Richard de Lisser and Jon Gendle report on the 2010 SEC Camp Meeting

Reclaim!

Welcoming the remnant, SEC president Sam Davies spoke of the challenge of finding alternative venues within a limited budget, while campers themselves faced their own budget challenges in times of financial uncertainty. Overseas speakers at this, the twenty-ninth year of Camp Meeting, faced the challenge of travelling to a green and pleasant land hemmed in by clouds of volcanic dust.

Thankfully, our Church is not unused to challenges — even as the president spoke, the remnant grew, the air of anticipation dimmed concerns about overseas arrivals, and the people hushed.

The multimedia presence

Those who stayed at home could still feel a part of the Camp Meeting experience by watching the live streaming service, courtesy of SEC Media. In addition, an exclusive online interview with speakers and guests took place at the end of the evening commitment programme. A specially commissioned programme, ‘Director’s Cut’, gave SEC directors and administrators an opportunity to explain their vision and be quizzed on their work and activities.

A team of nineteen volunteers were manning cameras and the two outside broadcast vans. Stefan Stanciu and his team spent months rebuilding a van they bought from Granada TV. He is delighted with the result, and believes that streaming the services can be a real advantage for members who cannot make it to Camp Meeting, as well as providing others outside the Church with an opportunity to see Adventists in action.

Light FM

The Light FM broadcast to the community on 87.7 FM was a priority, and while we cannot estimate the audience over such a short period, we did have reports from the field indicating that the broadcast was well received. Women’s Ministries director, Malika Bediako, reported how her taxi driver commented that he was a regular listener and had made a connection with the Church.

Visitor numbers were on a par with last year’s broadcast at 635. However, this year saw an 82% increase in the number of pages viewed, coming in at 2,133. This is due to the fact that we have made the site more interactive, with videos and songs on demand, as well as the live streaming. This year we had visitors from thirty two countries, the top five being the UK, Canada, Jamaica and France.

Top: Kirk Thomas
Middle: Pastor Joseph Barrett, right, Commitment Service speaker interviewed
Bottom: Kirsten Oster-Lundqvist, Rosemary Lethbridge and Maslin Holness
Hope Channel and Sky TV

The following statement was prepared by the British Union in response to MESSENGER readers who have asked, ‘Why can’t Hope Channel be on Sky TV?’

D

uring 2009 the British Union Conference extensively examined the possibility of placing Hope TV on the Sky platform. Costs were investigated and opportunities explored, including consultations with many media companies and consultants, as well as with the North and South England Conferences. The BUC recognised that this could be a major evangelistic endeavour that, if successful, would provide a major focus for the Church over the next five years.

In exploring the possibilities a number of major obstacles came up, each of which, while not insurmountable, increased the cost of placing Hope TV on Sky. The largest obstacle was compliance to the UK OFCOM broadcasting code. Because Hope TV is principally designed for an American audience, programmes have been produced within American codes of compliance. Codes in the UK are much stricter, and an analysis of programming by outside consultants suggested that over 70% of programmes would have to be modified in some way to become compliant. In addition, all programming would have to be monitored, so non-compliance can result in major fines or the channel being removed from air.

As the financial implications became apparent the Executive committee recognised that the cost of placing Hope Channel on Sky was beyond our reach. Recognising that broadcasting will change dramatically over the next five years or so, with broadcast on demand, live streaming and the spread of high-speed broadband across the BUC territory, it was decided to focus resources into programme production with an emphasis on quality UK-based programmes. These will be made available on the internet, as well as looking for opportunities for an Adventist contribution on other channels. Over the last year, Adventists have had considerable opportunities on BBC programmes as well as on Genesis TV and Premier Radio. It is anticipated that these opportunities will increase. In addition, the BUC has appointed a new media producer, Kalil Osei-Owusu, who is already engaged in three new series of programmes. SEC Media is also looking at the best way to use its facilities to help the evangelistic efforts of the Church within the media.

For as long as I can remember, the great gatherings of our Church have been followed by would-be infiltrators. The more obvious ones stand outside distributing literature. The less obvious ones sit inside and target the young in years and the young in faith. Typically, they try to invite the targeted individual to attend separate meetings. Invariably the inference of the infiltrators is that the Church is in apostasy and that the separate meetings are for persons who are, theologically, intellectually and/or ethically superior to the rest of us.

Behind the schismatic movements is the cult of the personality: the need for some ordinary ordinary person to make a distinctive contribution by pushing back the frontiers of the faith.

A century ago, A. F. Ballinger, L. R. Conradi and E. J. Waggoner were the personalities around which the cults clustered. These days the internet has created an infinite variety of alternative gospels.

Ever hear of Peanuts, Lucy and Charlie Brown? The cartoon strip by Charles Schulz once portrayed a class on the first day of a new school year. The teacher asked that each pupil write an essay on what it felt like to return to school. Lucy wrote, ‘Vacations are nice but it’s good to get back. There’s nothing better in education. I look forward to expanding my knowledge even further this year.’ On reading the teacher the beamed broadly and wrote A+. In the final frame of the cartoon strip Lucy leans over and whispers to Charlie Brown, ‘After a while you know what sells.’

