The theme of the SEC elders' retreat was 'Reclaim'. About 140 elders gathered at the beautiful location of Eynsham Hall, Oxfordshire, to be trained and empowered. This number rose to almost 200 as other elders joined us for the Sabbath service.

We were blessed to have Pastor and Mrs Roy Chisholm with us for the weekend. Pastor Emmanuel Osei, the Ministerial Association director, welcomed everyone and set the tone for what would become an uplifting weekend.

The Sabbath morning began with a devotional from David Ahwan, SEC's Publishing co-ordinator. Pastor Osei then shared a presentation on Reclamation, which established for the elders the need for a reclamation ministry. It was a startling fact that over the past quinquennium, there had been in excess of 5 million accessions through baptism and profession of faith into the Adventist Church. However, there had also been almost 1.4 million lost through apostasy. We considered some of the reasons why people leave the church and some of the signs exhibited before they actually leave. This gave us as elders a great opportunity to look critically at ourselves and endeavor to reclaim such people.

Dr Chidi Ngwaba and Cliff Hilton, who serve as the Men's Ministry coordinators, SEC, presented the whole concept of ministering to the needs of men in the broader context. They shared ideas of how men can be mentors to others and help lead them to Christ.

It was refreshing to have the elders break out into different groups as they wrestled with challenging questions. These questions included: Should babies born out of wedlock be dedicated in church? What is the church's response to the use of jewellery among our members? Some congregations are struggling with female elders and pastors; what is our response? These breakout sessions generated much discussion and it became evident that further discussion would be needed to achieve a consensus view.

Most of the SEC departmental leaders were present as Pastor Sam Davis, SEC president, clarified some issues that are challenging the Church. Pastor Davis shared a proposal for the growth and strategic development of the work within the SEC. The need for and development of the work within the SEC was discussed, and the need for greater coordination among the leaders was emphasized. The need for a stronger connection with the regional leaders was also discussed.

The London Nursing Home project was also discussed. There were suggestions as to how we could accelerate the process of acquiring such a home for our elderly. Managing diversity was a sensitive topic which was discussed. There was a general consensus that the issue of same-sex relationships should be discussed in schools. The president encouraged the boards of churches to be open and transparent when they discuss these issues.

The president encouraged the boards of churches to be open and transparent when they discuss these issues. He made reference to the Filipino group who have changed their name to the Filipino International and the Oxford Rwandese who are now known as the International group. Pastor Davis encouraged the mono-ethnic churches to use the English language when conducting services in order to be more attractive to the community.

On Sunday church elder Ingathering dates 2010

METROPOLITAN AREA: 27 March - 18 April

PROVINCES: 27 March - 11 April

by Dr Emmanuel Osei, SEC President
Newbold

Face to face or Facebook?

Seventh-day Adventists and inter-generational dialogue by Helen Pearson

Seventh-day Adventists have been stronger in developing spirituality through revival culture than through a culture of nurture, ‘said a Newbold lecturer this week.

In the first of the Newbold Diversity Centre’s monthly public lectures for 2010, Manuela Casti, lecturer in Pastoral Ministry and Mission at Newbold, painted a picture of young European Adventists based on the ValueGenesis (Europe) research of which she is director. She pointed out that many young Adventists in Newbold, in touch with their friends both on and off the internet, are learning major value systems in life from the horizontal peer-culture and find few opportunities for exchange of wisdom between the generations.

The ValueGenesis research with 6,000 young people in seventeen unions in Europe suggests that young people who are engaged in significant contact only with other young people in the Church are likely to leave in their late teens unless the Church facilitates significant ties with older Christians.

Manuela pointed out that a purely youth-group-based ministry to young people is already leading to massive youth-drop-out in most evangelical churches, including the Seventh-day Adventist Church. According to some leading scholars, as soon as they graduate from youth ministry activities they graduate from the Church and don’t return. The research suggests that if young people are to develop their faith, ask questions and make meaningful decisions to stay in the Church, they need regular and meaningful exchanges (including mentoring) with other generations.

Among the crucial influential arenas for inter-generational dialogue are, not surprisingly, family life and preaching. The research identifies as highly significant in the process of faith development two particular groups: parents who are committed to a Christian way of thinking and to talk honestly about their own faith journey, and preachers who preach sermons which are ‘helpful for everyday life’. And perhaps the two most amazing statistics in the lecture: ‘Young people value regular exchanges with their father about faith issues, are 70% more likely to see themselves as Adventists in the future than those who don’t.’ And ‘Preaching is the single most important element in faith development.’ It people find preaching helpful for their everyday lives, they are 450 times more likely to stay in the Church.

Thirty-five people from different generations, but mostly the younger ones, attended the lecture in Newbold’s Smith Centre, and the question time after the lecture demonstrated the high level of interest in the subject. Questions on the effects of various types of family worship, the challenges of encouraging young people (and older ones!) into face-to-face rather than cyberspace worship, and the opportunities of integrating young people in the leadership and whole life of the Church were discussed with understanding, curiosity and passion.

A book containing the findings of ValueGenesis Europe and edited by Manuela Casti will be published by the end of this year. Watch the Newbold website for details. www.newbold.ac.uk

Beware Neverend Boom!

