Changing lives in Nepal

When Devimaya, 27, was studying to become a nurse, she never imagined being involved in party politics: but in December of 1999 she was suddenly escorted off campus by a police officer, charged with providing support to Maoists and their activities.

After fourteen months of mental and physical torture, she was finally released. Once home she was persecuted by locals who continued to believe her to be a Maoist supporter.

Udaya Oli was 10 years old when his father was assassinated by one of the conflicting parties. He was unable to attend school for months, suffering from psycho-social problems.

These problems only increased when he transferred into secondary school; he had to walk several hours to school, and immediately return after classes ended in order to work and provide food for his family.

Devimaya and Udaya are among thousands of children and young adults who have suffered from the decade-long civil conflict in Nepal. Though it ended five years ago, many young people are still struggling to overcome the repercussions. But this is where ADRA and its partners are effecting change.

Part of ADRA's current initiative in Nepal, co-financed by the European Commission and ADRA-UK, is to educate and empower young people through literacy and vocational training, and provide psycho-social support. Through the help of its local partner, ASTHA, ADRA Nepal is training district counsellors and community psycho-social workers in order to provide psycho-social counselling and education.

In September 2010, ADRA met with Devimaya. She had been suffering from a number of psycho-social problems, including anger, trouble concentrating, and headaches. She also was suffering from loneliness, since she had distanced herself from the rest of the community and her family.

ADRA provided her with a safe social environment, which allowed her, for the first time, to share her experience and feelings with others. ADRA also provided counselling for her family, and education about psycho-social care, helping re-establish Devimaya's family as a source of support in her life.

With this help, she is now comfortable sharing her problems with her family and others she trusts. Devimaya's relationship with her friends and family has improved, and she is even trying to participate in different social activities.

When ADRA came in contact with Udaya, he avoided interacting with others, was afraid to leave the house, had become an insomniac, had lost appetite and weight, and was convinced his father's killers would return to kill him too. Moreover, he was struggling with memory loss, unable to remember simple facts or tasks, for example, he would leave home to get water from the tap, but return without the water jar.

Through the counselling ADRA has provided, he has received the emotional support he needed. Udaya is making significant progress; his behaviour, relationships with others and memory are all improving. This has enabled him to recognise his problems and learn coping methods. He is actively taking part in community activities, as well as attending classes. Udaya has a set of goals and a plan of action for his future.

Over the next eighteen months, ADRA and its partners will provide psycho-social support for 2,000 such children and young adults. This project in Nepal, and the other life-skills education, literacy and vocational training, will give 4,000 young people the opportunity to begin a new stage in their lives.

For more information, go to: www.adra.org.uk.

EDITED BY KAITLYN RASMUSSEN
Sorry . . . !

Dear Readers

I have just clocked up seven months as editor of the MESSANGER, and it is now time for a few apologies. Up to the 24 June issue of the magazine we had a fairly good track record regarding such things, but in that issue the proverbial wheels ‘came off’! We offended some of the nicest, most salt-of-the-earth people you could wish to find: members of our community in Northern Ireland.

This offence was caused by the following:

1. The use of a Gaelic typeface on the front cover, the old name for Belfast, and a closing blessing in the Irish language.
2. The mention of a number of acronyms which have political overtones.
3. The fact that some important information was edited out of the report on the renovation of the Belfast church (page 14).

When editors offend people’s consciences they are usually on target, but when they offend in matters of language and culture they should apologise without reserve. So to my friends in Belfast, please accept my sincere apologies.

For the cover I can do little more than apologise and be more sensitive in the future. For the news item glitch, I have arranged for some prominent restitution to take place in a forthcoming issue.

The Editor

Bramble doesn’t Gamble!

Dear Readers

While we are on the subject of mistakes, let me also confess that Mr Charles Bramble recently became a victim of the elusive ‘printer’s devil’, when his name appeared consistently on pages four and five of the 24 June MESSANGER as Charles Gamble! I have apologised to him on behalf of MESSANGER and he has taken the misprint in good spirit.

Charles has been promised a follow-up feature on the granola/Wellingborough project, once the building gets underway. At that point we will make sure that we get it right!

The Editor

Milk isn’t good enough

All of us cherish special dates, and I have a few good ones in my memory bank. My baptism date was 24 August, 1968, and I got married on Christmas Eve 1974 – memorable and definitive moments. There are others too, but I’ll bore you with them.

