It was summertime and the crowds headed to the coast to enjoy the British summer. Among them, on the last weekend of June, were more than one hundred members and friends of the London Russian-speaking church, along with fifteen children. They came to enjoy a good social time and to get away from busy London. This also allowed them to get to know twenty-five new friends who came with the church’s guests to enjoy the hot weather and amazing waves of the Atlantic Ocean. During the weekend, they had the opportunity to gain an understanding of what their friends the Adventists believe and how they practice their Christian lifestyle.

An additional blessing was a baptism on the beach. The church members had been planning a baptism in January and were praying for at least one candidate—but the final total was eleven! One lady, Liuba, came from the Baptist Church but wanted to get rebaptised and to dedicate her life to spreading the unique message of the Adventist Church. Another candidate, 10-year-old Victor, has an amazing knowledge of the Word of God. They joined the others in the spectacular surf of Chapel Porth beach. Then, after sunset, the church praised God and celebrated Communion together with the newly baptised members.

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St Austell Project baptism
by Silje Møller

It can be a risky thing giving out your phone number! I was a Danish girl, a volunteer on the St Austell Project, but I needed a job. I headed towards the world famous Eden Project where many people were queuing to get their magic five minutes with the manager. In front of me stood a younger guy. He was around 17 and, because the line took forever, we ended up chatting. His name was Steven Webb and by the end of a ten-minute conversation we had swapped phone numbers. I left Eden thinking I would get a job. I did not, but Steven did. And he also started to join the project’s activities — beginning with the film night but gradually moving towards the spiritual. The volunteers on the project befriended and supported him, and just over a year ago he decided to start Bible studies with Pastor Mick Smart, Steven Hulbert and, in the final stages, Pastor Chris Peake. 'If it had not been for people like Steven Hulbert,' Webb said at his baptism, 'I would not have met Christ.'

I was leaving the project in July to return to my studies in Global Health and Nutrition in Denmark, so I was delighted that he chose to be baptised before I left. Sabbath 3 July was a beautiful afternoon at Chapel Porth. The crashing surf on the beach almost did the baptism on its own. Friends from Newbold church, Exeter, Watford and St Austell were present and so were Steven’s mother and grandparents. Quite a few of the visitors witnessed an Adventist baptism for the first time. It was a really special day for all of us. Steven Hulbert, the volunteer who started it all, was delighted to have an amazing year and felt that this baptism was a good social time and to get away from busy London. This also allowed them to get to know twenty-five new friends who came with the church’s guests to enjoy the hot weather and amazing waves of the Atlantic Ocean. During the weekend, they had the opportunity to gain an understanding of what their friends the Adventists believe and how they practice their Christian lifestyle.

An additional blessing was a baptism on the beach. The church members had been planning a baptism in January and were praying for at least one candidate—but the final total was eleven! One lady, Liuba, came from the Baptist Church but wanted to get rebaptised and to dedicate her life to spreading the unique message of the Adventist Church. Another candidate, 10-year-old Victor, has an amazing knowledge of the Word of God. They joined the others in the spectacular surf of Chapel Porth beach. Then, after sunset, the church praised God and celebrated Communion together with the newly baptised members. Pastor Balan stated, 'There was a unique and very special atmosphere.' As a result, many of the twenty-five visitors have shown an interest in commencing Bible studies. There may be a need for a return visit to Chapel Porth beach.
An Irish Pastor remembered

Pastor Mike Logan died in Ireland in 2008 as the result of a brain tumour. While sick he made a request – to spend some time at Kilnasoolagh, Southern Ireland’s Adventist retreat centre. This year when the Newmarket-on-Fergus pastor, Tony O’Rourke, paid Mike’s sister Kathleen a visit, she suggested planting a tree in his memory. She wanted it planted on Mike’s birthday in the back garden of Kilnasoolagh.

After the church service on 26 June, Kathleen placed the tree in the prepared hole. Pastor Alan Hodges, BUC Ministerial director, was present. He had also been there two years earlier for Mike’s funeral.

Mike had a Roman Catholic upbringing. After a bad car crash he was asked the question, ‘Were you ready to die?’ He started to search for a meaning in life and was finally baptised by Pastor Don Wellman. Everyone liked Mike. When his employer refused to give him time off for his new Sabbath, all his workmates threatened to go on strike! They said he just didn’t kiss the Blarney stone – he swallowed it!