When Andy was in hospital she was visited once a week. He stayed quite a while – in fact she called him the ‘Neverend Boom’ – but just before he left she asked him why, even that the ward was full, he had only spoken to her. He replied that it was because she was the only person who had P for Protestant on her bed, whereas the others had RC for Roman Catholic, CF for Christian Fellowship, B for Baptist, or SA for Salvation Army. He had gone before she could stop laughing. P was for Porridge, RC for Rice Crispies, CF for Corn Flakes, B for Bran and SA for Steved Apple.

Some people love labels more than others. Indeed, some seem to make it their life-work to stick labels on others. In the 90s Anita and I took our annual holidays with an assortment of inter-church holiday companies. We learnt about the significance some Christians attach to labels. Roman Catholics and Anglicans, in our experience, made little of their affiliations, and made no fuss about ours. We had a lot of fun, too, with some Methodists and evangelicals who were new to church in Ulster! Any trouble was apt to come from Baptists.

One Sabbath in Phillipi, by the river where Paul brought Lydia to Christ, a Neverend Boom clergyman gave Anita the third degree about our church affiliation. I found her in some distress. To those keen to label themselves ‘evangelical’, our denominational name was especially a term of opprobrium. That was surprising because Adventist leaders, back in the 50s, negotiated with Donald Batten (an English divine) and we were declared more or less free of the taint of cult status. What has made intolerance more fashionable half a century on?

Two questions come to my mind: 1. What is a cult? 2. What creates the fascination for labels among Christians and gives some the authority to impose them on others? Victor Hubler has researched question 1. Here are a few definitions he has come up with. Lea Pfeffer: ‘...if you believe in it, it is a religion or perhaps “the” religion, and if you do not care one way or another about it, it is a sect, but if you hate and it, it is a cult’. J. Gordon Melton: ‘My working definition of a cult is a group that you wouldn’t like... it is a derogatory term.’ The Cult Information Centre (www.cultinformation.org.uk/faq.html) says: ‘A cult is a group having all of the following characteristics: 1. It uses psychological coercion to recruit, indoctrinate and retain its members.

When you take salvation is similar to that of many Adventists, Strict and Particular Baptists (who had a Calvinist emphasis on predestination) and Seventh-day Baptists (most of whom inclined towards Calvinism and from whom Adventists took the first part of their name). You can see why, historically, such a diverse movement should be into labels. It may seem paradoxical, however, why a religious movement which has, more than most, been the victim of religious persecution, should have such a preoccupation with an intolerant term such as ‘cult’ which, beyond being a derogatory term, does not appear to have a generally agreed meaning.

The Adventist preoccupation with labels has roots in our historicist approach to prophecy. While in the last half century most of us have outgrown our use of the term ‘apostate’, some of us still make the mistake of demonising both rank and file Roman Catholics and the top-down hierarchy of their Church, with pejorative prophetic terms. That is an issue we are going to have to address very soon. You will have heard that the Pope is to visit Britain in September. It is clear to me that the papacy is an institution discredited by its history and which could still be a threat to religious freedom, that does not give me leave to forget that great saints have been part of the Church over which it presides. Nor does it give me the right to apply pejorative terms to any individual Catholic. I have too often had the derivative label ‘cult’ stuck on me to want to stick similar labels on any other Christian. The most fundamental of all my fundamentals is respect for those with views different from my own.

Let’s do our bit for Christian tolerance and leave the rough stuff to Neverend Boom.

General Baptists (whose take on salvation was similar to that of many Adventists), Strict and Particular Baptists (who had a Calvinist emphasis on predestination) and Seventh-day Baptists (most of whom inclined towards Calvinism and from whom Adventists took the first part of their name). You can see why, historically, such a diverse movement should be into labels. It may seem paradoxical, however, why a religious movement which has, more than most, been the victim of religious persecution, should have such a preoccupation with an intolerant term such as ‘cult’ which, beyond being a derogatory term, does not appear to have a generally agreed meaning.

The Adventist preoccupation with labels has roots in our historicist approach to prophecy. While in the last half century most of us have outgrown our use of the term ‘apostate’, some of us still make the mistake of demonising both rank and file Roman Catholics and the top-down hierarchy of their Church, with pejorative prophetic terms. That is an issue we are going to have to address very soon. You will have heard that the Pope is to visit Britain in September. It is clear to me that the papacy is an institution discredited by its history and which could still be a threat to religious freedom, that does not give me leave to forget that great saints have been part of the Church over which it presides. Nor does it give me the right to apply pejorative terms to any individual Catholic. I have too often had the derivative label ‘cult’ stuck on me to want to stick similar labels on any other Christian. The most fundamental of all my fundamentals is respect for those with views different from my own.

Let’s do our bit for Christian tolerance and leave the rough stuff to Neverend Boom.

Never forget it!
by Bert Smit, Chief Executive Officer, ADRA-UK
News and images of people suffering recently seen on our televisions or in our newspapers speak to the heart. We have all been moved by the sheer magnitude of the tragedy in Haiti following the 12 January earthquake. We are shocked that, by today’s count, more than 250,000 people have perished in this tragic event. We are moved to give because we see the need.

Millions of pounds have been pledged to help the people of Haiti recover — and they deserve every penny raised. The Seventh-day Adventist community in the UK and Ireland has raised more than £100,000 to help Haiti. And yet this disaster pales in comparison to the fact that millions of people around the world live in never-ending poverty. It pales in comparison to the fact that every single day more than 25,000 children die because of poverty. Every single day! You do not see this in the news simply because it is too common. It is not considered newsworthy. Just imagine—every week 175,000 children will die — not because of a single disaster, but because they are simply too poor to live.

