I haven’t attended the Adventist Church since 1956 but seeing you all come out today has made me want to go back," commented a man who was sitting on a park bench to one of the participants.

The glorious weather brought many people out to the Crystal Palace Park in South London, the favourite venue for this prestigious event over the past four years. Many members of the public asked what it was all about. The run is becoming well known in the area, and this year for the first time the police sent six of their personnel to watch over events. One of the policemen remarked that it was such a joy to be here instead of fighting crime!

At 10am sharp on 18 April the run began, after final instructions were given by Terry Messenger, Personal Ministries director at the SEC. Pastor Sam Davis, SEC president, offered a word of prayer, and Nathan Stickland, Pathfinder director at the SEC, blew the horn to signal the start.

More than 500 participants took part. Some ran, some walked and others cycled. Some chose to do the full 12 miles and others completed the shorter distances. It was good to see many different types of people participating — the young and old, children and older folk, all raising funds for ADRA. One of the participants remarked that it was such a joy to be with others in the park.

Ray Hornett from Colchester came with his wife, Riitta, who had been very ill. They raised £500 in sponsorship, which will be matched by Barclays Bank, Ray being a bank retiree. This will increase the total to £1,000! Riitta was unable to go door-to-door collecting this year as she was having chemotherapy for breast cancer. This was her third attack of invasive cancer, a disease that has claimed both a daughter and a niece. This wasn’t going to stop her and so she came up with the idea of doing a sponsored ‘push’ at this year’s event. Her husband Ray pushed her in a wheelchair for 3 miles, or two circuits. He commented, ‘How do they make the incline the second time steeper than the first?’ Despite the physical effort it was worth it.

Everyone had such a good time — so much so that no one wanted to leave and spent the rest of the day sitting and chatting on the grass. It was, indeed, the perfect day. Bert Smith, ADRA UK director, stated that this was the best Fun Run ever.

Much-needed funds have been raised by this event. If you haven’t participated in this before and you’re looking for a way to help ADRA, it doesn’t come much better than this. Come and join us next year. I promise you won’t regret it.
Recently I saw a poster and at first I thought it was advertising Alpha, the course about Christianity for enquirers. They have used the same phrase that caught my eye in the poster, ‘meaning of life,’ in their advertising. Then I looked again and saw a mini in the poster, and light began to dawn. This was an advertisement for a mini convertible! On the one side it had a book with these words written on it: ‘The meaning of Life.’ Above that was the caption, ‘CLOSEDNESS BAD.’. On the other side it had a picture of an open-top mini and above it the caption read, ‘OPENNESS GOOD.’

I wonder if people really do think like that. Is it a closed question, whether life has meaning? The designers of the advert certainly thought that most people would identify with the concept; otherwise the advert would not work. How about us as Christians, what would our thoughts be?

You choose a new beginning...

Once again the health debate on the safety of mobile phones has resurfaced. A Times Online report published on 23 April 2010 carried the headline: Mobile phone study to check effect on health over 30 years. Launched on 22 April, this is considered to be the biggest study yet on the health impact of mobile phone use.

British scientists are leading the research which is estimated as a multi-million-pound undertaking. The research captioned Cosmos (Cohort Study on Mobile Communications) will track 250,000 mobile phone users over a period of 20-30 years, monitoring their health. Experts hope to ascertain any significant links between mobile phone use and health from their findings judge how safe they are to use.

Study subjects range in age from 18 to 69. Of the 250,000 participants, the UK will engage around 90,000 and 100,000 people, while the remaining numbers will be drawn from across Europe to include Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands and Sweden. Funding for Britain’s contribution to Cosmos comes from the Mobile Telecommunications and Health Research (MTHR) programme.

So what will be studied? A comparative analysis will be made of any changes in people’s health compared with those who do not use mobile phones. This will take into account aspects like the number of calls made, duration and the positioning of handsets. A number of conditions will be investigated. Scientists will analyse trends for cancers of the brain, head and neck, and neurological and degenerative disorders such as multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer’s, motor neuron disease, Parkinson’s and cardiovascular conditions such as heart disease and strokes.

Additionally, records will be taken of symptoms such as headaches, tinnitus, sleep disorders and conditions like depression, all of which have been reported in some previous studies as possible effects of mobile phone use.