Mike served for sixteen and a half years as a pastor in Ireland, South England and Wales. His sister Kathleen, niece Cathlyn and daughter Joy were present on Sabbath to remember Mike. Many people will continue to remember this friendly Irish pastor and will thank God for a life well lived.

What if Phoebe had taken a sneak peek at the letter and said, ‘This Jew from Tarsus is a scholar. He’s not like me. He’s not one of my people. This letter to the Romans is complicated. I spent all of five minutes with this morning and I couldn’t understand it! Why should I make that hazardous journey to Rome? I’m staying safe indoors.’

Thankfully, Phoebe didn’t consider that option. She considered her commission. And that was? To carry Paul’s letter all the way from Cenchrea to Rome. Phoebe may or may not have known that somewhere towards the end of his letter Paul had written, ‘I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a deacon in the church in Cenchrea. Welcome her in the Lord as one who is worthy of honour among God’s people. Help her in whatever manner she needs it, for she has worked hard for you and for all the Lord’s people, and for me also.’ (Romans 16:1, 2, NLT.)

Phoebe had different gifts from Paul and was of a different nationality. What about the people to whom she was taking the letter? Were they people like her? No, actually. But if you had pointed that out to Phoebe she would not have understood you. In her mind the Good News was for all, and all were one in Christ Jesus.

So it is for the interest that we add a picture of the Church at Rome.

You, robe will, was a city built on seven hills. Only the wealthy people could live on those hills. When Phoebe made her journey to Rome, Nero’s palace occupied one entire hill. If Phoebe didn’t know a single Roman, she would know about Nero; and it was all bad. But Phoebe had her letter to the Romans and her commissions. So she went to Rome.

The letter was not written to a large congregation of people in Rome, but it was written to the poorer sort of Romans, and they worshipped in houses where were the houses? Not any of the seven hills. On the flood plane below them.

Quite likely the different houses would be groupings of Christians from different backgrounds. . . .

The important thing is that Phoebe took the letter to the church groups and was present while it was read.

Rome had a million inhabitants in the year Phoebe arrived. However, the number of Christians, scattered among the house groups, may not have exceeded a thousand. As Paul observed elsewhere, Christians tended not to be wealthy or wise (in the end of the world), God having chosen people despised by the world to reach the powerful and worldly-wise.

The homes of the Christians would have been among the poorer districts by the River Tigris. The first time Paul’s letter to the Romans was read aloud it would have been in a crowded room in a low-lying home in the poor district – just across the river from the Roman seat of power. Paul’s vision of a different kingdom with a different King, a different hope and a different faith was shared with Roman Christians ‘under Caesar’s nose’.

Paul’s letter is the most important piece of correspondence in the very first century. Why? It contained the nearest we have to a systematic exposition of the whole gospel. Martin Luther called it, ‘the purest gospel’ and said that it was the only book in Scripture that explained in full how God made possible mankind’s salvation. Bible translator William Tyndale famously said that ‘Romans lights the way to the whole Bible’. ‘If you don’t understand Romans,’ he wrote, ‘you really don’t understand the Bible.’ F. F. Bruce said, ‘Beware when you begin to study Romans. Anything can happen’.

On one side of the Tigris was Nero, the most powerful man in the world, whose titles were the houses? Not on any of the seven hills. On the flood plane below them. Quite likely the different houses would be groupings of Christians from different backgrounds. . . .

On the other side of the river, in crowded homes, Phoebe heard them read a more radical Gospel. It presented Jesus as the rightful world ruler, and said they needed to know his story. And love it. On Paul called it the one true Son of God. And Phoebe, together with all who heard, would have been left in no doubt that that all Nero’s claims into the shade. Jesus came from a royal house far greater than Nero’s: David’s. The crucifixion and subsequent resurrection from death of Jesus were the means of mankind’s salvation. Nero couldn’t beat that. Nero could, however, terrorise his people with his threat of death. But Paul said Jesus had trumped that, too. He had taken Death, the final weapon, and broken it. As a consequence the day when every knee should bow to Jesus, including Nero’s. Phoebe’s Good News was that something had happened that changed everything. What God had done in Jesus made everything different.

