"O would some Power the gift to give us, to see ourselves as others see us!" wrote Scotland's Robert Burns. Power to give us a critical review of the film "The Adventists". Victor Hubert, a consultant to Adventists worldwide,-tasked to look at the documentary film. "The Adventists" is a BBC production that aired in North America and is available on DVD. The film explores the apparent paradox between a conservative Christian Church with a strong 'end time' theology, yet one that is at the cutting edge of modern healthcare, and whose members tend to live substantially longer than the national average. Historian George Knight of Andrews University, Roy Branson and Richard Rice from Loma Linda University, Charles Scriven, Rebekah Wang and Frank Perez of Kettering Medical Centre join with Cindy Tutsch of the Ellen White Estate, Charles White, the great-great-grandson of Ellen White, and others in presenting a very positive and pleasant picture of the Adventist Church. Gary B. Swanson, writing positively about it in "Adventist Review", calls it fair and well balanced. But would a British viewer relate to this clearly North American production? I actually slipped it into my DVD player with some scepticism, yet was pleasantly surprised to find a well made and engaging documentary. The historical re-enactments were generally well done. There was a good pace to the programme and a logical sequence. It made me feel good about my Church and I would have little hesitation to share it with my non-Adventist friends. There were no disappointments. Well, yes, given that we are a Church of over 16 million members worldwide, it was disappointing to find no reference to membership outside of North America. There is silence on Adventist mission. ADRA is conspicuous by its absence. An uninformed viewer would think that Adventism is an exclusively American religion consumed with issues of health. Nor does it tackle any of the 'Adventist hot-potatoes'. No dissenters to the Adventist viewpoint are interviewed, no really hard questions are asked. Issues such as the evolution/creation debate family values, or development in Adventist theology do not appear. To me, that detracts from the authenticity of the documentary. Dobmeier seems to have been slightly too sympathetic to the Adventist viewpoint.
The ‘Fourth Angel’s Message’ and the ‘gospel’ according to ‘that church brother’

Enhancing Health

With the rise of skin cancer and its reported links with overexposure to the sun, the message to cover up, increase sun block use and seek the shade has been taken seriously. So much so that scientists now believe we have gone too far. Many of the offshoot groups today are not internationally or nationally known as those mentioned above. However, they are no less pernicious. Adherents tend to target new members and young people who may not be fully conversant with the teachings of the Church. They are usually present at major church functions distributing literature and trying to get the ear of anyone prepared to listen to them. Instead of spreading joy in the Lord, they are messengers of doom and gloom.

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Advice

The British Association of Dermatologists and National Osteoporosis Society’s joint guidance on daily sun exposure recommends that we should get around 10 minutes for light skin and 20 minutes for dark skin.

Good health!

There is much that each member of our church should learn from the Bible each day. Unless we learn, grow in knowledge and faith we will become stagnant. I admire those who usually have something fresh and exciting to share from the Bible. However, there are some ‘members’, who appear to be eager to share a new idea from the Bible in order to confuse and sow seeds of doubt about our beliefs in the minds of other members. They are shadowy figures who are often present at church but not actively engaged in the ministry of the Church. Like hungry lions they seek for vulnerable prey and attack when the ‘park wardens’ are not looking in their direction. These people are usually critical of church leaders and encourage others to believe that the Church is in apostasy.

Another desperate . . . A different spirit . . . A different gospel.

Fears lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted Beware! For such are false prophets, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. (2 Corinthians 11:3, 4, 13, NIV)

There is no doubt that contemporary society is full of distractions that can prevent us from being faithful to the one true God. There are many who believe in and proclaim themselves to be the apostles of Christ. They are a significant source of potential temptation to the faithful. It is therefore important that we arm ourselves with knowledge of the Bible and the truth of the Gospel so that we can discern the truth from the lies that are being spread.

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Our Church today should take a leaf out of the book of the Church in Ephesus in dealing with dissenters. While we ought to be understanding and tolerant of those who are genuinely seeking truth, we should give no space or time to those who are deliberately seeking to draw followers away from the Church. The young lady refused to hold hands and said in a dismissive and holier-than-thou tone, ‘Only the Lord and his chosen people know the truth of the Gospel for themselves. Paul did a very good work with the Church. Dealing with false apostles and false doctrines was a major concern of the Church. If you want to know the truth of the Gospel, you must be ready to confront a lot of spurious ideas and false representatives of Christ. Ephesus was a hub of activity where a lot of false teachers were teaching. The young lady was referring to a group of believers in the form of the ‘Fourth Angel’s Message’. I was encouraged when told that our visiting brother was stopped in his tracks. We do not give dissenters a platform. We do not let them come near our members. We do not let them have any influence in the Church. We do not let them have any say in the Church. We do not let them have any say in the Church.

