins during the quarter. Each week show

the children how your own bank is filling and ask them how they are doing. Send a note to the parents, asking them to help find ways for the children to fill their banks for missions.
- Invite a guest. Find out whether there are people from the country you have chosen living in your area. Put an announcement of your need in the church newsletter or church bulletins. If you find people from those areas, invite them to visit your home. Ask them to come in their traditional costume if they have one and to bring interesting pictures, crafts or clothes from the country. Prepare some questions to ask your visitors and give them the questions ahead of time.

BT’s chairman recognises London Adventist volunteer at Chairman’s Awards

A London-based Seventh-day Adventist charity has been given a major financial boost, thanks to the work of one of its volunteers, based at BT’s intellectual property rights department. Dr Edward Cole’s dedication was recognised by Sir Mike Rake, BT’s chairman, at the Charity’s annual awards. These awards are the highest accolade of one of the company’s longest running and highly regarded employee charity schemes, BT Community Champions.

Every year the Chairman’s Awards receive hundreds of applications from outstanding community champions, who commit time, energy, their life skills and talent for the benefit of society and their local area. The applicants are then shortlisted by a global judging panel from across the company, with the winners being hand-picked by the chairman himself.

This year Dr Edward Cole was presented with the Education, Development and Awareness Award for his unwavering voluntary work with the Sierra Leonean Adventist Church. This charity builds bridges between the UK and Sierra Leone, which is at the bottom of the UN human development index, mainly due to civil war. The SLAC focuses on linking professionals with projects designed to reduce chronic poverty and improve health and education in poorer communities. Over the last five years the rehabilitation and the reopening of the war-ravaged hospital in Masanga, Sierra Leone, has been one of the charity’s successes. Masanga hospital now provides free medical care for 23,000 patients every year. As well as health care, the SLAC pays for the education of students with the aim of building up health-care and education professionals in the country.

As well as fundraising, Dr Edward Cole has been involved since 2000 in the strategic direction of the charity. And the legal skills he’s learned from his day job at BT have enabled him to deal with international organisations and governments, which has in turn allowed the charity to flourish.

Sir Edward Cole said, ‘I’m thrilled at winning this award. The volunteering has helped me develop and grow personally and professionally, and the acknowledgment I’ve received today makes me feel really valued. The £3,000 award will allow us to provide voluntary services to a much deprived area of the world where maternal mortality rates are the world’s worst. It will make a real difference. It’s great to be recognised in this way and I’d like to recognise the hard work of all the other volunteers in the group as well.’

Sir Mike Rake added: ‘This is the second year I’ve presided over these awards and I’m very impressed by the dedication and selflessness shown by all the volunteers. I’m proud of them all and I’m pleased that BT is able to give back to the community by supporting and encouraging our employees in this way. I’d like to extend my personal thanks to, and admire for, everyone involved in local community work across the UK and throughout the world. Congratulations again to Edward for his outstanding contribution.’

DR EDWARD COLE

The second edition of Beyond the Valley has just been written and published by Authorhouse. Pauline’s concluding thought reads: ‘I believe that the same God who is with us in the valleys can also be with us on the mountaintop. He can give us the ability to reach courageously “beyond the valley.”’

This second edition contains a selection of seventy poems, along with inspirational thoughts behind the poems, and is available for purchase on the website:

With us in the valleys

www.adventist.org.uk

www.religioustshirts.co.uk

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The crucial decision
A baptismal candidate’s report
by James Bell, 10, student at Harper Bell School and Yardley Pathfinder

I was among the seven people who decided to make that crucial decision to follow Christ by joining the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This was a wonderful event for me and the other candidates. First there was the baby dedication of Liyanah Brown. Then Pastor R. Macintosh preached the Word of God. He is the senior pastor of the Camp Hill flock, which I understand amounts to 600 members plus our visitors.

After the sermon entitled ‘The Way Forward’, which centred on John 17.3 that speaks about eternal life through Jesus and is echoed by the words of Paul in Philippians 3.10-17, it was time for the baptism. I felt excited as I stepped into the warm and lovely water. The candidates were as follows: Amelia Hall, Atlanta Quebec, Delight Mutemwe, Grace Chambers, Vanessa Reyes and James Bell (myself). All these brethren are among the names of the newest members of Camp Hill SDA church.

