It has been an honour and a privilege to have served the South England Conference over the past four years. When I was appointed in 2007 it came as a complete surprise. In preparation for this session I literally cleared my desk, said goodbye to office staff and prepared for life back in the churches. However, God had something different in mind.

I wish to thank our members for the resounding endorsement and mandate that they have given to me to lead this great conference of ours for another term. In this role I have learnt that prayer never fails. Man may have his schemes, plots and methods, but God will have his way.

Under God’s guidance our delegates have chosen quality leaders for the next four years. During the past four years we were able to deliver on 80% of the recommendations that came from the plans committees and the session breakouts. We will continue to listen to our members as we seek to deliver the corporate plan under the heading of ‘Reach Up, Reach Out, Reach In, Reach Across’, in line with the strategic theme adopted by the world Church.

Evangelism will continue to be at the heart of what we do. We will continue to explore new and innovative ways of bringing people to Christ. We will encourage more small groups and church-plants. I would also like to see more task force workers coming on board to work with us in some of our provincial towns. We will continue to place great emphasis on winning the indigenous people of this country.

We will continue with the work of diversity in our conference. We are a
Programme in 2008, she was introduced to and maintained on daily medication to assist.

How ‘real’ is our reality?

Karl and Tim have made me think about myself. How authentic is my Christianity? How genuine is my character? How ‘real’ is the image that I project in the church or the workplace?

Let me tell you about Karl, one of those boarding school ‘mates’ who has popped in and out of my life over the years. He is of real blue-eyed German descent, and has spent most of his life farming on the border between South Africa and the land-locked Kingdom of Lesotho.

He was my senior by a year, and often led our small group of dormitory friends on impromptu nocturnal escapades. One of these was a tactical manoeuvre that bullied us into one Saturday night because . . . ‘the Russians were coming!’ He had a fertile imagination that was well-watered by the cold war tensions of that era.

Tim was a very proper fellow. He was a senior elder. A serious man, who had not trained his face to smile. Then one Sabbath he made a stunning declaration in his sermon. The words just popped out, leaving the congregation stunned: ‘No Holocaust. No Auschwitz. How real was Karl’s reality?’

It wasn’t! Any reasonable person who makes the effort to Google ‘Holocaust’ or ‘Auschwitz’ will soon be convinced that Karl is wrong – but he lived on in his world of fake ‘reality’!

Facts

We take in air through our lungs, and our red blood cells pick up the oxygen from the air and transport it to the cells in our body.

Our cells then use this continuous supply of oxygen to produce energy through a process called metabolism.

Adequate oxygen is necessary to sustain health.

Cells require adequate oxygen for them to be healthy, and healthy cells make a healthy body.

Constantly breathing in state air depletes our cells of what they need to enhance well-being, and for our bodies to function optimally.

In the book Ministry of Healing, in the chapter titled ‘In Contact With Nature’, E. E. White writes: ‘Physicians and nurses should encourage their patients to be much in the open air. Outdoor life is the only remedy that many individuals need. It has a wonderful power to heal diseases . . .’

Today, scientific studies demonstrate the health benefits of fresh air and the adverse health effects we suffer when surrounded by polluted air. In the next issue we will explore these findings.

Megapixels of Creation

Editorial

How ‘real’ is your reality?

with a bit of humility, for example: ‘Well, Saints, I praise the Lord that I have not cursed or had a wayward thought for many years. You know, it feels so good not to sin! No, none of that far-cical finesse, just ‘I am not a sinner’! And once again I was left with this question: ‘No sin. Not a sinner. Not even guilty of the faintest fragrance of pride. How real was Tim’s reality?’

It wasn’t, and it took just a week to be found out. For on the next Sabbath, one of the deacons reported overhearing a conversation at the petrol station in which Tim used some choice words to describe what he thought was poor service! We were convinced that Tim was wrong – but he lived on in his world of fake ‘reality’!

