Niger is the second poorest and most under-developed country in the world, with a literacy rate among its population of just 25%. It has the highest birth rate in the world, and one in five children die before the age of 5. Many of the children who attend school collapse in the classroom from hunger because they have not eaten for days. This is why the gifts provided in the shoeboxes are priceless to them.

I visited many schools and an orphanage to donate shoeboxes on behalf of the donors in the UK. On Monday morning, 2 May, I accompanied Jason Brooks (the country director of ADRA Niger), a representative from the country’s Education department and a film crew from the national TV station to the capital, Niamey, where we visited the Foulan Koira ADRA school in Koira Tekgi, on the edge of the city.

When shoeboxes are given to the kids, you can see from their facial expressions that they are asking, ‘Is this for me?’ Then, when they sit with the shoebox in front of them, they are still unsure until they are told they can open them. Even then, some kids are still hesitant – but, when the shoeboxes are finally opened and they see the contents, the smiles, the cheering and the pleasure can’t be put into words.

Jason Brooks made this comment: ‘The value of the gifts was not just that desperately poor children received some useful and fun items that put huge smiles on their faces, but it showed that people far away cared enough to do something that touched them so personally, right where they are. The kids were overwhelmed at the generosity and kindness of those who contributed.’

Every child at our three ADRA schools (1,600 pupils) has received a shoebox, as have children at many other schools and an orphanage. We are now sending shoeboxes to schools and orphanages with ADRA connections in the north of the country and other areas. Due to the exposure on the national news, other schools are also requesting inclusion in the shoebox distribution by ADRA Niger.

During my six days in Niger I saw real poverty, first-hand, particularly evident in the number of children on the street begging. I was shocked to learn that many children go to school in the morning, and go begging in the afternoon. This brought home to me how blessed our children are in the UK.

But my abiding memory of this visit is of the smiles and jubilation on the faces of all the kids when they received a few goodies in a shoebox. For one day we were able to take them away from their mundane lives and give them a gift which brought them some much-needed happiness.

Next time you buy some shoes and the shop assistant asks you if you want the box, say ‘Yes’, because this box can be used to bring happiness to a child in a far-away country, if only for a day!
**Editorial**

Yes, the world ended yesterday, again... for the umpteenth time!

Harold Camping’s prediction that 21 May, 2011 would be ‘secret rapture’ day has joined a growing list of similar historical failures.

Eighty-nine-year-old Camping has been wrong before. In 1994 his prediction that the world would end failed because of a ‘mathematical’ error. This time he must have really bulked about his calculations because he backed them up with a worldwide US$100,000,000 advertising campaign.

Camping has company

He has not been alone in making prophetic blunders. One source tracks at least forty-four predictions relating to the apocalypse, dating from the time of Jesus to 1920.

Another online list cites forty individuals or movements involved in such predictions since the start of the twenty-first century.

You may remember the effect that Hal Lindsey’s predictions had on the Christian world. Many took his book, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, very seriously, and expected the end of the world during the 1980s. The book became ‘one of the best-selling works on non-fiction in that decade. It was published in fifty-four languages and has sold approximately 35 million copies.’

The danger of failed predictions

So what if some psychics, pseudo-astrologers, dispensationalists and fringe Adventists make failed forecasts about the end of the world, Armageddon, the so-called ‘rapture’ or the Second Coming of Christ? Why worry about them?

Well, I think failed predictions can be dangerous, and here are some reasons:

- **Failed predictions provoke ridicule across Christendom in general.** You only need to look at the comments made in the media, and especially online, to see how people use them as an opportunity for ridicule.
- For example, the international *Business Times* reported that ‘I’d rather be a Reliance, who claimed to be a bishop in the Church of the Last Laugh, organised one of the many Armageddon countdown-cum-parties, as people drank liquor, and released helium balloons symbolising the “millions of souls that would go to Heaven come judgement day”, as predicted by Camping.’
- This type of publicity degrades Christianity, trivialises its teachings and makes people sceptical of religion.
- Failed predictions may also cause a subtle erosion of our personal faith in the role and accuracy of Bible prophecy. When the ‘forecasters’ and ‘date setters’ are from within our own ranks, we may subconsciously distance ourselves from prophetic study or debate because we want to ‘avoid their extreme positions’. After all, who wants to be identified with the fanatic fringe!
- Why the fascination with dates?

This is an interesting question, which may have something to do with our human need to control life and its events. Knowing when a cataclysmic event (such as the Second Coming of Christ, or the end of the world) is due allows some of us to feel safe, secure and in control.