I decided to be baptised because I remembered that God is my Redeemer and my Saviour. He died for my sins, not because I asked him but because he loved me. Now think about it, imagine someone dying in one of the most painful ways, being beaten, spat at and having a crown of thorns forced on his head, just so he could save sinful people from what they deserved and give them eternal life! Not just that, but firstly, instead of dying for us, he could have been wearing a crown of gold, sitting on a throne of glory and listening to the sweet music of angels and, secondly, he obeyed his Father. Someone like that deserves to be worshipped. You must agree!

I am grateful to those who have encouraged me spiritually – Pastors Milan Gugleta, Dan Majaducon and Elias Bran and the Sabbath School teachers, Harper Bell teachers and Pathfinder leaders.

The feeling of being baptised is absolutely amazing. I could literally feel my old sinful self washing away, revealing my new body. And immediately I smiled a real smile. Even today, as I write this almost two months later, I can still feel that new change, and I seem to have brighter, happier days now. That is now the work of the Holy Spirit.

The church is a jewel. ‘Pastor Sam Davis, South England Conference president, told members of the Ashford church at their organisation service. Basing his thoughts on Malachi 3:17, he emphasised that God looks at the church as his treasure and considers it as very special.

‘The church is a jewel,’ Pastor Victor Hubbert, BUC Communication director, represented former Ashford pastors and spoke of his joy in seeing a small group of committed believers developing into the forty-strong band that are currently making an impact on the town.

Current pastor, Vasyl Vartsaba, quipped that it was much easier to reflect as a former pastor than to make a statement as the current pastor. However, the joy on his face was evident as he joined with the church elders and core members of the church to sign their official Charter. His feelings, and those of all the members and visitors present, were summed up by the theme song for the day, ‘We’ve come this far by faith’. Members argue strongly that they believe faith will take them forward even more in the future in their challenge to make a difference in Ashford.

In December 1988 Seventh-day Adventist John Wilby was head of the Scottish Ambulance Service. As such he was in Lockerbie within an hour of Pan Am flight 103 crashing into the town, John currently serves as Communication sponsor for the Scottish Mission. Below is the letter of thanks Prime Minister Thatcher sent to him after the event.

I was just four days before Christmas and a little after 7pm. I was driving home from Ambulance Headquarters after a few hundred metres away from a welcome late dinner when, over the car’s ambulance radio, came a message. ‘We have reports of a scheduled aircraft lost from radar over the River Tyne, Scotland.’ Then a few moments later, the chilling message, ‘We believe it has crashed at Lockerbie.’

The aspect of life is veiled to those in the Ambulance Service. Dealing with people experiencing what is often the biggest crisis in their lives is the nature of the job. A motor vehicle accident, a heart attack, an attempted suicide or an incident of major proportions may occur within the period of a single shift.

All three emergency services have plans for dealing with major incidents. These are periodically tested with exercises. Later, when I headed the London Ambulance Service, they included a worst-case scenario of a jumbo jet crashing on Waterloo Station in the rush hour. I also witnessed, first-hand, the effects of IRA bombings in the capital. But we had never really planned in Scotland for what faced us when I arrived at the scene an hour or so later. As emergency services from Scotland and across the English border converged on the town a joint command centre was established in a local school gymnasium. Teams of Police, Fire and Ambulance personnel searched the town, and further afield, in the hope of finding survivors. By 2am TV news reporters, representing most of the world’s media, had descended on the town seeking interviews with the incident commanders. That night, and more so as daylight broke, the full horror of what had happened became apparent.

Scenes still too dreadful and painful for anyone to describe, will remain indelibly printed on the minds of townsfolk and of those who responded to the tragedy. Two hundred and seventy people died, including eleven local residents on the ground, in what is the greatest UK loss of life from a single act of terrorism. Though the cause would not be known until some time later, I was struck by the obscenity of such evil being visited upon such a small, quiet Scottish country town. But the lasting strong bonds of friendship that followed between Lockerbie residents and the overseas visitors of those who persisted in yet another glowing example of goodness emerging from evil. However, the long-term political ramifications could not have been predicted by the civic and political leaders, including the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, who visited the town the day after the disaster. A lengthy mass murder investigation and the trial and eventual conviction of a Libyan national have yet to bring closure for many of those bereaved.