In May 2000 findings from the Stewart Report undertaken by the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones (SEMPG) concluded that there was no clear evidence of harm to health from exposure to mobile phone signals. However, the report suggested further research to answer scientific and health anomalies and recommended discouraging excessive use of mobile phones by children, who may be more susceptible to their effects than adults.

Reflecting on previous research outcomes Professor Chaliss* states ‘There just hasn’t been enough time.’ Most of us have not had mobile phones for more than ten or twelve years. Some cancers take ten or twenty years for symptoms to appear, some even longer.

Advice: Limit use to short periods.

Good health!

* Professor Lukas Chaliss is a member of the MTHR management committee funding the current research.
Shocked and Panned!

Dear Editor,

While the letters of MESSINGERS 16 April and 30 April are all well-written, I was startled to read the article by Patrick McKerrow* and the accompanying letter to MESSINGERS 16 April.

I have been a member of the British Catholic Church all my life and have attended many meetings of this type. In my opinion, the lack of understanding of the issues and the apparent fear of the effects of the motion was apparent from the beginning.

McKerrow’s article was well-written and well-researched, but it was clear that he was not aware of the real issues at stake. His article was more of a personal opinion than a serious attempt to address the problems.

I was disappointed to see that McKerrow did not take into account the views of the Catholic Church on this issue. The Church has been clear in its position on the issue of the Catholic Church and the State, and it is clear that the Church is not in favor of the idea of a Catholic country.

I would like to see the Church address this issue more directly, and I would like to see McKerrow’s article be corrected to reflect the Church’s true position.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
The society in which they are operating than ever before in terms of race, religion, gender, sexuality and disability. Ms Mitchell looked at the importance of debates in newsrooms between people of different backgrounds and experiences and emphasised that organisations must be changed so that these debates happen and programmes will reflect the society in which they are made.

Finally, Ms Mitchell came to the subject of Christianity, ‘it is probably more about pervasive secularism than any conspiracy against Christianity.’ In a speech to Newbold students, she also emphasised that Christians should not just rely on PSB, but should take advantage of and create their own media offering in what she called the ‘intangible’ channels of the internet, YouTube and viral networking.

The audience responded with questions – first public service broadcasting in the UK and other countries. An informal Q&A session followed as students gathered around to quiz Ms Mitchell for another half an hour. ‘It’s difficult to understand the way the media work,’ said Victor Hulbert, Communication director at the BUC. ‘In her conversation with Newbold students, Ms Mitchell made an effort to connect with our students.’

Is Christianity being edged off the BBC?

by Helen Pearson

Newbold’s final diversity lecture of the 2010 academic year was given by a Welsh Jamaican Quaker from a Yemeni Arab Irish background who had never before set foot in a Seventh-day Adventist community. As her wide-ranging lecture showed, Linda Mitchell was clearly qualified by her experience in the print and visual media to be former Director of Diversity at the BBC.

Throughout her lecture she encouraged her audience to view the media and themselves critically. ‘After 90 minutes watching TV, I criticise Wimbledon finalists or Arsenal footballers as if I’m an authority. I am not,’ she said. ‘The media make us feel we know more and can do more than we actually can,’ she added. We need to be aware of its effects upon us.

Examining some of the effects of television Ms Mitchell pointed out that TV pictures can put us in touch with sides of ourselves that we hadn’t expected. ‘The sight of British servicemen being taken through the deathly quiet streets of Wootton Bassett thronged with the public shows that the British public is finding a way of expressing its deep questions about the war. The media are able to collect these expressions and focus them back to people,’ she said. She talked about the ‘multiplexer effect’ of such images feeding back into people’s feelings and people wanting to make their feelings known. ‘There is a growing division in the country between those who passively accept what the media show and those who respond,’ she said.

Once people respond and start communicating with each other, they need to find ways to do it in an increasingly complex society. As a place for informed debate between various interest groups, Public Service Broadcasting (PSB) is more important now than ever,’ said Ms Mitchell. As the media audience diversifies, public service broadcasters must be more representative of the society in which they are operating than ever before in terms of race, religion, gender, sexuality and disability. Ms Mitchell looked at the importance of debates in newsrooms between people of different backgrounds and experiences and emphasised that organisations must be changed so that these debates happen and programmes will reflect the society in which they are made.