If it is still distant, we can console ourselves with the thought that there is still enough time to set things in order. If it is imminent, we can intensify our piety and make every effort to ‘get ready’!

Seems we will all be surprised

Something interesting emerges as we review the parables that relate to the Second Coming of Christ: precise dates are not important. In fact, Jesus said: ‘No-one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.’ (Matthew 24:36, NIV.)

What is regarded as vital, however, is a personal connection with the Saviour. Notice Matthew’s record of what happens when the five foolish virgins return to the banquet hall: “Later the others also came, ’Sir! Sir!’ they said. “Open the door for us!” But he replied, ’I tell you the truth, I don’t know you.’ ” (Matthew 25:11, 12, NIV.)

Christ expresses similar sentiments when he discusses the fate of those who profess to have worked miracles in his name: “Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’ ” (Matthew 7:23, NIV.)

So it is clear: precise dates are not important, but a relationship is!

**A unique relationship**

This relationship that God invites us to share with him is a unique one. It is not casual, superficial or sporadic. It is a relationship that brings deep and lasting assurance to our minds. It provides peace – a sense of inner tranquillity – even during the most difficult circumstances.

Norman Gulley describes the basis for this assurance: ‘It’s time to gaze on Calvary, to see Him hanging there for us. Time to see His death as our forgiveness, acceptance, and assurance. Calvary is concrete, irreversible, irreplaceable, extravagant evidence that He has paid for our ticket to salvation. All we have to do is accept. His death makes certain our future, guarantees our destiny. Calvary calls to each one of us. Won’t you claim your gift?’

The world ended yesterday... again! But that’s OK, because our relationship with Jesus didn’t!

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**The world will end in 2012**

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**Knowing your body – part 4a**

**Digestive health**

When you sit down to a meal, the food you eat is not in a form from which the body can benefit immediately. It has to be broken down into smaller molecules of nutrients before being absorbed into the bloodstream and transported to body cells.

Digestion is the process by which food and drink are altered into materials that the body can use to build and nourish cells to provide energy. Several organs play a part in the work of our digestive system. The process commences with the first thought and, in some cases, even before it altogether if the stress becomes extreme.

Other contributors – Other factors which have a negative impact on digestion are recreational drugs and some prescription drugs, alcohol and smoking. This is because they adversely affect the production of hydrochloric acid in the stomach. Chronic health conditions and ageing also affect our digestion, and we will look at these factors in part 4b of this series.

**Good health!**

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**Mega-pixels of creation**

*Messenger* is currently running a four-part series over a twelve-month period entitled *Mega-pixels of creation*, offering you the opportunity to see your pictures in print.

The spring deadline of 21 June is fast approaching, so now is the time to send in your pictures.

Whether you are a ‘casual snapper’ or a ‘budding pro’, it doesn’t matter. Just send me your finest-quality nature photos – landscapes, wildlife, flora and fauna, cloud formations, close-ups – anything in the UK that you think demonstrates God’s creation at work. Please include a caption for your picture, and what equipment you have used. If your submission is really good, it might even appear in our devotional calendar.

This is not a competition, and the only reward will be to see your photography in print!

Please send your photography to me at: dbell@stanboroughpress.co.uk. Happy snapping!

**David Bell, Messenger designer**

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**Enhancing Health**

by Sharon Platt-McDonald

RGN, RM, RVN, MSc

Health Ministries director, BUC

*Happy snapping!*
J ust the other day while I was talking with Don Lowe, a long-standing friend, he made the following comment: ’Ron, do you remember all those years ago when our mothers took us ingathering? So many doors remained closed, even though we knocked hard, and knew full well that people were inside?’

Then, thought as ever, he remarked, ’It wasn’t very nice, was it, but just imagine that Jesus has been knocking at the doors of men’s hearts for over two thousand years with much the same results."

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Ron, do you remember all those years ago when our mothers took us ingathering? So many doors remained closed, even though we knocked hard, and knew full well that people were inside?"

The words of Jesus we read in Revelation 3:20 paint a picture of Jesus loving Sophia, searching for men and women, even those who do not want him, or try to hide from him. Nothing in any other religion can compare with the wonder of this kind of love.

Jesus goes on to say that, to anyone who opens the door, he will come in and dine with them. The Greek word used to describe the meal he will have with them (deipneous) is not the word used for the lighter meals enjoyed earlier in the day, but the special, leisurely, evening meal.