That convicted bomber’s recent release on compas- sionate grounds has also evoked passionate and divided views on whether or not this was appropriate and morally acceptable. Kenny MacAskill, Scottish Justice Secretary, summed up the reasons for authorising the release this way: ‘The perpetuation of an atrocity and outrage cannot and should not be a basis for losing sight of who we are, the values we seek to uphold, and the faith and beliefs by which we seek to live.’

‘Mr Al Megrahi did not show his victims any comfort or compassion. They were not allowed to return to the bosom of their families to see out their lives, let alone their dying days. No compassion was shown to him by them. But that alone is not a basis for denying compassion to him and his family in his final days.

Our justice system demands that judgement be imposed but compassion be available. Our beliefs dictate that justice be served, but mercy be shown. Compassion and mercy are upholding the beliefs that we seek to live by, remaining true to our values as a people. No matter the severity of the provocation or the atrocity perpetrated.’

This was a brave view when balanced against the very public criticisms expressed on both sides of the Atlantic – and the unfortunate and yet perhaps predictable welcome given Al Megrahi on his return to Libyan soil. Yet how do those sentiments resonate with what I, and many others, witnessed and experienced that December night twenty years ago?

I was there in the middle of the atrocity. I know the suffering, the sorrow, the pain. I know the struggle between the balance of forgiveness, justice and mercy. There may be no perfect solution in this imperfect world but for me the satisfying answer is that of Paul: ‘Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.’ (Colossians 3:12, 13, NKV)
Irish Mission summer camp success  

by Heather Keough

O n 11 August the annual Irish Mission Youth camp commenced in Athlone, County Westmeath, Ireland. Forty-five children and young people, aged between 9 and 17, and twenty staff descended on Portlick Scout Centre, and the peace and quiet of the countryside was filled with loud chatter and laughter. The theme for this year’s camp was ‘Dabbling with Faith, Flirting with Hope, Searching for Love’. Pastor Stephen Eastwood was our guest speaker, originally from England, but now working as pastor at SLO Adventist church.

On 15 August we celebrated a special Sabbath when one of our young people was baptised. Shauna Rothwell had made the decision to be baptised at last year’s summer camp. Family, friends and campers gathered around Lough Ree as Shauna was baptised by her uncle, Pastor Douglas McCormac. Following the baptism, Shauna gave a moving testimony in which she talked about her diagnosis of leukaemia when she was 3 years old, and her release when she was 9. Shauna talked about the time she had pneumonia while she was having chemotherapy, and how the doctors were amazed at how speedy her recovery was. Shauna said that was do to with the many prayers which were said for her during her illness.

Towards the end of the camp, Pastor Stephen made an appeal for baptism. Thirty-one young people came forward to request Bible studies and baptism. We praise God for this. On the last night of camp we enjoyed ‘Camp’s Got Talent’, which saw many funny acts from old and young.

Since the camp, we have received very positive feedback. The one statement that keeps being repeated is, ‘This was the best camp ever.’ God’s presence was very evident over the nine days, and lives were changed. We are thankful to God for the young people who attended and for the staff who gave up their time to help out. Please remember the Irish Mission young people in your prayers as God works in them and through them.

Praise in the park  

by Dr Jacqueline Halliday-Bell

S unday 9 August was, thank God, a beautiful day and a day when God blessed the members of Eternal Praise choir, ably led by Elma Morgan, and a number of friends happy to share their talents to witness to the public visiting Cannell Hill Park that afternoon.

Within a short time of arriving in the park the choir found an audience of interested and appreciative members of the public who were delighted that the bandstand that is rarely utilised for bands was actually accommodating musicians and singers for a few hours at least. They laid out blankets and opened picnic baskets, keen to hear the words and melodies of the choir. Choruses, special items and three pieces by representatives of the newly formed Midland SDA Orchestra played songs to praise God and touch the hearts of the public.