Adviser

Dr Ira Ross, Ph.D.

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**Issues**

**Sexual Purity**

"Much of the feedback regarding the appropriateness of a young person’s dress and attire has been bordered towards ‘for the young people we need to worry about their dress,’ or being ‘shocked and cries over the standards of dress.’ (See Apr 30, May 7 issue.)"

They suggest that for young people, and indeed all adults, this dress code ‘is an integral part of the Adventist Church’s identity. When we worry about young people’s dress it implies that they have no one around them. For example, what responses will be the way to dress personally in someone of the opposite sex? Can they have that same dress and live with that same proportion of their friends.’

"We do not want our young people to fall into the hands of those who are corrupting them. These are the days when the enemy is at the highest and strongest. Young people are the future of our church. So, as the chapter in the Bible that says ‘At any time, let us make sure that we are not the next ones who fall.’"

By her tutor Bernie who was there to common than most people realise. Research demonstrates that in any year one in four British adults experience some form of mental illness. Added to this, the World Health Organisation forecasts that by 2020 Health First Aid or to undertake training, contact Grace Walsh on 0115 9606312 or Sharon Platt-McDonald on 01923 672251.

"Pastor Claude Lombart: ‘All pastors that anyone, regardless of age, leaves the Adventist Church to go elsewhere? Do you indeed all people who attend our churches, should always be loved and accepted for who they are? We are not a church that cherry pick the bits that suit us. We want to love one another but it also advises on strategies, and for good reasons. Either God’s word is a lamp unto my feet for it is not. The previous issue is excellent but also hold the

"The Common sense approach to Dress Code

"We are all sinners! Our sins are not less or more than anyone else’s, we know that and that is why we would be able to get around any barriers I put just onto the computer. And I, as every person, prevent the situation from deteriorating, keep the patient comfortable and stabilise the situation until appropriate help arrives. But what is mental health first aid? What do one as a mental health first aid worker do? Well, fifteen individuals (eight pasters, two health professionals and five members) were the first group in the SEC to undergo this unique training and become skilled in assisting someone in a mental health crisis.

Pastor Blake: ‘Relevant, long overdue . . . my ministry will be

**New spiral-bound Sabbath School Bible Study Guide**

Starting from the third and fourth quarters of this year, the Bible Study Guide (six monthly) and the adult teachers’ quarterly have been given a fresh new look. No longer will you struggle to keep your study guide and Bible open at the same time. Get your copy now.

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Adult Teachers’ Quarterly – £4.50 plus p&p

Order through your church PM secretary or telephone the ABC sales line on 01476 539900.
Go — teach and preach

The gospel commission to ‘Teach and preach’ is well known to Seventh-day Adventist ministers and Bible workers. The North England Conference ministerial team attended a three-day teacher training course delivered by Beulah Plunkett, Sabbath School director and assistant director of PEACE.

Beulah, a qualified lecturer from the University of Birmingham, brings to the North England Conference her expertise in teacher training in further and higher education. She has customised the Certificate in Education course to meet the needs of the ministerial team and has delivered part one of the course thus far.

‘Learning is the change in attitude, knowledge or skills derived from teaching,’ said one student in a flash of inspiration during one of the teacher training classes run for the ministerial team. The pastors’ teacher training classes were held in three Areas, over three weeks. The course has been well attended and well received. The teaching was highly instructive, very interactive, widely varied and modelled many teaching styles for the pastors to adapt in their teaching.

The pastors, in particular Pastor Isaac Liburd, are now well on the way to understanding that the student is ‘king’, when it comes to planning lessons. It is crucial that the needs of the students are considered first so that what is planned accommodates their learning need. This is a key objective planned from the course and one which created much discussion.

The officers of the NEC have been engaged in a concerted effort to equip pastors in their differing roles by helping to develop knowledge, change attitudes and increase skills. Pastor Etgert Francis, the Ministerial Association director, said, ‘We are equipping pastors to enable them to give positive service and leadership to local elders and members.’