This is how William Barclay describes that meal: ’people lingered over it, for the day’s work was done. . . . There was time during it for un hurried and unlimited fellowship together.’

Only we can answer
When Christ knocks on the door of our own heart, it is only we who can answer that knock. Christ will never break that door down. He must be an invited guest.

We may not be responsible for what goes on in the world around us, but we are responsible for what goes on in our own hearts and minds. All Christ’s offers and pleas will be wasted if we fail to open our hearts to him.

In that famous painting by William Holman Hunt, ’The Light of the world,’ there is no latch on the outside of the door of the house at which Christ is knocking. The artist depicts a door that may only be opened from the inside. . . . and that will be your choice!"
they spent the last seven years raising their children in a refugee camp.

Editor: ‘How does the trust make selections? Surely there must be many deserving families?’

David: ‘They have a stringent vetting process, which relies heavily on the criteria of “deepest poverty” and “greatest distress”. This family fully met these criteria.’

Editor: ‘Tell us briefly about the challenges of the building process.’

David: ‘Well there were fifteen of David:

David and Bathsheba had two other sons together. Who were they?

David and Bathsheba had two other sons together. Who were they?

The parallels with Jesus’ life and ministry are not hard to see – the Mediterranean during Jesus’ time, as evidenced by Paul’s illustrative references to it (Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:5), so this shouldn’t come as a surprise – Jesus himself was the adopted, rather than the biological, Son of Joseph (Luke 3:23), and yet his adopted forefathers are proudly listed by Luke and Matthew as evidence that he is the Son of David.

We also note a name listed as Jesus’ adopted forefather in both family trees – according to Matthew 1:6 and Luke 3:31, Jesus’ family tree starts to branch among David’s sons. One branch, through Solomon, contained all of Judah’s kings and is listed in Matthew’s Gospel, and the other, through Nathan, is listed in Luke. Interestingly, both Nathan and Solomon shared the same mother – Bathsheba, or Bathsheba (1 Chronicles 3:5).

Even more interestingly, the name Nathan is derived from the Hebrew word meaning ‘give’ or ‘given’, and Solomon was also called Jedidiah, meaning ‘Beloved of the LORD’ – implying that Nathan and Solomon’s parents recognised their children were loved by God and were gifts from him (2 Samuel 12:24, 25). Nathan was also the name of the prophet who rebuked David for his adultery with Bathsheba and subsequent murder of her husband, Uriah the Hittite (2 Samuel 11:1-12), and David’s son Nathan may have been named after Nathan the prophet, implying David’s respect for the man of God who had rebuked him.

The parables with Jesus’ life and ministry are not so hard to see – we are all beloved of the LORD, and for this reason Christ was given (John 3:16). Just as God demonstrated his forgiveness to David, the king and one-time shepherd, by giving him sons, so too he forgives us through Jesus, the King and Good Shepherd, the adopted Son of Joseph (John 10:11). Just as David respected Nathan the prophet and rebuked (Psalm 51), so too we are called to show respect to Jesus and repent (Acts 2:23); and – as Peter says in Acts 2:33 – the promise of the Holy Spirit is to you, and to your children – to your whole family tree!

- David and Bathsheba had two other sons together. Who were they?
- Who was the son of Solomon, and what happened in his reign?
- Luke’s genealogy of Jesus appears after which event? Why is it placed here?
- Who begat all men, according to Luke’s genealogy?
- What are we called, according to 1 John 3?

David, I understand that this project was run in the village of Al-Walaja, in the occupied Palestinian territories, outside Bethlehem. Is that correct?

David: ‘Yes Julian, we lived and worked in that village for two weeks, and were well received by the inhabitants.’

Editor: ‘What did the project involve?’

David: ‘We went to build a home for a Palestinian family whose home was demolished by the Israeli authorities in 2004 – to make way for the infamous wall of separation.

Editor: ‘Tell us briefly about the challenges of the building process.’

David: ‘Well there were fifteen of them – they were the first and pray after! To him, rebuilding a demolished home for a destitute family was an act of worship, pleasing and acceptable to God, and I totally agree. Why shouldn’t you be able to worship God as much with a pick or a shovel in your hands as with a Bible or a hymnal?’
**Street parties**

History of street parties
No one can really be sure just when the tradition of street parties started. But we all know they have been around for generations.

Some suggest that they started with the ‘peace teas’ that were held in July 1919, shortly after the Treaty of Versailles brought the Great War to an end. Apparently these tea parties were ‘a special treat for children in those times of hardship and were quite formal sit down affairs.’ Others have them beginning much earlier, with such events as the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria on 20 June 1887.