Duration: 12 months

Givens

Along with the message that Karl and Tim have shared with me, there is also a message for me. How ‘real’ is the image that I project in the church or the workplace? When I was introduced to a healthy lifestyle, which made a positive impact on her wellbeing. Adjusting her diet, introducing exercise and getting more rest reduced her symptoms significantly.

However, the major impact was on her respiratory health. She states: ‘I began outdoor walks early in the morning and found that my breathing was easier throughout the day. Then, when I commenced deep breathing exercises – usually outdoors, when the air was fresh, or while standing by an open window – several times a day, the change was dramatic. When I went back to the asthma clinic, my peak flow readings (measurement of lung capacity) had improved. I also found that I was using my relief inhaler much less, as my asthmatic attacks had reduced. I can certainly say that good quality air and breathing exercises helped me tremendously’.

Signs of the Times

Mid-East

By Sharon Platt-McDonald

RGN, RM, RHV, MSc

Health Messenger director, BUC

Golden eight – part 1

Air

Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power – these are the ‘Pure air, sunlight, abstemiousness, rest, exercise, proper diet, the use of water, trust in divine power – these are the

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Clippings . . .

The editor found these ‘clippings’ from the SEC president’s report particularly interesting and inspiring. For the full session report (Focus on the Future), go to the ‘What’s new!’ menu on the BUC website homepage www.adventist.org.uk.

During the 2009 “Year of evangelism” initiative, SEC baptized more than 780 new members – the best result of the term.

Membership growth for the term (four years) was sixteen percent.

‘Within our borders are congregations as many as fifty different nationalities . . .’

3. The joy of the Lord (Numbers 14:8, KJV)

“If the Lord delights in us, he will do for us all these things. We have nothing to doubt the victory. If the Lord delights in us his joy will be ours! If the conditions are achievable, then the conclusions are inevitable and his joy will be ours. If he has promised to send rain, then rain is certain. God says, ‘Giants die – the bigger they are, the harder they fall.’ I heard a words to describe the giant’s body. I heard a words to describe the giant’s body. The Lord delights in us his joy will be ours! If the conditions are achievable, then the conclusions are inevitable and his joy will be ours. If he has promised to send rain, then rain is certain. God says, ‘Giants die – the bigger they are, the harder they fall.’ I heard a words to describe the giant’s body. I heard a words to describe the giant’s body. The Lord delights in us his joy will be ours! If the conditions are achievable, then the conclusions are inevitable and his joy will be ours. If he has promised to send rain, then rain is certain. God says, ‘Giants die – the bigger they are, the harder they fall.’ I heard a words to describe the giant’s body. I heard a words to describe the giant’s body. The Lord delights in us his joy will be ours! If the conditions are achievable, then the conclusions are inevitable and his joy will be ours. If he has promised to send rain, then rain is certain. God says, ‘Giants die – the bigger they are, the harder they fall.’ I heard a words to describe the giant’s body. I heard a words to describe the giant’s body. The Lord delights in us his joy will be ours! If the conditions are achievable, then the conclusions are inevitable and his joy will be ours. If he has promised to send rain, then rain is certain. God says, ‘Giants die – the bigger they are, the harder they fall.’ I heard a words to describe the giant’s body. I heard a words to describe the giant’s body.

The recession did have a positive impact on the church in some ways. During the “boom years” we were not able to adequately compete with developers and other groups for the acquisition of church buildings. Beckenham, High Wycombe Sands; Edmonton; New Life: Welling West; Tayford; Maidenhead; Bath, Great Malvern (long term lease); and Blessed Hope (Darlington).

‘Some of our churches have become part of the strategy for the homeless during very poor weather.’

‘Our churches may have begun to use programmes like “Messy Church” to engage non-Adventist children, but it is also getting our churches into the streets of the cities.’

