Under the banner, ‘Be a Beacon’ coaches and cars unloaded hundreds of adults and children into the roads and streets around the Winter Garden complex, Blackpool, ready for a day of action.

The day’s events were organised by many people in a unified team all working together for the good of the Adventurers and Pathfinders. The Conference Community Services department under the leadership of Grace Walsh also led a small but impressive group of her staff in their blue full dress uniform.

NEC president Pastor Ian Sweeney and Pastor Trevor Thomas informed the crowd that Pathfinder Rally Day is the largest event organised by the Conference each year. Participants in uniform numbered 1,300 and the total attendance was 2,300. Pathfinder director Pastor Thomas stated that he was proud to belong to a Conference that supported and placed such high value on its children and young people.

The welcome from the Mayor of Blackpool, Councillor Norman Hardy, followed the ceremonial entrance of all those in uniform and the national, church, youth, Pathfinder and Adventurer flags. Pastor Thomas gave thanks to the many council employees who had made the day possible and presented a plaque and a Pathfinder Bible to the town of Blackpool which the Mayor promised would stand on public display in the Town Hall. Pastor Thomas also presented a Pathfinder Bible to the Mayor and his wife in recognition of their fifty-one years of marriage.

The Mayor’s role as a public servant reflected a major presentation as different Pathfinder clubs revealed how they had been of service to the community. Sheffield Manor – a new club – cleaned up their local area.

Then, for many, came the highlight of the day as Pastor Sweeney preached. Of course, this was not the day for an academic discourse – more for a sermon of the quality that won him ‘Preacher of the Year’. A young audience needs a series of illustrations and encouragement to suit their interests. Thus at one point our Conference president donned sunglasses and made a topical reference to Kanye West’s appearance and remarks at an awards ceremony – and American President Obama’s derogatory reference to the rapper. Instead of seeking fame, as many people do these days, the aim, we were told, was to be beacons giving glory not to self but giving glory to God.

On the march

While smartly lined up waiting for the off, the redeveloped public area in front of the Winter Gardens was a buzz of excited youthful voices as clubs from around the Conference awaited the orders to march. Drums called the clubs to the alert, orders were called, and Pathfinders marched west through the shopping centre led by a marching band. Crowds lined the route, ladies in the Council Information caravan danced and children clapped.

Under the direction of Pastor Paul Jayaraj, 4,000 He Is Coming books were delivered to the people of Blackpool in approximately 20 minutes.

For another person Pathfinders has been a beacon of light, hope and encouragement. Joel Price, baptised in the afternoon, to a great cheer from assembled Pathfinders, Adventurers, family and friends, had been active in Pathfinders for some years. The character of Joel was revealed after Joel was changed and marched smartly onto the stage and saluted the platform party, the congregation and God. Welcomed to the Union by Pastor Des Bollea, to the North England Conference by Pastor Sweeney and to Pathfinders by Pastor Thomas, Joel would go home to Camp Hill church to be welcomed into local church membership.
As we continue this short EcoHealth series here are some practical tips to ensure EcoHealth compliance.

**Oral hygiene**

Dentists recommend changing your toothbrush every three months for good hygiene. With an average of four toothbrushes for each person thrown away each year in the UK, this adds up to 4,389 tonnes of waste.

- **Buy a reusable toothbrush.** Replace the head, but the handle can be repeatedly reused.
- **Tørre Morte Bianco range** from www.ecobrus.co.uk

- **Exchange petroleum-based plastic floss picks with eco-friendly products like The Dentuk Natural Floss Pick – the first 100% biodegradable and recyclable floss pick from www.pharmacy2u.co.uk/Dentuk.

**Personal products**

- **The plastic stems of cotton buds are not biodegradable.** Try organic biodegradable cotton bud with paper stems: www.ethicalluxurystore.com
- **Studies show we use around 10 products a day to beautifully ourselves that contain as many as 126 ingredients and chemicals.** Avoid products that contain parabens, phthalates and GM additives. Opt for a reputable, organic range that environmental regulations stipulate must be free from the most damming chemicals. For certified ranges, visit www.soonganic.com.

**Water**

In 2009, we drank 2,275 million litres of plastic bottled water. Plastic bottles are made from petroleum and take up to 450 years to decompose.