Whatever their origins, however, street parties are wonderful, and they add colour and vibrancy to the rich texture of UK tradition, particularly in England and Wales.

In fact, organisations like Streets Alive believe that street parties should become more widespread and popular because of their ability to ‘promote neighbourliness’ and transform the country ‘from the street up’.

The Royal Wedding of Prince William to Kate Middleton was the most recent opportunity for many to bring out their bunting and barbeques for a street party. Some of our congregations also used this great opportunity to mix with the local community on 29 April. Here is some of the fun and influence from these events where the church was turned inside-out.

![Janson Road street party](image1)

Janson Road street party
In Janson Road, Stratford, London, approximately 300 people from the community came out to enjoy the Stratford Seventh-day Adventist church’s street party. Church helpers were about early, decorating the road with bunting and balloons, and they were soon joined by community leaders who wanted to help.

The party began at 10am with the Stratford Pathfinder drum corps marching down the street to alert the residents that the festivities were to start. In addition to the main party, there were free health checks and literature, face-painting and bouncy castles, and the chance to explore a fire engine, courtesy of Stratford Fire Brigade. For those who wanted to watch the wedding ceremony, a screen was provided in the middle of the road. The smell of food on the barbeque brought queues to the church gates, and the snacks were enjoyed by everyone. The day was rounded off with music and live entertainment performed by church members and people from the local community.

A real community spirit was felt by all, and one young child brought a smile to our faces when he asked, ‘Can we do this again tomorrow?’ One young lady was so impressed that she has been attending the church weekly since the party.

**The Watering Hole project party**
Practical evangelism ‘community-style’ is the hallmark of Southampton’s Watering Hole project, and things were no different for the Royal Wedding street party that they co-hosted on Friday, 29 April.

More than 500 tickets were sold for this event and almost 600 people, including volunteer helpers, attended.

Bouncy castles, a coconut shy, races, face-painting, various stalls and refreshments, a wedding hat competition and a parade were just some of the events to keep people amused while they waited for the huge wedding tea and the cutting of the cake.

In the evening, a barbeque and band extended the entertainment as people continued to enjoy the sunshine, with many not wanting to leave ‘such a wonderful event’!

The event was well reported by local newspapers, and the regional radio station voted their street party as the best local party, with the most activities on offer.

Protessionally Lethbridge

Turning the church inside-out...

Street party to celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, 1953.

Copyright: Licensed Use

Watering Hole project party, residents enjoy the atmosphere and the jelly ‘n’ ice-cream.
Fifty years on . . .
Retired pastors and lay workers met in late March, at Oxwich Bay in South Wales, for some warm reflective fellowship.

Oxwich Bay, named recently as the UK’s best and most beautiful beach, was the site of the Church’s annual youth camp in the 1950s. Then, it was full of ex-War Department tents and DIY ... but camp life, led by Pastor Ken and Beryl Gammon, was a delightful annual highlight for many post-war church youth.

The reunion revived many old memories, and Pastor Martin Bell, who organised the gathering, gave a new perspective on prayer in his evening devotionals.

JOHN WILBY

Walking for ADRA
On a breezy Sunday in March, six children and five older members from Middlesbrough were sponsored to walk six miles through the North York Moors to raise money for ADRA. The walk was great fun, but the plight of the less fortunate was never far from their thoughts, and they wish more people could have joined them.

MIDDLESBROUGH COMMUNICATION TEAM

Harvest ingathering
was never like this!
Small groups of enthusiastic Pathfinders and Adventurers advanced on Garston, Watford – armed with ADRA collecting tins and leaflets, and accompanied by adult collectors – during Stanborough Park Church’s ADRA Special Family Fun Day Collection, on Sunday 27 March. The Pathfinders and Adventurers set an amazing example to us all.

SPC COMMUNICATION TEAM

Council chairman attends investiture
On Sabbath 14 May, an investiture service for the Stanborough Park Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs was attended by Councillor Alan Burtenshaw (chairman of the Watford Borough Council) and his wife Ellie, who helped to fill a packed church.

The club’s success, shown by more than 100 certificates presented during the service, is largely thanks to its director (Mr Bernell Bussue), Pathfinder leader (Paula Yancuc-Carrillo Flores) and Adventurer leader (Miquelle Scanlanbury), their associates, and the parents.