Let me tell you about what happened on 26 December, 1975, something that made me part of a select group: those who have come ‘face-to-face’ with Hemachatus haemachatus.

My wife’s family had gathered for the marriage of her older sister, scheduled for the next day, and most of the adults were busy with preparations.

Suddenly there was the squeal of sharp braking from the street, and a woman’s shrill voice calling. A big snake has just crossed the road into your yard . . . and there are children there!

Growing up in Southern Africa with its proliferation of large, aggressive and very poisonous snakes, I knew the danger that suddenly faced us. My brother-in-law helped me get the children to safety, after which we went in search of the snake.

I had selected a long piece of 2x2 timber as my weapon, and upon finding the snake I took a swing at it. The timber snapped in two, leaving me facing an angry snake with a short-range weapon! Understandably, I struck again and again. The large snake appeared to be stunned and was lying on its back.

I’ve got him! I shouted.

It spat first

I then raised the timber for the coup de grace, but it spat first – the venom from its fangs had struck me in both eyes, causing intense burning and seriously blurred vision.

I became disoriented and stumbled across the lawn. Then someone took my arm and led me into the house. My mother-in-law, accustomed to medical emergencies in remote places, sat me on the floor and poured cold milk into my open eyes!

Milk wasn’t enough!

The milk helps to dilute the large quantities of venom that this snake spits, but the family knew that I would need further treatment – milk wasn’t enough! The pile-necked spitting cobra, Hemachatus haemachatus, commonly called the ‘Rinkhals’

has a neurotoxic venom which, when it enters the eyes, ‘causes great pain’. That pain is unique. It is like burning, coarse sand beneath your eyelids. If left untreated, it can cause a significant deterioration of the victim’s eyesight, even blindness.

I was pretty helpless by that stage of the game. I couldn’t see clearly. I was in considerable pain. I was drenched in fresh milk – and milk wasn’t enough!

A pair of eye patches

The family bundled me into a car and sped across town to the hospital, where I received immediate attention, including anti-venom eye drops that seemed more painful than the snake spits!

I left the hospital with a pair of Johnny Depp eye patches and a caution to keep them on for a few days.

The anti-venom was essential

One is clear to me about that ‘face-to-face’ encounter with Hemachatus haemachatus: the milk was helpful, but the anti-venom was essential.

And I think that is what Jesus was trying to tell Nicodemus in John 3:14-15 (NKJV):

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

He was drawing on the powerful imagery of Numbers 21, where rebellious Israel is suddenly at the mercy of ‘fiery serpents’ that siterate through the camp on a killing spree.

The desperate Israelites pleaded urgently with Moses for God to intervene, and he does. Moses is ordered to make a ‘ . . . fiery serpent’, and set it on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it and lives! And it worked! In fact, it’s the only thing that works to counteract the venom of sin, with which every child of Adam is poisoned.

For 6,000-odd years, ever since that fateful encounter with the serpent, humanity has staggered blindly and painfully through history. We have tried our treatments and remedies for sin – the ‘DIY’ packages – but none of them work. Here and there they may bring a little relief to the sinner’s conscience, but they do not cure.

The only cure is to be found, by faith, in the ‘lifted up’ (crucified) Christ. His saving grace is the only anti-venom . . . and it’s ours for the asking.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/populations
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/venoms

Julian Hibbert
Editor

Milk isn’t good enough

A

Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald

RGN, RM, RVH, MSc

Health Ministries director, BUC

Knowing your body – part 5b

Nervous system health

In this issue we highlight some disorders affecting the nervous system.

A healthy brain functions automatically and effectively. However, when aspects of our wellbeing are compromised, the nervous system can be affected. Here’s how:

Diseases and their effects

• Cardiovascular disease – Stroke and vascular dementia
• Degenerative diseases (adults) – Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease
• Developmental disorders – Cerebral palsy
• Infectious diseases – AIDS, dementias, metabolic diseases
• Guacher’s disease (type 3, affecting the brain)
• Neurogenic disorders – Huntington’s disease, muscular dystrophy
• Trauma – Heat injury; spinal cord damage

Here are some common conditions affecting brain and nervous system function:

• Subdural haematoma – a collection of blood on the surface of the brain. This is more common in the extremes of age (very young or very old). It can occur as a result of repeated head injury, recurrent falls, anticoagulant medication (blood thinners, including aspirin) and the long-term abuse of alcohol.
• Epilepsy – recurring seizures brought on by abnormal over-activity of the cells of the brain, affecting different regions of the central nervous system. This may result in physical convulsions.
• Brain tumour – abnormal growth that involves the brain itself or its surrounding structures. This can upset vision, balance, co-ordination and cognitive function.
• Parkinson’s disease – a degenerative disease leading to progressively worsening neurological symptoms, generally related to movement, with tremors and rigidity.
• Spinal disease – any pathology affecting the spinal column, cord or nerves. This can range from skeletal disorders to primary nervous system disorders resulting from compression of the spinal cord or nerves (as the result of a traumatic injury such as a fall or motor vehicle accident). Degenerative spine disease is used generally to describe time-related changes of the spine due to both normal ageing and wear and tear of the vertebral column. Herniated disc disease is one example.

Health tips

Ensure optimal nutrition: in particular, eat enough foods that contain omega 3. The brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nervous system function may be compromised, especially in some degenerative brain disorders, and B12 enhances memory and assists in slowing the progress of Alzheimer’s disease.

Three tips for the brain

Engage in exercises stimulating motor and sensory pathways:

1. Physical exercises which involve the whole body:

• Prolonged walking:

• aerobics

• swimming

• tennis

2. Mental exercises:

• Reading

• Playing a musical instrument

• Playing chess

3. Combined physical and mental exercises:

• Engaging in the above activities simultaneously

The brain does not have a resting state; it is constantly in motion. It is an organ designed to function constantly and yet it needs rest.

Dr. John E. Demartino, M.D.

Dr. Demartino is the author of several books on brain health and function, including The Brain Book, a book that was reviewed in the MESSANGER.

Psalm 91:9 (NKJV)

If you’re not in the house, who will keep the snakes away? I mean, who will keep the oh-so-mean, but beautiful venoms of sin away? Those who dwell in the shadow of the Most High, and stay under the wings of the Almighty.

Corrigendum: Laura Prescott’s name appeared incorrectly in Messanger 27 July, and the article is reprinted in this issue. The Messanger editorial and design teams would like to thank all news contributors for the care they take when submitting the names of those mentioned in the news reports. We rely on your continued diligence and accuracy in this regard.

The Editor
The Messenger editor talks to Jim Cunningham, chairman of Adventist Services and Industries (UK), more commonly known as ASI-UK.

Editor: Jim, ASI is not as well-known as one would hope. Please tell our readers a bit more about it.

Jim: Julian, ASI was formed in the early 1980s, with the primary aim of sharing Christ in the marketplace. Its membership consists of business people and those from a professional and managerial background who are prepared to give time, effort and resources to support the challenge of effectively sharing the Gospel in a very secularised culture. They also help with other projects, mainly of a humanitarian nature.

Editor: What is your current membership?

Jim: “The membership is about seventy-five, including students. The fact that we accept students is unique among the European chapters of ASI. We even have two on our committee.

Unfortunately, there is a myth affecting the UK organisation: namely, that it is a ‘white, rich man’s club’. Both Audrey Balderstone, the previous president, and I have tried to alter this perception by reaching out to the other groups within the Church, but without much success so far. ASI-UK needs the passion and enthusiasm that these other ethnic communities will contribute, and we look forward to applications from them.

I have come to realise that a number of our African immigrants come from countries where ASI is very active, and we could benefit from their membership and experience.”

Editor: “I remember you mentioning that some of the members who contact you about ASI seem to misunderstand the purpose of joining.”

Jim: “Yes, some who make enquiries ask what is in it for them! Essentially ASI is a service-oriented association. People join it in order to serve, not to receive! There are tangible benefits besides the thrill of doing something for your fellow man, though. For example, our weekend conventions are a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, reflection and spiritual growth.”

Editor: “What are your objectives for this year?”

Jim: “Currently, we have three clear, short-term objectives. The first is to increase our membership. Secondly, we want to create a project that will be effective in getting our unique Adventist message across to people generally. Thirdly, we want to help curtail the haemorrhaging of young people from the Church. Hence our intention to sponsor a seminar on Creation and evolution at Newbold College on Sabbath, 17 September, from 2pm to 5pm. Young people in particular are invited to this seminar, but all interested parties are welcome, free of charge. Just register your seat by contacting me at: j.cunningham.323@btinternet.com.”

Editor: “Jim, why this choice of topic for the seminar?”