Faith Forum meets at Ilford
On Tuesday 9 February around twenty-five members of the Redbridge Faith Forum, along with a similar number of church members, were at Ilford church to hear a presentation on ‘What is a Seventh-day Adventist?’ The Redbridge Faith Forum arranges visits to various places of worship of all faiths in the London Borough of Redbridge. This includes visits to mosques, temples and churches. It was the turn of the Ilford Adventist church to be visited. The purpose of such visits is to build understanding between the faiths and to build social cohesion in our community, which is one of the most diverse in London. This visit was arranged by Eugene Martin, the Life Development co-ordinator, as part of the policy of reaching out to our community.

The meeting started off with a short DVD presentation on ‘What is a Seventh-day Adventist?’ This was followed by Pastor Chitra who did a brief summary of all twenty-eight of our fundamental beliefs, including the Sabbath. Eugene Martin then did a presentation on how the local church is run and how it is linked with the wider SDA family. This was followed by a question-and-answer period. We were asked to describe a typical Sabbath day service, to explain what makes us different from other Christian groups and what we mean by ‘the remnant’.

Su Su Zin is one of them. A 12-year-old girl, she lives with her mother and younger brother in the dry desert zone of Burma. Her life was lived in extreme poverty. Every day Su Su Zin and her brother had to walk far to collect water from the river. The rest of the day she gathered firewood to sell to the neighbours. She had no time for school or play.

Area 2 Youth Federation’s banquet
by Estelle Harley-McDonald
Photos: Rachel Miller
The Area 2 Youth Federation’s 3rd Annual Banquet took place on 13 December at the Arctic West Hotel in Bristol. Over ninety people attended the event, all dressed in formal attire to celebrate a blessed year that the federation has had. It was a lively three-course meal. Tables formed teams in a contest where games included a quiz to test their knowledge about 2009’s A2YF events, Taboo and ‘Sing that tune’.

Guests were entertained throughout the evening by special musical items from Gloucester and North Bristol church members who were accompanied by a great band. In addition there was a special piano solo by Alex Douglass. One important event of the evening was an auction encouraging all guests to donate money for the sponsored charity – The Amber Foundation. The Amber Foundation is a charity which aims to help homeless and unemployed young people become motivated and develop the skills needed to gain employment and appropriate accommodation. Special guests from the Foundation were Sue Crawford-Corde, PR and Fundraising director and Nina who spoke of her experience with the foundation and how it has helped her into a better situation. Prices won in the auction included a golfing trip, six day treatments, a digital photo frame and ‘secret’ kits which when revealed ranged from a CD to a free photo shoot and food and dining experience.

Total of £480 was raised from the auction. An awards presentation took place, including best-dressed male and female, which went to Sheldon Greenwood and Monique Henderson. A trophy was awarded to the youth of Gloucester church who took first place at the A2YF sports day, and Bristol Central youth received the trophy for winning this year’s Bible Bold competition. A new award was also presented – ‘Youth of the Year’ – and this was awarded to Estelle Harley-McDonald.
Whole-grain truth vs processed

by Annette Muller*

Does the forthcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI have any meaning, message or concern for Christians generally and Seventh-day Adventists in particular? If so, what might those concerns be? Twenty-eight years ago at the Previous Pope, John Paul II, alongside Dr Robert Flanagan, the President of Adventist Church in Europe, authored a remarkable observation. This was an event that had earth-shattering implications for those who believed in the Protestant Reformation and the current visit of Pope Benedict XVI was largely hostile and suspicious of the papacy. Christians and especially Seventh-day Adventists take a serious view of the truths of the Gospel which the papacy attacks — two in particular. Saving faith in Jesus as the only Saviour, there is no other. Obedience to God’s unalterable law of the Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath.

The Pope’s visit

by Pastor Patrick Boyle*

Does the forthcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI have any meaning, message or concern for Christians generally and Seventh-day Adventists in particular? If so, what might those concerns be? Twenty-eight years ago at thePrevious Pope, John Paul II, alongside Dr Robert Flanagan, the President of Adventist Church in Europe, authored a remarkable observation. This was an event that had earth-shattering implications for those who believed in the Protestant Reformation and the current visit of Pope Benedict XVI was largely hostile and suspicious of the papacy. Christians and especially Seventh-day Adventists take a serious view of the truths of the Gospel which the papacy attacks — two in particular. Saving faith in Jesus as the only Saviour, there is no other. Obedience to God’s unalterable law of the Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath.

The Pope’s visit

by Pastor Patrick Boyle*

Does the forthcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI have any meaning, message or concern for Christians generally and Seventh-day Adventists in particular? If so, what might those concerns be? Twenty-eight years ago at thePrevious Pope, John Paul II, alongside Dr Robert Flanagan, the President of Adventist Church in Europe, authored a remarkable observation. This was an event that had earth-shattering implications for those who believed in the Protestant Reformation and the current visit of Pope Benedict XVI was largely hostile and suspicious of the papacy. Christians and especially Seventh-day Adventists take a serious view of the truths of the Gospel which the papacy attacks — two in particular. Saving faith in Jesus as the only Saviour, there is no other. Obedience to God’s unalterable law of the Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath.