Now is the time

Daniella Fuller was dedicated as a baby in the Balham church in January 2001 and has been attending ever since. When Daniella heard that there was going to be a baptism on 5 December 2009, one week before her tenth birthday, she approached her parents and said she would like to be baptised. That was not the first time Daniella had spoken to her parents about being baptised. She had approached them a year previously, but decided to wait until her eldest brother, Anthony Fuller, came back from studying at Oxford University, so that he could witness his little sister’s baptism. So Daniella’s parents knew she had been giving it much consideration and did not hesitate in helping her to be prepared for her baptism. Daniella said she enjoyed going down in the baptismal pool. She loved hearing her favourite text Hebrews 11:1 read by her mum and dad, and it was especially nice when she heard her favourite song ‘I surrender all’ sung by Jonathan and Joshua Clarke.

Sharon Graham grew up in the Adventist faith since the age of 7. Many baptisms came and went and she did not feel ready to be baptised. Sharon never gave up waiting for the assurance that the time was right and believed that at the right time God would reveal to her when she should be baptised. Sharon started attending the Balham church seven years ago. She did visit other churches but felt that Balham provided the most comfortable and welcoming atmosphere. God directed her to make her commitment to him on 5 December 2009. God showed her tomorrow might never come and now is the time. Sharon knew this was the right time. God has done so much for her and has helped her through the good and bad times. Sharon knew she could not go through another year without committing her entire life to him.

Baptism at Bethel

‘How to become a favourite child of God’ was how guest speaker Pastor Chihawayi emboldened four candidates for baptism.

Brenda Rivera, Brenda Rivera, Mengah Thebe and Farai Kawanazika, who had been regularly attending Bethel church services in Derby, made public their alliance with God on Sabbath 20 March. On that day, Pastor Chihwayi powerfully exhorted the candidates and the church to become and stay children of God: ‘Practise the presence of God’, ‘Don’t be casual with God’ and ‘Don’t be too busy for God’. These three practical tips set the tone for the baptismal service.

The baptismal service saw another celebration. Brenda and Bernan Rivera not only publicly accepted Christ as their personal Saviour, they also celebrated their eighth wedding anniversary. Brenda and Bernan Rivera not only publicly accepted Christ as their personal Saviour, they also celebrated their wedding anniversary.

Bethel church then warmly welcomed its four new favourite children of God in its midst. Indeed, God’s favour is at work in Derby, which will certainly lead to other baptisms soon and maybe to a new church being planted as a result.

Waterford Mayor makes presentation

On Easter Saturday, 3 April, our elected Mayor Dorothy Thornhill made a special visit to the Stanborough Park church. Her purpose was to present a posthumous Audientor Award to David Balderstone for his charity work in the local community.

Born in nearby Slough, David lived and worked in or near Watford for most of his life. Apart from running his own businesses, David devoted a huge portion of his time, energy and finance to charity work. He had been closely associated with ADRA-UK, the Adventist Development & Relief Agency arm of his Church. Over the past four decades, his involvement had taken him to various countries in Africa and Eastern Europe. On more than one occasion, David was in great danger. Sadly David passed away on 16 January after his long fight with cancer.

During her presentation, Mayor Dorothy paid tribute to David for his charity work conducted both in this country and overseas. The Audientor Award was then presented to David’s wife, Mrs Audrey Balderstone. In accepting the award, Audrey spoke briefly of David’s contribution to the various charities with which he was associated. In the congregation was his elder son Dr Peter Balderstone, who has also grown up here in Stanborough Park and is now a lecturer at Newbold College in Bracknell, Berkshire.

Audientor Award

awarded to

David Balderstone

For his charity work in the community

Stanborough Primary Distinction

Now is the time

Local author Missy Carter has been celebrating the school’s 120th anniversary with the publication of a history book. The book, titled ‘Stanborough Primary School: A Century of Learning’ was launched at an event held at the school on 12 May.

The book contains photographs and memories from the school’s history, including stories from former pupils and staff. It also features interviews with current pupils and teachers, and provides a fascinating insight into the school’s development over the past century.

The book is available to purchase at the school for £5.00.
Hello Christian Stars!

Of what are you reminded when you see a rainbow in the sky? Do you think of Noah, God’s friend, who built a boat just as God had asked him? Isn’t it amazing that the lessons Noah and his family learned about God and life are still important for us today?

Remember how God promised Noah that if he obeyed and trusted him, God would keep him and his family safe in the boat. He didn’t promise to take Noah away from the flood, but he promised to bring him safely through it.