Jim: “Julian, for me, one of the most important Bible texts is Genesis 1:27, where it states that we were created in God’s image. This compels me to have profound respect, both for God and for my fellow man. It is the rationale behind the Ten Commandments. It answers the questions, ‘Who am I?” and “Why am I here?” It provides the clear insight into why Christ is obsessed with our salvation.

As a headteacher, I served a mainly white, working-class area that suffered from poverty, social dysfunction, substance abuse and family breakdown. What those young people wanted more than anything else was respect. Our God provides that for them. We dich the doctrine of Creation at our peril.”

Editor: “Tell us a bit more about the two speakers for the event.”

Jim: “John Walton is Professor of Reactive Chemistry at St Andrew’s University and has spoken and written extensively on Creation and evolution. John’s scepticism of evolution is based on his profound scientific insights, and he will outline some of these with us.

Dr Godfrey Lisser is the director of the Centre for Intelligent Design, and has organised national conventions and conducted seminars on the topic. He is an excellent communicator with huge experience in this area.”

Editor: “Jim, thanks for sharing your insights and bless your preparations.”

Stefan Stanciu is employed by the South England Conference as their media technician, and serves as team leader under Dr Richard de Lisser (SEC Communication director). The following is his synopsis of SECmedia’s development and the “stuff” they do.

SECmedia was set up exactly three years ago under Dr Richard de Lisser, Pastor Sam News and I sparked the dream into existence. A small group of us visited Stimme der Hoffnung, the German “Voice of Hope” studio, which set a standard for us, something to which we could aspire. That convinced us that anything we did would have to be of the highest quality.

The team started voting for the youth events in 2006 and it has been growing ever since. We are actually part of the SEC Communication department, but our team has spread beyond the conference office. We now have a core team that works closely throughout the year on various projects, assisted by a growing number of volunteers from across the SEC.

The stuff we do:

Our main strengths are live event production and web streaming. We do this either from our well-equipped studio or from our mobile broadcasting unit. More recently, we have been involved in production and short documentaries. Our team has members with the following skills: iPhone application development; web development; audio & video enginee design; technical design; post-production; script writing and DVD authoring and duplication.

Where to watch:

Our productions can be watched on www.secmc.org, www.youtube.com/secadventist, and Revelation TV (Freesat channel 89).

Hopes and dreams:

“We’ve seen how God has helped us grow this far and we are reassured of the fact that He is going to stick with us for many years to come! Our dream is to bring fresh, Adventist programming to the UK and we hope for increased collaboration with other Adventist media entities.”

Dr Richard de Lisser recently chatted about these revealing facts with us about the impact of SECmedia.org during the camp meeting period, 12-18 June.

Max team members: Darren Allen, Valentina Baliga, Charlie Caud, Andrew Johnson, Karl Johnson, Katie Ramharacksingh, Stefan Stanciu and Linda Wallace.

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The SECmedia team

Darren Allen: “I have always been passionate about technology, and am excited about using my skills in this field to further God’s work. I enjoy knowing that what we do affect thousands of people around the world.”

Val Buliga: “I’m really passionate about media stuff. I see my role as an opportunity to use what I love to do. I’m happy working with SECmedia because it gives me a chance to spread what we have experienced on a small scale to a wider audience. It is the ultimate way of spreading our message in this era.”

Clive Coutel: Matthew 24:14 drives me to work for SECmedia, as well as a passion for what I do... which is video editing! I love working with the people I work with as well as the various jobs I do throughout the year... I couldn’t work without those two things.”

André Johnson: “Sound and electronics have always been part of my life, since watching my dad to things as a child I loved sound! And it is an honour to serve God and my Church with SECmedia.”

Karl Johnson: “I have a passion for media ministry, and I love the fact that we’re using this media to reach individuals who may never enter the four walls of a church.”

Katie Ramharacksingh: “I love being creative in an area that counts. As the only female on the SECmedia team, I try to balance out the testosterone... through this I have been able to interview some fabulous people: church members, speakers, musicians – even athletes!”

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- The website’s peak viewing was on Sabbath, with 860 viewers for the main auditorium events and 350 for the youth.

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The foreigner

The elders of Bethlehem trembled. Samuel was coming! Nervously, they asked him whether he came in peace (1 Samuel 16:4).

One has to wonder why they were so scared—Samuel was well-known in Israel as a prophet (1 Samuel 3:19-4:1). Samuel went on a regular circuit throughout Israel, judging the people on the LORD’s behalf (1 Samuel 8:15-17). Why were the Bethlehemites so afraid of him?