Paul wrote with passion: ‘For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the gospel of God’s power, the gospel of salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

We will discuss each of the above in more detail through this series. In the next issue we will look at the foods that boost energy.

Good health!
The fall of Rome six centuries ago provided an opportunity for the further growth of the Celtic Christianity of Patrick, David, Gildas and liltud

by Patrick McKerraw

The challenge of global poverty

by Patrick McKerraw

Poverty is an international shame in a world of plenty. Millions die annually from extreme temperature and drought. Food and water are too poor to stay alive. We know that we have the ability to stop this.

At the beginning of the new millennium, world leaders set up projects and initiatives to try to change the world. (UN Millennium Declaration). Speaking at the Carnegie Forum for International Affairs on 30 May 2000, Professor Jeffry D. Sachs, author of The End to Poverty and director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, said: ‘There is no excuse. The deaths are on our watch. We are the deaths. We cannot impact on the future.

He continued: ‘The reason people die of extreme poverty is that they are not hungry. They don’t need a lot to stay alive, and they don’t even need a lot to start the process of economic development. It would not require heroes on our part in order to help save those lives and help to promote economic development where it is not occurring now on the planet. We just take having eyes on the world.

The stock fall of Rome and the decadence of the imperial Church stimulated the response of the Western world. A new venue for satisfying the hunger of the spirit and biblical learning sprang up around 410 in southern Gaul under former soldier Honoratus. Among the Romanos Britons to find collective spiritual inspiration and learning on the Léridans islands were Faustus and his student Patrick.

In his Nobel Lecture on 11 December 2001, Martin Luther King noted: ‘There is nothing new about poverty. What is new, how-
Gloucester street witness

The Sabbath service was an unusual event at Gloucester on 7 July in that the service was shortened with an inspiring sermon by Elder Saunders entitled “Can I have a witness?” that set the tone for the congregation to leave the comfort of the church and witness to the shoppers of Gloucester. During the one-and-a-half hours in the city centre, shoppers were treated to inspirational singing from the church members and soloists, using well-known hymns and choruses that the passersby could appreciate and join in with, and many did so.

At the same time, 2,000 Steps to Christ and 2,000 When God Said Remember were distributed around Gloucester and Cinderford by the Personal Ministries team. After the street witnessing, members returned to a pot-luck lunch before watching the final service of the GC on the large screen. All who participated agreed that it had been one of the best Sabbaths ever, and we prayed that someone might have been touched by either the singing or the booklets.

Mili’s journey

When Mili de la Torre met a good-looking Irish guy in her home country, Argentina, she had no idea what changes were about to happen in her life. It was not long before she changed channels. She moved to Spain and, eventually, to Northern Ireland. She got married and gave birth to two children.

Living far away from her familiar surroundings, Mili was very happy when her sister-in-law invited her to go to church on a Saturday morning. The fact that these people worshiped on a different day from what she was used to did not matter. She enjoyed the friendship and company that she found at the Banbridge church and soon she requested Bible studies.

Mili embraced everything that she learned. When she travelled back to Argentina, she even made contact with the local Adventist church there and introduced them to her mother. Mili decided to stop working on Sabbaths and requested to be baptised.

As a further highlight of the day, the Banbridge Women’s Ministries used the opportunity to launch an outreach project. Mili’s mother, who was visiting from Argentina, was presented with a gift of £450 to take back to the Adventist church in her home town in Argentina. This money would be used to do essential renovations to their church building.

Two books published

Ex-minister Marc Rasull, 37, of Bugle, Cornwall, has published two books so far this year. The first was entitled Exploring the Heavenly Sanctuary. The second, Nehemiah the Sabbath Refomer, Marc spent about five years researching his books and told The Cornish Guardian that it has taken him only six months to write each book. He told the St Austell Voice ‘Exploring the Heavenly Sanctuary looks at our unique doctrine that there is a temple in Heaven where Christ ministers as our High Priest, and when he has finished the work, he will return to Earth’.

To obtain copies of Marc’s books visit www.amazon.co.uk.
On five different Sabbaths this spring, Newbold church members celebrated as they saw youth commit their lives to the Lord. The Newbold church evangelistic strategy is about process. Thus, quite intentionally, the pastors do not gather all candidates into one baptism but spread them throughout the year. This has added up to an average of twenty baptisms per year over the past four years. About one third of these are from non-Christian backgrounds, people who have come in contact with members and especially church youth. Pastor Patrick Johnson’s belief is that one baptism during a church service leads to another, and is of itself a powerful witness as the candidates share their testimony.

