They sent us to Atlanta so Adventists could experience hell! That was the jovial quip from one GC employee as we drove through the burning heat and high humidity of a scorching June day to joyful, air-conditioned coolness of the Georgia Dome – venue for the 59th World Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was a quip – for Atlanta is anything but hell. The area is renowned for its Southern hospitality, and the many restaurants in the locality of the Dome went out of their way to provide appropriate cuisine for the tens of thousands of Adventists who descended on the city from 23 June to 3 July to debate the business of the church, elect leaders for the next five years, and feast on a rich variety of music, preaching and worship experiences.

Fifteen delegates from the UK and Ireland joined the more than 2,400 delegates – a colourful and diverse group speaking many languages and covering almost every country on the planet. Other UK staff came in supporting roles. Paul Hammond has taken a lead role in the large ABC bookstore at the last several sessions and was in high profile once again. Victor Hulbert and Ray Allen, along with his son Seth, joined.
A man needs a wife, because otherwise there would be just too many things to blame on the government!

Here are some excuses received from the car insurance people.

1. ‘The guy was all over the road; I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.’

2. ‘An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my vehicle and vanished.’

3. ‘The direct cause of this accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth…’

We are all manufacturers. Some make good. Some make trouble. Others make excuses.

Jesus told a story about making excuses. Isaiah had described the Kingdom of God as ‘a wonderful feast for all the people of the world.’ (25:6.) Does that appeal? Jesus thought so and built a story around the idea. Read the story in Luke 14:15–24.

In advance of his great banquet the King sent heralds with invitations. Those who heard Jesus tell the story knew that big banquets could last for days, took a lot of preparation and represented a major investment by the host. When the preparations were completed and the table groaned beneath the weight of much food, the King would send out his heralds for a second time. Then they would tell the guests, ‘Come, the banquet is ready.’ How did the invitees respond?

Was there a stampede to the table?

‘But they all alike began to make excuses.’ (Verse 18.) Can you believe that?

The excuses were as lame as they were transparent:

• One man said he had bought a field, wanted to go and inspect it and, politely, asked to be excused.
• Another man had bought five pair of oxen and wanted to try them out.

The excuses were trumped up and transparently so. The King knew that, and immediately sent his heralds to find poor, disabled, forgotten people to invite instead. When there was still some room, he sent his heralds again. ‘Go out to the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.’ (Verse 20.)

Having rudely snubbed the invitation to attend the King’s banquet, the original invitees had to live with the negative consequences of their negative choices.

‘Excuses! Excuses! Excuses!’ With David Marshall, editor

Not everyone makes it!

That’s one sobering message we get from the Parable of the Excuses, Luke 14:15–24.

We’re apt to think of life as if we were a game of chess. If you make wrong moves and lose the game, you can put the chess pieces back in the box and play again another day.

In this parable Jesus invites us to be mature about things. We have to live with the consequences of our negative choices. Be careful about those excuses.

Answer:

We don’t really want to attend. That’s what they were really saying.

The excuses were trumped up and transparently so.

The King knew that, and immediately sent his heralds to find poor, disabled, forgotten people to invite instead. When there was still some room, he sent his heralds again. ‘Go out to the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.’ (Verse 20.)

Having rudely snubbed the invitation to attend the King’s banquet, the original invitees had to live with the negative consequences of their negative decisions.

Worse than that, the original invitees had to make way for those who had no standing in society. Jesus was already defending himself against the charge of taking the Gospel to the ‘tax collectors and sinners’.

In this issue we begin an in-depth series on what impacts the level of energy we experience — its boosters and the things that deplete it. In this fast-paced and sometimes pressurised life, it is not uncommon at times to feel in need of energy — physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. However, persistent lack of energy needs to be followed up, as ongoing tiredness can become a chronic health issue which severely impacts quality of life.

Data from Bupa’s information team published in March 2008 highlighted that at any given time, one in ten people have persistent tiredness, significant enough to affect their day-to-day activities. In line with past research, the data indicated that women are more likely to be affected than men.

So what impacts energy? The reasons range from varying causes, such as food, lifestyle, and physical and emotional illness. The following list gives an idea of some of the culprits:

• Anaemia
• Dehydration
• Diabetes
• Fibromyalgia
• Food allergies
• Shift work
• Toxins

As a background to this series and some homework before our next issue, I invite you to undertake some personal research on your own levels of energy and what impacts them. Get yourself a notebook and pen to document how you feel throughout the day for the next two weeks. You may notice that at varying times of the day your energy levels differ. This could be related to your body clock but may also be due to dietary habits, physical or emotional wellbeing and lifestyle choices. Rate your level of energy from 1-10 three times a day: morning (6-12), daytime (12-6) and evening (6-12). Divide the page into three columns. The first column will indicate the time of day you are recording — morning, afternoon, evening. The second column will indicate the range of energy you are experiencing, for example, 1 for low or 10 for high. You may notice a pattern emerging or note that certain foods, activities or emotions affect your energy levels. Jot these findings down in the third column:

This information may become quite useful in the ensuing issues as we examine the spectrum of causes of lack of energy and highlight the steps to combat it to boost your stamina. Are you ready for the journey? Then let’s begin.