A ‘what sells’ theology is apt to cater to the visceral prejudices and insecurities that exist in all. It is market-driven theology, so it makes money. But it’s not new. Adventist TV’ have made ‘celebrities’ of some who are not ordained, have not been elected and are not accountable to the Church constitution. That being the case, it is a mistake to assume that they necessarily represent the Church and its beliefs with any accuracy. Market-driven, private-enterprise theology may sell, and its purveyors may be slick and convincing – but be careful of what they say and hesitate before you give them your money. Keep your critical faculties about you.

Paul had to warn the Corinthians of false apostles who preach ‘another Jesus’, ‘a different spirit’ and ‘a different gospel’ (2 Corinthians 11:4, NKJV.)

These people saw themselves as ‘super-apostles’ who were ‘very superior’ to Paul, whom they represented as ‘weak’ and ‘incompetent’ (2 Corinthians 11.) Paul speaks of their ‘conceit’. Do you recognise that spirit today? The infiltrators seek to • put us down: they must be the acknowledged ‘super-apostles’; • take our money: Paul, an authentic apostle, was careful not to take money for himself; • deceive us by presenting ‘another Jesus’, a ‘different spirit’ and a ‘different gospel’ (2 Corinthians 11:4, NKJV)

By giving a warm reception to those deceptive teachings, the Corinthians were, Paul says, being ‘led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ’. Paul saw himself as the agent of God through whom his converts were ‘betrothed to Christ’. Paul’s metaphor draws on the fact that, in his culture, marriage involved two separate ceremonies. There was the betrothal ceremony and there was the nuptial ceremony. In Paul’s allegory the Christian’s ‘betrothal’ took place at baptism and the ‘nuptial’ represented the parousia (The Second Coming). The bride-to-be was the Church. Paul saw it as his responsibility to guard the chastity of the bride-to-be against the seductive deceivers. The Corinthians had flirted with these deceivers and put their relationship with Christ, the Bridegroom, in peril.

The problem Paul addressed is still with us. We need to think what we are being taught rather than being too easily impressed by who is teaching us.

Believers are being led away from Christ, and Christ’s Gospel is being misrepresented by those whose principal loyalty is to their own interests. Paul acknowledged that the false but arrogant ‘super-apostles’ were far better orators than he was. But oratory and authenticity are different things. At a dinner party a well-known actor, with all the resources of dramatic art at his disposal, recited the twenty-third psalm. He sat down to thunderous applause. Since all the guests were respected to recite something, and that the quiet man sitting next to him had planned to recite the same psalm, he went ahead and did so. When he finished, there was first aitter, then an embarrassed silence around the table. Eventually it was broken by the great actor who turned to his neighbour and said, ‘Sir, I know the psalm, but you know the Shepherd.’

Knowing the Good Shepherd, the real Christ, and knowing him personally: that’s what counts.

In the last issue, we highlighted the importance of vitamin D and examined the impact of its deficiency. This issue concludes with some current research findings and examines whether supplements are necessary.

The main source of vitamin D is sunlight on our skin. Other sources include eggs, dairy products, oily fish, mushrooms and fortified foods. Research suggests that vegans require vitamin D from fortified foods such as cereals, soya or rice milk, yeast or supplements – particularly in winter.

Because vitamin D is a fat-soluble vitamin, whatever your body does not use immediately can be stored for future use.

Current challenges

It is estimated that more than 60% of the British population are deficient in vitamin D. Those with the lowest levels have been identified in Scotland, the north of England and among ethnic minorities. Living further from the Equator reduces sunlight exposure for most months of the year, impacting vitamin D produced by the skin.

How much vitamin D do we need?

The maximum safe daily dose of vitamin D is still being determined. However, estimates range between 2,000 and 10,000 international units. High doses could interfere with the efficacy of some drugs, and may also produce some degree of toxicity. However, a maximum daily dose of 10 micrograms (0.01 mg) has been recommended for pregnant or breastfeeding mothers and older people.

Vulnerable groups

A recommended daily dose of 10 micrograms (0.01 mg) of vitamin D is suggested if you:

• are of Asian origin
• have dark skin pigmentation and live far from the Equator
• always cover up at your skin when outdoors
• rarely go outdoors

• eat no meat or oily fish
• are asthmatic and don’t respond to steroid treatment. However, this should be discussed with your general practitioner and supplementation should be undertaken under their direction.

The Food Standards Agency states that ‘most people should be able to get all the vitamin D they need from their diet and by getting a little sun’.

Did you know?

Steroidal medications such as prednisolone can interfere with the metabolism of vitamin D, so if on steroids monitor your vitamin D levels. If you receive income support or jobseekers’ allowance you are entitled to some free vitamin supplements from maternity and child health clinics.

You can ask your doctor for a blood test to determine whether you are deficient in vitamin D. Good health!

Good health!...
‘But he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.’ Proverbs 28.25, KJV

by Annette Muller

Many continue to write in defence of the young people who were the victims of intolerant comment in the Letters page, MESSENGER 16 April. Some even suggested that such letters should not have been printed. Others believe that they should have been followed immediately by an editorial comment declaring the intolerant views invalid. As a believer in freedom of expression I felt I could not do that. What I did do was to contact an editorial colleague, KAREN HOLFORD, to ask her to prepare an article criticising the letter that appeared on the Letters page of the 30 April issue. Since Karen’s comments would appear to have been overlooked, I am giving readers a second opportunity to read them. These will be the last words on this issue.