The spring baptismal season began in April with the baptism of 20-year-old Valentina Vartsaba. She had consciously chosen not to get baptised because of peer pressure, but she found the constant questions about her faith from friends at school and college led her to study the Bible and make a personal decision for herself. After studies with Pastor Kirsten Oster-Lundqvist she was baptised by her father, Pastor Vasil Vartsaba. Then the baptismal pool was opened again for the Polish UK fellowship when, on 29 May, they celebrated their first baptism.

Newbold’s contemporary service was celebrating again just a week later when, on 3 June, Adrian Tarlev, a pastor’s son originally from Moldova, was baptised by Pastor Oster-Lundqvist. He had been studying the Bible with theology student Vissen Moosootamy. Again, one week later, on 12 June, Pastor Johnson baptised Emi Shimizu. Her background is English and Japanese and, via school friends, she had come into contact with Newbold youth several years earlier. However, while her older sister had become involved in church life, at first she had no interest. Her atheist father was strongly opposed to any religion within their family. Yet, on her journey with the youth and through various Bible studies, she got to know Christ as her Saviour. Both Adrian and Emi attend the contemporary service at Newbold. The final baptism was in the Newbold family service when Lison Verrecchia, who originates from France, was baptised by her father, Dr Verrecchia. Lison had been studying extensively with Pastor Oster-Lundqvist. The baptismal service concluded with Britt Celine Kagoo, originally from Uganda, sharing how she had faced all kinds of challenges in her life. She decided to turn back to God and give God a chance.

Each baptismal service was a special time. Appropriate music and personal testimonies demonstrated how these young people had come to have faith. It was inspiring to church members and the pastoral team to see how God works in young hearts and helps them overcome the struggles they encounter. Growing up in the church and as pastors’ children is no guarantee that they will decide to follow Christ, so there is jubilation when they make the choice. Equally, as a church, we should never underestimate the witness of our teens and how they are bringing friends to church. We must affirm them in their outreach. Newbold youth are part of that process and between them have brought many of their friends to faith. As pastors this is truly a blessing. The moving testimonies of the newly baptised can be found on www.newboldchurch.org.
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A large range of Bibles for all ages and tastes

While stocks last – great prices on Bibles

Adventist Book Centre
Leytonstone’s children’s banquet

On Sunday 30 May Leytonstone church hosted a prestigious event: The Children’s Banquet 2010. In order to accommodate our VIP children of today, the church leaders of tomorrow, the most amazing transformation took place. Twenty-eight of Leytonstone’s children exclaimed their delight and wonder as the magnolia walls of the church vanished behind quantities of tulle, ribbon and voile, and sparked with twinkling fairy lights. The tropical paradise theme was complete as seahorses and butterflies adorned the walls, and a myriad of flowers and foliage lined the hallways and floors. Having dined on crudités, lasagne and a...

Why am I here?

This was the question posed by Jeff Freeman, family counsellor and guest speaker at the Scottish Mission church camp near the idyllic and remote west coast village of Kilberry from 2 to 9 July. It was a question that might have been in the minds of forty Pathfinders as they struggled on arrival to erect their tents in driving rain and occasional near-gale-force conditions.

But, just as the glorious sunny spells were enjoyed in the days that followed, so Pastor Freeman captivated daily worship audiences with a self-revealing journey that left no doubt about the answer to that question. He led a step-by-step exploration of Christ’s Beatitudes, with animated biblical stories and riveting personal testimony.

On Sabbath morning, Pastor Bernie Holford, Scottish Mission president, enlisted the help of several young ones who donned a variety of caps depicting the many facets of God’s character and personality. He said, ‘The good news about God is that he comes to us in different ways at different times, according to our needs.’

For more than half the youth present this was their first experience of the Christian-owned site in a natural unspoilt environment. A communal hike over some low-level challenging terrain tested some but was judged by most to be a great success. A full recreational programme included indoor and outdoor sports and movie and talent nights.

