Dr Andrea Luxton, one-time BUC Education director, Stanborough School head teacher and Newbold principal, has been appointed provost of Andrews University.

Dr Luxton, one of the most gifted Adventist scholars produced by Britain, is, however, so much more than a scholar. In Britain, at the General Conference Education department, and as president of Canadian Adventist University, Andrea has been known for her excellent people skills and for her wonderfully warm, rounded and inclusive personality. She is a disarmingly brilliant communicator.

Announcing Andrea’s appointment on 2 March, Niels-Erik Andreasen, Andrews University’s president, said, ‘Andrea Luxton has many years of experience in higher education.’ Adding, ‘I believe she will bring extraordinary gifts to the provost position at Andrews.’

‘Andrea is the second woman to hold the provost position,’ reported Spectrum. ‘She replaces Bill Richardson who has served in that position after the university’s previous provost, Dr Heather Knight, became president of Pacific Union College.’

Spectrum identifies Englishman Dr Roy E. Graham as a person who served as Andrews provost until his death in 1984.

Andrea was the daughter of Ronald and Maureen Luxton, both of whom taught at Stanborough School during the years in which she was a pupil there. During her headship of Stanborough School, the years in which she was the head of the school, her parents became her teaching colleagues. Those did not include her parents, however. Her father had died and her mother became an associate director of education at the General Conference. During that time Andrea was the head of the English department at Stanborough School.

Dr Luxton became chair of the English department at Newbold College in 1979, when it became an associate college of the University of London. Director of the General Conference Education department, Dr Hugh Dunton, then became its first head teacher. During the 1991 Harrogate session, she was elected Education and Sabbath School director of the British Union. In 1993 she returned to Stanborough School as head teacher, until becoming principal of Newbold College in 1997. In 2001 she became an associate director of the General Conference Education department, before becoming its first vice-president.

Prior to commencing her doctoral studies in 1982, Andrea had taught English and speech at Stanborough School for three years. That meant that a number of those who had taught Andrea became her teaching colleagues. Those did not include her parents, however. Her father had died and her mother became an associate director of the General Conference Education department, a position she held for three years before becoming an associate director herself.

During her years at the school, she was a pupil there. During her headship of Stanborough School, the years in which she was the head of the school, her parents became her teaching colleagues. Those did not include her parents, however. Her father had died and her mother became an associate director of the General Conference Education department. During her years at the school, she was a pupil there. During her headship of Stanborough School, the years in which she was the head of the school, her parents became her teaching colleagues.
About this. In Jesus’ day, and for hundreds of years after wards, the Roman Empire was in control, and the ballot box had certainly not even been dreamed of at that time! Are we as Adventists to be interested in church and spiritual matters and let the affairs of state pass us by? I don’t think so, although I would affirm that our primary goal is to prepare people for the return of Christ. On more than one occasion, the apostle Paul told Christians to make the most of the opportunities that presented themselves:

‘Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.’ Colossians 4:5.

The context of that statement was about sharing the good news of Christ. The principle is true, that opportunities come our way, and they are not to be wasted. Life is dynamic, constantly changing. We have the chance to influence events and people. We may not change the world by casting a vote, but it is an opportunity not to be missed, to have our say in what kind of government we want. If enough of us keep voting according to our conscience, governments will listen, especially in a situation like this, where, apparently, the Christian vote can make a difference.

There’s a natural disaster. Mud slide. Flood. Earthquake. Hurricane. Or there’s an incredibly horrible example of human barbarousness.

Readers ask questions. Some ask the ‘Why?’ question. ‘What can I do to help?’ That has to be the right question for anyone on the Jesus trail, hasn’t it? The late David Balderstone asked that question and spent much of his life responding to the answer.

For everyone who asks the ‘What?’ question, there are at least two who ask the ‘Why?’ question.

Behind that question is the assumption that somewhere there is a formula of words which explains why God permitted the disaster or barbarity. For preference those who ask the ‘Why?’ question would like the formula of words to come from Scripture, and to form the basis of an argument they can dish out to others.

The Bible says astonishingly little in answer to ‘Why suffering?’ It concerns itself far more with the mastery than the mystery of suffering.

Is that because when the tsunami strikes, the earthquake shakes, and the levies give way and let in the flood, the real reason for some of the most important suffering is not that somewhere there is a formula of words to ‘explain’ the catastrophe? Is it because what is needed is help and help is more likely to come from those who have the ‘recent experience’? The second birth, spiritual growth process is meant to condition Christians to ask ‘What?’ Those who ask ‘What?’ are the only ones of use to God – or even valuable in a crisis. Save the ‘Why?’ question for long winter evenings.

Jesus said (John 13:7), ‘What I do thou knowest not: but thou shalt know hereafter.’ What I take from that is that the full ‘Why?’ answer is only revealed when we stand before God’s throne. Then not only shall we be shown the full picture, we shall have the mental capacity to grasp it. Until then, there are always going to be more questions than answers.

Glib responses when the crisis impacts – ‘This is the will of God’, ‘It just shows that these are the last days’, and ‘They had it coming’ – hover around blasphemy, rather than unloving attitude and simply unfeeling.

Our response to crisis is to trust and to help.

What follows is meant to help us trust while we help. Not to give us the basis for glib pronouncements. Let’s start with the role of Government.