Fats: The good, the bad and the ugly

by Karen Holford

Following the pictures of the Area 2 Youth Federation’s banquet, and letters concerning standards, I would like to respond by offering some other perspectives.

Standards are important, but we often complicate things when we try to impose our standards on other people. Our Christian standards are there to guide us personally, in our behaviour, not to measure other people against and find them wanting. When we look at the life of Jesus, we watch him come into contact with all kinds of people whose standards are not the same as his: the woman caught in adultery, Zaccheus the tax collector, and the woman at the well. It’s worth taking the time to study what happens in these three cases.

Jesus never condemns or criticises, even though there are very obvious ‘standards’ issues. He accepts the fragile person totally, even at the point of his/her greatest failure. Paul invites us to ‘accept others as Christ has accepted you’ (Romans 12.10). This is a powerful experience for people who have been rejected, criticised and despised. Criticism comes from our own sense of pride that we are in some way superior to the other person. It alienates people and pushes them away from God. How can we show humility and honour the young people and children in our churches above ourselves, above the critics, above the people who do not understand their needs? What might our young people achieve if we showed our confidence in their abilities and gifts?

The spirit of criticism

Karen Holford

Unsaturated fats are fats with double bonds in their chemical structure. This means the fats don’t lie flat, resulting in their being liquid rather than solid at room temperature. In order to make them solid, a chemical process called hydrogenation needs to take place. Hydrogenated fat is also referred to as trans-fat. Trans-fats can also result when you heat oil at high temperatures as in frying. Reusing oil is not recommended as this can cause a build up of trans-fats.

Trans-fats (apart from a special fat called conjugated linoleic acid) is also called ‘ugly’ as they have no beneficial function in the body – they block the function of healthy fats and see three times more likely than saturated fat to be associated with heart disease.

Using less oil and frying at lower temperatures is preferable. Avoiding hydrogenated fats is best. They are found in margarines, processed foods like biscuits, cakes and vegemite or cheese. Hydrogenation occurs in products that contain vegetable oils and hydrogenation needs to be avoided in cooking.

Monounsaturated fats found in olives, avocados and nuts are also packed with protective support. Nevertheless they are still vulnerable to light and heat, which means nuts and seeds need extra protection. Nuts are best stored in dark containers and, where possible, in the refrigerator.

If you have a problem digesting nuts, soaking overnight can help improve their digestibility and flavour if making nut milks. As nuts contain up to 70% fat, they make good cream and milk alternatives. Almonds are a particularly rich source of calcium. But like any other fat, they need to be used in moderation, a small handful a day. Olives, avocados, nuts and seeds can all be made into oils; cold-pressed virgin oils are the best, and best added to foods once cooked (not to be used in frying, baking, and so on).

Nuts and seeds are also rich in polyunsaturated fats. The most famous polyunsaturated fats are the omega 3s. These essential fats contain omega 6, along with omega 3, cannot be made by the body, which means we have to eat them in our diet. Foods that are rich in omega 3 include oily fish (like salmon, trout, sardines) or plant foods (such as flaxseed oil or English walnuts). Eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosa-hexaenoic acid (DHA) play a vital role in the body. Research shows that they improve everything from brain development to helping relieve symptoms associated with asthma, rheumatoid arthritis and even lowering cancer risk. Seaweed contains omega 3 and so can be used by vegetarians as a source.

However, omega 6 is more plentiful in nuts and seeds, and the World Health Organisation suggests that these oils should be taken in a 5:1 ratio (omega 6: omega 3). Vegetarians and vegetarians can get a similar 3 fatty acids from flax, seaweed, caroila (extra-virgin cold-pressed) and English walnuts. Flossed nuts need to be ground to release the oil (which can be done with a coffee grinder or chopper/blender attachment). You can also use extra-virgin cold-pressed flaxseed added to foods to boost levels.

Many vegetarians do not eat these foods so they may have insufficient omega 3. A high level of omega 6 compared to omega 3 is sometimes associated with greater levels of inflammation. Also some individuals cannot efficiently convert omega 6 to its longer chain (gamma linoleic acid or GLA). Longer omega 6 is useful for healthy skin and has been found to be helpful in symptoms of eczema and premenstrual symptoms. Long chain omega 6 is also found in blackcurrant and bronage oil have been found to be helpful.

Eat lots of fruits and vegetables for antioxidant support. Use fresh fruits and vegetables moderately foods rich in omega 3.

Eat-fish foods moderately.

Try raw nuts/seeds.

Use extra-virgin cold-pressed where possible (look for the label) and, where possible, in the fridge.

Try including English walnuts in the diet 3-4 times a week.

Seaweed can be used in nut or nut butter or seeds to add a fatty taste.

Mix flaxseed and/or extra-virgin oil into salad dressings (use lemon and other herbs to improve taste).

If you do eat fish or meat:

Eat smaller fish (such as sardines, trout and salmon) or lean meat.