‘Everyone will agree that some of the saddest occurrences in the past few years have been the murders of young people on the streets of our cities. Our Youth, Teens and Pathfinder leaders responded by organizing a cooperation with the Metropolitan Police, and with the Avon and Somerset Constabulary (Bristol), and have now three high-profile marches under the banner of LIVING Intentionally Versus Existing. These marches, led by our Pathfinders, have captured the imagination of the public and have also brought to the fore the role of the Church as a very public concern. The challenge for me as a watching giant was to say: “play with the big boys;” means that you can’t defeat the possibility, don’t doubt the victory. If the Lord delights in us his joy will be ours! If the conditions are achievable, then the conclusions are inevitable and his joy will be ours. If he has promised to send rain, then rain is certain. 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Courage, humour and high drama at SEC session

by Victor Hubert, BUC Communication director

Courage, humour and high drama all found their place at the sixty-first session of the South England Conference, 1-4 September, at Warwick University. For some it was courage just to find their way across the enormous but well-laid-out campus; for others it was the courage to deal with difficult issues head-on, in an open and transparent way. That was clearly seen on the first night when, following his report as president, Pastor Sam Davis opened the floor for discussion on the ‘hot potato’ issues of ‘mono-ethnic’ churches, as well as the proposal of the conference that each church should donate a proportion of its Gift Aid return to assist in the purchase of a nursing home for the elderly. Both subjects provoked hot debate – which led to many delegates wondering if it would be a ‘hot session’. That apprehension was reinforced when the motions on both issues were rejected by the delegation. (See the article on mono-ethnic churches at: www.adventistnews.org.uk)

However, the courage to deal with difficult issues was balanced throughout the session by a warm Christian humour that pervaded the worship periods, the debates, and the atmosphere outside the hall. It was the first time that the recently appointed BUC president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, has had to oversee a conference session, but he told the delegates: ‘This is where your Christianity is really seen. It is easy to be a Christian at 11am on Sabbath morning, but your true character is seen in the way you act in a business meeting’.

By Sabbath morning he was calling it ‘The love session’, so impressed was he by the considerate yet perceptive debates. He told delegates, ‘You are the cream of the crop in the South England Conference’, while clearly reminding them that ‘This Church is not about us. It is about reaching a lost world’.

The humour was added to by Dr Jeff Brown, president of the Bermuda Conference and devotional speaker for the session. He told delegates that they had many great speakers in their own conference, yet it was somehow strange that you had to leave your own country and serve abroad before you came to be recognised as a ‘great speaker’? Nevertheless, he preached with humility, weaving anecdotes together with Biblical values to inspire delegates to serve. On Thursday he talked about the ‘twelve delegates’ led by Caleb and Joshua spying out the Promised Land, and stated, ‘if the conditions are achievable then the conclusions are inevitable’. His subsequent messages then built on the theme and led to recommittal prayers at the end of both the Friday night and Sabbath morning services. Humour came too, from the two ordinands on Sabbath afternoon, who broke from tradition in their joint response. Pastors Sam Neves and Dusan Uzelac, their faces beaming, both reflected on their call to service and noted that a Serb and a Brazilian had both married ‘blue-eyed English beauties’ who had added so much to their ministry. Pastor Sweeney turned his back on the congregation and faced the ordinands as he emphasised the need for these pastors to ‘feed my sheep’. Nevertheless, his words brought loud ‘amens’ and rounds of applause from the congregation as he talked about pastoral visitation, quality sermons and a life of commitment.

High drama was there in a number of the debates – and particularly on Saturday night and again on Sunday morning when the nominating committee report was twice referred back. While this is the recognised democratic process, it was, nevertheless, an anxious period for those who had been nominated – and for the committee itself, which had worked hard in a very gracious and prayerful manner. They took quality time to listen and work through every single suggestion, ultimately revising their nominations for directors. The result was eventually voted on in an extended business session on Sunday afternoon.

But the high drama came at its best, and was most memorable, as a result of the courageous decision the SEC team took to replace the traditional Sabbath School lesson study and missions appeal with a 90-minute drama based around the life of William Tyndale and the development of the English Bible. The fast-paced mixture of music, contemporary and historical drama, historical insights and their twenty-first century implications had the congregation on the edge of their seats.