Maybe they feared him because he had denounced King Saul (1 Samuel 15:22-29). Even though Samuel turned to Saul again and allowed the king to worship, the two of them never spoke again until he died (1 Samuel 15:30, 31, 34, 35). That made Samuel afraid of Saul’s wrath (1 Samuel 16:21); but why were the Bethlehemites worried? Maybe it was because Samuel had personally跟他 a man in pieces before the LORD at Gilgal (1 Samuel 15:32, 33). If you did something wrong, then you would not want Samuel to judge you! Did the Bethlehemites have something to hide?

One of the Bethlehemites, Jesse, did. He was the grandson of Boaz, who married Ruth—a Moabitess (Ruth 4:9, 10, 13-17; Matthew 1:5). To put this into context: while the Israelites had been seduced into following idols by Moabite women, and the LORD sent a plague among the men, and ordered their judges to put them to death (Numbers 25:1-9). For this reason the Israelites were ordered to attack the Midianites (another name for Moabites) (Numbers 25:17, 18, 31-11,1). Moabites were forbidden from entering the congregation of the LORD, even in the tenth generation (Deuteronomy 23:3-5). One can understand Jesse’s apprehension, then, when Judge Samuel walked into town!

Imagine the Bethlehemites’ consternation when Samuel inquired Jesse to a sacrifice (1 Samuel 16:3). Jesse was the very man whose grandmother was a Moabitess! What was Samuel going to do? It was 1 Samuel 16:8 that he told us that he appointed the youngest of Jesse’s sons to be the next king of Israel.

Was marriage to foreign women (including Moabites) no longer an issue? Actually it was—the Midianites were a concern to the Israelites two generations later, in Solomon’s time (1 Kings 11:1-4). If the Moabites returned from Babylon (Ezra 9; 10; Nehemiah 13:1-3,23-27). Why, then, did the LORD show mercy to Ruth’s family?

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Well, it took a little while to get going, but you came through in the end. A big thank-you to all who have sent in their photos for Megapixels of creation; I appreciate all your efforts, but please keep them coming—and if anyone out there has been thinking about it, maybe this crop of fine pictures will inspire you to get involved. The standard has been very good so far.

DAVID BELL

Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.

Genesis 1:31 (NKJV)
Does your flame still have a flicker?

Pastor Mike Simpson and his team visited Middlesbrough and Darlington during the weekend of 14-15 May with the aim of meeting with church members. The quality of the singing from Yvonne Lee, Kerith Martin, Laura, Nomsa, Natalie, Anna Burton, Jehanna South and Simon Rose blessed the appreciative audience, and after the collection the local hospice received a cheque for £354.

JOHN HAMILTON

The project included a ‘Drop In Centre’, targeting the over-55s within both the church and the local community and supported by members from the Carterknowle, Burngreave and Manor churches.

Sadly, about eighteen months ago a serious illness struck Sister Bussie. The weekly meetings continued for a time, but eventually they ceased. On 19 May, 2011, Sister Bussie organised a twelfth-birthday celebration meeting, specifically inviting all those who had attended and helped during the previous twelve years. Meetings are now planned to resume, even if they are less frequent.

Children’s health expo

On 30 May the Fartown company was blessed by its first children’s health expo, held at the community centre where the company worships. As with the adult health expo, held last year, God showed members that door-to-door witnessing truly works! Prior to both events, Fartown members went out talking to the community and collected leaflets, and received an array of valuable contacts for the expo, Bible studies and future events. Personal invitations and leaflets were later delivered.

The feedback from the children’s health expo described it as “fantastic”, and “time well spent”.

JOHN MOWOE

Bournville’s youth retreat

The weekend of 6-8 May saw the Bournville youth in Worcester on a retreat entitled: ‘Let’s Connect! Get Connected!’ Pastor Hush (NEC), Diane Sinclair (NEC), Symon Burgher, Leakey Mbaya, Dionne Brown and Stephen Stewart presented topics based on music, lifestyle and using our spiritual gifts, to name but a few. The youth enjoyed workshops hosted by Pastor Brooks, elders and representatives from church members. Thanks to Cathy Boitlou who wrote the theme song, encouraging youth to stay connected to Christ. Everyone enjoyed the food! The event was organised by the AV leader, Horace Radcliffe, and his team. The youth cannot wait for the next retreat!