Eat wild fish rather than farmed fish (organic fish is farmed or organic meat before cooking, remove the skin, fat (found along the back, sides and belly) and internal organs, where toxins are likely to accumulate.

When cooking fish, add to vegetables. Serve less fried fish, frying seals in chemical pollutants that might be in the fish’s fat.

Cutting back eating allows fat to drain away. Consider using less meat and more plant-based proteins such as beans.

Remember that trusting in the Lord is also recommended; our world is not perfect and we know when we are doing our best.

The potential, not their mistakes. He saw what each of these three social outcasts would achieve when the power of the Holy Spirit transformed their lives. By the end of the day two of those people had become amazing missionaries. I wonder what power would be released in our churches if we drench ourselves in the grace of our good Lord, empower and empower them to use their gifts to reach the people in their circles of influence.

In two of these biblical cases Jesus asked the other person for his or her assistance. He wanted them to feel valued and respected and to believe that they could change and do something good and worthwhile. So he humbled himself and asked for their help. In doing so he honoured them above himself (Romans 12.10). This is a powerful experience for people who have been rejected, criticised and despised. Criticism comes from our own sense of pride that we are in some way superior to the other person. It alienates people and pushes them away from God. How can we show humility and honour the young people and children in our churches above ourselves, above the critics, above the people who do not understand their needs? What might our young people achieve if we showed our confidence in their abilities and gifts?

We know that humans are sinful, but we also know that God said it is not good for people to experience loneliness (Genesis 2.18). God is the person who deals with each of our sins – not us. We try to do the work of the Holy Spirit, and maybe we grieve him, because of our selfish desires (Desire of Ages, page 353.).

Karen looked for the best in the other person and saw them through the lens of their potential, not their mistakes. He saw what each of these three social outcasts would achieve when the power of the Holy Spirit transformed their lives. By the end of the day two of those people had become amazing missionaries. I wonder what power would be released in our churches if we drench ourselves in the grace of our good Lord, empower and empower them to use their gifts to reach the people in their circles of influence.
We need to hear and respond to the cry of those who are really in need and on the margins of society. Yes, we have a state that should take care of its people, but they are not spiritual guardians, neither can they discern these things. Why? Because it is spiritually discerned and ordered by Jesus. That is why he gave us the great commission. Some have left the Church a long time ago even though they still attend church. They can be reclaimed only if we can reach out to encourage and support them and show them that we truly care and that they have a voice, and the willingness to fill a need, by the grace of God through the Holy Spirit. We should see that what they expect can be reflected in the church community at large, there would be a great change.

We need to teach the doctrines and the fundamentals and live our lives by them, so they won’t be driven away by every wind of doctrine from those who proselytise on the fringes.

Of course we can’t do it by ourselves. We need to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine and actions. We need to teach the doctrines and the fundamentals and live our lives by them, so they won’t be driven away by every wind of doctrine from those who proselytise on the fringes.

Jesus said: ‘If the church will not care for the hurting, poor, sick, and neared, then let them cast the church from the building and build it by themselves. Let them not care for the hungry nor the homeless, but build their own church, for the church has been cast out of Christ and the Holy Spirit.’

What I am trying to convey is that we have to be models of what we want people to believe and we need to be our best selves. We need to be models of what we want people to believe and we need to be our best selves. We need to be models of what we want people to believe and we need to be our best selves. We need to be models of what we want people to believe and we need to be our best selves. We need to be models of what we want people to believe and we need to be our best selves. We need to be models of what we want people to believe and we need to be our best selves.

END OF YEAR FUN & FUNDRAISING EVENT

Sunday 11 July 11am-4.30pm

Variety of stalls, including food and drink stalls, car boot sale, bouncy castle, fun rides, bric-a-brac stalls, money paper stall, puppy show, BBQ in the park.

If you would like to run a pitch or take a car boot space please contact our school office on 01923 673291 or email info@stanboroughprimary.co.uk.
Hi there, Christian Stars!

Abraham sent his business manager Eliezer to find a wife for Isaac in Nahor, where his relatives lived. At the well he met quite a remarkable young girl. She was beautiful, kind-hearted and friendly. She was a cheerful, hard-working girl who lived a godly life. You can read about her in Genesis chapter 24.

Eliezer knew immediately that Rebekah would make a 'perfect' wife for Isaac. After all, God's promise would come true if she agreed to marry Isaac, and the Saviour of the world would be born into Abraham's family.

Still, there was another important question. Would she sense God's call and agree to leave her family and travel to another country? When her mum and brother asked her if she was willing to marry Isaac, Rebekah said, 'Yes.' She wanted to do what God had planned for her life. That is why she became a great, great, great, many times over, great grandmother to Jesus.

God knows everything about you, too. He has a special job that only you can do. Today, write him an email on the 'computer screen' telling him of your promise that you will always go wherever and do whatever he wants. Like Rebekah, you will find that following God's call will bring you many exciting Christian adventures.
Sonia Clarke-Swaby speaking at an organ donation event. Ex-Prime Minister Gordon Brown witnessed her at the event in connection with the Mary Seacole Award.