- **Use refills, distilled or filtered water.

**Household cleaners**

Assessing their chemical content and over packaging, household cleaners aren’t always kind on the environment. For certified ranges, visit www.soonganic.com.

**Food packaging**

- **Buy supermarket products that use bottles, recyclable plastic bags, reusable jugs.** For example, the new Green Bottle found in ASDA is a mainly cardboard container that has a carbon footprint 48% lower than a standard plastic bottle.

**Candles**

While candles help create a relaxing atmosphere and lower electricity usage, most wax candles are made from petroleum residues suggested as causing indoor pollution and health problems.

- **Try soy, beeswax or vegetable-based candles that are smoke-free and biodegradable.

**Ecercise**

Walking, running and cycling are green alterna-"\natives to gym membership. Visit www.2lives4you.co.uk to discover a green gym run by BTVC, a charity for conservation volunteers, encouraging people to get fit while doing something constructive for the environment.

**Food packing**

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**Good health!**
What is your word power?

by John Ferguson

An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up. Proverbs 12:25.

How many words do we use in a day? Three hundred? Three thousand? Ten thousand? A hundred thousand? An articulate person speaks a few thousand words a day if 30,000 were put in print, it would make a fair-sized book. So, in the course of a lifetime, we speak enough to stock a good-sized college library!

The books, and the library they would make, would reflect the life and thoughts of the author. They would be all his/her own words. Not a book could be removed from the shelves or withdrawn from the library. That is a scary prospect for Christians. Jesus said: ‘Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give an account for in the day of judgement.’ Matthew 12:36.

Spreading the love of God is a tremendous responsibility, but so is speaking words that are pleasing to the Lord and are edifying for others. We are members of the Body of Christ and our words have power to encourage one another and to build up the body of Christ, to speak the truth in love, and to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ (Colossians 4:6, Ephesians 4:15).

There is a time and a place for our words. Some words are to be spoken at the moment, and others may be better spoken later or not spoken at all. Our words should be measured. We should think before we speak, as the Lord did when he said, ‘Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how to answer everyone.’ Colossians 4:6.

Our words can hurt others as well as build them up. ‘An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.’ Proverbs 12:25. ‘I remember when I took your car to go to the shops and wrecked it. I thought you would be livid and come down hard on me. But you didn’t.’ ‘I remember when we went for a walk. You didn’t want to go because you said it was going to rain. We went, and it rained! I was sure you would rub it in and say, “I told you so” but you didn’t.’

There was a time when I split blackcurrant juice on your new white shirt. You were entitled to be upset. I was sure you would shout at me. But you didn’t.

I wanted to tell you how much I loved and appreciated you when you came back from Afghanistan. But you didn’t.’ Perhaps that punch-line doesn’t resonate with you. Perhaps you don’t have a relative in Afghanistan, so that the illustration doesn’t gel. Perhaps it is all too sentimentally mushy for you?

The point is this . . . Words withheld may never be spoken – you may simply put them out of your mind, forget that you used them, uplift, appropriate words of appreciation to someone, and the opportunity is gone for ever.

Imagine something sweeter to God than the melody of music. Something more important than the speech of statesmen and politicians. Something more important than the things ordered by Queen and King.

The conversations of his children in which they talk together about his love for us. The kind word spoken to a friend or family member.

‘An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.’ The gift of speech is a noble thing. What finer tribute to the Giver of speech than to offer it to the library of Heaven, every day, one clean volume: 30,000 words dedicated to God’s honour!

N E C L I G H T

From 17 August to 11 September, the NEC hosted L I G H T (Leadership Institute of Global Christian Fellowship).

Warm hospitality was experienced from Pastors McIntosh and Brun, who allowed us to use Camp Hill church as a teaching venue. Pastor Ian Sweeney, the NEC’s president, and his associates Paul Kington, the NEC secretary, and Royce Kampenga, the NEC treasurer, were able to visit us during the training. The BGC Health Ministries director Sharon Platt-McDonald also supported L I G H T by teaching classes on Community Health.