Do you sometimes feel you are drowning in a flood of problems? Perhaps you are worried that you do not yet understand something you are learning at school, perhaps you are having relationship problems with your friends or a member of your family. Maybe other things cause you to worry. During these times, remember God’s words to us. He promises that if we obey and trust him, he will help us through every challenge.

Rainbow prayer

We know Noah was God’s friend and he often talked to him in prayer. By keeping close to God, he treated people kindly and with respect, unlike the many other people who were horrid and cruel. Here is something fun you could do this afternoon or later in the week.

Draw a rainbow on a large piece of paper and colour it in. Remember the order of the colours – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet. Cut it out. Write this promise from God on the rainbow:

‘As long as the earth continues planting and harvest, cold and hot, summer and winter, day and night will not stop.’

Genesis 8:11

Now draw some large raindrops, cut out the shapes and punch a hole near the top. Thread a narrow ribbon or piece of wool through the hole of each raindrop. Make sure each one is a different length.

Write something special on each raindrop for which you want to pray. Make the same number of holes at the bottom of the rainbow as there are raindrops and tie the raindrops to it. Hang it up in your room and use it as a prayer reminder. Pray that God will take care of you and your family just as he did Noah.

Promises to share

Make a template for the outline of the ark. Draw it five times and then cut them out. Use a Children’s Bible to find the following promises, and write one on each ark.

Psalm 4:1; Psalm 32:8; Isaiah 40:31; Luke 11:9 & 10; Philippians 4:7.

Colour the arks and decorate them. Share them with family or neighbours to remind them of God’s great love and care. They will make lovely bookmarks or fridge magnets.

Animals of the world

Have you ever considered that Noah might have been the first animal conservationist? And the ark could have been the first animal sanctuary! Saving the animals meant that the whole ecological cycle could begin again. Sadly, people have been reckless and careless about the animal world, and many animals have become extinct. God wants us to look after the beautiful creatures and world he gave us. Think about the part you can play in saving the endangered animals. Here are pictures of five animals on the endangered list. Can you link them to the country where they live?

Craft an ark

• Place a dinner plate on a large piece of stiff paper or card and draw around it. Do this twice, then cut out the circular shapes.
• Colour the top edge of one of the circles to look like a rainbow.
• Fold the other circle in half and cut it on the fold line. You now have half a circle.
• Colour the half-circle brown – make it look like wood. You can add some portholes. This will be the front of the boat.
• Run some glue round the edge of the back of the half-circle and glue it to the circle on which you have drawn the rainbow. (Make sure the edges match up neatly. You should have the rainbow at the top, and the boat at the bottom.)
• Now draw Noah and some of your favourite animals. Colour them in and then cut out the shapes. Glue them in place so that they look as though they are in the ark, but visible.

Find God’s special promise

HELP! By accident, extra letters were added to this special promise. Strike them out and see if you can read this beautiful promise.

Wxhxexnxtxbxexrxaxixnxbxoxwxxaxpxexaxnxsnstbxhxexcxlko xuxdxs, kwxixbtxrxexmxexmxbxexnxbxexagpxexeexmxenxtxt xhxaxctbcxxoxnbsnxexxexxexxexxexxexbxetbwxwexeexnxmexex axnxxtexewexxexxypbxwxxnxxgxtbxhxmxgxoxntbxhxwexeexaxnxbxh

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Greenwich Adventurers and Pathfinders

The audience felt his joyful embrace that evening. As the lights faded not a sound could be heard as everyone seemed transfixed, until the resounding round of applause brought us back to the present and showed the audience’s appreciation.

The rest of the evening was spent in happy fellowship over a glass of juice and a hot cross bun. A wonderful start to the Easter weekend.

Why so long? Is that your reaction, too? I decided to ask Carolegine Novelette Sawyers that very question. Carolegine has been attending Greenwich Adventurers and Pathfinders club for over twenty years. She is also a Director of the Greenwich Pathfinders mini-books. Any profits will be donated to the ADRA Haiti appeal (approximately £0.10 from a small print or £3.60 from a mini-book).

3 April 2010 was a high day in Greenwich church for the Adventurer and Pathfinder club. It was also a day of firsts.

• The first Master Guide to be invested
• The first Master Award to be achieved by a Pathfinder
• The first Adventurer and Pathfinder march through the town of Greenwich
• The first Adventurer and Pathfinder induction service

The Sabbath School programme was overserved by Edem Venue who was later introduced as an Explorer. His fellow Explorer investees are Lame Aliman and Taliair Lindsay-Brown presented a cheque to James Hunt from the local Dementia Children's Hospice after the club raised over £100 from a sponsored read.