Boosting energy Part 1: Overview

In this parable Jesus invites us to be mature about things. We have to live with the consequences of our negative choices. Be careful about those excuses.

Not everyone makes it!

That’s one sobering message we get from the Parable of the Excuses, Luke 14:15–24.

We’re apt to think of life as if we were a game of chess. If you make wrong moves and lose the game, you can put the chess pieces back in the box and play again another day.

In this parable Jesus invites us to be mature about things. We have to live with the consequences of our negative choices. Be careful about those excuses.

Answer: We don’t really want to attend. That’s what they were really saying. The excuses were trumped up and transparently so.

The King knew that, and immediately sent his heralds to find poor, disabled, forgotten people to invite instead. When there was still some room, he sent his heralds again. ‘Go out to the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full.’ (Verse 20.)

Having rudely snubbed the invitation to attend the King’s banquet, the original invitees had to live with the negative consequences of their negative decisions.
What is your higher purpose?

by Steve Holden*

In 2 Kings 6:8-17 Ben-hadad, king of Syria, has declared war on Israel and his battle plan involves setting up a series of ambushes, taking Israel entirely by surprise. He decides upon appropriate locations for these with his military commanders but, much to his annoyance, each time a site is chosen, Israel’s king has time to warn his people and is well prepared.

Ben-hadad, who by now extremely angry, quite naturally assumes there are spies in the camp. When he questions his officers, they explain that there is an Israelite prophet named Elisha residing in Dothan who is privy to everything the king is planning. Determined to put a stop to this nuisance, Ben-hadad sends a contingent of soldiers, horses and chariots to capture Elisha. They arrive during the night, and when the prophet’s servant wakes in the morning, he is terrified to see that the city is totally surrounded by enemy forces.

Seeing his fear, Elisha makes him up. He pick up the story in verse 17. “Then Elisha prayed, “O Lord, open my servant’s eyes so he can see.” The Lord answered Elisha’s prayer and his servant looked outside and saw the surrounding hills full of horses and chariots of fire.

In one of the many magazine inserts which now seem to pad out the weekend newspapers, HSBC – the world’s local bank – is publishing a series which cover ‘100 thoughts’ on global perspectives and local opportunities in business.

I want to refer to one of these, one entitled ‘thought 85’ entitled ‘What is your higher purpose?’ presented by Sue Siddall, the managing director of IDEOUK, describes a design and innovation practice.

She starts by stating that as we emerge bruised from the recession, consumers are fundamentally rebasing their values in life. The brands they choose to spend time with need to prepare for the consequences.

She goes on to say that IDEO works with companies around the world to help them innovate and grow. While many ask, ‘How do we sell more?’ she believes the more fundamental question they should be asking themselves is ‘let’s not destroy our customer beyond the product or service we are selling?’

What is your higher purpose?

Not enough businesses ask themselves about this, she says, but it has powerful consequences when they do.

She goes on to give an inspiring example of this thinking in practice.

The founder of Aravind Eye Care in India – Dr. Govindappa Venkataswamy – was motivated by the fact that over 80% of the developing world’s blindness and impaired vision is needless. His ambition was to become the McDonald’s of eye care and use standardisation and efficiency to reduce costs and increase access.

While a typical ophthalmologist might perform 250 surgeries annually, an Aravind doctor will average 2,000. As a result, they now provide comprehensive eye care to over two million people who could not otherwise have afforded it.

Businesses in our culture, concludes, are uniquely positioned to create change. If they can define a ‘higher purpose’, they can play a consequential part in people’s lives.

As we consider our business model – our mission to serve others of the Gospel of salvation through Christ and of his own soon return, through the books and other literature we sell and distribute – I think the example of Aravind Eye Care a good parallel. Working in partnership with God, we too, have a ‘higher purpose’ – one in which we can be instrumental in opening the eyes and minds of those who are either blind or have impaired vision when it comes to spiritual matters and seeing God. If 80% of the developing world’s blindness and impaired vision is, as ‘thought 85’ states, in a physical way ‘needless’, then this is certainly true in the spiritual realm also.

With the thought of a ‘higher purpose’ in mind, I’d like to close with a few verses from Paul in Ephesians 1:15-18.

For make no mistake, from the Decline of Rome has produced a booklet with selected prayers, devotions and liturgies of the church.

To prepare Catholics for the Pope’s visit, the Catholic Church’s society has produced a booklet with selected prayers, devotions and guidance to help them approach this event appropriately.