Throughout the four weeks, they shared scientifically proven strategies that all OverEnglish-speaking participants came from diverse educational backgrounds and ranged from the ages of 13 to 70. Throughout the course, students were challenged, spiritually stimulated and empowered.

Every lesson began with prayer and an illustrated presentation. A range of subjects were covered, including the art of gaining decisions for Jesus, how to reach Muslims and methods of reaching the local community, especially the secularising secular.

Special thanks to Patras Bahador, Adelbert Leiphardt and John Bishop who led the Muslim workshops, Mark Watkiss who led the Scandinavian workshops, and Leslie and his wife Gabrielle who ran the reaching the community workshops.

A social event on the Saturday evening allowed a time of relaxation and fellowship and drew the attendees close to each other.

We were blessed the whole weekend end by Fr Nancy who led us in prayer and by Fen and Joy Brathwistle who truly drew us closer to Heaven.

On Sabbath afternoon and Sunday morning workshops were held covering topics such as small group leadership and the art of gaining decisions for Jesus, how to reach Muslims and methods of reaching the local community, especially the secularising secular.

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A baptism of five people, each with a special story to tell, was a soul-stirring sermon from Pastor Gary Krause, director of Global Mission, and the involvement of a lady minister, Mary Barrett, along with Pastor Ian Sleeman in the baptism, made it a special occasion for the three candidates, Lena Moreira, Chenelle Cave and Jacqueline Dean, who were a students of a study group conducted by Mary Barrett. Jacqueline originally made was his wife Viola. It was a joy and pleasure for the assembled congregation to vote her transfer of membership at the same time as they voted to accept her husband into the fellowship of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Pastor Sam Davis, SEC president, commented that Keith Wint joined his sister Pauline Wiltshire who is already a member of our church. Keith had a very bad experience prior to his baptism. As soon as he decided to give his life to Christ he was attacked by two vicious dogs who bit him on his legs, but that did not deter him from the baptismal pool.

Zeneith came to the faith in her early teens but left and now she has returned. Pastor DeLisser was charged to go to Adventist by her fiancé Wiston Russell, a member of our church. Wiston and Claudia were married on 30 August.

In his sermon Pastor Gittens advised the candidates that they should read and study the Word for themselves and when they start the week they should keep a written log of events and tell others what God has done for them.

Each candidate had special songs and readings done by friends and family. Our minister Pastor Silvan with the book of Daniel, while the other speakers’ topics covered parental legacy, issues facing the Church today, and prayer.

As Pastor Hamilton made quite sure us’ and ‘When almost is not good enough’. Pastor Gittens always ended his sermons with a true story which we all looked forward to and appreciated.

Monday to Thursday daytime programmes were shared by Dr Ganeoune Diop (Global Mission Study Centre director, General Conference), Dr Radisa Antic (E. G. White Research Centre director, Newbold College), Pastor Augustus Lawrence (New Life minister), Dr Stephen Currow (Newbold College) and Dr Joseph Kibler (Associate professor of Church Ministries, Andrews University). Pastor Elliott in his sermon Pastor Gittens enthralled us with such topics as ‘How people become Christians and how they remain Christians’, ‘Expectations that transform’, ‘God’s intention for us’ and ‘What’s your story?’. Pastor Gittens always ended his sermons with a true story which we all looked forward to and appreciated.

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September’s Brecon Camp
by John Surridge

Excellent weather characterised the Brecon Camp this September – the third camp in a row to be held in virtually perfect conditions. There was also a good atmosphere, with first time attendees commenting on how friendly and helpful everyone was. The speaker for this camp was Richard Down, a teacher currently working as head of the Design and Technology department in a small high school in rural Worcestershire. In his series of talks, entitled ‘The Way Out’, Richard spoke on the theme of grace, pointing out that Jesus not only provided a way out for us but also came back to show us the way.

Despite covering some ‘heavy’ theological themes – such as perfectionism, righteousness by faith and the perceived conflict between love and grace – Richard used his skills as a teacher and communicator to reduce apparently complex ideas to simple principles. ‘Perfectionism is a doctrine of hopelessness’, he said. Speaking of grace he used the illustration of the woman caught in adultery to show how Jesus managed to find a way out without breaking the law. ‘This is what grace is all about’, he said.