In Jesus’ day, and for hundreds of years after wards, the Roman Empire was in control, and the ballot box had certainly not even been dreamed of at that time! Are we as Adventists to be interested in church and spiritual matters and let the affairs of state pass us by? I don’t think so, although I would affirm that our primary goal is to prepare people for the return of Christ. On more than one occasion, the apostle Paul told Christians to make the most of the opportunities that presented themselves:

‘Be wise in the way you act towards outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.’ Colossians 4:5.

The context of that statement was about sharing the good news of Christ. The principle is true, that opportunities come our way, and they are not to be wasted. Life is dynamic, constantly changing. We have the chance to influence events and people. We may not change the world by casting a vote, but it is an opportunity not to be missed, to have our say in what kind of government we want. If enough of us keep voting according to our conscience, governments will listen, especially in a situation like this, where, apparently, the Christian vote can make a difference.
God and Government

Should Christians vote in the General Election? Does a single vote matter? by Patrick Boyle*

S
omeone said (I wish I knew who) a couple of years ago: “Two percent of people change the world. Eight percent of people are noticeable. Ninety percent of people are not aware change is taking place.” True or false? It would be a difficult task for someone who was unaware of the changed relationship which exists today between Christianity and British society. People may have faith in God and lead happy lives, but government policy which is against the church may be acceptable or even desirable if it brings stability to a society which is otherwise in disarray or has reached a stagnant point.

The Nadia Ewedia incident is a case in point. Nadia was a Christian woman who was removed from her post as a police officer because she wore a headscarf. She fought the case and eventually won. This case brought to the surface the issue of government awareness of religious beliefs. It is a case that shows how the church should work to create government awareness of biblical principles. They lay out in print a series of relevant Christian ideas to government, which, if the government implement them, would improve the quality of life for society as a whole. The church would allow the church to contribute to the creation of justice and righteousness in the life of the nation.

CREATE, School of Food & Health CIC

In partnership with

BUC Health Ministries

Food for Mood

Transition Nutrition

Interactive seminar and workshop day

on 23 May

9.30am–12.30pm

at Stanborough Community Centre (parking available)

609 St Albans Road, Watford, WD25 9JL

This workshop is designed to help people understand the way food, diet and lifestyle can impact the way they feel. We will look at the key factors that can affect our moods and feelings, and show how food choices, eating habits and lifestyle can be modified to support the body and improve wellbeing. Our talks will include good food for mood demonstrations and lots of practical ideas to help you make the step-by-step changes in your life.

The day will include seminar, cookery workshops and interactive learning.

Cost: £35 – booking in advance only

Concessions for OAP, full-time students and unemployed (please enquire)

Email: createnutrition@gmail.com

or contact Angelette on 07599 198848

Don’t be afraid of Gift Aid. Why not sign up today!

* Pastor Boyle was raised in Dublin, educated at Newbold and Andrews and was a successful pastor and evangelist in Ireland and the African continent. In 1985 he moved to the British Isles, the African continent and North America.

Elders’ weekend: MAORING ON MINORS

Dear Editor

As a lifelong Adventist, I was horrified to read the article in Messenger 5 March regarding an elders’ retreat. It saddens me to read that members are still debating old-fashioned issues such as the wearing of jewellery, female elders and the dedication of babies born out of wedlock. Why aren’t we concentrating on making our children and youth feel loved and accepted so that they feel they have a spiritual home to come to, whatever they do?

Why are we going out into our communities and loving people – whoever they are – as Jesus did? Why don’t we concentrate on making our children feel loved and accepted so that they feel they have a spiritual home to come to, whatever they do?

As for lady elders, I think this is an issue for each congregation to decide for themselves. I know this happens from personal experience.

Lyn Morris

ELDERS’ WEEKEND: MAORING ON MINORS
and China. For the Seventh-day Adventist Church, this area still represents the least reached area of the world. In recent years, new opportunities have opened in some of these regions. The newly opened Global Mission pioneer school in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan, trains dozens of people … and unreached people groups. Encouraged by the success of the Tokmok School, other missions are now working on opening their own Global Mission pioneer schools.

No one knows how long it will be before these opportunities slip away. Or if the decisions we make today will determine if doors stay open.

On Sabbath 10 April your gift will help light a path of hope along these ancient trade routes through education, media and literature, Global Mission pioneers, health ministries, and support of Adventist Mission.

STOP International

www.stop-intl.org.uk

is a registered charity that seeks to help or orphaned and abandoned children by giving them a safe place to live, food to eat, an education — things we all take for granted. Orphans and abandoned children feature at the bottom of life’s ladder — exploited, ridiculed, isolated — with yet full of potential. It’s hard to imagine anything worse. But for these children what STOP does is life-changing. Its latest project is to open a vocational training facility that will offer carpentry, building, sewing and horticulture diplomas and give those orphans aged 16 and over the chance to learn a trade and earn a living. Each step as a government in central Asia demolished the church where some eighty Adventists were meeting each Sabbath. The crumbling debris seemed to extinguish the last fragile flicker of their long-cherished dreams. From the darkness of despair came a light of hope. A few years ago, this same government granted the Seventh-day Adventist Church official recognition. Resolve rekindled, church members began renewed efforts to reach hearts in this challenging region — a region that was once an integral part of a network of trade routes.

Centuries ago, merchants made the perilous over-land journey between the trading centres of Europe to the Orient. Silks, spices and other goods flowed over-land — the danger of the journey offset by the high price these goods commanded. Along with trade goods, these travelling merchants opened the world to an exchange of ideas, technology and culture.