AUSTIN WEST

New president for North England Conference

by Jeff Richardson, NEC Communication director

Pastor Cyril Sweeney is the new president of the North England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The appointment became necessary after the election of former NEC president, Pastor Tony Adamson. Pastor Cyril Sweeney has extensive leadership experience, having served previously as NEC Youth, Community Services, and Family Life director. Presently he is a pastor of the Nottingham district of churches.

This was the challenge presented to Griffiths Church at the January TGIF (Thank God It’s Friday) meeting.

The theme of the programme was Christian action, specifically raising funds for ADRA.

Natasha Cox asked members to choose their favourite hymns and choruses, the musicians practised and a music night was arranged. Elisabeth Carr and friends decided to slim for ADRA and formed the Slimfit Club. For ten weeks the group met to encourage each other, weigh in and exercise. Kristina Hammond, a physiotherapist, put together an exercise sequence, and before long the group was ‘losing lbs for £s’. Pam Davies decided to prepare two delicious homemade soups with bread rolls for a ‘poor man’s supper’.

For all of these events, invitations were extended to the wider community to attend – and a number of visitors did so gladly!

Door-to-door collection and personal giving were not neglected, but the fundraising activities generated a fun opportunity to witness using spiritual gifts.
Kilkenny church company explodes
Ladislav Billy and his wife Juieta now know why God led them from the Czech Republic to Ireland — in 2007 Evelyn Wilson, the leader of the company in Kilkenny, knocked on their door with literature and DVDs. A few months later, Evelyn suggested Bible studies, and they committed themselves to Jesus in baptism on 30 April 2007. They are already giving Bible studies to their friends.

Four members of the Sudanese community were also baptised — Marcellina Labwa began reading the Bible when she arrived in Ireland, and, in Bible studies with Evelyn, Marcellina’s granddaughter would translate — she also gave baptism, and in total four Sudanese were baptised with Ladislav Billy and Juieta by Pastor Ben Pontanas at the Ballinacrow church in County Wicklow.

Baptism in Aberdeen
On Sabbath 23 April the Aberdeen congregation witnessed the baptism of Genevieve Haynes (who had once walked with God but fell away, and had reached the point of suicide prior to finding God again), Tarrick Haynes (Genevieve’s son), Welling Tang (who came from a non-Christian background in China), and Laura Prescott (who had been searching for a church which followed the Bible when she contacted an Adventist website which connected her with the group in Inverness).

Pastor Lorance Johnson immersed each of the candidates. The short sermon on Psalm 23 was given by the visiting pastor, Dr Richard de Lisser.

And wo(men) gathered . . .
Mary McFarlane, Louise Clarke, Debbie St Cyr and Marshaline Matthews formed a ‘loose women’ panel for the first SEC Area 7 women’s day of fellowship at High Town Methodist Church in Luton on Sabbath, 30 April. More than 250 women and men came together for a lesson synopsis from visiting speaker Elder Eric Salisbury from Seattle, a mission spotlight from two local women (Casena talked about becoming a newly baptised Adventist and Lorraine talked about starting to attend the Adventist Church and enjoying Bible studies), an anointing service by Elders Gail Masondo, Mike Johnson and Eric Salisbury, and a message from Elder Gail Masondo, who spoke from Luke 8:1-3 about Mary Magdalene. The praise team, the Luton Women’s Choir and others sang from the heart, and in the afternoon programme Sue OD’Driscoll, a specialised midwife from the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, gave a talk about AIDS and HIV. Photos from the day can be viewed at: http://www.adventist-pictures.org.uk/gallery/2001/WomenDOF/index.php. SANDRA GOLZING

Women of Spirit
‘Women of Spirit, Not Easily Broken’ was the theme for the women’s empowerment conference held on Sunday, 5 May at The Advent Centre, organised by Malika Bediako (SEC Women’s Ministries director). More than ninety women arrived for a day that included devotional and praise sessions, a debate and discussion time with artist Elder Eric Salisbury (from the USA), a lecture from Life in Recovery counsellor and author, Gail Masondo, and a talk from Sharon Platt-McDonald, BUS Health Ministries director.

Women’s Choir and others sang from the heart, and in the afternoon programme Sue OD’Driscoll, a specialised midwife from the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, gave a talk about AIDS and HIV. Photos from the day can be viewed at: http://www.adventist-pictures.org.uk/gallery/2001/WomenDOF/index.php.