The Conference, like all institutions, has to develop its resources. The resource at the heart of the Conference’s activity is the people — and the Conference recognises the need to equip the ministers so that they can equip each and every member with skills, new attitudes and a real knowledge of God, to help them to convey God’s message to their communities.

New pastor at Langley

May 8 saw the official welcome of Pastor Sohan Gill to Langley church as the successor of Pastor Dauder Musah who retired from service at the end of 2009. Pastor Gill has previously served in India and Fiji. He has a wealth of experience that he draws upon as he continues God’s work within the West Midlands. He has two children and four grandchildren and serves the ministry with his wife continually by his side. He is a keen member of the Langley adult choir and contributes by singing and occasionally playing the tambourine.

On 8 May Pastor Paul Haworth of the NEC introduced Pastor Gill as the official minister for the Langley, Odhill, Kidderminster and Walsall churches.

Hull University witness

It’s not often that someone walks in off the street, approaches the pastor and tells him that he’s been convicted of the truth of the Bible that this church champions — and that he wants to be baptised. That’s how it was with Fabien Brissett, a young man from Wallham Forest in London studying at Hull University.

Fabien had come to know about Adventists through the Amazing Facts website in 2009 and wanted to find a church that reflected what he’d found. When he walked in and made his request, the pastor was delighted to start the baptismal Bible study course straight away. Fabien’s hunger to know more of God’s Word meant that even the summer break didn’t deter him from continuing the studies by email.

But Fabien wasn’t content to keep what he was learning and experiencing at Hull church to himself. He shared his faith, and he brought a succession of friends from the university with him from week to week, especially as his baptism came closer. On the happy day he was accompanied by four other young people who came to witness his stand for God’s Kingdom. After the message encouraging the congregation not to get too comfortable in this world, Fabien was baptised by Pastor Nyacyto. At the appeal, all four of his friends came forward to declare that they, too, wanted to follow in this happy young man’s footsteps.

A testimony to Fabien’s witness and influence, which still leaves him amazed and humbled, that his friends are already engaged in the studies which will lead them to baptism and full commitment to Christ.

Fabien will be leaving Hull in the summer, but we know that wherever he goes he’ll be a great asset to the Church and a powerful witness to the grace of God.

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Newbold students question GC VP
by Helen Pearson

In London, British politicians spent the second weekend in May discussing the future of the country with each other. At Newbold, Elder Lowell Cooper, vice-president of the General Conference, spent the same weekend discussing the future — and lots of other things — with three groups of people.

On Sabbath morning he preached on the topic, ‘Facing the Future’ at Newbold’s Family Service. After a brilliant children’s story drawn from his ministry in India, he talked about the importance for the future of the Church of members’ relationship to culture. Comparing the attitudes of three Old Testament characters —

Esther, Jonah and Daniel — to the culture of their time, he suggested that we should follow the example of Daniel who was “thoroughly everything that didn’t matter”.

In the afternoon, he spent about three hours in conversation with about twenty undergraduate and postgraduate students from the College and the church. For the first hour or so, the group, invited by principal Jane Sabes to eat with Elder Cooper, shared a buffet meal.

He equally recognises that it is the whole team that makes for a successful programme. Without the composite studio skills of AMC manager, Wes Kapon, and the acute ear in structure and social dynamics.

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Five walkers raise hundreds for ADRA in Mourne Mountains walk

Five walkers dedicated twenty-four hours of the May Bank Holiday weekend to participate in an Irish-Mission-sponsored walk to raise money for ADRA-Ireland. At 12 on Sunday 2 May, they set out from the coastal town of Rostrevor in County Down with the goal of reaching Newcastle, another coastal town on the other side of the Mourne Mountains, by 12 the next day.