This year the Seventh-day Adventist Church is collecting a special offering called Lighting a Path of Hope. Every five years, the Church chooses a special project or emphasis to be supported by the General Conference Session offering. In the months leading up to the session, Adventists around the world are given an opportunity to give to that special offering. In the past, the offering has helped establish the Adventist World Radio station in Guam, focused attention on the 10/40 Window, and helped establish work in major cities of the world.

The 2010 General Conference Session offering will focus on territories covered by ancient trade routes through the Middle East, central Asia, southern Asia and China. For the Seventh-day Adventist Church, this area still represents the least reached area of the world. In recent years, new opportunities have opened in some of these regions. The newly opened Global Mission pioneer school in Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan, trains dozens of people each year from Southern Asia and sends them to unentered territories and unreached people groups. Encouraged by the success of the Tokmok School, other missions are now working on opening their own Global Mission pioneer schools.

No one knows how long it will be before these opportunities slip away. Or if the decisions we make today will determine if doors stay open. On Sabbath 10 April your gift will help light a path of hope along these ancient trade routes through education, media and literature, Global Mission pioneers, health ministries, and humanitarian care. Thank you for your prayers and support of Adventist Mission.

For more information visit www.AdventistsMission.org.

Wixiherite de Kish, Paul and Matt want to exploit this to raise funds for the latest STOP International project. They are prepared to train whatever the weather (and in Britain we get lots of weather) for months and months, just so they can give themselves a chance to complete the 26 mile and 385 yard course. They feel so passionate about helping children who cannot help themselves that they are prepared to face pain, blisters, dehydration, more pain, achy legs, aching everything and yet more pain! You can sponsor Kish and Paul at the following links

www.justgiving.com/Kish-Poddar-for-STOP


Paul, Kish and Matt take around London will mean more money raised and another child given a better future.

On 25 April please pray for Kish, Paul and Matt that they complete the course, please pray that they raise substantial funds from their efforts and please pray for the children who will benefit. If you are watching on TV please keep an eye out for them and if you are in London watching, please give them a cheer. Prayers, cheers and donations — what a powerful combination to make a difference!
Dear Christian Stars!

Meet Peter. Peter was the best known of all the disciples because he was bold and courageous. Peter wasn’t always that way, though. Do you remember the time at Jesus’ trial when Peter tried to pretend that he didn’t have a clue who Jesus was? It was only when he heard the cock crow for the third time that Peter realised he had let his best friend down very badly. He was so ashamed of himself that he turned things around completely. From that time on he stood up for the right, he was honest and brave. Are you sometimes embarrassed to stand up for the right, to be honest and brave? Ask God to give you the courage of Peter and to help you change from being scared to brave. We hope you will enjoy all the ‘Peter’ puzzles and activities on the Stars page this month.

The Christian fish symbol

Between the first and third centuries, Christians started using the Greek word for ‘fish’ as an anagram for ‘Jesus Christ God’s Son, Saviour’. After Jesus ascended to Heaven, the Christian Church had grown very quickly, and it did not take long before the Romans and Jews started persecuting them. Because their lives were in danger, Christians had to meet in secret. When two strangers met and they thought they might both be Christians, one would draw the upper half of the fish symbol in the ground. If the other person was a Christian, he would add the bottom half and complete the drawing of the fish.

The fish outline is very easy to draw. With just two strokes, it could be drawn quickly.

Work out what Jesus said to Peter by writing inside the fish the jumbled words so that the sentence makes sense.

Try to make this fun moving picture:

You will need:
- Paper plate or draw round a plate on some sturdy card and then cut it out
- 1 lolly stick
- Felt tip pens, crayons, or coloured pencils
- Scissors
- Glue

What you do:
- Draw the sea, sky and a boat on the plate. (Remember to put sails on the boat and Jesus standing in it.)
- Draw Peter on another piece of paper. (Make sure to make him the right size for your picture!) Colour it in and then use scissors to cut out the shape.
- Cut a horizontal slit in the sea and make it wide enough for Peter to fit through the slit.
- Glue ‘Peter’ onto the lolly stick and push it through the slit.
- When Peter looks at Jesus make him walk on the water. As you tell how Peter started to feel proud of himself, pull the lolly stick down and watch Peter disappear under the water.

A prayer idea:

Try this out. You will be very surprised at what happens. Use two sheets of A4 paper. On one write ‘Gift of forgiveness’, on the other ‘Gift of the Holy Spirit’. With one hand hold one sheet at the top and the other sheet at the top in the other hand. Hold them 15 centimetres apart and level with your chin. Now, give a good blow down between the two sheets of paper. It is quite amazing to see the paper change direction because of the power of the wind you blew. Peter saw a change in his life when he allowed the Holy Spirit to change the direction of his life. In Matthew 26:69-75 you read how Peter was a coward and denied knowing Jesus. The miracle of Jesus forgiving him and giving him the gift of the Holy Spirit was a message he shared all the rest of his life. Now is a good time to pray, it is as easy as blowing into the pieces of paper. Thank Jesus for forgiving you and for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Like Peter, you will be able to tell others that Jesus is your friend.