The content of this publication raise issues which have to be of interest to Christians who base their faith upon the Holy Scriptures.

To pray for the Pope’s visit is the request that Catholics pray to the Virgin Mary that her Dowry may be restored to her. This idea has its origin in a ceremony in Westminster Abbey in 1381, when King Richard II dedicated England and ‘Mary’s Dowry’. The recovery of this will be England’s return to the Catholic faith.

In England ‘Mary’s Dowry’?

by Patrick Boyce*

We need to focus on his ‘saving power’ and the sins of our countrymen, axe to further the aim of bringing England, Scotland and Wales back into the fold of the one true church.

In the wake of recent events and confirmation that the Pope’s visit is intentional.

When I hear of your confidence in Christ and how much you love and care for each other, I can’t stop giving thanks to God for you, remembering you in my prayers. I pray that God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, will continue to give you wisdom and reveal more of himself to you. I have heard of your love, of the support and encouragement that is always available to us.

It is significant that protest against the visit is coming from secularists and not Catholics. Not only is it coming from secularists and not Catholics.

The leader of such a department solely to the Magisterium of the Church, that is, to the Pope and the bishops in communion with him.

No role here for the Holy Spirit to enlighten and guide the individual Christian in his journey.

Benedict XVI’s visit is intentional. He comes not to speak pious platitudes but to further the aim of bringing England, Scotland and Wales back into the fold of the one true church.

To this end we have a prayer to the Virgin Mary for the conversion of England, asking her to intercede for our separated brethren, that with us in the true one fold they may be united to the supreme Shepherd, the Vicar of the Son.

A prayer for God to have ‘mercy on the people who dwell in Wales. Grant to them the precious gift of faith, and unite them in the one true church founded by thy divine Son.’

References:


*Patric Boyce was born and raised in Dublin where, through the ministry of R. H. Rankinige, he became a Jehovah’s Day Adventist.
JLS teacher wins Egan Teamboard
by Dr Richard de Lisser, SEC Communication director

Moses Arendse, a teacher of English at The John Loughborough Seventh-day Adventist School in Tottenham, London, has won the coveted first prize award of a Teamboard in the SecEd (Secondary Education) magazine. The mobile Teamboard has a wide range of functions that make the normal interactive whiteboard appear archaic. The students and entire staff are excited about the new Teamboard and hope it will enhance their teaching and learning experience.

How did this all happen? Mr Arendse saw the editor’s competition in the SecEd magazine and entered it. The competition involved writing a letter to the editor in which you had to qualify the reasons why you or your school needed the Teamboard more than any other school in England. Mr Arendse never dreamed that he would be the first prize-winner, as he had only hoped to scoop one of the ten third prizes. £50 for the school. He said that he wanted to buy five £10 gift vouchers at W.H. Smith’s for the school’s Student of the Week Awards (if he had been a third prize winner)!

But then God intervened . . . and he is no third place God. Out of all the secondary and primary school entries in the competition, Mr Arendse’s letter to the editor was selected as the winner!

The manager of Egan Teamboards, Peter, came all the way from Sweden to install the board at The John Loughborough School on Friday 27 May. Mr Victor Lammy, the school’s BSF (Building Schools for the Future) and Mr David Alexander, ICT manager, were present at the installation and congratulated Mr Arendse for having acquired a spectacular teaching resource for the school.

Mr Moses Arendse is currently an elder at Hampstead church, where he holds the position of Religious Liberty leader. He is also the school’s Communications Faculty head and holds a BEd in languages and an MA in Social Justice and Education.

---

Fasting in Ireland

Eight young people in Ireland decided to fast as their baptismal day approached. Believers from twenty-five different countries crowded into the Galway church to see the eight young people baptised. The candidates had been fasting since the previous afternoon but, after the baptism, we all joined them to celebrate with a giant baptismal cake, specially made and decorated by one of our Brazilian members. Sabbath 29 May was the culmination of two simultaneous Daniel seminars held by Pastor Stephen Wilson. Another four people were preparing for baptism at the end of June, and four more requested baptism, after the call. Ivan, the ‘Bible Writer’ (see Messengers front page, 11 June), was one of the young people baptised. Ivan is hand-writing the New Testament and is nearly through the gospel of Luke. He is following his Russian father’s example. He has handwritten three quarters of his Russian Bible and has started on the English New Testament to improve his English skills.

Because Ireland had recognised ‘Africa Day’ during that week, we also celebrated Africa Day that Sabbath, and all our African friends turned out in their national costumes. We are grateful that David Neil our Irish Mission president joined us in our celebrations.