The Pope’s visit

by Pastor Patrick Boyle*

Does the forthcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI have any meaning, message or concern for Christians generally and Seventh-day Adventists in particular? If so, what might those concerns be? Twenty-eight years ago at thePrevious Pope, John Paul II, alongside Dr Robert Flanagan, the President of Adventist Church in Europe, authored a remarkable observation. This was an event that had earth-shattering implications for those who believed in the Protestant Reformation and the current visit of Pope Benedict XVI was largely hostile and suspicious of the papacy. Christians and especially Seventh-day Adventists take a serious view of the truths of the Gospel which the papacy attacks — two in particular. Saving faith in Jesus as the only Saviour, there is no other. Obedience to God’s unalterable law of the Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath.

The Pope’s visit

by Pastor Patrick Boyle*

Does the forthcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI have any meaning, message or concern for Christians generally and Seventh-day Adventists in particular? If so, what might those concerns be? Twenty-eight years ago at thePrevious Pope, John Paul II, alongside Dr Robert Flanagan, the President of Adventist Church in Europe, authored a remarkable observation. This was an event that had earth-shattering implications for those who believed in the Protestant Reformation and the current visit of Pope Benedict XVI was largely hostile and suspicious of the papacy. Christians and especially Seventh-day Adventists take a serious view of the truths of the Gospel which the papacy attacks — two in particular. Saving faith in Jesus as the only Saviour, there is no other. Obedience to God’s unalterable law of the Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath.

The Pope’s visit

by Pastor Patrick Boyle*

Does the forthcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI have any meaning, message or concern for Christians generally and Seventh-day Adventists in particular? If so, what might those concerns be? Twenty-eight years ago at thePrevious Pope, John Paul II, alongside Dr Robert Flanagan, the President of Adventist Church in Europe, authored a remarkable observation. This was an event that had earth-shattering implications for those who believed in the Protestant Reformation and the current visit of Pope Benedict XVI was largely hostile and suspicious of the papacy. Christians and especially Seventh-day Adventists take a serious view of the truths of the Gospel which the papacy attacks — two in particular. Saving faith in Jesus as the only Saviour, there is no other. Obedience to God’s unalterable law of the Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath.

The Pope’s visit

by Pastor Patrick Boyle*

Does the forthcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI have any meaning, message or concern for Christians generally and Seventh-day Adventists in particular? If so, what might those concerns be? Twenty-eight years ago at thePrevious Pope, John Paul II, alongside Dr Robert Flanagan, the President of Adventist Church in Europe, authored a remarkable observation. This was an event that had earth-shattering implications for those who believed in the Protestant Reformation and the current visit of Pope Benedict XVI was largely hostile and suspicious of the papacy. Christians and especially Seventh-day Adventists take a serious view of the truths of the Gospel which the papacy attacks — two in particular. Saving faith in Jesus as the only Saviour, there is no other. Obedience to God’s unalterable law of the Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath.

The Pope’s visit

by Pastor Patrick Boyle*

Does the forthcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI have any meaning, message or concern for Christians generally and Seventh-day Adventists in particular? If so, what might those concerns be? Twenty-eight years ago at thePrevious Pope, John Paul II, alongside Dr Robert Flanagan, the President of Adventist Church in Europe, authored a remarkable observation. This was an event that had earth-shattering implications for those who believed in the Protestant Reformation and the current visit of Pope Benedict XVI was largely hostile and suspicious of the papacy. Christians and especially Seventh-day Adventists take a serious view of the truths of the Gospel which the papacy attacks — two in particular. Saving faith in Jesus as the only Saviour, there is no other. Obedience to God’s unalterable law of the Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath.

The Pope’s visit

by Pastor Patrick Boyle*

Does the forthcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI have any meaning, message or concern for Christians generally and Seventh-day Adventists in particular? If so, what might those concerns be? Twenty-eight years ago at thePrevious Pope, John Paul II, alongside Dr Robert Flanagan, the President of Adventist Church in Europe, authored a remarkable observation. This was an event that had earth-shattering implications for those who believed in the Protestant Reformation and the current visit of Pope Benedict XVI was largely hostile and suspicious of the papacy. Christians and especially Seventh-day Adventists take a serious view of the truths of the Gospel which the papacy attacks — two in particular. Saving faith in Jesus as the only Saviour, there is no other. Obedience to God’s unalterable law of the Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath.

The Pope’s visit

by Pastor Patrick Boyle*

Does the forthcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI have any meaning, message or concern for Christians generally and Seventh-day Adventists in particular? If so, what might those concerns be? Twenty-eight years ago at thePrevious Pope, John Paul II, alongside Dr Robert Flanagan, the President of Adventist Church in Europe, authored a remarkable observation. This was an event that had earth-shattering implications for those who believed in the Protestant Reformation and the current visit of Pope Benedict XVI was largely hostile and suspicious of the papacy. Christians and especially Seventh-day Adventists take a serious view of the truths of the Gospel which the papacy attacks — two in particular. Saving faith in Jesus as the only Saviour, there is no other. Obedience to God’s unalterable law of the Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath.