Paula Yancuc-Carrillo Flores told the congregation of being blessed since becoming involved with Pathfinders in her homeland of Mexico. She thanked Councillor Burtenshaw and Ellie for their attendance, and Councillor Burtenshaw paid tribute to the Adventurers and Pathfinders’ hard work and success. He, with Pastor Nathan Stickland and Vernon Noel, presented certificates and honours. There followed an unexpected but well-deserved presentation to Bernell. Over the past decade, hundreds of children have joined the club and tens have been baptised.

Rebecca de Morais had come to know Jesus as her personal Saviour through the club, resulting in her decision to be baptised.

During the afternoon, Councillor Alan and Ellie rejoined the Adventurers and Pathfinders, together with the Holloway Pathfinder drum corps and drill squad, the Stanborough Park health team, and co-ordinator of Area 6A, Master Guide Kennedy Kundan, for a march and health walk in the main high street of Watford. Many local people were able to visit the health stand, participate in health checks and receive nutritional advice. More than 150 young people participated.

PETE MACKLIN

2011 SEC ADRA fun-run
Heavy rain soon gave way to sunshine at Crystal Palace Park on 8 May for the SEC ADRA fun-run! The participants set off at 10am, instructed by Terry Messenger, SEC Personal Ministries and Sabbath School director, after a prayer and countdown by Bert Smit, ADRA-UK director.

Some ran, some walked and some cycled. Many chose to go the full distance of 12 miles – with many opting to complete the ‘golden mile’ (which actually came to 13.5 miles). All age groups were represented. Hugh Thomas from the Lewisham church was celebrating his 76th birthday by completing the 13.5 miles! Milton Rainoso from the South London Hispanic church completed 13.5 miles, being pushed all the way in a wheelchair. Jesse Nolan from the Wimbledon church (who suffers from cystic fibrosis) was let out of hospital by doctors to complete the fun-run. As soon as she finished she went back to the hospital. Many doctors sponsored her.

More than 400 people took part and much funding was raised for ADRA. Everyone agreed that it was a day well spent!
**Josh Hartnell baptised**

On the afternoon of 9 April Josh confirmed his choice for direction in life. As a young child he had been taken to church in Manchester by his father, Mark. Despite living with his non-believing mother after a family break-up, a seed had been sown.

When Josh was a teenager Mark moved to Cornwall and Josh visited his dad at weekends. These trips often included a spiritual aspect, and Josh attended the family’s local church at St Austell. The relaxed, friendly atmosphere played a role in his attendance.

The young man God saved that night kept his promise. Pastor Frazer has baptised over 100 precious souls. Eight more gave their lives to Christ on 26 March, following a youth week of prayer at Lewisham Church: husband and wife Gauffette and Norma Ray, sisters Rhyan and Renée Drummond, Duaine Butcher, Katrina Chambers-Jones, Adrian Pearl and Dwynne Clark.

‘There ain’t no party like a Holy Ghost party’, he said. ‘Jesus can give us 50:50 vision.’

- Shade Lapite

**Fartown’s first baptism**

The Fartown church plant in Huddersfield, led by John Mowoe and started in January 2010, had its very first baptism on Sabbath 13 November, following months of door-to-door evangelism, a series on prophecy, and a health expo.

The candidates were husband and wife, Joseph and Precious Dengure, originally from Zimbabwe.

The Huddersfield ‘mother’ church, Crosland Moor, was full to witness their immersion by the local pastor, Barry Stokes, at the culmination of a week of prayer led by Pastor Frankie Lazarus. Several people responded to the appeal, and are now preparing for the next baptism!

**West Bromwich Church Pathfinder induction**

Sabbath 12 March was induction day for the West Bromwich church! The Pathfinders, Adventurers and Eager Beavers came in, smart and prepared, under the leadership of Joseph Spencer. The ceremony was declared open by the director, and the Pathfinders recited and explained the Adventurer and Pathfinder law and pledge.

Jack James-Edgar

**Baptism at Hemel Hempstead**

Sabbath 9 April marked the baptism of 17-year-old Jonathon Padley into the Hemel Hempstead church. Friends, relatives and regular church members packed the church, and his mother and sisters, Sarah and Katherine, thanked him for making them happy. The sermon was delivered by Pastor Jacques Venter.

Shanice Layte

**Baptism and week of prayer at Lewisham**

It was the summer of 2000 when Devene Frazier (18), on his way home from church, decided to take a shortcut. He was attacked by three men who held a cutlass to his throat and demanded money. Terrified, Frazier made a pact with God: if his life was spared he would dedicate his life to the ministry.