---

Camp Hill health emphasis
by Jeff Hall and Jacquie Halliday-Bell

With only eight weeks’ preparation and planning time the newly elected Health Ministries team for 2010-2011 organised a day-long programme for Camp Hill church under the theme ‘Fit to serve’ and under the leadership of Dr Jacquie Halliday-Bell. The advisory elder, Dr Pasi Guti, delivered a timely and thought-provoking sermon covering the eight key health principles. He touched on the NEW START programme, which has been successful for numerous people across the region. His wife Tendai presented a children’s story. During Sabbath School, the church was introduced to all nine members of the Health Ministries team. Most took a few minutes to outline their health sub-projects for the current bimonth. Projects including a health expo, cooking classes, exercise classes, a coping with cancer workshop and a mental health conference are all under construction.

The divine service was blessed by special music from David Bramble and Sharon. We were reminded that David is a ‘son’ of Camp Hill now residing and worshiping in London. The service was well attended. The option of lunch added to the togetherness that is a regular aspect of the warmth among brethren and friends at Camp Hill. The team gave thanks to God that so many supported what proved to be a healthy, spiritually uplifting and memorable day.

---

Silent for ADRA

Some of the children who attend the Loughborough church decided to keep still and quiet for the whole main church service to raise funds for ADRA. All the church members were invited to raise as much as possible through door-to-door collections, donations and sponsored slim and walks. Denesia Clarke, Carmen Clarke, Danielle Clarke, Martha Mokekenah and Sean Nazareno were delighted that they managed to sit for over an hour without moving or speaking. Other children joined the adults in a sponsored walk along the seashore, and one of the two members completed a sponsored slim. Some members had been putting their loose change to one side over the past year for ADRA. Our target had been set at £1,200, with our faith target at £1,400, but we decided to aim even higher this year, and our small membership managed to send the wonderful total of £1,823 to ADRA-UK.
nightly, he and Micah Campbell spoke to the youth at the New Life Adventist church in North London. He accompanied Pastor Gifford Rhamie, lecturer at Newbold College, to the Irish Mission on Sabbath for a special service. Pastor Rhamie spoke about the rise in fundamentalism within the Church, and Pastor Loewen once again addressed youth matters.

On Thursday Clifford Goldstein, editor of the Adult Bible Study Guides, gave an in-depth but clear presentation on the sanctuary during the day for the ministers and delivered the same subject on the Friday evening at the Reading Central church. Along with Dr Paul Tompkins, Youth director at the Trans-European Division, Pastor Goldstein spoke at the Reading District day of fellowship the following morning, addressing issues such as righteousness by faith and the remnant. Dr Tompkins spoke about the Church, God’s City of Refuge, and the need for Continuing Your Salvation. Churches should meet and agree the most appropriate method of sharing faith in their local context. This project is co-sponsored by the BUC Personal Ministries, Church Growth and Youth departments and the Adventist Discovery Centre.

Are you ready for the great day?

On Sabbath 25 September the BUC, in conjunction with the Conferences and Missions, is asking every church, every member, to set aside two hours to share the good news of salvation. Churches should meet and agree the most appropriate method of sharing faith in their local context. This project is co-sponsored by the BUC Personal Ministries, Church Growth and Youth departments and the Adventist Discovery Centre.

31,000 PEOPLE, 31 PIECES OF LITERATURE, 1 DAY

Can you imagine what could happen if every member of our Church was engaged in sharing their faith on the same day in their local communities? Can you imagine the kind of impact on this nation if 31,000 Adventists decided to share their time and faith with thirty-one different people on the same day, effectively reaching nearly a million people for Christ? Imagine the power of 31,000!

This lay-led initiative represents a fantastic opportunity to engage the whole Church in ministry for our loved ones, friends, colleagues and the local community by sharing our message of hope. It can be achieved in a variety of ways, using resources such as literature, DVDs or using the friendship evangelism model of a simple prayer or doing something practical to help someone in need. What an opportunity for ministry! There will be many thousands of people who would have a life-changing experience if we would just share a word of hope with them. What is crucial to the survival of the Church is that we regularly seek ways to effectively engage in evangelism. This is our gospel commission.

Every member is asked to set aside two hours to share the good news of salvation on Sabbath 25 September. How can this be done? Churches should meet and agree the most appropriate method of sharing faith in their local content. One suggestion is to have a shortened service on Sabbath and to spend a couple of hours in the community with each person sharing the Gospel or visiting at least thirty-one loved ones. Then return to church to pray, testify and reflect over a meal. Each church is free to implement the plan according to its local needs and what the members feel impressed by the Spirit of God to do. We ask that the local churches use the resources that are readily available from the Stanborough Press, the Adventist Discovery Centre (ADC), Conference or Mission offices, or BUC office.

Please prayerfully commit your time, talent, personal effort and influence into the hand of God to work in a distinctive, exponential manner as we seek to touch the lives of others. Sabbath 18 September could be used as a day of prayer for the forthcoming week. May God bless you and your church as you purpose to show Christ Jesus in all of his glory and see the power of 31,000 Adventists touching lives for eternity.