While the SEC session may be remembered as ‘The love session’ by some, it will almost certainly be remembered best for that unique morning of dramatic worship and the importance of the Bible in Adventist lives as we share its message of Good News in our communities.

Nominating Committee final report as voted:

Officers:
President: Pastor Sam Davis. (Re-elected)
Executive Secretary: Pastor Terry Messenger (formerly Personal Ministries and Sabbath School director).
Treasurer: Earl Ramharack (Re-elected)

Directors:
Adventist Muslim Relations: Petras Bahadur (0.5 budget) (Re-elected)
Children & Women’s Ministries: Mikela Bediako (Re-elected)
Church Growth: Ari Vanzoldi (Re-elected)
Communication: Kirsten Bello-Lundqvist (0.5 budget) (Formerly associate pastor, Newbold Church)
Community & Health: Vanessa Staggs (Re-elected)
Education: Opel Johnson-Christie (Re-elected)
Family Ministries: Pastor Leslie Ackie (Re-elected)
Ministerial Association: Pastor Emmanuel Dos (Re-elected)
Personal Ministries: Sabbath School: Pastor Kirk Thomas (Formerly Willesden Church)
Stewardship: Dr Richard de Lisser (0.5 budget) (Re-elected)
Youth Ministries: Dr Steve Thomas (Formerly Reading Churches)
Youth Ministry: Dr Jean Hockey (Formerly Youth Pastoral, Stanborough Park Church)
Youth Ministry: Paul Thompson (Youth Pastoral, Stanborough Park Church)

Community: Pastor Terry Messenger (Re-elected)

Stewardship: Mrs Valerie Mayes (Re-elected)
Youth Ministry: Eileen de Lisser (Stewardship coordinator)
Youth Ministry: Robin Nally (Youth Ministry coordinator)
Youth Ministry: Aris Vontzalidis (Youth Ministry coordinator)
Youth Ministry: Kirsten Øster-Lundqvist (Youth Ministry coordinator)
Youth Ministry: Elsie Staple (Youth Ministry coordinator)
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NOMINEES:

Executive Committee:

Careful note.

More pictures to come.

Pastor Ian Sweeney addresses a session with Pastor Ian Sweeney.}

Pastor Jeff Brown with his wife Patricia.

Pastor Jeff Brown with his wife Patricia. 

Pastor Jeff Brown with his wife Patricia.
The drama ‘Fired Up’ told the story of William Tyndale, who is widely regarded as the greatest of all English translators, in an intriguing mix of contemporary and period drama, interspersed with soul-stirring singing.

Pastor Sam Davis (president of the South England Conference), who had commissioned the piece, expressed afterwards that ‘Our hearts burned within us’, and Pastor Emmanuel Ossei found the piece to be simply ‘excellent’.

This masterful blend of historical period drama in full costume, augmented by some excellent ‘rap-style’ contemporary poetry, was written and directed by Mervyn Weir. The gospel group ‘By Faith’ sang the songs a cappella – some being their own special arrangements, including some variations of ‘Give me the Bible’.

The drama took an educational approach as it brought forth historical information that was unknown for many. Deyonne Rodney from Holloway Church described it as ‘a great religious education’. Lorna Douglas from King’s Cross said ‘It was a fantastic use of poetry, it was very understandable and provided lots of information I didn’t know before.’ Pastor Patrick Johnson from Newbold, who had seen the piece the previous week, claimed he was still on the edge of his seat the second time, while Pastor Ian Sweeney said ‘It was pulling at my heartstrings’.

‘Fired Up’ clearly highlighted the passion Tyndale had for translating the Bible and the English language so that it could be accessible to all. It also highlighted the fact that many people in the UK have access to a Bible but hardly open it, in stark contrast to Tyndale, who laid down his life to have it translated into English, and available to everyone!