Members from the Brixton and Lewisham drum corps brought the church to order as the Adventurers and Pathfinders performed a slow march into the sanctuary. Presentation were made to members of the church for their contribution to the club over the past year. Then a surprise presentation of flowers and trophies was made to the director Judith Smith and deputy director for many years Dorothy Bloomer. These two sisters have contributed over twenty-five years each of dedicated service to the Dofepdf.

A new feature this year was the exhibition in the Stonebridge Centre. These were of scenes that life can sometimes throw at us – times when we hurt and cry and try to laugh again. But at the end of the walkway, a picture of Jesus’ face was drawn and admired by all. After all the same scenes just viewed. However, as one looked at the detail in the large drawing and the accompanying pictures drawn by the Stonebridge Park church and school youth, it was made obvious in our times of trials Jesus is by our side every step of the way.

During the play, the children in the audience were enthralled as the story they had heard told or had simply read in books was brought vividly to life, even more so for those children who took part in the market scenes and other memorable scenes. The acting was so good that those sitting in front rows of the church were heartbroken when one little girl sitting on her father’s lap cried out, “Help, help” as Jesus was being taken to the cross. Another touching moment occurred as Jesus rose from the tomb after defeating death, when several of the children were carried on the stage, faces beaming, anxious to be hugged by the risen King. Somehow I believe all those in the audience felt his joyful embrace that evening. As the lights faded not a sound could be heard as everyone seemed transfixed, until the resounding round of applause brought us back to the present and showed the audience’s appreciation.

The award – which is supported by Barnardo’s, the Post Office and the News of the World newspaper – honours those who go that extra mile for young people across the UK.

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Future play

On Good Friday 2 April, the Stonebridge Park church Play Place took place for the second year, directed this time by Diana Ionita, assisted by Anna Harwood. Recounting the events of Jesus’ life and ministry leading up to his crucifixion and resurrection, the church members were transported back to first-century Jerusalem as they watched the story unfold. Many of the actors reprised their roles (and costumes) from previous events and even the donkey made a welcome return, although this year he needed Nick Dean (in the role of Jesus) to put a gentle arm around his neck and encourage him into the crowded sanctuary!

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Croydon: ‘To Haiti with love’

The Good Samaritan church

On 20 March, Walthamstow church held its first Bone Marrow and Blood Registration Clinic. The clinic was organised by the Health Ministries department in conjunction with the charity Transplant African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust (ACLT) and the South England Conference. ACLT was founded by Beverley De-Gale and Orin Lewis to raise awareness of leukaemia and the shortage of bone marrow donors within black and ethnic minority groups after their son Daniel De-Gale desperately needed a donor. Why is this charity so important? It’ll let the figures speak for themselves. If you are in need of a bone marrow transplant and you are white, your chances of finding a donor are 1 in 5, if you are black or mixed race it’s 1 in 100. This is simply because there are not enough black people on the register.

So how did it all begin? Well, Health Ministries leader Eugene Farrell, already an avid supporter of the ACLT charity, had read an article in MESSENGER about the charity holding a Blood Registration Clinic in the local Walthamstow church. She contacted Beverley De-Gale to find out how Walthamstow church could help her out. The charity was already affiliated with Walthamstow church as they were going to be part of a ‘Health Expo’ held in 2009 and so were excited at the opportunity of working with the church. Beverley explained that as part of a campaign for 2010 called ‘Heroes Wanted’ they aim to recruit approximately 2,000 new black and ethnic minority donors and to give blood to make hope happen now!

‘I was delighted to be able to help this important event to raise awareness about the need to register as a potential donor with people in Walthamstow and the great work the Seventh-day Adventist Church is doing by promoting it. Reassuring people that being a donor is not a painful experience is vital in addressing the urgent need for donors, and the results they achieved with this event showed the difference these drives can make. I hope that by working together with other faith communities in Walthamstow we can continue to find donors among local people and so help benefit leukaemia sufferers and their families across the country. Shella Chery-Low, Co-operative parliamentary candidate for Walthamstow’.

Worchester centenary

Croydon: ‘To Haiti with love’

To Haiti with love’ was the title of the memorable fundraising concert held at the Croydon church on 22 February. The packed, diverse audience – several hundred strong – incorporated a sizeable number of folk from the local community. One determined visitor endured a five-hour journey in order to attend the event. He, along with the rest of the audience, was not to be disappointed!