Anne Pilmoor
& Heather Haworth

Feedback from children who visit Christian Stars Children’s pages – or from their parents – is welcome. The address is children@adventist.org.uk. Heather Haworth, Children’s Ministries director, BUC
Adventist-Muslim relations

Just twelve months ago the Adventist Muslim Relations Department launched the ‘Encountering the World of Islam’ programme. This was the first time the AMR department of the South England Conference had initiated the training programme on an academic level. It was organised by the World Mission Institute in the USA. On the launch day, 17 May 2009, Pastor Peter Babarikah welcomed representatives from twenty-eight congregations, together with seven pastors and elders, in a classroom of fifty students. Steve Bell, director of intercultural studies, stressed that ‘to go into all the world and teach all nations’ included reaching the Muslim population.

In the afternoon session we were taught about Muhammad. We were given the first batch of homework, which involved thirty days of internet research and forty pages of course work.

Our second session started in June. To put the class in the right mindset, Danny Julie built a delicate balance on Genesis 1:1-3. The morning presentation was by Dr Usama Hassan, a scientist in Intelligence Science at Middlesex University and a very well-respected Imarn from Leytonstone. The very detailed study about Muhammad and expanded to the whole Islamic faith. John Bishop moderated a question period. There was only a handful of questions from the class who were shy of addressing an Imam. Some of the answers the Imam gave opened up our minds to a new level. We began to think in terms of both of a common platform ‘and building a bridge’ for witnessing.

The afternoon session was taken by Mufti Abdul Rabbi Barkatulla, a senior Imam from north London, as well as financial advisor and lecturer in Islamic studies in Whitechapel. The afternoon session covered the Five Pillars and the Basic Islamic studies, as well as a cross-section of the structure of the Islamic faith.

The session recommenced in July. We were blessed by a new speaker, Andy Bamford, a lecturer and a PhD in Islamic Studies at the School of Theology, north London. With charts and graphs showing the impact of globalization, he sparked a number of matters of concern to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He also gave us an understanding of the Sunni-Shiite divide. For the afternoon session we were welcomed by Afol Ali who was concerned with ‘How do you earn for a Muslim?’ Afol Ali is well known from the series on Sky TV, ‘Operation Mobilisation Ministry’. Original from Pakistan, he has a degree in both English Literature and Theology. He took us behind the scenes and highlighted the differences between Eastern and Western culture.

The Press at Northampton

Northampton, and the Seventh-day Adventist church there, doesn’t often feature in the local news. A recent large baptism, a newish church plant and a very active musical side to their worship are a testimony to the good work of pastors, elders and members working together to God’s glory.

A one-time event was the visit of the St Anthony Press to the church on a Sunday in mid-February. The team, Paul Poddar and Stuart Sy, had a range of books and health foods set up in no time. While the crowds attracted were not large, the book sale was important to the community. Paul, smiling as usual, spoke of the visits to small churches as a concerted effort to help the smaller churches feel able to access good Christian literature easily, while Stuart Sy, one of the newer members of the Press family, spoke of the potential evangelistic benefits of the Press visiting a church. Members could invite friends who would not fail to be impressed by the quality of the books. The guests were the welcome reception from the staff behind the till.

The fellowship was also important. Pastor and Mrs Ray Hubbell called in to buy books, stick up on their faces, came in the shape of a play. Paul, giving his address to 325 families in one go through InterServe.

Continualisation was the morning theme. There is a level of mission which is very concerned about the reception from the staff behind the till.

The afternoon session was on the topic of church planting and confirms the candidates of the great love of their heavenly Father who gave his only Son Jesus. As Pastor Mohan entered the water, the family and friends gathered around to witness this great event in the lives of our loved ones. First into the water were the Mathiakara family, Sathiee Molino, sadhoo daughter Samantha and 9-year-old son Staniskus. Next were husband and wife Michael and Monique Semper. They smiled at each other and at their children standing nearby. A Scripture passage was read, chosen by Monique, which reminded us that there is a time for everything. Next Rachel Khan wept tears of joy that at last through all her difficulties, and the various obstacles the devil had cast in her way she was now surrendering all to Jesus. Rachel Morgan and her son Ian Bougadellis were given the right hand of fellowship and welcomed into the world Church of Seventh-day Adventists.

Darlington celebrates

December 26 was a memorable day at Darlington church. The church had seven nations represented. We were all surprised because we have been worshipping as one nation, but on this day it was revealed that we come from very diverse backgrounds. We celebrated unity in diversity. As we entered the church it was beautiful. There were seven different big national flags flying on the windows. The environ-

Dagenham youth promoted the Kill The Kids to Discipleship Ministry by performing a play. An acronym for the word family was presented by six kids from various churches. We had inspirational singing for the divine hour setting the tone for the word of God. Our guest speaker for the day was Pastor Richard Holder whose title was ‘Home at last’. His sermon was taken from Genesis 49 regarding Jacob blessing his sons. He spoke about the character of each of his sons and the blessings and advice given to them. In the afternoon a thought-provoking play was enacted by the members of the Hackney and Stoke Newington churches. We saw Satan and Evil-zebub meeting and discussing the destruction of mankind. They talked about man’s weakness and how God’s law was to give man choice. They picked individuals or families that were broke in their faith and planned devices and various scenarios to catch the families or individuals out. Recognising that his time is short, Satan focused more on breaking the church and its doctrine through unprepared and thus unsuspecting individuals. The final scene resulted in the infiltration of the church leadership by Beel-zebub himself as he was elected as the president of the conference! In the evening a wonderful programme was put on by the Hyland House children. Though they were small kids they presented such a wonderful programme that really opened our eyes to see how the children are observing us adults, believe in the church and what they expect us to do to help them love God.