Pastor Ian Sweeney mentioned in his sermon that the drama had an evangelistic focus with the music taking us from ‘Give me the Bible’ to ‘Give them the Bible’.

‘Fired Up’ closed to a standing ovation and will be viewed as one of the unforgettable highlights of the session.

Exhilarating and very interesting! I have enjoyed this session immensely.

DORIS CHARLES (THE CORNERSTONE, HOUNSLOW CHURCH)

A well-organised session with dynamic preaching, superb drama performance, very good facilities and healthy food … would have appreciated a wider range of instrumental music (piano and strings) … the singing evangelist was not my style … any possibility of including more youth delegates from the indigenous population at the next session?

JAMES SHEPLEY (STANBOROUGH PARK CHURCH)

‘Dr Jeff Brown inspired us not to have a “grasshopper” mentality that doubts what God can achieve through us and for us. I was also proud to see delegates acting in a Christ-like manner, as if conscious that this SEC session could be the last before Jesus comes.’

JOSEPH CLEM (BALHAM CHURCH)

‘This was my first session … as a younger person … I have been blessed to be part of something so special – not only a practical set of meetings but spiritual too!’

JANA HANCHARD (WOOD GREEN CHURCH)

‘As a delegate under the age of thirty, I expected a long, drawn-out process of “politics” and “politricks”! I was … to SEC and BUC sessions, so they can understand how their church functions, and how they can get involved to effect change.

JANA HANCHARD (WOOD GREEN CHURCH)

‘As a delegate under the age of thirty, I expect- ed a long, drawn-out process of “politics” and “politricks”! I was pleasantly surprised by the succinctness of the process, the spiritual atmosphere, and the willingness of depart- mental leaders to give answers and be held accountable for their actions. I believe a great effort should be made to bring more senior youth to SEC and BUC sessions, so they can understand how their church functions, and how they can get involved to effect change.’

JEREMY TOUSSAINT BOURNE (CROYDON/WALLINGTON CHURCH)

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We got these comments . . .

As the session drew to a close the MESSENGER editor handed out comment slips to some of the delegates. Here are the edited contributions he received . . .

We went to the session aware of many of the issues that this administration have faced in the past term, some of which are still unresolved. But I was glad to see that the delegates concentra- ted on the spiritual work of the Church, rather than getting bogged down in these issues. Their questions and comments reflected that they had come to work with the administration to see improvements. I was very pleased that, even though some think that mistakes were made in the past, Sam Davis and the majority of his team have been re-elected. This is not with a mandate to do more of the same, but to develop a stronger, more Spirit-filled team, especially in the area of youth and teen ministry, about which many are so concerned. The plans committee recommenda- tion to form a panel to deal with disputes rather than letting them go straight to litigation is also highly commendable.

DR CLINTON MONFRIES (BALHAM CHURCH)

I enjoyed being part of the session, especially to worship with a large group of Seventh-day Adventists. There has been a good spirit here, and I have appreciated the inspirational mes- sages, the humour, the opportunity to meet with friends from across the conference, and the chance to play a small part in this great work!

STELLA JEFFERY (EXETER CHURCH)

We came to the SEC session expecting to help with the process of selecting the Church leaders for the new term, but ended up being edified ourselves. The whole experience was uplifting, and I can see why some called it “the session of love”. Something that I think would improve the process is if each ministry or department made regular partial reports throughout the term, rather than only at the end.

STELLA JEFFERY (ESSEX CHURCH)

It was overwhelming! I used to feel that I only “belonged” to Norwich Church, but now the family circle is so much bigger. I was so grateful for the wonderful welcome and hospitality that I received. I really enjoyed the speech given by the chairwoman. It was very inspiring and uplifting.

JEMIMA SENTINA (NORWICH CHURCH)

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Observations from the ‘press gallery’... The discussions that took place around the reports of the various departments and ministries formed a very interesting and vibrant part of the SEC session. We present some of the highlights as recorded from the ‘press gallery’. We trust they will give our readers a sense of what transpired.