The reason so many young people leave church is not because they’re bored, but because they have yet to experience an encounter with God’, Pastor Frazer told more than 300 people in Lewisham.

‘There ain’t no party like a Holy Ghost party’, he said. ‘Jesus can give us 50:50 vision.’

- Shade Lapite

**Making a stand in Milton Keynes**

In Milton Keynes people make a stand for God by being baptised.

On 9 April Pastor Augustus Lawrence, the minister of the Milton Keynes and Bletchley Community churches, helped four candidates make a stand for God by baptising Katie Butler, Pretty Dube, Louisa Frimpong and Shaika Miller. ‘Baptism does not mean that you are perfect, but means you are committed and making a stand for God’, stated Pastor Lawrence.

April ended with another baptism – Brandon Stewart was baptised by his father, Pastor Colin Stewart, on 30 April.

- BARRY STOKES

**Baptism at Redhill**

Doris Adeline, Edith Creasey and Marilyn le Fauve were baptised at the Anderson Leisure Centre in Horley this year – Pastor Opoku-Mensah of the Horley Gatwick church immersed the candidates, and the baptism had been arranged through a group effort from the Redhill church plant (an offshoot of Horley Gatwick, led by Elder Mac Habangana), and through the working of the Holy Spirit.

- ELDER WILBUR MUTAMBARA

**Investiture in Oxford**

The Oxford church reports that four Eager Beavers have now become Adventurers and three Pathfinder Friends have become Companions. Pat Dyckoff (Area 5 Pathfinder co-ordinator) and Earl Ramnakarsingh (SEC executive treasurer) attended the Eager Beaver investiture earlier in the year. Pastor Eyan Brooks (BUC Personal Ministries director) attended the March investiture. All six friends presented an excellent programme, and Nathan Stickland told them they were the first club to be invested in the new SEC Pathfinder uniform!

- SOPHIA NICHOLLS

**To Japan with love**

Pupils and parents from Stanborough Primary School collected a special offering at their spring concert to support the people in Japan, following the earthquake and tsunami which devastated the country on 11 March. The headteacher, Katharine Hanson, had enlisted the evening ‘God is Greater than the highness of Heaven’ and, after a moving powerpoint presentation to the song ‘He’s My Brother’, a collection was made raising an astounding £360.26! Bert Smith (CEO ADRA-UK) and Godwin Benjamin (Annual Appeal co-ordinator) expressed thanks to the parents and pupils when they received the funds on behalf of ADRA.

Stanborough Primary School continues to be ‘a small school with a big heart’ – a comment that had been made by the NSPCC earlier in the year, when the school again surpassed itself by collecting £1,075 for the children’s charity.

- KATHLEEN HANSON

**Baptism at Redhill**

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- ELDER WILBUR MUTAMBARA
Stewardship and communication award ceremony and banquet

On Sunday 1 May students and lecturers from the SEC-run Stewardship and Communication courses were welcomed at the Stanborough Park centre for an award ceremony and banquet to celebrate their achievements over the past four years. Dr Richard de Liesser (SEC Stewardship and Communication director) welcomed the guests, and Pastor Ceci Perry (former president of the BUC) enthralled listeners with his devotion. Musical renditions were given by Pastor Bobby Rovell and Jader Pilajo, and the guests were treated to a sumptuous meal by the Adventist-owned CAPS Catering Company.

The highlight of the evening was the awards ceremony, where all students and lecturers received a certificate for their commitment to the work of God in the SEC. Glass plaques were presented to a number of churches and individuals for exceptional service:

- Dwayne Lawson (SEC Stewardship Leader of the Year award)
- Angela Hunter (SEC Leader of the Year award)
- The Croydon church (SEC Church of the Year award for the most titles returned to the SEC for the year 2010)
- The London Ghana church (SEC Church of the Year award for the number of members and tithe given to the SEC for the year 2010)
- The Croydon church (SEC Church of the Year award for the highest uptake in GFT Aid in the SEC for the year 2010)
- The Newbold church (SEC Church of the Year award for the largest increase in tithe returned to the SEC for the year 2010).

The evening ended with a prayer of thanksgiving, offered by Pastor Lewis Guayue, associate pastor of the London Ghana church.

On Richard de Liesser, SEC stewardship and communication director.

Betty Mann (1931-2011) d. 27 March.

Both roles are offered on a twelve-month, fixed-term contract, and the SEC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Follow-up programmes where those who attended will be able to give feedback.