Is this your season?
The Greenwich Women’s Ministry committee led a week of revival called ‘Seasons of a woman’s life’ with Women’s Ministry director Heather-Dawn Small from Sabbath 23 April. Heather Haworth (BUC), Malika Bediako (SEC) and Lesego Motlogelwa (Greenwich) were also present.

Shirley Grant, Kimmesha Brown and other praise team members sang praises, and the health talks and free health checks were led by Eunice Whyte.

The churches that hosted the evenings included Croydon, Lewisham, Brixton, Welling and Plumstead. The Greenwich Women’s Ministry committee linked up with the Abu Dhabi Women’s Ministry department and the Women’s Ministry director (Middle East Union), to aid women that live in Abu Dhabi.

SANDRA GOLZING

‘Come Dine With Me’
This was the name of the district revival series for the West Bromwich, Southend and Great Barr churches that occurred from 7 to 14 May, with Pastors Carlton and Patricia Douglas. Visitors were treated with preaching on the biblical feasts and the marriage supper of the Lamb, followed by portions of fruits provided on various nights.

The climax of the revival was the baptism of Tina Mtawali and Louise Powell, who celebrated with an agape feast!

JANICE SAVIZON

Annual Appeal at Erdington
Erdington members collected £4,952.44 for ADRA this year, of which Don Parker collected £2,451.93. The young people, led by the Pathfinders club, collected £1,193.51. Members were especially pleased when local resident Ms Alison Singer gave birth to Ruby just a few hours after donating! Iris Thompson wishes to congratulate and thank all members who took part in this year’s ADRA Annual Appeal.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG

Induction and presentation
On Sabbath 30 April at the Great Brickkiln Street church presented the adult Sabbath School mission report. Each child displayed letters of the alphabet to represent various areas in Russia that are active with missionary work. The churches that hosted the evenings included Croydon, Lewisham, Brixton, Welling and Plumstead. The Greenwich Women’s Ministry committee linked up with the Abu Dhabi Women’s Ministry department and the Women’s Ministry director (Middle East Union), to aid women that live in Abu Dhabi.

On the Thirteenth Sabbath, 25 June, children at the Great Brickkiln Street church presented the adult Sabbath School mission report. Each child displayed letters of the alphabet to represent various areas in Russia that are active with missionary work. A Power Point presentation also showed supportive information, just in case! All the children did very well.

JOHN OSEI-BEMPONG

Heather-Dawn Small, Malika Bediako, Lesego Motlogelwa, Shirley Grant and others sang from the heart, and in the afternoon programme Sue OD’Driscoll, a specialised midwife from the Luton and Dunstable Hospital, gave a talk about AIDS and HIV. Photos from the day can be viewed at: http://www.adventist-pictures.org.uk/gallery/2001/WomenDOF/index.php. SANDRA GOLZING

Baptism of the Sens
Sabbath 19 March was a joyful occasion at the Carmarthen church as Natalie and Aaron Sen committed their lives to Christ in baptism.

On Sabbath the baptistry’s heating was a little too efficient, and the Sanctuary resembled a Turkish bath; but by the end of Sabbath School things had returned to normal. This was only the second baptism at the Carmarthen church; we wish them every blessing in Christ.

PETER MERTENS
Prayer and faith

The Thames Valley Youth Federation’s third annual prayer and faith conference took place between 28 and 30 April. The conference drew together all age groups and generations from across the region. The conference was held at the Portmeirion Hotel, Portmeirion, Gwynedd, North Wales.

The opening session was led by Rev. Dr. Michael J. Thomas, who emphasized the importance of prayer in building a strong and vibrant church. He shared personal stories of answered prayers and encouraged the congregation to have confidence in their prayers.

Following the opening session, the conference split into smaller groups for more focused prayer and discussion. These groups were led by seasoned prayer leaders and focused on specific topics such as intercession, praise, and the power of prayer in spiritual warfare.

The conference culminated in a closing service where participants shared testimonies of answered prayers and the impact prayer had on their daily lives. The service concluded with a time of prayer for the church and the world, emphasizing the role of prayer in addressing the urgent issues of our day.

The conference provided a valuable opportunity for attendees to deepen their understanding of prayer, build their faith, and strengthen their relationships within the church.

Leicester Central youth day

On 21 May Leicester Central Church hosted a youth day themed on ‘God’s Imminent Return . . . Are YOU Ready?’ The day was aimed at helping young people in the church to reflect on reaching the standard that Jesus sets for young Christian followers.