Youth department
It was suggested by one speaker that the youth and teens be encouraged to conduct more evangelistic meetings in their home churches, so that they can be ‘the leaders of today – not only of tomorrow!’

A subsequent speaker spoke briefly on the importance of Pathfinders – testifying that in his home church, all the youth who were in the Pathfinder club with him are still faithful members today.

There was strong support from the delegates for a more vigorous work among university students, many of whom find their faith threatened by campus life and learning. Another speaker, who received a chorus of support, felt that the church was not preparing our youth to intelligently defend their faith when they reach university.

When another speaker raised her concern for the quality and spirituality of some of the conference youth programmes, the youth department spokesperson mentioned that there was a lack of spirituality in the content of some of this year’s camp meeting youth programme.

Sabbath School and Personal Ministries
There was a strong emphasis on the need for more involved in promoting ‘felt-need evangelism’: programmes and events that aim at meeting the perceived needs of the local community (for example, parent seminars, health courses, prayer meetings programmes, and so on). It was felt that these would bring the members into a closer and more meaningful relationship with the community, while building bridges for biblical programmes that would follow.

Youth department spokesperson admitted both pew and pew acknowledged the fact that we are ‘good at outreach and evangelism’ (in some communi- ties) but not nearly as good at retaining the evangelised in the Church. It was made clear that we need to invest more effort in the discipling and nurturing of new members.

One delegate suggested that the ministry should make more funding available to foster youth activities in their own churches and areas.

Community services
Here the main topic of concern was our relationship with the local community. The recent Tottenham riots. Some felt it could have been better co-ordinated and that we should be in a higher state of readiness for such emergencies.

There was also criticism about the poor organisation of this work. The secretary, but the director explained that it was because the Salvation Army co-ordinated the initiative, and it was in getting information out to the participating organisations.

Church growth
The church growth discussion was brief and centred largely on the definition, merits and challenges of the ‘simple church’, as promoted and run by the SEC. There seemed to be wide support for these lay-driven projects, which are proving successful in a variety of locations.

Health ministries
There was one suggestion that was made during the brief discussion of this ministry – namely, that the department should work closely with the Education department of the Church in developing a course for those wishing to study health education in the UK. This would hopefully enable ministers and others to acquire these basic skills during their training at Newbold College.

Family ministries
Discussion of this ministry was very brief as well, but the spokesperson made a strong appeal for all the churches of the conference to appoint people to care for the special area of family ministry. Apparently there are as many as sixty SEC churches without anyone appointed to head this ministry!

Education department
There was some very vigorous discussion about the GCSE results received by the pupils at the John Loughborough secondary school. The main area of concern was mathematics, and the delegates were assured that the administration was already dealing with matter.

One delegate asked, ‘Who runs the John Loughborough school?’ The answer was crisp and clear: it is our church, run by Adventist governors; plus the required number of external governors.

Pathfinder uniforms
The matter of Pathfinder uniforms was acknowledged the fact that we are ‘good at outreach and evangelism’ (in some communi- ties) but not nearly as good at retaining the evangelised in the Church. It was made clear that we need to invest more effort in the discipling and nurturing of new members.

Another delegate raised the concern that the uniforms were not yet suitable. Uniforms, throughout the BUC-SEC, charged every so often; and as inexpensive as possible to meet the financial challenges facing by supporting parents.

Sabbath School and Personal Ministries
The Pathfinder director assured the delegates that all the information they needed about the uniforms was on the BUC website. One item that was strongly stressed by the Youth department speaker was the need for all churches to ensure that the vehicles they use to transport their youth on official outings have current MOTs and insurance cover, and that those who drive them have valid licenses.

The Youth department also emphasised that the seminars could not expect the whole department and the Youth leaders to take full responsibility for the development of an Apprentice youth programme. The church youth leaders are ‘not parents’ – and parents needed to play their role in develop- ing pathways and activities for the young people.