At a time when families are counting every penny, there was no surprise when a vote for next year’s venue received popular support for ‘next year in Kilberry’.
Slough youth meet the community

S
ough youth embarked upon what would be one of its biggest challenges to date. We talk about meeting our community, but we decided to meet them on their own turf! Slough and Eton School opened its gates to the ‘Survival Sports and Social Committee’ to host a Family Fun Day. They, in turn, invited our church to let the community know who we are and what we stand for. This would involve the youth entering a secular environment to reach out to the community — and we had to be prepared.

Led by Pastor Ron Clemow, we armed ourselves with literature and DVDs. We set up a stall and set about meeting and greeting members of the community. Our message was simple: God is faithful. Jesus loves us and He is coming soon.

Since it was a Sabbath afternoon, the youth were initially apprehensive and were not keen to venture far away from the stall that had been set up with all the church materials. After some coaxing from the pastor, we met the Royal Berkshire Fire Brigade and even had an opportunity to sit in their fire truck and try on their helmets. We had an interesting conversa-
tion with the Thames Valley Police Officers who are keen to recruit more ethnic minorities into the force. They gave valuable career advice to the youth. We now have a contact for anyone interested in forensic sciences. In return, we explained who we are and gave them copies of Steps to Christ and Why God Said Remember.

Many people approached the stall — people who had heard of the Adventist Church, had family who had been members, or were just curious to know who we are. All were welcomed and were not allowed to leave empty-handed.

The climax of the afternoon was for the youth to take centre stage during the fun day to make a fifteen-minute presentation about who we are and what we stand for. Pastor Sasa Goto shared a brief synopsis of who we are and our fundamental beliefs, and extended an invitation to come and ‘take a seis’.

Finally, representatives of our church provided literature, Slough Church Officers Up Prase (SOCOP) presented a special item, ‘Faithful’ by Hezekiah Walker, in line with the theme for this year: Reclamation. Kish Palmer, Michael Takavashva, Darren Connor, Naomi Duncombe, Nozi Conner, Catherine Palmer and Lezzy Murray were part of the Gospel Corner set up for the day.

Our Pathfinder leader, Kish Palmer, saw the afternoon as ‘a well-organised event and a great opportunity to meet our community’, while one of our younger members, Chantelle Khosa who actually attends Slough and Eton School, appreciated the event but found it a bit ‘awkward because it was a fun day and we were dressed in our smart church clothes while everyone else was dressed in their skimpiesummerwear’.

We pray for every individual who heard the message we presented that afternoon that God will lead his sheep back to him through the literature we have distributed.

Stanborough gets gold and silver at Independent School’s Athletics Championships

S
tanborough School had a record number of students qualifying for the Independent Schools Association (ISA) National Athletics Championships held on 24 June at Bedford International Athletic Stadium. Altogether, nine students represented the School: Shanana (800m, 1500m and relay teams), Abigail (relay team), Fanish (relay team) and Maleah (relay team) on behalf of the primary school; and Emmanuel (long jump), Shalom (high jump), Emmanuel (800m), India (long jump) and Bethany (discus throwing) on behalf of the secondary school.

Our national champions formed part of the London North Division and competed against the other six divisions in England. On that day, all of the school’s athletes performed excellently, but in particular Shanana, in Year 6, who brought home a silver medal after completing the 80-metre hurdles. Her outstanding performance was a very proud moment for the school. However, the best performance of the day went to Bethany, in Year 7, who took first place on the podium after throwing the discus an amazing 21.89 metres. About her experience she said, ‘I was a little bit nervous and really surprised with the results because I was the smallest girl there’. But being the smallest surely did not prevent her from taking a gold medal home and making both her parents and the school really proud of her.

Congratulations to all the students who took part this year in the ISA Championships, to the parents, and to the teachers, Mr Steyn, Mr McKee and Ms Gudur.

My Adventures in Tanzania by Katrina Walker

D
uring April and May, Katrina Walker, a member of Hemel Hempstead church whose job at home is an ‘Infection Control Nurse’ went on a mission. ‘I’ll let her tell the story herself.

I felt impressed to go and do some voluntary work for three months. Wow — God didn’t only answer, he gave a fantastic answer! I contacted a friend ‘in the know’ and told her I wanted to go anywhere (as long as it was hot!) and do anything (but not teach). I knew God would send me where I would be needed but somewhere that I would not have to make an accept-or-reject decision. A few options came up but nothing worked out and then I was put in touch with the Cradle of Love Baby Home in Tanzania. I contacted the director and before long I was on a plane to Africa.