Between them lay 26 miles of mountain tracks, wetlands and mountain peaks with names like Rocky Mountain, Hen Mountain Spatia, Stevenamuck (the highest on the route at 493 metres) and Curaghard. The first section of the journey was going to be the toughest. The goal was to walk 18.5 miles on the first day. Northern Ireland had enjoyed a few good days of sunshine before this weekend. There would inevitably be some rain on this walk. The walkers were well prepared; however. Among them was Pastor David Neal, the president of the Irish Mission, who had completed several advanced Pathfinder outdoor leadership courses in his days as youth leader of the South England Conference. Pastors Adam Keough and Weiers Coetser had just completed a three-day hike across the hills of northern Donegall a few days earlier and were well versed in keeping dry in wet environments, and Steven Jamison, a member of the Larne church, probably had more experience walking in Ireland than all of the other walkers combined. The walkers continued on at a leisurely pace. They enjoyed panoramic views over County Down and the way to the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea. After nine hours they walked into the overnight area short after the sun had set. Happy for some warmth and a delicious meal.

The second section was less strenuous as it was to reach out to 7.5 miles before 12. The path meandered through the beautiful forested streams of Ballymoren park. There was more time for conversation on this section of the route. The conversation naturally turned to the work of ADRA and its fundraising efforts. Stephen Cooper, the director for ADRA in the Trans-European Division, was one of the walkers. He explained that an important aspect of ADRA’s fundraising efforts is to build networks of friendships in the communities where fundraising is being done. Ingathering would never only be viewed as an opportunity to make friends in the community. Stephen Cooper said, “Sisters in Service (SIS).” Asked why they decided to choose a new name, SIS leader, Gilre Andrada, explained that the group needed a name to reflect their new vision, ambition, purpose and identity. She added that SIS is a project to bring women in the church and in the community, regardless of age, race and status, uniting everybody in worship, fellowship, discipleship and service.

Exactly three Sabbaths after this relaunch, members of the reborn SIS delivered an inspiring full-day’s programme in the local church, as part of the Women’s International Day of Prayer. Naturally, prayer was the central theme of the day’s programmes.

The morning Sabbath School programme commenced with a lesson on inclusive prayers, presented in an innovative manner using the metaphor of the ‘Chocolate chip cookie’ recipe. This was a cookery programme with a twist, emphasising the uniqueness of the individual ingredients required to make chocolate chip cookies. Each ingredient represents the different people we encounter daily, individually, some ingredients (or people) may be lovely and glittery, giving colour to our lives, while others can be unpleasant, overpowering and even lead us astray. However, in the right quantities and combinations, they all play a role in our character development and contribute to making our lives what they are. Listeners were challenged to seek to become special positive ingredients that will enhance and enrich other people’s lives and always to pray for every one within their sphere of contact.

The day’s main sermon was delivered by the SIS leader, who spoke about the Canaanite woman’s encounter with Jesus. Gilre encouraged her congregation to go directly to Jesus for all their needs.

The main highlight from the afternoon programme, following a sumptuous fellowship lunch, was a series of prayer sessions. Two weeks in advance, the congregation had been asked to submit prayer requests in three special boxes.

The nightly messages were ably delivered by Minister Pastor Garry Gordon. During the week, ‘God in a box’, ‘From Babylon to Laodicea’ and ‘When praise demands a sacrifice’ were just a few of the inspiring and thought-provoking messages that challenged the congregation.

The baptism was itself a Spirit-filled celebration as seven souls including four young people, Alexandra Berry, Notoya Campbell, Jennifer Coleman, Judith Dixon, Peta-Saye Grey, Carlton Lottmann and Vallera Whyte, stood before the congregation robed in white, proudly declaring their desire to go all the way with Christ.

Carlton, Vallera and Jennifer all felt their need to return to God after a long time away from Him, saying they had been living a life of sin.

As a memento from the special Women’s International Day of Prayer, all the women and girls were given ‘God Cans’. These are special coin tin cans labelled ‘God CAN answer prayers’. These were issued with a challenge for the ladies to fill them with their prayer requests and thanksgiving offerings. It is hoped that the tins will be opened during a special thanksgiving ceremony at the next Women’s International Day of Prayer in March 2011.

Valle’s mothers and friends presented her a giant Mother’s Day card, which she and her sisters opened during a special thanksgiving ceremony.

The pastoral team with the seven candidates. Front row left to right: Vallera Whyte, Notoya Campbell, Peta-Saye Grey. Back row left to right: Jennifer Coleman, Judith Dixon, Carlton Lottmann and Alexandra Berry.

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Newcastle welcomes SIS

When twenty ladies met on 20 February, it was with a clear purpose to relaunch Women’s International Day of Prayer. Ingathering would never die out if churches saw it as an opportunity to make friends in the community. Stephen Cooper said, ‘Pastor Neal did an excellent job of organising the event and I trust it is a success.’