Rofomt baptism

Salabah 5 December was a historic day at the Rofomt Church fellowship. Eight precious souls were baptised. This was the biggest baptism we had had since the group started in April 2007.

A moving song service led by sisters Shirley and Maxine set the stage for what was to follow. Pastor Mohan Abbadasari reminded the candidates of the great love of their heavenly Father who gave his only Son Jesus. As Pastor Mohan entered the water, the family and friends gathered around to witness this great event in the lives of our loved ones. First into the water were the Mathiakara family, Sathiee Molino, sadhoo daughter Samantha and 9-year-old son Staniskus. Next were husband and wife Michael and Monique Semper. They smiled at each other and at their children standing nearby. A Scripture passage was read, chosen by Monique, which reminded us that there is a time for everything. Next Rachel Khan wept tears of joy that at last through all her difficulties, and the various obstacles the devil had cast in her way she was now surrendering all to Jesus. Rachel Morgan and her son Ian Bougadellis were given the right hand of fellowship and welcomed into the world Church of Seventh-day Adventists.

Huddersfield 7 — Wakefield 1

No, it’s not the latest result from these two Yorkshire teams, it is the number of people who joined these churches on 13 February. Wakefield elder, Dr Sam Farmer, looking on, and with support from friends and family, Don Sampson, aged 29, daughter of Brenda, joined the Wakefield church.

Pastor A. Karbakh at the baptism at Huddersfield in the afternoon and encouraged us all to accept the baptismal gift that God has prepared for us.

Christopher Chambers, from St Ann’s, near Blackpool, was first to be baptised. His parents were present, as were his next-door neighbours, Brian and Mary Richard, who had both recently been baptized. These two were the first people to join this church on 13 February, after first having been Baptised by Pastor Mohan Abbadasari and the candidates of the great love of their heavenly Father who gave his only Son Jesus.

As Pastor Mohan entered the water, the family and friends gathered around to witness this great event in the lives of our loved ones. First into the water were the Mathiakara family, Sathiee Molino, sadhoo daughter Samantha and 9-year-old son Staniskus. Next were husband and wife Michael and Monique Semper. They smiled at each other and at their children standing nearby. A Scripture passage was read, chosen by Monique, which reminded us that there is a time for everything. Next Rachel Khan wept tears of joy that at last through all her difficulties, and the various obstacles the devil had cast in her way she was now surrendering all to Jesus. Rachel Morgan and her son Ian Bougadellis were given the right hand of fellowship and welcomed into the world Church of Seventh-day Adventists.

Dagenham youth promoted the ‘Kill The Kids’ to Discipleship Ministry by performing a play. An acronym for the word family was presented by six kids from various churches. We had inspirational singing for the divine hour setting the tone for the word of God. Our guest speaker for the day was Pastor Richard Holder whose title was ‘Home at last’. His sermon was taken from Genesis 49 regarding Jacob blessing his sons. He spoke about the character of each of his sons and the blessings and advice given to them. In the afternoon a thought-provoking play was enacted by the members of the Hackney and Stoke Newington churches. We saw Satan and Evil-zebub meeting and discussing the destruction of mankind. They talked about man’s weakness and how God’s law was to give man choice. They picked individuals or families that were broke in their faith and planned devices and various scenarios to catch the families or individuals out. Recognising that his time is short, Satan focused more on breaking the church and its doctrine through unprepared and thus unsuspecting individuals. The final scene resulted in the infiltration of the church leadership by Beel-zebub himself as he was elected as the president of the conference! In the evening a wonderful programme was put on by the Hyland House children. Though they were small kids they presented such a wonderful programme that really opened our eyes to see how the children are observing us adults, believe in the church and what they expect us to do to help them love God.
Prayer and Faith Conference (PFC 2010)

Prayer and Faith Conference (PFC 2010), well, what can we say? Youth + God = Prayer and Faith Conference (PFC). This year Thames Valley Youth Federation definitely delivered once again with yet another spiritually uplifting programme, which was held at Charlemagne Christian Resources and Education Centre. Upon arriving, we were met by the seemingly uncivilised and yet calming breeze of the countryside, to which many of us had hitherto been strangers. The venue set the stage for a truly Spirit-filled experience. Our journey began with a delicious Jamaican favourite of rice and jerk chicken or vegetarian alternative as the main course, topped with a tasty salad on the side to provide a healthy, well-balanced meal. From the tasty food we moved to the uplifting praise and worship service. A marvellous sound echoed through the church, as well over 150 young people lifted their voices to sing praises to God. There was a gathering of young people from all over. They came from Ipswich, Aylesbury, Oxford, Reading, Blackpool, High Wycombe, Slough, Basingstoke and London. God had brought each and every one of us here for a purpose.

Jeremiah 29:11: ‘For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’ The week provided timeless reminders of God’s grace and love for mankind. These Spirit-led words were spoken from the pulpit where Dr Andrew Ewole rattled off some powerful messages about the book of Daniel and on ‘Becoming a Friend of God’. The week brought a variety of workshops which were put in place to deal with the weighty matters young people face day by day. Ranging from topics such as communication and stewardship to our meetings.