I didn’t have the best start, as the plane was cancelled and I ended up arriving a day late — but I did arrive safely. My luggage wasn’t quite as fortunate and got lost, arriving quite a few days later. I was blessed to be sent to a modern building with all ‘mod cons’ such as safe tap water, comfortable accommodation and intermittent electricity. Another part of life that I do miss (sadly, I know) is returning from market with fresh fruit and veg and having to soak it in potassium permanganate to kill anything that could make us ill.

Of course, the reason for going wasn’t to soak fruit and veg or sit through power cuts. The Cradle of Love is a home that takes babies up to the age of 2-3 years and is run purely by donations and faith.

Some are orphans, some have been snatched by family members or villagers because their mothers were trying to kill them or sell them, but the majority were there because their mothers had died and the families couldn’t afford baby milk. They would bring them to us to wear them and then they would come and collect them when they were about 2 years old. One baby was brought to us at four months old because his mother had died and his father had tried his best to look after him and had fed him cows’ milk. Two weeks of that nearly killed him and he was brought to us severely dehydrated and on death’s door. I couldn’t put him in his cot when he felt asleep because I thought that no child should die alone so I just held him. After a few days in hospital he improved and is now a big boy, drinking so much formula we couldn’t keep up with his demands. I kept telling him his daddy loved him so much and would take him home as soon as he could as he looked after him. There were lots of sad stories and I would get choked up just thinking about what each child had been through.

I repaired literally hundreds of holes in mosquito nets, set up a toy-cleaning rota, which within two weeks stopped all the runny noses, gave a talk on ‘infection control’ to the nannies and cleaned more than I have ever cleaned before.

I have experienced so much with their helmets. We had an interesting conversation with the Thames Valley Police Officers who are keen to recruit more ethnic minorities into the force. They gave valuable career advice to the youth. We now have a contact for anyone interested in forensic sciences. In return, we explained who we are and gave them copies of Steps to Christ and Why God Said Remember.

If this story has moved you and you wish to donate directly to the project here is the website:

www.cradleoflove.com

Sharnae – Year 6 Winner with her medal

Congratulations to all the students who took part this year in the ISA Championships, to the parents, and to the teachers, Mr Steyn, Mr McKee and Ms Gudur.

NOZIPHO CONNOR

All set for Sabbath 25 September?

- 31,000 people
- 31 pieces of literature
- 1 day

There are 31,000 Seventh-day Adventist in the British Isles.

On Sabbath 25 September every single member is encouraged to distribute 31 pieces of literature, thus reaching millions with the message.

They submitted by John Butters, Communications secretary, Hemel Hempstead church

15 Messenger
First baptism at the London Asian church plant
by Pastor Petras Bahadur

Usha and Suraj Ramchurn, a Hindu family who migrated from Mauritius, began to attend the London Asian church some two years ago. Usha is a student here who invited her husband Suraj and their son Rahul to join her. When Suraj arrived from Mauritius he noticed that Usha attended church quite often. After a while he began attending with her, but only once in a while as he was often working on Saturdays. Eventually he joined his wife whenever he was free.

As pastor of the Asian church plant I gave them my attention and support and prayed for their situation. Later I began a group Bible study at the home of Annie Lewis, one of our outreach team members, and invited Usha and Suraj to join us. Suraj had previously been a leader with a Hindu evangelistic team in Mauritius and was very active in his religion. He was well versed in his scriptures, and therefore had many questions to ask about Christianity and needed a full explanation before accepting the answers. After a few Bible studies, Suraj started reading the Bible with great interest and making notes. He would type his notes and then make PowerPoint presentations of the new ideas that he was learning. Meanwhile I enrolled the couple with the Discovery Correspondence School. Both Usha and Suraj enrolled, but Suraj finished the lessons and went on to do the health course and other courses, and attained five certificates from the Discovery Centre.

In February I asked them if they would like to be baptised and both of them agreed as they felt that the Holy Spirit had convicted their hearts. We went through the fundamental beliefs while the date was being set. Finally, on 27 April, both Usha and Suraj were baptised. The London Asian church had its first baptism since the church had started a couple of years ago. There are young people right now who are engaged in Bible studies and we trust that many more will be baptised in the near future. Please join us in praying that God will continue to bring people to his Kingdom from the Asian community in East London.