Adventist leads organ donation awareness work
by Sharon Platt-McDonald
Health Ministries director

O n Sunday 30 May Sonia Clarke-Swaby, recipient of the Mary Seacole Award*, hosted an awareness day to raise the issue of the need for more organ donations in African Caribbean and Asian communities.

The event was held at the Forest Hill Methodist Church Centre where a packed audience was treated to presentations from various health professionals and key public figures. Subjects covered were national projects to raise awareness of organ donation and blood transfusion, high blood pressure and diabetes and their implications for kidney disease; organ donation and transplantation; barriers impacting the uptake of organ donation; and donor and recipient testimonies as they shared their personal heart-warming and emotional accounts of giving and receiving a kidney.

Sonia gave a brief presentation on what she hopes to accomplish with her award and encouraged attendees to become donors. Sharon Platt-McDonald delivered a motivational address and highlighted the work she has undertaken with the national bodies such as the Organ Donation Taskforce and the NHS Blood and Transplant and their current partnership working with the SDH Church in England. Other presenters included Dr Rosemond Channer and Dr Sarah Itam from the Lewisham church; Professor Gurch Randhawa, Professor of Diversity in Public Health and Director for the Institute of Health Research, who was chair for the afternoon; Dr John Taylor, transplant consultant surgeon at Guy’s Hospital, who gave a presentation on the efficacy of kidney transplants and their varying outcomes in different cultural groups; Drinwin Lewis, father of Daniel De-Gale (now deceased) co-founder and chief executive of the African/Caribbean/Leukaemia Trust (ACLIT), addressed the issue of disparity between the number of black minority ethnic (BME) people in need of transplants and BME people who are willing to act as donors.

A finger-licking array of sumptuous food was served which helped to enhance the networking experience as attendees shared experiences and contact details as well as their plans to commit to future work in raising awareness for organ donation.

Research demonstrates that BME people are three to four times more likely to be affected by kidney failure. They also wait between two to eight years for a kidney transplant and are more likely to die while waiting for transplants. The organ donor taskforce states that 8% of the UK population are of BME origins, yet 25% of patients actively waiting for kidney transplants are from the BME population. The suggested reason for this is that only 1.7% of donors are Black, 1.6% are Asian and 95.6% are White.

With these alarming facts, Sonia felt the need to use her award to raise more awareness in the community. She received the £16,250 Mary Seacole Award for her project on exploring the understanding and cultural beliefs surrounding organ donation among BME populations.

Sonia attends the Lewisham church and is a kidney transplant co-ordinator at King’s College Hospital. Sharon Platt-McDonald caught up with Sonia for a brief interview.

SPM:
On receiving the Mary Seacole Award what do you see as your key goals for the project?

SCS:
The key goals are:
1. address negative perceptions around transplantation and organ donation
2. ensure people are well informed about the process of donation
3. see an increase in those signing up as donors
4. create a health promotion leaflet about high blood pressure and diabetes

SPM:
What message would you like to leave with our readers to encourage them to support the work you are doing and other related projects?

SCS:
That organ donation/transplantation can mean the world of difference to those affected with kidney disease. When diagnosed with this health problem your life is drastically shortened by 50%, and with a transplant your life expectancy is increased. Becoming a donor is a wonderful ‘gift of life’ — why not become a giver and touch someone else’s life?

*Mary Seacole, born in Jamaica in 1805, is celebrated as a Crimean War heroine due to her skills as a nurse and carer. During the Crimean War, she made a major contribution to nursing practice by helping wounded British soldiers and demonstrating her commitment to inclusivity. The Mary Seacole Award is given to practitioners who are leading their field of health care and who undertake cutting-edge research, projects and programmes for the benefit of both patients and local communities.

For more information about organ donation for the black community visit: www.organdonation.nhs.uk/blackcampaign
Or to register as a donor, visit organdonation.nhs.uk or call 0300 123 23 23

Fun-time camporee
T he long weekend of the NEC Adventurer Camporee gave Rebecca Saunders (from Yardley Adventurer club) an added bonus. While other children worked on awards, Rebecca learned to ride a bike in 30 minutes. With the help of her church pastor, Adam Randin, who is also the director of the Conference’s PEACE evangelism training programme, Rebecca patiently persevered, grew in confidence and finally experienced the joy of being a cyclist.

Those four values — perseverance, confidence, patience and experience — also happened to be the elements of faith that Pastor Clifford Herman was speaking about as camp chaplain under the heading ‘Heroes of Faith’. Pastor Herman, from Glasgow, brought his family to the Camporee.

Daughter Megan often was to be seen around the camp with her beautiful smile, while son Matthew was soon adopted by the Bournville club as one of their own.

There were really serious moments but along with them came times of great humour. The stampede of excited children onto the platform to help with an experiment revealed how much fun the children were having as they learned about faith. The serious moments? Yes, a girl from Bournville, in a thought-provoking interview looked forward to doing her Master Guide course when she was old enough so that she could teach Adventurers — she enjoyed her time as an Adventurer so much.