Does your church need a face lift?

by Sandra Golding

This was one of the many thought-provoking questions raised at the joint Communication and Stewardship Leaders’ AGM held at the Advent Centre on Sunday 7 March. The AGM began with a challenging devotional conducted by Pastor C. R. Perry. Victor Hubert, BUC Communication director, led out in an inspirational session for SEC Communication secretaries.

We were reminded that the responsibilities of the local church Communication secretary are great, for they touch the public. The participants were left with a host of ideas and solutions to take back to their local churches about the way in which we communicate the Adventist message not only to our churches but also to the people in our communities. One of the key factors was always to approach our church buildings and our communication to the community from a non-Adventist viewpoint. We need to ensure that what we communicate is understandable to the general public. For example, some of our churches have clear and well-presented church signs that are easily understood by the public about the type of worship services and so forth that we have. On the other hand, some churches had signs that were out of date, unattractive and were not clear. Good presentation is one of the key principles to engage with people and we need to ensure that our churches are good examples.

Pastor Hubert encouraged us to learn to think outside the box and come up with creative strategies that will engage with the people in our communities, for example, serving refreshments and making food an opportunity to attract people to our meetings. Seeing that one third of people’s leisure time is currently spent on the internet gives us a greater advantage in communicating with people through the internet and by emails. Victor took us through the advantages of having a corporate website design for our churches by using neoAdventist. It was an opportunity to explore how effective this media tool can be for our churches. Some of the churches at the training session were already utilizing neoAdventist websites and shared their experiences. Meanwhile Raatil Ramal, Global Mission, Stewardship and Field secretary for the Trans-European Division, led an energetic and interactive session on the principles and practicalities of good stewardship in the local church. It was emphasized that, like communication, good stewardship pervades every aspect of church and personal life.

Finally the training ended with a question and answer session. The participants were all inspired and geared up to go back to their local churches to help make a difference. The tips that were shared will definitely help us to carry out our role more efficiently and effectively.

Ipswich concert helps with drug addiction

by John Mann

I came about because of Pastor Sam Ouadjo. When he first came to Ipswich Adventist church he told the congregation that he was nervous because the town at that time was so much in the press for the murder of five young prostitutes.

Pastor Sam approached church member Samantha Kersey, asking how the church could get involved in helping people who were on drugs. As Samantha says, ‘Let’s face it, many of the prostitutes would not be prostitutes if it weren’t for drugs.’ She found a local drug rehabilitation project, Iconi. After meeting with them and a subsequent Sabbath afternoon presentation, a number of the members then volunteered with Iconi. A fundraising concert on Sabbath 6 March was then a natural consequence.

The concert was well attended and featured local acts Nicky Saunders, Stan and Sophia Sigawake, Maggie Long and the Ipswich Adventist Gospel Choir, as well as Rachel ‘The Poet’ Odoro and Michael ‘The Lyrical Soldier’ Agyei from London.

Glenn Robinson from Iconi gave short presentations about the work done at Iconi and the need for additional funds so that they are able to go the extra mile in helping people. Iconi was the Guardian Charity Award winner in 2008 and has one of the highest success rates in treating drug addiction anywhere in the country. Pastor Explained that their success comes from creating a family community at Iconi where people are genuinely cared for as individuals.

The quality of the performances was exceptional. Some of the many highlights were the gospel choir singing the beautifully quiet ‘Lord’s Prayer’, and the powerful gospel anthem ‘I need you to survive’. The Lyrical Soldier’s performing his new single ‘Closer’, Sophia Sigawake singing ‘Personal’, Maggie Long’s touching poem ‘The Prisoner’ and the rap-poem of Rachel ‘The Poet’ Odoro ‘Rot My Body’, that she wrote especially for the concert. We also witnessed a miracle as Nicky Saunders – although barely able to speak due to a throat infection – was still able to sing beautifully throughout the concert.

The total concert collected £673.23 for Iconi, of which £423 was given to AID Aid and so eligible to an additional 25% from the government, so in total Iconi should be receiving £785.67 as a result of the concert.

Basildon baptism

Some six years back, the Basildon Fellowship Church had shrunk to just six regular members and a few visitors. Today, our regular attendance is nearing a hundred with vibrant Junior and Senior Sabbath School and Pathfinder departments. With our continuous growth, very soon we shall need to move into new premises.

Last November, five of our young people, who have been nurtured in our Junior Sabbath School department from an early age, decided to give their lives to the Lord by going through the waters of baptism.

Glenn Robinson from Iconi gave short presentations about the work done at Iconi and the need for additional funds so that they are able to go the extra mile in helping people. Iconi was the Guardian Charity Award winner in 2008 and has one of the highest success rates in treating drug addiction anywhere in the country. Pastor Explained that their success comes from creating a family community at Iconi where people are genuinely cared for as individuals.

The quality of the performances was exceptional. Some of the many highlights were the gospel choir singing the beautifully quiet ‘Lord’s Prayer’, and the powerful gospel anthem ‘I need you to survive’. The Lyrical Soldier’s performing his new single ‘Closer’, Sophia Sigawake singing ‘Personal’, Maggie Long’s touching poem ‘The Prisoner’ and the rap-poem of Rachel ‘The Poet’ Odoro ‘Rot My Body’, that she wrote especially for the concert. We also witnessed a miracle as Nicky Saunders – although barely able to speak due to a throat infection – was still able to sing beautifully throughout the concert.