'Preachout' at Breath of Life

On Sabbath 22 May the Breath of Life church was full to capacity. Many had gathered to be present at the Preachout. As the Preachout began, there was an air of expectation as the Breath of Life singing group entered, singing ‘Jesus in me’. The occasion was simply four young preachers speaking back to back. Many who attended declared that there was no finer display of preaching anywhere in our conference on that day. Volney Spencer brought us an uplifting, well-executed message entitled ‘Jesus is all you need’. Kay Sudeene exhorted us with a warm message entitled ‘Right but not Righteous’. This message made us search our souls. The temperature rose further when Enoch Aduse stood up to preach. He thundered a message entitled ‘That’s it on’, so apt as he emphasised a greater meaning to life.

Praise and worship group, directed by Livette Scarlettbury, united their voices to the children’s band, a group of boys aged 5-13 who play guitars, drum kit, organ and piano. The congregation also was delighted to hear the vocals played exquisitely by the Brooks family (Pastor Brooks excluded) and guests under the direction of Music director, Sylvia Samuel.

Thumbs up, children!
by Michelle Rondorf

On Sabbath 9 June Willesden’s children from Primary to Earlyyears led us through the day as teachers, singers, presenters and storytellers. They were punctual, to the point, in harmony with each other, ready to bless and ready to give. They honoured their parents, their ‘Sabbath School teachers and their congregation co-ordinators who had practised tirelessly with them to bring the best out of them. The theme for the day was ‘The Fruit of the Spirit’, which they shared with us through acts, poetry and sermonettes. There was plenty of singing too. The praise and worship group, directed by Livette Scarlettbury, united their voices to the children’s band, a group of boys aged 5-13 who play guitars, drum kit, organ and piano. The congregation also was delighted to hear the vocals played exquisitely by the Brooks family (Pastor Brooks excluded) and guests under the direction of Music director, Sylvia Samuel.

So what did we learn about the fruit of the Spirit? Leah Allan presented ‘Patience’, and Keana Snagge ‘Goodness’. The final sermonette by Solomon Tello explored the characteristics of ‘The Good Shepherd’ as exemplified in Psalm 23. When divine service finished, it was twelve thirty on the dot, an achievement noted by church elder Darren Pascall who ended the service with a prayer of consecration for the children.

After a copious lunch the blessing continued in the afternoon with a programme which included a quiz game, delighting the supportive parents and church members. At the end of this joyous day endegies kept coming down like droplets of refreshing rain about how the children truly blessed the congregation by using their talents to praise God.

Children’s Day was spearheaded by Claudia Hastings, Children’s Ministries co-ordinator.

Summer by the sea

LIVE Festival, 6-8 August, Eastbourne

For the second year the SEC Youth department invites you to be part of the LIVE Festival, an awesome weekend of music, arts and fellowship! At its roots the LIVE Music and Arts Festival is a celebration of all that is good and healthy in youth. LIVE always looks for real ways to lead, care and serve fellow young people in our communities and offers an alternative to teenagers and young people who are seeking greater meaning to life.

So why not come away with us to Eastbourne, to an inspiring location and a town that has lots to offer. The programme includes every type of Gospel and Christian contemporary music, as well as spoken word poets, visual artists, drama, designers and gifted young people as they share their gifts. Something for everyone! This is the perfect event to bring your Christian and non-Christian friends to, as we get to know, through arts, music, poetry, laughter and fellowship, our best friend Jesus.

We are still looking for volunteers to get involved! So if you want to get involved or want further information about booking call 01923-232722 or visit the SEC youth website: www.secyouth.co.uk.

Lyrical soldier wins ‘Next Big Act’

Lyrical Soldier, otherwise known as Michael Agee, has won the ‘Next Big Act’ category of the African Gospel Music Awards held at the New Zanzibar Banqueting Suite in Sydenham, London, on 10 July. ‘It’s such a blessing to have received the award and it still hasn’t sunk in fully!’ Michael said. However, he is very aware that his primary focus is mission, not awards. He quotes Pastor Eddie Hypolite’s congratulatory message: ‘Human recognition is good, but recognition from God determines true success!’