Over the weekend the fifty or so campers, plus a similar number who came to visit at one time or another, got to know Richard and his family a little better. Although they are regulars at the Brecon Camp, not many had heard, for example, the story of how Richard and his wife Baby got together. A series of coincidences, including a debilitating injury, a car that needed to be recovered from Hungary, telephones that didn’t work, and the need for an interpreter, led Richard to spending a few hours with Baby trying to sort out his various problems. Six months later, following prayer and God’s leading, they made contact again and, as Richard said, ‘the rest is history’.

For many people the best thing about Brecon Camp is meeting other people. Through conversations and shared experiences, new friendships are made and old ones strengthened. The church was filled with members and guests – some attending for the first time – who witnessed and celebrated the baptisms of Timothy Hope and Desmond Gordon. Newport church elders, Mike Sammons and David Rancic, led out in both services with the newly appointed minister, David Rancic, delivering the sermon based on ‘Faith is the victory’. McKenzie added to the occasion with her beautiful rendition of ‘Jesus is all the world to me’.

Desmond was grateful for the hands-on baptismal service, and the support from the church family for their acceptance, kind words, prayers and encouragement. ‘This is just the beginning of exciting times for Newport Church,’ said David Rancic. ‘The church board members are looking at different ways of reaching the community. We are praying that God will help us to find a key to unlock the gate of “Newport Castle” so that many more will accept him as their Saviour.’

Newport baptisms
by Mike Sammons and David Rancic

There were ‘showers of blessings’ on Sabbath 19 September at the Newport church. It had been planned months in advance, following a communion service first, followed by a communion service, but the combination of a fairly new baptismal and a highly efficient heating system led to the baptismal water being extremely hot at the start of the day. Quick thinking by the elders led to a change in the order of service and, by delaying the baptism until after the communion service, a comfortable experience was enjoyed by the elders and baptismal candidates alike.

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Earlier this year Timothy was invited to join a MicroCHIP course which met on a Sunday in Newport church’s Gallivan LIFE development Centre. Timothy was so enthusiastic about the course that one week he came a day early by mistake! However, he has attended every Sabbath since then. As well as enjoying the benefits of a healthier lifestyle he learned more about the teachings of the Bible.

Desmond has visited many churches in the past and Rodney Williams from the Cardiff church was able to follow up many years of prayer by introducing him to Evan Green. From this introduction a new friendship began, enriched by Bible study and prayer. In Desmond’s own words, ‘My search for God came to an end.’

After Timothy and Desmond were accepted into membership of the Newport church they both expressed their satisfaction at being finally cleansed of their sins. Timothy was grateful for the warmth greeting he received from Pastor Ian McKenzie, farmer minister of Newport church, as well as that received from his replacement, David Rancic. Both Timothy and Desmond gave special thanks to the Green family for welcoming them into their home and the whole church family for their acceptance, kind words, prayers and encouragement.

Manchester South at 50
On Sabbath 6 June 2009 the Manchester South Seventh-day Adventist church celebrated its fifty years of existence in Manchester City. It has been the central branch of the Adventist faith in Manchester for fifty years. The building, which was originally built to last a maximum of twenty-five years, opened on the evening of Friday 5 June 1959. The funds for its purchase were raised from the committed sacrificial giving by its then members. Over the years the church has gone through many changes internally, but the building itself has remained the same. The membership of the church stands at well over 300, consisting of a good cross-section of ages, social backgrounds and ethnicities.
Leicester Central aids the Lord Mayor’s charity appeal