The total concert collected £673.23 for Iconi, of which £423 was given to AID Aid and so eligible to an additional 25% from the government, so in total Iconi should be receiving £785.67 as a result of the concert.
By Errol Anderson

LINDA CLARK
4 July 1945 - 25 March 2009

Linda Clark’s funeral on 14 April 2009 brought many people to the Southamperton church and in telling of her life story we were allowed into the workings of a quiet, unassuming single mum, nameless, motherly and counsellor, loving and selfless woman whose deeply embedded, inspirational faith kept her strong and full of hope throughout her life.

Linda was born on 4 July 1945, the second of five children of a BBC radio engineer and his wife, to whom she was very close. As a young girl she enjoyed reading and playing out in the countryside, and most likely opened her life in similar ways. She trained for nursing in Ipswich, and moved to London, later becoming cardiac nurse for many years, caring for the elderly.

Debbie and Mark, her two children, tell us about their mother’s stories on what a loving and caring mum she was and how she would make sure there was always time for some fun! Like opening the curtains on a bright summer school’s day and deciding to get the children out of bed and armed with a good picnic and driving them all down to the beach at Swansea. If I like to have seen the letters that was sent to the headmaster the next day explaining just why Debbie and Mark missed lessons. This story is made all the funnier as today Mark works for the Police office.

Linda loved her annual trips to join the rest of us at the Newbold and St Leonards' jobs were nurse and counsellor and these two skills led to a long and most enjoyable part of her life. Not only did she tape up broken skin on knees and elbows but also helped with painful hands and home sickness in her small changes. Age never mattered at Chapel of Hope. If you had a problem you went to see Linda even the pastor, now to the girl or not, found a chat and hot chocolate with her went down a treat. Many of these pastor, now of grown children of their own she had the gift of children in the church that day to say goodbye to a good friend. Linda had a special place in Linda’s heart with lots of fun memories of time with the family, a tradition that will long continue.

After stories like these from her children, and daughter-rings of the sanctuary, Debbie encroached herself on the eulogies proceedings and he found it out of the church. More laughter rang out. Strangely, you say, whatever was going on? Well, Debbie, being pregnant with her first daughter had an appointment with the midwife at the local hospital. Young Jacky had been making himself felt from the night before, and now it was time for him to enter the world, arriving at 5pm. Tears of pain and joy, what a miracle.

Women’s Ministries became an important part of Linda’s life. She often worked at Bible study groups in the community where she had made many close friends, and which had a long habit of tending around the beautiful grounds. It was actually on a CRW organised tour which she told Tony. On 16 May 1999 Linda and Tony were married at St Mary’s Church, Southamperton. Martin Bell officiated and was nicely assisted by Barry Alan. Since then, Linda and Tony have traveled all over the world, from countries to cool at hot again.

Linda died on 4 July 1945, the second of five children of a BBC radio engineer and his wife, to whom she was very close. As a young girl she enjoyed reading and playing out in the countryside, and most likely opened her life in similar ways. She trained for nursing in Ipswich, and moved to London, later becoming cardiac nurse for many years, caring for the elderly.

Debbie and Mark, her two children, tell us about their mother’s stories on what a loving and caring mum she was and how she would make sure there was always time for some fun! Like opening the curtains on a bright summer school’s day and deciding to get the children out of bed and armed with a good picnic and driving them all down to the beach at Swansea. If I like to have seen the letters that was sent to the headmaster the next day explaining just why Debbie and Mark missed lessons. This story is made all the funnier as today Mark works for the Police office.

Linda loved her annual trips to join the rest of us at the Newbold and St Leonards’ jobs were nurse and counsellor and these two skills led to a long and most enjoyable part of her life. Not only did she tape up broken skin on knees and elbows but also helped with painful hands and home sickness in her small changes. Age never mattered at Chapel of Hope. If you had a problem you went to see Linda even the pastor, now to the girl or not, found a chat and hot chocolate with her went down a treat. Many of these pastor, now of grown children of their own she had the gift of children in the church that day to say goodbye to a good friend. Linda had a special place in Linda’s heart with lots of fun memories of time with the family, a tradition that will long continue.

After stories like these from her children, and daughter-rings of the sanctuary, Debbie encroached herself on the eulogies proceedings and he found it out of the church. More laughter rang out. Strangely, you say, whatever was going on? Well, Debbie, being pregnant with her first daughter had an appointment with the midwife at the local hospital. Young Jacky had been making himself felt from the night before, and now it was time for him to enter the world, arriving at 5pm. Tears of pain and joy, what a miracle.

Women’s Ministries became an important part of Linda’s life. She often worked at Bible study groups in the community where she had made many close friends, and which had a long habit of tending around the beautiful grounds. It was actually on a CRW organised tour which she told Tony. On 16 May 1999 Linda and Tony were married at St Mary’s Church, Southamperton. Martin Bell officiated and was nicely assisted by Barry Alan. Since then, Linda and Tony have traveled all over the world, from countries to cool at hot again.

Linda died on 4 July 1945, the second of five children of a BBC radio engineer and his wife, to whom she was very close. As a young girl she enjoyed reading and playing out in the countryside, and most likely opened her life in similar ways. She trained for nursing in Ipswich, and moved to London, later becoming cardiac nurse for many years, caring for the elderly.