The Pope’s visit

by Pastor Patrick Boyle*

Does the forthcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI have any meaning, message or concern for Christians generally and Seventh-day Adventists in particular? If so, what might those concerns be? Twenty-eight years ago at thePrevious Pope, John Paul II, alongside Dr Robert Flanagan, the President of Adventist Church in Europe, authored a remarkable observation. This was an event that had earth-shattering implications for those who believed in the Protestant Reformation and the current visit of Pope Benedict XVI was largely hostile and suspicious of the papacy. Christians and especially Seventh-day Adventists take a serious view of the truths of the Gospel which the papacy attacks — two in particular. Saving faith in Jesus as the only Saviour, there is no other. Obedience to God’s unalterable law of the Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath.

The Pope’s visit

by Pastor Patrick Boyle*

Does the forthcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI have any meaning, message or concern for Christians generally and Seventh-day Adventists in particular? If so, what might those concerns be? Twenty-eight years ago at thePrevious Pope, John Paul II, alongside Dr Robert Flanagan, the President of Adventist Church in Europe, authored a remarkable observation. This was an event that had earth-shattering implications for those who believed in the Protestant Reformation and the current visit of Pope Benedict XVI was largely hostile and suspicious of the papacy. Christians and especially Seventh-day Adventists take a serious view of the truths of the Gospel which the papacy attacks — two in particular. Saving faith in Jesus as the only Saviour, there is no other. Obedience to God’s unalterable law of the Commandments, including the seventh-day Sabbath.
Dear Christian Stars!

Easter is the time of year when we remember how and why Jesus died on the Cross. The good news is that he rose from the grave and that he is alive! Because Jesus died for our sins, God has promised us new life, too. We hope you will enjoy the activities and puzzles this month. In all your fun and ‘making’, remember that our happiness, hope and joy come from a loving and forgiving God.

Tell the Easter story in the kitchen!

Did you know that simnel cake is a light fruit cake covered in marzipan and eaten at Easter in Great Britain and some other countries? A layer of marzipan is placed on the top of the cake, and eleven marzipan balls are placed around the edges. The eleven balls represent the true disciples of Jesus; Judas is left out because he betrayed Jesus. In some variations Jesus is represented by a ball placed in the centre. If you do not want to bake the cake, you could decorate a shop-bought one. Serve the cake at a special family meal. You could use this time to thank Jesus for promising to give you new life.

Prayer idea

Here is something you can do next time you have an apple. Guess how many seeds it may contain, cut it open and count all the seeds and see if you are right. If you planted one of these seeds in your garden would it grow an orange tree? Of course not, apple trees come from apple seeds. To test this, plant some seeds and see what happens.

At Easter when Jesus rose from the dead and left the garden tomb he created a miracle much bigger than an apple tree producing oranges. He made it possible for boys and girls, men and women to grow from being spiteful and selfish into people who are caring and generous. Becoming such a person is the Easter miracle. All you have to do is ask Jesus to create you into the new person. Today and every day you will experience him growing good thoughts and actions in your new life.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Zipporeah Walker from Inverness-shire in Scotland for winning the book prize for her beautiful drawings of Hannah and Samuel from the January issue.

Find the mystery picture

Use the colours to fill in the picture. What does the important Christian symbol mean to you?

Finding the path to Easter

There are many words that help us remember Jesus’ resurrection. In each grid you will find a set of words. The word that appears at the bottom of each grid is related to Easter. You can find the ‘path’ to the Easter word by changing one letter in each word, working your way to the bottom. The first one has been done for you. See above.
Seven young men from Holloway church made history at the launch of Islington’s Black History Month. Hidden Histories on Sabbath 26 September. The purpose of the weekend event organised by Islington Borough Council was to bring awareness of the achievements made by black people since people of African descent began to settle in Britain in the 1600s. Although the 500-strong audience of families and young people were amazed with the testimonies of local heroes who had contributed to the arts and heritage of the local area, the audience spoke with their feet when they lined up in front of the stall manned by these seven young men.

The young men aged 16-20 years of age were providing vascular risk (blood pressure) assessments and handing out FOCUS magazines and CDs entitled ‘Understanding Diabetes’. Working in partnership with the seven young men was Hope UK, the drug education charity that offers drug awareness sessions for children, young people and their parents. The Jamessons, a husband and wife team, were the drug educators representing Hope UK. The two ministries complemented one another; parents and young people were encouraged to make healthier lifestyle choices for themselves and were advised to seek further medical assistance in most cases.

Local dignitaries served by the young men included Alex Pascoal OBE, co-founder of The Voice newspaper, Leria Kabgara (Islington Council’s Assistant Chief Executive) and Councillor Catherine West. The supervision was on hand to support the young men where necessary in delivering the health message. Catherine West stated: ‘Their presentation was professional and friendly and they communicated the healthy living message very effectively. I hope they have further opportunities to be involved in health promotion work.’

Among the young men are students of Sports Science and undergraduates in Chemistry and so they found a way to combine their interests with their ministry. As Jan Paulsen, GC president, states, ‘The risk of not trusting our young people is far greater. For if we don’t trust them on some level, they will simply walk away.’

The afternoon’s sermon was presented by Pastor Adam Ramidi who reminded the candidates what it means to be born again. After the baptism an altar call saw more of our young people take all-important steps to a life enveloped in the love of Christ.

On Sunday we held our second annual Youth Talent Explosion where we were blessed with special items by our Ladywood talent with support from other friends from around the West Midlands. The highlight of the programme was the short play, written and performed by the young men of Ladywood who, as usual, entertained the audience immensely. The concert helped to raise more essential funds for our church building project so we can continue to renovate the building we have recently purchased in Ladywood.