It was a Sabbath morning when our chaplain arrived on the platform to preach — the rains had come. From the very first time that he bounced onto the platform adults and children alike knew they were in for a treat. The children from Bournville led a very creative and inspiring worship that was full of songs and joy and included a solo by Stephanie which created the setting for a sermon. The children certainly warmed to their pastor, who was illustrating faith by means of some very basic science experiments using, among other items, modelling clay balls, gravity and Rice Crispies. Clifford’s services were exceptional in the way that they included the children in worship.

The Saturday evening concert opened with the expected noisy and action-packed song service that was planned and chosen by the Leicester Central Adventurers. While a great opportunity for the children to get excited, the worship time was also ripe for the children to lead in prayer with other children and adults around them.

The culmination of the weekend’s activities was probably the award for the best club, achieved by their prowess at inspection time. As usual, club records were inspected, uniforms examined, camp layout studied and marked and even club staff inspected. In the past the shield has gone to established and experienced clubs. Not this year. Doncaster narrowly piped Ladywood and Windsor Street South to the prize. According to NEC Pathfinder director Trevor Thomas, the new clubs had done so well because they had combined enthusiastic participation with a decision to follow up the skills taught at leadership training.

News Break
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Questions at Brecon Camp

This year’s speaker at the Spring Brecon Camp was Pastor Paul Tompkins, Youth director of the Trans-European Division. Using the theme ‘Rising the Right Questions’, he challenged young and old alike to take a careful look at their current relationship with God. Echoing God’s first question, Paul asked, ‘Where are you?’ As the weekend progressed he asked more probing questions, like ‘What kind of a leader are you?’, ‘What kind of mark do you leave behind?’ and ‘Who shall we send?’

Paul and Dawn brought their caravan to the camp and the young people in particular appreciated the fact that they were available to talk to right through the weekend. In his talks Paul also opened up quite a bit about his personal walk with God. He came into the Adventist Church as an adult, but key people had a profound influence on him in his early years, particularly at Stanborough School. He named some of these – Daphne Dorland, Nan Tucker, Maureen Luton and Doug Sinclair – all people of prayer, Bible study and integrity.

On the last day of the camp Paul used a personal illustration to show that God has a place for each one of us. Not being particularly musical he was never picked for any key roles in the school orchestra. He was, however, given a triangle to play. But even a triangle has its place and there are times when it becomes the crucial instrument – as Paul later witnessed while attending a classical concert at the Albert Hall.

Time was allowed for testimonies in some of the worship sessions and the congregation was encouraged and uplifted by the stories of answers to prayer and healing. They were also challenged by the stories of those still needing prayer and waiting on God to answer them.

Those who attend Brecon Camp regularly are keen weather watchers. The archetypal British pastime becomes an obsession when you are sleeping under a film of nylon less than half a millimetre thick.

Fortunately it only rained on Sabbath – and that wasn’t real rain, just the misty drizzle which endears so many to the general area of the Brecon Beacons.

But it is the fellowship, rather than the rain, that makes a lasting impact. Once again Jane Jeff-Baylis and her sister Metti Jeff-Zumbuhl catered for those who came independently of regular family units, and the food tent emitted a constant hum of activity. Altogether more than 200 meals were served and no doubt even more conversations were facilitated. From dawn till dusk, which is quite late at this time of the year, people could be seen chatting with old friends, making new friends, and generally being what a church should be – a living, caring, dynamic community. Even after dusk, particularly following the lighting of a somewhat recalcitrant bonfire, the fellowship continued with mainly the young staying up into the early hours, toasting marshmallows, singing and generally having a good time.

Of all the familiar faces at the camp, none was more welcome than that of Pastor Richard Vine, who attended with his entire family. A former pastor in the Welsh Mission who served for many years as the campmaster of the Brecon Camps, Richard and his family are much loved and appreciated by all. Once again it was good to see their talents being used to good effect – Daniel and Douglas with their musical skills and Richard with his impeccable sense of humour.

A small taskforce, led by Pastor Jeremy Tremeer, quietly keeps the Brecon Camp programme running. Though they operate mainly in the background, their work is gratefully acknowledged as being essential to the continuance of this unique experience.

Recently 200 photos from the camp can be seen in the gallery section of the Welsh Mission website at www.adventhelshores.org.

News Break

Reclaim!

Commitment service

The commitment speaker for the week was Pastor Joseph Barrett PhD, the Family Life, Publishing and Spirit of Prophecy director for the West Indies Union Conference. In a talk briefly interrupted by a fire alarm, the fire in the speaker’s own heart was evident. His style was of the kind which characterises camp commitment service. There was solidarity and a relentless pursuit of his simple call that first night for the Church to base all its efforts on the Bible. ‘Follow the Bible’ was the call. We, like Paul, run a race dwarfing the challenge of an Olympiad – this is the task which must drive us on. In a world characterised by events of end-time proportions, the Church continued to face the persecutions and temptations of Satan, but the Word of God and the faith of Jesus would be our chart and compass. Reclamation of the lost would begin with the reclamation of hearts and lives within the church. The necessity of faithful hope and rededication as a background to any effort to reclaim the lost continued the commitment theme into the second night. In an unusual approach, Pastor Barrett highlighted the seven suidences mentioned in the Bible, including that of Judas whose mind was set on silver even as the Saviour washed his feet and ministered to his heart. Pastor Barrett’s presentations were powerful and energetic, yet by no means manipulative. His scope was wide but his points well-related. His pithy statements of Bible-based wisdom and life application ensured that any note-taker with an ear for the profound would be busily employed each evening, keeping record of the insightful truths that left the listener informed, equipped and blessed.