The concert was the brainchild of Croydon member Clive Caust, and his idea soon snowballed and came to fruition.

Stirring solos, lifting airs, power- ful anthems – all were provided by the artists on the night. The themes that melded all of the songs together were those of the reality of God’s love for us and the acknowledge- ment that in the midst of adversity, God is still close by. Performing on the night were Croydon SDA Gospel Choir, Croydon Children’s Choir, Estelle Lavard, Gerard Lam-Ming,8

Abigail Lee and her father Paul Lee.

During the course of the evening, ADA representative Gordon Bennett delivered an extremely comprehensive, enlightening report on the amazing work that ADA is currently performing in Haiti in profoundly challenging conditions.

The appeal for funds was enthusiastically given by Arinley Stephenson, and an impressive £2,051 was duly raised. With the strong belief that the round figure of £2,500 was still attainable, Arinley made a second appeal and instigated an additional collection. Subsequently, a grand total of £2,711 was raised on the night!

Once Gift Aid is factored in, it is expected that the final sum will exceed £3,000.

The Croydon SDA Gospel Choir ended the concert with a rousing, majestic rendition of ‘The Final Word’. Their performance was im- possible to follow.

The Good Samaritan church

The congregation was reminded that there are many Scriptures that exhort us to ‘remember’ and ‘not to forget’. God’s kindlings and blessings. God wants us to remember him and his saints, as he remembers us.

After a luscious and generous lunch, the afternoon was a time of praise and thanksgiving by the use of music, arranged by the young people. Various groups sang lovely songs, and there were also duets and solos. The congregation also learned a song in which we engaged in praise and their singing reminded them that Jesus is coming soon, and God will give us a wonderful surprise.

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Another celebration day is planned for 12 June, when there will be a children’s dance to celebrate the anniversary of the church. The day will be filled with dance, and there will be a Fringe Show, the evening will be an exciting one for all those eight- plus souls, becoming part of the church in our local area.

For the anniversary in 2010, immediately after the baptism service, the others were going to be part of a ‘Health Expo’ held in 2009 and so were excited at the opportunity of working with the church. Beverley explained that as part of a campaign for 2010 called ‘Heroes Wanted’ they aim to recruit approximately 2,000 new black and ethnic minority donors and to give blood to make hope happen now!

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Florence Kathleen (Peggy) Foster (1923-2010), d. 1 March

Florence Kathleen Burston was born in Hunsdon, Hertfordshire in November 1923. She was the first of five children and from an early age shared, with her mother, the responsibility of bringing up her brothers. They were a close and loving family and it was here where she became affectionately known as Peggy.

This is the name many of her friends will recognize. When she arrived as a student at Newbold College in 1949 few of them had anything of her background. However, as she walked into the college dining-room for the first time of all, she found that here was a young lady who was somewhat different. True, she was a little older than most of us, but her poise and dignified bearing and a serenity about her that was so impressive. Those qualities remained with her throughout her life. You can imagine how surprised and intrigued were we to learn how this slender young lady, as a soldier in the British Army had, among other things, accepted the challenge of going up and down the whole country. Those were an age of enlightened forms; we see on the roads today.

It was through the prayer and influence of one of her aunts that Peggy's life changed dramatically. She was persuaded to undertake a campaign conducted by the very able and charismatic minister Pastor Tom Bradley. True, she had not acquiesced to the idea and had to be convinced of the good news of salvation through our Lord Jesus and was baptised. Not long after this she took the next step in a new life of service by enrolling as a student at Newbold Missionary College. After her graduation she was appointed to work as a Bible instructor with Pastor Billy Fraser who was holding an evangelistic campaign in the Ulster town of Portadown. This was a situation for which she was well suited. However, while staying at Newbold she had met and fallen in love with one of the senior lecturers. He was a 35-year-old man of considerable renown not only at Newbold but throughout the Advent Church in the British Isles. His name was Edwin Horatio Foster. They were married on 27 December 1951. It was a very successful and happy union.

Peggy went on to hold positions of leadership both in the North and South England Conferences and then at the British Union Conference. Though never seeking the limelight, Peggy was always gracious and gentle in dealing with people and quite magnificent in the constant support of her beloved husband.