London Norwegian church baptism

Sabbath 30 January was a blessing for our church as five people gave their lives to Jesus through baptism.

We were blessed with a full church of members and visitors from different parts of Europe and different religions, most of them relatives and friends of the baptismal candidates.

The time was full of joy and hope for all of us from our mixed choir and male voice choir, and we had poems and a touching sermon from Pastor Sorin Petrot.

Following the baptism Pastor Petrot presented the new brothers and sisters to the congregation so they could be welcomed fully into the church fellowship. There was also a family who was welcomed with the other five. They were baptised in the SDA Reform Movement but wanted to become members of our church.

The day ended with a fellowship lunch to which everyone was invited.

Mission 2 Zimbabwe 2010

Mission 2 Zimbabwe is a small team of members from the Willesden church. It was launched in 2008 to bring aid to Gweru, a city near the centre of Zimbabwe with a population of 137,000. Gweru has been adversely affected by the crises currently plaguing Zimbabwe after the contested elections. A place now riddled with poverty, disease, poor housing and education is desperately in need of support.

The plan of the mission was to make annual visits to Zimbabwe to provide humanitarian and spiritual services. The projects include the completion of church buildings, the construction of homes, schools, libraries, the provision of health checks, books, food, clothing and, most importantly, the sharing of the Gospel.

The mission is sincerely grateful to all the kind donors and supporters who have contributed to its success to date and continues to invite all to encourage all forms of support. Our fundraising project is ongoing, through cake (food) sales at various church events and through businesses and personal gifts and donations.

On 14 February a banquet took place at the John Loughborough School. For regular updates on other fundraising events and the progress of the mission, please visit the website: www.mission2Zimbabwe.co.uk.

Reach out and change someone’s life today!

Adventists and Methodists dialogue

On Thursday evening 28 January, three Adventist ministers, along with members of the Cardiff African Fellowship, met with the minister and members of the ST Andrews Church in Bryncoch, Cardiff. The Cardiff African Fellowship has been renting the ST Andrews church for nearly six months now, and relations with the Methodist congregation have been very good.

The meeting was initiated and chaired by the Revd Philip Drake, who pastors two Methodist congregations in Cardiff. Proceedings began with Welsh mission president Pastor John Surridge giving a twenty-minute presentation on the Seventh-day Adventist Church, using video clips and photographs of Adventist work around the world. Pastor Surridge highlighted the Church’s size and exceptional growth rate but also acknowledged the major contribution that Methodism has made to the development of the Adventist Church, particularly in its early years. He pointed out that the Adventist stand on temperance and gambling was identical to the position that Methodists originally held and that the Adventist tradition of holding quarterly communion services can be traced back to the days when horse riding Methodist preachers often took three months to visit every church in their circuit.

In his presentation the Revd Drake spoke about the history of the Methodist Church and in particular the story of the two brothers, John and Charles Wesley. John Wesley’s emphasis on personal holiness and the need for order in church work and worship is still a guiding influence in both Methodism and Adventism, and the hymns of Charles Wesley are familiar to Christians of many denominations.

New trustees

ADRA-UK is looking for new trustees who would be willing to help the charity to cherish towards the future. They will need to be a UK resident and have:

• Commitment to the organisation and its values.
• Understanding and acceptance of the legal, financial, regulatory and operational requirements of a trusteeship.
• Some experience of international development work.
• Good independent judgement and willingness to speak their mind.
• Willingness to devote the necessary time and effort.

If you are interested, please visit our website at http://adra.org.uk or email authorities@adra.org.uk for an application pack.
Exploring prophecy in Bury

From 10 September through to 11 October last year, four nights a week and most Sabbath mornings, Bury was the place to be as the Area co-ordinator, Rose Gomez, was more than satisfied with the results of over a year’s planning and preparation for the event. In commenting upon the seminar series, Rose said: ‘The membership of Area 2 have come together as labourers in the harvest and worked tirelessly. We are thankful to God for every home that has been visited prior to and during the seminar, every guest who attended, the requests for baptism and for further Bible studies in preparation for baptism.’ Extensive groundwork in Bury had been done in advance through distribution of gift cards offering Bible studies, and area coordinators were ever ready to fill in any vacancies that arose during the seminar. A two-day seminar for churches in the north-west (Area 2) biannual outreach programme. Conference evangelist Pastor Adam Ramdin enthralled and captivated a local audience as he unfolded mysteries encapsulated in the prophetic books of the Bible. The Buhlton Hotel provided the venue for the evening presentations, and Fishpool community church hosted the Sabbath morning presentations. When the final presentation was over, and the dust had settled, attendance statistics revealed that more than 120 visitors had first taste of Adventist truths, and – following the appeals – the two people had requested baptism.

The audience, comprising Adventists and visitors from the community, witnessed the Bible opening before them as the keys to unlock the code of Revelation turned to clearly reveal our day in Bible prophecy. Most visitors had never seen the truth of the Bible like before as various prophetic symbols, shrouded in symbolism and strange imagery, became clear and God’s Word was revealed.