On 2 May a multicultural concert was organised by Winfield Belgrave, a member of Leicester Central church, in collaboration with a team of supportive individuals from the Leicester Central church and the community of Leicester. There were many and various tasks to be taken up in order to make this project to move forward. Randolph Jordan, also a member of Leicester Central, ensured that the rules of entry to the concert venue were appropriately followed. His wife Dawn played a major role in optimising the sale of a significant number of tickets. Michael Achola made a very valuable contribution to the design of the programmes for the concert. The church is called to be the ‘salt of the earth’ in the community that surrounds it. The raison d’être of this concert was to raise funds for the Lord Mayor’s appeal. This year the Mayor’s appeal is raising funds for the Special Olympic Games. The Leicester Amika Choir was also a beneficiary. Winfield Belgrave has a well-established network of friends and colleagues in the city of Leicester who contributed to the successful staging of this event. Some of these include Manzoor Moghal and Mrs Pollock who offered their expertise with financial management, and Elaine Selton offered her support as Centre Manager for the African Caribbean Centre, which was the venue. Various musicians from a number of Adventist churches made a range of extraordinary musical contributions to the concert. Inspiring performances were given by singers such as Peter Taban and Lesley Weaver and Mark Bunney was well received with his virtuosic performances of well-known classical compositions. The Leicester Amika Choir, a community choir led by the very talented Dr Uma May, also contributed to the concert. The city’s local communities around the world, beautifully choreographed. There were also a number of performers from other wider Leicester community, who presented quality performances of music that enhanced the sense of representation of the culturally diverse population of the city of Leicester. It was also the writer’s privilege to be the compere for the entire evening as it has always been when Winfield organised similar concerts for the Mayor of Gedling and Gedling Borough Council in the past.

The highlight of the series for Pastor Garry Gordon was the family focus and health emphasis on the generally not-so-well-attended Tuesday nights. Church members and community guests came out in significant numbers, some saying they came to see if Pastor Gordon would survive his controversial sermon topic on marriage and relationships entitled ‘Why men don’t listen and women can’t stop talking’. He did survive, and attendees continued to brave the often showery weather to hear the sermons. ‘Tiny tearaways or little angels?’ ... of grapefruit, the benefits of sunlight and ‘The truth about swine flu’ with dynamism and detail to great interest.

Sheffield: 10th anniversary of drop-in centre

There were many and various tallies of Leicester Central church, in collaboration with a team of supportive individuals from the Leicester Central church and the community of Leicester.

On this 10th anniversary we give thanks to God for the miracle that takes place each week as persons with aching limbs and tired bones squish together and work together in a tiny kitchen to provide a feast for many. We thank God also for the people who enter the church through these means, sometimes just for a meal, sometimes for counselling, sometimes for a Bible study, sometimes for socialising and sometimes for prayer. We thank God for all who help to make the drop-in centre what it is and pray that God will continue to bless this amazing ministry.

Living in his Word

A new milestone was reached when Pastor Garry Gordon conducted the ‘Living in his Word’ evangelistic series conducted at Handsworth church from 18 July to 8 August. However, the sermon based on the apostle Paul’s call (1 Cor. 9:24-27 and Heb. 12:1, 2) to run the Christian race was a challenge to new believer and longstanding member alike, to realise that the work did not just begin. Why? Not least because the membership support of the meetings was consistent both in attendance and inviting of visitors. At the end of the meetings in excess of 150 visitors had been registered, with many requesting Bible studies, baptism and pastoral visitation. Particularly well supported during the series was the family focus and health emphasis on the generally not-as-well-attended Tuesday nights. Church members and community guests came out in significant numbers, some saying they came to see if Pastor Gordon would survive his controversial sermon topic on marriage and relationships entitled ‘Why men don’t listen and women can’t stop talking’. He did survive, and attendees continued to brave the often showery weather to hear the sermons. ‘Tiny tearaways or little angels?’ ... of grapefruit, the benefits of sunlight and ‘The truth about swine flu’ with dynamism and detail to great interest.

The highlight of the series for many was the baptism on 1 August of candidates introduced as the ‘twelve disciples’. This group of twelve young people were brought to a point of decision through the power of the Holy Spirit and the diligence, love and fellowship together. This group is ongoing and continues to be a tremendous blessing to our new believers and contacts.

So what of the future? ‘Well, we have a lot of work to do,’ said Pastor Gordon, following up contacts, nurturing and discipling new believers. God has blessed us richly in the district over the last two years and especially during this series. Although in evangelistic terms we have just started, I don’t think one can say we will finish, well, not at least until Jesus comes.’
Sabbath in the park

On 8 August, Canterbury church was joined by members from our sister churches in Kent for an afternoon of music, health promotion and evangelism. In taking over the bandstand in Dane John Gardens in Canterbury, we made our presence well and truly known. Being a glorious Sabbath afternoon, the park was packed with visitors and it was a real blessing and opportunity to share a small portion of God’s message. We handed out over 1,000 pamphlets and lifestyle advice cards. The health tent, staffed by healthcare professionals, was constantly in action, performing blood pressure, carbon monoxide, BMI and personality tests. And throughout the afternoon musicians and artists performed in the bandstand, praising God through music and mime. Photos from the park can be seen at http://canterburychurch.org.uk/pip2009.htm.