Tamworth health screening

On 26 February, the hall of Park Farm Community Centre, where Tamworth members worship, was used as a health clinic by Health Ministers leader Maxine Nicholson and her team. On arrival those present were each given a personal checklist to record screening results so they moved around the different stations: height, weight, blood pressure and BMI. All members were invited to discuss their results privately with health practitioners, who gave them personal advice on healthy eating and dieting.

During the evening the children had just as much fun as the adults! They kept fit by playing on trampolines and the WiiFit, and doing step exercises.

The relaxing, social tea party was held on 20 March, at St Peter’s Church Hall in Church Road, Reading. Volunteers from Reading Central drove to pick up people from their homes and care homes to take them to the venue. The relaxing, social tea party dates back to the 1980s, and caters for senior members of the local community as well as regular church members. Among the fifty people who attended was 102-year-old Miss Gittins, who attends every year.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Teachers required at Newbold School

The Newbold School is seeking to appoint a full-time teacher for KS1, and also a full-time teacher for KS2. The successful candidates will be required to commence in September 2011.

If you would like to join a committed professional team: are familiar with the National Curriculum; have current educationalists and enjoy being part of a learning and faith community – we would love to hear from you. The successful applicants will be interviewed in the presence of the team of child protection officers.

On Richard de Liesser, SEC stewardship and communication director.

Mix-d: a platform for mixed-race conversations

Denise Williams, an elder of the Leicester Central church, has recently written a book entitled Mixed Matters: Mixed-race Pupils Discuss School and Ethnicity. Having taught for twenty years in primary, secondary and special schools, she is now the deputy head of a provision for 5-14-year-olds who either have been excluded or are at risk of exclusion.

Denise said, ‘As an education consultant specialising in ethnic minority achievement, I was frustrated by the lack of progress made in raising levels of achievement for certain ethnic groups. I found myself saying the same things to different professionals working with mixed-race pupils all across the country, so it seemed to make sense to share the experiences of the pupils themselves... I was fortunate enough to act as a consultant on a project called Mix-d (pronounced ‘Mixed’) that set up youth conferences across the country for young people of mixed race and drew on their experiences to inform practitioners and policy makers.’

‘Pupils of mixed race very often feel unsupported or educa- tionally marginalized, and are also one of the groups that are least likely to gain five GCSEs with A*-C grades. They say that they are often stereotyped, but their education can be greatly improved when parents and carers work in partnership with schools.’

Denise started writing the book four years ago and hopes to challenge misconceptions by placing the pupils themselves at the centre of the discussion.


Blessings keep coming

The sun shone at Middlesbrough Church on Sabbath 26 March as Pastor Colin dedicated Cliona Angelois, the daughter of Rona and Clint Ymballa.

‘It was a great pleasure to welcome Cliona and her family,’ said Pastor Colin. ‘Having taught for twenty years in primary, secondary and special schools, she is now the deputy head of a provision for 5-14-year-olds who either have been excluded or are at risk of exclusion.

Denise said, ‘As an education consultant specialising in ethnic minority achievement, I was frustrated by the lack of progress made in raising levels of achievement for certain ethnic groups. I found myself saying the same things to different professionals working with mixed-race pupils all across the country, so it seemed to make sense to share the experiences of the pupils themselves... I was fortunate enough to act as a consultant on a project called Mix-d (pronounced ‘Mixed’) that set up youth conferences across the country for young people of mixed race and drew on their experiences to inform practitioners and policy makers.’

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Two trainee positions at ADRA-UK

To assist with its work in development and relief efforts, ADRA-UK is inviting applications for two trainee positions:

Marketing Trainee

The Marketing Trainee is a new, full-time role for a sandwich placement that will be responsible for supporting marketing and profile building for the SEC and leading on proposal development for DFID and the EC, donor compliance, monitoring and evaluation, and donor reporting.

Programmes Trainee

The Programmes Trainee will be offered a placement in work programme development within a high-proﬁle development and relief agency team. The trainee will be involved in implementing partners on proposal development for DFID and the EC, donor compliance, monitoring and evaluation, and donor reporting.

Both roles are offered for a ten-month, field-based contract, starting on 1 September 2011. Applications need to be submitted by 24 June.

For more information, and to download an application pack, visit our website at: www.adra.org.uk or follow this link: http://is.gd/OtaxwQ.

Obituaries


Theresa Zipporah Stephens was British's oldest Adventist and a member of the Camp Hill church in Birmingham, died at the age of 108 on 28 March. Theresa was born in the parish of St Elizabeth in Jamaica, to Arthur John Stephens and his wife in 1962, the attended her primary schools, and was only one of the call to the mission.