The starting point was the theme song ‘I’m restored’ which spoke of restoration, reconnection and revival. For many attendants, the lyrics themselves were a source of...
Dalbir Masih is a member of the Salvation Army. This is where he learned his social gospel? Probably, but they got it from the Lord's injunction about service to ‘the least of these my brethren’, so its place of origin could not have been better. Trained for ministry at Spicer Memorial College, Pastor Masih was called to serve in the British Union in 1974. In the migration from the Indian group of Punjabi (Urdu-speaking) Adventists settled in the West Midlands and, wisely, made contact with that most outgoing and inclusive of British ministers, George Bell, then pastoring West Bromwich. Pastor Bell was a good visitor and came to enjoy new tastes and flavours. However, although that particular Wexford-born man had spent his impressionable years in Punta Arenas, Chile, Urdu was not a language learned easily at his age. That was the gist of what he shared with the Conference, adding that ‘the ideal solution’ would be ‘to have a pastor from their own country’. He had met gifted Indian pastors who had called to see his Panjab church in Langley en route to the GC session. Pastor Bell talked to Conference, Union and Division officers and found ‘all were of one mind, that for mutual understanding between members and minister the ideal would be to have a pastor from India’. When Pastor Dalbir Masih visited Britain he was invited to come for interview by the NEC president. A call was placed for his services. The Maicís succeeded the Bells as the pastoral team in March 1975 and Pastor Masih hit the ground running. Within a short time he had arranged for a singing group from his church to perform on TV and radio, reached out to the community through an article in the newspaper and arranged a day of fellowship in a large Anglican building which was attended by ‘well over four hundred Indians of various faiths’. When the Assistant High Commissioner for India and the Mayor of Sandwell presided at the opening of the new Langley church building eight years later ‘Dalbir Masih and the Langley members’ were commissioned ‘for their tireless work and unstinting sacrifice which have played such a vital part in making this church a reality’. R. H. Surridge wrote that ‘on several occasions members brought unopened wage packets for the building of the Lord’s house’. Of the Langley members Surridge said, ‘The English language has to be interpreted, the language of Christian love is clearly understood.’ By the time of his recent retirement Dalbir Masih had ministered at Langley for thirty-five years. At the same time he ministered to many other West Midlands congregations. During his Wolverhampton pastorate he presided over the founding of three new churches, Wednesfield, Stafford and Ponderford. During the first of his two periods as senior Camp Hill minister the impressive old building was burnt down. So well known was Pastor Masih in the wider religious community that the Bishop of Birmingham was a guest of honour when the new Camp Hill sanctuary was dedicated. In 1988 Pastor Masih had the West Midlands Area Advisory Board begin the summer tent campaigns which have been an annual feature of evangelism ever since and ‘have reaped hundreds of baptisms and confirmed thousands in the Adventist faith’ in the years since. Among the consequences have been the founding of the Breath of Life Challenge, an opportunity and one who always sees the bigger picture of what we are about as a Church. On behalf of the Church I thank him for his service as a church pastor, co-ordinator of Asian Affairs for the British Union, BUC Executive Committee member, NEC Executive Committee member, GC Executive Committee member, a bridge between the Church and the wider community and a wonderful man of faith.’
Manchester South baptism

Sabbath 17 April was the week-end when the Spirit of God came to a standingstill due to the ash cloud from an Icelandic volcano. At Manchester South church no ash cloud would have been big enough to stop these nine precious souls taking their stand for the Lord. Eight candidates were baptised on this day, six of whom were young people: Amber is the eldest sister to Scott and Mindy Coffman’s twin daughter and son Amy and Ethan. Indiana, to those who didn’t know, is home to the University of Evansville which fields a challenging and successful volleyball team in the United States. The school was founded in 1805 and was one of the first to offer women’s sports. "It was a real privilege to baptise these nine souls, and it was a real privilege to be a part of what God is doing in our city. It was something that we thought about every day as we prepared for this baptism," said Pastor Vidal Mapp.

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The labourers are few. As Manchester South is progressing forward in its outreach with the gospel commission to teach, preach and baptise, we seek prayers and support.

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Christianity Today reviewed 'The Adventists' for 2010/adventistadvantage.html as "ithers see us!" 2

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As a former Adventist, LaVonne Nef,

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