Great Yarmouth health outreach

On Sunday 13 September, the community of Great Yarmouth and many headquarters were thrilled when the members of the Great Yarmouth church carried out their third health screening session. The health screening took place in the Market Gates Shopping Centre. The Lord blessed the programme with the fact that the management of the mall agreed to make the prime location, easily visible and accessible to the public, all free of charge. This time about 218 people were screened, which is almost double the number of the previous sessions. Tests included BMI, blood pressure, carbon monoxide, blood sugar and cholesterol. Elise Staple, SEC Health Ministries director, and her husband, Elmo, joined the Yarmouth team, and we were very grateful for their help and support.

The screening has certainly built a lot of bridges and painted a positive image of our church in the local community. Evaluation forms were filled in and many positive comments were made, some of them included sentences like ‘The programme is excellent plus!’ and ‘All the people were very friendly.’ Many people took the Adventist literature, which was available to them free of charge — Steps to Christ, He is Coming books and FOCUS magazines.

Fifteen people who had their carbon monoxide tested were happy to leave their addresses and be contacted with the information regarding a Smoking Cessation Clinic. Conducting a Breathe Free programme is the next endeavour on Great Yarmouth church’s list.

John Lomacang at Derby

The Derby Chester Green and Bethel churches and Burton on Trent company have had another weekend of fellowship. It took place at the Riverside Centre, Derby. On Friday evening 21 August the members of Derby Chester Green church were very privileged to have Pastor John Lomacang conduct a special worship service which led us into the hours of Sabbath. Then on 22 August the members of Derby Chester Green and Bethel churches, the Burton group and friends were blessed with a heart-warming and spirit-filled Sabbath School, followed by divine service, again led by Pastor Lomacang. An enjoyable fellowship lunch followed divine service. The grateful members would like to say a big thank you to Pam Bumill, senior elder at Bethel, and her team for the delicious cuisine.

We were further blessed with a special evening concert from 6.30-8.30, again featuring Pastor Lomacang, who presents the Good News from the Word of God on the 3ABN channel on the Adventist Broadcasting Network in the USA. The membership of the Derby and Burton churches would like to thank Pastor Paul Fray and Manji Baint, an elder from Derby Chester Green, for inviting Pastor Lomacang and his wife and family to Derby, thus making it possible for us to have such a blessing, not only from Pastor Lomacang’s ministry but also his message in song.

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Dublin: a family affair

Sociologists have long established the family as an important primary group we are all a part of. For many, the family is the heart of this borough popular with the tourists. The latest arrival of the Hillier family, little Shalden, just barely six months old, was dedicated to the Lord.

Family Fun Day

Family Fun Day on 2 August, held at Great Brickkiln St church, was organised by the Pathfinder team. Demonstrations included community stalls providing injury minimisation programmes, a Keep Safe and Property Safe workshop by the local community police force and also Health MOT opportunities. Religious music played in the background created a pleasant atmosphere.

The special focus of the day was the West Midlands Fire Service team and the Pathfinders working together to serve the local community. When the fire engine arrived on site children were allowed to explore inside the cabin. The fire crew demonstrated in a fun way how to escape smoke dangers and to prevent unwanted fires. The children were also taught what action to take in an emergency, using the right procedures and correct phone numbers.

Also on offer were the pamper booth, team games, hand-car-washing and herbal-for-life facilities. It was a day of fun for all the family. Young children and toddlers made good use of the bouncey castle provided and refuelled their energies with snacks, cakes and beverages that were available at parental expense.

Though little Shalden was not available for comment, it is hoped that he will follow in the footsteps of his brothers and make a stand to follow Christ.