The morning devotional

Every morning, the devotional message was brought by a different EC pastor. These sermon offerings were marketedly diverse, the theme of reclamation and God’s ceaseless effort for salvation of the lost echoed throughout.

Pastor Dejan Stojkovic displayed his characteristic passion as he confidently strode the platform, excitedly comparing and contrasting the ‘stream ships’ of Noah’s Ark and the Titanic in a contemporary, humorous and highly personalised fashion.

Pastor Steve Thomas lived up to his introduction – which noted that ‘dynamite comes in small packages’ – by preaching with volume, energy and innovation. But there was no attempt to diminish content in favour of style. In addition to his knowledge of the preacher’s art, Pastor Thomas also displayed his well-known and applauded exegetical skills.

Pastor Glenmore Jones-Larney began with a story from his own experience of being physically lost as a young boy in Ghana. Exploring the theme of Abram’s rescue of Lot in Genesis 14:11-16, Pastor Jones-Larney underscored the significant characteristics of any effort that the Church must make to rescue the lost.

Friday’s devotional, presented by Pastor Kirsten Oster-Lundqvist, and entitled ‘God’s Response to Lostness,’ provided a dilemma for the presentation team, who were quick to point out that no such word as ‘lostness’ existed in the English language. However, Nurnin was adamant that our ever-widening language would benefit from such a word as it espoused on Jesus’ response of grace, no matter the depth of one’s ‘lostness’. Luke 15 formed the core of the devotional.

Youth and teens

Youth and teens came together at this year’s Camp Meeting with Commitment Speaker, Alex Bryan (senior pastor from Walla Walla University church) – although held up by the volcanic ash, he was able to start out on Tuesday night. His messages went right to the hearts of these special young people and as a result at least one young London girl decided on Sabbath to be baptised. Many more young people recommitted their lives and recharged their batteries as a result of high praise and worship from Marsha Brooks and Clive Shepherd, who led the praise team and the prayer hour.

Special prayers were said each morning in the 6am service by youth and teen programme directors, Pastor Colin Stewart and Pastor Eddie Hypolite, as well as young people who came to pray and be blessed. Effective seminars were presented during the daytime and lively discussions made this week a blessing. Every morning British born and based leaders directed the minds of the young people heavenward and very clearly showed that the Spirit of God was bestowed upon all.

Jackie Barratt, a non-Adventist whose daughter was murdered over a year ago, was at the centre of the youth prayer every morning of Camp, and the whole camp bore her name up in prayer before God. This request continues to be on the hearts of the youth leaders around the Conference, and we continue to pray that God will reveal the whereabouts of her daughter’s body.

Church planting

Pastor Peter Roenlefeldt showed true tenacity of purpose, not only by circumventing the ash cloud through hiking and train, but also by choosing to spend his holiday speaking at Camp Meeting and other church gatherings across Europe. Such is his passion that, arriving at the camp, he went straight to the platform to begin the first of his daily presentations and workshops on church planting.

Beginning by looking at the biblical foundation for church planting, Pastor Roenlefeldt ensured that each morning he added to the work of the previous day. Many in the congregation were introduced to a new word, ‘cruciformity’, being the life of Jesus lived downwardly mobile from the outset, as he built and modelled the Kingdom of God as a kingdom of role reversal. The contrast between the way of the world and the way of accepted religious rulers pointed to the revolutionary activity of God.
Pastor Richard Holder set the scene. My husband Desi had his share of activity with his singing ministry which accompanied each event.

The Sabbath, being a health focus day, had many highlights ranging from media exposure (a radio interview on CHIP), the sermon for the day, the afternoon health presentation and a mini concert in the evening.

The radio interview, although initially daunting, turned out to be a real blessing. I was invited to speak on Adventist Focus, which is a live broad-cast aired on a non-denominational radio station every Sabbath, and Adventists host that entire show every Saturday. As a result of the radio interview a few people phoned in to comment on the programme, and a number of individuals who listened to the programme decided to come to the Somerset church (where I was due to preach that morning). Also, a few of the CHIP graduates on the programme the next day listened to the radio broadcast and invited more friends and relatives to the graduation service, a result.

The CHIP graduation on the Sunday was outstanding. The thirty-two graduates were treated to a well-organised event which was filmed and had an external journalist present to undertake an official report. There were so many encouraging reports from the graduates and families/friends. The testimonies of changed lives were remarkable, with health benefits in just thirty days!

The event was attended by Dr Jeff Brown, president of the Bermuda Conference. He addressed the graduates and encouraged them to maintain their newfound lifestyle, extending an invitation to the apologetics pool of scientists to hear more about the church and to participate in the various outreach programmes. The local pastor for the Somerset church, Pastor Delan, was one of the key partici-pants and won a certificate for the distance he had walked during the CHIP programme.

The Bible study hour.