They were also of the opinion that congregations should be more funding available to foster youth activities in their own churches and areas.

Children’s ministries
The first major contribution from the floor was the suggestion that congregations be encouraged to ‘include our children more technology boosts session audience
The tireless work of the various ‘technical’ teams, including sound, lighting, photography, and video camera operators, often goes unnoticed at large events...
Twenty-three souls for Christ!

Baptism in Colchester

On 23 July, Elder Moyo’s studies paid off when his students – Trevor Harris, Sibongile Hatch and Alex Asante – were baptised into the Colchester church, which was very happy to welcome them into the church family.

Grantham Church and Dudley House School rejoice

On Sabbath 16 July, Esther and Gordon Egwuatu and Samantha Sellars were baptised at the Grantham church. Five years ago, Esther and Gordon brought their first child, Sami, to the Grantham church to dedicate her to the Lord. Then Esther had a vivid, disturbing dream that told her to recommit her life to Christ. Esther and Gordon began attending church regularly, and in January started Bible studies to prepare for baptism. Their son, Kene, became a pupil of Dudley House Primary School (the Adventist school attached to the church at Grantham). Samantha Sellars has been a valued member of staff at Dudley House School for nearly eight years. Sam began attending church with her family five years ago, and helped with Children’s Sabbath School and social events. This year, during a funeral service, Sam found her questions answered. Immediately she asked for baptism. Pastor Andrew Davis presented a short, thought-provoking talk, asking: ‘What if God really does exist?’ Andrew was joined by a drunk man on stage, but he put his arm around him and reassured him of the Father’s love!

Tsunami triggers baptism

The 11 March tsunami in Japan triggered a decision for baptism in Jeannie Cort, and she was baptised at Lough Ree on 11 August. Jeannie had started attending church again after the wedding of Pastor Adam Keough, who also baptised her – his wedding also introduced her to Ian Cort, whom Jeannie O’Brien, as she then was, married on 6 September 2010, almost a year before her baptism.

Showers of blessings

Cynthia Young and Pam Ingram led the Norbury Church health expo on Sunday morning, 5 June. At 10am a strong of people from the community were waiting for them to start! Church helpers, together with the Pathfinder club, manned the stations, and approximately 200 free health checks and items of literature were given out. An enthusiastic group took part in the aerobics class (taken by Alyn McQueen) and enjoyed the bouncy castle and delicious healthy refreshments. There was a constant flow of people and the event was followed up on a later date with a vegetarian cooked meal and marriage enrichment seminars are to follow!

Parenting: in a contemporary society

Dr Kennedy – a highly qualified and experienced pastor, speaker, educator, writer of eight books and a newspaper columnist – will be presenting several seminars on ‘Parenting in a contemporary society’ at the Leicester Central church, from 2-8 October. All are welcome.

On Saturday 27 August, the Holloway Youth department hosted an outdoor community concert in the church courtyard with the sole purpose of providing an opportunity for the young people to witness to their local community. The concert kicked off with the Holloway drum corps; rain ensued, but the concert went on! The crowd returned with chairs and umbrellas. The praise team followed the drum corps and during it all the witnessing team were hard at work, advertising the live streaming service and distributing leaflets and ‘Final events’ DVDs. The team were sporting ‘Speak to me’ badges, and Jane Merchant tirelessly gave out drinks to members of the public. 100 DVDs were given out and the witnessing team kept asking for more!

Although it was my first time witnessing I was prepared. I needed to do another outreach programme as soon as possible!

Hayley McKenzie-Sealy
**Breaking the hurt**

The KCF Family Life day on Saturday 13 August dealt with the issue of pain. Shirley Grant preached at Kennington, using 2 Chronicles 7:14. For pictures of the event and details of upcoming events, go to: www.kcflife.com

**Scotland youth in Romania**

By Audrey Mutungi and Berni Helford

Adventist youth from Scotland volunteered to build a house in Romania during two weeks of their summer holiday, despite having no previous experience. Two of the youth went full forty-eight hours without sleep.