After the passing of her parents, Theresa moved to London in 1961 to join her brother and look after their young children. She directly went for the nearest Seventh-day Adventist church and was brought to the old church in Camp Hill, where she became a member until her death. Theresa took great interest in the secular people and served her church faithfully in the Welfare and Partnership office. Many others referred on her personal generosity.

Pastor Cedric Vaul, who ministered as an intern at Camp Hill, recalled his experiences with her and her ex-husband. He said: ‘She was a woman of prayer and Christian faith. Theresa died as she lived – trusting in her God and the certainty of the Resurrection.’

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Cliona slept through the whole event, but brothers Hans (10) and Josh (6) looked lovingly on with Rona’s mum Elnora.

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New Life appreciates its mothers

Fifteen special children are sent by their mothers each week to worship at the New Life church — and on Sabbath 2 April they held a mothers’ appreciation day! Miriam Morgan, who travels sixty miles a week to teach them, prepared them with a CD of songs to learn at home, and all mothers were invited by handmade cards. One mother was still insisting she and her three children would not come on the day before the programme — yet on the day she attended, along with the owner of a local pub, and said how much she enjoyed it! Hazel Brown, renowned as ‘the mother of New Life’ for her cooking, celebrated her birthday on the same occasion, and Winnie Campbell, basing her message on Naomi, told attendees they could choose Heaven or choose to miss out; further evangelistic events are planned for the future.

Outstanding achievement

On 26 January, Rochelle Newton from the Tamworth church graduated with first-class honours in Business and Accounting from Birmingham City University. Members of the church would like to congratulate Rochell and ask God’s blessing on her endeavours.

Health expo at Leeds Met University

Leeds Central Church members attended a Health and Wellbeing fair on Friday 11 March 2011. The fair was organised by students, for students. It featured talks and demonstrations on stress, diet and nutrition, and blood pressure. Thirty contacts were made, and the church has been invited to attend future events at the university.

August Bank Holiday Extravaganza Banquet

Sunday 28 August, 5pm-10pm
Balham Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16a Blackstead, Balham High Road, SW17 9BW
Live entertainment and special historic foods;
prizes and surprise games
Dress code: black and silver
Three-course meal (vegetation option available) with non-alcoholic drinks
Available: Single ticket: £25; Couples’ ticket: £45;
Under 16s: £15
All proceeds will go to the Rogers School to aid children in need in India. Telephone: 07904736555 for details.
Rooms: 155, 249, 315, 355
Nearest station: Balham

Stanborough Primary School seeks Permanent Junior Teacher for September 2011. The successful applicant will have QTLS and excellent organisational skills, and be a reflective practitioner, a team player, an excellent communicator, flexible and creative, reliable and professional, and committed to the school’s Christian ethos and the education of the whole child.

School staff and volunteers are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children and young people. All appointments are subject to a satisfactory enhanced CRB check. To request an application pack, contact the school secretary, Stanborough Primary School, Appleton Walk, Welton, HR9 5QG — Tel: 01684 671231 or email: info@stanboroughprimary.org
Closing date: 17 June

Stanborough School (secondary) has two vacancies for September 2011:
Part-time Physical Education Coordinator (0.6)
The school is seeking to recruit a suitable, friendly, and experienced teacher to deliver a balanced programme of physical education at KS3 and KS4. A full-time position may be available if the successful candidate can assist in teaching either SBS or a Modern Foreign Language. Preference will be given to teachers with QTLS or the Overseas Trained Teacher qualification.
Part-time Physical Education Assistant (0.3)
Physical Education Assistant needed to assist the above PE Coordinator for KS3 and KS4 Games.

Stanborough School is committed to safer recruitment and the protection of children.

Please kindly email sha@shapeco.org.uk in order to obtain an application pack. The closing date for both job applications is Friday 17 June 2011.

New book of the week

Understanding Nutrition

Clemency Mitchell

A change in diet and lifestyle would be by far the best prescription for most chronic health problems’, writes Clemency Mitchell, who has worked in general medical practice for thirty years. Take advantage of her book, based on the unchanging principles of the Bible, to understand your nutrition.

Contact ABC Sales on 01476 539900 to purchase your copy at £9.95 plus p&p.

School sales

June

13-28 NOV 6 & 8 D. Review camp meeting
19 - 22 DEC各类商店

ABC Shops

Welford, BKC

Mon-Sun: 9am-5.45pm
(Weekly: 9am-12pm Friday.
Closed Sundays)

Closed Saturdays

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