Co-sponsors EGLAN BROOKS, DES BOLDEAU, DES RAFFERTY

Core of Adventism

Words and pictures by Cathy Boldeau

While the people in the United Kingdom were listening to the rhetoric of the three political parties as each made a last desperate attempt to secure votes at the General Election, members of the Adventist Church in London, Reading and Ireland listened to presentations about the fundamentals of their faith.

A most interesting, thought-provoking and much-needed presentation and discussion were the sentiments of Pastor Don McFarlane, president of the British Union Conference. This followed an informative seminar by Dr Kwabena Donkor on ‘The Remnant’. Donkor is an associate director of the Biblical Research Institute at the General Conference.

The Core of Adventism kicked off on Sunday 2 May with an all-day Conference at the Greenwich Adventist church. As well as Dr Donkor, those attending were blessed by the ministry of Dr Francisco Gayoba, ministerial secretary of the North Philippine Union Conference, Dr Orlando Moncrieffe, pastor of the First Adventist Church of Teaneck, New Jersey, and Dr Bertram Melbourne, pastor of the Rockville and Gaithersburg churches in Potomac Conference. They spoke on the Sanctuary, the Church as the Family of God, Prophetic Interpretation and Membership versus Discipleship, respectively. Dr Sharath Babu, associate professor of Theology from Spicer Memorial College, gave the devotional.

Words and pictures by Cathy Boldeau
No cult at Cult

John Wilby reports on the Scottish Mission’s Day of Fellowship

There may have been a few raised eyebrows and humor-ous reactions when it was announced that a Scottish Mission Day of Fellowship was to be held in the Aberdeen suburb of Cults – also known as the Cult Academy! But there was nothing else inappropriate about it. 5,000 mem-
bers, their families and friends enjoyed the blessings of togetherness in modern, pleasant facilities.

In fact, Newbold College lecturer and keynote speaker, Dr Gifford Rhamie, addressed two very topical issues affecting the Adventist Church in the British Isles. His morning sermon ‘Whose man is he anyway?’ was based on Mark 3.31-35 in which Jesus uses his response to his family’s presence as a metaphor for the extended family of God. The theme of community outreach, he said, ‘You cannot put God in a box, you cannot own him, because if you try to do that he will only look like you at the end of the day and stop being the Jesus of Scripture that you ought to be.’ In the afternoon he turned to the controversial subject of ‘fundamentalism’, substituting ‘the myth of righteous-
ness by fact’. He included in a list of attributes of his dream church one that ‘stretches truth in terms of spirit’.

The difference between fact and truth was explored with the letter and spirit of the law highlighted in 2 Corinthians 3. Emphasising that there should be no contradiction between the letter and the spirit, he said, ‘Your truth only amounts to what you live, and your belief is only evidenced in what you live.’

Judith Martin, Women’s Ministry sponsor, hailed the midmorning campaign as the most important stand the Adventist Church has taken against violence to women and young girls. She invited Mission president, Pastor Bernie Holford, to be the first signatory of the Mission’s contribution to a petition to be submitted to the United Nation’s Secretary General.

There was a poignant moment when Pastor Jimmy Botha made an illustrated appeal for Dunfurmline’s church condemned and uninhabitable ‘third-world building’. Our buildings are our front window, our adver-
tisement to the world of who we are, ‘he said. The sub-
sequent offering raised several hundred pounds towards the cost of a new church building.

As the coaches and cars departed south from Britain’s northernmost membership, one left not only without a great sense of belonging, but deep reflection on our relationship with others and our spiritual approach to matters of faith.

Friends Together at Kilkenny

For many years Kilkeneny had just a few members and they would hold meetings once a month. Things changed when, in 2008, a group of Sudanese people arrived in Ireland. Evelyn Wilson, who took care of the group, heard that many of the Sudanese were Adventists. She was very happy, because now they could have weekly Sabbath services. On Sabbath 15 May over eighty people gathered together in their little but happy church, which usually hosts less than thirty. They celebrated a Friends Together Day. People from many different churches were there, including two Pontifical Council staff members in the Ballincar church attended and contributed to the day. All enjoyed a beautiful service led by Evelyn Wilson and stayed for refreshments afterwards. With such a great attendance in the house of God, we hope and pray that this is just the beginning of more. Evelyn said that many doors were opened as she talked to people, and some expressed the desire for Bible studies.

Rochdale Youth Day

Rochdale’s first ever Youth Day, held on 22 May, was a big success, and much hard work went into its preparation. We would like to thank

Leicester Central Family life department organised a day of celebration to commemorate the lives and the work of our senior citizens, who have made a very valuable contribution to the life of our church.

Patience Chiyimwa, leader of the Family department, said, ‘We wanted to show appreciation for our senior citizens so that our young people could understand the contribution that they have made and are still making to the work of the Lord today.’