The speaker was Baraka Butoke, a young man from Reading, studying Theology at Newbold College. He delivered a sermon entitled ‘1 or 99’, encouraging Adventists to take on the Great Commission and be more proactive, just as Jesus ate and drank with the public to reach them where they are. Instead of sitting in church preaching to ourselves.

The afternoon concert saw music from Simplicity, Peter Tabornal, Adewale, The Wellingborough Adventist Youth Choir and God’s Project. The AYS programme asked how to seek the Lord and find him. Leicester Central hopes to have similar events again very soon.

Pastor Peter Stearman

Congratulations to Pastor Peter Stearman, who retired on 11 May. He and his wife, Vera, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in 1994 with a sea voyage escorted by warships – the SEC, Stanborough Park Church, Lewisham and Bromley in England, the Welsh Mission, and Enniskillen in Northern Ireland.

Music day

Heartfelt praise sounded throughout the Holloway church on Sabbath 14 May, as Sister Manhaim reminded members and visitors of the importance of praise. The praise team, band and mass choir filled the church with singing, as did One Love. Weiskin, Awash, Richards, Anthea Davis and Ian Johnson. Anthea, in a sermon entitled ‘Glory to Your Name’, explained the origin and power of music, and gave Prussian’s ‘Be Still’ its first concert in the evening.

Pastor Steven Walsh

The Gospel workers’ training weekend was conducted by Pastor Colin Woodford at Burngreave Church, Sheffield, on 15 and 16 May. Pastor Woodford is currently the pastor of Middlesbrough, Darlington, Durham, and also the Area 1 co-ordinator.

The training was meant to teach church members the technique of giving Bible studies in homes and in public places. Some of the prominent topics commented upon were Baptism, Death, Christ’s Second Coming and the Sabbath; reviving, edifying and equipping the church for ministry.

Deacon ordained

On 14 May at the Great Brickhill Street church, Claude Ousmane was ordained as a deacon by Pastor Steve Palmer. He has been an asset to the church through his zeal and committed service for Christ.
Micklefield Community launches second church-plant

On the Sabbath morning of 2 April the seeds of a new church-plant were sown in Chesham, a town in the heart of the Chess Valley which is also the final, northernmost stop on the Metropolitan Line of the London Underground.

The mission story for the day told of the current outreach in Chesham and the history of Christianity in the town from the time of the Reformation to the first Adventist presence there.

The men’s group from Micklefield sang a song entitled, ‘Yes I Know’, which told of the sacrifice Jesus made for each sinner and the need for us all to tell others of this. Pastor Felix McPherson, who had returned to the High Wycombe district after a thirty-year absence, used Isaiah 6 for his message. He spoke of the need to see others saved in God’s Kingdom: to make this a reality we need to leave our comfort zones and witness in new places.

RAVI GILL

August Bank Holiday Extravaganza Banquet

Sunday 28 August, 5.00-10.00pm
Balham Seventh-day Adventist Church, 16a Boulevard, Balham High Road, SW12 8GW

Live entertainment and special features; prizes and surprises! Dress code: black and silver.

Three-course meal (vegetarian option available) with non-alcoholic drinks.

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: 07960742448, 07956814328 or 07904736555 for details.

Buses: 155, 249, 315, 355
Nearest station: Balham

Prayer Explosion!

LET’S Prayer Harvest Ministries Retreat – gathering of prayer groups 18-21 August 2011
Conference Aston, Aston University, Birmingham, B4 7ET
Together with Pastor S. Telemaque (Inter-America Division) and Pastor D. Blake (NY, USA)
For a registration form, tel: 01902 751719,
or email: carnation63@yahoo.com.
For further enquiries, tel: 07730518441
or email: johntairsteesc@talktalk.net.

For revival, the answer is prayer!

Inspirational giving

Pastor Andrew Rashford-Hewitt’s two boys gave him 17 pence to support the recent ADRA-UK cycle ride from London to Paris on 20 July.

Recalling the widow’s two mites, Messenger staff were reminded that no amount is too small to make a difference for Christ! See where your donations are used at: www.adrauk.org.

PASTOR RASHFORD-HEWITT AND MESSENGER STAFF

New book of the week

Why we need Rest
Getting Through Grief

Both by Richard J. B. Willis

Sometimes we need a comforting shoulder to lean on in difficult moments of grief – other times we just need to take a break. Whichever of these you need, you can find relief in these two books by our former BUC Health director.

Contact ABC Sales on
01476 539900
To purchase your copy at £1.99 each plus p&p.


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