Pastor Simon Martin’s Bible study was notable for his life stories, which readily connected with his audience and led to much humour. His work as a street pastor gives him a valuable insight into today’s generation, and his heart for the lost can find him answering the prompt-ing of the Holy Spirit to rise at 4am in order to share the working life of a refuse collector.

Pastor Rosemary Lethbridge brought a freshness to the Bible study time as she began her message centred on Luke 15 with an ingeniously crafted story entitled ‘The Prodigal Son in the Key of F’ and ended with a short video entitled ‘The Father’s Letter to You’. People connect to the message in different ways, and Pastor Letheridge’s approach was warming and comforting, with a good slice of humour. The Bible story of a man advertising for his long lost son, Paco, to be confronted by hundreds of Pacos looking for forgiveness and a welcome back into the arms of an estranged father. Pastor Sam Oaudjo concluded the week with one from the ‘old school’ that impressed his audience in its thorough and well-paced walk through the Word as he built test upon test in support of his central theme from Revelation 3, which had many strands. The outstanding theme was that Satan is in the business of reclamation, too, and so we are faced with a ‘conflict of recla-mations’. The Seventh-day Adventist Church must recognize that it is God’s rescue team and must be willing to pay the cost of that calling.

The health presentation.

The daily health plenary sessions delivered by Dr Ciaakan, a pastor and lifestyle counsellor from Hungary, faced a tough machinery from the high standards set by previous camp meetings, yet he did not disappoint. Once again, science, the Bible, and the comments of Ellen White were combined in the hands of a knowledgeable and experienced Christian health practitioner. The link between physical and mental health (as evidenced in the book of Daniel), the necessity of a vegetarian diet and the dangers of a modern lifestyle were themes that ran throughout his presentations. Often the detailed text of his PowerPoint presentations assisted understand-ing of his strongly accented delivery, while at other times they were used to support his assertions with additional comment and data.

The communion service.

One of the highlights of the week was the service that preceded the communion service on Friday evening. Preparations had been made in the meeting hall, but, more importantly, heart preparations were made in the souls before their first communion. Our time of praise and worship was led by style like Paul Lockham, accompanied by the grace of the technical team. Songs such as ‘In moments like these’ and ‘Lead me to Calvary’ truly led us to the cross and heart prepared us ready to meet our Lord in the sym-bols of the communion service. A solo rendition of ‘How deep the Father’s love for us’ by Sally Reemer was so powerfully and vividly portrayed that in our minds we were left standing at the foot of the Cross, overwhelmed by the vision of our crucified Saviour.

Pastor Kirk Thomas, following the communion theme of the week, retold the story of Manasseh from 2 Chronicles 33. He reminded us that we should never give up on anyone, because Jesus doesn’t. Manasseh was a good example of this, for, despite his immeasurable wicked ways, when he repented he was forgiven and restored by God. Pastor Thomas pointed out that the communion service reminds us that the God we serve loves sinners.

All of this made our participation in the communion service even more meaningful as we were led by Pastors Sam Davis and Don McFarland. Adorned, the male voice quartet from Romania, led me in prayer. ‘May you be a vessel of your peace’ before we fittingly sang our closing hymn of commitment, ‘I’d rather have Jesus’.

The adult Sabbath School.

Sabbath School was taken by Pastor Robin Lewis, with Bible readings given by Pastor Ian Lorek. Beginning at the beginning – in Genesis, chapter one, with ‘Abraham and Sarah’, Pastor Lewis considered the importance of air, and especially good quality air. His scope took him from the beginning of creation through the understanding of the breath of God to the quality of the atmosphere in an individual’s life – which might be lived in an environment of smoke pollution or of foul language. The message was that air quality of all kinds matters, and that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we need not be passive agents in the atmosphere in which we choose to live.

Mission spotlight.

This presentation came from Asha of the Wimbleton church, who must recognize that it is God’s rescue team and must be willing to pay the cost of that calling.

Youth praise band.
Pastor Walker highlighted the prominent role played by many women in the Bible, in a world in which they were otherwise denigrated, beginning with the woman at the well to whom Jesus first revealed his identity as the Messiah. It was a message, both for God’s Church and for the called, as they set out on a life of surrender and service.

In his prayer of commission Pastor Don McFarlane, recognising the particular difficulties faced by women ministers from members who might question their role, emphasised that they should not be seen as female pastors, but as messengers of God. Support was given to them by the many ordained ministers who gathered around and took the opportunity to identify with their new colleagues in the laying-on of hands. Pastor Alan Hodges charged the ladies, before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, as ‘watchmen over Israel’, to live like Jesus lived and to fulfil their ministry for the sake of the sheep. It was then left to Pastor Emmanuel Osei to welcome the conference’s newest workers, and the president presented their certificates.

Closing Camp Meeting 2010

Sunday morning at camp dawned bright and warm, and though scheduled to be over by 9.30am there was no intent to hasten the completion of the week’s proceedings. A time of worship, praise and prayer preceded a preaching ‘double header’. First Dr Andrews Ewoo, then Pastor Joseph Barrett, called on those gathered to go home internalising what they had experienced and renewing their call, not just as Christians, but as Seventh-day Adventists.

Camp Meeting was over for another year but the work of reclamation continues!