The day was organised to enable our senior members to be able to participate in the various activities of the day, by offering them opportu-
nities to lead a song service, say a public prayer, relay reflections on times past through an interview, coordinate a congregational discussion of the Sabbath School lesson, tell a children’s story and be a part of the platform party.

We were honoured to have Pastor Cecil Perry (retired BUC president) and his wife with us on this day. His sermon was entitled ‘Lord of our years’. Although he spoke facetiously about the ailments of the elderly, which made tears stream from our eyes, owing to his humorous take on this subject, there was a serious message.

Psalm 90:1-10 was the focus of his reflections, recognising that God as the Creator sustains us, guides and enables us to live life to the full. Nevertheless, there is a call to live within the guidelines that God has set out for our benefit, to enjoy his blessings. We were reminded of the need to look after the elderly in our communities and learn from the wisdom that they have gained through their experience of life. Pastor Perry spoke of the task that God has given each one of us, stating that we are not finished till we have finished this task.

We were reminded of some of the oldest people who have lived on

Burghgreave news

Pathfinder Day

Pathfinder Day celebration at Burghgreave, Sheffield, took place on 10 April. The sermon was preached by Pastor Moses Msimanga, who was also a Pathfinder and is at present a student at Manchester University. He reminded the Pathfinders and congregation that our mission is not to do our own will but the will of God. At the end of the service the Pathfinders marched out of the auditorium with drums beating.

The Pathfinders’ Proclamation March followed in the afternoon. The Pathfinders marched around the Burghgreave area, proclaiming ‘Jesus Saves’, and distributing gospel leaflets.

To end the day they presented Sister May with a bunch of flowers and a luxury camping chair. She had just had her 70th birthday and helps against him.

The afternoon programme consisted of testimony and song with the Burngreave church choir and other groups rendering special musical items. Sister Grant gave her own testimony of deliverance by The afternoon programme consisted of testimony and song with the Burngreave church choir and other groups rendering special musical items. Sister Grant gave her own testimony of deliverance by

Baptism follows health witness

Sabbath 17 April was a joyful day for the congregation at West Bromwich church. The speaker for Community Guest Day was Pastor Patrick Johnson who grew up in this church. The focus of the first part of the day was to invite guests from the community to come and fellowship with us. This was an effective part of the evangelistic outreach that is currently being undertaken at West Bromwich church.

The second highlight of the day was the four individuals who had dedicated their lives to God this year and who would begin their journey.

Stafodard Adu (left) and Daniel Wkepe

For those who want help with their photography

We would still like to see an improvement in the standard of photography submitted for publication.

www.adventistnews.org.uk/messenger/guidelines.php
InSpirit on the Lord's day in Swansea

by John Surridge

On Sabbath 12 June members of the Swansea church, along with members from other Adventist churches in South Wales and guests from even further afield, were treated to a special concert of worship and praise by the InSpirit Men’s Chorus. InSpirit is a non-profit music ministry comprised of singers from southeast Tennessee and north Georgia. They come from different denominations and professions but are united in Christ and in the determination to spread his love through song. At home, InSpirit comprises forty plus singers, and some twenty-four of these, together with wives and families, were able to take part in this spring’s European tour.Having sung in Salisbury Cathedral and stayed at Neuroscience College, the Choir came to Wales to conclude their tour by singing at a benefit concert with the Morriston RFC Choir on Saturday evening.

With a Sabbath morning free, InSpirit generously offered to sing for the Adventist church in Swansea – an offer the members swifly accepted and made the most of. They hired a community centre, invited friends, and prepared a fellowship lunch for all. A worship experience in itself, the Choir’s performance replaced the usual morning service. InSpirit’s director Gerald Peel, whose father and brother also sing with the Choir, created a unique programme for the day. Beginning with Jesus, Yesterday, Today, the Same Forever and concluding with ’Who Will be a Witness?’ the songs led the audience on a journey of spiritual commitment. On the way they explored different cultural styles, ranging from ’I Have Decided to Follow Jesus’, which originated among the Guo hill tribe in north-eastern India, to spirituals, which originally developed among slave peoples for their own encouragement but are now firmly embedded in general Christian culture. Especially moving was their rendition of ’In the Morning When I Rise’, arranged by Roland Carter. Welch culture was, of course, included, with the irresistible Cam Rhondha being sung by the entire congregation. This was particularly well performed, thanks to Gerald’s conducting, which made every member feel a part of the Choir.

All of the fifteen songs performed had their own unique characteristics. The variety of keys, tempos and styles made each one memorable. However, one in particular struck a chord with the Adventist members of the congregation. ’The Greatest Want of the World’ was a special arrangement of the famous quote from Ellen White’s book Education. Others in the Choir who should be mentioned include the vocalist Martin Young, and the accompanist Ethan McGrath, whose skills in musical improvisation on the piano managed to bring a truly inferior instrument under at least some measure of control.