The choir of The Friends of Cannell Hill Park, Mr Fox, approached the music leaders and said that he was very happy with the way the Adventist church members had sung and interacted with people. He suggested that further involvement of the musicians of Camp Hill would be appreciated.

Youngsters enjoyed the music, too. One or two danced to the choruses and a lady burdened by her own circumstances had asked to sing and pray with the group as they closed the afternoon’s proceedings. She was full of smiles from the spiritual upliftment she had experienced that day.

Sister Elma had been guided by God to undertake this outreach programme, an afternoon of witnessing in praise and song to him.

Walsall baptism

On 9 May, 15-year-old Zuko Simalane stepped up and made a stand for Jesus through baptism. Walsall laity held a three-week campaign with the theme ‘Certainty in these uncertain times’. The campaign climaxed with the baptism of four candidates and another on profession of faith.

Walsall pastor, Patricia Douglas, led the candidates in their vows, and the baptism was conducted by NEC Pathfinder director Pastor Trevor Thomas. One by one the candidates expressed their reasons for wanting to take the plunge. When asked to explain his reason, 15-year-old Zuko said, ‘Because I love the Lord.’ Pastor Thomas in his address said that Zuko expressed a decision to be baptised at the Pathfinders’ camp and that he had proved himself a man by doing what some older than he refused to do, making a public declaration of his love for Jesus. This was witnessed by the huge number of young people who filled the church at Walsall. Others taking a stand that day were Mr Prince, Mrs M. Hemmings, Brother Arthur and on profession of faith Sister Prince.

It was a blessed and rewarding day for the Walsall brethren.

Pathfinder weekend  

by Dr Jacqueline Halliday-Bell

Seventy plus Pathfinders from Yardley, Camp Hill, Ladywood and Peckham had an enjoyable and spiritually uplifting camping trip from 3 to 8 August.

Rainy weather persisted but those who had to undertake the 25km hike had the challenge of completing this in one day rather than two, fuelled by a hearty meal and early night to bed immediately before.

When the younger Pathfinders joined the camp there were more sunny spells than showery ones, but for all lots of fun, learning and adventure. More importantly, a chance to witness Jeff Nicholson preached messages to engage the young minds and enhance their appreciation of God’s messages in the Bible.

At the close of the camp a special campfire concert on Saturday night where, once settled with their chairs, blankets and teddy bears, thirty or so invited campers also occupying plots at Blackwell Court had the pleasure of listening to various persons to teach fire building, wood chopping, drilling and marching, archery, First Aid and CPR in a tight schedule.
The Adventist Discovery Centre, formerly known as the Voice of Prophecy, was established in the UK in 1945. Since then the centre has been a source of health and Bible knowledge to hundreds of thousands of people. The strong biblical tradition and the valuable peace and assurance it brings to modern living have had a positive impact on countless lives. The ADC has been at the forefront of the quiet transformation of the heart through the renewing of the mind in the privacy of the home. Seemingly, silently, life-changing decisions are made that will echo in eternity.

Fire – the aftermath
Following the fire the ADC faced many challenges. The first requirement was finding suitable accommodation to continue providing a service to our community. We are very grateful to the pastoral team and church members of the Stanborough Park church for their immediate response to our need. The ADC relocated to the sub-galley of the church where computers were quickly connected into a network allowing access to our database, so that the processing of existing lessons and registration of new students could continue. A make-shift lesson storage system was devised which involved using every square foot of the sub-galley. This, in turn, had to be cleared away every Thursday afternoon to allow the church to be cleared in preparation for Sabbath services.

We managed to achieve a rhythm, and quickly hundreds of lessons were mailed to students minimising the period of disruption. The centre then moved in late December from Stanborough Park church to the newly acquired temporary headquarters at Frogmore and remained there until 20 March 2008.

Following completion of the plan to restore the water-damaged ADC office, the team was then to return to Stanborough Park, but with one drawback. The operation had to be run on generated power. Once again this provided its own challenges in protecting sensitive computer and printing equipment from sparks and surges. This had been achieved, our output level steadily grew, restoring contact with our student population. By the time mains electricity had been restored in June we were in full flow, marking, printing and processing the many requests from members and students alike.