News Break

Greenwich set to double its membership

Hamiton J. Williams, brand new pastor of the Greenwich church, met with his congregation on Sabbath afternoon 13 September and after a two-hour interactive session the members, enthused, envisioned and excited at what could be accomplished under God, accepted the challenge to double the church’s membership in three years.

This beautiful church, set in the heart of this borough popular with the tourists, has a membership of 255 who have now agreed to get involved in an aggressive evangelistic programme encouraging every member, young and old, to use his or her talents and gifts in a ministry of their choice to make as many unchurched people for Christ!

The call goes out from Greenwich: Come over into ‘Macondia’ and help us! If you want to be trained in giving Bible studies, engaging unchurched people, motivating inactive members and using non-traditional ways to influence people for Christ, come over and join us and take back those skills to your church. Church Growth director of the British Union and has held successful evangelistic programmes in India, Africa, USA, Hungary, the Caribbean, here in the UK and has recently led the Bristol church to be the first Adventist church in Britain to cross the 1,000 membership mark, is committed to leading the Greenwich church to be a model evangelistic centre.

Dublin: a family affair

Sociologists have long established the family as an important primary group we are all a part of. For many, the family is the heart of this borough popular with the tourists. The latest arrival of the Hillier family, little Shalden, just barely six months old, was dedicated to the Lord.

Family Fun Day on 2 August, held at Great Brickkiln St church, was organised by the Pathfinder team. Demonstrations included community stalls providing injury minimisation programmes, a Keep Safe and Property Safe workshop by the local community police force and also Health MOT opportunities. Religious music played in the background created a pleasant atmosphere.

The special focus of the day was the West Midlands Fire Service team and the Pathfinders working together to serve the local community. When the fire engine arrived on site children were allowed to explore inside the cabin. The fire crew demonstrated in a fun way how to escape smoke dangers and to prevent unwanted fires. The children were also taught what action to take in an emergency, using the right procedures and correct phone numbers.

Also on offer were the pamper booth, team games, hand-car-washing and herbal-for-life facilities. It was a day of fun for all the family. Young children and toddlers made good use of the bouncey castle provided and refuelled their energies with snacks, cakes and beverages that were available at parental expense.

Though little Shalden was not available for comment, it is hoped that he will follow in the footsteps of his brothers and make a stand to follow Christ.

News Break

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Connor and her husband Hubert were both born in the same year, 1929, in the town of Freetown, Sierra Leone. They met in college and were married in 1950. Connor was the first female doctor in her country, and her husband was a distinguished surgeon. Their love and dedication to their work and to helping others is celebrated by their family and friends. Connor passed away last week, on the 30th of June. She was 90 years old.

**Ambaro is a hardworking woman who, like many others, has experienced the challenges of life.**

Ambaro is a hardworking woman who, like many others, has experienced the challenges of life. She was born in Mogadishu, Somalia, in 1955. Her father was a farmer, and her mother was a homemaker. When she was young, she helped her parents with the farming work. As she grew older, she started to help with the cooking and cleaning.

Ambaro is happy to report that she is no longer living ‘hand-to-mouth’ and has even been able to save some of the income to purchase a piece of land for her family. The income from the sale of stoves has increased from £120 to approximately £400 a month currently. Half of the income is reinvested in the production of more stoves, and half goes to meet household needs.

The success story of Ambaro is just beginning to take shape and the best is yet to come. ADRA is now supporting the construction of a proper working shed and kiln for Ambaro, which is expected to give her more room for production. This will enable her to save more money, which she can use to support her family. She is confident that with the support of ADRA, she will be able to improve her life and that of her family.

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**...**
SNAP! Southall goes SNAP
by Michael Morris

There was a great atmosphere in Southall church on Sabbath 8 August as Mike and Vicky Beamish shared a wealth of knowledge and experience with us for our Family Life Ministry programme.

A number of topical issues, initially promoted by the Southall youth, were dealt with in the form of discussion workshops. We all benefited as the adults and youth were more aware of the concerns on both sides, and compromises and decisions were made for the accommodation of both groups for actions to be taken to bridge the gap and create a better understanding and atmosphere for all.

The programme also featured discussion on the training of younger children. The programme "SNAP" is a brainchild ministry of Mike and Vicky which covers a wide variety of issues on parenting.