The audio-visual presentations, including Prophecies of Hope graphic cards, Amazing Facts video clips, and excellent preaching, combined to retain an audience night after night. They were enjoying it so much that several visiting Christians preferred to be in Bury rather than attending their own church services. Prophecy had come to Bury with power, and issues such as the ‘Mark of the Beast’, ‘War in Heaven’ and ‘Prophecy’s Superpowers’ were espoused with clarity and force. Although Pastor Adam taught with authority, his winsome style won over seekers after truth.

Selly Park, Birmingham, was the venue for a two-week campaign (5-19 September) promoted by the Bournville church. A tent seating three hundred was rented and pitched near the road where it was very prominent and could be seen by passers-by. Our local pastor, Samuel Appiah, was the speaker for the two-week period. Prior to the campaign, the church members, ATS and Pathfinders advertised in the local newspapers and billboard signs at prominent locations.

However, for all the planning and prayer that went into the preparation process, the production could not have been realised without the dedication of hard-working teams of volunteers from various churches in the Area to lend a hand. Although hosted by Pastor Jeff Cousins and presented by Pastor Adam Ramdin, there were more than fifty people involved in the background to make the seminar a reality. Prominent among these were the children’s activity leaders and team, who taught the children the love of Jesus meeting after meeting. Other volunteers included sound and video technicians, the catering team who provided a stunning assortment of fresh fruit for all, row hosts, ushers, greeters, the registration and reception teams, deacons, and the prayer team who uplifted the seminar in prayer at every meeting. THE MESSANGER

Is evolution ‘scientific fact’?

A Conservative government would not allow schools that teach Creationism, said Michael Gove MP, the shadow schools secretary.

The rather alarming statement was made on BBC’s Andrew Marr programme on Sunday 14 February. He went on to say that an inspection regime would be crucial in identifying such schools.

‘To my mind you cannot have a school which teaches Creationism,’ wrote the Tory spokesman, before continuing. ‘One thing that we would make absolutely clear is that you cannot have schools that are set up which teach people things which are clearly at variance with what we know to be scientific fact.’

By contrast with the shadow minister’s intolerant view, an Ipsos Mori opinion survey found that 54% of Britons agreed with the view: ‘Evolutionary theories should be taught in schools with equal time to the competing theories.’

There are at least 700 professors of science and medicine around the world who have signed up to say they question evolution. So the “facts” are not as cut and dried as he seems to think. Education is supposed to teach children to think, not just what to think. It would be quite wrong to brainwash children with the plainly untrue idea that there is no controversy over evolution.

Our educational system should be allowed to freedom to question current theories, especially highly speculative scenarios about what happened to have happened before the dawn of history. It is high time our cultural leaders realised that the “fact” of evolution is only a “fact” when seen through the distortionary filter of the new atheists and their unwitting theistic evolutionary bedfellows.’

Thanksgiving service

There will be a thanksgiving service at Kingstanding church to mark the occasion of becoming a company.

We would like all who have been a part of our history to come and fellowship with us on Sabbath 13 March at 9.45am.

Looking forward to seeing you.

The Buhlton Country Park Hotel
Walsh Road
Birmingham B64 9NU

For information call 07903 317833
www.buhltoncountryparkhotel.co.uk

FREE PROPHECY SEMINAR
Our Day in Bible Prophecy
Beginning Thursday 10 September at 7:00 p.m.
Behind prison bars

On a cold, wet, dark Sunday morning when most of us were in bed, four women brazenly the storm to spread the Gospel of Jesus at Eastwood Park Women’s Prison in south Gloucestershire. The service was conducted with a lively song service which included ‘Weeping may endure for the night and I am going to lay down my bones.’ The group sang a testimony song, ‘When I look back over my life’, before Anne Marie Angus gave us her powerful testimony about her complete healing from her brain tumour. The inmates erupted with applause after hearing what God had done for Anne Marie. Sister Campbell spoke about the woman at the well. Angela Victor sang a solo entitled ‘He came looking for me’. The ladies loved it and were singing and swayng to the choir.

Bristol’s newly appointed minister, Pastor Measenger, with a small team in January braved the snow and icy conditions to attend Hartford-Meriden. Our older William Achia gave a brief talk aptly titled ‘Braving the Elements’. The prisoners received it well and came up to thank William for the message.

Winnie Brown sang for us ‘God par them in the chapel, which he was more than happy to do. The other inmates hastily wrote their names on pieces of paper for us to pray for their needs when we meet with other church members at Bethel prayer band.

Sidney Samuel Donaldson

15 October 1930-18 October 2009

The Huddersfield church is sad to report the loss of one of its senior members, Sidney was born in Pleasant Spring, St Andrew, Jamaica, on 15 October 1930. His parents Richard and Ruth had nine sons and six daughters. Sidney was their third child.

Sidney came to the UK in August 1959, and united his life in marriage to Ruby on 10 June 1961. Their marriage was blessed with four sons, Patrick, Rohan, Paul and Colin. Sidney suffered his first stroke some twenty years ago, but he carried on working until ill health brought on early retirement at 62. It was during the ministry of Pastor D. Raftery that Sidney and his wife Ruby joined the Huddersfield church in the late 1990s. It was therefore appropriate that Pastor Raftery, now director of the VOP correspondence school in Warrington, was invited back together to finish the task, so we can go home soon.

Pastor Ann will be the pastor of the Stoke Newington and Stratford churches and the Branch Sabbath School in Rainham.

A new beginning

A new beginning? That was the title of the sermon preached in Stratford church on Sabbath 2 January, the day our new pastor was introduced to us.