As I write it is now twenty-three weeks since our return, and I thank God for the way he sustained this operation and the many people and companies who contributed to easing the load along the way.

In all of our wanderings and movement, the ADC staff has performed magnificently and I would like to commend and thank all of them publicly for their dedication, hard work and patient endurance.

As you can imagine, it has taken a while to find some things, and each day the old game of concentration is played over and over. Nonetheless we are now running efficiently and reaching a wider and more diverse audience than before.

Student activity
At the last ADC board in June of this year it was a privilege to report the increase in applications, enrolments and graduations.

For the first time in recent memory the ADC has 22,000 registered students on its database. Of this figure 12,000 students have actively pursued their course of study over the last twelve months.

Using our latest and inactive programme, we are able to encourage those who for a variety of reasons have stopped communicating with us. While this increased activity has presented its own challenges, the centre has demonstrated its ability to handle the increased volume.

Advertising
Much of the increase in applications is due to the advertising campaign first commissioned in March 2007, using a lead generating company – Response Direct Publishing. The advertising of our most popular health course ‘Health’ yielded 18,000 applications over the last two years. Additionally, the most recent advert for our Bible course ‘Take Jesus’, launched in March this year, has yielded 1,893 registrations to date. This campaign will close at the end of September 2009.

Furthermore we have negotiated a two-year deal to advertise our health course in ten NHS hospitals around the UK. We are looking forward to many more responses from this avenue of activity. Please continue to pray for the many students currently with the centre and for those who will join us in the near future.

Our remodelled website advertises all of the sixteen courses available from the centre. Eight of the available courses can also be taken online using the new Moodle learning platform.

Our website continues to receive over 3,000 hits every week. We are committed to seeing growth in this area through the promotion of a variety of new courses for an increasingly diverse audience.

Funding the ADC
The ADC is supported in part through airtime bought from the British Union Conference budget and also through regular donations from members and students. I am always amazed at the faithful donations from our members and supported by the generosity of our students. People of all ages continue to demonstrate their support for this unique ministry.

On this ADC Rally Day everyone can join in partnership with the ADC. Your time, talent, personal effort, influence and financial support are ways in which you can support the work of preparing people for eternity.

By way of assisting everyone in their financial support we have installed a new donation box for the home. This box replaces the yellow labelled card-board donation box, and is a scaled down version of the ADC donation box found in your church. It is designed for supporters to keep at home and the contents can be forwarded directly to the ADC or via the treasurary department of the local church.

Why not pledge to donate at least one of these two gifts in support of the Adventist Discovery Centre?

We have the assurance that the rewards will be out of this world. Thank you for your continued support, and I trust that the centre will be a valuable asset to both you in your personal evangelism and the outreach of your church.

Crystal ball vs Christian stall
by Manjit Biant

On 25-26 July, Adventist youth and worldly witches went head to head in Derby. At an annual Mind, Body, Spirit Fair, ‘magicians’, wiccans, witches, wizards and spiritualists, the NEC department and Derby Chester church initiated a NEW!TART stall operated by Derby youth volunteers.

Although outnumbered as was Elijah against the prophets of Baal, God’s representatives had a fire kindling impact, with forty people signing up for health courses offered by the ADC and two people for Bible studies.

First week before the Land in prayer, the youth began the day by calling upon God for divine protection. On the spiritual high we were on tends to disappear and we often slip back into our old ways and lose contact with one another. After brainstorming ideas on how to deal with this problem, co-founders Nana K and Michael Ageyi decided to start up a Bible study. Our first official meeting was held in Michael’s living room. There was such a large turnout that people were forced to sit on the floor and others had to kneel by week ten the numbers grew to the point where we had to find another place to host the meetings. However, after attending one of these meetings the witch who enjoyed them, allowed us to use the church. Through God’s faithfulness, this small weekly Bible study transformed into a full-blown ministry!

We celebrated our first ever service on 23 July. Every seat was filled and there were many standing and still willing to join us. On the night, we were blessed by special guest speakers Pastor Eddie Hopton and Dr Terry Messenger, as well as by praise and worship from Innovation Choir and God-inspired poetry from the likes of Alan Charles and King Samuel.