An active member of the London South East Community church, Michael is a preacher, singer, rapper and a spoken word poet. He sees himself as a ‘lyrical evangelist’. Through his God-given use of words, both in song and through preaching, he is able to plant seeds of interest in Jesus Christ in the minds of people.

The whole evening was one of joy. Gospel music fans reverberated to the new sound of African gospel music at the Awards ceremony. The raising on the cake for them was a performance by giants of African gospel music, namely Sonnie Badu, Gabriel Eziasih, Diana Hamilton and Uche Agu joining hearts, minds and voices together on stage as they led the guests in a time of worship.

The actual awards started with the eight nominees for the ‘Next Big Act’ category, so Michael’s nerves were not held on edge for too long. In his heart-warming speech, Michael thanked God for blessing him with his gift which has allowed him to spread the gospel message through music. He also thanked his family, friends and the church for their continuous support and encouragement throughout the years.
P ater and Mrs Bob and Joy Smart celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on Tuesday 6 July. During the war years Bob served as a radio operator in Merchant Navy and survived two ships torpedoed from under him and the freezing waters of the North Atlantic. He also experienced the first guided missile attack launched from an aeroplane that sank the King George Ill on 22 December 1941 on which he was sailing.

In 1949 Bob graduated from Newbold Missionary College and he and Joy were married in 1950 in Southampton, the service conducted by Pastor L E A. Lane. Their service took them to the North England Conference. starting out in Bolton under Pastor Ken Elgar, and subsequently to the Scottish Mission and the Irish Mission, where Bob was president. They also served as missionaries in Ethiopia, living in 7,600 feet above sea level, where Bob was president and cared for five schools and several churches in the vast area.

They decided what it took to celebrate sixty years of marriage. Joy said, ‘Unbelievable,’ and Bob, in typical nautical language said, ‘A long voyage!’ The secrets, they say, to their successful marriage are worship and prayer together, soft answers that turn away wrath, patience, and a clear focus in life. Also being happy at home ‘where we grumble the most and are treated the best.’ ‘The marriage,’ says Bob, ‘is like going to sea – it’s a challenge. You rise to the occasions when storms threaten.’

When they retired Bob said to Joy, ‘I will do the cooking if you will do the rest.’ And that’s pretty well how it’s worked ever since. What brings them pleasure? Visits from friends and hearing from friends, and they would like to thank everyone who has sent cards and greetings. They also enjoy ~par~ and the Hope Channel. Bob says, ‘Instead of being involved in radio as a radio officer, I am now sitting listening to it for much of the day.’ He also thoroughly enjoys the ship magazines sent on to him by his brother and fellow mariner, Pastor Vic Lewellyn.

As well as several church friends visiting their home on 6 July during the service, Joy and Bob were joined by Ann Cowan, representing Perths and Kircoss Council, who presented a beautiful flower basket. The Counsellor pointed out that one of the ribbons had diamonds inserted into it. ‘(I doubt that they were real?) The Counsellor spent an hour with Bob and Joy and they presented her with a copy of Bob’s book Home From the Sea.

We wish Pastor and Mrs Smart God’s richest blessings and every joy in their 60th year of marriage.

What is Home From the Sea about?
Bob Smart is the best storyteller – bar none! Home From the Sea is the exciting story of the childhood of this Adventist boy who went to sea as a radio operator – and found himself involved in a World War. On two occasions his ships were torpedoed and sunk by German submarines. The odds were always against Bob’s survival.

These are wonderful stories of the providence of God.
EXPLORE THE WORLD OF ROYAL MINTS - "GOLD & SILVER" COMPANIES

As you plan your next trip, consider visiting the Royal Mint of the United Kingdom. This historic site is located in Llantrisant, near Cardiff, and is home to one of the largest and most diverse collections of coins and medals in the world. With over 1,500 years of minting history, the Royal Mint offers a unique and informative experience for currency enthusiasts and general visitors alike.

In addition to coins, visitors can also explore the world of royal mints, which have played a significant role in the history of currency. Royal mints are responsible for minting coins for monarchs and statesmen, and they have been a symbol of power and wealth for centuries. The Royal Mint of the United Kingdom is a prime example of this tradition, and visitors can learn more about the history and significance of royal mints while exploring the site.

Whether you're interested in the history of currency or simply want to explore a unique site near Cardiff, the Royal Mint of the United Kingdom is definitely worth a visit. So pack your bags and plan your next trip today!