Pastor Terry Messenger introduced Pastor Michael Anin and his family to Stratford church and described him as an honest, trustworthy, hard-working man who loves Jesus.

Pastor Anin’s message of hope to the church was: ‘Church, are you fed up with this World? Are you ready to go home?’ Let us work together for a new beginning!

Connie Target

2-4 April 2010

St John’s Hotel Bournemouth

Connie Target lit up our lives unconventionally and with colour. She never grew old in her mind and heart, just her body. She became a bit of a legend in her time – and enjoyed it!

Through Connie came from an unconventional family, she was very much her own woman anyway. Her upbringing in Australia, to which the Richards family had emigrated, did nothing to dampen her innate freedom of spirit. Nor did their becoming Seventh-day Adventists while ‘down under’, despite Connie’s disappointment at discovering she would never go to dances when grown-up, a cherished childhood dream.

When Richards’s reason for becoming a student at Newbold College like her contemporaries, she studied hard, worked even harder to earn her fees, which included canvassing, and also managed to have a social life. After Connie graduated in 1942, she worked as a Bible instructor for some years.

As a married couple, Connie and George Target were larger than life, fluctuations of their widely differing talents and laurel work for a decade in the library or classroom, rediscovered old friends and made new ones from among the college staff, church members, and the local art group in Wokingham. Connie also experienced the blessing of having the kindest and best next-door neighbour, Jean, whom she trusted and valued.

Connie was creative, artistic, dedicated and painstaking in all she undertook – art, crafts, pottery, sculpture, needlework, flowers and book-binding. She certainly had a touch of the theatrical, too – a storyteller par excellence and a rhythm of words. She was beautiful, thick, curly hair, bright sparkly eyes, and radiant smile. She created a sense of occasion wherever she went with her stylish and imaginative clothing in beautiful fabrics that she would not wear without patterns, and wear with panache. She knew a pair of exquisite shoes when she saw them!

Connie had her own ideas, liked her space, chose her distance, and guarded her cheek against people who wanted to kiss her without being invited to! Questioning and unwilling to accept easy answers, Connie shared the challenges of a new culture with excitement.

For almost forty years Ron served as a member of the board of Roundwood Health Spa. He served, for many decades, as head deacon and treasurer of both the Glawow and Crief churches, and his faithful service will be greatly missed.

Family and church members were shocked to learn of Ron’s totally unexpected fatal heart attack on 2 January, given that he had been working in the church on project planning the day before he died. The funeral service was conducted at the Crief Adventist church by Pastors Bob Rodd, Bernie Henderson and the writer, followed by burial at Crief Cemetery where Ron rests until the Lord calls him to life everlasting.

Dorothy and the family gratefully thank all the many friends who sent cards and letters. Your prayers and support are so very much appreciated.

Obituaries

Lamont Ronald Logan

15 August 1933-21 January 2010

It is with great sadness that we report the sudden decease of Ronald Logan who has been one of the pillars of the Adventist Church in Scotland for many decades.

Ron was the youngest of six sons, born to George and Marion Logan. Three of these brothers – Herbert, Donald and Eric became church ministers, and served the Church effectively not only in Britain and Ireland, but also on the African and North American continents.

When Ronald Logan purchased a copy of the Present Truth magazine ninety years ago, nobody realised the positive impact it would have on hundreds of lives in the course of time.

Ron left school at a young age in order to assist in his father’s business. He then attended Newbold College in the early 1950s and commenced employment at the Vice of Prophecy on Stornorour Park. He sang baritone in the King’s Heralds Quartet which featured in the church’s weekly broadcasts from Radio Luxembourg. This musical group also made records and sang at evangelistic campaigns throughout the country, bringing great blessings to the large audiences which attended such meetings in those days.

While at Newbold, Ron met and then married Dorothy Farrer from Macaelpad, in 1959 they moved back to Scotland where they were blessed with four children – Christine, Stephen, Malcolm and Andrew. All of them, together with their spouses, are members of the Crief church.

Dorothy talked of how she would consider her husband to be a valuable businessman, successfully operating health food and grain stores in Paisley and a horticultural nursery in Bridge of Weir. He then moved into house building. On retirement, he moved to Mullhithe near Crief, where he built his own home, together with two adjacent properties which were occupied by members of the family.

For almost forty years Ron served as a member of the board of Roundwood Health Spa. He served, for many decades, as head deacon and treasurer of both the Glawow and Crief churches, and his faithful service will be greatly missed.

Family and church members were shocked to learn of Ron’s totally unexpected fatal heart attack on 2 January, given that he had been working in the church on project planning the day before he died. The funeral service was conducted at the Crief Adventist church by Pastors Bob Rodd, Bernie Henderson and the writer, followed by burial at Crief Cemetery where Ron rests until the Lord calls him to life everlasting.

Laurence and Joanna Target, family from the Potteries, and friends of all ages. Pastor Patrick Johnson conducted the ... behind her home in Wokingham. Laurence arranged a most moving memorial service at StPaul’s, which included Fauré’s Requiem, performed by singers and organist. Connie Target enriched many lives memorably. cynthia benz
The Stanborough Press will have a 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful 

Vigorous discussion at elders' retreat 

by Pastors Aristotle Vontzalidis and 

Patience Mangoro gave a meaningful