Jesus and Ministries (JAM) is a Spirit-filled and life-changing youth Bible study where young people can be ‘real’ about their Christian faith and walk with God. Our mission at JAM is to ‘build a family of friends in Christ Jesus’ by providing a platform where the youth of today can come together, voice their opinions and, most importantly, get their voices heard. JAM opens the door for young people in Christ not only to testify about God’s goodness but also about life’s struggles and the means to overcome them.

Being real about Christianity
by Michael Ageyi

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**Single Life Ministry**

April 11 heralded the launch of the brand new Single Life Ministry at Fulham church. This was a two-day event which commenced on Saturday evening with an opening introductory presentation by Donna Williams, Fulham’s Single Life Ministry leader, which helped to understand the foundations of the ministry. The heart-felt dedication and vision of the ministry leader was evident and was very well received by the congregation. The programme opened with a presentation entitled ‘Living the Single Life’ which underscored the ups and downs of being single. Next came a presentation on break-ups focusing on the many spectra challenges that came along with this. They was followed by a short presentation on courtship, where the discussion focused on what to look for in a potential spouse and what courtship is in accordance to the Bible. The final presentation was on widowhood, exploring the idea of having a second chance at life and the special work with which widows are commissioned. There were special items shared by Ruth Nassa and Patricia Jones. The evening proved to be interesting and informative, mixing personal experiences with tips on practical advice on everyday life as an unattached Adventist.

Part two of the event on Sunday April 12 was split into various parts of London’s community. Fulham church was filled with people who were well versed in social drinks and the event was well attended. Thru their experiences of war, they had the ability to share their techniques and have a good laugh over their tribulations.

The first of a series of meetings planned for the men of the West Midlands was held at Yardley church on Sunday 26 July. This was the brainchild of Gregory Blacker, NEC president. In his presentation Pastor Sweeney reminded us that we are all soldiers engaged in a battle. He invited the men to consider the impact of this experience and what they could learn from this. The next event, ‘Peas in the Park’ was conducted by Pastor Ian Sweeney, NEC president. In his presentation Pastor Sweeney reminded us that we are all soldiers engaged in a war. In this war we cannot win against flesh and blood but against principality and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:12.) This was the sort of warfare we must fight.

**Men’s Day speakers address taboo issues**

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**Elephant Freeman (née Mahon)**

When Ethel Freeman (née Mahon) fell asleep on Sunday April 12 it was appropriately the day observed by most Christians as the feast of the Resurrection – Easter Sunday – and co-incidentally seven weeks earlier was the day Kathleen her older sister died. It was typical of Ethel that both sisters had been deeply involved in the cause of their life-work by fellow-labourer Irena Brown. Of this experience it has been written: ‘No other influence that can surround the human soul has such power as the influence of an unfilled life. The strongest argument in favour of the Gospel is a living and lovable Christian. Ministry of Healing’, p. 470.

Recently Ethel was my closest listener and I know of no other person so closely dedicated that loving and lovable syndrome, I have known her enough to see in fact some idea of how her character was developed. About the women of the War-to-end-war were being demolished – poverty there was still global. ‘The terrible twenties’ led up to the hungry thirties’ was that era revisited. Her work with its declining cotton industry was won off and since Ethel’s home was in a town with the highest unemployment she suffered, but also gained an education in a university to be used to advantage in the university of life she knew her. She was an intelligent and brightener of the five children of F Leap and Alex Mahon, passing the Eleven Plus exam with ease and thereafter claiming many prizes in her Secondary School A stream. To the charge of her teachers who had high hopes for her future, she did not at the university entrance – her services were required at home to assist the family struggle by becoming a shopgirl in her family business of local fame, the Freeman’s retail store. Having completed Newbold education by selling homemade bread and cakes from door to door. Sixteen-year-old Ethel was a more stationary role behind the counter, selling home grown vegetables from the acre of ground rented from a neighbour. She had a small place of her own order which was obvious that which was illuminated bright as day with a thousand shining lights. Ethel was able to see that her orders were of explosive backing by the lighted note of power-doing aircraft overhead while the solid building – even its Elizabethan cellars – seemed to be melted into nothingness.