What is SNAP?
by Mike and Vicky Beamish

Support Network for Adventist Parents is a ministry co-ordinated by lay people for the benefit of all parents, yet is recognised and supported by our Conferences. It is a ministry that recognises that, as Adventist parents, we face significant challenges in rearing our children in an increasingly secular society. SNAP therefore recognises the need for parents to encourage each other in these challenges. This is reflected in the Mission Statement of SNAP, which is taken from Galatians 6:2: ‘Carry each other’s burdens and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.’

SNAP seeks to provide encouragement in the following ways:
1. The production of a quarterly newsletter in which topics of relevance to parents are discussed. Since its inception in 2005, a variety of topics have been covered, and members are encouraged to suggest future topics. Newsletters can either be emailed or posted.
2. Providing an opportunity to pray for specific needs, either globally or within the group. SNAP recognises that prayer is a vital tool in encouraging and supporting one another.
3. SNAP has visited some SDA churches to encourage parents locally. The format of the programmes is usually discussion-based but can be tailored to suit the local need. SNAP encourages local churches to form their own SNAP groups so that they can continue to encourage and support each other on a regular basis.

SNAP currently has a membership which covers all parts of the British Isles and includes parents with differing situations such as: single parents, special needs parents, ministerial parents, parents of young ones and parents of teenagers.

SNAP believes there is support and encouragement for all kinds of parents and would welcome you to join us. There is no money involved – the only criterion is that you are passionate about parenting.

For registration, SNAP visits to your church, or for any other information, please contact Mike and Vicky Beamish either by email: snap.sda@tesco.net or telephone: 01295 273412.

Tea, Toast and Talk
The Community Services department at Leicester Central church is very busy with various initiatives. Bernie Aldred and Coralie Pinder have taken up the department’s vision and come together to run a project through which they feel Leicester Central can reach out in a caring and concerned way to the community, to meet both practical and spiritual needs. It’s called ‘Tea, Toast and Talk’. Literally this the church opens its doors every Thursday from 12 noon to 2pm. On these days, they serve hot drinks, soup and toast for people who may decide to drop in. The Leicester Central church is a beautiful listed building, situated on the corner of London Road and University Road. It stands, complete with spire, in a part of the city where many people pass by, either heading down the road to the University of Leicester, or rushing down London Road to the many and various restaurants, the city or to the train station.

Coralie Pinder said, ‘We are there to meet people’s needs. We can’t meet everyone’s needs ourselves, but God is there to guide us.’

Many people have commented that they have walked past this building so many times and wondered what happens inside it. Some have come to see the beautiful stained glass windows and to appreciate a sense of the history that is wrapped up in this building, which has been a part of the Leicester City heritage tour trail.

Bernie Aldred commented, ‘This church should be open every day. I wish I could do more. When I was a child, the churches were always open. If the door of the church is open, people will come in. People seem to be in need of kindness and someone to listen to their concerns.’

However, when the doors are opened, there are opportunities for the church to minister to those who come to find food, time out from a busy, uncaring world, clothing or for a surgery with Pastor George Kurni in the vestry.

On reflection, Pastor Kurni said, ‘Tea, Toast and Talk has given me the opportunity to meet with those inside and outside of the church, to talk about spiritual and physical needs, which would otherwise have been missed. I hope this ministry will expand in a great way. We as a church will have to move out of our comfort zone and take radical steps in reaching out to people. I like the tenacity of the ladies who keep the stall open, though not everyone joins them on some occasions.’

Some people come just to sit quietly and reflectively inside the church. An ex-Adventist church member has passed by in his van on numerous occasions and has commented that the church doors always seem to be shut, but was glad of an opportunity to come into the church.

Sponsorship
Sponsorship is encouraged with permission from the local church. Single copies are supplied by post 412.

New book of the week
The Miracle of Conversion
by Morris L. Venden

According to Morris Venden, conversion is the most neglected and most important topic in the Christian Church.

This book starts with the necessity of conversion and covers the work of the Holy Spirit, the born-again experience, the effect of sin, the steps to conversion, the importance of beholding Jesus, and much more.

Contact ABC sales on 01476 539900.

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk

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