In addition to the music there was another touching component to the day when Pastor Jovan Guadalupe, whose parents had named him Jeremiah, led the way. Jeremiah’s parents had named him after his father’s favourite prophet, and he had said that it was his dream one day to preach, as he feels that God has something for him to do. When asked why coming to church is so important to him, he answered, ’If you don’t come to church, you don’t know what the sermon is about’. He enjoys listening to the Word of God. He also wants to walk with Jesus, and his parents are supporting him along this path.

Pastor Abraham Jules encouraged all who attended the campaign to listen to the voice of the Lord and give their lives to him and, like the Bible character Samuel, Jeremiah responded in the affirmative: ’Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth.’

Jeremiah leads the way

A
s the eleven candidates stood to answer the questions at the baptism that marked the end of the ’Finding Your Life’s Purpose and Passion’ campaign at Brixton church, my eyes turned to the small figure of Jeremiah whose frame was towered over by the other candidates. They all stood together as they made their decision to follow Christ but for Jeremiah this was an awesome moment in the life of a 7-year-old. However, this was not so much about how old he was; it was about why he wanted so much to be baptised.

Jesus came into this world ‘to seek and to save that which was lost’ – this was the crux of Pastor Paul Liburd’s sermon as seven publicly sealed their commitment to Christ in Coventry on Sabbath 15 May.

Both churches of Coventry – Henley Green and Coventry Central – united to rejoice with Heaven as Jasmine Bonner, James Kinyanjui, brothers Toy and Shane Ye, Norman Nceube and Esther Kingi went through the water of baptism and their Ministers made his profession of faith.

Although Jasmine, James, Esther and Norman were born in Adventist families, they could all testify that there was a turning point in their lives when they made the choice for themselves to follow Christ Jesus. Thirteen-year-old Jasmine told friends and families: ’I have been in the church all my life . . . I have come to know a lot more about Christ in the previous weeks and have truly come to understand his love for me . . . He has changed my life completely . . . and I want to show publicly my love for him.’

Then there had been baptism in another denomination back in 1985. ’But I wandered away from God. Although the devil tried to pull me back, I kept on my knees. Now I can say that the devil has been conquered indeed.’

As far as Toy, he testified of Pastor Paul Liburd’s explanation of the three parables of Luke chapter 15. Whatever category we belong to – the lost sheep, the lost coin or the lost son – Christ comes and searches for us. Some have wandered away step by step like a sheep. Some are lost in the house – the church – and do not even know that they are lost. Others are impatient for instant gratification and want to go their own way. Although our Father knows that we will be hurt by that, ‘that’s when God runs’. He runs to us like the father in the parable, so great is his joy at having found us again. That is how much he loves us.

Jasmine, James, Toy and Shane are now the newest members of the Coventry Henley Green church, and Norman and Esther of Coventry Central.

Ladywood baptism

O
n the morning of Sabbath 5 May at Ladywood church, Birmingham, preparations were underway for yet another special event. The baptismal pool had been erected. A speaker had been chosen. Two very special young people were anonymously awaiting that ceremony in which their heartfelt decisions would become public declarations of their love for Christ. Zhorra Porter, 17, and Kamali Jeffers, 15, stood before the congregation and made their important promises of dedication to a life in Christ. In his address, Pastor Richard Brooks upheld these young people and those in the congregation when he asserted that their names were now written in the book of life alongside other mighty men. Recounting the events of the eunuch’s journey to baptism as recorded in Acts chapter 8, he admonished the candidates to study the Word so the decisions they make will be informed as opposed to being guided by pure emotion. He spoke of the role of Philip as an encourager and instructor but reminded the young people that while our ‘Philis’ will not always be with us, we can rejoice in the knowledge that God is always there. He then admonished them to be evangelists, like Philip, upholding others in Jesus’ name. After the address we sang songs of praise and consecration as each candidate was baptised and welcomed into the fellowship of the family of God. Without a doubt the angels in Heaven were surely rejoicing with the congregation at Ladywood as these two young people publicly became a part of God’s fold.

Heather’s baptism

The Larne church welcomed Heather Johnston into their fellowship on Sabbath 5 June. Heather grew up in the Larne church and remembers many children’s stories told and activities organised for young people. When Heather reached her 20s, however, she arrived at a period when church was not very important to her. In the past two years she felt drawn towards a life of faith again. She believes that it was the investment that the church had made in her as a child that kept having an impact on her and eventually brought her back to church. She requested Bible studies even though she knew most of the doctrines and after several months of studies she could not longer and insisted on being baptised as soon as possible.

The Larne church has a weekly attendance of twenty people. On the occasion of Heather’s baptism the church was full. More than eighty seats were put out, and they were insufficient. What made the most significant was the fact that more than half of the people who chose to support Heather in her decision for Christ were not Adventists or regular church attenders. Heather and the members of the Larne church put together little gift packs to hand out to all the visitors. Everybody was surprised because they had not seen the gift packs and thought that they were intended for the baptismal celebration.