After her wartime graduation from Newbold, Ethel had been posted to Worthing with Pastor W. Lennox when the three churches were crammed with scores of young US servicemen preparing for D Day. There Ethel was to settle at a Baptist chapel and to be the only young woman who for some time was a Pastoral helper with the then recently appointed pastor there. She was a pastime of the belief that life was a great and a wonderful gift! Ethel had a rather artistic caligra-phy style and her marriage was kept in touch with an address on the Penny- quay road in Caerphilly (the Freeman’s first homes) as well as the Thomasines of Fulham and who knows how many others.

Ethel was both computer literate in old age and cherished her independent spirit – even during that time she refused to use an online grocery provider under pressure in diamond later in life.

The first fifteen years of Ethel and John’s life together would prove the va- lidity of the loving and lovable bit and indeed became the litmus test of Ethel’s role and function. Imagine a household containing a husband who needed peace and quiet to study the Word and a wife at home to nurse the sick adolescent girls and a grandmother who had a more alternative to strict Victorian domestic. Ethel kept her home but it was hard going for her. The bonds of marriage were reinforced by her belief that holiness and holiness are not mutually exclusive.

In seven years (Caerphilly, Barry, Swansea, and London), almost her whole life was spent in Kent and Sussex (Fulham, Dover, Hastings), five years in Essex (Billericay, Chelmsford, Southend), and one year in the National Conference (Wolverhampton, Walsall) and Grimsby. Thirty years in each district and family life in nine years of Ireland, does not quite account for her actions, for when settled in their Wickenden retirement house, Ethel and John were asked to care for the non-far- distant Guildford church. It entailed much of the above, and one road: and in the process they gained a third child, Wendy Penfold, whose personal ministry to them in their latter days was a notable blessing and com- fort. The above is but a small fraction of the work Ethel still had access to the many friends they made through the postal service. Some would say the correspondence gift! (Jostin apostol the soil give you some advice about your ‘Woshell cottage with its lovely garden.

Just over a year following Ethel’s final curtain (on the first day of 2008), we were to learn of Ethel in the same Newbold church with the three people she loved most dearly – her two daugh- ters and her grandson. Daughter Beryl – assisting the minister’s lady, Wendy Penfold – sent this out to all, loving and lovable. Ethel. What a powerful argument for a life she taught us all.

**Elephant Freeman (née Mahon)**

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Double baptism in Gloucester

Sabbath 30 May saw the baptism of two candidates: Daniel Wekpe and Donna Lotteriet.

His mother Melrose gave a very candid and moving testimony of how she worried about Daniel when he left home and how she struggled to accept his decision to be baptised in the Adventist Church – she herself belongs to another church. She spoke of how she took it to the Lord and eventually obtained peace with the decision and gave Daniel her support and understanding. Daniel’s brother Colin read Daniel’s favourite text, Jeremiah 1:7-19.

The Gloucester church warmly welcomed Daniel into their fellowship and will be sorry when the time comes for him to go back to university.

The second candidate, Donna, first came to Gloucester in 2004. She grew up in the Adventist Church and had had Bible studies when she was younger but had not felt ready for baptism until eighteen months ago while still in South Africa. Donna thanks the Lord for his patience, care and protection during the time before she felt ready to commit to baptism and she feels she made the right decision and for the right reasons. Julian Cranfield read out an email from her family in South Africa which was to congratulate her on the excellent decision to be baptised.

Donna’s husband Michael and 4-year-old daughter Marian were present to support her and she, too, was warmly welcomed into the fellowship of Gloucester church.

Before leaving the baptismal pool, Pastor Tarlev gave a call for anyone else who felt God’s prompting to come forward and commit. Much to the delight of the congregation, two people came forward, one of whom was Michael Adams, Donna’s husband (baptised on 22 August).

ANGELA CRAWLEY

Congratulations

To Rachel York of the Hampsdon church on gaining an Upper Second Class Honours Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

To Esther Brown of Lewisham church on gaining a Second Class Honours Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from the University of Westminster.

To Matthew Marshall of the Stratford church on gaining a Second Class Honours Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from the University of Law, London.

To Catherine Syl of the Grantham church who scored 72 As in her GCSEs, seven of which were A stars. Catherine wants to be a Maths/Science teacher.