Without doubt they were blissfully happy but it was when their two children Grenville and Cheryl came along to complete the family that this happiness found its high point. How they loved those children! Thank God Peggy lived to hold in her arms, not only her children but her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren.

Pastor Eddy Foster died in March 1994. The great loss affected Peggy both in her personality and her general health. Even though she had good and helpful friends living close by, she naturally looked for the comfort of her own loved ones. It was after living alone for ten years that she was able to move into a bungalow new flat especially built for her right next to her daughter Cheryl who lived in the small town of Whittington near Peterborough. Here she was able to spend the last five years with her caring and loving family.

The last five years of her life, however, were not spent merely recollecting events of years long past. She was able to find people from other churches with whom she could share her faith. Together with Philip Reynolds and members of her family she had the opportunity to lend friends among the clergy of other Christian denominations with whom they had regular dialogues. This was a grand finale to a well-spent life.

Just a few weeks before our sister died a special request had been made by Peggy’s granddaughter and her husband for Pastor John Ferguson to conduct the service of Peggy’s funeral service in the Grantham church, a way from where they lived.

March Pastore Ferguson was again impressive as he presented the central message of the Gospel that Jesus died and was resurrected and has gone to prepare a place in Heaven for all who have faith in him. There were many at the funeral who were left contemplating what our pastor had to say about the hope and comfort available to all when bowed down with grief. The writer, assisted by Pastor Kathleen Grogan, presented the life-sketch.

On 14 April 84 years old Peggy Foster, both in her joy and in her sadness, her faith never wavered. What an inspiration and a lesson that are so representative of the Christian Gospel!

Death of M. T. Battle

Maurice T. Battle, who became the GC’s first African American associate secretary in 1978, has died in Maryland, USA on 7 July 2020.

M. T. Battle lived in Britain in the 1960s and worked as a departmental director at the St Albans-based Division. His daughter Carla was a well-respected student at Stanborough School. Pastor Battle had also worked for many years in the division territories in West Africa, notably in Ghana. Ian Paulin, the GC president, said Pastor Battle had been a ‘good friend and highly skilled colleague’. He was also a great musician and a leader in the Ghana church. It was an offering minister.

M. T. Battle is survived by his wife, Esther, four children and six grandchildren.

WEDDING

CLOUDEL DA SILVA

On Sunday 11 April Claudel Claudia de Silveira was married in the elegant new Durban SDA church to celebrate the first of their two marriage ceremonies Claudia arrived from Romania accompanied by her father, brothers and sisters in-law Karl travelled up from Newbold College where he works as lecturer in Media Arts. He was supported by the wedding by Rhoda and Bill Fleming, his mother and father-in-law. The marriage was conducted by Pastor Marcel Ghioalda who urged the young couple to remember and focus on the admirable qualities they first saw in each other. To help in this enterprise he presented them with a framed plaque listing the estimable traits each had noticed in the other during counseling. Before the ceremony, the large number of guests and relatives left the weather-cloudy and rainy but the following fields in the above) for a community campaign aimed at young people.

Calling all people with expert knowledge in the following fields:

• Motivational speaking
• How to make someone employable
• Preventing teenage pregnancies and STDs
• Overcoming drug addiction
• Family breakdown prevention
• Obesity

Edmonton Church NEEDS YOU! (or anyone you know with expertise in the above) for a community campaign aimed at young people.

CONTACT ALEX NSIMBI: 07941 537 622
STOP: The London Marathon

By Kish Poddar, Marathon runner

The London Marathon is one of the great spectacles of the running world, and going to watch is a great experience, but running it is even better. It is a celebration of endurance and determination, and a chance to achieve something that few people ever do.

I have been running for many years, but the London Marathon was a special event for me. I had trained hard for months, and was excited to see what I could achieve.

The day of the marathon started early. I had to get up at dawn to take a train to St Albans station at 6am on Marathon day to catch a train to Watford Junction, and the no earlier trains from Tower Bridge, because there were Marathon day to catch a train to Watford Junction, and the no earlier trains from Tower Bridge, because there were

After a porridge breakfast we drove to the site. The traffic-free streets. The wormsing their way through streams of participants were high so I did not want to have to take a look. This was not good news as it happened before the news as it happened before the weather forecast (22°C was not very

My second psychological booster was to take a look. This was not good news as it happened before the news as it happened before the weather forecast (22°C was not very

My first problem was a blister developing on my little toe. I stopped, put a pouch in case I needed it. I left him if he wanted a painkiller and he

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