On arrival, a group of Romanian youth welcomed them at a hotel from 11 a.m., then they were back at the same airport four hours later to catch a flight to Bucharest! The youth organised and held a dinner, placing collecting tins at various stations and climbed Ben Lomond to help raise £3000 for the leaders of the building mission.

These leaders of the future gave a family of eight (who had been living in a single-room mud hut, and one of whom had Downs syndrome) a spacious brick and mortar home.

**Stuart’s challenge**

In May, Stuart Gordon, a member of the Hemel Hempstead church, took on the Princes Trust challenge to raise funds for the charity, which has helped more than 650,000 young people since 1973 and supports 100 more each day. More than three in four young people helped by The Prince's Trust move into work, training or education.

Stuart took advantage of the trip to witness for his faith. He rafted 286 kilometres in seven days through the Himalayas. He did this in order to change the lives of the UK's most vulnerable young people.

Stuart’s challenge was interrupted by the second World War, which brought many hardships and forced Gweno to grow up quickly.

The Servicemen and Women's Federation of Great Britain, who have seen the UK’s military personnel through difficult times, joined forces with The Prince’s Trust to raise funds for the charity. We pray that the Lord will continue to lead them.

**Pastor Vlado Godina retires**

The Oxford and Aylesbury churches came together on 27 August to celebrate the service of Pastor Vlado Godina and Dr Lidja Godina. David’s father had met his wife-to-be, Harold, Mason, another studious and very devout Adventist. They were married in 1954, and ran a health food shop together for a couple of years.

Harold and Mason came to Wales in 1965, along with their two daughters, and it was in 1979 that they moved to the house in Carmarthen which would become the first home of the Carmarthen Seventh-day Adventist Church. They dreamt of a ‘proper’ church, and that dream came true when the Bethel Vesty in Carmarthen was purchased and renovated in the 1960s. Thanks, in large part, to the generosity of Harold and Mason, the church is still thinking today.

Despite their devotion to the church, Harold and Mason were ever more deeply committed to their family. Every new addition brought love and care, and Mason’s knitting needles producing ever more creative and colourful garments. It is to the family that we now turn our thoughts and prayers to the two dear ones, Maxwell and Paula, as well as the six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, who will miss Mason even more than we do.

**Pastor Daniel’s last Sabbath**

On 13 August, Pastor Daniel Thompson preached his last sermon at the Hemel Hempstead church before moving to minister to the Beaumont and Uxbridge churches. The entire Hemel Hempstead church as an intern under the guidance of Pastor Jacques Venter. He also assisted Pastor Jacques in the Weybridge and St Albans churches.

David Porter

JOHN BUTTERS

Vera Teake (née Smith) (1921-2011) d. 15 April. Vera was born in Norwich, England, on 22 June 1921. She entered into a devoted wife of Reginald (from Danangson, Victoria, Australia) for seventy years, and was married with her husband on her birthday in 1941. Pastor Alexander had met her after attending the ‘1 Behold His Glory’ seminar. Vera was a member of Cranbourne Adventist Fellowship, and supported many mission projects with her knitting and prayers. Lately she was unable to attend Cranbourne due to failing health, but she never complained, and rested peacefully with Jesus at the Cardinal Knox Nursing Home, Victoria, in April. Vera is survived by her son Stuart, and his wife Maureen, her daughter Diane, and Andrew (to whom she was a nanny) and her son Christopher. She was known as ‘Grandma’ to many children world wide, and died as she lived, trusting Jesus and everyone’s friend.

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Vera was a natural born leader and had a natural flair for fundraising. She had been ‘an asset to the churches’, and members have been impressed with his commitment, enthusiasm, and thoughtful sermons.

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Presenting the Good News to prisoners

Members from Bristol Central Church have been ministering once a quarter at Eastwood Park Women’s Prison for almost 8 years now.