Debbie and Mark, her two children, tell us about their mother’s stories on what a loving and caring mum she was and how she would make sure there was always time for some fun! Like opening the curtains on a bright summer school’s day and deciding to get the children out of bed and armed with a good picnic and driving them all down to the beach at Swansea. If I like to have seen the letters that was sent to the headmaster the next day explaining just why Debbie and Mark missed lessons. This story is made all the funnier as today Mark works for the Police office.

Linda loved her annual trips to join the rest of us at the Newbold and St Leonards’ jobs were nurse and counsellor and these two skills led to a long and most enjoyable part of her life. Not only did she tape up broken skin on knees and elbows but also helped with painful hands and home sickness in her small changes. Age never mattered at Chapel of Hope. If you had a problem you went to see Linda even the pastor, now to the girl or not, found a chat and hot chocolate with her went down a treat. Many of these pastor, now of grown children of their own she had the gift of children in the church that day to say goodbye to a good friend. Linda had a special place in Linda’s heart with lots of fun memories of time with the family, a tradition that will long continue.

After stories like these from her children, and daughter-rings of the sanctuary, Debbie encroached herself on the eulogies proceedings and he found it out of the church. More laughter rang out. Strangely, you say, whatever was going on? Well, Debbie, being pregnant with her first daughter had an appointment with the midwife at the local hospital. Young Jacky had been making himself felt from the night before, and now it was time for him to enter the world, arriving at 5pm. Tears of pain and joy, what a miracle.

Women’s Ministries became an important part of Linda’s life. She often worked at Bible study groups in the community where she had made many close friends, and which had a long habit of tending around the beautiful grounds. It was actually on a CRW organised tour which she told Tony. On 16 May 1999 Linda and Tony were married at St Mary’s Church, Southamperton. Martin Bell officiated and was nicely assisted by Barry Alan. Since then, Linda and Tony have traveled all over the world, from countries to cool at hot again.

Linda died on 4 July 1945, the second of five children of a BBC radio engineer and his wife, to whom she was very close. As a young girl she enjoyed reading and playing out in the countryside, and most likely opened her life in similar ways. She trained for nursing in Ipswich, and moved to London, later becoming cardiac nurse for many years, caring for the elderly.

Debbie and Mark, her two children, tell us about their mother’s stories on what a loving and caring mum she was and how she would make sure there was always time for some fun! Like opening the curtains on a bright summer school’s day and deciding to get the children out of bed and armed with a good picnic and driving them all down to the beach at Swansea. If I like to have seen the letters that was sent to the headmaster the next day explaining just why Debbie and Mark missed lessons. This story is made all the funnier as today Mark works for the Police office.

Linda loved her annual trips to join the rest of us at the Newbold and St Leonards’ jobs were nurse and counsellor and these two skills led to a long and most enjoyable part of her life. Not only did she tape up broken skin on knees and elbows but also helped with painful hands and home sickness in her small changes. Age never mattered at Chapel of Hope. If you had a problem you went to see Linda even the pastor, now to the girl or not, found a chat and hot chocolate with her went down a treat. Many of these pastor, now of grown children of their own she had the gift of children in the church that day to say goodbye to a good friend. Linda had a special place in Linda’s heart with lots of fun memories of time with the family, a tradition that will long continue.

After stories like these from her children, and daughter-rings of the sanctuary, Debbie encroached herself on the eulogies proceedings and he found it out of the church. More laughter rang out. Strangely, you say, whatever was going on? Well, Debbie, being pregnant with her first daughter had an appointment with the midwife at the local hospital. Young Jacky had been making himself felt from the night before, and now it was time for him to enter the world, arriving at 5pm. Tears of pain and joy, what a miracle.

Women’s Ministries became an important part of Linda’s life. She often worked at Bible study groups in the community where she had made many close friends, and which had a long habit of tending around the beautiful grounds. It was actually on a CRW organised tour which she told Tony. On 16 May 1999 Linda and Tony were married at St Mary’s Church, Southamperton. Martin Bell officiated and was nicely assisted by Barry Alan. Since then, Linda and Tony have traveled all over the world, from countries to cool at hot again.
Who can forget the images of an island devastated by a huge earthquake, scenes of horror, collapsed buildings, and bodies lying by the roadside? Thousands of homes were filled with beautiful pictures of the island that had been destroyed, and many people had to leave their homes and search for survivors. The humanitarian effort was overwhelming, with thousands of volunteers and aid workers working tirelessly to help those in need.

Well, February 6th saw Chiswick church in West London doing their bit to send what they could to help the homeless and hungry inhabitants of an island that not many members had come into contact with previously. Members Bernard and Lynda Saunders organised a fundraising concert to round off a day of special offerings for Haiti, and the church was filled with beautiful pictures of how Haiti had looked before the disaster. Representatives from United Haitians in the UK (UHUK) were invited, and the audience heard about their experiences growing up on the island, how the disaster had affected them personally, and what they were trying to do with the aid they had received.

The evening began with Chiswick Gospel Choir singing to a packed house, followed by Audrey Ahwan, Errol McKenzie playing the saw, Filipino International Chorale, who although unable to rehearse due to not having power in their own church still sounded amazing, Antonia Francis, Ullanda Alexander, Chiswick Junior Choir, Mikhail Charles, Nicole and Dorin Penina, Iris Sutherland and family, and Ruth Nassa and Vic Boldeo and family. Despite not charging an entry fee, the evening raised £1,552, with a further £1,400 added to the total from the offerings collected both throughout the day and afterwards. The proceeds were split between UHUK and our own ADRA Haiti appeal.