The baptism was conducted by Pastor Weiers Coetser, the local minister, and Heather’s uncle, Pastor Billy Johnston, who came from Switzerland to celebrate the event with her. The Larne church was delighted to accept her into membership.

Coventry baptism

Pastor Abraham Jules encouraged all who attended the campaign to listen to the voice of the Lord and give their lives to him and, like the Bible character Samuel, Jeremiah responded in the affirmative: ’Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth.’

Jesus’s parents had named him after his father’s favourite prophet, and he had said that it was his dream one day to preach, as he feels that God has something for him to do. When asked why coming to church is so important to him, he answered, ’If you don’t come to church, you don’t know what the sermon is about’. He enjoys listening to the Word of God. He also wants to walk with Jesus, and his parents are supporting him along this path.

Pastor Abraham Jules encouraged all who attended the campaign to listen to the voice of the Lord and give their lives to him and, like the Bible character Samuel, Jeremiah responded in the affirmative: ’Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth.’
Greenwich on the move!

‘Facing Life’s Adversities’ was the campaign under which the Greenwich church marched into its recent evangelistic concert. Guest evangelist Pastor Roslan Smith was from London rather than from across the seas. Receiving an invitation from resident Elder Will Williams, Pastor Smith addressed the relevant topics of facing the challenges of today’s hectic living. The programme culminated with a baptism of 17 converts, with family and friends together to worship at Holloway that day. Many had been born and raised in the church and were now returning with children of their own, while others made new friends and formed new connections.

For some it was as simple and profound as just being invited. It was someone noticing that your presence and contribution had been missing for a week, month or year and acknowledging and reminding you that, yes, you matter to us. Others were taken aback by the truth of the message of loyalty Matters. Are you in or out? Just as the prophet Elijah urged the children of Israel to ‘choose... this day what will you serve’, so Holloway’s waiting congregation was likewise challenged. This was not about loyalty to Holloway. It was about your personal relationship with God. But for many, particularly those raised in Holloway church during the 1960s, it was the opportunity to be reunited with one of Holloway’s ministering couples, Pastor Louis and Dr Janice Preston. Pastor Preston, a second-generation preacher’s son born in New York City, had learned to have love and compassion for all people from a young age. This was his first reunion with Holloway since serving as Holloway’s minister from 1977 for seven years before moving to Nottingham and then spending four years in Africa, melding cultures and encouraging unity. In his early 30s as the minister of Holloway church, he had initiated a number of Holloway church’s mission’s commission to Holloway’s church and service church, to name a few. He had also helped and mentored so many of Holloway’s youth who credit the loyalty of the Preston family to their church as influencing their commitment to serve the Lord to this very day.

On Friday night Annele Smith opened the evening with Praise and Worship, welcoming the Sabbath and reflecting on what it means to reverence the Sabbath day. Dr Janice Preston opened the weekend with an inspiring presentation on the history and development of Adventist hospitals in Florida, where she serves as the Chair of the Department of Nursing, and Dr Preston as the Director of all four of its campuses.

‘God Redeems, Recycles and Restores,’ exclaimed Pastor Louis Preston to a waiting congregation. Using drama, preaching and teaching in his sermon, he demonstrated that God loves the sinner and pointed to what Jesus is doing right now as our High Priest waiting on the day of the Lord to...
As a global community over the decades, he said, is challenging to navigate by 'bits and pieces.' Over the years, the manual, which has been amended inside the Church, and selecting the correct one is becoming a complex task. At every-five-year General Annual executive sessions instead of at the annual meetings, some decisions should be made at the Session. This approach aims to empower youth in the Church and determine whether ordination of women is consistent with the Church’s current stance on the issue. The most important discussions, he said, will be held at the headquarters’ office and various headquarters. Demonstrated that by the way the change would come – and somehow the Church has to be aligned where it is, and not so tight 'and somehow the Church has to be flexible.'

Dr Jan Paulsen laid out the main business sessions for the World Church in Atlanta. Very many other visitors came to the extensive exhibition halls. And stock up on resources from the Welsh Mission of Seventh-day Adventists. Registration to participate in the Welsh Mission Triennial Session will be held on Sunday 21 November 2010 in the Cardiff Seventh-day Adventist church. Notice is hereby given that the Triennial Session of the Welsh Mission will be held from 25-27 November 2010 at the Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700.

The main business sessions – an afternoon of official activity – an afternoon of practical lessons of life and Bible-based, spiritual emphasis. After the budget comes this enriching and fascinating study guide, in which the author presents a unique combination of biblical principles – money management, the practical lessons of life and Bible-based, spiritual emphasis. As advertised on 3ABN, the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk